

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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## Omaha Police Department

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Omaha Police Department, I am proud to present the Department's 2020 Annual Report. The Omaha Police Department is a progressive law enforcement agency composed of a diverse group of more than eleven hundred full- and part-time employees, both sworn and non-sworn. This report highlights our employees' many significant accomplishments in 2020.

It is no secret that 2020 was a challenging year for the Omaha Police Department, just as it was for law enforcement agencies nationwide. First, the COVID-19 pandemic presented difficulties that altered the way we conducted business and increased employee stressors. Pandemic-related restrictions limited our community policing efforts and dampened employee morale. Next, a series of summer protests compounded our challenges. The protests and subsequent civil unrest strained our agency's resources, and the intense scrutiny and criticism directed at our officers further impacted their morale.

Recognizing the hardships our employees faced, as well as the mental health needs of the community, my command staff and I took steps to enhance our internal employee support system and boost our community mental health program. These actions were intended to improve our employees' mental health and resiliency, and better serve the pool of Omaha residents eligible for mental health services. In addition, we continued our commitment to community policing by recruiting and hiring a highly-qualified group of police officer candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds. These efforts advanced our goal of developing and maintaining a workforce that reflects the talent and diversity of the community we serve.

Despite the challenges the Department faced in 2020, I am proud that our employees continued to act with integrity and pride. As you explore this report, you will read about our employees' many accomplishments during 2020, and you will see the hardships they faced did not diminish their desire to serve and protect the people of Omaha. I am grateful for their efforts and sacrifices, and I am confident they will continue to serve with distinction regardless of the circumstances at hand. I thank you for your interest in the Omaha Police Department. As always, if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

**Todd R. Schmaderer**  
**Chief of Police**

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# ABOUT US

## Our History

The City of Omaha was founded in 1854 along Nebraska's eastern border, and is separated from Iowa by the Missouri River. Omaha is the largest city in Nebraska, with a population of 486,051 and a metropolitan statistical area of 967,604 (2020 United States Census). The Omaha Police Department was formed in 1857, and has proudly served the City of Omaha since that time.

## Motto

"To Serve and Protect"

## Mission Statement

The Omaha Police Department, in partnership with our community, provides impartial, transparent, ethical, and professional law enforcement service and guardianship. We strive to maintain the trust and confidence of our residents and employees while working to improve the quality of life.

## Vision Statement

The Omaha Police Department's vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is to provide an environment that results in:

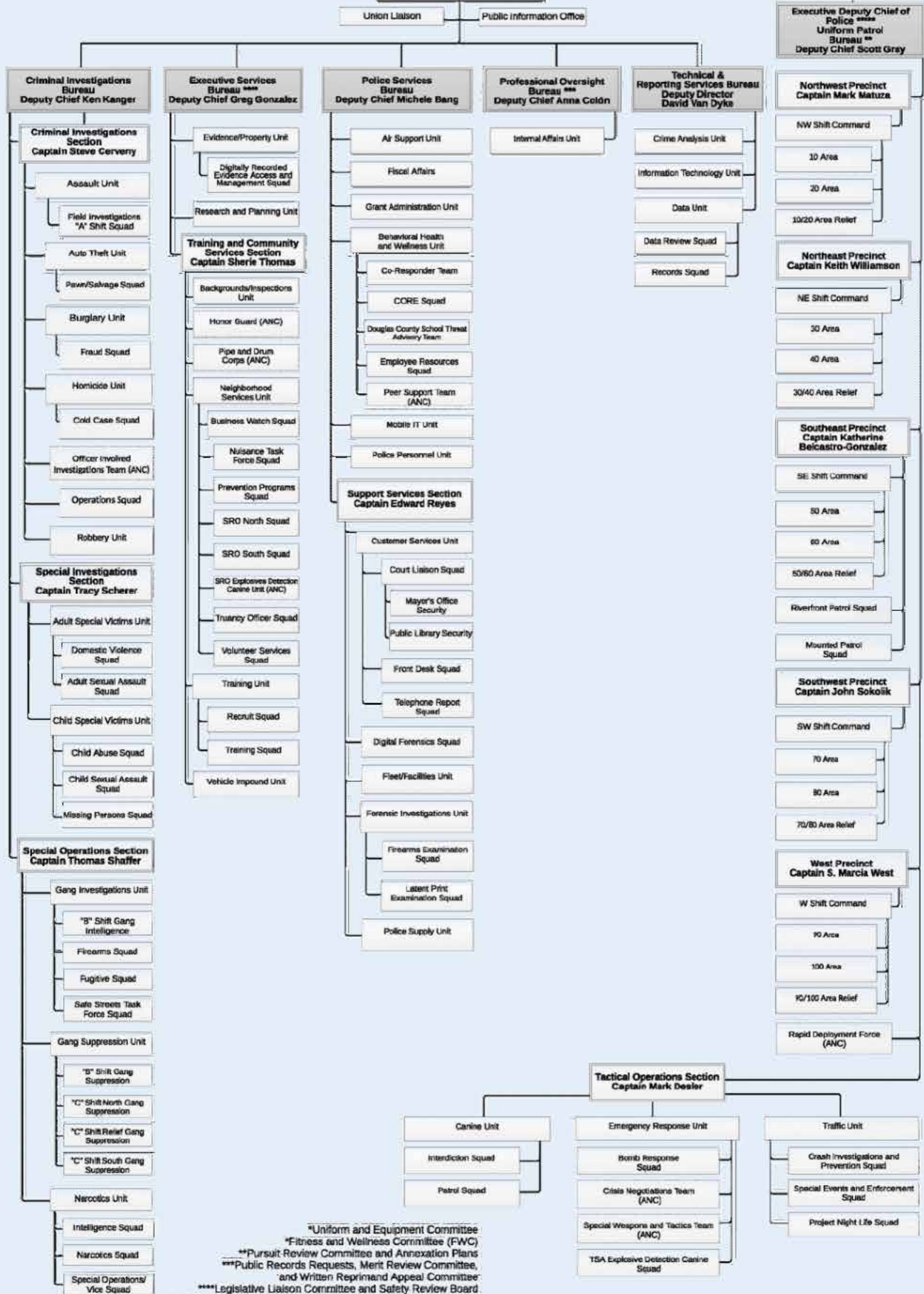
- The reduction of crime and fear of crime.
- Improved public confidence and transparency, where appropriate.
- Maximized efficiency through resource and technology allocation.
- Enhanced customer service.
- Personal and professional growth for employees, including mental and physical well-being.

## Policing Values

- Maintain service as our primary goal, while vigorously pursuing those who commit crimes.
- Ensure that community responsiveness and the prevention of crime are always the hallmark of the Department.
- Strive to maintain the highest levels of integrity, transparency, and professionalism in all employees and activities.
- Provide courteous police service with respect for the rights and dignity of all those we serve.
- Be a leader in the community to forge relationships and identify resources that directly improve the quality of community life.
- Empower our employees and seek their input into matters that impact job satisfaction and efficiency.
- Effectively gauge employee work performance.
- Develop leadership qualities and traits within the ranks of the Department.
- Manage resources carefully and effectively while utilizing technology to maximize efficiency.

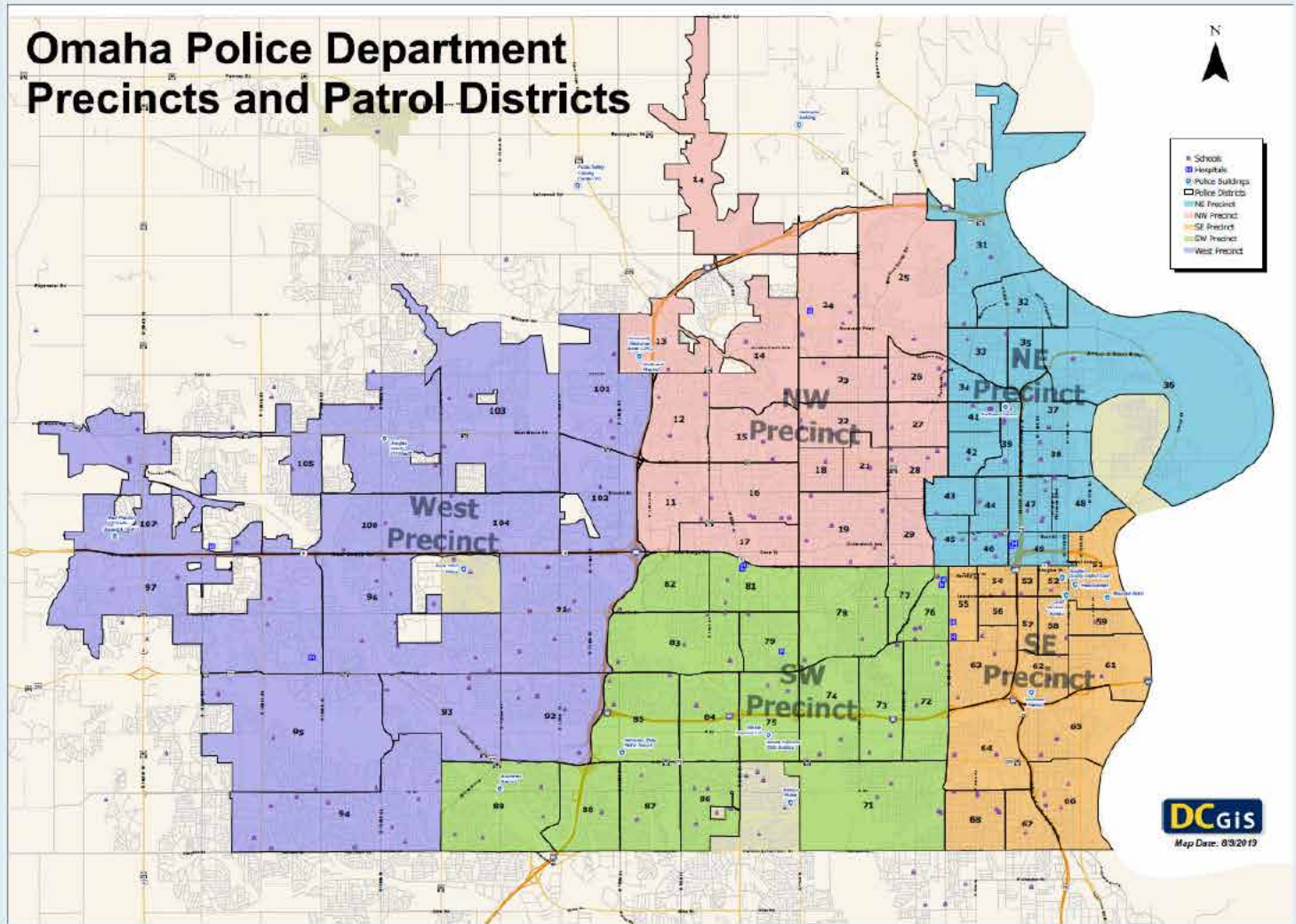
**OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Chief of Police \*  
Todd Schmaderer**



\*Uniform and Equipment Committee  
 \*Fitness and Wellness Committee (FWC)  
 \*\*Pursuit Review Committee and Annexation Plans  
 \*\*\*Public Records Requests, Merit Review Committee,  
 and Written Reprimand Appeal Committee  
 \*\*\*\*Legislative Liaison Committee and Safety Review Board  
 \*\*\*\*\*Shall act as the Chief of Police when the Chief is unavailable.

# OMAHA POLICE JURISDICTION



**Population:**  
**486,051**

(Source: 2020 U.S. Census)



**Land Area:**  
**144.59 Square Miles**

# BUREAU COMMANDERS



**Deputy Chief Michele Bang**  
Police Services Bureau



**Deputy Chief Greg Gonzalez**  
Executive Services Bureau



**Deputy Chief Scott Gray**  
Uniform Patrol Bureau



**Deputy Chief Ken Kanger**  
Criminal Investigations Bureau



**Deputy Director David Van Dyke**  
Technical & Reporting Services Bureau



**Deputy Chief Anna Colón**  
Professional Oversight Bureau

# CHIEF'S OFFICE

The **Chief of Police** commands the Omaha Police Department (OPD) and reports directly to the Mayor. The Chief establishes OPD policy, rules, and regulations; manages the OPD budget and allocates personnel; and effectively discharges all other duties incumbent upon him as the head of a modern police force with more than 900 authorized full-time police officers and more than 1,100 full- and part-time employees.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

The **Public Information Office (PIO)** reports directly to the Chief of Police. The PIO includes a Lieutenant and three Officers who work to keep the public informed of Omaha Police Department (OPD) activities and accomplishments, provide important crime and safety information, and offer valuable crime prevention tips via various communication tools such as the OPD website, OPD social media accounts, and daily press releases.

In 2020, the PIO conducted interviews with media outlets, arranged media interviews with other OPD officers and employees, managed and updated the various OPD social media accounts and the OPD website, made on-scene statements at high-profile crime scenes, organized all OPD promotional and retirement ceremonies, and coordinated the Omaha Crime Stoppers program. In addition, the PIO helped facilitate public service announcements on local radio stations and via social media regarding crime prevention information, managed and promoted OPD blood drives with the American Red Cross, trained command staff at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, instructed OPD recruit officers at the OPD Training Academy regarding media relations and social media use, helped



**Omaha Crime Stoppers**  
**Enhanced Rewards Program**  
You NEVER have to give your name!

\$25,000	HOMICIDE ARREST
\$20,000	BANK ROBBERY ARREST
\$10,000	ARREST FOR SEX TRAFFICKING
\$10,000	FELONY ASSAULT SHOOTING ARREST
\$10,000	CREDIT UNION ROBBERY ARREST
\$5,000	HOMICIDE FUGITIVE ARREST
\$5,000	OPIOID DEALER ARREST
\$2,500	PRESCRIPTION (RX) FRAUD ARREST
\$2,500	ASSAULT ON FIRST RESPONDER ARREST
\$1,000	POLICE RECOVERY OF ILLEGAL FIREARM

coordinate virtual “Officer of the Year” ceremonies, and used Facebook Live to livestream press conferences and promotional ceremonies.

Some of the PIO’s most memorable events in 2020 included the virtual Crime Stoppers Officer of the Year ceremony, Omaha Police Foundation Officer of the Year virtual awards ceremony, Empowerment Network’s Omaha 360 meetings, Drug Take Back Day, firearms and fireworks amnesty events, and the annual Blue Mass that honors Omaha area first responders and those who have died in the line of duty.



Chief Schmaderer (far left), Dep. Chief Kanger (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), and then-Lt Thomas (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) at the Blue Mass at Christ the King Church (Oct. 2020)



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

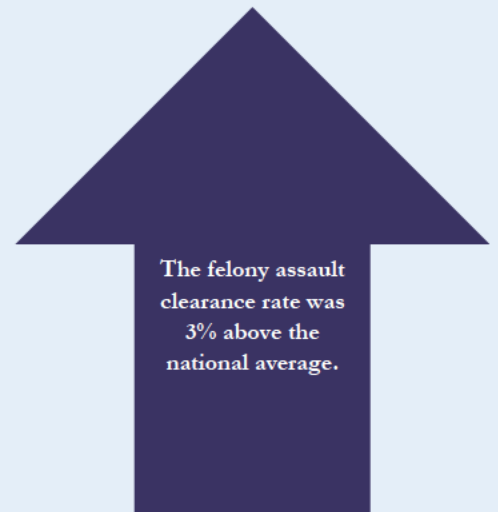
The **Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB)** provides 24-hour crime investigation services and includes the Criminal Investigations Section, Special Operations Section, and Special Investigations Section.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

The **Criminal Investigations Section (CIS)** includes the Assault Unit, Auto Theft Unit, Burglary Unit, Homicide Unit, and Robbery Unit. The CIS also contains the Operations Squad and the ancillary Officer-Involved Investigations Team (OIIT). The OIIT assembles, as needed, to investigate “use of force” incidents involving OPD Officers that result in serious injury or death, as well as in-custody deaths and incidents where Officers discharge a firearm at a suspect in the line of duty. OIIT investigations are conducted in coordination with the Douglas County Attorney’s Office.

### ASSAULT UNIT

The **Assault Unit** includes the A-Shift Field Investigations Squad. Assault Unit Detectives investigate all non-fatal assaults within the City of Omaha, as well as school and workplace threats. The Unit conducts weekly intelligence sharing meetings with the Gang Unit and other OPD investigative units with the goal of enhancing communication and improving case outcomes. These meetings often include outside partners, as well, such as representatives from federal agencies, State of Nebraska Adult and Juvenile Probation, the Douglas County Attorney’s Office, and the Douglas County Home Visit Program. In 2020, the Assault Unit achieved a 48 percent clearance rate for all assaults, which was consistent with the 2019 clearance rate, and a 44 percent clearance rate for felony assaults, which was 3 percent better than the national average.



### AUTO THEFT UNIT

The **Auto Theft Unit (ATU)** includes the Pawn/Salvage Squad. The ATU maintains valuable partnerships with surrounding jurisdictions, which allows them to share and receive up-to-the-minute intelligence to prevent auto thefts, and to make arrests as auto thefts occur. In 2020, the ATU expanded its cooperation with the OPD Burglary Unit and private loss-prevention personnel to share information about suspects who use stolen vehicles to commit other crimes. The ATU also established a liaison program with Uniform Patrol Bureau Officers in each precinct to share crime “hotspot” locations and “most active” suspect information to address specific problem areas throughout the City. In 2020, the ATU had a 20 percent clearance rate for auto thefts, which was

nearly double the national auto theft clearance rate of 11 percent. In total, ATU Detectives reviewed and investigated 3,408 auto thefts in 2020, which was 100 fewer than were reported the previous year.

One notable investigation began in May 2020 when ATU Detectives identified an increase in vehicles stolen from Omaha area car dealerships. Detectives investigated these cases within the OPD's jurisdiction and developed information showing these cases were part of a much



Auto Theft Detectives (L-R) Steve Barnes, Antone Arrick, Shawn Loontjer, and Paul Leaders (Aug. 2020)

larger auto theft ring.

ATU Detectives contacted other agencies in the Omaha area and coordinated a joint effort to combat this auto theft ring. While collaborating to collect evidence from all jurisdictions, Detectives identified a main suspect, and learned the well-organized theft ring had been operating since at least fall of 2019, and had been targeting dealerships on particular days of the week. Detectives coordinated with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation to make charging decisions, and with the LaVista Police Department to serve a search warrant at a suspect's residence. Detectives arrested the suspect and recovered evidence that tied him to

multiple Omaha auto thefts. Ultimately, nine of ten main suspects were arrested.

The Pawn/Salvage Squad worked closely with the Auto Theft Unit in 2020 to fight the ongoing catalytic converter theft epidemic. The Squad worked with both the Omaha City Council and Nebraska Legislature to author ordinances and legislative bills intended to decrease the sale of stolen catalytic converters. Overall, the Squad investigated and/or reviewed 3,725 thefts, and returned \$250,000 worth of stolen items to their rightful owners in 2020.

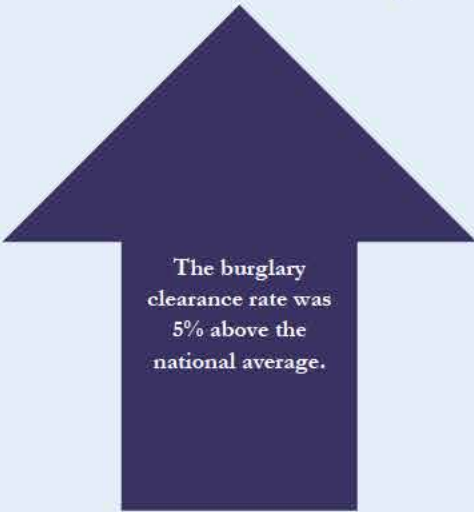
The Pawn/Salvage Squad returned \$250,000 worth of stolen items to their rightful owners in 2020.

## **BURGLARY UNIT**

The **Burglary Unit (BU)** includes the Fraud Squad. The BU takes great pride in aggressively identifying suspects and seeking warrants for burglary and shoplifting crimes. These arrests often help investigators identify suspects involved in violent crimes such as assaults, robberies, and domestic violence. In 2020, BU Detectives reviewed and investigated 1,521 burglaries – a 10 percent decrease from 2019 – and collaborated with Auto Theft Detectives to review and investigate 15,247 property crimes. The BU achieved a clearance rate of 16 percent in 2020, which was 5 percent above the national average. For the year, BU Detectives made 123 burglary arrests, 495 theft arrests, and

271 destruction of property arrests. They also served 233 warrants, conducted 280 “knock and talk” follow-up interviews, and produced 140 crime series bulletins to inform area law enforcement of ongoing theft and burglary series.

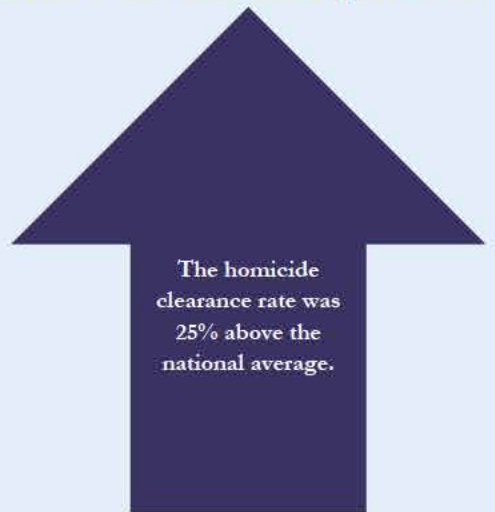
One notable investigation concluded in February 2020 when BU and Special Operations Section Detectives conducted an operation near a convenience store in the Northwest Precinct. Detectives



had information that a suspect tied to numerous area burglaries may target that particular convenience store next. As anticipated, the suspect arrived at the store in the early morning hours and broke into the building, so an arrest team quickly descended upon the suspect. The arrest team arrested the suspect and recovered tote bags containing cartons of cigarettes from the store. The suspect was booked for the convenience store burglary, as well as eight other previous burglaries. Three days later, Detectives from the BU, Auto Theft Unit, and Fraud Squad served a search warrant at the suspect’s residence and seized several items that implicated the suspect in numerous additional burglaries.

## HOMICIDE UNIT

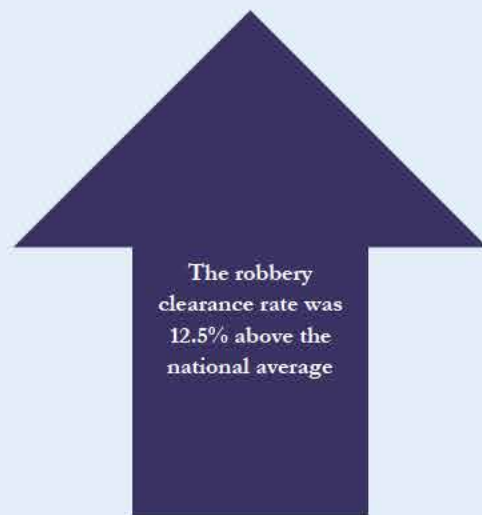
The **Homicide Unit** includes the Cold Case Squad. In 2020, the City of Omaha – like many other cities – experienced an increase in both homicides and violent crimes. Omaha also experienced unfortunate periods of civil unrest during which the Homicide Unit was called upon to conduct a high profile homicide investigation that attracted national attention. The Homicide Unit ended 2020 with a clearance rate of 86 percent, which is approximately 25 percent above the national average. In addition, the Cold Case Squad cleared two cold case homicide cases and arrested the suspects involved.



In 2020, Homicide Detectives contributed to Officers’ continuing education by teaching an agency-wide training about how to utilize effective crime scene investigation techniques and collaborate with the United States Attorney’s Office to achieve federal prosecution of suspects involved in causing drug overdose deaths. Homicide Detectives created visual presentations for this training course, and instructed all OPD sworn Officers during the mandatory annual in-service training sessions at the Omaha Public Safety Training Center.

## ROBBERY UNIT

In 2020, the **Robbery Unit** investigated more than 500 reported robbery incidents. These included person robberies, business robberies, bank robberies, and kidnapping incidents. The Unit's clearance rate for the year was 43 percent, which was 12.5 percent above the national average. The Robbery Unit works closely with Omaha Crime Stoppers to publicize crime videos and photos in order to generate tips from the public. In 2020, these tips provided the Unit with essential suspect information and resulted in multiple cash payouts to anonymous tipsters. The Robbery Unit also collaborates with other OPD units and outside agencies to share information and conduct enforcement operations to maximize productivity and decrease violent crime. There were only five bank robberies in 2020 within the City of Omaha, and the Robbery Unit made arrests in each of the five bank robberies.



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS SECTION**

The **Special Operations Section (SOS)** includes the Gang Investigations Unit, Gang Suppression Unit, and Narcotics Unit. Prior to 2020, the OPD had one large Gang Unit under the SOS. But during 2020, the Department restructured the Gang Unit into two divisions: the Gang Investigations Unit and Gang Suppression Unit.

## GANG INVESTIGATIONS & GANG SUPPRESSION UNITS

The **Gang Investigations Unit (GIU)** includes the B-Shift Gang Intelligence Squad, Firearms Squad, Fugitive Squad, and Safe Streets Task Force Squad. The GIU includes 25 Officers and 7 non-sworn employees divided among the 4 squads, as well as several Gang Specialists. These Specialists work with schools, hospitals, and various other community partners to prevent youth from joining gangs, and provide guidance and resources to children and young adults who may be making poor life decisions, or who may already be involved with gangs and the gang lifestyle.



Ofcr. Brandt blows bubbles with a child (Summer 2020). Community outreach is a vital component of Gang Officers' duties.

The **Gang Suppression Unit (GSU)** includes the B-Shift Gang Suppression Squad, C-Shift North Gang Suppression, C-Shift Relief Gang Suppression, and C-Shift South Gang Suppression. The GSU includes 28 sworn Officers divided among four squads on two different shifts, and is responsible for proactive street patrols focusing on gangs and gun violence. Gang Suppression Officers attend numerous community events throughout the year to engage in community policing and educate the public about the dangers of gang involvement.

The GIU and GSU work hand-in-hand to reduce gang membership and gun violence. In 2020, their combined efforts included directed patrols, Project Safe Neighborhoods hotspot operations, search

warrant operations, intelligence gathering, community education and training, gang member identification, and targeted youth gang prevention and intervention efforts. Together, the GIU and GSU participated in thousands of investigations for offenses such as homicide, felony assault, robbery, sex trafficking, firearms violations, auto theft, and narcotics violations. They also assisted in locating numerous missing juveniles. The Units executed 336 search warrants, seized 451 firearms



Gang Officers meet with members from one of Omaha's refugee communities (2020)

and confiscated \$5.2 million worth of illegal narcotics that included 19 lbs. of cocaine, 27 lbs. of methamphetamine, 278 lbs. of marijuana, 38 lbs. of hash, and more than 3,500 ecstasy pills.

Gang prevention and intervention efforts are a vital component of Gang Detectives' duties. Detectives completed 603 probation visits and 264 community visits, and conducted 107 gang education and prevention presentations in an effort to steer Omaha youth away from gang and violent crime involvement. In September 2020, Gang Officers collaborated with Northwest Precinct Officers to hold two community meetings with members of Omaha's refugee population. Discussion topics included general safety precautions to take in public and at home, police practices and enforcement procedures, gang and violent crime education, and youth intervention and prevention. Throughout 2020, Gang Officers also participated in youth community

programs such as PACE (Police Athletics for Community Engagement) and Operation NETS (Neighborhood Engagement through Sports). Officers volunteered as coaches in various sports and assisted at numerous practices and games. Due to the generous donations made by several individuals and organizations, Gang Officers were able to provide new soccer balls, footballs, basketballs, and other athletic equipment to youth they encountered while on patrol. During the holiday season, Gang Officers surprised families by providing a new basketball hoop for their home, along with \$500 gift cards for the holidays.



Gang Officers give away a new basketball hoop to a local family (Dec. 2020)

programs such as PACE (Police Athletics for Community Engagement) and Operation NETS (Neighborhood Engagement through Sports). Officers volunteered as coaches in various sports and assisted at numerous practices and games. Due to the generous donations made by several individuals and organizations, Gang Officers were able to provide new soccer balls, footballs, basketballs, and other athletic equipment to youth they encountered while on patrol. During the holiday season, Gang Officers surprised families by providing a new basketball hoop for their home, along with \$500 gift cards for the holidays.

## **NARCOTICS UNIT**

The **Narcotics Unit** includes the Narcotics Squad, Special Operations/Vice Squad, and Intelligence Squad. In 2020, the Unit saw a large influx of counterfeit fentanyl pills that were manufactured to

The Gang Units executed 336 search warrants, seized 451 illegal firearms, and confiscated \$5.2 million worth of illegal narcotics in 2020.



Drugs confiscated by the Narcotics Unit (2020)

look like real 30 mg Oxycodone pills, and those counterfeit pills led to several overdose deaths in the Omaha area. In response, the Narcotics Unit focused enforcement action on the counterfeit pill distributors, and the Unit made several large seizures of counterfeit pills that were traced directly to overdose deaths. In one such incident, Narcotics Officers located more than 1,500 fentanyl pills and 3 ounces of methamphetamine (meth) in a hotel room. The suspect was arrested, and Narcotics Officers directly tied these particular pills to two local overdose deaths. The suspect was federally indicted, found guilty, and sentenced to 17 years in federal prison.

Another investigation started as an Omaha Crime Stoppers tip about a local apartment complex resident who sold fentanyl pills to people who then overdosed. Narcotics Officers made controlled buys of fentanyl pills from the suspect and eventually arrested him with more than 1,000 fentanyl pills and two firearms in his possession. Officers learned that the suspect had been using the “Dark Web” to purchase large amounts of counterfeit pills, which he would then sell for profit. The suspect was federally indicted on several charges.

Narcotics Officers also made notable meth and marijuana arrests in 2020. In one case, Officers arrested high ranking local members of a Mexican drug trafficking organization that was distributing large amounts of methamphetamine into the Omaha area. Officers also seized 29 lbs. of methamphetamine, 7 illegal firearms, and more than \$60,000 cash. The suspects were federally indicted for their roles in the methamphetamine distribution scheme. In another notable case, Narcotics Officers working as part of the Metro Drug Task Force assisted the DEA and Sarpy County Sheriff’s Office to seize more than 3,500 lbs. of marijuana from a largescale distributor. The marijuana was seized from a storage unit, and was reported to be the largest marijuana seizure in Nebraska history.

**Narcotics Unit Officers located more than 1,500 fentanyl pills in one hotel room. The pills were tied directly to two local overdose deaths.**

The Special Operations/Vice Squad (SOVS) investigated 113 sex trafficking tips in 2020, and arrested 26 suspects for charges related to prostitution. Three of these suspects were federally indicted for Hobbs Act violations, and their cases were tied into a federal RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act prosecution. One suspect was federally indicted for production of child pornography and a Mann Act violation. An additional two suspects were arrested for miscellaneous charges unrelated to prostitution. The SOVS also participated in a joint FBI Child Exploitation Human Trafficking Task Force (CEHTTF) prostitution operation in Lincoln, NE. The goal of this

undercover operation was to recover sex trafficking survivors and prosecute individuals responsible for sex trafficking. The SOVS also assisted several out of state law enforcement agencies with follow-up efforts to include conducting surveillance on sex trafficking suspects and interviewing sex trafficking victims. During most years, the SOVS participates in additional proactive operations; however, due to COVID-19-related restrictions, the SOVS was unable to participate.

**SOVS Detectives investigated 113 sex trafficking tips in 2020 and participated in the FBI's Child Exploitation Human Trafficking Task Force.**

In December 2020, the SOVS conducted surveillance on three out of state individuals suspected of violently robbing prostitutes throughout the United States. While under surveillance, the suspects arrived at a local hotel intending to rob and assault a female prostitute. SOVS Detectives, as part of the FBI CEHTTF, helped to arrest all three individuals. The suspects were federally indicted in the District of Nebraska for a Hobbs Act violation for the crime committed in Omaha. They were federally indicted in other states for eight additional felony charges, and the FBI's New York Field Office picked up the case to be prosecuted in the Southern District of New York as a RICO case. Also in 2020, SOVS Officers received a tip that a missing juvenile from Pennsylvania was in the Omaha area with an adult male. The SOVS helped the FBI CEHTTF recover the missing juvenile and, and the adult male was arrested for sexual assault of a minor. The suspect was federally prosecuted for a Mann Act violation and the production of pornography.

SOVS Detectives also provided sex trafficking investigations training to various law enforcement agencies in an online Intro to Human Trafficking Awareness Virtual Training. The purpose of the training was to communicate signs that may indicate human trafficking, and to discuss the investigative steps necessary to build sex trafficking cases. SOVS Detectives also discussed the importance of developing rapport with victims to provide them needed services and impart to them the importance of seeing through criminal court cases to a successful resolution.

In 2020, the Intelligence Squad assisted the U.S. Secret Service with several dignitary visits within the Omaha area. These included visits from President Donald Trump, Lara Trump (twice), Douglas Emhoff, Donald Trump, Jr. (twice), and Second Lady Karen Pence. The Squad also issued 33 Officer Safety and Situational Awareness Bulletins to advise Officers throughout the agency about possible threats involving different people and/or situations. In addition, the Squad provided OPD Command Officers with information about local protests and rallies sparked by national events. This gave Commanders the ability to plan and provide appropriate staffing for these events to ensure a safe environment for all involved.

**The Intelligence Squad performs duties that are vital to local, state, and national security.**

The Intelligence Squad assigned one Officer to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). This JTTF Officer conducted nine terrorism assessments within the FBI's Guardian Program and engaged

The FBI's Joint-Terrorism Task Force completed two criminal investigations stemming from OPD-initiated cases.

in two full-scale investigations stemming from OPD-initiated cases. Both full investigations resulted in criminal indictments. One of these JTTF investigations stemmed from summer protests that turned into a period of civil unrest in downtown Omaha after Officers at the scene arrested a man in the area carrying a Molotov cocktail. Lab tests of the man's clothing showed the presence of gasoline, and his social media records and phone data revealed more evidence of his involvement. Following the JTTF Officer's investigation, the man was federally indicted for possession of an unregistered explosive device and sentenced to 30 months of incarceration and 3 years of supervised release.

## SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

The **Special Investigations Section (SIS)** includes the Adult Special Victims Unit and Child Special Victims Unit. In 2020, SIS Commanders participated in a three-year community safety assessment with partner agencies including the Women's Fund of Omaha, Douglas County Attorney's Office, Women's Center for Advancement, Victims Assistance Unit, and Douglas County Probation. The intent of this effort was to assess the City of Omaha's domestic violence response and legal system follow-through. Participants interviewed key members of each agency who are involved in domestic violence response and follow-through, and conducted focus groups with domestic violence survivors. These focus groups were intended to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the initial OPD response, the effectiveness of legal protocols, and the successes and failures of Probation. This extensive assessment was scheduled to conclude in 2021 with a report to the relevant agency heads.

The SIS participated in a 3-year assessment of the Omaha community's domestic violence response and follow-through.

### ADULT SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The **Adult Special Victims Unit (ASVU)** includes the Adult Sexual Assault Squad (ASAS) and Domestic Violence Squad. In 2020, the ASAS collected 219 sexual assault kits, including 30 anonymous sexual assault kits, and sent 134 kits to a forensics laboratory for DNA testing and inclusion in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The Sexual Assault Initiative Team submitted 396 untested sexual assault kits to the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory, received results on 284 previously untested kits, and were notified of 45 CODIS hits.



(L-R) Ofcr. Meza, Ofcr. Walker, Sgt. Stiles (June 2020)

In 2020, Domestic Violence (DV) Squad Detectives were assigned 3,574 misdemeanor cases and 1,128 felony cases. Together, Uniform Patrol Bureau (UPB) Officers and DV Squad Detectives made 1,537 misdemeanor arrests and 602 felony arrests, and issued 649 misdemeanor warrants and 301 felony



warrants. The DV Squad also participated in two warrant sweeps in an attempt to locate DV suspects with active arrest warrants.

## **CHILD SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT**

The **Child Special Victims Unit (CSVU)** includes the Child Abuse Squad, Child Sexual Assault Squad, and Missing Persons Squad. In 2020, CSVU Detectives gave 12 community presentations for 381 attendees at local schools, Project Harmony, Coalition Rx, and to the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association. The Missing Persons Squad (MPS) designated two Officers to be part of the FBI's Task Force against Human Trafficking. As part of this task force, Officers developed information about several local gang members who were suspected of juvenile sex trafficking. The MPS worked with federal partners to indict four gang members, and to identify and arrest several sex buyers. MPS Detectives also worked hard to identify at-risk youth, build rapport with them, and collect intelligence to proactively combat sex trafficking.

One notable investigation occurred in the spring and summer of 2020 after CSVU Detectives learned of a man who was a serial offender of child enticement laws. Detectives arrested the man on 29 felony charges including child enticement and possession of pornography. Unfortunately, the man was able to bond out of jail, so Detectives vigorously warned local jurisdictions about his release and the danger he posed to youth in their communities. The man eventually fled to Nicaragua in an attempt to evade prosecution; however, he was ultimately arrested there after the Douglas County Sheriff's Office placed him at the top of their "most wanted" list when he failed to appear for a local court hearing.



# EXECUTIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Executive Services Bureau (ESB) includes the Evidence/Property Unit, Research and Planning Unit and Training and Community Services Section. The Training and Community Services Section includes the Backgrounds/Inspections Unit, Neighborhood Services Unit, Training Unit, and Vehicle Impound Unit. The ESB also includes two ancillary components: the Honor Guard and the Pipe and Drum Corps.

## EVIDENCE/PROPERTY UNIT

The Evidence/Property Unit (EPU) includes the Digitally Recorded Evidence Access and Management (DREAM) Squad. The EPU securely stores all evidence and property obtained by the Omaha Police Department (OPD). In 2020, the EPU accepted 83,786 items of evidence and property; disposed of 12,039 items; deposited \$82,622 in unclaimed and forfeited money into the City's General Fund; and destroyed 1,000 seized and surrendered firearms using the GunBusters Firearms Pulverizer program. By the end of 2020, the EPU had completed



Evidence/Property Unit pass-through lock-boxes

The EPU accepted 83,786 items, disposed of 12,039 items & deposited \$82,622 in the City of Omaha General Fund.

its intensive, years-long barcoding project so that every piece of evidence and property stored by the OPD is now barcoded. As expected, the EPU successfully passed all mandatory quarterly, semi-annual, and annual inspections and audits.

The Digitally Recorded Evidence Access and Management (DREAM) Squad is tasked with storing all digital evidence created by OPD Officers using Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) or Mobile Video Recorders (MVRs). The DREAM Squad – located inside Central Police Headquarters – stores digital evidence according to OPD policies and legal regulations, and also creates DVDs of digital evidence for police investigations and court proceedings. In 2020, the DREAM Squad processed 3,687 requests for digital evidence from BWCs and MVRs.

DREAM Squad employees processed 3,687 requests for digital evidence in 2020.

## RESEARCH AND PLANNING UNIT

The Research and Planning Unit (RPU) updates the OPD policies and procedures manual; creates, revises, and maintains official OPD forms; drafts, designs, and edits the OPD Annual Report; produces General Orders, Training Bulletins, and Information Orders; researches relevant legislation, court decisions, and law enforcement policies; manages the agency's compliance with accreditation standards and guidelines; and administers the Department-wide electronic document management system. In 2020, the RPU drafted and published more than 60 General Orders; completed 15 surveys of other agencies to determine best practices in law enforcement; drafted and published 40 Training Bulletins on topics such as legislative updates, policy reminders, and emerging topics in policing; revised and created more than 20 OPD forms; tracked Nebraska Unicameral activities and evaluated more than 15 legislative bills to assess their potential impact on OPD operations; authored and

facilitated numerous administrative analyses, reviews, and reports for accreditation purposes, or at the direction of the Command Staff; and acted as an agency-wide resource for completing various projects and responding to public records requests.

In July 2020, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) awarded the Omaha Police Department (OPD) with its sixth re-accreditation award, and its seventh award overall. The RPU helped the Department achieve this feat in the face of challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and despite adapting to an entirely new remote assessment model in the weeks leading up to the OPD CALEA assessment. The RPU developed the assessment model using an Internet-based meeting platform and detailed scheduling to connect CALEA assessors via live-feed with more than 60 interviewees over the span of 3 days. These interviewees included OPD employees, community members, community leaders, school officials, and local politicians. The RPU also asked several OPD “focus units” to create videos for CALEA assessors showing their work areas, describing their day-to-day activities, and highlighting their unit’s accomplishments. The focus units included the Digitally Recorded Evidence Access and Management (DREAM) Squad, Evidence/Property Unit, Forensic Investigations Unit, and Training Unit. At the conclusion of the OPD accreditation assessment, the



The OPD earned its 6<sup>th</sup> re-accreditation award & 7<sup>th</sup> award accreditation overall.

CALEA Team Leader was so pleased with the remote assessment model the RPU developed that he shared it with other agencies as a remote assessment prototype.

## TRAINING & COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTION

The **Training and Community Services Section** includes the Backgrounds/Inspections Unit, Neighborhood Services Unit, Training Unit, and Vehicle Impound Unit, as well as two ancillary components: the Honor Guard and the Pipe and Drum Corps.

### BACKGROUNDS/INSPECTIONS UNIT

The **Backgrounds/Inspections Unit (BIU)** recruits new OPD officers and non-sworn employees, conducts background investigations for all OPD job applicants, verifies applicants’ qualifications to determine their job suitability, and conducts background investigations for other City departments, as directed. In addition, the BIU approves and inspects officers’ off-duty employment locations, audits each OPD cash fund, inspects and audits the Evidence/Property Unit, and completes other inspections and investigations as directed by the Chief of Police.

In 2020, the BIU started the year assigned to their normal duties. In early February, the City of Omaha began accepting applications for the job of Police Officer, and the BIU launched a recruiting push to attract eligible applicants. BIU Officers conducted two in-person classroom presentations at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) in February. Immediately following the second

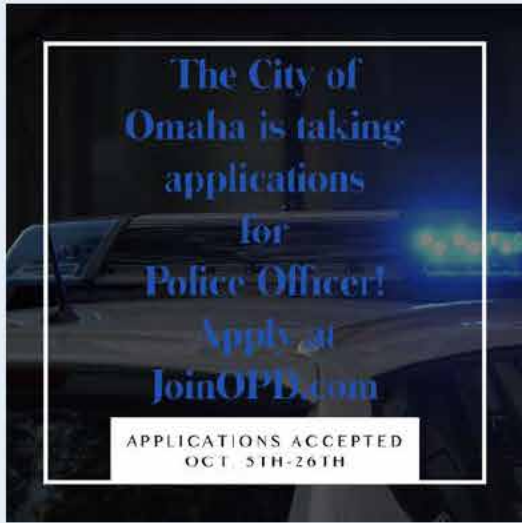


BIU Ofcr. O'Keefe (far left) with University of Nebraska at Omaha students following a student presentation (Feb. 2020)

presentation, BIU Officers attended a career fair on UNO's main campus in an attempt to attract new and talented OPD applicants. But soon after, in March, the COVID-19 pandemic reached Omaha and BIU operations were disrupted.

Due to the pandemic, the Department postponed its planned recruit class. With no recruiting activities to conduct and few background investigations to complete, two BIU Officers and the BIU Sergeant were reassigned to the West Precinct Call Center. At the same time, another BIU Officer was reassigned to aid the Human Resources Sergeant in tracking employees who tested positive for COVID-19, as well as employees who were experiencing common virus symptoms.

The BIU was staffed by a skeleton crew for much of the remainder of 2020. One BIU Officer continued completing background investigations for non-sworn job applicants and agency contract workers. Only that Officer, the BIU Lieutenant, and the BIU Secretary remained assigned to the BIU for the entire year.



The Department eventually rescheduled its next OPD Training Academy class for 2021, so the City opened another Police Officer application period in October 2020. All BIU Officers returned to the Unit briefly to assist with the Police Officer written test for one day in late October, and the physical agility test for two days in mid-November. Following those tests, the Officers were returned to their outside assignments for most of the rest of the year.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT

The **Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU)** includes the Business Watch Squad, Nuisance Task Force Squad, Prevention Programs Squad, School Resource Officer (SRO) North Squad, SRO South Squad, Truancy Officer Squad, and Volunteer Services Squad. The NSU also oversees the ancillary SRO Explosives Detection Canine Unit.

Generally, the NSU provides problem resolution and crime prevention services to both youth and adults throughout the community. But the unique limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic forced OPD Commanders to reallocate manpower, and many NSU Officers were reassigned to assist the Nuisance Task Force in April. These Officers continued to handle nuisance complaints until December, at which time they were reassigned again to assist the Backgrounds/Investigations Unit with background investigations for potential Police Officer recruits. NSU Officers were also reassigned for a brief period in late-May and early-June to assist with security at OPD Central Headquarters during local protests and civil unrest sparked by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. But despite these obstacles, and limited opportunities to engage with the public due to pandemic-related public health regulations, NSU Officers still participated in several activities during 2020. These activities included vulnerability assessments at child care centers, businesses, houses of worship, and universities; school safety audits at local



Lt. Ott on WOWT News (March 2020)

elementary, middle, and high schools; active killer presentations for local organizations; security consultations at the Omaha zoo and a local university; a safety and wellness fair at a local college; and a PACE (Police Athletics for Community Engagement) fall camp.



NSU officers at Children's Museum (Feb. 2020)



NSU officers & children at the PACE fall camp (Oct. 2020)

## TRAINING UNIT

The **Training Unit** is headquartered at the Omaha Public Safety Training Center at 11616 Rainwood Road, and is staffed by one Lieutenant, three Sergeants, ten Officers, a non-sworn Training Specialist, and a non-sworn part-time Clerk-Typist II. The Unit runs the OPD Recruit Academy for new OPD recruits, provides mandatory annual in-service training for sworn Officers, coordinates continuing education training opportunities for all employees, and maintains training hour totals for all employees. Recruit Class #1-2019 graduated on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with 33 OPD recruits and 2 Omaha Fire Department Arson Investigators. These officers became Nebraska-certified law enforcement officers upon their swearing-in at the ceremony. The 33 OPD officers immediately entered a 15-week OPD Field Training Officer (FTO) phase during which they worked alongside veteran officers on the streets of Omaha. Following their successful completion of the 15-week FTO phase, officers were authorized to work solo assignments.



Official class graduation photo for OPD Recruit Class #1-2019 (April 2020)

## Class #1-2019 Roster

Leonard Arenas IV  
Alex Atkinson  
Jimmy Barajas-Morales  
Joseph Barrett  
Tyler Boyer  
Iesha Buford  
Anthony Bultez  
Damien Curtis  
Jason Cvitanov  
Matthew Dellalucca  
Corey Donohue  
Sarah Filiaggi

Mason Gregurich  
Jordon Jeffrey  
Trevor Lapoint  
Spenser Lewis  
Joshua Lorenzo  
Todd Madison  
Joshua McClusky  
Donte McMorris  
Jordan Miller  
Nathaniel Phillips  
DeAndre Preston  
Taylor Ryan

Joseph Salerno  
Dallas Schramm  
Darien Scott  
Joseph Sullivan  
Charles Sweeney III  
Katherine Trimble  
John Tynski IV  
Richard Williams III  
Andrew Wulf

\*Kerry Benedict  
\*John Farmer Jr.

\*OFD Arson Investigators

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, OPD employees' in-person training opportunities were limited in 2020. Despite these limitations, the Training Unit was still able to provide valuable training opportunities for OPD employees. Training Unit officers spent months preparing for, organizing, and delivering a mandatory 7-hour in-service training for more than 850 sworn officers. The first in-service session began July 20<sup>th</sup> and the last in-service session ended September 11<sup>th</sup>. There were 25 officers allowed in each session, and the Training Unit followed CDC guidelines throughout to limit COVID-19 exposure. Training topics included suicide by cop, a George Floyd incident review, fair and impartial policing, and emergency driving operations.

In addition to the mandatory in-service training, the Training Unit conducted handgun, shotgun, and Taser certification training for all officers; completed rifle certification training for more than 540 officers; and held body worn camera (BWC) training that increased the number of BWC trained officers to 713. The Unit also maintained training hours for all employees. For the year 2020, OPD employees attended 461 training courses (in-person and online) for a total of 34,677 training hours.



Dep. Chief Gonzalez (right), Capt. Thomas (center), Lt. Fox (top), Ofcr. Kampbell (far left), Sgt. L. Hodges (top left) & Sgt. P. Hodges (bottom) at the OPD Training Academy.

## VEHICLE IMPOUND LOT

The **Vehicle Impound Lot** stores and disposes of vehicles towed by the OPD, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and Nebraska State Patrol. The Impound Lot is composed of twelve employees including a Manager, Office Supervisor, Maintenance Foreman I, Secretary I, four Automotive Equipment Operators, two Clerk-Typist IIs, and two part-time Automotive Equipment Operators. The Impound Lot generates revenue for the City's General Fund by auctioning abandoned vehicles, receiving daily cash revenues, and auctioning abandoned property found inside abandoned vehicles.

## HONOR GUARD / PIPE AND DRUM CORPS (Ancillary)

The OPD **Honor Guard** was established in 1954 as a separate volunteer organization devoted to positively representing the Department at various civic functions. The Honor Guard has an

authorized strength of 32 members. Officers serve in the Honor Guard without regard for rank. A President, Vice President, Secretary, and Sergeant at Arms are elected every two years. Current Honor Guard officeholders include: Gregory O'Neil (President), Corey Clements (Vice President), Jordan Jacobs (Secretary), and Steven Barnes and Karl Girard (Sergeant at Arms). In 2020, the Honor Guard participated in 33 events, which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was a significant decrease from 2019. Honor Guard events included 5 color guards, 15 OPD retiree funerals, a funeral for an outside agency line-of-duty death, the Blue Mass, and Police Memorial Day.

The **Pipe and Drum Corps** was formed in 2011 to provide ceremonial services at public events such as parades, funerals, and other civic events. The Corps falls under the Honor Guard administratively but is organized separately. The Pipe and Drum Corps is commanded by a Sergeant. In 2020, the number of Pipe and Drum Corps events decreased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the year, the Pipe and Drum Corps performed at 21 events including 14 funerals, multiple law enforcement graduation ceremonies, and the Blue Mass.



# POLICE SERVICES BUREAU

The **Police Services Bureau (PSB)** provides support services to the Department and prepares and monitors the OPD budget. The PSB includes the Air Support Unit, Fiscal Affairs, Grant Administration Unit, Behavioral Health and Wellness Unit, Mobile IT Unit, Police Personnel Unit and the Support Services Section, which includes the Customer Services Unit, Digital Forensics Squad, Fleet/Facilities Unit, Forensic Investigations Unit, and Police Supply Unit.

## AIR SUPPORT UNIT

The **Air Support Unit (ASU)** is staffed by a Chief Pilot, one Sergeant, six Pilot Officers, and one Aviation Mechanic. In March 2020, the ASU acquired a new Bell 407 helicopter. This helicopter provides the ASU with more diverse capabilities such as rappelling and deploying tactical assets, and enables the use of night vision goggles.



An OPD helicopter inside the ASU hangar in Blair (2020)

After purchasing the Bell 407, the ASU sent all Pilots to the Bell Helicopter Training Academy to be certified to fly with night vision goggles. This capability provides ASU Pilots and Observers with greatly-enhanced ground visibility while flying at night – especially when flying over rural areas. The ASU also sent each Pilot to the Bell Helicopter Training Academy to receive specific instruction in flying the Bell 407 helicopter. All Pilots successfully graduated from this advanced training course. The ASU Aviation Mechanic participated in intense training to attain his Inspector Authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

In 2020, the ASU flew hundreds of missions to support of OPD Officers and provide mutual aid assistance to neighboring agencies. The ASU assisted approximately 210 times to locate vulnerable adults and children, and to maintain surveillance of suspects who were fleeing arrest (both on foot and in vehicles). Over several days in late-May and early-June, the ASU provided more than 30 hours of air support to monitor large protests that, at times, turned to civil unrest at and near the areas of 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Streets and the Old Market Historic District downtown. During this period, the ASU sometimes operated two helicopters simultaneously to provide maximum air support over both locations. Most years, ASU Pilots participate in numerous community



Inside the ABLE-1 cockpit during a night flight (2020)



engagement activities by conducting static displays of the helicopters and making other appearances at community events; however, the COVID-19 pandemic greatly limited such activities in 2020. Despite these limitations, the ASU did conduct “fly-bys,” and also hosted a socially distanced gathering of Cub Scout troops at the ASU hangar in Blair.

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & WELLNESS UNIT**

The **Behavioral Health and Wellness Unit (BHWU)** includes the Co-Responder Team, Collaborative Outreach Response Engagement (CORE) Squad, Douglas County School Threat Advisory Team, Employee Resources Squad, and an ancillary Peer Support Team. The BHWU is staffed by non-sworn mental health practitioners and specially-trained sworn Officers who work with community partners to assist people experiencing mental health crises, or demonstrating behaviors or mental health symptoms that cause repeated calls to 911. BHWU employees work with individuals who may be suicidal, off their medication and/or suffering from delusions (often causing fearful paranoia), on the Autism spectrum, or homeless and suffering from mental illness which is complicated by substance abuse. The BHWU-managed Peer Support Team also has resources to assist OPD employees who may be experiencing mental health challenges.



(L-R) Ofcr. Nickerson , Ofcr. Alcantara & Co-Responder Limoges (Sept. 2020)

The Co-Responder Team includes a Mental Health Coordinator, a Mental Health Team Lead, and four Mental Health Crisis Co-Responders. All of these team members are non-sworn licensed mental health practitioners. Co-Responders are imbedded within OPD precincts and work alongside OPD Officers to provide intervention when individuals are in mental health crisis. Co-Responders utilize



(L-R) Co-Responder Limoges & CIT-trained Ofcr. Alcantara speak with a person facing mental health challenges (Sept. 2020)

police radios and 911 dispatching information to self-dispatch to calls they believe have a mental health component. Once on the scene, they assess people’s immediate needs and assist with de-escalation. Their ultimate goal is to achieve stabilization and hospital or jail diversion by connecting individuals with mental health, substance abuse, and/or medical providers. Officers who encounter people they believe are at-risk due to mental illness may also notify the Mental Health Coordinator, who will then coordinate a response.

Co-Responders often partner with OPD Officers who are trained in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model to conduct proactive outreach with persons who have been involved in numerous 911

calls or other police encounters. The aim of this outreach is to connect people with appropriate mental health or medical care, or help them address the behavior that has caused the 911 calls or repeated police encounters. BHWU employees frequently meet with community health and social services providers, hospitals, and the Douglas County Attorney (who oversees the Board of Mental Health) to facilitate coordinated and efficient care. The Mental Health Coordinator and Co-Responders often train together and work alongside the Crisis Negotiation Team and Douglas County Threat Assessment Team, and also partner to provide OPD employees with mental and behavioral health training.



Co-Responder Flatten (middle) (2020)

The CORE Squad is composed of a Sergeant and an Officer. These experienced, CIT-trained employees assist with planning, coordinating, and managing the OPD behavioral health and wellness response in the community. They then direct community members with mental or behavioral health needs to appropriate resources so those in need are not left to fend for themselves during difficult periods in their lives. The CORE Sergeant and Officer are also part of the Peer Support Team (PRT) leadership – a role in which they help to train, administer, and provide support to the PRT program.

The Employee Resources Squad is administered by a Sergeant who works as a liaison between the Omaha Police Department (OPD) and City Human Resources Department to manage OPD employees' illnesses and injuries, both on- and off-duty. The Employee Resources Sergeant also acts as the Peer Support Team Leader. In this role, the Sergeant coordinates critical incident stress management debriefings and assists with connecting OPD employees and their families to support resources, as needed.

## MOBILE IT UNIT

The **Mobile IT Unit** manages OPD mobile technologies to include Mobile Data Computers (MDC), Mobile Video Recorders (MVR), Body Worn Cameras (BWC), and small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS). The Unit also provides technical support to all employees who use these systems, as well as OPD mobile electronic reporting systems. MDCs and MVRs are essential tools for modern law enforcement Officers, and both are deployed inside nearly all marked OPD vehicles.



OPD employees train to achieve sUAS pilot certification (2020)

At the start of 2020, there were 585 BWCs deployed to various OPD precincts, units, and squads; and by the end of 2020, there were more

than 700 OPD Officers authorized to wear BWCs on duty. The videos recovered from these devices are valuable tools that improve evidentiary outcomes by providing an unalterable audio and video record of crimes, police-citizen interactions, and use of force incidents.

In 2020, OPD Officers uploaded 492,960 BWC videos, which totaled 116,352.62 hours of video and required 402,698.21 GB of storage. This was an average of 1,346.89 videos and 317.9 hours of video each day for the entire year. At the conclusion of 2020, there were 157,518 active videos being stored for potential evidentiary use. These videos 60,522 hours of video and required 207,876.46 GBs of storage.

The OPD sUAS program launched in 2020 after more than a year spent obtaining the sUASs, training

**In 2020, the Mobile IT Unit managed 492,960 BWC videos that required 403,698.21 GB of storage.**

employees to be sUAS pilots, and getting pilots FAA certified. In 2020, OPD's sUAS pilots completed 175 flights in 2020, which included training and maintenance flights, as well as 47 operational deployments.

## SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION

The **Support Services Section** includes the Customer Services Unit, Digital Forensics Squad, Fleet/Facilities Unit, Forensic Investigations Unit, and Police Supply Unit.

### CUSTOMER SERVICES UNIT

The **Customer Services Unit (CSU)** includes the Court Liaison Squad, Front Desk Squad, and Telephone Report Squad. The CSU provides a variety of services and support functions such as processing incoming telephone calls, handling public inquiries, taking walk-in crime reports, and registering citizens' firearms. The Court Liaison Squad monitors the court schedule and alerts Officers when their court hearings are cancelled. In 2020, the Squad cancelled 5,049 Police Officer court appearances and saved the City of Omaha \$849,354 in unnecessary court overtime costs.

**The Court Liaison Squad cancelled 5,049 Police Officer court appearances and saved the City of Omaha \$849,354.**

The Front Desk Squad staffs the front desk at OPD Central Headquarters. The Squad's most common tasks include processing firearms registrations, and distributing police reports, mugshots, fingerprints, and criminal history reports. In 2020, the Front Desk's hours changed from 24 hours a day to 8 hours a day (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) to keep employees and the public safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the Front Desk Squad registered 4,660 firearms; sold 4,051 police reports; distributed 1,119 criminal histories; provided 853 mugshots; and completed 248 fingerprinting requests.

**The Front Desk Squad registered 4,660 firearms & distributed 6,023 total police reports, criminal histories & mugshots.**

The Telephone Report Squad (TRS) is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is responsible for taking certain types of reports from citizens in lieu of Officers being dispatched. The calls designated for TRS response are non-emergency calls that are considered “cold” and/or “report of” calls. A “cold” call is a report of a crime in which the suspect has left the area and it is reasonable to believe they will not return, so there is no longer any immediate danger to the person or property.

## DIGITAL FORENSICS SQUAD



The Digital Forensics Squad office (2020)

The **Digital Forensics Squad (DFS)** includes five specially-trained Detectives who provide digital evidence collection, preservation, and investigation support to OPD field operations. DFS Officers perform forensically sound data acquisitions from all types of electronic devices, and assist investigators and those involved in criminal court cases to understand and analyze these complex datasets. The DFS plays a pivotal role in many criminal investigations, and has a particularly important role in many Homicide Unit and Child Sexual Assault Squad investigations.

## FLEET AND FACILITIES UNIT

The **Fleet and Facilities Unit (FFU)** manages the procurement, service, and maintenance of all OPD vehicles and facilities. In 2020, the FFU purchased 35 marked police vehicles and 3 unmarked police vehicles, and completed 501 work requests submitted by OPD employees. In addition, the FFU submitted 499 work orders, including 137 orders for preventive maintenance. Of particular importance during the COVID-19 pandemic, the FFU arranged for OPD common areas to be regularly cleaned, assisted in acquiring hand sanitizer, and ensured all OPD hand sanitizer dispensers were full and in good working condition. FFU employees also built an additional storage area on the garage level at OPD Central Headquarters, and generally worked to ensure all OPD facilities and vehicles were operational throughout 2020.



A blue barrel full of hand sanitizer (left) and a hand sanitizer dispenser (right).

## FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The **Forensic Investigations Unit (FIU)** includes the Firearms Examination Squad and the Latent Print Examination Squad. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FIU employees faced unprecedented challenges in 2020 as they worked to deliver quality forensic services, comply with all accreditation standards, and maintain employee certifications and staff training levels. Despite these obstacles, FIU employees delivered uninterrupted forensic services by utilizing enhanced personal protective

equipment (PPE), online training services, and risk mitigation strategies. The lone modification to FIU services in 2020 was a temporary discontinuation of vehicle evidence processing for walk-in victims of vehicle-related crimes.



(L-R) FIU employees Cooley, Moppin, Cardenas, Klemme, and Petrick (front-right) during sUAS training (2020)

FIU employees achieved numerous accomplishments and participated in notable investigations in 2020. The Unit continued ANAB ISO/IEC 17020 Accreditation for Crime Scene Investigation and Latent Print Examination; relocated FIU services to offsite OPD precincts on multiple occasions to maintain continuity of services during civil unrest; successfully and competently completed a homicide investigation in the midst of the civil unrest; and implemented regular internal FIU homicide debriefing meetings. FIU employees also met all training milestones and launched new forensic capabilities. Four employees achieved their initial certification, and one employee achieved re-certification, as IAI Certified Crime Scene Investigators. In addition, the FIU deployed an Aerial Forensic Mapping program after training and certifying six Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensed sUAS pilots, and deployed four new Laser Scanner Operators after training and certifying employees to use the technology.

In 2020, FIU employees made numerous forensic identifications and evidentiary discoveries that were critical to criminal investigations. One such incident was the discovery of a homicide victim's blood on a suspect's clothing, which helped Homicide Unit Detectives build their case against that suspect. In addition, the FIU Latent Print Examination Squad identified a suspect's fingerprint on a vehicle involved in a homicide; identified two latent prints and tied them to a double-homicide suspect; and developed and identified a latent print in a homicide victim's blood, and tied it to the suspect in a brutal homicide.

The FIU's community outreach efforts were limited for most of 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions; however, remote meeting tools and other online technologies allowed FIU employees to deliver informational content to school groups while maintaining safe conditions. FIU employees demonstrated the Unit's capabilities via online presentations to students at Westside High School, Elkhorn High School, and Millar Public Schools.



FIU employees Lund (left), Heaston (right), and Drews (top) hone their forensic skills at the Public Safety Training Center (2020)

## POLICE SUPPLY UNIT

The **Police Supply Unit** includes three non-sworn employees who help provide all OPD employees with the items needed to do their jobs effectively. These items include uniforms, office supplies, safety equipment, and work-related forms. In addition, the Supply Unit maintains the OPD petty cash fund. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Police Supply Unit has played a vital role in providing OPD employees with personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies needed to keep them healthy. As the pandemic began in March 2020, there was a nationwide shortage of PPE items, but the Police Supply Unit worked to procure enough masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies to have on hand and distribute agency-wide.

In June 2020, the Police Supply Unit welcomed a new Storekeeper I to the team, and his knowledge and experience is a great asset to the Unit. In November 2020, the Unit said goodbye to its longtime Storekeeper II, who is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement after 35½ years of dedicated service to the City of Omaha.

# PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT BUREAU

The Professional Oversight Bureau (POB) includes the Internal Affairs Unit and oversees public records requests, the Merit Review Committee, and the Written Reprimand Appeal Committee.

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

The **Internal Affairs Unit (IAU)** investigates internal and external complaints made against agency employees, and works closely with the City of Omaha Human Resources Department (City HR). City HR investigates complaints – both internal and external – made against OPD’s non-sworn employees. While City HR oversees these non-sworn investigations, the incidents are identified by OPD command Officers and/or the IAU and forwarded to City HR for investigation. In 2020, the IAU and City HR investigated a total of 43 external complaints and 45 internal complaints.

IAU & City HR Activity	2020
External Complaints Total	43
<b>Dispositions:</b>	
Not Sustained	20
Sustained	27
Exonerated	85
Unfounded	4
No Finding/Court Issue	0
Policy Failure	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136</b>

IAU & City HR Activity	2020
Internal Complaints Total	45
<b>Dispositions:</b>	
Not Sustained	17
Sustained	118
Exonerated	7
Unfounded	3
No Finding/Court Issue	0
Policy Failure	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145</b>

# TECHNICAL & REPORTING SERVICES BUREAU

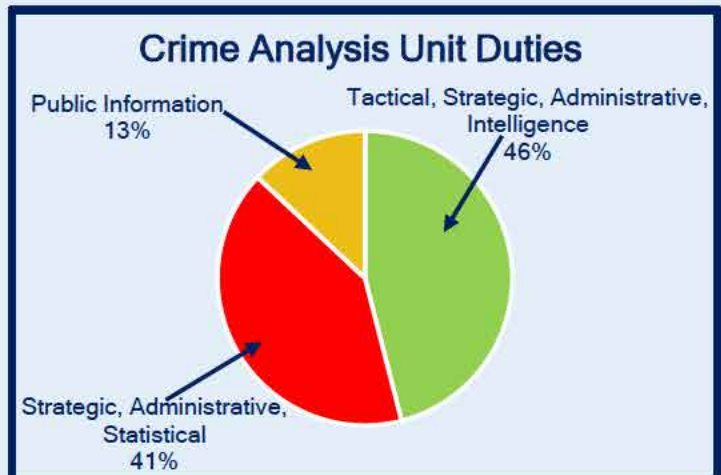
The **Technical and Reporting Services Bureau (TRSB)** was established in 2019 to improve the Department's report services, technology management, and crime analysis functions. The TRSB is commanded by a non-sworn Deputy Director and includes the Crime Analysis Unit, Information Technology Unit, and Data Unit.

## CRIME ANALYSIS

The **Crime Analysis Unit (CAU)** includes a non-sworn Crime Analysis Manager and five non-sworn Crime Analysts. All CAU employees are members of the Mid-America Regional Crime Analysis Network (MARCAN) and the International Association of Crime Analysts (IACA). CAU duties fall into four analytical capability areas: Tactical, Strategic, Administrative, and Intelligence.

In 2020, 46 percent of CAU duties fell into the areas of Tactical, Intelligence, and Investigative Support. These duties included producing weekly criminal activity maps and data; identifying crime series/patterns and distributing the findings to Officers and Detectives; conducting investigative analysis and database searches to assist Detectives by identifying possible suspects or linking multiple crimes to a known suspect; and conducting link analysis using specialized software applications and social media communications.

An additional 41 percent of CAU duties in 2020 fell into the areas of Strategic, Administrative, and Statistical Support. These duties included producing monthly CompStat presentations; preparing quarterly DDACTS (Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety) maps; gathering, compiling, and reporting crime data to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and the Federal Bureau of



Investigation (FBI) according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting rules; and producing monthly and quarterly crime statistics reports and publishing them on the OPD website. The final 13 percent of CAU duties in 2020 fell into the area of Public Information Support. This included responding to external public information requests when approved by the Chief of Police.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT

The **Information Technology (IT) Unit** ensures proper development and maintenance of the Department's IT systems to include the Records Management System (RMS), IT infrastructure, and all web-based applications. The IT Unit also reviews purchases and agreements related to outside IT vendors to ensure the agreements are sound. In March 2020, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic created a need for many essential employees to work off-site to maintain social distancing in an effort to protect the Department's essential workforce. With computer systems being an integral part of day-to-day operations, the IT Unit was tasked with modifying the computer systems so key

OPD employees could still perform their duties. IT Unit employees played a key role in identifying novel solutions to complex problems that arose during that challenging project. As a result of the IT Unit's efforts, the Omaha Police Department (OPD) continued to provide uninterrupted services to the people of Omaha throughout 2020.

The IT Unit prepared OPD computer systems so key employees could work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, thus protecting the essential OPD workforce.

In June, the IT Unit began working on the Nebraska Investigator Crash Report (ICR) system. The ICR system will be used by police officers to create motor vehicle crash reports that comply with new reporting standards required by the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT). This project was a joint effort between the OPD, NDOT, and Kearney Police Department. As a result of the cost sharing structure built into this collaborative partnership, the OPD IT Unit was able to reduce its IT expenses by sharing costs with other agencies and government entities that experience the same reporting requirements.

## DATA UNIT

The **Data Unit** is managed by a non-sworn Administrative Information Manager, and includes the Data Review Squad and Records Squad. Data Unit employees enter crime reports, citations, and NCIC entries into the appropriate computer systems; provide real-time information via radio to OPD officers working in the field; and maintain the OPD Central Records System, which includes

The Data Unit issued 61,269 RB numbers; distributed 8,188 reports to the public & 5,211 reports to government agencies; and completed 6,712 criminal history requests.

scanning, filing, and disseminating reports and criminal history information. In 2020, the Data Unit issued 61,269 RB numbers; located and provided 8,188 reports purchased by the public; located and provided 5,211 reports requested by other government agencies; and completed 6,712 criminal history requests.





# UNIFORM PATROL BUREAU

The **Uniform Patrol Bureau (UPB)** provides 24-hour general police services in the City of Omaha. These services include uniform patrol, emergency response to 911 calls-for-service, general law enforcement, community outreach, event safety services, drug interdiction, and problem resolution. The UPB includes the Northwest Precinct, Northeast Precinct, Southeast Precinct, Southwest Precinct, West Precinct, and Tactical Operations Section.

## NORTHWEST PRECINCT

The **Northwest (NW) Precinct** generally includes the areas of Omaha north of Dodge Street between 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Interstate 680. The NW Precinct believes people's voices are best heard via direct communication, and residents' needs are best met when everyone involved understands the situation at hand. Guided by this philosophy, NW employees typically accept all invitations to visit schools, businesses, churches, and neighborhood groups to speak with residents face-to-face. But the COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted the NW Precinct's ability to host and attend in-person meetings for most of 2020.

In 2020, NW Precinct employees safely attended a few outdoor community events such as drive-by birthday parties and outdoor block parties that followed local health directives and CDC guidelines. But for most of the year, NW employees utilized technological tools to host and attend online community events in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 among the public and the Department's essential workforce. Some online meetings employees hosted or attended included NW Precinct Advisory Council (PAC), Neighborhood Watch, Omaha 360, Omaha Refugee Task Force, and Omaha Housing Authority.



(L-R) Officers Payne and Haynes near 48<sup>th</sup> & Boyd (2020)



NW Officers Vernon, Payne, Haynes & Washington at a community gathering near 48<sup>th</sup> & Boyd (2020)

NW Patrol Officers remained busy throughout 2020 providing uniform patrol coverage and response to 911 calls-for service. Officers regularly stopped crimes in progress and apprehended the suspects involved, or arrested suspects shortly after they had engaged in criminal activity. The following incident descriptions provide examples of NW Officers' quick work in protecting Omaha residents:

- In February, Officers on patrol in the NW Precinct identified a stolen vehicle parked in front of a residence. Officers remained in the area to surveil the vehicle, and they soon observed two suspects approach it and open the doors to climb inside. Officers immediately approached the suspects and took them into custody for being in possession of a stolen vehicle. The Officers then discovered

one of the men possessed methamphetamine. While interviewing the suspects at OPD Central Headquarters, the Officers learned there was stolen property at the suspects' residence. Officer quickly drafted a search warrant, had the warrant approved by a judge, and served the search warrant on the suspects' residence in southeast Omaha. During the search, Officers located three illegal firearms inside the residence. (Both suspects are felons and cannot legally possess a firearm.) Officers booked the suspects on numerous theft-related charges, as well as possession of drugs and weapons.



NW Precinct Officers prepare for a socially distanced roll call (2020)

- In June, NW Officers located and arrested a man just minutes after he violently assaulted and robbed a woman in her front yard. According to the woman, she was watering her grass when the man walked down the street carrying a hammer. Without warning, and completely unprovoked, the man approached the woman, punched her in the face, and stole her Apple Watch. Thankfully, a neighbor witnessed the attack and called 911 to report the crime before going to assist the woman. Officers quickly located the suspect just blocks from the woman's home and still in possession of the woman's Apple Watch. The Officers arrested the booked the man for robbery and use of a weapon to commit a felony.
- NW Precinct Officers regularly stopped crimes in progress or arrested suspects shortly after they had engaged in criminal activity.
- In August, proactive NW Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with no license plates. When they approached the vehicle, Officers observed open alcohol containers in the driver's control so they ordered the male driver to exit the vehicle. The man refused to exit and, instead, attempted to put the vehicle in gear and drive away. Officers struggled to subdue the man, and decided to deploy their Tasers to gain control of him. After securing the suspect, Officers searched the vehicle and located a large number of MDMA (ecstasy) pills and a stolen firearm. Officers arrested and booked the man – a convicted felon who is legally prohibited from possessing a firearm – on numerous charges.
  - In September, NW Officers arrested a man just moments after he fired several gunshots inside an apartment building. Officers were dispatched to the building after 911 received calls of a man shooting a handgun multiple times inside the building. Officers swiftly located the suspect one block from the apartment building and still armed with the handgun. Officers confronted the man, and he immediately dropped the firearm and surrendered himself to their custody. Officers booked the suspect on several charges.

## NORTHEAST PRECINCT

The **Northeast (NE) Precinct** generally includes the areas of Omaha north of Dodge Street and east of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. NE Precinct employees provide professional police services using innovative community-based policing methods and collaborating with community outreach organizations, neighborhood associations, public schools, churches and other faith-based organizations, and local

businesses. NE Precinct employees take great pride in working within culturally rich and diverse northeast Omaha, and strive to make a difference in the lives of the people they serve. NE employees are committed to enhancing the quality of life for all residents, and reducing crime and fear of crime by employing proactive community policing strategies. The NE Precinct Advisory Committee (PAC) includes area residents, business partners, and community leaders who live and work within the NE Precinct boundaries. The NE PAC works closely with the NE Precinct Command to build and maintain positive relationships and proactively address public safety issues.

The COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 a difficult year for NE Precinct employees. Most community events were cancelled, so in order to keep in touch with the NE Precinct community, employees utilized multiple online platforms. NE employees also participated in several masked



Sgt. Gorden (right) & Specialist Cooper (center) at a birthday parade for a local resident (July 2020)



Officer Rone speaks to a young child & provides him with an OPD activity book (Aug. 2020)

gatherings and socially distanced “drive-by” anniversary and birthday celebrations. Overall, NE Precinct employees participated in 141 events in 2020. These events include the Empowerment Network’s weekly Omaha 360 meetings, Pastors and Faith Leaders Initiative meetings, monthly North Omaha Neighborhood Alliance meetings, weekly “Teen Talks” hosted by the Omaha Public Library’s Washington Branch, monthly neighborhood association meetings, and the Autism Action Partnership’s battery charging site. The NE Precinct also disseminated information to the community via monthly NE Precinct Newsletters, which were electronically distributed via social media and email. These newsletters included safety tips, neighborhood news and information, and a crime trends information page written by the NE Captain.

## SOUTHEAST PRECINCT

The **Southeast (SE) Precinct** generally includes the areas of Omaha south of Dodge Street and east of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. The SE Precinct includes the Riverfront Patrol Squad and the Mounted Patrol Squad, and covers a culturally diverse and vibrant area that has been a melting pot of immigrant cultures throughout Omaha’s history. SE Precinct Officers protect some of Omaha’s beloved and most-visited locations such as the Henry Doorly Zoo, TD Ameritrade Park, CHI Health Center Arena and Convention Center, Old Market Historic District, South 24<sup>th</sup> Street Historic District, Holland



Officers & an OPD K-9 pose with young ladies in front of the SE Precinct assembly after the young ladies brought treats for the Officers and the K-9 (July 2020)



A South Omaha Violence Intervention and Prevention (SOVIP) meeting takes place in the SE Precinct community room (Jan. 2020)

Performing Arts Center, and Omaha Riverfront. SE Officers patrol these areas using marked police vehicles, bicycles, horses, and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), as well as on foot.

During most years, SE Precinct employees connect with the community by participating in

numerous community gatherings and providing foot patrol at some of Omaha's most popular locations and events. During the first quarter of 2020, SE employees conducted their normal community engagement and neighborhood problem solving activities. During this time, the SE Precinct employees hosted their typical gatherings, such as the South Omaha Violence Intervention and Prevention (SOVIP) meeting, and engaged in community outreach activities in order to improve police-community relations. But the Precinct was greatly impacted by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in March 2020. From that point forward, every largescale event in Omaha was cancelled. These events included beloved and well-attended annual events such as the NCAA College Baseball World Series, NCAA Basketball Tournament first and second round games, Berkshire Hathaway Annual Shareholders Meeting, Cinco de Mayo Parade, Septemberfest, and concerts and other performing arts events at the CHI Health Center Arena, Holland Performing Arts Center, and Orpheum Theater. In addition, all OPD community events were cancelled, so the SE Precinct employees were unable to host and participate in annual events such as the Safety Awareness Fitness and Education (SAFE) event, Latino Police Officers' Association (LPOA) Easter egg hunt, and the SE Precinct Citizens' Academy.



Mounted Patrol Officers visit residents at St. Joseph Villa on South 10<sup>th</sup> Street (2020)

These cancellations altered the SE Precinct's normal operations, and Officers' usual duties were generally replaced by other tasks. Officers walked the sidewalks of South 24<sup>th</sup> Street and the Old Market Historic Districts to meet with business owners and residents to ensure everyone was educated about CDC and Douglas County Health Department health guidelines. Mounted Patrol Officers climbed atop their horses and visited residents where they live. And as COVID-19 testing ramped up in mid-2020 – especially in southeast Omaha, which was one of the hardest hit areas in Omaha – the SE Precinct was called upon to help organize, and provide traffic control and translation for, COVID-19 testing sites in the SE Precinct.

In late-May and early-June, the area in and around the Old Market Historic District was one of two locations in Omaha where large protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis turned into civil unrest. The SE Precinct took an all-hands-on-deck approach to securing the area during this time, and SE Commanders worked emergency operations in the Douglas County Emergency Management Center in order to follow the developments live. Even after the unrest subsided, the

Old Market became a regular gathering place for protesters on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the summer. With the assistance of District Officers, Riverfront Patrol Officers and Precinct Commanders were assigned to every protest in the area throughout the summer. In this difficult



Sgt. Straub (left) in the Douglas County Emergency Management Center (2020)

situation, Officers and Command focused on protecting people and property while allowing protesters to exercise their First Amendment Rights.

In October, the SE Precinct held a large socially-distanced “Trick or Treat” community event during which the Mobile Command Center made an appearance. After the difficulties faced throughout the year, Officers

and other employees were happy to interact with children and families in a positive and safe environment. The SE Precinct continued the good will in December when Officers and Command delivered gifts and food to families in need. This holiday tradition is always a positive way to end each year, and SE Precinct employees were thankful for the opportunity to continue the tradition despite the pandemic (and while wearing masks).

## SOUTHWEST PRECINCT

The **Southwest (SW) Precinct** generally includes the areas south of Dodge Street between 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Interstate 80/680. (Between Harrison and L Streets, the SW Precinct extends west out to 144<sup>th</sup> Street.) The SW Precinct employs a community policing approach to address the root causes of crime and reduce fear of crime. SW employees foster partnerships with business owners and neighborhood associations, and take an active role in developing strategies to improve the overall quality of life in the area.



A youth group tours the SW Precinct (2020)



Attendees listen intently during the SW PAC meeting (Feb. 2020)

In January and February of 2020, SW employees hosted two SW Precinct Advisory Council (PAC) meetings, conducted tours for various youth groups, gave presentations to youth organizations and other community groups, and attended meetings arranged by other City departments. But once COVID-19 health restrictions began in March, SW employees quickly adapted

to a new way of conducting business. Officers and the SW Crime Prevention Specialist adjusted their outreach strategies and began to rely mostly on “no contact” communication methods such as emails, social media, virtual meetings, phone calls, press releases, and drive-by parade-style visits with residents.

Navigating through the pandemic was difficult for everyone, but the protests and civil unrest that began in late-May added even more stress to Officers’ jobs. One protest and civil unrest location – the area at and around the intersection of 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Streets – is part of the SW Precinct. SW Officers worked long hours in dangerous conditions to protect people and property at this location while allowing protesters to exercise their First Amendment Rights. SW Precinct Officers and Command, as well as the Department as a whole, were fortunate to receive assistance from surrounding law enforcement agencies and the Nebraska National Guard. Help from these organizations provided the OPD with the personnel needed to bring the situation safely under control. SW Precinct employees were also thankful for the outpouring of support they received from the wonderful residents of Omaha. This support was provided in the form of encouraging letters and cards; gifts of N-95 masks, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, bottles of water, and snacks; and even a large billboard displayed just outside the SW Precinct assembly that offered a message of thanks to law enforcement.



A supportive billboard near the SW Precinct that appeared following a period of protests and civil unrest (2020)



SW Drive-Thru Trick or Treat event map - Seymour Smith Park (Oct. 2020)

drove slowly through a course that included four candy giveaway stops, an OPD motorcycle sticker giveaway stop, and a Mounted Patrol stop. The SW Precinct was assisted by the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, Ralston Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, pharmacy students from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the OPD Mounted Patrol Unit, and numerous other OPD employees from various precincts and units.

For the remainder of the year, SW employees dealt with life during a pandemic while also attempting to bridge the gap between the community and law enforcement. Officers participated in three birthday parades, a Woolworth neighborhood “street gathering,” an outdoor pre-school visit, an outdoor Boy Scouts presentation, and the Blue Mass. The largest event organized by the SW Precinct was a large “Drive-Thru Trick or Treat” experience at Seymour Smith Park. Vehicles lined up down the street with kids and families in costume ready for the festivities. Attendees

# WEST PRECINCT

The **West Precinct** generally includes the areas west of Interstate 80/680. (Between Harrison and L Streets, the West Precinct's eastern boundary is 144<sup>th</sup> Street.) West Precinct employees participated in several wonderful community events in 2020 prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Early in the year, Officers attended several Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts events during which they talked about what it means to be a Police Officer. Officers also attended events at Children's Hospital, including a Valentine's Day event in which they helped children make Valentine's Day cards. In addition, employees conducted Precinct tours for Cub Scouts troops and the Young Adult Education Center, and held two West Precinct Advisory Council (PAC) meetings. But as the pandemic took hold across the United States in mid-to-late March, restrictions were enacted that prohibited West employees from interacting too closely with the public.



A West PAC meeting takes place in the West Precinct's community room (Feb. 2020)

In an effort to continue engaging with the community, the West Crime Prevention Specialist and Officers attended 15 "drive-by" parades ranging from children's birthday parades to nursing home parades. These events provided a wonderful opportunity to continue positive interactions with the community, and both West Precinct employees and the people being celebrated truly enjoyed the festivities. In the fall, there were several drive-thru "Trunk or Treat" events that West Officers participated in by handing out candy and OPD badge stickers.

Throughout the year, West Precinct Command replaced the monthly West PAC meetings with emails to PAC members. These monthly emails included current crime trends and statistics from events that occurred throughout the West Precinct for the month. The West Crime Prevention Specialist and Officers also utilized virtual meeting technology to attend various community meetings. These strategies allowed employees to stay active and continue having a positive connection with the community despite the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Various community members, church groups, and local businesses recognized the challenges Police Officers faced in 2020, and they generously donated food, drinks, and snacks to West Precinct Officers and employees.



Grateful residents provide officers with snack bags (2020)

When not engaging with the community, West Precinct Officers were busy responding to calls for service in order to keep the people of Omaha safe. The following incident descriptions provide examples of West Officers' excellent work in protecting Omaha residents:

- In one 2020 case, West Officers arrested and charged a man for a series of business robberies in the area of North 108<sup>th</sup> Street after an alert employee from one of the victimized businesses reported seeing the suspect walking into a nearby apartment complex. Officers descended on the area to establish surveillance. While they were surveilling the apartment complex, an employee from another business approached the Officers and told them she recognized the suspect as one of her regular customers. The employee provided the man's name, and Officers contacted the apartment manager to learn the man's exact address. Officers shifted their focus to the man's apartment unit and waited for the suspect to exit. Shortly thereafter, the man exited his apartment, and Officers immediately took him into custody. Officers transported the suspect to OPD Central Headquarters for an interview, during which he admitted to committing four robberies and attempting another robbery.



Kellogg's employees provide gift bags and messages of thanks to West Precinct Officers (2020)

- In another case, West Officers responded to a hotel in the area of North 109<sup>th</sup> Street and Old Mill Road for a reported drug overdose. When Officers arrived, they encountered a man in a hotel room who had fatally overdosed on fentanyl. Officers observed several illegal items in plain view, so they drafted a search warrant for the hotel room and had the warrant approved by a judge. Upon executing the warrant, Officers discovered cash, fentanyl and other drugs, drug packaging materials, two rifles (one was stolen), and rifle ammunition. As a result of the search warrant and items discovered, federal charges were filed against several suspects.
- In late fall of 2020, West Officers conducted a Precinct-wide “dead storage” tow sweep in anticipation for winter weather. Officers scoured the streets for dead storage vehicles and issued 381 yellow tag warnings and 192 parking citations. Officers also towed 85 dead storage vehicles that would have otherwise prevented City snow plows from properly clearing public streets following large snowfalls.

## TACTICAL OPERATIONS SECTION

The Tactical Operations Section is headquartered at the West Precinct assembly in Elkhorn and includes the Canine Unit, Emergency Response Unit (ERU), and Traffic Unit.

### CANINE UNIT

The **Canine Unit** includes the Interdiction Squad and Patrol Squad. The Interdiction Squad conducts narcotics detection by utilizing highly-trained canines to sniff for and locate the odor of illegal narcotics. The Patrol Squad searches for, locates, and apprehends suspects who have fled, are hiding, or are resisting arrest. The Canine Unit has one Sergeant with a drug detection canine, seven Officers with dual purpose canines trained in both narcotics and patrol duties, and three Officers with single-purpose narcotics detection dogs assigned to the OPD K9/Metro Area Interdiction Team.

These canine teams undergo extensive training to be effective at their jobs and maintain a high level of efficacy in the performance of their duties. Canine teams are often called upon to assist other



OPD units, as well as outside agencies. In 2020, Canine Unit Officers and dogs assisted Uniform Patrol Bureau Officers from every precinct, as well as the Narcotics Unit, SWAT Team, Homicide Unit, Gang Unit, Burglary Unit, and the Fugitive Squad. The Canine Unit also assisted the DEA, U.S. Marshals, and Homeland Security.



(L-R) Canine Ofcns. Keenan & Villwok (2020)

The Canine Unit has three Police Service Dog Trainers who are certified by the State of Nebraska. These trainers include Officer Moffitt – Police Service Dog Handler, Instructor, Evaluator, and Nebraska State Academy Instructor; Officer Pignotti – Police Service Dog Handler, Instructor, and Evaluator; and Sergeant Worley – Police Service Dog Handler, Instructor, Evaluator, Judge, and State Academy Instructor.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT**

The **Emergency Response Unit (ERU)** includes the Bomb Response Squad and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Explosive Detection Canine Squad, as well as two ancillary teams: the Crisis Negotiation Team and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. In 2020, the ERU operated the OPD Mobile Command Center during nine call-outs for various incidents and events ranging from barricaded persons, homicide investigations, a presidential visit, a house explosion, and twelve days of operations at largescale protests and civil unrest. The Mobile Command Center also made an appearance at the Southeast Precinct’s “drive-thru Meet & Treat” event at the Stockyards Plaza off 36<sup>th</sup> and L Streets.

The Bomb Response Squad (BRS) conducted 31 call-outs for potentially explosive situations in 2020. These included call-outs for recovered explosives and live military ordinance, hoax explosives, bomb threats, detonated explosive devices, and suspicious packages, as well as call-outs for civil unrest. Together, the BRS and TSA Explosive Detection Canine Squad also conducted 28 explosive ordinance detection searches for event security and dignitary protection assignments.



The ERU’s “Rescue One” waits to be deep cleaned to keep ERU Officers safe from the spread of COVID-19 (April 2020)

The Crisis Negotiation Team participated in 14 successful call-outs in 2020. These included call-outs for barricaded persons, armed suicidal subjects, and people threatening suicide by jumping from a high place. The SWAT Team conducted 128 total operations in 2020. These included serving 89 high-risk warrants; resolving 6 barricade person incidents; and dozens of enhanced security, dignitary protection, fugitive

The SWAT Team conducted 128 operations including 89 high-risk warrants and 6 barricaded persons.

apprehension, and REACT assignments. The SWAT Team is proud to have used force in fewer than 2 percent of these operations despite the fact that firearms and other weapons were present approximately 60 percent of the time.

## TRAFFIC UNIT

The **Traffic Unit** includes the Crash Investigations and Prevention Squad, the Special Events and Enforcement Squad, and the Project Night Life Squad. The Traffic Unit is staffed by a Lieutenant, 5 Sergeants, 32 Officers, and 2 part-time civilian employees. Traffic enforcement statistics were down in 2020



due to the unique challenges faced throughout the year. These included navigating through pandemic-related health protocols, and managing the unusual role of enforcing directed health measures enacted by state and local governments. Despite these challenges, the Traffic Unit issued 5,921 citations in 2020.

The Crash Investigations and Prevention Squad (CIPS) conducted hundreds of crash investigations and thousands of hit and run crash investigations in 2020. These included 140 crashes involving City vehicles and 155 “Code 3” crashes involving apparent serious/life-threatening injuries that needed

The Traffic Unit investigated 3,951 hit and run vehicle crashes and 46 fatal vehicle crashes in 2020.

immediate medical attention. The Code 3 crashes included 22 motorcycle crashes, 38 DUI-alcohol crashes with an average blood/alcohol content (BAC) of .215, 16 DUI-drugs crashes, 57 “no seatbelt” crashes, and 17 pedestrians hit by vehicles.

Unfortunately, CIPS officers were called to investigate 46 fatal vehicle crashes in 2020. These included 10 fatal motorcycle crashes, 11 fatal DUI-alcohol crashes with an average BAC of .200, 16 fatal DUI-drugs crashes, 13 fatal “no seatbelt” crashes, and 4 pedestrians killed by vehicles. In addition, CIPS officers investigated 3,951 hit and run crashes in 2020.

CIPS officers conducted two especially notable crash investigations in 2020. The first occurred in early July when a pedestrian was found dead on the side of the road near 96<sup>th</sup> and L Streets from an apparent hit and run crash. CIPS investigators tracked vehicle part numbers from debris located at the scene, and reviewed video from security cameras positioned along the driver’s route of travel, to identify a suspect. The suspect was eventually tracked down by members of the Metro Fugitive Task Force, and was arrested and booked for his involvement in the deadly crash. The second notable crash was a “minor personal injury” crash that occurred near 48 Avenue and Fort Street in mid-July. As a “minor personal injury” crash, the incident was initially investigated by a UPB patrol officer. The injured party, however, was a pregnant mother who later went to the hospital and was advised that her unborn child had died due to the crash. CIPS officers were then called upon to “reverse investigate” the crash. Following the CIPS investigation, the suspect driver was located and cited for the baby’s death.



An officer clocks a driver going 109 mph (Dec. 2020)

The Special Events and Enforcement Squad (SEES) works to ensure the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians throughout the City of Omaha. SEES Officers provide traffic enforcement with an emphasis on the Interstate system, and also coordinate to provide traffic control for largescale events. In 2020, SEES officers were also tasked with enforcing pandemic-related Directed Health Measures



Traffic Unit Officers watch Air Force Two take off following Vice President Pence's visit to Omaha (Oct. 2020)

enacted by the State, County, and City. Between March and June, SEES officers conducted 2,025 compliance checks throughout Omaha.

SEES Officers typically provide traffic control for numerous high-profile events each year, but nearly every event was cancelled in 2020. These included the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, Berkshire Hathaway's Annual Shareholders Meeting, Cinco de Mayo parade and festival, NCAA Baseball College World Series, Memorial Park Fourth of July concert and fireworks show, Taste of Omaha, Septemberfest, and dozens of concerts and other performing arts events. Despite the slew of cancellations, SEES

officers were called upon to provide traffic control for several dignitary visits in 2020, including visits by both the President and Vice President of the United States. The Squad also provided numerous other motorcycle escorts during the year. In May, SEES officers escorted Denton, TX police officer Urbano Rodriguez to get medical care in Omaha. Officer Rodriguez was shot in the head and the leg in late 2019 while conducting a traffic stop, and he was in Omaha to receive medical treatment for injuries stemming from that incident. In addition, the Squad was particularly honored to assist in escorting the body of fallen Lincoln Police Officer Mario Herrera back to Lincoln from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha. Officer Herrera died while receiving treatment at UNMC, two weeks after being shot in the line of duty in Lincoln.



Traffic Unit Officers pose with Denton, TX Police Officer Urbano Rodriguez (May 2020)

The Project Night Life (PNL) Squad works to reduce the vehicle crash rate among younger drivers between the ages of 15 and 19. PNL Squad officers do this by addressing the driving violations that occur most frequently among young drivers, and educating young drivers by speaking at area high schools, youth group functions, and any other gathering of young drivers. In 2020, PNL Squad officers conducted 49 grant funded operations during which they wrote 1,519 citations.



# AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

## MEDAL OF VALOR

Dep. Chief Scott Gray

## POLICE BLUE SHIELD

Ofcr. Christopher Rich  
Ofcr. David Staskiewicz

Ofcr. Robert Seitzer  
Ofcr. Alan Wolf

Ofcr. Robert Soldo

## POLICE LIFESAVING MEDAL

Ofcr. Douglas Arrick

Ofcr. Meeko Spainhower

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Ofcr. Sterling Hitch

(Ret.) Ofcr. Alfred Scott Orsi

## PRESERVATION OF LIFE RIBBON

Sgt. Queño Martinez  
Ofcr. Tyler Buhrman  
Ofcr. Jerod Forstrom  
Ofcr. James Johnson  
Ofcr. Robert Orr  
Ofcr. Erin Riley  
Ofcr. Daniel Torres

Sgt. Lance Worley  
Ofcr. Abby DeSangles  
Ofcr. Kyle Foster  
Ofcr. Grayson King  
Ofcr. Christopher Perna  
Ofcr. Justyn Riley  
Ofcr. Adam Vail

Ofcr. Dylan Belter  
Ofcr. Justin Durrett  
Ofcr. Saul Hidalgo  
Ofcr. Jordan Miller  
Ofcr. René Ramos  
Ofcr. Jacob Sunderman

## POLICE RIBBON OF UNIT EXCELLENCE

Sgt. Brendan O'Flynn  
Ofcr. Kyle Graber  
Ofcr. Ja'Price Spears

Ofcr. Nicola Bay  
Ofcr. Robert Seitzer

Ofcr. Heath Brunow  
Ofcr. Robert Soldo

## CHIEF'S LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Ofcr. Anthony Barnes  
Ofcr. Brandon Braun  
Ofcr. Brandon Gilbert  
Ofcr. Sterling Hitch  
Ofcr. Justin Knapp  
Ofcr. Michael Peña  
Ofcr. Christopher Smith  
Ofcr. David Ullery  
Ofcr. Chad Wiebers  
Crime Analyst Shannon Von Minden

Ofcr. Bryson Blandford  
Ofcr. Cory Buckley  
Ofcr. Jered Grayson  
Ofcr. Kendall Hofsheier  
Ofcr. Brian Korth  
Ofcr. Nick Sidzyik  
Ofcr. Matthew Stigge  
Ofcr. Adam Vail  
Intel. Analyst Michael Halbleib

Ofcr. Mark Blice  
Ofcr. Damien Curtis  
Ofcr. Sergio Gutierrez  
Ofcr. Juan Jimenez  
Ofcr. Adam Kruse  
Ofcr. Matthew Slingwine  
Ofcr. Jacob Sunderman  
Ofcr. Jesse Walker  
Crime Analyst Ryan Croghan

## COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Behavior Health & Wellness Unit

## LETTER OF WORK WELL DONE



Capt. John Sokolik  
Sgt. Nicholas Andrews  
Sgt. Felicia Merritt  
Sgt. José Nava  
Sgt. Mitchell Robinson  
Sgt. Tyler Stricker  
Ofcr. Matthew Ajuoga  
Ofcr. Ryan Arthur  
Ofcr. Brian Bartek  
Ofcr. Michael Bossman  
Ofcr. Kevin Byrd  
Ofcr. Lisa Crouch  
Ofcr. David Eckstrom  
Ofcr. Jose Falcon  
Ofcr. Jerod Forstrom  
Ofcr. Michael Garrah  
Ofcr. Jesse Godden  
Ofcr. Raymond Griffin  
Ofcr. Carl Hanson  
Ofcr. August Hogan  
Ofcr. Matei Jackson  
Ofcr. Jessica Judkins  
Ofcr. Grayson King  
Ofcr. Michael Knobbe  
Ofcr. Joseph Kunza  
Ofcr. Aaron Lier  
Ofcr. Ricardo Martinez  
Ofcr. Jordan Miller  
Ofcr. Kristin Mraz  
Ofcr. Camron Payne  
Ofcr. Jamison Perry  
Ofcr. Scott Pham  
Ofcr. Brock Rengo  
Ofcr. Jeremy Rone  
Ofcr. Jennie Scanlon  
Ofcr. Mickie Seymour  
Ofcr. Chad Simmons  
Ofcr. Dion Smith  
Ofcr. Ja'Price Spears  
Ofcr. Austin Taylor  
Ofcr. Adam Vail  
Ofcr. Jordan Vander Zwaag  
Ofcr. Chad Wiebers  
Ofcr. Alan Wolf  
R&P Specialist Yvonne Barna  
Forensic Tech. Amanda Cooley  
Sr. Forensic Tech. Amanda Miller  
For. Tech. Kimberly Van Den Akker

Lt. Jennifer Russell  
Sgt. Phillip Hodges  
Sgt. Harmon Moss  
Sgt. Brendan O'Flynn  
Sgt. Phillip Ricker  
Sgt. Christy Stevens  
Ofcr. Ruteena Alcantara  
Ofcr. Kylee Askew  
Ofcr. Dylan Belter  
Ofcr. Paul Briese  
Ofcr. James Carlson  
Ofcr. Sean Debuhr  
Ofcr. Domonic Ernesti  
Ofcr. Nicholas Fickel  
Ofcr. Kyle Foster  
Ofcr. Brandon Gilbert  
Ofcr. Kyle Graber  
Ofcr. Jacob Haniszewski  
Ofcr. John Harney  
Ofcr. Timothy Huffman  
Ofcr. Cole Johannsen  
Ofcr. Ryan Keele  
Ofcr. Krystal Kirwan  
Ofcr. Joseph Koenig  
Ofcr. Nicholas Lanning  
Ofcr. Todd Madison  
Ofcr. James Maguire  
Ofcr. Nicholas Molek  
Ofcr. Jesse Orsi  
Ofcr. David Pecha  
Ofcr. Douglas Peters  
Ofcr. Mark Pruett  
Ofcr. Christopher Rich  
Ofcr. Michael Salseda  
Ofcr. Jared Schoning  
Ofcr. Jeffry Shelbourn  
Ofcr. Ashley Smith  
Ofcr. Sean Soderberg  
Ofcr. David Stewart  
Ofcr. Ryan Templeton  
Ofcr. Kenneth Vakoc  
Ofcr. Terri Wasmund  
Ofcr. Jason Wilhelm  
Ofcr. Andrew Woodard  
R&P Specialist Ryan Behrens  
Forensic Tech. Kyle Drews  
Secretary III Jenny Negrete

Lt. Timothy Woolman  
Sgt. Daniel Martin  
Sgt. Joseph Mraz  
Sgt. Alan Peatrowsky  
Sgt. James Shade  
Sgt. Thad Trosper  
Ofcr. Thomas Arrance  
Ofcr. Adam Barcal  
Ofcr. Brian Bosh  
Ofcr. Heath Brunow  
Ofcr. Joseph Conley  
Ofcr. Marcos Diaz  
Ofcr. Thomas Ewin  
Ofcr. Ryan Fitz  
Ofcr. Caleb Gamble  
Ofcr. Sean Glassman  
Ofcr. Mason Gregurich  
Ofcr. DaShawn Haynes  
Ofcr. Chithauta Hester  
Ofcr. Darryl Hume  
Ofcr. Reifer Johnson  
Ofcr. Matthew Kelly  
Ofcr. William Klees  
Ofcr. Derrick Kreikemeier  
Ofcr. Christopher Leick  
Ofcr. Erin Marcotte  
Ofcr. Donte McMorris  
Ofcr. Robert Morton  
Ofcr. Matthew Owen  
Ofcr. Michael Peña  
Ofcr. Wesley Peterson  
Ofcr. Rene Ramos  
Ofcr. Justyn Riley  
Ofcr. Jodi Sautter  
Ofcr. Robert Seitzer  
Ofcr. Ryan Sillman  
Ofcr. Connor Smith  
Ofcr. Robert Soldo  
Ofcr. Matthew Stigge  
Ofcr. David Ullery  
Ofcr. Sheila Valquier  
Ofcr. Eric White  
Ofcr. Steven Wilson  
Ofcr. Michael Young  
Sr. Forensic Tech. Laura Casey  
R&P Specialist Kristen Lynam  
Forensic Tech. William Talacko

## PUBLIC AWARD OF APPRECIATION

Co-Responder Elisa Limoges  
Mr. Eric Rude

Mr. Tom O'Brien  
Mr. Thomas Wenzl

Ms. Kassi Vezeau-Crouch

# OFFENSES, CLEARANCES AND ARRESTS

OFFENSES & CLEARANCES: UCR PART I OFFENSES			
Offense Name	# of Offenses	# Cleared	% Cleared
Criminal Homicide	37	32	86%
Rape	351	226	64%
Robbery	464	198	43%
Aggravated Assault	2,180	1,359	62%
Burglary	1,521	248	16%
Theft	10,697	2,950	28%
Auto Theft	3,029	588	19%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18,279</b>	<b>5,601</b>	<b>31%</b>

ARRESTS: UCR PART I AND PART II OFFENSES	
Part I Offenses	# of Arrests
Murder – Manslaughter	24
Forcible Rape	123
Robbery	219
Aggravated Assault	594
Burglary	180
Larceny – Theft	2,713
Motor Vehicle Theft	181
<b>TOTAL Arrests: Part I Offenses</b>	<b>4,034</b>
Part II Offenses	# of Arrests
Assault, Misdemeanor	3,321
Arson	42
Forgery, Counterfeiting	35
Fraud	345
Embezzlement	5
Stolen Property (Buy, Receive, Possess)	364
Vandalism/Destruction of Property	813
Weapons, Carry or Possess	537
Prostitution	2
Sex Offenses (Excluding Rape)	135
Drug Law Violations	1,871
Gambling	1
Against Family and Children	307
Driving Under the Influence	1,308
Liquor Violations	220
Disorderly Conduct	1,137
Loitering, Prowling, Curfew	3
Other (Except Traffic)	2,186
<b>TOTAL Arrests: Part II Offenses</b>	<b>12,632</b>

# 911 CALLS, GANG & DRUG OFFENSES

## 911 CALLS FOR SERVICE & RESPONSE TIMES

911 Calls Received	251,911
Daily Call Average	690
Officer-Initiated Traffic Stops	24,969
Priority I Response Time	5:16
Priority II Response Time	9:41

## GANG-RELATED PART I OFFENSES

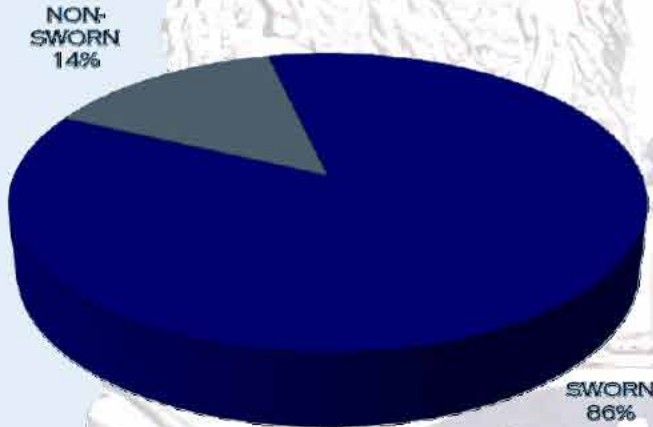
Offense Name	# of Offenses	# of Arrests
Criminal Homicide	5	4
Robbery	10	71
Aggravated Assault	101	15
Burglary	16	29
Larceny-Theft	45	135
Motor Vehicle Theft	46	0
Forcible Rape	0	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>261</b>

## FELONY DRUG ARRESTS AND SEIZURES

Drug Type	# of Arrests	Drugs Seized
Cocaine	95	5,789 grams
Crack	24	300 grams
Ecstasy	38	1,621 grams
Marijuana	246	277,695 grams
Methamphetamine	659	40,233 grams
Heroin	22	401 grams
LSD	5	944 doses
Other	132	7,055 doses
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,221</b>	

# WORKFORCE DETAILS

## SWORN/NON-SWORN PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT



**Budgeted Personnel**  
**Sworn:** 902  
**Non-Sworn:** 151  
**TOTAL:** 1,053

**Actual Personnel\***  
**Sworn:** 867  
**Non-Sworn:** 146  
**TOTAL** 1,013

\*As of 01/20/2021

## 2020 Sworn Diversity

	Males	Females	Total	% of Dept.
Asian/Pacific Islander	14	1	15	1.7%
Black/African American	65	14	79	9.1%
Hispanic	73	17	90	10.4%
Native American	5	2	7	0.8%
White/Caucasian	568	107	675	77.9%
Other	1	0	1	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Omaha Police Department Police Personnel Employee Demographic Report (1/20/2021)



# IN REMEMBRANCE

## ACTIVE EMPLOYEES

## Years of Service

Active Secretary III <b>Sharon L. Welchert</b> died February 25, 2020. Ms. Welchert was assigned to the Homicide Unit at the time of her death.....	13 years 10 months
Active Clerk Typist II <b>Pamela S. Hake</b> died July 17, 2020. Ms. Hake was assigned to the Burglary Unit at the time of her death.....	9 years

## RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Retired Officer <b>Dennis G. Taylor</b> died February 2, 2020.....	30 years
Retired Officer <b>Frank Laskley, Jr.</b> died February 13, 2020.....	10 years
Retired Officer <b>David W. Rieger</b> died February 19, 2020.....	25 years
Retired Officer <b>John Joseph Kaluza, Jr.</b> died March 6, 2020.....	30 years
Retired Clerk Typist II <b>Margaret K. (Marty) Blaufuss</b> died March 17, 2020.....	20 years
Retired Secretary I <b>Wanda A. Redwing</b> died April 23, 2020.....	11 years
Retired Officer <b>Louis E. House, III</b> died April 30, 2020.....	25 years
Retired Officer <b>Ronald G. Nowicki</b> died May 1, 2020.....	13 years
Retired Crime Analyst <b>Margaret H. (Marge) Semin</b> died May 3, 2020.....	41 years 11 months
Retired Officer <b>Daniel C. Tanner</b> died May 5, 2020.....	20 years
Retired Officer <b>Michael J. Keegan</b> died June 9, 2020.....	27 years
Retired Officer <b>Michael T. McGowen</b> died June 10, 2020.....	29 years 7 months
Retired Captain <b>Raymond P. Sorys</b> died August 6, 2020.....	39 years 3 months
Retired Sergeant <b>John W. Szalewski</b> died September 26, 2020.....	30 years
Retired Lieutenant <b>Joseph D. Boan</b> died October 27, 2020.....	30 years
Retired Officer <b>Alfred Martinez, Sr.</b> died November 9, 2020.....	33 years
Retired Automotive Equipment Operator <b>Sylvia L. Love</b> died November 26, 2020.....	25 years
Retired Officer <b>Robert "Bob" J. Machacek</b> died December 3, 2020.....	27 years
Retired Sergeant <b>Robert Walter Sieborg</b> died December 5, 2020.....	34 years