

2024 Year in Review



2024

The following pages contain the 2024 Year In Review. This report contains the statistics and all information pertaining to those for the South Charleston Village Police Department. I have been with the village since 2009 and I have enjoyed quite a bit of my time. It has been my pleasure to serve the village and the occupants through the good and bad, and on behalf of my officers, we are honored to serve this community and it's residents.

The challenges for the department are dynamic, due in part to evolving police tactics, upcoming trends, and staff issues that began from the current political discord, and the complications of Covid 19. In this report you will see some numbers have increased, and some are in order with the way the village has done business over the years. Since becoming Chief, I have tried to run a 24/7, 365 day a year staff. I believe that the citizens of the village deserve protection, and a timely response from the police when the call is made.

This past year our biggest setback was losing 2 full-time officers within 6 weeks, towards the end of the year. This effected staffing, but agencies around the country are experiencing shortages of staff. New initiative were implemented, and they are slowly taking hold. I'm confident that will help the department with future staffing and retention for years to come.

One development in 2024 was our partnership with Clark State Criminal Justice Academy, a leading police academy in the area. With this agreement, we are able to recruit, hire and provide the police academy program to the individuals as a supporting roll. When done, they are then under contract with the village for several years and it's a win for both parties. Recruitment is a challenge and it is something we have struggled with at times and by doing this we hope to increase the opportunity for interest in the South Charleston Police Department.

To all citizens of this community, if there are any questions or discussions warranted, please feel free to contact me at my office.

Personnel

At the start of 2024 there were 3 full-time officers on patrol, including myself, in the village and two School Resource Officers. We partnered with Southeastern Local School several years ago for 1 SRO and that has grown to the request of a second SRO in 2020. Sgt Dunsmore holds the position at the high school and Ofc Marlett was in the position at Miami View until Ofc Marlett took a job with another agency in October. At that time, I (Chief Redish), stepped in to cover the position for the time being.

Road patrol consisted of Sgt Pugh and Ofc Diviak, who were the full-time officers in 2024, while I, and part-time staff covered the gaps. The part-time staff consisted of Lt Repik, Ofc Roberts, Ofc Rosales, Ofc Hull and Detective John Martin. We had Ofc Kyle Myers at the beginning of the year in a part-time roll, but he took a full-time position at Urbana. Lt Repik has been with the department for over 10 years. He retired a few years ago after being full-time for those years. and still works the road several days a month, along with assisting me with administrative duties and training. Ofc Rosales, a graduate of SELS and Chief at Choctaw Lake, helps with sporting and special events along with working the streets several times a month. Ofc Roberts works several days a month primarily on the weekends and offers significant experience to the department and has been with the department for about 5 years. Ofc Hull, graduate of Cedarville University, came to our agency several years after his start with the Cedarville Police. He works the road several days a month and assists with the courts, nuisance issues and special events. The last officer on the part-time staff is Detective Martin. Det. Martin started with the village last fall. He was hired for his investigative experience and has worked for several agencies over the years and is also employed by Madison Co Sheriff Office as a reserve deputy.

Pastor Bruce Sigman and Pastor Aaron White are part of our department as well and they assist with crisis issues, society issues and are an integral part of our peer support team.

Vehicles

The village has had 5 cruisers for the past couple of years. Two of those vehicles are assigned to the schools, two are assigned to road patrol and the final one is assigned to the chief. The vehicles are in good shape and have had normal wear and tear this past year. The only major issues with any of the vehicles is that the alternator went out on two of the cars: the 18 and 18-2. Since we have been rotating vehicles, we are getting better use and longevity out of the cars. The oldest vehicle the village has is a 2017 and it assigned to the school. There was a 2016 Ford that was also assigned to the school, but we rotated it out in November and ultimately donated it to the Clark State Criminal Justice Academy. It will be used to help train cadets in patrol techniques, driving navigation and traffic stops. We did purchase a new vehicle in February of 2024, but the vehicle will not be in service and on the road until January of 2025. All the vehicles that the village own are Ford Explorer Police Interceptors. These vehicles have been quality purchases with minimal maintenance. We are averaging 10 to 12 thousand miles a year for patrol vehicles and approximately 1,500 to 3,000 miles for SRO vehicles.

Training

There is extensive training at the department. All employees have to complete continuing training that is required by the state, on a yearly basis. This past year we were required to have 24 hours of continuing education. The School Resource Officers need to do continuing education in their field of practice as well as the traditional LE training needed. As a whole, the department is required to do driving training every year, along with firearms, taser and use of force. The other trainings that we participated in was Domestic Violence, Legal updates and Active Shooter. Several employees also attended administrative trainings pertaining to school unification, tactics and Rescue Task Force. Pastor White, I, and a couple of officers attended PEER Support training

Clark County Sheriff's Office has taken the lead in establishing the best practices in Active Shooter and RTF. They have adopted, and we have been training with ALERRT.org out of Texas. This organization is supported by the Federal Government and the goal is to have everyone in the county train and operate the same way. It assists us by collaborating in training with the City of Springfield and Clark County Sheriff.

We strive to keep the village officers well versed and current in training. By doing so, they are prepared for anything that can happen in the village or the surrounding area. Times are changing and so are the different types of crime and violence we need to prepare for.

Community Involvement

Since I became Chief, I have a vested interest in community involvement. This past year we continued our partnership with the South Charleston Youth Association for our annual Easter Egg Hunt that is held for the last several years at Miami View Ball Fields. This has grown to be a popular community event.

We teamed up with Madison Twp Fire Department this past year and prepared lunch for Field Day at Miami View. With the help of the PTA, we provided hotdogs, snacks and drinks for the students and staff.

We have also sponsored a T ball team the past several years.

In July Ofc Rosales held a Touch-a-Truck / Car Show at the Community Park. The money raised went to local animal shelters and needy families of the community.

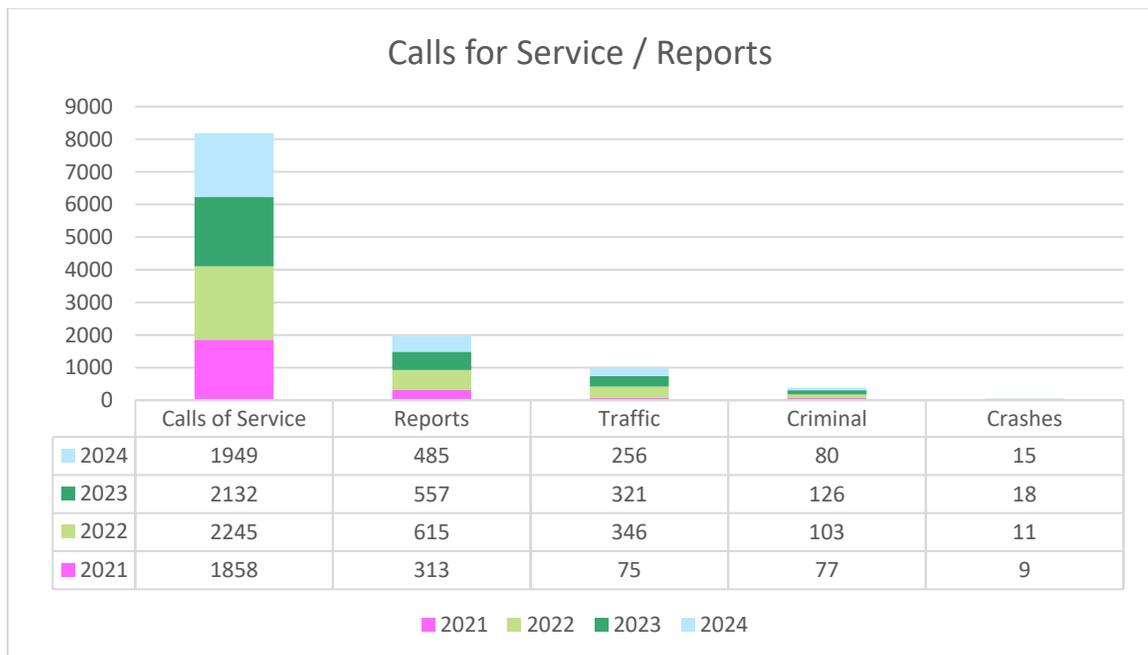
During Heritage Days we have handled some of the kids' activities by renting a bounce house and other items the past couple years.

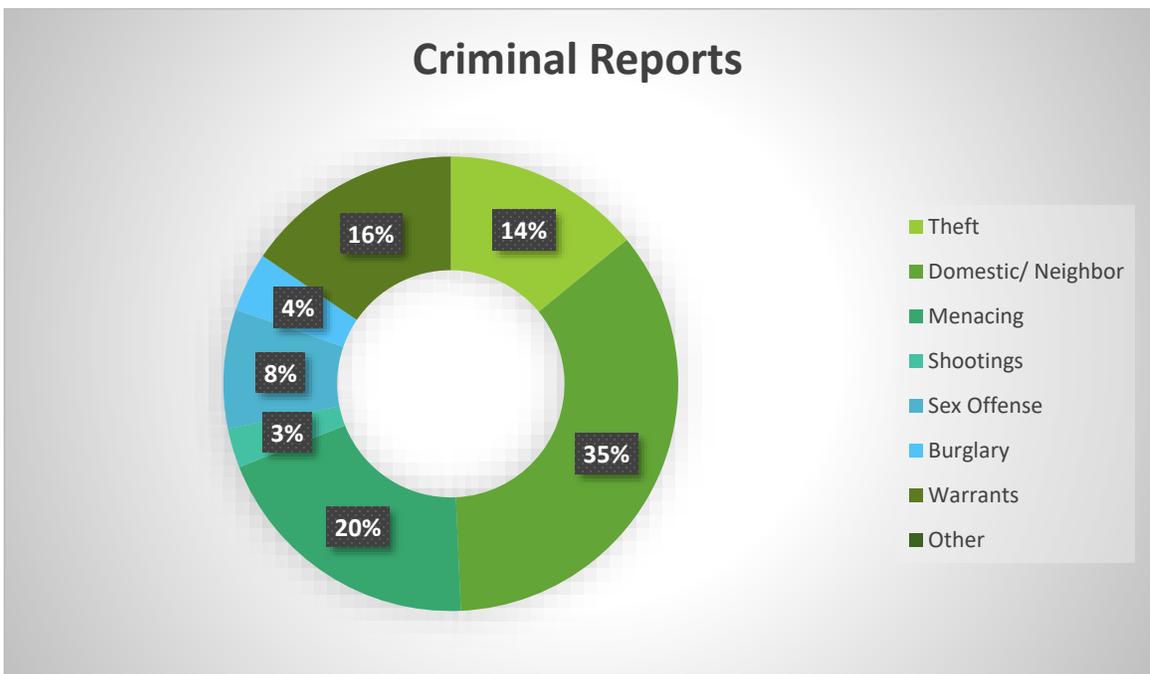
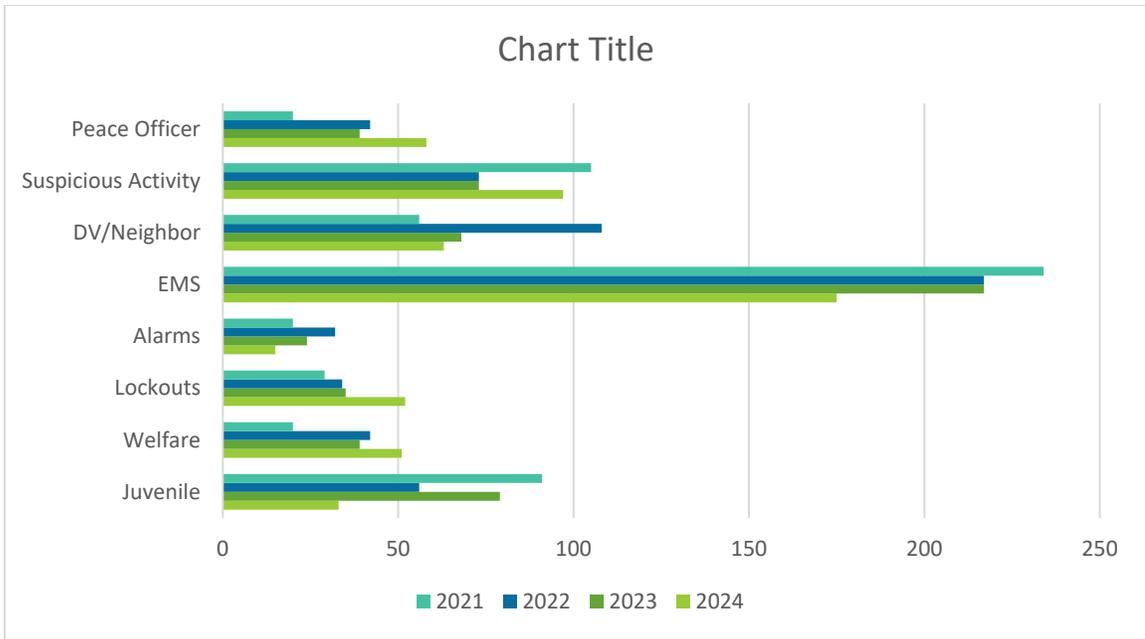
Equipment

The past several years we have been saving donations for a UTV and this past year I was able to purchase one. I supplied several items for the vehicle and then teamed up with Madison Twp Fire to install a medical bed in the vehicle. This vehicle will be use by both agencies and be able to be used for special events, medical emergencies on the bike path, school events, and festivals. Being a rural community, this will come in handy.

Enforcement and Reports

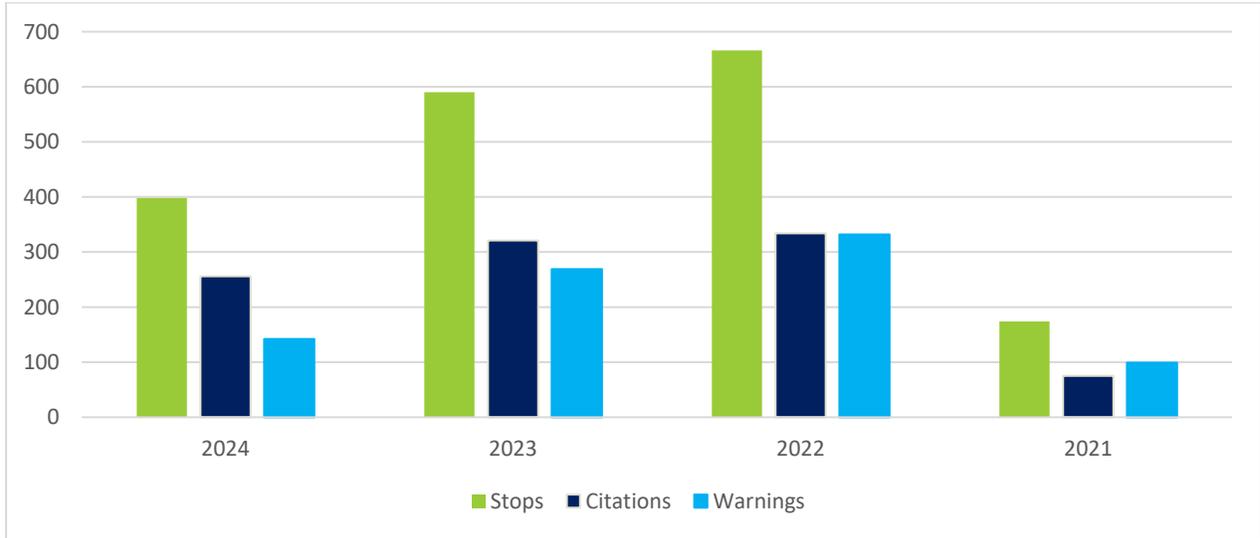
In 2024 we handled 1949 calls for service. This number is in line with the past couple of years. It is slightly lower, but if staffing wasn't low, it would be our normal average. We took 485 reports in 2024 and with those reports 256 were traffic citations, 80 were criminal charges and 15 were traffic crashes.





The above charts go over the calls for service and the different types of reports for the past couple of years and there is a comparison on some of the issues we contend with during the year. Due to dispatching issues our response to EMS calls is down slightly. Welfare, lockout and Peace Officer calls were up in the past year. Some of the other calls we handled were 58) 911 misdials and 56 assist calls.

The last chart goes over the criminal activity we dealt with in 2024. We had 80 criminal reports with 57 arrests.



Traffic stops

In 2024 we had 398 traffic stops with 256 citations and 142 warnings. The above chart covers traffic issues over the past 4 years. The 2021 chart was after Covid, so traffic issues had declined. As time changed, in 2022 and 2023 stats were a little high. Things were climbing in multiple areas. The Feds say they were trending before Covid. Our stats didn't show that, but we aren't a large area either. We did write 64% of the people we stopped in 2024 and that was due to the circumstances we were dealing with. We had several high-speed chases in town and right outside of town. Ohio Highway Patrol chased several vehicles towards town and one was stop sticked by a village officer, while the other was apprehended by a village officer at a later time. We have had traffic issues in the plats due to people's disregard for the safety of our residents. Church St and Jamestown Rd have become speed zones over the past couple of years. Clifton Rd is a continual problem due to school functions and sporting events. Drivers are 15MPH over the speed limit on a regular basis. The below graph show our traffic statistics.

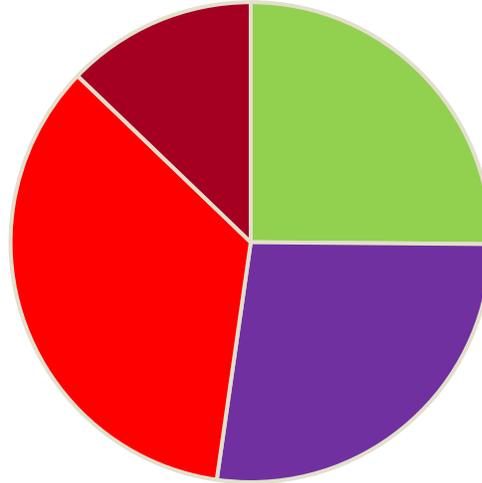
Traffic Stops 2024

Traffic Stops



■ Traffic Stops ■ Citations ■ Warnings ■

Traffic Stops



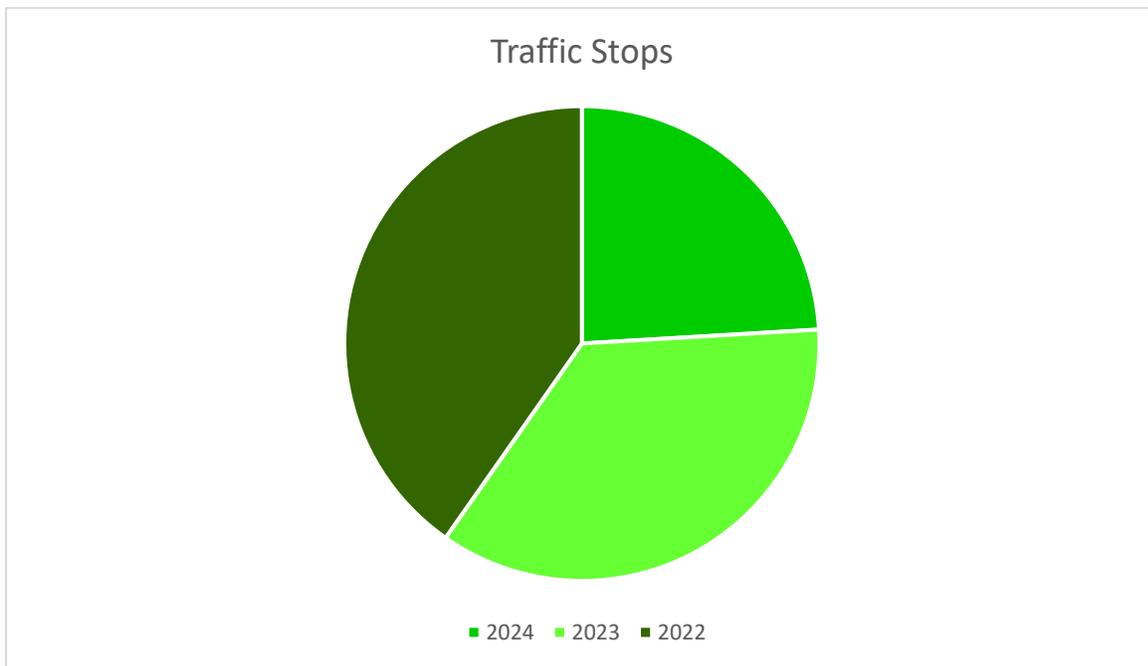
■ 1st Qtr ■ 2nd Qtr ■ 3rd Qtr ■ 4th Qtr

In 2024 we had 398 Traffic stops

256 Citations

142 Warnings

Out of the 398 traffic stops made in 2024, there were 100 stops made in the first quarter, 108 stops made in the second quarter, 139 in the third and 51 in the last quarter. The significant decline in the last quarter was due to staffing issues. Traffic issues have increased in the village since 2021, especially on the side streets. Jamestown Rd, Clifton Rd and Church St have seen an upswing in speeders and we're hopeful in 2025 we will start trending downward. Along with the high school being on Church St, there is a heavy traffic volume due to people trying to avoid Chillicothe St and the traffic lights. There has also been an issue with people failing to stop at the intersection.



Although we have had a 40% decrease in traffic stops since 2022, we have had a 14% increase in citations issued. North Chillicothe St had the highest number of stops with 156. These stops were made from the main intersection to the North corporation limits. West Columbus was the second busiest area with 75. Those stops were from Chillicothe St to the West limits. There were 79 stops made in the plats.

Traffic infraction

