

PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY POLICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

This annual report is the first produced by the Port Authority of Allegheny County Police Department and is being produced to fulfill the department's mission of ensuring a safe and secure environment within the transit system, reducing crime through a highly visible police presence and proactive enforcement of the law, and promoting public confidence and transparency by working in partnership with our stakeholders and the communities served by Pittsburgh Regional Transit.

Numerous changes have occurred within the department over the last few years, all of which have been implemented to better serve our community.

Change in law enforcement is both constant and imminent. As chief of the Port Authority Police Department, I feel a profound sense of humility and pride in the opportunity to share in this growth with you. It is truly through our officers' daily dedication, vigilance, and commitment to the citizens that we serve that we can accomplish the vision set forth in our mission statement.

A fundamental component of earning the public's trust includes transparency and the ability to form partnerships with our community under which the safety and security of our community will continue to flourish. Transparency and a commitment to our community forms the foundation of our service and accountability to the citizens we serve. I believe in an ongoing process of advancement and growth as a professional law enforcement agency and re-affirm our commitment to making this department a community in which every member can be proud. As chief of police, I am honored to serve with a group of professionals who re-commit themselves daily to serving the riders and employees of Pittsburgh Regional Transit with honor, pride, and dignity. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



Matthew Porter
Chief of Police



STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Port Authority Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency for Pittsburgh Regional Transit. The officers possess the powers of a municipal police officer in the immediate and adjacent vicinity of, the property of the corporate authority or elsewhere within this Commonwealth while engaged in the discharge of their duties in pursuit of transportation system business. The Department has 62 members and is comprised of sworn and non-sworn personnel. The department, as of the issuance of this report, is currently budgeted for the following positions.

49 Sworn Pennsylvania Act 120 Certified Police Officers

1 Chief of Police

1 Deputy Chief of Police

1 Crime Information Clerk

3 Lieutenants

1 Detective Sergeant

5 Sergeants

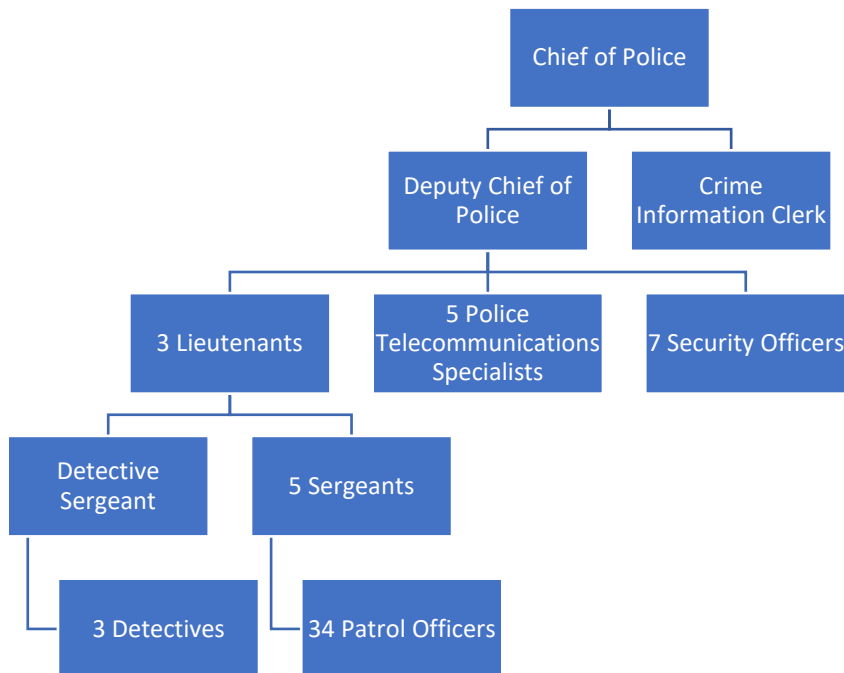
3 Detectives

34 Patrol Officers which includes 3 K9 Officers

1 Crime Information Clerk

5 Police Telecommunications Specialists

7 Security Officers



STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT

Over the last year, and like many law enforcement agencies across the country, our department has faced ongoing staffing challenges. These challenges are fueled by an unprecedented lack of police officer candidates applying for open positions. This shortage of new officer candidates has left police departments competing for a smaller pool of candidates. The staffing deficit leaves the department functioning at 75% of its budgeted staff. These staffing challenges have also affected the police communications center and security officer positions. However, with significant support from PRT's Board, chief executive officer, and senior management team, PRT's command staff and employment department have worked diligently and have adopted new hiring initiatives and programs, including a Police Academy Tuition Reimbursement Program, to continue to improve and increase efforts to fill vacant positions.

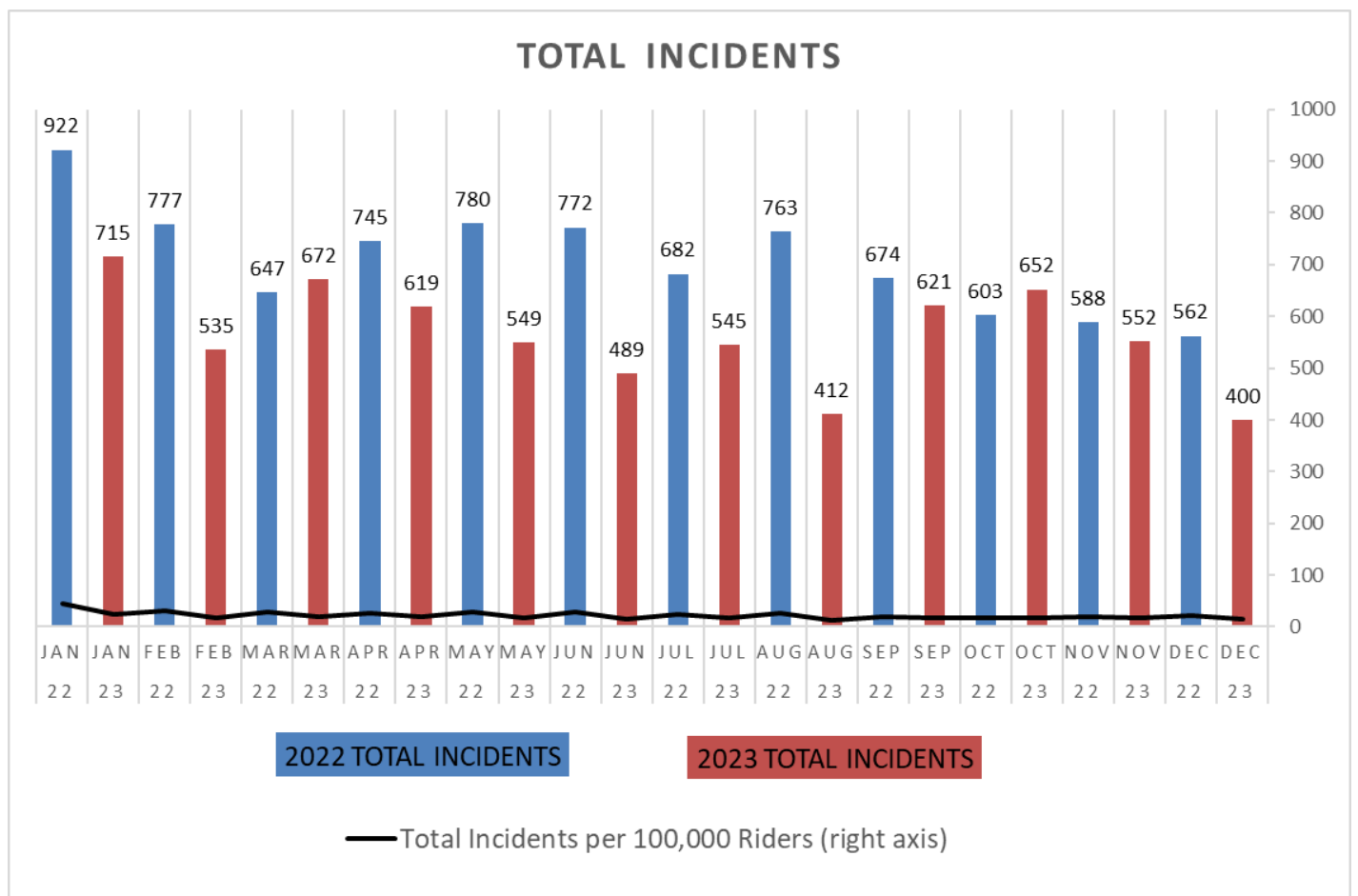


L to R. Lt. Rob DiPippa, Dep. Chief Shawn Hudzinski, Officer Matthew Springer, Officer Alexander Stafura, Officer Thomas Hannon, Officer Frank Bole, Officer Delayna Canofari, Officer Rocco Palmer, Chief Matt Porter, and County Manager and PRT Board Member Jennifer Liptak. All 6 Officers graduated from the Allegheny County Police Academy on Friday December 15, 2023.

STATISTICS

TOTAL INCIDENTS 2022 VERSUS 2023

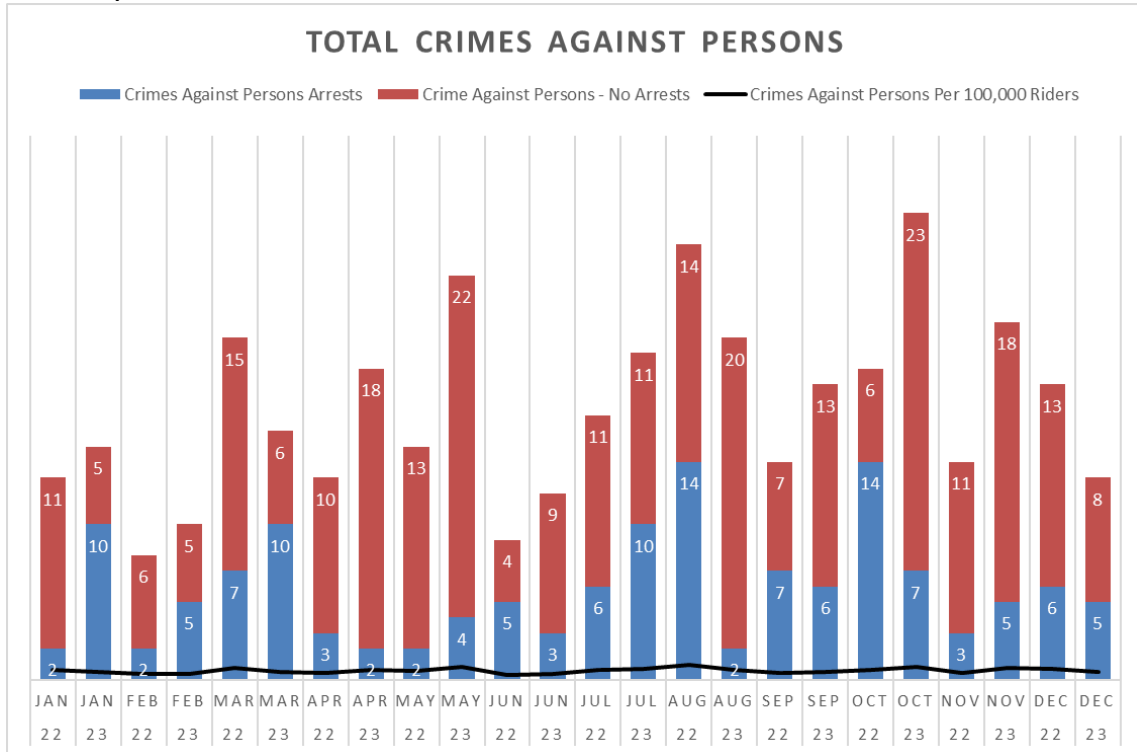
The following section outlines Statistical Crime Data and is compiled based on incidents per 100,000 riders. For comparison, we have included the prior calendar year and the current calendar year. Our statistics are divided into 5 categories: Crimes Against Persons, Property Crimes, Quality of Life Incidents, Mutual Aid Incidents and Other Incidents. It should be noted that the global COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath had a significantly adverse effect on Pittsburgh Regional Transit ridership; as of the issuance of this report, PRT's ridership across all modes of transportation had returned to approximately 67% of pre-pandemic ridership.



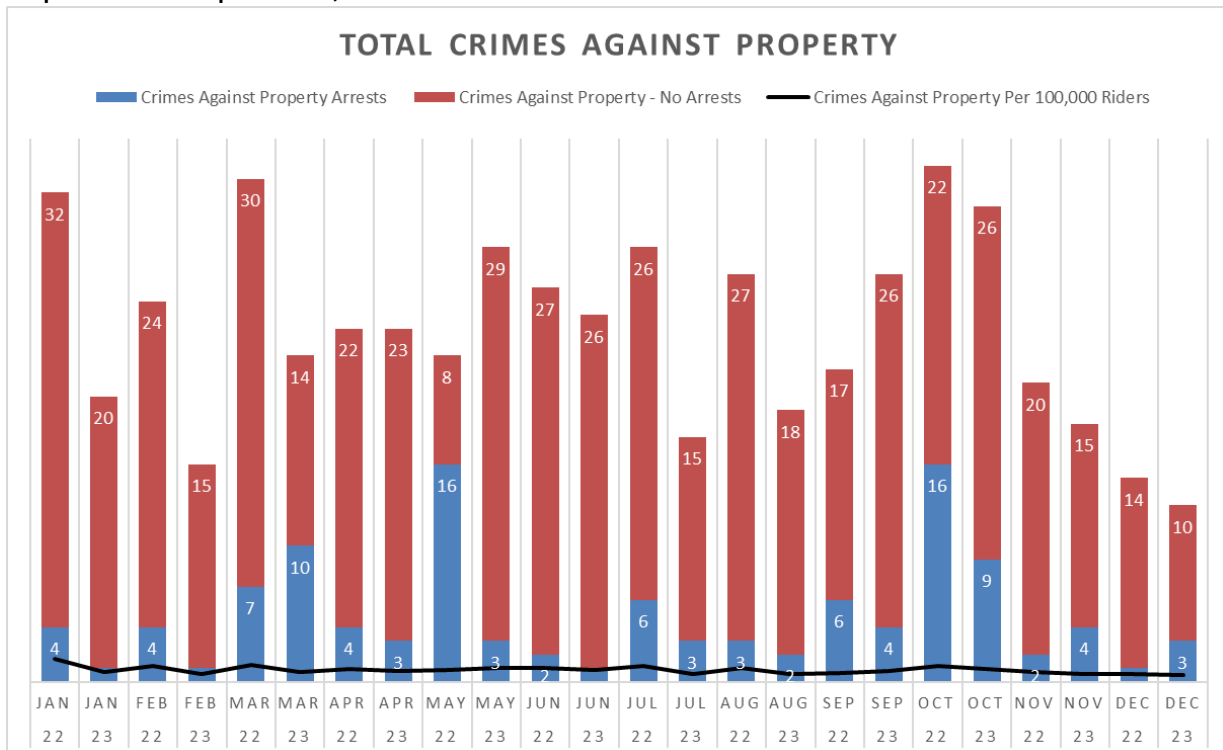
STATISTICS 2022 VERUS 2023

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS AND CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Crimes against persons data includes reported incidents of criminal offenses which usually involve bodily harm, the threat of bodily harm, or other actions committed against the will of an individual per 100,000 riders.



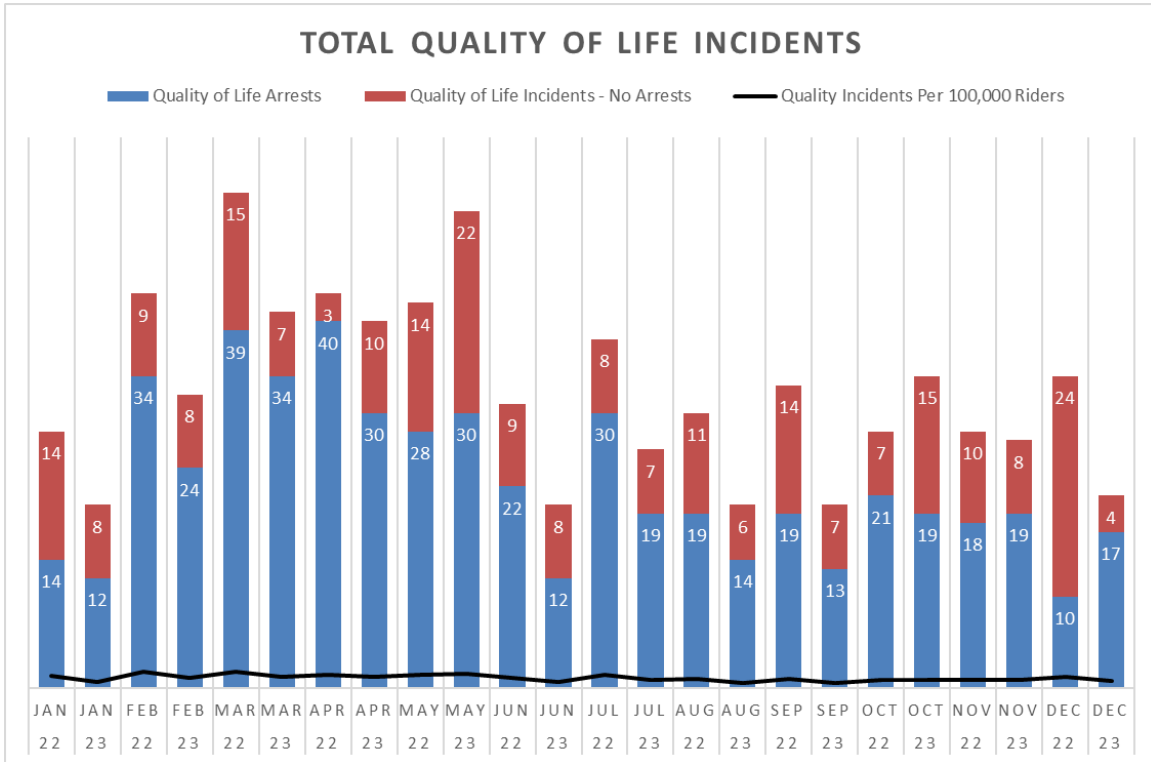
Property crimes data includes reported incidents of many common crimes involving the taking or destruction of someone's personal property or entering someone else's property without permission per 100,000 riders.



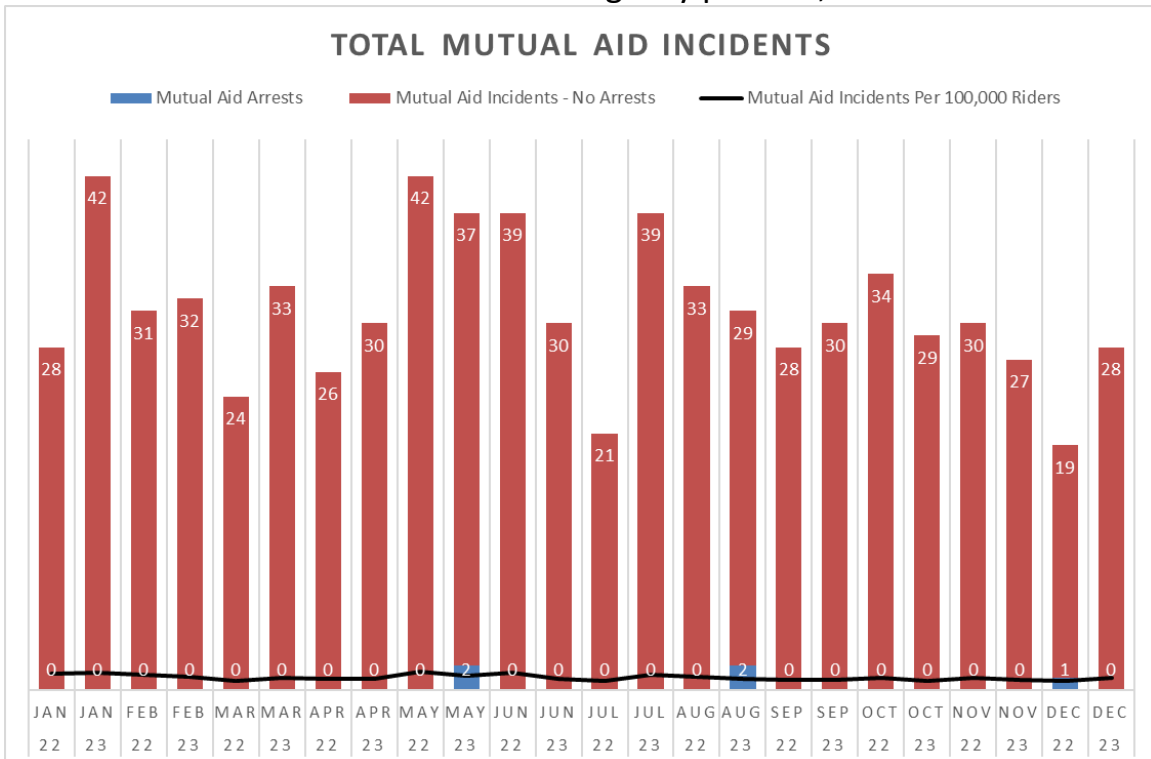
STATISTICS 2022 VERUS 2023

QUALITY OF LIFE INCIDENTS AND MUTAL AID INCIDENTS

Quality of life incident data includes reported incidents that affect the public's quality of life per 100,000 riders. These include things such as drunkenness and disorderly conduct.



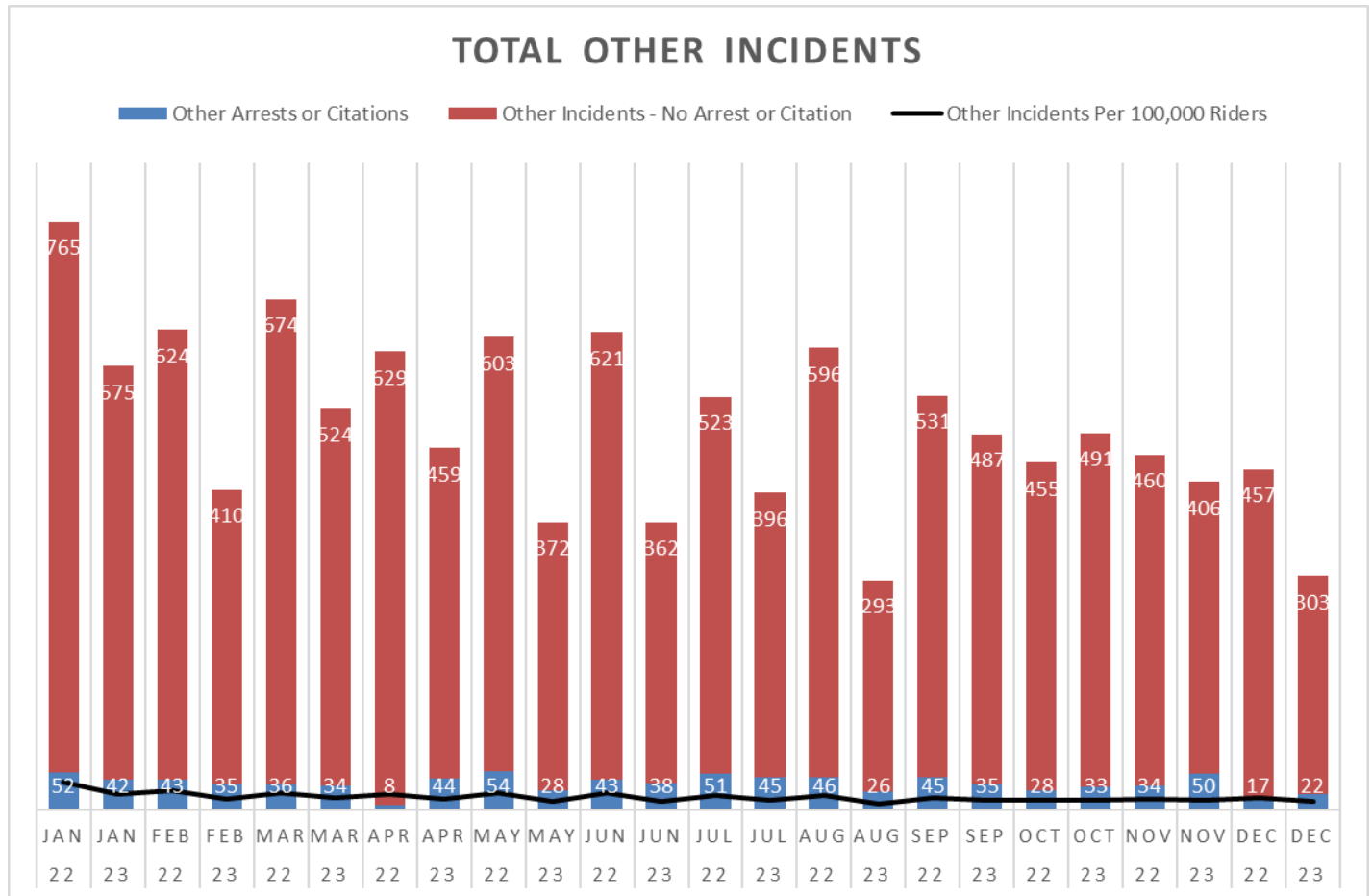
Mutual Aid incident data includes reported incidents that Port Authority Police receive from or give assistance to another law enforcement agency per 100,000 riders.



STATISTICS 2022 VERUS 2023

TOTAL OTHER INCIDENTS

Other incident data includes all other incidents per 100,000 riders. Other incidents include 69 different types of incidents including the following: park and walks, directed patrols, collisions, medical emergencies, video forensics reports, community relations details, traffic offenses, driving under the influence, warrant arrests, and alarm calls.



TRANSIT ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

One of the most noteworthy changes in the Port Authority Police Department over the past five years is the marked increase in and tracking of transit oriented policing services. The department regularly participates in community events throughout Allegheny County in an effort to help the public better understand how we as a police department can serve them and to help the department to better know and understand the diverse community of employees and riders Pittsburgh Regional Transit serves. What follows is a summary of the latest initiatives of the Port Authority of Allegheny County Police Department.



PRT's Stuff the Bus annual Port Authority Police toy drive escort.



Bigs in Blue Program at Sto Rox Middle School



The Gold Star Tribute Wall was escorted to the site at Soliders and Sailors by Port Authority Officers.

Special Olympics

The mission of Special Olympics PA is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

All training and competition opportunities are provided free of charge to the athletes and their families, enabling everyone to experience the benefits of Special Olympics that extend well beyond the playing field.

Chief Porter, who has been heavily involved with the Special Olympics for many years, currently serves as the Law Enforcement Torch Run Director for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Torch Run involves over 500 different law enforcement agencies on a 3-day run across Pennsylvania, beginning in Pittsburgh, and ending in State College. The event brings awareness to people with disabilities and promotes inclusion. Once the Torch Run group reaches State College the Flame of Hope lights the cauldron to signify the opening of Summer Games.

The Polar Plunge involves jumping into chilly waters throughout Pennsylvania, all to raise money for the Special Olympics. This year, the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge raised over \$704,000 and Chief Porter's team was the leading fundraiser. In addition to the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge Chief Porter travels to various counties throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to raise money for the Special Olympics.



L to R. Det. Sgt. Atkins, Karly Heath, SO Athlete Hailey Spohn, Chief Porter, and Retired Pittsburgh Police Chief Schubert at the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge.

Bigs in Blue

Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bigs in Blue is a one-to-one mentoring program that connects youth with police, building strong, trusting, and lasting relationships. These relationships can help children develop into confident adults and build stronger bonds between law enforcement and the families they serve.

"Bigs" and "Littles" spend quality one-to-one time together 2 hours a month. Together they engage in fun, low-cost, friendship-building activities. The goal of the mentoring relationship is to provide positive guidance and support to enhance the child's ability to become a confident, competent, and caring adult. A minimum one-year commitment is required for the program hoping the friendship will last a lifetime!

The Port Authority Police Department currently has three officers participating in the Bigs in Blue program at Sto-Rox Upper Elementary School in McKees Rocks and Keystone Oaks Middle School in Dormont. Officers meet with their "little" a minimum of 14 times throughout the school year to have lunch and enjoy an activity together. Throughout the year police presentations will be done introducing the littles to various aspects of law enforcement such as Police K9 programs, Bomb Squad, Investigations, Equestrian and others.

Allegheny County Camp Cadet

Allegheny County Camp Cadet is a tuition free, week-long youth camp designed to give boys and girls ages 12-14 a better understanding of law enforcement activities while living in an atmosphere like a police training program. Emphasis is placed on improving self-discipline, building self-esteem and confidence through teamwork, and making new friends. Along with Port Authority Police Officers, the camp program is staffed by PA State Police, Allegheny County Police, Allegheny County Sheriff's, and local Municipal Police Officers who serve as counselors and instructors.

The Port Authority of Allegheny County Police had 3 Officers acting as counselors in 2023 and the Department maintains a position on the Allegheny County Camp Cadet Board. Throughout the year, board members, volunteers and alumni spend time organizing and participating in various fundraisers and camp preparations to make the camp tuition-free to participating children happen every year. The day consists of physical training, followed by a morning run. The cadets return to their quarters for personal hygiene and prepare for inspection. During the day, various activities are scheduled including presentations by various agencies, a mock crime scene investigation, a mock criminal trial and sporting events.

TRANSIT ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

Allegheny County Communities and Police Together (ACCAPT)

The Port Authority Police Department is an active participant in the Allegheny County Communities and Police Together (ACCAPT) group. The Port Authority Police participate regularly in community-related events supporting other law enforcement agencies. This group was started back in 2020 by the Allegheny County Police, Allegheny County Sheriffs, and Pa. State Police. The group's mission is to share resources without municipal borders while in partnership with community members. The Port Authority Police have taken the lead in supporting other agencies in their community-oriented policing events and received support for community events such as Coffee with a COP at Wilkinsburg station and employee wellness fairs.

This year Port Authority Police participated in numerous ACCAPT events such as the Team Foster Ruff Ride which raises money to purchase support dogs for our Nation's military veterans. In addition, ACCAPT members participated in numerous National Night Out Events at local Universities and Boroughs and Municipalities and regularly visits the Southwestern Veterans Center to have a cup of coffee with the Veterans.



Law enforcement officers from over 15 local, state, and federal agencies participated in Coffee with a COP on October 5, 2023, at Wilkinsburg Station on the East Busway. We gave away hundreds of cups of coffee, along with doughnuts and free coffee mugs, while having the opportunity to positively interact with several PRT riders and community members.

TRANSIT ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

Safe Kids Allegheny County

The Port Authority Police are active members of Safe Kids Allegheny County. Safe Kids Allegheny County is a community coalition focused on reducing accidental childhood injuries in our region. The group focusses on a host of safety issues including pedestrian safety initiatives with an emphasis on the dangers of impaired driving awareness initiatives, particularly in local high schools.

Downtown Safety Coalition

In 2017 the Department joined the Downtown Safety Coalition. This group was formed by the US Attorney's Office of the Western District of Pennsylvania and consists of stakeholders from law enforcement, schools, businesses, and students who are interested in sharing Downtown Pittsburgh in a positive and safe way with our youth. The group meets regularly and hosts after school events to provide kids commuting to Downtown Pittsburgh with safe outlets and activities after school.

Holiday Activities

Each year, the Holiday season provides numerous opportunities for the Port Authority Police Department to connect with families in Allegheny County. Events in 2023, included:

- Presents from Police involves delivering presents collected by numerous Police Departments to Childrens Hospital, The Childrens Institute, and Sunrise School.
- Stuff A Store, entails Police Departments from all over Allegheny County identifying at need children in their community, collecting toys and then delivering those directly to those children.

Miscellaneous Transit Oriented Policing Endeavors

On a quarterly basis, Police Officers meet with transit operators and directors at each bus division and the rail division to discuss any safety, security, or other issues or concerns that the operators may be having that the police can help address. Participating in PRT's employee wellness fairs each year is another way that officers get to know the employees at Pittsburgh Regional Transit and ensure they understand what the Police Department's mission is and available resources are. The Police Department also participates in community endeavors led by Pittsburgh Regional Transit employees such as the annual "Stuff the Bus" toy drive.

PORT AUTHORITY POLICE OPERATIONS CENTER

The Port Authority Police Operations Center serves as the communication center for police, fire, and medical incidents for the Port Authority Police Department and Pittsburgh Regional Transit. The center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



The Port Authority Police Operations Center is one of just two police operations centers directly linked to the Allegheny County 911 Computer Aided Dispatch Center. When requests for service are received, the incident can be viewed in real time by the Allegheny County 911 Center. Police Telecommunications Specialists are responsible for accessing the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN) to provide law enforcement officers in the field with driver's license and motor vehicle information, state criminal history record information, Protection from Abuse orders and other information found in national and international criminal justice databases. The specialists also monitor a video wall displaying CCTV feeds from over 450 cameras across Allegheny County.

PORT AUTHORITY POLICE SECURITY OFFICERS

The Port Authority Police Department has seven security officers assigned to the East Liberty Garage and South Hills Village Rail Center. Throughout 2023 and as mentioned earlier in the report, staffing has been an ongoing issue. The security officers are responsible for being the eyes and ears of the Port Authority Police Department. They escort people to and from lost and found and perform both vehicular and foot patrols at each location outside regular working hours. Security officers also respond as needed to police, fire, and medical emergencies and provide support to first responders.

OTHER DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Use of Force Reporting

In 2023, all police departments in Pennsylvania were required to begin reporting use of force incidents if they fell into one of three categories:

1. When a fatality occurs connected to use of force by a law enforcement officer.
2. When there is serious bodily injury to a person connected to use of force by a law enforcement officer.
3. When a firearm is discharged by law enforcement at or in the direction of a person that did not otherwise result in death or serious bodily injury.

In 2022, the Port Authority Police Department implemented a use of force report, a year ahead of the required reporting date. As prescribed by policy, the Port Authority Police Department requires that use of force incidents be reported in a timely, complete, and accurate manner by involved officers. The criteria for use of force reporting by the Port Authority Police Department is by policy a much lower threshold than is required by law and in turn holds officers to a higher level of accountability. The reporting threshold for the Port Authority Police Department dictates that use of force incidents shall be reported if the incident falls into either of the following categories:

1. An officer takes any action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, any injury to another person.
2. An officer uses physical force, or is alleged to have used physical force, upon another person.

Use of force reports shall be reviewed three times a year by the patrol shift commander to identify any trends in the use of force by officers, training needs or recommendations, equipment needs or recommendations, and policy revision or recommendations. In addition, use of force data is tracked in a spreadsheet to monitor said data for disparities in use of force that would indicate any one group is being disproportionately affected.

OTHER DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

2. Education and Training

One area that has been identified as requiring additional training for Law Enforcement Officers is teaching officers to intervene when their colleagues are behaving inappropriately, particularly in use of force incidents. To teach officers effective ways to step in when they witness misconduct and help agencies create a culture that supports such intervention, Georgetown University Law Center developed a program called the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project. In 2023, the Port Authority Police Department trained the entire department in ABLE training and is implementing an ongoing means to require refresher training for all department members.

In 2023, every current officer attended Duty to Intervene training which reinforces the ABLE training and an officer's responsibility to intervene when their colleagues are behaving inappropriately.

Two officers attended Child Safety Seat Certification, bringing the department total to four officers who are certified at installing child safety seats into vehicles. This provides great opportunities for offices to participate in Child Safety Seat functions in a variety of communities.

Several patrol officers attended various training courses on driving under the influence and specific classes to become certified operators of the department's new Intoxilizer, a device used to detect the presence and a person's blood alcohol content. This training allows officers to better recognize the signs of impairment from both drugs and alcohol, and arrest accordingly when applicable and in turn keep intoxicated drivers off the roadways utilized by PRT conveyances.

In addition, officers who attend impaired driving classes regularly participate in community functions at high schools helping youth to better understand the dangers of impaired driving.

Detectives attended various criminal investigations classes, including cell phone investigations classes so they can better recognize and appropriately examine evidence often stored on mobile devices.

Several officers attended training on defensive tactics as well as less lethal instructors' classes so they can train the department in defensive tactics as well as the use of less lethal means to resolve situations that historically may have required the use of lethal force.

OTHER DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a graph outlining the total number of training sessions attended for the year 2023.



3. Tracking and Responding to Citizens Complaints

The Department takes seriously all complaints about the service it provides and the conduct of its members. The Department will accept and address all complaints of misconduct in accordance with policy and procedure and applicable federal, state, and local law and municipal and county rules and the requirements of any collective bargaining agreements. It is the Department's policy that the community can report misconduct without concern for reprisal or retaliation.

Personnel complaints include any allegation of misconduct or improper job performance that, if true, would constitute a violation of department policy or federal, state, or local law, policy, or rule. Personnel complaints are classified in one of three ways:

- Informal - A matter in which the Shift Commander is satisfied that appropriate action has been taken by a supervisor of rank greater than the accused member.
- Formal - A matter in which a supervisor determines that further action is warranted. Such complaints may be investigated by a supervisor of rank greater than the accused member and forwarded to the Chief of Police who will then assign the complaint for further investigation depending on the seriousness and complexity of the investigation.
- Incomplete - A matter in which the complaining party either refuses to cooperate or becomes unavailable after diligent follow-up investigation. At the discretion of the assigned supervisor(s), such matters may be further investigated depending on the seriousness of the complaint and the availability of sufficient information.

All complaints and inquiries are by policy documented on appropriate forms and within a digital log. Access to complaint forms is provided to the public by whatever means is easiest for the complainant to complete the necessary form(s).

Once received, the police chief or their designee shall conduct an extensive, complete, and thorough investigation into the complaint which shall be completed within 90 days unless an extension is approved. During this process, the complainant receives periodic updates as appropriate.

OTHER DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Tracking and Responding to Citizens Complaints (continued)

When a complaint of misconduct is of a serious nature, or when circumstances indicate that allowing the accused to continue to work would adversely affect the mission of the department, the chief of police may temporarily assign an accused employee to administrative leave. When a member is accused of potential criminal conduct, a separate criminal investigation apart from any administrative investigation, shall occur and the chief of police may request a criminal investigation be conducted by an outside law enforcement agency.

Once the Chief of Police is satisfied that no further investigation or action is required by staff, the Chief of Police shall, if applicable, determine the amount of discipline pursuant to the Performance Code that should be imposed and issue a written decision including, if applicable, a clear statement of the charges and forward it to the Civil Service Commission. The Chief of Police shall ensure that the complainant is notified of the final disposition of the complaint, which shall be categorized in one of four ways:

- **Unfounded** - When the investigation discloses that the alleged acts did not occur or did not involve department members.
- **Exonerated** - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.
- **Not sustained** - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the member.
- **Sustained** - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

In 2022, the Department handled 8,462 incidents and received 5 citizens' complaints, none of which were sustained. In 2023, the Department handled 6,790 incidents and received 1 citizen complaint, which was also not sustained.

FUTURE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Currently, Use of Force Reports and Data are completed outside of the Port Authority Police Records Management system. In 2024, the Port Authority Police Department is taking steps to integrate all use of force reporting into the department's existing records management system. This will be much more expeditious in that the officer will not have to complete a separate report and data will not have to be manually entered into a separate system and entered twice. Secondly, monitoring the use of force data with multiple reports will be much more efficient and robust using the current records management system advanced database features. Finally, reporting the use of force data to the state will also be a less cumbersome task using the Records Management System rather than separate reports outside of the existing system.

As mentioned previously in this report, officer hiring, and retention continues to be an issue. Recruiting new officers directly from the Allegheny County Police Academy resulted in the hiring of five new officers in 2023 to date as of this report and the largest group of officers hired in the last 20 years. Future recruitment will occur directly from the Allegheny County Police Academy and other academies within and beyond Allegheny County. Identifying cadets who are completing the academy but have not yet secured employment with a police department will hopefully continue to yield comparable results and enable the department to achieve full staffing of 49 sworn law enforcement officers. The department also continues to focus on efforts to hire and retain officers who represent the diverse population of the communities, riders, and PRT employees that we are proud to serve.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to review the Port Authority Police Department's annual report for the calendar year 2023. Nothing is more critical to a police department's success than for the community they serve to trust and be engaged with law enforcement. It is the ongoing goal of the Port Authority Police Department to continue to be transparent in its operation and to continue to make transit oriented policing services the highest priority for the Department. It's through these efforts, and others, that we can create a partnership with the community we serve and continue to build collaborative and proactive relationships with Pittsburgh Regional Transit's customers, employees, and other stakeholders critical to the mission, vision, and values of Pittsburgh Regional Transit.

Please expect to receive future reports concerning the Port Authority Police Department, and questions, comments, and feedback, including content you would like to see in future reports, concerning the calendar year 2023 Annual Report are welcomed and encouraged. Feedback can be provided to Chief Porter via e-mail at mporter@portauthority.org or via calling the Chief at (412) 255-1376.

And please remember, if you ever see anything concerning while using PRT's transit system, please call 911 or the Port Authority Police Department directly at (412) 255-1385. We all are safer when we **See Something** and **Say Something!**