TRAVERSE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF JEFFREY J. O'BRIEN

MISSION STATEMENT:

Excellence in public service and safety through community policing.

VALUES:

COMPASSION
We care for and empathize with our fellow human beings.

COURAGE
We face danger to ensure the safety of others. We stand up for what is right. We will brave when others may not. We eliminate fear through our actions.

EXCELLENCE
We employ those who strive to achieve a higher standard. We listen to our employees and members of our community to continually improve our effectiveness and reliability. We strive to exceed community and professional expectations.

FAIRNESS
We treat all individuals impartially. We act in a just manner. We embrace different points of view. We exercise discretion appropriately.

INTEGRITY
We fulfill our mission in its entirety using sound principles, honesty, and sincerity.

RESOURCEFULNESS
We are relied upon to help and support. We have the ability to deal with situations effectively.
We build on mutual experiences to effectively resolve problems.

RESPECT
We value the rights and beliefs of others. We are courteous. We treat others as we expect to be treated. We appreciate diversity.

WORK ETHIC
We are self-motivated and self-directed. We do what is asked to achieve expectations. We hold ourselves to the highest standards.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

ADMINISTRATION

Jeffrey J. O'Brien
Chief
1991

The Office Of The Chief Of Police is comprised of the department's command staff along with civilian support personnel.

The sworn officers are:
Jeffrey J. O'Brien, Chief of Police; James A. Bussell, Captain - Investigative Division; Keith L. Gillis, Captain - Patrol Division; Erich T. Bohrer, Lieutenant - Patrol Division

The support personnel include:
Lisa D. Green, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police and
Joanne E. Tuck, Administrative Clerk/Evidence

Lisa D. Green
Administrative Assistant
1996

Joanne Tuck
Administrative Clerk
2016

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

DEPARTMENT GOALS - 2020

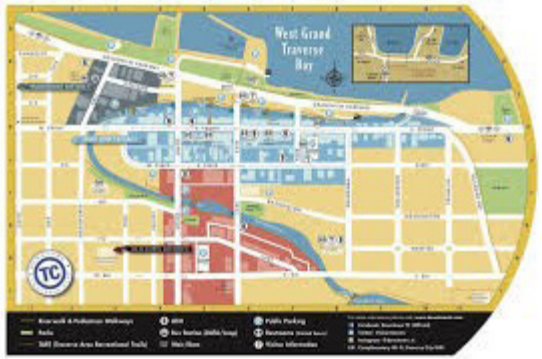
The department's goals for 2020 as committed to by Chief Jeffrey O'Brien. They are as follows:

HOPE NOT HANDCUFFS:

Hope Not Handcuffs is an initiative started by Families Against Narcotics (FAN), aimed at bringing law enforcement and community organizations together in an effort to find viable treatment options for individuals seeking help to reduce dependency with heroin, prescription drugs, and alcohol. It is a solution. How It Works? A person struggling with any drug addiction can come to any of the participating police agencies and ask for help. They will be greeted with support, compassion, and respect. *If accepted into the program, the individual will be guided through a brief intake process to ensure proper treatment placement. If a person is uninsured or has Medicaid, we will work directly with the local office of Substance Abuse Services for placement. If a person has private insurance, we will provide them with treatment options covered by their plan. Regardless, our team will work to get them into treatment as soon as possible. We have more than 60 volunteer Angels, and one of them will help with paperwork and provide compassionate support until a treatment option is found.
*Exceptions that may make someone ineligible for the program: a felony or domestic violence warrant; danger to others; under 18 without parent or guardian consent; medical condition that may need hospitalization.

ONE MIND CAMPAIGN:

In conjunction with our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) we will work with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to implement the One Mind Campaign. The One Mind Campaign seeks to ensure successful interactions between police officers and persons affected by mental illness. The initiative focuses on uniting local communities, public safety organizations, and mental health organizations so that the three become "of one mind." To join the campaign, law enforcement agencies must pledge to implement four promising practices over a 12-36 month time frame. These practices include: Establishing a clearly defined and sustainable partnership with a community mental health organizations, developing a model policy to implement police response to persons affected by mental illness, training and certifying sworn officers and selected non-sworn staff in mental health first aid training or other equivalent mental health awareness course, and providing Crisis Intervention Team training.



TC IMAGE:

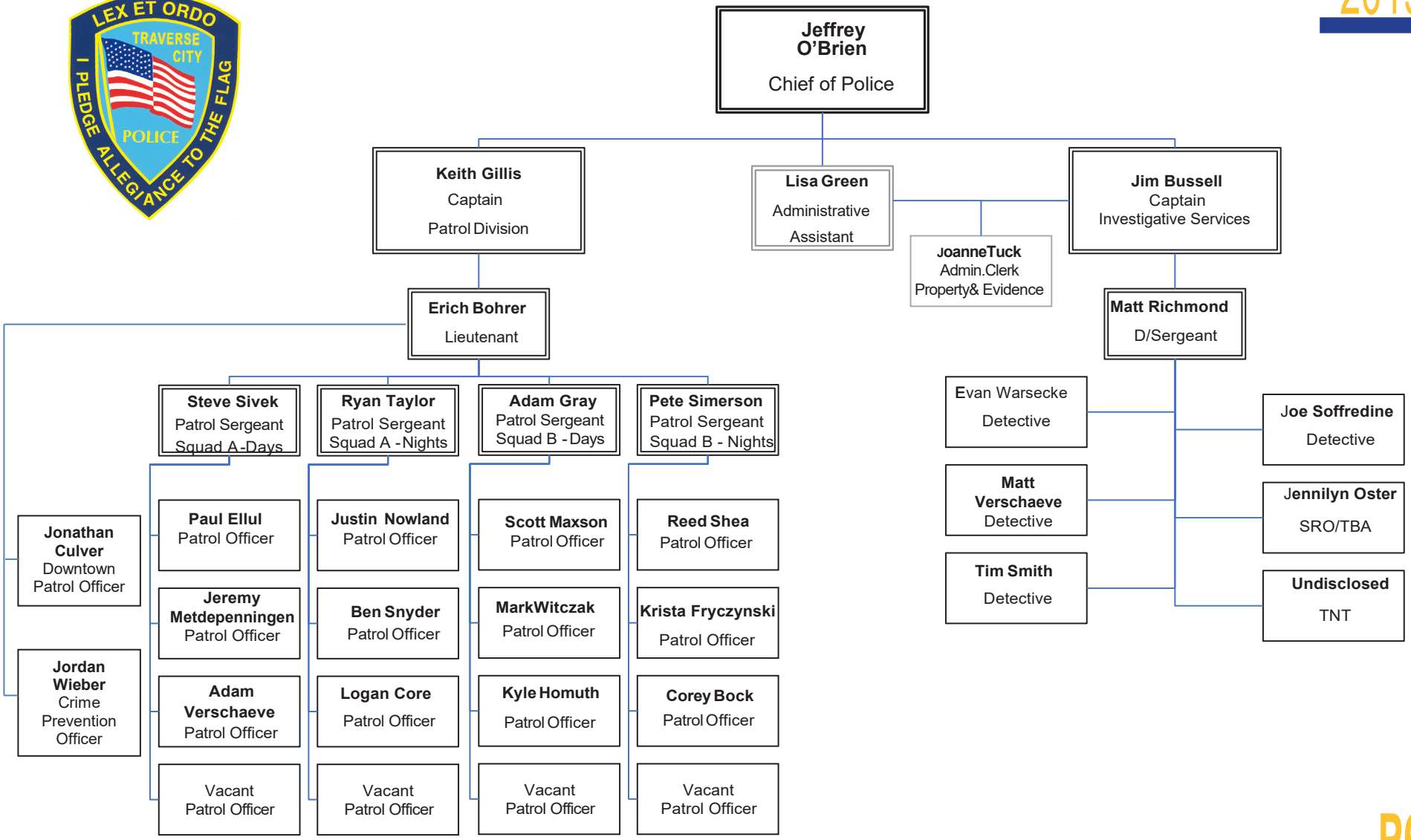
Working with Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE), Drug Coalition Experts in the Northern Michigan area, and the DDA, to implement the Healthy Drinking Culture to Traverse City this year as a "harm reduction" model; reducing binge drinking in our city.

CAMERAS – FISH PASS/DOWNTOWN/CITY BOUNDARIES:

Working in tandem with TCL&P, DDA, Carl Ferguson, and other city departments we will implement phase one of the camera system in Traverse City. The Area includes the Fish Pass and Downtown Traverse City.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

2019



INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Investigative Services Division consists of the Division Captain, one Detective Sergeant, four Detectives, one School Resource Officer, one Narcotics Officer, four Crime Scene Technicians and one civilian that is assigned to the management of the property and evidence section. The chain of command is Detective Captain, Detective Sergeant and then all other sworn Division personnel as peers on a seniority basis reporting directly to the Detective Sergeant.

Detectives have crime scene and investigative case authority over senior Patrol Officers and Road Sergeants once assigned. Currently, the "Crimes Against Persons" Detective is the most senior Detective. Several Detectives are trained in multiple disciplines and responsibilities both inside and outside the Investigative Division.

The Division consists of several Bureaus, Units, and Sections. Each has its own assigned personnel and responsibility. Due to the size of our agency, it is necessary that personnel be assigned to several areas within, and in some cases outside, of the Division.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN JIM BUSSELL, BADGE #202

Captain Bussell was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 2013 and Detective Captain in 2015. He continues to serve as the Investigative Division Commander.

Responsibilites include:
Case Review
Division Training Coordination and Selection
FOIA
Internal Audits and Inspections
LARA – LCC Investigation Compliance
Major Investigations
Media Relations
PAO Liaison
Policy and Procedure review, development and research

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

DETECTIVE SERGEANT

D/SGT. MATT RICHMOND, BADGE #211

Major Investigations, Case/Detective Assignment, Case/Detective Management, Scheduling, Payroll and OT management, DV Coalition/WRC Liaison , DV Case Review.

D/Sgt. Richmond was promoted in October of 2018 from road patrol Sergeant to Detective Sergeant. D/Sgt. Richmond's previous assignment as road patrol Sergeant had been since November of 2015; prior to that he had been assigned as a Detective effective September 2012.

His primary duty and mission is the effective management of the Detectives, case assignment and case review. He also has the ability to work cases as he deems necessary because of caseloads and need. D/Sgt. Richmond also manages the department's physical maintenance program and Naloxone program.

DETECTIVE - WHITE COLLAR CRIMES

DETECTIVE EVAN WARSECKE, BADGE #294

Specializes in nonviolent crimes committed by legal or illegal business entities or individuals to gain a personal or business advantage.

He serves as the The Bank and Securities Association and the Traverse City Senior Center Liaison. Detective Warsecke served as the Violent Crimes Detective prior to being assigned to White Collar Crimes.

Cases Investigated

2 – Homicide Investigations, 1 - Prostitution, 20 - CSC complaints, 11 - CPS/APS Referrals and 7 - Backgroud Investigations

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

DETECTIVE - CYBER CRIMES/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

DETECTIVE MATT VERSCHAEVE, BADGE #292

Specializes in investigating crimes involving the use of a computer or the internet. Det. Verschaeve also provides technical support for ongoing investigations and the prevention of criminal activity by deploying and monitoring department surveillance systems.Det. Verschaeve serves as the Unmanned Arieal Vehicle (Drone) Unit's Coordinator. Duties include, units development and implementation, training and the determination on how and when the drones will be used during an investigation.

Cases Investigated to include Cases Investigated through the ICAC
9 – Fraud, 2 – Embezzlements, 3 – APS Referrals, Bomb Threat, Retail Fraud, Missing Person, Overdose Death, VCSA, CPS Referral
Fatal Fire, CSAM and Employment Background

DETECTIVE - VIOLENT CRIMES

DETECTIVE JOE SOFFREDINE, BADGE #298

Specializes in investigating crimes that are violent or assaultive in nature. Detective Soffredine was promoted from School Resource Officer to Detective in 2019.

He served as the White Collar Detective prior to being assigned to Violent Crimes.

Cases Investigated
3 - Larcenies, 1 –Family Abuse/Neglect, 2 - CPS Referrals, 1 – Suicide/Indeterminate Death, 6 - Frauds, 3 - Suspicious, 12 – Agency Assists
8 – Regulatory Inspections, Disorderly, Truancy, Harassment, and 10 – Lockdown Drills

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

DETECTIVE - PROPERTY AND PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES

DETECTIVE TIM SMITH, BADGE #297

Specializes in investigating crimes involving theft or damage to property. He is also responsible for activities that are contrary to public values and morals, which if not investigated may create an environment conducive to criminal activity. He is also is in charge of MLCC and MMFL regulatory inspections.

Detective Smith was promoted to Detective in 2019. He was one of the Departments K9 handlers. Detective Smith is also the Crime Scene Unit Manager. The unit consists of three crime scene technicians. In 2019 the Unit was called out to assist the MSP Crime Lab on two Homicides.

TCPD processed a Suicide/Indeterminate death a local hotel during the National Cherry Festival. Other scenes processed by TCPD Crime Technicians were B&E's, Felonious Assaults, Criminal Sexual Conducts, MDOP's, Suspicious and Larcenies.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER UNIT - TBA/ISD SRO

OFFICER JENNILYN OSTER, BADGE #239

Is the Detective assigned to TBA/ISD to investigate School and juvenile related crimes and incidents.

TBA/ISD maintains four campuses within the City. They consist of the main campus on Parsons Rd., New Campus in the Commons property, Oak Park Elementary and Traverse Heights Elementary. The position is fully funded by TBA/ISD through a contractual agreement.

Officer Oster participated in 87 public relations events in 2017. In 2019 she participated in 181 Public Relations/Proactive Presentations. She posted 497 calls for service in 2019 with 55 new investigations opened. Investigations include 15 - Assaults, 5 CSC's, 2 - Weapons, 7 – MDOP's, 6 – Drug Offenses, 3 – Abuse/Neglect .

She also spends countless hours working with the TBA/ISD public safety program, students and instructors.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

TRAVERSE NARCOTICS TEAM

The Traverse Narcotics Team (TNT) is a multijurisdictional drug task force comprised of officers from Wexford County, Osceola County, Missaukee County, Antrim County, Grand Traverse County, Kalkaska County, Leelanau County, and Benzie County along with Traverse City Police Department, and the Michigan State Police. The Traverse Narcotics Team needs help from the public to eradicate the illegal drug epidemic in Michigan and asks that anyone with any information pertaining to illegal drug activity call the drug tip line at: 800-528-8234.

Captain Bussell has served on the executive board since 2015. TNT Detectives are divided into two teams, a north team and a south team. A Narcotics Detective is assigned full time to the north team. The detective receives extensive training in activities related to narcotics and vice law. Enforcement to include Gang Investigation, surveillance, building entry and basic and advanced narcotics investigation.

Investigations included: Narcotics, Prostitution and Parcel and Bus Interdiction.

PROPERTY/EVIDENCE SECTION TECHNICIAN

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK/EVIDENCE - JOANNE TUCK

Joanne Tuck is a civilian employee assigned as our Property and Evidence Section Technician.

She is responsible for the management, coalition, and storage of evidence in the property room to include the transfer of property between citizens, officers, the PAO, and the MSP Laboratory.

In 2019, 6 long guns and 20 handguns were pending determination of ownership, approval to be returned, or direction to be destroyed. 8 SANE kits were submitted and entered in to the Track Kit System. 12 counterfeit submissions were made to the Secret Service. 2,872 pounds of drugs from the Law Enforcements Centers POD were taken in and destroyed.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

DIVISION COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT

D/Sgt Richmond is assigned as a liaison to the COC. In early 2018 the department partnered with the 86th District Court in the development and operation of the Community Outreach Court program. The Grand Traverse County Community Outreach Court (COC) offers individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness (struggling to pay rent and daily necessities) the opportunity to resolve unpaid court fines, fees, bench warrants, and open cases for civil and criminal infractions when they complete an action plan designed to address the root causes of their homelessness or risk of homelessness and criminal history.

FAMILY ASSESSMENT & SAFETY TEAM (FAST TEAM)

SRO Oster is a member of the FAST Team. The goal is to reduce the number of children that end up in the Hospital Emergency room as a result of a mental health crisis.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY DRUG FREE COALITION

Detective Soffredine is an Executive Board member. The Coalition has several community members from varied disciplines to include health, addiction and abuse prevention treatment Schools and Law Enforcement and meets once a month to develop and implement ideas concerning the education of High School and Middle School students concerning the danger of drug abuse.

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE

Detective Verscheave is assigned to this Multi-jurisdictional team managed by the Michigan State Police. The team is located in Traverse City and assists with investigations by police agencies with child computer sex crime cases. Police agencies submitting investigative assist requests are within the MSP 7th and 8th Districts comprising of all of northern-lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

TRAVERSE BAY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Detective Soffredine attends monthly peer review and case review meetings at the TBCAC and D/Capt. Bussell sits on the board of directors. The TBCAC is instrumental in the prevention, detection and prosecution of sexual assault crimes against children in the Traverse City region.

THE MICHIGAN MODEL VULNERABLE ADULT PROTOCOL

Detective Warsecke attends a monthly meeting intended to simplify and standardize the identification, investigation and prosecution of vulnerable adult abuse in Michigan through improved coordination between adult protective services, law enforcement, prosecutors and other professionals engaged in vulnerable adult abuse cases and investigations.

TRAVERSE AREA SECURITY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Detective Warsecke attends meeting with regional financial institutions and other law enforcement agencies to determine fraud, privacy, and security prevention.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

DIVISION SECURITY DETAILS

TCPD is consistently requested throughout the year to assist in security planning and operations for high risk individuals and high risk events that are common place within the City. Typically these operations consist of plain clothes officers from the Investigative Division but may include uniform personnel. 2019 events include security for local, state and federal politicians, School Board meetings, Town Hall Meetings and Protest regarding controversial topics as well notable celebrities during events such as the National Cherry Festival and the Traverse City Film Festival.

DIVISION UPDATES & GOALS

CONTINUATION OF UAS (DRONE) PROGRAM

The TCPD Drone program was implemented in 2018. In addition to acquired equipment in 2019, the purchase of a second UAV was approved for the TCPD UAV Unit. This process has been completed and equipment has been ordered with a projected delivery date in early 2020. The new UAV will have capabilities of nighttime flight and poor weather flight and is equipped with night vision and high zoom capabilities. Upon delivery of the new UAV, pilot training is expected to utilize full capabilities of this new equipment. The unit consist of four Department members led by Unit Coordinator Detective Matt Verscheave.

GUARDIAN TRACKING AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The department implemented the document management and storage system in 2018. The implementation of this system has allowed us to effectively and efficiently manage the cases handled by the Detective Bureau and the cases referred to our Division by the Patrol Division. We are quickly able to analyze the data to show the areas we are excelling in and the areas that may further need evaluation.

PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS, JOB DESCRIPTIONS BY FUNCTION, AND DIVISION VISION AND MISSION DEVELOPMENT

In 2019 we conducted our first Performance Appraisal within the Investigative Services Division. We also reorganized our Detective Bureau, relating to each Detectives specific job functions and expectations. With the addition of another Detective position, we were able to dedicate a Detective to Technical Support and Cyber Crimes. We are continuing to research the development of a Divisional Vision and Mission Statement.

EXPANSION OF CRIME ANALYSIS BEYOND CRIME MAPPING INTO COMP STAT AND COMMUNITY POLICING STRATEGIES

We continue exploring systems and methods compatible with our current record keeping system which received a major update in January of 2019. The Crime Mapping system implemented in 2016 has experienced software and compatibility issues with our records system and is no longer viable. We are also researching the viability of working directly with the City GIS department as opposed to Crime Mapping. This program could be used in conjunction with the data D/Sgt. Richmond is generating to further clarify preventative and enforcement actions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLVABILITY FACTORS IN THE DETERMINATION OF DB CASE ACCEPTANCE AND ASSIGNMENT.

This remains a goal of the division. In 2017 it was learned that our current report software system does have a module that supports this feature although it had not been activated.

PROACTIVE VS REACTIVE.

By utilizing Crime Analysis, Hot Spot policing and cooperation with other department units and local Law Enforcement, the Detective Bureau seeks to take a more proactive approach to investigation rather than just investigating cases referred from Road Patrol.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

DETECTIVE BUREAU STATISTICS

Case Status					
Year	Total Closed	Percent Closed	Total Open/Inactive	Percent Open/Inactive	Total Cases
2015	131	95.62%	6	4.38%	137
2016	100	80.00%	25	20.00%	125 (-8.75%)
2017	200	88.11%	27	11.89%	227 (80.80%)
2018	172	89.58%	20	10.42%	192 (-15.41%)
2019	176	85.02%	31	14.97%	207 (7.81%)

Year	Case Offense Crimes	Referred from Patrol Division	Returned to Patrol for Investigation
2015	156	72	11
2016	144 (-7.69%)	108 (50%)	7
2017	256 (77.77%)	77 (-28%)	7
2018	200 (-21.87%)	80 (4%)	2
2019	266 (33%)	73 (-9%)	10

STATISTICS

15012
INCIDENTS

2340
CASES

932
ARRESTS

85
VIOLENT CRIMES

The calls that our officers are dispatched to are logged via file class (which there are hundreds). Those file classes can be grouped together into more broad categories which can then be effectively presented to the public.

INCIDENTS
Any police activity that generates a complaint number by central dispatch.

CASES
Any incident that requires a written police report.

ARRESTS
Adult and juvenile offenders lodged, petitioned, or sited in to the criminal justice process.

VIOLENT CRIMES
Murder, rape, negligent homicide, aggravated assault and robbery.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES
Includes 911 hang-ups, Be On the Lookout (BOL), Follow-up Complaints, Motorist Assists, Public Relations, Paper Service, Traffic Stops and Warrant Attempts.

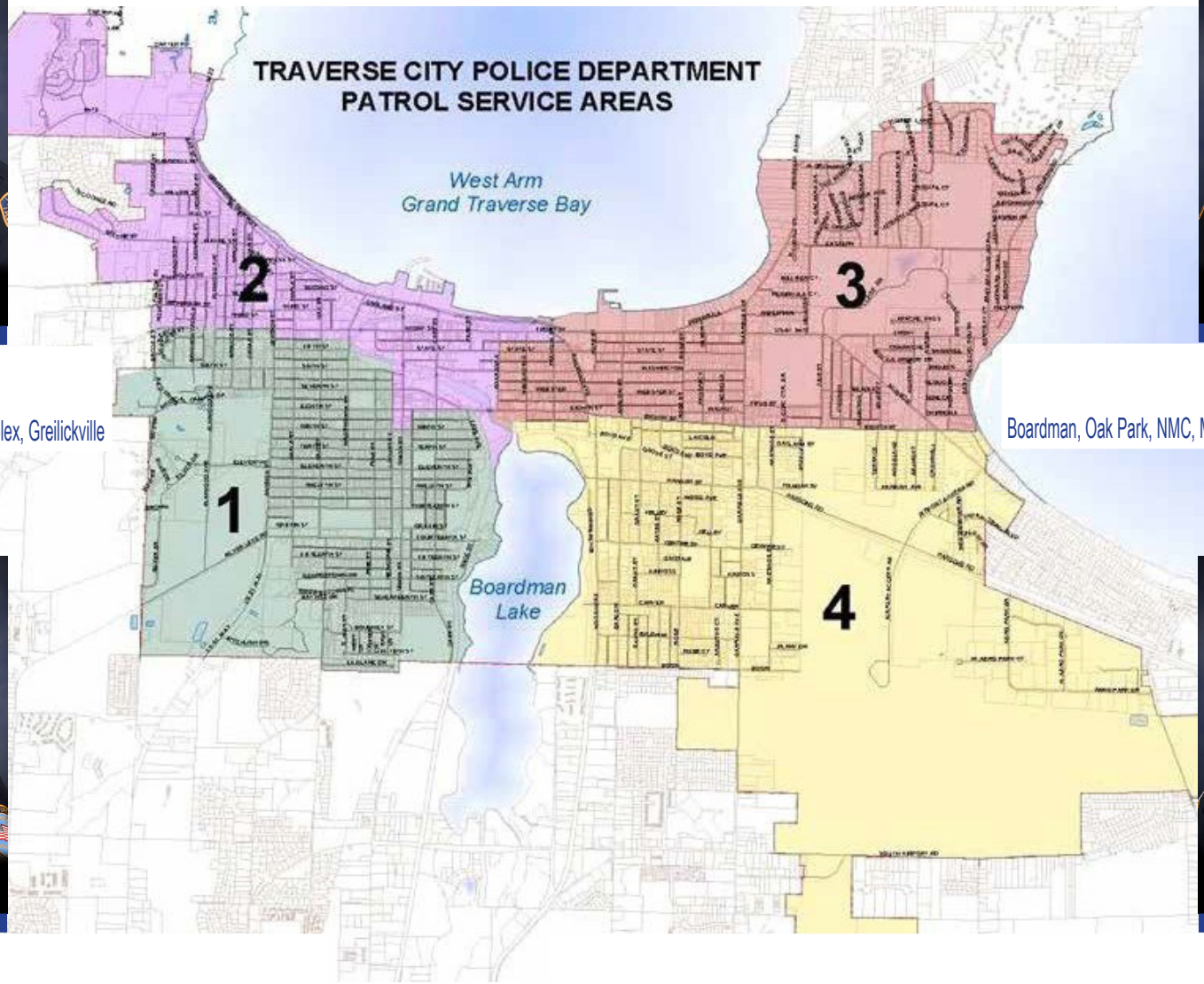
PART I OFFENSES	2018	2019
Murder	0	2
Rape	41	30
Robbery	4	5
Aggravated Assault	43	48
Burglary	34	33
Larceny	183	158
Motor Vehicle Theft	7	9
Arson	1	2
Totals:	313	282
PART II OFFENSES		
Non Aggravated Assault	294	286
Forgery/Counterfeit	6	16
Fraud	94	65
Embezzlement	6	9
Stolen Property	1	3
Damage to Property	94	86
Weapons	27	22
Prostitution	0	2
Sex Offenses	3	5
Narcotics Laws	58	30
Gambling	0	0
Family & Children	37	34
OWI(Alcohol or Drugs	74	78
Liquor Laws	23	18
Disorderly Conduct	61	58
Totals:	778	712

PATROL SERVICE AREAS

SERVICE AREA 2

psimerson@traversecitymi.gov

DDA, Slab Town, Gov't Center Complex, Greilickville



SERVICE AREA 3

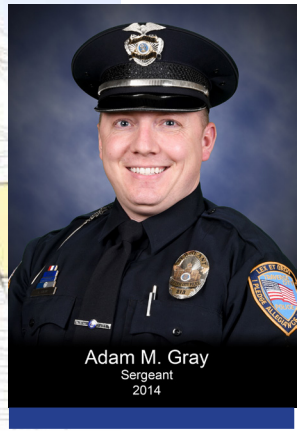
rtaylor@traversecitymi.gov

Boardman, Oak Park, NMC, Munson Ave Corridor, 8th St. Corridor

SERVICE AREA 1

ssivek@traversecitymi.gov

Central, Kids Creek, Old Towne, Munson Medical Center, Grand Traverse Commons



SERVICE AREA 4

agray@traversecitymi.gov

Traverse Heights, CCA, Industrial Park, Railroad Depot Develpment, Hull Park, U.S. Coast Guard Airbase, U.S. Army Reserve Center

PATROL SERVICES DIVISION

2019 RECAP

In 2019 the Traverse City Police Department implemented several community policing programs. We anticipate continued success as the Traverse City Police Department and its many partnerships with local organizations grow and through continuous discussions and evaluations as to the benefits to each community. It is my pleasure to list the following organizations that partnered with the Traverse City Police Department, working together in 2019. I expect our partnerships and programs will continue to grow in future years.

Safe Kids North Shore
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Operation Chill (7-Eleven)
Norte
Safe Harbor
Michigan State Police
Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department
86th District Court Community Outreach

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

Growth and enriched our Community Policing Program
Guardian Tracking Management Program
National Walk to School Day
Park and Walk
Neighborhood Meetings
Officer Liaison Program at Safe Harbor
Officer Liaison Program at City Library
Seasonal Bike Officers
Bicycle Safety Program
Sobriety Court Drug Court
Traffic Committee
Firearms Program
K9 Program
Interdiction Team
Motorcycle Unit
Field Training Program
Emergency Response Team
Honor Guard
Training

PATROL CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN KEITH GILLIS, BADGE #204

Captain Gillis is responsible for staff operating reports and recommendations for changes in policy through policy review. He assists in budget preparation, monitoring and evaluation, purchasing and other related fiscal matters. He performs personnel management functions to include recruiting, selection, and discipline.

PATROL SERVICES DIVISION

USE OF FORCE 2019

The Traverse City Police Department documents and tracks every incidence of force applied by an officer to verify justification, proper application, contributing factors and to plan future training needs. In 2019, officers of the department were involved in 82 "use of force" incidents. Keep in mind, more than one officer is sometimes involved, and more than one type of force may be applied during an incident. Case law guiding law enforcement use of force requires it be "objectively and reasonably" applied based on the facts and circumstances facing the officer at the time the force was applied. (Graham vs. Connor 490 U.S. 386 (1989)).

In 2019 we show an increase in one area: incidents that involved verbal direction in conjunction with a brandished Taser resulted in almost immediate suspect compliance with no other force necessary.

EMPTY HAND CONTROL: 71 | TASER UNHOLSTERED: 11 | TASER DEPLOYED:1 | FIREARM: 0

CALLS FOR SERVICE - 2019 STATISTICS

Traverse City Police Department Calls for Service Statistics

2019	Citations	Traffic Crashes			Arrests		Traffic
		Fatal	PIA	PDA	OWI	Criminal	Crashes
Q1 Totals	379	0	11	288	20	188	299
Q2 Totals	469	0	22	268	24	173	290
Q3 Totals	532	0	42	316	16	208	358
Q4 Totals	381	1	21	296	12	248	318

PATROL LIEUTENANT

LIEUTENANT ERICH BOHRER, BADGE #205

LT. Erich Bohrer oversees the Road Patrol Services Division. His responsibilities include: Supervising Patrol Sergeants, Patrol/Community Police Officers, Motor Unit, K-9, Honor Guard, and Reserve Officers.

PATROL SERVICES DIVISION

FIREARMS - TRAINING

The department participates annually in two firearms qualification courses and training exercises. The department qualifies using the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards mandatory in-service firearms active duty course of fire. Officers qualify with both their duty handgun and their duty rifles. Officers also practice malfunction drills, clearing of weapons, and transitioning from rifle to handgun. The officers learn to be more proficient in clearing weapon malfunctions and moving while shooting. The department also participated in the Northern Michigan Law Enforcement Training Group's scenario based training located on the grounds of Camp Grayling, in Grayling, MI. The training involved using verbal skills to de-escalate hostile role players and work to avoid deadly force situations. It placed the officers in a "shoot or don't shoot situation." In December the department participated in a dim light course which included an hour of classroom training covering changes in the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act and laws pertaining to concealed carry laws. Officers practiced what they learned with live fire exercises, including Taser deployment. Sgt. Adam Gray is the department's lead firearms instructor. He is supported by additional department trained Firearms Instructors: Sgt. Sivek, Officer Ellul, Det. Smith, Officer Witczak, and Officer Shea.

FIELD - TRAINING

The Field Training Program started in 1996. The purpose of the program was and still is to bring newly hired police officers ready to work in the field as solo patrol officers. This is accomplished through three and a half months of training prior to starting solo patrol. The new hire spends twelve hours per shift with their assigned Field Officer training on all aspects of a patrol officers responsibilities. They are trained on the fifty most frequent calls for service. The officers are scored on performance per day and at the end of the month. New officers must meet minimum standard scores in order to pass the Field Training Program. Sgt. Sivek serves the department as lead Field Training Officer with support from six Training Officers who work directly with the new hire. In order to serve the department in this capacity Training Officers attend an intensive 40 hour training course. Annual refresher courses so are also required.

PATROL SERVICES DIVISION

DOWNTOWN PATROL OFFICER

The Traverse City Police Department with the assistance of the DDA assigned a dedicated Community Police Officer to Downtown Traverse City in July of 2019. Officer Culver was assigned to manage and enhance police service to the Downtown area. He is there to develop and maintain relationships with the downtown community and business owners; help reduce crime, help improve the quality of life Downtown all through information sharing, education and involving the community in problem-solving efforts. Officer Culver attends and participates in meetings determined by the DDA CEO along with being present during numerous Downtown events

POLICE MOTORCYCLE TEAM

The Traverse City Police Department Motorcycle Team consists of 6 officers who have individually assigned Harley Davidson Road King motorcycles. Due to the hazards associated with this specialty, extensive amounts of training is required on an annual basis, including an annual-40 hour re-certification team training. The team demonstrated its riding abilities during the 2019 National Cherry Festival parade. They showcased slow riding, figure eights, turns to the left and turns to the right along with signals to park and dismount.

The team provides escorts for different events throughout the year: Thunderbirds, Patriot Guard, Hometown Heroes, Up North Pride Parade and the Father Fred ride. In addition to the escorts, our motorcyccle team conducts traffic enforcement details. The team initiated 5 traffic details resulting in 113 traffic citations written. Details include areas identified by the department as well as citizen generated complaints of traffic violations.

Our team members include: Sgt. Taylor, Sgt. Simerson, Officer Ellul, Officer Metdepenningen, Officer Shea, and Officer Homuth. The team has a combined 34 years of riding experience.

K-9 PROGRAM

K-9

DRAGO

Drago was born in Slovakia on October 14, 2014. He has been on duty since April 3, 2017, and serves our community as a dual purpose drug detection dog. Drago's handler is Officer Adam Verschaeve.

TOTAL CALLS: 85
K-9 APPLICATIONS: 0
K-9 ARRESTS: 5
TRACKS: 12
DEMONSTRATIONS: 10

HONOR GUARD

The Traverse City Police Honor Guard is comprised of one sergeant and three officers, all of which are highly respected for their precision and attention to detail. All Honor Guard team members are graduates of the nationally recognized DFL/Goshen Police Honor Guard training camp in Northern Michigan.

During the year the team worked closely with the Grand Traverse County Honor Guard to form a hybrid team for events. The hybrid team presented the national colors at a banquet held at the Great Wolf Lodge. They also participated in the Veterans Day ceremony at the Dennos Museum where they hung the national flag.

During the National Peace Officers Memorial Day service held in May each year, the team joins forces with the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard to present colors and perform a twenty-one gun salute in honor of fallen officers. This tradition dates back to the civil war era. During that time, a cease fire would be called so the dead could be removed. Once completed, three volleys would be fired indicating all dead have been cleared and properly cared for.

COMMUNITY POLICING

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MENTORING PROGRAM

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Northwestern Michigan
A little love makes a BIG difference!

The Traverse City Police department has made a strong effort to work with the Biggs program by visiting the schools within the city of Traverse City to mentor children that are in the Biggs program. This program offers children an opportunity to meet a police officer at their school and to make the child a hero for a day. Big Brothers Big Sisters is very supportive of this program. The department has had several Biggs contacts at Central Grade school and Traverse Heights. The participating Officers attend mentoring sessions offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters in preparation to serve in this program.

PARK AND WALKS

Park and Walks serve as an opportunity for our officers to introduce themselves to members of the community. It is a great time to do so during events such as Friday Night Live. Officers exit their cars, walk around and open the lines of communication with our citizens. This is an opportunity for our citizens to meet and see officers outside their patrol cars and to communicate eye-to-eye. It offers a time for citizens to see police officers as fellow human beings and to see we, too, have a vested interest in what happens in our neighborhoods. Our Sergeants oversee this detail which is used downtown particularly in the 100 block of south Union Street where several of our downtown drinking establishments are located. Our presence has shown to dissuade criminal activity in that area of the City. We notice the positive impact it has made with regard to the calls for service we receive at that location.

COMMUNITY POLICING

OPERATION CHILL

7-ELEVEN Operation Chill SLURPEE®
ENCOURAGING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

A free Slurpee is part of 7-Eleven's "Operation Chill" program; "A tasty reward for staying cool – that's the Operation Chill program." This 7-Eleven community outreach program is designed to reduce crime and enhance relations between police and youth. It allows law enforcement officers to "ticket" kids they observe doing good deeds or exhibiting positive behavior. The ticket is a coupon good for a free 12-oz. Slurpee® at any participating store. In 2017 the Traverse City Police gave out 1000 Operation Chill coupons to kids in the community for many reasons, such as: wearing a bike helmet or using the cross walks. It is a great tool for introducing children to police officers and for those officers to get to know the kids. It is intended that the positive reinforcement carries over into the children's everyday lives.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

We attend neighborhood meetings in Traverse Heights, Central, and Old Town. We do so to enhance our knowledge of the unique issues facing these neighborhoods. We intend for this relationship building to result in proactive ways to address issues impacting a particular neighborhood. It also allows for our officers to hear first-hand what is going on, what has been tried, and what still needs to be done. We are there to assist the members and offer insight from our perspective on what or how an issue may be resolved. Community Policing is successful when we work with our community members and help them address issues near and dear to them and their neighbors. Our goal aligns with theirs…how we work together to make and keep Traverse City a safe and beautiful place for all to live.

COMMUNITY POLICING

NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL

On October 02, 2019, the Traverse City Police, Safe Kids North Shore and Norte participated in the National Walk to School Day . The Traverse City Police assigned an officer to every grade school in the city to walk the kids from a selected location to their respective schools.

Along the way officers discussed and explained several pedestrian safety topics to the children.

Cross walk safety was extensively covered.

SAFE KIDS NORTH SHORE

Safe Kids North Shore along with local community partners work to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the number one cause of death for children in the United States. Safe Kids North Shore is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury.

Safe Kids North Shore was founded in 2001 and is led by Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept.

For more information, visit safekids.org or www.gtinjuryprevention.com

COMMUNITY POLICING

SAFE KIDS PROGRAM

The Traverse City Police Department continues its partnership with Safe Kids North Shore. We have two officers assigned to this community oriented program. The officers involved in the program are: Sergeant Pete Simerson and K9 Officer- Adam Verschaeve. Both officers work closely with Fire & Life Safety Educator-Jen Froehlich of Grand Traverse County.

Officers participated in several different car seat inspection stations throughout the year. During a seat inspection officers meet families in the community and address child restraint concerns. All kids are fitted to their car seats. Officers make sure car seats are installed into vehicles correctly. Common errors found by officers are improperly secured seats/latching, shoulder strap adjustments, and unsecured items in vehicles. Safe Kids fitting stations focus on educating families on child passenger safety.

Officers were able to coordinate an event with the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry. Their members had several questions regarding safety matters and officers were able to provide immediate solutions to numerous families during this event. Officers and Safe Kids were able to host the event, install car seats, answer questions, and give away free cars seats to families in need.

In 2019, Traverse City Police Department in collaboration with the Traverse City Fire Department Safe Kids has begun offering seat inspections at City Fire Station #2.

In 2020, Safe Kids and the Traverse City Police Department will continue working together on this important community safety program.

If you would like to set up an event, or have any questions regarding our Safe Kids program, please reach out to Sergeant Pete Simerson at 231-342-5831.

Peter K. Simerson
Sergeant
2014

Adam J. Verschaeve
Officer
2004

COMMUNITY POLICING

SEASONAL BIKE PATROL OFFICERS

In 2017 Traverse City Police hired part-time seasonal officers to patrol the Tart Trail, beaches, and downtown area to deter unwanted activity in those areas of the City. The officers reported directly to the on-duty Sergeant and helped address several issues with intoxicated individuals on the beaches and trail system within the City. The department received several phone calls from citizens on how much safer they felt walking the trails knowing our officers were out and about on bicycles in those hidden areas of the City.

Traverse City Police attended a bicycle safety program sponsored by Norte. Ty Schmitt, Norte's Director, has been instrumental in assisting us in several ways putting together a bicycle safety program. This program is specifically designed for children. There were several hundred children who participated in this program held last spring at the Civic Center grounds. The training included an obstacle course accompanied by bicycle safety. Our community continues to grow with more and more people enjoying the beautiful area we live in on bicycles.

This is an important training for our youngsters.

NEW HIRES

OFFICER TEICHMAN

Graduated from Northwestern Michigan College Law Enforcement Academy in May of 2019. Upon his successful completion of the police academy he joined our department as a seasonal bike patrol officer. He served the department in this capacity from June to September 2019. On September 3, 2019, he was hired as a full-time, certified police officer with our department. We are pleased to have Officer Teichman as a member of our team.

OFFICER FRYCZYNSKI

Graduated from Northwestern Michigan College Law Enforcement Academy in May of 2019. Upon her successful completion of the police academy she joined our department as a full time certified police officer effective May 8, 2019. We are pleased to have Officer Fryczynski as a member of our team.

OFFICER BOCK

Graduated from Northwestern Michigan College Law Enforcement Academy in May of 2019. Upon his successful completion of the police academy he joined our department as a full time certified police officer effective June 19, 2019. We are pleased to have Officer Bock as a member of our team.

RETIREMENT

K-9 RETIREMENT

LUK

Was born in Poland on May 18, 2009. He entered active duty on February 27, 2011, where he served along-side his Handler Tim Smith. On November 18, 2019, Luk retired from active duty.

Luk now comfortably resides with Handler Smith's family. Handler Smith now serves the department in the capacity of Detective, Investigative Services.

We were fortunate to have had such a dedicated K9 team. Both Luk and Handler Smith served an important role within the Patrol Division. We thank both for a job well done.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

THANK YOU