

# ANNUAL POLICE REPORT 2023

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF  
TAYLORVILLE

CHIEF OF POLICE: DWAYNE WHEELER

# Taylorville Police 2023



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# OUR CHIEF'S STATEMENT

To the Mayor, City Council, Residents and guests,

- I am pleased to submit the 2023 Taylorville Police Departments Annual Report to the City Administration, the citizens of Taylorville, and our guests. The report includes statistical crime data, traffic enforcement statistics, crash information, and general service details. It also includes our accomplishments for 2023 and goals for 2024.
- In compiling the data from 2023 I was very pleased with our overall statistics and the services provided to our residents and guests. Having been in this position for over three years, I acknowledge there is still work to be accomplished, though I am ecstatic about our progress and the direction the department is advancing. I see positive changes in our statistics as well as our relationship with the community we serve.

- I am very proud of our department as I feel each officer has vast knowledge of police work. We have a diverse group of officers with the seasoned veterans bringing experience and knowledge while adding youth to bring fresh ideas and energy. The Administrative Assistant Kirsten Nelson is valuable as she maintains the day-to-day operations of the office while answering countless phone calls of requests, concerns, and questions.
- I trust that you will find this report both intriguing and informative. I would like to thank all of you for the continued support of the Police Department and myself. I truly feel honored to serve our city as the Chief of Police and take this position with much humility. I am hopeful to reflect the ethics, morals, and values of our city's leaders and residents and look forward to many good years ahead. If you have inquiries about the data or information presented here, I will be pleased to answer any questions. I also welcome concerns and suggestions as to how we can better serve our city's residents, businesses, and guests.



Chief of Police

Dispatch

Admin Asst.

Deputy Chief

Lieutenant

Investigations

School Resource

SGT. 5a-5p

SGT. 5p-5a

SGT. 5a-5p

SGT. 5p-5a

Officers

Officers

Officers

Officers

U.S. Marshal Task Force

# MISSION & VALUES OF THE TAYLORVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Taylorville Police Department is to protect life and property and enhance the quality of life for all citizens while enforcing the laws of the State of Illinois and ordinances of the City of Taylorville, in accordance with Constitutional rights. The men and women of the Police Department, working under the motto “Proud to Serve “, take pride in providing professional police service to the community they have sworn to protect. The Taylorville Police Department is committed to serving all citizens equally, in a manner that is both procedurally just and transparent.

While always striving to improve our performance, we ask for your input to make the police department strive to be the best. It takes a community to work together to make this great city a better place to live and raise our families. Our commitment to community relations remains at the forefront of everything we do.



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# STAFFING

The Taylorville Police Department is committed to providing the best service possible with prudent spending. To achieve this goal an annual resource allocation study by division is completed. This allocation study helps to identify proper staffing levels per shift. For 2023 the City population is estimated at 10,284 people. Our authorized sworn personnel strength is 19 Police Officers with a Deputy Chief and Chief. To help facilitate quality service, we should be at 22. We have one records clerk and five full time dispatchers and one part time dispatcher.

## Police Personnel

Lt. Michael (Ben) Toberman	SRO Sgt. Alan Mills	Det. Jeff Wood
Sgt. Wes Withrow	Sgt. Chase Dickey	Shane Ponzel
Sgt. Christian Nelson	Christopher Adams	SRO Kirsten Beaman
Matthew Nichols	Greg Just	K9 Rachel Priddy
Jody Grove	Nickolas Todd	Joshua Niles
Chaz Dees	Ryan Tapp	Hannah Coleman
Troy Kissel	Lindsey Coy	



The coordination of training for the Taylorville Police Department is the responsibility of the Chief and Lt. Toberman. Training programs are presented through classroom instruction, printed materials, videos, online instruction, seminars, and departmental communications. Training topics have included: policy and procedure review, criminal law, local ordinances, and traffic law updates.

### EVERY YEAR:

1. Firearm Qualification
2. Law Updates
3. Use of Force
4. Hazmat
5. Sheriffs/ Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs (Training by assignment)
6. K-9 Narcotic Detection (Training by assignment)
7. Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) (Federal Law)

### EVERY 2 YEARS:

1. CPR/AED a. While there is no requirement for refresher courses on Narcan, agencies may attach a refresher to CPR/AED recertification courses.

### EVERY 3 YEARS:

1. Constitutional and Proper Use of Authority
2. Procedural Justice
3. Civil Rights
4. Human Rights
5. Cultural Competency
6. Mental Health Awareness and Response
7. Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
8. Officer Wellness
9. Trauma Informed Response and Investigation of Sexual Assault/Abuse

### EVERY 4 YEARS:

1. Lead Homicide Investigator (Training by assignment)
2. Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (Training by assignment)

# INTERNAL AFFAIR REPORTS

In order to ensure that the integrity of the Police Department is preserved, all complaints and accusations made against the department or its members are investigated completely and thoroughly, including anonymous complaints. The findings of each rule violation are included below:

The Taylorville Police Department investigated 4 alleged misconduct complaints from citizens.

The following complaints were verbal complaints and were unfounded.

The Taylorville Police Department Investigated 4 officers involved in complaints in accordance of our police procedures and policy. The outcome is as follows:

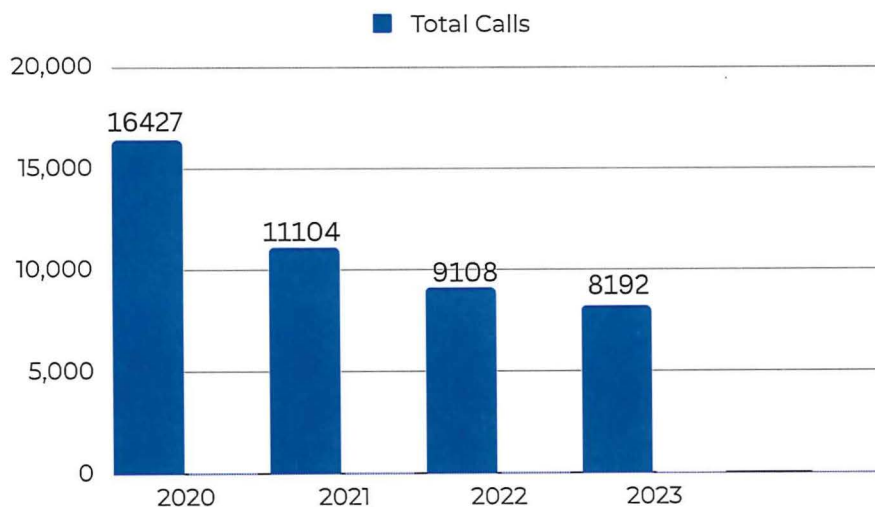
- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Officer #1  | Unfounded.       |
| 2. Officer #2  | Unfounded.       |
| 3. Officer # 3 | Unfounded.       |
| 4. Officer # 4 | Written Warning. |



# Field Operations: Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the largest and most highly visible component of the Taylorville Police Department. Employing 4 sergeants and 12 patrol officers, the primary responsibility of the Patrol Division is the protection of life and property. Patrol officers maintain peace and order, conduct preliminary investigations, and enforce traffic and criminal laws, as well as City ordinances. Patrol officers provide initial response to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. They handle special assignments, proactively address community concerns, and perform ancillary functions.

## Calls for Service



### Most Frequent Calls of 2023

- Traffic Stops: 1,557
- Lockouts: 490
- Traffic Crashes: 418
- Check Welfare: 313
- Suspicious Persons: 277
- Alarms/Burglaries: 254
- Domestic: 267
- Juvenile Problems: 246



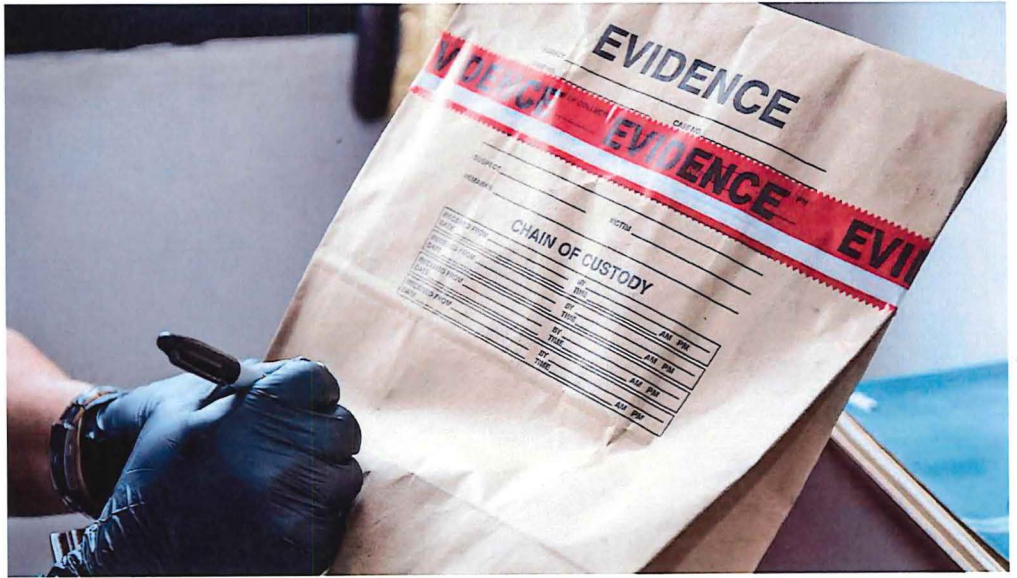
# INVESTIGATION UNIT: DET. ADAMS & DET. WOOD

The Criminal Investigations Division provides the City of Taylorville with professional and skilled investigators who are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Not only does this division handle all criminal investigations and interrogations, personnel background checks, The Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for all follow up investigations and reviewing details of crimes occurring in the City

Some of the cases assigned to detectives in 2023 included		
Death investigations	Sex Crimes	Burglaries
Vehicle Burglaries	Thefts	Battery
Forgery/Fraud	Home Invasions	Assaults

# EVIDENCE

Officer Jody Grove handles all evidence. Officer Grove's duties are to ensure that narcotics are sent to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab. Her duties are also to pick up the narcotics and make sure the chain of command is in compliance. Officer Grove also handle's several other types of evidence to electronically post and store for evidence services.





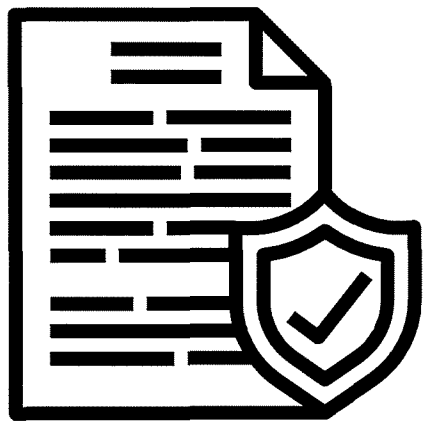
# POLICE RECORDS: KIRSTEN NELSON

## FOIA REQUESTS: APPROXIMATELY 425 IN 2023.

The Records Section is responsible for managing all of the records for the Police Department as well as monthly reporting for the Uniform Crime Report. The City of Taylorville records clerk handles all police reports to be turned into the States Attorney. Kirsten goes above and beyond to keep our department running efficiently with the States Attorney's Office. Kirsten must make sure all bills are paid and accounted for. Kirsten, along with the Chief, watch our budget monthly to make sure we are on track of our allocation amount.

Other responsibilities include:

- FOIA requests
- Annual Records Disposal Accuracy of Arrest Jackets
- Compiling Monthly Reports
- IL Debt Recovery Records Expungements
- Sex Offender Registration filing





# DISPATCH SERVICE

The Communications Section is responsible for receiving all emergency and non-emergency calls for police, this section handles the dispatching of all calls for service for police through the use of the department's radio system.

We are currently staffed with five full time dispatchers and one part time dispatcher. Dispatch plays a vital role for the City Police Department. Besides handling calls for service they must run subjects for warrants, driver licenses check, monitor the FLOCK LPR system, and properly log all aspects of each call and encounter that the police officer has with a citizen.

We have a great team and our team leader is Andrew Borders.

**The anticipated CAD system came into effect in June of 2022, combining systems with Christian County Sheriff's Office and other agencies within the county making it easier for departments to share information and help officer investigations.**

**Resignations:**

- Emmalyn Myers
- Gabrielle Merriman
- Kayleigh Boston

**New Hires:**

- Kendra Fisher
- Kaci DeVore

**Retained:**

- Andrew Borders
- Jack Greene
- Caitlyn Klein

# NEW HIRES

In 2023 the Taylorville Police Department was fortunate to adopt Lateral Hires from other agencies. By doing this it saves money and time to have the Officer trained and put on the City Streets of Taylorville solo. We also hired a new recruit for the academy. The following Officers were hired:

Officer Troy Kissel



Officer Lindsey Coy



# RETIREMENTS

## RETIREMENTS: DET. EVERT NATION



# AWARDS

## AWARDS:

- OFFICER OF THE 1ST QUARTER: OFFICER COLEMAN
- OFFICER OF THE 2ND QUARTER: DISPATCHER BORDERS
- OFFICER OF THE 3RD QUARTER: DISPATCHER BOSTON
- OFFICER OF THE 4TH QUARTER: OFFICER PRIDDY

## OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2023: OFFICER PRIDDY





# PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS



TRIAD and TPD continue their efforts to help educate our seniors in regards to home. Meetings continue once a month and is lead by Officer Beaman.

## Story Time with the ERT

In February the ERT held a story time with the Taylorville Public Library, we had school aged children come learn about emergency safety and the team!



## Plant for the Planet

In April Officer Beaman and Dispatcher Boston held an Earth Day event at the Taylorville Public Library

## Search and Seizure Scavenger Hunt

In May Officer Beaman and Dispatcher Boston with help from the Explorers held the annual scavenger hunt at Manners Park!



# PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUED



## Explorers Program

Officer Jody Grove, Officer Nickolas Todd, and Dispatcher Kayleigh Boston work together to advise a great group of local kids. These kids get to learn inside and hands on information about the Law Enforcement career, they complete trainings and community service hours multiple times a month. TPD's Explorers were the recipients of the Kiwanis Grant for 2023!

## Donation Coordination

We were able to continue to assist in getting donations to help multiple individuals and families who were struggling this year. Thanks to donations from the community, we were able to provide window air conditioner units, beds, clothes, baby items, and more!



## Bicycles for Kids

This program was started to provide free bicycles to kids whose families were unable to buy one for them. We had a shed full of unclaimed bicycles that had been sitting for years that just needed some love and minor fixes. We teamed up with Sparrow Bicycle Co. and its owner Sam to bring life back to these forgotten bicycles. We have been able to donate 20+ bicycles so far to kids. This program will continue into 2024

## Fishing with Offishers

In June TPD as well as CCSO, State's Attorney's office, and The Dept. Of Natural Resources got together to hold a fishing event for kids in the area. We had a lot of donations making it possible for each child to leave with their own tacklebox and fishing pole as well as information about conservation and safe fishing!



# PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUED



## Sunday Fun-day

In July Dispatcher Boston with the help of Officer Beaman, Officer Grove, and the Explorers held a Sunday Fun-day Block Party in front of the Police Department. We raised just under \$1000 for the Law Enforcement Torch Run. We had vendors donate their time/earnings for families to come out and play on the slip and slide, get their face painted, listen to music and eat some great food!

## K9 Demos

This year K9 Alan with his handler Officer Priddy completed many demos at the schools in the community, showing kids the importance of police K9s!



## National Night Out

In August we held our 4th National Night Out at the Christian County Fairgrounds. We opened the event up to the entire county in an effort to boost morale. We had 600+ people who attended. We had free food, raffles, giveaways, inflatable games, potato sack races, a DJ, and more! We could not have done it without all of the donations we received from our local businesses and our volunteers!

## Halloween Party

This October we held our annual Halloween Party at the Taylorville Fire Department, Officers, Dispatchers and Explorers stuffed approximately 500 goodie bags full of candy, safety books, coloring books, and other fun swag. These bags were handed out to students at North School and Head Start as well as at the event! The Explorers and their Advisors planned the games as well as decorated the Fire Dept.



# PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUED



## Give Thanks, Give Food Thanksgiving Food Drive

In November in partnership with the Taylorville Food Pantry, Officer Beaman and Dispatcher Boston collected donations and helped pass out meals to families in need within our community

## Kids, Cops, Christmas

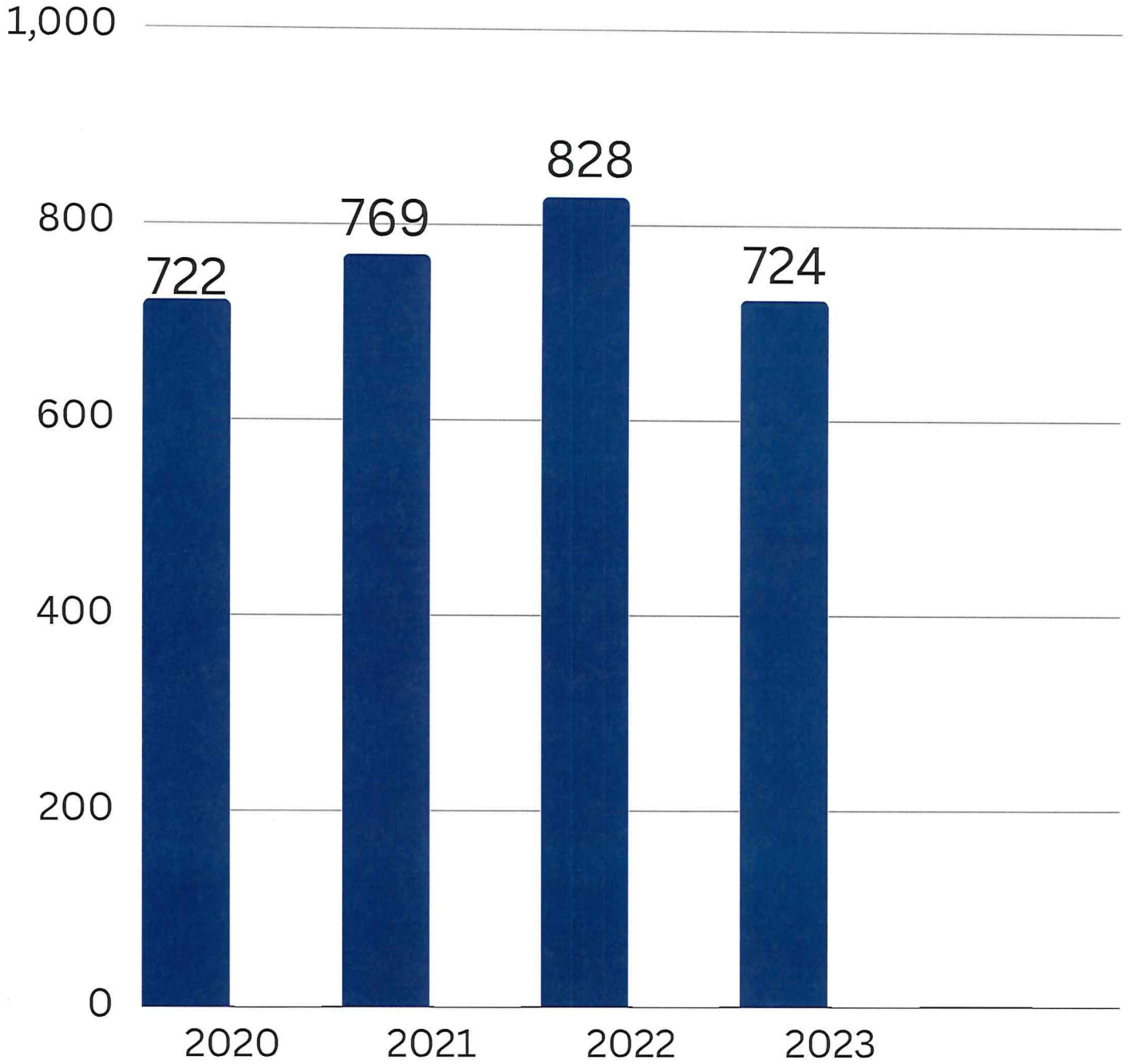
In December, Sgt. Mills coordinated the Kids, Cops, Christmas event. Handling cash donations from all over the community and helping families all over Christian County be able to celebrate Christmas. Officers as well as the Explorers shopped with families, smiles were all around!



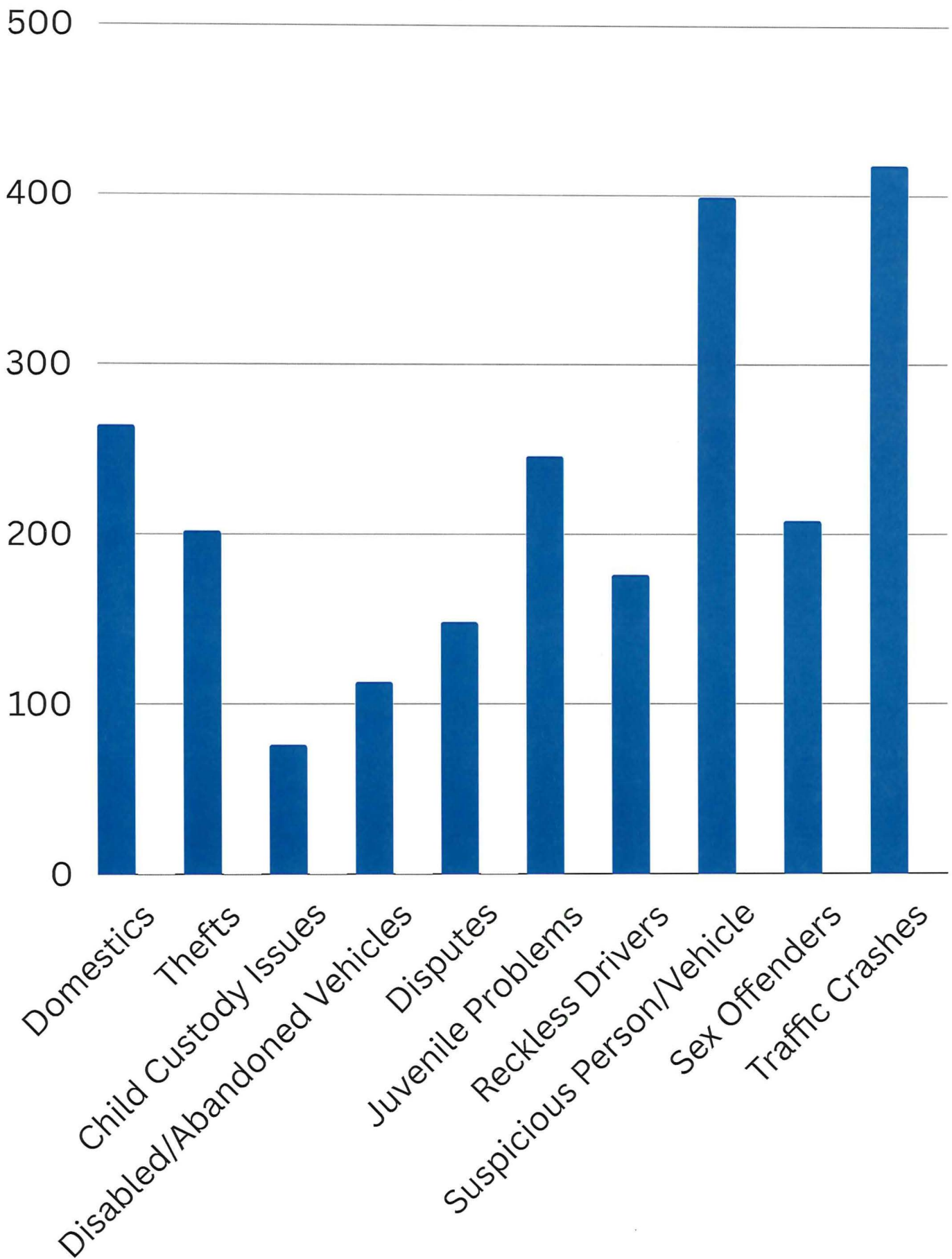
## Bike Rodeo

This summer Officer Beaman along with the Lincoln Trail Conservation Committee held a bike rodeo! Kids from all over got the opportunity to learn about bike safety as well as complete an obstacle course

■ Traffic Citations By Year



■ Amt. of Calls



# COMMUNITY ACTION/EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

- TPD is extremely happy to partner with Assumption Police, Stonington Police, Morrisonville Police, Kincaid Police and Edinburg Police to fight the war on drugs. Since the inception of this team, we have all seen a decrease in crime and more narcotic investigations. The ERT team consists of members of the majority of the departments. The team members are SWAT trained and also train monthly. We are extremely lucky to have this team in our county. The team helps our CAT team conduct search warrants and assist on ground searches if needed.
- The Community Action Team has conducted several narcotic investigations throughout the year in Taylorville, Kincaid, Assumption and Stonington. This had led to several arrests along with search warrants. The partnership has grown in 2023 and we expect 2024 to be even a better year. The CAT team thanks all the citizens that have helped us in 2023.



# CANINE (K9) DIVISION

The K9 Division is led by Officer Rachel Priddy and K9 Alan



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A K9s keen sense of smell helps them to detect items that a human officer might miss, especially drugs and bombs. With training, K9s can even sniff out drugs that are sealed in plastic.

K9s can also be used to search for flammables and explosives. And a positive indication from a K9 is legal grounds to establish probable cause for a search.

K9s are frequently used to track missing people in search-and-rescue missions. Once a dog is given a piece of an item with the scent of a specific person, they can lead the police down the path that person took. This is also useful when tracking down suspects or escaped convicts. K9s can quickly lead teams down the right way. During a pursuit or search and rescue mission, every minute counts, so having this extra knowledge is invaluable.





# OUR GOALS FOR 2023

Looking forward into 2023 we are excited about our community engagements and continued efforts to keep the community safe from drugs and crime.

The year 2022 was a year of great change and momentum for the Taylorville Police Department. As we move into 2023, the staff at the police department is excited about the boundless new opportunities that we have been presented to continue to recognize the Taylorville Police Department as a premier police department using innovative and progressive policing strategies resulting in a safe community.

In 2023 the citizens of Taylorville will also be hearing about the possibility of a new justice center. This is an extensive, exciting project that involves the cooperation of many city departments. The current public safety building was built in the 1960s and our needs have far outgrown what the current building is able to provide. We are excited to bring to you a plan for what the future of public safety will look like with a new building.

Our outreach will continue in the new year with many community events planned. We hope that you continue to get to know your police department and we look forward to meeting you in 2023



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Taylorville Police Department would like to thank you for taking the time to read our annual 2023 report. TPD strives each year to make this report more transparent.

### TO THE PEACEKEEPERS

The city sleeps a peaceful night, Because of those in blue. So many, completely unaware, Of most of what they do. Not knowing what may come, But willing to take on the day. Like modern knights with armor and weapon, Leading into the fray. To battle the foes each day and night, These modern warriors go. Confronting the bad and helping the good, putting down society's woes. The life they lead is often hard, They are a breed apart. A tougher job no one will find, Or one that takes such heart. When any fall, whatever the case, A deepening pall descends. The specter they battle rears its head, They know they depend on friends. This universal family Of those who wear the badge, Have deep-running ties that do not fade, To those who fought in the past. We owe a debt to these that take To this battle every day, So we can sleep in peace each night, While for us, they head to the fray. In memory of the fallen brothers and sisters

*We thank you for your continued support in our efforts keep Taylorville safe*

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## CONTACT

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