

2024 Annual Report



ELLENSBURG
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Council Presentation

Chief Ken Wade

Introduction

2024 in review.

- Commitment to Public Safety - Partnerships - Improving the quality of life.
- Developing innovative programs to reduce and prevent crime.
- Employee alignment through retirement, promotions and hiring.
- Educating our community through improved communications/presentations.
- Aligning our efforts towards community priorities.
- Refining and utilizing data to efficiently guide our proactive work.
- Building partnerships to improve the community public safety environment.

Separations/Hires/Transfers

Captain Dan Hansberry retired after 30 years of service.

Officer John Hindmarch joined the department.

Code Enforcement Officer Theresa Jones left the department to join her husband in retirement.

Officer Derek Holmes transferred back to patrol.

Sgt. Tim Weed transferred to detectives

Taylor Malmstrom transferred to detectives

Jason Ramsey transferred to detectives





Promotions

Cameron Clasen promoted to Administrative Captain
Kliff Caillier promoted to Sergeant.
Ryan Potter promoted to Corporal, then Sergeant.
Christian Alviar promoted to Corporal.

Awards



- **Officer Stephanie Druktenis received Officer of the Year in recognition of her commitment to professional development and service to the department.**
- **Sergeant Josh Bender received the Chief's Award for contributions to community events.**
- **Records Clerk Cammie Dixon-Ricard received the Chief's Award for contributions to Child safety through the Child Safety Restraint Program**

WASPC Accreditation

Re-Accreditation: The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs is the governing body responsible for accreditation of law enforcement agencies in Washington State to include state, local and tribal entities.

Each year, accredited agencies are required to provide proof of practices on selected topics. Every four years, accredited agencies undergo an extensive evaluation by outside auditors to include an on-sight inspection and interview of employees.

2024 was EPD's On-site inspection year. For the 3rd consecutive full evaluation 4-year cycle, we had no negative finding.

Department Overview:

Patrol Division:

- 16,018 incident reports filed (5% decrease from 2023).
- 684 collisions investigated (8% increase).
- 3,131 traffic stops were conducted.
- Two vacancies throughout the year.

Detectives Division:

- Fully staffed with five detectives and one sergeant.
- 232 cases were investigated, including nine employee background checks.

School Resource Officer (SRO):

- Our School Resource Officer works closely with the Ellensburg School District Staff to strengthen school safety and student relationships by providing a safe environment for learning. Our SRO is vital to the safety of the children and is a positive role model.

Department Overview:

Records Division:

- 1,384 Public Disclosure Requests processed.
- 183 court orders and 471 warrants entered.

Code Enforcement:

- 2,978 parking violations, 252 weed violations, 14 snow and ice violations addressed.
- Greatly improved the community education through positive contacts and social media.

Animal Control:

- 32 dog bites, four animal cruelty investigations, and 662 animal complaints handled.
- Continued partnership with Yakima Humane Society.

Department Overview:

Crime and Intelligence Analysis:

- This is the newest component of the department, focused on our mission to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in Ellensburg utilizing scientific analysis. We're working to develop programs, and analyze problems, to support our evidence-based policing model. This function gives the department the ability to research new and existing programs, which improves the quality of life and mitigates the impact of crime in our community.

Handle with care

CHASE Program

Data collection & reporting

Graffiti Abatement

High Density Residential Program

Gang intel

Strategic Messaging Program

Yearly community survey

Internships



City of
Ellensburg
WASHINGTON

Areas of Interest:

Mental Health: (2015-2024)

- In 2015, the Ellensburg Police Department made 171 mental health referrals. During calendar year 2024 that number has increased to 497, a 191% increase over 10 years and it is continuing to grow.

There is some good news in mental health.

- In 2018, the highest year, the department responded to 148 suicidal calls. During 2024, we were down to 96 calls, a 35% decrease.
- Calls involving a suicide attempt, where officers found evidence that an actual effort to commit suicide occurred, decreased dramatically in 2024, with only 14 calls, a 70% reduction from 2015, where we experienced our highest year, responding to 47 suicide attempts.
- We average 1 suicide death call per year.

Areas of Interest:

Substance Abuse

- **During 2024, there was not a single reported controlled substance overdose death.** In 2023 we had 9.
- We had a 48% increase in drug enforcement
- Officers responded to 16 non-fatal drug overdoses with **the youngest being 17 months-old.**
- During 2024 officers administered NARCAN 6 times to subjects who overdosed on an opioid.
- We joined the Washington State Department of Health, Leave-Behind program in October and provided 8 boxes of NARCAN to individuals we came into contact with likely to be exposed to an OD.
- Ellensburg Drug Environment is changing rapidly

Areas of Interest:

Juvenile Crime

- In 2022, the level of violence increased with approximately 32% of overall juvenile crime involving violence. In 2023, juvenile crime increased significantly but the percentage of violent crime was reduced to only 24%
- During 2024, juvenile crime decreased by 67%, crimes of violence decrease 75% and the total individuals decreased by 56%, but we experienced a juvenile gang related murder.

Gang Activity – What are we doing

- Identifying those individuals involved in gangs
- Developing criminal intelligence to better understand the current gang environment
- Tracking gang impacts to the community
- Removing gang graffiti

Crime Reduction Program Summary

Community Survey – Survey of our community to assess police-community relations.

Handle With Care Program – Program to improve child success in partnership with schools and counseling services. One part of a larger effort to deter juvenile crime into the future.

Graffiti Abatement Program – Program to remove graffiti in partnership with Morning Rotary.

High-Density Residential Project – Project to better understand the complexity of apartment living to reduce non-law enforcement calls for service giving control back to the management.

Crime Reduction Program Summary

Community Education Video Project – Program to better educate the community on law enforcement topics through short video presentations.

Community Health & Safety Experience (CHASE) Program – Program to improve policing in the future, in partnership with CWU. This program will expose participants to the reality of todays policing through exposure to homelessness, mental health, substance abuse and our various partners. Through this program CWU students who qualify can receive work experience credits. This program is also open to non-student participants interested in a career in the criminal justice field.

Community Impact Notification Program – Program to quickly respond to call trends through notification to business management on calls impacting their locations.

Community Engagement

National Night Out: Held the first Tuesday in August, the annual National Night Out has been a great way to show our community how much we appreciate their support. With a theme of child safety

Cop-on-Top: Our partnership with Fred Meyers and other emergency service agencies continues to be a great success. Spending time with our local special Olympics athletes

Shop-with-a-Cop and Firefighter: By far our most involved event with over 50 children from throughout Kittitas County participate. Through our partnership with Bi-Mart and Kittitas County area school districts those selected receive breakfast, shop for presents that are then wrapped for them and have a quality photograph take with Santa Clause. For the last 2 years, Rory Savage and Windermere Reality have donated a complete Christmas dinner.

Other Programs

Reserve Program: We started 2024 with 8 reserve officers and ended the year with 5. The reserve officer program provides an outstanding resource to the department and the city.

Drone Program: The drone program began in 2024 with funding approved by the council. During 2024, the drone program flew 22 missions and assisted in 6 apprehensions; supporting security at 2 parades, the graffiti project, KVFR with a brush fire at the west interchange, 6 criminal investigations and 12 patrol support flights.

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program: Late in 2024, we contracted with Flock safety for the installation of 13 ALPR cameras, positioned strategically around the city

Administrative Reporting

Complaints: With five job performance complaints, 2024 had the lowest number of complaints against officers in the last 5 years. Through investigation, three of the five complaints revealed no violation of policy while two complaints were founded, resulting in corrective measures being taken.

Complaint Type	2024	2023	2022	2021
Job Performance	5 (0)	3 (*1)	9 (*5)	10 (*1)
Vehicle Operation	0	0	0	3
Excessive Force	0	2	0	3
Off-duty Conduct	0	3	1	0
Complaint total	5	8	10	16
Founded Complaints	2	3	0	3

*Bias Policing allegation

Administrative Reporting

Response to Resistance: 2024 Response-to-Resistance Report

Washington State law requires each law enforcement agency to report individual incidents where a law enforcement officer employed by the agency used force in 13 categories. We have only utilized these 6.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
• Pointed a firearm at a person;	5	1	0	0
• Used a Taser, against a person;	2	0	0	1
• Used OC-10 against a person;	0	0	2	0
• Discharged an impact weapon at a person;	0	0	1	0
• Used any part of their body strike a person;	0	1	0	1
• Engaged in a vehicle pursuit;	1	1	0	0
Total	8	3	3	2

Acknowledgments

The successes of 2024 would not have been possible without the dedication of our officers, the support of city leadership, and the partnership of the Ellensburg public. Together, we are building a safer, stronger community for all.

We would also like to acknowledge the victims of crime in our community and their families. We recognize the loss of security and other challenges each must face to move forward with their lives.



Questions?