



TO: Norwalk Community
FROM: Greg Staples, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Annual Report – Calendar Year 2020

Executive Summary

Calendar year 2020, as we all know, turned out to be a very different year. From the effects of the Coronavirus, to the murder of George Floyd and the resulting summer of civil unrest, life for the Norwalk Police Department was different than usual.

The department finished the year in strong form and limited any problematic issues from affecting the overall deployment of services. We welcomed two new officers into the fold when they graduated from the academy in April and we were able to help keep crime at historic lows. The new officers were hired at the end of 2019 and finished training in 2020. Deploying these two officers was a historic moment for the police department. For the first time in the history of the City we were able to staff patrol operations with two officers on duty at all times.

In May with the virus at one of its peak periods of infection, the department converted to a special six week patrol schedule that authorized some officers each day to remain at home, subject to call in. The schedule still required the minimum staffing levels to be maintained, but reduced the chance that officers would come into contact with an infected person.

Supplies of Personal Protective Equipment were hard to come by, but each officer was outfitted with multiple masks and appropriate amounts of sanitizer. Throughout the pandemic the police department staff stayed mostly healthy, with only one officer contracting the virus.

One aspect of the year that was different for the officers was that reported crime was significantly lower. Total reported crime fell by 42%. Crimes against persons fell by 29% and crimes against property fell by 46%. There was also a decrease of 6% in calls for service.

Community engagement activities had to be re-evaluated, cancelled or postponed. We were forced to cancel our annual Citizen Police Academy and Bike Safety Day. We were also unable to complete some of our regular youth activities such as the Junior Police Academy and DARE Program. Even with the social distancing guidelines of the time and the general reluctance of many people to gather in groups, Front Porch Norwalk was still held and was a success. A new form of engagement was begun due to the virus. The Birthday Drive By became an every weekend staple for the patrol officers.

In the early fall the department successfully placed a department member on the Suburban Emergency Response Team (SERT). The SERT is a combined tactical team of many Des Moines Metro police agencies. Norwalk had not had an officer on a tactical team such as this for many years. The training and experience the SERT officer receives will be a valuable asset to the community as time goes on.

Finally, a significant achievement for the City was to outfit every officer with a personal body camera. In September funding was secured and the body worn camera program was implemented shortly thereafter. The cameras will allow the department to be more transparent in our actions and also provide an additional tool that may aide in investigations and provide another level of safety and security for the officers.

This annual report is divided into several categories. Each area of discussion is designed to give you a brief snapshot of our work during the year. The report 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

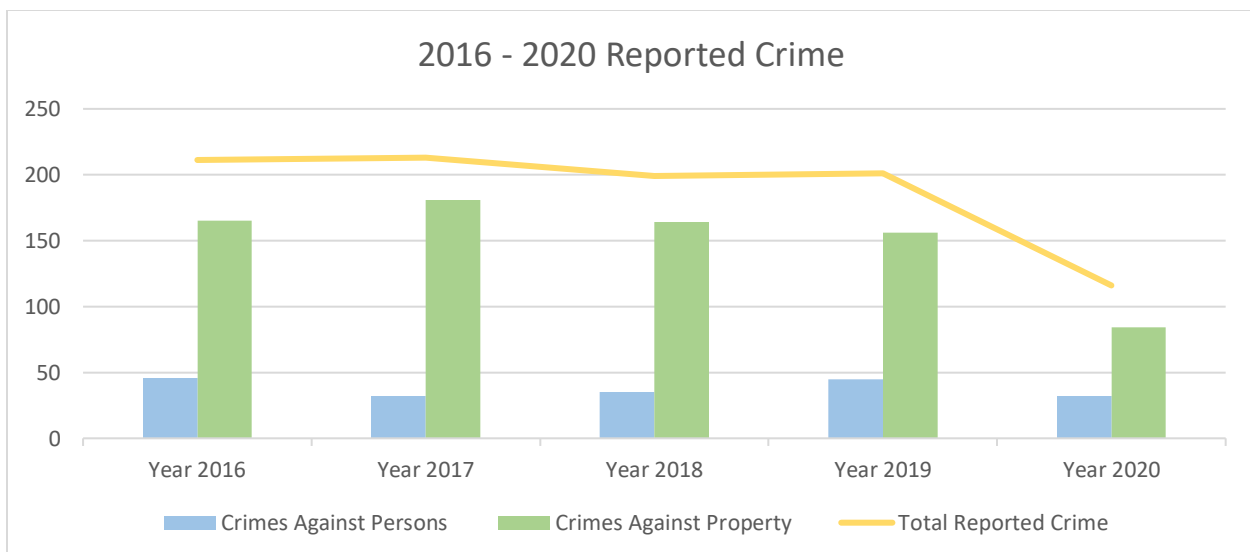
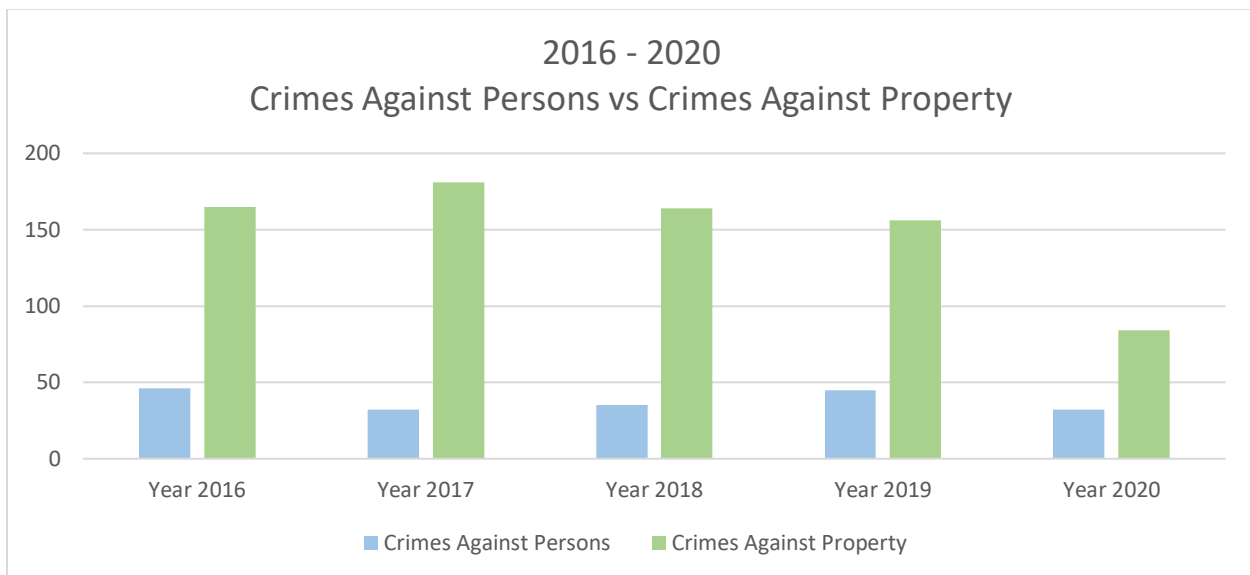
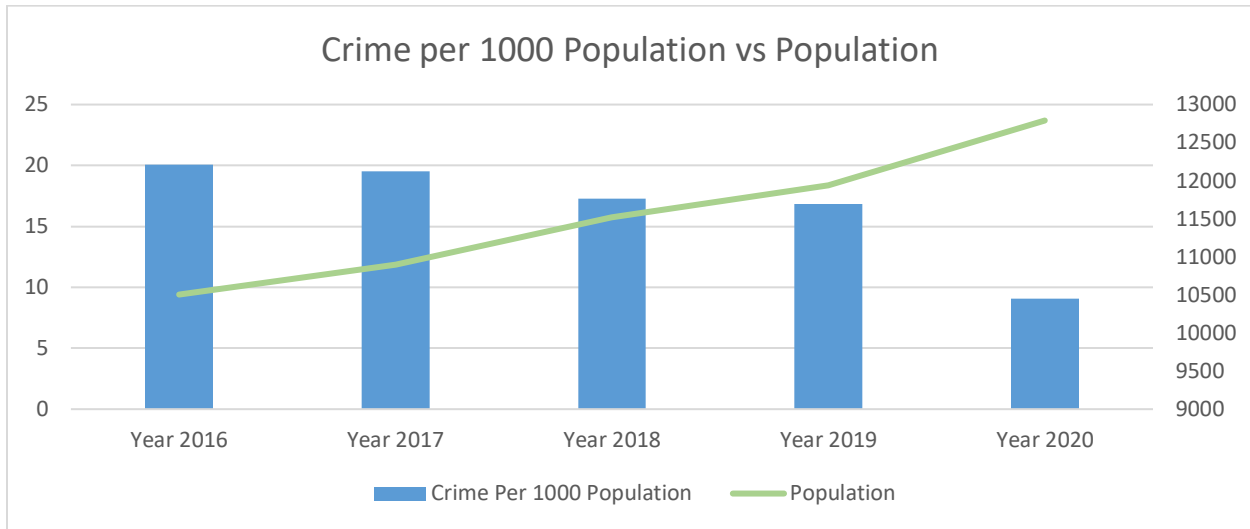
2020 saw a significant decrease in reported crimes. Total reported crime fell by 42%. Crimes against persons fell by 29% and crimes against property fell by 46%. As we noticed in 2019, the amount of reported crime went down, but the population of the city continued to rise. In 2020, the crime rate per resident fell by 46%. This is due to the increase in population and the effects of COVID 19.

2020 Reported Crimes

Crimes Against Person	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change
Assault Offenses	37	25	30	37	28	-9
Sexual Assault Forcible	4	6	4	7	4	-3
Sexual Assault Non-Forcible	1	0	1	0	0	0
Robbery	4	1	0	1	0	-1
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	46	32	35	45	32	-13
Crimes Against Property	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change
Burglary	21	18	23	15	9	-6
Fraud / Forgery / Embezzle	16	25	37	35	31	-4
Theft / Larceny	83	86	75	75	27	-48
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	10	7	7	4	-3
Property Damage	44	42	22	24	13	-11
Subtotal	165	181	164	156	84	-72
Total	211	213	199	201	116	-85

The change listed in the right hand column is the change between 2019 and 2020

The below chart is a visual representation of the increasing population and the decreasing rate of crime per resident.



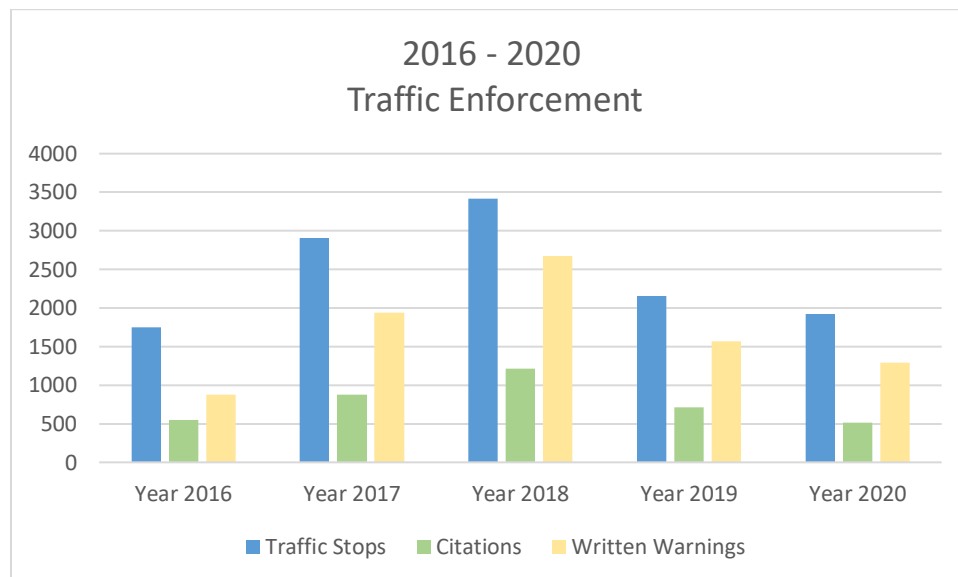
General Activities and Proactive Law Enforcement

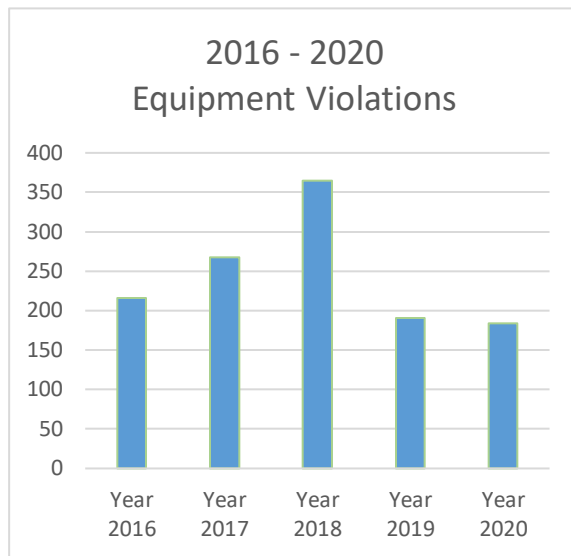
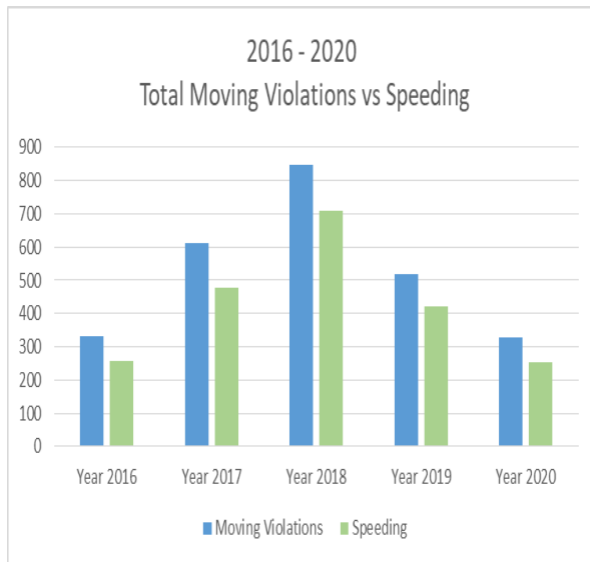
Calls for service in 2020 decreased by 211 or 3.9%. However, Public service calls increased by 109 or 9.9%. All other categories in the below chart were down. This is most likely due to COVID 19, and the lack of people moving around on the roadways as well as the need for officers to maintain distance from people as much as possible. Continuing a several year trend, about 67% of all traffic stops resulted in a written warning. Officers believe that in general, a written warning has the same deterrent effect on driving behavior as does a citation and therefore generally choose to issue a warning.

General Activities

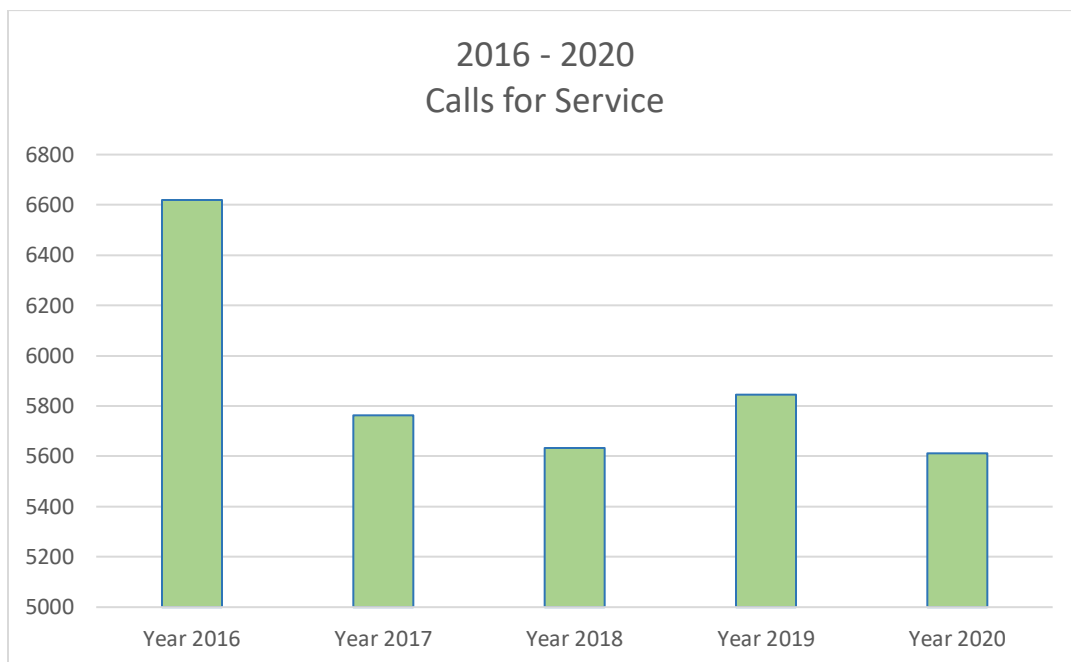
Traffic Related	2018	2019	2020	Change
Traffic Stops	3421	2,153	1,921	-232
Moving Violations	848	520	328	-192
<i>Speeding</i>	709	421	255	-166
<i>Impaired Driving</i>	40	39	31	-8
Equipment / License Citations	365	191	184	-7
Occupant Protection	38	14	7	-7
Written Warnings	2672	1571	1295	-276
Crash Investigations	80	104	84	-20
General Activities	2018	2019	2020	Change
Public Service Calls	1044	1094	1203	109
Calls For Service	5633	5844	5611	-233

The change listed in the right hand column is the change between 2019 and 2020





During the year, 77.7% of all moving violation citations were issued for speeding. This is consistent with previous years. Equipment violations include such things as registration and licensing issues as well as broken or malfunctioning equipment such as headlamps.



There was a decrease in calls for service for the year of 4%. The decrease, even with a growing population, was most likely the result of the Coronavirus lock downs. Total calls for service going up or down does not necessarily mean an increase or decrease in crime. A call for service is merely just a request for police service.

Annual Training

Training hours for the year totaled 1,446; a 4.5% decrease from the previous year. The officers completed all State mandated training requirements. Two officers completed the basic academy training, but some of those hours occurred after the academy was cancelled from COVID 19. Our department instructors completed the training curriculum for the practical exercises that are required of all academy graduates. All officers completed a one hour training class in Implicit Bias / procedural justice. 10 officers also completed an eight hour course in implicit bias. Our certified instructors assisted the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy with training help during several of the basic police academies held during the year. This helps the academy by increasing the instructor to student ratio, it helps keep our instructors up to date on their topic of expertise and allows the Norwalk Police Department to help in the educational development of officers all across the state.

2020 Training

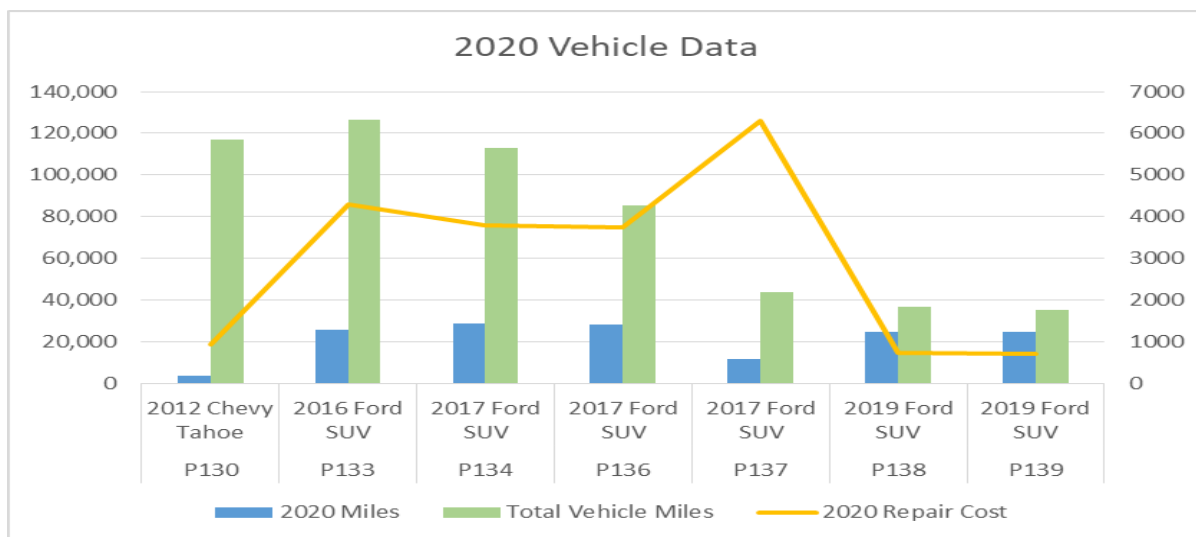
MONTH/HOURS	TOPIC	OFFICERS
January Total Hours - 19 hours	On-line Training – Officer Safety	All 19 Officers
February Total Hours - 34 hours	On-line Training – Iowa Police Law Assist ILEA Vehicle Stops Assist ILEA Vehicle Stops Provided ALICE training to Norwalk Christian Church	All 19 Officers Lewiston Lewiston Lewiston, Criswell
March Total Hours - 65 hours	On-line Training – Substance Abuse Assisted ILEA with Defensive Tactics ARIDE Assisted ILEA with Defensive Tactics	All 19 Officers Lewiston Frye, Haller Lewiston
April Total Hours - 103 hours	On-line Training – Substance Abuse ASP Baton Training Building Searches Drivers Training Shotgun and Night Fire Qualifications	All 19 Officers Slagle, Alcorn Slagle, Alcorn Slagle, Alcorn Slagle, Alcorn
May Total Hours - 25 hours	Substance Abuse Behavior Pursuit Intervention Pursuit Intervention	All 19 Officers Slagle, Alcorn Slagle, Alcorn
June Total Hours - 171 hours	Iowa Police Law Firearms Qualification Firearms Qualification	All 19 Officers ½ Department ½ Department
July Total Hours - 27 hours	Iowa Police Law Glock Armorer	All 19 Officers Martin
August Total Hours - 144 hours	Iowa Police Law ALICE Instructor Recertification Firearms Instructor Recertification Implicit Bias ALICE Defensive Tactics Instructor Implicit Bias for Patrol Officers Implicit Bias for Police Officers	All 19 Officers Lewiston Martin Staples, Westvold Haller, Reed, Alcorn, Slagle Koestler Staples, Hutchinson, Lewiston Spurr, Haller, Hepperly, Palmer, Slagle
September Total Hours - 131 hours	Police Prosecutor Relations Assisted ILEA on Driver Training Assisted ILEA on Driver Training CPTED – Crime Prevention Implicit Bias Rifle School	All 19 Officers Spurr Spurr Lewiston, Hepperly Criswell, Albers Dunlop, Reed, Haller, Slagle, Alcorn
October Total Hours - 251 hours	Police Law Basic Rifle School SERT Validation Training Night Pistol Qualification, Rifle Practice	All 19 Officers Dunlop, Reed, Haller, Slagle, Alcorn Haller ½ Department

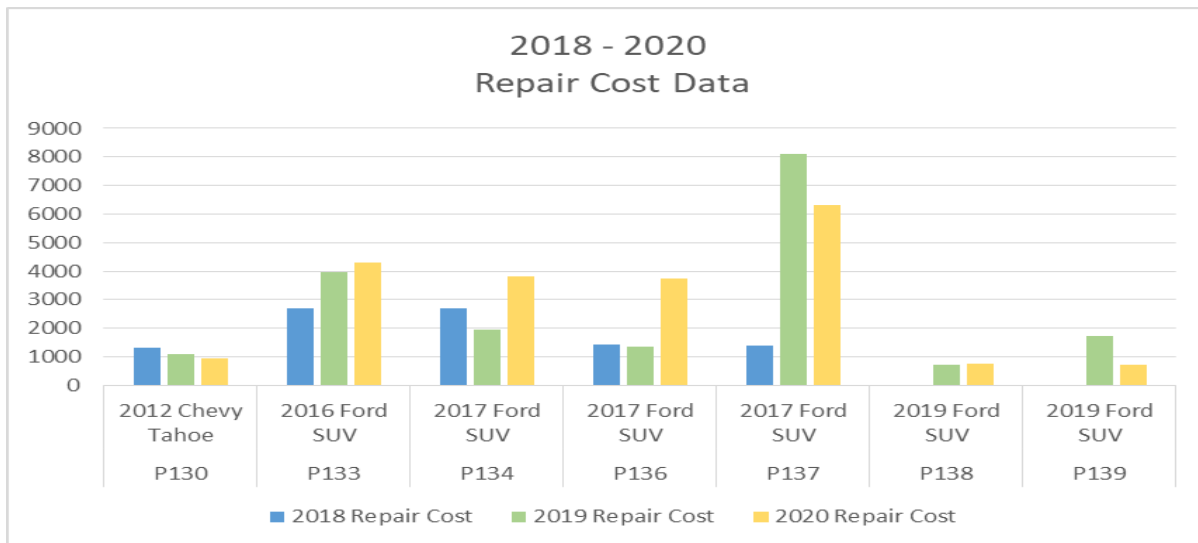
	Night Pistol Qualification, Rifle Practice	½ Department
November Total Hours - 186 hours	Police Law and Diverse Communities Background Investigators Training Sexual Assault Training Crime Scene Processing Crime Scene Photography Evidence Storage/Management Assisted ILEA with Defensive Tactics Class	All 19 Officers Lewiston, Hepperly Westvold, Martin, Dunlop, Haller Lewiston, Hepperly Lewiston, Hepperly Lewiston, Hepperly Koestler
December Total Hours - 290 hours	Implicit Bias/Procedural Justice Advance Search and Seizure Body Camera Use Body Camera Use Body Camera Administration Use of Force, ASP, TASER, CPR, Narcan Use of Force, ASP, TASER, CPR, Narcan	All 19 Officers Koestler, Jackson ½ Department ½ Department Staples, Westvold, Downing, Martin ½ Department ½ Department

Police Fleet Status

The police vehicle fleet contains seven marked patrol vehicles and three unmarked command/investigative vehicles. The marked vehicles were driven 147,102 during the year. This is a 12.1% increase from 2019. The increase is the result of having two additional officers on the department for eight months of the year. There were no new cars added or removed from the fleet during the year. There will be three cars added in 2021. The high cost associated with repairs to P137 was due to it being involved in a crash. P137 was involved in a crash in 2019 as well.

Shop	Year and Make	2020 Miles	Total Vehicle Miles	2020 Repair Cost
P130	2012 Chevy Tahoe	3,463	117,131	926
P133	2016 Ford SUV	25,485	126,672	4,292
P134	2017 Ford SUV	28,829	112,783	3,800
P136	2017 Ford SUV	28,354	85,327	3,744
P137	2017 Ford SUV	11,439	43,903	6,301
P138	2019 Ford SUV	24,637	36,814	739
P139	2019 Ford SUV	24,895	35,278	720





Community Policing

Even with a global pandemic, the officers of the NPD continued to emphasize community policing and engagement with the residents of the city. During the year we continued to try and interact with the community in effort to build trust and partnerships. While we were unable to attend many events, we still looked for the opportunity to do so. There were 138 staff person visits at various events. This is a significant decrease from the previous year. Due to the pandemic, Lunch in the Park, Lunch with the Chief, NPD Reads, the Junior Police Academy, the Citizen Police Academy, a Rape Aggression Defense class and other engagement programs were cancelled.

The Pandemic did however, create a new engagement activity; the drive by birthday party. A regular occurrence over the summer of 2020 was for officers to drive by the home of a young resident who was having a birthday party with the lights flashing and sirens sounding. On some weekends we “attended” multiple parties in the same day. Luckily, Family Fun Night was held in early March, prior to the COVID 19 shutdowns. Officers and kids alike enjoyed the friendly bingo games with “fabulous prizes”.



Our annual event, Cops with Carts was held again. This is a major fundraiser that raises funds and food for the local food pantry. Many police cars were filled with food and all food was delivered to the pantry. These food items will help feed a growing population of food insecure families.

Cops with Carts 2020

Officer Haller



Officers Koestler and Dunlop



Officer Jackson



Several officers also participated in a No Shave Winter project to raise money for a local charity. Officers paid for the right to either color their hair in extreme colors or grow a beard. All funds raised were given to the Norwalk Area Ministerial Association Emergency Fund. The fund helps residents out financially in the event of an emergency. The project raised approximately \$1,100.

The Coronavirus may have stopped or canceled several annual community policing events, but it wasn't able to stop our most impactful Community Policing event; Front Porch Norwalk. This program encourages neighbors to gather together in their driveways / front porches to talk and connect. Neighbors knowing neighbors is a key component of healthy, safe and crime free neighborhoods. All three front porch nights were successful, with multiple houses registering events and numerous officers stopping by to interact.

Professional Standards

The department received no formal complaints involving officer conduct during the year.

Personnel

There were no personnel adjustments for the year. However, the officers hired at the end of 2019 finished their training and were deployed to patrol. Upon their deployment, a five year plan to increase the staffing of the department to 19 officers was achieved. This milestone allows the department to have two officers on duty at all times.

Out and About

Officers Alcorn and Lewiston attending
Front Porch Norwalk



Officer Hutchinson with some friends at a Front Porch Norwalk event



Officer Alcorn with a Kitten he rescued from a storage drain.
Whiskers of Warren County named the cat "Jari" in his honor



Officer Criswell playing basketball with some Norwalk youth



Officer Haller participating with the local Girls on the Run group



Officer Haller helping out with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony

