

Mount Vernon Police Department

2022

*Attaining the highest quality of life and security
for all who live, work, learn, and visit
the City of Mount Vernon...*

*by working with our neighborhoods
promoting safety and reducing crime.*

**Annual
Report**

MOUNT VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT CODE OF ETHICS

As a Mount Vernon Police Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder and to respect the Constitutional Rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.



I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of the office. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions.

With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession law enforcement.



DEPARTMENT VISION

Safe and Enjoyable Community Living



DEPARTMENT MISSION

To consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve, and deliver a feeling of security, safety, and productive, quality services to citizens and visitors of our community.

The Department's Vision, Mission and Values, in concert with the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, reflect the guiding philosophy of the Mount Vernon Police Department.

CONTENTS

	Page(s)
Law Enforcement Code of Ethics	2
Contents	3
Introduction	4
Opening Remarks from the Police Chief	5
Snapshot	6
Organizational Structure	7
Staffing & Functional Organization Chart	8-9
Bureau Summary	10-11
Our Community	12
Crime	13
Crime Profile	14
Calls for Service	15-17
Resource Planning	18
Department Priorities	19
Deploying First Responders	20
Changing How We Deploy	22-23
Hiring Activity	23
Department Budget	25
Policing Challenges	25-27
2022 Organizational Accomplishments	28

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report identifies and documents the Police Department's 2022 experiences, accomplishments and achievements. It's an inward look at our successes and strengths, as well as an outward measure of effectiveness in our ability to build positive community partnerships and citizen involvement. It includes crime statistics and identifies how Department resources are utilized. This report also provides a glimpse into future obstacles and challenges, which will be addressed through annual strategic planning.

“The real measure of a police agency – the fact that separates excellence from mediocrity – is the commitment to purpose and to pursue continuous improvement with integrity”

- MVPD STRATEGIC PLAN

We continued to build programs, practices and implement crime reduction measures that are relevant, have the community's trust and confidence at their core. Education and prevention are key to focus on and find ways to resolve problematic issues as well as our ability to communicate and partner with citizens and businesses, eliciting their help and support. Crime prevention continues to be the central theme of this organization and make our community a desired place to live, work, learn, and play.



To Our Community:

A series of unfortunate incidents started 2022. A homicide crime, assisting Sedro Woolley Police with an officer involved shooting and Washington State Patrol with a weapons brandishing against a Trooper, an infant death (SIDS), a hit and run accident injuring a family of four bicycling, and five injured in a commercial store shooting.

In each criminal case, the suspects were brought to justice through the tireless work of staff coupled with an effective use of investigative resources.

We continued to innovate and remain forward looking, despite the time and resources involved resolving incidents like these.

Body Worn Cameras were implemented, bringing even greater transparency to our work. Integrated Outreach Services that created four additional social worker positions and a Nurse Practitioner were approved by the Mayor and City Council to reduce unnecessary visits to the criminal justice and hospital systems. Four new police officers, one new Park Ranger and two of the four social work staff were hired.

The Skagit and Island County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs constructed sessions with area legislators to discuss the impacts occurring from laws passed to 'improve' police services and how some changes were creating increased harm for our communities.

Challenges will always face our efforts to provide community safety yet the dedication, professionalism and resiliency from all our staff to provide the best possible service is evident by the results accomplished within this report and supporting documents that are available.

As we look ahead to 2023, we are grateful to the support of our Mayor, City Council and community members who continuously support the practices and programs that we believe positively address safety and life quality issues affecting Mount Vernon.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Cammock', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

Christopher E. Cammock
Chief of Police

"Safe and Enjoyable Community Living"

SNAPSHOT

**Largest Municipality
in
Skagit County**

35,500
2022 Population

12.5 Square Miles
Mount Vernon

33%
Countywide Calls
MVPD Handles

24,510
2022 Service Calls

+ 31.44%
Violent Crime
2021-2022

+13.16%
Burglary
2021-2022

+33.33%
Robbery
2021-2022

- 10.38%
Motor Vehicle Theft
2021-2022



The Mount Vernon Police Department expanded its abilities to respond and address behavioral health circumstances in 2022 by adding four social workers to our Integrated Outreach Services function. The department consists of 46 commissioned officers, and 14 limited commission/non-commissioned support staff, and 5 social work specialists totaling 65.

50+ citizen volunteers provide valuable services in our Citizens On Proactive Patrol and Mount Vernon Police Volunteer groups that free up Department staff to respond to service calls, in-progress crimes, apprehend offenders and address life quality issues. They too are invaluable *members of this organization*.

As you review the 2022 crime figures, goals and objectives, accomplishments consider the difficult circumstances placed on police officers to conduct lawful detentions, pursue criminal suspects in vehicles, address demanding call loads with staffing vacancies (5), absences within within our command staff, management workload shifted to supervisors and the continued return of our Citizen Volunteers from the pandemic years. Department personnel achieved great success despite these obstacles.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & CHARTS

The Department is divided into two “bureaus” each under the direction of a Lieutenant or Manager. A “horizontal” management structure encourages decision-making at all organizational levels in an effort to eliminate bureaucratic barriers, innovate ideas, increase communication efficiency and effectiveness to illicit community trust and support. We strive to hire those who display strong leadership, decision-making, and communication skills, and we provide continued training to enhance these qualities.

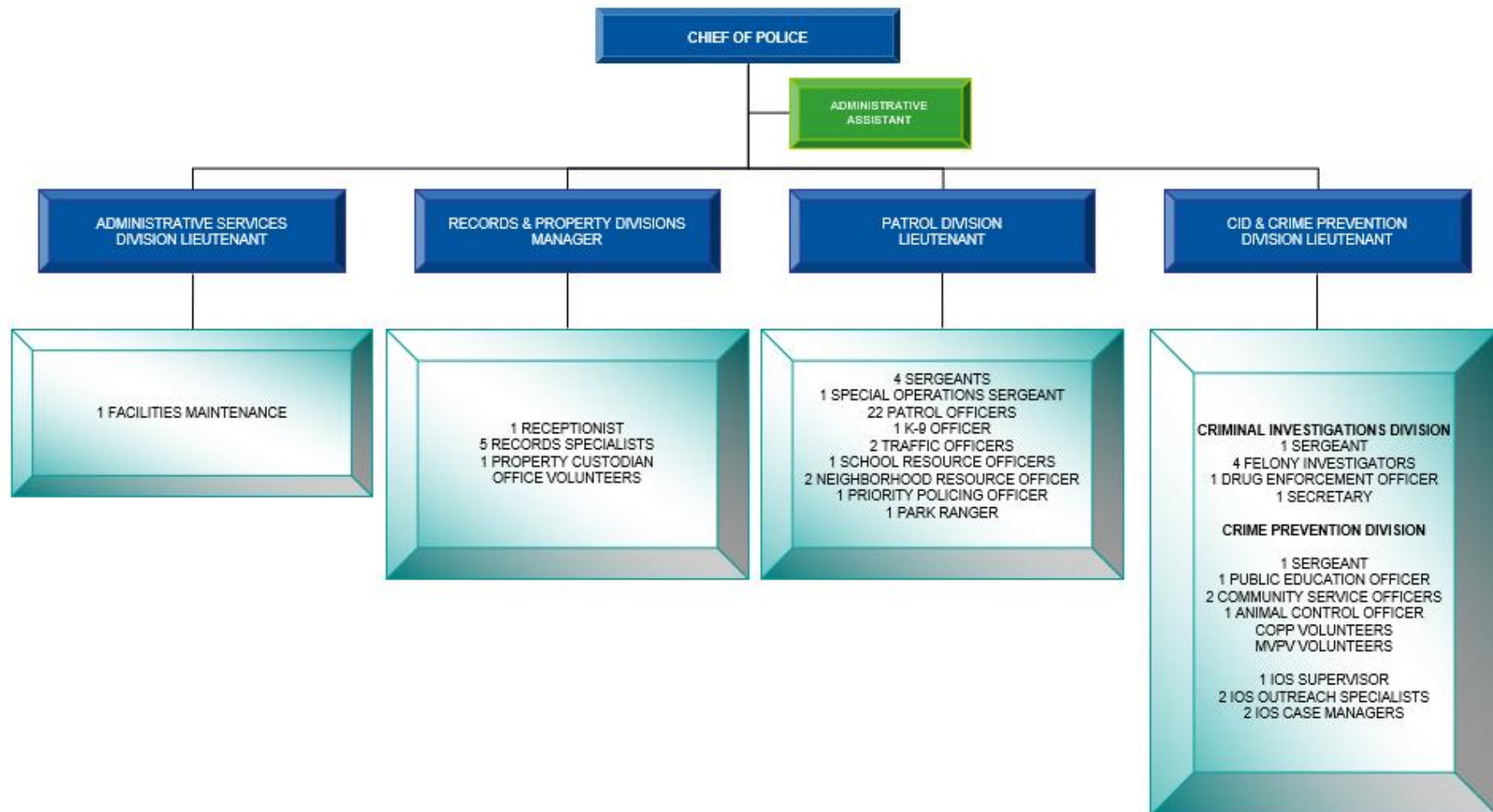
The next two pages display staffing and functional organization charts portraying the many core responsibilities necessary to police our community.

Authorized Personnel: 46 Sworn Officers and 19 Civilian Staff

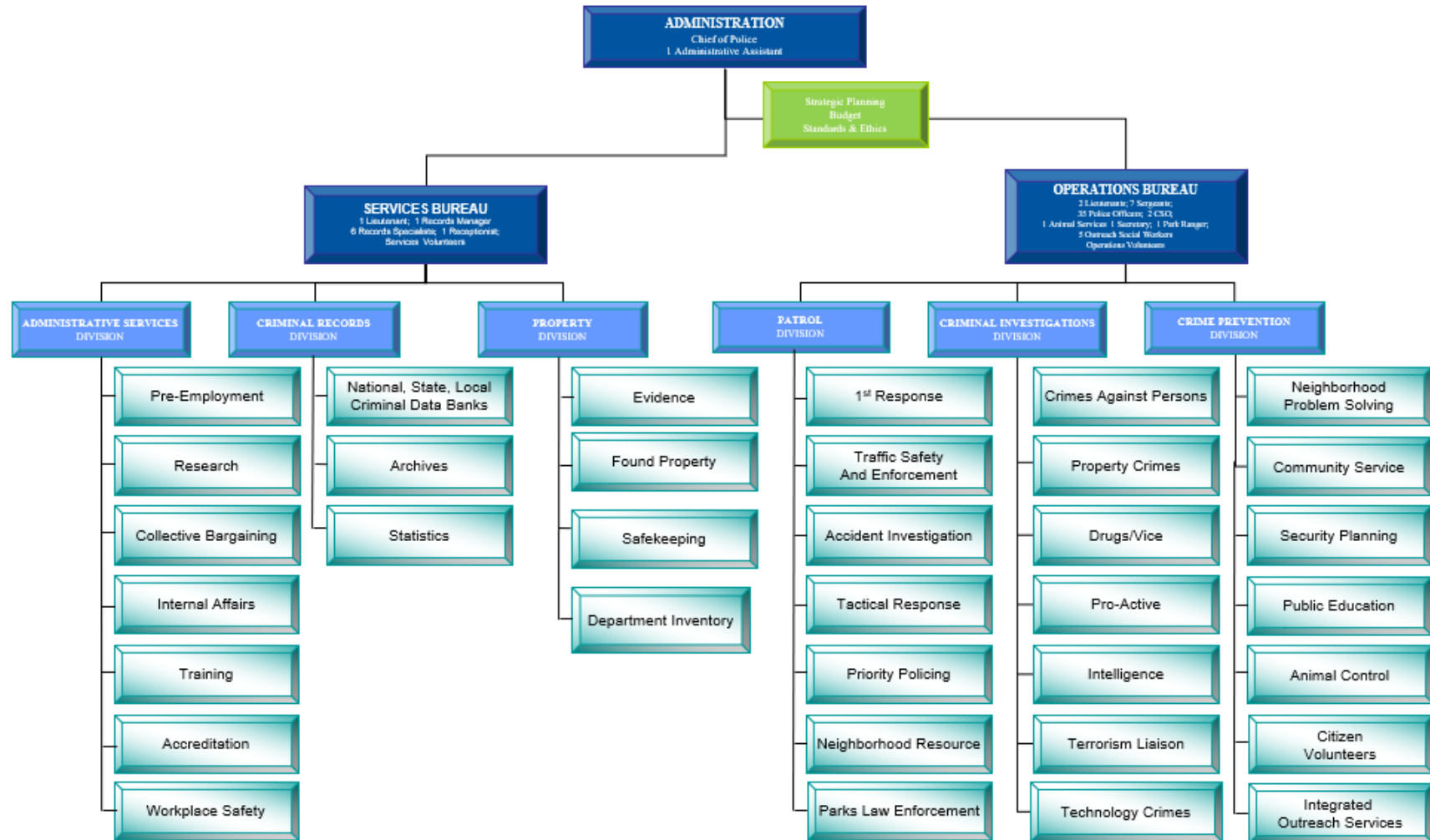


STAFFING CHART

THE CITIZENS OF MOUNT VERNON



FUNCTIONAL CHART



SERVICE BUREAU

Administrative Services Division

This Division is responsible for pre-employment, research, collective bargaining, internal affairs, training, and accreditation. Chris Cammock served as the commander for this Division before being promoted to Police Chief and securing a replacement wasn't possible this year.



Records & Property Divisions



The Records Division is responsible for records management, public inquiry, firearms background/licensing and processing responsibilities for prosecutors and courts.

The Property Division is responsible for the general maintenance, storage, integrity, and management of all property and evidence in the Department's possession.

OPERATIONAL BUREAU

Patrol Division



The most visible representation of policing comes from the Patrol Division where they provide first response to service calls.

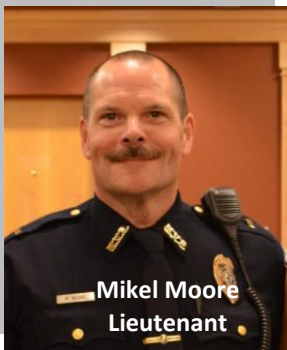
- Uniformed first response
- Neighborhood & school resource
- Community Outreach
- Parks and trails law enforcement
- K-9
- Traffic enforcement
- Tactical Response
- Priority Policing Team

Safe and enjoyable community living



Promote, preserve, and deliver a feeling of security, safety & productive quality service

Criminal Investigation Division



This Division investigates serious crimes against persons and/or property; follows up on drug/vice related activity; gathers intelligence; and provides proactive investigation.

They carried over (2021) 12 cases, investigated 258 new cases, and cleared 219 in 2022. One Sergeant, five Investigators, and one Police Secretary are assigned to this Division.

The Division submits criminal cases to the Prosecutor for review, charging, or declining those cases where the collected information reveals no possibility of the case being solved.

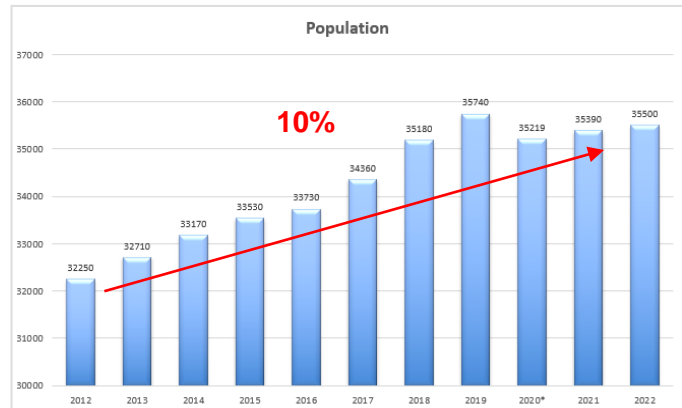
Crime Prevention Division

The Crime Prevention Division is our public education and engagement branch where resources are put towards equipping citizens, identifying and solving community problems. Services include security planning, crime prevention education, and community services. This division is responsible for managing the Department's extensive Volunteer programs.



OUR COMMUNITY

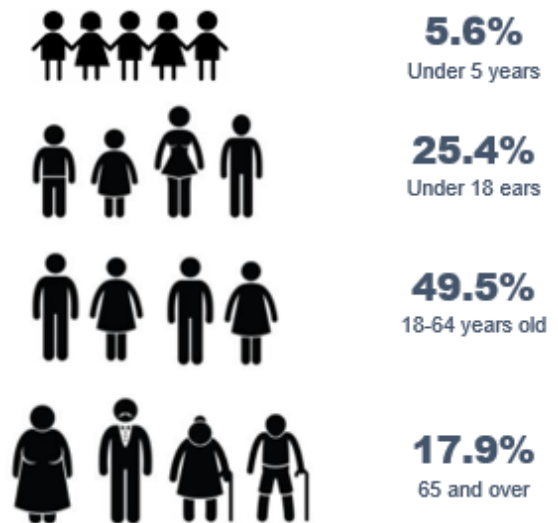
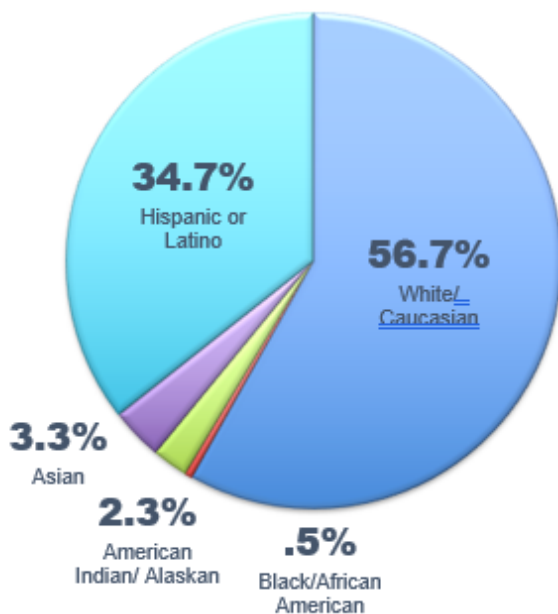
Mount Vernon is a mid-way point between two major international trade centers, Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. Mount Vernon is the center for county government and many social service agencies. Our recreational areas and community events attract many visitors and our fiber loop and Opportunity Zones offer tax advantages that encourage new business.



Our population in the Census 2020 reported 35,219. 2022 estimated population for Mount Vernon was 35,500 showing a steady, continued increase. High density housing construction, infilling vacant spaces, and high traffic volumes result as people living in urban settings are impacted by longer commute time, less open space for children and limited affordable housing relocate.

Growth increases the service demands for police and as the County seat, courts, public, non-profit and social services are centered here for underserved populations posing unique policing challenges.

DEMOGRAPHICS



Source: 2022 U.S. Census Quick Facts

HOUSING

HOUSING	
62.7 Owner Occupied	2.65 Persons Per Household
95.9% With A Computer	31.1% Other Than English Spoken



Source: 2022 U.S. Census Quick Facts

ECONOMY

2012 (\$1,000)

\$655,402 Retail
\$626,660 Health Care/Social Assistance

\$77,158
Accommodation & Food Sales



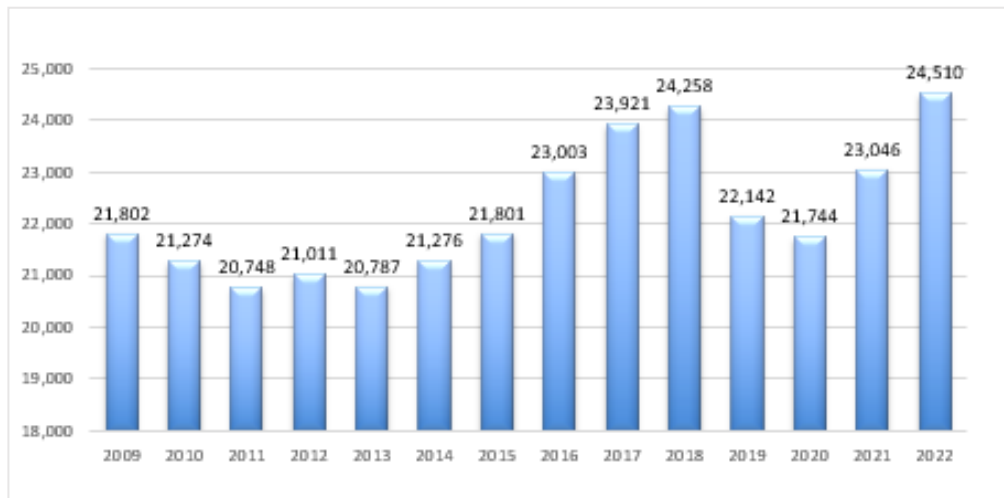
Labor Force 16+ as percent of population
60.8%

CRIME

Crime categories were mixed with Aggravated Assault (+54.35%) and Violent Crime offenses (+27.47%). Aggravated Assault appears as if it nearly doubled between 2021 (46) and 2022 (71), however, a closer look showed that in 2022, there were 51 different offenses and in certain cases there were multiple victims which NIBRS counts. For example, July 17, 2022 there was a shooting at a major convenience store with five reported victims. Reviewing 2021, many of the 46 offenses involved single victims. Other categories showing an increase, Burglary (+13.16%), Shoplifting (+32.17%) and Stolen Property Offenses (+54.55%).

Categories that declined were Simple Assault (-5.06%), Malicious Property Destruction (-9.21%) and Theft From A Vehicle (-29.13%).

Total service calls had dropped in 2019 and again in 2020 (COVID), but have been increasing since.



We remain committed to a decentralized, community approach that encourages citizens to be a part of the problem-solving process. Significant time is spent processing complaints (symptoms) to understand root causes. For example, Suspicious Circumstances, Welfare Checks, Person Removal and Vagrancy are the top four service calls police responded to.

The department underwent an extensive review of our Outreach Services function and determined that additional specialists professionally trained and licensed to complete mental health assessments, construct court affidavits for proper treatment, and use clinical interventions, treatments and evidence-based practices was a better utilization of police resources than frontline police officers. The Mayor and City Council approved our recommendation to add two Outreach Specialists, two Case Managers, convert the existing Outreach Coordinator to an Integrated Outreach Services Supervisor and pursue an ARNP program with Mount Vernon Fire Department

We believe investments made towards homeless outreach, business and residential Block Watch, neighborhood/school resource, multi-agency policing partnerships, police citizen volunteers (COPP/MVPV) and the problem solving collaboration that occurs with the Police Department's Operations Talk and the City's PERT contributed to these results.

CRIME PROFILE

The Mount Vernon Police Department reports its crime data to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and is NIBRS certified by the FBI. NIBRS presents comprehensive detailed information about crime incidents to law enforcement, researchers, governmental planners, students of crime, and the general public. (Learn more about NIBRS - www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	- % +
Arson*	7	7	8	2	8	6	6	3	16	15	-6.25%
Assault - Simple	339	334	330	306	299	261	271	300	257	244	-5.06%
Aggravated Assault*	41	46	33	44	39	55	26	51	46	71	54.35%
Burglary	257	224	206	194	207	261	136	156	152	172	13.16%
Counterfeit/Forgery	51	21	22	27	23	33	29	23	20	31	55.00%
Destruction of Property	517	447	603	560	601	468	347	445	467	424	-9.21%
Drug Offenses	305	351	395	463	452	569	446	325	115	130	13.04%
Fraud Offenses	45	51	55	40	35	51	43	61	55	75	36.36%
Homicide*	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	100.00%
Kidnapping/Abduction	2	7	7	9	6	4	0	7	2	14	600.00%
Larceny/Theft - From Vehicle	295	238	214	175	162	196	189	218	230	163	-29.13%
Larceny/Theft - Shoplifting	492	517	553	480	366	407	434	381	230	304	32.17%
Larceny/Theft - Other	125	285	248	283	247	394	289	234	230	182	-20.87%
Motor Vehicle Theft	130	111	90	114	107	114	115	112	169	158	-6.51%
Pornography	2	1	1	3	7	1	0	1	1	1	0.00%
Prostitution	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.00%
Robbery*	31	21	25	24	17	26	17	13	15	20	33.33%
Sex Offense - Other	6	1	12	1	12	2	4	1	3	5	66.67%
Sex Offense - Rape*	17	15	12	13	13	16	13	10	14	9	-35.71%
Stolen Property Offenses	48	44	29	36	20	34	19	21	22	34	54.55%
Total Group A Offenses	3363	3296	3327	3273	3114	3473	2864	2166	2446	2615	7.80%
Violent Crime*	97	89	79	83	79	105	62	78	91	116	27.47%
Violent Crime per 1000	3.01	2.68	2.35	2.46	2.30	2.98	1.73	2.21	2.57	3.27	27.08%
Calls for Service	20,787	21,276	21,801	23,001	23,921	24,258	22,772	21,744	23,046	24,510	6.35%
MV Population	32,250	33,170	33,580	33,730	34,360	35,180	35,740	35,219	35,390	35,500	0.31%

** The Spillman records management system changed in May 2020 so we no longer have the ability to produce a consistent report for Group A Incidents that would compare to prior years. 2020 Population was changed in the 2021 report because the 2020 Census data was available. The 2020 report used the OFM projection of 36,050 and actual census was 35,219.

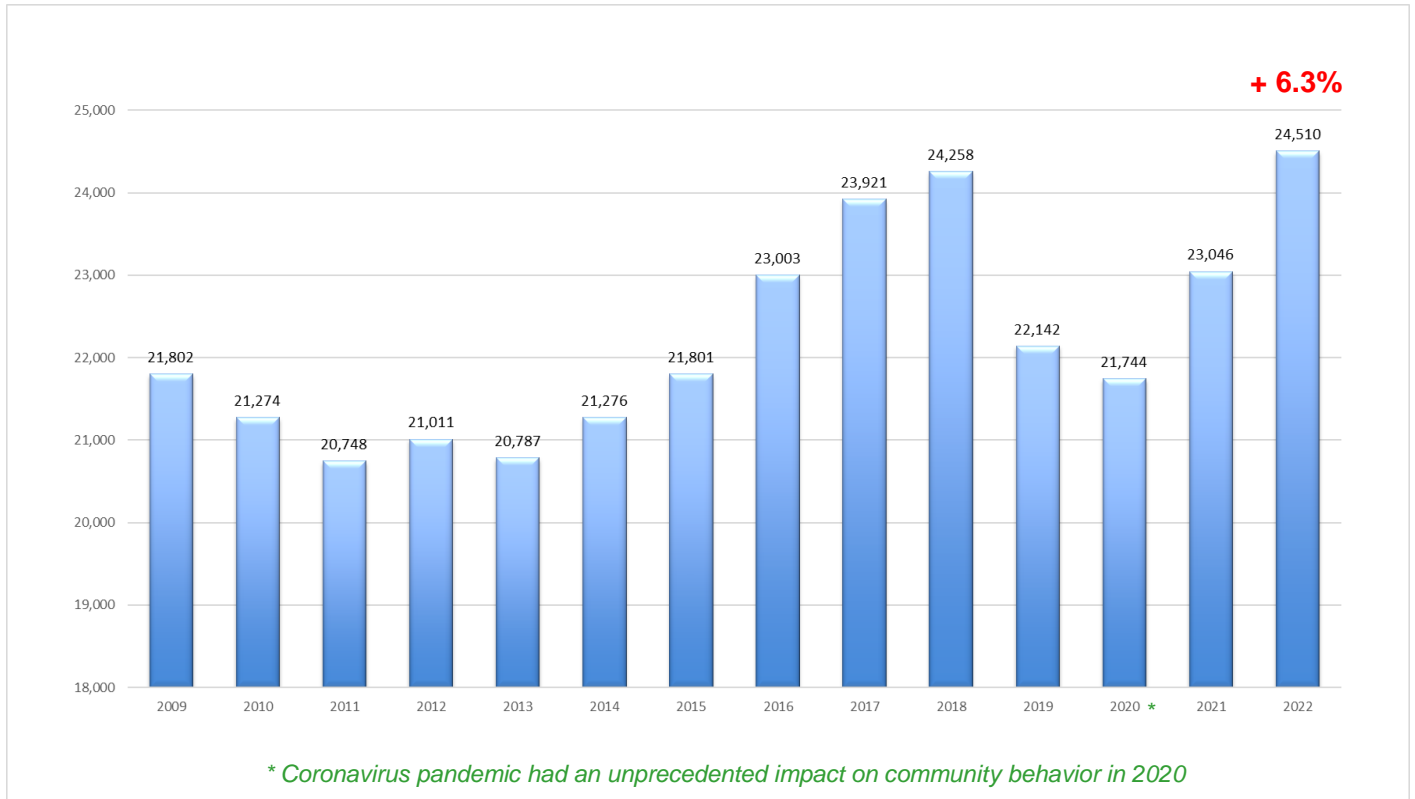
Aggravated Assault - This category had 51 different incidents but several individual cases had multiple victims (i.e. Walmart shooting incident).

Kidnapping/Abduction - This category included Domestic Violence Crimes like Unlawful Imprisonment

CALLS FOR SERVICE

A “call for service” is when police are requested, dispatched or an incident is observed. Not every service call generates a police report. These calls for service include, but are not limited to: criminal activity; motor vehicle collisions; assists to other agencies; suspicious activity, alarm activation responses and other service related functions. Although total calls have dropped, the time devoted to addressing them is significant.

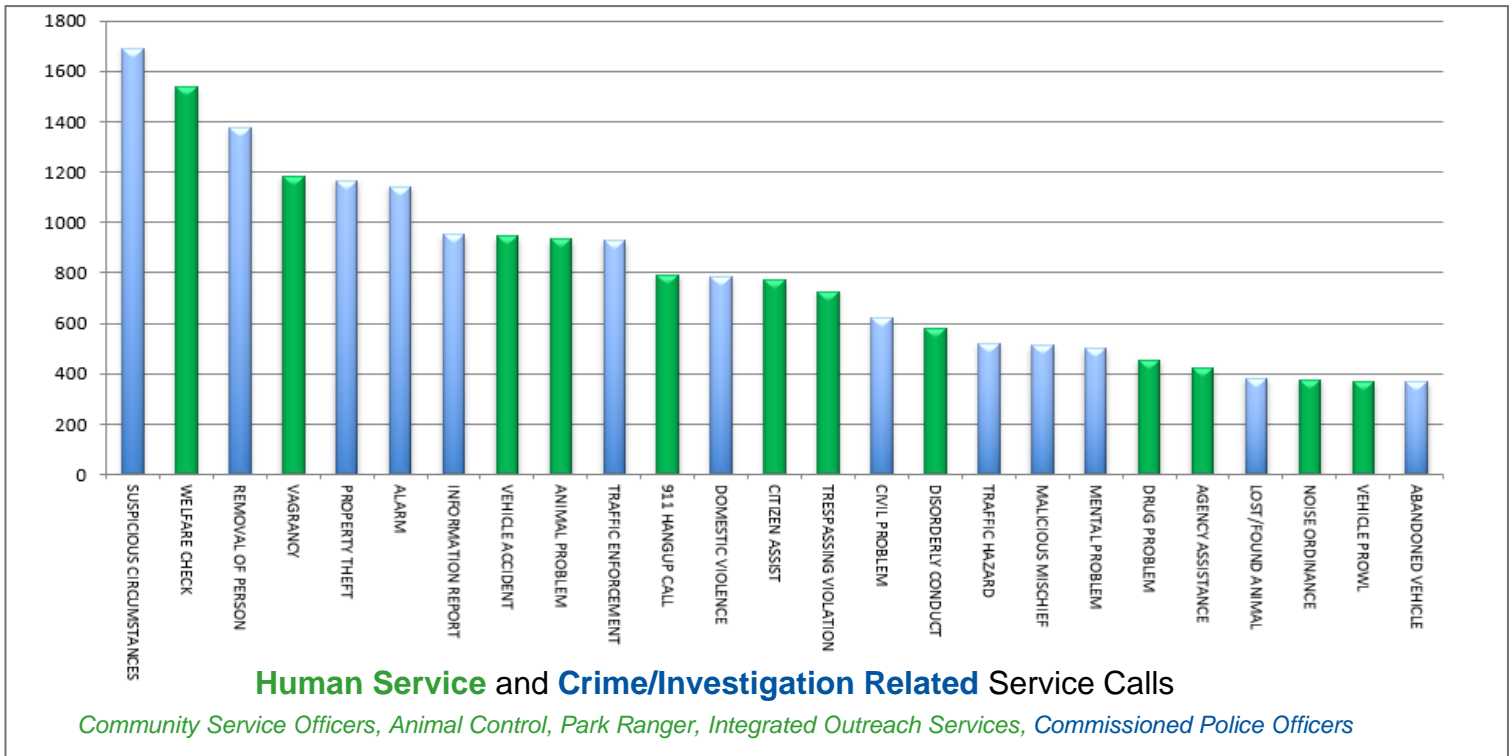
Historical Perspective



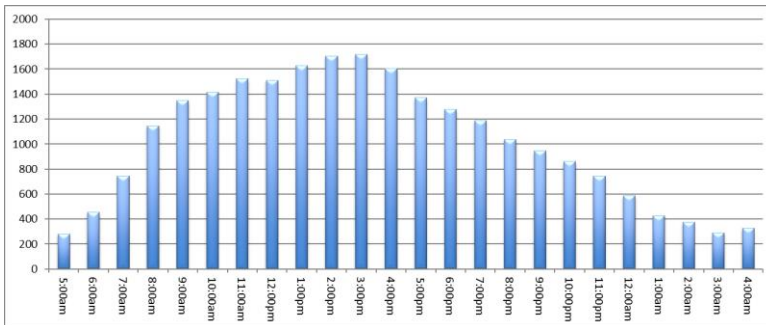
2022 Service Calls

Anacortes Police	9,389
Burlington Police	11,254
Mount Vernon Police	24,510 33%
Sedro Woolley Police	7,366
Skagit County Sheriff	17,985
Swinomish Police	2,174

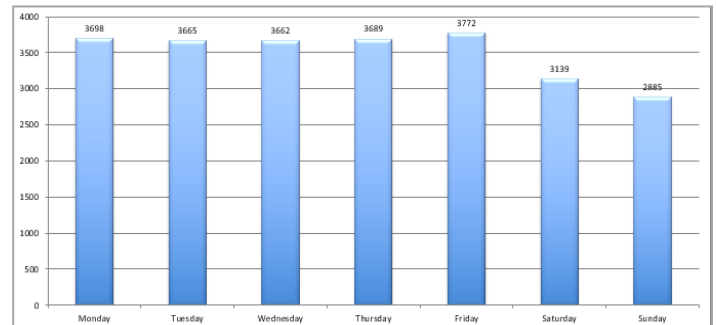
Top 25 Service Calls



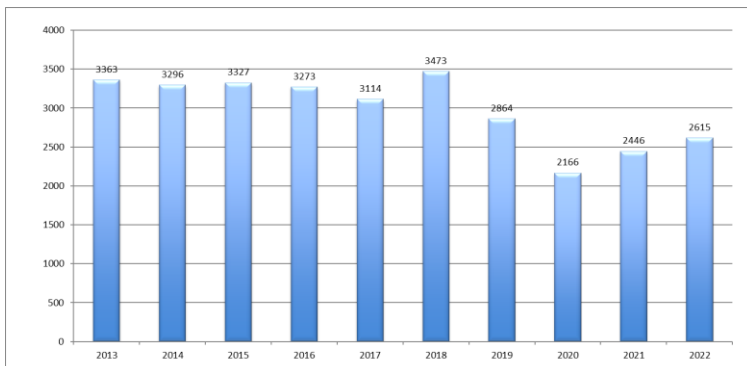
Time of Day



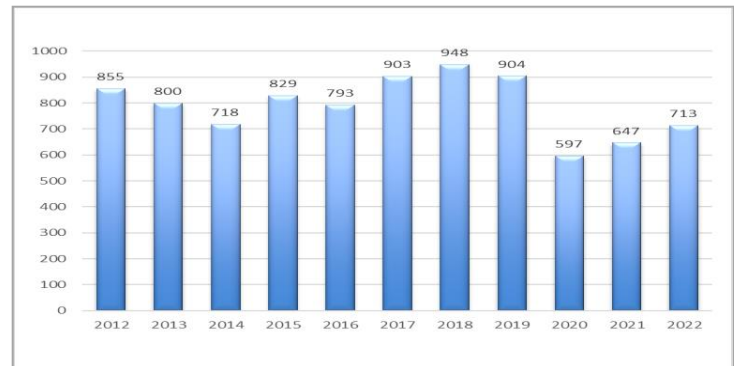
Day of Week



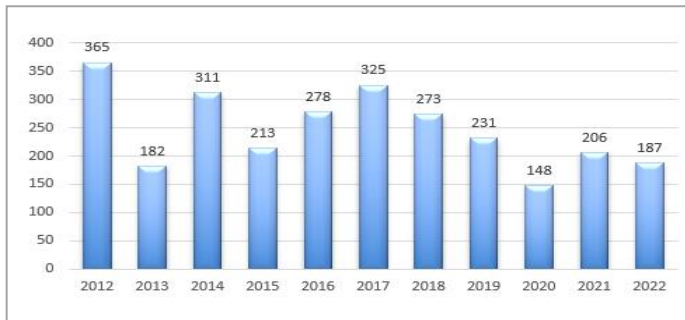
Total Group A Offenses



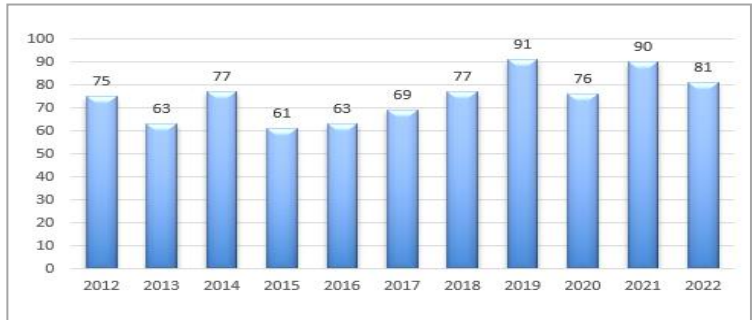
Non-Traffic Misdemeanors



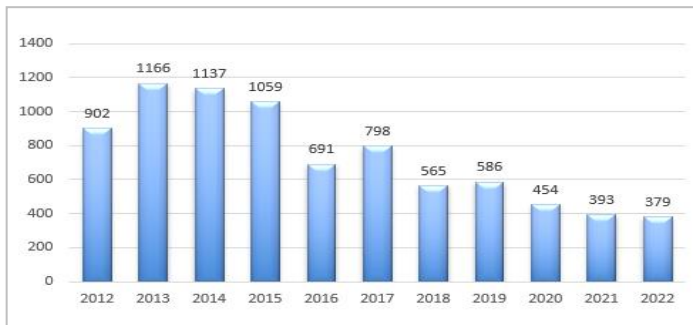
Criminal Traffic Charged



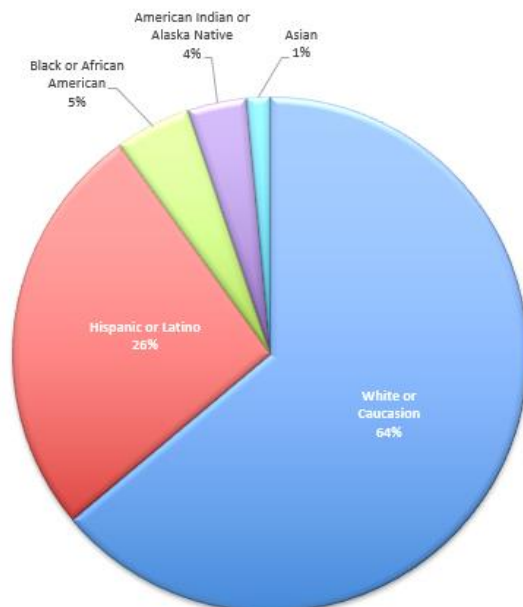
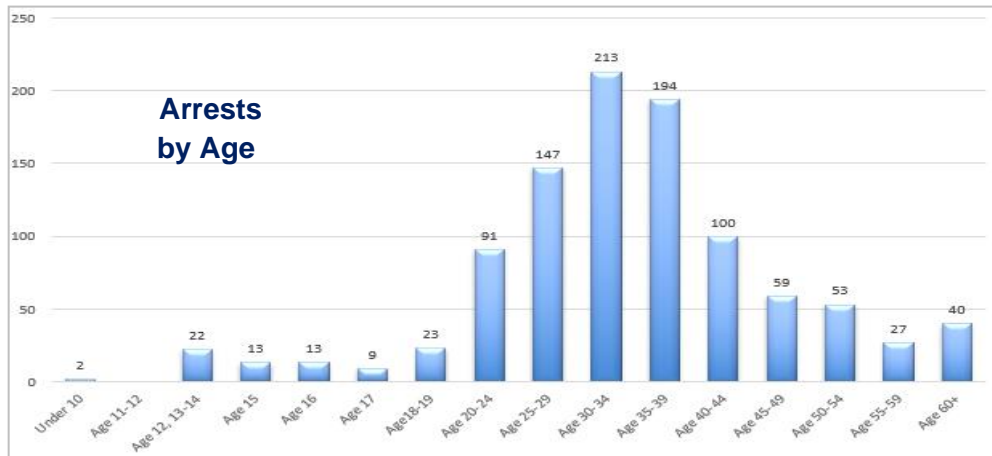
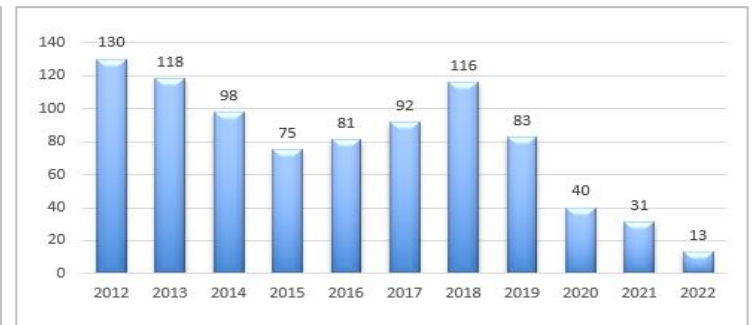
DUI Violations Charged



Traffic Infractions



Non-Traffic Infractions



RESOURCE PLANNING

We place great emphasis on building strong neighborhoods, both residential and business. When neighborhoods are allowed to decay, criminal behavior gains the upper hand. Gone unchecked, decay spreads, crime develops, citizen engagement is replaced by fear and desired behaviors are replaced by undesired behaviors.



Four strategic principles guide our resource planning decisions; *open and honest two-way communication* with the community, *adaptability* in providing solutions to issues and problems, *shared responsibility* with our citizenry for policing our community, and *crime prevention* as a central theme of operation.

Crime prevention encompasses education, problem solving and enforcement with the ultimate goal to improving safety and neighborhood life quality. It begins with identifying the scope and size of the problem. Next, determining if properly informed and equipped citizens can resolve it. Partnering occurs at every stage but when problem risk or complexity exceeds the citizen's ability, we take a primary role.

Modifying behavior to reduce accidents, injuries and make our streets safer is our goal when dealing with traffic related issues. Officers consider the seriousness of the occurrence, Department policy, and the driver's history when responding to a traffic-related incident. Once officers have reviewed the situation, they use their discretion to determine the best outcome. Since the Department has no mandate regarding the number of citations issued, neither "quota standards" nor "revenue" play a part in an officer's decision to warn (educate) the driver or issue a ticket (enforcement). Engineering modifications also play an important role in helping improve the safety of city streets.



Problem Solving "Success"

1. *Problem is eliminated.*
2. *Reduce the problem through measures that result in fewer incidents.*
3. *Reduce the harm per incident even though the number of incidents remain the same.*
4. *Handle incidents in an improved way.*
5. *Remove the problem from the police/criminal justice system. (To an appropriate system)*

"Safe and enjoyable community living"

DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES

Operational priorities place high importance on delivering quality, professional services.

*Develop understanding and trust
with the community we serve*



*Demonstrate highest professional
ethics conduct and ethics*



Utilize prevention practices as the central operating strategy.

- A Crime Prevention Division devoted to providing citizens education, services and tools.
- Animal Control, Community Service Officers, Park Ranger, Patrol Zone Deployment, Integrated Outreach Services, Neighborhood and School Resource functions.



Employ highly qualified and competent staff.

- Dedicated recruiting and retention programs.
- Rigorous selection process to identify candidates with desired values, abilities and skills.



Provide quick and rapid response to emergencies & emerging crime issues.

- Core competencies training & equipment.
- Crisis Negotiations, Gang Resource, K-9, S.M.A.R.T and Tactical Operations functions.



Develop crime resistance barriers in our neighborhoods and business districts.

- Block Watch & Business Watch Programs
- Police Department Operations Talk & City Problem Elimination Response Team
- Zone Deployment, Neighborhood & School Resource



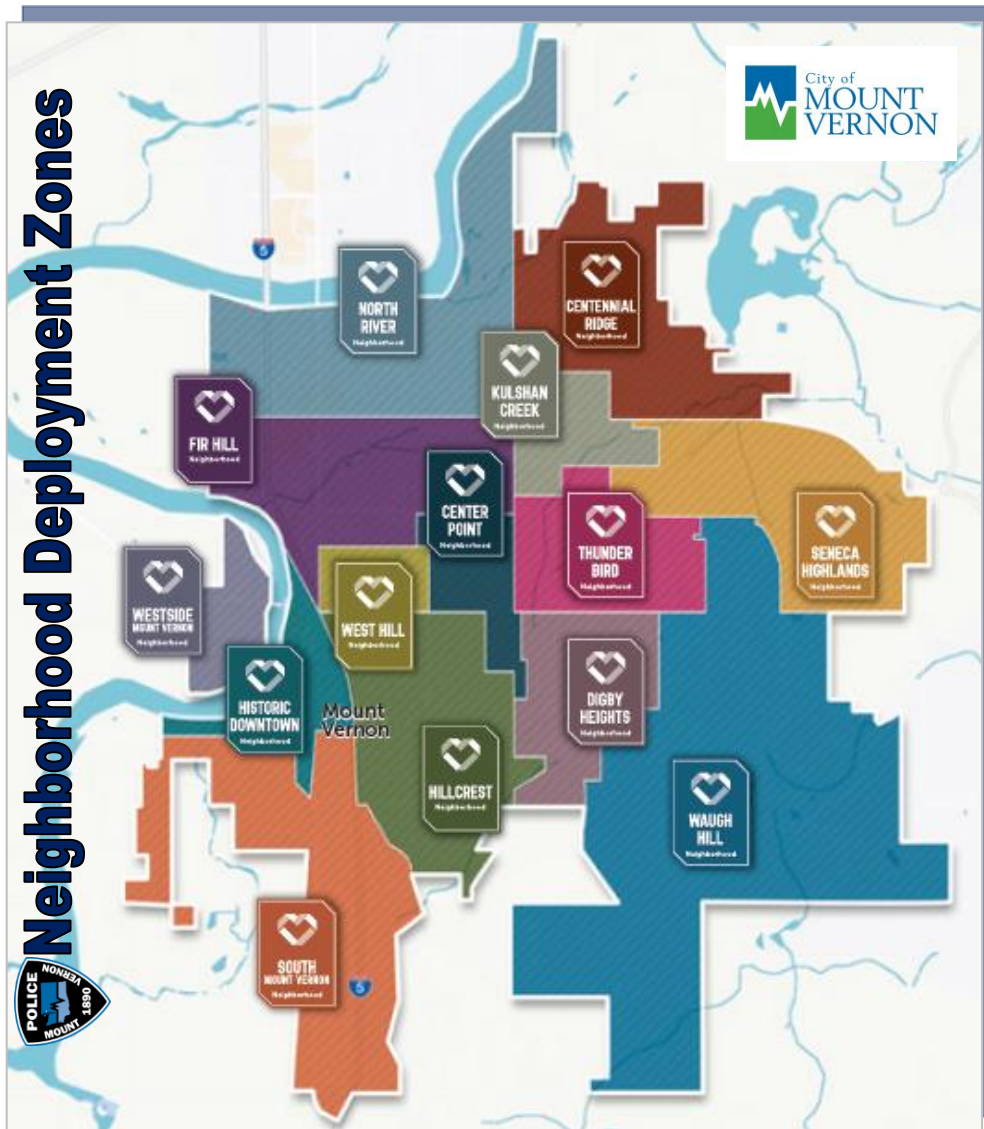
Building community capacity to understand & address crime causes.

- Citizens Academy and Preparatory Academy programs.
- Citizens on Proactive Patrol and Mount Vernon Police Volunteer programs.
- Community networks and partnerships. (MVHope, OWLT, Latino Advisory, Organized Retail Theft)

DEPLOYING FIRST RESPONDERS

The city comprises 14 neighborhood zones. Two neighborhoods are serviced by full-time Neighborhood Resource Officers and 24 patrol staff are distributed to the remaining twelve zones. A strong indicator of a community's overall health is the livability within its neighborhoods. They experience similar problems, but the causes vary so solutions require partnering to create tailored approaches.

Daily, patrol shifts divide the City into a north, south and "roving" areas. Shift briefings, service call history, resident and business owner communication are all ways officers monitor their assigned zone while responding to service needs citywide.



***Improves
Communication***

***Prevents Issues
Falling Through
Cracks***

***Strengthens
Relationships***

***Greater Acuity
For
Neighborhood Issues***

CHANGING HOW WE DEPLOY



In 2021, a workgroup was formed to explore a preferred future for outreach services 3-5 years and beyond. This happened to coincide with the State Legislature's response to restricting police authority in non-criminal situations like suicidal subjects, mental health calls, suicidal subjects, substance overdose and other circumstances where EMS and medical staff relay on law enforcement for safety and security.

The group found that between 25-27% of our service calls were linked to substance abuse and/or mental health. Additionally, a sampling of 46 individuals with frequent emergency services calls found 82% were not enrolled with one of Skagit County's primary mental health providers and many didn't qualify or meet criteria for services leaving 911 as the number of last resort.

Collaborating with Mount Vernon Fire Department, they found that of the 4,559 EMS calls, 886 were related to substance abuse or mental health with 50% of those not requiring an ambulance intervention. Opportunities for both departments to have a different call response became apparent.

Integrated Outreach Services (IOS) is a "Person Centered" versus "Illness Centered" philosophy where the **relationship** is the foundation not the *diagnosis* and it begins with **outreach & engagement** rather than an *illness assessment*. Services are designed on **personal suffering and help needed** rather than *diagnosis & treatment*. These services work towards **quality-of-life goals** opposed to *illness reduction goals*. **Treatment and rehabilitation are goal driven** whereas from an Illness Centered perspective *treatment is symptom driven and rehab is disability driven*.

IOS are licensed social workers who perform first response (Outreach Specialist) to behavioral health related calls and develop tailored care coordination (Case Managers) for clients needing structure and support to accomplish their daily living activities or are frequently exhibiting acute care needs. They work to reduce or eliminate barriers that connect individuals to traditional Clinical Care providers. The Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) helps the team address the physical health problems and home care during Fire Department client visits as an alternative to ambulance rides to the hospital.



Mount Vernon Police Department Integrated Outreach Services Oath of Honor

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

The primary mission of the law enforcement profession is to protect life and property, maintain order, promote public safety, and generally provide service to citizens that delivers a feeling of security, safety, and productive quality of life.

Therefore:

As a social worker professional, I know that my primary goal is to help people in need and address social problems.

As a social worker in law enforcement, I will support their mission and beliefs that protect life, property and promotes public safety.

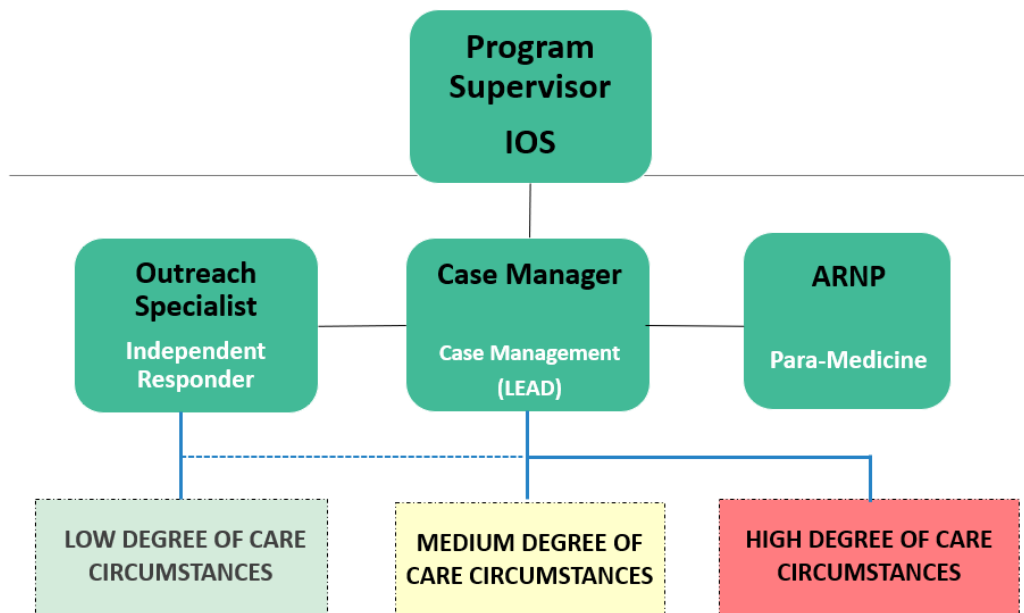
I will respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person.

I recognize the central importance of human relationships.

I will challenge social injustice.

I will behave in a trustworthy manner.

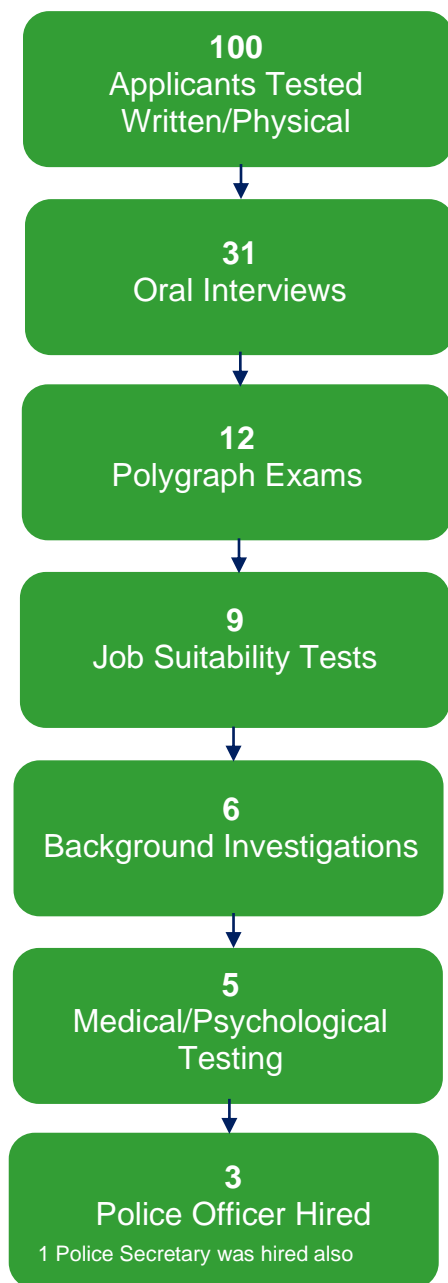
I will conduct myself and perform my duties with competence and continue to develop and enhance my professional expertise.



OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE

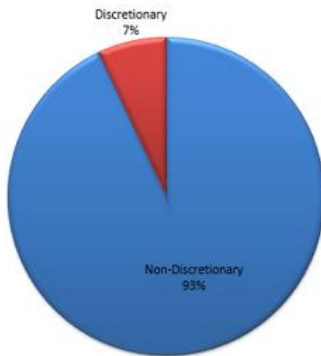
Policing is a people served business requiring highly capable individuals both of character and skills. We look for innovative ways to backfill needed vacancies and make necessary adjustments so service levels the City requires are maintained.

2022 Police Officer Hiring Activity



MOUNT VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT 2022 Staffing (Budgeted)	
Police Chief	1
Lieutenants	3
Records Manager	1
Sergeants	6
Patrol Officers	24
Traffic Officers	2
Neighborhood Resource Officers	2
School Resource Officer	1
K-9 Officer	1
Detectives	4
Drug Investigator	1
Public Education Officer	1
Community Service Officers	2
Animal Control Officer	1
Park Ranger	1
Integrated Outreach Services	5
Records Specialist	5
Property Custodian	1
Receptionist	1
Investigations Secretary	1
Administrative Assistant	1
TOTAL	65

DEPARTMENT BUDGET



Policing priorities would be difficult to achieve without the Mayor and City Council who supported an annual budget and capital budget of \$11,632,687. The budget is developed in a fiscally conservative tone based on goals and objectives developed during the annual planning process and consideration for the city and department strategic plans. A zero-based budget approach is taken by Division Managers justifying all programs and operational needs. Over three quarters of the total budget is allocated to personnel costs. Even with limited financial resources, the Department has consistently exceeded all budgetary demands and has, in all instances, proven fiscally responsible.

POLICING CHALLENGES

In Mount Vernon

- Responsive to public demand for police transparency and accountability
- Homeless population affected by lack of affordable housing and underfunded mental health and substance abuse systems
- Voter initiated state mandates requiring annual training, firearm background checks, changes to police shooting investigations
- Recruiting, hiring and retaining that meets our community needs.
- New growth areas in the City and adapting services.
- Expand Department deployment model which provides a semi-permanent uniformed patrol staff presence in all neighborhoods
- Proactively address traffic related concerns
- Remain focused on Department operational priority – prevention of crime
- Propose crime impact measures that have the greatest success of addressing criminal activity
- Assertively address neighborhood issues involving drug and gang related activity
- Continued commitment to stay current with new technological advances
- Growing cultural differences
- Develop open communication and understanding with all cultures in this community
- Our challenge is continued community trust development and create solutions to their issues
- Continuing to be prepared for unusual occurrences



Inter-Agency Strategic Challenges

- Continue to look for ways where police agencies can share or combine resources
- Complete and implement the strategic plan for addressing drug and gang activity county-wide
- Integrating homeless outreach services withing law enforcement and traditional care agencies
- Radio interoperability migrating analog to digital and repeater tower aging and expansion
- Migration to Spillman Mobile platforms utilized on handheld devices
- Continued strategic response addressing homelessness and associated activities and crimes

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Citizen Participation & Integration In Policing

Demands for transparency and accountability from citizens towards police only drive the need for robust programs that involved citizens directly in police operations and offer opportunities to learn from each other about what it requires to police our community. Citizens Academy, C.O.P.P., M.V.P.V., Preparatory Academy, neighborhood based policing initiatives are just a few examples.



Integrated Outreach Services

25-27% of police calls involve vagrancy, person removal, welfare check, drug problem, etc. Frequently, behavioral health is a root cause and require resources beyond law enforcement. In addition, police responses for behavioral health calls need reimagining. Integrating Masters in Social Work specialists with police officers has proven it can change an individual life from dependency and homelessness to an independent contributing member of the community, and not every situation is incentivized by the offered social services and consequences from arrest or incarceration are part of the care planning. It's necessary that policing capabilities expand by offering multi-disciplinary approach that incorporates social work specialists.



Neighborhood Resource

Our community-based policing approach has delivered consistent success both short and long-term. Kulshan Creek and West Hill, two uniquely different neighborhoods, are serviced by Neighborhood Resource Officers who deliver policing services consistent with their needs. Historic Downtown has similar characteristics and would be served effectively by a Historic Downtown Resource Officer.



Neighborhood Zone Deployment

Patrol officers are assigned geographic areas called “Neighborhood Zones” (12 currently). These are larger areas than those defined for Neighborhood Resource Officers so additional patrol staffing would provide a stronger connection between the community and the members of the Department.

Park Safety & Enrichment Services

A Park Ranger who is able to devote full-time policing services to 842 acres of city park property and trails that comprises 16 parks, 23 miles of trails, 5 rental facilities, 8 ballfields and 3 soccer fields, boat launch, Spray Park, Skate Park, Dog Park and open spaces that attract visitors and provide recreation and respite for residents.



Priority Policing Model Change



Agencies have individually approached gangs, street crimes and contributed resources for drug enforcement through the Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit. Showing promise is an approach combining the Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement, Skagit County Sheriff Proactive Unit and Mount Vernon Police Department Priority Policing. The new, Skagit County

Interlocal Special Investigations Task Force would operate to eliminate the offender's ability to use jurisdictional boundaries to avoid detection and jointly focus on emerging criminal activity, drug offenses and criminal street gangs.

So we don't lose the important youth probation, school, non-profit and faith based roles in preventing gang encroachment, we are integrating a specialized Gang Resource Officer function within our patrol squads. Patrol officers have daily contacts with individuals and neighborhoods and would contribute in a subsidiary capacity to the new Skagit County Proactive model.

Technology

Camera technology on public roadways and trails proved invaluable to solving crimes. One example involved a drive-by shooting where only bullet holes, casings and witness description were available. Investigators searched city cameras near the scene that captured the suspect's route, license plate, matching clothing description and roles for who committed and assisted in the crime.

Forensic software provides tools to work with the variety of private security camera systems, cell phones and computers that have become part of most investigations. These software tools will allow a single investigator to connect a device and run a program diagnostic while they are doing other tasks.

2022 Organizational Accomplishments

Meeting our Mission is dependent on the many contributions from the members of this Department.

The annual strategic planning workshop was held during the first quarter to establish direction for the coming year. Prior to budget preparation, the various units and divisions formulated their annual goals and objectives which are congruent with the Department's Mission and Vision and subordinate to the agency's broad goals.

While we focus on planned goals and objectives, inevitable additional objectives are discovered. Department members attempt to accomplish these as well. As the year unfolds, the majority of the goals and objectives identified are accomplished while others are either modified or transferred to the following year due to a change in operational priorities.

Annually, division managers provide a re-cap of goals and objectives that are **available upon request**.

THANK YOU



THE END