

THE RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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CITY OF RIDGEFIELD

Police Department Annual Report 2017

Administration

City Council

Ron Onslow

Darren Wertz

David Taylor

Don Stose

John Main

Lee Wells

Sandra Day

City Manager

Steve Stuart

Chief of Police

John Brooks

2017 marks my first full year as the Chief of the Ridgefield Police Department. I inherited a very good agency and as I looked at potential changes, I wanted to make sure I didn't change the things that were working well. My focus settled on preparing the agency to grow and serve a larger community with different needs resulting in a more varied request for services. Along the way, there have been projects like the revision of the city's parking ordinance, the pursuit of accreditation through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, and community engagement efforts like this, our first ever Annual Report.



In the creation of an annual report, I wanted to provide a look beyond just the police car you see rolling down the street but to get to know the men and women in the Ridgefield Police Department. I want you to have a view to how we are organized, what are the priorities of the agency, and what we have accomplished. Beyond that, I hope to establish a transparent relationship where you are able to see everything from our fiscal responsibility to complaints and Use of Force statistics. Much of the national conversation about policing touches on matters having to do with force. In addition, I want you to see a police department that is engaged with its community on many different levels. Lastly are some of the crime statistics that give you a view into the activity the Ridgefield Police Department is engaged in. Ridgefield is a wonderful community and as a result, it is growing. People want to be here. That keeps all city departments busy, including the police.

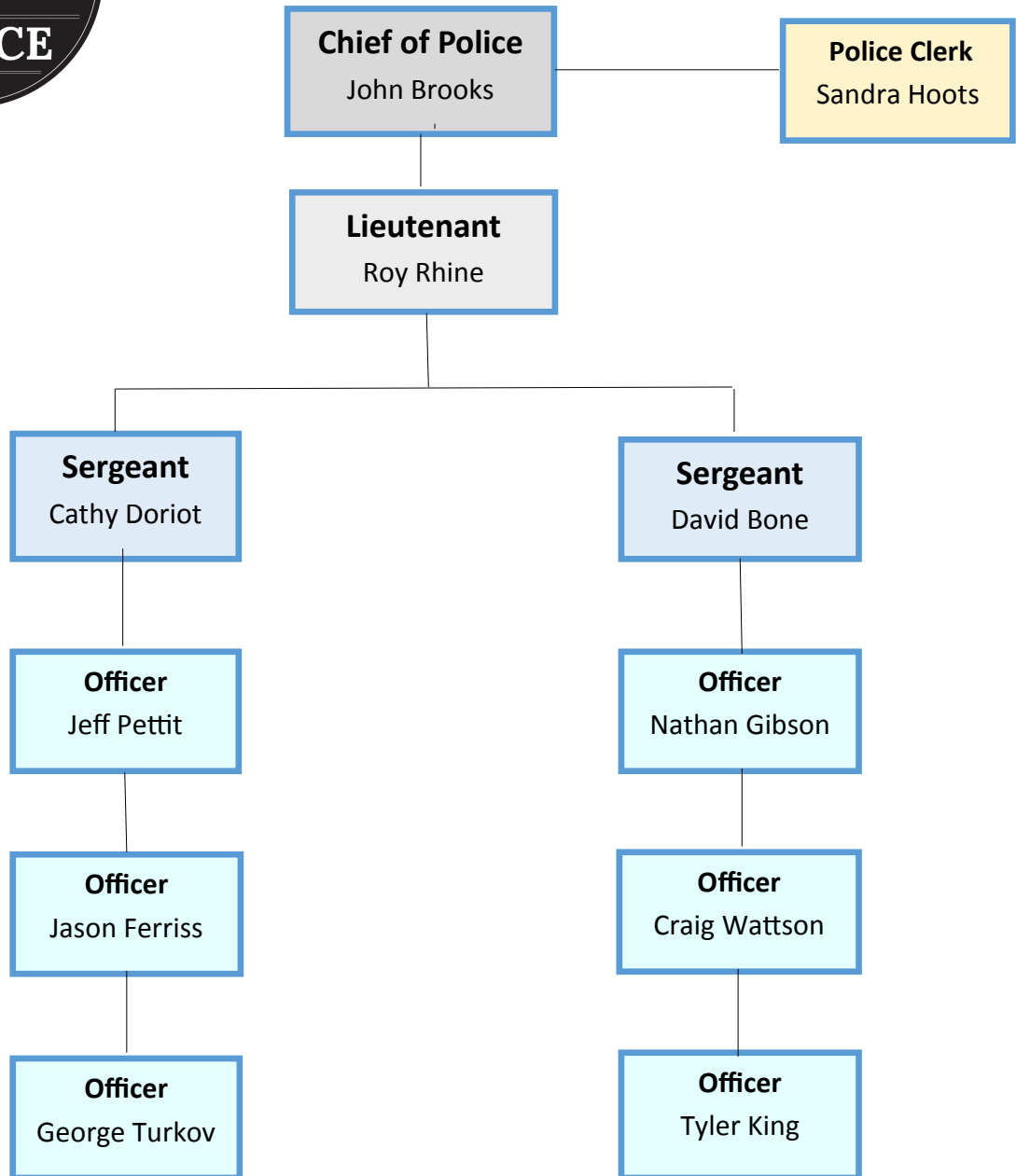
We are very fortunate to have a professional and competent group of dedicated public servants, committed to providing outstanding service to our community and our beautiful city. Finally, thank you! I cannot imagine a community that supports its police more. We feel it and know not every police department enjoys the support you provide on a daily basis.

Thanks — Chief John Brooks



RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission for every member of the Ridgefield Police Department is to protect lives and property in our community and to maintain public order.

OUR VALUES AND VISION:

In addition to our mission statement, we are guided in our daily duties by our statement of what we see as our Values and Vision for the organization.

We are proud of our agency and we value:

- **Integrity**
- **Compassion**
- **Accountability**
- **Respect**
- **Excellence**
- **Service**

OUR VISION:

The Vision for the Ridgefield Police Department is to prepare for the growth of the community and to continually strive to build a progressive and responsive Law Enforcement Agency.



Members of RPD

YEARS OF LE SERVICE

Chief John Brooks	28
Lieutenant Roy Rhine	36
Sergeant Cathy Doriot	28
Sergeant David Bone	31
Officer Jeff Pettit	22
Officer Nathan Gibson	10
Officer Jason Ferriss	21
Officer Craig Wattson	15
Officer George Turkov	3
Officer Tyler King	New Hire
Police Clerk/Records	12
Tech Sandra Hoots	

WELCOME TO RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT Tyler S. King 6/01/17



LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

Sgt. Cathy Doriot, Officer Jeff Pettit and Officer George Turkov:

For response to a take-over burglary at a residence and subsequent
capture of suspects:

Officer Jason Ferriss:

For Outstanding Investigation

SERVICE AWARDS

Lt. Roy Rhine	5 Years
Sergeant Cathy Doriot	26 Years
Officer Nathan Gibson	10 Years
Officer Craig Wattson	5 Years

SUPPORT SERVICES

CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMITS

By law, you must have a concealed weapons permit if you carry a pistol concealed on your person, if you carry or place a loaded pistol in a vehicle, or if you are transporting a concealed firearm. If you are a city resident, you may obtain a CPL from our department. The cost is \$50.75, and is valid for five years.

ANIMAL LICENSING:

Per chapter 7.04.040 of the Ridgefield Municipal Code, owners of dogs must obtain a license. If your animal is spayed or neutered, the cost is \$20.00 annually. For animals not spayed or neutered, the fee is \$30.00. There are also Hobby Kennel License's available for 5 to 10 dogs.

DRUG TAKE BACK PROGRAM:

The Ridgefield Police Department accepts prescription medications for disposal. Please remove pills from all containers and place them in a clear plastic bag. Bring them to the police department clerk for disposal. * No liquids or inhalers will be accepted.

VACATION HOUSE CHECKS:

As a courtesy to Ridgefield residents, RPD officers can perform periodic checks of your home or office while you are out of town. There is no charge for this service, but there is a form we ask you to complete in advance which provides emergency contact information and other necessary details. The form can be found on the City website at ridgefieldwa.us or can be picked up at the front counter of the Police Department.

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST:

The Ridgefield Police Department fulfills many records requests, including case reports and traffic accidents. The public disclosure request form can be found on the City's website at ridgefieldwa.us or you can get one from the front desk at the police department. There is a fee of .15 cents per page.

FINGERPRINTING:

The Ridgefield Police Department offers Live Scan fingerprinting services. It is suggested you call us at (360) 887-3556 for an appointment, but walk-ins are welcome if the clerk is available. The fee is \$20.00 per fingerprint card.

TRAINING

A well trained staff is a priority for the Ridgefield Police Department. Police officers are held accountable for decisions made under extreme stress. Moreover, the way public safety services are delivered is an ever-evolving field with changes in law, training protocols, and additional expectations of services by police departments.

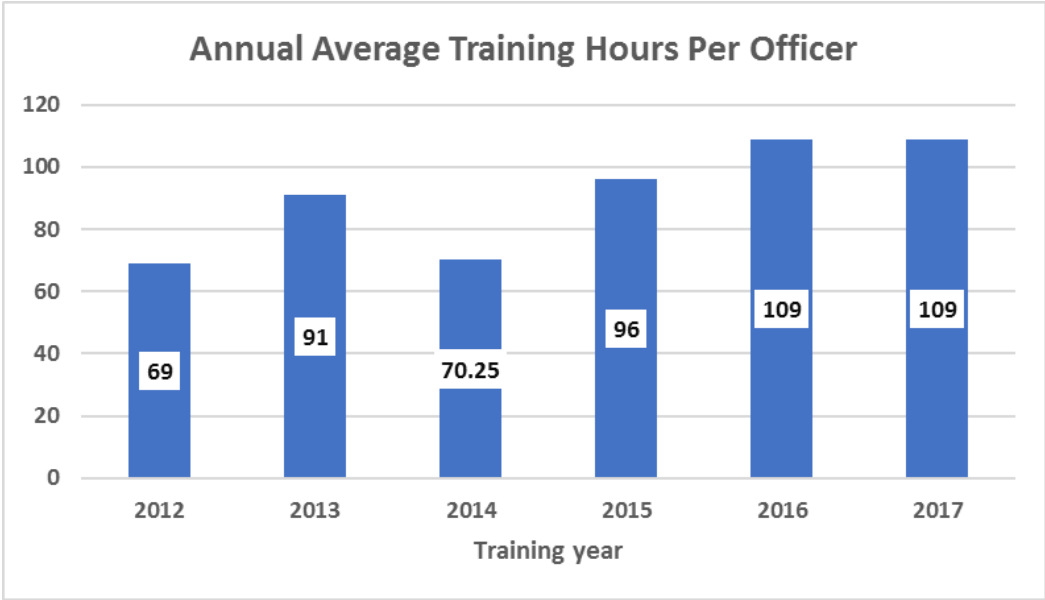
Per the Revised Code of Washington 43.101.095, every police officer in the State of Washington must receive a minimum of 24 hours of annual training. Ridgefield Police officers received, on average, significantly more training hours than the state requirement and our department has consistently received a satisfactory rating from the Criminal Justice Training Commission for training compliance.

In 2017, Ridgefield Police Officers, on average, received over 100 hours of training on topics ranging from firearms, emergency vehicle operations, defensive tactics, first-aid, leadership, sexual assault investigation, domestic violence investigations and a variety of other topics.

Recent social change regarding police interaction with those engaged in criminal behavior has necessitated a change in how police officers train. The current trend in law enforcement training focuses on use of force, and particularly on “non-escalation” strategies. During 2017, three of our officers attended a 40-hour course on Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which provided those officers with strategies for safely defusing anxious, hostile, or violent behavior at the earliest possible stage. The remainder of our officers attended a mandatory 8-hour CIT course. Recent state law mandates all officers will attend an annual two-hour CIT refresher course. As an agency, we recognize the importance of providing our officers with training focused on building strategies for handling the mentally ill, and we are committed to sending all of our officers through the 40-hour CIT training.

In the past year, management of the training program has transitioned from command staff to the sergeants. Sergeants work closely with the officers and have a first-hand awareness of training needs and deficiencies. Sergeants work to ensure the training the officers receive sufficiently prepares them for the challenges they face in our community.

Annual average of officer’s training hours reflected in the graph below:





RANGE DAY!

Range day fell on a very wet, rainy, soggy day!
Way to stay dry Lt. Rhine and Chief Brooks!

Firearms Instructor Jeff Pettit hitting the target!



Officer King, first day of the Academy! You can do it!



GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2017 Goals and Accomplishment

Encrypted Radio Channels-In 2017, the 911 system upgraded to encrypted radio frequencies to provide for more secure transmissions. With the advent of smart phone applications that relay every transmission, criminals were increasingly utilizing the technology to know when the police were headed their way. This change over required intensive testing over all parts of the county.

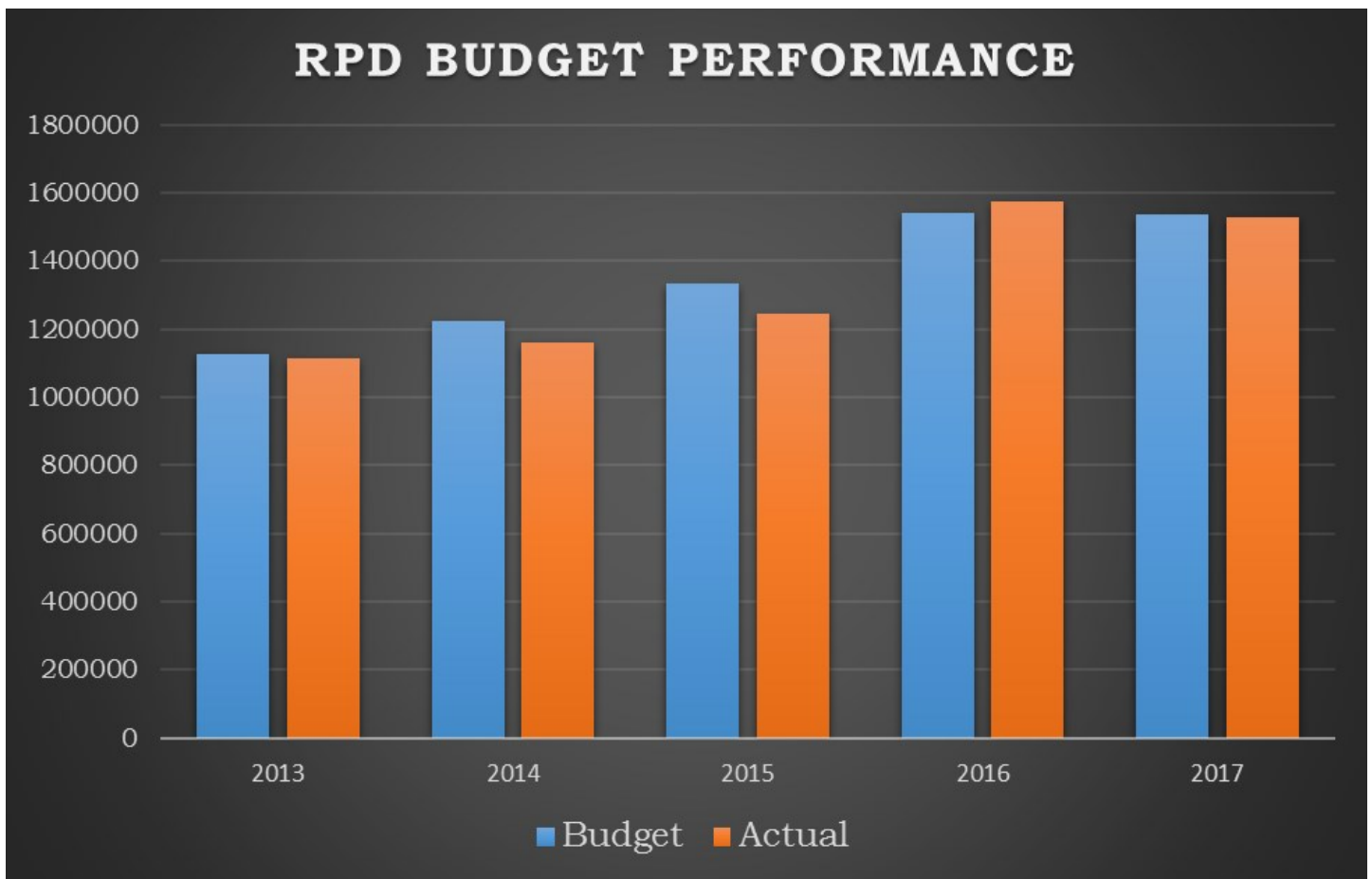
Entered into a new labor agreement with the Ridgefield Police Officers Association-The City and the Police Officers' Association successfully negotiated and agreed on a labor agreement for a three year term of January 1, 2018—December 31, 2020.

Hired an additional officer. In July of 2017, the Ridgefield Police Department was able to hire an additional officer. Officer Tyler King completed his academy training in November of 2017 and is currently in the process of his last phase of Field Training.

Accreditation-Early in 2017, Chief Brooks decided to pursue statewide accreditation for the Ridgefield Police Department. This is a multi-year endeavor that we began with sending Lt Rhine and Sgt Doriot to training and working through updating a number of policies. Accreditation ensures departments are current with best practices in Law Enforcement and is an achievement worth striving for.

CIT Training - On April 24, 2015, Governor Jay Inslee signed into law the Douglas M. Ostling Act, a measure that requires all Washington state law enforcement to receive crisis intervention training. In recent years, law enforcement officers have experienced a marked increase in confrontations with mentally ill individuals. Crisis intervention training helps officers identify and de-escalate situations where someone may be behaving erratically but is not necessarily a threat. All police officers receive eight hours of initial crisis intervention training with two additional hours incorporated into existing online yearly training. The goal for RPD is all officers to attend the 40 hour CIT course. In 2017, half the officers attended the 40 hour course with the other half scheduled for 2018.

Uniform Guide—The Departments first ever Uniform Guide was developed with the help from the first ever uniform committee. Like technology, uniforms and materials continue to evolve. It is important to vet any proposed changes to ensure they are needs driven and to maintain uniformity.



For the past five years, the City of Ridgefield has continued to increase their allocation for public safety. In doing so, we have been able to increase our staffing and increase the amount of training we are providing members of the department. In the past 4 out of 5 years, the Ridgefield Police Department has operated within its budget. 2016 was marked by several items that were unforeseen during the initial budget planning. This included some equipment that required replacement and personnel changes including a new Chief of Police. Overall, the police department has managed their budget in a fiscally conservative manner.

YEAR END REVIEWS

USE OF FORCE

In 2017 there were 3 instances where the Ridgefield Police needed to use force on a person who was resisting arrest. All three cases involved an arm bar take down to people who were resistive. Of the three, two were intoxicated and all were adults. No person had to seek medical treatment.

Total events where officers used force: 3

Total Events in 2017: 5,678

Force Used in .5% of all contacts

Total Physical Arrests: 96

% of Physical Arrests where force was used: 3.1%

PURSUIT

In 2017 there was one pursuit where the officer responded to a subject forcing a female into the back of a vehicle at a local convenience store and leaving. A RPD officer spotted the vehicle and called in the plate which showed the vehicle was stolen. Based on the possible abduction involving a stolen vehicle, RPD officer elected to pursue the vehicle when it refused to stop for the officers lights and siren. This pursuit was judged to be within policy. (Suspect was captured)

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

In 2017, the Ridgefield Police Department investigated three complaints against officers.

Category

Demeanor/Courtesy 1

Performance Issues 2

Findings

Exonerated (1)

The alleged act occurred but the act was justified, lawful, and/or proper.

Unfounded (0)

The allegation was false or not factual or the alleged act[s] did not occur or did not involve department personnel.

Not Sustained (0)

There is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.

Sustained (2)

The act occurred and it constituted misconduct or violation of policy.

NOTES/TRENDS

- Sustained complaints were handled with coaching/counseling, written reprimand.
- There was no pattern of repeated misconduct.

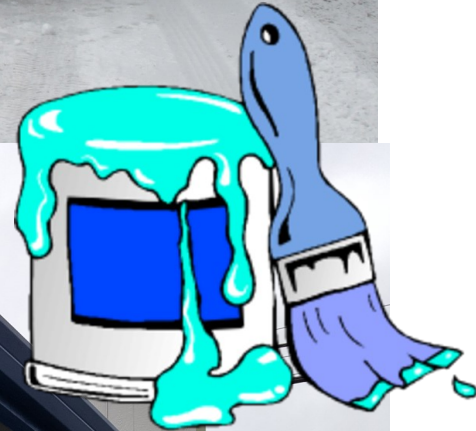
2017 EVENTS

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Building Spruce Up!

City Clean up day brought a new coat of paint and a new color to the police building. The thin blue line represents police nationwide. Great job Lt. Rhine, Officer King, and his spouse, Karina King!





Independence Day is celebrated by over 3,000 people in the City of Ridgefield. Complete with a parade, fun run, outdoor entertainment , great food, games, arts/crafts and our own Captain America!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 1st, 2017

National Night Out is a national community building event aimed at strengthening police-community partnerships and heightening anti-crime and drug prevention awareness. A night filled with free hotdogs, drinks, music, community booths and great interaction between law enforcement and the citizens of Ridgefield!



Coffee with a Cop brings police officers and the community members they serve together-over coffee-to discuss issues and learn more about each other.



NATIONAL COFFEE WITH A COP DAY OCTOBER 4th 2017

UNION RIDGE GRADE SCHOOL THANKSGIVING LUNCH!

Mayor Ron Oslow, Councilman
Don Stose, Clerk Hoots and Chief
Brooks!



Every year the Ridgefield School District serves a Thanksgiving Dinner to all of their students and any parent that would like to attend. This takes many volunteers to feed over 800 people at both Union Ridge and South Ridge Elementary. The Ridgefield Police Department, Mayor and council members all contribute to the great success of this school event!



The Ridgefield Police Officers Association, sponsored the 2nd annual Rocks with Cops event. Kids from all ages participated in painting rocks along side our police officers. This gives the kids an opportunity to participate in a fun activity as well as engaging with law enforcement officers. Three rocks were hidden in the City of Ridgefield and the finder received a special prize. Prizes were raffled off every 15 minutes and hot chocolate, apple cider, cookies and delicious brownies topped the evening!

ROCKS WITH COPS DECEMBER 11th, 2017



WINNERS!

OFFICIAL ROCK FINDERS!

SHOP WITH A COP 2017



Shop with a Cop is an opportunity for children in need to shop for Christmas presents for themselves or their family members. Police Officers from multiple agencies come and help the kids pick out just the right gift! This event is made possible with many business donations and the help of Walmart!



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REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Ridgefield Police Department participates in a number of regional partnerships. The demands on Law Enforcement are many and only the largest agencies are able to meet all the growing list of demands from within their own agencies. Additionally, there is value in collaborating with other public safety service providers to consolidate services. The Ridgefield Police Department also meets with other law enforcement agencies to share information and problem solve.

Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) – 911 Services, dispatch and emergency management are all handled by CRESA. We are currently working with CRESA toward the creation of a new radio tower on the water tank at the high school to help with radio coverage in the region.

Law Enforcement Council (LEC) - is a meeting of all the law enforcement agencies in Clark County to include State and Federal Law Enforcement and CRESA. The purpose is to facilitate inter-agency cooperation and communication. Chief Brooks serves as the Chair of LEC for 2018.

Children's Justice Center - The investigation of child abuse is a delicate matter. The Ridgefield Police Department has long-partnered with the Children's Justice Center to leverage their unique interview environment and trained staff to assist with child abuse investigations. Their multi-disciplinary approach partners the local agency with investigators, prosecutors, and Children and Family Services in the pursuit of justice and healing.

SWAT – The SW Washington Regional SWAT team is hosted by the Vancouver Police Department who partners with the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Between these two agencies, they make up 95% of the SWAT team and are available for call outs and the service of high risk search warrants. Fortunately, Ridgefield did not have need of the SWAT team in 2017.

Battleground Municipal Court - While felony cases are referred to the Clark County Prosecutor's office, misdemeanor cases are referred to the Battleground Municipal Court. Ridgefield, La Center, and Battleground all share the costs for the Battleground Municipal Court based upon usage. This makes for an effective working relationship with the local prosecutor and provides better value for the city.

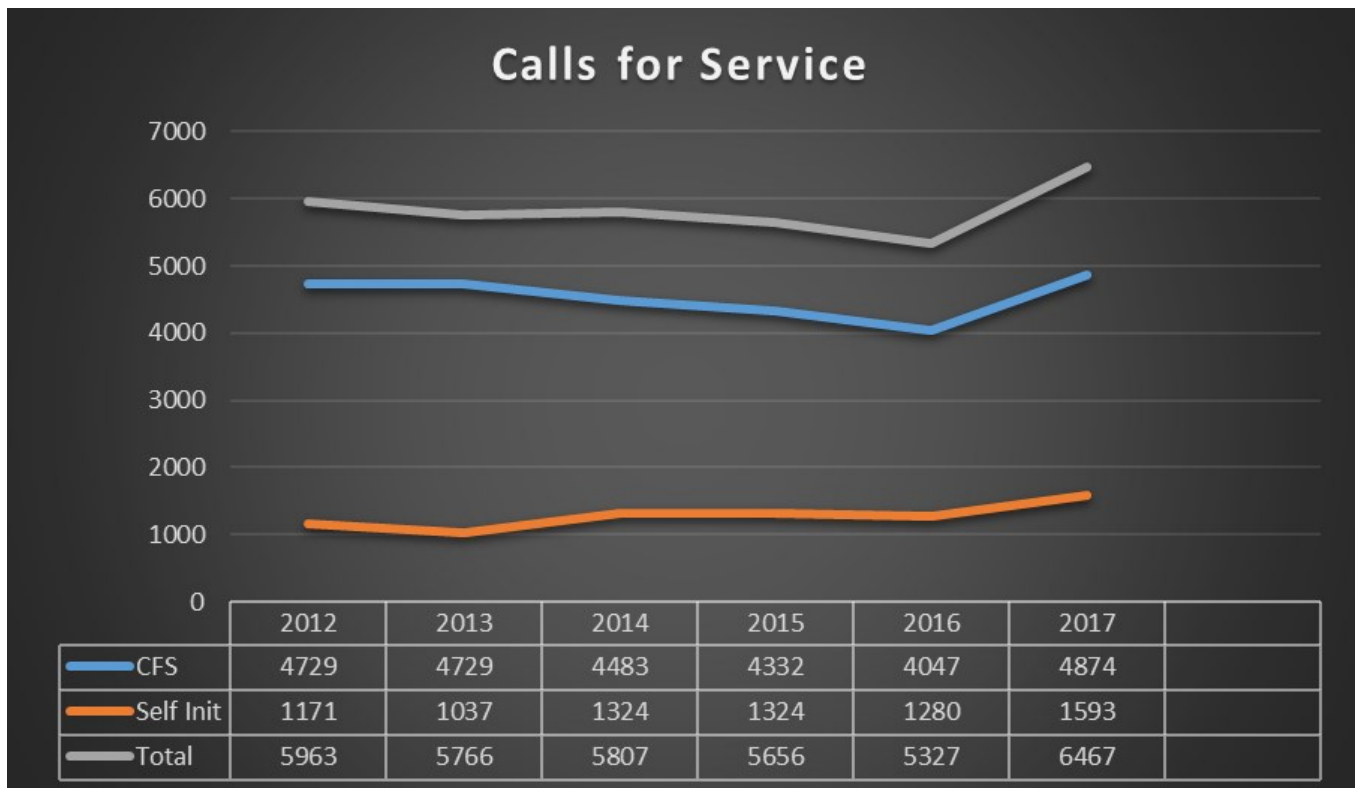
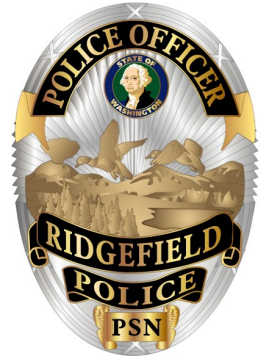
Regional Major Crimes Team (RMCT) - Currently the Ridgefield Police Department partners with the RMCT when more time consuming and complicated investigations are needed. We referred two cases to the RMCT in 2017. One was a shooting and one was a take-over style burglary. On both cases, the Ridgefield Police arrested the suspect(s).

Clark County Traffic Safety Task Force – This group applies for grant monies which are used to hire officers from all over the county to conduct directed traffic safety missions that include: DWI emphasis, Pedestrian Safety Missions, Seat Belt enforcement and Distracted Driving enforcement. These missions are conducted all throughout the county including the City of Ridgefield. Sgt. Bone represents Ridgefield Police on the Task Force.

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) - Ridgefield participates with WASPC as the primary body who represents agencies and public safety matters to the State government as well as a provider of executive level training and the statewide accrediting body.



DISPATCH DATA



Calls for Service

Calls for service are an important metric for determining staffing levels. They are comprised by adding actual calls from citizens with self-initiated activity. (Things officers do without being assigned like traffic stops.) The combination of the two result in a picture of the activity of the department. Four of the last five years, we have seen a general decline in citizen calls for police service until 2017 wherein we saw an increase. While our five year trend shows a 14% increase in total calls for service. Over that same period of time, our staffing has increased by 25%.

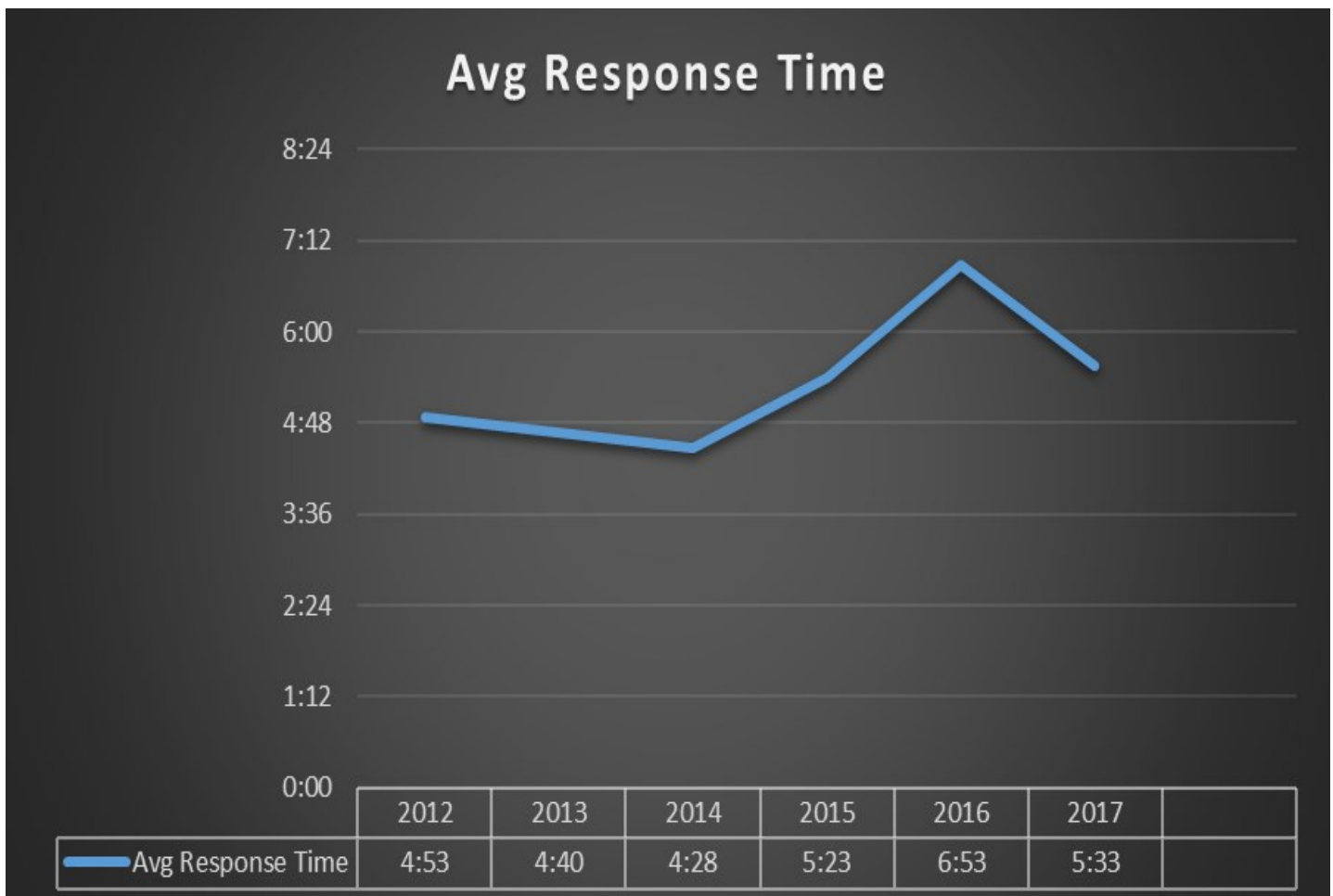


DISPATCH DATA



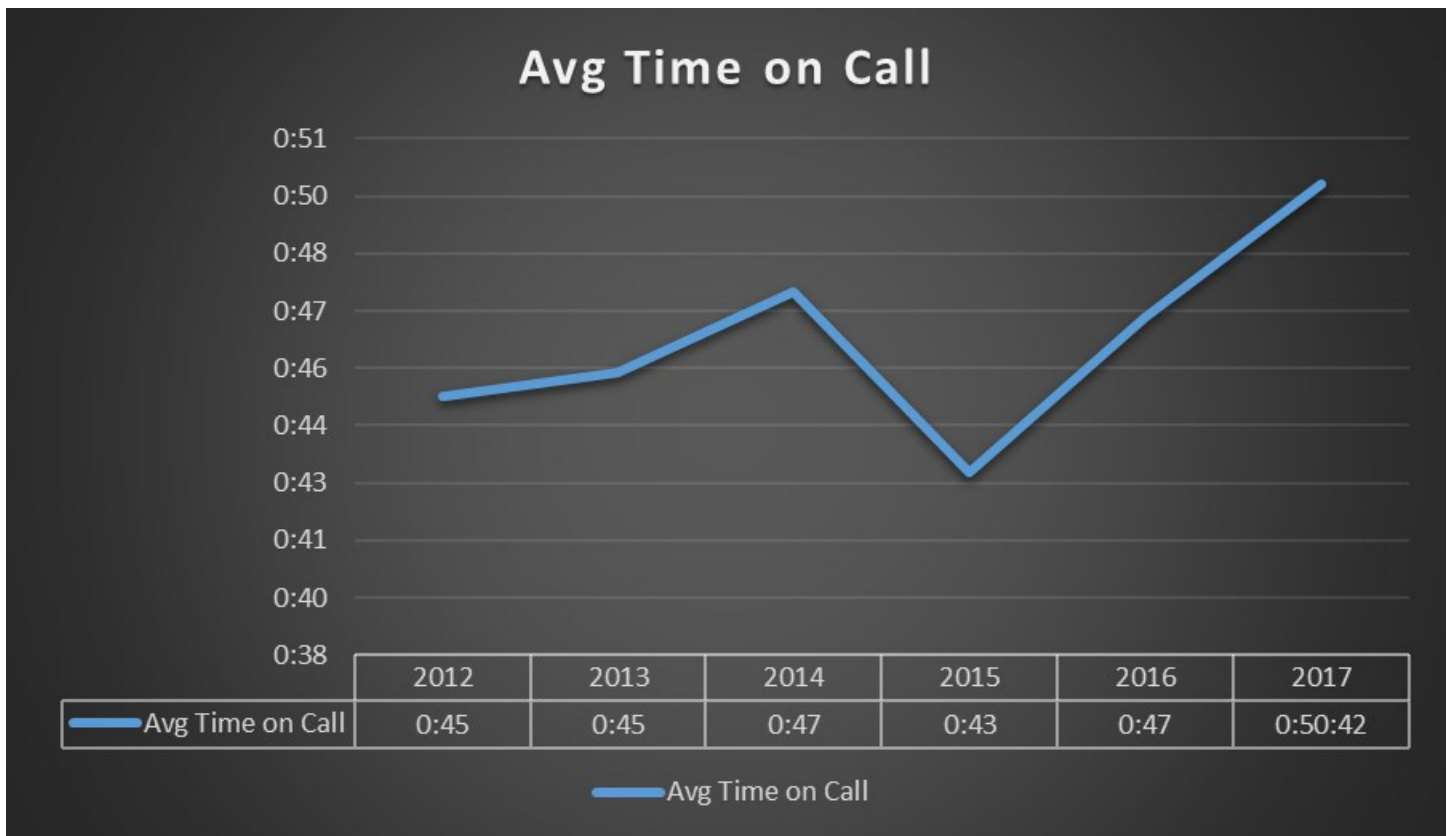
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

Average response time is also important data to track to determine if staffing is sufficient to arrive to priority calls in a timely fashion. Over the past five years we have seen a 13% increase in the time it takes to arrive at priority calls. The average response time for Ridgefield over the past five years is 5:18 as compared to the national average of 11 minutes.





DISPATCH DATA



AVERAGE CALL TIME

This represents the average time spent per call. Over the past five years we have seen our average time spent on calls increase by 12%. Our average over the past five years is 47 minutes per call. As investigations become more complex, time spent on calls increases.



CRIME STATISTICS



2016		2017	
Alcohol	1	Alcohol	3
Animal	11	Animal	18
Assist	8	Assist	11
Arson	5	Arson	1
Assault	16	Assault	45
Auto Theft	6	Auto Theft	11
Burglary	21	Burglary	12
Child Abuse	3	Child Abuse	1
Death Invest	5	Death Invest	4
Disorder	2	Disorder	0
Drug	10	Drug	18
DUI	12	DUI	18
DV Info	9	DV Info	40
Embezzle	3	Embezzle	0
Forgery	0	Forgery	0
Found	3	Found	16
Fraud	22	Fraud	20
Hit & Run	5	Hit & Run	22
Impound	1	Impound	10
Expose	0	Expose	1
Info	92	Info	128
Vandalism	24	Vandalism	21
Mental	10	Mental	11
MIP	2	MIP	2
Missing Person	1	Missing Person	2
Over Dose	0	Over Dose	1
Parking	11	Parking	37
Rape	1	Rape	1
Recovered	6	Recovered	21
RO	4	RO	15
Robbery	0	Robbery	0
Runaway	1	Runaway	0
Sex Offense	2	Sex Offense	6
Suicide	0	Suicide	0
Theft	56	Theft	44
Threats	11	Threats	8
Traffic	0	Traffic	15
Traffic Accident	41	Traffic Accident	35
Trespass	3	Trespass	3
Car Prowl	3	Car Prowl	14
Warrant	26	Warrant	29
Weapons	2	Weapons	1

CRIME DATA

The Ridgefield Police Department has utilized three different records management systems in the past four years. In doing so, it has made it extremely difficult to gather crime data. 2017 represents our first full year of using our current system. While data migration sounds pretty straightforward, frequently proprietary technology systems encounter issues in which they categorize data. By publishing our crime stats here, we hope to begin to establish a track record by which we can maintain a measurement over time of crime trends. Some of the major changes are as the result of policy changes. Our key metrics (Highlighted in blue) indicate we live in a very safe community.



ARREST DATA



2017	ADULTS	JUVENILES	TOTAL
BOOKED	92	4	96
CITED	40	0	40
REFERRED	37	27	64
TOTAL	169	31	200

ARREST DATA

Subjects who were booked represent people actually taken to jail whereas people who are cited are given a criminal citation to appear in court and people who are referred have cases sent to the prosecutor to review and make charging decisions. The number of arrests indicate the number of arrests and not the individuals arrested. It is possible for a person to be arrested more than once

STAFFING

Based on population, our staffing is consistent with our area agencies. We continue to add staff as the city grows to ensure we keep up with the volume of activity. In 2018, we will add one more officer. We calculate our staffing needs by calls for service, response time, population, and time available.



CITY	POPULATION	# OF OFFICERS	# per 1000
La Center	3,200	7	2.1
Woodland	5,952	10	1.7
Ridgefield	7,500	10	1.3
Vancouver	174,826	218	1.2
Camas	22,456	27	1.2
Washougal	15,466	18	1.1
Battle Ground	20,110	21	.9
Clark County	467,015	143	.6

CAREER WITH THE RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

The recruitment and selection process for a police officer with the Ridgefield Police Department includes the following steps:

Application. All candidates apply online or via telephone with www.publicsafetytesting.com. At the time of application, candidates will schedule a testing dates.

Written Examination. A standardized written examination is conducted by Public Safety Testing. To be successful, candidates must score a minimum of 70% on the exam.

Physical Ability Test. The physical fitness ability test is conducted by Public Safety Testing and is identical to the test used by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. No numerical score is provided for this test, it is a pass or fail test.

Structured Oral Interview. The interview consists of a series of questions asked by a panel of law enforcement professionals that are designed to assess the candidate's job skills and abilities.

Certification on an Eligibility List. The names of candidates who successfully complete testing are merged into an eligibility list according to final overall scores.

Background Investigation. A background investigator conducts a comprehensive investigation based on information provided by the candidate in an interview and on a personal history questionnaire. The investigation includes a criminal background check, a review of credit history, a series of personal interviews with current and former employers as well as personal and professional references and a polygraph examination.

Medical Testing. Candidates who receive a conditional offer of employment are required to successfully complete a psychological evaluation and a medical evaluation.

A police officer candidate who receives a final offer of employment with the City of Ridgefield complete a rigorous training program including:

Law Enforcement Academy: Entry level police officers will complete 720 hours (4.5 months) of basic law enforcement academy training with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC). Lateral entry police officers may be required to complete an 80 hour equivalency academy with WSCJTC.

Field Training Officer Program. The three month field training and evaluation program with RPD is to train new officers so that they are prepared to function as a solo patrol officer.

The approximate amount of time it takes for an entry level officer to be trained to function as a solo patrol officer is between seven and ten months from the date of hire. For lateral entry police officers, the training period is shorter due to the officer's experience and required academy training.