



2019 Annual Report



Colonie Police Department

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On The Cover:

During the year 2019, the Colonie Police Department participated in its sixth accreditation process which involves a critique and review by outside independent assessors of all department policies and procedures to ensure that they are in compliance with the standards set by New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. As a result of this review in September, 2019, the Colonie Police Department successfully met or exceeded the criteria required for re-accreditation through October, 2024. Pictured are Village of Rye Brook Police Chief Gregory Austin, Chief Jonathan Teale, Lt. Henry Rosenzweig, Deputy Chief Michael Woods, Sergeant Daniel Belles and NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services Deputy Commissioner Michael Wood.

Executive Summary

- Chief Jonathan Teale



In 2019 the Colonie Police Department has continued the trend of a reduction in overall crime despite an increase in call volume. The part one or serious crimes decreased by 1.4 % and part two or less serious crimes decreased by 9.2 %. More importantly violent crimes have decreased by 31.9 % over the last 3 years. This success is due in part to the close relations we have with our residents, businesses and schools and increased staffing levels that allow us to handle the increased call load. Our officers are highly trained, professional and well equipped. The excellent level of service we are able to provide to our community would not be possible without the support of Supervisor Mahan and the entire Town Board.

Training continues to be a priority for the Police Department and over the last year officers continued to train to prepare for a variety of incidents. Topics such as crisis intervention, de-escalation techniques and defensive tactics were taught using reality based training and role players. Our Public Safety Dispatchers were also included in de-escalation technique training as they are often the first point of contact with persons in crisis. The Traffic Safety Unit was able to obtain new computer equipment, software and training for traffic accident reconstructions. This will aid in the efficiency and safety of these types of investigations. The new Drone (UAS) Unit has also been utilized to help map out accident scenes, help investigate fire scenes and apprehend suspects. Seven officers are FAA certified to fly drones and continually train as we find new applications for the drones.

Many officers also utilize a state of the art training facility in Oriskany, NY that is run by the NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. This training is free to our department and provides an excellent variety of tactical training scenarios with role players. The Colonie Police Department Special Services Team trains at the facility frequently and occasionally assists with programs. Our team continues to excel in competitions and recently received a \$100,000 grant for equipment and training. They also train with their counterparts in neighboring municipalities that have tactical teams so we can be better prepared for large scale incidents in the region.

Last year we were able to bring our staffing level to 115 officers which is the highest level we have ever had. We were also able to add one more Public Safety Dispatcher due to increased call volume. The Colonie 911 Center handled over 103,000 phone calls in 2019 with 38,962 being 911 calls. Officers were involved in over 79,000 calls and continued to demonstrate their dedication to public safety by successfully resolving many stressful and dangerous situations without serious injury. The Computer Crime Unit has become a national trend setter in the investigation and apprehension those who commit crimes against children. We have also assigned Investigators to federal task forces to help battle the heroin epidemic that grips the nation. They have been successful along with our Special Investigations Unit in apprehending several mid and high level dealers in the region and taking significant quantities of heroin and cocaine off the street.

Our Department's Community Services Unit organized a large community night event at The Crossings in late spring. Many officers volunteered and over 500 people attended. Several demonstrations, displays, contests and games were held. Free food and pony rides were available. Many Town businesses generously donated services, prizes and food for the event. Our annual D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament was also very successful in raising funds for our program with many residents and businesses donating prizes. The ongoing support we receive from Supervisor Mahan, the Town Board and the community is essential in helping us meet our community's needs. I look forward to working with our residents, businesses and schools to help keep our Town safe.

Deputy Chiefs of Police



Deputy Chief John Van Alstyne
Field Services Division



Deputy Chief Michael Woods
Administrative Services Division

Contact The Department

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Deputy Chief John Van Alstyne
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Lieutenant Todd Weiss
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A-Line Shift
Special Services Team

Lieutenant James Gerace
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C-Line Shift
Bicycle Unit
Motor Unit
Court

Lieutenant Robert Barrett
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783-2744

B-Line Shift

Lieutenant Robert Winn
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Investigations Unit
Juvenile Unit
Victim Services Specialist
Forensics Unit
Computer Crime Lab
Public Information Officer
Special Services Team

Lieutenant Robert Donnelly
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Traffic Safety Unit
Court
Supplemental Police Services
Police Explorers

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

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Lieutenant Henry Rosenzweig
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782-2619

Sergeant Daniel Belles
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K-9 Unit
Training
Community Services Unit
D.A.R.E.
School Resource Officer
Communications
Accreditation
Fiscal Management
Statistical Analysis
Fleet Management
Grants Management
Candidate Processing
Animal Control
Evidence Room
Colonie Youth Court

Overview and History of the Department

The Colonie Police Department is a New York State accredited, full-service police agency serving the Town of Colonie, New York.

The Colonie Police Department was formed by a Town Board resolution on January 2, 1934. This resolution authorized the Police Department to hire a Chief and two Patrolmen – total budget \$2,500.00.



In 2019, the budget was approximately \$16 million. There were 115 sworn officers, 52 civilian support personnel and over 60 vehicles in the police fleet. Starting Officer's salary has risen from \$400.00 to approximately \$58,000.00. Although the population and related growth of the Town and the Police Department have both grown substantially, the Police Department maintains contact with citizens by promoting a Community Policing policy throughout the agency.

The Police Department is structured into two main divisions. The Field Operations Division includes Patrol, Investigations and Traffic Safety. The Administrative Services Division provides support functions such as Communications, Records, Training, Personnel and Community Services. Administrative Services is also responsible for Fiscal Management, Grant Management, Statistical Analysis, Accreditation, Emergency Management and Animal Control.

Colonie Police Department
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Latham, New York 12110

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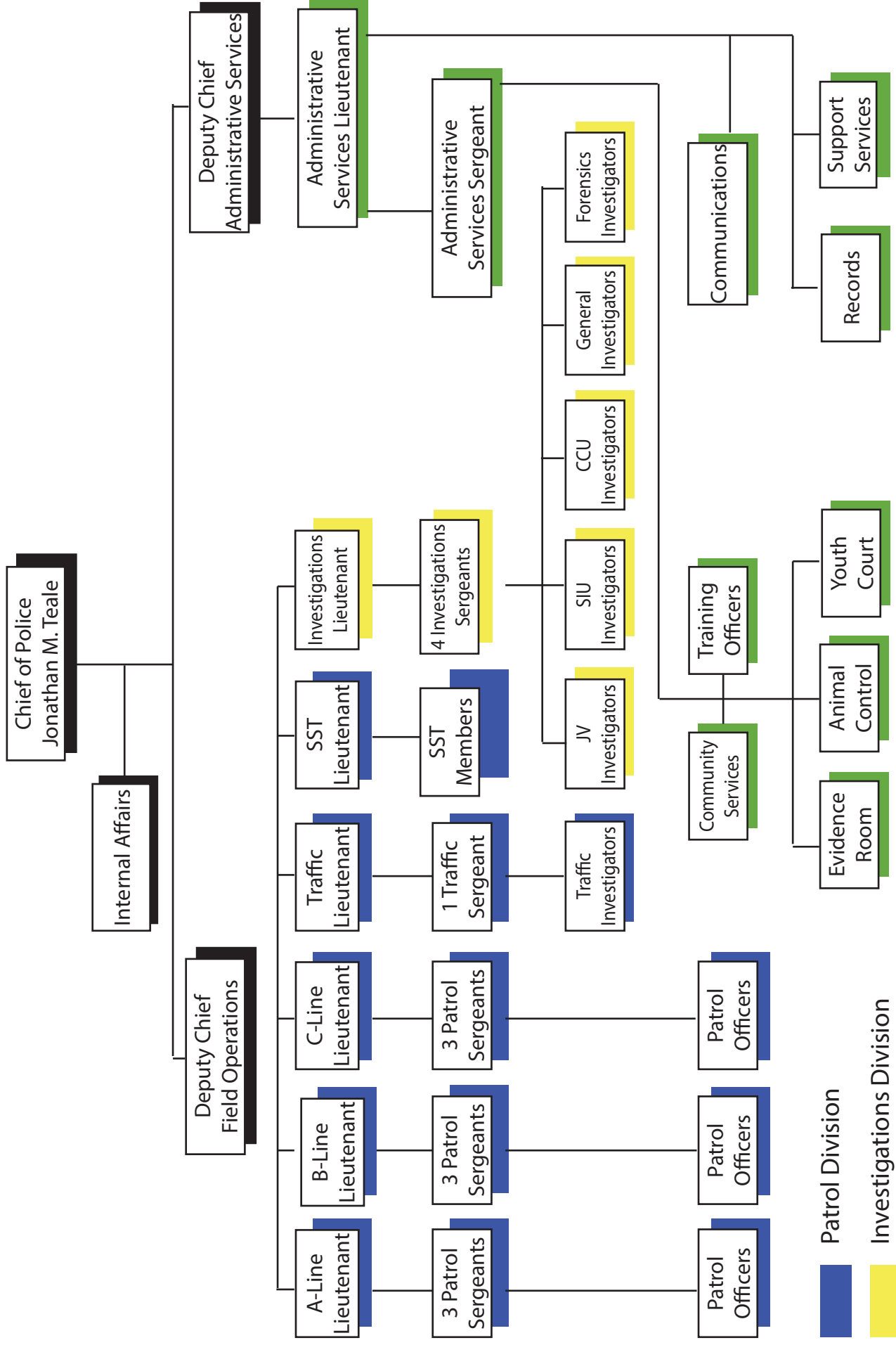
[www.colonie.org/
departments/police](http://www.colonie.org/departments/police)

Colonie Police Department Mission Statement:

The mission of the Colonie Police Department is to interact with all citizens with dignity, honor and respect; to preserve life; to protect and maintain human and constitutional rights; to protect property; and to promote individual responsibility and community commitment to high quality standards of living.

The Colonie Police Department will perform this mission in partnership with the community it serves. The police department will foster and promote mutual education, respect, and problem solving with the community. All members of the police department have been empowered to be an agent for this partnership and the positive interaction it will bring.

Colonie Police Department Organizational Chart



Patrol Division

Investigations Division

Administrative Services Division

PATROL DIVISION



The Colonie Police Patrol Division consists of four lieutenants, ten sergeants and 61 patrol officers. Part of the Patrol Division is the Traffic Safety Unit which consists of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant and four Traffic Investigators. These officers are deployed throughout eight patrol zones, 24 hours per day.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division work one of three shifts:

- A-Line - 11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.
- B-Line - 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- C-Line - 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Thirty marked and unmarked vehicles are assigned for use by the Patrol Division.

Members of the Patrol Division duties include, but are not limited to:

- Proactive police patrol and crime prevention
- Enforcement of appropriate Federal, State & Local laws.
- Reporting and preliminary investigation of criminal complaints
- Crash investigation
- Response to non-criminal complaints
- Response to calls for service

Additionally, members of the Patrol Division are at the forefront of the community policing initiative. Patrol officers are assigned to the same patrol areas on a daily basis to become familiar with the individuals and businesses they serve.

Patrol officers participate in special enforcement programs such as "Operation Mainstreet," where officers are deployed in plainclothes and unmarked cars to take a proactive approach against drugs and criminal activity on Colonie's streets. These officers also actively participate in many highway safety programs including Buckle Up New York and Stop DWI. Both programs focus on reducing injuries and eliminating fatalities on our roadways through aggressive enforcement activities.

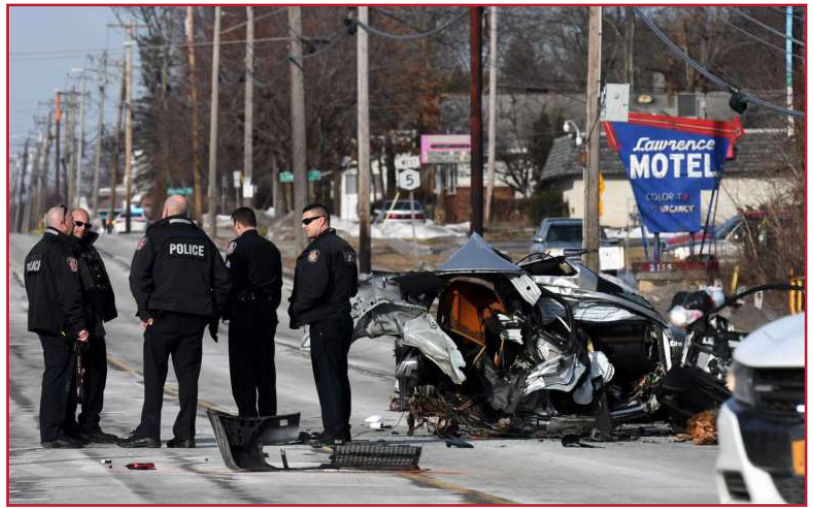
Motorcycle Unit

The Motorcycle Unit was formed in 1990 and is in service five to six months of the year. It consists of one sergeant, one Traffic Safety Investigator and two officers who work two shifts, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 11 p.m. All Motor Officers are certified and trained through Northwestern Traffic Institute at Northwestern University. Officers assigned to the Motorcycle Unit handle all patrol functions as well as special events such as parades, escorts and funeral details. They offer the additional benefit of being able to patrol the Town bike path, school properties and in heavy traffic conditions where traditional patrol vehicles cannot access. Additionally, the Motorcycle Unit serves as the upstate New York escorts for the Patriot Flight, a national effort to provide World War II veterans free transportation to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.



Traffic Safety Unit

The Traffic Safety Unit, as a component of the Patrol Division, is comprised of four uniformed investigators, one sergeant and one lieutenant who are specially trained in several areas of traffic services including, but not limited to traffic enforcement, crash investigation and reconstruction, motor carrier safety regulations and hazardous materials incident management. This unit has the responsibility of investigating all collisions involving a fatality, life threatening physical injury or crashes involving Town owned vehicles. In addition, they collect and analyze crash and enforcement data, then develop and implement countermeasure programs that address identified highway safety problems. These investigators respond to the community's concerns involving traffic issues that include complaints of traffic volume, signage and vehicle traffic violations. This unit supports and assists the efforts of the Town's Highway Safety Committee.



Members of this unit are responsible for the maintenance and calibration of all of the department's speed measuring devices and breath testing instruments. The Traffic Safety Unit utilizes the Electronic Total Work Station. This computerized mapping instrument is an invaluable tool in precisely documenting a crime or crash scene.

Traffic Investigator Michael Warner was awarded the Colonie Police Department's prestigious Esposito-Russo Award for outstanding efforts in getting impaired drivers off the road at the Annual Awards Night in May of 2019. Investigator Warner is a certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) who has attended extended training for both certification and re-certification of his credentials. He has aided both Colonie Police officers and officers from other local agencies in the detection, arrest and conviction of drugged drivers, an increasingly common crime.

In 2019, the Traffic Safety Unit investigated 5 fatal crashes (*no change from 2018*) and handled 348 case files (*a 3.3% decrease*).

Bicycle Unit

In 2005, the Colonie Police Department debuted a Bicycle Patrol with the intention of giving the police department more latitude in patrolling the various parts of the Town and to provide more options in keeping with our Community Policing Initiatives. The objective of bicycle patrols is to reduce crime by enforcing laws through proactive policing and to better communicate with our residents by being more approachable than in a patrol car. Currently there are twelve officers as well as four sergeants assigned to the Bicycle Unit.



Bicycles are available for deployment on every shift for every day patrol from October to April. Additionally they are utilized at several community services events during this time including bicycle safety events for children. The bicycles were a common sight at Town and Village sponsored events at The Crossings Park, Cook Park and the Pruy House.

K-9 Unit

The Colonie Police Department currently has two Patrol K-9 teams, consisting of a dog and its handler. The canine is assigned to a specific officer, and the animal goes home with the officer/handler, and becomes an integral part of the officer's family. These teams are a normal patrol unit and respond to routine calls for service as well as perform their specialized duties as a K-9 team. When not working, they are on call for immediate response. The teams are trained in the following: tracking, building search, evidence recovery, handler protection, criminal apprehension, and advanced narcotics detection (which include, marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and hashish). The teams are certified by The NYS Dept. of Criminal Justice Services.



Working the streets in 2019 were two K-9 teams. Officer Mike Clough and K-9 Eddie (pictured right) work together on the C-Line shift. Eddie, a german shepherd, was named in honor of Colonie Police Investigator Ed Frank who passed away in 2005 after battling cancer. In the summer of 2019, Officer Bob Lemerise began working with K-9 Lock (pictured left) following the promotion of Officer Jason Orkwis. Lock, also a german shepherd, was named in honor of Colonie Police Lt. William Lockart who passed away in 2004 after a battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Officer Lemerise and K-9 Lock attended an extensive and physically demanding 12-week K-9 Academy which was hosted by the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department. Officer Lemerise and Lock currently work the A-Line shift.

The team participates in at least 24 hours of specialized K-9 training a month to meet the New York State requirement for certification. This team also takes part in local, state and national level training seminars to sharpen their skills. Also as part of their duties, this team participates in numerous public and private demonstrations to show why and how the canine is deployed as well as assists several other local police and government agencies.

2019 K-9 Unit Utilizations:

- 12 Tracks
(An increase of 9%)
- 22 Area/Building Searches
(An increase of 214%)
- 29 Narcotic Searches
(A decrease of 15%)

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Unit

The Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit (UAS) is comprised of one lieutenant, one sergeant and six pilots and is currently equipped with multiple unmanned aerial systems capable of recording and transmitting live high definition and thermal images back to a command post. The units are equipped with 4k cameras, 180x zoom cameras and a high resolution thermal camera. Currently, unmanned aerial vehicles are deployed on all three shifts on patrol for rapid deployment and can be airborne in 2 minutes or less once on scene. The UAS Unit has been activated for numerous incidents including assisting Colonie Fire Services with active structure fires, cause and origin investigations, suspicious package incidents, crash reconstruction, barricaded/armed subject calls as well as missing person/suspect searches. Additionally the unit provides intelligence and reconnaissance for tactical team mission planning. The UAS unit allows the Police Department and Colonie Fire Services to operate more efficiently and effectively while increasing safety for officers and firefighters. The technology allows the department to search a large area in a fraction of the time for missing or wanted persons, allows fire services to monitor active HAZMAT or fire scenes from a safe location and providing an aerial perspective for command staff during large incidents/events.



SPECIAL SERVICES TEAM

The Colonie Police Department has a team of 19 highly trained police officers known as the Special Services Team (S.S.T.). In addition to the training provided to all officers in the department, these officers receive specialized training in many areas including high risk traffic stops, barricaded subjects, hostage situations, vehicle assaults and the execution of high risk search warrants. The team members train a minimum of twice monthly in order to maintain the high level of proficiency that is expected of them. Each member of the team has a specified role within the Police Department's day to day operations. When needed, the team can be quickly assembled and mobilized for a high risk assignment. Members of the Special Services Team operate jointly with members of the Crisis Negotiation Unit, Tactical Dispatchers and the Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit to enhance each unit's capabilities and provide the greatest likelihood of success for incidents in which they respond. Additionally, five Colonie EMS Paramedics train with the team and are prepared to be utilized in the event of a team deployment.



The Special Services Team maintains and operates Unit 301, a Lenco BearCat armored vehicle (pictured below), which can be used as protection to officers during highly volatile incidents. It is also the most capable vehicle available to our Agency for both civilian and officer rescue. The team members also have access to a specially outfitted marked patrol SUV that is operated by team members and deployed for regular patrol duties. This SUV has tactical equipment to aid in the resolution of dynamic situations, such as high risk vehicle stops, building searches and suicidal suspects. These vehicles and on-duty members of the Special Services Team are utilized routinely by the Patrol and Investigations Division to maximize the department's tactical capability through both awareness and enhanced personal protective equipment.

Since 2017, the Special Services Team has achieved and maintained the standards required to be recognized as a Department of Criminal Justice Services Certified SWAT Team. The Colonie Police's

Special Services Team regularly trains with and supports operations with Capital Region Tactical Teams. Operators and Team Leadership instruct and participate in training courses at the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' State Preparedness Training Center. This state of the art facility provides cutting edge training to tactical operators across the state.

The Special Services Team had 10 activations in 2019.



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

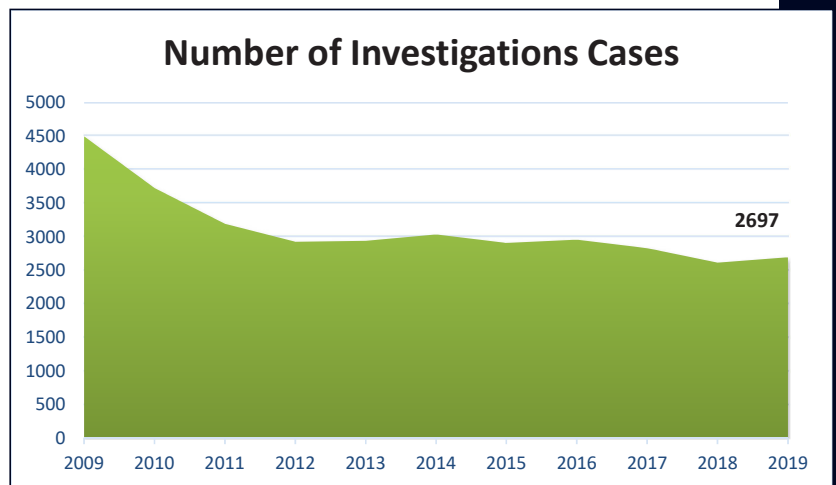
The Investigations Division is responsible for investigating crimes committed within the Town of Colonie. To meet the needs and demands of investigating various crime types, the Colonie Police Department Investigations Division has several units and sub-specialties.

The Investigations Division is comprised of 18 investigators, four sergeants, one Warrant Officer and one lieutenant.

Investigations Unit

The Investigations Unit is responsible for cases involving crimes against persons and property. This includes, but is not limited to, assault, robbery, burglary, and other penal law statutes.

The Investigations Division handled 2,697 cases in 2019. This is a 3.2% increase from 2018.



Computer Crime Unit



The Computer Crime Unit continues to adhere to its mandate to investigate online criminal activity, conduct undercover online investigations and provide forensic analysis of digital materials. The unit's role of proactively working in an undercover capacity has expanded with member affiliation in the FBI Child Exploitation Human Trafficking Task Force and New York State Police Internet Crimes Against Children. Our Investigators work side by side with the FBI, NYSP and the other member agencies to proactively investigate any case involving the use of computers or other technology to victimize children. These cases range from cyber bullying to child pornography to luring a child. These affiliations have broadened our investigative ability and fostered successful prosecutions in our jurisdiction and nationwide.

There continues to be an increase in the need for forensic analysis of computer materials. The Colonie Police Department works with local, state and federal municipalities to provide forensic analysis in computer crime investigations. The unit has investigated cases ranging from simple harassment to forgery, embezzlement, identity theft, missing persons, child abuse and exploitation. In each case, the capabilities of the unit to examine computer media and recover evidence have proven extremely valuable to both investigators and prosecutors.

Members of the Computer Crime Unit continue to conduct community programs for parents, teachers and students on internet safety. The unit also provides training on computer investigations to recruits at the regional Police Academy.

Forensic Unit:

The Forensic Unit is made up of two investigators specially trained in evidence handling and photography. These investigators receive and process evidence gathered by officers of this department during the course of an investigation. Investigators examine physical evidence including fingerprints and DNA samples which may be submitted to the New York State Police or the Federal Bureau of Investigations laboratories for analysis and possible identification.

The Colonie Police Forensic Unit was one of the first specialty forensic units in the Capital District. The science of crime scene processing and evidence recovery plays a crucial role in the prosecution of criminal cases. Investigators in this unit receive detailed and ongoing training in the latest forensic trends.

Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigates all illegal drug and vice-related crimes in the Town. They also assist and support the Investigation Unit in investigating crimes against persons and property. The Special Investigation Unit continues to work closely with local, state and federal agencies as well as local task forces. Money seized was used to buy new equipment such as ruggedized computer tablets, etc. for use by officers.

2019 Figures: Seizure of Assets and/or Property - **\$136,022.89** (An increase of 8.6% from 2018.)

Juvenile Unit

The Juvenile (JV) Unit is comprised of four Juvenile Investigators that investigate incidents involving crimes committed by or against youths (under 17 years of age). Incidents may range from minor offenses to all other crime classifications.

Public Information Officer

Throughout the year, the department issues scores of press releases that not only announce the commission of crimes or the arrest of offenders but also for the purpose of disseminating vital information to the public. In addition to the Chief's Office, responsibility for this falls to the Investigations Commander as well as to the appropriate division heads as necessitated.

In the year 2019, the Colonie Police Department issued 186 releases. Beginning in the year 2011, the Colonie Police Department began working with CBS6 News anchor Liz Bishop on her weekly segment, Perp Patrol that features wanted persons of the Capital District. Since its inception, the Colonie Police Department has captured over 87% of its suspects featured in the segment as well as identify individuals from surveillance photos. The result is a significant reduction on the warrant arrests in the Town of Colonie in turn making our community safer. 522 wanted persons have been broadcast on Perp Patrol for the Colonie Police Dept. resulting in 455 arrests.



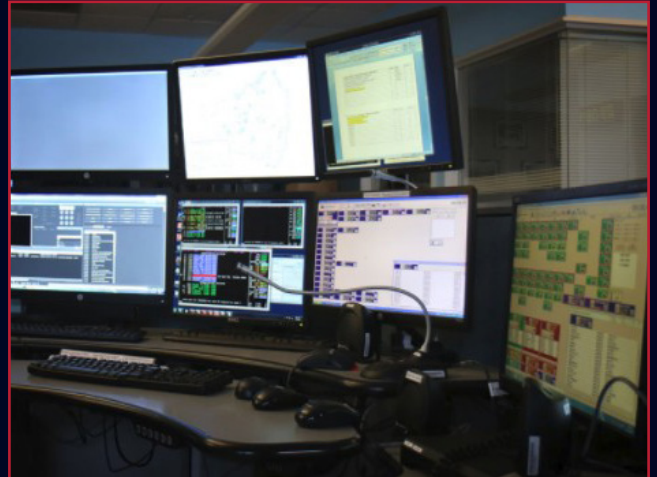
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division is comprised of both sworn and civilian personnel. Personnel assigned to this division are responsible for all department support services including:

- Communications
- Community Services
- Records
- Fiscal Management
- Statistical Analysis
- Training
- Fleet Management
- Grant Management
- Accreditation
- Animal Control
- Colonie Youth Court
- Web Site

Communications:

Communications is responsible for all public safety communications in the Town of Colonie. It is a 24-hour operation and is staffed by a Public Safety Communications Supervisor, five Senior Dispatchers, and 23 full-time Public Safety Dispatchers. Communications receives requests and information that must be processed and prioritized, then dispatch Police, Fire and Emergency Medical units via a computer aided dispatch system. Utilizing a Motorola MCC 7500 Elite Digital Radio System, the Town of Colonie has one of the most advanced two-way public safety and public service radio systems in the area.



In 2014, the Town of Colonie, the City of Albany and the Albany County Sheriff's Department embarked on a shared radio system, which allows the three agencies to communicate with one another as needed. Emergency Services in Saratoga County have the same system as Albany County, so now we are able to communicate with Saratoga County via radio as needed.

The Albany County system has a metro cell (serving the Town of Colonie and the City of Albany), and a county cell which serves all of Albany County. Both the Metro Cell and the County Cell were completed at the end of 2018. The yearly shared maintenance agreements for each agency will decrease substantially.

All Public Safety Dispatchers undergo extensive ongoing training some of which includes CPR, National Incident Management System (NIMS) certification and Emergency Medical Dispatch training, which allows dispatchers to give medical instructions to callers reporting EMS emergencies. All certifications must be renewed every 2 years.

The Communications Division is one of six E-911 answering points in Albany County answering both land line and wireless 911 calls for service as well as several other administrative lines. The Town of Colonie Public Safety Dispatchers answer well over 100,000 phone calls per year which include land line 911, cell 911 and both emergency/non-emergency administrative lines. They also greet and assist the public at the front desk of the police department.

2019 Figures

Police Calls

79,073

An increase of 1.6%.

Fire/EMS Calls

15,889

An increase of 4.1%.

Community Services:

The Colonie Police Department Community Services Unit is comprised of five patrol officers. These officers work closely with citizens and businesses of the Town providing information about personal safety, security of property and methods to reduce criminal activities. In addition, one of our officers is a NYS Certified Crime Prevention Specialist.

Members of this unit assist neighborhood groups by facilitating neighborhood watch programs, conducting crime prevention security surveys, attending neighborhood gatherings or meetings and addressing any specific neighborhood crime prevention needs. These officers serve on many committees and boards of local civic and school programs such as: School Crisis Intervention Teams, Senior Citizen Committees, Safe Schools Committees, NYS Special Olympics, Special Education Committees and New York State Safe Kids. The five Community Services Officers offer the citizens, schools, colleges, civic organizations and businesses of the Town of Colonie approximately sixty different programs and services. One officer is assigned to work closely with the Town of Colonie Senior Resources Department and the growing senior citizen population.

In a proactive approach to the growing threat of violence in the schools, the Community Services Unit continued its program in 2019 working with the local schools by assessing their security needs. In addition, Officer Pat Germaine serves as the School Resource Officer at Colonie Central High School providing a consistent police presence within the facility. Similarly, Officer Brianna Pierce serves as the School Resource Officer at Shaker High School.

As part of the department's SAFE Schools Initiative members of the Community Services Unit provide "tabletop" training for school Crisis Response Team members. This training involves the use of scenarios in which school personnel are placed under stressful conditions in an attempt to deal with a mock crisis. Members of the police department, Emergency Medical Services and Fire Services are also present during this training and work with the school personnel while attempting to deal with the problem. In addition to the

tabletop training, members of the Community Services Unit also provide classroom instruction on School Violence / Crisis Response to teachers.

In June, the department hosted the third annual Community Night Out at The Crossings which provided families a fun evening of activities, food and a chance to meet many of our officers.



Project

D.A.R.E.

In September of 1992 the Colonie Police Department in cooperation with the Town's two school districts and representatives of various private and



parochial schools inaugurated the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program. D.A.R.E. provides the children of our community with the skills needed to deal with the dangers of drug abuse, alcohol abuse and violence. It also provides them with the guidance they need to make the right decisions for their health and future. D.A.R.E. is targeted for school children in the fifth and sixth grades. This unit, now in its twenty-seventh full year of operation includes three fully trained D.A.R.E. officers. Additionally, one D.A.R.E. officer has been trained in the D.A.R.E. parent component program.

In 2019, these officers presented D.A.R.E. programs to approximately 1,000 students in the fifth grade throughout the Town. Additionally the officers provide continuing education to approximately 1,500 students in the sixth and eighth grades in 82 individual classrooms in twenty different schools. Presentations and visitations to the kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms in 11 schools continue, which enable the officers to interact with an additional 4,500 children. This interaction provides students with safety skills for use at both home and school. A high school program for the ninth through twelfth grades was developed to reduce the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs among our community's high school students. Students discuss the risks and consequences of underage drinking, experience hands-on demonstrations using fatal vision goggles and the risks and consequences of drinking, driving and riding with intoxicated drivers. In 2019, this program was presented to approximately 1,500 high school students in 55 classrooms. In addition to the K-12 buildings, our officers also visit with many of our pre-kindergarten child care centers throughout the Town of Colonie talking with them about safety and letting them know that officers are their friends.

The Annual D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament not only provides an enjoyable day of friendship but also serves as a great fundraiser for the D.A.R.E. Program as businesses in the community assume the role as sponsors. In 2019, the event was held at the Schuyler Meadows Club where 148 golfers competed.

Child Car Safety Seat Inspections

Three certified Colonie Police Officers provide the service of checking child car safety seats to ensure that their installations are safe and proper. In 2019, 64 safety seats were examined. (A decrease of 9.9% from 2018)



Grant Management

Grant Management, requires the preparing, budgeting, accounting and fiscal reporting related to grant awards. These awards are received from Local, State and Federal sources. Grant managers are also responsible for acquiring new technology for use by all department members. In 2019, the Colonie Police Department received the following:



- The Special Services Team was awarded \$100,000.00 from the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services from the FY18 Tactical Team Targeted Grant Program for the enhancement of tactical capabilities and sustainment of NYS DCJS Tactical Team Certification.
- A \$35,400 grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Council for "Selected Traffic" Enforcement.

Training Unit:

The Training Unit staff includes two police officers and one sergeant on a full-time basis. This unit develops, implements and evaluates mandated in-service training as well as providing selective topical training. Six times a year this unit conducts practical exercise and classroom instruction that all of our officers attend. Officers also attend numerous local training sessions held throughout the region on various topics.



Training this year included instruction on the use of force, legal updates, EMS protocol and a full day of defensive tactics training. Additional in-service training consisted of reality based scenarios to induce real life stress on the officer to simulate what happens on a real call as well as two days of firearms training. The department also continued its "Roll Call Training" in which officers receive ten minute training sessions during their daily briefing. In addition to their traditional instructional roles, these officers also have responsibilities in the following areas:

- Field Training Officer Program
- Police Officer Candidate Processing
- Internship Educational Program
- Department Armorer
- Quartermaster Duties
- Public Safety Dispatcher Candidate Processing

The unit is also responsible for the acquisition, deployment and maintenance of the department fleet and associated equipment. When no longer usable for police service, department vehicles are transferred to other Town agencies or sold at auction.

Fiscal Management:

The 2019 Police Department budget was \$15,970,1278 of which approximately 90.5% was appropriated for personnel costs, including salaries and benefits. The remaining 9.5% accounted for the day to day operating budget. Fiscal Management personnel act as the liaison with the Town Comptrollers office and the Office of General Services. Functions of this office include: procurement of merchandise and services, billing and accounting, payroll preparation and personnel schedules.



Police Department Web Page

The Colonia Police Department has a redesigned webpage which offers information on department services such as child safety seat inspections and the Civilian Police Academy as well as the ability to search for sex offenders in your area using Offender Watch.

Online forms are also available and include a House/Property Check Form that notifies the department when you will be on vacation and your house will be vacant, an Alarm / Emergency contact card that informs the department who to contact in the event of an alarm drop or emergency at your home, and a Home Security Survey.

Additionally, the Colonia Police Department is now on Facebook as well as Twitter, which allows the department to better inform the community on incidents and programs as well as receive assistance from the public with identifying suspects.

Statistical Analysis

Monthly, quarterly and yearly reports compiling various statistics and data charts are produced for use by Field and Administrative personnel. Mandated Federal and New York State reports, including Uniform Crime Reports are produced by this office.



Records

The Records Division is responsible for data entry, as well as the processing and maintaining of information pertaining to official reports and arrest records. All Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests are received and processed by Records personnel. This unit reviews all Police Officer documented reports for content, clarity and completeness.



2019 Figures

Investigations Cases

2,697

An increase of 3%

Field Interviews

1,164

A decrease of 26.8%

Accident Investigations

4,357

A decrease of 5.75%

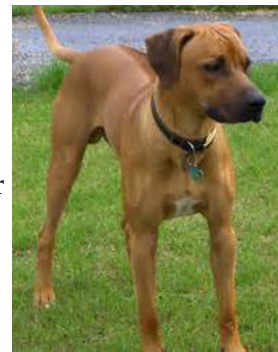
Citations

6,352

A decrease of 7%

Animal Control:

Colonie's Animal Control officers focus on the enforcement of state and local laws in relation to dogs and other animals. The intention is to promote health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the Town of Colonie. Specifically, Animal Control enforces provisions of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law and Town local laws.



The philosophy of the unit is to remove animals in a safe and humane manner. They interact with the public by providing information on local and state laws before actual enforcement becomes necessary.

Duties of Colonie Animal Control Officers include: the seizure of lost dogs, impoundment, investigations of barking dog complaints, removing sick or injured animals, investigation of animal bites, removing deceased dogs and cats from highways, occasional trapping of wildlife found in homes, transporting possible rabid animals for testing, and investigating cruelty complaints.

Responsibilities consist of the service of legal processes related to criminal or civil proceedings including: appearance tickets, impounding dogs found at large, transporting dogs to the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society, notifying the owner of its whereabouts and transporting stray dogs and cats to veterinarians for immediate medical treatment if necessary.

In 2019, Animal Control Officers answered 2,038 animal control complaints. This was a 14% decrease from 2018.

Accreditation:

The Colonie Police Department participates in an accreditation process which involves a critique and review by outside independent assessors of all department policies and procedures to ensure that they are in compliance with the standards set by New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. While a self-assessment of the agency is an ongoing responsibility of department members, preparation for the critique that takes place every five years is an arduous one and involves nearly full time work for over one year by department staff. During the year 2019, the department participated in its sixth accreditation process and as a result of this review, the Colonie Police Department successfully met or exceeded the criteria required for re-accreditation through October, 2024.

The accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism thus establishing confidence in the department by Town residents and department employees alike. Originally accredited in 1994, the Colonie Police Department is one of a small number of police departments in the state of New York that have been accredited for the past twenty-five years.

Colonie Youth Court

Colonie Youth Court Celebrates 25 Years of Cases and Community Service



Colonie Youth Court heard its first case on January 19, 1995 and began its community service program that same month. At the conclusion of 2019, the internationally recognized youth court program celebrated its 25-year anniversary. To date, the program has heard over 1,600 offender cases and they have completed a combined total of over 60,500 hours of community service hours to the Town of Colonie. In its 25 years of operating, there have been over 1,100 volunteer members who served the 6 different courtroom roles of youth court and over 2,500 volunteer jurors have served.

Colonie Youth Court is an early intervention diversion program for young people who have been arrested for the first time for a minor crime. Each defendant in youth court must meet general criteria which includes: under age 19, have committed a misdemeanor or violation, admission of guilt, and be a first time offender. In youth court, a youth must explain their actions to a jury of his/her peers, and accept a sentence of community service hours deemed appropriate by a young jury. Our jurors are town residents in grades 7-12 who wish to serve on an actual case. Youth Court volunteer members are high school students in grades 9-12 who undergo an extensive 8-week law related course of instruction. Youth Court member roles include: Judge, Prosecutor, Defender, Jury Foreperson, Clerk and Victim Advocate.

During the 2019 Fall Membership Training Program, the youth court welcomed 36 new trainees into its volunteer member population. Over 200 volunteer jurors currently serve annually.

At the conclusion of 2019, the Colonie Youth Court received 35 referrals. 100% of offenders successfully completed the required sanctions imposed upon them. The program continues to maintain an overall 98.5% offender successful completion rate since hearing its first case in 1995. The gender, race, crime committed, and community service hours performed is as follows: 34% males and 66% females, 57% - Caucasians, 34% - African Americans, 6% - Hispanic, and 3% - Asian. The cases were composed of 80% theft related crimes, 7% Assault, and 3% Possession of a Weapon on School Grounds. The remaining 10% were composed of multiple offenses.

The total number of community service hours performed in 2019 alone was 778 hours in the Town of Colonie. Overall, the program participants have performed over 60,500 hours of service in the last 25 years.

In addition, two senior youth court members were awarded college scholarships in 2019. The 1st place winner of the 2019 Robert M. Auld College Scholarship was youth court member, Sean Carroll. Sean is attending St. Lawrence University. A new scholarship was introduced in 2019 in honor of former Colonie Town Justice, Honorable Nicholas Greisler Jr. Judge Greisler was instrumental in the development of the Colonie Youth Court program 25 years ago. He referred numerous youth allowing them to take responsibility for their actions, make restoration to their victim and giving them a second chance, without a criminal record. The 1st place winner of the 2019 Honorable Nicholas J. Greisler Jr. College Scholarship was youth court member, Sandeep Alampalli. Sandeep is attending Union College.

For more information on the Colonie Youth Court program, please contact Director, Violet Palombo at 518-782-2638.

EXPLORER POST 185

The Colonie Police Explorer Post 185 is comprised of individuals from 14 to 21 years of age who have an active interest in Law Enforcement as a potential career. Currently we have 17 Explorers in our post under the supervision of Lt. Robert Donnelly and the Post Advisors who include Sgt. Derek Breslin, Investigators Jason Depaulo and Brian Curran, and Officers Jacques Tremblay, Ryan Berkery, Brianna Pierce and Mike Tarbay.

The Explorers program is designed to give youth in the community an opportunity to



learn first-hand the knowledge and skills required in the field of law enforcement. During their bi-monthly meetings, Explorers are exposed to Law Enforcement related topics such as Officer Safety, Interview Techniques, Domestic Violence, Vehicle and Traffic Law, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Crime Scene Investigation and Building Search. Explorers also have an opportunity to put their knowledge to the test by competing against other Police Explorer Posts in scenario based competitions at Stations Day and by attending a week-long, multi-phase

Explorer Academy in Connecticut. In addition to the training they receive, Explorers provide the Town of Colonie with valuable Community Service. During 2019 alone, Explorers donated over 1,700 hours of their time while providing services at functions such as the CP Telethon, Concerts in the Barn at the Pruyn House and various events at The Crossings of Colonie.

Members must be at least 14 years of age and completed the 8th grade, must maintain an 80 average in school and be in good standing in your community.



2019 AWARDS CEREMONY

On the evening of May 2, 2019, the Colonie Police Department hosted our annual Awards Ceremony where department members joined with officers' families and friends at the Town of Colonie Public Safety Center in this recognition event.



Civilian Award

A Certificate of Community Service may be awarded to a civilian who has rendered assistance to the Police Department in an emergency, or who by action or deed, has contributed to a better police-community relationship. In 2019, a Civilian Award was presented to Kristen Loya, Martin Howarth, Trevor English and Melinda Frazer-Landon.

Command Recognition Award

The Command Recognition Award may be awarded to a member, who in the line of police duty performs a task in an exemplary manner thereby displaying alertness, efficiency and dedication to duty.

Det. Sergeant Guy Jubert
Inv. Nicholas Layne
Inv. Nicholas Sidoti
Inv. Robert Willey

Inv. Matthew Garrigan
Inv. Raymond Milham Jr.
Officer Conor Anson
Officer Javier Martinez

Officer Chris A. Smith
Officer Austin Blais
Officer John Bushey
Officer Ardit Potka

Life Saving Award

The Life Saving Award is presented to a member, who in the performance of his or her duty, renders medical first aid of a distinguished or unusually creditable nature to a person whose life is in immediate jeopardy, and does so in a manner that most certainly sustains the person and enables such person to be delivered alive to a medical facility.

Sergeant Louis DiNuzzo
Sergeant James Herbst
Sergeant Thomas Breslin
Inv. Michael Warner
Officer Frank Peris

Officer Jacques Tremblay
Officer Aaron Hanley
Officer Ryan Berkery
Dispatcher Corey Friedman

Distinguished Service Awards

The Distinguished Service Award is given to a member of the department who in the course of their duties and while interacting with their peers, supervisors and the public, displays exceptional dedication to their profession and to the department. This award is given to the explorer, communicator and police officer of the year.



Officer Patrick Fennelly

*Senior Public Safety Dispatcher
Frank Lawyer, IV*

Explorer Lieutenant Noah Battuello



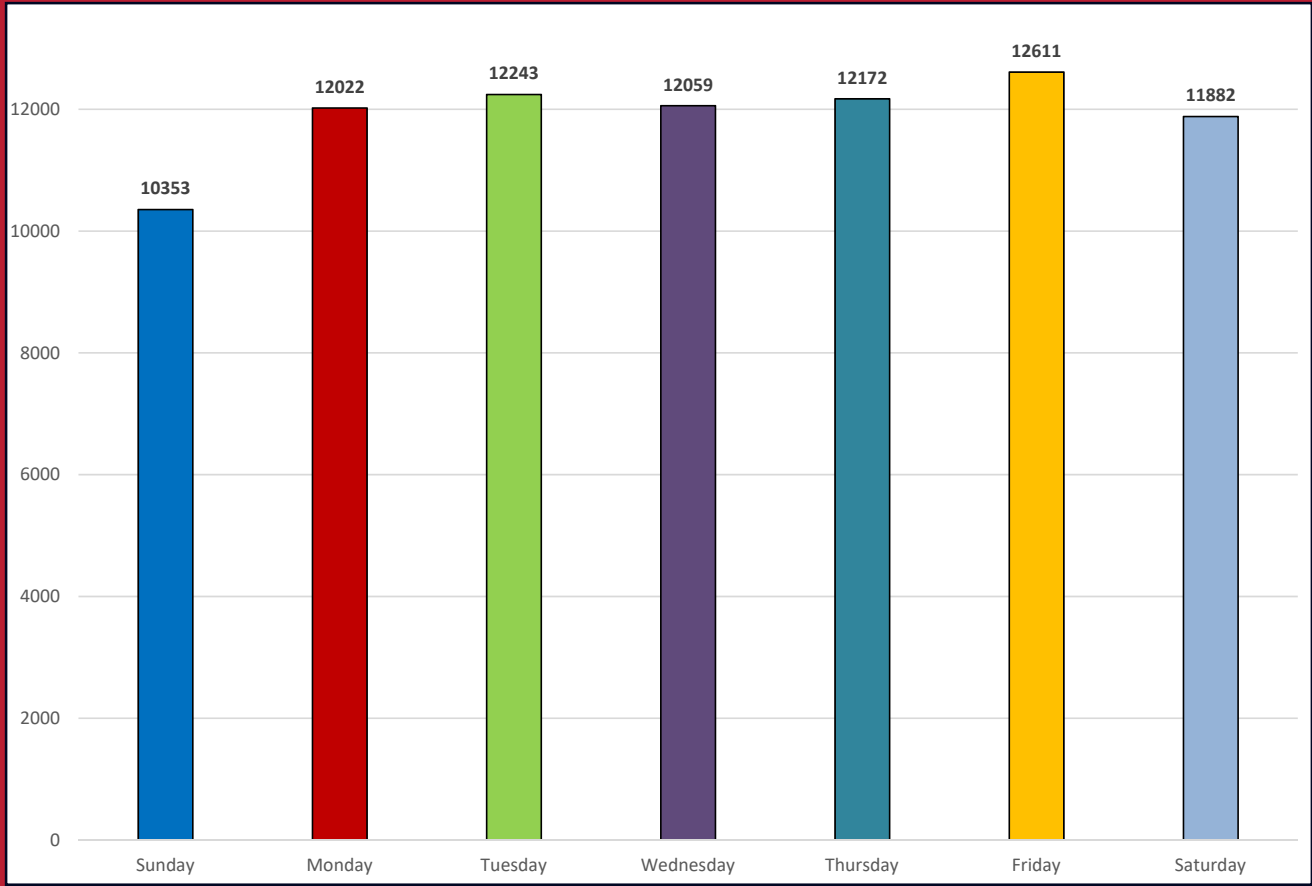
Esposito / Russo Memorial Award



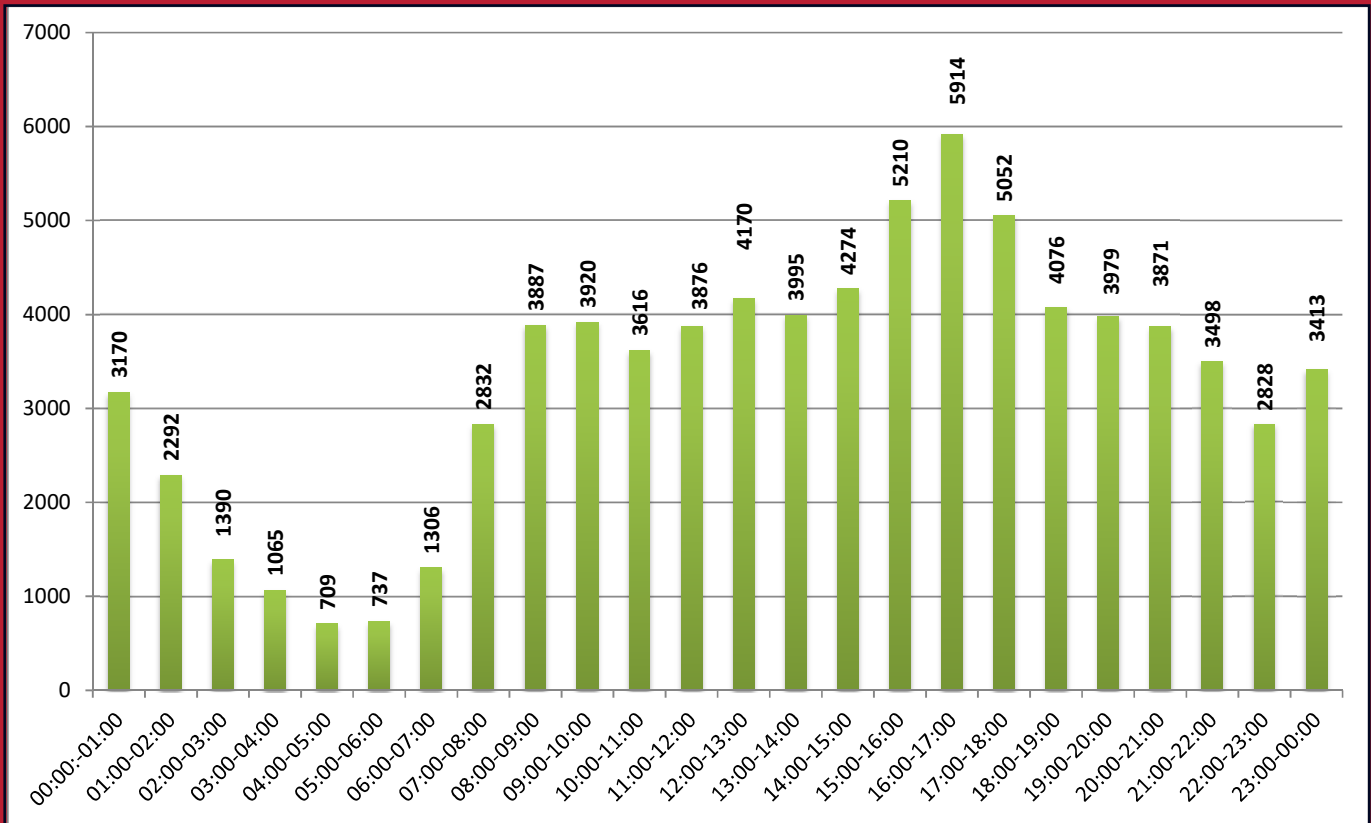
The Esposito/Russo Memorial Award is given to the officer for aggressive anti-DWI efforts throughout the year.

The 2019 award recipient was Traffic Investigator Michael Warner for his efforts in the field of impaired driving enforcement.

NUMBER OF CALLS BY DAY OF THE WEEK



NUMBER OF CALLS BY HOUR OF THE DAY



2019 CALLS FOR SERVICE

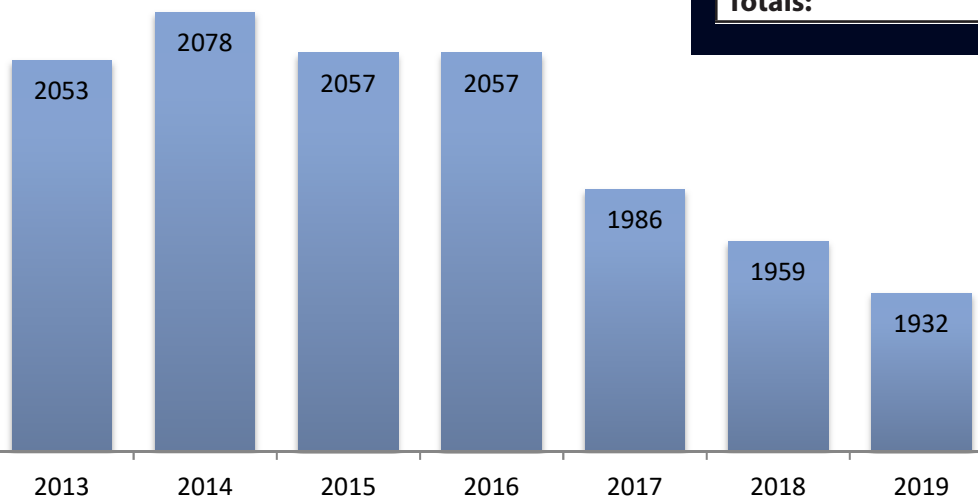
	2018	2019	Change		2018	2019	Change
911 Accidental Call	4,189	4,896	+16.9%	K-9 Search	92	81	-12.0%
911 Hang-Up Call	2,541	2,716	+6.9%	Landlord / Tenant Trouble	110	74	-32.7%
911 Non-Emergency/ Nuisance	298	334	+12.1%	Larceny Just Occurred	337	331	-1.8%
911 Transfer	6,550	7,093	+8.3%	Lock Out	167	152	-9.0%
Abandoned Vehicle	260	260	-	Malfunctioning Traffic Light	359	376	+4.7%
Alarm Drop	291	329	+13.1%	Neighbor Trouble	259	256	-1.2%
Animal Control Complaint	2,371	2,038	-14%	Noise Complaint	300	300	-
Assault	53	48	-9.4%	Notification	862	821	-4.8%
Assist A Person	1,301	1,339	+2.9%	Officer Needs Assistance	218	189	-13.3%
Auto Accident Property Damage	3,984	3,972	-0.3%	Open Window / Door	109	102	-6.4%
Auto Accident Personal Injury	592	594	+0.3%	POP (Police Oriented Policing)	13	10	-23.1%
Auto Accident Unknown	47	77	+63.8%	Person Acting Suspicious	295	236	-20.0%
Bomb Threat	8	3	-62.5%	Person Annoying	659	706	+7.1%
Boy / Girlfriend Trouble	57	54	-5.3%	Person Attempting Suicide	46	28	-39.0%
Burglar Alarm	4,919	4,691	-4.6%	Person Down	41	57	+39.0%
Burglary In Progress	44	47	+6.8%	Person Exposing Self	11	16	+45.5%
Car Blocking	162	152	-6.2%	Person With A Weapon	47	41	-12.8%
Check A Subject	3,800	3,857	+1.5%	Police Wanted Unknown	24	32	+33.3%
Community Services Event	358	349	-2.5%	Property Check	2,857	1,775	-37.9%
Custodial Interference	104	78	-25%	Prowler	53	39	-26.4%
Disabled Motor Vehicle	993	878	-11.6%	Road Hazard	448	517	+15.4%
Domestic Call	1,461	1,510	+3.4%	Robbery	17	10	-41.2%
DRE	26	26	-	School Crossing	4	13	+225.0%
Drone Request	54	43	-20.4%	Selling Drugs	18	19	+5.6%
Drunk Annoying	70	82	+17.1%	Shoplifter	267	222	-16.9%
Emotionally Disturbed Person	630	639	+1.4%	Shots Fired	52	44	-15.4%
EMS Call	1,433	1,522	+6.2%	Someone In Building	19	18	-5.3%
Executing A Warrant	6	3	-50%	Traffic Enforcement Details	245	228	-6.9%
Fight	391	341	-12.8%	Traffic Stop	16,239	17,485	+7.7%
Fire Call	1,113	1,192	+7.1%	Tree Down	99	109	+10.1%
Fireworks	112	112	-	Trouble With A Customer	523	477	-8.8%
Found Property	391	363	-7.2%	Vehicle Annoying	1,503	1,483	-1.3%
Get A Complaint	1,019	1,080	+6.0%	Vehicle In Violation	208	173	-16.8%
Get A Report	4,600	4,557	-0.9%	Warrant	641	801	+25.0
Group Annoying	141	172	+22%	Water Break	157	107	-31.9%
Hazardous Material Call	17	8	-52.9%	Wires Down / Arching	209	197	-5.7%
Hold-Up Alarm	188	218	+16.0%	All Other Call Types	5,527	5,555	+0.5%
Jail Run	199	182	-8.5%				
Juvenile Incident	118	131	+11.0%				
				Totals:	77,863	79,066	+1.6%

UNIFORM CRIME REPORT (UCR) PART 1 OFFENSES

	2018	2019	Change
Murder	0	0	-
Rape	3	10	+233.3%
Robbery	25	19	-24%
Assault	52	33	-36.5%
Burglary	134	120	-10.4%
Larceny	1,693	1,716	+1.3%
Vehicle Theft	52	34	-34.6%
Totals:	1,959	1,932	-1.4%

Despite a 1.6% increase in Calls for Service activity, the Colonie Police Department was able to achieve a 1.4% decrease in Part I crimes, including a 22.5% decrease in violent crimes and a 0.5% decrease in property crimes.

PART I CRIMES

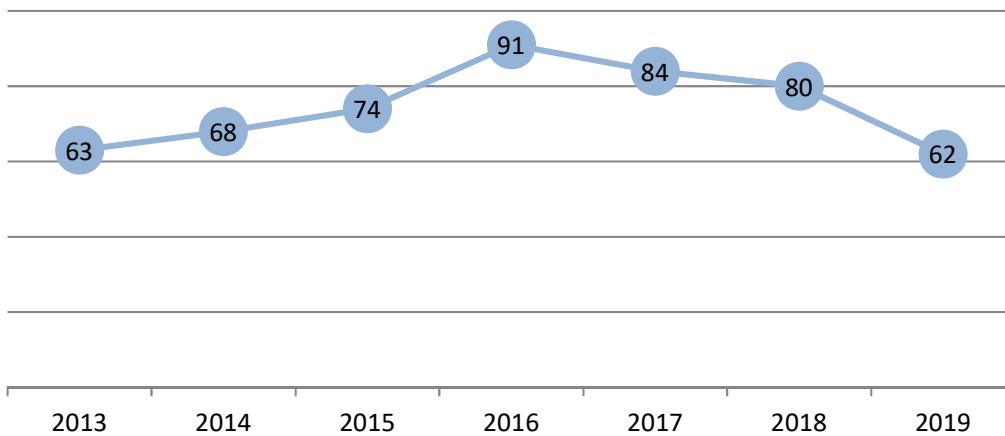


UNIFORM CRIME REPORT (UCR) PART 2 OFFENSES

	2018	2019	Change
Arson	1	1	-
Kidnapping	4	1	-75%
Controlled Substances	224	190	-15.2%
Dangerous Weapons	14	18	+28.6%
Sex Offenses	19	11	-42.1%
Extortion	0	0	-
Forgery / Counterfeiting	116	77	-33.6%
Stolen Property	36	40	+11.1%
Prostitution & Vice	8	0	-100%
Coercion	1	0	-100%
Criminal Mischief	270	248	-8.2%
Fraud	281	277	-1.4%
Gambling	0	0	-
Offenses Against Public Order	0	0	-
Embezzlement	0	0	-
Simple Assault	413	345	-16.5%
Offenses Against Family	129	17	-86.8%
Driving Under Influence	122	123	+0.8%
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	16	59	+268.8%
Possession of Burglar Tools	0	0	-
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	-
Disorderly Conduct	9	8	-11.1%
Loitering	0	0	-
All Other Offenses	348	412	+18.4%
Totals:	2,011	1,827	-9.2%

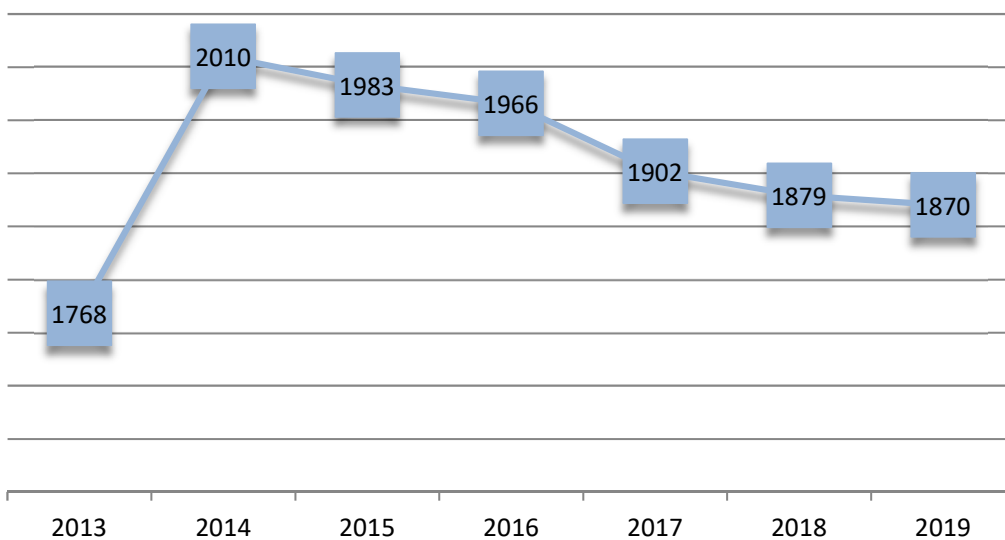
The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. The FBI collects, publishes and archives these statistics from nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States.

VIOLENT CRIMES



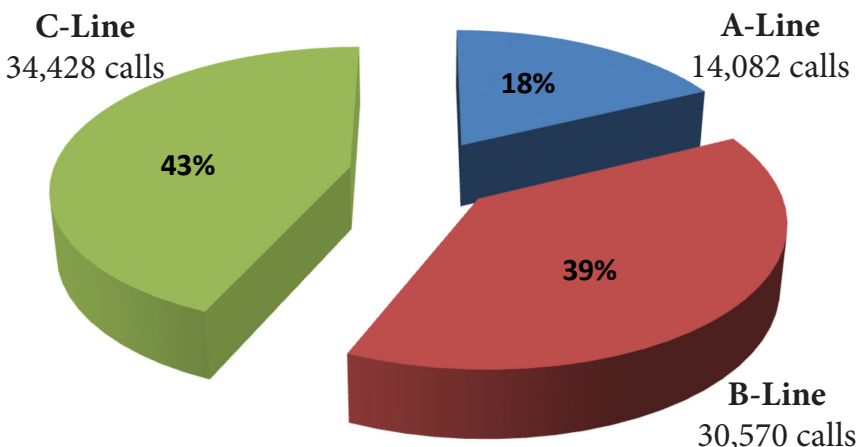
The number of Part I Violent Crimes (Homicide, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault incidents) has decreased by 22.5% since 2018 and 31.9% since 2016.

PROPERTY CRIMES



The number of Property Crimes (Burglary, Larceny and MV Theft incidents) has been on the decline since 2014. As highlighted here, the number of property crimes in 2019 was at its lowest since 2013 with 1,870 incidents, a 0.5% decrease when compared to 2018.

PERCENTAGE OF CALLS BY SHIFT

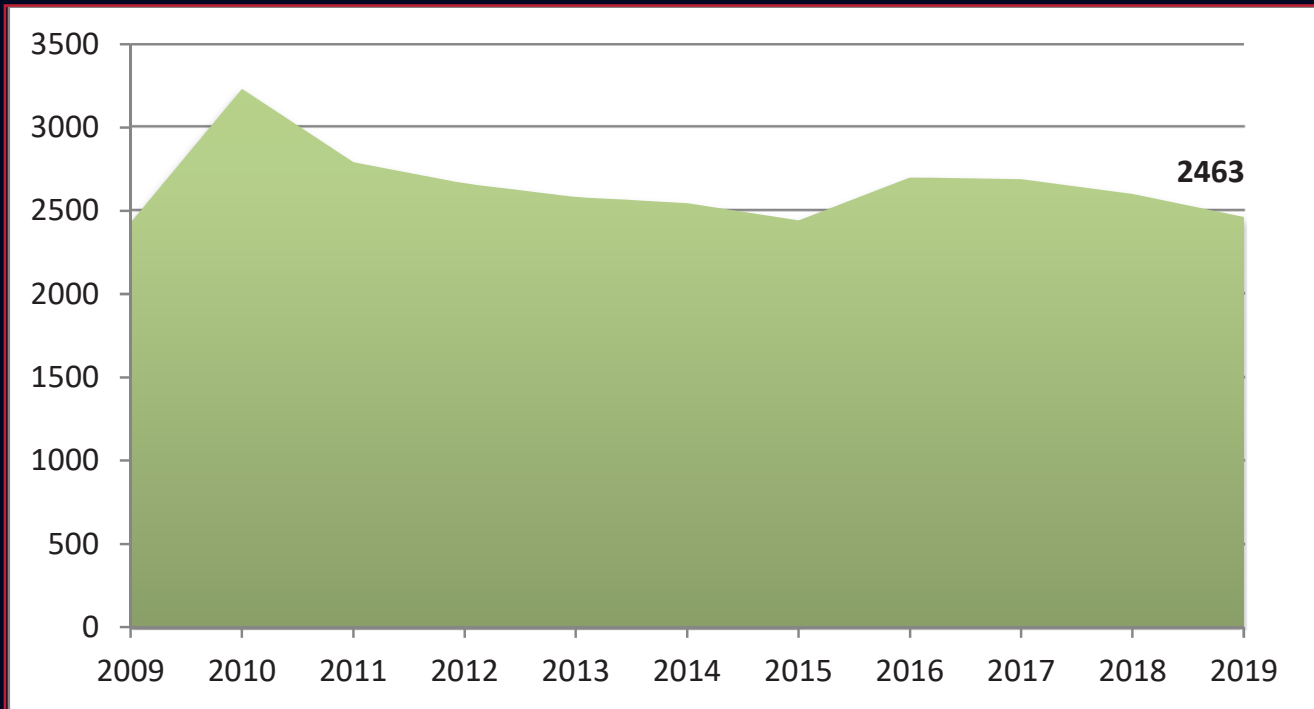


CUSTODIAL ARRESTS IN 2019

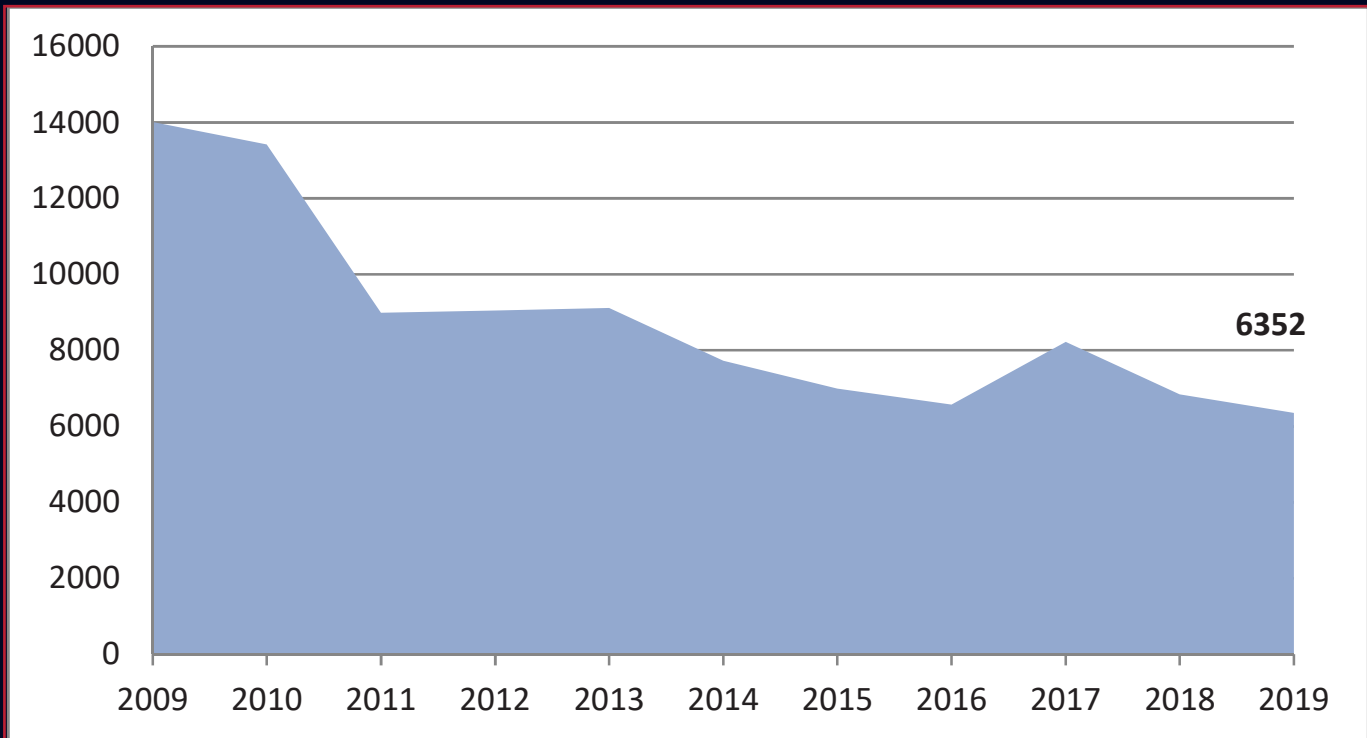
Adults
2,431
A decrease of 5.3%

Juveniles
32
A decrease of 5.9%

NUMBER OF DEPARTMENT ARRESTS



NUMBER OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS



Supervisor Paula A. Mahan

Town Board:

Rick Field
Danielle Futia
David Green



Melissa Jeffers Von Dollen
Linda Murphy
Jill Penn