



ASHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief	1
Mission Statement	2
Department Biographies	3
Department Overview	5
New Police Badges	8
Statistics	10
Community Relations	12

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Community-oriented policing, relationship building and problem solving represent the cornerstone of the Ashland Police Department's organizational philosophy. It is not a static endeavor but one that responds to an ever-changing situation. We make it a practice to observe these fundamental principles to promote community-police partnerships in a proactive problem-solving manner. Many communities have seen ample evidence that innovative policing strategies can have a significant impact not only on crime and disorder but also on their quality of life.

It is the intention of this department to work with the entire community to identify and prioritize public safety-related issues in the City and to collaborate to address those issues. We believe that this process will not only enhance public safety but will also enhance unity within our community. By working together, the Ashland Police Department and the citizens of Ashland can build bridges of trust that encourage mutual respect and positive change.



Ashland Police Department

Mission Statement

Partner with the community to promote public safety, public order, and the development of innovative crime prevention strategies while providing exceptional service

Our Vision

To be the safest community in Oregon while building mutual trust and inclusiveness

Our Goals

Support innovative programs that protect the community

Enhance the relationship between the community and the police

Reduce calls for service associated with quality of life disturbances throughout the downtown corridor

Value and enhance professional development throughout the department

Evaluate organizational performance and make changes to promote success

Core Values

*F*airness

*A*ccountability

*I*ntegrity

*R*espect for people

F.A.I.R.

DEPARTMENTAL BIOGRAPHIES

ADMINISTRATION



Police Chief Tighe O'Meara grew up in Detroit Michigan where he attended both the Detroit Waldorf School and Detroit Public Schools. Chief O'Meara graduated from Hillsdale College with a BA in Psychology and went on later to obtain a Master's Degree in Management from Southern Oregon University. Chief O'Meara worked for several smaller agencies in Hillsdale County before returning to Detroit to join the Wayne State University Police Department. He worked for the WSU Police for 13 years, serving as a field training officer and instructing in several areas of law enforcement. He was promoted to Sergeant, then Lieutenant, before leaving the WSU police department to join the Ashland Police Department in January of 2010. Since joining the Ashland Police Department, Chief O'Meara has served as a Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant and as the Deputy Chief over both the operations and support divisions of the department. He has attended several advanced police schools including the International Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership in Police Organizations School, the Oregon Executive Development Institute's leadership school, and most recently the Senior Management Institute for Police held at Boston University. Chief O'Meara is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police and the Police Executive Research Forum. Chief O'Meara is proud to serve our community as a member of the Board of Directors of La Clinica, as a Commissioner for the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission, as a member of the Rotary Club of Ashland Lithia Springs and as a member of the Elks Lodge. Chief O'Meara believes strongly in community engagement, and looks forward to continuing to build on the good relationships that the police department has with the community.



Deputy Chief Warren Hensman has worked for the Ashland Police Department since 2010. His assignments include Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Administrative Sergeant, Watch Commander, Training Manager, Support Commander, Operations Commander and Deputy Chief of Police. Warren came to Ashland from Las Vegas, Nevada, where he spent 9 years working for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. His assignments included Uniformed Patrol, Criminal Investigations and a Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force. Prior to Las Vegas, Warren spent 2 years working for the Alpharetta Police Department, an Atlanta Georgia suburb, and 8 years with the United States Air Force. While serving in the military, Warren was a member of the United States Air Force Thunderbirds Air Demonstration Squadron, where he supported the flying mission. Warren earned his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from Nevada State College and his Master's Degree in Justice Management from the University of Nevada, Reno. He is a graduate of the Oregon Executive Development Institute and the Police Executive Research Forum - Senior Management Institute for Police. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Rotary Club of Ashland, and proudly serves on the Board of Directors for the Addictions Recovery Center and the Southern Oregon Financial Fraud & Security Team.



Lieutenant Hector Meletich has been with the Ashland Police Department for almost nine years. He worked as a police officer in South Florida for over sixteen years and is approaching twenty-five years of police service. Lieutenant Meletich is a retired First Sergeant and has served over twenty-four years between the United States Marine Corps and the United States Army and has participated in multiple overseas assignments. He has a Masters of Arts in History from Florida International University in Miami Florida and speaks Spanish as his second language. In Florida Lieutenant Meletich was a narcotics and money laundering detective with a multi-jurisdictional task force, a homeless intervention Sergeant, a hostage negotiation Sergeant, a SWAT Sergeant, an underwater search and recovery Sergeant, a field training officer supervisor and Patrol Sergeant before moving to Ashland Oregon. He is a graduate of the Administrative Officers Management Program from North Carolina State University. While in Ashland he has been a Patrol Sergeant, a watch commander, an Administrative Sergeant and is currently a Lieutenant overseeing patrol operations. Lieutenant Meletich is a member of the Board of Directors for the YMCA of Ashland, a member/community partner for Southern Oregon Health-E (SO Health-E) Steering Committee, participates in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Work Group a sub-group of SO Health-E, is a team member increasing accessibility to the *You Have Options Program* and contributes to the Racial Equity Coalition. He is married to Brooke and has two daughters and twin grandsons.



Sergeant Jim Alderman is a Police Sergeant for the City of Ashland. Sgt. Alderman started his career in law enforcement in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1985, and came to the Ashland Police Department in 1992. During his

30 years in law enforcement he has served in positions including Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Detective, Acting Sergeant, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant and Administrative Sergeant. He has been married 37 years and has a son, daughter and 3 grandsons.



Detective Sergeant Art LeCours is a second-generation police officer, following his father's example. Art started his career in law enforcement as a reserve police officer with the city of Silverton, Oregon. He relocated to Southern Oregon and continued his volunteer work with the city of Phoenix. He was hired fulltime in 1999. In May of 2001, Art started his career with the City of Ashland. During his time with the City of Ashland, he has served in positions including Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, Domestic Violence Instructor, Detective, and Officer In Charge. Prior to police work, Art served in the Marine Corps Reserve 1990-1998. He earned his Bachelor's in Criminology from Southern Oregon University.



Sergeant Bob Smith has been a member of the police department since June 1979 when he was first hired by Chief Vic Lively as a Park Patrol Officer. He served as a Parking Control Officer from March 1980 until June 1980 when he was hired

as a Patrol Officer. During his tenure with the department, he has served as a Detective, Crime Prevention Officer, DARE Officer and Police Sergeant, a position he has held for the last six years. Bob has been married to his wife, Tami, for 25 years and they have a 20-year-old son, Dustin who currently attends Linfield College and plays third base on the Varsity Baseball team. "It has been incredibly rewarding for me to have served the Ashland community for the past 30 years. I could not have done it without the support of the many men and women I have worked with and for during that time. I also owe a debt of gratitude for the support I have received from my family, friends and members of the community."

SERGEANTS



Sergeant Theron Hull was born and raised in the Rogue Valley and graduated from Phoenix High School. Theron was a Police Cadet and Community Service Officer for the Phoenix Police Department from 1998-2000 before

joining the U.S. Coast Guard in 2000. While in the military Theron served on the USCG Cutter Tarpon in Savannah GA and then Maritime Safety and Security Team 91103 in LA/Long Beach California. Theron returned to the Rogue Valley when he was hired by the Ashland Police Department in the fall of 2004. Since being hired, Theron has worked as a Patrol Officer, Police Training Officer (PTO), Officer in Charge (OIC), Detective, and Interim Patrol Sergeant and was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in January of 2015. Theron was certified as a Drug Recognition Expert in 2008 and is an instructor in the areas of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), Intoxilyzer 8000, TASER and the Oregon Physical Ability Test (ORPAT). Theron currently holds a supervisory, advanced, intermediate and basic police certificates through the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). Theron married his wife Jamie in 2007 and has three wonderful boys. In his off time Theron enjoys coaching his son's Little League team, playing softball, camping, and boating with his family and friends.



Sergeant Mike Vanderlip grew up in Ashland and has been married for over 20 years and has two children. He started volunteering for the Ashland Police Department in 1997 as a Reserve Police Officer. He was hired full time

as a Patrol Officer in 2000 and has since held the positions of School Resource Officer, Central Area Patrol Officer, Police Training Officer, Detective, and held a special assignment as a Detective to the Southern Oregon High Tech Crimes Task Force. In July of 2015, Mike was promoted to Patrol Sergeant. "It has been very fulfilling to have a career in law enforcement in my hometown. I look forward to the years ahead serving our community."

Department Overview

The police department is divided into three divisions. While there is some overlap of duties, and while each division strives for a common goal, each has specific areas of responsibility within the department. The command staff of the department is comprised of the chief, deputy chief and lieutenant.

Administration

The administration division consists of the police chief and an administrative analyst. This division oversees the department in general, and is responsible for developing and administering the department budget, purchasing, hiring, expenditure tracking, payroll, and accreditation.

Support

The support division is overseen by the deputy police chief. The support division attends to records, detectives, and volunteers. Within this division, the records team is responsible for processing all police reports and citations, and ensuring each reaches its appropriate destination. The records team is also responsible for ensuring that the daily activity logs are available to anyone who wishes to see them, as well as processing records requests and records retention.

The investigations team (detectives) are also part of the support division.

The detectives are responsible for investigating more serious felonies. Within the detective unit is a new team, the problem solving unit, or PSU. The PSU is comprised of two detectives who offer the most agile response possible to acute problems as they arise. The PSU helps bridge the gap between a patrol officer's immediate response to a complaint and a traditional detective unit that handles more long-term investigations. The PSU gives the APD the ability to more quickly address problem areas by using a combination of plain clothes/uniform and marked/unmarked cars in whatever configuration the situation requires. The unit was formed in April of 2017 and has, as of the end of 2017, handled dozens of cases, served dozens of search warrants, and recovered tens of thousands of dollars' worth of stolen property and illegal substances.



Also in the support division are the property and evidence tech, the investigations analyst, and the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) corps. The property and evidence tech is responsible for safeguarding and tracking all property that comes into the possession of the police department, whether it is for safekeeping or evidence of a crime. Our investigations analyst assists with research on suspects and crimes, preparing informational and investigative bulletins.

The department's VIPS are community members who volunteer to assist with functions that don't need to be performed by sworn officer or full-time team member. These dedicated men and women assist at major events, perform foot and bike patrol, check our residents' homes while on vacation, and perform courier duties.

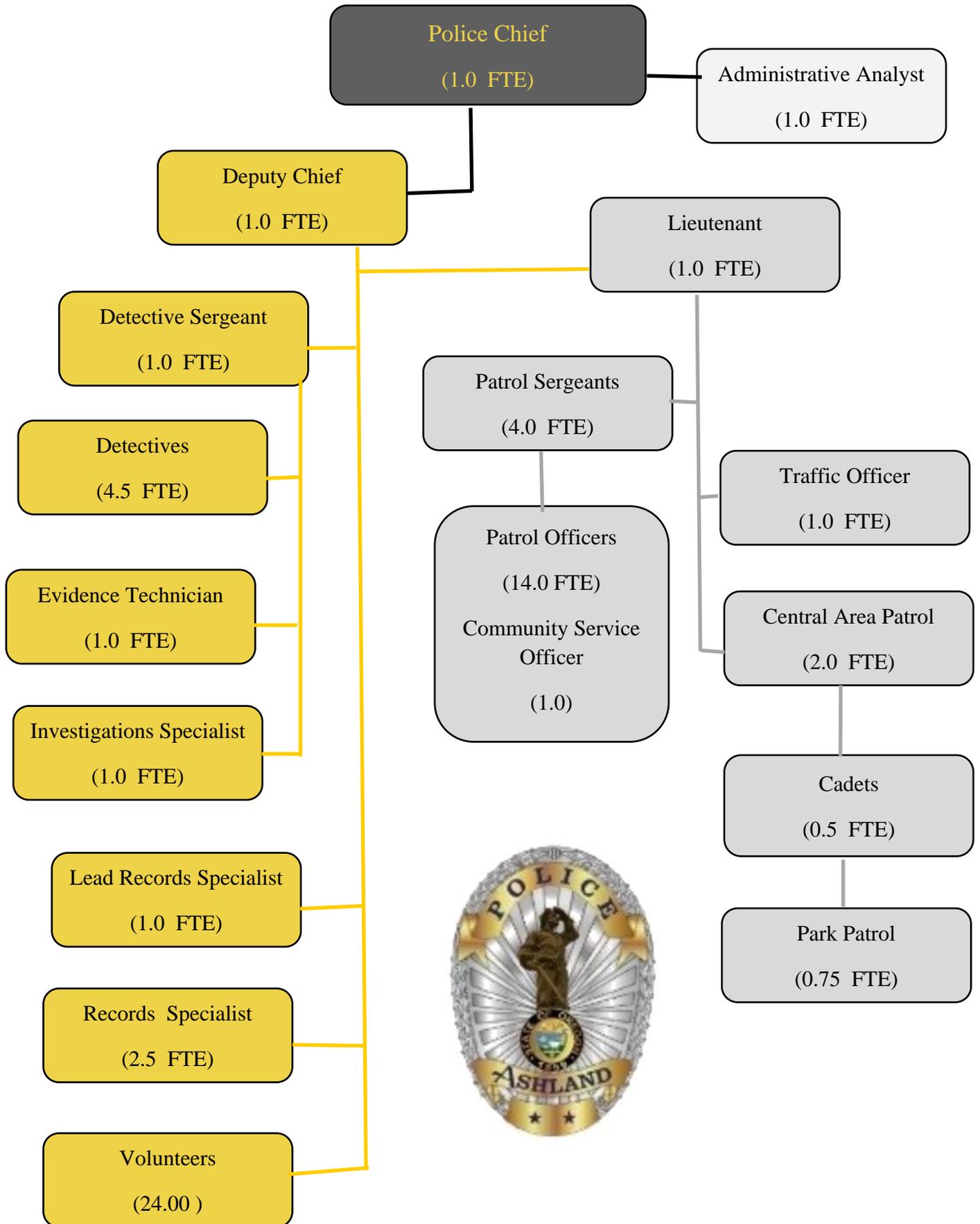
Operations

The operations division is responsible for providing most of the department's field services and represents the backbone of the department. The ops division, which is overseen by a patrol lieutenant (who in turn reports to the deputy chief), is comprised of all the uniformed personnel. The ops division conducts all the emergency response.

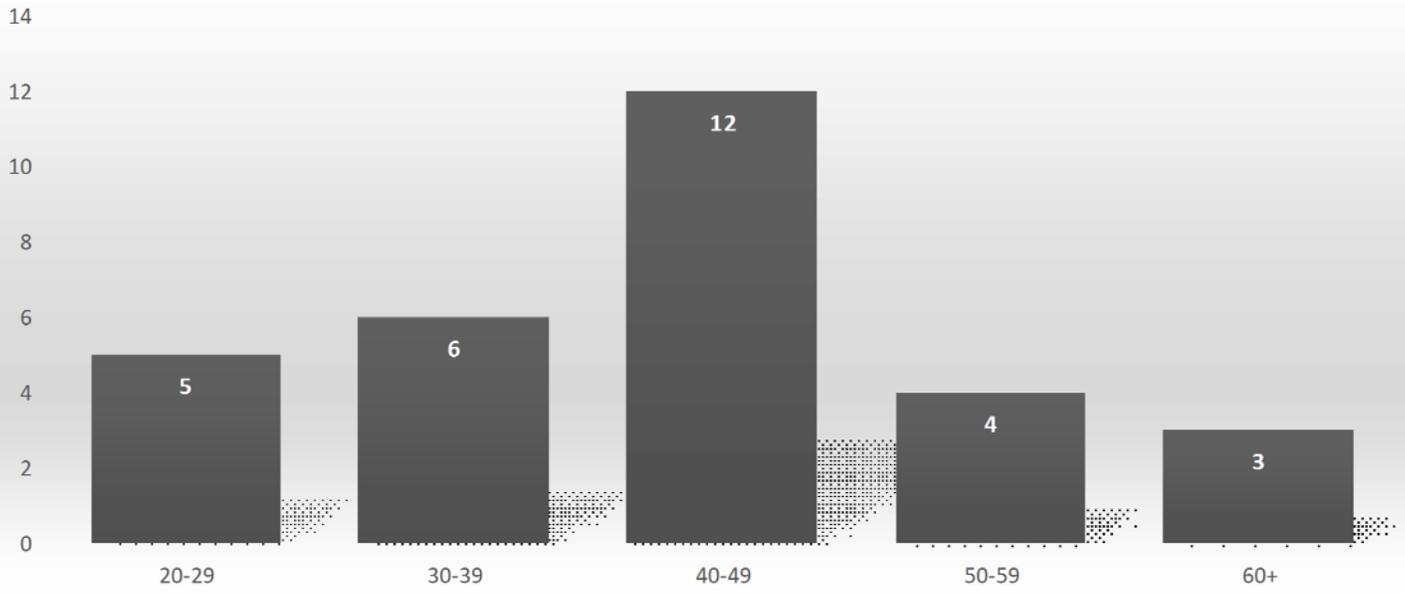
The operations division includes the patrol teams, the traffic officer, the community service officer, the school resource officer (position currently not filled) and the Central Area Patrol team or CAP. The CAP has primary responsibility for patrolling downtown and consists of two full-time officers and four part-time cadets. This team is bolstered in the summer months by an additional four part-time cadets as well as several part-time park patrol team members.

After recently authorized additional officers are brought on board, each of the four patrol teams will be staffed by a supervisor (sergeant) and four officers.





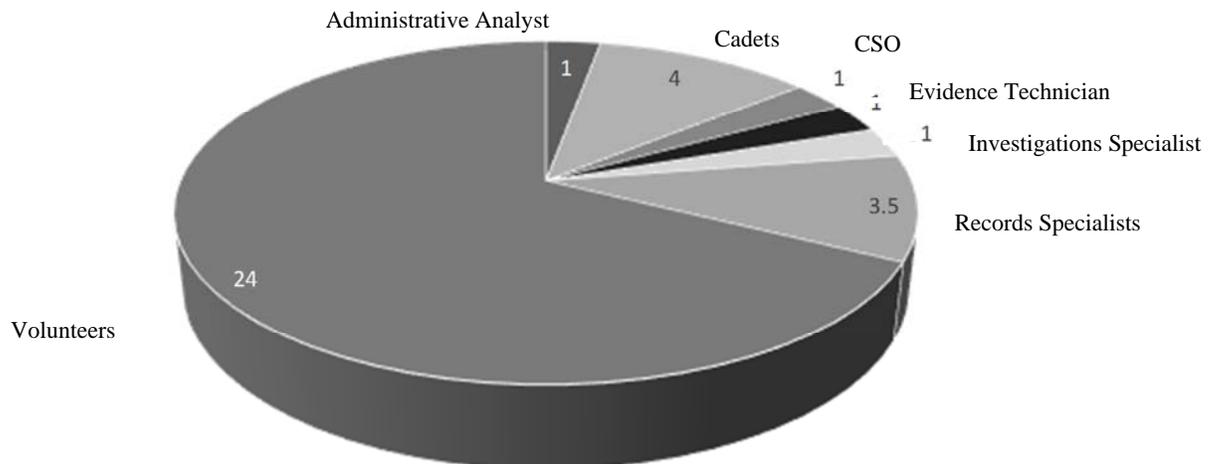
Age of Sworn Personnel



Rank Structure

Chief of Police	1	Sergeant	5
Deputy Chief	1	Detective	4.5
Lieutenant	1	Officer	17

Civilian Staffing Levels



New Police Badges

The Ashland Police Department is proud to introduce the community to its new badges. The police badge represents the authority vested in a police officer and the department has been working on updating its badges to better reflect the community and the police team that serves the community. The new badges feature Iron Mike, the iconic statue that stands proudly in the Plaza. The statue represents the pioneering spirit of our great state, as well as the pioneering spirit of the police department. This is appropriate given the new policing programs that the department has brought to the community such as the You Have Options Program and the Gateway Drug Treatment and Amnesty Program. The Ashland Police Department is always looking for new and better ways to serve the community.

The new badge indicates a person's title underneath the word "POLICE" because we are all part of the team, not above the team.

The new badge also features a laurel wreath around the perimeter, an ancient symbol of victory and authority. The two stars on the bottom of the badge represent Samuel Prescott and Victor Knott, two Ashland officers who were killed in the line of duty in separate incidents in 1931.

1 The badge is in the shape of a shield showing our connection to knighthood and our intention to act as guardians of the community.

2 The badge is circled by a laurel wreath, traditionally bestowed upon victors and people in authority.

3 The background shows the rays of the setting sun, indicating that we are a west coast agency.

4 The top panel declares that we are a police department.

5 The next panel denotes a rank. It is important to note that all positions, regardless of what they are, are underneath the word "POLICE." That is, we are all subservient to the unit, we are all part of the team, no one above the team.

6 Iron Mike, the statue from the city plaza is the center piece. Iron Mike represents the state's pioneering nature, as well as the department's. APD strives to be a department that advances the profession of policing, pioneering the way for others to follow.

7 The state seal indicates that we are part of the great State of Oregon.

8 The Stylized Ashland indicates that we are Ashland officers.

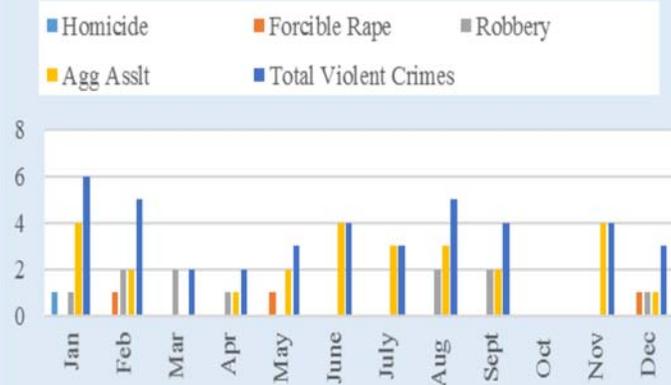
9 Lastly, the two stars represent our two fallen officers, Samuel Prescott and Victor Knott, both of whom were killed in the line of duty serving as Ashland officers in 1931.



Statistics

2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Forcible Rape	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Robbery	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	11
Aggravated Assault	4	2	0	1	2	4	3	3	2	0	4	1	26
Total Violent Crimes	6	5	2	2	3	4	3	5	4	0	4	3	41
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Burglary	9	8	6	7	6	4	11	4	7	7	8	8	85
Theft	52	45	46	91	81	46	48	74	59	41	47	63	693
MV Theft	3	2	2	3	5	3	5	6	2	2	0	2	35
Arson	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	8
Total Property Crimes	66	55	54	101	92	53	67	84	68	51	55	75	821
Total Crimes	72	60	56	103	95	57	70	89	72	51	59	78	862

2017 Violent Crimes



2017 Property Crimes





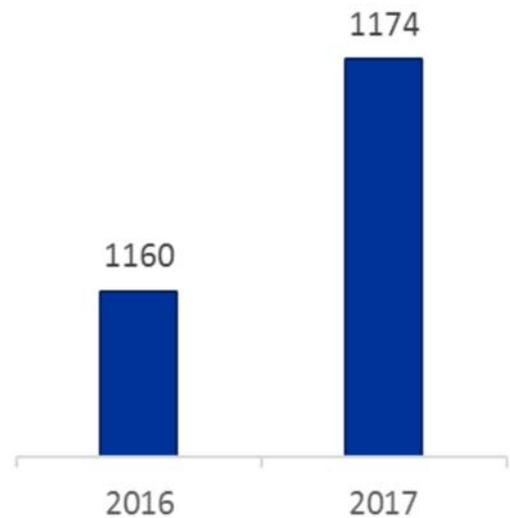
Selected Part I & Part II Crimes

REPORTED OFFENSES

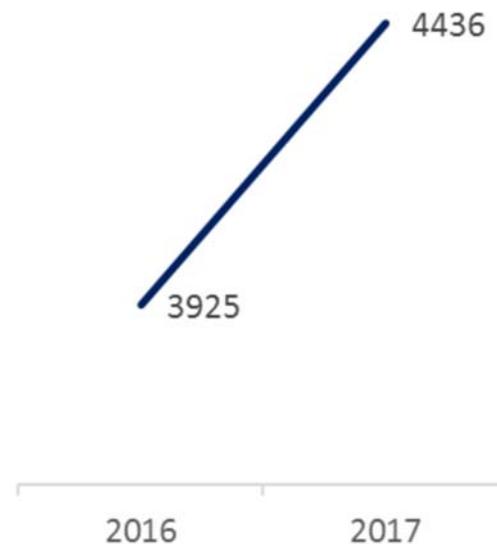
	2016	2017	VARIANCE
PART I			
HOMICIDE	2	1	-50%
RAPE	2	3	50%
ROBBERY	10	11	10%
ASSAULT	208	184	-12%
BURGLARY	76	85	12%
THEFT	743	693	-7%
MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSE	68	59	-13%
ARSON	5	8	60%
ALL PART I OFFENSE TOTALS	1114	1044	-6%
PART II			
COUNTERFEIT	54	44	-19%
FRAUD	161	121	-25%
VANDALISM	88	102	16%
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	9	20	122%
PROSTITUTION	1	1	0%
SEX CRIMES	22	12	-45%
DRUG OFFENSES	176	301	71%
DUII	126	143	13.5%
TRESPASS	205	190	-7%
TRAFFIC CRIMES	123	162	32%
DETOX HOLD	68	69	1%
MENTAL HOLDS	81	85	5%
FUGITIVE	437	508	16%
FAIL TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDER	5	8	60%
ALL PART II OFFENSE TOTALS	1556	1766	13.5%
PART I & II OFFENSE TOTALS	2670	2810	5.2%

Calls For Service	2016	2017
Officer Initiated	10,980	13,863
Dispatch Initiated	12,796	14,581
Total	23,776	28,444

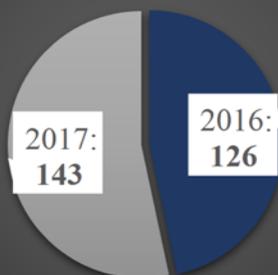
Warrants Processed

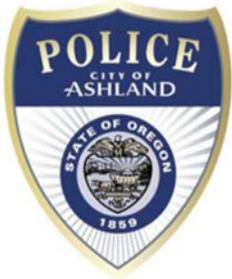


Reports Processed



DUII Arrests





Ashland Police Department Gateway Program

Modeled after the Gloucester Massachusetts Angel Program, Gateway was developed by the Ashland Police Department in partnership with the Addictions Recovery Center (ARC) to support treatment options for people with a drug and/or alcohol dependency.

Who can we help? Any adult who enters the Ashland Police Department, or is contacted in the field by a police officer, and requests help with their addiction to controlled substances and/or alcohol. A **Priority Assessment Voucher** will be given to the person seeking help. The voucher can then be presented at the ARC where they will be evaluated for treatment.

If a person walks into the Ashland Police Department and requests help with their addiction, and is in possession of a controlled substance or narcotics paraphernalia, they will **NOT** be charged. The Ashland Police Department will continue to support a nationwide effort to reduce the number of fatal and nonfatal overdoses to people suffering from addiction.

The Ashland Police Department has also partnered with the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (P.A.A.R.I.) to take direct action against the disease of drug and alcohol addiction. Rather than arrest our way out of the problem of drug addiction, the Ashland Police Department and P.A.A.R.I. are committed to:

1. Encouraging drug users to pursue recovery options.
2. Connecting addicts with treatment programs and facilities.
3. Providing resources to other police departments and communities that want to do more to fight the drug addiction epidemic.

Working in conjunction with the medical community and science-based recovery programs, the Ashland Police Department can make a difference in the Rogue Valley by saving lives from drug overdoses, reducing the number of drug addicts and opioid drug demand, thereby devaluing a seemingly endless drug supply. We want to remove the stigma associated with drug addiction, turning the conversation toward the disease of addiction rather than the *crime* of addiction.

All Ashland Police Officers having contact with anyone requesting help with their addiction will be professional, compassionate and understanding at all times.

LAUNCH OF NEW MOBILE APP FOR POLICE, FIRE AND OTHER CITY SERVICES

The City of Ashland Police Department in conjunction with Ashland Fire and Rescue is pleased to launch our new mobile application for IOS, Android and Windows phones.

The free app, titled “Ashland Oregon Police,” is another tool to connect our emergency service providers with members of the Ashland community through their smartphones.

Both the Ashland Police Department and Ashland Fire & Rescue can send "push alerts" about critical events and safety concerns to our app users. In turn, citizens can use the app to notify the City about a variety of non-emergency issues such as graffiti, weed abatement concerns, lost and found items and more. It also provides easy one touch dialing for non-emergency calls.

The app is available from the Apple Store, Google Play and through the Windows store.



Program Descriptions

You Have Options is a program that was created by APD and is currently being implemented at many agencies around the country. Through this program members of the community who have been sexually assaulted are allowed to retain as much control of the investigation as possible. This facilitates greater engagement with SA survivors, and helps the police department better identify serial sex offenders in the long run.

The Gateway program is modeled after a similar program in Gloucester, Massachusetts. This program is made up of two parts: amnesty for possession of a controlled substance and treatment for dependence on a controlled substance or alcohol. Through this program, any member of the community can turn over illegal substances without fear of criminal sanction. In addition, anyone who asks for help to combat a substance abuse problem will be granted access to our partner agency's treatment facility.

Implicit Bias Training is training that teaches us that we are all subject to sub-conscious “programming,” and that is we can recognize this we can take an important step toward mitigating the control that sub-conscious programming has on our day to day decision making. Part of the study of implicit bias is that we see what we expect to see, and don't see what we don't expect to see. If we are more aware of this subconscious programming we can mitigate its control over our decisions.

Procedural Justice/Police Legitimacy is a manner of engaging the community that allows everyone, whether a victim, witness, or suspect, to feel as though their views have been heard and respected. If the APD can successfully convey to every member of the community that they are being heard and respected, it is anticipated that the incidents of use of force will decrease, and the legitimacy of the police department, in the eyes of the public, will increase.





CONTACT INFORMATION

Abandoned Vehicle Hotline:

(541) 552-2277

Anonymous Tip Line:

(541) 552-2333

Graffiti Hotline:

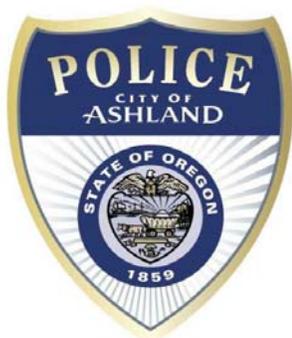
(541) 552-2380

Lost Property Hotline:

(541) 552-2477

Police Records: (541) 482-5211

Fax: (541) 488-5351



RETIREMENT



Community Service Officer Kip Keeton retired May 31, 2017, after 13 years with the Ashland Police Department.

What's New

Online Strategic Plan:

2018-2023 Strategic Plan accessible online

www.ashland.or.us/police

Launch Of New Free Mobile App:

“Ashland Oregon Police” available from:

Apple Store, Google Play and through the Windows Store.

Did You Know

Social Media: APD has 3,769 Facebook Likes, and 3,902 Facebook Followers.

www.facebook.com/ashlandpolicedept

APD RX LOBBY DRUG BOX:

In 2017 Ashland Police Department collected & destroyed 540 lbs. of prescription drugs.



Prepared by:

Ashland Police Department

