

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 26, 2020

Chief Edmiston called the meeting to order at 5:15PM. Present were Councilor's Primmer, Myers and Hardin. City Manager Byron Smith, Captains Travis Eynon, Sergeant Chris Martin, Lieutenant Randy Studebaker, Communications Manager Amanda Hartsteen, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Introductions

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

3rd Quarter (2020) Crime Report

Chief Edmiston reviewed the 3rd quarter crime report (attached) and stated the crime report is somewhat consistent with trends HPD has experienced this year during the pandemic with total crime being down 32% from last year. Although HPD cannot confirm that the crime of arson has increased, it is clear that by having a position specific to investigating arson, per the partnership with Umatilla County Fire District 1 (UCFD1), HPD and UCFD1 are more aware of matters that may constitute a criminal act.

Police activity is down in every category. When HPD experienced a 25% positive COVID-19 infection rate amongst sworn officers, we had to remove the dedicated traffic officer from his assignment and put him on a team to fill a vacancy left by COVID. This was a very trying period for the department.

The records division saw a 151% increase in requests for information as compared to the 3rd quarter of 2019, completely justifying the addition of the third police records specialist position this past Spring.

Transient Activity

In August, HPD began tracking calls for service involving transients. At that time, day shift was experiencing a transient(s) in 26% of the calls while late shift saw 22%. In September, those numbers saw a slight drop with day shift seeing 18% and late shift seeing 23%. In October, HPD has seen 15% of the dayshift calls and 20% of the late shift calls involving a transient(s). The overall average of calls for service involving a transient(s) is 20% and, while investigating criminal activity, HPD has experienced at least ½ dozen people who have openly told officers they are in Hermiston waiting for a shelter to be built.

52nd Annual Hermiston Police Department Christmas Express

HPD has begun pushing out information (attached) regarding community assistance for the Christmas Express Program. This year will be much different, as the pandemic has thrown a major curveball into the operations of the program. However, there will be dedicated resources to assist with ensuring HPD is still able to provide enough food, and hopefully presents, to 500 families in the Hermiston area.

2021 Department Goals

2021 department goals (attached) will be kept the exact same as the 2020 goals. Hopefully, with the pandemic behind us in 2021, HPD can get back on track with the established goals. HPD will also be working closely with the new Code Enforcement Official, Juan Sanchez. Juan is a Hermiston native, has a laid-back demeanor and is bilingual, all of which will help while handling code abatement issues with residents.

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Senate Bill 111 (2007) – Umatilla County Deadly Physical Force Plan

Senate Bill 111 from 2007, established a law that every county in Oregon had to develop a Deadly Physical Force Plan. The last time this plan was signed by local representatives (Umatilla County Chiefs and Sheriff) was in 2008. At Chief Edmiston's request, for the last two months, this group has worked on updating this plan and anticipates bringing a resolution to the City Council, in November, granting Chief Edmiston authorization to sign the agreement.

As a result of Chief Edmiston's request to look at the Deadly Physical Force Plan, the Umatilla County Chiefs and Sheriffs also decided to evaluate the Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid and the utilization of the Bi-County Major Crime Team. The two agreements were last signed in 2013 and 2012 respectively. These documents have been combined into one and will also be presented to the City Council, at a meeting in November, requesting approval of a resolution granting Chief Edmiston authority to sign this document.

Past/Upcoming Events

52 Annual Hermiston Police Department Christmas Express Program as reported earlier.

School Resource Officers

School Resource Officers are assisting the School District (HSD) with:

- The dissemination of awards to students who are excelling during the distance learning and helping give away 200 Operation Chill Certificates, which students can redeem at 7-11 for a free Slurpee
- Creating information, via a small video clip on the HSD website, regarding each officer's personal life. This helps students and the community get to know the officers and establish a rapport with them.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

Councilor Hardin thanked Chief Edmiston and HPD for the great job they do in this community and stated that he will never support the defund police movement.

Chief Edmiston stated:

- HPD will not always get everything right, but hopes that the community will work with HPD, to help them up, when they get it wrong
- Starting about 6 years ago, each officer undergoes 40 hours of crisis interventions which is very beneficial to anyone getting into this profession as mental health and addiction has tied up a lot of officer time, which is not the best use of HPD resources
- Encouraged the public, after this pandemic is over, to participate in the Officer-Ride-Along Program. This Program allows the public first-hand experience of what officers go through on a typical working day. Passing a background check is required as sensitive information can be disclosed during the ride-along.

Adjournment

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Mission Statement

Without fear or favor and in partnership with our diverse community, we will create and maintain a safe environment with the reduction of crime through problem-oriented and community-based policing strategies. The quality of life for those we serve takes precedent over our individual needs.

3rd QUARTER CRIME REPORT

2020

Hermiston Police Department 2011-2020 Crime Stats - January through September

Incident Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Avg	Normal Range	2020	% Change Avg-'20	% Change '19-'20
Homicide	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0-1	3*	200%	300%
Rape	1	2	4	2	3	7	2	6	3	3	0-2	7	133%	133%
Robbery	10	7	6	11	3	0	2	7	7	6	3-9	6	0%	-14%
Aggravated Assault	26	10	4	5	9	20	26	27	25	17	10-24	11	-35%	-56%
Burglary	104	103	76	62	42	40	40	72	52	66	53-78	38	-42%	-27%
Larceny	434	443	461	309	313	321	283	373	352	365	334-397	249	-32%	-29%
Auto Theft	41	51	52	19	33	21	29	36	24	34	28-40	22	-35%	-8%
Arson	0	4	1	2	1	0	2	3	2	2	1-3	5	150%	150%
TOTAL	616	621	604	410	405	410	385	525	465	493	442-544	314	-36%	-32%
TOTAL VIOLENT	37	20	14	18	16	28	31	41	35	27	18-35	27	0%	-23%
TOTAL PROPERTY	653	641	618	428	421	438	416	566	500	520	463-577	341	-34%	-32%

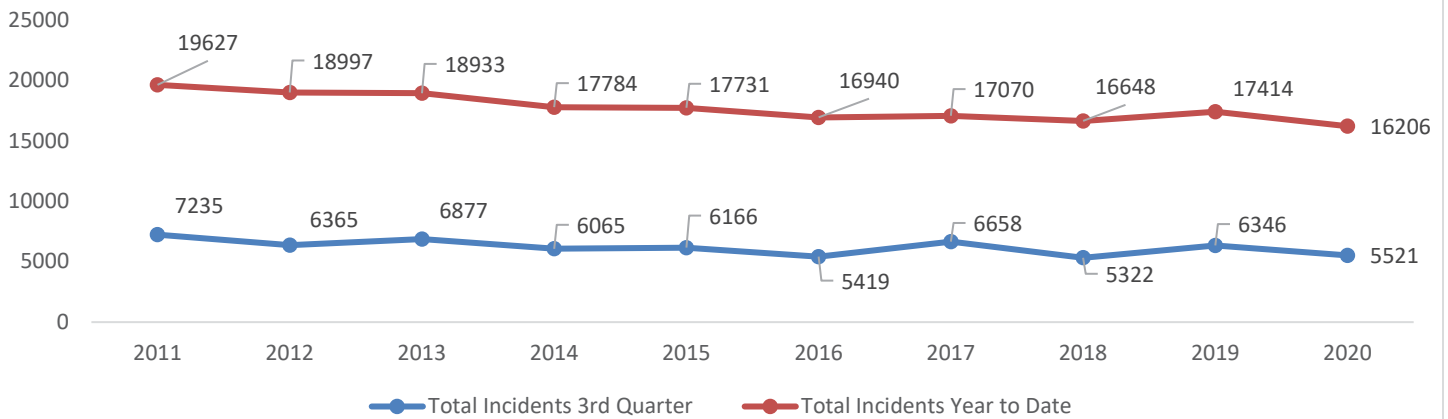
POPULATION	16745	16865	16995	17240	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200
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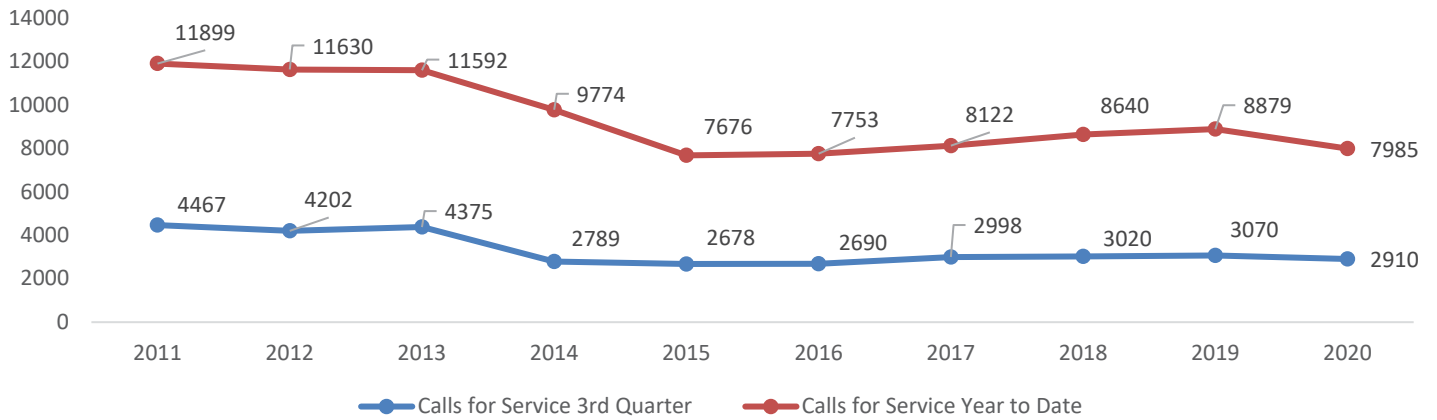
Hermiston Police Department 2011-2020 Patrol Stats - January through September

Incident Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Avg	Normal Range	2020	% Change Avg-'20	% Change '19-'20	
Total Incidents	19627	18997	18933	17784	17731	16940	17070	16648	17414	17905	17528-18282	16206	-9%	-7%	
Calls for Service	11899	11630	11592	9774	7676	7753	8122	8640	8879	9552	9075-10028	7985	-16%	-10%	
Officer Initiated Activity	7728	7367	7341	8010	10055	9187	8948	8008	8535	8353	7670-9037	8221	-2%	-4%	
Traffic Stops	3511	3645	3953	3717	5109	4735	3970	3161	4235	4004	3335-4673	3965	-1%	-6%	
Case Investigations	2247	2104	1985	2155	2485	2365	2337	2534	2451	2296	2222-2369	1781	-22%	-27%	
Total Arrests	990	980	1049	952	1051	1039	954	920	1014	994	944-1045	614	-38%	-39%	
Misdemeanor Arrests	701	663	720	651	816	788	652	642	739	708	638-778	413	-42%	-44%	
Felony Arrests	289	317	329	301	235	251	302	278	275	286	263-309	201	-30%	-27%	
Total Citations	5009	4656	4392	4466	5310	4698	4775	4128	5186	4736	4318-5153	3569	-25%	-31%	
POPULATION	16745	16865	16995	17240	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200				18415		

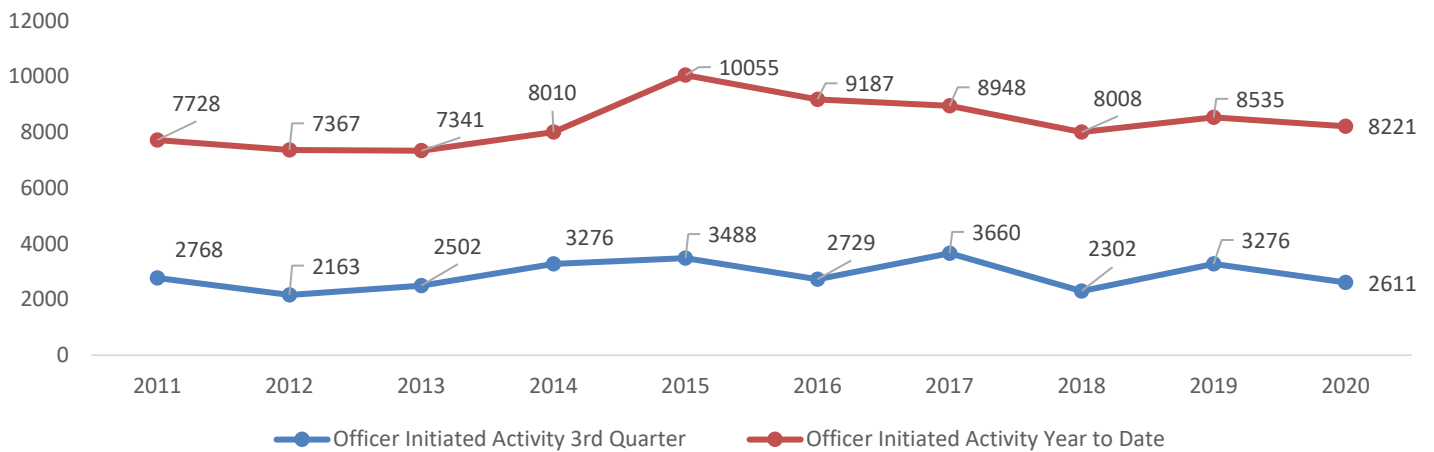
Total Incidents



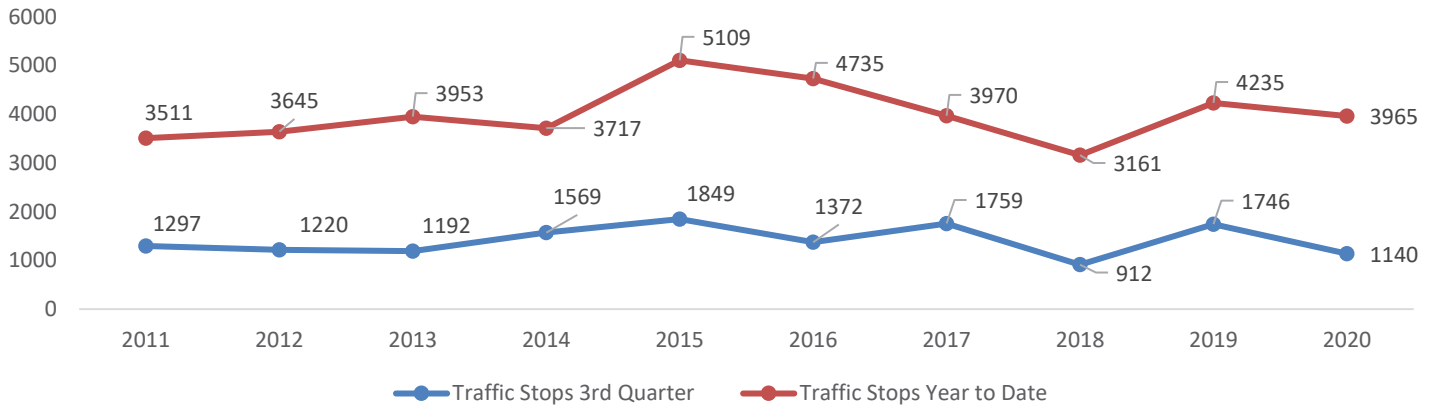
Calls for Service



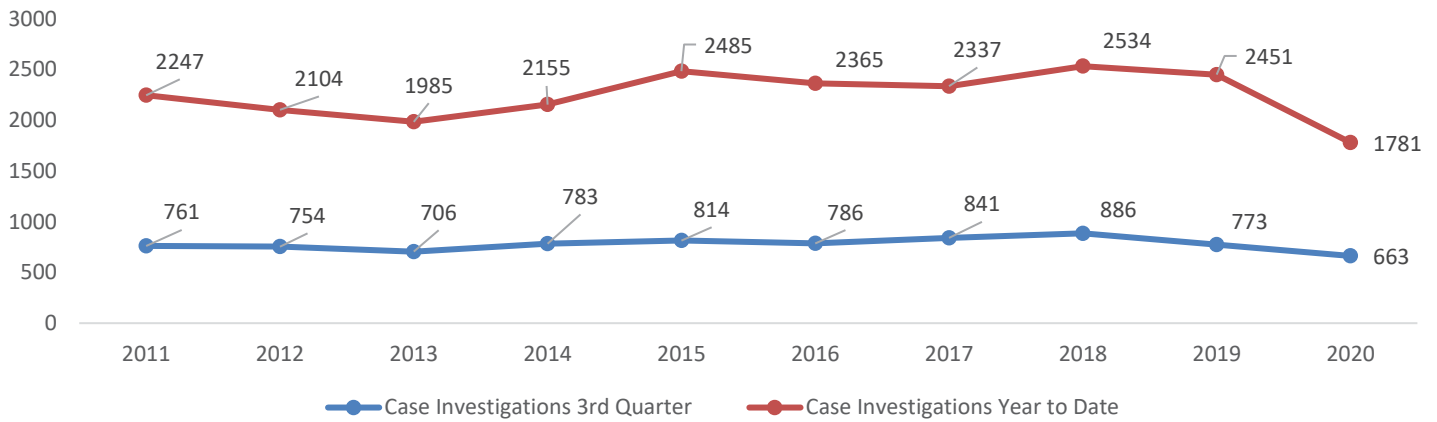
Officer Initiated Activity



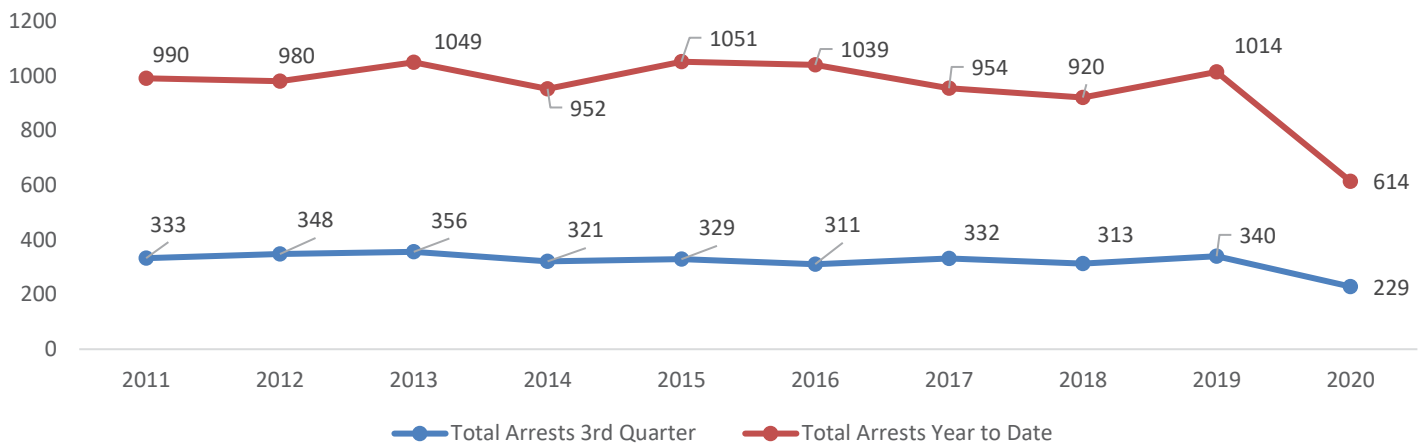
Traffic Stops



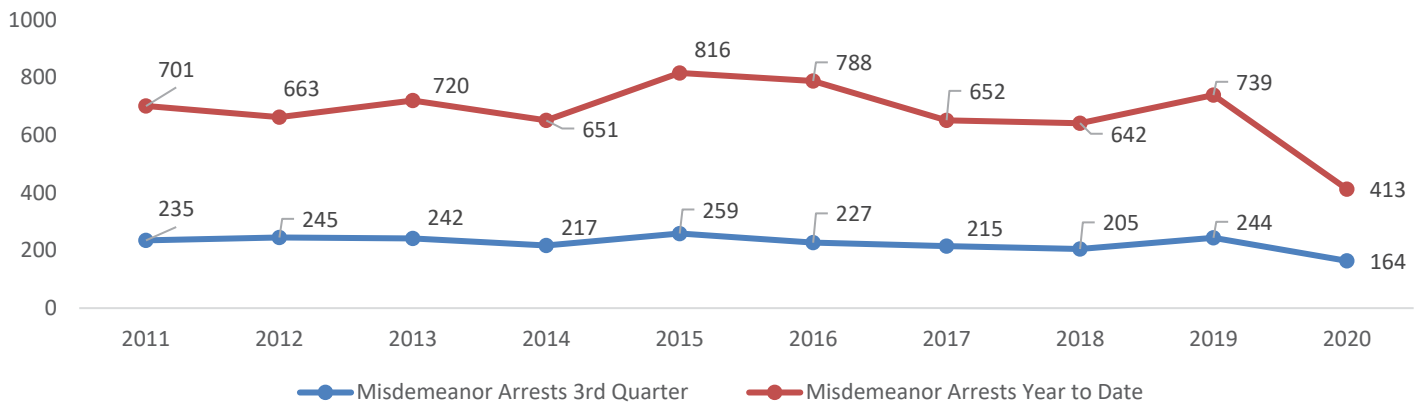
Case Investigations



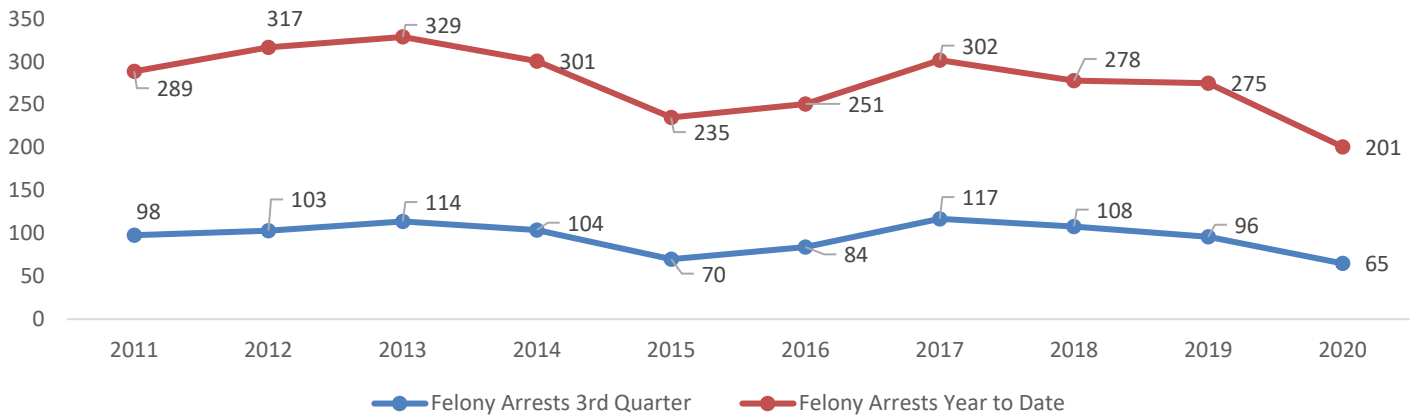
Total Arrests



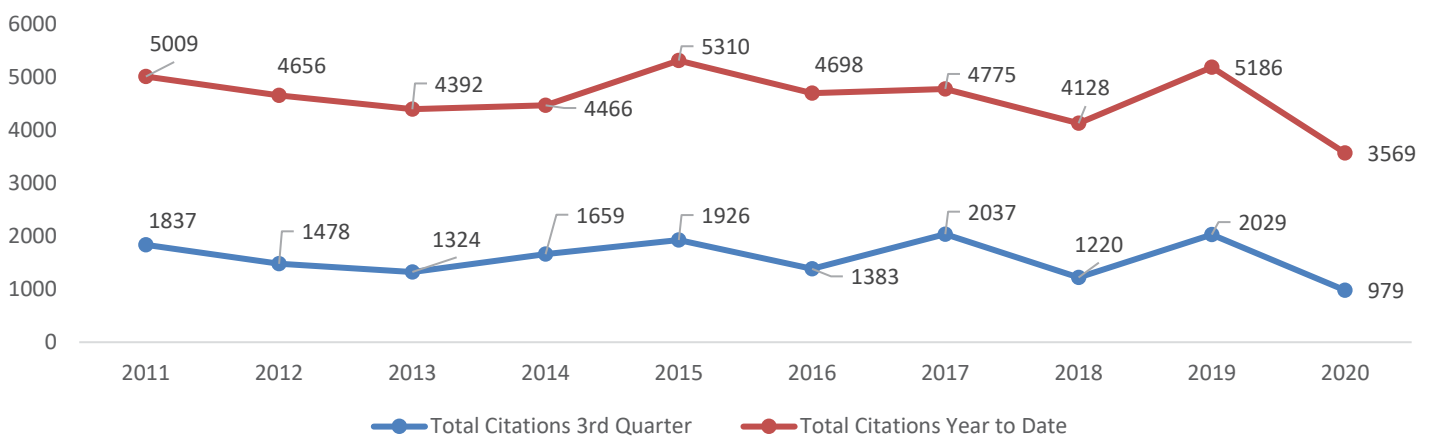
Misdemeanor Arrests



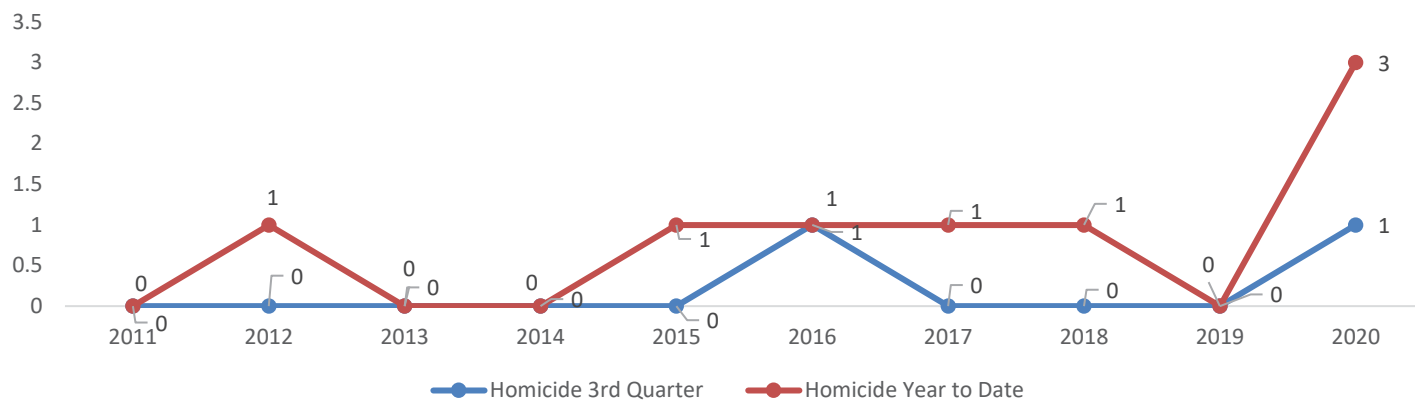
Felony Arrests



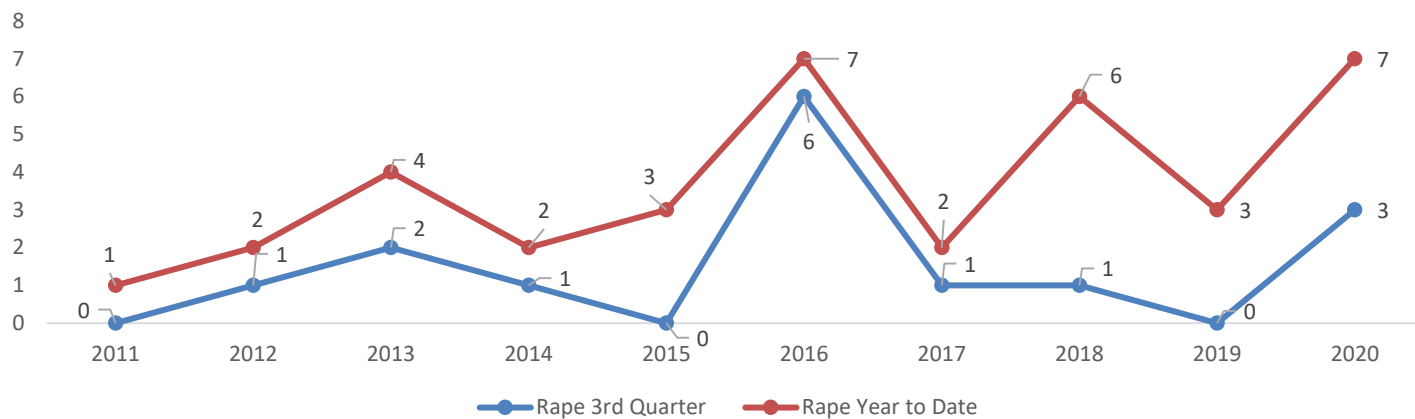
Total Citations



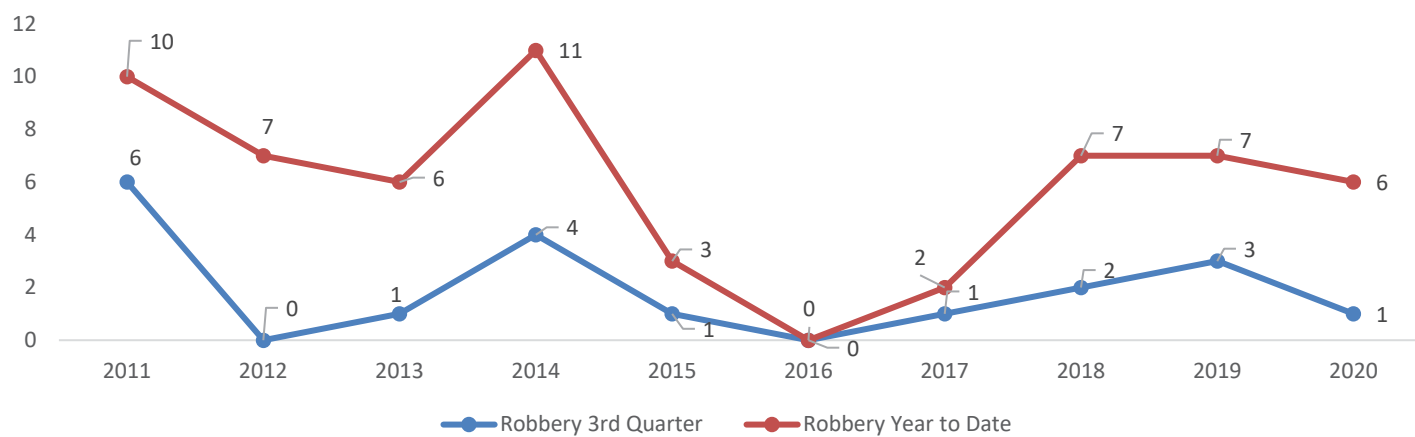
Homicide



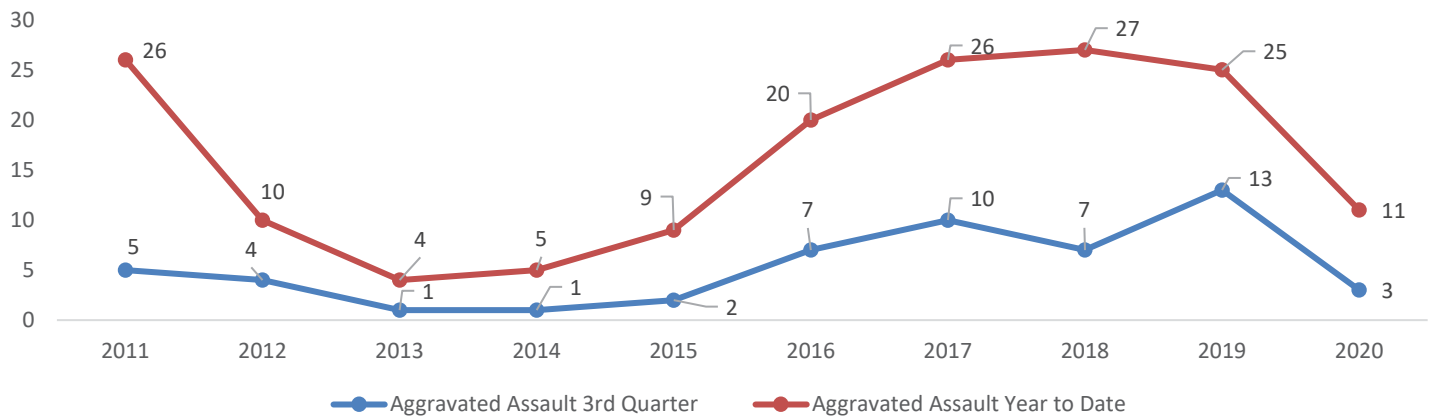
Rape



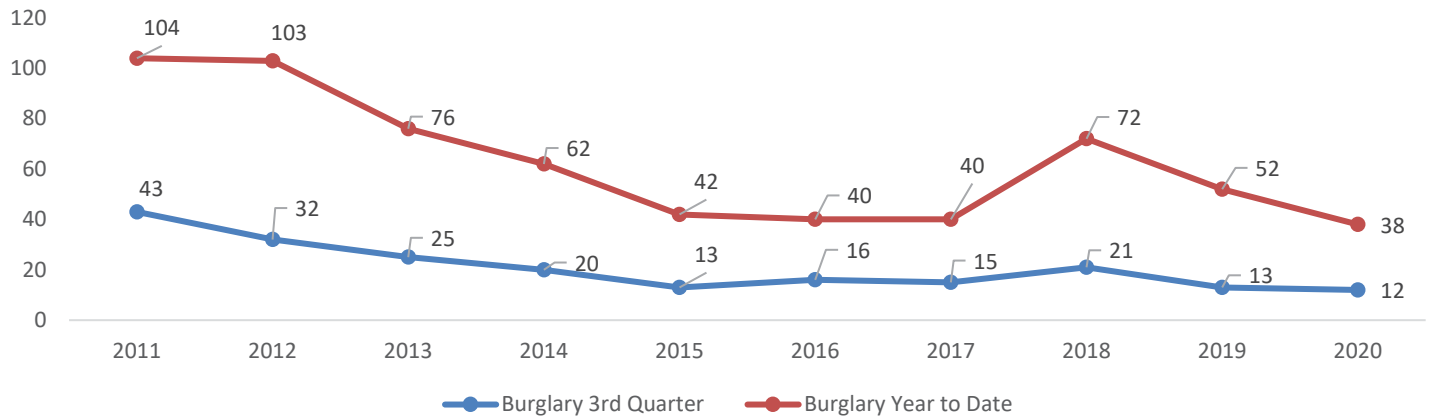
Robbery



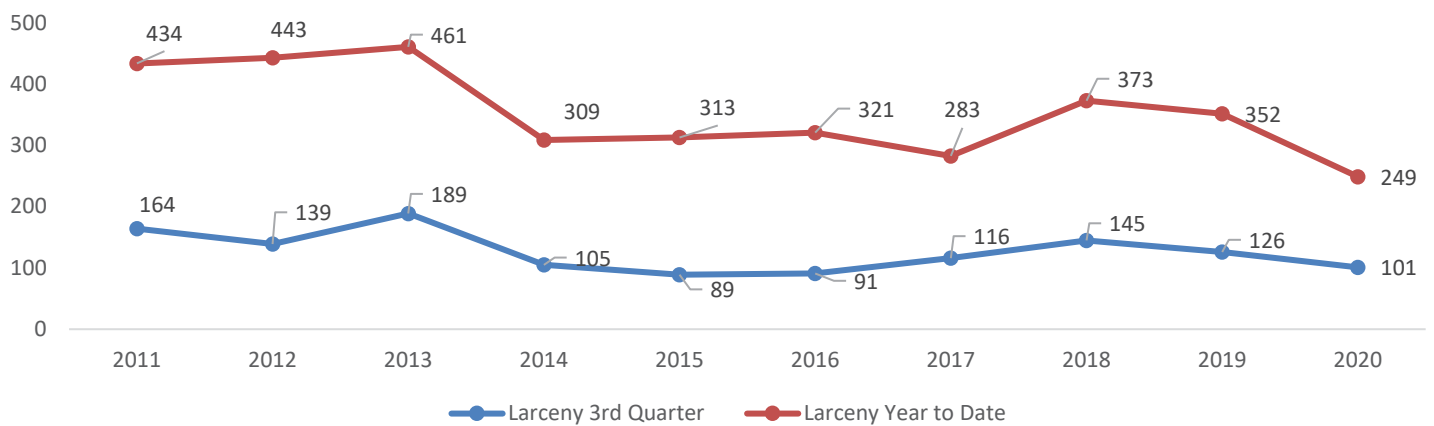
Aggravated Assault



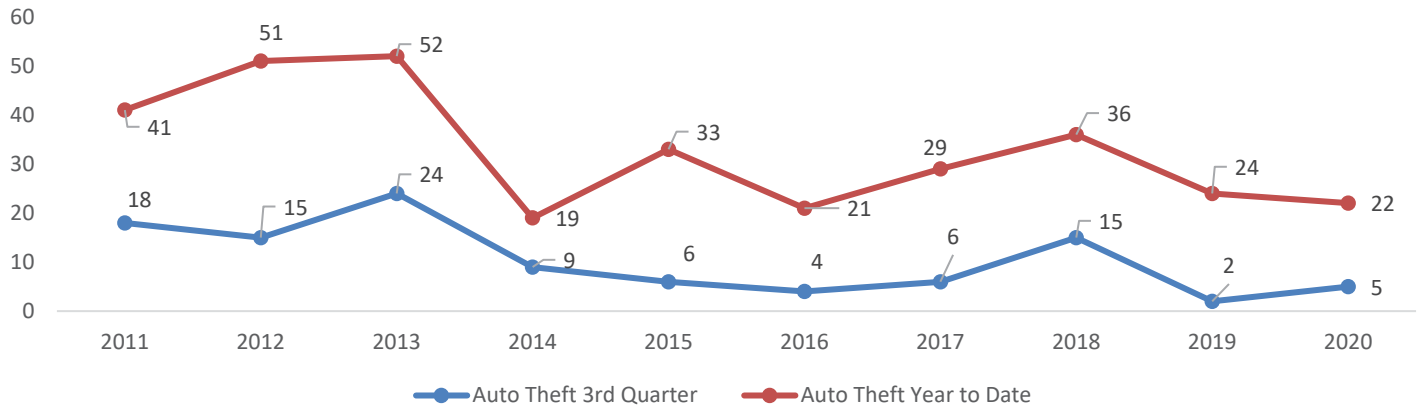
Burglary



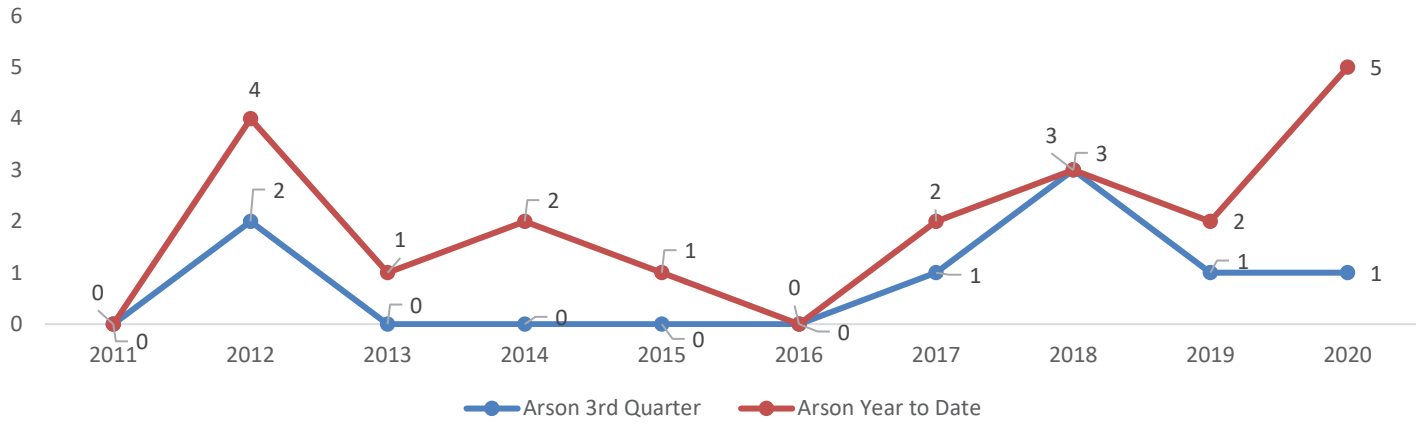
Larceny



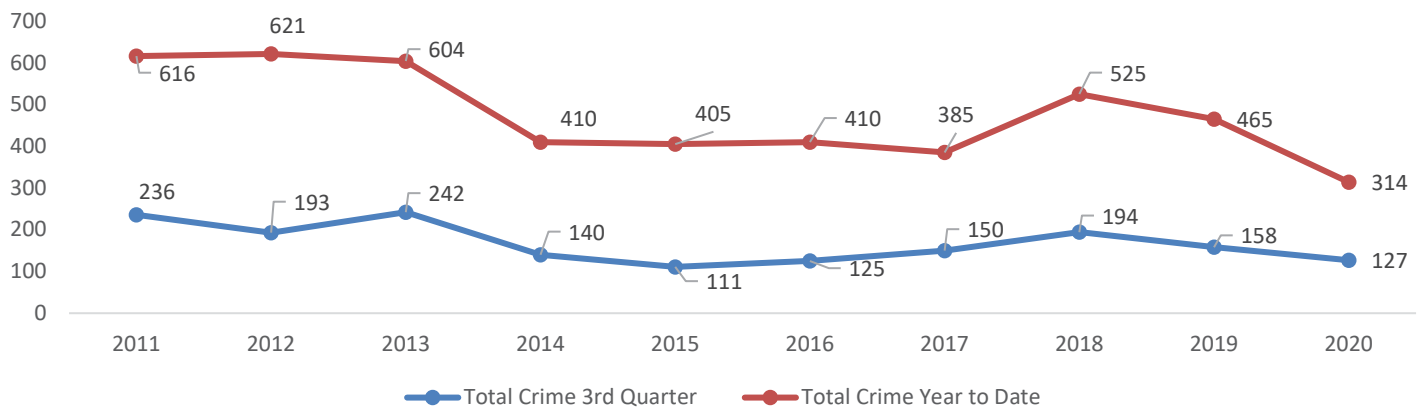
Auto Theft



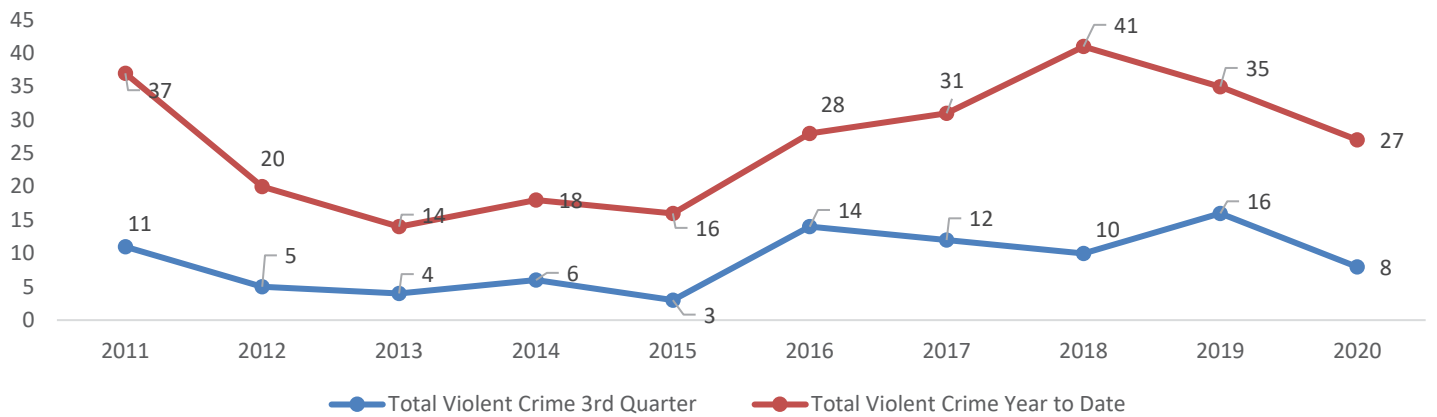
Arson



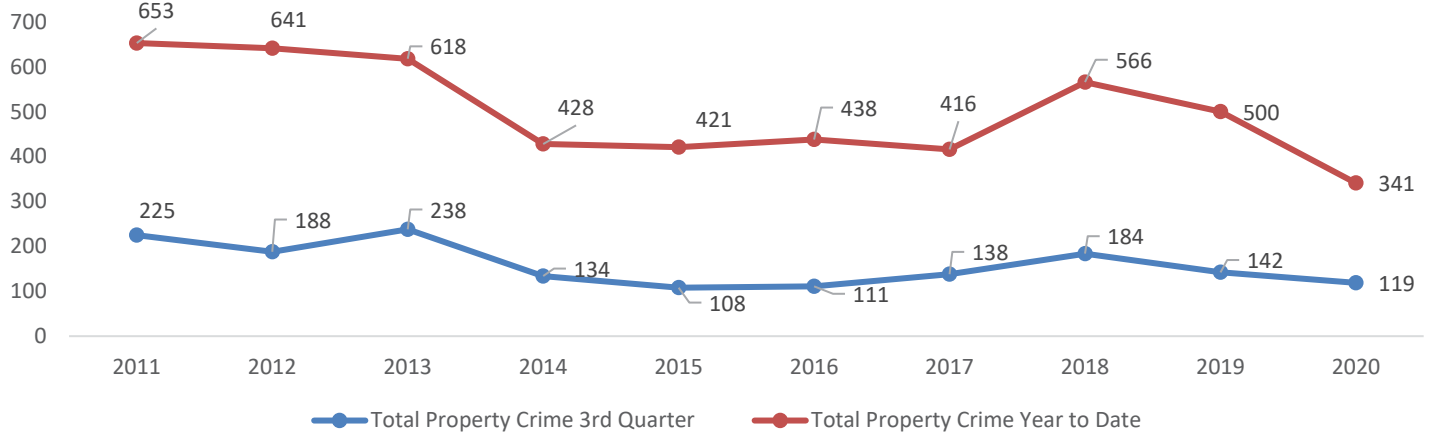
Total Crime



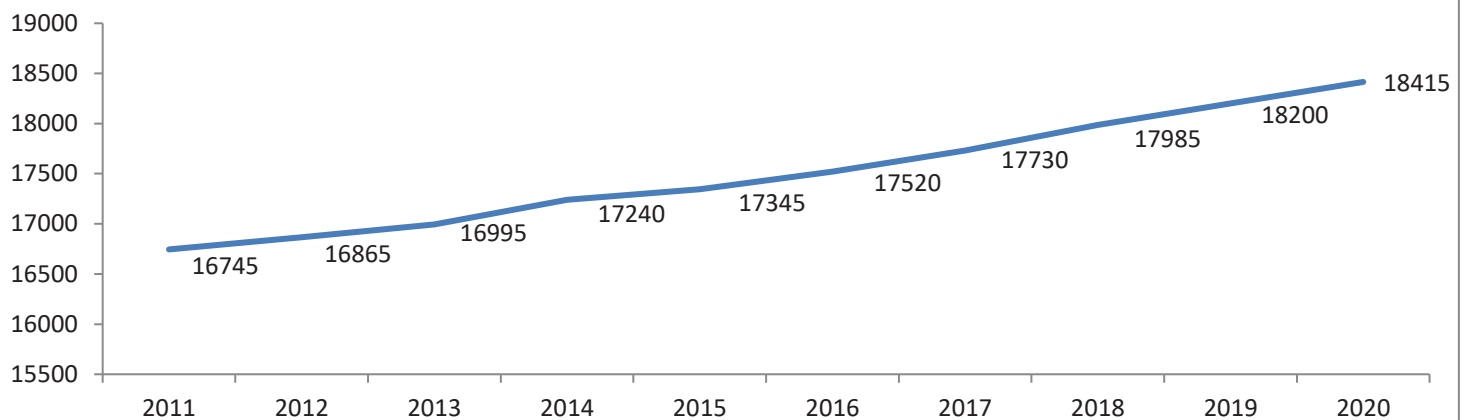
Total Violent Crime



Total Property Crime



Hermiston Population



Hermiston Christmas Express



COMMUNITY Canned Food Drive

Nov. 30th - Dec. 11th

YOU CAN HELP!

Please help us by donating non-perishable food items to help benefit those in need. All donations will go to the Hermiston Christmas Express Program. **(Please no glass containers.)**

DROP OFF LOCATION

Hermiston Community Center
415 South Highway 395
Hermiston, OR 97838

Drop off at front of building
anytime between 9am - 5pm





HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



330 S. First Street | Phone: 541-567-5519
Hermiston, Oregon 97838 | Fax: 541-567-8469
www.hermiston.or.us/police/home | Email: records@hermiston.or.us
Sine Metu Sine Gratia | *Without Fear Without Favor*

2021 DEPARTMENT GOALS

Customer Service

Provide efficient and effective police services consistent with the vision and values of our community. Serve as ambassadors of the city of Hermiston with an increased presence of employees at city meetings and functions. Place an emphasis on service delivery to our customers through the establishment of observable, measurable, targeted, and specific performance objectives for each employee of the department.

Predictive Policing Strategies

The department will utilize any policing strategy or tactic that develops and uses information and advanced analysis or technology to inform forward-thinking crime prevention. This includes the utilization of available intelligence/data and deployment of resources implementing a zero-tolerance stance for all incidents involving elements of criminal activity in a timely and targeted fashion specific to each shift or assignment. The continual nurturing of existing healthy partnerships will be critical.

Address Traffic Issues

Provide for a structured approach in dealing with the traffic-related issues experienced in the city by utilizing engineering, education, and enforcement strategies in dealing with these problems. Targeted enforcement of traffic along the Highway 395 corridor will be the priority of patrol.

Livability Issues

Focus on those issues which impact the livability of the citizens we serve will be a high priority. This includes noise complaints, animal complaints, controlled substance enforcement, and all code issues including areas of blight consistent with the Broken Windows Theory of policing.