

# North Liberty Police Department End of Year Report



**2021**

# City of North Liberty

Population: 20,479

Size: 7.83 sq miles

Incorporated in: 1913

Known as "Squash Bend" before becoming North Liberty in 1857



## 2021 Government

Terry Donahue

Mayor

Chris Hoffman

Councilor

Annie Pollock

Councilor

RaQuishia Harrington

Councilor

Brent Smith

Councilor

Brian Wayson

Councilor

Ryan Heiar

City Administrator



What year did the police department form?

- A. 1924
- B. 1999
- C. 1988
- D. 2002



## From the Desk of Chief Venenga

Dear Community of North Liberty,

In 2021, the City of North Liberty did not see many changes in crime trends from the previous year. We attribute this to the continuation of COVID and the precautions associated with being in a high-risk county for most of the year. Mask wearing, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting surfaces were still a big part of our routine throughout the facility, vehicles and public interactions.

The department celebrated a number of firsts in 2021.

- In conjunction with Kirkwood Learning Connections, we hosted our first mini police academy for 15 high school students
- Provided forty-four full Thanksgiving meals to families in North Liberty
- All sworn members completed implicit bias and de-escalation training, in person, and with our own instructors
- Participated in Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE) for the duty to intercede training
- Hosted 3 interns
- Received a “Gold” award from Lexipol for completion of policy updates in a timely manner, the percentage of staff to sign off, and the acknowledgment of daily training bulletins. It is critical to ensure changes made to the policy are timely, reflect recent changes to law enforcement practices, and are understood by members of the department.
- Implemented the contact tracing program for all officer-initiated community contacts

The men and women of the department continue to work on finding alternative methods of problem solving. Training remains a high priority for our department, and we were able to add new training topics in 2021. Officers participated in training for implicit bias, de-escalation, and the duty to intercede, or ABLE (Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement).

In partnership with North Liberty Fire and Johnson County EMA, the department acquired an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) and trained two officers to be pilots. The department has used the UAS to successfully locate a person in crisis, a lost individual, and to support the apprehension of a dangerous individual with outstanding federal felony warrants.

It is hard to believe that we have been in the new building for a full year. We continue to look for ways to best utilize the facility to effectively serve the community. We began to offer tours of the building to small groups of people. We also offered the public, and other entities to use rooms for various meetings and trainings. As with any new building, we have experienced some mechanical problems and other issues. We continue to work with the contractors on items that need repaired, but overall, have been very pleased with the facility. We appreciate that we have been able to utilize the facility to its fullest and offer others to do the same as well.

The department saw some staffing changes and the creation of a new position. A public relations officer/property crime investigator position was added to our investigations unit. The duties of this investigator is to coordinate community events, as well as work to close out property crime cases from previous years. This position has been a great addition and will continue to be an important part of the department as we move forward.

We had two newer patrol officers leave the department and move onto other opportunities. We appreciate the time they put in to the department and wish them luck in their future endeavors. With their departure, we were able to bring back an officer who previously worked for the department. We had a recruit attend the 300th Basic Iowa Law Enforcement Academy after returning from a yearlong military deployment. We finished the year with one open position and plan on filling it with an already certified officer in early 2022.

In 2021 the North Liberty Police Department initiated an internal program to capture more information on the individuals with whom we interact. This information is used to support a contact with Dr. Barnum, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at St. Ambrose University. The contract with Dr. Barnum will help us uncover any trends in the interactions with the public in order to improve our service to the city and residents of North Liberty.

The department continued with its programs of giving back to the community. Officer Santiago organized his 25th and final toy drive for DVIP. Many children benefited from the generosity of the community and Officer Santiago's efforts during the holiday season. Once again, the department set up a giving tree in the lobby to collect holiday gifts for children in the community. Also, Officer Madole set up a Thanksgiving meal program for individuals and families in North Liberty. Z's Catering made a wonderful meal consisting of turkey and side, and Hy-Vee donated rolls to complete the meal. Thank you to everyone who helps us with these programs, either via service or financially. We could not do it without your help!

At the end of the year, the City acknowledges two individuals for employees of the year. This year, we had not only one, but two members receive awards. Alisha Ruffcorn was nominated and received the employee of the year award for the police department and Lauryn Rich was nominated and received the award for the City employee of the year award. Both of these individuals do an outstanding job for this department and our community. We truly appreciate the work Alisha and Lauryn do for the department and the city.

We continue to appreciate the support our city leaders, community members, and local businesses have shown this department throughout the year. Thank you for taking the time to read this document. Hopefully it gives you a better understanding of the North Liberty Police Department. I know I can speak for our team members when I say that is an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Chief Diane Venenga

# Who We Are



## Our Mission Statement

Improve the quality of life in North Liberty by enhancing public safety through cooperative partnerships with our evolving community. We are responsible for protecting life and property, enforcing laws and taking appropriate actions to deter crime and disorder. We will inspire the public's trust and protect the Constitution Rights of all citizens.

## Our Values

We take responsibility for the efficient, effective, innovative, and proactive approaches to meeting the demands of our crime prevention and law enforcement services. We remain dedicated to service and are committed to striving for excellence, focusing on the following core values in our personal and professional lives:

**Integrity** - We hold ourselves accountable to the highest level of honesty, truthfulness and ethical conduct. These traits are central to all the values we embrace and are the foundations of community trust.

**Pride** - We take pride in our work and in serving our community by setting an example for others to follow.

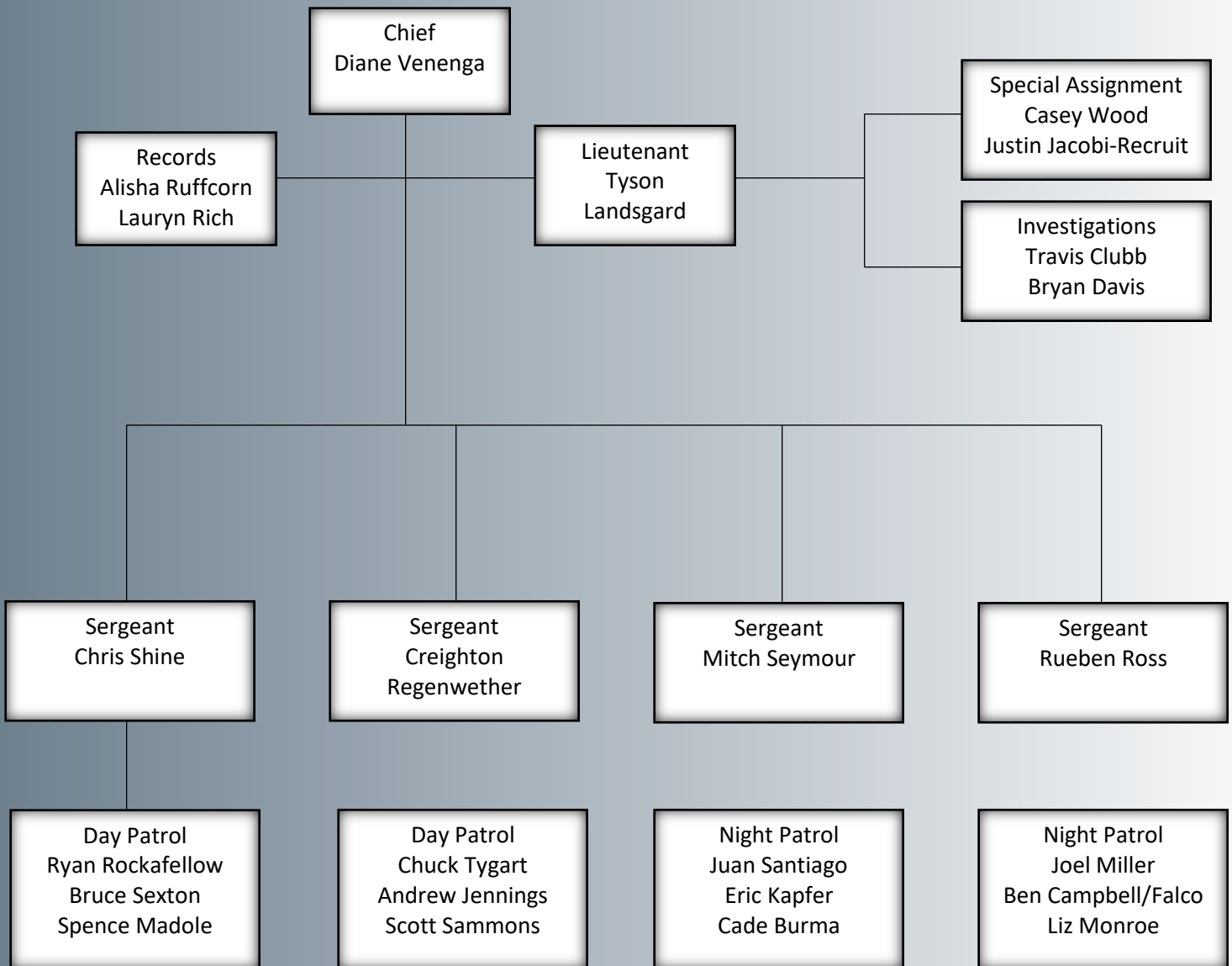
**Quality Service** – We will provide quality service in a courteous, efficient and accessible manner. We foster community and employee involvement through problem solving and partnerships in a way that best serves the community.

**Respect** - We hold respect for human life above all and we will ensure that all persons are treated with equality, dignity, and courtesy.

**Courage** - We recognize the inherent dangers within our profession and are willing to place the safety of others above our own.

**Professionalism** - We commit to the highest level of professional standards through the development of highly trained, motivated and dedicated members to public service.

# Organizational Chart



# Divisions within the Department



## Investigations

2021 saw a change for the investigations division. An officer was added to help with the caseload and to act as a community service officer. The two investigators handled 76 cases. Ten (10) of them remain open and twelve (12) resulted in charges/arrests. Cases from years past were also revisited and followed up on so they could be closed out.

## Drug Task Force

Related to investigations is the drug task force. The task force members follow up on cases in other jurisdictions, not just North Liberty. Last year, fifteen (15) of the nineteen (19) North Liberty cases that were brought to their attention were closed/closed out. Eighty-two (82) search warrants were issued and the number of felony charges filed totaled thirty-two (32).



## K-9

The department welcomed our first K-9 in 2017. Falco, a Belgian Malinois, was obtained thanks to support from the City and community members. To keep Falco comfortable and safe, a special vehicle was purchased for the K-9 unit. The vehicle includes a quick release for Falco in case the duo are in an emergency situation. There is also an interior temperature system that sounds an alarm, automatically rolls the windows down and turns a fan on if the inside temperature gets too high.

Last year, there were seventy-seven (77) calls for K-9 service assigned to Falco and his handler Officer Ben Campbell. When Falco is not busy on calls, you can find him at community activities throughout the year. We can say, that without a doubt, Falco is the most popular and photogenic member of this department.

## Records

Our records department is available Monday-Friday from 7AM to 4:30 PM except for holidays or if staff is gone. They are more than happy to help you obtain a report, call for service, schedule a fingerprinting appointment, a salvage vehicle exam, issue your golf cart permit, and help you connect to the officer who is handling your case.

Records can be reached at (319) 626-5724 or [records@northlibertyiowa.org](mailto:records@northlibertyiowa.org). If you need an officer dispatched to your location, records is able to transfer you to JECC, but it is best to call them directly at (319) 356-6800 in case the records staff is not available.

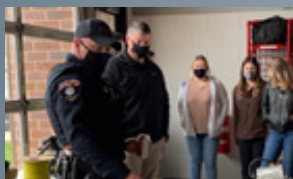


Can you guess how fast can Falco Run?

- A. 10-15 MPH
- B. 20-25 MPH
- C. 25-30 MPH
- D. 30+ MPH

# Training and Special Assignments

Once an officer graduates from the academy it does not mean that they stop learning. It is important in this profession to keep current on the trends and new techniques. Even though the last couple of years have been difficult for meeting in person, that does not mean our officers have not been participating in trainings. Last year, staff members completed 3,030 hours of training on various topics. This total does not include the new hires who went through the academy. Some of those training hours are for the specialized programs officers are involved in. Members of the bomb squad, canine, dive team, and tactical team train monthly with their organizations. While the honor guard meets quarterly.



**Johnson County Metro Bomb Squad**-We have one member who has been on the bomb squad for seven (7) years. The squad responds to incidents where a suspicious package or a threat is made to a location. Last year they had four (4) call outs. They also help with event security, such as sweeping Kinnick prior to the Iowa football games.

**Johnson County Metro Dive Team**-In 2014 we had an officer join the dive team. The purpose of the dive team is to help with the rescue or recovery of items and persons who end up in the water around Johnson County. There are times when the team is called to help with missions in other counties.



**Specialized Emergency Response Team (SERT)**-We currently have two (2) department on the team. One officer joined in 2018 and the other followed in 2019. This team is activated for planned and unplanned high risk calls with a known history of violence, weapons, or a propensity to cause injury.

**Honor Guard**-The department is represented by two officers who joined the guard in 2019. The group consists of fifteen (15) members from all of the agencies in Johnson County and they meet quarterly for training at the Iowa City Readiness Center. Their primary duty is to provide funeral honors to area law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty. They also provide ceremonial support to various agencies and events.



**Unmanned Aircraft Systems**-This year the department entered into a partnership with the North Liberty Fire Department and Johnson County EMA to purchase an unmanned aircraft system (UAS). The department has two (2) officers that went through the training to become pilots. So far the UAS has been used in search and rescue calls, high risk tactical applications, fire/hazmat incidents, community outreach demonstrations, and training. The following page is a report that was prepared by one of the pilots. It gives the number of the times it has been used in each category, along with some pictures of the UAS in action.



## Unmanned Aircraft Systems Report

Total Pilots: 2

Total Flights: 48

Total Flight Time: 903 minutes

Incident Locations: North Liberty: 7

Coralville: 1

Johnson County: 5



\*\*\*Flight records are only listed if an NLPD Officer is the remote pilot in command (RPIC).

Crime Scene and Crash Scene Applications: 0 - A UAS may be deployed to conduct crimes scene and collision scene documentation taking aerial pictures and videos to be used as evidence.

Search and Rescue: 8 - A UAS may be deployed in an effort to locate missing or endangered subjects where an aerial view would benefit the search. Search and rescue may also include looking for injured persons stemming from a disaster.

High Risk Tactical Applications: 2 - A UAS may be deployed in an effort to protect officers from unnecessary exposure to danger and minimize the risk of injury to bystanders, officers and suspects, and enhance the likelihood of bringing peaceful resolutions to potentially deadly incidents.

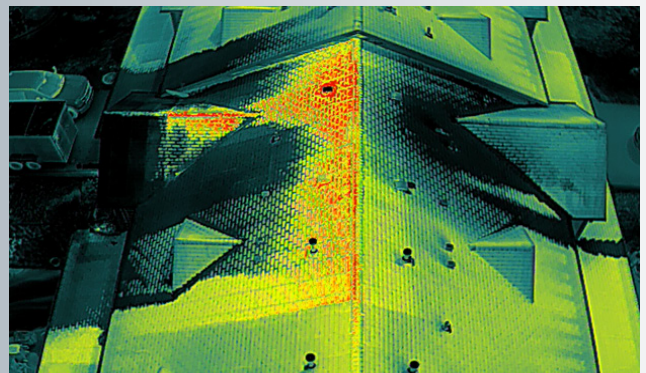
Event Security: 0 - A UAS may be used at large public events where a view from above may be a benefit to officers charged with protecting those in attendance.

Disaster Response: 0 - A UAS may be deployed to gather aerial views of damage from disasters, whether they are natural or man-made. Search and rescue may be part of this response.

Fire/Hazmat Incidents: 1 - A UAS with thermal camera capabilities may be deployed to assist Fire in detecting and addressing hotspots. A UAS with a camera may be deployed to hazmat incidents where reading a hazmat placard from a distance is needed.

Community Outreach Demonstrations: 2 - In an effort to encourage public trust and effectively engage our community, a UAS may be part of a community meeting or special event such as the Community Police Academy.

Training: 35 - UAS pilots will deploy UAS for training missions to maintain readiness and certification.



## Breakdown of Training by Month

### January

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, and dive team. (56 hours)
- Two members attended quarterly Honor Guard training (16 hours)
- Several Staff members attended a zoom training session for city employees on diversity, more specifically LGBTQ populations (10 hours)
- All Officers were assigned mandatory online training for Bloodborne Pathogens Safety and Hazardous Communications through Target Solutions (31 hours)
- The new investigator attended online training for investigating property crimes. (4 hours)
- The administrative assistant attended an online UCR training. (3 hours)

### February

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team and dive team. (48 hours)
- All officers completed online Officer Wellness and Suicide Prevention via Target Solutions (11 hours)
- All members completed CPR, Defib, and First Responder Training (50 hours)
- New investigator completed online training for burglary, robbery and elderly/financial investigations (8 hours)
- Our new investigator/PIO completed a week-long training in Illinois for the School Resource Officer initial certification (40 hours)
- All supervisors completed mandatory training for drug and alcohol awareness (12 hours)
- Several staff members attended online training for dog bite awareness (12 hours)
- Several members attended online training from the AG's office and the Crime Victim Assistance Division on sexual assault trauma, kit tracking, and victim advocacy (24 hours)
- Supervisors completed the ICS 800 and ICS 300 online class for the National Incident Command System (48 hours)
- Several staff members participated in training for the City's new financial software program. (30 hours)

### March

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, and dive team (56 hours)
- Two officers attended the week-long Field Training officer program (80 hours).
- Two officers participated in an online weather spotting training (4 hours)
- All officers attended the online course for Recognizing and Managing Abnormal Breathing to prevent in custody deaths (23 hours)
- The Chief attended two days of leadership training for Magnus Leaders in Davenport (16 hours)

### April

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, and dive team. (56 hours)
- Two members attended quarterly honor guard training (16 hours)
- Two members attended free FBI training at CRPD for hostage negotiators school. (80 hours)
- Two members attended the Salvage Vehicle Inspection Class in Ankeny (16 hours)
- All staff completed online training for recognizing Autism for First Responders and Use of Force Encounters on Target Solutions (16 hours)
- Two officers completed the drone operators course presented through the EMA. (24 hours)
- The two investigators attended an online course for Advanced CSI: Shooting Scenes (16 hours)
- Two members attended online training for video forensic evidence technicians (24 hours)
- An officer attended the annual life savers conference online (36 hours)

## May

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, and dive team. (56 hours)
- All members attended bi-annual range and defensive tactics training (276 hours)
- Prior to our range training, all members completed online training and policy review on our Use of Force and Firearms policies prior to our annual training at the range. (20 hours)
- Our drug task force member attended a week-long meth lab school at Camp Dodge (40 hours).
- One Sergeant completed the online training to get recertified as a vehicle theft examiner (3 hours)
- 3 officers attended the Critical Incident Training (CIT) for Johnson County first responders at Grace Community Church (120 hours)
- Command staff members (4) attended the annual Iowa Police Chief's Conference that was hosted at the Coralville Marriott. (80 hours)



## June

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, and dive team. (56 hours)
- UCR and NIBRS training completed for the Federal and the State side (16 hours).
- Officers Burma, Monroe, and Jacobi attended range training. (24 hours)
- Chief and Lieutenant attended the legislative update for new and changed laws (8 hours)
- Staff reviewed policy updates in Lexipol
- All officers attended online training on the proper use and application of spit hoods. (24 hours)
- An Officer completed Precision Driving Instructor school at ILEA (40 hours)
- An Officer attended SRO training/conference for (24 hours)

## July

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, honor guard training, and dive team. (56 hours)
- All sworn members attended in-house Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE) training. This covers the skills and human factors for our duty to intercede responsibilities. This was taught by two certified NL instructors. (184 hours)
- Investigators attended online training for sex offenders' motivations, interviewing skills, and investigation (32 hours)
- Chief attended an online course for Budgeting for law enforcement (4 hours)
- New hire, Justin Jacobi was firearms and taser certified. He will leave for the police academy at the end of next month. (20 hours).
- Four members received training on being administrators for the new RAVE system through the JECC. This system is replacing the WENS system for emergency and public notification. (4 hours)

## August

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, honor guard training, and dive team. (56 hours)
- Officer Rockafellow attended the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) conference in Des Moines. He is the GTSB coordinator for the department (24 hours)
- An Evidence tech participated in a webinar on the dangers of fentanyl (1 hour)
- The department hosted taser instructor recertification training. Ten individuals participated in the training, including three of our officers. (24 hours)
- The department hosted a webinar for tactical team members for Officer Involved Shootings for Tactical Teams. 3 officers attended for NLPD (9 hours)

## September

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, and dive team. (88 hours).
- Our Bomb Team member attended three days of training to operate a new bomb robot (24 hours)
- An Officer was invited by ICCSD to attend Threat Assessment Training hosted by the district (3 hours).
- Our Defensive Tactics Instructor attended recertification training at ILEA. (8 hours)
- Our Radar/Lidar Instructor attended the recertification course at ILEA (8 hours).
- The Lt and an Officer attended a one-day course on Tactical Medical Care for Law Enforcement in Illinois. (16 hours)
- An Investigator and a newer Officer attended interview and interrogations training at MTTUIV in Moline. (48 hours)
- All Officers completed an online visual observer course for night operations and being an extra set of eyes for the drone pilots (6 hours)
- The Chief and a Sgt attended an online webinar on internal audits. (8 hours)
- Our Evidence Supervisor and technician attended a 2-day training course on Evidence Storage and property management at Camp Dodge. (32 hours)
- The Lieutenant attended 4 hours of training on the Aurora Colorado Theater Shooting Action De-briefing and lessons learned. (4 hours)

## October

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, honor guard training, and dive team. (56 hours)
- All sworn members completed 1 day of bi-annual firearms training and tactical medical training, as well as 1 day of taser, felony traffic stops, scenario-based training, and drive training at Hawkeye Downs (336 hours).
- Two members completed a week-long training with the joint tactical team (80 hours)
- A tactical team member attended Shield training in Cedar Rapids (8 hours).
- Our Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) was recertified in Des Moines. (8 hours)
- Chief attended the State Iowa Opioid Conference in Cedar Rapids (8 hours)
- The canine team attended training and was recertified (16 hours)
- One member attended free online Homeland Security National Training program through Louisiana State University on site-protection and document inspection of terrorist organizations/threats. (8 hrs)
- Our investigator attended training at MTTU-IV on Cyber-Bullying, and Sexting investigations through social media in Moline, Ill. (16 hours)
- The records staff attended the LE Admin Conference in West Des Moines. (16 hours)
- All officers completed the Visual Drone Spotter course online (23 hours)

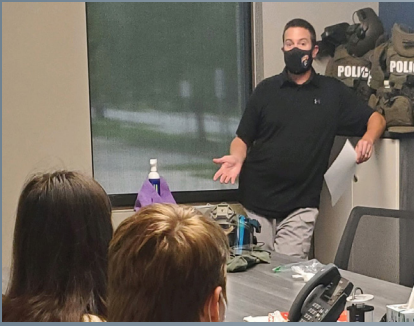
## November

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, and dive team. (40 hours)
- Chief attended Management Rights Training in Moline (8 hours)
- Chief attended the Line of Duty Death Response Unified Command Field Guide table top exercise in Des Moines (7 hours)
- Two officers attended interview and interrogations school at MTTU in Moline (32 hours)
- Two officers attended bomb recognition training at the JECC (16 hours)

## December

- Members attended monthly training for canine, bomb squad, tactical team, and dive team. (56 hours)

# Student Police Academy



On October 20th, the department hosted its first Student Police Academy in conjunction with Kirkwood Community College. Students from high schools in the corridor spent the day learning more about the profession. Officers presented on topics that they are in charge of, or hold the position of instructor within the department. Topics covered were: patrol, investigations, evidence, the unmanned aircraft system (UAS) operation, K9 tracking, firearms simulation, and drunk driving testing. The program was a mix of classroom and hands-on activities to keep the students engaged with the topics and the officers.

Students were treated to a presentation on how the UAS is used. An officer volunteered to be in the bite suit in a presentation for the K9 unit and how Falco tracks. Investigations and Task Force combined to give a presentation on elements of their positions. The sergeant who is in charge of evidence, showed the students how to lift prints. The lieutenant gave a presentation on firearms, which ended with each student getting a turn at shooting a simulation gun. The students also got to try on the goggles which simulates being under the influence. It gives the wearer an idea on what it feels like to be under the influence while participating in field sobriety tests.

At the conclusion of class, evaluations were collected from the students to get their thoughts on the program. The results were very positive and as we predicted, the hands-on sections were by far the most popular. We hope to host another academy in the future and add other elements that will be of interest to the next group of students.



# What Can North Liberty PD do for You?

Did you know that the North Liberty Police Department offers a number of services to the public? All of the services below are performed by members of the department. To find out more information, or to schedule an appointment, you can call the office line at (319) 626-5724 Monday-Friday during business hours.



## Car Seat Inspections

Investigator Travis Clubb is the certified technician for the department. As a technician, his role is to educate caregivers on child passenger safety. This includes instructing caregivers on the correct selection, installation, and use of not only car seats, booster seats and seat belts. In 2021, Investigator Clubb performed 28 inspections. This service is free and done on an appointment basis. To schedule an appointment, you can contact Investigator Clubb at [tclubb@northlibertyiowa.org](mailto:tclubb@northlibertyiowa.org), or at the office line listed above.

## Fingerprinting

One of the more popular services we provide is fingerprinting. In 2021 we performed 454 fingerprints. Individuals seeking out this service are usually going into the medical, educational, nursing, banking, and insurance fields. Appointments are set up and performed by our records department, as long as staff is available. We currently offer appointments Mondays and Wednesdays 9AM-12PM; and Thursdays 2PM-4PM and recommend calling as soon as possible since appointments go quick. The cost for this service is \$10 per card with the proceeds going directly back into the community. The money we collect is used to fund events hosted by the department.



## Golf Cart Inspections

To drive a golf cart in town on public roadways, citizens need to apply for a permit. The permit process starts with an inspection of the cart by an officer. They will look for the following elements:

- Engine size < 351 CCS
- Slow moving sign attached to rear of cart
- Bike safety flag, the bottom of which shall be above the top of the cart
- Adequate brakes
- Headlights
- Taillights
- Rear view mirror attached to the driver's side



Once the inspection is complete, the owner comes to the police department with copies of their insurance and valid licenses of all drivers showing that they are over the age of 18. The records staff will make copies of these documents, collect the \$25 fee, and issue the permit.

## Medication Collection



Every April and October, the department participates in the DEA's drug take back event. In 2021, we collected approximately 110 pounds of over the counter and prescription drugs. If you are unable to make it to these events, no problem! We will take your medications during normal business hours throughout the year. Medications should remain in their original packaging with the labels still attached. This is an anonymous program. No information is logged and all medication is put into a box for destruction. The only things we cannot accept are inhalers and needles. For disposal of needles, we recommend contacting the county landfill. Watch our Twitter feed, Nextdoor, and the City's Facebook page for when the next Take Back Day will be held.

## Salvage Vehicle Inspections

Another popular service is the salvage vehicle inspection program. The purpose of the salvage theft exam is to verify that no stolen parts were used when the vehicle was rebuilt. Inspections are performed by appointment as long as we have the staff. Currently, we are performing one at 10, one at 10:15 and another at 10:30 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Prior to the inspection, the owner of the vehicle must fill out the affidavit of salvage vehicle repair online and pay the \$50 fee. The online form can be found on the DOT website at <https://salvagetheft.iowadot.gov/SalvageTheftTitle>. At the time of the inspection, the presenter must have:

- An Iowa salvage title
- Any receipts for parts put on the vehicle.
- Confirmation of Completed Affidavit
- Bill of sale
- ID

\*\*Failure to have each of these documents means the vehicle will not pass inspection. If that happens, the owner will need to reschedule the inspection for another day. Repeat offenders will not be allowed to come back and the DOT will be notified.\*\*



## Vehicle Unlocks

If you ever find yourself looking at your keys inside your locked vehicle, we can help you. Call JECC at (319) 356-6800 and an officer will be dispatched to your location, when they are available. The service is free and our officers have had plenty of experience, with the department averaging 300 unlocks a year.



# Calls for Service

Every time an officer is dispatched a call for service is created. This record is a “play-by-play” of the call’s events. In 2021, the department recorded 21,690 calls for service when recorded by individual badge number. When a call is received from dispatch, it is put into one of 146 categories. Below are the top 10 categories for 2021 for our agency, along with a brief description.

**911 Hang Up Call:** These are calls made to 911 and the person on the line disconnects from dispatch. These calls can be related to a case, but the majority are from accidental dialing on a phone or smart watch. In fact, since the release of the first smart watch in 2015, we have seen an over 500% increase in 911 hangup calls.

**Phone Requests:** Any time someone wants to speak to an officer. This can be with a general question, or questions regarding a case or investigation, etc.

**School Patrol:** During the school year, officers will drive around the schools to watch for any issues that may need addressed. Their presence is also to deter speeding and any other traffic violations.

**Extra Patrol:** This can be from individuals who are going to be out of town and have requested the service, areas where previous crimes have been committed, etc. It is any area that the officers know of that could use a little extra attention.

**Parking:** Parking calls come from the officers viewing the violation or community members calling in situation.

**Assist Other Agency:** These calls where officers are helping either other law enforcement agencies, or the North Liberty Fire Department.

**Traffic Stops:** Stops by officers that result in citations, warnings, investigations, and arrests.

**Animal Calls:** The calls we receive are for things such as animals at large, barking, neglect, missing and found pets, etc.

**Suspicious Action, Persons, or Vehicle:** These calls can be called in by concerned citizens, or when an officer views a situation while out on patrol.

**Public Assists:** When an officer is needed to perform a service that benefits a member of the community.

*Think you can rank the top 10?*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Traffic Stops
- \_\_\_\_\_ Animal Calls
- \_\_\_\_\_ School Patrol
- \_\_\_\_\_ Suspicious Person/Vehicle
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist Other Agency
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parking
- \_\_\_\_\_ 911 Hang Up
- \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Requests
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Patrol
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Assists



# Animal Calls



Last year, the department handled five hundred and thirty five (535) animal calls. This is an increase of twenty nine (29) calls from 2020. Below is a chart depicting the type of call and the number recorded from dispatch.

Bite calls can involve the victim's own pet, or from a run in with a stranger's pet. When a victim sees a doctor for a bite, the doctor faxes us a copy of the bite report from the Johnson County Health Department. Our officers then follow up with both the victim and owners to make sure the pet has received their necessary vaccines. Animals that are not up to date with their vaccines are required to be quarantined for ten (10 days).

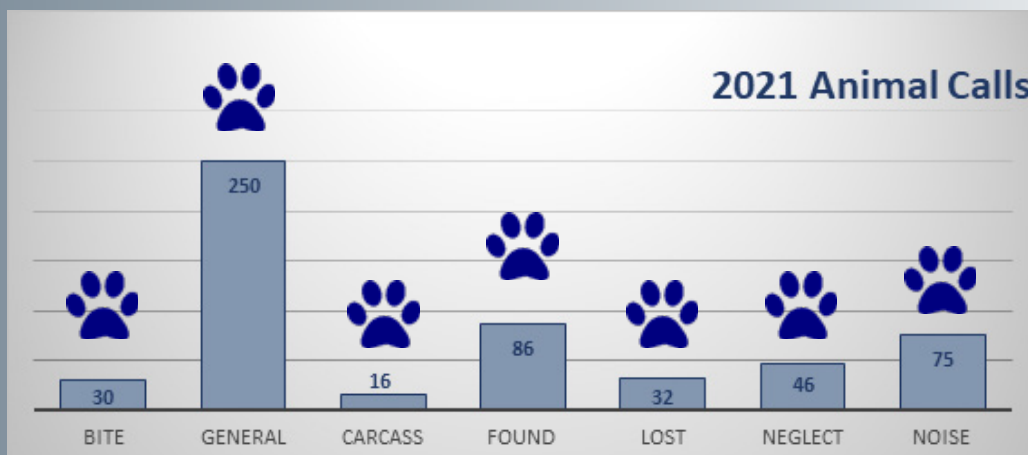
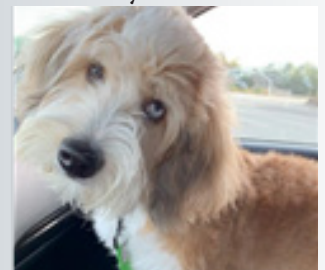
General calls can be anything animal related. It is used as a catch all for animal calls. Some examples: animals not on leashes, sick/injured raccoons or other wild creatures, noise, pets at large, etc.

The carcass category is not only for domesticated animals. The majority of the carcass calls involve wild animals such as deer, rabbits and raccoons.

Found and Lost are for when animals are found by officers or the public, and when a pet goes missing. Found animals are picked up by either our officers, or a member of the Street Department. Just call dispatch at (319) 356-6800 for someone to swing by and pick it up. If your furry family member goes missing, you can call the office at (319) 626-5724 and our records staff will take down all of your information. We also recommend using Nextdoor and Facebook to make a missing animal post. Facebook has a missing pets page that is tailored to the North Liberty area. You can also call the Cedar Valley Human Society at (319) 362-6288 to see if your pet was picked up.

Neglect is called in by concerned members of the community who witness a situation where they are concerned for the safety and well-being of an animal.

The noise category is exactly what it is...animal noise. In the code of ordinances, any animal that barks, bays, cries, howls, or emits any other noise continuously for a period of ten (10) minutes or barks intermittently for thirty (30) minutes or more will be considered a nuisance. Failure to rectify the situation after multiple complaints can result in a municipal infraction from the City.



# Motor Vehicle Accidents

We saw the number of accident reports inch back to where they were prior to COVID. In 2021, the department handled 207 motor vehicle accidents compared to 207 in 2020. These accidents fell into six categories:

MVA/Aircraft (1)-This is a category we do not see or use often. It was used when one of our officers assisted with an aircraft crash north of the city.

MVA/Deer/Property (5)-We all know to watch for deer, but they are really good at surprising even the most attentive drivers. They also can cause a lot of damage to a vehicle. If we are not called to an accident involving a deer, you can always fill out the State's accident report and send it in on your own. The report can be found at: <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense/accidents>

MVA/Hit and Run PD (45)-This category is for when someone runs into another vehicle, causes damage, then drives off without leaving their information.

MVA/Personal Injury (19)-When the reporting party indicates they, or another party has been injured. This injury could be minor, or severe.

MVA/Property Damage (189)-If an accident is estimated to be under \$1500 in damages, an information exchange and log entry are completed. If over \$1500, a full state accident report is filled out by the officers. Once the report is completed, it is sent electronically to the State.

MVA/Unknown Injury (11)-Unlike the personal injury category, this classification is when there may be an injury associated with the traffic accident.

## Tips for when you are in an accident

1. Call the police. Even if the accident does not fulfill the requirements for a full report, a call for service will be created. It is also in your best interest to call in case the other party has any restrictions on their driving.
2. If you can move your car safely off the road, then do so to avoid a secondary collision
3. Have your insurance information and license ready
4. Take pictures for your records
5. Obtain a copy of the information exchange. This can be either from the other party, or from the officer. Your insurance company will need this when processing your claim.
6. Have your insurance company reach out for a copy of the report



### Did You Know.....

Accident reports are protected by state law? Reports can only be given to the parties involved in the accident, their insurance company, or an attorney acting on behalf of an involved party

# Traffic Stops

In 2021, the police department conducted 3,293 traffic stops. Of those stops, 582 (17%) resulted in the driver receiving a citation, or multiple citations. Officers wrote 815 citations for traffic violations last year. The main goal of a traffic stop is to change driving behavior and stop public safety threats. The top violations are:



**Speeding**-The largest number of traffic stops and citations involve individuals speeding. In 2021 officers wrote 473 citations for speed violations. This is an increase from 2020 where we only issued 213. The increase was not a surprise since less people were driving in 2020 due to COVID. Tickets for speeding are often written for less than the actual registered speed. For example, someone going 10 over may only be cited for 5 over.

Below is the breakdown of the speeds and how many citations were issued

1-5 over the limit: 248  
6-10 over the limit: 174  
11-15 over the limit: 28  
16-20 over the limit: 14  
20 Over the limit: 9

The highest recorded speed in town for 2021 was:

- A. 68
- B. 53
- C. 79
- D. 84

**Registration Violation**-Violations in this category can come from someone using another vehicle's registration, not registering your vehicle in the county where you establish residency, or simply not paying the renewal fees.

**Driving while Suspended**-Suspension occurs when a court fine is more than 60 days past due. If you receive a citation for driving suspended, a conviction can result in a fine of \$1,500 and up to a year in jail. It may also cause the length of your suspension to be doubled for certain convictions.

**Failure to Stop in Assured Clear Distance**-This citation is issued when there is an accident. There is no scheduled fee with this violation, so the person receiving the citation must appear in court.

**No Insurance** -Not carrying insurance on your vehicle has serious consequences. The scheduled fine for not having insurance is \$428.75. That jumps to \$796.75 if you are involved in an accident and do not have insurance. To avoid any doubt that you have insurance, you should always carry your insurance card, or have a copy of it on your phone.

**Driver's License Violations**-Driving with an expired license, one that needs updated, or not having one at all can result in a citation. If your license is expired, you have 60 days to get it renewed. After that period, you can be ticketed. If it is expired by a year or more, you will be required to take the written and driving exams.

**Stop Sign and Traffic Signal Violations**-Not stopping at either a stop sign, or traffic signal.

School Bus Violations-The department saw a large increase in the number of bus violations that came in from the bus drivers. 23 citations were issued to drivers for passing school buses that were stopped with their lights on. The consequences for passing a stopped school bus are:

- 1st Offense: Fine of at least \$250, but no more than \$675  
The court may order jail time not exceed 30 days in lieu, or addition to a fine  
Suspension for 30 days
- 2nd Offense: Fine of at least \$315, but no more than \$1,875  
The court may order jail time not to exceed one year  
Suspension for 90 days
- 3rd Offense: Fine of at least \$315, but no more than \$1,875  
The court may order jail time not to exceed one year  
Suspension for 180 days



It can be confusing when approaching a stopped bus, but it is very important to know the laws. We recommend visiting the following website to brush up on what to do if you come across a stopped bus.

<https://iowadot.gov/schoolbus/highway-safety/requiredstopping>

Other Violations-These are violations where the number of citations are considerably less than the violations listed above.

Careless/Reckless Driving	9	Minor Using Tobacco	1
Damage to Vehicle	1	No Seat Belt	1
Driving on Wrong Side of Highway	3	Open Container	3
Failure to Yield to Emergency Vehicle	1	Passing Contrary to Highway Sign	5
Failure to Yield Upon Entering Highway	7	Spilling Load on Highway	1
Failure to Yield Upon Left Turn	1	Stopping, Standing, Parking Prohibited	1
Failure to Deliver Title	1	Striking Unattended Vehicle	5
Failure to Maintain Control	7	Turning at Intersection Violation	2
Failure to Use Child Restraint	1	Unsafe Approach to Certain Vehicles	3
Failure to Use Headlamps	1	Unsafe Backing on Highway	1
Failure to Yield to Passing Vehicle	1	Unsafe Entry to Sidewalk/Roadway	2
Improper Lane Change	1	Use of Electronic Communication Device	3
Improper Use of Lanes	4	Violation One-Way Traffic	1
Fail to Leave Info at Accident	1		

Have a citation you need to pay? Below are two ways make a payment, or make arrangements for payment.

<https://www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/ESAWebApp//DefaultFrame>

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/county-attorney/unpaid-court-fines>



# Parking Tickets

Officers issued two hundred and eighty-nine (289) parking tickets in 2021. Twelve of those tickets had multiple violations for a total of three hundred and one (301) violations. The number of issued tickets was lower than the last two years. This decrease can be attributed to the fact that we did not see a large amount of snow over the year.

**Snow Emergency**-This category is consistently the bulk of our tickets every year. For those who are unfamiliar with the City's snow emergency policy, there are two ways they can be declared.

1. A snow emergency automatically goes into effect if the total accumulation of snow is two (2) inches
2. The mayor can declare one if the forecast calls for significant snow, sleet, or freezing rain

Our department will not begin ticketing vehicles until the declaration has been in effect for two (2) hours. We do this so owners have time to remove their vehicles from the street.

**Sign Prohibits Parking**-There are certain streets where parking is not allowed, or only allowed on certain days. These streets will have signs saying if there are any restrictions. If you ever have any questions on a street's status, you are always welcome to call our office for assistance.

**Left Wheel to Curb**-This is not just a North Liberty ordinance. It is illegal to park with your left wheel next to the curb, unless you are on a one-way street everywhere. We often get questions about this violation and why it is enforced. The reason being, the driver enters oncoming traffic when parking and leaving the parking spot.

**5' From Fire Hydrant**-We saw a 66% increase in the number of tickets issued for individuals parking in front of fire hydrants. It is important to be mindful of the hydrants so the fire department can reach them quickly in case of an emergency.

**Trailer Parking**-Parking of trailers is not allowed on the street until it is connected to a truck and/or actively working at a site.

**Blocking Sidewalk**-Parking across the sidewalk is an inconvenience for those trying to walk on the sidewalks. We often receive reports of kids having to walk into the street to avoid parked cars. This is dangerous for the kids and can lead to a serious accident.

**Disabilities Parking**-Parking in these spots require a placard, or a plate marked with the handicap logo. The fine for this violation is set by the state and is currently \$200.

**Expired/No Registration**-Vehicles that are not currently registered are not allowed to be on public streets

**Storage Over 48 Hours**-Vehicles parked on the street have to move every 48 hours. This is the violation we receive the most calls on from the community

Snow Emergency	176
Sign Prohibits Parking	49
Left Wheel to Curb	31
5' From Fire Hydrant	20
Trailer	9
Blocking Sidewalk	4
Disabilities Parking	4
Expired/No Registration	3
Storage Over 48 Hours	3
Parking in Circle	1
20' From Mailbox	1
Total	301

Parking in Circle-This violation occurs when drivers park in the cul-de-sacs in town. Parking in the circle makes it difficult for drivers to maneuver the circle.

20' From Mailbox-Parking in front of a mailbox creates a problem for the homeowner the box is in front of, and the postal workers. The mail carriers are unable to deliver mail if there is a car parked in front of a mailbox.

## Appealing Tickets

If you receive a ticket and feel that it was not justified, you can appeal the ticket by filling out some paperwork. You can request an appeal form from our records staff at [records@northlibertyiowa.org](mailto:records@northlibertyiowa.org). This form does not guarantee the ticket will be waived. Below is the procedure for the appeal form.

1. Fill out the sheet and send it back to records. This can be done via email, mailing it to the office, or dropping it off during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 7AM to 4:30PM)
2. The staff looks to see if a ticket has been issued to the vehicle in the past and/or the owner has appealed the same violation.
3. The appeal form is sent to the City Administrator for his decision on the matter.
4. The form comes back to the records department for notification of the decision.

## Unpaid Fees

We know there are times when things get misplaced. If you believe you have an outstanding ticket, you can call the records department and they can look it up in the database. If you choose to disregard the tickets you receive, please know there is a possible consequence in the City's code of ordinances. When a vehicle accumulates two or more unpaid parking tickets and fail to pay them within thirty (30) days, the vehicle can be impounded by the officers. If the vehicle is impounded, the owner/driver of the vehicle is responsible for the reasonable cost of towing and storage.

## Resources

To find out when a snow emergency is declared we recommend following the following:

Website: <https://northlibertyiowa.org>

Twitter: @northliberty

Facebook: North Liberty City Government

Local News Stations-Will run along the bottom of programming

Nextdoor

To view the North Liberty Code of Ordinances:

[https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/northliberty/latest/northliberty\\_ia/0-0-0-1](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/northliberty/latest/northliberty_ia/0-0-0-1)

True or False

If a parking ticket is not paid within 30 days  
the fee increases by \$5

# Incident Reports

Once again, we saw the number of reports being lower than what we typically saw pre-pandemic. Incident reports are created when a call for service requires more information to be documented, the call leads to an investigation, or an arrest is made. We track our incidents monthly by categorizing them into three types of reports.

**Persons-** Reports that involve crimes that are committed against a person

*Example:* A husband and wife begin to argue when things turn physical. The offense on the report, and charge that was filed is domestic abuse assault.

*Reason:* Since the crime was committed to the spouse (a person), the report would be categorized under persons.

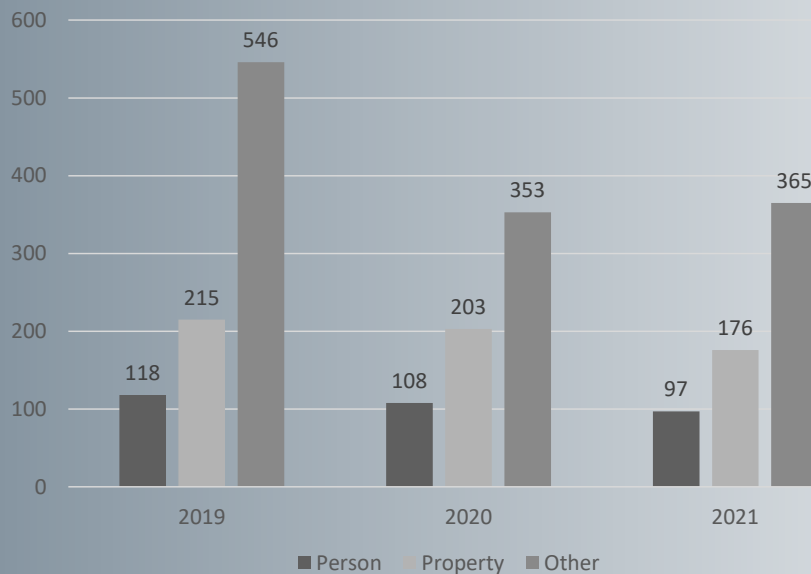
**Property-** Reports when property is involved in the crime/offense

*Example:* A debit card is taken from a vehicle and used at a convenience store to purchase a bag of chips and a soft drink. The offenses are theft from a motor vehicle and theft 5th.

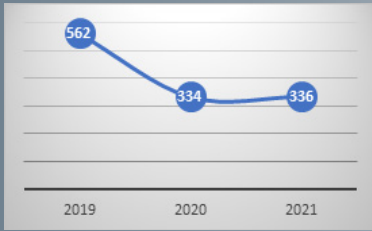
*Reason:* Even though it was a person who had their card taken, it was taken from their vehicle and used at the store. The person was not there for the theft of the card. However, lets say someone brandished a weapon to the card owner and demanded their card, then it goes from a property crime to a persons crime.

**Other-** These reports are for any other type of offense or call

*Example:* A driver is pulled over and in view, there are drugs and drug paraphernalia. The offenses would be a controlled substance violation, and a drug paraphernalia violation. Since the victim of the crime is neither a person or property, it is placed in the other category.



# Arrests



Just like with the incident reports, we saw a lower number of individuals arrested than prior to the pandemic. In 2021 the department arrested 336 individuals. This was down from 2019, but up two from 2020. Of those arrested, four hundred and ninety offenses (490) were recorded for the year. Those arrests fell into sixty-five (65) categories. Below are the top arrest categories for 2021.

## Top 10 Arrests Categories


Possession of a Controlled Substance	77
OWI (1st, 2nd and 3rd Combined)	53
Warrants	47
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	39
Domestic Abuse Assault	38
No Contact Order Violation	31
Public Intoxication	19
Driving While Barred	17
Driving While Revoked	15
Interference with Official Acts	13

When we prepare the monthly report, we take these categories and narrow them down to four types of charges. These types are the same three as the incident reports, with the addition of a drugs and alcohol.

Persons Charges	70
Property Charges	43
Drugs/Alcohol	197
Other	178

Each of these charges have a NIBRS code attached to them for reporting to the FBI. NIBRS stands for the National Incident Based Reporting System. Reporting offenses is very important because it impacts applying for grants. In 2021, the state migrated to a new repository in order to be in compliance with the FBI's requirements. For those departments that submit data, the change means we can be for sure confident that the data we provide is more accurate than before.

The move to the new system did not come without challenges. Our records management system had to undergo a lot of changes and the company who owns the software had strict deadlines that needed to be met. We are excited for these changes and because of them, we will be able to put out more reliable data to the members of our community. We will also be able to produce data on our own (see chart below), instead of waiting for a report from the State.



### Agency Monthly Tracker : 2021

Page 1 of 1

- Total Number of Group A and Group B Incidents

- Low Submission of Incidents (<70% of Previous year's average submissions.)

- No Incidents Submitted

\* - NIBRS Zero Report

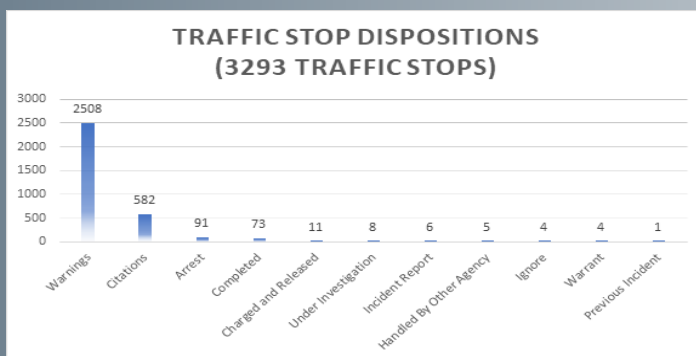
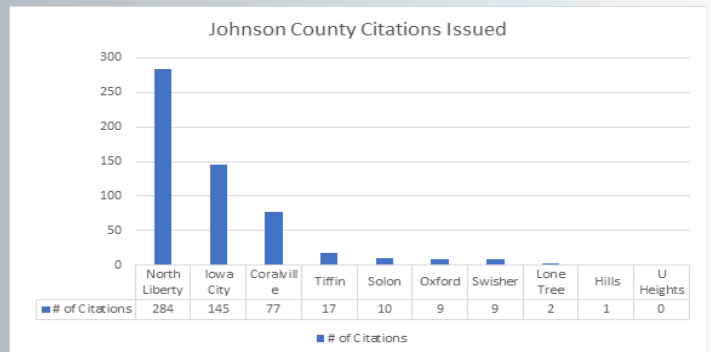
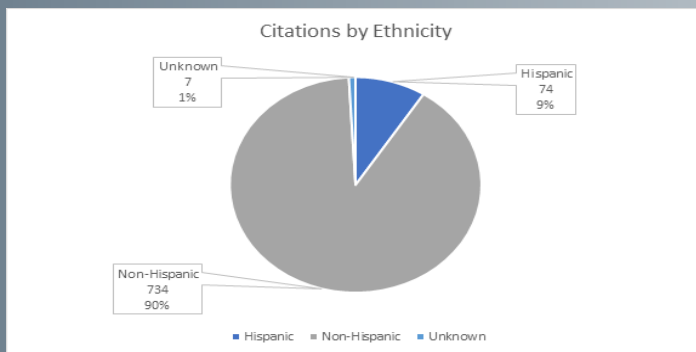
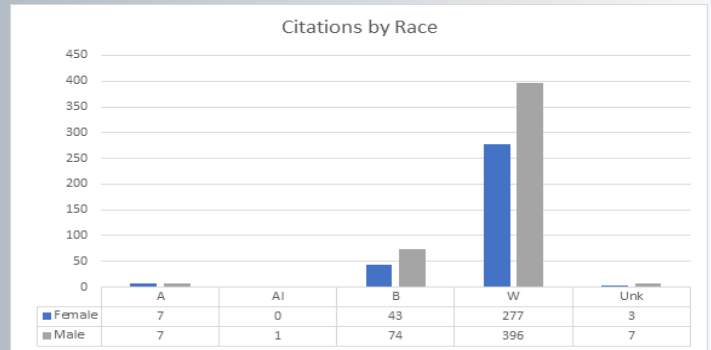
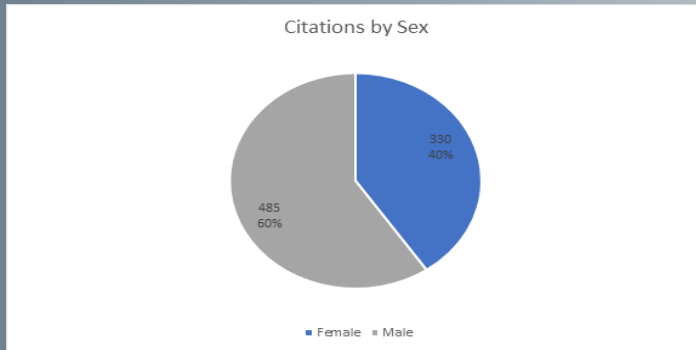
Agency	ORI	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
NORTH LIBERTY POLICE DEPARTMENT	IA0520500	35	35	35	48	29	50	33	34	46	31	23	38	437
Total		35	35	35	48	29	50	33	34	46	31	23	38	437



# Statistics

Below you will find the breakdown of citations and arrests. Both categories are broken down by race, sex, ethnicity and age. \*\*A quick disclaimer, the ethnicity numbers, while are close, are not concrete. Unfortunately, that field is not always filled out, or is unknown, which makes compiling the exact number very difficult. \*\*

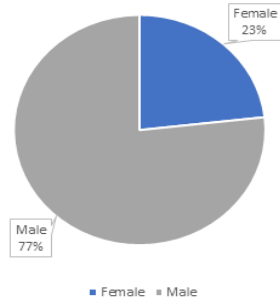
## Citations



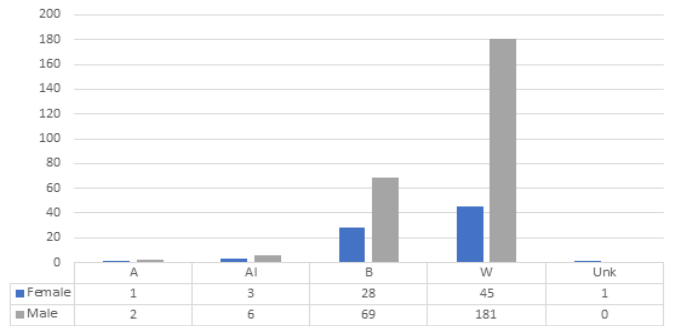
Top 5 Cities for Citations  
(Outside North Liberty)  
Iowa City-145  
Cedar Rapids-88  
Coralville-77  
Tiffin-17  
Marion-13

# Arrests

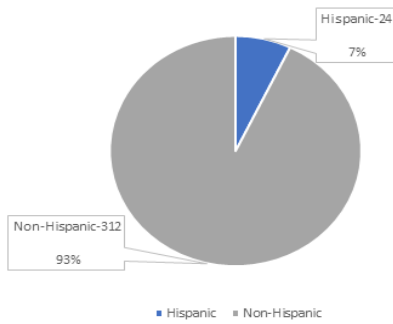
Arrests by Sex



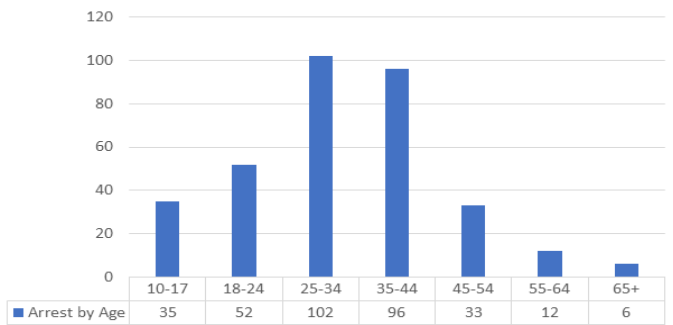
Arrests by Race



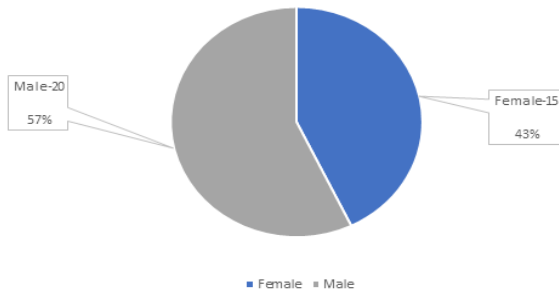
Arrests by Ethnicity



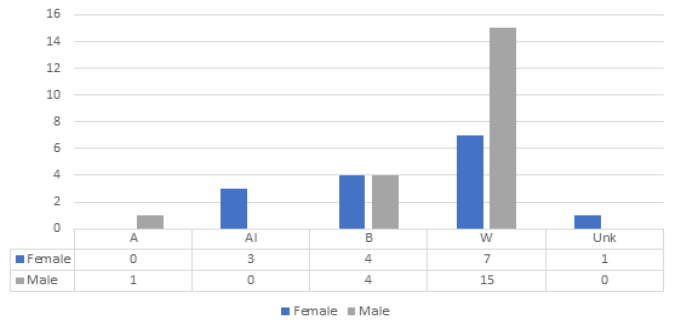
Arrest by Age



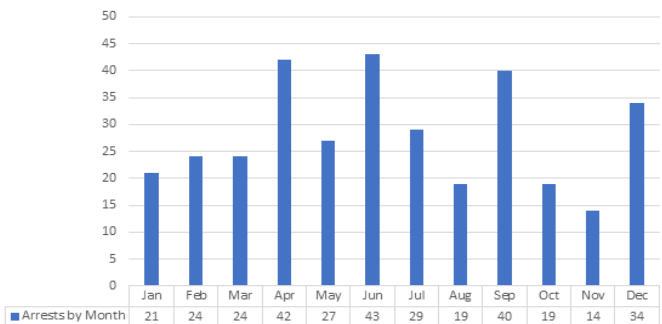
Juvenile Arrests by Sex



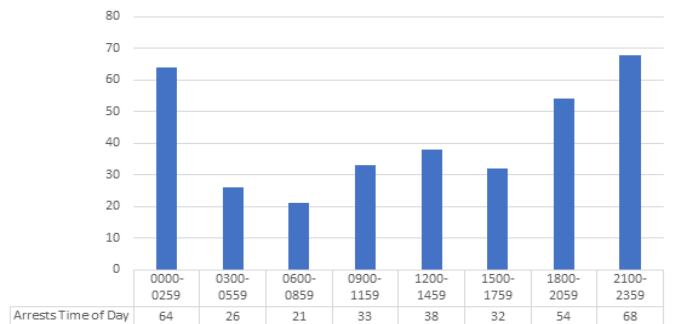
Juveniles by Sex and Race



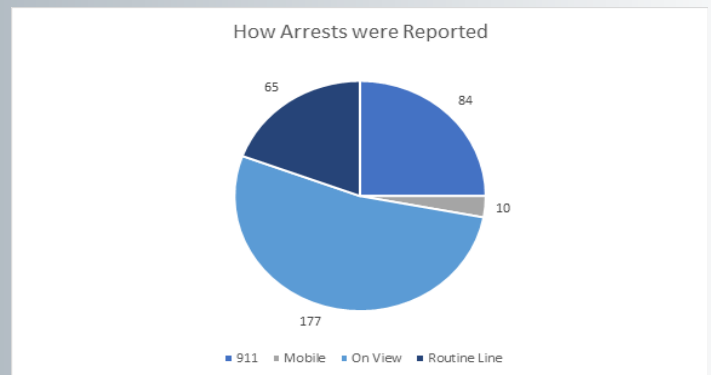
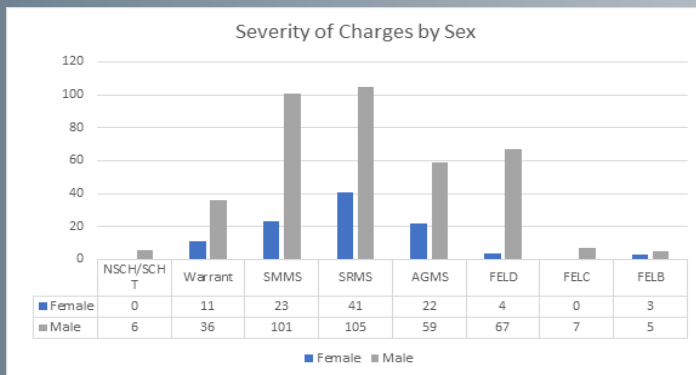
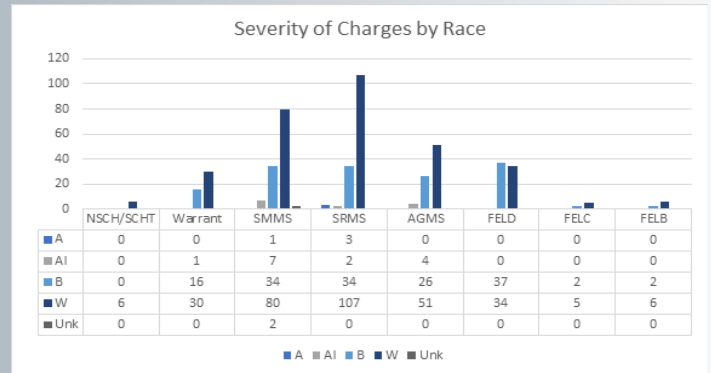
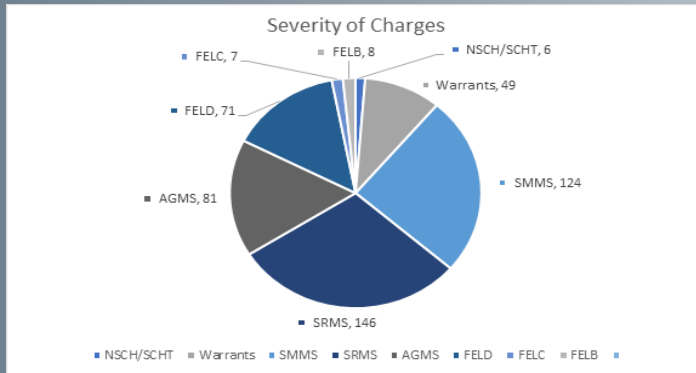
Arrests by Month



Arrests Time of Day

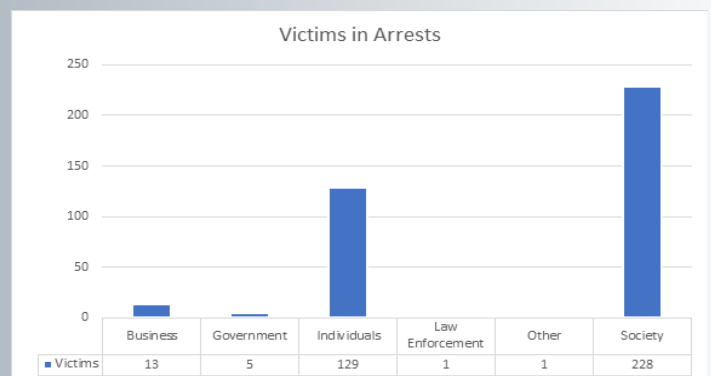


# Arrests Cont....



Of the one hundred twenty nine individuals who were listed as victims in the arrest reports, only 15 victims did not have a relationship with the arrestee, meaning they did not know each other. These individuals were the victim of either an attempted burglary or burglary of a vehicle.

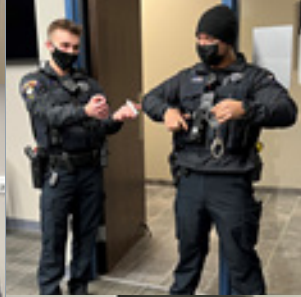
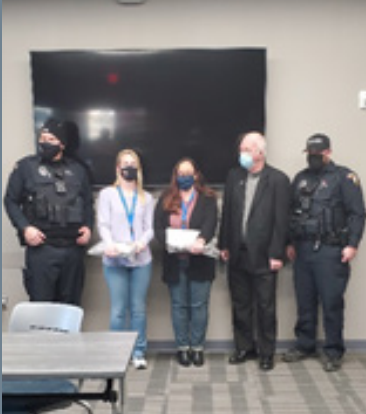
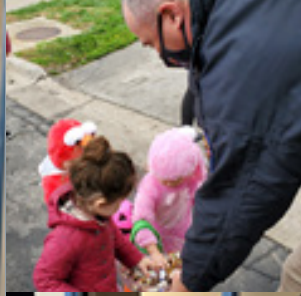
Society means that the crime does not have a specific victim. Some examples of these crimes are drug and alcohol offenses, driving while revoked or barred, OWI, warrants, public intoxic, etc.



To view crime in counties throughout the state, please visit the Iowa Department of Public Safety's site at: <https://icrime.dps.state.ia.us/CrimeInIowa>

# NLPD Year in Pictures





# How to Keep up with the PD



## Joint Emergency Communications Center (JECC)

[www.jecc-ema.org](http://www.jecc-ema.org)

Have you ever heard a siren and wondered what was going on? If you head to the website above, you will find a list of calls that have been called into the Joint Emergency Communications Center (JECC). All dispatched calls come from JECC which is located in Iowa City. The call list is not in real time, but calls from the various agencies in the county will be listed. Speaking of JECC, if you ever find yourself in need of an officer, you can call (319) 356-6800 and one will be dispatched to your location. This number is a non-emergency number that is good for all of Johnson County. We highly recommend individuals put it in their cell phone for future use.



## Twitter

Handle: @northlibertyPD

Our Twitter account is used to inform the public of things that happen in the department, scams that are going on in the area, and items we need the public to help us with. Please note that the account is not monitored 24/7 so if you need to speak to an officer, or make the department aware of a situation, please call the JECC at the number above.



## LexisNexis Crime Map

<https://communitycrimemap.com/>

This map can tell you the approximate locations where incident reports have been filed. It will not give you the exact address, but a general area of where a crime was reported. This tool will give residents an idea of what crimes have happened in their neighborhood and throughout the city.



## NextDoor

<https://nextdoor.com>

For those unfamiliar with the site, members can post items they believe would be of interest to others in the community. The police department began using the site a couple of years ago to educate the members on various law enforcement topics and safety concerns. Our administrator for the site is Officer Rockafellow and he is more than happy to answer any questions you may have. As in our Twitter account, the site is not monitored 24/7 so any requests for an officer, or the filing of complaints need to be called in to JECC.



## Johnson County Sheriff

<https://ww1.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/Sheriff/jailroster>

<https://ww1.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/Sheriff/complaints/list>

The links above are the public information for arrests that happen in Johnson County. The first one is the jail roster and the other is a list of complaints. The complaints will give you the defendant's information, the crime, and a brief description of the crime.