



Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: January 2022

Members of the Gahanna Community:

The new year brings new challenges, but it is also a time to reflect on the City's many accomplishments over the previous year. In December, we opened a new, state-of-the-art emergency communications center, which co-located operations with Mifflin Township and the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Center (MECC). In addition, a new, advanced 9-1-1 call-taking software solution was deployed in conjunction with the opening of the new communications center and we expanded "Smart 9-1-1" services.

We deployed body-worn cameras - endorsed by the NAACP - in June to all sworn officers. We addressed staffing concerns with the hiring of additional officers and dispatchers and brought back community programming. Policy changes and improvements were made to reflect best practices in 21st Century policing, officers received extensive training in de-escalation techniques. A new Peer Assistance Team was founded to help support officer wellness and mental health. These are a few of our successes as an organization and a community, but there are many, both big and small, that keep the Division moving upward.

This past year we experienced unprecedented levels of violent crime in Central Ohio. In 2021, there were 204 homicides in Columbus alone. Additional incidents of violent crime were reported in many communities throughout Franklin County. Each day, our local news is filled with stories that instill real fear of crime in all of us. While Gahanna did experience three homicides in 2021, the incidence of violent crime remained relatively stable over previous years, if not lower, in some categories. And while any violent crime is one too many, Gahanna remains a safe community in which to live, learn, work and enjoy. Gahanna's safety is a result of strong bonds within the very fabric of our community, engaged citizens and the dedicated work of its first responders - police officers, firefighters, paramedics, 9-1-1 communications technicians and all those that support our operations.

On behalf of the members of the Division, I wish you all a safe and success-filled 2022.

Jeff Spence
Chief of Police

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Summary of Division Activity for December



Support Services – Communications Center:

On December 7, 2021, the Division's Communications Center relocated to 400 West Johnstown Road, in the new Operations Center building owned by Mifflin Township. As part of the opening of the center, and co-location of dispatching operations with the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Center, a new 9-1-1 call-taking software system was deployed at the same time. The new software, Solacom's Guardian, is now being deployed to the three satellite communications centers – Whitehall, Bexley and New Albany – who are all a part of our joint 9-1-1 system.

The collection of system statistics from the two 9-1-1 software systems for the month of December 2021 and January 2022 is still in process. We will return to monthly updates of 9-1-1 call data once the deployment of the software to the remaining communications centers is completed.

The Division responded to 2,267 calls for service in December. In 2021, 29,624 calls for service were received – a 7% increase over calls received in 2020.



Field Services: December 2021

- 300 offense and arrest reports were generated, including a summary of the following incidents by type:
 - One robbery occurred, an escalation of a shoplifting incident.
 - 19 theft from vehicles were reported in December. One arrest was made in a previously reported string of incidents. Nearly all the thefts occurred from unlocked vehicles.
 - 18 incidents of criminal damaging were reported. The arrest of three juveniles occurred in one incident.
 - Three burglaries were reported with two connected to domestic incidents.
 - Two Breaking & Entering incidents were reported during the month.
 - Five vehicles were reported stolen, with arrests and recoveries in two incidents.
 - Incidents of assaults (no domestic nexus) are as follows:
 - No aggravated assaults were reported.
 - Five simple assaults; one warrant issued and two arrests.
 - Domestic-related responses include:
 - 17 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
 - One arrest for Domestic Violence.
 - Six offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
 - Drug offenses for the month include:
 - Drug/Narcotics violations – five offense reports; two arrests; one warrant issued.
 - Drug equipment violations – two offense reports; four arrests.
 - No overdose responses occurred during the month. The Division investigated five overdose-related fatalities in 2021.

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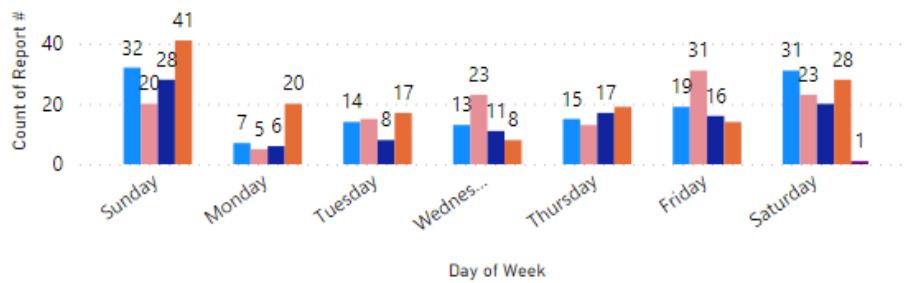
Field Services: December 2021 (page 2)

- 16 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.
- Officers conducted 298 self-initiated traffic stops with 101 traffic violators issued citations; ten arrests were made from the stops.
- The Division responded to 54 motor vehicle crashes:
 - No traffic fatalities occurred during the month.
 - No crashes were classified as serious injury suspected.
 - Four crashes were classified as minor injury suspected – 7.4% of crash responses.
 - Four were classified as injury possible – 7.6% of responses.
 - The remaining 44 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 81.8% of responses.
 - 20 crashes occurred on IR-270 – 37.4% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
 - Two incidents involved alcohol and/or drug impairment – 3.7% of crash responses involved a level of impairment.
 - Two commercial vehicles were involved in crashes during the month – 3.7% of crash responses.
 - Distractions were reported in 11 of the 54 crashes.
 - Two traffic fatalities occurred in 2021.
 - In 2021, the Division responded to 529 traffic crashes.
- Patrol officers affected 13 arrests for impaired driving (OVI).
 - Five arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
 - The average blood alcohol content for the remaining arrestees that submitted to testing was .17 or over two times the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio.
 - Saturday evening into Sunday morning resulted in the highest number of arrests.
 - In 2021, 147 impaired driving arrests were made with Officer Jeff Hoffman making 55 of the 147 arrests.
 - April was the highest month of OVI arrests – 18.

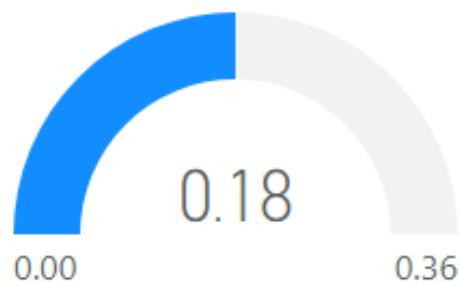
Summary of Division Activity for December 2021

Arrests by Day of Week

Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022

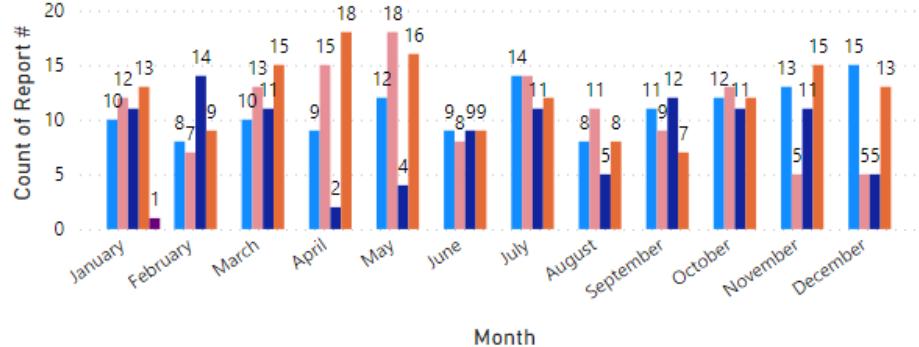


Average BAC



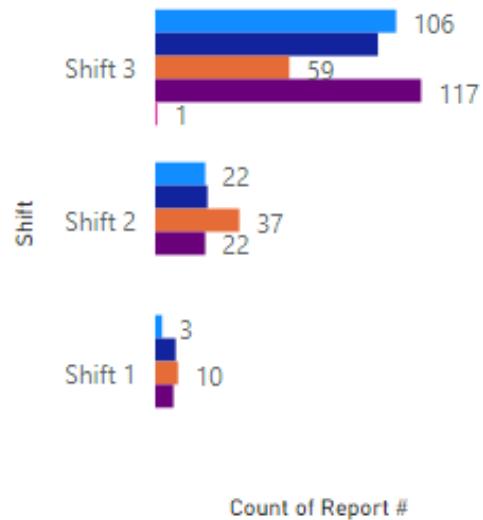
Arrests by Month

Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022

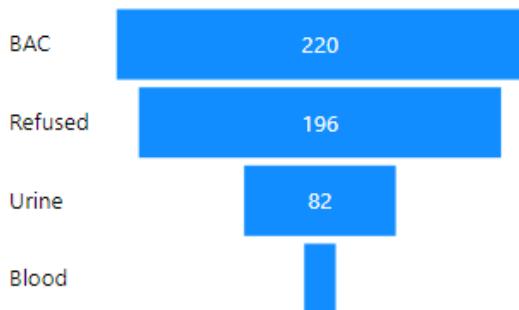


OVI by Year and Shift

Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021



Testing Type Total



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Field Services (Continued)



Throughout 2021, patrol officers conducted 48,512 neighborhood patrols.

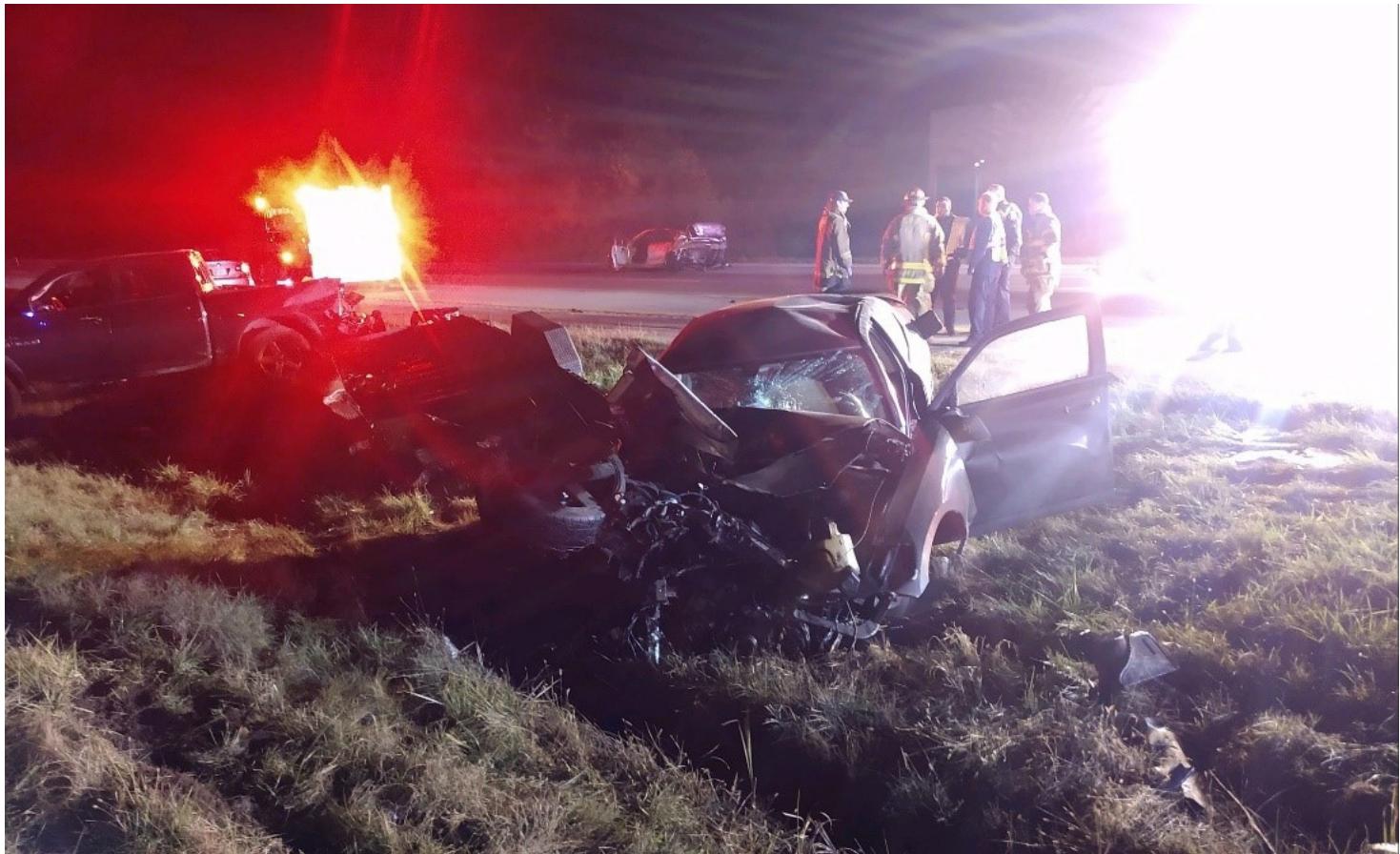
Investigative Services

- The Division's detectives were assigned 101 offense and arrest reports, which required investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained 36 investigative subpoenas and executed 12 search warrants during the month.
- In 2021, the Division's investigators were assigned 1,215 cases. Throughout the year, detectives obtained 195 subpoenas and executed 124 search warrants.
- Additional investigative work in 2021 included:
 - 76 background investigations of applicants to the Division - sworn and non-sworn positions.
 - 43 polygraph examinations for internal cases and those requested by outside agencies.
 - 54 forensic examinations of electronic devices conducted pursuant to search warrants.

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Suspect Indicted in November Fatal Crash



This month, a Franklin County Grand Jury indicted Jason Carrizalez-Mendiola (age 19) of Columbus, with two counts of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide and two counts of Operating a Motor Vehicle while Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs of Abuse. Mendiola was the driver of a vehicle that crashed on southbound IR-270, near the Claycraft Road bridge, in the early morning hours of November 7. The passenger in Mendiola's vehicle, Andrea Lemus (age 21) was killed in the crash. Through forensic examination of evidence in the crash, it was determined that Mendiola was traveling 127 mph without braking in the seconds prior to impact.

Help Needed to Identify Crime Suspects



In-store surveillance image

On Sunday, December 26, the suspect in the photo below entered a business in the block of 300 South Hamilton Road. The suspect was observed stealing several bottled alcoholic beverages other various items. The suspect exited the store and walked into the parking lot. No suspect vehicle was observed.



In-store surveillance image

On Christmas Day, the vehicle in the surveillance image below was observed removing wooden pallets from several businesses located in Gahanna's industrial park – in the vicinity of Taylor Station/Claycraft Road).

The suspect is believed to be a white male. The suspect vehicle is a compact Chevrolet or GMC pick-up (S-10 or similar), beige or tan in color. There is a large amount of rust around the driver's side rear wheel well.

Should you recognize the suspects or have any information regarding these incidents, please contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240. Callers may remain anonymous.

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GPD City Survey

We conduct a citywide survey with residents every two years. The survey provides useful information about how community members view the quality of our services. It also helps us to better understand and respond to concerns regarding safety in Gahanna. This survey is being conducted as part of the division's accreditation process through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Commission requires that we include certain questions; others are designed by Gahanna Police to help guide and improve our service delivery. You can access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G2B26JX>



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Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE
"To Serve and Protect"



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."

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