



2022  
ELLENSBURG  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT

WE ARE YOU

## 2022 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

For his dedicated service to the City of Ellensburg. Officer Jason Ramsey's outstanding work ethic, calming demeanor, reliability and professionalism has earned the respect of not only Officer Ramsey's peers, but the community he serves. As one of EPD's Traffic Safety Officers, Officer Ramsey has a well-balanced approach to his patrol style while being very proactive, which helps ensure the safety of the entire community.



## 2022 CHIEF'S AWARD



Animal Control Officer Heidi Monson received the 2022 Chief's Award. Heidi received the award for her dedication and commitment toward the community's furry friends. Heidi worked tirelessly as the Animal Control Officer while the department worked to switch the Ellensburg Animal Shelter over to the Yakima Humane Society.

Thank you for your continued service to the animals and their owners in our community.

## NEW HIRE

Erick Quezada joined EPD on March 1 as an Entry Level Police Officer. Erick has worked for the Sunnyside School District for the past few years with additional experience as a STEM teacher and academic advisor in the Yakima area. Congratulations and welcome to Ellensburg, Erick!



## GOODBYE



Full-time Records Clerk, Danielle Bertschi, left the department in July 2022 to pursue other interests. Danielle was a dedicated employee with the department for almost 10 years, and we wish her well in her dream career. Danielle's enthusiasm and homemade goodies will be missed!

# WE ARE YOU

## 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 AND 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.

# FROM THE CHIEF



**Chief Ken Wade**

To the Honorable Mayor, Ellensburg City Council and the Ellensburg Community, I present the 2022 Ellensburg Police Department Annual Report.

This past year we continued with the many challenges left to us in a post COVID-19 environment. Officers had a 4.8% increase in incident reports, a 24% increase in criminal enforcement, a 14% increase in motor vehicle collisions —with two deaths — and

experienced a record 455 mental health referrals. We were fortunate in that we had a 67% reduction in drug overdose deaths.

This was also a busy year with several significant administrative projects. The first of many projects involved management of the animal shelter after the shelter manager and an animal control officer retired.

Research was conducted and we found the Yakima Humane Society, and other non-profits, often contracted with municipal governments to provide shelter services. On August 1, 2022, the Yakima Humane Society took over operations of our shelter. Renaming it the Ellensburg Adoption Center, they hired ex-city shelter staff and have done an outstanding job providing services to our community and the animals within. This project dramatically increased local adoptions, offered a host of other community centered opportunities and reduced costs by about \$150,000 annually.

We also implemented a new police department policy manual through a contract with a nationally-recognized vendor. This was an important project since recent legislation created significant changes which dramatically increased the level of risk associated with policing. Additionally, utilizing a vendor known for their public safety policy development, we were able to incorporate the new legal requirements and vetted best practices for police management which assisted with maintaining our WASPC accreditation. This project came with several challenges and took a large amount of department resources to accomplish. We plan on making our policy manual available to the public by adding it to the new city web page later this summer.

Data Collection improvements continued with the addition of other informational products which allow for the collection and analysis of crimes and other citizen interactions. This cloud-based internet application filled a gap in our data collection streams by allowing for the timely collection of contact information, including demographics.

We also improved our collection and analysis of crime and call data and use this information in a variety of products that are distributed by internal dashboards and other law enforcement partner distributions.

One of our most important programs of 2022 was our continued work with our community partners to include the school district, mental health, substance abuse and homelessness organizations, victim services, CWU and other law enforcement. We held an educational summit to help our law enforcement partners better understand and respond to the community challenges involving the intersection of mental health, substance abuse and homelessness.

Like the rest of the country we have experienced hiring challenges which were not limited to just our commissioned officers. During 2022, we have continually attempted to fill vacant police officer positions, a records clerk position and ended the year working toward selection of a criminal intelligence analyst. Working closely with HR and the civil service commission, we worked toward streamlining and improving our hiring process, holding a job fair, attended the Bite of the 'Burg and reached out to other organizations in an attempt to bring potential candidates to the department. Although the volume and quality of the applicants have fallen off, we will continue to seek candidates that meet our high standards.

Everybody in the department is working very hard to meet the needs of our community and we are excited to see what new challenges 2023 brings to the city and to our profession.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve this wonderful community and the City of Ellensburg as your police chief.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ken Wade'. The signature is stylized with a large, flowing 'K' and 'W'.

Chief Ken Wade

# USE OF FORCE

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

	2022	2021
• A fatality occurred in connection with the use of force;	0	0
• Great bodily harm occurred in connection with the use of force;	0	0
• Substantial bodily harm occurred in connection with the use of force;	0	0
• Discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person;	0	0
• Pointed a firearm at a person;	0	0
• Used a chokehold or vascular neck restraint;	0	0
• Used an electronic control weapon, a Taser, against a person;	0	1
• Used oleoresin capsicum spray against a person;	2	0
• Discharged an impact munitions at or in the direction of a person;	1	0
• Struck a person using an impact weapon or instrument	0	0
• Used any part of their body to physically strike a person;	0	1
• Used a vehicle to intentionally strike a person or vehicle;	0	0
• Engaged in a vehicle pursuit;	0	0
Total	3	2

Of the 17,143-calls handled in 2022, a response to overcome the resistance of an individual occurred .0002% of the time. Pepper spray was deployed using a pepper ball launcher, a tool that utilizes compressed air to deploy a round ball similar to a paintball which contains oleoresin capsicum. Impact munitions are a classification of less-lethal weapons that fires what is commonly referred to as bean bag round or other hard rubberized projectile from either a 12-gauge shotgun or other specialized weapon and causes pain.

# COMPLAINTS

During 2022, the department received 10 complaints which included one response to resistance and nine job performance complaints. Of those ten complaints five were exonerated, four were unfounded and one is pending. Five job performance complaints alleged bias policing. Four investigations are complete and it was determined one was unfounded and three exonerated. One investigation not yet complete.

All complaints are:

- Reviewed by command staff and assigned to a supervisor for investigation.
- Any alleging criminal conduct are referred to an outside agency for criminal investigation.
- All investigations include witness statements, officer's reports, body camera footage, surveillance video and any physical evidence.
- Completed investigations are reviewed by command to ensure they are complete.
- The chief reviews the investigation and determines the findings.
- The chief notifies the involved officer(s), the union representative and the complainant in writing about the complaint.
- Any involving discipline, a criminal violation or using force causing serious injury or death are reported to the Criminal Justice Training Commission.
- Findings may result in de-certification.
- All investigation reviewed by the city attorney
- All are reviewed by the county prosecutor, entered and tracked in computer program for trend analysis and or future training needs and data is compiled and shared with Council and the public in department's annual report.





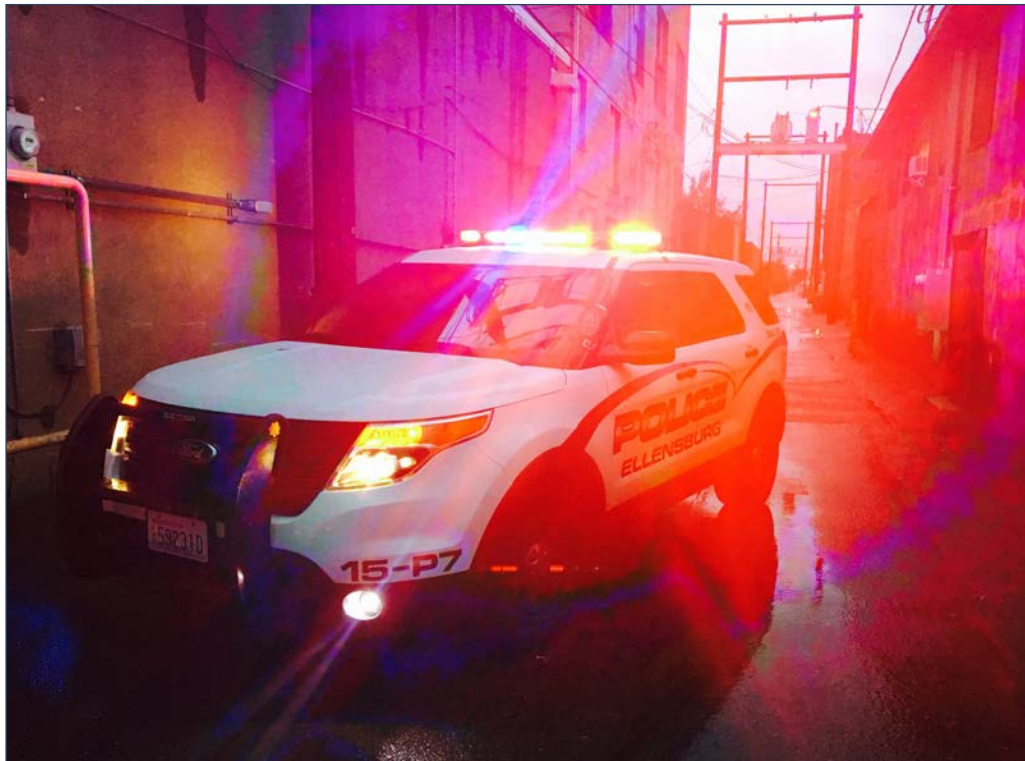
## TRAINING

The Ellensburg Police Department firmly believes that providing training to our officers on industry standards, best practices and emerging trends help us provide the most state-of-the-art service when those officers hit the street.

The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission mandates 24 hours per officer per year of on-going and continuing education. In 2022, the officers of the Ellensburg Police Department averaged 81 hours. The topics vary from legal updates to leadership training to how best to serve sexual assault victims. We will continue to make training a centerpiece of our service provision going forward.

Each year officers are required to attend a 40 hour in-service week. During the week we had service providers from HopeSource, Kittitas County Health Network and Mental health all make presentations on how officers can leverage the available services to help those struggling with mental health and homelessness.

Dr. David Pena-Alfaro presented a block of instruction on cultural considerations around the migrant community and how to navigate successfully to ensure best service provision. We are proud of our officers and their commitment to all Ellensburg residents and visitors.



## PATROL

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. Squads work a 12-hour shift ranging from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Operations Captain Dan Hansberry oversees the section and works closely with the sergeants toward achieving the Department's goals and objectives. A fulltime School Resource Officer is assigned to the section and supplements the day shift squads when school is not in session.

Patrol officers provide several layers of service to the community to 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, 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.

The department has partnered with local service providers to assist individuals suffering from substance use disorder or mental health issues. Officers provide people in need with help and facilitate getting them in direct contact with a resource provider.

Officers have embraced the "We Are You" motto to emphasize the department is part of and from the community it serves. 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 in which to raise your family.

### 2022 Patrol Statistics

Calls for Service: 17,143	Top Calls for Service
Reports Written: 4,776	Check Welfare: 836
Traffic Stops: 3,008	Suspicious: 777
Citations: 613	Citizen Assist: 463



Detectives from left: Derek Holmes, Ryan Potter, Sgt. Cameron Clasen, Ryan Shull, Daniel Ashby and John Bean.

## DETECTIVES

The detective unit for the Ellensburg Police Department consists of six officers and is supervised by Sgt. Cameron Clasen.

Three generalist detectives are responsible for a wide range of investigations that include missing persons, run-away juveniles, child assaults, sexual assaults, fraud, shootings and homicides.

Detectives receive additional specialized training each year to give them the skillset to handle these types of investigations. Ryan Shull has been in the unit for 11 years and Ryan Potter has been in the unit for more than two years. 2022 saw the addition of the third generalist detective – Daniel Ashby — for our department. This newly created position was held by Jason Brunk until his promotion to patrol sergeant. In total, these detectives investigated more than 200 cases in 2022.

The unit also consists of two anti-crime detectives whose 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. They assist generalist detectives in investigating larger scale investigations when they occur. John Bean is in his seventh year as an anti-crime detective and Derek Holmes is in his fourth year. Anti-crime detectives investigated more than 40 cases in 2022.





# CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Code Enforcement division consists of two limited commissioned officers who handle parking enforcement as well as nuisance ordinances throughout the City of Ellensburg. With limited parking in the downtown as well as around Central Washington University's campus, Code Enforcement spends a significant amount of time patrolling the RPZ zones and downtown areas.

Code Enforcement also deals with quality of life and nuisance issues such as large amounts of accumulating garbage in areas, weed abatement and snow and ice removal in the winter months.

If you have any nuisance or parking concerns, please contact Code Enforcement at (509) 962-7282 or email at [parking@ellensburgwa.gov](mailto:parking@ellensburgwa.gov), Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## 2022 Code Enforcement Statistics

RPZ Time: 255 Hours

RPZ Warnings: 252

RPZ Tickets: 439

Downtown Time: 557

Downtown Warnings: 842

Downtown Tickets: 843

Parking Time: 619

Parking Complaints: 529

Parking Warnings: 1,583

Parking Tickets: 620

Code Complaints: 162

Code Warnings: 236

Code Tickets: 9

Proactive Nuisance Calls: 1,321





Animal Control Officer Heidi Monson with members of the Yakima Humane Society.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

The 2022 calendar year was one of many changes for the Animal Control Division. In prior years staff members operated the animal shelter as their primary duty, with animal control services taking place as time allowed.

Due to the unexpected departure of some employees from the shelter, it was time to look at whether the prior model was still the best way to conduct business. What was learned is that there were many efficiencies to be achieved with a Humane Society Model.

In August of 2022, the Yakima Humane Society took over shelter care and adoption services and the Ellensburg Police Department Animal Control Officer was moved to the Police Department building. Since that time, the Humane Society has far exceeded expectations with regard to adoptions and animal care.

The department would like to extend a special thank you to Animal Control Officer Heidi Monson for her handling of the shelter operation with short staff and for assisting in the transition during the year. She has been awarded the Chief's Award for 2022 to recognize this excellent work in difficult circumstances.

Moving forward, citizens can expect to see ACO Monson regularly around town addressing leash law issues as well as licensing compliance and other animal code concerns.



## RESERVES

The Ellensburg Police Department Reserve Program is a volunteer police force that supplements the full-time officers at the department. Each reserve officer had to complete a five-month police academy put on by EPD and Kittitas County Sheriff's Office to obtain their commission. This training includes everything from criminal law, patrol procedures, domestic violence response, traffic, defensive tactics, EVOC (driving) and firearms proficiency among other fields. Reserve officers are required to attend at least 24 hours of training per year and serve a minimum of 16 hours per month.

When a reserve officer is working, they have all the same rights as a full-time officer. Reserves have been involved in many incidents where their presence was vital to the outcome of the investigation and safe resolution of conflict in the past year.

The Reserve Program currently has five members, four of whom are also administrators with the Ellensburg School District. They work closely with the School Resource Officer to provide security at school events. Reserve officers also supplement patrol. They are a valuable asset to the department, providing back up, investigations and support to patrol officers.

The department is grateful to our reserve officers for their support. We appreciate their time and sacrifice.

### Reserves Statistics

5 Reserve Officers

888 hours worked





Records Clerks are from left Lisa Tweed, Renee Moore and Cammie Dixon.

## RECORDS

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 clerks and one supervisor. As your first point of contact with the Department, 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 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. The Records Department fulfills public disclosure requests, concealed pistol license applications and processes parking ticket payments, just to name a few. Information to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is submitted monthly for further crime analysis.

### 2022 Records Statistics

Concealed Pistol Licenses: 168  
Firearms Processed: 623  
Warrants Entered: 489

Court Orders Entered: 128  
Public Disclosure Requests: 1,395  
Reports Processed: 4,776





## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

With the end of the 2021-'22 school year, the familiar face of Officer Stephanie Druktenis that students were used to seeing, ended her three-year rotation as School Resource Officer and transitioned back to patrol for EPD. With Officer Druktenis moving back to patrol, Officer Lucas Anderson had the opportunity to step into the SRO position. In his first few months Anderson has worked to build his own relationships with students, faculty and staff in the schools. Anderson is based out of the high school but splits his time between the high school, middle school and four elementary schools in the community.

Student and faculty safety remain a high priority for Anderson and EPD. Working after school events with the assistance of reserve officers, conducting traffic safety enforcement in school zones and being present for needs that may arise within the schools, keep Anderson busy. During Anderson's down time you will likely find him interacting with students on one of our school campuses in town.



## CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

Every year the Ellensburg Police Department hosts a Citizen's Academy. This involves members of our community who are interested in learning what it is we do, how we do it and why. This year we had five citizens volunteer five weeks of their time to do just that. The group ranged from college students to local business owners.

In these five weeks, the class got a department tour, learned about "typical calls" for patrols, the day in the life of a police officer, best day-worst day, mental health issues, use of force, less lethal force options, traffic enforcement and DUI's, and detective's role and investigations. The class got tours of not only the police department, but also Kittitas County Corrections and Kittcom.

The most popular day of class is always the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), scenarios and the range. The class were able to use our indoor range to shoot pistols and rifles under the supervision and instruction of a certified range instructor. We always get positive feedback from the people that have participated in the Citizen's Academy and hope more of you can join us!





## SHOP WITH A COP

Ellensburg Police Department along with Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue, Kittitas County Fire Districts 6 and 7, Thorp Fire Department, Cle Elum Fire Department, Easton Fire Department, Central Washington University Police Department, Kittitas County Sheriff's Office, and Kittitas County Corrections Center participated in the annual Shop With a Cop and Firefighter event.

For the past 20 years, Ellensburg has held Kittitas County Shop with a Cop and Firefighter. The goal of this non-profit program is to provide children the opportunity to participate in the holiday season in a fun and unique way. Various elementary schools in Kittitas County choose approximately 45 children in need to participate.

On December 10th, the children met local law enforcement officers and firefighters at the Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue station, where they enjoyed a breakfast prepared by the firefighters. The children enjoyed a shopping spree at Bi-Mart with their law enforcement or firefighter buddy.

The money raised for this event is divided between the kids so they can purchase gifts for family, friends, or themselves.

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.





Capt. Dan Hansberry, Sgt. Josh Bender and Capt. Jim Weed pose with a young lady during the 2022 National Night Out held at Memorial Park in Ellensburg.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

2022 marked the 12<sup>th</sup> year for Ellensburg Police Department's Eat With the Heat and National Night Out event. Each year the event is held on the first Tuesday of August which fell on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and was held at Memorial Park. Of all the parks in Ellensburg, Memorial Park provides a large, shaded area in the summer when temperatures can be very high. The weather was hot, but that did not deter the community from attending in large numbers. When it was all said and done, we served approximately 700 hot dogs and hamburgers combined. As always, child ID kits were provided to interested parents, and a car seat clinic station was available to anyone wishing to have their car seats inspected for safety and proper installation. EPD could not do this event without our community partners who also participated in static displays as well as informational booths and games for the kids. Our partners who participated in this year's static displays were Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue, Kittitas County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Patrol, Central Washington University, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife, DNR, and Central Valley Rodders. This year's vendors included WA State Traffic Safety Commission, Kittitas Valley Hospital, Kittcom, Aspen, CASA, 7-11, and Utopia. The food on hand was provided by Super One Foods, Fred Meyer, Franz Bakery, Sysco, Twin Pines Drive In and Utopia Frozen Yogurt and Coffee House.

# CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

The Ellensburg Police Department currently has two certified Car Seat Technicians – Records Specialist Cammie Dixon and Officer Christian Alviar.

In 2022, EPD hosted three Car Seat Clinics for our community members – March 12, June 11 and September 24. Car Seat Techs were also available for inspections and questions at our annual National Night Out in August.

Approximately 88 car seat checks were performed in 2022 and 22 car seats were gifted to families in need.



# COP ON TOP



The 2022 Cop on Top event was a HUGE success! With the help of you all, we were able to raise \$3,513 for our local Special Olympics athletes!

We would like to give a big shout out to Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue for bringing out their ladder truck to get our law enforcement officers on and off the roof of Fred Meyer safely.

A big thank you to Fred Meyer for partnering with us each year for this awesome event.

Special thanks to Kittitas County Sheriff's Office, CWU Police Department, Kittitas County Corrections Center and Kittitas Police Department for coming out, getting on roof, and helping to support the Special Olympics of Ellensburg.