



HERMISTON
POLICE
DEPARTMENT
2021
ANNUAL REPORT

Honoring the 458 Line-of-Duty Deaths in 2021



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HERMISTON POLICE MISSION STATEMENT

Without fear or favor and in partnership with our diverse community, we will create and maintain a safe environment with the reduction of crime through problem-oriented and community-based policing strategies. The quality of life for those we serve takes precedent over our individual needs.

330 South 1st Street
Hermiston, Oregon 97838
Phone: (541) 567-5519

CITY OF HERMISTON VISION

The City of Hermiston aspires to support an excellent community. We strive to provide courageous leadership to create an inclusive community while providing an affordable, livable, and growing economy.

CITY OF HERMISTON VALUES

Strong Work Ethic
Inclusiveness
Integrity

Generosity
Excellence
People



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Jason Edmiston - Chief of Police



To the citizens we serve,

As your chief of police, I assume the responsibility of implementing policies and procedures consistent with observable best practices across the state and nation. I am lucky to have a dedicated staff of 28 full-time sworn officers and 10 (mostly volunteer) support positions. Of our full-time staff, 25% are bilingual meaning we can communicate with the majority of those we serve.

We were anxious and optimistic to see 2021 bring us out of the pandemic but that did not happen. Our department continued to experience some “life curveballs” with several long-term injuries and life-threatening illnesses adversely affecting our ability to provide the best service possible to those who have entrusted us. In what I can only describe as true professionalism, the women and men of this department came together and powered through the adversity. Many shifts during the year operated at minimum staffing levels, but everyone put their best foot forward and did the job.

Hermiston continues to be an amazing place to live and work as the community is very accepting of diversity and there are countless displays of compassion, generosity, and reluctance to accept the status quo. We are excited to see what 2022 has in store for us especially considering the population of Hermiston is just 304 people shy of 20,000.

I have a great deal of respect and adoration for our supportive citizens and for those people who visit our inclusive community. I feel deeply honored and blessed to serve this community as your chief of police.

Sincerely,

Jason Edmiston – Chief of Police
541-667-5107 direct line





DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATORS



Administration Captain Travis Eynon



Chief Jason Edmiston



Operations Captain Scott Clark



Lieutenant Randy Studebaker



Communications Manager
Amanda Hartsteen



Sergeant Robert Guerrero



Sergeant Chris Martin



Sergeant Bryan Maess

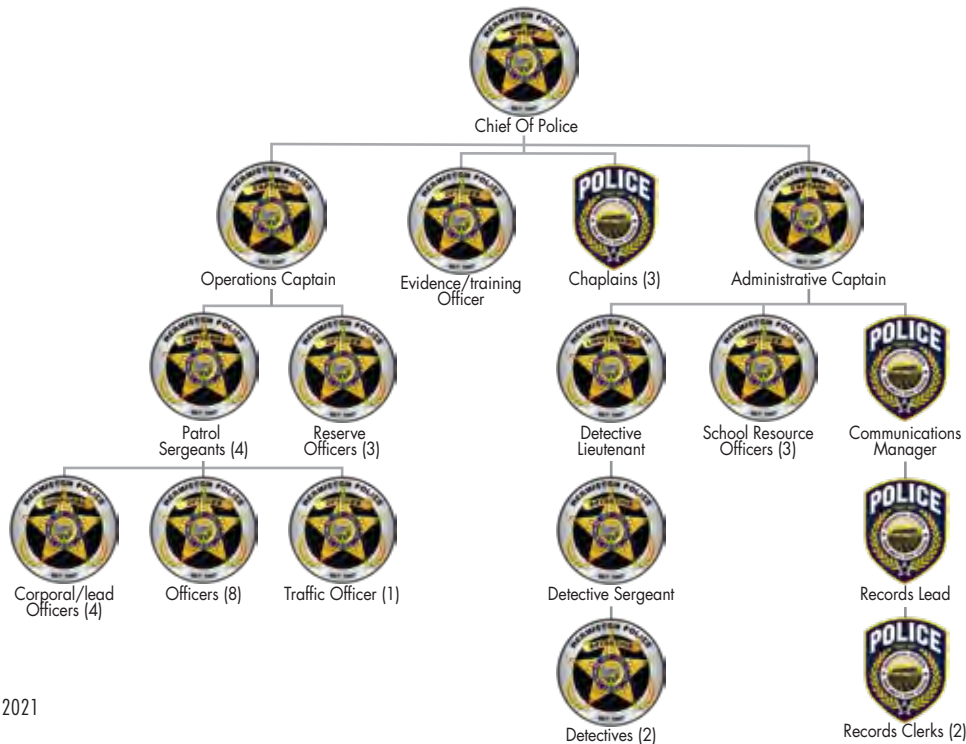


Sergeant Bill Osborne



Sergeant Leonard Stokoe

HERMISTON POLICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





OPERATIONS DIVISION

Captain Scott Clark

Patrol consists of four teams working 12-hour shifts. Each team has a sergeant responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the shift. The sergeant is also responsible for monitoring crime trends and specific public safety concerns. Additionally, the sergeant manages the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Hermiston Police Department. The sergeants report to the captain, who then reports directly to the chief of police.



Operations Division

In many police agencies across the United States, the Operations Division is often referred to as “the backbone” of the department. Officers within this division are the first line of response/defense in the struggle of managing public safety. Police officers must be ready to handle every situation they encounter with reasonable and sound judgment; often needing to be quick thinking, but even quicker with actions.

Police officers can enforce all state and local laws and are expected to properly and professionally handle any emergency and routine calls for service, traffic collisions, or criminal investigations. In a typical day of work, police officers will interact with the community, make public contacts, help solve problems and disputes, write reports, testify in court, and provide any assistance or information in the area of crime prevention.



In 2021, the Hermiston Police Department Operations Division was structured to consist of 18 sworn personnel, each of whom perform various functions within the agency. The structured breakdown of the Operations Division includes a captain, four patrol sergeants, four patrol corporals, eight patrol officers, and a traffic officer.

Outside of the basic patrol functions and responsibilities, the Operations Division has the following specialty programs:

- **Field Training**

The Hermiston Police Department has specifically trained members who can be utilized as Field Training Officers (FTO’s), in order to train new members in an established 14-week program called the Field Training Evaluation Program or F.T.E.P. for short. Six personnel (most of whom are currently FTO’s), also received training as Police Training Officers (PTO’s), should the department decide to transition to this very popular and widely used 15-week program, which focuses on coaching and mentoring the recruit’s learning style by developing problem-solving skills within a community-based policing environment, rather than just strictly evaluating them on their performance.

- **Special Events**

The Operations Division oversees and participates in numerous special events throughout the calendar year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and statewide government executive orders (regulating shutdowns and limiting social gatherings), many annual events were cancelled. In 2021, patrol officers assisted with the following: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Walk, Umatilla County Fair Parade, Umatilla County Fair Security, Greater Hermiston CityFest (Palau festival), Halloween (extra patrols), and numerous funeral escorts throughout the year.





OPERATIONS DIVISION

Grants/Agency Sponsored Programs

Over the last several years, the Hermiston Police Department has continually sought out alternative sources of funding and/or equipment to accomplish our mission in an effective and efficient manner. A total of \$39,170 was granted to/or received by the Hermiston Police Department in 2021; with utilization towards specific programs and training, or directed enforcement efforts for officers to work in an overtime capacity. HPD has had continued success in utilizing grants and other funding received throughout 2021, with the following major contributors deserving special mention: Oregon Impact High Visibility Enforcement/ Impaired Driving Grant (\$2,000), Oregon Impact Distracted Driving Grant (\$4,000), Oregon Department of Transportation Speed Grant (\$3,000), Umatilla Commission on Children and Families Community Accountability Board (CAB) Grant (\$5,000), Rotary International Club, Kiwanis International Club, and numerous individual/business community partners for Christmas Express totaling (\$25,170).

Directed Patrol Requests/Vacation House Check

In an attempt to be as receptive as possible to the wants and needs of our community, the Hermiston Police Department offers Directed Patrol Requests and Vacation House Checks. Directed Patrol Requests address specific complaints regarding traffic, suspicious and/or criminal related issues. Throughout a 2-week (minimum) period, officers direct their patrol efforts and document those efforts regarding a specified area of concern. Officers completed (46) Directed Patrol requests in 2021. Vacation House Checks can be requested by a Hermiston resident if they will be out of town for a protracted period of time. A request form regarding the residence, the reason for the absence and any personal/responsible contact information, is completed for our officers to check on during the specified period the resident will be gone. In 2021, officers facilitated (35) Vacation House Checks.

Traffic Unit

The Hermiston Police Department's commitment to improving traffic safety is founded on the "Three E's" of traffic safety: Enforcement, Education and Engineering, and we must tackle and evaluate each of these components individually. (Generally, we 'the Police' can have an impact on two of the three E's (Enforcement and Education), and may participate in Engineering talks; but this is very rare and we leave the Engineering aspect to the professionals who specialize in that field.) While every patrol officer is responsible for enforcing (both) criminal and traffic regulations throughout their patrol operations, the Hermiston Police Department takes that directive seriously by dedicating a full-time officer to the task. The Traffic Unit position not only investigates the scenes of traffic collisions, but is highly committed to the enforcement of specific traffic laws (e.g., speeding, distracted driving, traffic control device violations and impaired driving), which contribute to increased traffic collisions, and can result in serious physical injury or death. With the help of the community, we will continue to seek ways to improve traffic safety, by utilizing the "Three E's" mentioned above.





ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Captain Travis Eynon

The Administrative Services Division (ASD) is distinctly different than the Operations Division. The ASD is made up of both sworn and non-sworn staff. Records, Investigations, and School Resource Officers are specific sections within the ASD.

Most officers assigned to the ASD usually have the luxury of time to methodically work their assignments. This is a much different dynamic than officers assigned to the Operations Division. On the other hand, arduous investigations, strategic planning, analysis, presentations, collaboration and facilitating meetings are a large part of the work the officers and other employees within the ASD do.

As is often the case, we have had some changes within the ASD this year. In April, Lieutenant Randy Studebaker was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He had surgery in May and has been out since that time recovering. In the Interim, Detective Robert Guerrero was promoted to Detective Sergeant and has been supervising the Investigations section.

Detective Freddy Sotelo was scheduled to deploy to the Middle East with the Army National Guard. He was sent to training in September in preparation for that deployment. He was unfortunately injured during that training and has been unable to work since that time. He is recovering from his injury and will be expected to be out of work for at least several months in 2022.

In the year 2021, the Hermiston Police Department Administrative Services Division was made up of the following: (1) Captain, (1) Investigations Lieutenant, (1) Detective Sergeant (2) Detectives, (3) School Resource Officers, (1) Communications Manager, and (3) Police Records Specialists.



Lieutenant Randy Studebaker, surrounded by fellow Police, Fire/EMS, Elected Officials and countless friends and family, prepares to leave for his surgery.



INVESTIGATIONS

The detective division of the Hermiston Police Department falls under Administrative Services, and works in support of the patrol division. The lieutenant assigns cases to the detectives that require specialized, extensive, or out-of-the-area follow-up investigation, regional major crimes team activities, follow-up investigations in the local area for crimes committed outside of Hermiston, and other cases as deemed appropriate.

Detectives also work in cooperation with other agencies including local, state and federal law enforcement, as well as non-law enforcement entities such as the Department of Human Services Child Welfare and Adult Protective Services. Some of the investigations assigned can span for months to years.



Lieutenant
Randy Studebaker



Sergeant
Robert Guerrero



Detective
Victor Gutierrez



Detective
Freddy Sotelo

Lieutenant Randy Studebaker

Lieutenant Studebaker's career began with the military police in 1997. He's held several positions since then including special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, deputy sheriff, canine handler, patrol sergeant, and detective. In addition to serving as the detective supervisor, he conducts arson investigations in partnership with Umatilla County Fire District 1. He's also responsible for various administrative tasks, such as applicant background investigations, on-call supervisor, and he is one of the department social media administrators. He has additional duties as a deputy medical examiner and crisis/hostage negotiator.

Sergeant Robert Guerrero

Detective Guerrero is assigned to the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team and he assists our other detectives on major cases. Detective Guerrero has almost 20 years of law enforcement experience. He was hired by the Hermiston Police Department in 2014, after previously serving with the Umatilla Tribal and Milton-Freewater Police Departments. At those agencies he held assignments as a patrol officer, K9 handler, narcotics detective, major crimes detective, and detective sergeant. Detective Guerrero is a US Army veteran.

Detective Victor Gutierrez

Detective Gutierrez started as a reserve officer with the Boardman Police Department in 1996, and he was hired as a full-time officer three years later. He started with the Hermiston Police Department in 2004. He was assigned to the detective division section in 2017. His past assignments were patrol officer, motorcycle/traffic officer, gang officer, and drug recognition expert. He has an additional duty of being a deputy medical examiner. Detective Gutierrez is a military veteran, having previously served in the Oregon Army National Guard.

Detective Freddy Sotelo

Detective Sotelo became a reserve officer with the Hermiston Police Department in 2010, and he was hired as a full-time police officer in 2012. He began as a patrol officer and was assigned as to the detective division in 2016. He has an additional duty as a member of the regional, multi-agency SWAT team. He is also a sergeant first class in the Oregon Army National Guard, where he's served for 18 years.

In 2021, the detective division handled, or assisted with, several types of investigations, including but not limited to the following:

- Homicide
- Armed Robbery
- Sexual Assault
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Child Physical Abuse
- Online Sexual Exploitation
- Human Trafficking
- Complex financial crimes including embezzlement, fraud, and forgery
- Cases which required forensic interviews or polygraph examinations
- Residential and commercial burglaries



SIGNIFICANT CASES IN 2021

Major Crime Team Activities

Detectives assisted regional agencies with major investigations throughout the region.

Homicide/Suspicious Deaths

In December of 2021, the body of Kevin Hines was found in the parking lot of a local convenience store in Hermiston. Through investigation by HPD detectives and partner agencies, we learned he was killed after a disagreement with an associate. Due to quick and thorough investigation, we were able to identify the suspected shooter, and make an arrest within hours of the incident. The case has been presented to the Umatilla County District Attorney's office and is pending trial.

Child Abuse/Neglect:

Under Oregon law, child protective services are required to report all suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect to law enforcement, and vice versa. The vast majority of these complaints are unfounded or not criminal in nature, however, it is absolutely crucial that each report be reviewed and investigated accordingly to ensure the safety of children and determine if a crime has been committed. Detectives handled several child physical abuse investigations in 2021, to include an investigation into the serious parental abuse of a one-year-old child. This investigation is on-going.

Sexual Crimes:

At any given time, detectives have many open investigations involving sexual offenses. In the vast majority of these cases the suspect and victim know each other. Many of the cases are reported long after the crime was committed and physical evidence is gone, so they require extensive interviews and other investigative techniques. In 2021, detectives successfully resolved several significant cases, some involving multiple victims, which led to successful prosecutions.

Violent Crimes

Detectives investigated, and continue to investigate, violent crimes that occur in Hermiston and throughout our region, in partnership with the primary jurisdiction.

In January, 2021, detectives investigated the shooting and robbery of a Hermiston man, by an acquaintance of the victim. The investigation led to the apprehension, conviction and incarceration of the suspect with the Oregon Department of Corrections.

In February of 2021, officers and detectives of the Hermiston Police Department responded to a residence within the city for a report of an attempted murder. The victim was found to be related to the alleged suspect who was arrested shortly after police response. The suspect is currently in custody awaiting trial for numerous offenses.

In December of 2021, officers and detectives responded to a report of an armed robbery in progress at Umpqua Bank. While responding, the alleged suspect was observed fleeing the area, resulting in a short vehicle pursuit, and ending with the suspect's apprehension. Further investigation showed the suspect was responsible for the theft of a significant amount of US Currency, the majority of which was recovered during the investigation and through the execution of a search warrant. The alleged suspect, a repeat offender, is being held and awaiting federal trial.

Missing Person

In January of 2021, detectives began assisting the Morrow County Sheriff's Office on the disappearance of Marco Sandoval. Mr. Sandoval was last seen in Irrigon, Oregon, and investigators continue to follow leads as they become available.

In August of 2021, detectives responded to assist patrol with a report of a missing senior citizen. After extensive canvassing of the area and foot searches, detectives located the missing person on a nearby property where he had fallen and was unable to move. The man was subsequently treated for exposure and safely returned to his family.

Our detectives, assisted by the Oregon State Police and the FBI, continue to spend a significant amount of time and resources investigating the disappearance of Graciela Garcia. The circumstances are suspicious but we still do not know what happened to Ms. Garcia. We are still diligently following leads in this case as they become available.

Commercial Burglary

In May of 2021, detectives investigated the burglary of a local business during which nearly \$4000 worth of property was stolen and/or damaged. The investigation led to the identification of two suspects, and the recovery of almost all of the missing property, as well as over \$1500 worth of property stolen from a location outside the City of Hermiston. The primary suspect was apprehended and convicted and is currently serving time with the Oregon Department of Corrections.



HPD STATISTICS

CRIME STATISTICS

| Incident Type | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Avg | Normal Range | 2021 | % Change Avg-'21 | % Change '20-'21 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Homicide | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0-2 | 3* | 200% | 0% |
| Rape | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 3-7 | 6 | 20% | -25% |
| Robbery | 8 | 7 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 6-9 | 14 | 100% | 75% |
| Aggravated Assault | 12 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 22 | 36 | 30 | 34 | 19 | 20 | 13-26 | 27 | 35% | 42% |
| Burglary | 124 | 95 | 75 | 53 | 59 | 59 | 84 | 66 | 58 | 75 | 65-85 | 68 | -9% | 17% |
| Larceny | 563 | 617 | 388 | 413 | 395 | 412 | 471 | 460 | 357 | 453 | 411-495 | 414 | -9% | 16% |
| Auto Theft | 59 | 72 | 34 | 36 | 27 | 41 | 42 | 31 | 35 | 42 | 36-48 | 38 | -10% | 9% |
| Arson | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1-4 | 2 | 0% | -60% |
| TOTAL | 775 | 801 | 523 | 524 | 515 | 560 | 644 | 604 | 493 | 604 | 549-660 | 572 | -5% | 16% |
| TOTAL VIOLENT | 25 | 16 | 24 | 21 | 34 | 46 | 44 | 45 | 38 | 33 | 28-37 | 50 | 52% | 32% |
| TOTAL PROPERTY | 750 | 785 | 499 | 503 | 481 | 514 | 600 | 559 | 455 | 572 | 519-624 | 522 | -9% | 15% |
| POPULATION | 16995 | 17240 | 17345 | 17520 | 17730 | 17985 | 18200 | 18415 | 18775 | | | 19696 | | |

* (2) of the (3) Homicide cases were Attempted Murder not actual Murder

Hermiston Police Department 2012-2021 Crime Stats
10 Year Trends

PATROL STATISTICS

| Incident Type | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Avg | Normal Range | 2021 | % Change Avg-'21 | % Change '20-'21 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Incidents | 24690 | 24218 | 23100 | 23238 | 21697 | 23002 | 21408 | 22708 | 21480 | 22838 | 22174-23501 | 21660 | -5% | 1% |
| Calls for Service | 14990 | 14953 | 12130 | 10032 | 10070 | 10850 | 11267 | 11558 | 10549 | 11822 | 11298-12346 | 11318 | -4% | 7% |
| Officer Initiated Activity | 9700 | 9265 | 10970 | 13206 | 11627 | 12152 | 10141 | 11150 | 10931 | 11016 | 10340-11692 | 10342 | -6% | -5% |
| Traffic Stops | 4776 | 4840 | 5236 | 6595 | 5747 | 5346 | 4103 | 5576 | 4958 | 5242 | 4657-5827 | 5025 | -4% | 1% |
| Case Investigations | 2762 | 2626 | 2888 | 3160 | 3000 | 3194 | 3263 | 3098 | 2436 | 2936 | 2642-3231 | 2704 | -8% | 11% |
| Total Arrests | 1321 | 1359 | 1274 | 1348 | 1281 | 1295 | 1205 | 1249 | 809 | 1238 | 1056-1420 | 865 | -30% | 7% |
| Misdemeanor Arrests | 899 | 936 | 886 | 1029 | 964 | 878 | 852 | 910 | 550 | 878 | 733-1024 | 629 | -28% | 14% |
| Felony Arrests | 422 | 423 | 388 | 319 | 317 | 417 | 353 | 339 | 259 | 360 | 308-411 | 236 | -34% | -9% |
| Total Citations | 5988 | 5582 | 6057 | 6784 | 5710 | 6535 | 5122 | 6593 | 4392 | 5863 | 5022-6703 | 4367 | -26% | -1% |
| POPULATION | 16995 | 17240 | 17345 | 17520 | 17730 | 17985 | 18200 | 18415 | 18775 | | | 19696 | | |

Hermiston Police Department 2012-2021 Patrol Stats
10 Year Trends



CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

In 2011, a chaplain program was established at the Hermiston Police Department. The Hermiston Police Department Chaplain Program is a non-denominational, ecumenical ministry established for the purposes of providing spiritual and emotional support to all members of the department, their families and members of the public. The chaplains in the program are volunteer clergy and participate without financial compensation.



Chaplain
Hector Ramirez



Chaplain
Terry Cummings



Chaplain
Aaron Johnson

CHAPLAIN PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Hermiston Police Department Chaplain Program (HPDCP) shall exist to provide biblically-based chaplain services, both personal and professional, to all law enforcement and emergency services personnel and their families within Hermiston. HPDCP is not a church. This is a Christian ministry that exalts the Lord Jesus Christ and is not in the business of seeking converts to any particular church group or denomination. HPDCP is non-denominational in emphasis, providing unrestricted service regardless of personal faith or beliefs.

It is our mission, while in contact with the community, to care for the troubles of those who have endured loss, been victimized by the events and tragedy that have left them abandoned, helpless, and without hope. We provide professional training for our chaplains and consistent care and counseling for our officers. A healthy officer is identified by a healthy community.

The chaplains provide a support for the officers in-house either by counseling, prayer, one-on-one meetings or just their presence. They assist officers (and other first responders) with call-outs for death notifications, support for victims of crime, they ride along with officers on shift, as well as, participate in different trainings. In addition to assisting officers within the department, our chaplains participate in city events and other safety-oriented community groups. In 2021, our chaplains collectively completed a total of 1,277 hours, which were accrued either in house or attached to day to day incidents. In addition to those hours, the chaplains participated in 17 hours of community related activities, bringing the grand total hours worked by our chaplains to 1,294 hours. Their assistance and presence has repeatedly made a difference in the Hermiston Police Department and the City of Hermiston.





SERVICES COORDINATOR

Chaplain / Services Coordinator Terry Cummings

In 2014, the Hermiston Police Department developed the position of a Services Coordinator to coordinate chaplain services and the new mentorship program called, "It's Just Dinner" (IJD). IJD is a program that assigns juveniles from the Hermiston Community Accountability Board (CAB) to be paired with a set of volunteer mentors from the Hermiston community. These at-risk teenagers who are assigned to IJD and their paired mentors, meet at a local restaurant for the dinner to acquaint themselves with each other. The mentor couple does their best to build a relationship with that teen by being positive role models and giving guidance and direction in different areas of their lives. The goal is to provide the family AND the juvenile another resource for guidance. The dinner and costs is provided by the City of Hermiston.

The Services Coordinator also tracks and maintains records of the approved mentor couples and the activity of those actively assigned. In 2021 Chaplain Terry Cummings functioned as a part-time contracted employee, working also with the CAB and "It's Just Dinner" programs.

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

The Hermiston Community Accountability Board (CAB) began in September of 2008, holding its first Board meeting in October of 2008. The Hermiston CAB creation began as a result of several conversations between the Hermiston Police Department, the Hermiston School District, and the Youth Violence Roundtable group. The CAB was put in place to process first time juvenile offenders with minor violations and some misdemeanors, adjudicate their cases, and offer a variety of sanctions. The Board's job is to interview the offender, review the case, and determine reasonable requirements which the community can expect of the offender as consequences for irresponsible behavior. These requirements may include community service hours, report writing, topic research, restitutions, and counseling. One of the goals of the Board is to impress on the offender the connection between their behavior and the effects it has upon the community and themselves.

The Board is made up of five members, with a minimum of three members present in order to operate. The Board is guided by Hermiston School Resource Officer Betty Nava. The Board is comprised of:

- Two members representing the Hermiston School District
- Two members representing the Hermiston City Council
- One citizen (at large) of Hermiston

Through this program, the juvenile will be held accountable for their criminal actions, by imposing swift and appropriate consequences. It allows the parent/guardian(s) to share responsibility in the minor's actions. The counseling helps the juveniles and their families find solid healthy solutions to everyday problems.





RECORDS DEPARTMENT

Amanda Hartsteen
Tracy Johnson | Liliana Gomez | Shannon Robinson

Our records department consists of three records personnel and a communications manager. The records department staff maintains records and other associated duties for the police department in addition to helping citizens who visit the police department's public lobby. The public lobby hours of operation are 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

2021 RECORDS PROCESSED

1816 RIMS CAD incidents. This includes phone calls made directly to our records personnel and lobby walk-ins.

- 2020 = 1637

4603 requests for information. This does not include requests from the District Attorney's Office or City Prosecutor.

- Open Records Requests = 891
- Other Agency Requests = 3629
- Local Background Checks = 83

- 2020 Total Requests = 3797

- Open Records Requests = 671
- Other Agency Requests = 4690
- Local Background Checks = 93

1243 case reports were sent to the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office (to include the juvenile department) or City Prosecutor for prosecution.

- 2020 = 1142

108 non-criminal fingerprinting appointments

- As of July 2021, we resumed non-criminal fingerprinting while adhering to COVID-19 office protocols.

- 2020 = 59

98 registered sex offenders

- Due to COVID-19 registrations can be handled over the phone per guidance from the Oregon State Police Sex Offender Unit or conducted in-person.

- 2020 = 98

773 subpoena notices for officers to appear in court

- 2020 = 785

4367 citations entered

- 2020 = 4392

104 rental property incident cards disseminated to property owners

- 2020 = 117





SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



Officer Carlos Balli



Officer Betty Nava



Officer Derrick Williams

School resumed during the last quarter of the 2020/2021 school year so our School Resource Officers (SRO's) were able to get back into the schools and interact with students. Getting back to school has been an adjustment for the SRO's as well as staff & students.

Assignments

SRO Carlos Balli is primarily assigned to the five (5) elementary schools. He does still occasionally assist and/or cover at the middle schools and high school. The Elementary SRO is tasked with being visible and proactive at the K-5 level where he cultivates healthy, positive interaction(s) with our youth. The Elementary SRO assists each school principal as needed, he will participate in meetings with staff and parents, participate in lockdown/lockout drills, fire drills, address traffic and safety issues at each school, he will spend time with students in groups and one on one. The elementary SRO is often the first officer involved in a report of abuse, neglect or mistreatment of a child. He will assist with truancy issues where needed.

SRO Betty Nava is primarily assigned to the two middle schools (Armand Larive and Sandstone). She does still occasionally assist and/or cover at the elementary schools and high school. The middle school SRO assists each school principal as needed, she will participate in meetings with staff and parents, participate in lockdown/lockout drills, fire drills, address traffic and safety issues at each school, she will spend time with students in groups and one on one. She will assist with truancy issues where needed and will continue to facilitate the Community Accountability Board (CAB).

SRO Derrick Williams is primarily assigned to the high school. This assignment has been a bit more reactive in the past. This was due in part to the call load coming from the High school and the two middle schools. Now that the middle schools are separate, we are hoping to return to a more proactive and outreach kind of position. In addition to his normal law enforcement responsibilities in the schools, The High School SRO participates in lockdown/lockout drills, fire drills, works with school administrators on enforcing truancy laws, attends staff and parent meetings, attends sporting events and as time allows teaches or presents on safety topics.

All three SRO's will be focused on building trusting and lasting relationships with the students they serve. The Hermiston Police Department is extremely grateful for the incredible relationship we have with the Hermiston School District.





DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Corporal Tim Mears

Hermiston Police Department personnel attended 4579.5 hours of training during the 2021 year (the hours listed does not include instructor training hours). These training hours listed include training completed by the Hermiston Police Department Supervisors, Police Officers, Reserve Police Officers, Records Clerks and Department Chaplains. It also includes the employees in special assignments, and inactive or retired employees.





HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER

COMMAND

Chief Jason Edmiston
Captain Scott Clark
Captain Travis Eynon
Lieutenant Randy Studebaker

SUPERVISORY

Sergeant Bryan Maess
Sergeant Leonard Stokoe
Sergeant Chris Martin
Sergeant Billy Osborne
Sergeant Robert Guerrero
Comm. Manager Amanda Hartsteen

PATROL LEADERSHIP

Corporal Riley Studebaker
Corporal Jarrod Flatau
Corporal William Golter
Corporal Erica Sandoval

PATROL

Officer Nick Wallis
Officer Christian Jackson
Officer Rod Vega
Officer Kieron Carlson
Officer Doug Gill
Officer Mario Cobian
Officer Will Jons

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Officer Betty Nava
Officer Derrick Williams
Officer Carlos Balli

INVESTIGATIONS

Detective Victor Gutierrez
Detective Freddy Sotelo

ADMINISTRATION/TRAINING/EVIDENCE

Corporal Tim Miears

RECORDS

Police Records Specialist Tracy Johnson
Police Records Specialist Liliana Gomez
Police Records Specialist Shannon Robinson

2021 HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT RESERVE PROGRAM

The reserves are community volunteers that donate their personal time to the department to assist us as volunteer police officers. They are extremely valuable to the department in that they are able to augment the department for special events, community events, school events, prisoner transport and assist by riding with patrol officers as a secondary unit. The reserve officers also provide the department with a pool of personnel from which to recruit full-time officers. The program also provides persons considering a law enforcement career with an opportunity to gain first hand experience as a police officer.



Reserve Officer
Scott Wrightson



Corporal
Officer Tim Miears



Reserve Officer
Rob Schaefer



HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 2022 GOALS

Customer Service

Provide efficient and effective police services consistent with the vision and values of our community. Serve as ambassadors of the city of Hermiston with an increased presence of employees at city meetings and functions. Place an emphasis on service delivery to our customers through the establishment of observable, measurable, targeted, and specific performance objectives for each employee of the department.

Predictive Policing Strategies

The department will utilize any policing strategy or tactic that develops and uses information and advanced analysis or technology to inform forward-thinking crime prevention. This includes the utilization of available intelligence/data and deployment of resources implementing a zero-tolerance stance for all incidents involving elements of criminal activity in a timely and targeted fashion specific to each shift or assignment. The continual nurturing of existing healthy partnerships will be critical.

Address Traffic Issues

Provide for a structured approach in dealing with the traffic-related issues experienced in the city by utilizing engineering, education, and enforcement strategies in dealing with these problems. Targeted enforcement of traffic along the Highway 395 corridor will be the priority of patrol.

Livability Issues

Focus on those issues which impact the livability of the citizens we serve will be a high priority. This includes noise complaints, animal complaints, controlled substance enforcement, and all code issues including areas of blight consistent with the Broken Windows Theory of policing.





NEWLY WELCOMED MEMBERS OF OUR HPD TEAM



Officer
Christian Jackson
Hire Date



Officer
Kieron Carlson
Hire Date

RETIRED MEMBERS

After 30+ years in law enforcement (the last 11 years with the Hermiston Police Department), Sergeant Kelly Parsons retired on March 31st, 2021. Sergeant Parsons was a valuable member of our team and we are grateful for his many years of dedicated service.





2021 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Our 2021 National Night Out was a huge success and enjoyed more than ever after missing it in 2020. Community members, HPD personnel and city officials had great fun with the neighborhood barbeques and getting to know each other in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. As always, the department side-by-side was a highlight with all the kids. This year's scavenger hunt medallion was found by the Ince family.





53rd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EXPRESS

Started in 1969, the Hermiston Police Department Christmas Express Program has evolved into a community-wide effort where tens of thousands of dollars are donated in the form of cash, gifts, produce, equipment, and volunteer hours. Each year the program serves up to 500 identified families in need in the Hermiston area. This year the program received \$25,170 in cash contributions and nearly 35,000 canned goods from Hermiston school-age students.





WHY SO SERIOUS?





SPECIAL THANKS



The officers and staff of the Hermiston Police Department would like to express heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the opportunity and privilege to serve Hermiston and its citizens. None of which would be possible without the continued support and encouragement of the following people:

Hermiston Mayor: David Drotzmann
City Manager: Byron Smith
Council President: Doug Primmer

Council Members:
Roy Barron
Lori Davis
Maria Duron

Ron S. Hardin
Jackie C. Myers
Nancy Peterson
Phillip Spicerkuhn

This annual report is dedicated to the memory of the United States' 458 federal, state, county, tribal, territorial, university and local law enforcement officers who died in the line-of-duty in 2021. 2021 was the deadliest year for law enforcement in U.S. history.



**DEDICATED TO
A STRONG
COMMUNITY
SINCE 1907**

**HERMISTON
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

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Hermiston, Oregon 97838

Phone: (541) 567-5519

Honoring the 450th Line of Duty Dec 1904/2024

