

# Council Communication

## March 15, 2016 Business Meeting

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### Report to the Council on Crime in Ashland and Use of Force by the Ashland Police Department

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**FROM:**

Tighe O'Meara, Chief of Police, [tighe.omeara@ashland.or.us](mailto:tighe.omeara@ashland.or.us) 541-552-2142

**SUMMARY**

In 2008 the Council directed the Police Chief to make an annual report to the Council on crime in the City of Ashland and use of force by the police department.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

During 2015 the Police Department used force 15 times. This represents a 55% decrease from 2014. Six of these incidents involved the officer using some sort of strike against the suspect. There were no uses of the Taser conducted energy weapon in 2015. There were eight incidents in which arrestees reported injuries. Of the incidents in which a suspect did complain of injury none of the complaints were serious. Pepper spray was used once in 2015. Sixty percent of the use of force incidents involved drug or alcohol use. A total of four officers received minor injuries during these incidents. While all injuries were minor, please note that one injury was sustained when an officer was bitten by a suspect.

During 2015 Ashland officers received a total of 379 hours of use of force training.

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 into the Uniform Crime Report. They are homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, auto theft and larceny. In 2015 the Police Department took 641 reports of part one crimes occurring in the City of Ashland. This is similar to the number of part one crimes in 2014, which was 629. Violent crime is defined as homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. There were 20 violent crimes reported in Ashland in 2015, down from 25 in 2014. In 2015 the Police Department cleared 36% of all part one cases, and 90% of violent crime cases.

The Enhanced Law Enforcement Area (ELEA) ordinance has been in effect since August of 2012. The ELEA is roughly defined as downtown Ashland and has recently been modified to include the Bill Patton Gardens. 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. In 2015 there were 199 violations issued by members of the APD in the ELEA. While those citations represent many different people, they contributed to the expulsion of 10 people from the ELEA. For comparison, in 2014 there were 147 citations issued with 16 expulsions and in 2013 there were 132 citations and five expulsions.



**COUNCIL GOALS SUPPORTED:**

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

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

N/A.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED ACTION:**

The Council can accept the report as presented or request the Police Chief provide additional information.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

