

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

October 3, 2023
Police

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

SUMMARY

Twice per year, the Police Department presents an update to the City Council and the community. This report provides a programmatic update on recent crime trends, police stop data, the community advisory board, and police staffing.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive bi-annual update on Police Department operations, services and activities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Receiving the report does not have a direct impact on the City's operating budget.

BACKGROUND

This bi-annual report provides an update on key initiatives including recent crime trends, police stop data, the community advisory board, and police staffing.

DISCUSSION

The September report is generally a programmatic review; however, the City Council expressed an interest in receiving more information about current trends as crime and public safety are key concerns identified in the citywide community survey. In addition to crime trends, this report will also highlight police stop data, recent activities the community advisory board has undertaken, and update on the operational impacts of police staffing levels.

Crime Trends

This report provides an analysis of Part I crimes for the period of January through July 2023, in comparison to the previous three-year average of the same time period. Part I crimes include violent and property crimes. The data analysis indicates fluctuations in crime rates during the evaluation period: while property crimes have shown increases, incidents of violent crime are lower. Even though violent crime overall is down, three homicides occurred within six months in 2023. Two of the cases are active investigations which limits the information that can be shared with the community. However, seeing the need, City staff are identifying outreach opportunities and ways to engage the community in violence prevention efforts.

In the first seven months of 2023, property crimes have increased by 32% when compared against the rolling three-year average for the same time period. This increase is driven by a 77% (60 reports) increase in burglary cases, a 60% (38 reports) increase in motor vehicle theft cases, and a 23% (127 reports) increase in larceny cases. The recent addition of a crime and intelligence analyst for the department has provided the ability for staff to use more intelligence-led strategies to proactively address crime spikes and trends. Some of those strategies include the placement of marked police vehicles in areas of increased crime, deployment of traffic officers in high-crime and collision areas to conduct enforcement and deter criminal activity and sharing of real-time information with regional law enforcement partners.

In contrast to the increases in property crimes, a similar analysis of violent crime indicates an overall 18% decrease in violent crime for the period of January through July 2023; this includes a 33% decrease in aggravated assaults.

Table 1 below illustrates crime trends in Pleasanton for the past four years from January to July.

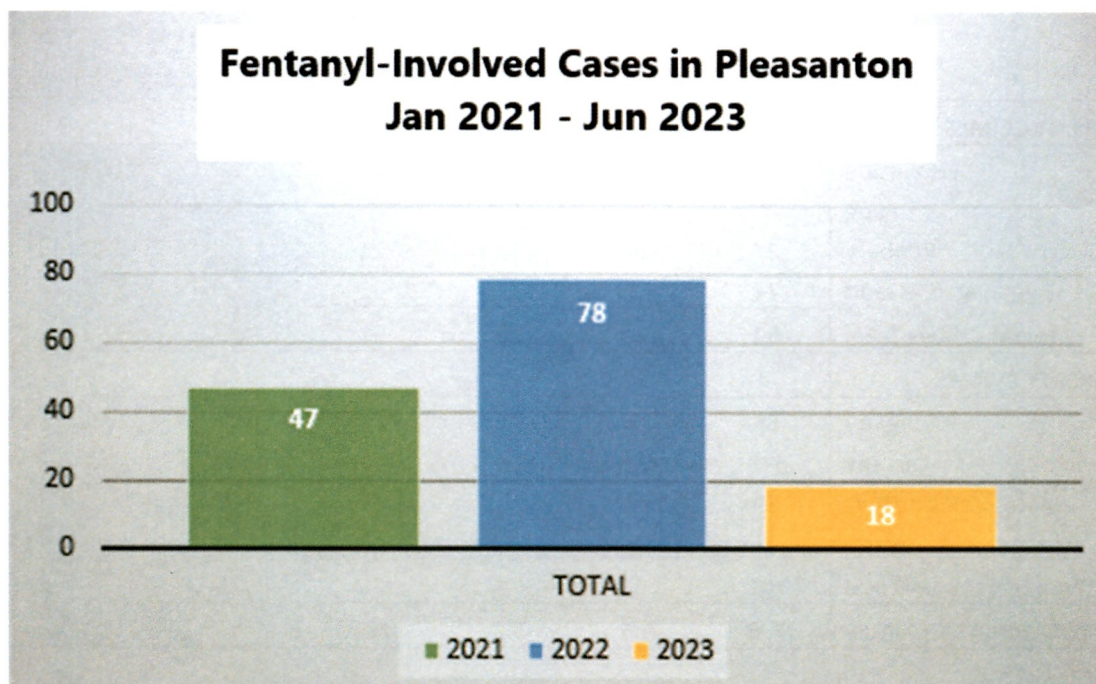
Table 1

	3 YEARS JAN-JULY & YEAR TO DATE					
	2020	2021	2022	Average	2023	Change
VIOLENT CRIMES						
Homicide	1	0	0	0	2	200%
Rape	7	7	6	7	9	35%
Robbery	27	24	12	21	17	-19%
Aggravated Assault	24	39	37	33	22	-33%
Violent Crimes Total	59	70	55	61	50	-18%
PROPERTY CRIMES						
Burglary	88	73	71	77	136	77%
Larceny	548	486	627	554	681	23%
Motor Vehicle Theft	60	72	56	63	101	60%
Arson	5	4	0	3	2	-33%
Property Crimes Total	701	635	754	697	920	32%
TOTAL PART 1 CRIMES	760	705	809	758	970	28%

Another concerning trend is a recent uptick in gang related graffiti in certain areas of the community. In response to the tagging, the department has increased patrols in the areas and has assigned a detective to coordinate crime suppression and outreach activities intended to deter the activity and present productive and healthy options for youth.

Finally, fentanyl continues to be present, and its impacts felt, in Pleasanton. In 2022 there were 78 cases where fentanyl was present; 59 of those cases were arrests for possession of fentanyl, while the remaining cases were incidents that involved fentanyl in ways other than possession. As fentanyl is a highly addictive and deadly substance, if someone overdoses immediate treatment with Narcan (naloxone) is necessary to reverse the overdoses effects. To be prepared, all police department field personnel carry Narcan. In the past year, there were multiple incidents of officers deploying Narcan in an effort to reverse an opioid overdose. The department does not track the number of incidents where Narcan was used; however, staff estimates the number of persons on which Narcan was deployed in the past two years is approximately 12.

Figure 1



The number of cases for 2023 is through June 2023.

Stop Data

In the September 2022 bi-annual update, staff referenced the department's work related to the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA). While collecting stop data is not new to Pleasanton, the extent of data collected and reported to the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) is new for all agencies in California. In January 2024, CA DOJ, through the RIPA Board, will release a report that summarizes stop data for the State and makes individual agency data available on the Open Justice portal of the CA DOJ website.

While the RIPA report benchmarks stop data using the American Community Survey resident population, other academic methodology recommends using the perceived race of those involved in traffic collisions as a more accurate benchmark of those present in the community at any given time. The traffic collision methodology is relevant in Pleasanton as shopping districts and employment centers draw people to the city from outside of the community. Another deficiency of using ACS data is that the data sets do not align with the options in the RIPA form as Asian and Middle Eastern races or ethnicities are combined in the ACS and separated on the RIPA form and traffic collision reporting allowing for a more accurate analysis.

Given this, staff is using this alternate data analysis methodology to summarize the department's 2022 and partial 2023 data for the City Council and community. Using traffic collisions as a benchmark, it can be noted that officer-initiated contacts are more closely aligned with all racial groups than is reflected by the population of Pleasanton. Using traffic collisions as a benchmark, where 1.0 represents an equilibrium of stops to

collisions; the greatest disparity in stops exists with people who officers perceive as Black where the proportion difference is 1.43 indicating a greater number of persons perceived to be Black are stopped by officers than those involved in traffic collisions. Data is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2

	American Community Survey	RIPA Data January 2022 – August 2023			Traffic Collisions	
	2022 Census Data	All Stop Data	Requests for Service	Officer-Initiated	Collision Reports	Disparity
Asian	39.10%	12.83%	5.52%	13.25%	15.09%	0.88
Black	1.90%	8.51%	25.54%	7.53%	5.26%	1.43
Hispanic	10.80%	20.35	23.08%	20.19%	16.84%	1.20
Middle Eastern		15.66	6.53%	16.19%	16.49%	0.98
Multi-Racial	7.30%	0.95%	0.87%	0.96%	0.00%	
Native American	0.60%	0.12%	0.15%	0.12%	0.00%	
Pacific Islander	0.50%	0.87%	1.60%	0.83%	0.00%	
White	43.50%	39.04%	35.56%	39.24%	38.95%	1.01
Unknown		1.66%	1.16%	1.69%	7.37%	0.23

The Police Department encountered 12,580 individuals during 12,386 stops between January 1, 2022, and August 14, 2023. Approximately 94.5% of those stops were officer initiated and 5.5% were in response to a request for service. The following is a more detailed analysis of the stops:

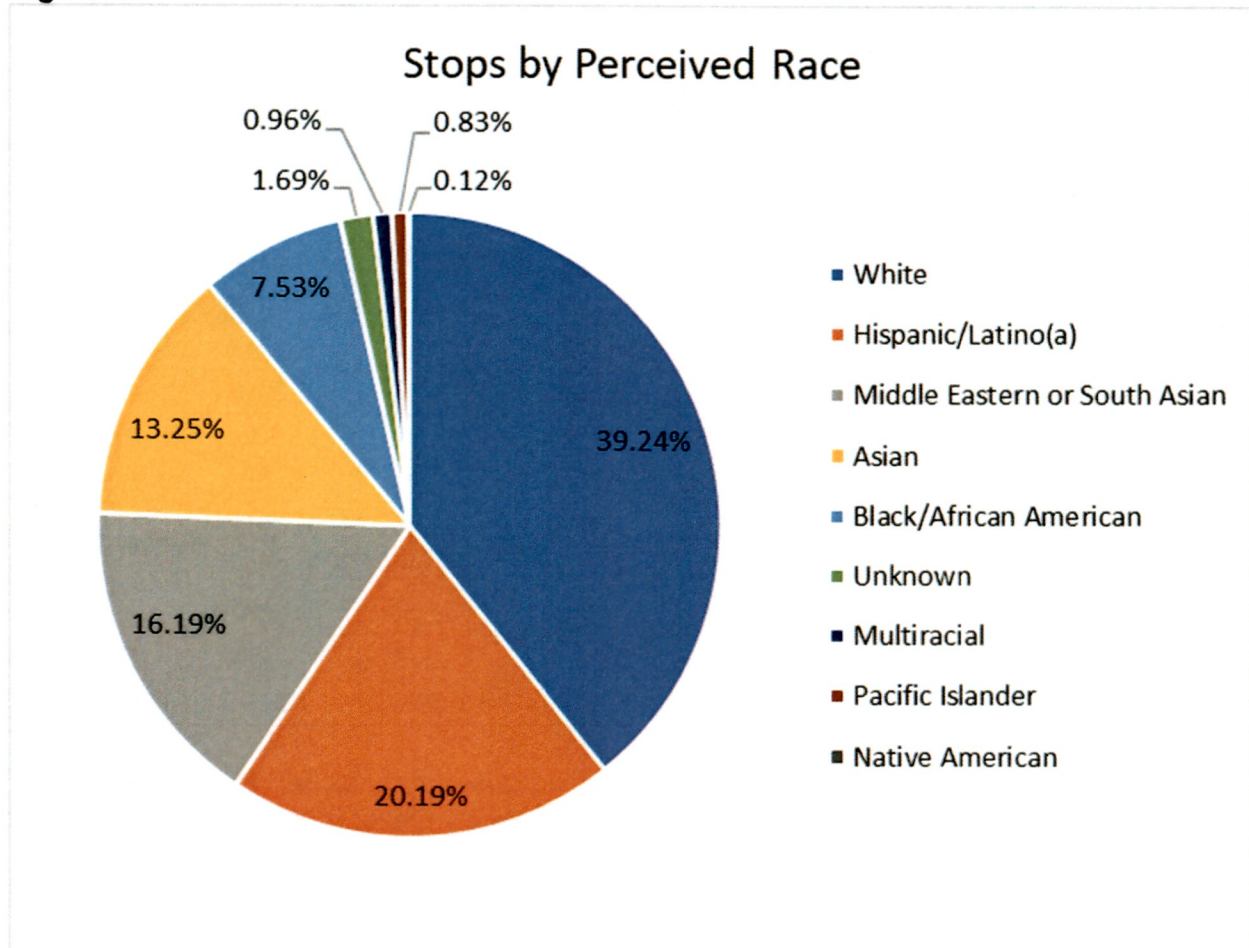
- White was the perceived race that had the highest number of officer-initiated stops (4,666) followed by Hispanic/Latino (2,401), and Middle Eastern or South Asian (1,925).
- Traffic Violation (91%) was the most common reason for Stop followed by reasonable suspicion (5.7%) across all perceived races.
- The top result for Actions Taken Stop was “None” (11,058) across all perceived races and genders.
- The most common Result of Stop was Warning (80.5%) followed by Citation or Infraction (11.2%).
- As part of the encounters, 130 individuals consented to Search of a Person and 117 individuals consented to a Search of Property.

Stops by Perceived Race

The top perceived races stopped include 39.2% (4,666) White, 20.2% (2,401) Hispanic/Latino, 16.2% (1,925) Middle Eastern or South Asian, 13.3% (1,576) Asian, and

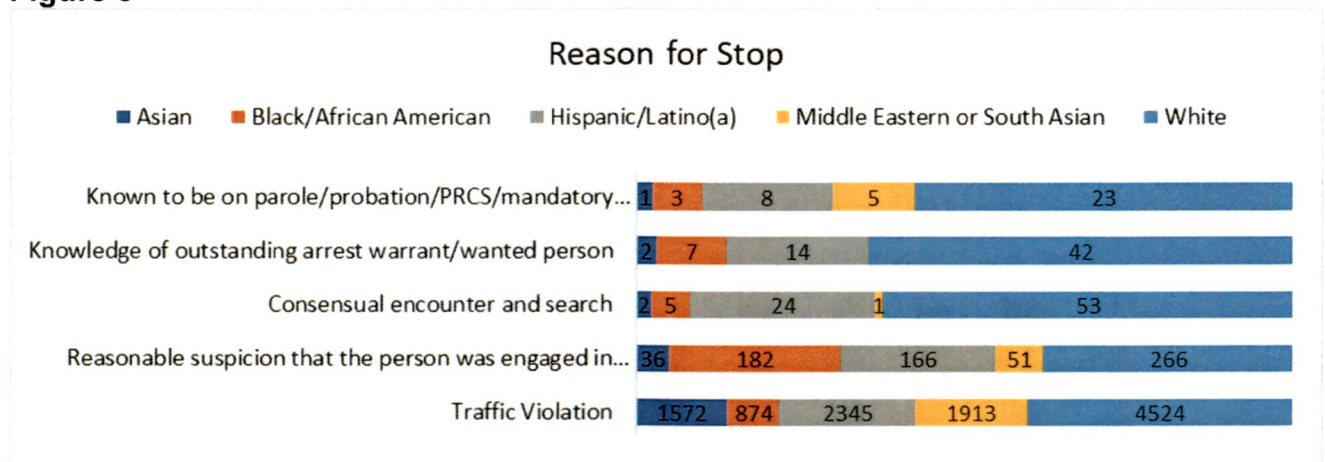
7.5% (895) Black/African American), as shown in Figure 2 below. These results coincide for the most part with the overall demographic of individuals within the city.

Figure 2



Reason for Stop

The Reason for Stop refers to the primary reason the officer initiated the stop of an individual. The top Reason of Stop was Traffic Violation 91% (11,452) followed by Reasonable suspicion 5.7% (721). Figure 3 below lists the top 5 reasons for Stop by Perceived Race.

Figure 3

Actions Taken During Stop

Actions Taken refers to the officer's actions during the stop outside of a warning or citation issued. More than one action was taken during some stops. The top result for Actions Taken was None 94.5% (11,058), which is largely due to most stops resulting in a citation, warning, or no action. The next highest percentage was patrol car detention 1.9% (226). The results of patrol car detention are skewed by an error in reporting identified through an audit of the data. The following Table 3 shows the overall distribution of Actions Taken during the Stop.

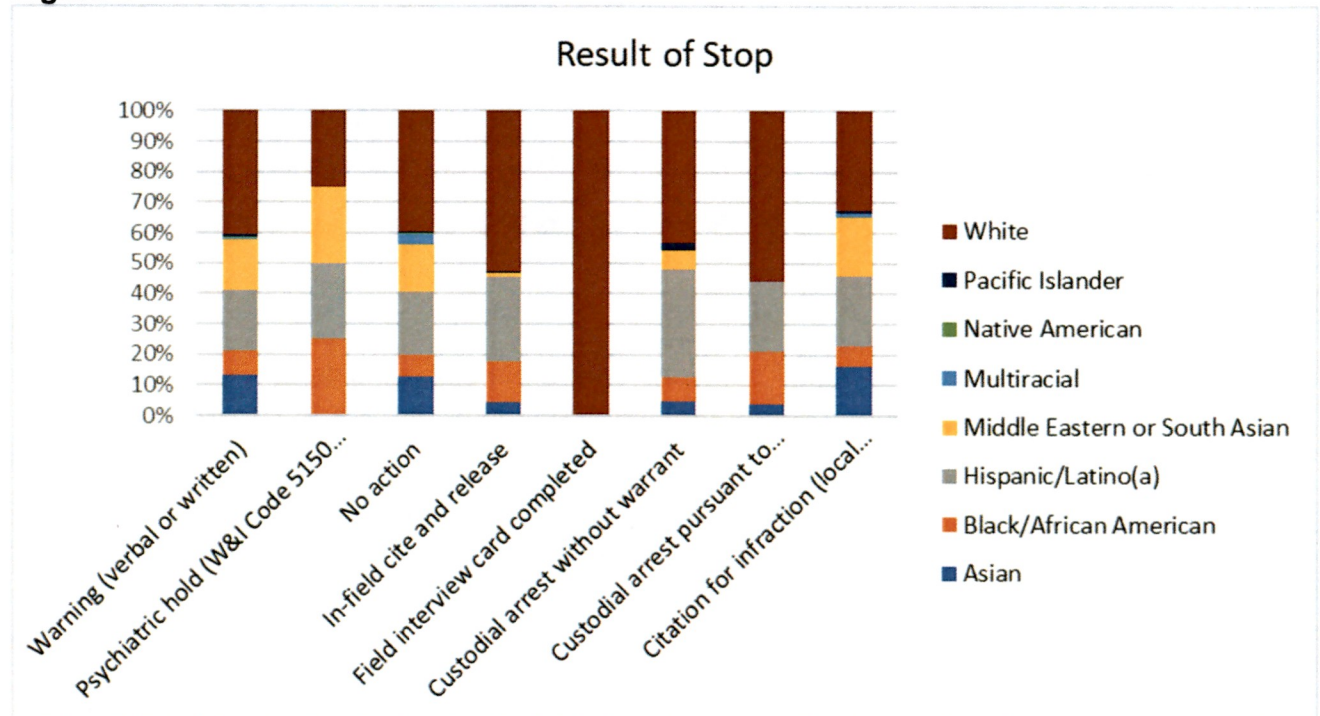
Table 3

Action Taken	Percent
None	94.54%
Patrol car detention	1.93%
Other physical or vehicle contact	1.02%
Curbside detention	0.81%
Handcuffed or flex cuffed	0.71%
Person removed from vehicle by order	0.25%
Search of property was conducted	0.23%
Search of person was conducted	0.18%
Field sobriety test conducted	0.09%
Asked for consent to search property	0.07%
Property was seized	0.06%
Vehicle Impounded	0.03%
Person photographed	0.03%
Admission or written statement obtained from student	0.03%
Asked for consent to search person	0.02%

Results of Stop

The Result of Stop refers to what occurred after the RIPA stop was completed. Warning (80.5%) was the most common Result of Stop followed by Citation or Infraction (11.2%). Figure 4 below shows the Results of Stop by perceived race.

Figure 4



Issues of race and policing have shown to be of great interest as feelings of biased based policing can erode the community's trust and confidence in the department. To trust the data, one must know the data is accurate. To that end, the department conducted a random sample of 5% or 519 of the RIPA forms by comparing the information on the form to what was observed on the officer's body-worn camera and found the data on the form accurately reflected what was observed on the video. The audit found some keying errors and training opportunities; however, in most cases, the errors did not impact the statistical outcome. In one relevant example, the number of "patrol car detentions" are lower than reportedly occurred as one officer indicated a "patrol car detention" occurred since the stop was made by a patrol car when the intent of this action is to record when a subject is detained inside the police vehicle.

Community Advisory Board

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) recently completed its first two-year term after being established in September 2021. During these two years, the CAB provided input and expertise on several topics including police officer recruitment, use of technology, mental health, homelessness, traffic safety, militarized equipment, the community survey on policing and use of force. Several of the ideas from the CAB were put into practice and informed the policies or practices of the police department.

CAB attendance and membership fluctuated during the past two years with some members leaving the CAB due to changes in employment status which disqualified their ability to serve. The City advertised for new members to join the CAB and anticipates welcoming nine new members. The new members have varied backgrounds that include mental health, schools, corporate, faith-based ministry, and technology.

Staffing

A recent survey conducted in August of this year of police departments in Alameda County inquired about level of deployable staff. The results of that survey indicate a range of 62%-95% deployable staff, with most of the agencies around mid-80%, as compared to Pleasanton's current 78%. Deployable officers are those able to perform the duties of solo beat officer and does not include those in the police academy, field training or on leave.

As of September 25, 2023, the department has nine officer vacancies, and nine sworn members out on medical leave. There are two police officer trainees in the Academy who will likely add to the deployable ranks in June 2024. Additionally, operations are impacted by two vacant dispatcher positions and one vacant community service officer position. The department had accommodated its vacancy rate by temporarily reassigning officers in specialized units back to patrol; however, as of mid-August, the department was able to reassign three of five officers back to traffic enforcement. The department is also using retired annuitants to help fill the staffing void.

As an overview, the number of staff that have separated from the department is provided in Table 4 for each year from 2019 – 2023 (year to date):

Table 4

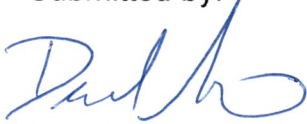
Annual Separations from Police Department	
2019	10
2020	14
2021	8
2022	10
2023 (year to date)	11

A detailed breakdown of each year's separations is provided in Attachment 1.

The City is addressing the recruitment and deployment challenges through traditional and non-traditional methods, including reassigning personnel, using multiple strategies to find applicants such as career fairs, community events and social media, hosting regional written and physical ability testing, and evaluating the department's strategies toward how to market the department to prospective applicants. As well, a collaboration between the Police and Human Resources Departments helped to streamline the process by fast-tracking academy graduate applicants for interviews. The City has seen an increase in the number of applicants placed into the background process because of

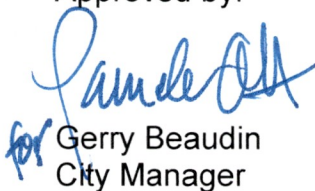
this change and is optimistic about the potential to hire additional officers in the next several months.

Submitted by:

A blue ink signature of David Swing, written in a cursive style.

David Swing
Chief of Police

Approved by:

A blue ink signature of Gerry Beaudin, written in a cursive style. To the left of the signature is the word "for" in blue ink.

Gerry Beaudin
City Manager

Attachment:

1. Table of Annual Separations from Police Department (2019-2023)

Annual Separations from Police Department

	<u>2019</u>			<u>2020</u>			<u>2021</u>			<u>2022</u>			<u>2023</u>			Total
	Lateral	Resign	Retire	Lateral	Resign	Retire	Lateral	Resign	Retire	Lateral	Resign	Retire	Lateral	Resign	Retire	
Command			1						1							2
Managers			1		1	1							1			4
Sergeants						2						1			1	4
Officers	2	1	2	1		3		4		2	3		1	1	5	25
CSO			1									1			1	3
Dispatch	1			1	1	1				1		1			1	7
Professional		1			2	1		1	2			1				8
Total	3	2	5	2	4	8	0	5	3	3	3	4	2	1	8	53

2023 data as of 9-25-23