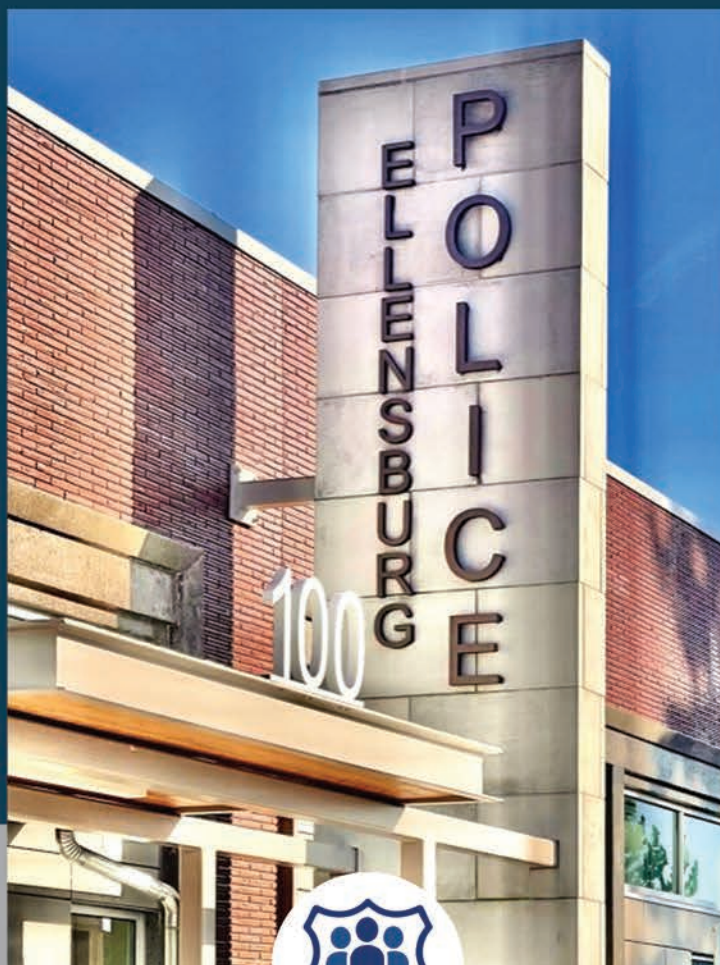


2020



**ELLENSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT
REPORT**

SERVICE IS OUR PURPOSE



MISSION

The Ellensburg Police Department's Mission is to provide our community with efficient, effective and ethical police services through relationships with our public, businesses and educational communities, and law enforcement partners.

VISION

Our vision is to protect our citizens and improve the quality of life for all of those in our community by providing excellence in professional law enforcement through our commitment to transparency, compassion and honor of our service.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- To reduce crime and improve traffic safety within our community.
- To provide quality community services.
- To provide leadership and resources.
- To build trust within our community.



Officer Daniel Ashby

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Daniel Ashby has been chosen as the 2020 Ellensburg Police Department Officer of the Year.

Officer Ashby's outstanding level of calls for service as well as his pro-active approach to his daily patrol activities, his attention to detail,

can-do attitude and his high level of professionalism have enabled him to interact well with the community and his co-workers alike.

Officer Ashby continues to place an emphasis on traffic related public safety which has made a positive impact in the City of Ellensburg.

CHIEF'S AWARD

2020 challenged the men and women of the Ellensburg Police Department like no other. The construction of the new police department and the moving of our office space, the COVID-19 pandemic, employee and community health planning while still providing public safety services, and the social justice movement and activities, were all challenges to our community, which all members of the police department handled throughout the year. Each

placed a huge strain, both physically and mentally on all members. It is because of the contributions each member of the department made to our community that I award the Chief's Award to all members of the department. Each person faced both professional and personal difficulties and did so without complaint. Thank you for your service. You are a shining example of a public servant and a valuable member of the city of Ellensburg.



Chief Ken Wade

FROM THE CHIEF

A YEAR OF CHALLENGES

» Major events test department's resilience

To the Honorable Mayor, Ellensburg City Council and the Ellensburg Community, I present the 2020 Ellensburg Police Department Annual Report

This past year has presented many challenges for the community and the department. The police department has never encountered so many major events in a single year with each requiring a department-wide response.

First was the police department remodel, which started the year with a move from the old portion of the building into the completed phase 1 section. Six months later we moved into the completed phase 2. The completion of the facility occurred in the fall and we are very grateful to the community and council for providing us such a wonderful facility that gives us an outstanding workplace with the capability to meet our current and future needs.

Along with the rest of the world, we faced the COVID-19 pandemic. This began near the end of January for the police department when we met with members of Central Washington University and our community healthcare partners to develop an operational plan. Throughout the year we have dealt with a variety of ever changing issues all focused on providing service to our community, while keeping our officers and staff safe and healthy. We were challenged to develop a plan for an infectious pandemic that our nation was not prepared for. Our partnerships, planning, management and communication were key to the success of preventing wide spread infection amongst our staff. Throughout this pandemic, we continued our work of responding to calls and keeping our community safe.

The social justice/ anti-police movement came along in early June. We have always been supportive of equal rights, building relationships within our community, ensuring an appropriate response to resistance is applied

and transparency/accountability. We ensured the safety of all those who chose to voice their personal or political opinion and we remained neutral and focused on our public safety mission.

This past year also brought with it our Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Accreditation, the only statewide accrediting organization in Washington. Accreditation contained 18 chapters covering 137 individual standards. The inspection consists of a detailed policy and practice review which includes an on-site inspection and interviews of staff. This a big project and I am very proud to report we had no negative findings. Additionally, we were certified by the United States Department of Justice as meeting all the standards of Safe Policing for Safe Communities, established through President Trump's Executive Order No. 13929.

This has also been a very violent year with one homicide, two non-fatal stabbings, five drive-by shootings, 24 aggravated assaults plus nine assaults on officers. Weapons complaints and overall gang activity has drastically increased over previous years.

You will notice changes to our annual report this year. In past years, we published crime statistics from our internal records management system. Although this provided accurate crime statistics it did not provide comparable data, meaning the definitions may not be consistent across the state or nation. In order to provide better information, we will be utilizing the FBI's NIBRS Crime statistics, which will come out later in the year. When the NIBRS information is published we will provide a crime report comparing historical crime statistics.

It continues to be an honor serving our community and we look forward to the challenges we face in the coming years.

Chief Ken Wade,
Ellensburg Police Department



USE OF FORCE

RESISTANCE RESPONSE

» Senate Bill 5259 has become newest law

The 2021 Washington State Legislature is in session during the preparation of this year's annual report. One piece of legislation moving forward is Senate Bill 5259, which creates a reporting procedure to the Washington State Attorney General's Office on law enforcement's response to resistance. Here is the department's report:

- Fatality occurred in connection with the use of force; **EPD had none**

- Great bodily harm occurred in connection with the use of force; **EPD had none**

- Substantial bodily harm occurred in connection with the use of force; **EPD had none**

A law enforcement officer:

- Discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person; **EPD had none**

- Pointed a firearm at a person; **EPD had one (1)**

- Used a chokehold or vascular neck restraint; **EPD had none**

- Used an electronic control weapon including, but not limited to, a Taser, against a person; **EPD had one (1)**

- Used oleoresin capicum spray against a person; **EPD had none**

- Discharged a less lethal shotgun or other impact munitions at or in the direction of a person; **EPD had none**

- Struck a person using an impact weapon or instrument including, but not limited to, a club, baton, or flashlight; **EPD had none**

- Used any part of their body to physically strike a person including, but not limited to, punching, kicking, slapping, or using closed fists or feet; **EPD had two (2)**

- Used a vehicle to intentionally strike a person or vehicle; **EPD had none**

- Used a dog by releasing it from the physical control of the law enforcement officer or had under the law enforcement officer's control a canine that bites a person. **EPD had none**

This past year was a violent year for the Ellensburg Community with five shootings, one of which resulted in a death and two stabbings — a 125% increase over 2019 — and nine assaults on officers. Out of 15,142 police contacts in 2020, the Ellensburg Police Department had four uses of force based on the above listed criteria.

What this new law has not changed is our commitment to investigate and analyze every response to resistance.



REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

The Ellensburg Police Department accepts all complaints involving any member of the department and complaints about the department itself. During 2020, the department received eleven complaints. Each was shared with the involved employees, investigated and reviewed by the administration for violations of policy or law. At the conclusion of each investigation the findings are

shared with the complainant. Of those complaints filed in 2020, all eleven were determined to be unfounded, meaning there was insufficient evidence to show a violation of policy occurred. This does not mean that there was nothing done. We learn from every contact and we make adjustments to better serve our community and continue to provide the best in police services.



PATROL

OFFICER DUTIES ARE VARIED

» Patrol officers are public's first resource

There are 21 officers assigned to the Patrol Division. When fully staffed 20 are assigned to four patrol squads with five officers on each squad. Patrol squads work a 12-hour shift ranging from 7a.m. to 7p.m. or 7p.m. to 7a.m. It's important to point out that this is an optimum staffing schedule but due to vacancies, vacation, training and sick leave, full staffing levels are not always realized. The Operations Captain oversees Patrol and works closely with the Patrol Sergeants to achieve the Department's goals and objectives. The full-time School Resource Officer is assigned to the Patrol and supplements the day shift squads when school is not in session.

The Ellensburg Police Department relies on officers to fulfill several roles within the Department. We don't have a designated Crime Scene Investigation Unit, Community Policing Unit, Traffic Unit — the list could go on. We have highly-trained police officers who fulfill each of these functions along with other responsibilities. Officers are expected to investigate crime scenes, participate in community outreach programs and conduct traffic enforce-

ment. Their duties include patrolling around local schools and neighborhoods and responding to a variety of calls for service ranging from noise complaints to family violence. The basic nature of an officer's job is both the most exciting and most dangerous because they never know what the next dispatched call or encounter will be. They must be alert at all times for their safety and the safety of the community they serve, while at the same time being an approachable servant to the citizens of Ellensburg. Patrol Officers can't be the solution for every need in the community but they are often the first resource to respond to a crises or need within the community.

"The police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police are the only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the intent of the community welfare."

-Sir Robert Peel





Sgt. Cameron
Clasen



Detective
Derek Holmes



Detective
John Bean



Detective
Ryan Potter



Detective
Ryan Shull

DETECTIVES

SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATORS

» Five-man unit suss out city's major crimes

The detective unit for the Ellensburg Police Department consists of five officers. Two act as generalist detectives, two as anti-crime detectives and one as a supervisor sergeant. Detectives receive additional specialized training each year to give them the skill set to handle these types of investigations.

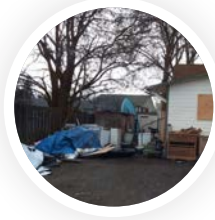
In 2020 the unit handled 187 investigations. Those included a variety of investigations such as missing persons, runaway juveniles, child assaults, sexual assaults, fraud, shootings and homicides.

The anti-crime detectives primary focus is drug related crimes. Along with investigating the sale and delivery

of controlled substances, they investigate related crimes such as theft or trafficking in stolen property. Anti-crime detectives investigate gang activity occurring in their jurisdiction including drive-by shootings and gang graffiti. They assist generalist detectives in investigating larger scale investigations when they occur.

The two generalist detectives are Detective Ryan Shull, who has been in the unit for nine years, and Ryan Potter, who is new to the unit. John Bean is in his fifth year as an anti-crime detective and Derek Holmes is in his second year. The unit is supervised by Sgt. Cameron Clasen who joined the unit in 2019.





CODE ENFORCEMENT

IT'S ABOUT EQUITY, SAFETY

» Education and assistance offered by officers

The Ellensburg Code Enforcement Division is made up of three limited commissioned officers. These Officers are responsible for enforcing the City of Ellensburg parking and nuisance ordinances which can be found on the City's website at www.codepublishing.com/WA/Ellensburg/#!/EllensburgNT.html.

The Historical Downtown is one of the main concerns for parking enforcement. The city allows three hours of free parking in the downtown to assist downtown businesses that have limited parking. Another parking concern for Code Enforcement is the Residential Parking Zones (RPZ) near Central Washington University. The purpose of the RPZ is to alleviate the parking congestion in the neighborhoods surrounding CWU. Many of the residents in these areas do not have off street parking and the RPZ ensures there is ample parking for the residents and their guests. Code Enforcement also looks for other parking violations such as being parked too close

to fire hydrants, stop signs and crosswalks as well as no parking zones.

In addition to parking, officers also enforce the Ellensburg City Code that includes tall grass, weeds, snow removal and proper garbage disposal. The purpose behind these codes is to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment for the citizens of Ellensburg. Some of the nuisances are complaint based but most are observed by our officers who patrol the city looking for these violations. Officers are able to handle a vast majority of these code violations through education and assistance from the property owner and/or responsible person to address the violation.

Officers can also help with abandoned vehicles, junk vehicle affidavits and vehicles blocking public and private driveway access. You can contact the Code Enforcement Office, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by phone at 509-962-7282 or by email at parking@ci.ellensburg.





Shelter Manager
Paula Hake



ACO
Kimberly Henle



ACO
Heidi Monson



Shelter Aide
Tanya Davis

ANIMAL SHELTER

SMALL SHELTER, BIG HEARTS

» Responsible pet ownership encouraged

The Ellensburg Animal Shelter is a small shelter with limited space. Two full-time animal control officers along with one full-time manager and two part time shelter aides make up the Animal Shelter and Control Division.

The shelter takes in stray, neglected, abandoned and law enforcement impounds. Owner surrendered animals are accepted when space allows. The shelter office is open by appointment only at this time due to Covid-19, but staff is available Monday through Saturday to assist the public. The animals are given care and maintenance seven days a week.

Shelter staff promotes responsible pet ownership while enforcing the laws pertaining to animal control. Each day the staff has a multitude of duties both including daily maintenance of shelter animals, collecting impounds, licensing and boarding fees, releasing pets to owners, data entry, report writing and animal adoptions.

Shelter personnel also patrol the city for stray or injured animals, investigate suspected cases of animal cruelty, handle state mandated bite quarantines, protect citizens from vicious animals and respond to a variety of other animal related citizen complaints. Staff acts as advocates for the neutering or spaying of all companion animals.

In 2020 the shelter took in 379 animals, which is down from the usual annual amount of more than 500. This is due to the COVID-19 shutdown. The majority of animals were either reunited with their owners,

adopted or transferred. To ensure there is available kennel space for the revolving door of strays and law enforcement impounds, around half

of the shelter animals are transferred to adoption based organizations on the west side of Washington State. The Ellensburg Shelter partners with The NOAH Center in Stanwood, Seattle Humane in Bellevue and Homeward Pet in Woodinville. Nearly every week NOAH and Seattle Humane visit Shelters and Humane Societies in Eastern Washington to meet dogs and cats available to transfer. When animals are accepted by Homeward Pet, volunteers drive them to Woodinville. Through hard work, dedication and the transfer program the euthanasia rate at the Ellensburg Animal Control Shelter in 2020 was 2%.

When animals are adopted from our shelter the price of adopting a pet includes a pet license (when applicable), a veterinary health exam, a series of vaccinations and the spaying or neutering procedure to guard against contributing to pet overpopulation.

ANIMALS TAKEN IN - 379
NUMBER OF ADOPTIONS - 177



Briley Cameron



Isaac Sandoval



Jared Watson

RESERVES

VIRUS AFFECTS NEW CLASS

» Department still able to add more officers

In 2020 the Ellensburg Police Department reserve program was affected by Covid-19. The virus struck while a new reserve class was in the academy. The academy was put on hold for a few weeks and then resumed via online meetings. Fortunately the department was able to add three new reserve officers from the academy — Isaac Sandoval, Briley Cameron, and Jared Watson. The program also picked up a lateral reserve from the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office, Nathan Rawson.

The incumbent reserve officers each received at least 24 hours of training, which was difficult due to the pandem-

12 RESERVE OFFICERS IN 2020
TOTAL HOURS WORKED - 1,576

ic. Trainees managed by using online meetings, which included presentations and video of patrol incidents. Overall the department has a great reserve cadre of officers. They are all citizens of the community. Reserve officers range in age from 21-years-old to people in their 50s. Some reserves

want to make a career of law enforcement and there are some who are professionals who volunteer their time to serve the community. We are lucky to have a strong representation of school district employees who also reserve with us. It helps the School Resource Officer program and helps keep the children of the community safe.





RECORDS

TRACKING INFORMATION

» Clerks are department's public assistants

When entering the Ellensburg Police Department, whether to file a report with an officer or fill out a public records request, the first person you will see is a Records Clerk. As your first point of contact with the Department, Records Clerks will direct you to the appropriate forms, departments or officers to best assist you — whether by phone, e-mail or in person.

Every record, report, ticket or document handled or generated by the department

will make its way to Records. Records Clerks are then responsible for data entry, transcription of recordings, dissemination of confidential information and gathering and

CONCEALED PISTOL LICENSES – 202
PISTOL TRANSFERS – 1050
WARRANTS ENTERED – 305
COURT ORDERS ENTERED – 126
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUESTS – 1,226
REPORTS PROCESSED – 4,852

reporting statistics. In addition to these tasks Records Clerks also fulfill public disclosure requests, concealed pistol license applications and processes ticket payments, just to name a few. Information to the National Incident Based Reporting System

is submitted monthly for further crime analysis.

WELCOME BACK



Records Clerk
Renee Moore

In September 2020, the Ellensburg Police Department welcomed back Renee Moore as our new Full-Time Records Clerk. Renee began her law enforcement career in 1999 with the Union Gap Police Department. She also spent time as a law clerk with the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office before arriving at EPD where she worked as

a Records Clerk from 2005-2014. Though she left EPD for a few years to pursue other interests, she always knew EPD was where she belonged and we are thrilled to have her back! Outside of EPD, Renee enjoys camping, gardening, antiques and spending time with her family, friends and fur babies.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

GOAL: STOP INJURY, DEATH

» Target Zero is used as an educational tool

The Ellensburg Police Department is an active partner with Target Zero, Washington State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The goal of this plan is to have zero deaths and zero serious injuries by 2030.

One of our officers is a Target Zero liaison who helps coordinate Target Zero's high visibility enforcement (HVE) campaign in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies in the county. HVE campaigns include seatbelts, distracted driving and driving under

the influence.

The department also has an assigned traffic safety officer who is focused on traffic enforcement. Last year the department bought a vehicle that is dedicated for traffic enforcement and safety use only. The department also utilizes motorcycles for traffic enforcement and is looking to add additional certified motorcycle officers in 2021.

For more about the program go to targetzero.com.





TRAINING

CONTINUED EDUCATION

» Department maintains high standards

The Ellensburg Police Department has prioritized training as a means to better equip our officers to deal with the difficult and quickly unfolding incidents they deal with on a daily basis. The state of Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission mandates officers receive 24 hours of training every year. Even in 2020, which saw most training canceled due to the pandemic, Ellensburg commissioned officers averaged 57 hours each. In 2019, the average was higher still.

In 2018, the voters of Washington State passed initiative 940. The initiative dictated that officers should receive further training on de-escalation, mental health and first aid. Upon completion of the rule making process and curriculum development, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission began training the instructors on this curriculum and the Ellensburg Police Department was among the first departments

sending instructors to training. We held our first training of our officers in the fall of 2020. All Ellensburg Police Department officers will be trained on this curriculum before the first half of 2021. We continue to send officers and investigators to specialized, topic-specific training in addition to state mandates, as we believe educating our officers in the best industry standards is the means by which we most closely match the expectations of our constituency.

Ask our officers about their I-940 training and they will tell you about the topics of time, distance and shielding, mental health and de-escalation. They will continue to be very well prepared to respond to anything they are called upon to handle. We are proud of their leadership in their industry with regard to helping all communities within Ellensburg, who struggle with difficulties in their lives.



Sgt. Brett Koss

NEW TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

Washington State passed I-940 which directs law enforcement officers, “to obtain violence de-escalation and mental health training so they are better prepared to resolve conflict without the use of physical or deadly force.” The law requires officers to complete 24 hours of training from a patrol tactics instructor.

The Ellensburg Police Department sent Sgt. Brett Koss to the 80 hour Patrol Tactics Instructor class to become a certified trainer. Instructors are required to conduct

annual trainings to provide training to officers of their home and neighboring agencies.

The Ellensburg Police Department began the process of having all its officers attend the Patrol Tactics course by running a joint class with the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office in the fall of 2020. The class includes practical exercises, de-escalation techniques and review of case law and legal authority. All officers are scheduled to complete the training in 2021.