

2019

Annual Report



Sparta Police Department

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SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emilee Nottestad
Chief of Police

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Honorable Mayor Gust
Members of the City Council
Sparta City Hall
201 W. Oak St.
Sparta, WI 54656

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

The City of Sparta Annual Police Report for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 is herewith submitted for your review.

Members of the Sparta Police Department worked hard to compile this report, so I hope you will find the information interesting and useful. The report contains review material from the entire department. Enclosed you will find information including service call and crime trends, officer use of force, drug trends, and officer training. We will also highlight some of our community involvement, new technology, and officer awards.

The Sparta Police Department has remained committed to professional policing in the face of challenging perceptions and changes throughout the State and Nation. Our officers and the relationships they have built throughout the community are a testament to Sparta Police Department's exceptional hiring standards, continued training, and high performance expectations.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilee Nottestad
Chief of Police

Committed to Excellence

Table of Contents

Our Beliefs

Mission Statement.....	Page 6
Code of Ethics.....	Page 7
Oath of Honor	Page 8

Department Personnel

Personnel Roster	Page 9
Personnel Changes	Page 10

Chief's Report	Page 11
----------------------	---------

Officer Training.....	Page 13
-----------------------	---------

Officer Awards	Page 15
----------------------	---------

Allocation of Services	Page 17
------------------------------	---------

Crime/Incident Statistics	Page 18
---------------------------------	---------

Drug Report.....	Page 28
------------------	---------

School Resource Officer.....	Page 33
------------------------------	---------

Day Shift Report	Page 36
------------------------	---------

Night Shift Report	Page 40
--------------------------	---------

Community Events

Citizen's Academy.....	Page 43
------------------------	---------

Community Involvement	Page 46
-----------------------------	---------

Mission Statement

Our Mission

The mission of the Sparta Police Department is to enhance public safety through crime prevention, education, and enforcement of the law while working in partnership with the community to preserve the quality of life for Sparta residents.

Our Vision

Preserving quality of life through innovation and excellence in policing.

Our Values

Courage—To face one's fears in the face of adversity and do what is required to protect others.

Pride—In work and family we are accountable to each other and the Community.

Excellence—Strive for perfection knowing that "good enough" really isn't.

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.**"*

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.

Personnel



Chief
David
Kuderer



Deputy Chief
Emilee
Nottestad



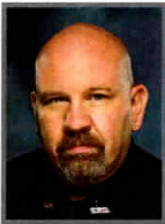
Lieutenant
Booker
Ferguson



Administrative
Assistant
Amanda Revels



Police Support
Specialist
Jessica Erickson



Sergeant
Jason
Pipkin



Sergeant
Joel
Ames



Sergeant
Kyle
Erickson



Detective
Jose
Tovar



Detective
Andrew
Kuen



Officer
Kyle
Seubert



Officer
Marc
Nelson



Officer
Kyle
Guralski



Officer
Chris
Welker



SRO
Jenna
Lee



K9 Handler
Corey
Johnson



Officer
Zach
Fischer



Officer
Ethan
Schroeder



K9 Handler
Brian
James



Officer
Jacob
Ludovice



Officer
Brock
Mrdjenovich



Officer
Jager
Mitchell



Officer
Shane
Potaracke



Officer
Zachary
Shenderovsky



Officer
Jamal
Wagner



K9
Kaiser



K9
Larz



Evidence/Code
Compliance
Christine Haas



Chaplain
Jef Skinner

Personnel Changes

New Hires



Jager
Mitchell



Shane
Potaracke



Amanda
Revels



Zachary
Shenderovsky



Jamal
Wagner

Separations



Shane
Potaracke



Zachary
Shenderovsky



Jennifer
Uhls



Chris
Welker

Promotions

- Emilee Nottestad was promoted to Deputy Chief on January 1, 2019.
- Booker Ferguson was promoted to Lieutenant on July 1, 2019.

Career Milestones

- Booker Ferguson's 15 year anniversary with the department was January 17, 2019.
- Zachary Fischer's 5 year anniversary with the department was December 8, 2019.
- Ethan Schroeder's 5 year anniversary with the department was December 18, 2019.
- Jenna Lee became School Resource Officer on August 26, 2019.



Chief's Report

In 2019 the Sparta Police Department continued its commitment to excellence in policing. We looked for more ways to connect with our community and take proactive steps toward preventing crime, while dedicating services to aggressively investigate crimes that occurred. We increased our technological capabilities, saving us time and resources, and increasing safety for both the public and our officers. The Department pursued grants and other resources for responsible increases in manpower, equipment, and training opportunities.

The Sparta Police Department participated in several special events during 2019. We assisted during the visit of Vice President Pence at Fort McCoy – supporting the motorcade, traffic control, and security. We provided security for a number of community events, including Butterfest, various parades and races, and the Holiday Train. Department members took part in many community activities and groups, including Shop with a Hero, Christmas for Kids, Boys and Girls Club, National Night Out, and numerous school and community safety and informational presentations.

The Department integrated new technology, updating our records management system and investigative capabilities. The Sparta Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, 911 Communications Center, Monroe County Jail, and Cashton Police Department installed a joint records management system - Zuercher. The new system includes a mobile dispatch program and allows agencies to share records and information. The new system saves valuable time for patrol officers since much of the basic information entered in their reports is now done at the dispatch level, rather than requiring duplicate entry.

In 2019 we received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Justice for Cellebrite equipment and training. Officer Lee and Detective Tovar are now trained Cellebrite operators and analysts. This technology allows us to extract and analyze information from cell phones during investigations. Previously, these cell phones were taken to an outside agency or the Crime Lab for such extractions. Having these capabilities of technology and training at our own department saves valuable time and resources during investigations.

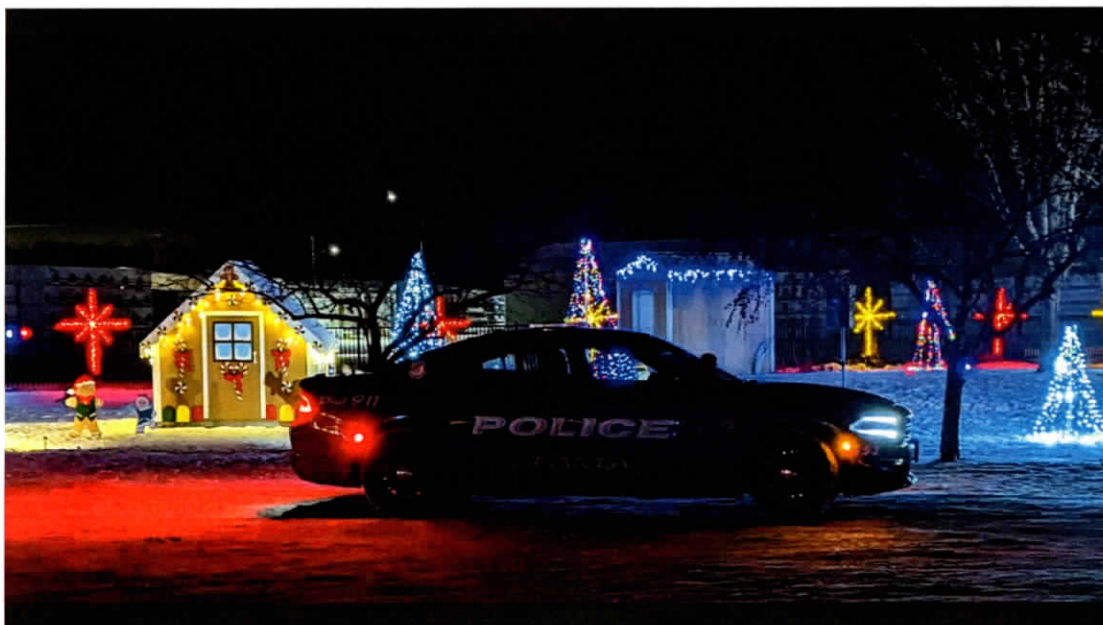
As part of our goal to address community problems in new ways, this past year the Department established a Drug Interdiction Team. Our team received a grant for new equipment, which included a fume hood for drug testing. This makes our field-testing procedures much safer for officers, and increased the capabilities we previously had for testing. The team received specialized training with our District Attorney's Office and will continue to expand its training and objectives in 2020.

Department members worked hard to further train and integrate our Police Reserve Unit. The Police Reserve Unit is a volunteer group, consisting of civilian community members. They are trained by members of the Department to assist with special events, natural disasters, and certain types of service calls. In 2019 the Reserve Unit was utilized to assist with security at large events, traffic control, perimeter control of crime scenes, mental health transports where a second transport officer was needed, and various other assignments as needed. The Reserve Unit is a great way to involve community members in our department. It also allows us to expand department manpower without extending overtime costs.



In 2019 the Sparta Police Department saw an increase of almost 600 calls for service compared to 2018. This increase in call volume was managed while short-staffed throughout the year, often by several officers. During 2019 Officer Fischer and Officer Mrdjenovich both spent a portion of the year deployed overseas serving with the Army National Guard. Officer Welker left his patrol position for a Sheriff's Deputy position with Barron County, and his position was not filled until 2020. We also had several officers on light duty and medical leave for injuries, childbirth, etc. throughout the year. These open positions contributed to a large overtime expense for the Department and made it difficult for department members to utilize their time off during the year.

The Department looks forward to continuing to make positive changes in the coming year. We will continue our commitment to community policing and professional service. The Department hopes to increase our staffing level and continue to build our technological capabilities in order to provide the best service possible to the citizens of our City.



2019 Officer Training

The Sparta Police Department prides itself on providing a wide variety of training opportunities for its officers. We strive to grow professionally as a team by constantly seeking new chances to learn. While Department members attend training provided throughout the State, we also continue to partner with Western Technical College to sponsor training in Sparta. This provides an opportunity for more of our officers to attend a desired training at no/low cost, while bringing law enforcement personnel from across the State to our wonderful City. We also continue to certify our officers as instructors in various fields in order to provide in-house training for our entire staff at a much lower cost.

Sponsored Training

In 2019 the Sparta Police Department sponsored Operation RUSH – a national drug interdiction training. The training was held at WTC in October. Four officers from Sparta PD attended, and the training brought in officers from across the State of Wisconsin, as well as a few officers from other states.

We also partnered with Tomah Police Department to sponsor Kent Williams' *Breachpoint* seminar in October. Almost all officers from both departments attended, as well as officers from several surrounding agencies. Chief Williams' topics included the unique culture of law enforcement, the potentially negative consequences of performing well within the law enforcement culture, motivation, and balancing personal and professional lives.

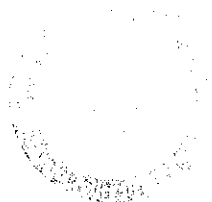
State Requirements

All officers were re-certified in firearms and vehicle pursuit in 2019, as required by the State of Wisconsin.

Instructors

In 2019 the following officers re-certified as State instructors and/or became instructors in new topics:

- Ferguson: Re-certified
- Gurski: Field Training Officer
- James: Gracie Survival Tactics instructor
- Johnson: Gracie Survival Tactics instructor
- Kuen: Master Instructor - Physical Fitness, Tactical Functional Trainer
- Lee: Re-certified
- Nelson: Re-certified, Narcan instructor (new)
- Nottestad: Re-certified, EVOC instructor (new), Taser instructor (new)
- Pipkin: Re-certified
- Schroeder: Field Training Officer
- Tovar: Taser instructor, Scenario instructor



2019 Officer Training

Other Training

Some other notable trainings attended by Department members include:

- CTU members and K-9 teams continued to train monthly
- FBI Command Leadership (Erickson)
- Managing the Property and Evidence Room (Haas, Ferguson, Nottestad)
- Sovereign Citizens and Domestic Terrorism (Fischer)
- Operation RUSH National Conference (Fischer, James, Ludovice, Schroeder)
- Sniper Training (Guralski)
- Association of SWAT Personnel (Guralski, Nelson)
- Breacher & Advanced Tactical Explosive Breacher (Kuen, Nelson)
- Cellebrite Operator & Analyst (Lee)
- Governor's Conference on Highway Safety (Nottestad)
- DCI Death Investigation School (Tovar)
- Wisconsin Narcotics Officers Association Conference (Tovar)



2019 Officer Awards

Lifesaving Award—Officer Jenna Lee, Officer Corey Johnson, and Officer Chris Welker



On January 6, 2019, Officers Lee, Johnson, and Welker were dispatched to Perch Lake to the report of two juveniles that had fallen through the ice and were in the water. With the assistance from additional officers from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and Wisconsin State Patrol, they were able to rescue one of the juveniles from the water by tying several ropes together and pulling him to safety. He was then transported by ambulance to Mayo in Sparta to be treated for hypothermia. Unfortunately, the second child was fully submerged prior to officers arrival and was later recovered by the Fort McCoy Dive Team. When the second child was located, he was transferred by Gundersen Air to Mayo Hospital in Rochester where he was later pronounced deceased. It is due to the selfless, heroic acts and the quick thinking of these officers that they were able to save one of the children.



2019 Officer Awards

Lifesaving Award—Sgt. Kyle Erickson and Officer Zach Fischer

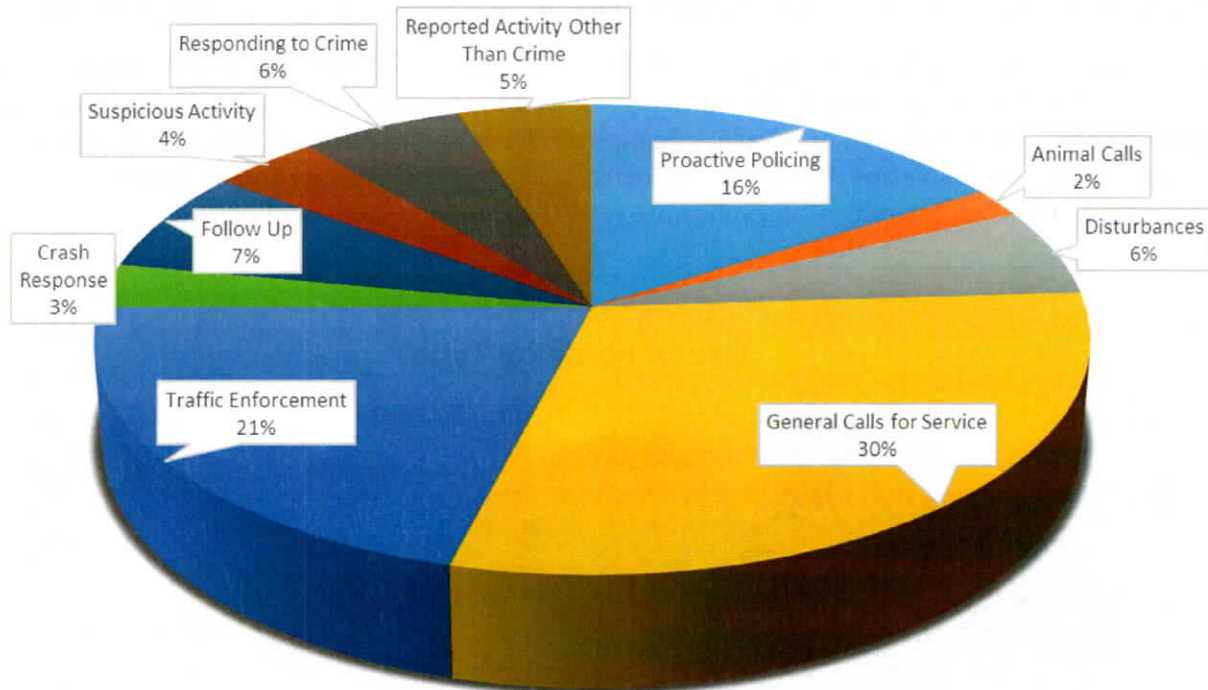


In the early morning hours of November 23rd, 2019, Sergeant Erickson and Officer Fischer responded to the report of a house fire on Walrath St. Dispatch advised responding officers that the 9-1-1 caller reported occupants were trapped inside the home due to heavy smoke and were unable to escape. Upon arrival, Sgt Erickson observed dark smoke coming from the building and was unable to make entry through the front door. While attempting to find another way inside the residence, Sgt Erickson could hear someone inside the attached garage. He and Officer Fischer were able to force open a garage door and pull the woman to safety. Officer Fischer then found a ladder in the neighbor's yard and used it to climb to the second story of the residence. Officer Fischer broke a window and was able to pull a young girl outside. The actions and quick thinking of Sgt Erickson and Officer Fischer proved life-saving for a mother and her young daughter and are a true testament to their dedication to protect and serve the residents of the City of Sparta.



Allocation of Services

2019 Police Services



This graph depicts the percentage of Computer-Aided-Dispatch (CAD) calls grouped into similar activities. The graph isn't intended to present a true representation of actual time allocated to a grouped activity, but provides a visual reference for comparing police services, either requested or self-initiated.

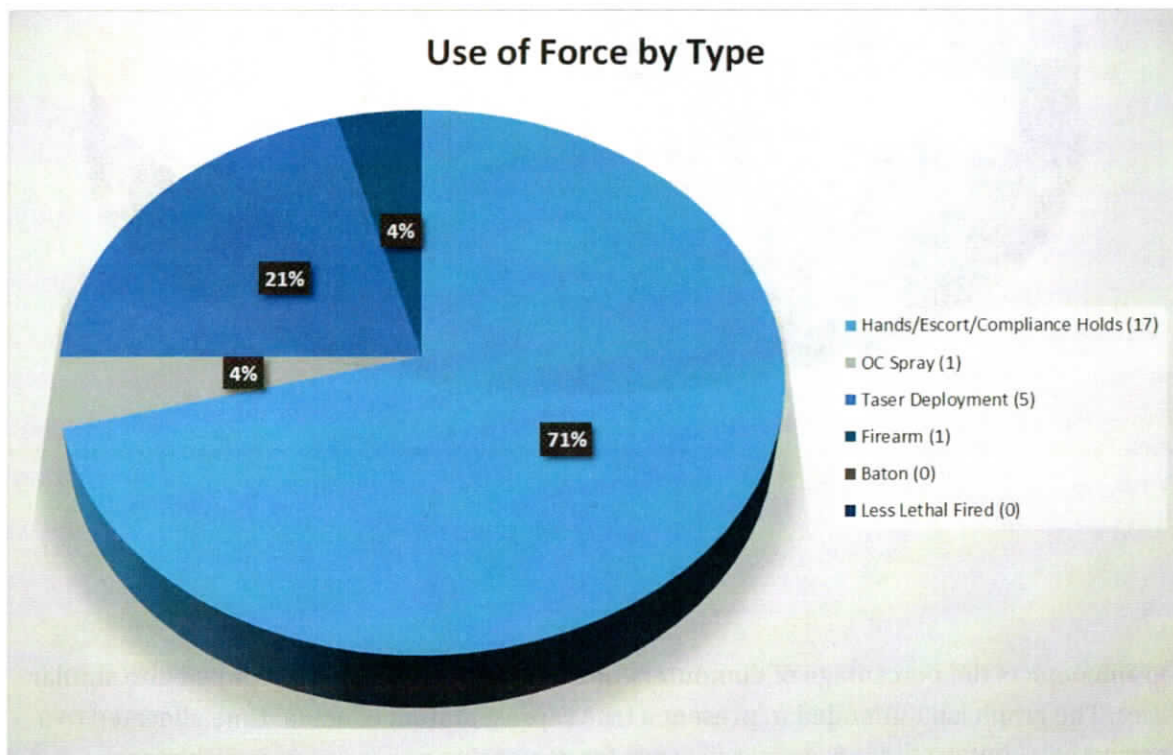
In the fall of 2019, the Sparta Police Department and Monroe County 911 Communications Center acquired new Records Management Systems. Attempting to draw numbers from two systems for the purpose of creating this report means that all numbers may not be exact.



2019 Use of Force Comparison Report

During 2019 the Sparta Police Department responded to almost 16,000 calls for service. Officers made over 2,000 arrests during those contacts. In their numerous daily contacts with the public, officers had to use force just 18 times during the year. Of those 18 times, the vast majority of incidents did not escalate past the officer using his/her hands for an escort or compliance hold of the suspect.

The Sparta Police Department requires its officers to complete a separate Use of Force Form for each instance wherein force is utilized. That form is reviewed by 3 supervisors for any inappropriate or untrained use of force. Should excessive or inappropriate force be identified, the incident is then forwarded to a Defensive and Arrest Tactics Instructor for review. Following that review, recommendations for training or discipline are forwarded to the Chief of Police.

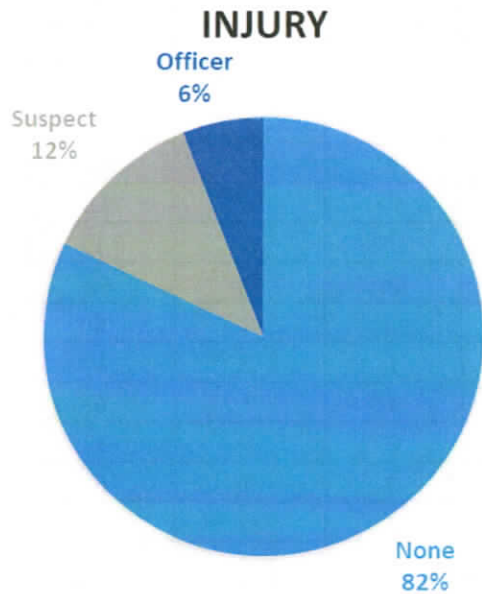


*more than one type of force may have been used during a single incident

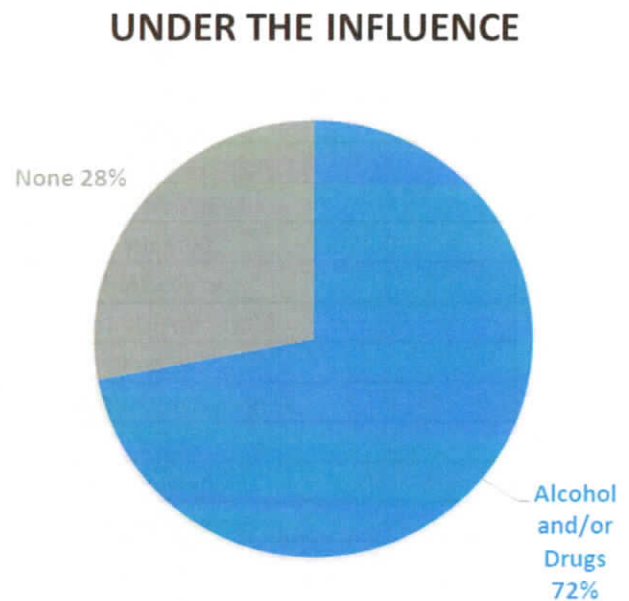


Use of Force Statistics

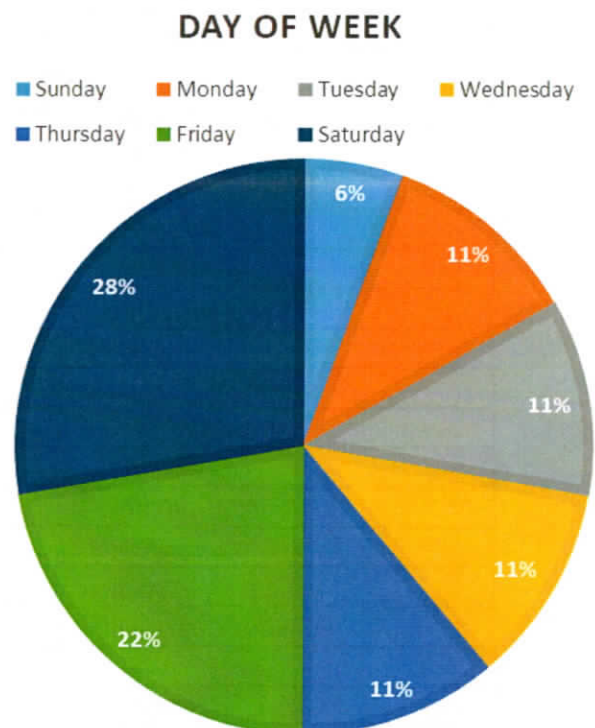
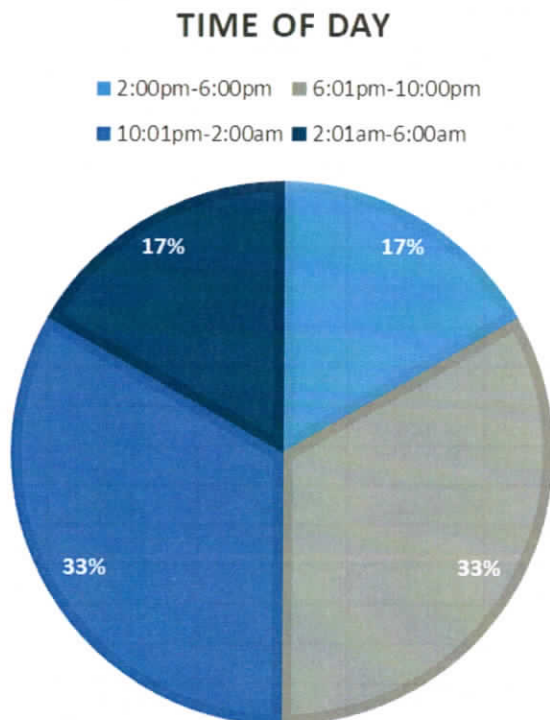
2019 Suspect/Officer Injury Ratio



2019 Alcohol and/or Drug Usage Factor



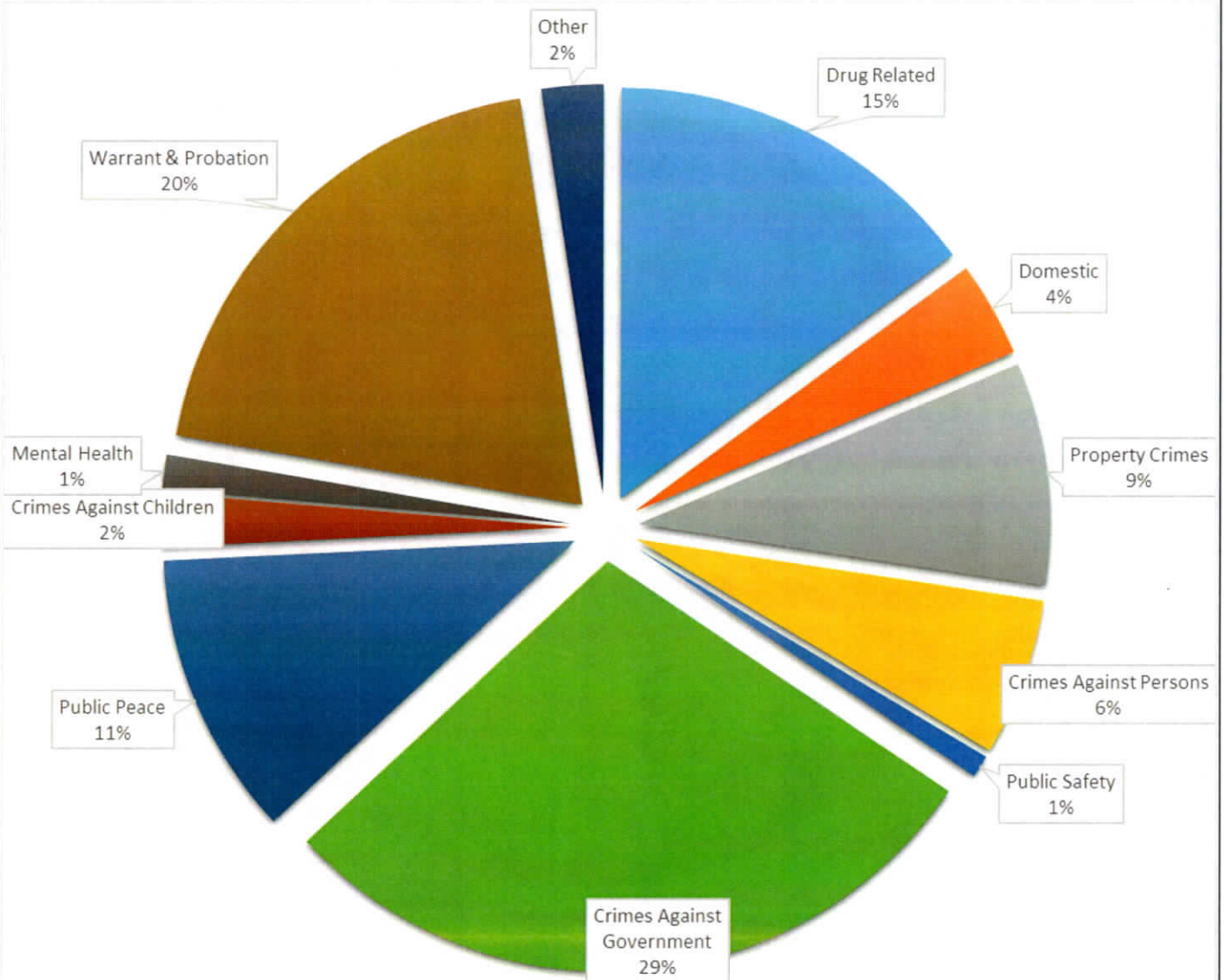
2019 Defensive Action by:



Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

UCR Reportable Offenses			
Offense	2017	2018	2019
Murder	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Rape	---	---	---
Rape, Sodomy, SXA w/ Object	8	11	6
Robbery	0	1	0
Aggravated Assault	9	19	16
Simple Assault	42	37	31
Burglary	11	8	1
Larceny Theft	55	53	68
Motor Vehicle Theft	19	6	6
Arson	1	2	1
Forgery/Counterfeiting	4	2	6
Fraud	6	4	1
Embezzlement	0	0	0
Stolen Property	0	12	0
Vandalism	24	11	16
Weapons	27	21	10
Prostitution	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	---	---	---
Sex Offenses - Revised	13	8	10
Drug Sale - Opium/Cocaine	3	3	1
Drug Sale - Marijuana	3	9	4
Drug Sale - Synthetic	0	0	3
Drug Sale - Oth. Dangerous	0	10	3
Drug Poss - Opium/Cocaine	9	21	6
Drug Poss - Marijuana	98	109	72
Drug Poss - Synthetic	13	7	14
Drug Poss - Oth. Dangerous	60	64	53
Gambling	0	0	0
Family Offenses	11	14	16
DUI	97	86	76
Liquor Law Violations	48	30	11
Disorderly Conduct	144	111	157
Vagrancy	0	0	0
All Other	544	388	425
Curfew/Loitering	10	0	0
Hum. Traff. - Commercial Sex Act	---	---	0
Hum. Traff. - Involuntary Servitude	---	---	0
Totals	1259	1047	1013

Arrest Percentage By Type of Crime



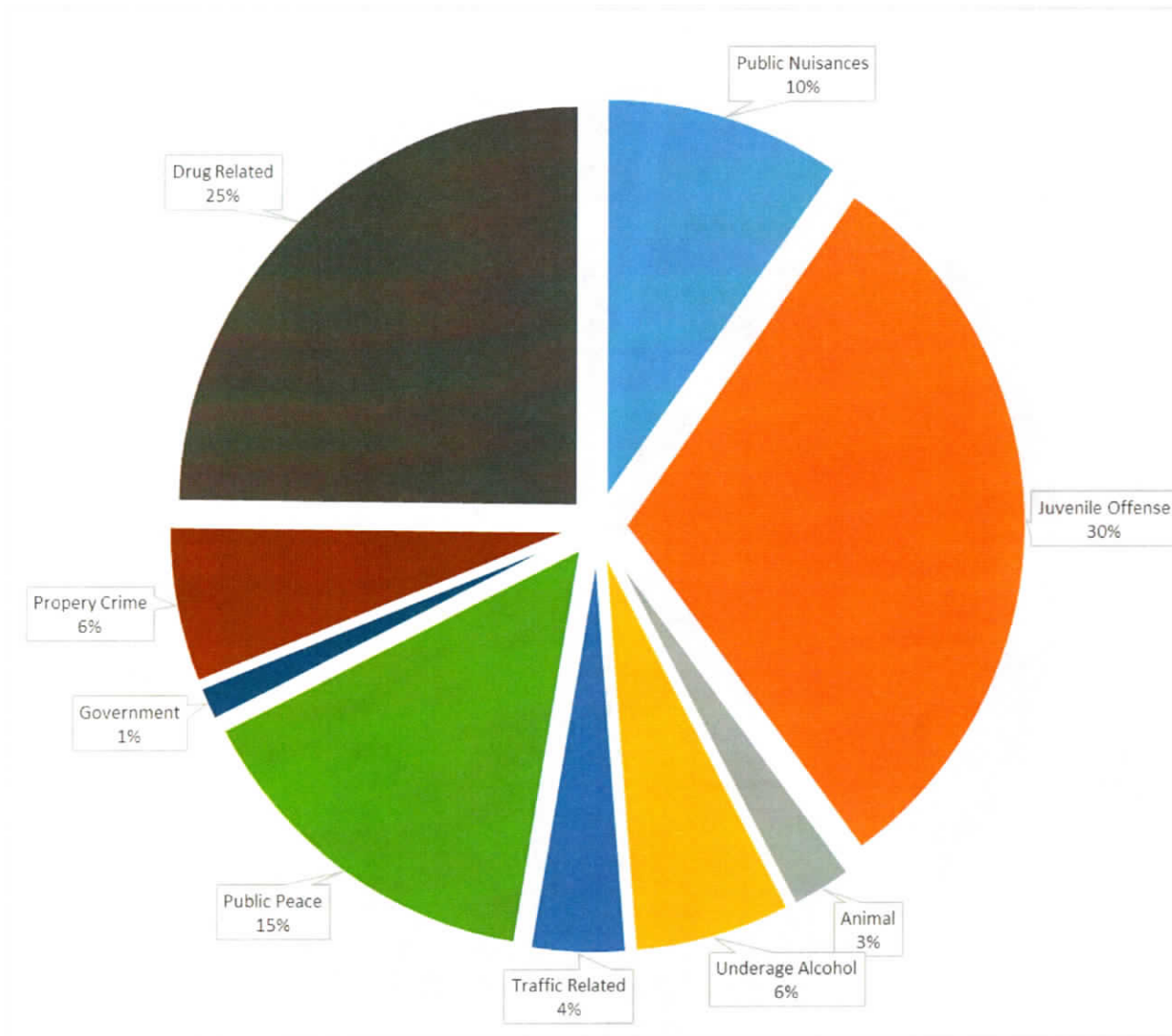
Compared to 2018:

- Drug related arrested decreased 8%
- Crimes Against Children arrests decreased 1%
- Crimes Against the Government arrests increased 1%
- Property Crime arrests increased 1 %

*Please Note: In November 2019, the Sparta Police Department switched record management systems from TiPSS to Central Square.



Municipal Offense By Type



Compared to 2018:

- Drug related municipal citations decreased 6%
- Juvenile related municipal citations increased 20%
- Underage Alcohol municipal citations increased 3%
- Public Peace related municipal citations increased 10%
- Property Crime related municipal citations increased 4%

*Please Note: In November 2019, the Sparta Police Department switched record management systems from TiPSS to Central Square.

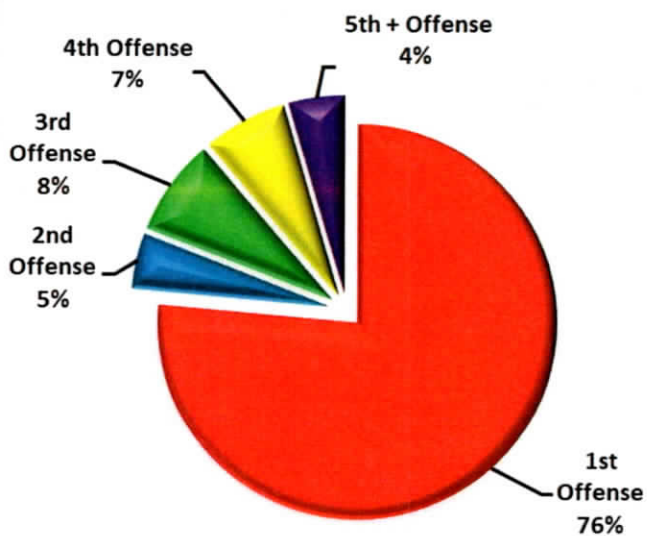


OWI Statistics

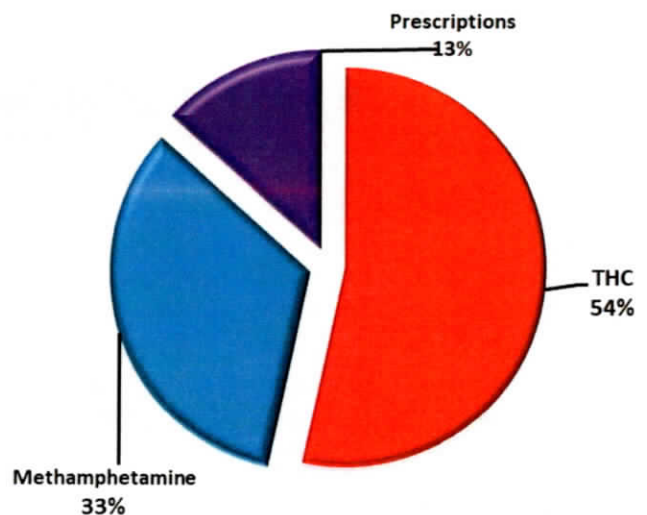
BAC/PAC Results

Month		Average Blood/Breath Alcohol Concentration	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense	5th+ Offense	With Controlled Substance
January	10	0.148	8	0	2	0	0	2
February	8	0.216	3	1	2	1	1	1
March	9	0.195	8	0	0	0	1	0
April	3	0.225	2	0	0	0	1	0
May	6	0.136	5	0	0	1	0	2
June	7	0.164	5	0	0	1	1	2
July	4	0.144	3	0	1	0	0	0
August	9	0.143	7	0	1	1	0	3
September	13	0.125	10	2	0	1	0	0
October	7	0.198	5	1	0	1	0	2
November	9	0.164	9	0	0	0	0	1
December	4	0.142	3	0	1	0	0	1
Total	89	0.167	68	4	7	6	4	14

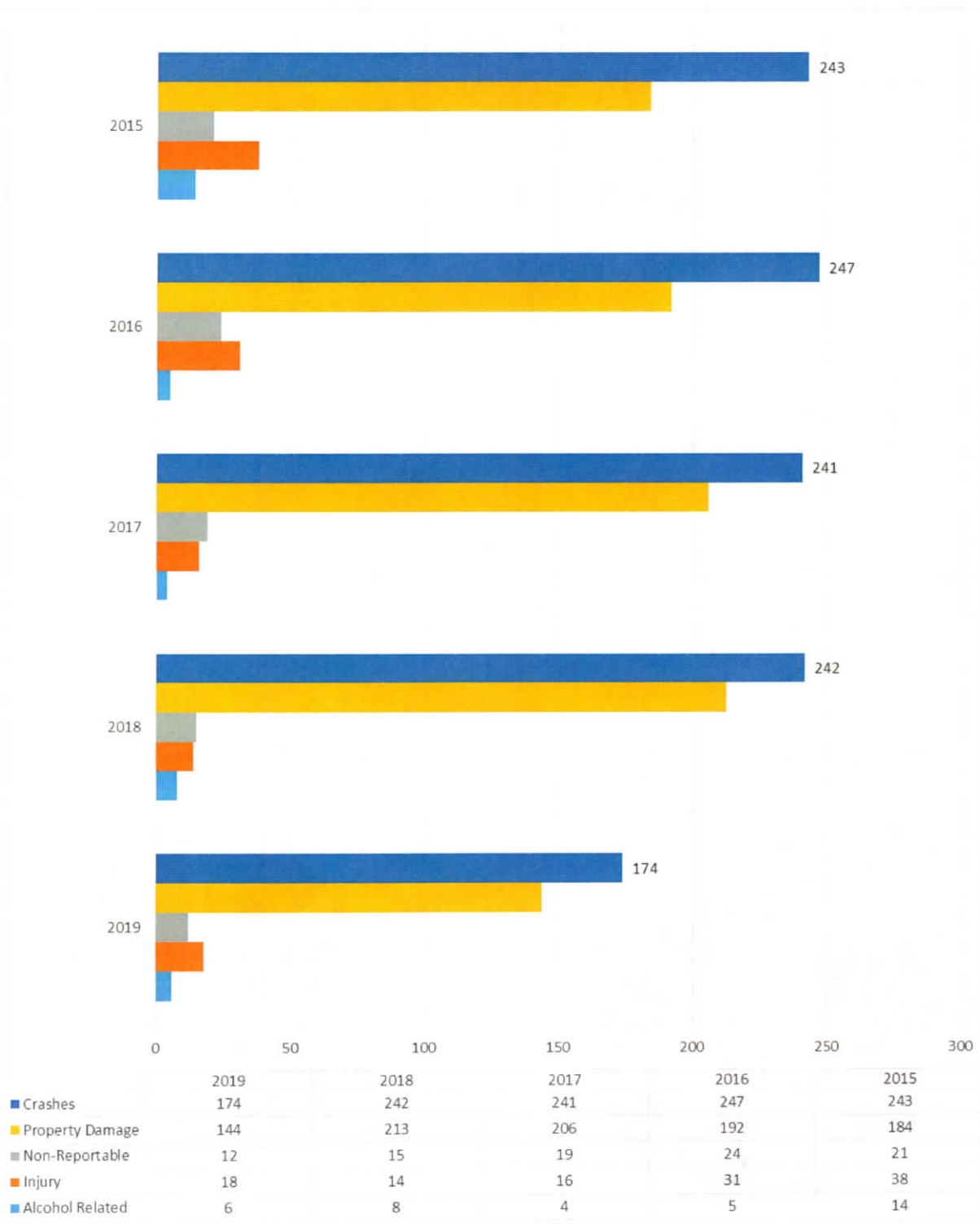
Repeat Violation Offenses



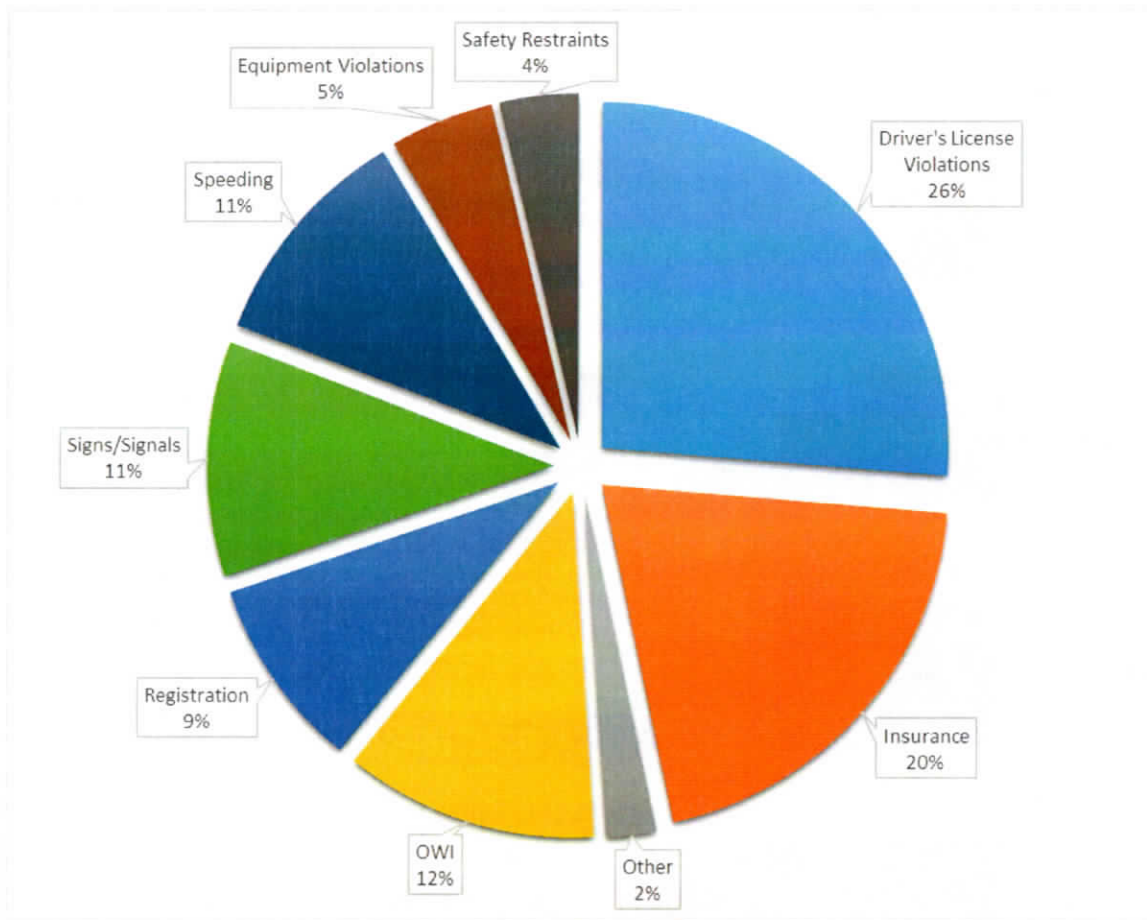
Controlled Substance OWI's



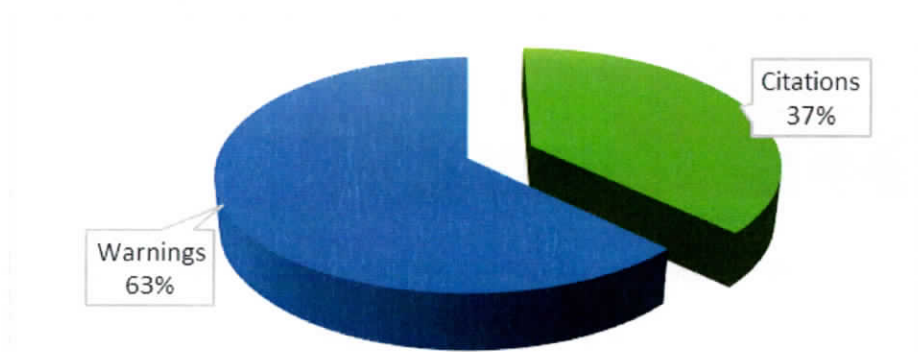
Five Year Traffic Crash Trend



Traffic Citation Percentage By Type of Offense

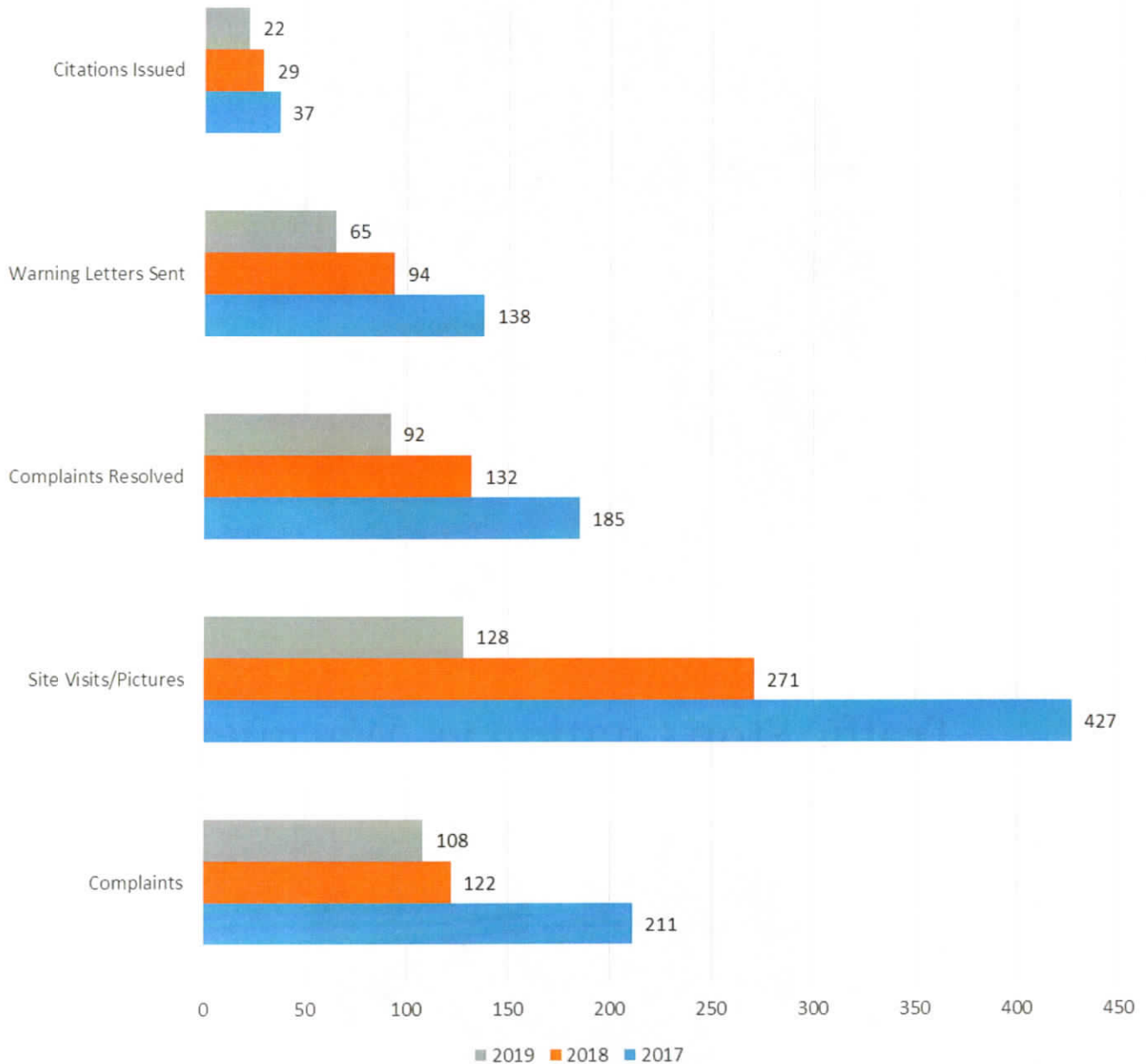


Traffic Stop Citation vs. Warnings



2019 Code Compliance

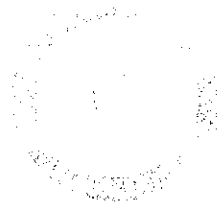
Three Year Comparison



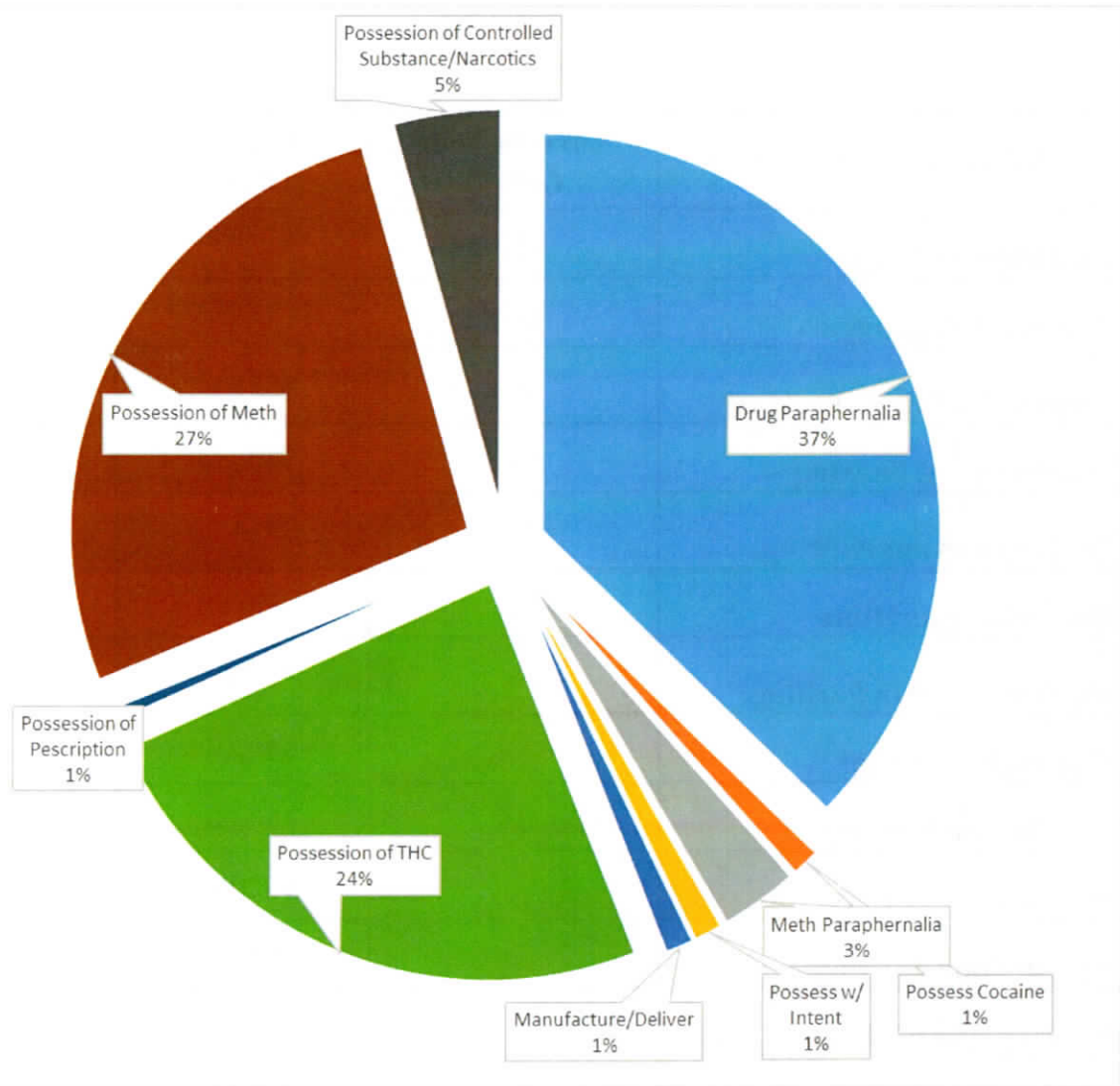
Parking Summary by Ordinance

01/01/2019 to 12/31/2019

Ordinance Description	Current Year (2019)	Fine Total (2019)	Last Year (2018)
All Other Parking	10	\$150.00	1
Alternate Parking	1327	\$19,905.00	238
Excess of 48 Hour Parking	55	\$825.00	34
Handicapped Parking	1	\$100.00	5
No 2am to 6 am Parking	50	\$750.00	42
No Parking Anytime	6	\$90.00	12
No Truck or Van Parking	5	\$75.00	12
Overnight Parking	33	\$495.00	23
Residential Parking	0	\$0.00	2
Restricted Parking	8	\$120.00	24
School Zone Parking	3	\$45.00	1
State Traffic Parking	1	\$15.00	8
Thirty Minute Parking	2	\$30.00	0
Two Hour Parking	5	\$75.00	0
Totals:	1506	\$22,675.00	402



Drug Arrest and Citation Percentages By Type of Offense



Compared to 2018:

- Possession of Cocaine citations/arrests decreased 2%
- Possession w/Intent citations/arrests decreased 4%
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia citations/arrests decreased 2%
- Possession of Controlled Substances/Narcotics did not change
- Possession of THC citations/arrests increased 1%
- Possession of Methamphetamine citations/arrests increased 13%

*Please Note: In November 2019, the Sparta Police Department switched record management systems from TiPSS to Central Square.



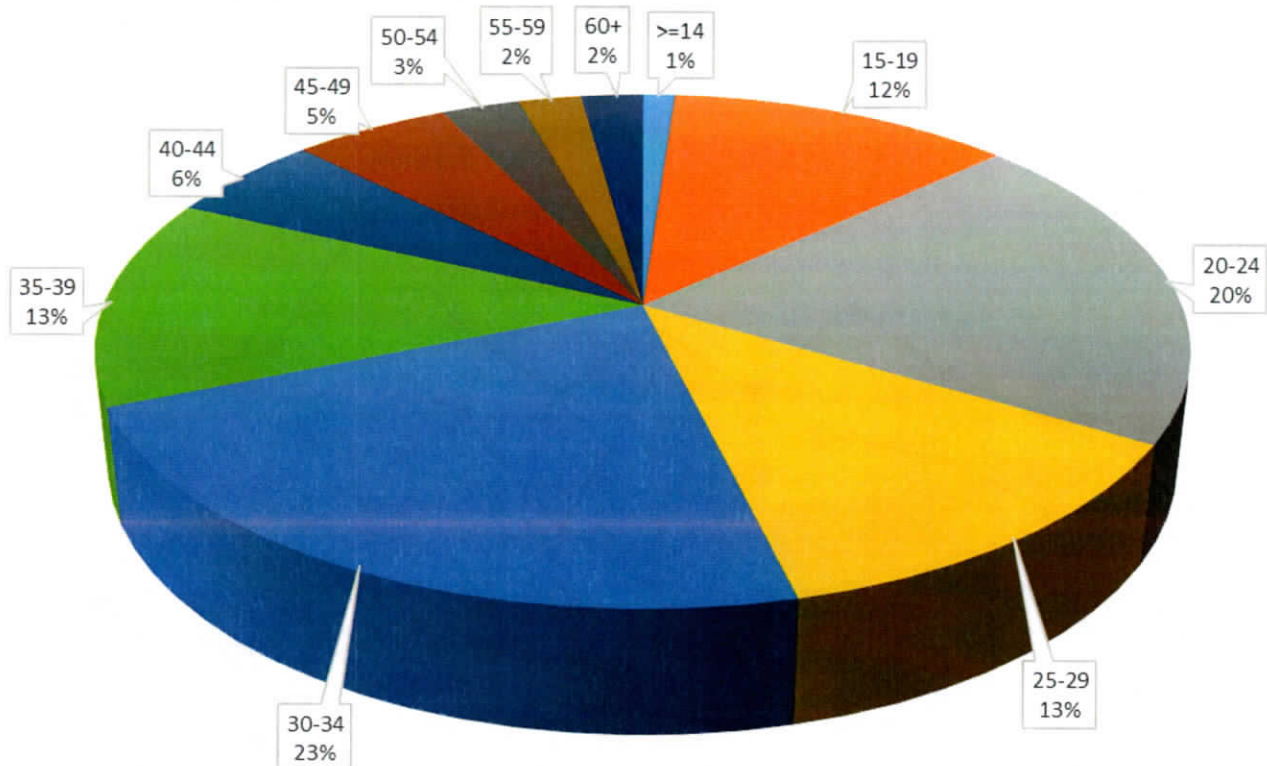
2019 Drug Report

For the purpose of this report, a "drug seizure" is an incident in which an illegal substance and/or drug paraphernalia as defined under WI Statutes Chapters 961 and 450 was seized, located, or recovered and taken into police custody. Data in this report has been compiled from SPD's records management system and evidence tracking program with information provided by the reporting officers. Illegal substances have been primarily tested and identified using presumptive field tests, although some have been confirmed from the Wisconsin Crime Lab.

Offender Demographics

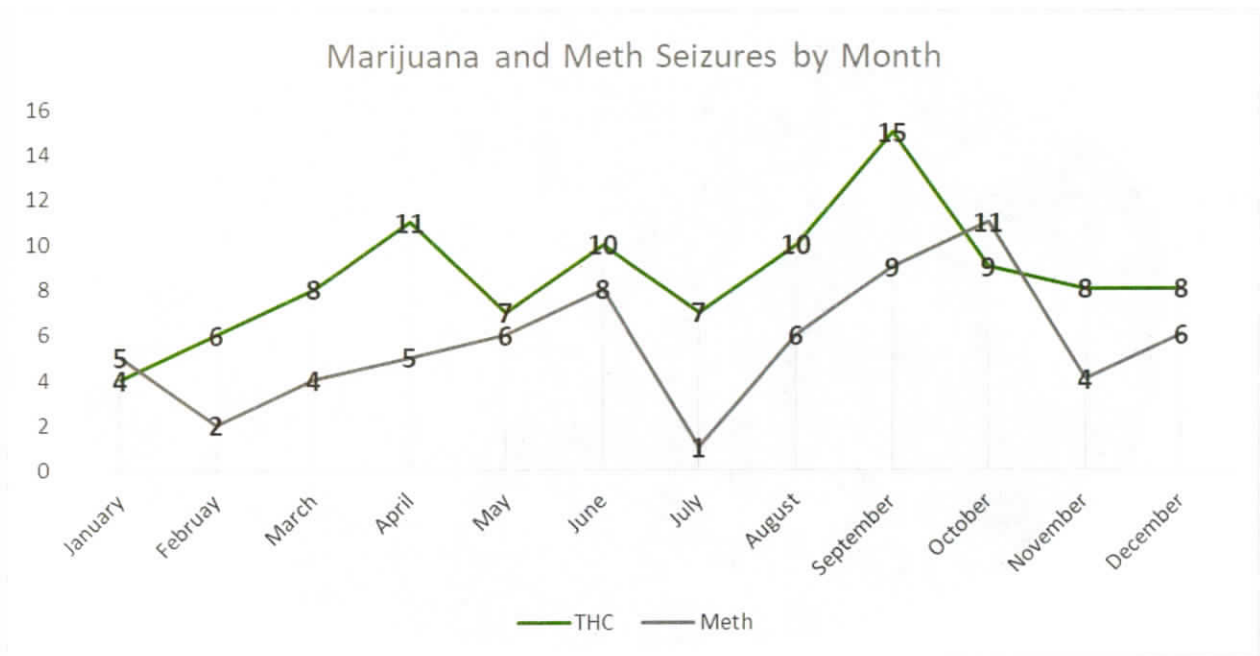
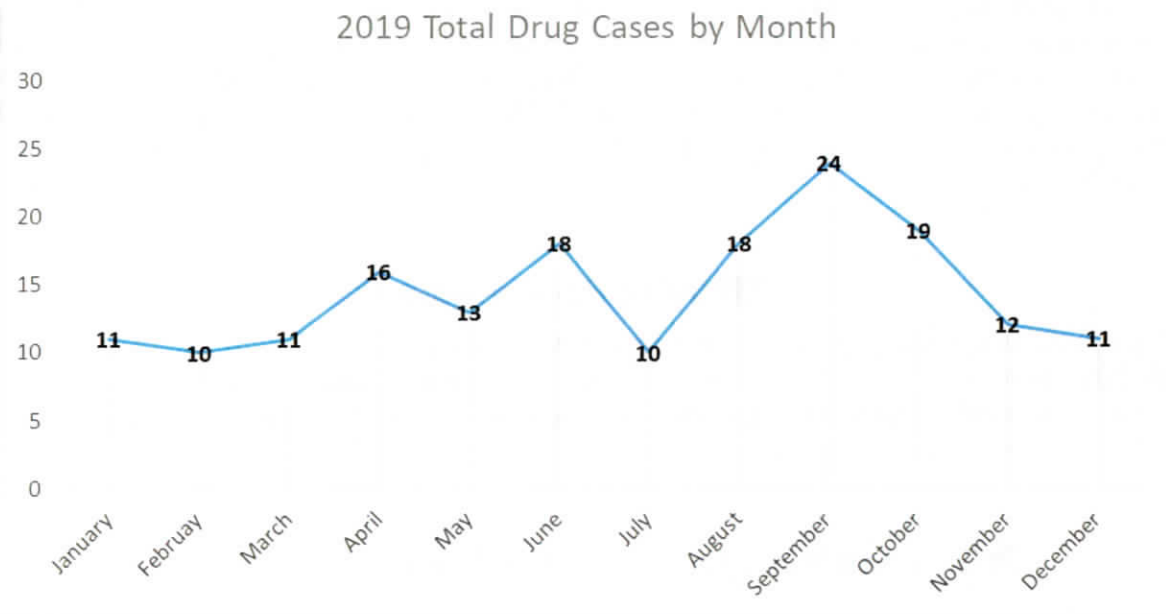
In 2019, 178 individual offenders were cited, arrested, or were referred to court for drug-related offenses. Twenty subjects were repeat offenders and one offender had five different cases. Offenders' age ranged from 14 to 69-years-old with the average age of an offender being 31. The majority of offenders, 61%, were males.

Offenders by Age Group (at the time of seizure)



Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Erickson

When Drugs Were Seized

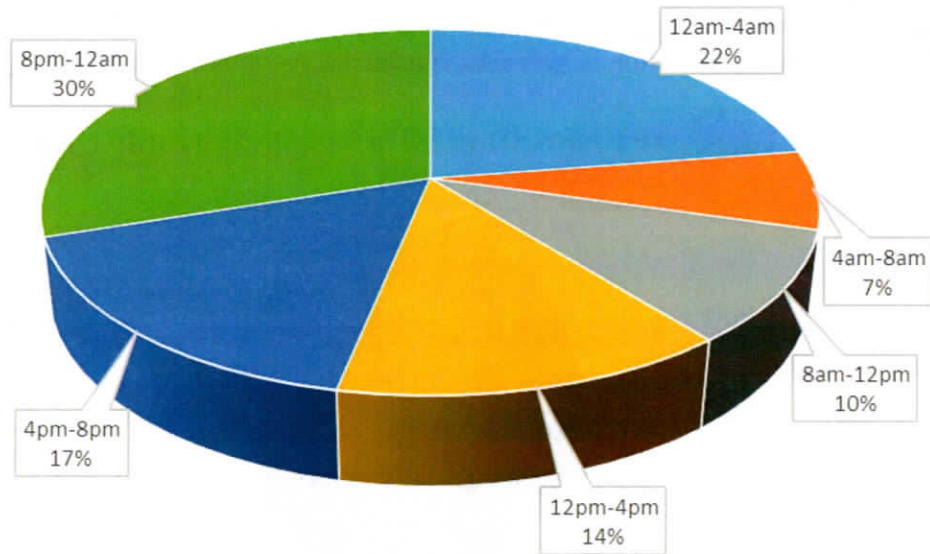


Methamphetamine and THC were included in this graph as they were the most and second-most commonly encountered drug.



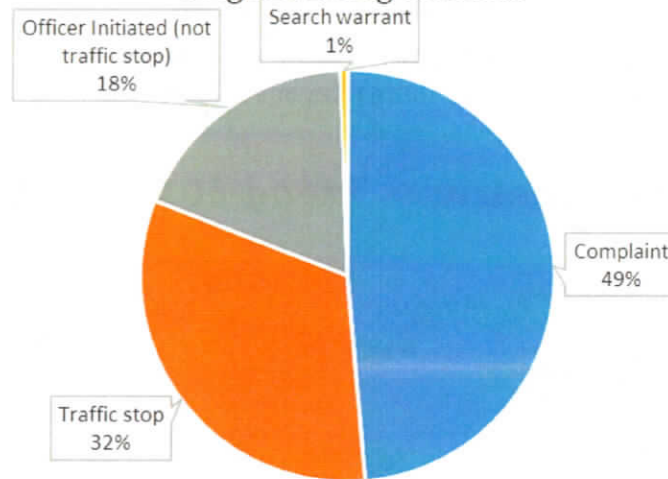
Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Erickson

2019 Drug Seizures by Time of Day



How Officers Encountered Drugs

Origin of Drug Seizures



"Complaints" include calls originating from citizens, Probation/Parole agents, or another law enforcement agency. "Officer-initiated activity" includes citizen contacts, suspicious persons/vehicle checks, or other actions initiated by the officers excluding traffic enforcement. Search warrants are generally granted as a result of another call.

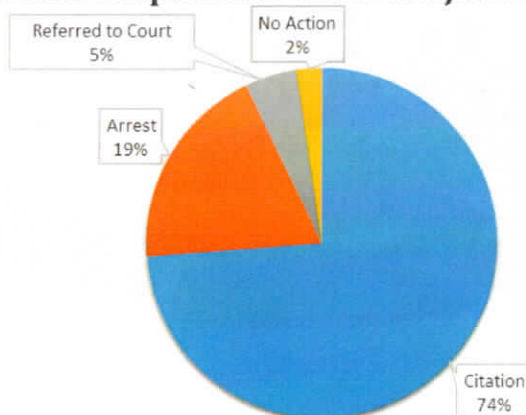


Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Erickson

How Drug Seizures Were Processed

In 2019, 77 drug-related municipal citations were issued, and 114 offenders were arrested while 22 offenders were referred to the District Attorney on drug charges. Drug citations were issued for possession of marijuana, possession of synthetic marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Offender Disposition with Marijuana-Only Offenses

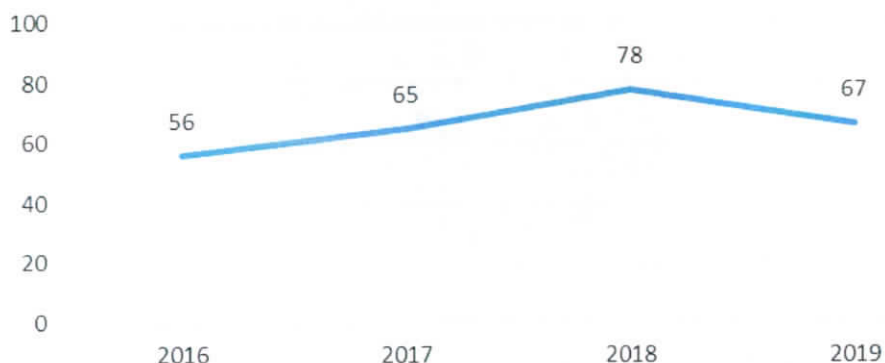


Only 19% of offenders in possession of just marijuana were arrested; many of whom had prior drug convictions and/or also had additional criminal offenses attached to the case.

Methamphetamine

From 2016 to 2018, Sparta PD saw a nearly 27% increase in meth seizures. 2019 was slightly lower than the previous year, but officers still averaged more than one seizure per week.

Meth Seizures Trend 2016-2019



A total of 61 different offenders were arrested or referred to the District Attorney for charges relating to meth possession.



Report Compiled By Sgt. Kyle Erickson

School Resource Officer

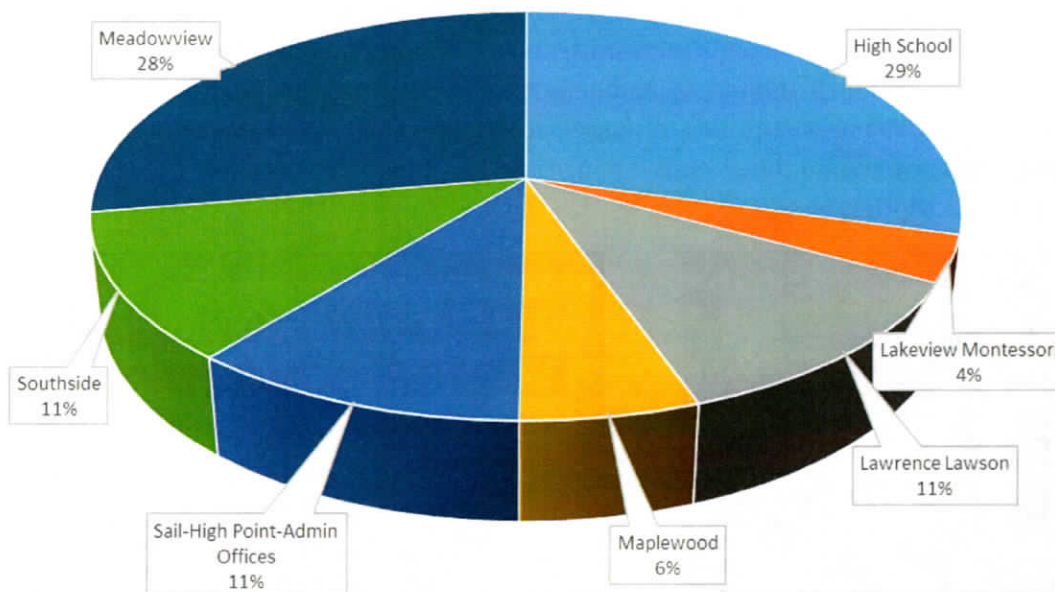
Officer Kyle Seubert completed the 2018-2019 school year as the School Resource Officer. Prior to leaving the position, Officer Seubert had been the SRO for 13 years. In June of 2019, Officer Jenna Lee was assigned to the position beginning the 2019-2020 school year. Officer Lee is an eight year veteran of the Sparta Police Department and was excited about the ability to interact with the students and teachers of the Sparta School District and the rewards and challenges of policing in a school environment. Officer Lee was able to build strong relationships with students in a number of ways. She read to several classes, joined the students for lunch and recess, and helped them with many projects and events throughout the school year. She also did presentations to classes on internet safety, bicycle safety, and Halloween safety. In addition to working within the schools during the day, Officer Lee attended several sporting events and after school activities.



Report Compiled By Officer Jenna Lee

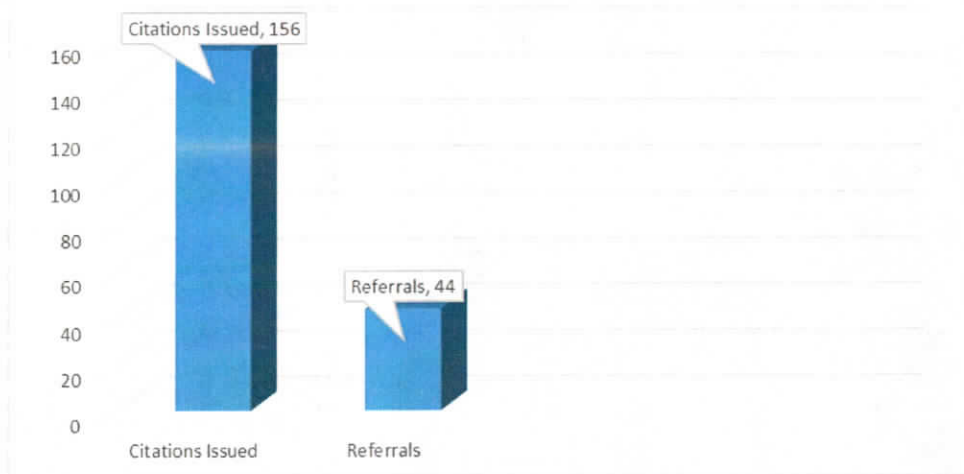
In 2019, officers responded to a total of 626 calls for service throughout the school district. This would include calls for service at the Sparta High School, SAILS High Point, Meadowview Middle School, Meadowview Intermediate School, Lakeview Elementary School, Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School, Maplewood Elementary School, Southside Elementary School and the Sparta Administrative Building.

SRO Calls for Service



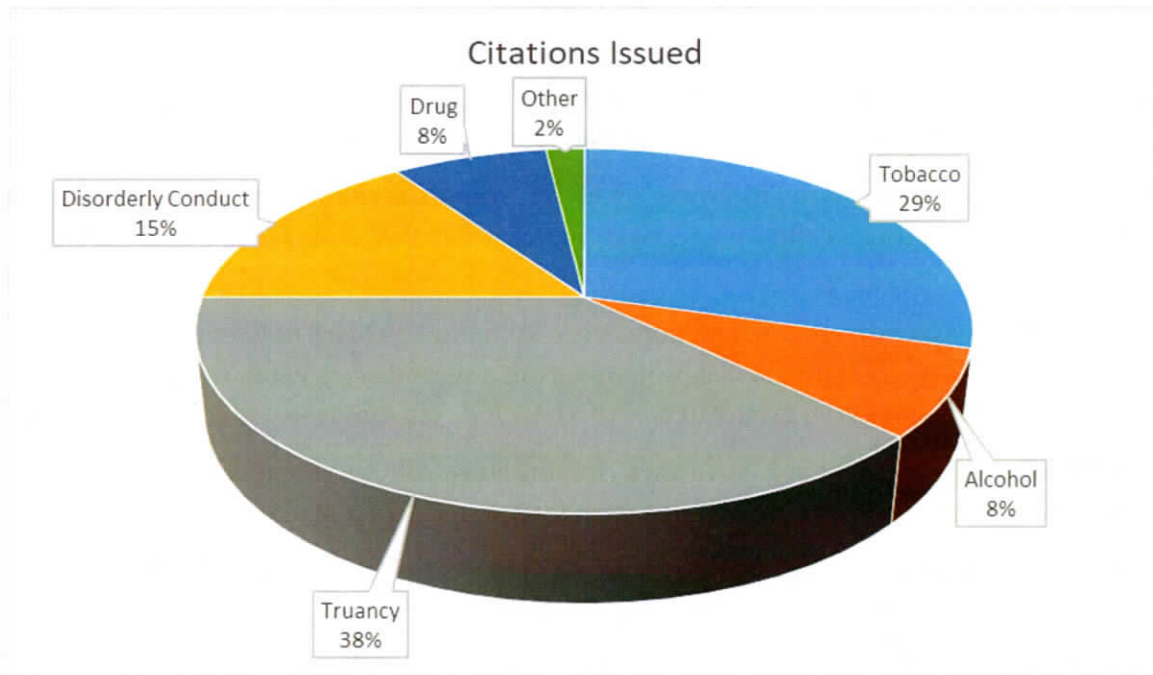
Officers responded to numerous different types of calls during the school year. Out of the 626 calls for service, 156 citations were issued and 44 referrals were made to Human Services.

Enforcement Actions Taken

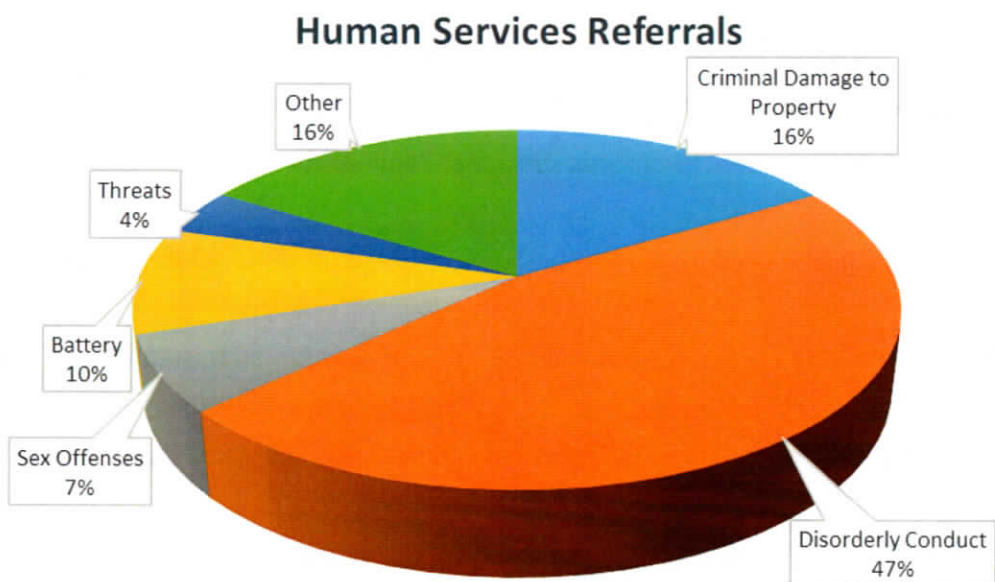


Report Compiled By Officer Jenna Lee

The most common citations issued at the schools were for underage tobacco violations, underage alcohol, truancy, and disorderly conduct.



A total of 44 referrals were made to Human Services. The most common referrals were for Criminal Damage to Property, Disorderly Conduct, and Battery.



Report Compiled By Officer Jenna Lee

2019 Day Shift Report

01-05-2020 Forced entry break in at known drug house on 700 block of W. Oak. Suspects left when the homeowner confronted them. Suspects identified and referred on charges.

01-06-2019 Officers responded to Fisherman's park for a report of children who fell through the ice. Officer were able to rescue one child from the lake but tragically 9 year old Jaden Stalsberg died from drowning.

01-10-2019 Officer responded to a violent domestic call on the 100 block of N. Court Street. The intoxicated male suspect attempted to flee by jumping out a second story window. He was severely injured in the fall and transported by ambulance to a hospital. Charges were referred on the suspect.

01-19-2019 Shoplifting incident at a downtown clothing store. Officer recognized female from surveillance video as she had previously stolen from Kwik Trip. Arrest made.

02-03-2019 Officers responded to a driving complaint and located the vehicle in the Family Dollar parking lot. Driver arrested for OWI and drug paraphernalia.

02-15-2019 Complaint of same female shoplifting from Wal-mart multiple times. Female stole several hundred in merchandise, mostly cosmetics and electronics. Suspect identified, arrest made.

02-22-2019 Theft complaint on North Street. Victim had several thousand dollars stolen from a secret location in her residence. Investigation revealed an acquaintance took the money. Suspect was arrested and referred on theft charges.

02-22-2019 Injury crash at the Hwy. 27/River Rd. roundabout.

02-22-2019 Injury crash at Hwy. 16 & Industrial.

03-30-2019 Report of a man huffing hazardous substances on Central Ave. Male suspect arrested and held of a probation hold.

04-03-2019 Female suspect picked up on a probation warrant. Additional charges filed after drugs were found on her.

04-03-2019 Female suspect referred on theft charges after she attempted to steal a cart full of merchandise at Wal-Mart. She fled but was identified by surveillance video.

04-05-2019 Two suspects arrested for stealing drug test kits from Wal-Mart. Both were held on probation holds.

04-05-2019 Officers responded to a report of an impaired cashier at a retail store. Female suspect arrested and methamphetamine found on her.

04-05-2019 Search warrant executed on Austin Street. Methamphetamine located.

Report Compiled By Sgt Jason Pipkin

04-16-2019 Officers stopped a car that was reported as being suspicious. Heroin located in the vehicle. Arrests made.

04-18-2019 Report of a suspicious vehicle near Steph's Cakes & Bakes. Contact made with suspects. Arrests made after drugs and drug paraphernalia located.

04-28-2019 SPD assisted the fire department with a fire at 1200 Sugarberry. The owner was cited for negligent handling of burning material.

05-02-2019 Warrant pickup at Hansen's IGA. Illegally obtained prescription drugs found on suspect. Additional charges.

05-22-2019 Drug investigation led to search warrant on Hill Street. Two individuals arrested on multiple drug charges including possession of methamphetamine.

05-25-2019 Crash at Wisconsin & Alpine. Minor injuries reported. Driver cited for driving without a license or insurance, and for not having a child in a safety seat.

05-27-2019 Reported shoplifter at Wal-Mart. Suspect located and arrested for retail theft and 4th offense OWI.

06-06-2019 Disturbance report on W. Main Street. Suspect, wanted by DOC, fled on foot but was captured nearby with the help of citizens who directed officers to him. When confronted by the threat of Taser deployment, the suspect surrendered and was taken to jail.

06-22-2019 Retail theft report at Wal-Mart. Suspect not only stole merchandise, but dropped his bag of marijuana in the process. Suspect located near his residence and arrested.

07-10-2019 Intoxicated male reported on a school playground. Male suspect was found to be impaired from "huffing" aerosol cans. The male resisted and an officer suffered an injury to his hand.

08-02-2019 Suspect wanted by DOC fled officers and was found hiding in garage. Taken to jail.

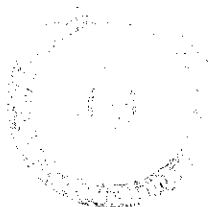
08-08-2019 Officers responded to a report of a dog left in a hot vehicle. The owner argued with officers and was cited for cruelty to an animal.

09-03-2019 Suspicious activity reported on N. Water Street by Woodlawn Cemetery. Suspects were found to be in possession of methamphetamine.

09-15-2019 Report of an intoxicated male leaving a gas station at 9:21 am. Driver located, pulled over, and arrested for OWI, 4th offense.

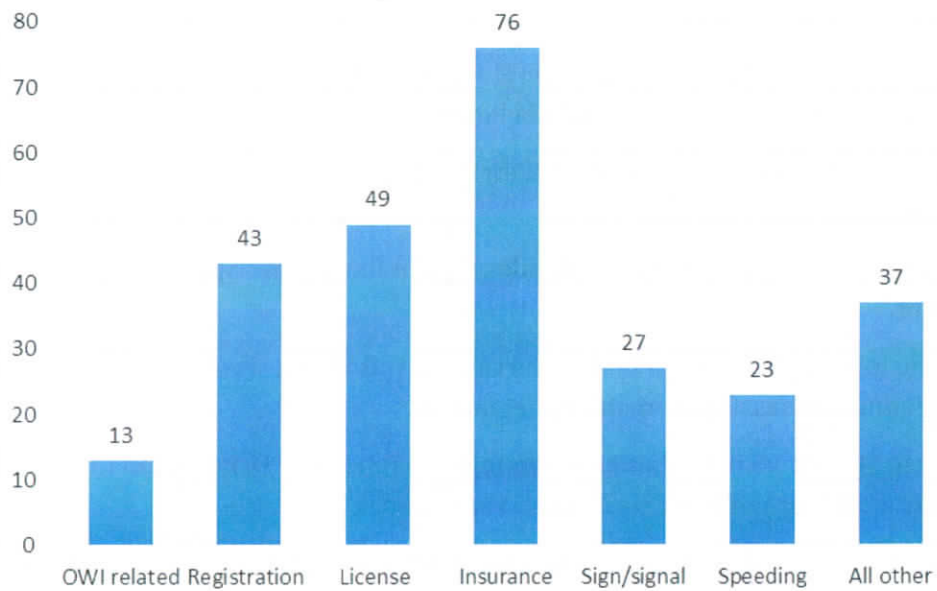
09-16-2019 Report of a dog left in a hot vehicle in the Wal-Mart parking lot for an hour. Owner was argumentative with officers, and was cited for cruelty to an animal.

10-11-2019 Possible drug us reported at a St. Anne Street residence. Multiple arrests were made after officer located methamphetamine.

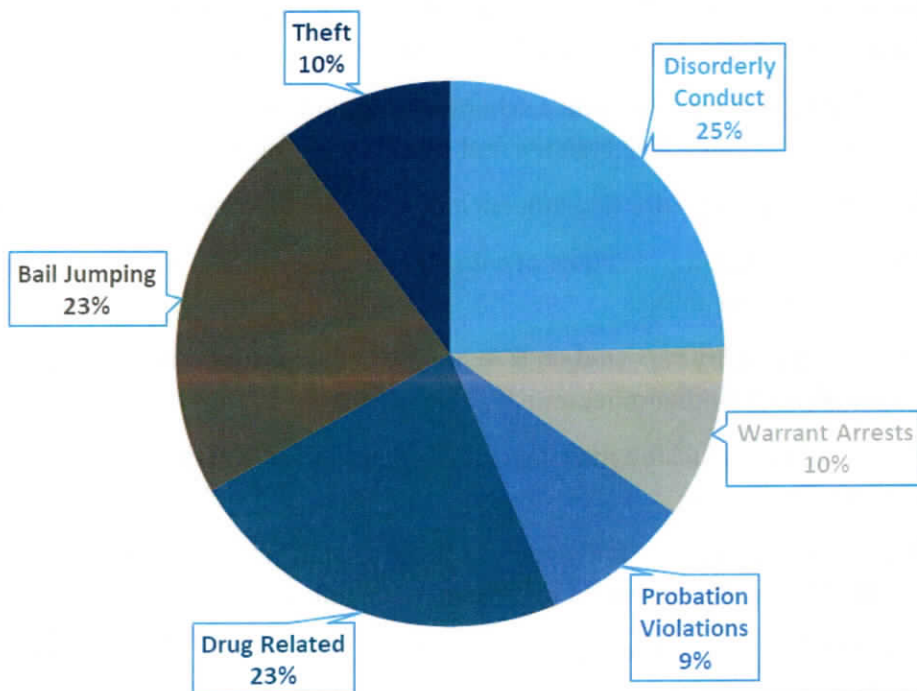


Report Compiled By Sgt Jason Pipkin

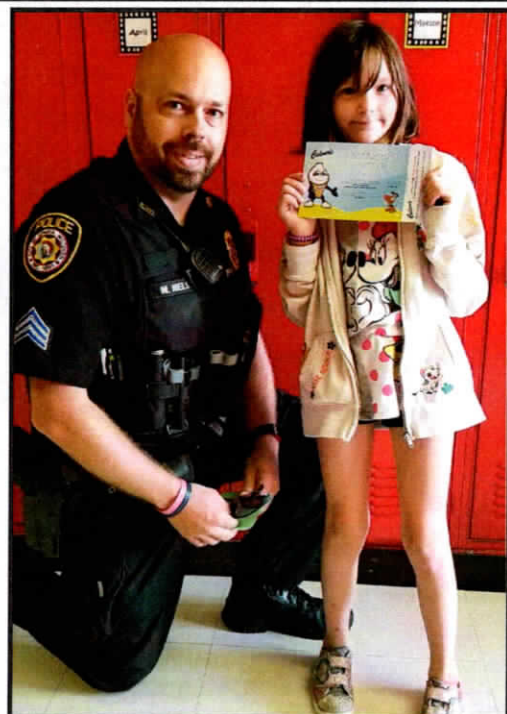
Dayshift Citations



FREQUENT ARRESTS & MUNICIPAL CITATIONS ON DAYSHIFT



Report Compiled By Sgt Jason Pipkin



2019 Night Shift Report

The 2019 year brought a considerable amount of change and movement amongst the Sparta Police Department officers and their assigned shifts. The sergeants started the first half of the year out working an 8.5-hour shift rotation while patrol officers worked a 12-hour shift rotation. The night shift consisted of a 6 PM to 6 AM schedule. The sergeants switched to a 12-hour shift schedule aligned with the patrol officers beginning July 1st.

Day shift and night shift also had several overlapping power shifts throughout the year. These power shifts provided extra coverage during the times of day when the city experienced the highest call volumes.

A total of 12 different sergeants and officers worked night shift throughout the course of the year.

Night Shift Sergeants

Sgt. Booker Ferguson
Sgt. Jason Pipkin
Sgt. Kyle Erickson
Sgt. Joel Ames

Night Shift Patrol Officers

Officer Kyle Guralski
Officer Corey Johnson
Officer Jake Ludovice
Officer Brian James
Officer Zach Fischer
Officer Brock Mrdjenovich
Officer Jager Mitchell
Officer Shane Potaracke



Report Compiled By Officer Jenna Lee
and Sgt Kyle Erickson

Night Shift Notable Cases

19-0035: On January 10, 2019 at about 6:05 AM, officers were dispatched to the 100 block of N. Court St. for a disturbance. While attempting contact at the residence, a male subject jumped out a second story window causing multiple injuries to himself. He was taken to the Sparta Hospital for a suspected broken hip, a severe laceration to his chin, and other potential injuries. The female resident was uncooperative and was found to have attempted to conceal a bottle of whisky in her pants. Both the male and female subjects were found to be out on bond. The male was referred to the Monroe County District Attorney's Office for Felony Bail Jumping and Disorderly Conduct, Domestic Abuse related. The female was arrested and booked into the Monroe County Jail for Bail Jumping.

19-0124: On February 2, 2019, at approximately 10:20 PM, an officer on patrol initiated a traffic stop for a suspected license violation. After the officer activated emergency lights, the officer noticed a small, white bag thrown from the front driver side window, which was later recovered by Sparta PD officers. The bag contained about a gram of methamphetamine. The operator, a 43-year-old La Crosse woman, was arrested for a warrant, Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The passenger, a 26-year-old male from Lone Rock, WI, lied about his identity to officers and was also arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. During the booking process at the jail, his identity was confirmed and he was additionally arrested for Resisting/Obstructing an Officer.

19-0480: On May 9 2019, at about 11:06 PM, an officer observed a pickup fail to complete a stop and operating with defective brake lamps. The officer stopped the vehicle and the driver, a 27-year-old female from La Crosse, was found to have a Department of Corrections warrant and was arrested. A K-9 alerted to the odor of drugs on the suspect vehicle. A vehicle search was conducted and a small amount of a THC substance was found in an electronic smoking device. Two passengers were cited municipally and released. Once at the jail, the driver was found concealing about 15 grams of methamphetamine inside her person. She was arrested on methamphetamine charges as well.

19-0861: On August 2, 2019, at about 8:40 PM, an officer on patrol followed a vehicle that had been seen leaving a known drug residence. The officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic offense. After making contact with driver, a 30-year-old La Crosse woman, officers learned she had a warrant for her arrest. As officers attempted to arrest her, she fled in her vehicle and led officers on a 3-miles vehicle pursuit. Officers terminated the pursuit due safety concerns. The vehicle was located abandoned a short time later. A search of the vehicle produced multiple drug-related items. The driver was located later and was arrested for numerous traffic and criminal offenses.

19-1114: On September 25, 2019, at approximately 8:40 PM, Officer Fischer observed a male and female leaving a well-known drug area together. Officer Fischer made contact with the subjects, identified as Theresa Hansen and Joshua Miller. Officer Fischer stepped out with Theresa and Joshua as they were walking. Theresa and Joshua gave conflicting stories of their whereabouts and current activities. Officer Fischer then conducted a consent search on Theresa and an ACT 79 Search on Joshua. Drugs and drug paraphernalia was located during the search. Theresa was arrested for Felony Bail Jumping and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Joshua was arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and a Probation Hold.



Report Compiled By Officer Jenna Lee
and Sgt Kyle Erickson

19-1171: On October 5, 2019, at approximately 8:25 PM, the Sparta Police Department was dispatched to a disturbance at El Vallarta Restaurant. Officers arrived on scene and determined that two employees had been involved in a physical altercation. Florentino Narvaez Torres and Alberto Espinosa started to argue in the kitchen at El Vallarta when Florentino picked up a knife. Florentino followed Alberto to the dining area of the restaurant and Alberto threw a chair at Florentino, knocking the knife out of his hand. Florentino and Alberto began to fight in the dining room, hitting each other several times until the fight was broken up by restaurant employees. Florentino and Alberto sustained substantial injuries and were hospitalized. Florentino was arrested for Endangering Safety with a Weapon, 2nd Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, and Substantial Battery. Alberto was arrested for Substantial Battery.

19-1246: On October 18, 2019, at approximately 10:34 PM, the Sparta Police Department responded to the House of Shadows, 501 Osborne Drive, for a report of an intoxicated male assaulting the House of Shadows volunteers. The suspect left prior to police arrival, but witnesses provided a detailed description of the suspect and vehicle. Another officer located the suspect vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. The suspect was identified as Irwin Dykes. Drugs and alcohol were located inside the vehicle. Further investigation determined that Dykes caused injury to a 14 year old and a 17 year old after punching them. Both juveniles were volunteers at the House of Shadows. Dykes, was believed to be under the influence at the time, was arrested for Child Abuse, Intentionally Causing Harm, Disorderly Conduct, and drug related offenses.

19-1283: On October 25, 2019, at about 11:40 PM, officers were dispatched to a fight at the Harris Crossing Bar. When officers arrived, they encountered an unconscious male lying in the roadway with an obvious injury to his head. He was transported via helicopter to a La Crosse hospital. After investigation, it was learned that the injured subject had attacked another bar patron with a beer bottle before leaving the bar. The other party followed him out and engaged in a physical confrontation in the street, resulting in the injury. Both of the men were ultimately arrested and charged with felony offenses.

19-1479: On November 23, 2019, at about 2:45 AM, officers responded to a reported physical disturbance between a male and female party on E. Montgomery St. When the first officer arrived, he encountered a 30-year-old Sparta man inside the residence who had armed himself with several knives and was demanding that the officers shoot him. The man ignored orders to drop the knives before he had to be subdued with the use of a TASER from a second officer, resulting in him being taken into custody without further incident. The suspect was medically evaluated and taken to jail for domestic-violence related- Recklessly Endangering Safety, Disorderly Conduct, and Criminal Damage to Property, as well as Resisting an Officer.

19-1480: On November 23, 2019, at about 5:40 AM, officers responded to a house fire at 302 Walrath St, with the residents reportedly trapped inside the residence. Officers located an adult female inside the garage and were able to force the garage door open to remove her from the residence. An officer found a nearby ladder to gain access to a second story bedroom window where the juvenile female caller was rescued from the residence. While on scene, a Sparta Ambulance Service EMT suffered a medical emergency and officers and other ambulance personnel performed lifesaving measures on him. Ultimately, the EMT recovered and returned back to work several months later. Even though the home was a total loss, the City of Sparta recognized the juvenile caller for her brave efforts in providing the dispatcher with enough information so that she and her mother could be rescued. The two officers were also received life-saving awards as well.

19-1597: On December 22, 2019, at approximately 4:53 AM, Officer Johnson initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle on Montgomery St. Officer Johnson observed the vehicle parked at an apartment complex known for recent drug activity. He also noticed the vehicle's registration status was suspended. Officer Johnson made contact with the operator of the vehicle who was identified as Rhonnie Leszczynski. During the traffic stop, Rhonnie was found to be in violation of her bond imposed curfew. A search of Rhonnie's vehicle produced several drugs and paraphernalia. Rhonnie was arrested for Possession with Intent – Methamphetamine, Possession of THC, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Prescription Pills without a Prescription and Misdemeanor Bail Jumping. Rhonnie was also issued citations for Operating after Suspension, Operate after Suspension of Registration, and Operate Motor Vehicle without Insurance.

Report Compiled By Officer Jenna Lee
and Sgt Kyle Erickson

Citizen's Academy

We were again able to host a Citizen's Academy in 2019. The academy is our way of providing the participants with the opportunity to learn more about the duties and responsibilities of the employees of the Sparta Police Department. It also gave them a look at the day-to-day operations of the department. We also hope to foster a better working relationship between the department and the citizens that we serve.

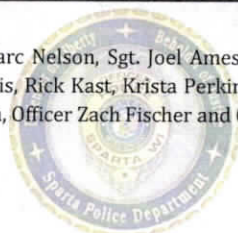
This year we had twelve participants in the academy, each hoping to gain a better understanding of what we do as police officers. The academy sessions began in September and finished in mid-November. Most of the sessions took place on Tuesday nights from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm. The schedule also includes three Saturday sessions. Tuesday night sessions included; tours of the Sparta Police Department, the Monroe County 9-1-1 Communications Center and the Monroe County Jail, a presentation about the court system by Monroe County Circuit Court Judge Todd Ziegler and Monroe County District Attorney Kevin Croninger, an emergency vehicle operations driving course, a presentation on evidence collection, a TASER presentation, and a K9 Demonstration. The Saturday sessions included; a day at the firearms range, shoot/don't shoot scenarios, and a mock traffic accident that was presented by Gundersen Air, Sparta Area Ambulance Service, and the Sparta Area Fire Protection District.

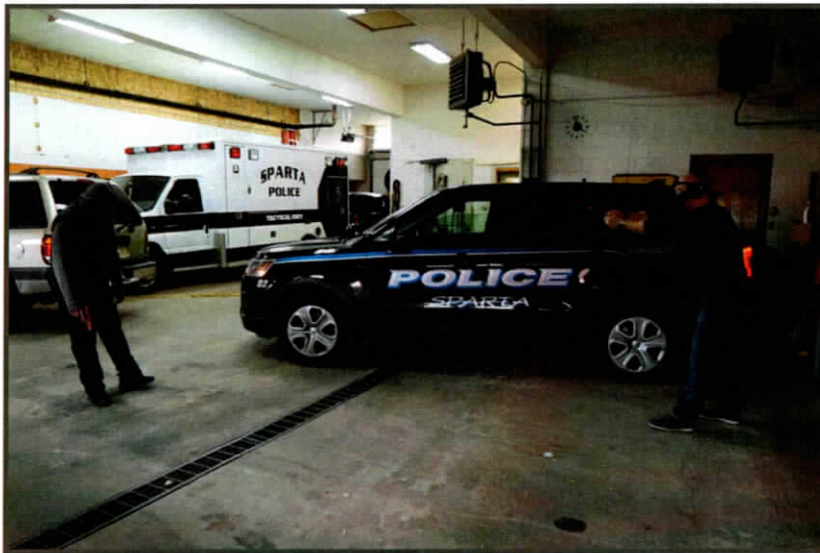
The academy ended with a family-friendly dinner at Jake's Northwoods where each participant was given a certificate of course completion and a Sparta Police Department challenge coin. We appreciate the opportunity to give interested area residents a look inside the Sparta Police Department.



Firearms Range Day

Pictured above from left to right -Officer Marc Nelson, Sgt. Joel Ames, Jeffrey Nicholson, Charles Nicholson, Beylen Ramirez, Officer Andrew Kuen, Vincent Norris, Rick Kast, Krista Perkins, Brandy Cunningham, Katherine Hilby, Leah Burke, Chase Nottestad, Rebecca Brueggeman, Officer Zach Fischer and Officer Kyle Guralski





The Shoot/Don't Shoot scenarios require the participant to make a split second decision of whether or not to use deadly force. During this session, each participant was given three separate scenarios in which they needed to decide how to respond to the situation.

Pictured: Detective Tovar, with (fake) gun in hand, approaches the participant and refuses to follow directions. The participant needs to decide how to react in this situation.

Sparta Fire demonstrated use of their rescue tools and then allowed participants the opportunity to use some of the tools on the vehicles. The vehicles were donated by Advantage Auto of Sparta. The Sparta Ambulance Service also demonstrated on scene patient care and transport preparation.

The day concluded with a tour of the Gundersen Air Sparta Hangar and a close up look at the helicopter.





During the TASER demonstration session, Sgt Ames provided a brief presentation on the TASER and how it works. Each participant was able to voluntarily experience the sensation of neuromuscular incapacitation caused by the TASER and also shoot the TASER at a target.



K9 Kaiser and Handler, Officer Johnson, demonstrated the K9's drug detection capabilities. Followed by Kaiser demonstrating suspect apprehension with Officer Guralski.



Firearms Range day allowed participants to shoot several firearms commonly carried by law enforcement.



Community Involvement



Officer James and K9 Larz reading to first graders at Maplewood Elementary. Having a guest speaker was the class reward for working hard and building their reading skills.

Detective Tovar, Detective Kuen, and Officer Fischer joined Sheriff Revels in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The purpose of the torch run is to raise awareness and to raise funds for the Special Olympics.



When his schedule allowed, Officer James also spent time at the elementary schools having lunch with the students.

Community Involvement



Officer Nelson and the Sparta School District nurse, Angela Frost, presented Stop the Bleed to all the teachers in the school district. Stop the Bleed is a nationwide campaign to teach bleeding control to the public.

Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel, Wisconsin State Assembly Representatives Nancy VanderMeer, and Lee Nerison joined us for the Law Enforcement Appreciation Ceremony during Police Week in May 2019.

In appreciation for everything AG Schimel has done for the law enforcement community, Chaplin Skinner presented AG Schimel with a handcrafted shadow box with a collection of badges, patches, and challenge coins from the Sparta Police Department, Tomah Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin State Patrol and Fort McCoy Police Department.



Chief Kuderer Testifying to the Assembly



Chief Kuderer testified in front of the Assembly State Affairs committee at the State Capitol. He was speaking in support of proposed Bill 443. The bill supported funding to increase the number of emergency mental health detention beds available in Wisconsin.



Officer Nelson Teaches CRASE

Officer Nelson gave several active shooter trainings to area businesses.

He presented a civilian response course from Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Team (ALERRT) which is the national standard in active shooter response. The Civilian Response to Active Shooters (CRASE) training teaches to avoid, deny, and defend. The training provides strategies, guidance, and plans for survival of an active shooter event.



Coffee with a Cop

At this year's Coffee with a Cop event, we partnered with Culvers in their Stuff the Bus campaign by "Cramming the Cruiser" with school supplies that were donated to the Sparta Area School District.



Cops on a Rooftop



By taking and delivering donut orders to the Sparta area, we were able to help the Tomah event raise the most money for the 5th year in a row! Statewide the event raised over \$74,000 for the Special Olympics.



Butterfest



This year the Bollig's, who run the pancake and sausage breakfast and cheese curd stand, presented our K9 Program with a donation check of \$750.

Each year, the police department provides security at the Butterfest grounds and traffic control for the parade.

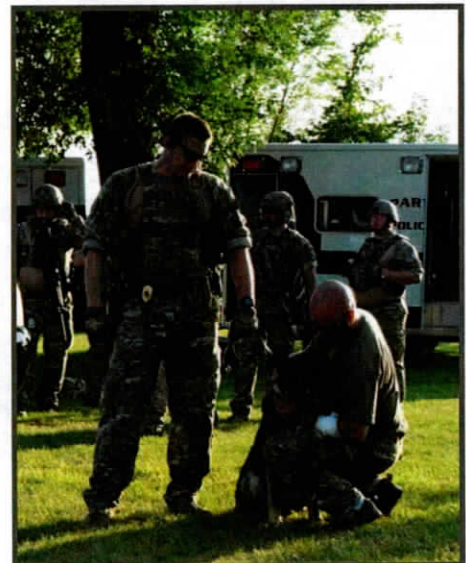
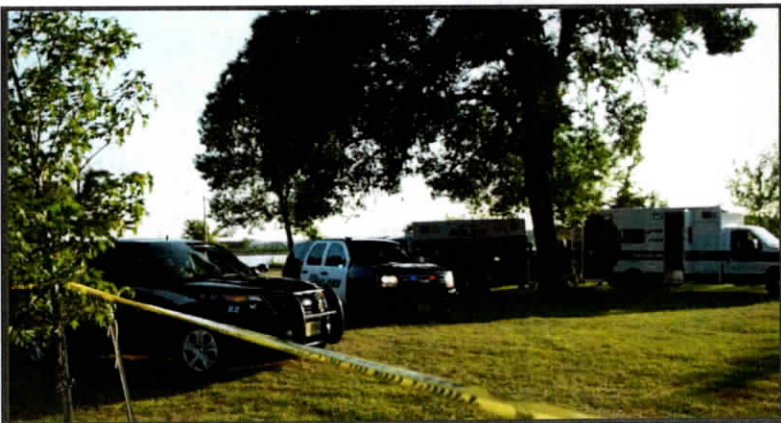


National Night Out



National Night out is a nationwide "community building" event that educates and helps build a partnership between the community and law enforcement. The event is held annually at Winnebago Park in Tomah.

Each year, members of the Combined Tactical Unit allow event-goers to get a close up look at the tools they use and watch a short demonstration of what the unit does.



Shop with a Hero Chicken Q

In October 2019, the Sparta Police Department along with the Sparta Area Ambulance Service and Sparta Area Fire Protection District held a Chicken Q to raise funds for Shop with a Hero. The Chicken Q raised over \$4,000 for the Shop with a Hero event.



Shop with a Hero

On December 10th, 2019, along with the Sparta Area Ambulance Service and Sparta Area Fire Protection District, we held the annual Shop with a Hero event. Unlike previous years, this year we asked members of the public to nominate elementary aged children within the Sparta Area School District. The response was overwhelming. Thanks to proceeds from the Chicken Q and donations by Walmart, we were able to invite 68 children to take part in the event. During the event, each child was paired up with a local police, fire, EMS, or military hero and given a Walmart gift card. The children were able to purchase gifts for themselves or others. After the gifts were purchased, there was a gift wrapping station for the children to wrap the gifts. Santa and Mrs. Clause also made a surprise visit.





Sparta Police Department

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