



COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2015



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# The 2015 Annual Report

The City of Columbus – Police Department



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## Section 1: Department Overview

### *Mission*

To Protect and Serve

### *Vision*

We strive to ensure the safety and well-being of our community by evaluating and improving our services through ongoing quality performance reviews that gauge our current practices to strategies that adhere to the internationally recognized best practices for law enforcement. We practice fair and impartial enforcement of the law that is responsive to citizen needs and are committed to providing professional service that protects lives, property and personal liberties, while developing community partnerships and welcoming the diversity of our citizens.



### *Core Values*

We have:

- Integrity – We are honest and have strong moral principles
- Duty – We have obligations beyond our moral and legal responsibilities
- Honor – We are fair and uphold the responsibilities of the position in which we are entrusted

We are:

- Loyal – We are faithful to and fulfill our commitments, obligations and duties
- Responsible – We are accountable for that which is in our power, control, and management
- Service Oriented – We are helpful

We do all this with:

- Excellence – We surpass ordinary standards
- Respect – We treat all people with high regard
- Equality – We treat all people the same



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## Major Accomplishments

### *Dual Accreditation*

In 2014, the department received its accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA), which ensures the department establishes and practices internationally recognized best standards for law enforcement. At that time, less than 3% of law enforcement agencies nationwide achieved CALEA accreditation. On March 27, 2015, the department was awarded accreditation from the Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (ILEAC), which was established to increase agency effectiveness and efficiency in delivery of law enforcement services while increasing citizen and employee confidence in the department goals, objectives, policies and practices. When the department received this award, we joined 15 other law enforcement agencies from Indiana who had also received the award.

### *Overdose Intervention Program*

The need for this program resulted from the increase in heroin overdoses and deaths that were occurring nationwide. In 2013 we responded to eight (8) heroin overdoses, where three (3) resulted in death; in 2014 we responded to 40 heroin overdoses that resulted in five (5) deaths. The program is designed to equip patrol officers with the overdose medication Naloxone (Narcan) that reverses the effects of opioids, including heroin, which cause a person's breathing to slow and sometimes stop, resulting in death. In February of 2015 every uniformed officer on the department had been trained and equipped with nasal mist Naloxone. Leading the research and development of this program was Sergeant Jay Frederick, who serves on the Indiana Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force. The department's overdose intervention training was developed by a collaborative effort among CPD officers, Columbus Regional Hospital (CRH) medics, and Dr. Christopher Schneider, a physician at CRH's emergency department. Dr. Schneider is the medical director for the overdose intervention policy, which includes overseeing the department's overdose intervention training. The medication was procured through the efforts of CRH pharmacy director, Ben Caughey, and were funded, in part, through the efforts of Emmy Frederick's senior project. In 2015, the department responded to 23 opioid/heroin overdoses. Of the 23 such overdose responses, 14 involved an unconscious person. Narcan was administered to unconscious persons on 13 of those responses, and all 13 times the person's life was saved. There was one (1) overdose death in 2015, and in that case, it was too late for Narcan to be administered.

### *Body Worn Cameras*

By the end of December of 2015, all of our uniformed officers were issued body worn cameras. Data research on this technology illustrates that use of body worn cameras reduces citizen complaints and incidents of resistance and are also valuable for evidentiary purposes.



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### *Social Media Program*

In 2015, the department began utilizing Facebook and Twitter accounts to better disseminate information to the public in a timely manner. These additions to our Public Relations Office give the public real-time public safety information along with current information on what their police department is doing. Whether the information is about hazardous road conditions, a police and community event, or a crime we need community assistance to solve, we want to keep residents informed. We encourage community members to take advantage of this service, and we already have over 6,000 followers on Facebook.

- Facebook – type the keyword “Columbus Police Department”
- Twitter – type “@Columbus\_Police” in the search box

### *Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET)*

On January 1, 2015, the Joint Narcotic’s Enforcement Team (JNET) was established to unite local efforts to aggressively pursue drug dealers in our community. JNET is made up of undercover officers from the Columbus Police Department and Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Department, and a Bartholomew County Deputy Prosecutor. Additional information on this initiative can be found under the “Narcotic’s Division” section of this report.

### *Electronic Search Warrants*

Before 2015, officers composed search warrants, contacted a judge, drove to the location of the judge for review of the search warrant, and if the warrant was granted, drove back to serve the search warrant. Detective Sergeant Tom Foust worked with Magistrate Joseph Meek and the other judges in our county to make this process more efficient. Now, officers compose and send search warrants to a judge from their computer, place a telephone call to the judge who reviews the search warrant at their location, and if the search warrant is granted, the officer is electronically notified. This process has significantly reduced the time commitment for officers when applying for search warrants, which translates to officers having more time to focus on additional enforcement efforts.

## **Uniform Division**

The Uniform Division is responsible for responding to calls for service and initiating activity to both effectively fight crime and build positive relationships within the community. Officer-initiated activity includes traffic enforcement, extra patrols, serving warrants on criminals, making contact with persons engaged in suspicious activity, engaging the public in consensual encounters to better determine their service needs, etc. This division also includes a Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) unit, and School Resource Officers.

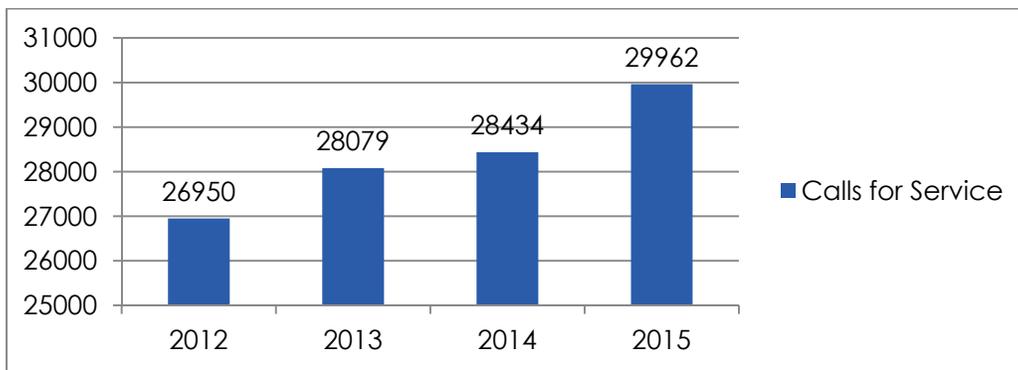


### School Resource Officers

Two (2) School Resource Officers are assigned full-time to the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation. These officers spend a majority of their time engaging with students in a positive manner, while still maintaining a safe environment for students, school personnel, and other people using school facilities.

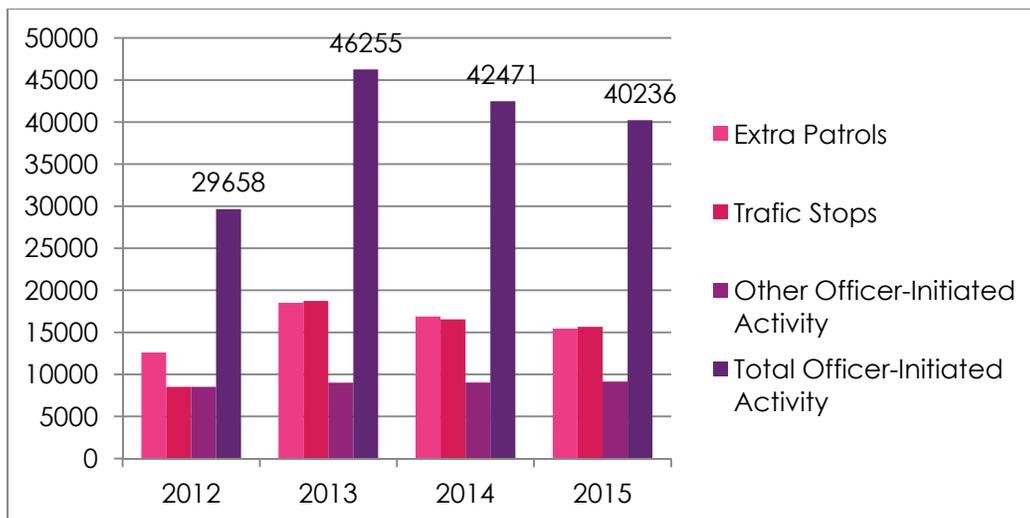
### Calls for Service

From 2014 to 2015 our calls for service increased 5.4%, and from 2012 to 2015 they increased 11.2%. As we tell community members who attend our neighborhood meetings – if you are not sure whether or not to call, please call. We prefer to respond to calls when our presence is not necessary, rather than face a situation where we should have been called and were not.



### Officer-Initiated Activity

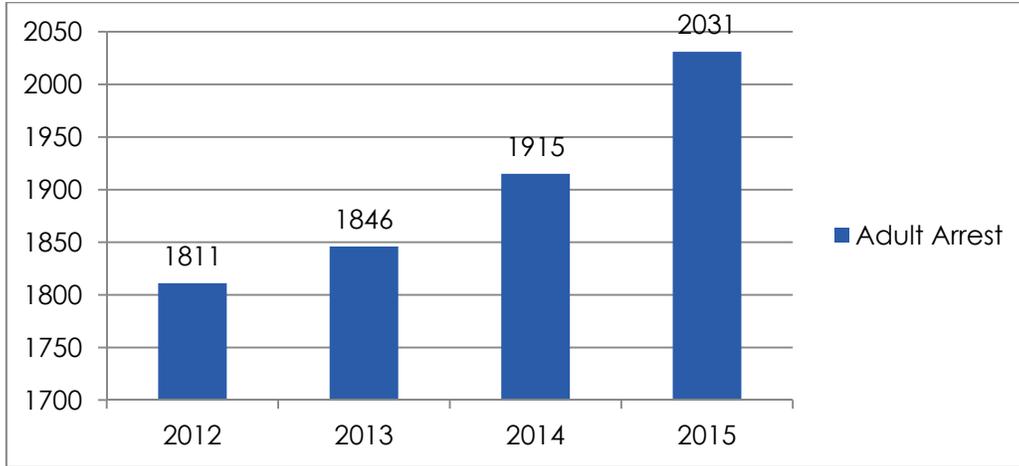
Your officers proactively work hard to protect you and your property and to build community policing efforts. For three (3) consecutive years, officers initiated over 40,000 calls. This was accomplished in 2015 despite the significant increases in calls for service, adult arrests and drug arrests.





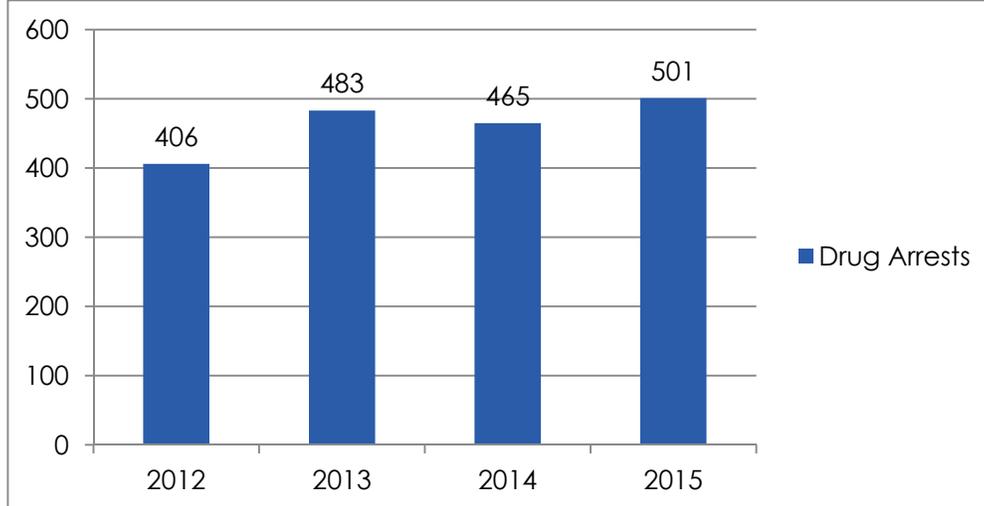
### Adult Arrests

From 2014 to 2015 our adult arrests increased 6.1%, and from 2012 to 2015 they increased 12.2%.



### Drug Arrests

From 2014 to 2015 our drug arrests increased 7.7%, and from 2012 to 2015 they increased 23.4%.

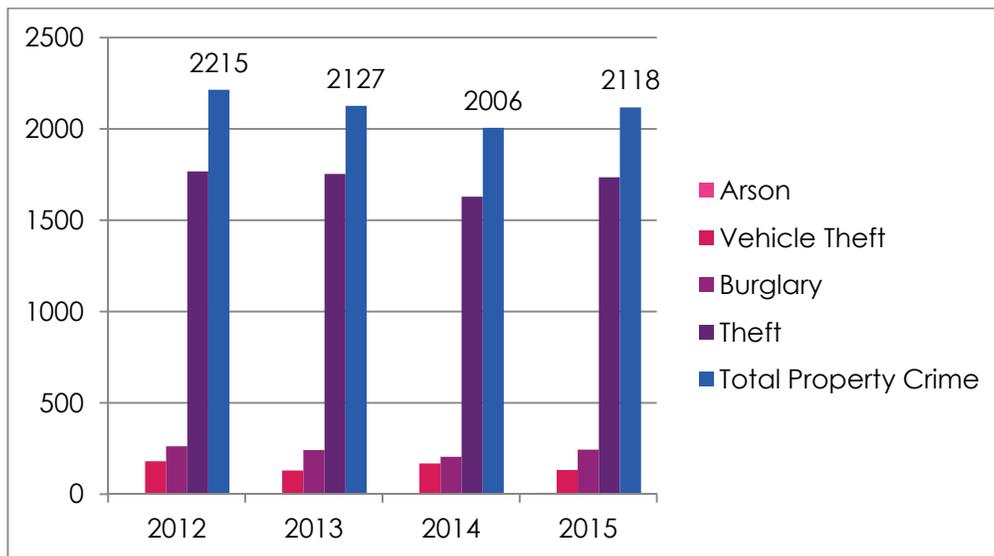




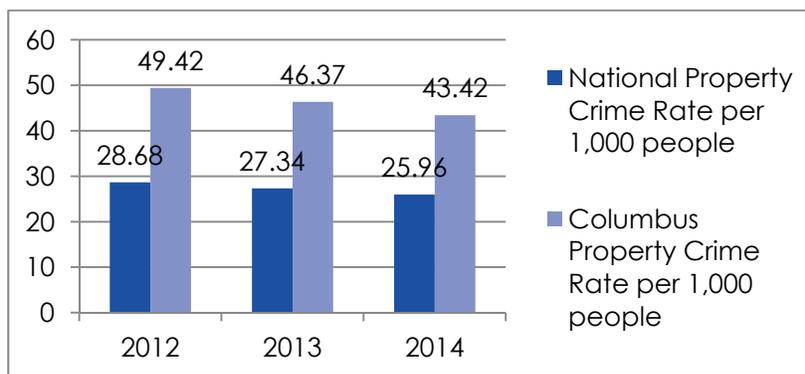
### Property Crime

Property crime in our city continues to be a problem, particularly in the area of thefts. As we evaluated the theft complaints we received, we discovered that a majority result from crimes of opportunity – from vehicles that are left unlocked, items that are left unsecured on property, etc. We are committed to focusing our enforcement efforts on activities that will ultimately drive property crime down. As the police department diligently works to achieve this goal, there are things that citizens can do to help.

- Immediately report suspicious activity to us by calling (812) 379-1689.
- Hide your valuable personal property, and secure it by keeping it behind a locked door whether that is in your car or on your property.
- Register items you own that have serial numbers on [reportit.leadsonline.com](http://reportit.leadsonline.com). This is a free and secure inventory system that allows you to keep track of your valuable personal property, and if it is ever stolen, your records may help us in the recovery process.



Although our property crime rate is higher than the national average, we have seen a steady decrease in our property crime rates from 2012 through 2014.

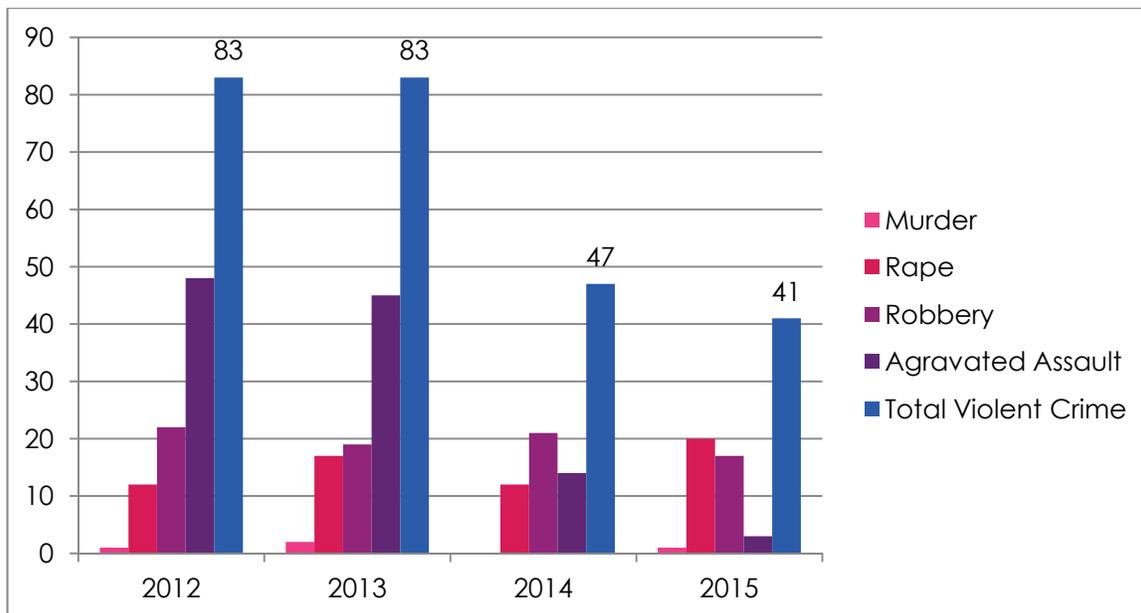


**\*2015 Property Crime Rates cannot be determined because the 2015 National Property Crime Rate and the 2015 estimated Columbus population are not yet available.**

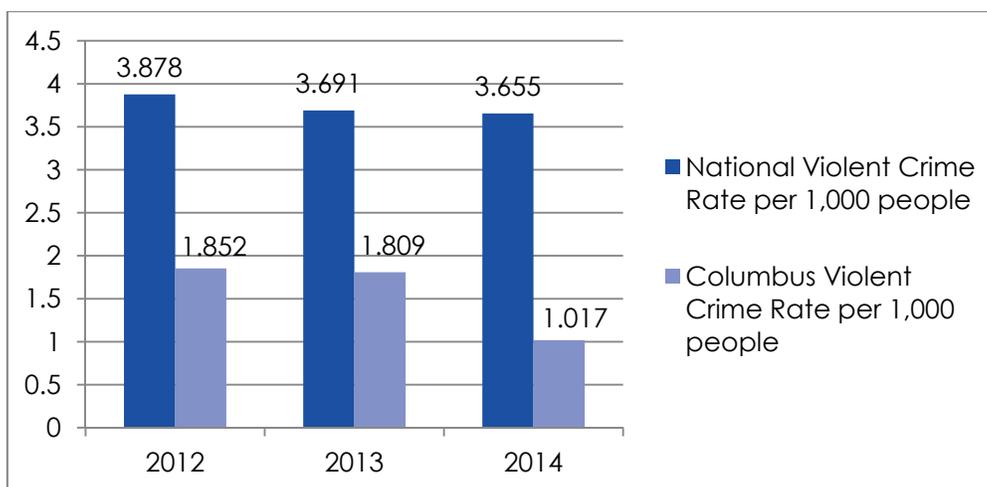


### Violent Crime

Although citizens need to be mindful of their personal property, they should feel safe in Columbus. From 2014 to 2015 our violent crime decreased 12.8%, and from 2012 to 2015 it decreased 50.6%.



Our violent crime rate is significantly lower than the national average, and continues to decrease at a faster rate than the national average. It is evident that we offer a much safer community in comparison to others.

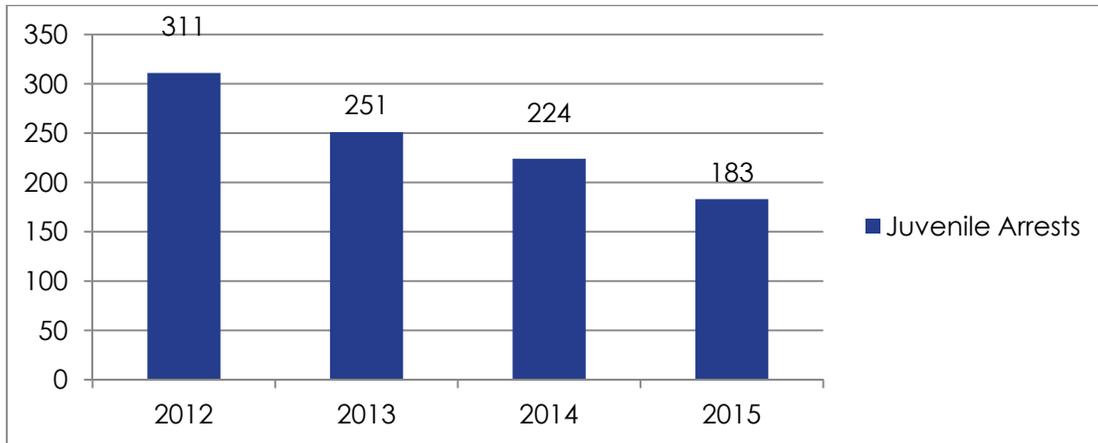


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### Juvenile Arrests

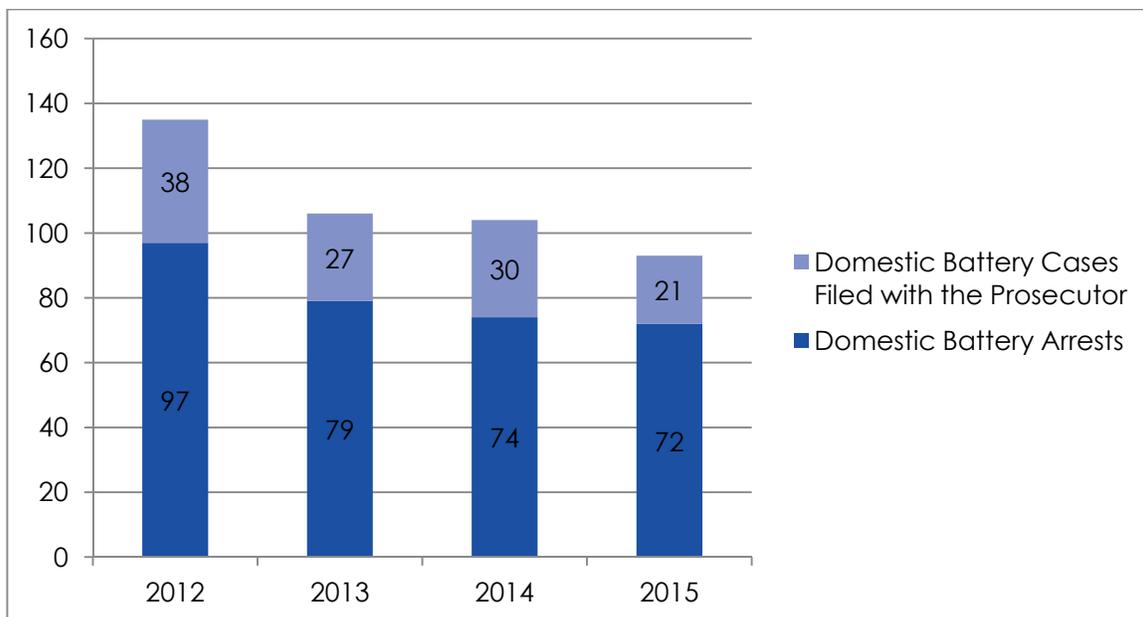
As we partner with Bartholomew County Juvenile Probation, Bartholomew County Youth Services Center, Bartholomew County Prosecutor’s Office and the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation, it is our goal to see a decrease in juvenile arrests. It is our policy when dealing with juvenile offenders to use the least coercive among reasonable alternatives, consistent with serving public safety, order and individual liberty. We recognize entering a juvenile in the criminal justice system can have long lasting, negative effects, and as such, strive to decrease juvenile arrests by referral to programs designed to prevent and control juvenile delinquency. We have been active in the Bartholomew County Juvenile Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), which has the goal of having community alternatives to detention that can be utilized while still maintaining public safety. From 2014 to 2015 our juvenile arrests decreased 18.3%, and from 2012 to 2015 they decreased 41.2%.





### Domestic Violence

When an officer responds to a domestic violence call, a report is generated any time domestic violence is alleged. If the officer has probable cause to believe that an act of domestic violence occurred, the suspect is typically arrested. If an officer cannot locate the suspect in a reasonable amount of time, the case is filed with the prosecutor's office. We consider either an arrest or a case filing as a verified domestic violence incident. From 2014 to 2015 our verified domestic violence incidents decreased 10.6%, and from 2012 to 2015 they decreased 31.1%.

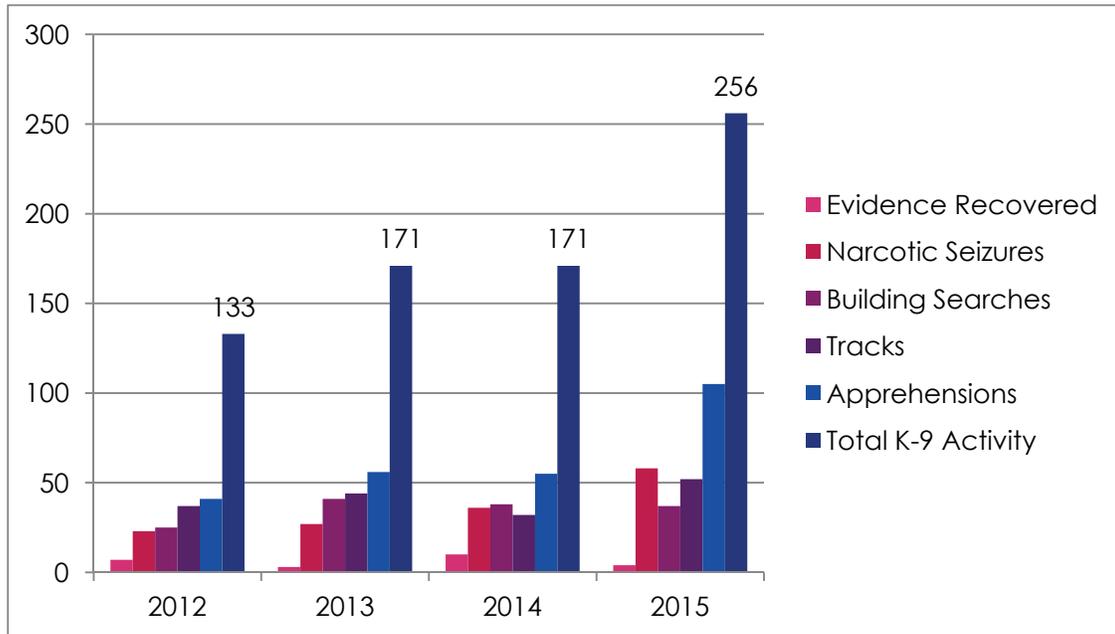


Despite the decrease in verified domestic violence incidents, domestic violence continues to plague our community and cuts across all socio-economic levels. Our officers complete the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) on all domestic violence arrests, which assists prosecutors, judges and probation officers with their decisions regarding bond amounts, protective orders and sentencing options. We partner with Turning Point, who provides domestic violence services, to work toward the prevention and the elimination of domestic and dating violence. We were honored to be recognized for our exceptional service on behalf of domestic violence victims by receiving the 2015 Turning Point Bartholomew County Distinguished Service Award.



### K-9 Units

Our department has three (3) K-9 units - Officer Chad Lehman and K-9 Rex, Officer Branch Schrader and K-9 Argo, and Officer Searle and K-9 Max. All of our K-9s are multipurpose dogs that detect narcotics, track and apprehend. Throughout the year all the K-9s were crucial to narcotic seizures, locating fleeing suspects and locating articles that were lost, stolen or used in the commission of a crime.



Here are some 2015 highlights from our K-9 Teams.

#### Officer Lehman and K-9 Rex:

- Narcotic seizure of 20 grams of methamphetamine
- Narcotic seizure of three (3) pounds of methamphetamine
- Narcotic seizure of four (4) pounds of methamphetamine
- Track that resulted in the apprehension of a wanted man that fled from police





Officer Schrader and K-9 Argo:

- Narcotic seizure of 100 grams of methamphetamine
- Building search that resulted in the apprehension of a burglary suspect



Officer Searle and K-9 Max:

- Narcotic seizure of 31 bindles of heroin and a firearm
- Bite apprehension of a suspect wanted for escape and who resisted law enforcement
- Building search that resulted in the apprehension of a person wanted on warrants





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## Detective Division

The Detective Division investigates crimes that cannot be resolved by the Uniform Division due to the time commitment of the investigation, complexity of the investigation or other qualifying circumstances. Detectives have specialized training and experience for a variety of crimes. In addition, they gather and disseminate criminal intelligence information with a focus on combating property and violent crimes. The following are some of the investigations completed by the Detective Division in 2015 that illustrate the diversity of cases in which they investigate:

- A fraud of over \$30,000 resulted in a felony arrest.
- An extensive internet investigation where the suspect assumed the identity of two (2) teenage girls resulted in an arrest and conviction on felony charges.
- A theft of “thousands” of dollars from a local school by a school secretary that had occurred over a period of years resulted in a felony theft arrest and a subsequent conviction.
- An investigation into burglaries at two (2) different car washes resulted in the suspect’s arrest and conviction for burglary.
- An investigation into an aggravated rape resulted in a felony arrest and a \$1,000,000 bond on the suspect.
- After collaborating with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding a series of armed robberies in central Indiana, including Columbus, the suspect was arrested, convicted and sentenced to three (3) life sentences in federal prison.
- An investigation into the theft from a local retail store of \$10,000 led to the arrest and formal felony charges being filed on the suspect.
- An investigation was launched when a suspect traveled from the Netherlands to engage in sex with a Columbus teenager. The investigation resulted in an arrest, conviction, and after serving his sentence in the United States, the suspect faces international charges and deportation.
- An investigation into a series of burglaries from a local trailer park resulted in two (2) brothers being arrested and convicted of felony burglary charges.
- An investigation into a stabbing resulted in the arrest and conviction of the suspect.
- An investigation into a credit card fraud scheme in excess of \$300,000 that was a joint effort between North Vernon Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Columbus Police Department resulted in the arrest of the suspect and federal charges.
- An investigation into the stalking of a teenager resulted in a felony arrest and conviction for stalking.
- During an investigation into international wire fraud of \$50,000 from a business, detectives executed a search warrant and recovered the majority of the cash, and the case was turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- Detectives investigated two (2) separate arsons that both resulted in arrests and felony arson charges

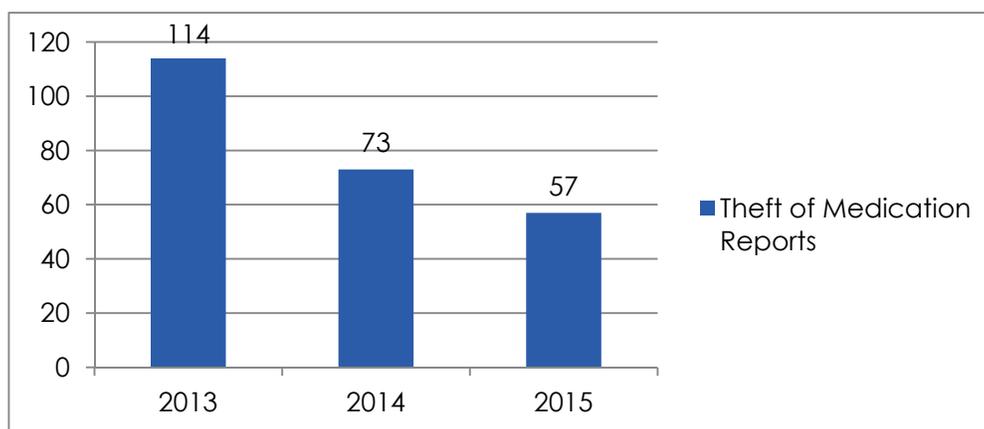


- Detectives investigated four (4) different armed robberies from local convenient stores. Each investigation resulted in the suspect being arrested, one of which was coordinated with authorities in Arkansas. All four (4) resulted in the suspects being charged with robbery.
- An investigation into a child molest allegation resulted in an arrest for felony child molestation.
- Detectives investigated a murder at a local apartment complex, where the suspect committed suicide.
- An investigation into an identity deception allegation where the suspect used someone's identity to gain employment at several businesses for years resulted in the suspect's arrest and subsequent conviction for felony identity deception.
- An investigation into an accident where a pedestrian was struck and sustained serious injuries and the driver fled the scene resulted in the suspect being identified, located and arrested for felony charges for leaving the scene of an accident and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

In addition to the many specializations within our Detective Division, we also have an investigator specifically designated to prescription drug diversion, an investigator specifically designated to repeat offenders, and three (3) investigators assigned to the Narcotic's Division (JNET).

### *Prescription Drug Diversion*

Detective Chris Couch is assigned to combat illegal uses of prescription medication and investigates every report concerning a theft of medication or prescription fraud. One of the goals was to decrease the number of theft of medication reports being made in order to prevent the facilitation of illegitimate prescription refills. From 2014 to 2015 our theft of medication reports decreased 21.9%, and from 2013 to 2015 they decreased 50%.

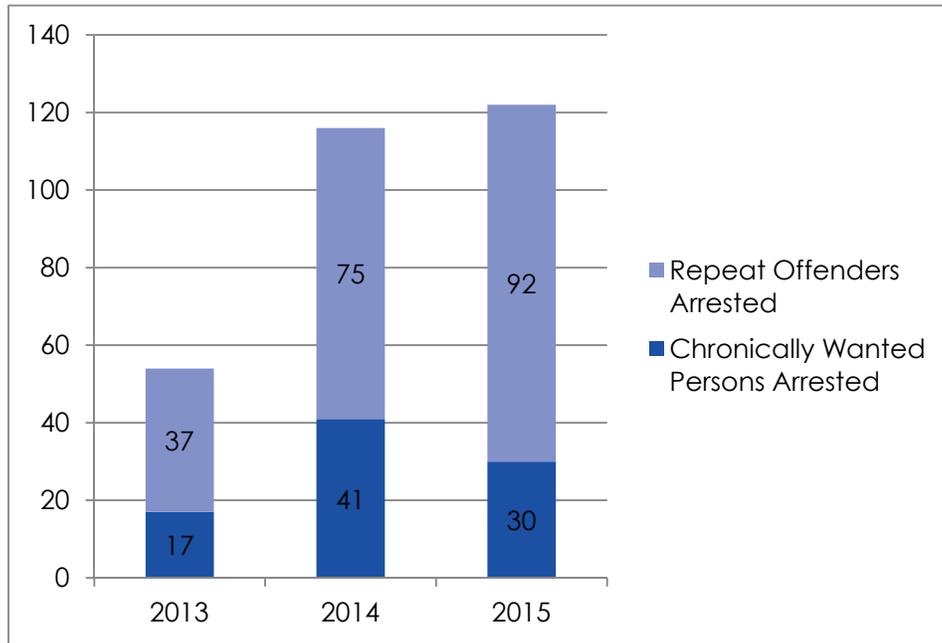


Detective Couch also meets with a community-wide diversion network and provides education to the healthcare community in pharmaceutical drug crime trends, forensic drug screen testing, robbery mitigation strategies and covert internal investigations.



### *Repeat Offenders*

Detective Sergeant Tom Foust is assigned as the division’s repeat offender investigator, which focuses on identifying and tracking offenders who have committed numerous criminal acts, continue to commit criminal acts after being released from incarceration, or chronically have multiple warrants issued. This position has specifically assisted our efforts in reducing crime, as we do not simply rely on geographic and time patterns, but focus on identifying and apprehending the people who are committing the crimes.



From 2014 to 2015 our total chronically wanted persons and repeat offenders arrested increased 5.2%. From 2013 to 2015, our total chronically wanted persons and repeat offenders arrested increased 126%. Over the past two (2) years, we have arrested 85% of those identified as a chronically wanted person or a repeat offender.

### *Narcotic’s Division*

The two largest local law enforcement agencies and the prosecutor in Bartholomew County are working closer than ever to decrease the drug supply and drug usage in Bartholomew County. On January 1, 2015, the Joint Narcotic’s Enforcement Team (JNET) was established to unite local efforts to aggressively pursue drug dealers in our community. JNET is made up of undercover officers from the Columbus Police Department and Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Department and a Bartholomew County Deputy Prosecutor, and is a well-coordinated initiative seeking the most effective investigative and prosecutorial avenues by which to pursue this mission. Since accurate intelligence gathering is such an important part of successful anti-drug-trafficking operations, the JNET has proved to be an invaluable development that targets the root of many of our community problems – drugs.



In 2015, the JNET initiated 179 cases, resulting in 186 investigations (some of the cases resulted in multiple investigations). In 2015, the JNET worked closely with local law enforcement officers, state enforcement officers and multiple federal agencies.

<b>Investigation Type</b>	<b>2015</b>
Meth Lab	2
Meth Trash	15
Dealing Meth	79
Dealing Heroin	16
Dealing Cocaine	2
Dealing Controlled Substance	3
Dealing Marijuana	4
Counterfeit Money/Documents	2
Possession of Meth	4
Possession of Heroin	1
Possession of Marijuana	1
Warrant services	43
Other*	14
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>186</b>

\*The "other" category includes investigations into dealing a look-a-like substance, possession of paraphernalia, possession of stolen property, etc.





The following highlight JNET's attention to choking off major suppliers of drugs into our community:

- A male was arrested with 7.9 grams of heroin and \$5,410 in cash was seized.
- A female was arrested with two (2) pounds of marijuana and one (1) pound of methamphetamine.
- Two (2) males and one (1) female were arrested with 2.3 pounds of methamphetamine and a firearm.
- A male was arrested with seven (7) pounds of marijuana, approximately 200 grams of Xanax, over 100 items of drug paraphernalia, over \$75,000 of cash and multiple firearms and ammunition.
- Two (2) males were arrested with methamphetamine a street value in excess of \$550,000.
- Several arrests were made when four (4) pounds of methamphetamine with an estimated street value in excess of \$250,000 and a firearm were recovered during a search warrant.
- Within two (2) days ten (10) drug dealers were incarcerated and charged with drug dealing crimes.



The JNET will continue pursuing those who are distributing and abusing dangerous drugs in Bartholomew County. The Bartholomew County Prosecutor's Office, the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office and the Columbus Police Department collectively vow to maximize their resources to this mission.



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## Section 2: Emergency & Disaster Preparedness

### Specialty Units

Although we are considered a mid-sized agency, we are proud to offer most emergency services that are found only in large-sized agencies. The following lists some of the specialty services we provide:

#### *SWAT*

The SWAT team trains a minimum of 16 hours each month, working on tactics and firearm skills, as they prepare for the worst case public safety scenarios. The SWAT team is prepared to handle high-risk search warrants, armed suicidal persons, barricaded persons, hostage situations and many other high-risk scenarios.

#### *Dive Team*

The Dive Team trains on a monthly basis alongside the county's Swift Water Rescue Teams. The Dive Team trains for emergency deployment in rescue situations, where victims have dropped below the surface water out of reach of the Swift Water Rescue Teams, as well as for recovery of evidence submerged in local lakes and rivers.

#### *Bomb Technicians*

The Columbus Police Department Hazardous Devices Unit or bomb squad, was formed with the approval of the Federal Bureau of Investigations in the spring of 2004. The unit currently has two (2) certified bomb technicians and one (1) explosive ordnance recognition trained officer. The unit also has a post blast trained investigator for crime scene analysis. The trained certified bomb technicians are trained to identify and neutralize explosive devices.

#### *Accident Reconstruction Unit*

The Accident Reconstruction Unit is called on to investigate and properly document crashes that involve serious bodily injury or death. Accident reconstruction involves analyzing a large amount of data from a crash scene. Although every police officer investigates motor vehicle crashes, these investigators specialize in the gathering of all available data to best determine what occurred before, during and after the crash.

#### *Crisis Negotiation Team*

The Crisis Negotiation Team members have been specifically selected because they possess the unique ability to communicate with persons under intense and often unpredictable conditions. The team is activated in conjunction with our SWAT team and assists with the same types of high-risk situations. This unit takes pride in defusing critical situations while focusing on the overall mission of peaceful crisis resolution.



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### *Crime Scene Investigators*

Our crime scene investigators are trained in the collection and processing of delicate evidence found at major crime scenes. The majority of this training occurs in a 160 hour Crime Scene Investigator course held at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. The investigators are trained in a wide range of forensic disciplines such as DNA, fingerprints, bloodstain pattern analysis, ballistics, photography, etc. These investigators are typically called to scenes where a person has suffered significant bodily injury or death.

### *Polygraph Examiners*

The department has polygraph examiners who are trained to use technology to detect deception on suspects, witnesses and alleged victims. In addition, the examiners are used to conduct truth verifying tests on potential officers during the course of rigorous background investigations.

### **Emergency and Disaster Training**

It is critical that your police department is prepared for any type of disaster that may affect the Columbus area. In 2015, we participated in a variety of mock disasters, disaster table-top exercises and other large scale disaster training. We continuously prepare for different types of disaster scenarios such as armed intruders, tornados, floods, etc. to ensure we are prepared for any potential disaster.

### *Active Shooter*

All of our officers complete annual training in active shooter training scenarios. We have Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) instructors who orchestrate our training. We are prepared to respond if our community experiences such a tragic event.

### *Incident Command System (ICS)*

We utilized the incident command system at planned events in 2015. The system, which is recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), consists of an established command post and various personnel filling roles. By being educated in and practicing these concepts at planned events, we are better prepared to respond to and manage unplanned emergencies and disasters.

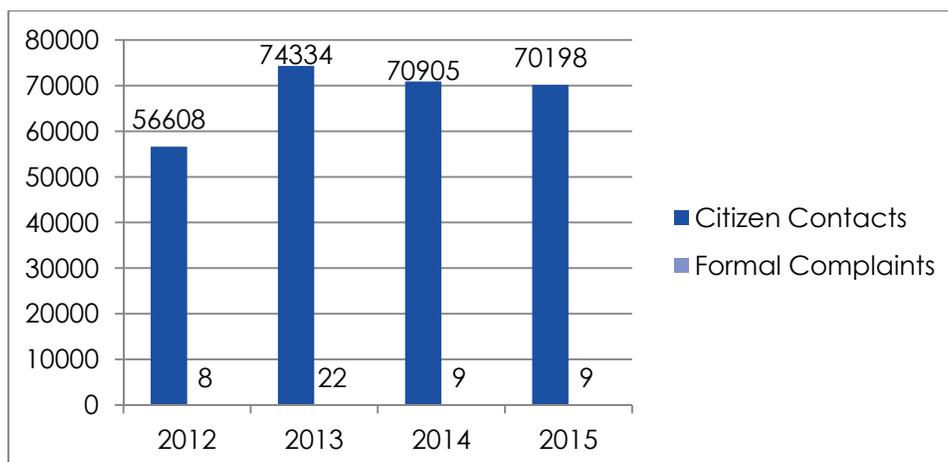


## Section 3: Community Policing

The members of the Columbus Police Department are service-oriented, and we serve you, our customer. We recognize that much of what we do cannot be done without community and citizen partnerships.

### Audit & Review Committee

The Audit & Review Committee is a civilian oversight committee that reviews formal complaints received by the department and how they are handled. The number of formal complaints compared to citizen contacts best illustrates the level of community satisfaction with the police department. For the past three (3) years zero (0) formal complaints resulted in improper conduct on the part of an officer. The number of formal complaints in relation to citizen contacts was 0.0141% in 2012, 0.0296% in 2013, 0.0127% in 2014, and .0128% in 2015.



### Engaging Adults

#### *Neighborhood Watch Groups*

Our Public Relations Officer, Lt. Matt Harris, and our Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) officers meet regularly with existing neighborhood watch groups. We will meet with and assist any neighborhood or group of people that is interested in establishing such a group.

#### *Self-Defense Class*

Our defensive tactics instructors and other officers conducted three (3) women's self-defense classes in 2015 that each met for four (4) consecutive weeks. These classes are open to the public and are physically interactive.



### *Firearms Safety Class*

We hosted two (2) firearm safety classes in 2015 with approximately 50 people attending the courses. The full day training course features time in the classroom as well as on our firing range with our firearms instructors.



### *Public Safety Academy*

This ten (10) week program educates adults on every aspect of public safety by giving them an inside look at the job of a police officer. Once a person graduates from this program, they are eligible to volunteer for the department. We had 19 community members graduate from the Public Safety Academy this year.





## Engaging the Youth

### *Homework with an Officer*

We continue to build personal relationships with the youth in the community by offering the homework with an officer program at Pence Apartments, which occurs after school every Monday while school is in session. Thanks to the efforts of Officer John Velten, the program was expanded in 2015 to also occur after school every Tuesday while school is in session at the Eastside Community Center. This expansion doubled the locations and opportunities for children to participate in the program.



### *Police & Fire Youth Academy*

Another way we continue to build relationships with our youth is with the Police & Fire Youth Academy. This program is similar to the adult Public Safety Academy, except it is designed for youth. During this program the children receive a small taste of what it would be like to attend a law enforcement academy. In 2015, this opportunity was doubled as we held two (2) academies instead of one (1). Both classes were filled to capacity with 60 students participating.





### *D.A.R.E.*

We have ten (10) D.A.R.E. officers that teach the popular anti-drug program to sixth graders at eight (8) elementary schools in Columbus. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year that Columbus Police Officers have taught the program. All operational costs are paid by the generous donations from businesses and individuals in Columbus and Bartholomew County. Over 1300 students graduated from the program in 2015, making it one of the largest programs in the state.



### *Cadet Program*

The cadet program is designed for high-school age youth, who are mentored by and provided law enforcement training from our officers. During 2015, the Cadets worked events such as the Ethnic Expo, the Police & Fire Youth Academy, the D.A.R.E. graduations, the D.A.R.E. Dance, Aviation Day, the Cummins Marathon and many others. They worked approximately 280 volunteer hours. The cadet program remains strong with approximately 23 cadets taking part in the program during this past year. In 2015, we incorporated this program into our long-term recruitment plan. In 2015, a former cadet became a sworn officer with IUPD and another former cadet recently will be starting a college-aged cadet program with IUPUC this spring.

### *Precision Driving Course*

In 2015, the Columbus Police Department organized four (4) Teen Driving classes, instructing a total of 64 young drivers. Drivers were given hands-on experience on a closed course with our police driving instructors. They were instructed in critical accident avoidance areas such as evasive maneuvers, threshold braking, skid control, weaving, backing, and off-road recovery. A representative from the American Trucking Association participated, demonstrating how difficult it is for semi drivers to see traffic on the roadways.



### *Shop with a Cop*

In preparation for Christmas, we partner with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and many other law enforcement agencies to provide necessities and toys to children in need. During this event, officers volunteer their time to shop with these less fortunate kids.



### *School Visits*

We enjoy engaging our youth and ensuring they have positive interactions with law enforcement. Visiting schools is another way this is accomplished.



### *Mentors*

Columbus Police Department Officers are willing to assist students with their senior projects. Listed below are the students that were mentored by our officers in 2015:

- Detective Chris Couch mentored senior, Bredan Larrison, who organized a “Teen Driving” class.
- School Resource Officer Julie Quesenbery mentored senior, Kyra Jesse, who helped organize a safety class for high school senior girls.
- Lieutenant Alan Trisler mentored senior, Mckenzie Smith, who assisted with the “Shop with a Cop” program.



## Other Opportunities for Youth and Adults

### *Guest Speaking*

As a service to our community, our officers are available to speak at engagements free of charge. Some of the popular topics requested include armed intruder (active shooter), domestic violence, methamphetamine labs, K-9 demonstrations, self-defense, prescription diversion, firearms safety and hazardous devices. If you are interested in having an officer speak to a group about one of these topics, or on a topic not listed, contact Lt. Matt Harris at (812) 376-2605 or [dharris@columbus.in.gov](mailto:dharris@columbus.in.gov).

### *Public Safety Day*

Annually we host a Public Safety Day where any member of the public can see and touch much of the equipment that we utilize in our daily activities and in our department specialties such as the Bomb Team, SWAT, Dive Team, negotiators, etc. This event provides an excellent opportunity for members of the public to interact with our officers. In 2015, we held this event in conjunction with the Bartholomew Consolidated School Foundation's "Back to School Bash" event in order to increase these positive interactions.





### Department Tours

We guided dozens of tours within the police department and continue to do so upon request. Tours were given for scout groups, students, adults, and middle school students who visited Columbus from our sister city in Miyoshi, Japan.



### Community Events

Throughout the year, you see us at a variety of community events, including popular touch-a-truck events.





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## Section 4: Beyond the Badge

Most officers are quite humble and do not desire recognition for their accomplishments or selfless actions. Despite these desires, I feel it is important for you to be aware of some of the noble actions done by the officers that have been entrusted to serve you. These are a few stories from 2015 where officers acted above and beyond what is written in their job description, but there are many more. I am personally honored to work with those who discretely demonstrate a true public servant's heart without any desire for recognition.

### *As reported by a fellow officer*

There were three children from the same family that religiously attended the homework with an officer program, but suddenly stopped attending without any communication. Officer John Velten reached out to the mother of the children and learned that their step-father was responsible for getting the children from school to the program. The step-father had recently passed away, and the mother was unable to get the children to the program because of her work schedule. Officer Velten made arrangements with the mother that permitted him to personally pick the children up from school and take them to homework with an officer so they could continue to participate in the program.

### *As reported by Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation employees*

School Resource Officer Julie Quesenbery was made aware of a student not attending school. She took a school representative with her to the child's home and discovered that the child was not in attendance because she had head lice. Officer Quesenbery received permission from the child's mother to have her hair cut, and provided the child's mother instruction on what needed to be done to treat the home. Officer Quesenbery made arrangements to have the child's hair cut, but they were unable to do so because of the magnitude of head lice. Officer Quesenbery purchased an organic head lice treatment kit and spent 2½ hours with another school representative treating the child's head lice. After the treatment, Officer Quesenbery ensured the child's hair was cut and returned to the home to ensure that it was adequately treated. Subsequently, the child was able to start attending school again.

### *As reported by an observant citizen*

There is a mentally challenged adult that lives in a neighborhood and everyone in that neighborhood monitors him to ensure that he is taken care of. This adult makes money by riding his bicycle throughout Columbus picking up aluminum cans and recycling them. One day, the citizen observed a police officer transporting the mentally challenged male and his bicycle in a patrol car. When the officer unloaded the bicycle, it was evident that it had a flat tire. About 20 minutes after the officer had left, the citizen observed the same police officer return with a new tire and inner tube and watched him fix the flat tire on the bicycle. It was determined that this officer was Frank Dickman.



*As reported by a supervisor*

An officer responded to a call where a 19 year old female did not have any food to eat. It was determined that due to many poor choices by the female that she was going to be without food for the entire weekend. The officer contacted his supervisor, Sergeant Bill Skinner, and informed him of the situation. When Sergeant Skinner arrived on the scene, he had a bag of groceries for the female, and further explained to her all the options she has for assistance in Columbus.

*Polar Plunge*

Three of our officers (Lt. Matt Harris, Officer Eric Kapczynski and Officer Courtney Plummer) volunteered to participate in the Polar Plunge, which raises money for the Special Olympics. Out of all the participants, these officers ended up in first place for money raised.





## Section 5: The Future

It is our desire in 2016 to police smarter by leveraging research, data, and technology to improve public safety, reduce crime, and make the best use of resources, while continuing to engage the members of our community to help us better understand the individualized enforcement needs of different areas within our city. By policing smarter and in conjunction with citizen partnerships, we can accomplish the two following goals, which will result in many positive collateral effects within our community.

### *Protect Personal Property*

It is our goal to reduce the property crime rate in our community. We want to protect your property.

### *Decrease Drug Supply & Usage*

It is our goal to continue to aggressively combat the drug supply and drug usage in our community, which we believe will better the quality of life for every citizen either directly or indirectly.

### *Closing*

I'm proud of our officers and civilian employees and their efforts throughout 2015. The people that protect and serve you are a great asset to this community. I am also grateful for all the public and private partnerships that help us improve the quality of life for all in the City of Columbus. Please visit us on our website, where you will find information on all our upcoming community policing events, as we would love to get to know you better: <http://www.columbus.in.gov/police/>. We are excited to humbly serve you in 2016.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Rohde".

Jonathan L. Rohde,  
Chief of Police