



2023 Annual Report

**City of Powell
Police Department**

Ron Sallows
Chief of Police

Table of Contents

Message from the Chief	2
Mission Statement	3
Core Values	3
Jurisdiction	4
Organization	5
Budget	6
Crime Statistics	7
Patrol	8
Traffic Crashes.....	12
Investigations	15
Notable Cases	17
Training.....	18
Use of Force	19
Peddler Permits	20
Fingerprinting	22
Public Records Requests.....	22
Civilian Ride-Alongs.....	22
Accreditation	23
Citizens Police Academy.....	24
Community Oriented Policing.....	25
Retirements	27
2023 Awards	28
Chief Sworn In	29
Goals and Objectives	30

Message from the Chief



Community Members and Residents,

As we reflect on the past year, I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Powell Police Department for 2023. This report provides an overview of our activities, achievements, and initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Throughout the year, we actively engaged with the community through various outreach programs, meetings, and partnerships with local organizations. Our commitment to building positive relationships with residents remains a top priority.

I am pleased to report crime rates have remained low, with only a few incidents of violent crime. This accomplishment is the result of collaborative efforts between law enforcement and the community, as well as innovative crime prevention strategies.

Each police officer completed a minimum of at least twenty-four (24) hours of mandatory Continuing Professional Training (CPT) aimed at enhancing their skills in subjects such as legal updates, community-police relationships, mental health, de-escalation and crisis intervention, use of force policy review, and law enforcement response to active threats. Continuous education is crucial in maintaining a professional and effective police force.

Building on the success of our collaborative efforts, we strengthened partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, local businesses, and community leaders. Together, we are better equipped to address emerging challenges and uphold the safety of the City of Powell.

The members of the Powell Police Department remain committed to transparency, accountability, and serving our community with honesty, integrity, and dependability. We appreciate the ongoing support of our residents and look forward to another year of working together to create a safer and more resilient community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Sallows". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ron Sallows
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.

Core Values

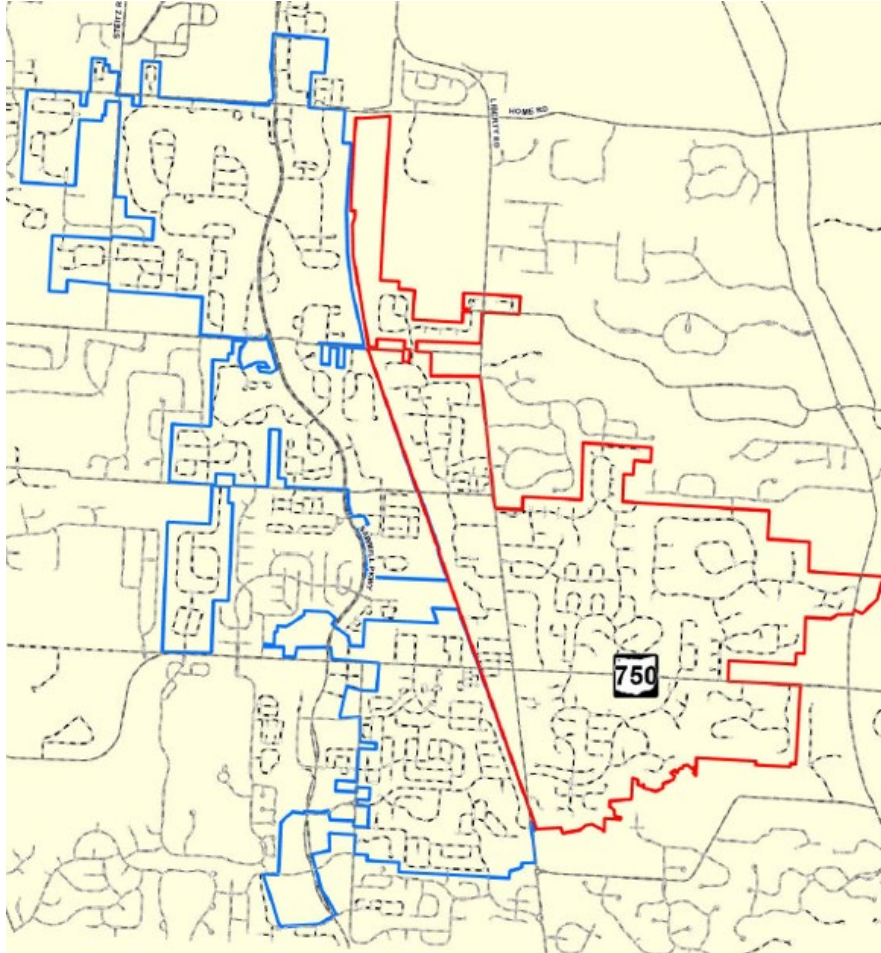
Our core values are honesty, integrity, dependability, service to others before self, and a genuine desire to pursue what is right and good.



*Powell Police Department
February 21, 2024*

Jurisdiction

The population of Powell was **14,390** as of the 2022 US Census population estimate. This represents an increase of 25 percent over ten years ago.



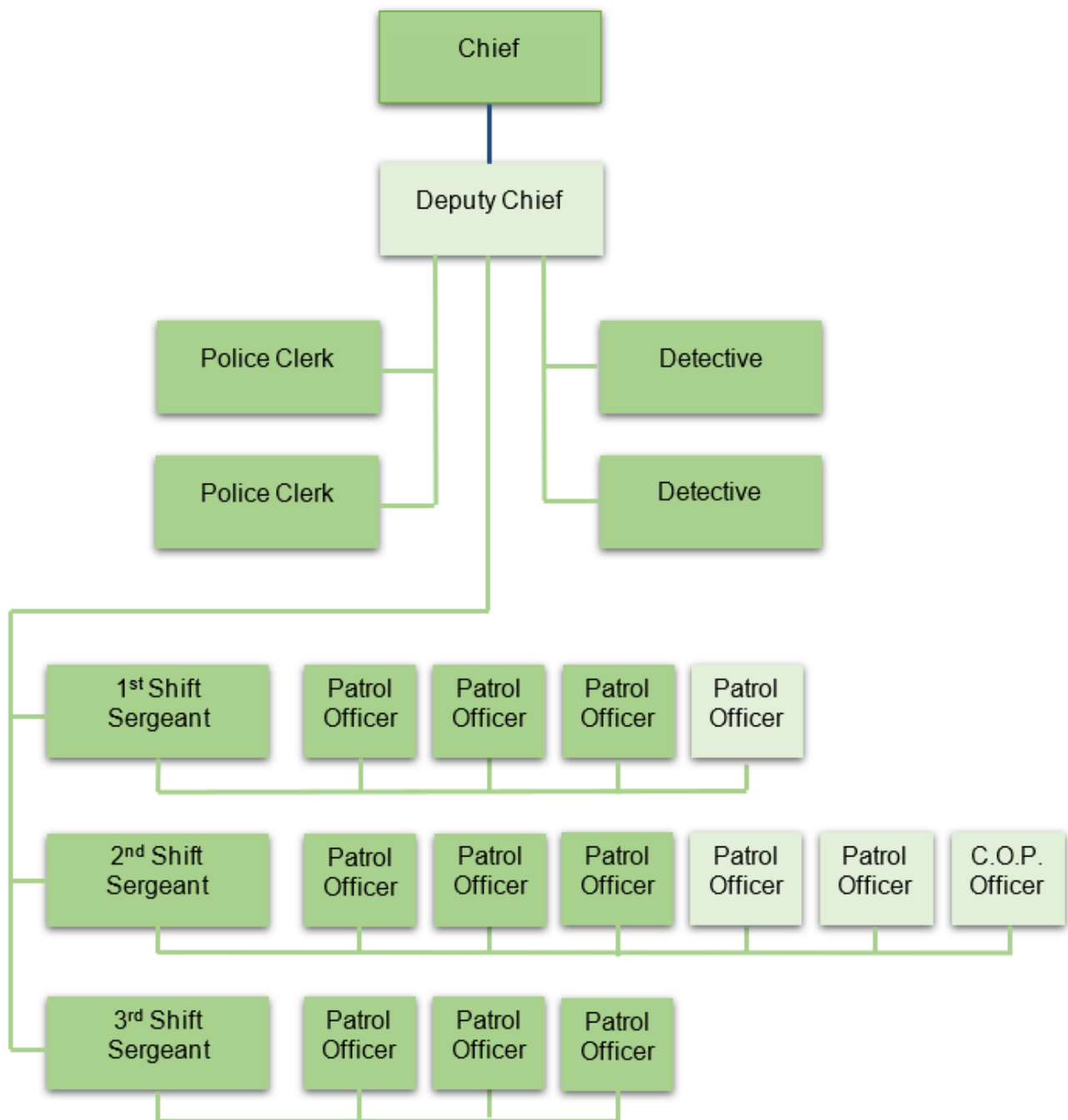
Map by the Delaware County GIS Department, 2024

The City of Powell is divided into two patrol districts, East and West, separated by the railroad tracks.

PATROL DISTRICT	SQUARE MILES	POPULATION	POPULATION %
WEST	3.22	10,781	64.9%
EAST	2.59	5,812	35.1%
TOTAL	5.81	16,594	100.0%

*Estimates by Delaware County GIS Department based on occupied households in 2023.
Delaware County Regional Planning estimates 2.97 average household size in 2023.*

Organization



Light shaded positions were open in 2023; they are being filled in 2024.

City Council approved two additional positions not shown.

They will be filled in 2024.

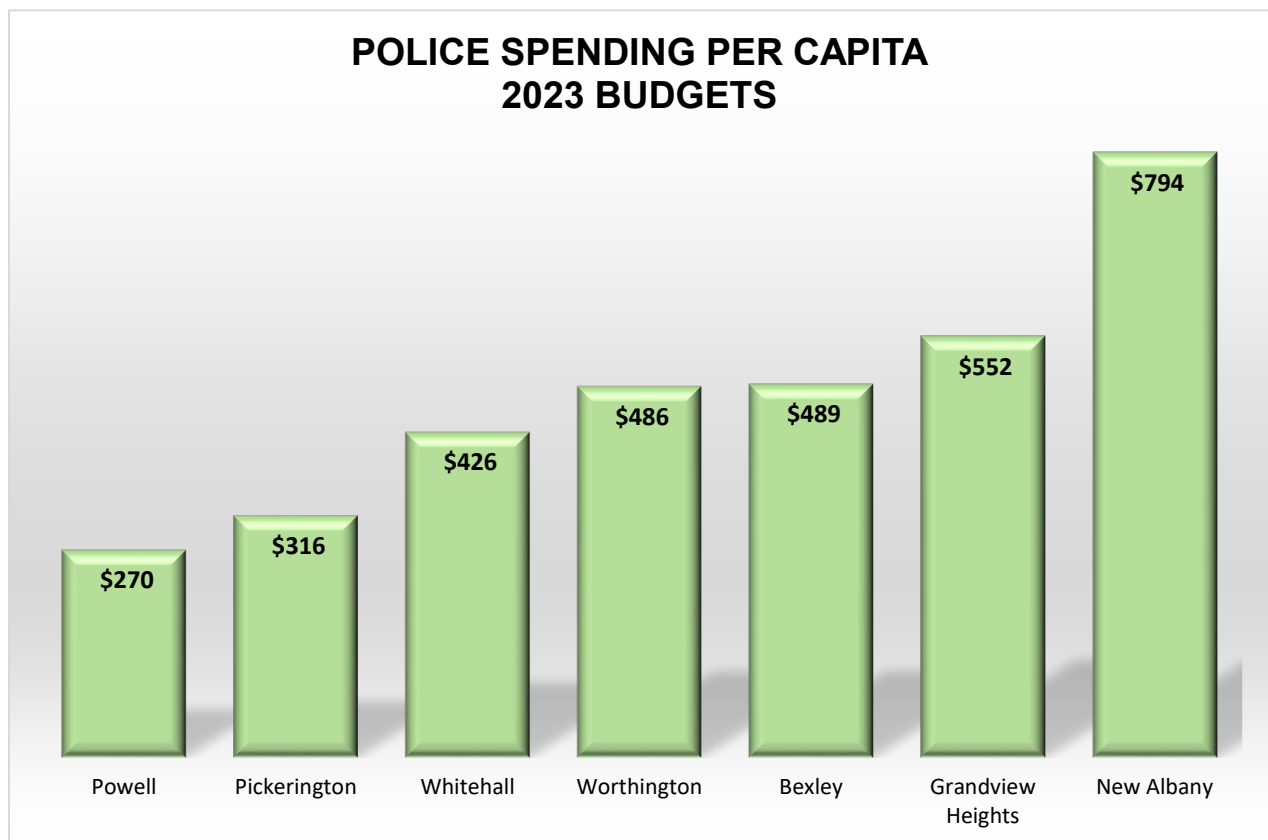
Budget

The 2023 budget for the City of Powell Police Department was **\$3,888,225**. This represents an increase of 17 percent from 2022. Police spending per resident was \$270.

Personnel Costs include salaries and benefits.

Operating Expenses include gasoline, uniforms and gear, training, rents, cruiser maintenance, equipment maintenance, cell phones, accreditation, office supplies and miscellaneous. This category includes a number of software licenses.

Capital includes cruisers and miscellaneous equipment.



Source: City Finance Directors and the 2022 Census Estimates

Crime Statistics

Powell boasts low rates of both violent and property crime. In fact, Safewise.com placed Powell in the top ten safest cities in Ohio for 2022.

Description	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Murder	1	0	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	1	2	2	0	2
Robbery	0	1	1	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2	5	6	0	0
Total Violent Crime	4	8	9	0	2
Burglary/B&E	13	5	7	18	8
Larceny Theft	85	89	87	67	80
Motor Vehicle Theft	10	3	6	6	2
Total Property Crime	108	97	96	92	90

Source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS)



Detective A. Wilt instructs a class in Senior Safety.

Patrol



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 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 who oversees day-to-day operations and implements the goals and objectives of the Powell Police Department as a whole, as well as the duties assigned to their particular shifts.



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

Second shift officers also perform traffic enforcement and business and house checks. They reported to Sergeant Scott Roach in 2023.

Third shift reported to Sergeant Travis Dennison and was 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 provided a seamless approach to community policing.

Patrol issued **1,709** Preventative Patrol Notices in 2023.

Patrol Statistics

	Description	2023	2022	Change
a	Calls for Service	21,302	23,698	-10.1%
b	Dispatched Calls	4,753	5,252	-9.5%
c	Reports	660	706	-6.5%
d	Adult Arrests	59	92	-35.9%
e	Juvenile Arrests	13	5	160.0%
f	Traffic Stops	1,300	1,479	-12.1%
g	Traffic Citations	149	146	2.1%
h	Traffic Crashes	158	161	-1.9%
i	False Alarms	458	444	3.2%
j	House Watches	584	375	55.7%
k	Preventative Patrols	1,709	2,076	-17.7%
l	Stacked Calls	189	174	8.6%
m	Peddler Permits	45	13	246.2%

Source: Tyler New World records management system

NOTES

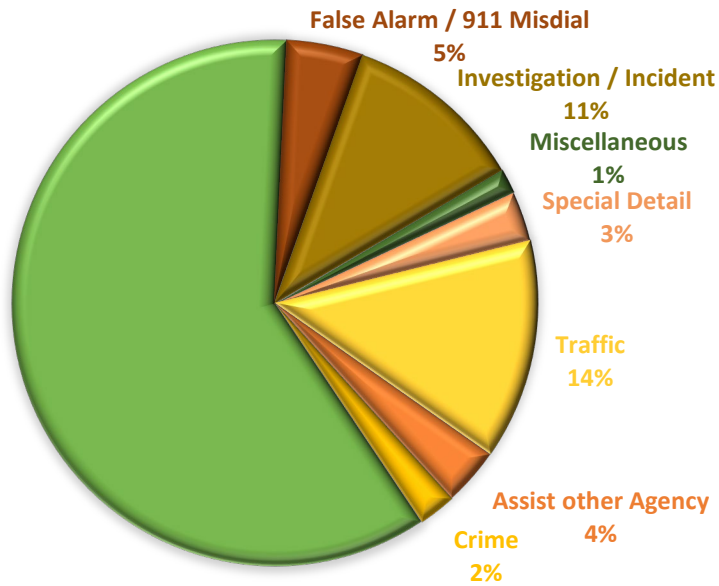
-
- a: All activity generated by officers as well as all citizen requests for police response.
 - b: Excludes officer-initiated calls.
 - g: Includes citations written after traffic stops and traffic crashes.
 - h: Includes public and private property crashes.
 - l: The caller must wait for an officer to finish another call.

Nature of Calls for Service

2023 CALLS FOR SERVICE BY NATURE

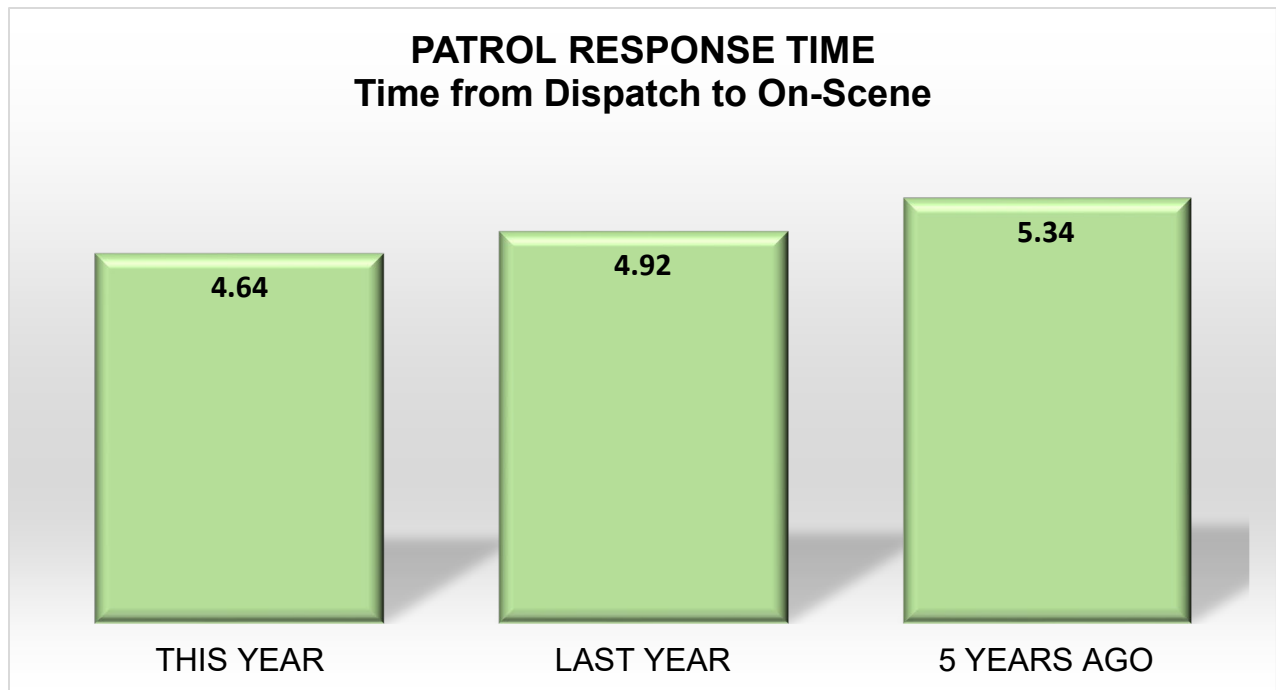
Crime Prevention Initiative 60%

Open doors and windows,
business and house checks,
vacation house watches,
community engagement,
preventative patrol notices

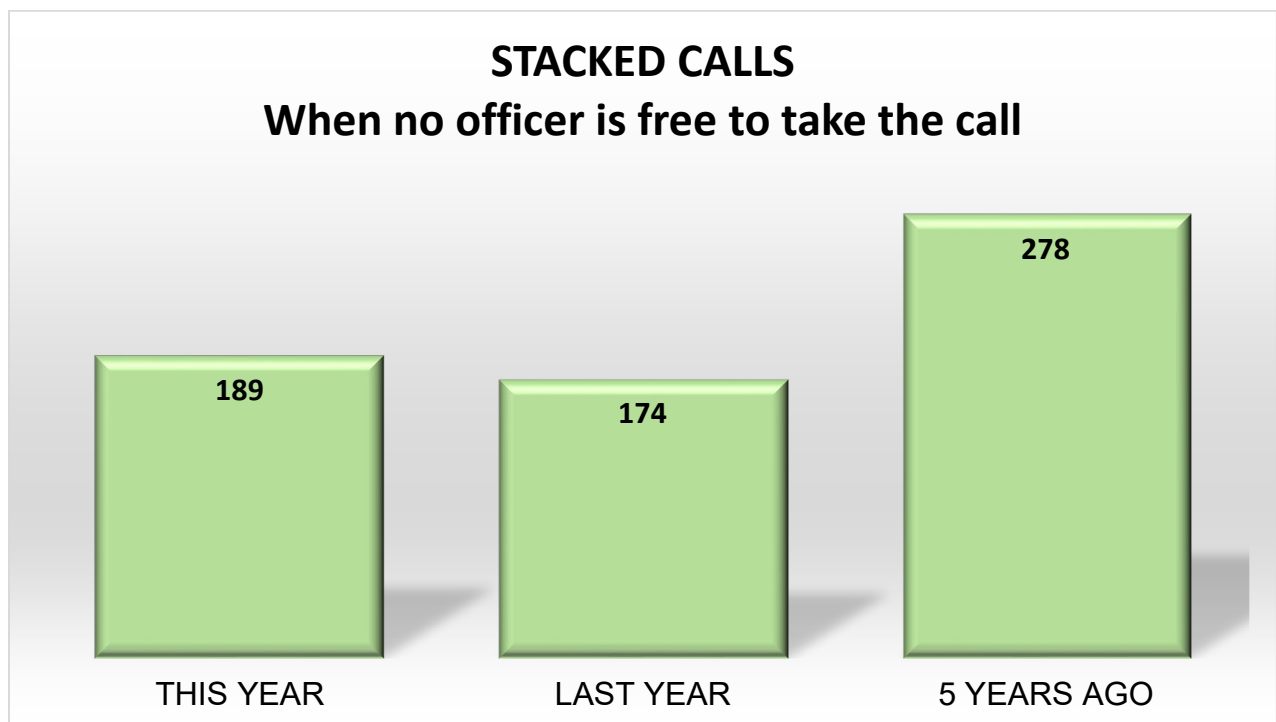


Officers Jillian Elliott and Kaylyn Heading

Patrol Response Time

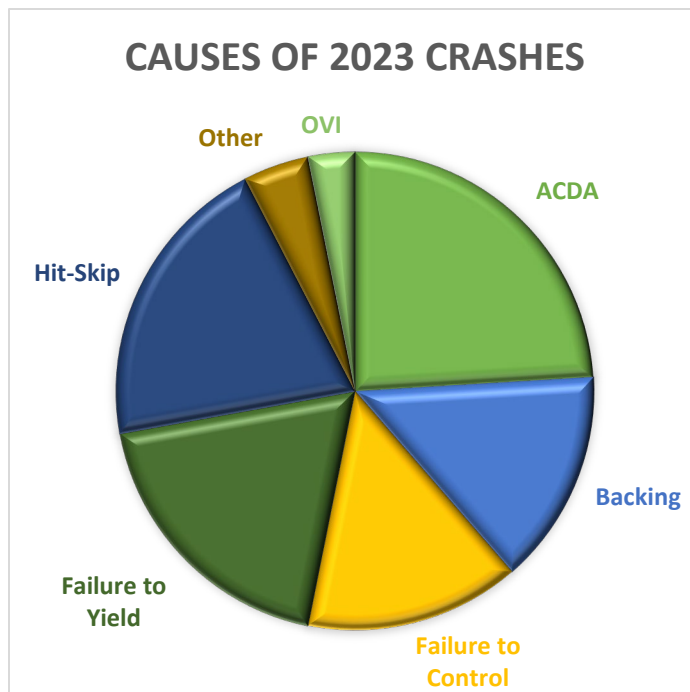


In minutes. All dispatched calls. Does not include the time from call to dispatch. Calculation method was different five years ago.



Traffic Crashes

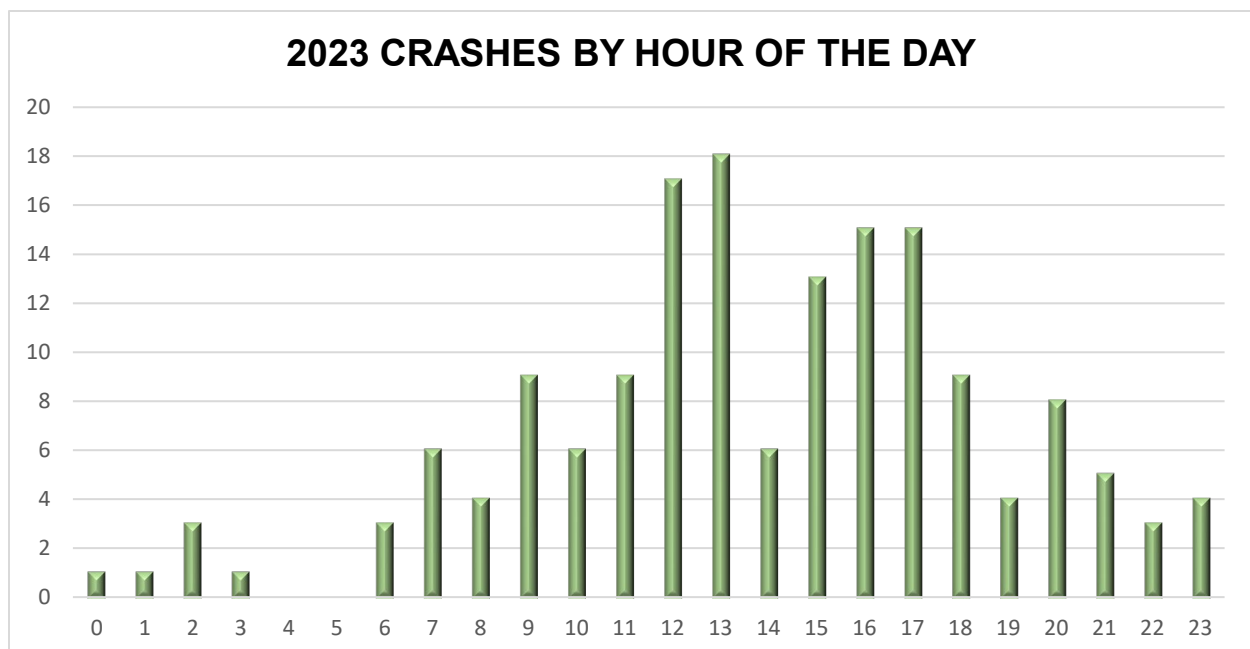
The Powell Police Department took **158** traffic crash reports in 2023, a slight decrease from 161 crashes in 2022. 84% were on public property. There were 26 injury crashes, about the same as 2022.

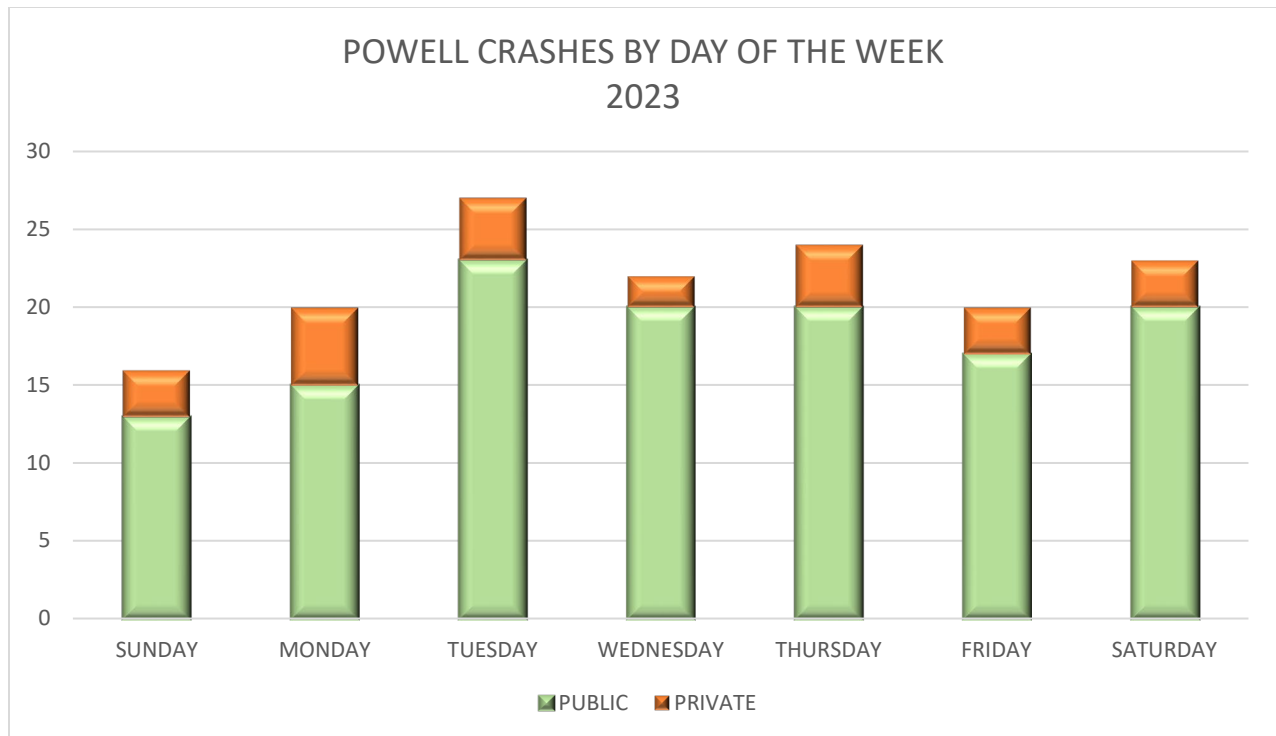


A common cause of preventable crashes is **Assured Clear Distance Ahead (ACDA)** - vehicles speeding and following too closely, thus not having enough time to stop once traffic begins to slow on these main routes.

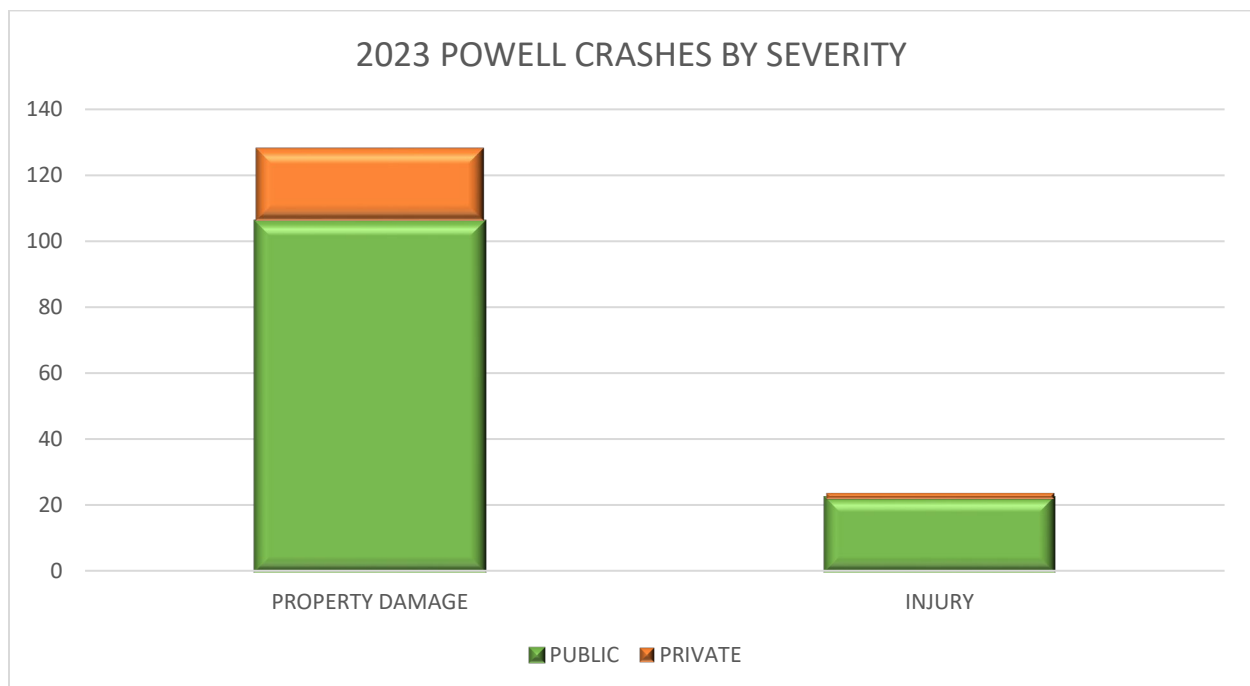
Reducing traffic crashes in the City of Powell continues to be one of the top priorities of the Powell Police Department.

Afternoon remains the most accident-prone time of day in Powell.

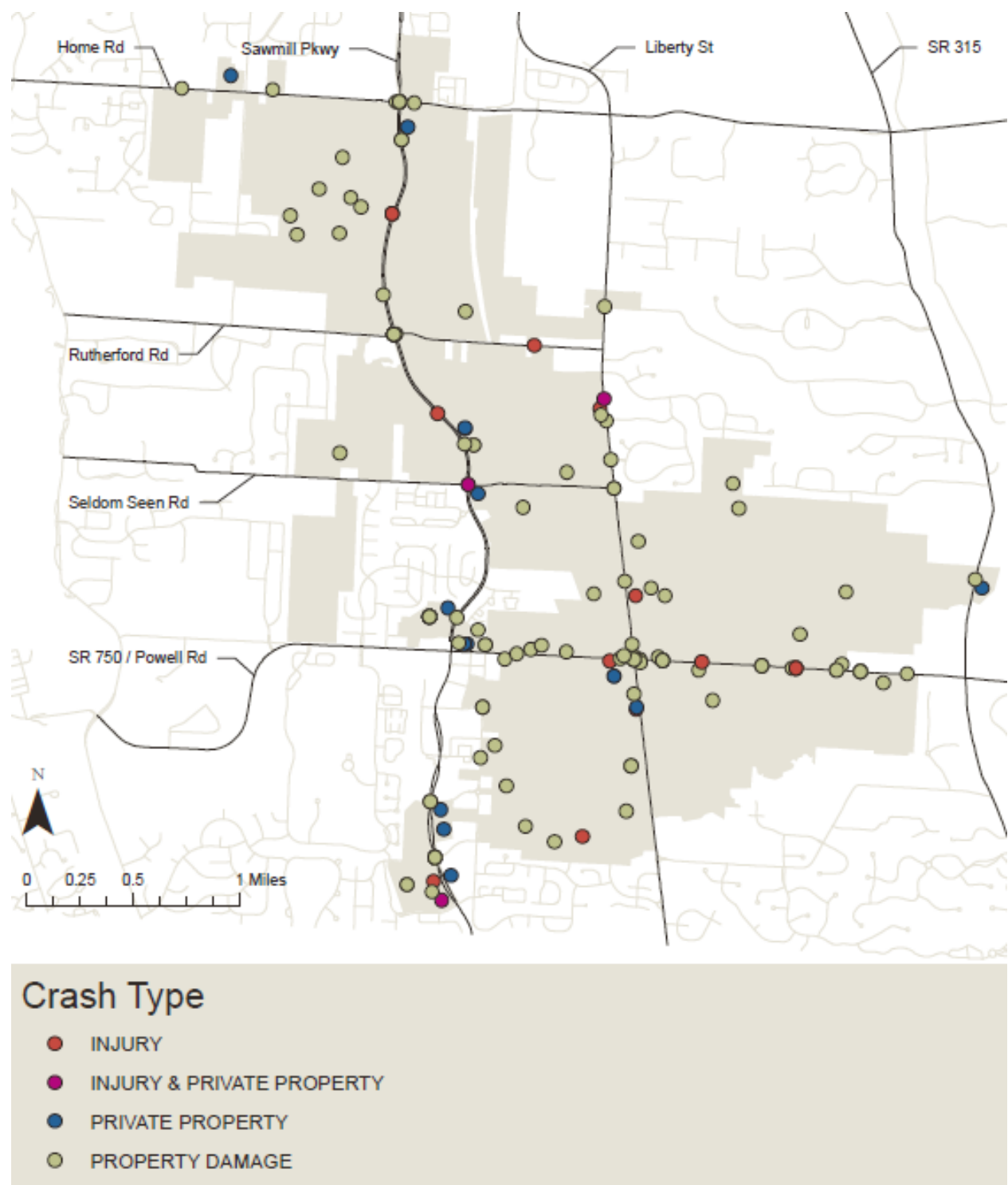




The most accident-prone roadways were also our busiest roadways: Sawmill Parkway, State Route 750, and Liberty Street. Officers watch for vehicles in these high-crash zones that are following too closely, speeding, or otherwise driving recklessly.

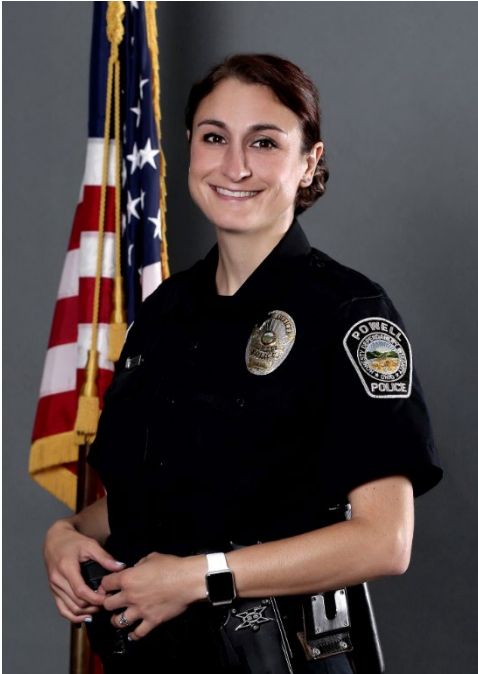


2023 Map of Traffic Crashes



Map by Powell Development Department

Investigations



Audrey Wilt was selected as our newest detective in September. Detective Wilt earned a Master's in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's in Addictions Studies from the University of Cincinnati. She has served as a crisis negotiator for the Delaware County Crisis Negotiator Unit since 2019, and is an Evidence Technician and an Ohio Crime Prevention Specialist.

Detective Wilt was formerly assigned to the position of Community Oriented Policing Officer. She coordinated the Citizens Police Academy and Mystery Night Out, Late Skate, Helpers and Heroes, and Badges and Buckets among other community

education and outreach programs.

Detective Wilt joins Detective Ryan Pentz in the Investigations Bureau. The two detectives process crime scenes, interview witnesses, contact outside jurisdictions, write reports, work closely with prosecutors' offices, and testify in courts in Delaware and Franklin counties. They are the liaisons with the Grand Jury.

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.



Cases Assigned for Investigation

Cases open at the beginning of 2023	43
Plus new cases assigned in 2023	188
Minus cases closed in 2023	176
Cases open at the end of 2023	55



In 2022, the agency standardized the clearance status and disposition of cases in the Records Management System in order to track solvability and clearance rates.

In 2023, less than half the assigned cases were closed without being solved or cleared.

Notable Cases

Homicide | In November, police responded to a request for a wellbeing check in the Chase subdivision. A 33 year old man was found deceased in the residence, and a suspect was already in custody in Indiana. The suspect, a resident of Powell, fled from police in Indiana and was captured after a long high-speed chase. The suspect was indicted in Delaware County for murder, rape and kidnapping. His trial is expected in 2024. Before this incident, the last homicide in Powell was in 1992.



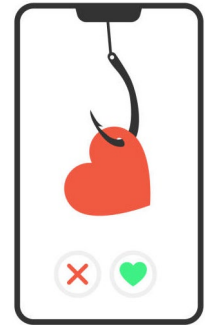
Drowning | A vehicle was found partially submerged in a pond near the intersection of Sawmill Parkway and Seldom Seen Road. The occupant had drowned. After an investigation, the incident was determined to be accidental.

Street racing | residents in the area of Sawmill Parkway and Rutherford Road noticed an increase in street racing and loud engines. The problem crossed jurisdictional boundaries, so Powell Police worked with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, the Delaware City Police, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. All agencies stepped up their traffic stops and citations in that area. There have been no new complaints.

Assist | A resident of Powell allegedly stabbed a woman in Columbus. He called police on the morning of August 29 to turn himself in. Powell officers performed a felony stop on his vehicle and detained him for the Columbus Division of Police. Powell Police did not question the man, but did obtain important physical evidence from him.



Romance Scam | Police received a referral from Job and Family Services regarding a resident who was a victim of a financial scam. He met a woman online who talked him out of money for a car, an apartment, and other luxury items. The losses totaled over \$700,000. Investigation revealed that the scammer victimized several other elderly men in the area. This investigation is ongoing.



Auto Depot | Multiple customers reported attempting to buy cars from a dealership on North Liberty Street. They received paperwork for the cars and paid deposits, but never received the cars. It was learned that the dealership was already under investigation by a federal agency, so all the pending cases were referred to that agency.

Training

The department completed **1,920** hours of training in 2023. The training included 428 hours of Continuing Professional Training (CPT) hours that are mandated to be completed by the State of Ohio.

All staff are required to attend certain key training classes throughout the year to keep their skills sharp and up to date. For officers, these include DT (Defensive Tactics), Firearms Re-qualifications, CPR and First Aid Certification, Active Shooter, All Hazard Training, Ethics, and Legal Updates. The administrative and command staff studied important developments in public records law. In addition to their mandated training, department employees are encouraged to seek additional specialized training which benefits their job functions.



Use of Force

The police department carefully tracks all uses of force by the agency. There were two use-of-force incidents in 2023 involving two individuals. Each report, known as *Response to Resistance or Aggression*, was reviewed by the Sergeants, Deputy Chief and Chief. All were found to be reasonable. Officers are trained in de-escalation and the duty to intervene.

Most use-of-force incidents involve a person in an altered mental state. Medics are used to transport such people to the hospital. This reduces the occasions when officers must use force to restrain a subject.

On April 1, 2023, at 3:58 a.m., Columbus undercover police officers were following a theft suspect and requested assistance with a traffic stop of a vehicle. A Powell police officer and a Columbus undercover officer conducted a felony stop on the vehicle where they had their handguns displayed while ordering the suspect out of the vehicle and into custody.

On August 29, 2023, at 5:58 a.m., officers conducted a felony traffic stop on a suspect who had just stabbed a woman outside our jurisdiction. Officers had their handguns displayed while ordering the suspect out of the vehicle and into custody.

GENDER	USE OF FORCE
Male	2
Female	0

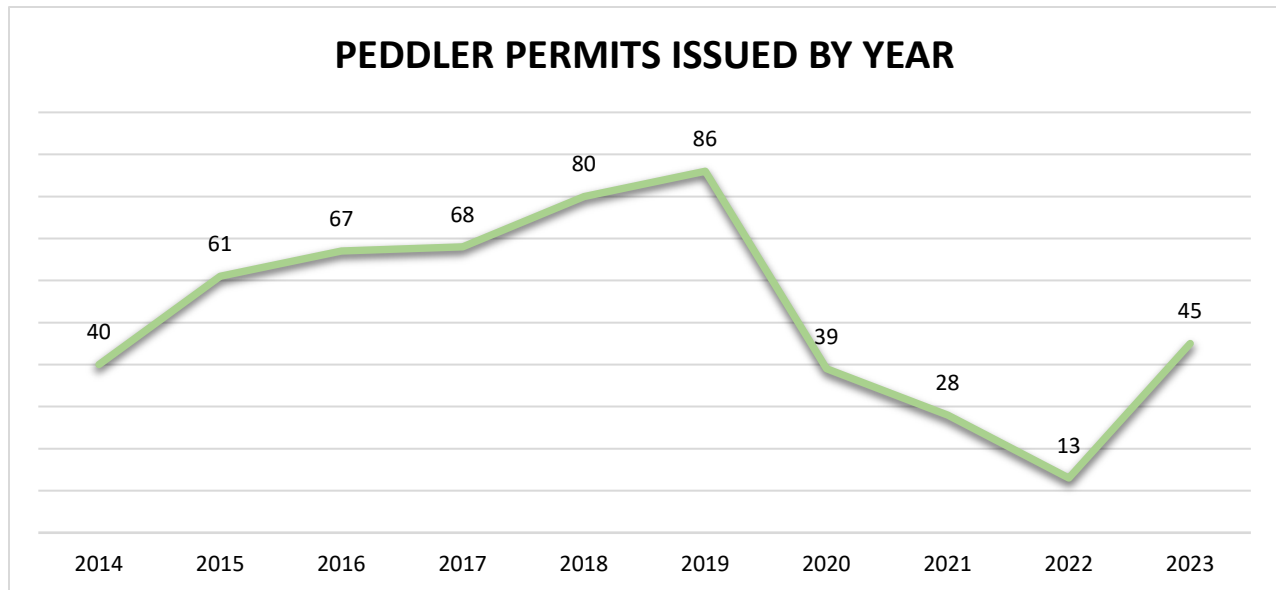
AGE	USE OF FORCE
Juvenile (under 18)	0
Adult (18-65)	2
Senior (65+)	0
Unknown	0

RACE	USE OF FORCE
White	2
Black	0
Asian	0
American Indian	0
Pacific Islander	0
Other	0

TYPE OF FORCE	INCIDENTS
Hands-on	0
Taser	0
Display of Taser	0
Baton	0
OC (spray)	0
Display of Firearm	2
Discharge of Firearm	0

Peddler Permits

Anyone wishing to work as a peddler/solicitor within the City limits must apply and pay a one-time fee of \$75. We conduct a background check before a permit is issued.



Individuals who have been convicted of the criminal offenses listed below are disqualified from registering as a solicitor or fundraiser in Powell.

- Attempt to commit an offense
- Complicity
- Conspiracy
- Counterfeiting
- Criminal simulation
- Defrauding creditors
- Engaging in pattern of corrupt activity
- Forgery
- Identify fraud
- Illegal use of food stamps or WIC benefits
- Illegally transmitting multiple commercial email messages (spamming)
- Insurance fraud
- Making or using slugs
- Medicaid eligibility fraud
- Misuse of credit cards
- Passing bad checks

- Personating an officer
- Possession or sale of unauthorized cable TV device
- Receiving stolen property
- Securing writings by deception
- Tampering with records
- Telecommunications fraud
- Telecommunications harassment
- Theft
- Trademark counterfeiting
- Unauthorized use of property
- Unauthorized use of vehicle
- Unlawful display of law enforcement emblem
- Unlawful use of telecommunications device
- Workers compensation fraud

The City prohibits soliciting between the hours of 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., and on Sundays and holidays. It is a misdemeanor to solicit at residences where a 'No Soliciting' sign has been posted. 'No Soliciting' window clings are available free from the police department or the City reception desk.



Fingerprinting

The Police Clerks fingerprinted **575** people in 2023, up 55% from 2022. Civilians need fingerprints and background checks for a variety of reasons including securing a Notary commission, starting a new job, or volunteering with children.

Public Records Requests

Police clerks filled **525** public records requests in 2023. Most requests are for crash reports, but more and more requests ask for body cam video which takes time to prepare.

Civilian Ride-Alongs

The agency hosted **42** civilian ride-alongs, including the participants in the Citizens Police Academy. Riders are permitted to accompany officers in their cruisers for a few hours to get a feel for patrolling the city.

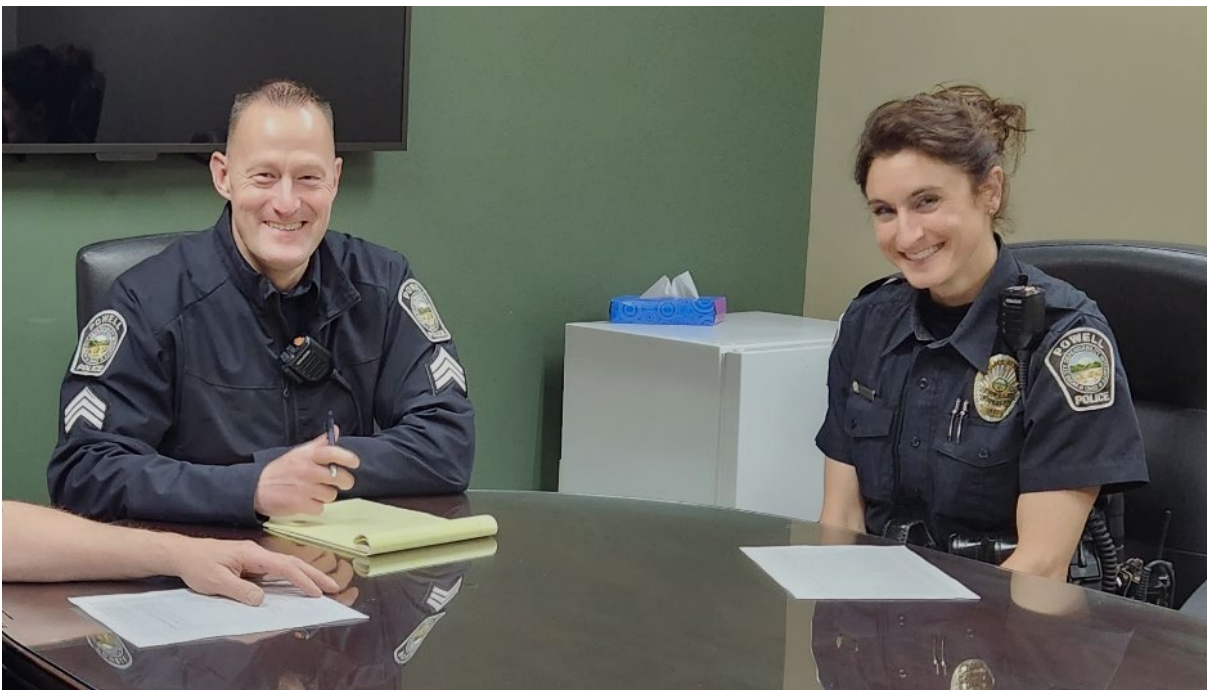
Accreditation



Since 2002, the Powell Police Department has been accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

In 2023, the agency successfully completed the second Compliance Service Inspection of the reporting cycle.

Sergeant Scott Roach and Detective Audrey Wilt lead the Accreditation Team. All officers and civilian employees contribute to the accreditation effort under the leadership of this team.



CALEA team leaders: Sergeant Scott Roach and Detective Audrey Wilt.

Citizens Police Academy

The Powell Citizens Police Academy graduated 9 students from its 14th class in 2023, making over 200 graduates to date. This program, which is free and open to all, aims to educate the public about the role of law enforcement in our community. Classes meet once a week for two hours, and at least one four-hour ride-along with a police officer is encouraged.

The program includes introduction to traffic stops, crime prevention, criminal law, firearms, CPR, 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 (PCPAAA). The 25 members of the association volunteer with various police department projects and activities.



Community Oriented Policing

The Community Oriented Policing position was left open when Audrey Wilt became a detective. She continues to assist with these responsibilities.

Programming

- ❖ Citizens Police Academy
- ❖ Safety Camp
- ❖ radKIDS
- ❖ RAD Women
- ❖ Bike Parade
- ❖ Badges and Buckets

Events

- ❖ Civics Day
- ❖ Memorial Day Parade
- ❖ First Responder Night
- ❖ Candy by the Carload
- ❖ Veterans Day
- ❖ Holidays in Powell
- ❖ Heroes and Helpers
- ❖ Third Fridays
- ❖ Touch-a-Truck Events
- ❖ Beautify Powell
- ❖ National Night Out
- ❖ Lollipop Concerts

Education/Outreach

- ❖ Crime Prevention Presentations
- ❖ Cruiser Displays
- ❖ Bike/Foot Patrol
- ❖ Homeowners Association Meetings
- ❖ Scout/School Tours & Presentations
- ❖ CIT/Special Needs/Medical
- ❖ Work with Sexual Assault Victims
- ❖ Senior Safety Day

Services

- ❖ Car Seat Installations
- ❖ Security Assessments
- ❖ Golf Cart Inspections
- ❖ Bicycle Registrations
- ❖ Business Updates
- ❖ CarFit



July 4 Bike Parade

Community Oriented Policing



Girl Scouts RAD



Badges and Buckets



Fall Festival



Civic Day

Retirements



Police Chief Stephen Hrytzik retired after 32 years of service to the Powell community. Chief Hrytzik started with the Village of Powell Police Department in 1991 working undercover. He was sworn in as Chief of Police in 2019. Chief Hrytzik is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Session 221. Hrytzik continues to support local law enforcement as the Chief of Law Enforcement Accreditation for the Ohio Department of Public Safety.



Detective Darren Smith retired from the Powell Police Department in September after 26 years with the agency. Detective Smith has been awarded Officer of the Year four times. He was also recognized with the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office "Top Cop" award in 2012, 2014 and 2020. He also achieved the status of Master Evidence Technician through the Ohio Police Officer's Training Commission. Following his retirement from the Powell Police Department, he joined the Delaware Municipal Court as Chief Bailiff.



Officer Scott Sanford retired from the Powell Police Department in April, concluding a 26-year career in law enforcement. He joined the department in 1999. Officer Sanford has been awarded Officer of the Year three times. He was also recognized with a Medal of Commendation for his heroic efforts in rescuing an individual from a burning vehicle. In addition to his patrol duties, Officer Sanford served as our accreditation manager, leading the team through a rigorous recertification process every four years.

2023 Awards



Chief Sallows presented the **Officer of the Year** award to **Detective Ryan Pentz** for his 2023 performance, a particularly challenging year. He assisted Columbus by preparing search warrants for their stabbing case; he dealt with the suspicious death with the car in the pond – and called an after-action meeting to improve our response; and he helped select and train a new detective after the

retirement of long-time Detective Darren Smith. Above all, he handled the first homicide in Powell in over 30 years. A suspect was charged within 36 hours thanks to Detective Pentz's collaboration with BCI, DCSO, the Coroner's Office and the Prosecutor's Office.

Years of Service Award: 15 Years – Detective Audrey Wilt.

Safe Driver Award: 10 Years – Sergeant Scott Roach.

Letters of Recognition were awarded to Officers Matt Cook, Fred Hart, Kaylyn Heading, Jason Latiolais, Josh Waymire and Jared Wilt.



Chief Sworn In



Interim Chief Ron Sallows was selected to serve as Chief of Police beginning January 2, 2024. He was sworn in as the Chief of Police at the Powell City Council meeting.

Chief Sallows has 29 years of law enforcement experience and has been a member of the Powell Police Department since 1999. He started his career in law enforcement as a police officer at the Medical College of Ohio Police Department in Toledo.

In 1999, the Powell Police Department hired Sallows as a patrol officer. He was honored as Officer of the Year in 2000 and 2003, and was promoted to Sergeant in 2005.

In 2013, Sallows graduated from the rigorous 10-week FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. He was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2020.



Also in 2013, Sallows and the Liberty Township Fire Department were recognized for their lifesaving action when a citizen collapsed at the post office. Sallows deployed his Automatic External Defibrillator until LTFD arrived.

Goals and Objectives

2023 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Planning** – We updated the five-year plan and worked with CPSM on the staffing assessment. Scheduling and the evaluation system will become 2024 goals.
2. **Accreditation** – We completed the second Compliance Service Inspection.
3. **Records Management System** – Problems with the RMS have not been corrected by Tyler.
4. **Patrol** – We deployed a new speed trailer and began reporting demographics on traffic stops. We negotiated a new labor contract.
5. **Retirements** – We are more prepared for future retirements because we are able to hire above budget.
6. **Working with City Government** – The Recruitment Team prepared a draft master recruitment plan.
7. **Wellbeing** – Mental health check-ins and training on the EAP will be goals for 2024.

2024 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Planning

We will update the five-year strategic plan and work to implement the recommendations of the CPSM staffing / operations assessment.



Accreditation

We expect to achieve our eighth accreditation in 2024.



Recruiting and Retention

We will pursue alternative schedules that support both 8 and 12 hour shifts. We will complete a Master Recruiting Plan that improves our market competitiveness and provides for professional development. We will consider a different evaluation system.



Technology

We will deploy Opticom® to reduce response time in emergency situations. We will install Flock Safety cameras with license plate recognition (LPR) capability.



Retirements

We will prepare for the retirement of Officer Latiolais, Clerk Wenden, and possibly other officers. We will fill the Deputy Chief position and the COP officer position.



Working with City Government

We will collaborate with the City on messaging to the community, completing the bi-annual community survey, and providing crime prevention education.



Wellbeing

We will provide updated training on the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and schedule mental health check-ins for each employee of the department.