

2021

**ELLENSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT**

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 of the year

Officer of The Year Award goes to Officer Christian Alviar. Officer Alviar's dedication to public safety and the mission of the Ellensburg Police Department is unsurpassed. Officer Alviar has made gang awareness a personal project and created a pamphlet as well as a very informative presentation for citizens he delivered at Morgan Middle School. Officer Alviar continues to build numerous key relationships throughout the community in an effort to improve safety awareness through his role as a Traffic Safety Officer and as a certified child car seat technician.



chief's award

This past year officers worked to adjust to the ever-changing enforcement environment. As we crawled back to some semblance of normalcy, we wanted to ensure a balanced approach to enforcement regarding the parking and nuisance codes, seeking compliance over enforcement when appropriate.

It was also during this time, that the department hired one full-time and an additional part-time code enforcement officer, each requiring extensive training in their duties and responsibilities.

It is because of her hard work and dedication to the Ellensburg community that I honor Theresa Jones with the 2021 Chief's Award. Theresa is a dedicated employee who contributed to the department and the community in so many positive ways.

The Chief's Award is given to an individual or organization that have contributed to the community through their relationship/partnership with the police department.



Department faced several challenges in 2021

To the Honorable Mayor, Ellensburg City Council and the Ellensburg Community I present the 2021 Ellensburg Police Department Annual Report

This past year we have proven our resiliency as we focused on the impacts fentanyl and other drugs had on our community, the challenges of police reform legislation and the strength of our partnerships within the community.

Drugs had a tragic impact in our community with the death of six residents, each under the age of 30. And we are aware of several other residents who have lost family or friends to drugs outside of Kittitas County. Changes brought about by the 2021 legislature and Washington Supreme Court regarding drug possession and consumption concern us. As a department we take the victimization of our community very seriously. During 2021, we arrested five people for controlled substance homicide and we continue to investigate others. Arresting those who dump this poison on our residents is a priority for this department.

As mentioned earlier the 2021 session of the Washington State Legislature brought with it a host of reforms focused on policing. Whether it was a less-lethal tool, the amount of force used to effect an arrest, the reporting of the force or a large variety of other legislation, the bottom line was decisions were being made



based on emotion and not proven practices. We were left trying to untangle and make sense out of terms with no definitions, conflicting guidance and finger pointing.

The two highpoints of 2021 was the hard work and commitment to the health and safety of Ellensburg by the entire police department and working closely with our community partners. These organizations work tirelessly to combat substance abuse disorder, mental and physical health, victim assistance and homelessness. We are very proud of these organizations and want to thank each of them for the service they provide to our community and to those in need.

We are also appreciative of the actions taken by the Kittitas County Commissioners for implementing the 1/10th of one percent sales tax to help combat mental health and substance abuse disorder. This is an important step in the right direction as we continue our efforts to improve our community's health while we reduce the victimization of our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community and we look forward to serving the city of Ellensburg.


Chief Ken Wade,
Ellensburg Police Department

Minimal use of force incidents by officers reported

Washington State law requires each law enforcement agency to report individual incidents where an officer employed by the agency used force and:

A 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 none

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 capsicum 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 one (1)

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

Deployed a canine 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

Engaged in a vehicle pursuit; EPD had none

In addition to the state's reporting requirements, the department has its own more stringent reporting system that accounts for any level of force or display of force used by an officer. A shift supervisor completes a full investigation into each reported incident using a software program called SmartForce. This reporting system meets state and federal use of force reporting standards and provides data analysis, including an early warning matrix. The early warning matrix is used to analyze officer complaints, use of force, officer involved collisions and vehicle pursuits.

review of complaints

The department received 16 complaints in 2021. There were three driving complaints, three response to resistance and 10 job performance complaints. Each complaint was shared with the involved employee, 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 there was one founded driving complaint, two founded complaints involving job performance and 13 complaints which were unfounded. We learn from every contact and we make adjustments to better serve the community. The Ellensburg Police Department accepts all complaints involving any member of the department and complaints about the department itself.

Patrol officers provide many levels of service

There are 21 officers assigned to the Patrol section. When fully staffed, 20 of these officers 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. An operations captain oversees the Patrol section and works closely with the sergeants toward achieving the department's goals and objectives. A full-time school resource officer is assigned to the Patrol section and supplements the day shift squads when school is not in session.

Patrol officers provide several layers of service to the community and include investigating crime scenes, participating in community outreach programs and conducting traffic enforcement. 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 since they never know what their next dispatched call or encounter will be. They must be always alert 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 crisis or need within the community. Officers have embraced the "We Are You" motto to emphasize that we are a part of and from the community they serve. Officers shop where you shop, their kids go to school with your kids, participate in similar social functions and are as committed as you are to providing a safe community to raise your family in.

2021 Patrol Statistics

Calls for Service: 16,350

Reports Written: 4,903

Traffic Stops: 3,162

Traffic Tickets: 736

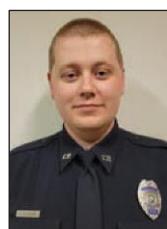
Top Three Calls for Service:

Check Welfare (892)

Suspicious Circumstances (797)

Citizen Assist (457)

new hire



Nate Rawson was hired as a patrol officer in August of 2021. Nate was a long-time EMT working with several ambulance providers. He also was a volunteer firefighter in the Okanogan Valley where he was born and raised. Nate came to EPD as a reserve police officer. He is married and making his way through his first full year as a patrol officer.



Ellensburg Police Department detectives are from left Sgt. Cameron Clasen, Ryan Shull, Derek Holmes, John Bean and Ryan Potter.

Detective unit sees surge in illegal drug use

The Detectives division continues to excel in the area of spotting criminal trends and responding to them to help in prevention and harm to community members.

In early 2021 officers and detectives saw an increase in drug overdoses within the community. In response anti-crime detectives initiated cases on those believed to be involved in the sale and distribution of counterfeit oxycodone.

In May of 2021, the first overdose death occurred. This was to be the first of six who died due to a drug overdose. Investigators continued

to address the problem from two fronts. Anti-crime detectives aggressively pursued distribution and sale networks while other detectives investigated the resulting deaths as homicides. Charges were successfully brought against four people in three separate cases. Those arrested were charged with Controlled Substance Homicide and related crimes.

In 2021 detectives handled 179 cases and 52 anti-crime investigations. They continue to be aggressive in their pursuit of those involved in drug sales while doing their best for the victims.

Officers enforce quality-of-life issues for city

Code Enforcement consists of two limited commissioned officers who are entrusted with enforcing nuisance and parking ordinances throughout the City of Ellensburg.

Parking in the downtown area and Residential Parking Zones (RPZ) near Central Washington University are the main parking concerns for Code Enforcement. Officers monitor these areas for parking violations to ensure that both residents near CWU and patrons at businesses in the historic downtown can park without having to deal with congested parking in those areas. Other parking issues include parking too close to fire hydrants, stop signs and crosswalks along with parking in no-park



zones and abandoned vehicles.

In addition to parking, Code Enforcement enforces other quality of life issues like tall grass and weeds, snow removal and proper garbage disposal. The purpose of doing so is to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment for the residents in the City of Ellensburg. Code Enforcement officers either receive complaints of potential violations from residents within city limits or by patrolling the city and finding them themselves.

If you have any nuisance or parking concerns please contact Code Enforcement at (509) 962-7282 or email at parking@ci.ellensburg.wa.us, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2021 code enforcement Statistics

RPZ Time: 236 Hours
RPZ Warnings: 283
RPZ Tickets: 388
Downtown Time: 630 Hours
Downtown Warnings: 818
Downtown tickets: 748
Parking Time: 747 Hours

Parking Complaints: 137
Parking Warnings: 1,641
Parking Tickets: 670
Code Complaints: 137
Code Warning: 292
Code Tickets: 8
Proactive Nuisance Calls: 435

new hire



Addison Hall was hired in February of 2021 as a part-time code enforcement officer. She is a Central Washington University student working on her bachelor's degree. She moved to a full-time position in June of 2021 after a resignation opened a position. Addison has been a good addition to the code office. As an interesting and helpful note, Addison studies American Sign Language at CWU.

Animal Shelter keeps pace with changing times

The Ellensburg Animal Shelter and its staff have been providing services since 1974. Over that time many changes have been seen and change continues to be a theme as we always look to improve services and efficiency for the public dollar.

Since the mid-2000s the shelter has taken measures to prevent euthanasia when possible. That has been a successful undertaking and will continue to be a point of pride. In 2021, the shelter handled approximately 459 intakes



of animals. Shelter staffing is three full-time employees made up of one shelter manager and two animal control officers, and two part-time employees who assist with shelter care. In 2021, the shelter staff took delivery of a specially outfitted van for carrying out the animal control function. Additionally, staff ordered a set of quarantine kennels to have the ability to isolate animals with infectious disease to prevent spread to other animals.

2021 animal control Statistics

Complaints: 437

Adopted: 19

Euthanized: 6

Transferred: 273



The Ellensburg Animal Shelter received a new van specifically equipped to help staff with their animal control duties.



Reserve officers must participate in at least 24 hours of training per year in addition of monthly hourly requirements.

Reserve Officers an asset to community, schools

In 2021, the Ellensburg Police Department Reserve Program was affected by the Covid-19 virus as most programs were. The virus made meeting more difficult, but our dedicated volunteers still managed to get their hours in and help serve this community for at least 16 hours per month.

The Reserve Program currently has five volunteer officers. They take part in all of the same activities that full time officers do. The Ellensburg Police Department Reserve Program is lucky to have several Ellensburg School District employees who volunteer in the program. These volunteer officers are able to connect with students at school and work in conjunction with the School Resource Officer to safely monitor our schools and give students a friendly and known face to build community

police relations.

The Reserve Program requires a minimum of 24 hours of training for each officer throughout the year in addition to their monthly hourly requirements. This year our reserves took part in a 24-hour patrol tactics class put on by instructor Sgt. Brett Koss. This training meets the standards for I-940. This training primarily focuses on de-escalation, using time distance and shielding and better serving our community members who are in crisis in the safest possible means.

The Reserve Program is also a great source for new officers. Our department has many full-time officers who were prior reserves. Our most recent officer came from the program and another officer was hired by a separate agency this year.

2021 reserves Statistics

Total Officers at the start of 2021: 10
Total Officers at the end of 2021: 5

Total Hours Worked: 1,075

Records clerks have several duties, help public

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. The Records Department is made up of four full-time records clerks and one Records Supervisor.

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 docu-



ment handled or generated by the police 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 reporting statistics.

Clerks also fulfill public disclosure requests, concealed pistol license applications and processes parking ticket payments. Information to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is submitted monthly for further crime analysis.

2021 records Statistics

Concealed Pistol Licenses: 285
Firearms Processed: 958
Warrants Entered: 482

Court Orders Entered: 126
Public Disclosure Requests: 1,305
Reports Processed: 4,903

new hire



Cammie Dixon is the newest member of the Records Department. Her background includes more than 18 years of experience in the childcare industry. She has embraced the law enforcement profession and recently became certified as a Child Passenger Safety Technician. Cammie loves camping, riding her side-by-side and most importantly, being a grandma. Welcome Cammie!

Officer fosters safety, trust among area students

Fall 2021 marked the beginning of the final school year for Officer Stephanie Druktenis as the Ellensburg School District's School Resource Officer.

Druktenis has worked closely with schools in our community to foster a safe and educational working relationship with the staff, students and community. She has additional after school responsibilities that include working closely with Reserve Officers to ensure school related athletic events and activities remain safe and



fun for all that attend.

Druktenis has made many lasting connections over her years in the schools with children kindergarten through 12th grade. School resource officers perform many daily functions which include traffic enforcement around school campuses, classroom involvement such as presentations to older students or reading with the younger ones, assisting students in accessing mental health or other resources, crime prevention and enforcement actions when needed.



Officer Druktenis has built several lasting relationships with students in the Ellensburg School District. 2021 marked the last year she will be the school resource officer.

Department stays ahead of mandated training

Despite the difficulties of Covid-19, Ellensburg Police Department staff averaged 73 hours of training last year.

A highlight of that training was a multi-agency event conducted by retired Seattle police officer Jim Ritter. Curriculum included officer encounters with the LGBTQ+ community, focusing on their perspectives and how to best meet the needs of the members of that community. Officers appreciated Ritter's approach and learned valuable information about how to best approach LGBTQ+ victims as well as other victims of hate crimes. More information about Ritter can be found at www.jsritterassociatesllc.com.

The department also concluded its legislative



mandate under I-940, well ahead of the 2028 deadline. Officers received 24 hours of a patrol tactics course which included time management, space and shielding as well as first aid and mental health concerns. For information about officer training and the Community Safety Act go to www.gjc.wa.gov/letcsa/about-letcsa.

Additionally Officer Daniel Ashby was added to the Motors Division following a demanding two-week school. Motors officers continue to focus their work on locations with high frequency of traffic-related complaints and location where collision data reveals a traffic safety problem. Ashby and the rest of the Motors Division will be back on the streets this spring.



Officers participate in a variety of training scenarios throughout the year including classroom work and hands-on teaching events.



Community learns through fun, hands-on course

In October the Ellensburg Police Department was able to host its annual Citizen's Academy. The popular course was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The Citizen's Academy is just that: classes for citizens of our community regarding the Ellensburg Police Department, our mission and policing in general. This year's class was hosted by Det. Jason Brunk and was made up of 10 students.

The class met three hours, one day a week for



operates and enforces the laws.

six weeks. Some of the class topics included police use of force, types of calls, day in the life of a patrol officer, traffic and DUI enforcement, mental health issues, a presentation by a corrections officer from the Kittitas County Jail, detectives and investigations, range day, hands-on scenarios and of course a graduation party. This class was a great opportunity for members of this community to learn how their department

Child car seat technicians offer parents assistance

Ellensburg Police Department now has three certified Car Seat Technicians. Officer Christian Alviar, Records Specialist Danielle Bertschi and Records Specialist Cammie Dixon each took a four-day class — eight hours the first three days and a clinic on day four — to become certified. In September,



a car seat clinic was hosted at the police department with the help of Washington State Patrol Trooper Chance Forman. A total of 18 car seats were inspected in four hours. During the months of October, November and December eight checks were performed and four seats were given to families in need.

Yearly barbecue is a popular community event

Eat With the Heat Barbecue and National Night Out continue to be a fun and successful evening put on by the Ellensburg Police Department. This year's event as always was held on the first Tuesday of August and was held at Memorial Park.

EPD provided a hamburger and hot dog barbecue that was free to the public. Utopia supported the event by donating frozen yogurt which is always a big hit. The food line looked a little different this year due to Covid restrictions, but we were able to talk some able bodied people into assisting us this year, such as the new city manager, Heidi Behrends Cerniwey as well as the assistant city manager and city attorney, Terry Weiner.



This year's static displays included items from the department, Kittitas County Sheriffs Office, Washington State Patrol, Central Washington University Police Department, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. Other vendors included ASPEN, Youth Services of Kittitas County, CASA, Kittcom, KVH, 7-11 as well as vintage cars brought to the event by Central Valley Rodders.

Fingerprint and DNA kits were provided to families at no cost. A car seat inspection booth was added this year for those with questions about car seat safety or who wanted to have their seat inspected by car seat technicians.



Left: Community members enjoy a free meal, informative displays and the chance to talk with officers during the National Night Out and Eat with the Heat Barbecue.

Right: Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief Rich Elliott and Detective Ryan Potter fingerprint a youngster for his parents' records during the annual event.

Hansberry recognized for dedication to event

At the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs fall conference, Ellensburg Police Capt. Dan Hansberry was presented with the inaugural Washington State Special Olympics – 2021 Hall of Fame Award. This award is given to one law enforcement officer in Washington State for their long-term service and commitment to the Special Olympics the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Capt. Hansberry is the Region 6 coordinator (Yakima, Klickitat and Kittitas counties) and has facilitated many fundraising events and activities supporting the Special Olympics athletes. We are very proud of dedication and compassion Capt. Hansberry has devoted to these wonderful athletes.

The Kittitas County Law Enforcement com-



munity has provided many years of support to the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run and we look forward to our continued service to this outstanding cause.

The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run is to raise awareness and funds for the Special Olympics movement. Known as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the "Flame of Hope"

into Opening Ceremonies of local competitions. They also carry it into Special Olympics State, Provincial, National, Regional and World Games. There are more than 97,000 law enforcement members that carry the "Flame of Hope" annually. The flame symbolizes courage and celebration of diversity.



Members of the Ellensburg Police Department, Cle Elum Police Department and the community participated in the 2021 Torch Run.

Shop with a Cop, Firefighter is a holiday favorite

Held every December, the Shop with a Cop and Firefighter's event pairs underprivileged and at-risk children with a law enforcement officer or firefighter for a shopping spree leading up to Christmas. The hope is that this experience of shopping for toys alongside Kittitas County's finest will instill in each child a positive experience with law enforcement which will carry into



their adolescence and adulthood.

Participants are treated to a hearty breakfast before heading to BiMart for some holiday shopping. While there they get to see Santa and have pictures with him and the officer or firefighter he or she was paired with for the event.

But the highlight is the chance to personally shop for gifts for family members and friends.



The annual Shop with a Cop and Firefighter pairs a police officer or firefighter with a child who is treated to a shopping trip for seasonal gifts. The heartwarming event is a popular one.