

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## *Avon Lake Police Department*

This report is a summary of the activities and events the police department has encountered throughout the year.

Chief Duane Streator

2/4/2016



# Police Department Personnel

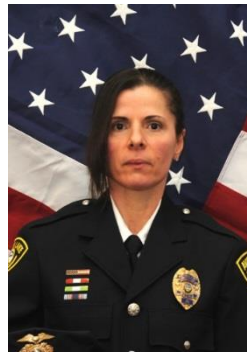
## Administration



Chief  
Duane Streator



Administrative Lieutenant  
Scott Fishburn



Administrative Sergeant  
Victoria Rightnour



Administrative Assistant  
Rachel Burson

## Detective Bureau



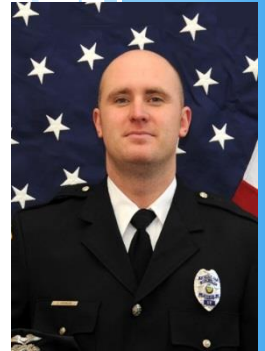
Detective Sergeant  
Reed Reikowski



Detective  
Tim Schleicher



Detective  
Mark Pickering



Detective  
Caleb Robinson

## School Resource Officer



Officer  
Brian Hurd



# Police Department Personnel Continued

## **Platoon A**



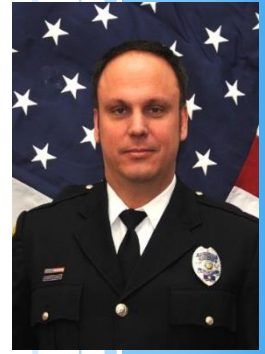
Lieutenant  
Vince Molnar



Sergeant  
Alex Giardini



Officer  
Shawn Rinker



Officer  
Ron Cantleberry



Officer  
Brian Bringman



Officer  
Don Godlewski

## **Platoon B**



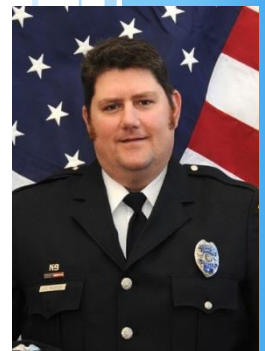
Lieutenant  
Sean Bockelman



Sergeant  
Fran Tibbitts



Officer  
Nate Toth



K-9 Officer  
Jared Rudduck



Officer  
Tom Anadiotis



Officer  
Luke Hagedorn



Officer  
Justin Ludwig



K-9  
Ady



AVON LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Police Department Personnel Continued

## Platoon C



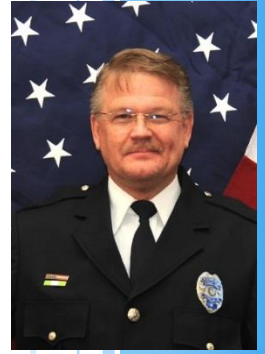
Lieutenant  
Mike Bulger



Sergeant  
Les Carrender



Officer  
Bernard Koltiska



Officer  
Keith Biczynowski



Officer  
Kirk Seekins



Officer  
Jim Valencic



Officer  
Robert Walborn

## Dispatch



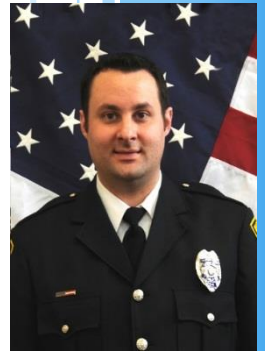
Dispatcher  
Patty Schroer



Dispatcher  
Libby Reinker



Dispatcher  
Cindy VanBuren



Dispatcher  
Mike Cipro



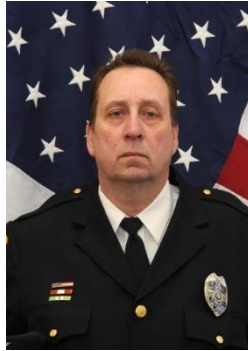


# Police Department Personnel Continued

## Part Time Officers



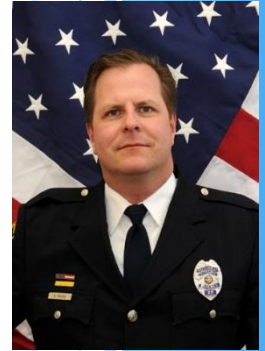
Officer  
Tim Gareau



Officer  
David Dolezal



Officer  
Elizabeth Reese



Officer  
Keith Riggs



Officer  
Randy Bennett



Officer  
Jason Melda



Officer  
Sean Yonkers



Officer  
Tony Ciresi

## Part Time Dispatch



Dispatcher  
Dawn Lucey



Dispatcher  
Julie Martin



Dispatcher  
Vicky Haag



Dispatcher  
Kathleen Starkey



Dispatcher  
Jennel Trifiletti



Dispatcher  
Kaylie Weinhardt



# Police Department Personnel Continued

## Support Staff



Chaplain  
Ken Bublinec



Maintenance  
David Ferguson



Dog Warden  
Ali Wadham



# Education and Training

Education and training have continued to be a priority for our department. Both officers and dispatchers have attended courses to update past training and to acquire new skills.

In 2015 Avon Lake Police Officers attended training in topics ranging from Background Investigation, Public Records, Auto Theft, Ballistics, Firearms Instructor, Patrol Drug Interdiction, Tactical Applications, Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety, Investigative Training, and Search and Seizure legal updates.



In October of 2015, the Avon Lake Police Department transitioned to a new records management system called New World. In the months leading up to this transition all of the Avon Lake Police Department staff attended various training sessions to learn how to operate the system, trouble shoot issues, and how to maximize use of the tools this new system has given the department.

In preparation of possibly being asked by the city of Cleveland to assist with the Republican National Convention in 2016, individual officers were selected to receive training through FEMA / Homeland Security. Some of the topics covered have been Field Force Command & Planning and Mobile Field Force Operations. This training is essential for officers to be able to operate effectively within large multiagency details and assignments.



# New World – Records Management

Records management systems track and store the work product of the police department. Dispatchers enter information provided by the caller and that information is instantly available to officers on mobile computers. Officers complete reports after an incident for informational purposes, to document an alleged crime, or a motor vehicle accident. The ability to access and analyze that information can assist in things like solving a crime or determining where additional traffic enforcement is needed.

New World Systems was the company chosen to provide Lorain County police and fire departments with this critically important software. The transition started in late 2014 when Avon Lake joined with other departments from the county at “build sessions”. Dispatcher Cipro was chosen as the primary Avon Lake representative of the county “build team”. Lt. Molnar was given responsibility of overseeing the transition and coordinating trainings as the October “go-live” date approached.

The time spent building and learning the new system proved to be challenging. ALPD staff needed

extensive training in using the new software as it is drastically different from pervious software used. The transition also provided great opportunities. The ability to communicate with and access information from other Lorain County law enforcement is a primary benefit to the new software. The Lorain County Sheriff’s office is able to access our booking information when a prisoner is taken to the county jail which makes that process more efficient. The system alerts us to previous incidents a suspect has had with neighboring agencies. We’ve strengthened the bonds with our fellow law enforcement partners. These bonds and the unification of software serve to strengthen law enforcement in Lorain County and Avon Lake now and in the future.

Unit	Status	Incident Number	Call Type	Call Location	Secondary	Primary Officer	Unit Type
AL201	On Duty					Streator, Duane	Chief
AL203	School Patrol				ERIEVIEW...	Bockelman, Sean	Lieutenant
AL208	On Duty					Rightnour, Vicky	Sergeant
AL209	On Duty					Reikowski, Reed	Sergeant
AL213	Available					Schleicher, Tim	Officer
AL220	On Duty					Pickering, Mark	Detective
AL225	On Duty					Robinson, Caleb	Detective
AL227	Available					Hagedorn, Luke	Officer
AL228	On Duty					Ludwig, Justin	Detective
AL242	Available					Crest, Anthony	Officer
AL251	Available					Jindra, Elizabeth	Communications





# Community Engagement

## Social Media

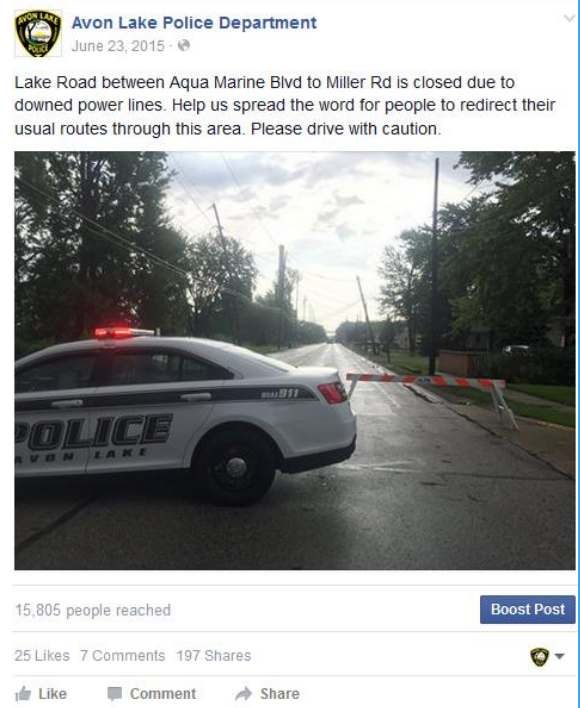
The Avon Lake Police Department continues to use various social media platforms to reach the public on a variety of topics. Road closures, weather alerts, safety tips, events the police are participating in, and press releases are just a few of the topics published and discussed through the Department's social media accounts.

Facebook remains the largest platform the department uses. The ease with which people can share information we post greatly increases the volume of people informed. In 2015 we began posting videos of incidents and asking for community help in identifying suspects involved. Our posts reach thousands of Facebook users. Some of our posts in 2015 have reached as high as over 82,000 people on Facebook. Our most shared and furthest reaching post are the press releases, residential advisories, and public service announcements.

Due to the design of Facebook we are able to get almost immediate interaction with residents. With options like private messages, publicly posting on our timeline, and replying to our own posts, residents feel comfortable contacting the police department with feedback, questions, concerns, and encouragement that we typically would not receive from them by telephone.

## Safety Town

Each year an officer is sent to Safety Town to meet the kids and review issues that relate to them. Items discussed include bike & helmet safety, crossing the street, what to do in an emergency, and review other safety rules they have learned earlier in the week. Each child in Safety Town also gets a child ID.



# Community Engagement Continued

## *Community Police Academy*

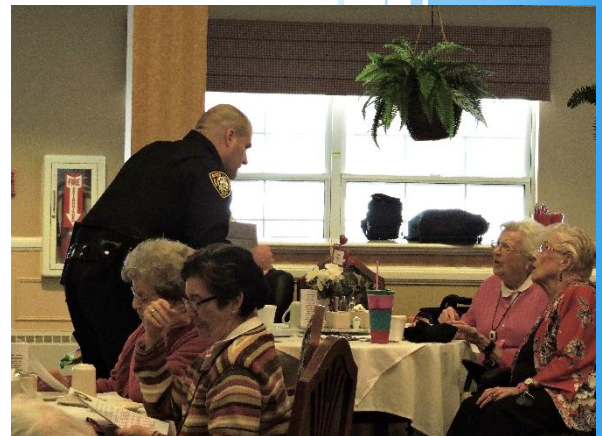
In its 10<sup>th</sup> year the Avon Lake Community Police Academy continued to be a success. Throughout the 10 week program the public is given an inside view of police work. Through lectures, demonstrations, and student participation, the academy topics cover dispatch, firearms, driving, patrol, drugs, interrogation, and computer forensics. Instruction at the firing range and the building searches are always group favorites.



Interacting with the community in this way has proved to be an asset in giving a real-life perspective of police work to the public as well as strengthening the rapport between the police department and the citizens.

## *Coffee with a Cop*

2015 saw the start of Avon Lake Police Department hosting Coffee with a Cop once a month. This function acts as an open forum where residents can get to know the City's police officers, ask questions, voice concerns, and learn about police work in their city. Coffee with a cop has been held at Independence Village, Towne Center Commons, local coffee shop Rio Café, and the Old Firehouse community center.



# Community Engagement Continued

## Big Trucks

Big Trucks is held at the Avon Lake Safety Center every September. It continues to be one of the largest collaborative City-held events each year. Departments from all over the city participate in the event educating and entertaining the public. In addition to City Departments, State and Federal agencies as well as area charities set up informational booths and bring vehicles. People from all over the area get the opportunity to tour the Police Department, Municipal Court, and Fire Department while stopping at booths and climbing around in the City's vehicles.



## ID Cards

2015 saw an expansion in the way the department uses its ID card program. In addition to the Child ID cards, ALPD designed and printed City IDs for many City of Avon Lake Employees as well as designing and printing boat launch passes for the Miller Road Park Boat Launch.



The Child ID program continues to be the largest ID program. The program provides parents an identification card with their child's current information to give to police in the event that their child goes missing. The police department sends out representatives to many city events throughout the year to make the Child IDs. The Safety Fair, Safety Town, Big Trucks, and Homecoming Festival are just a few examples of where you can find the Avon Lake Police Kids ID booth throughout the year. The Avon Lake Police Department provides hundreds of these cards each year.





# Specialized Units

## **Motor Unit**



The Avon Lake Police Motor Unit returned in the spring of 2010 with two officers riding a 2010 Harley Davidson Police Extra Glide Classic with a Twin Cam 103 (1,690 cc) motor.

In 2015, the Avon Lake Motor Unit increased from two motor officers to four.

Joining Sgt. Carrender and Patrolman Biczynski in the Motor Unit are Patrolman Ludwig and Patrolman Riggs. Both Ludwig and Riggs attended training for this unit in May.

In addition to regular patrol operations, the Motor Unit assisted with local parades, charity runs, memorial rides, and funeral escort services. With unseasonably warm weather during 2015, the Motor Unit was used from May through November.

## **K-9 Unit**

The K-9 unit is a useful tool for the police department. K-9 Ady and his handler Officer Rudduck have been working together for the police department since 2011. Ady is a Belgian Malinois trained for both narcotics and patrol work. The K-9 unit responds to calls involving tracking, vehicle sniffs, school searches, luggage sniffs, and building sniffs. Officer Rudduck and K-9 regularly attend training throughout the year.

K-9 Ady and Officer Rudduck continued to be very popular with the general public in 2015. As well as regular patrol work, the K-9 unit also made appearances and demonstrations at various community events. Avon Lake Discount Drug Mart held a Cookout & Raffle in September this year raising over \$200 to benefit the Avon Lake Police K-9 Unit.





# Specialized Units Continued

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## **Detective Bureau**

The Detective Bureau investigates crimes once the road officers respond and conduct an initial investigation. Once a case has been passed on to the Bureau it is assigned to one of the four full time detectives. Detective Sergeant Reikowski, Detective Schleicher, Detective Pickering, and Detective Robinson were assigned to the Bureau during 2015.



In 2015, the Detective Bureau primarily worked on theft cases ranging from aggravated burglaries, breaking and entering cases, down to misdemeanor theft cases. Other matters like investigating suspicious conditions; serving arrest warrants; working multijurisdictional cases; and serving and executing search warrants also fall under the responsibilities of the Detective Bureau. All of these tasks were part of the Detective Bureau's case load in 2015.

In addition to investigating cases, the Detective Bureau is also responsible for processing, cataloging, tracking, storing, and disposing evidence and property.

In 2015 Detective Schleicher worked a theft case at the Ford Motor Co. located at 750 Miller Road. A large number of tire pressure sensors were missing, which caused the plant to shut down for a period of time. Ford estimated the value of items stolen totaled more than \$500,000. A suspect was developed and subsequently charged in the theft. The case is currently at the Common Pleas Court awaiting trial.



# Specialized Units Continued

## **Lorain County SWAT Team**

The Avon Lake Police Department continues to support the Lorain County Swat Team. Sgt. Tibbitts and Officer Rinker are assigned to the SWAT Team, Lt. Bockelman and Detective Schleicher are assigned as Negotiators. Lt. Fishburn left the team in 2015 after being a member for 26 years.

Established in 1991 the L.C. SWAT Team operates under the authority of the Lorain County Sheriff's Department. The L.C. Swat Team originally started with only 13 members, but has since grown to over 27 members including dedicated Tactical Emergency Medics (T.E.M.) from the Avon & Avon Lake Fire Departments.



This is a multi-jurisdictional team, currently consisting of team members from; Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, LaGrange, L.C. Sheriff's Department, N. Ridgeville, Oberlin, Wellington and Vermillion.

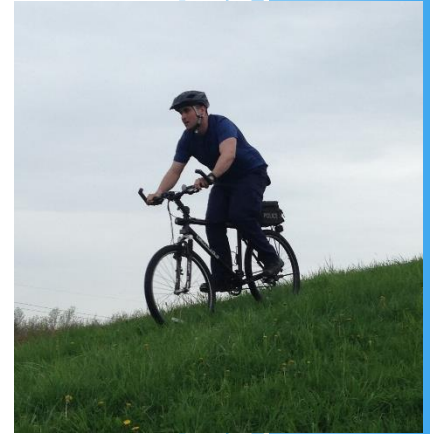
Lorain County SWAT members are on call 24/7 operating as sworn Sheriff Deputies, have full powers of arrest, and have the authority to go anywhere within Lorain County. The average response time for the team anywhere within Lorain County is approximately 45 minutes. Drug Raids, Suspect Searches, High Risk Incidents, Dignitary & V.I.P. Protection, Barricaded Suspects, Hostage Situations, and Rapid Deployment Against Active Shooters are some of the specialized operations L.C. SWAT performs.



# Specialized Units Continued

## **Bike Patrol**

The Avon Lake Police Bike Patrol began in 1998. In 2002, the unit was expanded to enable each platoon to have at least one officer per shift. In 2015, the Bike Patrol welcomed the addition of three new officers. These officers had taken part in bike patrol training in May 2015.



The Avon Lake Bike Patrol is manned by Sgt. Tibbitts, Ptln. Toth, Ptln. Biczynowski, Ptln. Pickering, Ptln. Bringman, Ptln. Godlewski, Ptln. Valencic, Ptln. Hagedorn, Ptln. Walborn, and Ptln. Melda.

Bike patrol officers have the same patrol responsibilities as officers assigned to vehicle patrol, only with special emphasis placed on officer initiated activities. Bike Patrol Officers also routinely concentrate their efforts on positive community relations and crime prevention activities through daily interaction with citizens, merchants, and visitors to Avon Lake.

Bike Patrol is a huge asset during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration due to their mobility. Police mountain bikes provide accessibility of police officers to the public and reduce opportunities for criminal activity by enforcement through proactive policing. Officers on bikes have much easier access to congested areas than officers in motorized vehicles and can cover a larger area in a shorter amount of time than officers on foot. Their public relations value to the police department is a big asset.

## **Dog Warden**

The Avon Lake Dog Warden is a part time employee for the police department. The dog warden works with Love-A-Stray to catch dogs at large and reunite them with their owners as well as responding to complaints and advising the public on Avon Lake's laws concerning animals and their care.



# Specialized Units Continued

## SRO

2015 marked the 8<sup>th</sup> year that Officer Hurd has been in the position of SRO. The School Resource Officer (SRO) program is a partnership between the Avon Lake Police Department and Avon Lake City Schools maintaining a beneficial working relationship with students, parents, school personnel and law enforcement.

Throughout the school district, the SRO conducted safety drills in September. All safety drills were done using the A.L.I.C.E. procedure. A.L.I.C.E teaches students and faculty to Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate in the event of an emergency at the school.

SRO Hurd is very involved in various programs focusing on educating youth. Positive Choices Community team, S.A.D.D (Students Against Destructive Decisions), LCADA, and Community Forum Meetings are just some of the programs and organizations the SRO is involved in. These programs focus on providing information and guidance to Avon Lake's youth and parents encouraging good life choices.

Officer Hurd is involved in the high school psychology and CSI (contemporary social issues) classes including taking the students to Grafton Correctional Institution. The SRO also covers topics like internet safety, drug awareness, observation skills, and a number of safety and law enforcement related topics at the high school. Officer Hurd conducted Safe Driving Awareness to the students prior to Prom. Officer Hurd setup a course for the students to navigate in a golf cart while wearing impairment goggles to simulate the dangers of driving impaired by drugs or alcohol.





# Specialized Units Continued

## **Honor Guard**

The Avon Lake Police Department Honor Guard was officially established in 2005. It was



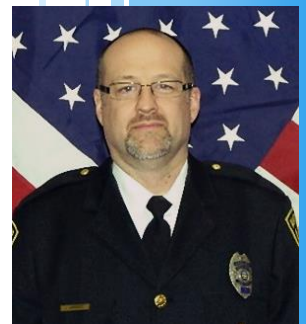
created to allow the police department to dispatch a trained and organized unit to represent the department at ceremonial events and funerals. Since its creation, the honor guard has had the privilege of representing the police department at numerous parades, funerals, and public events.

In 2015 the Avon Lake Honor Guard participated in the Lorain County Police Officer Memorial in Vermilion, the Avon Lake Memorial Day and Homecoming Parades, and the USO Bob Hope Golf Outing at Sweetbriar Golf Course in Avon Lake.

Members of the Honor Guard are Lt. Bulger, Sgt. Tibbitts, Sgt. Carrender, Ptlm. Schleicher, Ptlm. Toth, Ptlm. Cantleberry, Ptlm. Robinson, Ptlm. Valencic, Ptlm. Riggs, and Ptlm. Melda.

## **Department Chaplain**

In 2015 Pastor Ken Bublinec joined the Avon Lake Police Department in the newly created position of Department Chaplain. Pastor Bublinec volunteers his services and offers specialized guidance, counseling and assistance when requested by the department.



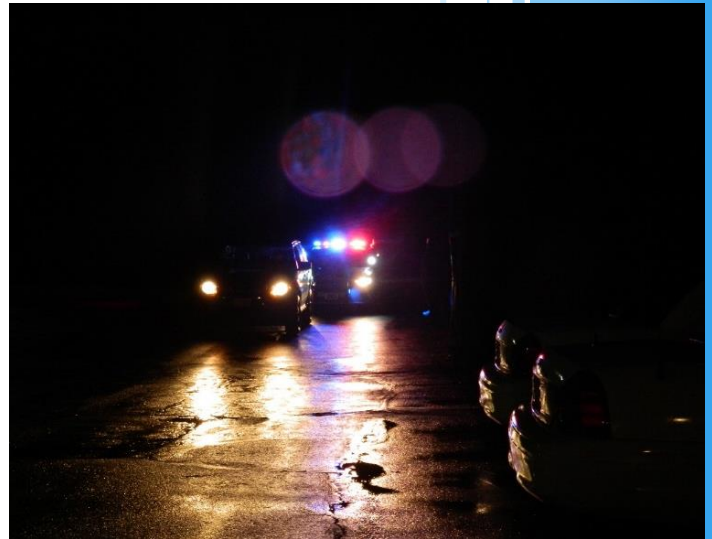
Some of the duties the Department Chaplain may be requested to perform may include accompanying an officer to assist with death or serious injury notification, counseling department members in response to stress or crisis situations, visiting sick or injured department members, and assisting the police department in the performance of ceremonial functions.



# Calls For Service

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The Avon Lake Police Department had approximately 14,500 Calls for Service in 2015. Those calls resulted in 1,480 Incident/Case Reports. The City experienced no increase in residential burglaries and a 2% reduction in theft complaints compared to last year. In 2015 there were 4 reported car thefts, which was a decrease compared to 2014's count of 5 car thefts.



Assault incidents increased from 35 in 2014 to 52 in 2015. While this is an increase, it is part of an overall larger trend of decreasing assaults in the city over time. Since 2005, Assault Reports in Avon Lake have decreased by over 34%.

Avon Lake Police made 754 misdemeanor arrests and 42 felony arrests in 2015. In comparison, Avon Lake Police made 717 misdemeanor arrests and 71 felony arrests in 2014. This shows an increase of 5% in misdemeanor arrests and a 41% decrease in felony arrests. We believe the department's preventative measures through educating the community on drug use, drug related crimes, and ways citizens can safeguard against these helped lead to a decrease in felony crimes.

The number of domestic reports decreased from 46 in 2014 to 35 in 2015. A total of 24 Domestic Violence arrests were made in 2015.

Arson reports have always been low in number in Avon Lake. 2014 had two reports of arson and 2015 zero arson reports.

The City had an increase of robberies in 2015. The majority of these cases are related to drug dependency. 3 of the 4 robberies have resulted in arrests and are in the process of going through the judicial system. The 4<sup>th</sup> robbery is still being investigated by the Detective Bureau.



# Calls for Service Continued

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## *Traffic*

Traffic Crash reports decreased from 298 in 2014 to 265 in 2015. Traffic crashes that resulted in a person being injured increased from 27 last year to 36 in 2015. Leading contributing factors to injury traffic crashes in the city continue to be Failure to Yield and keeping Assured Clear Distance between vehicles. These two leading factors make up 61% of all 2015 Injury Accidents in the city.

There was an 8% decrease in OVI arrests in 2015. OVI arrests in 2014 totaled 72, in 2015 the total was 66.

