

**TO:** NORWALK COMMUNITY  
**FROM:** GREG STAPLES, CHIEF OF POLICE  
**SUBJECT:** Annual Report - Calendar Year 2017

---

2017 was a banner year for the Norwalk Police Department. Successful community policing activities combined with a persistent presence in the community may have contributed to a decline in crime and calls for service. **For 2017, Norwalk was rated the Safest City in Iowa** by the National Council for Home Safety and Security. The Department increased the total number of officers by one and began an experimental new shift strategy to help fill any patrol coverage gaps. We added a second Community Impact Officer (CIO) in April and together the CIOs continue to help the Department complete in depth investigations and provide community policing resources to the community.

Towards the end of the year, the Department began a large scale project to increase safety in the area of our high school campus. The results of the project won't be known until 2018, but the project has received high praise from the community so far.

We continue to receive funding from various grant sources. This year we were awarded \$20,000, the most ever, from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau to be used for traffic safety projects. We were also awarded our Third COPS Hiring Grant from the US Department of Justice and the office of the Community Oriented Police Services. This grant will allow us to hire an additional officer in 2018.

In January, the Department along with the other Westcom agencies implemented a new Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD) and a new Records Management System (RMS). These new programs are state of the art Tier 1 programs that will enable us to use technology more effectively in the analysis of crime and allocation of police resources. The systems will allow for more effective assignment of officers and Department response to emerging crime.

This annual report is designed to give the reader a brief snapshot of our accomplishments, work and activities for the year. It is organized as follows:

- Crime and Activity Statistics
- Annual Training
- Police Fleet Status
- Community Policing
- Professional Standards
- Personnel
- Out and About

## Crime and Activity Statistics

In 2017, we had a net increase of 2 crimes reported. However, we had a significant decrease in crimes against persons. The total number of crimes against persons that were reported fell by 30%. The total number of crimes against property that were reported rose 9%. The number of incidents reported more closely resembles the level experienced in 2014 and continues to show that the higher level of reported crime from 2015 was an anomaly.

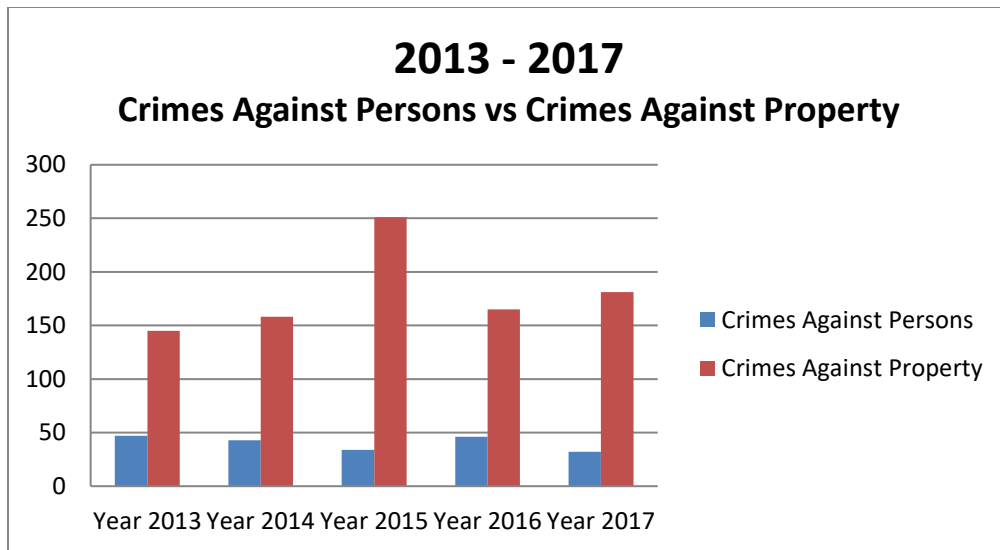
It is also important to note, that when leaving out the 2015 data, the total crime reported since 2013 has only risen 11% while our estimated population has risen approximately 16%.

### 2017

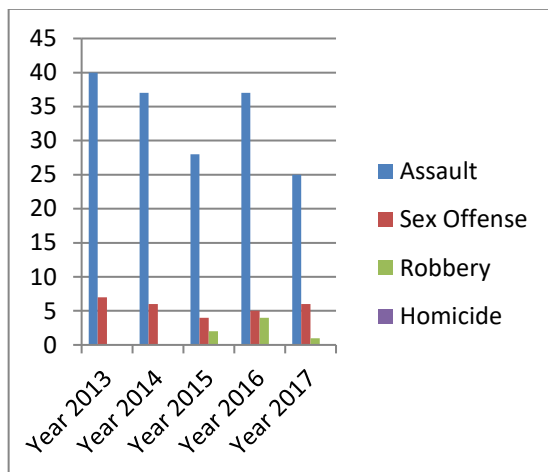
#### Reported Crimes

Crimes Against Person	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change
Assault Offenses	40	37	28	37	25	-12
Sexual Assault Forcible	5	6	4	4	6	2
Sexual Assault Non-Forcible	2	0	0	1	0	-1
Robbery	0	0	2	4	1	-3
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Subtotal</i>	47	43	34	46	32	-14
Crimes Against Property	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change
Burglary	17	5	36	21	18	-3
Fraud / Forgery / Embezzle	18	18	19	16	25	9
Theft / Larceny	76	93	121	83	86	3
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	6	7	1	10	9
Property Damage	29	36	68	44	42	-2
<i>Subtotal</i>	145	158	251	165	181	16
<b>Total</b>	192	201	285	211	213	2

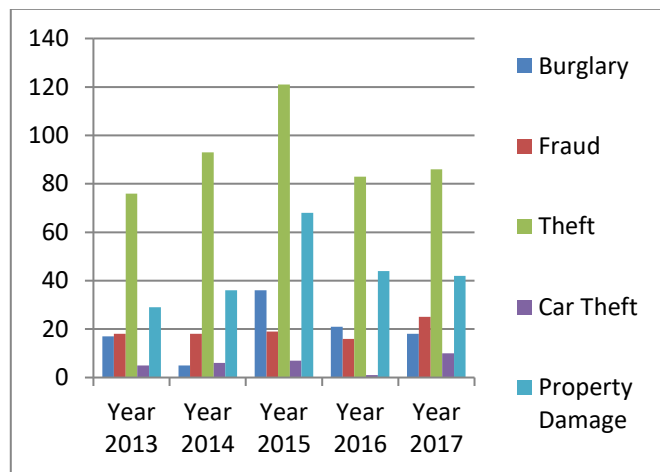
*The change listed in the right hand column is the change between 2016 and 2017*



**Crimes Against Persons**



**Crimes Against Property**



## General Activities and Proactive Law Enforcement

There was a significant increase in the number of traffic stops during the year. This translated into a significant increase in the number of citations and warnings being issued. Moving violation citations increased 84% and written warnings increased 120%. Near the end of the year, the Department started a traffic safety project named Arrive@25. The project centered on a documented problem of cars speeding in 25 MPH zones near our schools. Many of the traffic stops reported in the chart below were a result of this project.

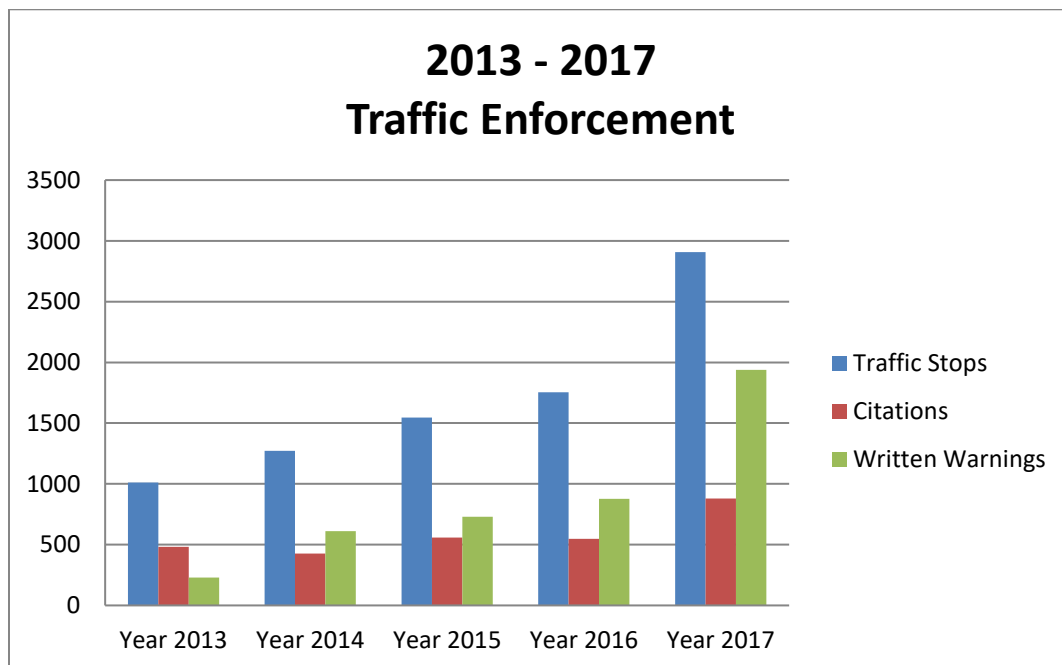
There is a certain body of research that concludes that high profile and visible traffic enforcement has a suppressive effect on criminal activity in the general area of the traffic safety operations. The increase in traffic safety operations may have had a positive effect on reported crime and calls for service. There was a decrease of 13% in calls for service in 2017 over 2016. It should be noted however, that with the

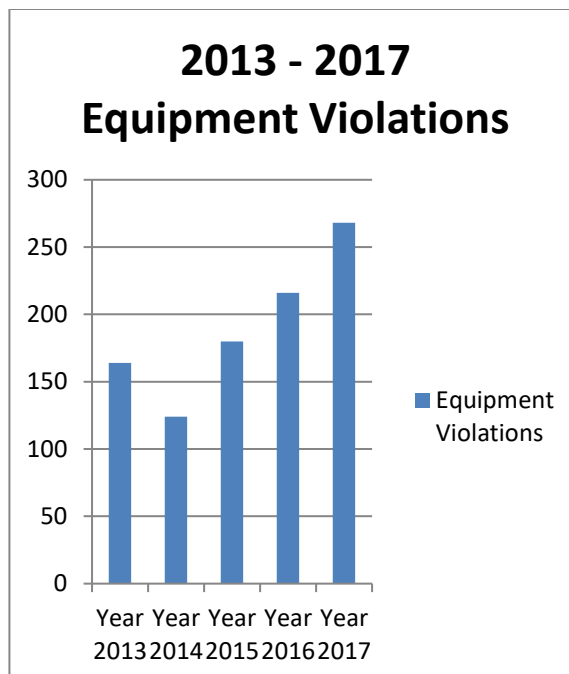
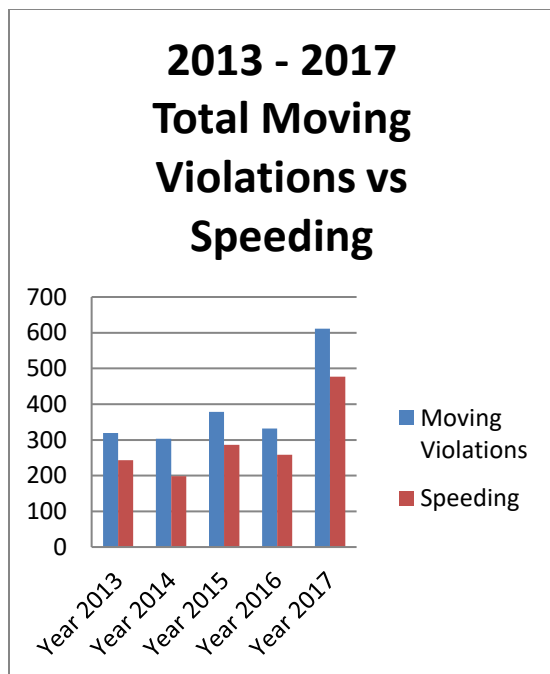
change to the new CAD system, the calls for service electronic data sets were collated and tracked differently by the new system. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing 2016 to 2017.

<b>Traffic Related</b>	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change
Traffic Stops	1012	1271	1546	1753	2907	1154
Moving Violations	319	303	378	332	611	279
<i>Speeding</i>	243	198	286	258	477	219
<i>Impaired Driving</i>	20	22	39	36	33	-3
Equipment / License Citations	164	124	180	216	268	52
Occupant Protection	7	9	31	45	36	-9
Written Warnings	228	610	730	878	1938	1060
Crash Investigations	131	95	95	95	110	15
<b>General Activities</b>	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change
Public Service Calls	600	717	710	764	653	-111
Calls For Service	4417	5177	6249	6619	5763	-856

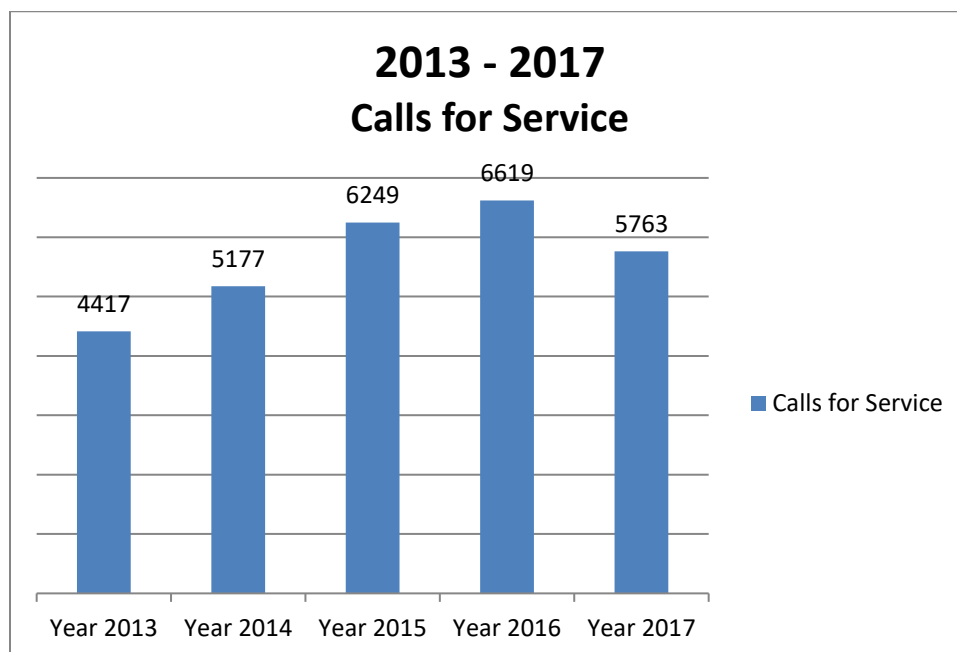
*The change listed in the right hand column is the change between 2016 and 2017*

The graphs below show the breakdown of our traffic enforcement operations. Warnings remain the most frequent form of resolution for a traffic enforcement encounter. Speeding remains our most frequent violation for citation issuance. Speeding accounted for 78% of all moving violation citations.





For 2017, of the 611 moving violation citations issued, 78% or 477 were issued for speeding. Equipment violations include such things as registration and licensing issues as well as broken or malfunctioning equipment such as headlamps.



## ANNUAL TRAINING

Training during 2017 was geared toward providing information to the Community Impact Officers, Lewiston and Hepperly. Training was also geared toward giving the overall Department regular information updates. As you can see, many of the training topics were given to all officers.

Specific training opportunities involved the re-certification of our instructor cadre, a rifle school for new officers and an increase in our DARE trained staff. The Department now has four qualified DARE instructors. The on-line training program that was started in the previous year has continued to provide timely instruction concerning new laws and new rulings by appellate courts. We are able to keep our knowledge of laws and procedures current with this service. Generally, training in 2017 was geared toward the needs identified in our strategic plan. Officers spent an approximate total of 1,961 hours in training. This is an increase of 95% over the previous year.

## 2017 Training

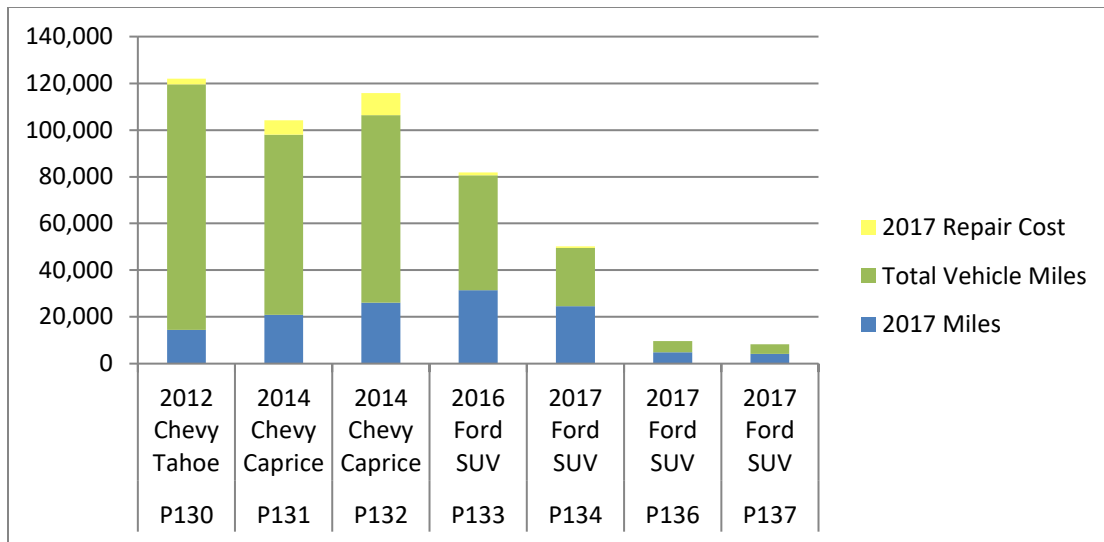
MONTH	TOPIC	OFFICERS
January	Developmental Disabilities and Dementia Report Writing / New records System	All All
February	Records Management System Use Tri Tech CAD/ RMS User Conference Search and Seizure	All Westvold All
March	Human Trafficking Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Sexual Harassment	Lewiston Spurr, Dunlop All
April	Blue Courage LEIN – School of Criminal Intelligence CPR, AED, Blood Borne Pathogens Defensive Tactics, ASP Threat Assessment Legal Issues	Palmer, Dunlop Lewiston All All Criswell, Lewiston All
May	Eye Witness Identifications Rifle Qualifications, Tactical Shooting Cell Phone Forensics Community Policing / Problem Solving Bike Patrol Officer School Statement Analysis Iowa Police Chief Conference	All All Lewiston Downing, Martin Hepperly Lewiston Staples
June	Iowa Police Law Firearms Instructor Re-certification Elder Abuse Autism Awareness	All Martin Hepperly Multiple officers
July	Iowa Police Law Advanced Patrol Rifle	All Frye
August	Basic Narcotic Investigator DARE Instructor	Hepperly Dunlop

	TASER Instructor Re-certification Glock Armorer Re-certification Mental Health Awareness	Lewiston Martin All
September	Fentanyl – Safe Handling Practices Rifle Operators School Female Enforcer Training Iowa Police Law	Lewiston Hepperly, Dunlop, Koestler, Jackson Dunlop, Koestler All
October	Police Ethics Child Seat Installation Firearms Qualification Field Sobriety Instructor Re-certification Defensive Tactics Instructor Re-certification Child Exploitation Pursuit Intervention Technique Domestic Violence – Multicultural Resources	All Hepperly, Lewiston All Parker Lewiston Lewiston Frye Hepperly
November	Iowa Police Law Overdose Death Investigation TASER, OWI	All Hepperly, Lewiston All
December	Child Abuse Prevention Domestic Violence Response Fair and Impartial Policing Field Training Officer School De-escalation The Dark Web	All All All Parker, Frye Parker, Albers Lewiston

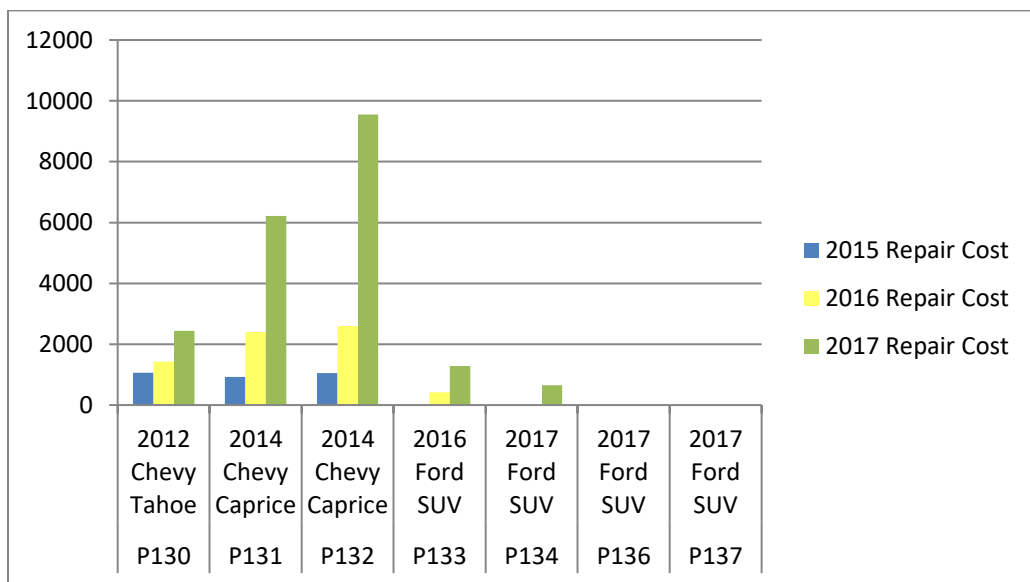
## POLICE FLEET

The Police vehicle fleet consists of seven marked police units and two unmarked command / investigative vehicles. The marked units were driven a total of 126,205 miles. This is a 13.7% increase over 2016. The increase is attributable to having an additional patrol officer for part of the year. New marked vehicles added to the fleet were P134, P136 and P137. With the addition of the second CIO position a second unmarked / command vehicle was also added; P135 was repurposed from City Hall and outfitted with police radios and emergency equipment. The command / investigative vehicles are not included in the below data.

Shop	Year and Make	2017 Miles	Total Vehicle Miles	2017 Repair Cost
P130	2012 Chevy Tahoe	14,412	105,175	2443
P131	2014 Chevy Caprice	20,884	77,121	6211
P132	2014 Chevy Caprice	26,050	80,264	9554
P133	2016 Ford SUV	31,382	49,204	1280
P134	2017 Ford SUV	24,526	24,980	651
P136	2017 Ford SUV	4,799	4,859	0
P137	2017 Ford SUV	4,152	4,195	0



The miles each vehicle is driven are recorded each month and the repair costs are calculated at the end of the year. The Chevrolet Caprice patrol sedans had a number of mechanical issues which resulted in high repair bills. These issues have been addressed and we are hopeful that repair costs for these two units will decrease in 2018.



## COMMUNITY POLICING

The Department completed another strong year of community policing. The officers continued to provide quality service through our ongoing projects such as:

- Lunch in the park
- Lakewood family fun night

- Beggars night foot patrols
- Bike patrol
- Lunch with the Chief
- NPD Reads
- Traffic safety poster contests

In addition to these activities, the Department continued with the on-going educational programs provided to the community's school aged children. Programs such as DARE, the Junior Police Academy, Bike Safety Day and character education were all continued.

A program started in 2016, *Cops with Carts*, is designed to raise awareness concerning the residents of Warren County who are food insecure. The project involves a food drive for the local food pantry. The 2017 edition of *Cops with Carts* received monetary donations from numerous individuals and corporate sponsorships from several businesses. On one night in December, the project filled nine police cars with food in less than 3 hours. Officers shopped for food at Fareway and took donations of food and money from other shoppers. The result was a full pantry of food that was used to help feed a growing number of needy families. The total value of the food purchased is estimated to be approximately \$9,000.

Officer Hepperly and Criswell shopping



Officer Koestler welcoming shoppers

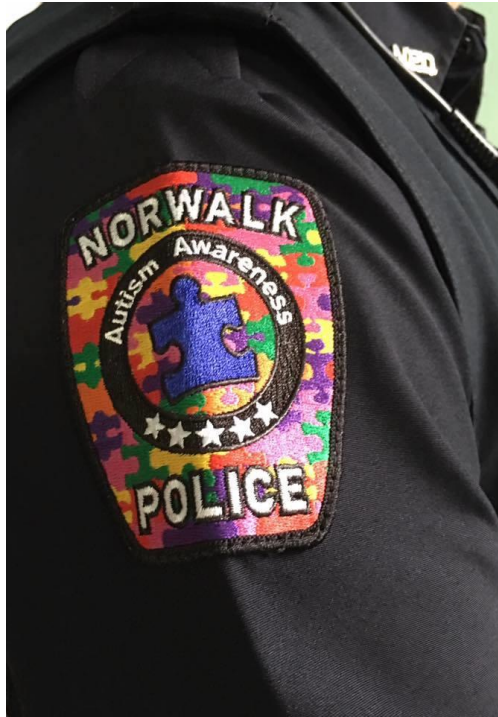


The whole Crew



Another new community policing initiative started in 2017 was a campaign to raise funds for Autism Awareness. The “Puzzle Patch Project” involved officers wearing specially designed patches on their uniforms and selling additional patches to the public. Over \$1,000 was raised and donated to The Homestead Foundation; a program that helps children with autism adapt to everyday society.

The Autism Awareness patch



Officer Spurr with Junior Officer Jackson



## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Department received one formal complaint concerning officer conduct. The complaining party accused officers of excessive force, negligent property handling and theft during their response to a domestic incident involving trespassing. After a complete investigation, the officers were exonerated of the excessive force allegation. The negligent property handling and the theft allegation were unfounded.

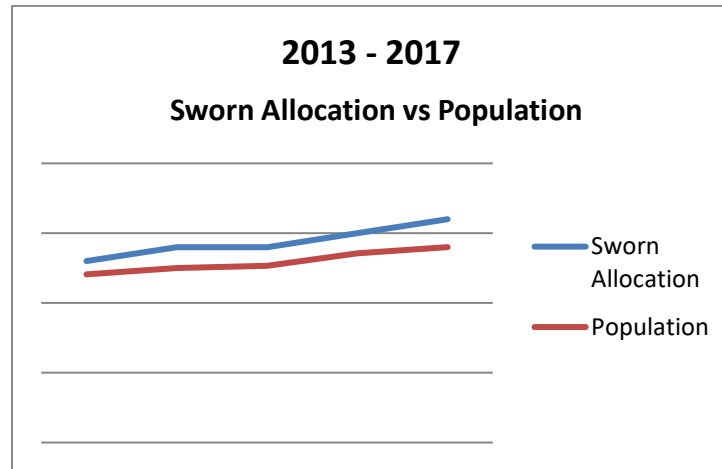
## PERSONNEL

Personnel adjustments for 2017 are noted below:

- In August Officer Phil Parker was re-hired to fulltime status.

In July at the start of the FY 17/18 budget, the Department was given a new full time position. This increased the sworn allocation of officers to 16. The graph below indicates that the addition of the 16<sup>th</sup> Officer allowed the Department to mostly maintain pace with an increasing population. The latest

census estimate for 2017 is not yet available, so the graph uses a population estimate of 11,200 which was developed in house based on the number of housing permits issued.



## OUT AND ABOUT IN 2016

Chief Staples accepting a neat Back the Blue shadow box made by Norwalkian Brad Hennessee



Lunch servers at "Lunch in the Park"



Officer Koestler with some new friends from "Lunch in the Park"



The NPD crew at "Lunch in the Park"



Officer Dunlop at the Hunter Drive block party



Officer Hepperly at the Hunter Drive block party



Officer Hutchinson and Dunlop stopping by a birthday party



Chief Staples is all set for the solar eclipse



Pizza party with Ms Hoskins 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class



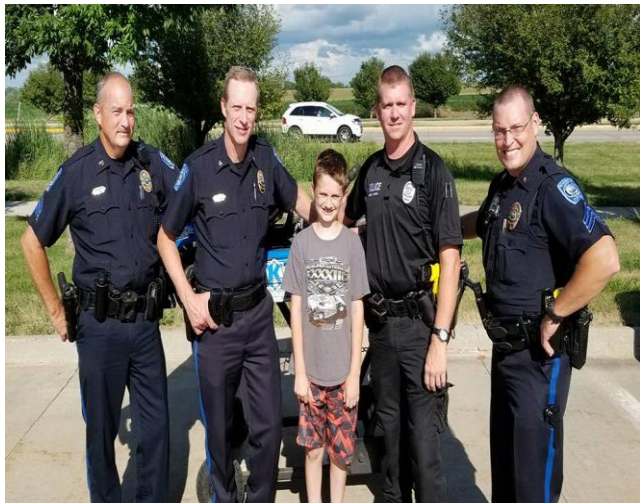
Pizza Party with Ms. August's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class



Officer Hepperly and Dunlop calling bingo at Family Fun Night



The NPD pit crew with Norwalk Cart Racer, Ethan



NPD Golf team at the Special Olympics Tournament



Officer Dunlop at the Tangelo Circle Luau

