

# 2024

## ROYAL OAK

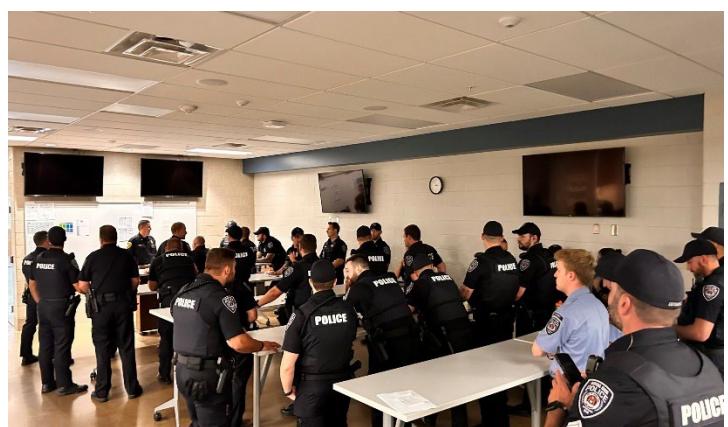
### POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### ANNUAL REPORT





# Royal Oak POLICE DEPT



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# Chief's Message

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I am pleased to present the 2024 Royal Oak Police Department Annual Report. Included in this report, you will find operational data, crime statistics, and a variety of other information on the police department.

In 2024, we expanded our partnership with Oakland Community Health Network to focus on mental health and substance use disorder. We launched our shared Co-Responder Program with Ferndale, Madison Heights, and Hazel Park. This initiative partners two mental health clinicians with our patrol officers in the field. The program focuses on our response to those experiencing a mental health crisis and offers more resources and expertise for a peaceful, safe resolution.

This year we also created our first-ever Youth Police Academy. This program was modeled after our longstanding, successful Citizens Police Academy. The Youth Academy was geared toward 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and offered instruction on a host of topics including teambuilding, CPR, and much more. With the help of local restaurants and businesses, the Royal Oak Police Department was able to host a fun, informative, and challenging week for 29 children.

As always, I would like to thank the residents of Royal Oak for their continued support. The outstanding men and women of this department work hard every day to maintain confidence and trust by providing exceptional service and public safety to those who live, work, and play in Royal Oak.

I hope you find this report informative.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Moore  
Chief of Police



Chief Michael Moore



## MISSION STATEMENT

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“To Keep  
Royal Safe”

## VISION STATEMENT

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

# Our Core Values

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## 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.

# Retirements and Promotions

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## Retirements



OFFICER RICHARD CHIPMAN



DETECTIVE JAMIE HILL

## Promotions



LIEUTENANT CHRISTOPHER PLATT



DETECTIVE KYLE VANDERHOFF

# New Hires

## Police Officer

**Officer Patrick Sroufe**

**Officer Liam Sarris**

**Officer Matthew Kakos**

## 911 Dispatcher

**Rachel Seymour**

**Alexis Hill**

## Cadet

**Vincent Dreher**

**Samantha Hosier**

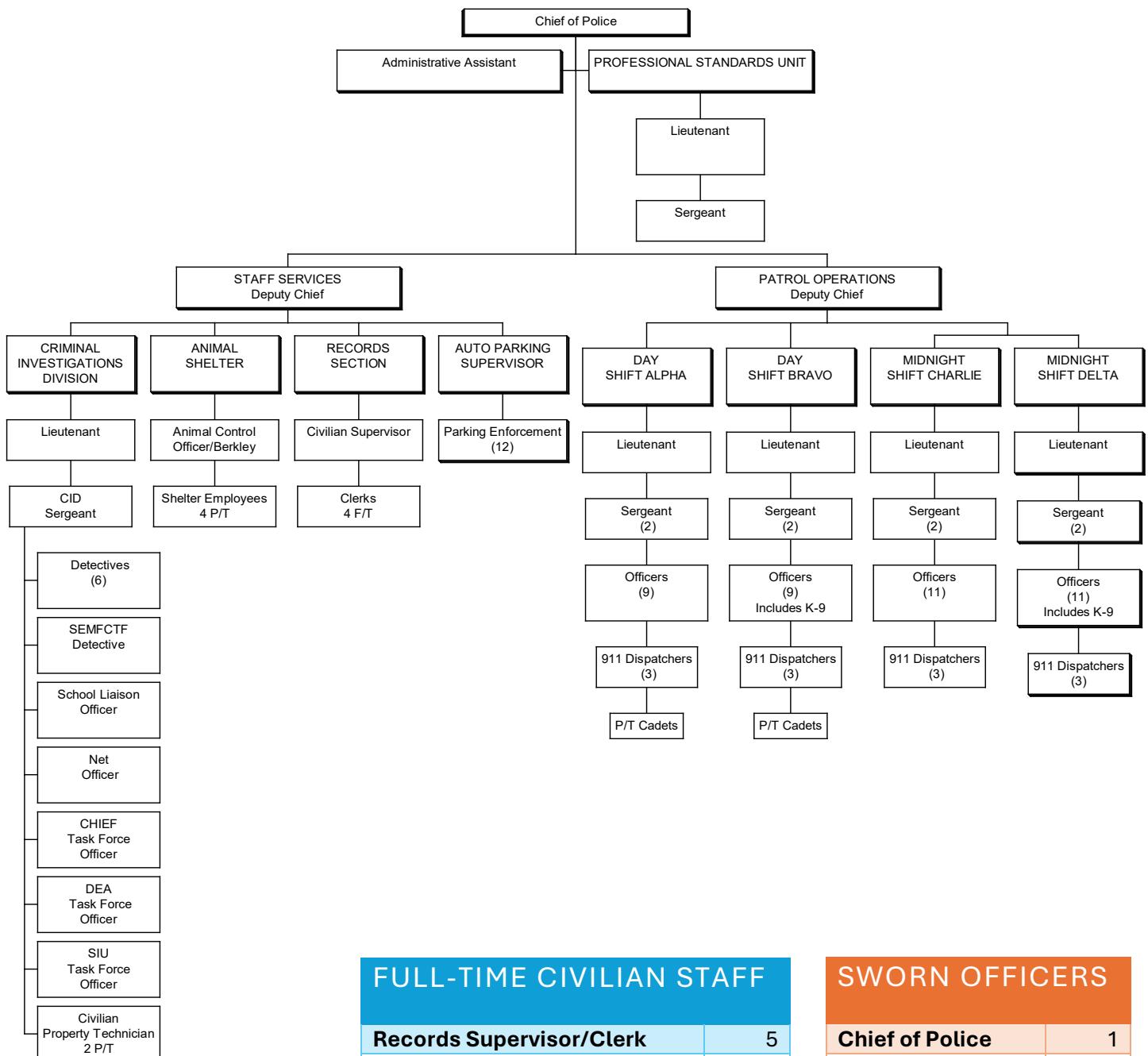
**Conor Craig**

**Mina Yono**

**Caleb Happell**

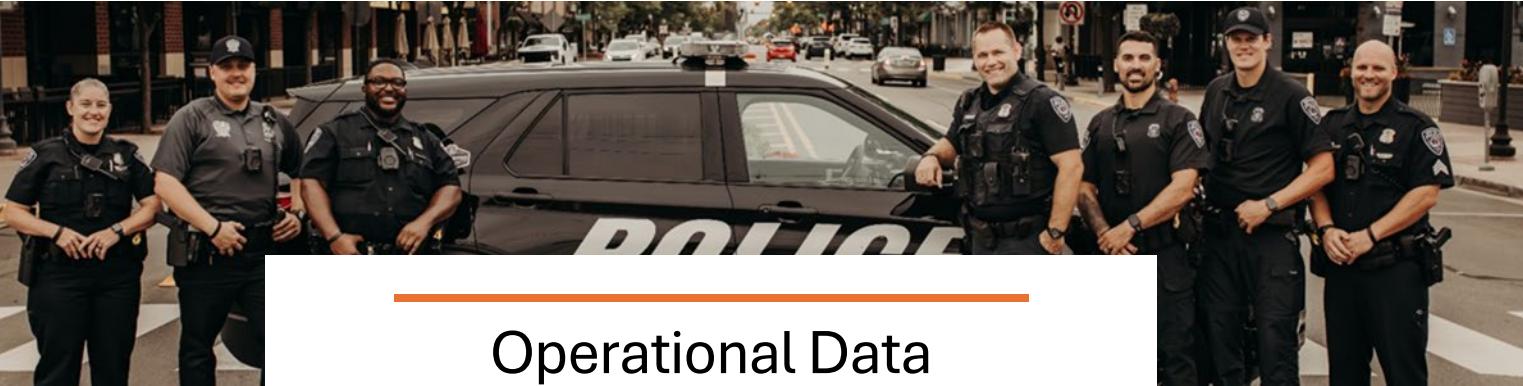


# Royal Oak Police Department Organizational Chart



FULL-TIME CIVILIAN STAFF	
Records Supervisor/Clerk	5
Administrative Assistant	1
911 Dispatchers	12
<b>Total Full Time</b>	<b>18</b>

SWORN OFFICERS	
Chief of Police	1
Deputy Chiefs	2
Lieutenants	6
Sergeants	10
Detectives	7
Officers	53
<b>Total Sworn</b>	<b>79</b>



## Operational Data

The following sections are comprised of seven key categories:

**Organizational Make-up** | Records Division | Crime Statistics | Patrol Division | Training  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | Significant Incidents

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

POSITIONS	2015 2016	2016 2017	2017 2018	2018 2019	2019 2020	2020 2021	2021 2022	2022 2023	2023 2024	2024 2025
<b>Chief</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Deputy Chief</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Lieutenant</b>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<b>Sergeant</b>	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
<b>Detective</b>	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
<b>Police Officer</b>	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
<b>911 Dispatcher</b>	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
<b>Admin. Assistant</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Records Supervisor</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Clerical/ Secretarial</b>	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | **Records Division** | Crime Statistics | Patrol Division | Training  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | Significant Incidents

### The Records Division

The Records Division consists of one Records Supervisor and four full time Records Clerks. They assist the public Monday through Friday 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.

	2023	2024	CHANGE
<b>Accident Reports Requested</b>	223	285	27.8%
<b>Incident Reports Requested</b>	201	245	21.9%
<b>Discovery and FOIA Requests</b>	1,501	1,438	-4.2%
<b>Citizen Record Checks</b>	18	10	-44.4%
<b>Record Checks requested by mail/fax</b>	1,085	1,037	-4.4%

### 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.

	2023	2024	CHANGE
<b>Part A Crime</b>	1,773	1,640	-7.5%
<b>Part B Crime</b>	1,115	1,211	8.6%
<b>Total Reports</b>	45,295	45,944	1.4%

## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | Records Division | **Crime Statistics** | Patrol Division | Training  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | Significant Incidents

CALENDAR YEAR:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Part A Offenses	2,320	2,309	1,962	1,664	1,438	1,201	1,403	1,580	1,773	1,640
Part B Offenses	1,296	1,333	1,400	1,159	1,030	769	858	990	1,115	1,211
<b>Total Part A &amp; B</b>	<b>3,616</b>	<b>3,642</b>	<b>3,362</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>1,970</b>	<b>2,261</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>2,888</b>	<b>2,851</b>
Part A Change	5.22%	-0.47%	-15.0%	-17.02%	-13.58%	-16.48%	16.82%	12.61%	12.21%	-7.5%
Part B Change	5.54%	2.85%	5.03%	-18.57%	-11.13%	-25.33%	11.57%	15.38%	12.62%	8.6%
<b>Annual Change</b>	<b>5.33%</b>	<b>0.72%</b>	<b>-7.7%</b>	<b>-17.67%</b>	<b>-12.57%</b>	<b>-20.17%</b>	<b>14.77%</b>	<b>13.66%</b>	<b>12.37%</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>

**OFFENSE**      2015    2016    2017    2018    2019    2020    2021    2022    2023    2024

<b>Murder</b>	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Aggravated Assaults</b>	28	33	40	36	38	23	37	54	57	56
<b>Simple Assaults or Intimidation</b>	305	326	262	220	251	136	191	179	212	196
<b>Robbery</b>	7	8	8	4	4	3	3	7	5	5
<b>Forcible Rape</b>	12	9	8	5	8	4	10	11	16	17
<b>Burglary</b>	97	86	45	66	38	30	29	33	36	40
<b>Motor Vehicle Thefts</b>	25	38	51	37	35	37	37	54	86	62
<b>Arson</b>	7	4	4	0	1	4	2	3	1	1
<b>Larceny Thefts</b>	487	414	407	343	305	261	278	335	324	273
<b>Narcotic Violation</b>	519	618	458	364	81	76	129	106	102	139
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	1,287	1,289	1,155	1,064	1,098	821	817	734	766	1,010
<b>Traffic Accident</b>	2,280	2,371	2,293	2,289	2,267	1,461	1,785	1,945	2,007	1,700

## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | Records Division | Crime Statistics | **Patrol Division** | Training  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | Significant Incidents

In 2024, the Royal Oak Police Department continued its pursuit of reaching its full staffing level of 79 sworn police officers by hiring three new officers and two dispatchers. Our personnel have made a commitment to our Core Values, Mission Statement, and most of all, this community.

The patrol division (dispatchers, 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 non-emergency 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.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Phone Calls 911 and Non-Emergency</b>	81,592	88,029	57,554	74,528	75,155	69,654	71,816	70,436	70,191	69,255
<b>Total Incidents Dispatched</b>	48,051	46,389	54,093	53,685	45,528	50,651	48,273	46,554	45,295	45,944

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.
- Special attention checks, that have officers check the areas in their travels.
- Traffic Details- where officers are assigned there to evaluate and enforce infractions.
- 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, radar units, and investigates other traffic related issues.

## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | Records Division | Crime Statistics | **Patrol Division** | Training  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | Significant Incidents

### CALLS FOR SERVICE

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
48,051	46,389	47,477	47,009	50,427	41,169	37,469	41,686	40,324	40,809

2023

2024

% CHANGE

<b>Total Reports Filed</b>	45,295	45,944	1.4%
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### YEARLY ACCIDENT SUMMARY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Non-Injury Accidents</b>	2,037	2,143	2,034	2,004	2,094	1,121	1,550	1,642	1,460	1,487
<b>Injury Accidents</b>	242	227	255	283	171	155	208	220	144	213
<b>Fatal Accidents</b>	1	1	4	2	2	1	2	2	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,280</b>	<b>2,371</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>2,289</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>1,864</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>1,700</b>

### OVERALL DEPARTMENT TICKET SUMMARY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Traffic Violations General</b>	12,176	13,529	13,540	12,629	13,412	7,539	6,773	9,680	9,166	9,249
<b>Traffic Violations Accident Scene</b>	837	966	931	917	1,175	624	760	811	798	687
<b>Traffic Violations Motor Carrier</b>	165	8	0	2	10	3	4	2	4	0
Ordinance Violations	1,478	1,500	1,356	975	1,091	798	1,001	979	1,113	1465
<b>Total Violations</b>	<b>14,656</b>	<b>16,003</b>	<b>15,827</b>	<b>14,523</b>	<b>15,688</b>	<b>8,964</b>	<b>8,538</b>	<b>11,472</b>	<b>11,081</b>	<b>11,401</b>

## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | Records Division | Crime Statistics | Patrol Division | **Training**  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | Significant Incidents

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.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>In-Service</b> (total department training hours per officer)	26	34	36	32	47	33	30	48	73	39
<b>Advanced training</b> (hrs. for all personnel)	4,596	4,003	4,007	4,068	4,464	2,069	4,318	4,671	4,538	4,822

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.



## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | Records Division | Crime Statistics | Patrol Division | **Training**  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | Significant Incidents

### Firearms and Range Unit



### Defensive Tactics Unit



### Field Training Unit



## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | Records Division | Crime Statistics | Patrol Division | Training  
**Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits** | Significant Incidents

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.

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

<b>Total Complaints</b>	15	12	5	6	7	17	16	16	18	19
<b>Excessive or Unnecessary Force / Assault Complaints</b>	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4 (All Unfounded)

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

<b>Total Lawsuits</b>	1	2	0	4	2	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Excessive or Unnecessary Force / Assault</b>	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | Records Division | Crime Statistics | Patrol Division | Training  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | **Significant Incidents**

### **Organized Retail Fraud Arrest:**

On May 21, 2024, Royal Oak Officers responded to the CVS Pharmacy on Woodward Avenue to investigate a retail fraud theft which had just occurred. CVS employees described two females in bulky clothing, last seen walking away from the store. Officers located the suspects attempting to hide over \$4,000 in stolen merchandise near a nearby dumpster. They were arrested without incident and the case was assigned to a detective for additional follow up.

During the follow up investigation, it was discovered that the arrestees were part of a multi-state retail fraud theft ring. The arrestees were siblings from the State of Maryland, with one being only 16 years old and the other 21 years old. They were traveling throughout southeast Michigan in a rented minivan. The minivan was located and contained an additional \$36,000 in stolen health & beauty related merchandise.

Both siblings were charged with Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property over \$20,000, a felony punishable by up to ten years in prison. They were also charged with the five-year felonies of First-Degree Retail Fraud and Organized Retail Crime.

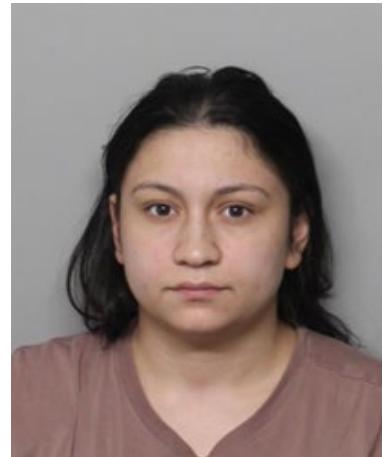
### **Attempt Home Invasion Arrest:**

On June 1, 2024, at approximately 1:20 a.m., Royal Oak Officers responded to the home of a resident who called 911 after being startled from her sleep to discover a man attempting to enter the side door of her home. She activated a panic alarm, and the man attempted to walk away but was immediately confronted by two Royal Oak patrol officers.

The arrestee was identified as Levi Trahern Smith, a 34-year-old Dearborn Heights resident. Smith was wearing latex gloves and carrying a backpack. The backpack contained an assortment of concerning items, including a loaded handgun, a large knife, handcuffs, rope, masks, a hammer, a crowbar, duct tape and latex gloves.

The investigation revealed the suspect was a former co-worker of the victim and had exhibited a romantic interest in her in the past. Royal Oak Detectives conducted numerous interviews and collected additional supporting evidence from the arrestee's car and home, before presenting the case to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Smith was charged with one count of Attempted Home Invasion in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, a felony which carries a sentence of up to 5 years in prison, and one count of Felony Firearm, which carries a sentence of up to 2 years in prison.



Patricia Bita



Levi Trahern Smith

## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | Records Division | Crime Statistics | Patrol Division | Training  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | **Significant Incidents**

### **Cannabis Shop Breaking and Entering Arrest:**

On August 3, 2024, at approximately 1:50 a.m., Royal Oak officers responded to a burglary alarm at a cannabis store on Meijer Drive. They arrived to find a smashed-out window and discovered the building had been ransacked.

Royal Oak detectives investigated the burglary and developed a juvenile suspect after reviewing surveillance video from the break-in. On August 5, 2024, investigators executed a search warrant at the suspect's home. During the search, we recovered more than \$100,000 worth of stolen marijuana and cannabis-related merchandise and took the juvenile suspect into custody.

Detectives also determined the juvenile was suspected of fleeing from a Royal Oak officer at high speeds prior to the cannabis store burglary. The juvenile was also suspected of being responsible for a home invasion July 26, 2024.

### **Fleeing and Eluding Police Arrest:**

On July 16, 2024, Royal Oak officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop involving a motorcycle without a license plate. The driver was wearing a black sweatshirt with the words "Come Get Me" written on the back. After realizing he was being pulled over, the driver accelerated to speeds up to 150 mph and ran multiple red traffic lights. He successfully eluded all police officers patrolling in the area. The reporting officers believed the same individual was responsible for several additional fleeing & eluding incidents along the Woodward Avenue corridor. Every incident involved high speeds and reckless driving, creating dangerous conditions for every driver and pedestrian on Woodward Avenue.

Detective Keith Bierenga was assigned the case. He conducted an exceptional investigation, identifying the suspect and collecting the evidence needed to support a criminal charge. Several months after the July 16<sup>th</sup> incident, Fred Salem Jr. was charged with 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Fleeing & Eluding, a 2-year felony. In consideration of the danger to the public caused when a driver flees from the police, Salem's bond was set at \$10,000 cash/surety, no 10%.



Fred Salem Jr.

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## OPERATIONAL DATA

Organizational Make-up | Records Division | Crime Statistics | Patrol Division | Training  
Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits | **Significant Incidents**

### **Armed Robbery Arrest:**

On September 28, 2024, Royal Oak Police responded to a report of an armed robbery at a business within the 200 block of W. Eleven Mile Rd. The victim reported that a man wearing a ski mask produced a gun and forced him to hand over his \$12,000 Rolex watch. The suspect then ran to a white sedan in a nearby parking lot, entering the passenger side. A second suspect then drove the sedan away.

Officers broadcasted a BOL to area departments and an officer from Hazel Park PD located the suspect vehicle traveling southbound on I-75. Both suspects were arrested.

Detectives Vanderhoff and Bierenga reviewed the arrest report and determined additional evidence was needed to charge the driver with any crime. They also lacked evidence to support a prosecution for armed robbery against the passenger. They conducted many interviews and tenaciously sought out evidence and eventually uncovered a surveillance image of the suspect running with a gun to the getaway car.

At the conclusion of their investigation both suspects were charged with Armed Robbery, punishable by up to life in prison. Nigere Fant was charged with a multitude of additional felony counts. Fant had been paroled from prison approximately one month prior to this incident.



Nigere Fant



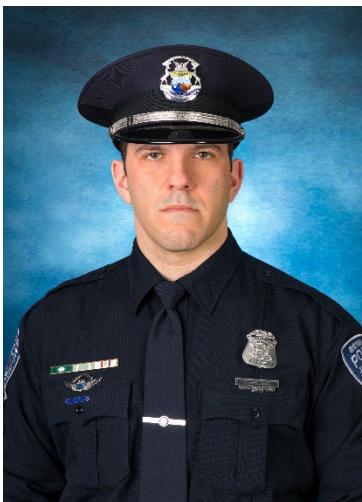
Torrey Harris

## Meet Your Alpha Day Shift

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Lt. Brian Kucel



Sgt. Anthony Gagliardi



Sgt. Brian Buckley

Alpha Platoon is commanded by Lieutenant Kucel, who is overall responsible for staff assigned to the platoon. Alpha platoon is one of two “day” shift platoons that begins at 7:00 a.m. and concludes at 7:00 p.m. The platoon consists of two sergeants, ten officers, and three 911 dispatchers.

Throughout a typical day, Alpha Platoon officers receive and respond to various calls for service including welfare checks, citizen assists, and traffic accidents, to name just a few. The officers often engage with the community such as hosting school tours, visiting neighborhood block parties, and walking foot patrol through our city’s numerous special events. Additionally, several officers on shift serve in roles such as mountain bike officers, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers, evidence technicians, and Comeback Quick Response Team (QRT) members. Alpha’s officers and 911 dispatchers also serve as training officers for the new members of our department. The officers prioritize being proactive with traffic enforcement to reduce traffic crashes and searching for criminal activity to keep our neighborhoods and businesses safe.

The officers work side by side with our 911 dispatchers and police cadets who are responsible for fielding hundreds of 911 and non-emergency phone calls throughout the course of the day, in addition to serving walk-in reports at the front desk.

## Meet Your Bravo Day Shift



Lt. Jacob Theisen



Sgt. Tim Brown



Sgt. Jason Manning

Bravo Platoon is commanded by Lieutenant Theisen with the assistance of Sergeant Brown and Sergeant Manning. This other “day” platoon’s shift starts at 7:00 a.m. and concludes at 7:00 p.m. In addition, Bravo Platoon consists of ten officers, three 911 dispatchers and several police cadets.

Bravo officers have advanced training and specialized responsibilities in several areas including peer support, evidence processing, “ALICE” instruction, advanced firearms instruction, and community outreach. Several personnel assigned to Bravo Platoon are Field Training Officers (FTO), Communication Training Officers (CTO), or members of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). Officers of this platoon continue on-the-job training throughout the year. Training is conducted during rollcall, or by advanced training provided outside the department.

Bravo officers can often be found completing extra patrols of problem traffic areas as identified by residents who reach out to the department. Bravo shift proved to be the busiest shift in the department in 2024, fielding nearly 12,200 calls for service. Bravo officers initiated nearly 3,700 traffic stops, completed over 500 traffic crash reports, issued over 2,850 written citations, made 235 custodial arrests, and authored over 1,400 written case reports for the year.

Bravo Platoon is dedicated to connecting to our community and its officers can often be found helping at school crosswalks, providing station tours to school groups, visiting block parties, and making appearances at events both public and private.

# Meet Your Charlie Midnight Shift



Lt. Christopher Platt



Sgt. Jimmy Elrod



Sgt. Michael Paramo

Charlie Platoon is commanded by Lieutenant Platt. The hours for Charlie Platoon are 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and is one of two “night” shift platoons. Charlie Platoon is staffed by two sergeants, 13 officers, and three 911 dispatchers. The shift also has a cadet assigned to the front desk working the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

Shift supervisors are responsible for the daily duties of the officers, dispatchers, and cadets. Shift supervisors are present on the road enforcing traffic laws and respond to incidents with shift officers. Charlie Platoon is staffed with one Lieutenant and two Sergeants. All supervisors are considered patrol supervisors but also have many ancillary duties assigned to them to assist with the overall function of the police department. Charlie Supervisors are assigned to the Subject control/ Defensive Tactics Team, Mobile Field Force (MFF), Active Shooter Response Instructor (ASR), and Emergency Management Team.

Of the 13 officers assigned to Charlie Platoon, many are trained as Crisis Intervention Team Officers (CIT), PEER Support Team Members, Defensive Tactics Instructors, members of the Comeback Quick Response Team (QRT), and Field Training Officers (FTO). In addition, several officers are members of the Mountain Bike Unit, which patrols the downtown district and neighboring residential streets.

Charlie Platoon officers handle all traffic related complaints throughout the city, along with proactively policing neighborhood areas within the City of Royal Oak. Charlie Platoon also designates officers to patrol the Central Business District (CBD) during the weekdays from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. on the weekends. The CBD officers patrol in their vehicles, on foot, and on mountain bikes to focus on enhancing safety through community policing. These officers provide an additional presence to the busy downtown that is frequented by many visitors and residents.

During the overnight hours, Charlie Platoon officers are constantly vigilant through proactive patrols, searching the city for suspicious activity to deter and reduce criminal behavior. Charlie Platoon officers are on constant alert to keep the roadways safe from intoxicated drivers due to the extreme danger intoxicated drivers cause the public. Intoxicated driving arrests make up approximately one third of Charlie Platoon arrests. Enforcing alcohol offenses is a critical function of Charlie Platoon, with alcohol offenses contributing to a large amount of the shift’s arrests.

Charlie Platoon Officers work well as a team, enforce traffic and criminal laws, and do their due diligence to keep the citizens of Royal Oak, and its visitors safe.

## Meet Your Delta Midnight Shift

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Lt. David Budzynowski

Lieutenant Budzynowski oversees Delta Platoon. The hours for Delta Platoon are from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Delta Platoon is additionally staffed by two sergeants, thirteen officers, and dispatch staff that work afternoon and midnight shifts. Of the thirteen officers assigned to Delta Platoon, many are trained as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers, firearms instructors, defensive tactic instructors, and Field Training Officers (FTO). In addition, Delta officers include an evidence technician, a K9 officer with his partner, K9 Thorvi. Several officers are also trained as police mountain bike officers.

Delta Platoon officers handle the hectic evening rush hour and all the traffic related complaints throughout the City of Royal Oak. The Delta Platoon also assigns officers who are dedicated to patrolling the Central Business District (CBD) during the weekdays until 11:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. on the weekends. The CBD officers patrol in their vehicles, on foot, and on bicycles with a focus on visibility and community policing. These officers provide increased patrol services to the busy downtown that is frequented by many visitors and residents who frequent the many sidewalk cafes, restaurants, and shops.

The Delta Platoon officers stay busy patrolling neighborhood streets during nighttime hours in search of suspicious activity. Delta Platoon officers also focus patrols on Woodward Avenue starting as early as March through October to address dangerous driving associated with “cruiser” activity.



Sgt. Dominick Catanese



Sgt. Jordan Desano

# Criminal Investigation Division

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Taking a case from initial complaint to prosecution is a primary job duty of the detectives and officers assigned to the Royal Oak Police Criminal Investigation Division (C.I.D.). When a case is assigned to a detective, a multitude of additional tasks must often be completed. Detectives conduct follow-up interviews, seek additional information and leads, and collect additional evidence. Our detectives handle every type of criminal investigation, and the skills and knowledge they must develop and maintain are expansive. Some important examples include evidence collection and processing, forensic examinations of computers and cellular phones, extensive knowledge of criminal law and procedure, effective surveillance techniques, and excellent interviewing and writing skills. In the end, the C.I.D. is responsible for presenting the complete investigation to a prosecutor, who then makes the decision on what if any criminal charges will be authorized.

The C.I.D. is staffed with 7 detectives, and 5 specially assigned police officers. Managing this highly skilled team of investigators is Lieutenant Rich Millard and Sergeant Nate Heppner. They rely on their experience and knowledge to assign and manage hundreds of police reports every month. They review each case generated by the department and assign cases to their team of investigators based upon a variety of factors. If a case does not meet those factors, it may be closed or set aside pending further information or developments.

While detectives handle most of the 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 the department can expand the investigative arm of the C.I.D. tremendously. At a moment's notice, the C.I.D. has access to the resources of Federal, State, and County investigative teams to address a large variety of incidents.

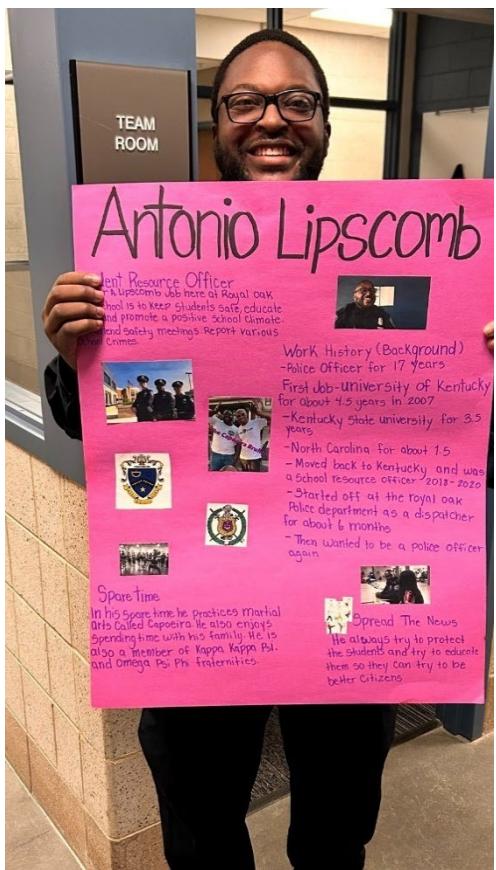


Lt. Rich Millard



Sgt. Nathan Heppner

# School Resource Officer



Officer Antonio Lipscomb

The Royal Oak Police Department is proud to have a relationship with the public and private schools in Royal Oak. The School Resource Officer (SRO) builds relationships with the community along with fostering an environment of safety for students and faculty members. The current SRO is Officer Antonio Lipscomb.

While Officer Lipscomb's day to day tasks are conducted at the high school, he is frequently consulted by administrators and staff from all the Royal Oak schools for matters ranging from student safety to juvenile law.

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

- Runaway juvenile investigations.
- Daily report review, for matters involving high school students/family problems.
- School parking lots – monitor, enforcement.
- Coordinating with county juvenile caseworkers.
- Coordinating with Royal Oak Community Coalition.
- Coordinating with Royal Oak Youth Assistance.
- Provide guidance and advice to parents seeking additional information or assistance.



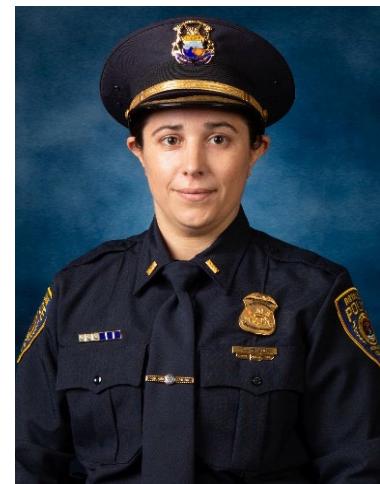
# Professional Standards Unit

The Professional Standards Unit is comprised of one Lieutenant and one Sergeant who report directly to the Chief of Police. The unit is responsible for a variety of tasks including new employee background investigations, 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 processed and coordinated 55 special events in 2024. These include recurring annual events such as Arts Beats and Eats, Royal Oak in Bloom, Gilda's Run, Taco Fest, Winter Blast, and the Memorial Day Parade.

The Professional Standards unit, in conjunction with the Police Department Training Committee, coordinates and schedules training multiple times a year on a routine basis for all Royal Oak Police Department personnel. Each year the Training Committee meets to recommend what training should take place that year in addition to other mandated training. After receiving input from staff, a training plan is put in place by the Professional Standard Unit for the year.

Lastly, the Professional Standards Unit is responsible for recruitment. The Professional Standards Unit actively seeks the best applicants for Police Officer, 911 Dispatcher, Cadet, and Parking Enforcement Officers. The Professional Standards Unit took part in the background investigation and hiring process of three Police Officers, two Dispatchers, and five Cadets in 2024.



Lt. Karly Renaud



Sgt. Ryan Spangler





# Community

## Citizen's Police Academy

This year marked the 9th annual Citizen's Police Academy. The program was offered to Royal Oak residents through an application process and the response was overwhelming.

The program was structured to offer residents a unique insight into law enforcement and an inside look at how their police department conducts business. The exciting seven-week course met once a week for three hours at the police department. The purpose of the program is to allow residents to become familiar with their police department through classroom instruction and also receive practical, hands-on experience. The Citizen's Police Academy gives the participants insight into how Royal Oak police officers perform their duties and how we serve the community.

Some of the curriculum during the seven-weeks included a defensive tactics lesson, a TASER demonstration, a K9 demonstration and a presentation by the Criminal Investigation Division. After an initial introduction and presentation by Chief Moore, students spend seven-weeks exploring many aspects of police operations, including a ride along with an officer, to see first-hand how an officer handles a call.



## COMMUNITY

### Royal Oak Justice Open House

In April 2024, the Community Engagement Board partnered with the police department and the 44<sup>th</sup> District Court to highlight community programs. Participants learned about new initiatives at the police department including our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Co-Responder program (CORE), and the Quick Response Team (QRT). These initiatives are centered around mental health response and substance use disorder.

This event highlighted the ongoing partnership between the police department and court system. Participants engaged in a robust question and answer session with Chief Moore and his team as well as the Honorable Judge Meinecke and Judge Kowalkowski.



An introduction to the programs and practices of the Royal Oak Police Department and the 44th District Court

**Session 1** 6:30pm to 7:30pm ROPD Community Room

Chief Michael Moore and his staff will highlight several new initiatives including the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Co-Responder Program, and the Quick Response Team (QRT). These programs are designed to help those experiencing a mental health crisis or suffering from substance use disorder. Participants will also be given a tour of the new police headquarters with a Q&A session.

**Session 2** 7:30 pm to 8:30pm 44<sup>th</sup> District Court Building

Judge Derek Meinecke and Judge Andrew Kowalkowski will discuss the strong efforts of the Court to educate our students on the criminal justice system through the Justice 101 and Teen Court Initiatives. They will also present on the groundbreaking Operation Drive program, which helps individuals get back on the road legally. Finally, the Judges will discuss Sobriety Court, an intensive drug and alcohol recovery program at the Court. Time permitting, this session will also feature a general Q&A.



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## COMMUNITY

### Royal Oak CORE (Co-Responder program)

The Royal Oak Police Department has partnered with Oakland Community Health Network as well as Ferndale, Madison Heights, and Hazel Park to launch a co-responder program.

These four communities share two licensed social workers to co-respond with police officers in the field. These social workers provide case consultation, crisis intervention, service coordination, and referrals for resources to individuals identified as requiring mental health/substance use support.

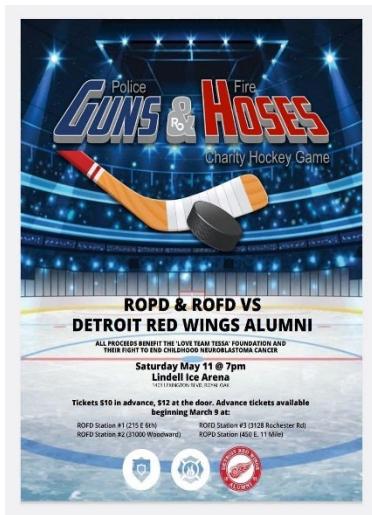
Beginning in the summer of 2024, Sabrina Fallone and Alyssa Waters began working alongside our police officers. This program is having early success and is saving lives.



## COMMUNITY – GIVING BACK

### Royal Oak Guns & Hoses Charity Hockey Game

The Royal Oak Police Department worked alongside the Royal Oak Fire Department to host a charity hockey game with the Detroit Red Wings Alumni. The charity game was held on John Lindell Ice Rink and raised over \$8,000 to be donated to “Love Team Tessa”. Love Team Tessa is a Royal Oak based charity who supports neuroblastoma fighters-patients and provides assistance to families, doctors, and pediatric research.



### Royal Oak Police Department Faith & Blue

The police department once again participated in the Faith & Blue event held in October 2024. Faith & Blue is a national initiative to reinforce connections between law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve through the reach of houses of worship.

In 2024, ROPD partnered with Royal Oak First United Methodist Church to host our annual event. The congregation and community interacted with our police officers for an afternoon of fun. Attendees were provided with food, games, prizes, and lots of laughter.



## COMMUNITY – GIVING BACK

### Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

The Royal Oak Police Department continued pop up tent events downtown Royal Oak in partnership with MADD. Officers were able to set up a tent and utilize our grant funded intoxicated goggles with the public. Officers allowed the public to try the goggles on while performing tasks the officers would ask of them. This event allowed the public to have fun interaction with the officers while learning more about how intoxication affects fine motor skills. Royal Oak also assisted in the hosting of the 2024 Walk Like MADD at Normandy Oaks Park.



### Law Enforcement Torch Run

Each year members of the Royal Oak Police Department participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run. This run is to raise money for the Special Olympics, and we are one of many departments in southeast Michigan that participate. This year it started with the Oakland University Police Department and ended with the Southfield Police Department. Royal Oak Police Officers participated in two of the approximately 33 mile run.



### Comfort Dog Raider

In December of 2024, the Royal Oak Police Department introduced its first department comfort dog, “Raider”. Raider is a 23-month-old, 60-pound black Labrador Retriever that came to us as a “career change” dog from Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills. Law enforcement comfort dogs provide agencies with a trained dog which can be used for a multitude of purposes, including support of community members who have experienced a traumatic event, community engagement, and support for departmental employees.

While comfort dogs are well established with law enforcement agencies throughout Metro Detroit, comfort dog Raider is the first career change dog to be used in this capacity. Career change dogs are highly trained, in-demand dogs that may not be an ideal candidate as a service dog, yet are still well-suited to step into alternative careers to continue their training in service, detection, veteran, and court advocacy dog organizations.

Raider works alongside Sgt. Ryan Spangler and lives with his family at their home. When he’s not at work, Raider enjoys being a normal family dog, going for long walks with his family, and snuggling on the couch.



### 2024 Youth Police Academy

The Royal Oak Police Department held its first weeklong youth police academy for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade children in July of 2024. With the help of local restaurants and businesses the Royal Oak Police Department was able to host a fun and challenging week for 29 children. These children learned about police investigations, traffic stops, team building, gun safety, fire safety, CPR and much more. This program is designed to help the police department engage with the youth of Royal Oak while providing knowledge and skills for many years.



## COMMUNITY – GIVING BACK

### Shop with a Hero

The Royal Oak Police Department, in conjunction with our bordering police agencies, the Royal Oak Fire Department, and the Veterans committee participate each holiday season for Shop with a Hero. This special event pairs a child from local schools with a public safety member or a Veteran. With support from Meijer Corporation and the Royal Oak Civic Fund, donations of gift cards are provided to the children who can spend time shopping with their favorite hero. It is a great community event, with everyone involved very thankful for the opportunity to participate.



### Holiday Toy Drive



Royal Oak residents came out in force to support the Royal Oak Police Department's holiday toy drive to benefit the children of the Judson Center. Through the generosity and sense of community shown by residents of Royal Oak, their donation of toys went above and beyond to help make the holidays a little better for the kids in need.

### Easter Bunny Public Event

The Royal Oak Police Department is proud to have been part of the 3rd annual Easter event. Our very own Officer Cavanagh, Officer Plitz and Officer Stienke, along with K9 Conan, were excited to meet the Easter Bunny and the community who chose to stop by the police department.



## Additional Units/Resources

### Police Motor Unit



### Police Honor Guard Unit



### K9 Unit

K9 Thorvi



K9 Conan



## ADDITIONAL UNITS/RESOURCES



### The Royal Oak Auxiliary Police

The auxiliary police unit is comprised of 23 service-oriented men and women who volunteer from within the Royal Oak community. This volunteer corps augments the Royal Oak Police Department by performing uniformed foot and vehicle patrols. In 2024, the Auxiliary Officers completed 4,473 hours of volunteer work while patrolling on foot and in vehicles in over 50 different city events.

Auxiliary members are trained and equipped by the police department to observe and report conditions requiring police services. Whenever possible, they assist in non-enforcement and non-hazardous duties. The following are some areas in which the Auxiliary Police assist the Police Department:

- Conducting residential, schools and commercial business checks.
- Assist with community festivals, parades, concerts, street fairs, and park patrols.
- Assist with Woodward cruiser activity throughout the summer.
- Traffic control when needed at intersections with malfunctioning signals.
- Residential vacation checks.

Their sacrifice and hard work to the community is often overlooked but is greatly appreciated.

### The Royal Oak Police -Chaplains

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 2024, 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 Woodward Dream Cruise

The Woodward Dream Cruise started in 1995, now 30 years later, it has grown to an event that isn't just one day and unofficially spans the entire week leading up to it. The Woodward Dream Cruise, known as the largest one-day car show, brings people from all over the world to Royal Oak. The cruise route spans multiple cities, running from Detroit to Pontiac, with the concentration of cruisers coming to the great city of Royal Oak to see the muscle cars, hot rods, custom, and collector vehicles.

The City of Royal Oak is the epicenter for this event. It is in Royal Oak that a majority of the corporate sponsors lease space to showcase their products. This is dubbed as a family event and the Royal Oak Police, in cooperation with surrounding agencies make sure it is a safe event for all that come to see it.

The Royal Oak Police Department takes on a leadership role to coordinate law enforcement planning meetings associated with the Dream Cruise. This year was no exception. The meetings include not only local law enforcement agencies directly affected by the Dream Cruise, but also the FBI, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, MSP, Oakland County Emergency Management, Oakland County Department of Health and Human Service, Michigan Department of Transportation, and the National Weather Service.

The extraordinary efforts of all these entities through teamwork and communication resulted in an incident free event that saw over a million spectators and visitors attending the event.



## Arts, Beats & Eats

Royal Oak hosted the annual Soaring Eagle Arts, Beats & Eats event over the Labor Day weekend. This event continuously brings over 400,000 people to the city of Royal Oak. The festival is located in our downtown and offers highly regarded fine art exhibits, more than 200 live musical 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 several of our Federal, State, and local partners. The Michigan State Police, Oakland County Sheriff Office, CN Railway, and several other area departments provide staff to enhance and supplement our public safety resources.

This was the fifteenth year Royal Oak has hosted this event, and the police department has continuously reviewed and revised the operational plan to ensure the event is safe, secure, and enjoyable for all those who attend.



## Grant Awards

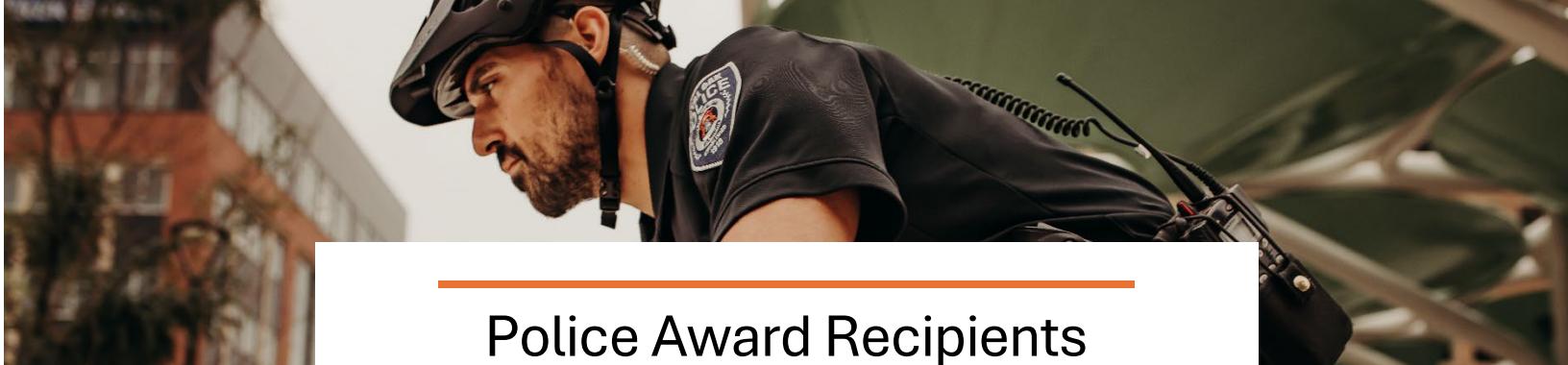
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Throughout 2024, the Royal Oak Police Department applied for, and was awarded the following grants:

1. Received from the Office of Highway Safety to enforce the “DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER” campaign.
2. “CLICK IT OR TICKET” campaign.
3. “DISTRACTED DRIVING” campaign.
4. “SPEED ENFORCEMENT” campaign.

Additionally, the Royal Oak Police Department received a grant to purchase ballistic safety vests for police officers.





## Police Award Recipients

It is a great privilege to introduce some of the staff of the Royal Oak Police Department who stood out in 2024. These individuals were nominated by their peers or supervisors for exceptional performance. Following the meeting of the Commendation Review Board, we are pleased to announce the names of award recipients.

### 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

#### Officer of the Year

- **For 2024** | Officer Blaine Goertler

#### Civilian Employee of the Year

- **For 2024** | Records Clerk Laney Setty

#### Life Saving Award

- **For an incident on April 22, 2024** | Officer Gerald Karr / Officer Kyle Adair/Officer Sean Staniszewski/911 Dispatcher Brooke Williams
- **For an incident on September 7, 2024** | Officer Joseph Petrone
- **For an incident on August 27, 2024** | Officer John Love/Officer Kyle Knauss
- **For an incident on August 21, 2024** | Sergeant Jimmy Elrod/Officer Joseph Lovasz/Officer Liam Sarris
- **For an incident on March 13, 2024** | Dispatcher Joseph Ivy

#### Meritorious Service

- **For an incident on February 27, 2024** | Detective Andrew Rougeau
- **For an incident on April 22, 2024** | 911 Dispatcher Brooke Williams
- **For an incident on March 13, 2024** | 911 Dispatcher Joseph Ivy
- **For an incident on July 28, 2024** | Sergeant Michael Paramo/ Officer Renee Hertz/ Officer Liam Sarris/ Officer Natalia Satterfield/ Officer Patrick Sroufe/Officer Joseph Petrone/Officer Jacob Gostiaux/Officer Vincent Chandler/Officer Zachary Bunting

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## POLICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Unit Citation

- **For the 2024 Youth Academy**
  - Sergeant Ryan Spangler
  - Officer Jessica Reece
  - Officer Andre Stienke
  - Officer Jacob Gostiaux
  - Officer Antonio Lipscomb
- **For the 2024 Citizens Police Academy**
  - Sergeant Dominick Catanese
  - Sergeant Jimmy Elrod
  - Admin. Assistant Catherine Koehn
- **For an incident on August 27, 2024**
  - Lieutenant David Budzynowski
  - Sergeant Dominick Catanese
  - Sergeant Jordan Desano
  - Sergeant Jason Manning
  - Sergeant Timothy Brown
  - Officer Gerald Karr
  - Officer John Love
  - Officer Brenna Link
  - Officer Kyle Knauss
  - Officer Katlyn Meckl
  - Officer Joseph Yerke
  - Officer Austin Plitz
  - Officer Blaine Goertler
  - Officer Robert Hull
  - Officer Joshua Little
  - Officer Karlee Cambell
  - Officer Brian Domzalski
  - Officer Tyler Snyder
  - Officer Nicholas Shoemaker
  - Officer Jessica Reece
  - Officer Allison Cole
  - 911 Dispatcher Ashley Palomba
  - 911 Dispatcher Katherine Reynolds
  - Cadet Mina Yono
  - Cadet Theodore Eising

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## POLICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Unit Citation

- **For an incident on October 12, 2024:**
  - Sergeant Jordan Desano
  - Sergeant Michael Paramo
  - Sergeant Jimmy Elrod
  - Officer Jacob Gostiaux
  - Officer Renee Hertz
  - Officer Samii Ismail
  - Officer Ryan Moran
  - Officer Justin Francis
  - Officer Brandon Yax
  - Officer Natalia Satterfield
  - Officer Joshua Little
  - Officer Joseph Lovasz
  - Officer Zachary Bunting
  - 911 Dispatcher Brooke Williams
  - 911 Dispatcher Steven Heck
  - Cadet Theodore Eising

### Community Service Award

- **For the 2024 Youth Academy** | Officer Jessica Reece
- **For the year 2024** | Officer Andre Stienke

### Certificate Of Commendation

- **For an incident on July 28, 2024**
  - 911 Dispatcher Christine Page/ 911 Dispatcher Benjamin Cameron
- **For an incident on September 28, 2024**
  - Detective Kyle Vanderhoff/ Detective Keith Bierenga

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## POLICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Certificate Of Commendation

- **For 25+ OWI/OUID arrests throughout 2024**

- Officer Blaine Goertler
- Officer Michael Stokes
- Officer Vincent Chandler
- Officer Zachary Bunting
- Officer Joseph Lovasz
- Officer Natalia Satterfield
- Officer Renee Hertz
- Officer Anthony Carter

### Letter Of Recognition

- **For an incident on July 24, 2024 | Officer Kyle Knauss**