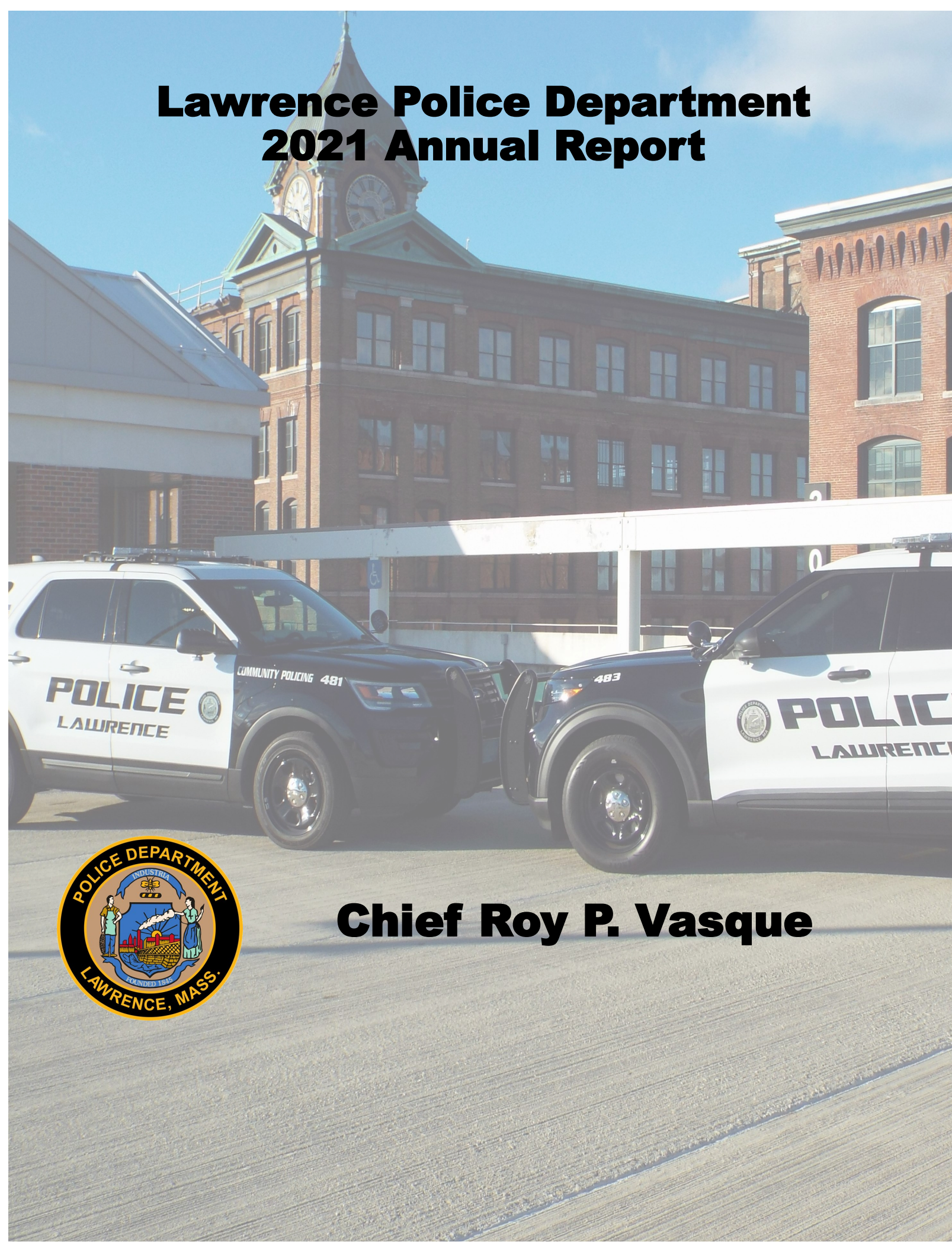


# **Lawrence Police Department 2021 Annual Report**



**Chief Roy P. Vasque**





Roy P. Vasque  
Chief of Police

# CITY OF LAWRENCE

## Lawrence Police Department

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### Office of the Mayor



Brian A. DePeña  
Mayor of Lawrence

January 08, 2022

Dear Residents, City Council Members and School Committee Members,

This year's report highlights the dedication, professionalism and hard work of the men and women of the Lawrence Police Department.

Attached you will find the 2021 Lawrence Police Department Annual Report. In it, you will find a breakdown of the Lawrence Police Department, from values, to staffing, to in depth crime numbers and everything in between. More than that, this report is a play by play of the last year within the Department. Over the last four years, 2018 to 2021, Part 1 Crime has decreased by 60% compared to 2017. In 2017, 1,635 Part 1 Crimes were reported, while in 2021, we are happy to report, just 661 were reported. While we are happy with this continuing reduction in crime, we are committed to improving our level of services to the Lawrence Community.

The Department has also seen a significant increase in minority and women officers. An aggressive recruitment drive has led to the Department becoming for the first time ever, and first in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a Minority Majority department. The Department is currently made up of 58% minorities and with seven Latinos currently in the academy it is likely the percentage will climb even higher in 2022. The Department also continues to advance minorities with recent promotions to the upper command staff, including the second ever Latino Captain. Further, the Department has significantly increased the number of female officers from three to nineteen. Additionally, there have also been historic first-time accomplishments for many of our women/ Latina police officers. The first ever Latina Detective, Narcotics Detective, ERT Officer, Community Policing Officer, Drone Pilot, and Motorcycle Officer.

I urge each of you to review this report, take a look at the crime numbers and the Department at a glance. This is an inclusive report that is transparent and informative. We have more police on our streets, and we are increasing foot patrols, and improving our community policing tactics. In this report you will see examples of our commitment to diversity, innovation, officer training and professional services that follow best practices as we work toward our goal of being fully accredited while continuously moving the Department and community forward. We are facing the current COVID-19 pandemic head on while continuing our commitment to the opioid crisis and targeting quality of life issues such as noise, fireworks and traffic violators. The department recognizes the need for better mental health response and has secured grant funding to establish its first ever mental health unit, which is going to be dedicated to providing a deescalated approach to mental health calls.

Lastly, use this report as a guide. The numbers are indicative of a well-trained, dedicated and professional police force who is working hard every day to make Lawrence safer. Mayor Brian A. DePeña and I have worked together to make our Police Department a world class police department, that follows best national policing practices and mostly importantly, a Department that our residents deserve.

Sincerely,

Roy Vasque  
Police Chief  
Lawrence Police Department

Brain A DePeña  
Mayor of Lawrence

# Table of Contents

Values Statement	4
Department at a Glance	5
Lawrence Comparison	6
2021 Highlights	7
Upcoming Projects in 2022	8
2022: Goals and Objectives	9
New Police Headquarters	10
Coronavirus: Lawrence Police Response	11
Honoring Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo	13
Police Reform	14
Grant Funding	15
K-9 Unit	17
Camera Project	18
Drone Project	19
Command Post	20
Community Awareness & Outreach Programs	21
<b>Patrol Division</b>	<b>22</b>
Calls for Service	23
Arrests	24
<b>Part 1 Crimes</b>	<b>25</b>
Homicide	26
Rape	28
Robbery	29
Aggravated Assault	31
Domestic Aggravated Assault	32
Domestic Violence Unit	33
Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault	34
Residential Burglary	36
Commercial Burglary	38
Felony Larceny	40
Motor Vehicle Theft	42
<b>Bureau of Special Investigations</b>	<b>44</b>
Community Policing	45
Business Liaison	47
Detective Division	48
Street Crimes	50
Lawrence Housing Authority	52
Youth Diversion Initiative	53
School Resource Officers	54
Animal Control	55
Training	56
Opioid Outreach	58
Motor Vehicle Data	59
Taxi and Livery	63
Firearms	64
Sex Offenders	65
Contact Information	66



## Values Statement

The members of the Lawrence Police Department are dedicated police professionals committed to the philosophy and practice of community policing. Within that philosophy we focus on three core values, compassion, community, and commitment.

- Compassion: To instill in every member of our Department the practice of empathy for every person we encounter. This empathy is given regardless of race, sexual orientation, color, handicap, creed, national origin, ancestry religion, age, gender, social or mental status; promising procedural justice.
- Community: To empower residents, stakeholders, neighborhood groups and others identified as positive forces of change the ability to provide the mandate on how they want their City served by the police.
- Commitment: To serve the City of Lawrence to the best of our abilities and constantly strive to improve and increase our capacity to serve the community better.

## Slogan

**\*\*\* Compassion Community Commitment \*\*\***



## Department at a Glance

**Budgeted Sworn Positions:** 167

**Total Sworn Compliment:** 159

**Female Officers:** 19

Lieutenant: 1

Detective: 2

Patrol Officers: 15

Community Policing: 2

**Veterans:** 39

**Ethnic Breakdown:**

African American: 5

Asian: 1

Caucasian: 67

Hispanic or Latino: 86

**Rank Breakdown:**

Chief: 1

Captains: 3

Lieutenants: 9

Sergeants: 18

Patrol Officers: 129

**2021 New Officers:** 16

Male: 14

Female: 2

**Budgeted Civilian Positions:**

Full-Time Civilians: 23

Call Takers: 10

Animal Control: 2

Plant Manager: 1

Director of Support Services: 1

Director of Crime Analysis: 1

Crime Analyst: 1

Community Liaison Director: 1

Clerks: 4

Confidential Secretaries: 2

# Lawrence Comparison

The first three charts provided below depict population, violent crime, total number of officers, and total number of civilians for Lawrence and selected other communities. The charts are compiled from 2018, 2019, and 2020 FBI/ UCR data<sup>1</sup>. It is important to note that during these years Lawrence had the lowest amount of total officers compared to the selected cities. Data in the charts provided is the most current data provided by the FBI<sup>2</sup>. The final chart illustrates the number of patrol officers per official in Lawrence and in other cities in the state.

## 2018 Data

Rank	City	Violent Crime per 1000 Population	Population	Violent crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Total Officers	Total Civilians
1	Fall River	10.15	89,475	908	1	76	118	713	229	60
2	Brockton	9.05	95,922	868	9	72	182	605	183	24
3	New Bedford	6.34	95,106	603	3	45	166	389	254	45
4	<b>Lawrence</b>	<b>6.20</b>	<b>80,669</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>22</b>
5	Lynn	5.95	94,558	563	3	51	140	369	161	18

## 2019 Data

Rank	City	Violent Crime per 1000 Population	Population	Violent crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Total Officers	Total Civilians
1	Fall River	8.68	89,066	773	5	51	113	604	227	59
2	Brockton	8.21	95,287	782	5	63	148	566	195	23
3	<b>Lawrence</b>	<b>6.75</b>	<b>80,243</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>21</b>
4	New Bedford	6.64	94,613	628	3	66	176	383	243	58
5	Lynn	4.92	94,449	465	8	33	103	321	168	19

## 2020 Data

Rank	City	Violent Crime per 1000 Population	Population <sup>2</sup>	Violent crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Total Officers	Total Civilians
1	Fall River	8.29	94,000	784	2	63	92	627	221	51
2	Brockton	7.20	105,643	761	4	60	119	578	187	24
3	New Bedford	5.95	101,079	601	4	51	106	440	248	43
4	Lynn	4.33	101,253	438	6	24	55	353	177	18
5	<b>Lawrence</b>	<b>4.20</b>	<b>89,143</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>23</b>

	Patrol	Officials	Patrol Officers per Official
<b>Lawrence</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Holyoke	89	27	3.3
Lynn	138	42	3.3
Lowell	176	55	3.2
Methuen	68	21	3.2
Haverhill	81	26	3.1
Chelsea	75	28	2.7

- Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2018/crime-in-the-u.s.-2018>, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019>, <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>
- Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/lynncitymassachusetts,newbedfordcitymassachusetts,lawrencecitymassachusetts,brocktoncitymassachusetts,fallrivercitymassachusetts/PST045221>
- 2021 data has not been published by the FBI as of January 2022.

## 2021 Highlights

- Became first in the Commonwealth to be a Majority Minority Department at 58%
- Policy upgrades regarding police reform and best practices
- Increased the number of female officers to 20
- Promotion of the second Latino Captain; 66% of the current Captains are Latino
- Attended community events and meetings via Zoom, in person, and in hybrid settings
- Partnered with numerous community groups and initiatives for food distribution
- Increased social media in an effort to inform and educate the Veteran community
- The Veterans Liaison Officer for the Department continued working with the community
- Continued Ice Cream Truck program; which continues to be free to residents
- Compared to 2020:
  - ◊ 17% decrease in Robberies
  - ◊ 25% reduction in Shootings
- Compared to 2017 Part 1 Crime has decreased by 60% over the last four years
- Clearance rates for Rape, Robbery, Felony Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft exceeded the national clearance rate generated by the FBI
- New twenty year low established in total number of Robberies
- Continued the new police station project naming CHA as project managers and CONTEXT as architects
- Expanded walking/bike patrols of the Broadway area
- Updated the COVID-19 policy and procedures
- Continued utilizing decon station
- Continued COVID-19 PPE acquisition and distribution
- Conducted business and restaurant compliance checks
- Continued to have a dedicated Traffic Car
- Message board implementation
- Safety and security plan for the boat ramp continued during 2021
- Continued accreditation process with dedicated accreditation manager
- Surveillance camera initiative with the Lawrence Housing Authority
- Continued comprehensive professional development and officer training program
- Equipment upgrades to cruisers and tasers
- Website upgrade and enhancement
- Awarded State Body Camera Grant
- Awarded two State Mental Health Grants for mental health response and services
- Budgeted City line item for Mental Health Coordinator
- On time reporting to POST for Police Reform
- Dedicated certified IA Officer
- Worked in conjunction with state and federal agencies on numerous narcotics and fraud operations
- Identified the top auto accident locations in 2020 and conducted enforcements in those areas
- Started the 21st Century SMART Cadette Program





# Upcoming Projects in 2022

## LPD Body Worn Camera Project

During the past six months Sgt. Simard has conducted extensive research into the use of body worn cameras for the Department. This research included four body worn camera vendors, Axon, WatchGuard, Getac/Brite, and Pro-Vison. Based on his research, Sgt. Simard has narrowed it down to three vendors: Axon, WatchGuard, and Getac/Brite. He also priced out each vendor with and without grant funding. It should be noted that he attended several BWC product demonstrations by several vendors. Sgt. Simard also visited Lynn, Boston, and Pelham, NH Police Departments to view their BWC Programs.

## Crisis Intervention Team

In 2021, the Lawrence Police Department began taking its first steps in the development and implementation of Lawrence's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program. CIT is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families, and other advocates. It is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training to help persons with mental disorders and/or addictions access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness-related behaviors.

CIT promotes officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis. It is a program that provides the training and foundation necessary to promote community and statewide solutions to assist individuals with a mental illness and/or addictions. The CIT Model reduces both the stigma and the need for further involvement with the criminal justice system. It provides a forum for effective problem solving regarding the interaction between the criminal justice and mental health care system and creates the context for sustainable change. Research shows that communities that implement the CIT Program model, have higher success rates in resolving serious crisis situations.

Chief Roy P. Vasque recognized the benefits to the Lawrence Police Department and our community in adopting CIT's basic tenets of developing the most compassionate and effective crisis response system that is the least intrusive in a person's life while helping persons with mental disorders and/or addictions access medical treatment, rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness related behaviors. Chief Vasque believes that the development of this program will help strengthen our community's efforts to help people who live with mental illness and/or addictions and are in crisis. He further believes it will improve our community's mental health system, save lives, and bring hope and recovery to those in need.

# 2022 Lawrence Police Department Goals and Objectives

- Strengthen and expand community engagement and partnerships
- Continue training the areas of diversity, procedural justice, immigration, implicit bias, de-escalation, and mental health
- Establish a mental health clinician unit
- Strengthen partnerships with Veterans in the community and continue Veteran liaison partnership
- Increase community policing initiatives
- Explore technology initiatives such as body cameras and smart dispatch technology
- Continued movement toward accreditation and policy upgrades
- Addition of more youth engagement programs
- Continue to maintain or reduce Part 1 Crime
- Continue to maintain Part 1 Crime clearance rates above the national average
- Continue to make policy and training changes related to Police Reform and community issues/needs
- Safety and security plan for vaccination sites and COVID-19 testing sites will continue
- Continued COVID-19 safety and security for the station and employees
- Reduce motor vehicle accidents and increase education especially related to distracted driving
- Assessment/enforcement at the 2021 top auto accident locations
- Message board implementation for community notification/education
- Continue Camera Project with additional funding
- Continue and expand department's professional development
- Equipment upgrades
- Additional community policing officers
- K-9 Unit expansion to a third K-9
- New police station project continued
- Website upgrades to include additional crime and safety tips and PSAs
- Continue strong local, state and federal partnerships to reduce crime
- Continue to address the Opioid Crisis
- Continue to strengthen community partnerships and collaborations with the addition of LPD detectives assigned to federal task forces
- Expansion of the Street Narcotics Enforcement Unit
- Expansion of the Gang Unit
- Additional Officer to the Traffic Unit
- Increase the number of Open Gyms
- Development of bilingual law enforcement training
- Addition of dirt bike / ATV City of Lawrence Ordinance
- Addition of firework City of Lawrence Ordinance
- Mandated Mental Health Training
- Develop a mental health call response and community services
- Advocated for more officers
- Advocate for more supervisors
- Additional vehicle upgrades
- New animal control van
- Add a Grant Coordinator position

# New Police Headquarters

The City of Lawrence and the State of Massachusetts have invested significant funding to construct a new police headquarters in order to replace the current Lawrence Police building. The necessity for a new Headquarters has been a long awaited goal for the City of Lawrence as the existing facility has become significantly outdated and outgrown. The new building is being designed and constructed with input from all available stakeholders, such as: City of Lawrence elected officials, Police Department personnel, outside contractors, State advisors and members of the community.

In 2021 significant progress has been made in the design program and conceptualization of the building. Throughout 2021 budgeting and implementing design space while maintaining fiscal responsibility have been key objectives. Going into 2022, the Police Department is finalizing the plans for the dimensions of the building and by the first quarter of the year are anticipating having a construction firm contracted. The current timeline suggests potential to begin breaking ground in late 2022 with construction forecast for 2023 and 2024.

The site itself will be located directly across Lowell Street from the current Police Department building, thereby keeping the Headquarters centrally located in the City and maintaining the familiar location citizens are accustomed too. The centrally located building allows equal access to all citizens and maintains a high profile of visibility in the downtown area of the City. This allows our citizens to feel more connected to the Police Department and projects safety and security.

The building itself is being designed considering Departmental operations, City services, growth potential and future needs. Law Enforcement facilities are unique, in that, they comprise dramatically different user groups with specific requirements. These comprise patrol officers, detectives, administrative staff, training areas, public safety communications and dispatch personnel, areas for individuals in temporary custody and the public at large.

The new facility has design space programmed for but not limited to: large group instruction area that may also serve as a community room, evidence and forensic storage, public safety multi agency dispatch with a real time operations center that focuses technological assets in conjunction with computer aided dispatch, holding cells and modernized processing and detention area, multiple interview rooms with AV assets, a physical fitness center that will aid officer wellness, locker facilities for male and female officers, a firing range that will allow the Department to maintain a constant focus on training that is autonomous to the City, a historical and memorial section dedicated to Officers lost in the line of duty and the 175 years of Lawrence Police Department history, a significantly larger and conducive lobby for the public, conference area that doubles as an emergency management operations center, and centrally located staffing offices for administration, investigations, records, patrol, special operations, community policing and family services.

As we move from planning to actualization in 2022 the primary focus of the project will center on maximization of function combined with connection to the community. The new Lawrence Police Headquarters is intended to reflect the best of the communities values and hopes while projecting a beacon of safety. As we move into 2022 we have successfully established and are improving on a strongly qualified facilities design committee, a clear program, a comprehensive budget and a realistic schedule for construction in order to realize the best possible facility to house officers and serve the citizens of Lawrence.



# Coronavirus: Lawrence Police Response

On February 1, 2020 the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Massachusetts. As the month went on the number of cases grew and began to have significant effects in Lawrence by the end of the month and into early March.

On March 10, 2020 the Governor of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker, declared a State of Emergency. Early on, it was clear that this Pandemic was going to change policing in the City of Lawrence now and for the immediate future. The Department quickly began to formulate plans and gathered supplies to safeguard the officers, who would still be tasked with providing emergency services to the community.

The Department command staff began meeting immediately to address the issues of the virus and discuss contingency and operational plans. A number of issues were addressed to include staffing, change of shifts, positive test results for officers, officer safety, supplies, cleaning, police responses, new policy and procedures. The Department needed to be ready to adjust to the daily changing environment and plan for any changes to COVID-19 trends. The CDC, Federal and State government, and world trends was constantly monitored to stay updated on best practices.

The Department acquired masks, gloves, Tyvek suits, and goggles for each officer.

The normal cleaning of the station was increased significantly. This included not only an increase of the amount of times cleaning was done, but also additional steps that were taken. The Department acquired an electrostatic cleaning gun that was used decontaminate the entire station as well as the patrol cruisers. This same process was done at all Lawrence Fire Houses by LPD staff. A decontamination station was set up at the station which called for every officer to enter the building from one door only and go through a decontamination process.

All non-essential personnel at the Department were moved to at home work status. The staff was supplied with laptops and computer access to continue to perform their duties. Also, in order to maintain services while limiting exposure the Department limited the services citizens were normally accustomed to receiving at the station, and many were moved to online reporting measures. All officers were required to wear masks and maintain distance from each other while at the station. Officers were encouraged to do their work from the cruisers and not back at the station. Supervisors monitored the amount of officers at the station at one time and roll call for officers was conducted in an open area garage to maintain space. Any citizens needing emergency services at the station were required to wear masks. Officers scaled back normal enforcement activities to emergency services only in an effort to minimize exposure.

Through the month of March, three Lawrence Police Officers tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Each officer was quarantined for a period of up to fourteen days or until cleared by their doctor. All three officers returned to full duty with no issues.

Along with providing emergency services to the community, the Department was tasked with providing coverage for school lunches at five locations Monday through Friday. The officers also participated in a two-day educational distribution of leaflets with the Massachusetts National Guard and Massachusetts State Police on March 28-29. During this operation more than 20,000 leaflets, encouraging residents to "Stay Home" among other need to know suggestions, were given out.

As the month of March ended the Department and the city continued to deal with the COVID-19 issues. The number of cases in Lawrence exceeded 1,000. During this time the Department continued to plan for the future, using the knowledge gained with this first experience. A large number of supplies were stockpiled in anticipation of a return of the virus in the future.

Through the next three months, April through June, the Department continued to adapt to the on-going Covid-19 Pandemic. All security and safety measure for the officers and the public remained in effect at the station. The officers continued to be updated on the positive case locations and continue to use all PPEs when dealing with the public. The Department had a total number of eight officers test positive for the virus and all have since returned to work without restriction.

The Department had and continues to have a presence at all city events including mask patrols, school lunches, and food pantry distribution. A large number of supplies for cleaning, decontamination and for the officer's protection continue to be ordered with an anticipated of a second wave of the virus this fall.

During the months of July to September of 2020 the Department continued to provide service to the residents of the city while keeping its officers safe from COVID-19. The Department did not have any new positive test results for officers but did have approximately a half dozen officers quarantined at various times due to exposure from family members who tested positive. All policies and procedures related to COVID-19 remained in place while opening up services at the station to the public on a case by case basis and by appointment to keep the number of people gathered inside the station at a minimum. The City of Lawrence remained in the "red zone" as a high percentage of positive cases related to the rest of the Commonwealth. The Department continued to conduct mask patrols and respond to loud music and party calls where residents, in violation of mask or gathering protocols, were counseled and in some case reported to the local Board of Health for follow up to include possible fines. The Department also continued to work with both the local and state agencies to check bars, businesses and restaurants in the city to ensure the regulations were being followed. A number of establishments have been fined and in some cases closed due to violations and non-compliance. The focal point of the Department's enforcement remains education.

The Department continued to purchase PPEs and related cleaning supplies. The officers are issued new PPEs weekly and as needed.

As the Department worked its way through the fall, September-December, and ended 2020, the COVID-19 virus remained its top issue. The Department continued its police services all the while dealing with a community with some of the highest Coronavirus rates in the Commonwealth. The Department has also seen a surge in officers testing positive for the virus. From October 30th through December 31st the Department had 30 positive cases. Thankfully, to date all of the officers have returned to duty with no issues.

The Department is still conducting mask patrols, following up on mask and gathering violations with the local Board of Health, and working with the local BOH and the state on compliance checks on businesses and restaurants.

The City of Lawrence in partnership with the Lawrence General Hospital has opened a drive through COVID-19 testing site. The site is staffed by Lawrence Police Officers conducting traffic control and overall security. The site is generally opened Monday-Saturday and tests approximately 1,500 persons per day. The city has also coordinated a mobile testing unit that tests residents in a walk up service in different parts of the city.

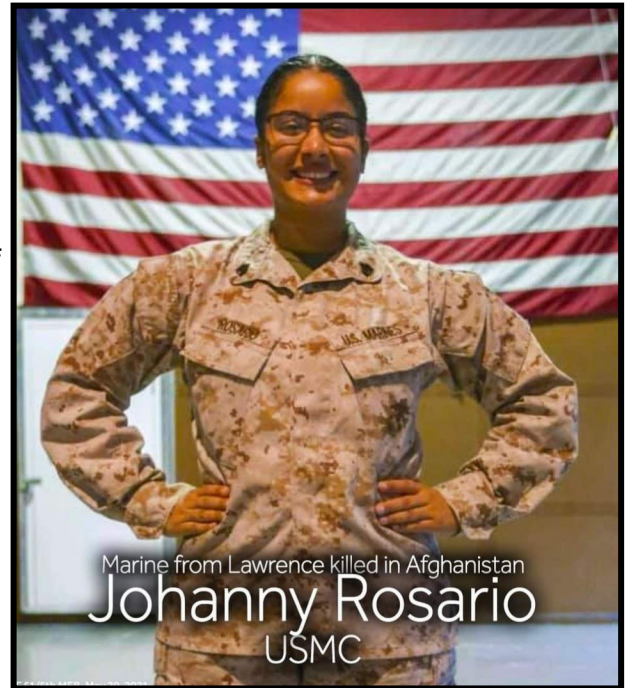
As 2020 ended, the Department continuously worked with the City of Lawrence and all of its partners on vaccinations for both first responders and the general public. The vaccinations are in progress as January 1, 2021, with hospital staff receiving the first doses to be followed by first responders the week of January 12, 2021. The Department is hopeful for a reduction of cases and eventual end to the pandemic.

During 2021, the Lawrence Police Department continued to support city services related to COVID-19. The department faced its own challenge with the pandemic especially during the last few months of 2021. The Department saw its positive COVID-19 cases soar to its highest levels with more than 40 officers effected in the latter half of December and into early 2022. To date, approximately 70% of the department has tested positive since the pandemic began and approximately 65% of the department has been fully vaccinated.

# Honoring Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo

On August 31, 2021 The Lawrence Police Department initiated the pre-planning for the home coming escort, wake, and funeral arrangements for the honoring of Sgt. Rosario Pichardo. Rosario Pichardo was killed in the line of duty while serving her country in Afghanistan as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. Chief Vasque and the Lawrence Police Department launched a comprehensive security plan to cover all four planned events to honor the fallen Marine. The first event started with a publicly held vigil at the Lawrence Veterans Memorial Stadium. The Vigil was well attended by the community and by state, federal and local dignitaries. The next three events started with a welcome home escort to bring the fallen Marine back to Lawrence. There was a private wake and funeral for the family and finally a wake and funeral procession which was open to public. In addition to these events the Lawrence Police Department was tasked with organizing a 3,000 to 5,000 private motorcycle ride through the streets of Lawrence to honor the fallen Marine. The Lawrence Police Department devised a security plan for all event sites as well as dignitary protection at all the locations. A detailed plan was also implemented to safely handle road closure and traffic flow concerns which would be created as a result of the escorts, processions and the motorcycle ride.

A comprehensive security plan was executed by the Lawrence Police Department Command Staff. All four events were successful and there were no notable issues involving the planned events for Sgt. Rosario Pichardo. The only notable issue to report involved an unsanctioned motorcycle ride which brought over 5,000 motorcycles to the City of Lawrence on September 14, 2021, which was on the same day of the public wake and funeral. This created a public safety problem due to the number of motorcycle riders operating together in such a large group. To manage this event safely the Lawrence Police closed several streets to stage the riders and the motorcycles. The Central Bridge, Manchester Street and a portion of May Street were closed to traffic so the Department could safely park all the motorcycles which were involved in the ride. The staging area for this ride required additional staffing, 15 Motorcycle Officers, and three manpower hours to coordinate safety of the riders. It should be noted four very minor motorcycle accidents did occur during the event and no injuries were suffered as a result of the accidents. Over the course of the four events the Lawrence Police Department along with the assistance from our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners deployed over 317 officers to cover the events to honor the Sgt. Rosario Pichardo. All the officers involved accomplished this mission with Honor, Respect, Dignity and Professionalism.





# Police Reform

As a result of the actions of some around the country, there has been an increased push by the public and the legislature to enact police reform. While the Department does not and never will condone these rogue police actions and are ourselves outraged by them, we believe that in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts policing is done better. Many of the reforms being asked for around the country have already been in place here, such as clear and defined Use of Force Policies, No Choke Policies, Duty to Intervene Policies, to name but a few. The mandate for specific trainings like Implicit Biased Policing, Procedural Justice, Diversity, De Escalation and Immigration are already being done here in Lawrence. The Department has invested in a state of the art MILO scenario based training machine to train and reinforce training the officers to deal with the mentally ill, in de-escalation tactics and in Use of Force scenarios. The Department recognizes the need for more work in the area of mental health. While continuing with officer training the Department is looking to add several mental health clinicians to provide services. It is also important to note that Massachusetts Chiefs Organizations have been asking for police reforms for many years and specifically with help in dealing with officers who have been fired for misconduct only to be given back their jobs through an antiquated civil service system. The Department looks forward to meaningful reform, to continue to serve fairly and justly, and to strengthen its partnerships in the community.

Massachusetts and the Lawrence Police Department remain leaders in the recruitment and training of officers. The Department recognizes that a department made up of officers recruited from the community brings itself closer to the community. The Lawrence Police Department is the only department in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that is a Majority Minority department, with 58% of the officers being minorities. The Department has also increased the number of female officers from three to now nineteen. The Department has also made many historic firsts as it relates to females and minorities with the first ever promotion of a Latino to Captain, the first ever female Latina Detective, Latina Community Policing Officer, Latina Narcotics Officer, the Departments first ever Drone Pilot, female and Latina ERT Officer, and female Latina Motorcycle Officer.

The Department is currently working toward the goal of attaining Certification with the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC). This process is critical in assisting us in reaching Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) compliance as well as providing a clear and current guide of operational standards for our officers to follow. An additional goal of this endeavor is to build confidence with our community members by providing a clear understanding of our role and mission as their law enforcement agency.

Lt. James Raso has 27 years of experience with the Lawrence Police Department, of which 21 years have been spent as supervisor of the patrol division. He has also been a licensed Attorney since 1997. This experience provides him with intricate knowledge of the day-to-day operations of the Department as well as a strong understanding of community needs. Accordingly, Lt. Raso has been assigned the role of Accreditation Manager for LPD.

Managing this process includes the updating of departmental policies and procedures to ascertain that they are in line with best practices in policing and also as required for Certification from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. The goal of Certification also includes the critical task of updating all time sensitive policies to be compliant with Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T), most importantly including the Departments Use of Force and Internal Affairs Policies. Because this process is so important to our Department and to our community, the Department has invested in a computer management software system designed to keep all policies together and easily accessible for Department personal and has hired a consulting firm to guide this ever important process.

## Grant Funding

In addition to many of the recurring grants that the Lawrence Police Department traditionally secures, the Department was also successful in securing several new grants in 2021.

The two newest and most notable grants relate to changes in policing including a Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.) grant from the federal COPS Office in conjunction with the Department of Justice. That is a \$240,000 grant awarded to the Department over two years. This will assist the Department in the creation of a C.I.T. with access to \$120,000 per year for this purpose. This will also allow the Department to hire clinicians to work with our officers and train them on best practices when responding to situations that may relate more to mental health issues rather than more traditional criminal situations.

On a related note, the Department also applied for an Equitable Approaches to Public Safety (EAPS) Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Public Health (MA DPH). This is a \$450,000 grant that is renewable for up to five years, with the potential to allow the Department access to up to \$2.250MIL over the life of the award. This grant allows for the creation of a team of mental health and emergency response personnel to work in the city and respond to similar situations that are mental health oriented as opposed to traditional criminal calls for service.

The annual grants that have been renewed again in 2021 are the Municipal Public Safety Staffing grant, the Shannon Community Safety Initiative, the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, the First Responder Naloxone grant and two Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) grants. The grant funding received by the Department is used for a variety of purposes including hiring costs associated with hiring and retaining additional police officers as well as supporting a variety of programs, initiatives, and partnerships with community non-profit organizations.

The Department has been very fortunate to receive the Municipal Public Safety Staffing grant since its inception. In 2020, this grant funding supported the hiring, training, outfitting of ten new police officers to fill vacancies due to attrition. This covered the cost to send these recruits to the Academy, and fully outfit and equip them as new officers. It also partially funded the retention of five newly hired police officers. This grant also funded various overtime initiatives including those aimed at targeting hot spots for criminal activity throughout the City.

The Department has been the recipient of the Shannon Community Safety Initiative and the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative for a number of years, including 2021. The funding from these grants is used to combat youth and gang violence in young adults. A large portion of both of these grants is distributed by the Department to community partners including: Lawrence Family Development, the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, the YWCA, ACT Lawrence, Family Services of the Merrimack Valley, and Change the Play. These organizations provide a wide variety of positive programming as well as outreach, support, and trauma counseling services to at-risk and proven risk youth. These programs are designed to prevent youth from becoming involved with gangs and engaging in criminal activity. They are also aimed at providing proven risk youth with alternatives to engaging in criminal behavior. In addition to funding community run programming, the Shannon initiative also funds programs run directly by the Police Department including the Junior Police Academy and a portion of the open gyms held at the Guilmette and South Lawrence East Schools. These Shannon funded programs provide opportunities for youth to interact with police officers in a positive setting.

In 2021, the Department was again the recipient of the First Responder Naloxone grant. This grant allowed the Department to purchase nasal naloxone and to train officers in the administration of the naloxone when responding to overdose calls. Funding can also be used for community education to increase awareness about the dangers of opioids and the community resources available to individuals and families dealing with addiction. While the Police Department applies for and manages this grant, the Fire Department also benefits from this grant.

The State 911 Department provided the Police Department with two grants to support the Department's role as the primary emergency 911 call center for the City. The Support and Incentives grant covered a portion of the staffing costs for the Department's civilian call takers. The Training and EMD Regulatory Compliance grant allowed the Department to provide 16 hours of continuing education training to all Department call takers and any officers working as dispatchers or call takers.

In 2020, the Department received funds from the Stanton Foundation's Police K-9 Grants. Those funds are designed to be spread over three years and the Department will use those funds through 2022 to support our K-9 Unit.

For the third year in a row, the Department applied for and received funding from the Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPPS) for grants related to Traffic Enforcement initiatives as well as an equipment grant aimed at better supporting the Department. The Municipal Road Safety Grant issued through EOPPS pays for traffic enforcement overtime as well as traffic related tools such as radar guns and speed boards.

EOPSS also funds a Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) grant which the Department has applied for and been awarded. PSN grants focus on equipment and technology. We have been awarded funding for both TruNarc handheld devices that allow for the analysis of substances on the street, to quickly alert an Officer to exactly what a drug is comprised of as well as funding for additional cameras that will allow us to continue to enhance the city's camera network and allow us to optimize that tool.

The Department received federal funds including a 2021 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the Department of Justice in 2021. This JAG grant focuses on the acquisition of equipment used in day-to-day policing operations. The Department was also awarded grant funding in 2021 to implement a Body Worn Camera policy. We received an award from the Commonwealth of MA for \$249K of funding as well as \$112K in federal funding. Both resources will become available immediately upon the adoption and implementation of a BWC policy by our Department that is approved by the respective Unions. Finally, the Department continues to be the recipient of other grant funding that allows for the purchase of bulletproof vests.



## K-9 Unit

The Lawrence Police K-9 Unit is comprised of a Sergeant, who is in charge of supervision of the unit, and two Officers / handlers, each of which is assigned a canine partner. Both Handler / Canine partner teams have been fully certified through Boston, MA Police for Canine Patrol. Canine Patrol certification consists of Obedience, Agility, Article Searches, Area Searches, Building Searches, Criminal Apprehension and Tracking. Beyond the Patrol Certification, each Handler / Canine team has a different specialized training.

Officer Carlos Aguirre and his Canine, Magnus, have specialized training for Narcotics Detection. In addition to their BPD Certification, Officer Aguirre strives for excellence with his dog and currently holds a national certification through the North American Police Work Dog Association for "Police Utility Dog" as well as "Narcotics Detection Team". Officer Aguirre and K-9 Magnus also hold certifications for Region 4 PD-1 and Region 4 Narcotics through The United States Police Canine Association, Inc. The PD-1 certification is a very rigorous test of the team's ability to complete all facets of Patrol functions. Only the most disciplined teams are able to complete and certify through the PD-1 trials. Officer Aguirre and Magnus have also completed the Dream Ride Police K-9 Expo and Challenge and have a certificate of completion in Police K9 Behavior and Decoy Techniques. This certification is another rigorous training and testing over the course of several days. The teams are instructed and tested on criminal apprehension, lower body apprehension, decoy techniques, agility, obedience, tactical movements and First Aid for the canine.



In addition, Officer Aguirre is member of the North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC). Beyond his regular NEMLEC training, Officer Aguirre is one of the NEMLEC SWAT K-9 teams. Through NEMLEC, Officer Aguirre and Magnus have responded to seven callouts in 2021. Officer Aguirre and Magnus have also responded to three Mutual Aid callouts for neighboring communities in 2021. For the City of Lawrence Officer Aguirre and Magnus have either been the primary responding unit, or have been assigned as a back-up unit in over 1,339 calls for service providing assistance to patrol, detectives, auto theft, and the gang unit amongst others. Officer Aguirre and Magnus have also had several significant suspect and narcotic finds over the course of 2021.

On April 2nd 2021, Officer Calderon and his canine, Baker, completed over 400 hours of training and received their specialized training certification in Police Canine Explosive Detection Training (EOD) through the Boston Police Academy. Most recently Officer Calderon has attended and completed a seminar in Canine Legal updates through Sheepdog Guardian Consulting, LLC. As the newest members of the Lawrence Police K-9 unit, Officer Calderon and Baker anticipate taking part in similar state and national trainings and certifications to those of Officer Aguirre. For 2021 Officer Calderon and Baker have responded to two (2) Mutual Aid calls for service in neighboring communities. For the City of Lawrence, Officer Calderon and Baker have either been the primary responding unit, or have assisted as back up, in 1,745 calls for service.



Also in 2021, Chief Vasque has added former K-9 handler Sgt. John Nicoletti to the K-9 unit as a Supervisor overseeing trainings, certifications, medical records, general maintenance of the dogs and day to day activity of the unit.

## Camera Project

Phase I of the city wide cameras project began in the fall of 2018 and was completed, with the initial set of cameras going live, in the spring of 2019. Phase I of the project included the installation of 74 cameras at 34 different locations citywide. A quick deploy, movable, camera was also on boarded during this Phase. During Phase II of the project cameras were added to an additional 39 sites throughout the city. Cameras were also added to the Police Department Headquarters, the Buckley Parking Garage, and the Museum Square Parking Garage at this time. Phase III added cameras to an additional 26 sites and two more quick deploy cameras were obtained. In 2020, the Department moved into Phase IV of the camera project. During this phase 51 cameras were added to cover the 32 parks citywide. The Lawrence Water Department added 12 cameras as well. Due to the number of cameras the Department now has two servers.

City cameras can be viewed from dispatch, the Officer in Charge office, as well as by patrol officers and detectives as part of their investigations. The city cameras have been instrumental in helping to solve homicides, robberies, assaults, burglaries, hit and run cases and several gun cases. The camera system also has the ability to create grouping of cameras that can be used to cover events like festivals and parades.

The city camera system has also been used by other departments within the city. For example, the fire department utilized the city cameras during an investigation into an arson case and the inspectional services department has used them for an illegal dumping cases. The Lawrence Police Department has two detectives assigned to the Forensic Video Unit, and these detectives assist in the day-to-day operations of the city camera system and investigations. During 2021 the Lawrence Police Department worked with Lawrence Housing Authority on a surveillance camera grant. During the first phase of this project approximately 100 cameras were installed at housing projects throughout the city. This phase started with elderly housing complexes such as the 353 Elm Street location.

## Forensic Video Unit

The Forensic Video Unit conducted approximately 715 video investigations during 2021. These cases range from hit and run motor vehicle accidents to homicide investigations. During 2021, the cameras were instrumental in solving a vehicular homicide incident as well as several robberies and shootings. These investigations may include simple recovery and processing to extensive processing and analysis for court. The unit continues to work on open investigations as well. Further details are available on individual cases. The Forensic Video Unit continues to access and handle the citywide camera system as well.

# Drone Unit

The Drone Unit is currently operated under the supervision of the Special Operations Division. It is running with three active pilots and is currently training an additional pilot who will be added to the roster in the Spring of 2022. The unit is also training two other members upon successful completion of training these officers will be added to the roster.

On May 7, 2021, the City of Lawrence received approval on a two-year certificate of waiver. Under the FAA approved waiver, the department will be able to train and activate drone pilots without a part 107 license. Two officers will maintain their part 107 licensure. However, additional pilots will not be required to obtain a part 107 license and will operate under the COA for all department approved deployments. The COA must be renewed every 2 years, via the FAA's COA application processing system.

The Department's pilots conduct their own flight training once a month and will continue to participate in trainings with outside agencies as they become available. The Department currently has three drones and one cruiser equipped with a 50-inch screen, for viewing. When any drone is deployed from the Command Post (CP) a wireless HDMI connection will allow for viewing of all active drone flights from a screen in the CP.



Every flight continues to be documented, recorded, and backed up to a department designated PC. Within the City of Lawrence drone operations are permitted at 100 feet above ground level within the Lawrence Municipal Airport landing flight path (Merrimack to N. Andover to Veteran's Stadium) and 200 feet above ground level outside that area. Under emergency circumstances or with prior authorization, from the FAA, pilots may operate up to 400 feet above ground level. For clarification above ground level is wherever the pilot is standing, which may be from the highest point of any fixed structure in the city.

In 2021 the drone unit continued to participate in regular training exercises. Due to COVID-19, no interagency training activities were conducted, however, availability to assist other departments was still possible and encouraged.

The Drone Unit is available to the Department during all shifts and on an on-call basis for any investigation, search, surveillance and to assist the entry team where it may be lawfully and appropriately utilized (per FAA regulations on call pilot makes final deployment decision). It is not required but recommended that a visual observer (no prior training necessary for this role) accompany a pilot during operations. Visual observer may be a supervisor or officer, who can remain with the pilot.



In addition to training exercises the drones were used to conduct a variety of operations:

- January 11, 2021 75 Manchester Street Covid testing site survey
- January 15, 2021 Beverly PD retirement caravan
- February 22, 2021 Arlington School traffic assessment
- February 25, 2021 Merrimack & S. Union Street-survey high accident location
- March 11, 2021 Essex & Broadway-survey high accident location
- April 04, 2021 Saratoga & Myrtle Street- assist Fire Department with active fire scene
- April 6, 2021-Water & Thornton Street-Surveillance
- April 15, 2021-Franklin & Haverhill Street- Roof assessment St. Anne's Church
- July 1, 2021- Marston Street Covid testing site, traffic survey
- July 15, 2021- 65 Lowell Street, antenna height survey (new PD)
- August 24, 2021-Assist Lowell PD with scooter operation
- September 11, 2021-Procession Sgt. Rosario Pichardo USMC
- September 14, 2021-Service Sgt. Rosario USMC
- October 21, 2021- NECCO Haverhill & Lawrence aerial view
- November 29, 2021-Search for Missing Quincy, MA



## Command Post

In September of 2019, the Lawrence Police Department purchased a new 2019 State of the Art Mobile Command Post at a cost of \$249,936. The Command Post was purchased with funds from the Columbia Gas settlement. The vehicle itself is 12 feet tall, 36 feet long, and 12 feet wide, and weighs approximately 28,000 pounds. The Mobile Command was retrofitted with computer access, communications, phone lines, whiteboards and TV monitors inside and outside the vehicle. The Command Vehicle itself can seat fourteen (14) people in a meeting type space, and has four (4) workstations for a dispatch setting. Additionally, when needed, the city camera system can be viewed and the drone can be deployed.

Five members of the Lawrence Police Department are trained in the deployment and operation of the Mobile Command Post. These Officers are on a rotating, on call list, so that the Command Post can be deployed to an emergency or an event at any time.

During 2019 the Command Post was used at the 2019 Gas Leak as well as several crime scene, missing person search, and also assisted at several large fire scenes. The Command Post was also used at community engagement events, Special Olympics events, Touch-a-Truck events, Columbia Gas dedication, Vietnam Memorial Road Race and the Santa Parade. In 2020 the Department used the Command Post at crime scenes, fire scenes, and at Everyone Eats events. Throughout 2021, the Command Post was deployed to any major event including crime scenes, fires and community events.



# Community Awareness & Outreach

During 2021, the Lawrence Police Department community awareness program participated a wide variety of events including Autism events at Melmark New England, Autism Eats, Mom's Cancer Fighting Angels, Cone with a Cop, Gloucester Community Event Day, and visiting with the Northeast Independent Living Program.

Additionally, the Department's community awareness program continued to support the Special Olympics at both their summer and winter torch runs.

This year, Lt. Sandy J Picard and certified therapy dog Oliver joined the New England Comfort Dogs at their symposium and were on scene to provide support at a few traumatic events. Oliver continues supporting reading help with the Mass Library Commission and the Boston Bruins program, "When You Read You Score" at different libraries.



Lawrence Police also continues to support Trouble the Dog, a plush therapy dog who's motto is "Where There's Trouble, There's Hope". Trouble the Dog will continue to offer comfort to kids within the community as they navigate any current crisis. Oliver, Lt. Picard, and Chief Vasque supported the Kennek foundation and Trouble the Dog at an event in September as well as smaller events throughout the year.



Further, the Department continued the SafeWatch Program. The goal of this program is to help family members and citizens of the community who may have conditions that cause them to wander, be unsafe or pose a danger either to themselves or others. This program exists so that if a crisis occurs the police have information and a picture of the citizen accessible to them. This allows for them to respond quickly using techniques that have the highest likelihood of leading to a successful outcome. The Department currently has 132 SafeWatch members and is continuously updating pictures.

The Department still has four cars as part of its fleet of community awareness and outreach vehicles. The program was started with an Autism Cruiser. In 2019, an all

Cancer Cruiser was added. This Cancer Cruiser represents all types of cancers and displays the banner "Let's handcuff cancer and put it away for life". The Department added an anti-bullying cruiser. This cruiser displays the banner "be a buddy not a bully". This car is modeled after a school bus due to the fact that a lot of bullying occurs in and around schools, however this car covers all types of bullying. Lastly, a car bringing awareness to Domestic Violence was added and this cruiser serves as reminder to all that we need to stop the cycle of violence.





# Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is part of the Field Services Bureau and is under the command of a Captain. The supervisory staffing of the Patrol Division consists of one Lieutenant and four Sergeants dedicated to each of the Department's three patrol shifts or Platoons. By the end of 2021, there were 70 patrol officers assigned to the Division Patrol Division. Also assigned to the Patrol Division are eleven Civilian Call-Takers (911) up from ten in 2020, six Traffic Control Officers, up from four in 2020, and two Animal Control Officers.

Upon graduation from the Police Academy, every new Lawrence Police Officer must participate in a 12-week Field Training Program during which they are observed and mentored by senior police officers (FTOs) in the field. In 2021, fifteen new police officers successfully completed the NECC Police Academy, ten successfully completed the LPD Field Training Program and became fully functioning Lawrence Police Officers. Five are currently participating in the LPD Field Training Program.

In 2021 LPD Traffic Unit was increased from one (1) officer to an officer and one Sergeant. Officers assigned to this unit will focus exclusively of selective enforcement, auto accidents, and traffic mitigation freeing up line officers to focus more of their efforts on proactive patrol and problem solving.

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Department and is responsible for patrol coverage and emergency response within the seven square miles of Lawrence. The Patrol Division is the largest division in the Department and is primarily responsible for responding to calls for service, conducting preliminary investigations, investigating motor vehicle accidents, crime control and service delivery in response to crime advisories as well as community concerns. As first responders to all emergency calls, patrol officers routinely assist both EMS (Lawrence General Hospital) and the Lawrence Fire Department. The Patrol Division is the primary point of contact for services to the public that citizens interact with on a daily basis. They are the officers that patrol your neighborhoods in marked police cruisers and respond to calls for assistance and service. They are the officers that you first meet when you arrive at the police station. They are the officers that staff the Department communications room where calls for service are answered and dispatched.

Some of the highlights for 2021 include the following:

## **Platoon 1: (1am to 9am)**

- Felony Larcenies -25%
- Arrests +45%
- Larceny MV -1%

## **Platoon 2: (9am to 5pm)**

- Robberies -46%
- Motor Vehicle Stops +21%

## **Platoon 3: (5pm to 1am)**

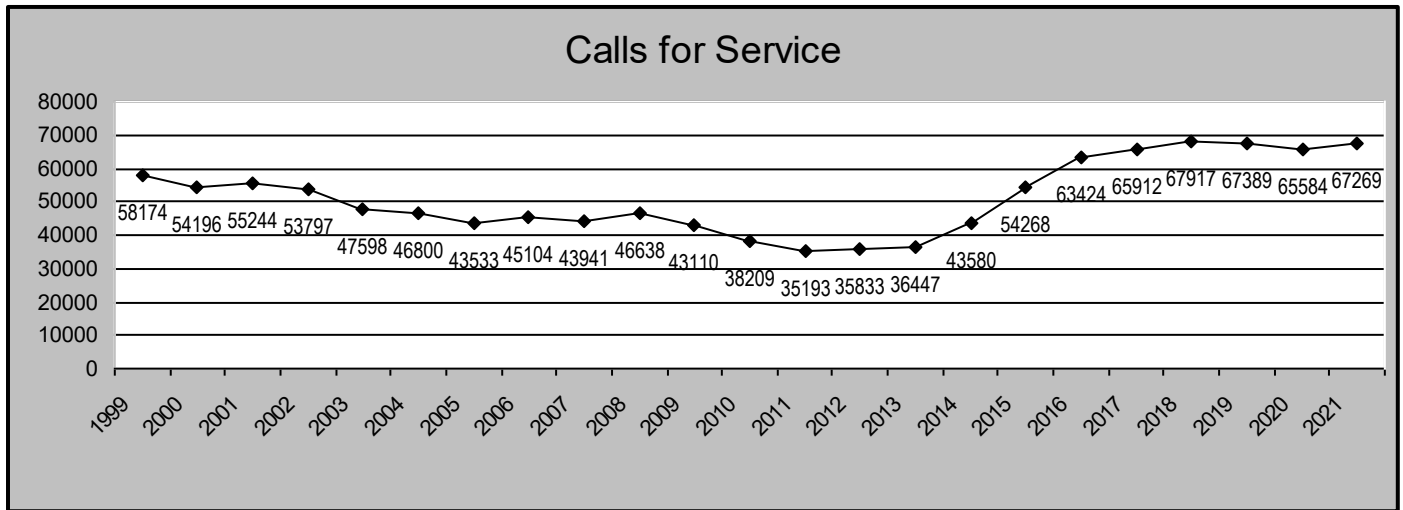
- Robbery -18%
- Agg. Assaults -17%
- Res. Burglaries -21%

During 2021, 17,312 motor vehicle stops were conducted which is a 27% increase from 2021. Motor vehicle stops were specifically targeted towards high vehicle theft areas and areas of the City experiencing increased levels of auto accidents.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division conducted 227 investigations into missing persons, locating 139 during the preliminary investigations. The remaining 88 missing persons were eventually located during the Detective Division's follow up investigations.

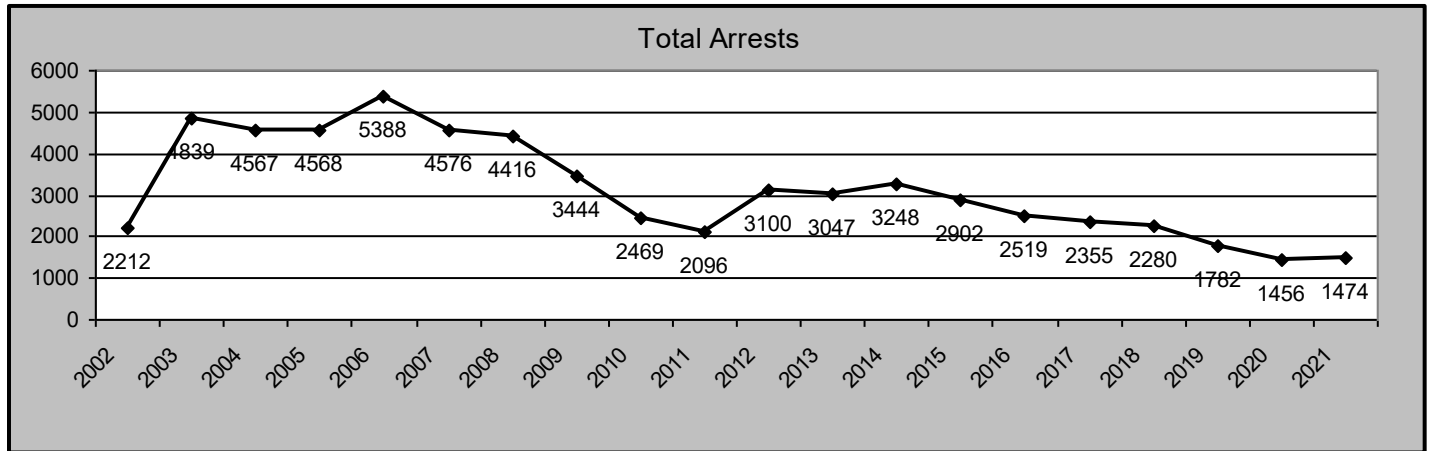
# Calls for Service

The graph below shows the total number of calls for service per year from 1999 to 2021. During 2021, the Lawrence Police Department responded to 67,269 calls for service which is an increase of 3% compared to 2020. Over the last five years, 2017-2021, the department has responded to an average of 66,814 calls of service per year, approximately 183 per day. The graph below shows the steady increase in calls for service over the last ten years. It is important to note that "Calls for Service" is not a standardized term across all police agencies. For example, one agency might consider a phone call received as a call for service when another might consider a police car being dispatched as a call for service. The Lawrence Police Department quantifies calls for service as incidents that were entered into the department's computer aided dispatch software that resulted in an officer being dispatched to service a citizen.

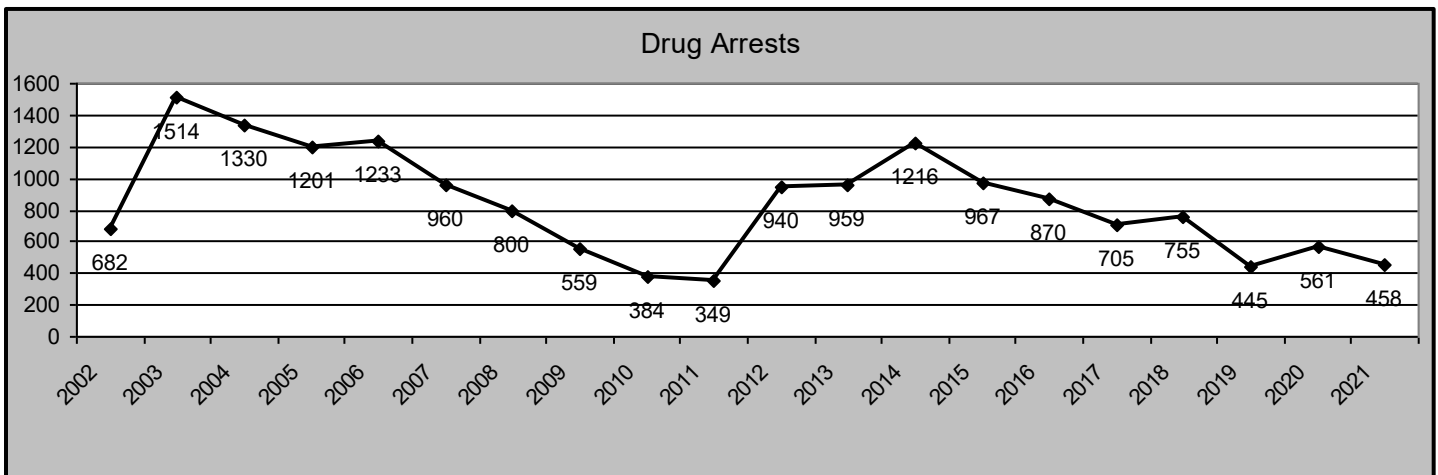


## Arrests

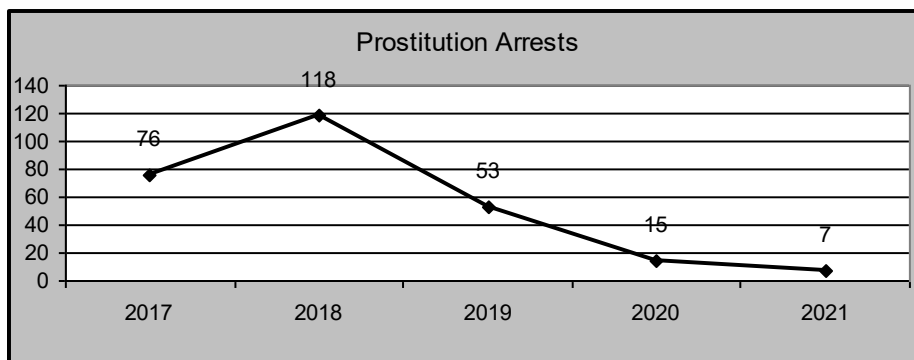
The Lawrence Police Department made 1,474 arrests during 2021, this is a slight increase from 2020. The graph below shows the total number of arrests made per year from 2002-2021. The total number of arrests per year has been overall trending downward since 2014. This is in part due to the decrease in total Part 1 Crime, and adjustments to the juvenile arrest legislation. It is also important to note that the total number of arrests does not reflect those arrests made by the DEA, ATF, FBI, and Massachusetts State Police; who all have a heavy presence in the city.



The Crime Analysis Unit further breaks down arrests and looks specifically at the number of drug arrests made per year. This data, from 2002– 2021, is displayed below. In 2021, the Department made 458 drug related arrests; each arrestee in this total had at least one drug charge or warrant for a drug charge. Again, this does not reflect arrests made by other agencies that work within the city.

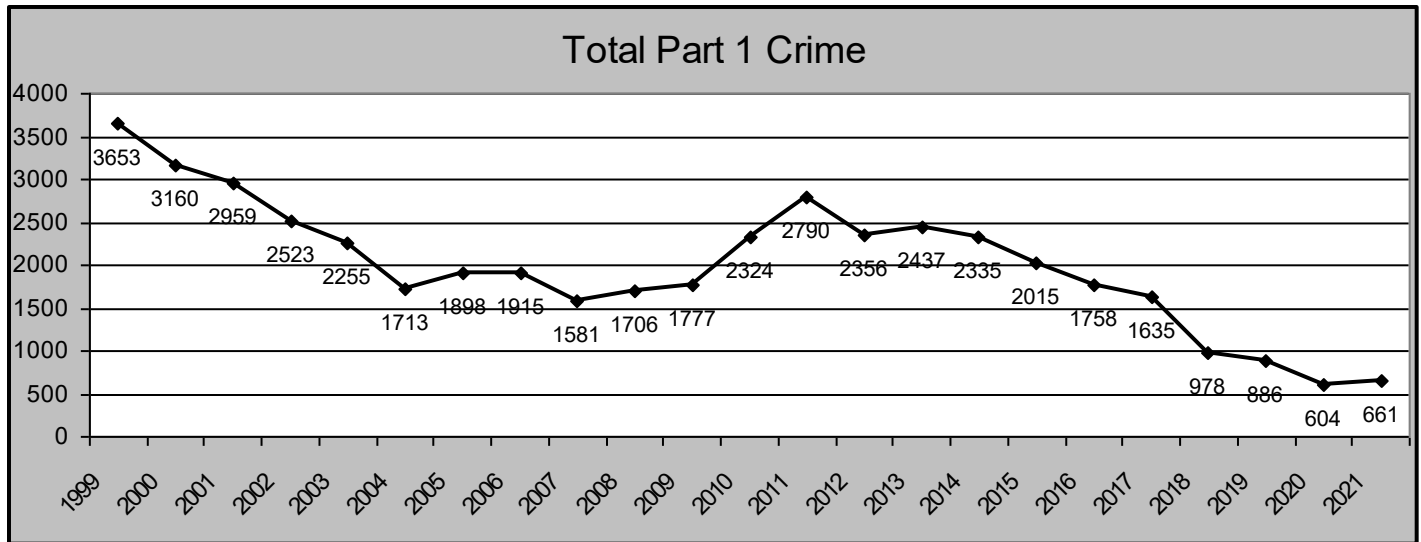


A second category of arrests that the Department started to look at is the number of prostitution arrests made throughout the year. The Department has tracked this information consistently since 2017. During 2021, seven prostitution arrests were made. Again each arrestee in this total had at least one prostitution charge or warrant for a prostitution charge. The Department will continue to monitor this quality of life issue.



## Part 1 Crime

The graph below shows the total number of Part 1 Crimes for year from 1999 to 2021<sup>1</sup>. Part 1 Crimes, as defined by the Lawrence Police Department, include Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Felony Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft. The Department has had a steady decrease in the total number of Part 1 Crimes since 2013. In 2020, a total of 604 Part 1 Crimes were reported. This is the lowest total number of Part 1 Crimes in at least twenty years. During 2021, there were 661 Part 1 Crimes reported; a 10% increase compared to 2020. This slight increase was anticipated by the Department following the overall response to the COVID-19 Pandemic citywide in 2020. Throughout the last five years, 2017-2021, Part 1 Crime has decreased by 60%.



The chart below shows the percentage of Part 1 Crimes that have been cleared by the Department from 2014 through 2021. The Department counts all incidents that are closed via arrest, warrant, or summons as cleared. It is evident in the chart below that the Department has worked to greatly improve clearance rates. The FBI/ UCR breaks down overall clearance into two categories violent crime— homicide, rape, robbery, and assault, and property crime— burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The most current FBI / UCR clearance percentage are included on the chart as well. In 2021, the Department exceeded the national clearance percentage for both violent crime and property crime. Additionally, the Department improved the percentage of property crime incidents that were cleared to 34% which is an increase from the 2020 clearance percentage of 31%.

Part 1 Crime Clearance Rate									
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total Crime</b>	25%	24%	25%	34%	49%	58%	63%	<b>63%</b>	
<b>Violent Crime</b>	52%	53%	52%	66%	76%	78%	82%	<b>82%</b>	<b>45.5%</b>
<b>Property Crime</b>	9%	10%	12%	15%	20%	28%	31%	<b>35%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>

A section for each of the Part 1 Crimes are on the pages that follow. This includes the FBI / UCR crime definition, a graph showing yearly totals for that individual crime from 1999 through 2021, a chart showing the 2020 and 2021 totals as well as the percent change, and finally a second chart showing the yearly clearance rate for that individual crime between 2014 and 2021 and the national clearance rate that the FBI generates.

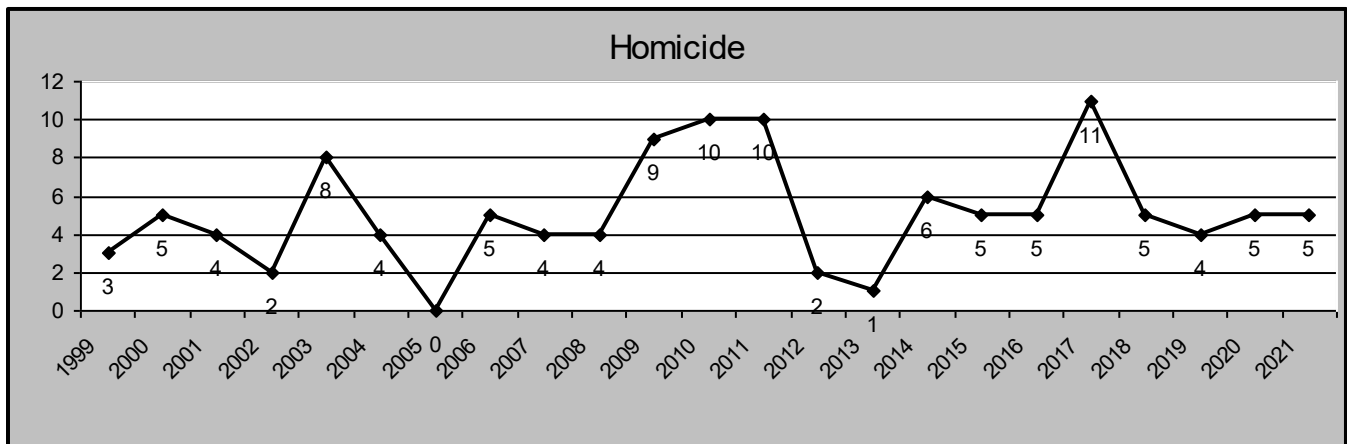
1. Part 1 Crime totals and individual crime totals are subject to change based on ongoing investigations. Numbers are not official crime statistics, and are current as of packet printing.

2. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>

# Homicide

**FBI/ UCR Definition<sup>1</sup>:** Criminal homicide—a.) Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter: the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, and accidental deaths are excluded. The program classifies justifiable homicides separately and limits the definition to: (1) the killing of a felon by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty; or (2) the killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen. b.) Manslaughter by negligence: the killing of another person through gross negligence. Deaths of persons due to their own negligence, accidental deaths not resulting from gross negligence, and traffic fatalities are not included in the category Manslaughter by Negligence.

In 2021, there were five homicides citywide similar to 2020. This number remains consistent with the average of the last three years, and is a decrease from 2017 during which eleven homicide incidents were reported. Three of the five incidents have been closed resulting in a 60% clearance rate. A map of the 2021 homicide locations is on the following page.



Homicide Comparison				Homicide Clearance Rate								
	2020	2021	% Change	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>2</sup>
Total	5	5	0%	50%	100%	60%	64%	60%	100%	60%	60%	61.4%

1. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>

2. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>





# Rape

Prior to 2013, the offense data for rape was collected under the legacy UCR definition: the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. As such, data collection on rape was limited to incidents of rape where “force” was used. Other categories of sexual assault, attempted sexual assaults, statutory rapes, and the like, were classified under other categories.

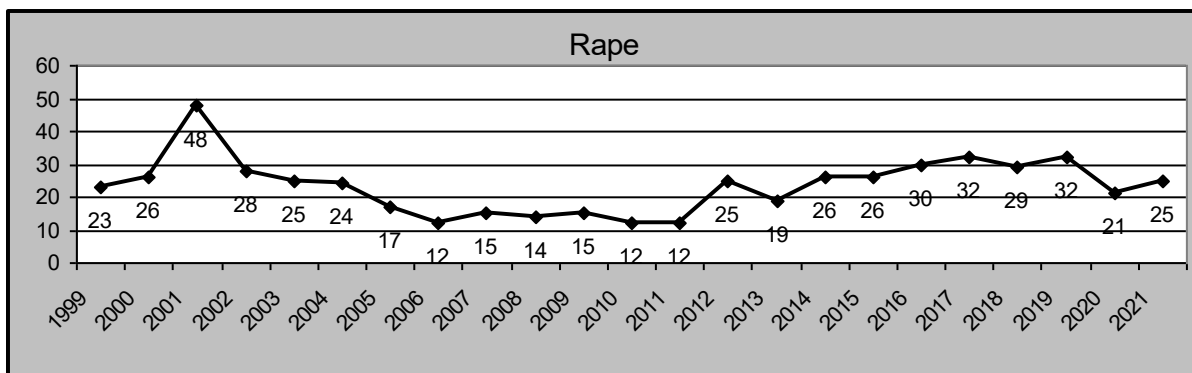
In 2013, the FBI UCR Program began collecting rape data under a revised definition within the Summary Reporting System. Beginning in 2013, the term “forcible” was removed from the offense title and the definition was changed. The revised UCR definition of rape is: penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Attempts or assaults to commit rape are also included in the statistics presented<sup>1</sup>.

In Massachusetts, rape is defined as the penetration of any bodily orifice by any part of the body, or by an object, performed against the victim's will, without consent, and with the threat of or actual use of force<sup>2</sup>. In conformance with, and in addition to, the revised definition, Massachusetts courts have also seemingly expanded the interpretation of “penetration.” Previously, “penetration” was established where the perpetrator actually inserted his/her digits (fingers, hands) penis, tongue, or objects into the victim's orifice(s). Now, the “penetration” element is established in situations where even the slightest separation of the lips, anus, or labia is concerned. This includes incidents of licking and fondling which would have traditionally been categorized under indecent assault and battery and other statutes.

As a result, incidents of sexual assaults, attempted sexual assaults, statutory rapes, sex and heavy fondling between intoxicated individuals where consent was ambiguous or where even the slightest penetration (as statutorily defined) is involved, is now categorized as rape although such incidents may not have been categorized this way under the legacy definition. Even instances of groping that meet the new “penetration” element give rise to charges of rape.

This change has had a direct and notable effect on rape statistics and is particularly pronounced in cases of domestic sexual assaults. In these cases, where indecent assault and battery charges would have been appropriate against family members and friends committing sexual acts against children and other family members, the statutes require rape charges.

The graph on the below shows the number of rapes in Lawrence per year from 1999 through 2021. Due to the above mentioned definition change Lawrence saw a 39% increase in the number of rapes between 2013 and 2014. In 2021, 25 rape incidents were reported resulting in a 19% increased when compared to 2020. The Department cleared 68% of rape incidents in 2021.



Rape Comparison				Rape Clearance Rate								
	2020	2021	% Change	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>4</sup>
Total	21	25	19%	69%	69%	70%	53%	76%	84%	77%	68%	32.9%

1. Source: U.S. Department of Justice- Federal Bureau of Investigation, released Fall 2017

2. Source: Thomson Reuters, FindLaw: <http://statelaws.findlaw.com/massachusetts-law/massachusetts-rape-laws.html>, March 8, 2018.

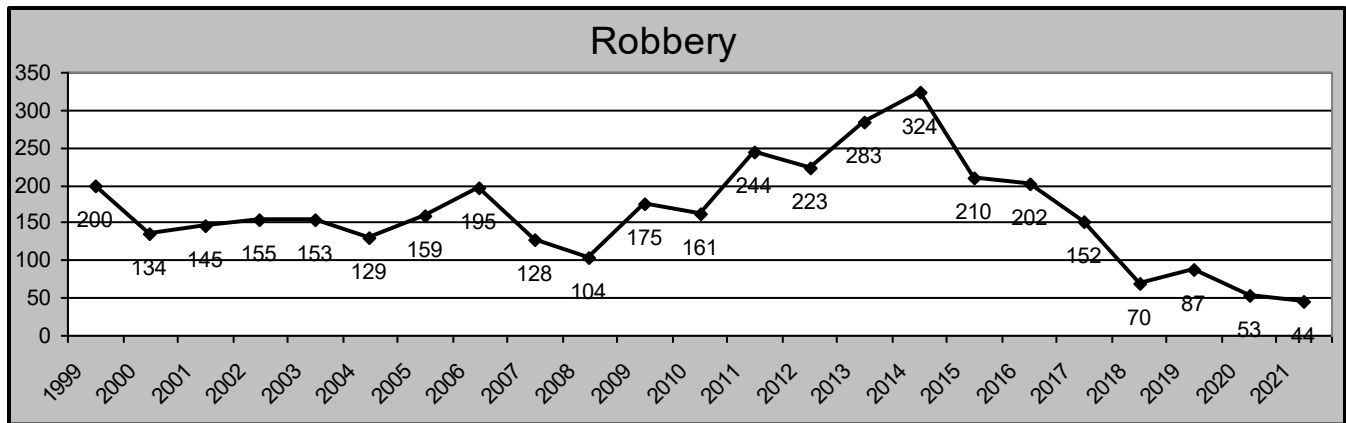
3. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-publications>

4. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>

# Robbery

**FBI/ UCR Definition<sup>1</sup>:** The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

During 2021, 44 robberies were reported citywide resulting in a 17% decrease compared to 2020. This is the lowest number of robberies reported in a single year since at least 1999. Furthermore, robberies have decreased by 86% compared to 2014, the highest one year total in recent years. During 2021 the clearance rate remained at 64% which was significantly above the national average of 30.5%<sup>2</sup>. A map of the 2021 robberies is on the following page.



Robbery Comparison			
	2020	2021	% Change
Total	53	44	-17%

Robbery Clearance Rate								
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>2</sup>
17%	21%	21%	39%	49%	46%	64%	64%	30.5%

1. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>  
 2. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>



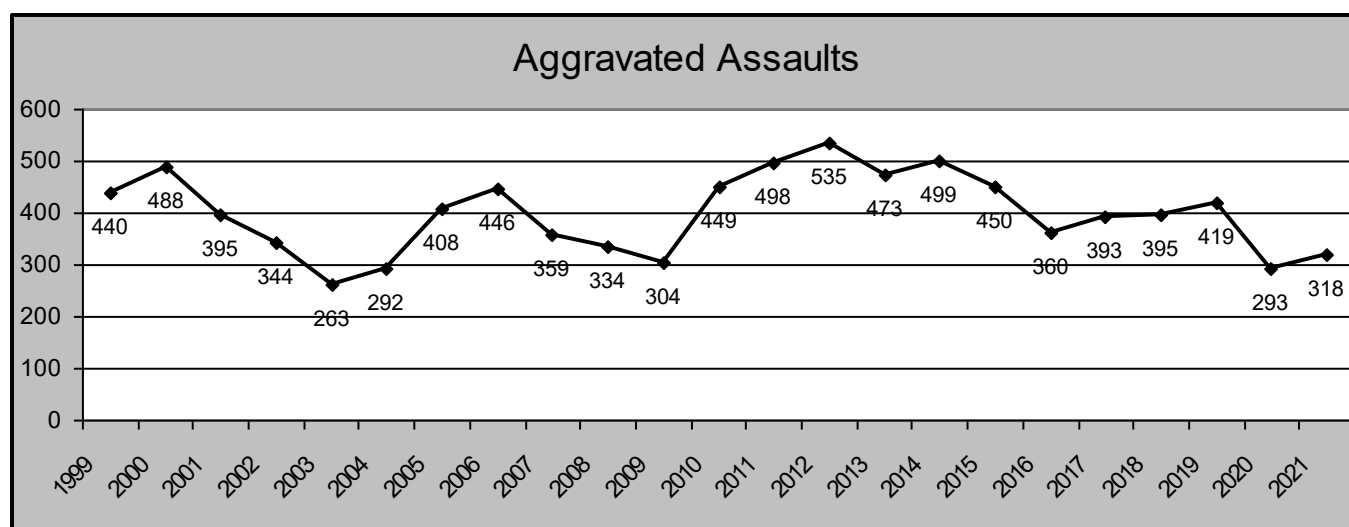


# Aggravated Assault

**FBI/ UCR Definition<sup>1</sup>:** An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

*The Lawrence Police Department Crime Analysis Unit breaks down Aggravated Assault into two subcategories: Domestic and Non-Domestic. Domestic Aggravated Assaults are classified as those where the relationship between the victim and offender is that of an intimate partner, ex-intimate partner, family or household member. Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault are those where the relationship is an acquaintance, school-mate, friend, or a stranger. The information below focuses on the total amount of aggravated assaults; the pages that follow provide information on the two different subcategories.*

In 2021, 318 total aggravated assaults were reported citywide. This is an increase of 9% compared to 2020. Of note, the number of aggravated assaults reported during 2020 was one of the lowest numbers in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic was likely a contributing factor to this. On average, in the last five years, 2017-2021, there have been approximately 364 assaults reported each year. The 2021 total is 13% lower than this average. Again, the Department cleared aggravated assaults at a highly efficient rate; 86% of aggravated assaults incidents were cleared in 2021. This is above the national clearance rate, 52.3%<sup>2</sup>.



Aggravated Assault Comparison			
	2020	2021	% Change
Total	293	318	9%

Aggravated Assault Clearance Rate								
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>2</sup>
74%	66%	68%	78%	81%	84%	87%	86%	52.3%

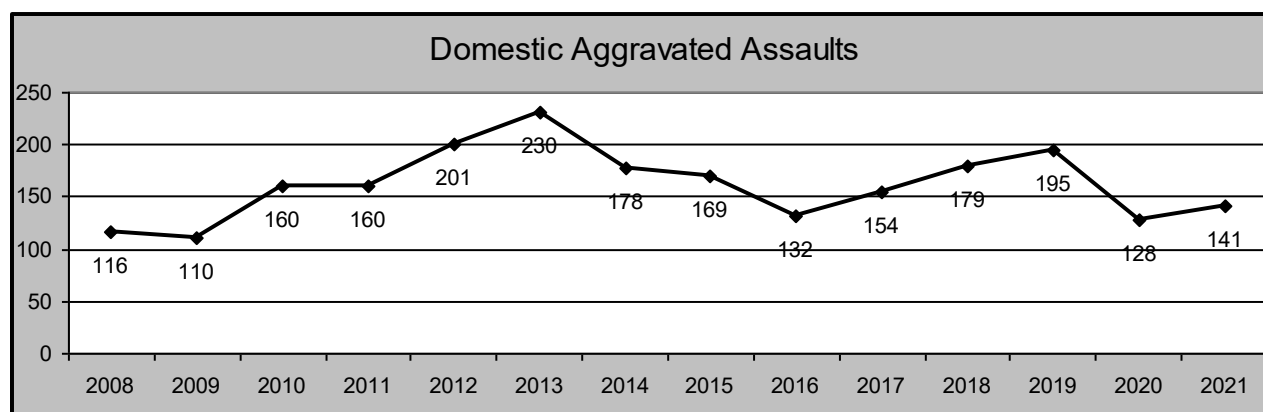
1. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>

2. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>



## Domestic Aggravated Assault

Displayed on the graph are the number of reported domestic aggravated assaults from 2008, when the Department started making this distinction, through 2021. During 2021, 141 domestic aggravated assaults were reported resulting in a 10% increase compared to 2020. Despite this slight increase the 2021 total is still below recent years and is 39% compared to the 2013 total of 230. The Department cleared 96% of the aggravated assault incidents in 2021. The Domestic Violence Unit under the Police and Community Relations Unit, described on the following page, works to provide resources, and education to the community and the Department. The implementation of this unit and resources has resulted in more victims coming forward.



Domestic Aggravated Assault Comparison			
	2020	2021	% Change
Total	128	141	10%

Domestic Aggravated Assault Clearance Rate								
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>2</sup>
96%	95%	97%	98%	99%	99%	98%	96%	52.3%

1. Refers to national aggravated assault clearance rate: Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>

# Police and Community Relations: Domestic Violence Unit

**Mission Statement:** The Lawrence Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) addresses community safety concerns by quickly evaluating domestic violence incidents and identifying individuals at high risk of violence, as well as identifying and monitoring batterers with a high likelihood of re-offending. The Unit also facilitates services and access to supportive and rehabilitative programs within the community and serves as a bridge between the Lawrence Police Department and service providers.

**Goals:** The DVU endeavors to have domestic violence survivors and their children live violence-free lives. The DVU maximizes services to community members by offering safety plans, resources, and identifying service gaps within the system in order to coordinate collaboration among the agencies.

**Investigations:** The DVU's investigative branch has taken an aggressive and proactive approach to tracking and arresting individuals deemed to pose serious threats to DV victims. The personnel assigned to this unit worked on numerous cases and investigations throughout 2021. They conducted countless follow ups handed off to them from patrol and follow up on subjects who had outstanding warrants. Additionally the personnel in this unit assisted other police department's with investigations and worked with other units within the Department to locate wanted individuals.

**Services to Families:** In 2021, the Lawrence District Court issued 1062 Restraining orders, generating 1335 calls for service for the Lawrence Police Department. The DVU responded by helping provide after-care services to over 353 families, including 335 minors. Out of those:

- I. 66 families were provided with court services
- II. 196 families were provided with counseling services

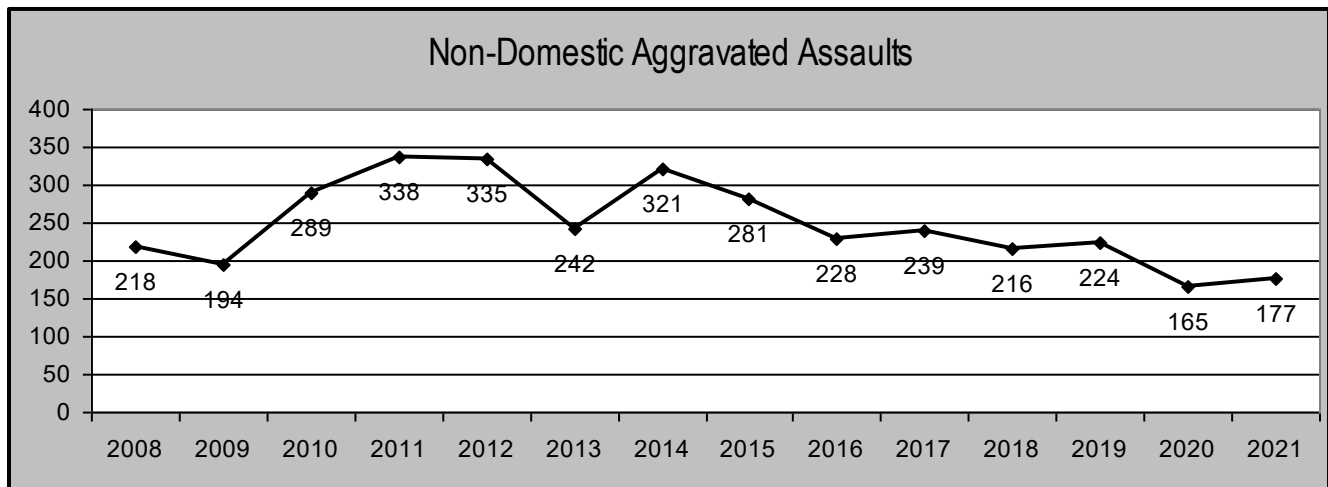
**DVHRT:** The Domestic Violence Unit is also responsible for the coordination of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) in the Lawrence area. The DVHRT holds monthly meetings where members of the Lawrence Police Department, the Essex County District Attorney's Office, Probation Officers, Parole officers, The Essex County Sheriff's Office, Domestic Violence Service Providers, Intimate Partner Abuse Educational Program, Department of Transitional Assistance, and the Department of Children and Families work together to identify and prevent high lethality cases, to protect victims and hold abusers accountable.

**DVU Affiliations:** The DVU works in conjunction with and is members of the following groups:

- Lawrence Domestic Round Table
- Lawrence HUB on Substance Abuse
- Lawrence Community Non-Profit Organization COVID-19 Response
- Homeless Initiative Working Group
- MA Black and Latinx Trailblazer Celebration
- Quality Improvement Center on Domestic Violence & Child Welfare Research and Capacity Building Project (QIC-DVCW)-The State of MA is one of three state participating in this national project
- Delamano: Bride's March, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls
- Transformative and Restorative Justice for Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Massachusetts

## Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault

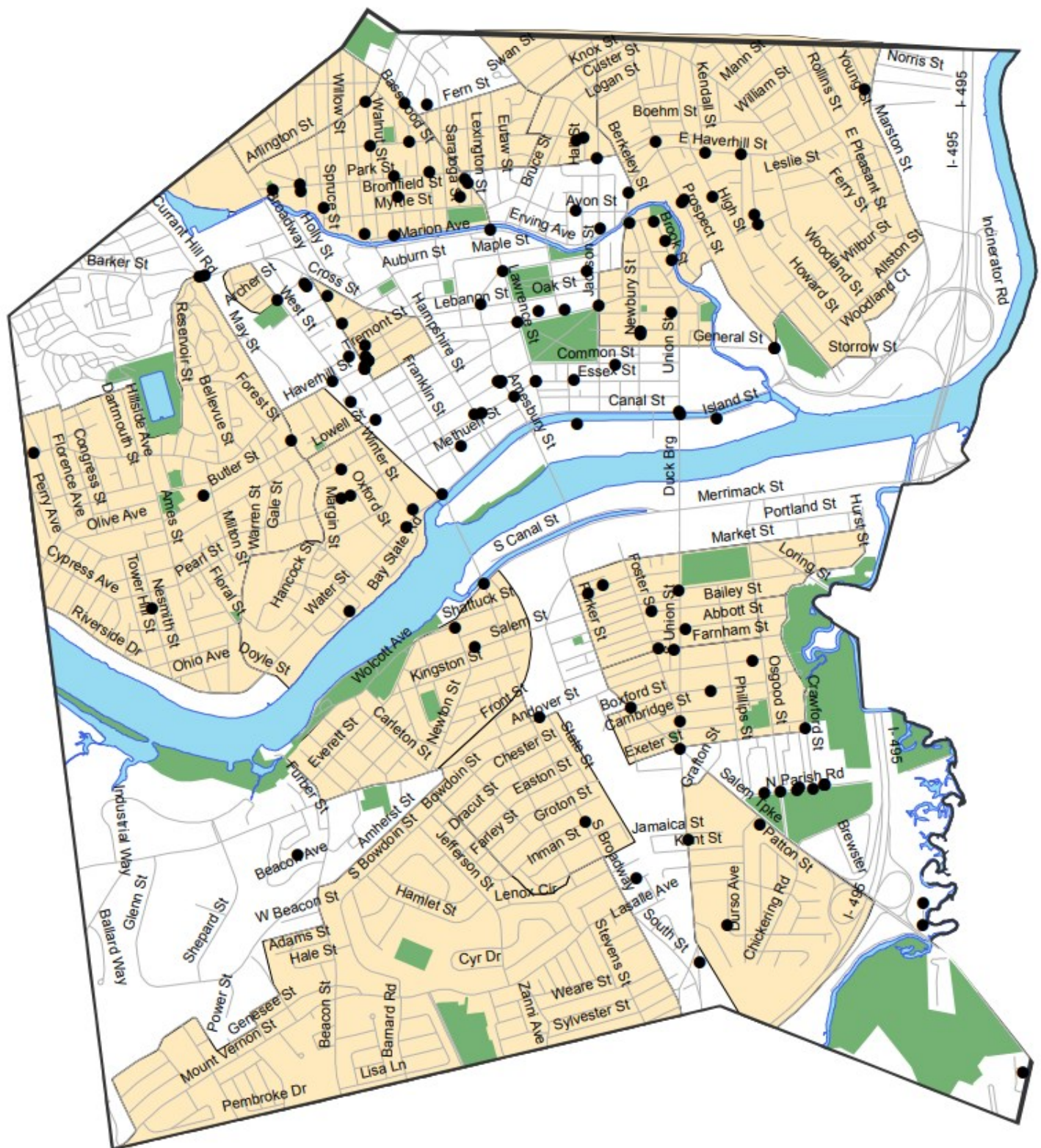
In 2021, 177 non-domestic aggravated assaults were reported resulting in a 7% increase compared to 2020. Again, the record low number in 2020 was due largely in part to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Despite this increase this is the second lowest yearly total of non-domestic aggravated assaults since the city started making this distinction in 2008. For the second consecutive year the Department was able to improve the clearance rate from 78% to 79%. In a continued effort to reduce the amount of non-domestic aggravated assaults the patrol division monitors identified hotspots in the city. The non-domestic aggravated assaults that occurred during 2021 are mapped on the following page.



Non- Domestic Aggravated Assault Comparison			
	2020	2021	% Change
Total	165	177	7%

Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault Clearance Rate								
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>2</sup>
61%	49%	51%	66%	66%	71%	78%	79%	52.3%

1. Refers to national aggravated assault clearance rate: Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>



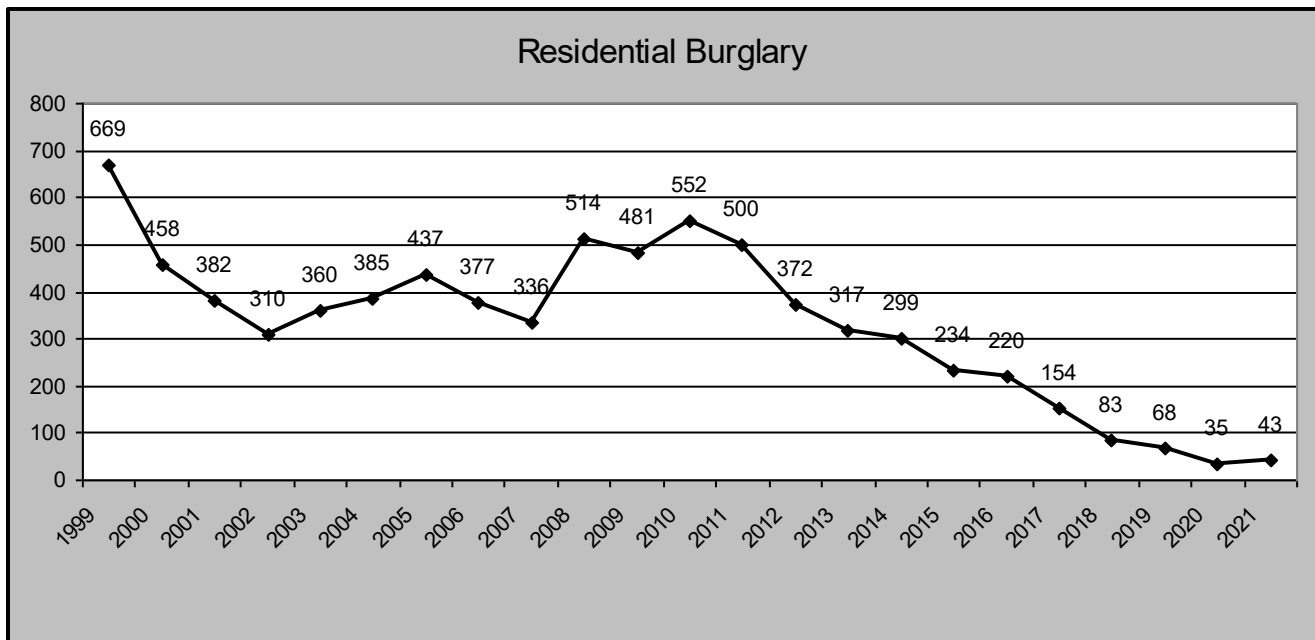
# Burglary

**FBI/ UCR Definition<sup>1</sup>:** The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft. Attempted forcible entry is included

*The LPD Crime Analysis Unit breaks this crime into two categories: Residential and Commercial.*

## Residential Burglary

During 2021 43 residential burglaries were reported citywide resulting in a 23% increase compared to 2020. Despite this increase between 2020 and 2021 the number of residential burglaries reported in 2021 is a significant decrease compared to 2013 and 2014 where 317 and 299 residential burglaries were reported respectively. Furthermore the 2021 total is also a remarkable decrease from the 1999 total of 669. The Department cleared 59% of the residential burglaries reported during 2021. This is a higher percentage than the national burglary clearance rate of 14.1%<sup>2</sup>. The map on the following page shows the 2021 residential burglaries.



Residential Burglary Comparison			
	2020	2021	% Change
Total	35	43	23%

Residential Burglary Clearance Rate									
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>2</sup>	
10%	15%	30%	19%	31%	46%	63%	61%	14.1%	

1. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>

2. Refers to national burglary clearance rate: Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>

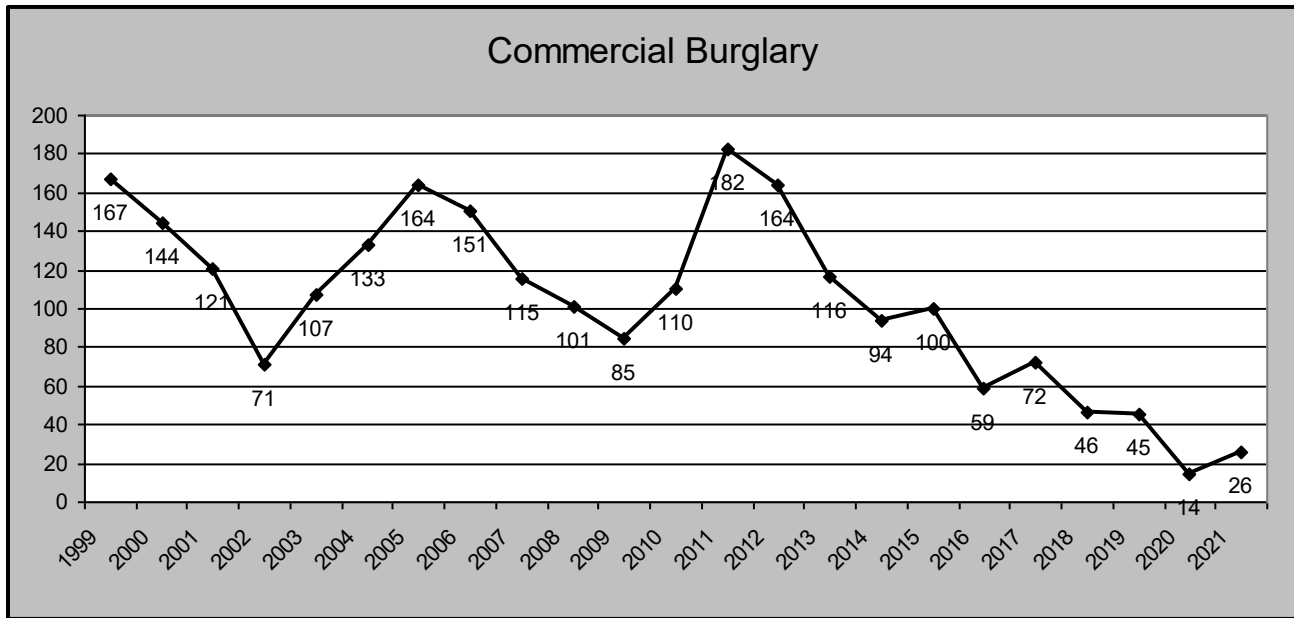


## 2021 Residential Burglaries



### Commercial Burglary:

During 2021, there were 26 commercial burglaries were reported citywide. This is twelve (12) more incidents than 2020 during which only 14 commercial burglaries occurred. It is likely that the re-opening of businesses and other effects from the COVID-19 Pandemic led to this increase. The number from 2021 is still the second lowest number of commercial burglaries since 1999. The Department was able to clear 50% of these incidents. Between 2016 and 2017, the Department had a 22% increase in the number of commercial burglaries. Due to this increase the Department implored various tactics in an effort to combat this problem. One such tactic is conducting business checks, especially during the early night and midnight shift. The 'Business Check' table below highlights the number of business and building checks conducted in 2020 and 2021; over 10,000 building/ business checks have been conducted in the last two years. Additionally, a business liaison position in Community Policing was created in 2018, refer to page 46 for specific details about this position and the ongoing work with business owners in the City. Commercial burglaries from 2021 are mapped on the following page.



Commercial Burglary Comparison			
	2020	2021	% Change
Total	14	26	86%

Commercial Burglary Clearance Rate									
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>1</sup>	
9%	20%	10%	19%	35%	53%	43%	50%	14.1%	

Business Checks			
	2020	2021	% Change
Total	6604	3872	-41%

1. Refers to national burglary clearance rate: Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>



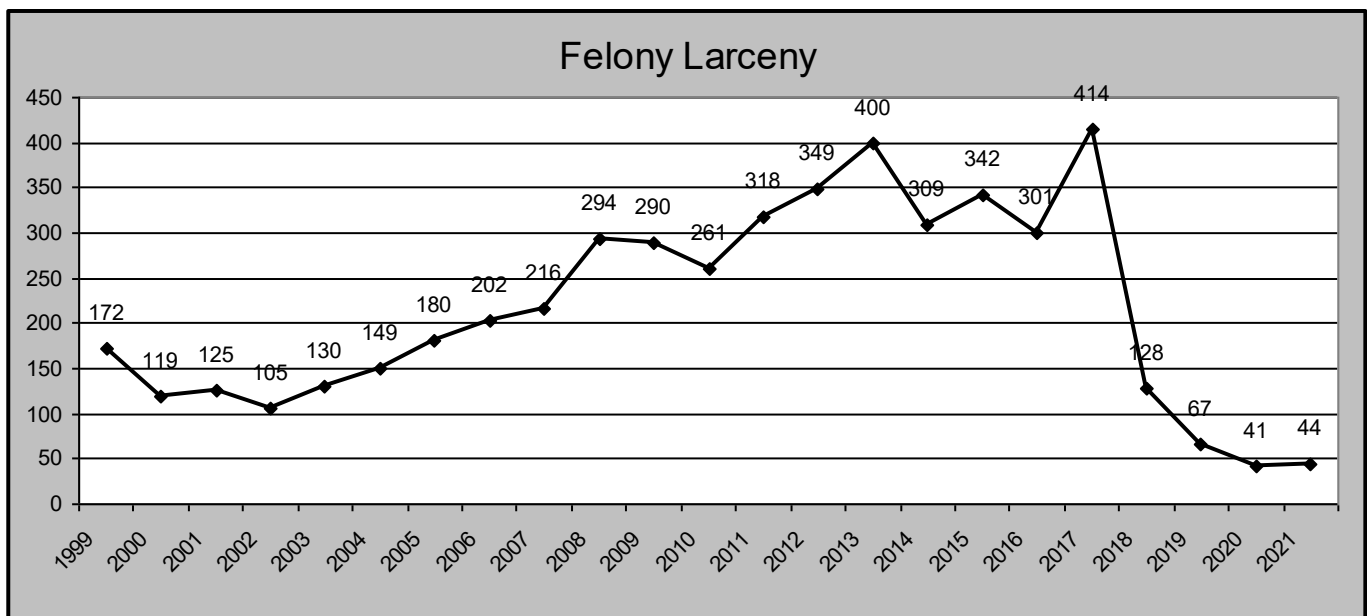


# Felony Larceny

**FBI/ UCR Definition<sup>1</sup>:** theft (except motor vehicle theft)—The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Examples are thefts of bicycles, motor vehicle parts and accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking, or the stealing of any property or article that is not taken by force and violence or by fraud. Attempted larcenies are included. Embezzlement, confidence games, forgery, check fraud, etc., are excluded.

*The Crime Analysis Unit follows Massachusetts legislature and classifies Felony Larceny as those where the value of the property is over twelve hundred dollars.*

On April 13, 2018 a change in the Massachusetts legislature increased the felony threshold from \$250 to \$1200. This change directly affected the number of felony larceny cases reported in Lawrence and accounts for the dramatic reduction between 2017 and 2018. In the years prior to this change the Department saw a rise in the number of felony larceny cases which was likely attributed to the increase costs / values of personal electronics, such as phones. In 2021, 44 incidents of felony larceny were reported resulting in just a 7% increase compared to the 41 incidents reported in 2020. In 2021, 32% of larceny cases were cleared. This is the highest percentage of cases cleared in one year since at least 2014. Felony larceny incidents for 2021 are mapped on the following page.



Felony Larceny Comparison			
	2020	2021	% Change
Total	41	44	7%

Felony Larceny Clearance Rate									
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020	National <sup>2</sup>	
22%	17%	16%	15%	27%	18%	27%	32%	18.4%	

1. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>  
 2. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>

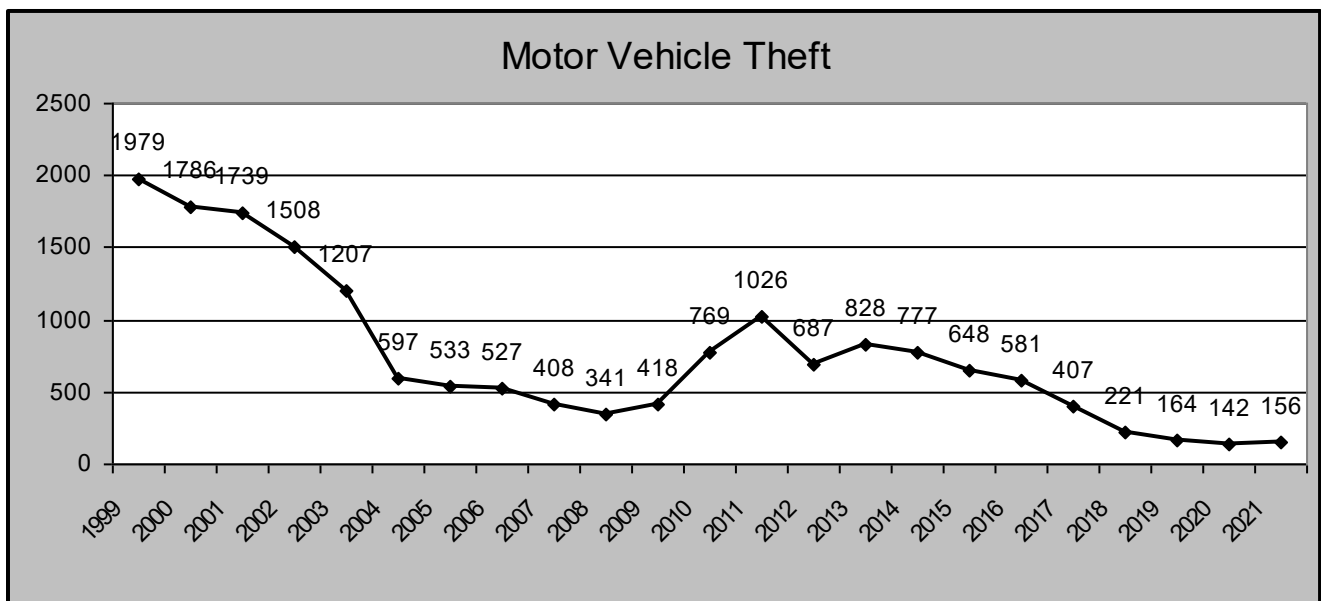
## 2021 Felony Larceny



# Motor Vehicle Theft

**FBI/ UCR Definition<sup>1</sup>:** The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is self-propelled and runs on land surface and not on rails. Motorboats, construction equipment, airplanes, and farming equipment are specifically excluded from this category.

During 2021, 156 motor vehicle thefts were reported stolen citywide resulting in a 10% increase compared to 2020. It is important to note that the number of motor vehicles stolen during 2021 is 81% less than the number of motor vehicles stolen during 2013, the peak year for motor vehicle theft in recent years. Additionally, the number has decreased by 92% compared to 1999. It is important to note that 50% of the motor vehicles stolen during 2021 were stolen with the key or key FOB inside the vehicle. This is an on-going trend citywide and likely a strong contributing factor to the increase of motor vehicles thefts between 2020 and 2021. Finally, patrol and the detectives in the Auto Theft Unit have worked tirelessly to decrease the number of motor vehicle thefts throughout the city. During 2021 the Department made strides to increase the clearance rate in this crime type and was able to increase the clearance rate to 26%. This remains above the national average and the highest clearance rate in recent years. 2021 motor vehicle theft incidents are mapped on the following page.



MV Theft Comparison			
	2020	2021	% Change
Total	142	156	10%

MV Theft Clearance Rate									
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	National <sup>2</sup>	
3%	2%	3%	11%	10%	18%	23%	26%	13.8%	

1. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>

2. Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/clearances>



## 2021 Motor Vehicle Theft



## Bureau of Special Investigations

The Bureau of Special Investigations is comprised of two major divisions, Detectives and Community Policing. Within each division there are multiple specialty units and assignments. The Lawrence Police Department Emergency Response Team (ERT), comprised of officers from all bureaus of the Department, also falls under the auspices of the Bureau of Special Investigations. The Bureau works side by side with numerous federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as other city departments to address everything from major felony investigations to quality of life issues affecting the daily lives of residents.

The Detective Division is responsible for the investigation of major crimes and handles any long term investigations. Within the Detective Division, there are a number of specialty units. One is the Street Narcotics Enforcement Unit, which handles street level drug dealing all the way up to major trafficking. In 2018, Chief Vasque established a Gang Unit within the division to devote the necessary attention to gang related crime. There is also an Auto Theft Unit within the division that consists of two detectives that focus on stolen motor vehicles, stolen motor vehicle parts, and insurance fraud. One member of the Detective Division is assigned to handle any police related issues in the Lawrence Housing Authority properties.

The Community Policing Division is the very public face of the Lawrence Police Department. The unit attends public meetings to gather information, and work on the “quality of life” violations that are of greatest concern to the residents. The unit addresses nuisance properties, enforces traffic laws, coordinates police participation in community events, enforces liquor laws, and works with residents, businesses, as well as intergovernmental agencies to solve neighborhood problems. Within the division, there is a Business Liaison Officer assigned to primarily assist small business owners. Moreover, there is an officer assigned to work with the “Safe and Successful Youth Initiative,” a multi-faceted strategy for reducing youth violence. The program’s main objective is gang prevention and diversion through education, work, counseling and other services.

# Community Policing

Members of the Community Policing Division posted the following numbers for 2021:

- ♦ 47 Arrests were made by the Community Policing Division of people on various charges and offenses
- ♦ 6,000 motor vehicles stops were conducted
- ♦ 1,594 motor vehicles were towed for improper registration, expired or during snow emergency operations
- ♦ 4,497 Chapter 90 citations issued throughout the city to address traffic complaints
- ♦ 2,599 Citation issued at the 2020 Top Accident Locations
- ♦ 15 noise tickets were issued, 21 crosswalk stings conducted, and 20 speed trap operations
- ♦ Thousands of community complaints addressed
- ♦ Informational flyer drop addressing illegal fireworks and auto theft prevention
- ♦ Two joint operations with Mass State Police Fireworks Operations during which 52 summons and 600 pounds of fireworks were seized
- ♦ Continued to monitor the COVID-19 LGH testing site
- ♦ COVID-19 LGH vaccination site setup at the South Lawrence East and the Arlington School
- ♦ 70 COVID-19 State Task Force (including LPD, Mass State, ABCC, LFD, ISD) compliancy check operations at restaurants
- ♦ Four dirt bike joint operations with the Massachusetts State Police that resulted in 20 tows and 10 arrests
- ♦ Two OUI checkpoint joint operations with the Massachusetts State Police that resulted in 16 arrests and 2 gun seizures
- ♦ Five FY 2021 Traffic Safety Grant Operations that resulted in 1,800 citations issued
- ♦ Five snow emergency towing operations that resulted in 585 vehicles being towed and 1,050 parking citations
- ♦ Milo Training with the LPD officers
- ♦ Sgt. Rosario Pichardo and Pvt. Munoz funeral event planning
- ♦ Anti-Graffiti cleanup with Essex County Sherriff Department city wide
- ♦ Three car seat safety events
- ♦ Two City of Lawrence Elections
- ♦ Assisted with security coverage at Lawrence High School due to spike in violence
- ♦ Frank Moran Basketball Tournament
- ♦ LPD Dodgeball Tournament during which over \$4,000 dollars was raised for LHS Scholarships
- ♦ 75 Ice Cream Truck Community Engagement Program Deployments where over 4,000 ice creams were given out

Street Crimes Auto Theft Unit conducted 126 Auto Theft operations throughout the city in an effort to reduce the number of vehicles being stolen. During these operations warrant sweeps, surveillance operations, targeted patrols were conducted, and Hot Sheets were produced and distributed. Members of the Auto Theft Division continued to target high theft vehicles, monitor known offenders, track trends and hot spots. During 2021, 156 vehicles were stolen compared to 142 during 2020; resulting in a 10% increase. 78 of the cars stolen in 2021 were with the keys or key FOB inside the vehicle. For the second consecutive year the detectives assigned to the Auto Theft Unit were able to increase the number of cases that were cleared. 26% of these cases were cleared; an increase from 2020 during which 23% were cleared. It should be noted that this is an impressive clearance rate which is well above the National Average of 18%. The number of tire and rim thefts decreased during 2021. Only 11 incidents were reported compared to 25 in 2020. Finally, the Massachusetts Insurance Fraud Bureau conducted joint investigations with Auto the Theft Unit. These investigations resulted in arrest warrants being issued sought for insurance fraud suspects. Warrant sweeps were then conducted, and ten arrests were made of the suspects.

The Merrimack River Task Force Conducted 24 Joint Operations as well as daily patrols of the boat ramp and the Merrimack River. The boat ramp remained closed due to safety concerns on the Merrimack River as well as the misuse of the boat ramp. The multi-agency approach of involving the Environmental Police DCR, Department of Fish and Game, Andover PD, Methuen PD and Lawrence PD was continued in an effort to combat the problem. The Task Force continued to work as a force multiplier on the Merrimack River to enforce boating rules, regulations, laws and most importantly safety on the river as well as the boat ramp. The Task Force brought together Officers from Methuen, Andover, Lawrence as well as Environmental Police The United States Coast Guard and newly added member to Task Force NH Marine Unit to form one united front on the River. Other Task Force members include the Lawrence Fire, Andover Fire, DCR, Fish and Game and Lawrence Boating Program.

## **Licensing Board and Club/ Restaurant Compliance Checks:**

- Attended 25 Licensing Board Meetings
- Conducted 125 Compliance Checks and assisted ABCC with liquor investigation
- The Lawrence Licensing Board issued the following punishments for violations: two 30 day suspensions and two revocation of licenses
- 40 inspections for reopening under COVID-19 guidelines
- Two revocation of car dealer licenses and eight administrative inspections of car dealerships
- Six barbershop inspections with DPL, three closures of barbershops/ suspended operations, and \$5,000 in fines to barbershops



## Additional Highlights from Community Policing

- ♦ Speed Board circulation
- ♦ Attended Community Neighborhood meetings and Events
- ♦ 6 Emergency winter protocols emergency shelters opened due to extreme weather
- ♦ Chapter 90 B water training with Mass Environmental Police, officer water safety school, and boat crew man class
- ♦ Various Veterans events including: Veteran Coffee Talk, Coffee with Veterans, flag planting at the cemetery, Veterans Pancake Breakfast, and the City's Veterans Day events
- ♦ Organized walking beats, bike patrols, mountain bike patrols, marine patrols, and motorcycle patrols
- ♦ Homeless checks and cleanups of railroad trails, bridges, Servpro, St. Ann's Church and all encampments
- ♦ Toys for Tots
- ♦ Recruitment flyers/videos
- ♦ Emergency snow flyer drop
- ♦ Point Time Count Homeless
- ♦ Surveillance Van Rotation
- ♦ Rowell Park Dedication
- ♦ Covid Memorial North Common
- ♦ Rooming house Liaison Program
- ♦ Assisted Inspectional Services with various issues
- ♦ 6 Coffee with Cop
- ♦ Assistance at NECC Police Academy
- ♦ Provided 15 birthday and graduation parades throughout the city
- ♦ Various food pantries and farmers' markets
- ♦ LGH Nurses Parade
- ♦ Central Catholic Graduation Parade and LHS citywide graduation
- ♦ Dream center Food Drive
- ♦ NECC graduation
- ♦ GLTS Prom Crash Event
- ♦ ISD Inspections
- ♦ Pacific Mill opening event
- ♦ Brook Street and West Street cleanups
- ♦ Vaccination Block Party at the Common
- ♦ Hennessy School Field Day and Bellesini Academy Field Day
- ♦ American Flag setup and take down
- ♦ Several Special Olympics events
- ♦ Battleground Coffee Law Enforcement event
- ♦ BLM Event
- ♦ Pop Warner Opening Day
- ♦ Lawrence Fire Open House and 9/11 Event at Ladder 4
- ♦ Commonwealth Car Seat Event
- ♦ Lawrence Drug Free Communities meeting
- ♦ Radio Station Fortaciendo La Familia, Radio programs at Disla Radi and at Radio La Mega
- ♦ City of Lawrence Halloween Event
- ♦ Lawrence Vietnam Memorial Road Race
- ♦ Parkside Apartment picnic
- ♦ Essex County touch-a-truck event
- ♦ Vitra's Community Fair
- ♦ NILP Youth Tour
- ♦ Beyond Soccer Safety Day
- ♦ New Police station Community Event
- ♦ Puglissi Memorial
- ♦ Lawrence Mayoral Forum NECC
- ♦ Mt. Vernon 5k Walk
- ♦ Day of Remembrance
- ♦ Community Service Day
- ♦ Brides March for Domestic Violence
- ♦ Vaccination Event NECC
- ♦ Ground breaking at 215 Canal Street
- ♦ Kicks for Tricks skateboard event
- ♦ Participated in cookouts for the Exchange Club and LCW
- ♦ Participated in block parties at Essex Art Center, Community Works, and the Parthum School
- ♦ Agent Orange Awareness Event
- ♦ Medal of Honor Event
- ♦ Kite Day with Lawrence Rec
- ♦ Patriots Alumni youth football camp
- ♦ Backpack event City of Lawrence
- ♦ Feast of Three Saints
- ♦ Handball Tournament Costello
- ♦ Dominican Heritage event
- ♦ Faith and Blue weekend
- ♦ Boston Garden Pink Event
- ♦ Suenos Christmas Event
- ♦ Manchester Street Rail Trail walk
- ♦ LHS School Appreciation Day
- ♦ Central Walk-a-Thon
- ♦ IVES Bowling with Vets, Christmas Party, and coat event
- ♦ Dominican Chaplin Event
- ♦ Little Sprouts Career Day
- ♦ Puerto Rican Tree Lighting
- ♦ Mayor's Swearing In
- ♦ City Hall Tree Lighting
- ♦ Mayor's Santa Parade
- ♦ Colonial Heights Santa Walk
- ♦ Special Olympics Torch Run
- ♦ Winter Hat Mitten Drive
- ♦ Christmas Pancake Breakfast
- ♦ MVRTA Mayor Ride Along
- ♦ Autism Eats Breakfast
- ♦ CEMDPCD Gift Giving
- ♦ Habitat for Humanity Ceremony
- ♦ LPD Toy Drive
- ♦ COVID Press Conference
- ♦ Health connector Holiday Fair
- ♦ Appreciation Day LPD
- ♦ Suenos Christmas Event
- ♦ No Shave November Event Constitution
- ♦ 15 Command Post deployments
- ♦ 24 drone deployments



## Business Liaison

In 2018, the Lawrence Police Department created the position titled, “Business Liaison”, with the objective to strengthen the relationship and communication between all local businesses in the community and thereby also serving its residents in a pro-active way; adding yet another layer of service. One of the goals of the business liaison officer is to visit every local business, make introductions and provide contact information in order to share and exchange information that is pivotal to one another on a daily basis, and to ensure the safety of the businesses. This is a long term commitment to provide local services to help businesses, whose owners are usually local residents. These owners, in turn, hire valued employees, who are neighborhood residents. These employees know and care about their neighborhood and get to serve their neighborhoods, who are people who rely on our resources as a whole. This strengthens not only strengthens but also creates a healthy community in its entirety.

During a visit the officer provides and discuss Chief Roy Vasque’s letter, which is in English and Spanish. In this letter, he introduces himself to the business community and also provides statistics showing the reduction of business burglaries within the past years. These reductions are due to a number of positive factors listed below:

- Adding better interior and exterior lighting to include main areas, parking areas, alleyways, and dumpster areas. Securing and locking alley ways and dumpster areas in order to minimize illicit activity.
- Removing all signage from the exterior front glass and cut back shrubbery and landscaping that might impede the view inside.
- Consider having at least two clerks to be on duty at all times which will help in preventing robberies and shoplifting
- Consider adding “HD” (High Definition) discreet (concealed/at eye level) and non-discreet video cameras inside and outside of the businesses, to serve as a deterrent and possibly identify the offender.
- Post signs such as: “**NO TRESPASS**”; “**NO LOITERING**” and “**VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**” “**NO SOLICITING**” about the exterior and interior of the building.
- Identifying persons who are no longer welcome on the business’s private property and have them served with “no trespass” and “no loitering” orders by the police. This information is kept on file with the Department and gives probable cause to arrest those persons if they are found in violation in the future.

The Business Liaison Officer provides businesses with the Department’s emergency and non-emergency numbers, as well as information on the safe watch and safe syringe program, and provide them the Department’s Domestic Violence flyer. Additionally the officer provides flyers and discusses crime prevention tips. During 2021, the officer assisted businesses and homeowners with complaints regarding noise, vandalism, theft, harassment, and illegal dumping. The officer worked in conjunction with the other city departments such DPW to assist with the clean-up of encampment sites, picking hypodermic needles throughout the city and parks, and addressing complaints such as public way and sidewalk repairs, public alleyway issues, telephone pole lighting, and wires from cable company complaints. Work was also done with Inspectional Services to investigate illegal dumping cases, abandoned motor vehicles, and other quality of life issues. Some areas of focus during 2021 were West Street, Hubbard Place, McFarlin Ct, Baystate Rd, Embankment Rd, and 396 Water St.

Throughout 2021, the Business Liaison officer, conducted 502 business checks, an additional 243 special checks of businesses and parks throughout the city. During 2021, these areas were of particular focus: Manchester Street Park, West Street Park, Poplar Street, Florence St, Mt. Vernon Park, and the Brook Street Par. Warning signs to protect local businesses were also disseminated. Additionally, this officer helped business owners with using CITIZENSERVE, a computer software used citywide, for business registrations and sending documentation about COVID-19 rules and regulations. Literature and assistance was given to homeless persons when encountered for outreach, resources, and recovery. This officer also helped Lawrence Police patrolmen and detectives with obtaining video evidence from local businesses for their investigations. Noise complaints, city ordinance violations, and parking complaints were also addressed.



## Detective Division

In 2021 the Lawrence Police Department Bureau of Special Investigations/Detective Division investigated approximately 970 cases. This includes five homicides cases; three were solved via arrest. It should be noted that in 2021, the detective division continued to expand both the drug and gang units. The division, along with the drug and gang units, worked closely with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in a combined effort to continue the fight against drugs and gang violence. It should also be noted that the division and the Department now has Federal Government Task Force Agents in the FBI Organized Crime Division, based in Lowell, MA, the FBI Gang Intelligence and Investigation Division, based in Methuen, MA, the DEA, Group 1, based in Boston, MA, the United States Secret Service, based in Boston, MA, Home Land Security, based in Watertown, MA, and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, based in Boston, MA. These partnerships included new proactive strategies in policing combined with technology to combat the increasing problem with violent street gangs, and drug related organized crime.

In 2021, the gang and drug divisions continued to investigate numerous gang and drug related crimes both proactively and via assignment. An example of this is highlighted in the Department of Justice Organized Street Gang Investigation lead by the FBI. This investigation, with the assistance of the Lawrence Police Department, its Task Force Agents and the Gang and Drug Units from the Bureau of Special Investigations, targeted the violent street gang that call themselves the "Gangster Disciples". This months long investigation dismantled this street gang by arresting 13 high level members who were trafficking Fentanyl, Cocaine, counterfeit prescription pills, Methamphetamine and Suboxone throughout Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire. This gangs attempt to operate with impunity, and their efforts to take control of the streets with extortion and violence were squashed via this investigation. The Department of Justice's involvement in this investigation and investigations similar to this make a tremendous difference and have a huge positive impact on the heavy case load put upon the men and women of this bureau.

Additionally, in 2021 the gang and drug division made well over 600 arrests and seized over 35 firearms, approximately one hundred thousand dollars and large quantities of illegal narcotics to including Fentanyl, Cocaine and Marijuana. Overall the detective, gang and drug divisions in the Bureau of Special Operations cleared cases at a highly efficient rate. This was done through the hard work and dedication of the men and women assigned to the LPD detective division.

It should be noted that in 2021, similar to past years, a large number of cases were solved as a result of the use of technology and social media. The division continues to be on the cutting edge of technology and continues to expand the forensic video unit's camera and license plate reader systems. This technology has allowed the forensic video unit to continue to be an integral part in the recovery, enhancement, and documentation of crimes. This has led to the identification and arrest of suspect(s) for crimes that likely would not have been solved without this hard work, technical expertise and partnership. A prime example of this is a homicide investigation from the first week of December. This homicide of a 21-year-old male, who was shot five times while sitting in the driver's seat of his car, was captured both on city and private sector video. As a result, the perpetrator's vehicle, used in the murder as his escape, was immediately identified. A "BOLO" was put out area wide. Further investigation into the crime based primarily on video follow up quickly revealed the identity of the suspect. This led to his capture within 24 hours of this violent crime. The swiftness and certainty of this arrest would not be possible without the video and license plate forensic capability available to the initial patrol officers and follow-up detectives. The techniques, state of the art technology, and strategies utilized in this brief but comprehensive and exhaustive investigation were essential in the discovery, capture, recovery and analysis of video and evidence that will be used to bring this violent criminal responsible for the victim's death to justice. This is also indispensable and key to the successful conclusion and eventual prosecution of this homicide.

Social media platforms and applications, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, What's Up App, and others, continue to be utilized to identify and arrest suspects, solve crimes, find missing persons, and locate witnesses. During the last year the division continued to train and utilize new investigative techniques that involve the ever changing world of technology and social media. This is highlighted in the numerous investigations by detectives in the gang unit that monitor these platforms and discover gang member's videoing themselves with firearms. Upon these discoveries the suspected gang members are identified and search warrants for these firearms are secured and executed. The success rate for the arrest and recovery of firearms is astounding.

Again, the Bureau of Special Investigations continues to grow with expansion in the general detective personnel and personnel added to the gang and drug units. The Bureau of Special Investigations detective's divisions continue its effort and the Department's mission to expand and carry on our collaboration and cooperation with outside local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to include the Massachusetts State Police, FBI, DEA, HSI, FDA, Department of Diplomatic Security, United States Postal Inspectors, and the United States Secret Service.

In 2021, the division continued to send members to leadership and specialized training throughout New England. Moving forward into 2022, the division will continue to explore the addition of adding more personnel as well as continue to train and stay on top of any new and professional development as it relates to social media, interviews, interrogation and technology.

# Street Crimes

**The Lawrence Police Department's Gang Unit** is comprised of five LPD Detectives. Formed in June of 2018, the Gang Unit has worked very closely with multiple agencies, including but not limited to: The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, US Marshals Office, Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Law Enforcement Officers assigned to HIDTA, and other local Gang Unit's. This unit has (1) LPD Detective assigned to an outside Federal Agency as a Task Force Officer.

The LPD Gang Unit has been extremely successful in identifying, validating and investigating active gang members in the City of Lawrence, and the surrounding areas. These members represent at least seven different gangs. The LPD Gang Unit has a two-part strategy when for investigation and prosecuting Gang Members:

1. Local (State)
2. Federal

**Local:** The LPD Gang Unit will investigate Gang Members within, and outside, of the city limits. These investigations include, but are not limited to: FIOs, gang intelligence, gang related crimes, firearm incidents, shots fired incidents, shootings, and others. If charged locally, these individuals will be prosecuted through the District Attorney's Office.

**Federal:** The LPD Gang Unit will work with the above mentioned federal agencies, along with the US Attorney General's Office, in the attempt to have certain cases prosecuted on a Federal level. These cases include, but are not limited to: Firearms, Firearms Trafficking, Drug Trafficking, and major gang related crimes.

The statistics for the Gang Unit, since its inception in June of 2018, are as follows:

	2018*	2019	2020	2021
Calls for Service	1,246	1,251	1,152	1,106
Arrests	256	237	212	246
Firearms Seized	14	20	25	42
Search Warrants	21	38	41	52
Money Seized				\$42,561
Class A Seized				608 grams
<i>Fentanyl Pills Seized</i>				7,400
Class B Seized				483 grams
Class D Seized				1,400 grams

*\*2018 statistics cover June—December*

**The Lawrence Police Department's Street Narcotic Enforcement Unit (SNEU)** is comprised of eight LPD Detectives. This Unit also works very closely with multiple agencies, including but not limited to: The Drug Enforcement Administration, Cross Border Initiative, Massachusetts State Police Drug Task Force, New Hampshire State Police Drug Task Force, Law Enforcement Officers assigned to HIDTA, and other local Narcotics Unit's.

The Street Narcotic Enforcement Unit also has a two-Part Strategy when it comes to investigating and prosecuting Narcotic cases:

1. Local (State)
2. Federal

**Local:** SNEU will investigate all Narcotics complaints that are brought to our attention through: citizen complaints, the Drug Hotline, Text-a-Tip. SNEU, on a daily basis, will also patrol the city limits to investigate, any and all, "street level" drug offenses, prostitution, and quality of life issues. If charged locally, these individuals will be prosecuted through the District Attorney's Office.

**Federal:** SNEU will work with the above mentioned federal agencies, along with the US Attorney General's Office, in the attempt to have certain cases prosecuted on a Federal level. These cases may include major drug trafficking organizations, within the city limits, that were initiated by SNEU detectives, initiated by a TFO, and/or initiated by an outside local, state, or federal drug agency.

The Street Narcotic Enforcement Unit has been extremely successful with identifying, investigating and enforcing "street level" drug dealing, along with "quality of life" issues such as Prostitution. The statistics for the Street Narcotics Unit are below.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Calls for Service	615	760	677	717	631
Arrests	636	661	390	626	523
Firearms Seized	19	6	9	23	2
Class A Seized	5,321 grams	3,964 grams	5,599 grams	7,732 grams	6,381 grams
Class B Seized	—	2,291 grams	470 grams	1,143 grams	1,087 grams
Class D Seized					52 grams
Fentanyl Pills					2,517
Money Seized	—	\$57,784	\$65,782	\$72,366	\$65,926
Search Warrants	—	33	37	59	34

### ***Federal Task Force Officers***

As previously mentioned, the Street Crimes Unit has a total of four Detectives, from both SNEU and the Gang Unit, assigned to outside Federal Task Forces. These Detectives are involved in, usually, "long term" investigations that would be prosecuted on the Federal level. Two major examples of these types of cases are the following:

- ♦ The LPD Gang Unit was part of a six month operation coordinated by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area which is a targeted enforcement initiative to address violent crimes, including guns, narcotics and gangs within the City of Lawrence. In total, this operation resulted in the following: the arrest of 13 Gangster Disciple Gang Members and the seizure of over 500 grams of Cocaine and Suboxone, approximately 10 pounds of Methamphetamine Pills, and multiple firearms. This case was part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation.
- ♦ The LPD SNEU Unit was part of a year-long operation coordinated by the Homeland Security Investigations and the Drug Enforcement Administration which is a targeted enforcement initiative to address violent crimes, including guns, narcotics and gangs within the City of Lawrence and spanning across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine and Puerto Rico. In total, this operation resulted in the following: 21 arrests and the seizure of 10.5 kilograms of Cocaine, 650 grams of Fentanyl, \$201,681.00 in US Currency and three firearms. This case was part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation.

OCDETF identifies, disrupts and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using an intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach.

## Lawrence Housing Authority

The Lawrence Police Department has one patrolman assigned to Lawrence Housing Authority which consists of 18 locations throughout the city. During 2021, this officer responded all calls for service during his tour of duty. Furthermore, during this same period also responded to countless calls for service to back up patrol units, detectives and outside agencies. Additionally, this officer met weekly with one or two of the five managers to discuss any issues or concerns that they may have or that residents may have such as neighbor complaints, loud music calls, illegal tenants, disturbances, and drug activity. Confidential meetings are conducted in the office with residents to pass on information as well. Some information passed on involves gang activity and drug activity. In these cases the information is then passed on to the respective unit. Illegal resident checks with management are also conducted and animal complaints, more specifically into dogs (pitbulls) that are in housing that cannot be on the property per management, were addressed. As a result of documenting all calls for services, evictions are made on residents who violate LHA rules in housing court.

The breakdown below is some of the types of calls for service addressed. The responsibilities of this uniformed officer are unique in the sense that each call is completed from start to finish; taking the initial call for service (patrol) and investigating (detective). The housing properties are all patrolled several times per day. This provides visibility and allows residents to put a face to the housing officer.

- Arrest/ Warrants/Summons: all three types were made and issued for calls for service
- M/Vs Towed: periodically check all housing locations for illegally parked motor vehicles (resident sticker violation), revoked insurance, and suspended registration.
- Larceny Past: Reports were made regarding larceny past calls and they either ended in a summons, warrant or were unfounded in nature.
- Parking Tickets: Part of this officer's duties is to check on resident sticker compliance on all housing properties. When motor vehicles are found not to be in compliance a Lawrence Parking ticket was issued, and in some cases motor vehicles were towed. Approximately 926 parking tickets that range from \$25 dollars to \$300 dollars were issued.
- Domestic Past/ Progress/209A Violations: Investigations are conducted into domestic violence calls as a result several actions were taken; arrest, summons, advisement of 209A rights/ Harassment order, verbal arguments and some were determined to be unfounded.
- Medic Support: Responded to all types of medical supports that included persons not breathing, overdoses, unresponsive persons and sudden / unattended deaths. These cases are investigated and reported to the proper agency by this officer from start to finish.
- Disturbances: Responded to complaints regarding fights, arguments, and unwanted guests. Actions subsequently taken ranged from unfounded to complaints or summons.
- Loud Music: Responded to several complaints in regards to loud music. During these incidents proper identification was made in all cases and then residents were given a verbal warnings or a monetary citation, or a tenant meeting was arranged, or they were determined to be unfounded in nature.
- Trespassing: Several trespass notices were documented and filed with housing, and updated copies were left at the Department. During 2021 a new city camera was installed in the parking lot of 138 Beacon Ave to deter and prevent on going calls for noise and disturbances. This helped decrease calls for service in this area.
- Assist Outside Agencies: Assistance was given to many outside agencies that included other police departments, Department of Children and Families (removal of children), Elder Services (getting assistance for elders in dire need of services), Department of Youth Services (assist in locating and apprehending juvenile offenders).
- Missing Persons: This officer responded many missing person calls that were referred by LHA residents; all were located.
- Lockouts: These calls are very common in housing authority as residents forget their keys and a response is needed to allow them access into their homes.
- Investigations: These calls were conducted to investigate neighbor complaints, drinking in public, smoking marijuana in public, drug complaints, residential burglaries, suspicious persons/MV, assist fire department, alarms, firework issues, assault and battery, and sexual assaults.
- Illegal Dumping: Tickets were issued when these cases were investigated or when individuals were caught in the act of illegally dumping trash inside housing authority property. This continues to be one of the biggest issues that housing has faced in the last few years. Lawrence City Ordinance tickets were issued in the amount of \$300 dollars.
- Violent Crimes: Shots fired calls were investigated along with the detective division. Gang activity also saw an uptick in four of the major developments. Along with the Gang Unit and the detective division countless hours were conducted in intel, surveillance, or the arrest / prosecution / identification of offenders.



## Youth Diversion Initiative

**SSYI:** The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) is a multi-faceted strategy for reducing youth violence. SSYI provides funding to support a coordinated intervention strategy in partnership with community-based organizations, education, training, and workforce development programs that also include street outreach, trauma counseling, and case management support. Massachusetts implemented SSYI in 2011. Funding currently goes to communities that demonstrate the highest rates of youth violence: Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Fall River, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Worcester. Lawrence Police Department is currently the third highest funding recipient of the SSYI Grant. LPD is responsible for all grant reporting, selection of eligible individuals and ensuring that the contract with the Program Agency (Lawrence Family Development) is adhered to. While the majority of the \$600,000 grant is dispersed to the Program Agency the LPD retains \$55,000 to cover the officer assigned to the Program.

The Lawrence Police Department is responsible for selecting eligible individuals that meet the parameters of the grant. An eligible individual is a male between the ages of 17-24 years old, meets specific criteria, and also resides in the community and / or is expected to be released into the community. A Lawrence Police officer, when required, may also provide safety for outreach works when they must go make contact and visit these young males. To ensure that all data is entered correctly and up to date this officer must attend SSYI Admin / Law Enforcement Lead meetings every other month for status updates, funding issues, and training.

**SSYI Program under Lawrence Family Development:** During 2021 SSYI youth received a variety of services and met a variety of outcomes as outlined below. SSYI youth also made it through the lockdown / quarantine with the assistance of the SISU Center. 20 young people received weekly food and supply deliveries. SSYI youth participated in web and Zoom based learning and programming, and as the city slowly reopened SSYI youth started going back to the SISU Center for in-person programming in limited numbers and based upon need.

**Education:** Youth who have not graduated or received an equivalency: **16 participants**

1. Attend HISET classes at the SISU Center
2. Are enrolled into the RISE alternative school through Lawrence Public Schools or Phoenix Academy
3. Attend classes at the Lawrence Adult Learning Center

Youth who have graduated or received equivalency: **12 participants**

1. 2 enrolled in college courses
2. 14 enrolled in vocational training / certification programs
  - 2a. Vocational training includes: Lawrence Training School, Massachusetts Laborer's Union Skillsbuild Program, Weatherization Training, Precision Machining Training, Automotive Service Technician, computer training, HVAC training, Graphic Design training

**Additional Program Highlights/ Other Services:**

- 28 SSYI participants received stipends as part of the SSYI program
- 7 completed OSHA certification
- 6 received assistance with housing services or placement
- 11 were assisted with their driver's license and/ or permit
- Family and social support
- In addition to in-house workshops, SSYI youth participate in the following Lawrence-based services: GIFT program, Amigos mentoring, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, and Lynn Housing Authority
- Mental Health
- SSYI Lawrence has a contract with Children, Friends, and Families who provide the following services:
  - Support groups, individual therapy, mental health assessments, service planning
  - Ferrara's Counseling and YWCA domestic violence team provide additional services

## School Resource Officers

The school resource officer (SRO) is a carefully selected, specifically trained, and properly equipped full time law enforcement officer with sworn law enforcement authority, trained in school based law and crisis response, assigned by the Lawrence Police Department to work in the school using community oriented policing concepts.

The Lawrence Police SRO Unit believes in a philosophy that arrest and introduction to the criminal justice system are a last resort. It is the intention of the unit and its members to be a true resource to the students of the Lawrence Public Schools by providing mentoring, mediation, and guidance to the juvenile population of the City of Lawrence. The SRO unit hopes to be a bridge between the schools, the community and the Police Department.

The SRO Unit is currently staffed by five Lawrence Police Officers. At this time, three of the officer positions are funded by the Lawrence Public School Department, while the unit supervisor is funded by the Lawrence Police Department. One of the three officer positions is currently being filled by a temporary officer due to an unexpected medical emergency to the permanent officer. The Department is currently working with school officials in hopes to permanently fund a fourth position in an attempt to retain the temporary officer and provide proper SRO coverage to the district.

To present the School Resource Officer Unit as more approachable in this era of national protest against questionable law enforcement practices, the unit will be transitioning into a new uniform in 2022. This change is in effort to make them more approachable to students and facilitate movement through school buildings without causing any disruptions or interference to the school day. In collaboration with the school department the SRO Unit will also be introducing a comfort dog that will be permanently assigned to an SRO and available to students in need.

The Lawrence Police SRO Unit was tasked, early in the year an influx of school violence throughout the district. This violence was not specific to the City of Lawrence and was seen throughout the Commonwealth and nation.

Primarily due to the re-introduction of in person learning due to the pandemic, many students were unprepared to deal with the emotional and social aspects of school life that had been halted for almost two years. Through the diligent work of Lawrence Police SROs, Community Policing Officers, and Patrol Officers the Department was able to provide a high level of visibility and assistance to school administrators to ease tensions and keep all students and staff members safe.

Incident Reports: **169**

Arrests: **14**

Summonses: **62**

Marijuana Citations: **11**

Weapons Confiscated: **27**

The SRO Unit has continued to serve the schools, staff, and students of Lawrence by:

- Conducting school safety assemblies throughout the district
- Helping students adjust as they return to in person learning after almost two years of remote learning (Pandemic)
- Providing valuable resources to school staff members, fostering positive relationships with students, developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth and protecting all students
- Lawrence SRO Unit continues to act as educators, mentors and law enforcement officers

## Animal Control

The Animal Control Unit of the Lawrence Police Department is comprised of two animal control officers. These officers are responsible for the maintaining and caring for the animals at the pound. This includes feeding, walking, cleaning kennels, laundry, dishes, as well as stocking supplies for the animals and the building. Additionally, the officers answer daily complaints via e-mail and telephone and respond to calls for service from the Department. They also care for any animals held at the city pound on the weekends. These weekend duties include cleaning, feeding and walking the animals, and laundry as well as listening to voicemails and responding to emails. These officers also alternate being on call at all times for emergency animal complaints. Finally, the officers will at times assist with special assignments with the SNUE Unit, Sheriff Department and Constables. Animal Control officers also assist with mutual aid with the town of Methuen.

Throughout the year, the Animal Control Officers duties include picking up any stray, domestic animals, and wildlife complaints as well as any injured wildlife. They respond to dog bites, animal to human bites, barking complaints, and other animal complaint. Animal Control Officer Bistany is appointed the City of Lawrence Animal Health inspector, and those duties include investigating all dog bite incidents and Rabies quarantines as well as keeping paperwork in order to be sent to Massachusetts State Health Department. Additionally she will appear in District and Superior court for animal cruelty cases. Finally, she will speak to different groups and organizations when requested regarding animal control.

During 2021 the Animal Control Officers:

- Responded to 564 calls for service
- 18 dog bite incidents were reported to the Lawrence Police Department and forwarded to inspectional services / animal health inspector
- 1 animal cruelty court cases
- 1 dangerous dog hearing
- Wrote approximately 36 citations
- Removed approximately 140 deceased animals/wildlife from public roadways and disposed of them through Final Gift Crematory
- 200 licensed dogs in the City of Lawrence with the City Clerk's Office
- Took the following into custody
  - ◊ 174 dogs
  - ◊ 85 cats
  - ◊ 1 goat
  - ◊ 17 small domestic animals (i.e. birds, guinea pigs, and lizards)
  - ◊ 36 rabbits
  - ◊ 64 fowl

# Training

In 2021 the department continued its partnership with Northern Essex Community College in regard to the Police Academy. Throughout the year the training division offered a host of different trainings, online, in person, and scenario based, all with the attempt to have a well-rounded police force trained in best practices and procedures. The training division has made a concerted effort to give the officers of the Lawrence Police Department specific training in the areas of de-escalation as well as Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement. This gives officers the skills to handle all situations calmly, effectively, and with a minimal use of force. This includes intervening on fellow officers when they recognize a situation being mishandled before any harm is done. The division and the Department want officers to respond to incidents and deal with the community based on the issues not the individual. The division continues to reinforce that every individual should be treated with professionalism and dignity at all times, regardless of the situation

**ACADEMY:** In 2021 fifteen new officers graduated from the academy. Ten of whom have completed their field training and are currently working in the patrol division. The remaining five will finish their field training in February 2022 and will then be assigned to their respective shifts assuming all 911 responsibilities. During their field training they were put through a San Jose model field training program during which they were mentored by senior officers. The field training senior officers were asked to observe, instruct, and critique the new officers on their interactions, tactics, report writing and decision making. Along with field training, these officers were also exposed to scenario-based training including court room testimony in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office. The officers were asked to participate in a crime-based scenario and write a report that they would later testify to in a realistic mock trial scenario. During the exercise the deficiencies in their reports and testimony were exposed in a controlled environment allowing them to develop the skills needed for future prosecution. This portion was developed in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office and has been used for the past several years. It is invaluable in not only the training of the officers and the ADAs, but in cultivating a good working relationship between the Lawrence Police Department and District Attorney's Office.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** During 2021 and into 2022 all officers will be asked to do remote learning for in-services training. Local law enforcement used the MPTC curriculum to train all officers in the following areas: first aid, CPR, legal updates, defensive tactics, domestic violence, critical stress awareness, procedural justice and combating extremism. The training division has tried compliment the state training in the following areas: keeping with the best practices in law enforcement, working within a diverse community and officer wellness.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT BEST PRACTICES:** Along with the state in-service training the division is continually striving to give officers in the Department the tools to assist them in successfully and impartially enforcing the law as well as the tools to obtain convictions whenever possible. This is all done in such a way as to not alienate the community the Department serves. The division attempted to train officers through traditional training methods including the use of outside vendors as well as officers within the Department.

Similarly, to past years, the training division sought out the best individualized training from established law enforcement training outlets in various areas. A sample of these traditional trainings that officers attended were in the following areas: Search and Seizure, Reid Investigative Techniques, Violence Identification and Prevention, Active Shooter, Drug Investigation, Impaired Driving, Gun Licensing, Drugged Driving, Homicide Investigation, Identifying an Impostor, Criminal Justice Reform Act, Sex Offender Training, Officer Involved Shooting, Warrant Affidavit Writing, Characteristic of an Armed Offender, Tactical Driving, Impaired Driving, 911 Dispatch Liabilities, Finger Printing, Non-Compliance Report Writing, and Crash Investigations. Additionally, the division continues to recognize that this profession is ever changing and in an effort to keep up with the latest changing techniques officers were sent to be trained in the following non-traditional areas: Droid Operation, Camera Investigation/Evidence Retrieval, Environmental Laws, Boating Laws, Social Media Investigation, Cell Phone Investigation, Swat Operator, Grant Management, Police Reform, Interaction and De-Escalation with Individuals on the Autism Spectrum, Response to People with Intellectual Disabilities, and Suicide Prevention.

**SCENARIO-BASED TRAINING:** Officers were also exposed to scenario-based training. Again, in 2021 as in previous years, the Department partnered with the Middlesex Sheriff's Department and utilized their model firing range. This training put officers in a shoot / no shoot scenario using live fire.

Also in 2021, the Department continued with 'Tactical Thursdays'. These monthly trainings were initiated by the Department in 2019. The Department recognizes that tactical skills and decision-making are vital in today's policing. 'Tactical Thursdays' are hosted by the Lawrence Emergency Response Team and during these monthly trainings officers are put through scenarios such as room clearing, doorway appraisal, breaching techniques, felony stops and tactical decision making. The Department continues to use the MILO machine which is a virtual scenario-based training tool. The Department now has the ability to have continuous trainings throughout the year that put officers in various scenarios focusing on de-escalation.

**ROLL CALL TRAINING:** The Training division has made a conscious effort to keep all officers up to date on best practices, policies, and procedures. Through the year the training division has presented roll call training to the officers. These trainings have been in a wide variety of areas and include COVID-19 safety, dealing with the homeless, options in dealing with people with addiction, civilian integrity testing, and the filming of police officers in the performance of their duty.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS:** In 2020 the Department recognized that policing in today's environment can be stressful and put together a Critical Incident Support Team. This team was made up of officers trained to watch for warning signs in an effort to assist officers in dealing with personal and professional crisis situations. The team was to Crisis Intervention and Peer Support and additional officers were sent to Mental First Aid for First Responders. In an effort to keep our officers healthy, this program continued in 2021, and the unit was activated throughout the year. The team conducted debriefing sessions for the shifts, facilitated one on one counseling, and provided resources to officers when appropriate. This unit has been an overwhelming success and will likely continue to grow in 2022.

## 2021 Training Classes

- Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement
- Emergency Dispatch
- Court Room Testimony
- Imposter ID
- Implicit Biases
- Court Room Complaint Writing
- Sergeant School
- Crime Scene for First Responders
- Managing Property Room
- Suicide Prevention
- Supervisor Leadership
- Identifying Armed Offender
- Court Room Testimony in Narcotics Cases
- Drug Investigation Class
- Forensic Photography
- Leadership Training
- Mobil Firing Range
- Forensic Video
- Psychology of School Threat Assessment
- Suicide and Aging
- Digital Multimedia Evidence Processing
- Mobile Device Investigation
- Drug Driving
- Drug Investigation
- Opioid Overdose Prevention
- News Media for Law Enforcement
- Tactical Report Writing
- De-Escalation Training
- Truthfulness Issues for Police Officers
- Crowd Control
- Tactical Motor Vehicle Stops
- Search and Seizure Training
- Concealed Compartment Training
- Demystifying OUI Stops
- Social Media Investigation
- Truth and the Brady List
- Verbal Judo
- Grant Writing
- K9 Explosive Ordinance
- SWAT School
- Budget Webinar
- Arrest Seminar
- Crash Investigation
- Grant Management
- Police Reform
- National Gang Academy
- Response to People with Developmental Disabilities
- Dispatcher Training Domestic and Family Violence
- Crowd Incident Management



## Opioid Outreach

The H.E.L.P. (Heroin Epidemic Lawrence Partnership) initiative continues to grow. The Lawrence Police, along with other community partners, spearheaded an effort to provide services more efficiently to the addicted community and their families. This also gives officers on the street more options when dealing with this effected community.

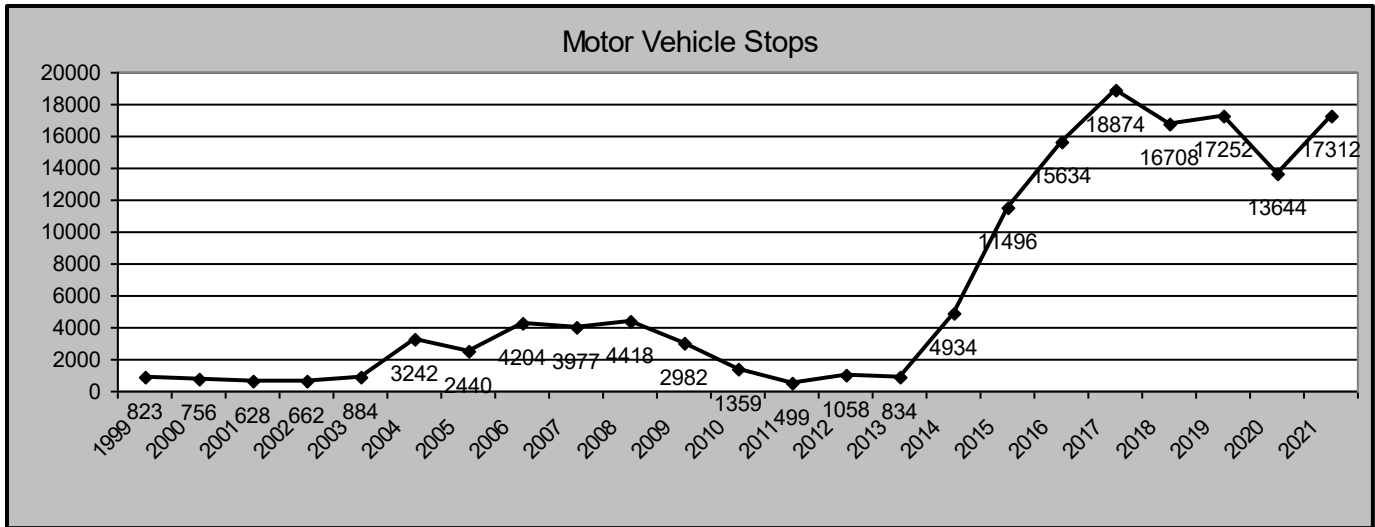
Once again in 2021, the Lawrence Police Department has been able to secure a grant to train and provide Narcan to all officers. This has been crucial due to the fact the Department responded to 242 overdoses, with 19 of them being fatal, throughout 2021. This is the same number of overdoses that occurred in 2020 however in 2020, 29 of these overdoses were fatal. This continues to be a decrease compared to 2019 and 2018; during these two years the Department responded to approximately 280 overdoses each year. In 2017, the Department documented a response to 131 overdose incidents. It is important to note that in 2017, and years prior, the response to overdoses was not as carefully documented as it has been in the last three years and will continue to be. Additionally, the Department is aware that in certain incidents victims are given Narcan by family and friends on scene. These factors make it challenging to quantify the entire scope of the opioid epidemic.

In 2018 it became apparent that although the Narcan training and distribution has proven successful in the short term, it did little to address the underlying problem of addiction and the manpower and resources it draws from the Department. At that time the Lawrence Police Department along the Lawrence Methuen Community Coalition (L.M.C.C.) partnered to form The HUB to address this gap in services. The HUB is a coalition of service providers, both public and private, that meet weekly to give immediate and wraparound services to those in crisis. This continued in 2021 and through the HUB community resources can be shared.

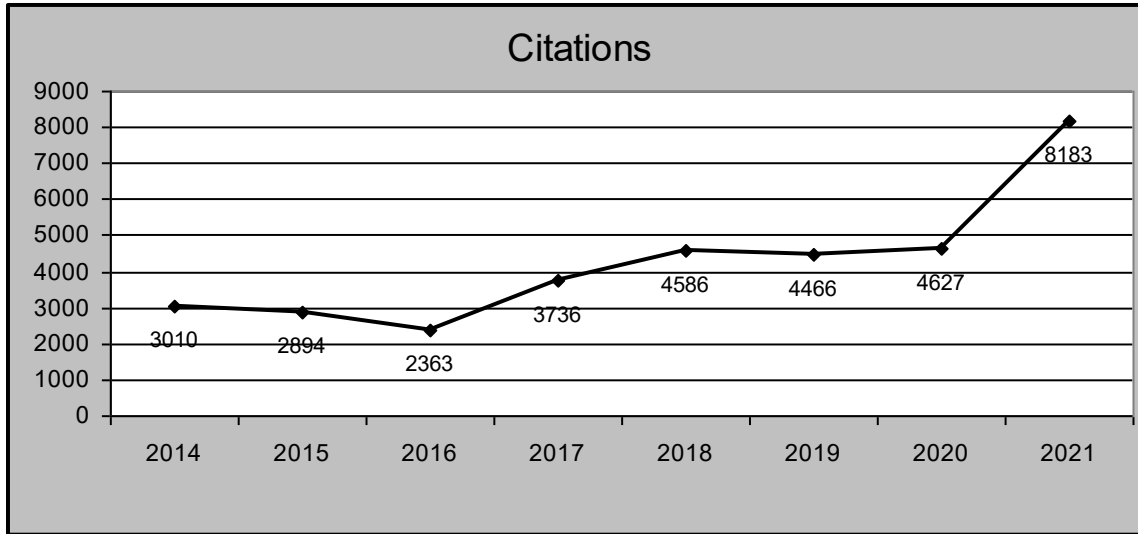
One of these resources is providing rides to treatment, which can otherwise be challenging for people suffering with addiction. The Department has been able to utilize a grant funded program secured by Andover PD again in 2021 that provides rides to treatment. Lawrence Probation has also been able to use this recourse. The Lawrence Police outreach program has also developed a post overdose outreach team. The post overdose team attempts to connect with all Lawrence residents who have overdosed. These people are offered individualized treatment as well as Narcan training for the individuals as well as their families. In 2021, every person that was contacted by the post overdose team has not overdosed a second time.

## Motor Vehicle Data

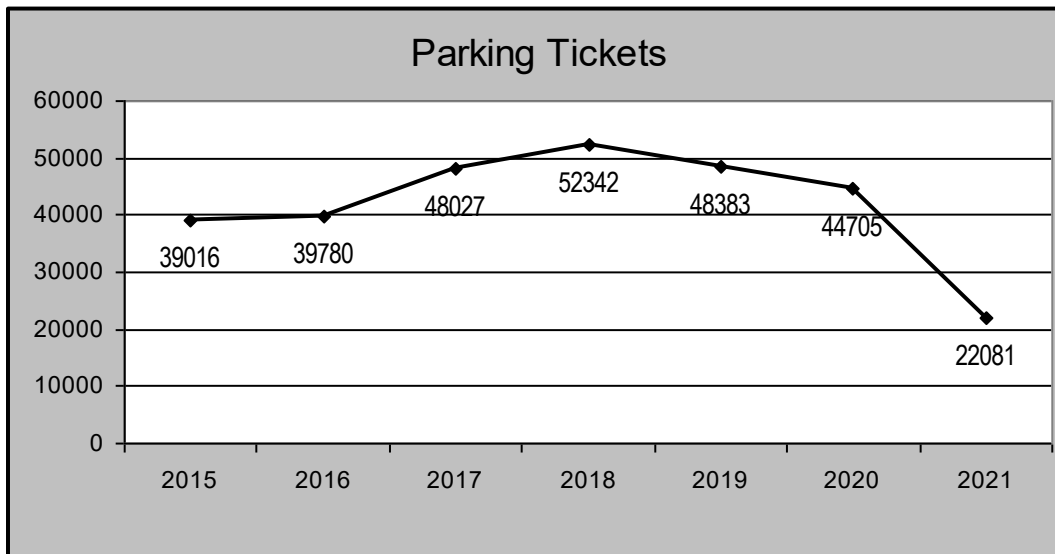
The graph below shows the number of motor vehicle stops made per year from 1999 through 2021. The number of motor vehicle stops conducted by the Department has significantly increased since 2014. The number of motor vehicle stops increased by 132% from 2014 to 2015. In 2021, 17,312 motor vehicle stops were conducted. This is an increase of 27% compared to 2020. On an off note, there were significantly less motor vehicle stops in 2020 due to the Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2021, the Department averaged approximately 47 motor vehicle stops per day. This is the same amount as 2019, prior to COVID-19.



In 2021 the Lawrence Police Department gave out 8,183 motor vehicle citations. This is a significant increase, 77%, compared to 2020, and a 172% increase compared to 2014. During 2021, the Department focused on complaints from businesses, residents, and community groups and increased the amount of selective enforcement being done. Additionally, efforts were focused on the 2020 Top Accident Locations, see the following page. The Department has issued an increased number of citations for speeding, unregistered motor vehicles, and stop/ yield fails. Of note, this number does not reflect those issued by Massachusetts State Police during joint operations.



In 2021, the Lawrence Police Department in conjunction with the city's outside agency issued a total of 22,081 parking tickets. A majority of the parking tickets are given out by the City's agency.



## 2020 Top Accident Locations

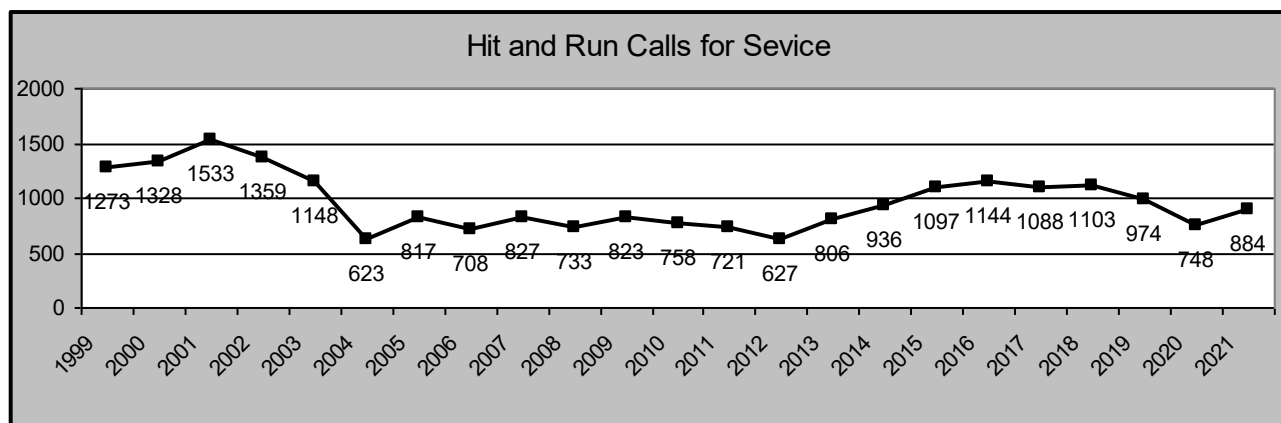
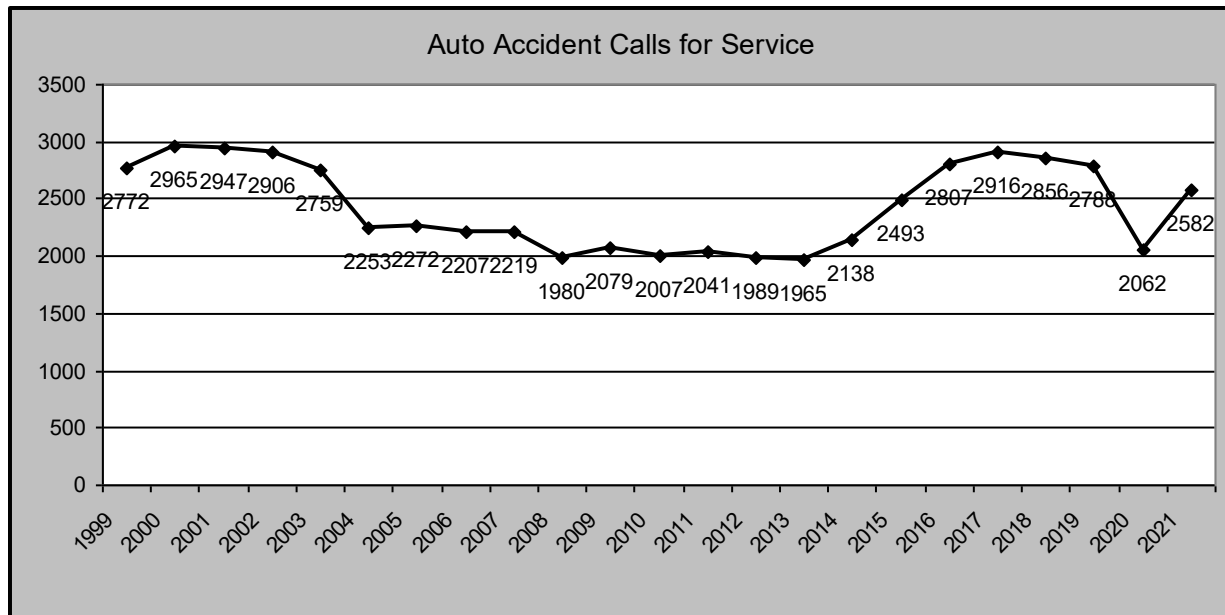
In early 2021, the Lawrence Police Department identified the top accident locations of 2020. This was done by examining the auto accident reports from all of 2020, and determining which intersections and addresses had the highest number of accidents. Those addresses and the number of accidents at each location can be found on the chart below.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Number of Accidents</u>
Avon St & Jackson St	17
Andover St & S Broadway	12
Broadway & Water St	11
Broadway & Essex St	9
Arlington St & Lawrence St	9
Jackson St & Park	9
Broadway & Cross St	8
Merrimack & S Union St	8

After identifying these locations the Department increased the amount of selective enforcement being done at those locations in an effort to make the locations safer. Additionally, throughout 2021, the Department identified some additional locations of concern and focused efforts there as well. These locations are added to the end of this chart and are highlighted in gray. The chart below shows the number of citations given out at those locations during 2021.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Number of Citations</u>
Avon St & Jackson St	130
Andover St & S Broadway	203
Broadway & Water St	218
Broadway & Essex St	225
Arlington St & Lawrence St	130
Jackson St & Park	134
Broadway & Cross St	160
Merrimack & S Union St	207
<i>Market St &amp; Parker St</i>	36
<i>Broadway &amp; Manchester St</i>	70
<i>S Union St &amp; Winthrop Av</i>	903
<i>Exeter St &amp; S Union St</i>	14
<i>Exeter St &amp; Winthrop Av</i>	69

In addition to motor vehicle stops, citations, and parking tickets the Department also responds to a significant amount of auto accident and hit and run calls for service. The two graphs below show the total number of auto accident calls for service and the total number of hit and run calls per year. These calls include aiding in involved parties exchanging papers, completing an accident report, completing an incident report, and/or conducting an investigation. In 2021, 3,466 total calls were responded to. This is an increase compared to 2020 but a decrease compared to 2019.





## Taxi and Livery Services

The Lawrence Police Department Hackney Unit is responsible for the issuance of all hackney licenses, medallions, and taxicab/ livery licenses. Prior to being issued a hackney license or business license the applicant must go through a criminal background check, operator license check, and be fingerprinted. The unit also coordinates with the RMV Vehicle Compliance Unit to have a yearly taxicab/ livery vehicles inspection. The City of Lawrence medallion programs consists of 150 taxicab medallions that are issued to individual citizens in the city's taxi industry. These 150 medallions are spread among four fully licensed companies. These medallions require a \$100 yearly renewal fee, which will be collected in early 2022. These fees are then turned into the City Clerk's Office for processing. There are no set number of livery vehicles established in the city's ordinance. For the year 2021, there were five (5) livery companies in operation. These five (5) companies operated approximately 20 livery vehicles. A \$250 yearly renewal permit fee for each livery vehicle will be collected after approval by city council.

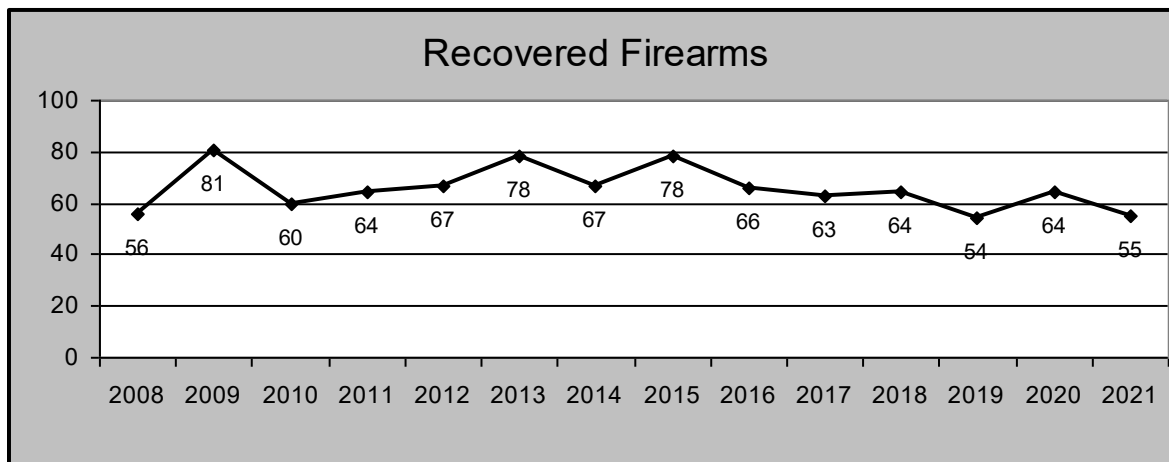
- The total number of Taxi and Livery meetings with company owner, drivers and interested parties: **49**  
*These meetings addressed issues like: Pre inspection protocol, complaints, yearly renewal, medallion transfers, and hackney licenses issues.*
- Taxi and Livery Companies Business applications processed and submitted to council for approval for 2021: **6**
- Number of Medallions Transfers submitted and approved by Council in 2021: **0**
- Number of citizen's complaints investigation: **13**

Hackney Licenses issued and denials:

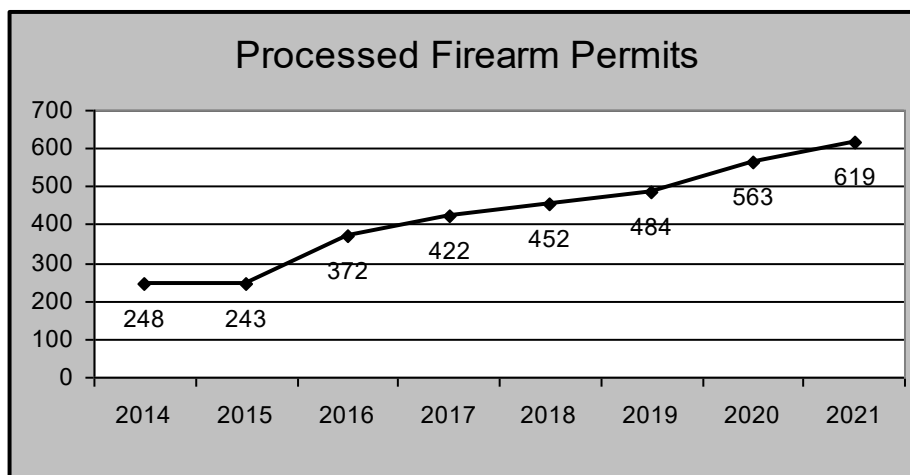
Year 2021	Issued	Denied	Final Total:
	230	18	248

## Firearms

During 2021, the Lawrence Police Department recovered 55 firearms, this is a 13% decrease compared to 2020. The Department has recovered 917 firearms between 2008 and 2021. This number does not reflect those guns recovered by outside agencies like: ATF, DEA, and Massachusetts State Police. The Department is also partnering with the US Attorney's Office to seek prosecution for firearm charges when appropriate. Additionally, the Department partners with ATF to process recovered firearms and shell casings in an effort to link them to cases and on going investigations.



During 2021, 619 firearm permits were processed by the Lawrence Police Department. The graph below shows the number of firearm permits processed per year from 2014 through the end of 2021.

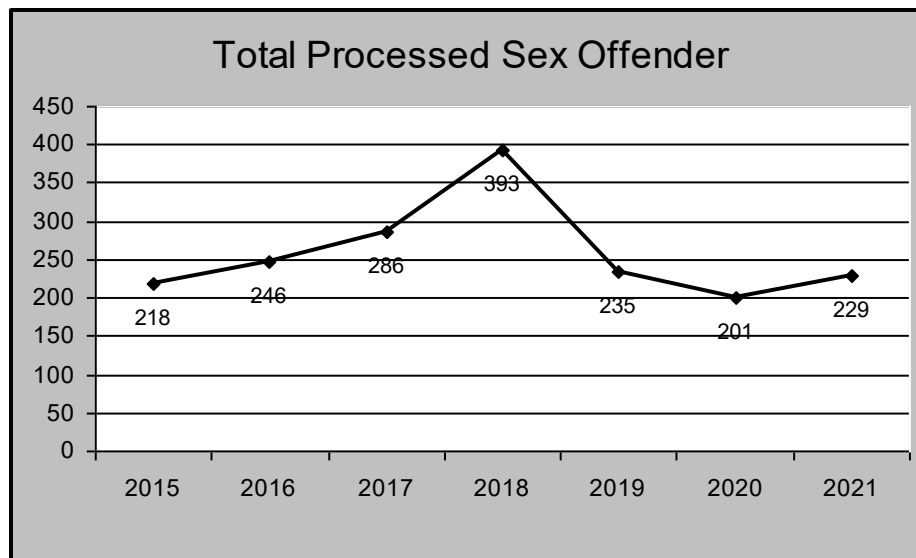


# Sex Offenders

The Sex Offender Tracking Unit is responsible for processing sex offender registry forms as well as meeting and contacting sex offenders. Some of the other responsibilities of the unit include home visits, employment verification, investigations, and court duties. Below is an overview of the 2021 statistics, a chart of the breakdown, and finally a graph showing the number of processed sex offenders by year.

- The City of Lawrence has 229 registered sex offenders living, working and / or attending an institution of higher learning. Out these 229 offenders, 46 are classified as level 1 sex offenders. The Department does not register process or monitor level one sex offenders, as they report directly to the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board in writing. However, the Department does enforce violations of their mandatory registrations.
- 15 homeless sex offenders live in the city, and report monthly to the Department.
- There are 17 sex offenders in violation at this time.

2021 Breakdown	
Processed Sex Offender Registry Forms	235
Public Dissemination Slides	195



# Lawrence Police Department

## *Important Phone Numbers*

**Emergency.....911**

**Non- Emergency line.....978-794-5900**

**Chief's Office.....978-794-5900 Ext. 640**

**Patrol Division .....978-794-5900 Ext. 506**  
**Officer in Charge (24 hours a day)**

**Detectives.....978-794-5900 Ext. 625**

**Drug Hotline.....978-794-5918**

**Professional Standards..... 978-857-3200**  
**Unit**

**Animal Control ..978-794-5856 (M-F 9AM-11PM)**  
**(All other hours Non-Emergency line listed above)**

**Runaway Assistance Program...211**

## *Emails Addresses/Text to Tips*

### **Loudnoise@lawpd.com**

(In addition to the Non-Emergency Line this email address may be used to report loud noise)

### **Disorder@lawpd.com**

(In addition to the numbers listed above this email address maybe used to report drug activity as well as all other quality of life issues.)

### **Tip Submit: <https://new.tipsubmit.com/en/forms/lawpd.com/anonymous>**

Completely ANONYMOUS tip line via the web. Provide information on a crime that may assist us in our investigations and protect your privacy

### **[www.lawpd.com](http://www.lawpd.com)**

Department's Website with helpful information, as well as a link to the (Police Department Civilian Complaint Form)

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