

2023

CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS
POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Winter Springs Police Department is to enhance the quality of life throughout the City of Winter Springs by working cooperatively with all of our citizens to preserve the peace, enforce the law, reduce the perception of fear, and provide for a safe and caring environment.

VISION

The members of the Winter Springs Police Department are committed to excellence in our work. We embrace public service, anticipate changing needs, and respect diversity. In our partnership with the community, we have forged the future. We inspire integrity, pride, trust, and respect within our organization. Employees are encouraged to get involved through creativity as a source of new ideas to offer the best possible service continually.

As stewards of community resources, we accept the opportunities and challenges of technological advances, evolving demographics, urbanization, revitalization, and the changing role of Law Enforcement. We commit ourselves to these guiding principles: providing superior service, valuing our workforce, respecting diversity, communicating openly and consistently, and building community partnerships through involvement and education.

EXCELLENCE • INTEGRITY • INNOVATION • RESPECT



WINTER SPRINGS MAYOR & COMMISSION



KEVIN MCCANN
MAYOR



ROB ELLIOTT
DEPUTY MAYOR



MATT BENTON
COMMISSIONER



VICTORIA BRUCE
COMMISSIONER



TED JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER



CADE RESNICK
COMMISSIONER

THE CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS IS LOCATED IN CENTRAL FLORIDA, TEN MINUTES NORTH OF ORLANDO, AND IS APPROXIMATELY FOURTEEN SQUARE MILES. OUR RESIDENT POPULATION IS ABOUT 39,000, WITH THOUSANDS MORE TRANSIENT VISITORS AND THOSE MAKING WINTER SPRINGS THE BASE FOR THEIR BUSINESSES COMMUTING HERE DAILY.

WINTER SPRINGS IS DESCRIBED AS A “BEDROOM COMMUNITY” SINCE OUR COMPOSITION IS OVER 85% RESIDENTIALLY BASED. HOWEVER, THE CITY HAS TAKEN GREAT STRIDES TO DEVELOP ITS COMMERCIAL BASE TO ACCOMMODATE THE GROWTH AND FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE CITY. THROUGH AN ONGOING EFFORT WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY, THE CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS HAS BEEN NAMED ONE OF THE MOST DESIRABLE CITIES IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK.

WINTER SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMAND STAFF



MATTHEW TRACHT
CHIEF



KEVIN PRESLEY
CAPTAIN



NICK ROMANO
CAPTAIN



DOUG SEELY
CAPTAIN



BRAD HEATH
LIEUTENANT



KEITH WHITMORE
LIEUTENANT



BILL MAYHUGH
LIEUTENANT



AARON WILKINS
LIEUTENANT

PERSONNEL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Ofc. P. Bittikofer

INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

Inv. K. Harrop

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

Melissa Buchman

FTO OF THE YEAR

Ofc. R. Von Bargaen



The Life Saving Award is awarded when the actions of an employee are responsible for saving a human life or when the actions of the employee prolonged a human life to the extent that the person was released to the care of medical authorities, even if the person later expires.

Ofc. M. Hataway

Ofc. J. Hilerio

Ofc. V. Maine



The Meritorious Service Award is awarded when a sworn member performs an act in the course of employment that demonstrates initiative and accomplishment beyond the normal scope of their duties in a specific area over an extended period of time and/or for any accomplishment that brings recognition to the member, the department, or the city.

Ofc. A. Greene



The Unit Citation Award is issued to a distinguished division in recognition of outstanding performance and team oriented accomplishments.

Alpha Shift

Bravo Shift

Charlie Shift

Delta Shift

Street Crimes Unit



The Police Duty Medal is awarded to any sworn member who performs an act of outstanding police service which distinguishes the member beyond the routine call of duty.

Ofc. E. Schwartz

PROMOTIONS



Sgt. L. Saccente

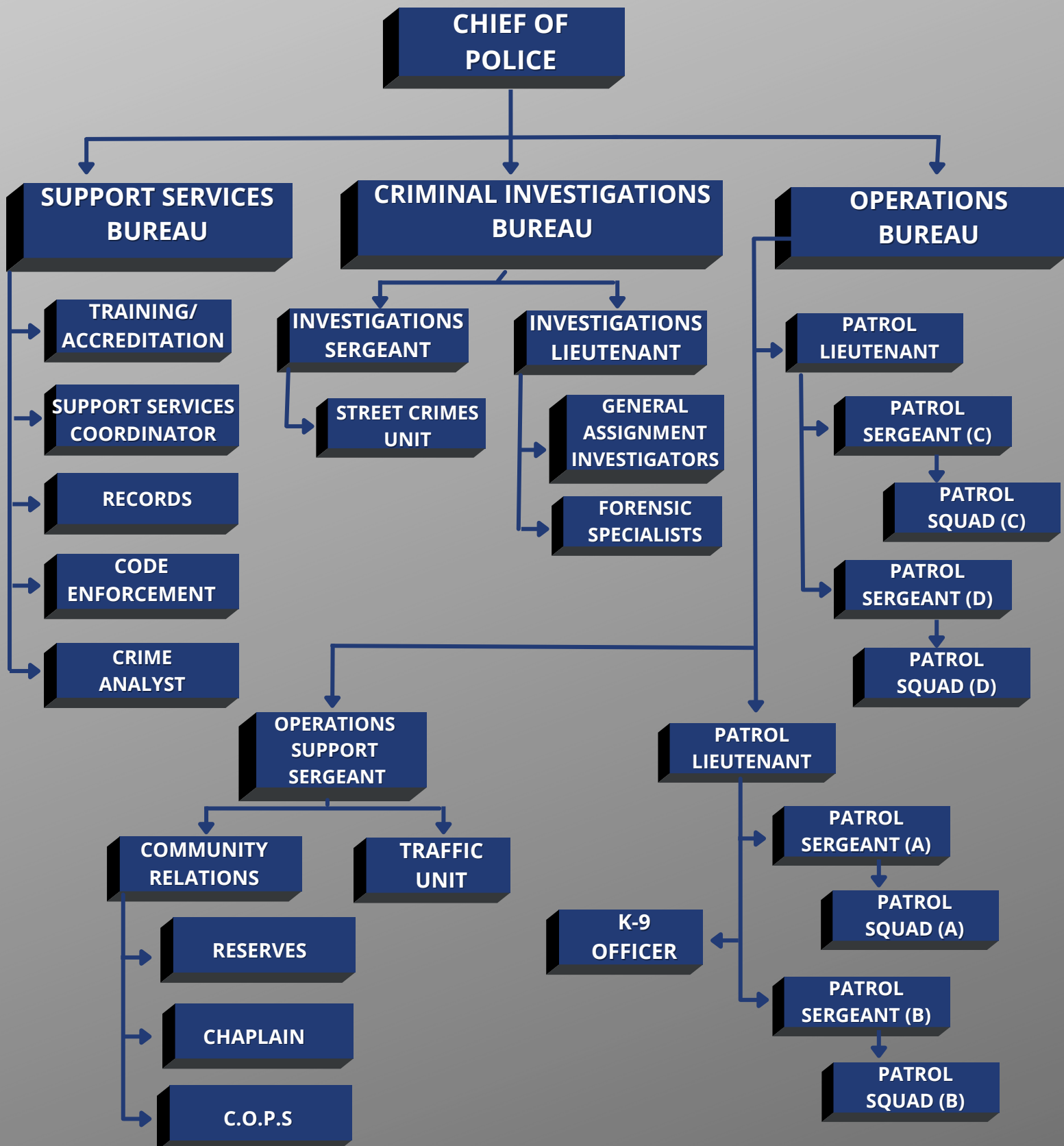
RETIREMENTS



Sgt. A. Smith

26 Years of Service

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

The Professional Standards Unit helps maintain the trust of our community by assisting the staff with monitoring professional accountability and compliance by our members to state law, departmental policies, and our agency's core values. This trust is critical to the success of our police department and is a vital tool used to fight crime and reduce fear in the community. The Internal Affairs Unit thoroughly investigates complaints of officer misconduct, reviews policy and procedures, and the proper use of defensive action by our personnel.

USE OF DEFENSIVE ACTION SUMMARY

During 2023, officers found themselves in 22 situations that required them to respond with defensive action. These cases are all thoroughly reviewed, and all instances were found to be in compliance with department policies.

PERSONNEL AND BUDGET



- 1 CHIEF
- 3 CAPTAINS
- 4 LIEUTENANTS
- 6 SERGENTS
- 45 OFFICERS
- 10 CIVILIAN
- 2 RESERVE OFFICER
- 5 VOLUNTEERS

STAFF
RECRUITED IN
2023

15

\$6,269,192
Salaries

\$1,270,581
Operations

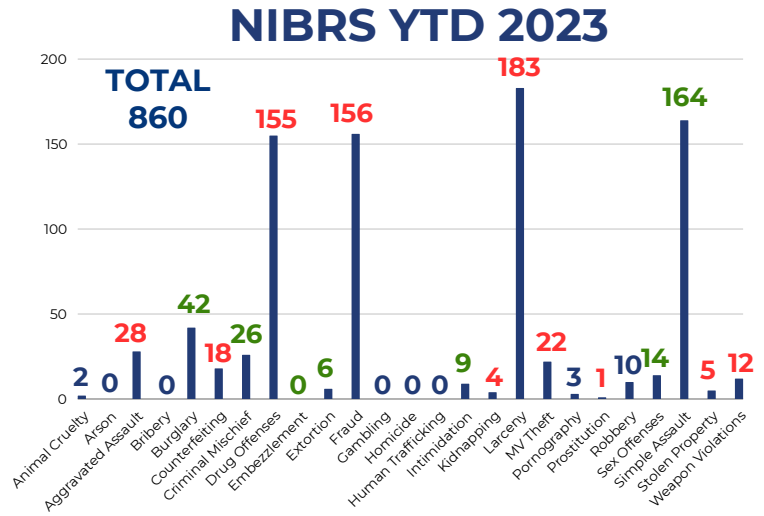
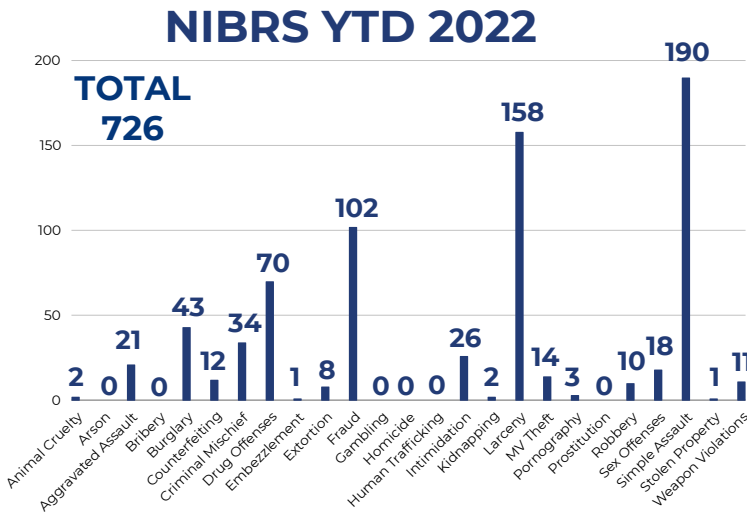
BUDGET

8

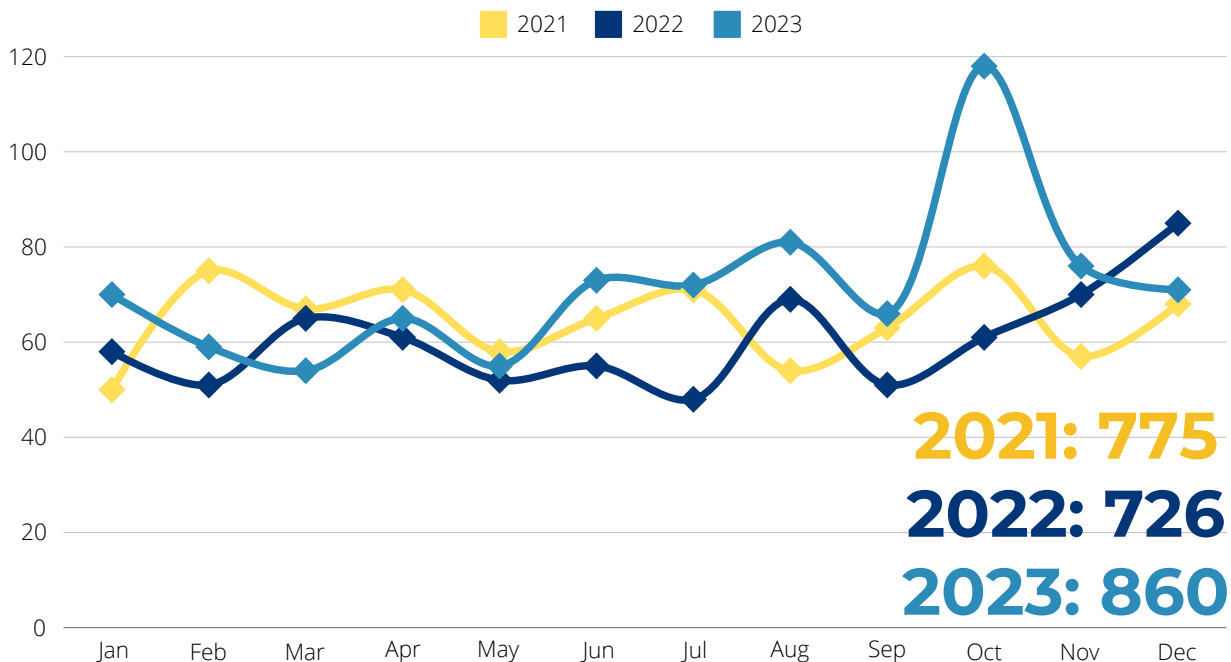
NATIONAL INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

Implemented to improve the quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident and on separate offenses within the same incident, including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes.



YTD NIBRS COMPARISON



A note from the Chief



This year, we saw three major issues impacting our crime rate—*theft, fraud, and drugs*. These continue to be of concern as they impact the quality of our lives.

I can not stress enough the importance of reporting suspicious behavior to the police department. Social media is not the venue to ponder whether or not to report. Did you know that over 60% of this years car burglaries occurred with unlocked vehicles. If you locked your vehicle, 56 victims would likely not be a victim of a crime.

Fraud cases are on the rise nationwide. Criminals have become very clever in finding ways to get you to send them money. We are seeing more and more cases of people losing their savings because they thought a family member was in trouble. Please second guess who you are talking to. If you think something is off, then likely it is. Do not hesitate to call us. One of the number one reasons people do not call us is that they feel they bother us. Trust me when I say you are not!

Finally, drug cases. We are arresting more and more people for illicit and non-prescribed drugs. Many think drug use is a victimless crime. I can tell you it is not. We all become victims. Too many families have been torn apart by addiction. Help is available. Call us before it is too late. Overdoses are occurring at alarming rates. These can be prevented.

Help us help you,

Your Chief

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'mbl'.

[For help, more information can be found here](#)

OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Operations Bureau of the Police Department has several components encompassing the Patrol Division, Operations Support Division, and Community Relations Division.

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division personnel are deployed strategically to cover all six zones within the city. We aim to exceed our citizens' expectations and provide the highest quality law enforcement on every call. The primary responsibilities are to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. In addition to responding to dispatch calls for service, officers conduct self-initiated activities such as traffic stops and patrolling neighborhoods to which they are assigned.

The professional men and women of the Winter Springs Police Department's Patrol Division do not limit their duties to crime prevention and traffic enforcement: officers routinely work with the community to help solve problems and maintain the peace. They also serve as first responders to medical emergencies, aiding sick or injured persons. Patrol Officers strive to build partnerships with those we serve.

OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION

The Operations Support Division comprises Reserve Officers, the Traffic Enforcement Division, the Community Relations Division, and our civilian volunteer programs, including the Citizens On Patrol, Volunteers In Policing, and Chaplain programs. Members assigned to this division are available to assist operations personnel with enhancing the quality of services we provide to the community. Come on out and join us for one of our many community events!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION

The Community Relations Division is responsible for initiatives designed to help promote and foster relationships with our community. During the year, they participate in several events, including our Citizens Police Academy, Coffee with a Cop, HOA meetings, community involvement programs, and special events.

Community Relations personnel also manage the Explorer Post #708 program to engage young adults in activities that promote their law enforcement interests; the Shield 360 program that encompasses many of the crime prevention programs we offer to our residential and business community; and our Citizen's Advisory Committee that meets monthly to discuss ideas, problems, and solutions to keep our community strong.

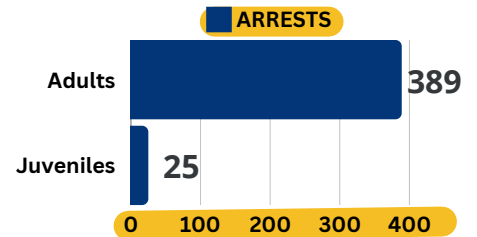
OPERATIONS BUREAU

TOTAL CALLS
FOR SERVICE

115,496

TOTAL ARRESTS

414



AVG EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TIME

3:18

AVG NON-EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TIME

5:57

TOTAL TRAFFIC
STOPS

11,979

TOTAL
CITATIONS

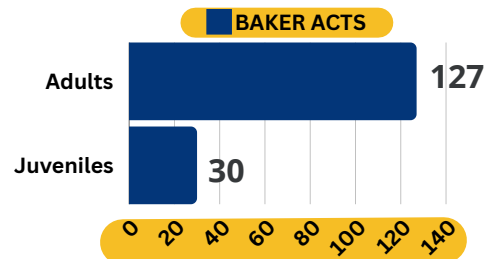
4,962

TOTAL WRITTEN
WARNINGS

6,749

TOTAL BAKER
ACTS

157



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COMMUNITY MEETINGS/EVENTS 10

C.O.P. VOLUNTEER HOURS 90

RESERVE HOURS 184

2023

VEHICLE BURGLARIES

TOTAL VEHICLE BURGLARIES

93

NO FORCED ENTRY

56

FORCED ENTRY

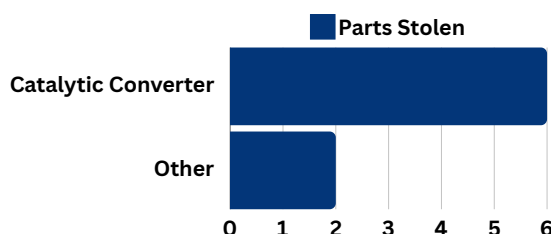
21

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY

8

PARTS REMOVED FROM VEHICLES

8



LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

Over half of the events involved unlocked doors or car drivers who left valuables in plain view without locking their doors. Many of these crimes can be prevented with some simple, common sense actions on our part.

Here are a few crime prevention tips to help keep us from becoming the victim of a burglary or theft:

- Always secure your car doors when parking your vehicle, even for just a few minutes. It takes just a matter of seconds to enter an unsecured vehicle.
- Do not leave valuables, such as purses, cell phones, portable radios, packages, etc., in plain view inside your vehicle. Secure them in a glove box, center console, or trunk. Thieves will search other vehicles that are easier targets if they do not see anything of value in your car.
- Park in well lighted areas at night. Light is an enemy of thieves.
- Be suspicious of anyone approaching your vehicle or roaming your neighborhood.

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT





HIDE YOUR VALUABLES



LOCK YOUR VEHICLE



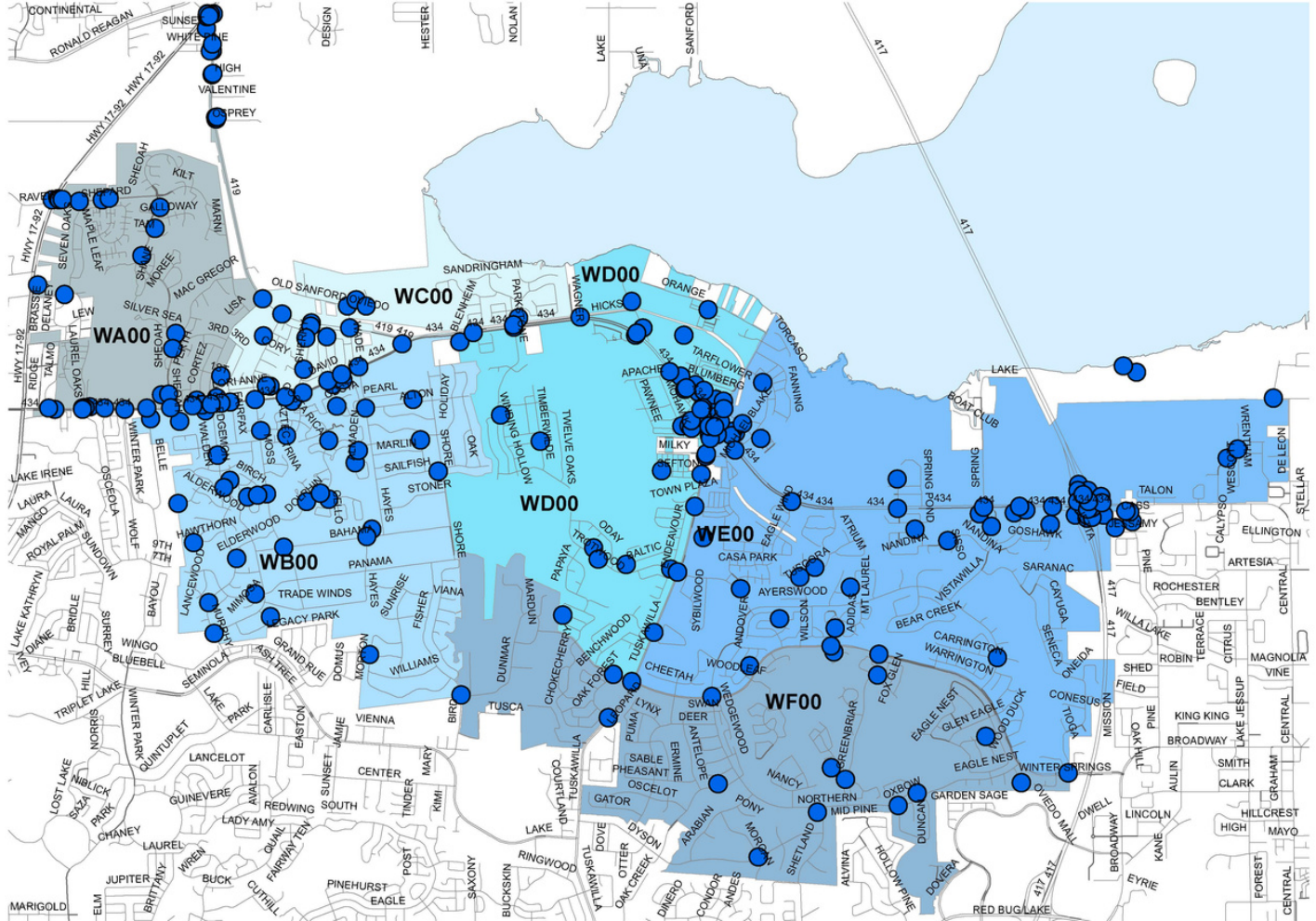
TAKE IT WITH YOU

Be Smart. Stay Safe.

- Always keep your valuables out of sight or in the trunk
- Never leave valuables in unattended vehicles
- Always LOCK your vehicle
- Notify law enforcement of any suspicious activity

OPERATIONS BUREAU

Winter Springs PD Traffic Accidents 2023



This map does not include incidents for which addresses could not be verified, geocoded, or are related to a locked case.

TOTAL VEHICLE
CRASHES

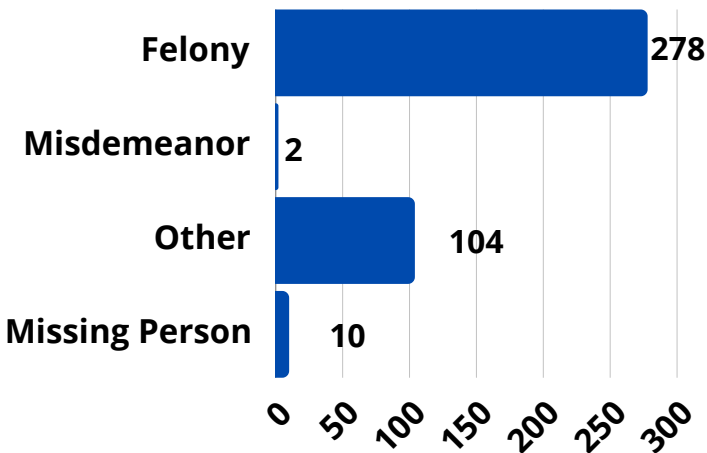
436

A significant percentage of all car crashes occur at intersections. There are a variety of reasons why. Distracted driving (i.e., drivers not noticing their light has turned red), aggressive driving (i.e., drivers running red lights), and inattentive driving (i.e., turning in front of oncoming traffic without looking) are all common factors—and these are just a few of numerous examples.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Criminal Investigations Bureau is responsible for Crime Scene and Property and Evidence and conducting criminal investigations of crimes occurring within the jurisdiction of the City of Winter Springs. Investigators are trained to investigate a wide range of crimes, including homicide, robbery, assaults, sex crimes, domestic violence, theft, burglary, fraud, vandalism, juvenile offenses, motor vehicle theft, missing persons, and any other felonies and serious misdemeanor cases.

TYPES OF CASES



394
TOTAL ASSIGNED CASES



VICTIM RIGHTS BROCHURE

Know your rights if you become a victim of a crime. Scan the QR code to go directly to our 2023 Victims Rights Brochure for more information.

CRIMELINE - ANONYMOUS REPORTING

CrimeLine's mission is to increase the safety of the Central Florida community by assisting law enforcement agencies in removing undesirable individuals from the community. If you have information about a felony crime, then you need to call CrimeLine at 800-423- TIPS (8477).



CRIME SCENE

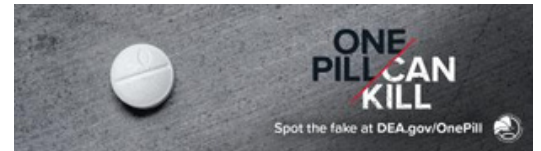
PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

Technical Services and Property & Evidence Divisions provide various in-house services, including laboratory processing of evidence, inventory, and control of the department's property and evidence storage room, crime scene processing, and evidence collection functions. These highly trained personnel are critical to the agency's mission and provide a level of service that ranks among the highest in the area.



ONE PILL CAN KILL

DEA Laboratory Testing Reveals that 7 out of 10 Fentanyl-Laced Fake Prescription Pills Now Contain a Potentially Lethal Dose of Fentanyl



In 2023, DEA seized more than 78.4 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and nearly 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder. The 2023 seizures are equivalent to more than 388.8 million lethal doses of fentanyl.

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

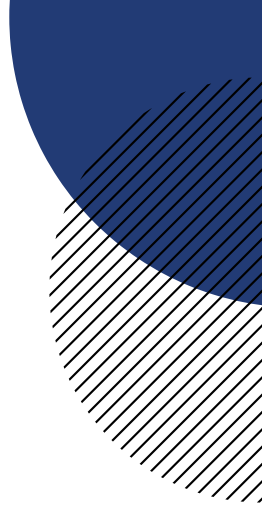


A drug amnesty dropbox has been placed in the lobby of the Winter Springs Police Department, which will allow you to drop off any unwanted medications 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with no questions asked. This will provide an opportunity for the citizens to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications for proper destruction. These types of drugs are a potential risk to public health and safety and the police department is committed to the safe disposal of these drugs.

PROPERTY BELONGING TO YOU!

If the Winter Springs Police Department is holding property that belongs to you, please get in touch with our bureau directly Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. An appointment is necessary to obtain property from our Property and Evidence Section. You may reach us directly at (407) 327-7961 or (407) 327-7969.

SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU



CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Code Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcing the City Ordinances. This division aims to work with the community to keep unkempt, unsightly areas from negatively impacting the city's property values and preserve the sense of community that makes Winter Springs the desirable area it is.

CODE BOARD HEARINGS

32

LITTERING VIOLATIONS

112

SIGNS REMOVED FROM RIGHT OF WAY

1,409

TOTAL CASES INVESTIGATED

3,536

TOTAL RECORDS PROCESSED

17,947

RECORDS REQUESTS PROCESSED

831

TOTAL CITIZENS FINGERPRINTED

317

RECORDS

The Records Division is responsible for the management and processing of all police reports, public record requests, and fingerprinting. Records staff are often the first face you see when visiting the police department.

BUSINESS ALARM REGISTRATION

Scan the below QR for the Business Alarm Registration program allows police to contact business owners after normal business hours for any issues that may arise at the place of business.



HOUSE CHECK

Going out of town soon? Scan the House Check Request QR to request an officer to stop by and check on your home while you're away.



BUSINESS WATCH

Scan the above QR code for the Business Watch program to receive an in-person consultation from WSPD to teach you and your staff about crimes and suspicious activity and inspect for vulnerabilities.

WINTER SPRINGS POLICE

DEPARTMENT

2023





MATTHEW TRACHT
CHIEF OF POLICE
WINTER SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

300 NORTH MOSS ROAD
WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708
407-327-1000

WWW.WINTERSPRINGSFL.ORG/POLICE