



2023
ANNUAL REPORT

HERMISTON
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Hermiston Police Mission Statement	1
City of Hermiston Vision Statement	1
City of Hermiston Values	1
Message from Hermiston Police Chief Edmiston	2
Administrators/Supervisors	3
HPD Organizational Chart	3
Operations Division	4-5
Administrative Division	6
Investigations	7-8
Crime/Patrol Statistics (graphs)	9
Chaplain Program	10
Services Coordinator	11
Community Accountability Board	11
Records Department	12
School Resource Officers	13
Department Training	14
HPD Roster	15
Newly Welcomed Members	16
Faith & First Responders.....	17
National Night Out	18
Christmas Express	19
Why So Serious	20
HPD 2024 Goals/Appreciation/Thank you	





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.

CITY OF HERMISTON VISION

A COMMUNITY WHERE FRIENDLINESS AND OPPORTUNITY ABOUND
Welcome to Hermiston. Where life is sweet and our future is sweeter.

In 2040, Hermiston is a community where everyone is welcome - whether you're visiting or looking for a place to call home, we provide a safe, beautiful, and close-knit community where neighbors help one another, and friendliness and opportunity abound. From a booming economy to recreational amenities, we have big city services rooted in small-town values.

CITY OF HERMISTON VALUES

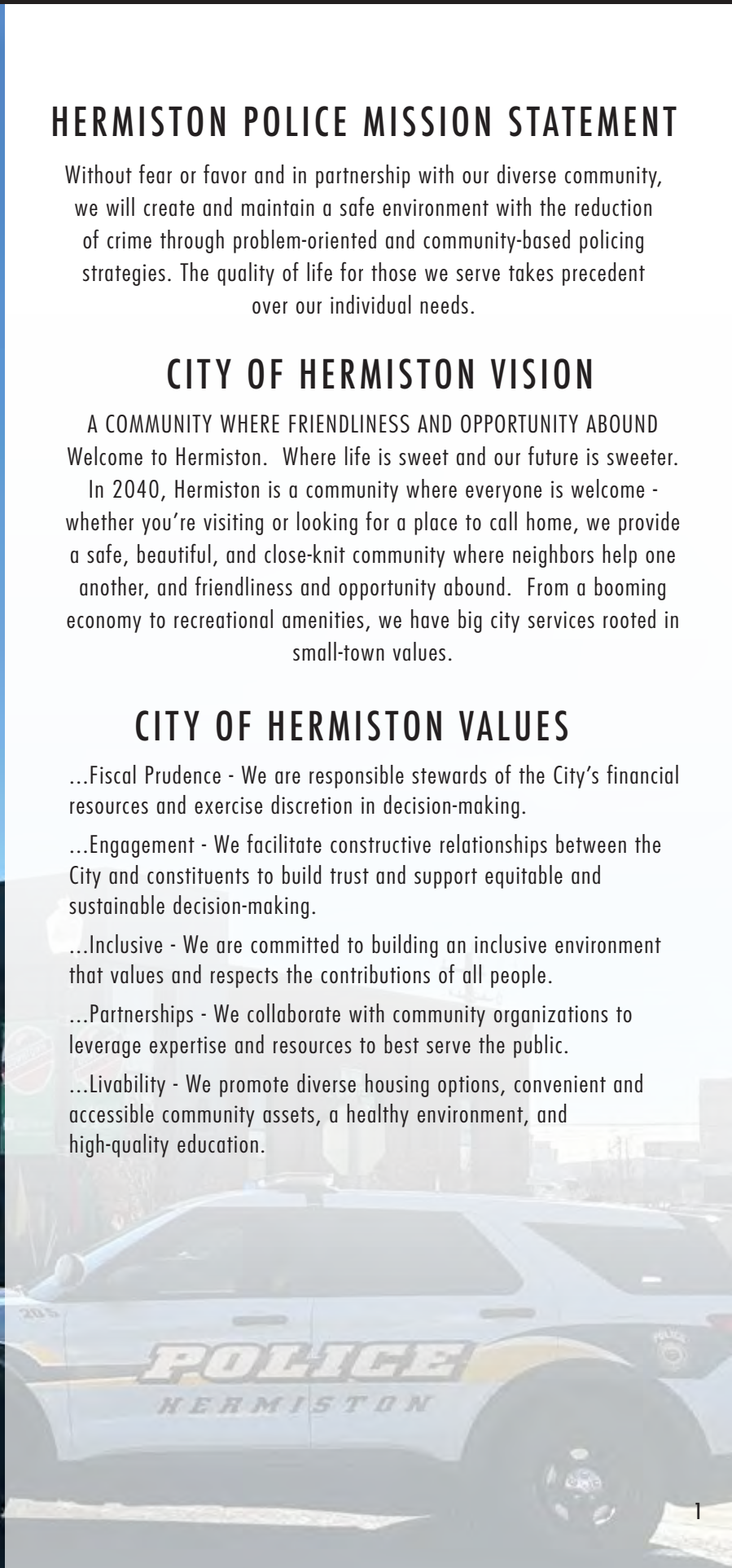
...Fiscal Prudence - We are responsible stewards of the City's financial resources and exercise discretion in decision-making.

...Engagement - We facilitate constructive relationships between the City and constituents to build trust and support equitable and sustainable decision-making.

...Inclusive - We are committed to building an inclusive environment that values and respects the contributions of all people.

...Partnerships - We collaborate with community organizations to leverage expertise and resources to best serve the public.

...Livability - We promote diverse housing options, convenient and accessible community assets, a healthy environment, and high-quality education.





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. We are lucky to have a dedicated staff of 31 full-time sworn officers, 5 paid support positions, and 5 people volunteering. Of our full-time staff, 29% are bilingual meaning we can communicate with the majority of those we serve.

We were optimistic about 2023, yet our department had to once again, navigate several unanticipated hurdles. The budgeting process this year was taxing and several additional changes in personnel meant patrol staff was operating at minimum staffing levels. Since the summer of 2020, our department has watched (5) tenured officers accounting for nearly 90 total years of service and experience, get out of the law enforcement profession altogether.

At the close of 2023, we had (5) brand new recruit officers attending the 16-week basic police academy. We expect those officers to return in the spring of 2024 where they will undergo 12-14 additional weeks of in-house training. The upside is the fact there are still people who are willing to don and doff the uniform each and every day in this noble profession.

As the population of Hermiston has now crested the 20,000 mark, we expect to grow our department to acceptable and safe levels to ensure the livability of those we are blessed to serve is not adversely impacted by a mismanagement or lack of resources.

I have a great deal of respect and adoration for our supportive citizens and for those people who visit our 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



Operations Captain Travis Eynon



Chief Jason Edmiston



Administration Captain Scott Clark



Lieutenant Robert Guerrero



Communications Manager
Amanda Hartsteen



Sergeant Chris Martin



Sergeant Bryan Maess

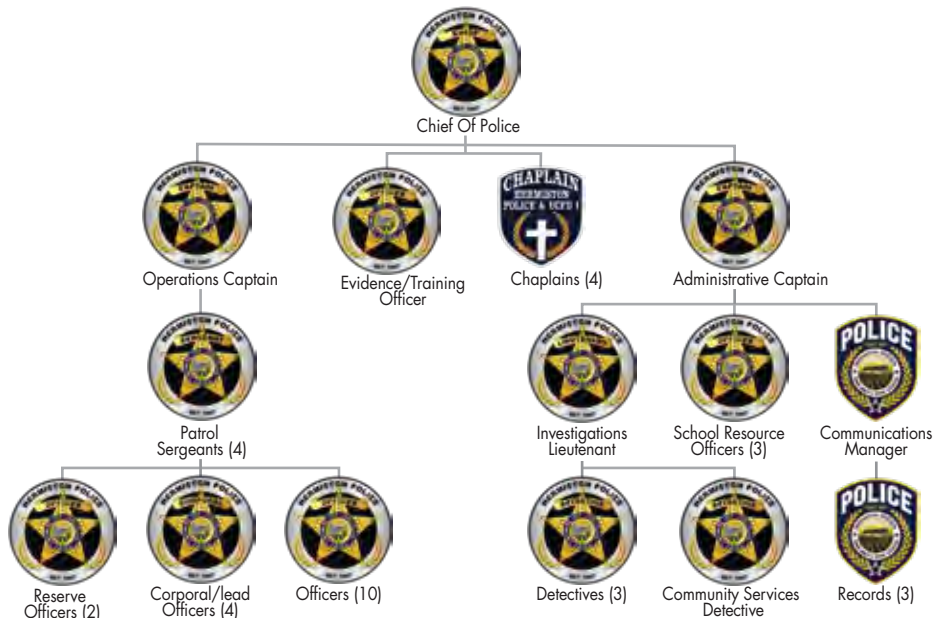


Sergeant Freddy Sotelo



Sergeant Leonard Stokoe

HERMISTON POLICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





OPERATIONS DIVISION

Captain Travis Eynon

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 2023, the Hermiston Police Department Operations Division was structured to consist of 19 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, and ten patrol officers. We worked much of this year with 15 or less. The last few months of 2023 we worked with 13 officers in Patrol. As of the end of 2023 we have five officers attending the Basic Police Academy in Salem. We have one who recently completed the Basic Police Academy and is part way through the field training and evaluation program (FTEP).

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 are 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 (FTEP).



FTEP is an intense 14 week training program where recruits are teamed up with experienced and specially trained field training officers (FTO) and exposed to the demands and responsibilities of being a police officer in increments. In phase 1 the work is primarily the teaching by the FTO while the recruit observes. Toward the end of phase 1, the recruit is transitioned into a more active role. In Phase 2 the work is divided closer to 50/50 between the FTO and the recruit. In phase 3 the FTO is primarily in an evaluator mode and the recruit is handling most of the workload. After Phase 3 the recruit will be given an evaluation also known as checkout by a supervisor before being cleared to go to patrol to work on their own. Between the Basic Police Academy and FTEP, our recruits are in training for 7-8 months before being released on their own.



OPERATIONS DIVISION

- **Special Events**

The Operations Division oversees and participates in numerous special events throughout the calendar year. In 2023, patrol officers assisted with the following: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Event, Hermiston High School Seniors' Pre-Graduation Walking Parade, 4th of July Celebration Event, Umatilla County Fair Parade, Umatilla County Fair Security Patrols, Halloween and New Year's Eve (extra patrols), along with numerous funeral escorts.

- **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 \$223,485.10 was granted to/or received by the Hermiston Police Department in 2023; 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 2023, with the following major contributors deserving special mention: U.S. DOJ Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant \$166,667, Oregon Impact Distracted Driving Grant (\$7,500), Oregon Department of Transportation Speed Grant (\$3,500), Umatilla Commission on Children and Families Community Accountability Board (CAB) Grant (\$5,000), Rotary International Club (\$10,000), Wildhorse Foundation (\$15,000) and numerous individual/business community partners for Christmas Express totaling (\$25,818.10).

- **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 (44) Directed Patrol requests in 2023. 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 2023, officers facilitated (12) Vacation House Checks.





ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Captain Scott Clark

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 Administrative Services Division 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.

We only had a couple of changes to the division this year. In June, Detective Freddy Sotelo left Investigations and accepted a supervisory (Sergeant) position within the Operations (Patrol) Division. His vacancy within Investigations has not been back filled, due to current staffing shortages within the PD. That said, our current detective corps have been handling the enhanced and ongoing case load without any disruptions to their services. They continue to maintain positive attitudes, and proactively work their cases with diligence and professionalism. Lieutenant Robert Guerrero does an outstanding job running the day-to-day operations of our Investigations section.

In September, Captain Travis Eynon and I rotated into each other's former Divisions (he went into Operations, and I came to Administrative Services). There has been a bit of a learning curve moving into this division, but it is one I will tackle head-on. I am surrounded by incredibly smart and hard-working people, who I will lean on for guidance as I work into my new role. I have no doubt, with their help, this division will continue to succeed and remain highly effective and well respected within our region.

In the year 2023, the Hermiston Police Department Administrative Services Division was made up of the following: (1) Captain, (1) Investigations Lieutenant, (4) Detectives, (3) School Resource Officers, (1) Communications Manager, and (3) Police Records Specialists.





INVESTIGATIONS

The detective division of the Hermiston Police Department falls under Administrative Services and works in support of the patrol division. The supervising lieutenant assigns cases to our detectives which may require specialized, extensive, or out-of-the-area follow-up investigations. Our detectives also assist with regional major crimes team activities and help conduct follow-up investigations for serious incidents committed outside of the Hermiston service area.

Detectives often work in cooperation with surrounding agency partners, to include 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 divisions. Some of these assigned investigations can span for months to years before they can be resolved.



Lieutenant
Robert Guerrero



Detective
Victor Gutierrez



Detective
Riley Studebaker



Community Services Detective
Shelly Studebaker

Lieutenant Robert Guerrero

Lieutenant Guerrero, a US Army veteran, has over 20 years of law enforcement experience during which he has held several positions including patrol officer, canine handler, narcotics detective, and major crimes detective. Lieutenant Guerrero is currently supervising investigations, He is also responsible for various administrative tasks, such as applicant background investigations, and on-call supervisor, with additional duties as an Arson Investigator, Medicolegal Death Investigator, and crisis/hostage negotiations.

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 in 2017. His past assignments were patrol officer, motorcycle/traffic officer, gang officer, and drug recognition expert. He is the department representative on the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team currently. 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 Riley Studebaker

Detective Riley Studebaker is a US Army veteran having served in combat while on active duty. After 10 years of active duty, he transitioned to the Washington National Guard where he has served the last 10 years. He started with the Hermiston Police Department in May of 2014. He has served as a patrol officer and as a patrol Corporal before being assigned to the Detective Division.

Community Services Detective Shelly Studebaker

Detective Shelly Studebaker came to work for the Hermiston Police Department in May of 2022, in what was a brand-new position for us. Detective Studebaker has previous experience as a Deputy Sheriff in Gillam County, and while at the Pendleton Police Department, she had experience as a patrol officer, as well as a similar community services position and a general law detective. She came to HPD with a great deal of investigative experience, and we are very happy to have her here.



SIGNIFICANT CASES IN 2023

In 2023, 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 Activities in 2023

• Major Crime Team Activities

Detectives assisted regional agencies with major investigations throughout the region.

Detectives host a monthly Regional Intelligence Meeting, drawing together investigators, parole and probation officers, representatives from local District Attorney's offices and federal agents from throughout Umatilla and Morrow Counties, and southeastern Washington.

• Child Abuse/Neglect:

Under Oregon law, child protective services and law enforcement are required to cross-report all suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect to one another. A vast majority of these complaints are determined to be unfounded or not criminal in nature, however, it is crucial that each report be thoroughly reviewed and investigated in order to (first and foremost) ensure the safety of the child/children, and to subsequently determine if any crimes have been committed. In 2023, detectives successfully resolved several significant cases, some involving multiple victims, which led to successful prosecutions.

• Sexual Crimes:

At any given time, the detectives have many open investigations involving sexual offenses. In a 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. Detectives handled several child sexual abuse investigations in 2023, to include an investigation into the serious familial abuse of multiple child victims. This case is pending trial.

In March, after an extensive investigation, Detectives arrested an adult male suspect for multiple counts of Sexual Abuse I. The suspect is currently awaiting trial.

In September, after a year and a half long investigation, Detectives arrested an elderly adult male suspect for multiple counts of Sexual Abuse I, and Sodomy I. The suspect is currently awaiting trial.

Detectives conducted numerous investigations involving the possession and/or distribution of child sex abuse materials (CSAM). Many of these cases involved children utilizing electronic devices and social media to contact and share information with both known and unknown persons. This required Detectives to not only investigate the criminal aspects of these crimes, but also educate and inform parents and students of the dangers involved with these activities.

• Homicide and Suspicious Deaths

In March, Detectives assisted with a hit and run fatality investigation involving a transient female. Their activity led to conclusive evidence and assisted prosecutors in a successful conclusion in court.

Detectives have been called upon to assist with numerous death investigations, to include overdose deaths.

• 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 June, Detectives assisted in the investigation of and Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Reckless Driving, Criminal Mischief, Reckless Endangering and Attempted Elude. Their assistance at multiple crime scenes resulted in the location and seizure of two firearms used during the crimes, and the arrest of an adult male suspect who has since accepted a plea arrangement in lieu of trial.

Detectives investigated several shootings that occurred throughout the year. We are fortunate none of the shootings resulted in death. There were a few incidents resulting in gunshot injuries, but none were life threatening.



CRIME STATISTICS

Incident Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg	Normal Range	2023	% Change Avg '23	% Change '22-'23
Homicide	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	3	1	1	0-2	7*	600%	600%
Rape	2	4	7	4	6	3	8	6	8	5	0-2	6	20%	-25%
Robbery	14	4	4	5	7	8	8	14	11	8	6-11	6	-25%	-45%
Aggravated Assault	8	12	22	36	30	34	19	26	35	25	19-31	29	16%	-17%
Burglary	75	53	59	59	84	66	58	68	44	63	50-76	57	-9%	30%
Larceny	388	413	395	412	471	460	357	414	515	425	371-479	620	46%	20%
Auto Theft	34	36	27	41	42	31	35	38	49	37	31-43	42	14%	14%
Arson	2	1	0	2	3	2	5	2	3	2	1-3	5	150%	67%
TOTAL	523	524	515	560	644	604	492	571	666	567	505-628	772	36%	16%
TOTAL VIOLENT	24	21	34	46	44	45	37	49	55	39	34-45	48	23%	-13%
TOTAL PROPERTY	499	503	481	514	600	559	455	522	611	527	470-584	724	37%	18%
POPULATION	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200	18775	19354	19696	19973			20322	10%	2%

*In Oregon, attempted murder counts as actual murder. We show (7), but did not have any deaths in 2023.

PATROL STATISTICS

Incident Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg	Normal Range	2023	% Change Avg '23	% Change '22-'23
Total Incidents	23100	23238	21697	23002	21408	22708	21480	21660	21052	22148	21590-22709	22061	-0%	5%
Calls for Service	12130	10032	10070	10850	11267	11558	10549	11318	11882	11073	10633-11513	13165	19%	11%
Officer Initiated Activity	10970	13206	11627	12152	10141	11150	10931	10342	9170	11077	10382-11771	8896	-20%	-3%
Traffic Stops	5236	6595	5747	5346	4103	5576	4958	5025	4204	5199	4648-5749	4131	-21%	-2%
Case Investigations	2888	3160	3000	3194	3263	3098	2436	2704	2954	2966	2674-3259	3243	9%	10%
Total Arrests	1274	1348	1281	1295	1205	1249	809	865	1118	1160	981-1340	1261	9%	13%
Misdemeanor Arrests	886	1029	964	878	852	910	550	629	849	839	697-980	984	17%	16%
Felony Arrests	388	319	317	417	353	339	259	236	269	322	276-368	277	-14%	3%
Total Citations	6057	6784	5710	6535	5122	6593	4392	4367	4199	5529	4641-6417	4419	-20%	5%
POPULATION	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200	18775	19354	19696	19973			20322	10%	2%



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
Rich Finn

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 2023, our chaplains collectively completed a total of 1,495 hours, which were accrued either in house or attached to day to day incidents. In addition to those hours, the chaplains participated in 37 hours of community related activities, bringing the grand total hours worked by our chaplains to 1,532 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 2023 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 Mario Cobian. 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

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.



Tracy Johnson



Liliana Gomez



Shannon Robinson



2023 RECORDS PROCESSED

During 2023, the Records Division processed:

2066 RIMS CAD incidents. This includes phone calls made directly to our records personnel and lobby walk-ins.

◦ 2022 = 2148

5473 requests for information.

- Open Records Requests = **1092**
- Other Agency Requests = **4068**
- Local Background Checks = **313**

◦ 2022 Total Requests = 4355

- Open Records Requests = 1001
- Other Agency Requests = 3260
- Local Background Checks = 94

1346 case reports electronically sent for prosecution

- Umatilla County District Attorney’s Office = **962**
- Umatilla County Juvenile Department = **169**
- Hermiston City Prosecutor’s Office = **215**

◦ 2022 Total case reports sent for prosecution = 1153

- Umatilla County District Attorney’s Office = 899
- Umatilla County Juvenile Department = 115
- Hermiston City Prosecutor’s Office = 139

860 case reports sent to various agency partners

263 non-criminal fingerprinting appointments

◦ 2022 = 366

133 registered sex offenders

◦ 2022 = 139

1134 subpoena notices for officers to appear in court

◦ 2022 = 1015

538 Hermiston Municipal Court warrants entered

◦ 2022 = 409

4470 citations entered

◦ 2022 = 4199



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



Officer Mario Cobian



Officer Betty Nava



Officer Derrick Williams

With six Elementary schools (K-5), two large Middle schools (6-8), and one very large High School (9-12), our SRO's remain very busy in their day-to-day activities. We have taken a geographic approach in how we assign our SRO's to the schools, which provides better services to each of those schools, and doesn't overwhelm (call load-wise) any one SRO .

Assignments

School Resource Officer (SRO) Mario Cobian is primarily assigned to the four schools on the east side of town, One middle school (Sandstone) and three elementary schools (Highland Hills, Sunset and Loma Vista).

School Resource Officer (SRO) Betty Nava is primarily assigned to the four schools on the west side of town. One middle school (Armand Larive) and three elementary schools (Desert View, West Park and Rocky Heights).

Both Officer Nava and Officer Cobian have very similar roles. They both assist building principals as needed. They participate in meetings with staff and parents, participate in lockdown/lockout drills, fire drills, and address traffic and safety issues at each school. The SRO is often the first officer involved in the report of abuse, neglect, or mistreatment of a child. The SRO's also occasionally conduct presentations to all grade levels. Officer Cobian also recently took over (from Officer Nava) as facilitator of the Community Accountability Board (CAB)

School Resource Officer (SRO) Derrick Williams is primarily assigned to the high school. This assignment has been a bit more reactive in recent years, due in part to the large call load (and case reports) coming from the High school. We are hoping (as chronic offenders are dealt with by the school district), this position will return to, or have more of a proactive balance with outreach and education, rather than being overwhelmingly enforcement driven.

In addition to his normal law enforcement responsibilities in the schools, The High School SRO participates in lockdown/lockout drills, fire drills, attends staff and parent meetings, attends sporting events, and as time allows, teaches, or presents on safety topics.

All three SRO's are 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.

SRO Triad

The SRO Triad is a three-pronged approach. The SRO should be a Law Enforcer, a teacher/educator and an informal counselor/mentor. We try to always take this approach to this partnership with our schools.

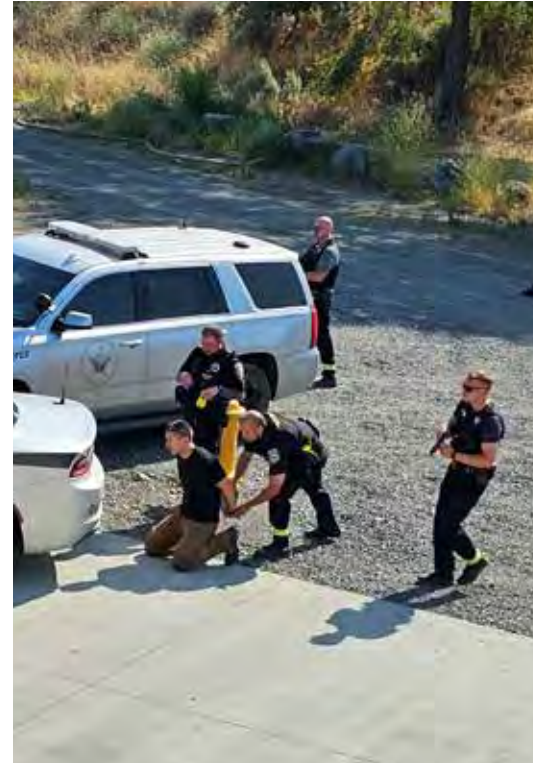




DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Corporal Tim Mears

Hermiston Police Department personnel attended 4243 hours of training during the 2023 year (the hours listed do 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 Robert Guerrero

SUPERVISORY

Sergeant Bryan Maess
Sergeant Chris Martin
Sergeant Freddy Sotelo
Sergeant Leonard Stokoe
Comm. Manager Amanda Hartsteen

PATROL LEADERSHIP

Corporal William Golter
Corporal Erica Sandoval
Corporal Jarrod Flatau
Corporal Rod Vega

PATROL

Officer Will Jons
Officer Doug Gill
Officer Shawnee Rodriguez
Officer Jared Zumwalt
Officer Kieron Carlson
Officer Nathaniel Jimenez
Officer Edward Martinez
Officer Andrew Nuckolls
Officer Jovanny Bedolla-Chavez
Officer Kimberely Stanhope
Officer Deena Josue
Officer Gerardo Ramirez

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Officer Betty Nava
Officer Derrick Williams
Officer Mario Cobian

INVESTIGATIONS

Detective Victor Gutierrez
Detective Riley Studebaker
Community Services Detective Shelly Studebaker

ADMINISTRATION/TRAINING/EVIDENCE

Corporal Tim Mears

RECORDS

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

HONORING OUR FRIEND: LIEUTENANT RANDY STUDEBAKER



E.O.W. - 09/25/2023





NEW MEMBERS OF OUR HPD TEAM



Officer
Kimberely Stanhope
Hire Date - July 03, 2023



Officer
Deena Josue
Hire Date - September 18, 2023



Officer
Jovanny Bedolla-Chavez
Hire Date - October 23, 2023



Officer
Andrew Nuckolls
Hire Date - November 7, 2023



Officer
Edward Martinez
Hire Date - November 7, 2023



Officer
Gerardo "Jerry" Ramirez, Jr.
Hire Date - November 16, 2023





FAITH & FIRST RESPONDERS

Faith & First Responders was launched to facilitate safer, stronger, more just and unified communities by directly enabling local partnerships among law enforcement and fire professionals, residents, businesses and community groups through the connections of local faith-based organizations. Communities are stronger and safer when residents and law enforcement professionals can relate as ordinary people with shared values, hopes and dreams. The partners who are a part of Faith & First Responders Weekend believe we can find ways to work together around our many commonalities instead of being divided by our differences.





NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

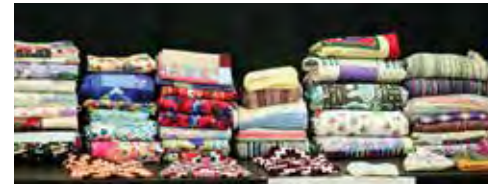
Our 2023 National Night Out was a huge success and enjoyed more than ever. Community members, HPD personnel and city officials had great fun with the neighborhood barbeques and getting to know each other in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. As always, the department side-by-side was a highlight with all the kids. This year's scavenger hunt medallion was found by the Pollock family.





55TH 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 \$20,177.50 in cash contributions and nearly 30,000 canned goods from Hermiston school-age students.





WHY SO SERIOUS?





HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 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.



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
Jackie Linton
Maria Duron

Rod Hardin
Jackie Myers
Nancy Peterson
David McCarthy

This annual report is dedicated to the memory of the United States' 124 federal, state, county, tribal, territorial, university and local law enforcement officers who died in the line-of-duty in 2023.



DEDICATED TO
A STRONG
COMMUNITY
SINCE 1907

HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

330 South 1st Street, Hermiston, Oregon 97838

Phone: (541) 567-5519

www.hermiston.or.us/police

