

April 2016



PAYSON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Message from the Chief

It is incumbent upon me as the Chief of Police to start off this message by showing my extreme appreciation for the staff of the Payson Police Department. For the third year in a row the staff at the Payson Police Department has brought the index crime rate down in our community. This is an especially astounding accomplishment in that the department has operated with between 22 to 25 operational certified officers during this time. The staff at the Payson Police Department has brought the index crime rate down to 38.8 for 2015.

The areas that showed the most drastic improvements were the assault category, dropping from 185 in 2014 to 123 in 2015. One other category I am most proud of is dropping the burglary rate from 123 in 2014 to 85 in 2015. These are incredible accomplishments as

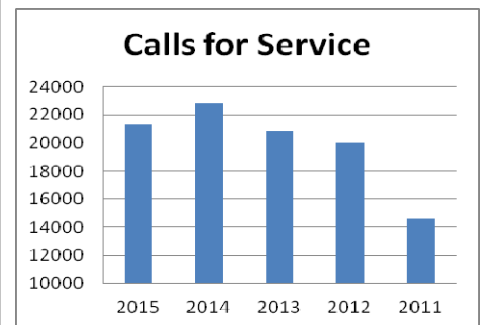
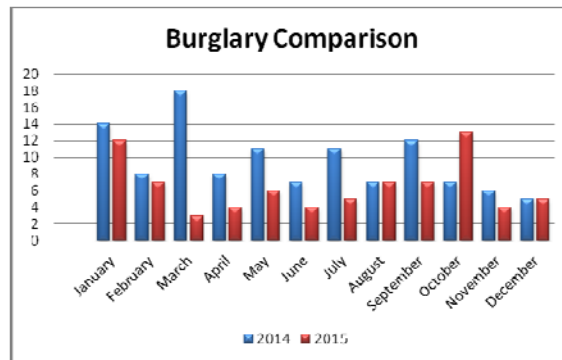
we continue to battle the use of methamphetamine and heroin in our community.

There is another interesting component in this equation for the first time in three years; the calls for service have dropped. The calls for service were at 22,844 in 2014 and had dropped to 21,347 in 2015. I believe there is a reasonable explanation for this drop as some of the calls for service are generated by on view activity by officers in the field. When the numbers of available officers working and looking for on view activity are limited due to staffing, there is a drop in the numbers of on view activity.

I also believe that our community is a big part of the reduction in the crime rate as we continue to educate the community and get our community involved. The community continues to participate to ensure that our neighborhoods are safe, especially by calling us at the first hint of potential criminal activity. This is very helpful in solving crimes early on and keeping crime from happening in our community.

Donald B. Engler

Donald B. Engler,
Chief of Police



A Quick Look at 2015

Index Crimes in 2015

Homicide.....	1
Rape.....	3
Robbery.....	4
Assaults.....	123
Burglary.....	85
Larceny.....	350
Motor Vehicle Theft.....	17
Arson.....	0

Traffic Citations.....	703
Adult Arrests.....	995
Juvenile Arrests.....	247
Domestic Violence Arrests....	130
DUI Arrests.....	78
Drug Related Arrests.....	248
Alarm Calls.....	460
Accidents.....	372

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Patrol

2015 was an extremely busy year for patrol.

Patrol Division consists of four squads. Each squad has one patrol sergeant and two officers. Two squads cover daytime hours and two squads cover nighttime hours. The patrol division works four – ten hour days, which could be extended dependent upon call volume for the day.

Most of the officers work in a specialty assignment as well, which is an addition to their regular duties. The patrol officers are loyal and hard working! Enough thanks cannot be given to their service. While at times patrol may be short-

handed, the officers step up and continue to perform at a high level, diligently working to keep the community safe.

When officers are not responding to calls for service you may see them working pro-actively completing traffic stops, doing field interviews or checking the security of businesses and homes in the community.

*In 2015 the Payson Police
Department welcomed two new
officers.
Officer Weeden and Officer Beeson*

Our officers are also very involved in our community during their off time as well. Officers of our department often coach sports teams such as Town of Payson basketball leagues, little league baseball, softball, t-ball and Northern Arizona Youth Football League. Some officers participate in the NRCD Ag Days, the Pony Express ride with Navajo County, the Gila County Fair, Draft Horse Program and Boy Scouts.

Investigations/Special Enforcement Unit

The primary function of the Investigative Division is to conduct follow-up investigations of reported crimes (i.e. murder, robbery, burglary, fraud, auto-theft, etc.) These investigations consist of interviewing suspects, victims, and witnesses; analyzing information for validity, reliability, and accuracy; and compiling a comprehensive and factual case to present to the prosecutor, who is responsible for presenting the case in court. Detectives as-

signed to the Investigative Divisions are also responsible for processing crime scenes in search of evidence that could be used to successfully prosecute offenders.

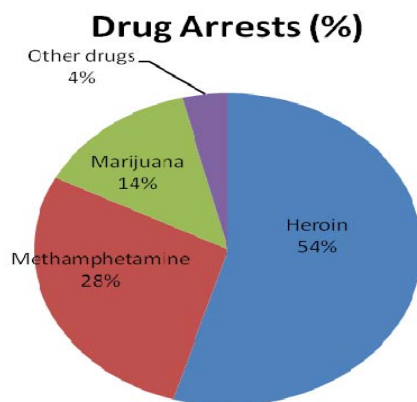


The General Investigations Unit consists of three detectives who also conduct background investigation for new employees.

During 2015, the General Investigations Unit conducted 138 criminal investigations, resulting in 52 arrests.



Special Enforcement Unit



The Special Enforcement Unit conducted 79 drug arrests. Of the arrests, 6 cases resulted in illegal drug sales charges. 22 search warrants were executed by the Special Enforcement Unit..

Seizures:

Yearly seizure amounts are:

- 22.1 grams of heroin
- 25.5 grams of methamphetamine,
- three marijuana grows
- 3 firearms
- \$1507 in cash related to drug sales.

Communications

While 2015 brought some bright spots to the Communications Center, it also brought some challenges. We began the year with 6 full-time dispatchers and 2 trainees. By the end of July that number had dropped to 4 full-time and 1 part-time dispatchers and 3 trainees. In order to keep the Center staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Sgt. Joni Varga and Officer Jesse Davies, both former dispatchers, worked 2 of their 4 shifts in Communications through October. Records Clerks Celena Ortiz and Beth Lacey, and Executive Assistant Laura Linkey each returned to Communications and each covered 1 shift a week. We also received assistance from Sgt's Hazelo and Garvin, and Detectives Mike Varga and Mike Hansen. Their assistance allowed us to continue

providing the same level of service the citizen's of Payson have come to expect. By the end of December our number had grown to 6 full-time and 1 part-time dispatcher as well as one trainee. The Center is authorized 11 dispatchers and a supervisor.

During the year, the Center answered 54,485 emergency and information calls of which 7,785 were received via 9-1-1. Sixty-eight percent of the 9-1-1 calls were received via cell phone which is in line with the national average. These calls generated 21,347 calls for service. The Center dispatches for the Payson Police and Fire Departments as well as Hellsgate, Houston Mesa, Christopher-Kohls, Whispering Pines, and Beaver Valley Fire Departments.

Senior staff members include Communications Supervisor Alison Murphy (19 years of service), Shift Leader/Trainer Dee Yarbrough (10 years of service) and Dispatcher Jill Van Camp (20 years of service). New members of our staff include David Timothy who was hired in June, and Shannon Wedell who started in August. Both successfully completed their training and were promoted from Trainee to Dispatcher I



Records

The Records Division is staffed with Records Clerks Beth Lacey and Celena Ortiz, and Records Administrator, Kathy Klein. This division is responsible for transcription, completion, and dissemination of all police reports and works closely with the officers to complete this task. Prompt and accurate processing of the reports and associated paperwork is an integral part of the judicial process.

In 2015 the Payson Police Department received 21,347 calls for service and many of these require the completion of police reports. In 2015, the Records Division completed and processed approximately 877 reports per month.

The Records Division is also responsible for many other duties to include completing background checks on individuals for employment, military service, and other needs, and responding

to requests for copies of police reports from the public, insurance companies, and other entities.



DARE

This year Officer Justin Deaton and Officer Nick Bogatko joined the D.A.R.E. program and began teaching approximately 179 students at Julia Randall Elementary School. D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a ten week interactive program where students learn about dealing with peer pressure, helping others, and making good choices.



K9

2015 was the first full year working together for Officer Davies and K9 Wiley. Over the course of the year, K9 Wiley was utilized on numerous calls including vehicle sniffs on traffic stops, drug investigations, and searches requested by the schools. K9 Wiley was not only put to use by officers of the Payson Police Department, but also assisted with several vehicle sniffs for the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Officer Davies and K9 Wiley continue to work towards their goal of obtaining patrol certification while maintaining their narcotics certification.



PAYSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Records- Kathy Klein:

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Administration / Vehicle Impounds- Celena Ortiz:

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D.A.R.E.- Sgt. Jason Hazelo:

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Facility Tours- Chief Engler:

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Volunteers in Policing- Chief Engler:

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It is the mission of the Payson Police Department to provide the highest quality of police services to our community. It is our responsibility to insure that the people we serve can feel safe in their homes, at their places of employment, in our schools and wherever they may travel within the corporate limits of the Town of Payson.



Awards for 2015

Officer of the Year

Jesse Davies

**Support Services Employee of
the Year**

Laura Linkey

[www.paysonpolice.com]



**In 2015 the Volunteers
worked 7,216 hours**