2016 Top 100 Safest Cities in America

2017 100 Best Places to Live
2017 Best Places for Millennials
2017 Best Places for Entrepreneurs
Keeping Royal Oak Safe

Royal Oak Police Dept

The City of Royal Oak Police Department // 2017 Annual Report // 3
I am pleased to present the 2017 Royal Oak Police Department Annual Report. Included in this report, you will find operational data, crime statistics, and a variety of other information on police activities.

Royal Oak experienced a big drop in crime in 2017, including a 48 percent drop in burglaries. This decline in burglaries contributed to an overall 15 percent decrease in serious (part A) crime. The decrease in crime compared to last year is very good, but the dramatic change since 2007 is truly incredible. Royal Oak has experienced an 82 percent reduction in burglaries, 77 percent reduction in robberies, 62 percent reduction in larcenies, and a 47 percent drop in overall crime in the last 10 years.

In addition to fighting crime, this year we had a record number of officers being recognized for their help in saving a life. As part of our annual awards, 11 officers will be honored with a lifesaving award. Also, the two sergeants who will be given awards for bravery could have also received awards for lifesaving for their actions.

Our vision is to build Michigan’s premiere law enforcement agency. We remain a forward-thinking department by continuing to seek out innovative training and studying local and national trends. In 2017, all police department employees attended verbal de-escalation training that focused on finding peaceful resolutions to high stress incidences. This training was enhanced with a new interactive MILO system that presents officers with a variety of scenarios to practice and test their de-escalation skills. The training was well received by our department, and a modified version of the simulations were offered to all city employees to assist with customer service issues.

I hope you find this report informative.

Respectfully submitted,
Corrigan P. O’Donohue
Chief of Police / Assistant City Manager
Drug trafficking often involves many layers and suspects operating inside and outside of Michi-
Mission Statement

“To Keep Royal Oak Safe”

Vision Statement

“To build Michigan’s premier police agency that is a recognized leader for efficiency, effectiveness, innovation, and public safety”
Our Core Values

**Integrity**
The Royal Oak Police Department will strive to maintain the highest level of moral values and standards of conduct while demonstrating fairness and equality to those we serve. Integrity is the cornerstone of our profession. It is a sacred quality that is essential to maintain public trust and mutual respect. The Royal Oak Police Department will be steadfast in adherence to a code of moral excellence and incorruptibility. We will maintain a standard of conduct that reinforces the ideals of honesty, accountability and pledge to hold ourselves to the highest legal, moral and ethical standards.

**Loyalty**
The Royal Oak Police Department will be faithful to the highest ideals of law enforcement. We will be loyal to the community in action and deed with the understanding the safety of the citizens of Royal Oak is our primary mission. We will maintain an unwavering allegiance to the law, our profession and those we serve and protect.

**Compassion**
The Royal Oak Police Department will be ever mindful and conscientious of the emotional and physical well being of all those we strive to protect. We will be understanding and by deed, assuage the suffering and provide consolation to all those affected by, or involved in the criminal justice process. We will be pillars of fairness, and, by example, provide solace and an atmosphere where all citizens are equal and protected.

**Courage**
The Royal Oak Police Department will maintain the strength of mind, body and spirit to encounter and withstand danger, fear or difficulty, with firmness and surety of purpose. We will confront difficult situations with confidence and determination to overcome any obstacle put before us. We will put the safety of others above our own and will not hesitate to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

**Service**
The Royal Oak Police Department will demonstrate the desire to contribute to the welfare of others by responding appropriately to the needs and demands of the community. We will put service before self and strive for excellence in all we do. We are committed to faithfully and selflessly performing our duties with the goal of enhancing public safety and reducing the fear of crime. We are dedicated to working with the public to ensure the highest level of service and feeling of security for those we serve.
The Royal Oak Police Department was founded in 1918, marking this our 100-year anniversary. Much has changed in the law enforcement profession over the last century including major advances in technology, equipment, and overall expectations of police officers. We have outgrown our functionally obsolete police station and are close to breaking ground on a new state of the art police headquarters. Although the building will be a much-needed improvement, the people make the organization.

There has been a nationwide drop in qualified applicants looking for a career in law enforcement. Despite these challenges, we have refused to lower our standards and go to great lengths to find suitable candidates. This persistence has paid off and we have hard working police officers who are committed to our CORE values and the public they serve. We continue to build Michigan’s premier law enforcement agency that is a recognized leader in efficiency, effectiveness, innovation, and public safety.
Retirements, Promotions and New Hires

2017 Retirements
- Stacey Sheldon (police service aide)
- Regina Chandler (police service aide)
- Brian Honsowetz (police officer)
- Robert Spellman (police officer)

2017 Promotions
- Tim Brown (police officer to sergeant)
- Rich Millard (detective to sergeant)
- Brooke Williams (pda to police service aide)
- Amber McNeil (pda to police service aide)

2017 New Hires
- Ryan Moran (police officer)
- Sean Staniszewski (police officer)
- Tyler Murray (police officer)
- Ken Kosmack (police officer)
- Kevin Gibson (police officer)
- Stacey Sheldon (p/t police desk attendant)
- Laney Setty (p/t police desk attendant)
- Nicholas Reiter (p/t police desk attendant)
- Robert Spellman (p/t police evidence specialist)
The following sections are comprised of seven key categories:

- Organizational Make-up
- Citizen Complaints
- Lawsuits
- Records Division
- Patrol Division
- Criminal Investigations

## Organizational Make-up

The following table represents a nine-year comparison of the number of personnel budgeted for the Royal Oak Police Department.

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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Chief</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Chief</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detective</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Officer</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Service Aide</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin. Assistant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Records Superv.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clerical/Secretarial</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Records Division consists of one Records Supervisor, three full time Records Clerks, one part-time Records Clerk, and two part time Property Officers.

The Records Division assists the public Monday through Thursday on the telephone or at the counter. Other Records duties include maintaining the department’s electronic records system (CLEAR), checking and issuing Royal Oak residents’ gun permits, registering of weapons, processing of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, ink fingerprinting, conducting vehicle auctions, issuing reports to involved parties and insurance companies, and providing requested report information to the City Attorney’s office and 44th District Court.

In 2017, the Records Division processed the following requests:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Request Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accident Reports requested</td>
<td>388</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incident Reports requested</td>
<td>351</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audio Tape and FOIA Requests</td>
<td>216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizen Record Checks</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Record Checks requested by mail/fax</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Crime Statistics**

Crime is reported to the State and FBI as Part A-F offenses:

**Part A Offenses** include the following: Murder, Negligent Homicide, some Forcible and Non Forcible Sex Offenses, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, Arson, Kidnapping, Forgery, some Frauds, some Liquor Law Violations, Embezzlement, Damage to Property, Weapon Violations, Commercialized Sexual Offenses, Drug Laws and Gambling.

**Part B Offenses** include the following: some Frauds, some Non Forcible Sex Offenses, Non Violent Family Offenses, OUIL, Liquor Law Violations, Obstruction/Escape, Disorderly Conduct, State, Local and Federal Offenses, Local Ordinances, Juvenile Offenses and specific Traffic Offenses which are arrestable.

**Parts C, D, E, & F Offenses** include lesser offenses and response types that are not reportable as crime statistics to the state and FBI.
## Crime Statistics Reported to State and FBI

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part A Offenses</td>
<td>3615</td>
<td>3242</td>
<td>2949</td>
<td>2963</td>
<td>2601</td>
<td>2305</td>
<td>2205</td>
<td>2320</td>
<td>2309</td>
<td>1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part B Offenses</td>
<td>2562</td>
<td>2478</td>
<td>2199</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>1179</td>
<td>1271</td>
<td>1228</td>
<td>1296</td>
<td>1333</td>
<td>1400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Part A &amp; B</td>
<td>6177</td>
<td>5720</td>
<td>5148</td>
<td>4911</td>
<td>3780</td>
<td>3576</td>
<td>3433</td>
<td>3616</td>
<td>3642</td>
<td>3362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part A Change</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
<td>-10.3%</td>
<td>-9.0%</td>
<td>.5%</td>
<td>-12.2%</td>
<td>-11.4%</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
<td>5.22%</td>
<td>-0.47%</td>
<td>-15.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part B Change</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
<td>-11.3%</td>
<td>-11.4%</td>
<td>-39.5%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>3.38%</td>
<td>5.54%</td>
<td>2.85%</td>
<td>5.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Change</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
<td>-7.5%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-4.6%</td>
<td>-23%</td>
<td>-5.4%</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
<td>5.33%</td>
<td>0.72%</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A partial breakdown of these crimes over a 10-year period:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assaults</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Assaults or Intimidation</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Thefts</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny Thefts</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>407</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narcotic Violation</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>458</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disorderly Conduct</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>1319</td>
<td>1307</td>
<td>1179</td>
<td>1359</td>
<td>1370</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>1287</td>
<td>1289</td>
<td>1155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traffic Accident</td>
<td>2418</td>
<td>2147</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2262</td>
<td>2191</td>
<td>2271</td>
<td>2318</td>
<td>2280</td>
<td>2371</td>
<td>2293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2017, the Royal Oak Police Department reached its full staffing level of 79 sworn police officers by hiring 5 new officers. Our officers have made a commitment to our core values, mission statement, and most of all, this community.

The patrol level (police officers, sergeants and lieutenants) have the most contact with the general public. The patrol division has focused on developing a customer service oriented style of policing. This philosophy has improved our relationship with the community, our businesses, and has enabled us to build upon the public’s trust.

The officers assigned to the patrol division respond to all types of calls for service. From traffic crashes to traffic enforcement to all types of emergency scenarios, the Royal Oak Police Department is a full-service police department.

The patrol division is responsible for answering 911 and landline phone calls. The personnel who answer these calls obtain all the pertinent information, enter the information into the computers, and dispatch Police, Fire or EMS personnel.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Phone Calls 911 and Non Emergency</td>
<td>69,645</td>
<td>60,111</td>
<td>85,458</td>
<td>107,341</td>
<td>85,024</td>
<td>84,645</td>
<td>84,683</td>
<td>81,592</td>
<td>88,029</td>
<td>83,720</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Calls For Service</td>
<td>30,451</td>
<td>28,953</td>
<td>29,848</td>
<td>28,675</td>
<td>36,197</td>
<td>39,571</td>
<td>44,616</td>
<td>48,051</td>
<td>46,389</td>
<td>47,477</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The patrol division also responds to traffic complaints such as excessive speeding or no thru-traffic as staffing allows. Traffic complaint response may include:

- Utilization of the department’s SMART trailer to give a more accurate count of vehicular traffic and average speed.
- Initiating a formal request to have the staff traffic committee look at the problem and make recommendations.
- Coordinating with the City Traffic Engineer to evaluate roadways.

In addition, the patrol division evaluates and approves valet parking applications, directs the crossing guard program, coordinates the repair and inspection of handheld preliminary breath test machines, Auto-cite, radar units, and investigates other traffic related issues.
## Calls for Service

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Reports Filed</td>
<td>48,264</td>
<td>49,139</td>
<td>1.81%</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Calls for Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>% Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>28,953</td>
<td>29,848</td>
<td>28,675</td>
<td>*36,197</td>
<td>39,571</td>
<td>44,616</td>
<td>48,051</td>
<td>46,389</td>
<td>47,477</td>
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*Calls for Service increased significantly in 2012 due to our department implementing the ICMA recommendation of listing traffic stops as calls for service. Traffic stops were not accounted for in the previous years.*

## Yearly Accident Summary

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Injury Accidents</td>
<td>2,117</td>
<td>1,958</td>
<td>2,863</td>
<td>2,111</td>
<td>1,935</td>
<td>2,030</td>
<td>2,075</td>
<td>2,037</td>
<td>2,143</td>
<td>2,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Injury Accidents</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>241</td>
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<td>227</td>
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<td>Fatal Accidents</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>2,418</td>
<td>2,147</td>
<td>2,013</td>
<td>2,262</td>
<td>2,191</td>
<td>2,271</td>
<td>2,318</td>
<td>2,280</td>
<td>2,371</td>
<td>2,293</td>
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## Overall Department Ticket Summary

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Violations General</td>
<td>19,187</td>
<td>15,856</td>
<td>11,986</td>
<td>12,163</td>
<td>11,382</td>
<td>12,317</td>
<td>13,080</td>
<td>12,176</td>
<td>13,529</td>
<td>13,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traffic violations-Accident Scene</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>949</td>
<td>979</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic violations-Motor Carrier</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinance violations</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>1,356</td>
<td>1,162</td>
<td>1,494</td>
<td>1,653</td>
<td>1,666</td>
<td>1,701</td>
<td>1,478</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total violations</td>
<td>20,934</td>
<td>19,581</td>
<td>15,586</td>
<td>16,594</td>
<td>14,267</td>
<td>15,065</td>
<td>15,848</td>
<td>14,656</td>
<td>16,003</td>
<td>15,827</td>
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In fiscal year 2017, the Royal Oak Police Department continued to participate in the traffic mobilization program. The program is funded through use of grant monies made available by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety and Planning. In Oakland County, the grant program is administered through the Traffic Improvement Association.

Over The Limit, Under Arrest

This is a state-wide mobilization comprised of mandatory and elective enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving. Media announcements and newspaper stories precede the March and May enforcement dates. Members of the participating agencies are present during these press conferences.

During the six day mandatory enforcement period, the Royal Oak Police Department dedicated 54.5 personnel hours and conducted 66 traffic stop investigations, resulting in 6 total arrests: 5 for Operating While Intoxicated and 1 for Disorderly Conduct. Officers issued 38 other traffic violations while working these dates.
The midnight shift is commanded by Lieutenant Dave Van Ness. The shift operates between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The shift is staffed with 3 sergeants, 15 officers and 4 police service aides.

Officers are assigned to patrol specific beats or designated areas of the city to ensure the entire city is equally patrolled and ensure a quick response to calls for service.

While the city sleeps, officers focus on being highly visible as they patrol neighborhoods looking for suspicious persons and vehicles in an effort to deter crime from occurring.

Throughout the week and especially on the weekends, midnight shift officers are assigned to vehicle and foot patrol in the central business district. This area remains a popular destination throughout the metro area known for its many restaurants and busy nightlife. Officers maintain a high visibility and walk through many of the establishments looking to address any issues or complaints.

Midnight shift officers also conduct many traffic stops and are vigilant in investigating alcohol related driving offenses. On weekends and certain holidays, extra officers are assigned to alcohol enforcement details in an effort to identify and arrest drunk drivers and make the roadways safer.

Midnight shift officers frequently check area motels for compliance of local ordinances and wanted individuals.
The day shift is commanded by Lieutenant Dave Clemens. The shift is staffed with three 3 sergeants, 15 officers, 4 police service aides, and three 3 part-time police desk attendants. Day shift begins and 7:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m.

Day shift officers work when a majority of businesses are open to the public, resulting in a measurable increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic. As a result, the officers are called to investigate a significant number of traffic accidents and traffic complaints in various areas of the city.

Day shift officers also assist the 44th District Court with arraignments, prisoner transports, court-ordered fingerprinting, probation violations, and processing for confinement in the Oakland County Jail.

A day shift Sergeant manages and assigns crossing guards to ensure key school crossings are staffed. On occasion, a police officer is assigned to cover a school crossing when a crossing guard is absent. The officer takes this opportunity to interact with the students and parents. Additionally, day shift officers provide weekly guided tours of the police station to school groups.

Day shift officers continue to conduct monthly checks of sex offenders registered in the City of Royal Oak. The officers confirm all supplied information is accurate, up-to-date, and verify the offenders are compliant.

Lastly, day shift officers handle a significant number of special events that occur in the city such as holiday parades, block parties, 5 and 10K runs, and numerous community events hosted at the Farmer’s Market.
The afternoon shift is commanded by Lieutenant Albert Carter. The shift starts at 3:00 p.m. and ends at 11:00 p.m. It currently consists of 3 sergeants, 15 police officers, 4 police service aides, and 3 part-time civilian desk attendants.

The afternoon shift generally receives the greatest number of calls for police service. At the start of the shift, afternoon officers handle the busy evening rush hour and the traffic related complaints throughout the city.

The afternoon shift provides two police officers dedicated to patrolling the Central Business District (CBD). The officers patrol in their police vehicles, mountain bikes, and on foot patrol to emphasize community policing. They focus their patrols near the many restaurants/bars, coffee shops and the retail businesses. Afternoon shift also assigns officers on motorcycles to patrol the city during the warmer months and popular "bike" nights. The motor officers enforce traffic laws, handle police calls, and visit the numerous community events held throughout the city. They also assist shift with the numerous motorists who begin cruising Woodward early in the year.

The afternoon shift officers participate in numerous community events that occur throughout the city. Some include the concerts and events at the Detroit Zoo, the Royal Oak Music Theatre, the Farmer’s Market, and numerous other special events.

The afternoon shift officers partner with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) during Operation Nighthawk several times throughout the year. The program ensures probationers and parolees residing in the City of Royal Oak are complying with their conditions of probation and parole. This operation has proven to be successful partnership between the departments.
Citizen's Police Academy

In 2016, the police department re-established the Royal Oak Citizen Police Academy. The program was a great success. This year, another session was held during the months of October and November.

The Citizen Police Academy is offered to Royal Oak residents who submit an application to attend. As was the case last year, more residents than we could accommodate submitted applications and approximately only one third of those interested were chosen to attend.

The purpose of the Citizen Police Academy is to offer our residents the opportunity to learn and experience firsthand the operations of the police department; to receive insight into how police officers perform their duties and how we serve the community. The Citizen Police Academy is a seven-week program that met one night a week for three hours.

The first week included introductions, a special tour of the police station and a presentation from Chief O’Donohue. The remaining weeks covered several topics and presentations from various members of the police department. Some of the topics included Patrol Operations/911 Communications, Defensive Tactics with a TASER demonstration, K9 demonstration and a presentation from the Criminal Investigations Division that included a profile of a homicide case. Another week allowed the class the opportunity to experience shooting a handgun and patrol rifle on the shooting range. A new topic to this year’s session included verbal de-escalation training and experiencing scenario training on the new MILO simulator system.
Citizen’s Police Academy (continued)

In addition to the seven-week curriculum, each class member signed up for a three-hour ride-along with a police officer to experience firsthand what it is like to be on patrol and responding to calls for service. At the conclusion of the Citizen Police Academy, each participant was asked to complete an evaluation of the program. Following are a few quotes from those who attended:

“It was so eye-opening. While I’ve always had tremendous respect and appreciation for our men and women in blue, this made me more proud of Royal Oak PD!”

“I didn’t expect to learn so much and be able to do so much. More than anything though, was seeing firsthand the human side of our officers.”

“I am beyond thrilled with the experience I received in the Citizen Police Academy. I went in with the expectation of 21 hours of lecture and was thrilled to find all the actual hands-on activity and the diversity of presenters every week.”

“I couldn’t believe how much I learned. I will tell my friends about this so they can go through it.”

“This was a great program and I feel fortunate to have been selected to participate in the CPA.”
The Royal Oak parking enforcement unit is under the direct supervision of the Day Shift Lieutenant. The unit consists of eight part-time uniformed parking enforcement officers. They are responsible for enforcing all parking regulations within the city in accordance with the Michigan Vehicle Code and Royal Oak City Ordinances.

Royal Oak’s parking enforcement officers are well trained and professional. They work year-round, mainly on foot, in all weather conditions. Officers are expected to exercise independent judgment and discretion in the performance of their tasks. They primarily enforce parking violations in the busy downtown area, however they are commonly called on to respond and assist with parking complaints in all parts of the city.

Some of the enforcement duties include the general enforcement of metered and time zone areas, permit and private property parking complaints, residential parking, handicap parking complaints, snow emergency restricted parking, fire restricted zones, as well as the removal of abandoned vehicles and vehicles with outstanding unpaid parking violations.

Although the primary responsibility of a parking enforcement officer is to enforce parking violations, parking enforcement officers routinely interact with citizens and patrons. When they aren’t issuing parking violations, they assist citizens with directions, information about businesses and restaurants, provide information on parking areas, and do their best to assist the public whenever possible.

### Overall Parking Enforcement Violations Issued

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<tr>
<td>Violations issued by PEO’s</td>
<td>78,278</td>
<td>85,870</td>
<td>88,268</td>
<td>96,180</td>
<td>91,970</td>
<td>93,891</td>
<td>87,384</td>
<td>85,429</td>
<td>74,401</td>
<td>63,952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform Officers</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>2,091</td>
<td>4,650</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>3013*</td>
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<td>Beaumont Security</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oakland Comm. College</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL (non-PEO)</td>
<td>1,498</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>1,211</td>
<td>1,691</td>
<td>2,494</td>
<td>5,070</td>
<td>1,526</td>
<td>1,226</td>
<td>3585</td>
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<tr>
<td>OVERALL TOTAL</td>
<td>79,776</td>
<td>86,792</td>
<td>88,830</td>
<td>97,391</td>
<td>93,661</td>
<td>96,385</td>
<td>92,454</td>
<td>86,955</td>
<td>75,627</td>
<td>67,537</td>
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*Snow Emergency tickets included
Taking a case from initial complaint to prosecution is one of the many responsibilities of the detectives and officers assigned to the Royal Oak Police Criminal Investigation Division. When a case is assigned to a detective, a myriad of other tasks must be accomplished. Investigators conduct follow up interviews, seek additional information and leads, and collect additional evidence. Since Royal Oak detectives handle every type of criminal investigation in the city, the variety of skills and knowledge they must maintain is expansive. These skills range from fingerprint and DNA processing to forensic examinations of computers and cellular phones.

The C.I.D. is fully staffed with 7 detectives, 6 specially assigned police officers, and 1 part-time crime analyst. Managing this highly skilled team of investigators is Lieutenant Keith Spencer and Sergeant Don Swiatkowski. Having both served many years as detectives, they rely on their experience and knowledge to assign and manage the cases assigned to members of the C.I.D. They review each case generated by the department and assign cases to the team of investigators based upon a variety of factors. If a case does not meet those factors it may be closed or filed for further information or developments.

While detectives handle the majority of complaints generated by the patrol division, the special unit officers offer a unique service to our community. Officers assigned to task force teams actively seek out information and suspects tied to crime in Royal Oak and throughout the area. The additional resources these teams offer our department can expand the investigate arm of the C.I.D. tremendously. At a moments notice, the C.I.D. has access to the resources of Federal, State, and County investigative teams to address a large variety of incidents.

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<tr>
<td>Cases Assigned</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrants Obtained</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrants Obtained Per Cases Assigned</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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Woodward North Apartment Shooting
Detectives were called in to investigate a person who was shot at an apartment building. Initial information was the suspect had fled the scene and the man who was shot had been transported to the hospital. Investigators quickly learned an argument had occurred between the man who was shot and the boyfriend of his child’s mother. As the argument escalated, the man ran back to his apartment and retrieved several knives. The man returned and confronted the boyfriend with the knives and stabbed the boyfriend and his friend. The friend, who was present during the argument, had not been involved with the argument at first. The friends fled the scene after the shooting and did not contact police.

Upon completion of their investigation, detectives learned the person who was shot was the aggressor in this incident and the argument stemmed from a disagreement about the man’s child being around the boyfriend. One of the friends was a concealed pistol holder and after seeing his friend attacked with the knife and being attacked himself, he used his weapon to stop the deadly assaults against him and his friend. Frederick Harris, the man who was shot, was charged with Assault with Intent to Commit Great Bodily Harm for stabbing the victims and has since plead guilty. Sentencing is pending in the 6th Circuit Court.

Disturbing Graffiti Spray Painted On Homes
Homeowners near the 11 mile and Woodward area woke up to some disturbing words and symbols spray painted on their properties. Officers responding to one report of a swastika spray painted on the garage of a homeowner and discovered five additional homes which had been spray painted with the hateful symbol as well as other racist words. Detectives were called in to investigate and within a short amount of time had identified a potential suspect.

Detectives obtained additional information about the suspect and questioned him about the incidents. During the interview it was apparent the subject was suffering from a severe mental health issue. Upon completion of the investigation, the subject admitted to the incidents however, investigators recognized the troubling mental health issues of the suspect and made arrangements for him to receive much needed psychiatric treatment.
Armed Robbery Suspect Arrested

Royal Oak Officers were called to the Speedway gas station at 14 Mile and Crooks about 2:00 a.m. on May 19, 2017 on a report of an armed robbery that just occurred. The clerk reported a white male suspect entered the gas station, pointed a gun at the clerk, and demanded money. The suspect fled, and an alert officer noticed a suspicious male on a bike leaving the area, but wearing different clothing. Their initial investigation revealed the suspect had cash hidden in his shoe and located a plastic air soft pistol in his pocket. A K-9 Officer also located some clothing near a dumpster which matched the suspected robber’s clothing.

Detectives looked further into the incident. After confessing to the crime in Royal Oak, the suspect also told detectives he threw a cinderblock through a window and broke into a business in Troy days prior to the Royal Oak incident. The suspect, Paul Satterfield, was charged with Armed Robbery for the incident in Royal Oak and Breaking & Entering a Building with Intent in the other city. He has since pled guilty and is sentenced to state prison.

Man Arrested For Series Of Crimes In Royal Oak

Royal Oak detectives began looking further into the actions of a suspect who had been arrested on August 3, 2017 for stealing a bike from a garage. Investigators learned the suspect had walked into an open, attached garage and stole a bike while a teenage boy was in the home. When the suspect was arrested, he possessed a few curious items including a cell phone that didn't appear to belong to him and some store merchandise.

Detectives traced the suspects movements to St Mary’s Church, where they found out the suspect had stolen a cell phone from one of the parishioners. After that, the suspect walked into Orvis on Woodward and stole several items from the store before police located him.

Detectives were able to notify all the victims of their recovered property and charged the suspect with Home Invasion – 1st Degree, Retail Fraud 1st Degree, and Larceny in a Building. He pled guilty and is sentenced to state prison.
Significant CID Cases in 2017 (continued)

Business B&E Suspect Identified Through DNA
As the clerk to a local gas station arrived to open for the day, he discovered a broken window on the door of the business. Royal Oak officers responded to find the ATM missing and the clerk reported cash missing from the register and several lottery tickets missing. The ATM machine was later found hidden in the bushes next to the business. Detectives and officers collected several items of evidence from the scene including surveillance video and tools.

While investigators had video of the suspect committing the crime, attempts to identify him through the video alone proved unsuccessful. Investigators identified items collected from the scene to be sent to the forensic laboratory for further testing. While waiting on the results, intelligence was obtained pointing to a suspect who was jailed on a similar offense in Macomb County.

Investigators quickly learned the suspect matched the person seen on the video in the break in. Through additional forensic analysis of the items found inside the business, the suspect was positively identified. The suspect was charged for the incident and has since pled guilty in Oakland County Circuit Court. He is currently awaiting sentencing.

Suspects In 2015-2016 Burglaries Charged
Royal Oak detectives investigated multiple home invasions occurring as far back as mid-2015 and throughout 2016. Early in the investigation, several pieces of evidence were located however investigators had to wait until the items were processed for trace evidence at the forensic crime lab. In the meantime, detectives began looking at similar incidents occurring in other areas and began to identify potential suspects.

As the investigation continued, the Troy Special Investigation Unit assisted Royal Oak officers in locating some of the suspects and investigators obtained additional supportive evidence. Detectives submitted multiple additional pieces of evidence for forensic testing. The forensic lab tested the items for evidence ranging from DNA, fingerprints, to cell phone data. These tests resulted in several suspects being positively linked to several home invasions throughout Royal Oak. A very complex and detailed investigation was submitted to the Oakland County Prosecutors office and they returned charges against five (5) suspects under a 22-count warrant for offenses ranging from Home Invasion – 1st degree to Felony Firearm.
Significant CID Cases in 2017 (continued)

Suspect Stabs Self In Stolen Vehicle

A 62-year old Fenton man was taken into custody after stabbing himself multiple times with a knife while in a stolen vehicle. In the early morning hours of May 29, 2017, Royal Oak Officers were alerted by Berkley Police of a possible stolen vehicle last seen in the area of Harvard and Webster in Berkley. Royal Oak officers located the vehicle parked in the Meijer parking lot at 5150 Coolidge Hwy.

Royal Oak officers approached the vehicle and issued several commands to the lone occupant to exit the stolen vehicle. The subject refused and began stabbing himself several times in the leg with a knife. Officers were forced to break a window to gain entry in to the vehicle and knocked the knife from the subject’s hand.

Officers immediately rendered medical aid to the subject who was bleeding heavily from his wounds, but still uncooperative. Due to the severity of his injuries, the officers applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding until emergency services arrived on scene. The subject was transported to the hospital with significant injuries to his leg.

Officers determined the vehicle was stolen out of Berkley and several items inside the vehicle were found to have been taken from recent automobile larcenies in the area. The subject is a parole absconder with multiple felony convictions including Fleeing and Eluding, Home Invasion, and Possession of Stolen Property.
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Royal Oak Police Department

Significant Incidents

Royal Oak Officer Pulls Jumper Off I-696 Wall

On December 3, 2017, at 3:07 p.m., Royal Oak officers were called to the scene of 10 Mile and Woodward for a suicidal male sitting on the wall over I-696. Officers from MSP, Pleasant Ridge, and Huntington Woods also responded.

The man made several threats to jump while officers blocked off the area. A Pleasant Ridge officer kept the man distracted in conversation as Officer Stiers seized an opportunity to quickly move in and pulled the man from the wall. The subject was taken into protective custody and transported to William Beaumont Hospital for treatment and evaluation.

The quick actions of the officers prevented a distraught man from taking his own life.
Royal Oak Sergeant Pulls Accident Victim Out Of Burning Car

Sgt. Karly Wingart is being praised for her quick action in rescuing a trapped motorist from a burning vehicle. Just after midnight on Sunday morning, January 15, 2017, Sgt. Wingart was the first officer on the scene of an injury accident involving a SMART bus and a Ford Fusion. The passenger in the Fusion, a 36-year-old Royal Oak resident, was severely injured and trapped in the vehicle. As Sgt. Wingart approached the scene, she observed the Fusion’s engine compartment had burst into flames. Sgt. Wingart was able to free the trapped motorist by entering the vehicle through the driver's side. While Sgt. Wingart was attending to the injured passenger, Berkley officers extinguished the flames.

The driver, a 29-year-old Macomb Township resident, and the passenger were transported to Royal Oak Beaumont by the Royal Oak Fire Department. One passenger on the SMART bus reported minor injuries. Initial information has determined the driver rear-ended the SMART bus that had just dropped off passengers at the time of the crash.

Royal Oak Police Officer Prevents Suicide

A combination of attentive, proactive police work and technology prevented a suicide. Royal Oak Police Officer Anthony Gagliardi is being recognized for intervening with a person attempting to hang himself.

On January 14, 2017 at 8:41 p.m., Officer Gagliardi used a thermal imaging camera while checking the exterior of St. Mary’s Catholic Church and observed a lone subject near a tree by the building. Officer Gagliardi approached the individual on foot and found the subject had wrapped a small chain and belt around a tree and his neck and was about to hang himself. As Officer Gagliardi engaged the distraught subject in conversation, assisting officers were able to safely take him into protective custody. The individual was uninjured and transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Thanks to Officer Gagliardi’s attentiveness and the availability of the thermal imaging cameras mounted on all Royal Oak patrol vehicles, a tragedy was prevented and this individual was able to get the help he needed.
Crime Analyst Position

Tracking crime trends and comparing elements of criminal incidents are key aspects to successful investigations. This information often involves recognizing whether methods used by the criminal element are similar or unique. To maintain a proactive approach to investigations, Crime Analyst Pete Pizzorni meticulously compares information from incidents in Royal Oak to those in other jurisdictions. Through compiling data from reports and seeking information about crimes around the metro area, Pizzorni can find critical links so suspects can be identified, and measures can be implemented to track them down.

With over 39 years of law enforcement experience, Pizzorni has a keen eye for details and works with various intelligence resources. By sharing and gathering information with this large network, information can be compared to current and historical incidents. The results are a vast network of knowledge which benefits the Criminal Investigation Division and enhances our investigators ability to track down essential investigative information.

Supporting our department’s mission with critical information has benefited the residents and visitors of our city in the following ways.

- Royal Oak investigators began investigating multiple incidents of liquor thefts occurring at the newly opened Kroger on 12 Mile at Stephenson. Two suspects were initially suspected of the crimes and Analyst Pizzorni began the task of identifying them. Pizzorni found two potential suspects and shared that information with the Troy Special Investigation Unit. Officers from SIU were able to positively identify the two men and their vehicle.

- Royal Oak officers arrested two Ohio residents related to the theft of catalytic converters. Officers were originally called to the scene of a theft in progress and located the pair attempting to walk away from the area. As one subject was taken into custody, the other ran and was later arrested in the back yard of a home. Officers located 10 catalytic converters inside the suspect’s vehicle at the time of their arrest. As investigators pieced together the incident in Royal Oak, it became apparent to Pete the two were likely involved in other crimes outside of Michigan. The pair had been identified in several other states as suspects involved in vehicle part thefts. Besides matching the Royal Oak incident, Pete was able to provide additional information to investigators in other states to assist them with their cases. The pair are currently awaiting trial in Michigan and one has already served a sentence in Iowa.
The resident agent from the Michigan Department of Corrections assigned to the Royal Oak Police Department has continued to play a critical role in the department’s overall mission. Since 2013, the partnership with MDOC has enhanced the Criminal Investigation Division, where the agent is assigned. Agent Brody Flesher has maintained the position since 2015 and provides oversight and intelligence to the investigative body of our department.

Subjects who’ve earned the privilege to be granted parole are constantly monitored and kept on track through the actions of Agent Flesher. He requires parolees living in Royal Oak check in at the police department to ensure they are compliant with their parole conditions. Employing a variety of techniques, parolees can be subject to random substance testing, home visits, and other rules which are clearly spelled out to the parolee prior to their release from prison. Agent Flesher’s constant monitoring provides much needed guidance and structure with the goal of making them successful. Should a parolee decide to violate the rules provided them while under parole supervision, Agent Flesher can take immediate action and issue a variety of very serious consequences.

The relationship between MDOC and the Royal Oak Police Department has been a critical asset to the department’s investigators. Agent Flesher’s access to those supervised through MDOC, whether through parole or probation, provides our department with timely and essential information.

Agent Flesher and MDOC’s commitment to the residents and visitors of Royal Oak is demonstrated by the low number of parolees choosing to live in Royal Oak. Since 2013, the number of parolees in Royal Oak has decreased from 35 to 9. Here is an example of how MDOC assisted ROPD:

- Royal Oak detectives learned information regarding a known felon who had transferred several firearms to a family member’s house in an effort to conceal them. Agent Flesher was contacted and confirmed the subject was still currently on parole and was a known felon who had been charged previously with possessing firearms as a felon. The parolee did not live in Royal Oak but had transferred the weapons to a Royal Oak home. With the assistance of the parolee’s agent in his home county, several weapons were removed from the Royal Oak home and confiscated by MDOC and the Royal Oak Police.
Enforcing narcotic laws and conducting covert investigations of suspects engaged in the drug trade is the primary mission of the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET). The Royal Oak Police Department is one of many agencies around metro Detroit which participates in the multijurisdictional undercover unit. Utilizing many aspects of undercover investigative techniques, this highly skilled team of narcotic investigators work to arrest and prosecute suspects involved in narcotics distribution. Identifying users to major distributors, NET detectives work to disrupt and curtail the entire network of people involved in the sale of narcotics.

The Royal Oak Police Department also benefits from the skills these investigators have by providing information and enhancing our investigations with critical intelligence. Even in non-narcotic related cases, the team can play a critical role during an investigation by accessing a network of eyes and ears not commonly available to uniformed patrol.

In 2017, the efforts of the Oakland County NET team’s narcotic interdictions resulted in the initiation of 607 investigations, 19 of which were initiated out of Royal Oak. NET detectives seized 119 firearms, arrested 249 suspects, and executed 181 search warrants.

The SEMFCTF’s team of investigators work to uncover criminal organizations or individuals whose goal is to profit from a person or businesses’ identity and credit information. By gathering information from local and county agencies, SEMFCTF investigators are able to identify common themes amongst incidents and develop further actionable intelligence. Prosecuting lone suspect or low-level members of an organization is just one aspect to curtailing this activity.

SEMFCTF detectives are also exceptionally skilled in tracking down fraud committed through a variety of means such as computers. By utilizing their combined specialty skills and information sharing, this team of investigators can track these illegal transactions anywhere in the U.S. and globally.

For Royal Oak residents and visitors, having Detective Millard assigned to this task force is beneficial due to the access to the variety of specialty skills required to investigate these incidents. It also provides the Criminal Investigation Division with an expanded reach to identify local complaints that evolve into larger scale investigations. Here are a couple of the SEMFCTF’s successes:

- Detective Millard and SEMFCTF investigators were assigned the case of a subject who cashed a fraudulent check for $1300.00 at a bank in Royal Oak. Investigators learned the suspect had obtained the bank information of a municipality and had used that information to produce a fraudulent check. SEMFCTF investigators learned the identity of the suspect, located, and interviewed him. The suspect stated he was recruited and paid to cash the check. The suspect was charged with Uttering & Publishing a fraudulent check.

- In the fall of 2017, a local bank reported that a subject had cashed a fraudulent check at the branch in June. The check, in the amount of approximately $1500.00, was determined to be counterfeit after the suspect had already left. Detective Millard traced the check to a business account for a business in another city and determined this business account had been compromised. The suspect was tracked down to her home in Detroit where she admitted to investigators she cashed the counterfeit check. The suspect was charged for Uttering and Publishing.
gan. Making a substantial impact on this type of illicit activity is a group of officers who, through co-
operation and dedication, seek out suspects on local, national, and international levels. The CHIEF
Task Force takes on the challenges of disrupting large scale drug organizations head on. For Royal
Oak, this is a new task force to which one officer has been assigned since early 2017.

CHIEF (Combined Hotel Interdiction Enforcement) is an FBI led task force comprised of officers
throughout Southeast Michigan from local, county, state, and federal agencies. Addressing the na-
tion’s opioid concerns starts with disrupting the supply of illegal substances. The concern isn’t con-
tained by borders and CHIEF officers work to disrupt the chain of supply in the United States and
abroad.

By employing a variety of surveillance and investigative techniques, CHIEF officers target all mem-
bers of criminal narcotic organizations. The team’s long term goal is to have a substantial impact on
the mass trafficking of cocaine, heroin, and other opioid based drugs into southeast Michigan. By
targeting the organization, its members, and its infrastructure, CHIEF officers have a direct and hard-
hitting effect on larger criminal organizations located nationally and internationally.

In 2017, CHIEF Task Force Officers have made substantial strides in disrupting these organizations,
demonstrated by the following:

- Heroin Seizures: 55.5 kilograms (4 Kilograms of which were mixed with Fentanyl)
- Cocaine Seizures: <1 kilogram
- Arrests: 28
- Guns Seized: 5
- Narcotic Proceeds Seized: $2,252,563.00
- Active Investigations involving organizations operating nationally: 7
The Troy Special Investigation Unit (SIU) is a plain clothes team of officers from multiple southeast Oakland County agencies whose mission is the covert tracking of suspects committing a wide variety of offenses. For the past 3 years, Royal Oak has participated with officers from Troy, Bloomfield Township, Auburn Hills, Birmingham, and newly added Madison Heights in the multi-agency team headquartered out of Troy.

Using intelligence gathered from local, state, and federal sources, the team of highly skilled investigators employ a variety of tactics to surveil and locate suspects throughout southeast Michigan. A key component to their investigative skills is catching suspects in the act of committing an offense. After identifying a suspect or group of suspects, these officers quickly apprehend them while committing their crimes. The suspects then face charges, in most cases, from multiple agencies.

Officers from SIU are also an integral part of capturing suspects involved in multiple incidents or more serious incidents, such as home invasions or armed robbery. Once this group of officers develop information about a potential suspect, the group can quickly locate and take these offenders off the streets.

In 2017, SIU made 75 arrests, executed 9 search warrants, and conducted 74 surveillances. The following are some notable cases generated from complaints originating in Royal Oak.

- SIU officers were investigating several complaints of catalytic converters being stolen from vehicles. Officers identified a potential suspect and began investigating. As they continued their investigation, they observed the suspect steal a catalytic converter from a vehicle in Madison Heights. Officers from Royal Oak attempted to stop the vehicle as it fled south on I-75. The pursuit was terminated, and the suspect’s vehicle was located a short time later at the suspect’s home in Roseville. As SIU continued their surveillance to locate the suspect, they observed him in the area and quickly arrested him. The suspect was later charged with several crimes related to the incidents in Madison Heights and Royal Oak.

- Royal Oak police took a report from the victim a larceny where their credit cards were stolen from their vehicle while attending a sporting event. Officers from SIU recognized the manner in which these items were stolen and had developed two suspects. As SIU continued their investigation for the Royal Oak incident, they tracked the two suspects to Wixom. They observed a male suspect break into a vehicle at a local shopping mall. A short time later, the female suspect entered a Kroger and attempted to purchase gift cards using the victim’s stolen credit cards. SIU officers quickly apprehended both suspects. The two suspects were ultimately charges for Fraudulent Use of a Financial Transaction device for their roles in the Royal Oak incident.
Tracking down suspects who steal vehicles or car parts to be sold on the black market are just a couple of the responsibilities of a highly skilled group of task force officers. The Oakland County Curtail Auto-Theft Team (CAT) is a multijurisdictional team of officers comprised of members from agencies throughout the metro area. Since 2016, Royal Oak has assigned one officer to the team which has proven very beneficial.

Insurance fraud is another common criminal activity CAT officers encounter on a routine basis. Tracing suspects who, for a variety of reasons, report their car stolen to avoid payments or attempt to profit from a claim are sought and prosecuted. Other vehicle fraud investigated by the team encompass title and registration fraud in which suspects try to avoid identifying the actual vehicle they operate on the roads.

CAT team members also seek out valuable car parts stolen from vehicles. Catalytic converters, navigations systems, and wheels & tires are popular targets for thieves. Often part of criminal enterprises, CAT officers seek out not only who is stealing the valuable parts but track down who's selling the stolen items.

For 2017, the results of the team’s investigations originating out of Royal Oak are as follows:

- Vehicle Related Cases Investigated: 36
- Arrests: 25
- Vehicles Recovered: 10, valued at $124,000.00
Building relationships and providing a positive role model for today’s youth is just one of the critical functions of School Liaison Officer (SLO) Cathy Szydlowski. By incorporating daily contact with students and maintaining frequent visibility, it provides students the ability to ask questions or address concerns. It also fosters an environment of safety and security for students and faculty members.

Since 2014, Officer Szydlowski has worked with school administration and staff to address a multitude of programs and law enforcement functions related to juveniles and safety. Building the bridge between the two has provided much needed support for everyone in the school, especially in light of recent national events.

While Officer Szydlowski's day to day tasks are conducted at the High School, she is frequently consulted by administrators and staff from all of Royal Oak schools for matters ranging from student safety to juvenile law. Addressing their concerns both promptly and professionally can help keep children on track or provide appropriate consequences for missteps.

School drills ranging from fire and tornado drills to lock downs are also coordinated and monitored for every Royal Oak school by Officer Szydlowski. These tasks provide much needed familiarization and feedback, so staff and students are prepared should a real event occur. Officer Szydlowski also conducts several presentations for students and staff to teach them a variety of topics related to personal and school safety.

Since the SLO position is a part of the Criminal Investigation Division, all incidents in the city involving juveniles whose actions need to be addressed through the juvenile justice system are the responsibility of Officer Szydlowski. Working with detectives, outreach programs, and prosecutors, she frequently makes appropriate determinations as to which services can provide an opportunity to correct a child's behavior before they become adults.
Additional Duties which require SLO commitment, support and involvement:

- Runaway juvenile investigations
- Networking and sharing information with school principals and other agencies
- Attend ROHS and Churchill graduation ceremonies
- Attend various school sporting events, dances, parent teacher conferences
- Homecoming / Prom / Senior all-night party committees
- Classroom presentations on various topics
- Arrange and assist with K-9 sweeps
- School Board – Attend and give testimony at expulsion hearings
- Daily report review, for matters involving High School students/family problems
- Assist School Officials with residency verifications / investigations
- School surveillance camera system - monitor, review, facilitate repairs
- School parking lots – monitor, enforcement
- Truancy home visits
- Coordinating with county juvenile caseworkers
- Coordinating with Royal Oak Community Coalition
- Coordinating with Save Our Youth Taskforce
- Coordinating with Royal Oak Youth Assistance
- Return calls and emails from parents who initiate contact seeking advice

SLO Statistics

- Cases Assigned: 70
- Disciplinary Interviews attended: 36
- Restitution collected: $2,325.00
- Violations issued: 2
- Juvenile Petitions sent out: 24
- Diversion Cases: 22
- Expulsion Hearings: 4
The Professional Standards Unit is staffed with 1 Lieutenant and 1 Sergeant who report directly to the Chief of Police. The unit is responsible for many tasks including new employee interviews and background investigations, conducting internal investigations, processing and coordinating special event permits, coordinating departmental training and Liquor Control Commission investigations. The unit also performs many additional tasks assigned by the Chief of Police.

The Professional Standards Unit plays a key role in the selection process of new police department employees. In 2017, the unit conducted 54 police officer interviews, 18 police service aide interviews and several part-time police desk attendant interviews.

The Professional Standards Unit processed and coordinated 54 special event permits submitted in 2017. These include reoccurring annual events such as Shakespeare in the Park, Royal Oak in Bloom, the Oak Apple Run and the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Many are one-time events such as grand opening events at new local businesses. In addition, the unit processed 70 special event permits related to the Woodward Dream Cruise.
The Royal Oak Police Department is committed to providing training to department personnel as a means to advance the employees’ professional growth and competence while enhancing the overall ability of the department to provide improved service to the community.

**In-service Training** includes annual instruction to all personnel in such areas as firearms, pathogen exposure, first aid and CPR, and defensive tactics, etc. The figures below represent total hours per officer.

**Advanced Training** includes individualized instruction in areas such as interview and interrogation, accident investigation, search and seizure, incident command, radar operation, breathalyzer operation, surveillance techniques, specialized investigation courses, etc. The figures below represent total hours training for all department personnel during the year.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Service (total department training hours per officer)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced training hours (for all personnel)</td>
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<td>1,963</td>
<td>1,809</td>
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<td>4,220</td>
<td>3,388</td>
<td>4,596</td>
<td>4,003</td>
<td>4,360</td>
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The Royal Oak Police Department has several specialized units with instructors dedicated to training our officers in-house. They include Firearms, Defensive Tactics, Police Motorcycle, Police Mountain Bike Patrol, Field Training Officers and Communication Training Officers to name a few. These instructors ensure our officers remain certified according to state mandates.
The Royal Oak Police Department recognized the importance of adding de-escalation training to the Defensive Tactics program. Our trainers attended a Surviving Verbal Conflict course and then instructed all our officers in the tactics of verbal de-escalation.

The de-escalation training has an emphasis on empathy and listening to the “meaning not the screaming”. It instructs our officers to attempt to deflect the subject’s anger, while simultaneously addressing the root problem. These tactics may not work for every individual, but it has shown to reduce the use of force necessary to resolve incidents.

The training was well received, and a modified version was offered to city employees to assist with displeased or agitated customers.

MILO Training

In 2017, the Royal Oak Police Department purchased a training simulator. We carefully researched multiple manufacturers and ultimately selected MILO, a Michigan based company. The MILO Range Classic is portable which allows set up in different areas. The system offers over 300 different training scenarios to choose from. The instructor sits behind a laptop computer controlling the scenario while the officers are interacting with subjects on a large screen. Based on how the officers perform, the instructors change the direction the scenario will take. This system involves shoot/don’t shoot incidents as well as many ways for officers to use de-escalation tactics to resolve the incident. The MILO system is laser based and officers can use multiple weapons systems including OC spray, Tasers, pistols, and patrol rifles.

The MILO system is a great addition to the equipment at the Royal Oak Police Department that blends many different areas of training. We also utilize the MILO system during the Citizen Police Academy which exposes our residents to various scenarios our officers encounter.
Royal Oak Police Department
Training

Firearms and Range Unit

Defensive Tactics Unit

Field Training Unit
Royal Oak is part of the Southeast Oakland SWAT team consortium, which is made up of officers representing the following departments; Royal Oak, Ferndale, Madison Heights, Berkley, Hazel Park, and Huntington Woods. The Southeast Oakland SWAT team officers have their everyday assignments and are on call 24 hours a day in the event of an emergency. Having officers from multiple departments brings a variety of skills and talents to the team. The Southeast Oakland SWAT team is utilized to handle dangerous situations such as barricaded gunmen, high risk search warrants, and assist outside agencies when requested.

To be accepted into the Southeast Oakland SWAT team, officers must attend and pass one of the state’s most rigorous tactical training academies. The team trains monthly to keep up their proficiencies in weapons, tactics, and less lethal munitions to name a few. Also, selected members are assigned to the sniper unit and have additional training to stay proficient.

Additionally, there is also a crisis negotiation team. This unit is comprised of well-trained officers who are called upon to talk to individuals who are refusing to cooperate and try to convince them to peacefully bring the incident to an end.

In 2017, the Southeast Oakland SWAT team was utilized for the following 4 incidents; assisted the Secret Service with a warrant service in Madison Heights, a barricaded subject in Royal Oak, warrant service for a Hazel Park shooting suspect, and a barricaded subject in Madison Heights.
The Royal Oak Auxiliary Police is an all-volunteer unit of 19 members that assists the Royal Oak Police Department by performing uniformed foot, vehicle and bicycle patrols. They are trained and equipped by the police department. Despite not being armed, they are trained to observe and report conditions requiring police services. They have also received training in First Aid and CPR. The following are some areas in which the Auxiliary Police assist the ROPD:

- Foot patrol in the CBD during the holidays
- Assist with community festivals, parades, concerts, and park patrols
- Traffic control
- Residential vacation checks
- Royal Oak High School sporting events
- Report and log graffiti sites
- Respond to scenes during natural disasters and downed power lines

The auxiliary members come from a variety of professions and backgrounds. The dedication of their valuable time is key to the smooth operation of the festivals and events that take place throughout the year in our city.

The unit has added several new members this past year. However, we are always looking for additional volunteers to join the auxiliary team! We have members that have dedicated 10, 20, 30 and even 50 years with the unit.
The Royal Oak Police Chaplains work with ROPD officers in providing support, comfort and guidance to residents when they have experienced a traumatic incident or are grieving the loss of a family member. Currently, there are seven members of the Chaplain program. They represent a variety of religious denominations including Catholic, Jewish, Non-denominational and Christian.

During 2017, the Chaplains aided our patrol officers by responding to scenes where they were requested, often at a moment’s notice. They effectively provide counsel to grieving families who experienced tragedy and need somebody by their side. The Chaplains help families deal with the immediate aftermath and to discuss their next steps in the grieving process.

The Chaplains work with ROPD administration on implementing programs to help those in our community who have the greatest need. This includes the large homeless population in the greater Royal Oak area every winter. The Police Chaplains’ involvement with the warming shelters helps to keep the host locations on a solid working relationship with the police department. This includes when shelter venues may have a security concern.

The Chaplains also provide support for officers within the department in the form of confidential counseling with both professional and personal matters.

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Royal Oak Police Department
Other Units and Resources

Police Motor Unit

Police Honor Guard Unit

Police Mountain Bike Unit
The Woodward Dream Cruise started in 1995 as a fundraiser to raise money for a local soccer field. A group of Woodward Avenue business owners got together and devised a plan to hold a “cruise” down Woodward.

The cruise has grown exponentially and gained significant corporate sponsors. The Woodward Dream Cruise is billed as the largest one-day car show in the world. It is also known as the largest car cruise in the world, attracting over 40,000 muscle cars, street rods, custom, collector, and special interest vehicles. The cruise route embraces 16 miles, running from the State Fair Grounds in Detroit all the way to Pontiac, with an estimated 1.5 million spectators. Of these 1.5 million spectators, close to 1 million of them line Woodward Avenue between 10 Mile and 14 Mile Roads, the majority of which is the City of Royal Oak. Though the event is billed as a one-day event, it has expanded to an unofficial week long event.

The City of Royal Oak is the epicenter for this event. The Dream Cruise originated in Royal Oak. It is in Royal Oak that a majority of the corporate sponsors lease space to showcase their products. Additionally, it is near Woodward and 13 Mile where the greatest concentration of people collect.

The Royal Oak Police Department takes on a leadership role to coordinate and direct all law enforcement meetings associated with the Dream Cruise. The meetings include not only local law enforcement directly affected by the Dream Cruise, but also included are the FBI, Oakland County Sheriffs Office, MSP, Oakland County Emergency Management and Oakland County Department of Health and Human Service, and the National Weather Service.
Responsibility for coordinating the law enforcement assets for the Dream Cruise requires much more than calling a few meetings or scheduling a few officers. The planning phase incorporates everything from coordinating amateur radio assistance to checking and approving Special Event Permits to organizing support from dozens of other police departments. It requires managing volunteers, providing lodging for our weekend prisoners and everything in between. This planning process involves hundreds of hours of commitment for the police department and its administration. This commitment and dedication to the planning effort has ensured a safe family-oriented environment for everyone to enjoy for over 20 years.
Royal Oak hosted the annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats over the Labor Day weekend. Over 390,000 people attended this very popular event in 2017 and over $350,000 was raised for local charities. The festival is located in our downtown and offers highly-regarded fine art exhibits, more than 200 live performances on nine stages and local restaurants showcasing their cuisine.

Similar to preparing for the Dream Cruise, Arts, Beats & Eats involves extensive planning and coordination with outside agencies. The Michigan State Police, CN Railway, and several other area departments send staff to supplement our resources.

This was the eighth year Royal Oak has hosted this event and this department has continuously tweaked and revised the operational plan to ensure the event is safe, secure and enjoyable for those who attend.
Royal Oak Charity Golf Event

In July, the Royal Oak Police Department hosted their fifth annual charity golf outing at Red Run Country Club. Once again, the business community in Royal Oak came together and generously donated their time and resources to this great event. Nearly 150 participants experienced a great day of golf and the best of what Royal Oak has to offer. The Royal Oak Police Department would like to thank all those who participated in this event. Your participation allowed us to raise over $29,000 for a great cause. One-hundred percent of the proceeds from this event went to the Royal Oak Animal Shelter.
Guns and Hoses Charity Event

Over the course of its eight-year history, the Royal Oak Guns & Hoses Charity Hockey Game has raised over $57,000 for various charitable causes throughout the Metro Detroit area. Past beneficiaries include the family of fallen Michigan State Police Trooper Chad Wolf, the Canine Advocacy Program, Michigan Warriors Hockey, Autism ASK and other individuals.

The Royal Oak Guns & Hoses Charity Hockey Game was created in 2010 by Royal Oak Police Department Sergeant Patrick Stanton and Royal Oak Fire Department Sergeant Tony Cattini as a means of giving back to the community. This annual event features teams comprised of Royal Oak Police Officers and Firefighters in an annual battle for department bragging rights. In 2017, nearly 400 fans witnessed the Royal Oak Police Department take a 5-2 series lead, with a 9-4 victory over the Royal Oak Fire Department.

Despite the commanding 5-2 series lead, the strength of this annual event continues to be the residents and businesses of Royal Oak, who enthusiastically support the event each year. This was evident in 2017, when the Royal Oak community came together to raise $9,500 for breast cancer survivor Carrie Chambers of Clawson.
2017 Royal Oak Police Department
Grant Awards

Throughout 2017, the Royal Oak Police Department applied for, and was awarded, a number of different grants and awards that were provided at the state and federal level. Listed below is a summation of these grants and what they encompassed.

1) $20,775 received from the Office of Highway Safety to enforce the “DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER” campaign.

2) $4,800 received from the U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Justice Programs to assist in the purchasing of bulletproof vests for our officers.

3) $32,250 received from the Office of Highway Safety Planning to execute an Underage Drinking Enforcement detail.

2017 Royal Oak Police Department
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits

It is the policy of the Royal Oak Police Department to accept and investigate any complaints of employee misconduct or wrongdoing. This department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are consistent with our Mission Statement and Core Values. The complaint procedure provides citizens with a meaningful and effective avenue for legitimate complaints against a member of the Police Department. It is the intention of the Police Department to encourage public support and confidence through the assurance of a fair and thorough investigation of all complaints.

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<th>Total Complaints</th>
<th>Excessive or Unnecessary Force / Assault Complaints</th>
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It is a great privilege to introduce some of the staff of the Royal Oak Police Department who stood out in 2017. These individuals were nominated by their peers or supervisors for exceptional performance. Following the April 19, 2018 meeting of the Citation Review Board, we are pleased to announce the names of award recipients.

2017 Award Recipients are as Follows:

**BRAVERY AWARD**

For an incident on January 15, 2017  
Sergeant Karly Wingart

For an incident on May 29, 2017  
Sergeant Timothy Brown

**LIFESAVING AWARD**

For an incident on January 14, 2017  
Officer Anthony Gagliardi

For an incident on May 29, 2017  
Officer Brian Buckley

For an incident on May 29, 2017  
Officer Nathan Heppner

For an incident on May 29, 2017  
Officer Michael Clement

For an incident on May 29, 2017  
Officer Jimmy Elrod

For an incident on May 29, 2017  
Officer Andrew Nadowski

For an incident on September 25, 2017  
Officer Ryan Addis

For an incident on September 25, 2017  
Officer Brian Buckley

For an incident on September 25, 2017  
Officer Andrew Nadowski

For an incident on November 17, 2017  
Officer Bruce Handrinos

For an incident on December 3, 2017  
Officer Joseph Yerke

For an incident on December 3, 2017  
Officer Corey Stiers

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
Sergeant Donald Swiatkowski

**CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
PSA Teri Murray

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**  
Sergeant Chris Annetta

Detective Matthew Murray
2017 Award Recipients are as follows:

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE**
Detective Bret Nelson

**UNIT CITATION**
For an incident on March 8, 2017
- Sergeant Chris Annetta
- Sergeant David Budzynowski
- Officer James Stehlin
- Officer Brian Black
- Officer James Wern
- Officer Eric Cherry
- Officer Brian Kucel
- Officer Gerald Karr
- PSA Marcie Carrick
- PSA Paul Urbanowicz
- PDA Patricia McCrae

Criminal Investigation Division (C.I.D.)
- Detective David Szlezyngier
- Detective Carl Barretto
- Detective Donald van Ochten
- Detective Timothy Wood
- Detective Matthew Murray
- Detective Bret Nelson

**CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD**
Officer Andre Stienke

**CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION**
For an incident on May 18, 2017
- Officer Corey Stiers
- Officer Michael Clement
2017 Award Recipients are as follows:

**LETTER OF RECOGNITION**

For an incident on August 25, 2016  
Officer Daniel Pelletier

For an incident on September 10, 2016  
Sergeant Karly Wingart

For an incident on May 18, 2017  
Officer Brian Kucel  
Officer Jimmy Elrod  
Officer Jordan Desano