

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

"TO PROTECT AND SERVE WITH INTEGRITY, COURAGE, COMPASSION AND INTELLIGENCE"



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Table of Contents

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
Comments from the Chief	3
Organizational Chart	4
Mission Statement	5
Budget and Personnel	6
Officer of the Year	7
Outstanding Officer of the Year	8
Rookie of the Year	9
Officers of the Quarter	10
Civilian Employee of the Year	11
Outstanding Civilian Employee of the Year	12
Outstanding Civilian Employee of the Year	13
Civilian Employees of the Quarter	14
CAD Events and Service Calls	15
Part I Crimes	16
Violent Crimes	17
Property Crimes	18
Criminal Arrests	19
Non-Criminal Enforcement	20
Uniform Patrol Division	21
Criminal Investigations Division	22
Specialized Units (Traffic Unit, Canine (K9) Unit, Honor Guard, and SWAT)	23
Communications Section and Records Section	27
Code Enforcement	28
Community Relations/Crime Prevention	29
Citizen's Academy and Citizens on Patrol	30
Shop with a Cop and Bicycle Give-Away	31
Training and Education	32
New Hires	33
Disclaimer	34



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Robert W. Hicks

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF

2020



As your Chief of Police, I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report for the Leesburg Police Department. The primary purpose of this report is to provide the community with transparency in government and to show how we meet the challenges that face our community. This report offers a glimpse of the Police Department's operations and presents a detailed summary of police programs implemented, calls for service, arrest data, traffic crash data, DUI data, citation data, and includes revenues collected. In 2020, we again experienced a reduction in Part I crimes. In 2020 there was a nineteen percent decrease (-19%) in Part I Crimes as reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the Department's Uniform Crime Report. Both Violent and Property Part I crimes, as a whole, decreased in 2020.

In 2020, data revealed a twelve and a half percent (-12.5%) decrease in calls for service, with officers responding to over 40,486 calls for service. A large part of this decrease is likely due to the pandemic that effected many aspects of our lives. In addition to the normal policing duties such as patrol, traffic enforcement, and investigations our staff further expanded the Intelligence Led Policing model, allowing a more thorough analysis of crime data, community information and information from surrounding law enforcement jurisdictions and other criminal justice agencies. Analysis of the available information afforded staff to better understand the crime trends and provide a more focused effort in areas of concern throughout the city. This model incorporates all stakeholders within the community and further builds upon the working partnership with community members, we rely on to continue making Leesburg a better place to live and work.

As previously mentioned, community involvement has been and continues to be a cornerstone of the policing model in the City of Leesburg. Although 2020 was a unique year due to the pandemic, officers took part in a few community events during the year including Christmas Bicycle and Gift Give-A-Way with Santa, Shop With A Cop, and Citizen's Academy, just to name a few. Due to limited contact during the pandemic, the community involvement activities were modified so, as a department, the community engagement activities continued to provide opportunities to build and maintain lasting relationships and community trust.

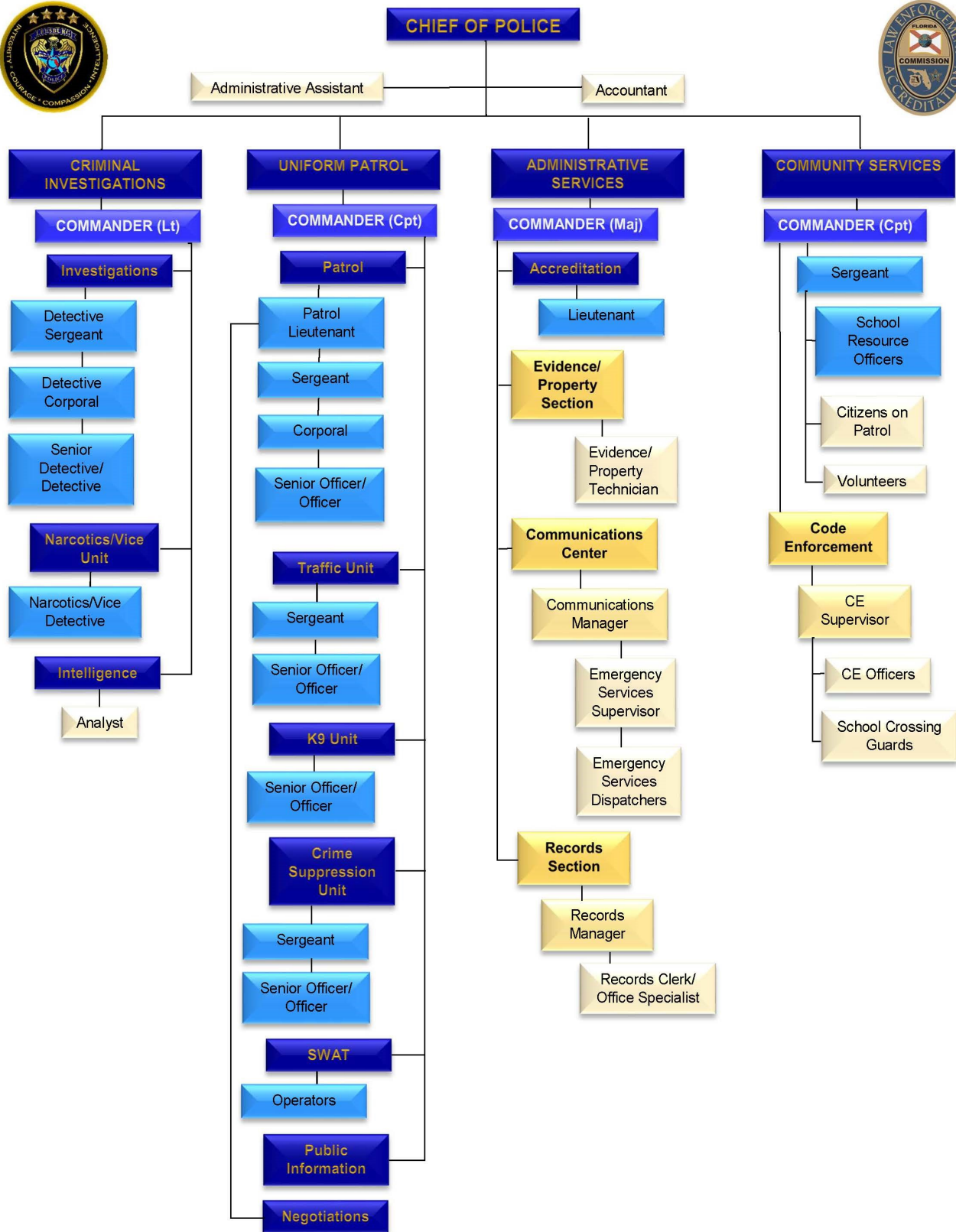
In furtherance of building community trust, provide transparency and accountability, and maintain the highest standards of professionalism, the Department continued with the accreditation process through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Accreditation is achieved through demonstration of compliance with established standards of the Commission and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. The Department continues to maintain compliance with the standards and completed their assessment for re-accreditation in December 2020. The assessment results will be reviewed by the Accreditation Commission in February 2021.

As a Department, we invite you to become involved with your department, to continue forging a strong cooperative partnership that is built upon mutual trust and respect. No police department can solve crime or quality of life issues alone. Effective community/police relationships, communication, and engagement are critical components to our success.

It will remain the pledge of the men and women of the Leesburg Police Department to Protect and Serve with Integrity, Courage, Compassion, and Intelligence.

Robert W. Hicks

Chief of Police



**LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART MARCH, 2020**



Mission Statement

The Leesburg Police Department exists to protect and serve its citizens. The department is committed to work in partnership with all citizens for the mutual purpose of promoting safe streets and neighborhoods, reducing the fear of crime, and improving the overall quality of life within the community.

Department Values

- * We will display honesty, integrity, and sincerity in personal conduct and interpersonal interactions.**
- * We will obey, honor, and defend the Laws of the State of Florida and the United States Constitution.**
- * We will accept full responsibility and accountability for our actions.**
- * We will do our best, no matter the complexity or simplicity of the task.**
- * We will treat people with mutual respect and dignity.**
- * We will have empathy and compassion for others.**
- * We will use sound, innovative problem-solving techniques. We will both educate and learn from our community, working together to accomplish common goals.**

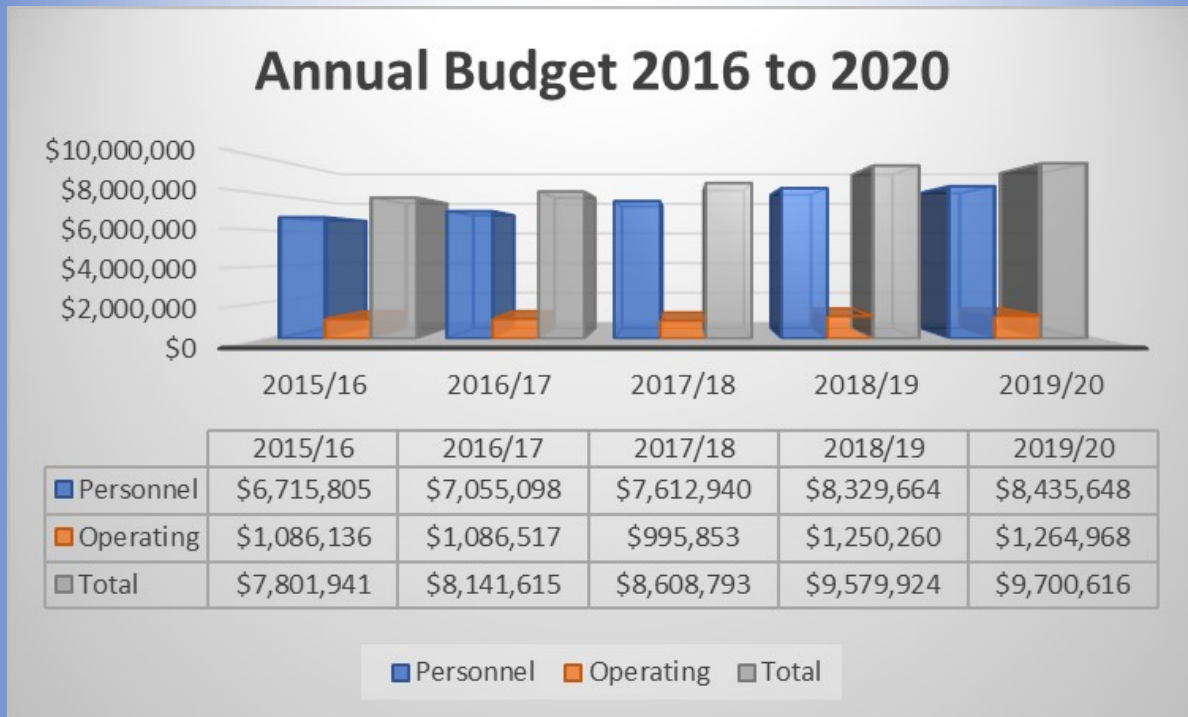
Vision Statement

The Leesburg Police Department strives to serve and protect our diverse and dynamic community with fairness, integrity, and respect for the rights of the individual. We resolve to develop a creative, forward-thinking workforce, dedicated to raising our level of excellence to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Department Motto

“To protect and serve with Integrity, Courage, Compassion, and Intelligence.”

Budget Comparison



Personnel Comparison

	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
Sworn Personnel	65	71	71	73
911 Telecommunicators	14	14	14	14
Communication Managers	1	1	1	1
Crossing Guards	8	8	8	8
Crossing Guard Alternates	5	5	5	5
Office Specialists	1	1	1	1
Clerical Assistants	3	3	3	3
Evidence Technicians	1	1	1	1
Records Managers	1	1	1	1
Code Enforcement Officers	1	2	2	3
Sr. Code Enforcement Officers	1	1	1	1
Administrative Assistants	2	2	2	2
Accountants	1	1	1	1
Crime Analyst	0	0	1	1
Civilian Investigator	0	1	1	1
Volunteers	3	6	6	6

ROTARY SERVICE ABOVE SELF and OFFICER OF THE YEAR - 2020 Corporal Gustavo Escalante



Corporal Gustavo Escalante has been a valued member of the Leesburg Police Department since 2010. He was born in Cuba and migrated to the United States with his family at the age of eight, settling in South Florida. As a young man he relocated to Central Florida and decided on fulfilling a lifelong dream of becoming a law enforcement officer. As a loving husband of fourteen years and cherished father of four beautiful children, he wanted to make the community in which he lived safer for everyone. Over the past decade he has proudly served in the patrol division, criminal investigations division and SWAT. In all aspects of his work he has consistently demonstrated the department core values of *integrity, courage, compassion and intelligence*.

In 2020, Corporal Escalante was chosen by his peers and department members as the Department's *Officer of the Year*. His supervisors and peers alike continually recognize the traits and characteristics that make Cpl. Escalante a true servant leader. His work ethic and unquestionable *integrity* are the traits that stand out above all others. He consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty and can always be counted on by his co-workers.

Corporal Escalante routinely and generously volunteers his personal time toward numerous community-based department objectives, particularly projects involving our local youth. From "Shop with a Cop", "Painting with the Blues", the Leesburg Police Junior Athletic Games, "Bowl with Patrol", and many other events, Corporal Escalante selflessly demonstrates his heartfelt *compassion* toward the community he serves.

In November of 2020, Corporal Escalante responded to a shooting call involving a pregnant woman who had been shot in the chest by her boyfriend. Upon officer's arrival, the gunman was still at large and possibly in the immediate area. His immediate life-saving actions during that call, along with two other officers, resulted in the full recovery of the victim and her unborn child. He and the other officers undoubtably saved her life and demonstrated exceptional levels of *courage* during that call.

Corporal Escalante is a lifelong learner. He is an instructor at two local law enforcement academies where he passes on his knowledge and wisdom, helping shape the new generation of police officers. Additionally, In November of 2020, Corporal Escalante successfully completed his Doctorate Degree in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University. His diligent course work over the years allowed him to complete this arduous task, all while maintaining his departmental responsibilities and family life. There are few greater examples of tenacity and *intelligence* than this accomplishment.

Corporal Gustavo Escalante is a consummate professional who not only impacts our community in a positive manner, but makes everyone around him better. He inspires young officers to work hard and do the right thing and community youth to strive for meaningful accomplishments. His dedication to the profession of law enforcement is second to none and can be observed on a daily basis. It is for these reasons and many more that Corporal Gustavo Escalante has been selected by his peers as the Leesburg Police Department's Officer of the Year 2020.

Congratulations Corporal Gustavo Escalante

OUTSTANDING OFFICER OF THE YEAR-2020

Senior Officer Kyle Hobbs



The Leesburg Police Department strives to be considered among the best and most professional law enforcement agencies in the region. The most important component in achieving such a status is that the people who work for the agency exemplify professionalism and our core belief that we Protect and Serve with Integrity, Courage, Compassion, and Intelligence. Each year, the entire membership of the Leesburg Police Department selects those individuals who they felt best personified those traits. It is an honor to know that one's peers, supervisors, and co-workers view them in such a light. The members of the Leesburg Police Department selected Senior Officer Kyle Hobbs as their 2020 Outstanding Officer of the Year.

Senior Officer Hobbs is a highly productive, motivated officer. He is an active member of the Mid-Florida S.W.A.T. team and a Field Training Officer. During 2020 he trained several new officers, conducted ride-along with police academy recruits, and served as a peer leader helping to guide young officers after completion of their formal training. Throughout the year, several felony cases were solved due to Senior Officer Hobbs conducting investigation beyond the initial call for service. His actions either resulted in an arrest or the development of significant leads that assisted detectives with closing the case. In the fall of 2020, Senior Officer Hobbs received a lifesaving award for his role in treating and transporting a shooting victim in critical condition to the hospital for urgent treatment. A few weeks later, he saved a choking infant by clearing an obstruction in its airway and received a second lifesaving award. Senior Officer Hobbs is also an active member of the Florida National Guard, proudly serving his country and community. He continually seeks opportunities to learn new skills relative to becoming an overall better police officer. Senior Officer Hobbs has attended hundreds of hours of outside training during his career, some of them on his own time.

For all of these reasons and more, the members of the Leesburg Police Department chose Senior Officer Kyle Hobbs as the 2020 Outstanding Officer of the Year.

Congratulations Senior Officer Kyle Hobbs

“ROOKIE” OF THE YEAR-2020

Officer Dilon Dolcharran



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Officer Dolcharran is a dedicated professional committed to serving his community. He has a strong work ethic and likes to stay busy. Since completing the field training program, Officer Dolcharran has continued to educate himself, through formal education by taking advanced training classes at Lake Tech IPS, and informally by learning from his supervisors and senior members of the squad. He recently became a certified Breath Test Operator. Officer Dolcharran routinely solicits feedback on his performance, seeking advice on how he can improve and grow as an officer. He is proactive and works well in both solo and team environments. He often assists his squad mates with whatever tasks need to be accomplished and spent a portion of the year on another squad to assist them with a personnel shortage. He was selected as Officer of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter of 2020 by the department's supervisors and later, Rookie of the Year by his peers.

For all of these reasons and more, the members of the Leesburg Police Department chose Officer Dilon Dolcharran as their 2020 Rookie Officer of the Year.

Congratulations Officer Dilon Dolcharran

Officers of the Quarter - 2020



*1st Quarter
Senior Officer
John Scheer*



*2nd Quarter
Senior Detective
Mike Neal*



*3rd Quarter
Officer
Dilon Dolcharran*



*4th Quarter
Detective
Carrienne Kinney*

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR –2020

Records Clerk Kaleen Torres



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Kaleen is a dedicated employee who gives it her all! Kaleen exhibits a great deal of detailed knowledge regarding a wide range of tasks. We all have certainly had a rough year due to COVID 19 however Kaleen has been stronger and better! Kaleen adjusted her time and worked to ensure that all paperwork and reports were all done and sent to the State Attorney's Office. The State Attorney's request, and public records request were all processed while ensuring and safe guarding information.

Kaleen Torres was also promoted to Officer Specialist in November of 2020 and was recognized as the Civilian Employee of the 3rd Quarter 2020.

Her positive attitude and willingness to help out wherever and whenever needed continues to provide an uplifting experience for those around her. She has proven herself to be a go getter and a true team player. She is to be commended for her team spirit and dedication to duty. She is a valuable asset to the Police Department and the City of Leesburg.

It is for these reasons and many others that Kaleen Torres was chosen by the members of the Leesburg Police Department as the 2020 Civilian Employee of the Year.

Congratulations Kaleen Torres

OUTSTANDING CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR –2020

Crime Analyst Amanda Donovan



The Leesburg Police Department strives to be considered among the best and most professional law enforcement agencies in the region. The most important component in achieving such a status is that the people who work for the agency exemplify professionalism and our core belief that we Protect and Serve with Integrity, Courage, Compassion, and Intelligence. Each year, the entire membership of the Leesburg Police Department selects those individuals who they felt best personified those traits. It is an honor to know that one's peers, supervisors, and co-workers view them in such a light. The members of the Leesburg Police Department selected Amanda Donovan as their 2020 Outstanding Civilian Employee of the Year.

Amanda has been a crime analyst of the Leesburg Police Department Criminal Investigations Division since 2018. Her supervisor describes Amanda as being an all-around model employee; one who is always willing to lend a helping hand with a smile. Amanda is very organized, she has an excellent work ethic, projects a professional bearing, and perpetually exudes a positivity that is noticeable to all who meet her.

Amanda has already proven herself very valuable in the position of Crime Analyst as she regularly passes on information to detectives regarding their cases. She often researches property (stolen/recovered), prior similar cases, and suspect's previous involvement in order to assist the detectives with their investigation.

Furthermore, Amanda has also been providing Road Patrol personnel with bi-weekly reports, which include crime trends, statistical data, and maps to assist them with proactive crime prevention efforts.

It is for these reasons and many more that Amanda Donovan was chosen by the members of the Leesburg Police Department as the 2020 Outstanding Civilian Employee of the Year.

Congratulations Amanda Donovan

OUTSTANDING CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR –2020

911 Telecommunicator Nicole Trout



The Leesburg Police Department strives to be considered among the best and most professional law enforcement agencies in the region. The most important component in achieving such a status is that the people who work for the agency exemplify professionalism and our core belief that we Protect and Serve with Integrity, Courage, Compassion, and Intelligence. Each year, the entire membership of the Leesburg Police Department selects those individuals who they felt best personified those traits. It is an honor to know that one's peers, supervisors, and co-workers view them in such a light. The members of the Leesburg Police Department selected Nicole Trout as their 2020 Outstanding Civilian Employee of the Year.

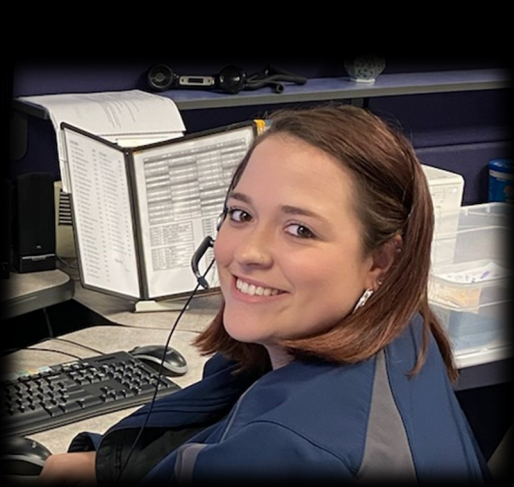
During 2020 Nicole has gone above and beyond. She has come in on days off and has extend her night shift responsibilities well beyond normal. Nicole also trained new employees during staffing shortage.

Nicole was also promoted to Emergency Services Dispatcher II which has much more responsibility.

It is for these reasons and many more that Nicole Trout was chosen by the members of the Leesburg Police Department as the 2020 Outstanding Civilian Employee of the Year.

Congratulations Nicole Trout

Civilian Employee of the Quarter - 2020



1st Quarter

911 Telecommunicator

Shyanne Hubbard



2nd Quarter

Code Enforcement Officer

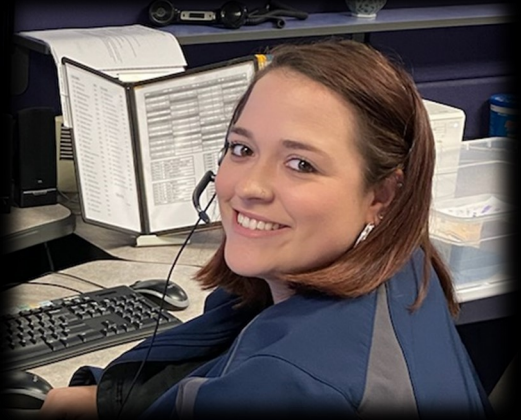
Kristen Scott



3rd Quarter

Records Clerk

Kaleen Torres



4th Quarter

911 Telecommunicator

Shyanne Hubbard

CAD Events and Calls For Service—2020

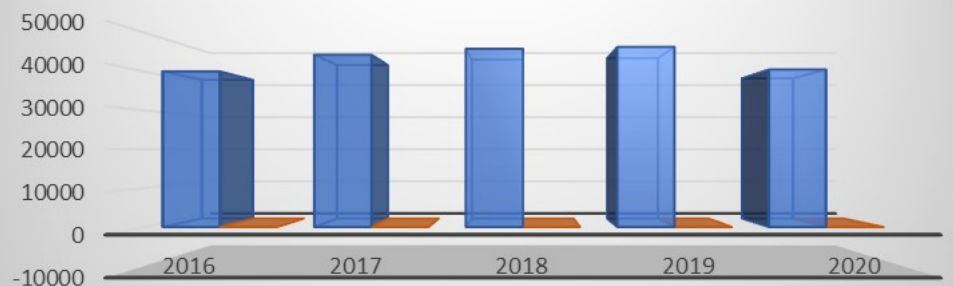
CAD Events



CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) Events are all activities with the agency. Events may include routine administrative activity as well as actual police responses to public requests for service.

Calls for Service are actual police activities whether a response to assist the public, investigative, or enforcement activity by an officer. Calls for Service are a much more accurate measure of officer activity than CAD Events.

Calls for Service



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Calls For Service	40019	44299	45847	46293	40486
% of Change		3.24%	10.69%	3.49%	0.97%

■ Calls For Service ■ % of Change

PART I CRIME SUMMARY

Part I Crime List

Homicide

Rape

Robbery

Aggravated Assault

Burglary

Larceny

Vehicle Theft

Arson

All Hate Crimes

The United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) publishes the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). The UCR Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of over 18,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, federal and other law enforcement agencies who voluntarily report data on crimes brought to their attention. Since 1930, the FBI has administered the UCR Program. The program's primary objective is to gather and report reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operations and management. Over the years, UCR data has become one of the nation's leading social indicators. Criminologists, sociologists, legislators, municipal planners, the media and other students of criminal justice use the data for varied research and planning purposes.

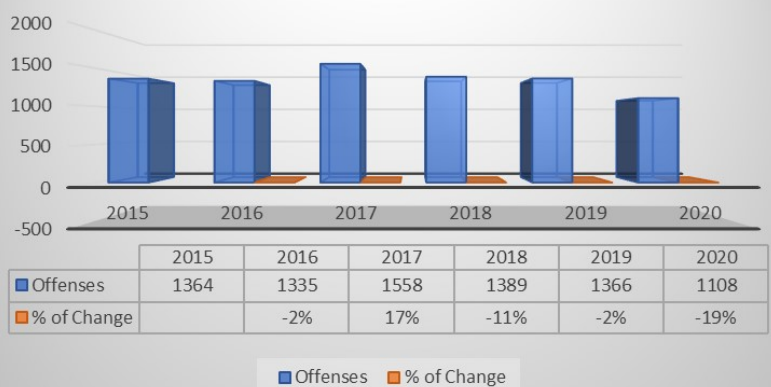
Part I Crime data represents only a summary account of crime. Consumers should not use the data for a comprehensive crime analysis and should not use it to compare one jurisdiction to another. However, students and professionals may use UCR data very effectively to analyze trends in overall criminal activity to assess how social, economic and other factors affect crime. The trend analysis is most effective for long-term, strategic

planning. Analyzing trends found in UCR data allows agencies to assess overall enforcement and crime prevention efforts by looking at the big picture.

So how much did Part I Crimes increase or decrease in the City of Leesburg during 2020? Overall, the City experienced a decrease of eighteen and nine tenths of a percent (-18.9%) in Part I Crimes. Broken down by category, Part I Violent Crimes experienced a decrease of seven and six tenths of a percent (-7.6%) in violent crimes reported and Part I Property Crimes experienced a twenty and five tenths of a percent decrease (-20.5%) decrease in property crimes reported as compared to 2019.

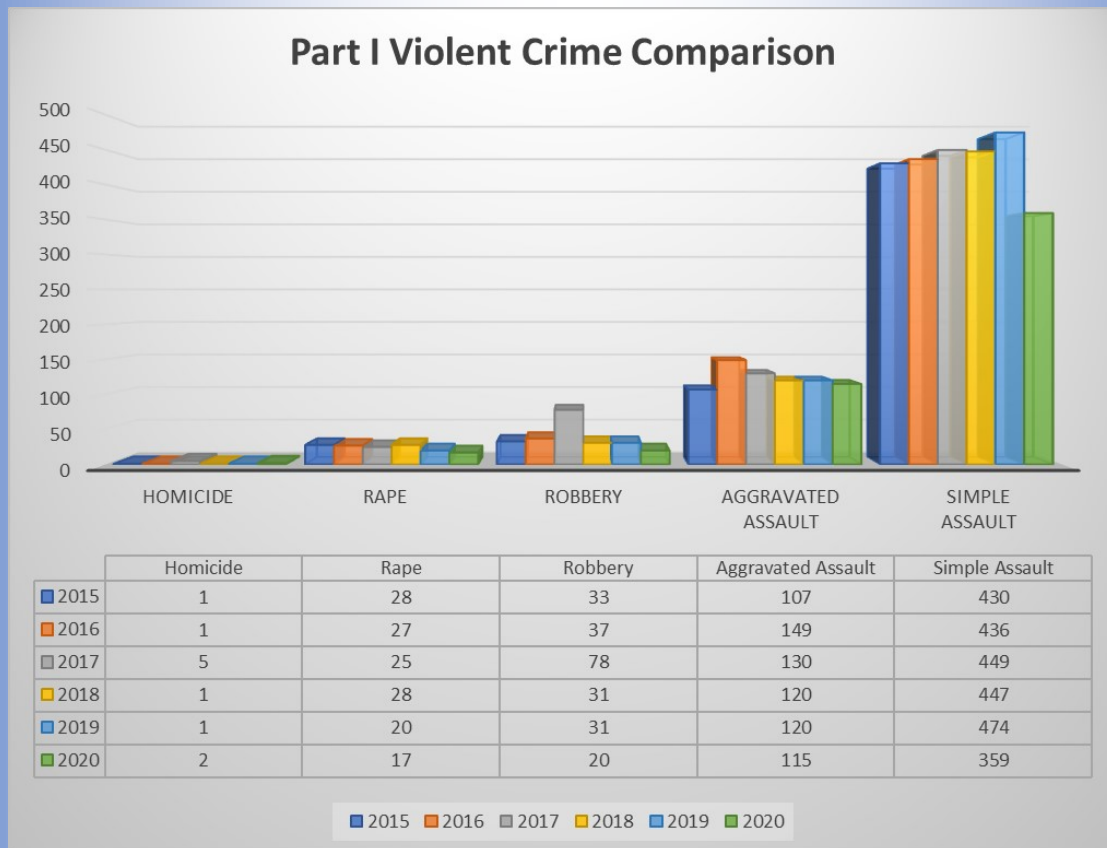
In 2021, the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations will no longer be collecting UCR data and begin utilizing a new system identified as NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System). The Leesburg Police Department will report their crime data through the State of Florida's system, known as FIBRS (Florida Incident Based Reporting System). The new system will provide additional data as it does not follow the hierarchy rule where only the highest/most serious crime report for each incident is reported. Under the new system, all crimes in a single incident will be reported, as well as other data points, a total of 52 data points instead of 9. The new system will provide a more detailed representation of the crimes reported within a jurisdiction. Due to the new system being utilized, the data comparison will be different and may show significant changes to the crimes reported and trends created within the jurisdiction..

Part I Crime Comparison



PART I VIOLENT CRIMES

Part I Violent Crimes include Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault/Battery and Simple Assault/Battery. Aggravated Assault/Battery offenses involve either the use of a weapon during the offense and/or the offense results in bodily injury to the victim. Simple Assault offenses involve the threat of violence. In 2020, Homicide experienced an increase of one (1) additional offense reported, while Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault and Simple Assault experienced a decrease, with significant decreases in Robbery (-35.5%) and Simple Assault (-24.3%) as compared to 2019.



Crime, particularly violent crimes, affects the community as a whole and not just where the offense occurs.

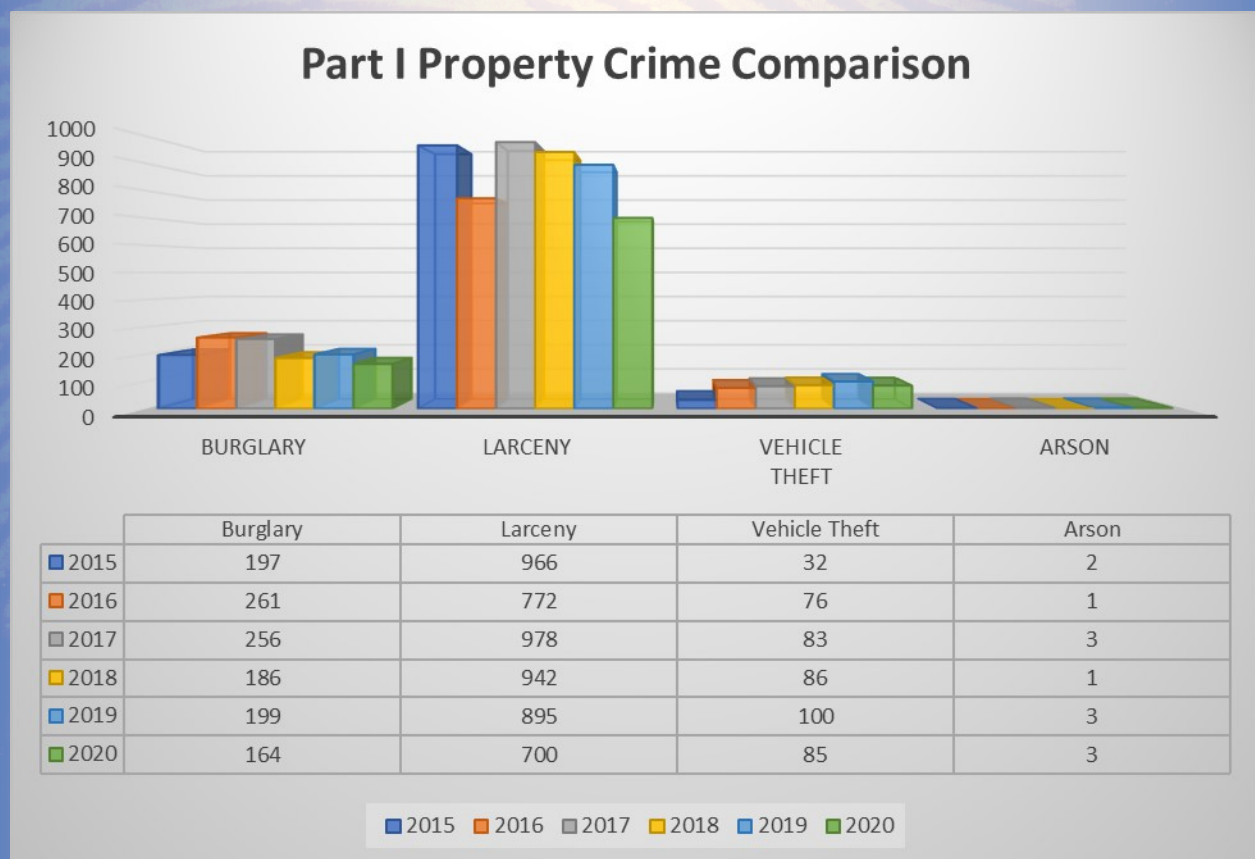
The Intelligence Led Policing Model for crime prevention, which is the model currently employed by the Department, offers law enforcement the opportunity to maximize use of available resources. Crime data is a big part of the strategy. We use it to analyze crime trends, map the incidents and project where crime activity may occur in the future. Crime data and other forms of information are the foundations upon which effective crime response strategies are developed and implemented. Action oriented strategies may rely upon the development of strike teams, targeted responses, surveillance and recidivism awareness; all are led by the reliable data.

Generally, many view crime as a symptom of larger social problems. Poverty, joblessness, absentee parents, limited education and mental illness all may influence its pervasiveness. A single-handed law enforcement approach has its limits. Hence, a more effective crime prevention model should involve professionals from all disciplines. Nevertheless, regardless of the causes, all crime has an adverse impact on society, both near and far. The Department is determined to engage all parties who are willing to commit their time and effort to improve the lives of our citizens and the City of Leesburg. Our goal is to reduce crime, the fear of crime and help make the City of Leesburg a better place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

PART I PROPERTY CRIMES

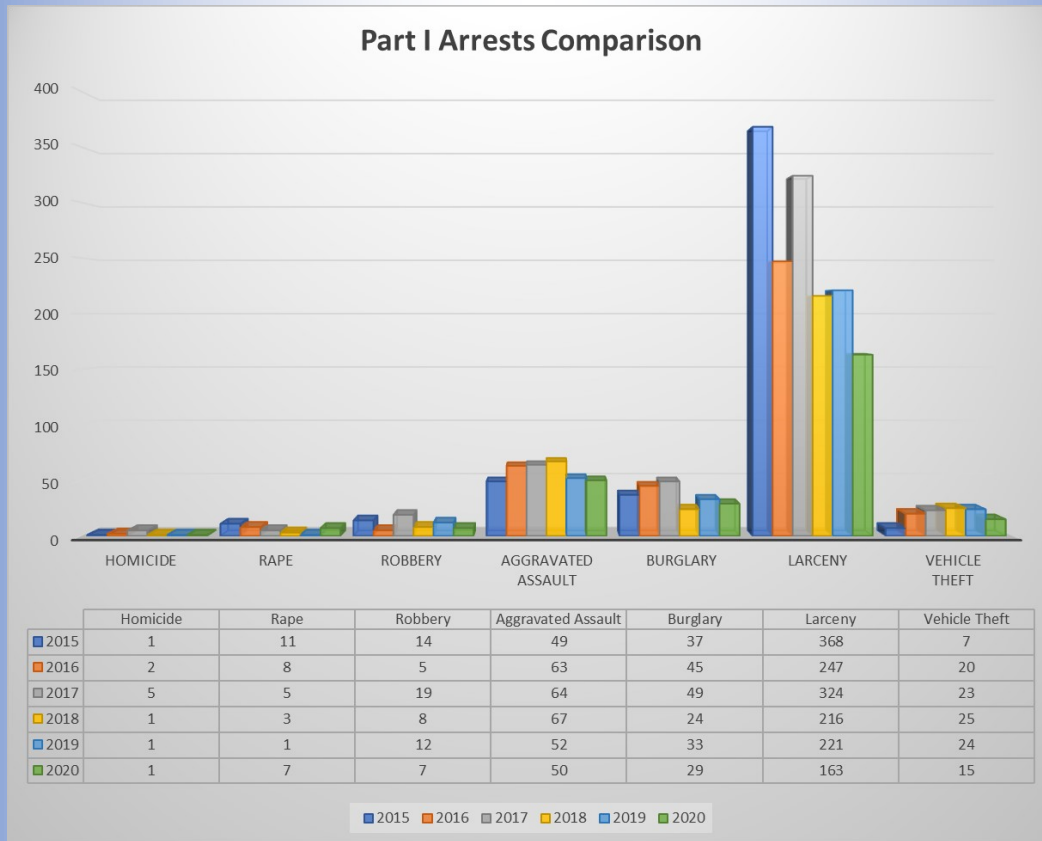
Part I Property Crimes include all crimes in which the victim suffered a loss of property or a decrease in value of their property, resulting from criminal activity. Some of these crimes include burglary, grand theft, auto theft and arson. This report does not give a complete accounting of all property crimes, but it does provide a point of reference that one may review to identify the most costly property losses as well as those occurring most frequently.

Victims reported a total of 949 property crimes in 2020, which represents a twenty and five tenths percent decrease (-20.5%) over property crimes reported in the previous year. All reported property crime categories experienced a decrease with the most significant decrease in Larceny (Theft), a decrease of twenty-one and 8 tenths percent (-21.8%).

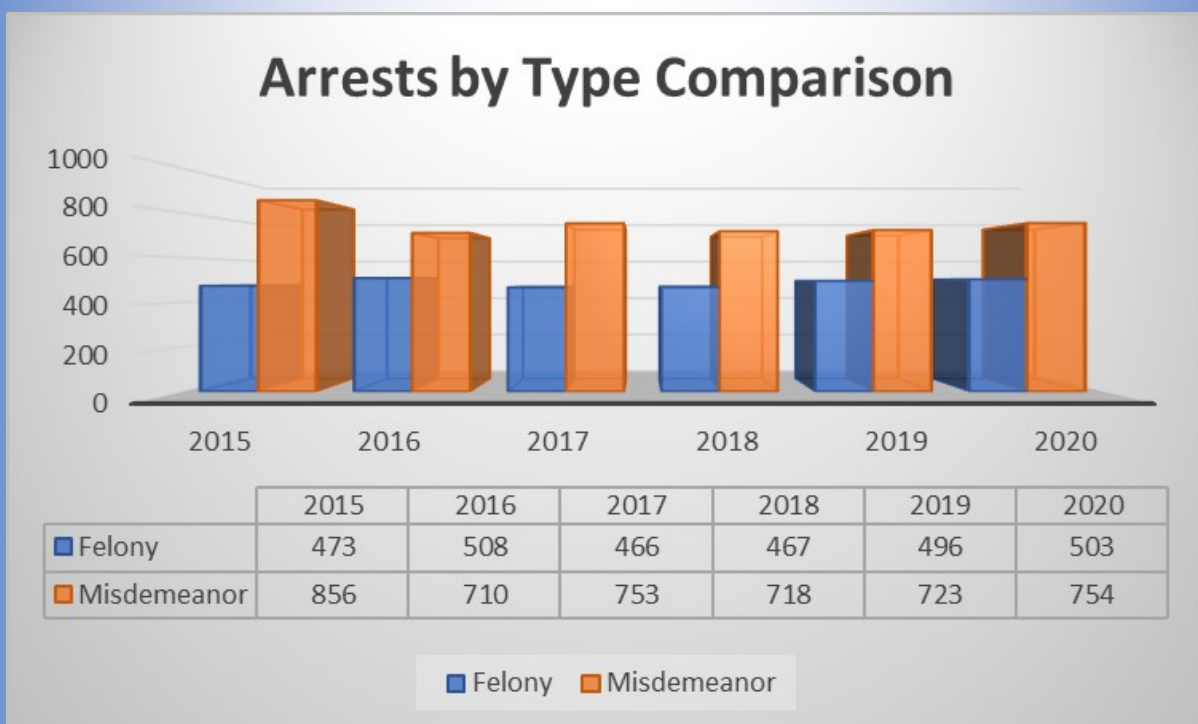


Generally, Property Crime can be dramatically affect by opportunity. The best defense against Property Crime is for everyone to be diligent in their efforts to secure their property and reduce the opportunity for these crimes to occur. Through properly securing property and diligent reporting of suspicious activity, regardless of when observed, Department personnel can respond appropriately, in an effort to reduce these types of crimes.

CRIMINAL ARRESTS



Part I arrests above correspond to the Part I Crimes reported on the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). The report depicts the number of physical arrests made in each category. The Arrest Comparison below reflects all persons arrested (primary offense only) by officers of the Department and includes those arrests not reported under UCR.



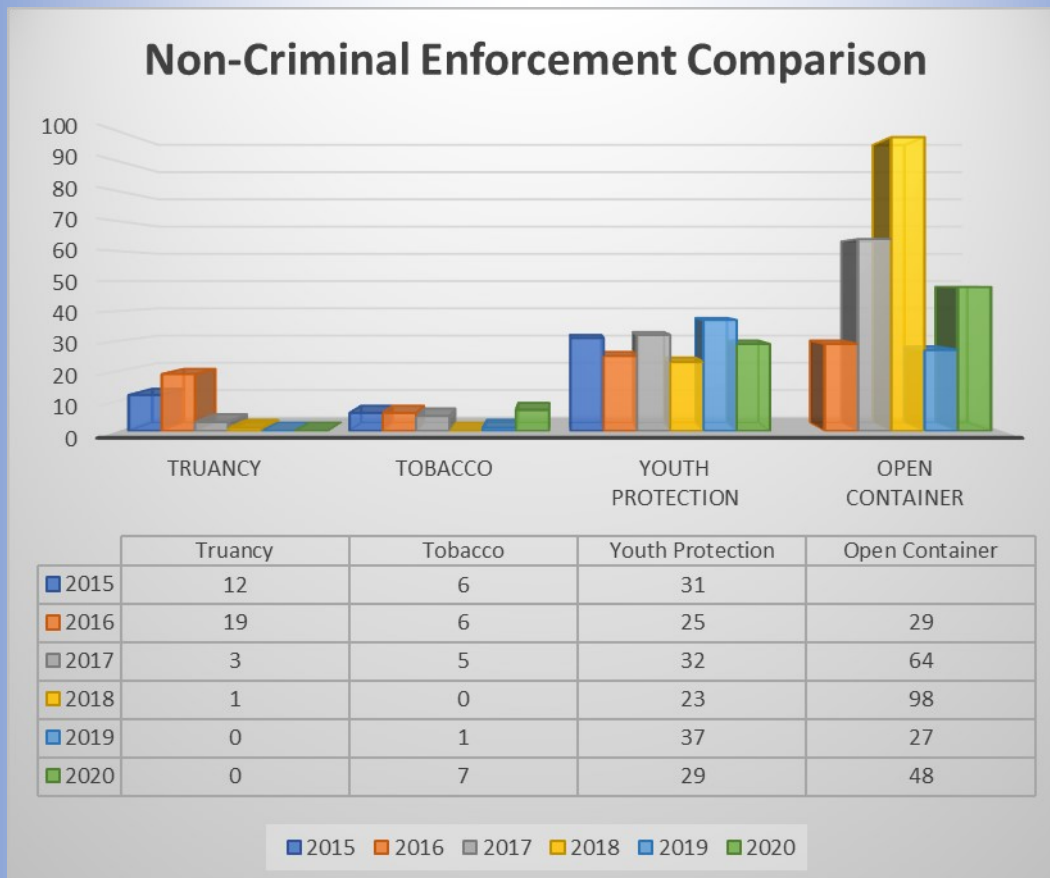
NON-CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT

The specific cases indicated below are tracked in response to citizen complaints expressed to department personnel in combination with proactive policing strategies in known problem locations. Specific non-criminal enforcement involves status offenders who have not committed a crime per say. Nevertheless, by focusing on youthful offenders and others who commit infractions, police officers become an important part of the early intervention process and a factor for behavior modification that helps minimize the possibility of status offenders becoming a larger social problem.

In an effort to promote a safer environment for juveniles, the city of Leesburg codified section 15-14, Youth Protection Ordinance, in 1999. This ordinance prohibits minors from remaining, lingering, staying, congregating, moving about, wandering or strolling in any public or semi-public place in the city, either on foot or upon any vehicle, during restricted hours. This is a good fit for our proactive policing strategies.

Enforcing non-criminal ordinances is only a small part of the Community Oriented Policing model, whose ultimate goals are to discourage, interrupt and redirect destructive types of youthful exuberance that often leads to larger problems.

Another part of it involves activities like Junior Athletic Games, Shop with a Cop and National Night Out, which we will discuss later. These activities do more than just give youths sometime to do; they provide opportunities to interact with the expanded community in a way that may not otherwise occur.



UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION



The Uniform Patrol Division is the largest division of the Leesburg Police Department, with a Captain as the Division Commander, supported by a Lieutenant who provides oversight and other administrative assistance as needed. The Division is comprised of four patrol squads and multiple specialized units, including Traffic, Canine (K-9), Crime Suppression Unit, Training, Community Services, SWAT and Crisis Negotiations. Each patrol squad is made up of a team of uniformed officers who are led by a Sergeant, with the support of a Corporal. The officers within this Division are the first responders in most police related activity occurring within the City and they are assigned to geographical patrol sectors, having the

primary responsibility for police activity in those sectors during their tours of duty. These uniformed officers respond to a multitude of calls for service, including traffic crashes, general traffic complaints, business checks, neighborhood patrols, in addition to any criminal activity and other non-criminal related complaints that may occur within the City. Additionally, Patrol Sergeants may assign officers special duties to focus attention in areas of concern and crime trends identified through the Intelligence Led Policing model.

During 2020, the Uniform Patrol Division continued to work toward enhancing its Intelligence Led Policing methods through training and information sharing efforts. Officers are encouraged to use their training and experience to identify problem areas, develop plans to address identified concerns, implement the plan and evaluate their effectiveness. These efforts provide officers the confidence, understanding, and opportunity to address identifiable crime trends, through smart and effective deployment of personnel and resources. Combined with strong community partnerships, the Division is able to use these methods to address and prevent crime, including quality of life issues within the City.



During 2020, the Patrol Division responded to 40,486 calls for service, which included proactive activity such as property checks and suspicious persons or vehicles. The Division has many moving parts, working in concert to effectively and efficiently Protect and Serve our community with Integrity, Courage, Compassion, and Intelligence.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Criminal Investigation Division is responsible for all felony investigations and criminal intelligence information for the Department. In addition to felony investigations, division members investigate missing person, domestic violence, and child/elder abuse cases. The Division is led by a Lieutenant, who manages the division. They are supported by a Corporal, who assists with overseeing the daily operations of the division and supervise the remaining Detectives. Members of this division receive advanced specialized training, such as crime scene, evidence processing, interview and interrogation and homicide investigations to assist them in carrying out their mission and conduct varying types of investigations, employing a variety of investigative techniques.

In 2020, the division investigated several high profile criminal incidents as well as others that did not get media attention. These crimes vary in nature from frauds, thefts, sex offenses, robberies, assaults, on to the most serious, homicide. During 2020, the Criminal Investigations Division investigated two homicides.

Unsolved Homicides

Ronald Banks	Tanza Bradley	Jeffrey Brown	Leavell Daniels
Fredrick Felton	Wilson George	Harvell Golden	Ernest Heggs
Chris Taylor	Josephine Williams		

Missing Persons

Janice Wynn	Trenton Duckett	Bernadine Montgomery	Andrea Kitchen
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Anyone information regarding the above listed investigations below may contact the Leesburg Police Department at 352-728-9862 to speak with a detective or 352-787-2121, the Communications Center. Tipsters may also report information to Crimeline at 800-423-TIPS(8477). Any information you provide that leads to an arrest of the perpetrator may make you eligible for up to a \$5000.00 reward when reported to Crimeline.

SPECIALIZED UNITS

TRAFFIC UNIT

The Traffic Unit is comprised of a Sergeant and four Officers who specialize in traffic crash investigation, traffic homicide investigation, traffic enforcement, traffic escorts, and special event planning. Members of this unit receive advanced specialized training related to motor vehicle traffic, the most important being traffic homicide investigation and advanced investigative techniques, which qualifies them to investigate all traffic related deaths.

One of the riskiest undertakings of daily life is driving on America's roads. Thousands perish every year behind the wheel of an automobile. According to the most recent data published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 36,096 people died in traffic crashes during 2019.

The Traffic Unit utilizes both marked and unmarked vehicles, as well as police motorcycles to accomplish its mission, which is to promote traffic safety in and around the City of Leesburg. As in the past, traffic enforcement continues to be one method the department uses to achieve traffic safety and provide high visibility in areas of concern.

In order to identify streets with high traffic volumes and/or speed violators, the unit uses state-of-the-art traffic data collectors. This equipment compiles data to aid the Traffic Unit when assessing traffic problems and finding solutions by identifying locations for selective traffic monitoring and proactive enforcement. The Traffic Unit also has a speed measurement trailer which provides drivers with a visual indication of their speed in an effort to gain voluntary compliance.



The Traffic Unit participates in numerous traffic safety events throughout the year such as Click it or Ticket, Law Enforcement Challenge, and DUI Challenge, which are all statewide events funded by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

During 2020, there were 54 DUI arrests made, 16 of which were the result of traffic crash investigations.

During 2020, Officers issued 2,342 traffic citations department-wide. The Department responded to 1,186 traffic crash investigations with 298 crashes with reported injuries to 462 individuals. Furthermore, the Traffic Unit investigated 2 crash investigations resulting in 2 fatalities.



CANINE (K9) UNIT

The police canine, often referred to as a "K-9", is a dog specially trained to assist police officers and other law enforcement personnel in their work. Common uses of police canines include narcotics detection, tracking, article searches, and suspect apprehension. The most commonly used breed is the German Shepherd, but several other breeds are also used dependent upon the specific purpose of the canine team and their work environment. Law enforcement personnel recognize their value to such an extent that there are thousands utilized in various police agencies throughout the United States and around the world.



The Leesburg Police Department Canine Unit works both independently and as a direct support unit of the Uniform Patrol Division. The unit

consists of four K-9 teams, each team comprised of a certified handler and K9. The dual-purpose canine teams are trained and certified for narcotics detection, tracking, article/evidence recovery and suspect apprehension. The dual-purpose canine teams are continually available to enhance the capability of the Uniform Patrol Division and the Department as a whole.

During 2020, the unit collectively searched 444 vehicles, made 45 canine apprehensions (only 4 involved force), 20 building/area searches, 9 tracks and 1 article searches. The unit made 97 controlled substance arrests, 92 arrests for other offenses, issued 32 criminal citations and 196 traffic citations. The unit also collectively seized approximately \$38,470 worth of controlled substances consisting of Marijuana, Methamphetamine, Powder Cocaine, Crack Cocaine, Heroin and MDMA.

CANINE (K9) TRAINING



The Leesburg Police Department K-9 unit trains continuously in order to maintain the highest caliber dogs. During 2020, the unit conducted 1,738 hours of documented training. The department's K9 Teams regularly train with surrounding police agencies in Lake County, conduct training during their normal tour of duty and network with K-9 based organizations throughout the country and world. The training includes all aspects of their jobs, providing "real world" scenarios to evaluate and validate team proficiency. Primarily, the continual training is conducted locally, to minimize expenses associated with K9 Team maintenance and proficiency. All K9 Teams are required to re-certify through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and receive their certification for narcotics detection through the National Police Canine Association. The certification process is a demanding and independent assessment of the team's knowledge, skills, and abilities.

HONOR GUARD

An Honor Guard is a ceremonial unit with the primary role to provide honors for fallen comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice in their service to others. Members of the Honor Guard provide services as guardians of the fallen comrade during funeral services, escorts to the final resting place and during internment. While paying respects and honoring the fallen comrade, the Honor Guard folds the flag, which is presented to the Chief of Police, for presentation to the fallen comrade's survivors. This responsibility may be one of the most challenging duty any officer may be called upon to perform during their career.



Honor Guards also serve as “Guardians of the Colors” or Color Guard during ceremonies in which the national, state or local flag, also referred to as colors, is present or presented. In this capacity, the Honor Guard may serve in parades, open ceremonies, and other public functions as designated by the Chief of Police.

In 2017, the Leesburg Police Department re-established the Honor Guard for the department. The unit is comprised of nine police officers who volunteer for the duty and service as a member of the unit. They believe being a member of the Honor Guard unit is both an honor and privilege.

In 2020, members of the Honor Guard represented the Leesburg Police Department by attending the funerals of fallen officers in the State of Florida.

Members of the Honor Guard also participated in city-sponsored events to include leading the annual Christmas Parade and the presentation of colors at other events.



THAT MADE THEM HEROES
- IT IS HOW THEY LIVED.

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS UNIT

The Leesburg Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is a group of highly motivated and trained individuals, tasked with resolving life-threatening and high-risk situations within the City, that fall outside the scope of our general patrol officers. The SWAT Team is utilized primarily to serve high-risk search/arrest warrants for all divisions/units within the department and less frequent incidents, including barricaded subjects, sniper situations, dignitary protection and other specialized assignments. Each SWAT Team member is fully equipped and capable to respond to any critical incident within the City. Upon request, team members may also assist other agencies in the local area. When necessary, SWAT works hand in hand with the department's Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) to safely resolve the most volatile and dangerous situations we face.



The SWAT team is comprised of 14 members who train on a monthly basis to sharpen their skills and hone their tradecraft. Members train a minimum of six hours a month during SWAT in-service training and attend numerous advanced and specialized training courses, specific to tactical operations, throughout the year. SWAT training topics include, but are not limited to, combat firearms proficiency, building entry/search, search warrant operations, rural operations, rappelling, vehicle assaults, hostage rescue, linear rescue, combat medicine, less-lethal

force options, violent crime mitigation, various instructor based courses and integrated K9 operations.

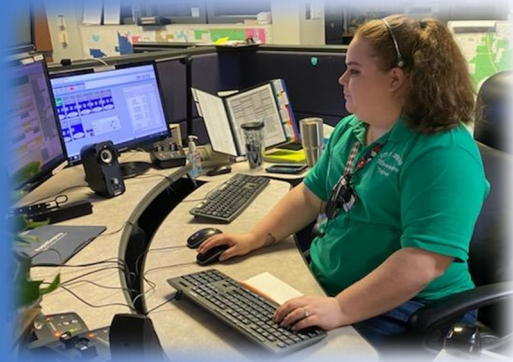
SWAT Team members may be called upon to serve as instructors within the department and community, including Active Shooter Response for officers and citizens at locations such as schools, churches, and other venues where people may gather.

When openings occur on the SWAT Team, officers may voluntarily participate in a rigorous selection process. A SWAT team candidate must possess many traits and attributes to serve on the team, requiring a great deal of personal motivation, dedication and sacrifice. Upon selection, candidates must successfully complete a basic SWAT Operator training course and serve on the team in a probationary status for one year prior to permanent assignment.



The Leesburg Police Department SWAT team is an invaluable asset to the citizens of Leesburg and surrounding law enforcement agencies and communities. The availability of these highly trained individuals has proven to reduce the risk of injury and loss of life to citizens, police officers and suspects alike.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION



Always heard and rarely seen, the Communications Section personnel are the department's first line of defense against criminal activity, the life-line for officers in the field and often the first contact with law enforcement by citizens of the community.

The communications staff fields numerous telephone calls, requests for law enforcement assistance by citizens and requests for information by officers in the field. In 2020, approximately 116,000 telephone calls came into the communications center. These calls consisted of 911 emergency requests for help, TDD calls/test calls, Text 911 and administrative calls. Additionally, the section handled 62,986 police call

events, which may or may not have resulted from a telephone call but required a 911 Telecommunicator to communicate with officers in the field. Communication by radio resulted in 1,340,172 radio transmissions during the year.

In 2020, there were 6,721 hours of training completed by the Communications Center staff members. A large portion of the training was for New Hire OJT, which accounted for 5,733 hours. The other 988 hours of training included topics such

as De-Escalation, Difficult Callers and Child Callers, Officer Involved Shootings, Crisis Negotiations, Active Shooter, Leadership and Ethics, Critical Incident Management and several others.



RECORDS SECTION



The Records Section consists of a supervisor, three full-time clerical assistants, and one full-time office specialist. The section provides a host of records management services ranging from data entry of uniform traffic citations and traffic warnings to quality control and processing of police incident reports. The section processes approximately 100 requests for public records from the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's

Office, private attorneys, insurance companies, and individuals each week. They provide a variety of other services to the public, including local records checks for employment and LiveScan fingerprinting services.

In 2019, the section processed 5,241 incident reports, 1,143 criminal arrest reports, 5,106 investigative supplements, 3,629 traffic citations, and 2,989 written traffic warnings. The section also served 4,578 citizen walk-ins and accepted 1,744 subpoenas for court appearances. Additionally, the records section conducted 2,551 local records checks, provided fingerprinting services to 99 citizens, processed 1,258 State Attorney and Public Defender requests and 1351 Insurance requests related to traffic crashes. Staff members attended over 63 hours of in-house and continuing educational training in 2019. Training included a variety of topics including Uniform Crime Reporting, report review and processing, public records, and mandatory city training.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The appearance of any property affects the overall image of the community. As a means of ensuring property owners maintain their property in good condition, the City of Leesburg Code of Ordinances specify minimum standards for housing, yards, parking, etc. These standards benefit the community by requiring minimum standards of upkeep for real estate, which also minimizes the potential for property degradation and devaluation, which is an unfortunate event that benefits no one.



The Code Enforcement Section currently consists of one Code Enforcement Supervisor, two Officers and one Administrative Assistant. Code Enforcement Officers respond to citizen complainants, provide a comprehensive inspection of properties, and investigate a wide variety of citizen concerns.

Complaints may involve:

- ♦ Minimal housing standards;
- ♦ Grass and weeds;
- ♦ Parking of recreational vehicles, boats, trucks and trailers;
- ♦ The accumulation of garbage, trash and debris;
- ♦ Abandoned property (including vehicles, furniture, machinery, etc.);
- ♦ Business licenses/Tax Receipts, and
- ♦ Zoning approvals for both commercial and home occupancy.



In 2020, Code Enforcement Officers opened 1,585 new cases, some of which were repeat offenders. In addition to proactively seeking code violations within the City, the Code Enforcement Section investigated 385 outside complaints, 10 of which they referred to other agencies. There were 80 cases presented before the Special Magistrate. After presentation, Code Enforcement worked with the property owners to achieve compliance with the City's Code of Ordinances. A total of approximately \$39,932.00 was collected as a result of the work done by Code Enforcement during 2020.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/CRIME PREVENTION



The Community Relations/Crime Prevention Unit is led by a Captain, who is assisted by a Sergeant. There are also four School Resource Officers and six volunteer Citizens on Patrol members within the unit. The mission of the unit is to foster community relationships and partnerships that create a safe and desirable place to live. This principle not only adds purpose to the unit, but it is a driving force for strategic development and serves as a tool for measuring progress. The mission promotes collaborative working

relationships between the police and all others who have a personal or professional interest in the welfare and betterment of the community. By jointly working on community issues, we all become resources for each other, providing for a better city through problem identification, ownership and resolution.

The Community Relations Unit normally conducts and participates in numerous presentations and activities for local businesses, schools, churches, civic groups, and community action teams in and around the Leesburg area. The presentations and activities included, but were not limited to impromptu neighborhood cookouts, Community Safety Fairs, Back to School Bashes and Back Pack/School Supply Drive, Crime Prevention Symposiums, Facility Security Assessments, Neighborhood Watch Meetings, Career Days, Bikefest Fundraiser, Dine and Donate Fundraiser, Mardi Gras Festivities, Reading to Elementary School Classes, Day Care Meet & Greets, Blood Drives, Senior Safety Presentations, Youth Mentor Programs, Story Time at the Library, Church Safety and Security Seminars, Painting With the Blues, Roll With Patrol, Bowl With Patrol, ELC Day At the Park, Junior Athletic Games, National Night Out, Community Helper Day, Super Hero Day, Chili Cook Off, Special Olympic Torch Run, Coffee Talk Events, Bike Helmet Giveaway, Black Heritage Festival, Nam Knights Bed Race, Facility Tours, Halloween Festivities, Christmas Parade, Christmas Bike and Gift Give-away, Shop With A Cop, Citizens Academy, Citizens On Patrol Academy, and Local, State & Federal Victims' Rights Events. Unfortunately, during 2020 and due to restrictions of the COVID pandemic, the unit was very limited in activities that require face-to-face interaction. The unit did continue with the Department's tradition of a Bicycle Give-Away program at Christmas, setting up the event as a drive-through style event in which the unit distributed approximately 100 bicycles to children of the community. The unit also provided gift cards to children at elementary schools, middle schools and high school as a modified "Shop With A Cop" program, allowing them to shop on their own, with their family members, during the holiday season.



By networking with a variety of community groups, the unit continues to support established programs, such as Neighborhood Watch Programs, within the community and fosters a cooperative effort between those programs, allowing for pooling of community resources toward common objectives.

CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

In 2020, the Department hosted a Citizen's Academy in which there were 20 participants. The program is a seven (7) week program, meeting one evening per week for four hours. This program permits members of the community to have a better understanding of the duties performed by various members of the Department. Through classroom instruction, presented by members of the Department, citizens learn about the functions of patrol officers, detectives, SWAT team members, traffic unit members and other sections of the Department. Some of the activities are hands-on and allow members of the community to perform some of



the daily tasks performed by Department members. The academy program is a valued learning environment and awareness program, permitting an opportunity for education through positive interaction between the officers of the Department and members of the community. Upon completion of the academy, graduates are afforded the opportunity to volunteer as members of the Citizens On Patrol, which requires additional training for the duties they perform.



CITIZENS ON PATROL



The COP Unit is an integral part of the department comprised of volunteers that assist with some of the non-enforcement related duties of department members. In 2019, six (6) volunteers staff the unit donating their time and effort not only to the police department but also to the community. Unit members support organizational objectives in a variety of ways. This hard working group of volunteers help with everything from traffic control to fingerprinting children. Their roles help reduce police workloads allowing police officer to focus more on other

tasks such as crime reduction, offender apprehension, investigations, traffic issues, and numerous other neighborhood patrol responsibilities. The support they provide serves as a personnel multiplier, maximizing the use of current police staffing levels, and freeing up officers to concentrate on other objectives. 2019 marked a milestone for Citizens on Patrol who celebrated their 10 year anniversary for the program.

During 2019, the COP Unit donated over 731 hours and logged in over 7000 miles of patrol. Without their support, the department simply would not be able to maintain the current level of service.



SHOP WITH A COP

What is Shop with a Cop? The purpose of this program is to foster positive relationships between youths and officers. Kids, 6th through 8th grade are selected each year during the end-of-the-year holiday season to shop at one of the local area stores to purchase gifts for members of their immediate family. Each child is given \$100 to spend. Normally, program organizers assign 1 or 2 children to each police officer, who escorts them around the store and assists in selecting appropriate gifts. In 2020, this event was conducted, but instead of shopping with the gift card recipients, the gift cards were provided to the families and they were permitted to shop on their own.



The recipient selection process is the same as the Bicycle Give-Away, utilizing information obtained from schools within our City. Another important part of the program is the dedicated police officers and citizens who volunteer their time and effort. We thank them for their dedication to community.

BICYCLE GIVE-AWAY



This important program began approximately 27 years ago and has become a long-standing tradition at the Department. In its infancy, officers would donate time to repair abandon and unclaimed bicycles, to give-away to families in need. The program has since evolved to involve many civic organizations, local charities and businesses in the program, who provide funding to help spread a little cheer during the Christmas Holiday. Their donations not only

fund the purchase of new bicycles, but allows the Department to purchase other small gifts to provide to other children within the home. Potential recipients are children, identified by members of the community, based upon their individual level of need. In 2020, the Department, with the assistance of the community, was able to provide bicycles and wrapped gifts to children within the community. Over the years, this program has provided hundreds of bicycles and gifts to community children, involved the community in identifying community needs and partnered the Department and the community in a positive, working relationship to meet the needs. In 2020, due to restrictions and limiting contact, the bicycles and gifts were provided to the identified recipients by means of a drive-thru fashion. Even though the restrictions limited contact, the department felt strongly that this program needed to continue and found a way to make it happen.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION

In the law enforcement profession, training and education are a vital aspect for continued growth of the department, it's members and for the department to better serve the needs of the community. Each year, department members must attend various types of training to maintain proficiency and further develop their skills and abilities. Some of the training is mandatory for the members, both sworn and non-sworn, to maintain certain certifications they hold, such as sworn member certifications, 911 Telecommunicator certifications and instructor certifications. Other training courses are attended to improve both effectiveness and efficiency, as well as keeping current with changes in laws and current trends of the profession. In 2020, members of the Department attended a total of 16,275 hours of training to enhance and improve their skills, to better meet the needs of the community.



2020 Training Hours

911 Telecommunicator Training	6,721 hours
Sworn Members Training	9,554 hours
Total Training Hours	16,275 hours

NEW HIRES

Sworn Law Enforcement Personnel: During 2020, the Leesburg Police Department welcomed eight new sworn members to the department family. The officers were hired to fill existing vacant positions within the department. Each new sworn member must successfully complete a fourteen (14) week Field Training program, administered by trained Field Training Officers within the Department. Each new officer receives training that is designed to expand upon the basic law enforcement training received in the academy and acclimate them to the City of Leesburg. The new officers for 2020 are:

Officer Eric Bruland	Officer Brendin Evans	Officer David McClain
Officer Nick Menacho	Officer Chris Moering	Officer Dominic Paonessa
Officer Benjamine Peppers	Officer Kennedy Whitehead	

Non-Sworn Personnel: During 2020, The Leesburg Police Department welcomed three new non-sworn member to the department family. Non-sworn members serve the department in numerous positions, performing duties ranging from clerical duties to service as 911 Telecommunicators. The non-sworn position filled in 2020 were for existing vacancies in the Department. Similar to the sworn members, non-sworn personnel receive training within their areas of responsibility. 911 Telecommunicators must complete a Field Training Program, administered by training officers of the Communications Section and School Crossing Guards must complete a Florida Department of Transportation approved training course, administered by a certified School Crossing Guard Instructor of the Department. Both training programs are designed to provide the members with the necessary skills to receive certification in their area of responsibility and acclimate the trainee to the department's Communication Center and School Crossing Guard Program. The new member for 2019 are:

Mary Miller—911 Telecommunicator	Carlos Nunez—Code Enforcement
Haven Parker—911 Telecommunicator	

DISCLAIMER

This report enables the user to obtain information on crime statistics, work productivity, and services available at the Leesburg Police. Information contained in it is intended for general information purposes only. It should not be used to predict long-term stability for a neighborhood, nor to determine the level of safety of the City.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this report, please call the Leesburg Police Department.



***“TO PROTECT AND SERVE WITH INTEGRITY,
COURAGE, COMPASSION AND
INTELLIGENCE”***