Council Business Meeting
May 18, 2021

Agenda Item	Ashland Police Department Annual Report to Council (Formerly Use of Force)	
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SUMMARY

Since 2008 the police department has come before Council to provide an annual use of force report. This presentation has grown in scope and now includes use of force, crime and clearance rates, an update on the enhanced law enforcement area (ELEA), an update on the use of section 10.58 of the Ashland Municipal Code, as well as the most recent data from Statistical Transparency Of Policing (STOP).

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

47. Keep the Council informed of organizational activity and provide timely information for Council decision-making.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Use of Force Information

During 2020 the Police Department used force 21 times. This represents a decrease from 2019's 31 incidents of use of force.

Number of Use of Force Incidents Since 2012

The department's use of force review board reviews all instances of use of force. All the incidents of use of force in 2020 were deemed to be within policy.

In 2020 all use of force incidents involved suspects who were identified as being white.

Of the 21 uses of force:
    -the TASER was deployed but not used on 3 occasions
    -the TASER was deployed and used on 2 occasions
    -OC (pepper) spray was used 2 occasions
    -the less lethal shotgun (which shoots a bean bag projectile to incapacitate a suspect) was not used in 2020
    -the rest of the incidents involved empty hand techniques such as take downs, joint locks, control holds and empty-handed strikes

During 2020 Ashland officers received a total of 621 hours of use of force training. This is a significant (57%)

decrease from 2019, owing to the pandemic and limited training opportunities.

The deputy chief's memo on annual use of force information has more
detailed information and is attached.

Crime Rates and Clearances

Crime rate is based on the number of part one crimes occurring in a jurisdiction. Part one crimes are those that are reported annually to the FBI for inclusion in the Uniform Crime Report. They are homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, auto theft, arson and larceny. In 2020 the city saw a total of 452 part one crimes. This is down from the 569 reported in 2019 and 743 in 2018. Violent crime is defined as homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. There were 22 violent crimes reported to the Ashland Police Department in 2020, down from 25 in 2019. Clearance rates for part 1 crime was 24% for 2020. Clearance rates for violent crime remains very high at 63%. These clearances are lower than in previous years, and the police department will work toward identifying the cause of the drop in clearance rates.

Please note that crime rate and clearance rate information is for January 1, 2020 through November 3, 2020 only. This is due to the fact that there was a major records management system switchover on November 3rd, and we have yet to develop a method for extracting some data that was previously easily obtainable.

Enhances Law Enforcement Area

The Enhanced Law Enforcement Area (ELEA) ordinance has been in effect since August of 2012. The ELEA is roughly defined as downtown. In this area we see a concentrated number of complaints and disorderly behavior as this is the focal gathering point for many members of the community. A conviction of three or more qualifying violations (or crimes) in Ashland Municipal Court within a six-month period may result in a person being expelled from the downtown area. The expulsion has judicial review, in that only the Municipal Court Judge can authorize it.

The qualifying violations are: scattering rubbish; unnecessary noise; dogs-control required; consumption of alcohol; open container of alcohol; dog license required; or use of marijuana in public. In 2020 there were 109 ELEA violation convictions in the municipal court. There were four people expelled from the downtown area and there were two people charged with persistent violator failure to appear under the city ordinance. The ELEA continues to be a valuable tool to address chronic negative behavior.

For several years we have used calls for service downtown for disorderly-type behavior as a metric for quality of life issues downtown. 2020 saw a continued decrease from the high in 2017. The metric tracks calls for service such as disorderly behavior, drinking in public, urinating in public as well as others.

2014: 199   **2015**: 322   **2016**: 335   **2017**: 360   **2018**: 216   **2019**: 198   **2020**: 126

The information on incidents of disorderly behavior downtown are for the entire year as this data is pulled from an established source.

Update on Ashland Municipal Code 10.58, Failure to Provide Name and Date of Birth

The now-repealed ordinance that required a person to provide a name and date of birth when being issued a citation for a violation of municipal code was never used.

Statistical Transparency of Policing (STOP) Date

The Oregon legislature has mandated that all police officers in the state record
certain demographic and enforcement data for officer-initiated enforcement
stops. The most recent data that is available is for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. This data is
available through the department's webpage under the "STOP Data" button.

For that period of time data for the Ashland Police Department indicates that officers initiated enforcement stops
involving individuals identified as follows:

Asian or Pacific Islander	2.7%	Middle Eastern	1.1%
Black	3.6%	Native American	0.1%
Latinx	6.5%	White	86.1%

This data is dependent on officers' observations, not an inquiry, and seems to be consistent with Ashland's
demographics.

UPDATED INFO: The Ashland Police Department will always strive to equitably serve the entire community. With
that in mind, we need to recognize that STOP data will never match up perfectly with demographic data for the
community. Demographic data varies from source to source, so the exact representation of a specific race within the
community cannot be perfectly known. Also, we need to recognize that STOP data is solely dependent on an
officer's perception and is not derived from an inquiry into how the person identifies. STOP data does not allow for
a person to identify as multi-racial, which many people do. Demographic data does allow for this, and 3-4% of the
Ashland population identifies as such. Ashland is a tourist town, a university town, and is on the I-5 corridor as well.
All of this information skews the data on who is actually present in the community and how they might be perceived
by the officer. Again, this all comes together to create a situation that will never allow the STOP to perfectly match
up with the demographic data.

Also, again, and most importantly, we will always work to make sure all members of the community are being
treated equitably.

FISCAL IMPACTS
None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
None

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS
None

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS
Deputy Chief's Use of Force Memo