

A Wheat Ridge Police Department badge is shown at an angle, featuring a central seal with a mountain and wheat, surrounded by the words 'POLICE OFFICER' and 'WHEAT RIDGE COLORADO'. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

**WHEAT RIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

7500 W. 29th Ave.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

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[@WheatRidgePD](https://twitter.com/WheatRidgePD)

A Letter from Chief Chris Murtha



The evolution of relationship-based policing in our community is not simply the newest trend, but rather it is the preferred policing approach that departments across the country should employ and review regularly to determine if the philosophy meets the needs of the community. For the last 30 years, law enforcement has gravitated towards community-oriented policing. While this type of policing represents a leap forward in how we relate to our community, it has not solved all the issues between police and the communities we serve. Events that have transpired throughout the U.S. over the last few years, especially the outrage we witnessed in the summer of 2020, illustrate that we need to do better. The question is how. We believe the answer is not just to partner with our community, but to become a part of our community and to build better and more meaningful relationships by getting out of our cars and removing any barriers that exist.

As a result of Colorado Senate Bill 217, WRPD took a hard look at policies and training practices and focused specifically on use-of-force training and the practice of using body worn cameras. Historically, WRPD had already employed a use-of-force continuum that is aligned with restrictions spelled out in

the new legislation, regularly committed extensive resources to training, documented extremely low levels of use-of-force, and for decades did not train or allow the use of choke holds. In 2018, in advance of the legislation, WRPD deployed body worn cameras and comprehensive training for this tool to all sworn police personnel, as well as the civilian Community Services Team. We also began tracking our interactions to document name, age, and ethnicity to identify and address the possibility of any existing bias in our policing.

In recognition of a need to evolve, our department is moving to relationship-based policing in 2021. This progressive approach allows our department to build upon the core ideas presented by the Father of modern policing Sir Robert Peel II, as well as the success we've had with community policing. Collaborating with the community, we will build relationships and create an environment of trust – with a specific focus on diversity and inclusion. Relationship-based policing requires a commitment by our department to improve the overall well-being of the community by training our personnel to develop one-on-one relationships through interaction and conversation.

As I begin my second year as the Chief of the Wheat Ridge Police Department, my focus will be to ask the community how they define the success of this new approach and share thoughts about how we can continue to create relationships with everyone in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Murtha".



SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Wheat Ridge Police Department (WRPD) and law enforcement agencies across Colorado came under intense scrutiny in 2020 which resulted in the passage of Senate Bill 20-217. WRPD reviewed its policies and training practices to adjust any not already aligned with the legislation and community expectations. WRPD was already implementing a use-of-force continuum as detailed in the new legislation, had a focus on comprehensive training, and the department could document low levels of use-of-force. In addition, WRPD had not allowed the use of choke holds for decades. In 2018, WRPD all sworn police personnel, as well as the Community Services Team were issued Body Worn Cameras and were trained in their use. During interactions name, age, and ethnicity began being collected to identify and address any existing bias in policing. The department also focused resources on creating opportunities to increase awareness and understanding around the issues of race and inclusion. The President of the Aurora Chapter of the NAACP, Omar Montgomery, met with WRPD leadership in a conversation about relationships between the police and minorities, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training was held for all City staff and police department personnel.

WRPD's Community Advisory Group hosted a meeting about community policing, and discussed its use of force policy, body worn cameras in use since 2018, and its robust, comprehensive training schedule. In the fall, an application process was launched seeking new members for the group to increase representation of diverse perspectives.

By working with the community WRPD will continue to make strides toward ensuring a bright and safe future for everyone.

The process of creating a more inclusive city demands the continued collaboration of members of the community, local businesses, civic leaders, the new Race and Equity Task Force, the WRPD Community Advisory Group, City Council, Wheat Ridge City staff, and the sworn and professional personnel of the Wheat Ridge Police Department. By working with the community, WRPD will continue to make great strides toward ensuring a bright and safe future for everyone, regardless of ethnicity, country of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, or ability.



HOMELESSNESS

A TEAM APPROACH

Across the country, communities are facing the challenge of an increasing number of people experiencing homelessness. While many believe the police have primary responsibility for responding to complaints about camping, trash and panhandling, managing all of the impacts of homelessness is a shared community responsibility and can't be addressed with just one approach.

The comprehensive approach taken by the City of Wheat Ridge to address homelessness includes the Wheat Ridge Police Department, Public Works, the Community Services Team, staff from Parks, Forestry and Open Space as well as a collaboration with local and regional agencies.

Wheat Ridge Patrol Officers serve an important role when responding to calls for those experiencing homelessness. Patrols are conducted during each shift in areas often frequented by those experiencing homelessness, and officers provide referrals for mental health services, housing, food banks, and job placement services. The department's Community Services Team will also assist with proactive patrols throughout Wheat Ridge, monitoring city-owned and maintained properties, and along with Public Works, respond to calls about graffiti and trash, including residential/business and vacant lots.

BUSINESS RESPONSE PROGRAM

A new collaboration with businesses, led by WRPD's Crime Prevention Team, was introduced in the fall to help deter loitering and trespassing on private property. Education is provided to businesses about deterrents including lighting, landscaping, trash clean up, and signage.

HOMELESS NAVIGATOR

In 2020, Rebekah Raudabaugh was hired as the Homeless Navigator for Jefferson County serving the cities of Wheat Ridge, Edgewater, and Golden. Raudabaugh responds to inquiries and works with individuals experiencing homelessness to create goals and a plan of action/strategy to exit homelessness, as well as facilitate and support efforts to obtain resources and services.

While solutions to this complex issue aren't simple, they also don't rest solely in the hands of one department, agency, or one organization. This is a shared community responsibility, and the most effective response is one in which municipalities, police departments, social service agencies, businesses, and community members work together.

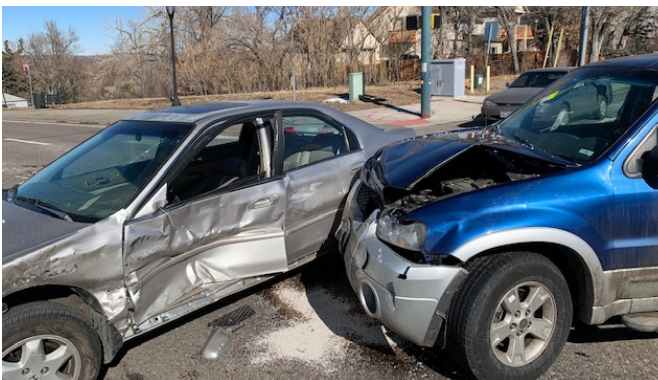
PATROL OPERATIONS DIVISION

CRASH & TRAFFIC TEAM



The Patrol Operations Division led by a Division Chief and two Commanders, employs 64 sworn officers who patrol the City of Wheat Ridge during three shifts covering 24/7. The total number of Calls for Service in 2020 was 37,589 and included response to crash and traffic issues, reports of domestic violence and child abuse, robbery and attempted robbery, code enforcement, animal concerns, issues at area schools as well as other crimes. Calls for Service also include activations of the West Metro SWAT Team and response to assist local agencies including Arvada Fire, West Metro Fire, and the Lakewood and Arvada Police Departments.

The Patrol Division during COVID-19 operated very differently than in previous years. In an effort to minimize exposure, protect officers, and keep the public safe from the virus, calls for service were handled by phone or electronically whenever possible rather than in person, and contacts with vehicles and pedestrians were limited.



This was true in all parts of the country, not just Wheat Ridge. In addition, jail admissions were restricted due to the pandemic and county budgetary impacts. Arrest warrants were not executed, and many people who committed crimes were issued summonses to appear in court rather than taken to jail. Because of these arrest limitations, many violators remained in the area and continued to commit crimes since officers had a limited ability to hold them accountable.

Crash and Traffic Team (CATT)

This was a very busy year for the Crash and Traffic Team (CATT) highlighted by 14 significant traffic crashes including six fatalities. CATT members were reassigned to patrol from March through May due to changes in the department's proactive enforcement and to bolster staffing in Patrol. CATT also conducted two Neighborhood Traffic Management Programs (NTMP) in specific neighborhoods. Directed enforcement was conducted and the city's Traffic Engineering will be installing speed calming measures in these areas. CATT also conducted two commercial vehicle enforcement days with Port Authority from the Colorado State Patrol.

PATROL OPERATIONS DIVISION CRIME PREVENTION TEAM

Crime Prevention Team

The Crime Prevention Team is responsible for building relationships with community members, local businesses, service clubs, schools, faith-based organizations, and other government agencies. The team is also responsible for the development of programs to deter crime and disorder, enhance public safety, and implement the department's Traffic, Life Quality, and Crime Prevention philosophy. All events and programs usually attended by the Crime Prevention Team were cancelled statewide due the pandemic. However, the Crime Prevention Team continued to work with businesses and residents online and by phone in order to provide ongoing support and information regarding safety.



The Crime Prevention Team includes two School Resource Officers (SROs) for 17 schools located in Wheat Ridge. During COVID, SROs adjusted their work schedules to meet with students and staff via video conference. Routinely, SROs introduce students to law enforcement and are available to teach classes at the request of their assigned schools. In addition to providing support for students, parents and school staff, the SROs work closely with school administration to assist with anti-

bullying and school safety protocols. They collaborate with mental health organizations, Children's Hospital, Jefferson County Juvenile Assessment Center, the District Attorney's Office, Jefferson County R-1 Security, and the Jefferson County School District. Building that initial positive bond with law enforcement can lay groundwork for future relationships that as adults, are based on a greater understanding for the value of relationship-based policing.

WRPD Cadets

Explorer Scouts range in age from 14-20 and have an interest in a career in law enforcement. The program was renamed WRPD Cadets in 2020, and offers teens the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of the daily duties of police officers and detectives. Cadets also support WRPD as trained volunteers. Each year new Cadets attend an academy and can earn ride-along hours with patrol through their volunteer service.



PATROL OPERATIONS DIVISION WEST METRO SWAT & CSO TEAM

West Metro SWAT

The Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) serving the jurisdictions of Wheat Ridge and Lakewood, is a specialized unit maintained to handle incidents beyond routine police operations. West Metro SWAT personnel were utilized 33 times in 2020, including 24 calls involving the full team. SWAT utilizes specialized weapons and training to deal with barricaded suspects and, hostage situations, VIP protection, and high-risk warrants. A significant focus of the SWAT team includes the potential response to terrorist attacks and weapons of mass destruction threats. This highly-trained and specially-equipped team provides the police department with the resources to handle critical incidents that have a high degree of danger. Five specialized vehicles are utilized by the West Metro SWAT. The team maintains membership in the Rocky Mountain Tactical Team Association (RMTTA) and the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) to remain current with best practices and resources.



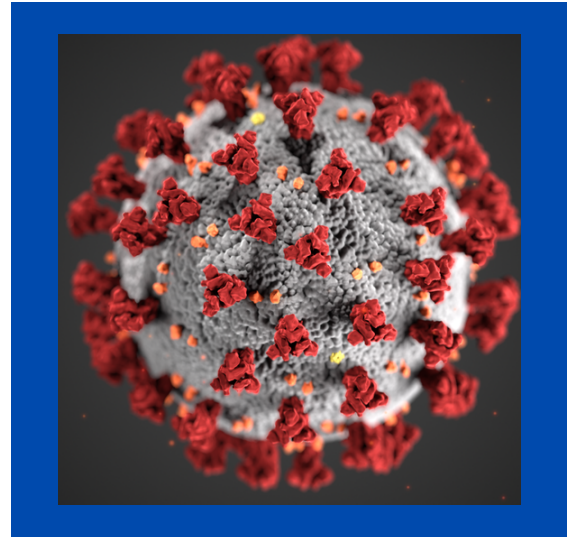
Community Services Team

The Wheat Ridge Community Services Team (CST) is a group of non-sworn Community Services Officers who provide community education, investigation, and enforcement of the Wheat Ridge Code of Laws specific to nuisance code, animal concerns, and parks and greenbelt regulations. CST also provides annual Hotel/Motel Safety Inspections assisting Building Inspectors and Crime Prevention Officers as well as West Metro and Arvada Fire Inspectors. CST also responds to calls about graffiti and clean up efforts in locations impacted by those experiencing homelessness.

Due to the increased risk from the pandemic that began in March of 2020, many programs such as district TLC Neighborhood Clean-Up days; Compass Montessori's Spread the Love event; and Hooked on Fishing were conducted wearing masks and with social distancing.

WRPD RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In March of 2020, the world began realizing the impact of a global pandemic. As Colorado and local agencies responded, Wheat Ridge initiated an Emergency Response Team that included the City Emergency Manager Commander Shellie Salser, Chief Chris Murtha, City Manager Patrick Goff, city directors, and managers of IT, HR, and Communications. Meetings were held daily, then weekly with updates on the virus, details of new state orders and directives, and plans for the days, weeks and months to come. Many city and WRPD services were redesigned and offered online including police record requests, and court fines and fees, and in-person services were limited to "by appointment only." A contractor provided regular disinfecting of WRPD's fleet of vehicles, offices and holding cells. A sergeant was assigned to acquire personal protection equipment including gloves, masks, eye protection, Tyvek coveralls, and sanitizer. Special events, crime prevention programs, and in-person trainings were cancelled or held using videoconferencing in an effort to protect employees from exposure to the virus. A number of procedures were also implemented to further protect frontline police officers and detectives as well as professional staff. The Telephone Reporting Unit began handling those police reports that could be taken over the phone. Daily patrol briefings and other meetings were held virtually, and if held in-person, social distancing with masks was required for safety.

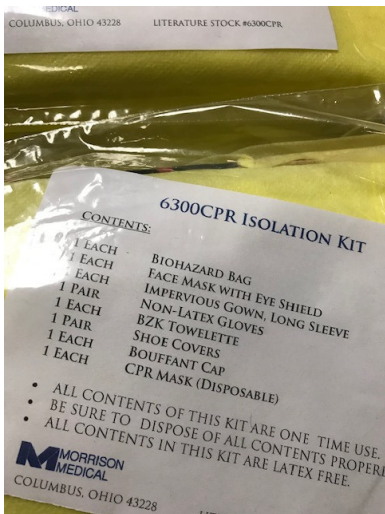


A Webinar series was launched for all personnel and their families titled *Managing in a Crisis* and presenters included psychologist Jaime Brower, family trauma specialist Libbi Palmer, SCL Lutheran physician Kelli Lewis and experts from the fields of personal finance. Communications were also increased to include Emergency Alerts emailed daily and then weekly to the community from the Emergency Manager, City Manager, and the Mayor. Updates were also shared daily on special COVID web pages, and on WRPD and city social media accounts with links to official state and county health information and other resources.

Responding to COVID-19 was an intensive team effort by city leadership and staff while also caring for and responding to the needs of the Wheat Ridge community.

Toward the end of 2020, control of the virus and the distribution of vaccines were providing some sense of optimism that a back to business strategy would be implemented in the spring of 2021.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19



SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU



The Support Services Division is led by a Division Chief and includes the Investigations Bureau which consists of Persons and Property Teams and the Special Investigations Unit; the Evidence and Property Unit; Crime Analysis; the Records Team; and Training and Accreditation. In response to the pandemic, many of the routine operations of the Support Services Division were modified to protect the health and safety of employees and the public while continuing to offer services online or over the phone.

Investigations Bureau

The Investigations Bureau employs one Commander, three Sergeants, 15 Detectives, two Investigations Technicians, and two Property and Evidence Technicians. Serving in a remote capacity at the start of the pandemic, much of the case research and writing was conducted remotely, and personnel reported on alternate days to help employees maintain social distancing.



The Investigations Bureau reviews all felony crimes that occur within the City of Wheat Ridge. In 2020, 1,392 case were assigned to detectives.

The Investigations Bureau is overseen by three Sergeants and includes:

- Property and Evidence Unit, operated by two Evidence Technicians
- Persons Team - Six Detectives
- Property Team - Five Detectives
- The Special Investigations Unit
- Two Investigative Technicians

The Special Investigations Unit includes:

- Two Detectives assigned to the West Metro Drug Task Force (WMDTF)
- One Detective assigned to the CATPA Metro Auto Theft Task Force (C-MATT)
- One Detective assigned to Vice/Intelligence

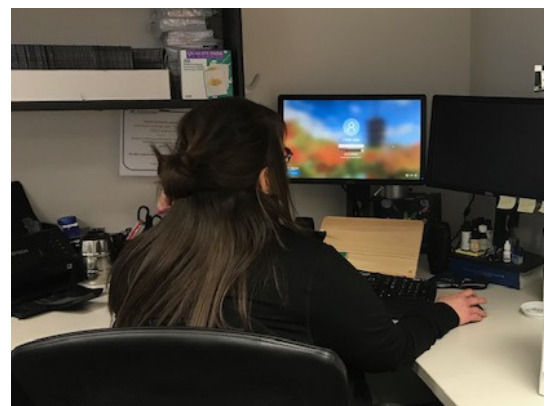
SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION CRIME ANALYSIS & RECORDS

Crime Analysis

One full-time Crime Analyst staffs the Crime Analysis Unit and is responsible for gathering, analyzing, and often presenting data for WRPD bureaus and teams, as well as other law enforcement agencies and organizations. This includes case work, such as the analysis of cell phone communication and location data, social media accounts, financial records, surveillance video, and case connections, as well as suspect research and identification. The analyst also gathers, analyzes, and prepares data and information to assist with WRPD and city programs and planning. In 2020, the Crime Analyst continued to work on ongoing projects, including securing fixed license plate readers (LPRs) for high crime areas, and updating statistics, analysis and presentations for the hotel/motel program, persons experiencing homelessness, crimes and contact reports, and reports on mental health holds, as well as carry-over investigation cases and other projects from the previous year. In 2020, the Crime Analyst continued work on several major cases, including a homicide from January 2019 and others that occurred in 2020, first degree assault, robbery, protection order violation/domestic violence, and theft by conducting analyses and preparing products involving linkages, cell phones, surveillance, GPS tracking, and external reports. The unit also assisted the West Metro Drug Task Force with a large case.

Records Team

The Records Team closed to in-person assistance in the spring and again in the fall due to COVID-19. Records personnel continued to work in the office with a skeleton crew, social distancing and with additional safety measures. Record requests, body worn camera requests, warrants, and backgrounds were all completed within deadlines and the Records team maintained a high level of customer service for the community and department personnel. Records also continued to make strides towards increased efficiency and production. All Records staff are now Master Certified by the Colorado Certified Records Network. The team transitioned to RMS-based NIBRS reporting, providing the most accurate and timely records to the Colorado Bureau of Investigations and the FBI regarding crime in Wheat Ridge. Additionally, the Records team was able to test new online services such as Request-a-Report and the Desk Officer Reporting System to offer a safe, accessible platform for customers.



TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION

fire arms training



The Accreditation and Training Unit is responsible for the development, coordination, and implementation of training throughout the department. This unit's responsibilities include enhancing the existing training program, training coordination, required annual training for sworn and civilian personnel, tracking and documentation, and ensuring compliance with Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This unit provides annual mandatory training in the areas of policy, law and legal updates; search and seizure; services and support to those suffering with disabilities, mental illness and emotional crisis; force application, and response-to-resistance decision making.

From orientation to specialized training, the Accreditation and Training Unit provides opportunities for officers, detectives and staff to learn and develop the skills necessary to provide exceptional law enforcement service to the Wheat Ridge community.



TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION

driver safety training

Accreditation is a key component in any law enforcement agency's ability to perform in the present and plan for the future. This is the foundation for competent, responsible, and ethical service to the public. It also requires the agency to take a thorough, introspective look at its mission, objectives, and operation. In 2011, as part of the commitment to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and provide the community with exceptional police services, WRPD underwent its first CALEA assessment and received accreditation. Since then, WRPD has been recertified in each subsequent review period. Reaccreditation occurs every four years with a review of work completed by police personnel to ensure the department's standard operating procedures, policies, and actions are consistent with CALEA national standards for law enforcement agencies.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION PROPERTY/EVIDENCE & SIU

Property and Evidence

The Property and Evidence Unit is operated by two Evidence Technicians who handled more than 10,700 items of evidentiary value in 2020, a 14% increase from 2019. The Technicians also oversee the registration of sex offenders.

In 2020, 256 individuals registered as sex offenders living in Wheat Ridge, while 47 individuals unregistered with the City. Of those who registered, 110 were annual registrations, 103 were quarterly registrations, and 43 were new registrations.



Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Detectives are assigned to:



- C-MATT - opened 1902 cases in 2020 and conducted 56 operations that lead to 168 arrests for motor vehicle and weapons thefts. There were 331 vehicles stolen in Wheat Ridge and 284 were recovered on average within 19 days.
- The WMDTF - investigated 500 cases in which approximately 185 pounds of controlled substances and 57 firearms were seized. The Task Force also completed one investigation that included undercover electronic surveillance, the dismantling of numerous marijuana growing operations, and the targeting of individuals trafficking methamphetamine, cocaine, and fentanyl.
- Vice/Intelligence worked to pass a new massage ordinance in the City. This required extensive research and citywide collaboration. The ordinance ensures massage businesses are regulated and provide a consistent quality of service to the community.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION MAJOR CASE INVESTIGATIONS

Major Case Investigations

During 2020, the City of Wheat Ridge had two homicides. It is the job of the police to prevent homicides whenever possible but when they do occur, WRPD is committed to ensuring justice for the family. The Wheat Ridge Police Department made arrests in the two homicide cases that occurred in 2020.

On April 12, 2020, two males were at Panorama Park with the intent to engage in a transaction of a stolen gun. Shortly after midnight on April 13th, several people opened fire on the males inside their vehicle while in the park. The driver was struck and killed. The passenger was able to place the car in gear and navigate it away from the scene. The car crashed approximately one block away from the shooting.



One of the suspects was positively identified and arrested with the assistance of the ATF RAVEN Task Force and the Adams County Sheriff's Office. Additional suspects were also identified and arrested, and the case is pending trial.

Another important case this year was one regarded as "scapegoating" which is defined as a family member who takes the blame for family problems. Scapegoats are repeatedly subjected to belittling, humiliation, abandonment, betrayal, and outright hatred by family members, who make them the "bad guy." In October, officers responded to a call and while investigating, officers became curious about a young child at the residence. With a great deal of persistence, and good investigative techniques, officers were able to identify that the young boy was in trouble. He was being confined to his room most of the day, without a bed or mattress, was made to wear inappropriate clothing, and his room smelled strongly of urine. Family members blamed the child for his lack of personal hygiene and the conditions of the room. Officers and detectives were able to convince local agencies of the seriousness of this case. It was eventually learned that this was a classic case of scapegoating. Through the work of caring officers, the young boy was removed from the home. Over the holidays, officers delivered toys to the child in his new placement as part of WRPD's Operation Blue Santa.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

Professional Standards Unit

The primary duty of the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) Sergeant is to ensure the integrity of the Wheat Ridge Police Department. The Professional Standards Unit's areas of responsibility include the development, implementation, and supervision of recruitment, the police department awards and recognition program, and internal investigation activities. Recruitment was not active in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Pursuits

Police officers are instructed to be cautious when engaging in police pursuits in order to minimize danger to innocent bystanders. The WRPD pursuit guidelines state that each officer possesses the authority and responsibility to initiate a vehicular pursuit. The decision to initiate a pursuit is based on the officer's judgement that it is a) within policy and, b) that the possible dangers and risk are less than the immediate or potential danger to the public if the offender remains at large. In 2020, there were a total of 46 incidents of eluding, and in the case of the one pursuit that was determined to be warranted, there were no injuries to those involved or members of the public.

Use of Force (Response to Resistance)

The WRPD's Use of Force reports for 2020 were analyzed to identify trends, improve training and employee safety, and provide information for the agency. The PSU received 22 reported Use of Force incidents in 2020. All reports were investigated and the final review supports the statement that officers consistently make every effort to use the least amount of force necessary to affect arrests. This statement could be made since the majority of Use of Force incidents were for Control and Compliance techniques. In 2020, WRPD's Use of Force policy 5.01 was updated and retitled to Response to Resistance. All employees were trained on the new policy.

Complaints and Commendations

PSU received and investigated 28 complaints in 2020. Of those, three were classified as Major investigations, 14 as Minor, five Administrative, and six Inquiries. Seven were Sustained resulting in disciplinary action.



2020 AWARDS CEREMONY

The Wheat Ridge Police Department Annual Awards for 2020 recognized the outstanding efforts of officers, detectives, staff, partner agencies, and community members to make the community a better place to live, and to help make the WRPD a better place to work.

Chief's Award-Vista Exline, Exec. Dir. of VOI

The Wheat Ridge Police Department and the Wheat Ridge community have experienced the benefits of Victim Outreach Incorporated (VOI) for more than three decades. Under the leadership of Vista Exline, VOI has become a cornerstone of service to Wheat Ridge and many other communities. Exline's inclusive and cooperative leadership style has positively impacted the community as well as the employees of WRPD.

Citizen's Award-Brianna Marko

On May 17, 2020, Brianna Marko found a man who had fallen from his bicycle. Initially he was having difficulty breathing and had a weak pulse, and then his pulse stopped. Marko began CPR until West Metro paramedics arrived and took over life-saving methods. Marko was credited with saving the man's life.

Citizen Award - Kira Blea

On January 13, 2020, Kira Blea was westbound on I-70 at Kipling St. driving a Safety Patrol Vehicle for CDOT when she saw a truck on the side of the road filling with smoke. Blea stopped, helped the driver get out of the truck, and then attempted to put out the quickly growing fire. Due to her swift thinking and decisive action, Blea saved the life of a stranger.



Life-Saving Medal -Officer Stephen Espinosa and Officer Lauryn Kulp and Honorable Mention - Officer Jeremy Bauth (*photo above*)

On August 13, 2020, Officers Stephen Espinosa and Lauryn Kulp responded to the scene of a possible drug overdose accompanied by Field Trainee Officer Jeremy Bauth. Officers found a woman who was unresponsive. They administered Narcan and performed CPR until paramedics arrived. A short time later, the woman regained consciousness. Officers learned that just a few days after giving birth the woman had extensive dental work and was prescribed medication to which she had a nearly fatal reaction. Officers' quick actions saved her life.

Excellence in Service Award- Firefighter Joe Hemelt, Arvada Fire Protection District

Firefighter Joe Hemelt of the Arvada Fire Department was in Lutheran's Emergency Department when he heard the security alarm and was told that a nurse had been knocked unconscious by a patient. Hemelt immediately responded to the Behavioral Health Unit to assist. When he entered the unit, Hemelt was able to restrain the patient and keep patients and nurses safe from any additional injury.

2020 AWARDS CEREMONY

Medal of Commendation - Sgt. John Simpson and Officer Mitch Cotten (*pictured right*)
Certificate of Recognition-Sgt. Betsy Sailor
Detective Sgt. Jason Lima, Cpl. Molly Stark, and Officers Brian Gross, Reyna Johnson, Donovan Reetz, Julia Slade, and Josephine van Veen and Excellence in Service award - West Metro SWAT

On January 11, 2020, police officers and agents from the Wheat Ridge and Lakewood Police Departments were asked to assist Safe Streets detectives in locating a known dangerous and violent offender who was wanted nationwide for armed robbery. That afternoon, the suspect's vehicle was found at the American Motel and Officer Cotten located the suspect's motel room. A perimeter was established to contain the suspect in his room and adjacent rooms were evacuated to ensure the safety of occupants. A Jefferson County Judge issued a search/arrest warrant for the motel room and the suspect. The actions of all the officers, detectives, and leadership provided a safe tactical and medical response, and the patrol resources were crucial for delivering an effective and focused response at the scene. The actions of this highly proficient team saved civilian lives as well as those of fellow officers.

DUI Officer of the Year for 2019 **Officer Lauryn Kulp**

pictured with (left to right)

Commander Salser,
 Division Chief Guadnola,
 Commander Hunt,

former Division Chief Pickett,
 Division Chief Lorentz and Chief Murtha



Medal of Commendation - Detectives Kyle Eversole and Tyson Shaul, and Officer Bri McCarthy and the Excellence in Service Award - Jeffcom 911 Emergency

Communications Specialist Therese Work

On July 29, 2018, Jeffcom 911 ECS Therese Work answered a call during which the caller stated that his girlfriend was dead. Officers responded to the 8700 block of West 46th Ave. and found a woman who was deceased. Based on the information obtained by ECS Work and the evidence found at the scene, the reporting party was arrested, and the scene was secured as a homicide investigation. The detectives and the officer conducted a thorough investigation, and through the criminal proceeding, the suspect was found guilty of 1st Degree Murder and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.



2020 AWARDS CEREMONY



Medal of Commendation - Cpl. Molly Stark
Officers Joseph Mallory, Kendall Rezac,
Roman Samuels, and Jeremy Schmitz
Citizen Award-Brandi and Doug Bertram, and
Michael Watman (*pictured right*)

Life-Saving Medal -Officer Kendall Rezac

Citizen Award - Kelly Kyger and
Chelsea White

Citizen Award - Zachery Crabb

Medal of Commendation
Officer Josephine van Veen
Certificate of Recognition
Officer Matthew McKewen

Medal of Commendation
Officer Roman Samuels

Meritorious Achievement Medal
Commander Shellie Salser
Officers Josephine van Veen, Kayla Holliday,
and Julia Slade, PIO Sara Spaulding,
Mike Farrell, Building Maintenance
Certificates of Recognition
Officers Cody Mitchell, Mitch Cotten and
Rachel Miller

IT Supervisor Michael Steinke and
IT staff Chad Baker, Kent Kudebeh, Jonathan
Allen, and Wil Smith
Bruce Eddings, Bldg Maintenance

Medal of Commendation
Detective Patrick McDaniel
Excellence in Service Award
Jeffco DA Investigators Russ Boatright and
Bill Jenkins

Certificate of Recognition Award
Corporal Tony Wardell
Officers Marc Fisher, Frank Gonzales,
Cody Jenkins, Daniel Reshew,
Kendall Rezac, and Roman Samuels

Integrity and Courage Challenge Coins
Commander Lucas Hunt, Sgt. Betsy Sailor
Officers Cody Jenkins, Bri McCarthy and
Donovan Reetz

Meritorious Achievement Award
Administrative Assistant Michelle Stodden

Certificate of Recognition
Mike Farrell, Building Maintenance

Letter of Recognition
Sgt. John Simpson Basic SWAT Training

Certificate of Recognition
Sgt Chris Krieger Field Training

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Team

The Communications Team is overseen by the Public Information Officer (PIO) who is responsible for media relations including on-scene interviews, press release creation and distribution, proactive coverage, interview requests, and follow up with reporters and producers. The PIO oversees the Digital Communications Specialist, and the team works in collaboration on content for social media accounts, the city website and implementation of communications strategy.

Information about crime prevention, safety tips, and upcoming special events and community programs are shared on the city website and Channel 8, and social media platforms for WRPD including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, and YouTube. Due to the risk of COVID-19, many city programs were held virtually or canceled in 2020. There was also a significant decrease in engagement this past year on all social media platforms. Breaking news and traffic updates are posted first to Twitter and picked up by mainstream media who monitor city and WRPD accounts to share with their viewers, readers, or listeners.

Pandemic updates and alerts were sent via social and the website, and the team created additional communications in response to the death of George Floyd and Senate Bill 20-217. Additionally, the Communications Team created an awareness campaign focused on dispelling myths about homelessness and how the issue is a shared community responsibility.



Follow Us!



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@wheatridgepolice



@Wheat Ridge Police Department

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Analytics



Likes 11,364
Followers 12,020



Impressions 81.4K
Followers 10.7K



Followers 1,370



Verified
Residents 11,463



http://
WRPD pages on the City website are the 3rd most visited with 14,896 views



Performance for Your Post

4,578 People Reached

275 Reactions, Comments & Shares

166 Like	118 On Post	48 On Shares
64 Love	44 On Post	20 On Shares
1 Haha	0 On Post	1 On Shares
1 Wow	1 On Post	0 On Shares
32 Comments	26 On Post	6 On Shares
11 Shares	11 On Post	0 On Shares

592 Post Clicks

188 Photo Views	0 Link Clicks	404 Other Clicks
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page



Performance for Your Post

1,424 People Reached

17 Reactions, Comments & Shares

11 Like	8 On Post	3 On Shares
1 Love	0 On Post	1 On Shares
2 Comments	2 On Post	0 On Shares
3 Shares	3 On Post	0 On Shares

38 Post Clicks

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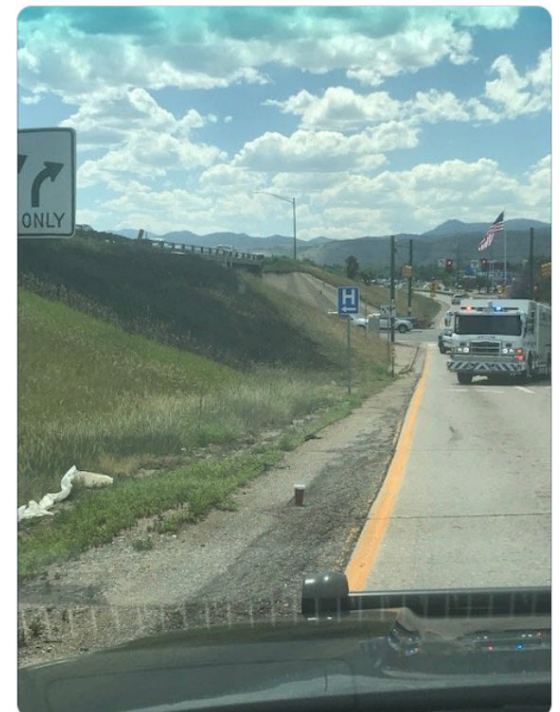
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Small grass fire at I70 WB off ramp at Kipling. WRPD closed the ramp for a bit while @ArvadaFire got things under control. Getting ready to reopen shortly.



3:44 PM - Jul 8, 2020 - TweetDeck

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



*prior to COVID-19

