

2020

Menomonie Police Department Annual Report



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Chief's Welcome



On behalf of the Menomonie Police Department (MPD) I welcome you to review our 2020 Annual Report. This past year was a most challenging year. Our department was faced with

considerable challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd. Despite the difficulties of both events the MPD remained steadfast in our commitment to serving the community's needs.

Although 2020 imposed significant hardships, the community came together to provide support for the most significant initiative embarked upon by the department. The MPD launched Phase I of Project Hope — under the leadership of Mayor Knaack — with the support of the City of Menomonie's Common Council. Phase I focused on breaking the cycle of addiction and trauma that impact our community's children. Project Hope forged collaborative partnerships with the Dunn County Department of Human Services, Arbor Place Inc., Milkweed Alliance, the School District of the Menomonie Area, the Dunn County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Division, Menomonie Fire Department and many others.

Based on our collaborative partnerships with community shareholders I'm confident there is very little we can't accomplish. I look forward to sharing with you the wonderful things the MPD accomplished in 2020. Thank you for all of your support.

—Chief Eric Atkinson

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic was difficult for everyone and required all of us to alter our approach to work and life. The MPD made significant adjustments during the pandemic to ensure a continuity of services during such uncertain times. Patrol operations were separated from police headquarters and subsequently established in offices on the basement floor of city hall. Adjustments were also made by requiring officers to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Enforcement and call response strategies were altered to minimize the opportunities for spread and exposure of the virus. To minimize exposure risks the MPD initiated an online platform to report non-emergency incidents. The online reporting system was useful to our local business partners when reporting theft and fraudulent activity. Lastly, the main office was closed, and business was conducted electronically to prevent disease exposure to clerical support staff and the visiting public.

2020 Review

Civil unrest & impact

The murder of George Floyd and subsequent high-profile deaths from police contacts the United States experienced pushed many communities to the brink in 2020. Menomonie also experienced several protests that were significant in scale for our rural community. Thankfully, the MPD was able to work directly with protest organizers. The collaborative partnership resulted in protests that didn't result in property damage or injury. The MPD will continue to support and protect citizens exercising their constitutional rights.

Website

The Menomonie Police Department launched its new website, www.menomonie-pd.com, in the summer of 2020. This website allows the department to share information with the community in an effort to maintain and build transparency, and also allows the department to engage with the community and potential recruits in an efficient and informative way.

Zuercher

The Menomonie Police Department, in conjunction with Dunn County Sheriff's Office, Dunn County Emergency Services and the Boyceville, Colfax and Elk Mound Police Departments, transitioned to a new records management system in late 2019. The Zuercher Records Management System contains many robust features that enhance the agencies' abilities to serve the public.

Project Hope

Project Hope is an initiative designed to break the grip of methamphetamine addiction in the greater Chippewa Valley area.

Project Hope was the result of several years of research in the best practices of allaying addiction in tandem with preventing crimes related to methamphetamine use and trafficking. In March of 2020 the Common Council for the City of Menomonie awarded funding for Phase I of the program.

Phase I of Project Hope focused on persons nineteen years and younger in the community. Phase I replaced the DARE program in the School District of the Menomonie Area (SDMA) with the evidence-based Botvin LifeSkills® Training (LST) program. The LST curriculum teaches K-12 students good decision making skills; how to build self-esteem; provides strategies to avoid drug abuse; and how to avoid violence.

Phase I also incorporated the creation of the Youth Response Team (YRT). The YRT meets once every two weeks to discuss at-risk youth in the SDMA system. At-risk youth include individuals experiencing behavioral problems (non-criminal actions), suffering from trauma, addiction issues and truancy. Once the YRT identifies a youth in need, members of the YRT work with the youth — and their parents — to provide resources that help mitigate the issue(s). The resources that are offered include treatment, counseling, mentoring opportunities and wrap-around services.

The YRT comprises various community shareholders dedicated to protecting and serving youth. Members include MPD youth services officers (YSO), Dunn County Department of Human Services social workers, and counselors from the SDMA.

Lastly, Phase I of Project Hope incorporates expanded use of the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) team. The DEC team consists of members of the MPD, Dunn County Sheriff's Office, Dunn County District Attorney's Office and Dunn County Department of Human Services. DEC team members assess children and their family situations to ensure a safe environment that is free of dangerous drugs. The DEC team helps remove children from dangerous situations at home and places them in safe environment while directing families to programs such as Family Treatment Court.

State of Policing in Menomonie

It was an arduous year for American policing in 2020 as a consequence of the global pandemic and the civil unrest — due to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis — experienced by communities across the United States. Those events required law enforcement agencies to rethink how services are delivered, ensuring citizens' rights are protected, while minimizing crime and disorder.

For the past nine years the MPD continually evaluated both local and national policing practices. This led to systemic changes in policing style that permitted the department to avoid incidents similar to the murder of George Floyd. The alteration of policing strategies and constant evaluation of practices created a culture of constant reform within the MPD. Thus, creating an environment that allows for flexibility to adjust to varying needs of our community.

The MPD pledges to continue to review our strategies and work collaboratively with shareholders to implement evidence-based practices that minimize the opportunity for harm when delivering policing services. The community will see these results in 2021 in the form of the following additional practices:

- Introduction of additional de-escalation practices such as the Police Executive Research Forum's Integrating Communications Assessments and Tactics (ICAT).
- Diversion education for juvenile offenders. Pledging commitment to the International Association of Chiefs of Police's "One Mind Campaign." The campaign requires departments to partner with mental health

providers to improve outcomes for people suffering from a mental health crisis and requires personnel to be trained in de-escalation best practices.

As to the global pandemic, the MPD crafted guidelines for personnel to minimize the spread of COVID-19 amongst the community replete with fellow department members. Guidelines included requirements for the proper use of personal protective equipment; closing the main office; opening a satellite station in city hall for patrol personnel; limiting arrests to violent crimes; and adhering to public health best practices. The MPD will continue to closely monitor the pandemic in 2021 and adjust practices accordingly to ensure a safe and productive work environment without sacrificing quality of service to the community.

Looking to 2021

The MPD offers a wellspring of possibilities in tandem with a host of challenges. In 2021 we will see the promotion of a new patrol lieutenant. In January of 2021 Youth Services Officer Michael Boyle will supervene the role of patrol lieutenant. Lt. Boyle is a veteran officer with the department and brings a professional growth mentality to the possession. He is looking forward to working with our young nightshift patrol officers.

The promotion of Lt. Boyle created a youth services officer void. Officer Maloree Zassenhaus was appointed to a second term as a youth services officer. She brings a wealth of experience working with at-risk juveniles in an educational setting.

Looking to 2021

2021 will also see Phase I of Project Hope expanded to include juvenile offender diversion to remove low to medium risk offenders out of the juvenile justice system. Project Hope partners will begin developing a Quick Response Team (QRT). A QRT's mission is to provide at-home interventions that suffered non-fatal overdoses and suffer from methamphetamine addiction. Various QRTs have formed throughout the United States and have seen substantial success reducing overdoses and helping people obtain treatment for substance use disorders.

In regard to department challenges there are two that surpass all others: the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic; and recruiting people to become police officers with the MPD. As pandemic fatigue sets in for 2021, it is anticipated we will see increases in mental health crisis calls, civil unrest related to rules/regulations centering on public health, and turmoil over possible vaccine mandates. Irrespective of those challenges the MPD will monitor the changing landscape and adjust services accordingly to ensure constitutional rights are protected.

To protect citizens' constitutional rights police officers are needed. However, with the economic changes, negative attitudes towards law enforcement, and the overall stress of providing law enforcement services in an environment that hasn't seen a pandemic since 1918 it has become increasingly more difficult to recruit and retain police officers. Moreover, universities, technical colleges and law enforcement agencies have seen dramatic drops in applicants since 2014. Potential applicants are pursuing careers that are less stressful and demanding while providing a more stable family

lifestyle. The lack of applicants creates a highly competitive market requiring agencies to shift away from traditional hiring practices and salary considerations.

Furthermore, retaining current officers is also proving to be a challenge. Officers are retiring or leaving the profession earlier than ever. People are vacating the profession to reduce stress in their lives and work in environments that are less traumatic. Retention strategies must be adjusted to address needs other than salary considerations to retain good employees. Some options that merit consideration include but are not limited to: daycare options; employee assistance programs; on-site counseling; and shift scheduling options.

Despite the opportunities and challenges the MPD remains dedicated to being adaptable to the ever-changing landscape of public service. The MPD will also continue to work with community members to make sure the department is policing in a manner that is constitutional and protects the values of the community we serve.



In the summer of 2020, Phyllis Braxton presented to the MPD on Intercultural Conflict and Communication. The informative presentation was held in the beautiful Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts.

2020 Review



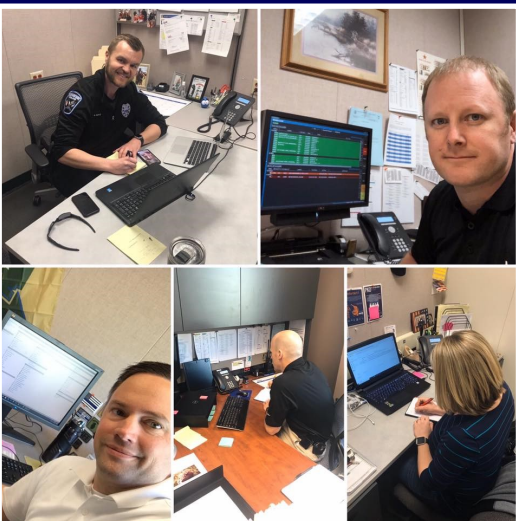
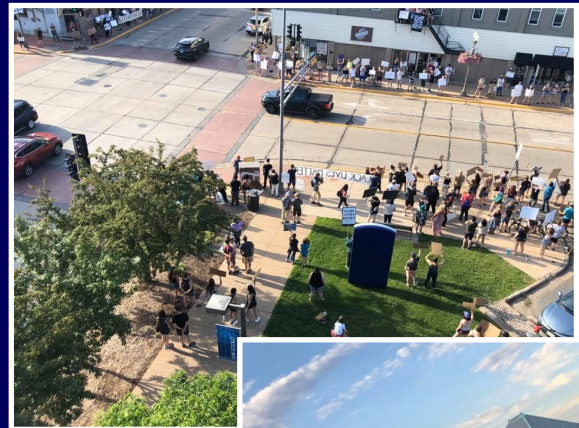
Lieutenants Benrud and Mroczenski were busy bottling hand sanitizer for the officers. 45th Parallel Distillery in New Richmond donated the sanitizer, Ptacek's IGA in Prescott provided the transport pails and Diversified Manufacturing Corporation in Prescott supplied the small bottles that went out to our officers.



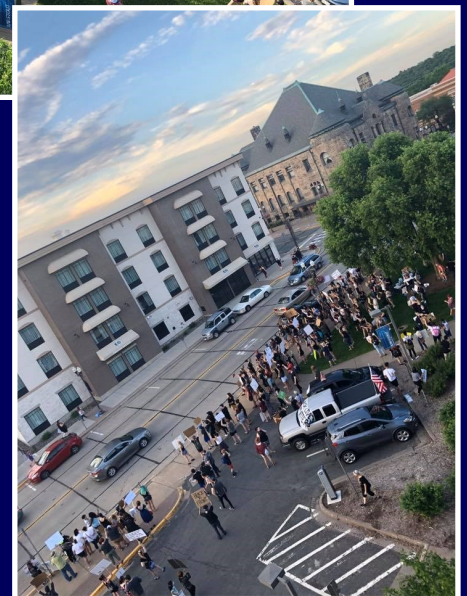
As community members social distanced, many families held drive by birthday parties for the children. Family, friends, and occasionally first responders were invited to drive by to wish the kids a socially distanced happy birthday. Officers enjoyed this opportunity to remain engaged with the community in this way!



The MPD shifted to primarily virtual meetings early in the pandemic. The above collage was posted to social media to show and encourage social distancing.



MPD personnel worked with local protest leaders to ensure the events were peaceful and without violence.



NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS AND CALLS

The Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) and the Administrative Services Bureau (ASB) are both supervised by Commander Chris King. 2020 saw the addition of Detective Lieutenant Benrud and Investigator Matt Harmon to the CIB to help with the growing investigative case load in the bureau. The CIB is comprised of:

- ◇ Detective Lieutenant Matt Benrud – General Investigations
- ◇ Detective Lieutenant Chad Mroczenski – General Investigations
- ◇ Investigator Michael Sampson – Drug Investigator
- ◇ Investigator Maloree Zassenhaus – Youth Services Officer
- ◇ Investigator Matt Harmon – Youth Services Officer

JANUARY

M20-00178 / ICAC: A NCMEC cybertip was received for child pornography being uploaded to the internet using the application MeWe. A search warrant was executed and Joseph H. Ellis was arrested for possession of child pornography. Ellis pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography and was sentenced to 6 years in prison.

M20-00248 / DRUG: Officers were called for a female acting suspiciously in the front lobby. Upon contact subjects were found to have open arrest warrants and a search warrant was later executed in their room. Gabriel Stewart, Davyonne Evans, Morgan McDougal, Robert Taylor, and Cassandra Trunkel were arrested at the Hampton Inn for Poss. THC, Cocaine, Schedule 4 Narcotics and Narcotic drugs.

FEBRUARY

D20-00196 / OVERDOSE: An overdose death (heroin) occurred in Dunn County and Inv. Sampson and DUSO Inv. Knotz were able to track the purchase of the heroin back to Minneapolis. Two search warrants were conducted in Minneapolis with the 3rd Precinct weapons unit. 1 subject was arrested in relation to those sales for reckless Homicide.

MAY

D20-00738/ DRUG: Three-month methamphetamine distribution case resulting in Diana Xiong's arrest for selling a firearm and multiple ounces of methamphetamine. Xiong was prosecuted in federal court and was sentenced to 8 years in federal prison.

M20-00903/ DRUG: David Hartwig was involved in the sales of methamphetamine and heroin. He was contacted by West Central Drug Task Force Investigators during a hand-to-hand transaction, fled a short distance on foot and pulled a 9mm handgun on investigators. He was tackled and arrested. Hartwig was found in possession of a handgun and 14g of heroin. He was prosecuted in federal court and sentenced to 81 months in federal prison and 36 months of extended supervision.

M20-1050 / JUVENILE SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Investigators interviewed a victim of child sexual assault. The suspect was alleged to have sexually assaulted three children. Suspect was charged in all the cases.

NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS AND CALLS

MAY CONTINUED

M20-899 / JUVENILE SEXUAL ASSAULT: Officers arrested a male suspect, who was a registered sex offender, for sexually assaulting a 7 year old female.

JUNE

M20-1106 / FRAUD: Patrol had contact with a subject passed out behind the wheel at Love's Truck Stop. The suspect had all the materials needed to produce counterfeit ID's, financial cards and checks.

JULY

M20-1321 / JUVENILE SEXUAL ASSAULT: An Internet Crimes Against Children/ juvenile sexual assault case found Daniel Brooks to have sexually assaulted a juvenile victim on numerous occasions. Brooks pleaded guilty in court and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

M20-1323 / FRAUD: Dunn County was the victim of a financial scam. A suspect sent Dunn County an updated bank account information for Haas Sons Inc. The suspect swindled Dunn County out of \$184,000.

AUGUST

M20-1541 / DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Officers investigated a disorderly conduct complaint after Menomonie School Board member became disorderly in a meeting and shouted profanity. This was a highly publicized incident due to the circumstances. That board member received no charges.

NOVEMBER

M20-2138 / ASSAULT & BATTERY: Officers responded to a report of a subject who had been stabbed downtown. Following investigation a subject was identified, and Tasheen Goggins was arrested and charged with attempted intentional homicide and mayhem. Goggins remains in jail and is awaiting trial.

DECEMBER

M20-2373 / JSEX: A child reported being sexually assaulted from the age of 6 years old to 12 years old. John W. Stai was arrested and plead guilty to two counts of exposing genitals.

M20-2400 / DRUG: Billy Croon was investigated for the distribution of pounds of methamphetamine into Menomonie, Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls. The case was continued into 2021 and Croon was arrested for methamphetamine distribution and was federally indicted. He is awaiting federal jury trial.

STATISTICS

The MPD responded to a total of 9,173 incidents in 2020 which totals an average of 25 incidents daily. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a reduction in calls to service.

Offense	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2011-2020 avg
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	.2
Rape	2	6	4	7	4	7	19	6	6	6	6.7
Robbery	1	4	2	2	2	0	2	1	1	0	1.5
Aggravated Assault	14	20	18	32	21	24	24	20	29	29	23.1
Simple Assault	56	50	68	87	66	53	42	63	54	27	56.6
Burglary	51	73	61	55	59	41	30	28	21	16	43.5
Theft	323	389	359	347	354	328	318	270	247	195	313
Motor Vehicle Theft	14	12	13	14	12	11	14	17	19	10	13.6
Arson	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	.9

In the 1930's the FBI began collecting and publishing crime data collected from police agencies across America. Crimes were classified and counted using standardized definitions so that crime could be looked at comparatively throughout the nation. The most severe crime per incident was reported, along with suspect and victim demographic information. There were two groups of offenses. Part I Offenses focused on the most severe crimes including: Murder/ Non-Negligent Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson. The second group of crimes, Part II Offenses, included Other Assaults, Forgery, Fraud, Stolen Property Offenses, Sex Offenses, Drug Offenses, Liquor Laws, Offenses against Families and Children, Operating While Under the Influence, Disorderly Conduct, and All Other Offenses.

However, in the 1980's, the outline of what data to collect was revisited, as the Uniform Crime Reporting System was limited in scope and did not give an accurate view of crime statistics. From this effort, changes were made and the Incident Based Reporting system was established. The changes that were implemented allowed for a much more in-depth understanding of what crime looked like in each city and allowed for analysis to be completed to allow for the development of crime prevention strategies. More than one crime per incident could be reported, as well as a more thorough portrait of the involved parties. The crimes could be looked at in terms of location, category of crime, and date and time of occurrence, enabling officers to focus their efforts based on trends identified with data. For example, officers can use the data to support their observations that Friday night in a college town in Wisconsin will have an increased number of drinking offenses after 7 PM. Likewise, the data can show the burglaries in a town occur in the same types of locations at a similar time or day of the week, officers can increase patrol in those locations to attempt to prevent further victimization.

Wisconsin developed an even more detailed version of the Incident Based Reporting system and required all agencies in the state to shift their reporting to the new system by 2021. Menomonie Police Department completed this transition in 2017 and has been able to use the comprehensive data to help establish programs with the intention of preventing crime as well as creating solutions to provide a multifaceted approach to address crime trends.

STATISTICS CONTINUED

Diversions: Pre-Charge Diversion, Deferred After Guilty Pleas, Treatment Opportunity Program

In 2020, the MPD referred 7 individuals to participate in a Dunn County Diversion Program. The success rate of these programs countywide is noted below:

PCD 2020 Success rate (completion) 41 of 59 = 69%

TOP 2020 Success Rate (completion) 18 of 29 = 62%

DAGPs (DA agreements to complete things in lieu of Jail, this does also include TOP) successful completion rate 140/246 = 57%

Mental Health.

The below call classifications occur when an officer interacts with an individual in a mental health crisis. A Chapter 51 Emergency Detention may be utilized to take a person in to protective custody if there is a substantial likelihood that that individual may harm themselves or others.

Incident	Welfare Checks	Mental Call	Chapter 51
Number	77	145	28

Meth, opioid, and overdose data.

The data below is depicts the number of incidents in which methamphetamine or opioids (heroin, oxycodone) were recovered. There were 96 total drug cases.

Incident	Methamphetamine	Opioid	Overdose
Number	60	11	6

Domestic Violence Calls: 5 year data.

The Menomonee Police Department began using the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in 2015. In 2017, the MPD developed the Domestic Violence Response Team.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number	147	155	179	146	135	166

STATISTICS CONTINUED

While the goal is always for subjects to comply voluntarily, sometimes officers will have to use force to achieve control and accomplish their legitimate law enforcement duties. The table below includes use of force statistics. The types of force are noted in the far left column.

The goal of passive countermeasures is to decentralize a subject, directing the subject to the ground. This may occur if officers believe that they will be unable to achieve control with the subject standing.

The goal of active countermeasures is to interrupt the subject's ability to resist, enabling the officer to direct the subject to the ground for stabilization, handcuffing, and other follow-through procedures.

UOF TYPE	NUMBER	PERCENT OF UOF INCIDENTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE (9,173)
TOTAL POINTING FIREARM	23	52%	0.20%
TOTAL POINTING TASER	7	16%	0.07%
TOTAL USING PASSIVE COUNTERMEASURES	14	32%	0.15%
TOTAL FIREARM DEPLOYED	0	0%	0.00%
TOTAL TASER DEPLOYED	APPROX 3	7%	0.03%
TOTAL FOCUS STRIKE/ACTIVE COUNTERMEASURES	5	11%	0.05%
TOTAL INJURIES TO SUSPECTS	4	9%	0.04%
TOTAL INJURIES TO OFFICERS	6	14%	0.06%
TOTAL USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE (NOT INCL. POINTING WEAPON)	14	32%	0.15%
TOTAL OVERALL	44		0.40%