



**Date:** March 15, 2022  
**To:** City Council  
**From:** Brian S. Smith, *Police Chief*  
**Subject:** Port Angeles Police Department 2021 Report

**Summary:** I am very pleased to present the 2021 Port Angeles Police Department 2021 Report. A copy of the report is attached to the March 15, 2022 City Council meeting packet. The report can also be found via this link <https://www.cityofpa.us/DocumentCenter/View/11271/2021-Annual-Report->

**Funding:** N/A

**Recommendation:** N/A

**Background:** The Port Angeles Police Department (PAPD) 2021 report contains various submissions written by the respective deputy directors or supervisors in all the important Department operational areas. It is their report on the challenges and accomplishments experienced by our staff in 2021. Much of the report focuses on the people that make up PAPD. We know that our personnel are our most valuable resource. They make me proud.

Since I completed my report submission in mid-February some important things have changed. The Legislature passed five important bills, two of which have been already signed by the Governor. HB 1719 allows the return of our less lethal “sponge round” rifles and HB 1735 allows officers to use physical force when necessary to carry out lawful detentions in a host of civil and non-criminal situations. These two changes allow for additional less lethal options in use of force situations and allows officers to use their authority, for example under the Involuntary Treatment Act to take certain persons into custody and transport them to an appropriate facility.

Also passed but not yet signed by the Governor is SB5555, which creates professional certification for 9-1-1 Communications Officers, HB 2037 which clarifies use of force standards in criminal instances to include allowing for necessary force to be used during a lawful criminal detention and provides for a workable definition of physical force and SB 5919 which relaxes some of the requirements during police pursuits, adds additional training and tactical requirements and overall allows law enforcement to engage in vehicular pursuits in a somewhat wider range of circumstances. All the 2022 legislative “clarifications” require a significant amount of staff time to both change and update policy and to engage in the required re-training.

Challenges moving forward:

- Staff recruitment, retention and training; All the recently hired commissioned officer cadre will be fully trained and working independently by late 2022. Also, by late 2022 we are hopeful that PenCom will make progress in filling the 7 Communication Officer vacancies and Police Operations will have all authorized Code Enforcement positions filled and staff fully operational.
- Increases in certain crime areas: Auto theft, armed robbery and burglary are seeing year to date increases over 2021 and statewide trends show increases for certain types of violent and property crime over a two year period. The WASPC publication, Crime in Washington 2021 will be available in May of 2022 and provide a statewide look at the reported in crime in WA during 2021 with comparisons to previous years.
- Increased impacts from the use of illicit and dangerous drugs: Since mid-2021 with the Blake decision and the subsequent legislation persons who use illicit and dangerous drugs have had much less to fear in terms of legal consequences. We have a difficult time measuring the total number of illicit and dangerous drug users. We see and experience daily the impacts of this drug use in terms of human misery, drug overdoses and criminal activity. As the legislation that addresses the use and possession of dangerous and illicit drugs expires in 2023, we believe that drug use and the impacts will be a significant topic of public discussion in the future.