

City of Powell
Police Department

2015 Annual Report



Message from the Chief



The Powell Police Department is dedicated to providing the highest quality of service to the citizens of Powell. Our core values of honesty, integrity, and dependability, are the foundation of everything we do. Powell police officers work closely with residents and businesses to identify and respond appropriately to the demands of this growing community.

Although this report highlights noteworthy trends or activities, the statistics are merely numbers without consideration of the individuals associated with each event. We continue to foster the necessary relationships toward the goal of community policing. Working together, we can maintain our safe community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Vest".

Gary L. Vest
Chief of Police

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Powell Police Department to safeguard persons and property through preparedness and vigilance. The department holds true to a community policing philosophy. Its members shall continually strive for excellence in service, training, and professional development.



Formatted: Font: Century Gothic, 20 pt, Bold

Core Values

Our core values are honesty, integrity, dependability, service to others before self, and a genuine desire to pursue what is right and good.



Statistics



Description	2015	2014	Change
Calls for Service	17,673	18,673	-5.4%
Police Reports	1,383	1,332	3.8%
Adult Arrests	133	126	5.6%
Juvenile Arrests	10	14	-28.6%
Traffic Stops	1,213	1,383	-12.3%
Traffic Citations	179	226	-20.8%
Traffic Crashes	146	126	15.9%
False Alarms	352	323	9.0%
House Watches	440	271	62.4%
Preventative Patrols	883	940	-6.1%
Stacked Calls	235	181	29.8%

Officers take calls twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Calls for Service include all activity generated by officers as well as all citizen requests for police response.

Police reports include offense reports, traffic crash reports, arrests, traffic and parking citations, and false alarms.

Statistics



More than half of Powell Police Department calls are business/house checks which are officer initiated.



Business/house checks occupy only 15% of our total **time** on calls.



Crime Statistics



Description	2015	2014	2013
Murder	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	3	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2	3	2
Total Violent Crime	5	3	2
Burglary/B&E	17	23	17
Larceny Theft*	171	99	78
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	5	2
Total Property Crime	189	127	97

2015 numbers are preliminary and subject to change.

* The Larceny Theft figure in 2015 includes 55 cases of tax fraud, where suspects filed returns and received refunds using victims' identities.

Use of Force Review



In 2015, two officers had to use their handguns and three officers had to use their shotguns to put down injured or rabid animals.

No officer took an action that resulted in the injury or death of another person.

No officer applied force using lethal or less-than-lethal weapons.

One officer applied weaponless physical force by hands to remove a suspect from a vehicle. The force was deemed reasonable given the situation.

On three occasions, officers drew and displayed their firearms. Each incident was reviewed and found to be appropriate.



Every sworn officer receives mandatory training in the form of legal updates, force-on-force training (Simunitions), and practical exercises on defensive tactics, use of force, and less than lethal weapons (baton, Taser, OC spray). Officers also receive training in the use of firearms and marksmanship in addition to yearly qualifications.

Grievance Review | The department did not receive any employee grievances during the year 2015 and none in the past seven years.

Pursuit Review | The department did not engage in any pursuits in 2015.

Complaints | The department did not receive any citizen complaints in 2015.

Traffic Accidents

The Powell Police Department took 146 public property traffic crash reports in 2015. This represented an increase of 15.9% from 2014.



The most accident-prone roadways in 2015 were also, not surprisingly, our busiest roadways. Twenty seven accidents occurred on Sawmill Parkway; 41 on State Route 750; and 26 on Liberty Street.

There were no fatal crashes in 2015. Injury accidents accounted for 18.3% of all traffic crashes reported in 2015.



The majority of crashes handled by the Powell Police Department are caused by vehicles following too closely and thus not having enough time to stop once traffic begins to slow on these main routes.

The Powell Police Department recognizes this factor and focuses traffic enforcement along SR 750, Liberty Street, and Sawmill Parkway. Officers are carefully watching for vehicles in these high-crash zones that are following too closely, speeding or otherwise driving recklessly.

Reducing traffic crashes in the City of Powell continues to be one of the priority goals of the Powell Police Department.

Patrol Division



Patrol officers are first responders to all police-related calls for service. They must have the skills, knowledge, and ability to handle virtually every aspect of police work, including emergency and routine calls for service, traffic crashes, and criminal investigations. They are tasked with drug enforcement, enforcing state and local laws, and making contact with the public. They solve problems, write reports, testify in court, and actively promote crime prevention and reduction strategies.

The Patrol Division consists of three shifts, each supervised by a sergeant. The sergeants report to the Deputy Chief, who reports to the Chief of Police. The sergeants oversee day-to-day operations and implement the goals and objectives of the Powell Police Department as a whole, as well as the duties assigned specifically to their particular shifts.



For first shift, this most often means traffic enforcement, business checks, and administrative duties.

Second shift officers also perform traffic enforcement and are usually the friendly faces seen at children's Scout meetings and homeowner association meetings.

Third shift is the driving force behind our agency's

Preventative Patrol program, checking for open garage doors, unlocked businesses, and other behaviors that raise the risk of crime. Together, the three shifts provide a seamless approach to community policing.

Stealth Stat

The Stealth Stat is a directional radar that allows the agency to effectively track and manage traffic in the community.



The built-in traffic statistics software plots and displays the number of vehicles vs. time of day, vehicle speed vs. time of day, and vehicle speed vs. number of vehicles. It yields the average speed, the 85th percentile speed and the maximum speed, as well as vehicles per hour.



The agency uses the device to focus enforcement on times and places where speeds are highest. It is also used for responding to traffic complaints.

In 2015, the Stealth Stat was deployed at SR 750 at Depot Street, Presidential Parkway, Hickory Rock Drive, Village Pointe, Ashmoore Drive, Mendolin, Tiller Drive, and Bennett Parkway.

Deployed	Location	Limit	Veh/Hr	85th MPH	Avg MPH	Max MPH
1/5/2015	Presidential	25	32.9	20.5	15.7	32
2/14/2015	750-Depot	25	393.2	22.5	17.5	47
3/3/2015	Hickory Rock	25	24.0	29.5	24.1	46
3/15/2015	Village Pointe	25	30.3	21.5	16.4	38
4/7/2015	Ashmoore	25	37.1	30.0	25.7	42
7/27/2015	Mendolin	25	21.9	25.5	19.4	54
8/17/2015	Mendolin	25	37.5	26.0	21.0	35
10/3/2015	Tiller	25	23.1	28.0	22.6	44
12/12/2015	Bennett Pkwy	25	87.7	35.5	30.3	54

Detective Bureau

The Detective Bureau is comprised of two detectives supervised by Deputy Chief Hrytzik. Detectives investigate crimes, make arrests, and follow through to prosecution. The bureau manages criminal intelligence information, conducts employee backgrounds, processes crime scenes, and stores collected evidence and photographs.



Detectives investigate both violent and property crimes. Investigations are reviewed and assigned a priority based on the seriousness of the offense and/or the solvability of the crime. Some crimes may take months, even years, to fully investigate and prosecute. Detectives assigned to investigate these crimes have developed an advanced level of expertise by attending specialized training and from years of experience working complex cases.

Notable Cases



Human Trafficking |

Working with several other agencies, Powell police raided an apartment and three massage parlors (one in Powell) on January 14, 2015. Seven human trafficking victims were found. Three suspects were arrested and charged with engaging in a

pattern of corrupt activity and promoting prostitution with human trafficking specifications. Two of the suspects were convicted and sentenced to ten years in prison. This was the first successful conviction for organized crime with human trafficking specifications in Ohio.

Attempted Robbery | On January 28, 2015, a suspect rang the front door bell of a home on Village Ridge Drive and tried to rob the homeowner with a gun. The victim slammed the door quickly, and the suspect ran away. The suspect and accomplice were identified, apprehended, indicted and convicted. The robber was sentenced to eight years in prison; the accomplice received five years.

Home Invasion | Police responded to a report of a robbery on January 4, 2015. The victim stated that two black males wearing hoodies and masks broke into his house and robbed him at gunpoint. The suspects stole jewelry and five firearms.



On a later date, the suspects returned and assaulted the victim outside his house. Three suspects were apprehended that night, indicted, and convicted. One was sentenced to 40 years in prison; the second pled guilty and received 14 years; and the driver received five years probation.



Training

Powell Police Officers, Detectives, Clerks, and Supervisors are required to attend certain key training classes throughout the year to keep their skills sharp and up to date. These include DT (Defensive Tactics), Firearms Re-qualifications, CPR and First Aid Certification, Active Shooter, All Hazard Training, Ethics, and Legal Updates.



In addition to their mandated training, department employees are encouraged to seek additional training which benefits their job functions. Such training not only benefits the employee, but also the agency and the community as a whole.

The department completed **1,554.50 hours** of training in 2015.

Training



Training programs attended by employees in 2015 include:

<i>A Cop Killing Cops</i>	<i>Human Trafficking</i>
<i>Active Threats Exercise</i>	<i>Infosec</i>
<i>Advanced EVO</i>	<i>LEADS</i>
<i>Advanced Public Records</i>	<i>LE Active Shooter Response</i>
<i>Advanced Search and Seizure</i>	<i>LEAP</i>
<i>Advisory Services</i>	<i>Law and Liberty</i>
<i>AIERRT Training</i>	<i>Leadership in Crisis</i>
<i>AIRP Analytics</i>	<i>Legal Update</i>
<i>ATACRAIDS</i>	<i>MECP</i>
<i>Below 100</i>	<i>NDex</i>
<i>Bias Based Policing</i>	<i>National Citizen Police Academy</i>
<i>Body Worn Cameras – Legal Issues</i>	<i>OCPA</i>
<i>Bulletproof Mind</i>	<i>OTOA</i>
<i>CPR-AED</i>	<i>Pistol Performance Diagnostic</i>
<i>CALEA</i>	<i>Police Mountain Bike School</i>
<i>Cellebrite</i>	<i>Police Response to Dogs</i>
<i>Child Abuse</i>	<i>Pursuit Termination Techniques</i>
<i>Connected Solutions</i>	<i>Reporting Suspected Child Abuse</i>
<i>Crime Scene Photography</i>	<i>Rifle Familiarization</i>
<i>Diving Certification</i>	<i>Shotgun Armorer</i>
<i>Domestic Violence with Lethality</i>	<i>Sig Sauer Armorer</i>
<i>Enhancing LE Response to Violence</i>	<i>Simunition Instructor</i>
<i>Against Women</i>	<i>Tactical Canine Casualty Care</i>
<i>Evidence Technician</i>	<i>Tactical Medical Information</i>
<i>FBI Legal</i>	<i>TASER</i>
<i>FBI NA</i>	<i>Weapons Requalification</i>
<i>First Line Supervision</i>	<i>Working with and from Vehicles</i>
<i>Graduated Driver Licensing</i>	<i>You Will Get Hacked</i>

Department Events



Click It or Ticket | From May 18 to 31, 2015, Powell Police participated in the Delaware County Annual Click-it-or-Ticket campaign. This program has been the cornerstone of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's efforts to get Americans to buckle up.

Memorial Day Parade | The Memorial Day parade stepped off with more than 60 units in 2015. Olentangy Liberty and Olentangy High School bands performed, and numerous local veterans rode with the Street Elite Corvette Club and other vehicles. After the parade, city officials conducted a brief ceremony honoring those who died while serving in the military. Forty-nine new bricks were dedicated, most of them honoring the veterans in Powell Cemetery.



Community Bonfire | A fall family favorite returned to Village Green Park on October 9, 2015. At the 19th annual Community Bonfire, residents enjoyed free hot dogs, donut holes, cider and marshmallows, to the backdrop of a roaring bonfire. Chief Vest and Liberty Township Fire Chief Jensen grilled the dogs.

Department Events



Veterans Day |

Powell Police hosted the seventh annual Veterans Day celebration on November 11, 2015. Chaplain Col. Ret. Thomas Martin gave the keynote address. Chief Gary Vest dedicated new bricks in the Greater Powell Veterans Memorial.



Mystery Night Out | Hundreds of residents turned out on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 to solve the mystery of the stolen bicycle. Clues led teams to ten stations at businesses around town. DJ Matty Sexton entertained visitors.



ASSEMBLE YOUR TEAM OF CRIME FIGHTERS FOR

MYSTERY NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, AUG. 4
6-9 P.M.
AT
VILLAGE GREEN PARK
47 HALL STREET

A bicycle has been stolen and we need your detective skills to help solve the mystery! Clues will be located throughout downtown Powell and will lead participants back to Village Green Park for an evening of entertainment, food, raffle prizes and more!

SPONSORED BY

REGISTRATION IS FREE. SIGN UP IN ADVANCE AT www.cityofpowell.us

Powell

Citizen's Police Academy

The Powell Police Department hosted its seventh Citizens Police Academy in 2015. This 10-week program, which is free and open to all, aims to educate the public about the role of law enforcement in our community. The classes meet once a week for three hours a week, and at least one four-hour ride-along with police officers is encouraged.



The program includes training on traffic stops, crime prevention, criminal law, firearms, media, and crime scene investigation. The instructors are drawn from Powell's patrol officers, sergeants, and detectives.

At the conclusion of the program, graduates receive a certificate of completion and an invitation to join the Powell Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. Members of the association volunteer their time helping with various Police Department projects and activities.



Awards & Recognition



The Powell Police Department takes great pride in the men and women who serve in it. In 2014, the department continued its tradition of formally recognizing its officers' many contributions through the annual Powell Police Department Awards Ceremony.



Officer of the Year | Awarded to officers for outstanding achievement within the department during the service year: **Officer Fred Hart**. Fred was recognized for his work as OIC, FTO, vehicle maintenance, crash reconstruction, crash reports, evidence tech, and Parks and Recreation liaison.

Meritorious Service Awards went to **Detective Darren Smith, Officer Travis**

Dennison, Officer Jason Latiolais, Detective Ryan Pentz and Sergeant Andy Lucas for their work on the Landhigh Lakes robbery and assault case. The Amsun case earned Meritorious Service Awards for **Officer Audrey Wilt, Sgt. Ron Sallows, and Detective Pentz.**

Detective Darren Smith, Officer Travis Dennison, Officer Ken Hiltz, Officer Jared Wilt and Sergeant Andy Lucas received Meritorious Service Awards for the Home Road drug and firearms case.



Letters of Recognition were presented to **Officer Fred Hart** and **Officer Ben Boruchowitz** for fingerprint processing at multiple crime scenes; to **Officer Audrey Wilt** for recognition of an armed robbery suspect; to **Officer Jason Latiolais** and **Officer Travis Dennison** for recognizing that a disoriented person needed immediate medical attention.

Awards & Recognitions

Congratulations to Detective Ryan Pentz and the Human Trafficking Task Force on being named a “Top Cop” by the Delaware County Prosecutor’s Office on October 20, 2015.



Goals & Objectives



Traffic safety in the City of Powell remains the top priority for the Patrol Division in 2016. In addition, the agency is committed to the following goals:

- On-site accreditation by CALEA (the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies);
- Review of agency protocol and training with the Liberty Township Fire Department regarding the medical transportation of people in mental health crisis;
- Enhancing communication with the community through social media; and
- Developing a plan for the deployment of body cameras.



Safety Camp Fingerprints



Detective Pentz executes a search warrant

