

2020 St. Johns Police Department Annual Report



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St. Johns Police Department

David Kirk, *Chief of Police*

“Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve”

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

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2020 St. Johns Police Department annual summary report for your information and review.

As we are all painfully aware, 2020 was a year which was operationally defined by modified work mandates created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Contrary to our preferred operational norms, those restrictions greatly reduced the opportunities to interact with the public at large. We are collectively optimistic that 2021 will afford us the opportunity to resume those practices including the full utilization of our facility.

2020 was also a year marked with significant law enforcement reform prompted by what is universally recognized as criminal excessive force by law enforcement officers in other locations in the country. Contrary to what a great deal of law enforcement agencies faced, the St. Johns community assertively renewed their support of our agency and law enforcement in general. I feel as though that support is a product of the professionalism and standards for service maintained by our agency and am very thankful for both the community support as well as the top-notch police officers employed here. In response to Department of Justice mandates, our agency was able to be in the first ten agencies in the state to have our use of force and unbiased policing related policies vetted and accredited in order to maintain grant eligibility moving forward. To assure that standard is maintained, I have secured standardized training and automated policy review systems which should sustain best practices within the police department for the foreseeable future.

Surprisingly, 2020 did not result in any noteworthy increases in criminal frequency in the primary areas of concern. There was a slight uptick in assault complaints which has been attributed to extended contact with the nuclear family and inability to be away from primary residences. As in years past, our city's reportable numbers in the “all crimes” classification remain very impressive compared to cities of a similar size. Our reputation as a “safe community” persists.

In regards to staffing, we did have some challenges primarily contributed to COVID quarantine. Fortunately, we were able to quickly create emergency scheduling alternatives which resulted in no interruption in primary services. Once again, we hope that this variable is behind us for the most part and are looking forward to maintain more optimum staffing levels for the duration of 2021. Even with reduced staffing I am pleased to report that we were able to effectively manage request for extra patrol primarily where traffic related concerns were reported. As those concerns were received, patrols were dedicated in the trouble areas and for the most part resolved satisfactorily. I anticipate those processes will be streamlined as we move through 2021 as long as staffing levels are able to be maintained.

In closing, I would like to extend the sincere appreciation of the men and women of our department for the continued support from the collective city administration and citizenry. I hope that you find this summary useful and invite any inquiries that are needed for clarification.

Sincerely,

Chief David Kirk

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								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	11	7	3	9	8	8	14	6
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Assault (Aggravated)	3	3	3	1	3	3	2	6
B&E (Burglary)	24	20	21	10	21	11	11	15
Larceny (Over \$1000)	3	3	11	3	3	5	2	1
UDAA (Stolen Vehicle)	6	4	3	1	2	1	3	3
Arson	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INDEX CRIME	50	37	41	24	37	28	33	31

NON-INDEX CRIME								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Assault (Simple)	20	20	9	12	9	9	10	10
Larceny (U/\$1000) Non-Business	67	40	46	52	41	16	32	33
Larceny--Business								
*Fraud/Bad Checks/Forgery, etc.	17	16	26	27	39	37	25	25
*Fail to Pay	9	13	4	5	1	0	0	0
*Shoplifting	4	8	2	2	4	6	0	4
Malicious Destruction of Property	42	17	31	27	24	14	22	31
Disorderly Persons	14	11	17	9	15	9	21	17
Family/Children Offenses*	15	24	22	8	29	17	28	17
*Includes: Neglect/Abuse/Domestic								
Stalking	2	3	0	1	1	0	3	1
TOTAL NON-INDEX CRIME	190	152	157	143	163	108	141	138

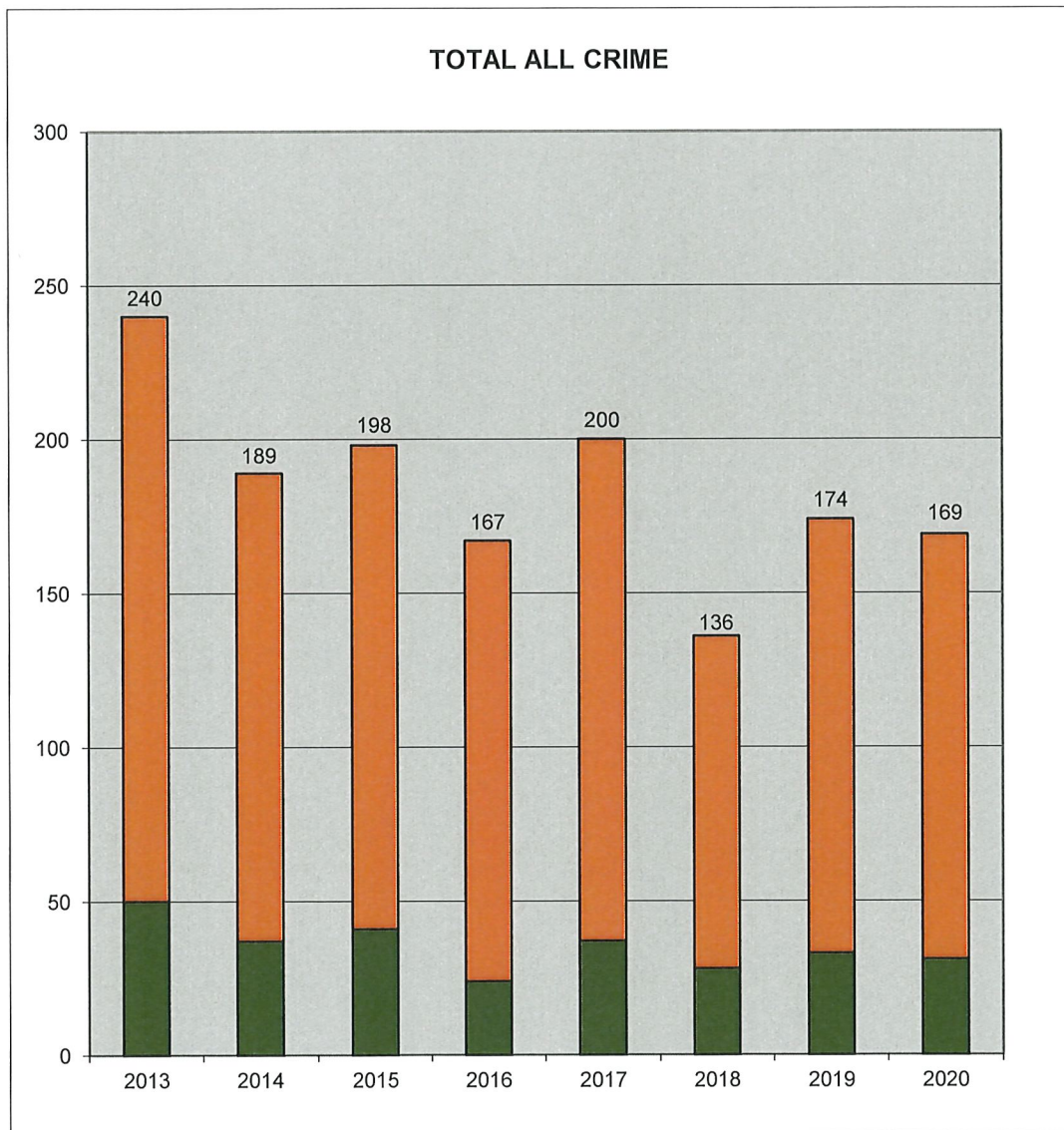
INDEX AND NON-INDEX CRIME								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TOTAL ALL CRIME	240	189	198	167	200	136	174	169

ARRESTS								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Drug Law Violations	46	31	42	27	38	20	6	5
Liquor Law Violations	39	26	15	22	15	6	4	0
O.W.I.	41	24	48	36	23	33	14	18
Other Traffic	78	75	72	109	84	46	57	36
Warrants	96	95	116	86	64	62	46	46
Other	29	21	23	16	18	36	32	40
TOTAL ARRESTS	329	272	316	296	242	203	159	145

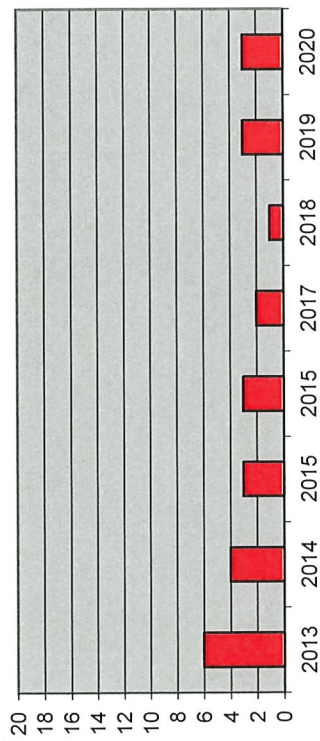
CRIME

BREAK DOWN OF INDEX AND NON-INDEX

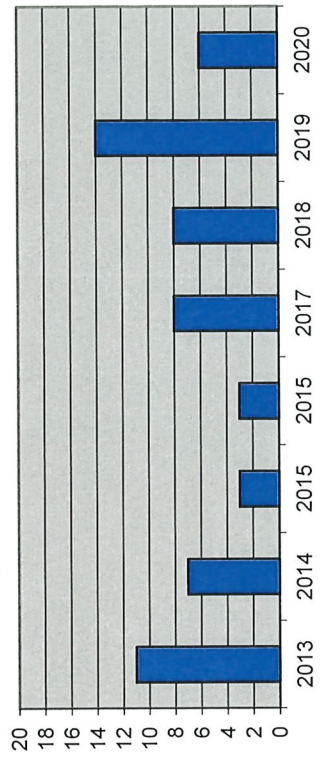
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Index Crime	50	37	41	24	37	28	33	31
Non-Index Crime	190	152	157	143	163	108	141	138
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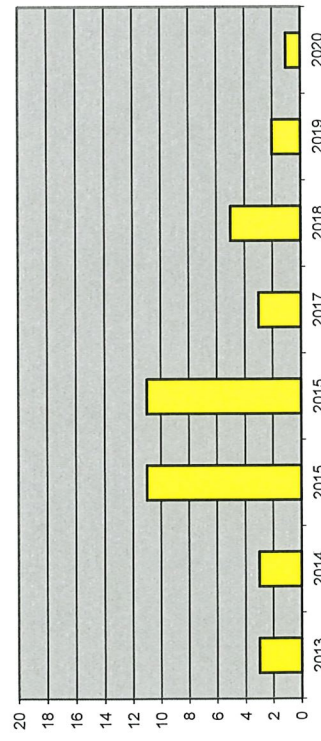
UDAA (Stolen Vehicle)



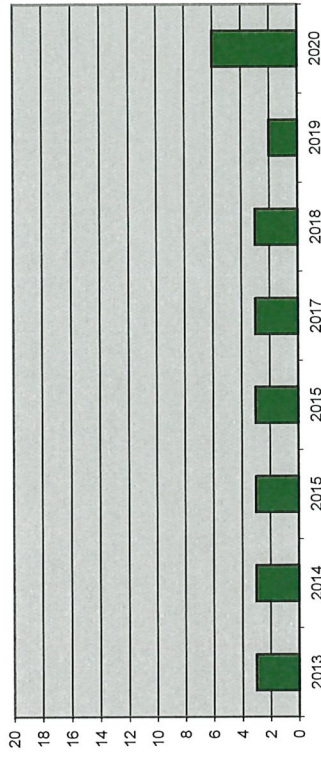
Criminal Sexual Conduct



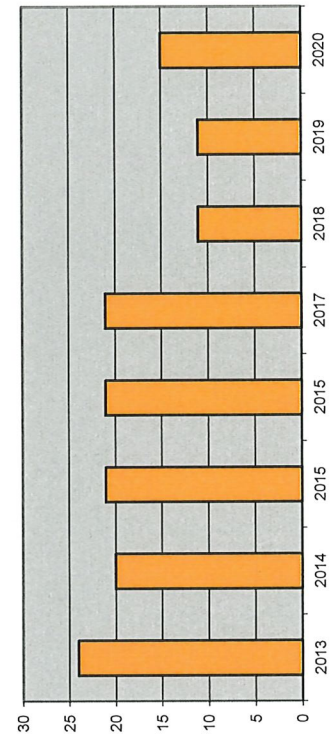
Larceny (Over \$1000)



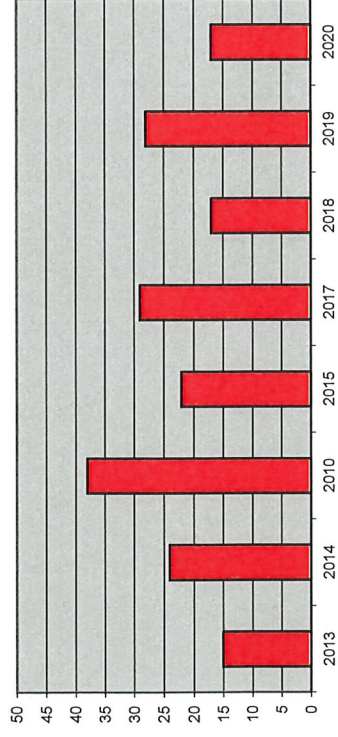
Assault (Aggravated)



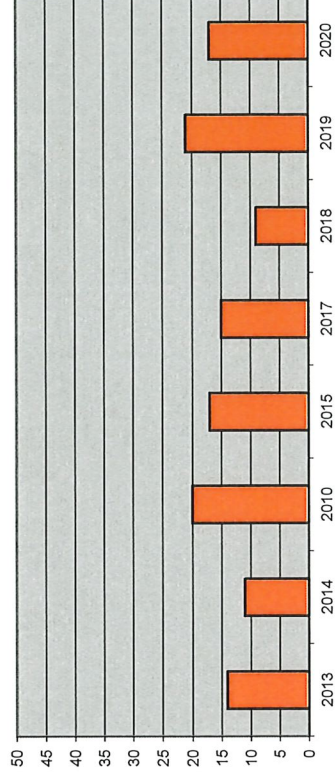
B&E (Burglary)



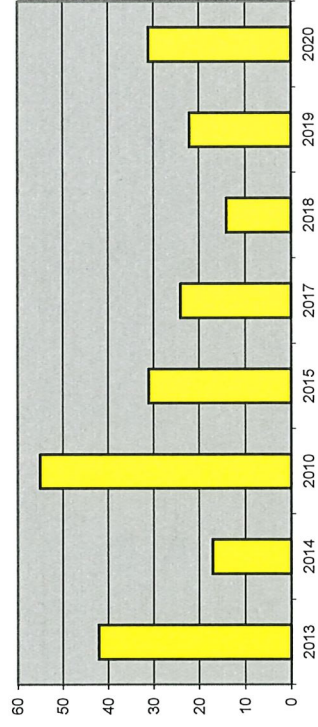
Family/Children Offenses



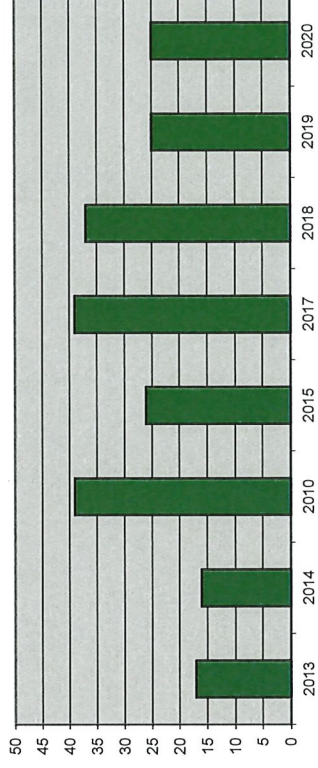
Disorderly Persons



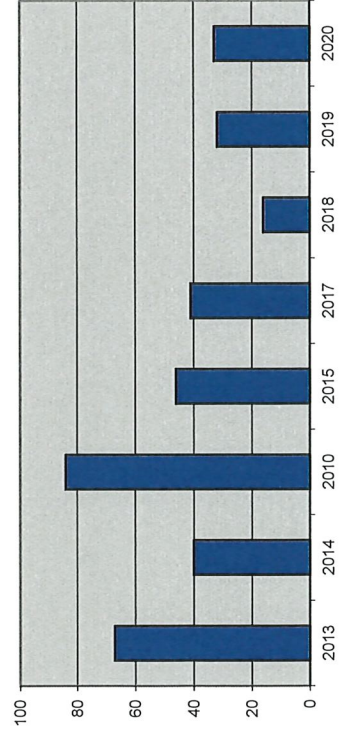
Malicious Destruction of Property



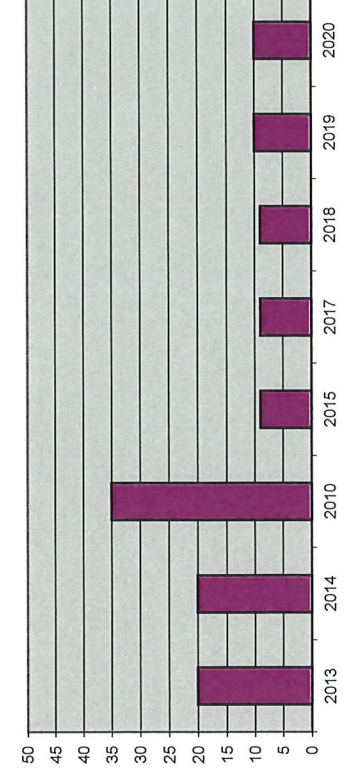
Fraud/Bad Checks/Forgery, etc.



Larceny U/\$1000 Non-Business



Assault (Simple)

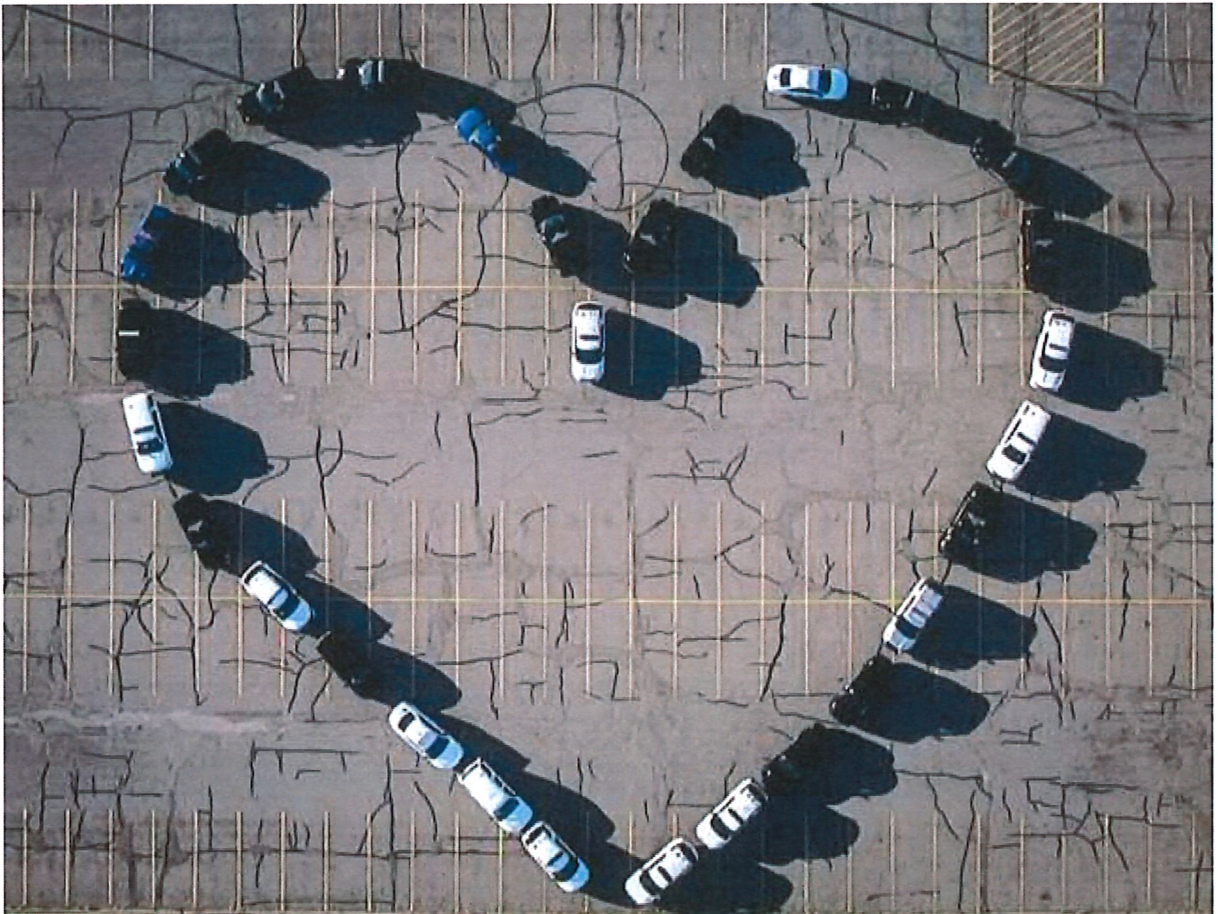


TRAFFIC

HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADWAYS?

Traffic number in terms of crashes actually went down in all areas including reductions in injury crashes from 20 to 13, property damage crashes from 103 to 92, private property crashes from 69 to 54 and total state reportable crashes from 123 to 105. Moving traffic violations did decrease presumably in relationship to decreased traffic volume with the stay-at-home orders in place. In support of that ideology, parking violations showed a notable increase.

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. Additionally, I and other officers have provided educational presentations to the high school students on distracted driving and other topics in hopes of increasing awareness and conversely overall safety on the roadways throughout the city.



ST. JOHNS POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAFFIC

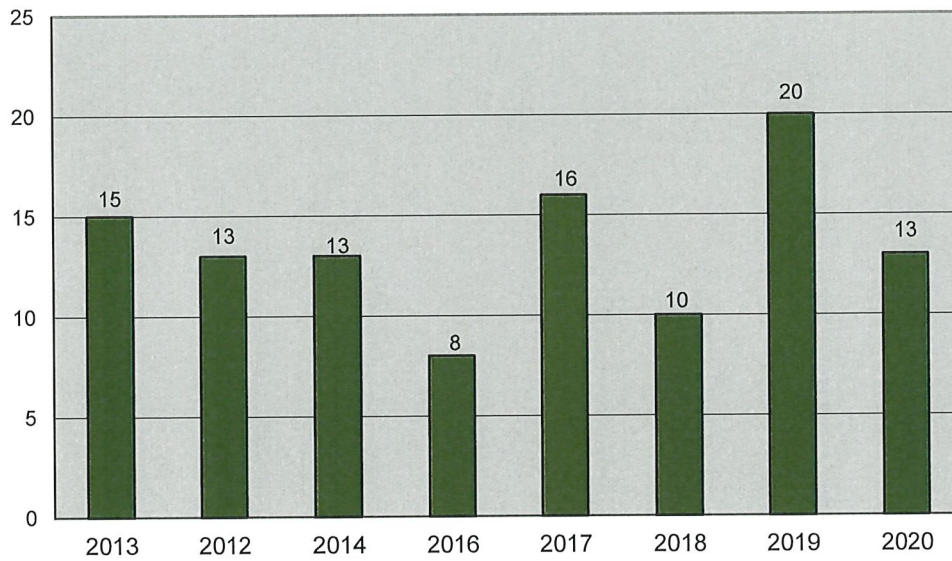
ACCIDENTS								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
**Property Damage Accidents	102	93	75	91	97	113	103	92
**Personal Injury Accidents	15	13	18	8	16	10	20	13
Total Roadway Accidents	117	106	93	99	113	123	123	105
Private Property Accidents	75	68	80	77	62	56	69	54

TRAFFIC CITATIONS								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Operating While Intoxicated	41	24	48	36	23	33	14	18
Drove While License Suspended	55	57	69	49	44	37	26	17
Reckless or Careless Driving	3	5	2	4	5	1	2	0
Speeding	197	244	179	191	139	90	102	80
Safety Belt Violations	38	48	49	53	73	32	32	13
Other Hazardous Violations	96	85	80	61	51	56	65	51
Other Non-Hazardous Violations	463	399	474	514	505	359	298	149
TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS	893	862	901	908	840	608	539	328

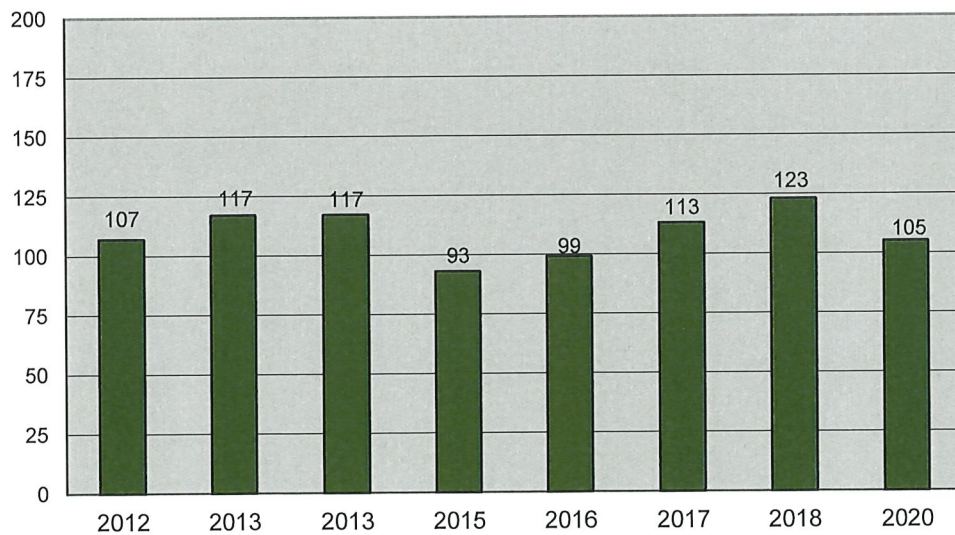
PARKING TICKETS								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Parking Violations (Patrol)	949	870	745	829	765	606	581	721
Overtime Parking Violations (Downtown)	137	92	148	122	57	111	26	0
TOTAL PARKING TICKETS	1,086	962	893	951	822	717	607	721



PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENTS



TOTAL ROADWAY ACCIDENTS



ST. JOHNS POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL SERVICE

PROVIDED TO THE CITIZENS OF ST. JOHNS

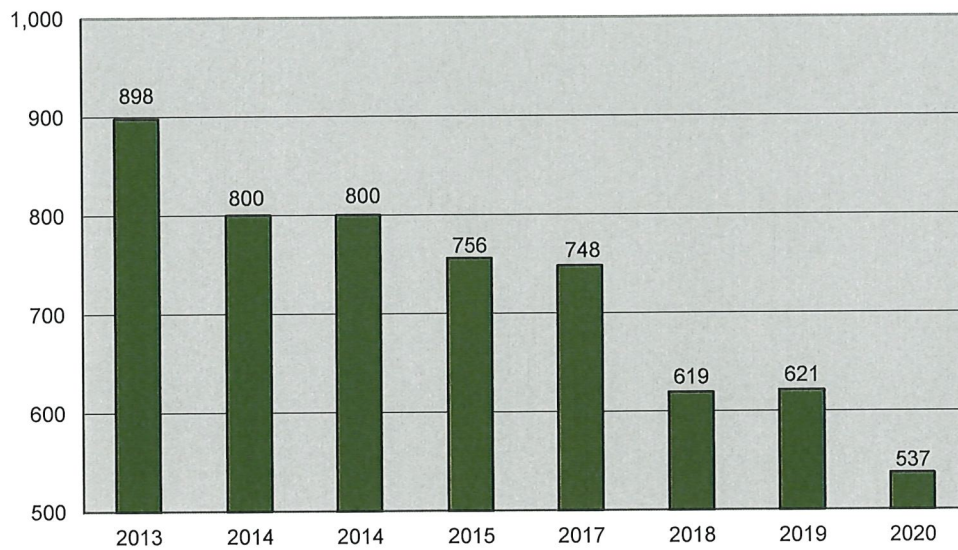
GENERAL SERVICES The St. Johns Police Department is one of the last full-service agencies. We are still able to provide our citizens with lockout assistance, funeral escorts and subpoena service. This service is provided while our dispatched calls continue to rise.

GENERAL SERVICE								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alarms(Business/Bank/Residential)	82	79	88	108	88	103	92	97
Funeral Escorts	53	49	59	63	64	67	59	60
Lockouts	329	289	273	281	256	240	236	164
Subpoenas Served	99	84	98	86	67	63	64	89

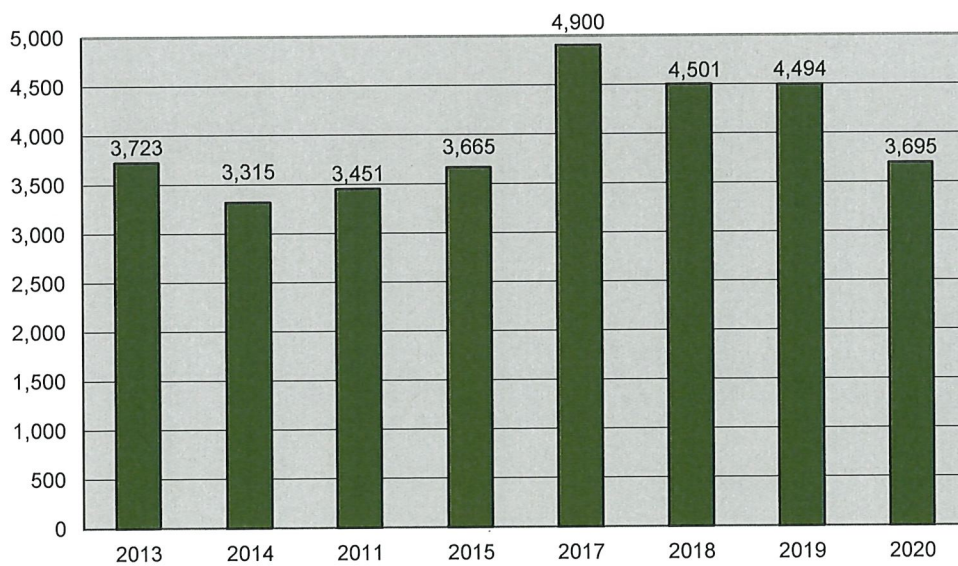
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Written Reports	898	800	756	734	748	619	621	537
Calls Dispatched	3,723	3,315	3,665	3,820	4,900	4,501	4,494	3,695
Revenues Received	\$16,878	\$14,352	\$24,360	\$33,982	\$29,980	\$32,768	\$31,228	\$28,513



WRITTEN REPORTS



CALLS DISPATCHED



GOALS

RESULT OF 2020 GOALS

GOAL: Complete implementation of the “Ring” Neighborhood Portal as part of the City Watch Crime Prevention Program.

RESULT: The Ring Portal was completed and successfully initiated. We have had a good response to request for videos and have also been able to effectively put out public information announcements as a result of the new service.

GOAL: Attempt to successfully secure a “COPS” hiring grant in an effort to increase staffing.

RESULT: Although we met the criteria, we unfortunately did not secure the COPS grant for an additional officer. We will continue to monitor grants opportunities and apply as they become available.

GOAL: Continue to seek out new opportunities to optimize the utilization of our new facility for engagement and partnerships with our community.

RESULT: Although we did have plans in place to utilize the facility in a variety of ways, COVID essentially removed that opportunity. We hope those initiatives will be able to resumed during 2021.

GOAL: Complete the transition of remaining department archived records from the DPW storage to our facility.

RESULT: We were able to move police department vital records out of storage at DPW facilities and now all police department records are secured in house consistent with record retention recommendations.

GOAL: Identify and schedule repair and maintenance needs for our facility (Preventative maintenance).

RESULT: We have been able to identify and implement maintenance for our new facility. We continue to occasionally uncover a new need as we occupy the space but have created sustainable operations and are maximizing the potential of the facility.

GOAL: Develop operational plans for anticipated increases in traffic and call for service volumes.


RESULT: We have initiated weekly patrol plans and altered schedules to have more interaction with staff across the board. The outcome has been effective communication of current operational needs and effective assignment of resources.

GOALS

GOALS SET FOR 2021

1. The Lexipol Policy Management System will be in process. It is hoped that the fully electronic policy and procedure program will be completed including daily training during 2021.
2. Assist the City at large in completing the additional phases of the security camera program.
3. Partner with the new Prosecuting Attorney and his staff to sponsor and provide legal update training at our facility.
4. As COVID restrictions allow, re-initiate community contacts and community-oriented law enforcement activities as part of our routine shifts.
5. Complete the transition to the new radio system and new radio equipment.

The True Cost of Maintaining the Thin Blue Line



Consistent with the incredibly oppressive tone of 2020, it is with great sadness that I report 315 police officers lost their lives in the line of duty in the United States. The leading cause of death in 2020 was COVID which claimed 197 lives followed by gunfire claiming 45 and motor vehicle crashes claiming 20. Please remember these officers and their families in your thoughts. We are committed to ensuring that we continue to evolve and seek the most contemporary and effective practices to minimize avoidable risks for our officers.

We at the St. Johns Police Department wish to thank you for your support and hope that 2021 is a year filled with continued success.