

# **2021**

# **Annual Report**



**Sparta Police Department**

**711 Pine St.  
Sparta, WI 54656  
608-269-3122**

**[www.spartawisconsin.org](http://www.spartawisconsin.org)**





# SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**Emilee Nottestad**  
Chief of Police

711 Pine St.  
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On behalf of the men and women of the Sparta Police Department, it is my privilege to submit the Sparta Police Department's 2021 Annual Report. The Sparta Police Department is known for its high level of professionalism and community service. 2021 was no exception as we set even higher goals for excellence, integrity, and valor.

In 2021 the Sparta Police Department received grant funding to expand our training and equipment. The department received State Department of Justice funds to sponsor a regional law enforcement criminal interdiction training. This type of training is rarely offered in our area of the state and we welcomed the opportunity to host area law enforcement in our new facility for up-to-date training at no cost to their agencies. Because we hosted the training, we were granted first opportunity for our officers to attend. We also received funding for Computer Voice Stress Analyzer equipment and training. This equipment will be used by our specialized units, including narcotics and Internet Crimes Against Children, as well as patrol officers investigating various criminal activity. Two detectives and two sergeants will be trained to operate this equipment, which will benefit both our department, as well as surrounding jurisdictions.

During the past year our department strengthened its relationship with Next Steps for Change and our PAARI (Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative) program. The Sparta Police Department is committed to looking past the crime at hand, and searching for solutions to root causes. We understand that drug addiction is not just a large crime problem in our city, it is a complex issue that takes multiple approaches and resources to combat. Aside from the devastation addiction causes families, these addictions lead to other criminal activity in our neighborhoods. Our partnership with Next Steps for Change offers tools and resources for those we interact with during our law enforcement contacts. Our hope is always to make long-lasting, positive change where we can. Because of the positive outcome of this program, I was able to assist Next Steps for Change in acquiring grant funding to support their growth during 2021, as well.

2021 brought some large changes for our department. Most notable was our move from the existing police department on E. Oak St. to our new facility on Pine St. This move took several years of planning and construction, with our final move occurring in late July of 2021. As you know, the City acquired the old Lakeview School which was completely remodeled. With an addition that now houses our garage, as well as storage and maintenance space, the building serves the needs of the department and community in every way we planned.

Our technology improvements are evident around our new facility. You will notice the Mobile CAD dispatching system visible throughout the building. This helps keep staff aware of incoming and on-going calls throughout Monroe County at all times. An integrated camera system improved our interview capabilities, as well as the security of our facility. Our evidence processing area now contains safe and secure testing, drying and packaging equipment for officers. These are just a few examples of modernizations we were able to achieve in our new space.

Aside from our building, you may notice a change to our uniforms. In 2021 Sparta Police Department changed uniform patches, moving toward a simpler, more modern design. Within the new patch we incorporated our values: *excellence*, *integrity*, and *valor*. These values were identified by department members in 2020 as our core values – those that represent our organization’s highest priorities and the heart of the Sparta Police Department and its members. By the end of 2022 all uniforms will carry the new patch on their sleeves.

It is truly my honor to lead the men and women of the Sparta Police Department. I hope you find this report interesting and useful. We are always happy to discuss any questions or thoughts you have. Please rest assured that your police department works hard every day to bring you the best law enforcement services possible – always striving for *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**

Preserving quality of life through innovation and excellence in policing.

## **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.

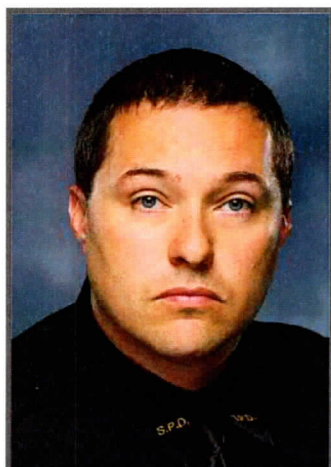
# Command Staff

## 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



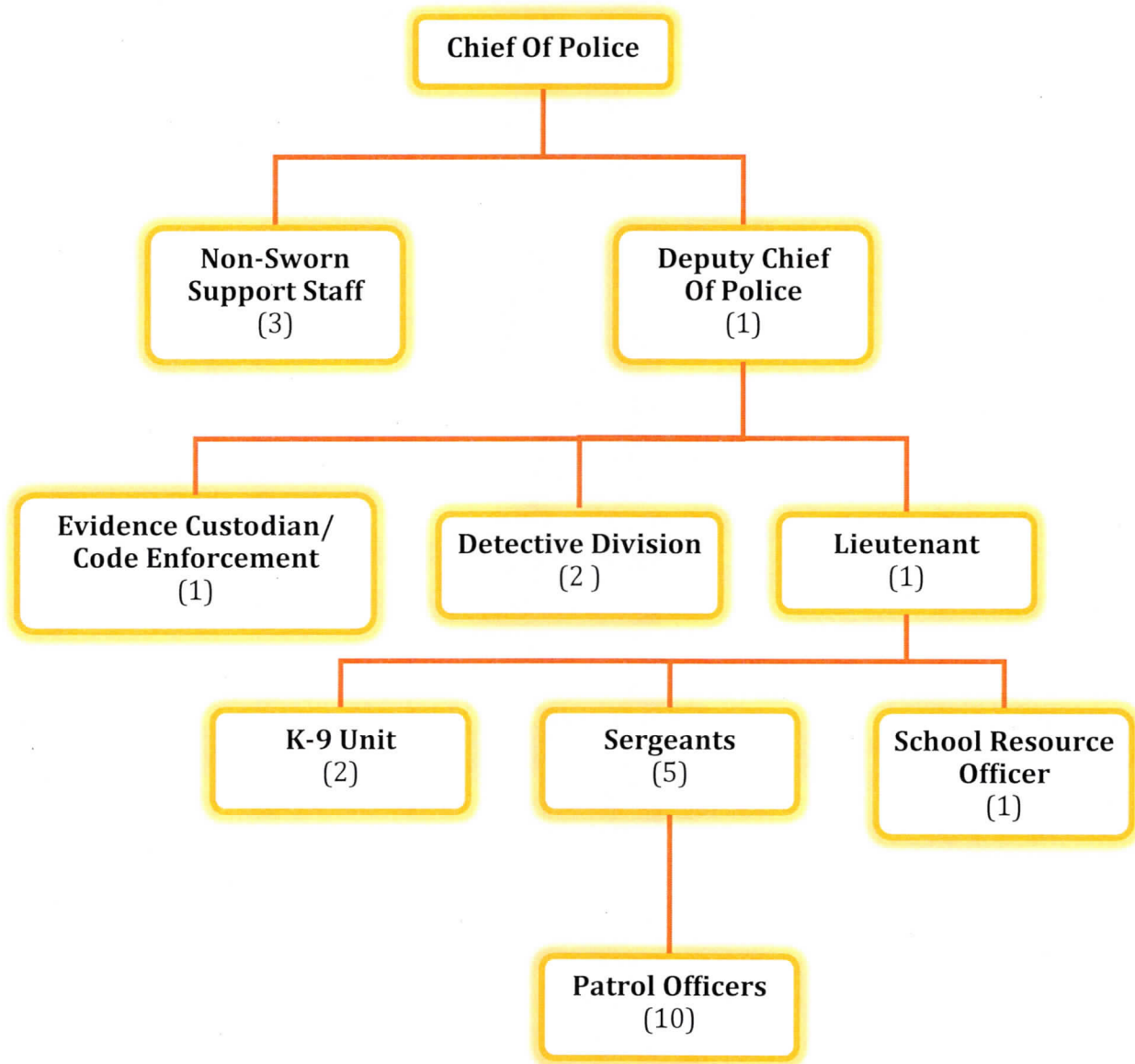
Booker Ferguson serves as the police department's Deputy Chief. He was hired as a part time officer in 2001, and earned a full time police officer position in January, 2004. Deputy Chief Ferguson is responsible for all IT and evidence management, oversees our detective division, conducts any internal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



Sergeant  
Kyle  
Guralski



Sergeant  
Zach  
Fischer



Detective  
Jose  
Tovar



Detective  
Andrew  
Kuen



Officer  
Kyle  
Seubert



SRO  
Marc  
Nelson



Officer  
Kyle  
Erickson



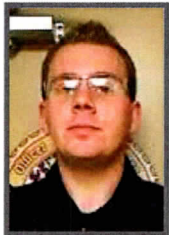
K9 Handler  
Brian  
James



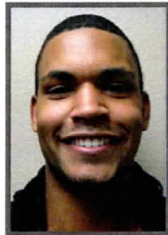
Officer  
Jacob  
Ludovice



Officer  
Brock  
Mrdjenovich



Officer  
Jager  
Mitchell



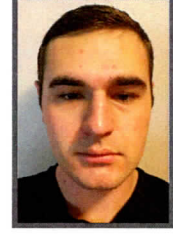
Officer  
Jamal  
Wagner



Officer  
Tyrel  
Brey



Officer  
Chase  
Nottestad



Officer  
Bryce  
Rheinschmidt



K9  
Kaiser



K9  
Nash



Facility Dog  
Xanthos



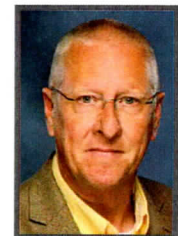
Administrative  
Assistant  
Amanda Revels



Police Support  
Specialist  
Jessica Erickson



Evidence/Code  
Compliance  
Randal Dunford

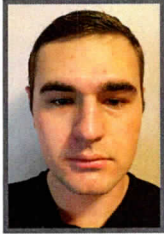


Chaplain  
Jef Skinner



# Personnel Changes

## New Hires



Bryce  
Rheinschmidt

## Separations



Sergeant  
Jason  
Pipkin



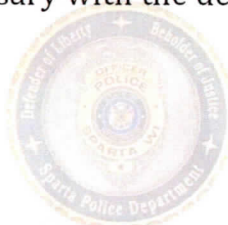
Officer  
Ethan  
Schroeder

## Promotions

- Kyle Guralski was promoted to Sergeant on March 17, 2021.
- Zachary Fischer was promoted to Sergeant on July 12, 2021.

## Career Milestones

- Joel Ames' 20 year anniversary with the department was May 17, 2021.
- Kyle Guralski's 15 year anniversary with the department was June 22, 2021.
- Jose Tovar's 15 year anniversary with the department was August 29, 2021.
- Jenna Lee's 10 year anniversary with the department was May 20, 2021.
- Jacob Ludovice's 5 year anniversary with the department was August 2, 2021.



# Follow up to 2020/2021 Department Goals

## Goal #1: New Police Department

Finalize plans for the addition to and remodeling of the existing Lakeview Building  
Begin construction project in 2020, completing construction in 2021  
Prepare existing building, equipment, records, etc. for upcoming move  
Move into new structure in 2021

Our current building has not met the needs of Police Department personnel or best practices in law enforcement for quite some time. Our goal is to reside in a building that meets the needs of both the police and the community, and allows us to perform all police functions at the highest standards.

**COMPLETE. We moved into our new facility in July, 2021. The new facility better meets the needs of police department personnel, as well as the public. We have already hosted training for our department and other local agencies, as well as state-wide training.**

## Goal #2: Update Policies & Procedures

On-board with Lexipol  
Publish new policies & SOP's  
Provide training to Department Members as needed

Our policies and procedures are outdated. We began the process of updating last year, but after some frustration and further research, decided to change companies prior to becoming too heavily invested in the process. We will start over with Lexipol, who leads the way with law enforcement policies and training updates.

**IN PROGRESS. We completed our on-boarding process with Lexipol. All statutorily required policies have been created and published. We will continue to develop and implement new policies until complete. Training will be provided as needed.**



# Follow up to 2020/2021 Department Goals

## **Goal #3: Update & Audit Evidence Room and Procedures**

Full audit of Evidence Room

Repeat of full audit after move to new building

Establish new position description for Evidence Custodian/Code Enforcement Officer

Train new Evidence Custodian

Establish new evidence procedures of storage and purging

**COMPLETE. We created a position description for Evidence Custodian/Code Enforcement Officer. A new Evidence Custodian was hired and trained. New evidence disposal procedures are in place. A full audit was completed prior to and following our move.**

## **Goal #4: Increase staffing and coverage**

**IN PROGRESS. An additional Sergeant's position was added to the department.**

## **Goal #5: Research orders made by the Department**

We want to ensure that our money is spent on American-made products whenever possible. Our goals is to support local industry and American business as much as possible.

**IN PROGRESS. We were very cognizant of this during the construction and furnishing of our new building. Almost all of our new furniture was constructed in Iowa or Wisconsin. We continue our focus on purchasing American-made products whenever possible.**

## **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 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.

## **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.

## **Goal #3: Update Department Image**

Implement new patch, design new challenge coin, and badge  
Create new Vision Statement  
Utilize new images to enhance the police department building

### **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**

# 2021 Officer Training

The Sparta Police Department rebounded quickly from the restrictions of the pandemic and continued to train in 2021. One of the major training events that occurred was the department transition from .40 caliber pistols with conventional sights to 9 mm caliber pistols with red dot aiming systems. Our two firearm instructors, Sgt. Guralski and Sgt. Fischer, created and implemented an outstanding training program, which successfully transitioned and qualified our entire department with only two days of training for each officer.

With the completion of our new building in 2021, which includes a training room, the Sparta Police Department looks forward to conducting more in-house training at our PD, along with hosting trainings in cooperation with other entities.



## Department Trainings

- ◆ Firearms Training and Qualification (State Mandated Training)
- ◆ Legal Update (Virtual)
- ◆ ALERRT- Active Shooter Response Refresher
- ◆ DAAT/GST
- ◆ Brighter Tomorrows Update

Members of the Monroe County Combined Tactical Unit (CTU) and the Sparta Police Department K9 Unit continued to train at least twice a month to remain proficient in their specialized assignments.



## **Individual Officer Trainings**

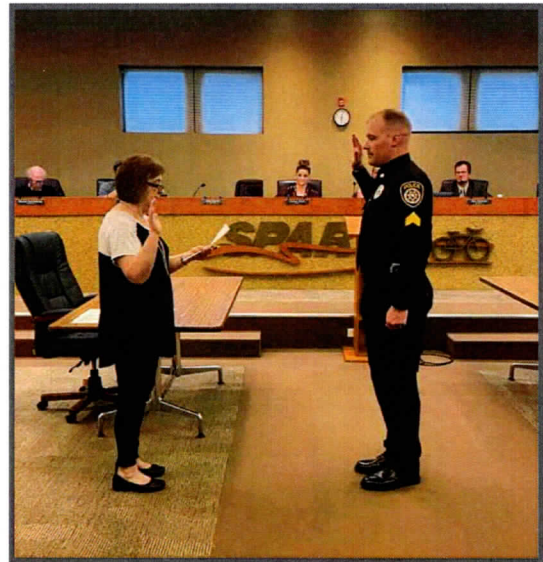
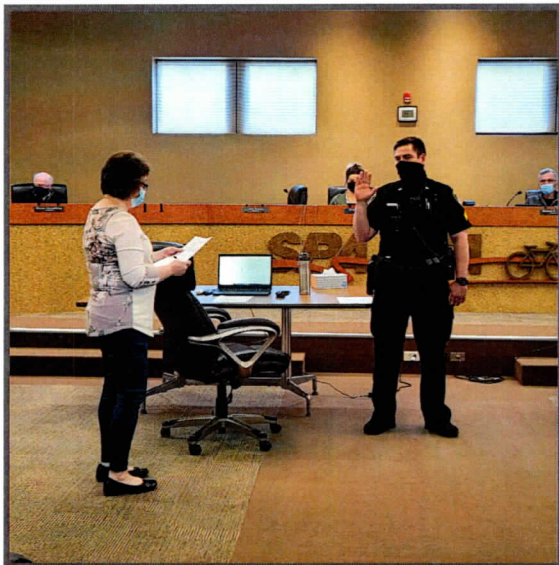
- ♦ Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement-(Off. Brey, Off. Wagner, Off. Mitchell, Off. Nottestad)
- ♦ Leadership in Police Organizations- (Sgt. Guralski)
- ♦ Pursuit Intervention Technique- (Off. Brey, Off. Wagner, Off. Mitchell, Off. Nottestad)
- ♦ Red Dot Instructor- (Sgt. Fischer and Sgt. Guralski)
- ♦ Gracie Survival Tactics Instructor- (Off. Brey)
- ♦ Supervisory Leadership Institute- (Sgt. Lee)
- ♦ Recovery Coach Academy- (Sgt. Ames, Sgt. Fischer, D.C. Ferguson, Off. Ludovice, Off. Erickson)
- ♦ Field Training Officer (Off. Mrdjenovich)

## **Future Trainings**

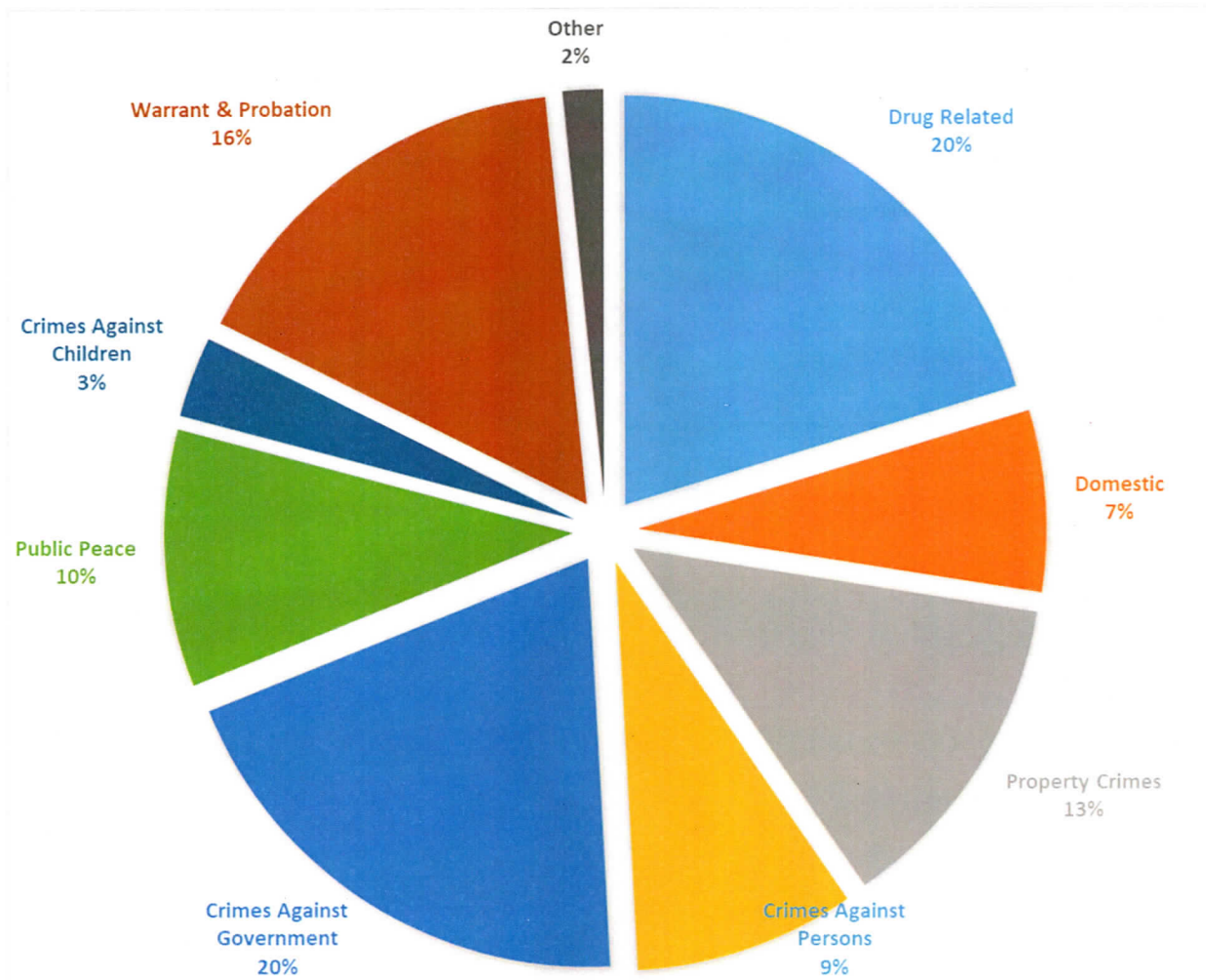
- ♦ ALERRT- Solo Officer Rapid Deployment
- ♦ DAAT/GST Refresher
- ♦ Emergency Vehicle Operator Course Refresher
- ♦ Department In-Service
- ♦ Operation R.U.S.H (Hosted at SPD)

# 2021 Officer Awards

- ♦ The **Unit Citation** was awarded to Combined Tactical Unit Members: Marc Nelson, Zachary Fischer, Andrew Kuen, and Kyle Guralski for volunteering to travel to Kenosha, WI to assist the Kenosha Police Department with protests that became violent and uncontrollable. They received a written letter of appreciation from the Sheriff as the tactical unit arrived well prepared, equipped, and presented as an all-in-one package.
- ♦ The **Career Achievement Award** was presented to Retired Chief David Kuderer for his 40 years of dedicated service to the Sparta Police Department and the City of Sparta.
- ♦ The **Certificate of Appreciation** was awarded to Police Support Specialist Jessica Erickson for the technical assistance and support she provided to investigators during the Anthony Koopman homicide investigation.
- ♦ A **COVID Appreciation Pin** was awarded to every officer in appreciation for their selfless acts for showing up every day and continuing to answer the calls of the community while with novel coronavirus spread through the community and the world.



# Arrest Percentage By Type of Crime

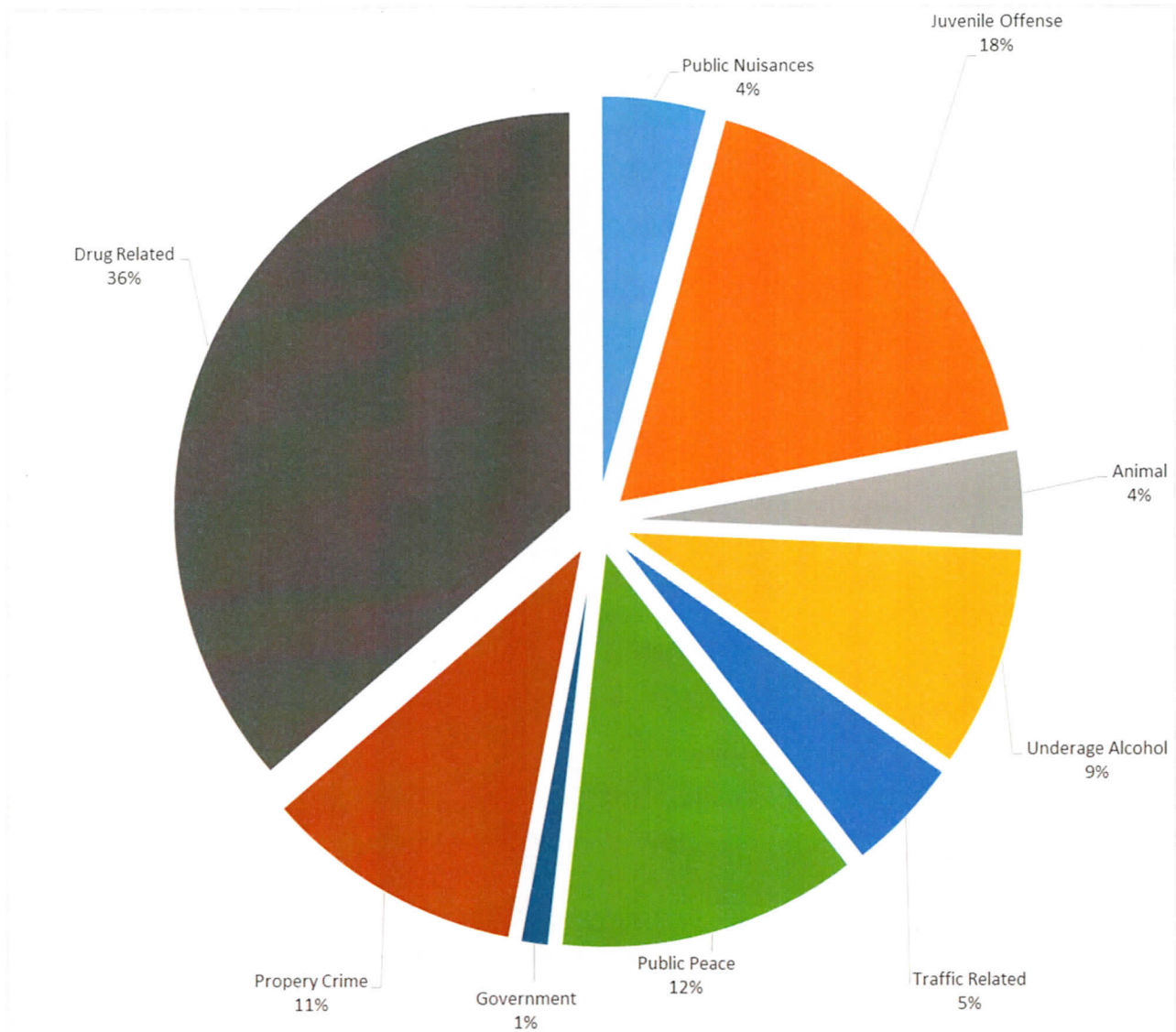


## Compared to 2020:

- ♦ Drug related arrests increased by 4%
- ♦ Crimes Against Public Peace decreased 2%
- ♦ Crimes Against Property increased 3%
- ♦ Warrant & Probation arrests increased 3%

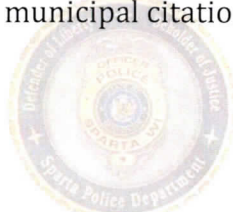


# Municipal Offense By Type



## Compared to 2020:

- ♦ Drug related municipal citations increased 8%
- ♦ Juvenile related municipal citations decreased 4%
- ♦ Underage Alcohol municipal citations increased 9%
- ♦ Public Peace related municipal citations decreased 8%
- ♦ Property Crime related municipal citations increased 2%
- ♦ Public Nuisance related municipal citations decreased 7%



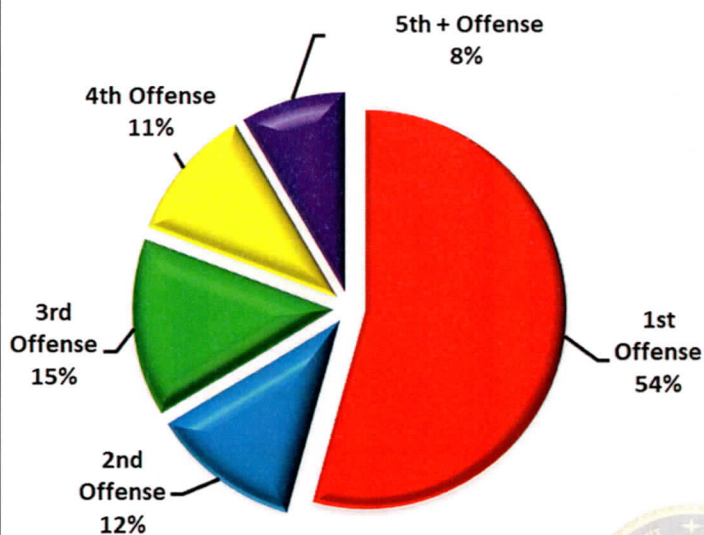


# OWI Statistics

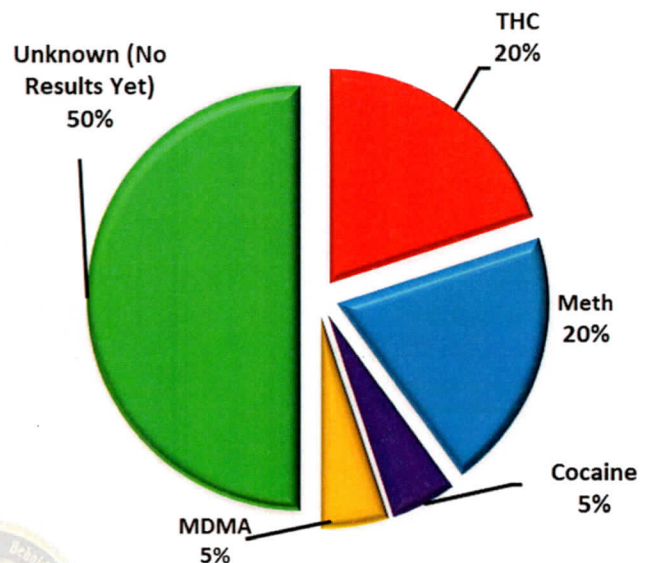
## BAC/PAC Results

Month	Average Blood/Breath Alcohol Concentration	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense	5th+ Offense	W/ Controlled Substance
January-9	0.145	2	3	1	3	0	0
February-1	0.150	1	0	0	0	0	0
March-4	0.249	1	0	2	1	0	1
April-5	0.149	3	0	1	1	0	1
May-12	0.178	8	0	1	2	1	3
June-8	0.180	4	1	2	0	1	1
July-10	0.199	7	1	0	1	1	5
August-4	0.224	2	0	1	0	1	0
September-7	0.130	4	2	1	0	0	1
October-10	0.115	6	1	1	0	2	4
November-5	0.175	4	0	1	0	0	1
December-8	0.194	3	2	1	1	1	2
<b>Total (83):</b>	<b>0.174</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>

Repeat Violation Offenses

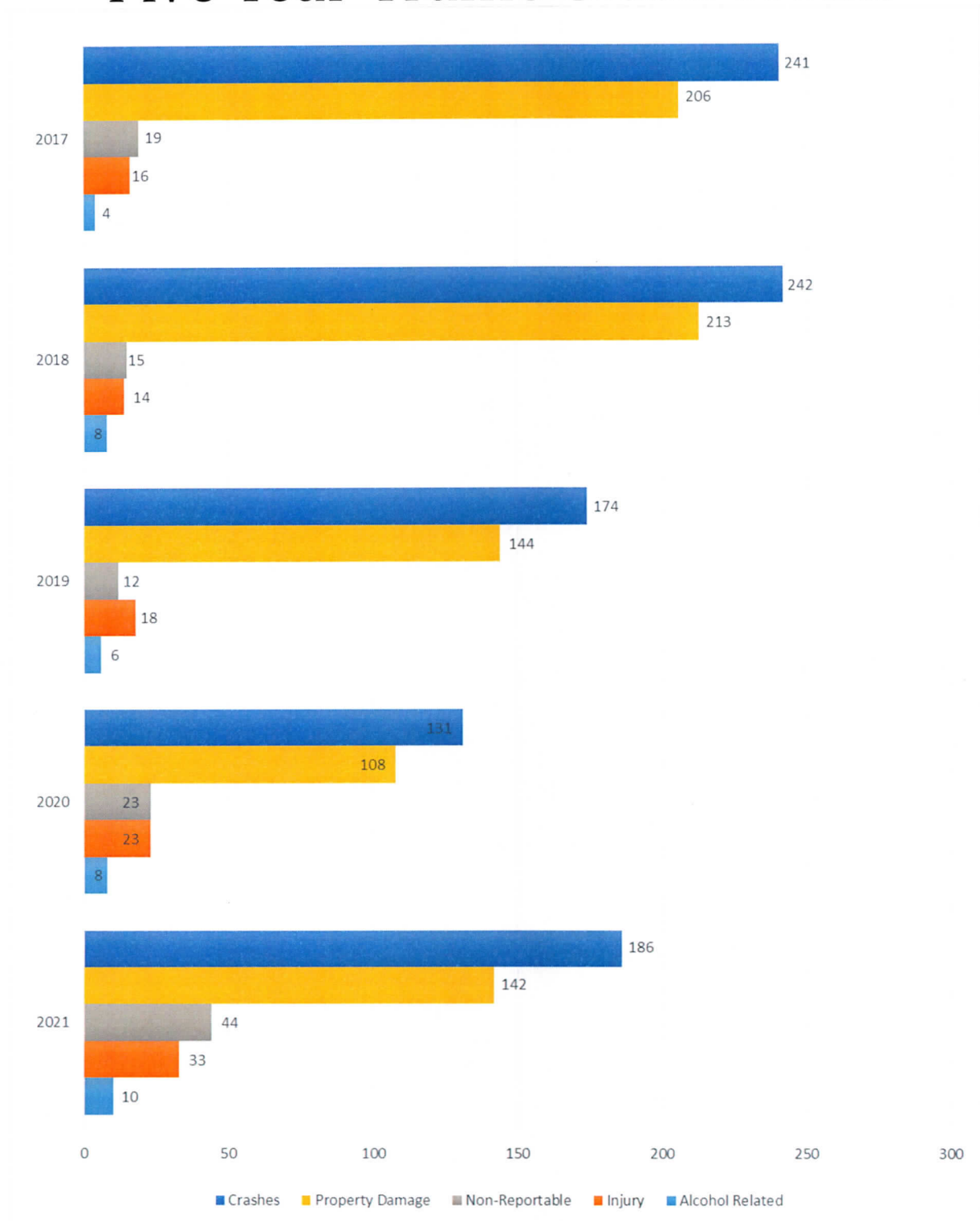


Controlled Substance OWI's

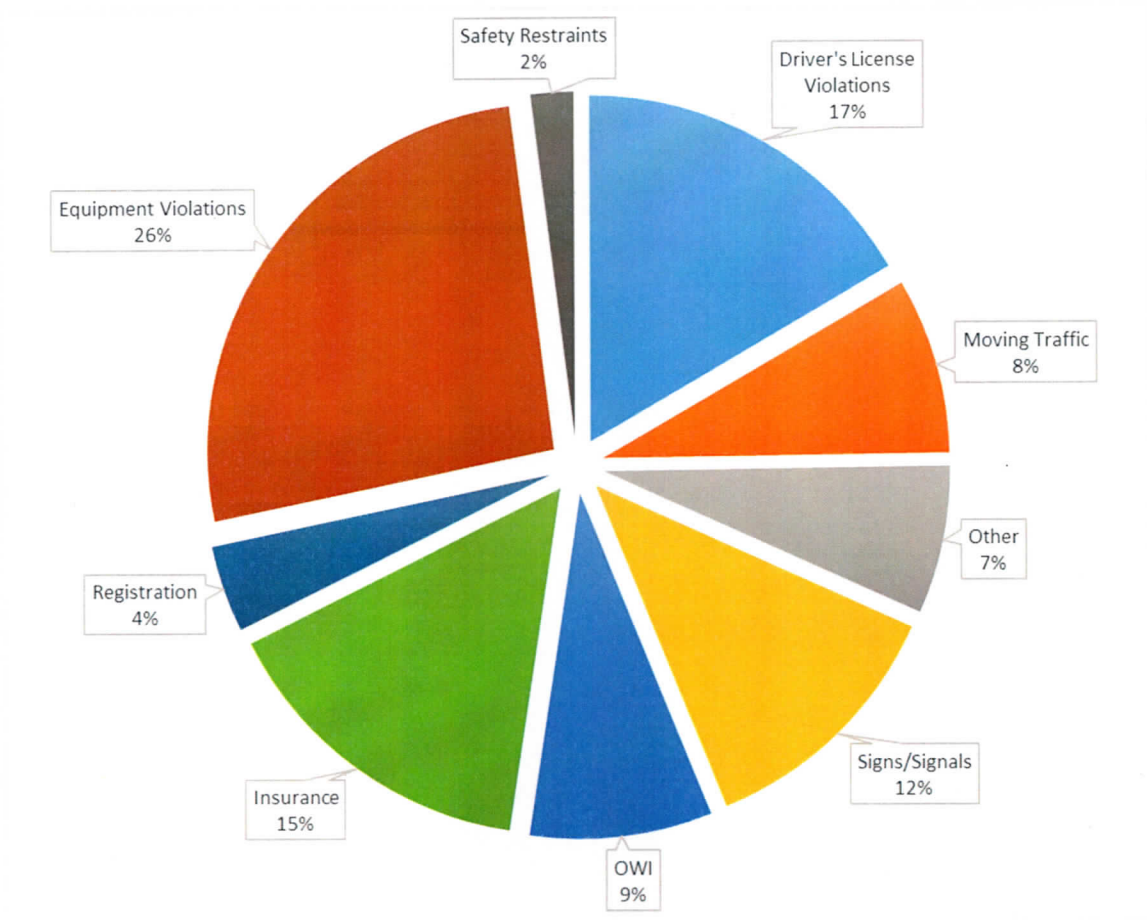




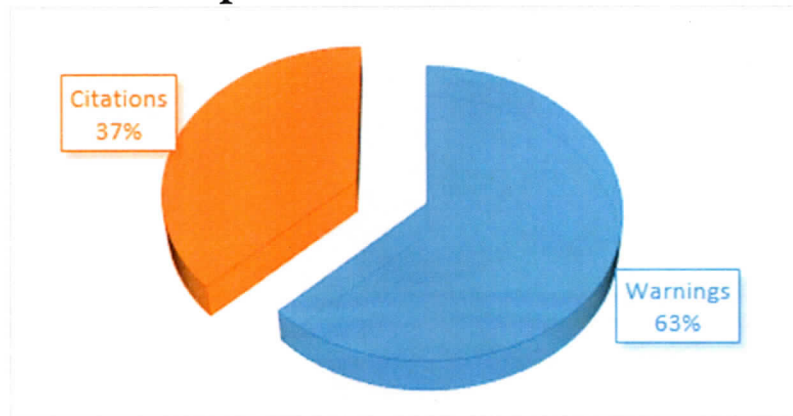
# Five Year Traffic Crash Trend



# Traffic Citation Percentage By Type of Offense



## Traffic Stop Citations vs. Warnings



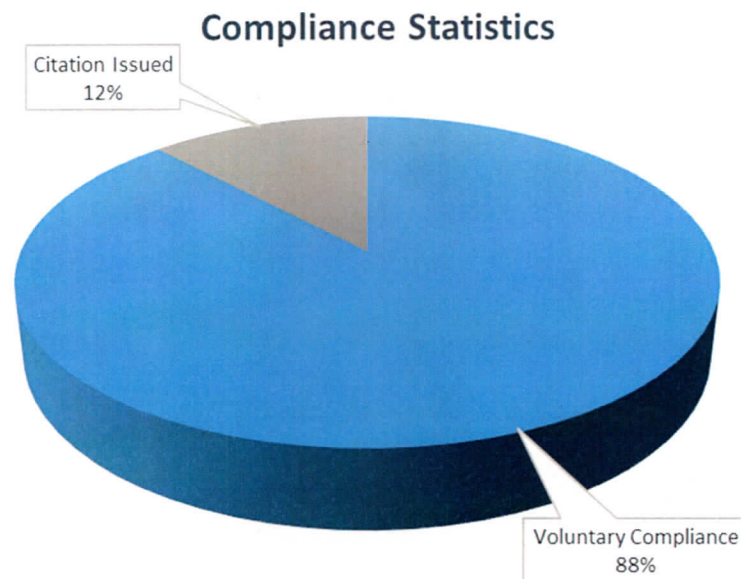
# Parking Summary by Ordinance

01/01/2021 to 12/31/2021

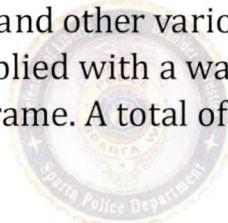
Ordinance Description	Current Year (2021)	Fine Total (2021)	Last Year (2020)
All Other Parking	1	\$15.00	1
Alternate Parking	564	\$8,460.00	957
Excess of 48 Hour Parking	17	\$255.00	25
Handicapped Parking	0	\$0.00	0
No 2am to 6 am Parking	15	\$225.00	23
No Parking Anytime	0	\$0.00	1
No Truck or Van Parking	0	\$0.00	2
Overnight Parking	2	\$30.00	6
Residential Parking	0	\$0.00	0
Restricted Parking	0	\$0.00	7
School Zone Parking	1	\$15.00	0
State Traffic Parking	0	\$0.00	0
Thirty Minute Parking	0	\$0.00	0
Two Hour Parking	37	\$555.00	5
<b>Totals:</b>	637	\$9,555.00	1027

# Code Enforcement

MONTH	NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS
January	1
February	0
March	2
April	3
May	3
June	10
July	15
August	5
September	3
October	2
November	0
December	6



Our Code Enforcement Officer works on a part time basis and handles ordinance violations largely on a complaint basis. 2021 violations included *Unsightly Refuse, Excessive Grass Height, Junk/Abandoned Vehicles, Broken Glass on Boulevard, Storing Camper/Trailer on Street*, and other various violations. As you can see, the majority of property owners complied with a warning and request to take care of the violation within a given timeframe. A total of 6 citations were issued for code violations in 2021.





# 2021 Drug Report

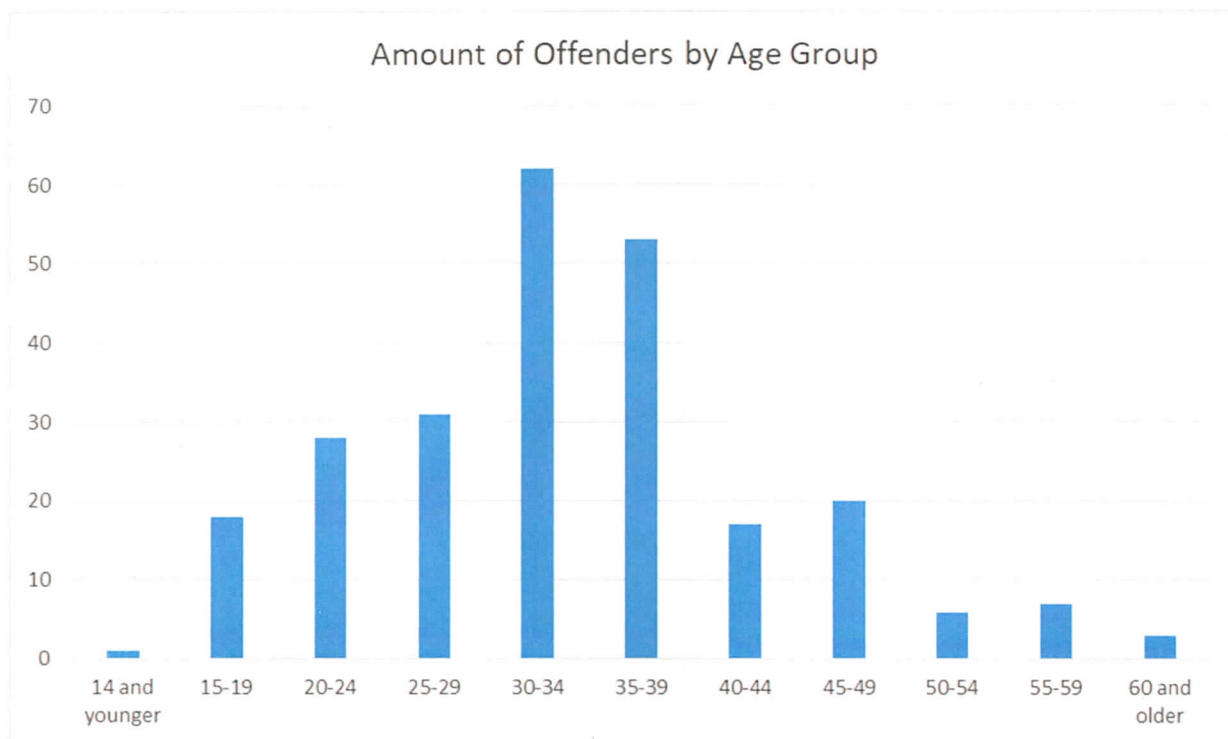
*For the purpose of this report, a “drug seizure” is an incident in which an illegal substance and/or drug paraphernalia as defined under WI Statutes Chapters 961 and 450 was seized, located, or recovered and taken into police custody. Data in this report has been compiled from SPD records and evidence management system 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.*

## **How Drug Seizures Were Processed**

In 2021, 74 drug-related municipal citations were issued. Drug-related citations were issued for possession of marijuana, and/or possession of drug paraphernalia. A total of 179 arrests or referrals were made to the Monroe County Circuit Court on drug charges.

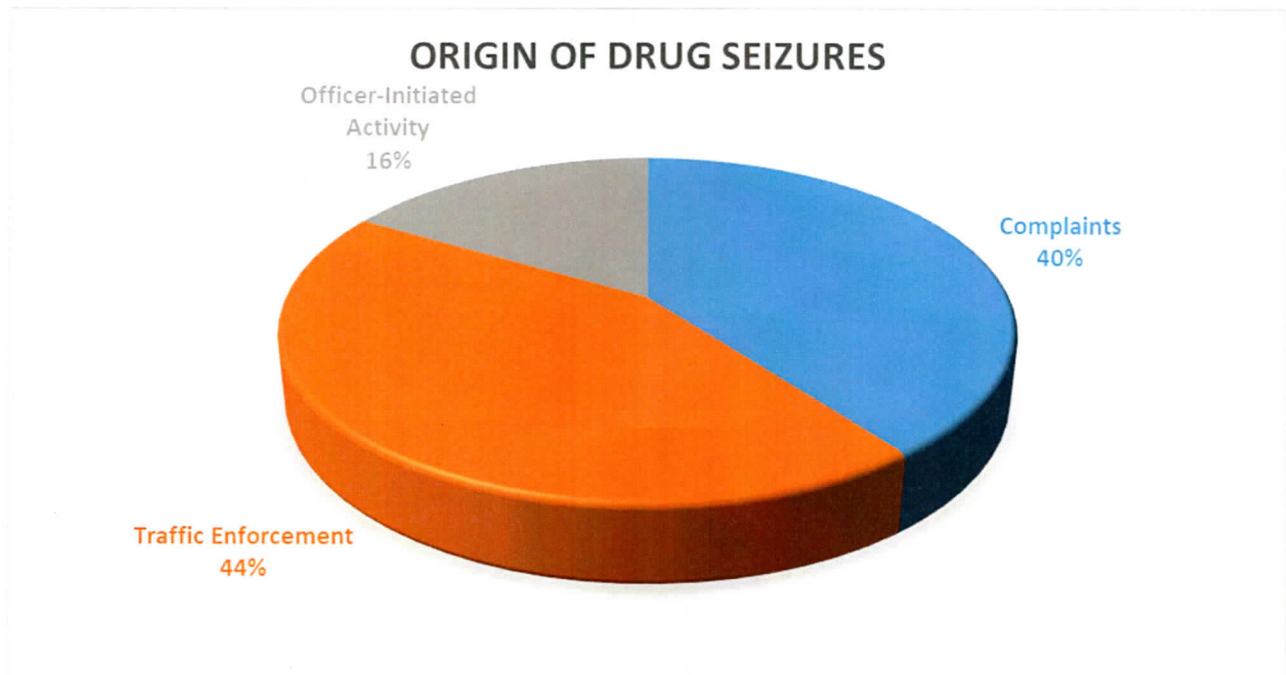
## **Offender Demographics**

In 2021, 200 different offenders were found in possession of illegal drugs. We encountered 30 repeat offenders (within the year) and one offenders had six different cases. Offenders’ age ranged from 14 to 72 with the average age of an offender being just over 33. The majority of offenders, almost 67%, were males.



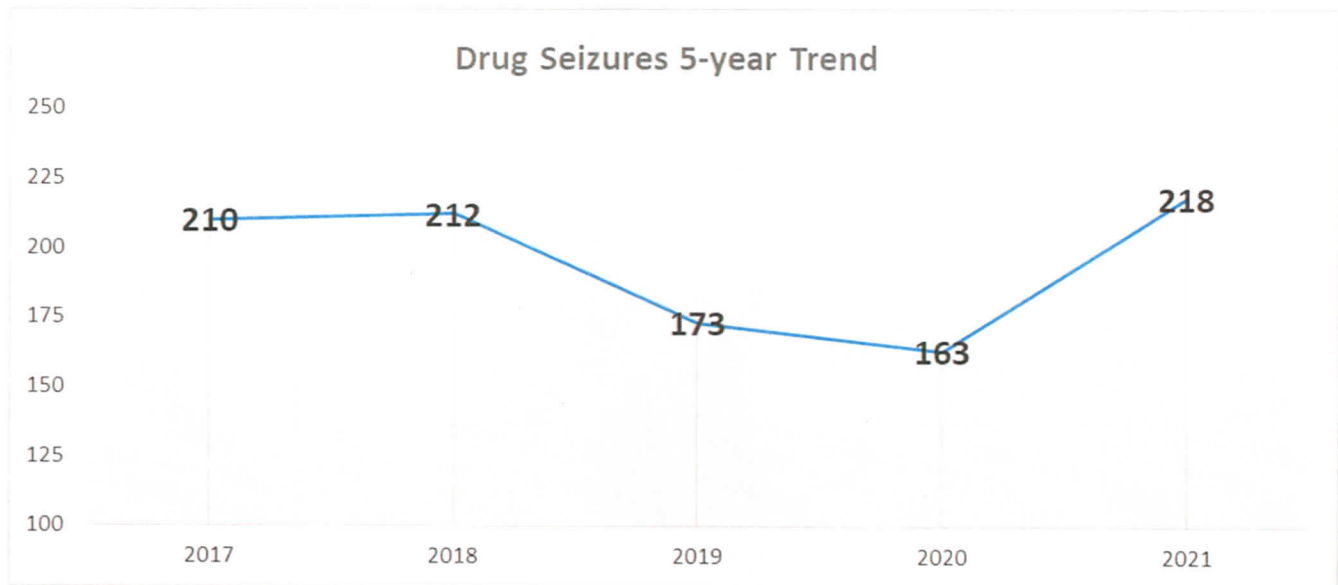


## How Officers Encountered Drugs

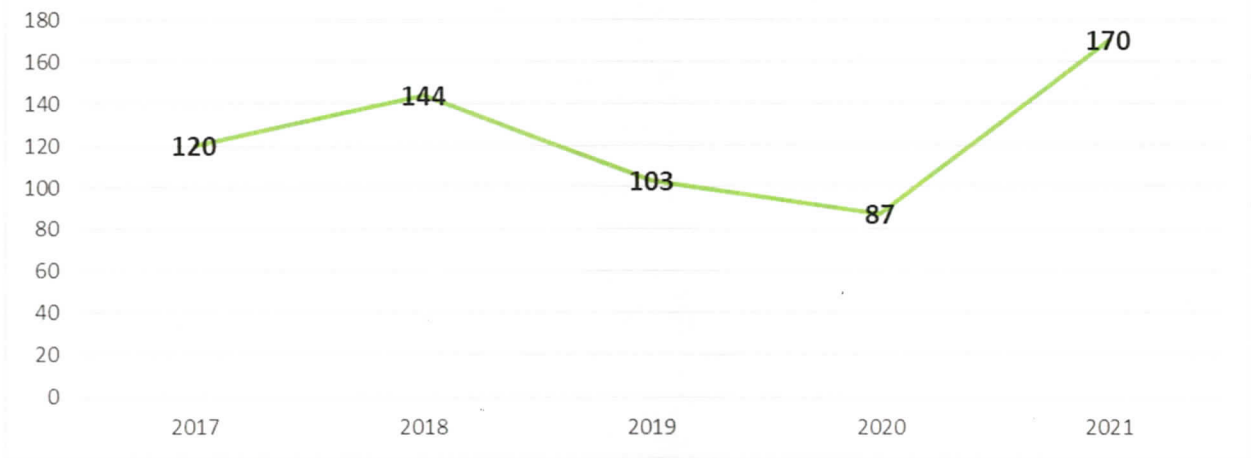


*"Complaints" include calls from private citizens, Probation/Parole agents, or another law enforcement agency. "Officer-initiated activity" includes citizen contacts, suspicious persons/vehicle checks, or other actions initiated by the officers excluding traffic enforcement.*

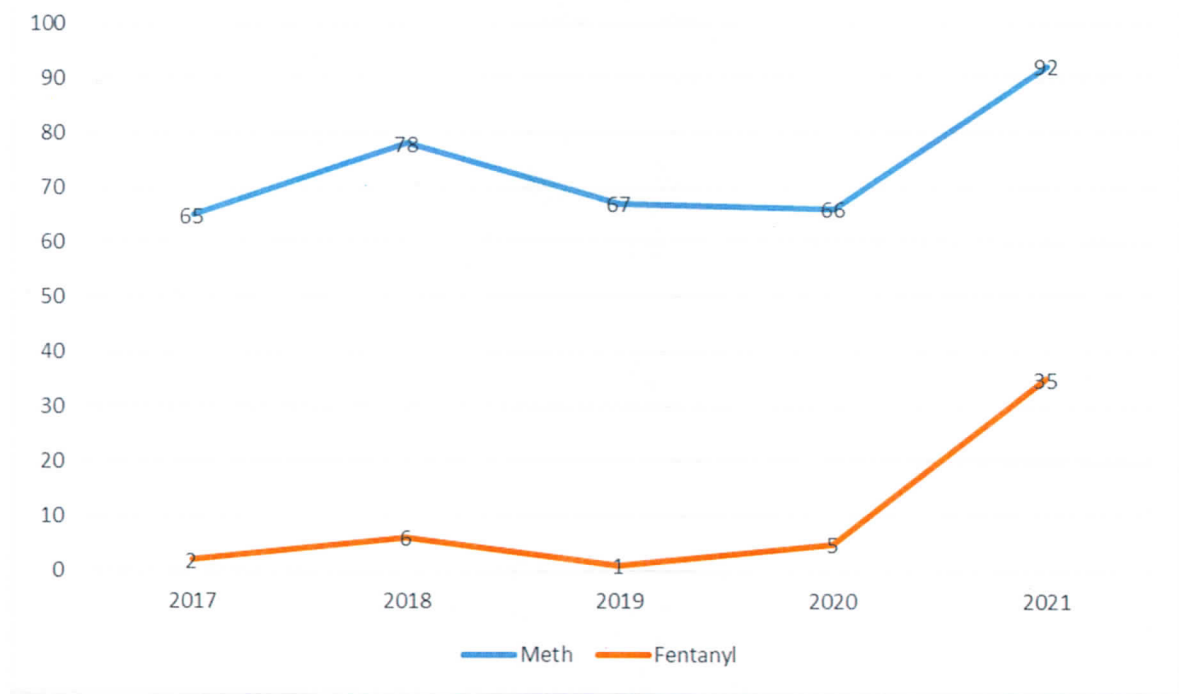
## Five Year Trends



Marijuana Seizures, 5-year Trend



Meth and Fentanyl Seizure Trend



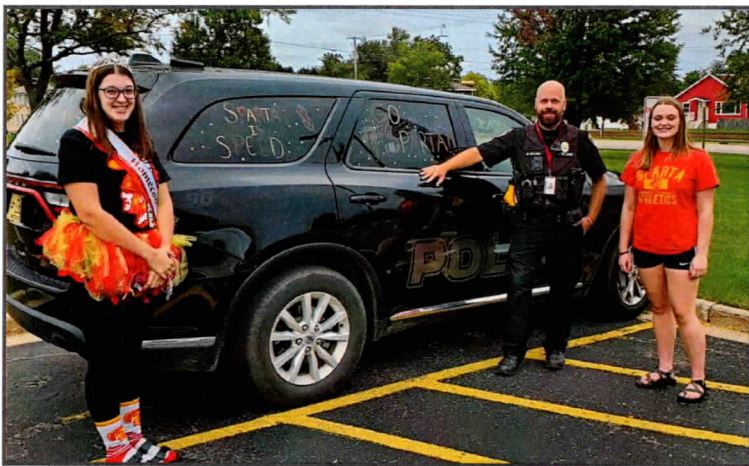
# School Resource Officer

The 2020-2021 school year ended under COVID restrictions with students still using the cohort model. Students and staff were excited for the 2021-2022 school year and a chance to get back to normal. After beginning the school year not having to wear masks, masking was again required throughout the district. However, with masking in place, students were able to attend school five days a week and extracurricular activities were mostly back to pre-COVID scheduling.

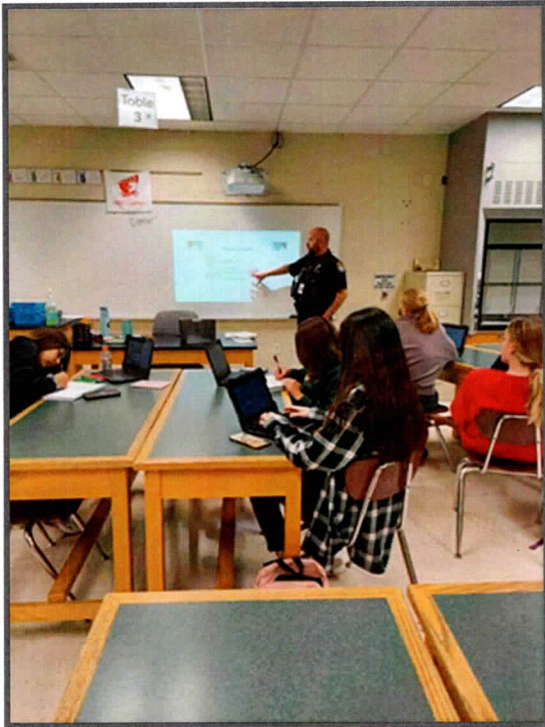
As SRO, Officer Nelson attended regular school board meetings as they quite often became heated over the masking debate. For example, in September, one person was removed from a meeting after spraying the crowd with water while demonstrating their view on the effectiveness of mask wearing.

With the school schedule being mostly back to normal, Officer Nelson enjoyed being able to get back into classrooms and interact with students and staff on a more consistent basis. He could routinely be found reading to elementary kids or speaking to high school government classes or forensic science classes. He also attended sporting events and other events including homecoming, prom, and graduation.

Officer Nelson also had the opportunity to teach CPR and *Stop the Bleed*® classes to high school students. The ability to teach high school aged students basic life-saving skills is a highlight and a very rewarding part of his job.





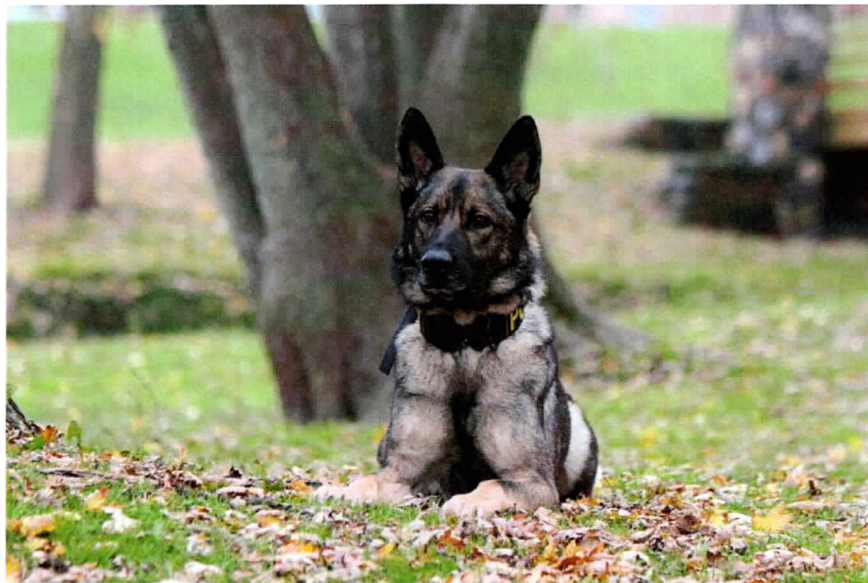




# K-9 Unit

As the lingering effects of COVID-19 started to dwindle throughout 2021, our K9 Unit was able to move back into the swing of things and continue training at least twice a month with our regional training group. Even with the impacted schedule in 2020, both K9 Kaiser and K9 Nash were able to overcome the strict standards set forth by the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) and certified as dual-purpose canines.

## K9 Kaiser



K9 Kaiser (pictured above) is now the eldest working dog in Monroe County and the second eldest dog working in the regional canine training group. Although starting to mix some more grey into his beard, Kaiser is still in great health and assisting officers when time permits.

## Community

During 2021, the Sparta Police Department K9 Unit has several encounters with the public to include- our annual K9 Unit Golf Outing, Theisen's Touch-a-Truck event, contact with local businesses, and Officer James and K9 Nash's encounters with patrons in the downtown district during nightshift.



## **K9 Nash**

Although young, full of energy, and quite meticulous with his drug work, some areas of concern were discovered with K9 Nash. Officer James spent numerous hours training with K9 Nash and working with the vendor, Working K9 in Canada, but the determination was made to exchange K9 Nash for a new canine. The vendor was more than accommodating and exchanged the canine essentially free of charge. We anticipate our new canine, K9 Ronin, will begin with the department in April of 2022. We would like to thank K9 Nash for his service to the department, and welcome K9 Ronin!

## **Facility Dog Xanthos**

Xanthos is our facility dog, serving several purposes for the department. He resides primarily at the police department, going home with his handlers for time-off when no handler is on duty. While wandering the station, Xanthos can be a playful distraction or calming interaction for our officers. When he puts his vest on, he knows it's time to work.

In 2021 Xanthos was deployed for various tasks. He sat with several children during interviews for child abuse or sexual assault. He was a companion for adult victims during their interviews or statements. Xanthos made friends at Sparta Schools while visiting hallways and classrooms, and went to community events to interact with as many people as possible.



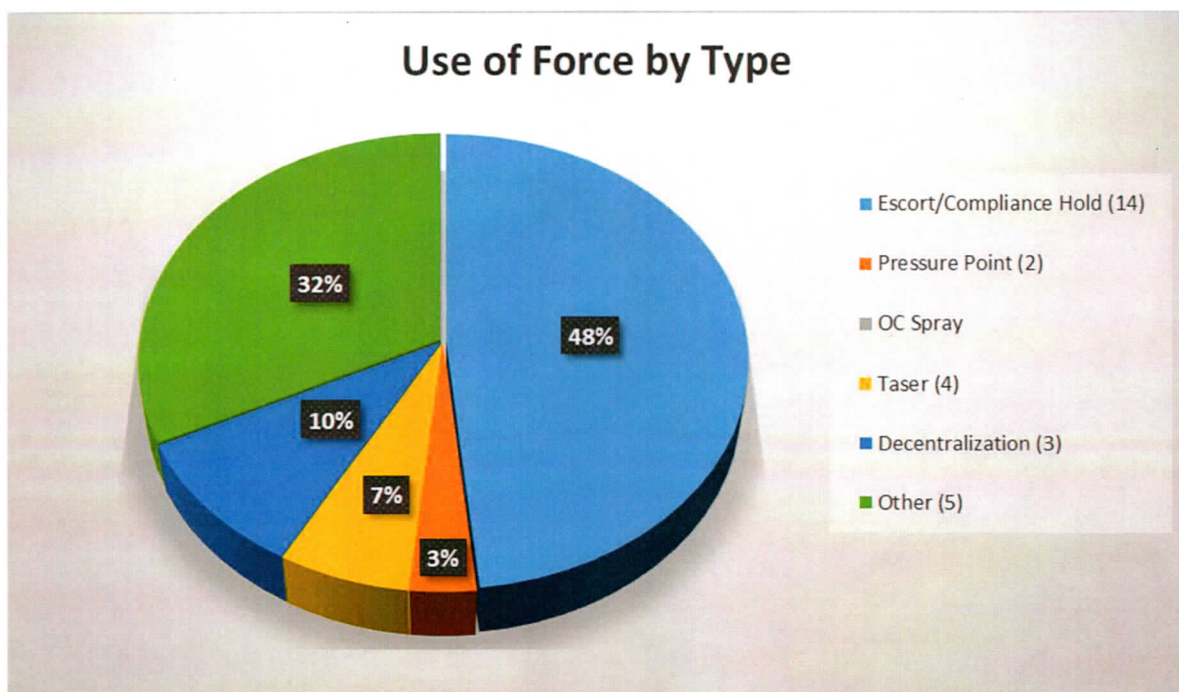


# 2021 Defensive Action Comparison Report

During 2021 the Sparta Police Department responded to over 18,500 calls for service. In the multitude of contacts our officers have with members of the public on a day-to-day basis, and the hundreds of physical arrests that were made during the year, officers only utilized any type of "force" 32 times in 2020. The suspect was actively resisting officers in 26 of those incidents (fleeing, attempting to escape, resisting handcuffing, etc.) and was assaultive toward officers in 6 of those incidents (kicking, striking, spitting, head-butting, grabbing for an officer's firearm, etc.).

You may notice this year's number is higher than in prior years. Some of this increase is explained by a new category of "force" added to our Defensive Action Report. This category is titled "other" and is used for circumstances not otherwise categorized within the report. This is a way for us to track any type of hands-on action that may not historically have been viewed as a use of force. It is typically used by officers in instances such as assisting EMS by holding a combative subject on an ambulance cot for emergency medical treatment, or assisting in the Emergency Room by holding an arm down for a blood draw when needed by medical staff. It may also be used in some other circumstances where an appropriate but otherwise uncategorized technique is utilized.

Once officers complete a Defensive Action Report, that report is reviewed by 3 supervisors. Supervisors have the option of forwarding the DAR to a Defensive and Arrest Tactics Instructor for further review. Following that review, recommendations for further investigation, discipline or training are forwarded to the Chief of Police if needed. A similar review would be done as a result of a citizen complaint regarding inappropriate use of force. In 2021 DAAT instructors completed one use of force review at the request of supervisors. One formal use of force review was conducted by another agency at the request of the Chief of Police. Both incidents were found to be justified uses of force. The Sparta Police Department received no citizen complaints regarding use of force.

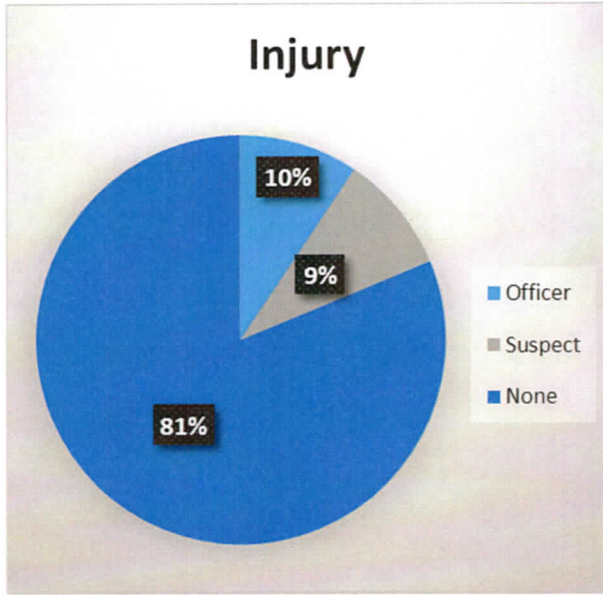


\*More than one type of action may have been used in a single incident. The data includes the highest level of force utilized.

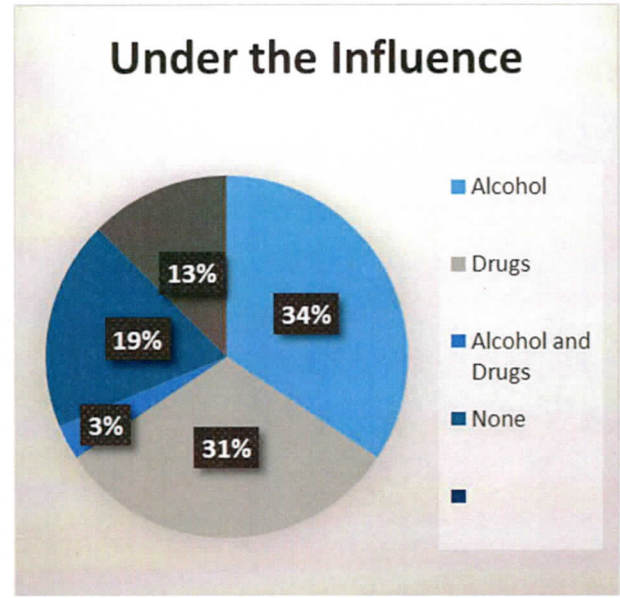


# Defensive Action Statistics

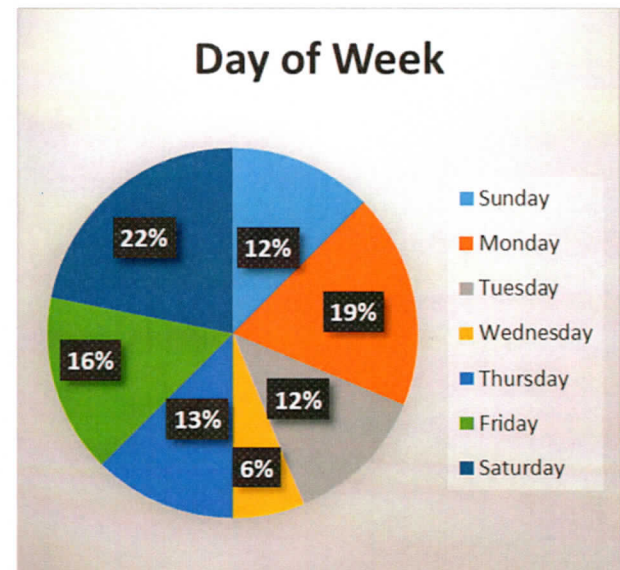
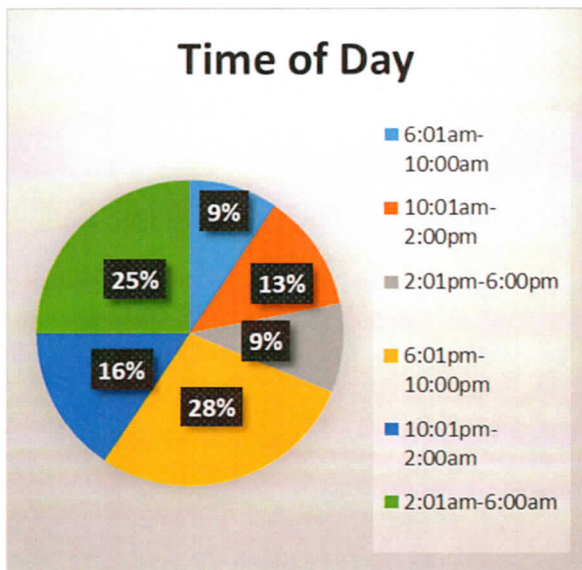
Injury Ratio



Alcohol and/or Drug Use by Suspect During Incident



2021 Defensive Action by:



# 2021 Day Shift Report

The 2021 year brought another year of considerable amount of change and movement amongst the Sparta Police Department officers and their assigned shifts. Dayshift consists of two sides, A and B, not including School Resource Officer Nelson and Detectives Kuen and Tovar. The sides work opposite 12 hour days from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.

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. Numerous officers worked all or parts of dayshift.

## Day Shift Sergeants

- ♦ Sgt. Jason Pipkin (Days)
- ♦ Sgt. Joel Ames (Days)
- ♦ Ofc./Sgt. Guralski (Day Power, Night Power, Days)

## Day Shift Officers

- ♦ Ofc. Zach Fischer (Days, Nights)
- ♦ Officer Kyle Seubert (Days)
- ♦ Officer Kyle Erickson (Nights, Day Power)
- ♦ Officer Ethan Schroder (Days)
- ♦ Officer Jake Ludovice (Day Power)
- ♦ Officer Jager Mitchell (Days, Nights)
- ♦ Officer Tyrel Brey (Nights, Days)
- ♦ Officer Chase Nottestad (Nights, Days)

Calls For Service (CFS) slightly increased from the previous year, even though we still dealt with the effects of COVID 19. Here are just a couple of the cases Sparta PD dayshift officers handled in 2021.

### MONROE COUNTY AXE HOMICIDE

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, officers assisted Monroe County with a disturbance call just outside the City of Sparta on Icarus Road where there were three victims that had sustained injuries from an edged weapon. Officers encountered the suspect outside the home with a rifle. The suspect had suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound prior to first responders' arrival. The suspect was taken into custody.

### **HIT AND RUN OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED**

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, officers were dispatched to the corner of E Wisconsin St and East Ave for a hit and run crash. Contact was made with a witness who stated he did not witness the crash, but he heard it from a residence on Walrath St. He also gave a description of the location of the suspect vehicle. Contact was made with the suspect who parked the vehicle behind his residence to hide it. He admitted he drove the vehicle and had been drinking. The driver was placed through Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and arrested.



### **SUICIDAL PERSON ON THE BRIDGE**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a suicidal individual on the STH 16 (Rasmussen Overpass) bridge. A male individual was found sitting on the parapet with his feet over the side of the bridge. The male individual initially did not respond to officers, but after the subject was recognized officers were able to engage him in conversation. Officers were able to get the male individual to turn around and place his feet down on the bridge. He was taken into custody for a Chapter 51 evaluation.

### **ARMED SUICIDAL PERSON**

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a suicidal individual in the Sugarberry Blvd trailer court. Contact was made with the wife of the subject who was inside the residence with him. An officer was able to speak with the subject over the phone who was intoxicated, complained of neck pain, and stated he was suicidal. An agreement was made where the subject exited the residence without the gun and was taken to the hospital.

### **WINDOW ENTRY DOMESTIC**

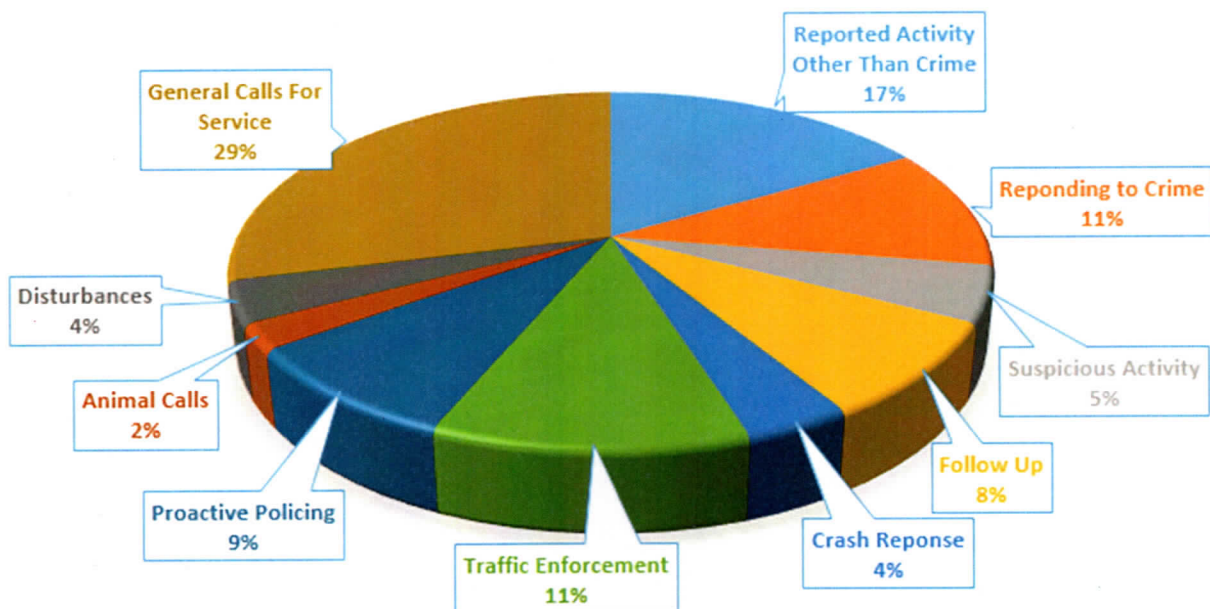
On June 6<sup>th</sup>, officers were dispatched to a residence on Central Ave for a male individual who broke into his girlfriend's residence. Contact was made with the female victim outside the residence who stated she got into a Domestic with her boyfriend at a campground in Vernon County but the Sheriff's Department did not arrest the suspect. She stated she was home when the male individual forced an air conditioner into a first floor room and stated he was going to damage property. A key was used to open the lock on the front door of the residence, however, the door was still chained shut. Officers knocked and announced several times but the suspect barricaded himself inside. The front door of the residence was kicked in and the male suspect was taken into custody.



## HIT AND RUN OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, officers were dispatched to a hit and run crash. The complainant was able to get a plate on the vehicle and officers went to the address to make contact at the suspect. As officers arrived the suspect walked into the residence and did not answer the door. Contact was made with another male party who answered the door and said his brother had possession of his truck. Contact was made with the male suspect inside the residence who pretended he was asleep on the couch just inside the door. The suspect refused Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and was arrested.

## 2021 Day Shift Police Services





# 2021 Night Shift Report

The Sparta Police Department night shift consists of two different sides, "A side" and "B side." Both sides work 12 hours shifts, 6pm – 6am, and opposite nights from each other. Officers working night shift in 2021 included: Sergeant Jenna Lee, Sergeant Kyle Guralski, Sergeant Zach Fischer, Officer Brian James, Officer Brock Mrdjenovich, Officer Jager Mitchell, Officer Chase Nottestad, Officer Jamal Wagner, and Officer Bryce Rheinschmidt.

The Sparta Police Department night shift officers responded to 8,884 calls for service throughout the year. Some of the most notable calls include:

## **Impaired Driver Flees Officers**

On March 2, 2021, a Sparta Officer observed the operator of a motor vehicle drive at varying speeds and strike a curb on Wisconsin St. The officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle for several traffic violations. The officer initiated a pursuit as the operator of the vehicle accelerated and continued to ignore the officer's lights and siren. The vehicle continued westbound on Wisconsin St and Highway 16 until Officers conducted a trained technique; a rolling roadblock. The vehicle eventually came to a stop and the operator was arrested for Operating while Intoxicated – 4<sup>th</sup> Offense, Operating while Revoked, Reckless Driving – Endangering Safety, and Fleeing an Officer. The operator was also cited for several traffic violations.

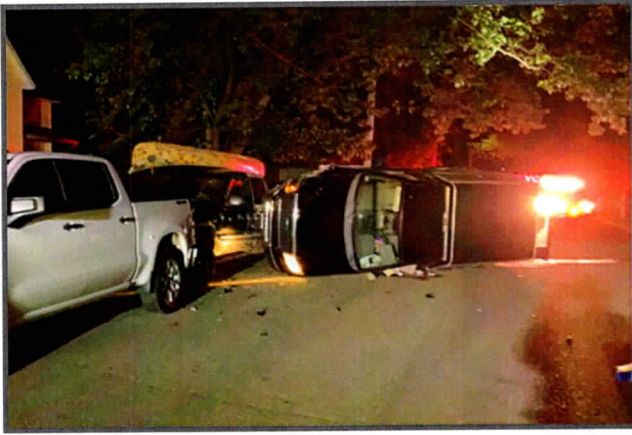
## **Stop Sign Violation Leads to Dad's "Stache"**

On March 11, 2021, a Sparta Officer observed a vehicle fail to stop at the stop sign at the intersection of Tyler St. and Oak St. A traffic stop was performed and the officer noticed the driver's suspicious behavior during questioning. A K9 sniff was executed and the K9 alerted to the vehicle. The vehicle was searched and marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and prescription pills were located. The operator of the vehicle was arrested for Possession of THC, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of an Illegally Obtained Prescription, and Felony Bail Jumping.



## **Intervening Pedestrian Run Over by Vehicle**

On March 14, 2021, Sparta Officers responded to a hit and run crash involving a pedestrian. Officers arrived in front of the Wayside Tavern and found the pedestrian laying in the middle of the roadway. The pedestrian stated he observed a disturbance between a female and the driver of a black truck. When the pedestrian attempted to intervene, the driver of the truck took off and struck the pedestrian. The pedestrian suffered significant injuries. The driver of the truck fled the scene and was not located that night. The driver was referred to the Monroe County District Attorney's Office for 1<sup>st</sup> – Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety and Bail Jumping. The driver was also cited for Hit and Run – Causing Great Bodily Harm and Operating While Revoked.

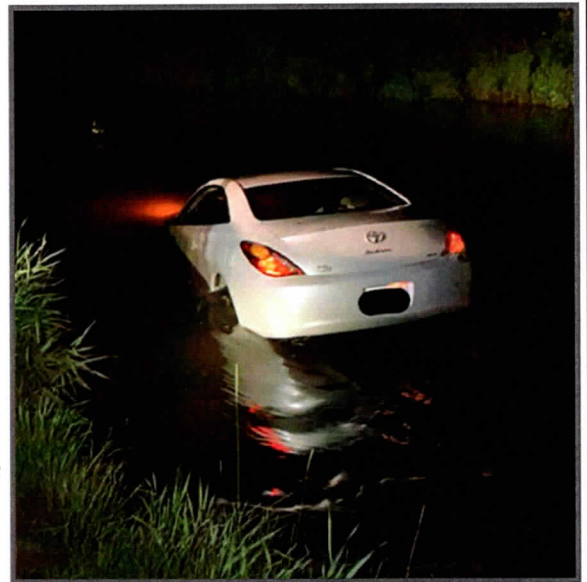


### **Intoxicated Driver Rolls Vehicle**

On June 16, 2021, Sparta Officers responded to a roll-over crash on Kent St. Further investigation determined the operator of the vehicle struck a parked truck and rolled onto its side. Several beer cans were located on the ground near the suspect's vehicle and inside the vehicle. The operator was also found to be intoxicated. The operator was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated – 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense and cited for Inattentive Driving, Operating without Insurance, and Open Intoxicants in a Motor Vehicle.

### **Impaired Driver Leaves Car in La Crosse River**

On July 16, 2021, Sparta Officers responded to a report of a vehicle in the La Crosse River near Ben Bikin' Park. Upon arrival, officers found the vehicle unoccupied and partially submerged in the river. It was determined the driver failed to turn while driving north on Long Ct. as it approached the intersection of Walrath St. The driver of the vehicle was located in the 100 block of E. Oak St. after a Police K-9 was utilized to track the driver to that area using scent from a shoe left behind at the scene. The driver displayed signs of impairment and was taken into custody for Operating while Intoxicated – 1<sup>st</sup> Offense. The driver was cited for Failure to Keep Vehicle Under Control and Failure to Notify Police of Accident.



### **Pursuit Suspect Identified by Kwik Rewards Card**

On August 22, 2021, a Sparta Officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle as it left Kwik Trip, after the registered owner was discovered to have a warrant for their arrest. The vehicle initially stopped but then fled from the stop as the officer approached the vehicle. The vehicle was located parked near a mobile home on Iband Ave. The driver was missing and an uncooperative passenger was located in the vehicle. Contact was made with the registered owner who was taken into custody for their warrant, however, they were later found not to be the driver of the vehicle. Officers returned to Kwik Trip to review store surveillance video in an effort to identify the suspect. Kwik Trip staff advised officers the suspect entered his phone number for his Kwik Rewards Card during his purchase, which they were then able to look up and identify a full name, date of birth, and address for the suspect. The suspect was referred to the District Attorney's Office for Vehicle Operator Flee/Elude Officer and Resisting an Officer. The suspect was cited for Exceeding Speed Zones, Operating after Suspension, Operating Left of Center Line, and Reckless Driving.



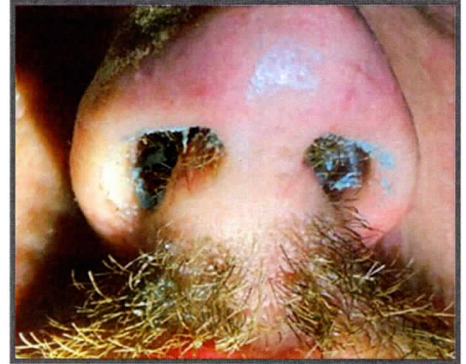


### **Consent Search Leads to Drug Arrest**

On September 5, 2021, a Sparta Officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding. The officer noticed the operator of the vehicle was visibly nervous and shaking. The officer asked the operator for consent to search the vehicle, which the operator granted. During the search of the vehicle, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and cocaine was located. The operator was cited for Operating while Suspended and Speeding. The operator was referred to the District Attorney's Office for Possession of THC, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of Cocaine.

### **Impaired Driver Stopped After Being Warned Not to Drive**

On October 5, 2021, Sparta Officers had spoken with an impaired subject at Kwik Trip after they were called in for suspicious behavior. Officers observed the subject's vehicle at Kwik Trip and warned the subject not to drive until he sobered up. Approximately 5 minutes later, the subject was seen driving out of the parking lot and southbound onto Black River St. A traffic stop was conducted and contact was again made with the suspect, who staggered and displayed body tremors. The suspect denied any recent drug use despite clearly having a blue powder-like residue around their nostrils. The suspect was taken into custody for several charges to include Operating while Intoxicated – 1<sup>st</sup> Offense, Operating while Revoked, Possession of THC, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Possess an Illegally Obtained Prescription.



### **Stabbing in Sparta**

On October 23, 2021, Sparta Officers responded to a reported stabbing in the 700 Block of E. Division St. On scene, officers were met by an uncooperative female who had severe injuries to her face and head. The female attempted to keep officers from entering her residence to locate a male party who had been stabbed in the stomach. Both individuals were eventually detained and transported to medical facilities by ambulance and helicopter due to the severity of their wounds. Once cleared medically, both individuals were arrested for numerous charges to include 2<sup>nd</sup> – Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Aggravated Battery – Intend Bodily Harm, Obstructing an Officer, Possession with Intent to Deliver THC and Cocaine, and Neglecting a Child.

### **Fire on Walrath Street**

On November 19, 2021, Sparta Officers responded to a residential structure fire at 510 Walrath St. The residence, which was determined to be uninhabited, was completely destroyed by the fire. The Sparta Fire Department extinguished the fire and prevented the fire from spreading to the surrounding residences and a lumber yard. The cause of the fire is currently unknown.





# 2021 Police Reserve Unit

The Sparta Police Department Reserve Unit is made up of volunteers who are committed to serving the citizens of Sparta and improving the quality of life for all within the community. The Reserve Unit also augments the Sparta Police Department in times of emergencies and special events. The dedicated members of the Reserve Unit have helped the Sparta Police Department connect with our community in new ways.



The Reserve Unit is supervised by Sergeant Jenna Lee. Members of the Reserve Unit include (from left to right): Jeremy Nichols, Ashley Puent, Benjamin Schock, Ivan Vulovic, Russ Keith, Tony Austin, and Vincent Norris (not pictured).

The Sparta Police Department Reserve Unit participated in monthly meetings and trainings. Some of these trainings included: Professional Communication, Crime Scenes and Evidence Processing, Crowd Control, Traffic Control, and Responding to People in Crisis.

The Sparta Police Department Reserve Unit served the community in several ways throughout the year. The Reserve Unit provided traffic and crowd control at the Memorial Day Parade, the Butterfest Parade, the Butterfest run/walk, the Butterfest Fair Grounds, Concerts in the Park, the House of Shadows, and the Annual Holiday Parade. The Reserve Unit also provided crowd control at several Sparta High School football games. In addition to providing traffic and crowd control, the Reserve Unit assisted the Sparta Police Department with the transportation of individuals placed on a Chapter 51 Hold to facilities throughout the state.

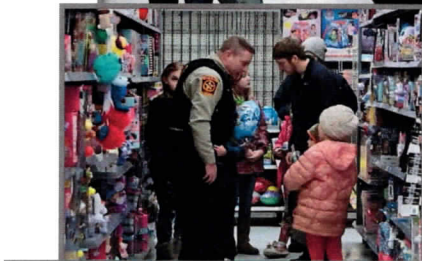
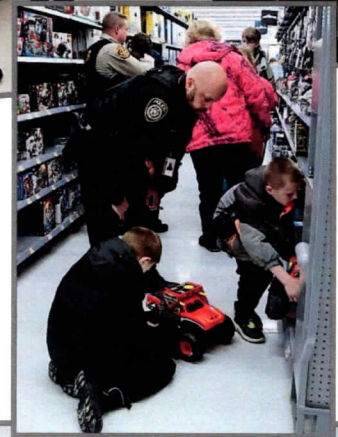




# Shop with a Hero

With local COVID-19 numbers declining toward the end of 2021, we were able to bring Shop with a Hero back to Walmart in it's original format. Thanks to monetary donations from the community, fifty elementary school-aged children were selected by Sparta Area School District staff and invited to attend. Each student was paired up with a member of the Sparta Police Department, Sparta Area Ambulance Service, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, or military personnel from Fort McCoy. The pair was given a Walmart gift card and the child was able to purchase Christmas gifts for themselves or others.

The goal of the event is to promote a positive relationship between the children and the heroes. We also hope to make the holiday season a littler brighter for area kids. As always, the Shop with a Hero event was a huge success.





# 2021—Year of Construction



Preparing for the garage addition



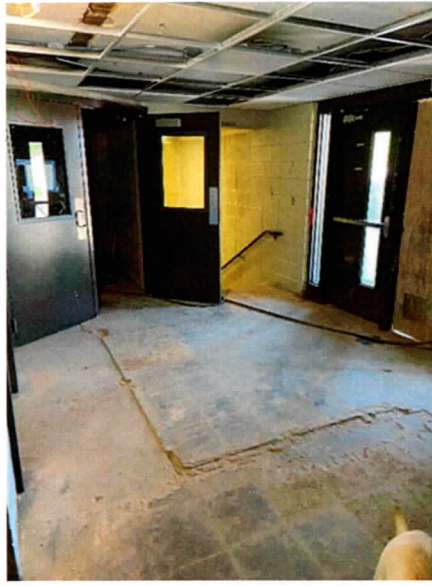
Mid-construction near employee entrance



Behind new addition—west side of building



East side garage entrances



Inside employee entrance



Employee entrance near training room



Garage addition



Garage addition

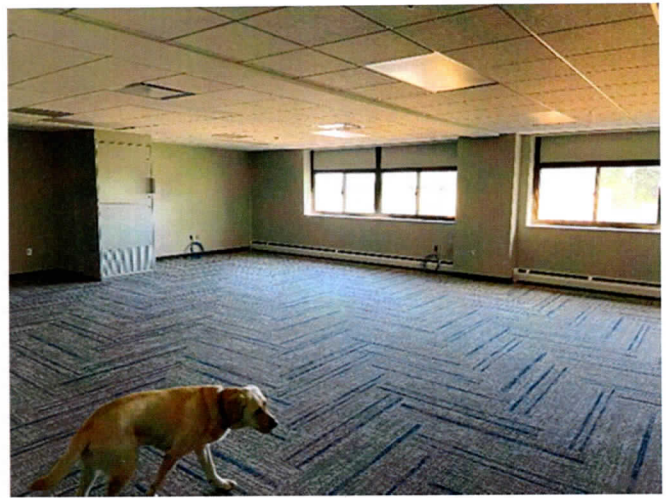


Training Room Hallway

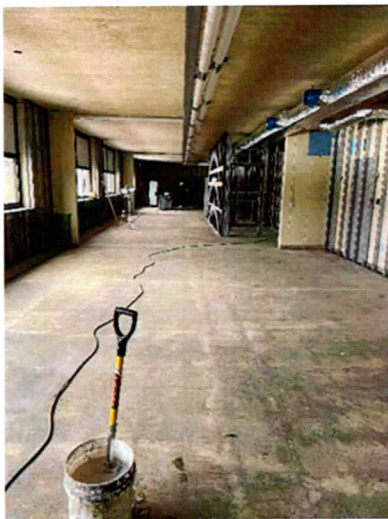




Sergeant's Office



Sergeant's Office



Patrol Room—looking east



Patrol Room—looking east



Patrol Room—looking east



Patrol Room—looking west



Patrol Room—looking west



Patrol Room—looking west





Copy/Supply Room



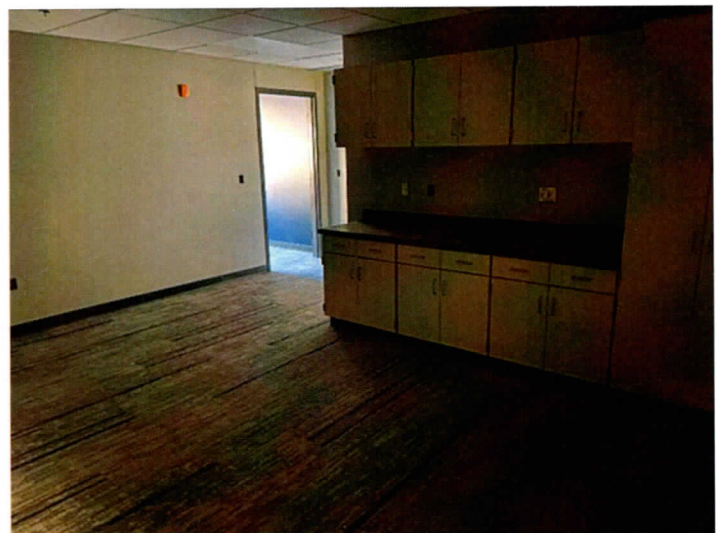
Records Office



Front Lobby



First Floor Hallway



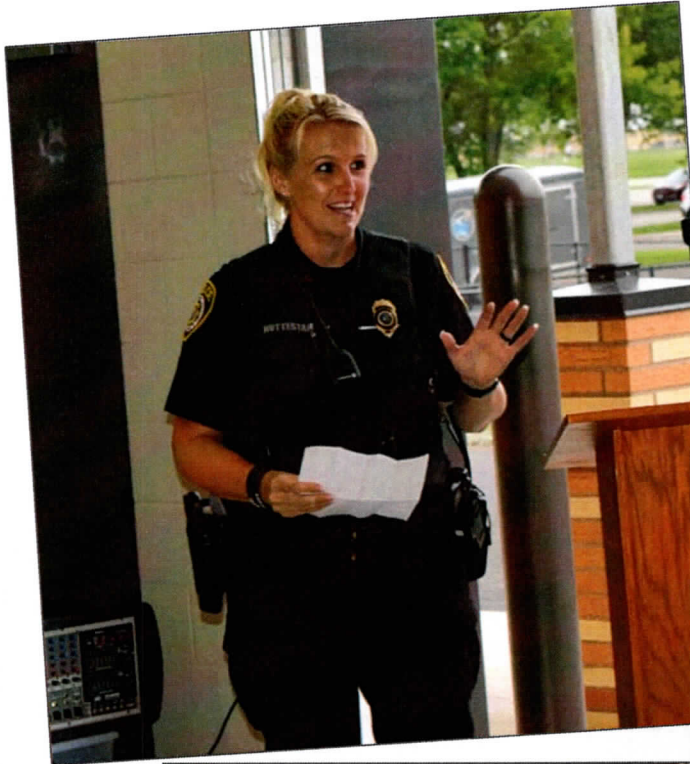
Administration Meeting Area





# Open House

An Open House and ribbon cutting for the new police department was held August 5, 2021. The community was invited to meet some of the officers, take a tour of the new facility, and see how the police department operates. Most visitors can't believe this building was once a school. Those who attended Lakeview School can't believe how much the building has changed.





## **Sparta Police Department**

711 Pine St.

Sparta, WI 54656

608-269-3122

[www.spartawisconsin.org](http://www.spartawisconsin.org)