

# OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT

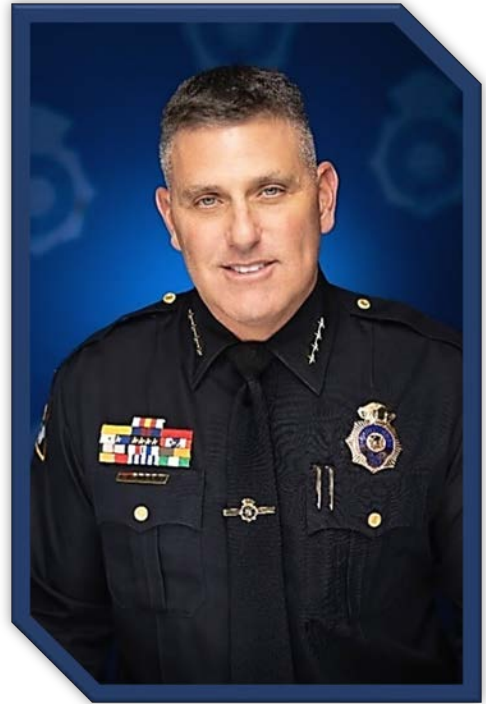
ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It is my honor to present the Omaha Police Department's (OPD) 2023 Annual Report. This report highlights the Department's most significant accomplishments of the year and illuminates the bravery and courage of our officers.

2023 started off with many of our officers, along with officers from other jurisdictions, heroically responding to an active shooter threat at a local retail establishment. Our officers were able to get many witnesses and potential victims to safety, and one valiant officer was able to stop the threat. Thankfully, no innocent victims were harmed in the incident. Additionally, only 12 hours prior, two OPD officers had encountered a suspect burglarizing a local storage facility when the suspect opened fire on them. The officers were seriously wounded but they were able to return fire and stop the threat. That day was harrowing for many due to both incidents occurring within a 24-hour period, but the Department's executive command staff and I are very proud of how our officers handled the incidents, and we are proud of how all OPD officers handle potential danger on a daily basis.



Our Department is also proud of the significantly higher clearance rates from 2023. The Homicide Unit saw a record clearance rate of 100%. The Assault Unit's clearance rate for non-fatal shootings was 75%. Multiple other units also saw increased clearance rates. This means more arrests were made and more cases were solved. The Department credits the higher clearance rates to the great work of our officers and the community's willingness to collaborate with them.

Our officers also establish and maintain strong connections with the community so that Omaha will continue to be a safe and enjoyable place to live. The Department was able to participate in hundreds of community events and meetings in 2023, ranging from fun celebrations at elementary schools to serious conversations about violent crime at monthly community meetings. Our Department truly appreciates working with and getting to know the community we serve.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our Department through this report. It is our hope that this report will communicate how dedicated our employees are in ensuring the safety of our city. If we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd R. Schmaderer".

Todd R. Schmaderer, Chief of Police

**Contact Information:**

Omaha Police Headquarters, 505 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68102, 402-444-5600

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About OPD .....	3	Southwest Precinct.....	49
Workforce Details .....	4	West Precinct.....	50
Organizational Chart .....	5	Tactical Operations Section .....	51
Jurisdictional Data.....	6	Recruit Classes of 2023 .....	55
<b>Chief’s Office.....</b>	<b>7</b>	Community Engagement .....	56
<b>Criminal Investigations Bureau</b>		Police Officer Associations.....	63
Criminal Investigations Section....	8	Awards, Recognitions, & Retirements .....	67
Special Investigations Section.....	13	Remembering Those Who Served .....	74
Special Operations Section .....	15		
<b>Executive Services Bureau</b>			
Training & Community			
Services Section .....	26		
<b>Police Services Bureau .....</b>			
Police Administrative Section.....	32		
Support Services Section.....	34		
<b>Professional Oversight Bureau .....</b>	<b>38</b>		
<b>Technical &amp; Reporting</b>			
<b>Services Bureau .....</b>	<b>40</b>		
<b>Uniform Patrol Bureau</b>			
Northeast Precinct .....	44		
Northwest Precinct.....	45		
Southeast Precinct .....	46		



OPD K-9 “Dominic.”

# ABOUT OPD

## **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 citizens and employees while working to improve the quality of life.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

The OPD has adopted the following vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:

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

## **POLICING VALUES**

The OPD has adopted the following statements of its values:

- Maintain service as our primary goal, while vigorously pursuing those who commit crimes
- Ensure community responsiveness and the prevention of crime shall always be 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 our resources carefully and effectively while utilizing technology to maximize efficiency

## **MOTTO**

“To Serve and Protect”

# WORKFORCE DETAILS

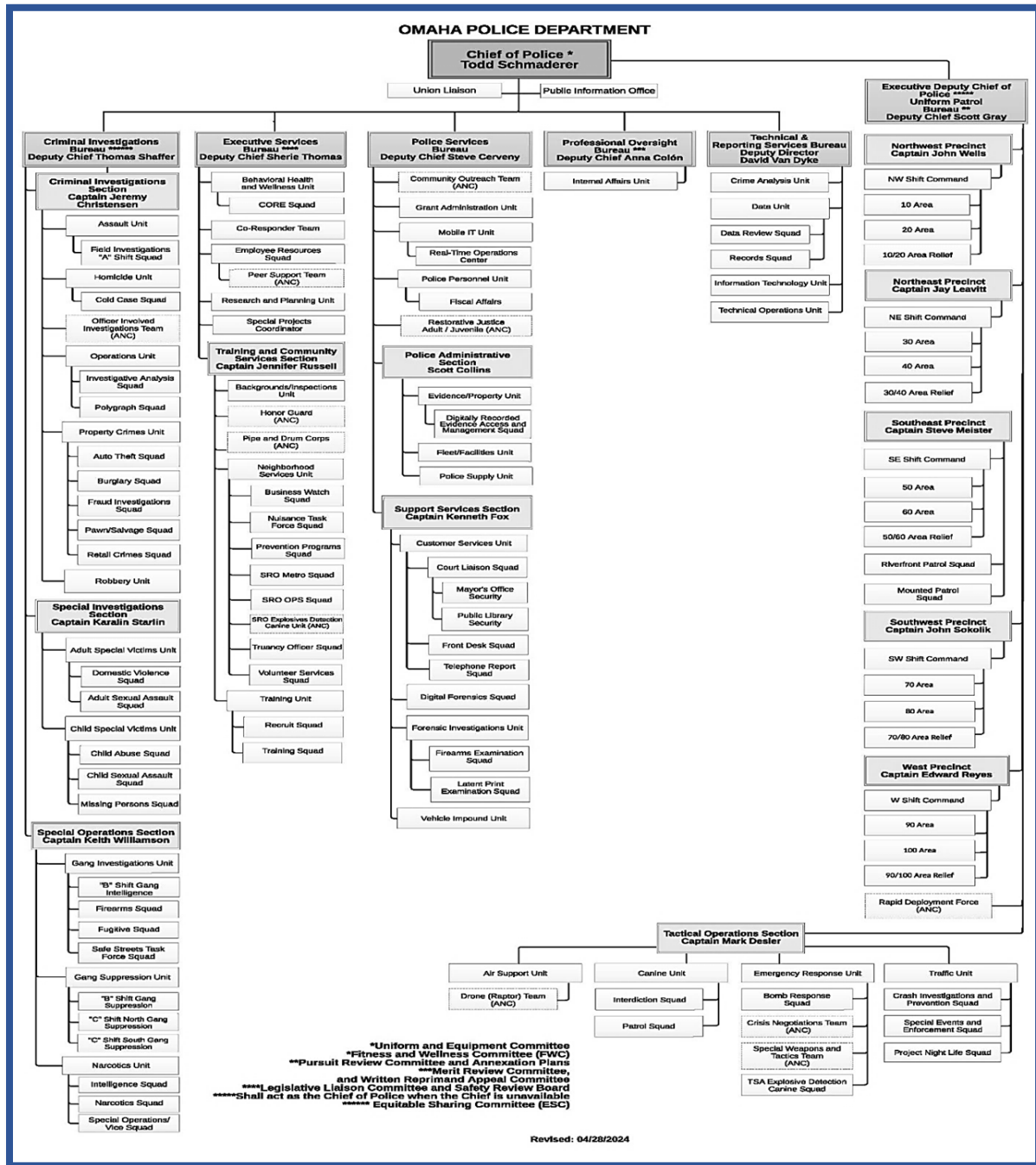
SWORN EMPLOYEES				
RACE/ETHNICITY	MALES	PERCENTAGE	FEMALES	PERCENTAGE
Asian/Pacific Islander	13	1.5%	2	.23%
Black	76	8.75%	14	1.61%
Hispanic	69	7.94%	20	2.3%
Native American/Alaskan Native	4	.46%	2	.23%
White	565	65.02%	104	11.97%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>83.66%</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>16.34%</b>

NON-SWORN EMPLOYEES				
RACE/ETHNICITY	MALES	PERCENTAGE	FEMALES	PERCENTAGE
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	1.58%	3	1.58%
Black	5	2.63%	8	4.21%
Hispanic	5	2.63%	8	4.21%
Native American/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0	0%
White	53	27.89%	105	55.26%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34.74</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>65.26</b>



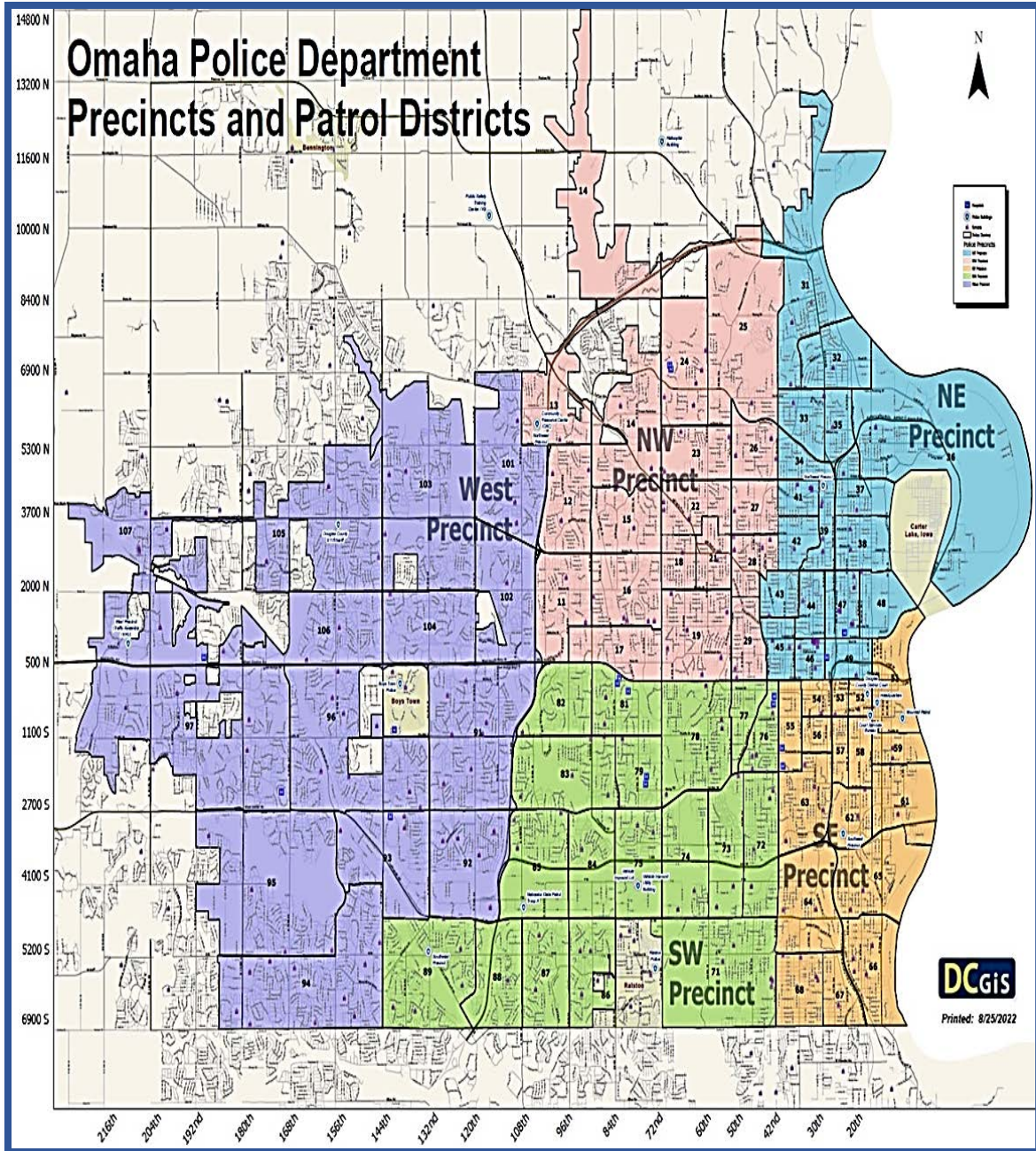
OPD Deputy Chief, Sergeants, Officers, and Co-Responders at community events

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



\* Current OPD organizational chart for 2024, not 2023. Most names mentioned here were in the same positions in 2023. Any changes in command from 2023 to 2024 are noted in the appropriate sections of this report.

# OPD JURISDICTION



## CHIEF'S OFFICE

The Chief of Police is the highest commanding officer at OPD and reports to the Mayor of Omaha. The Chief, in collaboration with others, manages the OPD budget, allocates personnel, and establishes policies and procedures for OPD. Four Deputy Chiefs and one Deputy Director work directly under the Chief. The Public Information Office and Union Liaisons also report directly to the Chief.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

The Public Information Office (PIO) reports directly to the Chief of Police. The PIO works to keep the public informed of OPD activities and accomplishments. The PIO provides important crime and safety information to the public and offers valuable crime prevention tips through the OPD website, OPD social media accounts, and daily press releases. The office conducts interviews with the media, makes on-scene statements at high-profile scenes, and coordinates the Omaha Crime Stoppers Program. The PIO also coordinates various events, including OPD promotional ceremonies, retirement ceremonies, Crime Stoppers Officer of the Year Luncheon, Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament, Omaha Police Foundation Officer of the Year Luncheon, American Red Cross Blood Drives at OPD, and more.



PIO Lieutenant Neal Bonacci.

## UNION LIAISONS

The Union Liaisons include representatives that conduct business of the Omaha Police Officer's Association (OPOA) on behalf of OPD's union members. The OPOA's goal is to represent OPD's sworn officers in a variety of different matters. A Liaison is chosen each year by the OPOA and the Chief is informed of the selection. Union Liaisons cannot be of a greater rank than sergeant.



Current and former leaders of the OPOA.





## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) is commanded by Deputy Chief Thomas Shaffer. The Bureau is staffed twenty-four hours a day. The Bureau encompasses the Criminal Investigations Section, the Special Investigations Section, and the Special Operations Section.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

The Criminal Investigations Section includes the Assault Unit, Homicide Unit, Operations Unit, Property Crimes Unit, and Robbery Unit. This Section is under the direction of Captain Jeremy Christensen.



## ASSAULT UNIT

The Assault Unit investigates all types of assault cases including non-fatal shootings, stabbings, and fights that are not domestic-violence related. Clearance rates were extremely high for the unit in 2023 at 75%, which is well above the national average. The unit managed to achieve these extremely high clearance rates despite a staffing shortage. The A-Shift Field Investigations Squad also did a superb job with investigating numerous cases to completion, although they normally hand cases over to other investigative units when there isn't an officer shortage. Some of the accomplishments of the Unit in 2023 include the following:

- Completed a high number of search warrants in 2023, which resulted in more gun seizures and felony arrests.
- Continuously had college interns shadowing detectives, allowing the interns to go out on calls and to work mock investigations.

- Worked hundreds of school threats in conjunction with local schools, OPD's Threat Assessment Management Team, and OPD's School Resource Officers, which helped to keep the local areas safe from school shootings and other threats.



Assault Unit Detectives.



The Assault Unit won an award at the Omaha Police Officer's Ball for their work in 2023.

## HOMICIDE UNIT

The Homicide Unit investigates all homicides committed in Omaha, sometimes in collaboration with other OPD units and federal law enforcement partners. In 2023, Omaha experienced 29 criminal homicides. **With the investigation of these 29 homicides and 2 cases from previous years, the OPD Homicide Unit saw a clearance rate of 100%.** One of the homicide cases led OPD detectives to Minneapolis, where they worked with the Minneapolis Police Department's Homicide Unit and SWAT Team to arrest the suspect and collect evidence. The Homicide Unit participated in various community events throughout the year and some of the detectives also taught classes at OPD's Training Academy.

During 2023, the Homicide Unit continued to facilitate the Omaha Homicide Support Group. The Group is a collaboration between the Omaha Police Department, the Douglas County Attorney's Office, and volunteers. The Group provides direction and support to the survivors of homicide victims.

**Omaha Homicide Support Group**

**Please Join us:**  
**Third Thursday of Every Month**  
**6:30-8:00 p.m.**  
**For family and friends who have lost a loved one due to homicide**

- This group meets in-person, monthly
- Any participants are asked to **pre-register** by contacting the Douglas County Victim Assistance Unit at 402-444-4597
- This support group is free
- Refreshments will be provided
- For questions, please e-mail us at:  
HomicideSupportGroup@cityofomaha.org

 "The only way to get to the other side is to go through the door" -Helen Keller

**SUPPORT**  
Each month, the Homicide Support Group invites adults for an evening of fellowship and support

**REMEMBRANCE**  
Remember your loved one by sharing your story and listening to others in a safe environment

**GROW**  
Gather with other and provide community support

Flyer for the Omaha Homicide Support Group.

## PROPERTY CRIMES UNIT

In 2023, the Burglary and Auto Theft Units merged to create the Property Crimes Unit. This merger aimed to streamline administrative processes and enhance investigation efficiency. The Property Crimes Unit includes specialized squads focused on different types of crime, including the Burglary Squad, Fraud Investigations Squad, Retail Crimes Squad, Auto Theft Squad, Pawn/Salvage Squad, and C-Shift Property Crimes Squad. In 2023, the Unit achieved the following successes:

- 11,205 cases were reviewed by the Burglary, Fraud, and/or Retail Crimes Squad. Of these cases, 4,186 resulted in arrests and 88 resulted in clearances.
  - The Auto Theft Squad reviewed 2,959 cases with 438 resulting in arrests and 222 resulting in clearances.
  - The Burglary Squad thwarted and/or interrupted several “smash and grab” burglary attempts thanks to increased business education, and by working with the Crime Analysis Unit and Uniform Patrol officers.
  - The Fraud Investigations Squad collaborated with federal and state agencies to investigate cases of Theft by Deception and Forgery, some of which involved complex banking and contractual matters.
  - The Retail Crimes Squad focused on improved information sharing with retailers (especially via the Midwest Organized Retail Crimes Association), other law enforcement agencies, and loss prevention professionals
- resulting in the swift identification and apprehension of many suspects.
- The Auto Theft Squad continued to fight increased Kia/Hyundai thefts (bolstered by social media trends). The Squad distributed approximately 500 steering wheel locks and ignition system upgrades. The Squad also worked towards vehicle owner education and prevention efforts in order to successfully thwart thefts.
  - The Pawn/Salvage Squad utilized technology and coordinated with other agencies and OPD units/squads to investigate secondary market and scrap metal cases. The Squad also recovered weapons involved in violent crimes and other stolen items.



## ROBBERY UNIT

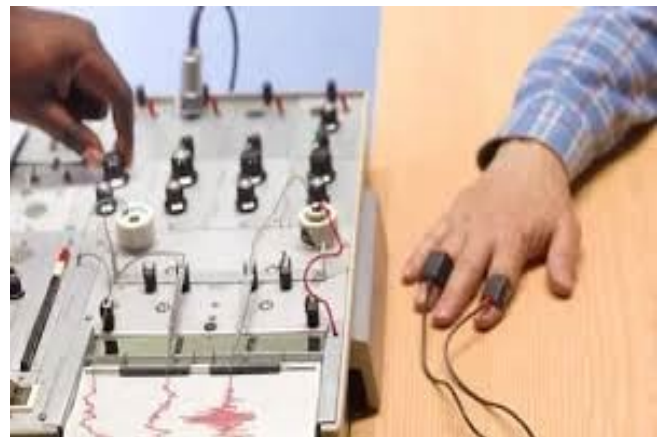
During 2023, the Robbery Unit investigated 310 reported robberies. Many cases involved the use of a firearm and/or terroristic threats. Detectives in the Unit collaborated with other agencies and other OPD unit/squads with the goal of identifying and apprehending the suspects. In 2023, the Unit achieved a 45% clearance rate. Some important cases to note are listed below:

- The Unit successfully investigated a series of violent robberies committed by a group who used firearms and terroristic threats to rob their victims. Diligent investigation by detectives identified over 15 members of the group. The Unit collaborated with other OPD units/squads to solve these crimes.
- The Unit worked with the OPD Public Information Office and the Homicide Unit to identify and arrest 2 suspects for their perpetration in a series of at least 7 robberies.



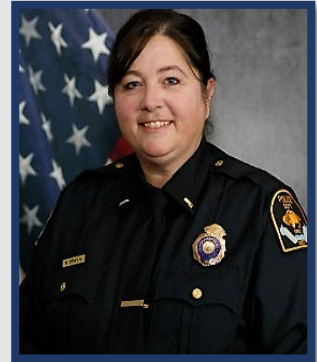
## OPERATIONS UNIT

The Operations Unit consists of the Investigative Analysis Squad and the Polygraph Squad. This Unit provides support and assistance to the Criminal Investigations Section. The Investigative Analysis Squad consists of non-sworn analysts who work with various CIB units/squads to identify suspects and solve various types of crimes. The Polygraph Squad consists of an officer and a sergeant who conduct polygraph examinations of police applicants and subjects of investigations.



## SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

The Special Investigations Section includes the Adult Special Victims Unit and Child Special Victims Unit. This Section is under the direction of Captain Karalin Starlin.



### ADULT SPECIAL VICTIMS' UNIT

The Adult Special Victims Unit is comprised of the Domestic Violence Squad and Adult Sexual Assault Squad. During 2023, the Unit accomplished the following:

- The Domestic Violence Squad investigated 3,484 cases, which resulted in 1,894 arrests; 551 of these were for felonies and 1,343 were for misdemeanors.
- The Domestic Violence Squad applied for a total of 1,916 arrest warrants and investigated 45 sexual assault cases that were domestic violence-related.
- Sgt. Stiles of the Unit coordinated a Christmas gift donation for 45 children in the Pediatric Unit of Ambassador Omaha and delivered the gifts in collaboration with other detectives from the Unit.
- The Adult Sexual Assault Squad investigated 151 cases, which resulted in 35 arrests and 9 arrest warrants. Detective Kristine Love (pictured below) of the Domestic Violence Squad was nominated for the Jack Swanson-Lloyd Grimm Crime Stoppers Officer of the Year Award.



## CHILD SPECIAL VICTIMS' UNIT

The Child Special Victims Unit includes the Child Sexual Assault Squad, Child Abuse Squad, and Missing Persons Squad. In 2023, the Unit continued to focus heavily on its work to train both OPD personnel and outside agencies/entities regarding crimes against children. The Unit trained OPD recruits as well as personnel from Project Harmony, the State Capitol, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, City Hall, the Educational Rights Counsel and H&H Foundation, the Human Trafficking Task Force Collaboration, and many other agencies/entities both public and private. The Unit also partnered with Autism Action Partnership to assemble and distribute 100 sensory kits throughout OPD's five precincts. These sensory kits are used by officers when communicating with autistic individuals. The Unit also collaborated with the Adult Special Victims Unit to deliver Christmas gifts to children in the Pediatric Unit of Ambassador Omaha. Some of the Unit's additional achievements during 2023 included the following:

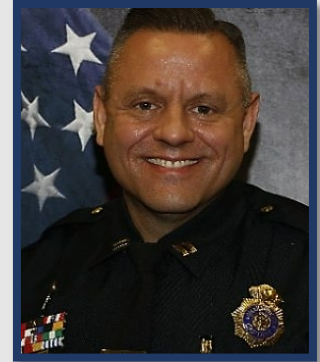
- Successfully arrested multiple suspects for causing traumatic and life-threatening injuries to children, and also several for committing sexual crimes against children.
- Investigated two high-profile accidental drownings that occurred within a 1-week time frame.
- Investigated two "Child Abuse by Neglect Resulting in Death" cases.
- Investigated multiple suspects for sex trafficking crimes and overdose deaths of children, resulting in the successful arrest and prosecution of the suspects.
- Investigated a past case from 2011 in partnership with the FBI. Ongoing DNA testing and interviews are being conducted in the case.



Officers from CVSA and other OPD units ready to hand out sensory kits.

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS SECTION

The Special Operations Section includes the Gang Investigations Unit, Gang Suppression Unit, and Narcotics Unit. This Section is under the direction of Captain Keith Williamson.



### GANG INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Gang Investigations Unit consists of the Gang Intelligence Squad, the Fugitive Squad, and the Firearms Squad. The Unit also has dedicated officers who are imbedded with several FBI Task Forces including the Greater Omaha Safe Streets Task Force, the Great Plains Violent Crimes Task Force, and the Transnational Organized Crime – Western Hemisphere Task Force. The detectives from these Squads who worked with the FBI Task Forces assisted in recovering 773 firearms, seized hundreds of pounds of narcotics, and seized large amounts of money tied to illegal activities. Also, as a result of these combined efforts, a total of 30 individuals were indicted. In 2023, several detectives from the Gang Investigations Unit won meritorious awards, including the Medal of Valor, the Ribbon of Excellence, the Distinguished Service Medal, and multiple Letters of Work Well Done.

- In 2023, the Gang Intelligence Squad played a crucial role in identifying and apprehending numerous homicide suspects, felony assault suspects, and weapons-violations suspects. The Squad also conducted numerous presentations to educate the community about local gangs, and to provide strategies for intervention and prevention.
- The Fugitive Squad consists of detectives who are deputized U.S. Marshal Task Force Officers and members of the Omaha Metro Area Fugitive Task Force. The Task Force prioritizes their efforts on locating individuals wanted for violent crimes and/or those who are likely to continue to commit crimes. The Squad is also responsible for the extradition and transportation of high-risk offenders. In 2023, the Fugitive Squad, in conjunction with the Task Force, made 991 arrests including 200 for felony assault and firearms violations, 60 for sexual assault and child abuse cases, 19 for escapee/parole violations, and 15 for homicides.





- The Firearms Squad consists of detectives who are deputized members of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). The Squad assists in the investigation of federal firearms offenses. In 2023, the Squad completed over 1,100 firearms traces and reviewed over 900 firearms cases for state and federal prosecution. The Squad conducted a Gun/Fireworks Amnesty Day at which 60 handguns, 101 long guns, 35 pellet/BB guns, numerous gun parts/accessories, over 1,500 pounds of ammunition, and over 500 pounds of various fireworks were collected.

---

## GANG SUPPRESSION UNIT

---

The Gang Suppression Unit consists of the B-Shift Gang Suppression Squad, C-Shift North Gang Suppression Squad, and the C-Shift South Gang Suppression Squad. The Unit often conducts initial follow-up on cases involving narcotics trafficking, firearms violations, violent crimes that are gang-related, and felony investigations for other CIB Units. In 2023, the Gang Suppression Unit was responsible for 577 arrests (felony and misdemeanor) and the recovery of 375 firearms. The Unit is often called upon to assist other units and their work has helped to enhance violent crime prevention, intervention, and proactive response efforts. Their work has led to positive outcomes and the safe apprehension of homicide suspects, bank robbers, felony assault suspects, auto theft suspects armed with firearms, escapees, drug dealers, sexual assault suspects, and other violent offenders. The Unit's officers received 1 Police Ribbon of Excellence Award, 6 Chief's Letters of Commendation, 23 Deputy Chief's Letters of Work Well Done, and 2 Captain's Letters of Work Well Done.

The Gang Suppression Unit successfully handled many cases in 2023, including the following:

- In January 2023, the Unit followed up on a robbery that occurred at a bank in the West Precinct. The Unit and the Violent Crimes Task Force conducted a joint surveillance operation. During the operation, detectives conducted a traffic stop and one of the robbery suspects was located. The suspect was taken into custody for an unrelated felony warrant and a firearm was found on him. Evidence from the robbery was also found in the vehicle. A search warrant was also obtained for a residence and the second suspect was located. Additional evidence from the robbery was located in the residence. The suspects were booked for Robbery and Use of a Weapon to Commit a Felony.
- In February 2023, B-Shift Gang Suppression Detectives were conducting surveillance of a grocery store located in a violent crime "hotspot" in the Northeast Precinct. While conducting surveillance, officers witnessed a carjacking in progress where they saw a suspect pointing two guns at the heads of a driver and passenger. The detectives intervened and apprehended the 16-year-old suspect without incident. The suspect was booked into the Douglas County Youth Center (DCYC) for two counts of each of the following: Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Terroristic Threats, and Attempted Robbery.

- On Mother's Day 2023, Uniform Patrol Bureau officers responded to a double shooting and child abduction. A 48-year-old suspect fled with a 3-year-old child and his 20-year-old daughter who was an accessory to the shooting. North Gang and Relief Gang Detectives were working the Cinco de Mayo event in the Southeast Precinct and since they were close to the incident, they responded to the scene to assist Uniform Patrol officers and Child Special Victims Unit officers. The Gang Suppression Detectives located the suspects at an apartment in the Northwest Precinct. Detectives set up surveillance at the apartment complex and coordinated with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office to apprehend the suspects. The abducted child was found safe inside of the apartment and turned over to Project Harmony. The 48-year-old suspect was booked for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Domestic Violence Assault, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Felony Assault, two counts of Use of a Weapon to Commit a Felony, Child Abuse by Intent, and Felon in Possession of a Firearm - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense. The 20-year-old was booked for Accessory to a Felony. This was an excellent example of Uniform Patrol, Child Special Victims Unit, Gang Suppression, and Douglas County Sheriff's Office working together to bring this intense situation to a peaceful resolution.
- In May 2023, Uniform Patrol officers were dispatched to a grocery store in the Southwest Precinct for a robbery. The victim stated he was robbed at gunpoint of a valuable necklace after meeting up with the suspect to sell them the necklace. South Gang Detectives tracked the suspect vehicle to a residence in the Southeast Precinct and they set up surveillance on the house. Detectives then took the suspect into custody without incident. The victim's necklace was located around the suspect's neck. Detectives served a search warrant on the suspect's residence and vehicle where they collected more evidence of the robbery. The suspect was booked for Robbery and Use of a Weapon to Commit a Felony.
- In June 2023, Gang Intel shared information with South Gang Detectives that led to surveillance at apartments in the Southeast Precinct. Two well-known hardcore gang members were followed from the area and then detectives made contact with them in a grocery store parking lot. The 21-year-old suspect was arrested for a felony warrant and the 23-year-old driver was arrested for having an AR-style assault rifle. Permission to search was granted and a search of the apartment led to the discovery of 6 more firearms, several pounds of marijuana, and 100 fentanyl pills.
- In September 2023, Uniform Patrol officers were dispatched to a residence in the Southeast Precinct to assist a victim who was shot in the face. South Gang Detectives stopped a vehicle two days later and received information that the person in the vehicle was the suspect in the shooting. A probable cause search was conducted and a firearm that was concealed in the passenger seat pouch was discovered. The suspect was then interviewed at OPD Central Headquarters and detectives obtained a post-Miranda confession from him saying that the firearm found in the vehicle is the one he used to shoot the victim. The suspect was booked for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Assault and Use of a Weapon to Commit a Felony for the shooting, and was booked for Carrying a Concealed Weapon – Gun, Prohibited Person with a Gun, and Drug Paraphernalia in relation to the traffic stop.

- In October 2023, a North Gang Detective and Gang Liaison were responding to an armed party in the Northeast Precinct. They observed a 15-year-old suspect discharge a firearm at a residence from the passenger side of a vehicle. Detectives followed the vehicle and Able-1 assisted. Two occupants got out of the vehicle, while the driver fled in the vehicle. North Gang Detectives and a Narcotics Detective attempted to make contact with the occupants who got out of the vehicle, but they fled on foot. After successfully pursuing the suspects, both suspects were taken into custody and the 15-year-old suspect was found to be in possession of a 9mm “Ghost Gun” (Polymer 80 handgun). Northwest Precinct officers pursued the driver of the vehicle and the 17-year-old driver was eventually taken into custody. The 17-year-old had ammunition in his pocket and additional evidence in the vehicle. The investigation revealed the suspects were connected to two subsets of a known local gang. All three suspects were booked into the Douglas County Youth Center and charged with two counts of Attempted Felony Assault, Shooting at an Occupied Residence, and Use of a Weapon to Commit a Felony.
- In November 2023, South Gang Suppression Squad Detectives were in the Northeast Precinct when they observed a vehicle driving in a reckless manner. As detectives were initiating a traffic stop, multiple occupants of the vehicle leaned out of the passenger side and fired several rounds of gunfire at the detectives. Detectives later located the suspect vehicle and conducted a felony stop wherein only the driver was located. The driver was taken into custody and interviewed at OPD Central Headquarters. The driver was then booked, but the other occupants of the vehicle who fled the scene were not located or booked at the time.

Gang Suppression Detectives and Felony Assault Detectives worked diligently to confirm the identities of the other occupants of the vehicle. Within one day, detectives learned of the suspects’ location and confirmed the identities of the suspects. Two-court authorized search warrants were served on the residences. At one of the residences, 2 firearms and a large quantity of marijuana was discovered. At the other residence, detectives apprehended one of the shooting suspects and recovered 3 firearms. An unrelated suspect was also arrested at this second residence due to being in illegal possession of a firearm. Interviews of these suspects confirmed the location of the second shooter’s residence. Through a collaborative effort within the entire Gang Unit, surveillance was established on the residence and several days after the shooting the second shooter was finally arrested with the help of the OPD SWAT Team. Both shooting suspects were booked and charged for shooting at officers. The Gang Unit Detectives did a phenomenal job working together and the Gang Unit Sergeants demonstrated exemplary leadership in helping coordinate the surveillance efforts, intel gathering, and street level investigation. A debt of gratitude is also owed to the Felony Assault Unit for their work in assisting with intel gathering and interviewing the suspects.

The Gang Suppression Unit also has an unwavering commitment to serving the community. The Unit believes that disrupting violent crime also includes being involved in the neighborhoods they serve and breaking down barriers between the police and the public. In 2023, the Unit participated

in various activities including 60 community visits and presentations, and 70 adult and juvenile probation/parole visits. They attended National Night Out events, Empowerment Network 360 meetings, Q&A sessions at Precinct Advisory Community meetings, First Responder Prayer Walks for Homicide Victims, and presented at the Back 2 Life Concert. They also coached PACE Baseball, assisted with Operation Nets, Cone with a Cop, You Turn's School's Out Party, Special Olympics (both locally and at the World Games), Shop with a Cop/Back to School event, Black Police Officer's Association (BPOA) Celebration Day, Christmas in the Village, BPOA Thanksgiving and Christmas meal deliveries, visited with kids at the Salvation Army, attended High School football/basketball games, and hosted the Phoenix Academy Drug Awareness Program.



Cone with a Cop.



Gang Suppression at Metro Holiday Basketball Tournament.



Church Community Event.



Victory Boxing Event.



Special Operations Captain and Gang Suppression Lieutenant hosting Phoenix Academy-Drug Awareness Program.



Christmas in the Village and Christmas with the Blue.

## NARCOTICS UNIT

The Narcotics Unit consists of the Narcotics Squad, Vice/Special Operations Squad, and Intelligence Squad. The Narcotics Unit conducted 122 search warrants and made 939 felony arrests in 2023. The Unit confiscated large amounts of various types of narcotics, as well as over \$1 million in cash and 149 firearms. In 2023, the Unit participated in many notable cases and achievements, some of which are listed below:

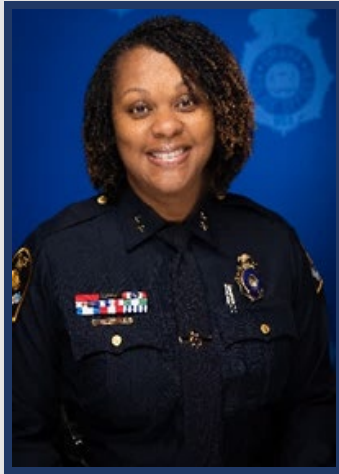
- The Unit collaborated with the Omaha Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 2023 to facilitate the Metro Area Narcotics Overdose Task Force. This Task Force is dedicated to investigating and dismantling drug trafficking organizations. In 2023, the DEA Metro Area Narcotics Overdose Task Force opened 20 investigative cases into overdose deaths. In 11 of these cases, suspects were arrested. A total of 31 other arrests for drug-related crimes resulted from arresting the initial suspects. The Task Force also successfully solved 2 overdose cases from previous years and helped to reduce overdose deaths by 40% in 2023. The Task Force was awarded the 2023 Midwest HIDTA Overdose

Reduction Award. Several personnel from the Narcotics Unit also received the Police Blue Shield Award, Distinguished Service Award, Police Ribbon of Excellence Award, and other commendations.

- In June of 2023, Narcotics Detectives conducted an undercover operation that resulted in the seizure of 35 pounds of meth and over \$25,000 in cash. During the operation, detectives utilized an OPD K9 Officer to detect the drugs in a suspect's vehicle and had to conduct a follow-up search of the vehicle where they located a hidden compartment where most of the drugs and cash were stored.
- In December 2023, Narcotics Detectives along with the Omaha Office of the DEA conducted an undercover operation which resulted in the arrest of a local drug dealer. The operation resulted in the seizure of 63 pounds of meth at one storage facility and 72 pounds of meth at another storage facility. The operation also resulted in the seizure of \$24,000 in cash.
- The Intelligence Squad issued 15 officer safety and situational awareness bulletins after receiving, gathering, and organizing information about possible threats; assisted the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in investigating 14 local terrorism assessments and 12 terrorism assessments from other jurisdictions; and also investigated illegal street racing and outlaw motorcycle gangs in the Omaha metro.
- The Special Operations Vice Squad assisted other OPD units/squads with undercover operations and with the installation of covert recording devices and surveillance cameras. The Squad assisted with investigations involving illegal firearms, narcotics, gang activity, felony assaults, and homicides and managed lewd conduct operations within the city's parks and prostitution operations at local businesses (which resulted in 49 suspects arrested). Additionally, several officers in the Squad are also members of the FBI's Child Exploitation Human Trafficking Task Force and assisted with recovering sex trafficking survivors and the prosecution of the suspects. 48 joint operations targeting human trafficking suspects, online child enticement cases, and child pornography cases were conducted in 2023. The Task Force in this area led the nation in the issuance of search warrants, federal indictments, and federal prison sentencing. The Task Force was awarded the FBI's 2023 Law Enforcement Coordination Award and received a Letter of Recognition from President Joe Biden.

Evidence from narcotics investigations.





## EXECUTIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Executive Services Bureau (ESB) is commanded by Deputy Chief Sherie Thomas. The ESB consists of the Training and Community Services Section, along with a multitude of other units and squads. The ESB Deputy Chief chairs the Legislative Liaison Committee and the Safety Review Board.

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS UNIT

The Behavioral Health and Wellness Unit (BHWU) consists of the CORE Squad and Co-Responder Team. The BHWU's purpose is to plan, coordinate, and manage effective responses to community members who are experiencing a behavioral and/or mental health crisis, and to provide wellness support services to OPD employees.

The CORE Squad is comprised of sworn OPD officers who are Crisis Intervention Trained (CIT). The officers respond to situations involving people who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Co-Responders, who are OPD's non-sworn mental health professionals, often respond with CORE officers. In 2023, there were 24 CORE overtime assignments in which 2 CORE officers paired with a Co-Responder; of these 24 assignments, the CORE Teams were then assigned 168 cases for follow-up. The teams were also able to "jump calls" (i.e., avert a patrol officer response) 22 times.

In 2023, OPD's Co-Responders took 654 inbound contacts via phone or in person. Prior to the implementation of the BHWU and the Co-Responder Team, these contacts would have directly gone to 911 and required a Uniform Patrol officer response. The Co-Responders were able to analyze the needs of the people who made the contacts and determined that 343 of the contacts could be handled by Co-Responders without an officer. The other contacts were referred to 911 for officer assistance. There were also many calls that were first routed to 911, but then diverted to the Co-Responders if/when they were familiar with the person who made the call. Officer response was cancelled a total of 422 times since those 911 calls were handled by a Co-Responder with command approval.



Some of the accomplishments of the BHWU during 2023 include the following:

- Collaborated with OPD's Multidisciplinary Threat Assessment Team to address individuals of concern and mitigate potential community threats. 201 threat tips were received. The Team completed assessment reviews on threats deemed moderate-to-high-risk.
- Provided training to OPD employees and recruits, including Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and classes on mental health response, peer support, emergency protective custody, vicarious trauma, and policing the teen brain.
- Conducted presentations and trainings at the Nebraska State Counseling Association Conference, Nebraska Charles Schwab Regional Security Office, Mayor's Native American Advisory Board, and other organizations.
- Assisted in supporting those affected by the 2023 active shooting incident by responding to the scene to offer mental health services and later hosting a community forum.
- Co-Responders Cari Soto and Ashley Brugmann received the Red Cross Heroes of the Heartland Award for their collaborative efforts that saved a suicidal individual from jumping off of a bridge.



OPD BHWU members and other employees at a community event.

## EMPLOYEE RESOURCE SQUAD AND PEER SUPPORT TEAM

The Employee Resource Squad assists employees with Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) matters, Injured on Duty/Workers' Compensation (IOD/WC) matters, and off-duty injury processes. The Squad also coordinates employee wellness trainings, collective bargaining agreement provisions, and assists with other health-wellness-related issues that OPD employees may face. The Employee Resources Sergeant further assists with OPD's Peer Support Team, which is comprised of trained sworn and non-sworn OPD employees who act as a support system to employees experiencing both work-related and non-work-related life stressors.

## RESEARCH AND PLANNING UNIT

The Research and Planning Unit (RPU) is an administrative unit that completes many different functions and tasks for the Department. R&P Specialist Yvonne Barna won the Police Ribbon of Excellence Award for her work on the Homeless Task Force. Several other unit members also received commendations.

The RPU is responsible for the following, among other tasks as may be assigned:

- Management of the accreditation process.
- Distribution of Orders and other critical information to all OPD employees.
- Management of OPD forms.
- Assistance to other Units with media and public records requests.
- Review and monitoring of legislature activity and evaluation of legislation
- for relevancy/impact to OPD policies, procedures and documents.
- Administration of OPD's document management system.
- Research and surveys by/for the Department.
- Participation in various steering committees, etc.
- Report writing.

## ESB SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

The ESB Special Projects Coordinator is a lieutenant who is responsible for managing the content creation, photography, videography, and digital designs of OPD's special events or projects. The Coordinator maintains OPD's photo and video library.

One of the major projects undertaken by the Special Projects Coordinator in 2023 was to assist the Backgrounds/Inspections Unit in recruiting police applicants. The Coordinator spent many hours creating videos and other digital content to promote the open application period, which resulted in a much larger pool of applicants than the previous open application period.



Photo of OPD command and officers taken by ESB Special Projects Coordinator in 2023 for OPD Recruitment Campaign.



## TRAINING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTION

The Training and Community Services Section (TCSS) consists of the Backgrounds/Inspections Unit, the Honor Guard, the Neighborhood Services Unit, the Pipe and Drum Corp, and the Training Unit. This Section is under the direction of Captain Jennifer Russell.

### BACKGROUNDS/INSPECTIONS UNIT

The Backgrounds/Inspections Unit (BIU) is responsible for conducting background checks on job applicants for OPD and for other City of Omaha departments. BIU also completes background checks on prospective OPD volunteers and interns. In the fall and winter of 2022, there were a total of 117 regular police applicants and 7 lateral police applicants who passed various tests to become an OPD police officer. In February 2023, after going through the vetting process, 34 of the regular applicants and 5 of the lateral applicants started the police academy.

In January of 2023, the BIU worked diligently with the City of Omaha's Human Resources Department to create additional postings for regular and lateral police officer openings. The BIU participated in a large-scale recruitment campaign using more social media ads/messages, billboards, a digital media campaign with a partnership from a local media group, email ads, radio ads, and word-of-mouth. This campaign resulted in a total of 355 regular police applicants and 29 lateral police applicants. After testing was completed, 119 regular applicants and 15 laterals moved on in the application process. After the vetting process was completed by BIU, a total of 21 regular recruits and 2 lateral recruits were hired to start the police academy in October 2023.

In addition, the BIU completed OPD audits, oversaw drug and weapon destruction operations, conducted background checks on volunteers and interns, and helped with various community events. Due to the heavy workload in 2023, employees from other OPD units often assisted the BIU. BIU presented at many locations in 2023, some of which include the following:

- African American Professionals Day and Career Fair
- Area high schools
- City of Omaha Career Fair
- College/University Career Fairs/Events
- Heartland Workforce Solutions
- Military Institutions
- Omaha Girl Scout Safety Fair
- P4K Career Fair
- Skinner Magnet Career Day



BIU Recruitment Campaign Photos 2023.

## HONOR GUARD

The OPD Honor Guard participates in various events and ceremonies every year with their main purpose being to honor those who have passed on. The Honor Guard engaged in a total of 83 events in 2023, including the America's Wall of Honor Dedication, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Gary Sinise Golf Event, and Crime Stoppers of the Year ceremonies. The Honor Guard also participated in events such as the following:

- 37 Color Guard Events
- 16 Retiree Funerals
- 5 LOD Funerals for Outside Agencies
- 5 Parades
- Blue Mass
- Memorial Day Services
- Police Week Events Including the Candlelight Vigil and Memorial Service
- Washington D.C. Police Memorial Day
- College World Series



Members of the OPD Honor Guard.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT

The Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU) assists the public with problem resolution and crime prevention programs. The NSU consists of the Business Watch Squad, Nuisance Task Force Squad, Prevention Programs Squad, School Resource Officer (SRO) Metro Squad, SRO OPS Squad, SRO Explosives Detection Canine Unit, Truancy Officer Squad, and the Volunteer Services Squad. In 2023, the NSU worked with the five public school districts in the Omaha metro area to ensure all full-time OPD officers have access cards to enter their buildings in case of an emergency. This means officers are now able to gain immediate access to all Omaha public schools when there is an emergency, instead of waiting for school staff to allow them entry. The effectiveness of the access cards was evident on Monday, November 27, 2023 when OPD received a 911 call of a shooting inside a local high school. The shooting call turned out to be false, but the school noted that the speed and effectiveness of the police response was much better than it was to a prior similar incident, when the access cards had not been available to officers. The quick response of

the officers to the school allowed the school's SRO to focus solely on searching for and responding to the alleged shooter.



SRO's keeping watch at their assigned school.

## OPD PIPE AND DRUM CORPS

The OPD Pipe and Drum Corps provides ceremonial services to honor active or retired OPD employees who have passed on. The Corps currently has 3 bagpipers, 3 drummers, and 1 Pipe Major. In 2023, the Corps performed at 30 events, including funeral services in conjunction with OPD's Honor Guard, as well as other special events in and around the Metro Area including:

- Blue Mass
- First Responder's Foundation 9/11 Luncheon of Honor
- First Responder's Foundation Guns and Hoses Boxing and Hockey Events
- National Peace Officers Memorial Day Services
- Nebraska Police Week Memorial Service and Candlelight Vigil
- Patriotic Productions Memorial Day Parade
- OPD and Nebraska State Patrol Recruit Graduation Ceremonies
- State Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies



Performing in the 2023 Police Memorial Week events.

## TRAINING UNIT

The OPD Training Unit coordinates training for all OPD employees, hosts recruit academies for Basic Recruits (i.e., new recruit officers) and Lateral Recruits (i.e., certified/veteran officers from other agencies), maintains continuing education courses for all OPD officers, coordinates/provides firearms and other weapons qualifications, and performs many other training functions related to law enforcement and public safety. The Unit is comprised of the Recruit Squad and Training Squad.

In 2023, 28 Basic Recruits and 5 Lateral Recruits graduated the OPD Training Unit's police academy. The Basic Recruits completed 15 weeks of field training and the lateral recruits completed 10 weeks. The Training Unit also assisted with 35 specialized trainings, 357 rifle training recertifications, 608 taser training recertifications, and conducted 35 two-day in-service training sessions. The Unit updated 700+ Signal Sidearm batteries during in-service training. A total of 537 training classes were completed in 2023, which equated to approximately 49,000 hours of training. During 2023, the Training Unit also **accomplished** the following:

- Upgraded OPD's VirTra system which allows employees to practice various real-life training scenarios.
- Successfully received approval from the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) for the Department to be allowed to accept reciprocity applicants and test them at OPD's facilities instead of via the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC).
- Attended a course hosted by the Autism Action Partnership which helps to better understand and build relationships with individuals who have autism.



Some of the OPD Recruit and Lateral Officers.



## POLICE SERVICES BUREAU

The Police Services Bureau is commanded by Deputy Chief Steve Cerveny. The Bureau consists of the Police Administrative Section and Support Services Section.

### GRANT ADMINISTRATION UNIT

The Grant Administration Unit (GAU) provides support for OPD's portfolio of local, state, and federal grant awards. The GAU successfully obtained various grant awards for OPD in 2023. The unit assisted with securing \$4 million under the Byrne Discretionary Grant Program through U.S. Senator Deb Fischer, which will support OPD's Air Support Unit and upgrade bomb response equipment. The GAU also closely collaborated with the Omaha Police Foundation and First Responder's Foundation to fund a variety of initiatives and programs including the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA), which supports annual mental health check-ins for OPD personnel through licensed mental health providers at the First Responders Foundation. The unit also secured funding for the Threat Assessment and Response Project, Restorative Justice Diversion Program, OPD's Mounted Patrol Squad, and OPD's Canine Unit. The unit assisted with the transition of several programs from their original grant funding source to the OPD General Fund Budget, including grants for OPD's Mental Health Co-Responders and Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands Youth and Family Engagement Specialists. The GAU also volunteered for the Special Olympics Summer Games 2023.



Equipment belonging to OPD's Air Support Unit, which the GAU helps to fund.



## MOBILE IT UNIT

The OPD Mobile IT Unit is responsible for ensuring OPD's mobile technologies are properly maintained and for providing technical support to OPD personnel. The unit is responsible for mobile data computers (MDCs), mobile video recorders (MVRs), and body worn cameras (BWCs). In 2023, the Real Time Operations Center was added to the Mobile IT Unit. The Real Time Operations Center allows for officers and intel analysts to view live camera footage from city or county-owned cameras, privately-owned cameras, automated license plate readers, software databases, small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and other electronic or online systems and resources.

## POLICE PERSONNEL UNIT

The OPD Police Personnel Unit (PPU) provides various support functions to OPD. The unit coordinates hiring and personnel actions, applies rules of labor agreements and of the Omaha Municipal Code to relevant personnel issues, manages payroll, and manages timekeeping. In 2023, the PPU helped to onboard 59 sworn employees and 42 non-sworn employees.



## POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

The Police Administrative Section (PAS) consists of the Evidence and Property Unit, Fleet and Facilities Unit, and Police Supply Unit. This section is under the direction of PAS Manager Scott Collins.

## EVIDENCE AND PROPERTY UNIT

The OPD Evidence and Property Unit (EPU) is responsible for the secure storage of all evidence and property items collected by OPD or turned into OPD. The EPU also participates in property auctions when items stored in the unit have not been claimed by the owners. When items cannot be auctioned or returned to owners, the EPU destroys the items in a safe, secure manner.

The Digitally Recorded Evidence Access and Management (DREAM) Squad is under the direction of the EPU. The DREAM Squad is responsible for storing all digital evidence from officers' body

worn cameras and mobile video recorders, and for creating DVDs of evidence for investigations and court proceedings.

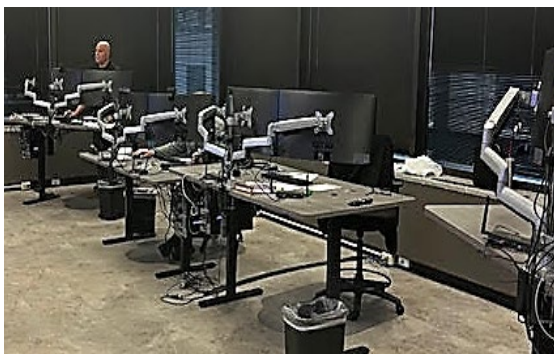
In 2023, the EPU disposed of an average 3,430 items per month, up more than 1,000 items per month from the year prior. The EPU also destroyed 1,303 firearms and 10,569 drug items. The DREAM Squad started digital evidence sharing with the Douglas County Attorney’s Office and the City of Omaha Attorney’s Office, which helped ensure these two offices had access to crucial evidence at a much faster rate. Four retired, part-time officers who worked in the EPU in 2023 also received a position re-classification and are now called Evidence Research Specialists.



Firearms disposed of in 2023.

## FLEET AND FACILITIES UNIT

The Fleet and Facilities Unit procures, services, and maintains OPD’s vehicle fleet and all of OPD’s facilities. The unit also assists with the set-up of many of OPD’s events, including Police Week events, retirements, promotions, and more. In 2023, the unit remodeled the Police Personnel Unit’s old office and transformed it into the Real Time Operations Center (see photos below). The unit also added multiple different vehicles to the fleet, including a new plow truck to keep OPD’s parking lots clean and safe when bad weather occurs.



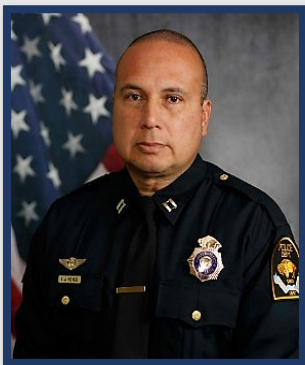
## POLICE SUPPLY UNIT

The Police Supply Unit maintains OPD's supply inventory, monitors the needs of OPD according to the consumption rate of materials, and fulfills authorized special requests. The unit ensures policies and procedures are followed to ensure safe storage, handling, and record keeping of items. Continued emphasis is placed on ensuring transactions are exact and have little to no errors. The unit is essential to the continued success of OPD since it ensures there is enough equipment, uniforms, and other resources or supplies necessary for everyday department functions.



Helmets, vests, and uniforms stocked in Police Supply.

## SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION



The Support Services Section consists of the Customer Services Unit, Digital Forensics Squad, Forensics Investigations Unit, and Vehicle Impound Unit. This Section was under the direction of Captain Edward Reyes (pictured left) in 2023, but is now under the direction of Captain Kenneth Fox.

## CUSTOMER SERVICES UNIT

The Customer Services Unit is comprised of the Front Desk Squad, the Court Liaison Squad, and the Telephone Report Squad. The Front Desk Squad provides a variety of services and support functions, including the handling of fingerprint processing, taxi cab permit processing, distribution of certain police reports to the public, mugshots, regulated metals permits, and

criminal history report distributions. The Front Desk Squad also handles incoming telephone calls from the public, OPD personnel, and other law enforcement agencies. In 2023, the Front Desk Squad handled 1,366 fingerprints, 1,275 criminal histories, 809 mugshots, and sold 4,233 reports. The Squad also handled 1,490 firearm registrations up until September 2023 when Nebraska law changed so that citizens are no longer required to register their firearms.

The Court Liaison Squad is primarily responsible for facilitating the orderly function of the court and testimonial process. The Squad includes officers who work for the Mayor’s Office Security and the Public Library Security. In 2023, the Squad handled 3,309 court cancellations which saved the department approximately \$558,000.

The Telephone Report Squad handles inquiries from the public and compiles reports for various crimes when an immediate officer response is not necessary. The Squad allows Uniform Patrol Bureau officers to focus more on proactively patrolling the city and combatting serious crimes in progress. The Squad is also responsible for reviewing and submitting crime reports filed online by citizens. In 2023, the Squad handled 100,572 calls and reviewed 2,645 reports filed online by members of the public.



OPD Front Desk Lobby Area at Central Headquarters.

---

## DIGITAL FORENSICS SQUAD

---

The Digital Forensics Squad collects evidence from various types of electronic devices. The Squad helps the court and detectives understand and analyze the evidence collected, and plays a pivotal role in the investigative process. The Squad often supports the Homicide Unit, Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit, and other Criminal Investigations units in solving their cases. The Squad currently consists of five officers and one sergeant. The Squad received 693 requests for digital forensic services in 2023.

In 2023, Digital Forensics Officer Nathan Meisinger completed training with the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists and earned the Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE) certification. The CFCE program is rigorous, involving complex practical exercises and written assessments that test a candidate's technical knowledge and practical skills in multiple scientific areas. Achieving the CFCE certification requires significant diligence and hard work. Courts generally recognize the CFCE certification as a foundational credential that establishes the examiner's expertise in digital forensics.

---

## FORENSICS INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

---

The Forensics Investigations Unit (FIU) provides 24-hour, 7-day a week evidence collection and preservation support to police-field operations. The Firearms Examination Squad and Latent Print Examination Squad are all a part of FIU. The FIU also provides job shadowing opportunities, internships, lectures, and workshops for individuals and groups throughout the Omaha community. FIU personnel also attend a number of specialized training events to bolster the credentials of Forensic Video Analysts, Latent Print Examiners, and Crime Scene Investigators. Latent Print Examiners attended a focused course in 2023 on the use of Photoshop for image clarification and analysis. All Forensic Video Analysts attended courses from the Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Association. Four members of the FIU attended training on the advanced use of metal detectors for evidence recovery at crime scenes.

While there were many cases throughout 2023 where the FIU made impactful contributions, one case in particular demonstrates collaboration across the unit and other agencies. From the end of December 2022 and throughout 2023, the FIU was tasked with processing hand written notes and other evidence that indicated threats to a local church and campus. The FIU developed several latent prints from the evidence that were compared to exemplar prints and searched through AFIS and NGI. Douglas County Crime Lab also brought unidentified latent prints on a related case to the FIU for comparison and it was determined that the sources of the letters and other materials were from the same source. A reverse hit in October 2023 led to a suspect located in Huntsville, Alabama that matched the prints on the evidence.



Forensics Investigations Unit vehicle that is used to process various types of crime scenes.

## VEHICLE IMPOUND UNIT

The OPD Vehicle Impound Unit (VIU) provides for the towing and disposal of abandoned, wrecked, and impounded vehicles. When the legal holding period has passed, unclaimed vehicles are auctioned to private entities.

In 2023, OPD's VIU paved some of their roads, created new signage for their lots, and purchased a clam bucket for the VIU loader. The clam bucket helps to crush boats and campers deemed to be salvage, grade the roads for smooth travel, and restructure the lot. The VIU also towed 12,218 vehicles, while the Nebraska State Patrol and Douglas County Sheriff's Office towed close to 500 each for their departments. The VIU auctioned a total of 1,900 vehicles in 2023, which generated \$2,218,260. The VIU conducted auctions for other property as well, which generated \$52,228. The VIU also processed:

- 2,675 Applications for Titles
- 2,688 Nebraska Affidavits for Certificate of Title
- 4,636 Investigative Letters
- 8,854 Certified Letters to Owners/Lienholders

The VIU generated a total end-of-year revenue of \$4,354,021.



## PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT BUREAU

The Professional Oversight Bureau is commanded by Deputy Chief Anna Colón. The Bureau encompasses the Internal Affairs Unit.

### INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

The Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) investigates internal and external complaints against OPD employees. The Unit works to retain the community's confidence in OPD by upholding integrity through a professional investigative process. The IAU investigates officers when they discharge their firearm in the line-of-duty. The IAU also investigates in-custody deaths, allegations of criminal misconduct committed by employees, and various other types of misconduct allegedly committed by employees. The IAU's investigative process brings inappropriate conduct to light and ensures employees are held accountable for their actions, but it also protects employees who have been accused of unfounded or unwarranted claims. Citizens can access the complaint or commendation forms on the OPD website under the [Reporting Resources Tab](#).

In 2023, the IAU sergeants received specialized training on the Axon Body Worn Camera Video Access System. This training taught them different methods to import and download recorded interviews; how to convert audio recordings into transcribed text; and how to use the Axon System to determine Body Worn Camera activation details. This training will help IAU investigators corroborate interview details with actual camera activation information. This enhances investigative efficiency and allows faster and more accurate turnarounds on recorded interviews.



Picture of an Axon Body Worn Camera on an officer's vest. The device in the middle is the camera.

Below are IAU Statistics for 2023:

<b>CITIZEN COMPLAINTS FOR 2023</b>	
<b>CITIZEN COMPLAINTS TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>DISPOSITIONS**</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Not Sustained</b>	
<b>Sustained</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Exonerated</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>No Finding/Court Issue</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Policy Failure</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Open</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185</b>

\*The citizen complaints total is the number of citizen complaints received throughout the entire year, while disposition numbers reflect dispositions from cases that could have been initiated in previous years. Open is defined as a case that was assigned during the year, but is still actively being worked by an investigator.

<b>INTERNAL COMPLAINTS</b>	
<b>INTERNAL COMPLAINTS TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>DISPOSITIONS**</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Not Sustained</b>	
<b>Sustained</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Exonerated</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>No Finding/Court Issue</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Policy Failure</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Open</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137</b>

\*The internal complaints total is the number of internal complaints received throughout the entire year, while disposition numbers reflect dispositions from cases that could have been initiated in previous years. Open is defined as a case that was assigned during the year, but is still actively being worked by an investigator.





## TECHNICAL AND REPORTING SERVICES BUREAU

The Technical and Reporting Services Bureau (TRB) is commanded by Deputy Director David Van Dyke. The TRB includes the Crime Analysis Unit, Data Unit, and Information Technology Unit.

### CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

The Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) is directed by the Crime Analysis Manager. The CAU consists of 3 non-sworn Crime Analysts, all of whom are members of the Mid-America Regional Crime Analysis Network (MARCAN) and the International Association of Crime Analysts (IACA). The support functions of the CAU fall into 4 analytical capabilities/task areas: Tactical, Strategic, Administrative, and Intelligence. During 2023, the CAU tasks primarily consisted of the below:

#### Tactical and Intelligence Tasks (30%):

- Produced weekly criminal activity maps and data.
- Identified crime series/patterns and distributed the findings to Uniform Patrol officers and Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives.
- Conducted investigative case support, analysis, and database searches to assist detectives in identifying possible suspects or link multiple crimes to known suspects.
- Conducted link analysis utilizing specialized software applications and social media communication.

#### Strategic and Administrative Tasks (58%):

- Prepared and compiled monthly CompStat presentations.
- Prepared quarterly Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) maps.
- Gathered and reported crime data to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (NCLECJ) and to the FBI.
- Compiled and published monthly and quarterly reports to the OPD website.

Additionally, during 2023 the CAU continued to assist the Department's Public Information Office with responses to external public information requests.

2023 - OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT 911 CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICE			
	911 Calls	Daily Call Average	Traffic Stop Analysis
Jan 23	21,047	679	2,394
Feb 23	19,422	694	1,785
Mar 23	22,009	710	2,904
Apr 23	23,140	771	3,031
May 23	25,762	831	1,779
Jun 23	24,301	810	1,325
Jul 23	25,690	829	1,843
Aug 23	24,385	787	2,003
Sep 23	24,387	813	2,032
Oct 23	24,795	800	1,915
Nov 23	21,902	730	2,057
Dec 23	21,607	697	1,682
YTD	278,447	763	24,750

*All files used to compile this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow continuous data entry, which could result in additions, deletions, and/or modifications at any time. Due to the dynamic nature of the data, numbers may vary in previous or subsequent reports.*

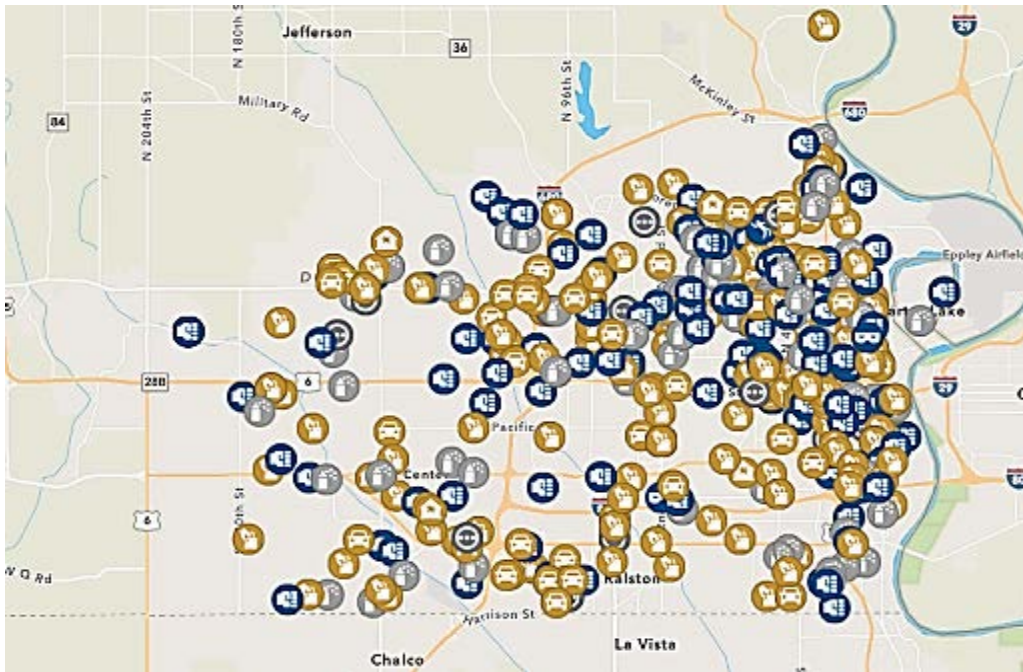
The CAU compiled the statistics of 911 calls shown in the table.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT

The Information Technology Unit (IT) ensures proper maintenance and development of OPD’s information technology systems. Some of the major accomplishments of the IT Unit during 2023 include the following:

- The IT Unit, in collaboration with OPD’s field-reporting system vendor, completed updates to OPD’s field reporting system in January 2023. This work was completed so that crime statistics could be reported using the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The FBI previously mandated that all law enforcement agencies use NIBRS for crime reporting. After extensive testing, OPD began submitting NIBRS qualified reports in August 2023. The State of Nebraska NIBRS certified the Department in November 2023.
- The IT Unit coordinated with OPD’s Mobile Technology Unit and Axon, Inc. representatives to deploy a new, more robust and reliable interview room recording system for OPD’s Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB). This system is more closely aligned with the latest standards in capturing digital evidence.

- The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) significantly increased the amount of information that officers are required to enter into crash reports. To comply with the changes, the IT Unit collaborated with NDOT and LexisNexis to implement the Nebraska Investigator Crash Report (ICR) system. Over 8,700 crash reports were generated using the ICR in 2023, which made Omaha one of the biggest contributors to NDOT's vehicle crash database.
- The IT Unit worked alongside Douglas County's Geographic Information System (GIS) personnel to implement a new crime mapping system which replaced an older application that was no longer supported. Two versions of the OPD Crime Dashboard were developed, with the first deployed in June and the second deployed in December. The first is used internally and the second is posted online for the public. The public site allows citizens to view maps of crimes by block address and to view general information about those crimes in real-time.



Crime Mapping of Omaha on OPD's website made possible by the IT Unit.

## DATA UNIT

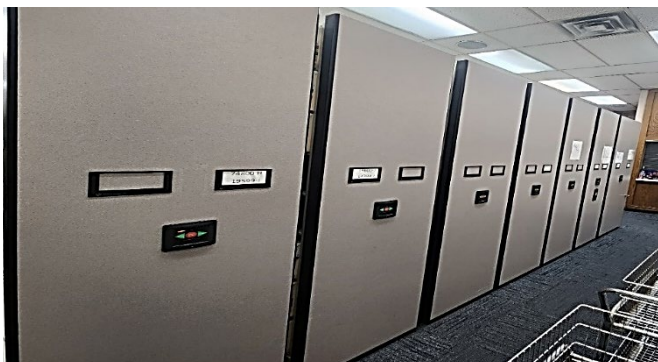
The Data Unit includes the Data Review Squad and Records Squad and is overseen by the Administrative Information Manager. The Data Review Squad provides information via radio to OPD employees and inputs crime reports, citations, and National Crime Information Center entries into the computer system. The Records Squad maintains OPD's Central Records Management Systems by scanning, filing, and disseminating reports and criminal history information both internally and externally. The Data Unit stores many different files, including some that date back to the early 1900s.

In 2023 the Data Unit processed the following:

- 581 Missing Adult Reports
- 593 Record Set Asides
- 2,212 Juvenile Record Seals
- 2,819 Adult Record Seals
- 3,059 Missing Juvenile Reports
- 4,577 Criminal History Requests
- 5,351 Parking Citations
- 5,753 Agency Record Requests
- 6,493 Online Crash Report Requests
- 10,221 Crash Reports
- 12,218 Tows Called In
- 53,161 Criminal and Traffic Citations
- 87,195 RB Numbers Provided
- 97,300 Radio Calls
- 106,688 Reports Scanned into RMS



Storage for microfilms (above) and case files (below).





## UNIFORM PATROL BUREAU

The Uniform Patrol Bureau (UPB) is commanded by Executive Deputy Chief of Police Scott Gray. UPB is comprised of five precincts and the Tactical Operations Section, each commanded by a Captain. The Rapid Deployment Force is also a function of UPB. UPB provides 24/7 law enforcement services to the public.



## NORTHEAST PRECINCT

The Northeast (NE) Precinct is commanded by Captain Jay Leavitt. The NE Precinct includes the 30 Area, 40 Area, and 30/40 Area Relief.



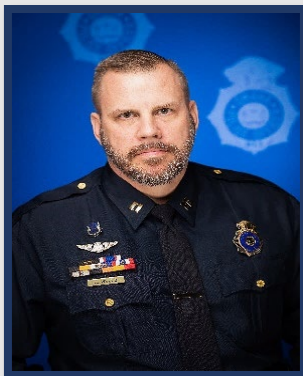
The NE Precinct responded to over 42,000 calls for service in 2023. The NE Precinct partners with the community organization Omaha 360 to reduce violent crimes in Omaha, including in the NE Precinct. The NE Precinct held a very successful Citizen's Academy in 2023, where participants interacted with the Homicide Unit, Gang Unit, K9 Unit, and many others. The NE Precinct is very active in the community and attended approximately 150 community meetings and events in 2023, some of which included the following:

- North 24<sup>th</sup> Street Business Improvement District Safety and Security Meetings
- Refugee Women Rising Traffic Stop Education Classes
- OPD Annual SAFE and Halloween on the "Bolevard" Events
- Neighborhood Association Meetings

- Juneteenth & Native Omaha Days Parades
- National Night Out (NNO) Events
- Pastors and Faith Leaders Meeting
- Community Safety Days and Career Days
- Northeast Precinct Advisory Council Meetings
- Christmas in the Village

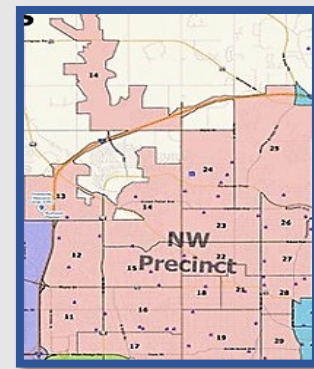


NE Officer with a child at Christmas event.



## NORTHWEST PRECINCT

The Northwest (NW) Precinct is commanded by Captain John Wells. The NW Precinct includes the 10 Area, 20 Area, and 10/20 Area Relief.



The NW Precinct responded to thousands of calls for service in 2023. The NW Precinct also attended or hosted many community events during 2023, including the Annual Memorial Park Concert and Fireworks show. During 2023 the NW Precinct also attended or hosted:

- 16 National Night Out (NNO) events, including block parties and other get-togethers
- Cone with a Cop
- National Coffee with a Cop Day event
- Participation in Omaha 360 meetings and events
- Omaha Refugee Task Force meetings and events
- NW Precinct Police Advisory Council meetings
- Educational visits to many local schools and day care centers
- Gallagher Park Easter Egg Hunt
- Events and Meetings with Lutheran Family Services
- Multiple events and meeting with local churches/church groups
- Participation in multiple neighborhood associations
- Participation in the DEA Drug Take Back event
- Omaha Retail Theft Coalition meeting participation
- Afghan and Karen refugee-focused community events and meetings



NW Officer with youth at a community event.



NW Officers and Crime Prevention Specialist at a community event.



## SOUTHEAST PRECINCT

The Southeast (SE) Precinct is commanded by Captain Steve Meister. The SE Precinct includes the 50 Area, 60 Area, and the 50/60 Area Relief.



The Southeast (SE) Precinct includes the 50 Area, 60 Area, the 50/60 Area Relief, the Riverfront Patrol Squad, and the Mounted Patrol Squad. The Riverfront Patrol Squad patrols downtown areas along the riverfront including the Old Market, Capitol District, the CHI Health Center, and

other tourist areas north and south of Dodge Street. The Mounted Patrol Squad patrols many of the same areas as the Riverfront Patrol Squad and it also provides citywide traffic and crowd control for larger events and parades.

The SE Precinct prides itself in its positive police-community relations and participated in many community events and meetings in 2023 including the following:

- Annual SE Precinct Holiday with the Blue Event, Meet and Treat Halloween Event, and SAFE Event
- Berkshire Hathaway Annual Shareholders Meeting
- Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival
- Downtown Improvement District Security Meeting
- Fiestas Patrias Festival
- Homeless Task Force
- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)
- Lunch/Recess with a Cop, Coffee with a Cop, and Popcorn with a Cop events
- National Coffee with a Cop
- National Night Out (NNO) Events
- NCAA Men’s College World Series
- Old Market Association
- Omaha Refugee Task Force
- Riverfront Drive Security Meeting
- SE Precinct Advisory Council (PAC)
- Septemberfest Parade and Festival
- South Omaha Community Care Council
- South Omaha Environmental Task Force
- South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance
- South Omaha Violence Intervention and Prevention



SE Officer at community event.



SE Officers and Crime Prevention Specialist at a community event.



## MOUNTED PATROL SQUAD

The Mounted Patrol Squad is a part of the SE Precinct with its own separate location in downtown Omaha. Mounted Patrol Officers perform community service, event management, and law enforcement functions primarily in the downtown and riverfront areas. In 2023, the Squad received a grant from the First Responder's Foundation for the purchase of 1 new police horse and another grant for 7 new saddles.

The Squad participated in numerous events and trainings throughout 2023 including:

- American National Bank's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Annual SE Precinct Meet and Treat Halloween Event
- Blessing of the Animals at St. Cecilia's
- Bomb Pop with a Cop
- College World Series
- FEI Equestrian World Cup
- Ft. Riley Commanders Color Guard
- Gene Leahy Mall's Safety Event
- Holiday with the Blue at the Kroc Center
- KETV's Holiday Family Fest
- Latino Police Officers' Association Easter Egg Hunt
- Lauritzen Garden's Family Fest
- Memorial Park Concert
- Nebraska Humane Society's Hearts and Hooves Camp
- North American Mounted Unit Commanders Association Conference
- Omaha Pride Parade
- Over 30 Barn Tours for Different Organizations
- Patriot Parade
- Septemberfest
- Shriner's Festival of Trees
- Special Olympics Polar Plunge at Zorinsky Lake
- The Auxiliary Riding Program, which taught 4 UPB officers the basics of becoming a Mounted Patrol Officer
- The Terence "Bud" Crawford Parade

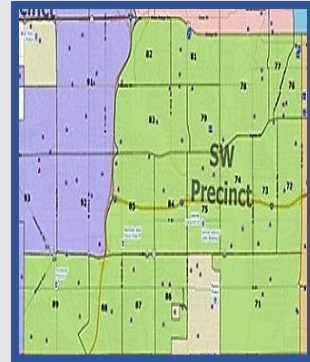


OPD Mounted Patrol Teams working in the community.



## SOUTHWEST PRECINCT

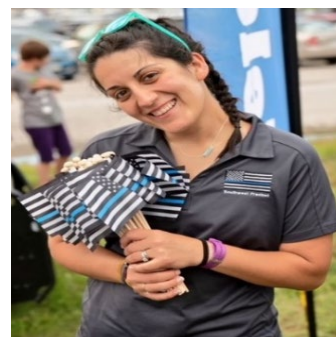
The Southwest (SW) Precinct is commanded by Captain John Sokolik. The SW Precinct includes the 70 Area, 80 Area, and 70/80 Area Relief.



During 2023, SW Precinct officers responded to thousands of calls for service, including several major incidents in which the officers found themselves or others in harm's way. Officers responded with bravery and with commitment to OPD's values and mission. SW Precinct takes pride in its partnership with the community and its officers and takes an active role in developing strategies to improve the quality of life for residents in the precinct area.

The SW Precinct is committed to community policing. This includes hosting the SW Precinct Advisory Council, maintaining active involvement with the local Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch Groups, collaboration with the Citizen Corps Council, and staying engaged in the community. Some of the community events and trainings hosted or attended by SW Precinct in 2023 including the following:

- Autism Action Partnership events and meetings
- Bomb Pop with a Cop
- Cocoa with a Cop
- Educational visits to local schools and day care centers
- Coffee with a Cop
- National Night Out (NNO) events
- SW Precinct Citizen's Academy
- Multiple Trunk or Treat events
- Aksarben Business Non-Profit Community Summit
- Active involvement in multiple neighborhood association meetings and activities
- AAA (American Automobile Association) cooperation on community events
- Tri-County Citizen Corps program involvement and consultation

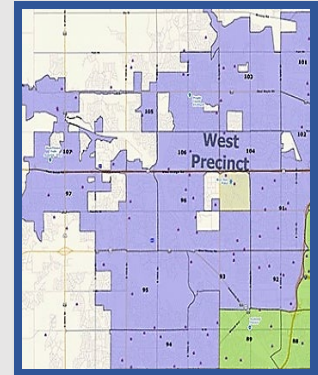


SW Precinct Officers and Crime Prevention Specialist at community events.

## WEST PRECINCT



The West Precinct was commanded by Captain Mark Matuza (pictured left) in 2023. The West Precinct includes the 90 Area, 100 Area, and 90/100 Area Relief. Captain Matuza retired in early 2024 and the Precinct is now commanded by Captain Edward Reyes.



The West Precinct encompasses the largest geographical area of all the OPD precincts and responds to thousands of calls each year. These calls range from minor incidents to extremely dangerous ones. In January 2023 an Active Shooter incident unfortunately occurred at a Target store within the West Precinct. The shooter possessed an AR-15 style rifle and an abundance of ammunition. Law enforcement agencies from other counties, the state, and the federal government assisted in the response to this incident. OPD Officer Brian Vanderheiden (see right) was one of the responding officers; he acted swiftly and bravely to end the threat, and later received the OPD Medal of Valor for his actions that day.



The West Precinct also attended numerous events in 2023 including:

- National Night Out (NNO)
- West Precinct Youth Citizens Academy
- Coffee with a Cop
- Afghan Community Picnic
- Shop with a Cop
- Reindeer Celebration at New York Life Insurance
- Champions Run Golf Course Fall Festival
- UNO Sexual Assault Panel Presentation
- Educational visits to local schools and day care centers
- Elkridge Village Assisted Living visit
- Participation at local neighborhood association events and meetings
- Live Forward 5K Run/Walk to Remember
- Spring Ridge, Cambridge Oaks, Skylark/Cryer, Montclair, and Fire Ridge Neighborhoods 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parades
- West Precinct Youth Citizens Academy (hosted by OPD)
- White Hawk Neighborhood Fireworks Celebration
- Participation in multiple local church/church group meetings and events
- Cub Scout Troop 71 Bike Rodeo
- Afghan Community Picnic at Zorinsky Lake
- DEA Drug Take Back Event
- Eggstravaganza at Millard North High School



## TACTICAL OPERATIONS SECTION

The Tactical Operations Section is commanded by Captain Mark Desler and includes the Air Support Unit, Canine Unit, Emergency Response Unit, and the Traffic Unit.

### AIR SUPPORT UNIT

The Air Support Unit operates helicopters and small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS, aka “drones”) to provide critical aerial support to law enforcement operations. The unit’s mission is to enhance public safety, support ground units, and contribute to the efficient resolution of incidents. In March 2023, the sUAS team transitioned to the Air Support Unit from the Mobile IT Unit.



Air Support Unit helicopter.

The sUAS teams flew over 169 flight hours during 2023, which is a 150% increase from the prior year. The team was able to utilize different platforms to achieve success with tactical entries, large event support, accident and crime scene reconstruction, community demonstrations, and search and rescue operations. With the assistance of the First Responders Foundation, a mobile sUAS command vehicle that is specially outfitted for drone deployments was obtained in 2023. A tether system was also added, which allows a sUAS to remain deployed for hours to cover long term events.

The unit also focused on enhanced helicopter training in 2023. Officers/Pilots underwent aircraft-specific emergency procedures pilots received valuable certifications. The unit’s Safety Officer also developed a Safety Management System that allows for increased focus and accountability for the safety of unit operations. OPD also hosted a nationally recognized NIST Proctor Certification Course at which 60 individuals from the region became certified NIST proctors including 8 OPD officers.

In 2023, the unit’s three helicopters conducted over 1,251 flight hours to support OPD officers on the ground and to support other local law enforcement agencies. The helicopters responded to 460 mission requests and conducted 324 proactive patrol flights. These operations included support in 158 vehicle pursuits,

296-foot pursuits, over 2,200 traffic stop backups, over 640 infrared sensor finds (at night), and 150 outside agency assists. A helicopter was also first on-scene to 1,440 OPD calls for service.

The unit attended several events in 2023, including:

- Bomb Pop with a Cop
- Fall Festival
- German American Society Demonstration
- National Night Out
- NAWP Static Display
- Salute to Heroes Static Display
- STEM Day

---

## CANINE UNIT

---

The OPD Canine Unit serves the citizens of Omaha and surrounding areas by performing patrol and narcotics detection duties. The patrol duties call for the Canine Teams to search for, locate, and apprehend potentially dangerous suspects who have fled on foot, or who are hiding or resisting arrest. These duties require the officers and their canine partners to often take the lead while searching in many types of environments.

The canines are highly trained to sniff for and indicate to the odors of illegal drugs, and their officer partners (i.e., handlers) are also specially trained to work with the canines. The Canine teams are often called upon to work with the OPD Uniform Patrol Bureau, SWAT, Narcotics, and Gang Unit. The teams also work with the DEA, Homeland Security, and U.S. Marshals.

The Canine Unit includes two Nebraska State Certified Canine Evaluators who assist with training outside agencies' canine teams and perform canine certification examinations. The Canine Unit also assists with training new police recruits at the OPD Training Academy by teaching subjects such as vehicle searches, criminal interdiction, perimeter and containment, and suspect search tactics.

In 2023, the Canine Unit welcomed two new officers and two new dual-purpose canines. The unit also conducted the largest OPD-sponsored canine training camp on record with canine teams from the Omaha, LaVista, Ralston, Council Bluffs, and Schuyler police departments as well as the Audubon and Saunders County Sheriff's Offices. Additionally, Canine Teams also attended several community events hosted at the OPD Citizen's Academy, local area schools, youth organizations, and by philanthropic groups.



One of OPD's canine's poses for the camera.

During 2023 the Canine Unit achieved the following successes:

- Responded to 2,620 calls for service
- Assisted in 748 felony arrests and 420 misdemeanor arrests
- Performed 180 drug searches, 371 suspect searches
- Located/Apprehended 149 suspects
- Recovered or seized 44 firearms, 144 pounds of marijuana, 17 pounds of cocaine, 553 pounds of methamphetamine, and over \$214,000 in US currency linked to criminal activity

---

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT

---

The Emergency Response Unit (ERU) consists of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, Bomb Response Squad, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Explosive Detection Canine Team, and Crisis Negotiation Team.

The SWAT team deployed 164 times in 2023. The team deployed for 122 high-risk warrant services, 10 barricaded incidents, 15 enhanced security assignments, 14 high-risk patrol or REACT incidents, 2 fugitive operations, and 1 active killer/threat response incident. During the high-risk warrant service operations, the team encountered 37 handguns, 12 rifles, 5 shotguns, and a machine gun. Six additional team members were added to SWAT in 2023.

The Bomb Response Team and TSA Explosive Detection Canine Team deployed 138 times in 2023. They deployed for 72 canine security sweeps and dignitary protection assignments, 44 callouts for suspicious devices, 17 enhanced security operations, 3 demolition events, and 2 ammunition destruction burns. The Bomb Response Team assists the ATF, FBI, Omaha Fire Department's Arson Team, and other local law enforcement agencies with explosive-based investigations. In 2023, 23 of the Bomb Response Team callouts were for military-grade or commercial ordnance. The TSA Explosive Detection Canine Team enhanced public safety at large-scale public events by conducting site sweeps for concerts, sporting events, and dignitary protection assignments in addition to their normal security duties at Eppley Airfield. New vehicles for the TSA Team were secured in 2023 and are scheduled to be delivered in 2024.

The Crisis Negotiation Team had 26 callouts in 2023. The callouts were for 10 barricaded person incidents, 10 suicidal persons, 5 persons threatening to jump from bridges or high locations, and one "surround and callout" incident. There were no losses of life on any of the calls. The Crisis Negotiation Team successfully negotiated with one repeat threatened jumper from bridges on four separate occasions. Proactive efforts and follow-up contact by the Team and OPD Mental Health Professionals with the individual has resulted in fewer calls for service and no repeat incidents for the last six months of 2023. The Crisis Negotiation Team continues to participate in joint training with other metro teams to better serve the community. The Team also obtained new communications equipment in 2023.

The ERU displayed its specialty equipment and vehicles at various community events during 2023 in an effort to engage and educate the public. Some of the events included the following:

- Black Police Officers Association of Omaha Picnic
- Bomb Pop with a Cop
- Creighton Baseball First Responder's Night
- Love Thy Neighborhood Event
- NE Precinct Citizen Academy
- Omaha Police Foundation Luncheon
- Omaha Storm Chasers Game
- Police Welfare Picnic
- SE Precinct SAFE Event
- West Precinct Youth Citizen Academy



The OPD SWAT Team and Crisis Negotiation Team.

## TRAFFIC UNIT

The Traffic Unit consists of the Crash Investigation and Prevention Squad (CIPS), Selective Enforcement Event Squad (SEES), and Project Night Life Squad (PNL). The unit's responsibilities include both enforcement and prevention activities related to traffic safety.

During 2023, the unit achieved the following:

- CIPS investigated 41 fatal crashes, 177 Code 3 Trauma Center crashes, and 4,257 hit and run crashes
- SEES conducted dignitary visit training and in-house motorcycle training for several local agencies
- A new motorcycle trailer was obtained for the unit's patrol motorcycles
- Patrol and perimeter operations at large-scale events such as the Berkshire-Hathaway Shareholder Meetings, NCAA Baseball College World Series, Memorial Park Concert, High School State Track and State Wrestling, and a multitude of parades, marathons, festivals and other events.



The Traffic Unit's new motorcycle trailer.

# RECRUIT CLASSES 2023

In 2023, 28 Basic Recruits graduated in July and then went on to complete their 15 weeks of FTO training. Five Lateral Recruits graduated the academy in April and completed 10 weeks of FTO training.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Boy Scouts visit the Air Support Unit.



Foreign Exchange Students visit OPD Headquarters.



OPD officers and others at the Autism Action Partnership Event in the Southwest Precinct.



Non-sworn employees, officers, and Chief Schmaderer at a Special Olympics Fundraiser.



---

OPD command and Co-Responders with Mayor Jean Stothert and Chief Schmaderer at the Pride Parade.



---

OPD Honor Guard at the Juneteenth Parade.



OPD Co-Responders, Mental Health Coordinator and Deputy Chief Thomas at the 2023 Co-Responder Conference.



OPD officers attending the Black Police Officer's Association Back-to-School Event.



Cone with a Cop Event with OPD officers from multiple precincts and the OPD Gang Unit.



---

Officers and the community at Coffee with a Cop events.



---

Officers attended National Night Out community events throughout the city.



Omaha Public Schools Special Olympics Fellowship Games.



Special Olympics - Summer Games Omaha.



Special Olympics – World Games Berlin.



Officers participated in the annual Shop with a Cop event.



Chief Schmaderer spoke at the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) Conference in 2023.

# POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATIONS

## BLACK POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

The Black Police Officers Association of Omaha (BPOA) is a non-profit organization that works to enhance diversity within the OPD. The BPOA also helps to bridge the gap between the Black community and police and works to enhance the quality of life in the Black community. The BPOA accomplishes this through community service and family-friendly events open to the community.



## FIRST RESPONDERS' FOUNDATION

The First Responders' Foundation's mission is to serve and honor all first responders, veterans, and their families. The Foundation strives to enhance public safety and rapport between the public and first responders. The Foundation offers behavioral health services, spiritual support, physical fitness programs, medication management, financial classes, and much more. The Foundation hosts various community events throughout the year.





## NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN POLICE

The Nebraska Association of Women Police (NAWP) is devoted to furthering the education, training, and professionalism of women in law enforcement. NAWP offers mentorship, community awareness, community events, and wellness programs and also helps to recruit women for local law enforcement agencies. NAWP hosts an annual conference to promote the good work of women who are first responders, including women who are police officers, fire fighters, dispatch operators, corrections officers, and EMS workers.



## NATIONAL LATINO PEACE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OMAHA CHAPTER

The National Latino Peace Officers' Association – Omaha Chapter has been in operation for a little more than a year now and is under new leadership. The Association exists to bridge the gap between the Latino community and police officers. The Association hosts several community events throughout the year.



## FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE – OMAHA LODGE NO. 1

The Fraternal Order of Police – Omaha Lodge No. 1 is a fraternal beneficiary non-profit organization comprised of current and former Omaha officers. The organization promotes professional and social relationships in a variety of ways. It offers life insurance plans and hosts family events throughout the year.



## OMAHA POLICE WELFARE AND BENEFITS ASSOCIATION

The Omaha Police Welfare and Benefits Association (OPWBA) desires to preserve the high standards of integrity of officers, encourage cooperation with the OPD, promote better relations between citizens and OPD, and serve the best interests of its members and their families. The OPWBA also promotes the health and wellness of officers, along with recreational activities and social activities.



## OMAHA POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

The Omaha Police Officers Association's (OPOA) goal is to represent OPD officers through education, legal support, community outreach, and trust building. The OPOA is committed to partnering with the community and city leaders to make Omaha a safer place to live, work, and raise a family. The OPOA also ensures officers are paid a fair wage, have great benefits, and the safest working conditions possible. The OPOA hosts several events throughout the year.



## POLICE ATHLETICS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PACE)

PACE was initially created by a former Gang Investigations Unit Detective who collaborated with other OPD employees and community associations to bring about free programs for at-risk youth. The main purpose of PACE is to keep kids away from gangs, but the goal is to also foster a good relationship between the community and the police. PACE started off small, but it has grown to have more than 5,000 participants in recent years. Many OPD employees volunteer for PACE as coaches, umpires, and more. PACE offers youth the opportunity to play flag football, baseball, soccer, volleyball, and CrossFit. PACE also hosts fun activities and events throughout the year.



# AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND RETIREMENTS 2023

## MEDAL OF VALOR

Lieutenant Martin Stiles

Officer Joshua Moore

Officer Tamara Phillips

Officer Jennifer Turner

Officer Nicholas Lanning

## PURPLE HEART MEDAL

Officer Joshua Moore

Officer Nicholas Lanning

## POLICE BLUE SHIELD MEDAL

Captain Jay Leavitt

Officer Brian Yaghoutfam

Officer Jerry Kassen

Lieutenant Owen Gregg

Officer Bryson Blandford

Officer Brian Vanderheiden

Officer Jason Martinez

## POLICE LIFE SAVING MEDAL

Officer Caleb Hanish

## PRESERVATION OF LIFE RIBBON

Lieutenant Candace  
Phillips

Officer Christopher  
Jackman

Officer Joshua McClusky

Sergeant Brent Kendall (2)

Officer Daniel Morales

Officer Juan Fortier

Officer Adam Fisher

Officer Daniel O'Donnell

Officer Keith Lampert

Officer Andrew Freeman

Officer Gianna Astorino

Officer Luke Worley

Officer Andrew Woodard

Officer Grayson King (2)

Officer Nicholas Fickel

Officer Brent Martin

Officer Iesha Buford

Officer Russell Verby

Officer Charles Sweeney

Officer James Kreifels

Officer Ryan Hatcher

Officer Jesse Godden

Officer Ryan Keele

Officer Timothy Smock

## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL**

Former Sergeant Jessica Swanson	Retired Officer Charles Moffitt
Retired Captain Mark Matuza	Retired Officer Christopher Perna
Retired Captain S. Marcia West	Retired Officer Eric White
Retired Sergeant Mark Hanner	Retired Officer Nicholas Prescott
Retired Sergeant Michael Kozelichki	Retired Officer Robert Branch
Retired Sergeant Sheila Cech	Retired Officer Terri Wasmund
Retired Sergeant Thad Trosper	Retired Officer Tom Rummel

## **POLICE RIBBON OF EXCELLENCE**

Crime Prevention Specialist Gabrielle Brockman	Officer Corey Gorden	Officer Kelly Nownes
Sergeant Lindsey Fox	Officer David Ullery	Officer Kristopher Gates
Sergeant Zachary Petrick	Officer Gregory Graham	Officer Phillip Payton
Officer Brandon Braun	Officer Jamie Madson	Part-Time Peer Support Specialist/Retired Sergeant Mary Kirchofer
Officer Christopher Rock	Officer Jeremy Wedel	
	Officer John Vaillant	

## **POLICE RIBBON OF UNIT EXCELLENCE**

Lieutenant Kyle Steffen (2)	Officer Sherry Gooley
Sergeant Antone Arrick	Officer Timothy Lasater
Sergeant Darren Cunningham	Retired Officer Terri Wasmund
Officer Joseph Richter	R&P Supervisor Liddie Daniels

## **CHIEF'S LETTER OF COMMENDATION**

Deputy Director David Van Dyke	Sergeant Douglas Klein	Officer Cory Buckley
Lieutenant Daniel Martin	Sergeant Makayla Stiles	Officer Craig Wylie
Lieutenant James Pauly	Sergeant Troy Liebe	Officer Daniel Fehrman
Sergeant Antwone Finch	Officer Adam Vail	Officer Derrick Kreikemeier
Sergeant Daniel Faulkner	Officer Brandon Young	Officer Dustin Morris
Sergeant David Preston, Jr.	Officer Brock Gentile	Officer Jacob Haniszewski
	Officer Christopher Brown	

Officer James Kreifels  
Officer John Dlouhy  
Officer John Harney  
Officer Katie Ozmun  
Officer Kristine Love  
Officer Matthew Kelly  
Officer Matthew Owen

Officer Patrick Dempsey  
Officer Robert Soldo  
Officer Roman Hutton  
Officer Ryan Arthur  
Officer Ryan Keele  
Officer Sean Debuhr  
Officer Spencer Lewis

Fleet and Facilities  
Coordinator Dan Nelson  
Grant Coordinator Philipp  
Ruhe  
Training Specialist Miranda  
Vaughan

## DEPUTY CHIEF'S LETTER OF WORK WELL DONE

Captain Keith Williamson  
Lieutenant Allen Straub  
Lieutenant Kara Hindman  
Lieutenant Melissa Gillick  
Lieutenant Neal Bonacci  
Lieutenant Tara Ackerson  
Retired Sergeant Todd  
Kozelichki  
Sergeant Adam Jaworski  
Sergeant Adam Moore  
Sergeant Brian Dembinski  
Sergeant Daniel Faulkner  
Sergeant Darrell Greene  
Sergeant Emilio Luna  
Sergeant James Shade  
Sergeant Lance Worley  
Sergeant Ryan Kilawee  
Sergeant Ryan McGuire  
Sergeant Thomas Arrance  
Sergeant Timothy Ringhoff

Officer Aaron Thompson  
Officer Adam Vail (3)  
Officer Alan Wolf  
Officer Andrew Ramsay  
Officer Anna Koenig  
Officer Ashley Mathiesen  
(3)  
Officer Brandon Young  
Officer Brent Martin  
Officer Brian Bosn  
Officer Brian Hrabik  
Officer Brian Seaton  
Officer Bryan Straw  
Officer Brian  
Vanderheiden  
Officer Brian Yaghoutfam  
(2)  
Officer Brock Gentile  
Officer Bryson Blandford  
Officer Camron Payne (2)

Officer Carl Hanson  
Officer Chad Simmons  
Officer Charles Kraemer  
Officer Charles Sweeney  
(3)  
Officer Christopher  
Jackman  
Officer Christopher Miller  
Officer Christopher Rich  
Officer Cole Johannsen  
Officer Corey Buckley (3)  
Officer Corey Donohue  
Officer Curtis Frei  
Officer Daniel Morales  
Officer David Ullery  
Officer Derek Urban  
Officer Dion Smith  
Officer Dominic Lombardo  
Officer Donald Lentsch  
Officer Dylan Belter (2)

Officer Eh Saylor  
Officer Elizabeth  
Abramson  
Officer Emily Bradley  
Officer Eric Meads  
Officer Eric White  
Officer George Cardenas,  
Jr.  
Officer Grayson King  
Officer Hunter Jones (2)  
Officer Jacob Haniszewski  
(2)  
Officer Jacob Pursell  
Officer Jaime Partida  
Officer James Grasmick  
Officer Jamison Perry (2)  
Officer Jason Cvitanov  
Officer Jacob Haniszewski  
Officer Jeffrey Quick  
Officer Jeremy Rone  
Officer Jerrid Sorman  
Officer Jesse Walker  
Officer Jessica Rich  
Officer John Harney (2)  
Officer Jordan  
VanderZwaag  
Officer Jordon Jeffrey  
Officer Joseph Barrett (2)

Officer Joseph Paczkowski  
(2)  
Officer Joshua Lorenzo  
Officer Joshua McClusky  
(2)  
Officer Josiah Warren  
Officer Juan Fortier  
Officer Juan Jimenez  
Officer Justin Ruby  
Officer Kaleb Gamble  
Officer Karen Snipes  
Officer Kelli Tapp  
Officer Kendall Hofsheier  
(4)  
Officer Kyle Foster (2)  
Officer Leighanne Loges  
Officer Lukas Brazier  
Officer Marcos Diaz (2)  
Officer Mason Gregurich  
(2)  
Officer Michael Bailey  
Officer Michael Curd  
Officer Monica Anderson  
Officer Nathan Dickey  
Officer Nicholas Groth  
Officer Nicholas Lozzi  
Officer Nicholas Yarpe  
Officer Pablo Jimenez

Officer Rajan Ellebb  
Officer Reifer Johnson  
Officer Rene Ramos  
Officer Ricardo Martinez  
(2)  
Officer Rigel Murphy  
Officer Robert Morton  
Officer Roger Oseka  
Officer Ryan Arthur  
Officer Ryan Miller  
Officer Ryan Sillman (3)  
Officer Samantha Casey  
Officer Sean Debuhr  
Officer Shane Miller  
Officer Spenser Lewis  
Officer Spenser Sailors  
Officer Steven Masters  
Officer Tanner Reiss  
Officer Tarrence Vernon  
(2)  
Officer Travis Mitchell  
Officer Trevor Lapoint  
Officer Zachary Wynn  
R&P Specialist Candice  
Grell (2)  
R&P Specialist Ryan  
Behrens  
R&P Supervisor Liddie  
Daniels

Co-Responder Ashley  
Brugmann

Co-Responder Carolina  
Soto

Co-Responder Elisa  
Limoges (2)

Crime Analyst/Retired  
Sergeant Richard Lee  
Tomlinson

Forensic Manager William  
Henningsen

Information Services  
Technician Michelle  
Barton

Application Development  
Manager Joseph Franco

### **CAPTAIN'S LETTER OF WORK WELL DONE**

Lieutenant Candace  
Phillips

Lieutenant Sean Sheridan

Sergeant Brent Kendall

Sergeant Brian Hayes

Sergeant Douglas Johnson

Sergeant Joseph Svacina

Sergeant Nicola Bay

Sergeant Stephan Skaar

Officer Abby Desangles

Officer Adam Fisher

Officer Chad Wiebers

Officer Christopher Brown

Officer Corey Donohue

Officer Cory Buckley

Officer Dallas Schramm

Officer Darrelle Bonam

Officer David Moore

Officer Fred Hiykel

Officer Grayson King

Officer Jarid Freyermuth

Officer Jason Wilhelm (2)

Officer John Harney

Officer Jordan Vander  
Zwaag

Officer Kelli Tapp

Officer Kendall Hofsheier

Officer Logan Moran

Officer Lucas Scott

Officer Matthew Marchio

Officer Noah Zendejas

Officer Rene Ramos

Officer Richard Williams

Officer Roman Hutton

Officer Russell Verby

Officer Ryan Carrera

Officer Ryan Fitz

Officer Spenser Sailors

Officer Torey Warren

### **PUBLIC AWARD OF APPRECIATION**

Mr. Brian Riley

### **PUBLIC LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

Ms. Kinesha Roach

### **AMERICAN RED CROSS – PUBLIC SERVANT HERO**

Co-Responder Cari Soto

Co-Responder Ashley Brugmann



## **UNO SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AWARD**

Lieutenant Neal Bonacci

## **OMAHA POLICE OFFICERS BALL COMMITTEE AWARDS**

Dedication Award – Officers Ronnie  
Beasley, Linda Hauptman, and Otis Samuel

Excellence Award – Sergeant Troy Liebe

Exemplary Fortitude Award – Officers  
Dominic Lombardo, Justin Georgius, Bryson  
Blandford, Jennifer Turner, and Jason  
Martinez

Kerrie Orozco Service Award – Officers  
Travis Mitchell and Lukas Brazier

Spirit of Blue Award – Susan Rogert

Unit of Excellence Award – North Gang  
Suppression

## **OMAHA SUBURBAN ROTARY CLUB “OMAHAN OF THE YEAR”**

Chief Todd Schmaderer

## **ROTARY CLUB OF OMAHA - WEST “OFFICER OF THE YEAR”**

Officer Brian J. Vanderheiden

## **LETTER OF WORK WELL DONE FOR VOLUNTEERS OF SOME SUMMER GAMES**

Sergeant Cody Baines

Sergeant Lindsey Fox

Officer Anthony Barnes

Officer Dominic Lombardo

Officer Ashley Mathiesen

Officer James Phenis

Officer Jill Schillerberg

R&P Specialist Yvonne Barna

R&P Specialist Candice Grell

Secretary III Angela Coleman

Crime Analyst Kristen Pignotti

## **METROPOLITAN CHIEFS’ ASSOCIATION**

Dedication Award – Lieutenant Martin Stiles

Jason Pratt Memorial Award – Officers Nicholas Lanning and Joshua Moore

# RETIREMENTS 2023

Captain Mark Matuza  
Captain Marcia West  
Lieutenant Stefanie Fidone  
Lieutenant Steven Garcia  
Lieutenant James Pauly  
Sergeant Terence Cabral  
Sergeant Sheila Cech  
Sergeant Mark Hanner  
Sergeant Aaron Hanson  
Sergeant Michael Kozelichki  
Sergeant Christy Stevens  
Sergeant Alan Reyes  
Sergeant Mitchell Robinson  
Sergeant Scott Timperley  
Sergeant Thad Trooper  
Sergeant Jonathan Waller  
Officer Matthew P. Baughman  
Officer Robert Branch Jr  
Officer Larry Cahill  
Officer Devin Crinklaw  
Officer Joseph Eischeid  
Officer Anthony Friend  
Officer Eloy Gonzalez-Reynoso



Officer Douglas Herout  
Officer Dustin Hill  
Officer William Hill IV  
Officer Sterling Hitch  
Officer Nathan Keenan  
Officer Paul Lawson  
Officer Charles Moffitt  
Officer Christopher Perna  
Officer Nicholas Prescott  
Officer Tom Rummel  
Officer Christopher Sanchez  
Officer Michael Scott  
Officer James Shields Sr.  
Officer David Spizzirri  
Officer Debra Todd  
Officer Derek Voss  
Officer Coral Walker  
Officer Terri Wasmund  
Officer Eric White  
Secretary I Katherine Rodriguez

# REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED...AND PASSED ON IN 2023

Retired Lieutenant Robert Parker

Retired Sergeant Alex Ariza

Retired Sergeant Michael Thomas

Retired Officer Alfred Metzler

Retired Officer David Costello

Retired Officer Deron Moore

Retired Officer Eric Swanson

Retired Officer James Sledge

