



PROTECTORS OF THE PEAK

APEX POLICE DEPARTMENT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION



In the pages that follow, we will provide an overview of our agency and the hard work of our staff during the course of 2021. As you will read, we have faced challenges with changes in leadership, growth, and continued COVID restrictions.

During the year, both the Town of Apex and the department had changes in leadership. The department started the year off with Interim Police Chief Tony Godwin following the retirement of Chief John Letteney in December 2020. A new Town Manager, Catherine Crosby was appointed in June and in August, I was appointed the department's new Chief of Police.

Apex continues to grow at a rapid rate. The Apex Police Department has grown as well, but we are not where we need to be. Due to budgetary constraints and needed growth in all town departments, we have not had the opportunity to add police officer positions since 2018.

Despite the challenges, our staff worked hard to provide our community the high-level of law enforcement services to which they are accustomed. Our overall crime rate fell by 6.25% and we experienced a decline in calls for police services. However, as employers

welcomed their staff back to work, we experienced a 31% increase vehicle crashes.

We continue to work on enhancing our public trust. In this report, you will find the statistics for all the traffic stops conducted in 2021, as well as our complaint and Use of Force data. Our Body-Worn Camera program has been fully implemented and we have found the videos to be a valuable tool when investigating community and internal complaints. We are working toward hiring civilian personnel to lead the Professional Standards function, to avoid the perception that internal complaint investigations are biased when conducted by fellow officers.

COVID once again prevented us from holding many of our in-person events. However, our staff continued to put community outreach and education at the forefront of our operations. We continue to look for new ways to reach everyone in our community and celebrate the diversity that makes Apex the Peak of Good Living.



MISSION

Through our every action, we enhance the quality of life by providing exceptional public service while respecting the rights and dignity of all people.

VISION

The dedicated professionals of the Apex Police Department will strive to be a benchmark of law enforcement excellence through our innovative problem solving efforts and tireless pursuit of personal and organizational improvement as we foster public trust.

VALUES

Professionalism:

We are open, honest, and forthcoming in our words and actions. We treat everyone with dignity, respect, and fairness regardless of individual background. Our appearance, demeanor, and bearing exemplify the highest standards in modern law enforcement.

Excellence:

We pledge to challenge ourselves in achieving the very best results in everything we do. We provide exceptional public service in a polite and responsive manner that surpasses all public expectations. We will continue to maintain or exceed national accreditation standards.

Awareness:

Through our vigilance, we remain aware of our surroundings and the needs of the public. We are ready for action and are prepared to successfully resolve any situation. We anticipate changes and view challenges as opportunities.

Knowledge:

We are innovative problem solvers in an ever-changing world. We apply cognitive thinking to address community concerns by applying the skills gained through education. We invest heavily in the growth and development of our employees as our greatest asset.

Protectors of the PEAK

Organization

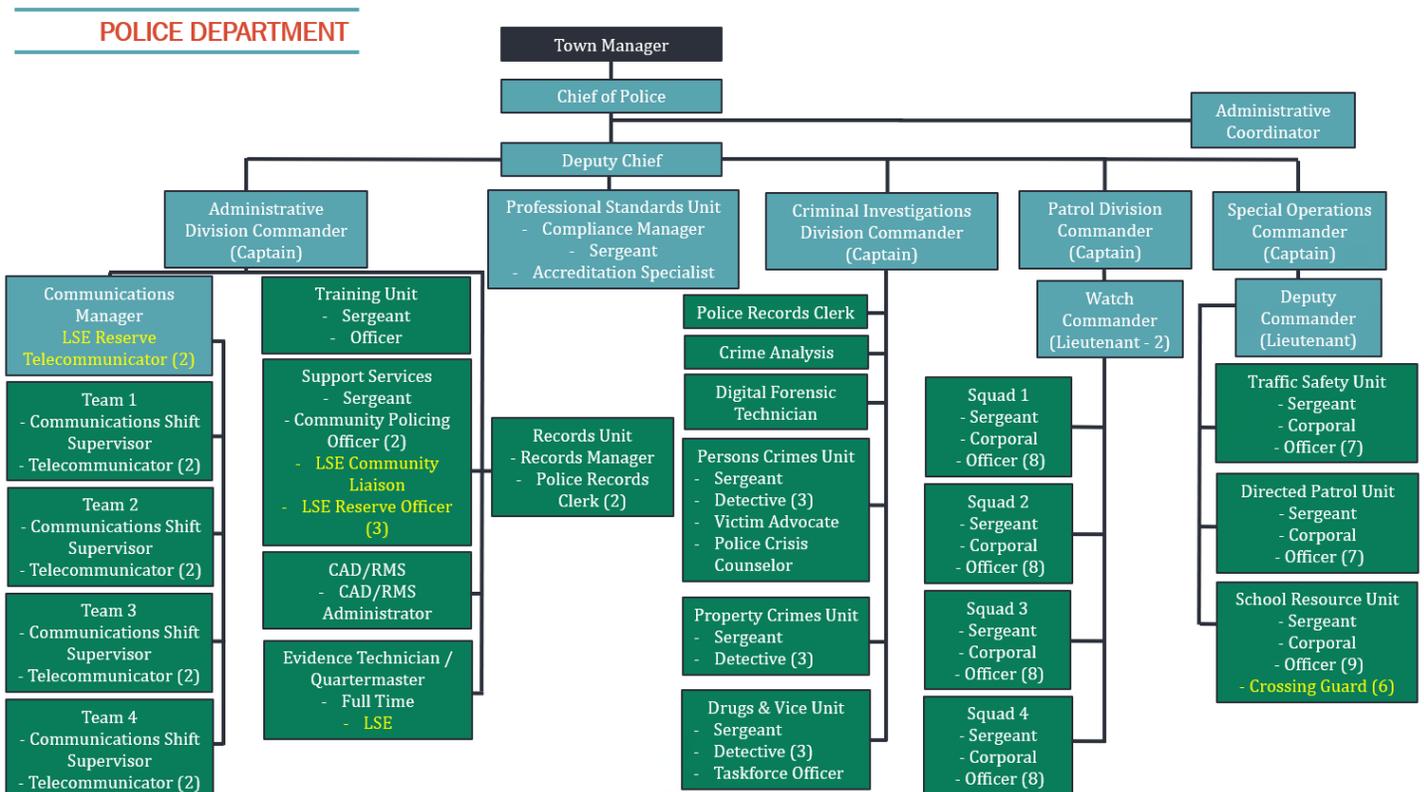
Overview

According to the Town of Apex Development Report (December 31, 2021), the population in Apex grew to an estimated 71,988 residents in 2021. The department added four civilian positions to provide support to our sworn officers.

As of December 2021, the department was comprised of the Office of the Chief of Police and three divisions. The Administrative Division supports our staff, citizens, businesses, and visitors in a variety of ways. The Patrol Division executes law enforcement objectives through preventative patrol, active enforcement of criminal and traffic laws, and provides emergency assistance to the community. The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) conducts criminal follow-up investigations

and initiates investigations involving vice, drugs, gangs, cyber crime, organized crime, and other criminal activities and threats. More information regarding how each works toward the overall mission of the department and keeping Apex the Peak of Good Living can be found on our website and Facebook page.

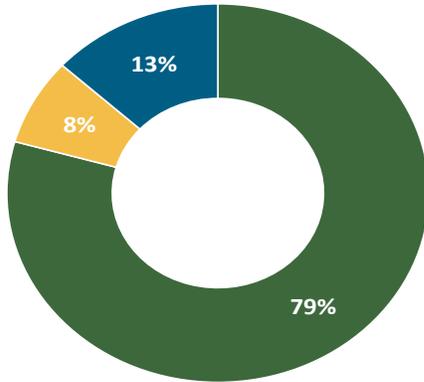
A copy of our organizational chart is below detailing the funded positions and their assignment within the department. Keep your eyes out for our 2022 Annual Report which will include our re-organizational efforts to enhance professionalism, efficiency, accountability and community services.



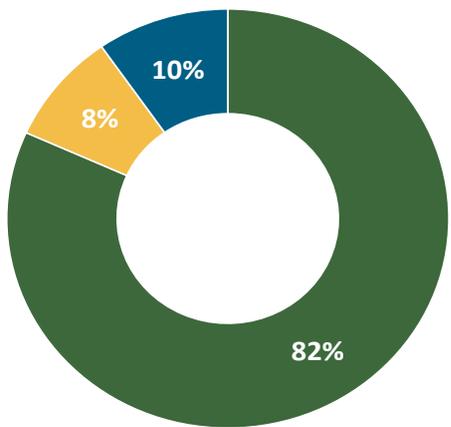
Personnel

Town of Apex Demographics

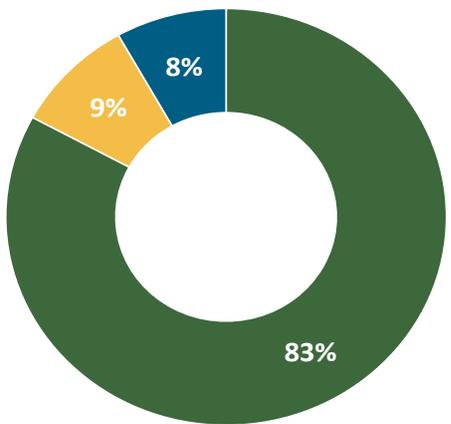
■ Caucasian ■ African-American ■ Other/Unknown



Sworn Demographics



All Staff Demographics



Note: Town of Apex Demographics from census.gov

96

**Police Officers
+3 Reserve**

16

Civilian Support Staff

13

**Telecommunicators
+3 Reserve**

9

**Limited Service
Employees**

**Chief Jason Armstrong
appointed Chief of Police**

New Positions

- Police Crisis Counselor
- Digital Forensics Technician
- Professional Standards Compliance Manager
- CAD & RMS Administrator

Recruitment

New Hire Highlights

- Hired 7-Police Officers (including new Police Chief Jason Armstrong), 2-Telecommunicators, and 2-School Crossing Guards
- Educations: 1-Master's Degree, 4-Bachelor's Degrees, 1-Associate's Degree
- Police Officers had approximately 33 years of prior law enforcement experience
- One military veteran

Employee Separations

- Police Officers: 8
- Telecommunicators: 2
- School Crossing Guards: 3



Recruitment Highlights

- Received 99 applications for Police Officer positions
- Continue to recruit from Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Programs at local community colleges
- Participated in Triangle J Recruitment Campaign
- Attended area college/university career fairs
- Increased advertising vacancies: International Association of Chiefs of Police, LinkedIn, Facebook, and National Minority Update

Communications Center Calls & Calls for Service

37,514 phone calls answered by the Communications Center

97.74% of all calls are answered within 10 seconds

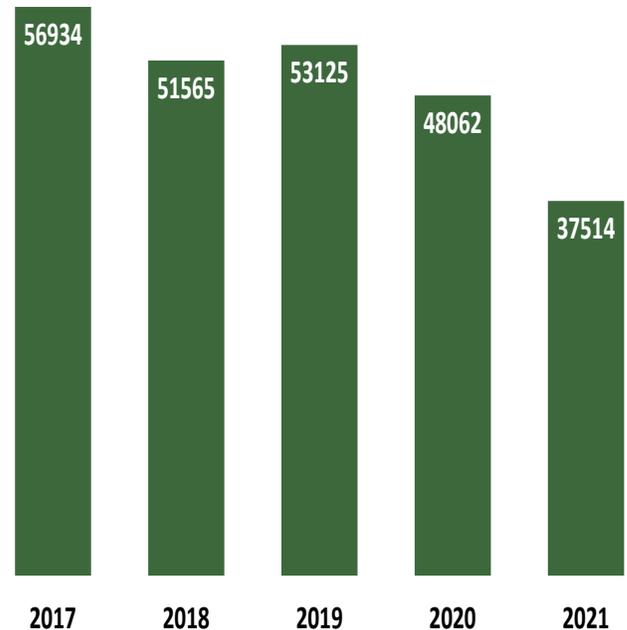
28.12% decrease in calls to our Communications Center in 2021

Calls for Service (CFS)

Dispatched Calls for Service are incidents officers respond to after a call has been placed to the Communications Center.

Self-Initiated Calls for Service are incidents officers observe in the field and/or take actions upon without a call to the Communications Center.

Total Communications Center Calls



63,386 total CFS in 2021

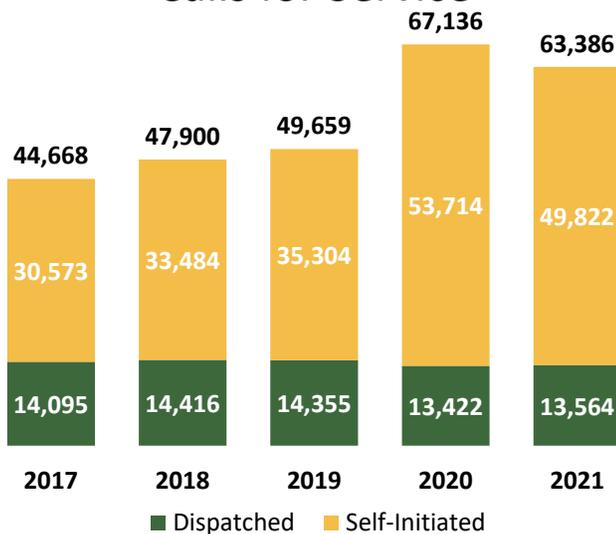
1.06% increase in Dispatched CFS

7.25% decrease in Self-Initiated CFS

5.59% decrease in Total CFS in 2021

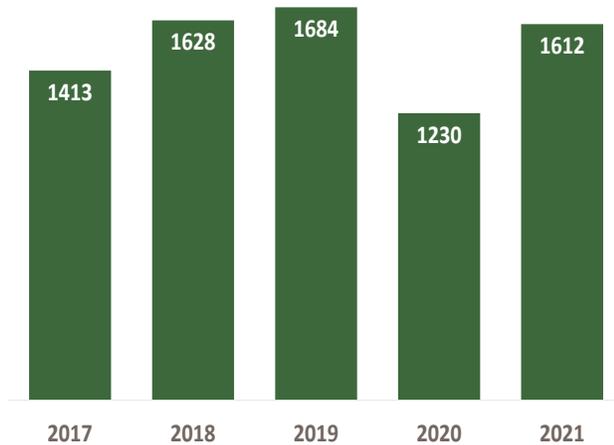
41.9% increase in Total CFS in the last 5 years

Calls for Service



Crash Data

Crash Reports



1,612 crash reports taken in 2021

31.06% annual increase in crash reports

12.34% 5-year increase in crash reports

Other Highlights

- 219 serious injury crashes
- 13 crashes involved pedestrians/ bicycles
- 1 fatality crash
- 109 DWI arrests made

Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) Enforcement Efforts

- Addressed 227 traffic complaints
- Distributed Monthly Traffic Safety Video on social media
- Conducted 9 BikeSafe NC sessions
- Participated in Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) traffic enforcement initiatives
- Conducted 11 MADD's Power of the Youth sessions, sharing the consequences of underage drinking with 736 high school students
- Partnered with Amtrack and participated in Operation Clear Track to share information regarding railroad safety with motorists and pedestrians
- Participated in the Watch for Me NC Program, educating motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians about roadway safety for bicyclists and pedestrians



- Partnered with other law enforcement agencies within Wake County and participated in 13 multi-agency traffic enforcement initiatives

Traffic Stop Enforcement

EDUCATION NOT PUNISHMENT

29.58%
45.85%
18.44%
0.76%

decrease in traffic stops

decrease in citations issued

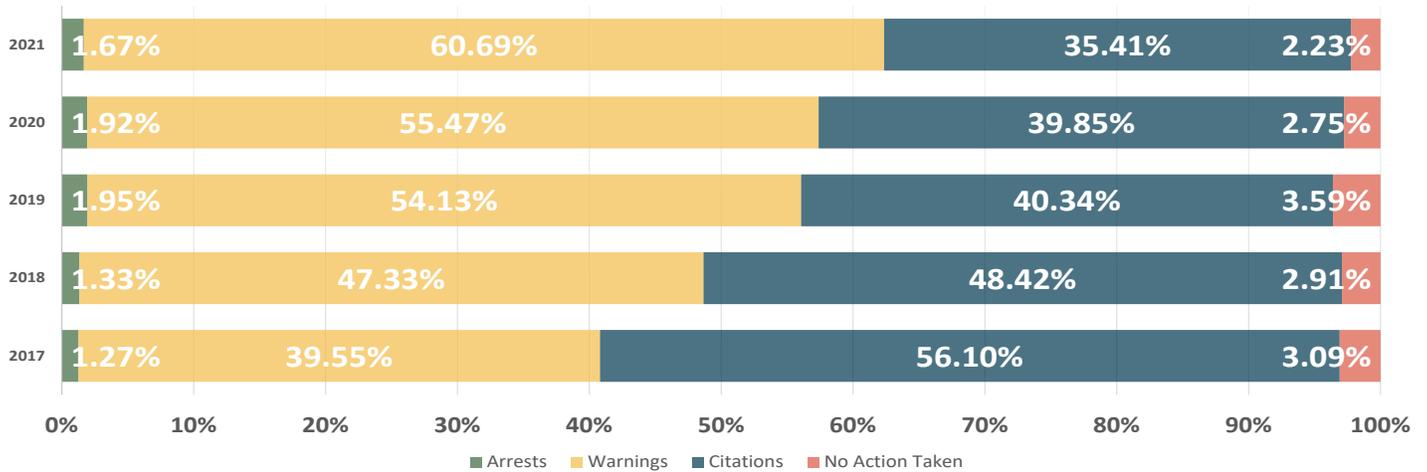
decrease in warnings

overall increase in traffic stops in the last 5 years

2021 Statistics

Total Traffic Stops: 11,359
Arrests: 190
Citations: 4,022
Warnings: 6,894
No Action Taken: 253

Traffic Stop Enforcement Actions



Crime Statistics

PART I CRIMES

↓ **12.87%**

PART II CRIMES

↓ **3.21%**

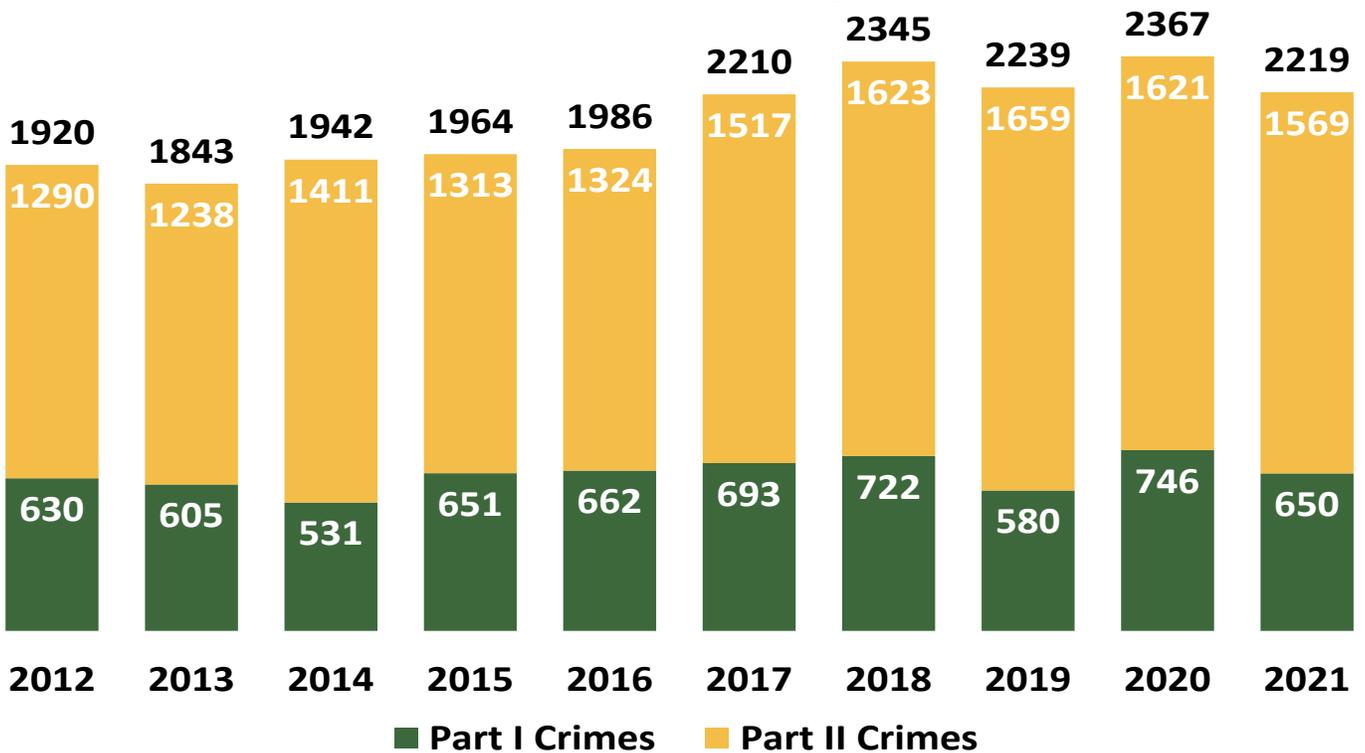
TOTAL CRIME

↓ **6.25%**

Part I Crimes include the following crimes: murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Part II Crimes include all other crimes not categorized as Part I.

10 Year Offenses by Year



Year-to-Date Offenses			
Part I Offenses	1/1/2021-12/31/2021	1/1/2020-12/31/2020	Reported % Change
	Reported Offenses	Reported Offenses	
Criminal Homicide	0	1	-100%
Rape*	7	7	0%
Robbery	8	3	167%
Aggravated Assault	22	23	-4%
Total Violent	37	34	9%
Arson	4	2	100%
Burglary	55	93	-41%
Larceny	528	599	-12%
Motor Vehicle Theft	26	18	44%
Total Property	613	712	-14%
Total Part I	650	746	-13%

Part II Offenses	1/1/2021-12/31/2021	1/1/2020-12/31/2020	Reported % Change
	Reported Offenses	Reported Offenses	
Other Assaults	264	266	-1%
Forgery	16	11	45%
Fraud	321	244	32%
Embezzlement	14	9	56%
Extortion/Blackmail	12	6	100%
Stolen Property	20	22	-9%
Damage to Property	131	190	-31%
Weapons	37	37	0%
Prostitution	3	1	200%
Sex Offenses	21	19	11%
Pornography	21	21	0%
Kidnapping/Restraint	12	4	200%
Drugs	339	407	-17%
Gambling	0	1	-100%
Family Offenses	10	11	-9%
DWI	110	117	-6%
Liquor Law Violations	44	38	16%
Disorderly Conduct	16	8	100%
Human Trafficking	0	1	-100%
Trespass	25	30	-17%
Loiter/Vagrancy	0	1	-100%
Animal Cruelty	0	1	-100%
All Other	153	176	-13%
Total Part II	1569	1621	-3%

Note: N.C. denotes that the value is "not calculable" (it is not possible to divide by zero).

*Statutory rapes are categorized as Sex Offenses.

Complaints & Internal Investigations



28.57%

increase in Citizen Complaints
when compared to 2020



366.37%

decrease in Internal Complaints
when compared to 2020



Complaints & Internal Affairs Investigations			
	External	Internal	Total
Citizen/Directed Complaint	21	6	27
Sustained	4	3	7
Not Sustained	2	0	2
Unfounded	9	3	12
Exonerated	2	0	2
Not Provable	2	0	2
Misconduct Not Based on Original Complaint	0	0	0
Training Failure	0	1	1
Other	0	0	0
Pending	2	0	2

Use of Force Data

↑ 54.55%

increase in Uses of Force when compared to 2020

↑ 36.36%

increase in Uses of Force over last 4 years

4.02%

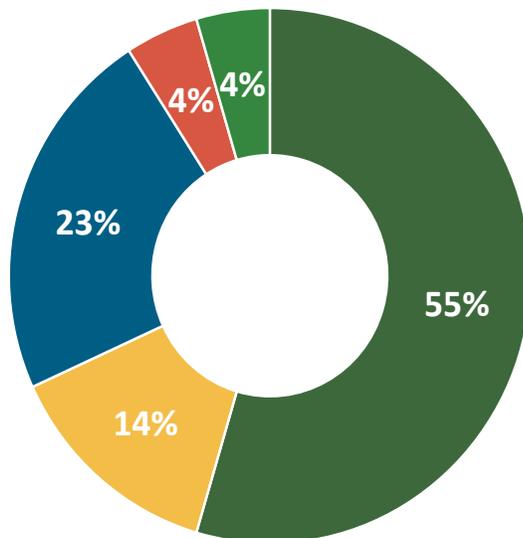
of arrests in 2021 resulted in a Use of Force

.03%

of CFS resulted in a Use of Force

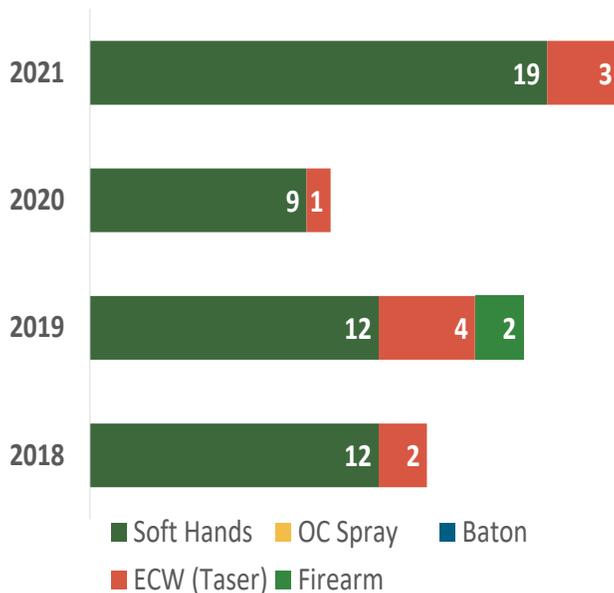


Uses of Force by Race & Gender



- White Male
- African-American Male
- White Female
- Indian Male
- Asian Male

Types of Force Used



Community Policing

Introduction

Building strong community partnerships is very important to the department. We participate in a number of initiatives which allow us to strengthen these relationships, develop critical resources to assist our community, and build public trust. Some of those initiative include:



Community Police Academy

A 10-session course introducing participants to the operations of the department. Sessions are presented by staff and cover the Communications Center, criminal investigations, criminal law and procedure, patrol operations traffic operations, traffic stops and DWI arrests, accreditation, and crime prevention. Graduates who are interested in volunteering in the community are eligible to become members of Citizens Assisting Police in Apex (CAPA). In 2021, we held a hybrid (in-person and virtual) course to allow all who were interested in attending, the opportunity regardless of their COVID risk group.

Citizens Assisting Police in Apex (CAPA)

A volunteer group made up of Apex residents who have completed the Community Police Academy and wish to support the department. Members volunteer at events such as DWI checking stations, Apex Night Out, Peak Day, Shred Day, Christmas with a Cop, and various other events hosted by the department. Our volunteers are an integral part of our strong community partnerships and successful community policing program.



Youth Enrichment Camps

Two week-long, summer camps for children among the ages of 11 through 14. The department's School Resource Officers facilitated the camps, with the goal of helping youth develop self-confidence and teamwork skills. The camp includes learning about law enforcement, solving crime, physical fitness, and incorporates a ropes course.



Community Policing

Apex Night Out

An event geared toward bringing the police and community together in order to interact in a positive atmosphere. Traditionally held in October, we were able to hold a scaled-back event in November as COVID restrictions relaxed.

Birthday Ride-Through

A small procession of officers rode through communities to say hello from afar and wish residents a “Happy Birthday” throughout the year, since COVID restrictions prevented several of our usual in-person events.

Internet Exchange Location

Understanding that people feel hesitant to give a stranger their home address or meet them in a random parking lot, we identified a need for an easily accessible, video-monitored, public location for our community to complete online transactions. You can find two dedicated Internet Exchange parking spaces which are under 24/7 video surveillance in our parking lot.

Shred Day

Events held in April and November where citizens bring documents with private and personally identifiable information for on-site destruction. The program helps prevent citizens from becoming victims of identity theft and reduces the number of reported fraud offenses. Between the two events, nearly 15 tons of paper was destroyed and 255 trees saved.



Prescription Drug Disposal

A secure box in the department’s lobby where citizens can turn in medications they no longer want or need. The program aids in preventing prescription drug abuse and protects the environment. During the year, the department collected approximately 660.1 pounds of medications for disposal.

Community Policing



Lock It or Lose It

A program designed to educate shoppers and residents of the importance of locking their vehicles and not leaving valuables inside. The goal is to deter motor vehicle break-ins, one of our community's most prevalent crimes. Bright signs are posted in shopping centers and at the entrances of communities; especially around the holiday season to remind drivers to *Lock It or Lose It*.

Other Initiatives

- Chaney's Champions
- Chief's Coin Program
- Thanksgiving Meal Give-Away



Christmas with a Cop

An annual event where officers, staff, volunteers, and their families shop with underprivileged children from the community. We were able to bring smiles to the faces of 35 children on Christmas day, thanks to the generosity of our community, staff and their families, and volunteers.



Special Olympics NC (SONC)

Each year the department joins other law enforcement agencies to raise funds for the Special Olympics NC. The program allows nearly 40,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities to compete in several sports competitions.

The department is also a participant in the NC Law Enforcement Torch Run (NCLETR) for Special Olympics. Each year before the Special Olympic Games begin in June, a group of departmental personnel run and carry the Flame of Hope through Apex to surrounding law enforcement agencies. In 2021, our staff carried the Flame of Hope through Apex to the Holly Springs Police Department at the town limits. We then continued to escort it through Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina, ending the journey at the Fuquay-Varina Police Department. Staff also took part in the final leg of the NCLETR in Raleigh on the opening day of the games.

Our efforts in 2021 resulted our department raising \$60,033.13 for SONC and raking 4th among all NC law enforcement agencies. Our fundraising events included:

- Publix Fundraiser Event
- Polar Plunge in Place
- Dunkin Donuts Fundraiser Event
- Cambridge Village Walk-a-thon
- Several Blood Connection Blood Drives
- WOD (Workout of the Day) for Inclusion
- A Day Behind [handle] Bars Motorcycle Rid
- APD Charity Golf Tournament
- Over the Edge Repelling Event



Staff Accolades

Law Enforcement Certifications

Intermediate

Officer Kathy Arata
Officer Carl Baker
Officer Scott Hawkins
Officer James Sites

Advanced

Officer Jeff Antonsen
Detective Lee Burns
Officer Bill Hotchkiss
Officer Larissa Kalinowski
Officer Paul Pope

Police Career Progression

Police Officer II

Officer Anthony Alvarez
Officer Daniel Anderson
Officer Carl Baker
Officer Jeanette Bell
Officer Nick Boyd
Officer Jackson Callahan
Officer Victoria Carter
Officer Evan Churchill
Officer Jayden Fairclough
Officer Abi Guevara
Officer Scott Hawkins
Officer Patric Magliocco
Officer Keenan McLaugherty
Officer Christopher McDowell
Officer Johnathan Spitzer
Officer Alex Trisano
Officer Bryan Watts

Master Officer

Officer Chris Corbett
Officer Hayden Foster
Officer Brad Meyers
Officer James Sites

Senior Officer

Officer Jeff Antonsen
Detective Lee Burns
Officer Bill Hotchkiss



Staff Accolades

Promotions

Corporal David Swope
Communications Shift Supervisor

Trish Warlow

Records Supervisor Susan Metz

Sergeant Joe Asmussen

Communications Manager Jim Neuhaus

Other Highlights

NCLETR Hall of Fame Award

Captain Joey Best

NC Auto Dealer's Association Hometown

Hero Award

Lieutenant Tom Parody

Administrative Officers Management Program

Graduate

Sergeant Deborah Hansen

Award of Excellence for Prevention of Underage
Drinking from Power of the Youth

Commission on Accreditation for Law
Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Reaccreditation

Peak City Pig Fest Rib Eating Contest Winners



Conclusion

The department saw a great deal of change in 2021. We began the year with Interim Police Chief Tony Godwin, who led the department through a reaccreditation process. After a thorough review of our policies and procedures, the department received reaccreditation from CALEA.

In June, the Town of Apex welcomed a new Town Manager, Catherine Crosby. Shortly thereafter in August, Interim Chief Godwin passed the reins of the department on to Chief Jason Armstrong.

As our new leadership continues to acclimate and identify ways for improvement, we can expect more changes on the horizon. We have identified the need for some reorganization within the department as well as the need to reclassify a couple of vacant, civilian positions. All with the goal of streamlining operations and improving the quality of services provided to our community.

Apex continues to be a fast-growing community. The need for additional staffing to keep up with growth is clear; however, budgetary constraints have prevented us from doing so at the rate at which we would like. That has led us to seek out technology and software options which will allow us to eliminate redundant processes. We are also exploring more options for the public to provide us with information electronically. This will allow us to streamline internal processes, be more efficient, and reallocate resources

where they may be better utilized.

Despite concerns of the disproportionate growth of our staff compared to our population, Apex has not seen the same increase in violent crimes as other municipalities in our area. In fact, we experienced a 6.25% reduction in overall crime. In part, we attribute this to our data-driven analysis of crash and crime data to determine the best deployment of our resources.

COVID continued to have an impact on our operations in 2021. Due to our inability to conduct mass gatherings, we were unable to host many of the in-person community outreach events we had in the past, such as Coffee with a Cop. Nor were we able to recognize our staff in traditional ways through ceremonies. Our hope is that as we transition into our new normal in 2022, we will be able to increase our community outreach efforts, host more events, and gather together to recognize our staff for their outstanding work.

In closing, the women and men of the Apex Police Department provide an outstanding service to the residents, businesses, and visitors of Apex. Despite any challenges we face, we will meet them head on and give

maximum effort to ensure Apex remains a desired location for all people. Thank you for reading our 2021 annual report and thank you to our *Protectors of the PEAK!*

