



PAYSON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Volume 1, Issue 1

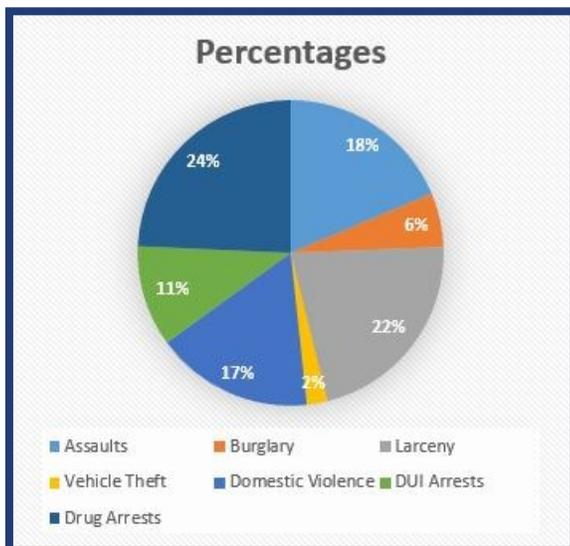
A message from the Chief:

The 2019 Payson Police Department Annual Report is herein presented for your review. There were several changes occurring at the Payson Police Department this past year. We would like to thank Chief Engler, who retired after thirty-six years in law enforcement, for his dedication and leadership to the Department and the Town.

Recruitment and retention of officers, dispatchers, and civilian personnel is a challenge that faces every Law Enforcement agency. Members of the Department have done an incredible job seeking out people to come to Payson and work for the Police department. For the first time in many years the dispatch center is fully staffed. We're coming close to being fully staffed for sworn officers as well. We will strive to create a diverse team and maintain a high level of professionalism within the department.

As we move forward we will focus on expanding our community policing philosophy and engage stakeholders to become proactive in reducing crime, traffic concerns and overall safety of the Town. We are also focusing training on employee health and wellness.

In the later part of 2019 we partnered with Community Bridges to provide Mental Health First Aid training for all Officers and Dispatchers. We plan to build upon this training which helps officers and dispatchers best serve and find resources for persons dealing with mental illness. In 2020 we will train several officers and dispatchers in Critical Incident Training. The Payson Police Department will continue to become a progressive department looking for unconventional ways to better meet the needs of our community.



Crime Stats for 2019:

• Homicide	0	• Juvenile Arrests	220
• Rape	1	• Domestic Violence Arrests	178
• Robbery	3	• DUI Arrests	114
• Assaults	199	• Drug Arrests	259
• Burglary	61	• Alarm Calls	464
• Larceny	232	• Civil Citations	841
• Vehicle Theft	23	• Accidents	426
• Arson	2	• 30 Day Impounds	87
• Adult Arrests	888		

CHANGING OF THE CHIEFS:

2019 ushered in a changing of the guard of sorts for the Payson Police Department as Chief Donald Engler and Sgt. Donny Garvin retired after both dedicating decades to serving the citizens of Payson. Shortly after, the Police Department hired former La Crosse Wisconsin Chief Ronald J. Tischer as the new Chief of Police.

Chief Tischer has 27 Years of service under his belt, and has visions of following the 21st century policing philosophy.

Already, changes have been implemented along with a variety of new ideas. The department is excited to venture into this new direction under his leadership.



Chief Donald B. Engler (with Lieutenant Hazelo) saying goodbye at his retirement party. (above)



Chief Ron J. Tischer (with Officers Meza, Bathke, and Lieutenant Hazelo) showing off his pink patch for Breast Cancer awareness month. (left)

PATROL DIVISION:

2019 was a very busy year for the Patrol Division, two longtime Payson Police Officers, Jesse Davies and Michael Hansen, were promoted to Patrol Sergeants and two new patrol officers joined our ranks as we welcomed Kyle Bathke and Kody Anderson to the team. The Patrol Division currently consists of 18 sworn police officers who are divided into 4 squads. Each squad is supervised by a Patrol Sergeant, two squads working nights and two squads working during the day. These officers stayed busy attending to 14,905 calls for service. Those calls for service resulted in 1103 arrests not including a large number of cases sent to the Gila County Attorney's Office for review, charging, and the issuance of a summons or arrest warrant.

The Patrol division continues to aggressively and proactively enforce DUI and Drug-related crimes due to the life altering consequences these offenses have in our community. This past year, of the 259 people arrested for drug offenses, 65 people were arrested for possession of dangerous drugs, 68 people were arrested for possession of narcotic drugs, and 75 people were arrested for possession of marijuana. Payson Police Officers booked 114 people on 159 counts of driving under the influence, that includes both felony and misdemeanor DUI offenses. Domestic Violence incidents continue to be an area of concern within our community as officers arrested 178 people on 274 counts of domestic violence offenses this past year. Patrol is looking forward to another great year in 2020.

Community policing remains a priority of the patrol division and the Payson Police Department. We recognize that the most effective way we can do our job is by partnering with you, the public. Those partnerships come in many forms and we look forward to growing them as we move forward. This year patrol officers often gave tours of our agency, had ride-alongs, and gave presentations to students in our community. Programs like Read Across America, Shop with a Hero, and Coffee With a Cop gave our patrol officers great opportunities to meet community members in unique environments.



Chief Tischer welcoming the pre-schoolers from God's Little Ladybug's PreK



Detective Joey Johnson serving up smiles at Coffee With a Cop.



Officers Brennan and Oldeschulte spending some quality time in the snow



Officer Brennan rendering aid via quad during Snowmagedon in February 2019

RECORDS

The Records Division went through a transition in 2019. Records Administrator, Kathy Klein, retired early in the year at which time Celena West took over supervisory duties of the Records Division that is staffed by Beth Lacey, Sarah Haynie and Cassandra Vieira.

The Records Division is responsible for the transcription, completion, and dissemination of all police reports. The Records Division works closely with the officers, County Attorney's Office and the Town Attorney's Office every day to provide them with essential items for prosecution purposes. The Records Division is also responsible for processing requests for police reports from the public, insurance companies and other entities as well as completing background checks on individuals for employment and military services.

The clerks completed a huge accomplishment in becoming NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System) certified. It can be a lengthy process and requires more details reported to the FBI and required many changes and updates to the Records Management System. All agencies are required to become NIBRS certified by 2021. The standard to be certified is having a less than 4% error rating for three consecutive months. The records department was able to achieve this without any issues and made it one of the smoothest transitions DPS has seen.

K-9:

Officer Anderson and his 5 ½ month old Belgian Malinois puppy "Loki" have begun the training process to be a dual purpose police K-9 for our department and will eventually be certified as both a Patrol and Drug Detection dog...Watch as Loki grows into a great asset for our department!



Chief Tischer & future
K-9 Officer Loki



Officer Anderson & future
K-9 Officer Loki

PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

The Payson Police Department impounds evidence, safekeeping and found property for a variety of reasons. The following statistics show what was processed in 2019 by Todd Bramlet and Leslie Zickefoose in the Property Room:

We also manage the prescription drug drop off box. An estimated 1200 pounds of expired, unused prescription medications were collected and turned over to the DEA for proper disposal. Not only does this community service aid in diminishing the availability of prescription medications to abuse, it keeps the drugs out of our water supply.

- * Total Items Impounded: 3,223
- * Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia Items: 1,015
- * Safekeeping: 268
- * Found Property: 168
- * Property Submitted for Destruction: 44
- * Bikes Impounded: 40
- * Vehicles Impounded for Evidence or Safekeeping: 24
- * Firearms Impounded: 81
- * Property Disposed of (Destroyed, Donated, Returned to Owner): 696

*Some categories overlap.

Areas to Volunteer:

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

VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING:



Volunteers: Sarkis Mouradian, Dave Golembewski, Rich Ladrigan

In 2019, the volunteers contributed 6,614 hours at the Payson Police Department bringing the total number of hours worked by volunteers to 185,179 since the program began. The volunteers are a huge part of the department and help us with our daily functions. The Payson Police Department is always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to join, please come in to the Payson Police Department and ask for an application.

D.A.R.E.

Over the last year, Officer Rush and Officer Bogatko had the opportunity to work with 5th grade students and staff at Julia Randall Elementary School. Through our valued partnership with the school, we offer the D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program as a ten-week class.

D.A.R.E is an interactive program with students presenting topics and discussions on making wise choices, dealing with peer pressure, handling stress, bullying, how to help others, and how to be a good citizen.



Approximately 180 students participated and graduated D.A.R.E in the spring and fall semester last year. Thank you to the students who graduated, and the staff at JRE for continuing to make a positive influence on our children and their future.

S.R.O.

The position of SRO is unlike any other in law enforcement. Most of what we do in law enforcement is reactionary. Whether it's responding to an emergency or issuing a traffic ticket, the role is always in response to something observed or that has happened. The SRO has the rare opportunity to be on the prevention side of the law.

This year, the focus of the law-related education has centered around the issue of vaping and social media. Vaping has hit the youth in a big way and any success in reducing that will only be won through continuous education. Social media is also a big part of kids lives and many parents and kids do not realize the dangers that exist .

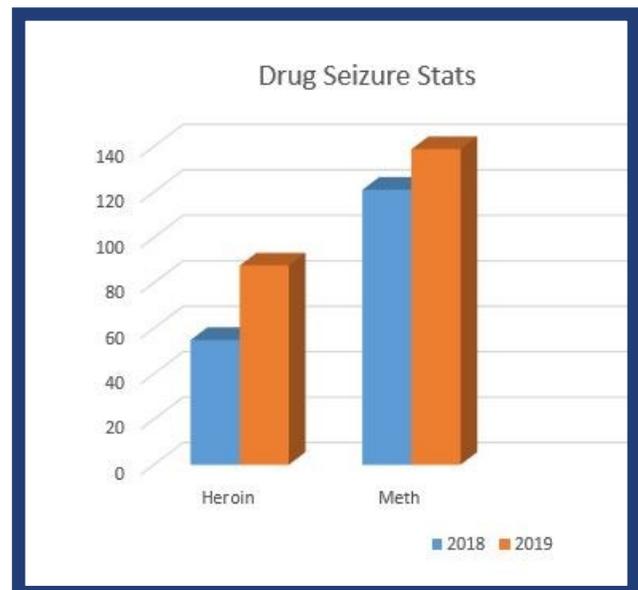
The special enforcement unit had a remarkable year in 2019. All major statistically tracked categories increased from the year 2018 (it should be noted that in 2018, all major areas had increased from 2017). Some of these areas were significant.

In 2019, the unit increased its arrests from 72 (2018) to 81 (2019). Heroin seizures increased in 2019 by 38 percent. Methamphetamine seizures increased by 10 percent. In addition, the department made a four pound methamphetamine seizure which was a record amount for PPD. Furthermore, the unit executed 23 search warrants which is an increase from 18 the year before. Lastly, the unit saw a 24 percent increase, from 2018, in general case assignments as well.

The unit attributes its remarkable year to a law enforcement philosophy which is collaborative real-time criminal intelligence sharing. Essentially, drug intelligence information is shared quickly with other units of the department, other agencies and prosecutors. Commonly, drug investigation units, in the past, kept drug intelligence to themselves. We have done the opposite with resounding success. The most significant success has occurred with the sharing of drug intelligence with patrol officers within the department.

Another by-product of this tactic has been the success of prosecutions through the Gila County Attorney's office. Aggressive prosecutions coupled with collaboration from the unit, has produced 17 major Arizona Department of Corrections commitments. These successes are being seen on the streets of Payson. The unit looks forward to presenting another televised drug presentation in 2020.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT:



Raw statistics:

Money seizures were \$8915

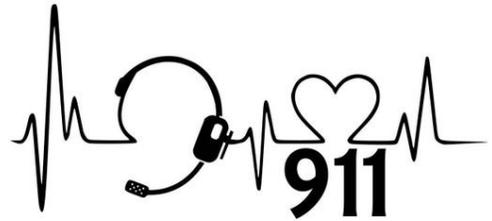
43 of the arrests were subjects on felony release/warrant/or previously submitted felonies

COMMUNICATIONS:

2019 was a very exciting year for our communications center. At the beginning of the year we welcomed two new dispatchers to our center, Courtney Reagan and Hailee Krause, bringing our staffing up to 11 dispatchers. In July we ended our contract with the Gila County Sheriff’s Office for Northern Gila County. County dispatching responsibilities returned to the Globe dispatch center. However, we continue dispatching responsibilities for the fire departments in the county including: Pine-Strawberry fire, Water Wheel fire, Cristopher Kohl’s fire, and Gisela fire.

In July we also implemented Text to 911, allowing citizens who are unable to speak for a variety of reason, the ability to still reach 911. We still encourage people to call if they are able to, as the technology does not allow us to get a location from a text, and talking is a more efficient way to give information to get a faster response. Another program that we have adapted is rapidSOS, a platform that allows the communications center to better determine a location on a call through the data that the phone gives while its calling 911. Again, the data we receive is not always 100% accurate to where the caller really is, so we ask citizens to give us your location when we call.

During this past year our Communications center handled all varieties of calls from a shooting at Giant south gas station (now speedway), to bank robberies at Chase and Wells Fargo’s. For the entire year the communication center answered a total number of 73,555 calls, of those 13,438 were 911 calls.



PAYSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Payson, Arizona 85541



Emergency.....911
Non-Emergency.....928-474-5177
Fax Number.....928-474-4558

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