

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 22, 2019

Chief Edmiston called the meeting to order at 6:15PM. Present were Councilor Myers, Hardin, Primmer and Smith. City Manager Byron Smith, Erica Sandoval, Gene Wilson, Amanda Hartsteen, Travis Eynon, Chris Martin, Carlos Balli, Bill Golter, Derek Williams, Kelly Parson, Nick Wallis, and Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Introductions

Chief Edmiston introduced members of the Police Department (PD) who were in the audience.

Recognitions

Chief Edmiston recognized:

- Captain Scott Clark for receiving his Management and Executive Certificates from DPSST. The executive-level certification is the highest one can attain from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). Chief Edmiston stated he believes it is part of his job to ensure there are people, within the agency, that can fill vacancies when needed. Captain Clark is well-positioned to do this, if and when the Chief's position needs filled. Captain Clark is also finishing his Bachelor's Degree as well.
- Each quarter, for the last two years, the PD has recognized one team/unit that leads the way during that particular period of time. This quarter, the team led by Sergeant Kelly Parsons has done just that. His team includes: Corporal Gene Wilson, Officer Erica Sandoval, and Officer Will Jons.

The Council congratulated Captain Clark and the second quarter team.

2nd Quarter (2019) Crime Report

Chief Edmiston gave information regarding the 2nd quarter crime report update (report attached), to include:

- Overall, total crime is down 6% from the 10-year average, and down 7% from last year. This decrease despite a population increase of 12.3% in the last 10 years
- Total violent crime dropped 39% from last year
- Total citations issued are up 9% from last year

Chief Edmiston stated last year was very challenging for the department due to injuries and illnesses. It appears HPD is and will continue to benefit from having most everyone healthy and back at work.

Chief Edmiston stated the Records Department at the PD has experienced an 88% increase in requests for information. At the end of the 2018, second quarter, PD records staff handled 1,310 requests. That number, at the end of the quarter this year, is a staggering 2,460. The Records Department is training an additional member, but at some point, HPD will have to consider limiting the hours of our lobby window in order to keep on top of the demand. The public will still have access to staff, however it would be done more by dispatch services and the red phone out in front of the police department.

The Council agreed that this was a huge increase and that something needs to be done in order to fulfill the public records requests in a timely manner.

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“Big 3” Review

Chief Edmiston stated three of the things police departments face each day that bring enhanced liability with them are: complaints about personnel, uses of force by personnel, and pursuits involving personnel.

We had three complaints last fiscal year and all were internal; meaning, HPD received zero complaints from the public. HPD is looking inward and critique ourselves and our actions.

HPD officers were involved in 8 pursuits with the average pursuit lasting 1.9 minutes. When compared to the number of traffic stops conducted during the fiscal year, a pursuit takes place less than ¼ of 1% of the time.

HPD reviewed 20 incidents where force was used. In relation to the number of arrests made, HPD used force 1.6% of the time. If HPD tracked total contacts with the public, which we do not, the number would decrease significantly. HPD will conduct a use of force review for all incidents outside of cooperative handcuffing, as is per HPD policy. Since race is very much a topic of discussion, it should be noted of the 20 uses of force in the fiscal year, 12 or 60% of the combatants were Caucasian and 8 or 40% were of Hispanic/Latino descent.

The HPD training budget has increased 35% since the new City Manager was hired. HPD has and will continue to try to be the most efficient and effective with the resources it has and is comfortable with what the budget is set at, now. With this being said, there is a concern with the increase of PERS. As always, HPD will continue to be conservative when budgeting in the future.

Projects on the Horizon

Chief Edmiston gave information regarding:

- Body camera contract
- Take home vehicles

Past/Upcoming Event Information

Chief Edmiston gave information regarding upcoming events HPD will be participated in, to include:

- Umatilla County Fair Parade – Saturday, August 3rd
- National Night Out – Tuesday, August 6th – Ice cream social for the neighborhood who finds the hidden medallion
- Umatilla County Fair – August 6th-10th

Adjournment

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM.



HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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TO: Mayor Drotzmann, City Councilors, and City Manager Smith
FROM: Chief Jason Edmiston
DATE: July 9th, 2019
SUBJECT: 2019 2nd Quarter Crime Report Summation

Statistics - The only science that enables different experts using the same figures to draw different conclusions. - Evan Esar

Attached with this memo is a scaled down version of our 2019 2nd Quarter Crime Report. The intent of this summation is to provide a quick snapshot of trends (both crime and department activity levels) we are experiencing. I have discussed it to the public safety committee in the past, and it is noteworthy to address here, the 2010 stats are flawed in a couple of categories due to the working environment at that time. I can explain further in private if necessary.

Statistical highlights include:

- ✓ Total incidents are a combination of calls for service and self-initiated activity – since the self-initiated activity is down, this category is also slightly down. Once 2010 stats drop off this 10-year trend, the activity will be more in line with true experience rates.
- ✓ Traffic Stops – as stated before, the increase can in part be attributed to our dedicated traffic officer being able to actually work traffic versus assisting various teams with staffing, as was the case in 2018. The 10% increase is something we want to see continue through the year and traffic activity is something I addressed in a June 26th email to the supervisors where I state among other things: *Consider engaging your teams on the importance of traffic enforcement. I did not look at individual statistics but we know there are several who are clearly looking past obvious violations that take place in front of them. That is the group who needs to be encouraged to do all aspects of their job.*
- ✓ Case Investigations – reports taken or cases investigated is a good indicator of how “busy” the officers are with writing reports. Spending time writing reports takes away from other duties and a 14% increase over the 10-year average shows the officers are busy.
- ✓ Arrests – to include total arrests, misdemeanor arrests, and felony arrests, the increases show more time being spent in the station and less time being proactive. An 11% increase in total arrests from last year is encouraging. It should be mentioned over the course of

the 10-year window; legislative changes have decriminalized many things that once were a felony.

- ✓ Total Citations – the increase of 9% from last year to this year, is something we would like to see continue trending upward.
- ✓ Total Crime – relatively flat with a 7% decrease from last year and a 6% decrease from the 10-year average. This is encouraging as we know the population has increased by 12.3% over the 10-year window.
- ✓ Total Violent Crime – a 39% reduction from last year supports our history of having a relatively low violent crime rate.

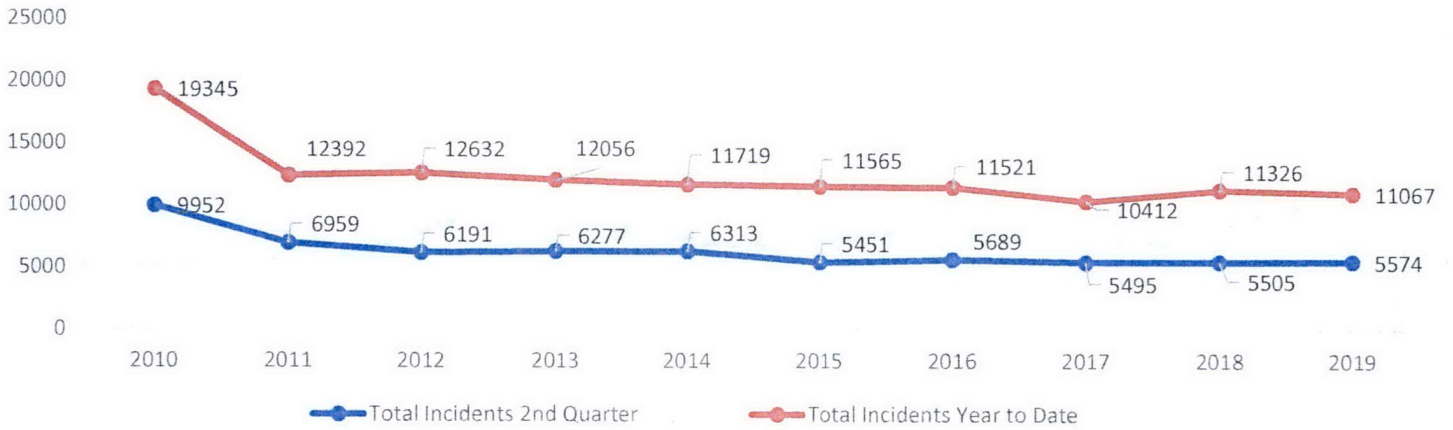
Moving forward

I mentioned it last quarter in this memo to each of you, and I think it is worthwhile to mention again this quarter. Though not a part of this summation, the administrative report from Captain Travis Eynon showed our records department experienced an 88% increase in requests for information. At the end of the 2018 second quarter, our staff handled 1,310 requests. That number at the end of the quarter this year is a staggering 2,460. Last year we invested in software to assist (~\$7,000 per year contract) with tracking requests more easily, but each request is often very labor intensive. Because we have always remained lean specific to employees, the only recourse I can think of aside from mandatory overtime (which will adversely impact PERS further) is to drastically reduce the time our lobby window is open. Window traffic is a huge drawback for staff to get things done.

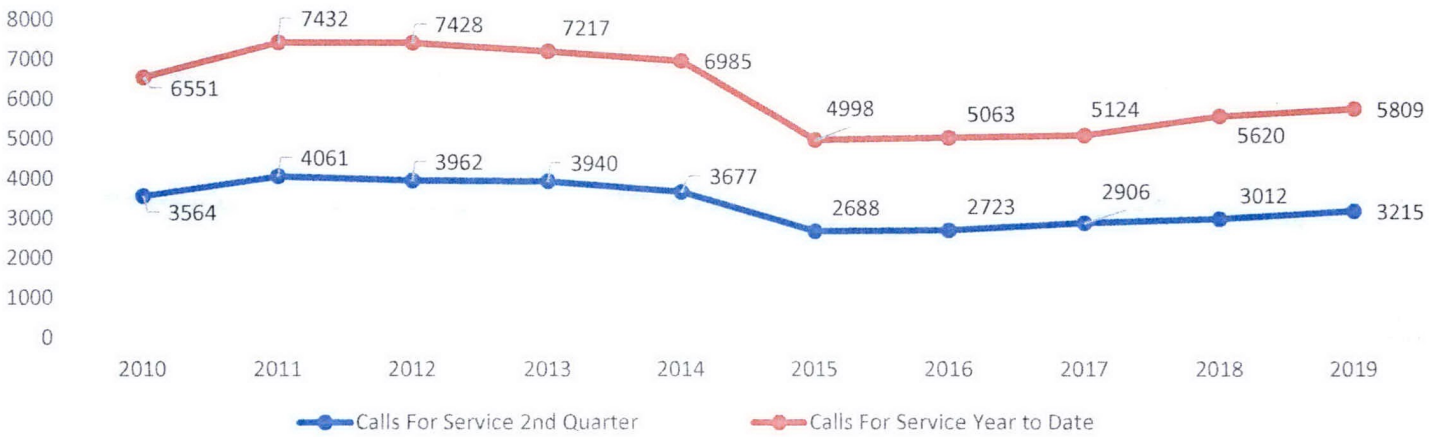
On May 1st, we began tracking data pursuant to House Bill 2355 (2017) for all traffic stops and pedestrian contacts as we wanted to be out in front of this issue. This is the racial profiling component to that bill, and as of July 1st, 2019, we are mandated (unfunded mandate) to begin this collection and reporting. This is yet another demand on our records department.

Overall, I am happy with the statistics we are experiencing. There is, of course, more we could do to have an additional positive impact(s) on those we are blessed to serve, but the PERS can that was kicked down the road again by the legislature this session, is/will be our biggest threat in the coming years.

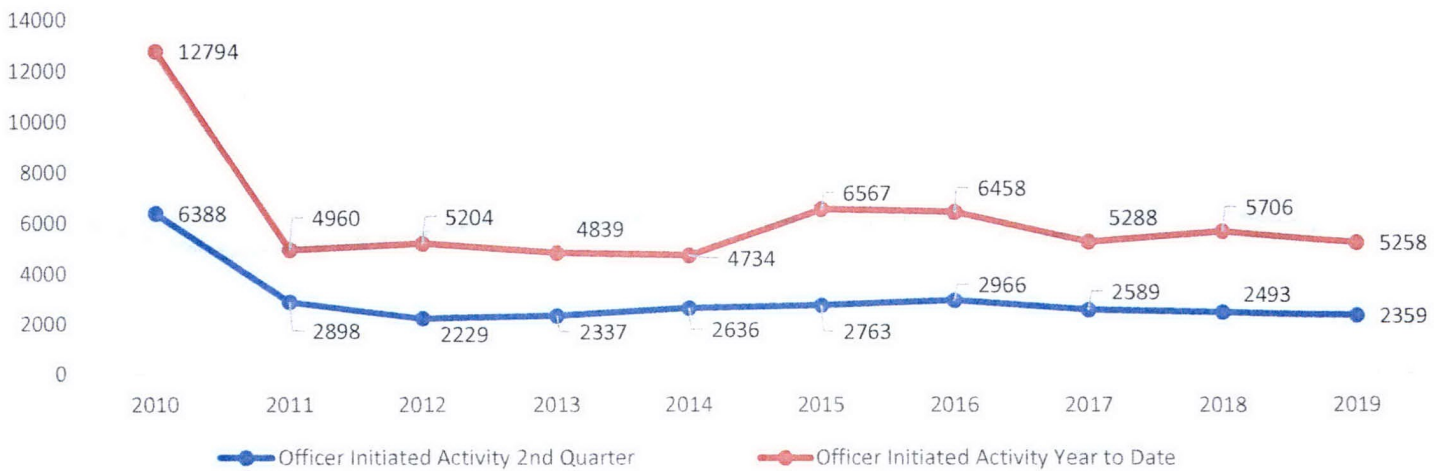
Total Incidents



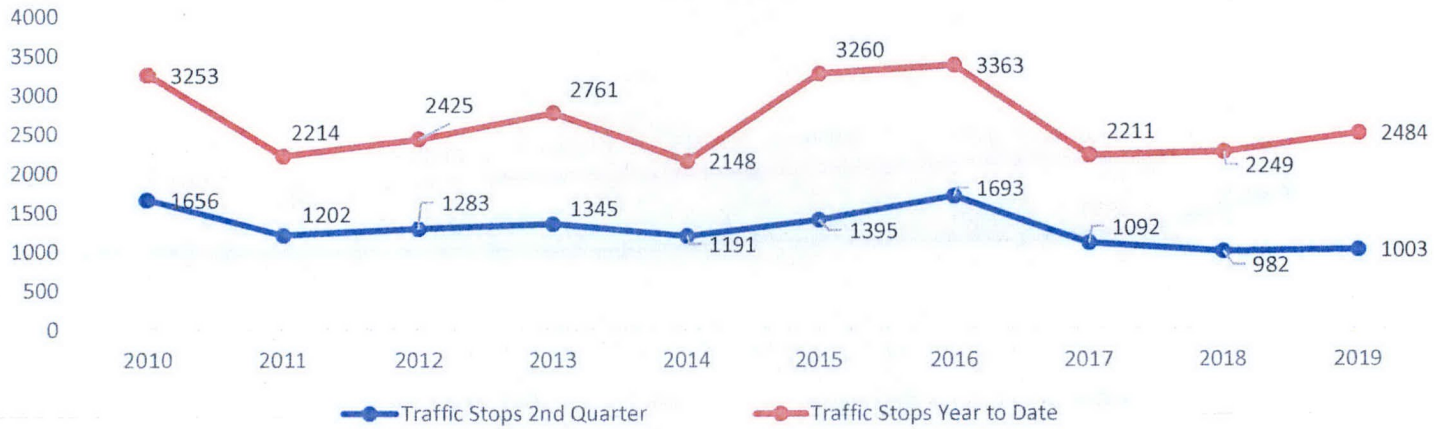
Calls for Service



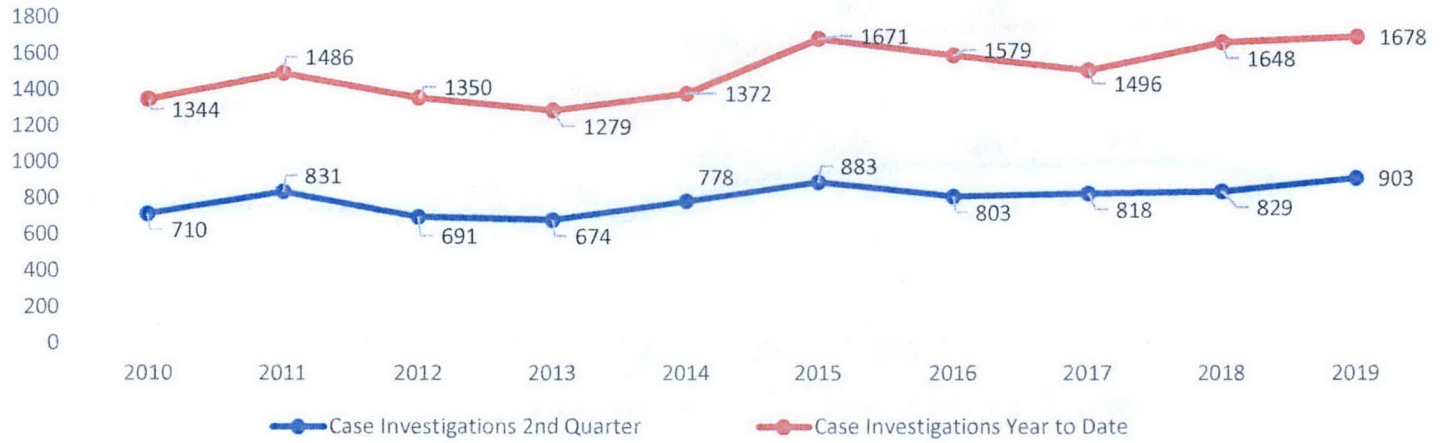
Officer Initiated Activity



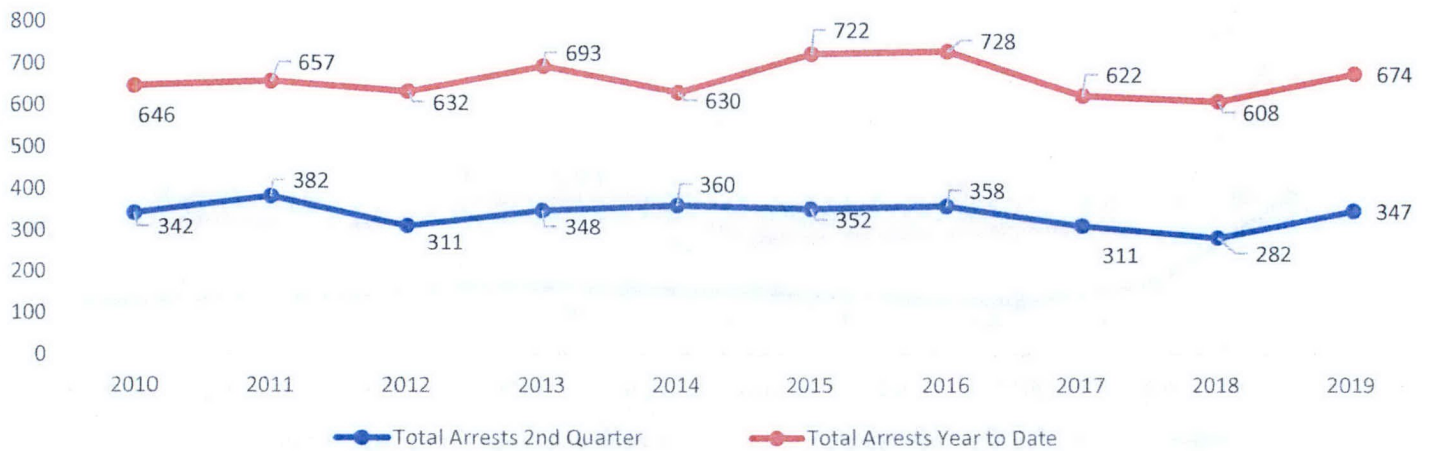
Traffic Stops



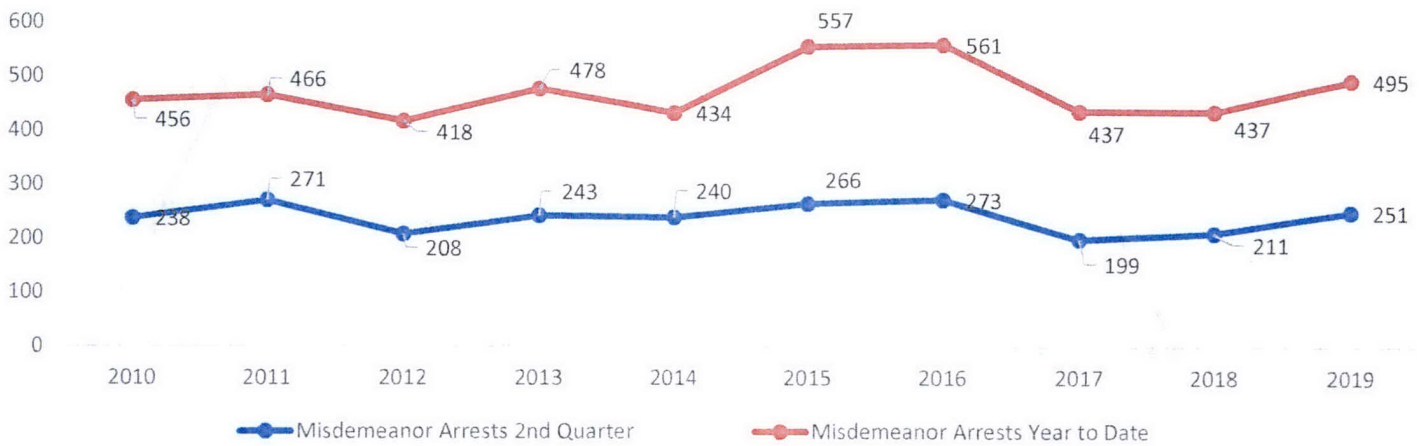
Case Investigations



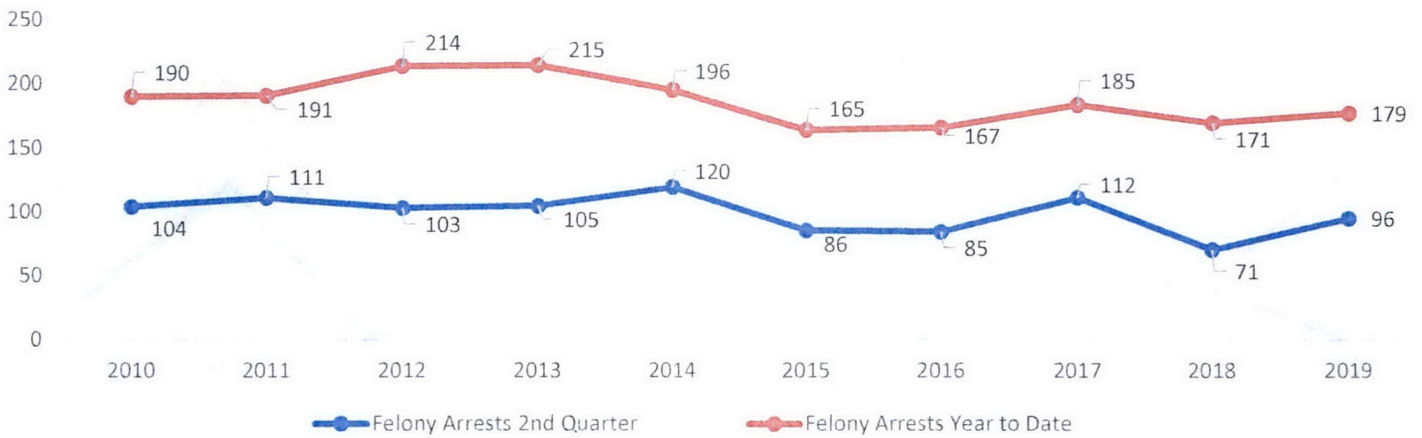
Total Arrests



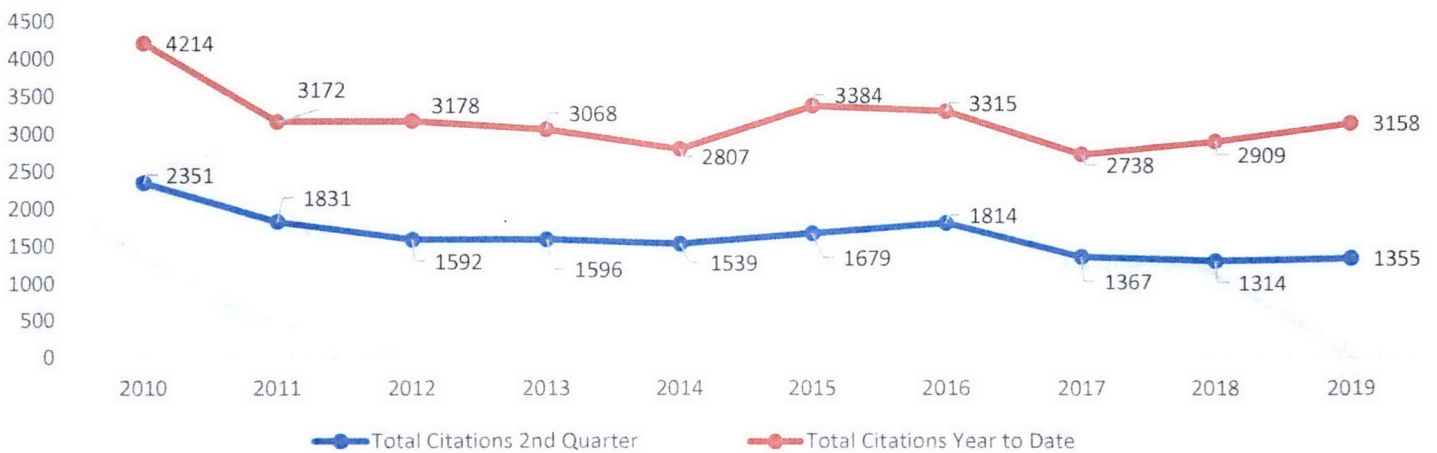
Misdemeanor Arrests



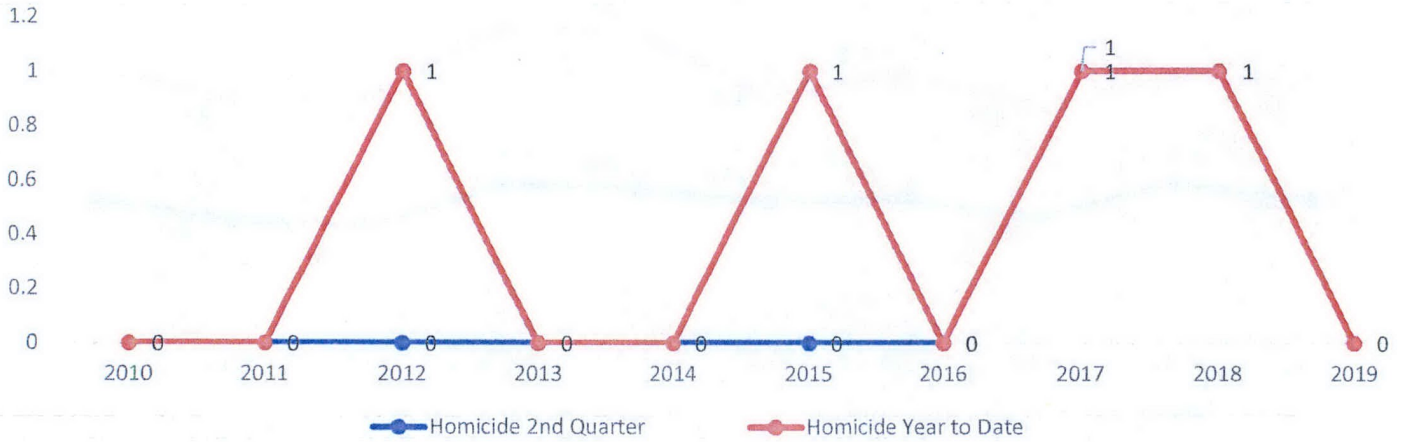
Felony Arrests



Total Citations



Homicide



Rape



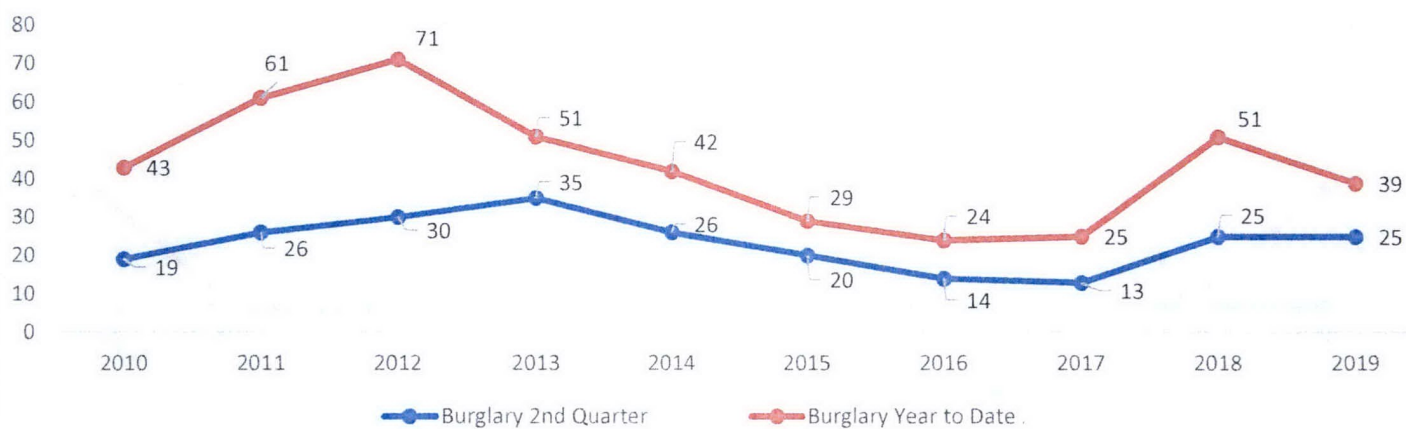
Robbery



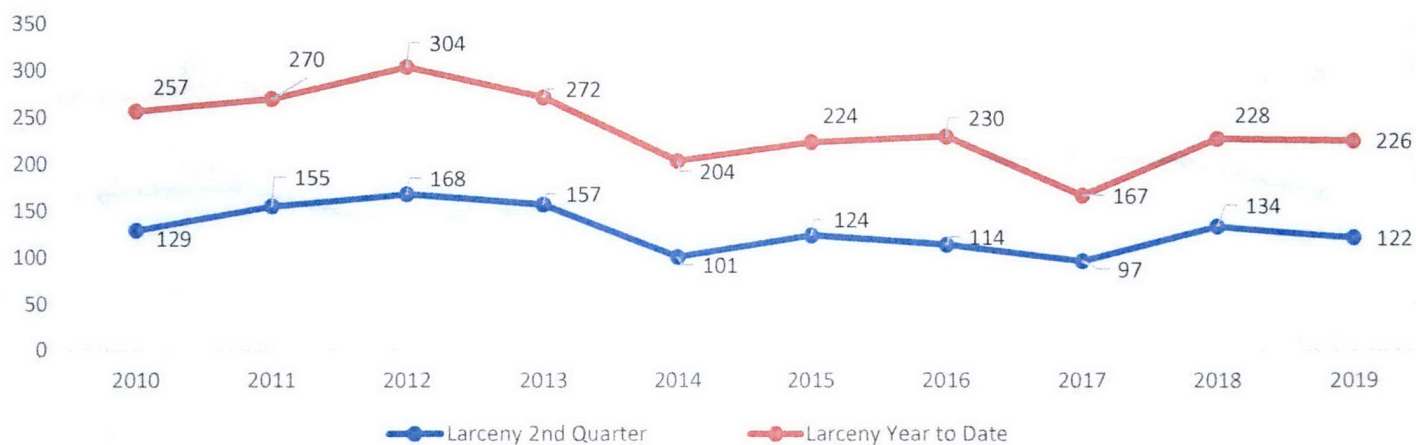
Aggravated Assault



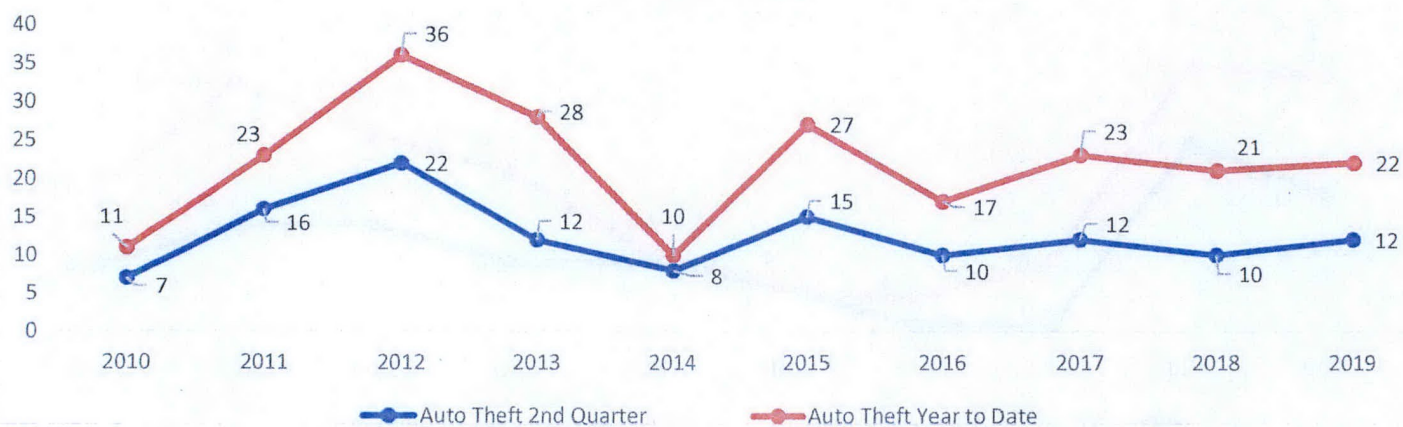
Burglary



Larceny



Auto Theft



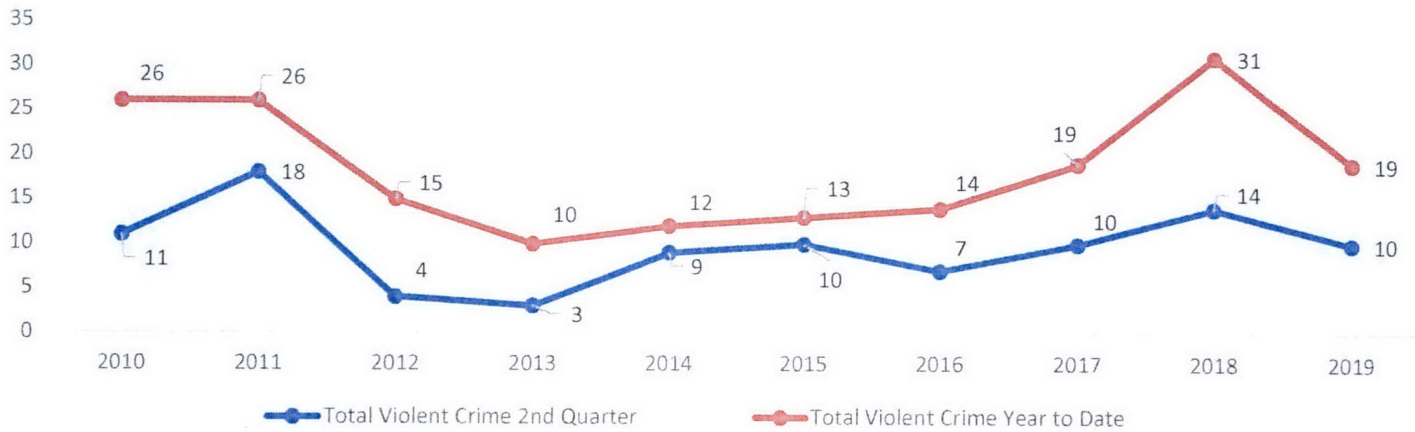
Arson



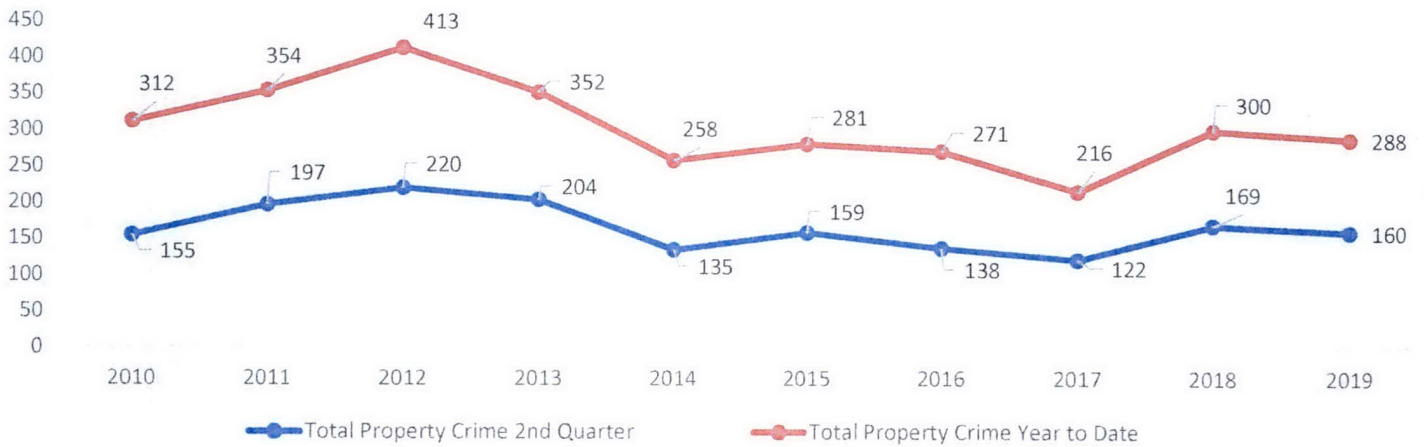
Total Crime



Total Violent Crime



Total Property Crime



Hermiston Population

