

## **Police Department**

*Kenneth Witkowski, Chief*

The Mishawaka Police Department recognizes the challenges that come along with a prospering community. The top priority of the Department remains to be the safety and protection of the community by providing professional and effective law enforcement services to its citizens. The Department will continue to target crimes against persons and keep community values intact. The specific duties of the MPD include: conservation of public harmony and order, deterrence, detection and solving of crimes, enforcement of state laws and city ordinances, providing non-law enforcement services to the public, assisting in the safe movement of vehicular traffic, and to provide other emergency services as needed.



The MPD is budgeted for 108 officers and 8 Civilian Support Staff dedicated to the safety of Mishawaka city residents and visitors by enforcing the law, protecting property and reducing civil disorder.

The Department is divided into five divisions that include Uniform, Traffic, Investigative, Services, and Training.

Department Personnel	
Chief of Police	1
Division Chief	3
Captains	6
Lieutenants	15
Sergeants	20
Patrol Officer – First Class	40
Patrol Officer – Second Class	15
Probationary Officers	3
Recruits	7

### **Uniform Patrol Division**

The Uniform Division, commanded by Uniform Division Chief Jason Stefaniak, is comprised of 72 Uniformed Officers, working six sections of the city, and divided into 3 separate shifts. Each shift is supervised by one Captain, one Lieutenant, and 3 Sergeants.

The overall goal of the Uniform Division is to promote the sense of safety and security within the city. The Uniform Patrol Officer knows that they are the face of the Police Department. Through daily interactions with the community, the Uniform Patrol Officer works to promote a positive working relationship with the public and understands that a strong relationship with the public will help them enforce laws, maintain order, and preserve peace within the community.

The Uniform Patrol Officer's job is often tedious and demanding. They are called to fight and prevent crime wherever or whenever it occurs. They must be ready to arrest violent offenders and immediately render aid to helpless victims. They are required to document violent crash scenes, protect and maintain crime scenes, gather evidence, and testify in court. The Uniform Patrol Officers must perform under the worst conditions while maintaining their composure and professionalism and treat each citizen they encounter with courtesy and respect.



*Officer Frank "Bo" Ennis was dispatched to a welfare check on an elderly woman and learned that she liked to paint but didn't have any painting supplies. With his own money, Officer Ennis went straight to the store and returned with painting supplies. Two days later, Officer Ennis returned to check on her, bringing some food from the MPD food pantry only to find that she had already started on a painting for Officer Ennis!*

Crime Report Statistics – City of Mishawaka				
	2018	2019	Change	Percent
Homicide	5	0	-5	-100%
Rape	16	19	+3	+19%
Robbery	48	40	-8	-17%
Assault	829	975	+146	+18%
Burglary	248	210	-38	-15%
Larceny / Theft	2032	1671	-361	-18%
Auto Theft	252	235	-17	-7%
Arson	15	16	+1	+7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3445</b>	<b>3166</b>	<b>-279</b>	<b>-8%</b>

### New Recruits

- Maria Duncan
- Jordan Annis
- Megan Borrelli
- Andrew Branson
- Ronald Thornton
- Brian Walker

### Newly Sworn Officers

- Recruit Miles Andrews
- Officer Ryan Hiipakka
- Officers Zach Alfrey, Elijah Aries and Kyle Lindzy

- The MPD hired four (4) Lateral Transfers from the South Bend Police Department

### **Promotions**

- Prob. Patrol Officers Emma Gaipa and Aaron Lower were promoted to Patrol Officers Second Class.
- Psc. Daniel Braniff was promoted to Patrol Officer First Class.
- Prob. Patrol Officers Jaymes Heare, Clayton Pendl, Brent Vanderzwaag & Rachel Wright were promoted to Psc.
- Civilian Stacy Madison transferred from the Services Division as a Services Secretary to the Investigative Division as an Administrative Secretary.
- Prob. Patrol Officer Corey Cronk was promoted to Psc.
- Sgt. Brandon Ruth, of the Investigative Division, was promoted to Lieutenant.
- Pfc. Robert Pfeiffer was promoted to Sergeant in the Investigative Division - SVU.
- Prob. Patrol Officer Garrett Schock was promoted to Psc.
- Prob. Patrol Officer Garrett Baresel was promoted to Psc.
- Psc. Zach DeGeyter, of the Investigative Division, was promoted to Sergeant.
- Pfc. Josh Mortimore, Training Manager, was promoted to Sergeant.
- Pfc. Mike Dube was promoted to Sergeant in the Uniform Division, Midnight Shift.
- Prob. Patrol Officer Andrew Bauer was promoted to Psc.
- Pfc. Steve Headley was promoted to Sergeant in the Uniform Division, Day.
- Psc. Kelli Sells was promoted to Pfc.
- Pfc. Jeff Giannuzzi was promoted to Sergeant in the Uniform Division, Day Shift.
- Prob. Patrol Officer Ryan Hiipakka (SBPD Lateral Transfer) was promoted to Pfc.
- Prob. Patrol Officer Kyle Lindzy (SBPD Lateral Transfer) was promoted to Pfc.
- Prob. Patrol Officer Zachary Alfrey (SBPD Lateral Transfer) was promoted to Pfc.
- Prob. Patrol Officer Elijah Arias (SBPD Lateral Transfer) was promoted to Pfc.
- Pfc. Jonathan Yoder was promoted to Sergeant in the Special Victim's Unit.

### **Demotions**

- Sgt. Mike Janicki voluntarily relinquished his rank of Sergeant to that of Pfc.
- Capt. Robert Reppert took a voluntary demotion to Lieutenant of the Community Relations Unit.
- Sgt. Steve Treber is took a voluntary demotion to Pfc. and filled the position of SRO for MHS.

### **Transfers**

- Sgt. Mike Dube transferred from the Investigative Division to the Uniform Division and took a voluntary demotion to Pfc.
- Pfc. Jon Yoder transferred from the Uniform Division, Midnight Shift to the Investigative Division.
- Pfc. Greg Dawson was promoted to Sergeant in the Uniform Division, Afternoon Shift.
- Parking Personnel Loretta Kronewitter transferred to Services Secretary.
- Pfc. Bruce Faltynski transferred from the position of School Resource Officer for MHS to the Community Relations Unit.

## Deployment

- Pfc. Keith Holzer was deployed for Active Duty (Department of the Army). He will be deployed for approximately 400 days.

## Return from Active Duty

- Psc. Garrett Baresel returned from Active Duty (Marine Corps).

## Retirements

- Pfc. Joseph Makowski, of the Uniform Division, retired on 1/12/19 after 23 years of service.
- Civilian Paulette Steinke, Administrative Secretary for the Investigative Division, retired on 4/1/19 after 20 years of service.
- Lt. Brad Haney, of the Investigative Division, retired on 4/29/19 after 20 years of service.
- Pfc. Randy Holland retired on 7/13/19 after 29 years of service.
- Sgt. Robert Ashburn retired on 8/24/19 after 24 years of service.

## Resignations

- Probationary Patrol Officer Dayne Nordman resigned on 4/29/19.
- Pfc. Chad Winger resigned on 7/26/19.
- Sgt. Nathan Wojtysiak resigned on 8/1/19. Will be working for the family business.
- Sgt. Scott Robinson resigned on 10/26/19. He took a position with the FBI.

## Recognitions

### Officer of the 1st Quarter – Sgt. Jeff Giannuzzi

On February 3, 2019 Low Bob's Tobacco was the victim of an armed robbery. Days later South Bend Police Department reported an armed robbery with a suspect description that matched the Low Bob's robbery suspect.

SBPD investigators forwarded a partial plate number and vehicle description to the MPD Investigators. This information was sent out to officers. Officer Giannuzzi, on his own initiative, ran the alphabet to locate the missing character from the suspect plate. He then located a vehicle returning to a Mishawaka address. Even though the vehicle description did not match the description from South Bend, he continued his investigation by going to the registered address and verifying the vehicle and plate. Officer Giannuzzi then located a blue Honda in the driveway with the plate number that he had obtained. Mishawaka Detectives were immediately called to the scene. The investigation continued and quickly revealed a potential suspect. The suspect was then located, arrested and interviewed by investigators in Mishawaka



(l-r): Sgt. Jeff Giannuzzi, Mayor Dave Wood,  
and Chief of Police Ken Witkowski

and South Bend. Ultimately, the suspect confessed to committing both robberies. Officer Giannuzzi was the key in the identification of this suspect who was charged with 2 counts of Armed Robbery.

#### Officer of the 2nd Quarter – Sgt. Eric Petersen

Sgt. Petersen was nominated by his fellow officers on the Afternoon Shift for locating and apprehending a couple of “wanted” individuals.

On June 6, 2019, Sgt. Petersen was given information about a subject that was wanted for First Degree Murder out of Illinois in the area of Parkview Terrace Apartments. After checking the area Sgt. Petersen was able to locate and apprehend the subject as he was walking in the area.

One June 12, 2019, Sgt. Petersen was following up on information regarding a wanted subject out of Michigan. The subject was reported to be staying in the area of Cobblestone Circle. Sgt. Petersen was able to locate the subject inside a home and talked him out the residence without incident. The subject was an escapee wanted for Felony Resisting Law Enforcement and Robbery.

As a result of Sgt. Petersen’s tireless efforts, he was able to prevent any further crimes by these suspects. His actions bring great credit upon himself and reflect highly upon the Mishawaka Police Department.



*Sgt. Eric Peterson with Mayor Dave Wood*

#### Officer of the 3rd Quarter – Pfc. Kendy Baker

Officer Baker, assigned to the Midnight Shift, consistently works at a high-level pace. Her proactive approach to police work continues to keep the City of Mishawaka a safe place to live. Her tenacious approach to traffic stops, her attention to detail when called and her undeniable perception make her an important member of the Uniform Division. Below is a short synopsis of her work in the third quarter of 2019.

- July 12 – Performed a traffic stop and arrested the driver on 2 warrants.
- July 19 – Performed a traffic stop that resulted in a vehicle pursuit. She later arrested the driver for Operating While Intoxicated and Resisting Law Enforcement.
- August 5 – Used her skills as a Crime Scene Technician to assist in the apprehension of a stabbing suspect.
- August 8 – Performed a traffic stop and arrested the driver with Possession of PCP, Warrants and False Informing.
- August 10 – Performed a traffic stop after observing unusual behavior. The driver was later arrested for Resisting Law Enforcement.



*Pfc. Kendy Baker*

- August 19 – Performed a traffic stop after observing suspicious activity. Later the driver was arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of a Syringe and Arrest Warrants.
- August 20 – Performed a traffic stop and after a vehicle pursuit, the driver was arrested for Operating while Intoxicated and Resisting Law Enforcement.
- September 2 – Performed a traffic stop and later arrested the driver for Operating while Intoxicated.
- September 4 – Performed a traffic stop after observing suspicious activity. The driver and occupant were arrested for Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Warrants.
- September 5 – Responded to an unwanted person. During the arrest, the suspect resisted arrest and officers had to use force. During the fight, Officer Baker suffered a lower back injury.
- September 25 – Located a suspicious person looking into vehicles. The subject was taken into custody where it was later learned that he was wanted for escaping a juvenile detention facility in Berrien County.

Officers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – Psc. Rachel Wright & Psc. Emma Gaipa

Officers Wright and Gaipa are assigned to the Afternoon Shift and were nominated by Capt. Don Weber and fellow officers of the Afternoon Shift.

On November 20, 2019, Officers Wright and Gaipa responded to a resident who requested that they check her alarm system at her home. The alarm had malfunctioned and she was concerned that it was tampered with by her ex-boyfriend who had been stalking her. Upon arrival they found the alarm was disabled and it appeared that someone had tried to kick in the door. After making entry, they began to search the home and eventually located the ex-boyfriend hiding in the basement. He was ordered up the stairs where he was placed in custody.

Officers Wright and Gaipa’s bravery, patience and investigative skills allowed for the peaceful arrest of a potentially dangerous subject. Upon completion of the investigation, the subject was charged with Residential Entry, Level 6 Felony and Criminal Mischief.

Officer of the Year 2018 (Award Presented in 2019) – Lt. Eric Laudeman

Eric Laudeman served his country for 7 years in the United States Army. He became a sworn Mishawaka Police Officer on January 12, 1999. He has been assigned to the Uniform Division on the afternoon shift since the beginning of his career. After being promoted to Corporal in 2002, it took him only 16 months to be promoted again, this time to Sergeant on the afternoon shift.

In 2004, Sgt. Laudeman was among several officers who were recognized for saving a young child who had fallen into an icy pond. Later that year, he was given a Letter of Commendation for his off-duty actions in assisting with the arrest of a bank robbery suspect. Due to his continued service, Sgt. Laudeman was selected as Officer of the Year in 2004.



Lt. Eric Laudeman

On January 29, 2008, he was promoted to Lieutenant on the afternoon shift, a position he continues to hold today. Later that year, he was chosen as Officer of the 4th Quarter after arresting several suspects with stolen merchandise and narcotics.

On August 1, 2010, Lt. Laudeman successfully completed a Motorcycle Rider Course and was placed on the Department's Motorcycle Detail. He proudly serves and represents the MPD as a Motorcycle Officer. He has served on several high-profile escorts from the Notre Dame Football team to the President of the United States. He continues his active role on the motorcycle, and you will often see him patrolling the Riverwalk.

On April 12, 2018, Lt. Laudeman responded to a call where witnesses observed a person pointing a firearm at a juvenile. Being familiar with the suspect, Lt. Laudeman began searching the area and quickly located him. As he approached and commanded the suspect to stop walking away, the suspect turned toward him and placed his hand into his pocket. Before the suspect could further react, Lt. Laudeman took control of him and placed him on the ground. During a pat down, a .380 caliber handgun was found in the suspect's shorts pocket and a .40 caliber handgun was found in the suspect's sweatshirt pocket. He was later charged with resisting law enforcement and 2 counts of illegally possessing a firearm.

On October 28, 2018, the South Bend Police Department reported that a robbery had occurred in their city and officers were in a vehicle pursuit of the suspects. Information relayed to the Mishawaka Police Department was that the suspects were armed and dangerous. Lt. Laudeman entered the pursuit on Edison Lakes Parkway as it turned East on Day Road. As the pursuit continued into St. Joseph County, the driver continued to drive in a reckless manner, endangering the lives of anyone on the road. Lt. Laudeman performed a PIT Maneuver that immediately ended the pursuit. His execution of the PIT maneuver was near flawless.

The term "hero" is defined as *"a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities"*. Throughout his 20-year career, Lt. Eric Laudeman has demonstrated each of these qualities. From the beginning of his career, he has shown professionalism during the most trying circumstances. He has shown patience alongside appropriate force. He has been an example of bravery and leadership. His achievements and commendations are noble, but above all, he has exhibited an immense dedication to service.

#### Firearms Training – "Top Shot" Award

- Pfc. Andrew Sark (third year in a row)
- Psc. Brent Vanderzwaag
- Pfc. Joshua Watt

Additional Recognition

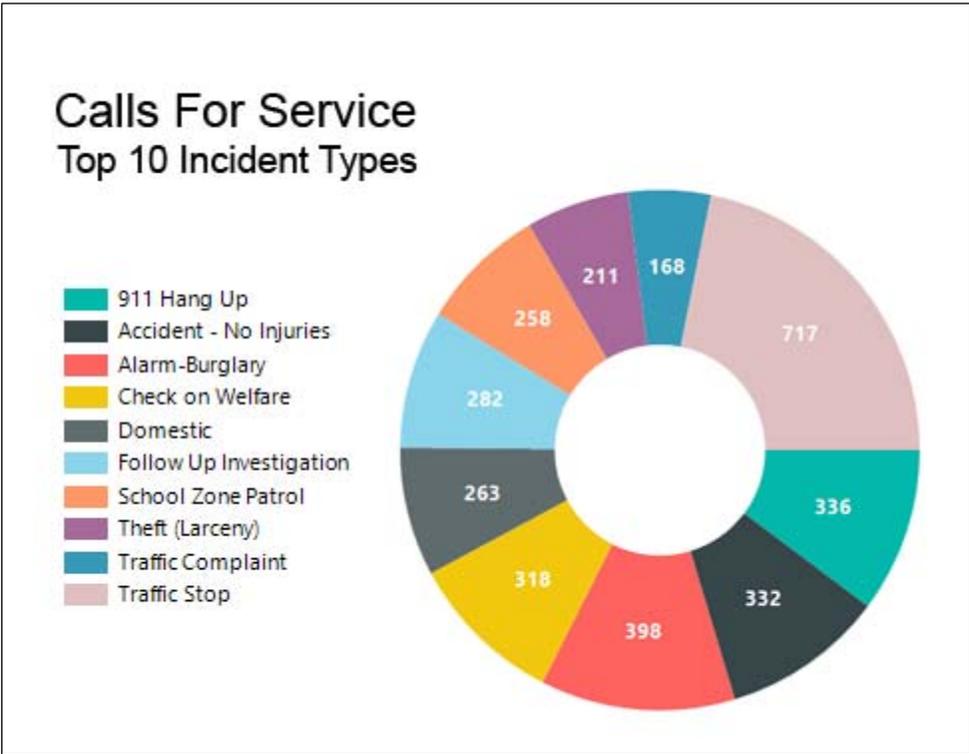


*The YWCA recognized officers Bauer, Craft, Boyd and Phipps for their dedication to fight and end domestic violence in Indiana. Every day, police officers protect and serve victim, family members and the community from dangerous situations.*



*On a cold night, this pup was wandering in the street after being struck by a vehicle. Officer Bauer comforted the dog until the Humane Society arrived.*

**Calls for Service**



## **K-9 Unit**

The K-9 Unit's mission is to support the Uniform Division, Street Crimes Unit, and the Investigative Division. They aid in the search for fugitive felony suspects, armed suspects, lost and missing persons and the recovery of illegal narcotics and evidence. In addition to these duties, K-9 officers are responsible for training and caring for their K-9 partners.

In 2019, Sgt. Thomas and Jax, and Pfc. Anthony Stachowiak and his partner Max, continued to assist local agencies such as the South Bend and St. Joseph Police Departments and the Indiana State Police. Both K-9 Officers also participate in the local schools with random searches of school grounds and lockers as well as providing demonstrations for local civic groups. Their training, teamwork, and dedication continue to show the importance the K-9 program to the City of Mishawaka. Pfc.

The K-9 unit also includes James Bartlett and his K-9, Bailey, who is a single-purpose dog used in drug detection.

## **Traffic Division**

Capt. Tim Spencer and Lt. Scott Parker are assigned to this Division and are responsible for the collection, review, correction, and transmission of all crash reports. The Division also investigates any traffic related case reports generated by the Department. This includes the review of case reports, and all follow-up investigations, the majority of which involve serious injury, fatalities, or are hit and run crashes. The Division also supplements case and crash reports and refers appropriate cases to the Prosecutor's Office. Additionally, the Traffic Division conducts traffic studies and makes recommendations to the City's Traffic Commission. As re-constructionists, both officers assigned to the Traffic Investigations Bureau serve as Lead Investigators for serious crashes as well as any other traffic related issues that arise, in an on-call capacity, 24 hours per day.

Additionally, both Capt. Spencer and Lt. Parker serve as members of the county-wide Fatal Alcohol Crash Team (F.A.C.T.). This team investigates serious injury and fatal crashes that occur within the boundaries of St. Joseph County that involve drug or alcohol impairment. Capt. Tim Spencer serves as the F.A.C.T. Commander with Lt Parker serving as a squad leader. Other Mishawaka officers that serve on F.A.C.T. are Captain Mike Arney, Capt. Bryan Fox, Lt. Tim Williams, Sgt. Mark Flemming, Lt. Brandon Ruth, Sgt. Rob Pfeiffer, and Pfc. Steve Egendoerfer

There was a total of 2,246 crashes reported in 2019 consisting of 1,914 property damage crashes, 329 injury crashes (443 total injuries reported), and 3 fatality crashes. There were 462 leaving the Scene of an accident cases were referred to the Traffic Division for additional investigation.

The following grants were awarded by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving). All grants provided overtime pay so officers could work extra hours primarily focusing on seat belt enforcement patrols, sobriety check points, and saturation patrols for impaired and dangerous drivers.

## Operation Pull Over & “Click It or Ticket”

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute awarded \$65,172.81 for overtime allowing officers to participate in saturation patrols for blitzes; 96, 97, 98 and 99.

During these traffic stops drivers were found to be wearing seat belts while driving passenger vehicles 97% of the time. With pick-up trucks included, the percentage dropped by 1%.

### D.U.I. Taskforce Indiana

The department was awarded a grant for \$7,681.66 to pay overtime allowing officers to participate in sobriety check points, saturation and wolfpack patrols targeting impaired and dangerous drivers. Officers working the D.U.I. Taskforce averaged 4.52 contacts per hour and a D.U.I. arrest every 8 hours. Numbers are down in both grants due to fewer officers working grant overtime because of the increase in department overtime.

### Investigative Division

The Investigative Division is supervised by Division Chief Dan Gebo and is comprised of 16 detectives that are tasked with the investigations of felony and misdemeanor criminal cases that occur within the City of Mishawaka and St. Joseph County.

There are also Mishawaka Police detectives assigned to five St. Joseph County Metro Units: Family Violence Unit, Drug Investigative Unit, Fatal Alcohol Crash Team (F.A.C.T.) and the Homicide Unit.

All criminal cases filed through the Mishawaka Police Department are referred to the Investigative Division and are reviewed and handled on a case by case basis. These cases couldn’t be investigated and solved without the efforts of Uniform Officers handling the initial complaint, to the Investigators, and outside agencies assisting. We also couldn’t do it without the help of community for their cooperation and information provided to keep our neighborhood and community safe!

Operation Pull Over and “Click It or Ticket”	
Criminal Misdemeanor Arrests	80
D.U.I. Arrests	55
Seat Belt Violations	438
Driving While Suspended	213
Child Restraint Violations	36
Criminal Felony Arrests	20
Speeding	792
Warnings	1,325
Other Traffic	1,116
<b>Total Traffic Stops</b>	<b>4,075</b>

Indiana D.U.I. Taskforce	
Criminal Misdemeanor Arrests	19
Misdemeanor D.U.I. Arrests	18
Felony D.U.I. Arrests	1
Driving While Suspended	31
Underage Alcohol	0
Criminal Felony	2
Speeding	59
Warnings	258
Other Traffic	246
<b>Total Traffic Stops</b>	<b>634</b>

2019 Investigation Division Statistics		
Detective Bureau cases	7,009	+6.89%
Cases referred to the Traffic Division	460	-13.5%
Warrant arrest cases (not referred)	295	+50.5%
Assigned to the SCU/CRU/SRO	204	-17.44%
Direct referral to the Prosecutor's Office, JJC, Family Violence, etc.	3,096	+15.2%

### 2019 Investigation Division Statistics

In 2019 the Investigative Division handled and solved serious felony cases, along with misdemeanor crimes. Through interviewing suspects and witnesses, collecting and combing through the evidence found at crime scenes, and reviewing case reports, cases were solved. Without the hard work of these officers and the assistance of other outside agencies, these crimes would have gone unsolved or not convicted. To keep in communication with outside agencies, Mishawaka Police investigators continue attending the weekly crime intel strategy session to share and talk about crime trends, incidents and suspects being investigated. This meeting is attended by all area law enforcement agencies, including the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office, U.S. Prosecutor's Office and the community correction officers.

In 2019 the City of Mishawaka saw a 17% decrease in robberies from 2018, from 41 to 24 reported cases. The detectives assigned to robbery cases solved 52% of these cases. The national average for robbery clearance rates is 25% to 30% for cities. In 2019, there were no reported homicides in the city.

### Personnel Changes/Transfers in the Investigative Division

- The Investigative Division Secretary Paulette Steinke retired after 20 years of service. We will truly miss her and her dedication to the MPD! Thank you!
- Stacy Madison transferred from the Services Division to the Investigative Division as Secretary.
- Detective / Sgt. Zach DeGeyter, who transferred from St. Joseph County's Family Violence Unit (FVU) to the Investigative Division.
- Detective / Sgt. Robert Pfeiffer, who transferred from St. Joseph County's Family Violence Unit (FVU) to the Investigative Division.
- Detective / Pfc. Johnathon Yoder who transferred from the Uniform Division to St. Joseph County's Family Violence Unit (FVU).

### **Community Relations Unit**

The Community Relations Unit is a philosophy and organizational strategy that promotes a partnership with citizens to work together to identify and solve community crime and disorder problems with the goal of improving the overall quality of life in the community. This form of Community Policing rests on the belief that the citizens and the police department, only by working together, can improve the quality of life in the community. It challenges all unit personnel to find ways to develop new proactive initiatives aimed at solving community problems, targeting, and identifying criminal and quality of life issues within the city of Mishawaka.

The CRU is commanded by Capt. Robert Reppert with assistance from six officers. The unit is divided into three entities: Community Relations Officers, D.A.R.E., School Resource Officers (SROs) and an IAD/New Hire Recruiter. The Unit serves as a specialized enforcement unit that handles neighborhood complaints, provides patrol, and investigative support utilizing various measures to accomplish their goals and objectives.

The Community Relations Officers handle various public relationship events such as Community Outreach Programs, Neighborhood Watch meetings, National Night Out, MPD tours for boy scouts and schools, reading to children and bike safety rodeos.

The Unit also assists Code Enforcement, Park Patrol, the Uniform and Traffic Division, Drug Unit, and Investigative Division in identifying vacant houses to deter scrapping, and assisting outside agencies at the local, state and federal level when requested. In 2018, the Unit brought in approximately \$3,000 in revenue by performing salvage titles for citizens.

The Unit also attended community events in 2018 such as: Coffee with a Cop, Chill with a Cop, National Night Out, Trunk or Treat and the Christmas Tree Lighting, to name a few.

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

Lt. Tim Williams is assigned to D.A.R.E. where he presents the D.A.R.E. program to all ten public and parochial elementary schools in Mishawaka. Schools that have 5th grade D.A.R.E. are: Battell, Beiger, Emmons, Hums, LaSalle, Liberty, Twin Branch, Mishawaka Catholic (St. Monica and St. Joseph campuses) Queen of Peace and Covenant Christian School. Lt. Williams graduated from the D.A.R.E. Officer Training on March 22, 2002. Lt. Williams was certified at the 2009 D.A.R.E. conference to instruct the new middle school program, "*Keepin' it REAL*". Williams instructed the new middle school program at Mishawaka Catholic (St. Monica) Queen of Peace and Covenant Christian School this past fall.

Lt. Williams is also certified to instruct the high school D.A.R.E. curriculum and has instructed the 9th grade classes at Mishawaka High School and Marian High School. The high school program talks about current drug trends and why our youth gives into peer pressure. Lt. Williams awards students from each class an essay award for the best essay. The winning essays from each semester compete against each other to be crowned city champion. Two city champion essays are chosen and sent down state to compete for the state champion. Emily Callan of Mishawaka Catholic was chosen as the city champion for having the best essay. Mishawaka's D.A.R.E. program has had 4 State Champion essay winners since 2004.

### **Stranger Danger**

The Mishawaka Police Department provides a Stranger Danger program for local schools. Lt. Tim Williams talks about child lures, internet safety and bullies. WNDU Channel 16 and United Way helped produce a Stranger Danger video that is used to help educate students and care givers about the lures used to kidnap children. The 15-minute video features Jack Nolan (WNDU-16) along with local police officers Lt. Tim Williams (Mishawaka Police Dept.), Sheriff Frank Canarecci, Sgt. Bill Redman, Cpl. Dave Sult (St. Joseph County Police Dept.), and Sgt. Scott Ross (South Bend Police Department).

### **Kid Print IDs**

The Mishawaka Police Department D.A.R.E. program had several requests for Kid Print IDs. Since the beginning of this program, more than 2900 IDs have been made at local and private events such as Chill with a Cop, the University Park Mall, United Methodist Church, Lexus of Mishawaka, Diabetes Walk, and Cub Scouts.

### **School Resource**

Sgt. Steve Madison is assigned full-time to John Young Middle and Pfc. Bruce Faltynski is the School Resource Officer assigned full-time to Mishawaka High School. Pfc. Nathan DeVreese is

assigned full-time to rotate between all School City of Mishawaka elementary schools. Lt. Tim Williams, a part-time School Resource Officer, serves as a liaison between the school community and the Mishawaka Police Department. These officers conduct short-term educational projects such as speaking to classes, the student body, parents and the school staff. The officer coordinates with the school administration to provide a safe and secure environment. Resource officers initiate and follow-up on cases that happen on and off school property involving students enrolled in school.

### **Street Crimes Unit**

The Street Crimes Unit is a special investigatory unit staffed by Lt. Eric Beckham, Sgt. Ryan Corbett and Pfc. James Bartlett. The primary function of the unit is to investigate “vice” type crimes and to address various quality of life issues as they arise within the City. The SCU works in conjunction with the Investigative Division and the Community Relations Unit to identify criminals and solve crimes within neighborhoods. With the assistance of the community, crime analysts, and other units within the MPD, pertinent data on the type of criminal activity is reviewed. Where crime is the most severe, the unit determines what types of crime awareness and prevention activities would be most productive, and what type of program would be most effective in combating the problem. The unit also identifies areas that generate repeat calls for service so problem solving efforts can be initiated.

SCU partnered with Homeland Security and recovered a large amount of narcotics from a storage unit and apartment complex in the northern part of the City. The suspect in this case was stopped on the highway with a large amount of narcotics that he was bringing back to Mishawaka. The subject that he met with was also taken down with over \$280,000 in his possession.

SCU assisted the Uniform Division with a robbery to a person on the south side of the city. This subject reported being robbed at gunpoint by three armed men. During the robbery the men took a credit card that they began using at local stores. SCU went to the stores and identified a vehicle and suspected subject who were using the card to purchase items.

### **C.A.P. Program**

The Civilians in Alliance with Police (C.A.P) program partners the Mishawaka Police and Parks Departments with community volunteers to help report on acts of vandalism in the parks and along the Riverwalk. The volunteers are given basic training in first aid and on what to do if they encounter a problem. After completing this training, they are named as a member of CAP, equipped with a Mishawaka Police radio and sent out in a golf cart to patrol the downtown parks and Riverwalk. They also assist during events throughout the season such as, fireworks, festivals, Memorial Day Parade, park concerts, Lineworkers Rodeo, etc. These volunteers are a very dedicated and loyal group of people that truly care about the City of Mishawaka. The MPD is thankful for their commitment to the CAP Program and appreciate their service.

### **Services Division**

The Services Division is assisted by 5 civilian support staff and one officer. They provide administrative services to the Department. These services include the Department budget, management of the property room, and administration of the Training Division. The Division is

also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Police Department facility along with the Department's inventory of officer equipment, cars and supplies.

Throughout the year the staff handles numerous requests for copies of reports, criminal background checks, fingerprints, gun permit applications, motor vehicle checks and parking ticket payments. The staff also assists other governmental and police agencies when they request reports and information for their investigations.

The Services Division is responsible for maintaining Department records, processing reports and citations, data entry, updating dispositions on cases in the Records Management System, and for the preparation of statistics, including the monthly Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting. The Services Division is also responsible for the management of the IT Division.

Property and Evidence stores and transacts numerous property and evidence items each year. Each of these items are counted and inventoried as part of a chain of custody. Every transaction of property, whether it is to go to court, lab for testing, returned to the owner or destroyed, is documented with the date, time and reason.

### **Training Unit**

The State of Indiana requires that law enforcement officers must acquire 24 hours of training per year at a minimum. Of that minimum 24 hours, 6 are to be attributed to the following categories: 2 hours for firearms, 2 hours for emergency vehicle operation and 2 hours for physical tactics.

The Mishawaka Police Department Training Unit constantly strives to train its officers far beyond the state standards. As in previous years, we have officers (not counting the highest top ten officers) with an average amount of training hours more than two times what the state requires. When factoring out the bottom ten averaging officers with the least amount of training hours (retires, departures, separations), the average training hours per officer for the year is 2.5 times higher than the state requirement.

Training Hours Summary	
Total training hours acquired by officers	5,717
Average of training hours per officer	56.05
Average of hours per officer (minus lowest 10)	59.79
Average of hours per officer (minus highest 10)	46.85

Not counting twenty-four SWAT training events, the Mishawaka Police Training Unit offered 280 training opportunities throughout 2019.

### Training Highlights for 2019

Sgt. Joshua Mortimore was added as a Training Manager to the Training Unit in February of 2019. The addition of Sgt. Mortimore has been welcomed as an absolute asset to the unit. Sgt. Mortimore has been instrumental in helping oversee several important areas of training. Other departments the size of the Mishawaka Police Department have 2-3 additional training unit members so the addition of another officer to the unit was a welcome addition.

The Field Training Program Manager oversees the training and scheduling of new officers. Sgt. Mortimore utilizes VCS for scheduling and manages oversight of the new hires through the field

training software program Agency360. This software evaluates scores and daily observation reports submitted by Field Training Officers.

There is a copious amount of paperwork and checks and balances that Sgt. Mortimore must pay attention to with a new hire's training. Training records are an absolute necessity for the Training Unit to document and record through the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy training database, Acadis. Sgt. Mortimore is entrusted with the logging of training credentials.

Instructors are an important resource for the Mishawaka Police Department and must be able to specialize in several skills with the main psychomotor skills being firearms, physical tactics and emergency vehicle operations. Sgt. Mortimore is well versed in instructing Mishawaka Police Instructors, managing the training courses coupled with scheduling that is required.

Sgt. Mortimore has been instrumental in assisting Assistant Uniform Division Chief Jason Stefaniak in the review and deployment of policies through Lexipol. Sgt. Mortimore's knowledge on policies and the working contract of the FOP has helped ease the process of this large undertaking.

PoliceOne Academy Online Training is a software program that the MPD began subscribing to in October of 2019. This online training program allows officers (while on duty) to take training courses that are accredited through the State of Indiana. It also allows the training unit to get important up-to-date training information out to officers.

Now with PoliceOne Academy Training, we can record the information and when officers come into work, they can review this training online (recorded videos of the representative's presentations, notes, lesson plans) and their forms can be disseminated through this program as well.

Since the inception of the PoliceOne software, officers can complete required training online and on duty. Officers completed 258 hours of training through PoliceOne Academy Training in the fourth quarter of last year. This has been a savings of approximately \$11,300 in time owed or overtime in just 2.5 months. This value far outweighs the cost for the subscription saving the city thousands of dollars with just a couple of months of use. Although this program has significant value, practical hands-on training is not being abandoned and cannot be substituted. The online training offers a supplemental training avenue for keeping officers with up to date informational training.

Outside Agencies within St. Joseph County were sought out or contacted the Mishawaka Police Department Training Unit to come in and discuss topics pertinent to law enforcement. Mishawaka PD Training seeks out and welcomes its partners within the community to come and instruct our officers to make our department the most professional law enforcement agency in the county. Officers received training on topics ranging from trauma medical assistance, domestic violence issues and RR crossing collision investigations along with other relevant topics. Some of the trainers included Andre Gammage, St. Joseph County Magistrate; Thomas Saunders, St. Joseph Prosecutor's Office; Stacie Bobeck MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, TCRN, SANE-A, Memorial Hospital Trauma Educator and Outreach/Injury Prevention Coordinator South Bend Memorial Trauma Center; Jeffrey Price, Conrail North Special Agent and Community Service Officer; and Craig Redman, Juvenile Justice Center, Probation Supervisor.

Motorola PremierOne RMS and Motorola Mobile Client are two pieces of software that the training unit was charged with instructing the police department on. Competing training on both programs in one year was a significant task. Both pieces of software are absolutely essential to law enforcement functionality. PremierOne RMS is a records management software system and stores and manages all police digital record keeping. The software integrates with other pieces of software for law enforcement functionality such as Command Central Vault (body camera footage and digital evidence storage).

PremierOne Mobile Client is a software program that is used by both emergency services dispatch and public safety such as law enforcement to dispatch and collect data reference call for services. Mishawaka Police Officers have had training in the past on other CAD (computer aided dispatch) programs which helped officers being able to grasp the foundations of PremierOne Mobile Client. Officers were trained using hands on training with spare mobile data terminals. Executing the programs functions on the overhead screen while officers executed the same functions on their own MDTs helped to reinforce the learning process.

In 2019 the Department continued Psychomotor Skills Training. The psychomotor skills are training sessions that enhance physical skills needed by law enforcement officers such as physical tactics, firearms and emergency vehicle operations. These trainings are designed to keep the officers safe while serving the public.

Mishawaka Police, in cooperation with Tire Rack on Vorden Parkway in South Bend, IN utilized their test track for officers to practice driving maneuvers. Vehicle operation training stresses safe emergency driving in the squad car coupled with good decision making on an officer's ability to call off a pursuit or to drive with due regard for the public while responding to calls in emergency situations.

Tactical handgun and rifle training were conducted throughout the year. Numerous opportunities were offered, allowing officers to hone their firearms target acquisition and precision skills. The Mishawaka Police Department requires all officers to qualify each year on their duty pistol, off-duty pistols and patrol rifles. Mishawaka Police even had a FATS Simulator (Firearms Training Simulator) on station during the course of the training year. The FATS Simulator helps reinforce shoot/don't shoot simulations which forces an officer to make split-second decisions and then to make them reflect on those decisions.

Physical tactics training deals with training ranging from handcuffing, takedowns, and defeating physical attacks any officer can be confronted with. Numerous opportunities are afforded for officers to get trained and officers are encouraged to attend a multitude of the trainings. Being skilled in the ability to control and restrain combative subjects helps reduce injury and liability for all involved.

The SWAT team, in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies in St. Joseph County, continues their strict regimen of training twice a month in firearms and tactics.

Technology upgrades are always a welcome addition at the Mishawaka Police Department. The training unit continued to roll out new tasers and Motorola's body camera, the Si500. The new tasers are more advanced than the old predecessors, X26. The tasers are moisture and shock resistant. The deployment of tasers has proven to decrease injuries on behalf of officers and

suspects. It is a proven technology that is not only trained on for skill but also sound decision making that the officer must call upon. Taser classes are taught in conjunction with operating policies to help reinforce safe deployment. More tasers are needed to replace the old tasers some officers still carry.

The Si500 body camera from Motorola continues to be deployed among officers. This valuable tool captures digital evidence and helps the prosecution of crimes that our officers are arresting for. They have proven invaluable in refuting claims of excessive force by an officer. The digital evidence of video and photographs are housed in digital evidence storage allowing for less clutter with DVDs and CD-Rs that are burned in for evidence. The camera also functions as a combination speaker and microphone that integrates with the officer's natural tendency to use equipment they are used to operating. Officers are adapting to the new technology and how to care for the digital evidence. All uniform patrol officers will be outfitted with body cameras by February of 2020.

The MPD Training Unit attended a SIMS Instructor Training class in 2019 that we will apply in early 2020. This training is being revitalized with new scenarios and encounters that will help with decision making when an officer responds and makes decisions in those stressful split-second moments that are critical.

### **Women's Self-Defense Classes**

Self-defense classes for women are held several times throughout the year and are instructed by Division Chief Jason Stefaniak, Sgt. Rich Freeman, Sgt. Brian Long, and Pfc. Dave Ruiz. It continues to be a very popular class with a maximum amount of attendance. These classes will continue throughout 2020. Self-defense is a set of awareness, assertiveness, verbal confrontation skills, safety strategies, and physical techniques that enable someone to successfully escape, resist, and survive violent attacks.



*Sgt. Long and Pfc. Ruiz instructed a Women's Self Defense Class for the Mishawaka High School Women's Basketball Team*

## Other Community Involvement



*No Shave November: With the help of MPD officers, Veterans Affairs Police and private donations, we raised over \$3,062 for Center for Hospice Care in the month of November*



*In the month of December, MPD officers raised and collected \$3,380! This was donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Michiana!*



*28 children received a special Christmas experience at Christmas With A Cop! Children were able to ride in a police car to Meijer on Grape Road, and through donations by our local Grape Road Meijer store, each child received at least \$100 in Christmas gifts purchased at the store. Officers Wright, Bauer, Bartlett, and K-9 Bailey, were among several officers participating.*



*Mishawaka Police and Fire Honor Guard  
Honoring our veterans at the opening of the Veterans Plaza Memorial*