



2020 Annual Report



Colonie Police Department

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On The Cover:

During the year 2020, the Colonie Police Department, like the whole world, adapted to a new norm with COVID. New policies and procedures were developed for the officers and civilian personnel who would continue to serve the community and maintain public order. Procedures such as cleaning and disinfecting both the station and police vehicles as well as acquiring personal protective equipment to keep both officers and the public safe. Others included limiting the public's access inside the station as well as holding daily briefings outside to maintain social distance.

Executive Summary

- Chief Jonathan Teale



The Covid 19 Pandemic certainly created a lot of challenges for all of us in Emergency Services in 2020. We also had to deal with a Town wide computer ransomware attack early in the year which temporarily hampered our ability to retrieve some data. In addition to these challenges many new laws took effect which resulted in “catch and release” of many defendants. Defendants who would have been previously remanded to jail at least temporarily, were now required to be released by the Court. The effect of little or no consequences for criminal conduct resulted in a spike in violent crime of 34% in 2020. Surrounding communities faced even greater increases in violent crime. Our Courts were also greatly impacted and even shut down for months due to the pandemic. This resulted in an extremely low rate of defendants even bothering to show up for their court appearances. In 2020 we had to reduce staffing levels through attrition to meet an emergency budget reduction due to the pandemic. This left our Department with 109 Officers as opposed to the 115 Officers we had in 2019. We also had to cut one Animal Control Officer position and a Public Safety Dispatcher position to meet budgetary needs.

Throughout this challenging year our Officers continued to respond to calls for service, assist our schools and conduct major investigations. Officers were able to take 26 handguns off the streets and arrest those who possessed them. Many of those arrested were involved in other criminal activities. This represents the highest number of illegally possessed hand guns we have seized in a given year. It is our hope that these arrests helped prevent shootings in and around Colonie. We did have to alter some of our responses and take reports remotely when possible for safety reasons. Routine police work and life has changed for all of us in many ways. Our Department also provided mutual aid to the cities of Albany, Schenectady and Troy during the periods of civil unrest throughout the summer. We have also continued to work closely with our regional, state and federal partners to curb the current heroin scourge through enforcement actions and referrals for additional services.

Despite Covid 19 restrictions officers underwent modified training to keep their skill sets up to date and we continue to participate in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) with the assistance of the Albany County Mental Health professionals. De-escalation training was provided to both officers and dispatchers to improve our level of response. Our Communications staff handled over 146,000 police, fire and EMS calls this past year, with over 35,000 of those being 911 calls. Unfortunately, many of our community events and programs had to be cancelled or rescheduled.

The continued support of Supervisor Mahan and the entire Town Board has enabled us to successfully meet the significant challenges of 2020. In October the Town Board unanimously voted to pass a resolution declaring their support and appreciation for the men and women of the Colonie Police Department. We will continue to be proactive and strive to provide the best service possible to the residents and businesses of Colonie. I am proud of the work of our officers and dispatchers, especially during the difficult times of 2020. I would also like to offer our heartfelt sympathies to those families who were affected by the pandemic.

Deputy Chiefs of Police



Deputy Chief Michael Woods
Field Services Division



Deputy Chief Robert Winn
Administrative Services Division

Contact The Department

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Deputy Chief Michael Woods
woodsm@colonie.org
783-2800

Lieutenant Todd Weiss
weisst@colonie.org
783-2744

A-Line Shift
Special Services Team

Lieutenant James Gerace
geracejj@colonie.org
783-2744

C-Line Shift
Bicycle Unit
Motor Unit
Court

Lieutenant Henry Rosenzweig
rosenzweig@colonie.org
783-2744
B-Line Shift

Lieutenant Daniel Belles
bellesd@colonie.org
783-2754

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

Lieutenant Robert Donnelly
donnellyr@colonie.org
783-2744

Traffic Safety Unit
Court
Supplemental Police Services
Police Explorers

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Deputy Chief Robert Winn
winnr@colonie.org
783-2800

Lieutenant Robert Barrett
barretr@colonie.org
782-2619

Sergeant Richard Villa
villar@colonie.org
782-2619

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.

Colonie Police Department
Public Safety Center
312 Wolf Road
Latham, New York 12110

(518) 783-2744

Fax (518) 786-7326

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



In 2020, the budget was approximately \$16 million which included 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.

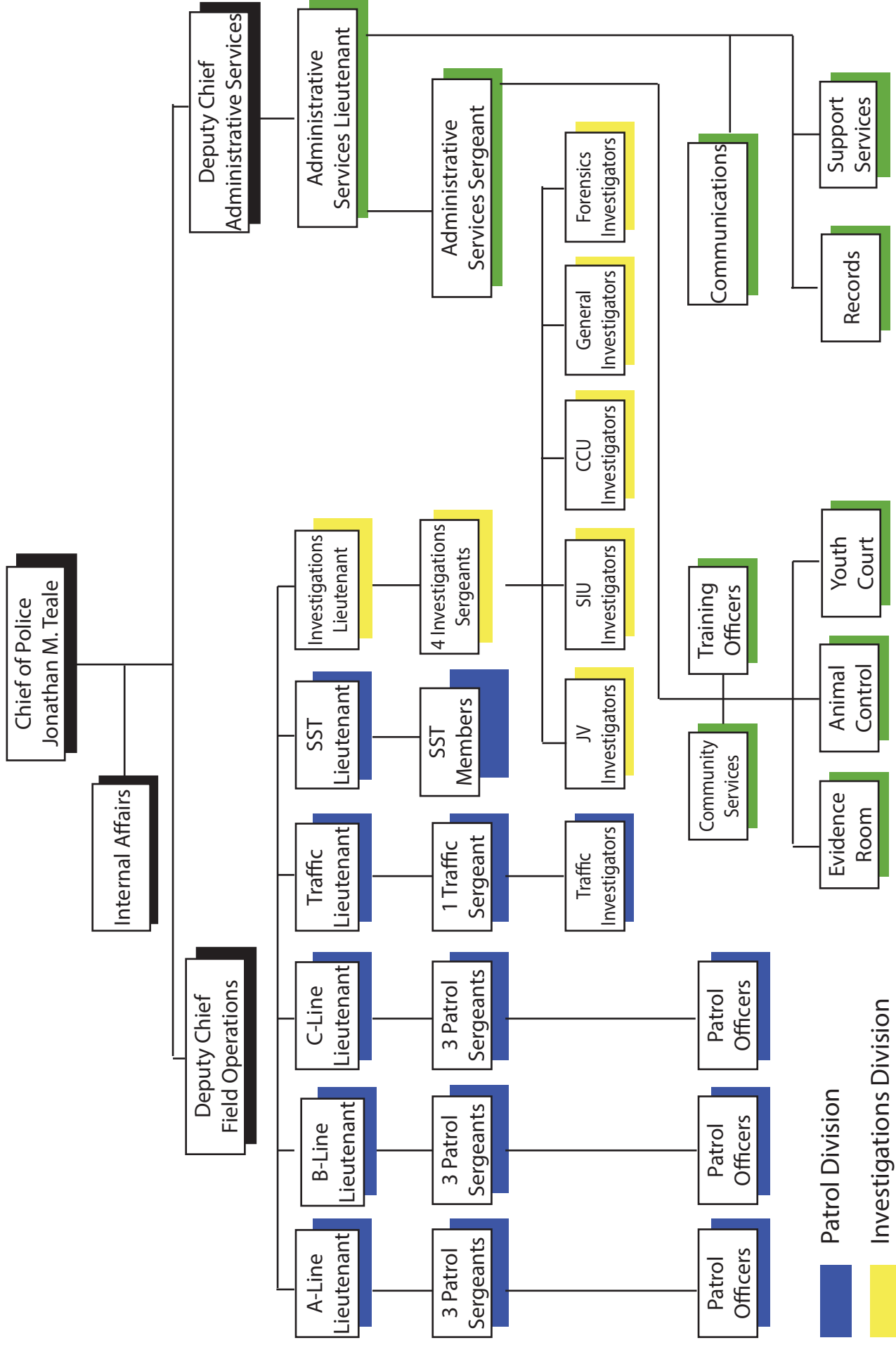
The Police Department is structured into two main divisions. The Field Operations Division includes Patrol, Investigations and Traffic Safety. The Administrative Services Division provides support functions such as Communications, Records, Training, Personnel and Community Services. Administrative Services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

Colonie Police Department 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 7 a.m. - 3 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 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.

Sergeant Todd Martinovich is in charge of the Traffic Safety Investigators. He coordinates their activities at major crash scenes and oversees the progress of criminal cases within the unit. Todd has 26 years of law enforcement experience. He has served on the Special Services Team and both as an officer and the sergeant in charge of the Motorcycle Unit during his time with the Colonie Police Department. He has developed an excellent rapport with the members of the Traffic Unit leading to a valuable cohesion among its members.

In 2020, the Traffic Safety Unit investigated 5 fatal crashes (*no change from 2019*) and handled 311 case files (*an 11% 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 Pruyn 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 2020 were two K-9 teams. Officer Mike Clough and K-9 Eddie (pictured right) work together on the B-Line shift. Eddie, a german shepherd, was named in honor of Colonie Police Investigator Ed Frank who passed away in 2005 after battling cancer. Officer Bob Lemerise and K-9 Lock (pictured left) work on the A-Line shift. 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.

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.

In 2020, \$17,542 cash was seized for the Special Investigations Unit as a result of K-9 searches.

2020 K-9 Utilizations:

- Tracks - 25
(An increase of 108%)
- Area/Building Searches - 19
(A decrease of 13.6%)
- Narcotic Searches - 20
(A decrease of 31%)
- Evidence Searches - 15
- Perimeter Security - 11

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 20 activations in 2020.



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

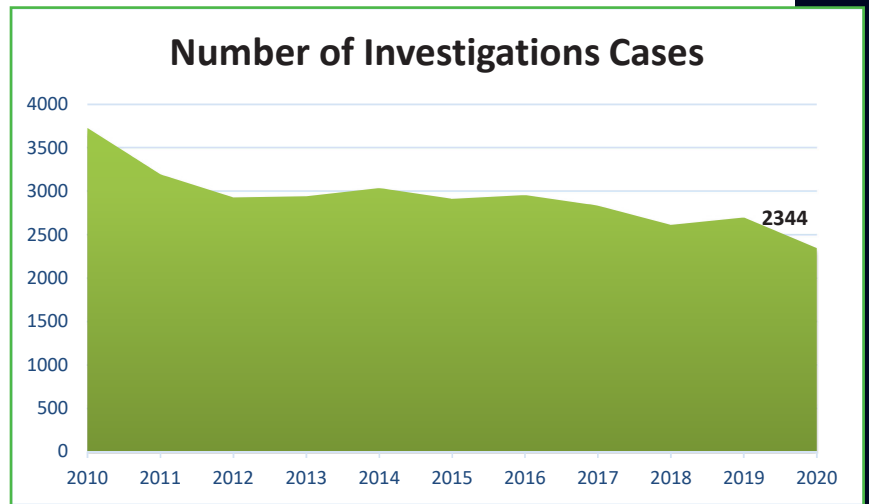
The Investigations Division is responsible for investigating crimes committed within the Town of Colonie. To meet the needs and demands of investigating various crime types, the Colonie Police Department Investigations Division has several units and sub-specialties.

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 2,344 cases in 2020. This is a 13.1% decrease from 2019.



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.

Items of Evidence Received
17,120

Total # of Items Processed
617

In 2020, 190 fingerprint submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 31 submissions were identified.

289 DNA submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 36 submissions were identified.

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.

2020 Figures: Seizure of Assets and/or Property - **\$78,996.22** (A decrease of 41.9% from 2019.)

Juvenile Unit

The Juvenile (JV) Unit is comprised of four Juvenile Investigators that investigate incidents involving crimes committed by or against youths (under 18 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 2020, the Colonie Police Department issued 138 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. 567 wanted persons have been broadcast on Perp Patrol for the Colonie Police Dept. resulting in 498 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. Work is now being done to expand these communications with the Schenectady County Unified Communications Center as well.

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 must initially complete a Basic Telecommunicators Course and 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 answered over 140,000 phone calls in 2020 which include land line 911, cell 911 and both emergency/non-emergency administrative lines. This number does not include the department's main information line. They also greet and assist the public at the front desk of the police department.

2020 Figures

Police Calls

66,140

A decrease of 16.4%.

Fire/EMS Calls

12,476

A decrease of 21.5%.

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 2020 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.

Due to COVID, the department was not able to host their annual Community Night Out in 2020 but looks forward to hosting it once again in 2021. The event provides 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 2020, 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 2020, the event was postponed due to COVID but is typically held at Schuyler Meadows Club.

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 2020, 43 safety seats were examined. (A decrease of 32.8% from 2019)



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 2020, the Colonie Police Department received the following:



- A \$20,000 grant from NYS DCJS for Livescan Equipment.
- A \$35,400 grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Council for "Selected Traffic" Enforcement.
- A \$20,000 grant from Albany County STOP DWI for impaired driving 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 de-escalation, 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's
- 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 2020 Police Department budget was \$16,647,249 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 Colonie 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 Colonie 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.



2020 Figures

Investigations Cases

2,344

A decrease of 13.1%

Field Interviews

1,073

A decrease of 7.8%

Accident Investigations

2,752

A decrease of 36.8%

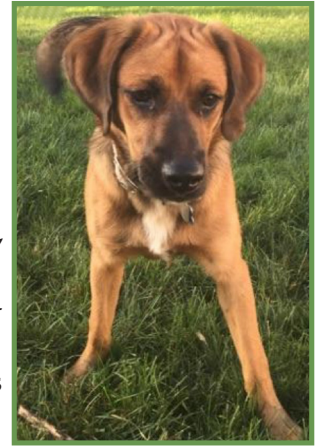
Citations

3,588

A decrease of 43.5%

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 2020, Animal Control Officers answered 1,903 animal control complaints which was a 6.6% decrease from 2019.

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 heard its first case on January 19, 1995 and began its community service program that same month. To date, the program has heard over 1,600 offender cases and they have completed a combined total of over 61,000 hours of community service hours to the Town of Colonie. In its 26 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: age 19 and under, 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.

Under the NYS Raise the Age Legislation in 2017, non-violent crimes committed by 16 and 17-year-olds were phased out of the adult system. 16 year olds were removed in the Fall of 2018 and 17 year olds were removed from the adult system in the Fall of 2019. Today, cases of 16 and 17 year olds are no longer referred to youth court by our local town judges. Under NY's Raise the Age, they are now processed as juvenile cases and are instead referred to youth court by the Albany County Probation Department. Colonie Youth Court will continue to receive referrals from Town Court, but these referrals are now limited to appropriate offenses committed by 18 and 19 year olds only.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Fall Membership Training Program was not held. Though we still maintained a sizeable membership pool from previous years to present the youth court cases. Also due to the pandemic, the NY shutdown, and the overall decrease in arrests in Colonie, the youth court received far less cases in 2020. Of the cases that were received, 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: 66% males and 34% females, 66% - Caucasians, 17% - African Americans, and 17% - Other. The cases were composed of 42% theft related crimes, 17% Assault, 17% Possession of a Controlled Substance, 16% Unlicensed Operator, and 8% Criminal Mischief. Overall, the program participants have performed over 61,000 hours of service in the last 26 years.

In addition, two senior youth court members were awarded college scholarships in 2020. The 1st place winner of the 2020 Robert M. Auld College Scholarship was youth court member, Mariam Rehman. Mariam is attending UAlbany. Youth Court member, Angela Zheng was the recipient of two scholarships: 2020 Honorable Nicholas J. Greisler Jr. College Scholarship and the 2020 Association of NYS Youth Courts, Inc. College Scholarship. Angela is attending Cornell University.

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 2020 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.



2020 AWARDS

Due to COVID-19, the Colonie Police Department did not host the annual Awards Ceremony in 2020 but instead presented awards to the officers and dispatchers in a brief ceremony following daily briefings.

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 2020, Civilian Awards were presented to Elizabeth Joy, Brian Hyra and Michael Gilmore.

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.

Lieutenant Robert Winn
Det. Sergeant Guy Jubert
Det. Sgt. John Santorio
Det. Sgt. Peter Gullinese
Sgt. Raymond Milham Jr.
Inv. Greg Heider
Inv. Janel Lawrence
Inv. Robert Willey
Inv. Matthew Garrigan
Inv. Steven Donovan

Inv. Anthony Sidoti
Inv. Samuel Criscione
Officer Conor Anson
Officer William Guthrie
Officer Evan Alaxanian
Officer Austin Blais
Officer Ryan Howe
Officer Ardit Potka
Officer Thomas Haacke
Officer Eithne McCarthy
Officer Mark Garhartt

Officer Edward Cronin
Officer Frank Peris
Officer Ty Bariteau
Officer Ryan Berkery
Officer Henry Bryk
Officer William Purtell
Officer Patrick Murphy
Officer Philip Winglosky
Dispatcher David Haller
Dispatcher Kelley O'Hearn

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 Derek Breslin
Inv. Brian Curran
Officer David Marra

Officer Eric Montijo
Officer Mark Garhartt
Officer Austin Blais

Officer Conor Anson
Officer Daniel Kutny

Esposito / Russo Memorial Award

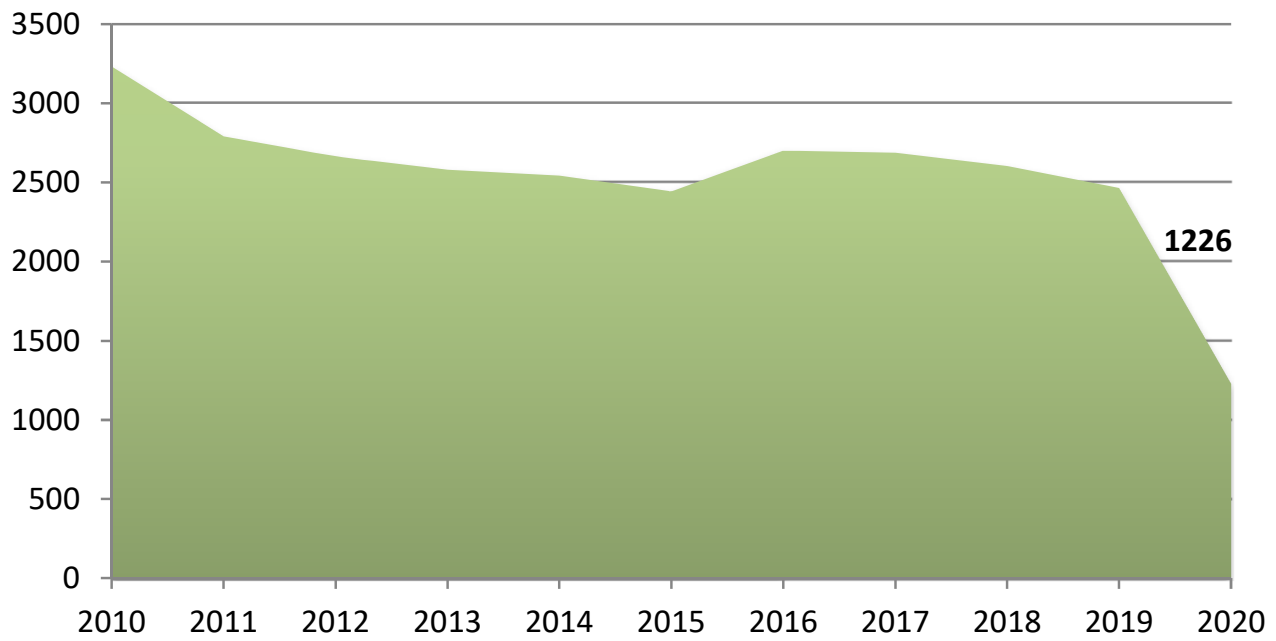
The Esposito/Russo Memorial Award is given to the officer for aggressive anti-DWI efforts throughout the year. The 2020 award recipient was Traffic Investigator Michael Warner for his efforts in the field of impaired driving enforcement.

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. This year's recipients were: Administrative Sergeant Daniel Belles, Senior Public Safety Dispatcher Ryan Carmichael and Explorer Captain Thomas Pleat.



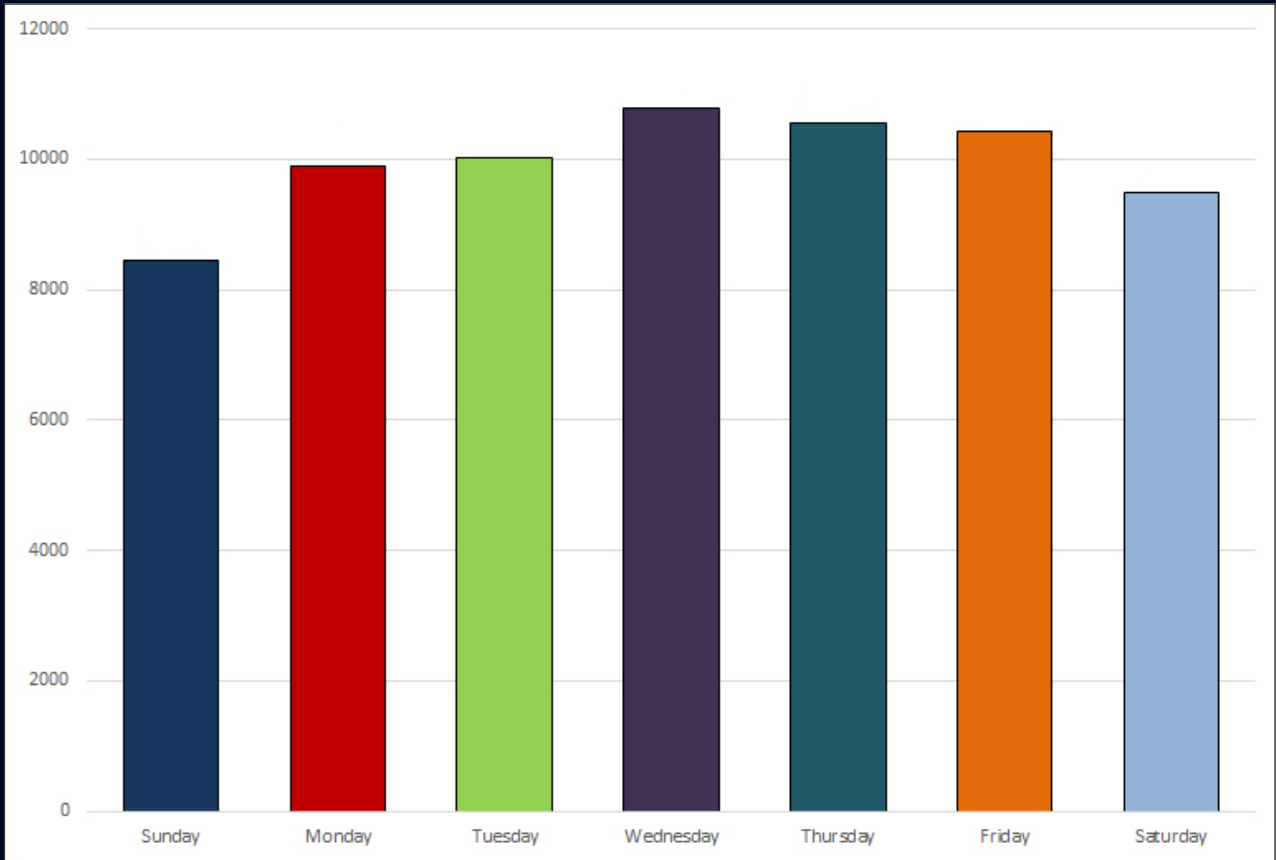
NUMBER OF DEPARTMENT ARRESTS



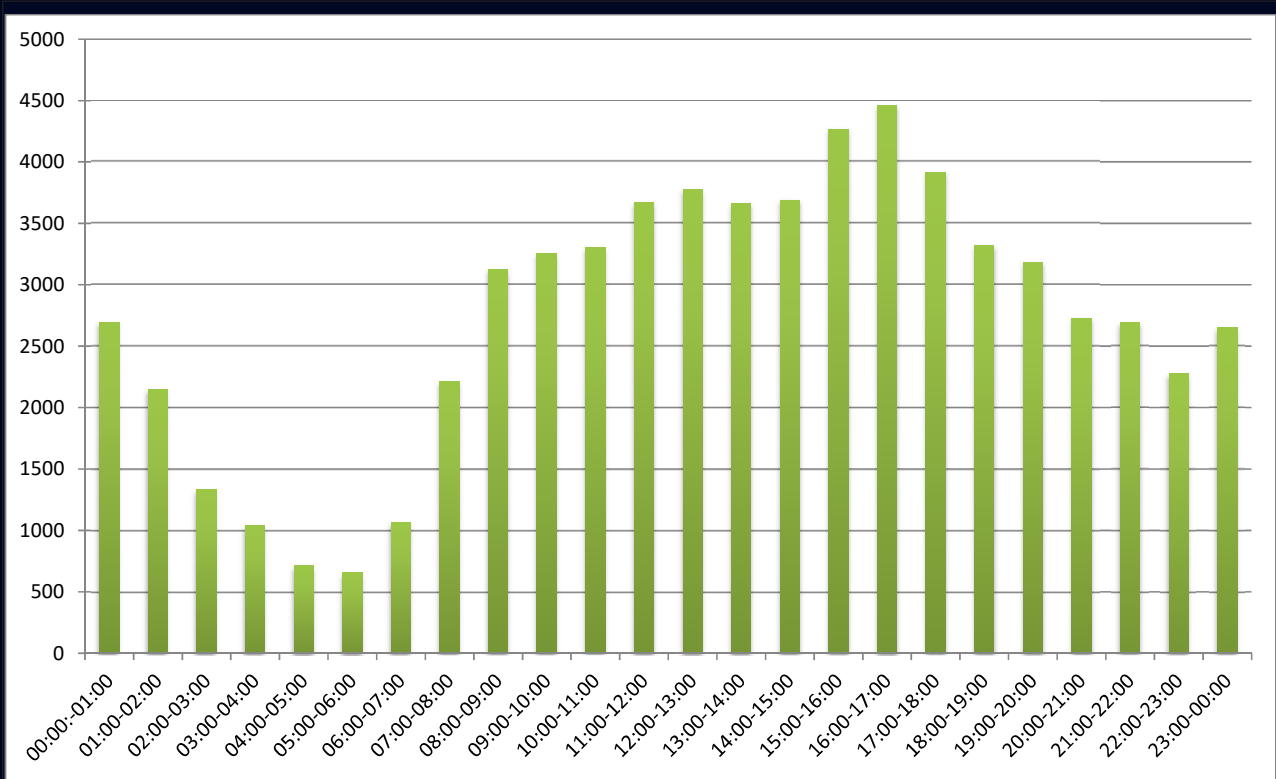
Adult Arrests
1,209 - A decrease of 50%

Juvenile Arrests
17 - A decrease of 47%

NUMBER OF CALLS BY DAY OF THE WEEK



NUMBER OF CALLS BY HOUR OF THE DAY

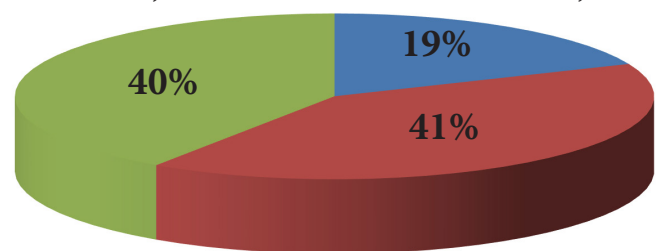


2020 CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2019	2020	Change		2019	2020	Change
911 Accidental Call	4,896	5,130	+4.8%	Noise Complaint	300	454	+51.3%
911 Hang-Up Call	2,716	2,165	-20.3%	Notification	821	751	-8.5%
911 Non-Emergency/ Nuisance	334	383	+14.7%	Officer Needs Assistance	189	187	-1.1%
911 Transfer	7,093	5,379	-24.2%	Open Window / Door	102	117	+14.7%
Abandoned Vehicle	260	200	-23.1%	POP (Police Oriented Policing)	10	10	-
Alarm Drop	329	124	-62.3%	Person Acting Suspicious	236	246	+4.2%
Animal Control Complaint	2,038	1,903	-6.6%	Person Annoying	706	712	+0.85%
Assault	48	50	+4.2%	Person Attempting Suicide	28	34	+21.4%
Assist A Person	1,339	1,199	-10.5%	Person Down	57	46	-19.3%
Auto Accident Property Damage	3,972	2,651	-33.3%	Person Exposing Self	16	12	-25.0%
Auto Accident Personal Injury	594	448	-24.6%	Person With A Weapon	41	82	+100.0%
Bomb Threat	3	1	-66.7%	Police Wanted Unknown	32	21	-21.9%
Boy / Girlfriend Trouble	54	38	-29.6%	Property Check	1,775	4,779	+168.7%
Burglar Alarm	4,691	4,207	-10.3%	Prowler	39	46	+18.0%
Burglary In Progress	47	34	-27.7%	Road Hazard	517	410	-79.3%
Car Blocking	152	121	-20.4%	Robbery	10	15	+50.0%
Check A Subject	3,857	3,279	-15.0%	School Crossing	13	31	+138.5%
Community Services Event	349	355	+1.7%	Selling Drugs	19	14	-26.3%
Custodial Interference	78	126	+61.5%	Shoplifter	222	92	-58.6%
Disabled Motor Vehicle	878	769	-12.4%	Shots Fired	44	42	-4.6%
Domestic Call	1,510	1,615	+7.0%	Someone In Building	18	20	+11.1%
DRE	26	14	-46.2%	Traffic Enforcement Details	228	391	+71.5%
Drone Request	43	33	-23.3%	Traffic Stop	17,485	7,834	-55.2%
Drunk Annoying	82	70	-14.6%	Tree Down	109	177	+62.4%
Emotionally Disturbed Person	639	621	-2.8%	Trouble With A Customer	477	611	28.1%
EMS Call	1,522	1,409	-7.0%	Vehicle Annoying	1,483	1,378	-7.1%
Fight	341	392	+14.7%	Vehicle In Violation	173	87	-49.7%
Fire Call	1,192	987	-17.2%	Warrant	801	201	-74.9%
Fireworks	112	344	+207.1%	Water Break	107	99	-7.4%
Found Property	363	316	-13.0%	Wires Down / Arching	197	196	-0.51%
Get A Complaint	1,080	1,096	+1.5%	All Other Call Types	5,555	5,488	-2.7%
Get A Report	4,557	4,232	-7.1%	Totals:	79,066	66,157	-16.3%
Group Annoying	172	277	+60.5%	PERCENTAGE OF CALLS BY SHIFT			
Hazardous Material Call	8	7	-12.6%	C-Line - 26,839 calls			
Hold-Up Alarm	218	262	+20.2%	A-Line - 12,311 calls			
Jail Run	182	22	-88.0%				
Juvenile Incident	131	106	-19.1%				
K-9 Search	81	71	-12.4%				
Landlord / Tenant Trouble	74	96	+29.7%				
Larceny Just Occurred	331	385	+16.3%				
Lock Out	152	104	-31.6%				
Malfunctioning Traffic Light	376	304	-19.2%				
Neighbor Trouble	256	247	-3.5%	B-Line - 26,956 calls			

C-Line - 26,839 calls

A-Line - 12,311 calls



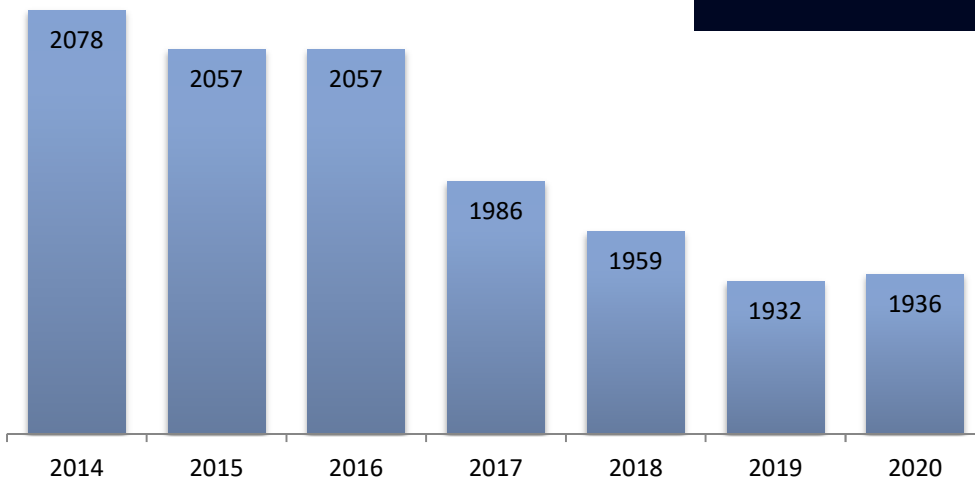
B-Line - 26,956 calls

UNIFORM CRIME REPORT (UCR) PART 1 OFFENSES

	2019	2020	Change
Murder	0	0	-
Rape	10	4	-60%
Robbery	19	28	+47.4%
Assault	33	51	+54.6%
Burglary	120	111	-7.5%
Larceny	1,716	1,677	-2.3%
Vehicle Theft	34	65	+91.2%
Totals:	1,932	1,936	+0.21%

The Colonie Police Department saw a slight increase (0.21%) in Part I crimes, including a 33.9% increase in violent crimes and a 0.91% decrease in property crimes.

PART I CRIMES

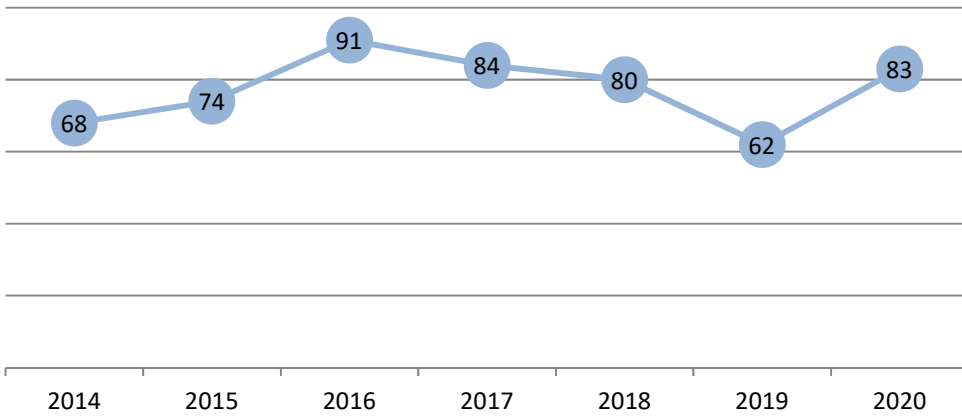


UNIFORM CRIME REPORT (UCR) PART 2 OFFENSES

	2019	2020	Change
Arson	1	1	-
Kidnapping	1	1	-
Controlled Substances	190	134	-29.4%
Dangerous Weapons	18	26	+44%
Sex Offenses	11	14	+27.2%
Extortion	0	0	-
Forgery / Counterfeiting	77	58	-24.7%
Stolen Property	40	43	+7.5%
Prostitution & Vice	0	0	-
Coercion	0	0	-
Criminal Mischief	248	300	+21%
Fraud	277	245	-11.6%
Gambling	0	0	-
Offenses Against Public Order	0	0	-
Embezzlement	0	0	-
Simple Assault	345	396	+14.8%
Offenses Against Family	17	0	-100%
Driving Under Influence	123	100	-18.7%
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	59	54	-8.5%
Possession of Burglar Tools	0	0	-
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	-
Disorderly Conduct	8	6	-25%
Loitering	0	0	-
All Other Offenses	412	403	-2.2%
Totals:	1,827	1,781	-2.5%

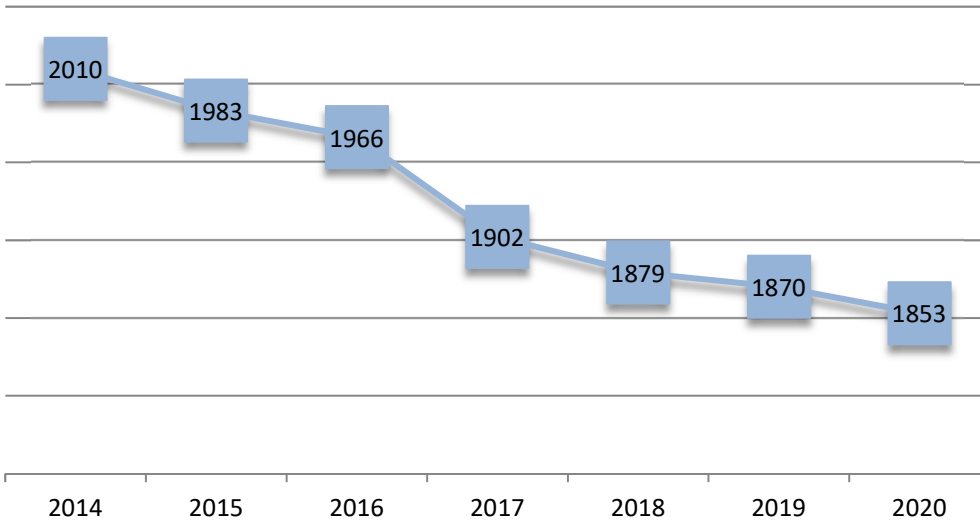
The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. The FBI collects, publishes and archives these statistics from nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States.

VIOLENT CRIMES



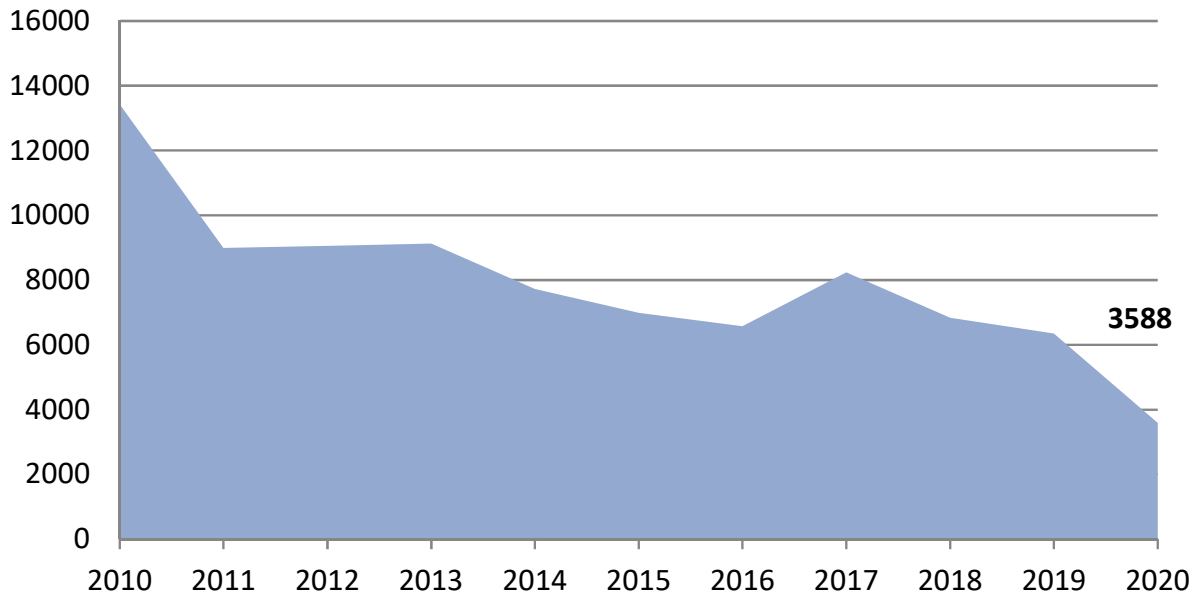
Following a three year decrease of Part I Violent Crimes (Homicide, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault incidents), and a 22.5% decrease in 2019, that number increased by 33.9% in 2020.

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 2020 was at its lowest since 2013 with 1,853 incidents, a 0.91% decrease when compared to 2019.

NUMBER OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS



Colonie Town Board Resolution of Support and Appreciation to the Men and Women of Law Enforcement and particularly the Colonie Police Department



A resolution was passed and read at the October 8, 2020 Town of Colonie Town Board meeting declaring support and appreciation to the men and women of law enforcement and particularly the men and women of the Colonie Police Department.

2020 has been a difficult year for all and this resolution is greatly appreciated by the men and women of the Colonie Police Department. The department has always enjoyed an outstanding relationship with Supervisor Paula Mahan and the members of the Town Board. Their continued support makes our job easier. We could not as efficiently or successfully carry out the mission of the Colonie Police Department without the positive support from Supervisor Mahan, Town Board Members Rick Field, Danielle Futia, David R. Green, Melissa Jeffers Von Dollen, Linda J. Murphy, and Jill A. Penn and the citizens we serve and protect.

We will get through this together. Stay safe, stay healthy and know that the Colonie Police Department will always be there when needed.

Supervisor Paula A. Mahan



Town Board:

Rick Field
Danielle Futia
David Green

Melissa Jeffers
Linda Murphy
Jill Penn