

2019

# Menomonie Police Department Annual Report



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## Chief's Welcome



On behalf of the Menomonie Police Department I would like to welcome and introduce to you the 2019 Annual Report.

The MPD utilizes a procedural justice paradigm to ensure a high level of service is brought to the community on a daily basis. Procedural justice is based upon four guiding principles:

1. Treat people with dignity and respect.
2. Give individuals "a voice" during encounters.
3. Be neutral and transparent in decision making.
4. Convey trustworthy motives through action.

The MPD also employs three policing strategies aimed at achieving procedural justice while reducing crime/disorder.

The strategies include community-oriented policing, problem-oriented policing and evidence-based practices. The procedural justice paradigm and strategies have been applied since 2014 and are based upon recommended 21st Century policing practices.

In conclusion, I would like to take a moment to thank the men and women of the MPD for their professionalism and willingness to adapt to the needs of the community we serve. Additionally, I would like to thank Mayor Knaack and the City Council for their support throughout the year. Lastly, I want to extend my most sincere appreciation to the community we serve. Without your collaboration and partnership, the MPD would not be the successful organization it is today.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Atkinson, Police Chief

# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) and the Administrative Services Bureau (ASB) are both supervised by Commander Chris King.

Commander King was promoted to the position in January, 2019 and replaced Commander Hollister, who filled the vacated Operations Bureau Commander position.

2019 saw the addition of Detective Lieutenant Mroczenski to the CIB to help with the growing investigative case load in the bureau. Inv. Sampson was promoted to the Drug Investigator position and started working in the bureau on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

The CIB is comprised of:

Detective Lieutenant Kelly Pollock – General Investigations

Detective Lieutenant Chad Mroczenski – General Investigations

Investigator Michael Sampson – Drug Investigator

Inv. Maloree Zassenhaus – Youth Services Officer

Each year, the Criminal Investigation Bureau staff attend various types of training to acquire new investigative strategies and broaden their expertise to serve better serve the community. For example, Det. Lt. Mroczenski attended a couple of white-collar crime trainings and also completed a rigorous two-week homicide investigations training, Inv. Sampson attended a week-long narcotics investigation school, and Inv. Zassenhaus attended the ICAC Conference and SRO Conference. Also, Det. Mroczenski and Inv. Zassenhaus both attended different Cellebrite courses to help with investigating cases involving digital evidence.

Throughout the year, Det. Lt. Mroczenski conducted several trainings throughout the county and city to educate and promote the Drug Endangered Children Program. The resurgence of the program has helped ensure

the safety of children that are potentially placed in a dangerous environment due to drug use in the home or drug use by caretakers in the home.

The Forensic Computer Crimes Laboratory is also part of the bureau. Inv. Zassenhaus and Officer Jeremy Wilterdink work in the lab as an auxiliary position at the police department. Both are trained and certified in computer forensic science. They specialize in processing computers and other digital devices as evidence for the Dunn County Sheriff's Department, as well as the MPD.

## GENERAL

General investigations are primarily handled by the Detective Lieutenants. Those cases include: theft, fraud, sexual assault, burglary, homicide, among many other. The Det. Lieutenants are also responsible for assisting the YSO, drug investigator, and the forensics lab with their investigation when necessary. When needed, they assist other agencies with multi-jurisdictional investigations. A snapshot of some of the more in-depth cases in 2019 are listed below:

-Investigators spent more time investigating a homicide case that took place in late December, 2018. Further follow-up on the case also involved the arrest of a female for trespassing in the victim's home. She was also charged with multiple drug related offenses. The suspect in the homicide case is still incarcerated awaiting sentencing.

-In February, patrol officers took a report of forced entry into a laundry machine coin lock box at an apartment complex. The break-in was the last in a series of eight different break-ins over a six-month period. In-depth investigation and video surveillance developed a suspect who denied any involvement. That suspect was arrested and charged with felony theft.

-In March, follow up on a fraud case patrol had taken in October of 2018 resulted in identification of two suspects who had passed counterfeit \$50 dollar bills at CVS and Walgreens. Altoona Police

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU CONTINUED

Department located two suspects who had also passed the same counterfeit \$50 bills and were subsequently charged with fraud.

-Det. Lt. Pollock spent a lot of time investigating a complicated, ongoing domestic abuse situation that also resulted in felony bond violations and a probation violation.

-In April, a house party at 202 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. was shut down by patrol officers. Inside the house, three suspects threatened to assault a victim if he didn't give them money. The suspects believed the victim had urinated on the floor and were demanding restitution. The victim was hit with a belt several times and was forced to transfer \$200 from his PayPal account. Three suspects were identified through photo arrays and squad video and charged with felony Theft from a Person.

-Det. Lt. Pollock investigated a juvenile sexual assault case that led to numerous child sexual assault charges and a charge for Causing Mental Harm to a Child. The subject is currently serving their sentence for the case.

-In July, someone smashed the front door window to the BP Amoco gas station after business hours stole cigarettes and lighters. The suspect had also attempted the same style burglary at the Bridge Stop gas station in Wheeler. With the help of the community and continued investigation, a suspect was developed. A search warrant to the suspect's residence resulted in the clothes used during the burglary and the suspect eventually confessed during an interrogation. Det. Lt. Mroczenski charged the suspect with burglary, attempted burglary and criminal damage to property.

-In September, the department received a report of possible human remains in the woods in North Menomonie. Det. Lt. Mroczenski led the investigation of the human remains and The

State Crime Lab assisted with the collection. An autopsy was conducted and there were no signs of foul play. Based off of DNA and other means, the remains were identified to be that of a subject who went missing eighteen months earlier. Through interviews with the people last with the victim, it was believed the subject passed away from an overdose or exposure to the elements.

-In September, a juvenile sexual assault that was initially taken by a patrol officer was forwarded to investigations for follow up. During the investigation, the father of the juvenile was identified as the suspect in the assault and it was also learned he was neglecting the mother of the child. After interviews and a search warrant were conducted, enough evidence was gathered to charge the father with repeated sexual acts against a child and abuse/neglect to a vulnerable adult.

-In December, a report was received that a member of jail staff was providing inmates with contraband. After interviewing the confidential informant, it was discovered a kitchen worker was providing inmates with contraband on a regular basis. A sting operation was set up and discovered the worker provided two inmates with chewing tobacco and a vape pen on that day. The kitchen worker was charged with a felony-providing inmate with contraband.

-Also in December of 2019, Det. Lt. Mroczenski assisted Dunn County Human Services with a drug endangered child case. DCHS received information from Mayo hospital that a child born in September had tested positive for methamphetamine and the mother had not been back since the birth for any follow up appointments. The mother and child were staying at a known drug house. A home visit was conducted and the mother tested positive for methamphetamines and admitted to using. The child was removed and placed in to foster care. The mother was transported to Arbor Place for treatment



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU CONTINUED

## Drug Investigator

2019 marked the first year of Inv. Sampson's four-year term as the department's drug investigator. Inv. Sampson is assigned to the West Central Drug Task Force, but primarily works at the police department. During the calendar year, methamphetamine use and distribution continued to be a trend and remains a high enforcement priority for the Menomonie Police Department. The following are a few major cases 2019, but Inv. Sampson also assisted in numerous other cases in the Menomonie area and West Central Drug Task Force jurisdiction.

-Inv. Sampson played a large role in the investigation and information sharing that led to 150 lbs. of methamphetamine being seized in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Arizona.

-Det. Lt. Pollock and Inv. Sampson arrested a Menomonie woman for multiple fraud cases. The suspect had previously committed numerous fraud cases in the past and had an extensive drug history, but this particular investigation led to the subject being sentenced to prison.

-An investigation into several subjects at Motel 6 led to a search warrant at that location that resulted in the seizure of a quarter-pound of methamphetamine, several thousand dollars in cash, and helped diminish the amount of methamphetamine coming into the City of Menomonie. The incident resulted in the arrest of several subjects, but also exposed a high-level dealer. Subsequent investigation by the WCDTF, in collaboration with Inv. Sampson, led to a large federal case with 17 suspects.

Inv. Sampson and Det. Lt. Pollock spent a significant amount of time investigating a felony domestic abuse case involving substantial injury to the victim. The suspect plead guilty and was recently sentenced to jail.

## YSO

The Youth Services Officer primarily serviced the schools within the City of Menomonie this year. Previously, the YSO has been tasked with almost all juvenile investigations and also served as a liaison officer to the school district. With the addition of another investigator to the CIB, Inv. Zassenhaus was able to better serve all the schools in the City of Menomonie. The YSO is still tasked with many different types of juvenile investigations while working in the schools, including: thefts, disorderly conduct, sexual assaults and harassment. The YSO has offices at the high school and middle school and the majority of their time is spent at those locations. Some of the more significant cases in the last year were:

-Inv Zassenhaus investigated a juvenile sexual assault case that led to the suspect being charged with two counts of 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Sexual Assault of a Child and Child Enticement. The suspect plead guilty and is currently serving his sentence.

-The YSO also investigated a significant child pornography case that resulted in the suspect being charged with 10 counts of Possession of Child Pornography. The case is currently scheduled for a jury trial.

-A high stress threat that occurred at the MMS in January that consisted of a large, coordinated law enforcement response. The ensuing investigation showed the reported threat was inaccurate and an abundance of caution was used in handling the situation, including the safe and methodical release of a large number of students to their families.

-There were couple other school related threats that the YSO investigated during the 2019 calendar year that included concerning notes or writings that were located at the high school.

# OPERATIONS BUREAU

With the retirement of Commander Todd Swartz, in 2019 Commander Rick Hollister was reassigned to supervise The Operations Bureau. Previously, Commander Hollister supervised the Criminal Investigation Bureau and Administrative Services Bureau.

With the Operations Bureau being the largest section and most recognizable by citizens in the community, it becomes the face of the police department. The Operations Bureau is made up of 17 patrol officers, 4 Lieutenants, and 1 operations commander. The Operations Bureau is responsible for all patrol functions and protection for the community. Other operational functions include; training, internal affairs and special events.

The Menomonie Police Department provides many services most agencies of this size cannot offer. In part this is due to officers in the Operations Bureau receiving specialized training in several areas. Some of those specialized skills are: evidence technicians, defensive arrest tactics, firearms, less lethal weapons, professional communications, vehicle contacts/pursuits, death investigations, stalking & domestic abuse investigations and forensic computer investigations.

## Philosophical Changes Update

In 2013, Chief Atkinson directed all uniformed officers within the patrol ranks to focus on improving community relations and building our contact base with the public. The goal was to create an environment where officers were more approachable and assessable to everyone in the community. In order to do this, the officers were instructed to exit their squads if time permitted and walk beat in the downtown business district. During the first year of this philosophical change, officers established a rapport with many business owners and citizens.

Moving forward six years later to 2019, officers have continued working towards improving community trust and relationships with citizens and transparency becoming the norm within the police department. As the police department remained committed to these changes, patrol officers receive ongoing training and continue to build upon the early success's by developing new community oriented policing strategies, problem oriented policing strategies and new programs. The Operations Bureau is very fortunate to be supported by a Crime Prevention Specialist, Brenna Jasper. The Crime Prevention Specialist is a major component for reaching out to the community and getting programs started, along with helping to sustain them. These changes along with others have paid huge dividends towards fostering a unique relationship between the police department and

## OPERATIONS BUREAU

community. Officers today are getting out of the police cars on a routine basis to interact with citizens. By interacting with the community members in a number of areas from new programs and friendly face to face contacts, community support for the police department has grown to new levels.

This is a very exciting time to be part of the Operations Bureau, as we continue to build upon established community partnerships. During 2019, the Operations Bureau was active in: National Night Out, Citizens Academy, Coffee with A Cop, Summer Community Cook Out, Backpack for Kids to School, Shop with A Cop, Winterdaze parade among other programs.

### Enforcement Issues

The Menomonie Police Department will always be committed to traffic safety and will take a proactive approach when not responding to calls for service. Investigating incidents of domestic violence remains on the fore front with zero tolerance. With Meth related problems continuing to significantly rise, we are finding enforcement alone cannot stop this drug problem. Through continued training and collaboration, programs are being implemented in an effort to drive down drug addiction problems. Drug court is one of the programs currently being used.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

During 2019, Roxann (Roxie) Rude retired after 32 years of service for the City of Menomonie, serving as the department's Court Coordinator during the last 14 years of her career. Roxie will be missed at the department, but we all wish her



the best in her retirement. Roxie was replaced by Katie Harshman, who moved into the position from her Assistant Court Coordinator position.

The bureau also welcomed the addition of Community Service Officer Anita Keeler. Anita replaced Tyler Ingebretson, who was hired as a patrol officer within the department.

The ASB consists of:

Becki Marlett – Clerk

Katie Harshman – Court Coordinator

Meghan Cartmill – Records

Jeanine Adams – Clerk

Tyler Ingebretson/Anita Keeler – Community Services Officer

One of the biggest adjustments for the ASB staff came late in 2019 with the implementation of a new Records Management System (RMS), Zuercher (Central Square). The transition went well and staff are still adapting to the more functional system. The transition to Zuercher brought a more efficient RMS system to the entire department, but especially for our Records department, who relies almost exclusively on the system in the course of their daily work.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The MPD continued utilizing a procedural justice paradigm while maintaining a strong community oriented policing approach in 2019.

**Coffee with a Cop:** This program began in 2015 and is aimed at community outreach and building relationships. Officers and local coffee shops collaborated to offer a place for citizens to meet with officers, enjoy a cup of coffee and interact in a casual environment. 2019 locations included Dick's Fresh Market Caribou, Culver's and the Raw Deal.



**Volunteers in Policing (VIPS):** This program began in 2016. This program utilizes volunteer resources to bolster police department services. Activities performed by VIPs include clerical, mechanical, educational and crime prevention assistance. This also includes our Traffic Tamers (citizen speed watch) program.

DJ, a volunteer pictured above, assisted with the MPD's Food For Fines program. This program allowed citizens to pay for basic parking citations through the donation of a nonperishable food item. Throughout the months of November-January, the MPD was able to donate more than 1400 pounds of food to Stepping Stones Food Pantry through this program!



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

2019 was the sixth year that MPD hosted a National Night Out event. It was held in the Cedar Corporation parking lot and featured vehicle displays from many different public safety agencies along with children's activities relating to health and safety. In 2019, an estimated 500 people came to the event before heading to Wilson Park to enjoy the last Ludington Guard Band concert of the summer!





# COPS 4 KIDS

Cops 4 Kids is the partnership between multiple area law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders. The mission of Cops 4 Kids is to better enrich the lives of children and families in need in Dunn County through positive interactions with Law Enforcement and targeted programs that allow them to obtain items that they need.

Since its inception in 2016, 193 children have been a part of the Cops 4 Kids' Shop with a Cop program. In 2019, 62 children participated.





# 2019 SNAPSHOTS



Above: Officer Bergh speaks with the Business Watch group regarding personal safety in the workplace.

Top right: Lieutenant Barneson speaks to the Business Watch group regarding active shooter incidents.

Right: Investigators Boyle and Zassenhaus with a group from St. Joe's School

Bottom right: Self Defense class with Officers Bergh and Tisol

Bottom left: Officer Brutlag participated in the Oaklawn Elementary 5th grade bike ride





# 2019 SNAPSHOTS

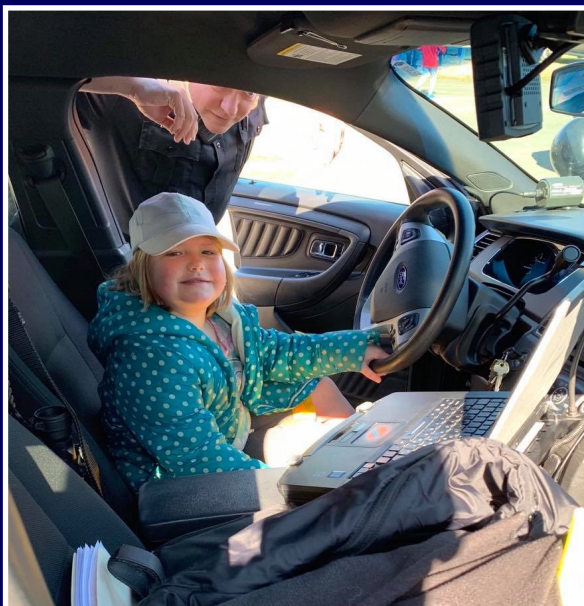


Top left: Officer Small got 'pie'd' in the face for a good cause at the Wisconsin Foster Closet, Inc. festival & open house.

Top right: Officer Kahl was able to give Jake, the tackle box winner & his mom a tour of the department.

Bottom left: Officer Wilterdink had a helper starting the Lions Easter Egg Hunt!

Bottom right: Officer Harmon chatting with some Pre-K kids about what it's like to be a police officer.





# 2019 SNAPSHOTS



Above: Officer Tisol and Lieutenant Hamann at the Great Community Cookout downtown.

Below: Chief Atkinson, Kris Korpela Dunn County Department of Human Services, Jill Gamez Executive Director of Arbor Place and Sara Benedict Dunn County Criminal Justice Coordinator received scholarships to spend three days learning smart justice strategies for a more effective justice system.



Above: Televideo was added to the emergency mental health crisis program through Dunn County Human Services thanks to a Crisis Innovation Grant.

Lieutenant Benrud is pictured among the key players.

Below: CPS Jasper, Lieutenant Pollock and Angie, Sexual Assault Advocate from the Bridge to Hope, presented at the Wisconsin Serving Victims of Crime Conference on developing a domestic violence response team.



## 2019 STATISTICS

### Incidents:

The MPD responded to a total of 15,490 incidents in 2019 which totals an average of 42 daily incidents. Incidents are primarily handled by patrol officers working either a twelve (12) hour day or night shift. Each shift is staffed with three (3) to five (5) officer that may include a sergeant. Staffing is contingent based upon workload needs and officer availability.

<b>Offense</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2015-2019 avg</b>
Murder	0	1	0	1	0	.4
Rape	4	7	19	6	6	8.4
Robbery	2	0	2	1	1	1.2
Aggravated Assault	21	24	24	20	29	23.6
Simple Assault	66	53	42	63	54	55.6
Burglary	59	41	30	28	21	35.8
Theft	354	328	318	270	247	303.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	11	14	17	19	14.6
Arson	1	0	0	1	2	.8