



PAYSON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Message from the Chief

Once again the staff of the Payson Police Department has risen above any possible expectation in that they have once again reduced the index crime rate in the Town of Payson.

This year's index crime rate has been reduced to 35.8. This accomplishment was during a time when the Payson Police Department was short staffed. During the past budget year, there was a financial agreement put in place that required three officer positions to be frozen. To compound the staffing matters, the Payson Police Department was operating with approximately twenty officers on a regular basis and during 2016 the

Payson Police Department hired eight officers.

The reportable index crimes was reduced from 583 to 555. Another notable area in reduction to the reportable index crimes is larceny/theft. In 2015 the department reported 350 cases of larceny/theft which was reduced to 275 cases in 2016. Both adult and juvenile arrests were comparable to the previous year.

Another area that changed drastically for our department was the addition of the 911 regional dispatching center. This placed a geographic line at Roosevelt Lake which directed all 911 calls and reportable

crime calls north of Roosevelt Lake to the Payson Police Department Dispatch Center. The Payson Police Department Dispatch Center now dispatches for the Gila County Sheriff's Office as well as three additional fire departments.

It was another very successful year for the entire staff of the department. I greatly appreciate their dedication and the manner in which they deal with citizens in our community. We are very fortunate to have the personnel we do who truly care about each member of our community.

Donald B. Engle

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A Look Back at 2016

Index Crimes

• Attempted Homicide...3	• Larceny.....275	• DUI Arrest.....65
• Rape.....5	• Motor Vehicle Theft.....25	• Drug Related Arrests...236
• Robbery.....5	• Arson.....0	• Alarm Calls.....385
• Assaults.....151	• Adult Arrests.....971	• Civil Traffic Citations....335
• Burglary.....91	• Juvenile Arrests.....228	• Accidents.....387
	• Domestic Violence Arrests..184	• 30 Day Impounds.....97



PATROL

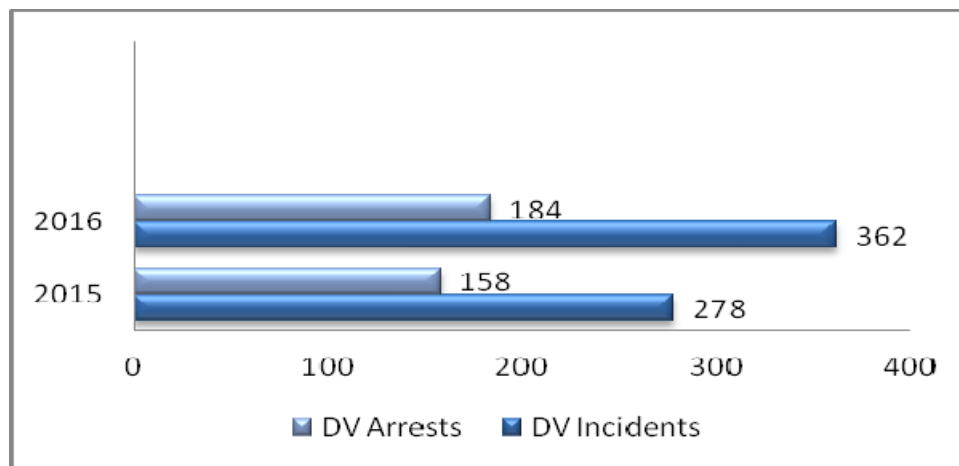
Patrol Division consists of four squads. Each squad has one patrol sergeant and two to three officers. The squads work four – ten hour days with two squads covering daytime hours and two squads covering nighttime hours.

In 2016 the Payson Police Department hired 8 officers, 4 of whom attended and graduated the police academy and two

lateral officers. Towards the end of 2016 two additional officers were hired and are set to graduate from the police academy in early 2017.

Most of our officers work in a specialty assignment as well, which is an addition to their regular duties such as D.A.R.E., Special Response Team, phlebotomist, Block Watch, Field Training Officer and

instructor for the Volunteer Program.



INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations Section of the Payson Police Department is responsible for cases that typically require more complex investigations. The members of the Criminal Investigative Section are all sworn officers who are experienced and trained in specialized fields such as homicide investigation, interview and interrogation techniques, hostage negotiations, crimes against children and child abuse investigation, identity theft and more. These detectives investigate cases needing special attention, cases that cross jurisdictional

boundaries, cases requiring several days or weeks of investigation, or those complex cases needing advanced techniques. Detectives are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support the Patrol Section in investigating crimes, assisting victims, and witnesses and preparing criminal cases for prosecution. Detectives assigned to the Investigative Divisions are also responsible for processing crime scenes in search of evidence that could be used to successfully prosecute offenders. This processing may include, but is not

limited to: the detection of latent fingerprints, crime scene photography, preservation and collection of physical evidence and crime scene sketching.

During 2016, detectives were assigned 135 criminal investigations which resulted in 33 arrests



SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The Special Enforcement Unit conducted 71 drug arrests or assists. Of the arrests, 7 arrests resulted in illegal drug sales charges. 17 Search Warrants were executed by the Special Enforcement Unit in 2016.

Drug outlook for the Town of Payson for 2016:

During this year, methamphetamine or a combination of methamphetamine and heroin dominated the nature of investigations comparatively to other years. Sig-

nificant enforcement of heroin and education in years past appears to have an effect on the street level environment.

Methamphetamine statistics, however, appear to be on the increase. On the street level, methamphetamine users may be declining, but the amounts of methamphetamine at the street level appear to be drastically increasing. Furthermore, a significant price decrease in methamphetamine has also been seen (over a 60 percent decrease). Both from street sources and from other intelligence venues, Mexi-

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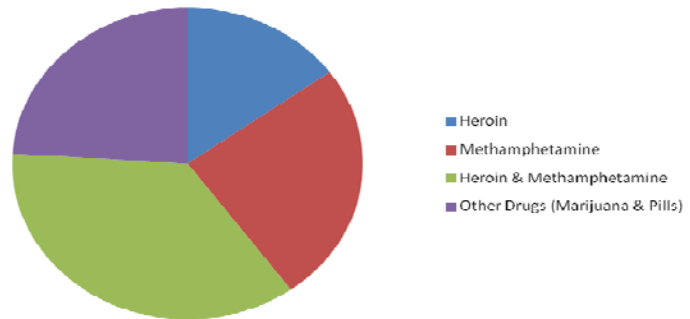
drug trafficking organizations (DTO) have significantly increased methamphetamine shipments to the United States which has led to a high availability of methamphetamine in larger amounts.

The Special Enforcement Unit and the Gila County Narcotics Task Force continue to enjoy a highly cooperative relationship in our enforcement efforts, which has led to several successful large/complex investigations.

Yearly Seizure Amounts:

- 16.65 grams of Heroin
- 126.5 grams of Methamphetamine
- 11 Firearms
- \$1091 in cash related drug

Drug Arrests



COMMUNICATIONS

2016 was a challenging and exciting year for Communications. At the beginning of the year, Communications dispatched for the Payson Police Department and 6 fire departments. In April we added Pine-Strawberry Fire Department, and at the beginning of July began dispatching duties for the Gila County Sheriff's office for the northern half of Gila County, the Tonto Apache Tribal Police, US Forest Service law enforcement officers, and Gisela Valley and Pleasant Valley (Young) Fire Departments. With the consolidation we welcomed dispatchers Deborah Hunsaker,

Melissa Kennedy, Sarah Haynie, and Dailynn Thomason to the Communications staff bringing our current staff to a Communications Supervisor, 9 dispatchers, 1 part-time dispatcher, and 2 trainees. With the additional responsibilities we also added a second computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system to the police department's existing CAD system.

During this past year Communications answered 75,709 non-emergency calls, which is 21,224 more than last year. This year 11,343 calls were received via 9-1-1,

of which 8416 calls, or 74%, were received from cell phones. This number is just slightly higher than the national average. From these calls, dispatchers pulled 23,737 calls for service for the police/fire side, and 6,507 calls for the Sheriff's office side for a total of 30,244 calls for service for the areas served.





RECORDS

The Records Division is staffed with Records Clerk Beth Lacey and Records Administrator, Kathy Klein. Records Clerk, Celena Ortiz, promoted into the Administration area of the police department in February and former dispatcher, Laura Linkey, was hired to replace Celena shortly after. Laura left the police department about 5 months later for an opportunity outside of the Town of Payson. In October, current dispatcher, Sarah Haynie, was hired as our new Records Clerk and currently remains in the process of transferring into the Re-

ords Division.

The Records 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.

The Payson Police Department received 23,737 calls for service in 2016 and approximately 11,900 of these calls required the completion of police reports. This resulted in the completion of approximately 991 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.



K9

2016 marked the second full year of working together for Officer Davies and K9 Wiley. Although Officer Davies spent much of the year training new officers for the Payson Police Department, K9 Wiley was still able to assist officers with the Payson Police Department, Gila County Sheriff's Office, Arizona Department of Public Safety, and Tonto Apache Reservation Police Department on vehicle sniffs throughout the year. K9 Wiley was also utilized in conjunction with the service of search warrants for drugs, and also with searches requested by the schools.



DARE

Overseen by Sergeant Hazelo, this year Officer Justin Deaton and Officer Nick Bogatko had the opportunity to work with 5th grade students at Julia Randall Elementary School. Through our valued partnership, D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is offered as a ten week class. D.A.R.E is an interactive program presenting topics and discussions on making wise choices, dealing with peer pressure, handling stress and how to help others. Approximately 180 students participated and graduated D.A.R.E this year.

The Payson Police Department will continue to work collaboratively with the school to continue with the strong relationship and making a connection between our youth and law enforcement. We would like to thank the parents for allowing their children to be part of this great program

SRT

The Payson Police Department Special Response Team is made up of 5 dedicated Payson Police Officers. The Team had 10 calls for service in 2016. The Payson Police Departments Special Response Team is committed to provide the community with a highly motivated, technically and tactically skilled team, capable of responding to critical incidents and resolving them by mitigating the inherent risks to innocent parties, officers and suspects.

VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING

During 2016 the volunteers contributed 7,738 hours at the Payson Police Department bringing the total number of hours worked by volunteers to 162,452.50 since the program began. The volunteers are a huge help to the department and help us with our daily functions. The Payson Police Department is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please come in to the Payson Police Department and ask for an application.

Areas to Volunteer:

- Reception
- Patrol
- Maintenance Projects
- Home Checks
- PATH
- Guardian Angel
- Property & Evidence
- Crime Scenes
- Funeral Escort / Parades

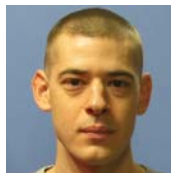
NEW OFFICERS IN 2016



Geoffrey
Gomez



Jesse
Castaneda



John Lynch



Daniel Meza



Keven Rush



Jirhod Brennan



Mark Essary



Joseph
Oldeschulte

PAYSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

303 N. Beeline Highway

Payson, Arizona 85541

Emergency.....911

Non-Emergency.....928-474-5177

Fax.....928-474-4558

Email Contacts:

Chief Donald Engler:

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Commander Sherwood Eldredge:

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Records Department:

kklein@paysonaz.gov

Administration/Vehicle Impounds:

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D.A.R.E.—Sgt. Jason Hazelo:

jhazelo@paysonaz.gov

Facility Tours:

dengler@paysonaz.gov

Volunteers in Policing:

dengler@paysonaz.gov

Hiring/Recruiting:

jhazelo@paysonaz.gov

