

2018

# Menomonie Police Department Annual Report



Eric M. Atkinson  
Police Chief  
Menomonie Police Department

# CHIEF'S WELCOME



On behalf of the Menomonie Police Department I would like to welcome and introduce to you the 2018 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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*

Eric M. Atkinson

Police Chief

**Commander-Operations Bureau  
Retired 12/31/2018**



Todd Swartz was a 28-year veteran of law enforcement dating back to 1990, when he began his career as a patrol officer for the City of Bloomer. In 1993, Todd was hired by the City of Menomonie. While working in law enforcement, Todd served in the U.S. Army Reserve for eight years and was attached to the 89<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade in Ft. Hood, Texas: he resigned his commission as Captain in 1996.

Throughout his career at MPD, Todd's responsibilities included working as a Field Training officer, SWAT Commander, Defensive and Arrest Tactics Instructor and Composite Artist.

Todd ended his career as Operations Commander for patrol and was in charge of scheduling, training and event planning. He was instrumental in implementing our current WorkForce Director Scheduling system, which has saved the department numerous manpower and hours in its day to day application in our agency.

Todd also possessed robust specialized training in leadership, tactics and management. He was a proud graduate of the IACP Leadership in Police Organization School and Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

His expertise will be greatly missed by the department.

# MENOMONIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OVERVIEW

### Structure

The MPD consists of an authorized strength of twenty-seven sworn police officers and six office professionals. The employees are divided into four separate divisions within the police department. The divisions consist of the Operations Bureau, Criminal Investigations Bureau, Administrative Services Bureau and the Office of the Chief.

The Operations Bureau (OB) is responsible for all patrol operations that include training, internal affairs and special events. Members of the OB are the most visible in the community and are the first-line of service/protection for the community. Commander Todd Swartz provides overall supervision and direction with the assistance of four shift assigned patrol sergeants.

The Administrative Services Bureau (ASB) is responsible for all clerical, court and record keeping services within the police department. Members of the ASB can be accessed during normal business hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Commander Rick Hollister provides overall supervision and direction for the ASB.

The Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) is responsible for all felony and serious misdemeanor level investigations. Members of the CIB provide critical support for members of the OB and take the lead on serious crimes impacting public safety. They are responsible for investigations that include, but are not limited to murder, sexual assault of adults/children, aggravated battery, hate crimes and burglary. Commander Rick Hollister is also responsible for the overall supervision and direction for the CIB.

The Office of the Chief is responsible for managing the overall operations of the department that include, but are not limited to crime prevention, analytics, budget management, policy/procedure development, community outreach and program development. Chief Eric Atkinson is the chief executive officer for the Office of the Chief and the MPD.

The structure and membership are as follows:

### Office of the Chief

Eric Atkinson, Police Chief

Linda Hartung, Administrative Assistant

**Office of the Chief Continued**

Brenna Jasper, Crime Prevention Specialist

**Administrative Services Bureau**

Rick Hollister, Commander

Meghan Cartmill, Records Technician

Roxann Rude, Court Clerk

Katie Harshman, Clerk

Becki Marlett, Clerk

Jeanine Adams, Clerk

**Criminal Investigations Bureau**

Rick Hollister, Commander

Kelly Pollock, General Investigator

Maloree Zassenhaus, Youth Services Officer

Daniel Westlund, Drug Investigator

**Operations Bureau**

Todd Swartz, Commander

Brian Hagen, Sergeant

Jason Barneson, Sergeant

Matthew Benrud, Sergeant

Chad Mroczenski, Sergeant

Aaron Bergh, Officer

Jeff Small, Officer

Mark Pugmire, Officer

Marty Folczyk, Officer

**Operations Bureau Continued**

Jeremy Wilterdink, Officer

Christopher King, Officer

Michael Sampson, Officer

Tyler Hamann, Officer

Michael Boyle, Officer

Ryan Gilbertson, Officer

Andrew Brutlag, Officer

James Gates, Officer

DaMarcus Zeroth, Officer

Wade Schlichting, Officer

Matthew Harmon, Officer

Tyson Kahl, Officer

Kayla, Tisol, Officer

# PROGRAMS

The MPD utilized a variety of programs in 2018 focused on collaborating with the community to provide a safe environment while building trusting relationships. The following list is a snapshot of the programs:

**Cops 4 Kids:** A program aimed at providing both school supplies and holiday gifts for disadvantaged children that live in the Menomonie Area. This is a collaborative program in partnership with the Dunn County Sheriff's Office, UW-Stout Police Department, Dunn County Human Services, Boyceville Police Department and the Colfax Police Department.

**Volunteers in Policing Services (VIPS):** The VIPS program consists of citizen volunteers that provide a variety of services to the MPD. Each volunteer brings a unique skill set to the department and help enhance the delivery of services. In 2018 the VIPS dedicated a total of 212 hours of service to the Menomonie Police Department. According to the Independent Sector's 2018 annual review of the value of volunteer time this equates to approximately \$5,234.28 in saved personnel costs to the community.

**National Night Out:** This is an annual event held in August in partnership with Menomonie's very own Ludington Guard Band. The event is located in the Cedar Corp. parking lot and the community is invited to meet local public safety officials. Community members also get to meet a variety of public health and criminal justice stakeholders to learn more about what they do or communicate local concerns. This event also raises money for local charities, such as The Bridge to Hope.

**Food for Fines:** The Food for Fines program occurs during the Fall holiday season. Persons that receive parking tickets may donate non-perishable food items in lieu of paying fines. In 2018, there were 1,370 items received, amounting to 1,098 pounds of food which was donated to Stepping Stones as a result of this program, paying off 219 tickets.

**POP Project:** This project is a continuation of the problem-oriented policing projects held in 2017. In 2017, officers met with community members to hear their concerns and brainstorm solutions to quality-of-life issues in the city. In 2018, the focus shifted to educating students and those in rental properties about city ordinances and move-out procedures. Currently the MPD is working to plan a Move Out event to give tenants a means to properly dispose of furniture and other unwanted items.

**Traffic Tamers:** Traffic Tamers is a program that allows VIPS and interns to check out RADAR units and conduct speed monitoring in high traffic areas throughout the city. Motorists traveling at excessive speed limits are sent letters advising them of the local speed limit and encouraging them to adhere to the law.

**Coffee with a Cop:** The MPD hosts this event several times a year with local business partners to encourage residents and visitors to meet with officers. Most people stop to hi, share safety concerns or engage in conversation to understand policing practices.

**Self-Defense Classes:** The MPD hosts two self-defense classes for women in partnership with the Menomonie High School Fieldhouse Community Education Program.

**Educational/Safety Presentations:** The MPD routinely provides crime prevention presentations for civic groups, businesses and schools. Some topics have included, but are not limited to robberies, identity theft, juvenile drug awareness, and counterfeit money.

**Business Watch:** Periodically throughout the year, the MPD invites local merchants to meet and discuss local trends and safety concerns. At these meetings, the MPD is able to share crime prevention tips and information on pertinent topics such as counterfeit money, scams, robbery prevention, and more.

**Community Crime Mapping:** The MPD provides free crime mapping services to the public to improve transparency in police response and activity throughout the city. The public may access the community crime mapping feature by going to <https://www.communitycrimemap.com>.

**Social Media:** The MPD utilizes a variety of social media platforms to inform and educate the public on policing trends and crime prevention strategies. The MPD used Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor throughout the year.

**Citizens Academy:** The MPD hosts an annual Citizens Police Academy that invites residents and business owners into the department to learn about police practices/services.



# 2018 Statistics

## Incidents

The MPD responded to a total of 12,881 incidents in 2018. This was an approximate 6% decrease in activity compared with 2017.

The MPD responded to an average of 35.29 incidents per day in 2018. Incidents are primarily addressed by patrol officers working either a twelve-hour day or night shift. Each shift is staffed with three to five officers that may include a patrol sergeant. Staffing is contingent based upon workload needs and officer availability.

The MPD responded to 324 traffic accidents in 2018. After further investigation it was determined 260 of the accidents were considered reportable. Reportable accidents are based upon factors such as damage amount in dollars and report of injury.

## Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Statistics for the MPD

<i>Offense/Year</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017-2018 % Change</i>
<i>Homicide</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	
<i>Rape – Prior to 2017</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<i>Rape – 2017*</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-68%</b>
<i>Robbery</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-50%</b>
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<i>Simple Assault</i>	<b>87</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>50%</b>
<i>Burglary</i>	<b>58</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<i>Larceny Theft</i>	<b>351</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>-16%</b>
<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21%</b>
<i>Arson</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>

*\*Beginning in 2017, in order to meet the FBI's deadline, the Wisconsin UCR program began complying with the FBI's new rape definition. Because the FBI's new definition increases the number of offenses that qualify as rape in the UCR program, the Wisconsin program created a new offense to highlight the difference.*

*FBI historical rape definition: "The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will." On this dashboard, the offense of "Rape – prior to 2017" is based on this definition.*

*FBI revised rape definition: "Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim." On this dashboard, the offense of "Rape – 2017" is based on this new definition, which includes sodomy/oral sex, sexual assault with an object, and male victims of rape.*