



2021 POLICE ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

In 2021, the CHPD overcame unique challenges that are turning into the new normal in policing. The Department is fortunate to have strong community partnerships to help the Department provide best services possible for the citizens of Columbia Heights.

The murder of George Floyd continued to weigh heavily on the hearts and minds of officers and professional office staff as they prepared to assist the City of Minneapolis with Operation Safety Net in preparation for the trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. It was during this time that several Columbia Heights Officers had to respond to civil unrest occurring in Brooklyn Center due to an officer involved shooting where Daunte

Wright was killed by Brooklyn Center Police Officer Kim Potter. The event involved several hundred officers and became a highly dangerous, rapidly evolving situation. The responding officers demonstrated outstanding leadership, teamwork, courage, and professionalism under these incredibly stressful circumstances. These and other situations inspired the CHPD to launch a new podcast with special guests discussing public safety topics relevant to the public as an additional form of community engagement and transparency.

The CHPD partnered with Parks and Recreation and conducted security and crime prevention analysis of the Huset and Sullivan Park. This information was used to upgrade lighting

and cameras at the parks to provide a safer environment for community members using the park. The CHPD also started new collaborative efforts with the Adult Education Center in Columbia Heights, the Columbia Heights Library Foundation, and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia to develop curriculum for immigrants who are relatively new to this country and the community.

The CHPD is also happy to announce that it received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) which allowed the police department to partner with Canvas Health for a new embedded social worker position. Find out more about this and other initiatives in the following pages.

The CHPD also saw the retirement of Sgt. Ted Fischer. Sergeant Fischer honorably served with the CHPD for twenty-nine years. During that time, he served in a variety of capacities, including Community Policing Officer, Investigator, DARE Officer, Use of Force Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Field Training Officer, and Sergeant.

The CHPD is at its best in partnership with the larger community. The community's support and involvement is never taken for granted.

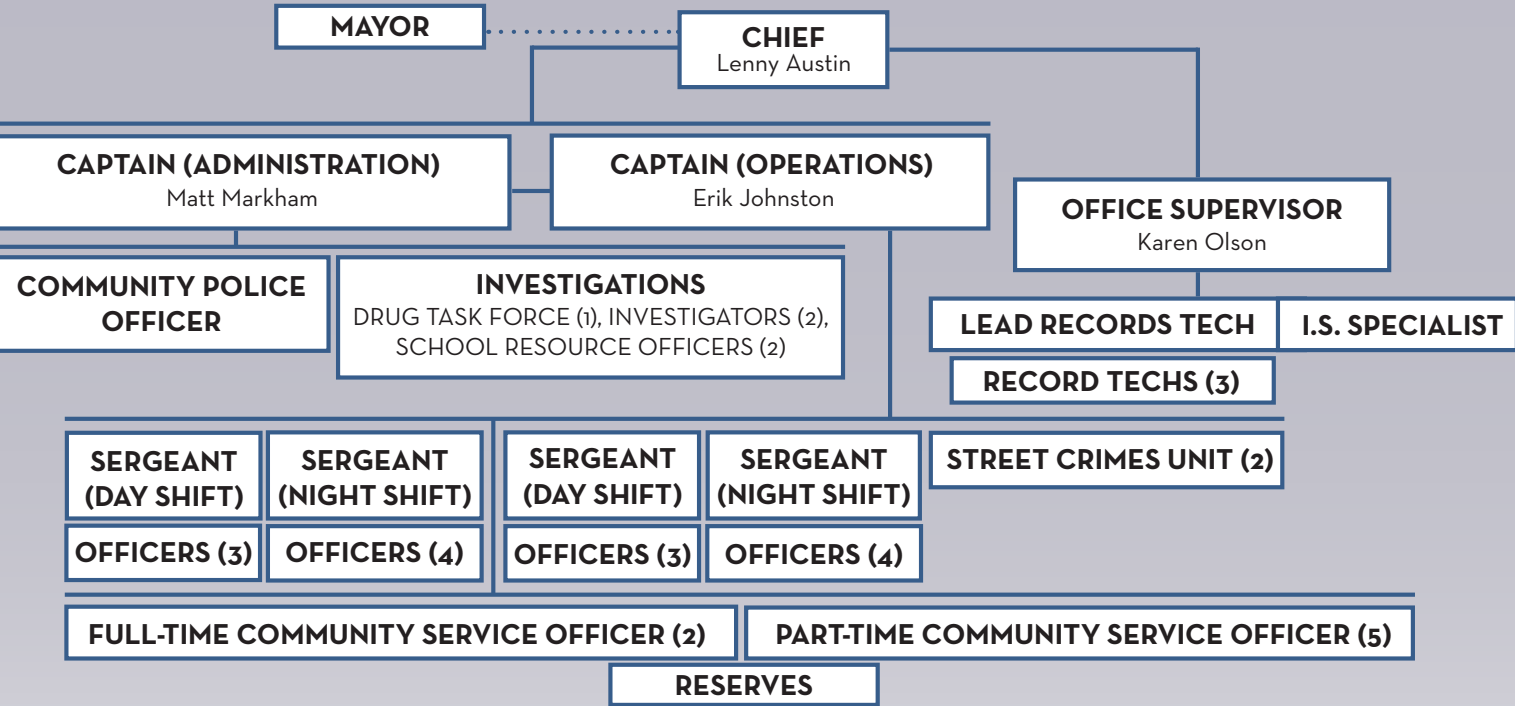
An active, involved citizenry is more important now than ever as the CHPD continues its mission of protecting life and property, developing innovating solutions, and enhancing the safety and quality of life in the community.

Police Department Staff Roster			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Lenny Austin	Chief of Police	Feb 2, 1995	----
Erik Johnston	Captain	Dec 2, 2002	----
Matthew Markham	Captain	Aug 31, 1998	----
Ted Fischer	Sergeant	Oct 30, 1992	March 31, 2021
Justin Pletcher	Sergeant	May 24, 2010	Dec 30, 2021
Erik Hanson	Sergeant	Feb 5, 2007	----
Timothy Noll	Sergeant	Nov 19, 2012	----
Paul Bonesteel	Drug Task Force	Sept 8, 1994	----
Gregory Sinn	Police Officer	June 5, 2000	----
Jason Piehn	High School Liaison	April 4, 2005	----
Joseph Pikala	Police Officer	Aug 12, 2008	----
William Monberg	Community Policing Coord.	Oct 13, 2008	----
Jacob Hilden	Police Officer/Investigator	May 14, 2013	Jan 31, 2021
Mohammed Farah	Police Officer	Jan 13, 2015	----
Tabitha Wood	Investigator	Sept 14, 2015	----
Ibrahim Farah	Middle School Liaison	April 27, 2016	----
Jacquelyn Urbaniak	Investigator	Nov 28, 2016	----

Police Staff Roster Continued			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Darry Jones	Police Officer	Feb 2, 2017	June 6, 2021
Jamie Mittelstaedt	Police Officer	May 21, 2018	Jan 11, 2021
Thomas Hall	Police Officer	Aug 30, 2018	March 21, 2021
Mitch Weisser	Police Officer	Jan 14, 2019	----
Guy Juran	Police Officer	Feb 10, 2020	----
Alex Barrot	Police Officer	Feb 28, 2018	----
Steve Wagner	Police Officer	Aug 10, 2020	----
Shelby Tombers	Police Officer	Sept 13, 2017	----
Sam Foy	Police Officer	Feb 7, 2021	----
Tony Miller	PT Community Service Officer Police Officer	Oct 26, 2016 Promoted Feb 6, 2021	----
Trevor Norlien	Police Officer	July 19, 2021	----
Andrew Nightingale	Police Officer	Aug 25, 2021	----
Kelvin Yang	PT Community Service Officer Police Officer	Aug 12, 2019 Promoted Feb 8, 2021	----
Karen Olson	Office Supervisor	Feb 19, 1986	----
Jessica Racchini	Lead Records Tech	Sept 16, 2019	----

Police Staff Roster Continued

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Ramon Gomez	Records Technician	Nov 4, 2013	June 4, 2021
Becky Romanic	Records Technician	March 14, 2018	----
Jennifer Parra	Records Technician	Oct 13, 2020	----
Nick Fedor	Information Systems Specialist	Sept 18, 2018	----
Sanjin Boskovic	Community Service Officer	May 5, 2021	----
Evan McNair	PT Community Service Officer	Feb 8, 2021	Nov 26, 2021
Robert Tombers	PT Community Service Officer	Aug 30, 2018	Dec 30, 2021
Luke Troyak	PT Community Service Officer	Nov 20, 2019	Sept 3, 2021
Eli Haddorff	PT Community Service Officer	Dec 14, 2020	----



Sgt. Ted Fischer Retires After 29 Years With CHPD

Sergeant Fischer honorably served with the CHPD for twenty-nine years before he retired in 2021. During that time, he served in a variety of capacities that included Community Policing Officer, Investigator, DARE Officer, Use of Force Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Field Training Officer, and Sergeant.

Sgt Fischer also worked with the Minnesota Chief’s Association where he taught several sessions at their annual leadership academy. It was during this time that he was able to pass on his great wisdom to the future leaders in policing. Because of Sergeant Fischer’s leadership at the department, he was able to lay the groundwork of the CHPD’s training program and moved it forward in a way that benefited both officers and the community. He left a legacy with all the officers working here today. The CHPD wishes Sergeant Fischer the best in his retirement.



Before Sgt. Fischer’s last day in March, he participated as the special guest for the CHPD’s official podcast Roll Call. After the recording, he posed for this photograph with (from left to right), Officer Darry Jones, Investigator Tabitha Wood, Officer Mohammed Farah, and Officer Tony Miller.

2021 Awards

The CHPD’s 2021 Department Awards were presented at the Feb 28 City Council meeting in 2022.

Award of Commendation

- Erik Hanson
- Steve Wagner
- Jason Piehn
- Tabitha Wood

On April 11, 2021, these officers responded as part of a regional response to civil unrest in the City of Brooklyn Center following an Officer Involved Shooting there. The situation was highly dangerous and rapidly evolving. These officers demonstrated outstanding leadership, teamwork, courage, and professionalism under incredibly stressful circumstances.

Mentor Award

- Erik Hanson
- Jason Piehn
- Ibrahim Farah
- Greg Sinn
- Mohammed Farah
- Jackie Urbaniak
- Guy Juran
- Steve Wagner
- Bill Monberg
- Mitch Weisser

These are Field Training Officers for the CHPD tasked with training 10 new recruits over the past two years, which is an unprecedented number. FTOs are required to coach, train, and mentor each new officer, and are also responsible for passing on the values and culture of the department to the next generation of officers.

Above and Beyond

Mitch Weisser

This award was given to recognize Officer Weisser’s efforts to de-escalate a combative male. Due to his efforts, the male calmed down and cooperated with officers without injuring himself or others.

Above and Beyond

- Alex Barrott
- Jackie Urbaniak
- Mitch Weisser
- Steve Wagner
- Greg Sinn

These officers are Use of Force and Firearms instructors whose workload increased during 2021 when the CHPD implemented a new style of Use of Force that required all instructors to be re-trained, new lesson plans to be written, and all officers to be trained in the new methods. This new training incorporates de-escalation as well as a team-focused concept which should reduce the potential for injury to officers and persons involved in Use of Force incidents.



CHPD Implements New Non-Lethal BolaWrap Restraint Technology

The Columbia Heights Police Department added a new, non-lethal crime-fighting tool this year called the BolaWrap. A hand-held remote restraint device, the BolaWrap discharges a Kevlar tether eight feet long that entangles a subject at a range of 10-25 feet. This allows officers to temporarily restrain a subject at a safe distance and potentially reduce the person's ability to struggle, minimizing the need to use higher levels of force. Even though it sounds like a gun shot being fired, the device is less likely to injure somebody compared to electronic control devices like the Taser. It doesn't incapacitate subjects like other use-of-force options. The BolaWrap is cutting-edge technology, currently only in use at a handful of police agencies throughout Minnesota. The CHPD places minimal

reliance on use-of-force in its priority to protect the dignity and liberty of all persons and places. The application of deadly force is a measure to be employed in only the most extreme circumstances. Because of this, the CHPD continues to research and implement innovative technology to minimize risk and ensure officers are properly equipped to perform their job tasks at a high level. Video of the tool in action is available at www.chpolice.com.

2021 CHPD Use-of-Force Incidents Remain Low, Report Is Online

The Columbia Heights Police Department has compiled its annual Use-of-Force statistics for 2021 and the results are in line with 2020 numbers. Police agencies are required to report any use of-force resulting in death or serious body injury, as well as the discharge of a firearm toward a subject. The Columbia Heights Police Department did not have any incidents that met this criteria in 2021. The police department responded to 23,418 calls for service, and used force in 80 incidents. Open hand techniques (escort holds or joint locks) were the most common type of force used. A copy of our summary report is available on the police department website at www.chpolice.com. More details on page 79.

Cpt. Erik Johnston Graduates from Intensive 10-Week Program

On Dec 3, 2021, Cpt. Erik Johnston graduated from the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command, an intensive 10-week program that prepares law enforcement managers for senior level positions by combining academics with practical applications. Ensuring that police employees are properly trained is a key part of the CHPD's strategic plan.



Search and Rescue Drones Deployed at Public Safety

The Columbia Heights Police Department began operation on a UAS (Drone) program for Public Safety in 2021. The City purchased two drones in 2020 as part of a Public Safety drone program in conjunction with the Fire Department. The Police Department will be operating under the recent legislative changes that outline the use for drones by law enforcement. The drones will be used for search and rescue and emergency response.

100th Anniversary Badge Design

For 2021, the CHPD designed a 100th anniversary badge that combines the styles of the department's original badge with the recognition of this year's City centennial celebration. Officers had the option to purchase the badge. It's authorized for uniform wear in 2021. The CHPD will also be sharing snapshots from its department history throughout the year to highlight the rich and storied history of the department.



DOJ Grant Funds CHPD Social Worker

Eileen Sowry, LICSW, is the Columbia Heights Police Department's new embedded social worker. In this role, Sowry will be a part of a co-responding program with our officers where she will respond in real-time to 911 crisis calls. On those calls, she will offer support, crisis stabilization, and de-escalation, as well as link individuals who have a mental health or substance use need to relevant resources.

In October, the US Department of Justice awarded the Columbia Heights Police Department with an incredibly rare grant to fund a full-time social worker stationed at the police department for the next two years. Columbia Heights is one of only 34 cities nationwide to receive the grant. The grant is part of the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) community policing initiative. It has distributed funds to support promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies, building knowledge about effective outcomes, and designing creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities.



"I am honored and excited to lend my crisis stabilization and trauma response skills to assist our community's police officers in becoming an even better resource when it comes to keeping our communities safe," Sowry said. "Together, I am confident that we will change the way we deliver services to those in need for the better."

Sowry is detailed from the Canvas Health's Anoka County Mobile Response Team, which provides crisis response to Anoka County residents when residents call (763) 755-3801. She most recently served at an Adult Detention Center in Fairfax, VA. In that role, she assessed and provided mental health services to county inmates, stabilized suicidal, homicidal, and acutely psychotic individuals, and provided crisis and mental health interventions. She also has served as a crisis counselor and has provided mental health services in a variety of settings including clinics, a domestic violence shelter, and a nursing home.

Sowry joined CHPD officers as a guest on the Police Department's podcast Roll Call to discuss her new role and the role of mental health in policing. Listen at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast.

Police Department Launches New Podcast, 'Roll Call'

As a new community engagement tool, the CHPD launched a monthly podcast in March, titled Roll Call, to discuss law enforcement and public safety topics relevant to the community. Each podcast features a different topic and special guest expert(s) to speak on that topic. CHPD

Officers Mo Farah and Darry Jones (through episode 4), Investigator Tabitha Wood, and Communications Coordinator Ben Sandell co-host the monthly discussions. The CHPD released six episodes in 2021. To listen, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast. Or look up Roll Call on Spotify!

CHPD Teams Up With Local Organizations and National Constitution Center to Develop Curriculum for New Immigrants

Captain Matt Markham and four CHPD Officers joined five Adult Basic Education Center (ABE) teachers in a trip to Philadelphia's National Constitution Center in August for an education and training workshop on "Rights and Responsibilities of Community and Police." This collaborative project, funded in large part through the Library Foundation, was three years in the making. The ABE and CHPD plan to use what they learn to develop a customized curriculum taught by ABE teacher faculty and CHPD Officers to new immigrants attending the Adult Basic Education Center. The goal is to improve civic dialogue and help everyone have a better understanding of government, policing, and the responsibilities of U.S. Citizens.

Kathleen Moriarty, North Metro Adult Basic Education

Center program supervisor, joined CHPD officers to discuss this partnership on the Police Department's Roll Call podcast, available at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast.

About the Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia brings together people of all ages and perspectives, across America and around the world, to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis."

The Columbia Heights Police Department continues to focus on the core philosophy of Community Oriented Policing (COP), as years of focusing on COP have proven it leads to a strong partnership between community and police where problems are solved together. While the pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to some of our traditional methods of community outreach, we've been able to adapt many of our programs to be conducted in a safe manner. Here are some highlights of community outreach functions from 2021:

Landlord Outreach

CHPD views our partnership with landlords as an integral part of creating a safe and enjoyable community. The police department has regular interaction with our rental community. In 2021, we had contact with over 800 landlords and hosted forums with topics including legislative updates, lease enforcement, code violations, and information on the civil and eviction processes, which changed drastically because of the pandemic.

Business Watch

The police department continues to partner with our business and retail community in the form of our Business Watch program. Members of the police department visit many of our business locations throughout the year to check-in and work on crime-prevention partnerships.

National Night Out

National Night Out is the first Tuesday of August each year. In 2021, the CHPD attended over 35 parties and collected more than 1,200 pounds of food donations for SACA! This event serves as a great opportunity to connect with the residents and provide an update on CHPD happenings.

Cuts With a Cop

On Sept 4, 2021, the Columbia Heights Police Department partnered with Moler Barber School to host the annual "Cuts with a Cop" event. Officers brought snacks, hand-

outs, and other goodies for families who brought their kids in for free haircuts. The Moler Barber School was gracious enough to give all students a free back-to-school cut, allowing police officers to sit and chat with kids and their parents about the upcoming school year, the community, and anything else they could think to ask.

Truck or Treat

More than 2,500 residents attended the fourth annual Truck or Treat event at Huset Park in October. The Columbia Heights Police Department again partnered with Administration, Recreation, and other City departments to host. A very special thanks to the Lions and Schmit Towing for their generous donations toward purchasing candy for the event! For full details and list of all participants, visit the Administration section of the Annual Report on page 14.

Eat and Greet

Each year, CHPD holds an "Eat & Greet" event at a local park in which food and activities are provided, as well as an opportunity to meet with officers for casual conversation and demos of various police equipment. The 2021 Eat & Greet was postponed due to extreme heat, but rescheduled date was held at McKenna Park. Many of our community stakeholders were on hand as well, and attendees received McDonalds food, played outdoor games, explored squad cars, and watched a drone demonstration.



Left and above: Officers visited with community members at the City of Peace Neighborhood Center during National Night Out, 2021

The Columbia Heights Police Department has been preparing an annual Strategic Plan since 2009. The plan outlines goals and objectives that are important to our mission. The strategic plan contains the following categories: problem-oriented policing, community-oriented policing, communication, accountability, and training/equipment. In the final months of the year, civilian employees, officers, and supervisors reviewed the previous year's strategic plan to create a new strategic plan for the following year. We seek input from multiple community members to include the Columbia Heights School District, business owners, neighborhood watch members, members of the Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee, and other City department members. The input is discussed with officers, civilian employees, and supervisors to be considered for the new strategic plan. The strategic plan helps the CHPD address the community needs and goals as well as provide direction and focus for the organization. Visit www.chpdice.com to view the full plan.

Security and Lighting Improvements

CHPD partnered with Public Works, Park and Rec, Public Library, and the IT Department to address security concerns at City owned buildings and parks due to an increase in use and incidents during the pandemic. A nighttime light study was completed on City parks and recommendations were made to improve lighting in order to prevent crime. Security cameras upgrades were completed at the City of Peace Neighborhood Center on Circle Terrace Blvd, Public Library and Murzyn Hall. Surveillance cameras were installed at Huset Park.

Partnership Projects

National Constitution Center Project

In 2021, the Columbia Heights Police Department partnered with educators from the Columbia Heights/Fridley Adult Basic Education Center to form a new partnership titled "Rights and Responsibilities of Community and Police." Columbia Heights Police Officers and ABE educators worked with the National Constitution Center to create a curriculum and learn about the history of the constitution and policing. Officers and educators met with an educator from the National Constitution Center over zoom for a seven-week course. Then, in August, Officers and educators took a trip to Philadelphia for a two-day training at the National Constitution Center. Officers and educators learned about the Reconstruction Era, which helped officers understand the history of policing in America. Civil dialogue training was also a focus for the final day of training. The officers involved in this initiative were Captain Matt Markham, Officer Bill Monberg, Officer Mohamed Farah, Officer Tabitha Wood, and Officer Ibrahim Farah. Officers and educators put their curriculum to work in the fall of 2021 and met over zoom twice a week with ABE students for a total of 15 sessions. A grant from the Columbia Heights Library Foundation helped fund this initiative.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The police department partnered with the Red Cross to organize a blood drive at the training room of the public safety building. The event was by-appointment only, and all

40 spots were booked. The CHPD partners with the Red Cross annually for blood drive events.

Columbia Heights Public Schools ISD 13

One of the City's closest and most trusted partnerships is with the Columbia Heights Public Schools. For decades, the Columbia Heights Police Department and ISD 13 have worked together with the common goal of supporting our community's youth. Early on, this partnership inspired traditional programs such as DARE, bicycle safety, and stranger danger. Over the years, it has evolved to many more outreach opportunities, including the open gym program, teen academy, bike giveaway, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Beginning in early 2020 and through all of 2021, the emergency conditions created by the global pandemic caused unprecedented challenges for us in connecting with youth and their families. At a time when other schools shut down their partnerships with their police departments completely, Superintendent Zena Stenvik and her school staff continued to be supportive and dedicated to these programs and innovatively sought ways to safely keep the CHPD connected whenever possible. The schools and the police department partnered in a joint campaign to increase public awareness of COVID-19. CHPS hosted vaccination drives and gave the CHPD access to their facilities to allow for socially distanced outreach events. The Columbia Heights school district has been flexible and creative in committing resources and experience in support of our community goals.

Anti-Bullying

The Columbia Heights Police Department continues to partner with the Columbia Heights School District with our anti-bullying reading program initiative. CHPD employees go into classrooms twice a year and read a book that provides an important message about bullying to the students. The visit also teaches students on how to prevent, respond and safely report incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation. The visits also provide the young students with an opportunity to ask the officer questions they have and meet with an officer in a positive interaction. Although in 2021 students were participating in distance learning, School Resource Officer Ibrahim Farah was able to read to students via online. The School Resource Officers have access to the School District's Bullying report forms, and they work with school staff as an additional resource for students to intervene with bullying concerns and behaviors. This continues to be a positive way for students and staff to have an opportunity to address any bullying concerns.

Open Gym

The Columbia Heights Police Department hosts a weekly Open Gym every Tuesday and Thursday at Columbia Academy for middle school students and at the Hylander Center for high school students. The Open Gyms are supervised by the School Liaison Officers at these schools, with assistance from Community Service Officers. In 2021, a total of 995 kids attended Open Gyms. The number had dropped due to Covid-19 safety protocols. Both the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and CDC strongly recommended the consistent use of layered mitigation strategies to help limit the spread of Covid-19 among children and our youth. Social distancing became the norm as this practice provided protection by reducing the risk of exposure and limiting the number of close contacts. The Open Gym program is still very popular and many kids return week after week. The students also love playing basketball games with officers and CSOs. We expect the numbers will increase into 2022.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

CHPD has partnered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters Twin Cities since 2011. The partnership first started at Highland Elementary. Columbia Heights is the only department in Anoka County involved in this program. Department staff who volunteer to be a Big Brother or Sister go into the school to meet their matched student. The two will play games, read, make crafts and develop a mentoring relationship. The program has now expanded to Valley View Elementary and Columbia Academy.

Cooking With the Cops

The "Cooking With The Cops" program started in 2019. The program is designed to bring youth and police together in the kitchen. Officers are paired with students in a 6-team Cook-off. The students pick the dish they will make. The School Resource Officer partners with the School's Food Service Coordinator (Family and Consumer Science Teacher). Once the dishes are done, they are provided to the judges who determine the winners. Our judges have been local celebrities in our community (Mayor of Columbia Heights, County Attorney, CHHS principal, and the Chief of Police). We partnered with the girls' softball team in 2019, and the girls' basketball team in 2020. We were unable to do this program in 2021 due to the Covid-19 and schools doing distance learning. During this program, students have the opportunity to partner with and meet officers that work in their community.

3 On 3 Basketball Tournament

CHPD also hosts a 3-on-3 Basketball tournament as a spin-off of the Open Gym program. The tournament was designed to give the students who participate in the open gym program throughout the year a fun way to end the school year and to foster continued interest in the program for the upcoming summer and following school year. Approximately 150 students participated in or came to watch, 3-on-3 tournaments in past years. The basketball tournament was put on hold in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Another tournament is being planned for 2023.

Chemical Abuse Awareness/Prevention

Since 2016, the High School SRO has conducted classroom presentations on alcohol and opioid abuse for the 10th-grade health classes. In 2021, there were approximately 300 kids that took part in the presentations, which were broken down into smaller classes of about four classes each. For the alcohol presentation, the SRO utilizes fatal vision goggles to show students what happens when their vision is impaired (simulating alcohol use) while trying to perform basic tasks such as walking, balancing, or operating basic equipment. During the Opioid presentation, the SRO shows the video "Chasing the Dragon" to the students, and then conducts a classroom discussion/presentation with the assistance of guest speakers. The guest speakers are brought in to talk with students to discuss the harsh reality of chemical abuse and give real-life examples. This is done twice per year and we reach about 300 students a semester.

Teen Academy

CHPD hosts a teen academy each year over MEA week in October in partnership with the Columbia Heights School District. The program is two days long. The students who successfully completed the two-day program got to participate in a ride-along with a CHPD officer! This academy was designed for students who have an interest in law enforcement or are considering a career in law enforcement. Teen Academy bridges the gap between today's youth and law enforcement officers. Teen Academy covers topics including the use of force, traffic law, criminal law, and criminal investigation. The students were also able to participate in scenarios such as traffic stops and domestic calls. The students were able to see Fridley Police K-9 demonstration as well as CHPD use of the UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) or drone. Thirteen students participated in Teen Academy in 2021. The students graduate with a better understanding of law enforcement and are provided with resources for those interested in becoming future police officers.

Backpack Giveaway

One of the challenges the pandemic has presented to community policing has been the inability to meet in person, especially indoors. In 2020, CHPD began a drive-thru style

backpack giveaway before the start of the school year to provide local students with backpacks and other school supplies that were donated from local religious organizations. The event was also held in 2021, where over 800 backpacks and other resources were provided to students and the school district.

Bicycle Giveaway

Each year, CHPD recovers numerous bicycles that have been abandoned around the City, and are frequently unable to identify an owner. CHPD works with the school district to identify students who may be in need of a new bike, refurbishes the bikes as needed, and presents them to students at the end of the school year. In 2021, we provided bicycles to nine students in the school district. A very special thanks to Jeffrey Haddorff, a bicycle enthusiast and father of our Community Service Officer Eli Haddorff, who donated his time refurbishing the bikes!



Additional Outreach

Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee

The CHPD's Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) has been in existence since 2015 with the primary purpose of working progressively toward improving community-police relations. The current committee is composed of 15 community stakeholders and meets bi-monthly to address recent activities involving CHPD as well as topics affecting law enforcement and the community in general. CHPD is grateful for the time, ideas, and feedback contributed by the committee members.

If you are interested in joining the MAC, please contact Officer Bill Monberg at bmonberg@columbiaheightsmn.gov.

Shop With a Cop

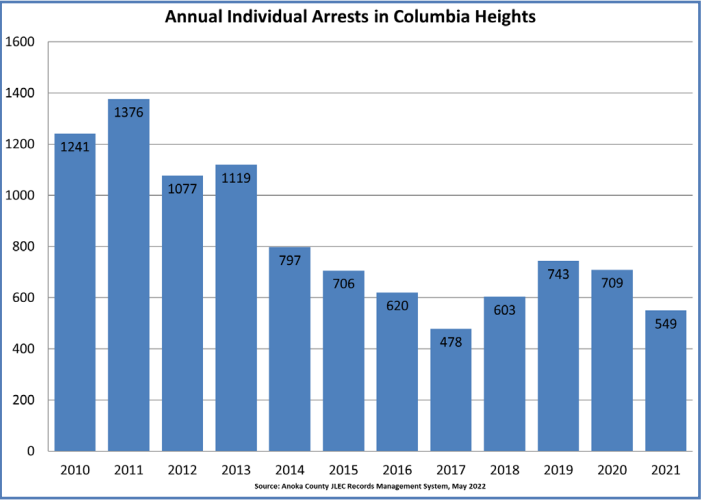
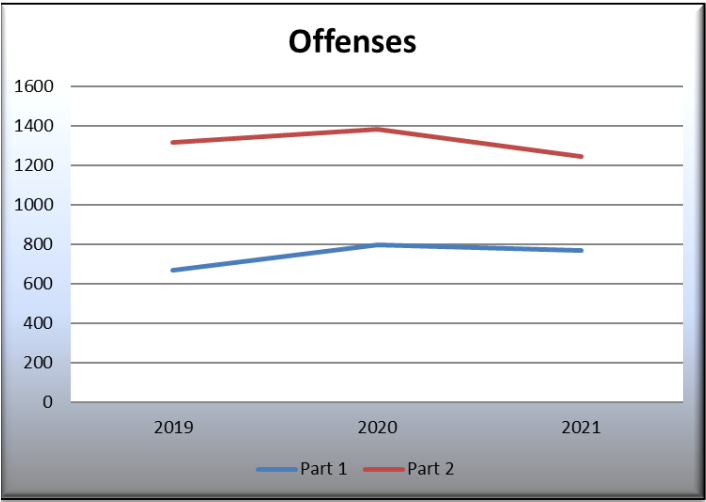
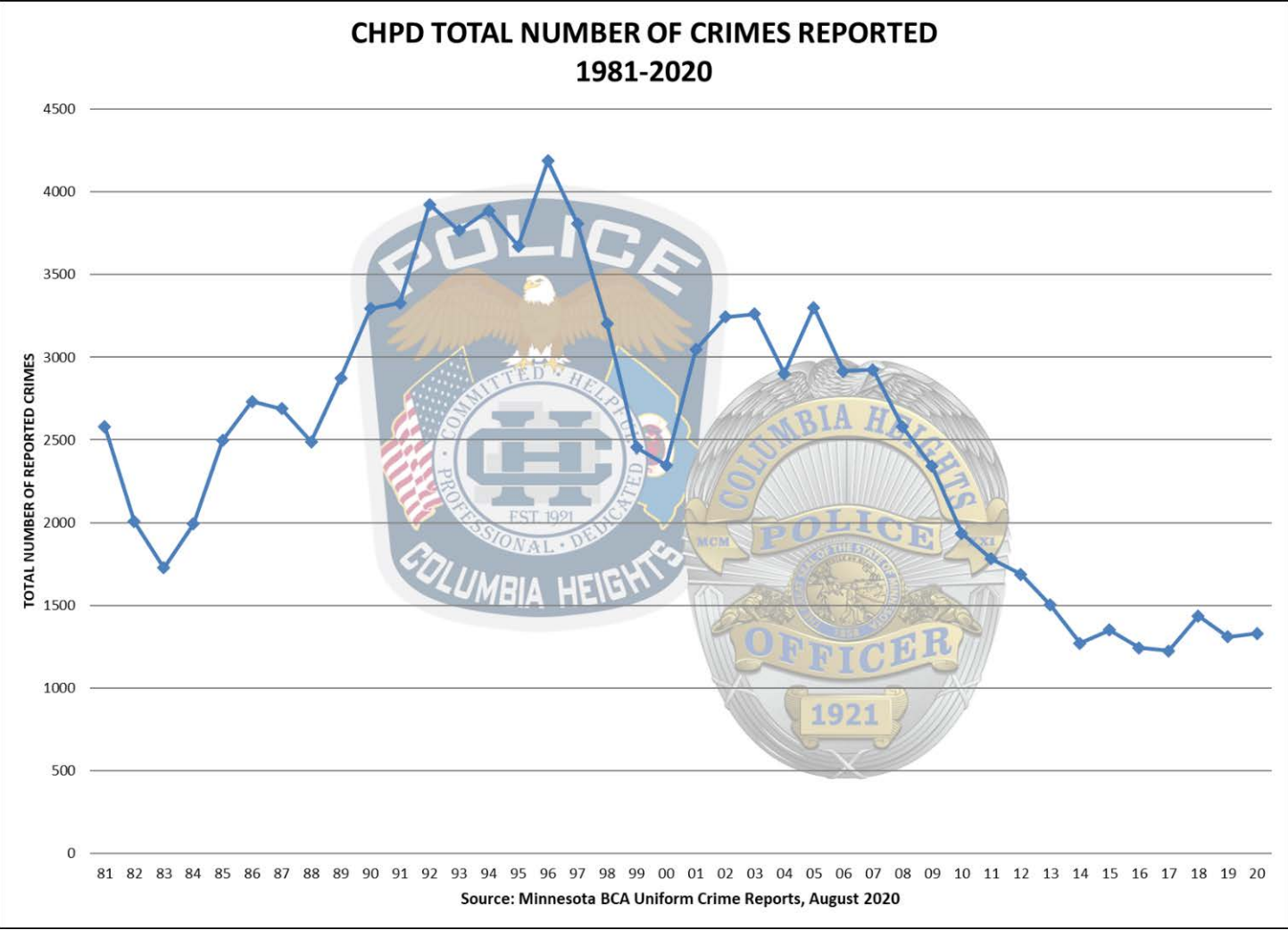
The Columbia Heights Police Association, or CHPA, had another great year despite the challenges of the pan-

demic. On May 10, 2021, Columbia Heights officers distributed 60 meals to the Islamic Center for Iftar, greeting our Muslim neighbors as they prepared to break their fast during Ramadan. We continued our partnership with the Columbia Heights High School by providing our annual Curt Ramsdell Scholarship. The 2021 recipient was Sam-sam Mohamoud.

Lastly, our 2021 Shop with a Cop Program was our most successful yet. Through the generosity of our community and our CHPA members, as from our lasting partnerships St. Timothy's Church, the Lions, the VFW, and other charitable donations we were able to provide food, clothes, and gifts for 35 families and over 100 children this holiday season. Since the inception of the Shop with a Cop program, we have partnered with Target who has generously provided the program with a 10% discount on merchandise for the families.

Crime Statistics

In 2021, Columbia Heights saw an 8% reduction on reported crimes overall, with a 4% decrease on Part 1 crimes and a 10% decrease in Part 2 crimes. These numbers are currently trending down. After two years of increased arrests, the Columbia Heights Police Department reported a significant decrease in total people arrested in 2021.



Additional Reports

Police Reserves

The CHPD Reserve Unit is a volunteer organization composed of members of the Columbia Heights community. These members support the police department and the Columbia Heights-Hilltop community through a variety of tasks that include patrol, transports and participating at special events. Reserve members receive specialized training related to their areas of responsibility.

The Reserve Program has been a part of the Columbia Heights Police Department for over half a century, and thousands of hours of volunteer time have been donated. The CHPD continues to be grateful for their service to their community.

Training

In 2021 new laws and MN POST Board regulations took effect. In order to better equip CHPD staff, we made changes to our use of force training. The department use of force instructors became certified in a new form of defensive tactics that starts with a Jiu-Jitsu foundation. This foundation moves away from the traditional method of striking to body control tactics that will reduce injuries to both the officer and suspect. This method also requires two officers for handcuffing those under arrest to reduce the risk of escape and resistance. In order to build competency with the new concepts, staff trained four separate times throughout 2021. All CHPD staff went through duty to intervene training in 2021. Officers

attended four hours of Autism training. Officers also attended training covering report writing, court testimony and updates on the changes to the MN Deadly Force Statute. In addition to the training outlined above, officers attended additional mandatory training and individual developmental training.

Use-of-Force

Columbia Heights officers continue to hold the highest regard for the dignity and liberty of all persons, and place minimal reliance on the use of force. The police department respects the value of every human life, and the application of deadly force is a measure to be employed in the most extreme circumstances. The CHPD goes beyond the state and federal reporting requirements to monitor our use of force incidents and ensure compliance with state and federal law and department policy.

In 2021, officers responded to 23,418 calls for service (Anoka County Communications). A minimal amount of force was used in 0.34% of these calls, with a total of 80 incidents for the year. Of those incidents, open hand techniques were the most common type of force used and 97% of the subjects involved where force was used reported no injury. Of those that reported injuries, minor pain or abrasions were the most common. We continue to have a supervisor review every reported use of force to ensure legal and policy requirements are met. At the same time, we look for new tools and techniques we can use to minimize the times we are required to use force.

Police Department Budget Summary

The Police Department's budget for 2021 was authorized at \$5,704,300. This budget is composed of three main sections, the first being Personal Services which is by far the largest portion at \$5,019,400. This section includes all the line items related to the payment of the department's personnel. The CHPD has an authorized roster of 29 police officers, two full-time and five part-time Community Service Officers, and six Support Services employees.

The Supplies section is the smallest portion of the Police Department's budget. Set at \$169,800 for 2021, this section includes such items as office supplies,

uniform items to include protective vests, computer equipment and general supplies.

Other Services and Charges is the third section of the budget, with a 2021 amount of \$515,100. Other Services and Charges is made up of the line items for things like training, cell phones and building utilities, and maintenance of the department's vehicles.

The 2021 Police Capital Equipment budget was \$151,700, which included funds for the purchase and outfitting of two marked utility vehicles for patrol use, and one unmarked vehicle.