



WATSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo: Sgt. Pisturino rescues abducted child (pg.11)

WATSONVILLE

CALIFORNIA

The City of Watsonville is known throughout the world for its long and rich heritage as a center for agriculture, especially berries. What many may not know is that Watsonville is a proving ground for entrepreneurs and businesses from all types of industries and emerging technologies.

Its central location, nestled between the Monterey Bay and the Santa Cruz Mountains, offers growing companies quick and easy highway access while avoiding daily traffic snarls. Watsonville's location is topped only by its ideal climate and rustic, small-town charm of a close-knit community. The Watsonville area offers beaches, mountains, wine, food, activities, and more.

Watsonville is located 95 miles south of San Francisco, at the southern end of Santa Cruz County. It covers 6.6 square miles and has a population of 53,800 (2019). It is a quick 30-minute drive to Monterey and less than an hour from the beautiful Big Sur coastline. Silicon Valley is less than 45 minutes away from our charming town.



Many of the photos used in the following report were provided by:
The Pajaronian, Tarmo Hannula, Steve Kuehl, Carlos Campos

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

It is hard to imagine that just over twelve months ago, the first shelter-in-place restrictions were imposed, setting the stage for an unprecedented year of disasters, turmoil, and tragedy. As I reflect on the events of the past year, I am impressed by the resiliency and tenacity of our community rising above adversity. I am moved by how people, who despite the challenges, came together and supported each other through innovative ideas and acts of compassion.

I am thankful for the hundreds of people, businesses, and non-profits who supported their police department with an outpouring of gifts and prayers. I am humbled by the actions of numerous community members who rallied to our aid to help defend their city against outsiders who wanted to incite violence. I am extremely proud of the work of the men and women of the WPD who, under extremely adverse and difficult circumstances, maintained their professionalism and worked around the clock to keep our community safe.

The intent of this report is to provide you with some insight into the organization of your department, highlight the major events of the previous year, and introduce new or innovative programs.

As you read this report, it is my hope that reviewing the chronology of events gives you cause not just to ruminiate but also prepare for what the future may hold.

It is truly an honor to be your Chief of Police.



DAVID HONDA
CHIEF OF POLICE

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TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

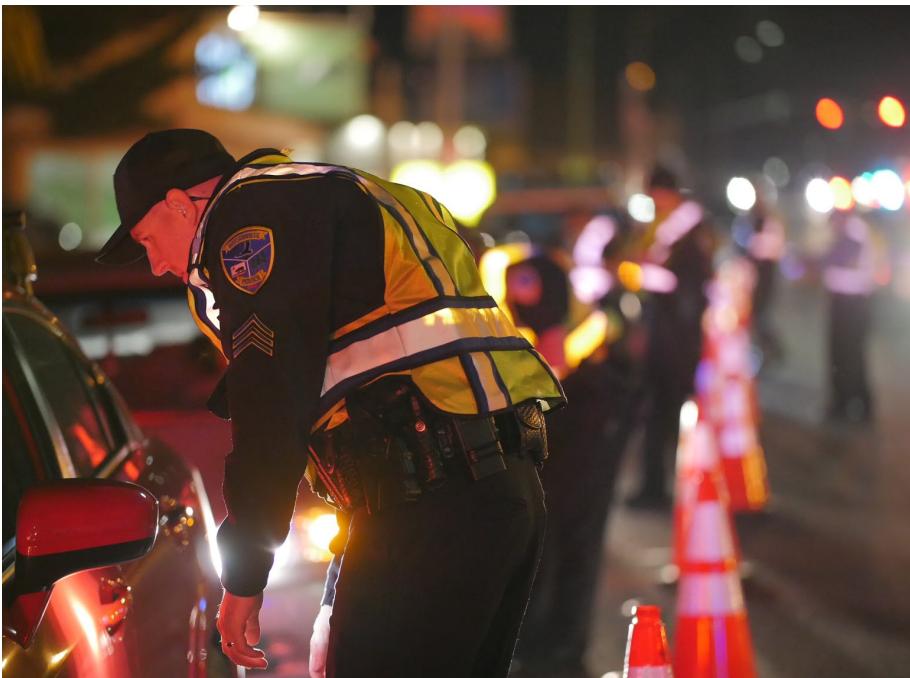


23 DUI DRIVERS ARRESTED JANUARY 2020

The new year started with a Holiday DUI Enforcement Campaign that resulted in 23 arrests. The suspected DUI drivers were also hit with hefty fines of up to \$13,500.

Funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety allowed us to deploy additional officers to look for suspected DUI drivers during the campaign.

The goal of these operations is to increase safety on our roadways by reducing incidents of drunk or drugged driving.



SAFE ENDING TO A DANGEROUS ENCOUNTER JANUARY 2020



As officers responded to a report of a disturbance, dispatchers notified them about a man in the area who had shot off a gun.

They also informed officers the man was wearing a red shirt and waving the gun around. Officers quickly spotted the man and as they approached him, they noticed he was hiding his right hand.

Officers drew their guns and immediately gave him commands to show his hands and drop anything he was holding. The suspect slowly brought his right hand forward, revealing a large revolver that was pointed at the ground. Our officers remained calm and were able to de-escalate the situation.

The man eventually put the gun down and complied with officers' orders. He was arrested.

CONVICTED MURDERER SENTENCED

FEBRUARY 2020

On February 20, convicted murderer Michael Escobar was sentenced to life in prison for a 2014 double murder that sent shockwaves across our community.

Escobar was convicted of killing 4-year-old Jaelyn Zavala and 33-year-old Ramon Rendon during a rival gang shooting.

Jaelyn was inside her family's restaurant when she was struck by a stray bullet fired by Escobar who was outside.



SUSPECTED DRUG DEALER ARRESTED

MARCH 2020



A month's long investigation into reports of drug dealing in a neighborhood led to the arrest of a 31-year-old Watsonville man in March.

Officers served a search warrant at a home on the 100 block of Maple Avenue where they found cocaine and marijuana for sale, five firearms including a stolen handgun, and thousands of dollars in cash.

The suspect was booked into county jail for possession of drugs for sale while being armed with a loaded handgun.

MEASURE Y PUBLIC SAFETY TAX PASSES

MARCH 2020

MEASURE



FOR A VIBRANT AND
SAFE COMMUNITY

In March, an overwhelming majority of Watsonville voters (78.60%) passed Measure Y.

This existing one-half-cent sales tax, formerly known as Measure G, will continue to fund critical police and fire services and include the Parks & Community Services Department as a new partner. The Measure will also maintain and expand afterschool and summer programs for our youth, support youth violence prevention efforts, revitalize our parks and playgrounds, and continue neighborhood police patrols.

The Measure currently funds 11 full-time positions at the police department: seven police officers, one police service specialist, our crime analyst, one property and evidence specialist, and one youth diversion specialist. It also funds eight full-time positions at the fire department: seven firefighters and one administrative assistant.

Since Measure G was enacted in 2014, the funding has also been used by the Fire and Police departments to replace and upgrade aging equipment and technology, including fire engines, a tiller/ladder truck, patrol vehicles, police body-worn cameras, and more. The funding will continue to support those efforts while also providing funding to the City's Parks and Community Services Department to hire more staff, increase youth services, and upgrade equipment at our parks.

Measure Y funded the Police Activities League (PAL), a youth prevention program that relies on educational, athletic, and other recreational activities to increase the bond between police officers, recreation leaders, youth and their parents. At the start of 2020, PAL provided programming such as outdoor sports, self-defense classes, arts and crafts, group outings at beaches and parks, and movie nights. COVID-19 halted programming in early March, which led to the development of virtual opportunities for youth. In July 2020, the PAL division was transferred to the General Fund; however, while funded by the measure, PAL was able to serve a total of 744 youth.

Measure Y also funds our Caminos Hacia el Éxito Program, a diversion program for Watsonville youth who commit a misdemeanor first offense. The program uses evidence-based approaches to hold youth accountable for their actions. Of the youth who completed the program successfully, 86% remain arrest-free.

A citizen's oversight committee continues to review the City's use of the funds to verify they are used only for the stated public safety, parks and recreation purposes. City financial statements are made available to the city's website to disclose how much is collected and how it's spent.

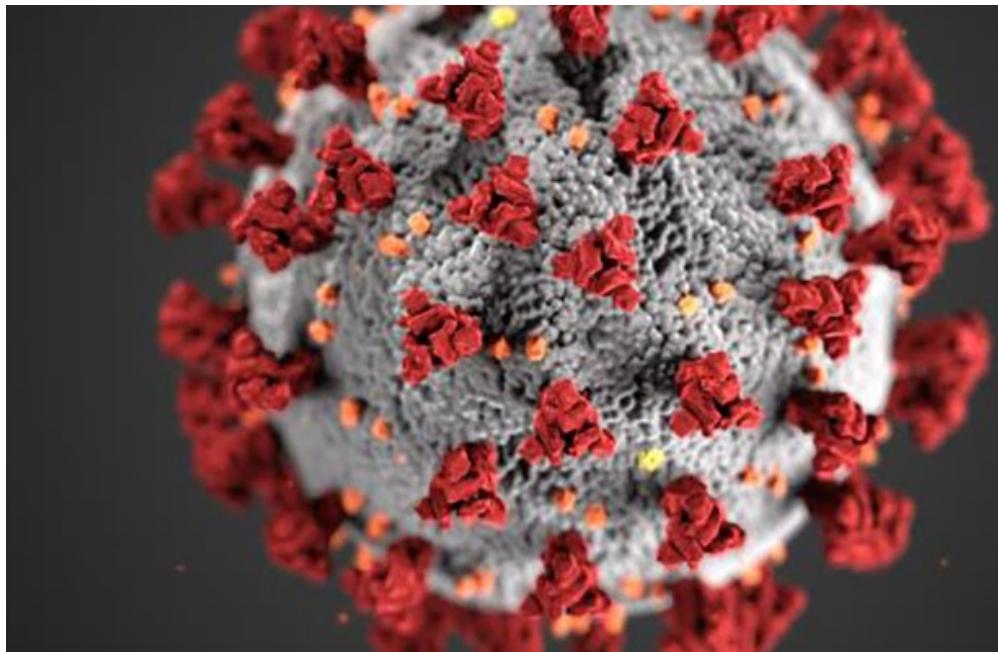
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

MARCH 2020

By mid-March, the City of Watsonville had officially declared a local health emergency over the COVID-19 pandemic.

Declaring the health emergency allowed the City to access funding to help fight the outbreak.

At the time, only four positive cases had been confirmed in the county.



SHELTER IN PLACE/MASK MANDATE

APRIL 2020



Santa Cruz County was among several counties in the state to issue a Stay-at-Home order on March 16. The order intended to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and only permitted essential businesses to remain open.

Under the county order, non-essential businesses were mandated to shut their doors.

By the end of April, the Santa Cruz County health officer had issued a new order requiring all residents older than 12 to wear a face covering when out in public. The State of California adopted a similar mandate in November.

A Regional Stay-At-Home Order was issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on December 3.

Our enforcement efforts have always focused on an educational approach. To avoid issuing any citations or potential criminal charges, residents and business owners were asked to voluntarily comply with the orders.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CYBER TIP

APRIL 2020

A cyber tip forwarded to the Watsonville Police Department landed a 25-year-old man in jail for possession and distribution of child pornography.

WPD detectives launched an investigation after the Silicon Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) sent us information regarding a video posted online of a young girl being sexually assaulted by a man. The origin of the video remains unknown; however, our investigation led us to the suspect who admitted to having and sharing the video with others on a social media group.

The suspect was arrested exactly a week after ICAC forwarded us the cyber tip on April 9. The Watsonville Police Department is a member of the Silicon Valley ICAC Task Force, which is managed by the San José Police Department.



2017 ATTEMPTED MURDER SUSPECT ARRESTED

MAY 2020



A third suspect connected to a 2017 gang-related attempted murder in Watsonville was taken into custody on May 21.

WPD detectives received new information linking the suspect to the 2017 shooting on Roosevelt Street, where two suspects shot at a man multiple times.

The suspect, a known gang member, was the getaway driver who helped the shooters flee the area the day of the shooting.

PUSH FOR POLICE REFORM

MAY 2020

Police misconduct is disturbing. May 25, 2020, and the events which took place after George Floyd's killing were corrosive to all law enforcement officers across the country. The officers' actions on that day were excessive, unreasonable, and unacceptable to anyone who values morals and human decency. This tragedy was the catalyst to national unrest, which included protesting, rioting, and an outcry for police reform. To say that law enforcement was under the microscope is an understatement.

This event propelled us further into the realm of effective action, vulnerability, and true community connection. However, we must have the courage to self-reflect, acknowledge our deficiencies and use them as leverage for growth. Undertaking some of the social issues, which are the most vexing, intransigent, and problematic to the police and community is a daunting and ongoing task. These problems are not one-dimensional and require communal thought and effective action. Solutions must be feasible, realistic, sustainable, and must be inclusive.

While a mutual agreement is not always achieved, our collective goal is one in the same, the pursuit of justice and truth. We must overlook our differences and work collectively in the service of a thriving community. Good police work does not occur without a healthy community.

POLICING & SOCIAL EQUITY AD HOC COMMITTEE

By mid-year, the City of Watsonville and the Watsonville Police Department began to develop the Policing and Social Equity Ad Hoc Committee to increase community trust and police accountability.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Policing and Social Equity creates an opportunity for members of the community to share their thoughts and experience around policing and community services in Watsonville, share ideas regarding the future of policing, and achieve greater social equity in Watsonville. The City received 26 applications from Watsonville residents by the August 14, 2020 application deadline.

On September 18, 2020, the City of Watsonville selected 12 residents to serve on the committee. Committee members will serve for a period of no more than 12 months and will be expected to serve approximately 8 -10 hours per month.



POLICING & SOCIAL EQUITY

AD HOC COMMITTEE

The City of Watsonville is pleased to announce the names of the twelve selected citizens who will serve on the Policing and Social Equity Ad Hoc Committee.

La Ciudad de Watsonville se complace en anunciar los nombres de los doce ciudadanos seleccionados que formarán parte del Comité Ad Hoc de Policía y Equidad Social.

Jeffrey Tillery, Debbie Israel, Celeste Gutierrez, Bobby Marchessault, Kristal Salcido, Mariana Juarez, Jorge Duque, Jenny Sarmiento, Eric Sturm, Jen Salinas-Holz, Miria Ramos, and Anissa Balderas



THE DAY OUR COMMUNITY LOST A HERO

JUNE 2020

June 6, 2020, is a day our community will never forget; it's the day we lost a true hero who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting and serving our communities.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller, 38, was killed in the line of duty after he and other deputies were ambushed with gunfire and explosives as they investigated reports of a suspicious vehicle in Ben Lomond.

A second sheriff's deputy and a California Highway Patrol officer were also shot. Both recovered from their injuries. The suspect was taken into custody and is currently awaiting trial.

"When you think about what you want to see in a police officer- compassion and caring, somebody who truly loves his job, who wants to help people, that's what Damon was. He was a good man and a good police officer," said Santa Cruz County Sheriff Jim Hart.

Gutzwiller worked for the sheriff's office since 2006 and is survived by his wife and young children.

Rest easy, brother.



ATTEMPTED MURDER SUSPECT TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

JUNE 2020



A suspect in a double shooting on Cereze Street that left a woman and teen girl in critical condition was arrested.

Watsonville police detectives tracked down the suspect in his hometown of Los Banos.

The Merced County Sheriff's Office and Los Banos Police Department took the suspect into custody less than eight hours after the June 14 shooting. A dispute between the suspect and his girlfriend's family resulted in the shooting.

The victims survived the shooting but the teen girl remains paralyzed.

ONE-YEAR-OLD GIRL RESCUED

JULY 2020

A father who abruptly took his one-year-old daughter from her mother's home in the wee hours of the morning was arrested following an hours-long standoff in the outskirts of Watsonville on July 20.

That morning, the suspect was involved in a hit-and-run crash and vehicle pursuit with the California Highway Patrol while his daughter was unrestrained inside of his vehicle. The pursuit was terminated for the child's safety as the suspect continued over Highway 17 into Santa Clara County. Later that afternoon, our detectives located the suspect and child inside of a parked lifted truck at a ranch off of Riverside Road after receiving a tip from an alert community member.

After spending hours trying to convince the suspect to release his daughter, our Special Response Team deployed distractionary devices and broke out the windows of the truck to rescue the child and arrest her father. The suspect was booked into the county jail and formally charged with child abduction, child endangerment, resisting arrest, and other charges.



CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX WILDFIRES

AUGUST 2020



Massive fires sparked by lightning on August 16 caused widespread devastation in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, forcing nearly 70,000 area residents to evacuate.

By August 21, the City of Watsonville officially declared a Local State of Emergency due to the August CZU Lightning Complex wildfires. The City quickly deployed mutual aid to the county and communities directly impacted by this natural disaster.

From the onset of the fires, Watsonville Police Department sent dozens of officers, around the clock every day, to assist with evacuations, respond to law enforcement-related calls, such as burglary reports and security checks, and to patrol the evacuated zones. Our assistance continued 24/7 until September 7, when the fires were mostly contained and the affected areas were allowed to repopulate.

The fires were fully extinguished by the end of December. In total, 86,509 acres burned, 1,490 structures were destroyed and one fatality was reported.



MAN ARRESTED FOR IN-PROGRESS RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY AUGUST 2020



Terrifying moments for a Watsonville teen who hid in a bedroom and called 9-1-1 to report a man breaking into her home.

Officers quickly responded to this residential burglary in-progress on High Street on August 21. As they were setting up a perimeter, the burglar rushed out the back gate only to be surprised by an officer.

The 26-year-old was arrested on the spot.

The suspect was arrested on a burglary charge, had a warrant out for his arrest for a previous burglary, and was on probation for burglary.



ROOFTOP BURGLAR CAPTURED AUGUST 2020



A repeat offender dubbed the “rooftop burglar” was caught in the act and taken into custody. This serial burglar is known for breaking into buildings through rooftops.

During his August 25 stint, K-9 Axel found him hiding on the second floor of Cabrillo College. Surveillance footage caught the man crawling up the side of the building before making his way to the roof. Prior to his arrest, detectives had already linked him to another rooftop burglary at a Salud Para La Gente medical clinic.

A year earlier, our officers arrested the same suspect for committing at least five rooftop burglaries during the course of a month.

OFFICERS SEIZE GUNS & DRUGS FROM GANG MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Three guns, 126 grams of methamphetamine, 38 grams of heroin, and prescription pills were taken off the streets and out of the hands of gang members.

On September 8, officers were patrolling the levee near Main Street when they spotted a group of men with open beer containers. As they approached, the group took off running. During the short foot pursuit, the suspects attempted to get rid of their guns.

Officers eventually detained the suspects and located the guns following an area search. A backpack full of drugs, cash, and drug paraphernalia was also found. Three suspects were booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail.



TWIN BROTHERS ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER

SEPTEMBER 2020



Twin brothers suspected of attempted murder in Watsonville were taken into custody. The 27-year-old suspects are accused of stabbing two men on the 100 block of Grant Avenue on August 30.



Four days after the gang-related stabbing, the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force arrested one of the brothers in Watsonville. The second suspect was nabbed by our detectives and SIU officers in San José on September 10.

Both were booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail on attempted murder charges.

WATSONVILLE WOMAN, 24, MURDERED BY HUSBAND OCTOBER 2020

A young mother's life was tragically cut short following a domestic dispute with her husband.

On the morning of October 15, the 24-year-old victim was reported missing by her family members. A few hours later, officers located her body inside of her parked vehicle in Soquel. Her husband was the primary suspect in this case and was the last person to see her alive. The Santa Cruz County Coroner's Office determined the victim's cause of death was blunt-force head injuries and mechanical asphyxia.

Detectives obtained a warrant for his arrest and were confident the 47-year-old suspect had fled the country. Five days after the murder, he was taken into custody after re-entering the United States from the Mexican border.

Watsonville police detectives traveled to the San Ysidro Port of Entry and transported him straight back to Santa Cruz County Jail where he is currently awaiting trial.



THREE SEPARATE SHOOTINGS RESULT IN TWO HOMICIDES OCTOBER 2020

On the night of October 24, Watsonville police detectives investigated three separate shootings that resulted in two deaths. The first shooting occurred in the area of E. Front and Marchant streets.

A 44-year-old man was shot multiple times and transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The case appeared to have gang ties.

Hours later, officers received reports of a second shooting on Main Street and Pennsylvania Drive. A 26-year-old was shot and transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. It was unknown if the case was gang-related.

Shortly before midnight, officers responded to a third shooting on Blackbird Circle. They were unable to locate a victim at the scene. They were later notified that a shooting victim had arrived at the hospital and was in critical condition. The case appeared to be gang-related. The investigations into these shootings remain active.



CAR THEFT SUSPECTS ARRESTED WITH HELP OF OFF-DUTY OFFICER NOVEMBER 2020

Two men accused of stealing an SUV were arrested after an off-duty Watsonville police officer spotted the pair casing vehicles in a neighborhood on November 9. The off-duty officer called in the suspicious activity and provided officers a description and location of the suspects.

Responding officers found the stolen SUV parked with both suspects inside. The suspects were arrested for vehicle and petty theft.

One of the suspects faced an additional charge for obstructing and resisting an officer.



ATTEMPTED MURDER SUSPECT ARRESTED FOLLOWING LATE NOVEMBER STABBING DECEMBER 2020



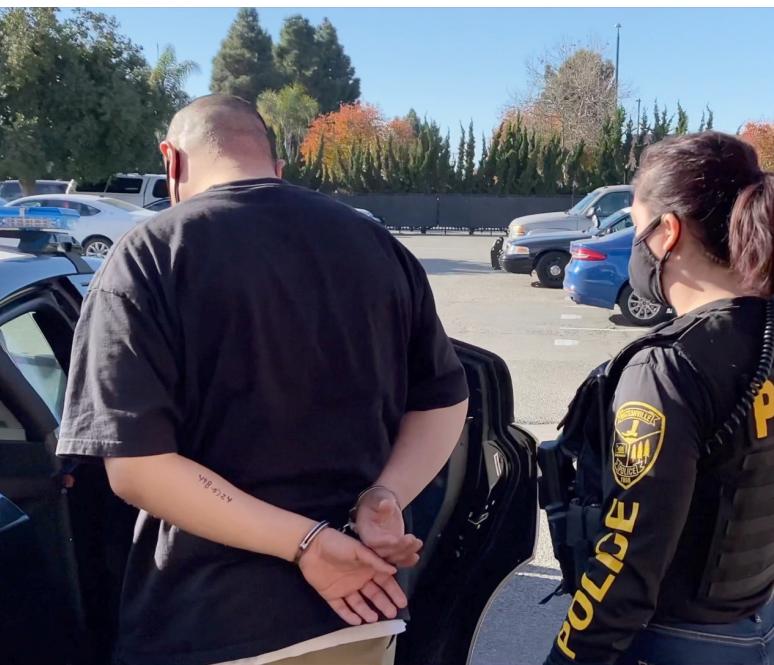
An attempted murder suspect was taken into custody following a late November stabbing.

The 24-year-old suspect was arrested by detectives during a search warrant service at his home on December 10.

He is accused of stabbing a 21-year-old man in the area of Maranatha Drive. The victim was taken to the hospital in critical condition but later recovered from his injuries.

We believed the stabbing was a result of a personal dispute between the suspect and the victim.

SUSPECT FACING VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER CHARGES AFTER THROWING DEADLY PUNCH DECEMBER 2020



Officers arrested a suspect in connection with the tragic death of a 43-year-old Watsonville man. The suspect is accused of punching the victim at a fast-food restaurant on the 100 block of Main Street on December 2.

The victim was taken to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on December 9.

Surveillance video at the scene captured the single deadly punch being thrown by the suspect and the victim immediately collapsing. Detectives found evidence at the scene, which was quickly analyzed by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Forensic Unit, leading them to identify the suspect.

Officers arrested the 30-year-old suspect as he was leaving his home on December 9.

TRAFFIC UNIT INVESTIGATES FATAL TRAFFIC COLLISION DECEMBER 2020

Our Traffic Unit was called to the scene of a fatal collision on the 1400 block of W. Beach Street the morning of December 15.

A 42-year-old man was partially in the westbound lane pushing a cart full of recyclables when he was struck and killed by a Volvo station wagon.

The driver, a 22-year-old man, did not see the pedestrian until it was too late to react. He stayed at the scene of the crash and immediately called 9-1-1. DUI and cell phone use did not appear to be a factor in the collision.





UNITS/DIVISIONS

PATROL

K-9

Detective Bureau

Parking Enforcement

SRT

CSI

Negotiation
Team

SIU

SCCACT

SCARE

Professional Standards
Division

POLICE SERVICE
SPECIALISTS

CARE

Office of the Chief

CRIME ANALYST

Records Unit

EVIDENCE UNIT

Special Operations
Division

FIELD OPERATIONS
DIVISION

Traffic Unit

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Executive Assistant provides direct support to the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, and department managers; maintains confidential records and personnel files, compiles data to assist in preparing reports and inter-office correspondence, prepares and transcribes staff meeting agendas/minutes, calendar and appointment management, payroll entry, process department invoices and manages the security alarm billing program.

FISCAL MANAGER

The Fiscal Manager coordinates and monitors the annual budget; facilitates the acquisition of goods and services; processes accounts payable and accounts receivable; applies for and administers grants and contracts; and manages the alarm program.

POLICE MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

The Police Media & Communications Specialist is the official spokesperson for the department; serves as the social media administrator; works with the media on stories about police-related issues, services, programs and events, prepares content for dissemination to the media and the community.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

CRIME ANALYST

Our Crime Analyst is responsible for providing information and assistance to police officers, investigators, and the community through local and wide area networks, computerized police department systems, and regional criminal justice systems.

EVIDENCE UNIT

Evidence Unit Technicians receive, quality check, duplicate, transport, account for, and ultimately dispose of unclaimed property and all contraband including narcotics and firearms. The Evidence Unit is responsible for maintaining the integrity of every item received.

RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit provides criminal information to law enforcement agencies and the public to aid in an investigation and comply with the customer's right to know.

PATROL DIVISION



The Patrol Division is the backbone for all police-related services in the City and is the largest segment of the Watsonville Police Department. It consists of two captains, eight sergeants, and 32 officers.

Officers patrol the city and respond to calls for service in traditional marked police vehicles twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week to help deter crime and to ensure a high quality of life.

Officers are focused on service with compassion, integrity, and professionalism with community safety and security as the goal.



In 2020, patrol officers responded to 55,047 calls for service including 9-1-1 calls, medical emergencies, crimes in progress, civilian concerns, requests for assistance, vehicle traffic collisions, and a variety of other emergency and non-emergency requests.

Patrol officers also made 1,409 felony and misdemeanor arrests for crimes ranging from simple property crimes to serious violent crimes.

K-9 UNIT

Police dogs have been used by the Watsonville Police Department since 1986. Over the years, we've used police dogs that are trained in the apprehension of suspects who are wanted for serious crimes, narcotics detection, tracking, evidence recovery, handler protection, building searches, and area searches.

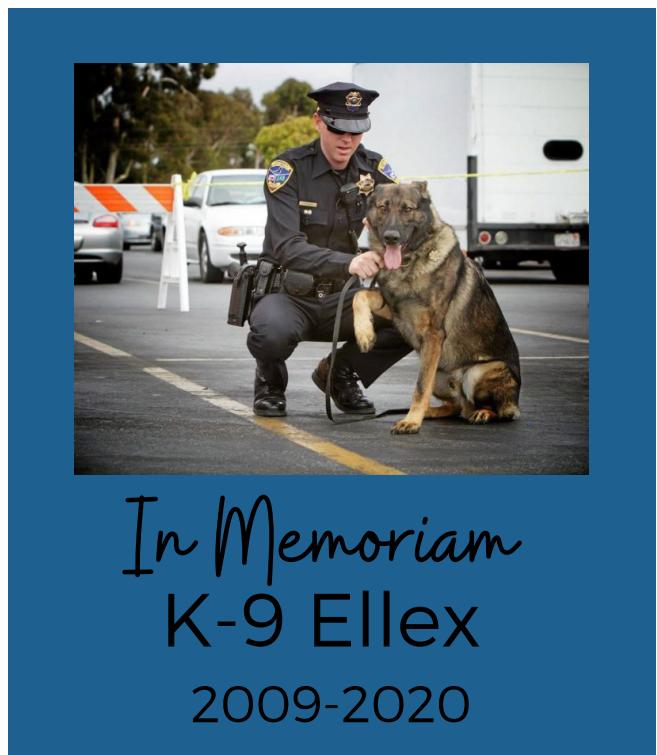


K-9 AXEL

K-9 RANGER

In 2020, we had two police dogs assigned to K-9 Officers working on patrol for 7 days per week coverage; K-9 Ranger and K-9 Axel, both of whom are self-proclaimed fan favorites. When they were not busy working, they enjoyed participating in community demonstrations and our first-ever virtual K-9 demo. Our K-9 Unit also assists our Special Response Team during tactical operations.

K-9 Ranger retired at the end of 2020. Retired police dog K-9 Ellex was put down in May after he was diagnosed with myelopathy, causing his health to deteriorate drastically.



In Memoriam
K-9 Ellex
2009-2020

TRAFFIC UNIT

The primary duty of the Traffic Unit is the enforcement of traffic laws in order to reduce traffic collisions, their resulting injuries, and to facilitate the safe and expedient flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Additionally, the Traffic Unit is responsible for investigating major injury and fatal traffic collisions. These efforts result in safer streets, fewer fatalities, injuries, and reduced property damage.



In 2020, the Traffic Unit investigated four fatal traffic collisions. There were 422 collisions in the city, 109 of which were injury collisions. Overall, collisions in 2020 were down from 476 in 2019 to 422.

The Traffic Unit also administered two grants through the California Office of Traffic Safety focusing on increased enforcement and community outreach.

CRISIS ASSESSMENT RESPONSE & ENGAGEMENT TEAM (CARE)



The Crisis Assessment Response & Engagement team is a collaborative effort between the Watsonville Police Department and the County of Santa Cruz Behavioral Health Services.

The mission of the team is to provide a coordinated, professional, and compassionate police response to families, and individuals affected by mental illness. When an officer receives a call for service involving a person in a mental crisis, he or she can respond to the call with a mental health liaison, who will assist the officer at the scene. Taking this approach allows the officer to focus on the safety issues, while the liaison focuses on the clinical needs of the individual, and assists with ensuring that the mental health crisis is addressed with the most appropriate service.

This team consists of two full-time Watsonville police officers and one Santa Cruz County mental health clinician/liaison. In 2020, the CARE Team was able to get help/treatment for more than 300 individuals in our community.

DETECTIVE BUREAU

Our Detective Bureau consists of one detective-sergeant and six detectives.

The primary duties of our detectives are to investigate crimes for which they are specially trained: three detectives are assigned to follow-up on sexual assault investigations, one detective is assigned to follow-up on persons crimes, one detective is assigned to follow-up on gang crimes and testify as the department's gang expert, and the remaining detective is assigned to investigate property crimes.



When major crimes occur, it is not uncommon for all of our detectives to collaborate on those investigations. In 2020, our detectives followed-up on hundreds of cases, including four homicides that occurred in the city during the year.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (SIU)

The purpose of the Special Investigations Unit is to take a proactive and progressive approach to suppress crime. The unit's daily responsibilities include proactive street-level enforcement, crime suppression, and community engagement.

Special Investigations Unit officers investigate law violations connected to narcotics, firearms, and gangs. SIU also assists our detectives with operational planning, background, surveillance, collecting intelligence, and fugitive apprehension. Often, the unit is tasked with preparing and executing search and arrest warrants on targeted locations and suspects.

In 2020, the unit seized more than two kilos of heroin, 48 guns and recovered nearly two dozen stolen vehicles. Members of the unit also arrested two attempted murder suspects and assisted the Detective Bureau on all their homicides and violent crimes.

Prior to the pandemic, SIU, in collaboration with the Santa Cruz County Probation Department, hosted a workshop on gang education and prevention for non-profits and community-based organizations, school staff from Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and the County Office of Education.



SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)

Our Special Response Team was formed in 2016 and has 18 members who are specially trained to perform a variety of advanced duties.

The team trains together monthly and is on-call 24/7 to handle high-risk search warrant services, resolve situations involving barricaded suspects, conduct hostage rescues, and any other needs that arise which exceed the response capabilities of our patrol officers. They also assist other agencies when called upon for tactical operations.



In 2020, SRT was deployed 10 times; four being pre-planned high-risk search warrant services, one barricaded suspect incident, one hostage rescue incident, and four outside agency assists.

CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM (CNT)

The primary objective of the Crisis Negotiation Team is to provide a support element of specially trained negotiators, to assist the Special Response Team in safely managing situations including, but not limited to the following:



1. Hostage situations
2. Barricaded persons
3. Suicidal persons
4. Terrorist acts
5. Anticipated barricaded or hostage situations such as during a planned high-risk arrest/search warrant

The Crisis Negotiation Team is separate from the Special Response Team but works hand-in-hand with them during tactical responses. The Crisis Negotiation Team has been very successful in enabling tense situations to be resolved without the use of force.

SANTA CRUZ AUTO THEFT REDUCTION & ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE (SCARE)



The Auto Theft Task Force was established in 1998 and provides services primarily throughout Santa Cruz County. The task force is supervised by the California Highway Patrol and operated by the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office.

The team is composed of officers, deputies, and investigators from local jurisdictions. Their primary function is to recover stolen vehicles, investigate suspected auto theft operations, and educate local auto body shop owners about criminal practices.

Although the task force had a very challenging year as many did in law enforcement, they recorded a very productive year.

The team conducted 172 investigations through the fiscal year related to auto theft recovery and recovered 63 stolen vehicles throughout the county, totaling over \$1,016,000 in value. The team arrested 36 people involved in their investigations. Two separate chop shop investigations resulted in numerous stolen vehicles recovered and several arrests. One chop shop was located in the Santa Cruz Mountains and the other was in Watsonville.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ANTI-CRIME TEAM (SCCACT)

The Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team is a local multi-agency task force composed of personnel and other resources from law enforcement agencies in Santa Cruz County, including the Watsonville Police Department.

The Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office supervises and operates the team. The focus of the team is to prevent and reduce violent crimes and narcotics trafficking and apprehend suspects responsible for those crimes. Over the course of the year, SCCACT provided investigative services to all the law enforcement jurisdictions in the county. The team had more than 250 deployments in the county in 2020 to help support 10 different local jurisdictions with their investigations and to conduct proactive enforcement.

Specifically, in the area of gang-motivated crimes and narcotics trafficking crimes, SCCACT members were responsible for 34 arrests and seized 28 firearms that were possessed illegally along with other dangerous weapons. SCCACT conducted several narcotics-related investigations that led to the seizure of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and other controlled substances.

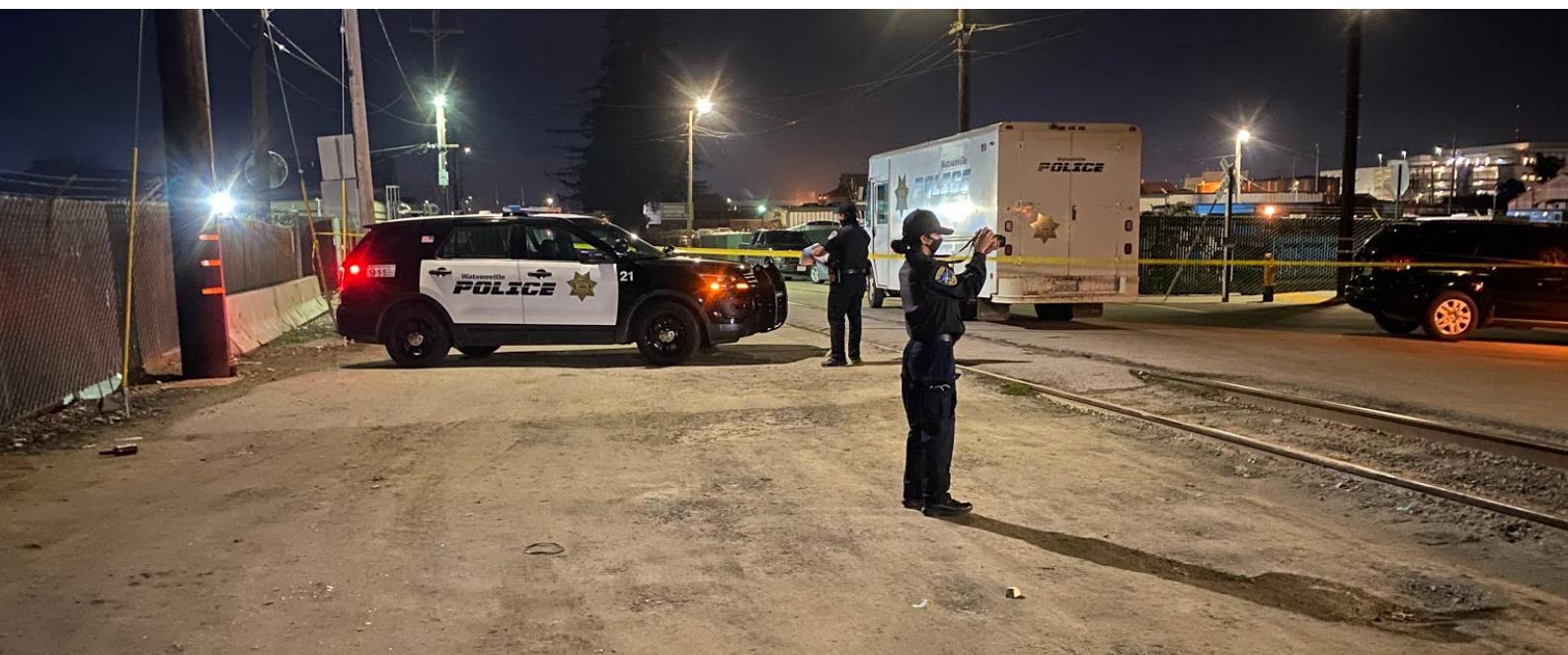


CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (CSI)

Our Crime Scene Investigations Unit consists of officers and police service specialists who have advanced training and equipment to process crime scenes.

They are on-call around the clock to respond to incidents where their expertise is required.

During 2020, our CSI team was used to process three homicide scenes and nearly a dozen other locations where violent crimes occurred.

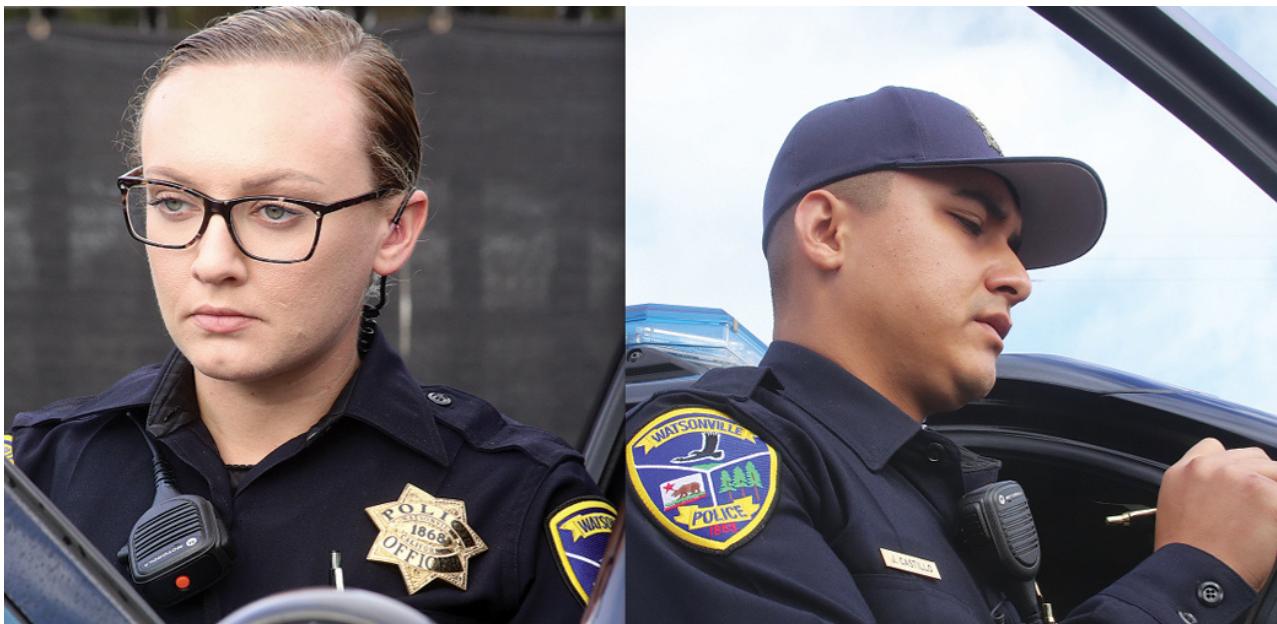


All of our CSI personnel are trained to collect trace evidence, which includes but is not limited to: fingerprints, hair, bodily fluids, DNA, and gunshot residue.

They package the evidence in a way that preserves it for testing at a crime laboratory.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION (PSD)

The Professional Standards Division has the responsibility of investigating all allegations of misconduct by members of the Department, and to review and adjudicate all minor complaints which are handled by supervisors. Allegations made against members of the Watsonville Police Department are thoroughly and objectively investigated. PSD also has the responsibility to oversee all department training and that all training records are maintained for uniformed and professional staff. Recruiting and hiring is also an area of responsibility that is overseen by PSD.



Recruitment: Our recruitment unit actively provides information and application assistance to candidates applying for positions at the police department. Recruiters are committed to connecting with qualified individuals with a desire to serve the City of Watsonville.

In 2020, the police department hired three new officers, while nine officers separated from the department, and one retired. Due to the pandemic and not knowing the economic impact the City was going to experience, recruiting and hiring were placed on hold for eight months. Recruiting and hiring resumed in October of 2020.

Training: Because the pandemic placed tremendous restrictions on our day-to-day operations, we missed department training for the months of March and April.

Despite this challenge, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) recognized our department for continuing to stay ahead of the industry norm by providing 99% of department members with Perishable Skills Program (PSP) training and additional advanced training to help department members do their job safely and competently. Some of this training included firearms competency and qualifications, tactical communication/de-escalation techniques, driving competency and qualifications, legal updates, and responding to calls involving students with special needs.

POLICE SERVICE SPECIALISTS (PSS)



The Police Service Specialists Unit is assigned to the Patrol Division. They support patrol staff by responding to calls for service involving past tense property-related crimes, assisting with traffic control and road closures, towing abandoned vehicles, and helping search for missing persons.

In 2020, police service specialists were responsible for placing tow warning notices on 1,432 vehicles, and for completing 318 investigative reports.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT UNIT



The Parking Enforcement Unit is responsible for enforcing posted parking regulations to improve compliance with local and state regulations. Parking may be restricted in certain areas for safety reasons, near crosswalks, intersections, and narrow or high volume roadways. Parking time limits may be set to support the needs or may be reserved for special uses, such as individuals with disabilities and bus zones.

Parking Control Unit officers may issue citations when they observe regulation violations. They also provide enforcement in school zones, time-restricted zones, loading zones, no parking zones, disabled parking, permit zones, and fire zones.

Parking enforcement efforts were temporarily suspended during the early stages of the Stay-at-Home order.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



MONARCH SERVICES AND CAB



Monarch Services

Through the years, Monarch Services has partnered with law enforcement in providing essential services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

The agency provides approximately 1,500 victims yearly in Santa Cruz County with services ranging from counseling, crisis intervention programs, emergency shelters, and legal services to name a few.

The advocate services provided to victims are available 24 hours 7 days a week. Oftentimes, the services are coordinated through law enforcement when these crimes are reported to the police. The advocates have played an essential role with law enforcement in explaining to victims the process, interviewing, and providing resources that help in dealing with such traumatic incidents.

One area in which Monarch Services has had a huge impact is in their participation with the Multidisciplinary Interview Center for Child Victims and Witnesses also known as the "SKY Center." This is a safe, child-friendly place where child victims and witnesses can talk with law enforcement as well as family and children's services professionals about their experience.

Monarch Services provide empathetic professionals who help reduce trauma to the victim and provide aftercare options that law enforcement often cannot provide. This service has been an invaluable resource when law enforcement officers are dealing with victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

Community Action Board (CAB)

The Watsonville Police Department and the Community Action Board have been in partnership for nearly two decades. Recently, CAB and officers from the WPD served as members of the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force (YVPTF), whose goals were to curb violence and the trauma associated with it.

CAB also proved to be a pivotal partner in our "Agua con la Chota" program (Water with a Cop) and the Youth and Police Dialogues. We are intentional in communicating our role as it relates to immigration laws and in alleviating the fear of deportation if contacted by the police.

Our collective work has been instrumental in helping members of this community build trusting relationships with officers of the Watsonville Police Department.



Community Action Board
of Santa Cruz County, Inc.



Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA)

The mission of Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance is to improve the quality of life of the students and families of the Pajaro Valley by providing health education, mental health counseling, substance abuse and prevention services, and by advocating for public policies that protect the health of our community.

The Watsonville Police Department has had a longstanding involvement with PVPSA, which includes our Chief of Police David Honda serving on the board of directors.

Our department works closely with PVPSA to help prevent and reduce criminal behavior, gang involvement, truancy, and drug, alcohol, and tobacco use among youth. The nonprofit agency has also played an important role in our restorative youth program, Caminos Hacia el Éxito. The following is a list of services PVPSA provides to Caminos Hacia Éxito:

- CASE MANAGEMENT**
- COUNSELING SERVICES**
- GUIDING GOOD CHOICES**
- STRENGTHENING FAMILY THERAPY**
- COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY**
- BRIEF STRATEGIC FAMILY THERAPY**
- 7 CHALLENGES**
- SUMMER GROUPS**
- SAFETY FIRST WORKSHOPS**
- TOO GOOD FOR DRUGS**

JACOB'S HEART, KATZ CANCER RESOURCE CENTER & WPAL



They're known as the beard brigade and every year between July and September they have one mission—raise funds to support local children with cancer.

This fundraising effort began in 2015 as a way for the Watsonville Police Department to give back to the community. Officers partnered with Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services in Watsonville and came up with the beard brigade concept.

For three months, the department suspends its facial hair policy for officers who donate at least \$100 to the organization. The beards serve as conversation starters, giving officers the opportunity to talk to community members about Jacob's Heart and the services and support it offers to local families.

More than \$6,000 was raised by the Watsonville Police Officers' Association and the community in 2020.

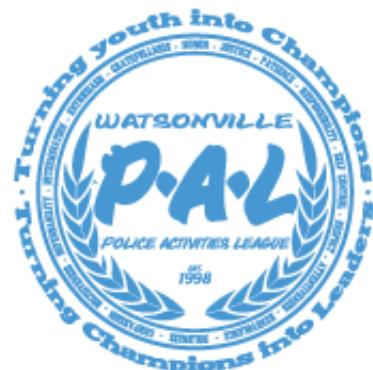


The Katz Cancer Resource Center

Every year in October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Watsonville Police Pink Patch Project campaign raises money for the Katz Cancer Resource Center to help local families who cannot afford breast cancer treatment and/or services.

Part of our awareness efforts includes officers wearing a specially designed pink patch on their uniforms, a brightly wrapped pink police cruiser, and the sale of official Watsonville Police Pink Patch Project merchandise.

Despite the many challenges the campaign faced amidst the coronavirus pandemic, nearly \$14,000 was donated to the center in 2020. A total of \$48,525 has been raised by our department's campaign since 2017.



At the start of 2020, the Watsonville Police Activities League was working to continue expanding its collaboration with local schools and agencies.

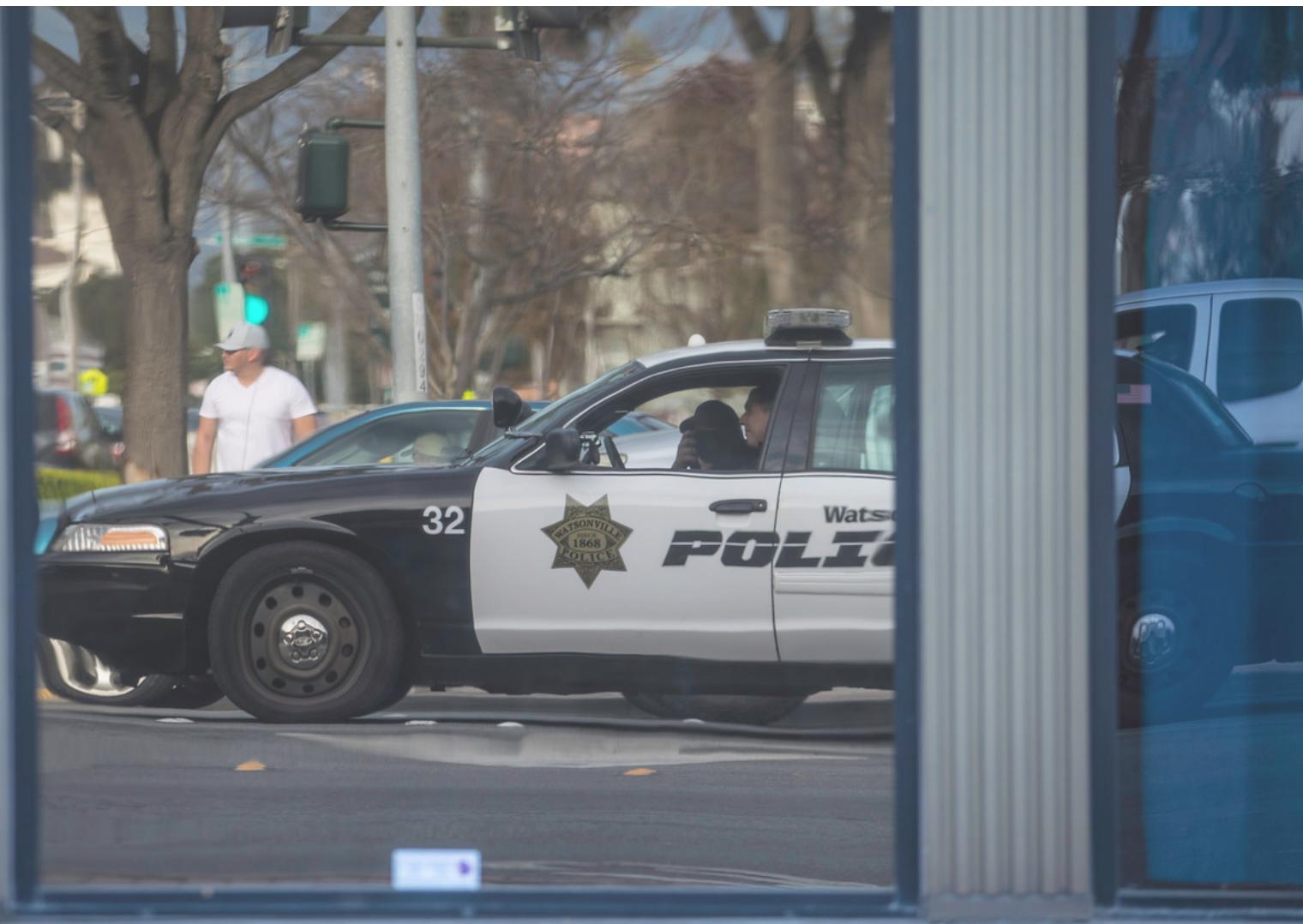
One amazing partnership they established was with Rolling Hills Middle School. With this partnership, WPAL was on campus every Friday during lunch to provide activities to the students. They hosted games, made slime, handcrafted Mother's Day cards, and even held a pie-eating contest with the school principal.

In addition to lunchtime activities, the WPAL team helped support Saturday activities on campus to more than 100 students. As one group of youth was completing assignments, another group was outside playing sports, playing games, and getting crafty. Lastly, the team was collaborating directly with the school's student leadership group to help support fundraisers and school dances.

WPAL was in the process of building a similar partnership with E.A. Hall Middle School when the COVID-19 pandemic struck.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



CAMINOS HACIA EL ÉXITO

Caminos Hacia el Éxito is a diversion program offered to eligible Watsonville youth between the ages of 10-17 who have been cited or arrested for a first-time misdemeanor offense.

Caminos uses evidence-based approaches to hold youth accountable for their actions. Youth who agree to participate in the program must complete the following requirements; community service hours, pro-social hours, attend weekly or bi-weekly meetings with their assigned case manager, attend a five to eight-week parenting series with their parents, and counseling (if applicable).



This year was challenging for many across the board as a result of COVID-19. It created fear, uncertainty, and unprecedented outcomes. However, despite the pandemic, Caminos was able to continue providing services to former and current families virtually & via phone communication. Our goal was to focus on ensuring that the families' basic and individual needs were met by conducting weekly check-ins. Through this, we learned that many families had their work hours reduced, loss of jobs, food insecurity, no access to Wi-Fi, and unable to pay rent & utilities. Listed below are some of the services we were able to provide and work done.

- Planned and initiated second cohort of Job Preparedness Workshops hosted by the Sueños Program**
- Created alternative methods for youth to fulfill their community service & pro-social hours from home**
- Referred families to local food drives, community-based organizations providing financial assistance, and housing services**
- Coordinated art supply drop-offs for prosocial engagement**
- Referred families to a series of virtual parenting workshops hosted by PVPSA**
- Referred youth to Safety First Workshops hosted by PVPSA**
- In collaboration with PVPSA, mailed out a list of services available in the community to our families as it relates to the current hardships many are experiencing**

Between January 2012 – December 2020, 428 out of 508 (84%) youth completed the Caminos program and of those who completed the program, 86% did not re-offend within 12-months. The successes of the youth and families we work with attributes to the true collaboration within our partners who provide case management, guidance, mentorship, and advocacy. Also, having support from community-based organizations, our local law enforcement, school district, and our community makes a true difference for all families served.

POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

Watsonville Police Activities League (WPAL) is a youth crime prevention program that relies on educational, athletic, and other recreational activities to cement a bond among police officers, recreation leaders, youth, and their parents.

With the pandemic, the 2020 programming was impacted greatly. However, WPAL partnered with Watsonville Parks and Community Services and Santa Cruz County Recreation to find ways to still host youth programming. They currently serve 24 youth, 12 at each PAL location due to COVID guidelines. Staff assists these young students with online classes and homework, and provides recreational activities.



Early on in the pandemic, WPAL began to transition some of its community events to virtual events. They hosted a virtual Easter egg hunt that reached 250 homes in Watsonville. The Easter Bunny and Crime Fighting McGruff teamed up with City partners, including WPD officers, and went around town dropping off Easter goodies. They also did something special for Mother's Day, giving a basket of goodies and flowers to nearly 100 mothers in the community. Class of 2020 high school graduates were not forgotten. Fifty of their graduates received a congratulatory gift bag and a huge congratulations from WPAL and our officers.

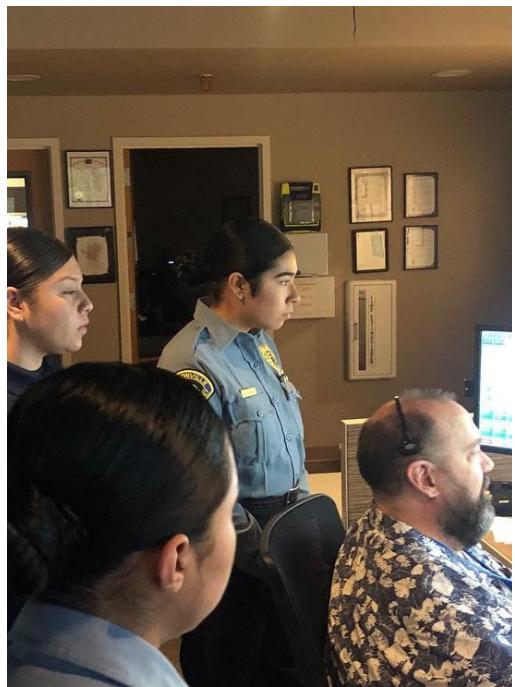
CADET PROGRAM

The Watsonville Police Cadet Program provides young people with the opportunity to explore the law enforcement field as a possible career choice. Unfortunately, the program was temporarily suspended at the beginning of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Under normal circumstances, cadets are rotated through a variety of divisions in order to experience the many aspects of law enforcement. They are active in traffic control for several events throughout the year, including the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Golf Tournament.

WPD cadets also serve as a liaison between the police department and the youth in our community.



Cadets are between 14 and 20 years old. Two full-time Watsonville police officers volunteer their time as advisors to mentor the cadets.

YOUTH DIALOGUES

HOSTED BY THE YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORK



For several years now, the Youth Violence Prevention Network, which is comprised of United Way of Santa Cruz County, Applied Survey Research, Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Santa Cruz County Community Action Board, and County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency, has been bringing together people from the community, including youth, adults, and law enforcement to meet and talk about policing, race, and community safety.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 outbreak brought the dialogue sessions to a halt in 2020.

In this circle-style dialogue, everyone has an equal voice, and people try to understand each other's views. Participants move from relationship building to collaborative action planning. Trained local facilitators help the group move through potentially difficult conversations and ensure that the sessions end with steps for action.

AGUA CON LA CHOTA

Strengthening law enforcement and community relations was identified by the Youth Violence Prevention Network as a top strategy to achieve the result of "Fostering Safe and Vibrant Neighborhoods."

With their help, we launched the "Agua con la Chota," program in 2017, which aims at providing farmworkers a safe space to interact with officers, receive information and guidance with the help of our community partners. The conversations are insightful to all who participate and help humanize our police officers. It also helps strengthen trust with members of our community who traditionally fear the police.

On three separate occasions in a month, officers and staff head to the fields to meet with the workers. During the final session, they sit down with the participants and share a meal.

Due to the fast-growing COVID-19 cases in Santa Cruz County, the program was temporarily placed on hold in 2020.





COMMUNITY POLICING & EVENTS



BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WORKSHOPS



Despite the many roadblocks we faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our mission to educate the public on how to be safe when walking, biking, or driving continued through the year.

With grant funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety, our Traffic Unit moved forward with its partnership with Ecology Action, an organization focused on providing safety education to youth and older adults.

The group hosted several virtual workshops on bicycle and pedestrian safety, as well as educating the public on the importance of safety equipment like reflective armbands, leg bands, headlights, taillights, reflectors, and helmets. We look forward to reinstating bicycle and pedestrian safety workshops at local elementary schools in the future.

QUARANTINE BIRTHDAY DRIVE-BYS



Quarantine birthday drive-bys became quite the sensation in 2020 with law enforcement agencies across the nation taking part in the celebrations.

Watsonville police officers took the time to spread some birthday joy for dozens of community members whose parties were canceled because of the pandemic.

Due to the overwhelming number of requests we initially received, birthday drive-bys were limited to young children in our community.

FARMWORKER RELIEF DRIVE

In May, the City of Watsonville hosted a weeklong relief drive to help local farmworker families heavily impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Watsonville police officers assisted in collecting essential items and with the help of staff, donated more than \$1,000 to purchase 3,300 diapers, baby wipes, and formula.

The relief drive collected more than 11,000 individual diapers, hundreds of packs of baby wipes, dozens of baby formula cans, and nearly 500 masks that were delivered to the Center for Farmworker Families.



MOTHER'S DAY DELIVERIES

Watsonville police officers partnered with Sunrise Nursery to surprise nearly 100 elderly gals with flowers for Mother's Day.

Residents from Valley Heights Senior Community waved as officers circled the building in their patrol cars. It was a very special moment for Watsonville Police Sergeant Michael Ridgway who, for the first time since the pandemic began, was able to see his mother from afar.



HELMET DISTRIBUTION FOR KIDS

As more families turned to outdoor activities during the pandemic, our Traffic Unit wanted to make sure local kids had the proper equipment to stay safe. In September, the unit teamed up with the California Office of Traffic Safety and the City of Watsonville Park and Community Services Department to provide children with helmets, reflective snap bracelets, and bike lights.

The Helmet Drive-Thru Summer Event was held at Ramsay Park and benefitted more than 300 kids. Bicycle safety equipment was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.



OPERATION CHILL



A joint operation took place in October as officers attempted to locate some of the best-behaved and kind-hearted kids in town!

During "Operation Chill," WPD officers were actively looking for kids who had done good deeds or demonstrated positive behavior.

Once spotted, they were given a coupon for a free, small Slurpee at participating local 7-Eleven Stores. Watsonville Police Department was one of thousands of law enforcement agencies in the nation working in partnership with 7-Eleven to reward kids for doing the right thing.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT GOES VIRTUAL



With the help of a great committee, we were able to create a virtual National Night Out event for our community. Several public safety videos were produced and shared across our social media platforms on October 9. National Night Out aims to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to help make our neighborhoods safer, a more caring place to live and build a true sense of community.

The videos were viewed more than 15,000 times. Also, 25 community members won a prize package for participating in a trivia quiz.

With donations from Watsonville First United Methodist Church, Twin Lakes Church, and our city departments, we were able to purchase a bike, a helmet, sports equipment, and other giveaways for youth who participated in the virtual event.



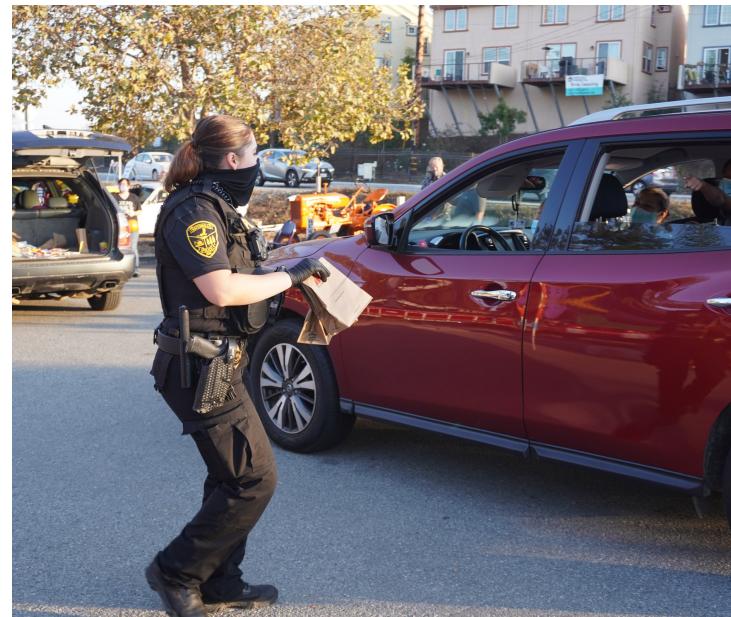
DRIVE-THRU TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Officers and police staff put together 1,000 Halloween goodie bags for a Drive-Thru Trunk-or-Treat event organized by the City of Watsonville, the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office, and the Santa Cruz County Probation Department.

Our department was very fortunate to receive donations from Watsonville Ace Hardware, Watsonville Community Hospital, and our very own officers and staff.

The event was held at Ramsay Park on October 30 but unfortunately, was shut down early due to the large overwhelming crowds and safety concerns.

The remaining Halloween treat bags were given to officers who distributed them to community members while on patrol.



SHOP WITH A COP

Our Shop with a Cop program sponsored 11 deserving families for the holidays.

Santa's helpers were hard at work for several weeks. Because of the pandemic, officers and staff shopped without the families and handled all the gift wrapping. Our tradition of sitting down with the families for a meal was unfortunately canceled.



However, thanks to our community partners, local businesses, volunteers, and staff, each family received Christmas gifts, a warm meal, dessert, a box of non-perishable foods, and a mini Christmas tree during a drive-thru event at the police department on December 15.





DISPATCH



They are the heroes at the other end of the radio who provide our officers with crucial information to make sure we can do our jobs as safely as possible.

Our Dispatchers from Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1 serve as the lifeline for people dealing with emergencies.

Without them, we couldn't do our job.

DISPATCHERS

Public Safety Dispatcher II, Kristine Ebersole

[WPD] is my favorite channel. I started dispatching 20 years ago and my first channel to train on was WPD.

There has always been a strong camaraderie in patrol and I could hear it and feel it on the radio. The officers know the geography of their city and pay attention to what their partners are doing so they are quick to respond to cover and help each other.

I have felt like I am part of the team working this channel.

Kristine dispatches for both law and fire, and is an instructor for the Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1 academy.



Public Safety Dispatcher II, Dillon Corley

Hey, my name is Dillon. I've been dispatching for a little over four years now. I've grown up, and still, live in Watsonville, for almost a total of thirty years now (that makes me feel old)!

For a long while, I was trying to find out just what I wanted to do. A close friend of mine invited me up to Netcom to watch and understand just what 9-1-1 Calltakers and Dispatchers do. The moment I sat down, I fell in love and KNEW it was something that I had to do.

I wanted to be involved in my community and help people. Being a Dispatcher is doing just that and so much more. Sometimes it's just little things like referring them to the right people, or other times, it's during one of the scariest moments of their lives. Each of my coworkers is phenomenal at what they do, and they've grown to be an extended family for me.

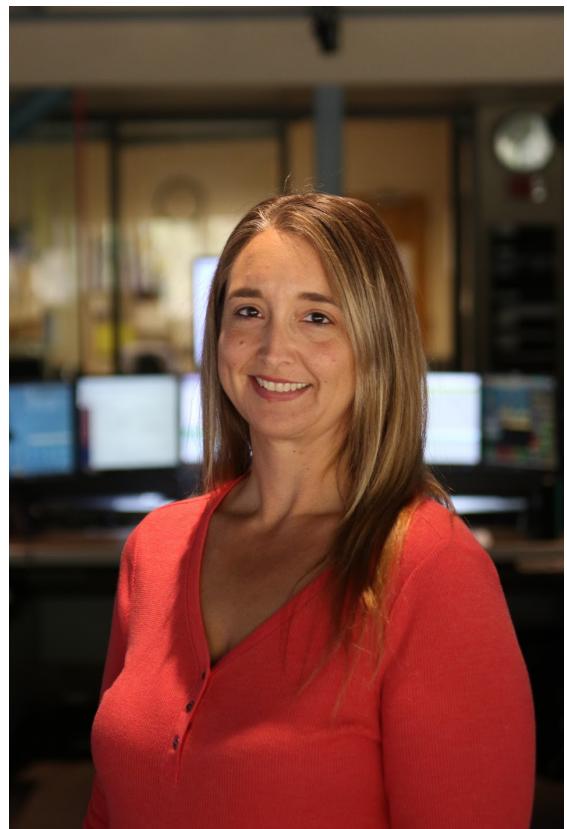
When not at work, I love to cook, specifically I enjoy baking, and I'm told I'm pretty decent at it (I haven't received any complaints yet)! From time to time, I also enjoy reading and writing. I do my best to make a positive impression with everyone I interact with. Be it over the phone, on the radio, or even across the room. I hope that by doing what I do, I can help my community rest a bit easier by knowing that people who love their job are helping keep them safe.



DISPATCHERS

Public Safety Dispatcher II, Kristal Higgins

I'm Kristal, and I've been a dispatcher at SCR911 since 2011. I came over with the merger from San Benito County, where I worked as a dispatcher since 2007. Before this, I was a dispatcher at a tow company and would get calls from police departments for tows and thought it would be an interesting job to do, so I applied. Never did I think how fulfilling it would be to have such a big part in getting people the critical help they need, as well as getting information to the officers and helping keep them safe. I am fully cross-trained on all law channels, fire channels, as well as being an EMD and CTO. One of the main things I love about working here is how everyone is like family. We help others out and care for one another. I know from experience that it is not like that everywhere and with our type of job it makes a big difference. I also enjoy working with the different law enforcement agencies and admit that Watsonville PD is one of my favorite channels to work. The officers are always polite and respectful with us on the air and never complain when I send them to a call outside of their beat! Also, it may just be my perception, but Watsonville always seems to catch their bad guys!



Public Safety Dispatcher II, Germán Flores

My name is Germán Flores and I'm a dispatcher at Santa Cruz Regional 911. I've been working at SCR 911 for almost nine years. I was born and raised in Watsonville and because of that, I take pride in being a dispatcher for our local community. At SCR 911 we dispatch for a few local agencies, one of them being Watsonville PD. When I get to dispatch WPD, it's always an exciting day because I never know who is going to keep me on my toes—it might be the patrol team, the motor unit conducting back-to-back traffic stops, the investigations team going out to make an arrest, or SIU running an operation. As dispatchers, we don't work directly for WPD. We are our own agency but when you're dispatching WPD, they make you feel part of the team. It gives me great pride and joy dispatching WPD because I know the officers care about our community just as much as I do. Thank you, Watsonville PD for protecting our community.





EMPLOYEE LIST

Alvarez, Adrian	Gonzalez, David	McKinley, Michael	Sanchez, Erika
Andrade, Emily	Gonzalez, Ulises	McMahon, Devon	Sanchez, Juan
Andrade, Pablo	Haas, Irma	Medina, Griselda	Sanchez, Leticia
Ayala, Javier	Hernandez, Nelson	Mendoza, Salvador	Santana, Eddie
Bailey, Charles	Hernandez, Noe	Mercurio, Dominic	Sims, Thomas
Bañuelos, Sergio	Honda, David	Morales, Veronica	Sousa, Elizabeth
Barnett, Michaela	Ihlen, Trevor	Navarro, Jose	Strong, Robert
Barocio, Octavio	Iles, Burton	Olmeda, Ashly	Thul, Cheramy
Bribiesca, Juan	Jauregui, Angie	Panick, Jason	Thul, Donny
Castillo, Juan	Johnson, Charles	Perez, Joseph	Tol, Sjon
Changco, Dominic	Johnston, Corey	Pisturino, Jarrod	Travers, Collin
Chavarria, Aaron	Kane, Lacey	Plascencia-Islands, Carlos	Trujillo, Juan
Delfin, Richard	Katich, Lee	Pulido, Michelle	Umstead, Evan
Fernandez, Yesenia	Kliewer, Kraig	Radich, Mish	Uretsky, Ely
Figueroa, Antonio	Larios, Oswaldo	Ramirez, Rebecca	Valadez, Saul
Figueroa, Hilda	Lopez, Fernando	Rangel, Monique	Wildey, Tyler
Figueroa, Naim	Lopez, Marilyn	Ridgway, Michael	Zamora, Gustavo
Fuentez, Bryan	Lopez, Rudy	Robles, Henry	Zamora, Jorge
Fulgoni, Brian	Magaña, Alex	Rodriguez, Bobby	Zarate, Anna
Garcia, Jay	Magdayao, Anthony	Rodriguez, David	Zendejas, Ruben
Godinez, Maria	Maldonado, Lola	Rodriguez, Isaak	
Gombos, Lourdes	Martinez, Efren	Romero, Luis	

RETIREES VOLUNTEERS CHAPLAINS

Ridgway, Brian (27 years of service)
K-9 Ranger (6 years of service)

Johnson, Frank
Jones, Connie
Sakaguchi, Leigh

Bell, Ryan
Olson, Robbie



OUTREACH

The Watsonville Police Department is constantly looking for innovative ways to connect and expand its two-way communication with the community.

Over the years, our increased engagement on our various social media platforms has given residents a unique opportunity to get involved in their community and help our officers make Watsonville a safer place.

This established partnership has proven to be effective. Residents have gone as far as assisting us in the apprehension of suspects involved in serious crimes, to finding missing persons at-risk.

Thanks to the information we received from a community member, a man who abducted his one-year-old child was taken into custody during an incident in July. Officers rescued the child who was uninjured.

In November, an alert community member spotted an at-risk 87-year-old man who had been missing for hours. The elderly man who suffered from dementia was already showing signs of hypothermia by the time he was found. Officers quickly transported him to the emergency room where he recovered.

These are just some examples of the importance of community involvement and how quickly and effectively we can reach residents through our social media platforms.

LIKE, FOLLOW, SUBSCRIBE, DOWNLOAD & REGISTER



Non-Emergency Police Dispatch: 831-471-1151
Crime Tips Anonymous: 831-768-3544
Records: 831-768-3370
Investigations: 831-768-3350
Police Chief's Office: 831-768-3300



DEPARTMENT STATISTICS



Quick Fact Sheet 2020

Calls for Service

55,047

Arrests

1,547

Employees

86

Mental Health

Calls

719

Cases Taken

by Officers

4,832

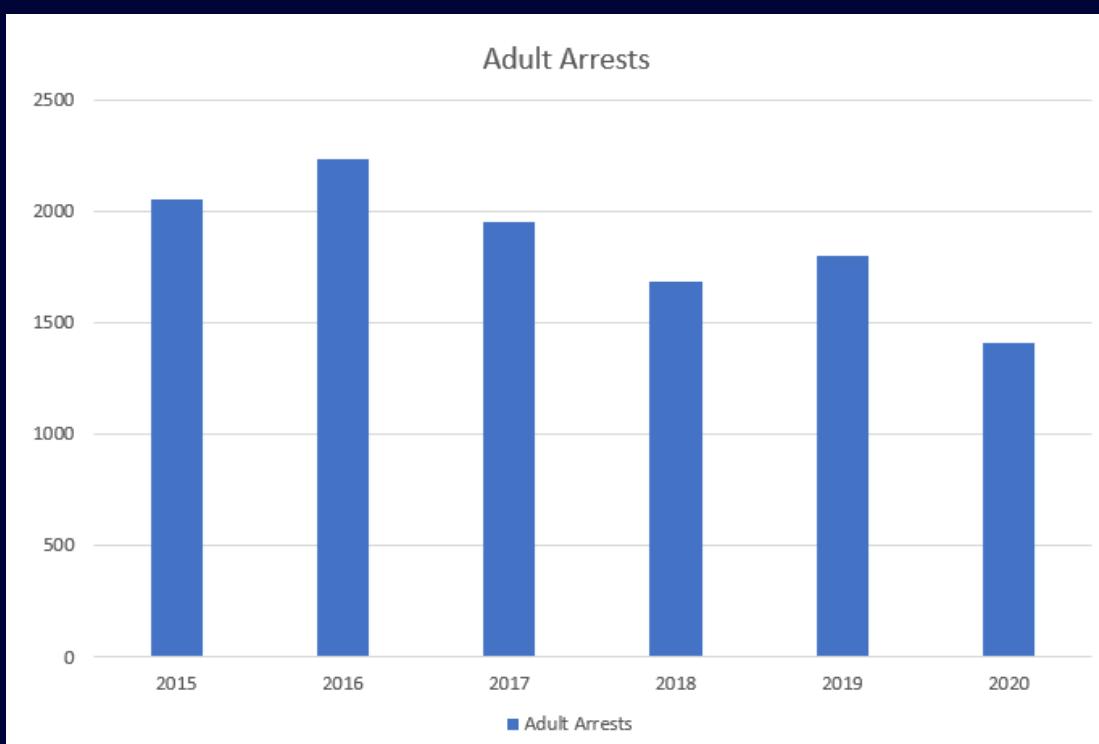
Online Reports
from Community
Members

521

CRIME STATISTICS

ADULT ARRESTS

2015-2020



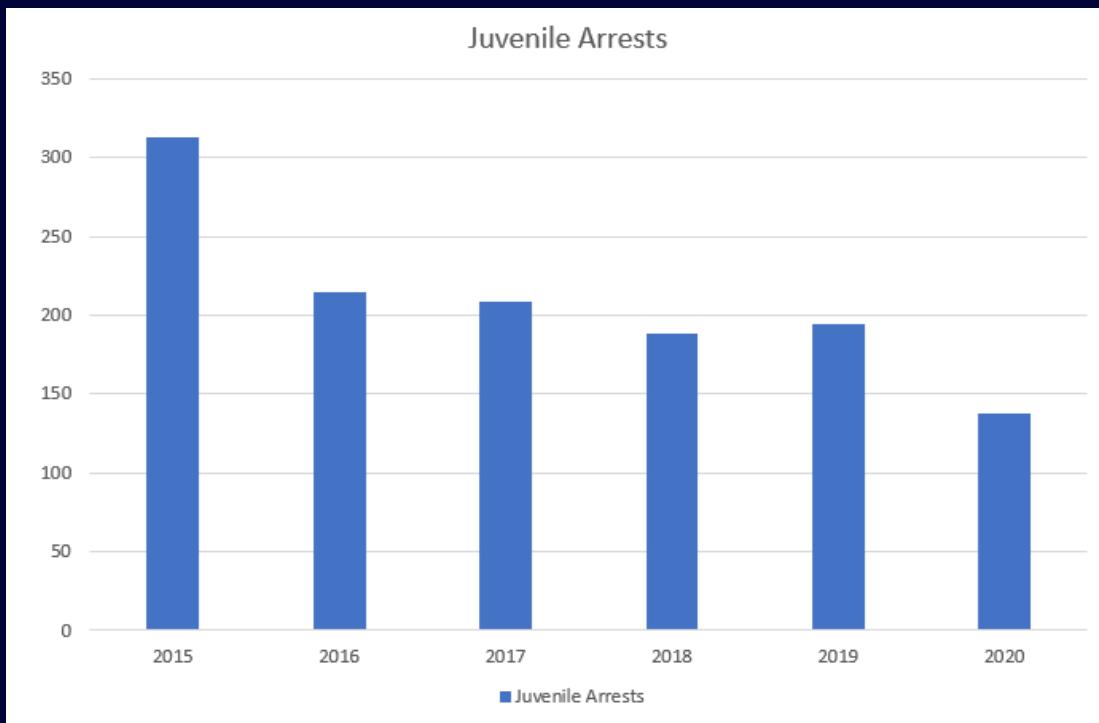
Adult Arrests are experiencing a 5-year, downward trend.

SOURCE: Watsonville Police Department RMS

CRIME STATISTICS

JUVENILE ARRESTS

2015-2020



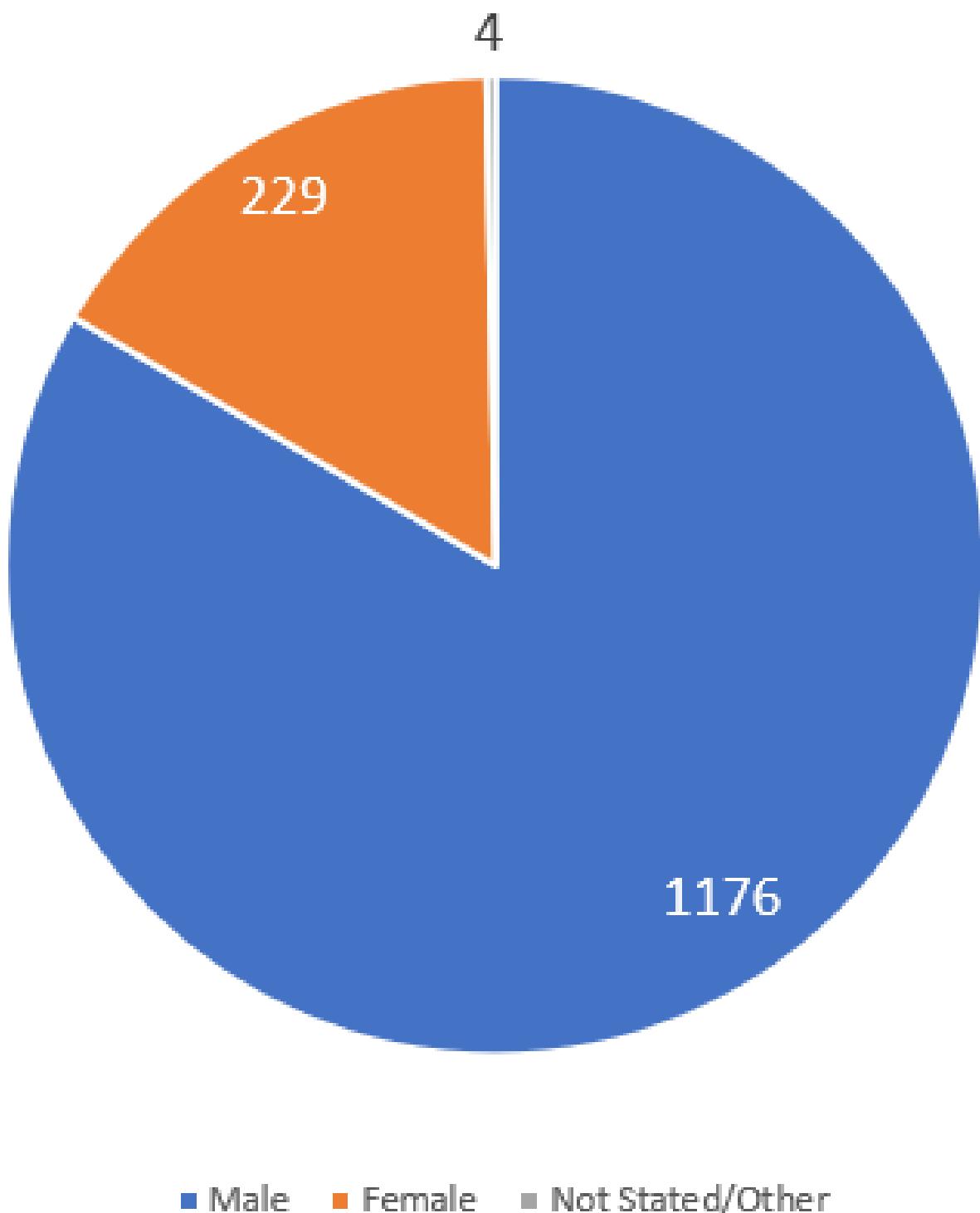
Juvenile arrests are experiencing a 5-year, downward trend.

SOURCE: Watsonville Police Department RMS

CRIME STATISTICS

ARRESTS BY GENDER 2020

Arrest By Gender 2020



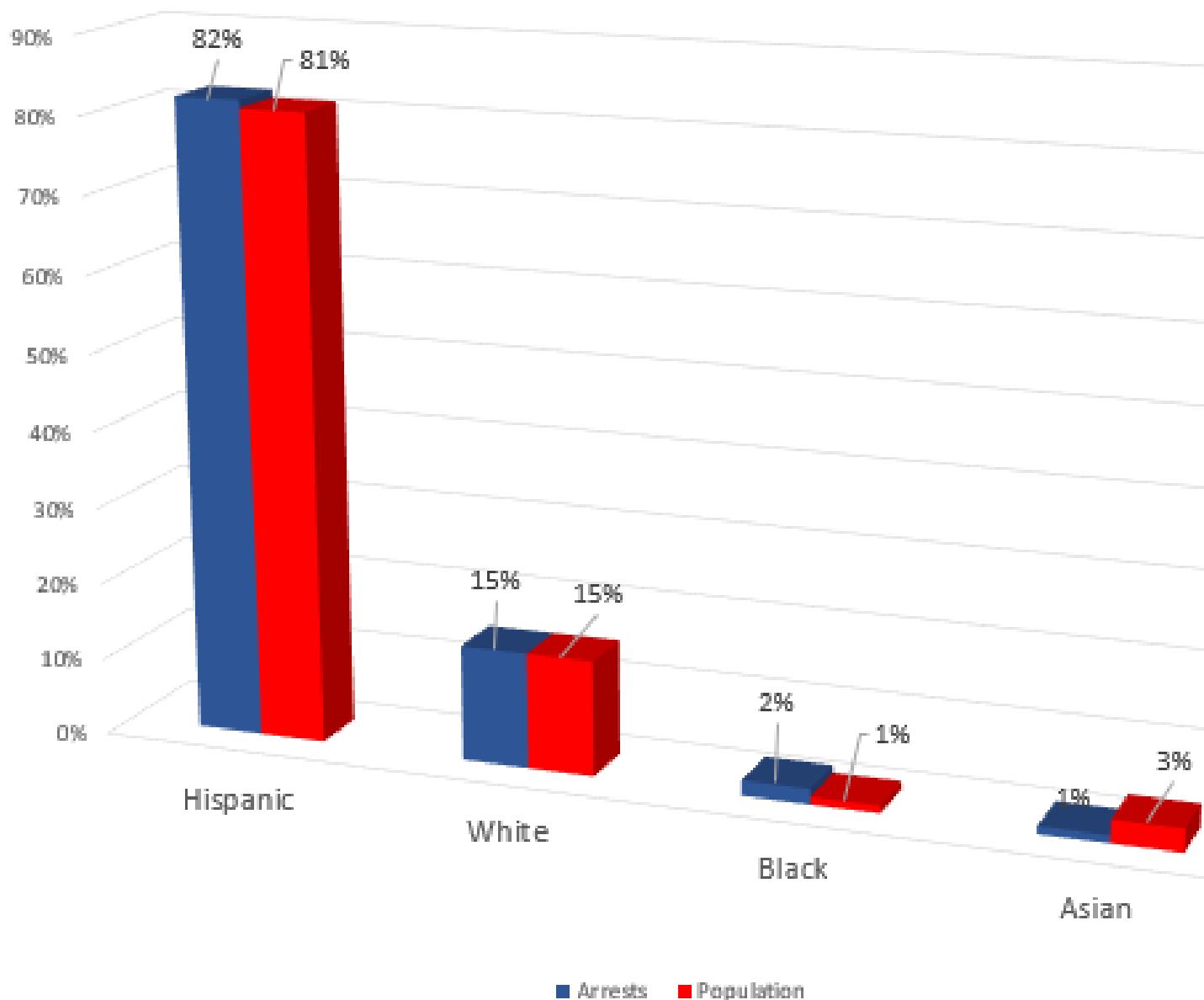
SOURCE: Watsonville Police Department RMS

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CRIME STATISTICS

ARRESTS BY RACE (5 YEAR AVERAGE)

5 Year Arrests by Race vs Watsonville Population Demographics



Arrests by race are in line with the population demographics of The City of Watsonville.

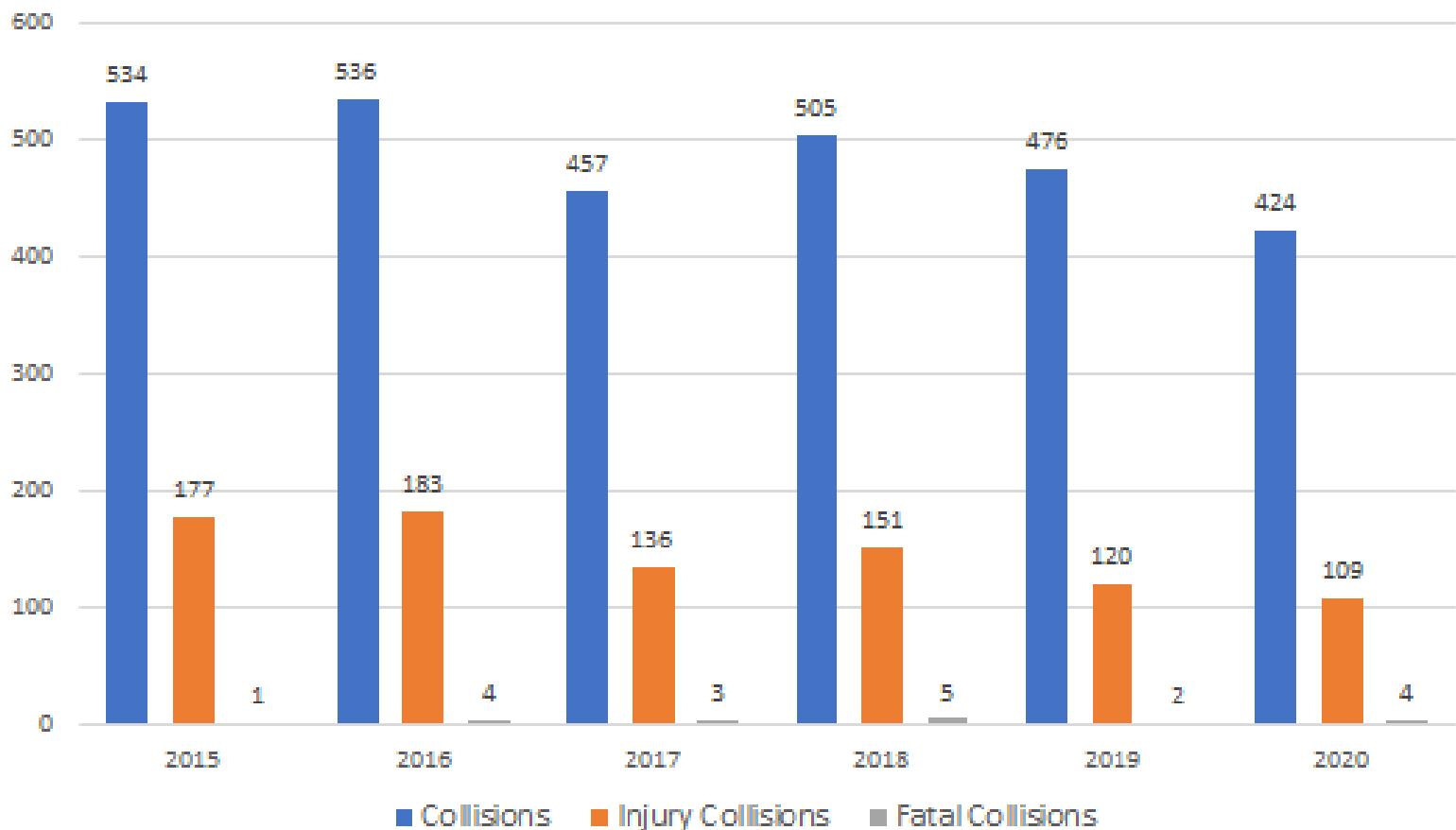
SOURCE: Watsonville Police Department RMS. Census Data.

CRIME STATISTICS

TRAFFIC COLLISION, INJURY COLLISIONS, FATAL COLLISIONS

2015-2020

Traffic: Collisions/Injury Collisions/Fatal Collisions 2015-2020



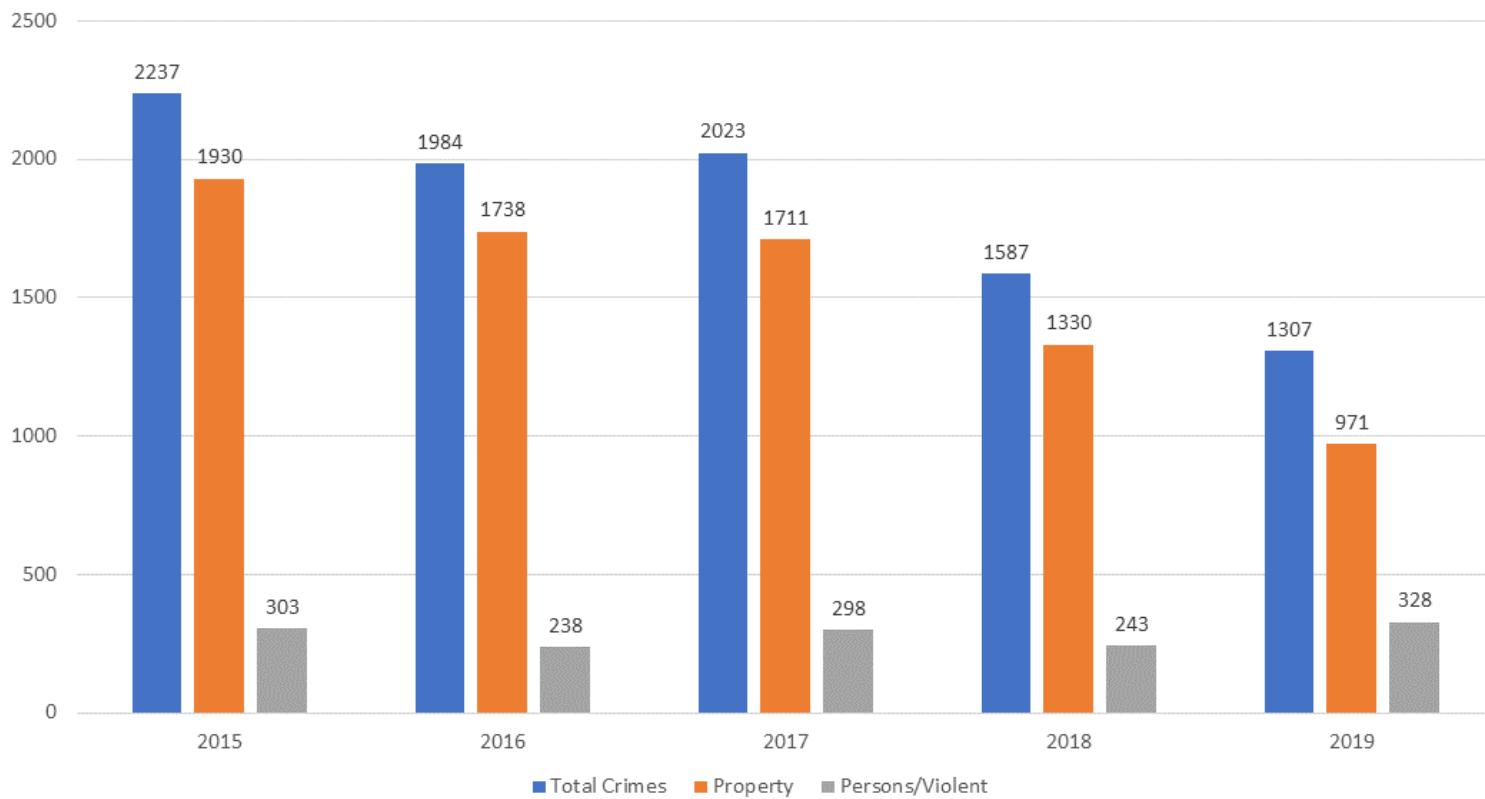
SOURCE: Crossroads Analytics.

CRIME STATISTICS

TOTAL CRIME, PROPERTY CRIME, AND VIOLENT CRIME

2015-2019

Total Crimes (Property/Violent/Arson), Property Crimes and Violent Crimes
2015-2019
DOJ Definitions



Source: openjustice.doj.ca.gov

SOURCE: openjustice.doj.ca.gov:

Violent Crime: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault

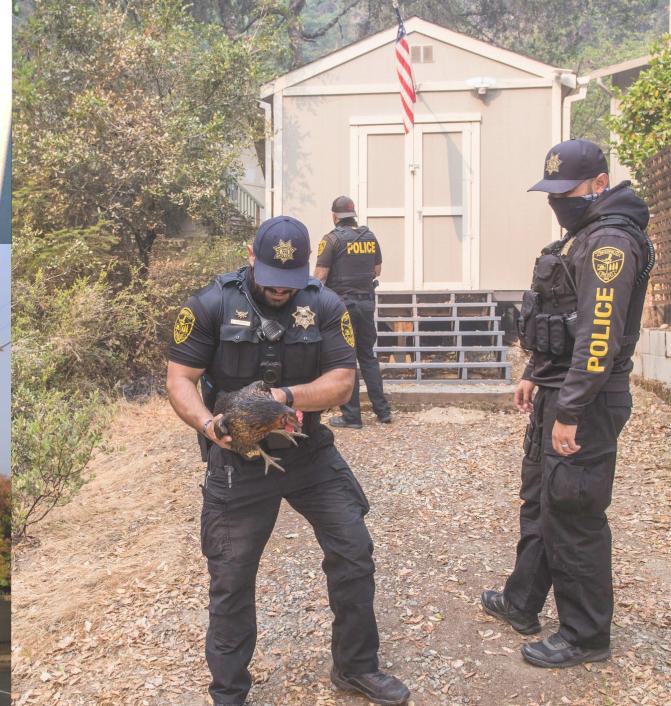
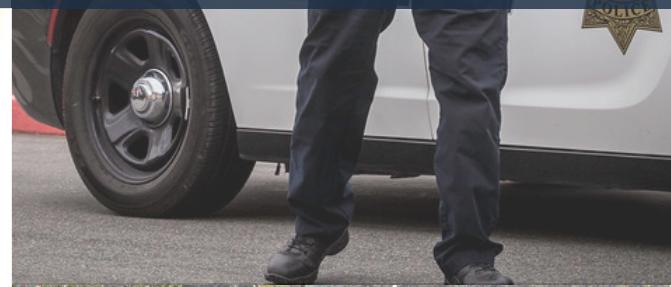
Property Crime: Burglary, Theft/Larceny, Auto Theft

Total Crime: Violent Crime, Property Crime, and Arson



Watsonville Police Department

215 Union Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
831-768-3300



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Non-Emergency Police Dispatch: 831-471-1151

Crime Tips Anonymous: 831-768-3544