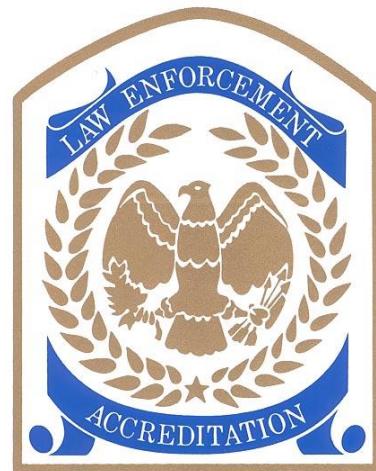


# Muscatine Police Department



## Annual Report 2021



A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency  
Protecting and Serving Since 1851

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## ***Muscatine Police Department***

### ***LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL***

TO: Muscatine Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Carol Webb, City Administrator

DATE: January 26, 2022

FROM: Brett Talkington, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Police Department Operational Report, 2021

The Muscatine Police Department submits an annual Operational Report to the Mayor and City Council as part of the requirements of our national accreditation. The purpose of this report is to provide an update of police department activities and to identify the major issues facing the department at this time. In addition, this information will hopefully provide some insight into the future trends or emerging issues which may impact the delivery of police services in some way.

The year 2021 seemed to be turning more positive with the pandemic until the new variant took hold of most of the country at the end of 2021. It feels like we have taken a step backwards. We will continue to work our way through this pandemic, hopefully getting back to some sort of normalcy in 2022. Until then we will continue to keep everyone safe and do our jobs to the best of our abilities.

The senseless murders of officers throughout our country has also plagued us again this year and continues at an alarming rate. This trend wears on all the officers. We continue to do our jobs in hopes that someday this nonsense will end and the

world is a better place. Officers put their lives on the line every day to make sure our community is safe.

Another worrisome thing we dealt with were people that had severe mental problems that were going untreated in the last couple of years. We did coordinate with Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services, allowing our officers to deal with the individuals and free up our officers to continue on patrol.

One of the major issues we dealt with the last year or so is recruitment and retention of officers. We had six (6) officers leave the department, three (3) to other agencies, two (2) retirements and one (1) resigned and no longer in law enforcement. We had a certified list of seven individuals and hired three of them off the list. Unfortunately one resigned early in January 2022 before completing the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA).

Finding good candidates for law enforcement jobs has been challenging. This will be an area we need to focus on in the future. This issue is not unlike any other law enforcement agency throughout the country. All departments are having a hard time recruiting and retaining new officers. We will continue to work with Human Resources to come up with different ways to recruit new members.

I continue to challenge our supervisors and officers to come up with ways to implement problem oriented and community policing strategies. We provide them time to invent ways to bring the community together through whatever means they see fit. They have come up with some ideas, such as Code Blue that have been very successful in the community.

There were promotions in 2021 due to retirements of the Assistant Chief in January and a Sergeant in December. This had a trickledown effect, as we were able to promote a Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and the current Assistant Chief. We will continually look for ways to transform our department and the community we serve. The Police Department continuously looks to improve community involvement through community policing efforts and problem orientated policing. These are top priorities for our agency.

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the department. The officers try to remain proactive within the community. Our officers are dedicated to the improvement of our community, while placing their lives on the line every day. The citizens of Muscatine should be very proud of the job the officers do on a daily basis.

A safer community is built on a framework of progressive law enforcement strengthened by public awareness, education and involvement. Together, we will find new solutions to community challenges. There are many challenges to our profession with all the issues across the country in 2021.

We as a community need to do our part. We have had many positive interactions in our community over the course of 2021. We would like to think we have made some positive strides within the community with positive interactions with our citizens. We will continue to build these relationships within our community.

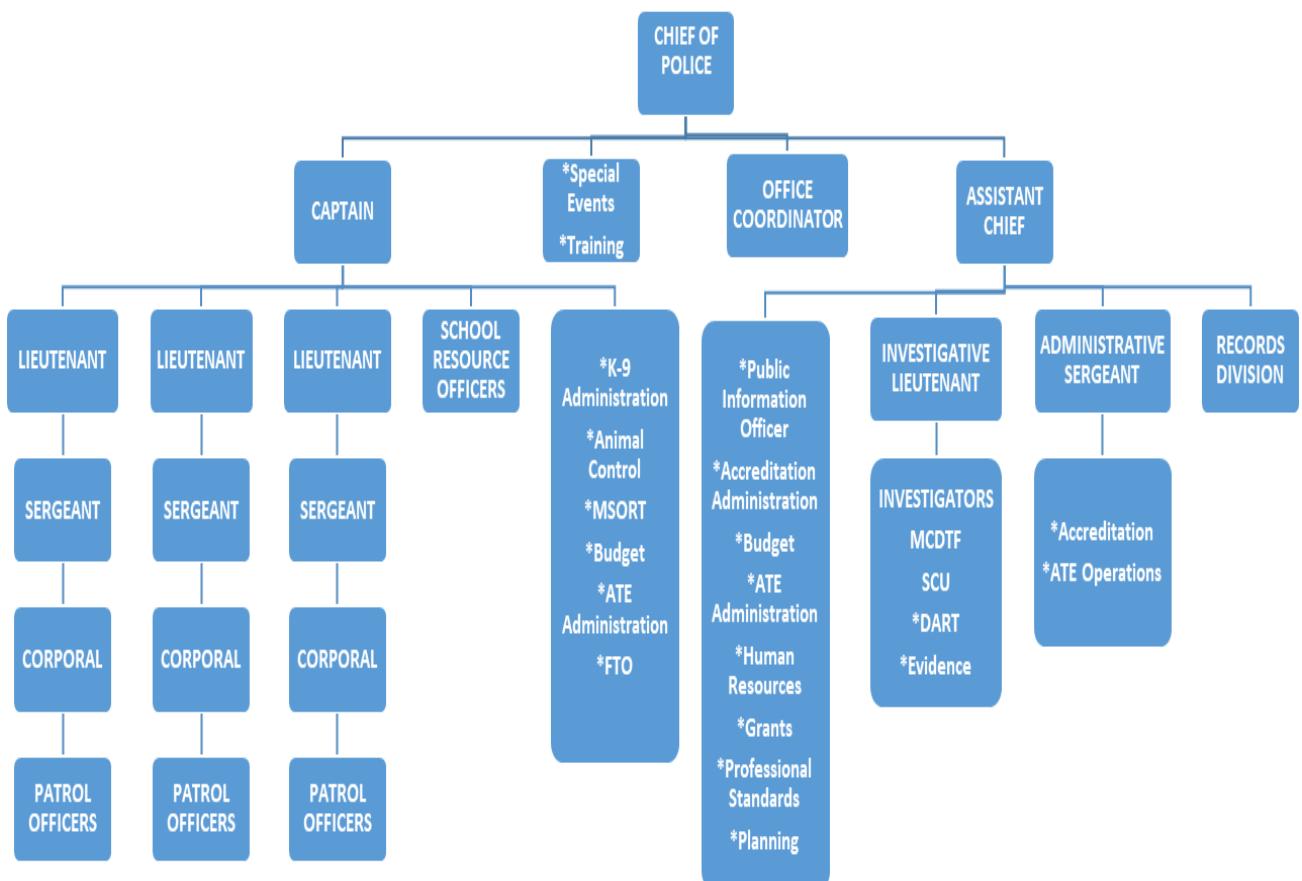
I hope that this annual report is useful and helpful when considering the state of the city as it pertains to your police department. The statistics we provide are meant to give a numerical overview of what's happening in our city.

Credit for the preparation, development and gathering of the information contained herein, goes to many people. It is the combined effort of administrative, supervision, line-officers and clerical personnel. It is our hope that this information is as useful to others as it is to us as we look at the issues currently facing the department and our community as a whole.

With that, I would like to thank you for supporting our department throughout the year. As always, I hope you will find our summary of 2021 interesting and informative.

Chief Brett Talkington  
Muscatine Police Department

# Muscatine Police Department Organizational Structure



Total # of Sworn Officers: 41  
 Total # of Officers for Patrol: 27  
 # of Investigators: 7  
 # of Off Site Officers: 4  
 # of Administrators: 3

Every organization needs/has structure. Perhaps the best definition of a police organization is that it is a system of consciously coordinated activities, with a common goal, divisions of labor, coordination of effort, and most especially in our domain, a hierarchy of authority. No other department of city government has more of a need for such a hierarchy, than the police. Million dollar jury awards are routinely leveled against cities all over the nation, for things that police do and shouldn't have, or do not do, and should have.

The structure of this organization plays a very important role. Not just in authority and responsibility, but in active “risk management.” To the casual observer, an organizational chart may look like a genealogical attempt gone wrong. In the law enforcement environment, it helps to explain how the organization functions. An organizational chart reveals four basic dimensions of the organization’s structure:

1. Hierarchy of Authority (who reports to whom).
2. Division of labors (what group performs what function).
3. Span of control (how many people are supervised).
4. Line and Staff position (who is doing what).

The theory behind the dimensions of this organizational structure demonstrates the basic tenants of our operational theory, as illustrated below:

1. Division of Labor (people become proficient when they perform standardized tasks over and over again).
2. Hierarchy of Authority (a formal chain of command ensures coordination, accountability and responsibility).
3. Rules and regulations (carefully formulated and strictly enforced rules assure some behavior, and prohibit other behaviors).
4. Administrative Impersonality (personnel decisions such as hiring, promotional eligibility, and firing are undertaken in-part by an authority (Civil Service Commission) other than the organization’s chief executive officer).

The Muscatine Police Department has historically followed a traditional organizational model, much like most other law enforcement agencies. For the most part, law enforcement has embraced such an organizational structure because law enforcement has traditionally functioned best through a coordination of effort, much like the military. Coordination of effort is achieved through formulation and enforcement of policies, rules, and regulations. Our chain of command is nothing more than a control mechanism dedicated to making sure the right people do the right things at the right time.

## **Patrol Division**

Patrol operated with three shifts in 2021. Afternoon & night (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) shifts were assigned a 10-hour shift schedule, (4 days on – 3 days off), while day shift remained on an 8-hour shift schedule, (5 days on – 2 days off). By keeping day shift on an 8-hour schedule this allowed the patrol division to function while sustaining the Street Crimes Unit Division. The extra manpower created during this overlap was used to supplement several things, such as special patrols, community policing projects, increased bike patrols, and department training.

The patrol division faced several challenges throughout the start of 2021. Due to personnel shortages, detectives had to be pulled from their assignments to help maintain adequate coverage within the patrol division, we were able to utilize each of them for a 3 week period to supplement patrol. As 2021 started the play out patrol was able to get back to business as usual. The Covid-19 pandemic started to decline and their duties were able to go back to normal.

The department was needed for overtime assignments at several different community functions this year on our Riverfront area that hosted over 5,000 visitors to the area. One of the biggest challenges for patrol was trying to figure out placement for offenders and the Muscatine County Jail has certain criteria that had to be met prior to taking any prisoners. This also started to subside the first part of 2021 and when summer came around patrol was able to utilize MCJ as they did prior to the pandemic.

The patrol division has continued to make some very positive changes in 2021. Project ABLE is a concept designed to prevent public harm through developing a department wide commitment to the ideals of peer intervention. It establishes annual training protocols as well as policy revisions that support and protect officers who do intervene. It is truly a department wide commitment to active bystandership.

In March of 2021 all Muscatine Police Department personnel attended an 8 hour block of training that was put on by our two certified ABLE Instructors. This training will continue with all new hires in the future. We are also required to continue our education to meet the guidelines of Project ABLE. In 2022, officer will attend another 4-hour block of training. Since officers have trained to the Project ABLE standards we have seen a decrease in over 50% less personnel complaints in

2021. All use of force reports are reviewed prior to approval and there was a major impact on peer intervention and clear communication between officers.

The department continues to support the DEI group, which stands for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The group's purpose, in its simplest form, is to create community discussion and awareness about equitable representation and opportunities within Muscatine and to help ensure all segments of the Muscatine community feel included and supported. The department saw the need to be a part of these very important discussions and has been participating with the DEI group since it was formed. There are now three members from patrol who are participating with various segments of the DEI group.

The department has completed a community survey that DEI felt would be an important step for our community. The department partnered with Muscatine Community College and was able to complete the survey. We are currently waiting on the results to be formulated so we can move forward and see what our agency can improve upon as perceived by the community.

## **Projects and Programs**

Several community projects and programs were developed and/or have been supported within the patrol division throughout 2021. The POPCAN project has evolved, and is currently being implemented into Iowa Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. This involves assigning an individual patrol officer/police supervisor who have completed certification through the National Crime Free Housing Association and that the Muscatine Police Department has become a member of for this endeavor's successful implementation. The purpose of this initiative is to establish a relationship with complex and rental property ownership as well as tenants in order to reduce criminal activity in addition to creating an overall safer environment in places where a higher volume of department calls for service/serious incidents have traditionally transpired based on collected data.

Patrol division members were active with the organization of the Juvenile Diversion program. However, due to Covid-19 this program has switched to online only and is currently being taken care of by Juvenile Probation Services. The data being generated from this program has shown a positive effect on reducing juvenile recidivism. It is unknown when or if Juvenile Diversion will return to in person classes or not.

Through association with the Muscatine DEI group, patrol division members have begun establishing connections with the African American Church at Calvary. Patrol members have been attending services and getting to know the people of the congregation. Many of these immigrants have arrived with unfavorable views of law enforcement based upon experiences in their home countries and language barriers can further compound this issue. Patrol members have provided educational discussions about police operations in Muscatine and what can be expected when interacting with officers.

Another part of the DEI project involves patrol members being involved with a Facebook community discussion page that was started by the group. This year the department was able to help host a Community Friendship BBQ. This event was put on by the African Community within Calvary Church. The purpose of this event was to promote unity, connection and shared humanity with our friends and neighbors. This event was able to bring together over 200 community members and first responders.

Code Blue was a project which was utilized in 2021. This was designed and proposed by a patrol member. It is an effort to recognize families within the community who suffer the sudden and unexpected loss of a family member due to suicide, car accident, violent crime or any other reasons that department members would find appropriate.

The Code Blue coordinator begins the process with the collection of donations from department members that goes towards providing a meal for the bereaved family, while extending the agency's support. This year Code Blue was able to assist 4 families that were in need which will take off in 2021. We have been contacted by a few other larger agencies in Iowa who are wanting to meet with us and learn how to begin the Code Blue response.

“A Book and a Badge” was completed this year with our patrol officers. A book and a badge series was a partnership between the Musser public Library and the Muscatine police department. The series highlighted different areas of the police department and allowed children access to our day to day activities. Each episode talked about a different aspect a police officer’s job and allowed different officers to read a police book during the episode. Our objective for the series was for children to see different assignments within our police department and to give them a fun look at our jobs.

## **Police Chaplin Corps**

The Police Chaplin Corps has been active within the department since 2013. It has continued to grow and become a more intricate part of the police department. Headed by Pastor Tom Berryman, they are constantly looking for ways to improve upon their training and expand their roles within the department. Pastor Berryman is assist by Pastor Alex Kindred, Pastor Don Timmermann and Pastor Brian Oliver.

The Chaplin Corps fulfills a dual role, that of community involvement and counseling during traumatic events such as, serious or fatality accidents, suicides, homicides, or death notifications. They also support Department staff through counseling and have helped officers through critical incidents. Chaplin Corps members make an effort to embed themselves within the Department's patrol shifts and establish relationships with officers. This helps employees get to know and feel comfortable with members of the Corps. It is the intent of the Department and the Corps to provide an alternative outlet for officer wellness and informal counseling.

The Chaplin's involve themselves in other activities such as the Shop with a Cop program, the Holiday Stroll & the Department's Police Memorial service. The department sponsors training opportunities from time to time for members of the chaplain corps.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic Chaplin Corps had been only allowed to respond to critical incidents and ride time has been put on hold as well as in person training. Chaplin Corp ride time ended in late February of 2020 and was able to return in April of 2021. Our Chaplin Corps have delivered over 537 hours of volunteer time to assist our department and community. During the last year Chaplin Corp responded to 15 incidents where they assisted in a death notification or response to assist a family of a death.

## **Specialty Assignments**

The Patrol Division supports a number of specialty assignments that department members can volunteer to be part of. These include assignments such as the School Resource Officers (SRO), the K-9 Unit, Bike Patrol Unit, Muscatine Evidence Technician (M.E.T.) program and the Muscatine Special Response Team (MSORT).

## **S.R.O.**

The School Resource Officer's (SRO) are Officer Whitni Peña and Officer Angela Shoultz. Officer Peña works primarily Susan Clark Junior High School, while Officer Shoultz works primarily with the High School. During the summer break months both officers get reassigned to patrol. The SRO positions are rotated every 3 to 4 years.

Staff and students are still learning how to adjust to a new norm as well as the SRO's since the COVID-19 pandemic. Both SRO's were engaged in school board meetings at the beginning of the school year as we had to deal with unhappy parents due to a mask mandate. SRO's have had to change their positions into much more than a police officer. SRO's are continuing to mentor students when having difficulties with attendance or grades.

Again, this year both Officer Peña & Officer Shoultz have made sure to visit every building and meet with staff about safety issues surrounding individual buildings. Obviously this year is different from any other year and the SRO's are dealing with more truancy and home visits than ever before. Student safety is a top priority, education and training are two keep components in keeping everyone as safe as possible. SRO's have had to monitor computers and make sure that kids are using their technology that was given to them by the school appropriately.

Officer Peña & Officer Shoultz are both part of the Muscatine County Impact of Substance Use task force. As part of this task, they focus their efforts on educating students about the perils of substance abuse. They also educate parents on how to recognize substance use indicators within their teens. This past year Officer Peña and Officer Shoultz were able to utilize the drug trailer in 11 events with over 200 citizens going through and being educated on what to look for in their children's room when it comes to drug usage.

## **K-9**

The Muscatine K-9 Unit operated with two dog & handler (K-9) teams for the majority of 2021. Officer Griffin was selected to be the second handler and was trained with his partner Dino. Sgt. Patel and his partner Nero were in service until November of 2021. In November, Nero passed away due to an unexpected health

condition and had served with our department for 7 years. Both dogs were trained as dual purpose (narcotic & street patrol) dogs.

Having two teams assigned to the Muscatine K-9 Unit, allows the department to provide K-9 coverage over a broad range of hours, as the K-9 teams are assigned to opposite shifts. Dual purpose K-9s have the following capabilities: Narcotic Detection, tracking, apprehension, article searches, and crowd control. K-9 teams are subject to callouts should an event require their skills but neither team is not on duty. Being down one team over the last six months has had an impact on the department's ability to ensure adequate coverage and availability outside of normal working hours. Members of the K-9 Unit work closely with the department's Street Crimes Unit as well as outside agencies such as the Muscatine County Drug Task Force and the Iowa State Patrol. The K-9 Unit has assisted the Muscatine Community School District with student locker searches, as well as other school districts within the area.

Training is a critical component for effective K-9 employment. The department's K-9 teams have been attending 8 hours of monthly training, where they get together with other K-9 teams from the QC area. Training with a group allows them to network and gain outside insight to their training styles and tactics. In addition to monthly training, the K-9 teams will train on duty as time allows. This ensures that the teams are training in realistic situations and allows them to demonstrate proficiency while at work.

This year the teams were able to handle 59 calls for service. During these calls they assisted with 26 arrests. These numbers are a direct reflection the replacement of a K-9 handler and the movement of Nero to dayshift with Sgt. Patel. Muscatine K-9 Unit also was able to secure 3,352 grams of marijuana from their calls for service.

### **Bike Patrol**

The department's Bike Patrol Unit was active throughout 2021. They may be assigned to patrol the city's bike paths and problem areas, during the shift overlaps. They were also assigned to work several special events, such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The Bike Patrol Unit is a voluntary assignment. If selected, officers are sent to a (2) week school to become bike patrol certified.

## A.C.O.

This year our ACO Ashby resigned in November. We have since hired ACO Courtney Patel to fill the position and she started in late December. In 2021, ACO's have responded to (770) calls for service and had (88) bite cases this year. The ACO uses Facebook as a way to connect with the public, post stray animals, reunite pets, and answer questions the public may have regarding animals. This year ACO Ashby was able to organize a pet microchipping clinic in conjunction with the Muscatine Humane Society. The goal of a microchipping clinic is to allow citizens to bring their pets to have a microchip implanted for a discounted price in effort to reunite more pets with their owners when lost. The team was able to microchip and vaccinate over 100 animals.

ACO Patel will continue to try and increase the number of city pet licenses and focusing on pet ownership responsibility. The ACO continues to have a positive working relationship with the Muscatine Humane Society, local vet clinics, outside animal agencies, and other city employees. Animal and community safety continues to be the top priorities for the ACO. Both of these numbers are up from last year. The ACO uses Facebook as a way to reach out and connect with the public. She uses it to post stray animals and has enjoyed some great success in reuniting them with their owners. She also has people who contact her via Facebook asking questions and seeking advice.

## **Muscatine Police Department Division of Investigations Operations 2021**

### **General Information**

The Muscatine Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division is under the direct command of Lt. David O'Connor. The division is comprised of three different groups each focusing on specific disciplines. The Major Crimes Unit (MCU) is made up of three general crimes detectives, the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) consists of two officers, and the Muscatine County Drug Task Force (DTF) includes two assigned officers to the joint task force.

The Lieutenant of Investigations (Lt. O'Connor) is also charged with overall responsibility for all departmental property management activity (evidence).

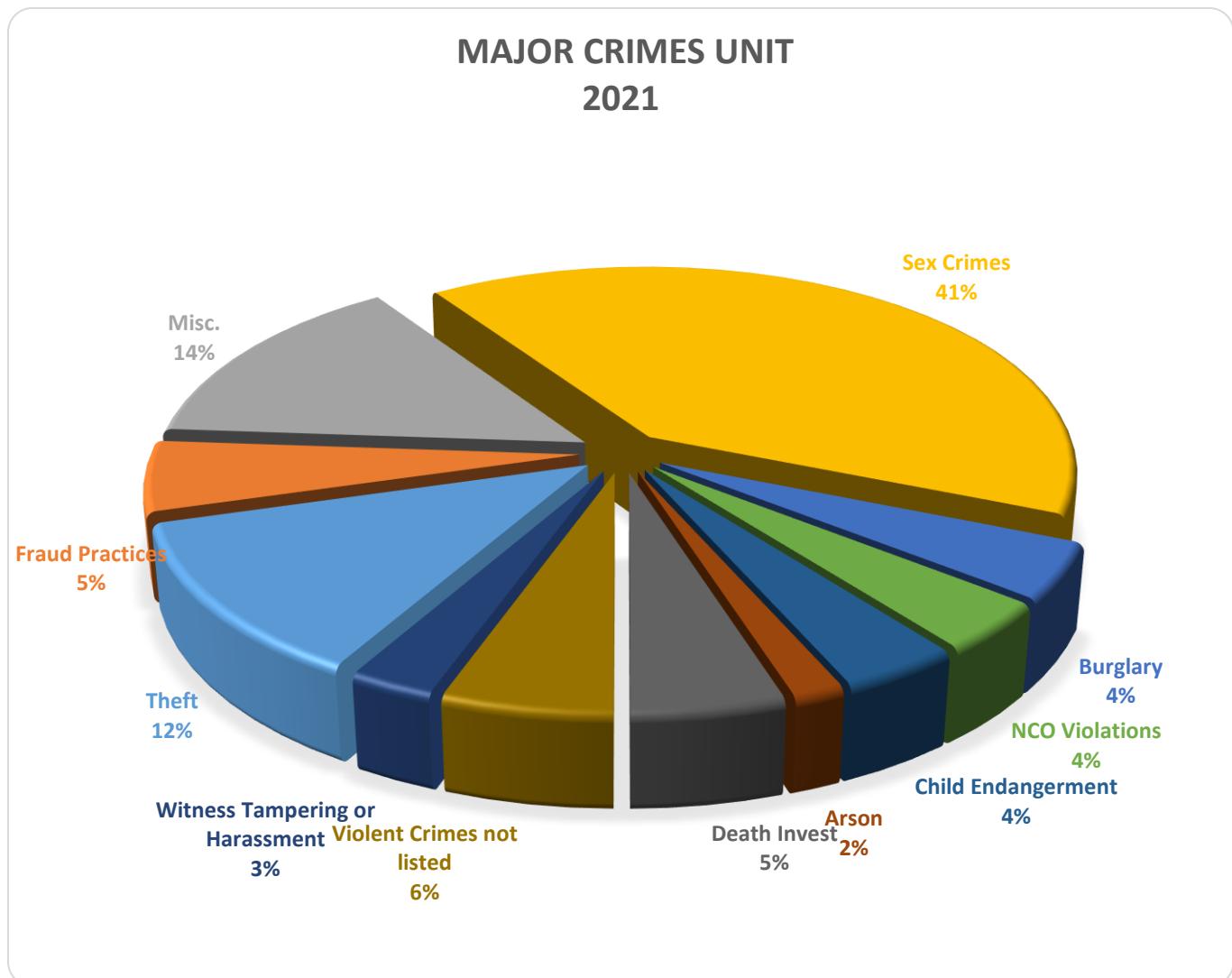
### **Major Crimes Unit (MCU)**

The MCU has three officers assigned to the position of Detective with the police department. This unit is primarily responsible for investigating a wide range of criminal behavior, including property crimes, financial crimes, and violence against others. Most incidents being investigated by the MCU detectives originate from the patrol division, where crucial initial information is gathered before being forwarded. For this reason, each detective works to maintain a strong relationship with all other areas within the police department, and work towards forging a positive relationship with the community.

In 2021, the MCU was assigned 180 investigations. The MCU totaled 79 arrests or requests for arrest warrants in 2021 and served approximately 58 search warrants. The MCU had an 85% case clearance rate.

A high percentage (41%) of criminal investigations conducted this year were sex related crimes. These crimes include Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Assault, Lascivious Acts, Indecent Exposure, and Enticing a Minor. Along with investigating these types of crimes, detectives try to make sure the victims know what victim resources are available to them through Family Resources, the Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA), and the Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center (CPC).

The investigations division also continues to maintain equipment and software that focuses on examining mobile devices, such as cell phones and tablets. The examination also includes analysis of the data for purposes of furthering active investigations and eventual criminal prosecution. This analysis is conducted by the MCU for all appropriate cases with the Muscatine Police Department, but is also designed to support surrounding agencies in a joint effort. In 2021, approximately 127 Electronic devices were examined, and the data analyzed and prepared. This process involves working jointly with surrounding law enforcement agencies, where a search warrant was presented to examine the items. The MCU assisted the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, Muscatine County Drug Task Force, Louisa County Sheriff's Office, Cedar County Sheriff's Office, Tipton Police Department, Columbus Junction Police Department, Iowa DNR, West Liberty, and the Iowa Department of Transportation with this task.



## **Street Crimes Unit (SCU)**

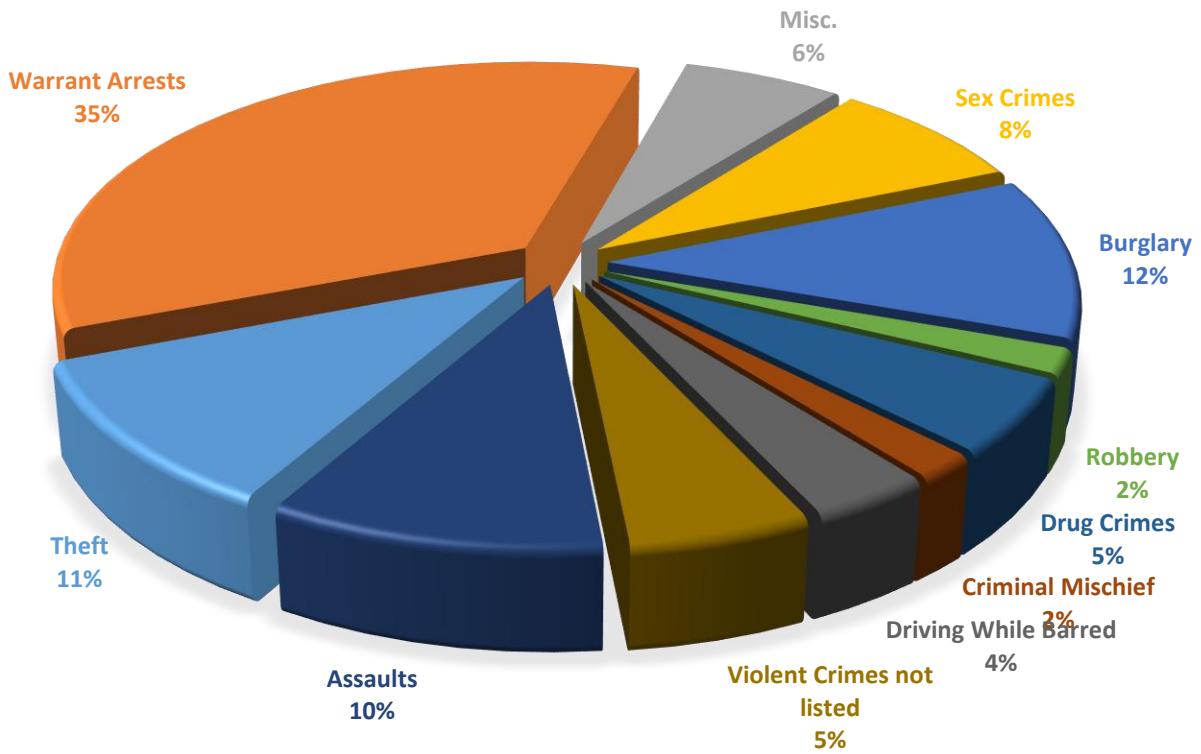
The SCU has two officers designated to this assignment as investigators. They work primarily as a two-person team on a daily basis and are assigned cases that originate in the patrol division. The unit is focused on criminal gang behavior in the community, including gathering and managing intelligence of known gang affiliates and their associates. A lot of their investigations are concentrated on criminal behavior involving weapons, drugs, and violence against persons. The SCU is assigned an unmarked patrol car which makes it easier for them to conduct surveillance operations and locate wanted persons.

During the first half of 2021, one SCU officer was assigned cases while the other SCU officer was on patrol because personnel was low and we needed to maintain a minimum number of personnel on each shift. Both SCU officers were back in investigations starting July 1, 2021.

There was a lot of gang crime in Muscatine this year. In 2021, the SCU, with assistance from the MCU, had 17 felony arrests/warrants for known Latin Kings or prospecting Latin Kings. In 2021, 5 Latin Kings or Latin King Prospects were charged with Attempted Murder and 5 Latin Kings or Latin King Prospects were charged with firearms related offenses.

In 2021, the SCU was assigned or self-generated 111 cases, made 88 arrests, and had 7 arrest warrant requests.

## STREET CRIMES UNIT 2021



### Muscatine County Drug Task Force (DTF)

The Muscatine County DTF continues to function as a joint multi-jurisdictional task force that covers Muscatine County, Cedar County, and Louisa County. The MCDTF also continuously assists several outside agencies, including Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Johnson County, and agencies in the Quad Cities area. As in years past, the MCDTF also works closely with agencies from the Federal Government and participates regularly in federally indictable offenses.

The Muscatine Police Department has continued to assign two full time investigators to serve as part of this task force. While they are under the command of Lt. O'Connor and the police department, they also are required to successfully

work within the team environment at the task force, and take operational command instruction from the Task Force Supervisor (Division of Narcotics Enforcement Agent Chad Page) from the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

The task force once again had a productive and successful year. The task force seized more methamphetamine this year than any year in the past 10 years.

### **Muscatine County Drug Task Force Statistics (Calendar Year 2021)**

Arrests	64
Search Warrants	36

#### **Drug Seizure**

Cocaine	4,316.3 grams (9.5 pounds)
Methamphetamine/ICE	132,563.2 grams (292.2 pounds)
Marijuana	18,871.7 grams (41.6 pounds)

#### **Other Seizures**

Firearms	24
Currency	\$432,707.00
Total Operations	295

#### **Evidence**

The position of Evidence Custodian, is a specialist position appointed by the Chief of Police and supervised by the Investigative Lieutenant (Lt. O'Connor). This position involves the receipt, recording, custody, security, and disposition of all lost property, evidence, and contraband, coming within the custody of the department. The Muscatine Police Department's Evidence Custodian has been to a 40 hour Evidence Technician (ET) training. Our current Evidence Custodian is the department's first Evidence Custodian who has been to ET training. The training has qualified our Evidence Custodian to process evidence for fingerprints. In the past, an officer who is an ET would have to come in on overtime to process fingerprints or come off of patrol to do it. The department would like to expand the Evidence Custodian's duties, giving the position more responsibility in the area of physical evidence processing, but the current Evidence Custodian's status as a Temp employee creates some hurdles.

In 2021, there was (2,250) items that were received for evidence, while (145) items, from older cases, were released.

### **Muscatine Evidence Technician program**

The Muscatine Evidence Technician (MET) program is comprised of a small group of officers who have received specialized training in photography, as well as the collection and processing of evidence. They work on an on-call basis throughout the year and are relied upon to process all major crime scenes. These scenes included everything from burglaries to homicide investigations. In addition to being subject to call outs, these officers also help process scenes that are encountered while they are working shift.

MET members are all assigned lab time, which is located in the basement of the PSB. Here they are responsible for processing any items of evidence that were brought in by officers outside of the MET team.

In 2021, the Capture BT Superglue chamber which was obtained in 2017 failed. Due to the reliance and use of this machine, funds were obtained to purchase a new, upgraded model of the Capture BT chamber. This new chamber has been installed, is fully operational and has produced positive results. The Muscatine County Sheriff's office was extended the opportunity to use this superglue chamber due to not having access to one. They have used the previous and current chamber for work on their cases.

The MET officers undergo continuous training to keep their skills sharp and updated. In the year 2021, The MET Team expanded to include six (6) officers working on the on-call rotation and shift needs. The program currently has a supervisor to oversee day to day operations as well as ordering equipment and supplies. Four (4) members of the team were sent to an evidence specialist who conducted a week long training, certifying all four members as Evidence Technicians.

## **PROBLEM ORIENTED (POP) AND COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING (COP)**

Problem Oriented Policing is defined as *“policing strategies that involve the identification and analysis of specific crime and disorder problems, in order to develop effective response strategies utilizing community interaction wherever possible.”* POP as well as Community Policing projects have become a cornerstone of proactive law enforcement efforts in Muscatine since their introduction by then Chief of Police Gary Coderoni in the early 1990’s. Since that time the Muscatine Police Department has operated or been involved in numerous projects and programs that have attempted to address issues within the community while developing greater interaction between citizens and law enforcement.

Some programs have met the need and been discontinued, only to be re-deployed again later such as the Street Crimes Unit. Others have fulfilled their goals and then permanently disbanded. At its most basic, Problem Oriented Policing is the identification of an issue, developing a strategy to address the issue and deployment of that strategy. The addition of a Community Policing component to the equation helps to develop a common goal between the citizens and law enforcement.

### **Junior Police Academy**

In late June of 2019 the Muscatine Police Department, in cooperation with Muscatine Community College and the Muscatine High School, held the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Junior Police Academy. The goal of this program was to foster a strong relationship with high school aged students in the community and surrounding areas that are interested in law enforcement as a career. The hope is to keep young people living near Muscatine after they complete their schooling and potentially seek employment with the Muscatine Police Department. **Due to COVID 19 this program was put on hold for 2021. We will attempt to have another class, if possible, in 2022**

If future employees of the department are hired from the local area, could help tremendously with staff turnover. The program helps the younger generation see what police officers do on a daily basis and gain positive insight into law enforcement. There is one academic scholarship awarded to one student of the class based on various criteria.

## **Muscatine Center for Social Action**

In 2021 the Muscatine Police Department continued its close cooperation with the Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA). Since 2006 a member of the police department has sat on the Executive Board for MCSA. The ability of the MPD member to participate in the operational and logistical decision making process has helped to create a common goal mentality between the MCSA and the MPD. This has helped foster a greater understanding by each entity of what the others goals are and how we can best work together to achieve those goals.

Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Region has established a crisis line that currently services Jackson, Clinton, Cedar, Scott, and Muscatine County. Officers have begun to distribute the crisis line phone number or call directly while on a call for service when interacting with an individual or family in crisis and the disability services staff will respond to the scene to render assistance. The MCSA has established a Mental Health Peer Drop-In Center which is an extension of the disability services program. This program has been a great tool when officers come into contact with those suffering from mental health or other related issues that are not typically law enforcement specific.

## **Park & Walk**

The Muscatine Police Department continued its “Park & Walk” project during 2021. This project is designed to allow officers an opportunity to get out of the squad car on foot patrol and interact with the community on a non-enforcement related basis. Officers are encouraged to spend 30 minutes each shift on foot somewhere in their assigned beat area, visiting places like schools, the downtown business district, parks, and housing complexes. Though the primary goal of this project is to create opportunities for personal interaction between officers and the community, it has the added benefit of becoming a deterrent for criminal activity as well.

## **Operation Clean Sweep**

In 2021 “Operation Clean Sweep” continued to be active for a portion of the year. There were follow ups done on graffiti complaints. Operation Clean Sweep is designed to enforce the graffiti ordinance by gaining the cooperation of property owners to quickly remove graffiti and businesses to restrict purchase of spray paint

by juveniles. Study after study has shown that when graffiti is removed with 24-48 hours of going up there is a nearly zero reoccurrence rate. As part of the program, suggestions are made to the property owner on how to avoid similar occurrences. Some of these suggestions are;

1. Report graffiti to the police department immediately
2. Restrict access to prone areas by planting trees and shrubbery
3. The installation of lighting in dark, targeted areas
4. The use of graffiti resistant surfaces when possible.

### **Coffee with a Cop**

The “Coffee with a Cop” project was active during 2021. Coffee with a Cop allows officers and citizens an opportunity to converse and interact outside of their normal roles. During the year there were several events hosted by the local businesses where people had a chance to voice concerns, ask questions or just get to know the officers.

Members of the Muscatine Police Department Chaplains Corp were able to be involved in a few of the events. The primary focus of these events is to allow for a low stress environment for interaction but there is also a beneficial exchange of information as well. Both sides can get outside of their official roles as citizen or officer and take the opportunity to talk to the person underneath.

### **Other Events & Opportunities**

In 2021 the department utilized its social media presence in an attempt to recruit new officers for testing, provide information about the department through and seek information on active criminal cases. As the younger generations rely on social media for information, implementing this approach on a department level will provide increased opportunities to reach and inform a large number of civilians easily while keeping cost effectiveness in mind.

### **Muscatine Police Officers Association**

Though not under the direct purview of the department, the community policing efforts of the Muscatine Police Officers Association has added greatly to the cause. The Muscatine Police Officers Association (MPOA) is a local affiliate of the Iowa State Police Association. The MPOA was founded in 1934 and is one of the oldest

such association in Iowa. The MPOA is a fraternal/charitable organization within the Muscatine Police Department and membership is open to all sworn personnel. The MPOA engages in a variety of fundraising events during the year which bring great positive attention to the department and to the goals of the MPOA.

The charitable efforts of the MPOA deal mainly with the youth of Muscatine and the surrounding area. Through programs like “Shop with a Cop” the MPOA seeks to foster good relations with those that will one day become citizens of our community and to improve the department’s image within the community.

The MPOA sponsors both boys and girls sports activities through Muscatine Parks & Rec, the Youth Sports Foundation and other such organizations. The MPOA is also the primary contributor to the Police Explorer program. However the MPOA’s oldest and most recognized activity is the “Shop with a Cop” program which began in 1991. For the last 30 years the MPOA has conducted its “Shop with a Cop”

The kids are taken through Walmart and were allowed to spend \$150 on themselves and family members. We have taken approx. 100 kids with our Shop with a Cop program. We have to thank businesses and people alike for donating to our Shop with a Cop program.

## Law Enforcement Accreditation

Law Enforcement Accreditation began with the creation of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) in 1979. The Commission was created through the joint efforts of the major law enforcement executive associations:

- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- Police Executive Research Forum
- National Sheriff's Association

The purpose of CALEA's accreditation program is to improve the delivery of public safety services. Their stated goals are:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities
- Formalize essential management procedures
- Establish fair and non-discriminating personnel practices
- Improve service delivery
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency

CALEA's governing body is comprised of twenty-one commissioners. Eleven must be law enforcement practitioners and the remaining ten are selected from the public and private sectors. The commissioners are appointed by the four founding law enforcement organizations and serve without compensation.

There are currently more than 600 accredited law enforcement agencies in the United States and also some in Canada, Mexico and Barbados. In the State of Iowa, there are eleven (10) accredited law enforcement agencies to include 8 Municipalities, 1 Sheriff's Office, and 1 state law enforcement agency

The Muscatine Police Department received its initial accreditation award in December of 2000. Since that time we have been awarded reaccredited status in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015, and 2019. The department's next accreditation award is slated for 2023.

Law Enforcement Accreditation puts the police department in much better position to defend against any lawsuits which may arise since the department is complying with national standards of operation and not merely standards developed by the police department. Having people from outside the agency come in to critique our policies and procedures and help us identify those which do not meet national standards is a plus for the department as well as the city. Being accredited also lends itself to lower overall insurance premiums for police liability insurance.

In addition, accreditation aids in creating better quality, trained and professional personnel. By requiring officers to adhere to policies that have been developed and approved through the accreditation process and CALEA, officers are performing assignments in a manner that is nationally accepted as the best practices for law enforcement. As a result, accreditation has led to advances in the investigation of criminal incidents, prosecution of criminal cases and overall customer service within the community for the Muscatine Police Department.

## **AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT**

### **Background**

In 2010, the City of Muscatine awarded the contract for our Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) initiative to Gatso USA. Through accident data as well as speed and red light violation surveys we decided that eight (8) approaches at five intersections would receive the equipment. The system was set up to monitor red light violations as well as speed violations at all five (5) intersections. The intersections selected for the ATE equipment were:

Washington St at Park Ave (north and south approaches)  
Cleveland St at Park Ave (north and south approaches)  
Cedar St at Houser St (east and west approaches)  
University Dr at US Hwy 61 (westbound approach)  
Mulberry Ave at US Hwy 61 (westbound approach)

The ATE equipment was built and installed by Gatso USA at no cost to the City of Muscatine. The City and Gatso USA worked closely with the Iowa Department of Transportation to ensure that the entire construction and sign placements were completed to their requirements. Winter weather delayed the construction process during December and January. Each intersection has speed limit signs and red light signs that clearly advise that photo enforcement equipment is used at those intersections. In addition to those signs, the City elected to put up “traffic laws photo enforced” signs on every corporate limit signs posts on roadways entering Muscatine.

The camera/radar system detects violators and passes the violation information to a Gatso employee who verifies that a violation appears to have occurred and then they create a violation package that includes location information, violation information and vehicle information. This event package is then sent to our department for review. A police officer who has been trained on the system reviews the data and determines if a violation of the city ordinance has actually occurred and if the violation, location and vehicle information matches what is viewed in the photos and video. If everything matches up and a violation has actually occurred then the officer will issue a citation.

The ATE equipment not only detects and documents red light and speed violations but also has other capabilities. The use of ATE's allows us to allocate officers to other areas of town for community policing needs and traffic enforcement to make the city and surrounding areas safer. The cameras in Muscatine have been used by successfully by officers and prosecutors as evidence in citing and prosecuting drivers involved in traffic crashes at or near these intersections. The system can be set for license plate recognition for Amber Alerts as well. On two occasions the cameras in Muscatine have been used to corroborate evidence in criminal cases, one being a drive by shooting. They have been invaluable in these cases

On March 11, 2011, the Automated Traffic Enforcement equipment was activated at the intersection of Cedar St and Houser St. On March 18, 2011, the Automated Traffic Enforcement equipment was activated at the intersections of US Hwy 61 and Mulberry Ave, US Hwy 61 and University Ave and Park Ave and Cleveland St. Because of property questions and construction delays, the intersection of Washington St and Park Ave wasn't active until May 21, 2011. Each intersection had a warning period of 30 days.

Since 2007, the Iowa State University Institute for Transportation's Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) has conducted three research studies related to Automated Traffic Enforcement. These three studies have been funded by the Iowa Department of Transportation. Late in 2013, the CTRE released the latest study that supported the use of Automated Traffic Enforcement. This study, "Improving Traffic Safety Culture in Iowa – Phase 2" was a survey of the attitudes and opinions of the citizens of Iowa. **The survey found that 56.4 % of those surveyed supported the use of ATE equipment for speed enforcement and that 70% supported the use for red light detection and ticketing.**

The recommendations from this study were to "pursue increase in automated enforcement to reduce speeding related crashes and other aggressive behaviors, such as red light running." These recommendations mirror the research from 2010 and 2007.

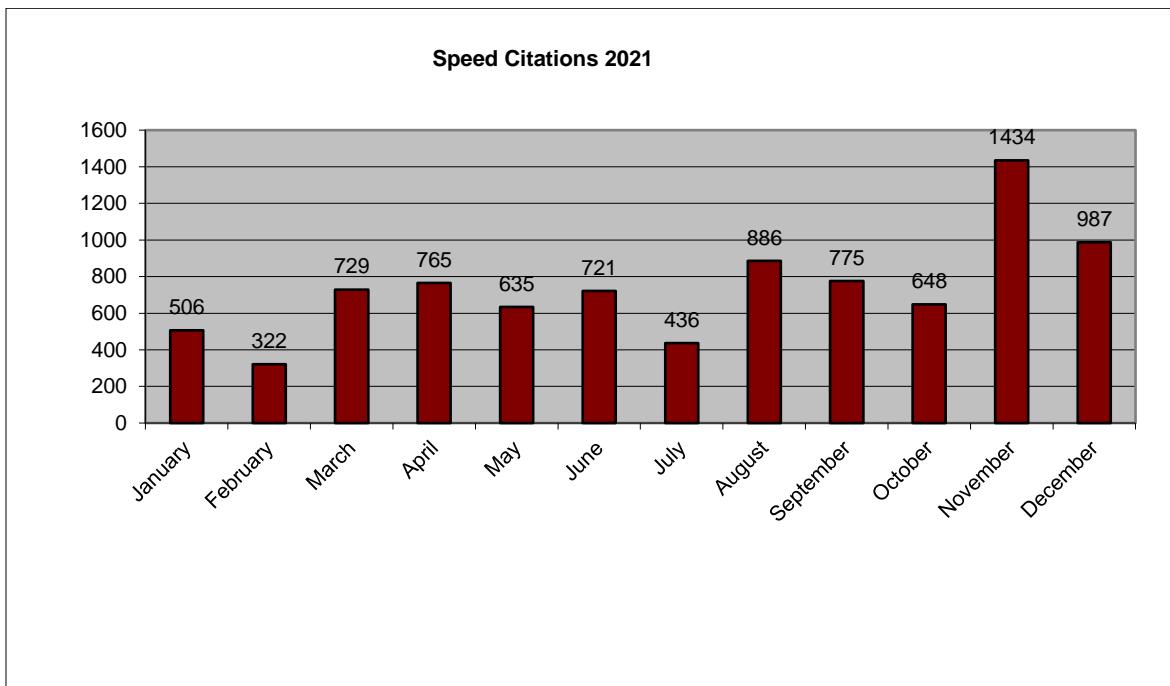
## Current Statistics and Events

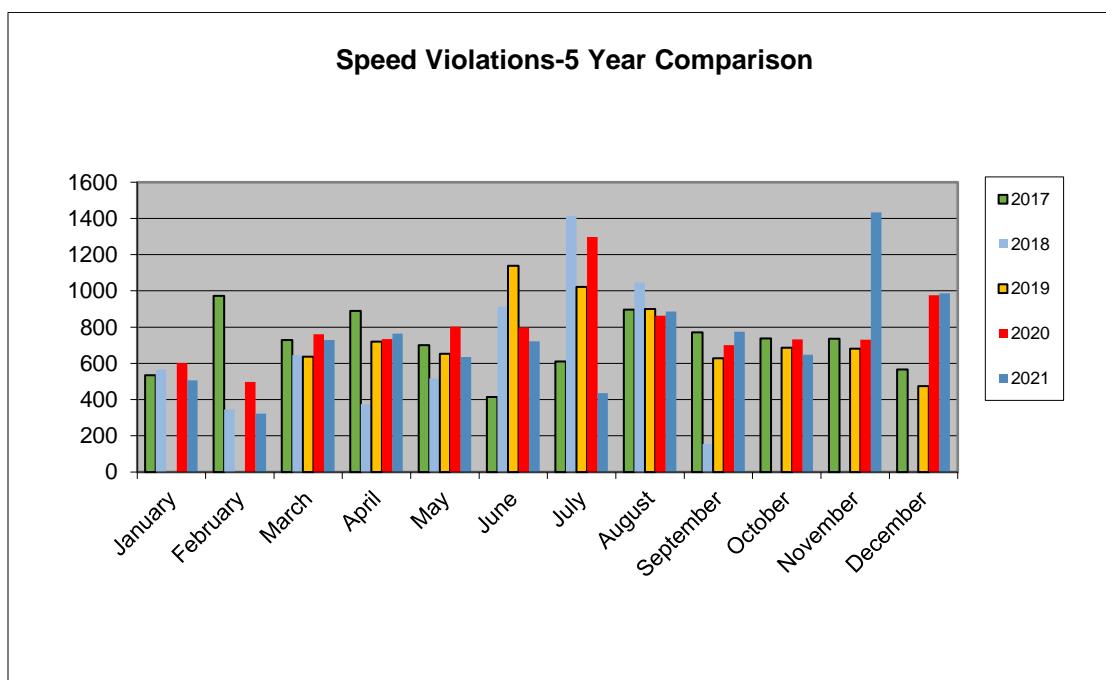
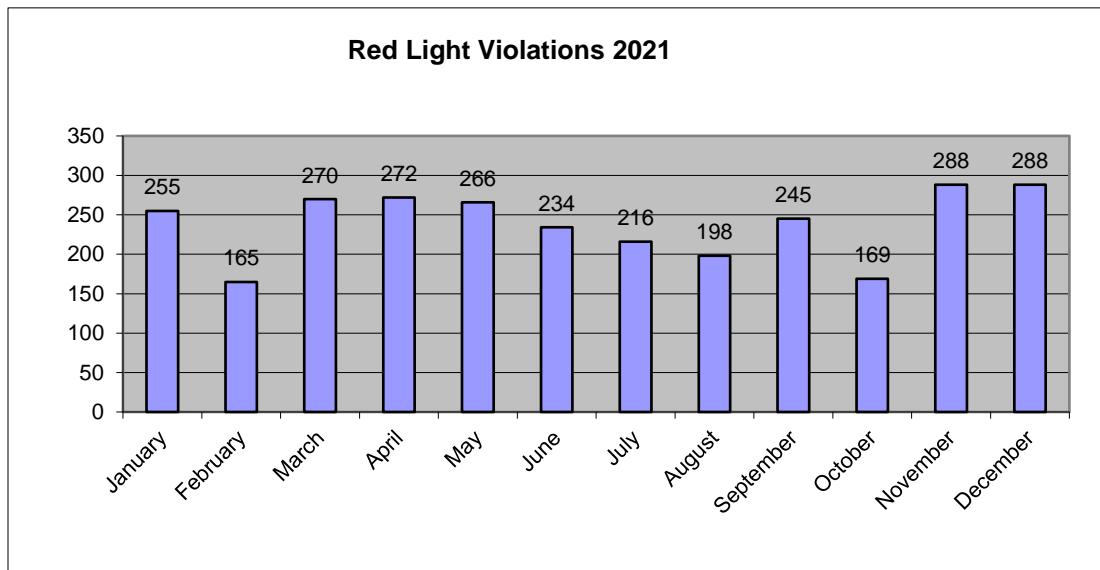
In September 2018 the Iowa Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Behm v City of Cedar Rapids* that municipalities could not hold a vehicle owner liable for a violation if they ignore the citations and don't pay them or contest them to court. As a result of this ruling, all cities were now required to issue municipal infraction citations and obtain judgements for violations which had not been resolved through

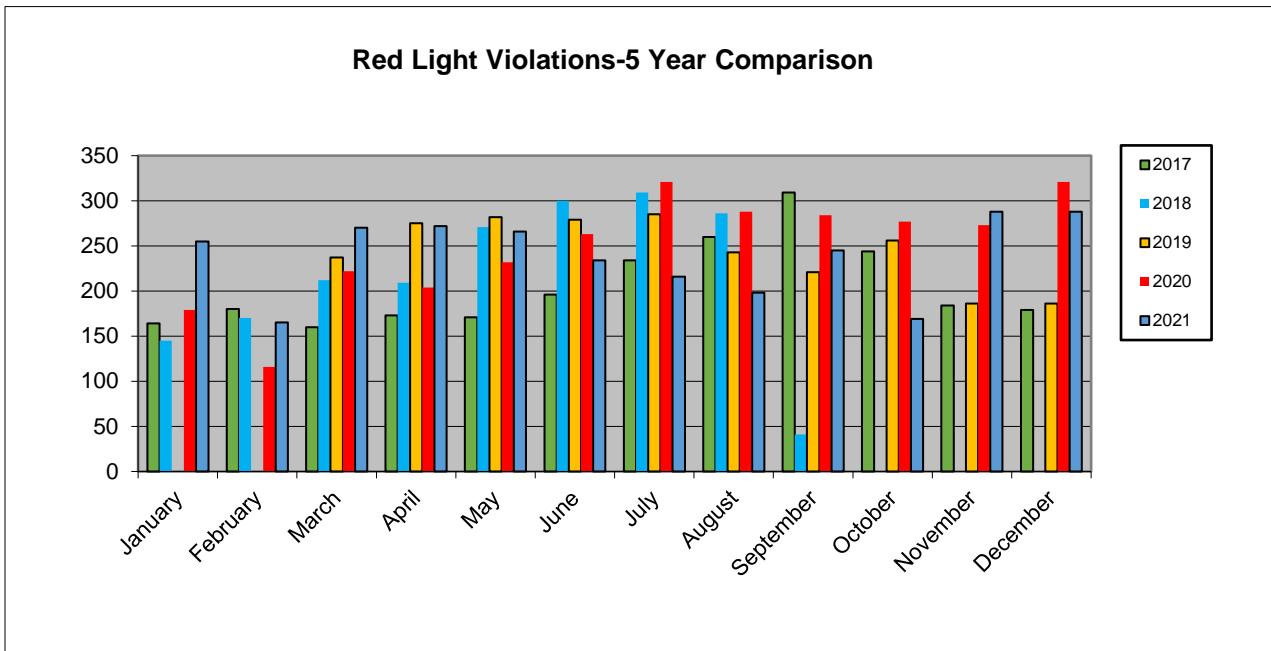
payment or transferred to court. This resulted in a brief pause in the issuance of ATE citations until a new ordinance could be passed, existing forms could be edited and the process for delinquent violation collection was changed. By 2019 the city had resumed issuing ATE violations although actively pursuing delinquent violations was on hold while the filing, serving, and collection processes were being worked out. This involved extensive coordination between the Police Department, GTASO, Municipal Collections of America, the Court, and the County Attorney's office.

In early 2021, all the involved entities had reached a consensus on the new process for pursuing delinquent violations. The first filings with the court occurred in May of 2021 and the department has continued to file on delinquent violators every month since then. The city has experienced great success with this new process and recouped a considerable amount of unpaid penalties.

During 2021 there were a total of 11,710 citations issued. 2,623 citations were issued for red light violations and 7,457 citations were issued for speed violations. There was one ATE intersection that was non-operational for several months in 2021 due to road construction. Of the speed violations, 1,667 were generated from the mobile speed vehicle, (Chevy Sonic), which was in operation the complete calendar year.







Since the installation of ATE equipment in 2011 there has been a reduction in crash numbers that were being reported prior to the ATE equipment being operational. The chart below lists crashes since 2010 at the intersections where ATE equipment is installed.

Year	Total	PI	PD
2010	34	9	25
2011	28	9	19
2012	26	6	20
2013	19	4	15
2014	25	2	23
2015	19	2	17
2016	28	4	24
2017	21	3	18
2018	21	6	15
2019	22	2	20
2020	23	5	18
2021	34	5	29

There was a significant rise in the total number of crashes at these intersections during 2021, however, the amount of accidents causing personal injury remained low. The rise in accidents may be due to more people traveling after the Covid-19 shut downs of 2020.

## Field Training Program

The Muscatine Police Department's Field Training Program is an intensive, hands-on training program that all new recruits are required to complete upon graduation from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. It is structured and organized training which is broken down into four steps or phases. Each step is comprised of a set number of training task lists, which the probationary officer, under the guidance of his/her Field Training Officer (FTO), must master and sign off on. As the probationary officer progresses through each of the steps, he/she is expected to take on more of the work load and demonstrate a continual growth in overall self-proficiency. Upon successful completion of the fourth step, the probationary officer is allowed to begin solo patrol. Each step is approximately one month long but may take longer under extenuating circumstances. The officers that oversee all of this training are known as the field training cadre. The cadre is comprised of all active FTOs, the FTO coordinator and the FTO commander.

The FTO commander is the Patrol Captain Tony Kies. The FTO coordinator is Lieutenant Ryan Buss. The coordinator is responsible for creating and maintaining the training schedules and training tasks for the probationary officers. The coordinator will facilitate monthly cadre meetings whenever a probationary officer is in training. Should a probationary officer begin to show performance deficiencies during their FTO training, the coordinator will meet with both the probationary officer and his/her FTO and assist them in developing a plan of action that will help the probationary officer bring his/her performance back up to an acceptable level. The FTO coordinator reports to the FTO commander and keeps the commander apprised of probationary officer's progress.

The most crucial position in the field training cadre is that of the Field Training Officer (FTO). The FTO is responsible for conducting all training and completing daily evaluations of the probationary officer's performance. Beginning the first day a probationary officer arrives from the academy, he/she is assigned to an FTO and they become permanent partners throughout the first step of training. This FTO is known as their primary FTO. The probationary will then rotate to two more different FTOs for steps two and three before rotating back to his/her primary FTO for step four of their training. The primary FTO is then able to see how far the probationary officer has advanced in his/her training. The primary FTO will be the one who recommends the probationary officer advance to solo patrol.

Becoming an FTO (Field Training Officer) is completely voluntary and officers wishing to become an FTO must go through an application process. Once their

application is received it is reviewed by the entire FTO cadre. The officers applying must have a solid work record free of any disciplinary issues. They must be self-motivated and able to work well in a team environment. Only officers that have demonstrated an above average work performance are considered for appointment as an FTO. Once the field training cadre votes on which candidates to recommend, those candidates are then reviewed by the FTO coordinator and the FTO commander before final approval is given. Once an officer is selected to become an FTO, he/she is sent to a 40 hour course, which teaches them how to train, evaluate and document the probationary officer's performance.

The officers selected to become FTOs are some of the best the department has to offer. The majority of FTOs see advancement into special assignments or through promotion. The months that FTOs are assigned to train are very time consuming for them and they generally have little time for anything else. They do this willingly, without complaint and minimal compensation for taking on the extra duty, because each FTO understands the importance of turning out a competent and self-sufficient officer at the end of the training process. The department has added three new FTO's in 2021 bringing the total number to nine. Several of our FTO's have been involved in the training program for a lengthy amount of time and we will continually seek opportunities for officers interested in the training program to join should they meet the high standards of becoming an FTO. This will ensure that responsibilities of training new officers will not fall on a select few.

Implementation of software designed to assist the FTO's with training began in 2013. This involved some customization and inputting of the training tasks that we had already developed as part of the existing program. What this has done for us is it has streamlined the training process. We no longer keep daily training logs on paper. The program is paperless system that is maintained online. The new officer's progress in the program can be reviewed by the FTO, Shift Supervisors and Command Staff at any time, by accessing the program by using a desk top computer or any Mobile Data computer in a squad car.

The three officers hired at the end of 2020 successfully completed the FTO program and are active and thriving within the department. Two of them are currently on 3<sup>rd</sup> shift and the other is on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift. The department also hired three recruits that have completed Step 1 prior to attending the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in the early days of January 2022. This is new territory for the department as we typically begin the FTO process after successful completion of

the academy. This will provide for a basic introduction to the recruit's new chosen profession and an expedited training process once they return from the academy as they will jump right into Step 2.

The department continues its implementation of a mentoring program for all new recruits. The program works by pairing a seasoned officer (mentor) with a new recruit. The mentor then takes on the role of coaching the new officer as they transition into their new law enforcement career. The mentor will help the new recruit with everything from finding a place to live to learning and understanding the department's philosophies and politics. The goal of the mentoring program is to increase the department's retention of new officers.

Becoming a mentor is also a voluntary assignment. The mentor fulfills a different role from that of the FTO, therefore they cannot be one in the same. Those officers who volunteer for the mentoring program are screened for their suitability for such an assignment prior to being appointed. We are hopeful that this program will become a successful component in our efforts to slow down the turnover rate within the department by helping our new recruits become better adjusted and more comfortable with making Muscatine their permanent home.

## **Muscatine Special Operations Response Team (MSORT)**

The Muscatine Special Operations Response Team (MSORT) is a specialized unit consisting of individuals who have received additional training in weapons handling and tactical incidents. The MSORT consists of long rifle marksmen (snipers), tactical operators, tactical emergency medical personnel, (TEMS) and negotiators. The number of members on MSORT fluctuates depending on manpower, school availability, and interest. Assignment to MSORT is completely voluntary and officers wishing to be considered for the team must go through an application process.

MSORT was previously named, Muscatine SRT, and was officially organized and conducted its first operations in 2001. Since that time, it has been used for the execution of high risk search warrants, to contain and/or engage armed barricaded subjects who have demonstrated a propensity for violence and in a joint hostage rescue mission with the state tactical team. On several occasions it worked jointly with the US Secret Service to provide site security for a visiting dignitary.

January 1, 2018 the Muscatine Police Department and the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office joined forces and created a multi-jurisdictional team currently known as MSORT. This replaced the SRT in both agencies and then MSORT was comprised of Muscatine Police Department, Muscatine County, West Liberty, Durant and Louisa County, Cedar County, Tipton and West Branch. All agencies entered a MOU and a board was created to oversee the operations of MSORT which is run by a Team Commander. The Commander answers to the board who meet quarterly to keep them updated and discuss future operations, expenses and training. The board consists of Muscatine Police Chief, Muscatine County Sheriff and Muscatine County Attorney.

MSORT is a team that consists currently of 31 members, up from 29 in 2020. This number can vary due to personnel transfers. Of note, in early 2021 the Assistant Commander was elected Sheriff of Muscatine County, two members moved on to other employment and other positions were filled. We continue to reach out to other area agencies, bringing on a member from the Wilton Police Department this year. The critical number that MSORT must sustain to meet NTOA standards as a qualified tier 2 team is 19 members excluding TEMS and Negotiations, and we are currently at 22 members in this area.

MSORT is currently under NTOA standards for training time, but strives to meet as many standards as possible. For the 2022 training year, MSORT will meet 168 hours of training, having (9) 2-8hr training months and (3) 8 hr. training months. MSORT entry team had over 152 hours of training in 2021 not to include any outside agency training. MSORT was able to send thirteen members, from various agencies, to the week-long National Tactical Officer's Association (NTOA) conference in Kansas City, MO in September. MSORT snipers conducted 96 hours of training and negotiators conducted 32 hours of training. The continued goal is to provide MSORT members with additional training hours, including outside instruction, which has been accomplished each year since MSORT's inception.

All MSORT members must satisfactorily complete a physical agility test and demonstrate a minimum 90% proficiency with their assigned weapons. Every tactical operator is put through a basic SWAT course prior to being activated as a member. This is usually a week long course and teaches the team member the basics of team movement, dynamic and deliberate entry techniques and breaching techniques. Long rifle marksmen are put through a sniper course, which covers stalking techniques and hones shooting skills. Team leaders receive training in tactical operations planning and execution. Hostage negotiators attend a forty-hour hostage negotiation school. The TEMS members are paramedics from the Muscatine Fire Department who also attend basic SWAT school and are qualified to carry a firearm. This allows for emergency medical care to be readily available to team members, crime scene victims and suspects.

The MSORT has continued in its effort to explore new tactics and stay current in the team's methods of operations. MSORT members have built lasting liaisons with other region 5 tactical teams to include Iowa State Patrol. This has helped the department to establish common ground in both tactics and operational standards with the other area teams and these contacts have given us valuable resources we can draw upon should the need ever arise.

## **Activities**

As stated above MSORT members participate in 152+ hours of training per year. Members train at handling various scenarios which will cover everything from high risk search warrants, barricade/hostage situations to active shooter situations. The MSORT also trains in a variety of environments and learns tactics associated with tubular assaults, vehicle assaults, and residential assaults as well as commercial and industrial assaults. This training will often involve the use of role players which helps make the training as realistic as possible. In the past, the

MSORT has conducted training for the entire patrol division on how to handle an active shooter situation. This department wide training also included training on the incident command system and the department's all hazards plan. The MSORT has worked with several local companies and the Muscatine Community School District, GPC, Monsanto and HNI regarding preparedness for such events and trained in their facilities using their employees/students. In 2021 MSORT participated in a table top exercise with GPC for a scenario where a river barge contained explosives. Involved was the coordination of resources with not only GPC, but area businesses, public safety, law enforcement and military. MSORT has continues efforts to reach out to area businesses and schools conducting more of the same type of training.

MSORT was able to secure a new “throw phone” for negotiators to be used during hostage situations, barricaded subjects and other required incidents. This system, also purchased by the Iowa State Patrol, will replace our aging unit, allow for better communication and a safer standoff distance as well as provide more up-to-date resources for the team.

Additionally, new sighting systems were secured for entry and sniper members. Red dot sights were made available for entry members, allowing for quicker target acquisition during operations. Snipers were also outfitted with new scopes, affording them to ability to cross between sniper/observer and entry member operations. This will effectively provide more versatility to the team and allow us to adapt to a greater variety of situations.

Operationally, MSORT was called out on 6 occasions in 2021 and provided assistance on 1 other. These call outs include a barricaded subject, drug warrant and search/arrest warrants for wanted subjects and stolen weapons traffickers. The following is a result of the operations conducted in 2021:

11 felony arrests, 2 felony arrest warrants issued, 14.4 grams of methamphetamine seized, 9 pounds of marijuana seized, and .5 ounces of cocaine seized, 9 firearms seized, and \$15,778 in U.S. currency seized.

Case Example(s):

MSORT participated in a multi-agency operation in Burlington, IA in November, 2021. This operation consisted of the Des Moines County Tactical Response Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation, MSORT, Washington County Tactical Team, and the Iowa State Patrol Tactical Teams. Seven residential targets were provided and several arrest warrants. MSORT was assigned to one of the seven targets during

the operation to further the overall investigation. Specifically related to this investigation 8 felony arrests were made, 4 firearms were seized along with 3 oz. of methamphetamine, 4 lbs. of marijuana, .5 oz. cocaine and \$12,550 in U.S. currency.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 MSORT served 3 search warrants for the Muscatine County Drug Task Force. This investigation covered 3 separate locations and yielded 3 felony arrests, 1 seized firearm as well as 14.1 grams of methamphetamine, 6.6 grams of marijuana and \$11,428 in U.S. currency.

Additionally, MSORT provided services in Cedar County on 3 separate occasions. This was for the service of (1) high risk search warrant, (1) barricaded subject related to a felony assault and providing the armored vehicle, robot and pole camera, with operators, for a felony forgery related to a male who had military history and suspected mental health issues.

While still dealing with the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, MSORT was able to safely maintain all training dates and provide services when requested.

The MSORT will continue to strive for improvement and is always looking for new ways in which the team can better serve the citizens of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Cedar County and Louisa County. The MSORT will continue to seek out training opportunities which offer new tactics and equipment that will help improve our efficiency and expand on our ability to handle the situations the team is called upon for.

MSORT has brought on several new members and will be looking to send them to Basic SWAT courses when available. Existing members and their experience will be used to provide a patrol-type training to departments within the service area. Curriculum is being created and input from target agencies will be sought prior to implementation.

The team will continue to serve search warrants, respond to barricades and will train for hostage rescue. MSORT will strive to meet NTOA standards of 192 hours of training a year. MSORT is able to identify themselves as a Tier 2 team according to NTOA and will consist of a minimum of 19 total members from command down to entry and snipers. MSORT will make every effort to provide better services to the citizens of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Cedar and Louisa County and the surrounding area in which it serves.

## National and Local Crime Statistics

Annually, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) releases its annual Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR). In the report the FBI's *Crime in the United States, 2019* claimed for the second consecutive year, the estimated number of violent crimes in the nation decreased when compared with the previous year's statistics. These crimes are categorized by the FBI as (part 1) crimes and are made up of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. FBI property crimes (part 2) crimes are listed as burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. (**NOTE: National UCR are two years behind in stats**)

- In 2019, the estimated number of violent crime offenses was 1,203,808, a decrease of 0.5 percent from the 2018 estimate.
- The violent crime of murder and non-negligent manslaughter increased 0.3 percent in 2019 when compared with the 2018 estimate. Rape offenses (legacy definition) decreased 3.1 percent, and aggravated assault offenses increased 1.3 percent. The violent crime of robbery decreased by 4.7 percent when compared with the 2018 estimate.
- The 2019 violent crime rate was 366.7 per 100,000 inhabitants, down 1.0 percent when compared with the 2018 violent crime rate.
- The murder rate was 5.0 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019, remaining steady when compared with the estimated rate for the previous year.
- The estimated number of property crimes in 2019 was 6,925,677, a 4.1 percent decrease from the 2018 estimate.
- Of the property crimes, the estimated number of burglary offenses decreased 9.5 percent, and larceny-theft offenses declined 2.8 percent. The estimated number of motor vehicle thefts decreased 4.0 percent.
- The 2019 property crime rate was 2,109.9 per 100,000, a 4.5 percent decrease when compared with the 2018 rate.

Among some of the other statistics contained in *Crime in the United States, 2019*:

- Nationwide, law enforcement made an estimated 10,085,207 arrests in 2019. Of these arrests, 495,871 were for violent crimes, and 1,074,367 were for property crimes. (**Note: the UCR Program does not collect data on citations for traffic violations.**)

- The highest number of arrests were for drug abuse violations (estimated at 1,558,862 arrests), driving under the influence (estimated at 1,024,508), and larceny-theft (estimated at 813,073).
- The estimated arrest rate for the United States in 2019 was 3,011.0 arrests per 100,000 inhabitants. The arrest rate for violent crime (including murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) was 156.3 per 100,000 inhabitants, and the arrest rate for property crime (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) was 343.3 per 100,000 inhabitants.
- Two-year arrest trends show violent crime arrests decreased 0.9 percent in 2019 when compared with 2018 arrests, and property crime arrests decreased 3.4 percent when compared with 2018 arrests.
- Arrests of juveniles for all offenses decreased 3.4 percent in 2019 when compared with the 2018 number; arrests of adults decreased 3.7 percent.
- Nearly 73 percent (72.5) of the persons arrested in the nation during 2019 were males. They accounted for 78.9 percent of persons arrested for violent crime and 62.3 percent of persons arrested for property crime.
- In 2019, 69.4 percent of all persons arrested were White, 26.6 percent were Black or African American, and the remaining 4.0 percent were of other races.

## **Muscatine Iowa UCR (2021)**

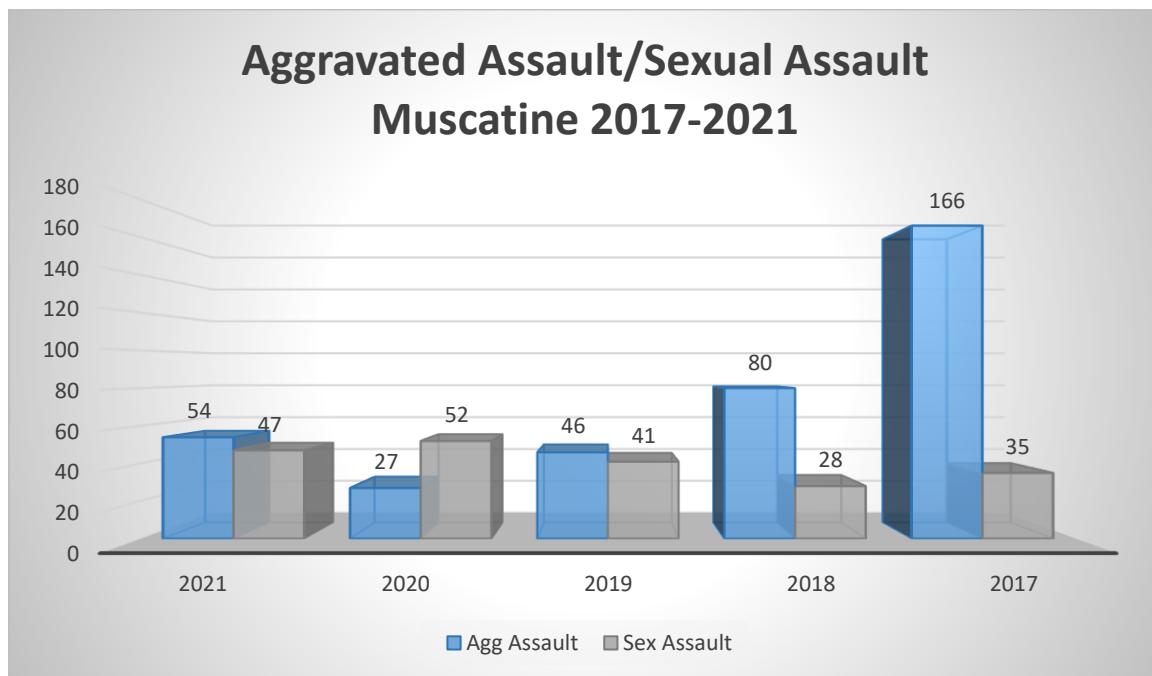
The City of Muscatine encompasses approximately (18.35 square miles) and has a population of 23,774 people. Muscatine, Iowa is the 24<sup>th</sup> [largest city in Iowa](#) based on official [2019 estimates](#) from the US Census Bureau. The Muscatine Police Department (41 sworn personnel) responded to (19,408) calls for service in 2021. Within this time period police responded to and an Incident Crime Report (ICR) was generated for (47) sexual assaults (3) Robbery and (54) aggravated assaults (FBI part 1 crimes). Comparatively speaking, during the previous year the MPD experienced (52) sexual assaults (9) robbery and (27) aggravated assaults. Muscatine did not report a murder/non-negligent homicide in 2021.

Juvenile arrests during 2021 were also recorded and made up approximately 10% (131) of the total arrests made (1266) by the Police Department. There were (60) more juvenile arrests than the previous year.

### Muscatine Iowa / FBI (part 1) Crimes



### Muscatine Iowa / FBI (part 1) Crimes



On average, in 2021, MPD case assignments to the Department's Major Crimes Unit netted a clearance rate of FBI Part 1 crimes was 85%. At a national level, clearance rates of Part 1 crimes registered approximately 54%.

Considering juvenile arrest in 2021, Muscatine PD made 131 arrests compared to 71 from the previous year. This was an 85% increase from 2020.

## **JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM**

The Muscatine Police Department is involved in the Diversion Program for youths. This is a collaborative effort involving Juvenile Court Services, The Muscatine Community School District, Muscatine Police Department, Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, Wilton Police Department, and West Liberty Police Department.

The goal of the juvenile Diversion Program brings together individuals and teams of law enforcement officers, probation staff, prosecutors, school officials, judges, policy-makers, and other local leaders who are committed to strengthening their diversion efforts. Personnel who are involved in the diversion program receive in-depth training and guidance from national experts on innovative juvenile diversion policies, practices and programs while also benefiting from networking and learning across jurisdictions.

The Muscatine Diversion Program instructs students in corrective thinking methods, goal setting and behavior chain strategies just to name a few topics. Participants are required to actively participate in classroom activities and take personal responsibility for their actions. A parent or guardian must also accompany them. Parental support is a pillar of the diversion program and a parent or guardian must be present for the student to graduate.

In 2021, forty one (41) juveniles were referred to the program. Of all referrals, twenty nine (29) have attended. Ten (10) of the referrals failed to attend and two (2) were declined by Juvenile Court Services.

Overall, the success of the Juvenile Diversion Program has been high. Collectively, the total referrals since inception (August 2018) to the program has received is hundred seventy two (172). One hundred thirty three (133) have attended with only twenty eight (28) reoffenders. This is an 80% non-recidivism rate. At the national level the non-recidivism rate for juvenile diversion rate is 80%.

## WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

Extra duty assignments have become a necessity within the Muscatine Police Department. Many non-probationary and probationary officers alike within the department are involved in an extra duty expertise, with many officers being committed to more than one area. Their dedication to the City of Muscatine in their perspective areas forces them to work additional hours outside of the traditional forty-hour work week. Some of the assignments include:

- Field Training Officers
- Firearms Instructors
- Muscatine Special Operations Response Team
- Hostage Negotiators
- Crime Scene Technicians
- Defensive Tactics Instructors
- Defensive Driving Instructors
- Chemical Munitions Instructors
- K-9 Handler
- School Resource Officers
- Accident reconstructionist

These listed assignments are a vital part of the effectiveness of the Muscatine Police Department. We are fortunate to have police officers who are dedicated to these programs and realize the vital part they play in offering a professionally versatile and well-rounded law enforcement service to the citizens of Muscatine.

Along with these additional duties comes the requirement of additional training to maintain certifications, as well as continuing education requirements, as many of these areas are ever-changing. The officers involved in these assignments are required to keep themselves current in new techniques being developed in things such as Defensive Tactics, Crime Scene Technician, Firearms Instruction, etc.... Officers also need to keep up with the new case law that is developed in their areas of expertise to help protect the City, the officers they train and themselves from unnecessary liability. The training involved in maintaining these Instructor Certifications make up much of the Departments training budget.

Some additional assignments are needed to keep pace with the growing demand from the public to deal effectively with identity thefts, exploitation of minors (preying on minors via the internet) and other cybercrimes such as these.

## Conclusions

2021 was a challenging year due to a variety of factors. We had to navigate through losing six (6) officers. Two (2) through retirement, three (3) to other agencies, and one (1) through resignation. This was challenging for a variety of factors, including finding people that want to fill the role of police officer. We were able to hire two (2) recruits that are currently in the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) through April. When fully staffed we have forty one (41) officers on the department.

The Muscatine Police Department continues to maintain our accredited status. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) assess our department. Accreditation has helped our officers understand what is expected of them in relation to policy and procedure. The officers should be proud of this accomplishment. Accreditation would not have happened without their hard work and dedication. Accreditation helps us to maintain higher standards than most departments.

### **Five-Year Goals for the Police Department**

1. Maintain our accredited status through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).
2. Continue working towards a department demographics that closely mirrors the community.
3. A new building or improvements for the Police Department.
4. Adequately prepare employees for future promotions, as many current administrative and supervisory personnel get closer to retirement. Succession planning is the key to continuity within the department. We will continue to provide the most effective and up to date training for all officers/supervisors as budget allows.
5. To continue to foster positive relationships within our community through community policing efforts
6. To keep up with current technology and provide the officers the best equipment to make their jobs easier.

The climate of law enforcement is not as enticing as it was due to events happenings throughout the country in the last year and a half. I commend the men and women of the Muscatine Police Department for the way they handled themselves not only in 2021, but moving forward in 2022.

As 2021 ended, the Muscatine Police Department reflected on yet another great year of service to the community. This is an indication of the commitment to the community, excellence in organization, communication, leadership, and the loyalty of the men and women working in the Muscatine Police Department.

Chief Brett Talkington  
Muscatine Police Department