

**Tipp City Police Department
2020 Annual Report**


Tipp City



Chief Eric L. Burris, CLEE

January 28, 2021

Tim Eggleston, City Manager
City of Tipp City
260 S. Garber Dr.
Tipp City, Ohio 45371

Dear Mr. Eggleston,

Attached is the 2020 Annual Report for the Tipp City Police Department. 2020 was a challenging year for law enforcement in general, including the Tipp City Police Department. If I could choose one word to describe our operations this year, that word would be adaptation. We faced a drastic change in operations due to COVID -19. There was limited contact with our citizens, other city departments, and each other due to the virus and social distancing restrictions. For about a third of the year, we restricted traffic stops to serious traffic violations only. However, the officers stepped up traffic control efforts and were even more visible than usual in reported traffic trouble areas.

Ever the optimist, I look for positive developments from a bad situation. The pandemic's positive consequences included a 24% reduction in overtime, lower overall criminal activity, and a considerable decrease in officers' need to use force. The lower number of calls for service was more than offset by a tremendous amount of additional proactive police work from the officers.

By June, we were beginning to adapt to the new realities of COVID-19. Then suddenly, the country was immersed in a debate about race and policing. We had two peaceful, organized events here in the city, and officers had productive discussions with citizens at both. While many communities heard calls to defund the police, we were fortunate to have the continued support of the community, city staff, and city council. We sidelined many of our regular efforts in 2020, but I am proud to say that 2020 was a year when our police department proved we could adapt to almost any challenge.

The following information is an overview of police activities from the calendar year 2020. If you have any questions about the materials contained within the report or would like more detail, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Eric L. Burris, CLEE
Chief of Police

ADMINISTRATIVE

COVID-19 presented an ongoing administrative challenge for the police department throughout much of 2020. Staffing was a constant concern even though we worked to keep employees healthy by maintaining a clean building and vehicles.

In March, the Families First Coronavirus Act provide a little guidance on handling employee leaves. The federal act allowed for paid sick time and time to care for children whose schools or daycares had closed. However, we learned it was possible to exclude emergency responders from the time off provided by the act due to the nature of the work they perform. In a meeting with department heads and the City Manager, we decided to exclude the officers from the time off to provide daycare for children and include them in the extra sick time. It was a good compromise and showed some caring for the employees.

Addressing employee leaves was something we tried to do as reasonably as possible. When an officer or member of their household became ill or tested positive for the virus, we balanced the department's needs with the needs of the employee and came up with the best solution we could in each circumstance.

Another administrative issue arose from the announcement of my retirement in 2021. I have made a concerted effort to ensure training in the duties and procedures of my office. I want to be sure my replacement does not face the difficulties I experienced when I assumed this position. I am committed to making sure the transition goes as smoothly as possible.

Mission:

As provided in Section 35.02 of the Tipp City Code of Ordinances, the Tipp City Police Department is responsible for the preservation of the public peace and order, the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders of laws and ordinances, the protection of persons and property, and the enforcement of the criminal laws of the United States, the State of Ohio and the ordinances of the municipality.

Vision:

The Tipp City Police Department is a “service-first” police agency. We realize that working hard to help our citizens means they will, in turn, help and support us in our efforts to make Tipp City the best place to live in Miami County.

Guiding Principles:

To aid us in accomplishing our mission and vision, we will adhere to the following guiding principles:

WE EXIST TO SERVE

The residents of a community must know their police department exists to be of service to them.
Service is the primary reason for the existence of a police agency.

INTEGRITY IS ESSENTIAL

The community entrusts us with a position of power and therefore has a right to expect more.
We must be honest and ethical in everything we do.

WE ARE FAIR, BUT FIRM

We will be fair, but firm to earn respect and understanding. We do not apologize for enforcement action. However, everyone, even those we arrest, must be treated fairly. This approach promotes police conduct that is responsive and sensitive to the needs of the community.

REPRESENTING CIVILITY AND ORDER

As societal norms and technology change, police/community relations sometimes suffer. We will remain steadfast in our belief in service, integrity, fairness, and civility.

Ohio Law Enforcement/Community Collaborative:

For 2020, the Ohio Collaborative required police departments across the state to comply with a standard related to vehicle pursuits. I submitted the Tipp City Police Department's pursuit policy and pursuit review practices to collaborate for assessment.

Our policy (which is more restrictive than the standard) was accepted, and we received final approval in December.

For 2021, the Ohio Collaborative will require a new standard related to handling Mass Gatherings and Protests.

Presidential Executive Order on Use of Force:

On June 19, 2020, the President issued Executive Order 13929. The order requires certification and credentialing of police policies and procedures. In particular, policies related to police use of force. The Tipp City Police Department submitted guidelines for review and received certification. By obtaining certification, our department remains eligible for federal grants and other programs.

Annual Policy Manual Review:

In addition to some minor Use of Force policy changes necessary for compliance with the Ohio Collaborative Project, Presidential Executive Order 13929, and Governor DeWine's directives, we adopted and issued several other policy adjustments as 2020 ended. The manual and the Lexipol policy service updates ensure that the department has comprehensive policies based on Federal and State laws and the accepted best practices within the law enforcement community. Officers have all acknowledged the policy changes and completed their daily policy training bulletins for the year.

PERSONNEL

Officer Sean Powell was hired in January of 2020 to replace Officer David Michel, who left the department on medical disability retirement in late 2019. Officer Powell came to us from Miami

Township PD, where he worked for about five years as a patrol officer. Sean has proven to be a knowledgeable officer with an attitude that is a good fit for TCPD.

In December, Sgt. Nick Creech submitted his resignation and took medical disability retirement. Sgt. Creech had served with the Tipp City Police Department since 2006.

LEAVES AND OVERTIME

Overall leaves were up approximately .61 percent, with the most noticeable rise in sick time usage for the year. Overtime was nearly 24% lower; however, the majority of that decrease was due to COVID-19 restrictions cancelling events.

LEAVES/ABSENCES			
TYPE	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
SICK LEAVE	1466.5	2146	2418.75
VACATION	2415	2612	2092.5
PERSONAL	808.5	936	783.5
DISC SUSP		188	0
INJURY	232	0	0
COMP TIME	679.5	818.5	306
SCHOOL			
ADM LEAVE		264	558
FUNERAL			12
OTHER	108		836
TOTAL	5709.50	6964.50	7006.75

OVERTIME DISTRIBUTION			
<u>TYPE</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>SHIFT COV</u>	<u>592.5</u>	<u>764</u>	<u>564.75</u>
<u>COURT</u>	<u>142.5</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>161</u>
<u>INVEST</u>	<u>222.5</u>	<u>97.75</u>	<u>145.875</u>
<u>TRAINING</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>207.5</u>	<u>239.5</u>
<u>ADMIN</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>EXTRA</u>	<u>492.5</u>	<u>317.25</u>	<u>130</u>
<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>407.25</u>	<u>663</u>	<u>501.5</u>
<u>K-9</u>	<u>120.89</u>	<u>121.42</u>	<u>117.75</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>2385.14</u>	<u>2531.92</u>	<u>1926.375</u>

TRAINING

Maintaining training was a tremendous challenge in 2020. Again, due to restrictions caused by the pandemic, nearly every in-person class we had scheduled for officers after mid-March was canceled. Fortunately, the department began using Police One Academy, and we were able to maintain an acceptable, if lower, level of training throughout a year of otherwise canceled training classes.

Code	Description of Training	Cumulative Hours
TCPD001	ADAP/SFST/ARIDE/Intoxilyzer Testing	19
TCPD002	Administrative / Leadership	568.5
TCPD003	Bicycle Patrol	0
TCPD004	Crime Scene Investigation / Evidence Technician	4
TCPD005	Crisis Intervention / CIT	24
TCPD006	DARE / SRO / School Response Training	57.5
TCPD007	Emergency Vehicle Operations EVOC	73.5
TCPD008	Firearms / Range Weapons Training / Armorers	207.5
TCPD009	Gangs / Gang Identification	0
TCPD010	Instructor Course / Field Training Officer	24
TCPD011	Interviewing / Interviewing Techniques	1
TCPD012	Investigations / Investigation Training	42
TCPD013	Canine / Canine Training	235
TCPD014	Legal Update Training	92
TCPD015	Mental Health Training	63
TCPD016	Narcotics / Drug Investigation and Identification	1
TCPD017	Officer Safety / Use of Force Training	290.5
TCPD018	Radar and Lidar Training	0
TCPD019	Spillman / RMS Training	96
TCPD020	Crash / Crash Investigation Training	0
TCPD021	Traffic Patrol Operations / Criminal Interdiction	3
TCPD022	Crime Victim Rights	6
TCPD023	Community Policing / Community Policing Programs	10
TCPD024	Field Training Status Probationary Employee	400
Academy Active	Employee Actvly Enrolled in Academy	0
Police One Academy	Cumulative Hours PIA Online Academy Courses	567
DTB Lexipol	Total Completion of DTB Lexipol Review	229
Roll Call	Roll Call Training In Service	7.58
	Total Training Hours Team Members	3021.08 hrs

Use of Force Review

Tipp City police officers are well disciplined in using only the force necessary to protect themselves, protect others, or gain compliance when making arrests. There is an expectation they will use physical presence and their ability to persuade people to comply before using any physical force level whenever possible. Even so, there are times when the officers must put their hands on someone to gain compliance.

For the calendar year 2020, only nine (9) reported uses of force compared with sixteen (16) use of force reports filed in 2019. That is a 44% reduction from 2019. Due to COVID-19, calls for service were down significantly, meaning reduced contact with citizens. Four (4) of the nine (9) incidents in 2020 included the use of hands/feet/other as the applied force administered. Meaning the officer had to put their hands on the person to gain compliance. Two (2) incidents documented were because a firearm was un-holstered and pointed at another person. Two (2) recorded events were because an officer used a Taser to gain compliance. The final incident (1) was a firearm discharge, which did not result in any injuries.

A reminder that officers can be involved in rapidly evolving events requiring the use of force. The officers are trained to respond to the suspect's actions and allow them to dictate the amount of force, if any, required from the officer. At the same time, we do not follow a specific use of force continuum (which is an if this, then that approach); the officers are expected to respond reasonably based on the threat at hand. The department has had two years of significant drops in the use of force in 2019 and 2020. Registering nine use of force incidents within a year is extremely low.

Vehicle Pursuit Review

Policy 314.9e requires an annual review of the Department's pursuits and analysis to show trends, compliance, and training needs. The yearly pursuit review revealed only two vehicle pursuits during 2020. These pursuits were of very short duration, but they led to some counseling or policy review with the involved officers. I updated the department pursuit policy in the fall of 2017 to restrict pursuits to cases in which it is reasonable to believe the suspect has committed or is about to commit a violent felony offense, or the officer can articulate that the suspect is an immediate threat to public safety. This change has reduced the number of vehicles we pursue dramatically.

Random Evidence Audit

On January 12, 2020, Sgt. Graham and Sgt. Grubb conducted an audit on twelve randomly selected cases (one case each month) known to have evidence related to the incident. The selected incidents should have all had evidence maintained in our vault. In each of the chosen examples, except one, all evidence was present. Evidence in the case, which did not have evidence in the vault, is at the crime lab for analysis. Sgt. Grubb is extraordinarily conscientious and continues to do a thorough job in maintaining our evidence vault's integrity.

Bias-Free Policing Review

According to the offender's race, the 2020 crystal report for the Tipp City Police Department examines the citations issued by our officers. The crystal report helps identify potential trends based on race.

The breakdown of citations by race is as follows:

Eighty-one (81) percent of the citations issued were to white drivers.

Twelve (12) percent of the citation issued went to black drivers.

One (1) percent of the citations issued went to Hispanic drivers.

One (1) percent of the citations issued went to multi-racial drivers.

Three (3) percent of the citations listed the race as unknown.

The Ohio Collaborative requires this tracking to meet the standard for Bias-Free Policing. I questioned the three percent of citations that listed the race as unknown and found that the system that transfers data from LEADS to our citation forms does not transmit the driver's race. Therefore, if the officer does not manually enter the driver's race in the form, it defaults to unknown. The issue is being addressed directly with the officers and the patrol sergeants, who should question this omission when they approve the citation.

New Equipment and Upgrades

- A 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe replaced cruiser 101, a 2015 Ford Explorer. So far, the Tahoe has proven to be a good police platform for the department.
- A 2020 Chevrolet Traverse was purchased for the Deputy Chief's vehicle.
- A new secure door was installed between the government center and the police department. The addition increases the security of LEADS and other sensitive information.
- A new roof, soffits, and spouting were installed on the firearms range building.
- The introduction of Pace Online scheduling software makes the work schedule accessible online and on officers' phones via an app.
- Police One Academy online training made it possible to continue training and reinforcing standards even throughout the pandemic as in person classes cancelled.
- Tremco vehicle security devices were installed on the entire patrol fleet. The device is designed to keep someone from stealing a police cruiser.
- Budgeted for the replacement of all older model in-car camera systems with newer technology. This will make the cameras uniform across the patrol fleet. All digital video will now be stored in the cloud.
- Budgeted for the Virtra Force Training Simulator to allow officers' realistic training in a variety of circumstances including firearms encounters, mental health responses, and other decision-making exercises.

ACTIVITY REPORT

2020 was a lower than average year when it came to citizen contacts. There were 7817 calls for police response from citizens. That number is down by approximately 1000 calls from 2019. As discussed earlier, the reduction in calls for service and traffic stops is primarily a result of the coronavirus.

Fortunately, the officers took advantage of this and used their extra time to serve the community proactively. Self-initiated activities require an officer to create a record of services such as vacation house checks, building checks, and school zone monitoring. An additional 18,138 of this type of activity was recorded in 2020, bringing the total number of documented police activities to 25,952. I am proud of the officers and their additional efforts.

Calls for Service

Dispatched calls for service from citizens	7,817
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Officer Initiated Activity

Building Checks	7,120
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Special Details	5,503
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Vacation house Checks	3,562
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School Details	291
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School Zones	79
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DORA Checks	638
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Community Relations Contacts	945
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Total	18,138
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Traffic Related Activity

Traffic stops	788
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Traffic citations	232
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Traffic Warnings	556
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Traffic Control Presence	3225
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Traffic Accidents 2020

Non-injury Accidents	91
Injury Accidents	12
Fatal Accidents	2
Private Property Accidents	45
Total Accidents	152

2020 Arrests

Total Arrests	406
Adult Arrests	372
Juvenile	34

Community Event Participation

In addition to our criminal/traffic-related activities, the department tries to devote as many hours as possible to interact with our citizens in a positive manner. Again, the pandemic took the wind from our sails this year. What is normally an extensive rundown of community events we participate in is a much-abbreviated list this year. We look forward to increasing our presence at community events, school events, presentations, and training in 2021 if possible.

Bank Security & Alarm Review Meetings
Field trip to Camp Kern with 5th grade class.
Lockdown Drills at each School and B.O.E., 18 total.
Student of the Month Breakfast at L. T. Ball Intermediate School.
Senior Parade.
4th of July Fireworks.
Beggar's Night -Hand out candy.
Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial.
Parade for Veterans at L. T. Ball Intermediate School.
Police Officer Memorial Ceremony.
Shop with a Cop.
Autism Awareness event.
Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting
Secret Santa Traffic Stops
Community Christmas Tree Decorating
Adopt a Tipp City Family for Christmas

Department Goals for 2021

- VIRTRA Force Training Simulator implementation
- Obtain access to Spillman Analytics webpage
- Increase interaction with public if possible (COVID restrictions)
- Improve Training for all personnel
- Improve the Recruiting Process
- Continue to adapt to meet the needs of the citizens of Tipp City