



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

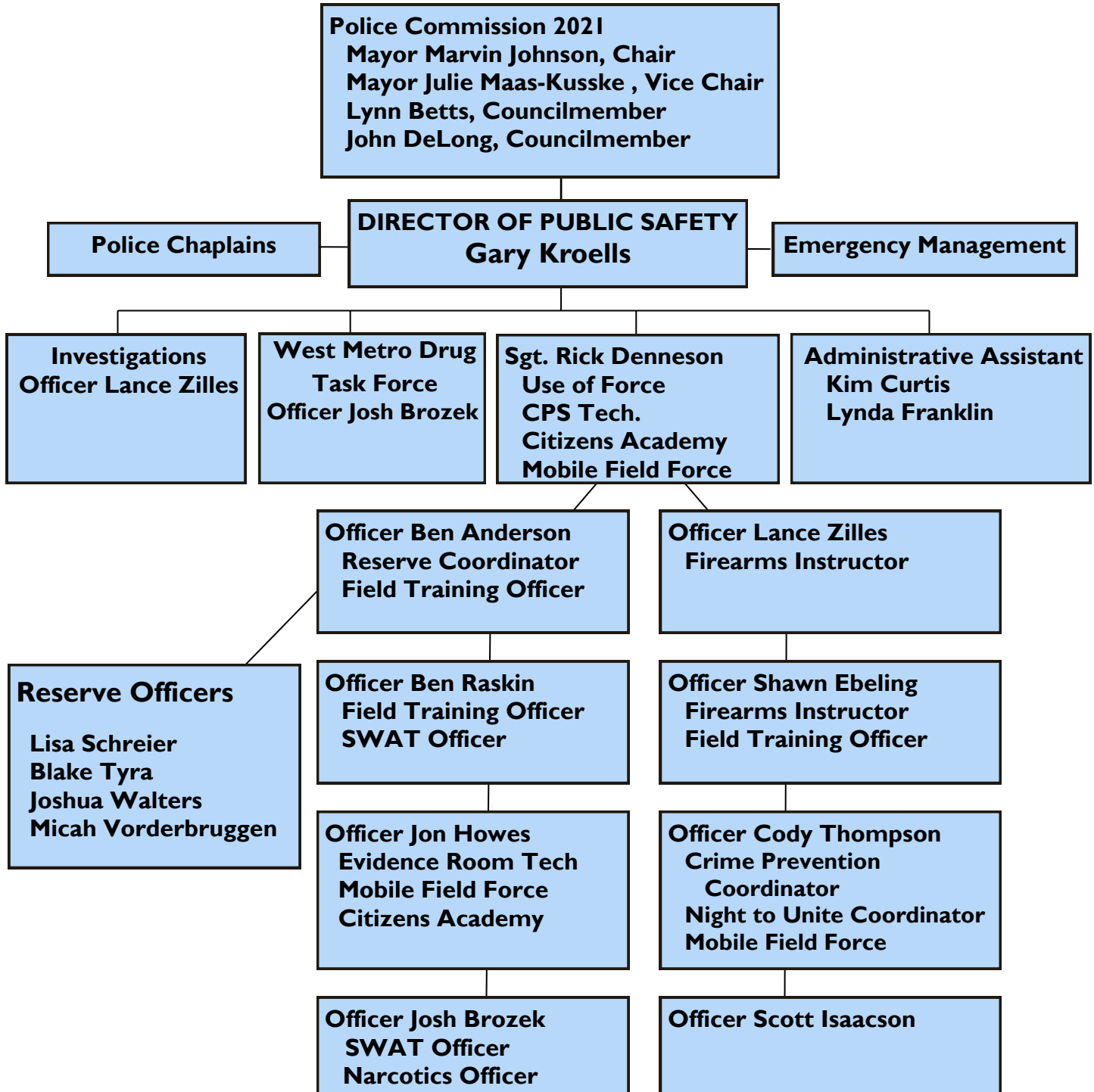


### MISSION:

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



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



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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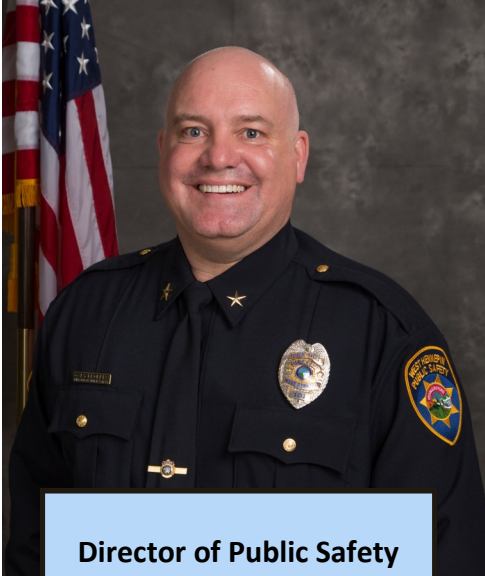




# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Director of Public Safety  
Gary Kroells**

As Director of Public Safety for the West Hennepin Public Safety Department, I provide the *2021 Annual Report* with great pride and honor.

The year 2021 was another year of COVID-19 related procedures and requirements for our police agency and all of you as citizens. Although we were short-staffed at times, I am pleased to report that the West Hennepin Public Safety Department continued to provide exceptional emergency response services to our citizens—24 hours a day, seven days a week. We continued to provide our officers and staff with the proper personal protective equipment to perform their jobs to the fullest, together with your help.

In 2021, the building housing the Independence City Hall and West Hennepin Public Safety Department received extensive remodeling. Included in the remodel were many long-overdue technology upgrades and facility changes. A big Thank You for your patience while we were under construction. If you would like a West Hennepin Public Safety Department tour, please reach out to us. We would be glad to review all of the changes with you.

Also in 2021, WHPS began our research into and development of Body-Worn Camera policies for all of our police officers. We selected Panasonic Arbitrator body-worn cameras to pair with our existing squad cameras to help foster transparency and documentation of cases. The full implementation of body-worn cameras will begin in early 2022.

After the death of Daunte Wright in Brooklyn Center, officers from the West Command Mobile Field Force (WCMFF), including officers from West Hennepin Public Safety, were deployed to Brooklyn Center to maintain peace and order during the civil unrest in their city. I am proud of our police officers who stepped up to the call of duty and assisted Brooklyn Center in their time of need. As law enforcement leaders, we will work with our citizens to provide the highest level of service and will always be there in times of most-critical need.

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

As your police chief, I welcome all of you to speak with me about any concerns or questions you may have. My door is always open, or you can reach me directly at (763) 479-0500 or by emailing me at [gkroells@westhennepin.com](mailto:gkroells@westhennepin.com).





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

The Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training Board (POST Board) licenses each police officer that works in the state. Like many other professions licensed by the state, officers must earn continuing education credits—48 hours of continuing education credits every 3-year licensing period. Typically, one hour of training gives an officer one credit. With the increasing amount of required training in topics such as the use of force, bloodborne pathogens, Autism, implicit bias, first aid, hazardous materials, vehicle pursuits, and several others, an officer quickly gets their mandatory training requirements.



**Sergeant Rick Denneson**  
**Use of Force Instructor**

Several mandatory training topics are available online through a program that we subscribe to called Patrol Online, provided by the League of MN Cities. Patrol Online courses cover the required subject matter and then have a test at the end to show proficiency. While officers can do much of the training online, other mandatory courses need you to be in a classroom and have a practical application—classes such as pursuit driving and tactics, conflict and crisis intervention, and firearms qualifications at the range, to name a few.

Training is an ever-increasing part of a police officer's job due to the many tasks they now perform. In any shift, an officer may deal with a person in a mental health crisis or feeling suicidal, deliver a baby, weigh an overweight truck on the street, process a DWI arrest, or deal with child custody issues. We need to know how to unlock a car door to get your keys out so that you can open the trunk, and we can assist you with changing your flat tire. With your replaced tire, you may need directions on how to get to where you were going. When people are unsure who to call, they typically call the police.

Officers must know criminal laws, civil laws, state statutes, and city ordinances. We need to know the laws and regulations regarding ATVs, snowmobiles, hunting, traffic, and child safety seats. Training is constant for police officers solely to keep up with changes in the laws and not violate someone's rights.

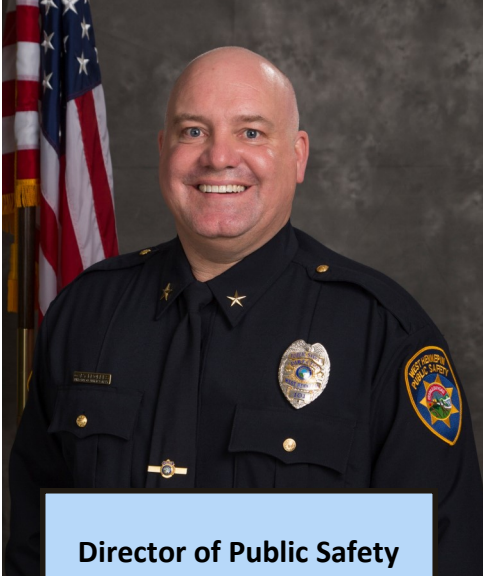
Many people have said that police officers need more training in recent years. They don't realize how much training a police officer has each year. Our department is fortunate to have such well-trained officers dedicated to understanding their job and maintaining a high standard of professionalism.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## HIGHWAY 12 SAFETY COALITION



**Director of Public Safety  
Gary Kroells**

2021 saw major construction along Highway 12 for much-needed and long-overdue safety improvements. The Highway 12 Safety Coalition has worked with MnDOT and Hennepin County over the past five years to obtain three construction projects on Highway 12. Our top priority remains the safety and protection of people traveling on Highway 12.

After many years of waiting, County Road 90 at Highway 12 is a controlled intersection, which has created safer access onto Highway 12. The intersection officially reopened on October 27 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Independence City Hall.



**Ribbon cutting on October 27th for the reopening of  
Highway 12 at County Road 90**



Secondly, Highway 12 was widened from Baker Park Road to County Road 6, allowing the installment of concrete centerline dividers to prevent head-on crashes that frequently occurred in this area.

Lastly, the construction of a new roundabout at County Road 92 started in the fall of 2021. In the spring of 2022, detours and construction will resume. Completion of the new controlled intersection at County Road 92 is projected for the fall of 2022.

The West Hennepin Public Safety Department will continue to be your voice and stand with you to improve the safety of Highway 12.



**View of the construction area south of Highway 12, where the roadways are being realigned and work on the new bridge has begun.**



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

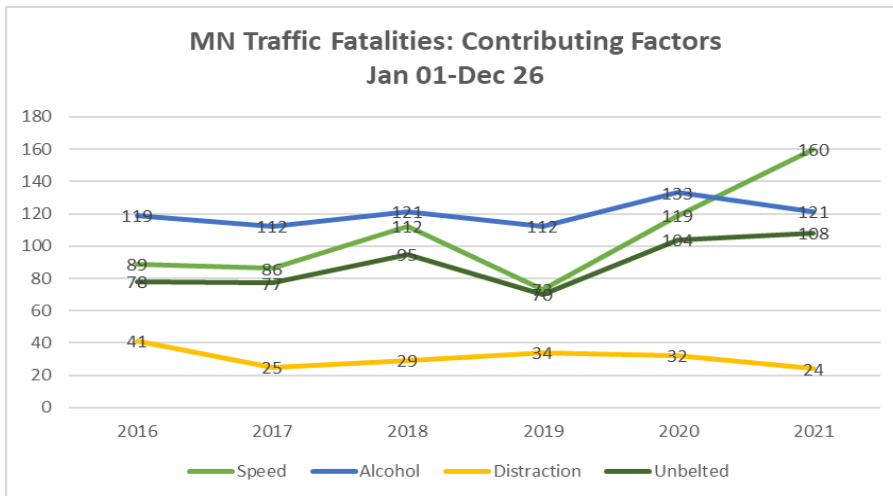


## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Unfortunately, in 2021, the State of Minnesota recorded the deaths of over 500 people in fatal crashes, one of the highest totals in more than five years. That is a 26% increase over 2020 and a 38% increase over 2019. Speed was the leading contributing factor noted in these crashes, followed by impaired driving.



**Sergeant Rick Denneson**  
**Patrol Sergeant**



West Hennepin Public Safety partners with several surrounding agencies to do additional traffic enforcement each year. Our department receives federal grant money through the Towards Zero Death initiative (TZD), which allows us to put officers on the street outside of their regular shifts. These shifts target people driving while impaired (DWI), speeding, distracted driving, and seatbelt violations.

In 2021, West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) applied for and received an additional special federal grant distributed by the State of Minnesota – Office of Traffic Safety. This grant gave WHPS an added \$4,800.00 for extra speed enforcement on the roadways. The grant money allowed us to add approximately 70 hours of enforcement above and beyond officers' regular shifts.

The speed grant was timely as we were able to provide extra patrol on the Highway 12 construction detour route. Officers watched for speed violations and seatbelt violations, careless driving, and distracted and impaired drivers. While it did not eliminate all our crashes, there is no doubt that the officers' added extra enforcement and presence on the road prevented crashes that would have resulted in severe injuries.





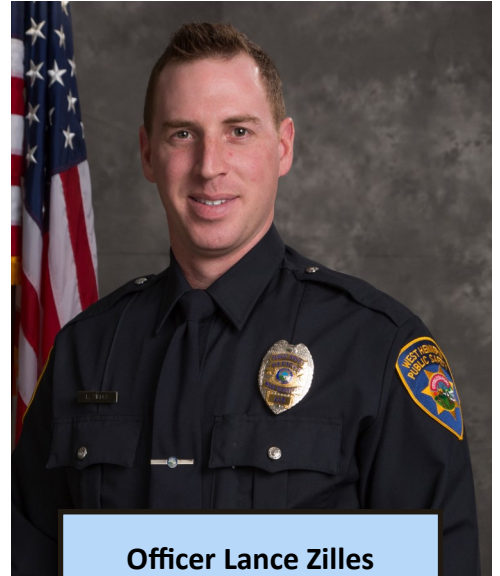
# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## 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 to three 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 May of 2021, a West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) patrol officer took a report from a resident who stated his blue Dodge Ram Truck (\$5,000 value) and gray utility trailer (\$2,000 value) were stolen from a residence in the City of Independence. The owner initially believed that a family member borrowed the truck before reporting the missing vehicles to our department.

Through investigation, Investigator Zilles determined that the vehicle had been unlawfully sold to an unknown person by the family member. Investigator Zilles spoke with other family members and possible witnesses and located the stolen trailer at a pawnshop in the City of Rockford, where the suspect pawned it for \$300. Investigator Zilles went to the pawnshop and identified the suspect, who had used a handwritten bill of sale to pawn the trailer. The pawnshop still had possession of the trailer, and it was retrieved and returned to the owner.

A few days following the incident, the investigation revealed the suspect traded the stolen truck to another person for a motorcycle. When the “new” truck owner went to register the vehicle, it was flagged as stolen.



With the help from the Woodbury Police Department, the stolen truck was recovered and returned to the rightful owner. The suspect was identified and charged for felony theft regarding the stolen truck and trailer.





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—CASES OF INTEREST

In July of 2021, a citizen reported that a family member found a handgun on the side of the road. The citizen then transferred custody of the firearm to West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS).

Investigator Zilles checked the firearm's serial number through the national database and determined that the gun was not reported stolen at this time. Investigator Zilles had the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) firearms division run a trace on the gun to try to locate the current original owner. Results showed that the owner of the weapon resides in Missouri.

Investigator Zilles contacted the owner of the firearm, who stated he does own that gun and it was a gift to his wife. I asked how the handgun ended up in Minnesota, and he said his wife is visiting family in MN currently. A WHPS officer responded to the family member's address and spoke with the gun owner's wife. She checked her vehicle parked in the driveway and advised that her gun was missing from the unlocked car.

WHPS conducted follow-up interviews with the person who reportedly found the firearm, and they ultimately confessed to stealing it and did not know what to do with it once it was in their possession.

The theft suspect was facing felony theft charges, but the owner did not wish to pursue charges. WHPS returned the firearm to its rightful owner.







# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT—UNIQUE CASES

In February of 2021, a resident in a Maple Plain apartment building reported that she had items stolen from the laundry room and an Amazon package in front of their door. Investigator Zilles reviewed surveillance footage and was able to see what room the suspects entered once they gathered the items.

Investigator Zilles was able to identify the suspects based on previous calls to that apartment. A search warrant was drafted and executed for the apartment, which led to the recovery of all the stolen items. WHPS returned them to the rightful owner. Confessions were gathered from the two suspects involved and WHPS charged both suspects with misdemeanor-level theft.



In December of 2021, Investigator Zilles received information from Hennepin County election officials that a known felon voted in the 2020 election. Investigator Zilles conducted criminal history checks on the subject. The criminal history checks revealed that the suspect is prohibited from registering to vote and from physically voting due to felony convictions.

The suspect admitted to voting during an interview and claimed: "They let me vote." Although this may seem like a minor offense, it still holds a felony-level punishment. WHPS submitted the case to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office for charges.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM



**Officer Ben Anderson  
Reserve Coordinator**

The West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) Reserves had another productive year in 2021. The reserves supported our communities by riding with and assisting officers and helping at community events, donating 1,807 hours to WHPS and the cities of Maple Plain and Independence! The ongoing service provided by the WHPS volunteer reserve officers to our communities is invaluable. Using a modest value of \$24.69 per hour (national 2018 formula), that is a value of \$44,614 to our communities for a very minimal cost.

The reserves' dedication to WHPS was evident by the continued volunteering of their time, despite the increased health and safety risks, 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 most remarkable people in the world!

WHPS held many training events for the reserves. They trained on our new body-worn cameras, received firearms and less-lethal exposure, taser, pepper spray, traffic control, and use of force training. The Reserves assisted with numerous community events, including the Vehicle Fair, Maple Plain Fire Open House, Trunk or Treat, Liberty Triathlon, Tour De Tonka, Toys for Tots, and of course, View Santa.



**Patches of Police agencies that have hired WHPS Reserve Officers**





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## RESERVE OFFICERS IN ACTION



**Reserve Officer Schreier and Chief Kroells with some attendees at the Vehicle Fair at the Orono Discovery Center**



**Reserve Officer Vorderbruggen at traffic control training**





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## VIEW SANTA 2021



Front row: Reserve Blake Tyra, Santa, Reserve Lisa Schreier.  
Back row: Officer Scott Isaacson, Reserve Micah Vorderbruggen,  
Sgt. Rick Denneson, Officer Jon Howes, Officer Ben Anderson.

View Santa returned to its usual route and most of its longtime traditions in 2021. Santa visited with children in the new atrium at Independence City Hall and at Veterans Memorial Park in Maple Plain. The reserves handed out bags of candy to children along the route and collected a trailer full of food for local food shelves. Thank you to all of our citizens that gave so generously!



“Now more than ever, we need to provide for others in need,” stated Chief Gary Kroells. “It was another exceptional year with many people coming out to wave to Santa and giving donations to the local food shelf. The police reserves collected over 1,450 pounds of food and approximately \$575 in cash donations.”



# 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



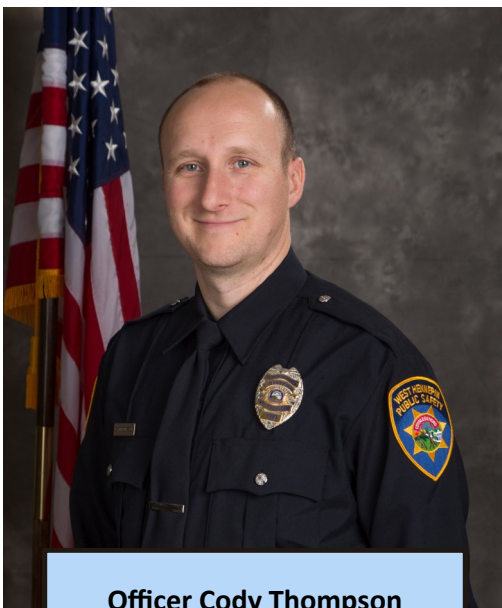
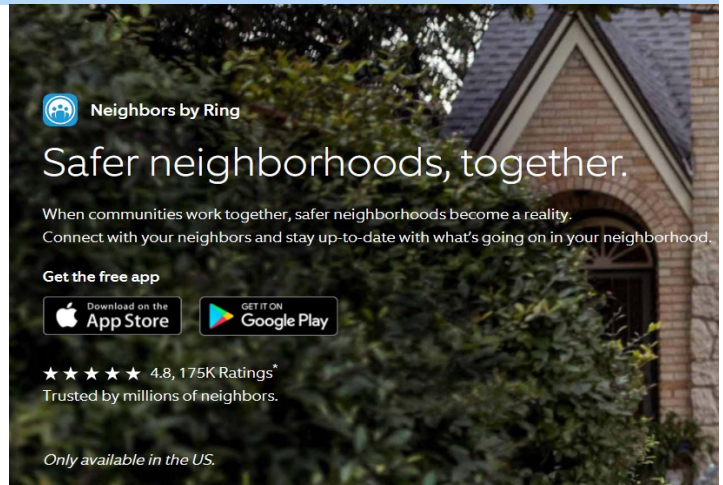
## CRIME PREVENTION



MINNESOTA CRIME  
PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

In October, Officer Thompson attended the annual Minnesota Crime Prevention Association Conference, which the Mankato Department of Public Safety hosted.

Presenters held sessions covering several crime prevention topics and training during the two-day conference. West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) implemented a new crime prevention tool after partnering with RING/Neighbors Public Safety Service. *Neighbors by RING* is a mobile app available to anyone with a smartphone, and the app is free to users and WHPS. Residents can be alerted to crime information, safety tips, and more. After a crime or incident, residents may be asked to assist by checking any video cameras they own to see if their camera captured any activity. WHPS controls the posts on the app relative to Maple Plain and Independence.



Officer Cody Thompson  
Crime Prevention Coordinator

Officer Thompson conducted alcohol compliance checks by sending underage decoys into food and beverage establishments within WHPS jurisdiction during the 2021 calendar year. Six businesses passed the compliance check, and two establishments did not.

In 2022, WHPS will continue to provide training for alcohol compliance with the employees of local restaurant establishments. We will be hosting two classes each calendar year, one in the spring and one in the winter.

If you have any crime prevention questions, concerns, or comments, please get in touch with Officer Thompson.





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—NIGHT TO UNITE



**Officer Cody Thompson**  
Night to Unite Coordinator

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) participated in the Night to Unite event in 2021 after taking one year off due to COVID. It was great to be out and about with our citizens once again. 2021 was one of the best years for the number of neighborhood hosts at fifteen! WHPS has been involved in the Night to Unite celebration since 2006.

Each year, we seek hosts in the City of Independence and Maple Plain to host neighborhood parties at their homes. WHPS police officers, reserve officers, and Maple Plain firefighters enjoy participating in the event. If you would like to host a party in 2022, please reach out to Officer Thompson or contact WHPS.

We look forward to gathering once again in 2022. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 2nd!





# 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 (CPA) in the spring of 2021 due to COVID-19.

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

The CPA teaches participants about various law enforcement topics such as the use of force, narcotics and investigations, traffic and DWI enforcement, K-9 officers, and court proceedings. 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 are able to speak with a Hennepin County judge and the department's

city attorney about legal issues. There is also a trip to the Hennepin County 911 Dispatch Center in Plymouth, where the attendees can overhear actual 911 calls.



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

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.





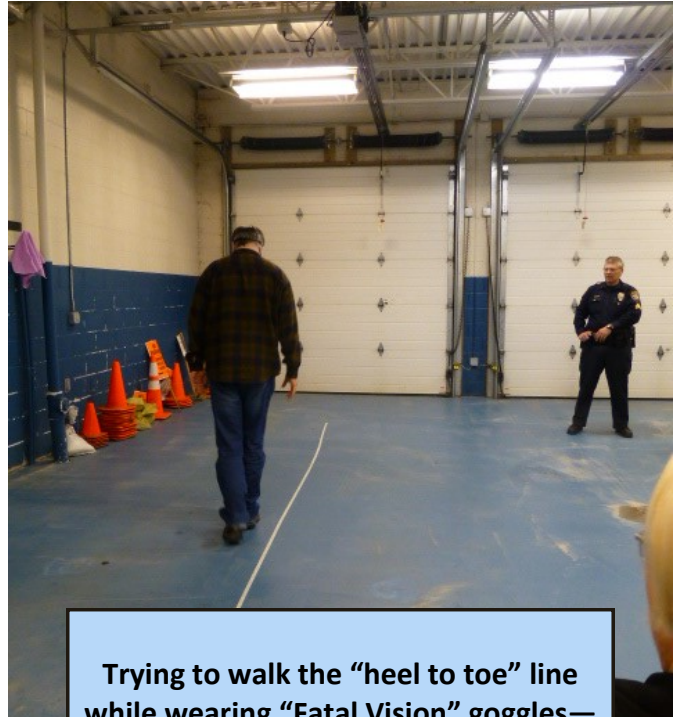
# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS—CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



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



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

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.



**Citizens Academy participants receive training in traffic stops and traffic enforcement**





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## EVENTS OF THE YEAR 2021



Independence City Hall ribbon cutting on October 27th, 2021



Right: Reserve Lisa Schreier being presented with a plaque and Years of Service pin for 35 years at West Hennepin Public Safety.



Left: Reserve Blake Tyra being presented with his Five-year plaque and Years of Service pin.



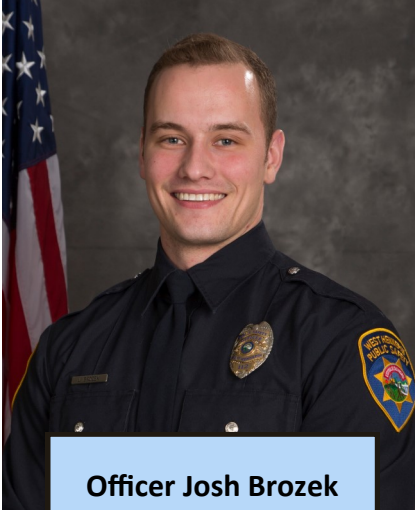
Reserve Brandon Snetsinger (left), Reserve Titus Winger (center) and Reserve Michael Francis (right) being presented with farewell plaques and our grateful appreciation for their years of service to West Hennepin Public Safety.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## LAKE MINNETONKA SWAT TEAM



**Officer Josh Brozek**  
Current SWAT member

West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) 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 WHPS has two officers on it. The SWAT Team trains regularly: learning new

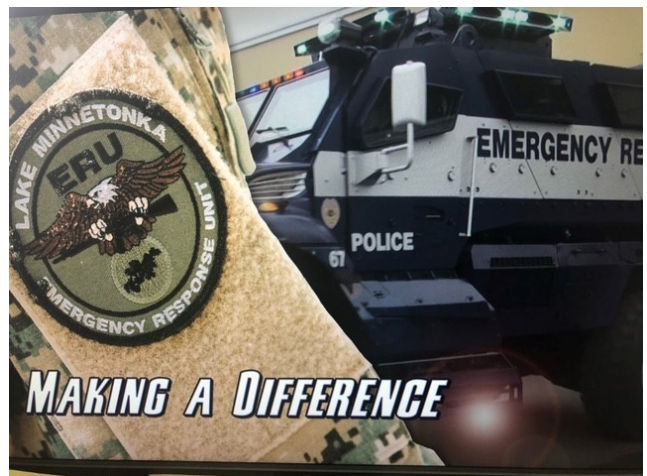


**Officer Ben Raskin**  
Current SWAT member

techniques, devices, tools, and tactics to handle high-risk situations. They also assist other SWAT teams on mutual aid agreements. WHPS is thankful to participate in a unit like this that could not be funded by a single department.

Lake Minnetonka SWAT team participates in a yearly training at Camp Ripley where teams from throughout the state come together to train. Every year, three teams are chosen to host the training and those teams are responsible for organizing the training and coordinating with each team for scheduling. The scenarios are larger-based scenarios that often include multiple buildings and ten or more actors. This training helps teams practice large-scale incidents where team security and scene safety are a concern.

The trainings can include many different variables from large-scale active shooters, armored vehicle training/course work, hostage rescue, large crowd control during a critical incident and much more. The training is vital in preparing teams for large-scale incidents that many teams are not able to train for during their monthly training.



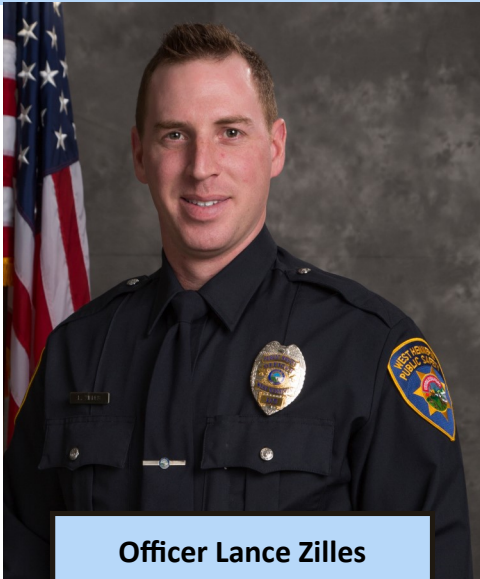




# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## USE OF FORCE—FIREARMS TRAINING



**Officer Lance Zilles  
Firearms Instructor**

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

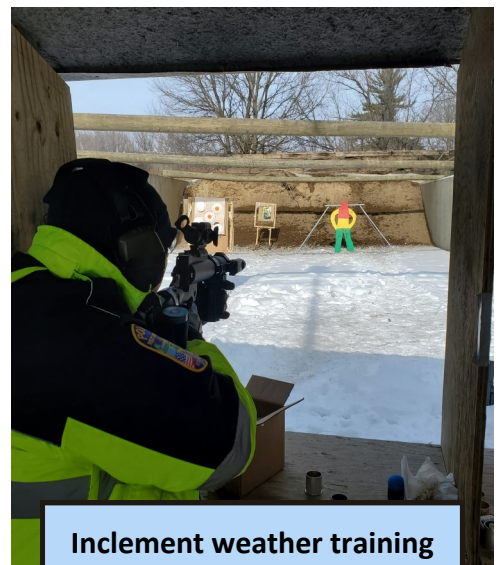


Each year WHPS officers also need to complete hours of training on use-of-force and the use of deadly force. A partnership with the League of Minnesota Cities provides additional training through a program called "Peace officer Accredited TRaining OnLine" (PATROL). It provides in-depth review and training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

WHPS equips each officer with several force options and training on their appropriate use. Deadly force options include a handgun and a rifle. Officers have pepper spray, an expandable baton, a TASER™, and a 40mm launcher for less-lethal possibilities.

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

Each year, officers spend one full range day training in low-light and no-light conditions and inclement weather 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 and inclement weather operations.



**Inclement weather training  
with the 40mm launcher**





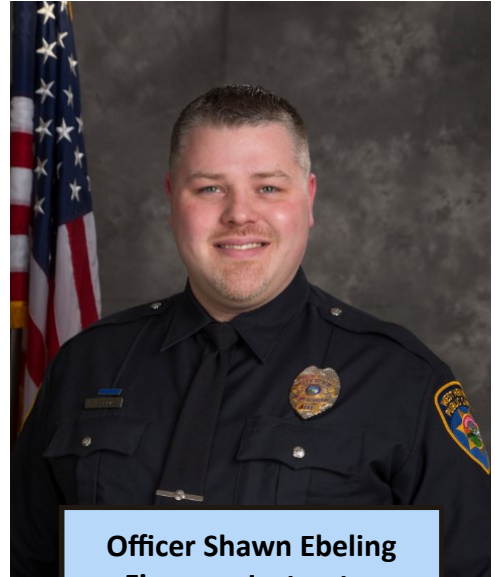
# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## USE OF FORCE—FIREARMS TRAINING



Above and below left: Training with protective equipment



Officer Shawn Ebeling  
Firearms Instructor



Officers also train with protective equipment such as gas masks, ballistic shields, and body armor. Varying scenarios require officers to utilize various combinations of tools and equipment to ensure their safety, the public's safety, and mitigate any injury to subjects.

We want to thank Columbia Heights PD as they again allowed the use of their LaserShot video simulator. The video simulator is a valuable training tool. Setting up the system at our office each year provides cost savings and more efficient use of our training time.

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.



Video simulator training

[DELANOSPORTSMENSClub.COM](http://DELANOSPORTSMENSClub.COM)

OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE DELANO SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

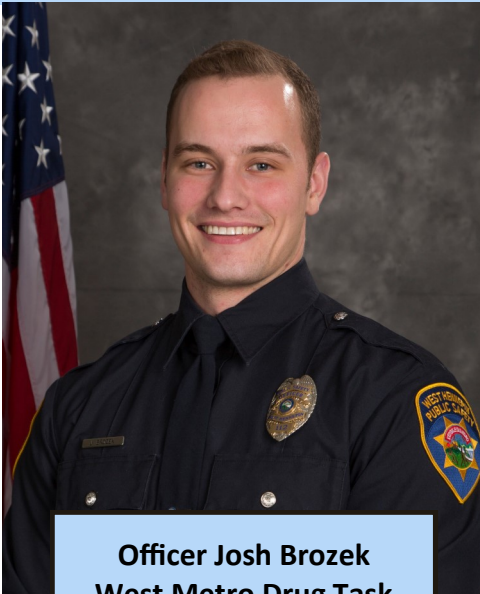




# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## 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**





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## WEST METRO DRUG TASK FORCE (WMDTF)

The West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF) was very productive in 2021. They seized 112 pounds of cocaine, 104.5 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, 13.2 pounds of heroin, 153 pounds of marijuana, 196 pounds of THC edibles and 31 guns. The seizures of the 112 pounds of cocaine, 13.2lbs of heroin, and 196 pounds of MJ edibles set a new WMDTF record.

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







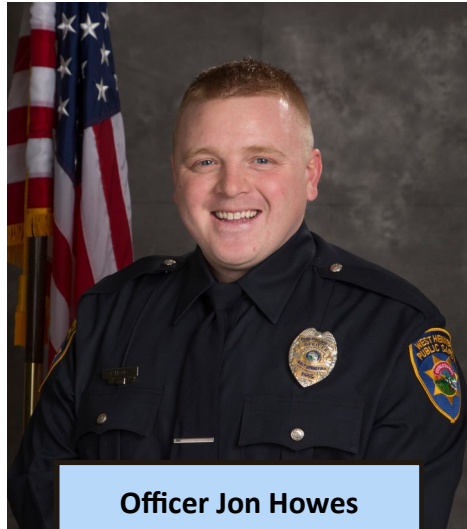
# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## WEST COMMAND MOBILE FIELD FORCE



**Sergeant Rick Denneson**  
Mobile Field Force



**Officer Jon Howes**  
Mobile Field Force



**Officer Cody Thompson**  
Mobile Field Force



The West Command Mobile Field Force (WCMFF) is made up of representative officers from all 27 suburban law enforcement agencies in suburban Hennepin County. The mission of this collaborative team is to provide a rapid deployment of highly trained law enforcement personnel to preserve life, ensure public safety, protect property, and maintain quality of life throughout Greater Hennepin County. This team of officers, and all of the agencies they represent, are very committed to working hard to protect lawful first amendment protests and demonstrations, while ensuring those gatherings remain non-violent and safe for those in attendance.

WCMFF is a specially trained team of officers capable of responding to incidents of member agencies in which large numbers of people require management for public safety reasons and to protect First Amendment rights and peaceful protesting.



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## WEST COMMAND MOBILE FIELD FORCE

West Hennepin Public Safety has committed three officers to West Command Mobile Field Force Platoon 6 with Sgt. Rick Denneson assigned as Squad Leader and Officer Cody Thompson and Officer Jon Howes as operators. Officers were deployed numerous times throughout 2021 to assist in protecting the critical infrastructure of member communities against civil unrest.



**Damage to a squad that occurred during a protest**



**Attempting to disperse an unlawful assembly**



**An area after successfully dispersing an unlawful assembly**

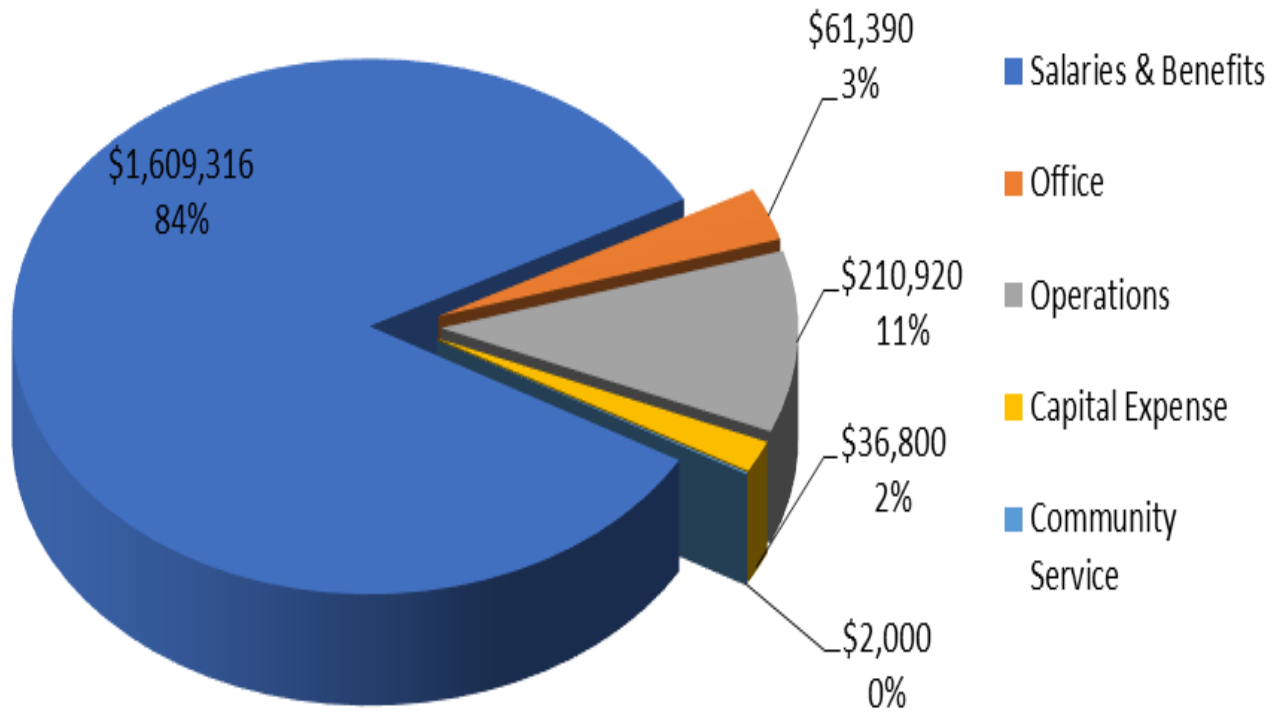


# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY: 2021 BUDGET

### 2021 Proposed Budget Total \$1,920,426



The personnel section accounts for 84% 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

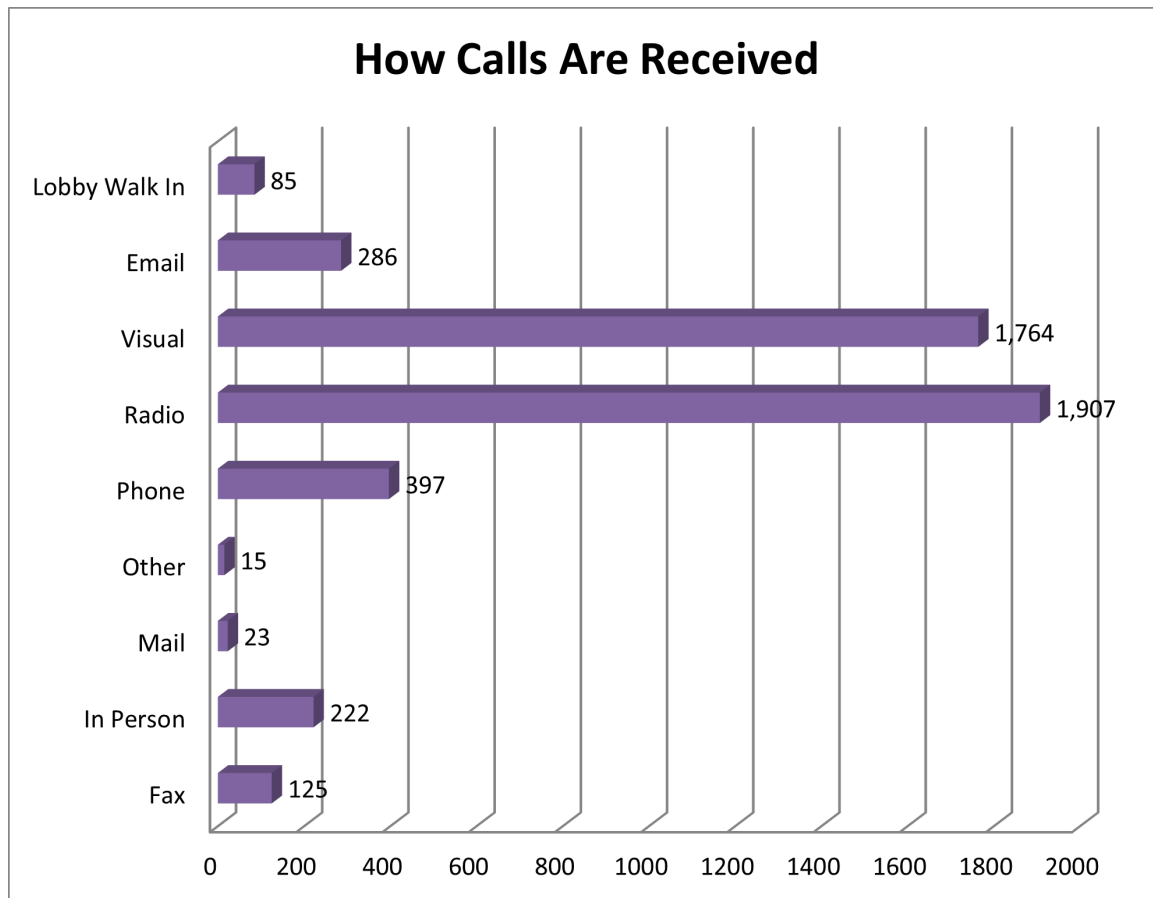


## 2021 ACTIVITY REPORT

In 2021, the West Hennepin Public Safety Department handled 4,824 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.

Incident complaint reports include:

- 1,645 Traffic Stops and Traffic related offenses
- 176 Criminal Investigations
- 99 Property Damage Crashes
- 24 DWI Arrests
- 8 Personal Injury Crashes
- 1 Fatality Crash



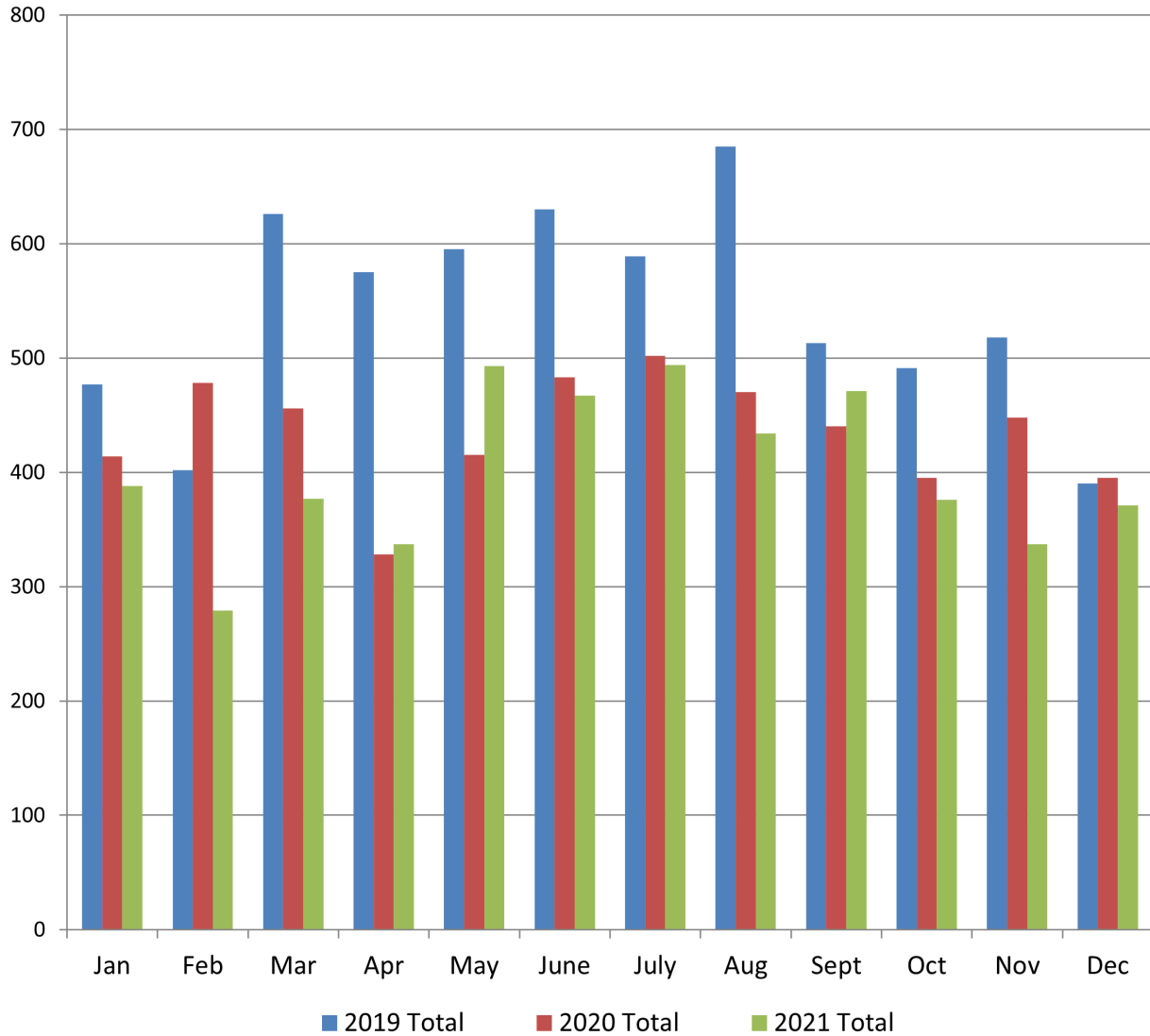


# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## 2019-2021 Call Activity Report

THREE YEAR COMPARISON OF POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE & ACTIVITY



**West Hennepin Public Safety Department call activity per month for the past three years, 2019-2021**





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



## ACTIVITY REPORT: Comparing 2020 versus 2021

Offense	2020	2021
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### City Of Independence

Criminal	98	86
Traffic	1,296	1,211
Part III	93	83
Part IV	358	390
Part V	1,355	1,387

<b>Total City of Independence</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,157</b>
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### City Of Maple Plain

Criminal	78	85
Traffic	711	409
Part III	53	32
Part IV	246	261
Part V	712	684

<b>Total City Of Maple Plain</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,471</b>
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<b>Grand Total Both Cities</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,628</b>
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TZD	39	58
Other ICRS	185	138
<b>Total ICR Reports</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>4,824</b>

### How Received

Fax	110	125
In Person	197	222
Mail	12	23
Other	14	15
Phone	390	397
Radio	1,882	1,907
Visual	2,183	1,764
Email	260	286
Lobby Walk In	176	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>4,824</b>



# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY



**FAREWELL – OFFICER AARON GEDDES, RESERVES BRANDON SNETSINGER,  
TITUS WINGER and MICHAEL FRANCIS**



**Police Officer  
Aaron Geddes**



**Reserve Officer  
Brandon Snetsinger**



**Reserve Officer  
Titus Winger**



**Reserve Officer  
Michael Francis**

**West Hennepin Public Safety Officer Aaron Geddes left in February 2021 to pursue a new career as a pilot training instructor. Officer Geddes was with West Hennepin from April 2016 to February 2021. We wish him well in his new endeavors!**

**Reserve Officer Brandon Snetsinger resigned in January of 2021 to focus on his work and family. Brandon was with West Hennepin Public Safety from April 2015 until January 2021.**

**Reserve Officer Titus Winger left our program in September of 2021 to relocate his construction company to the warm and sunny state of Florida. Titus was with us from November 2016 to September 2021.**

**Reserve Officer Michael Francis also left our program in September of 2021 to focus more on his work and family. Mike was with the department from June 2019 to September 2021.**

**Thank you for your dedication to the cities of Maple Plain and Independence!**