

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

March 21, 2023
Police

TITLE: BI-ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY

The Police Department presents an update to the City Council on community policing and department operations twice per year. This is the first report for 2023, which includes an update on the Department's Strategic Plan, crime trends, SRO program, Racial Identity Profiling Act and personnel matters.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive update on police department operations, services and activities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Receiving the report does not create immediate impacts to the City's operating budget.

BACKGROUND

This bi-annual report provides the City Council and the community with a general update which includes an overview of the department's strategic plan, crime trends, the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA), and personnel matters.

DISCUSSION

Strategic Plan

Over the past two years, the department has worked on the development of a Strategic Plan which is designed to serve as a guiding document for the next three to five years. The goals for the plan were developed through a collaborative process with the police department's leadership team, led by a consultant; the supporting strategies were developed by the police department management team. Individual action items support each strategy and are prioritized for accomplishment during the five-year life of the plan. The strategic plan goals are:

1. Invest in a Healthy and Engaged Workforce
2. Reduce Crime and Increase the Feeling of Safety
3. Increase Community Trust
4. Create and Maintain a Culture of Inclusivity
5. Maximize Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency.

Once the citywide strategic plan is finalized, staff will ensure the department's plan aligns with the larger organization. As part of the strategic plan, the department's mission, vision and values were changed in 2021; each of these are prominently displayed throughout the police department building.

Mission Statement: As members of our diverse community, we selflessly serve as guardians with empathy, fairness and respect to protect life, prevent crime and enhance the quality of life.

Vision Statement: The Pleasanton Police Department will be a model of excellence and a leader in the law enforcement profession.

Values: Service, Courage, Leadership, Safety, Teamwork

Department Operations

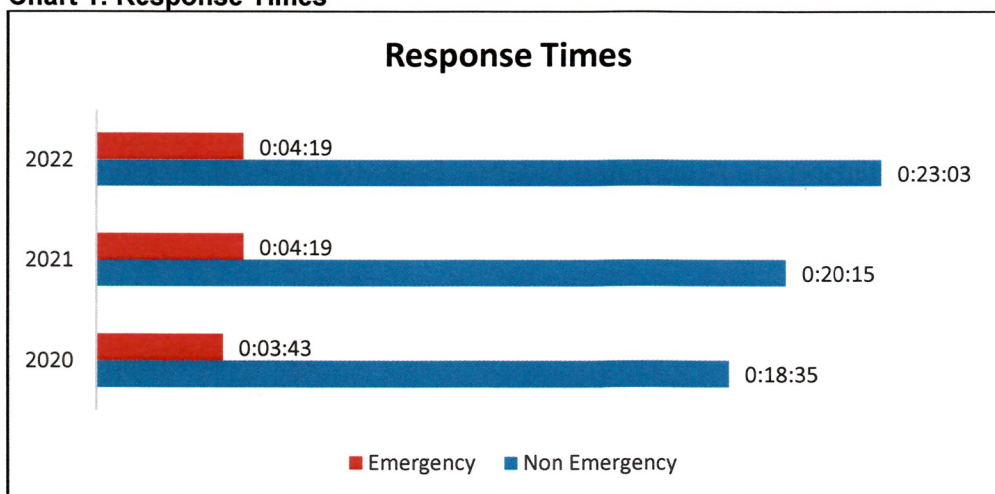
Police Activity and Response Times

The police department facilitated 59,548 incidents in 2022 – 22,918 were self-initiated and 36,630 were requests for service; while this is similar to 2021, which saw a total of 59,473 incidents, officer-initiated activity dropped by 4,000 incidents and requests for service had a corresponding increase. Table 1 below identifies the most frequent type of police activity in 2022 as compared with a prior four-year average.

Table 1: Police Activity

	2018-2021 Average	2022
Traffic Stop	11,258	11,727
Patrol Check	7,083	4,466
Alarm	3,309	2,327
Suspicious Vehicle	2,182	1,936
Suspicious Person	2,190	944
Animal Call	1,838	1,373
Parking Complaint	1,738	1,577
Disturbance	1,743	1,484
Welfare Check	1,628	1,542
Pedestrian Stop	1,198	1,962
	34,167	29,338

Police response time goals are established in the General Plan as 4:00 minutes for emergencies and 20:00 minutes for non-emergency calls for service. The average emergency response times in 2022 was 4 minutes 19 seconds, and non-emergency response time averaged 23 minutes 03 seconds.

Chart 1: Response Times

Crime and Collision Trends

Reported incidents of crime, arrests and citations continued on a downward trend in 2022. Part 1 violent crime was lower by 23 percent, the number of aggravated assaults for the past two years increased by 20 percent above 2019 and 2020. Table 2 below shows that property crime increased by 14 percent from last year though still below the peak in 2019. The increases in property crime from prior years is not surprising based on the current deployment of officers due to staffing; notably, experienced policing practitioners as well as crime studies indicate that the presence of police officers has a deterrent effect on crime and the department has had less visibility in the community in the past year.

Table 2 highlights the Department's Part 1 Crime trends from 2018-2022.

Table 2: Crime Trends

PART I CRIMES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0
Rape	6	12	11	11	11
Aggravated Assault	47	44	42	51	53
Robbery	57	56	40	49	18
<i>Violent Crimes</i>	110	112	94	111	82
Burglary	158	149	162	121	144
Larceny/Theft	1197	1386	941	907	1078
Stolen Vehicle	112	97	90	113	100
Arson	3	4	5	7	5
<i>Property Crimes</i>	1470	1636	1198	1148	1327
TOTAL	1,580	1,748	1,292	1,259	1433

Arrests in 2022 were 39 percent lower than the high of 1,916 in 2019. Juvenile arrests continued to decline from a high of 105 in 2019 to a low of 24 in 2022, while overall arrests of 1,179 is markedly lower than the previous low of 1,476 in 2021. This is attributable to what the profession has seen in recent years and the current vacancy rate in the department.

2022 continued to see a similar trend with officers encountering firearms with increasing frequency during field contacts. The increase of crime gun seizures was the result of proactive police contacts utilizing the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system and traditional police patrol. These results are aligned with what other agencies in the region are experiencing.

Injury traffic collisions continue to remain below pre-pandemic levels though they have steadily increased since the low of 117 in 2020 to 167 in 2022. This increase is commensurate with the increase in vehicles on the roadways due to the lessening of COVID restrictions, people returning to public settings and a depleted traffic unit due to patrol staffing needs.

Table 4 provides data on the types and frequency of citations issued.

Table 4: Traffic Data

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Traffic Stops	12,398	13,572	6,274	13,048	11,727
Moving Citations	2,909	3,267	1,512	2,822	1,119
Mechanical Citations	877	897	341	595	464
Parking Citations	1,313	1,503	674	1,238	1,030
Courtesy Citations	3,125	3,649	1,186	1,508	948
TOTAL CITATIONS	8,224	9,316	373	6,163	3,561
Collision Responses	1,141	1,011	591	687	748
Injury Collisions	204	195	117	135	167

Use of Force

Table 5 provides a detailed summary of use of force incidents since 2018. 2022 tracked similar to other years with a control hold being the most frequent type of force applied. It is important to note that one incident may have multiple types or instances of one type of force used; therefore, the total at the bottom indicates the total number of force applications, not the total number of incidents.

Table 5: Use of Force

Force Applications	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Control Hold	24	28	25	31	32
OC Spray	0	0	0	0	0
Impact Instrument	1	0	0	0	0
Conducted Energy Device	11	0	3	3	0
Kinetic Energy Device	0	1	1	0	2
Canine	1	1	1	0	0
Firearm	0	0	0	0	1
Safewrap	7	5	6	1	6
Spit hood	1	1	0	2	2
TOTALS	46	38	36	37	43

School Resource Officers

The police department continues to support Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) with two School Resource Officers (SRO). The SROs respond to incidents of student and campus safety and build positive relationships with students and staff. As noted previously, overall juvenile arrests were down in 2022 which was similarly aligned with arrests on campus. Of the 10 instances in which SROs took enforcement action, two involved adults on campus committing crimes; of the remaining eight which involved students, two were booked into juvenile hall and the others were referred to diversion or juvenile probation. The two offenses which led to being booked into juvenile hall were possession for sales of drugs (not marijuana) and criminal threats.

A more detailed report on SROs will occur at the joint City Council/PUSD Board of Trustees meeting on April 20, 2023.

Alternate Response

Prior to being fully implemented with clinicians in January 2023, in 2022 the Alternate Response Unit (ARU) continued to respond to calls – both in the schools and broader community. In addition to being the primary point of contact for PUSD and students in crisis, ARU is also proactively responding in the community and initiating follow-up from previous calls. In the six months from July – December 2022, ARU diverted 190 calls from patrol officers, co-responded with a patrol on 139 calls, and made 120 proactive contacts.

Overall mental health holds declined by 50 percent from 371 in 2021 to 186 in 2022. This is largely attributable to the partnership with Stanford Health Care – Tri-Valley and its implementation of a psychiatry screening resource at the Pleasanton hospital. The number of holds associated with the hospital dropped from 139 in 2021 to 4 in 2022.

Additionally, holds from schools continued to decline from approximately four per month from 2015-2019 to just more than one per month in 2021, and then to less than one per month (nine total) in 2022.

ARU was successful in reducing repeat calls in some instances by connecting people in crisis with services. As an example, in 2022 one individual generated 16 patrol calls for service within a two-month period; after ARU's involvement with the person and their family, there have been no calls since the initial spike.

Racial and Identity Profiling Act

In 2022, the police department collected a full year of data aligned with the requirements of the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA). The RIPA form has 15 fields that an officer may complete during a stop. A stop is defined as any detention or search. A stop may occur as a result of an officer's self-initiated activity or from a call for service where a person is not free to leave.

The RIPA Board benchmarks stop data against the American Community Survey (ACS) population demographic data set. Since several variables influence criminogenic factors, staff does not believe the ACS is an appropriate benchmark to study or make conclusions about disparate conduct of law enforcement. Some researchers believe that parties involved in traffic collisions is one method of benchmarking, whereas others prefer to use a technique called the Veil of Darkness – evaluating stop data based on periods of daylight and darkness. 2022 Pleasanton data will be published in the 2024 RIPA Annual Report: staff found that the department is not consistently capturing the race of a person involved in a traffic collision; therefore, the data set is invalid for use to compare 2022 data.

Since the RIPA report uses the ACS as a benchmark, staff added a field for the city of residence to evaluate stop data for local residents against the ACS survey. The table below highlights the breakdown overall, by Pleasanton resident, and based on calls for service.

Table 6 - Pleasanton 2022 Stop Data Based on Population

	Census	All Data	Pleasanton Residents	Calls for Service
Asian	39.1%	12.97%	14.38%	5.60%
Black	1.9%	8.54%	6.13%	23.0%
Hispanic	10.8%	14.64%	14.64%	22.4%
Middle Eastern		15.95%	19.20%	10.6%
Multi-Racial	7.3%	0.98%	0.99%	00.9%
Native American	0.6%	0.14%	0.15%	00%
Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.85%	0.49%	1.2%
White	47.4%	40.21%	44.04%	36.0%

Personnel and Hiring

Residents commonly provide positive feedback about the service provided by all areas of the Pleasanton Police Department. Of the many community commendations received department-wide, a sampling of these includes officers showing diligence in searching and compassionate care after locating a runaway teenager in crisis, saving the life of heart attack victim, and rescuing several ducklings that fell into a storm drain. Police department staff, in all areas, continue to serve with the goal of excellence in mind.

In 2022, the police department conducted three internal investigations that resulted in sustained findings of policy violations. There were four community-generated complaints, none of which resulted in sustained findings of policy violations.

As mentioned in the Fall 2022 report, staffing of sworn positions continues to be the department's greatest challenge. As of this report, there are seven vacant sworn positions and four vacant professional staff positions. Additionally, there are 10 sworn positions impacted by employees on leave. These combined vacancies equal 20 percent of the total sworn positions. The department recently held a recruitment planning meeting where several strategies were discussed.

Through monthly interviews, a dedicated recruitment officer, and recruitment seminars, the Police Department and Human Resources interviewed 110 applicants resulting in 10 officer hires. During the past year, seven officer applicants pursued positions with other agencies for a variety of reasons demonstrating the competitive nature of the hiring climate. While staff anticipates the attrition of 30 officer positions within the next two years, staff is optimistic that staffing will normalize in the next 18 months with the implementation of strategies and other recruitment incentives.

CONCLUSION

The police department continues to serve the community with honor and pride recognizing that strong community support is a byproduct of providing professional and quality service. This report provides a snapshot of the community policing strategies and operational practices that are employed in partnership with the community. Staff plans to return in September 2023 with the next update.

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