



WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

2019 Statistical Annual Report

Walla Walla Police Department Mission Statement:

As partners in our community we will perform our duties with fairness and respect for all citizens. We will have the courage to do what is right, stand against what is wrong, and Return with Honor in all our endeavors.

Culture eats strategy for breakfast. Peter Drucker

In that context, the men and women of the Walla Walla Police Department perform their duties every day in support of this mission. We have built a culture based strongly on our core values of Service, Pride and Integrity. The men and women of the Police Department exemplify these values in everything they do, which in turn leads to positive outcomes.

One of those positive outcomes can be seen in the independent thank you letters, emails, calls, etc. that continue to significantly outnumber any complaints that come into the Department. In 2019 the Department received 3 kudos for each complaint received. Equally important is that after thorough investigation of complaints, almost all turn out to be unfounded.

The information in the following document is a statistical summary of the efforts of the Walla Walla Police Department to reduce violent crime in the city as well as other figures that demonstrate staff productivity. Public safety represents a large portion of general fund expenditures. As such, we are continually reviewing our own performance and local crime data to help ensure the greatest **RETURN on INVESTMENT**.

On January 25th, 2017 I presented at the City Council meeting very similar information for 2016 that is contained in this summary for 2019. I am attempting to keep the data relatively the same so that trends become apparent and comparisons can be made from year to year.

Date: February 12th, 2020

Prepared by: Scott Bieber
Chief of Police
City of Walla Walla



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

In 2016, the City Council approved and funded the addition of 3.5 commissioned FTE’s in response to a significant up-tick in violent crime during 2015. The officers were used to form a Career Criminal Apprehension Team (CCAT) and a Gang Enforcement Team (GET). CCAT was staffed January 1st, 2016 with the GET being staffed on May 16th, 2016.

For 2016, 2017 and 2018 the PD has provided the following numbers:

Activity	2016	2017	2018
Arrests Made	436	462	520
Arrest Warrants Cleared	496	461	250
Parole/Probation Violations	15	13	7
Searches (Warrant/Consent)	17	26	30
Illegal Guns Seized	5	2	5
Drugs Seized*	110.15g/4.25ml/20cc/ 318 pills	194g/50ml/10cc/ 20 pills	14.5lbs/8.5oz/72. 6g/ 75cc/158pills
Subjects Located for Det.	58	27	8
Traffic Infractions	161	158	103
Criminal Citations	187	188	92

*Drugs seized include methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, fentanyl, marijuana as well as illegal prescription medications.

In 2015 we experienced a fairly significant spike in violent crime, to include 4 homicides (one occurring in the parking lot of a popular local pub). With the addition of CCAT and GET in 2016, we saw a substantial reduction in violent crimes with a drop of 38%. The violent crime trend continues to move in the right direction since 2015.

Unfortunately, the Police Department was operating in 2019 with a 10% staffing shortage – five (5) officers short of the 48 authorized. As a result, three (3) officers assigned to the Special Teams Unit (STU) had to be reassigned to fill Patrol squads, leaving only five (5) STU Detectives – one of whom was on light duty in 2019 as the result of a medical issue. The four (4) remaining full-duty STU Detectives focused on gang and drug issues, in an effort to stay attentive to the initial reason staffing was increased in 2016 – the reduction of violent crime.

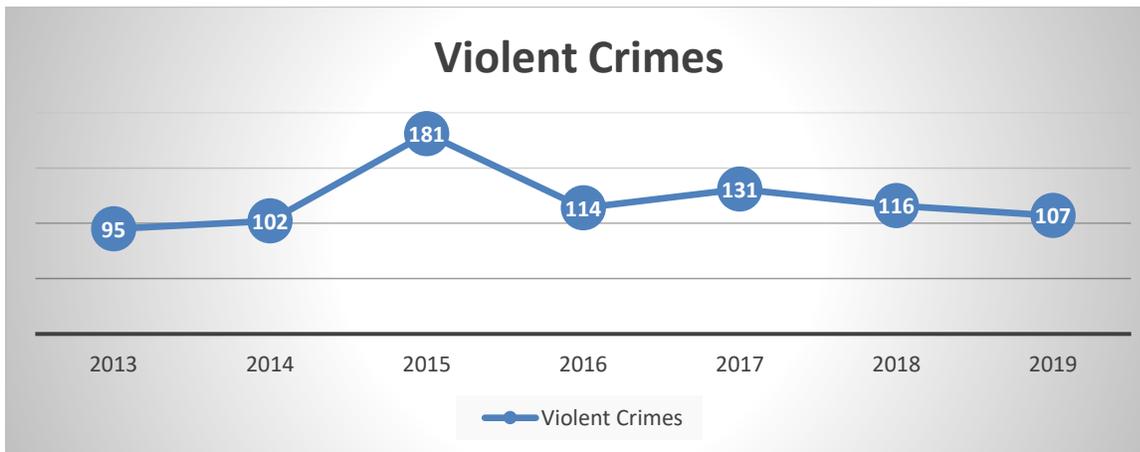
With the reassignment of personnel from STU to Patrol, STU has reorganized into a Street Crimes Unit (SCU) and has begun to cross train all its members in gangs, drugs, and career criminal apprehension. This has helped them deal more effectively with the prominent drivers of violent crime in Walla Walla. We hope to be able to reassign the Detectives back to SCU in late 2020 when our newly hired officers become fully trained.



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One of the anomalies we experience in Walla Walla with violent crime statistics is the fact we are required to count any crimes that occur inside the Penitentiary walls as City of Walla Walla crimes. Of the 107 violent crimes in 2019, 24 (22%) were committed inside the Penitentiary. Unfortunately, we are required to count those crimes in our NIBRS reporting, although we have no control over strategies or efforts to reduce them.

The graph below shows the seven-year trend of violent crimes reported in Walla Walla (including the Penitentiary):



ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY:

There are several functions that go into making Walla Walla a desirable place to live, work and play. The following pages show the Police Department's efforts in these areas:

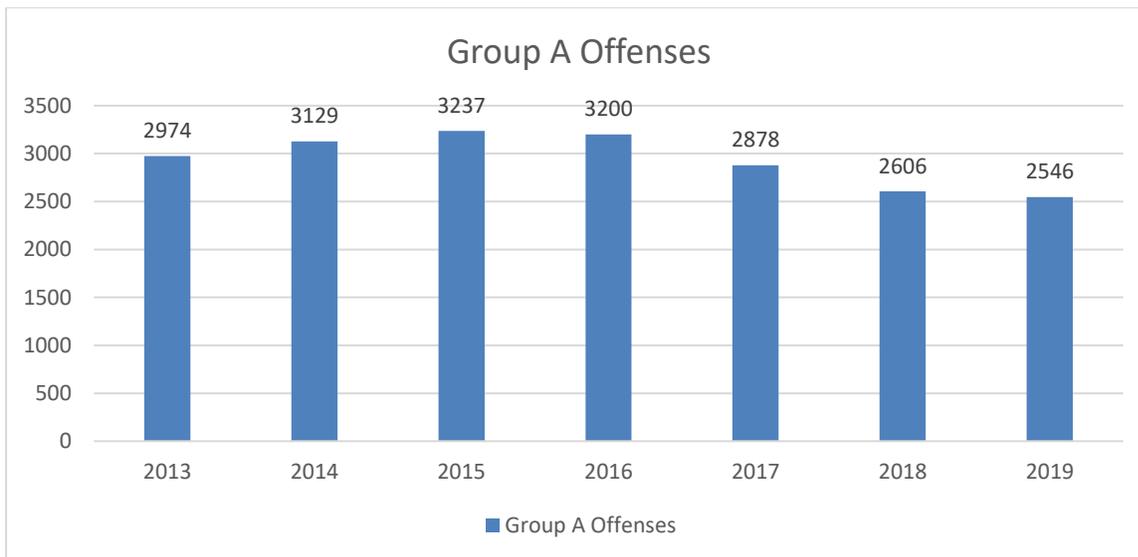
- Reduction in Crime Rate – Group A Offenses as reported to NIBRS.
- Enhanced Response Times
- Patrol – by the Numbers
- Parking Enforcement
- Animal Control
- Code Enforcement



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Crime Rate:

The chart below depicts the total reported Group A Offenses over the past seven (7) years in Walla Walla per the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Although there were subtle increases in 2014 and 2015, we continue to move in the right direction with 2019 having the fewest Group A Offenses in the past seven years.



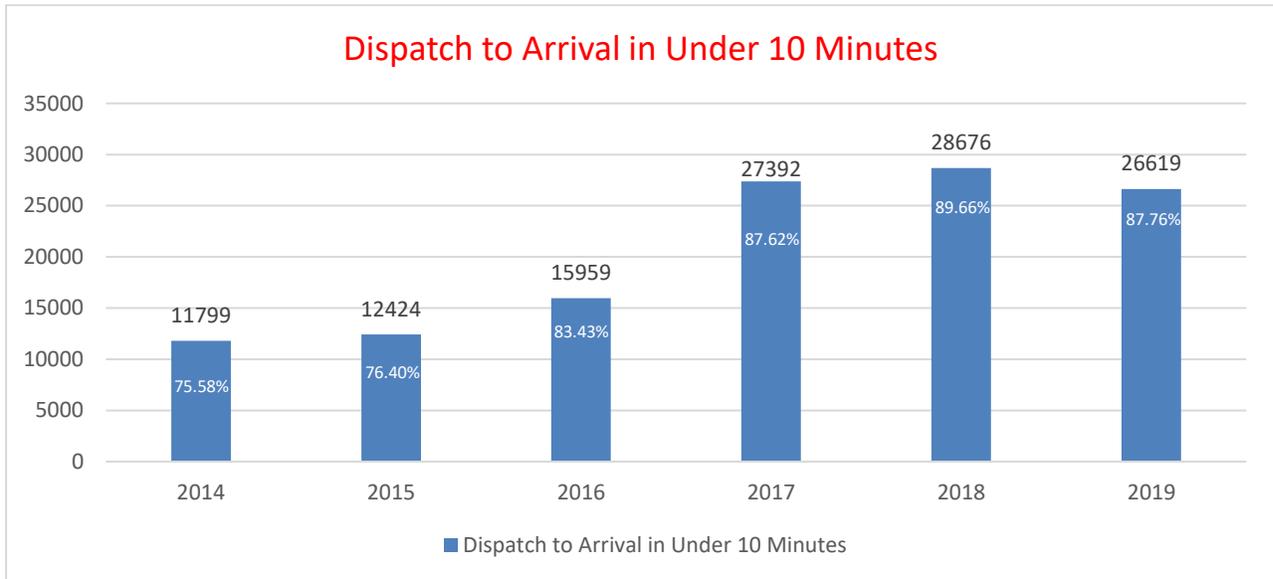
Enhanced Response Times:

One of the Police Department goals is to increase the percentage of calls for service which we respond to in less than ten minutes. The chart on the next page shows the last six years of data with both the percentage and raw number of calls the officers responded to in less than ten minutes.

Our goal in the past was to respond to 80% of the calls for service in less than 10 minutes by 2018. As you can see from the chart on the next page, we exceeded that goal in 2016 and 2017 while at the same time significantly increasing the number of calls to which we responded. In 2018, we responded to almost 90% of all calls for service in less than 10 minutes. In 2019, the calls for service increased to over 30,000, an increase of almost 5% over the previous year. However, the officers were still able to respond to 87.76% of those calls in under 10 minutes, even with significant Patrol staffing shortages.



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PATROL – By the Numbers 2019:

- Total number of **calls** for service – **30,334**
Over 83 calls per day on average
- Total number of **reports** written – **4416**
12.1 reports per day on average
- Total number of **arrests** made – **1617**
4.43 arrests every day on average
- Total **charges/tickets** written – **2193** (1157 criminal / 1036 infractions)
6 per day on average
- Total traffic **collisions** investigated – **977**
2.68 per day on average
- Total traffic **collision reports** written – **565**
Over 1.5 per day on average



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Parking Enforcement:

Parking tickets are significantly down from 2018 as the result of an April 23, 2019 ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals Sixth Circuit which made the marking (chalking) of tires unconstitutional. Although we are in the Ninth Circuit, City Attorney Tim Donaldson advised we should abide by the Sixth Circuit ruling or risk facing a civil suit.

As a result of no longer being able to mark tires, the process of determining which cars have exceeded the downtown parking limit has become much more cumbersome and time consuming for the Parking Enforcement Officer. The effect has been a significant reduction in the number of parking tickets issued. The Police Department is preparing to come before Council for approval to purchase an Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system for Parking Enforcement. This system will read plates automatically and note their location in a data base. When the Parking Enforcement vehicle drives by again, it will automatically recall those plates (vehicles) that have violated the parking time restriction.

Total **parking tickets** written: **860**

Total **parking warnings**: **254**

Animal Control:

Our Animal Control Officer (ACO) handled 2,021 calls for service during 2019 which averages out to be 7.77 calls per day. In addition to handling the calls for service, she wrote 37 citations and gave 47 written warnings.

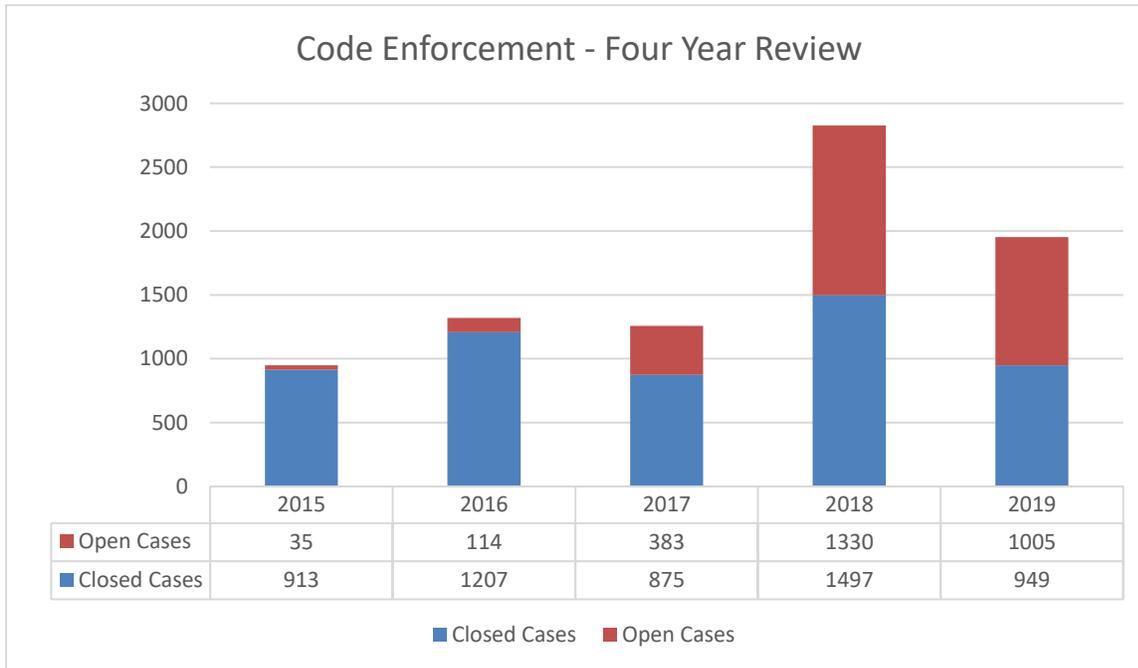
Code Enforcement:

In 2019, our two Code Enforcement Officers opened **1005** new cases and managed to close **949** cases. It should be noted that during the final two months of the year, the Police Department was operating with only one Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) due to the resignation of the second CEO for health reasons.

The chart on the next page shows the number of total cases (closed and still open) for the past five years since Code Enforcement was reinstated in the Walla Walla Police Department. As you can see from the chart, the first two years of Code Enforcement was spent catching up and closing out already started cases. In the past three years however, we've been able to move to a more even distribution of opening, resolving and closing code violation cases.



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In addition to the number of code violation cases handled as depicted in the chart above, Code Enforcement also handles abandoned vehicles. In 2019, the CEO's handled 698 abandoned vehicles with the following dispositions:

Total number of abandoned vehicle calls	698
Total number of vehicles chalked (discontinued in June)	338
Total number of vehicles tagged	130
Total number of vehicles moved	314
Total hulks towed	124

SUMMARY:

This annual report is designed to provide Council with a snapshot of the return on investment from the Police Department. It is certainly not inclusive of everything done by members of the Department. In addition to the areas I have listed in this report:

- Our Records Unit processes thousands of documents (reports, supplemental reports, protection orders, warrants, concealed pistol licenses, NIBRS reports, public disclosure responses, traffic tickets, collision reports and many more) every year, while at the same time handling thousands of phone calls and walk-in citizens.



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- Our Major Crimes Detectives investigate hundreds of cases each year. Each Detective carries a caseload on average of roughly 32 cases. This number is double and even triple in some cases in comparison to some local and regional law enforcement agencies.
- Our Community Programs staff continue to connect with and develop positive police relationships with hundreds of community residents every year through proactive programs like the Community Police Academy, Crime Free Rental Housing Training, National Night Out, Crime Victim's Advocate assistance, Domestic Violence victim assistance, Neighborhood Watch, Shred and Prescription Drug Take Back Days, and many more.
- Our civilian support personnel process thousands of pieces of property and evidence each year and the logistics of purchasing, payroll, processing HR documents and all of the other things that need to be done to keep the department operational.
- Our dispatchers at WESCOM handle thousands of 9-1-1 emergency calls from all of Walla Walla County and dispatches those calls for service for all law enforcement and fire departments, including ambulances. They do so with the utmost professionalism and with the confidence of every agency for whom they dispatch.

As always, I encourage everyone to come visit us at the Walla Walla Police Department. Take a ride-a-long; Look beyond the numbers and the national headlines involving law enforcement. Get a firsthand view of the return on investment Walla Walla is getting with its Police Department.

Every member of the Police Department strives to exemplify our core values of Service, Pride and Integrity in everything they do – not only at work, but in their personal lives as well. They are dedicated to our Department motto of, “Return with Honor.”

At the beginning of this report I asserted that, “We have built a culture based strongly on our core values of Service, Pride and Integrity.” I have included two items on the next page that I believe are representative of the culture of the Walla Walla Police Department.

What Culture Looks Like:

On the following page I have provided two examples of what an organizational culture based on the core values of Service, Pride and Integrity looks like.



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Below is a 2019 post from the Police Department's Facebook page, recognizing Officer David Dryden as he purchased school clothes with his own money for a local youth in need.



Below is what organizational culture looks like in terms of financial claims against the Police Department over the past ten years. This is a remarkably low number for any-size police department.

**Annual payout for
claims against the
Walla Walla Police
Department**

< \$2500



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

In future years, the Police Department will continue to provide the following reports to Council:

Monthly Stats – on a variety of calls for service, crimes committed, and police actions taken.

Annual Statistical Report – End of January, a written report containing the information like what has been included in this report.

Annual Comparison – April each year, a comparison of crime stats from like sized cities in Washington State.