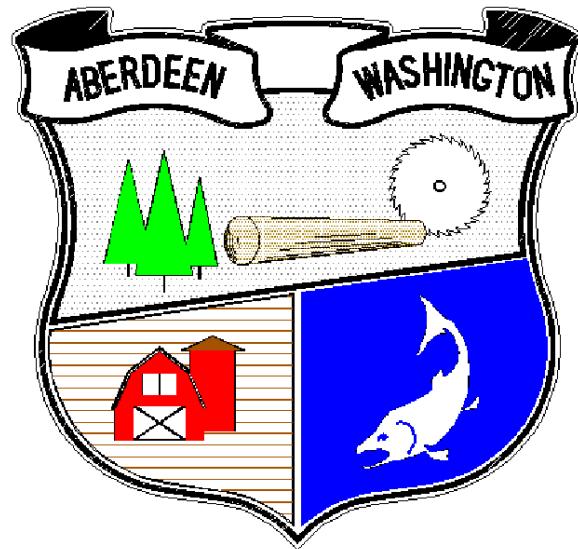


# 2020

## ABERDEEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

### ANNUAL REPORT





## MISSION STATEMENT

**As Guardians of our community –  
we are committed to achieving trusted  
problem solving partnerships,  
always ready to serve, with pride and  
excellence.**



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## Message from the Chief

Honorable Mayor Pete Schave:

It is my pleasure to submit the 2020 Annual Report for the Aberdeen Police Department. In this report you will see a number of year-end statistics and details regarding services provided by our organization.

This report provides information highlighting the great work of our team members, working in partnership with our community. The Aberdeen Police Department is made up of honorable men and women of the highest caliber. I am proud of the professionalism, teamwork and courage they exhibit in our community every day.

2020 will no doubt go down as one of the most challenging years for our agency, and our community as a whole. COVID certainly required major modifications in our operations for all divisions to include the Courts. Despite the hardships and major challenges that occurred during the year, the police department continued to provide excellent service to our residents.

Overall, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data from 2019 to 2020 (located on page 6) reflected a 7% reduction in our crime rate for the City of Aberdeen. The City's violent crime rate also decreased nearly 10% from 2019 to 2020. Violent crime includes homicides, sexual assaults, robbery, kidnapping/abduction, aggravated assault and burglary.

While the overall crime and violent crime rates were down, the City experienced a 48% increase in weapons violations and a 55% increase in motor vehicle thefts. The call volume for the police department also increased slightly from 2019. There were 33,849 service requests in 2019 compared to 33,939 service requests in 2020.

The police department established many Community centered goals in 2020. Unfortunately, a lot of those goals were not accomplished due to COVID. Some of those goals included our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Citizen's Academy that had to be suspended; temporary suspension of our Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) and Police Explorers program; and suspension of our citizen's ride along program.

Despite the many challenges, the police department continued to address the ongoing transition of retirements/departures and promotions/new hires. We saw the departures of Police Services Officers (PSO) Natalie Zieber and Hannah Dale, Investigation's Secretary Kaylee Steen, Officer Jared Berken, and the retirement of Sgt. Dave Parkinson. We also hired Officer Aaron Balagot, PSO Dallas Wagner, and Police Services Specialist Iris Yasay. The year also saw the promotions of Commander Dale Green, Lieutenant Andy Snodgrass, Detectives TJ Millard and Cody Blodgett, and Sergeant's Dave Cox and Gary Sexton.

As we enter 2021, the police department has many goals to help us better serve our community. One of our top goals is to again be an accredited law enforcement agency. The department was last



accredited in 2001 as it is a tremendous amount of work to stay on top of best practices and procedures. We are committed to again be an accredited agency that will ensure our department has all the best practices in place for a high performing police agency; a department that our community deserves.

I would like to thank the Mayor, City Council and the citizens of our community for their continued support. On behalf of the men and women of the Aberdeen Police Department, it is our honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Aberdeen.

Sincerely,



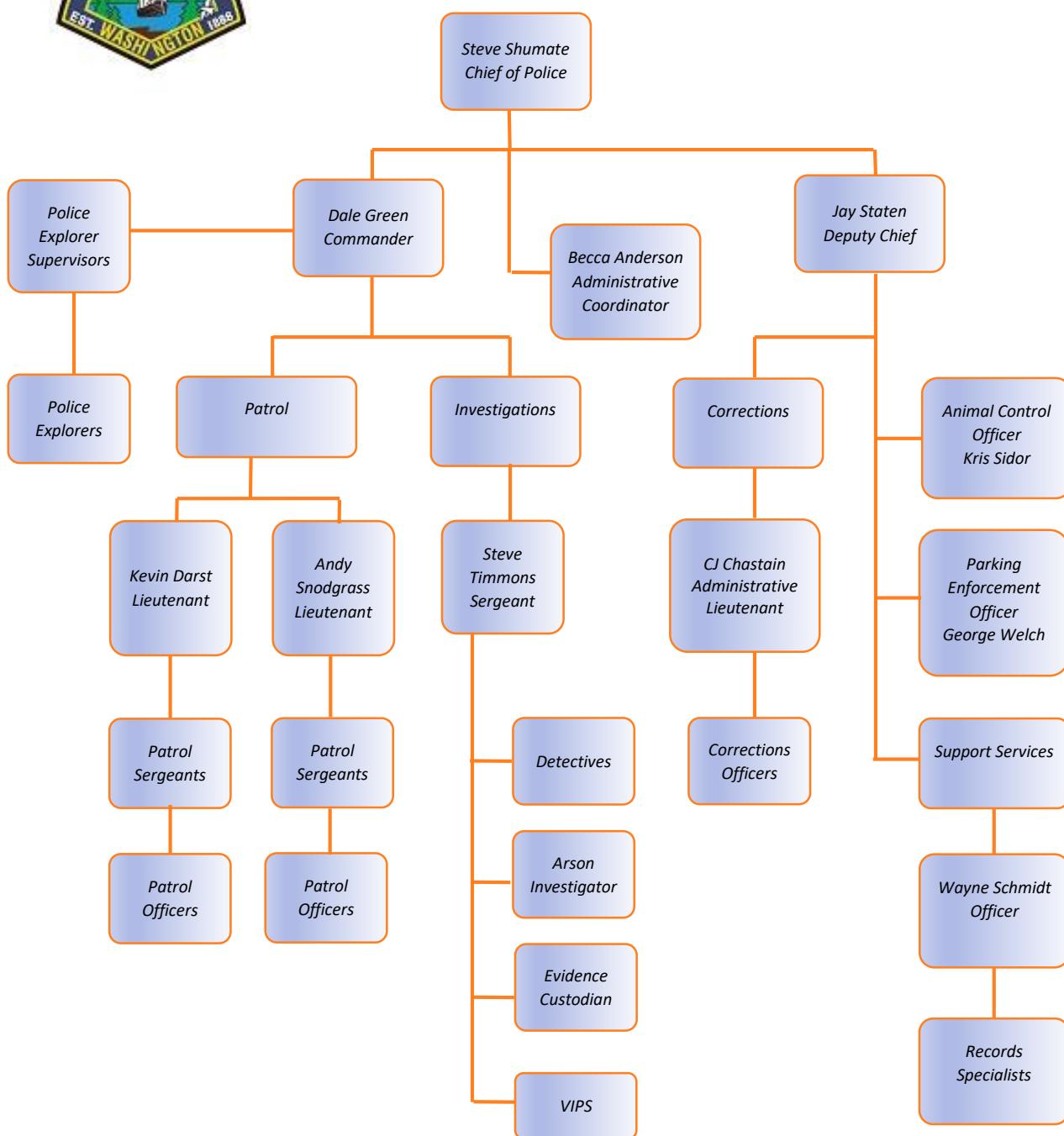
Steven J. Shumate

Chief of Police





## ABERDEEN POLICE DEPARTMENT: *Chain of Command Chart*



Steve Shumate, Chief of Police: 2020



## Summary of Offenses

**1/01/2020 through 12/31/2020**

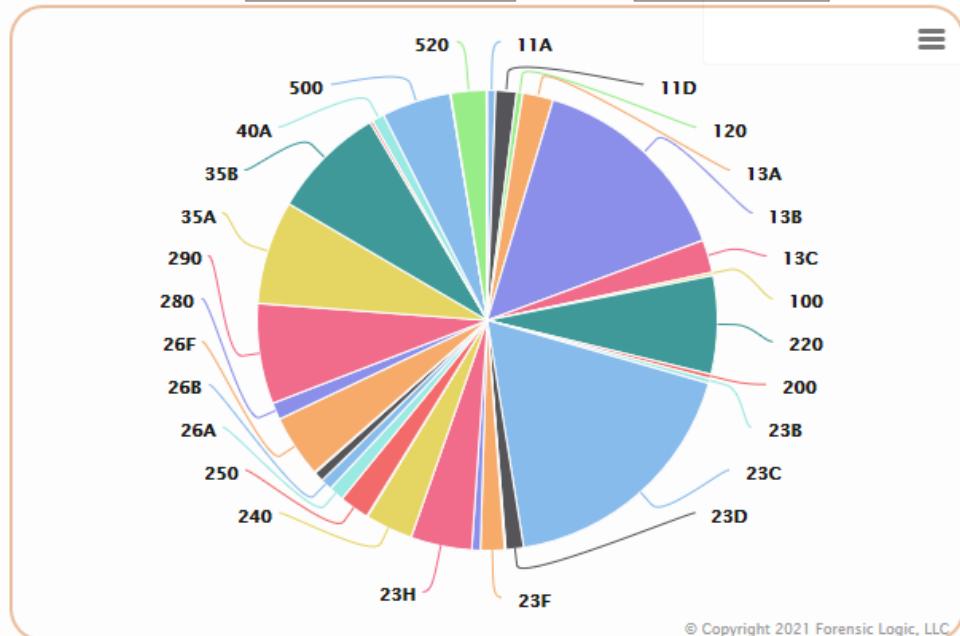
Offense Code	Offense Desc	Attempt	Complete	Clearances by Arrest	Percent Clearances
11A	Rape	0	11	1	9.09
11D	Fondling	0	27	1	3.7
120	Robbery	1	7	2	25
13A	Aggravated Assault	0	40	28	70
13B	Simple Assault	0	273	167	61.17
13C	Intimidation	0	43	19	44.19
100	Kidnapping/Abduction	0	4	3	75
220	Burglary/Breaking & Entering	2	126	41	32.03
200	Arson	0	6	1	16.67
23B	Purse Snatching	0	6	2	33.33
23C	Shoplifting	0	335	289	86.27
23D	Theft From Building	0	23	5	21.74
23E	Theft From Coin Operated Machine Or	0	2	2	100
23F	Theft From Motor Vehicle	2	29	9	29.03
23G	Theft Of Motor Vehicle Parts Or Access	4	7	4	36.36
23H	All Other Larceny	0	80	34	42.5
240	Motor Vehicle Theft	0	62	7	11.29
210	Extortion/Blackmail	1	0	0	0
250	Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	39	4	10.26
26A	False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Ga	5	15	1	5
26B	Credit Card/Automated Teller Maching	0	15	0	0
26C	Impersonation	3	10	2	15.38
26E	Wire Fraud	0	1	0	0
26F	Identity Theft	82	0	0	0
280	Stolen Property Offenses	0	22	16	72.73
290	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism Of Pro	0	131	83	63.36
35A	Drug/Narcotic Violations	0	135	119	88.15
35B	Drug Equipment Violations	1	148	144	96.64
370	Pornography/Obscene Material	0	4	0	0
40A	Prostitution	0	16	16	100
500	Violation NoContact/ProtectionOrders	0	90	57	63.33
510	Bribery	0	1	1	100
520	Weapon Law Violations	3	43	37	80.43
720	Animal Cruelty	1	0	0	0

Statistics courtesy of COPLINK NIBRS repository



## STATISTICS (continued)

Series: Total Attempt/Complete ▾ Chart: Pie ▾



Statistics courtesy of COPLINK NIBRS repository

### Billed statistics from GH911



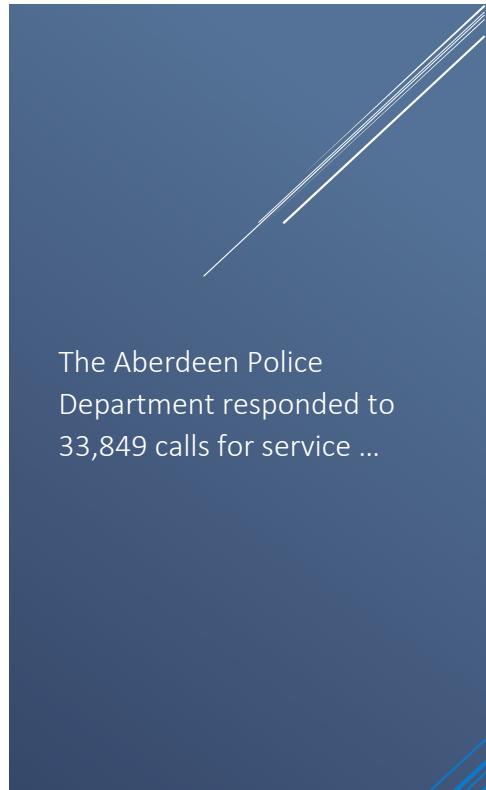
### 2020 AGENCY CALL TOTALS

Grays Harbor Communications E911 Center	JAN 2020	FEB 2020	MAR 2020	APR 2020	MAY 2020	JUNE 2020	JUL 2020	AUG 2020	SEPT 2020	OCT 2020	NOV 2020	DEC 2020	2020 TOTALS
<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	11,816	11,693	10,878	9,804	11,896	12,713	14,562	13,960	13,069	12,615	10,829	11,037	144,872
<b>Police Department Billed Stats</b>													
Aberdeen PD	2,639	2,623	2,353	1,974	2,386	2,452	2,650	2,651	2,418	2,556	2,267	2,493	29,462
Cosmopolis PD	163	172	123	111	109	138	173	150	163	157	124	119	1,702
Chehalis Tribe PD	2	0	2	1	2	0	1	2	2	2	1	2	17
Elma PD	220	354	322	229	342	336	405	447	396	389	417	463	4,320
GHC Sheriff's Office (OPD)	1,641	1,626	1,449	1,157	1,853	1,747	2,148	1,752	1,868	1,667	1,397	1,395	19,700
Hoquiam PD	1,029	1,055	973	837	1,095	1,299	1,384	1,179	1,094	1,074	860	915	12,794
McCleary PD	308	302	168	78	125	342	430	363	310	369	286	168	3,249
Montesano PD	211	244	225	158	202	206	289	349	298	227	185	245	2,839
Ocean Shores PD	671	694	759	818	952	1,025	1,352	1,130	975	807	627	560	10,370
Quinault Nation PD	108	133	123	138	256	360	493	246	236	296	277	278	2,944
Westport PD	319	275	253	212	340	340	489	488	383	314	297	266	3,976
GHC Agencies	50	15	2	3	1	5	1	5	9	3	16	8	118
<b>LAW TOTALS</b>	7,361	7,493	6,752	5,716	7,663	8,250	9,815	8,762	8,152	7,861	6,754	6,912	91,491

Statistics courtesy of Gray Harbor 911 Communications



## PATROL



The Aberdeen Police Department responded to 33,849 calls for service ...

The Aberdeen Police Patrol Section is the largest section within the Aberdeen Police Department, and falls within the Criminal Division. The Patrol Section is divided into two patrol teams; Gold and Blue. Lieutenant Andy Snodgrass leads the Gold Team and Lieutenant Kevin Darst leads the Blue Team. Commander Dale Green oversees the patrol section.

The patrol teams work a four days on, four days off schedule with 11 hour shifts. The Gold and Blue Teams each had 2 sergeants to supervise their police officers. There were a total of 24 patrol officers assigned to provide around the clock police coverage. There were between 8 to 10 officers working any given day depending on assignments. The Aberdeen Police Department responded to 33,939 calls for service in 2020, a slight increase from 2019.



The Patrol Section is responsible for bicycle patrol, traffic enforcement, collision investigation, and apprehension K9. Aberdeen Police Officers issued 2,684 citations and infractions in 2020, an increase of 81 from 2019. Aberdeen Police Officers arrested 2,012 people in 2020, a decrease of 227 from 2019. The Ride-Along-Program was suspended in March due to the COVID pandemic.

In January of 2020, Aberdeen Police Officer Chad Pearsall was the K9 apprehension K9 handler. Officer Pearsall completed numerous hours of training with Police Dog Ronin during 2020. They continue to serve our community tracking persons who flee and collect evidence items. See our K-9 section for additional details.

In 2020, longtime Aberdeen Police Sergeant David Parkinson retired after over 21 years of service to the citizens of Aberdeen. Officer Aaron Balagot was our only new hire and is currently in the FTO part of his training.



## PATROL continued

Officer Cox and Officer Sexton were both promoted ...



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Aberdeen patrol officers were less focused on proactive patrols due to the likelihood of contacting subjects with COVID in order to reduce the chance of COVID spreading through the patrol division and or the Aberdeen City Jail. Even with less proactive enforcement patrols calls for service were up overall in 2020.

Officer Cox and Officer Sexton were both promoted to Sergeant on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2020. Officer Snodgrass was promoted to Lieutenant from Detective Sergeant on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Sergeant Timmons was then selected and transferred from patrol to the APD Detective Sergeant at the same time. Officer Weiss brought his vast experience back to the Patrol Section after serving in investigations for several years. Officer Blodgett and Officer Millard were assigned to the Investigations Section from patrol.

The Patrol Section was able to purchase two new patrol vehicles to replace aging vehicles.

The Aberdeen Patrol Section Officers are excited and ready to get back to proactive patrol in 2021 and are constantly adapting to and dealing with how to continue to serve the citizens of Aberdeen while dealing with the COVID pandemic to the best of our abilities.

Respectfully,  
Kevin Darst, Lieutenant  
Andy Snodgrass, Lieutenant



## K9

while heading to a call they were struck broadside ...



2020 was K9 Ronin's first full year on patrol for the Aberdeen Police Department. During the year Officer Pearsall and K9 Ronin attended 160 hours of training. To date K9 Ronin has 645 hours of additional training in obedience, tracking, building searches, and area searches.

COVID-19 presented its own set of unique challenges limiting additional trainings and K-9 use due to jail status and department procedures.

In June, Officer Pearsall and K-9 Ronin were headed to a call when they were struck broad side by a vehicle. This took the K9 vehicle out of commission for 3 months. Both were uninjured from the incident and returned to work.

Ronin had continued sponsorship from Setina Manufacturing and Nulo Pet food.

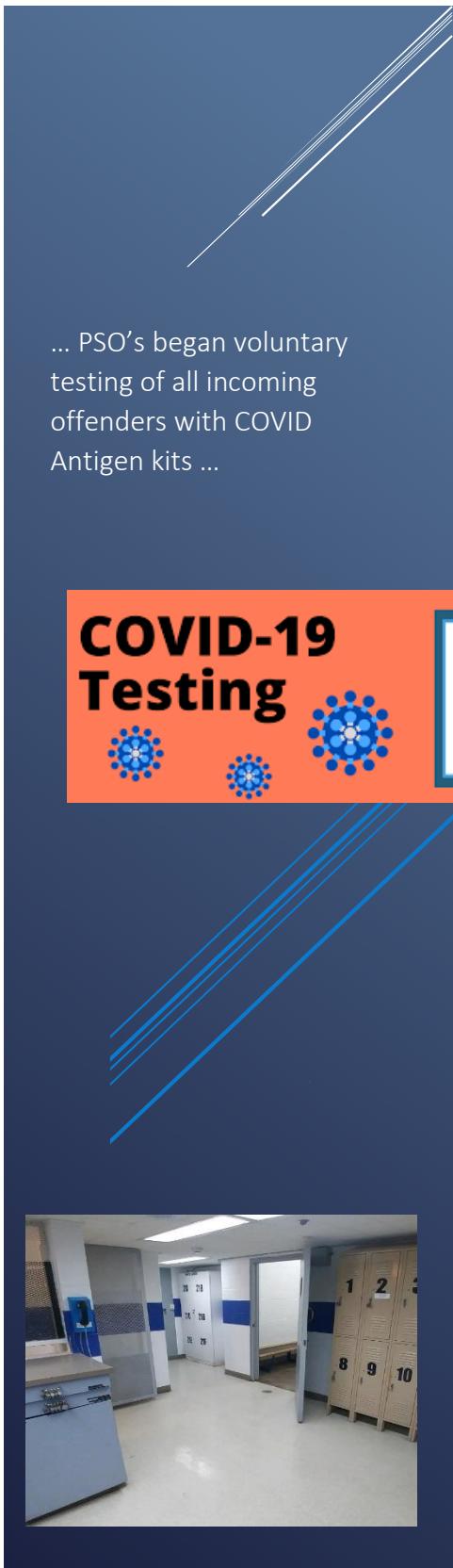


### K-9 (Apprehension)

K-9 Calls:	34
K-9 Tracks	16
K-9 Building searches	5
K-9 Article searches	1
K-9 presence (de-escalation)	9
K-9 successful applications	17

Respectfully,  
Officer Chad Pearsall





## CORRECTIONS

The Aberdeen Police Corrections Section falls within our Support Division. Like their Patrol Section partners, the six Police Service Officers (formerly known as Corrections Officers) are divided into two teams, and they work synonymously with the respective Blue and Gold patrol teams. Our Police Services Officers work a four on/four off schedule, on 12-hour shifts.

In September Lieutenant C.J. Chastain stepped over and began managing and supervising our Corrections Section, while Lieutenant Kevin Darst transitioned back to the Patrol Section. Lt. Chastain reports to Deputy Chief Jay Staten, and the two have been working together actively strategizing ways to improve our jail services.

The current primary functions of our PSOs in the jail are the care and custody of our confined persons. Their duties include but are not limited to: conducting bookings/releases of subjects arrested or serving court commitment time; preparing and serving meals; medication distribution; and transporting inmates to the various courts, medical and/or mental health appointments, or other law enforcement agencies. Early in the year our PSOs undertook an effort to repaint the interior of our jail, to present a much more professional appearance.

The transition from Corrections Officer to Police Services Officer has been a long process. Throughout the year, our PSOs began attending a variety of officer safety related training activities with their patrol partners. Following recent completion of the PSO Field Training Program Manual, we will now begin field training our PSOs to undertake a few specific tasks presently handled by our patrol officers. Once the PSOs have been fully trained, they will be a force multiplier for our field officers, to better serve our community.



## CORRECTIONS continued

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 significantly changed the landscape in the Aberdeen Jail. In an effort to reduce the potential for spreading the virus, we took steps to minimize our average daily population as much as possible. Our field units were encouraged to cite and release offenders in the field, and only book offenders when necessary. Our PSOs would often book and release offenders, to minimize exposure.

With the pandemic, our PSOs began voluntarily testing all incoming offenders with COVID Antigen test kits, we increased use of PPE and a variety of quaternary disinfectant methods on a frequent basis. Another significant change in the jail (because of the pandemic) has been the transition to video arraignments with the Aberdeen Municipal Court, rather than taking large groupings of inmates into the courtroom. This process is safer for the court staff, as well as more efficient for managing the inmates being arraigned.

Throughout 2020 we have continued our in-house medical contract with PA Patrick Paulsen, who is a PA with the Grays Harbor Community Hospital. PA Paulsen is available 7 days a week, to provide medical services as needed in our jail. This has been an invaluable resource to our PSOs with ensuring medical needs are accurately addressed, without unnecessary time spent in the emergency room of the hospital.

In March 2020 we hired our newest PSO Dallas Wagner. She was previously employed by the Washington State Department of Corrections (Stafford Creek), and she completed her Corrections Officer Basic Academy in early August. Unfortunately, we lost PSO Hanna Dale to the Tumwater Police Department, where she has become a police officer.

### Jail Statistics

<u>Number of admissions / bookings</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
All Inmates:	1524	1163
Female :	456	305
Male:	1068	858
<u>Average Daily Population</u>		
All Inmates:	16.61	13.62
Female:	4.34	3.34
Male:	12.27	10.28
<u>Average Length of Stay (days)</u>		
All Inmates	5.08	5.50
Female:	5.68	8.52
Male	----	4.43

Respectfully,  
CJ Chastain, Lieutenant



The Animal Control Officer is responsible for patrolling the streets of Aberdeen and investigating animal complaints ....

## ANIMAL CONTROL

The Aberdeen Animal Control Shelter is staffed with one full time Animal Control Officer and one part time Shelter Assistant. The Animal Control Officer is responsible for patrolling the streets of Aberdeen and investigating animal complaints which include vicious animals, animal bites, lost and found animals, injured animals, and animal cruelty. In 2020 we were able to partner with our local rescues. This allowed more animals to find their forever homes through adoption. We look forward to continuing this relationship through 2021.



## ANIMAL CONTROL continued

Animals	Impounds		Adoptions		Returned		Redeemed		Released		Escaped		Euthanized		Euthanized		Population	
	2019		2020		2019		2019		2020		2019		2020		2019		2020	
	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs
January	25	25	0	1	0	0	9	11	11	8	0	0	9	2	1	1	4	3
February	30	41	1	0	0	0	8	9	15	26	0	0	8	0	0	1	2,4 CK	3,1 T
March	22	14	0	0	0	0	7	6	9	15	0	0	4	3	3	1	2	1
April	45	17	0	0	0	0	13	4	20	3	0	0	11	5	0	0	3	2
May	52	15	0	0	0	0	22	7	27	9	0	0	12	1	2	0	1	1
June	33	24	0	0	0	0	5	6	10	11	1	0	4	6	0	0	4	0
July	47	53	0	0	0	0	22	15	22	25	0	0	1	5	2	0	3	2,2 R
August	36	32	0	0	0	1	13	0	13	16	0	0	10	0	2	0	3	3
September	42	31	0	0	0	0	7	4	16	18	0	0	8	4	2	1	10	1
October	34	22	0	0	0	0	20	8	5	12	0	0	6	3	1	0	9	2
November	28	29	0	0	0	0	2	2	13	26	0	0	10	3	1	0	1	2
December	20	15	0	0	0	1	1	5	11	7	0	0	3	3	0	0	4	0,1 CK
Total	414	318	1	1	0	2	129	77	172	176	1	0	86	35	14	4		

## PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Officer Welch keeps the citizens of Aberdeen informed of parking ordinances and parking safety.



George Welch is the Parking Enforcement Officer for the City of Aberdeen.

He patrols the entire city looking for parking issues. For example, blocking driveways or alleys and fire hydrants. He works with property owners of abandoned vehicles as well as providing Junk Affidavit forms if needed to remove from private property. He also responds to citizen's vehicle complaints related to parking complaints and testifies in court if needed.

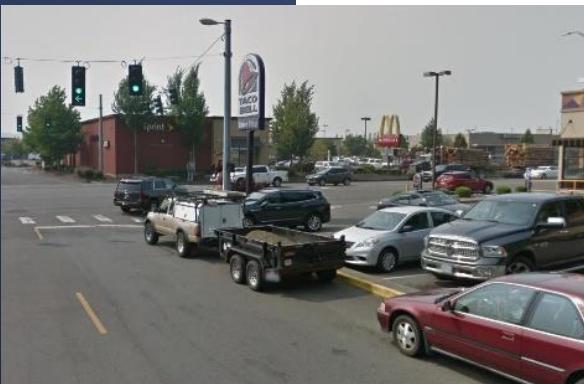
Officer Welch keeps the citizens of Aberdeen informed of parking ordinances and parking safety.

When hazardous conditions occur, he informs the correct departments.

Officer Welch maintains a positive attitude and a good rapport with the citizens of Aberdeen.

Respectfully,

George Welch, Parking Enforcement Officer



## VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICES (VIPS)

Volunteers provide a valuable service to the Aberdeen Police Department



The Aberdeen Police Department Volunteer in Police Services (VIPS) program entered its second year after being re-instated in 2019. The COVID pandemic put a strain on the amount of volunteer time, however, the VIPS still participated and volunteered their time as much as possible to assist the Aberdeen Police Department and the Citizens of Aberdeen.

The volunteers provide a valuable service to the Aberdeen Police Department and our Community. Some of services the VIPS provide are vacation house checks, assist with traffic control and security at local events, provide administrative tasks and special projects for the department as needed, and patrol the City streets acting as an extra set of eyes and reporting suspicious or criminal behavior.



In 2020, we increased our program from seven volunteers to fifteen volunteers. Even with the COVID restrictions, which limited volunteer time, the volunteers contributed 549.5 volunteer hours. These hours are categorized in the form of administrative, citizen patrol hours, training, and other.

The VIPS program continues to receive applications and always looks forward to adding members to our Aberdeen Police Department VIPS family.

Respectfully,

Steve Timmons, Detective Sergeant



## EXPLORERS

In 2020, the post again received a \$3000 award from the Project A Game Grant from 7-11.

The Aberdeen Police Explorer Post #13 is comprised of young adults, 15 ½ to 20 years of age. Winnette Fruh, our post Lieutenant, aged out of the post. The post continued to be led by Officer Tarrence, Officer Weiss, and Officer D. Mitchell. We ended 2020 with 14 active members.

The post continued to meet weekly throughout 2020 until post activities were suspended in March. This limited our training opportunities to virtual meetings only. Despite the contact restraints, our post was still able to log over 637 hours of training covering a wide variety of training topics, to include: subject contacts, traffic stops, domestic violence, building searches, report writing, crime scene investigation and firearms to name a few.

The COVID-19 pandemic limited our posts ability to participate in most of our special events for the year. As a group we still participated in a bicycle rodeo and Shop with a Cop and we provided security at a COVID-19 testing site. We volunteered over 85 hours during these special events.

In 2020, the post again received a \$3000 award from the Project A Game Grant from 7-11.



## **EXPLORERS continued**

The annual Oregon Law Enforcement Challenge in Warrenton, Oregon was cancelled in 2020. Our post was disappointed but ultimately understood the decision. We are excited for the opportunity to participate in 2021.

The Aberdeen Police Explorer Post continues to serve our community not only in the services the post provides, but also in the services/experiences the members receive.

Respectfully,

Officer D. Tarrence  
Explorer Post Advisor

Officer J. Weiss  
Explorer Post Advisor

Officer D. Mitchell  
Explorer Post Advisor



## INVESTIGATIONS

The detectives investigate a wide range of crimes to include: sex crimes, robberies and thefts.



The Aberdeen Police Department Investigations section is part of the Operations Division. It is comprised of five investigators; four Detectives and one Detective Sergeant. It also consists of the evidence section, which is ran by Evidence Specialist Elaine Mortimeyer. The division is overseen by Commander Dale Green.

The investigations section is responsible for conducting follow-up investigations on felony crimes that occur within the City of Aberdeen. The investigations section works closely with neighboring agencies and also provides assistance to outside agencies when requested. The detectives investigate a wide range of crimes to include: sex crimes, arsons, homicides, financial crimes, assaults, robberies and thefts. In addition to follow-up investigations, the detectives are also assigned to other specialties within the department to include: CRU (Crisis Response Unit), FTU (Force Training Unit), FTO (Field Training Officer), collision investigation team, and the Gang unit. The Investigations Unit is available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, and respond to all serious crimes within the city limits of Aberdeen. During 2020, the investigations section was called out after hours on 10 occasions.



## INVESTIGATIONS continued

With the promotion of previous investigations supervisor Lt. Andy Snodgrass, Sgt. Steve Timmons was assigned as the investigations supervisor. The investigations section had several personnel changes. Officer Jeff Weiss ended his detective rotational position after seven years of investigating sex crimes with Detective T.J. Millard now filling that position. Officer Cody Blodgett was selected to fill a vacant detective position after Sgt. Dave Cox's promotion and transfer back to patrol.

In 2020, the Investigations section received 737 felony cases. Of those felony cases, 416 were submitted to the Grays Harbor County Prosecutor's office for charges. The remaining cases were also investigated, however, they were found to be unfounded, referred to other agencies, pending lab results, or investigated without charges being filed.



Respectfully,  
Steve Timmons, Detective Sergeant



## EVIDENCE

... approximately 2440 property and evidence items were received and processed. This amount includes 76 firearms ...



During the 2020 year, approximately 2440 property and evidence items were received and processed. This amount includes 76 firearms received and a number of related ammunition.

The above total of 2440 includes 410 packages of controlled substances, primarily methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana, and miscellaneous pills.

The Aberdeen Police Department Evidence Room receives evidence generated by Drug Task Force cases within our city limits. The figures above include their 38 cases from 2020, which totaled 143 packages. The Evidence Room also stored \$10,765.39 seized cash from the DTF.

Hundreds of Aberdeen and Drug Task Force items were processed and packaged for the various state crime labs. The Evidence section works with the APD Investigation section and prosecutor's office on these felony cases.

Our ongoing purging process continued with notifications from the Superior and Municipal Courts and the Grays Harbor County Prosecutor's Offices. In addition, past felony and misdemeanor cases were reviewed and items purged. This includes hazardous and illegal items destroyed.

In 2020, we continued to collaborate with other police agencies purging auction items, using Johnny's Auction and CTM Auction. These auction houses streamline the auction process for many police departments statewide.

Respectfully,

Laney Mortimeyer



**DRUG TASK FORCE (DTF)**

**GHDTF CASE SUMMARY JAN - DEC 2020**

<b>INVESTIGATIONS:</b>				
Total Cases Opened		115		
Total Cases Closed		79		
Search Warrants		47		
Knock and Talks		8		
Arrests		88		
Meth Cases		31		
DTO CASES (Identified, Disrupted, Dismantled)		1		
OCDETF CASES ADOPTED		1		
<b>DRUGS SEIZED</b>		UNITS	# UNITS	VALUE PER UNIT
Cocaine	Grams	14.00	\$50	\$ 700.00
Marijuana	Plants		\$1,500	\$ -
Marijuana	Pounds		\$3,000	\$ -
Heroin	Grams	1503.50	\$80	\$ 120,280.00
Methamphetamine	Grams	1293.70	\$40	\$ 51,748.00
Other Hallucinogens (Psilocybin, LSD)	Grams	2.00	\$20	\$ 40.00
Prescription Drugs (Narcotics)	Dose (DU)	702.50	\$45	\$ 31,612.50
<b>TOTAL VALUE SEIZED DRUGS:</b>				<b>\$ 204,380.50</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>FORFEITURES</b>		<b>FORFEITURE VALUE</b>
Real Property		4		\$ 409,598.56
Vessels				
Vehicles		16		\$ 46,824.50
Firearms		7		
Currency		42		\$ 97,254.96
Miscellaneous Property		13		\$ 1,053.82
<b>TOTALS:</b>	82	\$ -	0	<b>\$ 554,731.84</b>

Respectfully,

Mendi Stump



## CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT

The suspect had allegedly shot the victim with a shotgun ...

For the calendar year of 2020, the Aberdeen Regional Crisis Response Unit (CRU) Tactical Response Team (TRT) conducted 1809 hours of training. The CRU Sniper/Observer teams conducted 220 hours of training. The CRU Negotiations team trained for a total of 362 hours in 2020 in addition to their 40-hour Basic Negotiations Academy.

The Aberdeen Regional CRU TRT is comprised of Officers from Aberdeen PD, Hoquiam PD, Grays Harbor Sheriff's Office, Cosmopolis PD and Montesano PD and the team trains monthly on individual and team skills. The team conducts internal training and attempts to obtain outside training from either classes attended or by bringing in outside instructors to ensure the team's skills and experience continue to grow. In March 2020 the TRT trained at Camp Rilea for three days as well. The team trained on building clearance, suspect contact to include surrender, apprehension, de-escalation while negotiating with barricaded suspects, downed officer drills and vehicle take downs. The regional CRU team had numerous retirements in 2020 resulting in two new APD Officers, 2 new HPD Officers and one new MPD officer attending Washington State Swat Basic. Upon completion of Swat basic they joined the team. One CRU entry team member was also sent to Negotiations academy in addition to SWAT basic.

The CRU Sniper/Observer team is comprised of three Aberdeen Officers and trains monthly on both team and individual skills. APD tested and filled the vacant slot at the end of 2020. The team is now complete with four marksmen.

The CRU Negotiations team is comprised of three Aberdeen Officers, one HPD Officer, three Grays Harbor County Deputies and two Montesano Officers. All Officers have graduated from the FBI Basic Hostage



## CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT continued

Negotiator Academy and train additionally throughout the year. The motto of the Negotiations Team is "When others are at their worst we must be at our best." Negotiations skills acquired are also used daily by the team members during their primary Patrol or Investigative duties as well. The Negotiations team assisted in 10 events in 2020. Four were within the city limits of Aberdeen, two were in Hoquiam, two were in the County. Oakville and Cosmopolis both had one event the Negotiators assisted with. In 2020 the HNT began working with local Designated Crisis Responders to assist in their negotiations by possibly staffing a member on the team.

The following events are a summary of a few incidents members of the CRU Team responded to during 2020.

On 04/03/2020 the CRU unit was put on stand by for a sexual assault suspect had threatened the victim with a semi-automatic weapon and a knife in the City of Westport. CRU Leadership was called out to assist Westport PD in planning the incident and containing it until a warrant could be obtained. The warrant was obtained and negotiators were called to assist. After contacting the residence, the suspect came out of the residence and was taken into custody by three CRU Team members without injury or incident. The CRU Members cleared the scene after turning the suspect over to Westport PD.

On 05/07/2020 the CRU was activated for a suspected barricaded assault 1<sup>st</sup> (DV) with a firearm suspect. After no response during attempted negotiations, the team assembled and deployed two NFDD's and one gas canister. One window was ported as part of the entry into the residence to search for the suspect. The remote controlled robot was also deployed and had marginal success due to the large amount of debris on the floor of the suspect residence. The team made entry and searched the residence however the suspect had fled. The suspect was located and taken into custody without injury or incident in the parking lot of West Side Pizza in Aberdeen.

On 05/18/2020 the CRU was activated for a homicide suspect possibly barricaded inside of an RV on Otis Avenue in Grays Harbor County. The suspect had allegedly shot the victim with a shotgun, killing him and had not been seen since. It was suspected the suspect was either in her RV or on the property which was best described as a compound with various outbuildings, vehicles and an abandoned shake mill in various degrees of repair. Due to the allegation, Snipers, Negotiators, and the TRT was activated. OC had already been deployed inside the trailer by GHSO to no avail.



## CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT continued

CRU Elements were on scene within two hours of the activation. Once a search warrant was obtained, the compound was searched however the suspect was not located. The electronic robot was used on a pole to initially search the two suspect trailers to attempt to mitigate the threats to Team Members. Once the scene was safe it was turned over to GHSO Investigators. The CRU Team remained on scene while GH Deputies checked additional locations for the suspect and cleared when she was not located. The suspect(s) was eventually located and arrested by GHSO Deputies.

On 08/05/2020, the CRU was activated to assist GHC Sheriff's Office with a barricaded, armed burglary suspect. On duty Tactical team and HNT members responded and began to attempt to negotiate with the suspect. While the remainder of the Tactical team was in route, the suspect gave up to Deputies and CRU members on scene without incident.

On 08/13/2020 the CRU team was tasked to assist GHC DTF serving warrants at various locations. The DTF needed assistance with the warrants due to manpower issues and multiple locations to be searched reference their case. Due to the CRU team being on training status for the day, the team assisted in service of the warrants. The CRU team and DTF searched three locations taking multiple people into custody and securing the residences. DTF served their warrants with no damage done to the residences and no injuries to any suspect(s).

On 08/31/2020 at approximately 2230 hours, the CRU team was activated for a barricaded assault 1<sup>st</sup> suspect in Grays Harbor County. When the CRU team arrived, the team was advised the suspect had also possibly shot and murdered his wife. The CRU team set up containment and an arrest team while the HNT (Hostage Negotiations Team) attempted ongoing negotiations with the suspect. Ultimately the suspect advised he was going to surrender to the team. As the team began to brief the surrender plan the suspect ignited multiple suspected explosives in his residence causing a large primary explosion and several subsequent explosions. The suspect then started firing at CRU members, who returned fire in response to protect themselves. The entire house eventually became fully engulfed with fire and explosions resulting from the initial explosion making it impossible for CRU members to attempt entry to provide first aid for the suspect or his suspected deceased wife. The incident was turned over to the region three CIT for investigation.

On January 1, 2021, APD Det. Sgt. S. Timmons was appointed to the Team Leader position of the CRU team as LT Snodgrass is scheduled to attend SWAT Command school in the spring.

Respectfully,  
LT J. A. Snodgrass  
APD CRU Team Leader



## SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

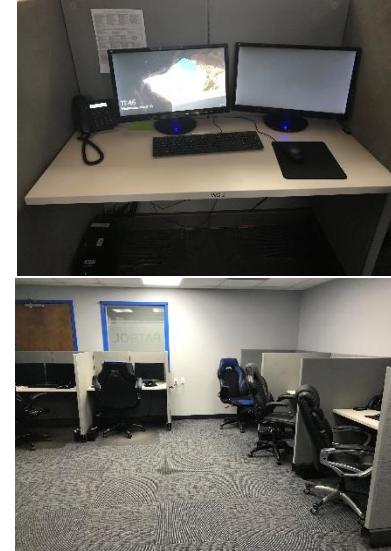
The Special Assignment Section of the Aberdeen Police Department is responsible for Records, Information Technology (IT), building maintenance and general support for Police, Investigations and Corrections. This Section is made up of one supervisor, and four full time records specialist.

Along with the rest of the City, the Records Section has had its share of challenges this year due to COVID-19. The Records Section worked several different modified shifts in an effort to limit the spread of this virus but still maintain service to our citizens.

This year the Records Section again wants to thank the VIPS (Volunteers In Police Services). Although their on-site presence was limited because of COVID-19, when they were able to be here they always had a bright and positive attitude and did manage to accomplish several tasks for us.

As virtual meetings became part of the new normal in 2020, the IT team had to develop the City's remote network and virtual meeting capabilities. City phones had to be rerouted or forwarded to other office spaces or to cell phones to enable continued communication with our staff and citizens.

This year the Sergeant and Patrol Offices were combined into one larger office. Surplus cubicles were purchased from another agency then painted giving them a fresh new look. A grant from Wal-Mart enabled the purchase of new monitors for the office, then new wall paint and carpet completed the remodel.



## SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT continued

A garage space that was once used to store an inflatable rescue boat for the Aberdeen Police Department was converted to a new space for large evidence storage. The floor was raised to alleviate water issues and an HVAC system was installed for temperature control requirements.

Building integrity is still a major concern for the police and court areas. This year we had another water leak, this one under the court room. This leak went undetected until court staff complained of sauna-like conditions in the court room. As hot water flooded the crawl space under the court, it condensed above the drop-ceiling causing a very humid and warm environment in the court room. Due to poor access to the area of the leak, a new access point to the crawl space had to be created to repair the leak.

The fencing for the police department parking area was completed this year. Motorized gates were installed at the alley entrance behind the police department and the exit to "H" St. A non-motorized gate was installed at the entrance from Market St. The fence and gates are designed to enhance safety for both the public and the employees of the Aberdeen Police Department.

An on-going problem with a sink-hole in our parking lot was again repaired this year. This time several yards of expanding concrete was poured into the hole in hopes to stop sinking. It should be noted that this repair does not address other settling problems including the sidewalk and foundation issues.

Statistics	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Concealed Pistol License	351	317	374
Public Records Request	1514	1569	1230
Pistol Transfers	379	511	853
New On-line Reporting (beginning July)	-	-	57

Respectfully,  
Wayne Schmidt  
Police Officer  
Special Services Supervisor

