



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## PORTAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

117 W Pleasant St.

Portage, WI 53901

608. 742. 2174

[www.portagewi.gov/police](http://www.portagewi.gov/police)

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## RESOURCE PAGE

### Portage Police Department

Address:

117 W. Pleasant St

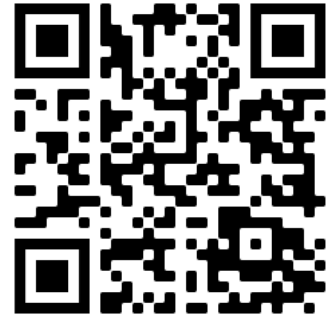
Portage, WI 59301

Dispatch: (608) 742-2171

Office: (608) 742-2174

Website: <https://www.portagewi.gov/police>

QR Codes for Access



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### City of Portage

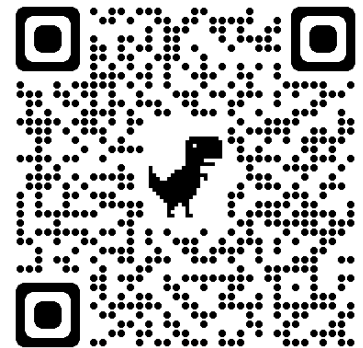
Address:

115 W. Pleasant St

Portage, WI 53901

Business: (608) 742-2176

Website: <https://www.portagewi.gov>



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### Columbia County Resource Guide

Website: <https://www.co.columbia.wi.us>



GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Portage Police & Fire Commission

President: Thomas Drury  
 Commissioner: Jeynell Boeck  
 Commissioner: Kathryn Miller  
 Commissioner: Charles Miller  
 Commissioner: Duaine Pixler

City of Portage Staff

City Administrator: Michael Bablick  
 City Attorney: Jesse Spankowski  
 City Clerk: Rebecca Ness  
 Finance Director: Jennifer Becker

City Council

**Mayor: Mitchel Craig**

Alderpersons:

District 1:	Allan Radant	District 2:	Susan Bauer Frye
District 3:	Dennis Nachreiner	District 4:	Steven Rohrbeck
District 5:	Tim Green	District 6:	Kyle Bernander
District 7:	Karyn Wetzel	District 8:	Martin Havlovic
District 9:	Christopher Crawley		



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF KEITH J. KLAFKE



Dear Community Members, Mayor, and City Council,

Thank you for taking the time to read through our 2023 Annual Report which is filled with tremendous achievements especially when it comes to equipping our staff. With successes comes challenges and 2023 was a very difficult year when it came to staffing. I have never experienced 7 hiring processes in one year like we did in 2023. This consumed a lot of time not only for administration but for all the staff in one way or another. Through all this, we were able to complete our roster by mid-December. With the well-deserved retirement of Lt. Robert Bagnall after 27 years of service, this prompted two promotional opportunities in which Sgt. Ben Neumann was promoted to Lieutenant and Officer Teresa Johnson was promoted to Sergeant. We also completely upgraded our body worn and squad camera program to equip officers with reliable devices and improved capabilities. The things I am most proud of is the level of competency, professionalism, and the character our officers display. They support each other and work together as a team. This has been a strong recruiting tool that others have noticed. I am also proud of the connection and support we have within this community which makes Portage a great place to work and live. Thank you for the ability to serve you.

— Chief Keith J. Klafke

## MISSION STATEMENT

Protecting our community and its quality of life by  
delivering exceptional law enforcement services

## VISION STATEMENT

To enhance our competency and confidence, thus  
strengthening our community's morale and trust



## VALUES

Honor—Respect—Integrity—Service—Courage

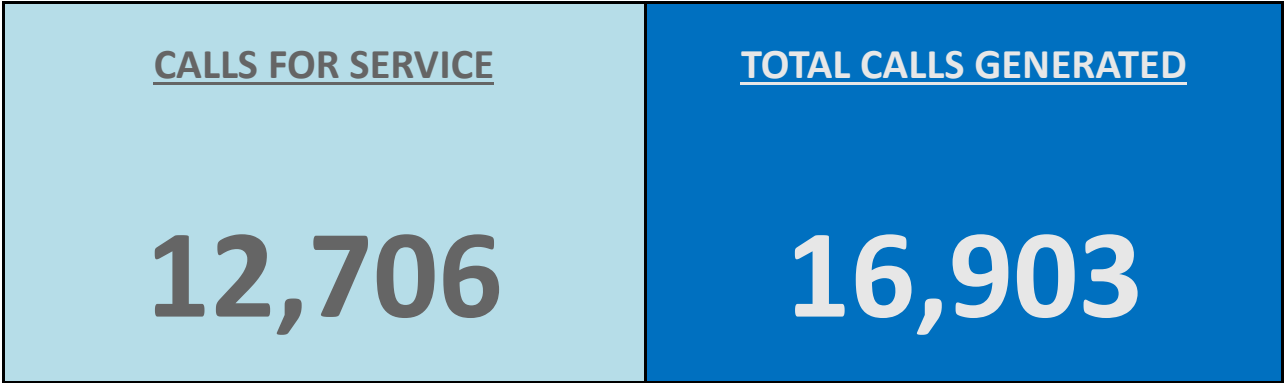
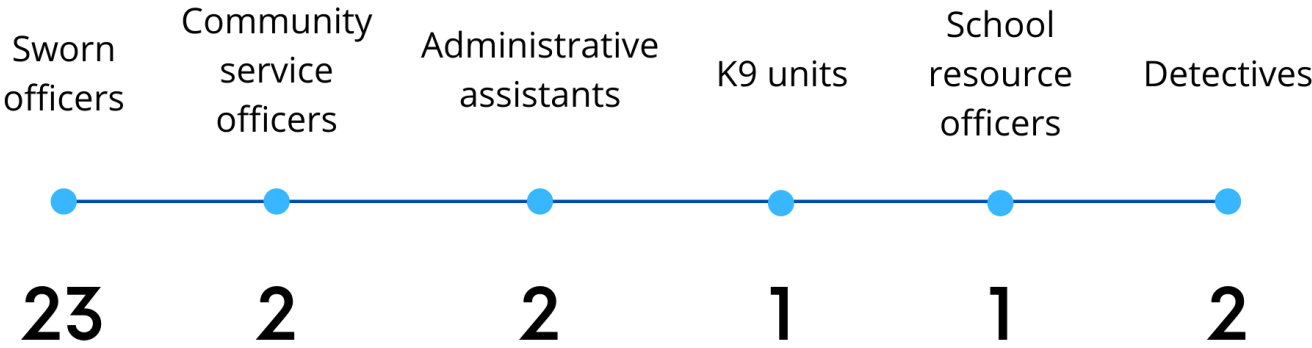
**DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

The Portage Police Department consists of 24 sworn officers, two community service officers, and two administrative assistants. We have one K9 unit and another purchased to be implemented in 2024, two Detectives, and one School Resource Officer. The department operated within a **budget of \$3,185,927.**

This year we were able to approve another sworn position which started in 2023. Thank you to our Council and City officials for recognizing this need and supporting this decision.



**2023 SNAPSHOT**



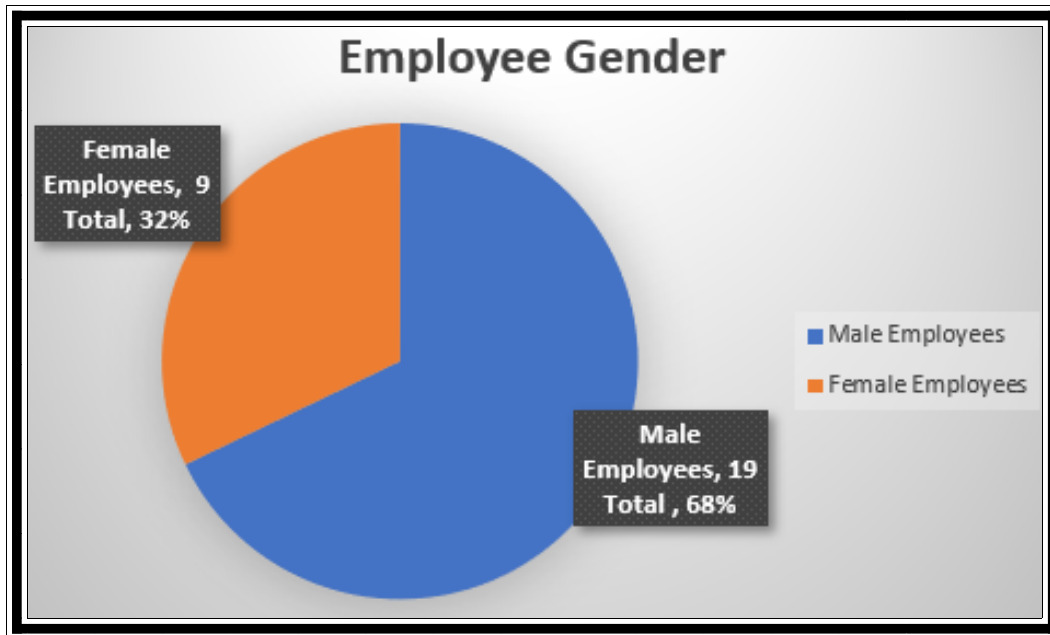
# DEPARTMENT ROSTER

Annual Report 2023

Chief of Police	Keith Klafke
Assistant Chief	Richard Hoege
Captain	Daniel Garrigan
Patrol Lieutenant	Benjamin Neumann (Promoted July 17, 2023)
Patrol Sergeant	Eric Walters
Patrol Sergeant	Brian Fehd
Patrol Sergeant	Michael Schutz
Patrol Sergeant	Cameron Coronado
Patrol Sergeant	Teresa Johnson (Promoted April 14, 2023)
Detective	Jason Stenberg
Detective	Peter Warning
Patrol Officer	William Charlebois
Patrol Officer	Heather Medina
Patrol Officer	Jesse Sprague
Patrol Officer	Alexander Royse
Patrol Officer/K9	Jacob Kubelt/ K9 Xillos
Patrol Officer	Brandon Hall
Patrol Officer	Kaylee Ramirez
Patrol Officer	Ethan Krzanowski (Hired January 6, 2023)
Patrol Officer	Alexis Mueller (Hired October 9, 2023)
Patrol Officer	Tyler Wolden (Hired October 9, 2023)
Patrol Officer	McKena Huffman (Hired December 12, 2023)
Patrol Officer	Brian Johnson (Hired December 12, 2023)
School Resource Officer	Katelyn Behling
Community Service Officer	Kevin Todryk
Community Service Officer	Megan Jahoda
Administrative Assistant	Jennifer Eberle
Administrative Assistant	Sarah McReath (Hired November 15, 2023)

## DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The Portage Police Department has evolved rapidly over the past couple of years and has become a very young department. Though you don't see many 30 year careers in our profession anymore, especially at one agency, we have had solid retention within our department. Here is a breakdown of experience and the officers that make up our department.



### Sworn-Employee Portage Pd Tenures

Data as of December 31, 2023

Longest Serving: 26 Years  
 Shortest Serving: 1 Month  
 Average Tenure: 9.3 Years  
 Employees with 20+ years: 5 Employees  
 Total Combined Experience: 223 Years

#### Sworn-Employees With Previous Service

Longest Serving: 33 Years  
 Total Employees with 20+ 9 Employees  
 Total Combined Experience: 298 Years

## Lieutenant Robert J. Bagnall

Robert started at the Portage Police Department on June 17, 1996.

Robert held the ranks of Sergeant, Detective and retired at the rank of Lieutenant on July 2, 2023.



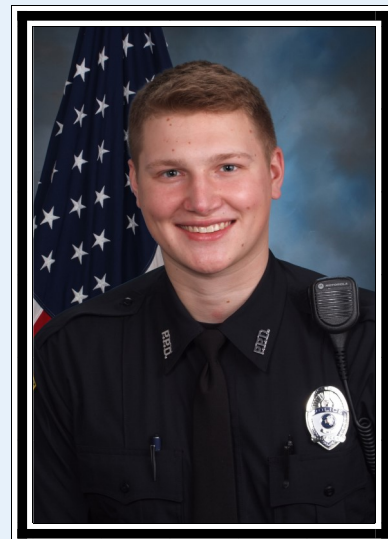
**Thank you for your 27 years of service!**



## RETIREMENTS & DEPARTURES

### Officer Austin Valenta

Austin Valenta, Badge #14, started with the department on January 11, 2021 and resigned on June 18, 2023. Austin was well-liked and was a great fit in our community. He was drawn back to his hometown area and is currently employed at the Everest Metro Police Department. Stay safe Austin!



### Officer Gabrielle Read

Gabrielle Read, Badge #26, started with the department on January 6, 2022 and resigned on July 13, 2023. Gabbi found her niche in Dispatch, staying local, she joined the Columbia County Sheriff's Department Dispatch Center. Thank you for keeping our officers safe and informed.



### Officer Dennis Pomeroy

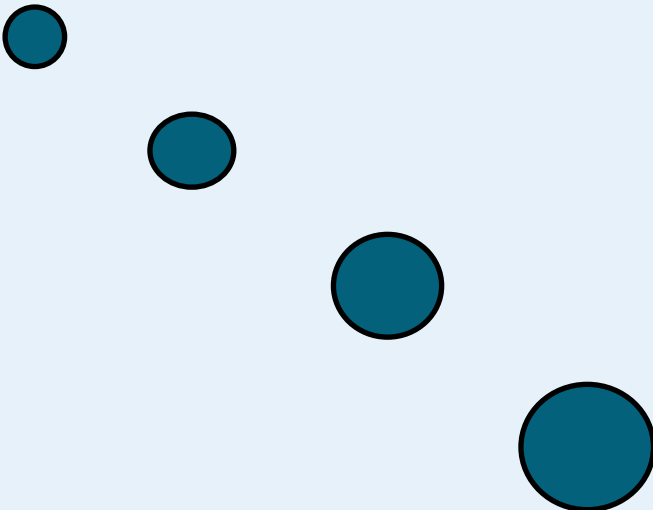
Dennis Pomeroy, Badge #7, started with the department on July 23, 2012 and after 10 1/2 years with our department resigned on February, 15, 2023. During his tenure, Dennis strived to make positive impacts everyday and was our DARE instructor for 7 years.



PROMOTIONS

Patrol Lieutenant Benjamin Neumann

Benjamin Neumann was promoted to Patrol Lieutenant on July 17, 2023. Benjamin was previously a Patrol Sergeant prior to this appointment.



Sergeant Teresa Johnson

Teresa Johnson after 24 years of service to this community in various roles decided to focus on supervision and mentoring and was promoted to Patrol Sergeant on April 14, 2023.



ANNIVERSARIES

- Detective Jason Stenberg—————25 years
- Sergeant Teresa Johnson —————25 years
- Sergeant Michael Schutz—————10 years
- Sergeant Cameron Coronado—————5 years

NEW HIRES

Officer Ethan Krzanowski, Badge 24  
 Hired: January 6, 2023



Officer Alexis Mueller, Badge 16  
 Hired: October 9, 2023

Officer Tyler Wolden, Badge 5  
 Hired: October 9, 2023



**NEW HIRES CONTINUED**

Officer McKena Huffman, Badge 7  
Hired: December 15, 2023

Officer Brian Johnson, Badge 14  
Hired : December 15, 2023



Administrative Assistant Sarah McReath  
Hired: November 15, 2023



## 2023 Goals and Objectives

### **Goal # 1: Retain and recruit certifiable officers**

The Portage Police Department's last three hires were sponsored by our agency to attend the police academy which is 18 weeks long. Our intent this year would be to continue our "word of mouth" hiring and attract certified or certifiable officers to participate in our hiring process. Additionally, by providing a positive work environment and opportunity, our goal is to retain our current staff throughout the year.

**Response:** Overall we did attract several (4) certified officers to our department in 2023. We also sent two applicants through the academy to fulfill our roster. Our work environment has been noticed and a common attraction is our connection to the community.

### **Goal #2: Reduce Overtime Expenditures**

Although overtime is unavoidable in many cases, there is a direct correlation of overtime to our vacancies over the past couple of years. With the addition of another sworn position and creative scheduling, our goal is to reduce the overall overtime expenditures.

**Response:** This goal was not achieved this year due to not completing our roster until December. We had the second highest year of overtime payout due to staff shortages with a total of 3520 hours of overtime.

### **Goal #3: Update and Expand Inhouse Department Instructors**

Our department's current Law Enforcement Standards Board Trainers (LESB) have many responsibilities as most of the current instructors have taken on supervisory or command staff roles over the past few years. Currently the state requires an officer to have three year's sworn experience plus attend the Instructor Development Course which creates another constraint. We will be focusing on getting new instructors for the various disciplines which include Firearms, Defense and Arrest Tactics, Vehicle Contacts, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and Professional Communications.

**Response:** Our agency provided many training opportunities this year though we were not fully able to expand our inhouse trainer pool. We were able to increase our trainers in Emergency Vehicle Operations. and several leadership courses. This goal will be continued in 2024.

### **Goal #4: Replace Video Evidence Systems**

With forward thinking, our department obtained body worn cameras over five years ago and they have proven to be an asset from crime investigations and convictions to improving operations and investigating department complaints. Technology changes quickly and our current system is reaching it's end of life. Knowing how critical this equipment is, this will be a priority to replace our hardware and software. Which would ultimately include our in-squad camera systems.

**Response:** This goal was a major project and success. After Council approval, our agency was able to purchase all new body and squad cameras which included all new software and capabilities. The subscription based service which includes cloud storage and maintenance will provide years of reliable service to our department and equipment refresh periods.

## 2023 Goals and Objectives Continued

### **Goal #5 Maximizing our allowed space at Municipal building**

With an aging building and a growing need for space, we need to identify ways to maximize the space we have. Currently the evidence room is reaching it's capacity as well as parking around the building. The police department obtained another stall in front of the building to allow for additional parking.

**Response:** We were able to secure capitol funding approval in 2023 to complete a major expansion to our evidence room in 2024. We were also approved funding to remodel the CSO office area. Additionally, the police department was granted three dedicated parking stalls in front of the department for police parking only.

### **Goal #6 Scene Management and Accountability**

Fire departments have excelled in staff accountability when it comes to scene management and Incident Command. To mimic some of their design, the police department seeks to adopt accountability placards and name tags to allow Command to better control available resources, whereabouts, and responsibilities.

**Response:** With grant money, we successfully incorporated an accountability system with 6 full kits available to manage resources during large events.

### **Goal #7 Competitive Union Contact**

In 2023, we will be in negotiations again with the Wisconsin Professional Police Association to seek another police union contract. Our goal is to seek a contract which is balanced. One that will take care of our dedicated staff and keep our department competitive while maintaining sustainability.

**Response:** This was another great step forward for our department with a very competitive contract over the next two years. Wages, hours, and new hire equipment were addressed which proved how valuable our assets are and that our city and elected officials support our mission.

## **Goal #1 Complete Evidence Room Expansion and Remodel of CSO office.**

With funding secured in 2023, our goal is to design and expand our current evidence room to allow additional storage and processing areas and have this project completed in 2024. Additionally, our CSO office which previously was the dispatch center needs a complete remodel. We will update this office space which will include fixing electrical and heating issues.

## **Goal #2 Upgrade Current Less-Lethal Equipment**

The department will transition from its current electronic control devices to a new platform. This will require new equipment plus officer training. The new device has unmatched capabilities as opposed to our current devices providing more options for officer safety.

## **Goal #3 Increase Downtown Business District Enforcement**

Due to the limited availability for parking in our downtown business district we need to focus more attention on downtown parking restrictions to service all patrons and businesses. The department will provide more presence in this area.

## **Goal #4 Deploy a Second K9 Unit**

Our goal is to have a second K9 unit in operation by mid-year. Through a grant, a second K9 was purchased and we are currently awaiting arrival on another squad which will then need to be outfitted. Once complete, this will provide extended K9 coverage during our busiest times and take the burden off of one K9 Handler to be present at incidents, events, and special assignments.

## **Goal #5 Leadership Succession Planning**

This goal will continue past 2024 which is to foster the future leaders of this department. This will include inhouse mentoring as well as attending leadership courses. We have highly trained and skilled personnel with unique traits and interests that need to be identified and maximized. Our goal is to offer opportunity and guidance to smooth future transitions in leadership roles.

## **Goal #6 Continuation of In-house Instructor Goal**

This goal started in 2023 and we will continue to pursue state instructor courses for our next generation of instructors.

## **Goal #7 Plan, Prepare, Train for Active Threat**

Agencies within Columbia County have faced turnover in recent years. This goal would be to return to the fundamental training and response to an active threat and rescue task force procedures. This will involved working and training with our Portage School District and local businesses.

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Below is a comprehensive list of committees and organizations our department represents:

Boys and Girls Club  
 Kiwanis Club  
 Optimists  
 Elks Club  
 Triad  
 PARCC  
 Overdose fatal review team  
 Child death review team  
 Sexual assault response team  
 Community Sex Offender Notification Team  
 Courthouse security Committee  
 Crimestoppers  
 Regional CART  
 Drug Court  
 Highway Safety Committee  
 Portage School Board  
 High School Football  
 HS Basketball  
 HS Baseball

HS Softball  
 Youth Football  
 Youth Baseball  
 Youth Basketball  
 United Way  
 River Haven  
 PAA  
 High School Trap Team  
 Kinship  
 Columbia County Police Association  
 Portage Emergency Planning Committee  
 Portage Safety Committee  
 Citizen's Police Academy  
 Salvation army.  
 Crisis Intervention  
 Domestic abuse Coordination Committee  
 ARDC  
 Rotary Club



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CON'T

We invited kids from the Portage Community to join us for our annual kids safety day. This included field games, relay races, presentations from first responders including a visit from Medflight, a Culver's lunch, and we ended the day with water balloons!



TRIAD hosted their fall conference where several vendors attended to talk about many different topics including estate planning, presentation on technology, as well as healthcare.

Officers stopped by the Portage library to play games and interact with kids from the Portage Community. Picture is Chief Klafke, SRO Behling, and Sgt. Walters playing different games with kids.



# COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS

Annual Report 2023



# Kids Safety Day



Kids Safety Day is an annual event that first responders host to provide knowledge to the youth in our community. This is an opportunity to demonstrate our skills as first responders, while also providing the community with a fun and interactive day!



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

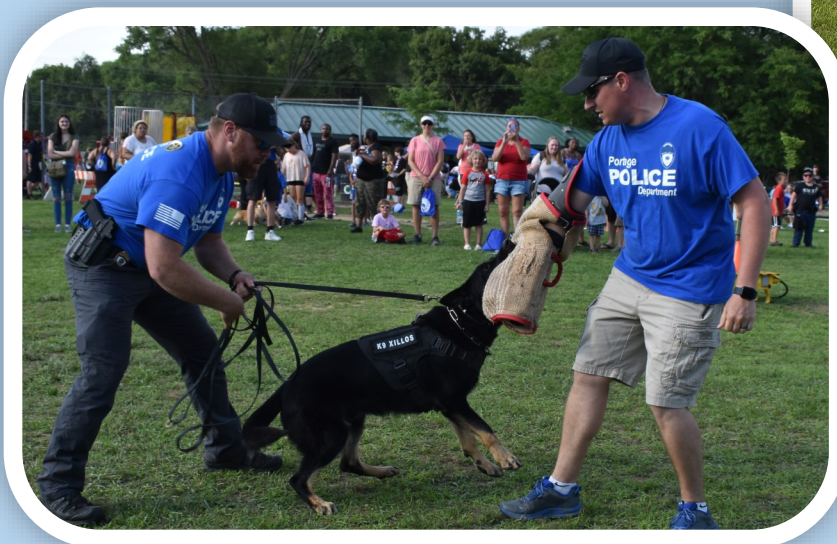
We invited the community to join us for a National night out at Collipp-Worden Park on August 1, 2023 and were again amazed at the great turnout! National Night Out provides us an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement and it would not be possible with all of the incredible support from our community!



There were over 50 organizations in attendance! Some activities included a dunk tank, face painting, corn hole, snow cones, rock climbing, and so much more!



Pictured left to right: K9 handler Officer Kubelt, K9 Xillos, and Lieutenant Neumann



## Citizen Police Academy-Class #11

Annual Report 2023

In 2020 everything was flipped upside down and we had to cancel our police academy. After a two year hiatus, we were excited to once again host our citizen police academy.

The Citizens Police Academy is an opportunity for citizens and high school students of the greater Portage Area to gain additional knowledge of our department, the officers, daily operations and tactics of law enforcement through classroom and hands-on training delivered by Portage Police Officers. In return, this program helps us meet the goals of our mission statement and maintain our close connection to the community.

The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) is a ten-week program which meets once a week starting in January.

**Class # 11 ran from January 24-April 3 and had 10 participants.**



Thank you to each of the participants for taking time out of your busy schedules to spend 10 weeks with our officers and gaining insight on our unique department.

# POLICE RESOURCES

## Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS)

The VIPS continue to be a committed group being the extra eyes and ears for the department. Our VIPS help control crowds and assist with traffic concerns which makes our city events very safe. Our VIPS are prior law enforcement or graduates of our Citizen’s Police Academy. They have monthly meeting which include training on various police procedures.

Our active members in 2023 include :

- |                      |                       |                    |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Bill & Joan Maxwell  | Doug Petrowitz        | Chad & Angie Crary |
| Katy Hartl           | Kevin & Diana O’Neill | Sue Wilcox         |
| Lora Foster          | Tamara Brantley       | Rita Haase         |
| Andy Saloun          | Steve Aldridge        | Jerry Tice         |
| Lee & Barb Chenoweth | Richard Green         | Jeffrey Ethington  |

## Adult Crossing Guards

Our adult crossing guards ensure our students arrive and leave school safely everyday. These dedicated members are stationed at five locations throughout the city.



### **Crossing Guards:**

**Renee Barnett (Dewitt/Franklin)**

**Mary Lehman (Macfarlane/Franklin)**

**Jerry McCullick (New Pinery/Slifer)**

**Connie Frain (Woodcrest/Slifer—AM)**

**Brandon Hoege (Woodcrest/Slifer—PM)**

**Thank you Crossing Guards for  
keeping our students safe!**

# Honor Guard Program

Our honor guard program continues to be a great addition to our department in which we are able to demonstrate our professionalism at various community and department events and corroborate with other honor guard teams.



## 2022/2023 AWARDS CEREMONIES

The police department hosted its 4th annual awards ceremony on January 18, 2023 to recognizing the outstanding performance of our personnel, other agencies, and citizens in our community in 2022. On January 24, 2024 we had our 5th awards ceremony to recognize 2023. The Awards Committee is responsible for vetting and approving nominations received and categorizing approved nominations. Citizens wishing to nominate an officer for an award are encouraged to visit our website to access the nomination form.

**Over the course of two ceremonies, awards were issued for the following achievements:**

- ⇒ 7 Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) members awarded for 5 years of service.
- ⇒ 2 VIPS awarded for 10 years of service.
- ⇒ 7 officers awarded for tenure spanning from 5 years to 27 years of service.
- ⇒ 3 Citizen Appreciation Awards
- ⇒ 9 Team Effort Awards
- ⇒ 4 Life Saving Awards
- ⇒ 4 Meritorious Service Awards
- ⇒ 4 Distinguished Service Awards



**Awards Committee Members**

**Kevin Todryk-Chair ❖ Richard Hoeg ❖ Michael Schutz ❖ Kate Behling ❖  
Jesse Sprague ❖ Teresa Johnson ❖ Ben Neumann ❖ Kaylee Ramirez**

## 2022/2023 AWARDS CEREMONIES

2022 Meritorious Service (Citizen Award)

**Lisa and Robert Thompson**



2023 Meritorious Service (Citizen Award)

**Eric Erickson**



## 2023 MAJOR INCIDENTS

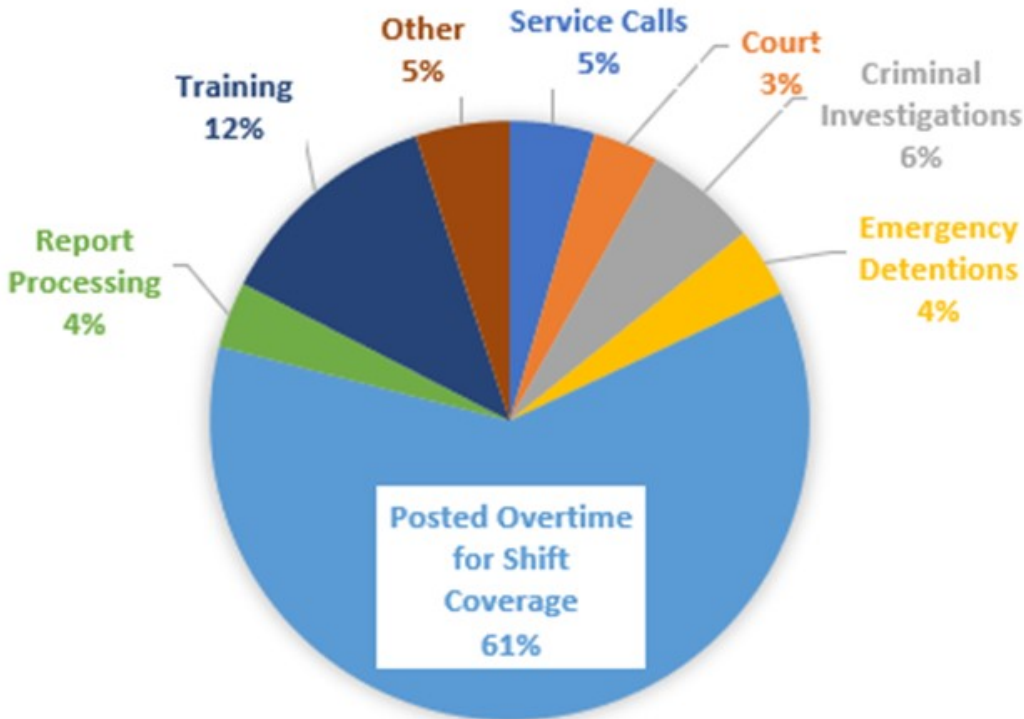
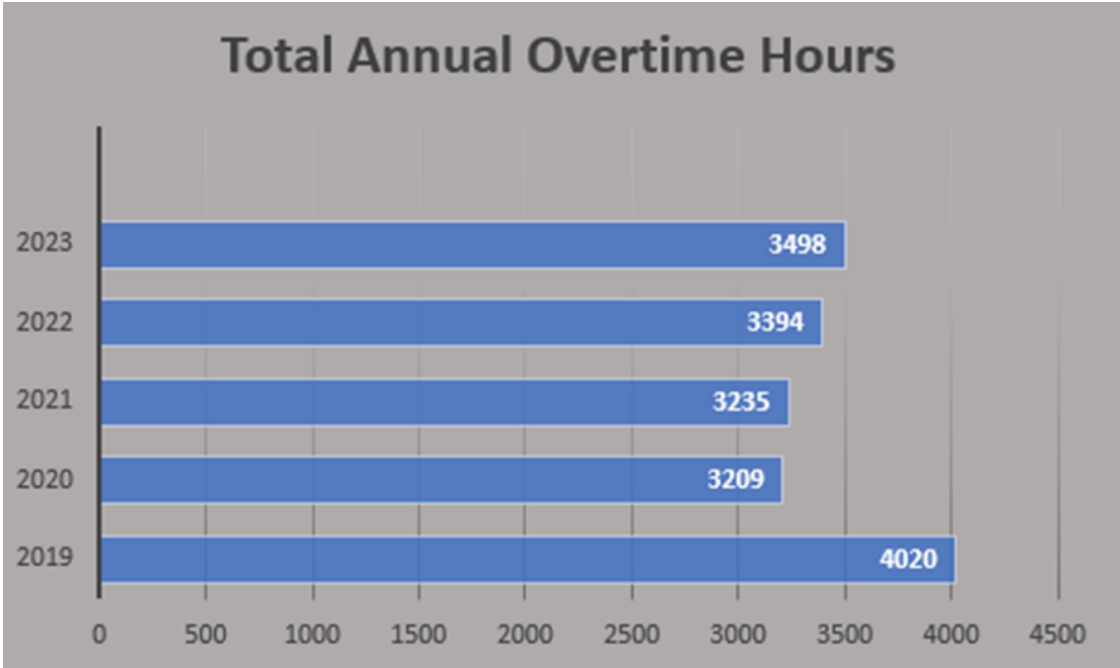
- ⇒ Two swatting calls at Portage High School of an active shooter. Suspect identified and charged.
- ⇒ Vehicle pursuit involving Portage pd, Columbia County Sheriff's office and Poynette Pd resulting in multiple charges. No one was hurt during this incident.
- ⇒ Subject convicted after a three day trial in the LaTolteca burglary.
- ⇒ Fatal motor vehicle crash involving a 29 year old male.
- ⇒ Vehicle pursuit initiated from Marquette County.
- ⇒ Termination of three employees.
- ⇒ Overdose incident involving a 2 year old child resulting in multiple charges for the parent.

**TRENDS & COMPARISONS**

Incident Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Vs. 2022	4yr Average Vs. 2023
<b>VEHICLES</b>							
Accidents	353	325	346 (3 fatal)	355 (2 fatal)	320 (1 fatal)	- 10%	- 7%
Traffic stops	2908	2819	2457	2730	3251	+ 19%	+ 19%
OWI arrests	120	133	83	75	82	+ 9%	- 20%
Eluding		4	5	12	5	- 58%	
<b>PROPERTY CRIMES</b>							
Vandalism/damage	130	81	121	96	88	- 8%	- 18%
Theft	143	160	251	257	217	- 16%	+ 7%
Stolen vehicles	14	10	33	15	11	- 26%	- 39%
Burglaries	7	18	22	21	13	- 38%	- 23%
<b>PERSONS CRIMES</b>							
Homicide (inc. attempt)	0	1	0	0	0	0%	0%
Sex offenses	6	9	14	19	19	0%	+ 58%
Battery		78	78	64	59	- 8%	
Domestic Incidents		107	150	104	92	- 12%	
<b>OTHER</b>							
Welfare checks	808	828	858	726	684	- 6%	- 15%
Mental commitments	42	36	28	25	23	- 8%	- 30%
Detox trips	5	11	8	19	5	- 74%	- 53%
Disorderly conduct	331	361	359	322	285	- 11%	- 17%
911 Hang-ups		512	518	469	748	+ 59%	

# TRENDS & COMPARISONS

## OVERTIME STATISTICS



OVERTIME BREAKDOWN

# TRENDS & COMPARISONS

2,025 Total Arrests (2022)  
2,271 Total Arrests (2023)

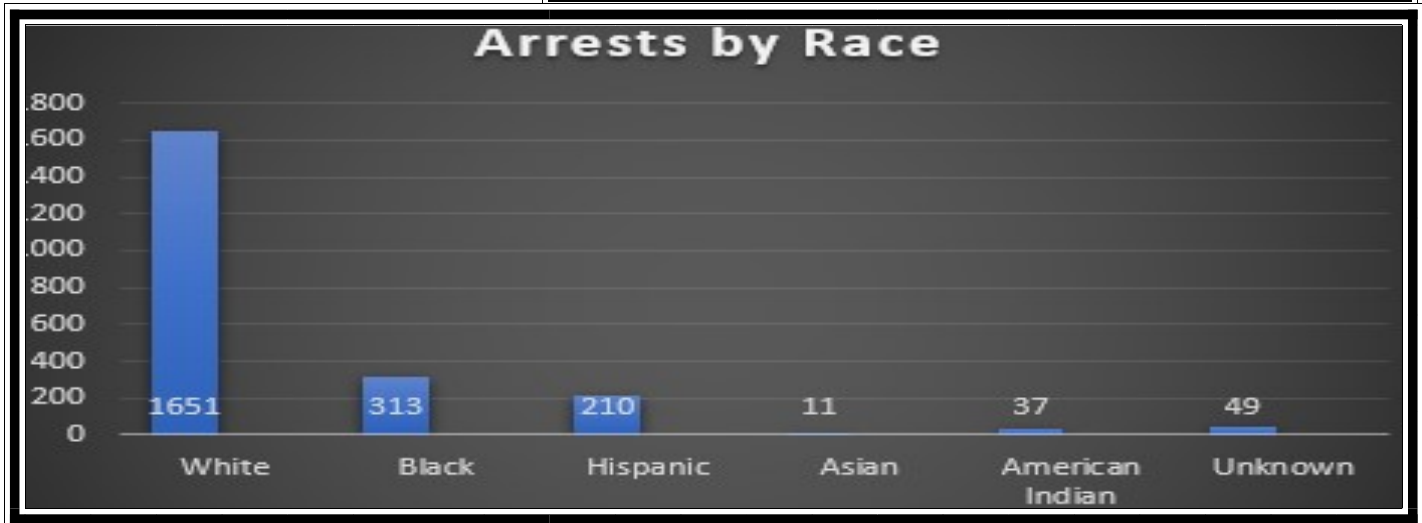
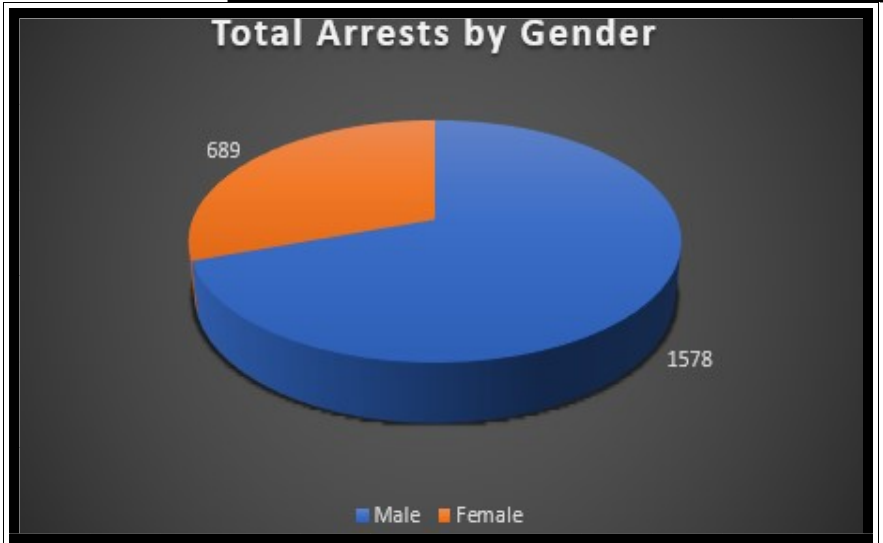
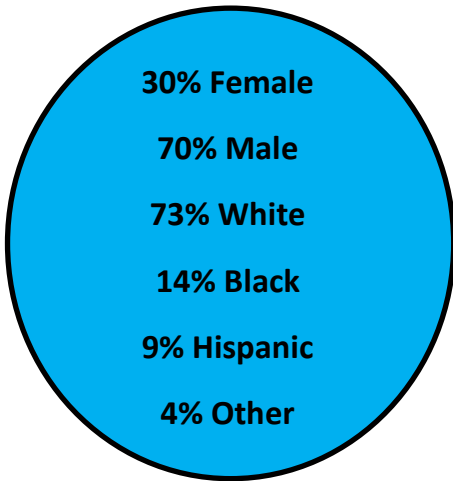
**2021—827** Total Arrests  
**2022— 963** Total Arrests  
**2023— 1359** Total Arrests

1172 Adults      187 Juveniles

\*URC (Uniform Crime Reporting)

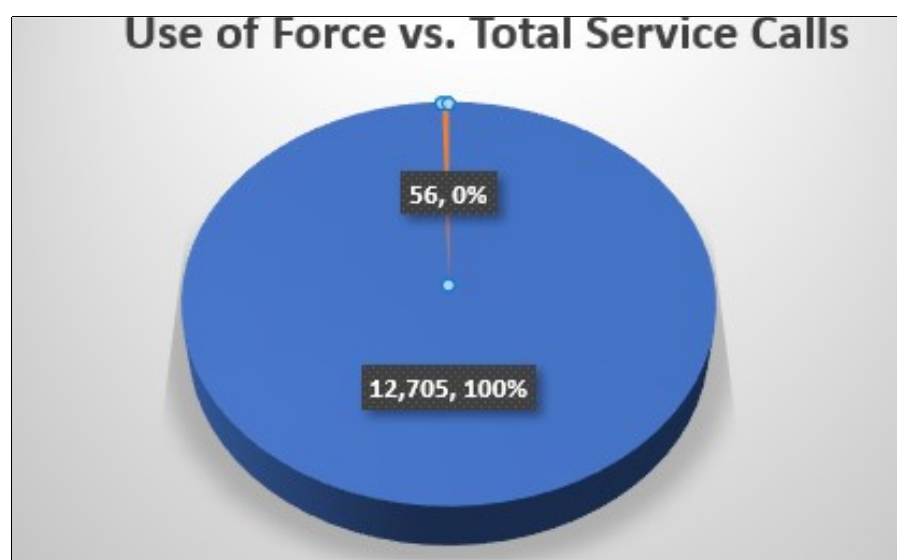
- ⇒ Total arrests include custodial, referred to DA, juvenile referrals, and nontraffic ordinances.
- ⇒ This data used to compile the demographic data below.

## 2023 Arrest Demographics



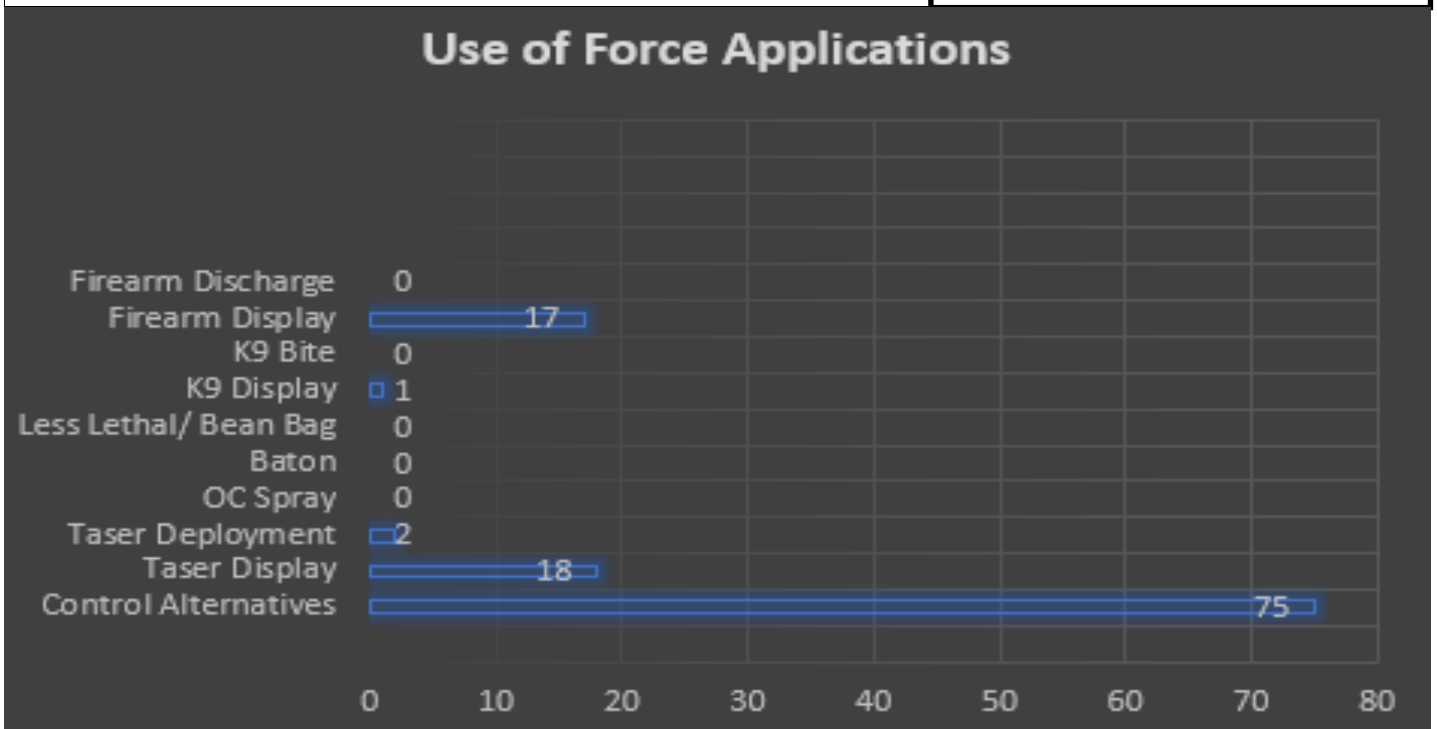
## USE OF FORCE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The Portage Police Department documents and reviews all use of force incidents. In 2022, we had all time high of 65 incidents. Our use of force decreased in 2023 to a total of 56 incidents. General compliance from the public continues to be a challenge in recent years. Through effective training and high standards we continue to have a low use of force to call ratio and use the least amount of force necessary to gain control. One complaint of excessive force was investigated and it was proven that the force used was appropriate and within policy guidelines.



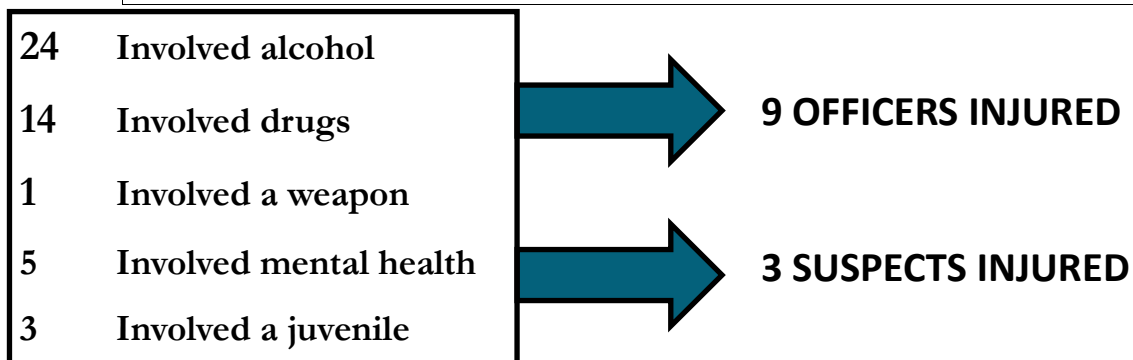
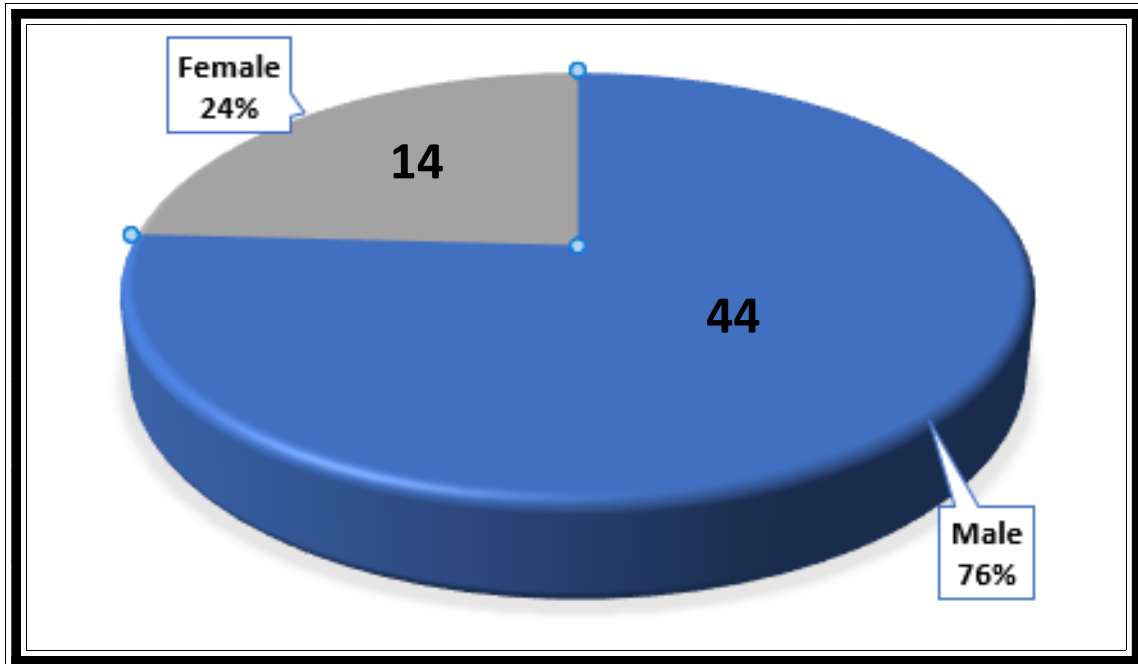
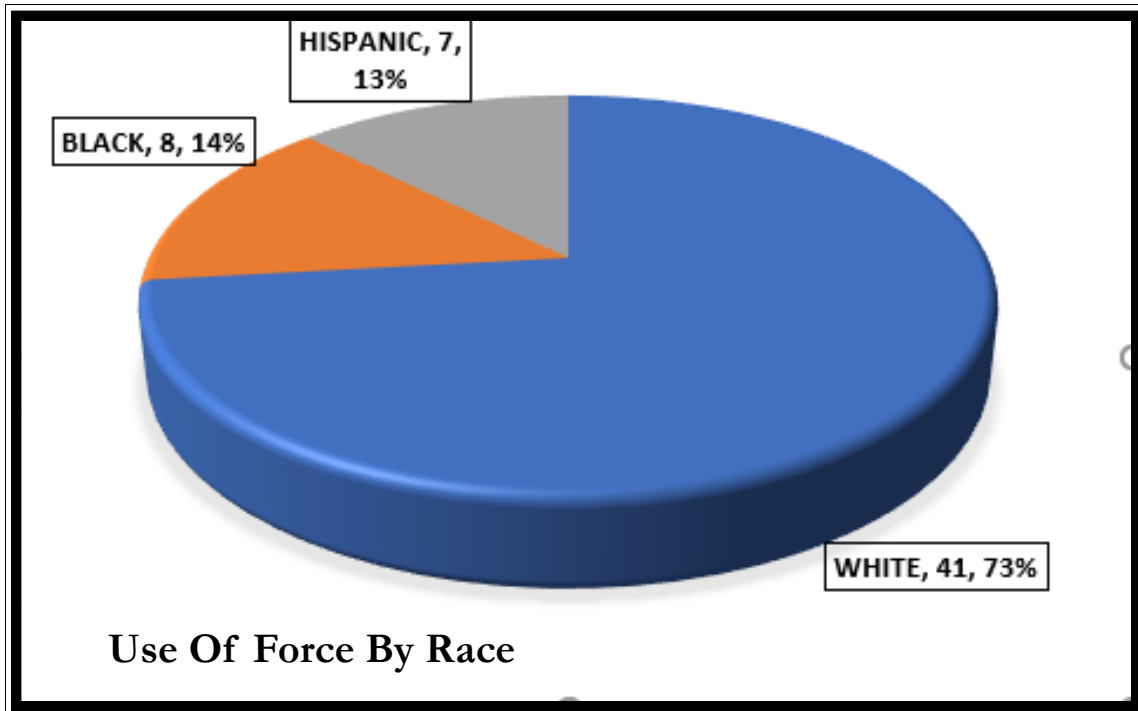
One example of effective use of our tools and communication is our use of Taser devices. We displayed our devices 18 times when faced with active resistance before gaining compliance. 2 times we had to use this device to control subjects.

**Overall, force was used on .4% of all service calls.**



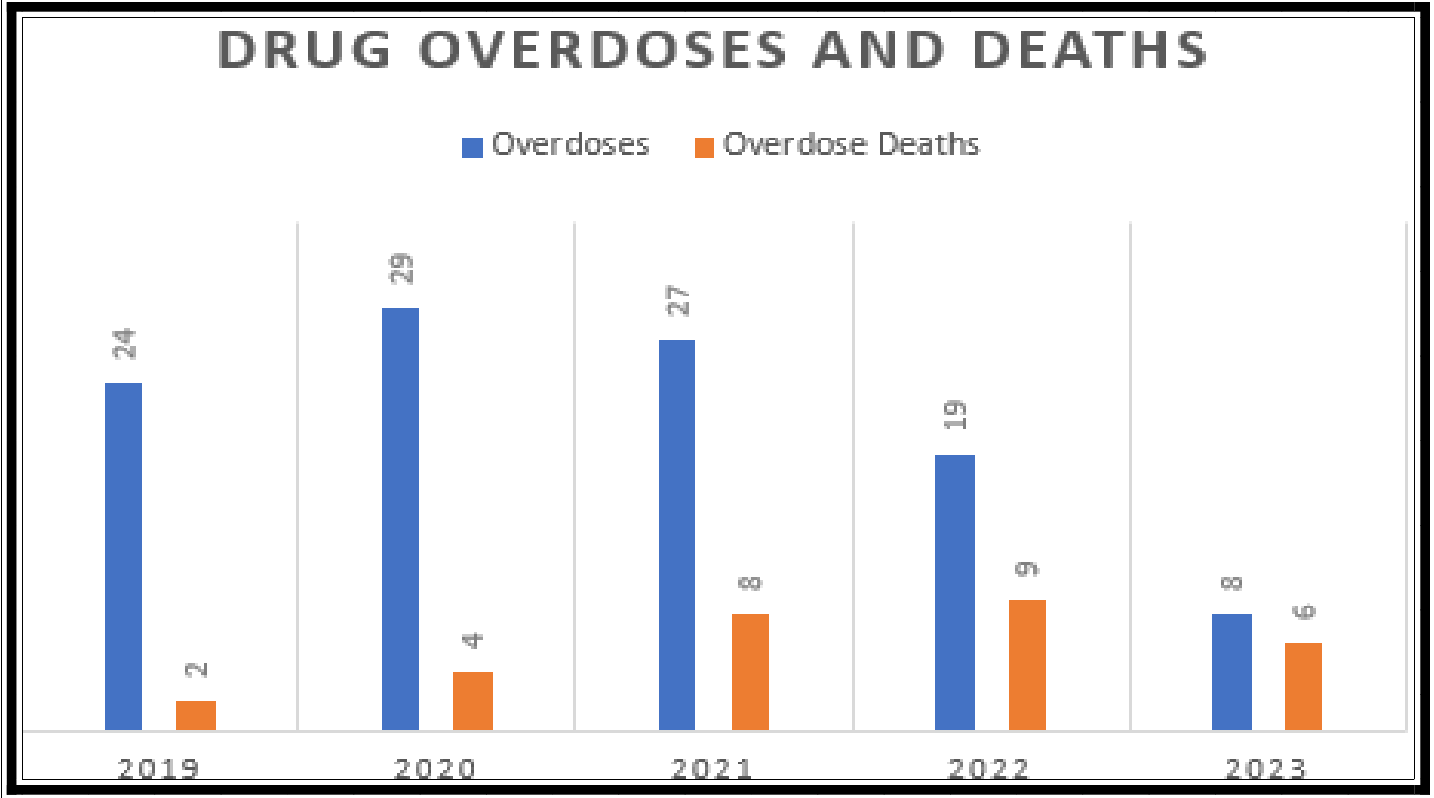
The department experienced a **14 % decrease in Use of Force Incidents compared to 2022.**

Use of Force Continued



**DRUG ENFORCEMENT/IMPACT**

<b>Totals in 2023</b>
<b>3</b> WARRANTS EXECUTED
<b>214</b> Drug Arrests
<b>121</b> Criminal Arrests
<b>93</b> Ordinance Citations Issued



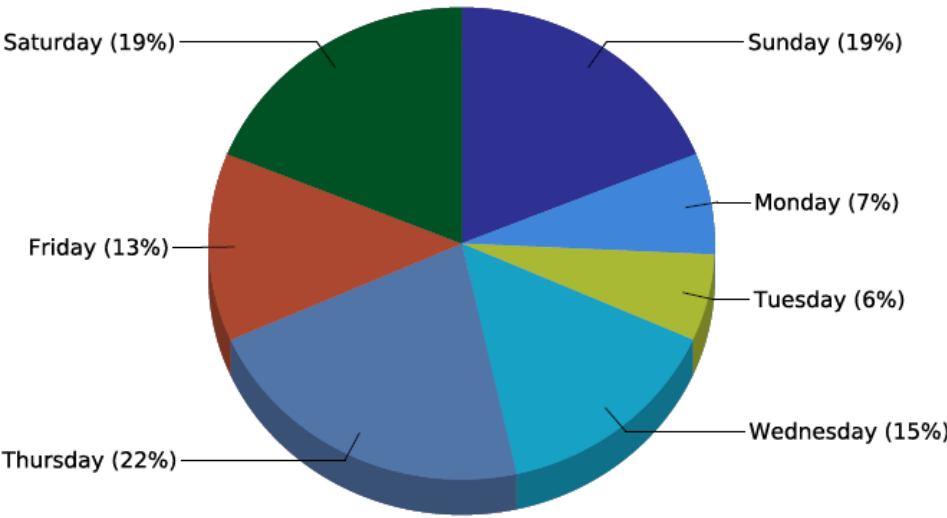
K9 ACTIVITY

K9 Xillos

K9 Xillos joined our department late in 2022. He is a 3 year old pure breed German Shepard originating form Germany. Xillos and handler Jake Kubelt train at Steining Tal Kennels in Campbellsport, WI. Xillos is duo-certified in Patrol and Narcotics work which includes tracking and apprehensions. Training requirements are 16 hours a month and a one week recertification annually through Waukesha Technical College. In 2023, Officer Kubelt and K9 Xillos were assigned to a powershift between the hours of 6pm-2am.



**Deployments by WeekDay**



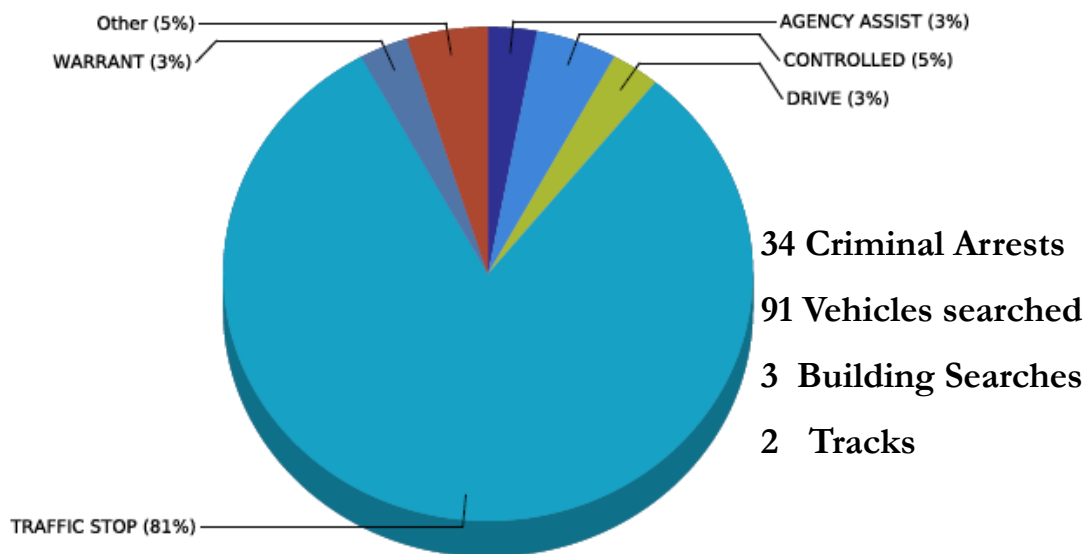
# K9 ACTIVITY

**Incident Count by Team**  
**PORTAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
 2023-01-01 to 2023-12-31



Incident Type	# of Incidents
<b>KUBELT/Xillos</b>	
AGENCY ASSIST	3
CONTROLLED	5
DRIVE	3
JAIL INCIDENT	1
LITTERING	1
OW PERSON	1
SPECIAL EVENT	1
TRAFFIC STOP	82
WARRANT	3
Welfare	1
<b>Total 101</b>	

## Incident Count



KUBELT/Xillos

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

In our fifth year, this program has proven to be an asset and vital to the safety of our students. Our district has experienced Active Threat Swatting calls which are treated as live incidents until proven otherwise. During these events the SRO has played a critical role by being present, notifying school staff and relaying important information to responding officers. Additionally, when there is change in administration and a new culture is being adopted, past practice creates new challenges. Vaping during school has been a significant challenge. Enforcement is not one of the goals of the SRO program but unfortunately this has been the focus due to the persistent issues.



This position is funded 66% by the Portage School District and 33% by the City of Portage. The Ad-Hoc evaluation committee reviews the activities of the SRO monitoring the success, needs, goals, and/or changes needed.

## Enforcement and Incidents

### 492 Total School Calls

#### Goals of the SRO Program

- ◆ Increase School Safety
- ◆ Build Positive Relationships
- ◆ Relieve School-related workload on patrol officers
- ◆ Improve School Attendance

- ⇒ 72 Truancy Citations issued (42 in 2022)
- ⇒ 12 Possession controlled substance
- ⇒ 33 Tobacco possession/use
- ⇒ 2 Active Threat swatting calls
- ⇒ 8 Disorderly Conduct charges

In addition, the SRO is at many school functions throughout the year providing presence at sporting events and extra-curricular activities. The SRO also provides presentations to students and staff on various current topics.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS**

Their primary role of our Community Service Officers is to address quality of life issues or complaints and conduct ordinance enforcement. The CSOs have many internal operation responsibilities which include municipal court, data entry and report processing, property (lost and found), training, and the liaison to the crossing guard program.



**Kevin Todryk**



**Megan Jahoda**

As you can see from the comparison report below, our CSO division is very active with city ordinance enforcement including vehicle related incidents.

<b><u>Nature of Calls</u></b>	<b><u>2022 Totals</u></b>	<b><u>2023 Totals</u></b>
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>726</b>
<b>Ordinance Violations</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>407</b>
<b>Lost and Found</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Parking Violations</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Calls</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>59</b>

## TRAINING

Each year sworn officers in Wisconsin are required to have 24 hours of continued education and training to remain certified. This includes an annual state qualification course for firearms and a bi-annual emergency vehicle operations course. Additionally, our K9 unit must train 8 hours per month to remain certified. Our department continues to focus on leadership courses and in-house instructors to provide the necessary instruction and provide training to area departments.

### Training Highlights

- ◆ Lt. Ben Neumann graduated from the 10-week FBI National Academy held at the FBI Headquarters in Quantico, Virginia.
- ◆ Sgt. Cameron Coronado and Sgt. Michael Schutz graduated from (Leaders in Police Organizations (LPO) Course.
- ◆ Officer Jesse Sprague and Heather Medina completed the Police Training Officers Course (PTO)
- ◆ Sgt. Michael Schutz certified as an EVOC Instructor.
- ◆ K9 Officer Jacob Kubelt K9 recertification
- ◆ Number of staff completed Peer Support Training to adopt our Peer Support Program.
- ◆ Department wide handgun transition including red dot optics training.



## EQUIPMENT/UPGRADES

**Service Handguns**– The department transitioned from Smith and Wesson .45 caliber handguns to Glock 45 9mm with Trijicon RMR red dot sights.

**Body Worn & Squad Cameras**– The Watchguard equipment was replaced with Motorola V300 body cameras and M500 squad cameras. This also included new software, cloud storage, and data sharing programs.

**Second K9 Team**– Though not referring to K9 as equipment but we did purchase another dual purpose K9 to be instilled in 2024.

**Flock Cameras**– Three LPR cameras installed at key locations around the city.

**Live Feed Cameras**- Cameras with 24/7 live feed capabilities were installed at Goodyear Park, Silver Lake Beach, and downtown. These cameras have proven to be very valuable in deterrence and investigations.

**Aladtec Scheduling Software**– New program to track employee schedules and payroll.

**Accountability System**– Nameplates and placards to track resources on large incidents.

**Tire Deflation Devices**– Outfitted remainder of fleet with tire deflation systems so all department owned vehicles are equipped.

# The Portage Police Department is proud to serve you!



Report Submitted by:  
Chief Keith J. Klafke