

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

City of Bloomington Community Members:

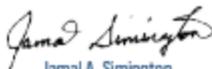
2023 was a year filled with many challenges and much success for the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) and those we have had the honor and privilege to serve. The women and men of this outstanding agency continue to be unyielding in their desire to serve well, making a difference on a daily basis. This end-of-year report highlights the many accomplishments and challenges experienced this past year.

The following are accomplishments to highlight: Crime statistics- in comparison to the 2022 FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System, a 6% overall crime reduction, which includes an 80% reduction in homicides, a 36% reduction in stolen property offenses, a 33% reduction in kidnapping/abduction incidents, a 16% reduction in counterfeiting/forgery incidents, and a 15% reduction in robberies. Motor vehicle crashes decreased by 7%. Intentional community engagement efforts continued to be strong, participating in 346 community events, 20 Coffee with Cop outings, and 13 neighborhood walks. We hosted a School Resource Officer summer academy to further the BPD's youth involvement, serving 27 junior high students. Other community outreach efforts included a Gun Buyback program allowing 217 unwanted guns to be collected and the distribution of 312 safes to residents for secure gun storage. The BPD launched a very successful LightsOn program in partnership with Country Financial, Wal-Mart, and Pro-Tire.

BPD instituted an Axon My90 public survey tool to gauge how well BPD serves the community. Early feedback has determined that 81% of callers requesting police service reported a positive experience (63% very positive). The BPD officers responded to 64,918 police calls for service, which resulted in force only being used in 0.33%, and public complaints against personnel were reported in only 0.26% of the incidents. These low statistics memorialize high professionalism amongst BPD Staff.

The BPD will continue to give these and other crimes the appropriate attention, working to educate the public and better utilize problem-solving and preventive strategies. The BPD members were proud to serve this great community in 2023, and we look forward to a safer and more engaging 2024 as we strive to increase the quality of life through partnerships, transparency, and trust.

Serving is an honor and privilege.



Jamal A. Simington  
Chief of Police

## BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Values*

HONESTY

INTEGRITY

PROFESSIONALISM

REVERENCE FOR LAW

COMMITMENT TO SERVE

RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY





**Jamal A.  
Simington**  
*Chief of Police*



**Aaron A. Veerman**  
*Assistant Chief  
Administration*



**Chad E. Wamsley**  
*Assistant Chief  
Professional Standards*



**Paul D. Williams**  
*Assistant Chief  
Operations*



**Timothy C. Stanesa**  
*Lieutenant*  
*1st Shift Commander*



**Ricard W. Boelettero**  
*Lieutenant*  
*2nd Shift Commander*



**Jeff Albee**  
*Lieutenant*  
*3rd Shift Commander*



**Clayton M. Arnold**  
*Lieutenant*  
*Administrative Services*



**Todd R. McClusky**  
*Lieutenant*  
*Criminal Investigations*



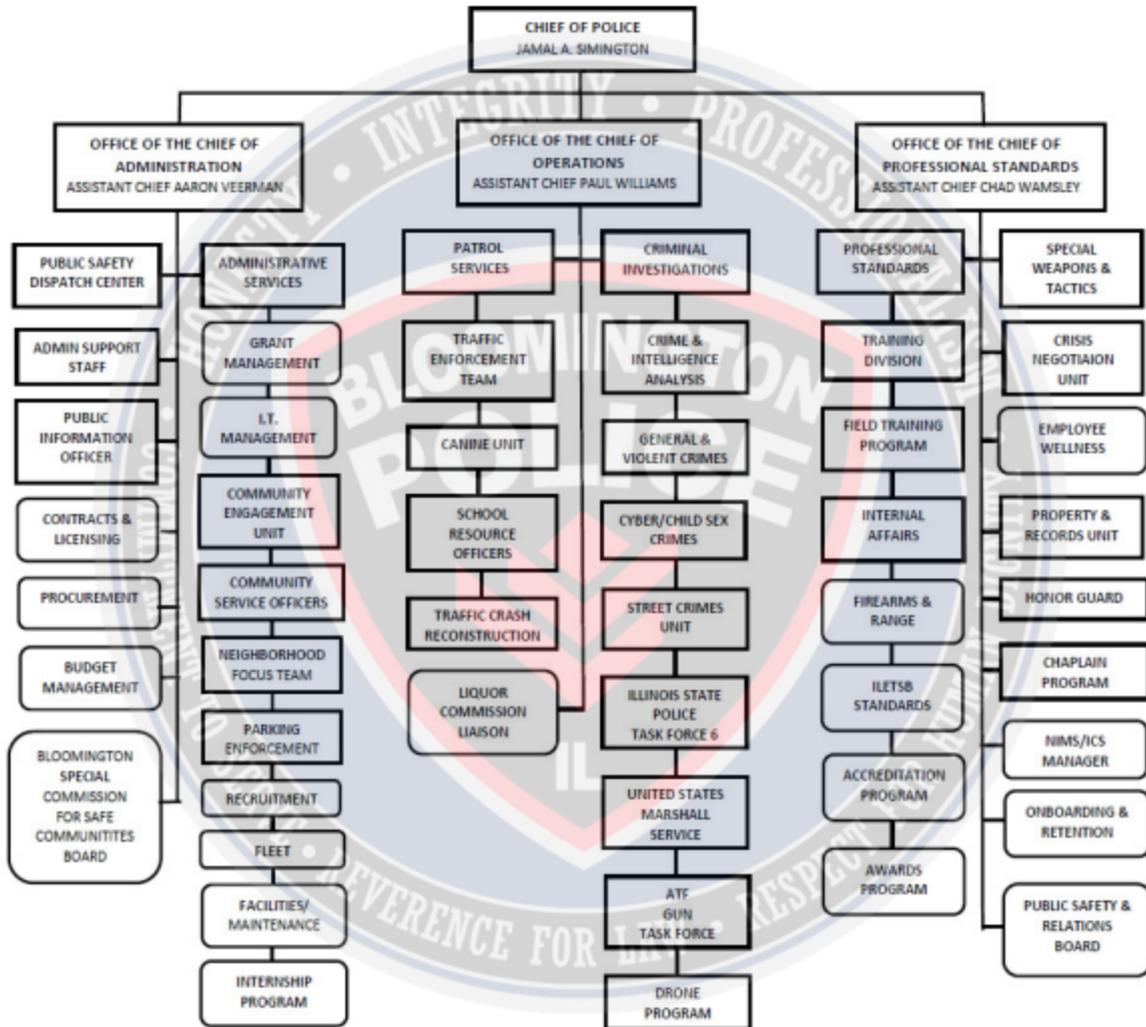
**James B. Clesson**  
*Lieutenant*  
*Professional Standards*

**126**  
Total  
Sworn  
Officers

**31**  
Non-Sworn  
Staff

**6**  
Part-time  
Non-Sworn  
Staff

# ORGANIZATION



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The mission of the Bloomington Police Department is to work in partnership with the community members of Bloomington to enforce the laws and to enhance the quality of life in our community.



→ Improve the Quality of Life in Neighborhoods



→ Reduce Crime and the Fear of Crime



→ Strengthen and Diversify Our Workforce



→ Maintain Advances in Law Enforcement Technology

# ASSISTANT CHIEF OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Assistant Chief of Professional Standards oversees all aspects of the investigation of citizen complaints and internal investigations, accreditation, training, applicant testing and onboarding, employee backgrounds, promotional testing, worker's compensation and injury, officer wellness, peer support, evidence and records management, and the Special Weapons and Tactics and Crisis Negotiation Team.

## During 2023, this office was responsible for:

- The hiring of 18 new police officers and the oversight and supervision of 15 Field Training Officers/Supervisors. Last year was an unprecedented year regarding the number of officers hired and processed through our training programs. This growth required an expansion in the number of field trainers and training supervisors within BPD.
- Organizing and managing 56,232 academy, classroom, and street-level training hours for all officers.
- Overseeing the process and quality controls applied during BPD's employment background investigation process.
- Four background investigators completing 70 background investigations, 25 of which involved police officer candidates.
- Expanding the employee Peer Support team to include additional outreach counselors, opportunities, and availability. This growth helps support the ongoing emotional wellness needs of our BPD first responders.
- Overseeing the Records Division to include the processing of 4,345 pieces of evidence.
- Overseeing BPD's first re-accreditation process by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. Accreditation ensures our agency is adhering to professional standards while delivering high levels of quality service.
- Progressing BPD's 30x30 program which focuses our agency on advancing the representation and experiences of women in policing.
- Working with the Public Safety and Community Relations Board on issues including Automatic License Plate Readers, Public Safety Cameras and post-police contact survey data.
- Deploying the BPD Honor Guard six times at parades, funerals, and ceremonies.
- The processing of 1,499 Freedom of Information Act requests, a 13% increase from 2022.



# 30X30

Advancing women in policing





# ASSISTANT CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

The Assistant Chief of Administration oversees the police administration office, the Emergency Communications Center, Community Service Officers, Neighborhood Focus Team, building maintenance, custodians, vehicle maintenance, information technology, contracts, police department budgets, procurement, capital projects, grant management, community engagement, public information, recruitment, and internship programs.

## During 2023, this office was responsible for:

- Completing the 2025 Fiscal Budget.
- Relocating the Parking Enforcement Unit to BPD from the City Facilities Department. In 2023, the unit issued 9,254 parking tickets in Bloomington.
- Acquiring 17 new squad cars to include a redesign of BPD squad cars.
- Expanding the License Plate Reader and Public Safety Cameras systems.
- Obtaining a new electronic ticketing system/hardware for patrol officers.
- Obtaining and installing new moving radar units.
- Overseeing the request and application of funds in three grant programs.
- Overseeing the acquisition of numerous new technologies to increase departmental efficiency and officer-level effectiveness.
- Selecting a new Public Information Officer, Front Desk staff and Janitorial staff.
- Collaborating with Bloomington Fire on a new asset and fleet tracking system.
- Conducting research and development on a new departmentwide notification and information system.
- Streamlining and enhancing the current Information Technology support process for BPD.
- Developing plans for a new BPD Citizen Academy (in 2024).
- Overseeing civilian Community Service Officers, who took 628 reports in 2023.
- Acquiring new aerial technology through the purchase of three drones.
- Settling numerous contracts with outside vendors and external agencies.
- Acquiring and launching the new My90 citizen feedback system.
- Organizing and managing the department's first ever gun buy-back program.
- Acting as the BPD liaison for the new Special Commission for Safe Communities.
- Organized and deployed a community gun safe giveaway program.

# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

is comprised of 22 full and part-time dispatchers.

30,844

911 Calls

103,589

Non-Emergency  
Calls



64,918

Dispatched  
Police

13,848

Dispatched  
Fire

The Emergency Communications Center (ECC) handles all emergency and non-emergency police, fire and emergency medical service communications within the corporate limits for the City of Bloomington. The center provides a robust safety net by coordinating the responses of both the Bloomington Police Department and the Bloomington Fire Department, while also dealing with additional public and private services across the city as they relate to emergencies. The center uses a variety of advanced technologies to coordinate and disseminate decision making information in real-time.

In 2023, five new public safety dispatchers were hired and trained. The ECC maintained 12 consecutive months of performance standards that met or exceeded the standards established by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch. In 2023, the center was the only ECC in Illinois to receive recognition as an "Accredited Center of Excellence". The ECC was also recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for meeting essential training and policy elements that demonstrated preparedness for responding to a missing child incident. Numerous public safety dispatchers were recognized for exemplary performance throughout the year for contributing to positive community outcomes. The ECC continued to integrate new technologies into the Center that enhanced their ability to communicate efficiently with callers in need of assistance. Public safety dispatchers completed hundreds of hours of ongoing continuing education to keep their skills sharp and ready to respond.



# PATROL DIVISION

is comprised of three lieutenants, nine sergeants, and 64 patrol officers.

1,617  
Total Arrests

64,507  
Calls for Service

10,533  
Traffic Stops

1,961  
Total Crash Reports

In 2023, 1st Shift officers handled a wide variety of calls for service, conducted focused traffic stops in high crash areas and increased their focus on school zone enforcement during school days. Officers were assigned problem-oriented tasks including acting as the police/business liaisons in the downtown corridor, attended Coffee with a Cop events and handled 110 requests for special event support. 2nd Shift officers remained very busy, handled more than 20,000 calls, conducted over 3,000 traffic stops, while also making time to participate in numerous community events. 3rd Shift officers maintained a focus on the downtown corridor, by providing specialized downtown patrol details to enhance public safety. This shift also provided two specialized traffic details per week and deployed targeted DUI patrols in high traffic areas of the city. The Patrol Division's continued focus on impaired driving resulted in 276 DUI arrests.

All patrol shifts maintained a strong focus on the removal of illegal firearms through various enforcement efforts. These efforts led to the seizure of 60 illegal firearms in Bloomington. Patrol supervisors continue to use data driven approaches to direct traffic enforcement at high-accident locations in our ongoing efforts to reduce crashes, vehicle fatalities and distracted driving across the city. In 2023, Bloomington experienced a 2.2% decrease in traffic crashes when compared to 2022.

BPD utilized a single canine unit for the majority of 2023 with a second K9 unit being added in November. The two K9 units were utilized on 80 patrol incidents, conducting 250 searches leading to seizures of illegal contraband and weapons. The K9 units also participated in numerous community demonstrations.



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

is comprised of a lieutenant, three sergeants, eighteen detectives, two officers and three analysts.

503  
Cases Assigned

1,662  
Pieces of Evidence  
Processed

The division's eighteen detectives are responsible for the investigation of serious crimes against person as well as property crimes. In 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) investigated a variety of crimes to include shootings, arsons, sexual assaults, financial crimes, and crimes against children. Detectives made 145 arrests, investigated 30 shootings, three homicides (one local, two McLean County assists), and numerous organized theft rings.

The CID Commander graduated from a 400-hour Northwestern University Center for Public Safety Staff and Command school and two detectives were added to the division. An existing detective staffed a new position within the U.S. Department of Justice, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) Central Illinois Gun Task Force to enhance enforcement on gun offenders. As part of this partnership, BPD is installing a NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) terminal in our crime lab. This system will allow BPD to evaluate and link cases using examination of fired bullet cartridges.

The Street Crimes Unit continued their focus on habitually violent offenders, handgun violators and wanted felons. Their enforcement efforts led to 185 arrests, the seizure of 212 grams of cocaine and the recovery of 11 illegally possessed handguns. The Crime and Intelligence Analysis Unit continued to coordinate and support the department's Intelligence-led policing efforts. This unit provided analytical and investigative support in over 1,472 cases, a 34% increase over 2022.

CID committed a new member of the Street Crimes Unit to the US Marshal's Central Illinois Fugitive Task Force. CID also staffs three BPD investigator positions within the Illinois State Police, Task Force 6, a multi-county, multijurisdictional narcotics investigation group. In 2023, our drug investigators arrested 48 narcotics traffickers, seized 12 illegally possessed guns, seized 49,000 grams of cannabis, 1,188 grams of cocaine, and 149 grams of methamphetamine.



# NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS TEAM

is a three officer unit within the Community Engagement Unit.

This team is responsible for enhancing community safety by resolving various neighborhood concerns, ranging from minor and chronic nuisances to criminal matters.

Duties assigned to the team can be a wide spectrum of activities ranging from consistently disruptive properties, code enforcement issues, nuisance properties, nuisance vehicle towing, sex offender registration and dissemination of information concerning quality of life issues.

#### Animal Complaint Officer/Towing:

Oversees the tagging and towing of abandoned vehicles, and issues related to animal bites, including ensuring animal owners are compliant with related city codes.

#### Community Development Liaison Officer:

Works closely with the city's Community Development inspectors to assist them in code enforcement, inspections, and property maintenance violations.

#### Sex Offender Compliance Officer

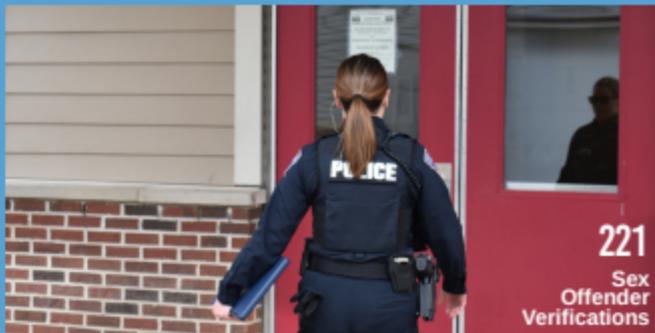
Maintains registration records and oversees compliance checks on Sex Offenders and other violent offenders required to register with the police department.



1,030  
Vehicles  
Towed



264  
Property  
Violation  
Follow-Ups



221  
Sex  
Offender  
Verifications

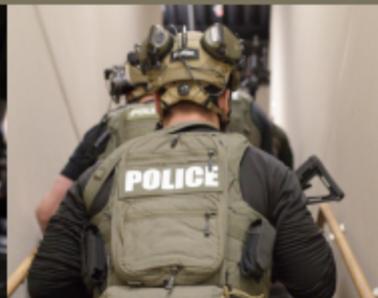
# SWAT AND CNU

5  
CNU  
Activations

9  
SWAT  
Activations



The CNU (Crisis Negotiation Unit) consists of one supervisor and eleven police officers. Team members train every other month on a variety of scenarios to include barricaded individuals, suicidal subjects and hostage negotiation. This team works in conjunction with all other responding officers to peacefully resolve emergencies through direct communication with at-risk subjects. In August, CNU was utilized on a suspect that was refusing to exit their apartment. SWAT entered the apartment taking the subject into custody without injury. In November, CNU responded to a barricaded subject call related to a recent homicide. SWAT successfully deployed, taking both suspects into custody without incident.



The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is composed of 15 specially selected, trained, and equipped officers. In order to enhance preparedness within the community, the SWAT team personnel often take part in joint training operations with other tactical teams from the area, the BPD K-9 Unit, and the BPD Crisis Negotiations Unit. During 2023, the Bloomington SWAT team successfully served multiple high-risk search warrants, and resolved several barricaded subject operations. One such operation resulted in the arrest of a suspect sought for shooting an individual, while another led to the arrests of two suspects in a homicide being investigated by the McLean County Sheriff's Office.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

are housed in three schools within Unit 5 and District 87 school systems.



School Resource Officers have a diverse role in the local schools, with an officer assigned to a middle school (Evans), a junior high school (BJHS) and a high school (BHS). They perform three main roles: law enforcement officer, counselor and mentor to children of all ages. All School Resource Officers are certified by the National Association of School Resource Officers.

They work with each school's administrator to maintain a safe environment, act as a visible deterrent, and at times assist in conflict resolution. They do not enforce school rules or policies.

During the summer, BPD SROs spearheaded the inaugural summer youth academy. Attendees were nominated by teachers, in both school districts, with 27 total youth completing this violence prevention program/camp.



3,145  
Students Served  
by BPD SROs



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT

346

Community  
Events

20

Coffee With A  
Cop Events

13

Neighborhood  
Walks

The Community Engagement Unit (CEU) is responsible for initiating new relationships, while also strengthening and maintaining current positive relationships within the community through various methods of outreach, responsiveness, and education.



The Community Engagement Unit (CEU) provides the opportunity and safe space for community members to get to know officers and ask questions. The unit consists of one sergeant, the Public Information Officer and three officers from the Neighborhood Focus Team.

In 2023, CEU expanded the Neighborhood Walk program to include smaller, targeted, crime-responsive walks. These walks are conducted after a shooting or a major drug arrest to fact-find, assure the neighbors police are on top of local issues, while also promoting transparency. Through the CEU, BPD continues to strengthen relationships with a wide variety of places of worship, various non-profit organizations, schools and many others. In 2023, BPD received 346 invitations to block parties, celebrations, and community meetings, a 40% increase over 2022.



CEU also visited schools and daycares at 35 locations, introducing BPD as safe protectors to our youngest citizens. This unit provided educational presentations at 39 different events on a variety of subjects such as Active Shooter Awareness, De-escalation For Civilians, Bullying, Women's Safety, and Your Police & You, which is designed to reduce fear and anxiety for situations when citizens interact with police.



The CEU continues to partner with a wide array of local organizations including Neville House, Project Oz, Western Avenue Community Center, YWCA, The Boys & Girls Club of BN, YMCA, Miracle League, District 87, Unit 5, Immigration Project, Mid-Central Community Action, Marc First, 100 Caring Adults, St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry, BN Parents and a number of local churches.

# DEPARTMENTAL OUTREACH

88  
Press  
Releases

394  
Social Media  
Posts

45,000  
Facebook  
Followers

is conducted through a variety of means as a way to directly engage with the community.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) disseminates departmental information to the public using a variety of social media platforms as well as public presentations. The department's use of social media continues to increase each year with the leveraging of existing and new platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Nextdoor and Instagram). These platforms, in conjunction with our departmental transparency portal, also support our ongoing mission to make departmental policy, data and information readily available to the public.

In late 2023, BPD became the second agency in Illinois to begin using the My90 public engagement feedback tool. This anonymous system allows individuals who have had past police contact to rate their contact, as well as voice any concerns they have about the service levels received. Within the feedback data, respondents in over 80% of the incidents reported being treated with respect, treated fairly and being listened to by the officer(s). BPD will continually monitor the feedback received from this outreach program.

In January, BPD launched the Lights On program which allows officers to handout repair vouchers rather than tickets for burned-out vehicle bulbs. In June, the department gave away 312 gun safes to local gun owners in an effort to further secure firearms in our community. In October, the department hosted its first gun buy-back program, collecting 217 unwanted handguns and rifles. In 2023, officers also participated in Trunk or Treat, downtown holiday caroling, multiple Coffee with a Cop events, neighborhood walks, K9 demonstrations, local food pantry distribution days and back to school student events.



## ACCOUNTABILITY

The Bloomington Police Department is committed to providing fair and impartial law enforcement. We demonstrate this commitment through the use of our Office of Professional Standards (OPS).

### 64,918 POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE

#### COMPLAINTS

**0.26 %**

calls for service resulting in a complaint against employees

**17**

Formal Complaints Filed  
Down from 21  
in 2022

#### USE OF FORCE

**0.33 %**

calls for service resulting in a use or display of force

**211**

of 64,918 calls, where officers used or displayed force

**1**

Complaint referred to the Public Safety and Community Relations Board

## TRAINING

Training is the foundation of department performance. Task specific, legal and specialized training all play a part in the operation of a highly competent and professional department. The department conducts 23 core trainings for all officers, some on a yearly basis, some over the course of three years in a rotating fashion.

#### FOCUS - YEARLY

Bloodborne Pathogens  
Crisis Intervention  
Emergency Medical Response  
Handgun and Weapons (16 hours)  
Handgun Qualification  
Firearm Restraining Act  
Legal Updates (monthly)  
Officer Wellness and Mental Health  
Psychology of Domestic Violence  
Use of Force (30 hrs. across 3 years)

#### FOCUS - EVERY 3 YEARS

Civil Rights  
Constitutional Use of Law Enforcement Authority  
Cultural Competency  
De-escalation  
High Risk Traffic Stops  
Human Rights  
Law Concerning Stops, Seizure and Use of Force  
Officer Safety Techniques  
Procedural Justice  
Reporting of Child Abuse  
Sexual Assault Trauma Response

In 2023, all departmental supervisors took part in two days of training focused on servant leadership, empowering others and culture change.



# POLICE AND DISPATCHER RECRUITMENT



## The department continued an aggressive recruitment campaign in 2023

- Attended 43 job fairs / recruitment events
- Trained additional officers as recruiters
- Created an ad campaign to support minority recruitment
- Deployed targeted ads on Facebook and Instagram
- Continued outreach to minority churches and groups
- Continued our 30x30 campaign to increase female applicants
- Provided "How to Get Hired" sessions at local colleges

**376**  
Police Officer  
Applications Submitted

**18**  
Officers Hired

**247**  
Dispatcher  
Applications Submitted

**5**  
Dispatchers Hired

# TECHNOLOGY



Expanded automatic license plate reader system



Began acquisition of NIBIN, a shell casing matching system



Finalized Records Management System Replacement



Began upgrades to mobile platforms



Launched a BPD Drone Program



Acquired handheld narcotics analyzer



Equipped all squad cars with mobile radar detection units



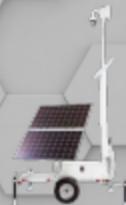
Expanded our Public Safety Camera System



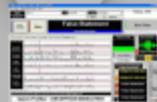
Began upgrades to vehicle fleet in-car cameras



Upgraded technology in briefing rooms



Purchased additional Public Safety trailer cameras



Equipped detectives with voice stress analysis interview hardware

As part of our Strategic Plan, our agency is committed to the use of various technologies, both internally and externally, to stay current with advancements and to ensure we are serving the public most effectively and efficiently. During 2023, the Information Technology Department assigned a full-time IT position to the police department.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## Awarded for Lifesaving

Sgt. Kiel Nowers	Ofc. A. Vasquez Jr.	Ofc. Brent Smallwood
Ofc. William Shelton	Ofc. Samantha Berry	Ofc. Eric Riegelein

## Exemplary Performance

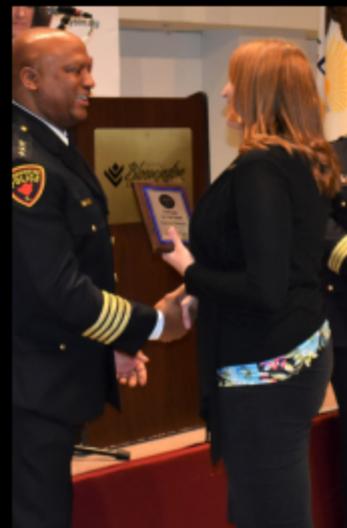
Ofc. A. Vasquez Jr. (4)	CDA Carl Fever	Ofc. Nikolai Jones
Spv. Jack McQueen	Ofc. William Buchanan	Ofc. Molly Monahan
CIA Sharon Murphy	Ofc. Michael Perry	Ofc. Brent Smallwood
Ofc. Steven Moreland	Ofc. Scott Sikora	

## Unit Citation

A/C Chad Wamsley	Ofc. Shad Wagehoft	Ofc. Scott Day
Sgt. Ivy Thornton	Ofc. Molly Monahan	Ofc. Nikolai Jones

## Awarded Letter of Commendation

Lt. Richard Beoletto	Spv. Jack McQueen (2)	Ofc. Hunter Clark
Lt. Todd McClusky	Det. Kevin Raisbeck	Ofc. Joeseeph Rizzi (2)
Sgt. J. Swartzentruber	Ofc. Andy Chambers	Ofc. Chance Hilliard
Ofc. Alex Freshour	Ofc. Weston Gresham	Ofc. Steven Moreland
Ofc. Bryce Janssen	Ofc. Anna Legner	Ofc. Ethan Schmidgall
Ofc. N. VanWaes	Ofc. Andrew Chambers	PSD Addison Jepsen
	K9 Jaxx	



# CRIME STATISTICS

As reported to the FBI, NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System) includes all crimes against persons, property and society. Totals may be adjusted over time due to re-classification as being investigated or reports filed after year-end.

**17,475** Reports Written  
**1,539** Adult Arrests  
**78** Juvenile Arrests

## Shootings / Weapons

2022 2023 5 Year Ave.

### Gun Violence

Shootings	42	30	32.6
Persons Shot	15	9	11.8
Homicide by Gun	5	0	2

### Gun Seizures

Handguns	81	59	48.7
Rifles	2	2	2.5
Shotguns	5	1	2.3

### Guns Reported Stolen (in Bloomington)

Stolen Guns	26	32	44.4
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## NIBRS Comparison 2022 vs. 2023

2022 2023 Change

### Crimes Against Persons

Assault Offenses	1,570	1,502	-4%
Homicide Offenses	5	1	-80%
Human Trafficking	1	1	0%
Kidnapping/Abduction	18	12	-33%
Sex Offenses	74	103	39%
<b>Total Crimes Against Persons</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>1,619</b>	<b>-3%</b>

### Crimes Against Property

Arson	8	14	75%
Bribery	0	0	NC
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	126	151	20%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	56	47	-16%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	529	539	2%
Embezzlement	0	1	NC
Extortion/Blackmail	9	21	133%
Fraud Offenses	384	392	2%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	857	786	-8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	84	131	56%
Robbery	20	17	-15%
Stolen Property Offenses	18	11	-39%
<b>Total Crimes Against Property</b>	<b>2,091</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>1%</b>

### Crimes Against Society

Animal Cruelty Offenses	30	3	-90%
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	182	86	-53%
Gambling Offenses	0	0	NC
Pornography/Obscene Material	58	27	-53%
Prostitution Offenses	14	2	-86%
Weapon Law Violations	173	103	-40%
<b>Total Crimes Against Society</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>-52%</b>

**Grand Totals** 4,216 3,950 -6%