



# Inver Grove Heights Police Department 2020 Annual Report



# Table of Contents

Mission Statement	1
Message from Chief Chiodo	2
Organizational Structure	3
Department Personnel	4
Employee Highlights	5
Recognition and Awards	6
Patrol Division	7
Call Statistics	7-8
Patrol Statistics	9
Investigations Division	10
Investigation Division Statistics	11-13
Crime Statistics	14
Administrative - Support Services Division	15
Support Services Statistics	15
Reserves	16
Explorers	17
Projects and Initiatives	18
Community Oriented Policing	19
Neighborhood Watch Program	
Crime Free Multi-Housing	
Residence Checks Program	
Predatory Offender Program	
Drug Take-Back Program	
Community Engagement	20-30

## **Mission Statement**

The members of the Inver Grove Heights Police Department strive to serve and engage the community through professionalism and respect while promoting public safety and enhancing the quality of life.

## **Vision**

The Inver Grove Heights Police Department aspires to be a leader and innovator in community safety and collaboration.

## **Values**

### **Respect**

Treat each other and the community we serve as we would like to be treated by showing respect and giving voice.

### **Integrity**

Adhere to moral and ethical principles while carrying out the laws we are sworn to uphold.

### **Service**

Work in partnership with our community to serve the citizens and businesses.

### **Excellence**

Meet challenges and adversity with perseverance while holding ourselves accountable for our actions.

# Message from Chief Melissa Chiodo

**Dear Mayor Bartholomew, Members of the City Council, Inver Grove Heights Residents and Community Partners,**

On behalf of the men and women of the Inver Grove Heights Police Department, it is my pleasure to present you with the department's 2020 annual report.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a different year for all of us. It changed the way we responded to calls, conducted traffic stops, and interacted with the community. Even with all that occurred, it has been a year since my arrival and this department continues to amaze me. Once again, I am incredibly pleased to present this report on the work our department did in 2019. I hope you find the information contained within the report useful.

As you will see on our crime statistics page, Inver Grove Heights experienced an 8.1% increase in crime this past year, that increase can be correlated to our increase of 2,486 calls for service. Although there was an increase in crime our community continues to be a very safe and lively place to live, work, and visit.

The total number of crimes reported to the Inver Grove Heights Police Department in 2020 was still below those reported in many cities of comparable size (city population 25,000 to 49,999) we were ranked 10th out of the 23 comparable cities.

This is due in large part to the continued support we receive from the citizens we serve. The general public's willingness to assist us towards preventing and resolving crime allows our city to be a very safe and lively place to live, work, and visit.

We remain very diligent with our efforts to combat impaired driving in the city. Although we saw a 5.2% decrease in our DWI arrests down from 189 to 179, the police department remains vigilant in our efforts to curb this problem by way of strict enforcement and continuing with our proactive public awareness and campaigns.

As we transition from 2020 into 2021, the Inver Grove Heights Police Department will have a renewed focus of commitment with our "community engagement" efforts. We certainly experienced a significant shift in our 2020 efforts due to the COVID-19 pandemic as you will see in the last portion of this annual report. We also want to have a renewed focus on preventing crime before it happens as opposed to trying to resolve it after the fact, I believe we give ourselves the best chance of not allowing crime, especially violent crime, from engaging our community.

This year, in particular, I would be incredibly thoughtless if I did not take the time to acknowledge and thank the dedicated men and women of the Inver Grove Heights Police Department for the diligent effort, they put forth in 2020 towards keeping our community safe. The unknown of COVID-19 did not waver them as they remain committed to providing those that live, work, and visit Inver Grove Heights with the most professional policing services available. They never seek any recognition especially during the COVID-19 pandemic for the work they do, they are certainly deserving of it. It is my privilege to work with such an outstanding group of individuals. I hope it shows when you review the Community Engagement pages of this report.

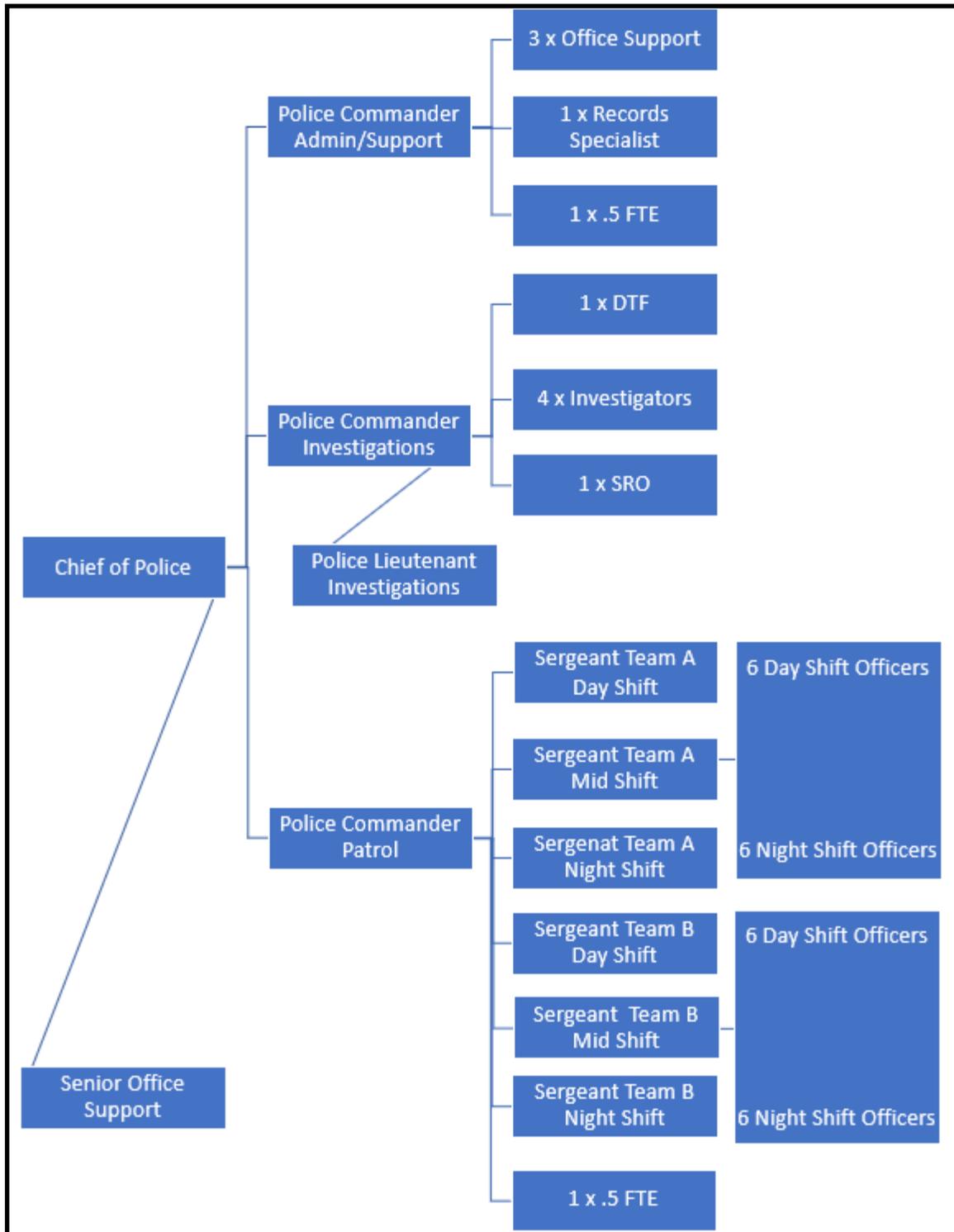
As you review the department's 2020 annual report, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,



Melissa Chiodo  
Chief of Police

# Organizational Structure



# Department Personnel



## Command Staff and Sergeants

Chief Melissa Chiodo, Commander Sean Folmar, Commander Joshua Otis, Commander Dennis Haugland, Lieutenant John Daniels

Sergeants , Kasey Schrandt, John Decker, Ben Madsen, Adam Wiederhoeft, Ryan Prail, Brandon Kelting

## Police Officers:

Jeff Benning, Ben Bidon, Joseph DeRosier, Ericka Eid, Nels Engstrom, Jason Fitch, Jacob Fliehr, Timothy Gates, Miguel Guadalajara, Tristan Jakobson, Jacob Johnson, Ashley Leschyshyn, Jacob Lindgren, Ryan Malcolm, Matthew Mattson, Samantha Meade, Jackson McLaughlin, Tyler Nelson, Maxwell Pung, Tyson Rainey, Joseph Robertson, Ryan Rose, Andrew Sharratt, Joseph Steinberg, August Williams.

## Investigations:

Trent Anderson, Eric Bohrer, Erik Howe

## Support Services:

Brenda Plante, Lois Klasen, Pam Hinton, Robin Reitberger, Katrina Lee, Joe Casarez

## Police Reserves:

Lavern Heaser, Jason Godfrey, Steve Lock, Bill Oswald, Alex Henderson, Malachi Slaughter, Mary Orn

# Employee Highlights

## New Employees



Officer Jakobson started with us on April 14, 2020



Officer DeRosier started with us on April 14, 2020



Officer Leschyshyn started with us on Nov. 23, 2020

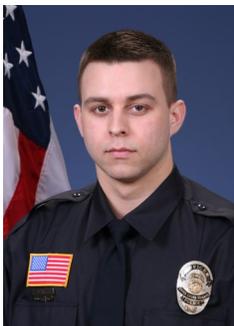


Officer McLaughlin started with us on Nov. 23, 2020



Sarah started with us on March 23, 2020

## Departures



Officer Atzmilller left the department on January 9, 2020



Officer Ireland left the department on September 17, 2020



Officer Rambaum left the department on October 26, 2020



Officer Sloan left the department on October 26, 2020

# Recognition and Awards



Chief's Award of Merit - Officer Steinberg



Lifesaving Award - Officers Bidon, Winget and Sergeant Daniels



Lifesaving Award - Officer Fliehr and Sergeant Schrandt



Chief's Award of Merit - Officer Johnson

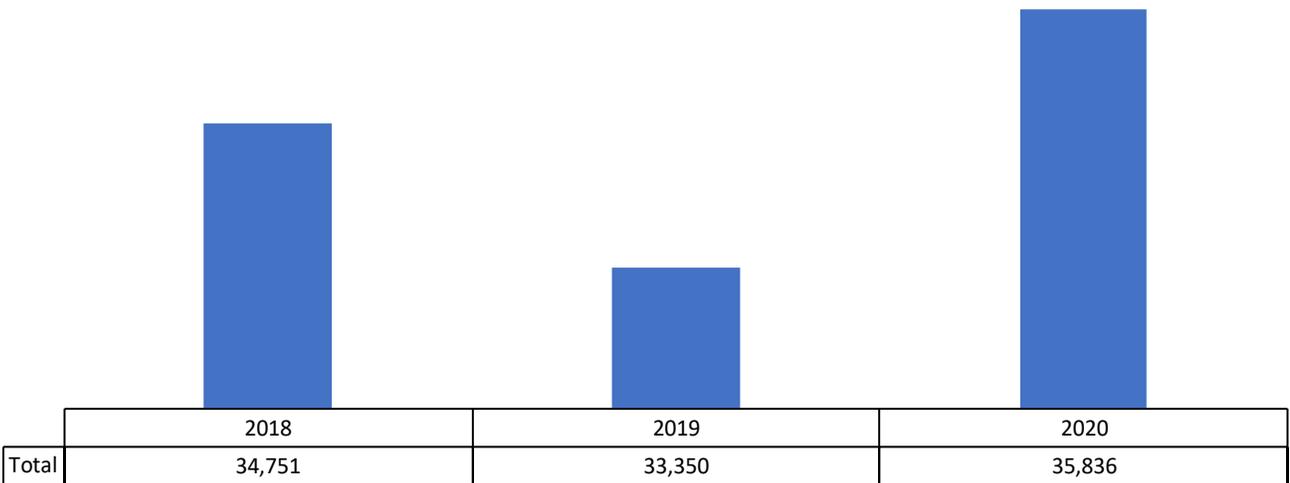
# Patrol Division

The Patrol Division consists of six patrol sergeants and twenty-four patrol officers. It is overseen by Commander Joshua Otis. This division provides police services to the community 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

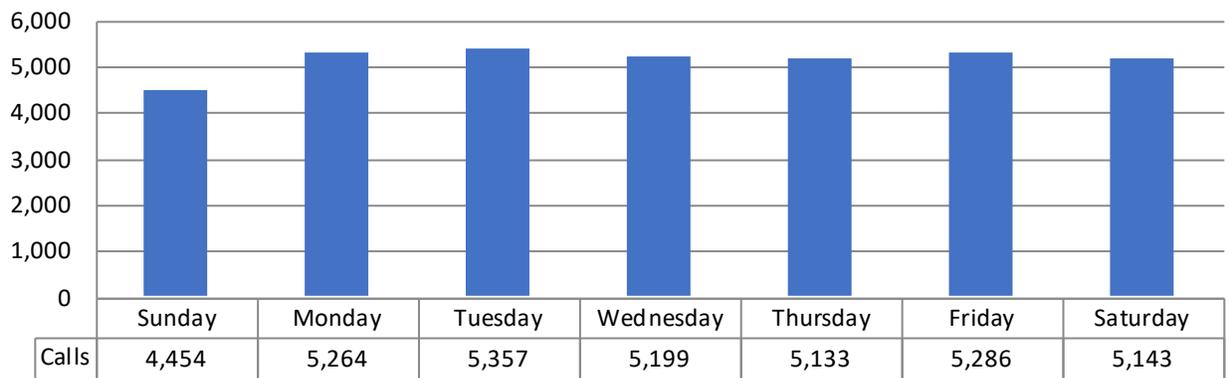
We respond to a variety of calls for service that include in-progress crimes, domestic disputes, medicals, persons in crisis (involving psychological/emotional issues), motor vehicle crashes, and general crime reports. We also handle traffic enforcement.

Assignments within the Patrol Division include Field Training Officer, Bike Patrol, Neighborhood Watch Groups/Multi-Housing, MAAG (Mutual Aid Assistance Group/SWAT), Safety Committee, Intensive Supervision Program (ISP), DART (Domestic Abuse Response Team), and Predatory Offender checks.

## Calls for Service

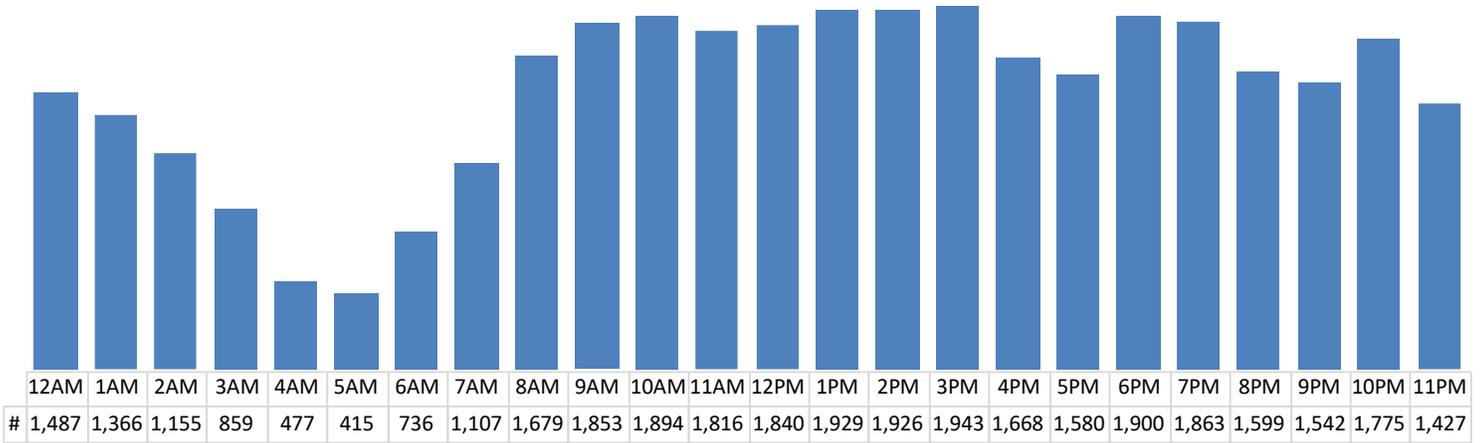


## Number of Calls by Day of Week

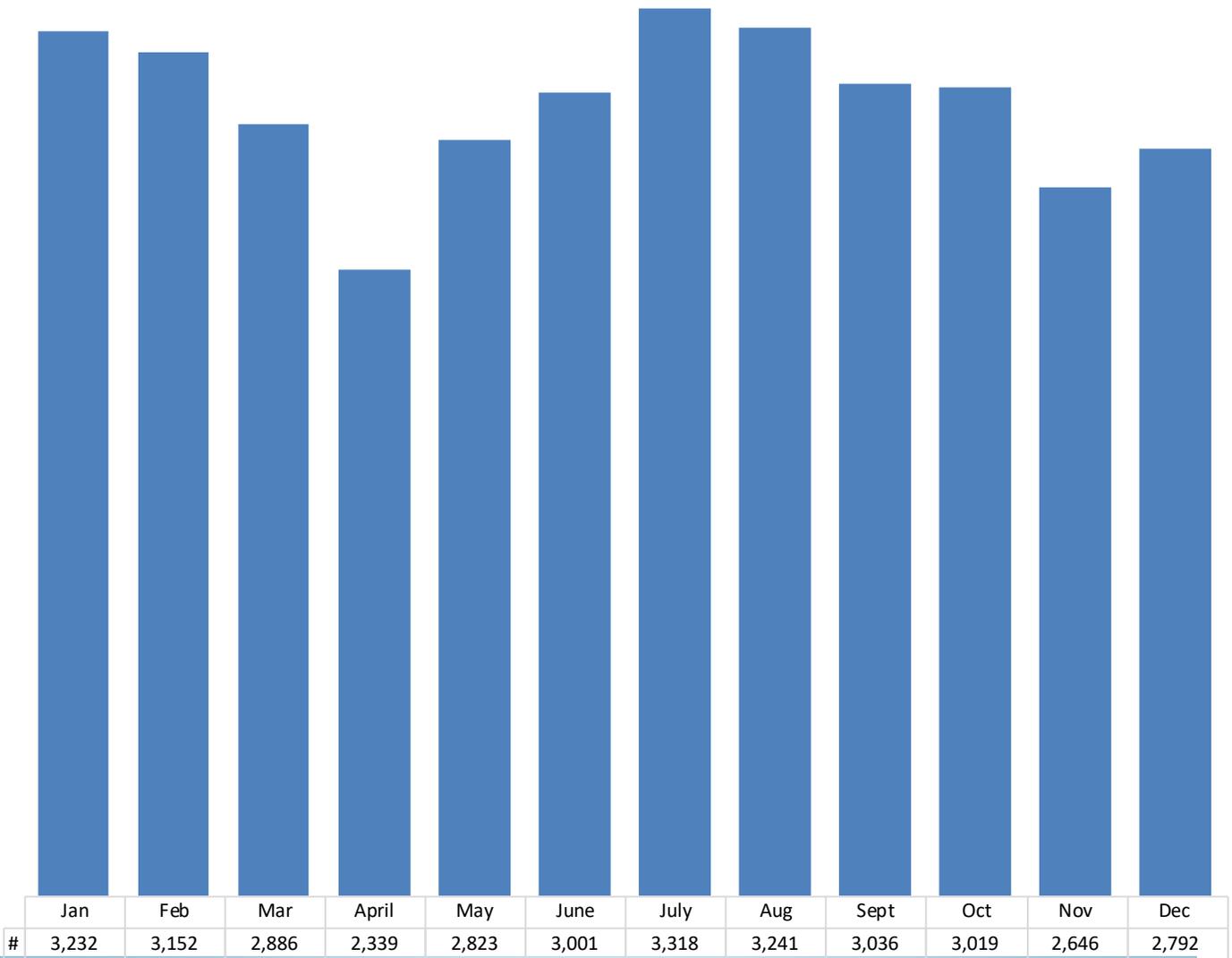


# Call Statistics

## Number of Calls by Hour of Day

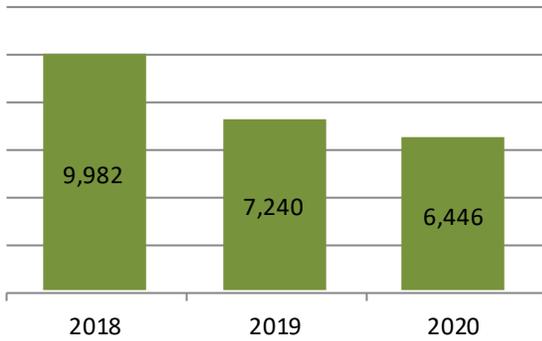


## Number of Calls by Month

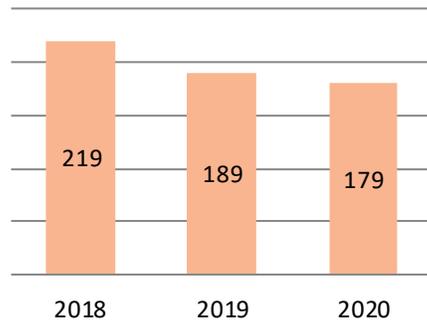


# Patrol Statistics

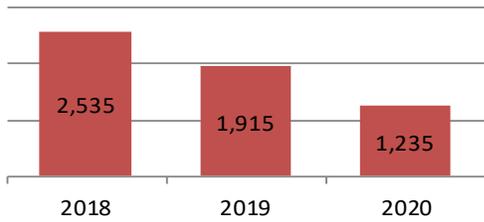
## Traffic Stops



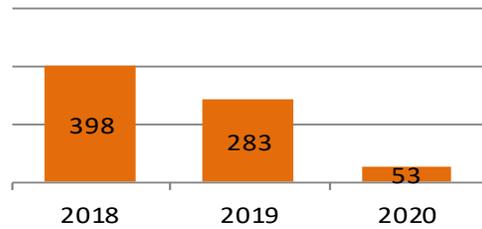
## DWI Arrests



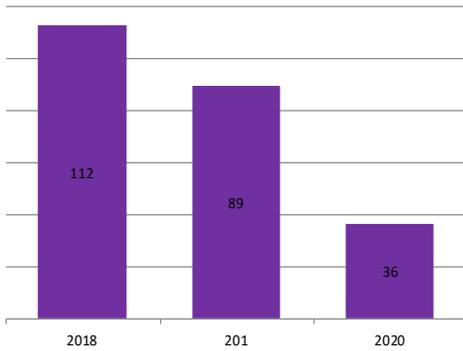
## Traffic Violations Cited



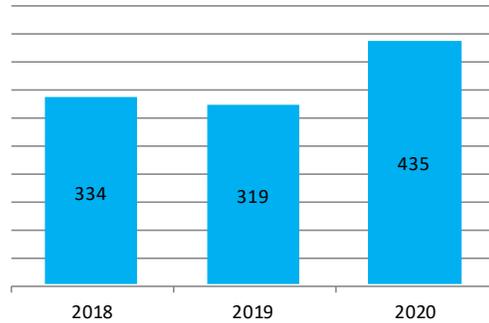
## Parking Violations Cited



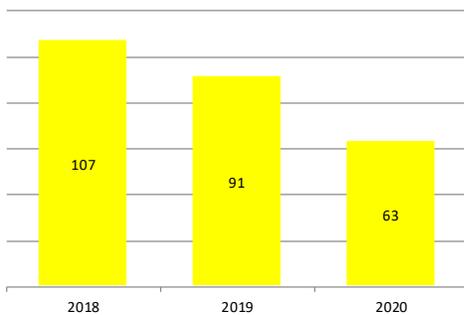
## Ordinance and Other Violations Cited



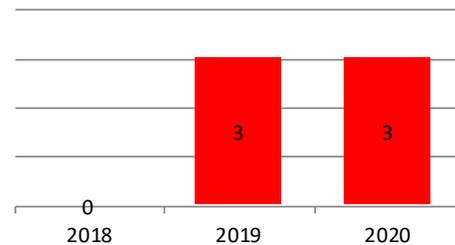
## Property Damage Accidents



## Personal Injury Accidents



## Fatal Accidents



# Investigations Division

The Investigations Division consists of four investigators assigned to general investigations, and an investigator assigned to the Dakota County Drug Task Force and the School Resource Officer. It is overseen by Commander Dennis Haugland. This division supports the Patrol Division by providing investigative assistance and by conducting case investigations.

The Investigations Division handles case investigations that the Patrol Division has taken as far as they can. They also handle the initial investigation of major crimes. Investigators assigned to this unit are selected from officers within the department who have demonstrated dedication and excellence in conducting criminal investigations.

This Division is part of a team effort to ensure that our community is a safe and pleasant place to live. They are committed to the philosophy of quality, and professional policing. Having the community's trust and confidence is paramount. We recognize the unique responsibility of policing and know that our effectiveness is enhanced through close community relationships.

## **Dakota County Drug Task Force**

The Dakota County Drug Task Force (DCDTF) is a proactive narcotics enforcement team whose mission is to target mid to high-level drug dealers. The team is available to all participating agencies 24/7/365. The Task Force concept is one of the most commonly used and effective ways for both small and larger agencies to combat drug crimes in Minnesota.

The IGH PD officer assigned to this task force receives special training to work undercover using the information provided by informants and other confidential sources.

The Task Force is a consortium of law enforcement officers from agencies within Dakota County as well as the City of Savage, in Scott County. The Task Force operates under a joint powers agreement with a governing board of 14 members. This consists of one person from each Dakota County agency and one from the Dakota County Attorney's Office (DCAO). The budget, along with policies and procedures, is set up annually by the board. Because drug crimes are commonly related to violent crimes, property crimes, and identity theft, the Task Force works in concert with local, state, and federal authorities to address these issues.

## **School Resource Officer**

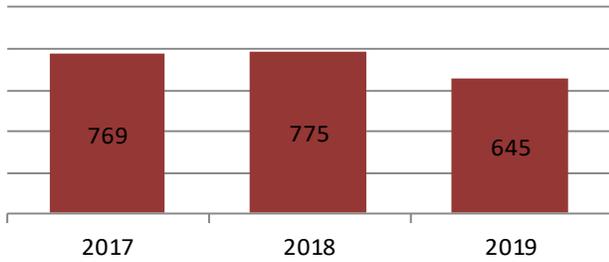
The Inver Grove Heights Police Department partners with Independent School District (ISD) 199 to have a School Resource Officer (SRO) based out of Simley High School to serve there, Inver Grove Heights Middle School, and the three elementary schools; Hilltop Elementary, Pine Bend Elementary, and Salem Hills Elementary.

This cost-sharing partnership allows the SRO to be in the schools to handle a variety of youth-related issues during the school year. The SRO also helps with educating students, parents, and staff through a variety of presentations on public safety and criminal justice issues, or by simply serving as an accessible resource. Through these presentations, and even one on one student meetings, the SRO reinforces messages about safety and the dangers of drug and alcohol use and bullying.

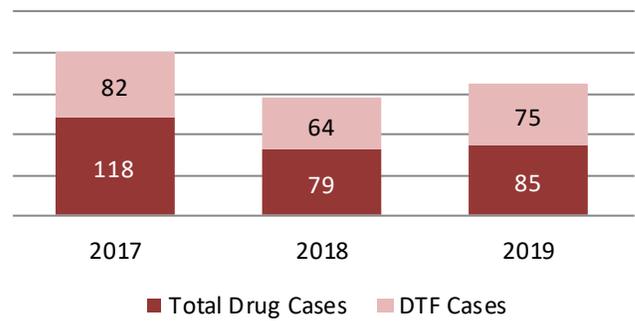
One priceless asset to having an SRO is being able to build trusting relationships with the students. Besides being in the school throughout the day, an SRO also spends time with the students at extra-curricular and after-school events such as dances and athletic events. This presence has proven to have a positive impact with assisting in developing trusting relationships. It also makes the SRO more approachable for those who may not be as comfortable in the presence of police officers.

# Investigations Division Statistics

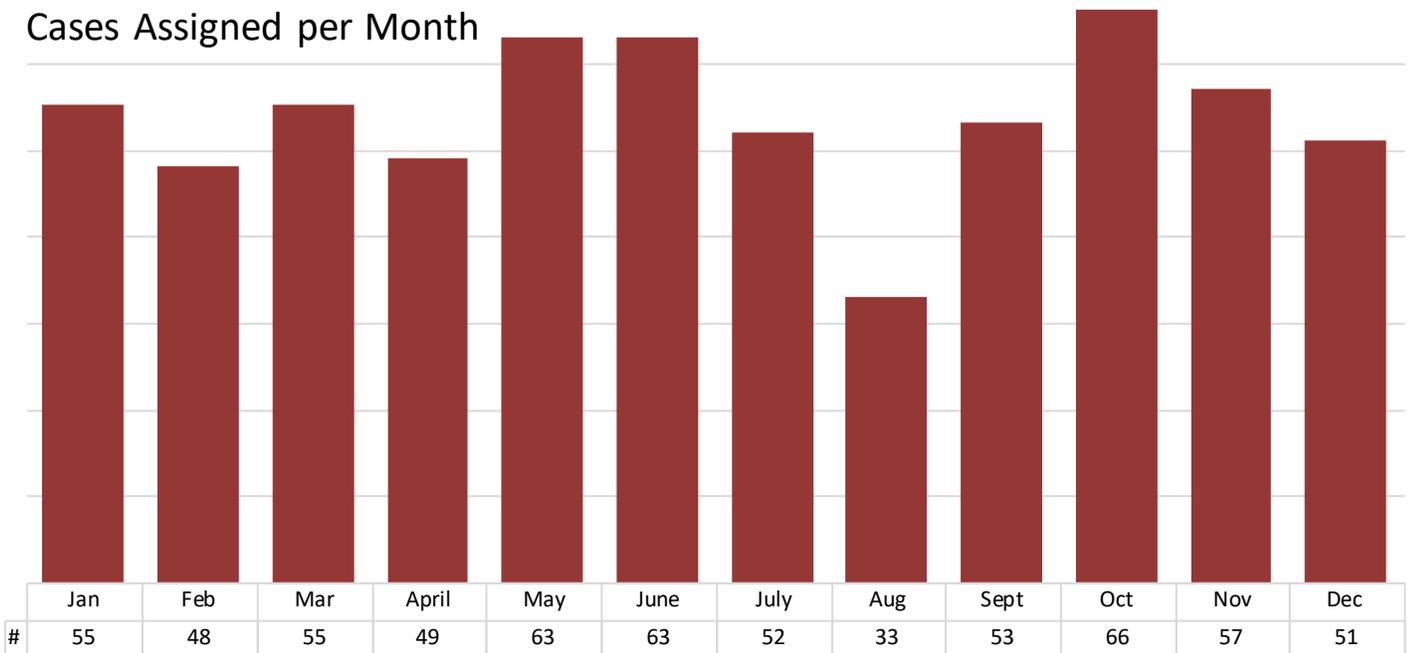
## Cases Assigned



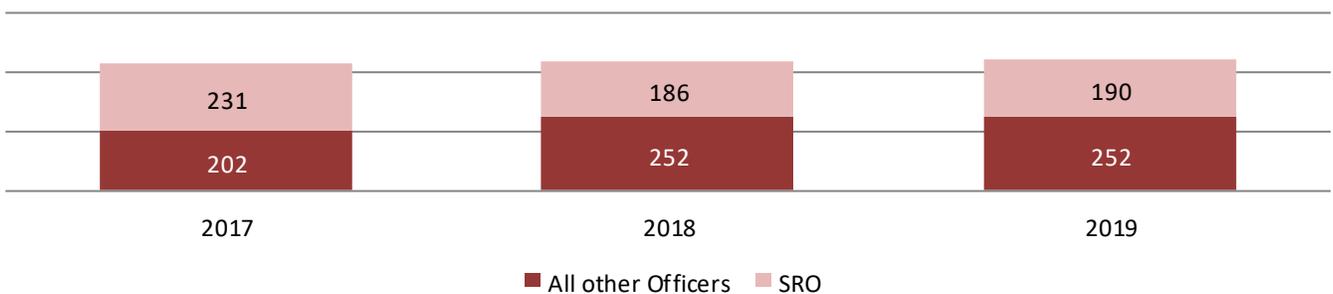
## Drug Cases



## Cases Assigned per Month



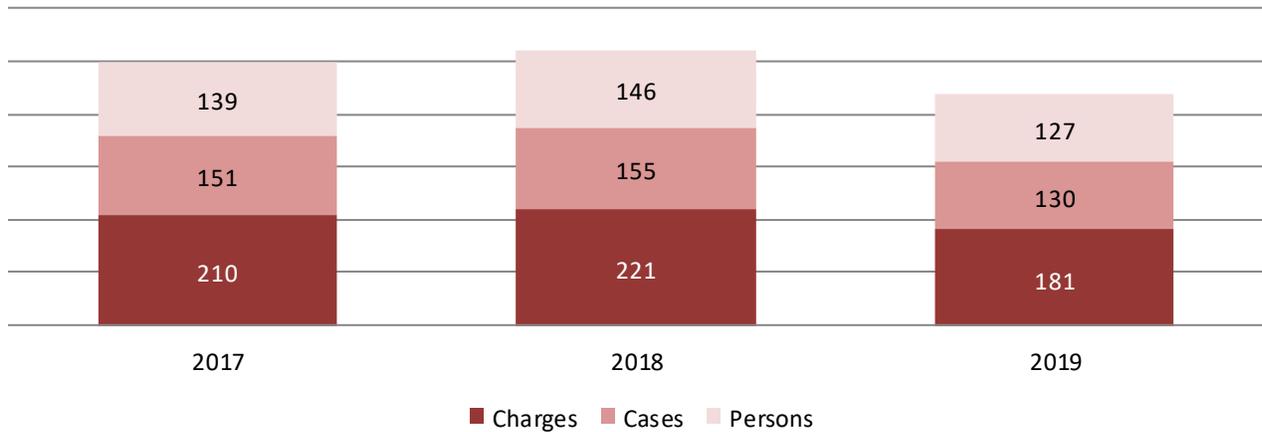
## Calls District-wide for ISD #199



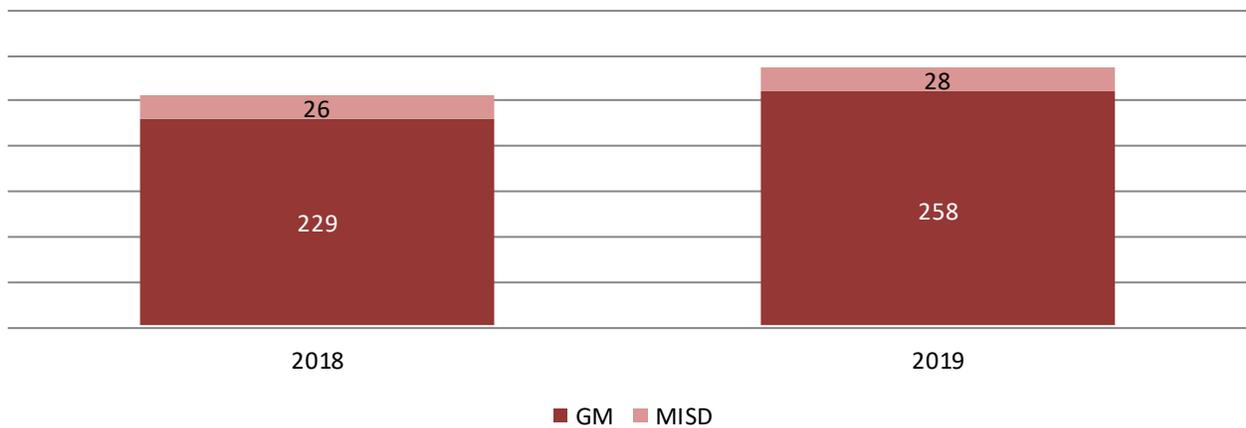
Calls District-wide track all calls, so calls occurring after school hours and during summer months will be handled by Patrol. Calls occurring during the normal school day are primarily handled by the SRO, unless they are busy or off-duty on benefit time.

# Investigations Division Statistics

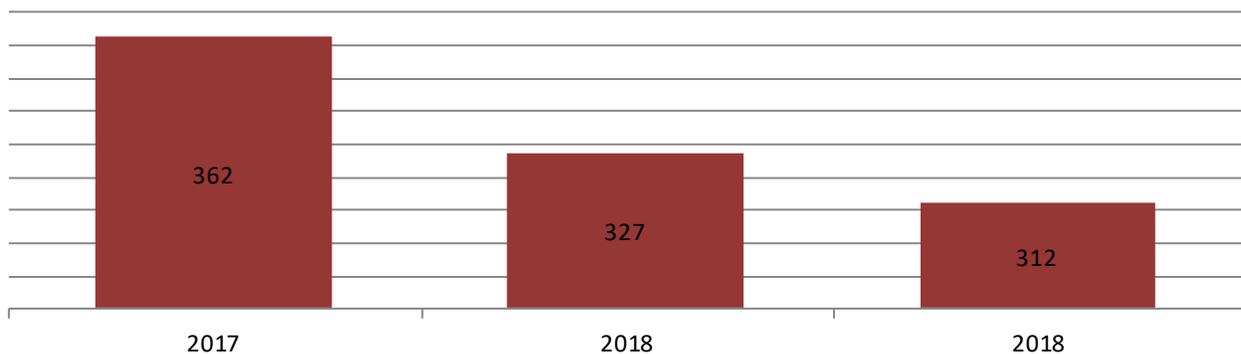
## Felony Cases Charged



## Adult Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor Cases Charged by Complaint

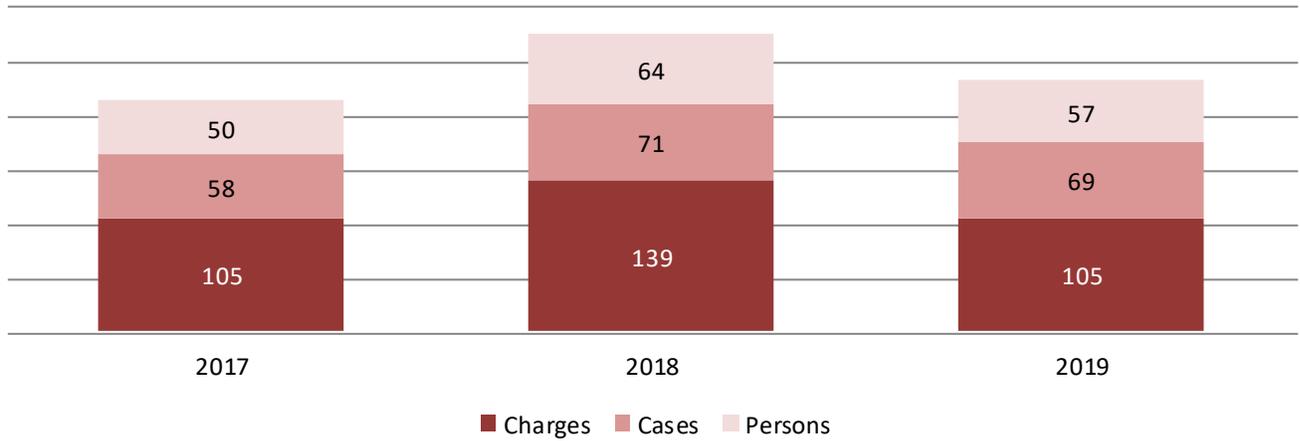


## Non-Traffic Misdemeanor Violation Cited

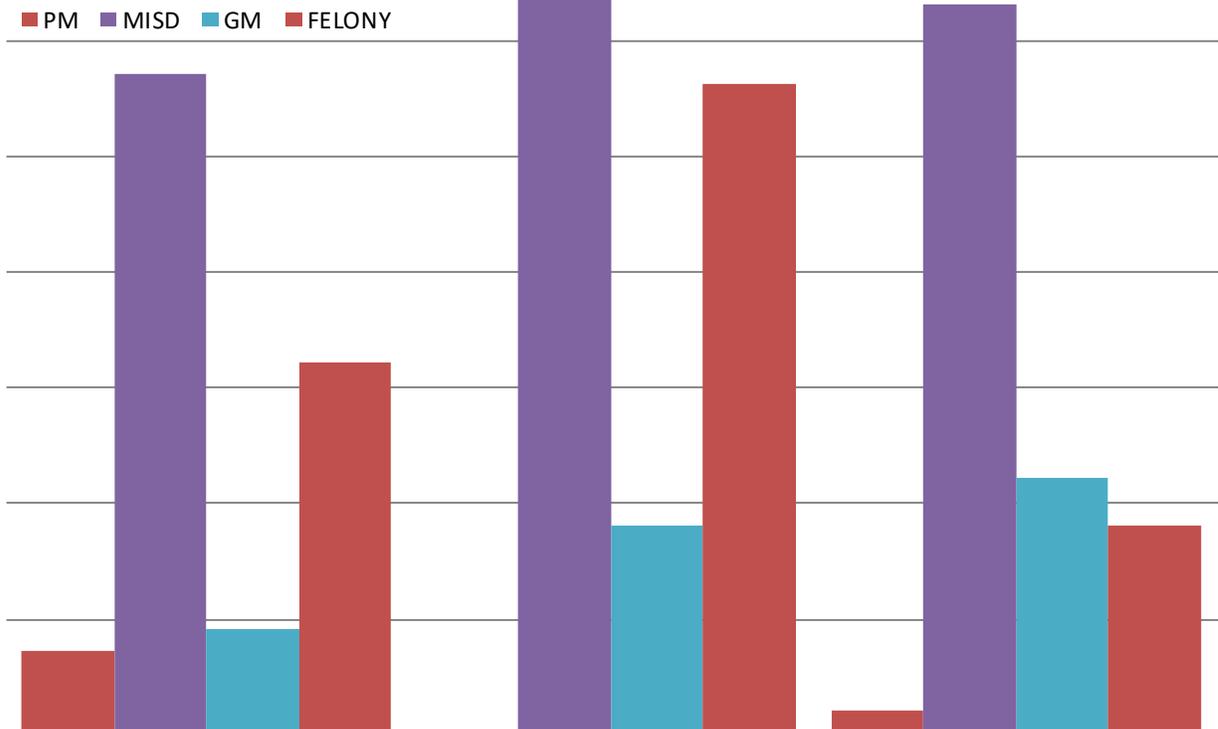


# Investigations Division Statistics

## Juvenile Cases Charged

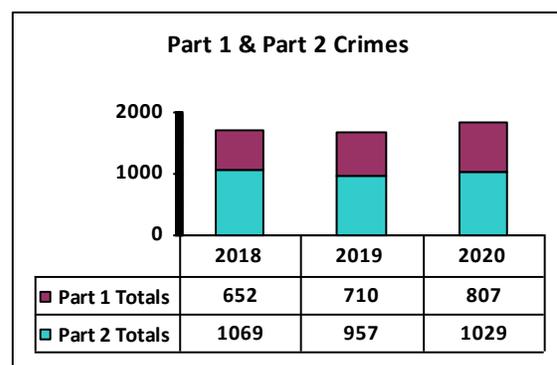
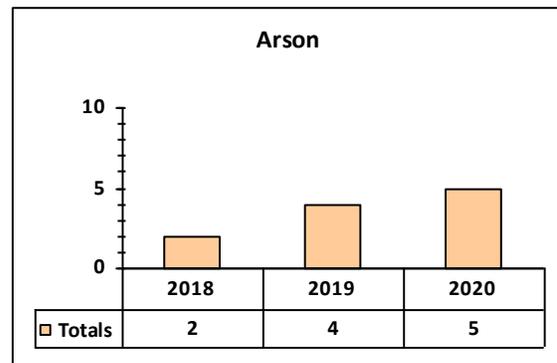
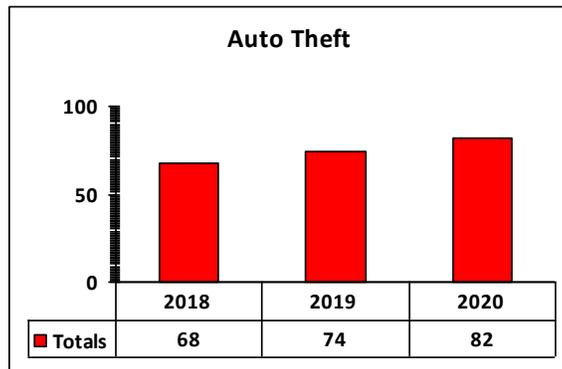
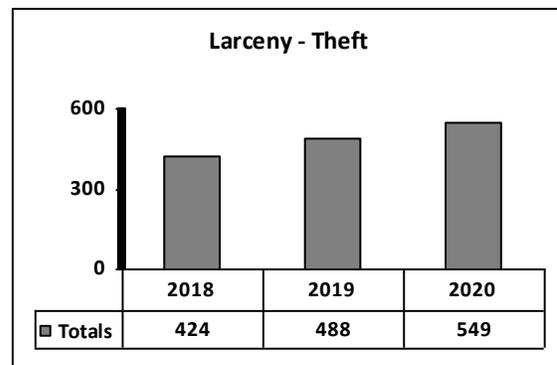
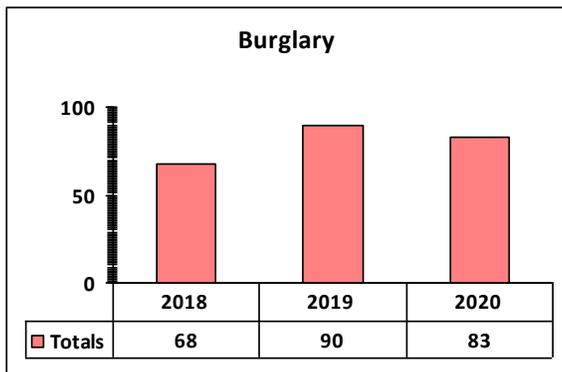
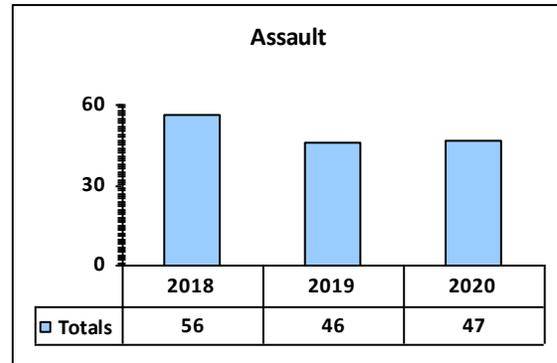
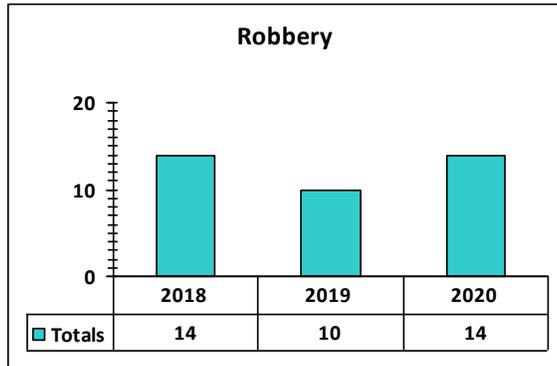
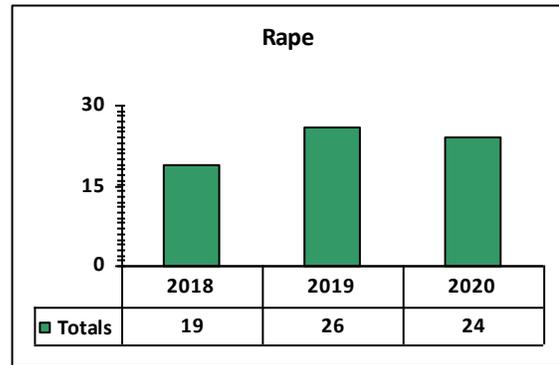
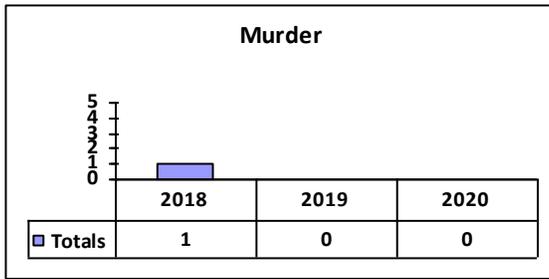


## Juvenile Cases Charged by Crime Level



	2017	2018	2019
PM	7	0	2
MISD	57	65	63
GM	9	18	22
FELONY	32	56	18

# Crime Statistics



# Administrative - Support Services Division

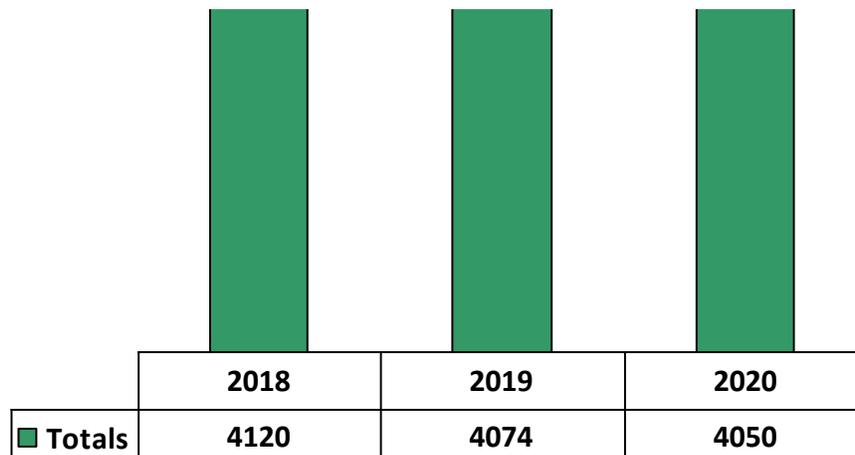
The Administrative -Support Services consists of five professional civilian employees who are the backbone of the department. It is overseen by Commander Joshua Otis.

The Administrative -Support Services Division are responsible for the collection, recording, reporting, release, storage, maintenance, and control of all of the records generated by the department throughout the year.

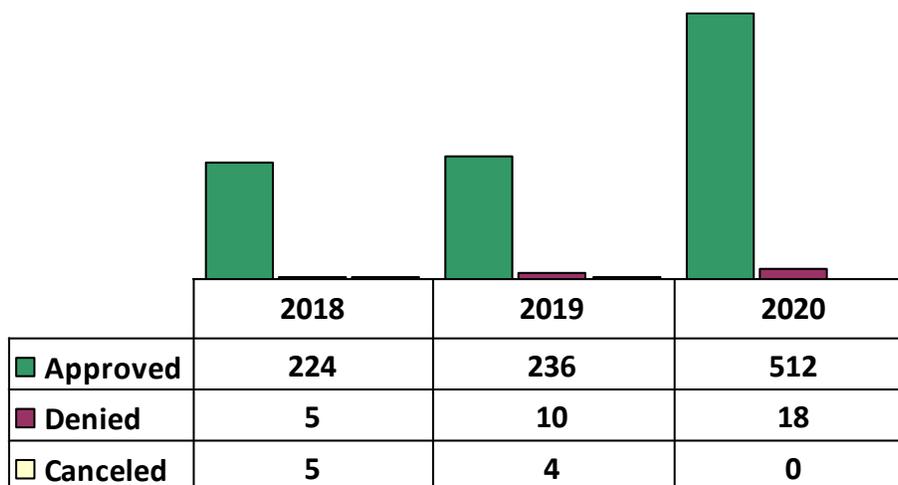
This division is the key contact for members of the public who are seeking information about incidents reported to the department. This division has to provide timely, reliable, and accurate information in response to inquiries from officers, investigators, and the public.

In addition to the report and gun permits processed there were over **2,000** data requests processed in accordance with the Minnesota Data Practices Act, State of Minnesota reporting requirements, court orders, subpoenas, public disclosure requests, and other federal and state reporting requirements.

## Reports Processed by Year



## Gun Permit to Purchase



# Reserves

## ***Police Reserves***

The Inver Grove Heights Police Reserve Unit is an integral part of the Police Department which consists of volunteers from the community. The Police Reserves is a program that provides the opportunity for people to volunteer their time while learning more about law enforcement.

Throughout the year the Reserve Officers help with curfew violation enforcement, park patrol, traffic control, Assisting Patrol with vehicle tows, and selective transportation of individuals within the city. The Reserve Officers not only assist our city, but they also help out other Dakota County cities with their yearly activities and events.

In 2020, our nine Reserve Officers cumulatively volunteered over 149 hours. This was a significant reduction of hours compared to 1000 hours they volunteered in 2019. This reduction of hours was due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With volunteer opportunities limited our Reserve Officers were able to help out with the following events:

- School sporting events
- School dances and carnivals

In July of 2020, our longest volunteering Reserve Officer Kevin Schield 36R69 retired from the Reserve Unit after serving our city for over 25 years. He has volunteered countless hours leading, coordinating, biking, and attending events to include Inver Grove Heights Days, Simley sporting events, Safety Fairs, Night to Unite, Bike the Bridges, and everything in between.

We want to thank Kevin for his unmatched reliability and dedication to our department and community.



# Explorers

## ***Police Explorers***

The Inver Grove Heights Police Explorers are a Boy Scout-based group for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21 who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement and have completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The program offers the opportunity to learn about law enforcement in a fun-filled, hands-on approach, promoting growth and development in adolescent youth.

The Inver Grove Heights Police Department currently has several police officers when they were young participated in a Police Explorer Program before becoming a police officer.

Explorers meet during October through April and have one joint training per month with other posts. There may be additional events and training throughout the year as well. All of these meetings and training come to a head with the annual Minnesota State Conference in Rochester, MN. At this conference Explorer Units from across the state come together to compete in different law enforcement-related scenarios such as Arrest and Search, Domestic, Burglary Response, Firearms, Traffic Stops, and White Collar Crime among others.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, there was no State Conference or the ability for the Explorers to help give back to the community throughout the year.

However our Explorer advisors kept our Explorers engaged by hosting meetings that conformed to our COVID-19 protocols.

For 2020, the IGH PD had four officers serve as advisors. The Explorer Advisors were Officers Engstrom, Eid, Malcolm, and Sergeant Kelting.

For 2020, the Inver Grove Heights Police Department had ten Police Explorers.

# Projects and Initiatives

## **K-9 Program**

Our K9 program experienced changes this year, K9 Kato started to experience some physical ailments. He was seen by multiple veterinarians and received treatment. Due to his physical ailments, it has been recommended that Kato no longer serve in a high impact capacity as a Police K-9. Out of caution for Kato and his well-being the department decided it was time for him to retire. Kato retired July 13, 2020. He is living comfortably with Officer Ryan Rose.



K9 Kato

In August, we welcomed our new K9 member Chase. Right after meeting each other in August, Officer Ryan Rose and Chase began a physically and mentally challenging 14-week training. In November, they passed with flying colors and obtained three different certifications, the USPCA Certification, NPCA Certification and Narcotics Certification. They now work as a apprehension and detection team, as well as a narcotics detection team.



Officer Rose and Chase graduating training November 23, 2020



Officer Rose and Chase in training

## **Community Safety Survey**

In 2017 we launched an annual community safety survey. We invite all who live, work, or visit the City of Inver Grove Heights to provide feedback and input on issues of community safety, quality of life, and policing. This allows police personnel and City officials to better understand the community safety perceptions, as well as, the public safety concerns of residents, business owners, and those who work for an Inver Grove Heights-based business.

In the past years we launched the survey in late October through November. As a result the 2020 policing priority preferences were developed from the 2019 questions. So look for a change in 2021, when the survey will be launched in January.

## **Safety Survey**



For more information about the survey please visit our website at: <https://ighmn.gov/1354/Engage-with-Us>

# Community Orientated Policing

*The Inver Grove Heights Police Department focuses on the strong partnership between the community and the police to solve problems together. We continue to support and promote relationship building with the community by engaging in multiple programs where we interact and work together to make the community a safer and more enjoyable place to live, work, and play.*

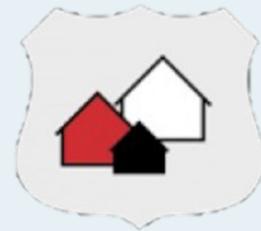
## **Neighborhood Watch Program**

The IGH PD continues to partner with the community to work together to reduce crime in their neighborhoods. Neighborhoods that actively participate in the program have two meetings a year, one of which the police department sends a designated Neighborhood Resource Officer to attend to answer any questions or disseminate any important crime prevention information. Throughout its history, the program has proven that neighbors who know one another are better able to identify suspicious activity and alert police, therefore, decreasing crime while increasing a sense of security amongst the residents.



## **Crime Free Multi-Housing Program**

The IGH PD continues to support the city's many landlords through our Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. In 2018, we communicated with landlords through in-person or electronic communications on monthly police-related calls for service statistics. We also provide training on various topics that include tenant and landlord rights, background checks, rental licensing, and legislative updates.



## **Residence Checks**

The IGH PD continues to provide residence checks to our community. These checks are performed at the request of the homeowner. The checks are usually requested when the homeowner will be away from their home for an extended period.

## **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon**

The IGH PD participates in the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to provide the community a network of support for military members, veterans, and their families, before, during, and after deployment.



## **Predatory Offender Program**

The primary purpose of the Predatory Offender Program is to ensure those who reside in the city of Inver Grove Heights and are deemed predatory offenders are compliant with registration requirements.

For more information see the MN BCA website on predatory offender registration: <https://por.state.mn.us/Home.aspx>

## **Drug Take-Back Program**

Since 2013 the City of Inver Grove Heights has partnered with Dakota County to offer a prescription drug take-back program. The program made it easier for members of the public to safely and anonymously deposit prescribed medications. In 2019 a total of 964.67 pounds of prescription drugs have been taken in via the Drug Take-Back Program.



# Community Engagement

## ***Night to Unite!***



In 2020, we had to cancel our Night to Unite activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot wait until 2021 so we can get back out into our community and celebrate Night to Unite once again.

Night to Unite:

- Encourages neighbors to get outside, lock their doors, turn outside lights and spend the evening and enjoy their neighborhood.
- Helps neighbors to get to know one another to make the neighborhood safer.
- Helps to celebrate and strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships.
- Brings our police officers and community members together under positive circumstances for a true sense of community.
- Builds neighborhood involvement to be a caring place to live.
- Brings awareness to crime prevention and efforts of our police department.

## ***Citizen Academy***

In 2020, we had to cancel our Citizen Academy due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot wait until 2021 so we can have citizens once again at the Police Department. The Inver Grove Heights Police Department Citizen Academy program is designed to offer citizens an inside look into the Inver Grove Heights Police Department's operations. A wide spectrum of topics will be covered and include:

- Tour and history of the police department
- Functions of patrol, investigations, SWAT, negotiators, physical evidence team, bike patrol, traffic & K-9 units
- Review of typical calls for service
- DWI demonstration
- Traffic stops, normal and felony stops
- Officer survival, use of force
- Laws of arrest
- Searching and handcuffing a suspect

For more information on our citizen academy please visit our website at: <https://ighmn.gov/1356/Citizen-Police-Academy>

## ***Inver Grove Heights Days***

In 2020, we had to cancel our Night to Unite activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot wait until 2021 so we can get back out into our community and celebrate IGH Days with everyone.

# Community Engagement



In January, Officer Nelson along side Fire Chief Thill did a meet and greet at Pine Bend Elementary , where they read books to the students.



In February, officers participated in the annual polar plunge. Our officers enjoy this event because it allows them to interact with the public in a up beat manner while wearing funky costumes.



In May, officers assisted in escorting 3 Rochester Police Officers through our city. These officers road their bike from Rochester to St. Paul to raise money for charity.

# Community Engagement

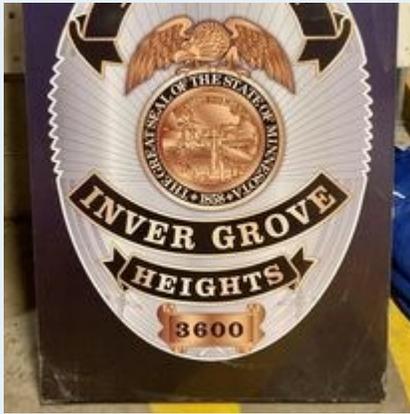


In April, officers participated in a clean up day where they walked around the PD picking up garbage. Our officers take pride in having a clean facility.



In June, officers hosted a meet and greet at the north west corner of 65th street and Cahill. Officers had a great time getting to meet community members while have good conversations.

# Community Engagement



In July, officers took a break from patrol and brought out the bean bag toss out at North Valley Park and played a few games with community members. Rumor has it Officer Meade and Officer Benning are still arguing on who won.



In July, Officers Sharratt and Gates attended a neighborhood watch party to answer questions, squash myths and give guidance to this newly formed group.



In August, officers went to Prairie Estates and made pancakes and had breakfast with the residents. Fun was had by all!

# Community Engagement



In July, officers, friends and family gathered for a memorial for Mendota Heights Officer Scott Patrick. Officers voiced how appreciative they were to be able to participate in this event and show support for Officer Patrick's family.



In August, officers were out at Ernster Park making pancakes and sausage for the residents of Skyline Village. With Investigator Anderson manning the griddle he kept smiles on everyone's face by keeping their belly's full.

# Community Engagement



In September, officers received a generous donation from Thomson Reuters. They donated brand new bikes that officers gave out to IGH community members on a later date.



In September, Officers Malcolm, Fliehr and DeRosier stopped out at a lemonade stand near 80th street and Barbara Avenue. Officer Malcolm stated that it was just what he needed to get him through his shift.



In September, Officer Fliehr got to meet a community member that wanted to express her gratitude to the PD and that she is thankful for the officers keeping the IGH community safe.

# Community Engagement



In September, we adapted to the public safety restriction and hosted a drive through hotdog grill out at the Pearlwood apartments. This event was a huge success and we had no problem giving out all of our hotdogs and goody bags.

# Community Engagement



In September, Officer Fliehr had fun handing out junior police badges and showing off his lights and siren at Skyview Park.



In October, Cadet Schiltz was out at Hometown Meats doing a meet and greet. Cadet Schiltz had a great time and got to explain what his daily assignments are to the community. He stated that in his short time working in IGH he has been over whelmed with support from the community.



# Community Engagement



# Community Engagement



In October, Officer Fliehr put on a two day pumpkin carving event at the Police Department. With assistance from his partners they were able to carve about 30 pumpkins with some of IGH's younger community members.



In November, Officer Gates had the pleasure of awarding the two winners of the Halloween costume contest with brand new bikes. Officer Gates said that both winners were filled with joy getting their new bikes.

# Community Engagement



In December, the Department put a little twist to the annual Shop with a Cop Program. Even though the officers weren't able to take the families shopping with them they made sure that they were able to provide gifts to families during the holiday season. Our officers look forward to being apart of this event every year.

# Inver Grove Heights Police Department

Proudly Serving the Inver Grove Heights Community Since 1965

8150 Barbara Ave  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
651-450-2525  
[www.invergroveheights.org](http://www.invergroveheights.org)



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

