

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

From July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, the Palmer Police Department answered approximately 17,855 calls for service, which included 1,617 medical related calls. From these calls, 1,735 criminal offenses were recorded and investigated. Additionally, 683 individuals were arrested /summoned / taken into custody, 988 incident reports were completed, 1,408 traffic citations were issued for 1,668 violations. There were 302 traffic crashes, involving 590 operators/occupants, resulting in injuries to 103 individuals. There were no fatal accidents reported during this period. A statistical report of the year's activity follows this report.

The department is currently comprised of 19 full time and 6 Special police officers. Two full-time candidates are currently in the hiring process and will be attending the Municipal Police Training Council Academy. Our Dispatch Center is staffed by 7 full time and 1 part time 911 Emergency Telecommunications Dispatchers who provide 24/7 coverage for the police department, the towns three fire departments and the Palmer Ambulance Service. An additional 3 part time/per diem civilian employees provide support services to the daily operations of the police department.

Chief John Janulewicz, a 44-year veteran of the Palmer Police Department and, Sergeant Kenneth White, a 34-year veteran of the Palmer Police Department retired in February 2020. We thank these officers for their many years of dedicated service to the citizens of the Town of Palmer and wish them the best in their retirement.

Notable Events

Throughout the month of November 2019, members of the Palmer Police Department once again participated in the "Home Base No-Shave_campaign" which raises awareness and funds for the critical, life-saving care for Veterans and their Families to heal from the invisible wounds, such as post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. Department members participating in "No-

Shave November” had to donate \$100.00 dollars to forgo shaving for 30 days. Our department contributed \$1,150.00 to the campaigns total of \$321,054 raised in 2019.

The Police Department held its first Annual STUFF – A – CRUISER event on December 15, 2019. This toy and food drive were a great success. Due to the amazing people in our community, we collected enough donations to fill five cruisers. The kindness and overwhelming generosity of our citizens and businesses make it an honor to serve this community.

Grants Received

The department received the following grants during this reporting period:

9-1-1 Training Grant (State 911 Department) - \$28,948 awarded. Through this program, governmental entities hosting primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are eligible to receive reimbursement for training related costs associated with the 9-1-1 system. Awards are based on a rounded formula of 9-1-1 calls received and population served.

PSAP Support and Incentive Grant (State 911 Department) - \$48,863. awarded. The purpose of the State 911 Department Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) Support and Incentive Grant is to assist PSAPs and regional emergency centers in providing enhanced 911 services and to encourage the development of regional PSAPs, regional secondary PSAPs and regional emergency communication centers.

9-1-1 Emergency Medical Dispatch Grant - \$600.00 to cover Fees for EMD medical director review and approval of emergency medical dispatch quality assurance program.

Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant - Bulletproof Vest Partnership - \$7,600.00 The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for Tactical-level body armor uniquely fitted for primary wear by individual officers.

Note of Thanks

I would like to thank members of our community for their continued support and encouragement. The individuals and businesses in this community have been exceptional as we navigate through the difficult times presented by the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have received numerous donations of Personal Protective Equipment and other items necessary to help us stay safe. These donations as well as the many cards, letters, and kind gestures we have received are part of the motivation that keeps us going. We are very fortunate to work in such a great community. We are at a loss for words that would adequately express how grateful we are for your support.

I would also like to thank Town Manager Ryan McNutt and the Palmer Town Council members for their ongoing support. I am grateful for the strong partnerships we have formed with the Palmer Public Schools, Pathfinder Regional High School, Palmer Board of Health, Palmer Department of Public works, Palmer Ambulance Service and the Palmer, Three Rivers and Bondsville Fire Departments. We thank you for your assistance and cooperation throughout the year.

I would like to thank the civilian, sworn and volunteer members of the Palmer Police Department for their service to the community. This note of thanks is especially important for Fiscal Year 2020 as their contribution and sacrifice were incalculable. In March of 2020 as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) began to spread across the United States it was necessary to take steps to ensure the safety and well-being of department personnel and their families. While we modified our response to calls for service to minimize exposure of our personnel, the nature of public safety work made it impossible to eliminate such risks.

The personal risks of this evolving health crisis were largely unknown and, not even fully understood by the experts. Unprecedented measures were taken across the country to curb the effects of the pandemic. Preventative actions were taken as a state of emergency was declared. Schools were closed, businesses shuttered, public and private events cancelled. Basically, everything shutdown except for those essential services. While many people were able to stay home with their families to limit their risk of contracting COVID-19, our police officers and support staff were not.

They, along with countless others who work in public safety and health care fields, were required to continue to work to maintain essential services. Our police personnel faced unique challenges during this public health crisis. The nature of their jobs required that they have extensive contact with the public in many instances where social distancing and other protective measures were not possible. Their risk of exposure would be greatly increased in situations where people suffering health emergencies would require their assistance. The risks of contracting COVID-19 weighed heavily on their minds. More troubling than the thought of contracting the disease, was the thought of spreading the virus to their families, loved ones or to others that they may encounter.

Yet, despite the added physical and psychological stressors, the men and women of this department continued to courageously serve our community day after day. These remarkable people have responded with an extraordinary level of professionalism and unwavering dedication to maintain continuity of service and public order during these very difficult times. It is difficult to find the words that adequately commend them for their commitment and personal sacrifice that they continue to make. It is with sincere gratitude that I thank our police officers and support staff for the exceptional work they have done and continue to do during these unprecedented times.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher J. Burns
Chief of Police