

YEAR END REPORT

2023

TO PROTECT AND SERVE 

MOUNT VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT



 812-838-8705

 www.mountvernonin.gov/police-department

MISSION STATEMENT

Members of the Mount Vernon Police Department are dedicated to the protection of the lives and property of our citizens. We strive that each person, business and organization can prosper in an environment that is safe and secure. Through a partnership with the community we will continue to make Mount Vernon a place that people want to call home.

POLICE STRUCTURE



The police department has 15 full time police officers and 1 administrative assistant. The following is a list of the officers, name, rank/title, and years of service. (Information as of 12/23)

Name	Rank/Title	Years of Service
1.Rush, Andy	Chief	26
2.Sellers, Korben	Captain	9
3.Lemberg, Darrin	Sergeant	17
4.Brauser, Brandon	Sergeant	9
5.Woodley, Brandon	Sergeant	4
6.Bohleber, Benjamin	School Resource Officer	23
7.Turner, Skylar	Detective	8
8.Stallings, Anthony	Corporal	18
9.Givens, Colton	Police Officer	9
10.Eickhoff, Karlee	Patrol Officer	4
11.Davis, Austin	Police Officer	3
12.Adkins, Zach	Police Officer	2
13.Hoehn, Levi	Police Officer	3
14.Ludwig, Gavin	Police Officer	9mo
15. Stevens, Nicholas	Police Officer	4mo
Administrative Assistant		
Owens, Shelly		8



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Citizens of Mount Vernon,

I am honored to present the 2023 Annual Report for the Mount Vernon Police Department. This report is our opportunity to provide you with a snapshot of the activities of our agency. This report also provides you with an up-to-date report on crime, collisions, and community projects for the MVPD.

As with many agencies across our region and across the country, we have continued to search for qualified individuals to fill our ranks. We acknowledge that we must compete against larger agencies in our region for quality applicants. However, I will assure you that we will not lower our standards just to fill a position. The responsibilities and role of being a Mount Vernon Police Officer is far too important for us to “settle” for just anyone. Thankfully, we have been able to hire two new officers in 2023 to help fill vacancies. We are optimistic about filling our final open position this year.

Even though our agency has been understaffed, our officers have continued to perform to the highest level. **Our calls for service are up 33%, our number of individuals arrested is up 28%, and our drug arrests are up over 150% (over 2022).** With all of this being said, our Part 1 crimes (which are considered serious crimes by the FBI) **is down 21%.** This fact is a credit to our officers being pro-active and utilizing technology to affect crime. I am extremely proud of the effort and results they have produced in 2023.

Our agency continues to invest in new technology to assist officers with their jobs. Our agency has invested thousands of dollars utilizing the Flock Camera System to help officers track down criminal offenders. These cameras have resulted in the recovery of a stolen vehicle, multiple drug cases as well as a dozen arrests. Our officers have also started to utilize other programs, such as Live911, to reduce response times to critical incidents.

Finally, we cannot do any of this without the support of the Mount Vernon community. We pride ourselves on the relationships we have developed with the citizens of Mount Vernon. For this reason, we continue to participate in numerous community projects, activities, meetings, and trainings throughout the year. Without you and your support, we could not be what we are today. Thank you, Mount Vernon, for your many cards, phone calls, visits to our police department, and the support you give our officers. I assure you our officers are very appreciative of your kind gestures.

We pray for God’s grace and mercy for everyone who lives or visits our fine city.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Andy Rush

TRAINING HOURS

TOTAL HOURS TRAINED: 965

Areas of Training in 2023

4th Amendment Search and Seizure

Absorbents and Spills

Active Shooter: Recognition and Basic Response

Advanced Patrol Tactics

AED

Anti-Bias Training for Law Enforcement

Bloodborne Pathogen

Breath Test Certification

Child Abuse and Neglect

Counter Drug Aviation Safety Course

CPR

Current Drug Trends

De-escalation and Reasonable Use of Force

Developing Leadership

Drug ID, Paraphernalia and the Motor Vehicle Stop

Emergency Vehicle Operations

Field Training Officer Course

Firearms

Human Trafficking

Identifying Criminal Vehicles

Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership Training

Indiana Drug Enforcement Administration Training

Conference

Indiana Police Supervisor's Core Course

Indiana Traffic Safety Conference

Interacting with the Mentally Ill

Leadership v. Management

Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease

Off-Duty Safety and Survival

Physical Tactics

Pipeline and Coordinated Response Exercise

Police Chief Training Program

Prosecutor's Legal Update for 2023

RADAR Operator Certification

Recognizing and Responding to Domestic Violence

NASRO Course

Spillman SAA Training

Stop the Bleed

Strategies & Tactics of Patrol Stops Instructor Course

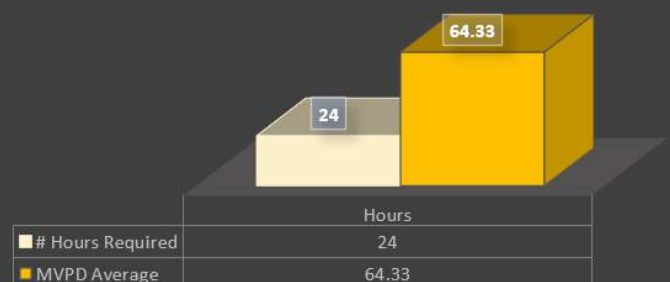
Taser Training

Understanding the Autism Spectrum Disorder

UP 19%

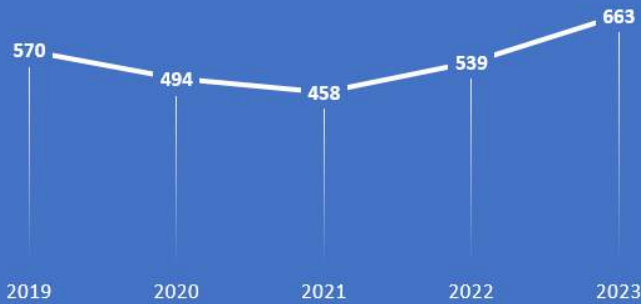


AVERAGE TRAINING HOURS PER OFFICER



REPORTS

OF OFFENSE REPORTS COMPLETED



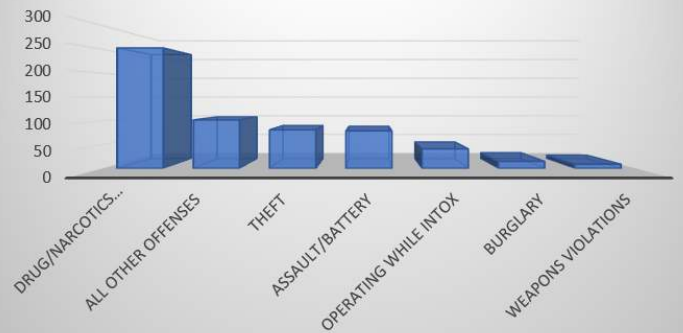
UP 23 %

Year	# of Offense Reports Completed
2019	570
2020	494
2021	458
2022	539
2023	663

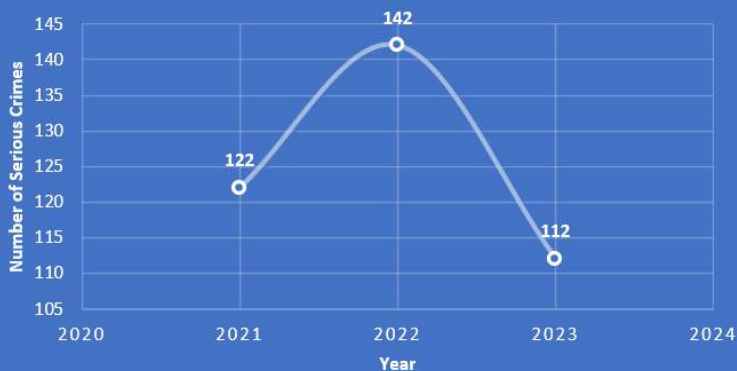
Types of Offences Reported for 2023:

Drug/Narcotics Violations	253 Up 150%
All Other Offences	102 Down 24%
Theft	81 Down 20%
Assault/Battery	79 Down 4%
Operating While Intoxicated	41
Burglary	15 Up 25%
Weapons Violations	9 Up 80%

Types of Offense Reports Filed



PART 1 CRIMES REPORTED

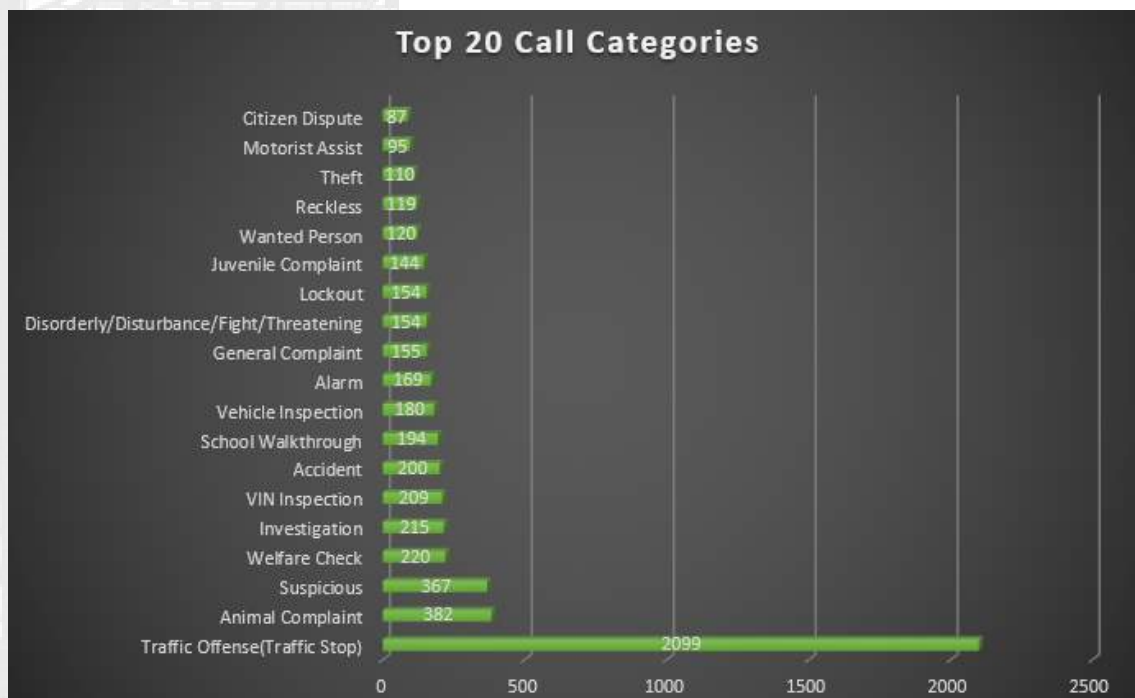
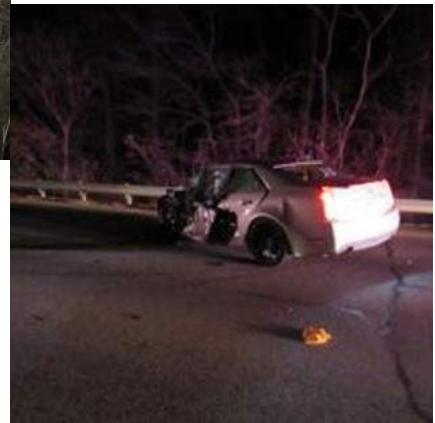


Part 1 Crimes*	2023	2022	2021
Murder	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	13	17	9
Rape	1	5	3
Robbery	1	1	0
Theft	74	92	85
Motor Vehicle Theft	7	18	11
Arson	1	3	1
Human Trafficking	0	0	0
Burglary	15	6	13
Total	112	142	122

*Part 1 Crimes (What the FBI determines is a "serious crime")

CALLS FOR SERVICE

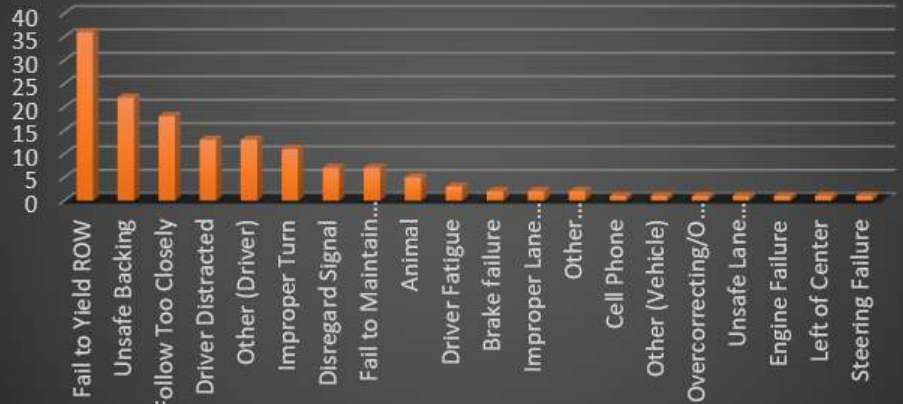
1	Type of Complaint	# of calls
2	Traffic Offense(Traffic Stop)	2099
3	Animal Complaint	382
4	Suspicious	367
5	Welfare Check	220
6	Investigation	215
7	VIN Inspection	209
8	Accident	200
9	School Walkthrough	194
10	Vehicle Inspection	180
11	Alarm	169
12	General Complaint	155
13	Disorderly/Disturbance/Fight/Thr	154
14	Lockout	154
15	Juvenile Complaint	144
16	Wanted Person	120
17	Reckless	119
18	Theft	110
19	Motorist Assist	95
20	Citizen Dispute	87
21	Standby	71
22	Domestic	70
23	Escort	61
24	Extra Patrol	56
25	Community Contact	56
26	Harassment	46
27	Agency Assist	41
28	Noise Complaint	40
29	Breaking and Entering	36
30	911 Hang up	31
31	Vandalism	29
32	Assault	23
33	Suicide/Attempted	23
34	Psychiatric/CIT	22
35	Missing Person	15
36	Alcohol Offense	7
37	Abandoned Vehicle	5



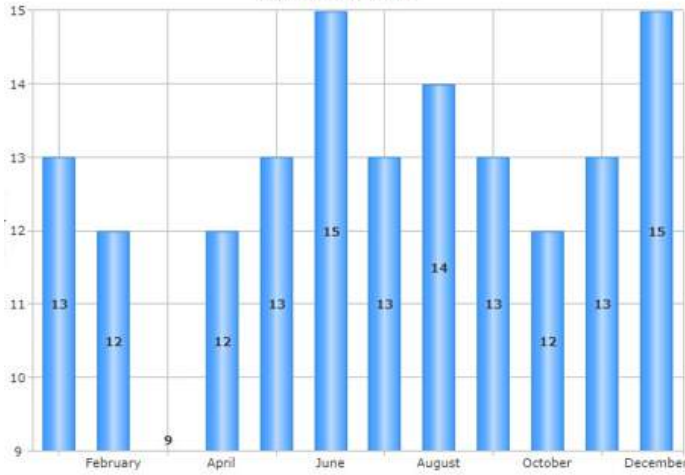
PRIMARY FACTORS FOR ACCIDENTS

Factors		% of total
Fail to Yield ROW	36	23%
Unsafe Backing	22	14%
Follow Too Closely	18	12%
Driver Distracted	13	8%
Other (Driver)	13	8%
Improper Turn	11	7%
Disregard Signal	7	5%
Fail to Maintain Lane	7	5%
Animal	5	3%
Driver Fatigue	3	2%
Brake failure	2	1%
Improper Lane Usage	2	1%
Other (Environmental)	2	1%
Cell Phone	1	1%
Other (Vehicle)	1	1%
Overcorrecting/Oversteering	1	1%
Unsafe Lane Movement	1	1%
Engine Failure	1	1%
Left of Center	1	1%
Steering Failure	1	1%

Contributing Factors of Vehicle Collisions



Reports By Month



Day of Week



FRIDAY - 19.48% MONDAY - 18.18% SATURDAY - 9.74% SUNDAY - 5.84%
THURSDAY - 11.69% TUESDAY - 17.53% WEDNESDAY - 17.53%

Stat Summary

Total Crashes	154
Injury Crashes	24
Total Injured	37
Fatal Crashes	0
Total Fatalities	
Comm. Vehicle Crashes	17
Work Zone Crashes	0
School Zone Crashes	9

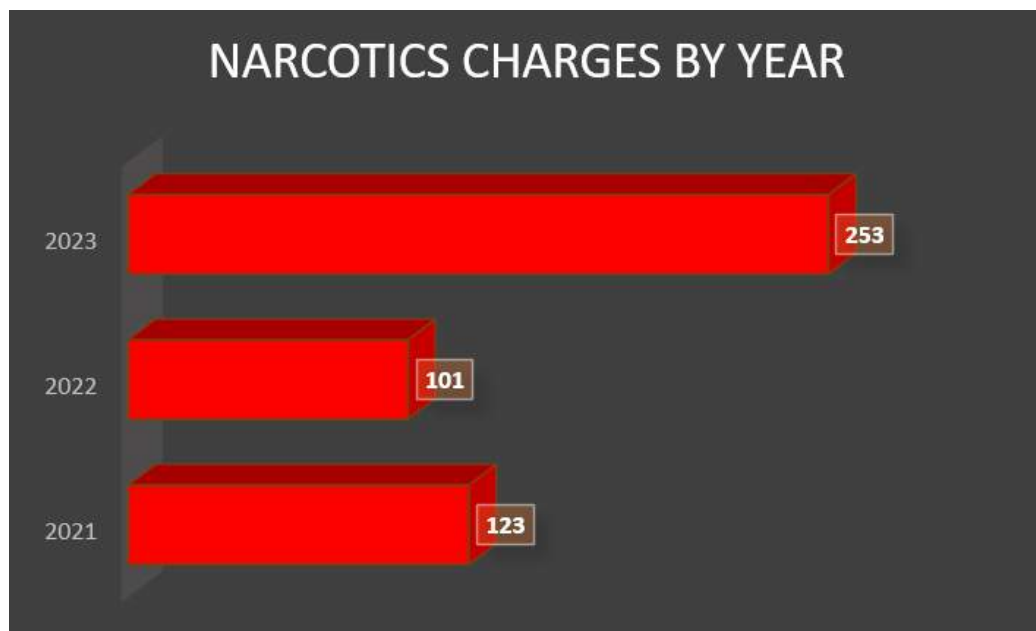
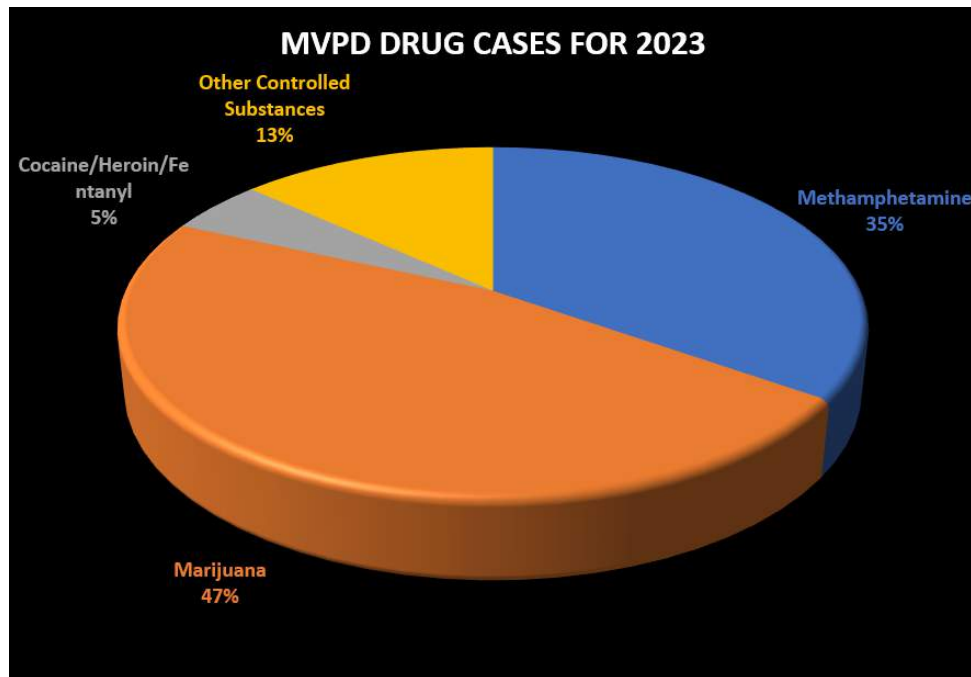
Weather Conditions



CLEAR - 79.22% CLOUDY - 15.58% RAIN - 3.9% FOG/SMOKE/SMOG - 1.3%

MVPD DRUG CASES 2023

Type of Drug	Sum of Charges		Year	Charges	
Methamphetamine	63	Up 163%	2021	123	
Marijuana	85	Up 118%	2022	101	
Cocaine/Heroin/Fentanyl	9	Up 800%	2023	253	Up 150% Over 2022
Other Controlled Substances	24	Up 85%			
Paraphernalia Arrests	72	Up 192%			



ARREST STATS

of Individuals Arrested



People Arrested

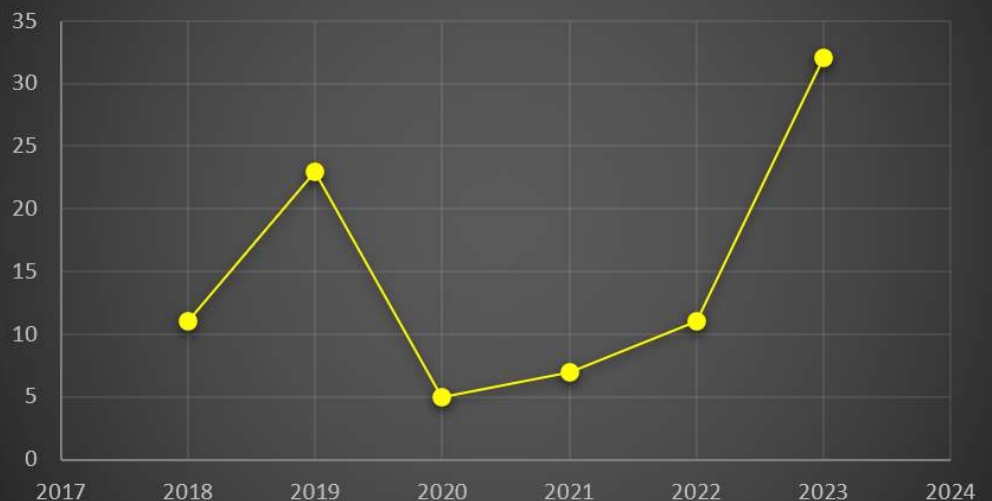
Year	# of Arrests
2018	168
2019	175
2020	152
2021	187
2022	192
2023	246

UP 28%

of Juveniles Arrested

Year	# of Arrests
2018	11
2019	23
2020	5
2021	7
2022	11
2023	32

UP 190%

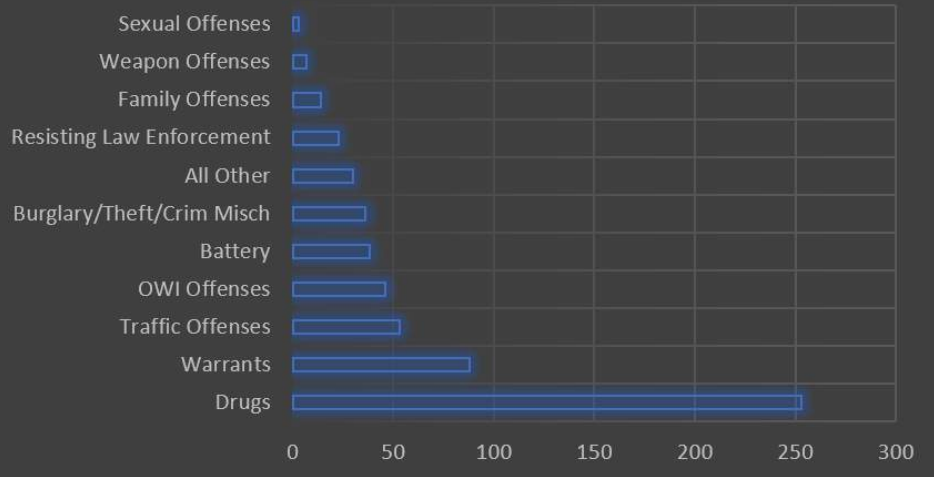


ARREST STATS CONTINUED

Individual Charges

Arrest Categories	# of Charges
Drugs	168
Warrants	175
Traffic Offenses	152
OWI Offenses	187
Battery	192
Burglary/Theft/Crim Mischief	246
All Other	30
Resisting Law Enforcement	23
Family Offenses	14
Weapon Offenses	7
Sexual Offenses	3
Robbery	2
Total	593

2023 Individual Charges

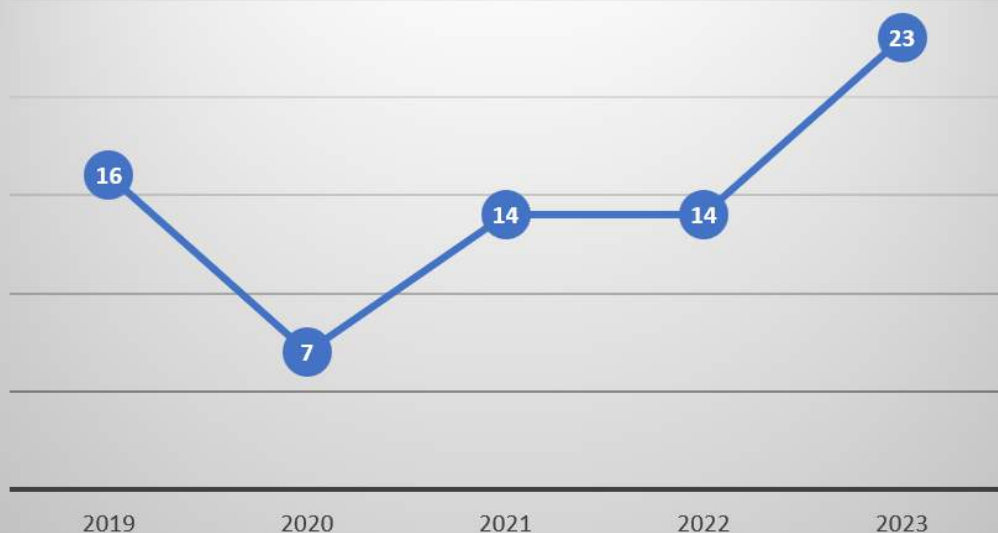


Total Number of Charges

2018	287
2019	365
2020	309
2021	412
2022	380
2023	593

UP 56%

Resisting Law Enforcement



Resisting Law Enforcement

Year	# of Arrest
2019	16
2020	7
2021	14
2022	14
2023	23

UP 64%

2023 GOAL RESPONSE

Goal 1: Hiring and Recruiting

Objective: Continue recruiting/hiring until fully staffed

Strategies:

- Attend Job/Career Fairs
- Propose New Hiring Incentives to the BPW/Common Council
- Advertise job openings online and over the radio

2023 Response: Our agency attended multiple Career Fairs and community events to spread the word about our agency looking for new officers. We utilized social media and hiring sites to help with these hiring campaigns. Fortunately, we were able to hire (2) new officers in 2023.

Goal 2: Expand Knowledge of Officers

Objective: Research/Send officers to additional training

Strategies:

- Poll/Survey officers for career objectives
- Research potential internal and external training opportunities
- Utilize training organizations to host training in Mount Vernon

2023 Response: Our agency attended multiple training courses from Indianapolis, to Louisville and even far southern Kentucky. Our agency increased the number of training hours as well as the topics that were covered.

Goal 3: Utilize advanced technology to enhance safety of citizens

Objective: Give officers and detectives more tools to help prevent / solve violent crimes

Strategies:

- Expand the use of the Mobile Data Computers for easier use
- Implement mapping program for one click access to information
- Facilitate the exchange of information among shifts

2023 Response: Our agency utilized programs such as Live911 to assist with call response. Our agency also invested in the Flock Camera System and updated the computers in (4) of our patrol vehicles.

2023 GOAL RESPONSE

Goal 4: Highlight accomplishments

Objective: Increase the number of media releases about our agency

Strategies:

- Release media information on a timely basis about incidents/arrests
- Increase the number of meetings with the public
- Continue the use of social media to release information to the public

2023 Response: We have increased the number of news media and social media releases for our agency. We have attempted to keep the public informed about events of public interest that have occurred within the City of Mount Vernon.

Goal 5: Begin examining large scale projects

Objective: Explore different projects that would be beneficial to MVPD

Strategies:

- Explore the possibilities of a firearms simulator to reduce costs and liability
- Explore the potential impact of a K-9 program
- Explore different methods of funding for projects such as grants to fund projects such as a new SRO vehicle/wrap

2023 Response: Our agency has began to research different programs/projects, costs, and policies needed to begin the implementation of a K-9 program.

Goal 6: Analyze Crime/Traffic Data

Objective: Analyze crime and traffic data for proper deployment of resources

Strategies:

- Analyze crime rates in our city to determine if crimes are connected
- Analyze traffic collision data to determine the common causes of the accidents
- Deploy resources to areas shown to have higher crime/traffic problems

2023 Response: Our agency utilizes the Aeries system to analyze the date, time, and locations of traffic collisions. This review of incidents will help the new supervisors deploy resources to needed areas.

DAYSHIFT: SGT. DARREN LEMBERG

2023



NEW APPOINTMENT!

EVENINGSHIFT: SGT. BRANDON BRAUSER

2023



NEW APPOINTMENT!

MIDNIGHTSHIFT: SGT. BRANDON WOODLEY

2023



NEW APPOINTMENT!



NEW OFFICER GAVIN LUDWIG

"I've lived in southern Indiana all my life.

After graduating high school I attended Vincennes University where I graduated with a law enforcement degree. Soon after, I applied and graduated the Indiana State Police Academy and become a State Trooper for the Versailles district. I would eventually wish to move closer to home and start working for another agency. I was grateful to be introduced and accepted into the Mount Vernon community and their police force. Not having grown up in Mount Vernon, I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of new and interesting people here. "

Welcome to the department Officer Ludwig!



NEW OFFICER NICHOLAS STEVENS

"I grew up in the small town of Brookville, Indiana just west of Cincinnati, and had always wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement. After graduating high school, I attended Ball State University. After a year at Ball State, I transferred to the University of Southern Indiana, where I met my wife Emmalee in 2015, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2019. My law enforcement career began in 2019 when I started working at the Posey County Jail. In March of 2021, I left the jail and accepted the Field Officer position at Posey County Community Corrections, where I remained until accepting a position at the Mount Vernon Police Department in August of 2023. Whenever I am not working, I enjoy spending time with family, watching sports, and working on cars. I am excited to be with the Mt. Vernon Police Department and am looking forward to serving the community!"

Welcome to the department Officer Stevens!

Life Saving Award



Mount Vernon Police Department
Chief Andrew Rush
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Press Release

04/06/2023

Mount Vernon (IN) PD Officers Awarded Lifesaving Medals at April 5, 2023 Common Council Meeting

On 03/29/2023, at approximately 1247 hours, Posey County Central Dispatch was advised of an active fire at the Landing (a senior living facility) located at 111 East Water Street, Mount Vernon.

A resident had called and advised there was a fire in her 2nd floor apartment. The resident advised she was unable to get the fire out and was unable to get out of her apartment. Officer Anthony Stallings and Officer Darrin Lemberg, responded to the scene prior to being dispatched to assist.

Without regard to his own safety, Officer Stallings immediately retrieved his fire extinguisher and ran to the 2nd floor apartment. With dark black smoke pouring out of the apartment, Officer Stallings secured the apartment resident into a chair and was able to get her outside to the waiting medics where she received medical treatment for her burns. Officer Stallings and Officer Lemberg re-entered the building and continued to help evacuate the apartment building to get all residents out.

Without the quick response of Officer Stallings and Officer Lemberg to get the resident out of the building, there may have been a loss of human life.

On 04/05/2023, Chief Andy Rush presented Officer Anthony Stallings and Officer Darrin Lemberg with the Mount Vernon Police Department "Lifesaving Medal" for their heroic actions.

Life Saving Award



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Press Release
11/02/2023

Mount Vernon (IN) Police Officer Awarded Lifesaving Award after Actions at Accident Scene

On October 9, 2023, Deputy Schmidt with the Posey County Sheriff's Office responded to an unknown accident at the intersection of SR 62 and Ford Road (which is 5 miles outside of Mount Vernon city limits) where a vehicle had run off the road. Posey Dispatch had even attempted to get help from the Indiana State Police but they did not have any units available.

Officer Austin Davis with the Mount Vernon Police Department was working overtime on a highway safety grant when he overheard Deputy Schmidt advise dispatch he was performing CPR on an adult male who was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Without hesitation, Officer Davis, along with multiple MVPD units, responded to the scene to help Deputy Schmidt. When Officer Davis arrived on scene, he immediately took over performing CPR on the individual. This allowed Deputy Schmidt to retrieve his AED (which Schmidt ended up using). Both worked on the individual until Marrs Township Fire personnel arrived and placed a LUCAS CPR device on the male (which took over compressions). Sergeant Brauser (of the Mount Vernon Police Department) was advised by Posey County EMS personnel that they had regained a pulse on the male and that he was going to be transported to a nearby hospital.

Without the quick actions of Deputy Schmidt and Officer Davis, the male would not have survived. On November 1, 2023, Officer Davis was awarded the MVPD Lifesaving Medal for his actions.



Life Saving Award



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Press Release

05/04/2023

Mount Vernon (IN) PD Officer Awarded Lifesaving Award at May 4, 2023 Common Council Meeting

On 04/14/2023 at approximately 1532 hours, **Officer Levi Hoehn** was dispatched to a residence in Mount Vernon in reference to a possible drug overdose. Upon arrival, Officer Hoehn found a 17-year old juvenile male lying face down with no visible sign of breathing. Officer Hoehn immediately began to revive the juvenile. Officer Hoehn was able to help the juvenile begin breathing but he was still not alert. Officer Hoehn administered a dose of **Narcan** and provided care until the Posey County Medics could arrive on scene. The medics were able to continue care for the individual who was revived. Without the quick action of Officer Hoehn as well as the available supply of Narcan, the juvenile could have easily lost his life. **Because of his actions, Officer Levi Hoehn was presented with the Lifesaving Award.**

The Mount Vernon Police Department would like to acknowledge the great partnership with the Posey County Health Department. The Health Department has been able to provide the Narcan to each of our officers. This life saving drug is a great tool for our officers to provide care for individuals suffering from the harmful effects of potential overdoses as well as themselves if need be.



ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

The Mount Vernon Animal Control position is a combination of our city's animal control duties as well as our city Code Enforcement position. This position is responsible for picking up stray dogs, transporting them to the kennel, investigating animal cruelty cases, locating owners, and responding to citizen animal complaints. Because this is a dual position, this job also investigates abandoned vehicle complaints, improperly posted signs, as well as tall weed violations throughout Mount Vernon.



For 2023:

382 Animal Complaints

121 Weed Cases started

25 Abandoned Vehicle Cases started

**46 Ordinance Violation calls
(21 Cases started)**

**68 Dogs were transported to
the Kennel**

WHATS NEW?



FLOCK CAMERA SYSTEM

The Flock Camera System is a license plate reading tool used by law enforcement agencies across the nation to assist them in solving crimes. The tool reads the license plate as a vehicle passes and compares it to a national list of stolen vehicles, AMBER alert notifications, missing person databases as well as wanted, dangerous persons database. Currently, our agency has three cameras in the Mount Vernon area.

49 FLOCK TRAFFIC STOPS (IN 3 MONTH PERIOD)



LIVE 911

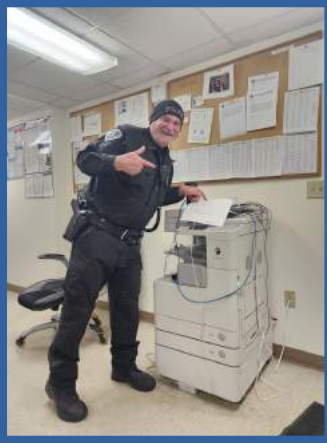
Live911 is a computer program implemented in mid 2023 that helps officers respond to calls quicker with more information. As a 911 call comes in, the officer is simultaneously notified on their screen and can hear the call LIVE as it's being processed by dispatch. This eliminates minutes that are lost in the case of an emergency.



Computers

Our agency continues to invest in new, faster technology for our officers. We began phasing in new Dell Rugged computers in the patrol vehicles. These computers are built to withstand vibration, constant use as well as temperature fluctuations that occur in our working environment.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Officers have conducted 194 school walk-throughs in 2023!