



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



MONTANA

Cover Photo Credits

- *Detective Nate Griesse and Chief Colyer discussing case work*
- *Arrowleaf Balsamroot, common to the Missoula valley, inspired the bright yellow color in the Missoula Police Department badge - Photo courtesy of Michael Rosling*
- *Left to Right: Officer Rob Castro, Officer Salisha Tennison, Officer Brandon LaRocque and Officer Lydia Arnold at the River City Roots Festival*
- *K-9 Zip perched on the Bearcat during training with the SWAT Team*
- *Officer Tyler Swartz and Officer Nico Graham working at the Missoula Fairgrounds rodeo*
- *The University of Montana clock tower—Photo courtesy of Michael Rosling*
- *Missoula after the severe windstorm of July 24, 2024 —Photo courtesy of Michael Rosling*
- *Police Explorer during sunrise*



Our Mission Statement

We are a community-oriented agency committed to delivering professional police service to Missoula.

We strive to improve the quality of life of our citizens and the livability of our community.

Message from the Chief



Welcome to the Missoula Police Department 2024 Annual Report! I am excited to present this report to provide insight into the department, highlight the accomplishments of our valuable team members and describe the issues we are addressing in Missoula.

We continue to enjoy support from Mayor Davis's office and the City Council in modernizing our equipment. In 2024 we fully implemented the Axon digital evidence system, and this advancement has resulted in capturing video of 99.6 percent of use-of-force incidents, an increase of 13.6 percent from 2022.

As Missoula's population, jurisdiction and street mileage have grown, so have overall statistics. From 2022-2024, the total number of police incidents are up 5.5% to 55,033. Included in those, traffic incidents such as DUI arrests and injury crashes are up 3.8 and 34.9 percent, respectively.

Notable changes in crime include increases of 5.8 and 17.5 percent in theft and disorderly conduct, respectively. However, I am thrilled that felony violent crime, the most serious offenses we investigate, has decreased 9.9 percent. Other violent crimes, such as misdemeanor assault and partner/family member assault, are also down 11.4 and 5.1 percent, respectively.

Like 2023, this year our officers used force in less than one percent of all police incidents. I am proud of our responsible use-of-force which I attribute to hiring quality applicants, providing excellent training and equipment, close supervision and a culture of force avoidance and conflict resolution.

Our response to the fentanyl crisis is reflected in the production of the patrol officers and the multi-agency Missoula Drug Task Force (MDTF). The MDTF has prioritized fentanyl interdiction, resulting in the seizure of 35,591 dosage units, an increase of nearly 112% since 2022. We appreciate being a part of this local, state and federal team which benefits the greater Missoula area by disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations.

None of this can be done without our outstanding support staff. Our Records Unit continues to report extremely accurate statistics, while Police Support Specialists and Community Service Specialists provide tremendous customer service at our facilities and in the field.

Moving forward, we will continue to emphasize efforts to improve recruitment and retention, implement and assess new technology and seek improvements to our facilities.

I hope you find this report informative, and it is reassuring that our community is well served and protected by the Missoula Police Department. Thank you for taking the time to learn about the Missoula Police Department of which it is my highest honor to lead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Colyer".

Michael J. Colyer
Chief of Police

Social Media Links:

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter/X](#)
[Instagram](#)



ETHICAL EXCELLENCE

Ethical Excellence

Our employees work in a profession that is often complex and fast paced. Although we provide thorough policy and procedure, we believe having a top-of-mind guiding principle to guide one's conduct is important. We call this "Ethical Excellence."

Ethical Conduct

We believe ethical conduct is the most important aspect of our work. The practice of ethical behavior is to have integrity in what we say and do, so that our honesty and veracity is beyond reproach.

Holding ourselves to the highest level of ethical standard means, amongst other examples, we are honest in written or spoken word, we treat everyone with respect and dignity and we never use our position for personal gain.

Policing Excellence

We believe excellence in policing is to be an approachable and respectful community partner, while being a proficient professional.

To possess these qualities and balance their use is the art of police excellence. An employee who has all of one trait and none of the other, does not fulfil this level of excellence. For example, the most kind and likeable employee who cannot carry out the technical aspects of the job will fall short of expectations. Conversely, an employee with the most advanced training, and who operates at an extremely high level but treats community members inappropriately, will also fall short of this standard.

This is a high bar we set for our people. But we are confident in who we hire, how they are trained, and our culture of conducting ourselves with integrity, treating others right and being competent professionals who can "take care of business."

Having "Ethical Excellence" as a guiding principle reminds our staff of the high expectations placed upon them as they are working in real time, where sorting through volumes of regulations, policy, and law is impractical.



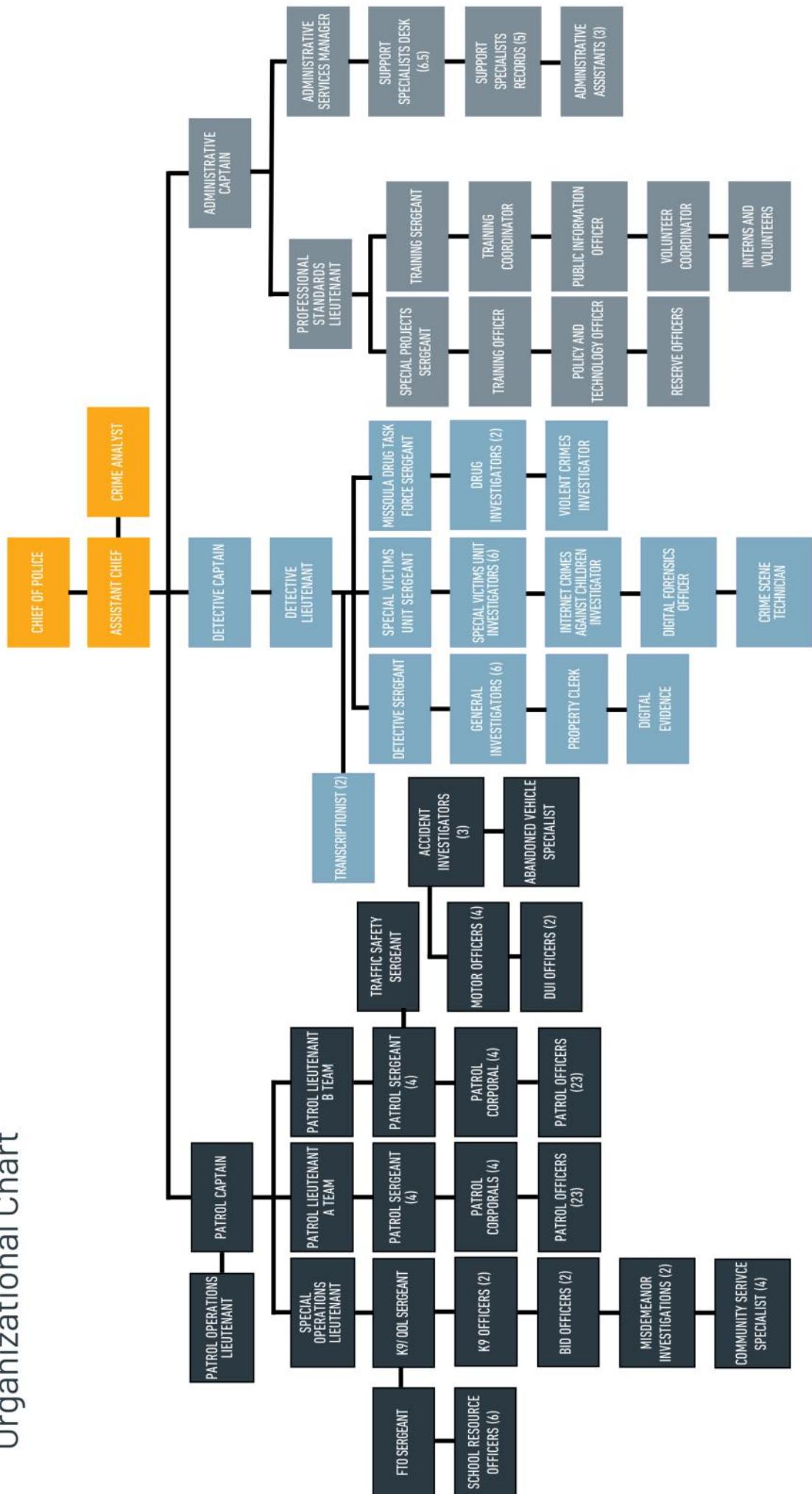
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MISSOULA POLICE

Organizational Chart



Administrative Division



Office of Professional Standards

Training Unit

Records Unit

Communication Center

Volunteer Program

Chaplains

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for processing all complaints and investigations regarding the conduct of Missoula Police Department employees. All complaints received by the MPD are taken seriously, and are investigated thoroughly in an effort to uphold and maintain the integrity of the MPD, its employees, and the community's trust.

Citizen Complaints Summary

During 2024, a total of 47 citizen complaints were submitted. Of the 47 complaints, 16 were cleared as inquiries only. Of the 31 remaining complaints assigned for investigation, they generated 83 different individual allegations. Each incident may list a number of allegations within, denoting a higher number of findings compared to the number of complaints filed. During the course of a complaint investigation, complaint investigators may also identify additional violations by the employee(s), unbeknownst to the complainant which are then added to the final findings report.

Missoula Police Commission

The City of Missoula Police Commission holds quarterly meetings to review complaints brought against Missoula Police Department employees and reports its findings to the Mayor. On behalf of the Mayor, the Missoula Police Commission holds hearings at the request of complainants who are not satisfied with the Missoula Police Department's resolution of their complaints.

Type of Complaint	
Procedure	42
Conduct	19
Use of Force	9
Driving/Traffic	6
Criminal Offense	4
Harrassment	2
Bias	1
Total	83

Complaint Findings	
Exonerated	34
Unfounded	28
Sustained	8
Non Sustained	7
No Finding	6
Total	83

Definition of various findings:

Exonerated	The acts that formed the basis for the complaint or allegation did occur, but were justified, lawful, and proper according to departmental policy or standard operating procedures.
Unfounded	The investigation conclusively proved that the act or act complained of did not occur.
Non Sustained	The investigation failed to discover sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations made.
No Finding	The investigation cannot proceed because the complainant failed to disclose promised information to further the investigation; or the complainant wishes to withdraw the complaint; or the complainant is no longer available for clarification. This finding may also be used when the information provided is not sufficient to determine the identity of the officer(s) or employee(s) involved.
Sustained	The investigation disclosed a preponderance of evidence to prove the allegation(s) made.
Inquiry	If during the investigation it is determined that a citizen is merely requesting clarification of a policy or procedure, that complaint, with the concurrence of the investigating supervisor's commanding officer, may be considered an inquiry.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Use of Force Summary

In 2024, the Missoula Police Department reported 382 incidents where at least one use of force (UOF) action was used against a subject, resulting in 1,117* total UOF actions. There can be multiple UOF actions in a single incident by one or multiple officers. In 2024, MPD responded to 55,033 incidents and of that, less than one percent resulted in a use of force action.

Use of Force Types		
Officer's Action/Response	Number of Incidents in 2024	Percentage of Total Incidents
Firearm Displayed	486	43.51%
Personal Weapons	436	39.03%
Taser Displayed	67	6.00%
Wrap Restraint Device	39	3.49%
Taser Deployed	29	2.60%
K-9 Deployed	19	1.70%
Less Lethal Impact Displayed	13	1.16%
Department Vehicles	8	0.72%
Flash Sound Diversionary Device	8	0.72%
Less Lethal Impact Deployed	7	0.63%
Chemical Munitions Deployed	5	0.45%
Hobble Restraint	0	0.00%
Peacekeeper Baton	0	0.00%
Firearm Fired	0	0.00%
Total Officer Actions Taken	1117	100.00%

“Personal Weapons” means officers utilized physical hand/foot actions and control techniques against the subject.

“Firearm Displayed” is defined as any display of a duty weapon which was used to effect or alter behavior of a subject, regardless of whether it was pointed at the subject or not.

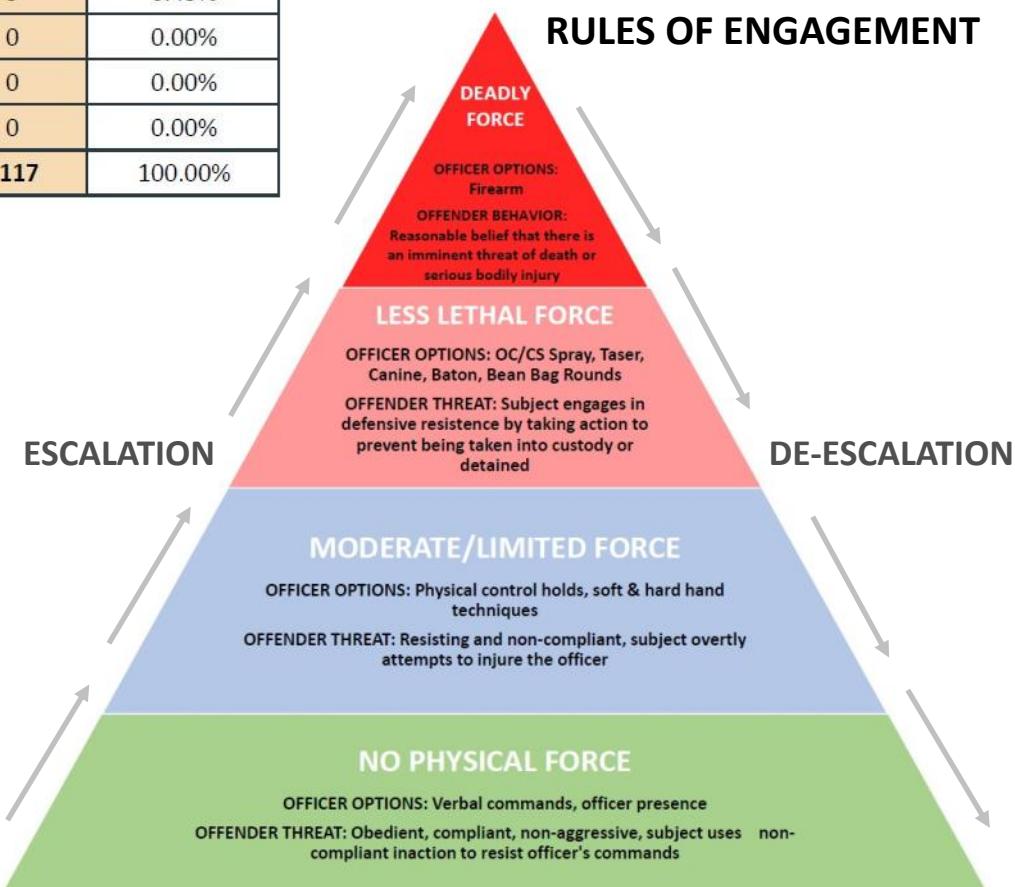
* Reason for increase in Officer Actions from 2023

The total number of Officer Actions in year 2023 was 836. The increase of 281 force actions is because in 2024 the category “Firearm Pointed” was changed to “Firearm Displayed.”

382 - Use of Force Incidents

71 - Different Officers Involved

11 - Different Types of Officer Actions Taken



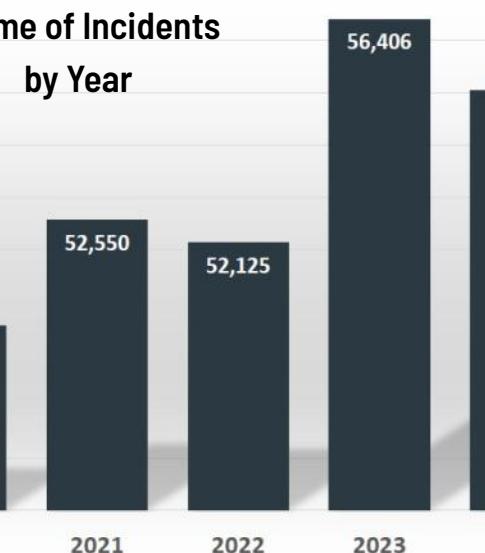
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

On May 15, 2024, MPD transitioned to Axon Standards. Axon Standards helps agencies maintain professionalism and accountability by documenting cases of high-risk, officer-involved events, such as use of force.

Interesting facts using Axon Standards

253	Total force incidents reported after May 15th (<i>implementation of Axon Standards</i>)
99.6%	Incidents that were captured on police body cam or dash cam
13	Total injuries to subjects
23	Total injuries to officers
266	Total number of subjects involved in 253 incidents
<p>... of the 266 total subjects</p> <p>Average age = 37</p> <p>Total armed = 27</p> <p>Male - 71%</p> <p>Female - 27%</p>	
<p><i>Note: Data not collected in 2% of incidents</i></p>	

An increase of more than 10% over the previous system



Policing Through the Decades

	2000	2010	2020	2024
Incidents	34,868	41,373	50,525	55,033
Population	57,056	66,788	73,489	76,473
City limits by square miles	23.9	27.8	34.8	35.2
Miles of street	327	383	404	429
Sworn officers	80	100	116	118

Sources: City of Missoula - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit, fiscal years ended June 30, 2006; June 30, 2015; and June 30, 2024

TRAINING UNIT

The Missoula Police Department Training Unit coordinates and instructs many different types of training for all MPD employees. We strive to provide professional development to all staff to ensure continued learning and growth with classes that are relevant to their job.

The Missoula Police Department Training Unit brought a total of 38,898 hours of training to its 118 officers in 2024. This training includes time spent at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, our own Advanced Academy, mandatory bi-monthly trainings, recommended and discretionary training. We hired and trained **five new full-time officers and four reserve officers.**

Highlights of Trainings Taught to MPD Officers

- ◆ Crisis Intervention Training
- ◆ FBI LEEDA Supervisory, Executive and Command Leadership
- ◆ Missoula Police Department Advanced Academy - 4 weeks
- ◆ First Line Supervisor Training
- ◆ Officer Wellness
- ◆ Firearms Instructor
- ◆ Montana Case Law
- ◆ Defensive Tactics
- ◆ Basic Crime Scene Investigation
- ◆ Implicit Bias
- ◆ Instructor Development
- ◆ Homicide & Death Investigation
- ◆ CPR and Stop the Bleed
- ◆ Serious Crash Investigations
- ◆ Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents
- ◆ Ethics
- ◆ Drone Pilot

38,898
Training Hours



All photos show MPD taking part in Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) training. This is a performance level course designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire, tele-communicator and emergency medical services (EMS) in active attack/shooter events.

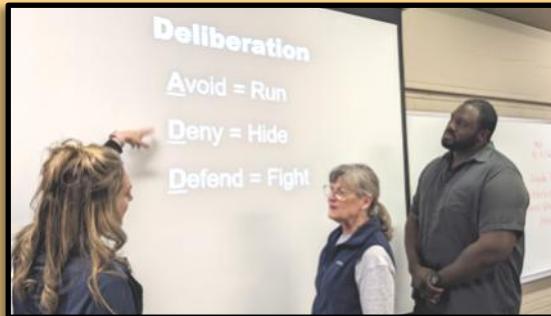


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training/ Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (ALERRT-CRASE)

For over a decade Missoula police officers have been actively training on the topic of Active Shooter (Active Attack) Events. In 2020, we adopted the ALERRT model and established trainers within MPD. In 2023, we started the CRASE working group to provide citizens, businesses, and other community partners the opportunity to become educated on Active Attack Events and how they can prepare and be ready to survive such a traumatic event.

- **20 Classes offered in 2024 (2.5 hour course)**
- **291 Citizen attendees**
- **Majority of classes held at Lifelong Learning Center, rest off-site for various businesses and community groups**
- **At no cost to public.**



Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA)



CLEA offers insight about MPD operations, challenges and successes and is an opportunity to interact with a variety of officers and support staff. It is a combination of classroom presentations and field demonstrations. We hold a session one evening per week for nine weeks. Each session focuses on one or more specific functions within the department such as the Detective Division, Special Teams, and Training. Additionally, each attendee is invited to participate in a ride-along with an on-duty officer and share that experience with the other class attendees. The session was planned and announced in October 2024, and ran from January to March 2025.

AVOID/DENY/DEFEND

Since 2002, the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)™ program at Texas State University has been used to train law enforcement officers across the nation in how to rapidly respond to dangerous active threat situations.

Over the years we've seen response times shorten and the capabilities of law enforcement increase. As a result of increased public awareness, many citizens have asked what they can do to protect themselves and reduce the dangers faced during one of these events. As we've seen that hiding and hoping isn't a very effective strategy, Avoid Deny Defend® has been developed as an easy to remember method for civilians of all ages and abilities to follow.



Instructors

CPT Matt Kazinsky	Officer Kayla Gores
LT Mike Kamerer	Officer Nate Griesse
SGT Mark Puddy	Officer Kooper Guay
SGT Charles Burton	Officer Paul Mandilian
SGT Ryan Kamura	Officer Kali Matt
Officer Lydia Arnold	Officer Khai Tran



(top) CLEA participant fires simulation round at target.

(bottom and right) Reserve Officer Ryan Morgan agrees to getting tased as a demonstration for CLEA participants.



RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit plays a crucial role within the Missoula Police Department, ensuring the accurate and efficient management of all reports, to include initial review and upload, document attachment, and dissemination. Their responsibilities extend from processing and verifying reports generated by all members of the department to maintaining the integrity of criminal records in accordance with state and federal laws. The unit ensures the timely dissemination of reports to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the public, while also handling record sealing and expungement procedures.

Additionally, the Records Unit is responsible for compiling and submitting crime statistics to the Montana Board of Crime Control, adhering to the FBI's regulations. The unit's diligence is evident in its substantial workload showcasing their dedication to supporting law enforcement and maintaining transparency in criminal justice processes.

Trend in Violent Crimes			
	2022	2023	2024
January	39	35	34
February	42	19	26
March	48	41	40
April	36	38	27
May	42	49	47
June	48	51	47
July	63	34	51
August	49	35	38
September	47	43	50
October	51	43	39
November	33	50	34
December	34	30	46
Total	532	468	479

Violent crimes include robbery, rape, aggravated assault and homicide.

SOURCE: Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

Violent Offense Cases			
	2022	2023	2024
Robbery	31	37	36
Rape & SIWOC*	71	60	84
Aggravated Assault	428	370	357
Homicide	2	3	2
Total	532	470	479

** Rape and SIWOC (Sexual Intercourse Without Consent) is interchangeable.*

SOURCE: MBCC

Volume of Incidents, Cases, and Accidents			
	2022	2023	2024
Incidents	52,125	56,406	55,033
Cases - All	9,414	10,448	10,554
Cases - Criminal	6,167	6,720	6,908
Accidents*	1,944	1,835	1,886

** Represents completed state accident forms.*

SOURCE: LERMS, MBCC

Reports Disseminated			
	2022	2023	2024
Crash Reports	1,320	1,325	1,374
Case Reports	3,304	2,848	2,789

COMMUNICATION CENTER

"The Desk"

The Missoula Police Department's Communication Center, commonly referred to as "The Desk," is an integral component of our team, staffed by dedicated civilian Police Support Specialists. While nestled within the Administrative Division, "The Desk" serves as the central hub of our police department, collaborating with various city departments to ensure seamless communication across Missoula. Their role is critical not only to the safety of our officers but also to the well-being of our community, effectively balancing the needs of the public with the operational demands placed on our officers.

Operating around the clock—24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year—our desk personnel provide invaluable support to officers, staff, and other city departments. Their primary responsibility is to serve as the first point of contact for those seeking assistance, offering professional, efficient, and courteous customer service.

These contributions are vital in solving crimes and keeping officers safe as well as providing protection to some of our most vulnerable populations. Additionally, they support our city and county attorneys' offices by providing necessary background information for prosecuting offenders.

In essence, "The Desk" serves as the backbone of the Missoula Police Department, ensuring efficient operations and fostering strong community safety."

Responsibilities of "The Desk"

- Taking non-emergency reports
- Handling non-emergency phone calls
- Entering and monitoring communications in FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

Manage entries for:

- Missing people
- Stolen vehicles
- Protection orders
- Stolen articles, including firearms

These tasks aid in the allocation of officer resources to focus on emergency responses.



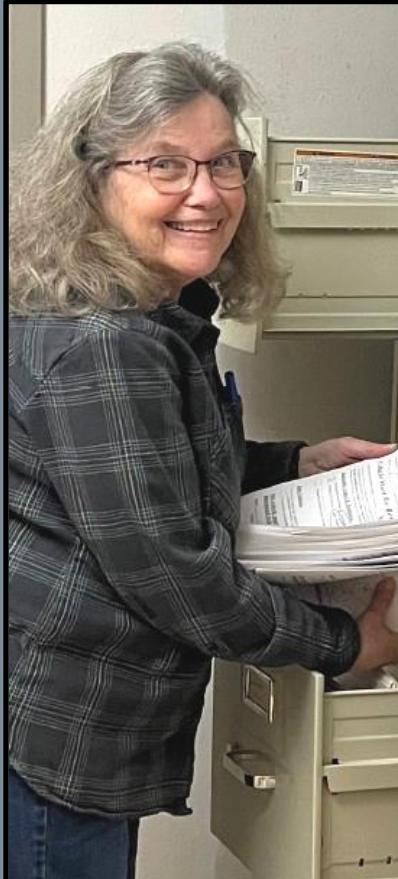
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Missoula Police Department offers volunteer opportunities for individuals to assist the department in serving the Missoula community. We have a diverse group of retired citizens, students, and working professionals who dedicate two to nine hours of their time each week. Many of our volunteers join with the specific goal of strengthening their experience to support their pursuit of a career in law enforcement.

Volunteers Hours Donated	
2024	23 Volunteers worked 1,628 hours
2023	29 Volunteers worked 2,566 hours
2022	30 Volunteers worked 2,153 hours

What Volunteers Do...

- Lost and Found Property
- Pawn Program
- Anti-Graffiti Task Force
- Administrative Support
- Marking Abandoned Vehicles
- Automated External Defibrillator Upkeep
- Training Actors
- Ceremonies Setup and Outreach Events
- Chaplain Program



What Interns Do...

- Abandoned Bike Program
- Patrol Car Stocking
- Public Information Officer Assistant
- Business License Background Checks
- Detective Support
- Administrative Assistant



The University of Montana Internship Program

Since the hiring of our new Volunteer Coordinator in May 2024, we have onboarded seven students with our University of Montana Internship Program. To receive credit, these students are required to complete a total of 135 hours, averaging approximately nine hours per week. Our volunteers come from a wide range of academic backgrounds, including Criminology, Forensic Anthropology, Accounting, History, and Sociology. As they contribute their time, they're gaining valuable skills, building professional networks, and strengthening their resumes—whether they're preparing for careers in their chosen fields or aiming to join the Missoula Police Department.

Interested in volunteering with MPD? [Visit our webpage](#) or call, 406-552-6300

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Scenario – Based Officer Training

Volunteers and interns support the Administrative Division by facilitating officer trainings. They contribute to various sessions such as SWAT, active shooter, building search, confrontation simulations, tactical medical, and more. We look forward to offering our volunteers and interns opportunities to simulate in real-world scenarios, while also aiding our officers in honing their skills for these challenging and potentially dangerous situations they may face in the Missoula Community.



Anti-Graffiti Task Force

Volunteers respond to citizen complaints of graffiti in a timely manner by photographing it for detectives and then either painting over it or power washing with equipment donated by one of our volunteers. Our task force is comprised of retired citizens, working professionals, and students who are passionate about ensuring Missoula stays beautiful. Over the past year, volunteers have worked with detectives on several gang-related graffiti cases that are ongoing or have since been solved.



"Volunteer of the Year"

Jo Garner



Jo's journey began with a ride-along in the fall of 2017, an experience that sparked a lasting connection to law enforcement. "I've always felt a responsibility to give back to the community and had an interest in law enforcement," she explains. "So I checked into it, and here I am, seven and a half years later—still giving back to the community." Today, Jo continues to serve by organizing found property, preparing resource packets for patrol officers, and assisting with officer swearing-in ceremonies."



Chaplains

Missoula Chaplain Services—Helping Missoulians move with grace through trauma and grief

Every day, Missoula's police officers, firefighters and other first responders face stressful, dangerous, often harrowing situations as they work to make our community a safer place. When those burdens become too heavy, Crisis Support is there to provide emergency responders and the public they serve with emotional and spiritual support, guidance, and resources.

Crisis Support Chaplains David Lodwig and Aaron Koepke are specially trained clergy members who serve Missoula's 118 police officers and their families, as well as other emergency responders and the community at large.

Chaplain time, support and resources are available at no cost to everyone who seeks them out, regardless of the individual's race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, creed or religion.



(left) David Lodwig, (right) Aaron Koepke

David Lodwig became a chaplain for the Missoula Police Department in 2014, shortly after the tragic Mount Jumbo avalanche that killed a member of our community.

Aaron Koepke has been a pastoral minister in Missoula for the past 23 years. He began working as a Missoula Police Department chaplain in 2017.

Crisis Support receives no funding from the City of Missoula, Montana, or the Missoula Police Department; all expenses including chaplain stipends, professional expenses, duty equipment and vehicles are funded through donations from members of the community and the Missoula Police Officers' Association.

Chaplain Services is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization

Website: missoulachaplains.org

What chaplains do...

♦ Patrol ride-alongs

Accompany officers on routine patrols to encourage them to share and address their daily pressures and responsibilities.

♦ Disaster & critical incident support

Provide leadership in implementing department protocols regarding critical incident stress. Also assist with large-scale disaster events that occur in our community

♦ New officer orientation

Provide training to new officers and their families to help them understand the unique stresses of police work and to maintain healthy, resilient relationships.

♦ Victim support

Provide practical assistance to traumatized individuals and crisis counseling to victims in instances of child abuse, domestic abuse, sexual violence, grief and natural disasters.

♦ On-call support & counseling

Available to assist in any kind of crisis situation where the presence of a chaplain might help.

♦ Prayers and ceremonies

Offer formal prayers at special events, officiate at services such as weddings and funerals, and help organize ceremonies to honor officers killed in the line of duty.

♦ Survivor notifications

When officers must notify a family of a loved one's suicide, homicide, accidental death or serious injury, chaplains accompany them and offer support and resources to the survivors in their time of grief.

♦ Community education

Through events such as the Citizens Law Enforcement Academy and by speaking in classes at schools, they help the community better understand and appreciate the work of police officers.

Patrol Division



Photo by Michael Rosling

- Police Incident Report / Juvenile Crime**
- Police Incidents by Patrol Zone**
- Traffic Unit**
- Business Improvement District (BID)**
- Street Crimes Unit**
- K-9 Unit**
- School Resource Officers (SRO)**
- Abandoned Vehicle Program (AV)**
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**

Police Incident Report

Police Incidents

Incident Type	2022	2023	2024
Traffic Stops	8,807	10,145	7,616
Suspicious Activity	2,688	3,284	3,283
Traffic Crashes	2,843	2,742	2,861
Welfare Check	2,564	2,607	2,624
Person to be Removed	2,339	2,203	1,947
Theft	1,722	1,787	1,823
Disturbance	1,746	1,840	1,776
Disorderly Conduct	1,291	1,503	1,517
Burglary Alarm	1,527	1,298	1,238
Vandalism*	693	772	711
Suicidal Person	699	666	626
Drugs	428	505	484
DUI	437	462	454
Misdemeanor Assault	436	506	386
Partner/Family Member Assault	290	298	275

* Formerly shown as Criminal Mischief

MPD administered
32 doses of Narcan to 23 different individuals



(above) Officer administers Narcan and CPR to individual who overdosed.



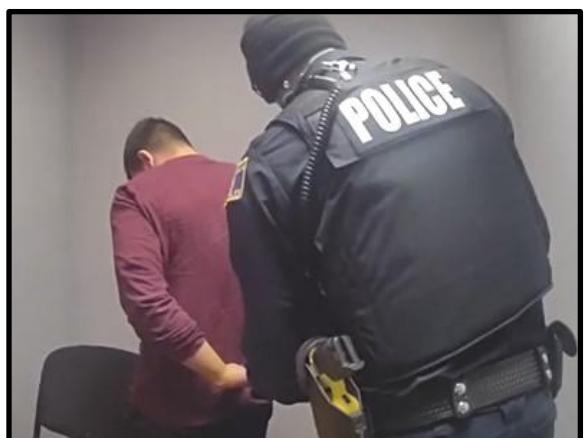
(above) Officer and accident investigator on the scene of a crash.



(above) Officer responds to call from a local business regarding a man at a bus stop.

Top 10 Juvenile Crimes that Patrol Responds To

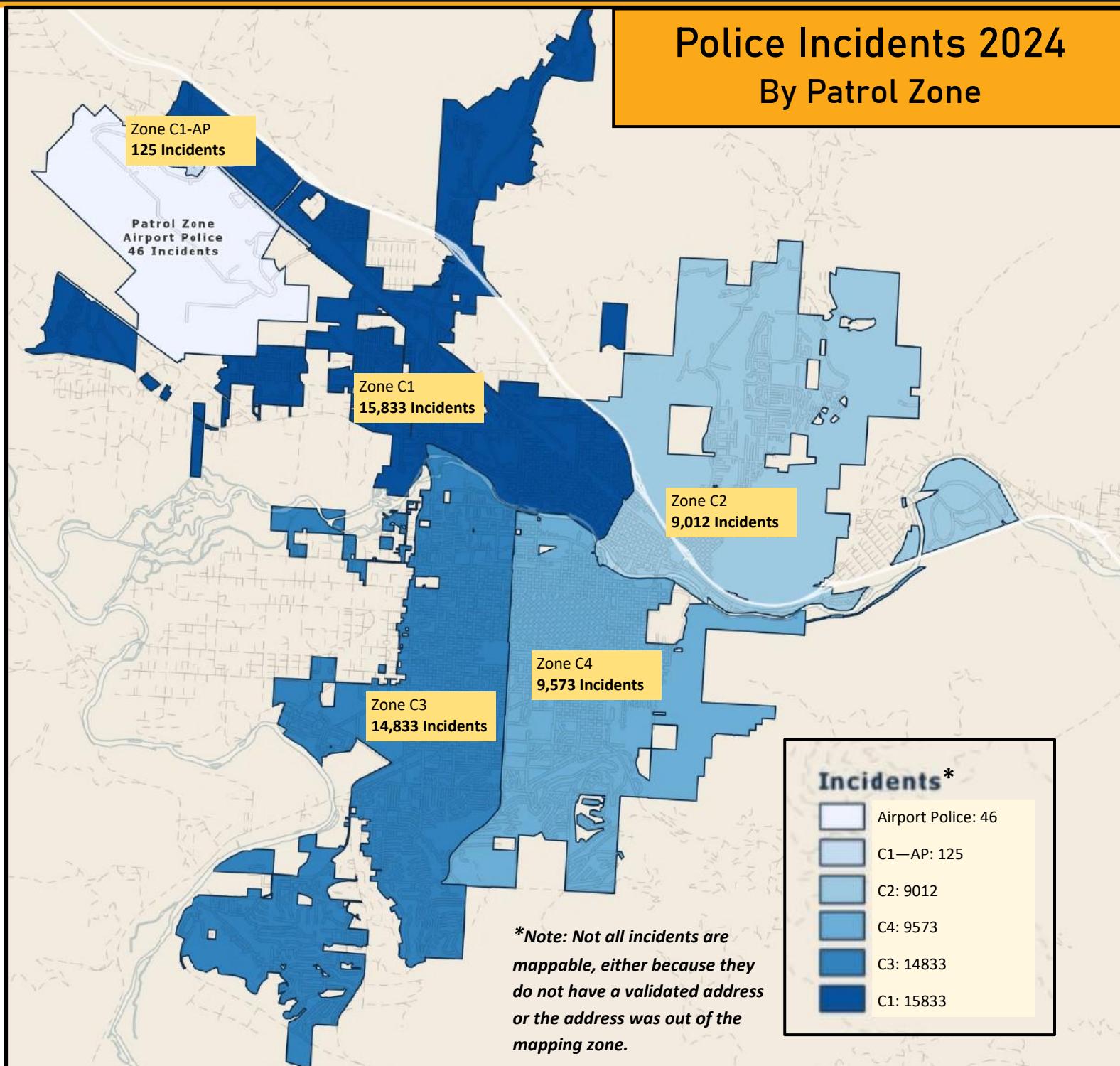
Theft
Runaway
Tobacco Possession
Disorderly Conduct
Possession of Intoxicating Substances
Assault-Misdemeanor
Criminal Mischief/Vandalism
Disturbance—Partner Family Member Assault
Obstructing
Ungovernable Juvenile



(above) Officer takes suspect into custody after questioning.

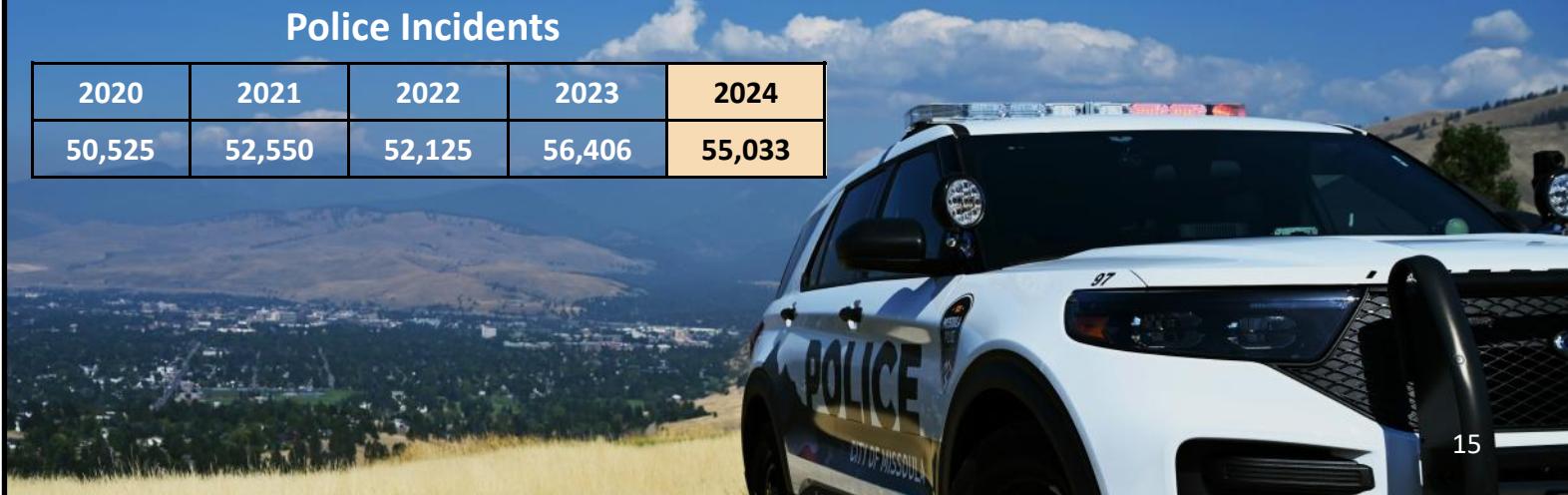
Police Incidents 2024

By Patrol Zone



Police Incidents

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
50,525	52,550	52,125	56,406	55,033

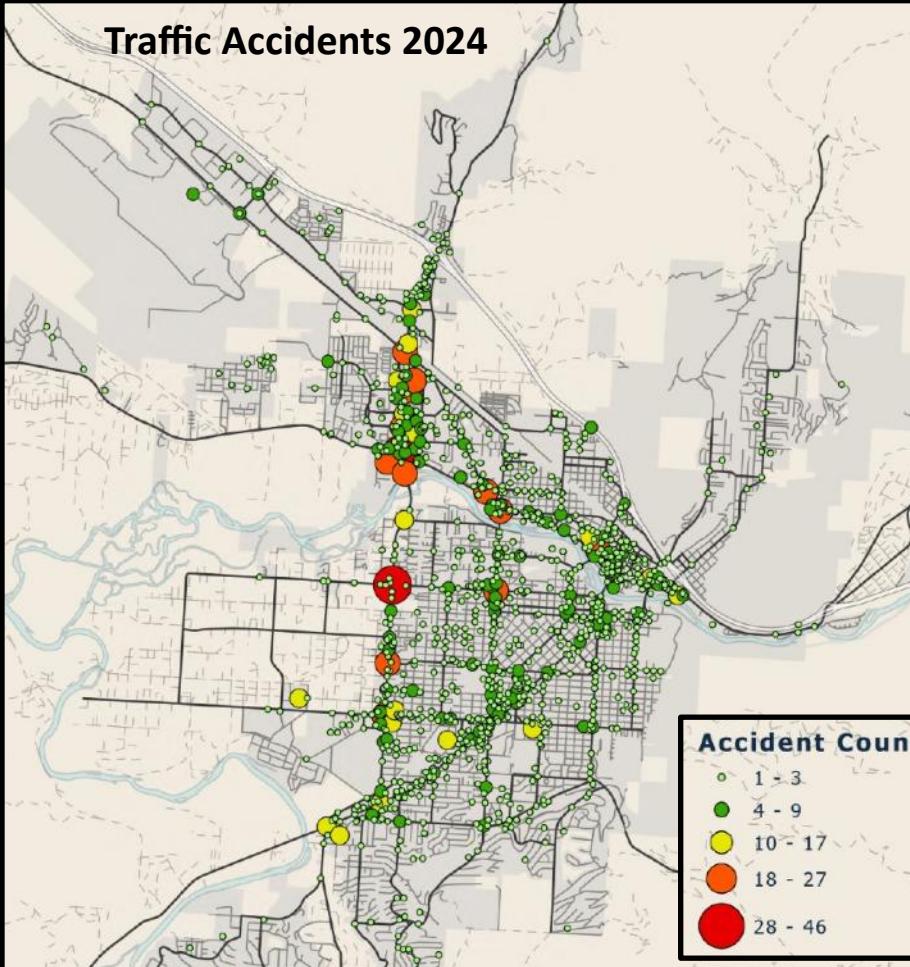


TRAFFIC UNIT

The primary focus of MPD Traffic Officers is to promote roadway safety and prevent crashes through education and enforcement. This is accomplished by utilizing both motorcycles and patrol cars. RADAR and LIDAR are used to enforce speed regulations.



Traffic Accidents 2024



Traffic Accident Statistics

	2022	2023	2024
Total Accidents	2,843	2,742	2,861
Hit & Run	767	698	813
Injury Crash	326	370	440
Non-injury	1,667	1,598	1,516
Vehicle vs. Bike/Pedestrian	76	76	87
Fatalities	7	7	5

More Statistics....

DUI's	437	462	454
Traffic Stops	8,807	10,145	7,616
Citations Issued	6,438	6,845	5,544
Follow up Investigations	174	177*	213

* Misreported in 2023 as 78 Follow up Investigations.

High Risk Intersections

	Number of Accidents
N Reserve St / Mullan Rd	41
Brooks St / Reserve St	27
N Reserve St / England Blvd	26
Reserve St / S 3rd St W	24
W Broadway / N Russell St	22
Union Pacific St / N Reserve St	20
W Broadway / Mullan Rd	19
Reserve St / Mount Ave	18
River Rd / N Reserve St	17
South Ave W / Reserve St	17



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT(BID)

The Missoula Police Department, in partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID), funds the department's two BID Officers. Officers Amanda Hardin and Rob Castro have excelled in these significant positions. Corporal Garrett Brown was a BID officer during the year's first two quarters prior to being promoted. Our BID Officers work to build rapport with downtown business owners, their employees, and the public, emphasizing community policing. They take proactive enforcement action when behaviors that negatively affect Missoula's Downtown are identified. Both officers frequently work with the Mobile Support Team (MST) and the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) to get homeless individuals access to necessary services while also fulfilling their responsibility to the safety and security of the Business Improvement District. The BID Officers' knowledge of the downtown businesses and those that frequent this area plays a vital role in quickly identifying suspects and noticing shifting crime trends.



Downtown Business Improvement District

Ten Highest Volume Calls for Service

2024

Theft	212
Found Property	120
Driving Under the Influence	104
Assault	99
Accident - Hit and Run	92
Disorderly Conduct	79
Disturbance	72
Criminal Mischief	70
Trespassing	42
Suspicious Activity	40

Notable Casework

Woman Flees Attacker

On April 16, 2024, Officer Garrett Brown responded to the area of Main and Higgins for a report of a suspect randomly attacking a passerby in downtown Missoula by violently shoving her and then following her to her place of work as she fled. Officer Brown caught up to the suspect, who immediately attempted to flee the scene. Officer Brown chased the suspect and attempted to detain him. The suspect went on the fight with Officer Brown before being taken into custody. The suspect was arrested for assault, assault on a peace officer, obstructing, resisting, and criminal mischief.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Suspects Who Defaced Beartrack Bridge with Graffiti Cited

On August 6, 2024, Officer Rob Castro was patrolling Caras Park when he observed what appeared to be fresh graffiti on one of the Beartracks Bridge posts. Officer Castro documented the graffiti and based on photos provided by a witness, quickly identified the suspects, and confirmed their identities through body camera videos of other officers. Graffiti was found in four other areas downtown and linked to the same suspects. Citations were issued for criminal mischief.



Citizen Assists in Identification of Individual Who Plagued Downtown Businesses with Graffiti

On October 18, Officer Rob Castro received an email from an employee of the Missoula Downtown Association reporting numerous cases of criminal mischief (graffiti) in the downtown Missoula area. The email had a list of ten businesses along the Higgins Avenue corridor that had been tagged with the word "SURGE".

Officer Castro checked surveillance cameras and obtained a description of the suspect. Officer Amanda Hardin assisted with this investigation and discovered the suspect vandalizing even more businesses. Both officers spent numerous hours attempting to locate the suspect.

After obtaining a surveillance photo of the suspect, Officer Castro gave this photo to our the MPD Public Information Officer for distribution on the department's Facebook page. After a citizen identified the male and provided a name, the suspect was issued several citations for criminal mischief.

Criminal Mischief Leads to Drug Charge

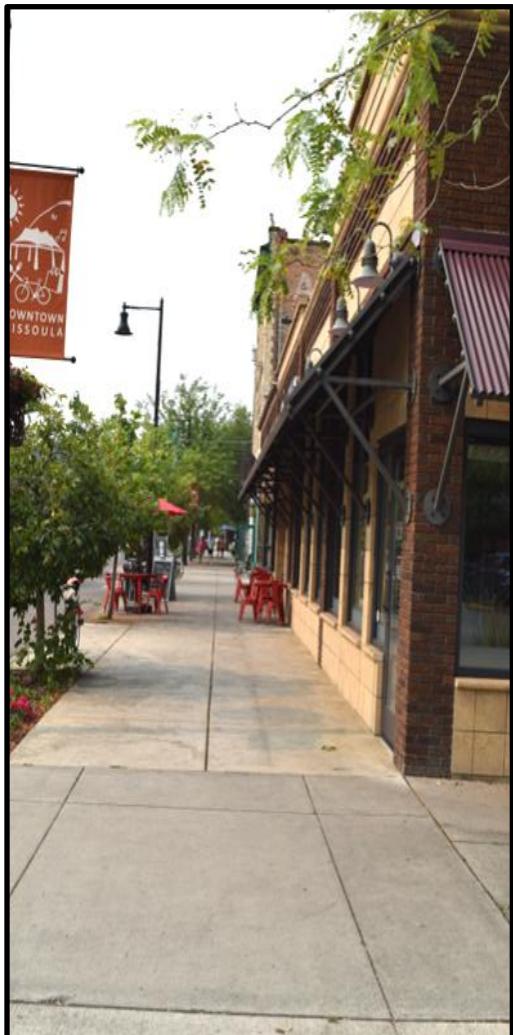
On August 6, 2024, Officer Rob Castro was dispatched to the bus stop behind the library for criminal mischief. A female had been witnessed smashing the glass partition of the bus stop with a hammer and then leaving the area. Officer Castro was able to identify the female via area surveillance footage. Once he located the female, she was detained. During a search of her person, methamphetamine was found in her pocket, and she was taken to jail.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Notable Casework

Officer Assists with Mental Health Resources While Fighting Vandalism

On June 23, 2024, Officer Amanda Hardin was dispatched to a business located in the 200 block N. Higgins Avenue, in response to a report of suspicious activity. A female was observed entering the business with a bucket on fire. Officer Hardin detained the female, and further investigation revealed that she had graffitied the business's front entrance. Officer Hardin recognized the female had a mental illness and assisted the female with mental health resources in the community and cited her with criminal mischief.



Person to Be Removed Turns into Wrestling Match

On May 29, 2024, Officer Amanda Hardin was dispatched to a retail store regarding a person to be removed from the premises. A female suspect had returned to the property after Hardin encountered multiple times earlier that morning for disorderly conduct and criminal trespass to property. Officer Hardin contacted the suspect, who attempted to flee. Officer Hardin wrestled with the suspect before securing an arrest. The female was charged with resisting arrest, obstructing, and trespassing property.

Unruly Man Attempts to Enter Business

On September 14, 2024, Officer Amanda Hardin responded to a restaurant in the 300 block of N. Higgins Avenue for a report of a male screaming at customers in the parking lot. The male then tried to enter the restaurant, and an employee tried to prevent the male from entering. Officer Hardin arrested the male for disorderly conduct.

Peace Restored Over Store's Policy

On December 18, 2024, Officer Amanda Hardin responded to an incident in the 800 block of W. Broadway for a report of a male assaulting an employee. Sheriff Peterson, who was in plain clothes, was in the checkout line when an argument erupted between the male and a cashier regarding the overuse of the store's microwave. The employee advised the male it was against store policy. Sheriff Peterson intervened and instructed the male to leave the premises. Peterson identified himself as a law enforcement officer, but the male refused to comply. Officer Hardin arrived on the scene, conducted the investigation, and placed the male under arrest for assault, obstructing a peace officer (Peterson) and resisting arrest.

STREET CRIMES UNIT (SCU)

The Missoula Police Department's Street Crimes Unit (SCU) are plain clothes officers specializing in targeted enforcement based on community needs and crime trends. Our SCU Officers are cross deputized as Task Force Officers (TFO) with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and work very closely with our federal partners and members of Missoula's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force. Much of SCU's focus during 2024 was geared towards battling the proliferation of fentanyl distribution in our community and identifying those suspects that use or possess firearms in furtherance of their drug crimes.



Notable Cases

Out of State Drug Distributor Foiled

On February 20, 2024, SCU worked with HIDTA and identified a 19-year-old Missoula female as a source of supply for pink-colored power fentanyl that caused two overdoses on the previous day. SCU was able to contact the female who provided information regarding the distribution of pink powder fentanyl, leading to contact with a 36-year-old male out of Walla Walla, WA, as the source distributor. The investigation resulted in a seizure of approximately 534 suspected M30 fentanyl pills.

Machine Guns Taken Off the Street

In July 2024, SCU assisted ATF agents in executing a search warrant in Kalispell, MT. ATF received information that a business was illegally manufacturing and selling suppressors. ATF agents and SCUs seized four machine guns and three unregistered suppressors.

MPD Scores 4 oz. of Cocaine in Undercover Buys

SCU conducted a drug investigation on a male identified as being involved in the distribution of dangerous drugs, specifically cocaine and methamphetamine, in the Missoula area. The investigation started in January 2024 when Probation and Parole searched a storage unit, which led to the seizure of distribution amounts of suspected cocaine and methamphetamine. Subsequent interviews with the suspect led to the identification of a male as the supply source. Between July and September 2024, a total of five undercover buys from the male have occurred, with approximately 4 oz. of cocaine purchased. This case is currently under investigation as of the date of this publication.

Sizeable Drug Bust Leads to Stash of Cash with More Charges to Come

On October 1, 2024, SCU led an operation involving three residential search warrants, a storage unit, and three vehicles. The investigation led to the recovery of 389 g of cocaine, 13 g of ketamine, and \$10,252 in cash. Three people were detained and will eventually be charged federally. The main target was cooperating, and SCU believes they could identify an out-of-state supply source and another local co-conspirator.

K-9 UNIT



Officer Payton Holmgren & K-9 Lux



Lux is our newest K-9, graduating with Officer Holmgren from Shallow Creek Kennels in July 2024.

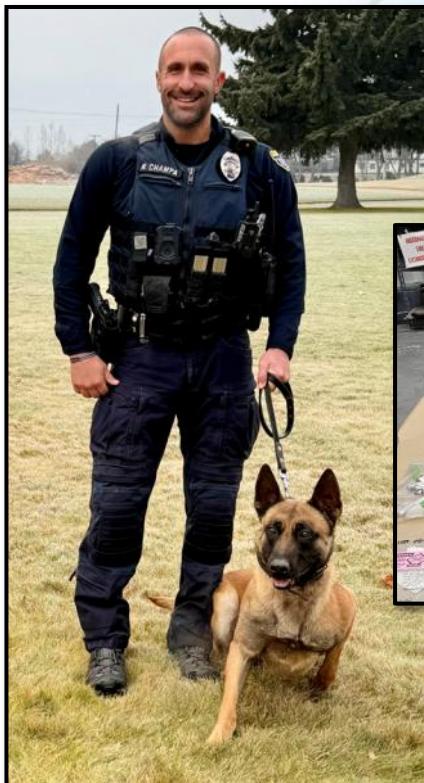
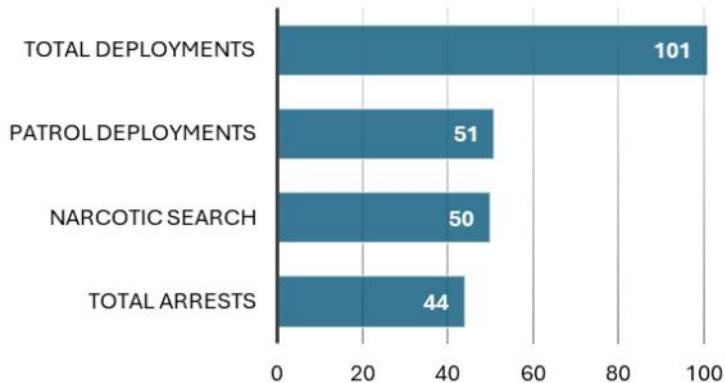
Lux is a 1 1/2 year old female German Shepherd imported from Czech Republic in May 2024.

Narcotic Search

Drug Seizures

148.04 grams	Methamphetamine
3,151 pills	Fentanyl Pills
4.14 grams	Fentanyl Powder
391.95 grams	Cocaine
0	Heroin
0	Mushrooms
12.96	Ketamine

K-9 Deployments



Officer Nate Champa & K-9 Zip



Zip is a 4 year old Belgian Malinois imported from Slovakia in 2023.

Zip is currently being integrated into the MPD SWAT Team.

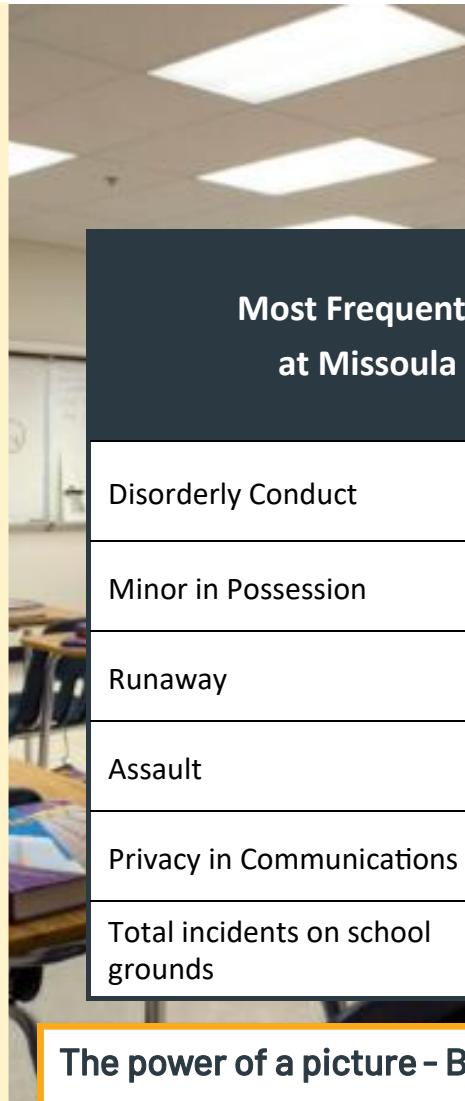


SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SROs)

School Resource Officers (SROs) are sworn law enforcement officers responsible for the safety and crime prevention in schools. They work closely with school administrators in an effort to create a safe environment for both students and staff. The six MPD SROs cover 17 schools, ranging from Kindergarten to 12th Grade.

Examples of Privacy in Communications would include, when **electronic** communication has the purpose of:

- Intimidating, threatening or harassing, or injure a person, or makes repeated use of obscene or profane language
- Attempting to extort money
- Recording communication by using a hidden electronic device with the intent to harass or harm someone
- Publishing electronic photos of an identifiable person without their consent
- Visible genitals or intimate parts
- A person depicted in a



Most Frequent Incidents at Missoula Schools

Disorderly Conduct	70
Minor in Possession	60
Runaway	49
Assault	39
Privacy in Communications	30
Total incidents on school grounds	1,430



The power of a picture - Be in the know

- Did you know that Montana law states any person, regardless of age, who creates, disseminates, or possesses a sexually explicit image of a minor, can be charged with sexual abuse of children?
- Please keep open lines of communication with your children, remind them that any text message, photo, or video can be made public. Nothing "disappears" online or in apps.
- What someone promises are "for their eyes only" often does not remain that way.

ABANDONED VEHICLE PROGRAM

The abandoned vehicle program is driven by citizen complaints of vehicles they suspect to be abandoned on the public right of way.

The Abandoned Vehicle Coordinator's role is crucial in ensuring the proper handling of abandoned vehicles on public rights-of-way, addressing citizen complaints, and enforcing ordinances related to abandoned vehicle storage, sale, and repair.

Abandoned Vehicle Complaints		
2022	2023	2024
1,893	2,002	1,913

How were complaints resolved?

1,691 complaints – Owners were contacted and resolved the issue independently.

96 vehicles – Referred to the Missoula County Junk Vehicle Program and towed for recycling.

58 vehicles – MPD could not locate a registered owner; vehicles met junk vehicle criteria and were taken by Missoula County.

34 vehicles – Registered owners contacted the county to arrange towing after MPD marked the vehicles.

27 vehicles – Towed to MPD's lot

4 vehicles – Immediate disposal

3 vehicles – Reclaimed after being towed to MPD's lot



Photo: An MPD volunteer is checking the VIN number on a vehicle that has been marked with a notice to move vehicle within five days.

How does the program work?

Investigation and Identification: The Coordinator investigates complaints about abandoned vehicles and works to identify the vehicle owners.

Owner Compliance: Once the owner is identified, the Coordinator requests the removal of the vehicle, aiming to resolve the issue without involving towing when possible.

Program Purpose: The goal is to enforce abandoned vehicle ordinances while minimizing the need for costly towing and storage. This approach reduces municipal expenses.

Junk Vehicle Referral: If an owner wishes to dispose of their vehicle, they are referred to the Missoula County Junk Vehicle Program for proper disposal, which is at no cost to Missoula County residents.

Unreachable Owners: If the owner cannot be located or contacted, the program allows for the release of the vehicle for removal by the Junk Vehicle Coordinator, ensuring proper disposal and reducing costs.

Auction: Unclaimed vehicles that are not considered "junk" may be sold at public auction, offering a way to recoup costs and prevent unnecessary storage.

This program seeks to streamline the management of abandoned vehicles, encourage owner responsibility, and minimize costs to the municipality.

What is a "Junk Vehicle"?

According to Montana law (MCA 75-10-501), a junk vehicle is a motor vehicle, including its component parts, that:

- Is discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled
- Is not lawfully and validly licensed
- Remains inoperative or incapable of being driven

For a vehicle to be deemed "junk," it must meet **ALL** three parts of this definition.

Follow Link [Missoula County Junk Vehicle Program](#)

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT)

Bridging the gap between emergency responders and behavioral health crisis services; before, during, and after a crisis event.

2024 Highlights

In 2024, the Missoula CIT Program celebrated several community safety and wellbeing milestones by improving crisis response, enhancing system collaboration, and expanding program service capacity.

➤ Expanded Program Capacity

Secured hard funding for the **CIT Program Manager** and hired a **Behavioral Health Innovation Project Lead** through a DOJ grant. Two psychiatric nurse practitioner students were added to the team with specific efforts focused on closing gaps in the elder care crisis continuum and improving mental health for law enforcement professionals. These two enhancements **improve law enforcement encounters** across different settings and **increase access to timely behavioral health services in the wider community**.

➤ Launched a Newsletter: Rapid Response

Introduced Rapid Response, a monthly newsletter by first responders, for first responders. Rapid Response is a platform for sharing program updates, success stories, and information about currently available resources, services and supports. This targeted communication enhances **cross-sector collaboration**, promotes **best practices** in crisis response, and **reinforces the role of law enforcement and community partners in reducing trauma** during behavioral health crises.

➤ Streamlined Mental Health Referral Form

Added a specific "Law Enforcement-Only" section to track deflection, emphasizing officers' role as **critical community caretakers**. This addition helps document the timely redirection of individuals in crisis to appropriate behavioral health services and further demonstrates the strategic use of law enforcement during crises, promoting recovery-oriented outcomes.

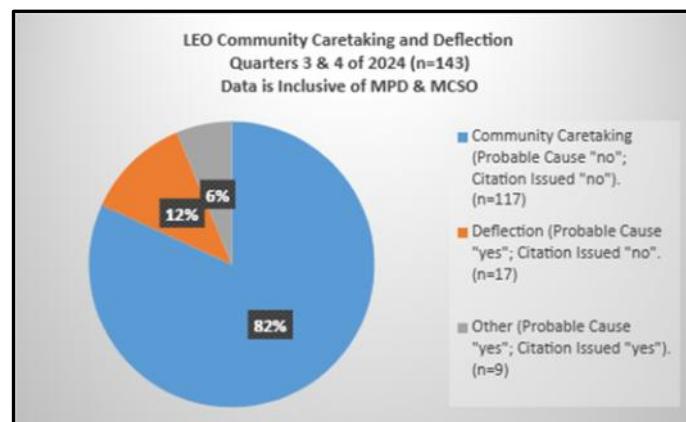
Photo: Missoula and Ravalli County CIT Program Teams at CIT International Conference, August 2024. Missoula CIT Program Manager, Theresa Williams, and CIT Program Staff Stephanie Rosier and Mary Parrish pictured with team and partners.

➤ Trained Over 900 Individuals

Our training programs, including the **CIT 40-hour Basic Academy** and **Mental Health First Aid**, equipped 929 law enforcement officers, first responders, and community members with skills to **improve safety**, reduce arrests, and increase connections to behavioral health support.

➤ Provided 46 Connections to Care

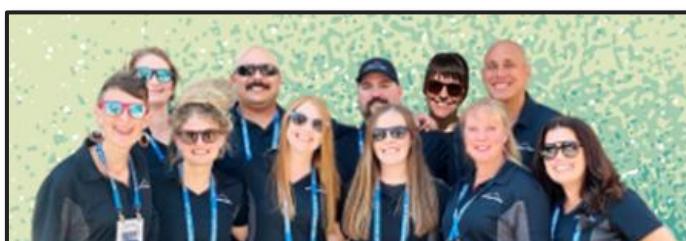
Provided personalized guidance to law enforcement, first responders, and families navigating the local crisis system. The **Missoula City-County Behavioral Health Crisis Guide** was also launched to help responders and community members **better understand Missoula's crisis care continuum** and how and when to access appropriate services.



By The Numbers

Care Traffic Control

- ◆ **46 distinct events** directing community members to behavioral health and social services supports.
 - Intercept 0 - Community = 32
 - Intercept 1 - Law Enforcement = 10
 - Intercept 3 - Jails & Courts = 2
 - Intercept 4 - Re-Entry = 2



Detective Division



M.Rosling

Photo by Michael Rosling

Notable Cases

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

Missoula Drug Task Force

Digital Forensics Examiner

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Missoula Police Department Detective Division consists of 21 sworn officers, one of whom is solely dedicated to digital forensics, and two non-sworn transcriptionists. In addition, we benefit from the assistance of one University of Montana Police Department (UMPD) detective, and one crime victim advocate (CVA) from the Community Justice Department. Both of these co-located resources ensure victim-centered investigations and provide valuable coordination and communication between the UM community and the MPD. The detectives were assigned 1,031 investigations in 2024, with Felony Theft rating the highest investigation type.



Photo: Drug Detectives not pictured due to nature of assignment.

Notable Cases

2023-56377 – SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITHOUT CONSENT (SIWOC)

Lead Detective Devin Erickson

Doctor Tyler Hurst has been charged with numerous counts of Sexual Intercourse without Consent (SIWOC) and Sexual Assault on several female patients while they were seeking treatment at Community Medical Center. Detective Erickson has conducted **over 70 interviews** regarding this case and **numerous other associated cases involving Hurst**. He additionally obtained medical records through investigative subpoenas. Due to the large number of victims and extensive investigation, this case is still active. Dr. Hurst is currently on GPS monitoring, pending trial.

2024-18081 – KIDNAPPING

Lead Detective Ethan Smith

In the early morning of May 4th, 2024, Joseph Goulet was arrested for (attempted) kidnapping after following a dancer from the Fox Club after closing time. Sensing she was being followed, she drove to the police station with Goulet behind her. When Patrol Officers contacted Goulet, they discovered he had a **roll of duct tape and a fixed-blade knife on his person**. This case was assigned to Detective Ethan Smith with Detective Mattix assisting. Goulet was sentenced to 20 years in prison, with 10 suspended.

Joseph Goulet **committed this offense only a few months following his release from prison**, after serving a 12-year sentence for committing a prior kidnapping.

DETECTIVE DIVISION

*SIWOC, Sexual Intercourse without Consent
*PFMA, Partner/Family Member Assault
*ICAC, Internet Crimes Against Children

Notable Cases

2024-36221 – ASSAULT WITH A WEAPON

Lead Detective Josh Harris

On September 1, 2024, Officers were dispatched to a report of a male being shot in the downtown area. An officer located the wounded male holding his side, being assisted by a female. The male was determined to have **suffered an injury from a**

gunshot wound. The suspects general appearance and clothing description was obtained from the victim. With the assistance of the Missoula County Sheriff's Office, the suspect, Thatcher Mullan was located in the downtown area and detained. Detectives responded, who applied for search warrants and obtained DNA samples from Mullan. Detective Harris located the involved firearm a short distance from the location of the shooting and video surveillance was collected. Mullan was confirmed to be the suspect and charged with Assault with a Weapon and Tampering with or Fabricating Physical Evidence. Mullan remains in custody of the Missoula County Detention Facility pending trial.

2024-25757 – EMBEZZLEMENT

Lead Detective Joe Burger

On June 24, 2024, The Missoula Police Department was dispatched to a local credit union for a reported theft of approximately \$340,000. Detective Joe Burger was assigned the investigation, and it was discovered that bundles of **\$100 bills were replaced with fictitious money** for motion picture purposes only. The FBI ultimately took over the investigation. Edward Nurse was federally charged with the embezzlement of \$390,000. He plead guilty to the indictment and was sentenced to six months in prison and ordered to pay \$390,000 in restitution.

2022-31244 – FELONY SEXUAL ASSAULT

Lead Detectives Ethan Smith & Nathan Mattix

On Aug. 15, 2024, Frank Rodriguez was sentenced to 20 years in Montana State Prison, all suspended, for felony sexual assault of a minor after **he groped a 13-year-old girl** at the 2022 Missoula County Fair. The sentence was a plea agreement made after consultation with the victim and her parents.

Additionally, On Aug. 15, 2024 Rodriguez was sentenced to four years in Montana State Prison, with one suspended, for **Aggravated Animal Cruelty** after killing, and mutilating two kittens that belonged to his daughters, and then texting them photos of their carcasses. This case was investigated by Detective Nathan Mattix and is currently under appeal.

Detectives

Top 5 Investigated Case Assignments

Crimes Against Persons	Crimes Against Property
Felony Assault	Felony Theft
SIWOC/Adult Sex Crimes	Burglary
Child Sex Crimes	Auto Theft
Felony PFMA/ Strangulation	Criminal Mischief (Vandalism)
Child Abuse/ICAC	Forgery/Counterfeit

DETECTIVE DIVISION

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

2024-417 – AGGRAVATED EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR & SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR

Lead Detective Josh Harris

Detective Josh Harris received multiple Cybertips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children pertaining to child sexual abuse material online in December of 2023. During the investigation, Det. Harris identified a child in Missoula being sexually exploited through social media applications. Det. Harris identified the offender, Weston Stills of Knoxville, TN. Det. Harris worked collaboratively with the Knox County Sheriff's Office in Knoxville, TN to further investigate Stills. A search warrant was executed at Stills' residence and multiple electronic devices were seized. Examination of Stills' devices led to identification of **five child victims from Ohio, Montana and Tennessee**.

Stills was subsequently arrested and held on a \$250,000 bond after he was indicted by the Knox County Grand Jury in Tennessee on five counts of Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, three counts of Aggravated Exploitation of a Minor, and five counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor. On April 17th, 2025, Weston Stills was sentenced to 18 years in prison with no possibility of parole.

2022-40967 - SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

Lead Detective Josh Harris

Detective Josh Harris received a Cybertip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children pertaining to a user uploading files of child sexual abuse material to the popular app, Dropbox in October of 2022. During the course of the investigation, Det. Harris found that the owner of the Dropbox account, Brian Balog, had uploaded **over 1,000 files of child sexual abuse material**. Images in Balog's account included children as young as babies being sexually abused. A search warrant was executed at Balog's home where Det. Harris spoke with Balog, who admitted he had been "saving" images and videos of child sexual abuse material from the internet since 2011. Electronic devices seized from Balog's home contained thousands of images and videos of child sexual abuse material.

Balog was arraigned in US District Court on October 27, 2023 on charges of receipt of child pornography, and possession of child pornography. In May of 2024, Balog pled guilty to receipt of child pornography. In September of 2024, Balog was sentenced to five years in prison, to be followed by 10 years of supervised release. Balog was also ordered to pay \$39,000 in restitution to victims.



DETECTIVE DIVISION

Missoula Drug Task Force

The Missoula Drug Task Force is a multijurisdictional team working under the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) consisting of federal, state, and local agencies working collaboratively to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations.



2023-39374—DRUG DISTRIBUTION

Task Force Officer Brandon O'Dell and Detective Clark Nissley

The Missoula Drug Task Force consisting of members of DEA, ATF, Missoula Police, Missoula Sheriff's Office, and Montana DCI concluded the successful investigation and subsequent federal conviction of Keith Andre Green for multiple drug offenses. These offenses include multiple counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute controlled substances, Possession of Firearms and ammunition in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes. The Missoula Drug task force seized a total of 4,205 fentanyl pills, approximately 4.8 pounds of methamphetamine, six firearms and multiple rounds of ammunition during the investigation.

Green was ultimately convicted by a federal jury in U.S. District Court of the above crimes and sentenced to 15 years in prison, and an additional five years of supervised release.

Missoula Drug Task Force				
Drug Seizures				
Annual Comparison				
	2022	2023	2024	
Marijuana	6603	4145	0	Grams
Butane Hash Oil	142	112	0	Grams
Methamphetamine	23,154	15,593	9,823	Grams
Cocaine	2,186	3,760	3,317	Grams
Heroin	1,170	294	164	Grams
Fentanyl (Powder)	0	13	302	Grams
Fentanyl (DU)	12,749	31,634	12,721	DU/Pills
Fentanyl (DU)	591	0	2,687	Grams
Prescriptions	237	213	328	DU/Pills

Due to safety concerns, DU/pills are not being counted individually; whole bags of pills are being weighed and NOT counted, which gives us a third way of measuring fentanyl seizures. The “grams of DU” is not a duplicate statistic! In an effort to convert the grams of DU to a pill count, we estimate that 1 gram = 10 pills. So 2,687 grams of DU is likely 26,870 DU or pills, which would bring our annual total to approximately 39,591 DU seized in 2024.

* DU, Dosage Units

DETECTIVE DIVISION

Digital Forensics Examiner

Beginning in 2020, the Missoula Police Department added the Digital Forensics Examiner position knowingly needing a sworn officer to solely dedicate their time to digital investigations. As an extension to the Detective Division, these investigations surround the forensic examination of cellular and storage devices. This position is currently held by Officer Rebekah Potter and has been since the end of 2022.

In 2023, Officer Potter examined 186 devices with an increase to **209 devices in the year 2024**. The position has advanced our techniques in digital evidence collection and preservation, bringing modern equipment to aid not only in our own agency, but agencies all over Western Montana. In 2023, a grant through Operation Underground was obtained by Officer Potter which added more capability to examine devices with larger extractions. As well as providing the ability to unlock more Android devices, thus increasing the capacity of data in many investigations. The increase in data collected from a single devices, now that phones can come as big as 1 terabyte, also forced the additional need of a forensic computer capable of processing and running the software to examine such large devices.

In the fall of 2024, Officer Potter was accepted into the National Computer Forensic Institute out of Hoover, Alabama. This program brings agencies together from all over the country, specializing in advanced forensic tools and training opportunities.

Since 2022, Officer Potter has completed 170 on site training hours dedicated to digital forensics. This does not include the training hours required for being a sworn officer. In addition to the onsite training, she has completed 20 online courses of continuing education dedicated to digital forensics.

Data collected in 2024 totals over 16 terabytes!



Officer Rebekah Potter
is recognized as a
subject matter expert

Special Teams



Michael Rosling

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT)

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

SPECIAL TEAMS (SWAT)

Special Weapons and Tactics



Mission and Objective

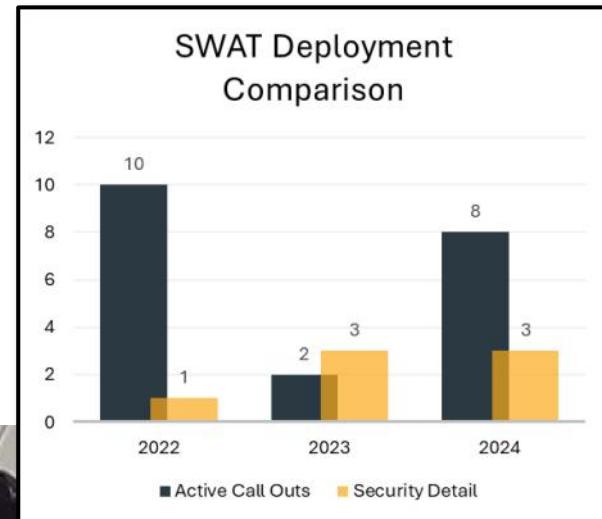
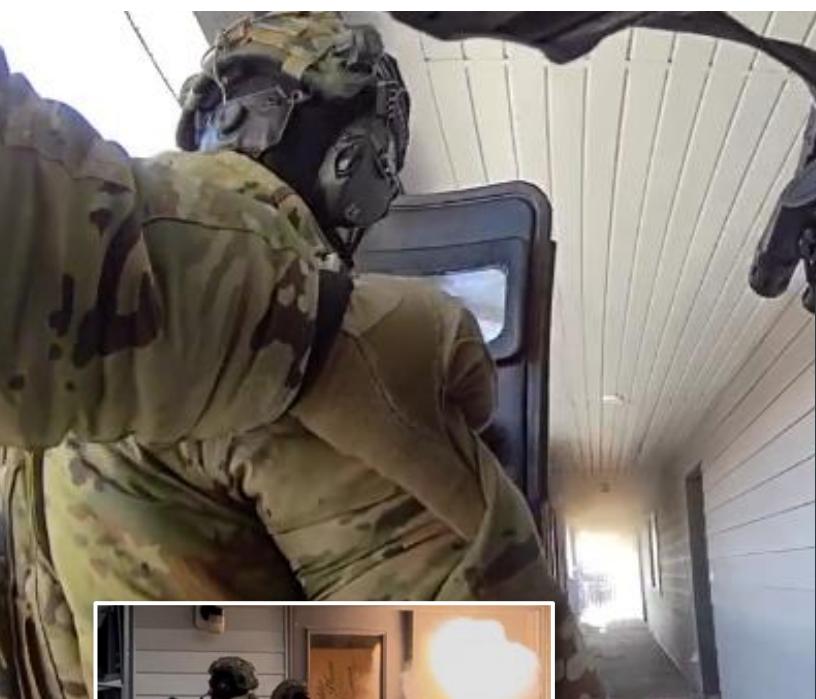
The mission of the Missoula Police Department (MPD) Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) is to protect life.

The objective of MPD SWAT is to resolve higher risk police operations or crisis situations while minimizing the risk of injury or loss of life to parties involved, innocent bystanders, and residents of the Missoula Community.

This team is specifically designed to support and supplement the MPD's ability to respond to extraordinary events that carry a higher risk of injury and/or death.

Such events include but are not limited to:

- High-risk search/arrest warrant service
- Barricaded subjects
- Hostage situations and emergency hostage rescue
- In progress incidents of mass violence (Active Shooter)
- Riot/Civil Disturbance
- Terrorist Attacks



SWAT	
8 Deployments, 3 Security Details, 1 Standby	
2024 Incidents	
5	Barricaded subjects armed with weapons
1	Homicide
1	Assist Mineral County shots fired turned barricade
1	Assist Mineral County shots fired with hostages
3	Onsite emergency react team for mass casualty incidents to assist UMPD for concerts
1	Standby to assist Bozeman PD with 36 hour long-term standoff with a barricaded gunman

SPECIAL TEAMS (CNT)

Crisis Negotiations Teams



Mission and Objective

The mission of the Missoula Police Department Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) is to support the Missoula Police Department and SWAT team by safely and effectively mitigating crisis situations through communication and negotiation. CNT accomplishes this mission by maintaining a highly professional and disciplined negotiations team through additional training, equipment, and personnel. CNT members work in collaboration to de-escalate and effect safe surrender in critical situations to include but not limited to:

- Barricaded Subjects
- Hostage Situations
- Violent and emotionally disturbed persons
- Persons in crisis

All CNT members are
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained

The objective of the CNT is to peacefully resolve crisis situations while minimizing the risk of injury or loss of life to parties involved, innocent bystanders, and residents of the Missoula Community. The CNT accomplishes this by employing crisis intervention tactics, including de-escalation efforts, through communication while continually providing field and SWAT command elements with intelligence should tactical action be required.

CNT deploys in conjunction with SWAT during all operations regardless of the situations to ensure the above-mentioned resources and expertise are readily available should they become necessary and/or applicable. In addition, CNT continually works in conjunction with members of the Uniformed Patrol Division and Mobile Support Team to further its mission to de-escalate and effect safe surrender of emotionally disturbed persons and/or persons in crisis.



For the first time, Missoula Police Departments Crisis Negotiation Team showcased their exceptional skills and determinations at the Western States Hostage Negotiators Association (WSHNA) competition, winning 2nd place overall.

"Coming to an event of this type, competing with teams of this caliber, and taking home a trophy as a first time competing team is an impressive accomplishment and the citizens of Missoula should be proud of the work their team is doing."

—Troy King, senior instructor for CSM,
organizer of the competition



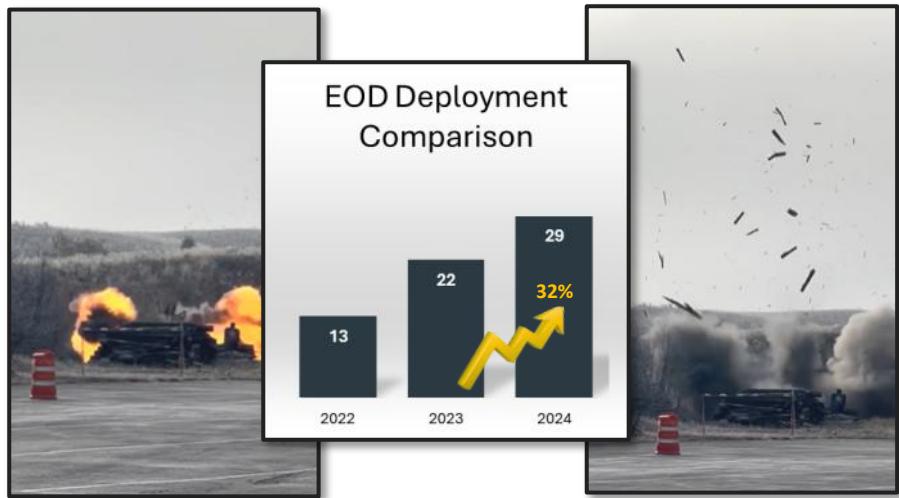
SPECIAL TEAMS (EOD)

Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Mission and Objective

The mission of the Missoula Regional Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD) is to preserve life, limit destruction of property, and restore order during high-risk situations involving the use, or threatened use of explosives, nuclear, biological, chemical, or other hazardous elements. Major services provided include:

- Investigation of suspicious packages
- Render safe operations performed on explosive devices
- Disposal of found explosive materials
- Collection and preservation of evidence at bombing scenes
- Post blast crime scene investigations
- Dignitary protection
- Training programs on bomb threat awareness, safety, and explosive device



EOD accomplishes this mission by maintaining a nationally accredited Bomb Squad staffed by members of the Missoula Police Department, Missoula County Sheriff's Office, and the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office; all of which are federally certified Bomb Technicians. Missoula EOD is a regional team which responds to explosive related calls throughout western Montana.

The Missoula Bomb Team responded to **24 incidents and 5 SWAT assists in 2024**. These responses included incidents ranging all over western Montana including Bozeman, Hungry Horse, Powell County, Plains, Condon, and Broadwater County. The bomb team has also increased their training in CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives) oriented scenarios to mirror current national trends and needs.

Notable Incidents

Butte - Missoula Bomb Team responded to a laboratory in downtown Butte that was housing unidentified chemicals. Working with FBI Special Agent Bomb Tech Stephen Newland, we identified the chemicals and coordinated with FBI labs in Quantico to determine the best course of action. The chemicals were deemed to be explosive, were removed from the lab, and destroyed at a remote location.

Clinton - Missoula Bomb Team responded to reported dynamite in a shed. Old, deteriorated Nitroglycerin Dynamite was located inside of a shed buried under miscellaneous items. The shed was located under power lines, in a residential area with nearby houses, and in very close proximity to other structures. Items were removed from the shed, shed was partially dismantled for access and dynamite was removed. Dynamite was destroyed on site in coordination with the Clinton Fire Department.

Powell County - Journeyed into a remote, backcountry region where an old mining operation was located. Located old mining explosives and destroyed the explosives on site.

Awards & Recognition



Photo by Michael Rosling

Awards and Recognition

Promotions and Retirements

In Memory

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Domestic Violence Awareness Officers of the Year



(left) Officer Tyler Thornock, (right) Officer Kooper Guay

We recognize the members of the Missoula Police Department who, through various acts, have distinguished themselves as rising to the highest levels of service to our community and our organization.

Exchange Club Officer of the Year

This annual award is sponsored by the Missoula Exchange Club recognizing outstanding service as nominated by MPD.

- ◆ Officer Clark Nissley

Police Medal

Awarded for actions above and beyond the call of duty, but where the gallantry is of a lesser degree than for the Medal of Valor but performed with marked distinction.

Officer Brandon LaRocque

For his quick, decisive, and selfless actions in responding to a child who was drowning in a pool while off-duty at training. Officer LaRocque began CPR until the child became alert resulting in saving his life.

Lifesaving Medal

Awarded for the conspicuous actions of an officer leading to the saving of a human life.

Officer Josh Mirabella

For rendering aid to a male found on his bathroom floor, unresponsive with fluid coming from his mouth. Officer Mirabella immediately began performing CPR, working tirelessly to restore the male's breathing and circulation.

Officer Sean McGregor

For his calm demeanor and ability to provide appropriate medical care in response to a suicidal male with a life threatening knife wound to his arm, resulting in lifesaving measures being provided.

Lifesaving Medal cont'd...

Sergeant Crystal Crocker, Officer Lucas Bighouse & Officer Connor Usher

For their individual actions in responding to a disturbance involving a female wielding a knife and a male with multiple stab wounds. Efforts made by all three officers to shield the victim and render aid, undoubtedly led to the victim surviving his injuries.

Officer Ben Graupmann, Officer Tyler Trowbridge, Officer Kyle Ferris & Officer Dan Buchholtz

Awarded for their collective response to a dispatched call of a juvenile male who was severely injured with multiple strikes by a hatchet. The officers broadcasted timely suspect information resulting in a prompt arrest while working together to render aid, resulting in the victim surviving his injuries.

Officer Dylan Harris

For his quick response to a dispatched call of a suicide in progress. Officer Harris gained entry to the home where he found the male turning blue and actively convulsing from an attempted hanging. He used his knife to cut the homemade noose, and provided lifesaving medical aid.

Meritorious Service Medal

Awarded for service that is distinguished by a succession of outstanding acts of achievement over a sustained period of time.

Officer Brandon LaRocque

Since joining the MPD, Officer LaRocque has repeatedly volunteered for assignments that have created a lasting impact on our organization and community. He has exceeded the standard expectations we have of our officers; his performance on a daily basis of his patrol assignments, his commitment to community organizations, and his compassion for his fellow officers.

Certification of Commendation

A written certificate awarded by a Sergeant or higher for exemplary service or achievement.

- ◆ Sergeant Charles Burton
- ◆ Officer Anthony Flor
- ◆ Officer Daniel Kozlowski
- ◆ Detective Nate Griesse

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Crisis Intervention Team Awards

For handling of specific crisis incidents and their implementation of crisis intervention principles into routine practice.



Officer John Garcia



Officer Rachel Hash



Sergeant Charles Burton

PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS

Lieutenant

- ◆ Ken Smith
- ◆ Crystal Crocker

Sergeant

- ◆ Bryce Bare
- ◆ Michael Haderlie
- ◆ Tyler Swartz
- ◆ Charles Burton (*October 2024*)

Corporal

- ◆ Garrett Brown
- ◆ Charles Burton (*May 2024*)
- ◆ Jeff Lloyd



Retirees

- ◆ Sergeant Jim Klawitter, 33 years of service
- ◆ Officer Randy Krastel, 20 years of service
- ◆ Officer Becky Potton, 8 years of service

In Memory

"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

Lieutenant Darrel Johnson



Photo by: Brian Powers

8/25/1933 - 10/16/2024

22 Years of Service

1964 - 1986

Sergeant Jeremy (Jerry) Odlin



Photo by: Brian Powers

4/29/1974 - 1/20/2024

23 years of service

2000 - 2024

Darrel was actively dedicated to many different groups throughout his life. He, along with Sheriff John Moe, started the Annual Missoula Law Enforcement Youth Camp in 1965.

In his later years, Darrel avidly attended the Annual Policeman's Ball and Banquet that is held yearly for current and retired members of the Missoula Police Department. Here he reminisced "the good ole days" with fellow retirees and would impart wisdom to current officers.



(top) Chief Colyer and Darrel Johnson at the 2024 Police Officers' Ball and Banquet

On February 6th, 2024 the Missoula Police Department dedicated the formerly known Patrol Division Briefing Room, to the Sgt. Jerry Odlin Briefing Room. This room is used for four shift briefings every day, Detective Division meetings, critical incident debriefings, operation planning, retirement celebrations, and many other departmental functions.



Briefings are the heart of the Patrol Division where teams train, prepare for work, exchange information, and connect with one another. Sergeant Odlin was a long-time member of the Patrol Division and a well-respected leader.