



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of the Omaha Police Department, I am pleased to present the Department's 2019 Annual Report. The Omaha Police Department is comprised of a diverse group of more than eleven hundred dedicated men and women, both sworn and non-sworn. This report highlights the many significant accomplishments these employees achieved in 2019 as they worked to protect and serve the people of Omaha.

In 2019, the Department continued its longstanding commitment to building and maintaining strong community partnerships while providing impartial, ethical, and professional law enforcement services.

Allegiance to these goals in recent years has paid tremendous dividends for the Omaha Police Department, and we enjoy a strong relationship with our community due to focused efforts from all sides.

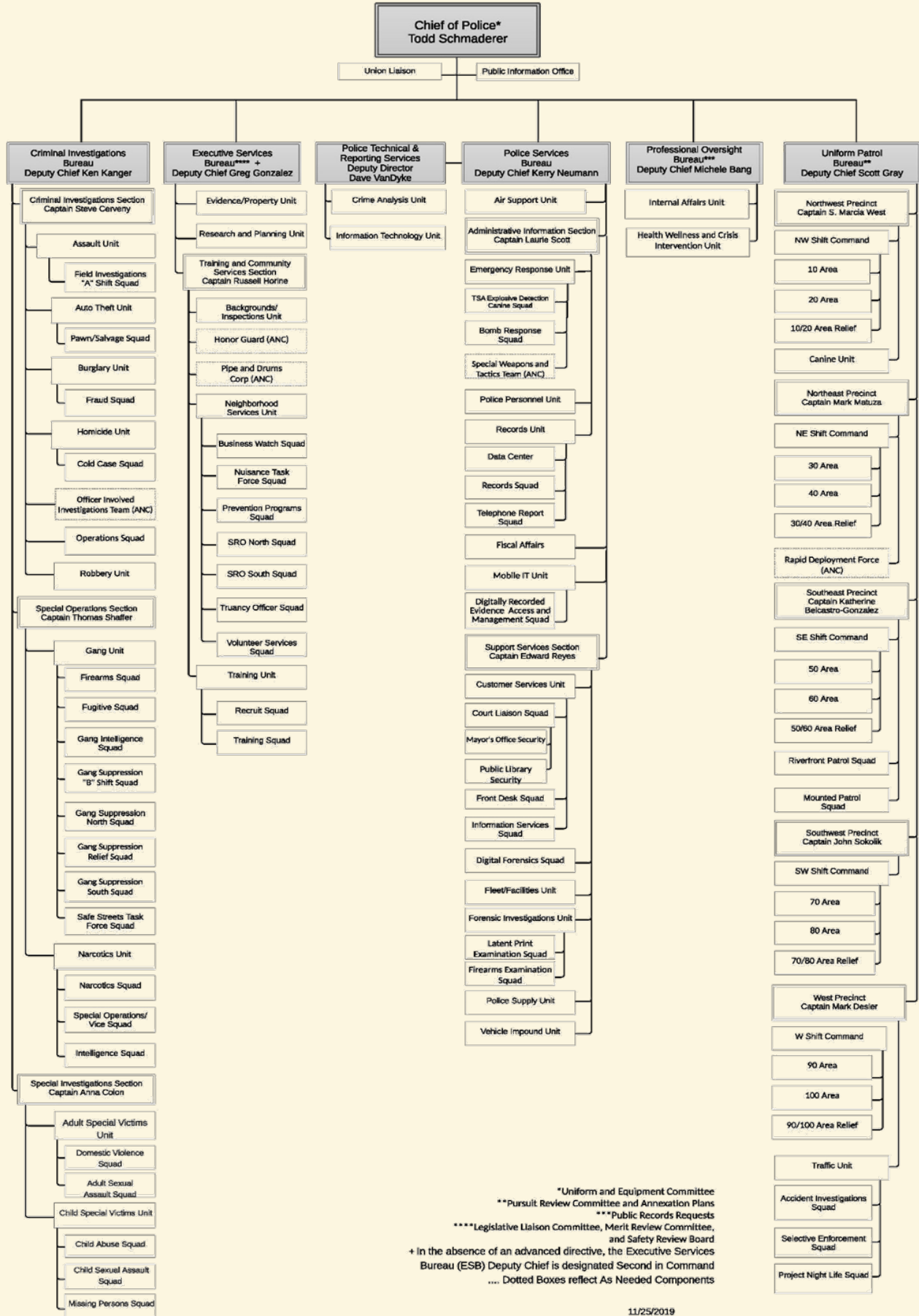
The year 2019 was also a time of great change within the Omaha Police Department. The most visible of these changes was the opening of a fifth police precinct – the West Precinct in Elkhorn. The development of the West Precinct resulted from years of preparation by various entities, both inside and outside the Department, and its impact was felt immediately in the form of enhanced police services and improved police response times. Other important changes in 2019 included the opening of a new helicopter hangar in Blair to house the Air Support Unit, and the addition of mental health co-responders to assist with mental illness-related calls.

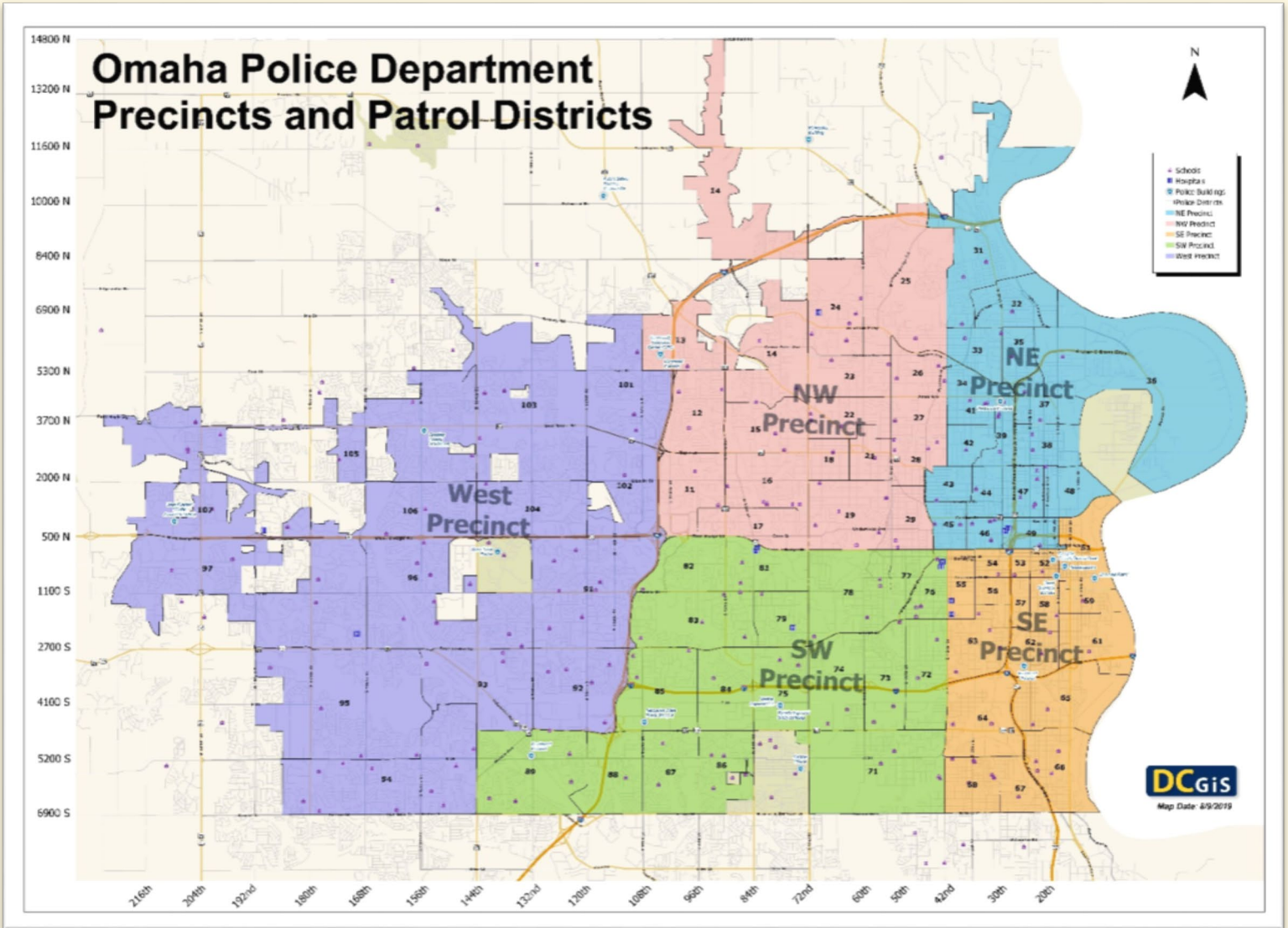
I invite you to explore the information in this report. As you do, you will see the Omaha Police Department is a progressive law enforcement agency that strives to maintain Omaha's status as a safe and family-friendly city. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the Omaha Police Department if we can be of any assistance to you.

Todd R. Schmaderer
Chief of Police
Omaha Police Department

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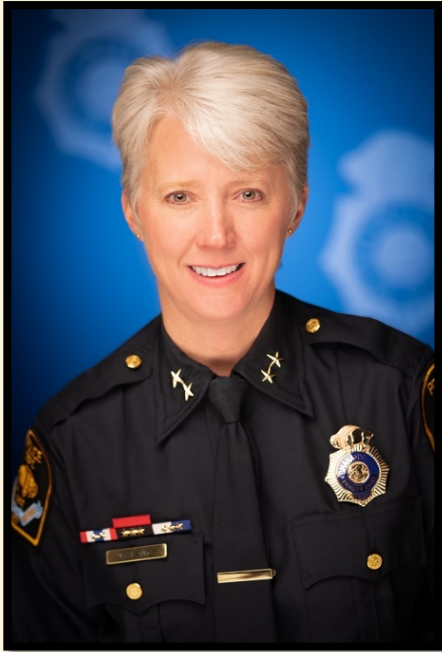


**Population:
468,262**



**Land Area:
145.12 Square Miles**

2019 DEPUTY CHIEFS and DIRECTORS



Deputy Chief Michele Bang
Professional Oversight Bureau



Deputy Chief Greg Gonzalez
Executive Services Bureau



Deputy Chief Scott Gray
Uniform Patrol Bureau



Deputy Chief Ken Kanger
Criminal Investigations Bureau



Deputy Chief Kerry Neumann
Police Services Bureau



Deputy Director David Van Dyke
Technical & Reporting Services

OFFENSES, CLEARANCES AND ARRESTS

Offenses and Clearances: UCR Part I Offenses			
Offense Name	# of Offenses	# Cleared	% Cleared
Criminal Homicide	23	16	70%
Forcible Rape	379	255	67%
Robbery	519	236	45%
Aggravated Assault	1,962	1,311	67%
Burglary	1,684	221	13%
Larceny-Theft	12,307	3,494	28%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,153	758	24%
TOTAL	20,027	6,291	31%

Arrests for UCR Part I and Part II Offenses	
Part I Offenses	# of Arrests
Murder – Manslaughter	20
Forcible Rape	111
Robbery	259
Aggravated Assault	583
Burglary	162
Larceny – Theft	3,064
Motor Vehicle Theft	204
Total Arrests for Part I Offenses	4,403
Part II Offenses	# of Arrests
Assault, Misdemeanor	3,537
Arson	32
Forgery, Counterfeiting	70
Fraud	474
Embezzlement	17
Stolen Property (Buy, Receive, Possess)	417
Vandalism/Destruction of Property	776
Weapons, Carry or Possess	516
Prostitution	45
Sex Offenses (Excluding Rape)	178
Drug Law Violations	2,445
Gambling	3
Against Family and Children	358
Driving Under the Influence	1,541
Liquor Violations	279
Disorderly Conduct	1,058
Loitering, Prowling, Curfew	9
Other (Except Traffic)	2,675
Total Arrests for Part II Offenses	14,430

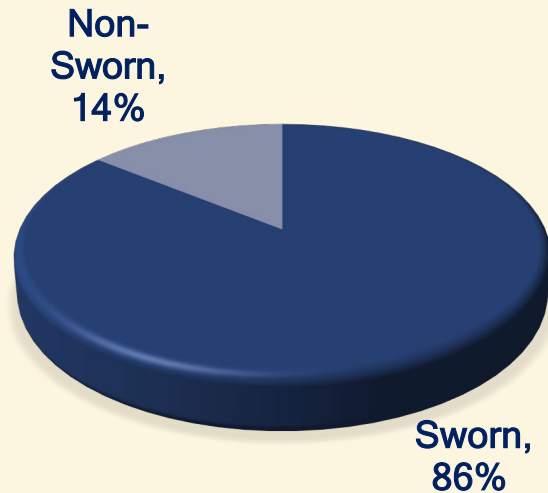
911 CALLS, GANG AND DRUG OFFENSES

911 Calls for Service & Response Times	
911 Calls Received	265,461
Daily Call Average	727
Officer-Initiated Stops	41,745
Priority I Response Time	0:06:03
Priority II Response Time	0:12:06

Gang-Related Part I Offenses		
Offense Name	# of Offenses	# of Arrests
Criminal Homicide	15	12
Robbery	12	61
Aggravated Assault	111	3
Burglary	15	11
Larceny-Theft	34	142
Motor Vehicle Theft	31	0
Forcible Rape	0	6
TOTAL Part I Offenses	218	235

Drug Enforcement Arrests and Seizures		
Drug Type	# of Arrests	Drugs Seized
Cocaine	101	10,088 grams
Crack	29	440 grams
Ecstasy	25	1,480 grams
Marijuana	222	278,827 grams
Methamphetamine	869	57,484 grams
Heroin	33	208 grams
LSD	6	75 doses
Other	153	5,821 doses
TOTAL Felony Drug Arrests	1,438	

EMPLOYEE DIVERSITY



Budgeted Personnel
 Sworn 902
 Non-Sworn 154

Actual Personnel
 Sworn 895
 Non-Sworn 148

2019 Sworn Officers

	Males	Females	Total	% of Dept.
Asian/Pacific Islander	14	1	15	1.67%
Black/African American	65	13	78	8.71%
Hispanic	74	17	91	10.17%
Native American	6	2	8	0.89%
White/Caucasian*	588	115	703	78.55%
Total	747	148	895	100%

Source: Omaha Police Department Police Personnel Employee Demographic Report (1/21/2020)

2019 Non-Sworn Employees

	Males	Females	Total	% of Dept.
Black/African American	4	7	11	7.48%
White	34	90	124	82.99%
Hispanic	3	6	9	0.68%
Other	3	1	4	0.27%
Total	47	100	148	100%

Source: Omaha Police Department Police Personnel Employee Demographic Report (7/11/2019)

CHIEF'S OFFICE

Chief of Police Todd Schmaderer commanded overall operations of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) and reported directly to the Mayor. The Chief directly supervised the Public Information Office, established OPD policies and procedures, and effectively discharged all other duties incumbent upon him as the head of a modern police force with roughly 900 full-time police officers and more than 1,100 total employees.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

In 2019, the Public Information Office (PIO) was commanded by **Lieutenant Sherie Thomas** and reported directly to the Chief of Police. Using a combination of the OPD website, social media, and local news affiliates, the PIO kept Omaha residents informed of OPD activities, important crime and safety information, and valuable crime prevention tips.



Lt. Sherie Thomas
Police Memorial Week Ceremony

The PIO distributed daily press releases, conducted interviews with media members, arranged media interviews with OPD officers and other employees, made on-scene statements at high-profile crime scenes, and helped coordinate the Omaha Crime Stoppers program. Omaha Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for anonymous crime tips, which encourage community members to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime.

Throughout 2019, PIO officers helped coordinate the Crime Stoppers Officer of the Year Luncheon, Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament, Omaha Police Foundation Officer of the Year Luncheon, OPD promotional and retirement ceremonies, NCAA College World Series information sessions, West Precinct grand opening ceremony, and ABLE-1 new hangar grand opening ceremony. PIO officers also managed OPD's social media accounts and the OPD website, facilitated public service announcements on local radio stations, managed and promoted American Red Cross blood drives at OPD, provided Crime Stoppers presentations at local middle schools and to the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, trained Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and OPD command staff in media relations and social media, and helped organize and manage the Pink Patch Project.

OMAHA CRIME STOPPERS	
ENHANCED REWARDS	
\$25,000	HOMICIDE ARREST
\$20,000	BANK ROBBERY ARREST
\$10,000	CREDIT UNION ROBBERY ARREST
\$10,000	SHOOTING ARREST
\$5,000	HOMICIDE FUGITIVE ARREST
\$2,500	ASSAULT ON FIRST RESPONDER ARREST
\$2,500	PRESCRIPTION FRAUD ARREST
\$1,000	GUN BOUNTY

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) was commanded by Deputy Chief Ken Kanger and provided 24-hour crime investigation services. CIB included the Criminal Investigations Section, Special Operations Section, and Special Investigations Section.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) was commanded by **Captain Steve Cerveny** and included the Assault Unit, Auto Theft Unit, Burglary Unit, Homicide Unit, and Robbery Unit. The CIS also contained the Operations Squad and the Officer-Involved Investigations Team (OIIT). The OIIT is an ancillary function responsible for investigating “use of force” incidents involving OPD officers that result in serious bodily injury or death, as well as in-custody deaths and incidents when officers discharge their firearms at a suspect in the line of duty. OIIT investigations are conducted in coordination with the Douglas County Attorney’s Office.



CIS Capt. Steve Cerveny

ASSAULT UNIT

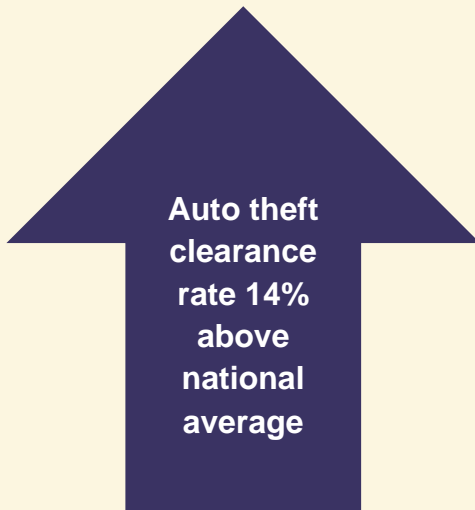
The Assault Unit (AU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Jeremy Christensen** and included the Field Investigations A-Shift Squad. The AU was created and separated from the Homicide Unit in 2018 to focus on non-fatal shootings and other assault investigations to include threats (including school threats) and harassment investigations. In 2019, the AU held weekly meetings with the OPD Gang Unit and other investigative units to enhance communication and improve case outcomes. The AU also placed an emphasis on working with the OPD Crime Analysis Unit, Nebraska Adult and Juvenile Probation, and the Douglas County Youth Center Home Visit Program. These improved relationships led to an Assault clearance rate of 47 percent, which is 5 percent above the national average of 42 percent.

**Assault
clearance
rate 5%
above
national
average**

AUTO THEFT UNIT

The Auto Theft Unit (ATU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Kyle Steffen** and included the Auto Theft Squad and the Pawn/Salvage Squad. The ATU maintained valuable partnerships in

2019 with social media and other technology applications to share up-to-the-minute information and notable incidents within specific neighborhoods. This allowed the ATU to track auto theft patterns and deploy resources in an efficient manner. The ATU also worked closely with the Omaha City Council to amend City Ordinances requiring dealers of secondhand goods to upload electronic transactions into an online tracking system. This system enables detectives to track stolen goods and reduce the secondary market for stolen items. Lastly, the ATU partnered



with the OPD Crime Analysis and Information Technology Units to analyze and improve data collection and reporting. These partnerships allowed the ATU to more accurately report to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Accurate crime data and mapping also enabled the ATU to share intelligible information with command officers and patrol officers, which enhanced directed patrols. Through these efforts and collaborations, the Auto Theft Unit achieved a 24 percent clearance rate, which is more than double the national clearance rate of 10 percent. Overall, the Auto Theft and Pawn/Salvage Squads reviewed and investigated 3,348

auto thefts and 6,035 total thefts, and achieved clearances in 1,068 cases. The Unit also returned \$340,000 of stolen property to theft victims.

BURGLARY UNIT

The Burglary Unit (BU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Charles Casey, Jr.** and included the Fraud Squad. In 2019, BU detectives interviewed 3,061 victims; 1,613 suspects; and 428 witnesses; conducted 538 knock-and-talks; issued 165 arrest warrants; and generated 59 crime series bulletins. Detectives also hosted monthly Retail Coalition meetings at the Northwest Precinct. Participants included Omaha area retailers

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(typically loss prevention / asset protection staff), other area law enforcement personnel, and local prosecutors. The group discussed active cases, emerging and changing trends in how theft occurs, and attempted to identify known suspects.

HOMICIDE UNIT

The Homicide Unit (HU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Stefanie Fidone** and included the Cold Case Squad. In 2019, Omaha continued to experience remarkably low homicide numbers, with only 23 homicides for the year. HU detectives took advantage of these low numbers to achieve an impressive clearance rate of 70 percent for the year, which was 8 percent above the national average.

To sharpen their professional skills, HU detectives hosted the two-week Southern Institute Homicide Investigation Course in Omaha. This course enhanced detectives' knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct competent and complete homicide investigations. HU detectives who attended this training course obtained knowledge from expert instructors, and obtained valuable insight from discussions with peer homicide detectives from other agencies in the United States.

ROBBERY UNIT

The Robbery Unit (RU) was commanded by **Lieutenant KaraLin Starlin**. The RU investigated more than 600 robberies in 2019 – including person robberies, bank robberies, and business robberies – and achieved a clearance rate well above the national average. The RU worked closely

**Bank
robberies
in Omaha
were at a 6-
year low**

with Crime Stoppers to generate public tips by airing robbery videos on local television news programs. These tips provided RU detectives with suspect information and resulted in numerous cash payouts to anonymous tipsters. Detectives also conducted presentations to various banks and area businesses about how to increase security and decrease the chances of being victimized.

As a result of the RU's tremendous investigative and preventative work, bank robberies in Omaha were at a six-year low in 2019. Due to their hard work and exceptional results, the Robbery Unit was awarded the OPD Ribbon of Unit Excellence in July 2019. In addition, several individual RU employees also received a Chief's Letter of Commendation for their diligent investigative work.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS SECTION



SOS Capt. Thomas Shaffer

The Special Operations Section (SOS) was commanded by **Captain Thomas Shaffer** and included the Gang Unit and Narcotics Unit.

GANG UNIT

The Gang Unit (GU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Keith Williamson** and included the Firearms Squad, Fugitive Squad, Gang Intelligence Squad, North and South Gang Suppression Squads, Gang Suppression B-Shift Squad, Gang Suppression Relief Squad, and the Safe Streets Task Force Squad. The GU placed great emphasis on education and prevention activities in 2019, and hired two new Gang Specialists to focus on community interactions and gang prevention. One new Gang Specialist focused on female gang members, and the other Specialist focused on the refugee/Sudanese at-

risk population. The GU also hosted monthly gang intelligence meetings with local law enforcement, probation, parole, and correctional services employees.

Gang detectives made 2,432 arrests, completed 355 search warrants, seized 482 firearms, and conducted 1,197 adult and juvenile probation visits. Detectives also seized roughly 22 lbs. of cocaine and 2.2 lbs. of crack-cocaine, 63 lbs. of methamphetamine, 4.6 lbs. of “ice,” 44 lbs. of marijuana, many other illegal pills and narcotics, and confiscated \$233,982 in illicit money. In July, the Gang Unit partnered with

The Gang Unit made 2,432 arrests, conducted 1,197 adult and juvenile probation visits, recovered 482 firearms, and completed 355 search warrants

the Bomb Response Unit to host firearms amnesty events at two locations: OFD Station #43 and Seymour Smith Park. Officers collected 650 lbs. of ammunition, 300 lbs. of fireworks, 20



Officers Friend (left), Spears (middle) & Lier (right)
Upland Park – National Night Out – August 6th, 2019

long guns (including an illegal short shotgun), and 6 handguns. Gang Unit officers received seven Letters of Work Well Done, ten Letters of Commendation, one Lifesaving Medal, one Purple Heart, one Distinguished Service Medal, two Blue Shield Awards, and one Metropolitan Chiefs Association Dedication Award.

The Fugitive Task Force Squad made 1,094 arrests during the year, and the Safe Streets Task Force conducted a large-scale investigation into the criminal activities of a drug trafficking organization that was providing meth and cocaine to Omaha gangs. This effort resulted in 7 federal arrest warrants, 13 indictments, and the seizure of \$25,000 cash, 3 firearms, 1 kilo of cocaine, 1 lb. of methamphetamine, 4 vehicles, and a business subject to forfeiture.

NARCOTICS UNIT

The Narcotics Unit (NU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Trevor O'Brien** and included the Narcotics Squad, Special Operations/Vice Squad, and Intelligence Squad. The NU observed a rise in supply and use of opioid drugs in 2019. NU detectives seized pills produced by illegitimate manufacturers outside the United States, as well as pills and heroin that contained fentanyl. These drugs were often purchased on the Dark Web by local consumers, so detectives took the initiative to better educate themselves on using the Dark Web to identify and intercept drugs sold on the Internet. While opioids were a major problem, meth continued to be the most dangerous drug threat in the Omaha area. Detectives witnessed an increase in Mexican meth supply chains in 2019, which increased the amount of high quality and low cost meth being shipped to and sold in Omaha.

The NU made 109 felony drug arrests and seized 12 firearms in 2019. The NU also confiscated large amounts of marijuana/THC, meth, cocaine and heroin, and a small amount of crack-cocaine. NU detectives also disrupted Mexican drug trafficking organizations supplying large amounts of meth to the Omaha area and, as a result, made several meth seizures of more than 10 lbs. each and arrested multiple suspects tied to major drug trafficking organizations.

The Narcotics Unit made 109 felony drug arrests, seized 12 firearms, and confiscated large quantities of marijuana/THC, meth, cocaine, and heroin

The Special Operations/Vice Squad (SOVS) arrested 116 suspects for misdemeanor and felony charges related to prostitution in 2019. The SOVS also provided several sex trafficking education presentations to various groups and organizations, including the OPD recruit class, OPD Explorers, North Central Regional Council NAHRO Conference, Beadle Middle School law class, and Adam and Eve adult novelty store employees. The purpose of these presentations was to educate people on the signs to look for in spotting human trafficking victims, and to deter individuals from becoming involved in prostitution. SOVS employees also participated in numerous joint Child Exploitation Human Trafficking Task Force (CEHTTF) prostitution operations in Omaha, Douglas County, Lincoln, La Vista, Sarpy County, and Council Bluffs (IA). The ultimate goal of these undercover operations was to recover human trafficking



Officers Kyle Graber (left) & Heath Brunow (right)
Field Club – National Night Out – August 16, 2019

survivors and prosecute those involved in human trafficking. Special attention was given to combatting trafficking during high profile events such as the NCAA College World Series, U.S. Olympic Swim Trials, and University of Nebraska football games.

In 2019, the Intelligence Squad issued several officer safety and situational awareness bulletins to OPD employees and other area law enforcement agencies after receiving, gathering, and organizing intelligence from various sources. These bulletins

advised of possible threats to officer and public safety. The Intelligence Squad also assisted the United States Secret Service with the dignitary visits of Vice President Pence in April, and the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan in December. The Intelligence Officer assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) conducted multiple terrorism assessments including three that originated from reports filed directly by the OPD. Three of these JTTF investigations resulted in federal indictments. The JTTF officer also assisted the FBI with operations at local special events such as the annual Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting and the NCAA College World Series. The Terrorism Early Warning Group (TEWG) vetted and forwarded information regarding two incidents to the FBI.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION



SIS Capt. Anna Colón

The Special Investigations Section (SIS) was commanded by **Captain Anna Colón** and included the Adult Special Victims Unit and Child Special Victims Unit. In 2019, the SIS implemented the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FETI) as the primary interview technique for interviewing trauma-based cases. FETI provides interviewers with a science-informed interviewing framework that maximizes opportunities for information collection and accurately documents the participant's experience in a neutral, equitable, and fair manner. There were twelve certified FETI officers within the SIS.

The SIS partnered with the FBI Task Force and dedicated two detectives – one full-time and one part-time – to investigate Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases, which include child pornography and sex trafficking cases. In addition, the SIS was awarded a federal Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant, the purpose of which is to inventory and test more than 1,500 previously untested sexual assault kits. The grant also allowed OPD to hire two retired part-time sworn detectives, a full-time non-sworn Site Coordinator, and a full-time non-sworn Crime Analyst. The part-time detectives were responsible for inventory, tracking, and adjudicating all cases yielding viable DNA results. The two non-sworn positions ensured all project milestones were being met, and tracked and reported performance measures.

ADULT SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Adult Special Victims Unit (ASVU) was commanded by **Lieutenant James Sklenar** and included the Domestic Violence Squad and Adult Sexual Assault Squad. The ASVU was committed to providing OPD employees with the training and education they need to provide the best possible response and services to victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and other serious crimes. In 2019, the Domestic Violence (DV) Squad provided 40-hours of Trauma-Informed DV Training to Recruit Classes #1-2019 and #L1-2019. The Squad also partnered with the community to provide domestic violence training and awareness outside the department. These groups included the OPD Citizen's Academy, Fathers for a Lifetime, Boy Scouts, and a Mayor's advisory panel. Squad members also attended various trainings and participated in several work groups and panels. These included Forensic Experiential Trauma Interviewing (FETI) Training, Special Investigations Training, and Sexual Deviant Killer Training. In addition, the DV Squad participated in the countywide



FETI Training at Project Harmony - 2019

Safety Assessment Group, which works to develop protocols and processes for managing domestic violence cases.

CHILD SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Child Special Victims Unit (CSVU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Tracy Scherer** and included the Child Abuse Squad, Child Sexual Assault Squad, and Missing Persons Squad. In 2019, the CSVU expanded its investigative capabilities by adding a second Spanish-speaking detective to help overcome the language barrier found in many cases. The CSVU also conducted 28 community presentations to more than 1,000 Omaha residents throughout the year to enhance community awareness of issues related to child abuse and child sexual assault.

In August, Lieutenant Scherer gave a presentation about the Missing Youth Services (MYS) Program at the nationally-recognized Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas, TX, which was attended by more than 5,000 professionals from around the world. The MYS Program was created to address and provide mental health services for the families of youth who frequently run away from home. Through this presentation, the MYS Program earned attention from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which led multiple leaders from large police agencies across the United States to contact the CSVU to inquire about the program. Overall, more than 750 families were contacted through the MYS Program in the year 2019, and more than 150 of those families received services.

In July, the Missing Persons Squad partnered with Autism Action to implement Project Lifesaver – a program which allows law enforcement to use an electronic tracking device to locate someone who has wandered away from their family or caretakers. By year's end, the OPD had 9 certified Project Lifesaver trainers and 13 certified Project Lifesaver searchers. The first successful OPD use of Project Lifesaver occurred in October when officers quickly located a missing autistic 12-year-old child.



Special Investigations Section officers and employees at Project Harmony - 2019

SPOTLIGHT: YOUTH PROGRAMS

POLICE ATHLETICS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PACE)



Opening night – Kerrie Orozco Field – June 26, 2019

Police Athletics for Community Engagement (PACE) combines community policing, crime prevention, youth development and education via free team sports and camps for “at-risk” and disadvantaged inner-city youth. The Omaha Police Department (OPD) and other local law enforcement agencies participate by mentoring and coaching youth who are recruited from area schools, during juvenile probation checks and neighborhood events, and via parent referrals. PACE’s free activities provide gang prevention, intervention, and suppression through its partnership with the OPD and other local agencies.

In 2019, **178 law enforcement officers volunteered** as coaches and mentors for PACE, and nearly **5,900 youth participated** in PACE athletics and other after school programs. Youth **participation** reached an **all-time high in 2019**, and was **40 percent higher** than in the previous record year of 2018.

On June 26th, PACE and the OPD held a dedication ceremony to officially open **Kerrie Orozco Field at Miller Park**. The field – named for slain OPD Gang Unit Officer and PACE coach Kerrie Orozco – is now home to PACE baseball and softball leagues. During the ceremony, Officer Orozco’s husband and daughter threw out the ceremonial first pitch. The first youth baseball game was played on Kerrie Orozco Field immediately following the ceremony.

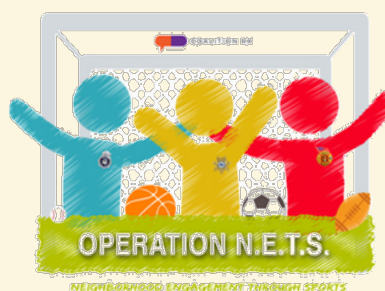
OPERATION NETS



Creighton University basketball player Jordan Scurry and Coach Len Gordy at NETS practice – Nov 27, 2019

Operation NETS is a collaborative effort between the Omaha Police Department, Omaha Fire Department, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and Coalition RX. First responders working with Operation NETS visit neighborhoods across the Omaha area to hand out basketballs, footballs, soccer balls and basketball nets to youth. The mission of Operation NETS (which stands for Neighborhood Engagement Through Sports) is to strengthen community partnerships and communication through engagement, focusing on reaching youth throughout our community via positive interaction and sports.

Operation NETS was created several years ago by the OPD Gang Unit as a way for officers to interact with kids in the community and develop relationships with those kids before they come into contact with police on a law enforcement matter. The program began humbly, with officers replacing tattered or missing basketball nets with brand new nets, or handing out sports balls to kids on the streets. The program has since expanded into an area-wide program.



EXECUTIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Executive Services Bureau (ESB) was commanded by Deputy Chief Greg Gonzalez and included the Evidence and Property Unit, Research and Planning Unit, and Training and Community Services Section. ESB Deputy Chief Gonzalez chaired the Legislative Committee, the Merit Review Committee, and the Safety Review Board.

EVIDENCE/PROPERTY UNIT

The Evidence and Property Unit (EPU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Staci Witkowski**, and was responsible for securely storing all OPD evidence and property items. The EPU accepted 71,497 items of evidence and property and successfully disposed of 32,726 items. The number of disposed items was especially high due to a special drug room project during which 8,000 unneeded drug items were safely disposed. The EPU also deposited more than \$98,000 in unclaimed and forfeited money into the City of Omaha General Fund, and destroyed 1,021 seized and surrendered firearms through the GunBusters Firearms Pulverizer program.



Dep. Chief Gonzalez & Rep. Don Bacon
National Night Out – August 6th, 2019

The EPU processed 71,497 items, disposed of 32,726 items (including 8,000 drug items), deposited \$98,138.64 in City's General Fund, and destroyed 1,021 firearms

During 2019, the EPU worked with the Cold Case Squad to enter case materials from a decades-old homicide into the SAFE digital evidence barcoding system. By the end of 2019, more than 98% of evidence in the EPU was barcoded, and the Unit had fewer than 15 cases remaining to be

completely barcoded. The EPU also passed all required quarterly, semi-annual, and annual inspections and audits.

RESEARCH AND PLANNING UNIT

The Research and Planning Unit (RPU) was supervised by **Research and Planning Supervisor Liddie Daniels** and reported directly to ESB Deputy Chief Greg Gonzalez. The RPU was responsible for updating the OPD Policies and Procedures Manual; creating, updating, and maintaining OPD forms; compiling information and drafting, editing, and

designing the OPD Annual Report; producing General Orders and Information Orders; researching local and national policies and legislation; and managing the Department’s compliance with Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standards and guidelines.

In 2019, the RPU successfully completed the third of four annual off-site file reviews as part of the four-year CALEA accreditation cycle. The RPU also drafted and implemented 72 General Orders to create or revise agency policies; created, updated or rescinded more than 60 official agency forms; completed 46 intensive research projects and surveys of other law enforcement agencies to identify best-practice policies and practices; responded to dozens of surveys from other law enforcement agencies; enhanced OPD efficiency and effectiveness by managing accreditation, policies, forms, training records, and other agency resources within the OPD electronic document management system (PowerDMS); provided training to new police recruits regarding CALEA accreditation and PowerDMS; and completed various projects and tasks for OPD command staff.



TRAINING & COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTION



Capt. Russell Horine

The Training and Community Services Section (TCSS) was commanded by **Captain Russell Horine** and included the Backgrounds/Inspections Unit, Neighborhood Services Unit, and Training Unit, as well as two ancillary components: the Honor Guard and the Pipe and Drums Corp.

BACKGROUND/INSPECTIONS UNIT

The Backgrounds/Inspections Unit (BIU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Gregg Barrios**. The BIU conducted background investigations on sworn and non-sworn job applicants, and verified applicants’ qualifications in an attempt to forecast future job performance. The BIU also completed background investigations for other City departments, as directed. The BIU conducted both announced and unannounced inspections of all OPD on-duty and off-duty work areas, and completed other inspections and investigations as directed by the Chief of Police.

In 2019, the BIU recruited more than 50 Nebraska-certified police officers for a “lateral-entry” recruit class, processed their employment applications, arranged structured interviews with

OPD command staff, completed 37 background investigations, and helped select Lateral Recruit Class #L1-2019. This class began in March with 18 lateral recruits. Later in 2019, BIU investigators completed an additional 135 background investigations for new police officer recruit candidates and helped select Recruit Class #1-2019, which started in December with 39 police recruits.

BIU officers conducted regular recruiting activities throughout 2019. Officers attended 16 job fairs at the following locations: the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Des Moines Community College, Offutt Air Force Base, Wayne State College, Bellevue University, Iowa State University, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Creighton University, Union College, and Missouri Western University. Officers



also presented to a criminal justice class at UNO, attended both the Leadership Africa Summit and Offutt Air Force Base Transition Assistance Program, hosted a table at the Female First Responders Conference, and attended the Creighton University student wellness fair.

The BIU completed 342 sworn and civilian background investigations, and completed 36 cash account audits

BIU detectives also completed background investigations for 170 non-sworn job applicants, conducted quarterly cash audits for 9 OPD units (36 total audits), completed 5 drug burns to dispose of illegal drugs, audited General Fund Deposits on 6 different occasions, updated the Backgrounds/Inspections Unit Manual to reflect current policies and procedures, and successfully implemented a new facial hair policy under which 41 OPD officers were approved for beard allowances.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT

The Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Charles Ott** and included the Business Watch Squad, Nuisance Task Force Squad, Prevention Programs Squad, SRO North Squad, SRO South Squad, Truancy Officer Squad, and Volunteer Services Squad. The NSU provided assistance to the public on problem resolution and prevention programs. In 2019, the Business Watch Squad conducted 40 Business Watch presentations, 222 closed property registrations, 515 follow-up visits with victims of robberies and burglaries, and 60 “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design” follow-up visits with victim businesses. The Squad had 250 registered Business Watch group members.

The Nuisance Task Force (NTF) responds to nuisance calls received by the Mayor’s Hotline, by City Council members, and by OPD precinct commanders. In 2019, the NTF handled 2,407 Mayor’s hotline complaints; issued 1,448 nuisance notices; closed 1,923 complaints; and towed 243 vehicles.

The Prevention Programs Squad (PPS) completed 237 community presentations and participated in 84 communitywide events, during which they made contact with 81,679 community members. The PPS completed 128 local school and business safety audits, hosted kindergarten traffic training for 180 children, gave Safety Patrol presentations to 270 children at 7 schools, and hosted the annual Scout Day event for 538 local Boy and Girl Scouts and their family members. PPS officers also helped to coordinate, and participated in, a week-long summer educational camp at Police Athletics for Community Engagement (PACE) for 390 youth, a three-day educational summer camp at PACE for 141 teens, a Spring PACE Camp for 35 youth, a Fall PACE Camp for 26 youth, and the annual Winter PACE Camp for 72 youth. In addition, the PPS hosted a Crime Scene Investigations Day Camp for 40 area high school students, and the autumn session of the Omaha Police Explorer Post #591 for 36 students.

The PPS completed 237 community presentations, attended 84 events, contacted 81,679 community members, and completed 128 safety audits

In August, the School Resource Officer (SRO) North and South Squads, with the assistance of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, attended an intensive day of “active shooter training” at Millard West High School. This training included a real life scenario aided

by role players inside the school to add an element of realism to the training.



Ofcr. Jennifer Nelson speaks with elementary students – June 21, 2019

On September 23rd – after completing training with the ATF – Officer Daniel Torres and his canine “Peace” were assigned to the Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU). Peace is an explosives

detection canine, and she is used to assist in searching crime scenes where firearms are used. Officer Torres and Peace conducted demonstrations for school officials showing Peace’s capabilities, and Peace was used at all school districts as a deterrent to keep guns and explosives out of schools.

The Volunteer Services Squad managed 104 volunteers including 35 handicapped parking patrol volunteers, 18 volunteer chaplains, 12 college interns, and 39 additional OPD volunteers. In November, the Volunteer Services Squad hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon during which OPD volunteers were recognized for their service to the Omaha Police Department.

During the first half of 2019, the Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU) organized and participated in numerous community events throughout the City of Omaha. These included the Omaha Teen Summit at the UNO (350 attendees); the all-girls PACE camp (35 attendees); the Leadership Africa Summit at UNO (500 attendees); the Healthy Kids Event at Aksarben Village (2,000+ attendees); the Latino Police Officers' Association (LPOA) Easter Egg Hunt (5,000+ attendees); the Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25 Memorial Run (600 runners); and the Omaha Fire Department's "Stop the Bleed" event for 200 Omaha Public Schools security officers. In June, the NSU organized and hosted a Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) Camp for 40 high school students who were interested in forensics.



Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Camp for high school students – June 12th, 2019

The NSU also organized and attended various community events during the second half of 2019. These included the week-long PACE Summer Camp for 8-11 year olds (78 attendees per day); a three-day PACE Summer camp for 12-15 year olds (47 attendees per day); OPD's annual SAFE community event (300+ youth and family member attendees); the annual Kindergarten Traffic Training for 180 youth; National Night Out in 40 Omaha neighborhoods; the annual Touch-a-Truck event sponsored by the Child Saving Institute (4,000 attendees); the Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols Recognition Banquet (300 attendees); the Southeast Precinct Meet and Treat safe trick-or-treating event (1,500 attendees); the 16th annual Scout Day event (538 attendees); a one-day all-boys PACE camp (26 attendees); the annual PACE Winter Camp (72 attendees); and the Southeast Precinct "Holiday with the Blue" event at Omaha South High School (4,000 attendees).

TRAINING UNIT

The Training Unit was commanded by **Lieutenant John Wells** and included Recruit Squad and Training Squad. The Training Unit provided a basic recruit academy for new recruit officers, maintained continuing education courses for all sworn officers, and coordinated all training for non-sworn OPD employees. On March 15th, Recruit Class #1-2018 graduated with 55 police recruits following 23 weeks of training. Class #1-2018 then completed 15 weeks of field training. On May 3rd, Lateral Recruit Class #L1-2019 graduated with 18 lateral police recruits after 8 weeks of training. Class #L1-2019 then completed a shortened field training phase, as they were already sworn law enforcement officers certified by the State of Nebraska prior to joining OPD. On December 2nd, Recruit Class #1-2019 started their training academy with 36 police recruits, including 2 OFD Fire Investigators.



Day 1 of OPD Recruit Class #1-2019
Omaha Public Safety Training Center – December 2nd, 2019

Department-wide in-service training (In-Service #1-2019) was held from May 6th through September 27th, and was attended by 879 officers at the rank of lieutenant and below. In-service training topics included vehicle close-quarters battle (VCQB) / high-risk traffic stops, CPR, harassment, Excited Delirium, OC spray and baton training, shotgun qualification, courtroom testimony, and mental health response. This training required 9,880 Training Unit staff hours to complete. The Unit also conducted rifle recertification for 311 officers, which required 1,120 staff hours.



VCQB / high-risk traffic stop training – 2019 In-Service

In 2019, the Training Squad assisted in purchasing and deploying a new shotgun for agency use. To deploy this new shotgun, the Squad first familiarized 879 officers with the new weapon, and then had officers qualify using the new shotgun. The Squad deployed 132 new shotguns to officers in 2019. The Training Squad also assisted with the Chief's initiative

to have all UPB officers carry Tasers while on duty. The Squad conducted Taser training for 206 officers in 15 different classes during 2019, and by year-end there were 589 Taser-trained OPD officers. The Squad also assisted with training and deployment of OPD body cameras (By the end of 2019, there were 575 body cameras in use by OPD officers); hosted Pepperball certification training for 39 new officers; hosted three 40-hour patrol rifle certification courses and trained 37 new rifle-certified officers; and recorded 68,557 hours of continuing education training for OPD officers.

HONOR GUARD (ANCILLARY UNIT)

The Honor Guard is an ancillary unit that is convened, as needed. In 2019, the Honor Guard participated in 72 events including 25 color guards; 17 OPD retiree funerals; 2 line-of-duty death funerals for outside agencies; the Blue Mass; Memorial Day services; Police Memorial Week candlelight vigil walk downtown; Police Memorial Day; and two OPD recruit class graduations. The Honor Guard also participated in numerous local parades such as the “Honor and Sacrifice” parade and presentation, and presented colors at the Gary Sinise golf event and the APSCON opening ceremonies. Police Memorial Week duties in Washington, D.C. included survivor family escorts from Reagan International Airport; family escorts, cordoning, and backdrop duties at the candlelight vigil; Police Memorial Day at the United States Capitol; and Wreath Guard at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.



Ofcr. Adam Jaworski
Funeral – NSP Trooper Jerry Smith

PIPE AND DRUMS CORP (ANCILLARY UNIT)



OPD Pipe and Drums Corp
Police Memorial Week – May 13th, 2019

The OPD Pipe and Drums Corp, like the Honor Guard, is an ancillary unit. In 2019, the Pipe and Drums Corp added two additional drummers to its roster: **Officers Romina Perez** and **Austin Beck**. The Pipe and Drums Corp had its busiest year ever in 2019, performing at 21 funerals and 29 other events such as award ceremonies, community gatherings, and banquets.

2019 RECRUIT CLASSES



Recruit Class #1-2018 graduated on **Friday, March 15th** after 23 weeks of intense training. This class graduated with **55 OPD recruits**, and then moved into the Field Training phase of the Academy for 15 weeks of street training under the tutelage of veteran OPD officers.



Lateral Recruit Class #L1-2019 included **already-certified Nebraska law enforcement officers**. The class graduated on **Friday, May 3rd** after a condensed 8-week academy tailored for experienced officers. This class graduated with **18 OPD recruits** before moving into the Field Training phase for street training under the guidance of veteran OPD officers.



Recruit Class #1-2019 began **December 2nd** with **36 police recruits** and 2 OFD arson investigators. The class graduated on **April 24th, 2020**. After graduation, the recruits entered the Field Training phase of the Academy for 15-weeks.

PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT BUREAU

The Professional Oversight Bureau (POB) was commanded by Deputy Chief Michele Bang and included the Internal Affairs Unit and Health, Wellness, and Crisis Intervention Unit. The POB's main duties were to provide professional review services to the OPD, and to respond to respond to public records requests per Nebraska Revised Statutes §84-712 et al.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

The Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) – commanded by **Lieutenant Catherine Milone** – investigated both external complaints and internal complaints against agency employees. The IAU also worked with the City of Omaha Human Resources Department (City HR). City HR investigates external and internal complaints made against non-sworn OPD employees, as well as allegations of harassment against both sworn and non-sworn employees. While City HR oversaw these investigations, the incidents were identified and forwarded to City HR for investigation by OPD command officers.

IAU & City HR Activity	2019
Citizen Complaints Total	31
Dispositions:	
Not Sustained	23
Sustained	34
Exonerated	66
Unfounded	8
No Finding/Court Issue	0
Policy Failure	0
Open	0
TOTAL	131

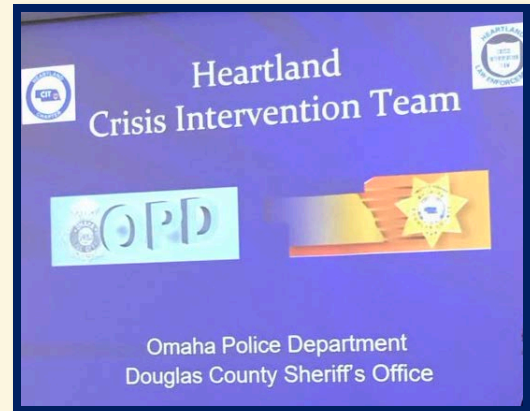
IAU & City HR Activity	2019
Internal Complaints Total	47
Dispositions:	
Not Sustained	30
Sustained	132
Exonerated	6
Unfounded	2
No Finding/Court Issue	1
Policy Failure	2
Open	0
TOTAL	173

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND CRISIS INTERVENTION UNIT

The Health, Wellness and Crisis Intervention Unit (HWCIU) was created in 2019 and was commanded by **Mental Health Coordinator Lindsay Kroll**. The HWCIU is a specially-trained unit that engages in a multidisciplinary community team approach to train employees, plan and implement strategic programming, and respond to behavioral health-related crisis situations. The HWCIU was created to address the need for early intervention and treatment for people with mental health concerns. This is a critical step in diverting these individuals from the criminal justice system, avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations, and reducing any

potential long-lasting trauma impact. The HWCIU included the Mental Health Coordinator and five Co-Responder Clinicians. The Co-Responder Clinicians partner with Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officers, when available, to respond to mental health-related calls for service.

The HWCIU served as a central resource for OPD officers when responding to persons suffering from mental illness. The HWCIU connected the behavioral health, law enforcement, and justice systems to ensure a coordinated and efficient response. In 2019, the Co-Responder Clinicians responded to 671 calls and successfully decreased calls into 911 by providing proactive outreach to individuals in mental health crisis. HWCIU employees also assisted with the crisis intervention training program for first responders. There were three crisis intervention courses, and each of these courses included 40 hours of intensive training, education, and scenario-based interactions. In addition, HWCIU staff developed improved tracking systems for mental health-related calls for service, enhanced data collection to assist with interventions, and provided additional resources to meet the increasing need.



POLICE SERVICES BUREAU

The Police Services Bureau (PSB) provided support services to the Omaha Police Department (OPD) and prepared and monitored the OPD budget. In 2019, the PSB was commanded by Deputy Chief Kerry Neumann and included the Air Support Unit, Administrative Information Section, Fiscal Affairs, Mobile IT Unit, and Support Services Section. The PSB provided support services to the Omaha Police Department.

AIR SUPPORT UNIT

The Air Support Unit (ASU) was staffed by one sergeant, six pilot officers, and two mechanics. PSB command initiated major changes within the ASU in 2019 to prepare the Unit for long-term success. The biggest of these changes was moving the ASU from the North Omaha Airport, where it had resided for 22 years since moving from Eppley Airfield in 1997, to a newly-remodeled hangar at the Blair Municipal Airport. The new hangar is larger and better equipped to handle a fleet of aircraft. In addition to opening the new hangar, PSB command initiated the process of hiring a Chief Pilot to improve the ASU's stability and professionalism. Although the Chief Pilot was not hired until January 2020, much of the work to prepare for and hire this new position was accomplished in 2019.



Dep. Chief Neumann and ASU pilots
OPD Blair Airport Hangar grand opening – July 11th, 2019

Air Support Activities	2019
Flight Hours	453.9
Total Activity	6,901
Officer Initiated	3,723
Radio Calls	673
Assignments	2,505
Total Pursuits	38
Vehicle	14
Foot	24
Outside Agency Assists	80
Unit Presentations	50

In March, the Air Support Unit (ASU) flew 25 hours in support of flood response efforts in eastern Nebraska. This included monitoring rising waters in nearby communities and assisting with locating persons stranded by high water. In one dramatic incident, ASU pilots rescued a man and his son who were trapped in their truck by rising flood waters. In another incident, **ASU Officers Matt Steward and Jason Messerschmidt** landed their helicopter on

dry ground and rescued a man who was stuck in the Elkhorn River by pulling the man from the moving water. ASU pilots also assisted with flood-related VIP visits to the area. In one case, ASU pilots assisted with a motorcade to transport President Donald Trump from Offutt Air Force Base to a location in Iowa so he could observe flood conditions. In another instance, ASU pilots assisted with a motorcade to transport Vice President Mike Pence from Eppley Airfield to the Elkhorn area to observe flooding.

From July 15th – 17th, the Air Support Unit and OPD hosted the annual Airborne Public Safety Conference (APSCON) at the CHI Health Center Omaha and the Hilton Omaha. This was the first time Omaha had hosted this national conference, which attracts law enforcement air support pilots from all over the United States. APSCON attendees received education and training, including some of the finest conference classes in the industry taught by nationally-recognized experts in the field.



Capt. Scott (far left), Dep. Chief Neumann (3rd from right), Sgt. Straub (2nd from right)
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – OPD Blair Airport Hangar – July 11th, 2019

FISCAL AFFAIRS

The Fiscal Affairs function worked with the City of Omaha Finance Department to manage OPD financial accounts, and assisted in preparing and monitoring the OPD budget, as well as projecting future OPD spending. The Fiscal Affairs function reported directly to the PSB Deputy Chief. Each year, Fiscal Affairs works closely with the City Finance Department and OPD's senior staff to draft a budget for the following fiscal year. Fiscal Affairs also monitors OPD spending throughout the year to ensure the agency is fiscally sound.

MOBILE IT UNIT

The Mobile IT Unit was commanded by Lieutenant James Pauly and reported directly to the PSB Deputy Chief. The Unit was responsible for the maintenance and proper functioning of OPD mobile technologies, including the Mobile Data Computer (MDC) systems, Mobile Video Recorder (MVR) systems, and Body Worn Camera (BWC) systems. The Unit also provided technical support to all OPD personnel on these systems, and on the electronic reporting systems. The Mobile IT Unit contained the Digitally Recorded Evidence Access and Management (DREAM) Squad.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION SECTION

The Administrative Information Section (AIS) was commanded by **Captain Laurie Scott** and included the Emergency Response Unit, Police Personnel Unit, and Records Unit. The AIS provided specialized support services to the OPD and the residents of Omaha.



Capt. Laurie Scott

EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT

The Emergency Response Unit (ERU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Jay Leavitt** and included the TSA Explosives Detection Canine Squad, Bomb Response Squad, and the ancillary Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. ERU employees operate the OPD Mobile Command Center at major events and on-scene at critical incidents.

The TSA Explosive Detection Canine Squad, Bomb Response Squad, and SWAT Team – as they do each year – conducted enhanced security at the Berkshire Hathaway Shareholders' Meeting and the NCAA College World Series in 2019. Mobile Command Center operators also assisted Douglas County Emergency Management with communications during spring flooding events that occurred throughout the Omaha area. In addition, the TSA Explosive Detection Canine Squad completed regular safety sweeps at Eppley Airfield, and at TSA-mandated monthly training sessions. For the year, the Squad received 51 calls for service and various large bomb sweeps, bomb threats, and community outreach programs.

The Bomb Response Squad (BRS) responded to 35 calls for service in 2019. Those calls included bomb threats, found explosives, suspicious packages, bomb hoax calls, and recovered improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The BRS assisted numerous federal, state, and

BRS officers responded to 35 calls for service and completed 288 hours of explosives training

local law enforcement agencies during their assignments. The BRS also assisted with firearms amnesty day, which resulted in the recovery of 300 lbs. of fireworks and 650 lbs. of ammunition. Two BRS members attended Hazardous Device School and became certified bomb technicians to replace recently-retired certified bomb technicians. Overall BRS officers completed 288 training hours in 2019.

SWAT completed 102 high-risk warrants, responded to 10 barricaded subjects and 16 other high-risk assignments, and completed 336 hours of specialized SWAT training

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team completed 102 high-risk warrants, responded to 10 barricaded subject incidents, assisted with 1 Fugitive Squad operation, conducted 3 dignitary protection assignments, completed numerous REACT operations to protect undercover officers, and conducted 15 additional high-risk assignments. The SWAT Team also

completed 192 hours of firearms and tactics training, 48 hours of explosive breach training, and 96 hours of additional specialized skills training.



The SWAT Team responds to an incident in the Metro Emergency Response Vehicle (MERV)

The SWAT Team includes nine Crisis Negotiators who are specially trained to effectively communicate with individuals who are in the midst of crisis situations. Crisis Negotiators have trained for hundreds of hours to master communication techniques and principles used to achieve positive responses from individuals in crisis situations, and are especially trained in dealing with barricaded subjects, hostage situations, and

suicidal persons. The Crisis Negotiator Team added three new members in August 2019, including a second bilingual officer. Overall, the Crisis Negotiation Team responded to 19 incidents, including 10 barricaded subjects and 9 suicidal persons (including one with a hostage).

Crisis Negotiators responded to 19 incidents including 10 barricaded subjects and 9 suicidal persons

RECORDS UNIT

In 2019, the Records Unit was managed by **Administrative Information Manager Nancy Wilson** and included the Data Center, Records Squad, and Telephone Report Squad. The Unit was also responsible for the administrative functions required by the Fugitive Squad. The Data Center operated the OPD Information Channel (internal radio channel) to provide officers with information via radio, conveyed and received criminal history information from the

Nebraska and National Law Enforcement Teletype System (NCLETS), and entered and retrieved criminal data for the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and Nebraska Crime Information System (NCIS). Throughout 2019, the Data Center hired and trained five full-time Police Information Operator I employees and promoted one Police Information Operator II. An additional three Police Information Operators became fully NCIC certified.

The Records Squad maintained OPD's Central Records System to include scanning, filling, and disseminating reports and criminal history information. The Records Squad handled all

Records Unit Services	2019
Record Bureau Numbers Issued	96,617
Reports Purchased by Public	12,036
Reports Provided to Other Agencies	5,073
Criminal History Requests	8,422
Telephone Response Squad	2019
Report Made	13,380
Incidents Reported	14,922
No Report Made	9,437
Referral to 911	233
Left Message	12,017
Unable to Contact	2,652
TOTAL ACTIVITY	52,641

reports generated by OPD employees, and also stored, retrieved, reproduced, and delivered reports to both internal and external customers. The Telephone Response Squad (TRS) was responsible for taking telephone report calls and all non-emergency police reports, and entering the information into the OPD computer system for follow-up. This allowed OPD officers to focus on active patrol, traffic enforcement, and investigating more serious criminal matters.



SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION

The Support Services Section (SSS) was commanded by **Captain Edward Reyes** and provided information and specific support services to the agency. The SSS included the Customer Services Unit, Digital Forensics Squad, Fleet/Facilities Unit, Forensic Investigations Unit, Police Supply Unit, and Vehicle Impound Lot.



Capt. Edward Reyes

CUSTOMER SERVICES UNIT

The Customer Services Unit (CSU) was commanded by **Lieutenant Vivian Buckley** and included the Court Liaison Squad, Front Desk Squad, and Information Services Squad. The CSU provided a variety of services and support functions. These included receiving and processing incoming telephone calls, handling inquiries from the public, and taking walk-in reports. The Court Liaison Squad saved the City of Omaha \$1,540,876 in court overtime costs in 2019. This was accomplished by monitoring the court schedule for

The Court Liaison Squad saved the City of Omaha \$1,540,876 by cancelling 9,241 unneeded police officer court appearances

cancellations and alerting officers scheduled to attend those hearings that their presence was no longer needed. The Court Liaison Squad cancelled 9,241 officer court appearances in 2019. The Front Desk Squad was available 24 hours a day to provide

customer service to Omaha residents and visitors. The most common tasks included completing firearms registrations and distributing police reports, mugshots, fingerprints, and criminal history reports.

FRONT DESK SQUAD STATISTICS (2019)

	Firearm Registrations	Firearm Denials	Reports Sold	Mugshots	Fingerprints	Criminal Histories
TOTALS	2,429	72	4,511	1,175	1,202	1,845

DIGITAL FORENSICS SQUAD

The Digital Forensics Squad (DFS) provided digital evidence collection, preservation, and investigation support to police field operations. The DFS includes six officers who perform forensically sound acquisitions of digital data from all types of electronic devices. DFS officers then assisted investigators and criminal courts to understand and analyze these complex datasets. The DFS played a pivotal role in Homicide Unit and Child Victim Sexual Assault Unit investigations, and investigations for other Criminal Investigations Section units.

In 2019, DFS **Officers Keith Nielsen** and **Aaron Pennington** completed International Association of Computer Investigative Specialist Training and became Certified Forensic Computer Examiners (CFCE). The CFCE program is an arduous process that includes complex practical exercises and written assessments in which candidates demonstrate technical knowledge and practical proficiency in multiple scientific areas. The courts generally recognize CFCE certification as an indication of expertise in the field of digital forensics.

FLEET AND FACILITIES UNIT

The Fleet and Facilities Unit, managed by **Fleet and Facilities Coordinator Dan Nelson**, managed the procurement, service, and maintenance of all OPD vehicles and facilities. In 2019, the Unit purchased 30 new police utility vehicles, submitted 371 work orders (including 94 preventive maintenance actions), and completed 403 agency work orders. The Fleet and Facilities Unit also painted and installed new desks in the Internal Affairs Unit area at OPD Central Headquarters, and painted and installed new carpet on the fifth floor at OPD Central Headquarters in the Research and Planning Unit and Fleet and Facilities offices. In addition, the Fleet and Facilities Unit assisted in opening the new Air Support Unit hangar at the Blair Airport, and helped open the new OPD West Precinct.

Fleet & Facilities completed 403 work orders, submitted 371 orders, and purchased 30 new police utility vehicles

FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

FIU is ANAB / ISO / IEC 17020 accredited in crime scene investigation and documentation, latent print exams, evidence collection, 3D measurement and forensic mapping, presumptive testing, and incident reconstruction

The Forensic Investigations Unit (FIU) experienced an historic year of professional development, strategic reorganization, and advanced forensic capabilities in 2019. The FIU maintained ANAB / ISO / IEC 17020 accreditation in the areas of crime scene investigation and documentation, latent print examination, evidence collection, 3D measurement and forensic mapping, presumptive testing, and incident reconstruction. The FIU also established two elected Quality Representatives to the PowerDMS workflow for FIU policies. These positions are elected annually and act as direct representatives for the rank and file Forensic Technicians into the quality workflow for Unit policies. FIU also implemented the Latent Print Examination Squad (LPES). The LPES is a specialized group of Senior Forensic Technicians and expert Forensic Technicians that was established to increase the quality and efficiency of latent print examinations. In its first year, the LPES achieved a 276 percent increase in latent print examinations completed.

The FIU hosted a weeklong Shooting Incident Reconstruction (SIR) class taught by a national leader in shooting reconstruction training. Twelve FIU employees attended. This training has been critical to better evidence collection and proper interpretation at some of Omaha's most violent crime scenes. Throughout the year, most FIU employees attended at least one full day of training at the Annual Nebraska Division of the International Association of Identification (IAI) Conference. Each training session was vital to maintaining ISO Accreditation standards, certifications for FIU Analysts, and responsible budget management.



VEHICLE IMPOUND LOT

The Vehicle Impound Lot was led by **Impound Lot Manager Reginald Johnson**. In 2019, the Impound Lot generated nearly \$3.4 million in revenue for the City's General Fund. This total included approximately \$1.7 million from auctioning 3,005 vehicles; about \$1.7 million from cash register revenues; and more than \$40 thousand from auctioning abandoned property found inside vehicles. The Impound Lot processed 13,365 vehicles for the year, including 12,355 vehicles for the Omaha Police Department; 650 vehicles for the Nebraska State Patrol; and 360 vehicles for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The Impound Lot also produced 16,590 certified lien letters throughout 2019. These included 9,746 5-day letters; 5,639 30-day letters; and 2,779 investigative letters. In addition, the Impound Lot processed 4,276 Nebraska applications for titles.

The Impound Lot generated \$3,390,162.47 for the City of Omaha and processed 13,365 vehicles



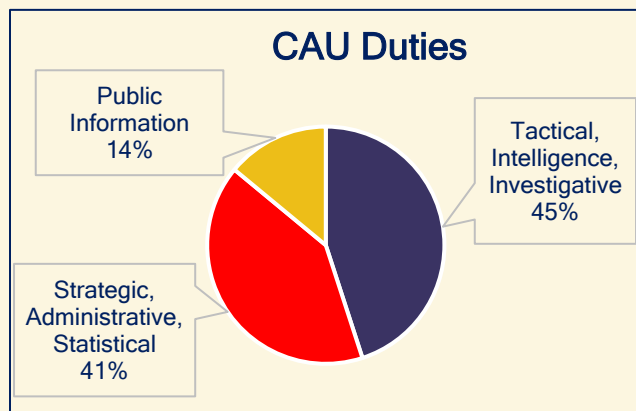
TECHNICAL & REPORTING SERVICES

The Technical and Reporting Services Bureau (TRSB) was established in 2019 to improve the OPD report services, technology management, and crime analysis functions. In June 2019, **Deputy Director David Van Dyke** was hired and assigned to manage the TRSB, which included the Crime Analysis Unit and Information Technology Unit.

CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

The Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) was supervised by **Crime Analysis Manager Carla Parrack** and reported directly to **Deputy Director Van Dyke**. The CAU assisted with planning and deployment of resources to suppress and prevent criminal activities by providing administrative, strategic, operational, intelligence, and tactical support. The CAU – comprised of five (5) non-sworn Crime Analysts – is a member of the Mid-America Regional Crime Analysis Network (MARCAN) and the International Association of Crime Analysts (IACA).

In 2019, 45 percent of CAU duties included Tactical, Intelligence and Investigative Support. This included producing weekly criminal activity maps and data; identifying crimes series and patterns, and distributing the findings to street officers and detectives; conducting investigative



database searches to assist detectives by identifying possible suspects or linking multiple crimes to known suspects; and conducting link analysis utilizing specialized software applications and social media communications.

Forty-one (41) percent of CAU duties included Strategic, Administrative, and Statistical Support. This included preparing and compiling monthly CompStat presentations; preparing quarterly DDACTS maps (Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety); gathering, compiling, and reporting crime data to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and the FBI per the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting rules; and compiling and publishing monthly and quarterly reports and posting them on the OPD website. The remaining fourteen (14) percent of CAU duties involved Public Information Support. This included responding to external public information requests approved by the Chief of Police, and participating in intern and college presentations and tours.

In May, **Crime Analyst Johanna Peterson** had an article published by the *International Journal of Research and Public Health*. The article, "[Examining the impact of victimization on girls' delinquency: A study of direct and indirect effects](#)," was compiled from Peterson's Master's thesis which examined how indirect and direct forms of victimization differentially affect girls' delinquency outcomes including fighting, substance abuse, running away, and sex work.

In September, **Crime Analyst Ryan Croghan** became an IACA Certified Law Enforcement Analyst (CLEA). Croghan joined **Crime Analyst Shawn Fisher** as the second IACA CLEA working in the Crime Analysis Unit. Fisher first obtained her CLEA status in October 2008 and has maintained it since that time. To achieve this level of certification, applicants must have three years of full-time experience as an analyst in the field of law enforcement, corrections, intelligence, or related fields; be a member of IACA; and satisfy specific criteria chosen to assess work and educational experience. The remaining Crime Analysts are working toward the goal of obtaining certification once they are eligible to take the exam.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT

The Information Technology (IT) Unit, supervised by **IT Manager Joe Franco**, ensured proper maintenance and new development of the OPD's IT systems including the Law Records Management System (LRMS), IT infrastructure, and all web-based applications. The IT Unit also reviewed purchases and agreements related to outside IT vendors.

The IT Unit performed several major upgrades in 2019 to keep OPD operating systems secure and operating at current industry standards. While this is an ongoing task for the IT Unit, there were several major upgrades that outpaced the activity normally dedicated to keeping OPD systems current. The most significant of these was the implementation of a new case management system to replace a 15-20 year-old system. The new system significantly improves the efficiency of detectives' work in all investigative units. It integrates more efficiently with the OPD Records Management System and reduces redundancies that were previously required to keep the systems in sync.

Enactment of the new system further fulfilled the Unit's strategic objective of making the systems more integrated so they are easier to manage and use. Implementation of the new case management system was the end-result of a two-year effort by the IT Unit staff to develop a platform that was more up-to-date, and would handle new data attributes associated with federally mandated NIBRS requirements. Careful planning and execution resulted in a very smooth transition from the legacy system to the new system in March of 2019.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL AWARD



Sergeant Jeff Kopietz (center) – U.S. Marshals Service 2019 Officer of the Year Ceremony – Washington, D.C

On August 8th, **Sergeant Jeff Kopietz** was awarded the **United States Marshals Service 2019 Officer of the Year** at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. This award is presented to a federal, state, or local law enforcement official who has made a significant contribution to the mission of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Sgt. Kopietz began working as an Omaha Police Department representative of the Omaha Metro Fugitive Task Force, led by the U.S. Marshals Service, in 2007. He was chosen for this award due to his commitment to the Task Force, his success in arresting dangerous criminals, and his bravery in successfully apprehending a violent gang member who shot and killed Officer Kerrie Orozco in 2015.

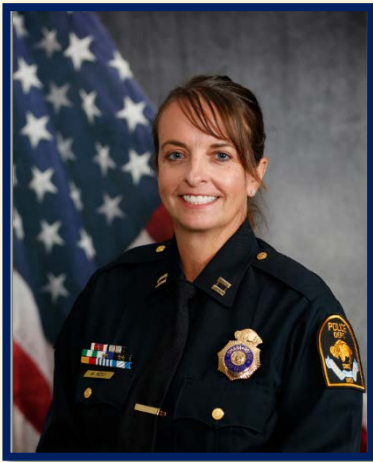
Sgt. Kopietz was the first Omaha Police Department officer to receive this award.

UNIFORM PATROL BUREAU

The Uniform Patrol Bureau (UPB) was commanded by Deputy Chief Scott Gray and provided 24-hour general police services to the public. These services included uniform patrol, emergency response to calls-for-service, general law enforcement, community outreach, event safety services, drug interdiction, and problem resolution. At the beginning of 2019, the UPB included the Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest Precincts. In September 2019, the UPB added a fifth precinct – the West Precinct – located in Elkhorn. A Captain commanded each precinct, and a Crime Prevention Specialist assisted each precinct with problem resolution and crime prevention education for the community.

NORTHWEST PRECINCT

The Northwest (NW) Precinct was commanded by **Captain S. Marcia West** and included NW Shift Command, the 10 and 20 Areas, and 10/20 Area Relief. The NW Precinct operated



Capt. S. Marcia West

under the belief that people’s voices are best heard via direct communication, and residents’ needs are best met if all those involved understand the situation at hand. Guided by this philosophy, NW officers and employees eagerly accepted invitations to visit schools, businesses, churches, and neighborhood meetings to speak with residents in person.

The NW Precinct hosted its annual Community Education and Training Program (Citizen’s Academy) between April 8th and May 13th. The Citizen’s Academy included up to 40 participants who received an in-depth education about the OPD and its various professional functions. Attendees heard from more than a dozen speakers throughout the Citizen’s Academy, and took part in a firearms training “shoot / don’t shoot” scenario at the end of the program in OPD’s VirTra firearms simulator.

On June 28th, the annual City of Omaha Celebrates America event took place at Memorial Park, and was attended by approximately 50,000 people. As it does each year, the NW Precinct created a comprehensive safety plan for the event, provided security and traffic control, and coordinated dozens of officers from multiple units to ensure the event was safe and enjoyable. On July 30th, the NW Precinct held its annual “Cone with a Cop” event at Dairy Queen on 144th and Maple Streets. Children at this event were given a free ice cream cone, and officers

also handed out OPD memorabilia and bike helmets courtesy of AAA Nebraska. Then on August 6th, NW Precinct employees attended 16 neighborhood parties during the annual National Night Out event. Additional community events included: NW Precinct Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, Retail Coalition meetings, and Omaha Refugee Task Force/Legal Subcommittee meetings, Omaha Housing Authority (OHA) information sharing meetings; Omaha 360 violence prevention meetings, Empowerment Network meetings, community prayer walks, neighborhood watch group meetings, two Coffee with a Cop events, Mayor's Office Problem Resolution Team meetings, multiple Easter egg hunts, DEA prescription take-back day, Bike Rack Bike Rodeo, Harmony Week, Memorial Day ceremony, multiple July 4th parades, Keystone Karnival, refugee resource fairs, Eagle's Nest Summer Fun Day, back-to-school events, Dundee Day parade, multiple Trunk or Treat events, Veteran's Day ceremony, OPD volunteer luncheon, and OPD/HyVee Hams for the Holiday event.

CANINE UNIT

The Canine Unit was assigned to the Northwest Precinct, and was led by **Sergeant Steven Worley**. The Canine Unit's main duties were patrol and narcotics detection. Patrol duties included searching for, locating and apprehending dangerous suspects hiding from officers or resisting arrest. These duties required handlers and their assigned canine partners to take the lead in searches in various environments. Narcotics detection duties included using highly-trained canines to sniff for the odor of illegal drugs. In 2019, the Canine Unit completed 2,894 calls-for-service, made 1,043 arrests, and conducted 929 traffic stops. The Unit also conducted 197 drug searches, and seized 211.7 lbs. of marijuana/THC and 278.06 lbs. of meth. Canine officers also conducted 329 searches for suspects, located 100 suspects, and recovered 53 firearms.



Officer Joshua Downs with K-9 partner

Canine Unit: 2,894 calls for service; 1,043 arrests; 929 traffic stops; seized 278.06 lbs. of meth; recovered 53 firearms

Throughout 2019, Canine officers were called to assist the Uniform Patrol Bureau, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, and units such as the Narcotics, Gang, Robbery, Homicide, Burglary, and Auto Theft Units. Canine teams also worked with outside law enforcement agencies such as the DEA, Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Marshals Service, among others. In addition to patrol and investigative duties, Canine officers also conducted 23 canine demonstrations in 2019.

These included presentations at Creighton University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Millard North High School.

The Canine Unit included two police dog trainers with Nebraska State Certification who provided in-house training for other OPD canine handlers. **Sergeant Steven Worley** was a Nebraska Police Service Dog Judge and OPD academy instructor, and **Officer Charles Moffitt** was a Nebraska Police Service Dog Evaluator and OPD academy instructor. Both men trained outside agencies' police service dog teams and performed canine certification examinations. They also taught OPD academy subjects including vehicle searches, criminal interdiction, perimeter containment, and suspect search tactics.

NORTHEAST PRECINCT

The Northeast (NE) Precinct was commanded by **Captain Mark Matuza**. NE Precinct employees provided professional police services by using innovative community-based policing methods and collaborating with grassroots community outreach organizations, neighborhood associations, public schools, churches and other faith-based organizations, political leaders, and local businesses. NE personnel remain committed to improving the quality of life for all residents, and reducing crime and the fear of crime by using proactive community policing strategies. The NE Precinct Advisory Council (PAC) included area residents, business partners, and community



Capt. Mark Matuza



Northeast A-Shift officers – Oct. 31, 2019

leaders who live within the NE Precinct boundaries. The NE PAC worked closely with the Precinct command staff to foster positive community relations and proactively address matters of public safety and communications.

Numerous NE Precinct officers received awards and accolades in 2019. Twenty officers received Letters of Work Well Done and multiple officers received Chief's Commendations for outstanding work during the year. In addition, **Officers Jared Grayson, Eric Henka, Kyle Graber, and Tim Bauman** received the Police Blue Shield and Lifesaving Medals for saving a female victim who was held at knifepoint by a man at a local homeless shelter. These officers acted heroically to quickly stop the threat, and the victim escaped the incident with only minor

injuries. On October 20th, **Officer Matt McDonald** became the first OPD officer to locate a missing child using Project Lifesaver equipment. On that day, a caller advised that her 12-year-old autistic son, who was a member of OPD's new Project Lifesaver program, had left the house and was missing. Officer McDonald, who was Project Lifesaver trained, heard the call and retrieved the Project Lifesaver equipment from the NE Precinct. Once activated, the equipment pinpointed the child's location, and the boy was quickly found unharmed.

NE Precinct employees participated in dozens of community events throughout 2019. The largest of these events included Native Omaha Days (20,000 attendees), NAACP Annual Juneteenth Parade (2,300 attendees), Minne Lusa Boulevard "Trick or Treat on the Boulevard" (1,500 attendees), Creighton University Torch Run (1,000 attendees), Adams Park Community Center "Trunk or Treat" event (680 attendees), and Fun in the Park at Miller Park (600 attendees). Other events included the Zion Baptist Church wild game feast, King Science Center career fair, Charles Drew Health Center "Earn-a-Bike" event, Butler-Gast YMCA block party, YouTurn Summer Celebration, 81st Celebration of the Omaha Star at Highlander, National Night Out, Gifford Neighborhood Block Party, Lydia House back-to-school event, Creighton University REACH Program, YouTurn Family Night, Coffee with a Cop, Cops and Bobbers, Sherman Elementary wellness fair, North Omaha Community Care Council, and Christmas in the Village.



Capt. Matusza (left) and Theola Cooper (right)
National Night Out – August 6th, 2019

SOUTHEAST PRECINCT



Capt. Belcastro-Gonzalez

The Southeast (SE) Precinct was commanded by Captain Katherine Belcastro-Gonzalez and included the Riverfront Patrol and Mounted Patrol Squads. This Precinct contains some of the most culturally diverse and vibrant areas of Omaha. While South Omaha has historically been a melting pot of cultures including Polish, Italian, Czech, Lithuanian, and Irish immigrants, there has been a steady influx of Latino and Sudanese immigrants in recent decades. Officers patrolled these neighborhoods using police cruisers, bicycles, horses, Segways and recreational utility vehicles, as well as on foot. SE

Precinct officers were busy throughout 2019 patrolling numerous large-scale events and areas

around numerous popular tourist attractions. Officers managed events at TD Ameritrade Park, the CHI Health Center arena and convention center, the Henry Doorly Zoo, the Old Market Historic District, Lewis and Clark Landing, and the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge.

In April, the Latino Police Officers' Association (LPOA) hosted its 18 annual LPOA Easter egg hunt at Upland Park. This event was attended by hundreds of children and their families, and allowed the community to visit with officers in a fun and friendly environment. In addition to the Easter egg hunt, the Air Support Unit helicopter and Mounted Patrol Unit horses were present to provide additional entertainment. The SE Precinct also hosted "Pop with a Cop" in April at a local sandwich shop. This event was well attended, and a clown was invited to provide entertainment while officers visited with local families.

In July, the Omaha Salvation Army KROC Center hosted the 17th annual Safety Awareness Fitness and Education (SAFE) event. This event was attended by the Mounted Patrol Unit and Omaha Crime Stoppers, and the Omaha Fire Department brought its Smoke House. The event also included a clown, music, prizes, food, a bike rodeo, and free raffle prizes. OPD officers and employees staffed more than 20 tables to provide important educational information to attendees regarding health, crime awareness, and overall safety. Also in July, Police Athletics for Community Engagement (PACE) held its one-week summer camp. This camp was geared toward elementary and middle school age youth with the goal of promoting positive relationships between officers and youth attendees. School Resource Officers (SROs) provided presentations on bullying, drug use, and gang involvement. In addition, the Mounted Patrol Unit, Canine Unit, Emergency Response Unit, and Omaha Fire Department gave demonstrations. Attendees also participated in field trips to an ice skating rink, the Henry Doorly Zoo, a movie, and a bowling alley, and enjoyed a field day. About 50 youth attended the camp and received certificates of completion.



Mounted Patrol Squad – SAFE Event
KROC Center – July 14th, 2019

Throughout the summer, **Sergeant Stacy Williams** and her Girl Scouts troop tended the Officer Don Hill Community Garden outside the Southeast Precinct. Each year since 2014, volunteers prep the soil in the spring and plant seeds in May. The Girl Scouts watered and weeded the garden at least weekly to keep the vegetables growing. At harvest time, SE officers delivered the vegetables to several elementary schools in the area. School staff members were very pleased to see officers arrive with baskets of fresh vegetables for staff and students.

In late summer, the SE Precinct held its Citizens' Academy. This 18-hour academy took place 3 hours a week for 6 weeks. Most participants arrived directly from school, work, or other activities, so SE officers provided a light meal or snack donated by local restaurants. The Citizens' Police Academy provided the 23 participants with firsthand knowledge of OPD's procedures and practices. Attendees participated in various police scenarios and used the VirTra firearms simulator; received tours of the Mounted Patrol Unit's horse barn, OPD Training Academy, and Douglas County Department of Corrections; observed demonstrations from the Canine Unit; and received presentations on domestic violence, child abuse, homicide, gangs, narcotics, forensic investigations, emergency response, internal affairs, crime prevention, and officer selection and training. Attendees also met the Chief of Police.



Southeast Precinct Citizens' Police Academy

In late October, the SE Precinct hosted its 8th annual Meet and Treat event, which had more than 1,000 attendees. The highlight of the event was a "haunted precinct" created by high school students, which provided a scary but fun learning experience to remind children of everyday dangers. Then in mid-December, roughly 100 people attended the 18th annual



Holiday with the Blue – South High School

Holiday with the Blue event at Omaha South High School. This event included family photos with Santa and police officers, holiday safety information, an abundance of treats, a bounce house, and many toys for the children. There were also refreshing drinks, lively music, and dazzling live dance performances. This event offered officers a fun and festive environment in which to engage with children and families, and was a wonderful way to end the year.

SOUTHWEST PRECINCT

The Southwest (SW) Precinct – commanded by **Captain John Sokolik** – began 2019 with an area of more than 55 square miles and a population of more than 155,000 residents. But in



Capt. John Sokolik

September, the SW Precinct was reduced to almost half its original size with the opening of the new West Precinct. While this change reduced the SW Precinct’s physical footprint, it did not diminish the Precinct’s commitment to excellence. The SW Precinct continues to cooperate with residents, businesses, and neighborhood associations to keep southwest Omaha safe and secure by pursuing neighborhood problem solving solutions. To achieve this vision, the SW Precinct continued to work with other precincts and the City of Omaha to complete a Neighborhood Watch Group revitalization project.

SW Precinct employees attended 110 community meetings and dozens of neighborhood events. The Precinct also hosted a number of well attended events for the community. SW Crime Prevention Specialist **Vanessa Urbach** coordinated the third annual Bomb Pop with a Cop event that drew more than 1,000 attendees, as well as a Pop with a Cop event that attracted more than 300 people. In addition, the SW Precinct held a Cocoa with a Cop event at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village that was attended by more than 500 people, as well as two Coffee with a Cop events at local businesses that attracted dozens of attendees. To help defray the costs for SW Precinct community events, Ms. Urbach obtained three community grants. The Precinct also received two brand new Volcanic police bikes from a fundraiser conducted by the Aksarben Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association.



Crime Prevention Specialist Vanessa Urbach
Bomb Pop with a Cop – July 12th

The SW Precinct also partnered with the Autism Action Partnership and Douglas County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO) to host a “Making Memories” event at the SW Precinct assembly. This was a sensory-friendly tour and interactive meet and greet with OPD officers and DCSO deputies. The SW Precinct then partnered with the DCSO a second time to hold a sensory-friendly event at Millard West High School. This event focused on police interactions with



SW Precinct Coffee with a Cop at Petrow's Restaurant

Problem Resolution Team meetings; neighborhood watch group meetings; Coffee with a Cop, Pop with a Cop, and Bomb Pop with a Cop events; Boy and Girl Scout presentations; Special Olympics events; holiday festivities such as Easter egg hunts, 4th of July events, Halloween events, and winter holiday events; school visits and presentations; neighborhood association and business watch group meetings; neighborhood block parties; Millard Boys and Girls Club presentations; back-to-school events; Millard Days; a DEA Prescription Drug Take-Back event; and frequent precinct tours.

students with intellectual disabilities. For three days in late July, the SW Precinct hosted its first ever Youth Academy. This was a partnership with the Millard Boys and Girls Club that included numerous OPD units. The purpose of this event was to teach youth about law enforcement.

SW employees participated in more than 100 community events in 2019. These included Precinct Advisory Committee (PAC) and Tri-County Citizen Corps meetings; Mayor's

WEST PRECINCT

The West Precinct was commanded by **Captain Mark Desler**. The Precinct, which opened in September 2019, is the largest police precinct in the City of Omaha. With 14 districts that cover more than 51 square miles, the West Precinct serves a population of more than 169,000 residents, and includes 55 schools and 3 hospitals. Upon its opening, the 36,000 square foot West Precinct facility in Elkhorn housed three operational police functions under one roof. These included the patrol, traffic enforcement, and emergency response functions. Approximately 110 officers and 4 non-sworn employees were assigned to the Precinct full-time, and an additional 30 officers worked out of the building on an "as needed" basis.



Capt. Mark Desler

Opening the West Precinct was a massive undertaking for the UPB. There was a particularly high level of coordination with the Mobile IT Unit, Support Services Section,

and Douglas County 911 to achieve the goal of “going live” at the September 2019 shift change. The Precinct opened for patrol operations on September 8th, and the official ribbon cutting ceremony and open house were held on September 24th. From the first day of operation, officers and command partnered with the west Omaha community to provide the level of service that Omaha residents desire and deserve.



Mayor Stothert, Chief Schmaderer, and City Council Members Festersen & Harding (middle four)
OPD West Precinct grand opening ceremony – September 24th, 2019

Despite being operational only four months in 2019, West Precinct employees participated in numerous community events. Some examples include the Piedmont/Wycliffe Fall Festival, Omaha Community Preparedness Day, Preparedness Event at Millard Public Library, Coffee with a Cop, Children’s Hospital event, Take Back Lake Z Run at Lake Zorinsky, Monster Mash Bash at Oakview Mall, DEA Drug Take Back Day, Trunk or Treat at Montclair Community Center, Ronald McDonald House Trick or Treat event, West Precinct Police Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting, and My Life program visit.

TRAFFIC UNIT

The Traffic Unit was commanded by **Lieutenant Jacob Ritonya** and included the Accident Investigations Squad, Selective Enforcement Squad, and Project Night Life Squad. The Traffic



Traffic officers with retiring Officer Jeff Warnock
West Precinct – Dec. 13, 2019

Unit was staffed by 5 sergeants, 33 full-time police officers, a part-time retired police officer, and a part-time administrative assistant. The Unit conducted traffic control at all major events in Omaha, and provided traffic patrol operations throughout the City. Most Traffic Unit enforcement funding was obtained via grant funding. In

September, the Unit moved from its longtime home in Millard to its new home at the West Precinct. Despite this upheaval, Traffic officers continued to diligently patrol the streets of Omaha, and wrote 16,729 traffic citations during the year.

The Accident Investigations Squad (AIS) was staffed by 2 sergeants and 14 officers. The AIS conducted investigations on all hit and run crashes, City of Omaha vehicle crashes, serious injury crashes, fatal crashes, and other investigations as requested by agency commanders. The AIS also coordinated, assisted with, and supplemented staffing for special events and assignments in cooperation with other Traffic Unit squads. In 2019, the AIS investigated 4,836 hit and run crashes, 227 crashes involving City of Omaha vehicles, 177 serious bodily injury crashes, and 36 fatal crashes.

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injury crashes; 36 fatal crashes**

The Selective Enforcement Squad (SES) was staffed by 2 sergeants and 16 officers. SES responsibilities included addressing the Mayor's and City Council's traffic hotspot complaint areas, addressing routine speed and traffic complaints, patrolling high profile areas of concern for speed and traffic enforcement, and assisting with violence reduction patrols in high crime areas. The SES also created and implemented traffic plans for special events in Omaha. The



Motor Squad officers at Monster Mash Bash
Oakview Mall – October 25th, 2019

SES included the Motor Squad, which operated 16 Harley Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles. The Motor Squad routinely provided escorts for special events, dignitary visits, and funerals for members of the United States Armed Forces. The Motor Squad also participated in traffic enforcement operations, daily patrols, parades, and community presentations. The SES provided traffic control and assistance for 185 special events throughout 2019. These events included numerous races, walks, parades, and

sold out or heavily attended events at the CHI Health Center Omaha and other local venues including the NCAA Baseball College World Series, Berkshire Hathaway Annual Shareholders' Meeting, Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Millard Days, Elkhorn Days, High School State Track Meet, Cinco de Mayo Parade, Labor Day Parade, Omaha Marathon, Omaha Triathlon, Heartland Marathon, Nebraska Marathon, Race for the Cure, New Year's Eve Fireworks, and the Metro Credit Union Celebrates America Concert at Memorial Park.

The Project Night Life (PNL) Squad was staffed by one sergeant and two officers who focused on educating teens about the dangers of distracted driving and poor decision making while behind the wheel. In 2019, the PNL Squad conducted 71 grant funded operations; issued 4,738 citations; and made 539 arrests (including 80 DUI arrests). PNL officers also gave 126 presentations at local high schools and distributed materials about the dangers of risky driving to more than 4,000 students during those presentations. In addition, PNL officers placed Project Night Life educational display boards at many local events to increase safety awareness in teen drivers. Since PNL's inception in 2007, fatalities for teen drivers have decreased significantly.

**PNL Squad: 4,738 citations;
539 arrests; 80 DUI arrests; and
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In 2019, the West Precinct and the Traffic Unit partnered with AAA Nebraska to improve street safety through DUI enforcement. AAA Nebraska provided grant funding to purchase additional preliminary breath test units, which allowed officers to detect intoxicated drivers. AAA also donated funds to purchase a DataMaster evidentiary breath testing device for the West Precinct. Other Traffic Unit grant funded operations included nationwide campaigns such as "Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink, You Drive, You Lose." The Unit received \$270,712.46 in federal grant funding during the year to conduct additional traffic patrol operations, purchase equipment, and send officers to traffic-related training.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

POLICE BLUE SHIELD MEDAL

Ofcr. Timothy Baughman	Ofcr. Christopher Brown	Ofcr. Kyle Graber
Ofcr. Jared Grayson	Ofcr. Eric Henka	Ofcr. Dustin Hill
Ofcr. Christopher Perchal	Ofcr. Jill Schillerberg	Ofcr. Matthew Skradski
Ofcr. Jeffrey Wasmund		

PURPLE HEART MEDAL

Ofcr. Kenneth Fortune	Ofcr. David Staskiewicz
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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Lt. Patrick Rowland	Lt. Darci Tierney	Sgt. Jeffrey Kopietz
Ofcr. William Fell (retired)	Ofcr. Mark Kiley	

POLICE LIFESAVING MEDAL

Ofcr. Humberto Herrera	Ofcr. Matthew Hirz	Ofcr. Jeffrey Kilgore
Ofcr. U. Machuca-Casillas	Ofcr. Chris McElligott	Ofcr. Jason Messerschmidt
Ofcr. Timothy Seiker	Ofcr. Jeremy Wedel	

POLICE RIBBON OF UNIT EXCELLENCE

Lt. Karalin Starlin	Sgt. Kevin Elliott	Sgt. Stephen Fornoff
Sgt. Lindsey Fox	Sgt. Owen Gregg	Sgt. Jonathan Robish
Sgt. William Seaton	Sgt. Stacy Williams	Sgt. Lance Worley
Sgt. Nicolas Yanez	Ofcr. Jaimie Baggett	Ofcr. Heath Brunow
Ofcr. Jon Edwards	Ofcr. William Hardisty	Ofcr. Debbie Janing
Ofcr. Joseph Koenig	Ofcr. Tiffany Korth	Ofcr. Justin Knapp
Ofcr. Justin Rudloff	Ofcr. James Turner	Ofcr. Benjamin Weidner
Ofcr. Matthew Worm	Secretary I Patricia Ennen	Secretary I Francene Holstein

POLICE RIBBON OF EXCELLENCE

Lt. Tracy Scherer	Sgt. Stacy Williams	Ofcr. Christopher Ray
Ofcr. David Staskiewicz		

CHIEF'S LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Capt. Colene Hinchey	Lt. Shane Myers	Lt. Amy Oetter
Lt. Jacob Ritonya	Lt. Tracy Scherer	Lt. James Sklenar
Sgt. Tara Ackerson	Sgt. Brent Kendall	Sgt. Paul Latschar
Sgt. Marlene Novotny	Sgt. Russell Petersen	Sgt. Jonathan Robish
Sgt. Jessica Swanson	Sgt. Scott Warner	Sgt. Timothy Woolman
Ofcr. Elizabeth Abramson	Ofcr. Matt Baughman	Ofcr. Mark Blice
Ofcr. Michael Bossman	Ofcr. Marisa Boyce	Ofcr. Jordan Brandt
Ofcr. Paul Briese	Ofcr. Robyn Bruning	Ofcr. Cory Buckley
Ofcr. Bradley Canterbury	Ofcr. Jacob Chong	Ofcr. Angie Circo
Ofcr. Lisa Crouch	Ofcr. Chad Dalrymple	Ofcr. Shawn Davidson
Ofcr. Jaime Desautels	Ofcr. Dillon Dunham	Ofcr. Johnnythn Ellingson
Ofcr. Domico Ernesti	Ofcr. Andrew Freeman	Ofcr. Evan Freyermuth
Ofcr. Patrick Garcia	Ofcr. Darrell Greene	Ofcr. Sergio Gutierrez
Ofcr. Eric Hagedorn	Ofcr. Carl Hanson	Ofcr. Paul Hanson
Ofcr. John Harney	Ofcr. James Holtmeyer	Ofcr. Kerry Iselin
Ofcr. Matei Jackson	Ofcr. Christy Jaworski	Ofcr. Cole Johannsen

CHIEF'S LETTER OF COMMENDATION (Continued)

Ofcr. Ryan Kilawee	Ofcr. William Klees	Ofcr. Michael Knobbe
Ofcr. Shannon Knuth	Ofcr. Christopher Legrow	Ofcr. Jackie Liebe
Ofcr. Leighanne Loges	Ofcr. Kristine Love	Ofcr. Richard Lutter
Ofcr. Ricardo Martinez	Ofcr. Melissa McDermott	Ofcr. Nathan Miller
Ofcr. Nicholas Molek	Ofcr. Shawn Pearson	Ofcr. David Pecha
Ofcr. Christopher Perchal	Ofcr. James Phenis	Ofcr. Patricia Pope
Ofcr. Richard Portera	Ofcr. James Reisinger	Ofcr. Justyn Riley
Ofcr. Jamelle Ross	Ofcr. Justin Ruby	Ofcr. Mickie Seymour
Ofcr. Jeffry Shelbourn	Ofcr. Ryan Sillman	Ofcr. Stephan Skaar
Ofcr. Sarah Spizzirri	Ofcr. David Staskiewicz	Ofcr. Matthew Stigge
Ofcr. Makayla Stiles	Ofcr. Jacob Sunderman	Ofcr. Kelli Tapp
Ofcr. Ryan Templeton	Ofcr. Adam Vail	Ofcr. John Vaillant
Ofcr. Terrence Vernon	Ofcr. John Villwok	Ofcr. Eric White
Ofcr. Chad Wiebers	Ofcr. Jeffrey Wittstruck	Ofcr. David Ullery
FIU Tech. Amanda Cooley	FIU Tech. Rachael Larson	FIU Tech. Todd Morgan

LETTER OF WORK WELL DONE

Capt. Thomas Shaffer	Sergeant Neal Bonacci	Sergeant Brent Kendall
Sergeant Joseph Mraz	Sergeant Eric Picht	Sergeant Phillip Ricker
Sergeant Timothy Ringhoff	Sergeant Mitchell Robinson	Sergeant Brett Schrage
Sgt. Tyler Stricker	Sgt. Jessica Swanson	Sergeant Scott Timperley
Ofcr. Aaron Anderson	Ofcr. Thomas Arrance	Ofcr. Ryan Arthur
Ofcr. Cody Babel	Ofcr. Anthony Barnes	Ofcr. Justin Barnes
Ofcr. Brian Bartek	Ofcr. Michael Belcastro	Ofcr. Mark Blice
Ofcr. Brian Bosn	Ofcr. Marissa Boyce	Ofcr. Christopher Brown
Ofcr. Cory Buckley	Ofcr. Kevin Byrd	Ofcr. Corey Buckley
Ofcr. Billie Jo Ceglar	Ofcr. Scott Chandler	Ofcr. Beau Chase
Ofcr. Bobby Clark	Ofcr. Susan Clark	Ofcr. Adam Connors
Ofcr. Jeffrey Crouch	Ofcr. Shawn Davidson	Ofcr. Christopher Degn
Ofcr. Robert Dellutri	Ofcr. Aaron Dugick	Ofcr. David Eckstrom
Ofcr. Adam Embree	Ofcr. Domico Ernesti	Ofcr. Brandon Fender
Ofcr. Adam Fisher	Ofcr. Jerod Forstrom	Ofcr. Patrick Garcia
Ofcr. Sean Gardner	Ofcr. Michael Garrah	Ofcr. Sean Glassman
Ofcr. Robbie Goering-Jensen	Ofcr. Nicholas Gonzales	Ofcr. Kyle Graber
Ofcr. Jared Grayson	Ofcr. Eric Hagedorn	Ofcr. Caleb Hanish
Ofcr. Jacob Haniszewski	Ofcr. Carl Hanson	Ofcr. John Harney
Ofcr. Mitchell Hetherington	Ofcr. Troy Hiller	Ofcr. Fred Hiykel
Ofcr. Matei Jackson	Ofcr. Reifer Johnson	Ofcr. Mande Kampbell
Ofcr. Ryan Kilawee	Ofcr. Sherry King	Ofcr. Gregory Kinnaman
Ofcr. Michael Knobbe	Ofcr. Shannon Knuth	Ofcr. Joseph Koenig
Ofcr. Brian Korth	Ofcr. Charles Kraemer	Ofcr. Derek Kreikemeier
Ofcr. Joseph Kunza	Ofcr. Aaron Lier	Ofcr. Eric Lima
Ofcr. Leighanne Loges	Ofcr. Richard Lutter	Ofcr. Ricardo Martinez
Ofcr. Queno Martinez	Ofcr. Melissa McDermott	Ofcr. Matthew McDonald
Ofcr. Eric Meads	Ofcr. Christopher Melton	Ofcr. Nickolas Meza
Ofcr. Nathan Miller	Ofcr. Robert Myers	Ofcr. Mark Negrete
Ofcr. Aram Normandin	Ofcr. Michael Oliver	Ofcr. Gregory O'Neil
Ofcr. Chris Overton	Ofcr. Romina Perez	Ofcr. Jamison Perry
Ofcr. James Phenis	Ofcr. Tamara Phillips	Ofcr. Richard Portera
Ofcr. Abby Price	Ofcr. Katie Rath	Ofcr. Brock Rengo
Ofcr. Christopher Rich	Ofcr. Justyn Riley	Ofcr. Jeremy Rone
Ofcr. Jamelle Ross	Ofcr. Kenneth Rowe	Ofcr. Jodi Sautter
Ofcr. Jennie Scanlon	Ofcr. Daniel Schmitz	Ofcr. Ryan Sillman
Ofcr. Robert Soldo	Ofcr. Sarah Spizzirri	Ofcr. Matthew Stewart
Ofcr. Joel Strominger	Ofcr. Jacob Sunderman	Ofcr. Adam Vail
Ofcr. Jordan Vander Zwaag	Ofcr. Derek Vieth	Ofcr. Nicole Walker

LETTER OF WORK WELL DONE (Continued)

Ofcr. Robert Wiley

Sr. FIU Tech. Amanda Miller

FIU Tech. Sarah Lund

FIU Tech. K. VanDenAkker

Ofcr. Alan Wolf

FIU Tech. Amanda Cooley

FIU Tech. Todd Morgan

FIU Trainee Kyle Klemme

Sr. FIU Tech. Angela Harder

FIU Tech. Rachael Larson

FIU Tech. Livia Taylor

P/T Sr. FIU Tech. James Brady

PUBLIC LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Mr. Michael Collins

Ms. Alise Polifrone

Mr. Darrel Klusaw

Mr. Rich Settje

Mr. Lucas Matulka

CRIME STOPPERS “OFFICER OF THE YEAR” AWARD

Officer Ryan Kilawee

*Other nominees:

Sgt. Scott Timperley

Ofcr. Jordan Brandt

Ofcr. Austin Taylor

Ofcr. Ricardo Martinez

Ofcr. Justin Raders

Ofcr. Jacob Sunderman

Ofcr. David Schneider

U.N.O. CRIM. JUSTICE “RISING STAR ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT” AWARD

Lt. Sheri Thomas

M.A.D.D. HERO AWARD FOR DUI ENFORCEMENT

Ofcr. Keith Lampert

Ofcr. Patrick Soltys

Ofcr. Scott Shymkewicz

Ofcr. Jeremy Zipay

LECC & NEB. COUNTY ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION SPRING CJ AWARDS

Ofcr. Robert Branch

U.S. MARSHAL’S SERVICE 2019 OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sgt. Jeffrey Kopietz

NCNW – OMAHA SECTION – JULIA D. ANDERSON VISIONARY AWARD

Lt. Sheri Thomas

ROTARY CLUB OF OMAHA “OFFICER OF THE YEAR” AWARD

Sgt. David Bianchi

KEEP KIDS ALIVE, DRIVE 25 FALL RECOGNITION BANQUET

OPD Traffic Unit – Recognized for their work in making our streets safer

Sgt. Jason Menning – Received “Good Neighbor” recognition

PROJECT EXTRA MILE “OUTSTANDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER”

Ofcr. Michael Bossman

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED

Paying tribute to current and former OPD members who passed away in 2019

In Remembrance	OPD Position	Years of Service
Dennis Tostenson	Retired Police Lieutenant	27 years 6 months
Kevin Parker	Retired Police Officer	22 years 3 months
DeEarl "Bud" Chase	Retired Police Officer	28 years 2 months
Kristina Nelson	Retired Civilian, Senior Clerk	19 years
Everett Lee Ingram	Retired Civilian, Records Manager	23 years
Kenneth Tyler	Retired Police Officer	26 years
Stephen Osier	Retired Police Sergeant	26 years
James Circo	Retired Police Sergeant	27 years 11 months
Patricia Cahoon	Active Civilian, Part-time Clerk-Typist	21 years
Bassie Johnson	Retired Police Officer	27 years
Howard Teuscher	Retired Police Officer	27 years
Linda Von Rapacki	Retired Civilian, Secretary I	13 years
Bernie Caniglia	Retired Civilian, Automotive Equipment Operator I	28 years
Jack Campbell	Retired Police Lieutenant	30 years
Anderson Cousin, Jr.	Retired Police Lieutenant	33 years
Fred Brooks, Jr.	Retired Police Sergeant	38 years
John W. "Bill" Weekly	Retired Police Officer	20 years
Robert Frock	Retired Police Captain	26 years
Floyd Batman	Retired Police Officer	27 years
Bernard Stock	Retired Police Sergeant	28 years
Laura Kincaid	Retired Civilian, Detention Center Supervisor	18 years
John Quist	Retired Police Sergeant	36 years
Kathleen Albert	Retired Civilian, Secretary I	12 years
Dennis Young	Active Volunteer, Handicapped Parking Patrol	26 years
Harold Hug	Retired Police Sergeant	33 years

