Gahanna

DIVISION OF POLICE

Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: July 2021

Members of the Gahanna Community:

On behalf of the members of the Gahanna Division of Police we want to welcome all students back to school and remind motorists that students and buses will be on the roadways again. Every school year, the first couple of weeks are always a bit hectic as we work with school staff and parents to establish the best possible traffic pattern for each school.

Our School Resource Officer (SRO) program is instrumental in providing a safe environment for children to learn. Three of the Division's officers serve in the SRO role, which includes engagement within our schools as well as monitoring traffic and pedestrian routes to and from school facilities throughout Gahanna.

This summer we have really enjoyed the ability to have direct interaction and contact on a personal level with community members again. We want to thank all of you who may have had an opportunity to interact with us during the community fireworks, parade or at one of our self-defense classes, coffee with a cop, or our National Night event.

Thank you all for your continued investment in Gahanna.

Jeff Spence
Chief of Police

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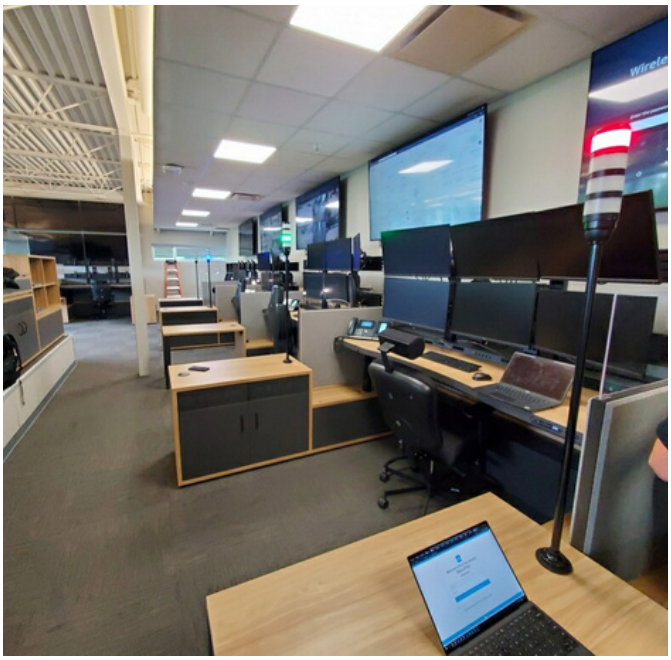
Summary of Division Activity for June

Support Services - Communications Center:

- Dispatchers handled 901 9-1-1 calls throughout the month and were answered in an average of 4.5 seconds. One text-to-911 message was received.
- 79% of all 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center originated from cellular phones, while 12% were received from VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.
- An additional 2,402 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines in July.
- 3,043 calls for service were dispatched during the month.



New Consolidated Communications Center

Gahanna 9-1-1 System Data

Month	9-1-1 Total	9-1-1 Wireless	9-1-1 Wireline	9-1-1 VoIP	No ANI/ALI	Average Answer Delay (Seconds)	Abandoned Calls	Rollover Calls	Non-Emergency Lines	Text to 9-1-1
January	710	556	48	102	3	4.00	80	0	2241	0
February	735	541	78	106	7	4.00	65	0	2141	0
March	732	554	69	104	3	4.00	70	0	2499	4
April	753	594	50	87	6	4.00	71	0	2195	1
May	853	665	75	86	3	5.00	62	1	2468	2
June	875	707	46	93	2	6.00	95	0	2689	3
July	901	718	45	112	15	5.00	76	0	2402	1
Total	**5559**	**4335**	**411**	**690**	**39**	**4.57**	**519**	**1**	**16635**	**11**

1.55%

% Change Year-to-Date Total 9-1-1 Calls

5,559

2021 Year-to-Date Total 9-1-1 Calls

5,474

2020 Year-to-Date Total 9-1-1 Calls

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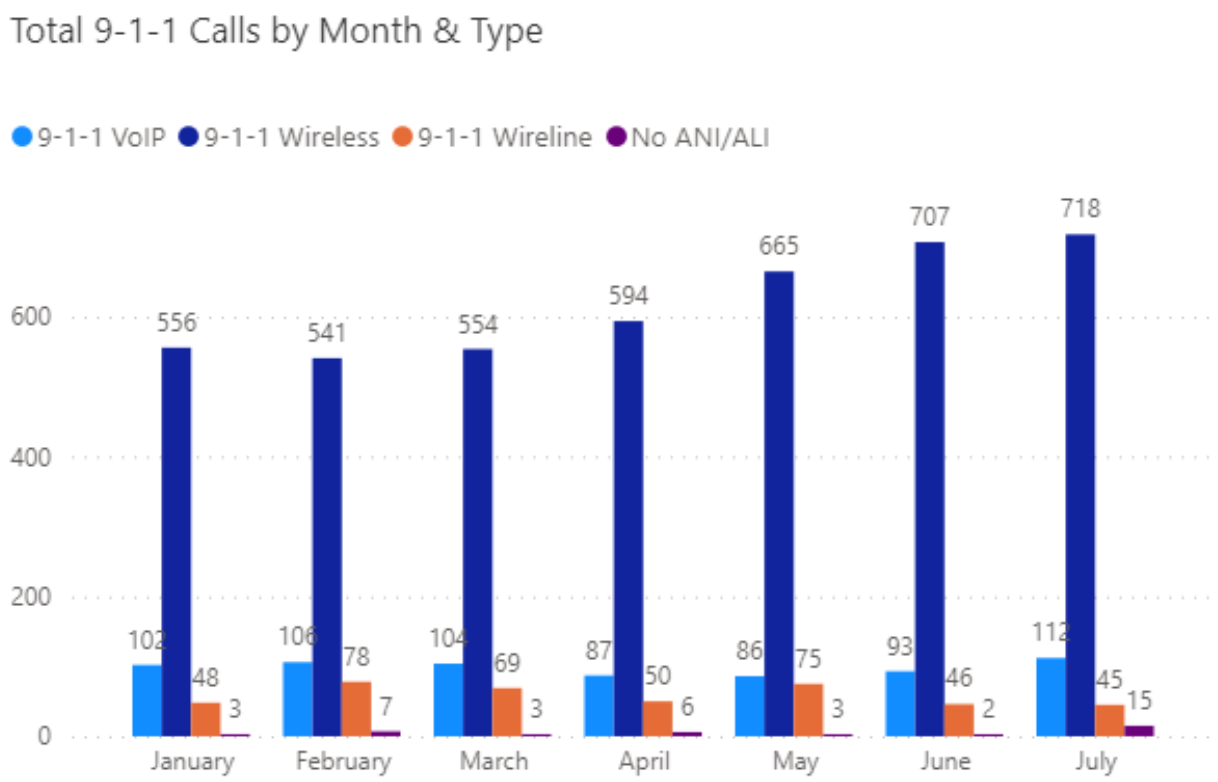
Summary of Division Activity for June



Field Services

~309 offense + arrest reports were generated including a summary of the following incidents by type:

- One robbery – the offender was arrested following several similar gas station robberies that morning.
- 20 theft from vehicles were reported in July. Many of the thefts occurred from unlocked vehicles.
- 21 incidents of criminal damaging occurred including several thefts of catalytic converters.
- Two burglaries were reported resulting in one arrest and a warrant issued in a second case.
- Five Breaking & Entering offenses were reported with one arrest.

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Field Services (Continued)

- Six vehicles were reported stolen with recoveries made in all cases.
- Incidents of assaults (no domestic nexus) are as follows:
  - No aggravated assaults were reported during the month.
  - Seven simple assaults – two arrests.
- Domestic-related responses include:
  - 13 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
  - Four incidents resulted in arrests.
  - Three offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
- Drug offenses for the month include:
  - Drug/Narcotics violations – four offense reports; two arrests; two warrants issued
  - Drug equipment violations – one offense report; two arrests; one warrant issued.
  - Four overdose responses occurred during the month involving Fentanyl or prescription opioid medication.

~25 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.

~Officers conducted 457 self-initiated traffic stops with 179 traffic violators issued citations; 13 arrests were made from the stops.

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Field Services (continued)

~The Division responded to 39 motor vehicle crashes with a further breakdown as follows:

- No traffic fatalities occurred during the month.
- No crashes were classified as serious injury suspected.
- Two were classified as minor injury suspected – 5.1% of crash responses.
- Seven were classified as injury possible – 17.9% of responses.
- The remaining 30 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 76.9% of responses.
- Ten crashes occurred on IR-270 – 25.6% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
- Three incidents involved alcohol and/or drug impairment – 7.6% of crash responses involved a level of impairment.
- One commercial vehicle was involved in a crash during the month – 2.5% if crash responses.
- Motorcycles were involved in two crashes – 5.1% of crash responses.
- Distractions were reported in 15 of the 39 crashes.

~Patrol officers effected 12 arrests for impaired driving (OVI).

- Six arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
- The average blood alcohol content for the remaining arrestees that submitted to testing was .18 or just over twice the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio.
- Saturday evening into Monday morning resulted in the highest number of arrests – 7.
- Year-to-date 92 arrests have been made for impaired driving.

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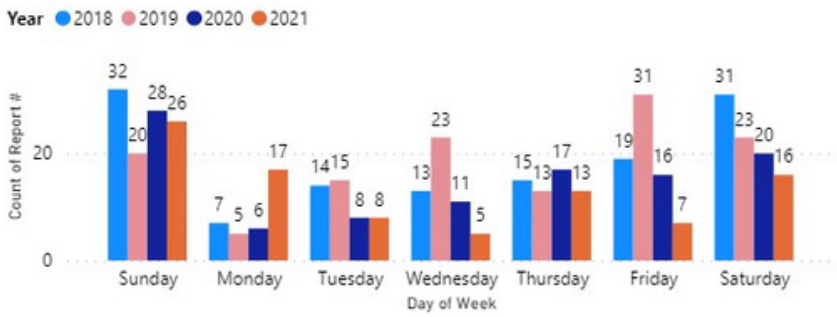
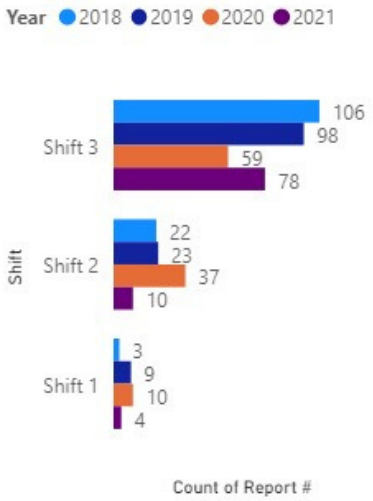
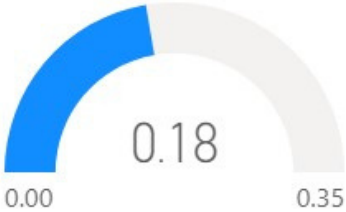
Summary of Division Activity for June

OVI Arrests by Day of Week



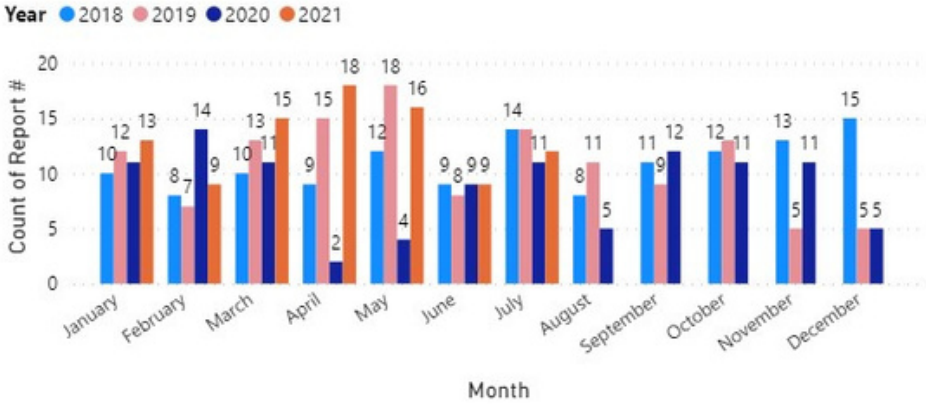
OVI Arrests by Year & Shift



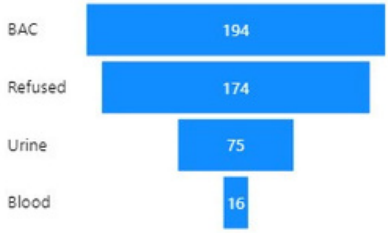


Average OVI Test Result

OVI Arrests by Month



OVI Testing Type Total



- **Investigative Services:**
  - The Division's detectives were assigned 102 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
  - Detectives obtained 19 investigative subpoenas and executed eight search warrants during the month.

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Shots Fired Near Responding Gahanna Police Officers

Location of Shell Casings

Recovered Firearm

On August 5, 2021, shortly after 2:10 am, a Gahanna Police Officer observed a vehicle, reported as stolen from Columbus, in the parking lot of the Speedway station located at 240 South Hamilton Road. As the officer approached, he observed four young male occupants in the vehicle and another walking into the gas station. As the driver of the vehicle was being detained, both the front seat passenger and the suspect who entered the store fled the area on foot. During the search for the suspects, the responding officers heard six gunshots in the area between Burger King and the Kroger fuel station on South Hamilton Road. Officers immediately ran toward the area and observed the shooter, identified as the vehicle's front seat passenger, fleeing the area. After establishing a perimeter, with assistance from a Franklin County Sheriff's deputy, officers were able to locate and arrest the shooter. The driver of the stolen vehicle was also taken into custody. Of the five individuals involved, four were under the age of 18. Officers located the discarded firearm in the shrubs near the Huntington Bank branch (308 South Hamilton Road).

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Help Needed to Identify Crime Suspects

The male in the photo (right) is suspected of fraudulently cashing several checks in the central Ohio area. At the time the check was cashed, the suspect presented a Michigan driver's license that was later determined to be fraudulent.

Surveillance image

During the early morning hours of July 16, the suspects were observed, via surveillance cameras, forcing entry into the United Dairy Farmers, located at 1400 Cherry Bottom Road. They were also recorded while removing several hundred dollars of tobacco products from the store. The suspects fled the scene in a red car.

In-store surveillance camera images

Anyone with information that may help identify the suspects in these crimes is encouraged to contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240.

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Changes to the Vacation House Watch Program Announced

"Thank you for providing the house watch service. It gave us peace of mind while we were on vacation August 12 - 16."

~Residents of Royal Manor

In July, the Division revamped its Vacation House Watch Program, which allows officers to check the unoccupied homes of residents either temporarily gone on vacation, or otherwise away from their homes. House watch requests are now available on the City's website. All records associated with the program are now maintained electronically. The property checks conducted by officers are recorded and maintained in a secure online log accessible to officers. Upon their return home, residents are emailed their online house watch request along with a copy of the electronic log, which lists the dates and times their property was checked by an officer. Since mid-July, officers have conducted over 200 physical security checks of over 30 properties. For residents without internet access, house watch request forms are available for pickup in the lobby of the Division Headquarters (460 Rocky Fork Blvd).

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Body-Worn Camera Deployment Completed

Beginning in late June, every sworn officer within the Gahanna Division of Police was issued a body-worn camera (BWC). Prior to the deployment of the BWCs, robust training, including both technical aspects related to use of the device and policy considerations was provided. By the first week of July, BWCs were deployed divisionwide for on duty use. The City's July 4 fireworks event became the first large-scale deployment of BWC-equipped uniformed officers.

Since that time, BWCs have successfully recorded interactions between officers and members of the public in a variety of encounters. This has included valuable footage during use-of-force incidents, which upon review, demonstrated proper conduct of officers during encounters of resistance and the minimal application of force given during the incident. The rollout of the BWCs demonstrates the Division's ongoing commitment to promoting transparency and fostering accountability, and our responsiveness to calls from the community related to police reform.

The Division's body-worn camera program was covered by WOSU NPR radio:

https://news.wosu.org/news/2021-06-28/gahanna-equipping-police-officers-with-body-cameras

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Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE

"To Serve and Protect"

Respect

Integrity

Professionalism

Commitment

"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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