



WAUPUN

POLICE DEPARTMENT



2024 Annual Report



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Mission, Vision & Values



MISSION

Dedicated service and protection for all.

VISION

To foster a safe and secure community through collaboration, trust and exceptional police service.

VALUES

Courage, Integrity, Respect, Compassion



Command Staff



James H. MacGillis
Chief of Police



Luke G. Vetter
Patrol Bureau Captain



Shane R. Wrucke
Support Services Captain



Gary J. Gabrish
Administrative Captain



Mayor & City Administrator



Mayor Dennis McBride



City Administrator James Archambo

Police and Fire Commissioners



Left to right: Greg Leahy, Stan Stojkovic, Danielle Basil-Long, Victor Plantinga, Phillip Morris



James H. MacGillis Letter from the Police Chief

Dear Mayor, Members of the Common Council, and Citizens of Wauwatosa,

The 2024 Annual Report provides an opportunity for us to inform the community about the services we provided over the last year. Our success would not be possible without the dedicated and hardworking staff of the Wauwatosa Police Department, who remain committed to our mission of providing dedicated service and protection for all. We remain steadfast in building public trust while providing exceptional police service.

Wauwatosa is a beautiful and unique community. Although it has a small-town feel, the community is comprised of 49,000+ residents, making it the 14th largest city by population in Wisconsin. During the day however, our population more than doubles due to the city's rich retail, commercial, medical and educational services. This influx makes Wauwatosa the *fourth largest city by daytime population*, requiring the Police Department to be diverse and adaptable to the ever-changing public safety needs.

During 2024, the Department realigned our strategic plan to focus on six key areas of organizational improvement:

- Community Service
- Organizational Efficiencies
- Technology Enhancements
- Employee Engagement
- Fiscal Resiliency
- Facilities Upgrades

Additionally, we secured city supported funding to conduct an organizational study with Certus Public Safety Solutions. Looking ahead, the Department will focus on organizational structure, fiscal responsibility, internal employee growth opportunities, and future organizational agility. Over the past year, we achieved significant success by implementing evidence-based, data-driven strategies to reduce harmful events in the City - including reducing crime and improving roadway safety. To further support these ongoing public safety efforts, the department applied for and was awarded a three-year harm reduction grant.

As we move into 2025, we will continue to assess our progress and evaluate how we can deliver policing services more efficiently. This includes evaluating staffing levels, organizational structure, the policing services we provide, and how they align with our strategic plan and the evolving needs of our community.

Thank you for putting your trust in us. Public safety is a shared responsibility, and we can't do it without the community's ongoing support.

Sincerely,



James H. MacGillis
Chief of Police



Luke G. Vetter

Report from the Patrol Bureau Captain

The Patrol Bureau includes the largest number of men and women who serve as the “backbone” of the department. They, along with our dispatch staff, provide 24/7 front-line response to the city, while fulfilling numerous specialty roles that you will read about in the following pages. We also continued to hire and train new Officers in attempts to reach full staffing, which has been a challenge for the last 4 years.

We continued to receive consistent support from the City Administration and City Council to evolve as a police department. This has allowed us to keep up with technology changes and make our operations as efficient as possible. Crime data analysis, facial recognition, license plate readers, social workers, online form submissions, and Community Service Officers round out the tools we use to meet today’s policing challenges. In 2024, we saw a 13% increase in calls for service as compared to 2023, yet our Officers were able to considerably increase their self-initiated activity. This allowed our front-line staff to both respond/react to calls for service, but also spend time proactively applying community and problem orientated policing strategies where most needed. These proactive patrols led to significant drops in crime:

- 15.3% drop in motor vehicle thefts
 - 13.4% drop in personal injury vehicle crashes
 - 12.5% drop in burglaries
 - 2.6% drop in property damage vehicle crashes
- *data compares 2024 totals to 2023 totals

Proactive policing was accomplished through tactics like directed traffic enforcement at known high-crash locations, and a new directed “hot spot” tactic that proved successful in lowering harm to our citizens.

The hot spot patrols proved so successful, that our department was awarded a three-year, \$200,000 grant to partner with Northeastern University of Boston, Massachusetts. The partnership between our department and the university’s crime analyst staff will expand the hot spot program over the next several years.

I am proud of the work ethic and resourcefulness of our front-line staff. I am even prouder of the collaboration that has occurred with our coworkers within the Support Services and Administrative Bureaus as we continue to improve our services to the public and work to fulfill our department’s strategic plan.



Shane R. Wrucke

Report from the Support Services Captain

The Support Services Bureau is responsible for oversight of the enhanced police services contracts at the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center, the Training and Personnel Division, and the Investigative Division. Captain Shane Wrucke has been leading the Support Services Bureau since 2022.

In February of 2024, the Wauwatosa Police Department and Froedtert Hospital agreed to temporarily suspend the contract for enhanced police services in the Emergency Department due to Police Department staffing challenges, however we are still responsible for police calls for service there. As of December 31, 2024, two officers per shift are assigned to the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center campus.

The enhanced police service contracts satisfy several objectives for the Police Department and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center. The contracts established a long-term strategic partnership to meet the needs of the campus without impacting community policing. The contracts improve public safety on the campus through collaboration and proactive approaches.

All sworn personnel of the Police Department attend training to familiarize themselves with the campus, each organization, and their relevant policies and procedures. Refresher training is also conducted on an annual basis and as needed. Data regarding police activity is analyzed and reported to formulate mitigation strategies.

The Training and Personnel Division manages the hiring and promotion of sworn positions and coordinates internal and external training for all Police Department staff. The Investigative Division is responsible for investigating criminal activity and conducting pre-employment background investigations.

The Support Services Bureau supports the collective efforts of the Wauwatosa Police Department's commitment to dedicated service and protection for all through quality hiring practices, professional criminal investigations, and community policing approaches to enhanced police services.



Gary J. Gabrish

Report from the Administrative Bureau Captain

The Administrative Bureau is comprised of sworn officers and civilian personnel that serve as a supporting function of the Police Department. Its divisions include the Communications Division, Community Support Division, and the Administrative Division. The Administrative Division is responsible for security and building maintenance, records, technical services, jail and confinement, and the front office.

The Communications Division is the focal point for incoming requests for services. They keep our personnel safe and informed through call-taking and dispatching of all Police and Fire activity in the City. Members of our customer service front office and those assigned to records are responsible for providing information and answering questions about department operations. This Bureau maintains responsibility for the record-keeping function of the department and provides public access to department records as specified under Wisconsin State Statutes. The Police Department receives nearly 3,000 requests for public records annually.

The City of Wauwatosa hosts numerous special events every year and depends on the Community Support Division to oversee these events for coordination with the public for overall safety. Many times, these events also coincide with our schools. The members of the School Resource Officer Team, the Wauwatosa Police Reserves, and Special Events coordinators all fall under the umbrella of the Administrative Bureau.

A work group within the Administrative Bureau coordinates with the Police Chief, the City Finance Department and City Hall Executive staff to develop and maintain the annual operating budget. The Bureau continues to work diligently on grant opportunities, financial programs, and asset forfeiture accounts to supplement our budget. Administrative Bureau services also work with the fleet manager to purchase, outfit, and maintain a fleet of more than 60 police vehicles.

The Bureau strives to have a teamwork environment and utilizes the City's policy and stance of workplace flexibility to benefit our personnel. We continue to work together to expand the flexibility policy through internal programs, employee strengths, and teamwork to meet the needs of the public. We continue to look to our personnel to generate new ideas as well as provide ingenuity toward avenues of job direction. By improving work share dynamics, having clear job descriptions, and an independent work environment, we help to keep the Police Department moving in a positive direction. We exist to support the mission and values of the entire department from behind the scenes.



Chief of Police

Administrative
Support Specialist

Support Services Bureau
Captain

Patrol Bureau
Captain

Administrative Bureau
Captain

Training &
Personnel
Lieutenant

Administrative Support
Specialist

Accountant & Grant
Coordinator

Administrative Lieutenant

T&P Sergeant

Patrol Shifts

Communication
Center Manager

Administrative Sergeant

Administrative Sergeant

Investigative Division
Detective/Lieutenant

Day
Lieutenant

Early
Lieutenant

Late
Lieutenant

Communication
Center Supervisor

Administrative Support
Specialist

Front Office
Office Assistants
5 Full Time

Detective Sergeant
Day

Detective Sergeant
Early

2 Sgts.
16 Officers
2 Crash
Patrol
Spec.

3 Sgts.
21 Officers
2 Crash
Patrol
Spec.

2 Sgts.
15 Officers
1 Crash
Patrol
Spec.

Dispatch
Center
10 Full Time
4 Part Time

Community Support
Spec II

Records Office
Assistants
2 Full time

Det. Technician
5 Detectives

Det. Technician
4 Detectives

5 Community
Service Officers

4 School
Resource Officers

3 Parking
Specialists

Community Support
Spec II

Administrative
Support
Specialist

Station &
Equipment
Specialist

SOG
2 Detectives

SOG
2 Detectives

Administrative Support &
Property Specialist

Crime Analyst

Police
Reserves

Chief of Police – James H. MacGillis
Administrative Support Specialist – Mary Weger

Patrol Bureau

Captain Luke G. Vetter

Day Shift

Lt. Chad Geiszler
Sgt. Joseph Lewandowski
Sgt. Edward Tyrpak

Early Shift

Lt. Joseph Zientek
Sgt. Jacob Grosenick
Sgt. Jordan Yandre

Late Shift

Lt. Cory Wex
Sgt. Joseph Wong
Sgt. Ryan Schwabenlander

P.O. Michael Pearson
P.O. Julie Gibbs
P.O. Derek Dienhart
P.O. Steven Miszewski
P.S. Ralph Salyers (CIU)
P.O. Travis Machalk
P.S. Bryan Wade (CIU)
P.O. Anthony San Felippo
P.O. Dexter Schleis
P.O. Kelsey Pentimalli
P.O. Adam Nelson
P.O. Eric Benson
P.O. Alexander Herrera
P.O. Nathan Templer
P.O. Chad Bublit
P.O. Travis Karweik
P.O. Dylan Johnson

P.S. Daniel Mitchell (CIU)
P.O. Benjamin Ziegler & K9 Zev
P.O. Alejandro Patnode Fonseca
P.O. George Opelt
P.S. Daniel Trester (CIU)
P.O. Aaron Radwill
P.O. Keiagane Mork-Cardon
P.O. Collin George
P.O. S. Arslan Mudassar
P.O. Eli Streeter
P.O. Teagan Joyce
P.O. Jeremy Saffold
P.O. Tyler Pytlik
P.O. Jack Gerstmeier
P.O. Kayla La Fontain
P.O. Jacob Faber
P.O. Ricardo Lozano
P.O. Ashely Trawicki
P.O. Madeline Larson
P.O. Jaime Mohs

P.O. Benjamin Rebholz & K9 Koa
P.O. Andrew Floryance
P.O. Adam Tapp
P.O. Jeffrey Johnson
P.O. Karl Steberl
P.O. Mitchell Kriz
P.O. Durell Smith
P.O. Colan Eigenbrod
P.O. Jacob Shoman
P.O. Garrett Wells
P.O. Michael Leeman
P.O. Zosia Bartosik
P.S. Brenнын Sibley (CIU)
P.O. Shaun Foster
P.O. Manvinder Singh
P.O. Robert Gilbreath

Field Training Program

P.O. Samuel Soukup
P.O. Mikaylah Lindsey
P.O. Trevor Millonzi
P.O. Andrew Vasseur

Community Service Officers

C.S.O. Nolan Erwin
C.S.O. Charles Peterson
C.S.O. Ian Rees



Support Services Bureau

Captain Shane R. Wrucke

Training & Personnel

Lt. Katie Gierach

Sgt. Abby Pavlik

Investigative Division / Day

Lt. Joseph Roy

Sgt. James Wood

Det. Tech. Stephen Kirby

Det. John Milotzky

Det. Bradley Isaacson

Det. Martin Keck

Det. Ryan Cepican

Det. Timothy Kastner

Det. Joel Kutz

Det. Beth Itnyre

P.O. Matthew Martell (USMS TF)

Investigative Division / Early

Sgt. Kurt Svatek

Det. Tech. Michael Romeis

Det. Kirk Will

Det. Nicholas Stahl

Det. David Cefalu

Crime Analyst

Dominick Ratkowski

Property Custodian / Administrative Support

Victoria De Vita



Administrative Bureau

Captain Gary J. Gabrish

Administrative Support Specialist – Teresa Kobs

Accountant / Grant Coordinator – Karla Olson

Administrative Division

Lt. Bradley Beckman

Communications Division

Disp. Manager Tamara Engelken

Community Support

Sgt. James Morrill

Comm. Supp. Admin. Support

Laura Laurishke

Comm. Supp. Specialists

P.S. Michael McDermott

P.S. Daniel Kane

School Resource Officers

SRO Farris Griffin

SRO Cordero Finely

SRO Maria Albiter

Parking Specialists

Anthony Roberts

Tara Wright

Office Support

Sgt. Thomas Orlowski

Front Office

Nicole Lambrecht

Rosalyn Wozny

Bryanna Polk

Hannah Brousseau

Records

Maija Ptaszek

Susan Selner

Alexander Witt

Administrative Station Support

Joseph Karius

Administrative Systems

Kathy Wicinski

Bradley Daleiden

Dispatch Center

Disp. Supervisor Gregory Geis

Katie Meyer

Scott Burgardt

Katie Martorano

Kerri Jay

Katie Tyrpak

Tia Harris

Brianna Potter

Kyle Meltesen

Ruth Phillips

Eleri Linscott

Rhondi Love

Makela Humke



NEW SWORN OFFICERS

January – Ashley Trawicki, Madeline Larson, Jaime Mohs

March – Travis Karweik, Dylan Johnson

June – Samuel Soukup

July – Mikaylah Lindsey, Trevor Millonzi

November – Andrew Vasseur

PROMOTIONS

Officer Joseph Wong was promoted to the rank of **Sergeant** effective February 11, 2024. Sergeant Wong was assigned to Late Shift in the Patrol Division.

Sergeant Cory Wex was promoted to the rank of **Lieutenant** effective April 21, 2024. Lieutenant Wex was assigned to Late Shift in the Patrol Division.

Patrol Specialist Ryan Schwabenlander was promoted to the rank of **Sergeant** effective July 24, 2024. Sergeant Schwabenlander was assigned to Late Shift in the Patrol Division.

Officer David Cefalu was promoted to the rank of **Detective** effective August 29, 2024. Detective Cefalu was assigned to Early Shift in the Detective Bureau.

RETIREMENTS

Detective Sergeant Brian Skornia retired on March 1, 2024. He began his career with the City as a Police Officer in September, 1995. He was promoted to Detective in January, 2004 and then Sergeant in April, 2013. Sergeant Skornia spent the majority of his career in the Investigative Division as a Detective and Detective Sergeant. Sgt. Skornia received numerous awards during his tenure, including Departmental Commendations, Life Saving Awards, and Meritorious Arrest Citations. He loved his job, was a diligent investigator, was dedicated to solving crime and protecting the citizens in this community. He previously worked for the Milwaukee County Sheriff for 1½ years. He served the citizens of Wauwatosa for over 28 years.

Lieutenant Chris McAtee retired on April 11, 2024. He began his career with the City as a Police Officer in July, 2010. He worked in the Patrol Bureau and spent time on all three shifts. He was promoted to Sergeant in March, 2014 and then Lieutenant in April, 2021. He received the Life Saving award in 2016. Lt. McAtee displayed solid leadership to the officers and Sergeants during his career here. He also served in the US Marines for eight years and was with three other police agencies before coming to Wauwatosa. He was with the department nearly 14 years.



Officer Stephen Mills retired on May 1, 2024. He began his career with the City in May, 2013. During his tenure, Officer Mills received the Chief's Award of Excellence for leadership, a Meritorious Arrest Citation, a Departmental Commendation and a Life Saving Award. He also received numerous thank you notes and emails from citizens. Officer Mills previously served with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office for 10 years and the US Marines for six years. He served the citizens of Wauwatosa for over 10 years.

Detective Kelly Zielinski retired May 31, 2024. He began his career with the City as a Police Officer in March, 1997. He also served for two years with the Milwaukee County Sheriff. He was promoted to Detective in September 2013. He was a dedicated member of the Suburban Violent Crimes Task Force (SVCTF), and served on the Special Response Team (SRT) for the majority of his career. He was a leader in numerous training sessions and tactical operations. He received many awards during his tenure, including Meritorious Arrest Citations, Letters of Commendation, and Letters of Appreciation for bravery. He was vigilant in solving crimes, and dedicated to the citizens of Wauwatosa for over 27 years.

The following were recognized at the Wauwatosa Police Department's Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony held at the Wauwatosa East High School Theater on March 20, 2025 for actions in 2024.

Citizen Award

Letter of Appreciation – Recognizing a noteworthy accomplishment to a citizen who assisted the department in its operations by their actions.

Mr. Ben Schacht

Other Agency

Letter of Appreciation – Recognizing a noteworthy accomplishment to a citizen who assisted the department in its operations by their actions.

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office – Drone Unit:
Lieutenant Noel Ybarra
Sergeant Andrew Bilda

Civilian Staff

Letter of Appreciation – Recognizing a noteworthy accomplishment in the performance of their job.

Administrative Assistant Victoria De Vita
Information Technology Technician Bradley Daleiden



Meritorious Service Citation – Recognizing a member for exemplary performance of a task, mission or assignment demonstrating unusual thoroughness, conscientiousness, determination, skill and initiative. The award shall consist of a plaque and certificate with narrative.

Information Technology Director Jalal Ali
Telecommunicator Scott Burgardt

Sworn Staff

Letter of Appreciation – recognizing a noteworthy contribution to the department.

Officer Kelsey Pentimalli
Detective David Cefalu
Detective Beth Itnyre
Detective Timothy Kastner
Detective Stephen Kirby
Detective Joel Kutz

Detective Michael Romeis
Sergeant Edward Tyrpak
Lieutenant Chad Geiszler
Captain Katie Gierach
Captain Luke Vetter

Chief's Excellence Award Recognizing a member who has demonstrated exemplary performance in service to the department and/or community through work on a specific project(s) or performance during a specific incident(s).

Officer Jaime Mohs
Officer Manvinder Singh
Officer Madeline Larson

Officer Adam Nelson
Patrol Specialist Bryan Wade (2)

Meritorious Arrest Citation – Recognizing exceptional employment of trained police investigative and interrogative skill, ability, and intensity in the arrest and clearance of a criminal offense. The member's powers of observation, prowess, and knowledge of criminal activity and/or tactical approach to a crime in progress demonstrate the member's professionalism.

K9 Officer Benjamin Ziegler
Detective Nicholas Stahl
Sergeant Jordan Yandre

Departmental Commendation – Recognizing an act which displays outstanding achievement or brings credit to the department. Performance above and beyond that required by an officer's basic requirement.

Detective Kirk Will
Detective Stephen Schmidt

Life Saving - An award granted to a member for a successful effort in saving a human life, which involved exceptional courage or performance.

Officer Alejandro Patnode Fonseca



Social Worker Role & Facility Dog Jordan

The Wauwatosa Health Department staffs a full time Social Worker, Kendall Wolter, to assist Wauwatosa residents with accessing necessary community services and resources. This is a shared position between the Health Department, Fire Department, and Police Department in Wauwatosa. She receives referrals from all three departments to connect with individuals in the community that may need more longer-term support than these departments can provide. Kendall is able to assess individuals at any location in the community, to determine what kind of assistance they may benefit from. She then facilitates referrals to appropriate community services and agencies.



In 2024, Kendall received 171 total referrals for service (81 from police), and this was despite the fact that she was on maternity leave from mid-November through December of 2024. This past year, the highest number of referrals (55) were for direct mental health support. Other common referrals included aging-related concerns (41), basic needs resources (33), hoarding (17), and homelessness (19). Out of the 171 referrals, 115 were able to be successfully connected with a service to address their needs.

This past year also saw the increased use of the Police Department's Facility Dog, Jordan, a four-year-old female yellow lab who provides emotional support and comfort to Wauwatosa first responders. A facility dog is a specially trained dog that works in group settings, is trained to perform basic commands, and can provide calming techniques to enhance therapies, promote participation, and reduce anxiety in professional environments. Jordan was donated to the city by *Partners with Paws Service Dogs* in 2023, and is shared between the Police, Health, and Fire Departments. Kendall is Jordan's primary handler, and is responsible for getting Jordan to each department on a consistent basis. Jordan also has several designated secondary handlers in each department. Jordan typically spends two days per week at the Police Department.



Sadly, Jordan passed away on March 28, 2025, after a battle with cancer.

For more information, contact Social Worker Kendall Wolter at 414-333-3719 or kwolter@wauwatosa.net.



Patrol Bureau

Drug Recognition Experts (DRE's)

A Drug Recognition Expert is a police officer trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) coordinates the International Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program with support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The DRE protocol is a standardized method to determine:

1. Whether or not the suspect is impaired; if so,
2. Whether the impairment relates to drugs or medical condition; and if drugs,
3. What category or combination of categories of drugs is the cause of impairment?

The Wauwatosa Police Department has six certified Drug Recognition Experts: Lt. Katie Gierach, Lt. Cory Wex, Sgt. Kurt Svatek, Sgt. Ryan Schwabenlander, Detective Ryan Cepican, Officer Mitchell Kriz. Detective Cepican is also a certified DRE Instructor and taught at two different DRE classes in 2024.

In 2024, our DREs conducted 63 evaluations, of those 63, 12 were enforcement evaluations and 51 were training evaluations.

Special Response Team (SRT)

In 2024, Sergeant James Wood led the Wauwatosa Police Department Special Response Team (SRT).

Members of SRT are trained in a wide variety of tactics and skills including hostage/citizen rescue tactics, the execution of high-risk search/arrest warrants, and resolution of armed and barricaded criminal suspects. Members are also specially trained in the use of chemical irritants and other non-lethal force options. To maintain membership in the SRT, officers must pass a challenging annual physical fitness test, an annual weapons qualification, and meet minimum training hours.



The Crisis Negotiation Unit is a critical component of SRT. Negotiators are specially trained in the use of verbal communication to bring a safe resolution to a tactical situation. SRT members have regular training with other agencies and professional organizations, such as the National Tactical Officer's Association and the Wisconsin Crisis Negotiators Association.



Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)

The Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) is a specially trained crowd management unit responsible for the protection of life and property during planned and spontaneous events. CIRT members train in a variety of skills and tactics including crowd management, chemical irritant dispersal, and non-lethal considerations.

CIRT trains with the Suburban Major Incident Response Team in preparation for large events and crowd management needs in the region. In July 2024, CIRT deployed to the City of Milwaukee to assist with the Republican National Convention at Fiserv Forum.

Sergeant Tyrpak is the Commander of the Wauwatosa Police Department Critical Incident Response Team and, along with Sergeant Orlowski, a Co-Commander in the Suburban Major Incident Response Team.

Officer Pentimalli is the Assistant Team Commander for CIRT.



Police Motorcycle Unit

Serving the Wauwatosa community since 2008, the Motorcycle Unit provides excellent police service through high-visibility traffic enforcement, crash investigations, and assisting in special events including dignitary and funeral escorts, as well as parades and other demonstrations.

In 2024, we added two new motorcycle officers and now have five total motor officers, including one police motorcycle operator instructor. We maintain a fleet of three Harley-Davidson Police motorcycles.



Officers rode over 10,000 miles and participated in numerous special events, such as the 4th of July parade, and Tosa's Night Out. We also escorted the C.O.P.S. Kids Camp for surviving children of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. Lastly, we assisted the Milwaukee Police Department with the Republican National Convention, providing escort services for dignitaries.

Crash Investigation Unit

The Crash Investigation Unit is a full-time team of investigators, spread over three patrol shifts. Their main duties include responding to major vehicle crashes and crime scenes.

This uniformed patrol division is staffed by five Patrol Specialists. Each member will receive specialized training in crash investigation, including fundamentals of vehicle dynamics and crime scene evidence collection. Crash Investigators respond to any crash resulting in a fatality, as well as any crash where there are traumatic injuries or may likely result in a fatality. They investigate hit-and-run crashes resulting in injury, and assist the patrol division with crime scene processing and investigations as needed. These Specialists receive advanced training and assist with processing and photographing evidence and crime scenes.

In 2024, members of the Crash Investigation Unit responded to 141 Personal Injury crashes, 423 hit-and-run crashes, 1 fatality, and responded to 1,518 property damage-only crashes.



Community Service Officers

The Community Service Officers (CSO) are uniformed, part-time, non-sworn officers of the Wauwatosa Police Department. They provide police services to the community that don't require a response from a sworn officer.

Their purpose is to work in partnership with patrol officers and citizens to maintain a safe, peaceful community by providing professional police services dedicated to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.



In 2024, the department's five CSOs responded to 1,013 calls while assisting patrol officers with an additional 324 calls. While the typical calls for service the CSOs respond to are considered a "lower priority" (such as graffiti complaints, abandoned autos, traffic control, etc.), having them available to supplement our busy patrol staff greatly enhances the department's ability to serve the community.

The CSO program provides the opportunity to become a sworn Police Officer with our department.

Lenco Bearcat – Armored Rescue Vehicle – New in 2024

In May of 2024, the department took delivery of its Lenco Bearcat, an armored rescue vehicle ordered over a year ago. Designed to provide protection against small arms fire, explosives, and IED threats, the Bearcat will be deployed in critical incidents to enhance officer and community safety, improve scene containment and stabilization, and support the successful resolution of high-risk situations.



Specialty units, including SRT, will be the first to receive training on its operation. While SRT will be responsible for maintaining the vehicle, the department has trained operators on every patrol shift.



K-9 Unit

The K9 Unit is an integral part of the Police Department assisting patrol officers in the apprehension of criminals, locating missing persons, and detecting/locating illegal narcotics and weapons. The K9 Unit assists the School District and school resource officers in conducting random narcotic sweeps. The unit also works with our Community Support Division by conducting demonstrations at Tosa's Night Out and other events.

The K9 Unit is comprised of one supervisor and two K9 teams. Sergeant Joseph Wong is the K9 Unit Supervisor. Officer Benjamin Rebholz, with his partner Koa, and Officer Benjamin Ziegler, with his partner Zev, make up the two K9 teams.

K9 Unit Deployment Statistics

- K9 Koa had 34 deployments; 11 for drug detection, 20 patrol deployments, and 3 public relations demonstrations. K9 Koa located and assisted in the apprehension of 10 criminal suspects.
- K9 Zev had 38 deployments; 12 for drug detection, 20 patrol deployments, and 6 public relations demonstrations. K9 Zev located and assisted in the apprehension of 7 criminal suspects.

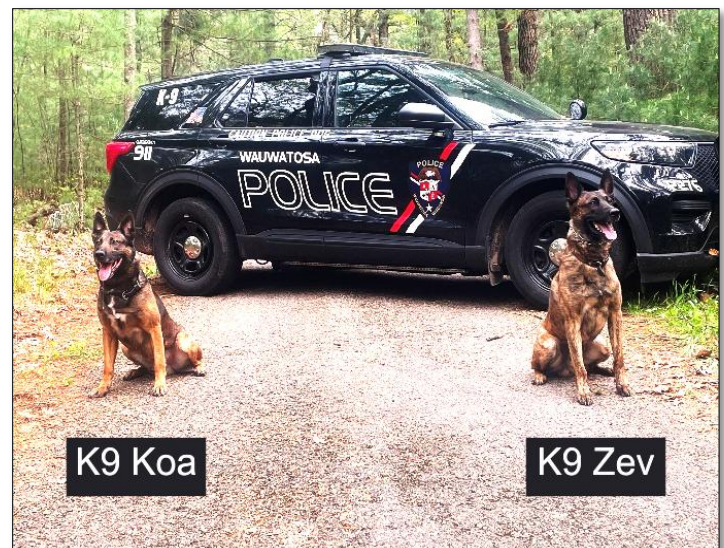


Track with Arrest

On 07/27/24, Wauwatosa Police pursued a stolen Kia Stinger until the pursuit ended at W. Center St./N. 73 St. Three occupants exited the vehicle and ran in different directions. A perimeter was established of the area to locate the driver. K9 Koa was deployed to search for the driver. During the search, K9 Koa located the suspect hiding in a crawl space underneath a garage. The suspect was not visible to officers in his hiding location. Despite numerous warnings, the suspect refused to exit his hiding space until a chemical munition (OC) was deployed. He eventually surrendered and was taken into custody. The suspect was arrested for Drive or Operate a Vehicle Without Owner's Consent, Obstructing or Resisting an Officer, and Second Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety.

Vehicle Pursuit with Criminal Apprehension

On 07/24/24, K9 Zev was deployed to apprehend subjects wanted for a string of entry to autos and stolen vehicles. A stolen Ford Explorer was pursued by K9 Officer Ziegler until it crashed in a backyard in the City of Milwaukee. K9 Zev was deployed to apprehend the driver who was ultimately taken into custody with K9 Zev's assistance. The suspect was arrested for Flee/Elude an Officer, Operate Motor Vehicle Without Owner's Consent, 2nd Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, and Resist/Obstruct an Officer.



Crisis and Assessment Response Team (CART)

In the fall of 2024, the department completed preparations for the Crisis and Assessment Response Team (CART) in partnership with Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services (BHS). This unit pairs a dedicated CART officer with a BHS clinician/social worker to provide specialized response and support for mental health-related calls. The team operates Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Following a thorough selection process, Officer Jeremy Saffold was chosen as the department's first CART officer. In late 2024 and early 2025, he completed four weeks of intensive, hands-on training with Milwaukee County Mental Health and other CART teams before being deployed into Wauwatosa.

The CART officer will work closely with community partners, including Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services (BHS), the Milwaukee Health Emergency Center (MHEC), Granite Hills, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and other medical and mental health service providers. They will also regularly review mental health reports and calls for service within the City of Wauwatosa to ensure a proactive approach with citizens that require mental health support and crisis intervention.



CART Officer Jeremy Saffold and Patrice Moore, LPC

As the primary responder to mental health-related calls, the CART officer will handle acute and emergency evaluations under Ch. 51.15 criteria. When unavailable to respond to calls directly, they will provide training, guidance, expertise, and resources to support the best possible resolutions for those in crisis.



Support Services Bureau

Wauwatosa Police Department collects and reports crime data using the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system which means data are collected on each single crime occurrence. For each of the offenses coming to the attention of law enforcement, various facts about the crime are collected. NIBRS collects data on each single incident and arrest within 22 offense categories made up of 46 specific crimes called Group A offenses. Group A offenses include crimes such as, assault, burglary, narcotics, homicide, motor vehicle theft, robbery, etc.

In addition to the Group A offenses, there are 10 Group B offense categories for which only arrest data are reported. (From the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook, NIBRS Edition, 1992) Group B offenses include things such as disorderly conduct, operating while intoxicated, trespassing, etc.

The below table exhibits data reported to the Wisconsin Department of Justice and is current as of 03-19-25. All data represents the most accurate data available. Data is subject to change due to report processing and coding.

For the most up-to-date reported data and specific offense data, please visit:

<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/bjia/wibrs-data>

4-Year Summary

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Calls for Service	27,114	30,065	34,944	39,476
Offenses	2,948	2,978	3,053	3,066
Group A	2,292	2,221	2,174	2,094
Group B	656	757	879	972
Arrests	1,123	1,403	1,677	1,725
Group A	566	744	908	877
Group B	557	659	769	848
Crashes	1,316	1,081	887	832
Fatal	2	5	1	1
Hit & Run	213	201	105	93
Personal Injury	207	142	176	182
Property Damage Only	894	733	605	556
Citations				
Traffic	2,190	2,991	4,700	4,534
Parking	8,061	7,096	9,682	12,383



Investigative Division

The Investigative Division investigates criminal matters and significant cases beyond the Patrol Division's scope. Comprised of a diverse team of detectives, detective technicians, and civilians, its primary duty is to resolve the most severe offenses. While all division members investigate these offenses, each specializes in a particular area. Detectives in the Digital Forensic Unit focus on unraveling electronic traces in cases, while Detective Technicians handle physical evidence processing. Presently, two detectives are specifically trained to handle sensitive crimes, aiding the city's most vulnerable victims, and one detective specializes in financial crimes.

Additionally, members of the Investigative Division actively participate in various regional task force groups. These collaborations involve working alongside agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Secret Service, and the United States Marshal's Service, tackling crimes within and surrounding Wauwatosa. The Wauwatosa Police Department remains a lead agency of the Milwaukee Area Investigative Team (MAIT) in compliance with Wisconsin State Statute 175.47.

Crime Analysis

Police departments have an abundance of crime data that includes incident locations, date, time, and criminal information. This data can help predict future crime trends criminal patterns, and develop crime prevention strategies. Crime analysis is not an exact science in terms of predictions or trends but is based on social theory and statistical probability. By using statistics, future crime trends can be predicted.

There are two general types of crime analysis: *Strategic Analysis* and *Intelligence/Tactical Analysis*. Strategic analysis uses long-term crime data to identify trends (crime increases and decreases) and problem locations. This analysis pulls together crime frequencies to predict when and where crime is most likely to occur, based on previous crime frequencies. This can help to identify areas in a city that attract criminal activity with the hope to address the underlying cause of why these areas consistently see the highest crime levels. Intelligence analysis is designed to obtain real-time information on suspects to help solve crimes and make arrests. This type helps to identify investigative leads and criminal organizations. Both types of analysis are used together to focus resources and solve crimes faster.

Crime mapping is another method used in crime analysis. Crime mapping software lets analysts examine more data than ever. This allows for a more advanced analysis of location data to determine crime trends. This information can also be used to link crime together based on location and time data. Crime mapping is quickly becoming an essential element of police patrols.

Property Section

Police Department property is managed and maintained by our three-person team under the Supervision of Lieutenant Joseph Roy: Evidence Custodian Victoria De Vita, Detective Technician Stephen Kirby, and Detective Technician Michael Romeis. The primary duties of the team are ensuring proper storage, security, records, property



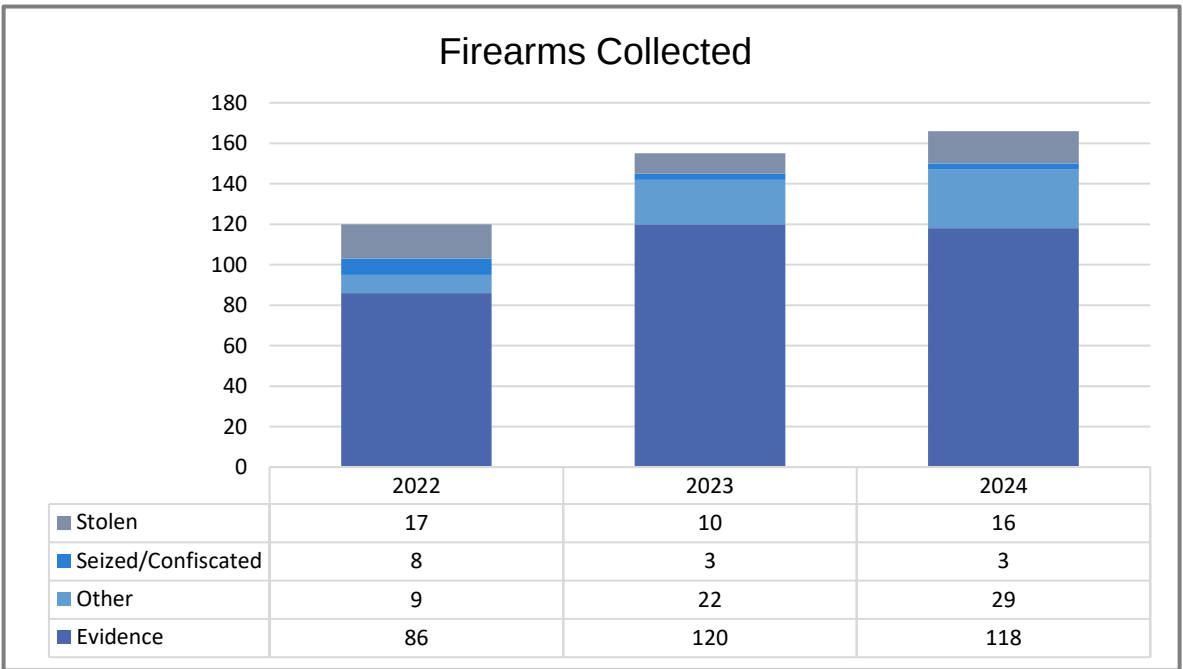
disposition, and recording chain of custody. Our division works closely with the Wisconsin State Crime Lab, submitting evidence for examination and the District Attorney's office, sharing and assessing cases.

The property room maintains and secures property from decade-old cases and items that require minimum retention, such as homicides. The Property Division is currently working on new and improved procedures to organize and research cases to determine property disposition and limit the number of intake items. An inventory of all items was completed in 2024, which created more room for new storage.

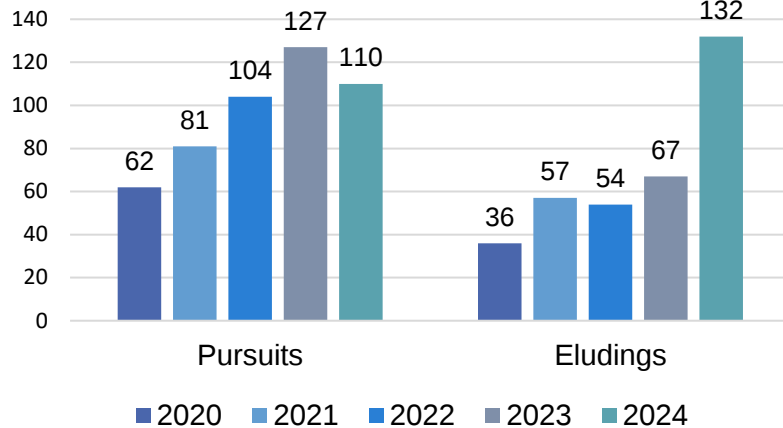
Property Room Intake 2024:

- Total Items entered into the Property Room include, but are not limited to items of evidentiary value, found property, items for safekeeping, seized, etc.: **6,220**
- Items of controlled substances: **277**
- Firearms collected: **165**

In 2024, Wauwatosa Police Officers again seized the highest number of firearms in recent history, indicating proactive efforts in removing these weapons from circulation. Police officers seize firearms from individuals who are not legally permitted to possess them as part of efforts to safeguard the community from gun violence. This action is crucial in preventing firearms from falling into the wrong hands, thereby reducing the risk of potential harm. Additionally, individuals who wish to dispose of firearms can voluntarily surrender them to the police, ensuring these weapons are securely managed and not used unlawfully. These measures collectively contribute to enhancing public safety and mitigating the impact of gun-related incidents within the community.



2020 - 2024 Pursuits / Eludings

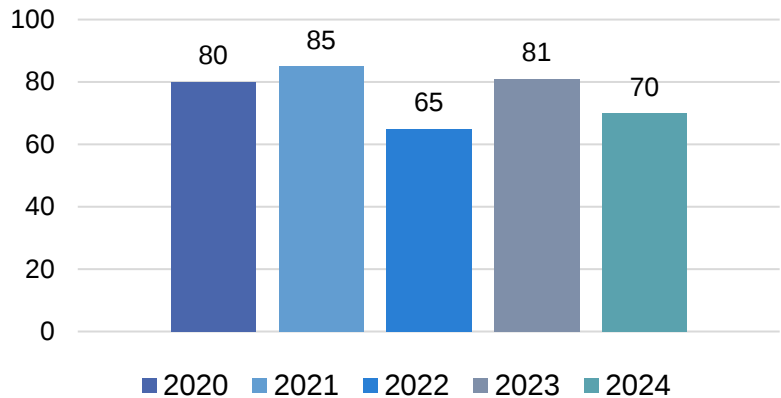


The chart shows Pursuits and Eludings 2020 through 2024.

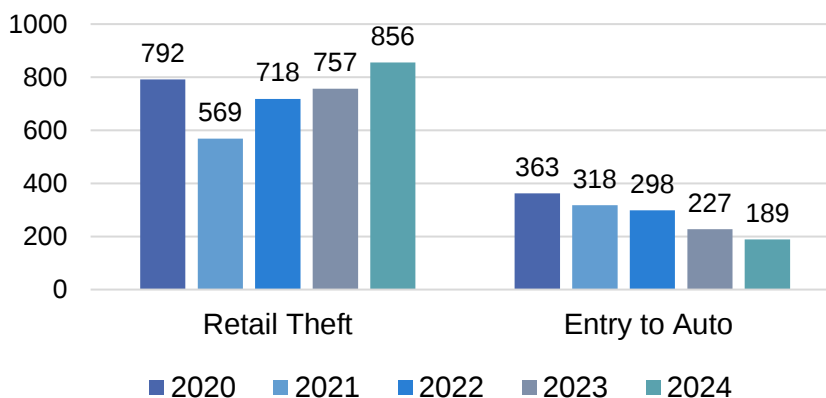
Eluding is when a suspect(s) in a vehicle fails to stop for an officer and then flees at a high rate of speed. Officers then make the decision not to chase or to initiate a pursuit.

In 2024, 70 burglaries were reported to the Police Department. This chart shows a 13.6% decrease in burglaries from 2023– 2024.

2020 - 2024 Burglaries



2020 - 2024 Thefts



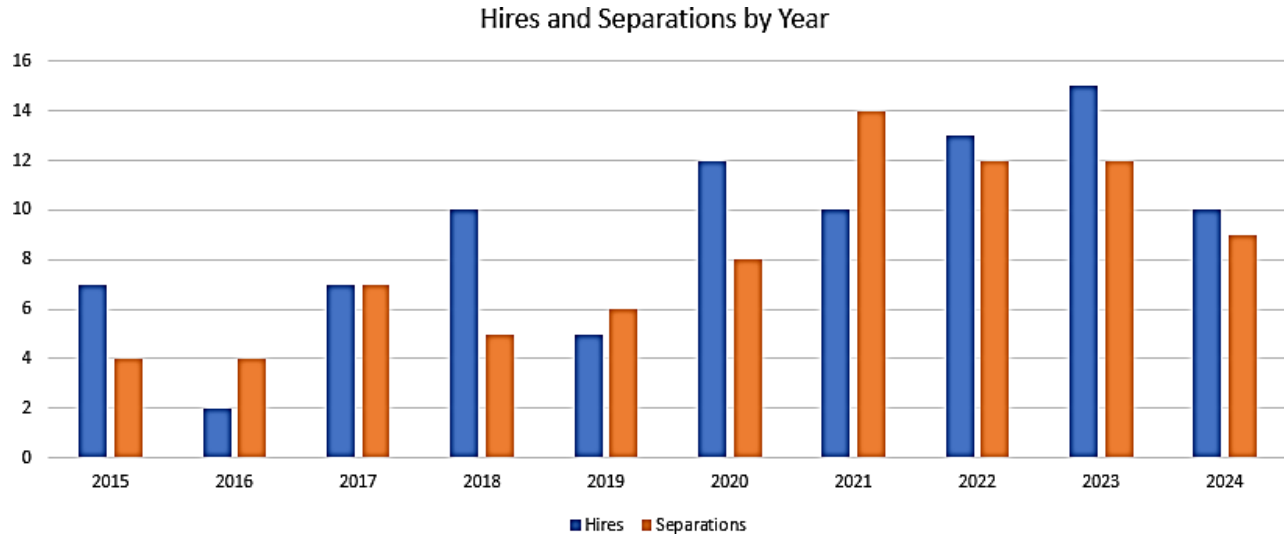
2024 showed an increase in theft from retail establishments.

From 2023 to 2024, there was a 16.7% decrease in entry to auto.

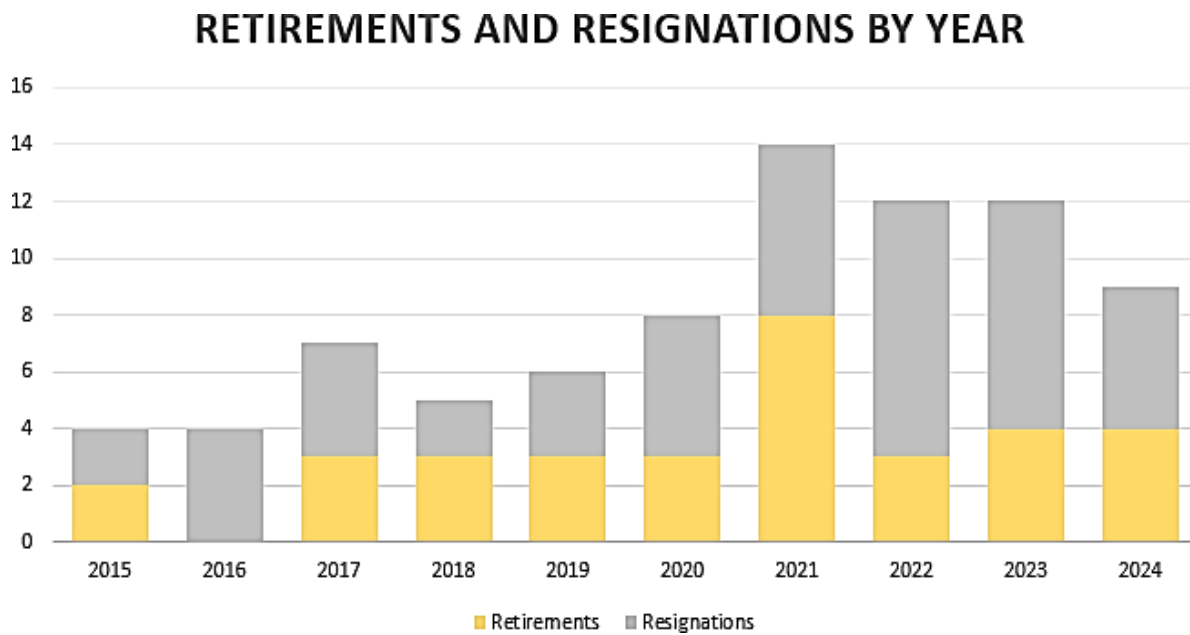


Personnel

In 2024, the Wauwatosa Police Department hired 10 new sworn officers. The department had 9 sworn employees depart the agency. The department's authorized strength at year end was 104 sworn employees. The year began with 96 sworn personnel, and ended with 97.



Of the 9 separations in 2024, four were retirements and five were resignations.



Training

The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) requires that to maintain certification, all law enforcement officers must complete 24 hours of training during the fiscal year, July 1—June 30. Furthermore, the LESB reimburses our department \$240 for each officer who re-certifies, which is calculated into our training budget. While considering officers who retired before meeting the requirement, and newly certified officers who were not eligible for the reimbursement, our department received reimbursement for 90 officers for fiscal year July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024, a total of \$21,600.00.

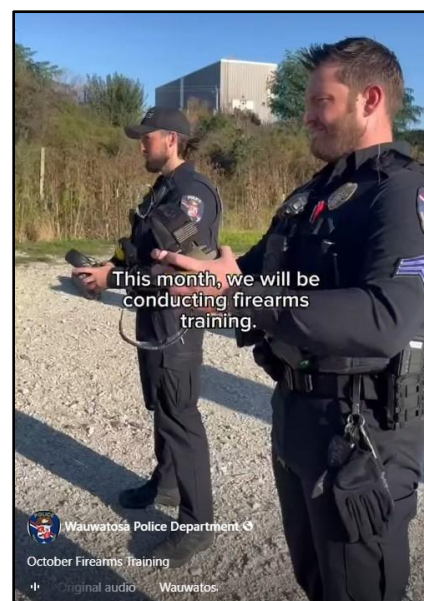
Our officers received their training both in-house, provided by our team of certified instructors, and externally, by attending off-site training events.

Our employees, both sworn and non-sworn, attended over 160 training events which were held either off-site or in virtual format. These external trainings were funded through the department's annual professional development budget. Additionally, our personnel were able to receive funding through the City of Wauwatosa's "Invest in People" internal grant program.

The Training and Personnel Division continued its increased focus on administering police officer hiring processes frequently throughout the year. In 2024, we recognized a great need for hiring officers who are already certified in law enforcement, and began a continuous application process for such candidates in May.

We also were able to continue to provide our personnel with training hours that exceeded the minimum amount required by the Law Enforcement Standards Board. Our team of instructors put in hours of hard work in developing lesson plans that reflect current trends and issues in policing.

In 2025, we will persist with our aggressive hiring needs while also providing high-quality training to our personnel.



Public Information Office

The Public Information Office (PIO) is dedicated to keeping the community, media, and government officials informed with accurate and timely updates on both daily operations and emergency situations. Our team works to ensure that those who live, work, and visit Wauwatosa stay up to date on public safety by sharing police department initiatives, answering media inquiries, and providing critical information during incidents.

To keep the community informed, the PIO team creates and shares content across multiple communication channels. The Wauwatosa Police Department maintains an active presence on Facebook, X, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and also communicates through email, phone, and in-person interactions.

Additionally, the City of Wauwatosa offers an emergency alert system that delivers real-time notifications about urgent situations that may impact residents, such as severe weather, missing persons, evacuations, and police or fire incidents. Alerts can be received via email, text, or voice messages. Residents are encouraged to sign up for this free service at Wauwatosa.net/alert.

The Public Information Office plays a crucial role in fostering transparency, credibility, and public trust by serving as a bridge between the police department and the community. The PIO team is led by Sgt. Abby Pavlik.



Administrative Bureau

Communications Division

The Wauwatosa Communications Division is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the City of Wauwatosa. Telecommunicators work 24 hours a day and 365 days per year akin to patrol scheduling. Communications staffing now consists of nine full-time and three part-time telecommunicators as well as one Dispatch Supervisor and one Dispatch Manager. In 2024, Telecommunicators fielded 69,272 phone calls requesting Police, Fire or EMS services. Through those phone calls, 39,476 call for service assignments were generated for Police response and 10,465 were generated for Fire/EMS.



In 2024, telecommunicators attended trainings focusing on leadership, mental wellness, peer support, crisis intervention and furthering crisis negotiation education. All telecommunicators attended vehicle pursuit courses with police officers, which consisted of participating in scenario-based training exercises. Telecommunicators were able to see firsthand the patrol operations side of a pursuit, which increased understanding during these incidents. Two telecommunicators joined the department Peer Support Team. Also, all telecommunicators were recertified as Emergency Medical Dispatchers at the year's end. EMD recertification consisted of ongoing, on shift education from the International Academy of Emergency Dispatchers, as well as maintaining CPR certification.

The Communications Division welcomed a new full-time telecommunicator, who successfully completed the training program in June, and was assigned to Late Shift in August. A new full-time trainee was hired in August and promptly began the Communications Training Program, which consists of 4 to 6 months of acquiring and learning essential call taking and radio skills, including CPR and EMD certification, to excel in their roles.

The Wauwatosa Communications Division continues to adapt and evolve to the needs of the City of Wauwatosa, its residents, as well as changes occurring in the police and fire departments. It continues to serve as one of the first steps of emergency and non-emergency response along with being a lifeline, or "thin gold line," to field responders.



Community Support

Community Support embodies the Wauwatosa Police Department's philosophy of community-oriented policing. The philosophy enables its officers to function as community workers and organizers to work with other service providers and alongside neighborhood residents. The goal is to assist the public to prevent, resist, and eliminate crime and other disorders in their neighborhoods while adhering to the Constitution and the rule of law. They also oversee all of the city's special events that occur throughout the year.

Community Support provides citizens, community groups, businesses, schools, social, and civic groups with programs aimed at establishing and maintaining productive partnerships. Emphasis is directed at known and potential problem areas while strengthening the established programs. Community Support is comprised of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, two Community Support Specialists, four School Resource Officers, and one Administrative Support Specialist.



Police Reserves

The Wauwatosa Police Reserve Unit is a group of volunteer men and women from Wauwatosa and the surrounding area that augment the Wauwatosa Police Department throughout the year. Formed in 1942, the Wauwatosa Police Reserve Unit has the distinction of being one of the oldest in the country.

In 2024, the Reserves ended the year with 20 active members divided into four platoons. The Reserve Unit has its own command staff consisting of a Captain, Executive Lieutenant, Treasurer, and Secretary. A Lieutenant guides each platoon. The Chief of Police has the final authority to command, train, and supervise the Reserve Unit.

Reserve members are trained to assist the Police Department in emergencies as well as routine events including: the 4TH of July parade & fireworks, Homecoming Parades, Tosa Tonight Summer Concert Series, several bike races, various festivals, organized walks, and runs, National Night Out festivities, Mayfair Mall Holiday patrol, Shop with a Cop at Meier and Dick's Sporting Goods, and the Village Holiday Tree Lighting.

Each member must commit to a minimum of 75 hours of service per calendar year. This includes training, monthly meetings, and squad riding activities. The Reserve Unit requires that each member be trained in weapons familiarization, traffic control, and Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT). All members participate in refresher courses each year. Reserve Officers have varying reasons for volunteering, including serving the community, obtaining valuable real-life training, and gaining a perspective into law enforcement as a career.

Meetings & Administrative Activities:	352 hours
Training:	288 hours
Events:	991 hours
Squad Riding:	17 hours
Total Hours in 2024:	1,648



TOSA'S NIGHT OUT

This year's Tosa's Night Out was celebrated at Hart Park in conjunction with the Tosa Tonight Concert Series on Wednesday, August 7th, 2024. In addition to the live music and all of the fun that TNO brings, we enjoyed the fireworks too! The combination of events brought about 5,000 residents and citizens to Hart Park and the entire evening was a great success.

This annual event showcases services available to the City and allows many participants to display their areas of expertise to the community. In 2024, the Police Department brought back demonstrations by our K-9 unit and Motorcycle unit. Even though the demonstrations were well attended, people couldn't help but notice the awe-inspiring Flight for Life helicopter landing in Hart Park! All of the outside agencies and participants made the 2024 event very entertaining.



Each year, Tosa's Night Out is organized by the Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee and the Wauwatosa Police Department. Together, we strive to bring awareness to safety and crime prevention while continuing to build relationships in the community. We could not have this event if it weren't for our sponsors and volunteers and we are so thankful for their continued support!



Crime Stoppers

Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers, Inc. is a volunteer board dedicated to preventing crime in Wauwatosa by offering cash rewards for anonymous tips that lead to arrests. The board raises funds and approves reward payouts.

Citizens can report crimes anonymously using the P3 Tips app (available on Apple Store and Google Play) or at www.p3tips.com, where they can submit text, images, and videos. The app uses advanced encryption to ensure complete anonymity. Tips can also be submitted by calling 414-771-TOSA, a live, unrecorded tip line with no caller ID.

Tipsters receive a confidential code to track their tip and potential reward of up to \$1,000. Information is forwarded to the Wauwatosa Police Liaison and, if urgent, to a supervisor.

In 2024, Crime Stoppers received 18 tips, leading to 5 arrests for narcotics and disorderly conduct. Other crimes reported included vehicle theft, burglary, and suspicious activity. A total of \$250 in rewards was paid out.

To take a closer look at the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers please visit www.tosacrimestoppers.org or Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers Facebook page.

Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers Tip Line - 414-771-TOSA (8672)



Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers



Keeping Tosa safer with your tips
www.tosacrimestoppers.com

See Something...Say Something



School Resource Officers

We currently have three specially trained School Resource Officers assigned to work in the Wauwatosa School District.

In addition to serving all of the schools in the District, the SROs also assist with the needs of the many private schools in the City.



Officers Left to Right:

Farris Griffin – Wauwatosa West

Maria Albiter – Wauwatosa East

Cordero Finley – Longfellow & Whitman Middle Schools

The SRO Program is designed to promote a safe and healthy school environment and create strong and positive relationships between students, their families, school staff, and Police Officers. SROs routinely present information in classrooms and assemblies as guest speakers. They also enjoy being present at school plays, dances, sporting events, and other extracurricular activities.

Though there is a strong focus on school safety, the SROs will tell you the most rewarding part of their job is their daily interactions with students. The role of the SRO allows the officers to build rapport with kids, to be a consistent positive presence in their lives, and to simply be another trusted adult in the building. It is not uncommon for students to stop by an SRO's office just to say hi or to grab a bottle of water daily! Year after year the SROs enjoy taking part in helping students progress through their school careers and building long-lasting community relationships.

In 2024, from January to June, and September to December, the SROs responded to 753 calls for service. It is important to note that not every contact an SRO has with a student generates a call for service. Though SROs are law enforcement officers, one of their main goals is finding alternatives to taking legal action whenever possible.



Records

Records is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. There are three clerks assigned to Records. In addition to their internal Records duties, the clerks serve the public with counter service and inquiries via telephone, fax, or email. Our Records Team responded to 2,837 records requests in 2024. Additionally, the team reviews every police report for accuracy. Our crime reports are interfaced with the Wisconsin Department of Justice which then provides the data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for tracking.

Reports, including criminal complaints, ordinance violations, etc. are maintained for seven years. Serious crime reports, such as homicides, are kept indefinitely.

Front Office

The front office is the public-facing interface at the police department and is responsible for answering the general, non-emergency telephone line. The desk is open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. There are four clerks assigned to the desk and they serve the public with counter service, data entry, and payment processing. They also support many areas of the department through clerical functions including the officers, detectives, Records Division, Communications Division, processing arrest warrants, etc.

Grants

The Police Department utilized funds from several different grant sources in 2024:

Grantor/Grant Name	Award Amounts
Department of Justice	\$239,124
RNC Security Program (subrecipient)	\$221,274
Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$17,850
Law Enforcement NARCAN Direct Program	48 doses
Bureau of Transportation Safety Traffic	\$25,500
Alcohol Enforcement	\$13,000
Speed Enforcement	\$3,500
Seatbelt Enforcement	\$6,000
Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Enforcement	\$3,000
Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee	\$5,813
Community Partnership	\$5,813
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)	\$5,000
Critical Incident Training	\$5,000
Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company	\$2,500
Law Enforcement Risk Mitigation	\$2,500



Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to get to know the Wauwatosa Police Department. In 2025, we will be exploring the recommendations made by Certus. We will also be working to accomplish our strategic initiatives through project management. Both goals will allow the Department to be more agile and adaptable to the policing needs of the City now and in the future.

The men and women of the Wauwatosa Police Department remain dedicated to providing exceptional police services to residents, visitors and people that come to work and recreate in Wauwatosa. I want to publicly thank our staff for their input, dedication and zeal. We look forward to fostering relationships, building new ones, while working collaboratively with external stakeholders.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining our team and leading our community with compassion and integrity, please visit www.servetosa.com.

Citizen Police Academy Class of 2024



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





Wauwatosa Police Department
 1700 N. 116th Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53226
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