

ST. FRANCIS POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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FROM THE CHIEF

I am pleased to submit the 2020 St Francis Police Department Annual Report to the residents of St Francis. The report contains a summary of the events and operations the Police Department was involved with in 2020.

The year 2020 was unique to say the least and with it came day to day challenges that tested society as well as the police department. With the COVID 19 pandemic, civil unrest, and times of uncertainty the police department faced challenges that were new to everyone. Fortunately, the police department has a resilient staff who met all challenges head on. Despite the occasional set back, staff pressed on and continued to serve the St. Francis community without hesitation. St. Francis residents can be confident that their police department will be there in the time of need and will continue to focus on the department core values of integrity, respect, courage and trust.

In 2020, between self-initiated activity such as traffic enforcement and responding to calls for service-officers generated 6,246 incidents. Proactive policing, community service and theft prevention remain a top priority for patrol staff. Officers continue to focus on theft prevention through various methods which include alerting residents to open garage doors during the overnight hours. Officers made contact with 102 residents who left their garage doors open during the overnight hours in an effort to prevent theft opportunities.

Another way officers prevent theft opportunities is by distributing theft prevention door hangers at residences when unsecure packages are observed on door steps. The door hangers alert the package recipient of the theft opportunity and provide ways to receive packages more securely to minimize the chance of theft. With online sales becoming more popular than ever, this community service effort is becoming more routine during an officers shift, especially during the holidays.

Community outreach remains a top priority for the police department and we continue our initiative of striving to connect with the citizens through community outreach. We believe that having a good relationship with the community is essential to public safety and maintaining a safe and enjoyable community to reside in and visit. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, most of the community outreach events had to be canceled in 2020. Police department staff hopes to bring back most if not all of the programs and events in 2021. Events include The Dog Clinic, Bike Rodeo, Anti-Bullying Day, Car Seat Clinic, Neighborhood Watch meetings, Winning with Cops, Cone with a Cop and Citizens Academy.

On behalf of all members of the St Francis Police Department, I thank you for your continual support and look forward to servicing you in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Todd Schwieger
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF

Our Mission

The St. Francis Police Department is dedicated to providing fair and impartial police service to all persons through education and enforcement. The goal of the St. Francis Police Department is to provide a safer community through partnering with its citizens.



The St. Francis Police Department is comprised of 12 licensed police officers, three support staff members, nine reserve officers and a department chaplain. The St. Francis Police Department has six officers that are primarily assigned to patrol, two department sergeants, one SRO (School Resource Officer), one CRO (Community Resource Officer), and one department investigator.

No matter what position officers are assigned to or what setting they're in, all of them provide a service to the community through self-initiated activity and responding to service calls. Calls received and responded to include 911 calls, medical calls, suspicious activity calls, vehicle accidents, public assist calls, domestic disputes, and many other call types. During 2020, the police department generated 6,246 ICR's (Incident Crime Reports) which include calls for service and self-initiated activity.

In 2020, the department made 277 arrests for misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor and felony level crimes including arrest warrants. These arrests included DWI, domestic assault, burglary, fleeing in a motor vehicle, theft, unlawful possession of a firearm, protection order violations, controlled substance crimes and other arrest types.

When officers are not involved in a service call, they are serving the public in other proactive ways. Officers are enforcing traffic laws, conducting business and house checks, patrolling neighborhoods and parks looking for suspicious activity as well as participating in community outreach events.

Patrol Officers conduct numerous vehicle contacts for traffic violations, vehicle equipment concerns, suspicious activity and criminal violations. Traffic stops are one of the major ways officers interact with the public. Traffic stops can result in traffic warnings, citations, warrant arrests and criminal violations.

School Resource Officer (SRO) The St Francis Police Department currently has one SRO serving one high school, one middle school and one elementary school. The SRO spends a majority of their day performing various functions in St. Francis Area Schools. The SRO interacts and works closely with school administrators, faculty, and students to assure safe learning environments every day. The School Resource Officer is vital to the safety and security of the thousands of students who attend St. Francis Area Schools each day.

Community Resource Officer (CRO) In 2019 The St Francis Police Department implemented a new Community Resource Officer position. The Community Resource Officer position consists of multiple duties including designated city ordinance enforcement, rental housing regulation, connecting with the community through community outreach and social media as well as other specific enforcement duties throughout the city. In August 2020, the department had to suspend CRO duties in order for CRO Hearn to assist with other departmental needs including patrol duties due to an officer retirement and assisting in training in a new officer. Despite the setback, CRO Hearn was still able to address 50 outdoor storage violations, 12 pushing snow across the street violations, 10 rental housing violations and 6 other miscellaneous violations. CRO Hearn also had a 68% resolve rate of property's coming into compliance after being advised of the violation(s). The CRO position plays an important role in ordinance enforcement and connecting the department with the community. The department looks forward to returning Officer Hearn to full CRO duties in the spring of 2021.

Records and Support Staff The records division provides essential assistance to the St. Francis Police Officers, other criminal justice agencies and the citizens of St. Francis. The Records Support Team takes great pride in providing excellent customer service while offering assistance with accurate crime data information. Police Record Techs are responsible for maintaining police records, citations and responding to various inquiries by phone, walk in, emails and direct mail from the public and other criminal justice agencies.

Investigations

The investigations unit continues to be a resource for the citizens of St. Francis. The investigations unit reviews reports that are submitted by officers and also receives and reviews all Anoka County Child Protection reports and Adult Protection reports. Other duties include conducting surveillance, preparing and serving search warrants, assisting other agencies, conducting employment background checks for all new hires, forfeiture processing, forfeiture sales, and managing the evidence room which includes annual audits.



In 2020, 107 cases were investigated by the departments investigator which included felony fraud, check fraud, forgery, motor vehicle theft, robbery, felony damage to property, 1st and 2nd degree burglary, trespassing, threats of violence, felony theft, felony receiving stolen property, felony weapon charges, misdemeanor theft, misdemeanor assault and multiple other cases with some still under investigation.

The investigations unit also responds to scenes of crimes including burglaries, vehicle thefts, thefts, damage to property and many others. The purpose of the response is to process the scene and gather evidence such as DNA, and photos if necessary.

The investigations unit conducts tobacco and alcohol compliance checks at local businesses and establishments with the assistance of volunteer underage buyers. In 2020, all St. Francis establishments were compliant and no tobacco or alcohol products were sold to the underage buyers during the compliance checks.

The investigations unit also handles all evidence that is taken in by all officers of the St. Francis Police Department. The evidence is recorded and placed into the proper secured holding area. If needed, the investigations unit will bring evidence to the Tri County lab for processing. Some of that evidence may include DNA swabs, Known DNA samples, Blood kits, Narcotics, Cellular phones and multiple other items.

TRAINING



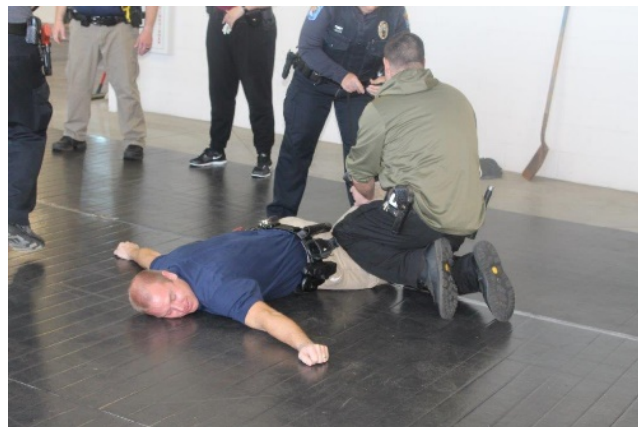
Officers accumulate numerous training hours throughout each year. Officers are required to complete 48 hours of continuing education training hours to maintain their peace officer license every three years. Officers are required by the Minnesota POST Board to complete annual refresher training in areas including use of force and firearms. Officers are also required to complete an emergency vehicle operator's course every five years. In addition, the POST Board requires

officers to complete 16 hours of continuing education in areas of Conflict Management, Crisis Intervention and Implicit Bias became which is required every three years. All St. Francis officers have completed training in these areas.



Officers complete numerous other training requirements required by the POST Board and/or the agency as part of their three year license renewal requirements.

Officers have attended a combined total of 433 hours of POST mandated training and other continuing education courses in 2020.



RESERVE UNIT



The St. Francis Police Department Reserve program consists of nine men and women volunteers who assist sworn officers by performing various community service tasks and non-criminal functions. Some of these individuals are pursuing a career in law enforcement and others wish to give back to their community.

Some of the tasks Reserve Officers perform are patrolling parks and assisting with traffic control at accidents, transporting suspects to jail, and riding with licensed officers. Reserves play a pivotal role during community outreach events and other local events by providing traffic control, extra security, interacting with and providing information to the public. The reserve unit added three new reserve officers in 2020. However, due to the COVID pandemic, reserve officers were limited in their involvement as part of the effort to minimize the spread. An online training classroom was created in order for new reserve officers to continue with their field training despite COVID restrictions. Reserve officers contributed 386 hours of volunteer hours over the course of the year in 2020.

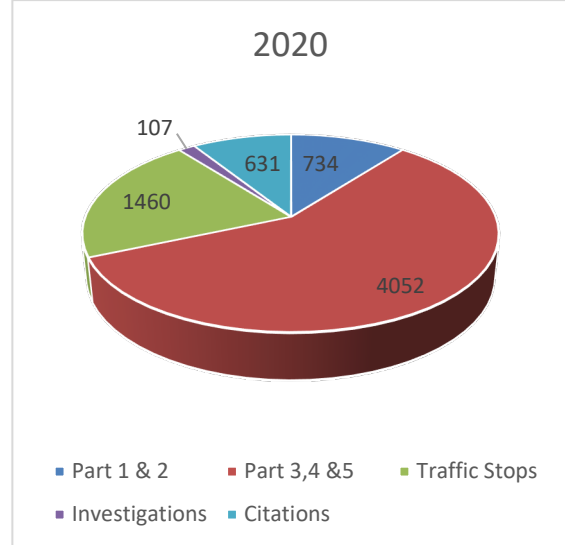


Reserve Officer Derek Barck completed an internship of 480 hours with the St. Francis Police Department in 2020 as part of his graduating requirements from Winona State University. Reserve Officer Barck spent time with officers and staff members learning about the history of the department and how it operates on a daily basis. Department staff enjoyed having Reserve Officer Barck spend the summer with us and wish him the best on his law enforcement endeavor.

The St. Francis Police Department is proud to have these members who are willing to give countless hours of their time to help our community. Many former Reserves have moved on to a career in law enforcement, some remaining with St. Francis PD and some being hired by other agencies.

2019 & 2020 STATISTICS:

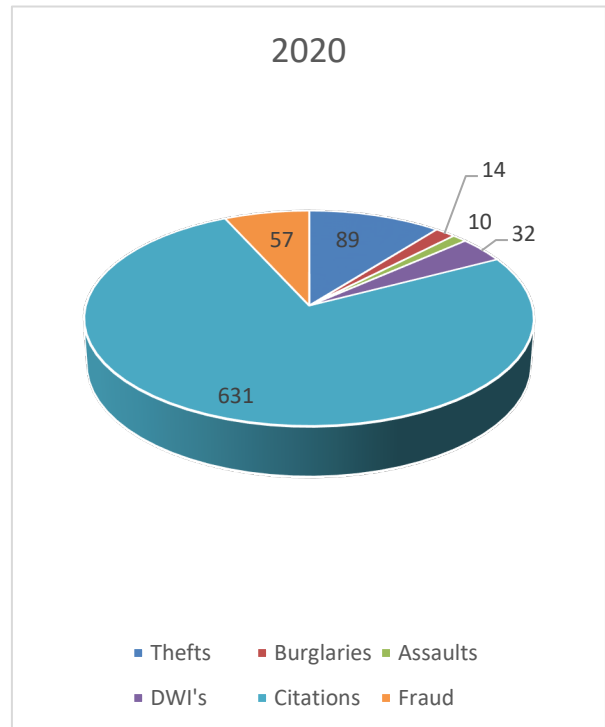
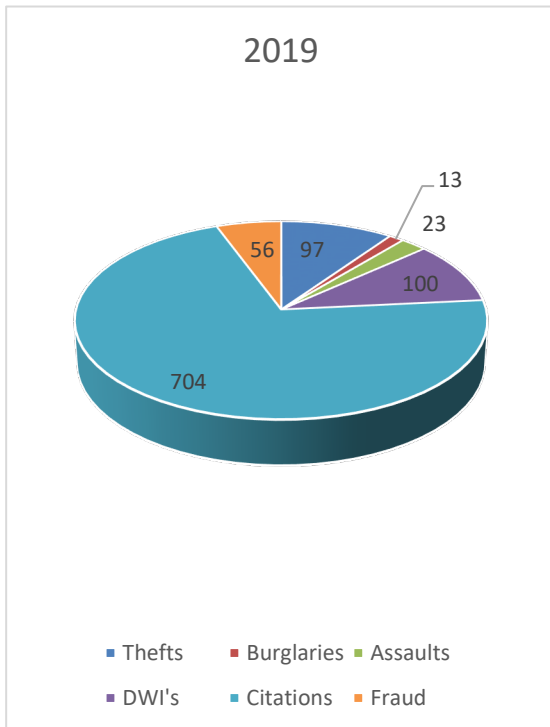
Offense Type	Description Examples	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Part 1 and 2	Theft, Fraud, Damage to Property, Burglary, DWI, Assaults,	828	734
Part 3,4,5	Suspicious persons/activity, Vehicle lock outs, Animal complaints, Check welfare, Accidents, Alarms, Medical, Parking complaints, MV Complaints, Warrant arrests, Neighborhood Disputes, Extra Patrol requests.	3,962	4,052
<u>Traffic Stops</u>		1,101	1460
<u>Total Generated ICR's (Incident Crime Reports)</u>		5,891	6,246
<u>Investigations</u>		153	107
<u>Citations</u>		704	631
<u>Average response time</u>	High Priority Call Type Low Priority Call Type		5.1 MIN 5.8 MIN



2019 & 2020 SERVICE

Calls for service breakdown: Part 1 & 2 offenses

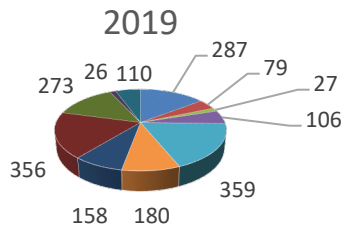
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Thefts	97	89
Burglaries	13	14
Assaults	23	10
DWIs	100	32
Citations	704	631
Fraud	56	57



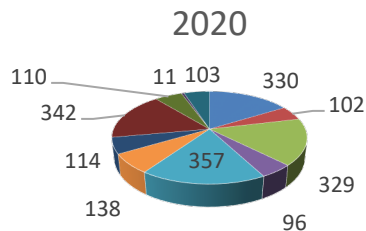
2019 & 2020 SERVICE

Calls for service breakdown: Part 3, 4, 5 offenses

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Suspicious Activity	287	330
Open Door	79	102
House Checks		
Requests	27	329
Vehicle lockouts	106	96
Medicals	359	357
Alarms	180	138
Vehicle Accidents	158	114
Agency Assists	356	342
Domestic situations	273	110
Juvenile Activity	26	11
Civil disputes/Landlord - tenant/Child Custody	110	103



- Suspicious Activity
- Open Door
- House Checks
- Vehicle Lockout
- Medicals
- Alarms
- Vehicle Accidents
- Agency Assists
- Domestic Situations
- Juvenile Activity
- Civil Issues



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SAYING GOODBYE TO OFFICER BLACK

Officer Jody Black retired from law enforcement in July of 2020. She began to serve the St. Francis Community in 2014 while having prior experience with the Northfield Police Department and State of Minnesota. Officer Black became the SRO (School Resource Officer) in St. Francis and surrounding communities that everyone seemed to know and love. She focused her time on interacting with children both in the schools and throughout the community. Officer Black implemented programs such as Eddie Eagle, Drug Display and the mock crash event in efforts to keep kids safe both in and out of school.

Officer Black was also known for her love of animals and she often shared her animals at school events to be enjoyed by children and staff. Officer Black will be greatly missed by the St. Francis Police Department and St Francis Community but we're excited for her as she enters the next chapter of her life.



WELCOME OFFICER HADLER

With the retirement of Officer Black, the St Francis Police Department received approval to hire an officer to fill the vacancy. After a very long and rigorous hiring process, the St. Francis Police Department welcomed Officer Hadler in November 2020. Officer Hadler has over two years of experience with another Minnesota law enforcement agency, which will be valuable in serving the City of St. Francis.

Officer Hadler is a community oriented officer and will be a great addition to the St. Francis Police Department and the St. Francis Community





The statewide TZD or Toward Zero Deaths program was launched in 2003 by the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety, Transportation, and Health as a deliberate, interdisciplinary approach to traffic safety. The members of the TZD program team realized that moving toward a goal of zero deaths would require cooperation among state agencies as well as a way to build connections between state agencies and local organizations.

The TZD program team works in partnership with community and corridor groups to improve the traffic safety of a designated area. TZD provides technical assistance, materials, and guidance to local groups that are committed to reducing crashes and the fatalities and severe injuries that result from them. The TZD program team has identified four major focus areas for communities working to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities:



- **Education:** Giving drivers the knowledge they need to avoid hazardous driving practices and choose responsible behavior.
- **Emergency Medical & Trauma Services:** Providing fast, efficient emergency medical and trauma services to reduce fatalities and serious injuries whenever a crash does occur.
- **Enforcement:** Ensuring compliance with traffic laws to change driver behavior and reduce unsafe driving practices.
- **Engineering:** Changing the roadway—with cable median barriers, signage, the roadside, and more—to make travel safer.

Even with all of the TZD initiatives and efforts, law enforcement continues to see a high number of DUI arrests and traffic fatalities throughout the state. Unfortunately, accident fatalities increased from 364 in 2019 to 394 in 2020 statewide and 17 in Anoka County. Of the 394 statewide fatalities 91 were alcohol related, 96 were speed related and 82 were not wearing seatbelts. St. Francis officers participated in a number of TZD initiatives in 2020 in an attempt to make Anoka County roads safer. In 2020 Anoka County held 70 TZD events which resulted in the following statistics.

2020 Anoka County TZD:

Traffic Stops – 5,215

DWI Arrests – 66

Warrant Arrests - 60

Seat Belt Citations - 230

Wireless Use Citations - 285

Speeding Citations – 1768

Revoked or Suspended Driver's License - 345

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKEBACK



According to the DEA, most people who misuse prescription drugs get them from family, friends, and acquaintances. To avoid this potential opportunity for abuse it's best to safely dispose of unused or expired medications. The best way to dispose of most types of unused or expired medications is to drop off the medication at a drug take back site location immediately. St. Francis is one of 11,000 sites nationwide that unused prescription drugs

can be dropped off as part of the "Prescription Drug Take Back Program". This provides the community members a safe way to dispose of unwanted or expired prescription medications to be disposed of in a way that is safer for the environment. The police department also participated in two National Prescription Drug Takeback Events in April and October 2020. Between our prescription drop box and National Drug Take Back Days, the police department collected **220 pounds** of prescription drugs in 2020.



CERTIFIED CAR SEAT INSTALL AND INSTRUCTION



The St. Francis Police Department currently has 1 certified car seat technician who is able to assist the public by ensuring child restraints are installed by manufacturer's specifications. The technician typically holds at least one annual car seat clinic at the police department where the public is invited to come and have their child restraints installed or to make sure they're installed correctly.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

The St. Francis Police Department has a great relationship with the community and strives to create trust and confidence in the city we serve. The police department is dedicated to customer service and goes that extra mile in creating a strong working relationship with the public through public engagement.

