



# Racine Police Department

## Annual Report 2023





## City and Racine Police Department Governance

### **MAYOR**

Cory Mason

### **CITY OF RACINE COMMON COUNCIL**

- District #1 Jeff Coe
- District #2 Mollie Jones
- District #3 Olivia Davis
- District #4 Amanda Paffrath
- District #5 Melissa Kaprelian
- District #6 Jeffrey Peterson
- District #7 Maurice M. Horton
- District #8 Marcus T. West
- District #9 Terry McCarthy
- District #10 Sam Peete
- District #11 Mary Lund
- District #12 Henry Perez
- District #13 Renee Kelly
- District #14 Alicia Jarrett
- District #15 Cory Sebastian

### **BOARD OF POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION**

- Robert Turner – President
- Rebecca Strommen – Vice President
- Carl Hubbard – Secretary
- Angelina Cruz - Commissioner
- Thomas Binger – Commissioner

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Department Leadership	4-5
Personnel Movement	6-9
Celebrating 30 Years of Community Oriented Policing	10-17
Department Units and Programs	18-27
Awards	28
Statistics	29-31

## DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP



### Alexander Ramirez *Chief of Police*

As a resident of the City of Racine and a public servant, I am truly honored to serve the community as the Chief of Police for the Racine Police Department (RPD). It was a blessing being named the Interim Chief in July of 2023, after the departure of Chief Maurice A. Robinson. In November 2023, I was then named as the permanent Chief. I am proud of this accomplishment and humbled to represent the dedicated men and women of the RPD.

I also want to thank the men and women of this department who are passionate and deliberate about how they provide safety to our community. They work 24/7, 365 days a year without much fanfare, but no less, they are deserving of my gratitude and appreciation for what they do day in and day out. Additionally, I want to thank our civilian staff as they too are committed to providing their professional services and support to the Department.

With a combined effort from the residents of Racine and the many community partners and programmers we can make it easier to succeed in the city. We have great people in Racine. In 2023, we saw an overall reduction in crime. Though there is much more work to be done, the RPD is successful because we understand the importance of listening to and working with our partners to improve public safety, reduce crime in our city, and build sustainable neighborhoods. We all have a job to do, and we must make sure that we continue to do that job in order to keep our city safe.

I have a strong belief in collaborating and strengthening relationships with the Racine community while utilizing the Community Orientated Policing philosophy and engaging in meaningful problem solving. My passion is making a difference, so the public is better served.

Thank you, City of Racine, and thank you to all the members of the Racine Police Department for allowing me to be your Police Chief. Let us continue to work together to make a positive impact for generations to come.

I look forward to working alongside with all department members and our community to ensure that Racine continues to be safe, vibrant, and livable.



## Deputy Chief Adam Malacara

### Patrol Division

It has been an honor to serve the people of Racine for the last twenty-four years, a community in which I was born and raised. Currently, I oversee the Patrol Division which is the largest division of our agency consisting of four shifts, the Community Oriented Policing Unit, K-9 Unit, School Safety and Security Unit, SWAT, Crowd Control Team, as well as many other units and teams. All members of the division work in cooperation with private partners and the community in an effort to improve the quality of life that allows citizens to flourish in a safe environment.

I commend the members of the Racine Police Department's Patrol Division for their commitment to our community. Their hard work and effort is on display daily in the performance of their duties. The Racine Police Department understands the importance of community involvement and we appreciate the support and commitment our citizens provide. We are grateful for the many community partners who share in our organizational success.



## Deputy Chief Jessie Metoyer

### Investigative Division

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as Commander of the Investigative Division of the Racine Police Department. This division includes the Detective Bureau, Violent Crime and Intelligence Unit, Criminalist Section, National Integrated Ballistic Information Network Unit (NIBIN) and Crime Analysis. The Major Crimes Unit, which handles all homicides, is comprised of elite investigators, criminalists and evidence technicians.

2023 was a year of transition and growth within the Investigative Division. Sarah Zupke began the year as the detective bureau sergeant and was promoted to lieutenant in April. She is the first woman in department history assigned to command the detective bureau. Lt. Zupke leads the general detective bureau which handles a broad range of crime: Internet Crimes Against Children, Sensitive Crimes, Burglaries, Auto Thefts, White Collar Crimes, Assaults, Property Crimes and Cold Case Investigations.

Cold Case investigations are among the most important, yet incredibly difficult cases investigated. The Racine Police Department is steadfast in our commitment to bringing justice and closure to victims and families of cold case homicides. In March 2023, the Racine Police Department was able to do just that by announcing the arrest of Lucas Alonso for the twenty-three-year-old cold case homicide of Linda Fields. Investigator Chris Blackmore of the Racine PD and Special Agent Neil McGrath of the Division of Criminal Investigation worked as a team on this case. Inv. Blackmore was assigned to the cold case investigation in 2020 and worked the case diligently up until his spring 2023 retirement, which he delayed until Alonso could be brought to justice. Linda Fields was a beloved mother, daughter and friend. She was never forgotten by her loved ones nor this police department. We are grateful to bring justice in this case.

The Violent Crimes and Intelligence Unit (VCIU) was developed in 2023. VCIU is led by Lieutenant Michael Smith, who brought his vision to bring all of our task force partnerships and resources together under one umbrella. VCIU consists of the FBI - Violent Gang Task Force, US Marshall's Task Force, DEA Task Force and the ATF Task Force. In addition to Racine PD and federal resources, members of numerous local agencies are assigned to this unit. Under this structure the Racine Police Department is uniquely positioned to investigate violent crimes, drug trafficking, gang investigations, firearms investigations and fugitive apprehension from a united front.



## Deputy Chief Richard Toeller

### Support Services Division

It has been an honor to serve as Commander of the Support Services Division which is comprised of seven sworn officers and 37 civilian personnel; most of the police department's civilian personnel are assigned to the Support Services Division. These personnel are essential for our department to be able to effectively serve our community. Except for the Community Service Officers, who handle parking violations and animal complaints, our Customer Service Representatives, and our part time crossing guards, the bulk of our civilian personnel work behind the scenes in support of our officers. The Support Services Division is also responsible for fleet management, technology, training, recruitment, records maintenance, property and evidence management, courts, the budget, and grant management.



**PERSONNEL  
MOVEMENT****RETIREMENTS**

**Christopher Blackmore**  
21 Years of Service



**Ryan Bodnar**  
13 Years of Service



**Mark Esch**  
29 1/2 Years of Service



**Patrick Hale**  
27 1/2 Years of Service



**Todd Hoover**  
29 Years of Service



**Edward Ide**  
22 Years of Service



**Terrence Jones**  
24 1/2 Years of Service



**Paul Lafond**  
31 Years of Service



**Martin Pavilonis**  
28 Years of Service



**Joe Villalobos**  
24 Years of Service



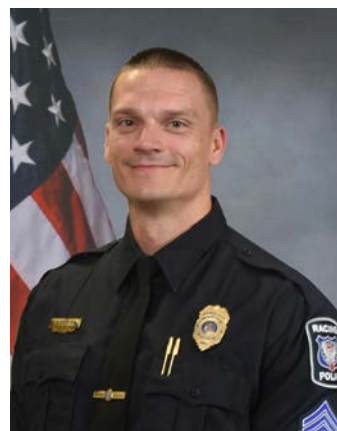
# PROMOTIONS



**Assistant Chief Alexander Ramirez**  
Promoted to Chief



**Sergeant Sarah Zupke**  
Promoted to Lieutenant



**Investigator Thomas Bodnar**  
Promoted to Sergeant



**Investigator Jacob Smetana**  
Promoted to Sergeant



**Officer Felicia Frieri-Gaines**  
Promoted to Investigator



**Officer Jacob Mauer**  
Promoted to Investigator

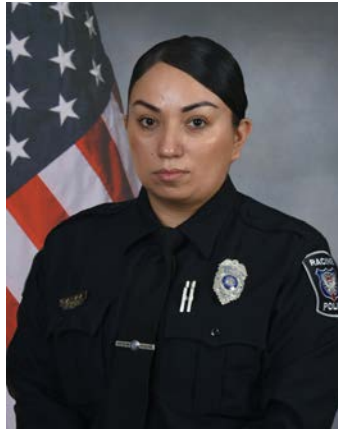


**Officer Chad Andersen**  
Promoted to Criminalist

# NEW HIRES



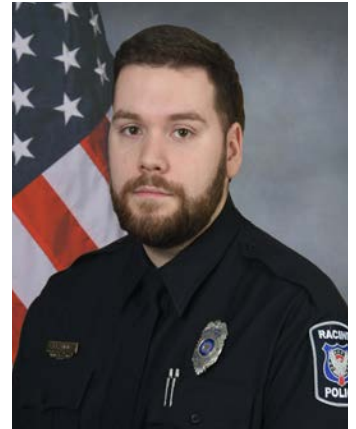
**Victor Armand**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Esther Avila Arriaga**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Miles Barry**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Gabriel Brandies**  
Police Officer - Training Sworn



**Andrew Collazo**  
Police Officer - Training Sworn



**Javantae Dampier**  
Police Officer - Training Sworn



**Eric Grau**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Kellon Hargrove**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Nicole Krivitz**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Shauna Lass**  
Police Officer - Training Sworn



**Juan Leal**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Joe K. Jr. Miller**  
Police Officer - Patrol





**Mario Munoz**  
Police Officer - Training Sworn



**Jonathan Munoz**  
Police Officer - Training Sworn



**Jose Nuno**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Zachary Pitts**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Channing Schultz**  
Police Officer - Training Sworn



**Austin Tenner**  
Police Officer - Training Sworn



**Matthew Tenuta**  
Police Officer - Patrol



**Samuel Wolfe**  
Police Officer - Patrol



## CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

In 2023, the Racine Police Department Community Oriented Policing Unit celebrated over three decades of success in Racine and notoriety around the nation. The community oriented policing (COP) philosophy has served to empower citizens in our community through positive police engagements by enriching the lives of our citizens and building a safer community. This philosophy has proven to work not only by a documented decrease in crime rates, but also by the attention it has received from other agencies such as Chicago PD and Milwaukee PD. The COP Unit, under the direction of Lieutenant Walt Powell, has been featured in local, regional, and national news for its innovative interactions within the community thanks to the partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

Among the six COP houses throughout the city, COP officers are hosting or attending community engagements on a weekly basis. School safety talks, grocery giveaways, video game nights, free haircuts, hospital visits, job exposures, dental exams, award presentations, chess clubs, sporting events, National Night Out, and pretty much everything in between, an officer will plan or participate to build strong relationships and better our community. Each neighborhood has a different personality and each COP officer is tasked with figuring out the needs of that neighborhood to make a positive impact. However, officers cannot accomplish this success alone. Collaborative partnerships with schools, community leaders, businesses, and homeowners help to build a healthy ecosystem to address the quality-of-life issues affecting each neighborhood. The following report details some of the positive police engagements Racine Police Department's COP officers have created, planned, and executed in 2023 under the command and support of Racine Police Chief Alex Ramirez.



## Wings to fly

In 2023, the Anthony Lane COP House was thrilled to be in its second year of hosting an event titled Wings to Fly that garnished national attention for the Racine Police Department due to its magnificent approach of exposing females and minorities to the world of aviation. Officer Travis Brady created the event because of the staggering statistics that less than ten percent of commercial airline pilots are females or minorities. On September 30th, twelve youth from Racine's high schools came to Batten International Airport for a full day of hands-on education. Students were ecstatic to learn about the science of flight, airplane mechanics, flight simulators, and so much more. Early in the morning the Wisconsin Air National Guard made a surprise appearance in a Black Hawk Helicopter piloted by a crew of female pilots. Students were amazed to see national statistics broken in front of their eyes as a crew of female pilots are few and far between. Conversations about careers in the national guard as pilots and crew members lead into the second experience, which all students knew about and were anxiously waiting for. All students in attendance took to the skies in small private aircrafts thanks to the tremendous support from volunteer pilots of EAA Chapter 838. Students



spent nearly an hour in the airplane building relationships with pilots and hearing their stories of how they ventured from teenagers to pilots. Many of these students were left speechless when they were given the chance to actually fly the plane for a short period of time. Smiles, from ear to ear, were seen time and time again as students climbed out of the planes and shared their stories with their Racine police officer mentors for the day. These officers were with the students from arrival to departure encouraging youth to reach for the skies while building long lasting friendships.

Itzel Flores, a standout junior at Walden High School, who never considered the world of aviation before her attendance at Wings to Fly, kept in contact with Officer Brady. Thanks to Officer Brady's partnership with Delta Hawk, a company in his COP neighborhood, which designs, manufactures, and builds airplane engines, Itzel was invited to attend a tour of the manufacturing facility. Delta Hawk was so amazed with Itzel that they hired her as a student apprentice where she spends time with award winning employees in a career field that she now wants to pursue, mechanical engineering. Proving the success of the COP philosophy once again, Itzel was just the first of three students who are now employed by Delta Hawk, all thanks to the community support for Wings to Fly, a Racine Police Department COP Program.



## Police 'N Pedals Stunt Show

The community oriented policing philosophy isn't just for a certain number of officers assigned to the COP Unit. All officers are encouraged to build positive relationships in neighborhoods through daily interactions or planned events. One of these events titled Police 'N Pedals Stunt Show was a department wide supported event inspired by the talents of a second-shift officer, Michael Gordon. Prior to becoming a police officer, Officer Gordon made a name for himself as a semiprofessional BMX stunt rider. Entertaining crowds wasn't new for him, but using those talents to represent the department and build new relationships was an untapped territory. With tremendous financial support from local contractor ZP Construction and Indian Motorcycle of Racine, the Racine Police Department partnered with the Downtown Racine Corporation to provide a jaw dropping event with high flying bicycles and motorcycles. Over 3,000 people gathered in downtown Racine on June 2nd for the first ever BMX and FMX event titled Police 'N Pedals Stunt Show. Although the highlight of this event could be seen flying through the air, it could be argued that the positive policing interactions between officers and community on the ground was just as spectacular.

Officer Enrique Cruz-Ortiz of the Robert Quintanilla COP House, 1140 Geneva Street,





**Marty Defatte COP House**  
1522 W. 6th Street



**Student Bonding**

Officer Konner Scott of the Marty Defatte COP House, 1522 West Sixth Street, is frequently found in the schools around the city. Whether in a lunchroom, classroom, or playground, Officer Scott thrives on building relationships with school staff and students by sharing a meal, reading a book, or playing in a friendly game of basketball.



**Crimes by COP Area : W 6th St.**

	Violent Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Homicide	0	3	-	▲
Aggravated Assault	10	12	20%	▲
Rape	1	5	400%	▲
Robbery	3	2	-33%	▼
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>▲</b>
	Property Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Burglary	9	6	-33%	▼
Theft	16	12	-25%	▼
Auto Theft	9	6	-33%	▼
Arson	0	0	-	-
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>▼</b>
	Miscellaneous Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Simple Assault	23	21	-9%	▼
Weapons Violations	26	27	4%	▲
Disorderly Conduct	33	26	-21%	▼
Public Ouder	2	1	-50%	▼
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>▼</b>

**Richard Polzin COP House**  
1900 16th Street



**Trunk or Treat**

Officer Bennett Thill of the Richard Polzin COP House, 1900 Sixteenth Street, stole the show at a trunk or treat event. Thanks to the organization of Christ Church United Methodist, Officer Thill was able to pass out candy and show a Racine Police Department patrol vehicle.



**Crimes by COP Area : 16th St.**

	Violent Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Homicide	1	1	0%	-
Aggravated Assault	21	11	-48%	▼
Rape	6	5	-17%	▼
Robbery	10	1	-90%	▼
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-53%</b>	<b>▼</b>
	Property Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Burglary	15	15	0%	-
Theft	23	15	-35%	▼
Auto Theft	11	12	9%	▲
Arson	1	0	-100%	▼
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>▼</b>
	Miscellaneous Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Simple Assault	23	23	0%	-
Weapons Violations	30	28	-7%	▼
Disorderly Conduct	37	42	14%	▲
Public Ouder	4	53	1225%	▲
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>▲</b>

**William Wadewitz COP House**  
1750 Mead Street



**Salvation Army**

Officer Brinelle Nabors of the William Wadewitz COP House, 1750 Mead Street, frequently enjoys a meal with youth from his neighborhood. Thanks to the tremendous support from The Salvation Army, youth are able to walk to Officer Nabor's COP house and enjoy a nightly meal with officers.



**Crimes by COP Area : Mead St.**

	Violent Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Homicide	1	0	-100%	▼
Aggravated Assault	3	5	-67%	▼
Rape	1	1	0%	-
Robbery	2	0	-100%	▼
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>▼</b>
	Property Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Burglary	2	3	50%	▲
Theft	5	2	-20%	▼
Auto Theft	3	2	33%	▲
Arson	0	0	-	-
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>▼</b>
	Miscellaneous Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Simple Assault	9	10	-11%	▼
Weapons Violations	11	7	-36%	▼
Disorderly Conduct	12	13	8%	▲
Public Oder	1	2	-100%	▼
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>▼</b>

**Dr. Thelma Orr COP House**  
1146 Villa Street



**Pumpkin Painting**

event. Thanks to the support of Swan's Pumpkin Farm, youth from Officer Powell's neighborhood spent an evening positively interacting with several officers decorating pumpkins, which they proudly showed off to friends and family.



**Crimes by COP Area : Villa St.**

	Violent Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Homicide	0	1	-	▲
Aggravated Assault	32	13	-59%	▼
Rape	12	7	-42%	▼
Robbery	8	7	-13%	▼
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-46%</b>	<b>▼</b>
	Property Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Burglary	22	6	-73%	▼
Theft	33	19	-42%	▼
Auto Theft	11	12	9%	▲
Arson	1	0	-100%	▼
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-45%</b>	<b>▼</b>
	Miscellaneous Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
Simple Assault	62	52	-16%	▼
Weapons Violations	51	31	-39%	▼
Disorderly Conduct	83	74	-11%	▼
Public Oder	14	44	214%	▲
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>▼</b>

**Robert Quintanilla COP House  
1140 Geneva Street**



**Waffle Wednesday**

regularly helps with a breakfast event titled Waffle Wednesdays. Thanks to planning by Voices of Black Mothers United, youth from Officer Cruz-Ortiz' neighborhood spend time making breakfast with and being Officer Colin Powell of the Dr. Thelma Orr COP House, 1146 Villa Street, hosted a pumpkin painting



**Earth Day**

Officer Zach Brenner of the Robert Quintanilla COP House, 1140 Geneva Street, helped with an Earth Day event for students from Julian Thomas Elementary. Thanks to the financial support from the Racine County Violence Prevention Program, Officer Brenner helped youth build and fill a planter box at the COP House.



**Crimes by COP Area : Geneva St.**

	Violent Crimes		
	2022	2023	% Change
<b>Homicide</b>	0	0	-
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	7	1	-86% ▼
<b>Rape</b>	0	0	-
<b>Robbery</b>	4	1	-75% ▼
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-82% ▼</b>
	Property Crimes		
	2022	2023	% Change
<b>Burglary</b>	5	6	20% ▲
<b>Theft</b>	11	5	-55% ▼
<b>Auto Theft</b>	6	9	50% ▲
<b>Arson</b>	0	1	-
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-5% ▼</b>
	Miscellaneous Crimes		
	2022	2023	% Change
<b>Simple Assault</b>	62	52	-47% ▼
<b>Weapons Violations</b>	51	31	-50% ▼
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	83	74	0% -
<b>Public Oder</b>	14	44	-50% ▼
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>-26% ▼</b>



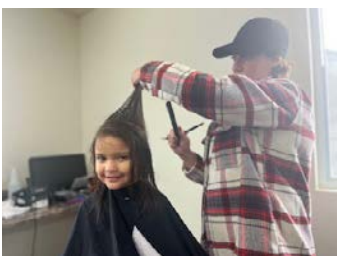


**Ernest & Bernice Styberg COP House**  
2437 Anthony Lane



**Free Haircuts**

Officer Travis Brady of the Ernest and Bernice Styberg COP House, 2437 Anthony Lane, welcomes hundreds of kids each year into his COP house for free haircuts. With the phenomenal support from Andis, Educators Credit Union, and local barbers/stylists, youth from RUSD are able to get a new look for school free of charge.



**Crimes by COP Area : Anthony Ln.**

	Violent Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
<b>Homicide</b>	0	0	-	-
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	7	1	-86%	▼
<b>Rape</b>	0	5	-	▲
<b>Robbery</b>	4	1	-75%	▼
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-82%</b>	<b>▼</b>
	Property Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
<b>Burglary</b>	5	6	20%	▲
<b>Theft</b>	11	5	-55%	▼
<b>Auto Theft</b>	6	9	50%	▲
<b>Arson</b>	0	1	-	▲
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>▼</b>
	Miscellaneous Crimes			
	2022	2023	% Change	
<b>Simple Assault</b>	19	10	-47%	▼
<b>Weapons Violations</b>	8	4	-50%	▼
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	27	27	0%	-
<b>Public Oder</b>	4	2	-50%	▼
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>▼</b>



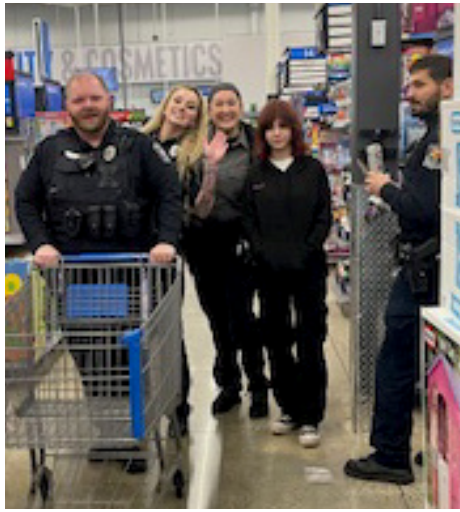
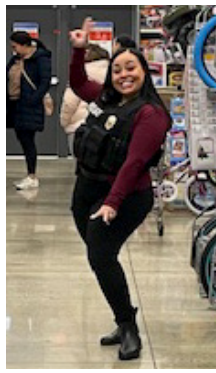
# Shop With a Cop

Shop with a Cop is the officers favorite event of the year. Racine Unified School District nominates worthy children, based on good behavior and grades, and 50 are chosen to shop with a police officer from one of the local jurisdictions. The students get to shop for themselves and their families and all of the gifts are wrapped by volunteers. The event would not be possible without the help of the community. Donations from citizens and local businesses fund the event, and Walmart hosts every year.





# Shop With a Cop, Cont'd





## DEPARTMENT UNITS & PROGRAMS

### VCIU

#### *Violent Crime and Intelligence Unit*

The Violent Crime and Intelligence Unit (VCIU) merged all of the department's Task Force Investigators to include:

- FBI Gang Task Force
- ATF Gun Crimes Task Force
- US Marshal's Service Task Force
- DEA Task Force

When we consider units such as VCIU and violent crime initiatives, one thing is paramount for success and that is a "team" concept. In order to accurately address violent crime, it was imperative to have all our applicable investigative resources working together under one roof. This allows us to proactively address the violent crime issue from a multitude of angles, utilizing each detective's strengths and areas of expertise. Having all task force officers in the same room also allowed for greater deconfliction and a much-improved flow of information. The VCIU investigators exceeded expectations in the new merged structure, and it became very clear that this unit would prove to be highly successful.

Successful it was as VCIU became tasked with all violent crime cases to include but not limited to homicides, attempted homicides, aggravated assaults, robberies, and overdose deaths. VCIU investigators took the lead on (10) homicides in 2023 and of those, 90% were cleared by either arrest or exceptional clearance. Aside from the investigative efforts of VCIU, investigators also conducted street level enforcement in response to violent crime trends.

The quality of work done by these investigators and the effort that they put forth each day is what stands out and makes the largest impact. Their statistical results were impressive as well and are as follows:

- 40 Search Warrants Executed
- 193 Felony Arrests
- 34 Misdemeanor Arrests
- 51 Criminal Warrants Served
- \$45,427 in US Currency Recovered
- 39 Firearms Recovered
- 3,056g Cocaine Recovered
- 221g Crack Cocaine Recovered
- 92g Heroin Recovered
- 5,206g THC Recovered
- 77g Fentanyl Recovered
- 5,122g Pills Recovered

The integration of the US Marshals Task Force in VCIU proved to be highly advantageous to our agency and provided us an

enormous force multiplier in the area of fugitive apprehension. VCIU and the USMS Task Force deployed numerous times over the course of the year and as a result, 73 violent offenders were located and taken into custody for offenses to include but not limited to:

- Attempted Homicide
- Reckless Homicide
- Armed Robbery
- Strangulation
- Stalking
- Delivery of Narcotics
- Felon in Possession of Firearm

A spree of shootings took place on December 9th and December 10th, in which officers were dispatched to seven different shooting scenes in the city. VCIU became the investigative unit for these incidents and learned during the investigations that these incidents were all related. According to The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network results, the same firearms had been used in all seven shootings.

While conducting these shooting investigations, VCIU also became aware of a homicide that occurred in the City of Appleton on December 24, 2023. In that incident a victim was shot multiple times with a 9mm handgun that was identified as a firearm that was used in the Racine shooting and those involved in the homicide were persons of interest in Racine cases.

As a result of the investigative efforts, six search warrants and two arrest warrants were drafted and executed. Subsequent to the warrant executions, a total of seven firearms were recovered as well as Cocaine, Fentanyl, THC, Ammunition and evidentiary clothing. Appleton Detectives traveled to Racine for the warrant operation and were able to conduct interviews with information learned, and a suspect was identified and located by VCIU.

The personnel assigned to VCIU have shown a true dedication to the law enforcement profession and the group wears the badge with honor.

## Crime Analysis

During 2023, the Racine PD Crime Analyst has been able to grow the Racine NIBIN Unit, build out the foundation for the Racine Real Time Crime Center, create the position for a new data analyst, work with a variety of stakeholders on multi-jurisdictional projects within Southeastern Wisconsin and utilize grant funds to build a new Racine County Shoot Room in the basement of the police department. Due to the fast paced growth of the unit, the foundation for the "Racine Real Time Crime Center" has been established, and will be housed within the Racine PD NIBIN Unit. The mission of the Racine Real Time Crime Center, is to provide our law enforcement agencies throughout the county the technology and resources needed to effectively police in the modern era. The units main goal will be centralizing gun crime intelligence for all Southeastern Wisconsin. Transparency, reliability and communication are at the base of the foundation for this unit.

## NIBIN Program

The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) is a federally run program that automates ballistic evaluations and provides actionable investigative leads within a timely manner. During 2023, the Racine NIBIN program was able to take in an extensive amount of evidence, that lead to 465 habitual crime gun ID's that were generated within the system. On top of this, there were 1,328 acquisitions to the site, as well as 898 NIBIN leads in total. Due to the rapid expansion of the Racine NIBIN Program, the unit is now being nationally recognized for it's proactive work on counter-weapons trafficking cases. Plans to expand and grow the Racine NIBIN program are currently underway for Southeastern Wisconsin.

## Racine Police Canine Unit

The year 2023 again proved to be a successful year for the Racine Police Department Canine Unit. In 2023, the Unit welcomed canine Loki. Loki is the department's second explosive detection canine.

Canine Loki, as well as canine Ramone are certified to detect explosives, gun shell casings and fired weapons. This has proven to be extremely important to the case building process for our investigators. In addition, K-9 Loki is certified in suspect apprehension and handler protection. The Unit is comprised of the following five K-9 teams.



K-9 Hax  
Handler Donald Rybarik



K-9 Karma  
Handler David Arvai



K-9 Loki  
Handler Justin Schmidt-Quist



K-9 Missy  
Handler Steven Beal



K-9 Ramone  
Handler Dennis Cecchini

K-9s Karma, Missy, and Hax are dual purpose canines trained to detect the odor of narcotics, tracking, article searches and suspect apprehension. Our canine teams train three days per month and are available for public appearances.

The unit is sustained by donations from the community. If you are interested in one of our teams attending a public appearance, please email the canine unit supervisor Sergeant Michael Mahnke at [michael.mahnke@cityofracine.org](mailto:michael.mahnke@cityofracine.org)



## Racine Police Motor Unit

In 2023, the Racine Police Motor Unit realized several changes. The unit retired two long-serving 2007 Harley-Davidson Police Road King models that were outdated and no longer viable for police operations. The unit welcomed the purchase of two 2023 Harley-Davidson Police Electra Glide models as replacements for the retired Road Kings, keeping the motor fleet at four motorcycles. The unit currently has two 2019, and two 2023, Harley-Davidson Police Electra Glide models. These motorcycles are fully equipped for police patrol, traffic, and escort operations.

In 2023, Officer Dan Tredo was officially named as the Motor Unit Commander by Chief Alex Ramirez. Officer Tredo is the longest standing member of the Motor Unit and maintains a Police Motorcycle Training instructor certification from the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. The unit bid warm goodbyes to three of its members: Officer Tom Lyle, Traffic Investigator Mike Ditscheit, and Sergeant Josh LaForge, as they moved on to other endeavors. Officer Tredo and Traffic Investigator Dan Nelson remain as the Motor Unit's currently qualified motor operators for the department. Looking to 2024, the Motor Unit plans to offer a Motor Officer Operator course to add new members to the unit.

Members of the Motor Unit have maintained long-standing membership in the Badger Motor Officer's Association (BMOA) which is a non-profit organization geared toward safety and training of motor officers in the state of Wisconsin. The unit's association with the BMOA continued in 2023. All motor unit members once again completed annual re-certification at a spring in-service training. Other training completed in 2023, was that of both daytime and nighttime escort operations taught by the Milwaukee Police Department Motor Unit in preparation for escort operations for the 2024 Republican National Convention being held in Milwaukee, WI. The motors also took part in numerous other community outreach initiatives in 2023 to include: the Racine County Law Enforcement Memorial ceremony, the State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial ceremony in Madison, the 12th annual Law Enforcement Ride for WI C.O.P.S. (Concerns Of Police Survivors) hosted by House of Harley-Davidson Milwaukee, C.O.P.S. Kids Camp escorts and various funerals.



## Racine Police Training Unit

The Training Unit holds a variety of important roles within the Racine Police Department. In 2023, the Training Unit was responsible for hiring and training twenty new police officers. The Training Unit also conducted multiple trainings for the entire police department to include Fair and Impartial Policing Training, first aid, emergency vehicle operations, firearms, and vehicle contacts to highlight a few. The Training Unit also plays a large role in recruitment, the hiring process for applicants, and the training and maintenance for police equipment.



## SWAT Team *Special Weapons And Tactics*

The mission of the Racine Police Department SWAT Team is to save lives. The Racine Police Department SWAT Team is comprised of officers, investigators and supervisors from different positions around the department. The purpose of the Racine Police Department Swat Team is to provide the Department a flexible and effective response to unconventional law enforcement situations. The Racine Police Department SWAT Team completes extensive hands on training to prepare for a variety of difficult and challenging deployments.

The staffing of the Racine Police Department SWAT Team is based on the needs of the team to have the capability of deploying on, but are not limited to, the following situations:

- Search Warrant Service
- Arrest Warrant Service
- High Risk Warrant Service
- Barricaded Subjects
- Vehicle Assaults
- Hostage Rescue
- Active Shooters
- Officer / Citizen Down Rescues
- Civil Unrest



## Racine Police Peer Support

The mission of the Racine Police Department Peer Support Team is to provide members of the law enforcement community who may be suffering from stress related difficulties access to support services to help overcome their challenges. We exist to provide a voluntary and confidential outlet for current employees, retired employees, and family members to discuss their concerns.

In 2023, the Peer Support Team saw great success in our efforts to progress the program beginning with the addition of four new members. Peer Support was also involved with the necessary efforts to obtain Zara, the department facility dog who provides support to staff members, crime victims, and individuals who have experienced a traumatic event.

Several members of the team attended the Inaugural Department of Justice Peer Support Conference in the Wisconsin Dells where one of our members along with the department of Mental Health Therapist did a presentation. In addition to this training conference, several members of the team also attended the National Conference on Law Enforcement Wellness and Trauma held in Orlando, Florida.



Working in conjunction with the Racine Police Department, Chaplains Art Rader, R.L. Woods, and a Mental Health Therapist form a Mental Wellness team. Members of Peer Support provided training on The Six Dimensions of Wellness to the Cadet program which helps to educate them on the importance of overall mental wellness and the benefits of Peer Support. Members of the Peer Support Team also assisted with providing education and resource materials to new recruits and their families, followed up with the recruits during their time in the academy, and then met with them after completion of the academy. The intended purpose of these meetings is to help new officers and their families prepare and navigate the challenges of a career in law enforcement and provide resources/coping mechanisms to guide them on a healthy and prosperous career path. In 2023, the Peer support team developed and implemented family sessions for our existing officer's family members and significant others which were all well received.

Peer Support, as a part of the Mental Wellness Team, conducted 25 critical incident stress debriefs, multiple training and education sessions, and offered support for numerous officers and their families throughout the year.





## Health and Wellness

Law Enforcement is a highly stressful career. Persistent encounters with trauma, death, and mental illness along with being subject to physical violence and psychological stress takes a toll on even the most resilient officer. The Racine Police Department has taken a proactive approach to officer mental health and wellness. Initially, the department had contracted externally with a mental health professional along with other external providers. Shortly thereafter, the administration recognized the need to prioritize officer wellness and was able to hire a full-time mental health professional.

Our in-house mental health professional, Elizabeth Willman, became a part of our full-time staff. Ms. Willman MS is a Licensed Professional Certified Counselor and therapist. Ms. Willman specializes in the treatment of first responders and their families dealing with issues such as trauma, addiction, anxiety, post-traumatic stress injury, and relationships. She has worked with law enforcement agencies for Officer Involved Shootings, Peer Support Teams, Critical Incident Stress Management, and Family Support Education. She is the Wisconsin State Representative for the National P.O.L.I.C.E. Suicide Foundation.

In 2023, Ms. Willman assisted the Peer Support Team in conducting 25 critical incident stress debriefs along with cadet and new hire mental wellness education. She participated in the Inaugural Department of Justice Peer Support Conference in Wisconsin Dells where she and a member of the Peer Support Team presented *Rising Above the Burden of the Bureau*, an educational presentation of the unique stressors of investigators. She was recently assigned to Zara, our facility emotional support canine who provides support to officers, civilian staff and victims who have experienced trauma. In addition to these services, Ms. Willman provided individual mental health counseling, conducted a women's and men's leadership group, engaged in roll calls and ride along experiences, and assisted numerous officers and their families.

## Fitness Committee

The Racine Police Department has had a Fitness Committee for over 20 years. The committee has recently updated its vision and mission to better serve the department and community which states the following:

*"The mission of the Racine Police Department Fitness Committee is to maintain a functional and progressive fitness center; provide knowledgeable, quality and safe workout education and guidance; maintain and increase physical readiness; organize programs, events and challenges which foster comradery, increase the moral and overall mental and physical wellness of the department".*

In serving a community as a police officer, it is imperative to be physically fit to perform the rigors of the profession effectively and safely. Being "Fit" goes beyond the physical demands and benefits it represents. Being fit reduces stress, improves mental health, provides a better chance for a longer happier life, can help for better decision making on calls, can reduce the chance of injury and illness, just to name some benefits of fitness. It also provides opportunities for increased benefits separate from physical attributes. When fitness initiatives are thought out, and focused on; it can improve comradery, create and nourish community relationships and foster community engagement opportunities such as sporting events, community challenges and teaching opportunities with local youth. This past year we renovated our auditorium into a state-of-the-art fitness center, named Front Line Fitness. It's equipped with multiple cardio machines, machine weights, free weights, lifting racks and several options for functional training. This facility is open to the department 24/7 and allows our officers the ability to focus on their physical and mental health year-round in a clean and safe facility.

## Cadet Program

The mission of the Racine Police Department Cadet Program is to develop educated, well-trained, and diverse candidates to prepare them for a career in law enforcement. Cadets attend weekly meetings where they are taught job-specific topics by sworn officers and participate in scenario-based training. In 2023, 12 sworn officers served as Cadet Mentors. These officers developed lesson plans and scenarios to teach cadets during the weekly meetings and accompanied cadets to department and community events. The cadet program is led by Officer Emily Draves, lead mentor, a four year veteran of the Racine Police Department. "Having the opportunity to reach out to teens and young adults is an important part of my role," said Officer Draves. "This program allows us to develop the next generation of police officers to serve our community."

Within the cadet program, we offer paid positions and these cadets assist with online report processing and community outreach, as well as any additional tasks requested by sworn officers or support staff. Our goal is to prepare future applicants for a career as police officers in the City of Racine.

2023, saw many successes for the Racine Police Department Cadet Program. The paid cadets participated in over three hundred hours of community service including attending and assisting with the Anthony Lane COP house grocery giveaway, Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks, National Night Out, Geneva Street COP house Waffle Wednesday, Shop with a Cop, recruitment events, Christmas gift giveaways, Cops 'N Cuts, Easter Eggstravaganza, and more. The paid cadets initiated the Cadets and Kids reading program where they read books to children at local schools and taught short, safety related lessons. The paid cadets combined to process over 430 online reports, reducing the work load for patrol officers and investigators.

Gabriel Brandies became the first paid cadet to graduate the law enforcement academy and is currently in the Field Training Program with the Racine Police Department. Also two additional paid cadets, Xochitl Morales and Gregory Sanders, were sworn in for the Racine Police Department and are currently in the law enforcement academy. During the next year, the Racine Police Department Cadet Program plans to continue its programming and community outreach.



## Civilian Spotlight



Support Service Manager Julia Jones

Julia Jones has served as the Support Service Manager for the Racine Police Department since 2015. Her duties consist of supervising the public service counter, the Purchasing Clerk, Transcribers, Administrative Assistant for Support Services, Crossing Guards, and the Records Specialist. The Support Service Manager among many other responsibilities also manages the Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds and the police department budget.



Anna Baker was promoted from Customer Service Representative to Purchasing Clerk in 2023. Anna started her career with the Racine Police Department on November 1, 2022. Her skills and talents quickly secured her a promotion to Purchasing Clerk in April 2023.



Cheryl Murguia was promoted from Purchasing Clerk to Customer Service Manager in 2023. Cheryl has been with the Racine Police Department since February 11, 2008. She started her career working as a Records Clerk, and then she became a Customer Service/Records Representative, Patrol Secretary, Purchasing Clerk; and finally, the Customer Service/Records Manager for the Racine Police Department.





The Customer Service/Record's Department (CSR) sponsored Archer Albrecht and his family for Christmas. The CSR's along with their supervisor donate a dollar in the jean fund each week, and in return, they are permitted to wear jeans on Fridays. These proceeds went to sponsor a family in need for the 2023 Christmas holiday.



Teresa Sullivan and Cheryl Murguia at Party on the Pavement selling Pink Patch T-shirts and K-9 Plush Dogs. Cheryl Murguia has been involved with these fundraisers from its inception; and she recruited Theresa Sullivan in 2022. The ladies participate in events such as, Party on the Pavement, Harbor Market, Policeman's Ball, Bark in the Park, and the City's 175th birthday bash, in an effort to support the Pink Patch Project and K-9 Plush fundraiser. The proceeds for the Pink Patch Project goes to cancer victims; and in 2023 \$1878.00 was donated to Terese's Flowers of Hope. The K-9 Plush fundraiser was also a success with \$4235 raised to help with the care of the Racine Police Department's four K-9 dogs.



Bark in the Park with Cheryl Murguia, Officer Steve Beal with K-9 Missy, Officer Dave Arvai with K-9 Karma.

# AWARDS

## LIFE SAVING AWARD

Kevin Kupper      Kyle Trousil  
 Michael Riemer      Brian Schoenbeck

## LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE AWARD

Renee Sura

## EXEMPLARY OFFICER AWARD

Konner Scott      Zach Brenner  
 Travis Brady      Andrew Simon  
 Todd Lauer      Enrique Cruz-Ortiz  
 Tod Bodnar

## CHIEF'S LEADERSHIP COMMENDATION

Ryan Comstock

## UNIT CITATION

### Community Service Officer

Maria Reyna-Maynez      Kayla Posch  
 Alyssa Crisci      Selina Levy

### Field Training Officer

Chad Anderson      Heriberto Benitez  
 Michael Riemer      Justin Schmidt-Quist  
 Doug Cecchini      Jared Kosmala  
 Nick Estep      Eric Prybylski  
 Dennis Cecchini      Konner Scott  
 Brinelle Nabors      Andrew Simon  
 Jacob Mauer      Aaron White

## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Brinelle Nabors      Aidan Belcher  
 Tonya Scarvers      Michael Ditscheit  
 Adam Amundsen      Mike Seeger  
 Emily Draves      Jacob Ulickey  
 Dan Tredo      David Arvai  
 Craig Klepel      Melissa Diener  
 William Lojeski      Justin Schmidt-Quist  
 William Burinda

## CIVILIAN POLICE SERVICE AWARD

Lisa Ramirez      Ashley Konsinowski  
 Rory Mathews

## MASTER SHOOTER AWARD

Robert Thillemann      Joshua Baclawski  
 Thomas DeBaker      Joe Villalobos  
 Dan Nelson      Kevin Sell  
 Joseph Bialkowski      Nick Estep  
 Jacob Lofy      Jeremy Reinhold  
 Jacob Ulickey      Jacob Smetana  
 Patrick Leigh      James Zuehlke

### Award Order of Significance



Medal of Honor



Medal of Valor



Medal of Merit



Chief's Leadership Commendation



Exemplary Officer



Outstanding Police Service



Lifesaving



Award of Excellence



Unit Citation



Distinguished Master Shooter



Oak Leaf Cluster

Represents subsequent awards of same type

# STATISTICS

Total Crimes of Racine				
Violent Crimes				
	2022	2023	% Change	
Homicide	10	12	20%	▲
Aggravated Assault	234	200	-15%	▼
Rape	90	102	13%	▲
Robbery	75	38	-49%	▼
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>▼</b>
Property Crimes				
	2022	2023	% Change	
Burglary	333	182	-45%	▼
Theft	725	672	-7%	▼
Auto Theft	201	248	23%	▲
Arson	7	4	-43%	▼
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>▼</b>
<b>Total Crimes</b>	<b>1675</b>	<b>1458</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>▼</b>

Traffic Citations				
	2022	2023	% CHANGE	
Accident Report Violations	46	21	-54%	▼
All Other Traffic	242	218	-10%	▼
All Other Violations	0	2	-	▲
ATV	1	3	200%	▲
Driver's License	913	897	-2%	▼
Equipment Violations	378	297	-21%	▼
Fail to Yield	275	258	-6%	▼
Hit and Run	192	216	13%	▲
Improper Turns	81	77	-5%	▼
Insurance	913	797	-13%	▼
Lane Violations	390	367	-6%	▼
Operating Under Influence	284	156	-45%	▼
Parking Violations	9	2	-78%	▼
Pedestrian Violations	5	2	-60%	▼
Reckless Driving	339	423	25%	▲
Registration	492	438	-11%	▼
Seat Belt Violation	349	462	32%	▲
Speed Violation	283	324	14%	▲
Traffic Control Violations	355	379	7%	▲
<b>Total</b>	<b>5547</b>	<b>5339</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>▼</b>



	Parking Citations			
	2022	2023	% CHANGE	
101 - Street Storage	1096	3816	248%	▲
102 - Indicated Meters	0	2	-	▲
103 - Restricted Parking	11	53	382%	▲
104 - Private Posted	40	46	15%	▲
105 - No Parking Anytime	105	84	-22%	▼
106 - Tow-Away Zone	55	11	-80%	▼
107 - Abandoned Vehicle (on street)	511	842	65%	▲
108 - Handicapped Parking	16	9	-44%	▼
109 - Crosswalk 15	2	5	150%	▲
110 - Curb	17	13	-24%	▼
111 - Aban. PR	2	1	-50%	▼
114 - Block Alley Res 50	0	1	-	▲
116 - Fifth Boat Ramp	2	0	-100%	▼
118 - Boat Ramp Ind Spaces	2	0	-100%	▼
122 - Double Parking	1	5	400%	▲
124 - Expired Meter	517	406	-21%	▼
125 - Fire Vehicle Only	10	6	-40%	▼
128 - Indicated Spaces	28	26	-7%	▼
131 - Large Vehicle	0	1	-	▲
133 - Bus Stop	7	5	-29%	▼
134 - Loading Zone School	5	6	20%	▲
135 - Loading Zone	0	6	-	▲
136 - Snow Emer	20	51	155%	▲
137 - Overtime Parking	0	1	-	▲
138 - After Hours	0	3	-	▲
140 - Head On	7	12	71%	▲
141 - Fire Lane	5	6	20%	▲
143 - Grass Beach or Park	0	3	-	▲
144 - Sidewalk	4	9	125%	▲
145 - Prohibited	1	1	0%	-
146 - Private Not Posted	73	77	5%	▲
147 - Fire Hydrant	14	15	7%	▲
148 - Driveway	34	24	-29%	▼
150 - Lots 24 Hrs.	1	0	-100%	▼
151 - Lots Reserved	5	3	-40%	▼
155 - Snow Posted	2	1	-50%	▼
159 - Law Enforcement	1	1	0%	-
160 - Stopping or Parking Where Prohibited	2	2	0%	-
161 - Within 25ft of Railroad	0	2	-	▲
165 - Blocking Alley	4	2	-50%	▼
166 - Off Street Parking- Yard	0	1	-	▲
167 - Crosswalk	2	1	-50%	▼
170 - Parkway	1	4	300%	▲
171 - School Zone	8	2	-75%	▼
173- Unattended Veh Trf Haz	5	6	20%	▲
<b>Total</b>	<b>2619</b>	<b>5571</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>▲</b>

	Municipal Citations			
	2022	2023	% CHANGE	
All Other Violations	7	7	0%	-
Animal Care	49	51	4%	▲
Animal License	228	189	-17%	▼
Animal Vaccination	136	146	7%	▲
Animal Violation	60	84	40%	▲
Bike Violation	2	7	250%	▲
Building Violation	340	166	-51%	▼
Closing Hours Park	4	0	-100%	▼
Curfew	27	39	44%	▲
Disorderly Conduct	293	361	23%	▲
Disorderly House	5	2	-60%	▼
Drug Paraphernalia	14	10	-29%	▼
Drug Violation	1	0	-100%	▼
Equipment Violation	1	1	0%	-
Fireworks	2	3	50%	▲
Gleaning	0	1	-	▲
Harassing Phone	1	0	-100%	▼
Improper Dumping	8	15	88%	▲
License Required	1	0	-100%	▼
License Premise Violation	3	2	-33%	▼
Liquor Age Violation	7	9	29%	▲
Liquor Violation	11	9	-18%	▼
Littering	10	4	-60%	▼
Misuse of 911	14	19	36%	▲
Negligent Fire	8	6	-25%	▼
Open Fire	0	4	-	▲
Panhandling	0	8	-	▲
Parking Violation	1	0	-100%	▼
Possession of Marijuana	45	23	-49%	▼
Prowling	43	16	-63%	▼
Resist Officer	31	34	10%	▲
Sex Offender w/in 1000ft	1	0	-100%	▼
Theft	19	24	26%	▲
Tobacco by Minor	9	8	-11%	▼
Trespass	64	54	-16%	▼
Truancy	15	10	-33%	▼
Unreasonable Sound	8	2	-75%	▼
Vandalism	22	18	-18%	▼
Weapon Violation	3	5	67%	▲
Worthless Check	1	15	1400%	▲
<b>Total</b>	<b>1494</b>	<b>1352</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>▼</b>

A special thank you to:  
Makayla Nelson,  
Sergeant Kristi Wilcox, and  
Racine Police Department members  
who contributed to this publication.

