



# Lake Forest Park Police Department Annual Report

## 2019

**CHIEF MICHAEL HARDEN**  
**LAKE FOREST PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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# Chief of Police

## Message from your Police Chief...



**Chief Michael Harden**

Dear Lake Forest Park Residents,

I am pleased to present you with the 2019 Lake Forest Park Police Department Annual Report. The report provides information crime data, service efforts & accomplishments, crime trends and budget information. There are 24 full-time employees assigned to the Lake Forest Park Police Department. Most officers are in the patrol division; additionally, we have a traffic unit, criminal investigation detectives, canine unit, prof. support staff, emergency manager, sergeants, lieutenants, and a police chief.

Over the past several years, it has been the vision of the Police Department *"To ensure the City of Lake Forest Park is one of the safest cities in the Puget Sound Region achieved through the delivery of quality law enforcement services."* In 2019, we accomplished this task through the hard work of our employees, combined with the engaged community of Lake Forest Park. In 2019, Lake Forest Park ranked the 12<sup>th</sup> safest city\* in the State of Washington.

Burglaries were down 5% to the lowest total in decades. Amazing!

This year was a major shift in our staff. We had three retirements and an existing open position.

Staffing remained an issue for the Police Department for several years and 2019 was no different for the first three quarters. A study was completed in 2017, and it was determined that the department needed an additional three officers to complement the existing staff. In 2019, the Mayor and Council approved an officer position to the budget. That said, staff responded to 12,240 incidents throughout the year, made over 3,700 traffic stops, and made 231 arrests.

To learn more about the services that the Lake Forest Park Police Department provides, please visit our webpage at [www.cityofflp.com](http://www.cityofflp.com) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/lfpdpd\\_police](https://twitter.com/lfpdpd_police) and Facebook at [facebook.com/LakeForestParkPD](https://facebook.com/LakeForestParkPD). On our webpage, you will find information on our annual operations plan, racial profiling report, and much more. I am proud of the men and women of the Lake Forest Park Police Department who are committed to keeping you and your family safe. It is an honor to serve as your police chief.

**Michael Harden**  
**Chief of Police**

\*<https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-washington/>



# About the Annual Report

The Annual Police Report contains information on the service efforts and accomplishments of the Lake Forest Park Police Department to support its vision, mission, and goals.

The goal of the report is to keep the City of Lake Forest Park residents, staff, administrators, and elected officials informed of the activities of the police department and crime activity in the city. It highlights the good work of the men and women of the department, while emphasizing the value they bring to the citizens daily.



## Lake Forest Park Police Department Mission, Goals, & Core Values

### Vision

Our vision is to ensure the City of Lake Forest Park is one of the safest cities in the Puget Sound Region achieved through the delivery of quality law enforcement services.

### Mission

Our mission is to develop and support a team of professionals who consistently seek and find innovative policing strategies to affirmatively promote, preserve, and deliver those quality services which enhance the security and safety in our community. To support this mission, we will work in strong partnership with the community.

### Goals

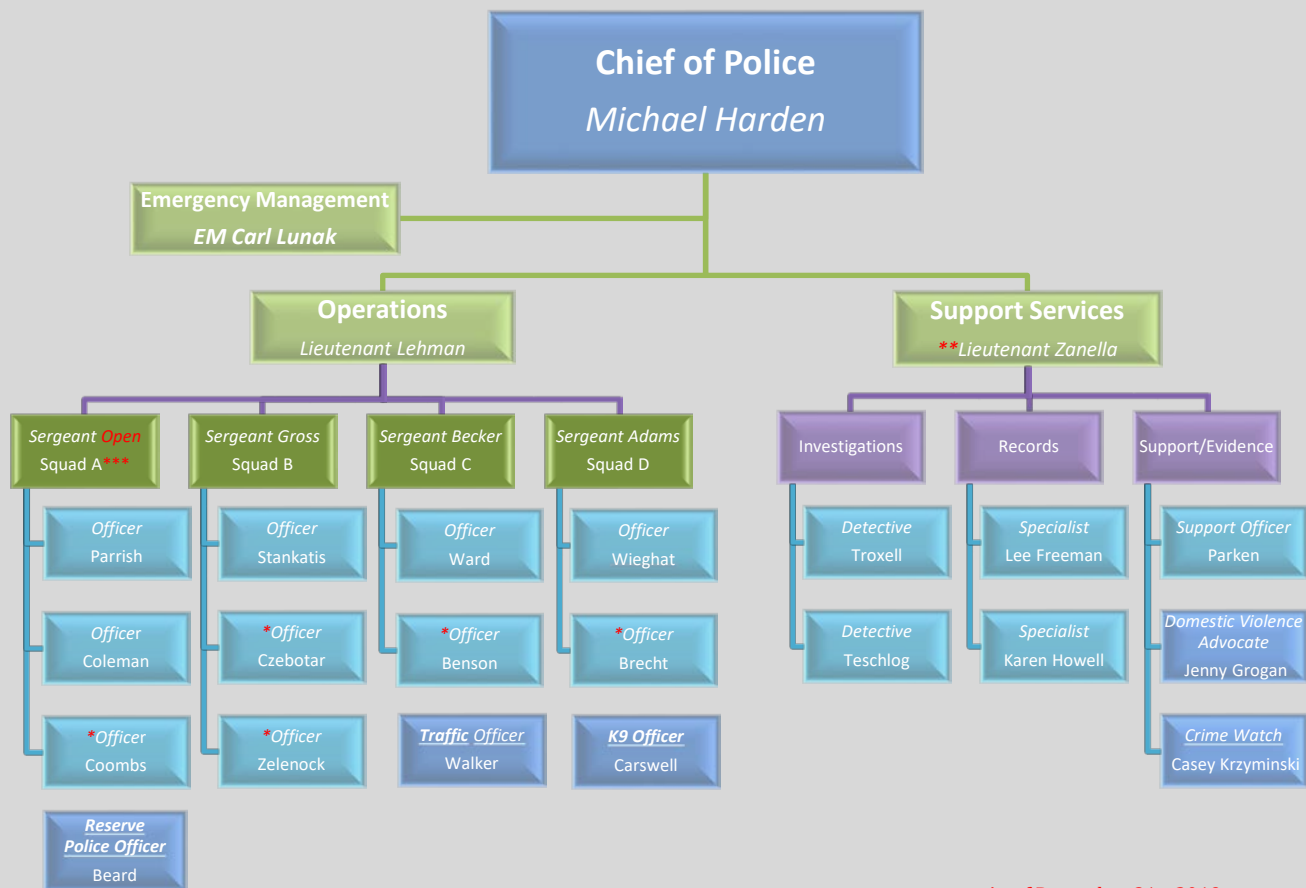
To realize this mission, the City of Lake Forest Park Police Department has adopted the following goals and objectives:

1. Reduce crime and collision loss in our community.
2. Provide quality services and innovative policing strategies delivered through excellent customer service.
3. Provide appropriate resources to employees that foster a safe, ethical, innovative, knowledgeable, and healthy workforce.
4. Provide emergency management oversight for the Northshore Emergency Management Coalition.





# Organizational Chart



As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

\*Officers Benson, Zelenock, and Czebotar were hired in 2018/19 and released on the road **June 2019**.

\*Officers Coombs and Brecht were hired in August 2019 and released on the road in **November 2019**.

\*\*Lt. Zanella was hired **October 2019**.

\*\*\*The open Squad "A" sergeant position will be filled by a patrol officer promotion in 2020.

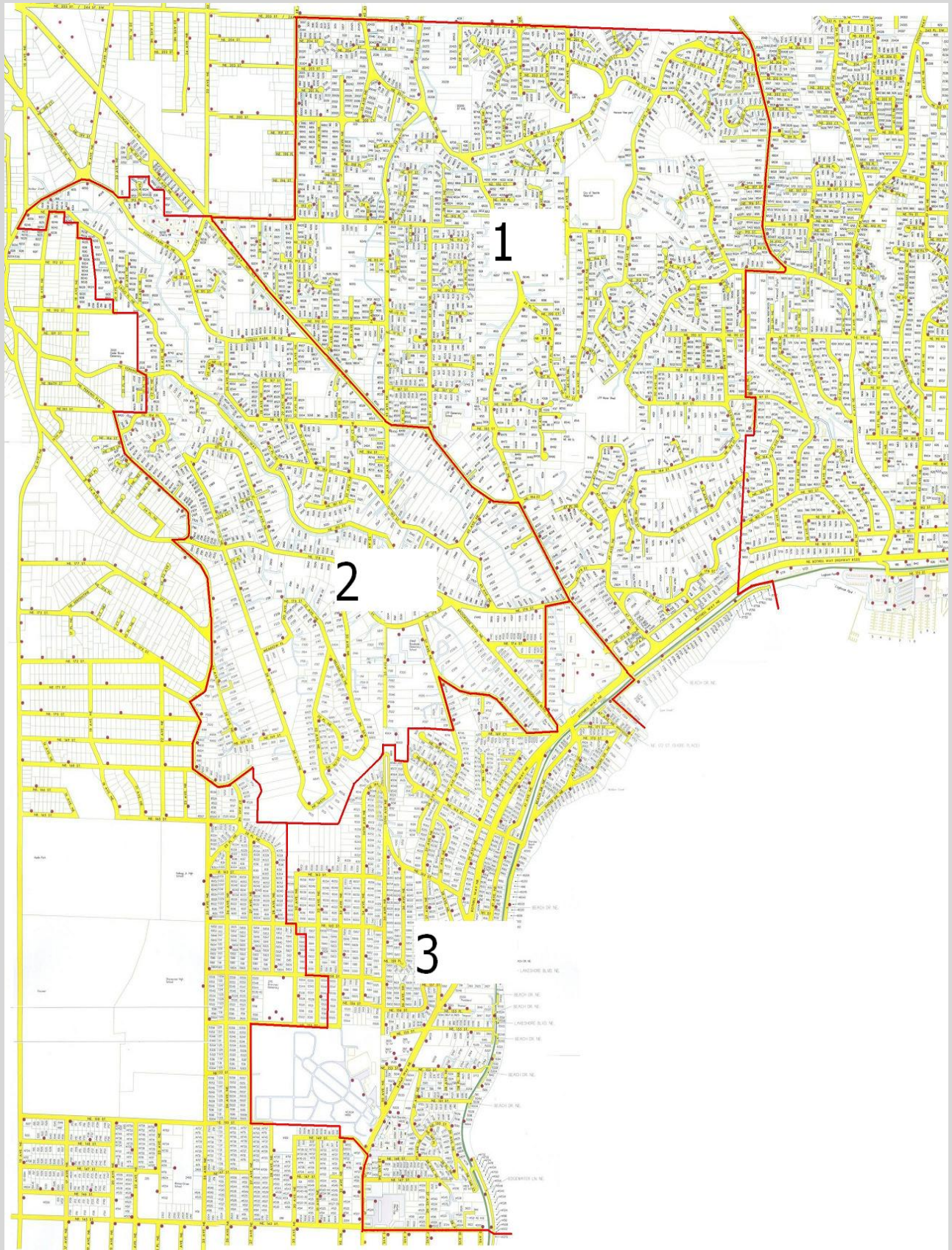
**Additional Notes:** For most of the year, the traffic officer and canine officer were assigned to regular patrol duties and were unable to perform their assigned functions fully as designed. For the entire year, the reserve officer worked two days a week to fill in gaps with coverage. Chief Sutton, Capt. Armbrust, and Detective Matthews all retired mid-year. That left a three-position gap with movement of the Chief, lieutenants, sergeants, and detective and officer positions.

**Patrol Additional Duties:** Traffic, K9, Gangs, Graffiti, Training, and Narcotics

**Support Services Additional Duties:** Public Disclosure, Policy Manual, Auditing, Background Checks, Firearm Licensing, Fingerprinting, Equipment Maintenance and Purchase, and Budgeting.



# City of Lake Forest Park Patrol Districts





# Operations Division



**Patrol Operations  
Division Commander**

**Lieutenant  
Rhonda Lehman**

The Lake Forest Park Police Department's Operations Division consists of four patrol squads, the K9 unit, Traffic Unit, Crime watch and Block watch. There are four patrol Sergeants, one for each squad. The patrol Sergeants also coordinate several ancillary duties, including ATS, Sector, Training, Narcotics investigations, firearms, and Navigator coordination. Lieutenant Rhonda Lehman oversees the Operations Division and can be reached at [rlehman@cityofflp.com](mailto:rlehman@cityofflp.com) or 206-364-8216 X 560.

With the hiring of two lateral officers the patrol division was fully staffed. One patrol Sergeant promoted to Lieutenant which required a senior officer being placed in an Acting Sergeant capacity until the spot could be filled. Throughout the long-term staffing shortages and training of new officers the patrol division pulled together to ensure the Lake Forest Park Police Department provided consistent 24/7 care and customer service to the citizens of Lake Forest Park.

The police department expanded our social media outreach to include, Facebook, Next-door, Instagram, and Twitter. We work to send out up to date information on things that affect citizens, such as road closures, police activity and crime prevention tips. Our "9pm routine" regularly reminds residents to check their mail and lock up their vehicles. The police department will continue to look for ways to better serve our citizens with social media.

Our collaborative "Traffic Calming" program has been working hard all year to address each citizen concern that comes in. To date several road design and signage changes have been made, including a significant road use change in front of Brookside Elementary. This change has made it safer for both motorists and pedestrians as they arrive and depart the school. To address "Waze" and other apps that appear to route more traffic through residential areas during rush hour, several "pinch points" have been established to slow and discourage residential "cut throughs".

Our officers will continue to fulfill our stated mission, "To be careful stewards of the community's resources, to provide outstanding services in a responsive manner, and to enhance the quality of life for the community".

**Lt. Rhonda Lehman  
Patrol Operations Division Commander**

# Calls for Service - Incidents

<i>Type of Call</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>+/-</i>	<i>vs. Last Year</i>
<b>911 / Information</b>	318	284	160	171	224	7%	↑
<b>Alarms</b>	371	395	361	319	368	15%	↑
<b>Assault / Fights / Harassment</b>	76	64	55	60	58	-3%	↓
<b>Burglary / Theft</b>	425	367	378	427	337	-21%	↓
<b>Disturbance / Noise</b>	194	201	190	168	158	-6%	↓
<b>Domestic</b>	65	60	64	48	52	8%	↑
<b>Investigations</b>	1745	1797	1923	1619	1602	-1%	↓
<b>Juvenile</b>	51	48	50	39	38	-3%	↓
<b>Liquor / Narcotics</b>	77	79	63	41	27	-34%	↓
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1264	1785	1846	1729	1425	-18%	↓
<b>Parking</b>	346	319	289	257	275	7%	↑
<b>Property</b>	95	86	92	85	88	4%	↑
<b>Public Service</b>	2481	2781	2891	3055	2934	-4%	↓
<b>Traffic</b>	3735	3188	4275	3903	4596	18%	↑
<b>Trespass</b>	64	40	45	51	58	14%	↑

## Calls for Service / Incidents

“Calls for Service” come in through dispatch as many different call types. For 2019, there were 108 different call types that have been combined into these 15 broad categories.

For example, the type of call category “Burglary/Theft” includes (10 specific types): Burglary, Forgery, Fraud, Identity Theft, Motor Vehicle Recovery, Motor Vehicle Theft, Possession of Stolen Property, Robbery, Theft, and Vehicle Prowl.

Call types are assigned by dispatcher and may/may not reflect the true nature of the call or report type completed by the officer. For example, a traffic stop incident type could change to a DUI report based on the officer’s investigation.

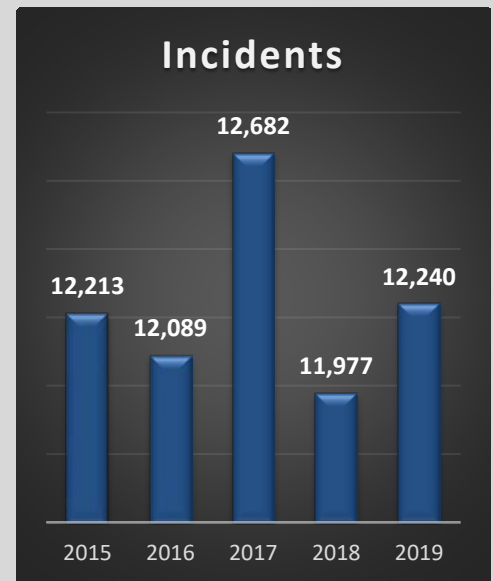
“Investigations” includes: Animal, Adult Protective Services, Area Check, Background Investigation, City Ordinance Violation, Child Protective Services, Death Investigations, Drill, Explosion, Exposing, Field Investigation Report, Graffiti, Illegal Dumping, K-9, Malicious Mischief, Missing, Order Violation, Ordinance Violation, Paper Violation, Peddling, Registered Sex Offender, Sex Offense/Other, Shooting, Subject Stop, Suicide, Threats, Suspicious Circumstances



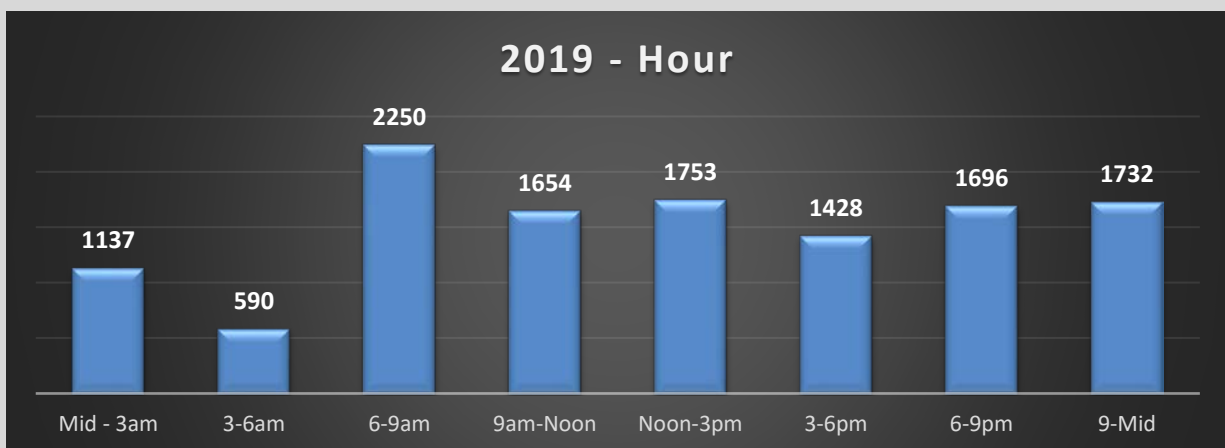
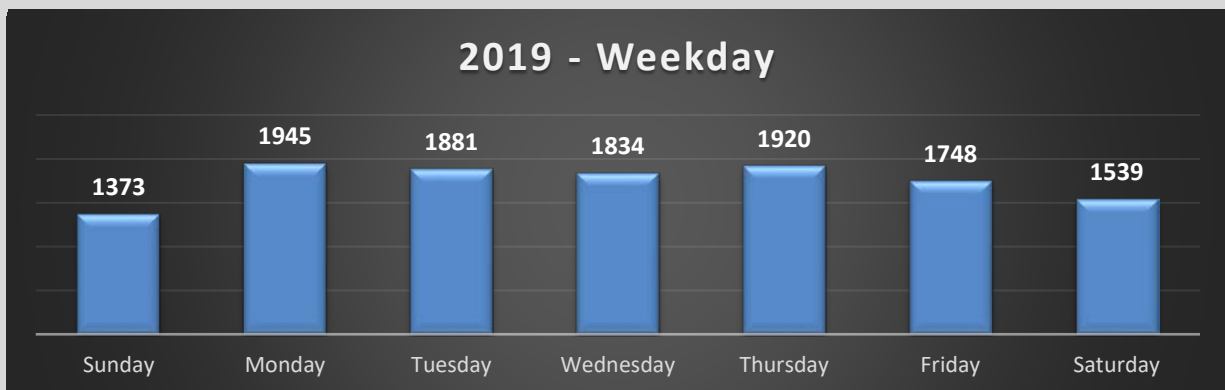
# Incidents

<b>Incidents</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>January</b>	1031	1162	1144	906	<b>986</b>
<b>February</b>	881	981	1034	948	<b>845</b>
<b>March</b>	1013	1068	1187	986	<b>1114</b>
<b>April</b>	956	916	1136	997	<b>831</b>
<b>May</b>	1089	962	1220	1050	<b>1168</b>
<b>June</b>	1139	1049	1202	1164	<b>1045</b>
<b>July</b>	1026	1059	1133	1169	<b>1166</b>
<b>August</b>	1072	1155	997	1203	<b>1127</b>
<b>September</b>	900	980	967	814	<b>1146</b>
<b>October</b>	1162	998	950	944	<b>1111</b>
<b>November</b>	1007	873	887	870	<b>863</b>
<b>December</b>	937	886	825	926	<b>838</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,213</b>	<b>12,089</b>	<b>12,682</b>	<b>11,977</b>	<b>12,240</b>

**\*\*Incidents include officer-initiated police service**



**Five-year average: 12,240**



# Activity

<b>Overview</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>vs. Last Year</b>
<b>Incidents</b>	12213	12089	12682	11977	<b>12240</b>	<b>2%</b>	↑
<b>Case Reports</b>	834	830	828	817	<b>762</b>	<b>-7%</b>	↓
<b>Arrests</b>	239	241	229	255	<b>231</b>	<b>-9%</b>	↓
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	3434	2614	3312	3014	<b>3739</b>	<b>24%</b>	↑
<b>Traffic Infractions</b>	1638	836	1475	1322	<b>1935</b>	<b>46%</b>	↑
<b>Criminal Traffic</b>	196	145	134	133	<b>178</b>	<b>34%</b>	↑
<b>Drug Arrests</b>	40	73	86	80	<b>58</b>	<b>-28%</b>	↓
<b>Domestic Incidents</b>	68	60	64	48	<b>52</b>	<b>8%</b>	↑
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	31	33	26	27	<b>34</b>	<b>26%</b>	↑
<b>Fraud/Forgery/ID</b>	78	51	61	50	<b>20</b>	<b>-60%</b>	↓
<b>Graffiti</b>	10	55	34	12	<b>15</b>	<b>25%</b>	↑
<b>Malicious Mischief</b>	131	150	124	76	<b>76</b>	<b>0%</b>	--
<b>Vehicle Prowls</b>	57	70	64	61	<b>49</b>	<b>-20%</b>	↓

## PART I CRIMES are also referred to as “Index Crimes” (FBI)

<b>Cases</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>+/-</b>	
<b>Violent Crime</b>							
Homicide	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	--
Rape	2	6	2	5	<b>4</b>	<b>-20%</b>	↓
Robbery	3	4	4	9	<b>2</b>	<b>-78%</b>	↓
Assault	39	38	52	37	<b>42</b>	<b>14%</b>	↑
<b>Property Crime</b>							
Arson	0	0	1	3	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	--
Burglary	76	51	50	39	<b>37</b>	<b>-5%</b>	↓
Vehicle Theft	8	10	16	14	<b>14</b>	<b>0%</b>	--
Theft	162	144	152	215	<b>174</b>	<b>-19%</b>	↓
PSP (Possession of Stolen Property)	24	14	18	25	<b>22</b>	<b>-12%</b>	↓

# Property Crimes

For a more detailed view of “Property Crimes” this graph shows a breakdown of the different types of property crimes reported to the police department.

<i>Property Crimes</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>+/-</i>	<i>vs. Last Year</i>
<i>Burglary – 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree</i>	13	21	14	15	20	33%	↑
<i>Burglary – Residential</i>	63	30	36	24	17	-29%	↓
<i>Burglary (Total)</i>	76	51	50	39	37	-5%	↓
<i>Forgery and Fraud</i>	23	16	20	19	19	0%	--
<i>ID Theft</i>	55	35	41	31	32	-3%	↑
<i>Malicious Mischief</i>	131	150	124	76	76	0%	--
<i>MV Theft</i>	8	10	16	14	14	0%	--
<i>Possession of Stolen Property</i>	24	14	18	25	22	-12%	↓
<i>Theft</i>	162	144	152	215	174	-19%	↓
<i>Vehicle Prowl</i>	57	70	64	61	49	-20%	↓

*\*of the 37 burglaries in 2019, 15 were identified as commercial*

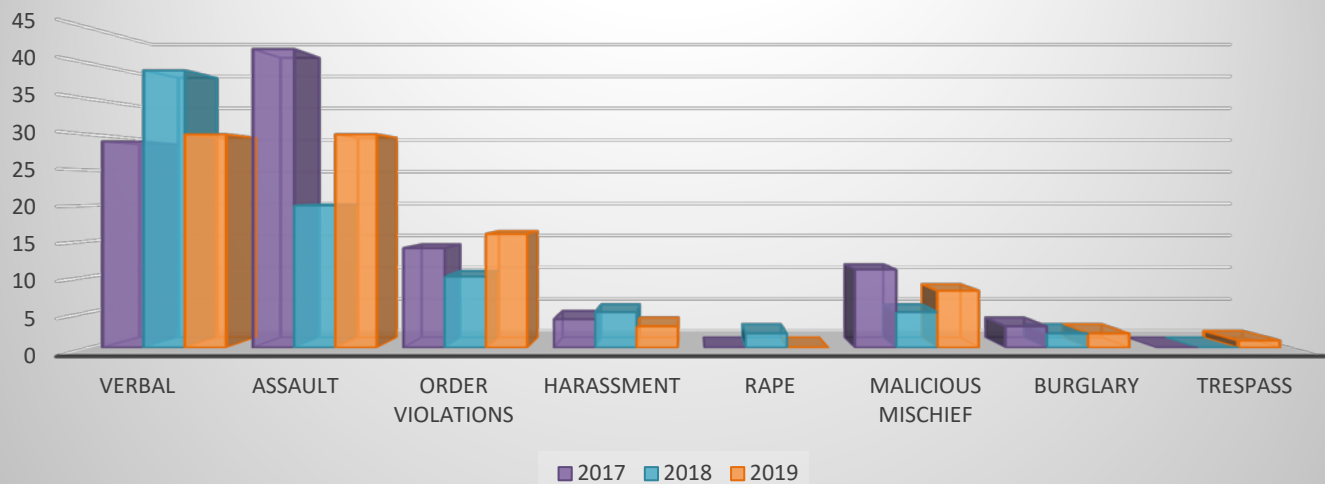




# Domestic Violence

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Verbal – No Crime</b>	34	25	29	39	<b>30</b>
<b>Assault</b>	26	28	42	20	<b>30</b>
<b>Order Violations</b>	9	10	14	10	<b>16</b>
<b>Harassment</b>	13	2	4	5	<b>3</b>
<b>Rape</b>	1	1	0	2	<b>0</b>
<b>Malicious Mischief</b>	8	7	11	5	<b>8</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	0	0	3	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Trespass</b>	0	2	0	0	<b>1</b>

## Domestic Violence Related



**Verbal Domestic** - Argument between persons with no physical contact (no crime).

**Assaults** - Argument between persons who get physical with each other (i.e. pushing, shoving, slapping, hitting with hands/feet, etc.)

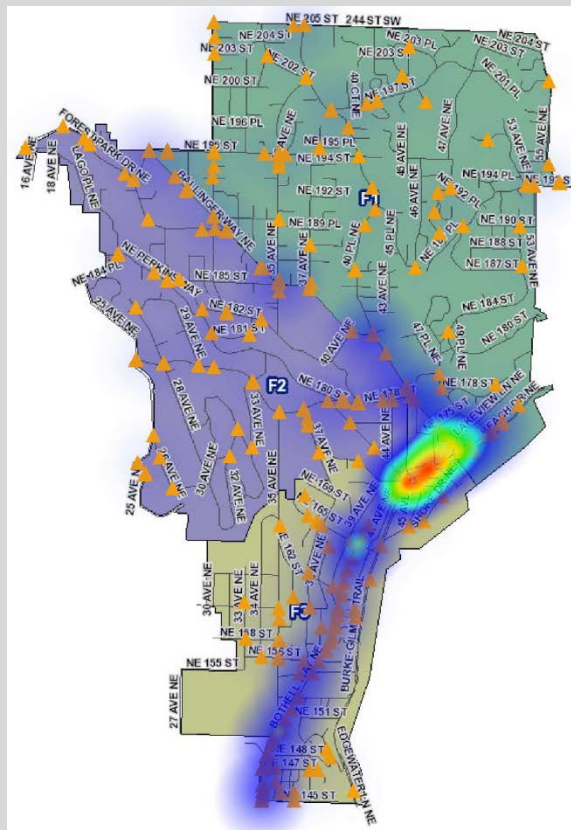
**Court Order Violation** - Protection orders, harassment orders, no contact and restraining orders. These orders are issued by Courts for the protection of domestic violence victims or for subjects being harassed by known subjects.

# Collisions

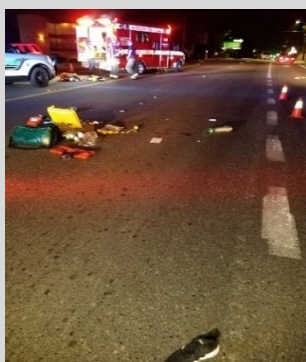
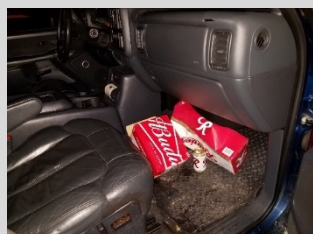
**'150'**

Average Collisions over the past 5 years

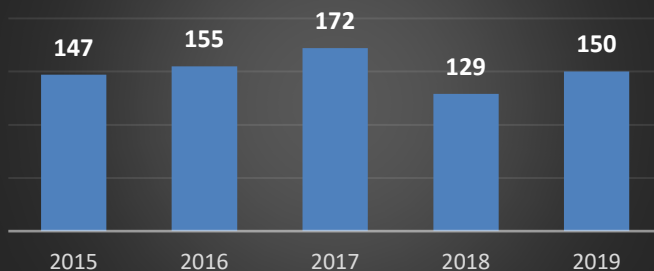
Last year's average collision for 5 years was 152



Heat map of 2019 Collisions in the City of LFP



## Collisions



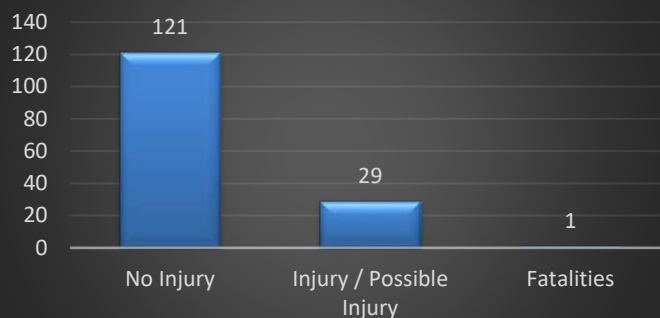
## Other Collision Information

	2017	2018	2019
<i>Hit and Run</i>	28	19	30
<i>Bicycle Involved</i>	4	5	0
<i>Pedestrian Involved</i>	4	6	3
<i>DUI Related</i>	4	4	9

## Injuries

	2017	2018	2019
<i>No Injury</i>	125	92	121
<i>Injury / Possible Injury</i>	46	36	28
<i>Fatalities</i>	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>150</b>

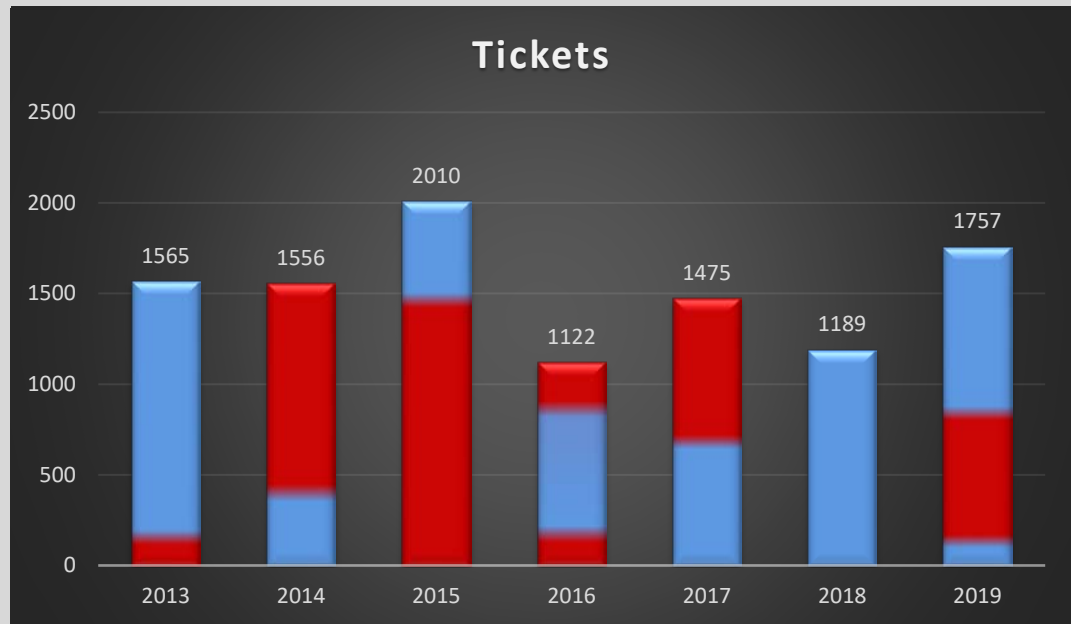
## Injury Report - 2019



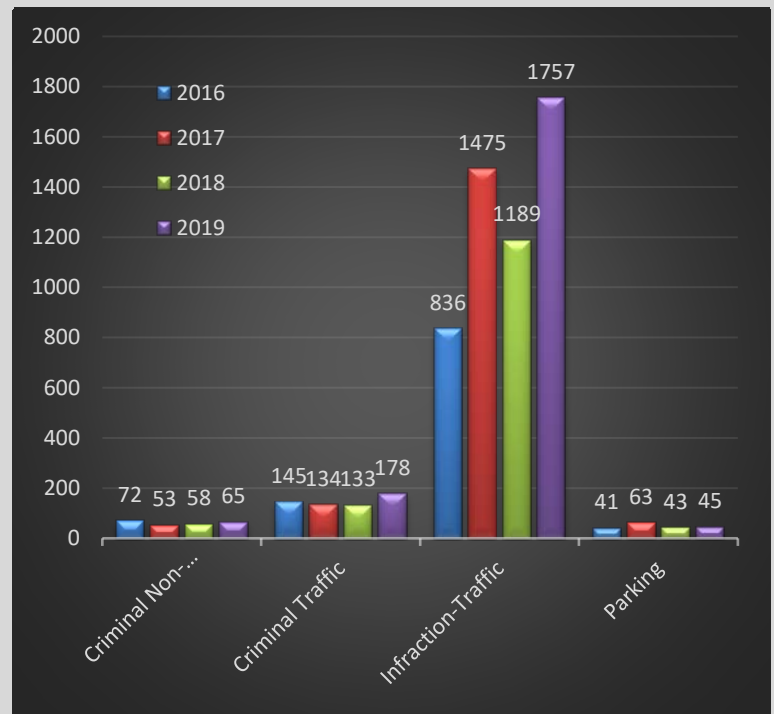
# Tickets Issued

**Red** indicates the Traffic Officer was working the Traffic Unit detail.

**Blue** indicates the Traffic Officer was reassigned General Patrol due to staffing (or out on injury).



Type of Tickets	2017	2018	2019
Correction Notice	0	2	10
Criminal Non-Traffic	53	58	65
Criminal Traffic	134	133	178
Infraction-Non-Traffic	20	14	22
Infraction-Traffic	1475	1189	1757
Parking	63	43	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>1745</b>	<b>1439</b>	<b>2077</b>



Staffing issues have plagued the department for many years. Traffic and canine officers have been re-assigned to do patrol duties until fully staffed.

In June 2019, the traffic officer was assigned to the traffic unit full-time. In November and December, he was re-assigned to patrol for coverage issues. As you can see, staffing issues have consistently been an issue for 7 years keeping the traffic officer from staying in the unit full-time.



# Traffic Safety Photo Enforcement

Traffic safety camera systems are a safety measure designed to reduce and prevent speeding and collisions, while at the same time providing a force-multiplier for the police force. The goal of our program, since beginning in 2009, has been pedestrian safety in our school zones, and collision reduction on SR 522 (Bothell Way).

In 2018, the City added an additional red-light camera at SR 104 (Ballinger Way NE) and SR 522 (Bothell Way NE). This intersection has consistently been in the top collision areas within the City of Lake Forest Park. The City currently operates three red-light camera locations on SR 522 at SR 104, NE 170<sup>th</sup> Street, and NE 165<sup>th</sup> Street. Additionally, the City operates four school zone camera locations: LFP Elementary School (35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE), LFP Elementary School (40<sup>th</sup> PL NE), Brookside Elementary School (NE 178<sup>th</sup> St) and Brookside Elementary School (37<sup>th</sup> Ave NE).

## School Zone Camera Performance

<b>LFP Elementary</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>vs. Last Year</b>
Collisions	3	4	0	0	<b>0</b>	--
Citations	4,357	4,528	4,570	5,229	<b>4,220</b>	↓

<b>Brookside Elementary</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	
Collisions	0	3	2	0	<b>2</b>	↑
Citations	1,372	3,153	4,001	3,896	<b>3,633</b>	↓

## Red Light Camera Performance

<b>Bothell Way NE / SR104</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>vs. Last Year</b>
Collisions	22	20	15	14	<b>17</b>	↑
Citations	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,971	<b>3521</b>	↑

<b>Bothell Way NE / NE 165<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	
Collisions	9	8	17	6	<b>10</b>	↑
Citations	2,144	1,856	4,008	2,575	<b>2129</b>	↓

<b>Bothell Way NE / NE 170<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	
Collisions	8	19	8	11	<b>15</b>	↑
Citations	94	715	1555	1,910	<b>1763</b>	↓



# Specialty Units

## Traffic Unit

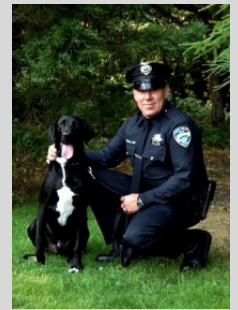
The Traffic Officer utilizes an unmarked patrol vehicle to conduct targeted traffic enforcement around the city. He typically works with other patrol officers focusing on the Department's Traffic Safety Plan, and other problem areas identified through Traffic Calming Projects and Citizen Complaints.



Traffic Officer J. Walker

## Canine Unit

The Lake Forest Park Canine (K-9) Unit is Officer Carswell. His "partner" Hector finds illegal narcotics. Heroin was the most seized illegal narcotic. Numerous paraphernalia items, including scales, pipes, burglary tools, and an illegal weapon were seized.



Canine Officer J. Carswell

## SWAT/HNT

The Lake Forest Park Police Department is a member agency of The North Sound Metro SWAT Team (NSM). North Sound Metro SWAT is a regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team that is composed of two distinct elements: the SWAT (tactical) team, and the Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT). The team is comprised of officers from the following municipal jurisdictions: Bothell, Edmonds, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Lynnwood, Mill Creek, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, and Redmond. The team services a population base of well over a quarter million residents. Current approved staffing for tactical operators is 36, plus three team commanders. HNT is allotted 13 officers. LFPPD Detective A. Troxell is a member of the Hostage Negotiations Team.



## Major Crime Task Force (CSPA)

Lake Forest Park Police is part of the Coalition of Small Police Agencies, CSPA. The participating cities are Algona, Black Diamond, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Duvall, Enumclaw, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, Medina, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Pacific, and Snoqualmie. These cities have entered a partnership of resource sharing that has been applauded and recognized throughout the State. The Major Crimes Task Force (MCTF) has over 15 detectives from these agencies with Lake Forest Park contributing 2 officers and 1 detective. We have used the MCTF on several investigations and it is a crucial resource to the city and PD.



# Northsound RADAR Program

**RADAR** (Response Awareness, De-escalation And Referral) is a collaboration between the Police Departments in Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell and Kirkland to address the rights and needs of individuals with behavioral health issues and/or developmental disabilities (BH/DD).

RADAR aims to decrease use-of-force incidents between police and individuals with BH/DD and to reduce the repeated and inappropriate use of emergency services by institutionalizing department-wide and regional information sharing about community members who may be at increased risk of violence or use of force, and offering connection to services and resources through a Mental Health Professional (MHP) Navigator accompanied by a law enforcement co-responder. MHP Navigators focus on moving people into community-based and long-term systems of care to reduce reliance on the crisis and criminal legal systems and to improve outcomes. The unique inter-jurisdictional nature of the RADAR Program recognizes that people often move throughout a region and capitalizes on economies of scale in staffing and administration.

## Program Goals

- Develop and share individualized de-escalation strategies to reduce police use-of-force incidents during encounters with people with BH/DD.
- Collaborate with a mental health professional (RADAR Navigator) to connect individuals with BH/DD to ongoing services and treatment.
- Reduce repeat encounters with first responders and increase the effectiveness of police responses.
- Create cost effective community-policing strategies and promote increased collaboration between deputies, persons with BH/DD, caregivers, and families.

## 2019 Program Data Overall (All 5 Cities)

During 2019 RADAR Navigators served a total of **316** Individuals during a total of **446** Encounters. The average time per encounter was **1.3** hours. For over **60%** of individuals served, a referral was made to an ongoing service. At least **43%** of individuals served had a behavioral health condition that was disruptive enough to their lives to qualify as a disability. At least **16%** were homeless.



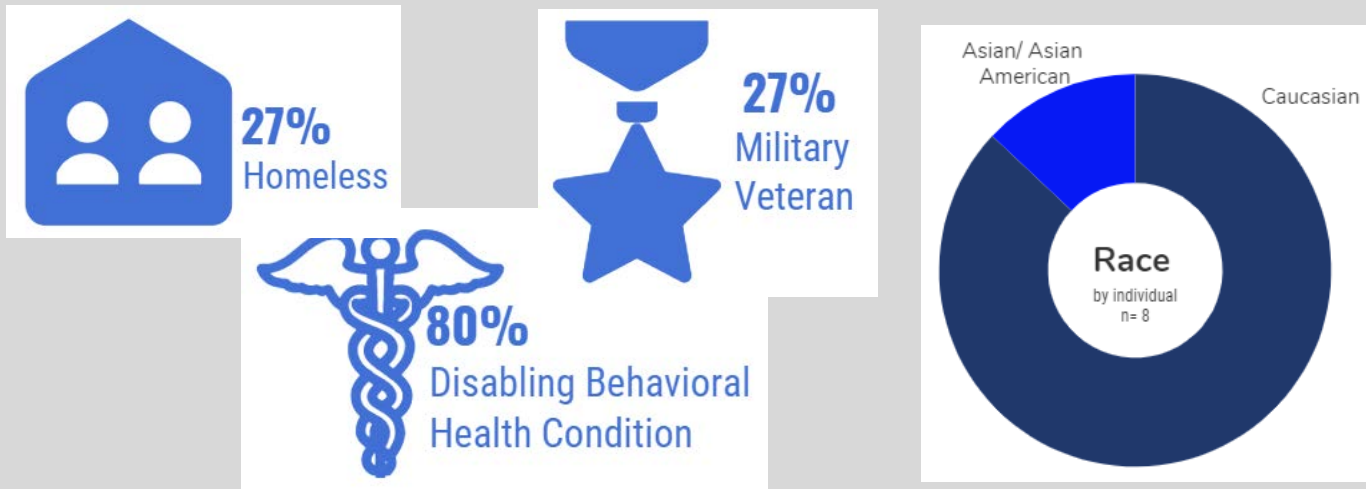
\*RADAR: Response Awareness, De-Escalation, and Referral. Final Evaluation Report. Gill, C., Jensen, R., Vovak, H. George Mason University Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy. December 2019.



# Northsound RADAR Program

## Demographic and Program Data

During 2019, RADAR Navigators and co-responding officers in Lake Forest Park provided services to 21 individuals, spending an average of 54 minutes per contact. Of those individuals, 27% were homeless, and at least 80% had a behavioral health condition that was severe enough to qualify as a disability. 27% were veterans.



## Navigator Stories

RADAR has allowed Lake Forest Park Police Officers recognize and respond to individuals who have active behavioral issues. In multiple cases, the RADAR Navigator worked with individuals who had created disturbances and put community safety at risk in both Lake Forest Park and Bothell. In one case, a Navigator worked with both departments and coordinated with multiple service providers to bring services to a child who had both attempted suicide and brought ammunition to their school.

A senior citizen continued to engage in behaviors that have proven dangerous to her, neighbors, and other community members/businesses. The case was staffed with the Multi-Disciplinary Team for aging adults. In that referral and case coordination, we uncovered fraud being committed against the King County Housing Authority and the abuse and neglect of a vulnerable adult. Due to the long hours, continued contacts, and diligence of the officers at LFP and the MHP, she had inpatient treatment pending transfer to a care facility.

**Extreme Risk Protection Orders:** The Co-Response Team have facilitated an Extreme Risk Protection Order taking possession of over 20 firearms from a resident with severe mental health issues. This individual attempted to stab an LFP Officer and demonstrated significant threats to self and others, over multiple incidents.

**Cross-Jurisdiction Contacts:** LFP has cross-agency contact with individuals that cross the city borders, move, or have behaviors that have traveled during a crisis. For 2019, four individuals crossed into either Bothell, Kenmore, or Shoreline. Care and case coordination between patrol has been invaluable.

# Support Services Division



**Support Services  
Division Commander**

**Lieutenant  
Diego Zanella**

The Lake Forest Park Police Support Services Division assists and supports the daily operations of the police department. The Support Services Division includes the Records Unit, the Investigations Unit, and the Support Services Officer. It is led by the Support Services Lieutenant, who reports directly to the Chief of Police. Among other responsibilities, this Division manages recruiting, training, professional standards, prisoners' transports, court security, emergency preparedness, etc.

## **Records Unit:**

The Records Unit strives for quality customer support through the delivery of services that enhance the overall mission of the department. Every year, Records Unit personnel enter thousands of police reports and documents into the Law Enforcement Records Management System, and process a wide variety of records, logs, court documents, and other paperwork. Additionally, they provide timely, reliable, and accurate information in response to inquiries from the public. Among other responsibilities, this Unit is tasked with the following: Processing, maintaining, and disseminating police records that include confidential and sensitive data. Completing case referrals to the City of Lake Forest Park Prosecutor's Office and the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Processing background checks, concealed pistol permits, entertainer licensing, and fingerprints. Maintaining the drug take-back program, which enables citizens to destroy unwanted and leftover drugs.

## **Support Services Officer:**

The police department employs a full-time specialty commissioned officer to maintain the Property & Evidence Unit, prisoners' transport, court security services, fingerprinting, building security, and staff emergency preparedness.

## **Investigations Unit:**

The Investigations Unit consists of two full-time detectives. This highly trained officers conduct secondary investigations for felony crimes and juvenile cases. Examples include aggravated assaults, robberies, sexual assaults, identity thefts, drug cases, high-value property crimes, etc. Additionally, they investigate Child Protective Services referrals, Adult Protective Services referrals, and coordinate the registered sex offender's notification and monitoring program.

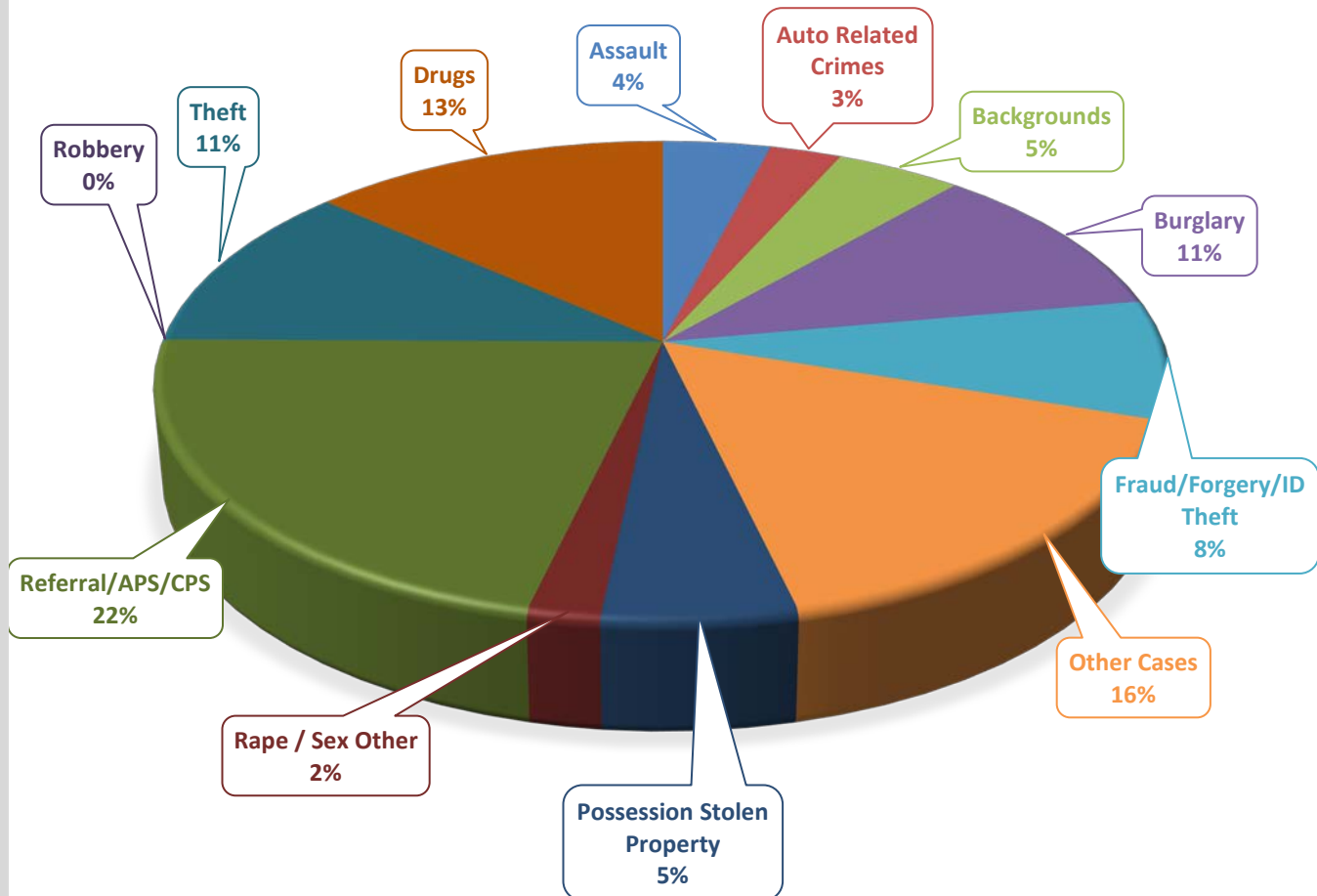
Detective Teschlog manages the website CanYouID.me. This website allows detectives from all over the state to upload photographs of subjects they are trying to identify—like person of interest, witnesses, or potential suspects. This website is open to the public and has over 2,100 followers. In 2019, 39 subjects were identified, for a total of 449 since its inception.

**Lt. Diego Zanella  
Support Services Division Commander**

# Assigned Investigations

<b>Incoming Investigations</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>vs. Last Year</b>
Assault	4	2	14	6	6	--
Auto Related Crimes	2	9	10	5	4	↓
Backgrounds	9	7	10	6	7	↑
Burglary	32	15	19	13	16	↑
Fraud/Forgery/ID Theft	20	15	19	13	12	↓
Other Cases	22	20	42	26	24	↓
PSP	6	0	4	5	8	↑
Rape / Sex Other	5	13	5	7	3	↓
Referral/APS/CPS	16	13	30	26	32	↑
Robbery	1	5	3	7	0	↓
Theft	8	6	20	19	17	↓
VUCSA (Drugs)	14	22	30	23	20	↓
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>↓</b>

## 2019 - CASES ASSIGNED TO DETECTIVES

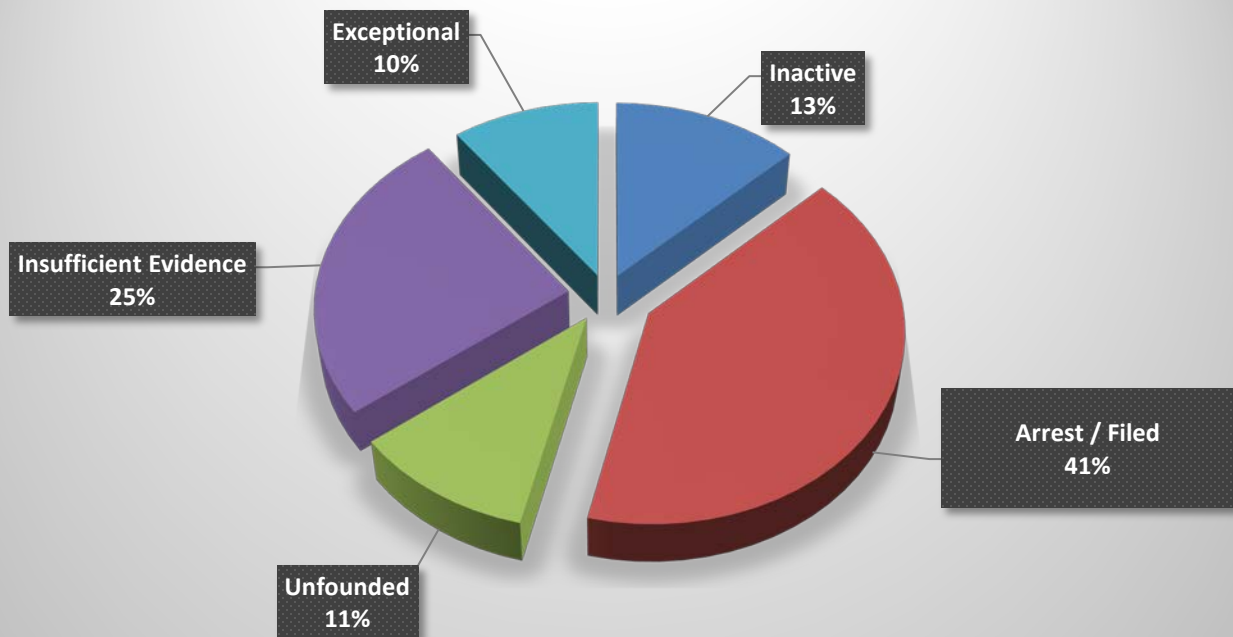




# Completed Investigations

<i>Completed Investigations</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>vs. Last Year</i>
<i>Assault</i>	5	4	14	6	6	--
<i>Auto Related Crimes</i>	3	5	11	8	3	↓
<i>Backgrounds</i>	11	7	9	5	7	↑
<i>Burglary</i>	43	19	20	12	14	↑
<i>Fraud/Forgery/ID Theft</i>	28	22	18	10	16	↑
<i>Other Cases</i>	19	16	57	23	23	--
<i>PSP</i>	10	3	3	6	2	↓
<i>Rape / Sex Other</i>	5	10	8	5	5	--
<i>Referral/APS/CPS</i>	11	10	19	24	31	↑
<i>Robbery</i>	3	5	4	4	3	↓
<i>Theft</i>	14	4	14	18	21	↑
<i>VUCSA (Drugs)</i>	14	21	27	20	23	↑
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>↑</b>

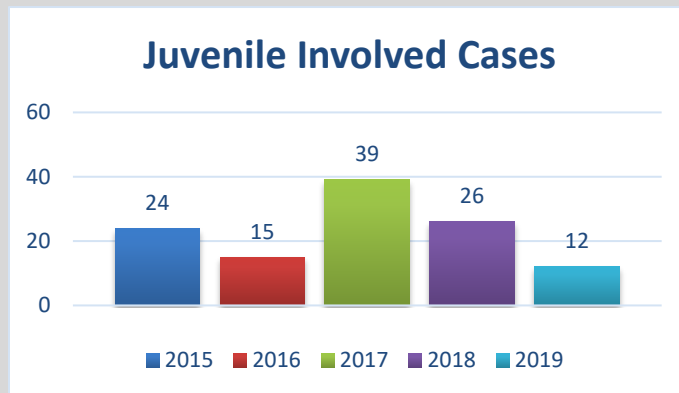
## 2019 - Completed Investigations



# Juvenile Investigations

<i>Juvenile Involved</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
<b>Cases</b>	24	15	39	26	12

Juvenile involved cases include:  
Criminal cases, runaways, child protective services, minor in possession/consumption, and missing persons.



Since October of 2001, the Lake Forest Park Police Department has partnered with the **Northshore Youth and Family Services Juvenile Intervention Program** designed for youth who have committed a first time, non-violent offense. The intervention program's objective is to provide proactive prevention and early intervention strategies to assist at-risk youth and their families in developing the skills necessary to succeed. The goal of the program is to reduce the likelihood of youth offending again. Northshore Youth and Family Services

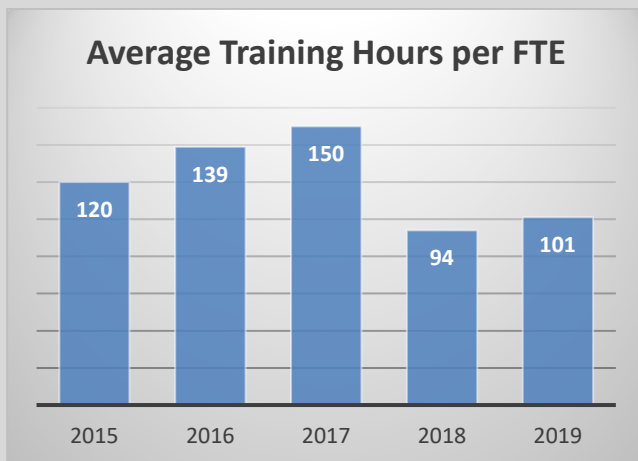
(<http://northshoreyouthandfamilyservices.org/services.html>).

The number of participants between 2001 to 2019 was 66 (48 Male / 18 Female). In 2019, no juveniles participated in the program.

Most of the crimes committed are, Minor in Possession/Consumption (29), Theft 3rd (8), and Drug related (9). Fifty-nine (61) participants have completed the program (92%) and five (5) participants have failed (8%). Nine (9) participants re-offended after successfully completing counseling and the average age of participants at time of acceptance is 15.6 years old.



# Training



**LFPPD administers a training program provides for the professional growth and continued development of its personnel.**

**By doing so, the Police Department ensures its personnel possess the knowledge and skills necessary to provide a professional level of service that meets the needs of the community.**



# Accreditation

The Lake Forest Park Police Department continues to follow the state accreditation standards set by the Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. **Of the 250+ Police Departments in the State, only 56 have this Accreditation. Out of the 35 cities in King County, LFPPD is one of only 11 accredited city agencies.**

**In 2020, LFPPD will be undergoing a re-accreditation, which is done every 4 years.**

The purpose of law enforcement agency accreditation is to professionalize the law enforcement industry by providing a review process for agencies to be certified as operating under industry best practices and standards.

## Benefits of Accreditation Include:

- To increase public confidence in the agency
- To increase credibility
- To provide a systemized agency self-assessment
- To broaden perspectives
- To intensify administrative and operational effectiveness
- To ensure recruitment, selection, and promotion processes are fair and equitable
- To strengthen understanding of agency policies and procedures by agency personnel
- To improve agency morale and pride
- To decrease susceptibility to litigation and costly civil court settlements
- To potentially reduce liability insurance costs
- To provide state and local recognition of professional competence



## Accreditation Standards:

The purpose of the WASPC Accreditation Program is to recognize agencies operating under industry best practices and standards. There are 137 accreditation standards covering major law enforcement areas:

1. Goals and Objectives
2. Role and Authority
3. Use of Force
4. Management, Staffing, Organization and Utilization of Personnel
5. Records Management
6. Information Technology
7. Unusual Occurrences
8. Health and Safety
9. Fiscal Management
10. Recruitment and Selection
11. Training
12. Performance Evaluation
13. Code of Conduct
14. Internal Affairs
15. Patrol Function
16. Investigative Function
17. Evidence and Property Control Function
18. Prisoner Security





# A year in transition...

There were many changes in the PD for 2019 and it was quite the year of transition. In the first half of 2019, Detective Matthews, Chief Sutton, and Capt. Armbrust announced their retirements. That left 3 big gaps that needed to be filled. There were still positions open for patrol officers and so began a hiring and promotion phase throughout the year to rebuild the department.

Beginning the year, Officer Czebotar was hired with previous experience and released solo in May. We also had Officer Benson and Officer Zelenock training in the 4-month police academy. After training and graduation, they were released as solo officers in June. That filled much needed patrol shifts. With the retirement of Detective Matthews, that opened a detective position and Officer Teschlog filled that role, leaving another open patrol position.

After the retirement of Det. Matthews, Chief Sutton retired, leaving the top position in the PD open. After an extensive internal testing promotional exam, Support Services Division Commander Mike Harden was selected as Chief of Police. Shortly thereafter, Operations Division Commander Armbrust announced his retirement. This left two open administrative positions that needed to be filled for leadership in these major divisions.

The division commander positions were re-titled as the rank of Lieutenants. A promotional testing exam was completed, and Sergeant Lehman was selected first, as the Patrol Operations Division Lieutenant. Next, Diego Zanella was selected as an external candidate to become the Support Services Division Lieutenant. With the promotion of Lt. Lehman, this left a sergeant position open. The sergeant position would be filled in 2020.

With more open patrol positions, Officer Brecht and Officer Coombs were hired. Both had prior experience, and after their training period, released on patrol at the end of the year. Traffic Officer Wingrove had also medically retired in 2018 leaving a Traffic Unit position open throughout 2018 and 2019. Once the staffing was filled in 2019, Officer Walker was selected to fill the Traffic Unit position.



# Retirements and Promotions



## Chief C. Stephen Sutton

Chief Sutton began his law enforcement career as a Washington State Trooper in 1988. After more than 25 years of service with WSP, rising to the rank of Captain, he was appointed as Lake Forest Park Chief of Police in March 2013. Chief Sutton's communication with citizens has brought unmatched transparency to our community and improved trust in the Police Department. The Chief has garnered enormous respect from the regional law enforcement community and Lake Forest Park community.



## Captain Paul Armbrust

Captain Armbrust served the citizens of Lake Forest Park for over 20 years. He worked tirelessly to protect the citizens of LFP. He worked as a Patrol Officer, Sergeant, and Captain. He was a department representative to the Special Olympics and the Salmon BBQ. He volunteered with the Shop with a Cop event and was a regular at National Night Out block parties.



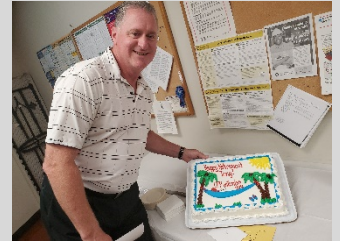


# Retirements and Promotions



## Detective Tony Matthews

Det. Matthews served the citizens of Lake Forest Park for over 22 years and as a police officer for over 30 years. He launched the website [CanyouID.me](http://CanyouID.me) and his fingerprints are all over the police department for innovative ideas and just plain hard work.



## Chief Michael Harden



Chief Harden started his career with Lake Forest Park in 2001 as a police officer. He worked through the specialty units and ranks, and in 2019 the promotion to Police Chief. Chief Harden is the second Chief to ever come from within the ranks in the entire history of LFPPD.



## Lieutenant



Lieutenant Lehman started her career in law enforcement over 25 years ago, starting as a reserve officer and police dispatcher. Working her way through the ranks she was promoted to the Patrol Operations Division Commander as the first Lieutenant the police department has had.

## Rhonda Lehman



# New Hires

## Lieutenant Diego Zanella

Lt. Zanella was hired in October to fill the Support Services Division Commander. Lt. Zanella is from Italy, where he served in the Italian Military. After coming to the U.S, he became a police officer for Kent PD. He worked for Issaquah PD for a decade and then worked for the University of Washington PD for 2 years as a patrol commander.



## Officer Czebotar



Prior experience Fish and Wildlife  
and Clyde Hill PD

## Officer Brecht



Prior experience with Mukilteo PD and  
BNSF PD

## Officer Coombs



Served with University of  
Oklahoma PD, Cleveland SO,  
Blanchard PD

## Officer Benson



## Officer Zelenock





# Community Policing / Outreach

## Social Media

In 2015, the Police Department and City of LFP began using social media on a regular basis. We maintained our social media reach with both Facebook and Twitter. The Nextdoor.com community continues to consistently grow its numbers and is the largest group of social media following. The police department postings have reached thousands of citizens with hundreds of thousands of views. We created the Community Partners Emergency Communication System, set up to notify community members of emergent issues involving natural hazards or police action. In 2019, we added Instagram as another social media tool. In 2020 videos will be uploaded to our YouTube Channel.



<https://www.facebook.com/LakeForestParkPD>



[https://twitter.com/lfppd\\_police](https://twitter.com/lfppd_police)



<https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/wa/lake-forest-park/lake-forest-park-police-department/>



<https://www.instagram.com/lakeforestparkpd/>



<https://www.youtube.com/> Search for **LFPPD Police**

## Lake Forest Park Community Partners Emergency Notification System

When an event occurs within the City or in neighboring jurisdictions that our community needs to know about, providing current and accurate information to the public is of great importance. The Police Department has created this system to notify residents, businesses, service providers, and other partners when an event occurs in the City that will be of interest to them. The system is web-based and utilizes cellular phone text notifications.

## Block-Watch

Our Block-Watch program encourages neighbors to get to know each other and work together to prevent crime; it involves citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. Citizens and police work together against crime, and citizens work with each other during emergencies.

## Crime Watch

In 2019, 13 volunteers were actively participating in the program. A total of 185 houses, all 4 parks, and both schools were visually checked for suspicious activity. Throughout the year, 180 patrol days were logged for a total of 596 volunteer hours on patrol days. Additionally, 154.5 hours were logged by the coordinator, included are other non-crime watch activities.

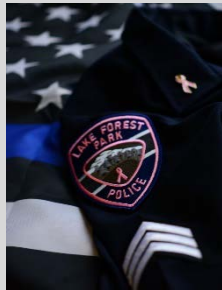
<i><b>Crime Watch Checks</b></i>	<i><b>2017</b></i>	<i><b>2018</b></i>	<i><b>2019</b></i>
<i>House Checks</i>	217	225	<b>185</b>
<i>Parks</i>	4	4	<b>4</b>
<i>Schools</i>	2	2	<b>2</b>

# Community Policing / Outreach

## National Night Out



## Pink Patch Project



## Pet Parade



## Picnic in the Park



## School Visits





# Community Policing / Outreach

## Holiday Heroes “Shop with a Cop”

