



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

MINNETTRISTA
PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

PAUL A. FALLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

"FIGHT CRIME. PROMOTE SAFETY."

Public Safety



Sworn Personnel-Command Staff

Chief Paul Falls
Lieutenant Craig Squires
Sergeant Mike Kokesh
Sergeant Pat Cummings

Non-Sworn Personnel

Lori Brazil, Secretary
Amie Langenfeld, Secretary
Brad Carlson, CSO
Kevin Walsh, CSO
Volunteer Police Reserve Officers

Sworn Personnel-Police Officers

Officer Jonathan Stutelberg
Officer Chad Griggs
Officer Nathan Hintz
Officer Jesse Schmidt
Officer Ryan Wegner
Officer Brandon White
Officer Justin Thompson
Officer Josh Brown

Overview

2019 was a busy year. Fortunately, it was also a safe & successful year. With the continued increase in demand for services, we continually evaluate and evolve to ensure that we are utilizing best practices in our ongoing efforts to provide the very best public safety services to citizens we serve.

The city of Minnetrista continued to experience significant growth in 2019. While we are excited about the growth, it also presents many challenges. Maintaining service levels is one of the most significant challenges associated with growth. As long as we continue to grow significantly, it is important to monitor and adjust staffing levels appropriately in order to continue to deliver the high level of service associated with a full service police department.

Investigations has evolved greatly over the past several years. In most cases, it has become much more difficult and complex due to social media and all of the related technology. Years ago, police could often investigate cases utilizing a single search warrant. Today, evidence is commonly found on multiple sources of technology such as computers, cell phones and I-Pads. In addition, there are now many social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, which all require a separate search warrant for access.

Public Safety



Our Mission

The Mission of the Minnetrista Public Safety Department is to “Fight Crime and Promote Safety.” We achieve our mission by faithfully enforcing the law, by working with our community, listening to them and educating them, by working as a team, treating each other with respect and by acting professionally and ethically.

Training

Police Officers in Minnesota are required to be licensed and certified in a number of proficiencies in order to be employed.

The Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Agency (POST) governs training and licensure for police officers. Police officers are required to earn a minimum of 48 hours of continuing education every three years in order to maintain their license. Much of this training is held in-house, such as; use of force, Taser, and firearms training. In addition, all of our officers participate in ongoing monthly on-line training through the League of Minnesota Cities. On-line training topics include everything from use of force issues to legal updates and mental health.

There is also a significant amount of external training as well. This training includes topics such as, but not limited to, emergency vehicle operation, pursuit intervention tactics, crime prevention, first aid, crime scene management, mental health, domestic assault intervention and interview techniques.

In addition to individual training, many of our police officers also attend instructor level training so they can serve as department instructors in various topics. Of our current 13 officers, 9 of them are certified instructors in DARE, Use of Force, Firearms, Taser, Hobble Restraint, Lidar, and CPR. Additionally, we have two certified Glock Armors and two certified AR15/Rifle Armors.

Public Safety



Public Safety Services Provided

The Minnetrista Public Safety Department is a full service police department providing a wide range of public safety services. To best deliver these services, our agency is broken up into 6 divisions: patrol, investigations, support services, community services, school resource officer (SRO), and emergency management.

Patrol

We provide 24/7 single patrol coverage and 16/7 double patrol coverage. In addition to general patrol, we provide services including but not limited to; responding to calls for service, traffic enforcement (internally and as part of the statewide Safe & Sober Program), vehicle lock-outs, chaplain response, residential and commercial security evaluations, house checks, court ordered civil standbys, mediation services, as well as community education events such as Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, and Citizens Academy.

Investigations

We provide full criminal investigation (felony, gross misdemeanor, and misdemeanor) services as well as administrative investigations such as liquor licenses, employee and vendor background checks, etc. Additional services include complaint response and investigation, preparation of cases for court, as well as alcohol compliance checks and evidence room oversight.

We also have a detective assigned to the West Metro Drug Task Force specifically for narcotics investigations. This position frees up general investigators to work on their already heavy case loads. See the drug task force section for further details.

Support Services

The Minnetrista Public Safety Department provides a wide range of support services. Those services include but are not limited to; answering phone calls from the public, records management, records checks, records retention, processing reports for the public as well as other agencies in compliance with data practice laws, resolving suspense files, preparing discovery motions for trial, and other paperwork, monitoring and updating predatory offender records, processing evidence, as well as a host of additional tasks as necessary.

Public Safety



Community Services

In addition to support services, the Department provides a host of other important services to the public such as; code enforcement, animal control, car seat inspections, civil fingerprinting, security reviews for planning projects, fire service reviews, city code updates and research, public safety education through Trista Day and other events, school interactions, and attendance at all City Council meetings. The Department also coordinates the use of the public safety facility for regional training and other meetings.

School Resource Officer

Officer Nate Hintz is the current School Resource Officer (SRO), which is a multiple year assignment. The SRO works out of the Mound-Westonka High School office during the school year and at the public safety facility during the summer months. The SRO is responsible for juvenile investigations, DARE, child safety education, security at schools within our jurisdiction, public safety planning for sporting events, graduation, dances, and homecoming. The SRO also processes special event and gun permits. The SRO's time is split approximately 50/50 between school related and non-school related activities.

Emergency Management

The Director of Public Safety serves as the Emergency Management Director for the cities of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius. Both cities are part of the Lake Minnetonka Regional Emergency Operations Plan along with Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District, and 19 other lake area cities. The department provides a full range of emergency management services consistent with an all hazards approach. Our emergency plan addresses everything from natural disasters such as; tornados, floods, and wild fires, to train wrecks, plane crashes, explosions, accidental releases of hazardous materials, enemy attack or other similar types of events that pose a potential threat to the public health and safety in the Lake Minnetonka Region. These services include implementing the emergency plan when necessary, preparing emergency plans, providing training for staff and citizens, managing the outdoor warning system, as well as budgeting for emergency preparedness programs and equipment.

Fire Services

The Department also coordinates with both St. Bonifacius and Mound Fire Departments for the provision of fire services in the community. There were 237 total calls for fire service within our jurisdiction (St. Bonifacius & Minnetrista): 156 calls by the St. Bonifacius Fire Department (81 in Minnetrista and 75 in St. Bonifacius), and 81 calls by the Mound Fire Department (32 fire and 49 rescue), in 2019.

Public Safety



Public Safety Activity

There were 6000 Incident Complaint Reports (ICRs) written in 2019, a decrease of 5.9% from 2018. Incident Complaint Reports are calls for service, officer-initiated service and traffic enforcement – any event that results in a reportable occurrence.

The overall clearance rate for ICRs was 97%.

Tickets Issued

Tickets are comprised of citations and warnings. There were 563 citations issued and 1614 warnings issued in 2019 for a total of 2177, compared to 2687 in 2018.

Traffic Crashes

There were 240 crashes: 1 fatality, 28 personal injury, 34 animal-involved, 107 property damage, and 70 vehicles off the road or other category crashes in 2019, up 28.3% from 2018.

Arrests

There were 138 adults arrested and 26 juveniles arrested in 2019. Arrests do not always mean the person was jailed. In some cases a citation is issued and other cases are charged by our prosecuting attorneys and the suspect may never be in custody.

There were 75 civil fingerprints processed in 2019. These are done for a variety of reasons, job application requirements being the most common.

Criminal Investigations

There were 92 Part I (most serious) crimes and 300 Part II (serious) crimes investigated by this Department in 2019, for a total of 392, down 6% from 2018. The Minnetrista Public Safety Department had a clearance rate for closing criminal cases of 72%.

Permits

There were 79 applications received for handgun permits in 2019, compared to 78 in 2018.

There were 4 special event permit applications reviewed in 2019, compared to 7 in 2018.

Public Safety



West Metro Drug Task Force

The West Metro Drug Task Force specifically investigates narcotics related cases. This position frees up general investigators to work on their already heavy case loads. The task force is a multi-jurisdictional agency (Minnetrista, Medina, Orono, West Hennepin and Hennepin County) that operates under a joint powers agreement and allows for greater resources to this regional problem. All drug task force agents attend specialized narcotics related training in order to become experts in this field. As a result, we are able to take a proactive vs. reactive approach to drug issues affecting our community.

West Metro Drug Task Force Statistics (2019)

- Arrests: 112
- Arrest Assists: 37
- State Complaints: 106
- Federal Complaints: 4
- Search Warrants: 134
- Search Warrant Assists: 56

Narcotics & Firearms Seized

- Firearms Recovered: 30
- High Grade Marijuana: 117 lbs.
- Marijuana Wax: 2 lbs.
- Cocaine: 3.4 lbs.
- Edibles: 6.2 lbs.
- Methamphetamine: 152 lbs.
- Heroin: .67 lbs.
- Illegal Prescription Pills: 2750 pills

Public Safety



Commendations

Commendations are truly a reflection of the outstanding staff and the high level of dedication they have for their job and the community as a whole.

City staff received 7 commendations for their outstanding work and dedication in 2019:



- **AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:**

- OFFICER STUTELBERG
- OFFICER THOMPSON
- DETECTIVE WEGNER

- **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD:**

- SERGEANT CUMMINGS
- OFFICER HINTZ
- OFFICER WHITE

- **LIFE SAVING AWARD:**

- PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE TREVOR BARRETT

Public Safety



Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team

The Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team was formed in 2006 to address the growing need for a tactical response to critical incidents. This multi-agency team is a collaboration of five Lake Minnetonka area agencies (Minnetrista Public Safety, West Hennepin Public Safety, Orono Police, South Lake Minnetonka Public Safety, and Wayzata Police) and currently consists of 16 officers. The Minnetrista Public Safety Department currently has 3 officers assigned to the team. All members of the SWAT team have completed a variety of specialized training.

The Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team responds to critical incidents such as barricaded suspects and hostage rescue. The team is also utilized for high risk search warrants and suspect apprehensions.

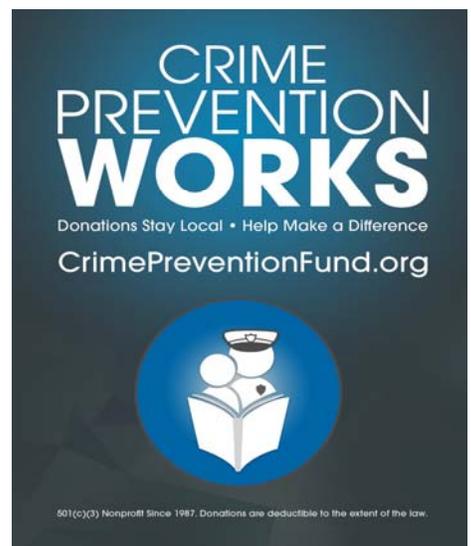
In 2019, the Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team was called out three times. SWAT Team members also participated in approximately 70 hours of training.



Public Safety

Crime Prevention Fund

The Crime Prevention Fund is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. One hundred percent of the profits from fundraising and donations go to support youth, drug awareness and meaningful crime prevention ventures and programs. The Crime Prevention Fund fundraises to support Crime Free Safe Communities. They are not part of any government entity and the IRS prohibits all 501c3 organizations from any political activity. A Board of Directors governs the Crime Prevention Fund and the Minnetrista Public Safety Director and the Orono Police Chief are advisors to the Board of Directors.



A few of the worthwhile ventures they financially support are DARE and Officer Friendly school programs, unbudgeted public safety related equipment, educational crime prevention materials, novelties for children and adults, public training and speakers, Citizens Academy, and Trista Day. The Crime Prevention Fund also sponsors things like bike rodeos, picture contests, National Night Out, community Drug Free Forums, and prescription drug take back programs. Additionally, the Crime Prevention Fund is able and willing to raise reward money if requested by their Law Enforcement Advisors.

The Crime Prevention Fund is an important nonprofit organization that tirelessly serves our communities. In order to support these worthwhile causes, the Crime Prevention Fund hosts an annual Crime Prevention Charity Golf event every Spring. The Crime Prevention Fund reminds us all that "Giving Back Matters."

Your support has most certainly contributed to safer communities through education, training, and awareness for enforcement. I would like to extend a very sincere thank you to all citizens, business community members and the Crime Prevention Fund members for supporting the Minnetrista Public Safety Department in our continuous effort to keep our communities safe.



Public Safety



Volunteer Reserve Officers

Volunteer Reserve Officers play a very important role in our commitment to public safety. Members of our reserve organization volunteer their time and efforts to assist the department with a wide variety of tasks such as:

- ◆ Prisoner transports to jail, detox, etc.
- ◆ Business checks
- ◆ House checks
- ◆ Event security
- ◆ Traffic control
- ◆ Vehicle impounds
- ◆ Assist with crosswalk enforcement and other traffic enforcement details
- ◆ Provide an extra set of eyes and ears in the community
- ◆ Provide additional police presence and visibility in the community
- ◆ Public safety education

In 2019, our volunteers donated dozens of hours of their time. Our volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some of them have law enforcement related experience, while others come from non-law enforcement backgrounds and are just looking for ways to give back to the community. Whatever the reason, our volunteers play a critical role in helping us deliver the best possible services to the citizens we serve. We are always in search of additional volunteers to join our reserve team.

