



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

FINDLAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Introduction

A message from Chief James Mathias

Welcome to the Findlay Police Department's 2023 Annual Report. As I finish my first six months as your new Chief, I want to thank former Chief Robert Ring for his outstanding direction and leadership to this organization for setting us up for great success. Chief Ring retired on May 13 after serving as Chief of Police since July of 2020. The Findlay Police Department has been serving the community since 1887. The department has evolved into an organization with an authorized strength of 67 sworn Officers and 19 non-sworn support personnel. The 88 dedicated sworn Officers and civilians and the eight Auxiliary Officers of this police department are committed to their duties and they strive every day to provide professional and fair law enforcement services, as well as prompt and efficient emergency services dispatching and customer service. Each day I am more and more impressed with the high degree of professionalism, caring, and compassion I see from our officers, dispatchers, and staff. Our Officers and Dispatchers are fully invested in keeping our citizens safe, improving their welfare, and making Findlay a great place to live, work, and raise a family.



The police department is extremely appreciative of the overwhelming support and encouragement from the Findlay community. We also thank those who question us as we try to be transparent while earning public trust each and every day. We grow and improve only if we are challenged or we challenge ourselves.

The department accomplished several key goals in 2023. The department was able to implement the Axon body camera system for all sworn Officers starting on August 14. The Axon in-car cameras will be installed in early 2024 in all marked patrol vehicles. We also purchased the following equipment: replacement of a breath testing machine for persons under the influence of alcohol, a replacement drone, a portable surveillance system, and a replacement battery backup device.

All Officers completed 24 hours of State of Ohio Continuing Professional Training through OPOTA. We have also increased our use of the Training Center by hosting training classes as well as using this facility more for departmental training classes versus traveling to other locations around the State. I am working on some additional training for all police personnel for 2024; including new leadership training for Officers of rank.



In December, the department was evaluated by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for our third re-accreditation. We received the final report and we look forward to our commission hearing in March of 2024. In 2009, the department attained recognition with CALEA under Chief of Police

Gregory Horne. Then in 2012 full accreditation was awarded, then re-accreditation in 2015 and 2019. We are also recognized by Ohio Collaborative as a certified agency to ensure accountability and instill greater public confidence.

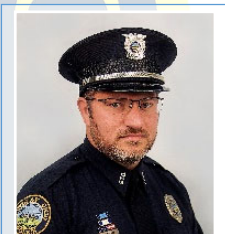
We had several staff changes in 2023 due to the retirement of Chief Ring. Justin Hendren was promoted from Detective Lieutenant to Captain in June. Jason Morey was promoted from Patrol Sergeant to Patrol Lieutenant in July. Timothy Brown was promoted from Patrol Officer to Patrol Sergeant in July. All three of these positions were well deserved. Andrew Welch was also moved from Patrol Lieutenant position to the Detective Lieutenant position. Sgt. Samuel Walters was moved from a Patrol Sergeant position to a newly formed Administrative Sergeant position. He is primarily in charge of redacting AXON BWC videos for court and public records requests along with other administrative duties with Tyler Tech for our digital infrastructure on reporting and computer aided dispatching. Detective Kurt Necker also retired on August 17, with 27 years of dedicated service. Auxiliary Officer, and former Vice Narcotics Sergeant, Thomas Davis resigned from the Findlay Police Auxiliary effective September 3, 2023. Tom was recognized at National Night out for twenty-two years of full-time service and twenty-three years Auxiliary service with the City of Findlay.



Capt. Justin Hendren



Lt. Jason Morey



Sgt. Tim Brown

The department worked hard with recruitment efforts to hire additional personnel for both police and dispatch vacancies. We were operating seven persons short in the Patrol Division almost all year long, including two long term Military deployments. We have hired seven Officers and two Dispatchers in 2023, with additional hiring efforts in process at year's end. We hope to get up to authorized strength for both Patrol Officers and Dispatch in early 2024.

The entire staff at the Findlay Police Department looks forward to continuing its mission, meeting whatever challenge that lies ahead, and appreciates the support it receives from the Findlay community and the various partners that help us meet the needs of the community.





OUR VISION
 We will promote a safe and secure community through fair and professional policing.

OUR MISSION
 We are dedicated to preventing crime, enforcing laws, protecting life and property while upholding the constitutional rights of all.

OUR VALUES
 We value professionalism, integrity and teamwork with respect for each.

**2022 Officer of the Year
 Isaac Williams**



Officer Williams has been an officer with the Findlay Police Department since 2/1/2016. Isaac is well respected among his peers and has shown great dedication within the Police Department. He has served as a defensive tactics instructor and is part of the FTO program. In recent years, he was involved in some difficult calls and was able to take a leadership role and handle to situation.

**2022 Dispatcher of the Year
 Jess Rayle**



Jess has been a dispatcher with the Findlay Police Department since 12/3/2007. She has always been a consistent and reliable employee, always doing her best to have the necessary information for notes and officers. Jess's strong work ethic and ability to remain calm in stressful situations make her a great asset to this department

**2023 Officer of Year
 Christopher Brickner**



Officer Brickner started as a patrolman with the Findlay Police Department on 9/8/2014. In 2023, he transferred to the Detectives Division. Chris has always been a productive officer, treating others fairly and consistently. His professionalism and assistance with instruction within the department has helped others to learn and grow as well. His efforts to set up the Stratasite program are also commendable.

**2023 Civilian of the Year
 Stephanie Whitted**



Stephanie has been with the City of Findlay since 7/14/2008, moving to the Findlay Police Department as the Accreditation Manager in 2/2012. Her abilities and skills managing the department's CALEA Accreditation are commendable. Stephanie exhibits compassion and empathy and is always willing to stop what she is doing to help others whenever needed.



PATROL DIVISION



The Patrol Division is the largest, most visible component for the Findlay Police Department and is the backbone of our organization. It provides the basic police services of preserving the peace and protecting the lives and properties of others. In our mission, we are dedicated to preventing crime, enforcing laws, protecting life and property while upholding the constitutional rights of all. We will promote a safe and secure community through fair and professional policing. We value professionalism, integrity and teamwork with respect for each other and the community we are proud to serve.

The manpower allocated to the Patrol Division for 2023 consisted of one Lieutenant, six Patrol Sergeants, forty-one uniformed Patrol Officers and eight Auxiliary members. This Division is divided into three shifts with the Sergeants and Officers working four – 10 hour shifts with three consecutive days off. The shifts are configured to overlap, maximizing available personnel during peak periods of activity. Along with their patrol duties, many of the officers have other specialized assignments that require additional skills and training.



Throughout the year, seven new patrol officers were hired to fill vacancies within the department. In 2023, the Findlay Police Department welcomed Samuel Weihrauch, Christopher Sawinski, Sutton Flick, Trenton Shoemaker, Bradley Fuller, Mark Motil and Caden Lafferty.

Officer Weihrauch attended the Ohio State Highway Patrol Basic Academy in the first half of 2023, before beginning his Field Training Program in July. Officers Sawinski, Flick, Shoemaker, and Fuller were all lateral transfers, transferring from the Wood County Sheriff's Office, Wyandot County Sheriff's Office, and Upper Sandusky Police Department. Officers Motil (Owens Community College) and Lafferty (Ohio State Highway Patrol Basic Academy) both attended basic police academies in the second half of 2023 and have begun their Field Training Program at the Findlay Police Department.



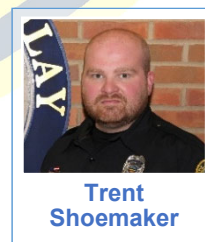
**Samuel
Weihrauch**



**Christopher
Sawinski**



Sutton Flick



**Trent
Shoemaker**



Bradley Fuller



Mark Motil



Caden Lafferty

The following are some of the notable event stats and their comparison from the year prior:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>% + or -</u>	<u>Actual #</u>
Calls for Service	41842	46488	+11.10%	(+4646)
Arrests	2170	1926	-11.24%	(-244)
Warrant Service	1195	917	-23.26%	(-278)
Domestic Disputes	918	803	-12.53%	(-115)
Assaults	583	534	-8.40%	(-49)
Homicide	1	0	-100.00%	(-1)
Sex Offense	178	172	-3.37%	(-6)
Theft/Fraud/Forgery	1070	1037	-3.08%	(-33)
Theft of Motor Vehicle	67	50	-25.37%	(-17)
Robbery	12	11	-8.33%	(1)
Unlawful Entry	128	90	-29.69%	(-38)
Property Damage/Vandalism	238	272	+14.29%	(+34)
Drug Complaints	384	363	-5.47%	(-21)
Alcohol Violations (OVI not included)	193	150	-22.28%	(-43)
School Walk Throughs	249	179	-28.11%	(-70)

Traffic enforcement continues to be an emphasis for the Patrol Division, with the overall goal of reducing traffic accidents and increasing motorist safety. The number of property crashes and injury crashes decreased, however the FPD handled two fatalities during 2023. The number of OVI's decreased, along with a decrease in the number of citations written. There were also 12 motor vehicle pursuits in 2023, compared to 16 in 2022.



The OVI's, citations, and crash reports were broken down as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>% + or -</u>	<u>(Actual #)</u>
OVI	176	162	-4.86%	(-14)
Traffic Stops	4899	4114	-5.51%	(-785)
Citations	2772	2335	+1.32%	(-437)
Property Crashes	936	726	+6.0%	(-210)
Injury Crashes	153	143	-13.56%	(-10)
Fatal Crashes	0	2	+200.00%	(+2)

CIT

A Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a police mental health collaborative program. The term "CIT" is often used to describe both a program and a training in law enforcement to help guide interactions between law enforcement and those living with a mental illness. The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families and other advocates. Crisis teams support people who might otherwise need to go to the hospital, for example, due to psychosis, severe self-harm or suicide attempts. They usually include a number of mental health professionals, such as a psychiatrist, mental health nurses, social workers and support workers.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total Calls	384	402
Oldest Person	84	96
Youngest Person	7	12
Guns Involved	1	2
Knives Involved	8	8
Other Weapons	1	0
Injuries	7	4
Arrests	9	7
CIT on Scene	384	402
Total Hours	260	300

The Findlay Police Department requires all officers to be trained in CIT. Currently about 80% of the officer are CIT certified, with the remaining scheduled to receive training during the next offered class in early 2024.

Quick Response Team

The Quick Response Team (QRT) is a team of passionate individuals who work to provide prevention and specialized behavioral health and substance abuse services to individuals, children and families in our multi-cultural communities in order to strengthen family life and promote personal growth. They offer a nurturing environment focused on personal growth and self-care through trainings and the development of skills. Family

Resources are dedicated to supplying employees with the necessary skills and tools essential to be successful in their roles. They continuously analyze the formal structure to support the program (e.g., referral protocols, polices and Memoranda of Understanding among the participating partners). They also work with recovery providers to create "fast tracks" to treatment and recovery support via the development of referral agreements that triage individuals having an overdose event. They maintain the program in a way that complies with state and federal patient confidentiality requirements. They receive overdose event data and schedule visits within 72 hours with the Patrol Officers of the Findlay Police Department. They also work with the Health Department to coordinate the disbursement of Naloxone to patients/clients. For 2023, there were 74 suspected overdose reports compared to 116 in 2022. There were six suspected overdose death reports compared to 13 in 2022.

K-9 Units



The Findlay Police Department has a long history of providing exceptional police canine services. We have two officers (handlers) and their canine partners. The dogs spend their working hours and off duty-hours with the officer. The canines are cross-trained to handle patrol duties, such as building searches and tracks, as well as drug detection. The teams receive extensive weekly training in both areas.

The teams are also requested to aid other law enforcement agencies. The K-9 units provided numerous presentations during 2023 to school and community groups, as well as during events. The dogs are always well received during these demonstrations.

The K-9 units trained a total of 75 times for a total of 365 hours. The K-9 units were utilized 49 times for street deployments or narcotics sniffs. In addition to the aforementioned weekly training, both K-9 units completed a week-long advanced training through the Ohio Tactical Officers Association (OTOA).



Other Equipment

The Findlay Police Department camera trailer is primarily used to monitor large crowds at events throughout the City. There were four events in 2023 in which the camera trailer was deployed.



The FPD has two department owned drones (sUAS), one of which is equipped with thermal technology and the other is used to assist on CMT call outs. The drones were utilized during 15 call outs in 2023, as well as used to assist other City departments such as the Mayor's Office, Fire Department, Zoning and Water Departments. There are currently six trained drone pilots for the department. Training for the drone pilots occurred quarterly in 2023.

In 2023, the FPD received a grant from the State of Ohio allowing the department to implement a Body Worn Camera program. After considerable planning and training, the department was able to issue each officer a BWC and rolled out the program in August. The department plans to add Dash Cameras in spring of 2024.

Training and Facilities

The City of Findlay Training Center provided numerous training opportunities for Findlay Officers and Dispatchers in 2023. Officers completed the state mandated continued education training in the City rather than going to neighboring agencies to get the training. The training center also provided an opportunity for the police department to host training open to other departments in the area. We hosted BAC recertification classes, Active Shooter training, Criminal Interdiction, and Basic Telecommunicator to name a few. The department conducted



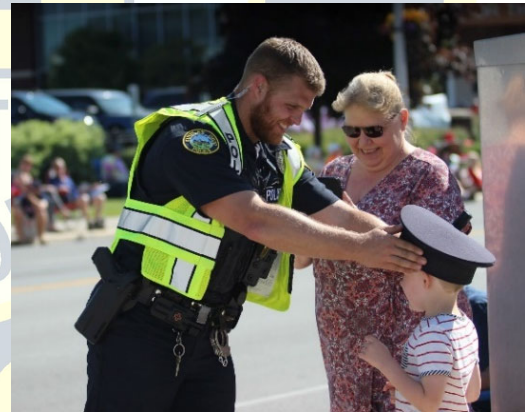
annual in-service training in topics such as Officer Response to Active Shooters, Driving, Firearms, Use of Force, Taser, Less Lethal Munitions, Self-Defense, and Legal Updates.

In addition, several officers received the following training classes: Forensic Interviewing, Crime Scene Photography, Criminal Patrol Drug Interdiction, Reasonable Force, Reid Interview Techniques, Basic Interview and Interrogation, Advanced Interview and Interrogation, Constitutional Use of Force, Prosecuting Drugged Drivers, Road Spike Deployment, and Drone training.



Patrol Division Goals for 2024

- To ensure the safety and security of all citizens of Findlay and its visitors.
- Prevent and prosecute crime through efficient and effective deployment of law enforcement personnel and resources.
- Recruit and retain highly qualified law enforcement professionals through competitive pay, benefits and advancement opportunities.
- Provide training to our officers that is current, useful, and will enhance our officer's skill sets.
- Continue to host comprehensive trainings that will benefit our officers along with neighboring departments' officers.



CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM



The Crisis Management Team, or CMT, is comprised of four important components. Each component is specially trained in both tactical responses and Crisis Intervention training. The CMT trains on a monthly basis. That training encompasses tactics and firearms training. Scenario training is also held to improve search warrant executions and response to hostage/barricaded person situations. All positions on the CMT are voluntary positions. All CMT members have other day to day duties, but they come together as a unit when they are needed. CMT members are always on call.

The CMT is comprised of four groups, the Emergency response team (ERT), the Crisis Negotiator Team, the Tactical Dispatchers, and the Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS). The CMT is led by the CMT Commander.

The largest component is the Emergency Response Team (ERT). The ERT is staffed by the Tactical Commander who oversees the operations of two squads of up to eight members each. Each squad is supervised directly by a Team Leader, who is one of the eight squad members. The ERT is staffed by four Sergeants, nine Patrol Officers, and one Detective. At year's end, one squad was operating at seven operators and the other at six.



The Crisis Negotiator Team (CNT) is another component of the Crisis Management Team. There are up to four negotiators on the team, and currently a sergeant heads the group. These officers are specially trained Crisis Negotiators who are responsible for interaction and communication with anyone involved in a barricade incident, hostage, or similar situation.

The Tactical Dispatchers make up the third part of the CMT. They are responsible for radio communication among members of the CMT as well as any additional agencies that are assisting with an operation. Tactical Dispatch is also responsible for information gathering and organizing while assigned to the Mobile Command Center during call outs. The four dispatcher positions are staffed by Findlay Police dispatchers, led by the Senior Communication Officer.

The Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) members complete the fourth component of the CMT. TEMS is staffed by eleven members of the Findlay Fire Department, which is an increase of two from 2022. The medics provided the ability to have immediate medical aid whenever the CMT was activated. An FFD Captain heads the TEMS group.

During 2023, the CMT assisted the Metrich Drug Unit in serving search warrants for drugs. These were search warrants that were considered to have a higher than normal degree of risk involved. The CMT assisted in executing five search warrants. All five search warrants were served without any injuries reported to anyone involved.



Aside from the search warrants, the CMT was activated on two separate occasions. Once was to assist patrol with male that has barricaded himself in a residence in response to a sexual assault investigation. The male was detained as the team was mobilizing. They were not deployed.

The second occasion was in reference to a shots fired call where the suspect was believed to be hiding in a shed. The team was deployed and the suspect was found in a nearby house. No one was injured during the incident.

Four members of the ERT command staff were able to attend an outside team leader training. The information learned was brought back and provided to the rest of the team.



The CMT was able to strengthen the relationship with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team (S.R.T.) by engaging in combined training. The HSO SRT was able to purchase an armored Bearcat vehicle which CMT was able to train with and will be available for use by Findlay ERT if necessary.

CMT Goals and Objectives for 2024

- Continue to train on a monthly basis
- Continue with scenario training
- Provide training opportunities from outside the department
- Fill the three open positions for ERT operator
- Train addition operators on less lethal tactics
- Increase our training with TEMS
- Increase training with outside agencies
- Increase classroom trainings
- Host trainings
- Get new operators to Basic SWAT school

DETECTIVES DIVISION

In 2023, the Detective Division consisted of one lieutenant, four general detectives, and one sergeant and two detectives assigned to the Hancock County METRICH Enforcement Unit. This staffing level remained unchanged from 2022. Christopher Brickner, a nine-year veteran with the department, was selected to fill the opening due to retirement.

The general investigation detectives primarily investigate major crimes such as felonious assault, rape, robbery, burglary and child sex crimes. Cases originate from various sources, but the majority originate from the initial response of a patrol officer. The division lieutenant reviews and evaluates the reports prior to making a determination to assign a detective the case.

Detectives were able to achieve a murder conviction for a murder that occurred in 2017, bring a nearly six-year investigation to a close.

Detectives work closely with the Hancock County Child Protective Services Unit to investigate child physical and sexual abuse cases. Both agencies utilize the Center for Safe and Healthy Children to conduct forensic interviews of juvenile victims.

A significant investment was made into mobile and computer forensic investigations capabilities with the purchase of updated software and an updated forensic computer station for the Detective Division. This state-of-the-art equipment and software greatly reduce the time involved in obtaining digital evidence and also allows detectives to assist other law enforcement agencies with these investigations.

For 2023, there were a total of 144 cases assigned to the detectives.

The total number of criminal charges submitted in 2023 was 1670. These charges were the result of an arrest or requesting charges upon completion of investigations.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>3 year average</u>
Misdemeanor	946	718	788	817
Felony	572	399	359	443
Juvenile	152	111	78	114

Detective Division Goals for 2024

- Adding an additional detective
- Continue to expand digital forensic investigation capabilities
- Continue to grow our partnerships with external partners to reduce drug overdoses and investigate offenses involving juvenile victims

VICE NARCOTICS UNIT/METRICH



The Findlay Police Department Vice/Narcotics Unit is part of the Detective Division. Members of the Findlay Police Department Vice/Narcotics Unit are assigned to the Hancock County METRICH Enforcement Unit, a ten-county drug task force based out of Mansfield, Ohio. METRICH is one of the only de-centralized task forces in the state and is also the largest drug task force in the State of Ohio. The Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force is funded by grants issued through the State of Ohio, therefore is able to operate at a significant savings for the taxpayers of the City of Findlay and Hancock County.

As 2023 began, the METRICH Unit was fully staffed with an Access Officer, Supervisor and four Detectives. We had two Detectives from the FPD and two Detectives from the HSO. Our unit is assigned to investigate narcotics, overdose deaths, gambling, weapons, prostitution and gang activity in all of Hancock County.

The Unit began the year strong with some residential narcotic search warrants in the first quarter. We also worked a case into the Lucky Dragon Internet Café. This stemmed from numerous complaints of illegal payouts, drug use, drug sales and at least one survived overdose on premises. The Ohio Investigative Unit assisted with the investigation and in March we cleared out the business of gaming equipment and illegal cash proceeds totaling over \$52,000. That case has yet to be resolved.

In June, after receiving complaints of illegal sexual activities and possible human trafficking, we investigated a local massage business. Detectives in the unit investigated Massage Max and were able to find evidence of illegal sex acts being performed for money. A search warrant was served on the business. With assistance of an investigator with the State Medical Board, we forwarded charges for several violations. The case has yet to be resolved.

At mid-year, one of the Deputies decided to leave the unit and return to patrol duties with the HSO. We are again down to one Detective from the Hancock Sheriff's Office. They are still understaffed, so this open assignment may not be filled any time soon.

METRICH kept busy during the year with investigations. However, we saw a decline in some of our activity. The Hancock METRICH Enforcement Unit generated 230 reports, which is down 12% from 2022. Of those reports, there were 131 narcotic cases, 61 field interviews and nine overdose death investigations. Overdose death investigations by the Unit was down 53%. The results of our cases were 186 felony charges and five misdemeanor charges forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office for indictment. One of the overdose death cases resulted in a strong enough case to warrant the request for charges, while another is looking promising.



The METRICH Unit executed twelve search warrants, nine were narcotics related in homes or hotels, two were for a GPS tracker on vehicles, one was for sex/human trafficking at a business and one was for illegal gambling and operating a gambling house. Those warrants were often served with the assistance of the Findlay Police Department's Emergency Response Team (ERT). Through those efforts, the Unit seized \$56,252 in cash, sizeable amounts of illegal narcotics and three firearms.

In 2023, Methamphetamine was the leading drug involved in our case load, even though the amount seized was down from last year. We also saw an uptick in the amount of Crack Cocaine we seized. Cocaine powder remained about the same, while Fentanyl and Fentanyl mixtures was down significantly for 2023.

The following drugs were seized from investigations in 2023:

- 644 grams of Methamphetamine (down from 2022)
- 77 grams of Crack Cocaine (up from 2022)
- 42 grams of Cocaine
- 25 grams of Fentanyl mix (down from 2022)
- 24 Opiate pills (down from 2022)
- Just over 6.5 lbs. of raw marijuana (up from 2022)

The METRICH Unit works closely with other local, state and federal agencies. The unit has assisted the following agencies in 2023 with covert investigations:

- Ohio Investigative Unit
- Ohio BCI
- State Medical Board of Ohio
- State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
- DEA – Toledo
- Ohio Adult Parole Authority
- United States Postal Inspectors
- Wood Co. and Seneca Co. Drug Task Forces

The Metrich Enforcement Unit, along with about 40 other drug task forces across the state, are being hit hard by budget cuts on the state and national level. As we see an increase in chemical dependency, we see more and more funding being moved from enforcement efforts into the treatment and recovery arena. The average end user is being shown as a victim to the disease of addiction. We managed to have the necessary funding this year to combat the issues locally. Our team understands the struggles many users are faced with, we feel there is still a huge need for officers, detectives and task forces to help slow the amount of substances that reach the streets. As this battle continues, we will be forced to find other ways to do business and secure the funds necessary to provide training and equipment for the task forces to do their jobs. METRICH still does their best to make sure we have what we need, but this may get harder and harder as funding continues to funnel to rehabilitation and programs for addiction. We will continue to find alternative methods and work with the system to continue to get drugs off the streets.



VNU Goals for 2024:

- Increase drug education presentations
- Increase drug offender investigations/arrests
- Increase forfeitures on money and property of drug offenders
- Work more with Prosecutors to be involved in the penalty process for users vs. dealers
- Put our efforts at other areas to include human trafficking and solicitation locally
- Work with more adjacent agencies and METRICH Units to broaden our knowledge base
- Continued cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies to reduce narcotic activity in Findlay and Hancock County
- Build a multi-step approach to help fund the task force for day-to-day operations
- Find sources of funds to begin rebuilding the “rainy day” fund
- Look at options for future movement out of our current office/barn

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Special Services Division of the Police Department is supervised by Lt. David Hill. The Division is broken down into several support areas of the Police Department to include Property and Evidence, Municipal Court Officer, Crime Prevention, Zoning Enforcement, Parking Enforcement, Police Records and the Communications Center.

A new position added to the Special Services Division in 2023 was Administrative Sergeant. Sergeant Ed Walters was assigned to this position to provide administration and maintenance for the new Body Worn Camera Program, assist with police technology projects and other administrative tasks as needed.

Officer Doug Marshall was selected to take over the Property Room duties after, then Sergeant, David Hill was promoted to Lieutenant.

Parking And Records

Two clerks share the day to day clerical duties for Parking and Records. Some of these duties include entering and maintaining parking violations, scanning and filing case related documents, providing copies of police reports to the public, insurance companies, media, etc., receipting monies collected for various related fees, parking violations, equipment rental, false alarm charges, etc., and completing expungements/sealing of records.

The FPD currently has one Parking Enforcement Officer who is responsible for monitoring parking violations in the downtown area as well as additional designated areas.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Parking Tickets Issued: TOTAL	6133	5638
Parking Enforcement	5877	5507
Patrol	256	131
Parking Violations - Money Collected	\$69,890.00	\$65,641.00
Parking Lot Rental - Money Collected	\$35,038.00	\$35,836.00
Findlay Inn & Conf Ctr	\$20,328.00	\$21,795.00
Remaining City Lots	\$14,710.00	\$14,041.00
Warning Tickets Issued	686	657
False Alarm Charges - Fees Collected	\$2,450.00	\$1,750.00
Bike License - Fees Collected	\$6.00	\$16.00
Records Room		\$173.00
Report Charges	\$156.20	\$168.00
Postage Reimbursement	\$3.59	\$5.00
Cruiser Rental - Fees Collected	\$7,284.00	\$2,652.00
Totals	\$114,827.79	\$106,06.00

Property and Evidence Control

The property and evidence control function provides for the security and control of seized, recovered, and evidentiary property as well as abandoned, lost or found property in the custody of the Department. This is critically important in supporting investigations, in helping to guarantee the successful prosecution at criminal/civil trials, in facilitating the timely return of property to its rightful owners, and in establishing the Department's reputation as an honest, reputable agency worthy of the public's confidence and trust. It is critical that a law enforcement agency's property and evidence control function develop and maintain strict measures for the receipt, handling, security, and disposition of property.

The Property Officer is responsible for the proper cataloging and storage of all property that is recovered by the Officers of the Findlay Police Department. He is also responsible for the disposition of this property.

The Property Officer did not turn over any funds to the Auditor's Office "Safekeeping" Fund in 2023 however, paid out was \$24,816.00 to owners'/court fines, bringing the balance to \$81,055.51 at years end.

The Property Officer incinerated 1,277.95 lbs. of prescription medications and over 1,400 street drug related items. In addition, two handguns were also incinerated.

There was a total of 2,224 items entered into the Property Room in 2023. Items removed from the Property Room during 2023 totaled 546 items, by returning to owners, donating them to local charitable organizations, converting to City use, or by trash disposal. A total of 23 bicycles were also donated to Bikes, Books and Badges.

At the close of 2023, there were a total of 13,667 items being held in the Record Management System. The breakdown is as follows: 9,483 items in PD ORI of LERMS and 1,979 items in Hancock Metrich (VNU) ORI of LERMS. There is also 2,118 items Parker Property Storage, including 44 VNU items and 43 bikes.

Property Room Objectives for 2024

- Expand Special Services by one full time employee to assist with property and court duties.
- Phase out cardboard boxes to all plastic bins with lids
- Initiate a rotating Property Audit system
- Purchase Incinerator to burn all items independently
- Work with Judges and prosecutors to establish a clearer disposition on cases

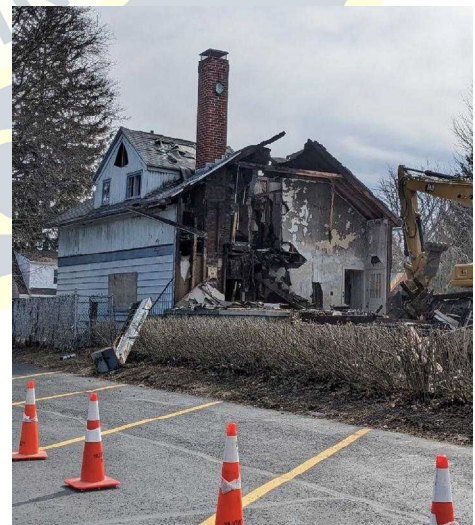
Zoning Enforcement

The City of Findlay Zoning Enforcement consisted of one Findlay Police Officer. In 2023, the Zoning Officer investigated 31 dilapidated structures, 179 junk and material storage complaints, 278 abandoned junk motor vehicle complaints, and 182 high grass and weed complaints; for a total of 705 complaints.

Out of the 705 incidents, a total of 99 were abated by the City of Findlay. Of those 99 abated incidents, two structures were demolished, 22 properties mowed, 69 vehicles impounded, and six junk material clean ups. One request of charges was requested through the City of Findlay Prosecutor’s Office. All other complaints were unfounded or the violations were handled by the property owners.

The Zoning Officer also assisted the Patrol division with approximately 190 incidents/investigations, served/attempted to serve 121 summons/subpoenas and appeared in court on numerous occasions while assisting the Findlay Municipal Court Officer and assisted the Property Officer with various duties.

CODE/PERMIT DESCRIPTION	2022	2023
Dilapidated Structures	18	24
Junk and Material Storage	25	82
Abandoned Junk Motor Vehicles	58	59
High Grass and Weeds	28	68
TOTAL	129	233
CODE/PERMIT DESCRIPTION	2022	2023
Dilapidated Structures	33	31
Junk and Material Storage	110	179
Abandoned Junk Motor Vehicles	207	278
Noxious or Offensive Odors	0	35
High Grass and Weeds	185	182
TOTAL	535	705
CODE/PERMIT DESCRIPTION	2022	2023
Dilapidated Structures	5	2
Junk and Material Storage	8	6
Abandoned Junk Motor Vehicles	36	69
High Grass and Weeds	43	22
TOTAL	92	99
CODE/PERMIT DESCRIPTION	2022	2023
Dilapidated Structures	16	12
Junk and Material Storage	85	97
Abandoned Junk Motor Vehicles	149	215
High Grass and Weeds	157	158
TOTAL	407	482



*2022 stats only include May 31, 2022 thru December 31, 2022.

Crime Prevention

The 2023 Crime Prevention Office consisted of one officer supervised by the Special Services Lieutenant. Crime Prevention Officer Brian White continued to manage the Crime Prevention Office for the 2023 calendar year.



The Crime Prevention Officer is responsible for community outreach and safety presentations throughout the community. This includes programs at Findlay City Schools, St. Michael's the Archangel School, public safety events and local businesses and organizations.

Many of the topics discussed in schools are topics not normally covered in class, with an emphasis on drug education and prevention, as well as social skills and relationship building. 310 class presentations were provided to students for 2023.

Topics discussed in the community related to crime prevention issues relevant to specific businesses and community crime trends. A total of 92 community presentations were provided for 2023. Officer White also conducted police department tours to various groups and numerous interviews were provided to the media on safety and crime prevention topics. For 2023, Officer White partnered with WFIN Radio for monthly radio segments on crime prevention topics relative to that month.



The Crime Prevention Office is responsible for its own administrative duties such as scheduling, budgeting, record keeping and creating presentations. Officer White frequently reviews police reports for new crime trends to enhance crime prevention techniques and attends trainings and conferences throughout the year to keep up to date on issues pertaining to crime prevention. To further this effort, Officer White is an executive board member for the Ohio Crime Prevention Association, which is one of the largest state crime prevention organizations in the country. This position offers up to date materials for Crime Prevention, as well as free training.

Officer White maintains the Findlay Community Watch Map, which offers a visual representation of crime reports taken in the past 12 months. This map will be discontinued at the end of 2023, as it was replaced with Citizen Connect towards the middle of 2023. Officer White also maintains the police department webpage, as well as the various police department social media accounts.

Other duties assigned to the Crime Prevention Office include conducting background checks for solicitor, taxicab and panhandler permits issued through the City of Findlay, producing crime statistic reports, attending job and safety fairs, organizing police department events and conducting security surveys.

Neighborhood Watch

The Findlay Neighborhood Watch Program, commonly referred to as “Block Watch”, continued to be an asset to both the citizens of Findlay and the Findlay Police Department. Currently the Findlay Block Watch Program has 27 Watches. While the structure and meetings of each Watch is determined by that particular group, most Watches meet once a month to stay up to date of crime trends.

Neighborhood Watch is a community program that is managed by each individual neighborhood. The Neighborhood Watch “Captain” collaborates with the Crime Prevention Officer to develop ideas on solving common problems. The Crime Prevention Officer also offers training on a wide range of topics such as burglary prevention, personal safety, drug education and police department operations among others.

With most cities facing higher crime rates and budgetary constraints, Neighborhood Watch Programs serve to augment police personnel. The Neighborhood Watch Program allows citizens to work hand and hand with law enforcement to help reduce crime, increase community pride and solve common problems.



Community Outreach

The Crime Prevention Officer continues to expand community outreach by participating in numerous boards and committees throughout Findlay. These organizations are relevant to the mission of the Findlay Police Department and furthers the exchange of information and ideas between organizations. Officer White attended a total of 239 community meetings for 2023 and took on leadership roles in several organizations.

Some of the community groups the Crime Prevention Officer was active with include:

- Crime Stoppers of Hancock County
- Community Partnership Council
- Community Awareness Committee
- Suicide Awareness Committee
- Hancock County Handle with Care
- Camp 911
- Safe Kids
- Ohio Crime Prevention Association
- Ohio School Resource Officer Association
- Findlay/Hancock County Crime Prevention Association
- TRIAD/SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Working Together)
- Family Stability Committee
- Halloween Parade Steering Committee

- NAMI of Hancock County
- NAMI Programs Committee
- NAMI Governance Committee
- Welcome to a New Life Advisory Committee

Crime Prevention also represented the Findlay Police Department at a variety of community events such as sporting events, community resource fairs, safety expos, job fairs and medication collections.

Flag City Night Out



Each year the Findlay Police Department hosts its signature event, Flag City Night Out at Riverside Park. For Officer White, the goal of Flag City Night Out has been to keep the event a free community event. Advertised as a “leave your wallet at home” event, donations from the community allow the event to take place each year.

We’d like to thank Heavenly Pizza, Utz Snacks, Movement Church, Kona Ice, We Serve Coffee, Dick’s Towing, Ary Entertainment, Pantasia Steel Drum Band, Heather Powell

Photography, Coca-Cola, Hancock County Sheriff’s Office Explorers/Yield Program and the Fort Findlay FOP Lodge 20 for their continued support of Flag City Night Out.

2023’s event included the annual Mascot Games, live music, inflatable obstacle courses, children’s activities, and demonstrations. The previous year featured a live demonstration by PD personnel on less-lethal force tools. This included the bean bag shotgun and Taser demonstrations. This event continued for 2023 and drew a large crowd and helped to explain how and why these tools are used, as well as how they can help save lives.



In 2019 the Police vs. Fire Games were introduced to Flag City Night Out. The Police and Fire Games quickly became a crowd favorite. This event pairs up local children with police officers and fire fighters to compete in events and build relationships. The trophy for 2023 went to the Findlay Police Department.

Bikes, Books and Badges

The vision of the Findlay Police Department Bikes, Books and Badges Program is to take abandoned bicycles recovered in the City, refurbish them and distribute them back into the community to children in need. 61 abandoned/recovered bicycles were provided back to area residents for the 2023 calendar year. There were 12 new bicycles provided to either to Findlay City Schools as awards for good behavior, or at FPD events.

During the summer months of 2023, Officer White used the extra time in his schedule to refurbish the bicycles and transport them to a storage area for safe keeping. Officer White continues to explore partnerships in the community to expand the bicycle program.

Bikes, Books and Badges Bicycle Rodeo



To kick off summer, the Findlay Police Department annually hosts a Bicycle Rodeo as part of the Bikes, Books and Badges Program. This year's event was held at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts, which continues to be a great venue for ease of access to the community. This year's event saw the largest turn out, with 146 children participating in the event (up from 106).

As part of the Bicycle Rodeo, children are taught the fundamentals of bicycle safety through instruction, obstacle courses and road courses. Awards are offered at the end of the event to children who showed exceptional skills. Free helmets, bicycle locks and bicycle licenses were also provided at the event.

Camp 911

CAMP 911 is a partnership between the Findlay Police Department, Findlay Fire Department, Hancock County Sheriff's Office and Hancock Public Health. CAMP 911 teaches a variety of safety topics to children entering Kindergarten.



The week-long program held in June includes topics such as School Bus Safety, Electrical Safety, Fire Safety, Stranger Danger, First Aid, Bicycle Safety, Seatbelt Safety and Pedestrian Safety among others. This high demand program offered a morning and afternoon session with 100 students each.

Social Media

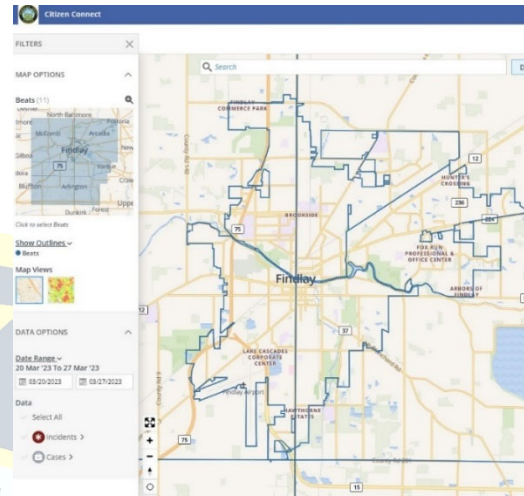
Social media continues to be a valuable asset for distributing information and alerts to citizens, as well as highlighting events hosted by the Findlay Police Department. The department continues to utilize Facebook, X (formally Twitter), Next-Door and YouTube to keep the public up to date on crime trends and public safety topics.

The police department sought the public's assistance, which was highly successful in identifying suspects to criminal complaints. Facebook and X, paired with the Findlay Community Watch Map, offer great tools in keeping the public up to date on crimes occurring in their neighborhoods.

Officer White also conducted a variety of media interviews based on public safety and community relations topics.

Findlay Community Watch Map

The Findlay Community Watch Map is an interactive map maintained by the Crime Prevention Office. The Community Watch Map, available under the links section on the police department website, offers citizens a visual representation of crime reports taken in the past 12 months. The Community Watch Map is updated on a regular basis and displays the date, type of activity, a short description and the report number should the public have information related to the incident.



This is the last year for the Community Watch Map. Tyler Citizen Connect was launched in 2023 and directly connects to the report management system for a real time representation of police reports. Citizens can access Tyler Citizen Connect on the police department webpage.

Coffee with a Cop



Coffee with A Cop is a nationwide effort to bridge the gap between citizens and law enforcement. Monthly events were held at Coffee Amici, where members of the community could meet to discuss issues in their neighborhoods, or simply enjoy a cup of coffee while getting to know officers.

The success of the program relies on its simplicity. There is no set agenda and the topics discussed are random by nature. Depending on the time of year, attendance ranges between 5 – 15, with many returning for future events.

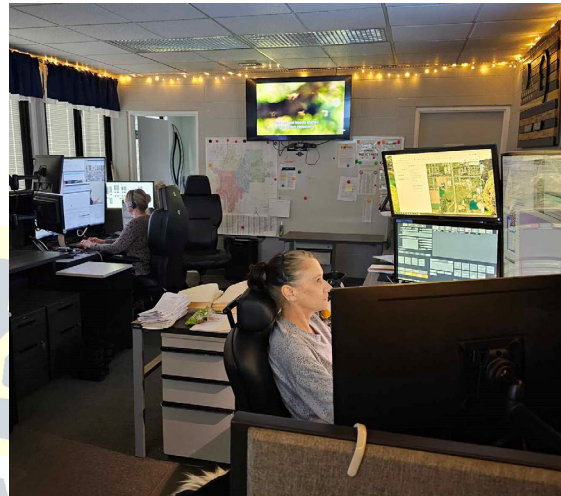
Due to the success of Coffee with A Cop, a second monthly event was added in 2022 to focus on seniors. This event is held at 50 North on the third Thursday of the month. This event continued through 2023 and will continue into 2024.

Crime Prevention Goals for 2024

- Expanding Bikes, Books and Badges to include more programming events.
- Increasing funding for the purchase of books to hand out at Bikes, Books and Badges events.
- Finalizing a bicycle refurbishing program for the Bikes, Books and Badges bicycle giveaway program.
- Updating school presentations, videos and materials.

Communications

The Findlay Police Department communications center is a lifeline to both residents and officers, as it is the central hub for all emergency communications within The City of Findlay. Our communication center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. Employees are cross-trained in call-taking and dispatching police and fire to ensure seamless service is provided at all times. Our center is often the first point of contact for those in need of public safety services and our dispatchers are true first responders. Our team of dedicated dispatchers are masters of multitasking and navigating numerous software programs, multiple phone lines, non-emergency and emergency radio traffic. The dispatchers are professional and compassionate when aiding the community.



Patrol officers & firefighters rely on the dispatchers to serve as a link between them and residents. Dispatchers provide information to officers and firefighters to help keep them safe as they respond to calls for service. Our dispatchers manage a seemingly impossible amount of information flow throughout each shift.



Leaders in Public Safety Communications

Dispatch enters data into the Tyler New World Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and the Law Enforcement Automated Data system (LEADS). All of the dispatchers are certified by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) in Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) and Public Safety Telecommunicator. There are currently three dispatchers who are also certified communications center training officers. All dispatchers are CPR certified.

In 2023, the communications center received and placed 51,073 telephone calls. 14,437 of the calls received were 911 calls from both cell phones and landlines. Of those 14,437 911 calls that were received, 605 came from local businesses, 96 from residential landlines, 840 from Voice Over Internet Protocol lines (VOIP) and 12,837 from cell phones.

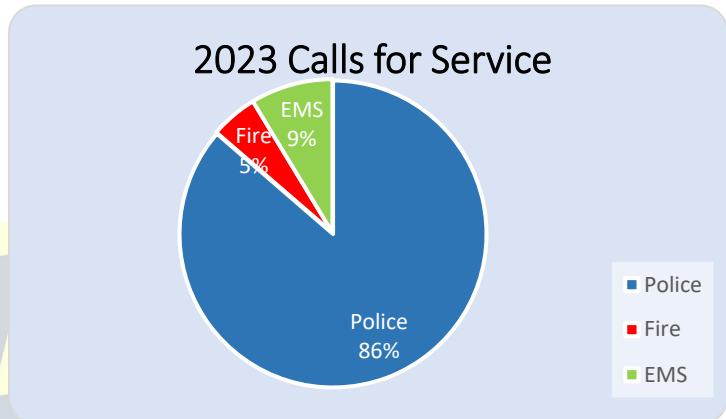
Service Type	Number of Calls	% of total
Business	605	4.19%
Residential	96	0.66%
VOIP	840	5.82%
Wireless	12,837	88.92%
Misc.	59	0.41%

For 2023, a total of 53,844 CAD calls were entered by dispatchers for Police, Fire and EMS services.

Findlay Police 46,488

Findlay Fire 2,689

EMS 4,667



The dispatchers are responsible for entering Findlay Municipal Court warrants and summons. A total of 655 court warrants were entered into the LEADS & Tyler New World programs and 584 court process and discharge warrants entered into Tyler/New World. There were also 235 summonses to appear entered into the Tyler New World program.

The Findlay Police Department, along with the Hancock County Sheriff’s office, began remodeling the training room at Findlay Fire Station #4 to be used for the “Dark Site Dispatching Center” as a secondary location for all Dispatching needs. The goal is to have the Dark Site up and running by April 2024.

Two new dispatchers joined the department in 2023. Alexia Fink was hired In January and Alexia Rizor in October. There is currently one remaining opening for a dispatcher. Interviews for this position will be held in early February 2024. If a conditional offer is given, this will put the communications center at full staffing which has not been possible for many years. Taylor Spigner was also selected as Assistant LEADS TAC and will start these additional responsibilities in early 2024.



Alexia Fink



Alexia Rizor

Communications Goals for 2024

- Add additional outside training for all Dispatchers
- Bring the Communications Center to full staffing levels
- Have all Dispatchers complete updated Active Shooter Response training

