

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# MISSOULA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Photo by Michael Rosling



## Our Mission Statement

**We are a community oriented agency committed to delivering professional police service to Missoula. We strive to improve the quality of life of our citizens and the livability of our community.**



# Message from the Chief



**W**elcome to the Missoula Police Department's 2023 Annual Report and thank you for taking the time to learn about our department! This report contains information about the internal workings of our department, the successes of our valued employees and the challenges facing the department.

Mayor Jordan Hess appointed me as Police Chief in May 2023, and this year we celebrated many retirements. My sincere congratulations to all the retirees from 2023, notably Chief Jaeson White and Assistant Chief Scott Hoffman, who both retired this past year. This is an uncommon occurrence to have such high-ranking retirements occur in close proximity and such retirements create a wave of promotions throughout the seven ranks of our department. In 2023, we promoted an unprecedented 18 new supervisors to leadership roles.

This year we set goals to evaluate existing operations and implement new programs within our budget that do not increase general fund spending. Some of these projects are in development, while others are fully implemented. These projects and the above-described retirements and promotions are detailed later in this report.

The MPD handled 56,234 calls for service in 2023, up from 52,125 (2022) and 52,666 (2021). Although the total incidents have increased, a positive trend from these numbers is the decline in reported and validated violent crimes. The Montana Board of Crime Control defines violent crime as: Sexual Intercourse without Consent, Robbery, Aggravated Assault and Homicide. These offenses have declined from 557 (2021) to 532 (2022) to 470 (2023). Please refer to the Records Unit section of this report for an itemized list of these statistics.

One of the biggest challenges to our service has been central to the issue of unhoused and unsheltered. The MPD is committed to being a problem-solving partner as we search for solutions to this circumstance. We have committed to proactive crime prevention efforts by conducting over 1,000 directed patrols at and around the Johnson Street shelter. When crime is reported in and around the shelters, we promptly investigate and refer those cases for prosecution.

Arguably the most pressing public safety issue facing our community is the fentanyl crisis. The MPD is engaged to combat the devastation from this powerful opiate in two ways: life-saving efforts in the field, and assertive enforcement. MPD officers have saved countless lives by being trained and equipped with Narcan™, an opiate reversal agent, used to save overdosed subjects. Our enforcement efforts occur at both street level (use and distributions) and high-level investigation (drug trafficking organizations). Our participation in the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) Task Force and the Montana Regional Violent Crime Task Force is key to these investigations. Street level enforcement and large-scale investigations work together to prevent and deter fentanyl use and to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations. Despite a lot of work to go, the success is obvious when you reflect on the explosion of fentanyl dosage unit seizures by the RMHIDTA Task Force. RMHIDTA seized 805 DU (2021) to 12,749 DU (2022) and 31,634 DU (2023). All this effort contributes to less access to this potentially fatal substance and accountability to those spreading it within our community.

We are excited about what we have accomplished and eager about opportunities ahead of us. Please enjoy reading this report and follow us on our social media platforms.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Colyer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael J. Colyer  
Chief of Police



## Social Media Links:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter/X](#)

[Instagram](#)

# ETHICAL EXCELLENCE

## *Ethical Excellence*

Missoula Police Department employees have hundreds of pages of guidance and regulations ranging from policy and procedure to statutes and court decisions.

We believe having a simple, top-of-mind principle to guide one's conduct is important. We call this "Ethical Excellence."

## *Ethical Conduct*

We believe ethical conduct is the most important aspect of our work. The practice of ethical behavior is to have integrity in what we say and do, so that our honesty and veracity is beyond reproach.

Holding ourselves to the highest level of ethical standard means, amongst other examples, we are honest in written or spoken word, we treat everyone with respect and dignity and we never use our position for personal gain.

## *Policing Excellence*

We believe excellence in policing is to be an approachable and respectful community partner, while being a proficient professional.

To possess these qualities and balance their use is the art of police excellence. An employee who has all of one trait and none of the other, does not fulfil this level of excellence. For example, the most kind and likeable employee who cannot carry out the technical aspects of the job will fall short of expectations. Conversely, an employee with the most advanced training, and who operates at an extremely high level but treats community members inappropriately, will also fall short of this standard.

This is a high bar we set for our people. But we are confident in who we hire, how they are trained, and our culture of conducting ourselves with integrity, treating others right and being competent professionals who can "take care of business."

Having "Ethical Excellence" as a guiding principle reminds our staff of the high expectations placed upon them as they are working in real time, where sorting through volumes of regulations, policy, and law is impractical.

# 2023 DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

In 2023, the Missoula Police Department deliberately set goals for positive change, rather than simply managing the day-to-day business of running the department.

Each project was assigned to an individual or work group, and we scheduled bi-weekly meetings to monitor their progress. Some of these projects are completed and fully implemented, while others are nearly complete at the time of this report.

Every one of these projects were moved forward with no increase in general fund expenditures. In fact, some result in a reduction in spending or eliminated the need for budget enhancement. These projects are organized by topic below.

## **Uniformed Patrol Division Leadership**

For many years the MPD has recognized an imbalance within the Uniformed Patrol Division's span of control, but we have been unable to staff additional positions to manage the department's largest division. This year we looked for a solution that would not require a budget increase. The workgroup thoroughly examined several organizational models used by other agencies around the country. Ultimately, none of these models fit well with our budget, operations, and culture.

Alternatively, we identified an opportunity to re-assign an existing Lieutenant position to manage much of the operational oversight of the Uniformed Patrol Division. This allows the Uniform Patrol Captain to focus on higher level work such as long term/strategic planning and engagement with community partners. This assignment, called the Patrol Operations Lieutenant, will be implemented in May 2024.

## **Pre-Employment Background Investigations**

The MPD is required to complete thorough pre-employment background investigations for all full-time and part-time employees and anyone with unescorted access to our facilities, such as interns and volunteers. In the past three years, the MPD has averaged 32 pre-employment background investigations per year.

Pre-employment background investigations have traditionally fallen to police supervisors as a collateral duty, where they were completed as a side project when time allowed. This resulted in delayed hiring, high overtime expenditures and burnout. This year we re-hired several retired officers as Special Service Officers, authorized through Montana Code Annotated. These temporary intermittent employees, who were all trained and experienced background investigators, bring this skill back to the department. They will conduct many of the background investigations, allowing us to hire personnel quicker, spend less overtime and free up these supervisors to focus on their primary duties. These positions have been used since the summer of 2023. It has reduced overtime spending on this task and their wages are paid through vacancy savings in our Reserve Officer budget.

In addition to using Special Service Officers on background investigations, we increased efficiencies in this arena by engaging with Miller Mendel, Inc. (MMI) to subscribe to their flagship product, eSOPH™. "eSOPH" stands for "electronic statement of personal history" and is a cloud- based system specifically designed for public agencies to streamline pre-employment background investigations. This is achieved by providing applicants a portal for secure documents submittal, synching data across other agencies, intuitive features to ensure consistent data entry and 100% electronic communication between all parties. The eSOPH™ system is used by over 5,600 agencies and MMI estimates it saves approximately 50% of the time required by traditional paper methods. We went live with this system in the winter of 2023 and our early experience is consistent with MMI's estimate of approximate 50% time savings.

# 2023 DEPARTMENT PROJECTS cont'd

## Lexipol Policy Update

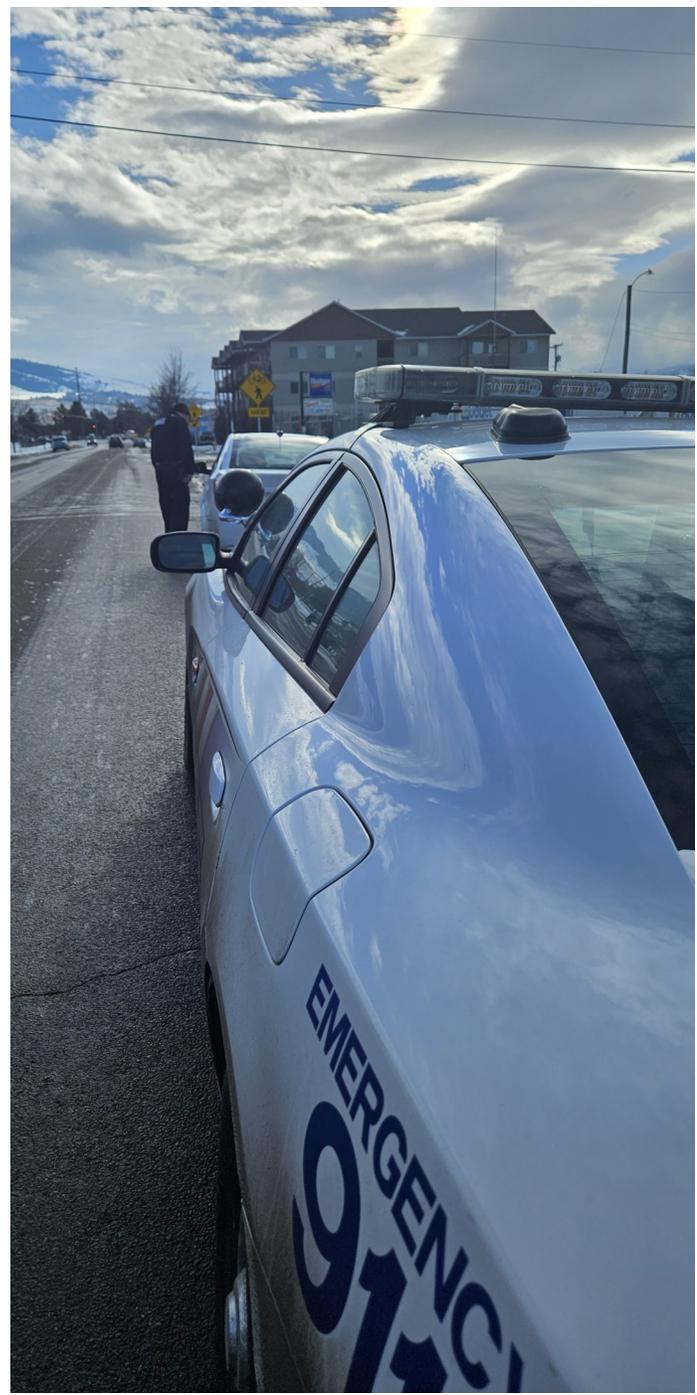
Montana Municipal Insurance Authority (MMIA) graciously funded “Tier One” policy review and update through Lexipol Public Safety Management™, a well-respected firm offering public safety policy development, amongst other services. The MPD participated in that project and recently approved almost 30 new policies. These policies include many of our high-risk or otherwise important policies such as Vehicle Pursuit, Use of Force and Citizen Complaint Investigations. As part of the Lexipol system, the policies are being disseminated to the department to introduce, train, and document the new policies amongst our employees. Following the internal roll-out, policies will be posted online. This project has been implemented since the winter of 2023 and was paid for by MMIA.

## Traffic Safety

Traffic safety continues to be an important issue in Missoula, and we have responded to that two-fold: A dedicated DUI Officer and the use of new technology, Sotaxa™.

Traffic enforcement is a discretionary activity, which during times of high call volume becomes a lost opportunity. This past fall, the MPD accepted a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which provides 100% funding for a full-time dedicated DUI Officer, and fuel and vehicle maintenance reimbursement. This requires the department to be deliberate about traffic safety despite times of high call volume. The new DUI officer is assigned to identify and apprehend impaired drivers to improve traffic safety in Missoula. From October 2023 (when the position was filled) to December 31, 2023, this officer made 21 arrests for driving under the influence, most of which have other related offenses, and one other non-DUI related arrest.

To build upon the new full-time DUI Officer, the MPD has purchased new technology, Sotaxa™, to aid in identifying drug impaired drivers. Sotaxa™ is a handheld analyzer which is designed for roadside detection of up to six drug classes from a single oral fluid sample. The use of this instrument is supported by Montana Code Annotated. Sotaxa™ is utilized much like a Preliminary Breath Testing instrument is used to estimate breath alcohol concentration. Sotaxa™ devices are used in the field as presumptive evidence to help officers make arrest decisions and have great value supporting arrests. Also, they can help eliminate drug impairment as a cause for observed behavior, and lead the officer to investigate other causes, such as a mental or physical issue with the driver. This can avoid the indignity of arrest for a circumstance that later proves to be unfounded. Also, this additional information which rules out drug impairment directs the officer to explore medical care or other resources for the individual. Since purchasing these two instruments, they have been used in 20 DUI investigations.



# 2023 DEPARTMENT PROJECTS cont'd



## **Property and Evidence Inventory**

A full property and evidence inventory is recommended when a new police chief or sheriff takes office. This illustrates the new leadership is taking full responsibility for the property and provides transparency to the community about the status of those items. In June and July 2023, our Property Technician Walt Dinges and Crime Scene Investigator Kate Ferro conducted a complete inventory and accounted for each of the 50,260 items in our care and custody.

Additionally, for many years now, the MPD has conducted quarterly spot-checks of our evidence. This is done by randomly drawing three cases for inspection. These three cases are from three different categories: drug cases, property crimes and persons crimes. During this inspection, a supervisor confirms each item is accounted for and being maintained in an appropriate manner. Since this practice was begun, we have never had a missing item and we have confirmed no items have been tampered with or damaged.

## **Re-Branding**

The MPD, like many other employers, has struggled with recruitment since the 2020 pandemic. As part of a wholistic approach to improving our recruiting, we set out to update our image to a more modern design that highlights our community and agency. The brand aims to attract new diverse candidates to all positions, provide a sense of pride to existing employees, and maintain and build credibility with our community. Through a competitive process, we partnered with a local firm, Gecko Designs, to develop our new brand. The staff at Gecko did a wonderful job of capturing our culture and desired outcomes for the project. The brand design is complete and will be fully implemented later in 2024. The uniform patch portion of the new brand is highlighted later in this report.

# 2023 DEPARTMENT PROJECTS cont'd

## Public Engagement

The MPD has had a dedicated Public Information Officer (PIO) for many years. We've expanded that program by identifying trusted and enthusiastic officers in various assignments to engage with our community through social media platforms. We envision officers engaging in real time notification about public safety issues, travel disruption and appeals to the public for assistance. We also will use this opportunity to share an inside look at the workings of the department and highlight our employees' good work. This project is implemented now and has no budget impact.

In addition to this extended scope of the PIO role, we increased community engagement by bringing back the Citizen Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA). CLEA was suspended in the spring 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. CLEA is a combination of classroom presentations and field demonstrations. We hold a session one evening per week for nine weeks. This offers insight about the MPD operations, challenges and successes and an opportunity to interact with a variety of officers and support staff. Each session focuses on one or more specific functions within the department such as the Detective Division, Special Teams, and Training. Additionally, each attendee is invited to participate in a ride-along with an on-duty officer during this timeframe and share that experience with the other class attendees. The session was planned and announced in October 2023 and the session ran from January 2024 to March 2024. Any overtime or administrative costs associated with this program were absorbed in existing budget authority.



## Accountability Matrix

As our Value Statement proclaims, we are committed to individual and organizational accountability. This is an important part of external and internal trust. The vast majority of the work our employees do is done to the highest standards. Occasionally, an act or omission needs correction. The MPD leadership engaged with the Missoula Police Officers Association (MPOA) on a standardized matrix to define categories of conduct which occasionally need correction and codify them into a guideline for corrective action. This guideline allows for mitigating and aggravating circumstances, as each incident is unique and must be evaluated independently.

Externally, this document reflects our commitment to individual and agency accountability. Internally, it outlines expectations to our employees and serves to reassure our employees each circumstance will be treated fairly. This is approved by the City of Missoula and MPOA and lives within the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and will be updated soon to the CBA online.

*(The MPD has been a longtime recipient of the Edward Byrnes Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). This past year we used JAG to pay for eSoph, Sotaxa and the re-branding.)*

# History of the Missoula Police Patch<sup>1</sup>



The valley that would one day become Missoula has been inhabited by native peoples for millennia. For some, the valley was their home while others visited to fish, hunt, and gather bitterroot. The first European Americans to traverse through the area were members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805. “Missoula” may come from the Salish Tribe’s word, “NEMISSOOLATKOO”, roughly translated as “river of ambush.”

The Missoula Police Department was formed on April 23, 1883, when the city council hired two officers at \$60 per month. In 1887, it was resolved that all policemen on duty wear a badge and “each policeman shall wear a blue uniform suit.” The MPD has been protecting the Missoula community for 141 years. Through those years, the original uniform patch has been changed twice, most recently this year.

The current patch of the Missoula Police Department is worn on the left sleeve of all uniform patrol officers. It has been part of the uniform for at least forty-five years, the exact date of adoption is unclear, but occurred during the tenure of either Chief Joe Hood or Chief Gil Hansen. This replaced the previous blue triangular shaped patch that was inscribed “Missoula City Police”, which in the words of former Chief Doug Chase was “too damn plain.”

The current patch can trace its roots to the flag carried by the 1<sup>st</sup> Montana Infantry in 1898 in the war with Spain. The shape outline is the great state of Montana. The blue with the gold “Helvetica Bold” lettering mirrors the lettering on the state flag. The gold star symbolizes the location of the city on the southwest side of the Rattlesnake Mountains. The seal in the center depicts Montana’s beautiful scenery and reflects the pioneering history. A brilliant sun over the snowy mountains, forest, and cliffs of the “Great Falls” as a background for a pick, a shovel and a plow representing Montana’s mining and farming past and present.

In 2023, the Missoula Police Department initiated a re-branding to establish a modern and simple image aimed to attract new and diverse applicants, promote internal pride, and maintain and build community trust. Through that process, a new uniform patch was designed.

The new patch, to be implemented in 2024, uses bold and simple lettering and a bright yellow color inspired from the Arrowleaf Balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittate*) flower, which is common to the Missoula Valley. The patch highlights the mountains and river that make our home special and pulls in the history of our birth year and our pride in the State of Montana.

We are proud of our department history and tradition, while aspiring to move our department forward to continually improve.



Arrowleaf Balsamroot

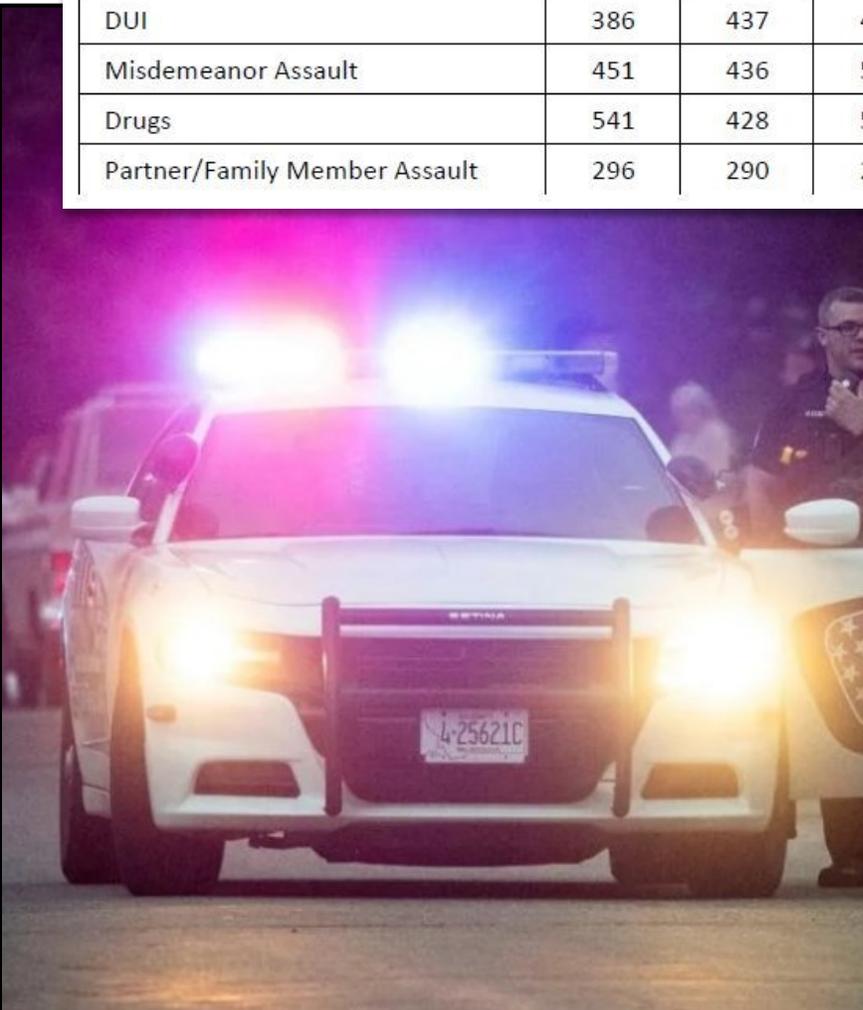
<sup>1</sup>Special appreciation to Officer Brian Vreeland for his research and documentation of this important part of our department history.

# Patrol Division



## Calls for Service

Incident Type	2021	2022	2023
Traffic Stops	7,284	8,807	10,145
Traffic Crashes	2,550	2,843	2,742
Suspicious Activity	2,825	2,688	3,284
Welfare Check	2,672	2,564	2,607
Person to be Removed	2,206	2,339	2,203
Disturbance	1,877	1,746	1,840
Theft	1,909	1,722	1,787
Burglary Alarm	1,542	1,527	1,298
Disorderly Conduct	1,340	1,291	1,503
Suicidal Person	825	699	666
Vandalism	728	693	772
DUI	386	437	462
Misdemeanor Assault	451	436	506
Drugs	541	428	505
Partner/Family Member Assault	296	290	298



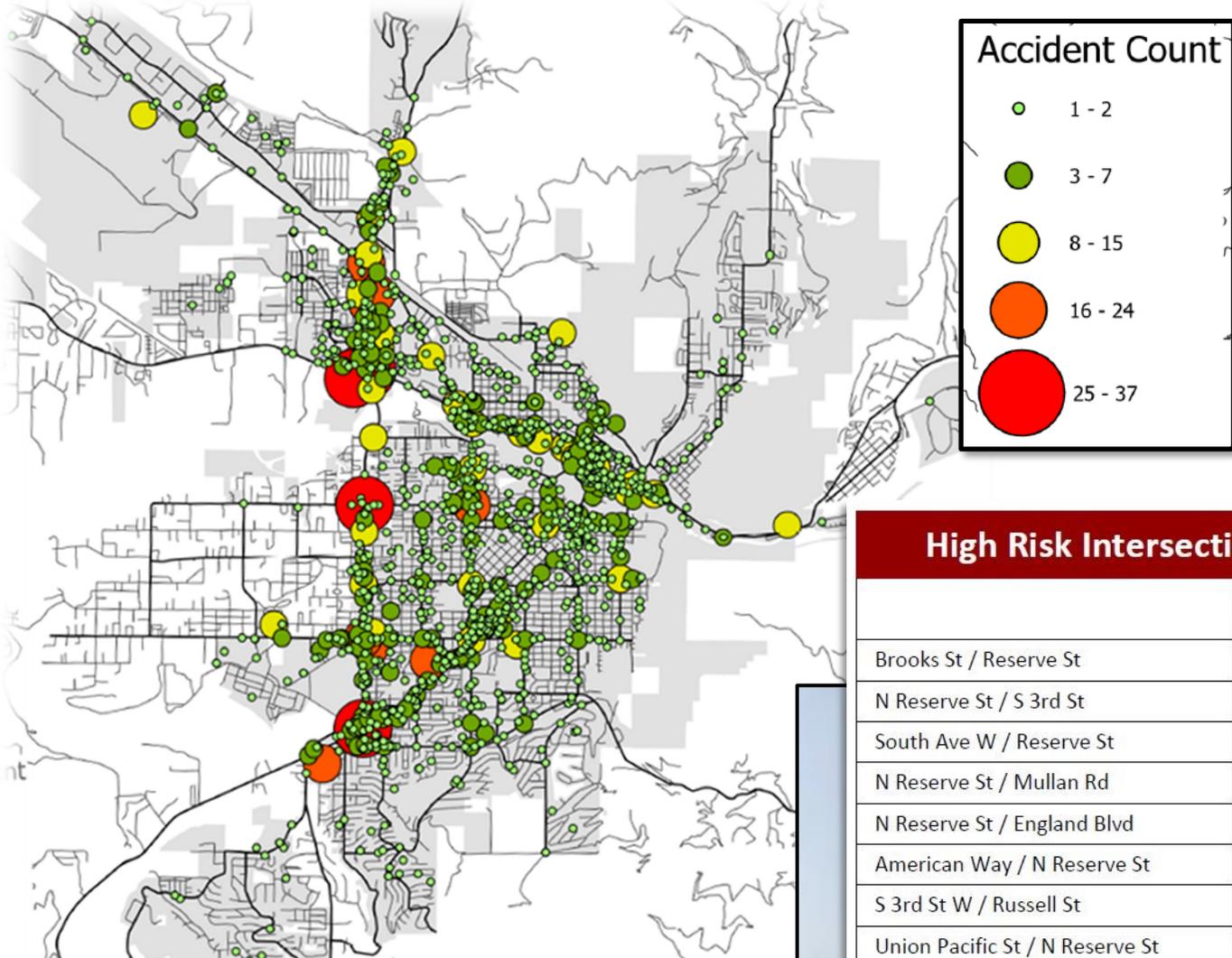
## Juvenile Crime

### Ten Highest Volume Calls for Service in 2023

Purchase or Possess an Intoxicant	117
Shoplifting	106
Tobacco Possession or Consumption	88
Runaway/T truancy over 10 days	67
Disorderly Conduct	55
Criminal mischief/Vandalism	41
Assault, minor injury	39
Ungovernable Juvenile	35
Partner or Family Member Assault	35
Obstrucing a Peace Officer	20

# TRAFFIC

The primary focus of MPD Traffic Officers is to promote roadway safety and prevent crashes through education and enforcement. This is accomplished by utilizing both motorcycles and patrol cars. RADAR and LIDAR are used to enforce speed regulations.



## High Risk Intersections

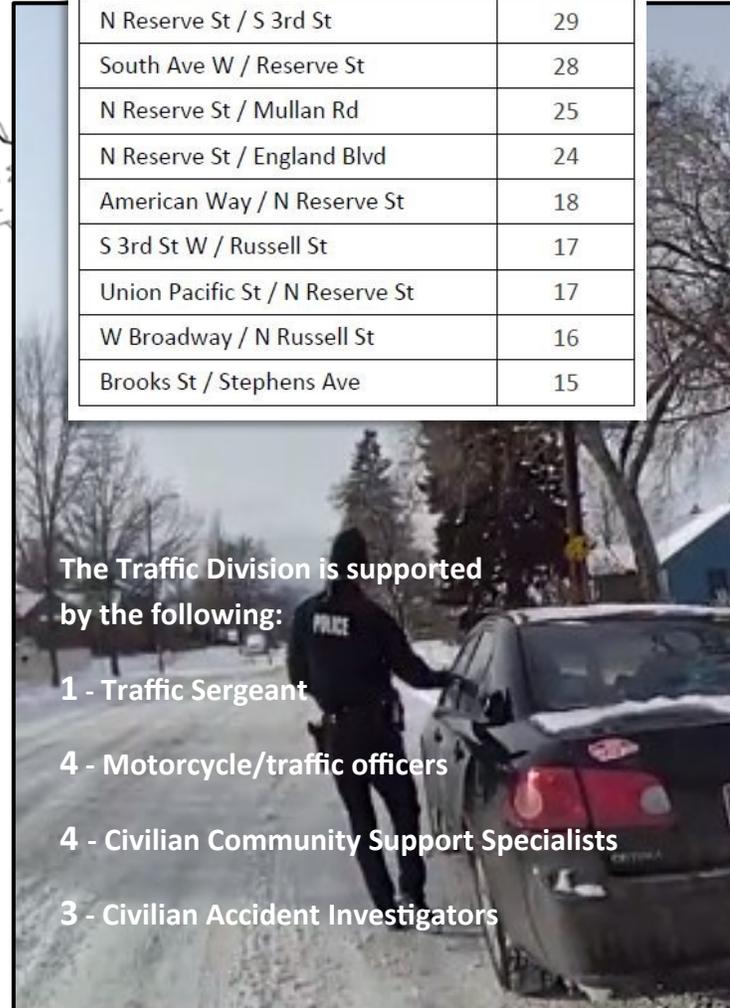
	Number of Accidents
Brooks St / Reserve St	43
N Reserve St / S 3rd St	29
South Ave W / Reserve St	28
N Reserve St / Mullan Rd	25
N Reserve St / England Blvd	24
American Way / N Reserve St	18
S 3rd St W / Russell St	17
Union Pacific St / N Reserve St	17
W Broadway / N Russell St	16
Brooks St / Stephens Ave	15

## 2023 Traffic Accident Statistics

	2021	2022	2023
Total Accidents	2,550	2,843	2,742
Hit & Run	718	767	698
Injury Crash	336	326	370
Non-injury	1,602	1,667	1,598
Vehicle vs. Bike/Pedestrian	70	76	76
Fatalities	6	7	7

### More Statistics....

DUI's	386	437	462
Traffic Stops	7,284	8,807	10,145
Citations Issued	5,789	6,438	6,845
Follow up Investigations	204	174	78



The Traffic Division is supported by the following:

- 1 - Traffic Sergeant
- 4 - Motorcycle/traffic officers
- 4 - Civilian Community Support Specialists
- 3 - Civilian Accident Investigators

# BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT(BID)

The Missoula Police Department in partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID), funds the department's two BID Officers. Officers Amanda Hardin and Garrett Brown have excelled in these very important positions. Our BID Officers work to build rapport with the downtown business owners, their employees, and the public with an emphasis on community policing. They take proactive enforcement action when behaviors that negatively affect Missoula's downtown are identified. Both officers work frequently with the Mobile Support Team (MST) and the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) to get homeless individuals access to necessary services while also fulfilling their responsibility to the safety and security of the Business Improvement District. The BID Officers knowledge of the downtown businesses and those that frequent this area play a vital role in being able to quickly identify suspects and notice shifting crime trends.

## Notable Casework

### Sexual Abuse of Children

Officer Brown responded to a coffee shop on Higgins Avenue for a report of sexual abuse of children. A female stated an older male came into the coffee shop and sat next to an underage juvenile female. The older male suspect offered money to the juvenile female to have sex with him. The male suspect also asked the juvenile female if she had any friends who would be interested in having sex with him. Brown identified the male suspect, interviewed several witnesses, and consulted with detectives. The suspect was taken into custody, arrested, and held on a \$200,000 bond for sexual abuse of children.

### Loitering and Disorderly Conduct

Officer Hardin assisted a local law firm that was having consistent issues with homeless individuals loitering and being disorderly on and around private property. Employees of the firm reported increased camping near their business which resulted in employees feeling unsafe arriving at and leaving work. Officer Hardin increased officer presence in the area, resulting in decreased urban camping and safer access for employees.

### Downtown Business Improvement District Ten Highest Volume Calls for Service for 2023

Theft	166
Found Property	125
Driving Under the Influence	94
Assault	87
Criminal Mischief	74
Accident - Hit and Run	72
Disorderly Conduct	69
Disturbance	61
Trespassing	45
Vandalism	28

### Theft of Lost or Mislaid Property

Officer Brown investigated a case in the downtown area where a citizen lost an envelope containing \$6,000.00 cash. Officer Brown was able to develop a suspect using surveillance footage and witness interviews. He then located the suspect and recovered all of the money within a couple of hours. The suspect was charged with Theft of Lost or Mislaid Property.



# STREET CRIMES UNIT (SCU)

The Missoula Police Department's Street Crimes Unit (SCU) are plain clothes officers specializing in targeted enforcement based on community needs and crime trends. Our SCU Officers are cross deputized as Task Force Officers with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and work very closely with our federal partners and members of Missoula's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force. Much of SCU's focus during 2023 was geared towards battling the proliferation of fentanyl in our community and identifying those suspects that use or possess firearms in furtherance of their drug crimes.

## Notable Cases

### Missoula Drug Trafficking Organization

An investigation was initiated by MPD Patrol after an interview with a confidential source in 2022 and continued into mid-2023. The investigation involved six suspects from Missoula who were known to investigators as being involved in drug distribution. The investigation involved interviews with potential witnesses, controlled purchases, numerous search warrants of vehicles, phones, a residence, and a highway interdiction traffic stop. **During the investigation, approximately 5 lbs. of methamphetamine, 13,445 fentanyl pills, 3g of powder fentanyl, 32g of cocaine, 8 firearms, and \$26,500 were seized.** Interviews showed the Sinaloa Cartel sourced the group via connections in Washington and was responsible for distributing over 50 lbs. of methamphetamine and over 50,000 fentanyl pills in the Missoula area. All six suspects have been federally charged and are awaiting a Grand Jury in early 2024.

### Traffic Stop Elicits Large Drug Bust and Firearm Seizure

An investigation began in the spring of 2023 via information from a confidential source. The source provided information on a suspect distributing large amounts of cocaine in Missoula and Polson. The investigation included numerous controlled purchases of cocaine from the suspect and multiple search warrants.

The suspect was apprehended at an interdiction traffic stop and found in possession of **approximately ½ lb. of cocaine and a firearm.** A search warrant was executed at his residence in Polson, leading to the seizure of more cocaine and firearms. The suspect pled guilty to federal drug charges and was sentenced to federal prison.

## 2023 Federal Case Outcomes

- 6 Convicted/pled guilty, with several awaiting sentencing in the spring of 2024
- 2 Cases involved cooperation with local DEA
- 1 Case recovered a stolen firearm suppressor
- 2 Cases are actively ongoing

\* Three cases are awaiting a Grand Jury in early 2024



Officer administers Narcan to man overdosing.

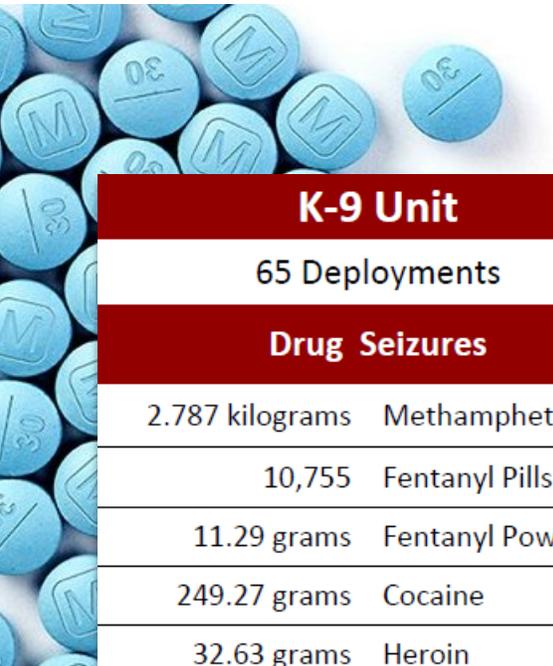
# K-9 UNIT

The Missoula Police Department's K-9 Unit had a total of 65 deployments in 2023. These deployments included area searches, article searches, apprehension, drug sniffs and SWAT callouts. Of those deployments, 43 were related to detection work.

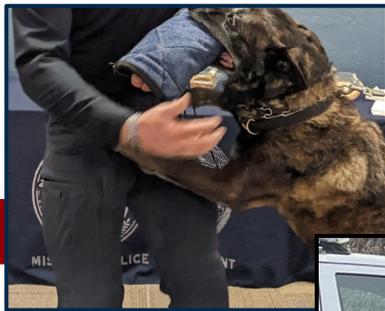
2023 was the first full year for Officer Nathan Champa and K-9 Zip. They train weekly on all aspects of patrol and detection work. Their bond and partnership continues to strengthen.

On December 21, 2023, our department retired Officer Todd Horton's K-9, Jip, from police duty. Jip served the City of Missoula for over seven years. During his time at the MPD, Jip was called to assist on various high risk SWAT operations as well countless requests for apprehension, building clearing, article searches and drug work for our patrol division and our numerous law enforcement partners in the area.

MPD is expected to find K-9 Jip's replacement sometime in 2024.



K-9 Unit	
65 Deployments	
Drug Seizures	
2.787 kilograms	Methamphetamine
10,755	Fentanyl Pills
11.29 grams	Fentanyl Powder
249.27 grams	Cocaine
32.63 grams	Heroin
31.9 grams	Mushrooms
29.8 grams	Ketamine



## K-9 Jip Retired

December 21, 2023



Officer Todd Horton and Jip



Officer Nate Champa and Zip



# MISDEMEANOR INVESTIGATIONS

Due to ongoing staffing issues, the Missoula Police Department has not had officers in these two positions since January of 2023. We regularly have around 2,000 misdemeanor cases per year that require some level of follow-up. When we are unable to staff the Misdemeanor Investigations positions, this responsibility falls to officers on the street, increasing their workload and taking them away from being able to engage in proactive policing. Having these positions filled allows investigators to take a closer look at these cases, the majority of which are theft related, and hold those offenders accountable. Although these cases do not fall under violent offenses, they reflect on the quality of life in Missoula and are very important to those affected.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

School Resource Officers (SROs) are sworn law enforcement officers responsible for the safety and crime prevention in schools. They work closely with school administrators in an effort to create a safer environment for both students and staff. The six MPD SROs cover 17 schools, ranging from Kindergarten to 12th Grade.

## School Resource Officer (SRO) 2023 Calls for Service (CFS)

Total CFS on school grounds	1,347
Runaways	48
Minor in Possession	79
Drugs	12
Privacy in Communication	11
Major Incident - Active Shooter Threat	1

**3,073**  
Total Calls Handled  
by SRO's in 2023

**Examples of Privacy in Communications** would include, when *electronic* communication has the purpose of:

- Intimidating, threatening, or harassing or injure a person or makes repeated use of obscene or profane language
- Attempting to extort money
- Recording communication by using a hidden electronic device with the intent to harass or harm someone
- Publishing electronic photos of an identifiable person without their consent
- Visible genitals or intimate parts
- A person depicted in a sexual act

### The power of a picture - Be in the know

- Did you know that Montana law states any person, regardless of age, who creates, disseminates, or possesses a sexually explicit image of a minor, can be charged with sexual abuse of children?
- Please keep open lines of communication with your children, remind them that any text message, photo, or video can be made public. Nothing "disappears" online or in apps.
- What someone promises are "for their eyes only" often does not remain that way. Once you send something, you don't have control over where it goes next.



# COMMUNITY SERVICE SPECIALISTS

Community Service Specialists (CSS) are non-sworn employees that respond to non-emergent situations, leaving officers available for dispatch to criminal complaints. CSS employees assist with traffic control at crash scenes, collect video evidence from business, conduct extra patrols around parks and trails, assist with parking/abandoned vehicle complaints throughout the city, handle hazard complaints, and help with property release.

In 2023, CSS employees logged a total of 10,184 specific tasks that they performed while on duty. They assisted with 995 abandoned vehicles/trailers, collected evidence or property on 995 cases, responded to 240 parking violation complaints, picked up 48 abandoned bicycles in the city, and directed traffic on hundreds of vehicle crashes throughout the year. There are many other functions that the CSS employees do, this is just a brief overview of how important they are to the police department. There were only two of four CSS positions filled for most of 2023, at the end of the year there was only one. As of March 2024, all four CSS employee positions have been filled.

# SPECIAL TEAMS (SWAT)

## Special Weapons and Tactics



### Mission and Objective

The mission of the Missoula Police Department (MPD) Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) is to protect life.

The objective of MPD SWAT is to resolve higher risk police operations or crisis situations while minimizing the risk of injury or loss of life to parties involved, innocent bystanders, and residents of the Missoula Community.

This team is specifically designed to support and supplement the MPD's ability to respond to extraordinary events that carry a higher risk of injury and/or death. Such events include but are not limited to:

- High-risk search/arrest warrant service
- Barricaded subjects
- Hostage situations and emergency hostage rescue
- In progress incidents of mass violence (Active Shooter)
- Riot/Civil Disturbance
- Terrorist Attacks
- Any other situation requiring advanced training, equipment, or personnel beyond the capabilities of Uniformed Patrol Officers and/or Detectives for which the unit has been trained.



In 2023, the SWAT team was deployed **twice** in response to critical incidents.

The incidents involved the following situations:

- Apprehension of a suspected wanted for the crime of Felony Assault with a Weapon believed to be armed with a knife and various other unknown weapons barricaded inside of a trailer.
- At the request of the Mineral County Sheriff's Office to assist tactical teams from around the state in apprehending several robbery suspects out of Idaho who had been involved in a high-speed pursuit, an officer involved shooting, and were currently believed to be barricaded in a casino with multiple hostages while armed with various firearms.

In addition, members of SWAT provided security in collaboration with UMPD at seven University of Montana sporting events. SWAT was also consulted and/or activated numerous times for a variety of high-risk situations that were safely resolved prior to deployment.



In 2023, MPD applied for and was awarded a Department of Homeland Security Grant to fund a new **LENCO BEARCAT G3 Armored Rescue Vehicle**. This grant request was made based on advanced planning for the current armored vehicle's end of service life.

# SPECIAL TEAMS (CNT)

## Crisis Negotiations Teams



The mission of the Missoula Police Department Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) is to support the Missoula Police Department and SWAT team by safely and effectively mitigating crisis situations through communication and negotiation. CNT accomplishes this mission by maintaining a highly professional and disciplined negotiations team through additional training, equipment, and personnel. CNT members work in collaboration to de-escalate and effect safe surrender in critical situations to include but not limited to:

- Barricaded Subjects
- Hostage Situations
- Violent and emotionally disturbed persons
- Persons in crisis

**All CNT members are  
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained**

The objective of the CNT is to peacefully resolve crisis situations while minimizing the risk of injury or loss of life to parties involved, innocent bystanders, and residents of the Missoula Community. The CNT accomplishes this by employing crisis intervention tactics, including de-escalation efforts, through communication while continually providing field and SWAT command elements with intelligence should tactical action be required.

CNT deploys in conjunction with SWAT during all operations regardless of the situations to ensure the above-mentioned resources and expertise are readily available should they become necessary and/or applicable. In addition, CNT continually works in conjunction with members of the Uniformed Patrol Division and Mobile Support Team to further its mission to de-escalate and effect safe surrender of emotionally disturbed persons and/or persons in crisis.

In 2023 the Missoula Police Department purchased and outfitted a new mobile Crisis Negotiations Center.



# SPECIAL TEAMS (EOD)

## Explosive Ordnance Disposal

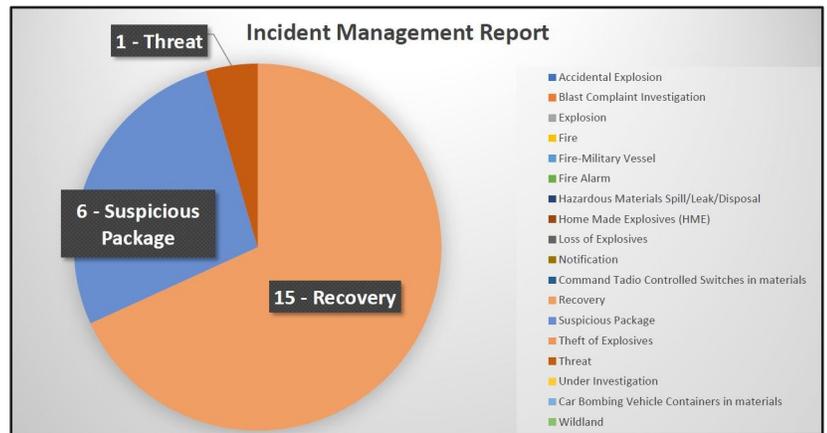


Include Jake's pie chart

### Mission and Objective

The mission of the Missoula Regional Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD) is to preserve life, limit destruction of property, and restore order during high-risk situations involving the use, or threatened use of explosives, nuclear, biological, chemical, or other hazardous elements. Major services provided include:

- Investigation of suspicious packages
- Render safe operations performed on explosive devices
- Disposal of found explosive materials
- Collection and preservation of evidence at bombing scenes
- Post blast crime scene investigations
- Dignitary protection
- Training programs on bomb threat awareness, safety, and explosive device identification
- Technical support to Special Operations



EOD accomplishes this mission by maintaining a nationally accredited Bomb Squad staffed by members of the Missoula Police Department, Missoula County Sheriff's Office, and the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office; all of which are federally certified Bomb Technicians. Missoula EOD is a regional team which responds to explosive related calls throughout western Montana. Bomb Technicians may serve as liaisons to Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies investigating explosive related matters including but not limited to:

- Bomb threats
- Improvised explosive devices (IEDs)
- Incendiary devices (IIDs)
- Hoax devices
- Illegal use of explosives
- Misuse of explosives
- Found military, consumer, or commercial explosives and/or pyrotechnics



# ABANDONED VEHICLE PROGRAM

The abandoned vehicle program is driven by citizen complaints of vehicles they suspect to be abandoned on the public right of way.

The Abandoned Vehicle Coordinator works to resolve complaints by identifying and contacting the vehicle owners and requesting they move/remove their vehicles. The ultimate goal of the Abandoned Vehicle Program is to ensure compliance with the abandoned vehicle ordinance without having to tow any vehicles.

Those working in the Abandoned Vehicle Program also work with owners that no longer want their vehicle and may not have the ability to dispose of them by referring them to the Missoula County Junk Vehicle Program. In cases where we cannot locate or work with the owner, a release is created to have the vehicle removed by the Junk Vehicle Coordinator. This saves the city resources such as towing or storing the junk vehicle.

Abandoned vehicles are eventually sold at public auction if not reclaimed by the owner.

**Applicable city ordinances 10.22.060 and 10.22.120**



Follow link to > [Missoula County Junk Vehicle Program](#)

## What is a "Junk Vehicle"?

Defined as any discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled motor vehicle, including component parts, which is not lawfully and validly licensed, and remains inoperative or incapable of being driven. For a vehicle to be deemed "junk," it must meet ALL three parts of this definition.



**21 vehicles towed to MPD's lot; 3 were reclaimed.**

### Junk Vehicles:

- 70 vehicles were referred to the Missoula County Health Department and were towed for recycling.
- 59 vehicles were police department referrals.
- 11 vehicles were registered owner referrals.  
*(registered owners contacted the county to have the vehicle towed after we marked it)*

# CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT)

## Missoula Crisis Intervention Team Program Mission Statement

The Missoula Crisis Intervention Team Program is a community health improvement framework promoting the health and safety of community members and professionals before, during, and after a behavioral health crisis by enhancing opportunities for individuals in crisis to connect with the right response, at the right time, every time.

(Drafted Fall 2023 as part of an external program evaluation with the University of Minnesota)

In 2023, Missoula's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) continued promoting the **'right response, at the right time, every time,'** for anyone in need of behavioral health crisis response services. By strategically involving behavioral health, advocacy, law enforcement, and first responders as instructors and presenters in community meetings and trainings, and connectors to services and resources, the program offers comprehensive crisis response, **prioritizing safety and trauma-informed care coordination for those in need.**



### Team Program Staff

- Theresa Williams, LCSW, CMHPP, Program Manager  
[williamst@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:williamst@ci.missoula.mt.us)
- Jes Kumm, MA, MSW Candidate, Workforce Development & Training Coordinator
- Mary Parrish, MS, Research & Evaluation Analyst
- Matthew Feth, MSW Candidate, Wellness & Resource Access Program
- Terence Shelly, MSW Candidate, Wellness & Resource Access Program

# Detective Division



The Missoula Police Department Detective Division consists of 21 sworn Detectives and two non-sworn transcriptionists. In addition, we benefit from the assistance of one University of Montana Police Department (UMPD) detective, and one crime victim advocate (CVA) from the Community Justice Department. Both of these co-located resources ensure victim-centered investigations and provide valuable coordination and communication between the UM community and the MPD. The detectives were assigned 1,257 investigations in 2023, with Felonious Assaults rating the highest investigation type. Over 71% of Detective Investigations were referred to the Missoula County Attorney's Office.

## Notable Cases

### **ASSAULT WITH A WEAPON/INTIMIDATION, Case #2023-9149**

#### **Lead Investigator Guy Baker**

On March 9, 2023, shortly after 5:00 AM, Officers responded to a report of a female who stated she ran from a male, who was holding her at gunpoint. The suspect, Lance Gendreau, was reported to be in a vehicle which was quickly located by officers. A handgun, methamphetamine, and a baggie of pills were subsequently located on his person. Detective Baker later conducted an interview of the female victim, who reported Gendreau threatened to kill her and demanded she get into his vehicle with him. Gendreau reportedly held the victim hostage while looking for another subject who he believed stole his drugs. The victim was able to run away when Gendreau was distracted and immediately called 9-1-1. A short time later Gendreau's vehicle was located near Spruce and Ryman, officers conducted a high risk stop taking Gendreau into custody. Lance Gendreau pled guilty to Assault with a Weapon, Intimidation, and Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs. On December 29, 2023, he was sentenced to 10 years and is not eligible for parole for a minimum of 30 months.

### **ROBBERY, Case #2023-53387**

#### **Lead Investigator Guy Baker**

Shortly after 7:00 PM on December 7, 2023, Officers responded to a report of a male being attacked and transported to the hospital as a result of an unprovoked assault. The assault was captured on camera, confirming the victim's report the suspect struck the victim, knocking him to the ground. While he was on the ground, the suspect then punched the victim in the head and then kicked the victim several times. The suspect then goes through the victim's pockets while the victim was laying on his back. The suspect, Michael Heavy Runner, was later located at the Johnson Street Shelter. Detective Baker interviewed involved parties and obtained evidence, which resulted in Michael Heavy Runner being charged with Robbery. He entered an Alford Plea to that charge on February 16, 2024, and was sentenced to 5 years with three suspended.



# Detective Division



## Notable Cases

### **FELONY ASSAULT, Case #2023-13583**

#### **Lead Investigator Nate Griesse**

On April 6, 2023, Officers responded to a report of a male vandalizing a vehicle in downtown Missoula. The suspect was determined to be the vehicle owner's ex-boyfriend, Alan Wright. Officers' investigation revealed Wright committed several offenses against the victim between March and April of 2023. Detective Griesse subsequently investigated the crimes Wright committed under four separate cases and compiled them to a single master case. These investigations revealed repeated domestic violence perpetrated against the victim by Wright under numerous offenses. The offenses investigated included Partner/Family Member Assault, Unlawful Restraint, Criminal Destruction of or Tampering with Communication Device, Criminal Mischief, Carrying Concealed Weapon While Under Influence, Obstructing a Peace Officer or Public Servant, Assault and Criminal Trespass to Property. Alan Wright was initially charged with numerous offenses by the Missoula County Attorney's Office and ultimately plead guilty to Strangulation of a Partner/Family Member (MCA 45-5-215) and Assault with a Weapon (MCA 45-5-213). Alan Wright pled guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in the Montana State Prison.



### **FELONY THEFT BY COMMON SCHEME Case #2023-14342**

#### **Lead Investigator Jeff Lloyd**

MPD Det. Jeff Lloyd and Missoula County Sheriff's Office Detectives were assigned a combined 17 cases for a suspected theft by common scheme in the City and County. The common theme between each of the involved cases is that the victims would use the "Nextdoor App" to solicit various types of labor or services from potential contractors specializing in anything from home repair to auto repair. Individuals would then be connected with a local provider, which was James Loeber. This occurred between November, 2022 and April, 2023.

In general, victims would contact Loeber for services and he would take a cash deposit or pre-payment. Loeber would then refuse to perform the work and cease contact with the victims. The financial loss from the ten victims exceeds \$21,000 to date. James Richard Loeber remains a suspect at large and has a \$50,000 warrant for his arrest. If anyone knows of his whereabouts, please contact 911, your local law enforcement agency, or make an anonymous report to Crimestoppers.

# Detective Division



## Notable Cases

### **HOMICIDE, Case #2023-19366**

#### **Lead Investigator Ethan Smith**

In May 2023, a male called 9-1-1 to report he found his mother unconscious and covered in blood at the bottom of the stairs. The female was determined to be deceased and detectives were called to the scene. The victim's throat had been cut and a homicide investigation was initiated. Detectives executed a search warrant on the residence and interviewed the 9-1-1 caller. By the end of that interview, there was probable cause to charge Miles Miller with Homicide. Additional search warrants and interviews were conducted resulting in Miller, being charged with Homicide and Tampering with Evidence. Miller is scheduled to stand trial in June 2024.



*Officers working to take fugitive into custody.*

### **SEX ASSAULT, involving a minor, Case #2022-46469**

#### **Lead Investigator Jesse Potter**

In mid-November 2022, Detective Jesse Potter was assigned to investigate a report of Sexual Assault involving a minor, which occurred in August through October of 2022. During the course of his investigation, Detective Potter learned of another case where the same suspect was reported to sexually assault another juvenile family member in February 2009. Numerous interviews and search warrants were completed by April of 2023 and resulted in Detective Potter recommending charges to the County Attorney's Office against suspect, Larry Johnson, for Felony Aggravated Sexual Intercourse without Consent (MCA 45-5-508), Felony Sexual Assault (MCA 45-5-502), Felony Attempted Sexual Assault (MCA 45-5-502), and Felony Indecent exposure (MCA 45-5-504). Johnson is scheduled to stand trial on July 30, 2024.

### **STRANGULATION OF PARTNER OR FAMILY MEMBER, Case#2023-14858**

#### **Lead Investigator Devin Erickson**

On April 14, 2023, an officer was dispatched to make contact with a victim regarding a burglary she reported the previous day. At that time, she wished to report a family member assault that occurred on approximately January 14, 2020. Despite the reported events occurring years earlier, Detective Erickson conducted a thorough investigation, obtaining numerous names of outcry witnesses who were aware of the violence by the suspect, perpetrated against the victim. The suspect, Tracy Vaughn, was subsequently charged with Felony Strangulation of a Partner or Family Member, Misdemeanor Partner or Family Member Assault, and Felony Tampering with Witnesses and Informants. A \$50,000 warrant was issued for Vaughn's arrest; he was taken into custody quickly and without incident. He has since posted bail and is scheduled for a jury trial in September 2024.

# Detective Division



## Notable Cases

### **SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN, Cases #2023-6518 & #2023-37819**

#### **Lead ICAC Investigator Josh Harris**

In February 2023, an officer received a report of disturbing text messages from multiple Text Now numbers. It appeared whoever was texting was exposing their male genitalia with photographs of the complainant and the complainant's daughter in the background. The disturbing statements and images sent revealed a public safety concern for the victim. Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Detective Harris completed numerous search warrants to obtain digital information from social media and other platforms. This ultimately revealed the suspect to be John Kuka, Jr. who was charged with Indecent Exposure, Privacy in Communications, Stalking, and two counts of Sexual Abuse of Children. He was sentenced to the Montana State Prison for 10 years with five years suspended.

In August 2023, a probation officer reported Tucker Neville had an unauthorized cellular phone in his possession and suspected it contained child pornography. The responding officer seized Neville's phones and Detective Harris was subsequently assigned the investigation. He was granted search warrants for the phones and discovered several account names used by Neville. It was apparent Neville was actively searching for child sexual abuse material. Additional search warrants were obtained for multiple social media and online accounts. Detective Harris recovered hundreds of images and numerous videos of child sexual abuse material as a result of the investigation. Tucker Neville was subsequently charged with several counts of Sexual Abuse of Children. He ultimately entered a plea of guilty and sentenced to 90 years with 60 suspended and a 10 year parole restriction.

Detective Harris also concluded investigations which included offenders discovered to be in Lake County, Missoula County and the United Kingdom. Nathan Plemmons from Arlee pled guilty to Sexual Assault of a Minor in Lake County and is scheduled to be sentenced on April 2024. This was the result of Detective Harris following up on a Cybertip. Jack Brennan received a 10-year sentence for Sexual Abuse of Children in the United Kingdom. A co-conspirator of Brennan's, Bobby Argo, pled guilty to federal charges and was sentenced to 6 years in prison. This investigation was initiated from an underage female in Missoula being blackmailed to provide sexual images. As a result of Detective Harris' investigation into Brennan, six other children in the country were identified and rescued from Brennan.



# Detective Division



## Missoula Drug Task Force

The Missoula Drug Task Force is a multijurisdictional team working under the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) consisting of federal, state and local agencies working collaboratively to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations. With the increase in fentanyl overdoses, the task force's efforts resulted in a 135% increase in fentanyl seizures over the amount seized in 2022, and over 14 times the amount seized in 2021. Fentanyl arrests increased by over 55% when compared to 2022, and over five times the number of arrests in 2021.

Heroin seizures have seriously declined and arrests are virtually non-existent due to increased quantity of fentanyl in Missoula.

Cocaine seizures increased over 70% from last year while the quantity of methamphetamine seized has declined.



## CRIMINAL POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE

**Case #2023-41375**

**Lead Investigator Rico Suazo**

On September 19, 2023, Officer Holmgren was on a Patrol Shift and was informed by Detective Suazo a suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2400 block of North Reserve with foot and bicycle traffic coming and going from the vehicle. Officer Holmgren stopped the vehicle, which was displaying inactive license plates. Detective Suazo and Missoula Police Canine Officer Champa also responded to the scene. Both officers observed drug paraphernalia in plain view inside the vehicle. Officer Champa utilized his dog to perform an exterior sniff on the vehicle and his dog alerted. The vehicle was towed and a search warrant was obtained.

**Methamphetamine, Cocaine, powdered Fentanyl and approximately 1,738 Fentanyl pills** were recovered in the search. Further investigation included obtaining surveillance video and having the drugs tested at the Montana State Crime Lab. Marcos Barbe-Castillo, was sentenced to 20 years with 5 years suspended in the Montana State Prison.



# Administrative Division



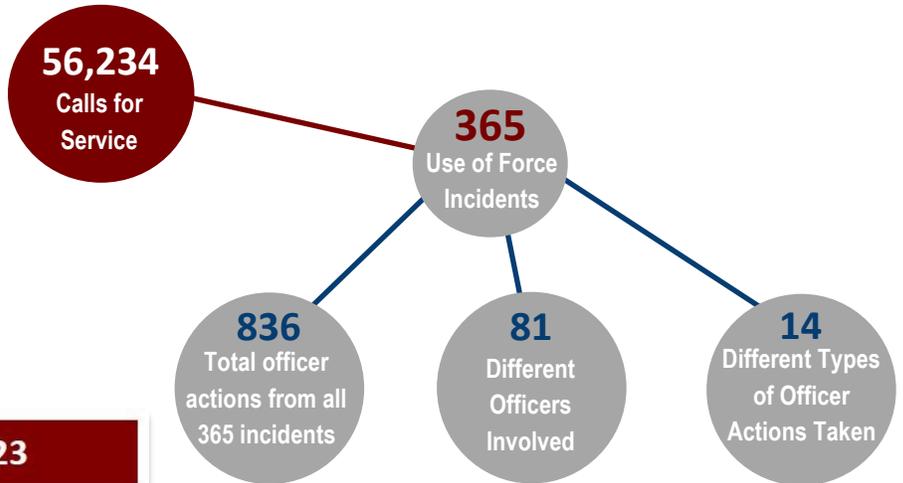
Photo by Michael Rosling

- ◆ **Office of Professional Standards**
- ◆ **Training Unit**
- ◆ **Records Unit**
- ◆ **Volunteer Program**



# OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) is responsible for processing all complaints and investigations regarding the conduct of Missoula Police Department employees. All complaints received by the MPD are taken seriously, and are investigated thoroughly in an effort to uphold and maintain the integrity of the MPD and its employees.



## Use of Force Incidents in 2023

Officer's Action/Response	Number of Incidents	Percentage of Total Incidents
Department Vehicle	5	0.60%
Firearm Pointed	195	23.33%
*Firearm Fired	0	0.00%
K-9 Deployed	3	0.36%
Peacekeeper Baton	0	0.00%
Flash Sound Diversionary Device	2	0.24%
Less Lethal Pointed	1	0.12%
Less Lethal Deployed	5	0.60%
Chemical Munitions	4	0.48%
Taser Pointed	51	6.10%
Taser Deployed	28	3.35%
Personal Weapons	492	58.85%
The Wrap Restraint Device	49	5.86%
Hobble Restraint	1	0.12%
<b>Total Actions Taken</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Use of Force Summary

In 2023, the Missoula Police Department reported 365 incidents where at least one use of force (UOF) action was used against a subject, resulting in 836 total UOF actions. There can be multiple UOF actions in a single incident by one or multiple officers. In 2023, MPD received **56,234 calls for service and of that, less than one percent resulted in at least one UOF action.**

MPD had an increase of 4,281 Calls for Service over the previous year

\*No Officer Involved Shootings

- "Personal Weapons" means officers utilized physical hand/foot actions and control techniques against the subject.

**MPD administered 36 doses of Narcan to 27 different individuals**

## Use of Naloxone (NARCAN) in 2023

Naloxone (also referred to as product name NARCAN) is a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. It is an opioid antagonist—meaning that it binds to opioid receptors and can reverse and block the effects of other opioids, such as heroin, morphine, and oxycodone.

Naloxone is able to be administered through several different methods. This includes an autoinjector, a syringe, a nasal spray, and an atomizer. Although traditionally naloxone was administered only by emergency response personnel, today it can be administered by minimally trained laypeople. Missoula police officers have been equipped and utilizing Naloxone since 2017.

MPD currently uses the nasal spray method of administering Naloxone. The intranasal spray consists of 4mg of Naloxone per dose. It requires no assembly which makes for easy use.



# OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARD

## Citizen Complaints Summary

During 2023, MPD received 79 citizen complaint allegations, stemming from 33 incidents. Each incident may list a number of allegations within, denoting a higher number of findings compared to the number of complaints filed. During the course of a complaint investigation, complaint investigators may also identify additional violations by the employee (s), unbeknownst to the complainant which are then added to the final findings report.

\*\*\*These numbers do not include violations and findings from internally generated Investigations.

Type of Complaint/Violation	
Bias	5
Conduct	25
Criminal Offense	0
Driving Traffic	1
Harrassment	3
Procedure	41
Use of Force	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>

The City of Missoula Police Commission holds quarterly meetings to review complaints brought against Missoula Police Department employees and reports its findings to the Mayor. On behalf of the Mayor, the Missoula Police Commission holds hearings at the request of complainants who are not satisfied with the Missoula Police Department's resolution of complaints.

Complaint Findings	
Exonerated	21
Unfounded	26
Non Sustained	4
No Finding	2
Sustained	21
Inquiry	5
Pending	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>

### Findings:

Exonerated	The acts that formed the basis for the complaint or allegation did occur, but were justified, lawful, and proper according to departmental policy or standard operating procedures.
Unfounded	The investigation conclusively proved that the act or act complained of did not occur.
Non Sustained	The investigation failed to discover sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations made.
No Finding	The investigation cannot proceed because the complainant failed to disclose promised information to further the investigation; or the complainant wishes to withdraw the complaint; or the complainant is no longer available for clarification. This finding may also be used when the information provided is not sufficient to determine the identity of the officer(s) or employee(s) involved.
Sustained	The investigation disclosed a preponderance of evidence to prove the allegation(s) made.
Inquiry	If during the investigation it is determined that a citizen is merely requesting clarification of a policy or procedure, that complaint, with the concurrence of the investigating supervisor's commanding officer, may be considered an inquiry.

# TRAINING UNIT

**AVOID/DENY/DEFEND**

## Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE)

For over a decade Missoula Police Officers have been actively training on the topic of Active Shooter (Active Attack) Events. In 2020, we adapted the ALERRT model and established trainers within our agency. In 2023, we started the CRASE working group to provide citizens, businesses, and other community partners the opportunity to become educated on Active Attack events and how they can prepare and be ready to survive such a traumatic event. In September 2023, the MPD partnered with the Life Long Learning Center to host of the trainings at their facility. To date, we have conducted **over a dozen classes**, equating to a total of **157 attendees**.

### MPD CRASE Instructors:

- Lydia Arnold (Lead)
- Khai Tran
- Kali Matt
- Ryan Kamura
- Kayla Chezick
- Mark Puddy
- Charles Burton
- Matt Kazinsky



Since 2002, the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)<sup>™</sup> program at Texas State University has been used to train law enforcement officers across the nation in how to rapidly respond to dangerous active threat situations.

Over the years we've seen response times shorten and the capabilities of law enforcement increase. As a result of increased public awareness, many citizens have asked what they can do to protect themselves and reduce the dangers faced during one of these events. As we've seen that hiding and hoping isn't a very effective strategy, Avoid Deny Defend<sup>®</sup> has been developed as an easy to remember method for civilians of all ages and abilities to follow.

The MPD Training Unit coordinates and instructs many different types of training for all the full time sworn officers, Reserve officers and support staff of the MPD. We strive to provide professional development to all staff to ensure continued learning and growth with classes that are relevant to their job.

The MPD Training Unit brought a total of 34,869 hours of training to its 117 officers in 2023. This training includes time spent at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, our own Advanced Academy, mandatory bi-monthly trainings, recommended and discretionary training. We hired and trained six new full-time officers and three reserve officers.



## Highlights of 2023 Trainings Taught to MPD

- ◆ Crisis Intervention Training
- ◆ FBI LEEDA Supervisory, Executive and Command Leadership
- ◆ Missoula Police Department Advanced Academy-4 weeks
- ◆ First Line Supervisor Training
- ◆ First Responder Trauma and Officer Wellness
- ◆ Firearms Instructor
- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment
- ◆ Desert Snow – Vehicle Interdiction
- ◆ Basic Crime Scene Investigation
- ◆ Implicit Bias
- ◆ Instructor Development
- ◆ Homicide & Death Investigation
- ◆ CPR and Stop the Bleed
- ◆ Interview and Interrogation Techniques
- ◆ Serious Crash Investigations
- ◆ Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents

# RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit is the cornerstone of the Missoula Police Department. They process and maintain the incidents and reports generated by all members of the department. They virtually, if not physically, handle every report that is generated. This entails verifying the information is correct, attaching additional documentation as it is received as part of an investigation, disseminating reports to other law enforcement agencies, prosecuting offices as well as our community's citizens.

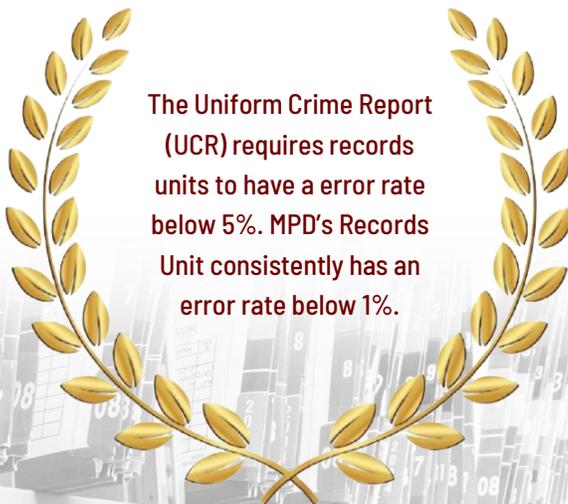
The Records Unit is also responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the criminal records held by the Missoula Police Department. This includes sealing and expunging records according to State and Federal laws.

One of the most important roles of the Records Unit is reviewing, verifying, and submitting crime statistics through the Montana Board of Crime Control according to FBI regulations. This information is completed daily and submitted monthly. In 2023, the Records Unit reviewed 10,448 reports for submission and submitted 6,720 reports. This represents an

## Violent Offense Cases

	2021	2022	2023
Robbery	40	31	37
Rape	72	71	60
Aggravated Assault	442	428	370
Homicide	3	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>470</b>

SOURCE: MBCC



The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) requires records units to have a error rate below 5%. MPD's Records Unit consistently has an error rate below 1%.

## Trend in Violent Crimes

	2022	2022	2023
January	39	39	35
February	42	42	19
March	48	48	41
April	36	36	38
May	42	42	49
June	48	48	51
July	63	63	34
August	49	49	35
September	47	47	43
October	51	51	43
November	33	33	50
December	34	34	30

*Violent crimes include robbery, rape, aggravated assault and homicide.*

SOURCE: Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

## Reports Disseminated

	2021	2022	2023
Crash Reports	1,241	1,320	1,325
Case Reports	2,704	3,304	2,848

## Volume of Incidents, Cases, and Accidents

	2021	2022	2023
Incidents	52,666	52,125	56,406
Cases - All	9,111	9,414	10,448
Cases - Criminal	5,875	6,167	6,720
Accidents	1,819	1,944	1,835

SOURCE: LERMS, MBCC

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Missoula Police Department offers volunteer opportunities for individuals to assist the department in serving the Missoula community. We have a diverse group of retired citizens, students, and working professionals who dedicate their time to the Missoula Police Department. Volunteers donate between four to ten hours of their time each month to the program. Many of our volunteers join the program with the specific intent of enhancing their resumes and looking to get their foot in the door with law enforcement.

## What Volunteers Do...

- Assist with administrative duties
- Paint over graffiti
- Checking abandoned vehicles
- Found bike pick up and processing
- Found property
- Patrol car stocking
- Training scenarios- volunteers act out real life scenarios for officers' trainings
- Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy
- Kids' Fairs in the Missoula community
- Abandoned Vehicle Auctions
- Internship opportunities



Interested in volunteering with MPD? [Visit our webpage](#) or call, 406-529-6300

Found Bikes		
2021	2022	2023
166	198	102

Volunteers Hours Donated	
2023	29 volunteers worked 2,566 hours
2022	30 volunteers worked 2,153 hours
2021	40 volunteers worked 3,673 hours



## Scenario – Based Officer Training

Volunteers and interns support the Administrative Division by facilitating officer trainings, which are crucial during our Advanced Mini Academies and overlap training days. They contribute to various sessions such as SWAT, active shooter, building search, confrontation simulations, tactical medical, and more! We look forward to offering our volunteers and interns opportunities to engage in real-world scenarios, while also aiding our officers in honing their skills for these challenging and potentially dangerous situations they may face in the Missoula Community. In total, volunteers and interns contributed over 150 hours for scenario-based training in 2023. These scenarios provide an excellent opportunity for students or other individuals aspiring towards a career in law enforcement, to gain a deep understanding of the profession and engage directly with our officers.

## Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program

Since our AED program was launched in 2020, we successfully have implemented 30 fully operational AEDs for patrol use. Volunteers and interns play a crucial role in maintaining, updating software, and refurbishing these AEDs. This program significantly enhances our officers' effectiveness on patrol, leading to improved community outcomes. Given that law enforcement officers are often the first responders equipped to utilize AEDs, we expect the rate of AED usage to continue rising as confidence in their usage among MPD officers grows.

Over 30 individuals in the Missoula community received life-saving assistance via AED devices administered by MPD officers.

### Average survival rate using AED's:

21% - MPD average

10% - National average

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

## Exchange Club Officer of the Year



**Officer Christian Cameron**

## Domestic Violence Awareness Officer of the Year



**Officer Lydia Arnold**

*We recognize the members of the Missoula Police Department who, through various acts, have distinguished themselves as rising to the highest levels of service to our community and our organization.*

## Police Medal

*Awarded for actions above and beyond the call of duty, but where the gallantry is of a lesser degree than for the Medal of Valor but performed with marked distinction.*

### Officer Michael Hoffman & Sergeant Kasey Williams

For their quick, decisive and selfless actions in responding to a structure fire and assisting a non-ambulatory female out of the building filled with thick, dark, heavy smoke.

## Lifesaving Medal

*Awarded for the conspicuous actions of an officer leading to the saving of a human life.*

### Officer Michael Hoffman

For his actions in rendering aid to a suicidal female who had a shoelace (that was still attached to her shoe) tied round her neck, preventing her from getting oxygen.

### Officer Sean McGregor

For his quick response after arriving on scene to a victim who was not breathing and had no pulse, using the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and completing chest compressions until medical arrived.

### Officer Sheff Halsey

For his actions in rendering aid to a non-compliant suicidal male armed with a knife who had cut an artery.

## Lifesaving Medal cont'd...

### Corporal Alexis Berger

For his actions in responding to a barricaded uncooperative male who had a life-threatening laceration to his arm, leading to the needed use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

## Meritorious Service Medal

*Awarded for service that is distinguished by a succession of outstanding acts of achievement over a sustained period of time.*

### Officer Kali Matt

For performing admirably and beyond expectation within her School Resource Officer (SRO) role and voluntarily creating/implementing various new duties and responsibilities to aid in the relationship between MPD and Missoula County Public Schools.

### Officer Kurt Trowbridge

Awarded for his exceptional work on misdemeanor investigations allowing the citizens of Missoula's property to be returned and their voices to be heard, while allowing on duty officers to remain on the street to answer calls for service.

### Detective Clark Nissley, Officer Brandon O'Dell & Officer Casey Harvey

For exemplary work in investigating and completing several large scale narcotics investigations leading to the seizure of illegal narcotics and firearms making a difference in the quality of life for Missoula citizens.

## Certification of Commendation

*A written certificate awarded by a Sergeant or higher for exemplary service or achievement.*

### Officer Mark Monaco (SRO)

Awarded for his vast knowledge of the school he serves and trust within the student body to intercept a disgruntled student who presented to school with a firearm.

### Officer Tim Muis

For his quick and decisive actions while assisting with a hospital transfer for a suspect who had been sedated and started vomiting resulting in lifesaving measures from Officer Muis.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

## Crisis Intervention Team Awards

For handling of specific crisis incidents and their implementation of crisis intervention principles into routine practice.



Officer Khai Tran



Lieutenant Ben Slater (second from right)



Officer Brandon LaRocque

## Promotions

### Assistant Chief

- ◆ Jake Rosling



### Captain

- ◆ Matt Kazinsky
- ◆ Ed McLean



### Lieutenant

- ◆ Pat Erbacher
- ◆ Josh Geissel
- ◆ Kasey Williams

### Sergeant

- ◆ Bob Franke
- ◆ John Griffith
- ◆ Mitch Lang
- ◆ Pat Mulligan
- ◆ Eric Weber (July 2023)



### Corporal

- ◆ Bryce Bare
- ◆ Mike Haderlie
- ◆ Casey Harvey
- ◆ Sam Leyba
- ◆ Canyon McKinstry
- ◆ Tyler Swartz
- ◆ Eric Weber (January 2023)

*Congratulations*

### **Retirees**

- Chief Jaeson White, 3 years of service
- Assistant Chief Scott Hoffman, 30 years of service
- Lieutenant Sean Manraksa, 20 years of service
- Sergeant Collin Rose, 30 years of service
- Detective Connie Brueckner, 20 years of service
- Corporal Shaun Loya, 9 years of service

