



Colonie Police Department

2023 Annual Report



Colonie Police Department Organizational Chart

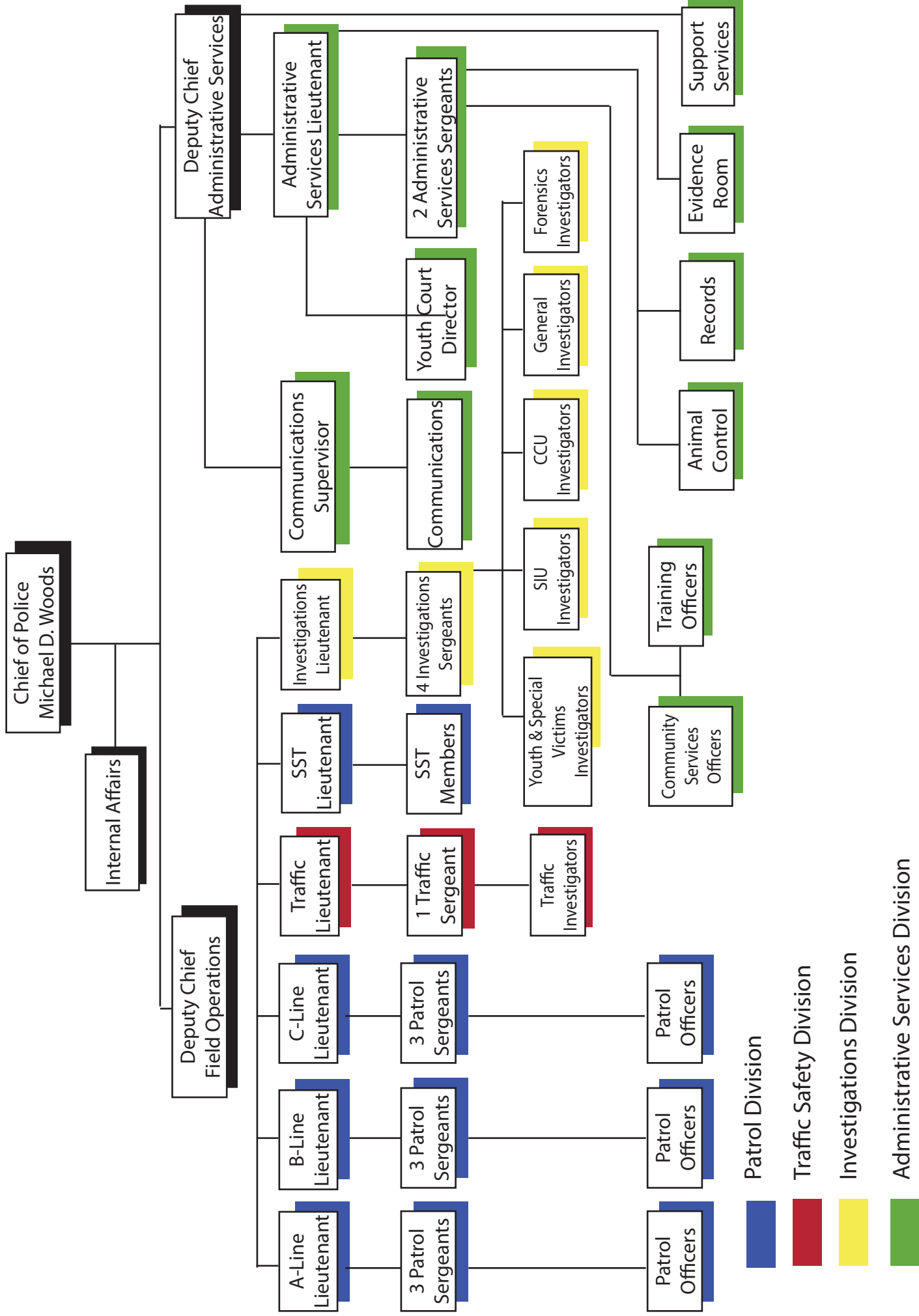


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Colonie Police Department Mission Statement:

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



I am honored to report on the progress the Town of Colonie Police Department made during 2023. With the support of Town Supervisor Crummey and the Colonie Town Board, we implemented our Body Worn Camera Program for all uniformed officers. This program was long overdue and represents our continued efforts to provide transparency into our operations, to provide the best technology, training and practices for our officers to professionally carry out their daily duties and to protect the citizens we serve. The Colonie Police Benevolent Association supported the Department's efforts by actively participating in this process and assisting in the drafting of the policies and procedures that govern the use of the body-worn cameras by its members. The Police Department was able to secure a \$180,000 grant from the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services to offset costs for the Body Worn Camera Program.

Our Lexipol Policy Manual was fully implemented in September, providing our policy manual in digital format along with an "app" that officers have available to them on their mobile devices. These new policies, training, and technology will

enable our personnel to be better equipped to serve our community.

We introduced our "Handle with Care Registry" program with the intent to better serve individuals in crisis or with special needs. This program will better prepare our police officers, dispatchers and emergency responders to provide improved care for those individuals in need. Since its inception in May, over 50 individuals have enrolled in this program.

Our Police Department responded to 75,212 calls for service in 2023, which was a 4.7% increase from 2022. Even with the increased calls for service and the implementation of major programs throughout the Department, our Community Services Unit held approximately 160 unique community engagement and educational outreach events in 2023. The CSU assisted in 60 additional Civilian Response to Active Shooting Events (CRASE) related training events.

In 2023 there were several retirements, promotions, and additions of new members to our Colonie Police Family. Congratulations to Lieutenant Todd Weiss, Sergeant Jason Bach, Investigator Jeffrey Lockart and Patrolman Dave Hornburger on their retirements. Thank you for over 80 years of combined dedicated service to our Police Department and the Town of Colonie. Congratulations also to Officers Michael Clough and Willam Guthrie on their promotions to Sergeant and Officers Ryan Leonardo and Jacques Trembly on their promotions to Investigator. We appointed and welcomed four new police officers to our Colonie Police family including Officers Michael Hehir, Corey Carmello, Logan Souza and Kevin Mullady. We also welcomed Michael Mittler, Christian Germaine, Brian Meservey and Kyla Zeilman to our Communications Division, Gina DePaulo to our Administrative Services Division and our new Animal Control Officer Natayla Porcello. Congratulations to all the retired, promoted and new members to our department.

Thank you to Supervisor Crummey and the entire Colonie Town Board for their unwavering support to public safety, ensuring that we are fully staffed to meet the current and future needs of the Colonie Police Department. I commend the exceptional men and women of this Police Department for all their continued professionalism and hard work each and every day making a positive impact in our community.

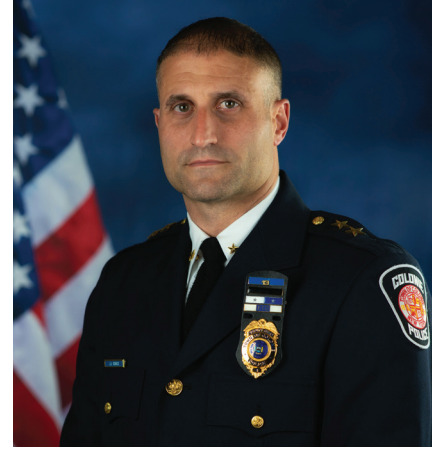
Congratulations to Chief James Gerace on his appointment as the 8th Chief in the Colonie Police Department 90-year history. Chief Gerace, along with Deputy Chief Robert Winn and newly appointed Deputy Chief Daniel Belles, will continue to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and dedication to the Town of Colonie.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve with the men and women of the Colonie Police Department over the past 32 years. I am extremely grateful to have been able to serve the residents, businesses and the community of the Town of Colonie. A great place to live, work, and play!

DEPUTY CHIEFS OF POLICE



Deputy Chief Robert Winn
Field Operations



Deputy Chief James Gerace
Administrative Services



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 2023, the budget was approximately \$18 million which included 115 sworn officers, 53 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 organized by role: Field Operations and Administrative Services. Field Operations is comprised of the Patrol Division, Investigations Division and the Traffic Safety Division. Administrative Services includes the Administrative Services Division which provides support functions such as Community Services, Training, Communications, Records and Support Services. Administrative Services is also responsible for Fiscal Management, Grant Management, Statistical Analysis, Accreditation and Animal Control.

PATROL DIVISION



The Colonie Police Patrol Division consists of three lieutenants, nine sergeants and 63 patrol officers. 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 investigations, response to non-criminal complaints as well as 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 patrol areas on a daily basis to direct their patrol activity and interact with the individuals and businesses they serve.

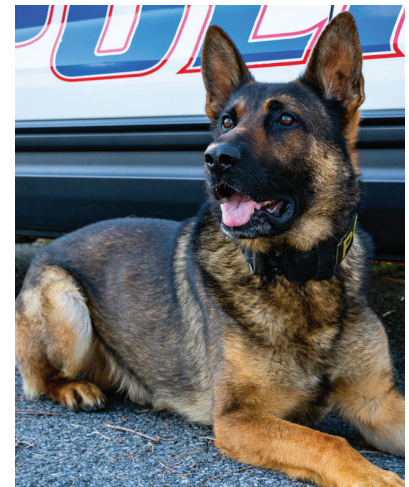
Patrol officers participate in special enforcement programs where officers are deployed to take a proactive approach against drugs and criminal activity on Colonie's streets. These officers also actively participate in many highway safety programs including Buckle Up New York and Stop DWI. Both programs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



The Colonie Police Department currently has one Patrol K9 team, 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. This team is a normal patrol unit and respond to routine calls for service as well as perform their specialized duties as a K9 team. When not working, they are on call for immediate response. The team is trained in the following: tracking, building search, evidence recovery, handler protection, criminal apprehension, and advanced narcotics detection (which include, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and hashish). The teams are certified by The New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Working the streets in 2023 was one K9 team, Sergeant Mike Clough and K9 Eddie (pictured) worked 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.

The team participates in at least 24 hours of specialized K9 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.

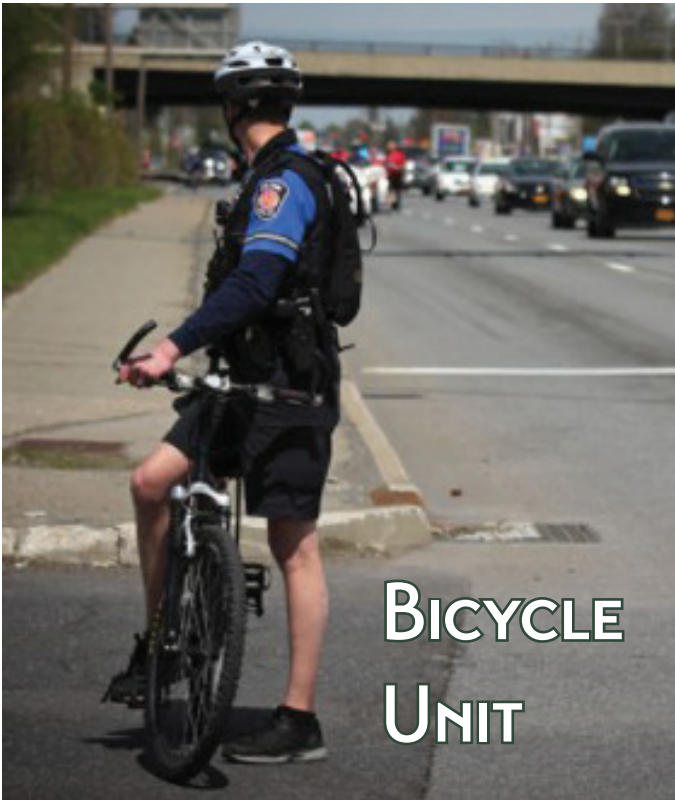


2023 K9 Utilizations:	
Tracks - 10	(A decrease of 57%)
Area/Building Searches - 2	(A decrease of 75%)
Narcotic Searches - 12	(A decrease of 92%)
Evidence Searches - 6	(No Change)



The Motorcycle Unit of the Colonie Police Department was formed in 1990. It continues to be utilized five or six months each year during the warmer months for patrol and specialized duties. It consists of a sergeant and four officers who share the various details and responsibilities for the unit. All Motor officers are trained and certified through the 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. 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.



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 a total of twenty-six officers in the department including four sergeants and three lieutenants that are all certified for bicycle patrols.

Bicycles are available for deployment on every shift for every day patrol from April to October. 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.



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 proves an aerial perspective for command staff during large incidents/events.



In 2023, the UAS Unit was requested 71 times, an increase of 144%.

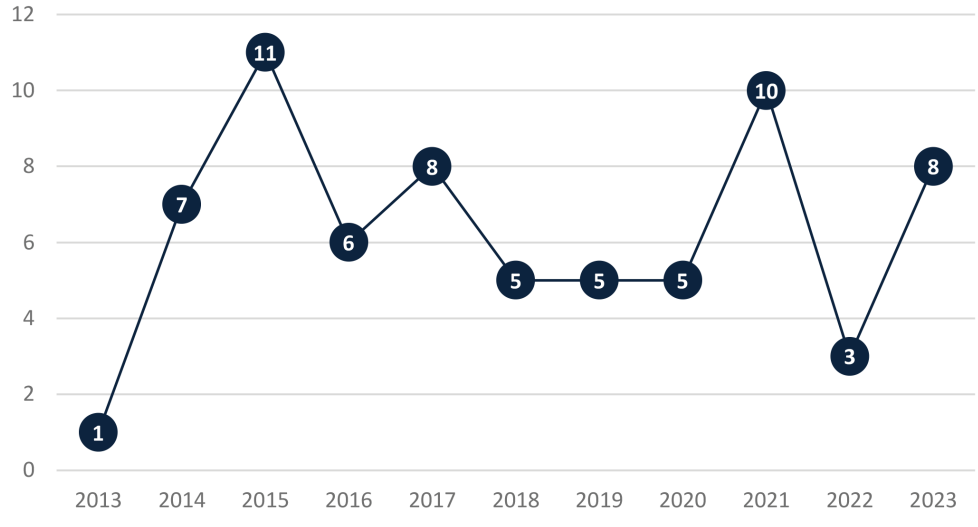


The Traffic Safety Division is comprised of four uniformed investigators, one sergeant and one lieutenant who are specially trained in several areas of traffic services including, but not limited to traffic enforcement, crash investigation and reconstruction, motor carrier safety regulations and hazardous materials incident management. This division 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 division supports and assists the efforts of the Town’s Highway Safety Committee.

The Traffic Safety Division utilized 2023 grant money from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee to do enforcement on several state roadways within the Town of Colonie. These roadways were identified, through the police department’s

crash data collection, as having high numbers of vehicle crashes each year. Traffic investigators targeted enforcement on aggressive driving violations (such as speeding, passing red lights, illegal lane changing, following too closely etc.) along heavy traffic corridors such as Central Avenue (State Route 5) and New Loudon Road (State Route 9).

FATALITIES INVESTIGATED



In 2023, the Traffic Safety Division investigated 8 fatal crashes (167% increase from 2022).



SPECIAL SERVICES TEAM

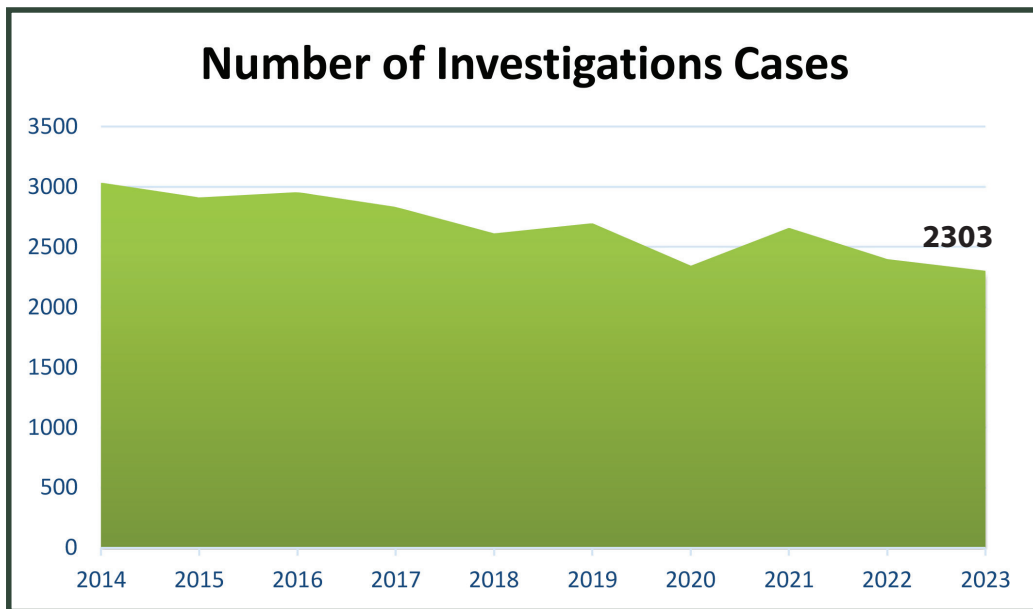
The Colonie Police Department has a team of 19 highly trained police officers known as the Special Services Team (S.S.T.). In addition to the training provided to all officers in the department, these officers receive specialized training in many areas including high risk traffic stops, barricaded subjects, 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, 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 Dept. 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 NY 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 21 activations in 2023.



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 2,303 cases in 2023. This is in addition to hundreds of cases worked on by Investigators on their respective DEA, FBI and CCU task forces.

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.

2023 Figures: Seizure of Assets and/or Property - \$73,913.61

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.

2023 Forensics Stats

Items of Evidence Received
15,560 (A decrease of 12%)

Total # of Items Processed
350

In 2023, 51 fingerprint submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 8 submissions were identified. (32%)

192 DNA submissions were made to the New York State lab. Of these 11 submissions were identified. (14%)

YOUTH AND SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Youth and Special Victims Unit (YSVU) is a specialized unit within the Investigations Division that investigates crimes against children, the elderly, and vulnerable people. This unit also investigates incidents regarding domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, missing persons, and other crimes where children are the victims and/or offenders. The YSVU is tasked with investigating crimes of an extremely sensitive nature. Many of the incidents are of a sexual nature. The Investigators assigned to the YSVU are highly trained and professional, and they work closely with the District Attorney's Office, the local Child Advocacy Centers, and multiple local branches of Child Protective Services (CPS).

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 as well as provides training on computer investigations to recruits at the regional Police Academy.

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 2023, the Colonie Police Department issued 57 releases.



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 and the department’s website.

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 thirty years.

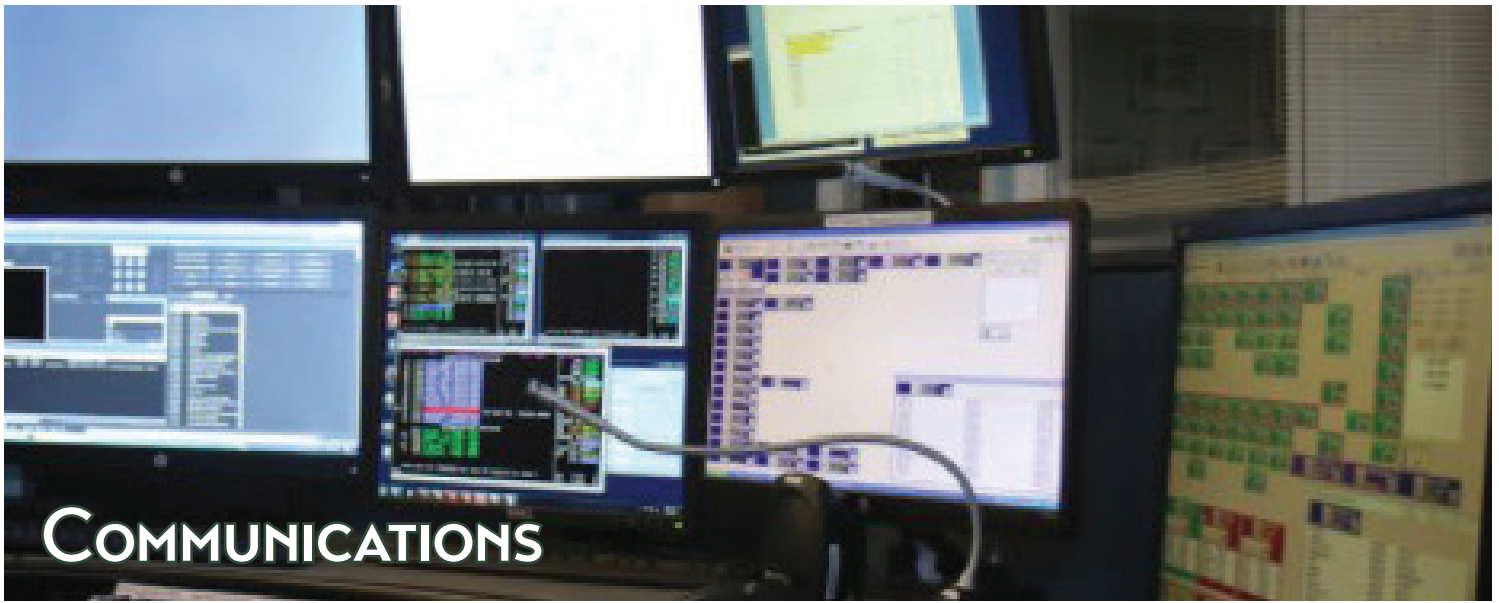
RECORDS

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.

2023 Figures			
Investigations Cases	Field Interviews	Accident Investigations	Citations (including warnings)
2,303	932	3,896	4,309
A decrease of 4%	A decrease of 13%	An increase of 5%	A decrease of 6%

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

The 2023 Police Department budget was \$17,769,842 of which approximately 91% was appropriated for personnel costs, including salaries and benefits. The remaining 9% 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.

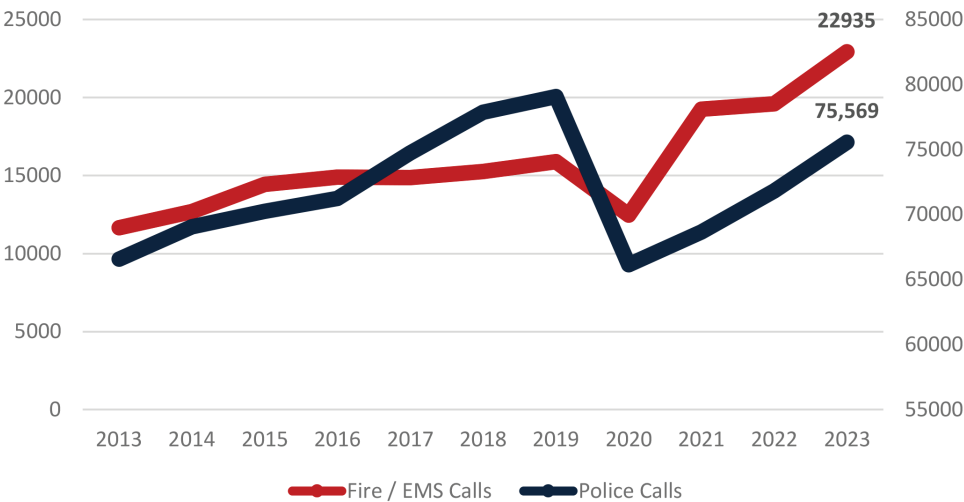


Colonie Police Communications is one of six E-911 answering points (PSAP) in Albany County. The division is staffed by a Communications Supervisor, 5 Senior Dispatchers, and 25 dispatchers, all of which are trained to dispatch police, fire, and EMS. Communications answers both land line and wireless 911 calls for service, as well as eight administrative phone lines. The Communications Division also greets the public at the front desk of the Public Safety Building. There are 5 administrative phone lines that are answered there (these phone lines are not included in the stat's below). The dispatchers receives requests and information that they must process and prioritize, then dispatch the appropriate services. All dispatchers undergo approximately 6 months of training which includes, but is not limited to, a 40 hour Basic Telecommunicators Course, CPR training, Emergency Medical Dispatch certification, National Emergency Management System (NIMS) and National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) certification. They are required to maintain and renew their numerous certifications through yearly continuing education.

In 2023, the Town of Colonie Public Safety Dispatchers answered 144,434 phone calls. Of those, 7,703 were land line/VOIP 911 calls, 28,674 cellular 911 calls, and 108,057 administrative lines which can be emergency or non-emergency.

In 2014, the Town of Colonie, the City of Albany and The Albany County Sheriff's Department embarked on a shared radio system, allowing the 3 agencies to communicate with one another as needed. The Town of Colonie and the City of Albany utilize the Metro Cell. The Albany County Sheriff's utilizes the County Cell. All agencies utilize a Motorola MCC 7500 Elite Digital Radio System which is one of the most advanced two-way public safety and public service radio systems in the area. Over the years we have expanded interoperability to include Saratoga County, Rensselaer County and Schenectady County. In the very near future, Schoharie County will also be included. This will allow the police department, EMS department, or any of the 12 fire departments to seamlessly speak to an agency in another county.

FIRE / EMS vs. POLICE CALLS RECEIVED





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 seven 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 2023 working with the local schools by assessing their security needs. In addition, Officer Ryan Berkery 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 and in September, 2023, Officer Matt Stott became the School Resource Officer at Capital Region BOCES.

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.

Four certified Colonie Police Officers provide the service of checking child car safety seats to ensure that their installations are safe and proper. In 2023, 256 safety seats were examined. (An increase of 142% from 2022.)

The Community Services Unit held approximately 160 unique community events in 2023 and additionally assisted in 60 active shooter response trainings conducted in the Town. Among the events was the popular Community Night Out which provides families a fun evening of activities, food and a chance to meet many of our officers as well as the Cops For Kids Family 5K.



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 knowledge and tools to make safe and responsible choices. It 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 thirtieth 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 2023, 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 students in the sixth and eighth grades in classrooms in public and private schools throughout the Town.

Officers meet students in the kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms which provides students with safety skills for use at both home and school and establishes positive relationships between the community and officers at an early age. 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 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 2023, the event was held at Schuyler Meadows Club where 202 golfers competed.

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 2023, the Colonie Police Department received the following:

- A \$75,000 grant from NYS Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the Special Services Team.
 - A \$35,443 grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Council for "Selected Traffic" Enforcement.
 - A \$22,333 grant from Albany County STOP DWI for impaired driving enforcement.
 - A \$11,077 grant for the purchase of bulletproof vests.
-

POLICE DEPARTMENT WEBPAGE

The Colonie Police Department has a webpage which offers information on department services such as child safety seat inspections as well as the ability to search for sex offenders in your area using Offender Watch. Online forms are also available and include a Handle With Care Registry for loved ones with special needs, 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, Instagram and 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.



The Training Unit staff includes three 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 are responsible for the field training officer program, police officer candidate processing, educational internships and serve as department armorers.

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.

In 2023, all members of the Training Unit became certified instructors of CRASE or Civilian Response To Active Shooter Events. With this certification, the unit provided over 100 active shooter and /or security related trainings to schools, churches and businesses in the Town to provide attendees a plan to survive an active attack event.

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.



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 2023, Animal Control Officers answered 2,229 animal control complaints which

was a 1% decrease from 2022.

COLONIE YOUTH COURT

Colonie Youth Court heard its first case on January 19, 1995 and began its community service program that same month. Today, the internationally recognized youth court celebrated its 30-year anniversary of the program's 1st case and its community service sentencing program. To date, the program has heard over 1,650 offender cases and they have completed a combined total of over 62,000 hours of community service hours to the Town of Colonie. In its 30 years of operating, there have been over 1,150 volunteer members who served the 6 different courtroom roles of youth court and over 2,500 volunteer jurors have served.



Celebrating 30 Years

Colonie Youth Court is an early intervention diversion program for young people who have been arrested for the first time for a minor crime or received a traffic infraction. Referrals to the program are made by the Albany County Probation Department, Town of Colonie Justice Department, and directly by Colonie Police officers as well. 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 2023 Fall Membership Training Program, the youth court welcomed 21 new trainees into its volunteer member population. Over 150 volunteer jurors currently serve annually.

At the conclusion of 2023, the Colonie Youth Court received 30 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: 57% males and 43% females, 85% - Caucasians, 10% - African Americans, 5% - Other. The cases were composed of 30% theft related crimes, 10% Assault, 10% Harassment, and 30% traffic infractions. The remaining 20% were composed of multiple offenses.

The total number of community service hours performed in 2023 alone, was 508 hours in the Town of Colonie. Overall, the program participants have performed over 62,000 hours of service in the last 30 years.

In addition, three senior youth court members were awarded 4 college scholarships in 2023. The 1st place winner of the 2023 Robert M. Auld College Scholarship was youth court member, Toby Zheng. Toby is attending Northwestern University. Youth Court member, Kaya McAuley, was the recipient of the 2023 Honorable Nicholas J. Greisler Jr. Scholarship and the recipient of the 2023 South Colonie Dollars for Scholars Scholarship. Kaya is attending Coastal Carolina University. The 1st place winner of our new 1st Responder Scholarship was youth court member, Aarya Tyagi. Aarya is attending Western Reserve University.

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



CADET POST 185

The Colonie Police Cadet Post 185 is comprised of individuals from 13 to 21 years of age who have an active interest in Law Enforcement as a potential career. Currently we have 14 Explorers in our post under the supervision of Lt. Robert Donnelly and Sergeant Michael Warner as well as the Post Advisors who include Traffic Investigators Brian Curran and Ryan Leonardo as well as Officers Ryan Berkery, Michael Tarbay, Taylor Carey, Brandon Mueller and Conor Anson.

The Cadet 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, Cadets are exposed to Law Enforcement related topics such as Forensics, Arson Investigation, Firearms, Defensive Tactics, Computer Crime and Juvenile Law, as well as how to handle Domestic Calls, High Risk Traffic Stops and DWI checks. All cadets become fully certified in CPR and First Aid through the American Heart Association with re-certification every two



years. Cadets also have an opportunity to put their knowledge to the test by competing against other Police Posts in scenario based competitions at Stations Day and by attending a week-long, multi-phase Cadet Academy in Connecticut. In addition to the training they receive, Cadets provide the Town of Colonie with valuable Community Service. During 2023 alone, Cadets donated over 1,700 hours of their time while providing, services at functions such as the Concerts in the Barn at the Pruyn House and various events at The Crossings of Colonie.

Members must be at least 13 years of age, maintain an 80 average in school, be in good standing in your community and have a positive attitude.

2023 ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY



On the evening of May 16, 2023, the Colonie Police Department hosted their annual Awards Ceremony where department members joined with family and friends in this recognition event.

Career Recognition Award

Sergeant Todd Martinovich
Investigator Jeffrey Lockart
Officer Thomas Haacke
Officer Henry Bryk

Traffic Investigator Jason DePaulo
Traffic Investigator Edward Johnson
Officer Patrick Fennelly

Special Service Award

Lieutenant Louis DiNuzzo
Officer Anthony Riccitelli

Investigator Javier Martinez
Officer Austin Blais

Command Recognition Award

Lieutenant Louis DiNuzzo
Investigator Nicholas Sidoti
Investigator Janel Lawrence
Traffic Investigator Brian Curran

Traffic Investigator Ryan Leonardo
Officer Christopher Hooks
Officer Daniel Kutny
Officer Ian Kelly

Sr. Dispatcher Brian Franklin
Dispatcher Kevin Krone
Dispatcher Michael Hennessey

Life Saving Award

Investigator Jacques Tremblay

Officer Patrick Murphy



Distinguished Service Awards

Officer of the Year

Investigator Robert Willey

Dispatcher of The Year

Public Safety Dispatcher Kevin Krone

Explorer of The Year

Explorer Lieutenant Mason Curran

2023 CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2022	2023	Change
911 Accidental Call	3,811	4,164	+9%
911 Hang-Up Call	2,020	2,506	+24%
911 Non-Emergency/ Nuisance	212	340	+60%
911 Transfer	5,627	5,641	+0.3%
Abandoned Vehicle	238	247	+4%
Alarm Drop	116	143	+23%
Animal Control Complaint	2,258	2,229	-1%
Assault	69	58	-16%
Assist A Person	1,277	1,648	+29%
Auto Accident Property Damage	3,400	3,119	-8%
Auto Accident Personal Injury	507	514	+1%
Bomb Threat	1	3	+200%
Boy / Girlfriend Trouble	35	17	-51%
Burglar Alarm	3,730	3,406	-9%
Burglary In Progress	43	38	-12%
Car Blocking	121	123	+2%
Check A Subject	3,295	3,930	+19%
Check A Traffic Light	268	217	-19%
Community Services Event	377	367	-3%
Court Order	122	182	+49%
Custodial Interference	91	104	+14%
Disabled Motor Vehicle	919	879	-4%
Domestic Call	1,831	2,107	+15%
DRE	9	7	-22%
Drone Request	29	71	+145%
Drunk Annoying	80	68	-15%
Emotionally Distressed Person	801	806	+1%
EMS Call	1,549	1,612	+4%
Fight	542	533	-2%
Fire Call	579	407	-30%
Fireworks	122	92	-25%
Found Property	374	361	-3%
Get A Complaint	1,037	1,046	+1%
Get A Report	4,985	5,409	+9%
Group Annoying	228	237	+4%
Hazardous Material Call	8	6	-25%
Hold-Up Alarm	290	327	+13%
Jail Run	74	110	+49%
Juvenile Incident	200	211	+6%
K-9 Search	48	24	-50%
Landlord / Tenant Trouble	106	132	+25%
Larceny From A Vehicle	280	226	-19%

	2022	2023	Change
Larceny Just Occurred	566	579	+2%
Lockout	140	143	+2%
Neighbor Trouble	230	250	+9%
Noise Complaint	338	450	+33%
Notification	849	786	-7%
Officer Needs Assistance	163	139	-15%
Open Window / Door	82	74	-10%
POP (Police Oriented Policing)	20	12	-40%
Pan Handlers	180	182	+1%
Person Acting Suspicious	218	222	+2%
Person Annoying	883	936	+6%
Person Attempting Suicide	38	35	-8%
Person Down	72	76	+6%
Person Exposing Self	15	21	+40%
Person With A Weapon	78	99	+27%
Pistol Permit Investigation	155	139	-10%
Property Check	5,253	6,154	+17%
Prowler	39	25	-36%
Road Hazard	441	350	-21%
Robbery	21	12	-43%
School Crossing	152	46	-70%
School Resource Detail	283	939	+232%
Selling Drugs	20	9	-55%
Shoplifter	103	100	-3%
Shots Fired	29	26	-10%
Someone In Building	26	31	+19%
Traffic Enforcement Details	337	112	-67%
Traffic Stop	11,288	11,068	-2%
Tree Down	59	79	+34%
Trouble With A Customer	732	881	+20%
Vehicle Annoying	1,447	1,463	+1%
Vehicle In Violation	117	111	-5%
Warrant	679	508	-25%
Water Break	151	97	-36%
Wires Down / Arching	146	341	+134%
All Other Call Types	5,003	5,407	+8%
Totals:	71,811	75,569	+5%

PART 1 CRIME OFFENSES

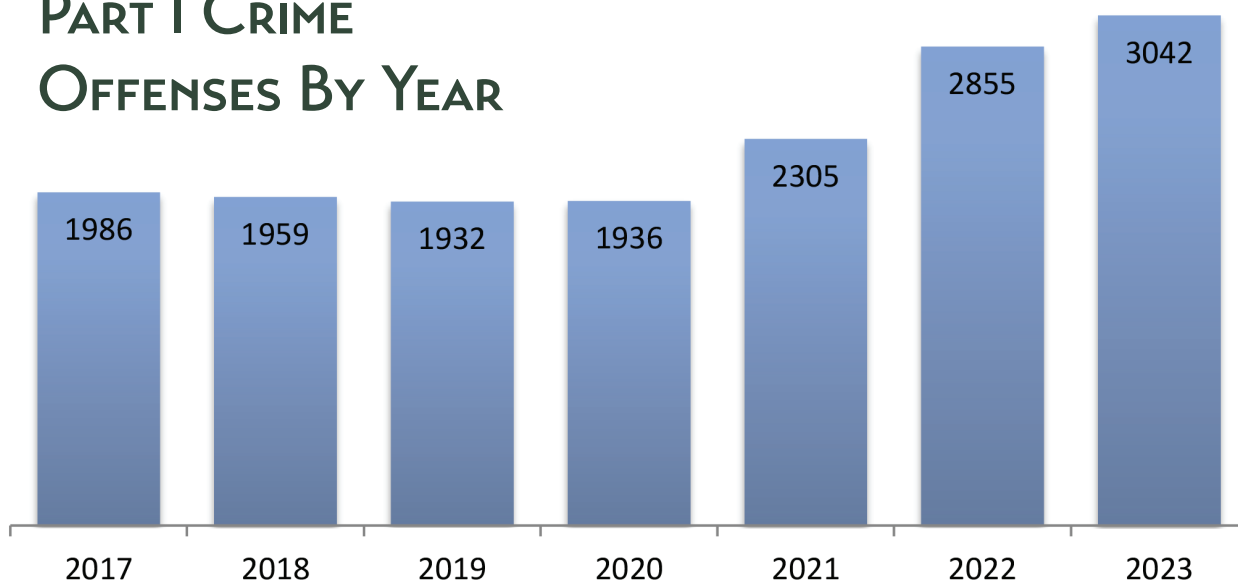
	2022	2023	Change
Murder	3	0	-100%
Rape	1	1	+0%
Robbery	45	38	-16%
Assault	73	88	+21%
Burglary	188	181	-4%
Larceny	2,444	2,651	+8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	101	83	-18%
Totals:	2,855	3,042	+7%

PART 2 CRIME OFFENSES

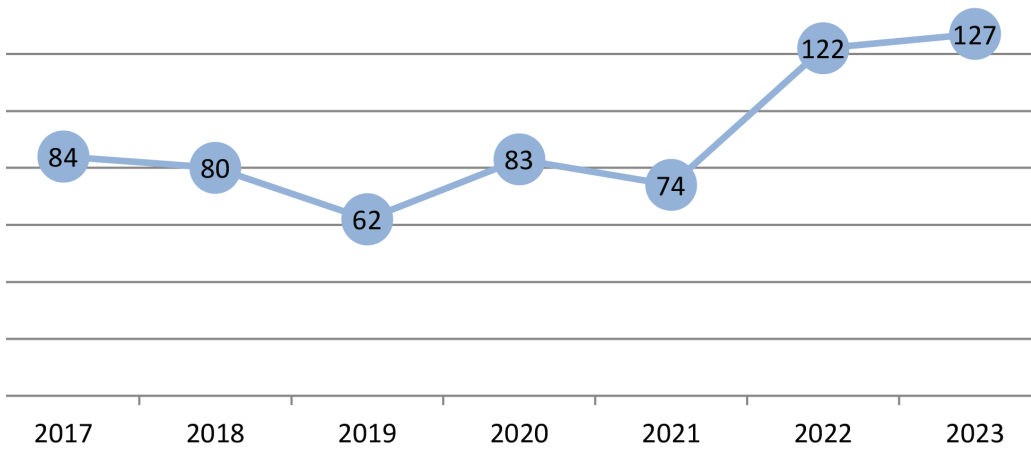
	2022	2023	Change
Arson	0	2	+100%
Kidnapping	5	2	-60%
Controlled Substances	67	43	-36%
Dangerous Weapons	22	19	-14%
Sex Offenses	20	18	-10%
Extortion	8	10	+25%
Forgery / Counterfeiting	22	19	-14%
Stolen Property Possession	46	28	-39%
Prostitution & Vice	0	0	+0%
Coercion	0	2	+100%
Criminal Mischief	320	333	+4%
Fraud	228	153	-33%
Gambling	0	0	+0%
Offenses Against Public Order	0	0	+0%
Embezzlement	2	2	+0%
Simple Assault	621	603	-3%
Offenses Against Family	1	1	+0%
Driving Under Influence	111	109	-2%
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	53	42	-21%
Possession of Burglary Tools	0	0	+0%
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	+0%
Disorderly Conduct	5	1	-80%
Loitering	0	0	+0%
All Other Offenses	252	348	+38%
Totals:	1,916	1,735	-9%

The Incident Based Crime Reporting (IBR) is a streamlined way of submitting a police department's required crime reports. IBR replaces multiple reports with a single monthly computerized submission that records specific incident details rather than summarizing key events. Data is collected on all crimes and then New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services classifies the crimes into the crime categories you see on this page.

PART I CRIME OFFENSES BY YEAR

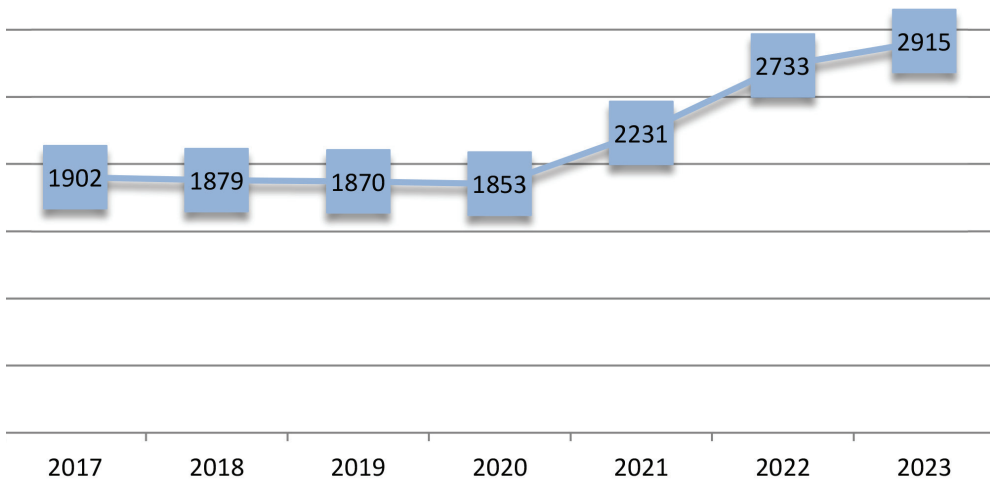


VIOLENT CRIMES



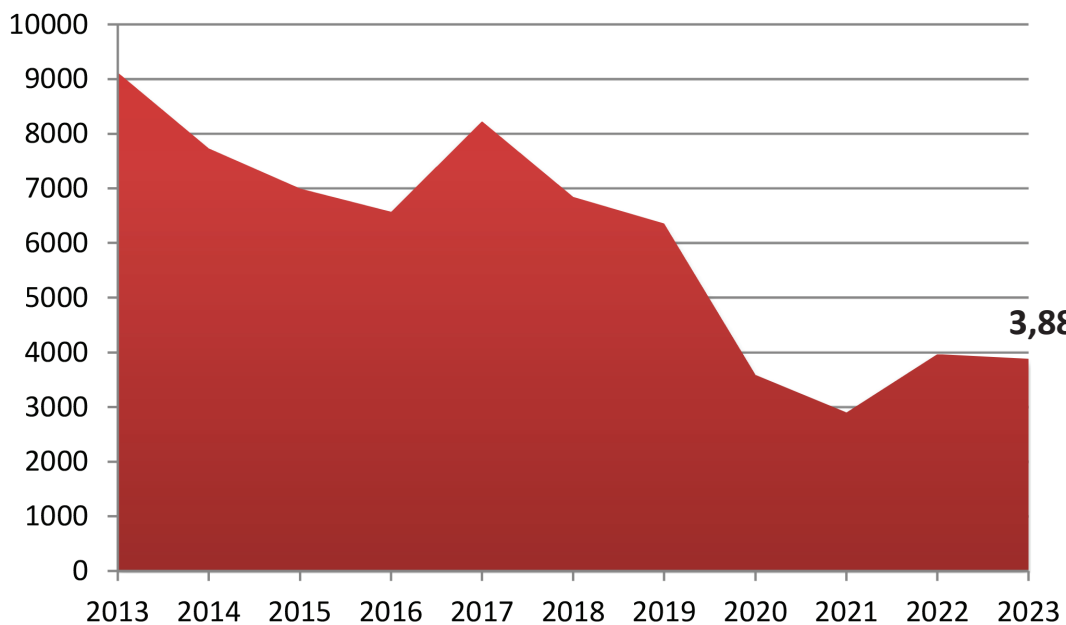
Following a 65% increase in 2022 of Part I Violent Crimes (Homicide, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault incidents), that number rose slightly in 2023 by 4%.

PROPERTY CRIMES

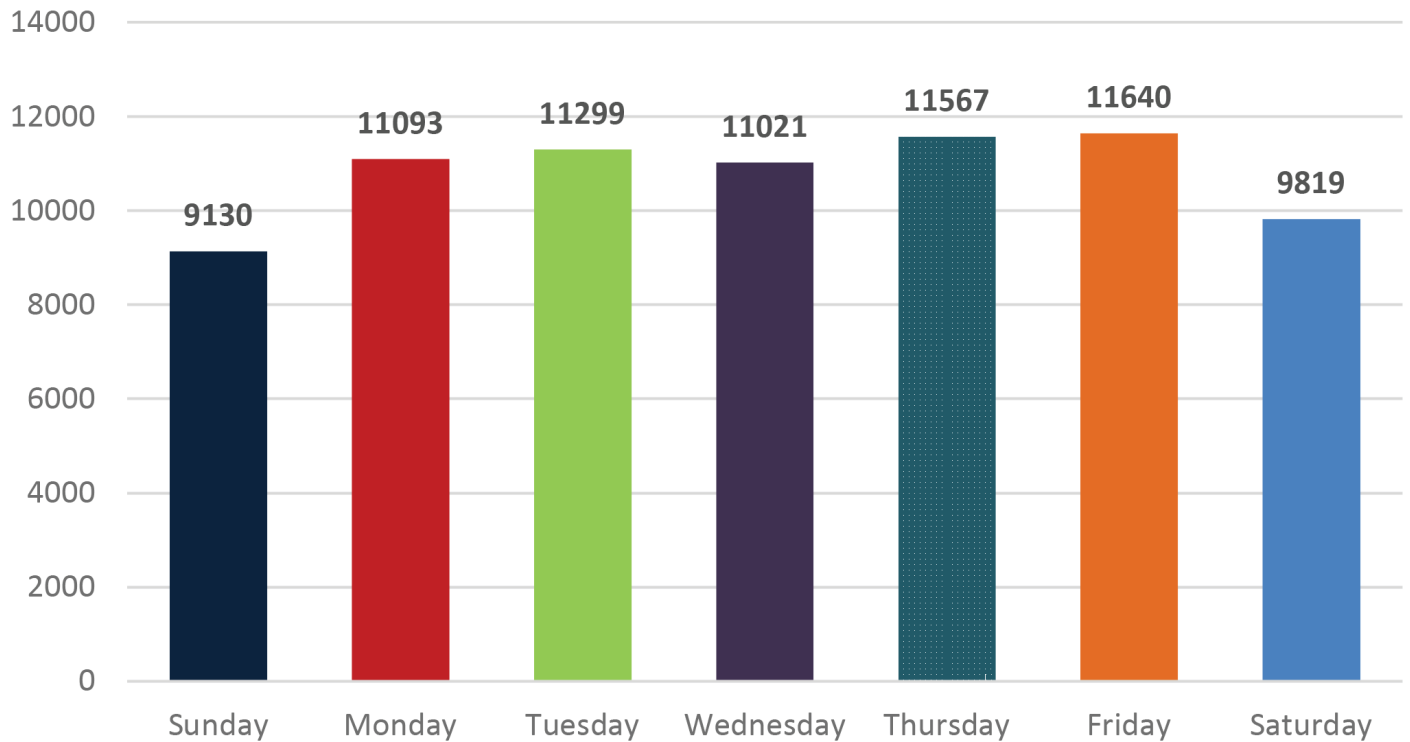


The number of Property Crimes (Burglary, Larceny and MV Theft incidents) continued its three-year rise in 2023 with a 7% increase from 2022.

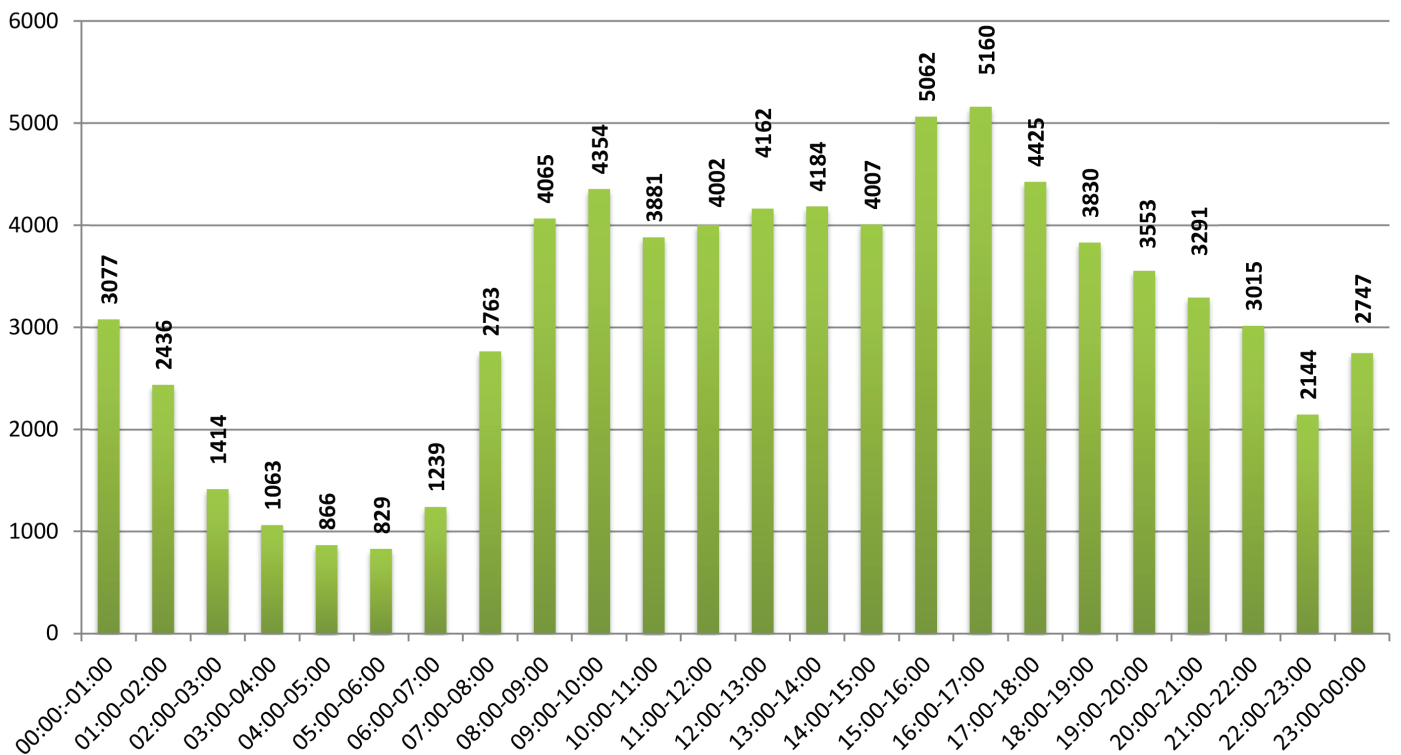
NUMBER OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS



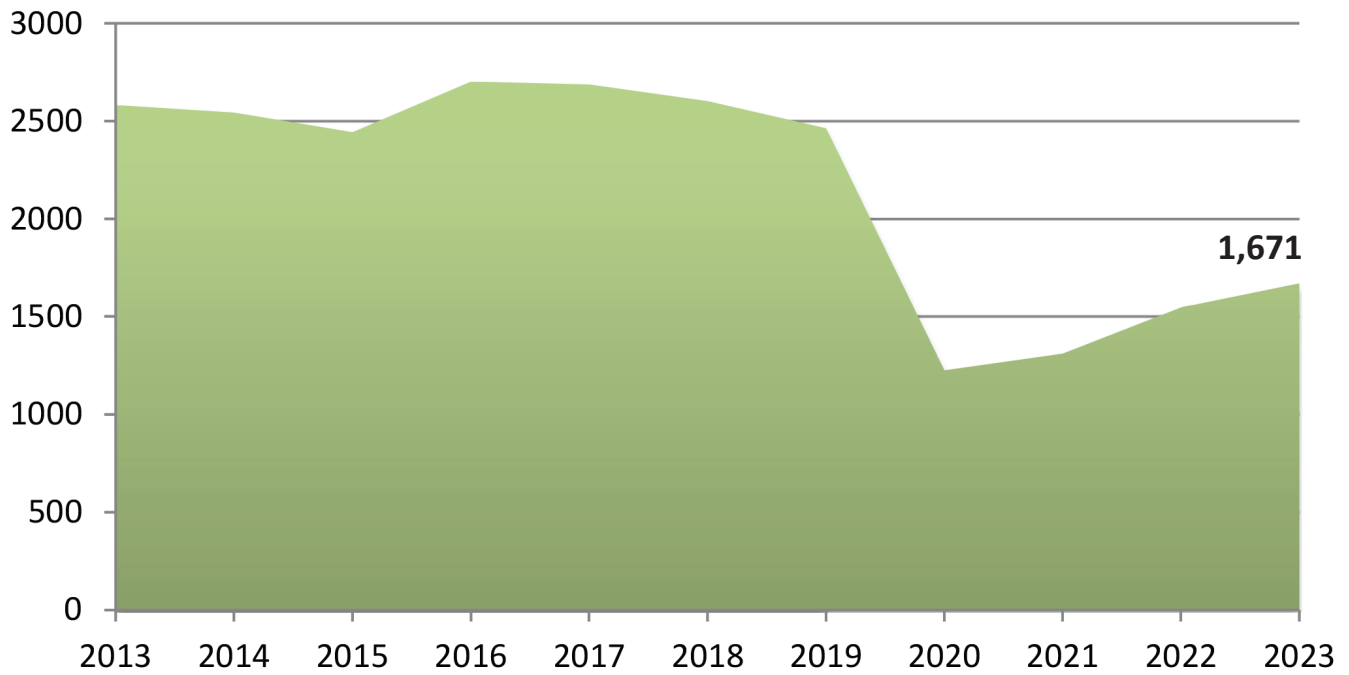
NUMBER OF CALLS BY DAY OF THE WEEK



NUMBER OF CALLS BY HOUR OF THE DAY



NUMBER OF DEPARTMENT ARRESTS

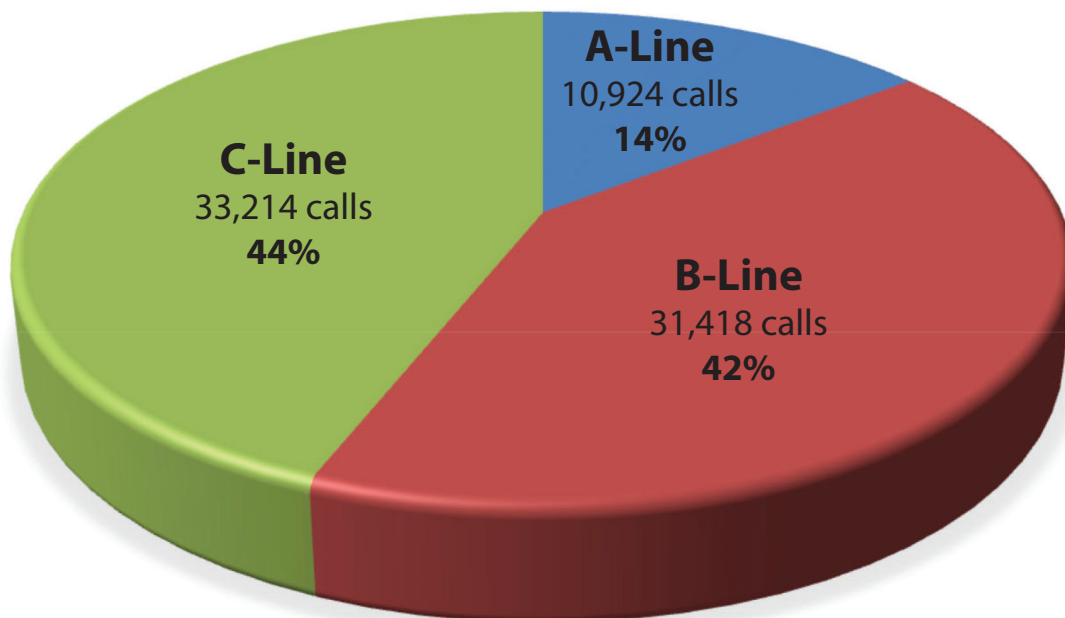


Adult Arrests
1,610 - An increase of 7%

Adolescent Offender Arrests
22 - An increase of 11%

Juvenile Arrests
39 - No change

PERCENTAGE OF CALLS BY SHIFT





Colonie Police Department

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(518) 783-2744
Fax (518) 786-7326

www.colonie.org/departments/police

Supervisor Peter G. Crummey



Town Board:

Kristen Blais
Rick Field
Alvin Gamble

Melissa Jeffers
Jeff Madden
Mark McCumber