



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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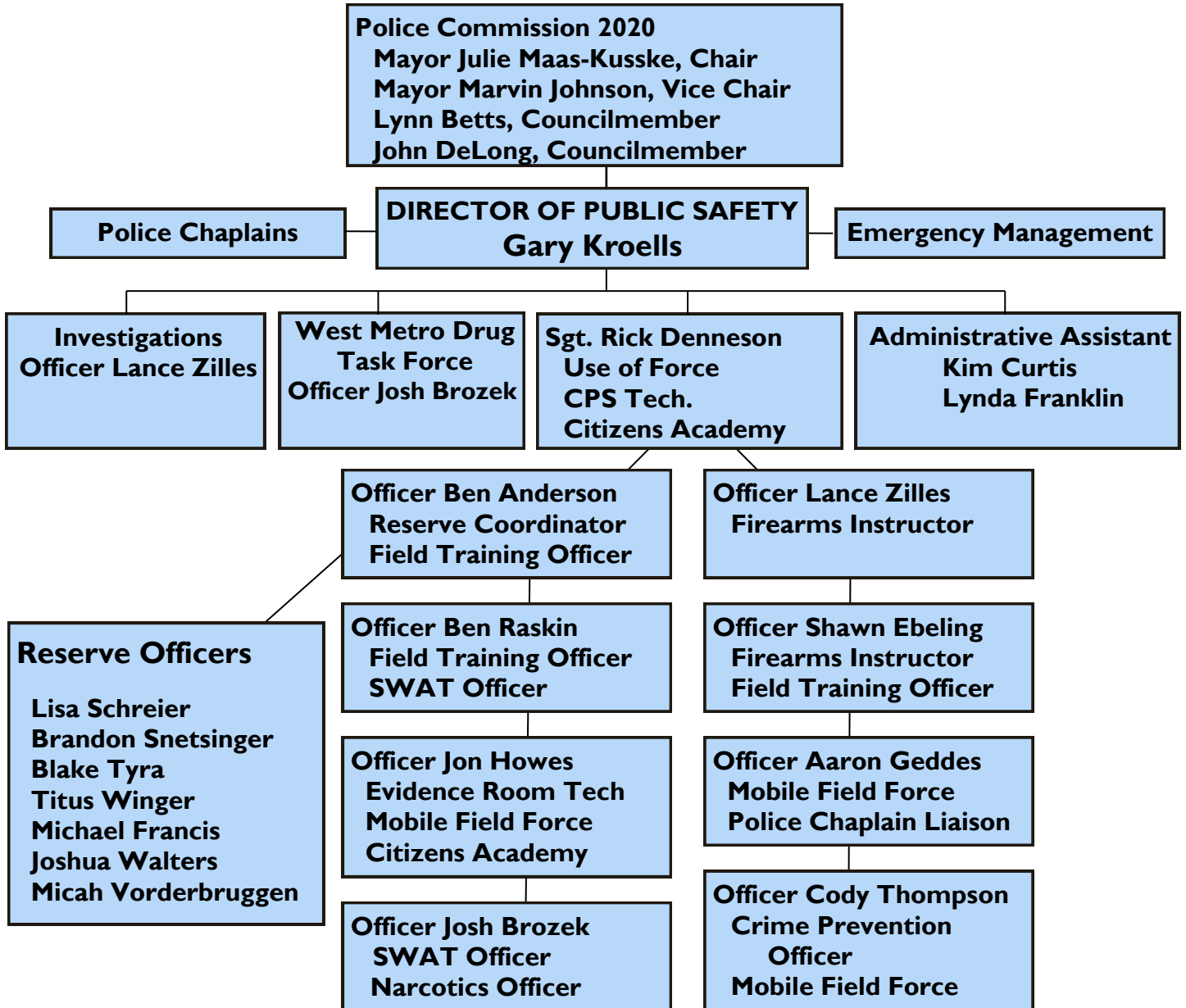
To protect and serve the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence in a professional and compassionate manner.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Serving our Community proudly with our core values:

Honor Courage Common Sense Respect & Dignity Loyalty Fairness Trust



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



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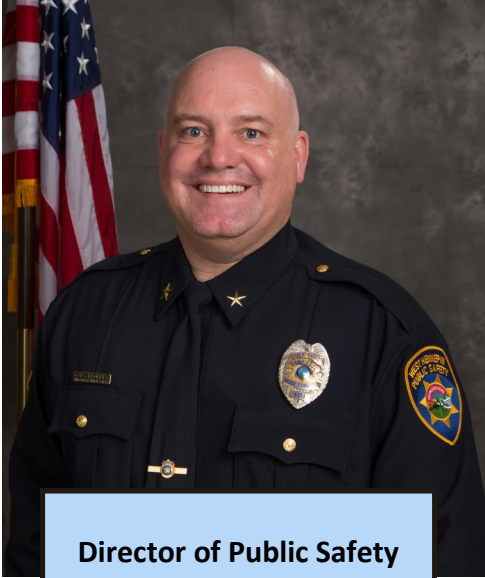
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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As Director of Public Safety for the West Hennepin Public Safety Department, it is my honor to submit the *2020 Annual Report*.

2020 was a year none of us will ever forget. In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic put our emergency management services into action and further established our excellent relationships with the Lakes Area Emergency Management Group and Hennepin County Emergency Management. Together we worked quickly to procure adequate personal protective equipment and training for our first responders.

Quick action allowed WHPS to continue to provide public safety services 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the citizens we serve. Our department mission is: 'To protect and serve the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence in a professional and compassionate manner,' and we fulfilled that mission with no disruption of service to our citizens. Emergency response will continue unchanged, and we will triage non-emergency responses

to limit contact when reasonable. WHPS asked our residents to be patient and understanding during the pandemic, and we thank all of you for your support during this difficult time.

Then, as we began to establish a new normal with COVID-19, George Floyd's death in the City of Minneapolis occurred on May 25th, 2020. People worldwide saw video footage of his death, and it shocked the consciences of Americans and people in many nations. Our country was hurting, and within a few days, riots broke out, protesters destroyed property, and people lost their lives due to civil unrest. These events will change all of us forever. Governor Walz established nighttime curfews and deployed National Guard troops, MN State Troopers, MN DNR, and local officers to keep the peace and prevent more acts of violence in Minneapolis and surrounding communities. After 27 years in law enforcement, I have never seen anything like this in the United States of America. People were scared and angry for many different reasons.

State legislatures quickly assembled and established new use-of-force laws regarding police officers and the citizens we serve. West Hennepin Public Safety has already incorporated those changes in the law into our department policies.

My philosophy, vision, and expectations for West Hennepin Public Safety are we support professional law enforcement. We shall encourage our entire department to achieve and maintain the highest standards of ethics, integrity, community interaction, and professional conduct in providing policing services to Maple Plain and Independence citizens.

The West Hennepin Public Safety Department remains strong and more committed to our citizens. Together we will work through this emergency as we have done so many times in the past.



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USE-OF-FORCE AND TRAINING

Following George Floyd’s death on May 25, 2020, Minnesotans, our country, and the world were shocked at the event. We must be diligent in ensuring that excessive and inappropriate use-of-force does not occur at West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS).



Since 2013, WHPS has utilized Lexipol Policy Services to remain current with changes in federal, state, and tribal policies. Lexipol uses Minnesota state-specific policies vetted by public safety attorneys and by law enforcement professionals. They also review changes in state legislation, case law and evolving best practices throughout the country. Over 3000 law enforcement agencies in 35 states use Lexipol, including 84 of the 87 sheriff’s offices in Minnesota. WHPS is committed to being transparent with our policies. Our entire policy manual is posted for anyone to access on our website at www.westhennepin@westhennepin.com.



Sergeant Rick Denneson
Use of Force Instructor

A review of use-of-force incidents between 2015-2019 revealed that WHPS officers handled 39,610 incident reports, arrested 1,207 individuals, and helped 496 people experiencing a mental health crisis. In these five years, WHPS averaged 12 use-of-force incidents per year, a total of 58 use-of-force cases: 33 incidents involved soft empty-hand control escorts, three were hard empty-hand control escorts, six incidents where a Taser was displayed, 18 instances where an officer displayed a weapon, one Taser deployment on a suicidal male who rushed officers while wanting to end his life, and zero cases involving deadly force. WHPS did not receive a single complaint of excessive force in any of the 58 documented cases involving our officers.

New regulations in 2018 require the chief law enforcement officer of every state and local law enforcement agency to provide in-service training in these three areas: Crisis intervention and mental illness crises, Conflict management and mediation, and Recognizing and valuing community diversity and cultural differences to include implicit bias. Each officer must attend a combination of 16 hours of training in these categories every three years, part of the 48 training hours required every three years by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST).

In reviewing our training records between 2015-2019, each WHPS officer trained over 60 hours per year, far exceeding the POST Board requirements. Training is vital to the growth of our officer’s skills and we will continue to provide training focusing on de-escalation involving use-of-force.



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HIGHWAY 12 SAFETY COALITION



**Director of Public Safety
Gary Kroells**

As I reflect on the formation of the Highway 12 Safety Coalition in 2014, I am proud of our accomplishments to date and what is yet to come. Highway 12 has caused all of us so much pain, and I remember all the elected officials coming to the table with anger over a lost loved one, the passion for making changes, and the vows to save lives on Highway 12.

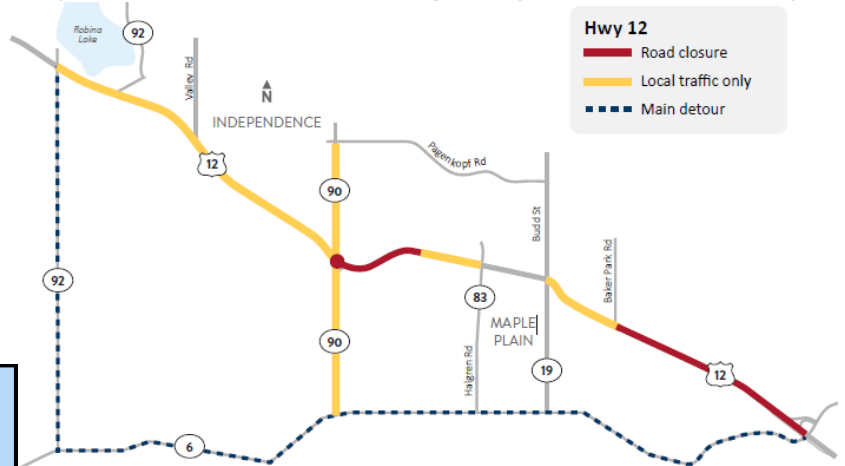
Our citizens were frustrated as they mourned the lost lives and the pain of witnessing so many deaths. We made a promise as a community to save lives on Highway 12.

I am proud to stand before you and let you know we have not forgotten and will continue to push forward for the safety of everyone using the highway. I can never promise that no one else will lose a life, but I can promise you our agency, along with the Highway 12 Safety Coalition members, will work hard to prevent it.

That prevention starts with all of you. "Everyone" must look within ourselves and ask, "Am I paying attention while driving?" to help save lives on Highway 12. It is easy to talk about change, but it is time we all challenge each other to drive safely.

2020 was a successful year for determining engineering improvements for Highway 12. Coalition members had several meetings with MnDOT and Hennepin County to decide upon the final intersection safety improvements at Highway 12 and County Road 90, Highway 12 and County Road 92, and a concrete centerline divider on Highway 12 between County Road 6 and Baker Park Road. Those road improvements will begin construction in the spring of 2021, but Coalition members set the foundation of those projects in 2020.

Proposed road closures and detours for 2021





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TECHNOLOGY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technology in law enforcement, like in many workplace settings, is ever-changing—from the programs on our desk computers to the mobile apps on our patrol car computers and phones. We are continually getting more technology at our fingertips to help us do our job.

We have apps on our patrol phones that tell us about train cars—what’s in it, if it is a hazardous material, and where it is in the train line-up. We have an emergency response guide that tells us about hazardous materials like gasoline, diesel fuel, and other chemicals transported by rail or truck—telling us what actions to take if there is an issue such as a spill or leak with the chemical. We have a language translator app to assist in communicating with someone who doesn’t speak English. We also have an app on our phone that sends us the initial details of the call for service we are responding to, allowing us to read the details before getting to the squad computer.



Sergeant Rick Denneson
Patrol Sergeant

In 2020, law enforcement was also affected by the COVID pandemic, and one of the difficulties it raised for us was training. We have several hours of training that we are required to complete annually. We quickly found ourselves in flux with everyone else, conducting meetings and training via several computer video platforms: Zoom, WebEx, GoTo, Bluejeans (true! A Verizon platform), and Google Meets, to name a few. We purchased webcams to add to our workstations to access these training sessions with instructors from a remote location. Some mandatory training has to be hands-on, and we accomplished this by being in smaller groups or one-on-one training.

For me, remote training this year was difficult because I want to learn not only from the instructor but also from the other students. I always try to come back from a training session with new and different ideas that other departments are using to make training with their officers better and more effective. Networking with others is not the same in virtual training.

A benefit to remote training is that it allowed us to “attend” more training because we did not have to drive. Some of the training officers could attend remotely also came with a significantly reduced or, frequently, free cost. And some of our courses went to a hybrid model, such as our advanced driving refresher. We were able to do the classroom segment at work from our office and then spent only one day at the training facility for the behind-the-wheel portion. I can see this being the norm for training in the future. It will allow officers to have access to more training, and it will help departments be more efficient with completing required training.

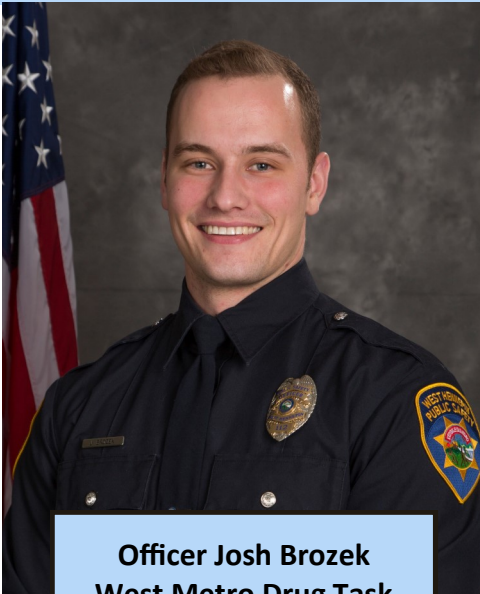
In 2021, we will add more technology such as body-worn cameras and a web-based phone app that will allow us more flexibility with our communications. We will also be learning about digital driver's licenses that several states have already approved—even as close as Iowa. Your driver's license, like your credit card, could be on your phone!



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WEST METRO DRUG TASK FORCE (WMDTF)



Officer Josh Brozek
West Metro Drug Task
Force Agent

The West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF) is a joint task force created to combat narcotics in western Hennepin County and the Twin Cities metro area. The WMDTF was established in 2003 with the cooperation of West Hennepin Public Safety, Medina Police Department, Minnetrista Public Safety, Orono Police Department and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. There are currently six agents assigned to the task force, which investigates narcotics-related criminal matters. Each member agency has at least one officer designated to the task force. A drug task force agent conducts long-term complex investigations, drafts and executes search warrants, conducts undercover operations and assists local law enforcement with critical incidents.



**West Metro Drug Task Force
Agencies:**

**West Hennepin Public Safety
Department**

Medina Police Department

**Minnetrista Public Safety
Department**

Orono Police Department

**Hennepin County
Sheriff's Office**



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WEST METRO DRUG TASK FORCE (WMDTF)

The year 2020 was very productive for the West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF). The WMDTF seized 4.3 pounds of cocaine, 430 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, 100 pounds of marijuana, 53 pounds of THC edibles and 85 guns. The seizures of the 430 pounds of methamphetamine, 53 pounds of THC edibles and 85 guns set a new WMDTF record.

The pictures below are from significant search warrants that were executed.



A warrant executed resulted in 380 pounds of methamphetamine and \$328,000 being seized. This seizure of meth set the state record.

A warrant executed resulted in 25 pounds of methamphetamine located in a vehicle.



A warrant resulted in a kilogram(2.2 pounds) of cocaine and 7 guns.



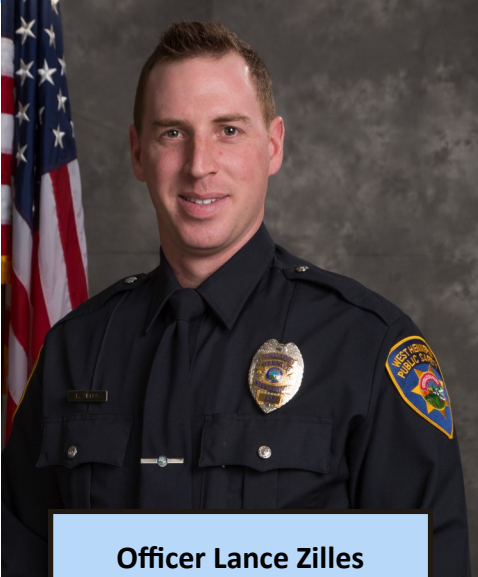
A warrant resulted in 7.5 pounds of marijuana, 110g of THC wax, 335 THC cartridges, 3 handguns and \$118,889.



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USE OF FORCE—FIREARMS TRAINING



**Officer Lance Zilles
Firearms Instructor**

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) conducts firearms and use-of-force training throughout the year. We have a minimum of four live-fire firearms trainings each year to ensure officers' proficiency with weapons and appropriate application in different situations.

Of course, in 2020, COVID-19 provided an added challenge for all of us. Adjusted training included allowing for social distancing and personal protective equipment (PPE) use during each session. Officers continued to receive relevant and valuable training while adjusting for COVID-19 precautions.

We continue to ensure that our officers are outfitted with the latest equipment and are up-to-date with current trends in the use-of-force and firearms technology. A nationwide topic of concern has been law enforcement and how officers address and train for encounters with citizens, especially with unarmed or mentally unstable individuals. The discussion continues regarding these challenges and how law enforcement is approaching them.

As a result, in 2020, we reviewed our use-of-force options and determined that we could improve in the area of less-lethal use-of-force. Thus, we began researching available options for less-lethal equipment and training.

WHPS currently equips each officer with several force options and training on their appropriate use. Deadly force options include a handgun and a rifle. For less-lethal possibilities, officers have pepper spray, an expandable baton, and a taser. These less-lethal tools are all designed solely for use in close proximity to a potential incident. We felt we could improve this area by providing another tool and training to mitigate "force encounters" while allowing a safer approach to an incident. After detailed research and discussion on improving our tactics in this area, we chose to implement and train officers on using a 40mm launcher.





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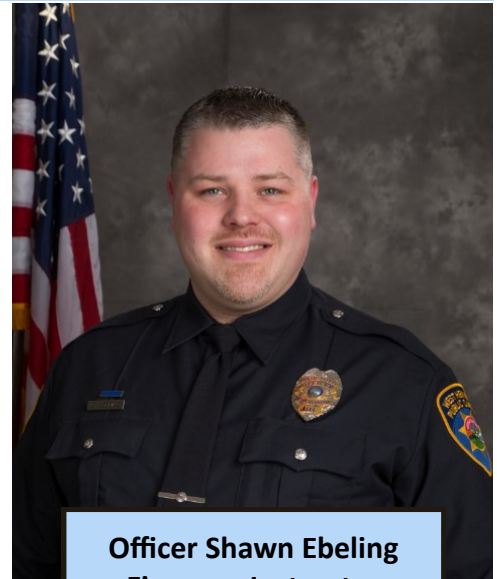
USE OF FORCE—FIREARMS TRAINING

The 40mm launcher provides a longer-distance option to officers, giving them more distance and time to react to rapidly unfolding incidents.

The 40mm launcher accurately launches large foam sponges, pepper spray, or distractionary devices at much greater distances than previously possible, allowing officers to more safely respond to violent encounters without using lethal force.



Officers Ebeling, Zilles, and Brozek attended instructor training this year and will train the remaining officers in 2021.



Officer Shawn Ebeling
Firearms Instructor



Each year WHPS officers also need to complete hours of training on use-of-force and the use of deadly force. A partnership with the League of Minnesota Cities provides additional training through a program called "Peace officer Accredited TRaining OnLine" (PATROL). It provides in-depth review and training on legal aspects, case law, and practical application of use-of-force and use of deadly force.

Each year, officers spend one full range day training in low-light and no-light conditions as we serve our community 24 hours a day. Training in these conditions provides our officers with valuable experience in less-than-optimal light conditions and forces officers to utilize all their tools, including several light sources and tactical approaches to effective night operations.

We would also like to thank the Delano Sportsmen's Club for their continued support and cooperation with us by providing access to their range.





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RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM



**Officer Ben Anderson
Reserve Coordinator**

The West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) Reserves had another productive year in 2020. WHPS Reserves supported our communities by riding with and assisting officers and helping at community events, donating 1,627 hours to WHPS and the cities of Maple Plain and Independence! Using a modest value of \$24.69 per hour (national 2018 formula), that is a value of \$40,171 to our communities for a very minimal cost. The on-going service provided by the WHPS volunteer reserve officers to our communities is invaluable.

The reserves' dedication to WHPS was evident by the continued volunteering of their time, despite the increased risk to their health and safety, for the benefit of our citizens. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, many people were fearful to continue working or living out their lives. However, the WHPS reserves volunteered to come in and help whenever they were asked to assist. This willingness to help in even the most difficult times shows what great servant's hearts

they have. If you are a citizen willing to volunteer your time to your communities, we encourage you to consider becoming a WHPS Reserve Officer. We provide training and uniforms, and you get to work with some of the greatest people in the world!

This year, WHPS was proud to have Reserve Officer Thomas move on to be a police officer with the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department, and Reserve Officer Field move on to become a detention deputy with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. The officers of WHPS are excellent examples and provide mentoring to people seeking a career in law enforcement. Being a reserve officer is probably the best way to get the hands-on, real-life experience of being on the front lines. If you want to learn to be a successful police officer, you should consider working with successful police officers.



Patches of Police agencies that have hired WHPS Reserve Officers



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RESERVE OFFICERS IN ACTION

Reserve Officers Tyra and Vorderbruggen provide medical assistance to a victim during a vehicle crash training exercise



Reserve Officer Schreier pauses for a photo during traffic control training—demonstrating flare safety





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VIEW SANTA 2020



View Santa had a different appearance this year to accommodate social distancing requirements, with the reserves riding in Santa's escort vehicles. Chief Gary Kroells, Sgt. Rick Denneson, Officer Lance Zilles, Officer Jon Howes, Officer Aaron Geddes, Reserve Lisa Schreier, Reserve Titus Winger, and his daughters, Ariel and Zoe, and Retired Reserve Steve Henthorne and his daughter, Lillian, assisted Santa on his route through Independence and Maple Plain. The reserves also collected a record amount of food and money for local food shelves.



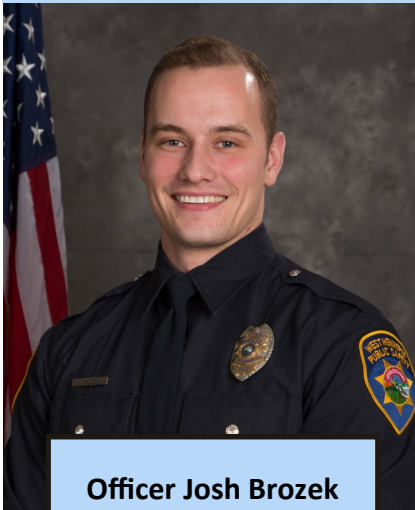
“Now more than ever, we need to provide for others in need,” stated Chief Gary Kroells. “This year was an exceptional year with many people coming out to wave to Santa and giving donations to the local food shelf. The police reserves collected over 1,800 pounds of food and approximately \$1,800.00 in cash donations.”



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LAKE MINNETONKA SWAT TEAM



Officer Josh Brozek
Current SWAT member

West Hennepin Public Safety is a member of the Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team, a multi-agency SWAT team. It was formed in 2008 by West Hennepin Public Safety, South Lake Minnetonka Public Safety, Orono Police Department, Minnetrista Police Department, and Wayzata Police Department. The team consists of eighteen members and West Hennepin Public Safety currently has two officers on it. The SWAT Team trains regularly: learning new techniques, devices, tools, and tactics to handle high-risk situations. They also assist other SWAT teams on mutual aid



Officer Ben Raskin
Current SWAT member

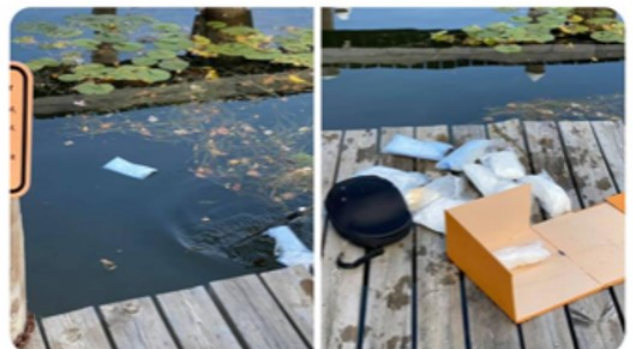
agreements. WHPS is thankful to participate in a unit like this that could not be funded by a single department.

In 2020, the Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team had one call out to assist the Violent Offender Task Force (VOTF) with a high-risk warrant/person:

On September 25, 2020, VOTF requested assistance from the Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team in a high-risk stop of a subject known to be distributing large quantities of methamphetamine. The South Lake Minnetonka Police Department (SLMPD) also planned to assist VOTF in making a high-risk stop on the male after he left his residence. After the suspect was in custody, a search warrant was to be executed by the Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team on his residence.

VOTF and SLMPD attempted to stop the vehicle near Highway 7. The vehicle fled, leading officers to a cul-de-sac by Lake Minnetonka. The occupants of the vehicle fled on foot. A nearby resident observed the occupants leaving on foot and saw a male dumping items into Lake Minnetonka. The items were recovered from the lake and found to be 12.5 pounds of methamphetamine. At that time, officers did not locate the occupants of the vehicle.

The Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team executed the warrant on the residence and passed it over to VOTF for searching.





WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



ADMINISTRATIVE AND RECORDS DIVISION



**Administrative Assistant
Lynda Franklin**

CONTACT US
1918 County Road 90
Maple Plain, MN

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(763) 479-0500

**For an emergency,
dial 911**



**Administrative Assistant
Kim Curtis**

The Administrative and Records Division of West Hennepin Public Safety consists of two Administrative Assistants with individual responsibilities. Kim Curtis is the administrative assistant/bookkeeper, Human Resources (HR) & benefits coordinator and recording secretary. Lynda Franklin is the administrative assistant/Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) manager, and is primarily responsible for managing the Records Division, including collecting and reporting data on crimes and the submission of state-mandated records. Together they perform various administrative and support services, including

- Assist the public on the phone and at the front window with public information requests, issuing burn permits, Permit to Purchase applications, etc.
- Department bookkeeping: payroll, HR & benefits coordination, accounts payables/receivables, maintaining financial status reports, bank account maintenance & reconciliation.
- Maintaining employee training records.
- Transcription of interviews and data entry into case files.
- Preparation of case files for criminal prosecution and court records management.
- State certified for transmitting reports to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.
- Preparing and transmitting monthly crime, property and arrest reports to the BCA.
- Sending weekly media reports and press releases to local newspapers.
- Maintaining records and reporting to the Office of the State Auditor for assets forfeiture programs.
- Compliance with OSHA reporting requirements.
- Storage, retrieval, and disposal of records; completing local background investigation checks.
- Collect, process, disseminate and maintain Department records in accordance with Federal and State Data Practices laws and record retention requirements.
- Criminal History Records Management.
- Updating suspense files for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA).
- Linking criminal justice “suspense” records to the corresponding criminal history arrest records.



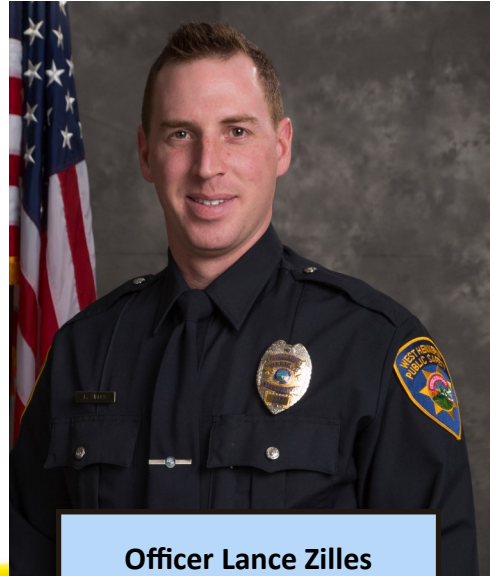
WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

The West Hennepin Public Safety Department strives to provide career development for its officers. Part of this process is to rotate the investigator position between experienced patrol officers every two years.

Officer Lance Zilles was assigned to investigations in 2020. He has been with West Hennepin Public Safety for six years. Prior to this, Officer Zilles had a year filled with investigating internet scams, phone scams, thefts, burglaries, domestics assaults and much more.



Officer Lance Zilles
Investigator





WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

In January of 2020, a West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) patrol officer took a report from a male who was scammed out of over \$11,000 worth of money order checks. The caller told the victim in a phone call that he won \$750,000 in a lottery. The scammer told the victim that he needed to pay the taxes on his winnings using money order checks before the lottery company would distribute the money to him. The victim wrote several money orders to an unknown person and shipped them to the fictitious lottery company based in Florida and Oregon.

However, the victim had not won a lottery and was now out \$11,000. The case was assigned to Investigator Zilles for follow up. Through a series of phone calls with MoneyGram, Investigator Zilles tracked the bank and account number where the suspect had deposited the MoneyGram checks.

A subpoena was written requesting the bank account information. A review of the documents showed that millions of dollars had been deposited into the fictitious lottery account and transferred overseas. WHPS obtained video from the ATM at the Florida bank where the suspect deposited the checks. He was identified as the person who holds the bank account. The Florida bank shipped the physical MoneyGram checks to WHPS for evidence regarding the charges of felony theft.

After following up with several other victims, Investigator Zilles learned that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had a large scale investigation involving this particular suspect. The WHPS case was forwarded to the FBI and is still being investigated by them.





WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

In July of 2020, a citizen reported the burglary of a storage unit in Maple Plain, during which the theft of a 1967 Ford F-350 truck occurred. While taking the report, the officer discovered that burglaries had taken place in several other storage units. The case was forwarded to Investigations for follow up.

After a month with no leads, Investigator Zilles received a phone call from the Carver County Sheriff's Office advising they were on a search warrant in a house and found a package with a Maple Plain address on it. Investigator Zilles went to the search warrant address, retrieved the package, and determined that it belonged to a victim of the storage unit burglary. Investigator Zilles believed these suspects were involved in the theft of the Ford truck as well.

Investigator Zilles interviewed the Carver County suspects, and they indicated they knew about the truck but did not steal it. Investigator Zilles learned the suspects might have moved the vehicle to the Milaca area and repainted it. From talking with other investigators, Investigator Zilles learned that the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office (MLCSO) was conducting a search warrant the following day for other stolen property. Investigator Zilles informed them of the stolen truck and that it might be in their area. While serving the search warrant, MLCSO located the stolen truck in Milaca, impounded the vehicle, and arrested two suspects.

The suspects repainted the truck, removed the vehicle identification number (VIN) tag and made other modifications to try to hide the vehicle's identity. Investigator Zilles located a partial VIN on the engine's underside, confirming the truck belonged to the victim in Maple Plain. The rightful owner reclaimed the 1967 Ford F-350, which the family had bought new in 1967.





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INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

In August of 2020, WHPS Officer Howes received a report of a suspicious van and trailer abandoned on a horse farm property. The van had black spray-painted windows and no license plates. The vehicle driver reportedly was stalking a female horse rider and left his vehicle because it would not start. The reporting party positively identified the driver's license photo of the van's registered owner to be the male who left the van and trailer and was also stalking the other female.

Investigator Zilles arrived at the farm to assist Officer Howes. The trailer registered to a church in Fridley, but the registration was "clear" when querying the national stolen vehicle database. Investigator Zilles called the church's pastor, who stated they did own the trailer in question, it had been missing for two days, but he had not reported it to the police.

Investigator Zilles reviewed surveillance video from the church, and the black van at the horse farm matched the vehicle on the video that was stealing the trailer at the church.

The suspect was located later that night where he was uncooperative but ultimately arrested for felony theft and charged at the Hennepin County Jail.





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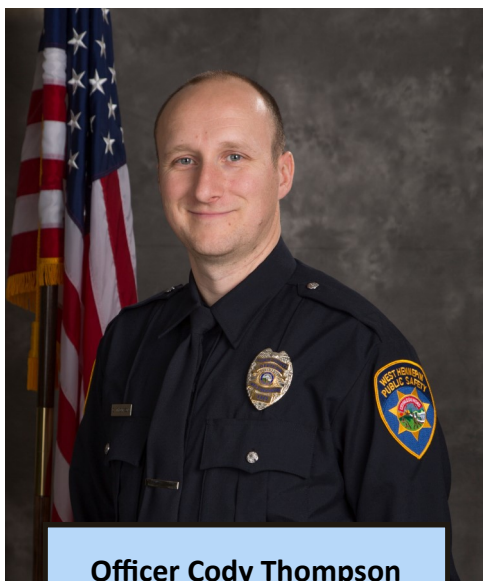
CRIME PREVENTION



MINNESOTA CRIME
PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

Officer Thompson did not attend the annual Minnesota Crime Prevention Association Conference as it was canceled due to COVID-19 and was not offered virtually.

A few local residential management companies asked West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) to give input on video security and lighting layout, including the newly constructed Haven Homes (pictured above right). Director Kroells gladly provided his insight and completed a building walkthrough. WHPS is always available to discuss this topic with existing or new construction to keep our citizens, visitors, and businesses safe!



Officer Cody Thompson
Crime Prevention Officer

Officer Thompson conducted alcohol compliance checks by sending underage decoys into food and beverage establishments within WHPS jurisdiction during the 2020 calendar year. Five businesses passed the compliance check, and four establishments did not.

In 2021, WHPS will continue to provide training for alcohol compliance with the employees of local restaurant establishments. We are currently reviewing our options to host this in person, with the possibility of hosting virtually due to COVID-19.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

West Hennepin Citizens Police Academy

The West Hennepin Public Safety Department did not present the Citizens Police Academy that normally occurs in the spring of the year due to COVID-19.

We invite citizens from in and around the community to participate in the eight-week-long course, attending class one night each week. The course teaches attendees about many aspects of law enforcement, the West Hennepin Public Safety Department, its' officers, and their duties.

The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) teaches participants about various law enforcement topics such as the use of force, narcotics and investigations, traffic and DWI enforcement, court proceedings, and K-9 officers. Participants have several opportunities to receive hands-on training in some of the topics. In a controlled setting, they can experience what it feels like to approach a car on a traffic stop and interact with a driver. In another session, they “testify” in front of a Hennepin County judge about what occurred during the traffic stop. There is also a trip to the Hennepin County 911 Dispatch Center in Plymouth, where the attendees can overhear actual 911 calls.

The CPA is an excellent opportunity for community members, business owners, and people that work in our cities to meet the officers of the department. It also provides citizens with the opportunity to learn about law enforcement through lecture sessions, hands-on activities, and asking questions. Almost all of the officers take part in teaching the classes.



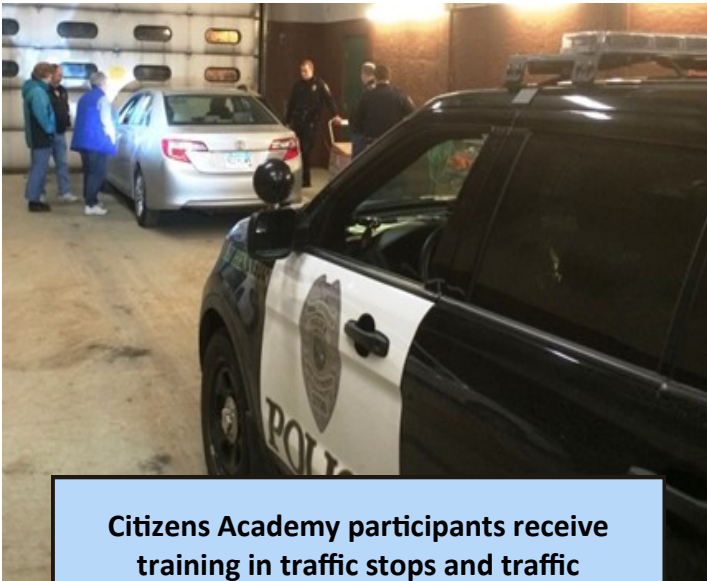
The CPA is held annually at the West Hennepin Public Safety Department starting in mid-February. Contact the office if you are interested in attending.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



Citizens Academy participants receive training in traffic stops and traffic enforcement



Trying to walk the "heel to toe" line while wearing "Fatal Vision" goggles—goggles that simulate being intoxicated



Minnetonka K-9 Handler Joe Mace demonstrating a bite apprehension with his partner



Firearms training using a video training simulator on loan from another police department



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—NIGHT TO UNITE



**Officer Cody Thompson
Night to Unite Coordinator**

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) canceled the Night to Unite event in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. WHPS has been involved in the Night to Unite celebration since 2006, this being the only cancellation.

WHPS police officers and reserve officers, along with Maple Plain firefighters, enjoy participating in the event. Each year, we seek hosts in the City of Independence and Maple Plain to host neighborhood parties at their homes.

We look forward to resuming the gatherings in 2021.





WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



EVENTS OF THE YEAR

**Welcome to our new
reserve officer!**



**Micah Vorderbruggen
Reserve Officer**

**Reserve Officer Blake Tyra being
presented with his 5 Years of Service
Award.**



**After 41 years, West Hennepin
redesigned the shoulder patches
worn on our uniforms. The
updated version reflects the
cities we serve more accurately.**



**As seen in the cover photo, we
also updated the graphics on the
side of the newer patrol vehicles.**



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL FORENSICS FIELD TRIP



Officer Ben Anderson
Forensics Field Trip
Instructor

Since 2014, West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS), the Orono Police Department (OPD), and the Orono High School (OHS) have partnered to educate many students of OHS about aspects of law enforcement during a day of hands-on learning and classroom sessions.

The students who participate are enrolled in the OHS Forensic Science curriculum. Almost every OHS student chooses this class elective and the police departments enjoy sharing this day with the students.

WHPS and OPD officers, along with the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office, present sessions on different areas of law enforcement. The topics include Crime Scene Examination, Traffic Stops, K-9 or Narcotics, SWAT Equipment Demonstrations, and Use of Force. Along with classroom lectures, hands-on sessions with role players add a level of connection and excitement for the students as they participate and try to fill the role of a police officer. Students also have the opportunity to meet with local officers and ask any questions they may have about what we do or why we do it.

There are no other programs like it in the State of Minnesota. It is an incredible example of partnership between police departments, schools and the community, which builds and fosters trust and awareness. After a year off due to COVID-19 restrictions, WHPS and OPD are excited to bring this back to Orono High School for the 2021 school year.





WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL FORENSICS FIELD TRIP



WHPS Officer Aaron Geddes working with a student on her traffic stop approach.

OPD Officer Susan Schultz demonstrating Field Sobriety Tests.



WHPS Sgt. Rick Denneson instructing students on use of force and what they may experience as a law enforcement officer.



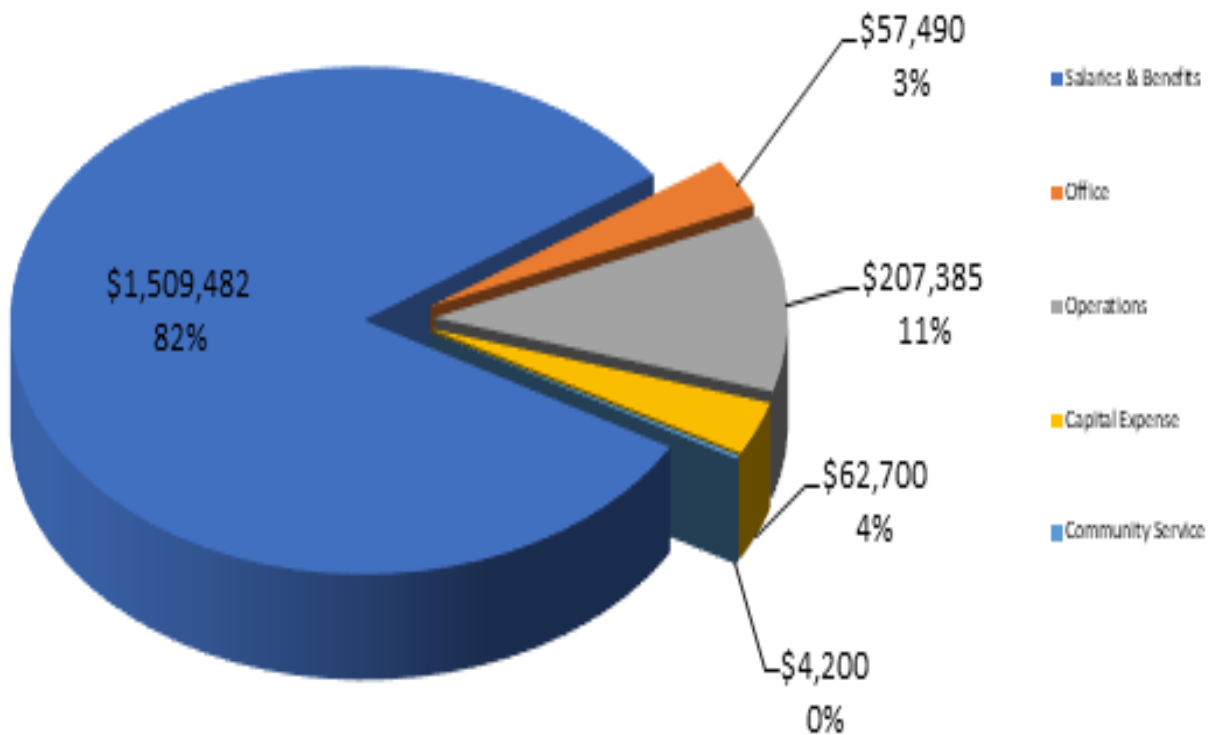


WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



FINANCIAL SUMMARY: 2020 BUDGET

2020 Proposed Budget Total \$1,841,257



The Personnel section accounts for 82% of the overall budget. It includes health and dental benefits, overtime, PERA contributions and medical disability insurance that West Hennepin is mandated to pay. The remaining funds are allocated to office supplies, police department operating costs, capital expenses and community service programs.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

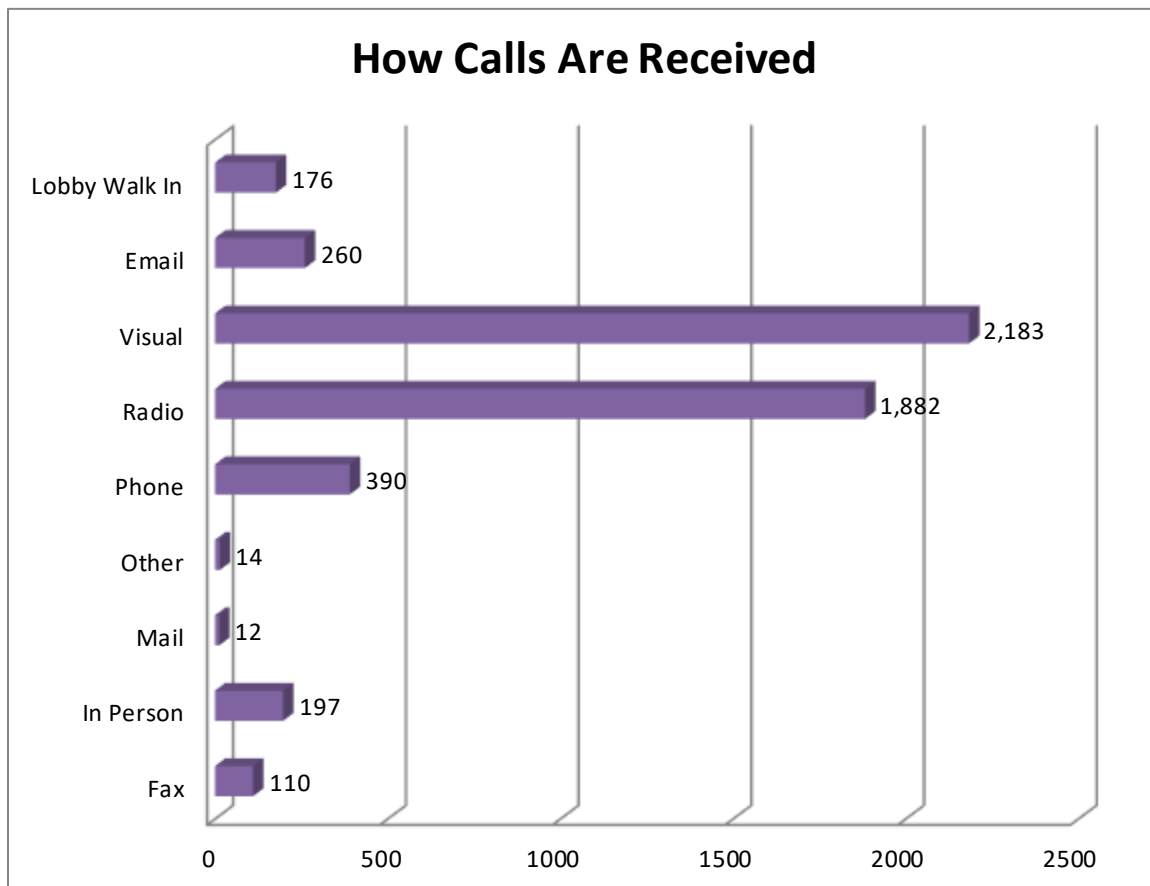


2020 ACTIVITY REPORT

In 2020, the West Hennepin Public Safety Department handled 5,224 incident complaint reports for the Cities of Independence and Maple Plain, with 3,200 incidents occurring in Independence and 1,800 occurring in Maple Plain. The remaining incidents took place outside our patrol area.

Incident complaint reports include:

- 2,007 Traffic Stops and Traffic related offenses
- 176 Criminal Investigations
- 141 Property Damage Crashes
- 39 DWI Arrests
- 14 Personal Injury Crashes
- 0 Fatality Crash



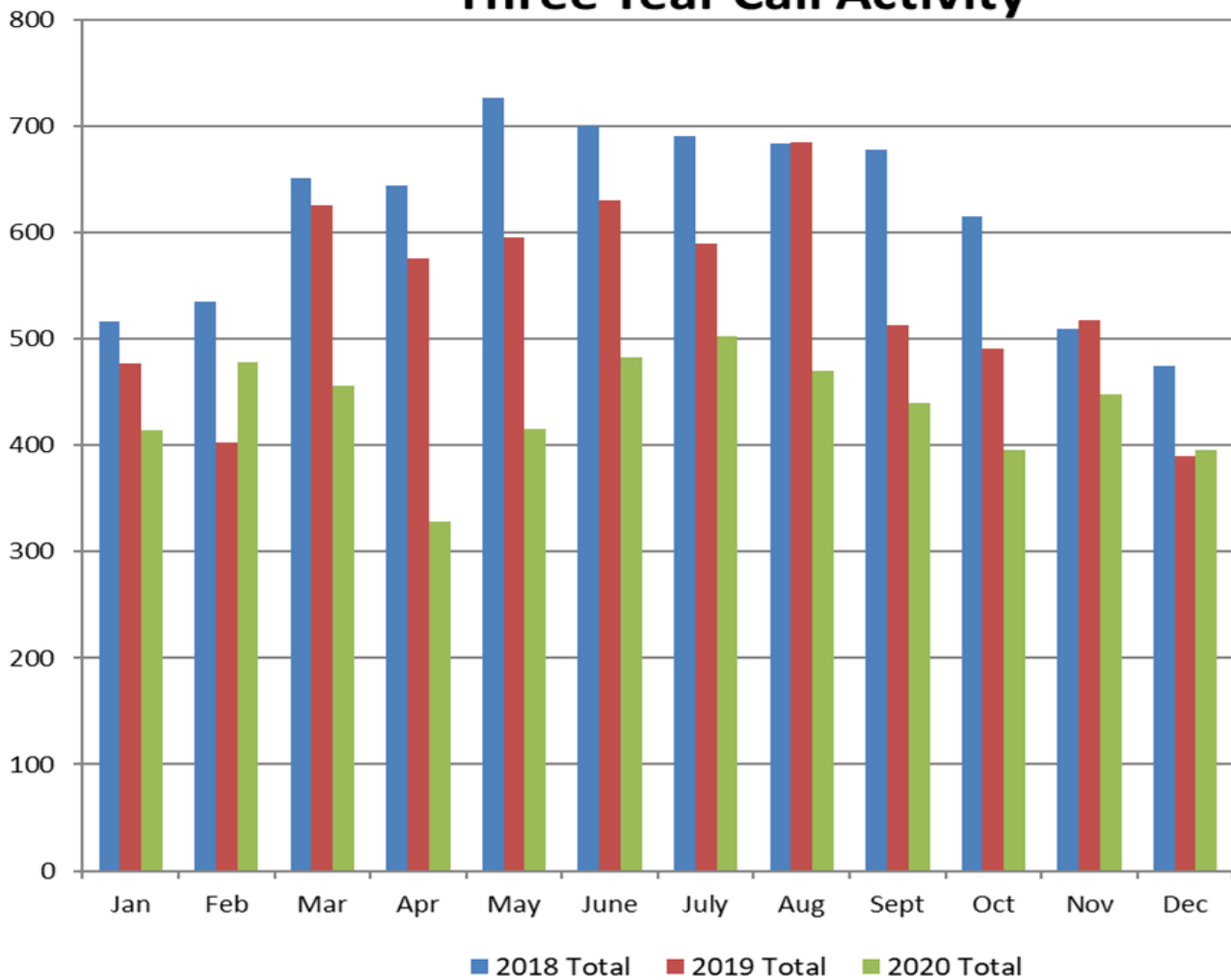


WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



2018-2020 Call Activity Report

Three Year Call Activity



West Hennepin Public Safety Department call activity per month for the past three years, 2018-2020



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



ACTIVITY REPORT: Comparing 2019 versus 2020

Offense	2019	2020
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City Of Independence

Criminal	91	98
Traffic	1,668	1,296
Part III	97	93
Part IV	431	358
Part V	1,534	1,355

Total City of Independence	3,821	3,200
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City Of Maple Plain

Criminal	64	78
Traffic	776	711
Part III	52	53
Part IV	212	246
Part V	1,151	712

Total City Of Maple Plain	2,255	1,800
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Grand Total Both Cities	6,076	5,000
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TZD	182	39
Other ICRS	233	185
Total ICR Reports	6,491	5,224

How Received

Fax	81	110
In Person	382	197
Mail	8	12
Other	17	14
Phone	438	390
Radio	1,993	1,882
Visual	3,130	2,183
Email	75	260
Lobby Walk In	367	176

Total	6,491	5,224
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WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



FAREWELL – RESERVES STEVEN THOMAS and DILLON FIELD



**Chief Gary Kroells and
Reserve Steven Thomas**



Reserve Officer Dillon Field

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) Reserve Officer Steven Thomas left our program in May of 2020 to become a police officer at the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department (SLMPD). Steve has since completed his training and is doing well. Steve was an excellent reserve officer while he was here and will continue that example at SLMPD. Steve was thankful for the experience and mentoring he received from WHPS officers while he was with us.

West Hennepin Public Safety Reserve Officer Dillon Field left our program in June of 2020 to be a detention deputy with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. Dillon joined WHPS in 2014 as a very young reserve officer and volunteered almost 1,250 hours in his six years at WHPS. His dedication and experience led him to rise to become a Level III Reserve Officer. We wish him the absolute best in his career as a detention deputy.