

2024  
St. Johns Police Department  
Annual Report



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# St. Johns Police Department

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David Kirk, *Chief of Police*

*“Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve”*

To the Mayor, City Commissioners, City Manager and Citizens of St. Johns, Michigan:

It is my privilege to present you with the 2024 St. Johns Police Department Annual Report for your information and review.

Once again in 2024 our agency was fortunate to be operating at our fully allotted staffing mark. Our intentional planning for prioritizing core responsibilities has had a noteworthy impact. Some examples of successes and operations in 2024 include:

- Officer Jerek Crim applied, tested, and was successfully on boarded to the Clinton County Special Operations Team. Having a specialized tactical operator on our staff greatly increases our response readiness in that area.
- SJPD hosted four community coffee events which provided an opportunity for residents to interact with our staff, share ideas and concerns as well as updates on future department objectives.
- An exhaustive audit of our evidence and property room was completed. As a result, we are proud to report that the audit revealed no missing or unaccounted for property. Additionally, the audit provided us the opportunity to purge 263 items from the room as well as nearly 125 lbs. expired, unused prescription drugs related to our drug take back program. Moving forward, Sgt. Nick Klaver, who successfully completed property room management training will be our primary property room custodian.
- A Hunter’s Safety Program put on by the Department of Natural Resources was made possible with the utilization of our training room. As a result, 30 area youths received the training.
- Our agency in conjunction with other area departments conducted Sex Offender Registry Verifications on over 50 individuals within the City of St. Johns. As a result, 3 minor violations were corrected and one subject was arrested for violations of the Sex Offender Registry Act.
- Alcohol and tobacco compliance checks were completed on all licensed establishments within the City of St. Johns.
- With new legislation creating continuing education mandates for licensed officers, Deputy Chief Tobias took the lead in coordinating a Core Training Curriculum for all law enforcement agencies within Clinton County. In addition to Core Training, SJPD staff also completed over 250 hours of external training. Finally, through effective collaboration with training providers, we were able to receive over \$1,600.00 in training by hosting training at our department.
- SJPD continued its tradition of being actively present in schools including both the St. Johns schools within the city as well as RESA. Several department members actively participate in the Criminal Justice class on specialized topic areas which further develops bonds between our agency and the educational community.
- In collaboration with the Clinton County Sheriff’s Office, we have assisted in identifying a path to greatly streamline the records management processes within the county and look forward to initiating positive changes in the records management system in the near future.

As it relates to crime trends within the city, we still experienced relatively modest numbers related to “index crimes” which is reflective of more serious crimes. The one area in which an upward trend was recorded was breaking and entering offenses which rose from 4 in 2023 to 17 in 2025. As indicated in last year’s annual report, the change in the proactive nature of our patrols could result in heightened statistics in some enforcement areas. As predicted, over the course of 2024 our arrests went up from 48 to 106, criminal charges secured increased from 58 to 123 and Operating While Intoxicated charges increased from 4 to 10.

In relation to traffic enforcement, our crash numbers remained relatively constant with property damage accidents increasing from 88 to 98. However, our traffic citations increased from 122 in 2023 to 477 in 2024.

The increases in these self-initiated areas are a testament to the renewed commitment to our core patrol functions and responsibilities and certainly have an impact on overall safety within our city.

Last year we also were able to finalize our transition to a fully electronic department policy format. The Lexipol system for which the city provided funding provides us with contemporary policy compliance, automated notice of changes of applicable statutes and policy familiarity for officers with the Daily Training Bulletin feature. It is a point of pride that the St. Johns Police Department is the only agency within Clinton County to have this system in place which speaks volumes related to the effective collaboration between our department and the City Commission as it relates to critical compliance related mandates.

Also, in 2024 our department was fortunate enough to have expenses for updates within the facility approved by the City Commission. As a result, our staff is enjoying noticeable investments in new, safety rated doors, electronic building access and new more spacious and user-friendly duty lockers.

In 2025 we will continue to focus on operational priorities and encourage and facilitate specialized training for our officers within those subject areas. One area that has been noted as a deficiency would be that of a dedicated investigative position. As it is currently structured, investigations which require more detailed and elaborate processes are still the responsibility of the original investigators. The additional position would not only facilitate more timely submissions but also provide an opportunity for specialization for our officers.

As noted in previous years, our agency continues to be fortunate to have robust community support. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the City Commission and our residents in 2025.

# ***CRIME***

## ***INDEX AND NON-INDEX***

The State of Michigan Crime Reporting System has two categories of crime: Index (Serious) Crime and Non-Index Crime.

***Index Crime*** includes: Murder, Criminal Sexual Conduct, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary (B&E), Larceny Over \$1000, Motor Vehicle Theft (UDAA) and Arson. (See Table 1)

***Non-Index Crime*** includes: Simple Assault, Larceny Under \$1000, Bad Checks, Embezzlement, Forgery, Retail Fraud (Shoplifting), Malicious Destruction of Property (MDOP), Disorderly Persons, Domestic Assaults, Child Neglect and Stalking. (See Table 2)

This department and the city have a long-standing tradition of significantly lower than average crime rates in most reported categories. As a trend, law enforcement agencies nationally have recognized that in order to be successful, departments must continue to seek out strategies that allow them to be progressive. For the most part, community engagement and frequency-based assessments to direct patrol resources have recorded the most success.



# ST. JOHNS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CRIME

INDEX (SERIOUS) CRIME								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Murder	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	8	8	14	6	10	12	10	11
Robbery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Assault (Aggravated)	3	3	2	6	5	7	5	6
B&E (Burglary)	21	11	11	15	9	7	4	17
Larceny (Over \$1000)	3	5	2	1	3	8	4	5
UDAA (Stolen Vehicle)	2	1	3	3	1	6	4	3
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL INDEX CRIME</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>42</b>

NON-INDEX CRIME								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Assault (Simple)	9	9	10	10	22	14	17	12
Larceny (U/\$1000) Non-Business	41	16	32	33	19	25	24	15
Larceny--Business								
*Fraud/Bad Checks/Forgery, etc.	39	37	25	25	30	28	29	29
*Fail to Pay	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
*Shoplifting	4	6	0	4	1	1	3	5
Malicious Destruction of Property	24	14	22	31	22	28	20	24
Disorderly Persons	15	9	21	17	14	15	13	23
Family/Children Offenses*	29	17	28	17	24	26	27	27
*Includes: Neglect/Abuse/Domestic								
Stalking	1	0	3	1	7	10	2	14
<b>TOTAL NON-INDEX CRIME</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>150</b>

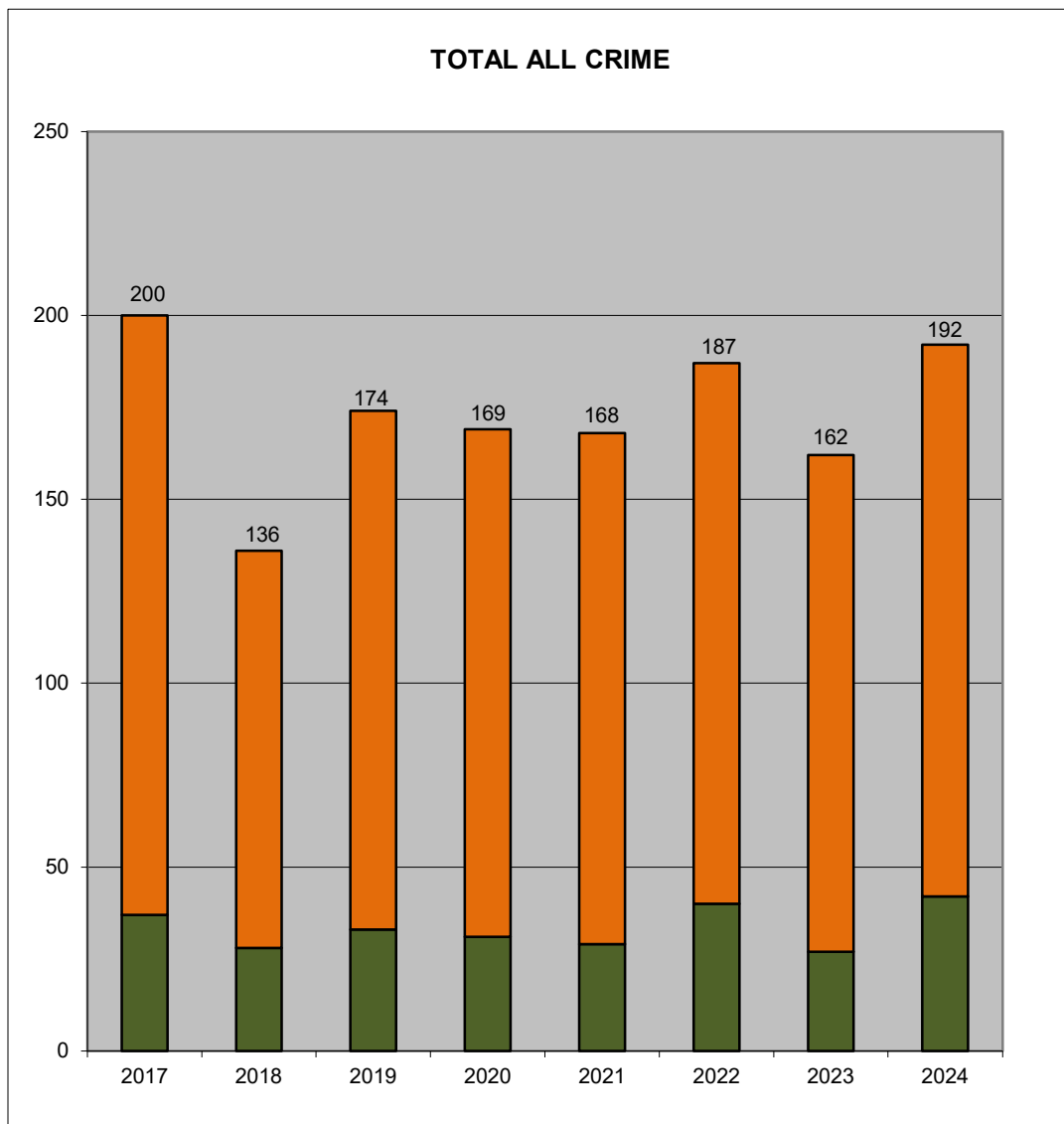
INDEX AND NON-INDEX CRIME								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>TOTAL ALL CRIME</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>192</b>

ARRESTS								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Drug Law Violations	38	20	6	5	6	4	0	6
Liquor Law Violations	15	6	4	0	3	0	0	2
O.W.I.	23	33	14	18	18	5	4	10
Other Traffic	84	46	57	36	34	27	26	22
Warrants	64	62	46	46	47	13	6	40
Other	18	36	32	40	37	24	12	26
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>106</b>

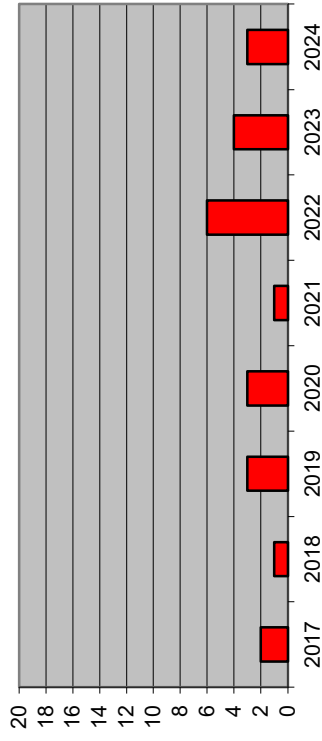
# CRIME

## BREAK DOWN OF INDEX AND NON-INDEX

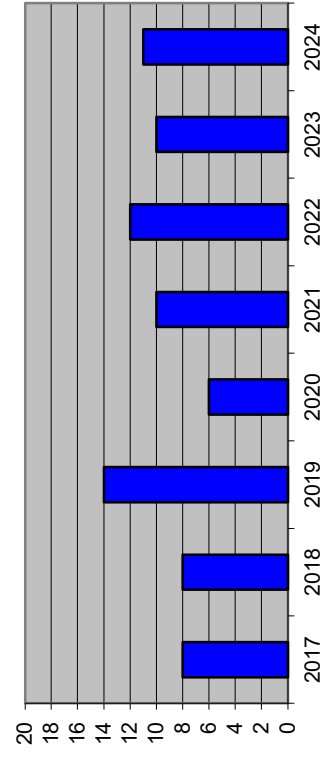
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Index Crime</b>	37	28	33	31	29	40	27	42
<b>Non-Index Crime</b>	163	108	141	138	139	147	135	150
<b>Total All Crime</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>192</b>



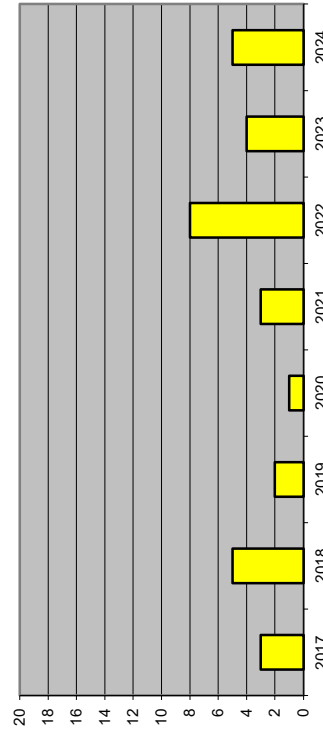
UDAA (Stolen Vehicle)



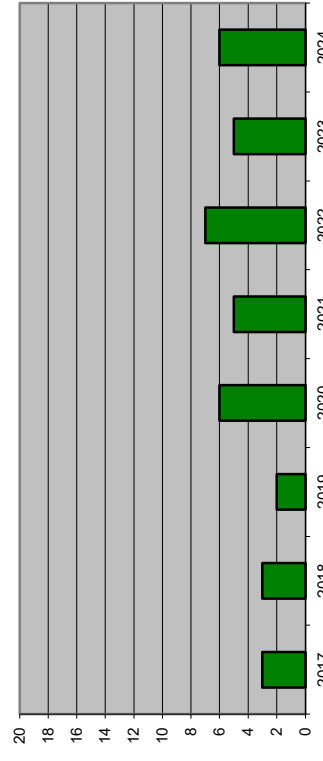
Criminal Sexual Conduct



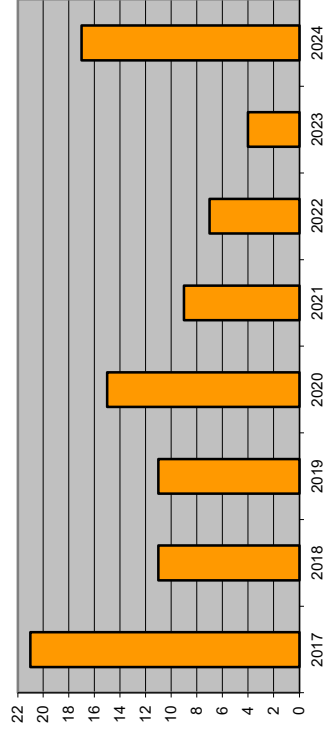
Larceny (Over \$1000)



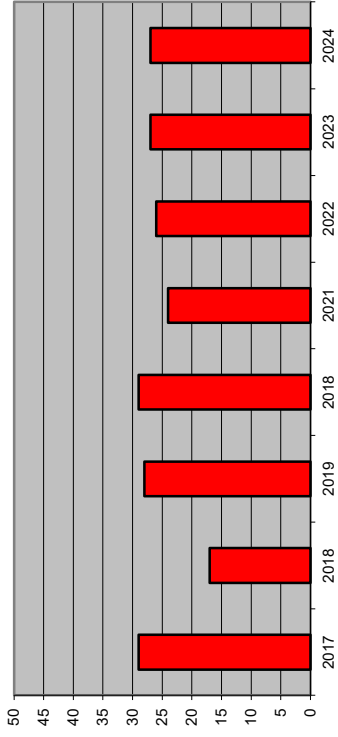
Assault (Aggravated)



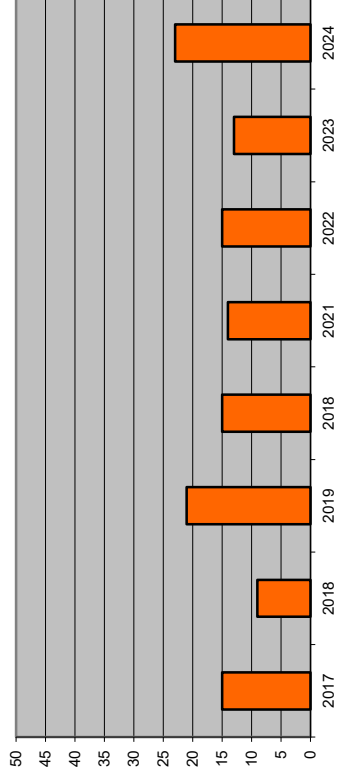
B&E (Burglary)



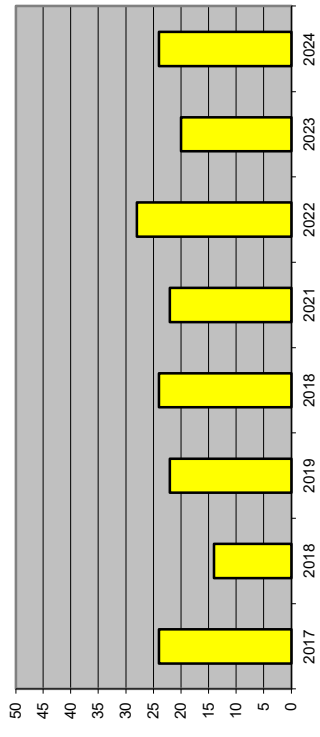
Family/Children Offenses



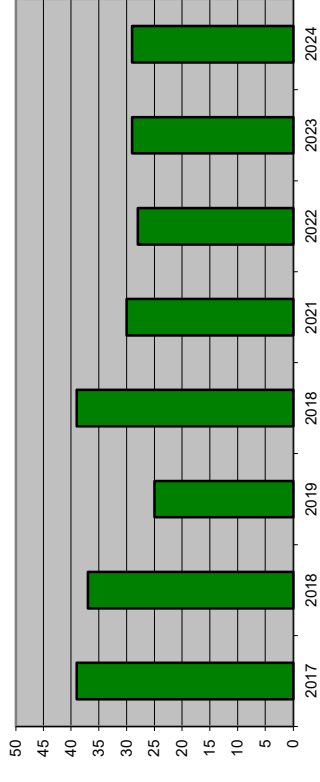
Disorderly Persons



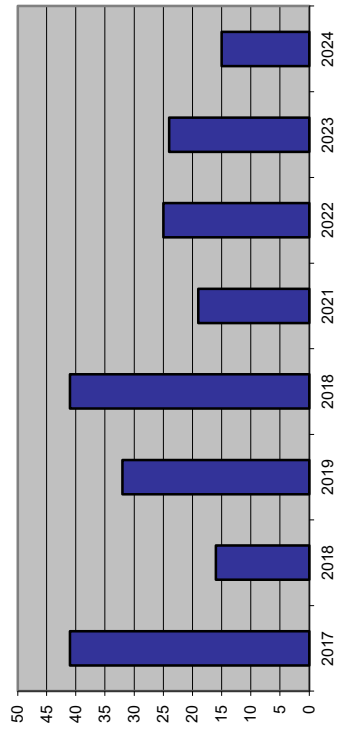
Malicious Destruction of Property



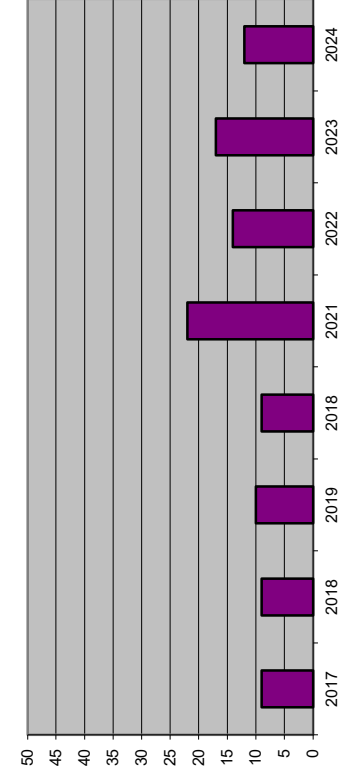
Fraud/Bad Checks/Forgery, etc.



Larceny U/\$1000 Non-Business



Assault (Simple)





# ***TRAFFIC***

## ***HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADWAYS?***

Traffic numbers in 2024 saw some changes in terms of crashes. Injury stayed the same as 2023 at 15, property damage crashes went up slightly from 88 to 98, and private property crashes decreased from 52 to 47. Total state reportable crashes increased from 103 to 113. Citations for traffic violations increased to the highest number in the past five years.

A major part of reducing injuries is uniform presence, enforcement and education. To that end, officers will continue to be tasked to provide a recognizable presence to assure compliance with traffic laws. In 2022 we worked cooperatively with the city administration to secure two additional speed monitoring signs that have been utilized to both calm traffic as well as assist in collecting traffic-related data. Those signs were put into service on westbound Townsend Road and eastbound Walker Road.



# ST. JOHNS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## TRAFFIC

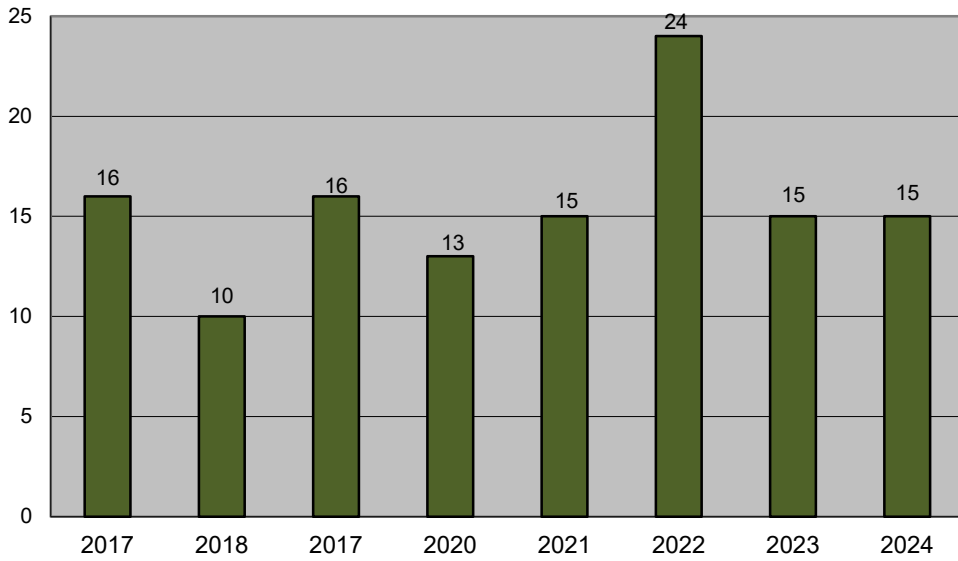
ACCIDENTS								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
**Property Damage Accidents	97	113	103	92	82	92	88	98
**Personal Injury Accidents	16	10	20	13	15	24	15	15
<b>Total Roadway Accidents</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Private Property Accidents</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>47</b>

TRAFFIC CITATIONS								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Operating While Intoxicated	23	33	14	18	18	5	4	9
Drove While License Suspended	44	37	26	17	30	10	1	13
Reckless or Careless Driving	5	1	2	0	2	4	2	8
Speeding	139	90	102	80	121	15	8	113
Safety Belt Violations	73	32	32	13	8	1	4	20
Other Hazardous Violations	51	56	65	51	35	22	30	139
Other Non-Hazardous Violations	505	359	298	149	196	89	73	175
<b>TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>477</b>

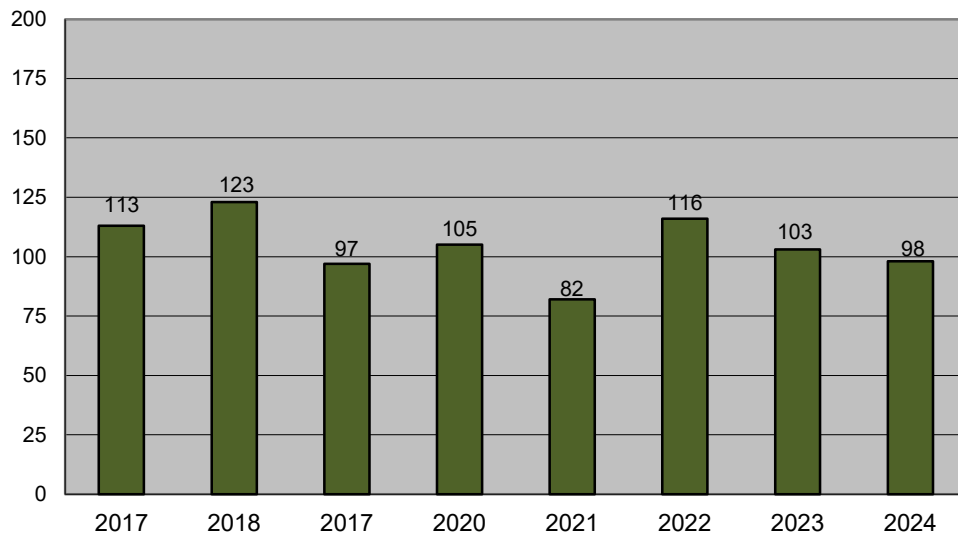
PARKING TICKETS								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Parking Violations (Patrol)	765	606	581	721	822	901	628	555
Overtime Parking Violations (Downtown)	57	111	26	0	109	0	0	6
<b>TOTAL PARKING TICKETS</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>561</b>



### PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENTS



### TOTAL ROADWAY ACCIDENTS



# ST. JOHNS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## GENERAL SERVICE

PROVIDED TO THE CITIZENS OF ST. JOHNS

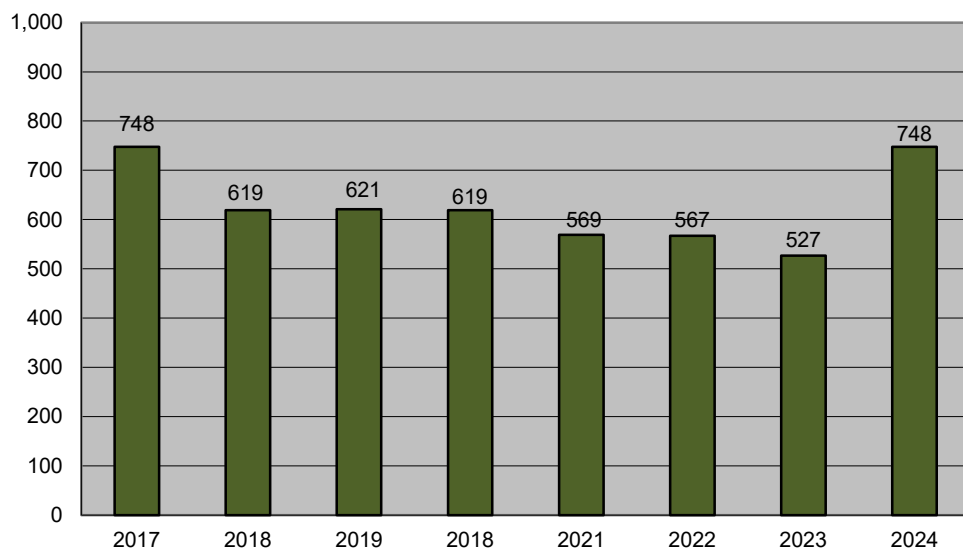
**GENERAL SERVICES** The St. Johns Police Department stopped providing lockout assistance part way through 2022, but we are still able to provide funeral escorts and subpoena service.

GENERAL SERVICE								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alarms(Business/Bank/Residential)	88	103	92	97	86	65	98	74
Funeral Escorts	64	67	59	60	93	65	58	51
Lockouts	256	240	236	164	170	145	n/a	n/a
Subpoenas Served	67	63	64	89	113	47	36	100

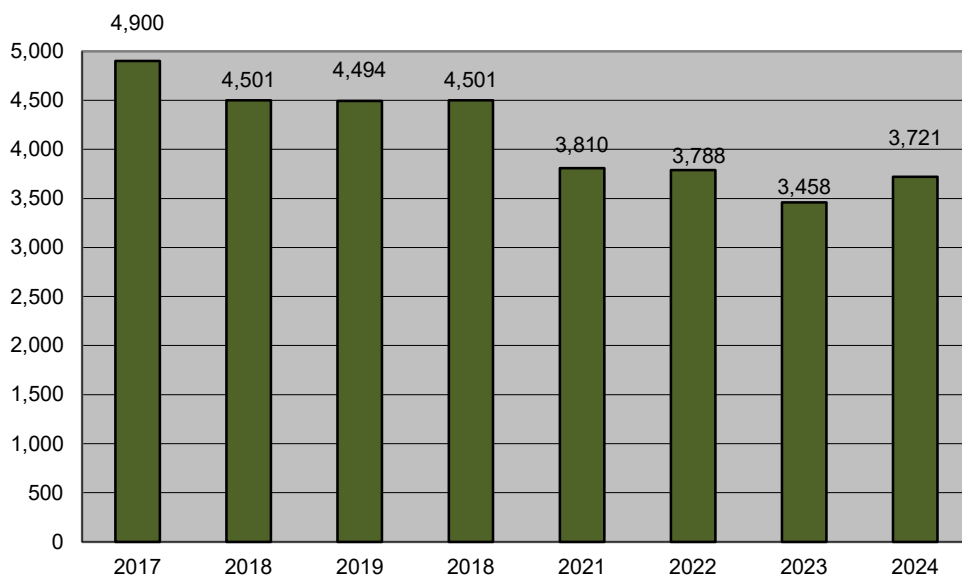
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Written Reports	748	619	621	537	569	567	527	748
Calls Dispatched	4,900	4,501	4,494	3,695	3,810	3,788	3,458	3721
Revenue Received	\$29,980	\$32,768	\$31,228	\$28,513	\$40,139	\$26,353	\$21,202	\$ 32,120



### WRITTEN REPORTS



### CALLS DISPATCHED



# Community Events

## National Night Out

This popular event was held at the City Park again this year and had a great turnout! Many residents joined us to celebrate a night out against crime. Those in attendance were treated to refreshments, bounce houses, games, a DJ, face painting, a JAWS demonstration by the fire department, as well as prizes and some water fun in the Spray Park! Officers handed out safety materials and had the opportunity to interact with the community, listening to their concerns and promoting city programs. Many local non-profit groups are also invited to interact with the community and hand out education materials. This annual event would not be possible without the generous donations of time and money from several local businesses and service groups. We were awarded the National Night Out Award for Community Engagement and Excellence this year!



## Fill-A-Cop Car

Our department organizes this event each year, joining with the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, DeWitt Township, Bath Township and Ovid Police Departments at five different grocery stores in Clinton County to collect grocery donations for local food banks.



## Shop With a Cop

Our officers joined with officers from the Clinton County Sheriff Department and other departments within the county deliver Christmas gifts to kids. This is an enjoyable experience that our officers look forward to each year.



## No Senior Without Christmas

Our officers join with officers from other department in the tri-county area to deliver care packages to senior citizens. The seniors are so appreciative and our officers look forward to delivering the packages each year.



## Assist PSD/DDA

We assisted with car shows, several parades, some additional new festivals, and hosted a safe Mint Festival and Beverage Tent.





# ***GOALS***

## ***RESULT OF 2024 GOALS***

GOAL: Complete and execute the Lexipol policy format.

RESULT: Completed!! We are currently fully operational with the electronic format including the Daily Training Bulletins for policy familiarity.

GOAL: Work toward transitioning away from paper format in favor of electronic format in all operational areas focusing on those related to records management. This includes but is not limited to evidence and property management, internal informational processes, and case submissions.

RESULT: Partially completed! We have developed and initiated Mobile Field Reporting which allows our officers additional access to the records system not presented before. We are awaiting final decisions by Clinton County regarding transitioning to and activating the updated system. Training to that end is currently being scheduled.

GOAL: Increase specialized training opportunities for the officers.

RESULT: Completed! Officer Crim is now tactical and medic trained and operational, Sgt. Klaver has completed property room and evidence training, Officer Bradbury has been trained as a Field Training Officer and Pepper Gas instructor, Officer Pulling has trained in Enhanced Commercial Vehicle Enforcement..

GOAL: Sustain hiring and retention standards focusing on job satisfaction within the ranks.

RESULT: Completed with some challenges. We will continue to provide as many opportunities and positive attributes as we can to recruit and sustain the employment of our officers while remaining within the staffing parameters we are currently budgeted for. Consistent with our goal, we have been able to accommodate specialized training and operational assignment requests which were received favorably by the requesting Officers. Unfortunately, the lack of full time specialized assignments (such as a dedicated detective/investigative position) is persistently something identified as a career ambition for our Police Officers. In 2025 we will continue to seek out pathways for funding to increase the number of certified Police Officers on the department.

GOAL: Continue improving concentration on core performance areas.

RESULT: Completed and ongoing! As the yearly statistics indicate, we have had a notable shift in culture and have reassumed regularly recurring core job tasks. I am very encouraged by this trend and it will continue to be the operational focus moving forward.

GOAL: Sustain our problem based, prioritized response plan.

RESULT: Completed and ongoing! Our officers with guidance from the Deputy Chief have developed the ability to focus on priorities, resolve them and move to the next priority. This is a valuable operational skill which was not being executed but now is regularly practiced with noteworthy results.

GOAL: Assess, qualify, and potentially request additional staff. As noted in previous reports, our agency is still operating with ½ less administrative position and two less officer/specialist positions than were present in 2000.

RESULT: Not completed. There is no question that the addition of a specialist position would be valuable to our operations and to our recruitment and retention. We continue to be optimistic that we can find a path to increasing our sworn staff as well as our support staff.

# ***GOALS***

## ***GOALS SET FOR 2025***

1. Complete updates and transition to the most recent version of Central Square to increase electronic processing and eliminate redundancy in reporting.
2. Continue to be instrumental in the development of continuing professional education training.
3. Continue to identify and adhere to contemporary best operational practices utilizing Lexipol and other resources.
4. Continue to attract, employ and retain qualified officers without the relaxation of standards.
5. Formalize anticipated succession plans to include timelines. Establish a training period for new front office staff in anticipation of retirement.
6. Continue to encourage specialized training for staff in the most appropriate operational and administrative areas.
7. Assure that operational objectives are monitored and any deficiencies are identified and addressed in a timely manner.

## **The True Cost of Maintaining the Thin Blue Line**



Once again, 2024 was a dangerous and deadly year for our police officers. 162 officers died in the line of duty. Within those, there were 52 deaths by gunfire, 46 traffic related deaths and 49 classified as “other”.

Out of this total, 5 were Michigan Police Officers. Please remember these law enforcement professionals and their families in your prayers. As these troubling trends continue, we reaffirm our pledge to seek the most contemporary and effective practices to minimize avoidable risks to our officers in all aspects of their operations.

Our department continues to recognize and appreciate your support and hope that 2025 is filled with continued progress and success.