



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



FOREST GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

SERVICE. INTEGRITY. PROFESSIONALISM.

2102 PACIFIC AVENUE, FOREST GROVE, OREGON 97116

WWW.FORESTGROVE-OR.GOV/POLICE

CONTENTS:

- Our Mission - 3**
- Chief's Message - 4**
- Our Vision & Core Values - 5**
- Forest Grove City Overview - 6**
- 2020 News and Changes - 8**
- Community Policing Advisory Commission - 9**
- Police Officer Oath - 10**
- Department Structure - 11**
- Department Overview - 12**
- Administration - 14**
- Sergeants & Detectives - 15**
- Patrol Staff - 16**
- Patrol Division Overview - 18**
- Traffic Overview - 21**
- Stop Data—22**
- Milestones & Achievements - 24**
- Investigations Overview - 26**
- Major Cases - 27**
- School Resource Officer - 28**
- Code Enforcement Officer - 29**
- Training - 30**
- Support Unit Overview - 31**
- Community Engagement - 32**



OUR MISSION

Consistently strive towards making Forest Grove a safe place to live, work, learn, play and visit, and to contribute to the economic prosperity of our community through professional and responsive high-quality law enforcement services to our citizens and visitors.



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF REIMANN:

To the Honorable Mayor Peter Truax, City Council,
and to the community members of Forest Grove:

The Mission of the Forest Grove Police Department is to provide our residents a safe and secure community; accomplished by working in a partnership to protect life and property, maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, and uphold the constitutional rights of all persons.

We look back on 2020 as a year we will remember and learn from. We were presented with numerous challenges as we navigated the reality of dealing with a global pandemic and its effects on our community, to acknowledging the racial injustice and inequalities that exist in American policing and in our own daily practices. Some challenges tested community trust, but we had taken these opportunities to grow and learn. These unique challenges also strengthened our resolve to serve the Forest Grove community. We understand that we must be lifelong learners and open to input from all citizens in order to engage our community in a realistic and compassionate manner.

The men and women of the Forest Grove Police Department worked to further build the community bonds required to advance our mission. We have had a number of notable accomplishments this year which would not have been possible without the dedicated support of our citizens, elected officials and city management.

In that service, we find ourselves fulfilled and content in the knowledge that our service to the Forest Grove community can have a significant positive impact on the individual lives of people who live here.

I believe there is no nobler calling than to serve others and I am honored to serve and to lead this great department. I look forward to continued community partnerships as we work to meet the challenges ahead. I encourage the community to continue to question and scrutinize our actions and partner with us for a safer community. Your input will secure our continuing excellence by how and what we do next.



Chief Henry Reimann



OUR VISION:

To be the best law enforcement agency in Washington County in terms of professional reputation.

*Professional representation on regional investigative teams
Professional working relationships with other agencies
Positive working relationships with our stakeholders*

To be a career destination for law enforcement professionals – sworn and civilian.

*Be a learning organization promoting professional development
Targeting recruitments consistent with our mission and values*

To be an allied partner agency with regional stakeholders – promoting the interests of Forest Grove in furtherance of city goals.

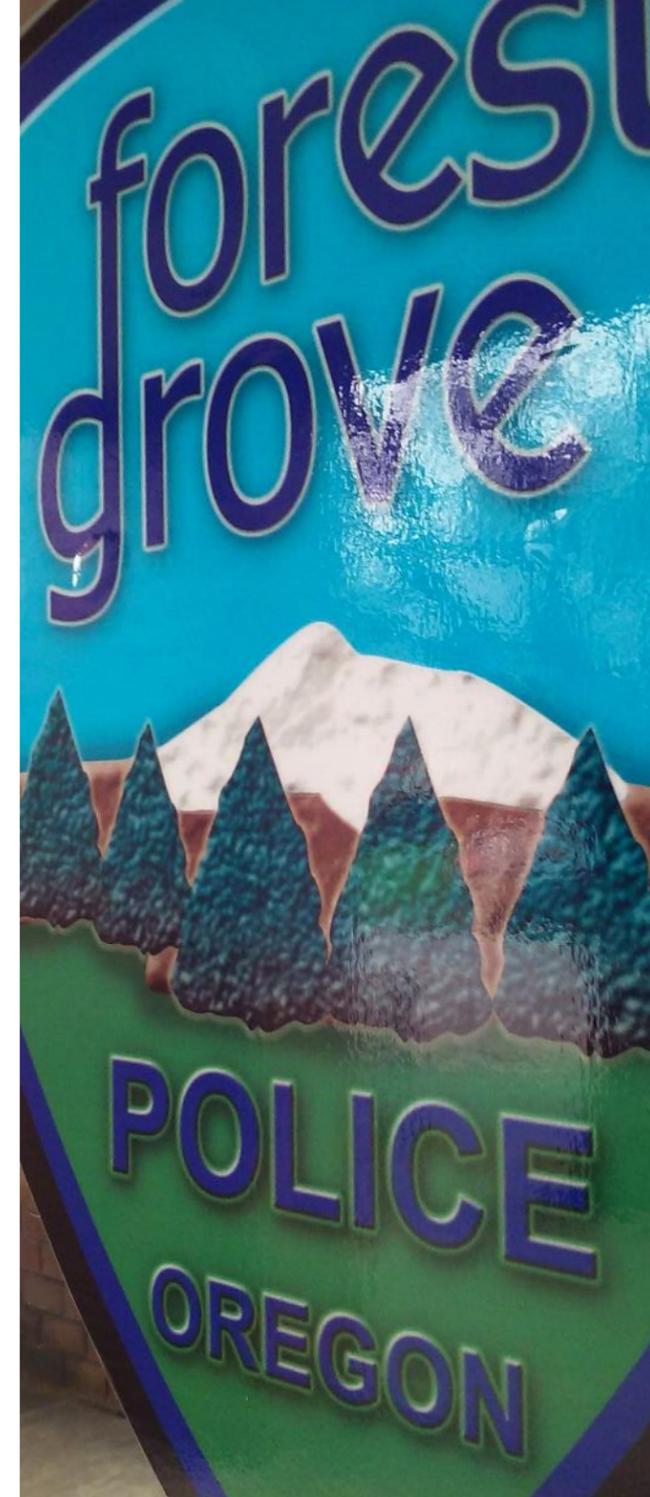
*Policy development and review in concert with city goals
Coordinated training with other law enforcement agencies*

For Forest Grove Police Department employees to be proud of their affiliation with the department, city, and community.

*Promoting esprit de corps through employee involvement
Maintaining accountability and responsibility
Rewarding behavior consistent with our mission and goals*

To be fully capable of meeting all reasonable investigative, crime prevention, patrol, and traffic needs of the citizenry as growth impacts the community.

*Forecasted budgeting reflecting the needs of the community
Stewardship and accountability of all entrusted public funds*



OUR CORE VALUES:

SERVICE, INTEGRITY & PROFESSIONALISM



CITY GOVERNMENT OVERVIEW

FOREST GROVE:

The Forest Grove City Charter provides for a Council/Manager form of city government. The Council is the policy-making body of the city. They adopt laws and regulations, annual goals and objectives and budgets that fund a wide range of public services. Council members give direction to city staff through the City Manager who serves at the pleasure of the city council. The mayor is the leader of the governing body and presides over the council meetings.

The Forest Grove City Council Goals for 2020-2021 are:

- ◆ Support diversity, equity, and inclusion in the delivery of City services and operations
- ◆ Enable housing supply and affordability
- ◆ Enhance partnerships
- ◆ Improve internal and external communications and engagement
- ◆ Maintain financial and organizational sustainability through long-term planning and support for economic and workforce development
- ◆ Promote sustainable transportation alternatives and enhance mobility
- ◆ Expand recreation opportunities

The City Council & Mayor of Forest Grove

- ◆ Peter B. Truax, Mayor - Elected Term Expires 2022
- ◆ Donna Gustafson, Councilor—Elected Term Expires 2024
- ◆ Kristy L. Kottkey, Councilor—Elected Term Expires 2022
- ◆ Timothy Rippe, Councilor - Elected Term Expires 2024
- ◆ Elena Uhing, Councilor - Elected Term Expires 2024
- ◆ Mariana E. Valenzuela, Councilor—Elected Term Expires 2022
- ◆ Melinda Wenzl, Council President - Elected Term Expires 2022

The City Manager

- ◆ Jesse Vanderzanden serves as the Forest Grove City Manager.

OUR CITY

Established: 1850

Incorporated: 1872

County: Washington

Population: 26,835

(Male 49%, Female 51%)

Median Age: 33

Households: 8,320

Average Household Size: 2.74

Racial Makeup:

82% Caucasian, 16% Latino/Hispanic, 2% Other

Home of Pacific University - established 1849



NEW IN 2020:

FGPD RETURNS TO 24/7 SERVICE:

On November 17, 2019 the City of Forest Grove entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Washington County to provide policing services to the city for the hours of 3:00 am to 7:00 am. This agreement grew from a need for the Forest Grove Police Department to consolidate personnel into two shifts following the departure of staff and a need to reorganize. After months of recruiting and hiring efforts, the Forest Grove Police Department returned to 24 hour service, on August 31, 2020, with three fully staffed shifts.

COVID-19 EFFECTS ON POLICING

Covid-19 greatly impacted the entire world and Forest Grove was no exception. At the FGPD, we were fortunate to be prepared for the challenge due to a history of planning for such incidents.

The department, at a very early stage, began issuing and wearing masks, sanitizing work stations and patrol vehicles prior to each shift, and limiting the number of people inside the building or its' spaces to allow for social distancing. Officers were issued N-95 masks, eye-shields, and Tyvek gowns that allowed them to continue responding to calls for medical assistance. Initially officers were limited in the pro-active aspects of their job such as traffic enforcement and community contacts. After a short period, guidelines and protocols were developed to overcome some of the challenges to these enforcement strategies.

Early on, trainings and meetings were cancelled but fortunately we were able to transition to a virtual format in most instances. Officers' response to calls that did not require in person service were conducted by telephone. Those calls where we responded in person, officers were equipped with appropriate gear for the specific encounter.

Our efforts in battling Covid-19 since March 2020 has helped in having no documented cases within the Forest Grove Police Department. Throughout the pandemic the department has been able to maintain our service to the community uninterrupted.





COMMUNITY POLICING ADVISORY COMMISSION (CPAC):

The Forest Grove Community Policing Advisory Commission (CPAC) was established on August 10, 2020, by the Forest Grove City Council in response to public input regarding racial and social justice in the practice of community policing.

Purpose:

- ◆ The purpose of the Community Policing Advisory Commission is to encourage broad-based community representation and to advise City Council on public policy issues affecting Forest Grove and Council-adopted Goals and Objectives.
- ◆ The members serve as ambassadors to strengthen the relationship between the Forest Grove Police Department (FGPD) and the Forest Grove community through education, awareness, and open dialogue.

Responsibilities/Objectives:

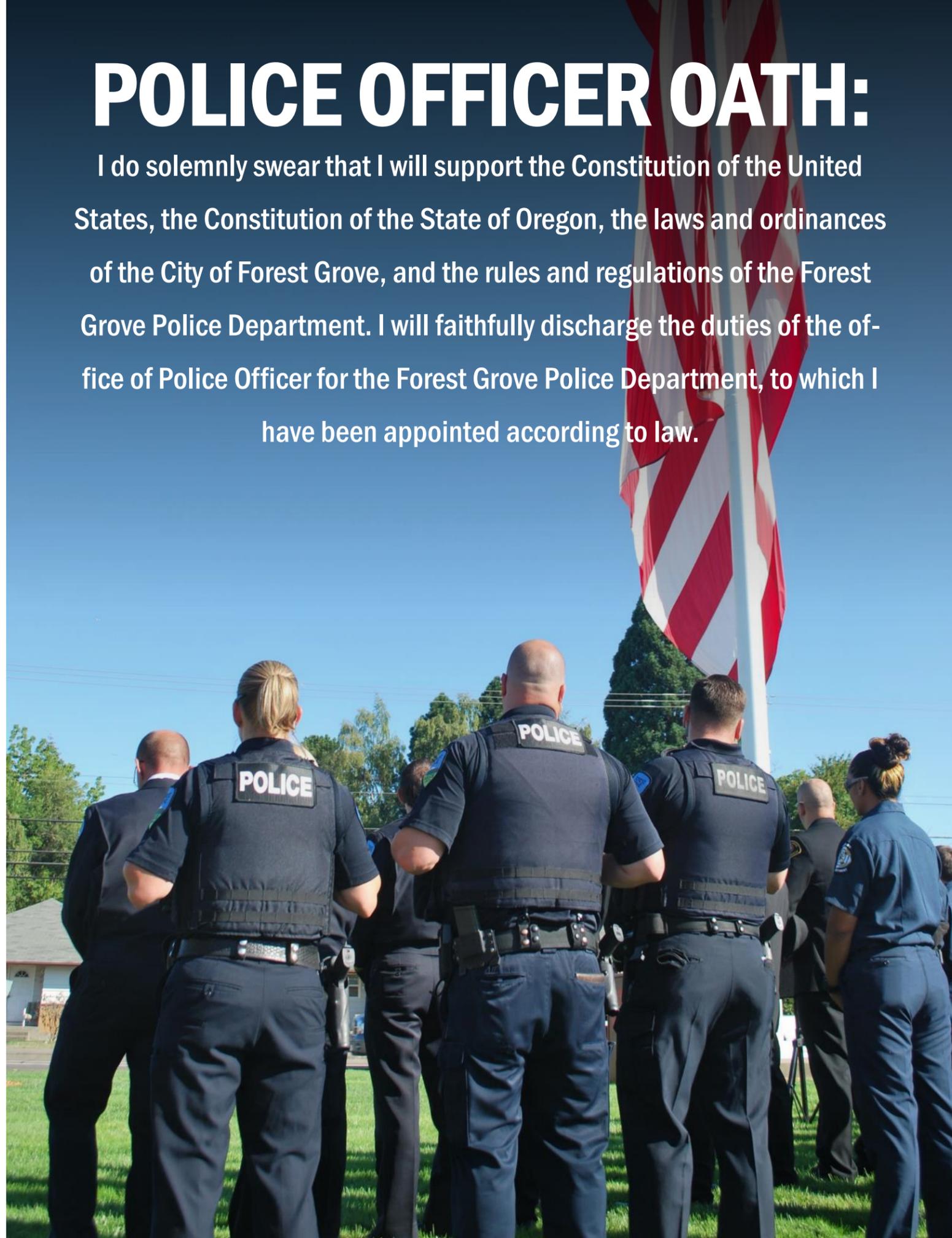
- ◆ Advise City Council and make recommendations regarding public safety policy, social justice and restorative justice.
- ◆ Seek input on social equity challenges attributed to public safety.
- ◆ Advise City Council on matters pertaining to educating the community and the FGPD about social justice issues, policies and plans.
- ◆ Review and recommend public safety policies, trainings and plans.
- ◆ Facilitate community involvement and input on public safety matters.

Membership:

- ◆ Members of the CPAC shall be composed of 12 Forest Grove residents and one student member who shall be appointed by City Council.
- ◆ The membership is inclusive and diverse and is composed of community representatives and community members at-large.

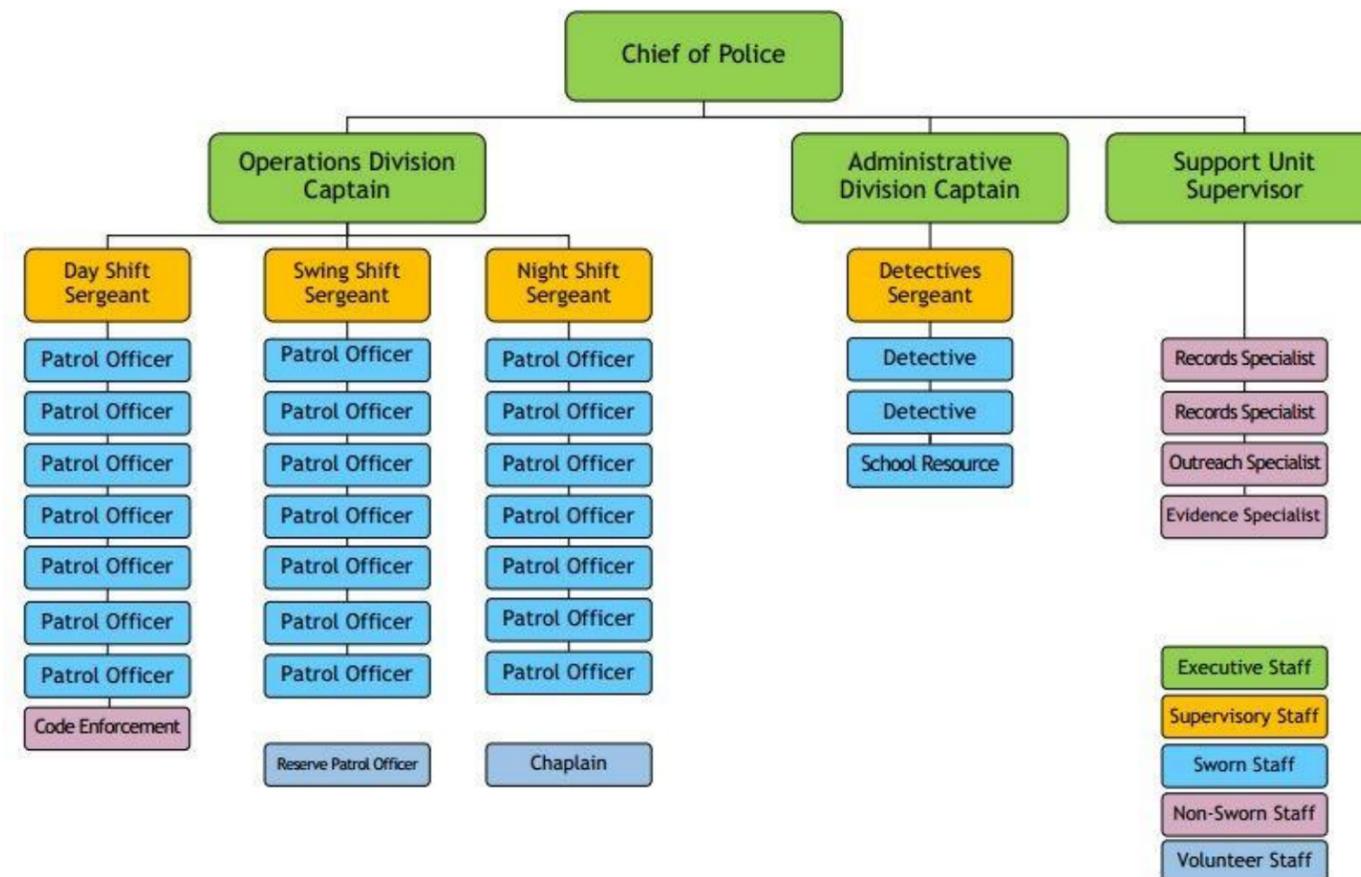
POLICE OFFICER OATH:

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Oregon, the laws and ordinances of the City of Forest Grove, and the rules and regulations of the Forest Grove Police Department. I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Police Officer for the Forest Grove Police Department, to which I have been appointed according to law.





FOREST GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMAND STRUCTURE





2020 QUICK FACTS

TOTAL STAFF: 36

SWORN STAFF: 30

CHIEFS: 1

CAPTAINS: 2

SERGEANTS: 4

PATROL: 21

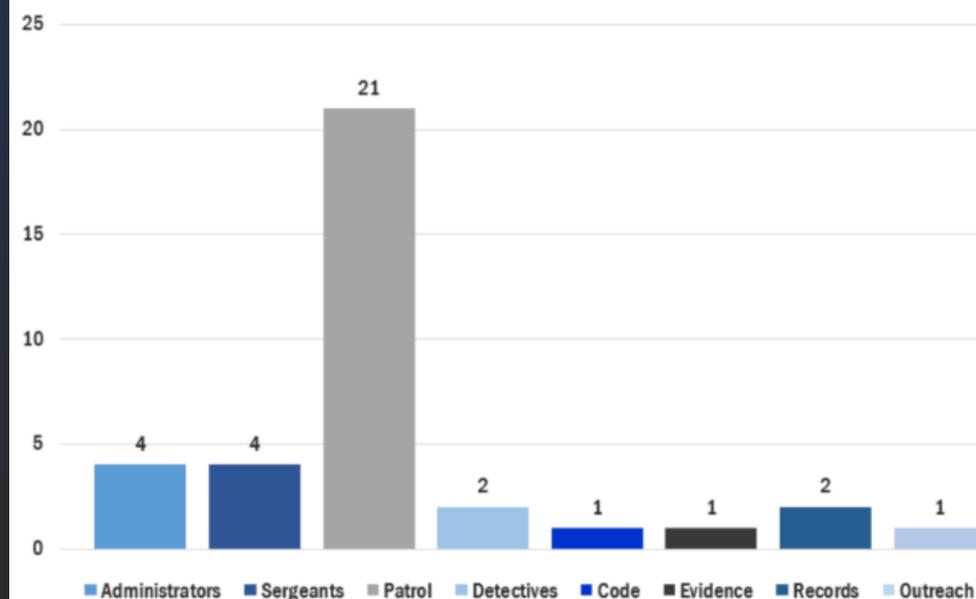
DETECTIVES: 2

CIVILIANS: 6

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW:

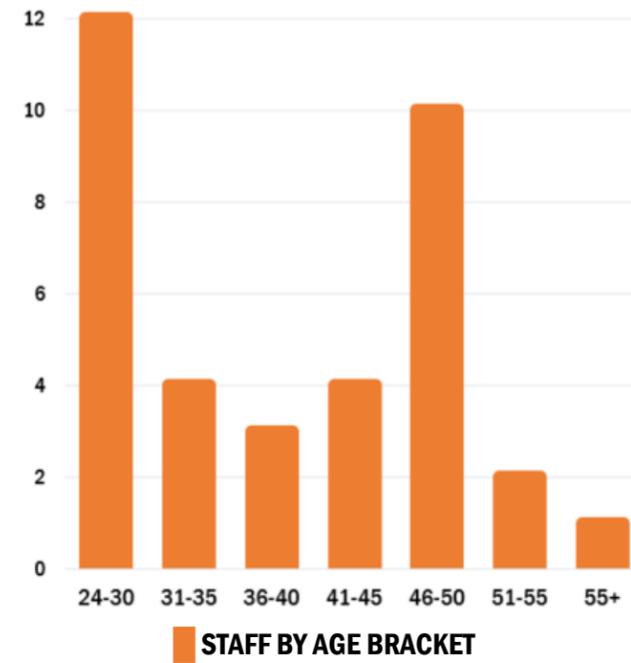
The Forest Grove Police Department serves the community of Forest Grove through law enforcement patrol, investigative services, crime prevention, and community outreach. At the end of 2020, the department employed 30 sworn officers, including a chief, two captains (division commanders), four sergeants (including one detective sergeant), two detectives, and 21 patrol officers (including one school resource officer). The department also employed one full-time code enforcement officer, one community outreach specialist, a support unit supervisor, an evidence specialist, and two records specialists. A volunteer chaplain also served the members of the department and community.

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

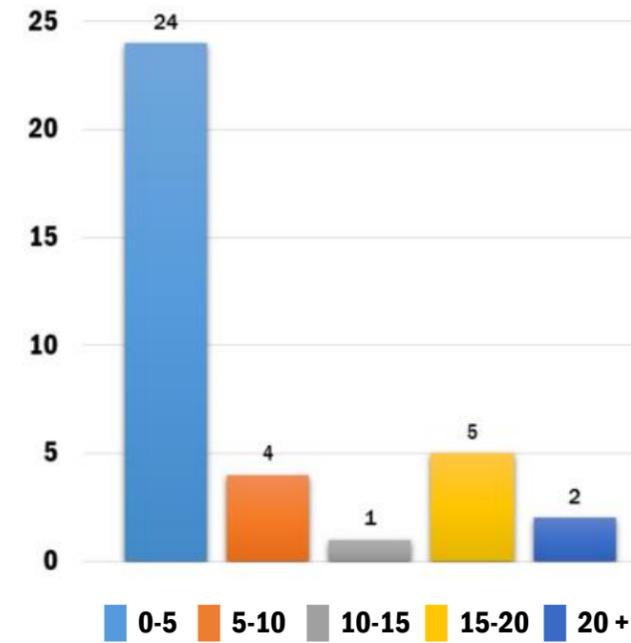


AT - A - GLANCE:

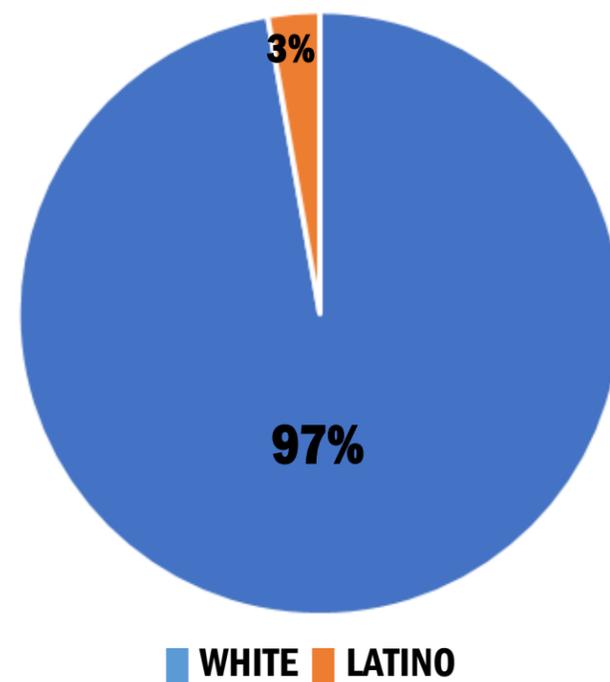
AGE OF PERSONNEL



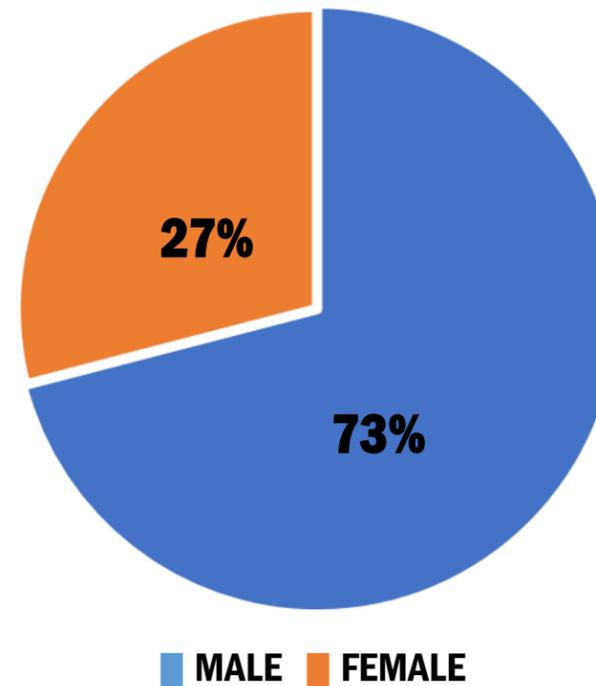
YEARS WITH FGPD



STAFF BY RACE:



STAFF BY GENDER:





ADMINISTRATION:

The department administration is comprised of the Chief of Police, Operations Division Commander, Administrative Division Commander, and Support Unit Supervisor. The administration is responsible for budget management, policy development and review, personnel matters, strategic planning, community relations, media relations, labor relations, and special projects. The department administration oversees department training.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:

CHIEF HENRY REIMANN Joined the Forest Grove Police Department in February 2020. Chief Reimann was appointed to the role of Chief of Police, rather than Interim, in July 2020. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Chief Reimann has served in law enforcement for more than 30 years in the full gamut of capacities, from patrol to public information to administration. Outside of the uniform, Chief Reimann is a husband, father of three grown children, and an active member of the community. He enjoys traveling with his wife, exploring the great outdoors, and is an avid—albeit amateur—photographer, who also likes to cook and read. Chief’s door is usually open and he welcomes a visit and conversation if you’d like to know more about him.

CAPTAIN MICHAEL HALL: Joined the Forest Grove Police in 1996. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Captain Hall has worked in law enforcement for more than 25 years. He holds a BS in Administration of Justice from Portland State University. In his tenure, he has served as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, detective, detective sergeant, and administrative sergeant, as well as on the Major Crimes and Crash Reconstruction and Analysis teams. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in April 2018, and serves as the Operations Division Commander.

CAPTAIN TROY MASLEN Joined the Forest Grove Police Department in 1994 and has more than 26 years of law enforcement experience. Captain Maslen has served as a reserve officer, patrol officer, patrol sergeant, detective, transit officer, and motor officer. He holds a BS in Criminal Justice. He was promoted to the rank of Interim Captain in January 2020, and Captain in May 2020. He serves as the Administrative Division Commander.

SUPPORT UNIT SUPERVISOR LISA CANNON: Joined the Forest Grove Police Department in 2011. Lisa oversees the Records department, Evidence, and the Community Outreach Specialist, as well as purchasing, payroll, payables, and the records management system. She holds a BA in Business Management with a psychology minor, and previously worked for a hotel/restaurant management company for 16 years, 12 of which as the Human Resources Manager. Lisa is one of six non-sworn, civilian employees at the FGPD.

SERGEANTS:

The Forest Grove Police Department has three patrol sergeants who oversee patrol officers for day, swing, and night shifts, and one detective sergeant who oversees the investigative team.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:

SERGEANT SCOTT KING: Joined the Forest Grove Police Department in 2005 and has more than 16 years of law enforcement experience, starting as a Beaverton Police cadet in high school and later a reserve officer. Sgt. King holds a BA in Sociology from Pacific University and has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, detective, and patrol sergeant. He also oversees the department's field training evaluation program and the reserve program.

SERGEANT JEREMY LAZENBY Joined the Forest Grove Police Department in 2012 and has more than 8 years of law enforcement experience. A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Sgt. Lazenby served as a Washington County Sheriff's Deputy prior to joining the FGPD. He has served as a reserve officer, patrol officer, detective, and served as the Detective Sergeant for most of 2020 before returning to patrol sergeant.

SERGEANT RAY MCGREW: Joined the Forest Grove Police Department in 2004 and has more than 23 years of law enforcement experience. Sgt. McGrew began his law enforcement career with the Polk County Sheriff's Office as a reserve before joining the Milton-Freewater Police Department where he served as a patrol officer and corporal. As a member of the FGPD, Sgt. McGrew has served as a patrol officer, motor officer, defensive tactics instructor, field training officer, and patrol sergeant.

SERGEANT JOE MARTINO Joined the Forest Grove Police Department in 2001 and has more than 21 years of law enforcement experience. Sgt. Martino has served as a reserve officer, patrol officer, detective, Gang Resistance Education and Training instructor, field training officer, and defensive tactics instructor. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in October, 2020.



DETECTIVES:

The Forest Grove Police Department has an Investigations division that comprises one detective and a detective officer-in-charge. To serve in Investigations, officers are expected to have at least five years of patrol experience and participated in trainings in a variety of law enforcement disciplines.

Detectives also assist the Patrol Division by covering shifts when staffing shortages arise, as well as completing search warrants and affidavits when necessary.



Det. Matt Glem



Det. Darren Pomeroy

PATROL DIVISION



Ofc. Tom Siciliano



Ofc. Clarice Gordon



Ofc. Jeffrey Fox



Ofc. Steven Teets



Ofc. Andrew Colasurdo



Ofc. Bradley Schuetz



Ofc. Matthew Krump



Ofc. Bon McBee



Ofc. Amber Daniels



Ofc. Samuel Younce



Ofc. Kole McGann



Ofc. Eric Shafer

PATROL DIVISION



Ofc. Daphne Plumeau



Ofc. Kaitlyn Scott



Ofc. Aaron Huson



Ofc. Jacob Adams



Ofc. Michael King



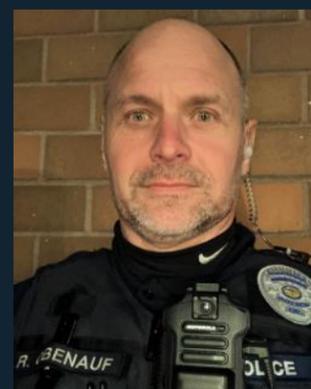
Ofc. Matthew Dorick



Ofc. Roberto Nava



Ofc. David White



Ofc. Robert Obenauf



Ofc. Brandon Durbin



PATROL DIVISION:

The Forest Grove Police Department's patrol division is broken into three shifts: day, swing, and night. Each shift is comprised of up to six patrol officers and is supervised by a patrol sergeant who also responds to calls. Patrol officers respond to calls, conduct proactive patrol throughout the city, and enforce traffic regulations, city ordinances, and state statutes. The Patrol Division also supplies a school resource officer to the Forest Grove School District (see page 22).

On average, the FGPD receives 50-70 calls for service each day, and will be involved in an average of 400-500 activities each week, both reported and self-initiated. In most cases, patrol personnel investigate both the initial report of crimes and conduct all related follow-up and ensure criminal cases are ready for prosecution when appropriate.

In 2020, the Forest Grove Police Department responded to 22,160 calls. This included 9,614 dispatched calls - calls in which members of the public contact dispatch through non-emergency or 911 requesting service. Officers also engaged in 12,546 self-initiated calls - incidents in which officers initiate the call, such as a traffic stop or a suspicious circumstance.

Sergeants and officers averaged 886 calls each in 2020 and wrote, on average, 105 reports each. Common dispatched calls for service in 2020 were regarding suspicious circumstances, including suspicious persons and vehicles. Police also responded to a variety of calls for public assistance, including welfare checks, premise checks and extra patrols.

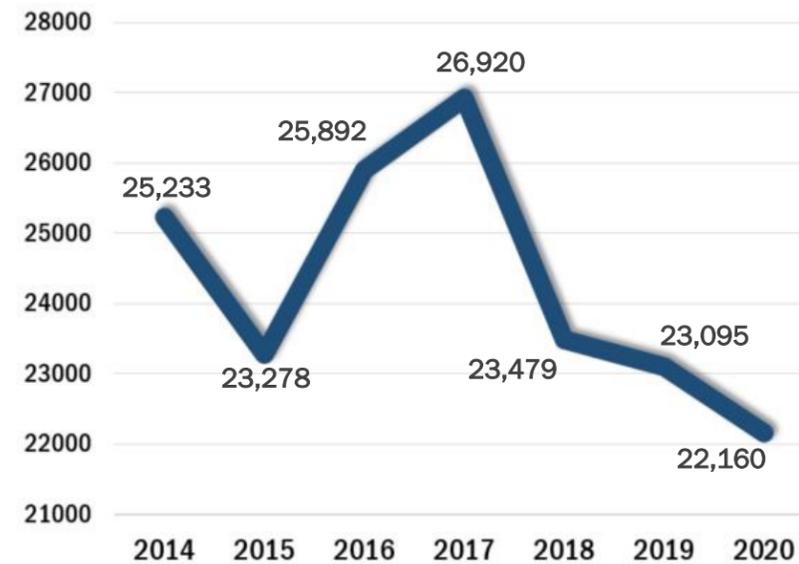
In 2020, the top incidents officers responded to were thefts, domestic disturbances, criminal mischief, fraud, harassment, burglaries, and assaults. Police made 920 arrests in 2020, and issued 1,777 citations.

2020 CALLS FOR SERVICE:

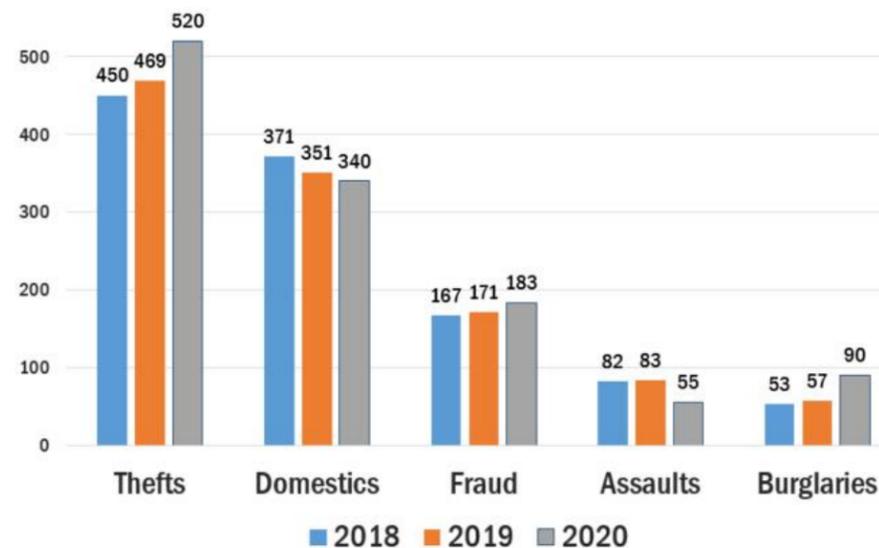
22,160

DISPATCHED CALLS:	9,614
SELF INITIATED CALLS:	12,546
TRAFFIC STOPS:	3,763
REPORTS TAKEN:	2,647
CITATIONS ISSUED:	1,777
ARRESTS:	920

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE BY YEAR



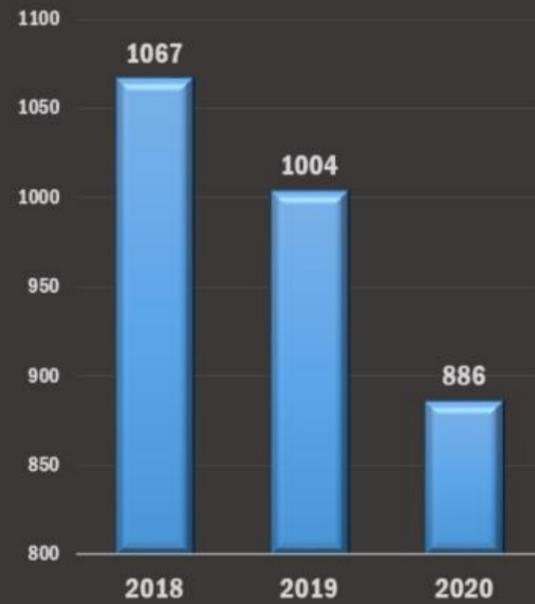
TOP FIVE SPECIFIC INCIDENT TYPES BY YEAR



POLICE ACTIVITY:

ALARMS	334
ANIMAL COMPLAINTS	216
ARSON	3
ASSAULTS	55
ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCIES	268
ASSIST PUBLIC	1249
BURGLARIES	90
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	218
DISTURBANCES	210
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES	340
DUII	63
EXTRA PATROLS	1269
FRAUD	183
HARASSMENT	247
HIT & RUNS	90
JUVENILE PROBLEMS	274
MENTAL INTERVENTION	52
MISSING PERSON	31
NOISE COMPLAINTS	251
SEX OFFENSES	42
STOLEN VEHICLE	52
SUBJECT CONTACTS	208
SUICIDE THREATS/ATTEMPTS	69
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE	530
SUSPICIOUS PERSONS	471
SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES	1674
THEFTS	520
TRAFFIC CRASHES	192
WARRANT SERVICE	131
WELFARE CHECKS	892

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CALLS ANNUALLY PER OFFICER:



AVERAGE NUMBER OF REPORTS ANNUALLY PER OFFICER:



BEYOND INCIDENT RESPONSE:

Patrol officers are routinely engaged in trainings that build knowledge and skills, and will usually specialize in any number of specialty fields within law enforcement. Seasoned officers also take on the role of training new officers as they leave the police academy and begin their service with the FGPD.

Some personnel from the operations division are members of countywide teams, including Major Crimes, Multi-Disciplinary Child Abuse, Emergency Behavioral Health, Elder Abuse, Drug Recognition Expert program and Crash Analysis Reconstruction Team (CART). Patrol personnel also liaison with various social service agencies to address other societal issues such as mental health problems, elder abuse, and juvenile delinquency.

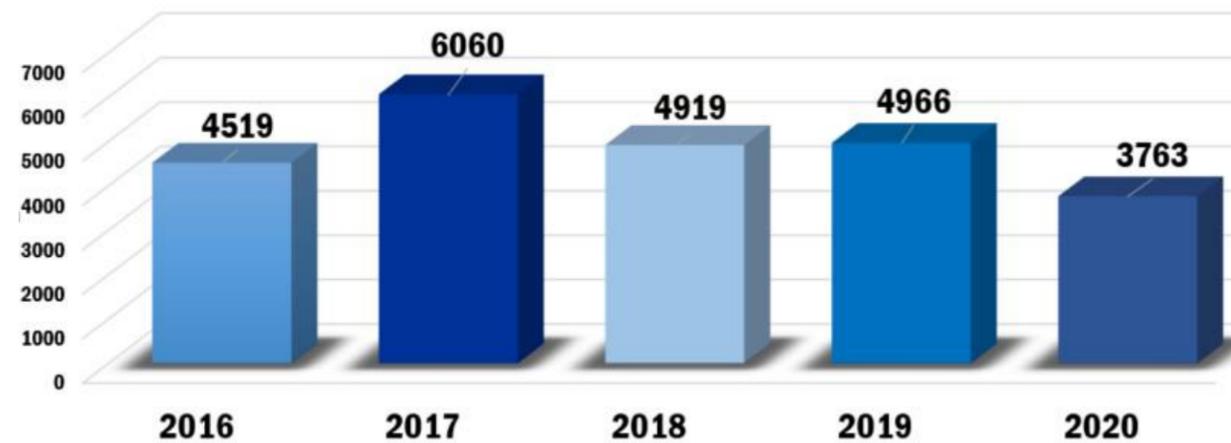
In addition to criminal investigations, patrol personnel will participate in special projects and events such as, Shop With a Cop, Forest Grove Light Parade, enhanced DUII enforcement, underage alcohol purchase operations, Pacific University and Forest Grove High School events, community events such as the Love Rocks Run and Founders Day Corn Roast, Coffee with a Cop and the department's National Night Out celebration - in 2020, however, the Covid-19 pandemic impacted many of these outreach activities.



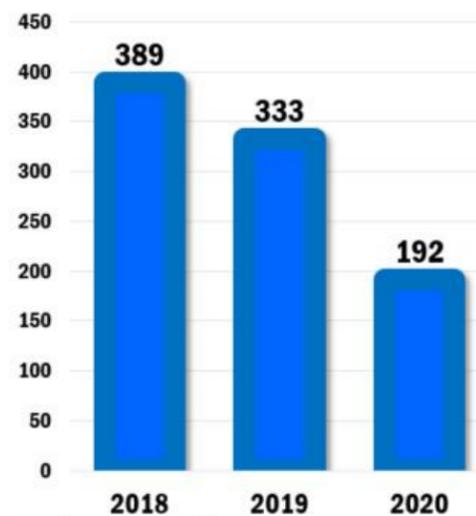


TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT STATS

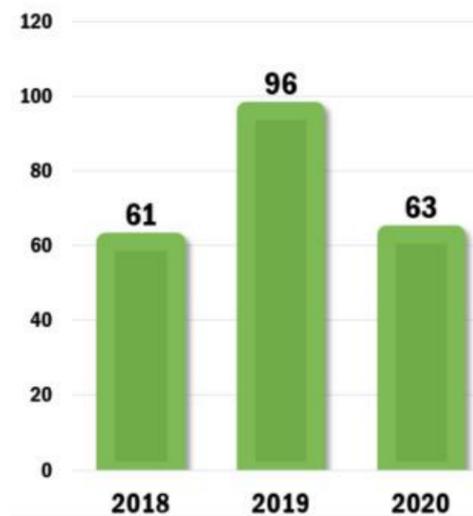
TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS BY YEAR (2016-2020)



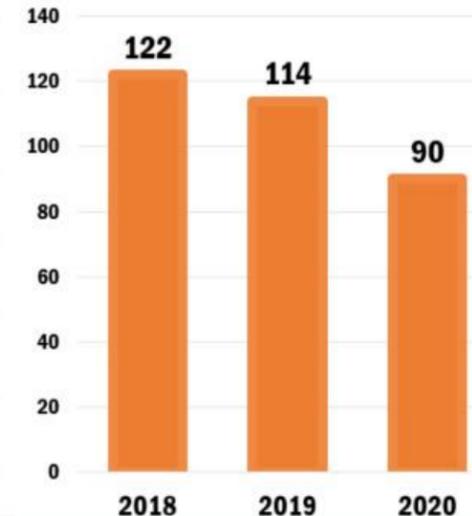
TRAFFIC CRASHES BY YEAR



DUII STOPS BY YEAR



HIT-AND-RUNS BY YEAR



SUBJECT STOPS:

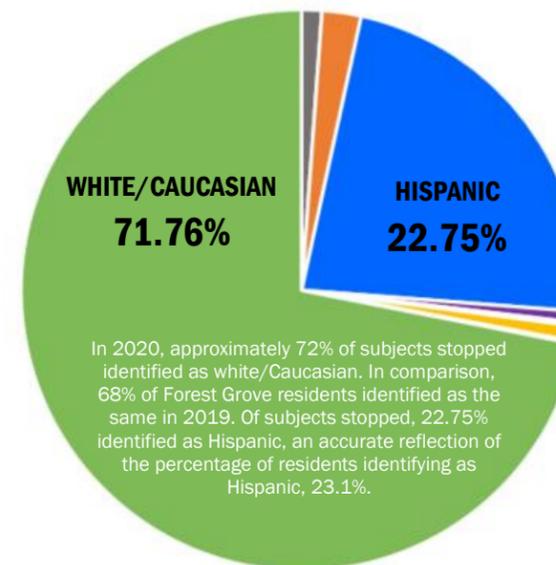
During the course of their duties, patrol officers will stop individuals they observe violating Oregon or municipal statutes. This applies to drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

In 2020, the Forest Grove Police Department made 3,877 subject stops. Of those, approximately 72% of the subjects identified as White/Caucasian, while 23% identified as Hispanic with the remaining 5% of subjects identified as other races (see below). Approximately 67% of the subjects identified as male and 33% as female. 2,227 of the stops, or 57%, occurred during the day and 1,650, or 43%, occurred during the nighttime hours.

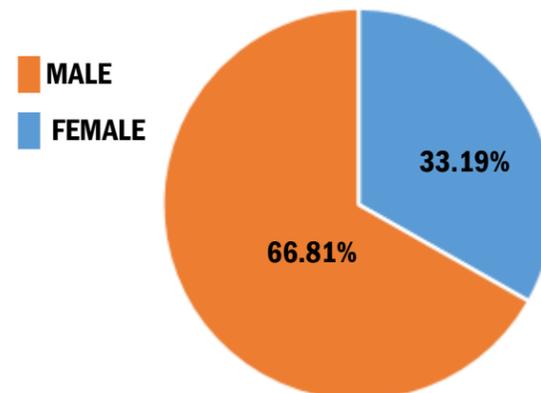
The top reasons for stops in 2020 included: Operation Without Required Lighting (such as headlights), Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device (such as a stop sign or red light), Improper Display of Registration Stickers, Municipal Traffic Violations, Violating the Speed Limit, and Operating a Vehicle while Using a Mobile Device. Of the subjects stopped, approximately 65% received a warning, 31% were given citations, and 6% were arrested.

STOPS BY RACE:

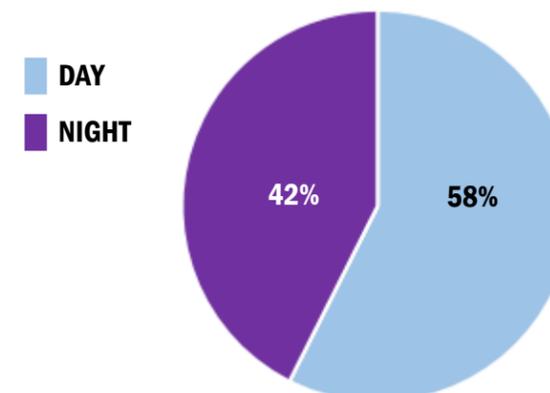
	NUMBER OF SUBJECT STOPS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STOPS
WHITE/CAUCASIAN	2,782	71.76%
HISPANIC/LATINO	882	22.75%
BLACK	87	2.24%
ASIAN	54	1.39%
PACIFIC ISLANDER	34	.88%
MIDDLE EASTERN	25	.64%
-- NATIVE AMERICAN	8	.21%
-- UNKNOWN	5	.13%



PERCENTAGE OF STOPS BY GENDER



PERCENTAGE OF STOPS DAY VS. NIGHT





USE OF FORCE:

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties. Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

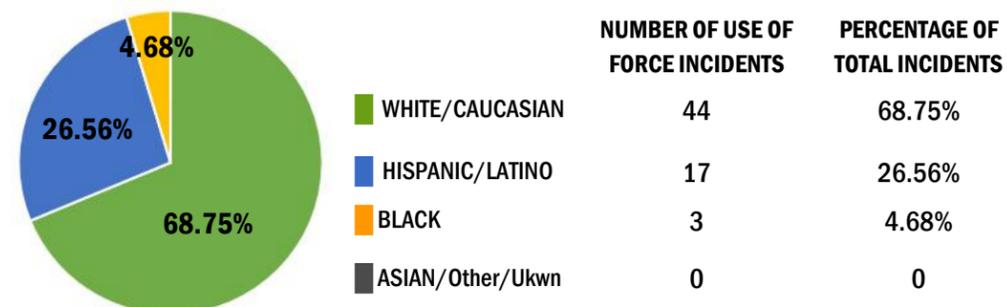
The Forest Grove Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests.

In 2020, the Forest Grove Police Department had over 22,160 citizen contacts and used force against 64 people. Of these, 53 of the incidents were against male suspects and 11 against female suspects. 44 of the incidents were against individuals who identify as white/Caucasian, 17 against individuals identifying as Hispanic, and 3 against individuals identifying as Black. In total, 98 Use of Force reports were completed for these 64 incidents.

The average age of people whom officers used force against was 36 years of age, while the average height and weight was approximately 5'9" and 183 Lbs. The most common factor in force used, noted by officers, was hostility towards officers followed closely by the effects of alcohol and drug use.

In 2020 the peak month for officer use of force was June while the peak day was Saturday. The most common hours for use of force was between 6:00pm and 9:00pm.

Throughout 2020 officers displayed weapons ranging from chemical spray to a patrol rifle 45 times and used some form of forceful physical contact 80 times. In 2020, no Forest Grove Police Officer discharged their firearms; while Tasers were displayed 9 times, officers only deployed them 3 times.



MILESTONES, AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

(PICTURED OPPOSITE NUMERICALLY)

Graduation from Oregon Department of Public Safety and Standards (DPSST) Academy:

- ◆ Officer Kole McGann¹
- ◆ Officer Daphne Plumeau
- ◆ Officer Kaitlyn Scott⁴

Completion of DPSST Police Officer Career Development Course (PCOD):

- ◆ Officer Aaron Huson

New Hires:

- ◆ Henry Reimann, (February, 2020)
- ◆ Michael King, (July, 2020)⁶ - Left
- ◆ Jacob Adams (July, 2020)⁶ - Center
- ◆ Roberto Nava (July, 2020)³ - Left
- ◆ Dave White (July, 2020) ³ - Center
- ◆ Matt Dorick (July, 2020) ³- Right
- ◆ Robert Obenauf (August, 2020)⁵
- ◆ Brandon Durbin (September, 2020)²
- ◆ Michelle Wilkins (November, 2020)

Promotions and Appointments

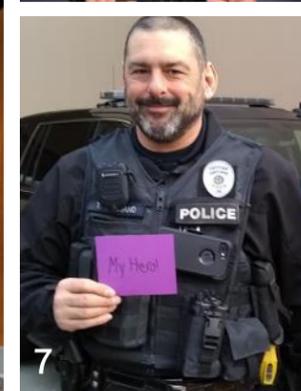
- ◆ Troy Maslen to Administrative Captain
- ◆ Henry Reimann to Chief of Police
- ◆ Joseph Martino to Patrol Sergeant

FGPD Service Milestones:

- ◆ Officer Steven Teets—10 years
- ◆ Sergeant Scott King—15 years

Retirements:

- ◆ Officer Tom Siciliano—25 years with the FGPD⁶



In July 2020, the Forest Grove Police Department was awarded Agency of the Year by the Western States Information Network - a regional program that provides support for law enforcement by offering resources that aid in information sharing, criminal investigations, and officer safety.

This award is was in large part due to the dedicated work of Detective Darren Pomeroy (pictured far right) who has led the way region wide in utilizing new technologies to investigate child pornography, human trafficking, sex crimes and other violent crimes.





INVESTIGATIONS

The Detective Division of the Forest Grove Police Department is dedicated to providing the highest quality of service to the citizens of Forest Grove and is committed to innovating whenever possible. This commitment is exemplified by service not only to our interagency partners, but to our drive to deliver justice to the victims in the criminal cases that we are honored to serve.

Detectives typically investigate complex cases that require follow-up in other geographical areas or cases that are complex and require long term time commitment. Detectives are considered general assignment but primarily investigate child abuse, adult sexual assaults, violent assaults and homicides. Additionally, detectives currently interact with the County Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) for Child and Elder Abuse, and the Major Crimes Team (MCT).

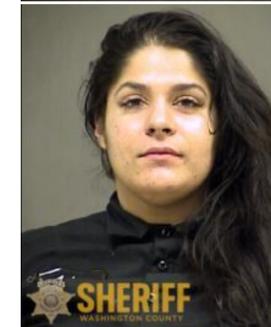
A total of 52 new cases were assigned to the Investigations Division during 2020, of which 39 were closed within that year. 57 original reports were completed as well as 330 follow up and supplemental reports. Detectives were also responsible for the arrest of nine suspects in a variety of cases. The Unit closed a total of 65 cases, including cases carried over from previous years, and completed 17 background investigations. Covid-19 proved to be particularly impactful on investigations and how detectives conducted day to day operations. Meeting with and providing resources to victims was hampered or delayed in the interest of reducing Covid exposure, as did the methods for meeting with suspects.

Forest Grove Detectives also assisted the patrol division in 2020 by covering shifts when staffing shortages arose, completing search warrant affidavits and search warrants when the need arose, and also in completing remedial and in-service training for patrol personnel.

MAJOR CASES 2020:

PICTURED TOP TO BOTTOM

- ◆ In April 2020, Forest Grove Police Officers arrested Zachary Blessing after responding to a report of a stabbing in which one person had sustained multiple serious wounds. Police further learned the incident had occurred in the presence of a minor child. Blessing initially fled on foot but was later captured and arrested. He was initially charged with Assault in the First Degree and Unlawful Use of a Weapon; Blessing took a plea deal.
- ◆ In April 2020, officers responded to a report of a large explosion in a multi-unit complex on Main Street. The suspected cause of the explosion was due to the manufacture of butane hash oil. John LeCount was identified as the suspect and was later found hiding in the detached garage with singed facial hair. He admitted to extracting hash oil using butane and a spark caused the explosion. LeCount pled guilty to Arson Incident to the Manufacture of Cannabinoid Extract and was sentenced to 5 years in prison.
- ◆ In March 2018, officers conducted a welfare check the apartment of a 53 year old female. Patrol located the woman deceased in her home; the medical examiner ruled it a death under suspicious circumstances and a murder investigation was initiated. Kamen Baer and Andrea Tijerina were identified as persons of interest. Baer was arrested in 2019 and pleaded guilty to Manslaughter and sentenced to 15 years. Tijerina was arrested in early 2020 on charges of murder and robbery. She took a plea deal.
- ◆ In May 2019, officers arrested Ronald Jordan on multiple charges of sex abuse following an investigation that began in February 2019 involving a minor victim. Jordan pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 10 years. During 2020, however, this same investigation revealed additional cases; Jordan took a plea deal and was sentenced to an additional 6 years in prison.
- ◆ In February 2020, Officers arrested Todd Ott in the culmination of a sexual abuse investigation that began in 2019. Two minor victims disclosed that Ott had abused them over a span of several months while the victims' family resided with Ott, possibly with the knowledge of the victims' parents. The victims' parents were also arrested and indicted on charges related to abuse and neglect. Ott pleaded guilty on multiple charges and was sentenced to 12.5 years in prison. The victims' mother pleaded guilty to three counts of Criminal Mistreatment and was sentenced to six years; the father of the victims is awaiting trial.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Officer Clarice Gordon has served as the
Forest Grove School Resource Officer
since 2016.



The Forest Grove police department supplies one School Resource Officer (SRO) to the Forest Grove School District. The SRO is a patrol officer with sworn authority specifically assigned to work in collaboration with school and community-based organizations. The SRO typically serves a four-year assignment.

Due to Covid and the transition to a distance learning model, the SRO was only in the schools through mid-March, 2020 where she responded to more than 85 calls for service. In a typical year, the most common incidents are theft, assault, drug possession, and sexual assault, in addition to frequent cases involving bullying, harassment, and social media.

FOREST GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

8 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
1 UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1 MIDDLE SCHOOL
1 HIGH SCHOOL

TOTAL STUDENTS: 6,108





CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Code Enforcement Officer Michelle Wilkins joined the Forest Grove Police Department in November, 2020.

The City of Forest Grove establishes rules and regulations regarding property, noise, parking, and vehicles, among others, in order to keep Forest Grove a safe and pleasant community to live, work, and enjoy.

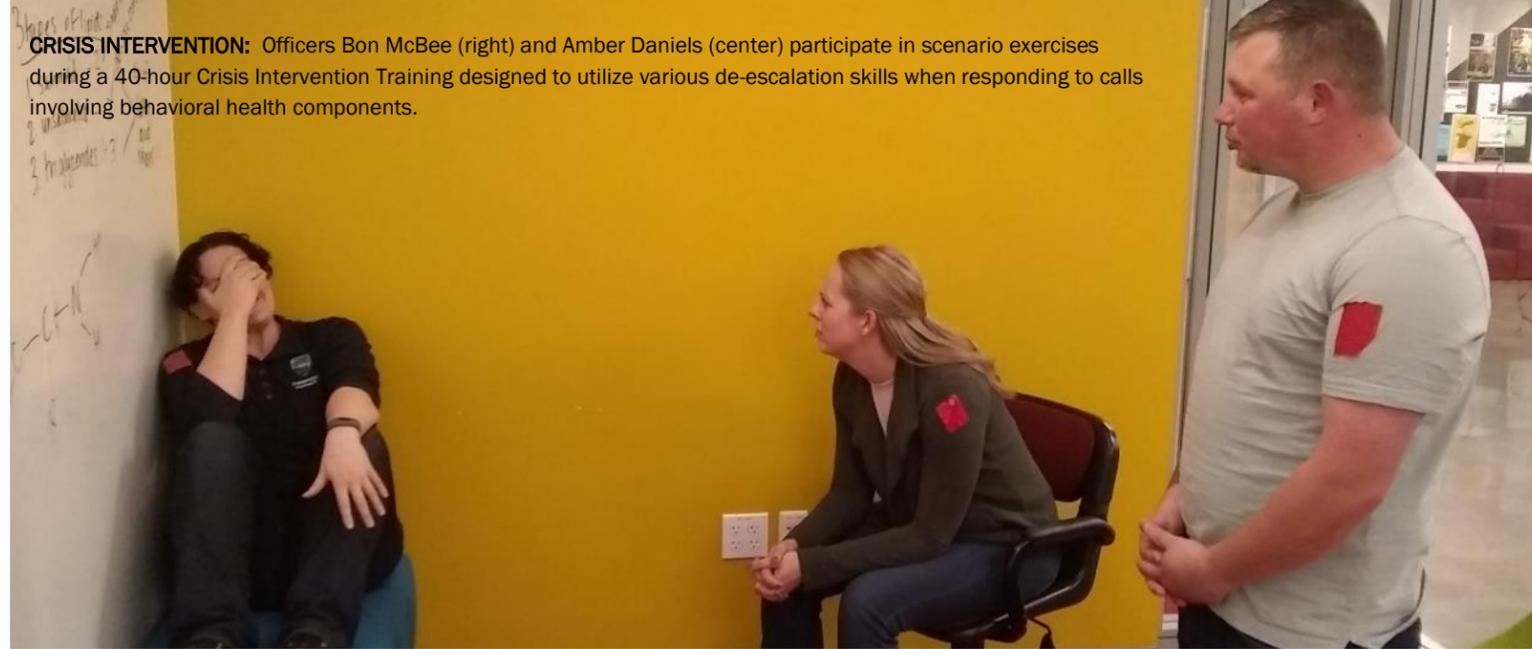
When a property or vehicle violates the City's Ordinances, the Forest Grove Police Department's Code Enforcement Officer assists in resolving the issue by working with property or vehicle owners to find solutions. The Code Enforcement Officer is a non-sworn civilian and is specifically dedicated to handling only code calls.

In 2020, the FGPD had a Code Enforcement vacancy from August to November when CEO Michelle Wilkins joined the department. Code Enforcement Officers took 902 calls for service. Overall, Forest Grove Police responded to more than 1360 code enforcement related calls in 2020.

Examples of Code Enforcement calls:

- Parking complaints and abandoned vehicles
- Property complaints, including junk, hazards and vegetation
- Ordinance violations, including extended RV stays and noise complaints
- Illegal dumping and littering

CRISIS INTERVENTION: Officers Bon McBee (right) and Amber Daniels (center) participate in scenario exercises during a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training designed to utilize various de-escalation skills when responding to calls involving behavioral health components.



TRAINING

The Forest Grove Police Department recognizes the importance of training and is committed to providing the best training available to all personnel. It is the practice of the Forest Grove Police Department to provide its officers with the opportunity to improve skills and abilities as well as continuously learn new concepts and trends within law enforcement. This ideal is achieved by providing ongoing, purposeful training that serves the objectives of the department as well as each individual officer.

Each year, our officers are required to complete mandatory training which includes ethics, use of force, Bloodborne and HazMat. They are also required, on an ongoing basis, to go through De-escalation training, First Aid/CPR and AED certification, and Crisis Intervention and Mental/Behavioral Health training, to name a few. Officers may elect to attend training geared towards their special interests and/or assignments such as Crisis Negotiation, School Resource Officer, Mobile Response Team, Drug Recognition Expert, among others. These trainings are in addition to the 640 hours that they received at the Basic Police Academy which is a 16 week course and the FGPD's 17 week Field Training and Evaluation Program officers must complete before going solo on the road.

Due to Covid-19, training opportunities were limited in 2020, however as the year progressed, online and virtual trainings became more commonplace to ensure officers continued to receive their ongoing training requirements.

SUPPORT UNIT

RECORDS. EVIDENCE. OUTREACH.

The FGPD currently employs a support unit of non-sworn employees who assist officers and the public in the day to day operations of the department. This includes assisting officers from processing and tracking reports and evidence, assisting citizens who come through the FGPD lobby or call the main office.

Records:

- ◆ Records Specialists ensure that data from citations and reports is entered into any number of state and local databases. They route documents to the appropriate entities such as Department of Human Services, District Attorney, and other law enforcement jurisdictions. Records Specialists ensure compliance with public records laws and reporting requirements, and maintain and purge records according to state laws and city policies. They also process any records requests from members of the public.
- ◆ Records staff also assist citizens who come into the police department lobby or contact the main business line.

Evidence

- ◆ The Evidence Specialist is responsible for logging and storing evidence that is seized by officers, tracking all evidence from the time of seizure to the end of its usefulness. At that point, the Evidence Specialist is responsible for the retention and/or destruction of that evidence.
- ◆ The Evidence Specialist partners with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency in sponsoring National Prescription Drug Take Back events twice a year.

Community Outreach

- ◆ The Community Outreach Specialist (COS) is responsible for the department's many educational and crime prevention programs, such as Citizen's Academy, Neighborhood Watch, Scam Workshops, Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, in addition to community events throughout the year.
- ◆ The COS manages the FGPD's web content, social media accounts, department publications and educational resources.



Records: Carol Lorenz



Records: Jaime Zaik



Evidence: Renee Lee



Outreach: Lauren Quinsland

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Forest Grove Police Department takes pride in our relationship with the citizens of Forest Grove and strives to create and participate in positive, meaningful opportunities to interact with the public, with businesses, and with civic, social, and non-profit organizations. In a typical year, the FGPD hosts and participates in various events for the public to meet officers, ask questions or raise concerns, or learn how to partner with us for a safer community.

In February 2020, before Covid-19 began to impact life in Oregon, the FGPD had an opportunity to share coffee and donuts with residents of a local senior-living community. Immediately following, though, the impact of the pandemic greatly affected the various community outreach events, including National Night Out, but it also provided an opportunity to engage with the public in new and creative ways, including, among others:

- ◆ A free prescription pickup and delivery service for individuals aged 65+ with underlying health conditions, allowing them to access their prescriptions without leaving home
- ◆ Coordinating with local organizations to provide free reflective vests to cyclists and pedestrians
- ◆ Distribution of free reusable cloth masks for members of the public via a 'mask tree' outside the station. This project was done in collaboration with numerous individuals and groups who generously donated masks. Nearly 2,000 masks were distributed in 2020.
- ◆ Participating in non-contact 'parades' for birthdays, graduations, and other celebrations

Additionally, the FGPD saw an outpouring of support (usually in the form of lunch and other goodies) from local businesses, restaurants, community groups and individuals. A big "thank you" to all who came out to support us and other first responders during this challenging time.







FOREST GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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