

Council Study Session

June 5, 2023

Agenda Item	Ashland Police Department Annual Report To Council (Formerly Use of Force)	
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Item Type	Requested by Council <input type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SUMMARY

Since 2008 the police department has come before Council to provide an annual use of force report. This presentation has grown in scope and now includes use of force, crime and clearance rates, an update on the enhanced law enforcement area (ELEA), as well as the most recent data from Statistical Transparency Of Policing (STOP).

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

47. Keep the Council informed of organizational activity and provide timely information for Council decision-making.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Use of Force Information

During 2022 the Police Department used force 14 times.

In 2022 12 of the incidents involved subjects who were identified as white, one was identified as being black and one was unknown (deployment of spike strips on a fleeing vehicle). All subjects were identified as being male.

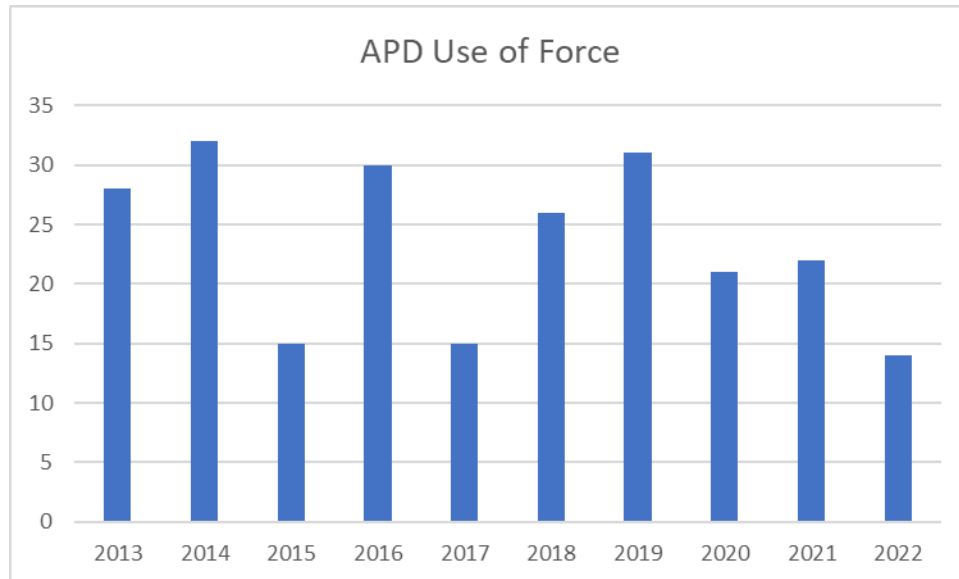
Of the 14 uses of force:

- the TASER was deployed and used on four occasions
- OC (pepper) spray was not used
- the less lethal shotgun (which shoots a bean bag projectile to incapacitate a suspect) was not used in 2022
- officers displayed a firearm on five occasions in 2021

-the rest of the incidents involved empty-handed techniques such as take downs, joint locks, control holds and empty-handed strikes.

The department's use of force review board reviews all instances of use of force. All the incidents of use of force in 2022 were deemed to be within policy.

In 2022 the Ashland Police Department handled 29,073 calls for service and investigated 2,650 cases. This means that one half of one percent (.005%) of the cases handled by the department resulted in a use of force.



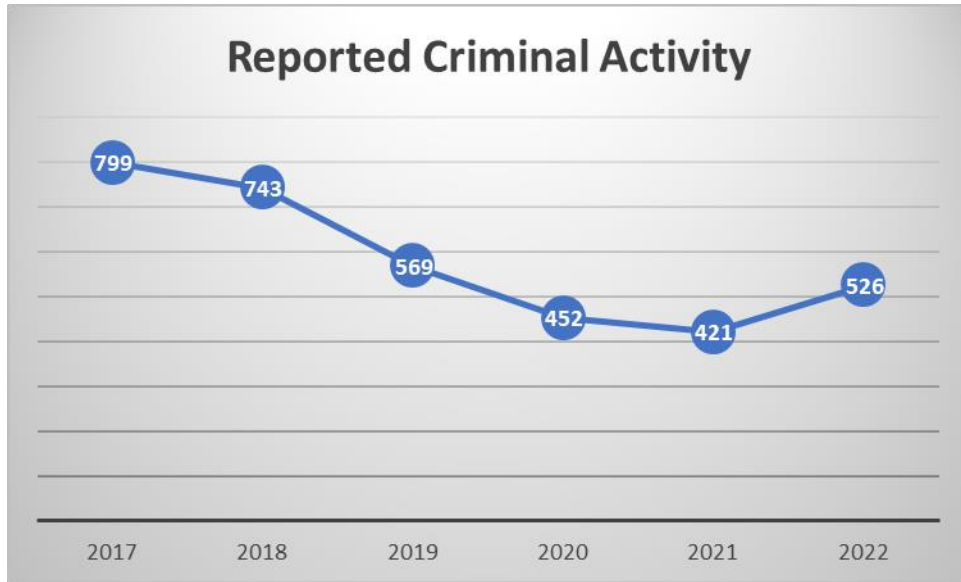
During 2022 Ashland officers received a total of 1,306 hours of use of force training.

Crime Rates and Clearances

Reported crime statistics can be influenced by several factors. Several team members, both internal and external, both sworn and non-sworn, touch APD reports and ensuring 100% accuracy in reporting is very problematic and hard to achieve. Every year the APD reports its crime statistics to the State of Oregon, and through them to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. While these reported crime statistics may not be exactly a 1 for 1 match depending on which database is accessed and which report is analyzed, they do paint a generally accurate picture of crime in Ashland. Additionally, staffing changes have caused some processes to be lost, leading to those processes needing to be recreated.

APD will work toward additional training for its entire team to ensure the most accurate reporting possible going forward.

In previous years APD has brought info to Council on what had been termed “Part 1 Crimes.” “Part 1 crimes” were those that were reported annually to the FBI for inclusion in the Uniform Crime Report. They were homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, auto theft, arson and larceny. Nationally all law enforcement agencies have moved from Uniform Crime Reporting to a new system called National Incident Based Reporting System that has re-categorized reported crimes. However, for purposes of continuity APD is still reporting what were previously called “Part 1 crimes.” In 2022 the city saw a total of 526 “Part 1 crimes.” This is up slightly from the 421 reported in 2021. Violent crime is defined as homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. There were 36 violent crimes reported to the Ashland Police Department in 2022, up slightly from 31 in 2020. Clearance rates for violent crime remain very high at 63%.



Crime data for the state is available for public viewing at oregon.gov/osp/pages/uniform-crime-reporting-data.aspx

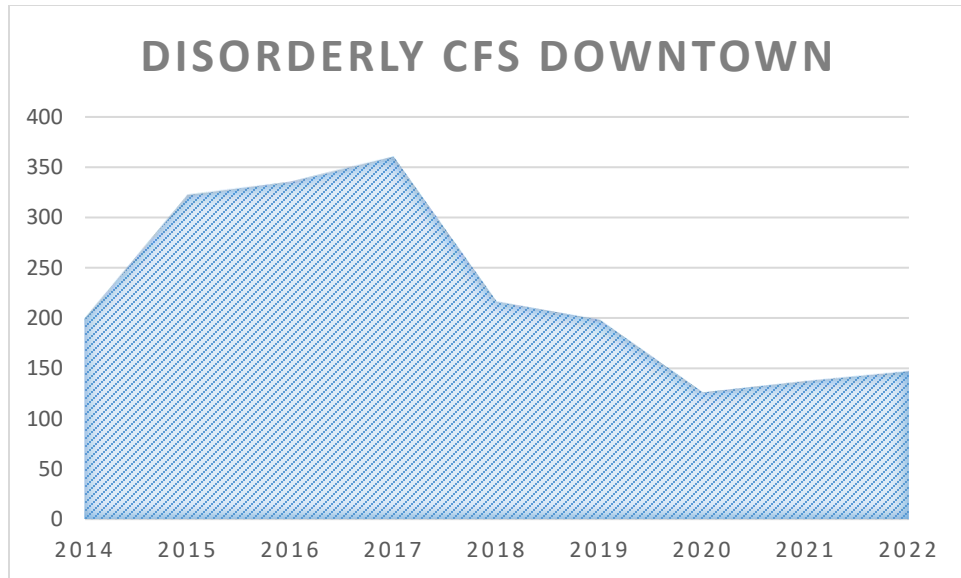
Enhanced Law Enforcement Area

The Enhanced Law Enforcement Area (ELEA) ordinance has been in effect since August of 2012. The ELEA is roughly defined as downtown. In this area we see a concentrated number of complaints and disorderly behavior as this is the focal gathering point for many members of the community. A conviction of three or more qualifying violations (or crimes) in Ashland Municipal Court within a six-month period may result in a person being expelled from the downtown area. The expulsion has judicial review, in that only the Municipal Court Judge can authorize it.

The qualifying violations are: scattering rubbish; unnecessary noise; dogs-control required; consumption of alcohol; open container of alcohol; dog license required; or use of marijuana in public. In 2022 there were 79 ELEA violation convictions in the municipal court. There was one person expelled from the downtown area and there were two people charged with persistent violator failure to appear under the city ordinance. The ELEA continues to be a valuable tool to address chronic negative behavior.

For several years we have used calls for service downtown for disorderly-type behavior as a metric for quality of life issues downtown. 2021 saw a continued decrease from the high in 2017. The metric tracks calls for service such as disorderly behavior, drinking in public, urinating in public as well as others.

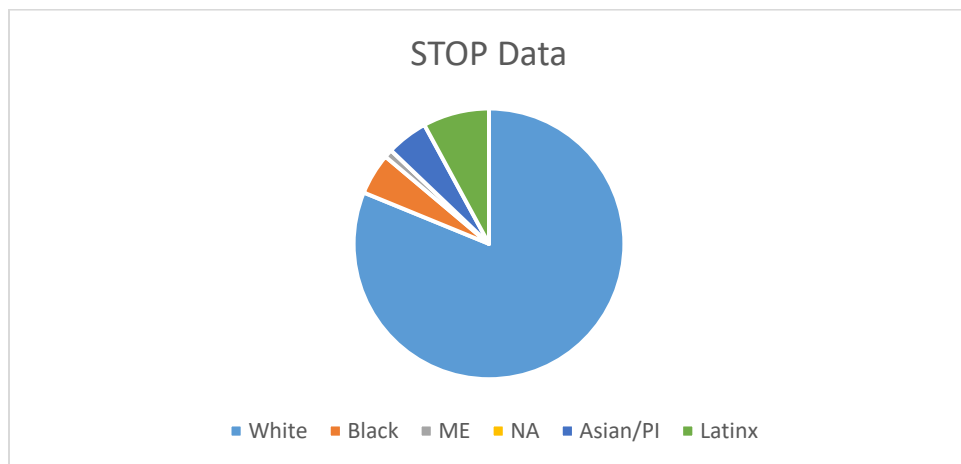
2014: 199 2015: 322 2016: 335 2017: 360 2018: 216 2019: 198 2020: 126
 2021: 137 2022: 147



Statistical Transparency of Policing (STOP)

The Oregon legislature has mandated that all police officers in the state record certain demographic and enforcement data for officer-initiated enforcement stops. The most recent data that is available is for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This data is available through the department’s webpage under the “STOP Data” button.

For that period of time data for the Ashland Police Department indicates that officers initiated enforcement stops involving individuals identified as follows:



Asian or Pacific Islander	5%	Middle Eastern	1%
Black	5%	Native American	0%
Latinx	8%	White	82%

This data is dependent on officers' observations, not an inquiry, and seems to be consistent with Ashland's demographics.

Due to staffing and officer deployment issues over the last two years self-initiated activity such as traffic stops fell off from 3,193 in 2021 to 1,603 in 2022. The department is working to bring this number back up as staffing numbers stabilize.

The Ashland Police Department will always strive to equitably serve the entire community. With that in mind, we need to recognize that STOP data will never match up perfectly with demographic data for the community. Demographic data varies from source to source, so the exact representation of a specific race within the community cannot be perfectly known. Also, we need to recognize that STOP data is solely dependent on an officer's perception and is not derived from an inquiry into how the person identifies. STOP data does not allow for a person to be identified as multi-racial, which many people do. Demographic data does allow for this, and 3-4% of the Ashland population identifies as such. Ashland is a tourist town, a university town, and is on the I-5 corridor as well. All of this information skews the data on who is actually present in the community and how they might be perceived by the officer. Again, this all comes together to create a situation that will never allow the STOP to perfectly match up with the demographic data.

Also, again, and most importantly, we will always work to make sure all members of the community are being treated equitably.

FISCAL IMPACTS

N/A

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

N/A

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

This report will continue annually with additional topics being included if Council requests it.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

None