



AVON LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

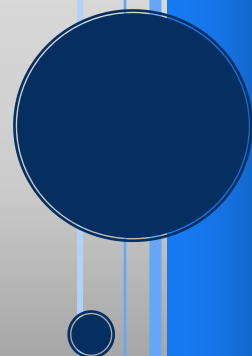


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LETTER FROM CHIEF MOLNAR

The year 2021 was unique in many ways. Tragedy and a rise in auto thefts combined with working through the second year of a pandemic provided challenges for the police department and the entire community. Mental health became a big focus when a father inexplicably murdered his wife and two sons. Neighbors, classmates, family members, and the police officers who responded to the scene struggled to understand something that can never make sense. Counselors came to schools and the police department, but the confusion and grief over the senseless and selfish act of violence remains.

The police department and community were also confronted with a rise in auto thefts. The year 2020 brought a rise in auto thefts to surrounding communities while Avon Lake was generally spared. We were hit hard early in 2021 and the auto thefts continued throughout the year. A public information campaign aimed at encouraging residents to make the thefts harder to commit by locking the doors of cars left overnight in driveways and taking the keys inside had mixed results. The information campaign was rebranded and expanded late in the year through "The 9pm Routine", a program instituted after officers attended training from the Ohio Crime Prevention Association. The focus on "target-hardening" and establishing a disciplined focus on protecting personal property combined with other efforts and changes in crime patterns seems to have had some early success in 2022.

The second year of the COVID-19 pandemic led to higher vaccination rates, generally less severe illness, and a reopening of some in-person activities. The Avon Lake Police Department was able to successfully host a Community Police Academy after canceling the program in 2020. The fireworks display was also able to take place, but the Big Trucks event was canceled after a rise in cases. Virtual meetings will likely remain commonplace and occasional masking may remain a part of the future, but we seem to have come through the toughest lifestyle adjustments caused by the pandemic.

Calls for service, cases, traffic stops, and other activities returned to near the 2019 levels. Crime rates in burglaries were lower than recent years and traffic accidents were also lower. Speed concerns throughout the community continue to be a common complaint and efforts to address those will continue. Two solar powered radar signs were added to the two originally installed in 2020. These signs also collect data which helps us see when traffic volume and speeds are highest and helps us to direct enforcement efforts more efficiently. We believe these signs have helped reduce the number and severity of accidents.

The Avon Lake Police Department remains committed to the principles of community policing. We look forward to continuing to work with the community of Avon Lake to make it as safe as we possibly can. Thank you for your support of our efforts.

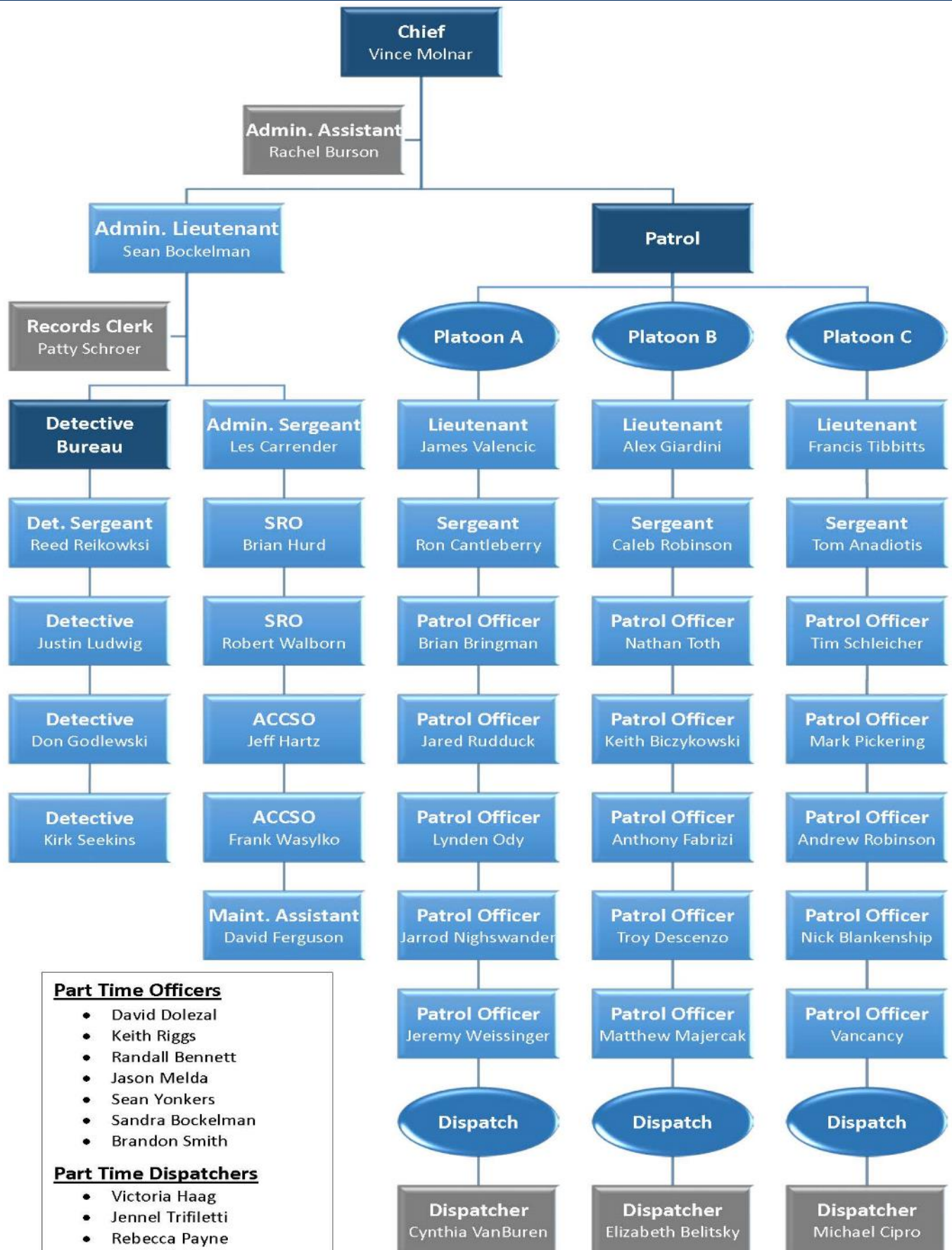
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent E. Molnar".

Avon Lake Police Chief Vincent E. Molnar



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



HIRES & RETIRES



Matthew Majercak was hired and sworn in as a full time Avon Lake Police Officer on January 18th, 2021.



Joesphine Lopez was hired as a part time Dispatcher in February, 2021.



In July of 2021 Sandra Bockelman was sworn in as a part time Police Officer.



Brandon Smith was sworn in as a part time Police Officer in November 2021.



After serving the citizens of Avon Lake as a part time Police Officer for over 17 years, Officer David Dolezal retired from the Avon Lake Police Department in August of 2021.

PROMOTIONS



In February Sgt. James Valencic was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Valencic is a 14 year veteran of the Avon Lake Police Department.



Patrolman Caleb Robinson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2021. Sgt. Robinson is a 15 year veteran of the Avon Lake Police Department.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Avon Lake Police Department has continued to use the services of LEXIPOL and Police 1 Academy for in-house online instruction. LEXIPOL has allowed ALPD to have digitized and legally current Policies and Procedures. The LEXIPOL system provides officers with daily training and scenarios related to department policies.

After a year of limited in-person training due to COVID 19, the Avon Lake Police Department resumed with valuable live instruction in 2021. Listed below are classes attended by Avon Lake Officers and Dispatchers.

- Power of Teamwork (Based on the U.S. Navy Blue Angels)
- Beyond the Silence: Forensic Interviewing, Part One
- Instructional Skills
- S.W.A.T. Basic School
- Stop School Violence: Threat Assessment Training
- Street Smart Cop: Proactive Patrol Tactics
- Range Qualifications
- CPR / First Aid Training
- De-escalation Training
- Core Criminal Investigation
- New Chief's Training
- Canines in the Courtroom
- Advanced SRO
- Blue Help (Personal Mental Health for L.E.)
- Ohio Tactical Officer Association 2021 Conference
- Firearms Instructor
- Taser Instructor
- FBI – NIBRS (Statistical Collection)
- Is the Caller the Killer? (911 Caller Analysis)
- Jail Administrator
- The Ethical Warrior

SPECIALIZED UNITS



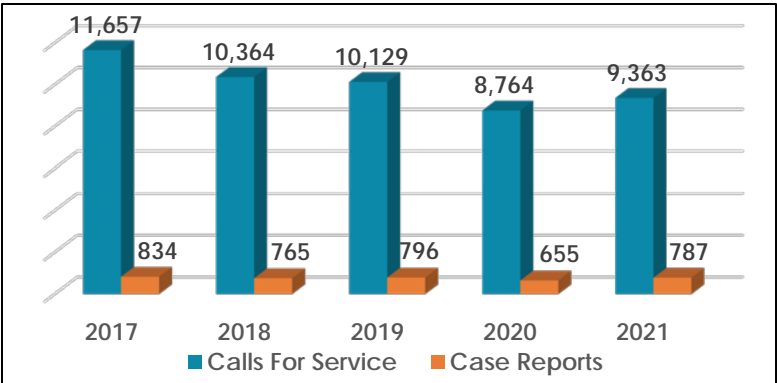
Detective Bureau:	Det. Sgt. Reikowski, Det. Ludwig, Det. Godlewski, Det. Seekins
K-9 Unit:	PtIm. Rudduck, K-9 Ady
OVI Task Force:	Sgt. Giardini, Sgt. Anadiotis, PtIm. Schleicher, Det. Seekins, Det. Godlewski, PtIm. Walborn, PtIm. Melda, PtIm. Yonkers
School Resource Officers:	SRO Hurd, SRO Walborn
Motor Unit:	Sgt. Carrender, PtIm. Biczynowski, Det. Ludwig, PtIm. Riggs
Bike Patrol:	Sgt. Carrender, PtIm. Toth, PtIm. Hurd, PtIm. Biczynowski, PtIm. Bringman, Det. Godlewski, PtIm. Walborn, PtIm. Fabrizi, PtIm. Ody, PtIm. Melda
Animal Control Community Service Officers:	ACCSO Hartz, ACCSO Wasylo
Lorain County SWAT:	Lt. Bockelman, Lt. Tibbitts, PtIm. Schleicher, PtIm. Fabrizi, PtIm. A. Robinson
Honor Guard:	Lt. Tibbitts, Lt. Valencic, Sgt. Carrender, Sgt. Cantleberry, Sgt. Robinson, PtIm. Schleicher, PtIm. Toth, PtIm. Fabrizi, PtIm. Ody, PtIm. Robinson, PtIm. Riggs, PtIm. Melda, PtIm. Yonkers
Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force	Det. Ludwig, Det. Godlewski



PATROL AND CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for Service and Case Reports

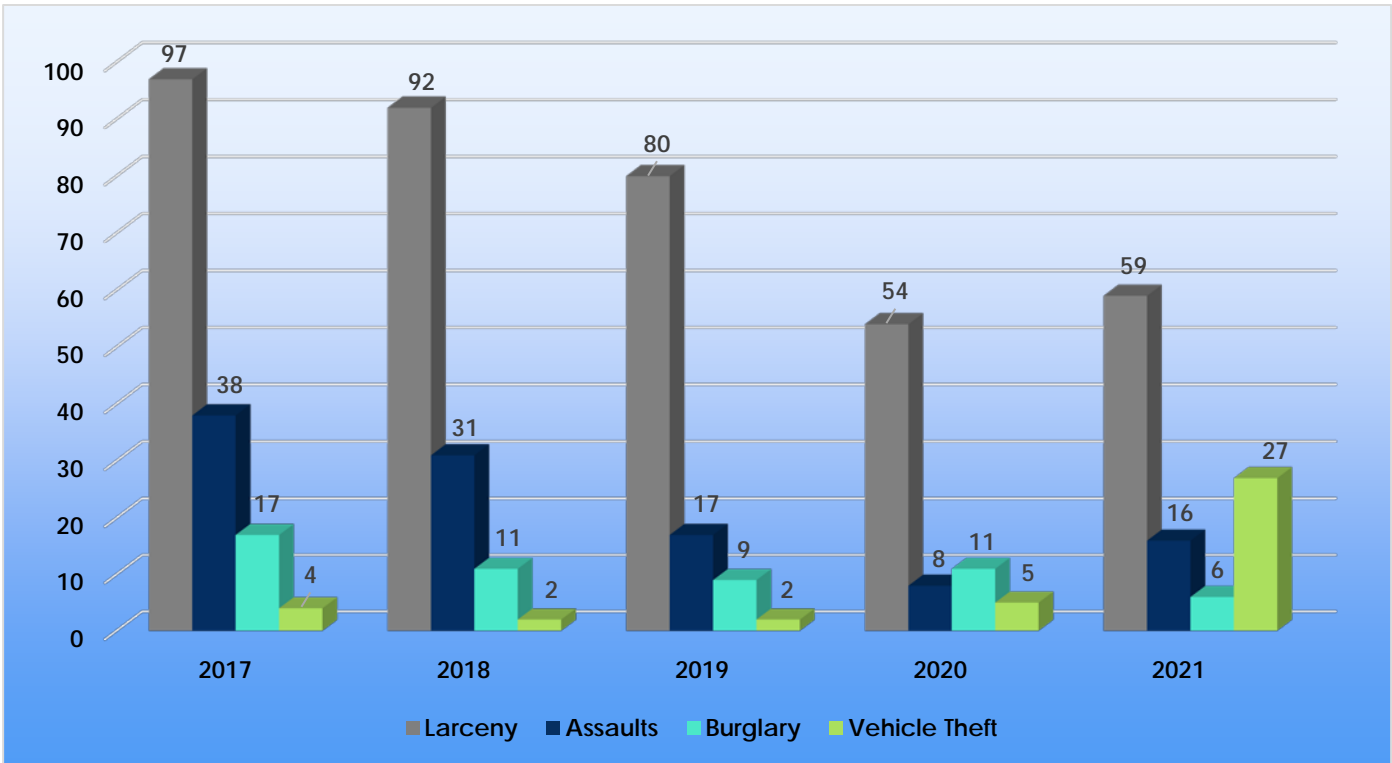
In 2021 the Avon Lake Police Department had a total of 9,363 Calls for Service. Of these calls 787 resulted in Case Reports. These Call and Case totals the past 5 years are shown in the graph to the right.



Burglaries decreased by nearly half from 2020, resulting in the lowest occurrence of this type of crime the City of Avon Lake has seen in over 13 years. Assault cases increased in 2021 but remained well below the 5 year average shown below. Like many of our surrounding communities, Avon Lake saw a significant increase of Vehicle Thefts. The Avon Lake Police Department has increased our campaigns of increased social media alerts, citizen education, increased patrols, and residential checks to help safeguard the public from property crimes.

Domestic Violence cases decreased by nearly 22% compared to 2020.

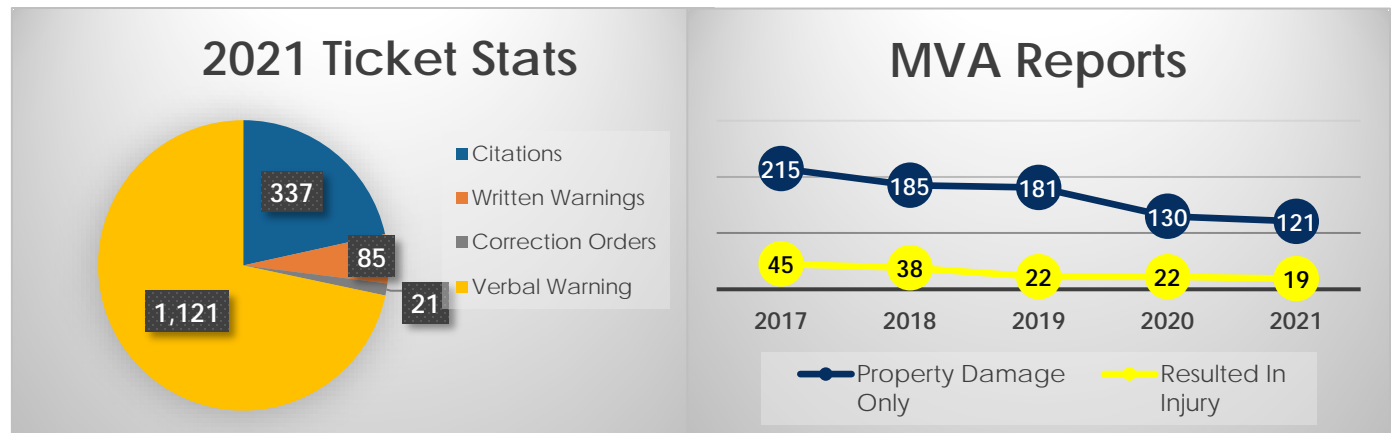
Avon Lake Police performed 168 arrests in 2021. This compares to 152 arrests in 2020 and 170 arrests in 2019.





PATROL AND CALLS FOR SERVICE CONTINUED

Traffic Stats



In 2021 Avon Lake Police initiated a total of 1,564 Traffic Stops that resulted in Citations, Correction Orders, Written Warnings, or Verbal Warnings. This represents an increase of approximately 71% over the total of 915 that occurred in 2020.

MVA Reports in Avon Lake continued their downward trend resulting in the lowest number of both reports and incidents resulting in injury in 8 years. OVI Cases within the City rose slightly, increasing from 26 cases in 2020 to 33 cases in 2021.

The results of the OVI Task Force Saturation Patrols are as follows:

- 101 Hours Worked
- 94 Traffic Stops
- 76 Warnings
- 18 Citations
- 7 Driving Under Suspension Arrests



Deer Involved Crash Reports increased to 14 from the 9 reports filed in 2020. Approximately 70% of the deer involved crashes occurred when deer in Ohio are known to be most active: September through October and during the dusk/dawn hours of the day. None of these reports resulted in an injury.



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS & CASES

Detective Bureau

After serving in the Detective Bureau for 7 years, Detective Robinson was promoted to Sergeant in 2021 and returned to road duties as a shift supervisor. With his leaving the Bureau, Detective Ludwig became Lead Detective of the unit and Patrolman Seekins, a 19 year veteran of the ALPD, was assigned to the Detective Bureau. The Detective Bureau is now comprised of Det. Sgt. Reikwoski, Det. Ludwig, Det. Godlewski, and Det. Seekins.

Cases

In June of 2021, Avon Lake Detectives received information that a victim from an Avon Lake shooting had been dropped off at the University Hospitals Avon Health Center. Detectives made contact with a witness and the victim, who sustained a gunshot wound to the abdomen. A thorough investigation revealed that the shooting was the result of a drug deal that occurred in a condominium complex on Moore Road. Diligent detective work lead to the indictment of a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania man for the shooting.

In September of 2021, tragedy struck the City of Avon Lake. Patrol Officers were dispatched to an address on English Turn for a welfare check of a prominent business woman who had not arrived at her workplace. From a window, officers observed what appeared to be a deceased child in the house. Patrol Officers and Detectives formed an entry team and searched the house. The search revealed a murder/suicide scene. A husband had shot and killed his wife and two children (ages 9 and 6) before killing himself. The scene was processed and investigated by the Avon Lake Detective Bureau, with The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation assisting with evidence collection.

Numerous vehicles were stolen from residents in 2021. Detectives were involved in 1) recovering and processing the stolen vehicles, 2) creating strategies to combat the auto thefts, 3) collaborating with other area law enforcement agencies experiencing similar thefts, and 4) educating the public on ways to better secure vehicles and homes.