

# 2022

# Annual Report



**Sparta Police Department**

711 Pine St  
Sparta, WI 54656







# SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**Emilee Nottestad**  
Chief of Police

On behalf of the men and women of the Sparta Police Department, it is my privilege to submit the Sparta Police Department's 2022 Annual Report

Each year seems to bring unique challenges and 2022 was no exception. Our department had one of its highest call volumes ever, with our UCR-reportable crimes increasing 37% from 2021 and more than doubling since 2020. Our agency is well-prepared to respond to and investigate crime. We are also constantly looking for ways to improve our response, partner with our community, and successfully prevent crime and other problems in our community.

The Sparta Police Department applied for and received several grants in 2022. A \$25,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Justice allowed us to purchase an Apex Virtual Reality Simulator. The simulator gives us the ability to train on countless scenarios without leaving our building or adding training time to the budget. We also received a grant through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to stock and replace our Narcan supply. Mayo Clinic Health Systems awarded the department with a \$5,000 grant toward officer mental health in Monroe County. Those funds were used to facilitate 3 days of training for officers, supervisors, and law enforcement families. Finally, we received state funding to purchase a robot and reimburse the City for some of the costs associated with lateral hiring bonuses.

Our agency partnered with other area first responders to bring the first annual Sparta Area National Night Out to Sparta in 2022. This community-focused, family-friendly event drew hundreds of area families to enjoy an evening with local first responders. We considered the event a success and have plans to expand in 2023. It is events like these that help us build relationships with our community members, other agencies, area businesses, and even recruit future first responders. This event also sparked ideas for more youth-focused activities which are currently in the planning stages for 2023.

We completed many components of our department goals for 2022, with intentions to finish any remaining portions in 2023. We focused on wellness, training for first line supervisors, and updating the department image. A detailed update on department goals can be found later in this report. I created a new vision statement for the agency to incorporate with the mission statement drafted by our department committee. You will find that new vision statement contained in this report. Along with the updated mission and vision statements, all uniforms now display our new department patches. In 2022, we also re-designed and integrated new department badges.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and find the information contained herein interesting and useful. It is one of my greatest honors to lead the men and women of the Sparta Police Department. This team is truly focused on bringing the best police services while serving with *excellence, integrity, and valor*.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilee Nottestad  
Chief of Police



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# Code of Ethics

*“As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.*

*I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.*

*I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.*

*I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.*

*I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.*

*I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... **law enforcement.**”*

# Mission Statement

## Our Mission

The mission of the Sparta Police Department is to work in partnership with our community to enhance safety, protect life and property, and reduce crime.

## Our Vision

A model of excellence in policing and a source of pride for the Citizen of Sparta, the Sparta Police Department serves with professionalism and compassion while eliminating crime. The department values its employees, training and investing in each individual so that they, in turn, can stand-out as leaders and problem-solves while protecting our citizens.

## Our Values

- \* Valor
- \* Integrity
- \* Excellence



# Oath of Honor

On my honor,  
I will never betray my profession,  
My integrity, my character,  
Or the public trust.

I will always have the courage  
To hold myself and others  
Accountable for our actions

I will always uphold the Constitution,  
My community, and the  
agency I serve.

# Command Staff

## Chief of Police

Emilee Nottestad serves as the department's Chief of Police. She began her law enforcement career in 1999 and was hired by the Sparta Police Department in 2015. Chief Nottestad served as the department's Lieutenant and Deputy Chief prior to her appointment to Chief of Police in January of 2020. Chief Nottestad is responsible for all operations of the department.



## Deputy Chief

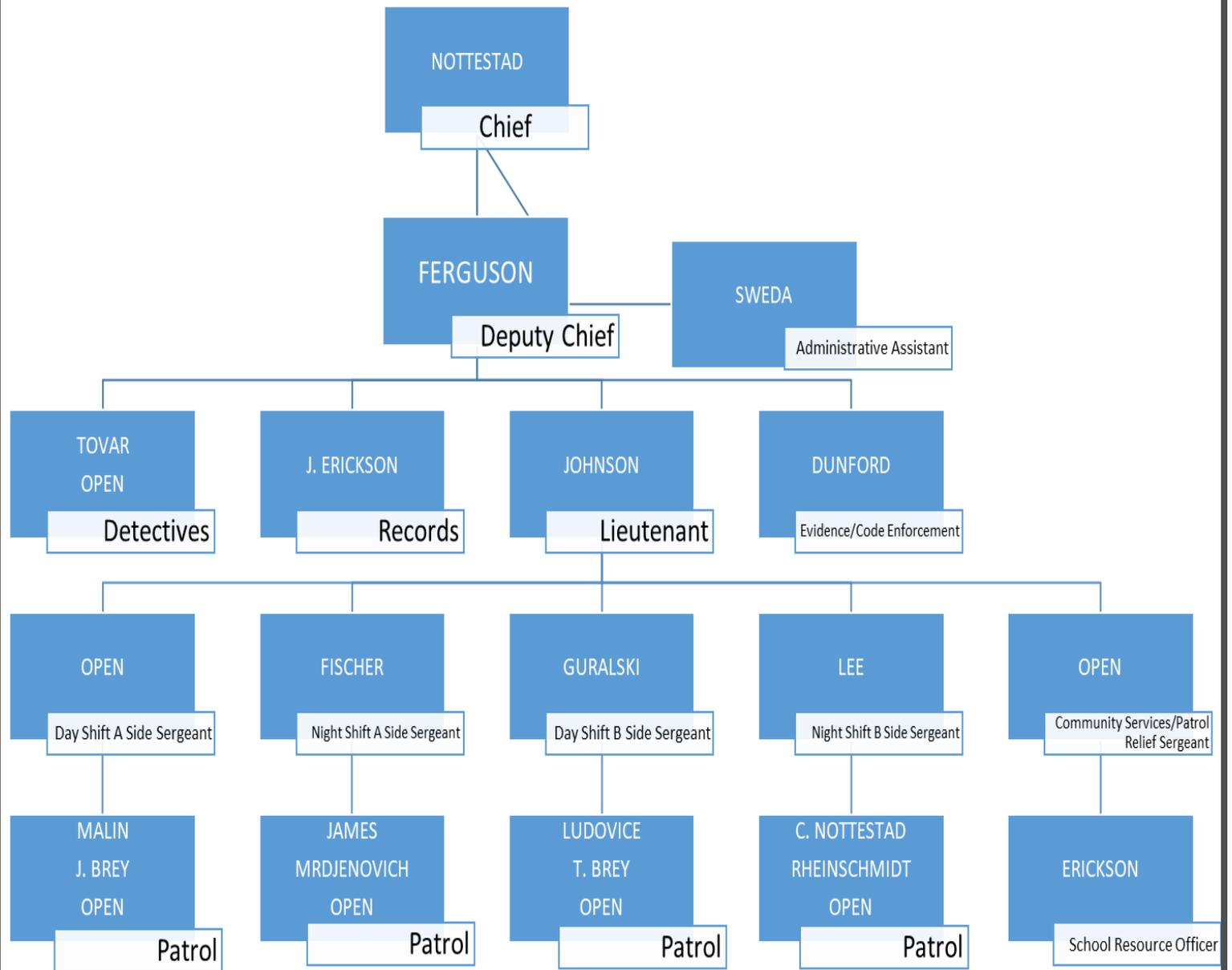
Booker Ferguson serves as the police department's Deputy Chief. He was hired as a part time officer in 2001, and earned a full time police officer position in January of 2004. Deputy Chief Ferguson is responsible for all IT and evidence management, oversees our detective division, conducts any internal investigations, and many other duties. The Deputy Chief is in command of the department in the Chief's absence.

## Lieutenant

Corey Johnson is the department's Lieutenant. Lieutenant Johnson was hired by the Sparta Police Department in January of 2013. He supervises the patrol and sergeant divisions, as well as, the K9 units. He is responsible for the field training of new officers, and is in charge of all department training, Lieutenant Johnson also oversees policy development for the department.



# Department Organizational Chart



# Personnel



**Sergeant  
Joel  
Ames**



**Sergeant  
Jenna**



**Sergeant  
Kyle  
Guralski**



**Sergeant  
Zach  
Fischer**



**Sergeant  
Jager  
Mitchell**



**Detective  
Jose  
Tovar**



**Detective  
Andrew  
Kuen**



**Officer  
Kyle  
Seubert**



**SRO  
Marc  
Nelson**



**Officer  
Kyle  
Erickson**



**K9 Handler  
Brian  
James**



**Officer  
Jacob  
Ludovice**



**Officer  
Brock  
Mrdjenovich**



**Officer  
Jamal  
Wagner**



**Officer  
Tyrel  
Brey**



**Officer  
Chase  
Nottestad**



**Officer  
Bryce  
Rheinschmidt**



**Officer  
Adam Malin**



**Officer  
Hope Meyer**



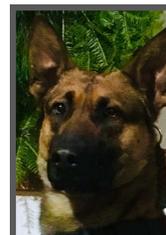
**Officer  
Tyler Kleese**



**Officer  
Jon Brey**



**K9 Kaiser**



**K9 Nash**



**Facility Dog  
Xanthos**



**Administrative  
Assistant  
Amanda Revels**



**Police Support  
Specialist  
Jessica Erickson**



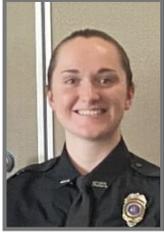
**Evidence/Code  
Compliance  
Randal Dunford**



**Chaplain  
Jef Skinner**

# Personnel Changes

## New Hires



**Hope Meyer**



**Tyler Kleese**



**Adam Malin**



**Jon Brey**

## Separations



**Marc Nelson**



**Jamal Wagner**



**Hope Meyer**



**Tyler Kleese**

## Promotions

- Jager Mitchell was promoted to Sergeant on May 5, 2022.

## Career Milestones

- Andrew Kuen's 15 year anniversary with the department was April 16, 2022.
- Officer Kyle Erickson became School Resource Officer on August 1, 2022.



# 2022 Department Goals

## Goal #1: Officer Wellness

- \* Focus on overall wellness of employees
- \* Implement officer wellness program

Addressing the physical, mental, and emotional health of officers and their family members, we can decrease sick leave and administrative leave costs to the City and increase career longevity for staff. We want to decrease critical incident stress on officers and their families, and provide overall support for the long-term effects of repeated trauma on personnel. We plan to provide training and support sooner to our new officers and offer a continuing wellness program that addresses both physical and mental health throughout an officer's career with the department.

*IN PROGRESS. In 2022 we implemented a physical agility program. 74% of eligible staff participated, running the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Academy physical agility test. We plan to continue this physical agility testing each year, encouraging members to improve on their standards and goals. In 2023 we will add other wellness pieces into our program. The department has secured funding for resiliency training for officers and their families as one additional component for the next year.*

## Goal #2: Focus on First Line Supervisors

- \* Focused training for Sergeants
- \* Supervisor team building

The majority of our sergeants have fewer than 2 years of supervisory experience. We need to provide detailed training to our first line supervisors that includes administrative expectations and in-house coaching, as well as supervisory and leadership training.

*COMPLETE. Supervisors spent 3 days of training focusing on expectations, supervisor functions, leadership styles and development, critical incident response, and team-building. Throughout the year, multiple supervisors attended further supervisory and/or leadership trainings based on individual needs.*



# 2022 Department Goals (cont.)

## Goal #3: Update Department Image

- \* Design new patch, challenge coin, and badge
- \* Create new Vision Statement
- \* Utilize new images to enhance the police department building

*IN PROGRESS. New patches and badges were designed through a combination of committee work and department input. More work still needs to be done to create a new challenge coin design and enhance the interior of the police department building with our new images.*

*The Chief created and disseminated a new Vision Statement for the department in September, 2022.*

## Leadership Philosophy:

Lead with confidence, courage, and compassion. Anticipate future needs and take constant steps to address them. Always remember the operational and tactical side of our work while taking the time to develop our department's future leaders.

- Chief Emilee Nottestad



# 2023 Department Goals

Goal #1: Complete *IN PROGRESS* 2022 goals

- \* Re-focus supervisor and committee groups to finalize department imaging
- \* Expand officer wellness initiatives within the agency

Goal #2: Draft New City of Sparta Emergency Operations Plan

- \* Coordinate with municipal department heads to update 2017 Municipal Emergency Operations Plan
- \* Modernize entire Hazard Plan

The latest version of the “Sparta All Hazard Plan” was partially updated in 2017 but still contains some documents dating back as far as 2006. The emergency plan document needs to be updated with current information, as well as a more modern lay-out. This will require the cooperation of several department members to complete.

Goal #3: Focus on youth-centered community outreach

- \* Expand National Night Out
- \* Find new ways to connect with youth in our community

Building relationships with young people in any community is vital to addressing problems in that community. It is key to building trust, learning current trends, serving as positive adult role models, and addressing and preventing destructive behaviors. Furthermore, as we seek to draw more people into our field and all first responder fields, these relationships can only strengthen positive perceptions of our department and our career field as a whole.

Leadership Philosophy:

Lead with confidence, courage, and compassion. Anticipate future needs and take constant steps to address them. Always remember the operational and tactical side of our work while taking the time to develop our department’s future leaders.

- Chief Emilee Nottestad



# 2022 Officer Training



The Sparta Police Department wasted no time utilizing our new facility to hold trainings which included: Roadside Interviews and Opening Up the Information Pipeline, Street Cop Training-The Brick Wall, Drone Operator Training and our annual department in-service. Many other department trainings took place inside the new building which included officers practicing defensive tactics and utilizing the department's new VR (Virtual Reality) system.

## **Department Training**

- \* Juvenile Update
- \* Legal Update w/Monroe County DA's Office
  - \* Biennial Vehicle Pursuit Training
  - \* CPR/Lifevac/NARCAN Training
- \* Variety of Pistol/Rifle courses of fire
  - \* Firearms Qualification Course
  - \* Advanced Patrol Tactics
- \* Monthly Combined Tactical Unit Training
  - \* Monthly K9 Maintenance Training
  - \* Digital Search Warrant Update

## **Supervisory Training**

- \* Critical Incident Response (All Department Leadership)
- \* Budget & Purchase Orders (All Department Leadership)
- \* Active Threat Tabletop Exercise (All Department Leadership/SRO/School District Administration)
- \* FBI-LEEDA- Command Leadership Institute (Lt. Johnson)
- \* Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Associate Conference (Chief Nottestad & Deputy Chief Ferguson)
- \* Wisconsin DOJ First Line Leader Course (Sgt. Mitchell)

## **Individual Officer Trainings**

- \* Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (Officer Rheinschmidt & Officer Malin)
- \* Defense & Arrest Tactics Instructor (Officer Ludovice)
- \* Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (Sgt. Fischer, Officer Mrdjenovich & Officer Erickson)
- \* CTS Less-Lethal Instructor Course (Sgt. Guralski)
- \* ALERRT-Solo Officer Rapid Deployment (Officer Mrdjenovich)
- \* NASRO- Basic School Resource Officer Course (Officer Erickson)
- \* Wisconsin Associate of Homicide Investigators (Deputy Chief Ferguson & Detective Tovar)
- \* Low Light- Carbine & Pistol (Officer Nottestad)
- \* Active Shooter Threat Training Program (Officer Erickson)
- \* Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association Conference (Officer James & Lt. Johnson)

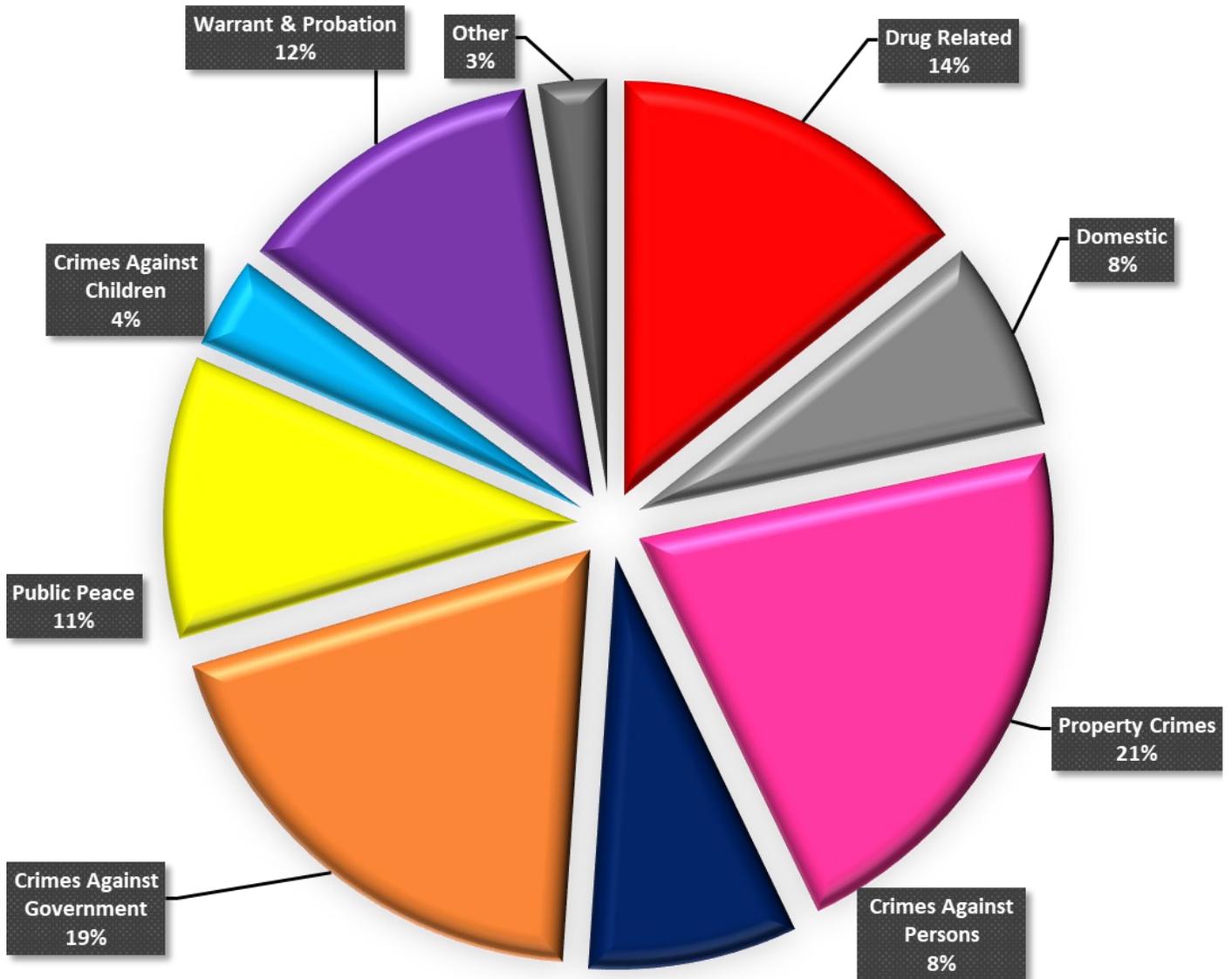
## **Future Training**

- \* Reid Interrogation & Interview Techniques (Hosted at SPD)
- \* Basic Field Training Officer Course (Officer Brey)
- \* Tactical Medical Training
- \* DAAT/GST
- \* ALERRT-Solo Officer Rapid Deployment
- \* E-Collar Training (Canines) (Hosted at SPD)
- \* Less-Lethal Platform Training



Report Compiled By Lt. Corey Johnson

# Arrest Percentage By Type of Crime

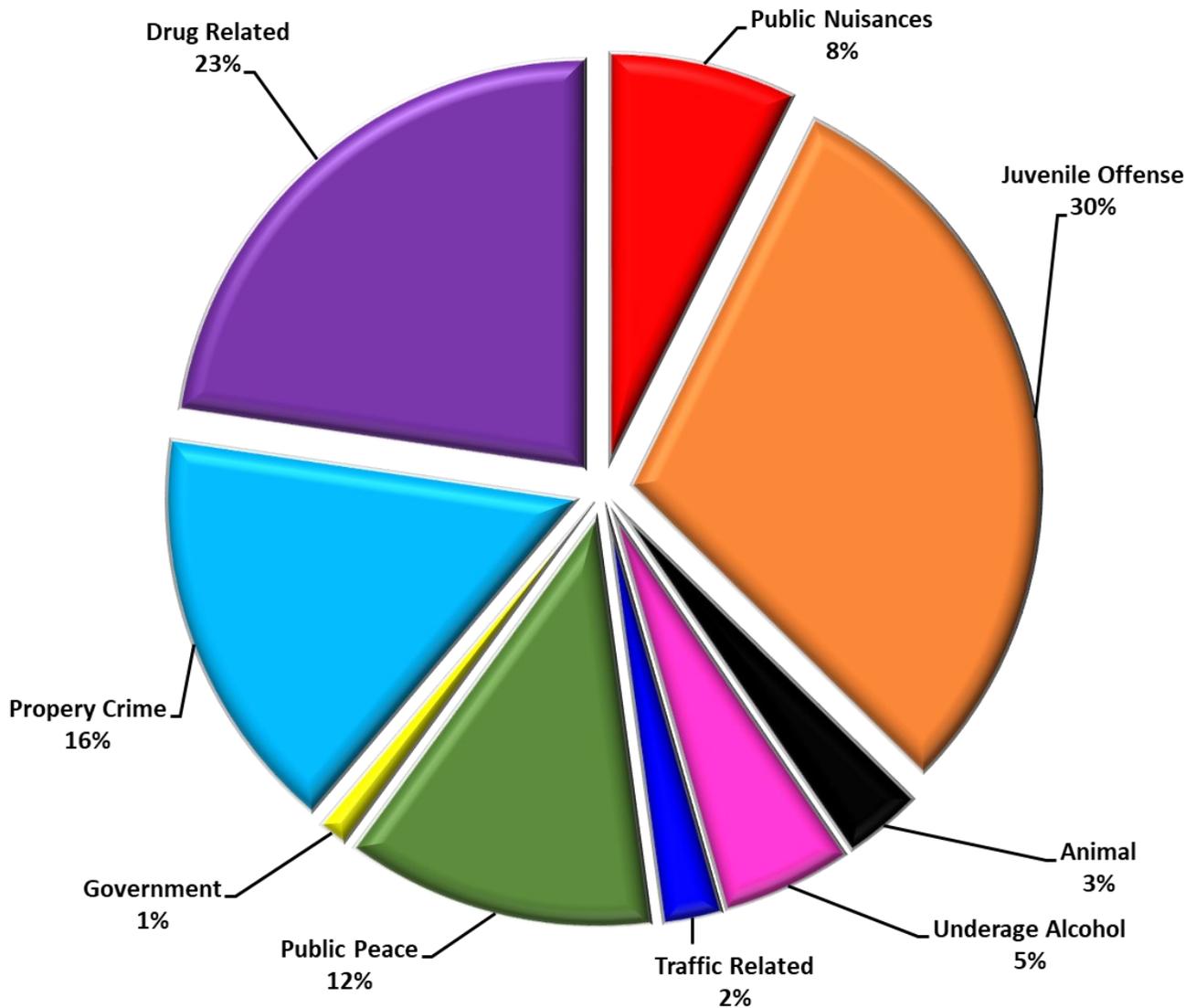


## Compared to 2021:

- ◆ Drug related arrests decreased 6%
- ◆ Crimes Against Property arrests increased 8%
- ◆ Public Peace related arrests increased 1%
- ◆ Warrant & Probation arrests decreased 4%



# Municipal Offense By Type

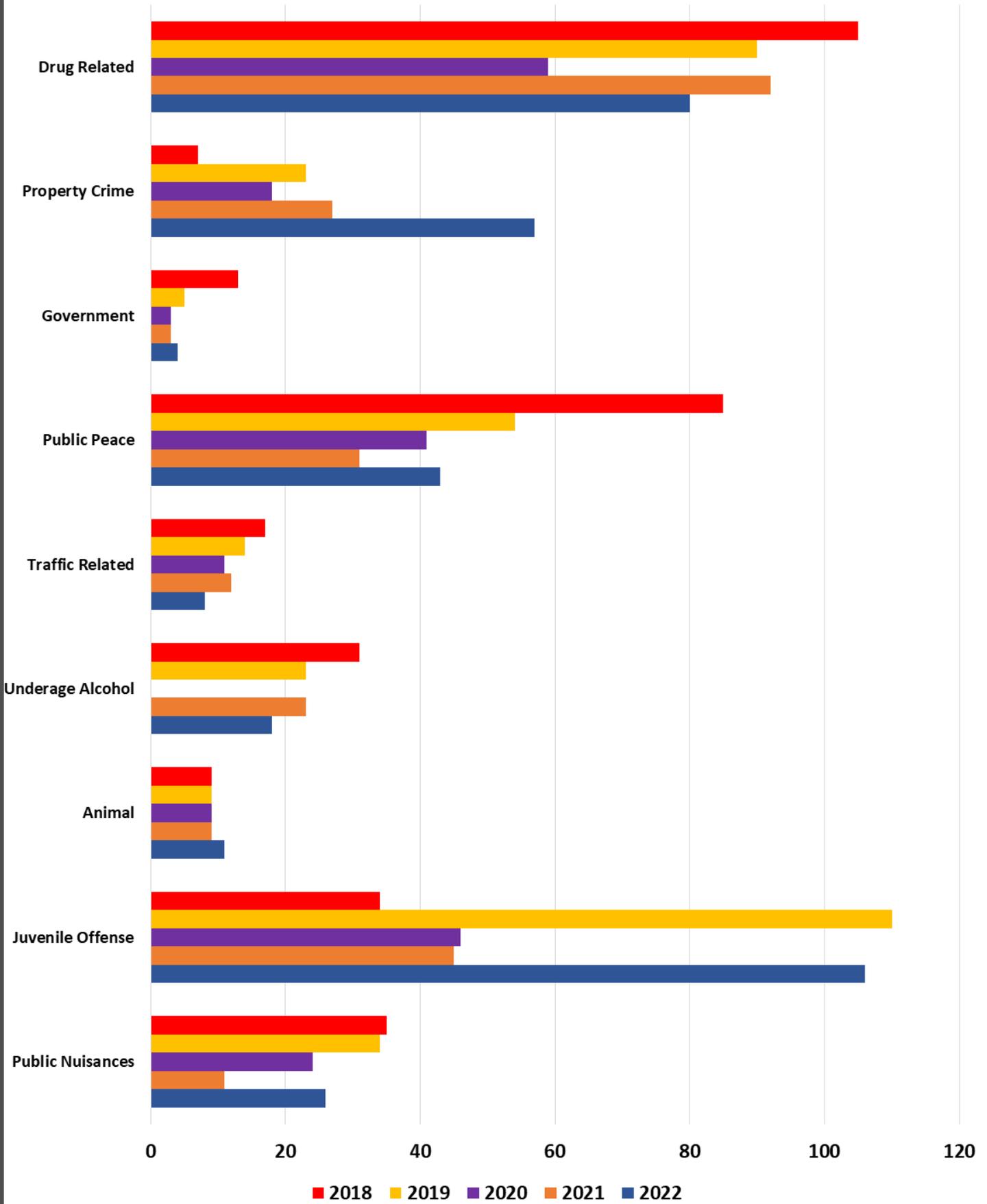


## Compared to 2021:

- ◆ Drug related municipal citations decreased 13%
- ◆ Juvenile related municipal citations increased 12%
- ◆ Underage Alcohol municipal citations decreased 4%
- ◆ Property Crime related municipal citations increased 5%
- ◆ Public Nuisance related municipal citations increased 4%
- ◆ Traffic related municipal citations decreased 3%



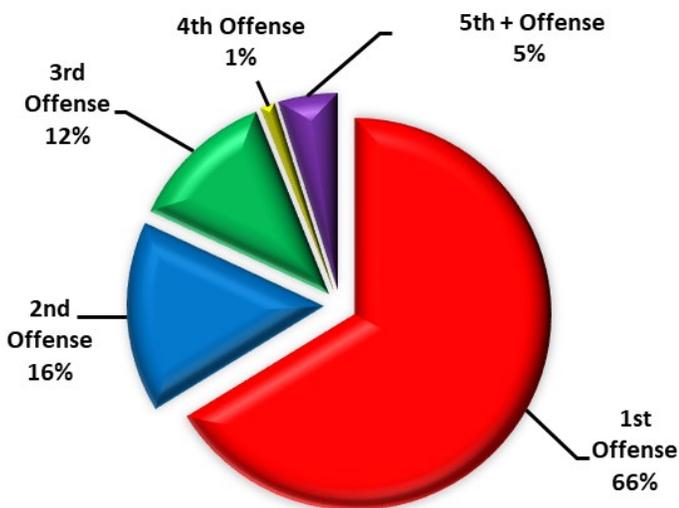
# 5 Year Municipal Citation Comparison



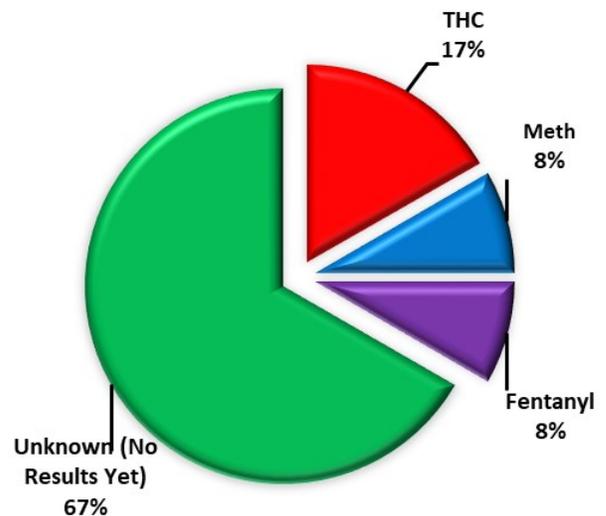
# OWI Statistics BAC/PAC Results

Month	Average Blood/Breath Alcohol Concentration	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense	5th+ Offense	W/ Controlled Substance
January-10	.163	7	1	1	0	1	2
February-10	.166	8	0	2	0	0	0
March-4	.155	3	0	0	0	1	0
April-4	.231	3	1	0	0	0	2
May-15	.189	8	5	2	0	0	2
June-6	.170	3	1	2	0	0	0
July-7	.138	4	2	1	0	0	1
August-6	.125	5	0	0	0	1	1
September-7	.194	6	1	0	0	0	0
October-5	.178	4	1	0	0	0	0
November-4	.188	0	1	2	1	0	1
December-5	.178	4	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total (83):</b>	<b>.173</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>

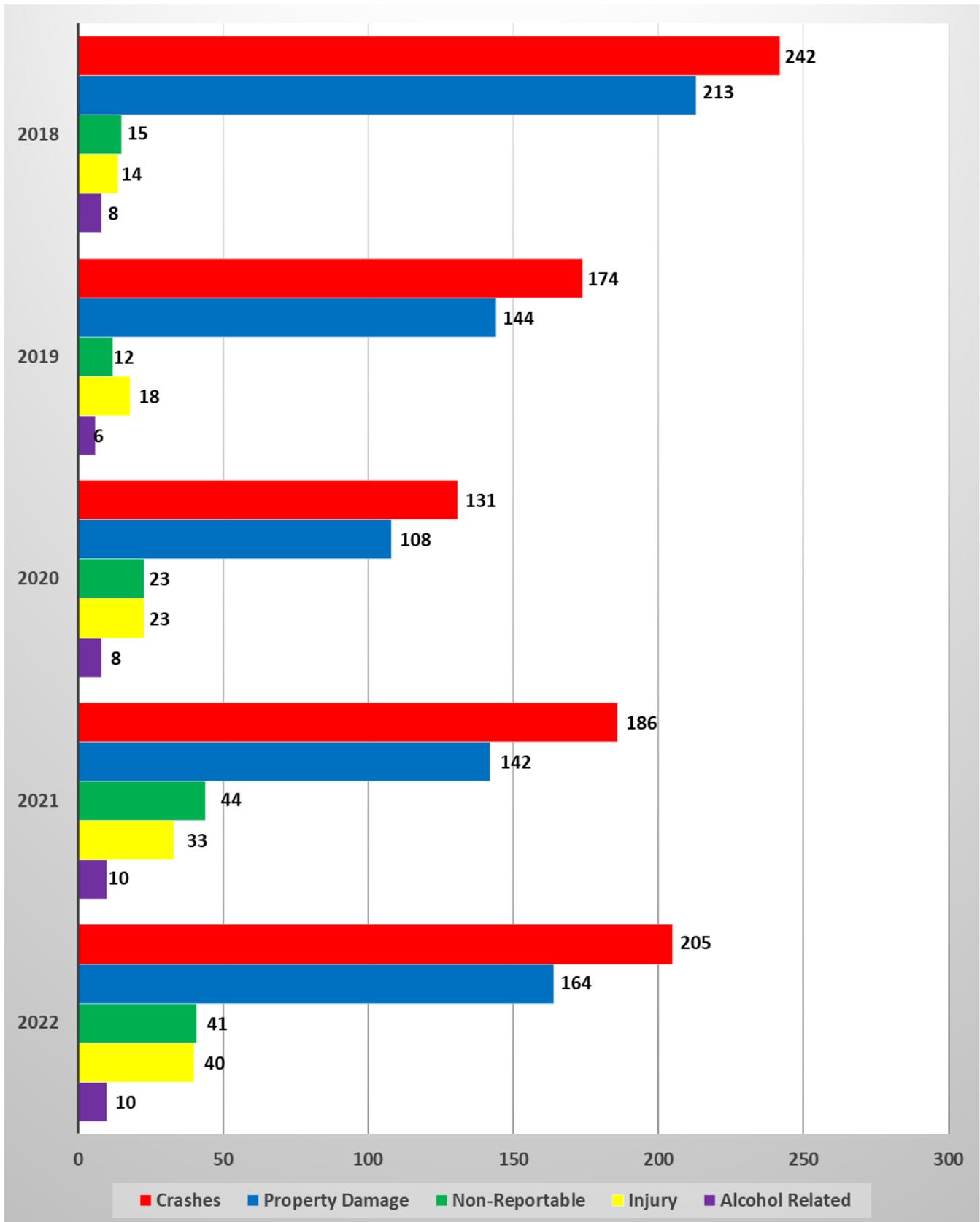
Repeat Violation Offenses



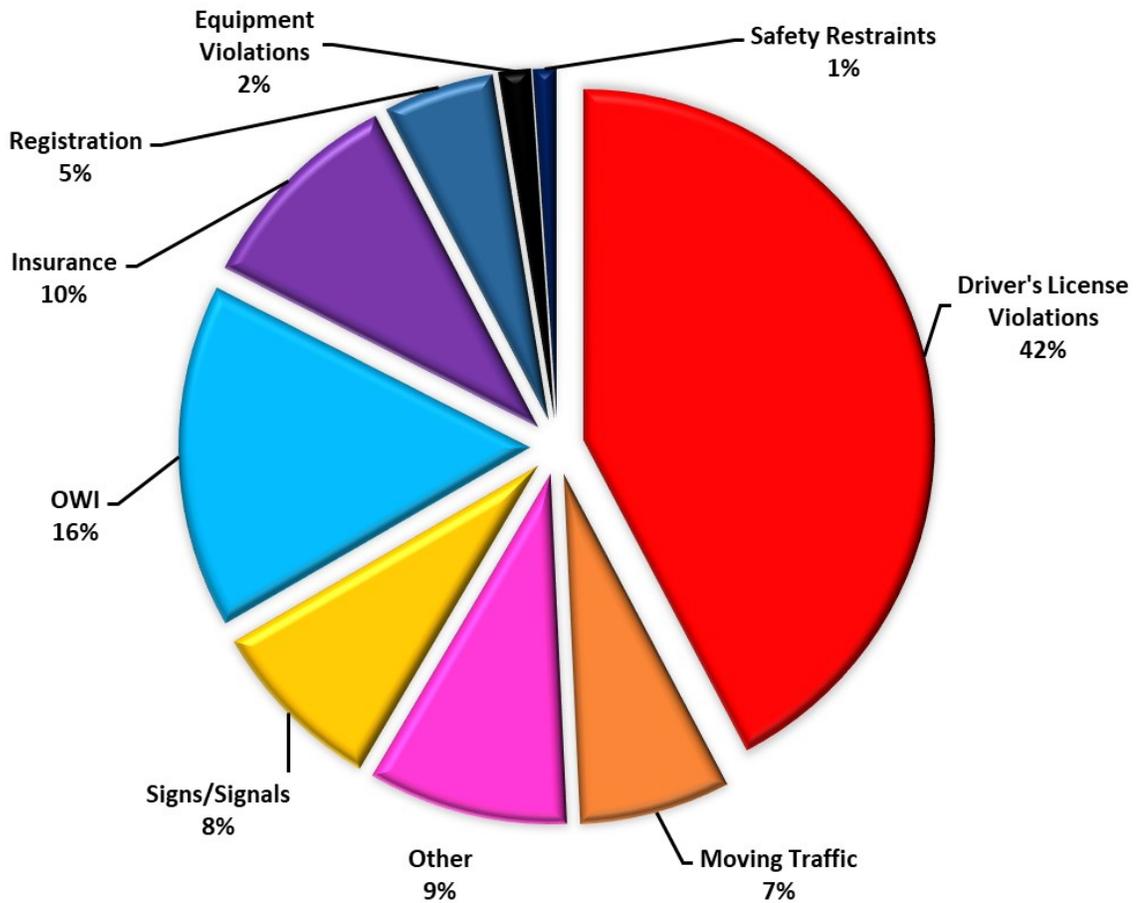
Controlled Substance OWI's



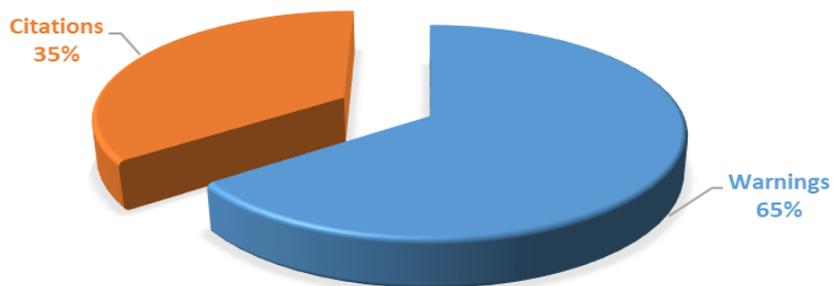
# Five Year Traffic Crash Trend



# Traffic Citation Percentage By Type of Offense



## Traffic Stop Citations vs. Warnings



# Parking Summary by Ordinance

01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022

Ordinance Description	Current Year (2022)	Fine Total (2022)	Last Year (2021)
All Other Parking	0	\$0.00	1
Alternate Parking	687	\$10,305.00	564
Excess of 48 Hour Parking	22	\$330.00	17
Handicapped Parking	0	\$0.00	0
No 2am to 6 am Parking	24	\$360.00	15
No Parking Anytime	0	\$0.00	0
No Truck or Van Parking	1	\$15.00	0
Overnight Parking	3	\$45.00	2
Residential Parking	0	\$0.00	0
Restricted Parking	3	\$45.00	0
School Zone Parking	0	\$0.00	0
State Traffic Parking	0	\$0.00	0
Thirty Minute Parking	0	\$0.00	2
Two Hour Parking	22	\$330.00	37
<b>Totals:</b>	762	\$11,430.00	637



# Crime Counts by Incident/Arrest Date

## 3-Year Comparison

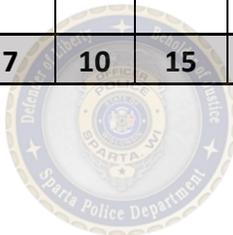
Crime Category	Offenses		
	2020	2021	2022
Crimes Against Persons	127	137	145
Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	1
Manslaughter by Negligence	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	12	21	26
Sex Offenses - Nonforcible	3	5	3
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	3	5	3
Assault Offenses	107	104	106
Kidnapping/Abduction	5	7	10
Crimes Against Property	168	256	358
Robbery	1	0	0
Burglary	11	11	34
Theft/Larceny	73	117	184
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	12	8
Stolen Property Offenses	4	2	3
Arson	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	7	14	4
Fraud Offenses	13	27	30
Embezzlement	0	2	1
Extortion/Blackmail	1	0	0
Bribery	0	0	0
Destruction/Vandalism	58	71	94
Crimes Against Society	158	277	235
Weapon Law Violations	17	23	33
Prostitution Offenses	2	1	0
Prostitution - Purchasing	0	0	0
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	136	244	194
Gambling Offenses	0	0	0
Pornography	2	6	6
Animal Cruelty	1	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>738</b>



# 2022 Code Enforcement

**Violation Dates: 1/1/22 TO 12/31/22**

Ordinance Violation	Citations Issued	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Row Total
11-29(b)	1	1	0	1	7	3	3	3	2	0	1	7	1	29
Sec. 10-100. (A)	3	3	4	6	8	6	5	12	4	1	10	9	0	68
Sec. 10-100. (B)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Sec. 10-105. (A)	3	4	0	1	1	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	14
Sec. 10-105. (B1)		0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	3	1	11
Sec. 10-105. (B2)		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sec. 10-3. (2)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sec. 10-3. (3)	4	3	2	2	10	7	2	5	3	2	12	12	2	62
Sec. 10-3. (6)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sec. 10-4. (4)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sec. 10-5. (10)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Sec. 10-5. (8)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sec. 10-6. (A)	9	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	4	1	0	0	0	15
Sec. 10-6. (B)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sec. 10-6. (C)		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sec. 11-29.		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	7	0	0	11
Sec. 11-32. (A)		0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sec. 12-277.		0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sec. 12-277.		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sec. 12-288		0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sec. 12-288.		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sec. 14-81.		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sec. 7-101.		0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	5
Sec. 8-2.		0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sec. 8-2(C)		0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Sec. 8-86.		0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sec. 9-9.		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL VIOLATIONS:</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>246</b>
<b>CITATION TOTAL:</b>	<b>20</b>													
		<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>141</b>



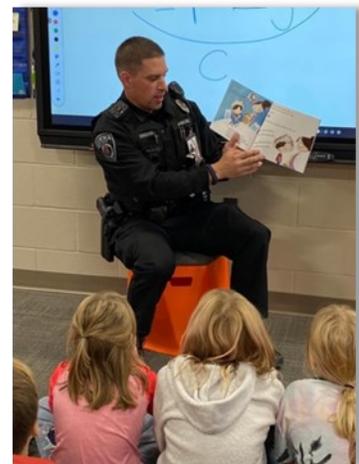
# School Resource Officer

Officer Erickson took over as the School Resource Officer in August 2022. The SRO is responsible for all schools in the Sparta School District, which supports about 3,000 students. Aside from serving as a law-enforcement presence in the schools, Officer Erickson continuously strives to positively engage with students to build the community-police relationship.

Officer Erickson has had the opportunity to interact with students in government classes, speaking about criminal law and evidence. Reading to elementary students and attending several Spartan sporting events this fall have been some of the more rewarding aspects of being the SRO!

## Trainings completed:

- \* Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Active Threat Response
- \* Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) instructor
- \* Instructed three civilian response courses within the Sparta community this fall
- \* 40-hour Basic School Resource Officer Training
- \* Multi-agency, active-threat table-top exercise facilitated by Wisconsin Emergency Management



Report Compiled By Officer Kyle Erickson

# Sparta Police Department K9 Unit

## K9 Ronin

K9 Ronin was born June 14, 2020 in Beeton, Canada. He is trained as a dual purpose K9. He is also trained in narcotics detection, tracking, article searches and criminal apprehension/handler protection.

In March of 2022, Officer James traveled to Canada to retrieve K9 Ronin from Working K9. K9 Ronin was a replacement for K9 Nash. Officer James and K9 Ronin were able to quickly bond and attend the North American Police Work Dog Association (K9 Certification) in May where they certified in multiple areas. This is a huge accomplishment given the two were paired for less than two months. This speaks volumes to Officer James' experience and knowledge as a second time K9 Handler, along with the quality of police canine Working K9 provides to law enforcement agencies.



## K9 Kaiser



K9 Kaiser began his career with the Sparta Police Department on July 25, 2016. He is a dual-purpose canine trained in narcotics detection and patrol operations, which includes tracking, building searches, articles searches and criminal apprehension.

K9 Kaiser assisted with multiple school sniffs and community demonstrations in 2022. 2022 marked K9 Kaiser's last full year of service as he will be retiring in 2023. The process has already started for K9 Kaiser's replacement. In the latter part of 2022 and early part of 2023, Officer Chase Nottestad was selected to be Sparta PD's next canine handler. Officer Nottestad will train with the regional training group for the time being and will travel to Canada in 2024 to pick up his new K9 partner.



# Xanthos



Xanthos, our facility/emotional support dog, continued to provide stress relief and emotional support for not only the department, but the community as a whole. Xanthos earned his keep for the entire year by providing emotional support to attendees at the Monroe County Justice Center in 2022 for an emotional child abuse trial.

## Community

The Sparta Police Department maintained its positive community involvement including assisting multiple schools with school sniffs in: Holmen, West Salem, Bangor, Onalaska, Sparta High School and Meadowview Middle School. K9 demonstrations were conducted for community groups and for children at Hermann Elementary School. The canines were also on display at our annual golf outing fundraiser and the newly established National Night Out in Sparta.



# 2022 Day Shift Report

Day shift consists of two sides, A and B, not including School Resource Officer Erickson and Detectives Kuen and Tovar. The sides work opposite 12 hour days from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.

## Day Shift Sergeants

Sgt. Joel Ames  
Sgt. Kyle Guralski

## Day Shift Officers

Officer Kyle Seubert  
Officer Jacob Ludovice  
Officer Ty Brey  
Officer Chase Nottestad

Calls For Service (CFS) remained relatively the same as last year. Here are just a few of the cases Sparta Police Department dayshift officers handled in 2022.

### OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED DOMESTIC

On January 9, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to an Avon Road address for Domestic where the suspect choked the victim and pulled her hair. A Sparta Officer arrived as the suspect was leaving the area in a vehicle. The suspect then turned his vehicle back around and drove back to the incident location. The suspect got out of his vehicle and asked the officer if he was going to shoot. The officer ran after the suspect who was attempting to go back into the residence and took him into custody. The suspect was placed through Standardized Field Sobriety Tests before being arrested for Operating While Intoxicated 5<sup>th</sup>, Disorderly Conduct – Domestic related, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Resisting an Officer.



### RUN TO THE LAKE

On February 5, 2022 a Sparta Officer received a call reference to an individual who had a warrant for their arrest. The complainant stated the warrant subject would be at a particular address to get money and sell drugs. Officers went to the address and found the suspect's vehicle in the driveway. Also in plain view in the vehicle was a baggie of Marijuana. As the officers were at one door, the suspect took off out the back door. The suspect was arrested after he fell close to the edge of Perch Lake. After the arrestee was placed in the vehicle he began to kick the door from the inside to the point he bent the door outward. The suspect stated he was possessed by a "demonic demon." He was found in possession of a couple baggies of drugs which were believed to be Fentanyl. He was arrested for Felony Bail Jumping, Criminal Damage to Property over \$2500, Disorderly Conduct, Possession of THC, Possession of Narcotic Drugs, and Resisting an Officer.



Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Guralski

# 2022 Day Shift Report

## DOMESTIC WITH SON

On March 5, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to an address where a mother called because her son broke into her house who had a no contact with her. The son had kicked the back door to the garage in before he entered the residence. The subject stated he knew he was in violation of his bond conditions. He was arrested for Misdemeanor Bail Jumping x 3, Felony Bail Jumping x 8, Criminal Damage to Property (Domestic), and Burglary (Domestic).

## FIRE STARTERS

On March 1, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to an address reference to a Fire. Contact was made with two juveniles who stated they did not cause the fire inside their father's vehicle. It was strange the two were not in school and were asked if they had school. They stated they did have school but their ride did not show up that morning. It was apparent the two juvenile's lied about what happened. One was also heard flicking a lighter in their pocket and had two lighters on them. This was the second time the boys were near a strange fire. The one boy was referred for Negligent Handling of Burning Materials, Criminal Damage to Property, and Obstructing an Officer.

On March 28, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to a Fire in an old building. Contact was made with the same two juveniles from the previous fire call along with a few other juveniles. The owner of the building stated light fixtures, gas lines, a door, and HVAC grates were destroyed in the fire which was localized in a small area. The same two boys were referred for Arson of Building w/o Consent.



Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Guralski

# 2022 Day Shift Report

## **CONTINUED BAD BEHAVIOR**

On the morning of May 10, 2022 I received a call from a business reference to Trouble with Party. Contact was made with the manager of the business who stated he asked a subject to leave the business after the person had been sleeping in the breezeway. The manager stated he was the last person in the bathroom before the subject went into the bathroom. The manager stated the next customer that went into the bathroom stated the bathroom needed attention. The manager went in to the bathroom to find someone had pooped on the floor. The suspect was referred to the Monroe County District Attorney's Office for Disorderly Conduct, Misdemeanor Bail Jumping x 4, and Felony Bail Jumping x 14.

On May 15, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to a local business for a Criminal Damage to Property complaint. Contact was made with the complainant who stated a male individual on camera had damaged some surveillance cameras. The suspect was identified as a person who was trespassed from the property. A short time later Dispatch advised the same individual made entry into a vacant apartment. Officers responded to the area and made contact with the suspect who resisted arrest. They were arrested for Felony Bail Jumping x 14, Misdemeanor Bail Jumping x 3, Criminal Damage to Property, Resisting an Officer, and Trespassing.

On July 23, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to a local gas station reference a bond violation. An off duty officer stated a trespassed subject was seen entering the gas station. An employee of the gas station stated the individual selected several food items and went into the bathroom. An officer entered the bathroom and could hear the individual manipulate food items and the consumption of food. Officers made contact with the individual outside of the restroom. The suspect stated they would pay for the items, however, later it was found they had no way to purchase them. As officers took the suspect into custody they resisted, and threw a glass container of coffee to the ground. The suspect had to be carried out of the store and began to resist again when they were searched. They were arrested for Felony Bail Jumping x 14, Attempted Battery to Law Enforcement, Carrying a Concealed Knife, Disorderly Conduct, Resisting an Officer, and Retail Theft.

## **HOMICIDE**

On May 10, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to a Suspicious Death. Officers arrived to find a deceased individual who died from an unknown cause. The significant other was suspected to be involved in their death. They were taken into custody and arrested for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Intentional Homicide, Aggravated Battery, Disorderly Conduct, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

## **STOLEN WALLET**

On June 2, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to a local store for a Theft complaint. The store reported the suspect stole another person's wallet which was left at the checkout counter. The suspect left the store, got into a vehicle, and placed the wallet into a zippered bag. When officers had contact with the suspect he stated he took the wallet so he could return it to the owner. The wallet was located on a search and the owner stated there was a large sum of money gone. Money located on the suspect was taken for safekeeping as it was believed to belong to the victim. The suspect was also arrested for drugs located in his property



Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Guralski

# 2022 Day Shift Report

## MISSED COURT DATE

On June 29, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to the address of two individuals who did not show up for a court case they were involved in. Since they had not shown up, the judge put a warrant out for both of them. Contact was made with both parties at the residence. One of the individuals stated they were on their way to court, while the second stated they had not intended on appearing. They were both brought before the judge.

## DOGGY DEATH THREAT DOMESTIC

On July 4, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to a Domestic complaint. The complainant stated she was upset with the suspect because he was intoxicated and lit fireworks off the night before after she told him to stop. The suspect woke her up early in the morning because she had refused to sleep by him because of his behavior and instead slept with her dogs. The complainant said they attempted to give the suspect a ride home but the suspect refused. The suspect claimed one of her dogs bit their daughter but the complainant did not see any marks on the child. The suspect then grabbed a large knife and told the complainant they were going to put the dog down while they were choking the dog. A neighbor heard the commotion so they knocked on the door of the residence. The suspect answered the door with the knife in his hand and swung it at the neighbor. The neighbor was able to wrestle the knife away and the suspect began to throw punches at him. The suspect was arrested for Intentional Mistreatment of Animals, Disorderly Conduct, Resisting an Officer, and a Probation Violation.



## GENERATOR REPO

On August 15, 2022 a Sparta Officer took a complaint of a generator theft from a construction company who was working in the area. A few days later Sparta Officers were dispatched to a disturbance. While on scene one of the officers noticed a generator was in operation which had not been at the place previously. A quick examination of the generator found it was indeed the stolen generator which had been spray painted gold in color at that location. The person who had the generator stated they received it from another individual. The suspect was referred for Theft.



Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Guralski

# 2022 Day Shift Report

## TOO ROUGH

On September 27, 2022 a Sparta Officer took a Battery complaint at the police department. An individual stated they were struck on the face without consent two days prior. The complainant stated she allowed the suspect to pin her down and grab her neck during a sex act. The suspect stated the complainant wanted rough sex and admitted he had pulled her hair and choked her. He also admitted he slapped her on the cheek which they spoke about afterward where she told him to slap her on the ass instead.

## STAKEOUT & BUY BUST

On October 2, 2022 a Sparta Officer had been keeping an eye on a usual place where drugs were sold. An individual pulled up to a familiar room and made a quick visit inside. The individual then got back into their vehicle and made a traffic violation. The individual was stopped and questioned about their quick visit to a known drug dealer. After a consent search was done, illicit drugs were located on the driver's person and a pipe was found in the vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle then said they would purchase illicit drugs for the officer. The driver was given the opportunity to go back to the same room and purchase more drugs which they did. Contact was made later with the suspect who concealed drugs on his person after the arrest. A large amount of drugs and money were seized during a search warrant of the room. The suspect was arrested for Felony Bail Jumping x 3, Misdemeanor Bail Jumping x 2, Delivering Articles to Inmate, Deliver of Cocaine, Possession with Intent – Cocaine, Possession with Intent – Heroin, and Unauthorized Possession of Food Stamps.



## HIDE & SEEK

On October 6, 2022 Sparta Officers were dispatched to a Domestic Disturbance. As officers arrived, they were told the suspect was still inside the residence. A search of the residence showed the suspect was no longer there. After the investigation was concluded officers left the scene. A short time later, officers were sent back because the suspect had returned and was knocking on the door. When officers arrived the suspect was gone again. Knowing the suspect could not have gone far, officers began to search the wooded area behind the residence. After contact was made a few times with the suspect, he ran out of the wooded area and was taken into custody. The suspect was arrested for Felony Bail Jumping x 2, Battery x 2, Disorderly Conduct x 2, False Imprisonment, Resisting an Officer, and Strangulation/Suffocation.



Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Guralski

# 2022 Day Shift Report

## **CONSENT SEARCH TO BUY BUST**

On October 20, 2022 a Sparta Officer observed a vehicle known to be associated with drug activity. When the vehicle passed the officer, the driver would not look at the officer and ended up driving in a circle. The registered owner of the vehicle was suspended so a traffic stop was made. Both occupants were known to be involved in drug activity. The passenger of the vehicle gave a false name. A search of the vehicle was conducted and large amount of Methamphetamine was located. The driver was arrested for Felony Bail Jumping, Misdemeanor Bail Jumping, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Possession with Intent – Amphetamine. The passenger was arrested for Obstructing an Officer.

The passenger of the vehicle stated they wanted to do a controlled buy. The passenger went and purchased more drugs from a specific person. A traffic stop was conducted on a different vehicle the passenger was in. The driver of the vehicle was arrested for Methamphetamine possession and drug paraphernalia. As a result, a higher person of the chain of drug sales was arrested.

## **THEFT SPREE**

On November 25, 2022 a Sparta Officer took a Burglary complaint at a local business. The officer was able to get video footage from of the entry. A large sum of money and a cell phone were taken.

Later that day, another officer took a Burglary complaint at a different business. The individual in that case had the same clothes and shoes on as the first. The officer was able to locate the vehicle in the second Burglary and contacted the suspect who was near the vehicle. The suspect admitted to the entry of the second business and was arrested for Felony Bail Jumping x 8, Misdemeanor Bail Jumping x 3, Burglary, Criminal Damage to Property, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Burglarious Tools, and Possession of Methamphetamine.



Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Guralski

# 2022 Night Shift Report

The Sparta Police Department night shift consists of two different sides, “A side” and “B side.” Both sides work 12 hour shifts from 6 PM – 6 AM, and opposite nights from each other. Officers who worked A side night shift included: Sergeant Jenna Lee, Officer Chase Nottestad, Officer Bryce Rheinschmidt, and Officer Jamal Wagner. Officers who worked B side night shift included: Sergeant Jager Mitchell, Officer Brock Mrdjenovich, and Officer Brian James.

The Sparta Police Department night shift officers responded to 6,037 calls for service throughout the year. Night shift officers responded to 180 Welfare Checks, 294 Disturbance calls, 226 9-1-1 calls, 329 Suspicious Activity Complaints, 54 Noise Complaints, 36 Holdup or Burglary Alarms, 108 Traffic Complaints, and 297 Ambulance calls. Additionally, Officers stepped out with subjects 627 times, conducted 54 Building Checks, 84 Citizen Assists, and 393 Extra Patrols.

Officer James and K9 Ronin began working together in March. They immediately began taking dangerous drugs off the street and doing other deployments. In total, Officer James and Ronin had 51 deployments and located more than 200 grams of drugs.

Type	Apprehension	Area search	Tracking	Vehicle sniff	Other
Number	1	1	2	44	3

Type	Marijuana	Cocaine	Methamphetamine	Ecstasy
Amount (grams)	193.2	19.8	22.7	9



Some of the most notable night shift calls include:

On January 24, 2022, Sparta Officers responded to a traffic crash and disturbance at Kwik Trip on Hwy 16. There were multiple reports that the operators of two vehicle “went at each other” and a head on collision ensued. Further investigation determined the drivers of both vehicles intentionally struck each other with their vehicles several times. The driver of one vehicle also pointed a firearm at the driver of the second vehicle. One driver was arrested for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Intentionally Point Firearm at Person, Criminal Damage to Property, Simple Battery and Disorderly Conduct – all Domestic Violence Associated. The second driver was arrested for 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Criminal Damage to Property, Simple Battery, and Disorderly Conduct – all Domestic Violence Associated.

On April 23, 2022, a Sparta Officer conducted a traffic stop due to a speed violation. Dispatch advised the operator of the vehicle had a suspended driver’s license. The driver consented to a search of the vehicle and numerous knives were located. The driver, who was a convicted felon, was arrested for Carrying a Concealed Knife and a Probation Violation. The driver was also cited for Operating After Suspension – 59<sup>th</sup> offense, and given a warning for Speed.

On May 3, 2022, Sparta Officers responded to a singular vehicle rollover crash at the intersection of Wisconsin St. and South K St. The operator of the vehicle struck an electrical pole which caused an outage in the immediate area. The operator was extricated from the vehicle and transported to Mayo Clinic for medical evaluation. Marijuana and numerous aerosol cans were located in the vehicle. The vehicle operator was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated and referred to the District Attorney’s Officer for Intentionally Abuse a Hazardous Substance and Possession of Marijuana.



On June 12th, during Butterfest weekend, an officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop on two motorcycles. The motorcycles fled but the officer did not pursue them. A short time later, the motorcycles crashed. Both drivers had serious injuries. The drivers were determined to be two subjects who had been asked to leave the Butterfest grounds for causing a disturbance. Both drivers were charged with various offenses, including Operating While Intoxicated – Causing Injury.

On July 15th officers were dispatched to an apartment building after a subject had activated a fire alarm pull station. The subject appeared to be under the influence of drugs and said he had consumed cleaning products. The subject was in another resident's apartment, and resisted officers when they tried to escort him out. He was medically cleared and arrested for various offenses.

On September 25, 2022, Sparta Officers responded to Club 16 for a 911 check. A male individual was located in the parking lot at Club 16 with significant injuries to his head and torso. Further investigation determined the suspect struck the victim with a baseball bat. The suspect also retrieved a long gun and pointed it at the victim before running off. A bloody baseball bat and long gun were located in the suspect's vehicle. The suspect was arrested for Substantial Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Intentionally Point Firearm at Person, Go Armed with Firearm While Intoxicated, and Disorderly Conduct.



On October 2nd an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. A vehicle search was conducted and methamphetamine, fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia were located in the vehicle. During the search, an officer was inadvertently stuck by a hypodermic needle. The officer sought medical attention and the occupants were arrested.

On October 17th Officer James and K9 Ronin were requested to assist the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Cashton. A deputy initiated a pursuit on a vehicle and the driver fled on foot. Officer James and K9 Ronin were unable to locate the driver initially, but after a citizen alerted them to suspicious activity they were able to locate the driver and take him into custody.

On December 30, 2022, a Sparta Officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a moving violation. The odor of marijuana was detected and a probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted. Drug paraphernalia and over 17 grams of methamphetamine was located in the vehicle. The passenger was arrested for Possession of Amphetamine – with Intent, ten counts of Felony Bail Jumping, Misdemeanor Bail Jumping, and two Monroe County Warrants.



# National Night Out

This year was Sparta's first National Night Out (NNO)! Members of the Sparta Police Department, Sparta Area Ambulance Service and Erv's Sparta Area Fire District worked throughout the year planning this event and it was very successful. NNO is a community event that culminates annually on the first Tuesday in August. It enhances the relationship between community members and law enforcement while bringing back a sense of community and brings people together under positive circumstances.



# Shop with a Hero

Shop with a Hero is an event to promote positive relationships between community children and their hero's. Thanks to monetary donations for the community, elementary school-ages children were selected by Sparta Area School District staff to attend Shop with a Hero. Each student who attended the event was paired with a member of the Sparta Police Department, Sparta Area Ambulance Service, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, State Patrol, Ery's Sparta Area Fire District or military personnel from Fort McCoy. The pair was given a Walmart gift card to purchase Christmas gifts for themselves or others. As in other years, this year was a huge success.





## **Sparta Police Department**

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