



POLICE DEPARTMENT



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1923

Visalia—Now



Visalia—1939



ABOUT THE COVERS

Our cover photo offers the community a quick glimpse of the variety of specialty units within the Visalia Police Department. Members of the Department pictured on the cover are assigned to: Special Enforcement Unit (SEU), Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, Patrol, K9 Team, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Unit, Firearms Training Unit, Violent Crimes Unit, Field Training Unit, Traffic Unit, and Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD). Chief Jason Salazar is pictured here as well to represent the Visalia Police Department's "grow your own" approach to recruitment and hiring, giving all an equal opportunity for advancement within the Department.

Chief Salazar began his career with the Visalia Police Department as a Community Service Officer in 1993. Through hard work and dedication, he was later promoted to Police Officer in 1996. Chief Salazar has held the ranks of Police Agent, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain over the course of his career. Chief Salazar has also served in various assignments including Patrol, Violent Crimes Unit, Special Enforcement Unit, and SWAT Team.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

POPULATION: 138,207

The City of Visalia is known as the Heart of the San Joaquin Valley. With beaches and mountains only a drive away, the City draws visitors from metropolitan areas. Visalia's community enjoys the small town feel and high quality of life.



VISALIA CITY MANAGER

Randy Groom



VISALIA CITY COUNCIL

Top Row (L-R): Council Members Brian Poochigian, Greg Collins, and Phil Cox.

Bottom Row (L-R): Mayor Bob Link and Vice-Mayor Steve Nelsen.

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JASON SALAZAR



We are once again honored to serve this great community and grateful for the community support and partnerships that are vital to the provision of public safety services to Visalia. We work closely with other law enforcement agencies, our schools, health providers, mental health providers, community organizations, youth organizations, and citizens to enhance the services we provide and to develop effective strategies to address crime and quality of life issues in Visalia.

This year, the Department continued to focus on addressing the issue of homelessness and partnerships to address mental health calls for service in our community. The Homeless Outreach & Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) Team entered its fourth year of providing focused attention on the issue of homelessness in Visalia. The HOPE Team was expanded from four officers to six officers and one sergeant. The expansion was done in order to enhance the Team's ability to work with various service providers to identify long-term solutions to issues of chronic homelessness through service provisions and enforcement where necessary. As a result of these efforts, we experienced a 9.5% decrease in transient-related calls for service from the previous year. Additionally, we continued to build on our Crisis Intervention Training, provided to our Police Officers and Communications Operators, through our partnership with Tulare County Mental Health. This training provides valuable resources to officers to better enable them to address calls with vulnerable populations, develop de-escalation techniques, and more effectively deal with calls related to mental health crises.

This report also highlights technological developments that enhance the services we provide to our community on a daily basis. The expansion of our Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Unit provides for greater availability of these valuable tools in the field which increases officer safety and patrol operations. This year, the implementation of Axon Citizen, a smartphone app, made it easier for citizens to share photos or video of crimes and incidents with the Department to be used as evidence in investigations. We also introduced Text to 9-1-1 services for Visalia citizens, which provides the ability for citizens to contact our Emergency Communications Center for emergency help via text. This is a valuable service for those who are hearing impaired, but also provides a means for those in dangerous situations to discreetly request emergency help such as domestic violence situations, or in other situations where they are not able to make a phone call.

This year's most notable case is the resolution to a cold case series of sexual assaults that occurred in the City of Visalia between 1999 and 2002. During that period of time, seven random sexual assaults occurred in the city with very specific modus operandi (MOs) and suspect descriptions linking those cases together. DNA evidence was obtained in one of those cases and a suspect profile was developed from analysis of that evidence. This led to the first John Doe arrest warrant issued in Tulare County in 2009 for the DNA profile of the unidentified suspect in those crimes. Through partnerships with the Fresno Police Department and California Department of Justice, DNA genealogy techniques led to the identification of 52 year old Nickey Stane as the suspect in the Visalia sexual assaults as well as connecting him to a sexual assault and homicide that occurred in the City of Fresno in 1996. Stane has been charged with these crimes and awaits prosecution in Fresno County, but these developments are the beginning of justice being provided to these victims for his horrible crimes.

Finally, I am proud of the members of the Visalia Police Department and their dedication to serving the community through professional law enforcement. Visalia is a strong community committed to working together to address issues and needs within our community, and we are proud to be a part of that journey with you. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JS", located below the main text.



MISSION STATEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

Mission Statement - The City of Visalia Police Department has been established to preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect and arrest violators of the law, protect life and property, and enforce criminal laws of the State of California and Ordinances of the City of Visalia.

Organizational Values - The Visalia Police Department has a recognized set of values that operate within the organization. We see these not as the dictate of one individual group, but as a set of shared common beliefs; these shared values provide a common cause for all employees in the organization.

Integrity - Professionalism requires impeccable honesty, integrity, and respect. As a practical matter, ethical conduct cannot be assured by written policies, codes, or oaths. It must be an integral part of the organization, a deeply ingrained tradition that assures citizens that questionable practices do not exist.

Service - Quality delivery of service is both a personal and organizational commitment. The Department will make every effort to deliver professional quality service to its citizens as it deals with problems of crime and public safety. We are committed to working toward improving the quality of life for our families and our community.

Fiscal Responsibility - The City of Visalia Police Department is dedicated to managing its resources in a careful and efficient manner so that there is maximum return from each dollar spent.

Our People - The City of Visalia Police Department must strive to attract and maintain high quality personnel capable of working in the highly complex area of law enforcement. Our organization wants employees to enjoy their work and to be proud of their achievements. We are proud of the people we have in our organization, their performance, and their dedication to their jobs. Success within the organization depends upon relationships based on dignity, mutual respect, support, and accountability among all individuals.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address
303 S. Johnson St.
Visalia, CA 93291

Records Unit
559-713-4222

Emergency Assistance
9-1-1

Anonymous Tips
559-713-4738

Online Reporting
www.visalia.city/vpd

Non-Emergency Assistance
559-734-8116
559-734-8117

Duty Officer Desk
559-713-4257

Photo Credits
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DK Photography
Former VPD Explorer

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Administrative Assistant
Office of the Chief of Police

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE AND PART 1 CRIMES



2019
Total Calls for Service
(Excluding 9-1-1)
160,465



Police
135,682



Fire
16,497



Animal Control
8,286



9-1-1
73,705

| Part 1 Category: | 2018 | 2019 | Diff. |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Homicide | 3 | 5 | 67% |
| Rape | 107 | 111 | 4% |
| Robbery | 138 | 159 | 15% |
| Assault | 1,294 | 1,587 | 23% |
| Burglary | 748 | 747 | 0% |
| Larceny-Theft | 2,701 | 2,627 | -3% |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 529 | 526 | -1% |
| TOTAL PART 1 CRIMES | 5,520 | 5,762 | 4% |
| Arrests: | 2018 | 2019 | Diff. |
| Adult Arrests | 6,588 | 7,511 | 14% |
| Juvenile Arrests | 280 | 339 | 21% |
| TOTAL ARRESTS | 6,868 | 7,850 | 14% |



OATH OF OFFICE

“I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.”



INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR TEAM?

Visit: www.visalia.city/joinvpd

COMMAND STAFF

Command Staff is responsible for the overall management and leadership of the organization, working with staff, the Chief of Police, the City organization, and the community to develop both short and long term public safety strategies and partnerships that ensure for efficient and effective operations.

OPERATIONS



BRIAN WINTER
CAPTAIN



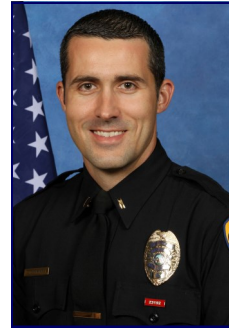
OSVALDO DOMINGUEZ
LIEUTENANT

**SPECIAL
ENFORCEMENT**



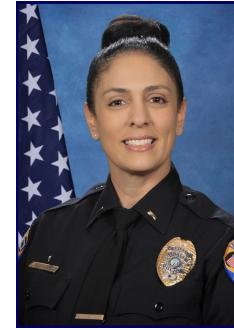
RON EPP
LIEUTENANT

**NIGHT WATCH
COMMANDER**



ANDREW SWARTHOUT
LIEUTENANT

**NIGHT WATCH
COMMANDER**



LUMA FAHOUM
LIEUTENANT

**DISTRICT 1
COMMANDER**



KEVIN KROEZE
LIEUTENANT

**DISTRICT 2
COMMANDER**

OPERATIONS SUPPORT

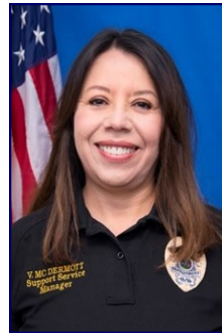


CANDIDO ALVAREZ
CAPTAIN



BRENT ABBOTT
LIEUTENANT

INVESTIGATIONS



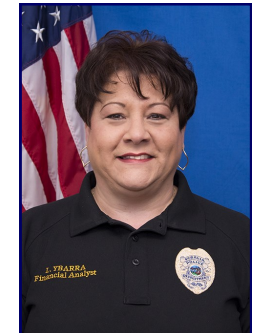
VERONICA MCDERMOTT
SUPPORT SERVICES
MANAGER

SUPPORT SERVICES



JAMES ANDREWS
LIEUTENANT

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

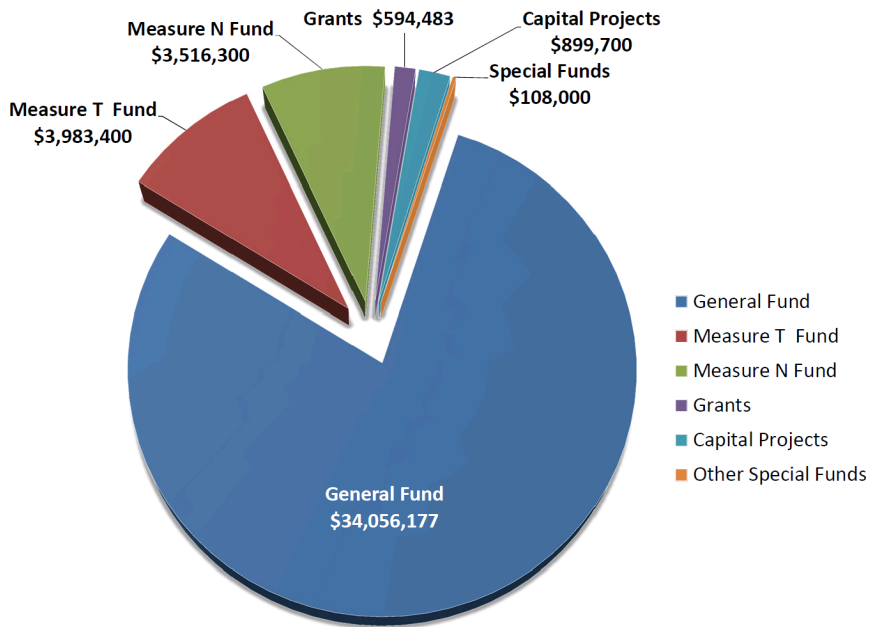


LIZ YBARRA
FINANCIAL ANALYST

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

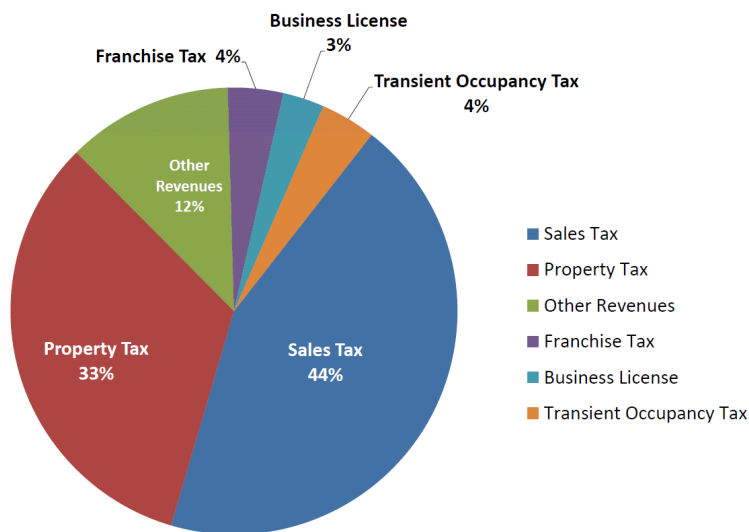
POLICE RESOURCES



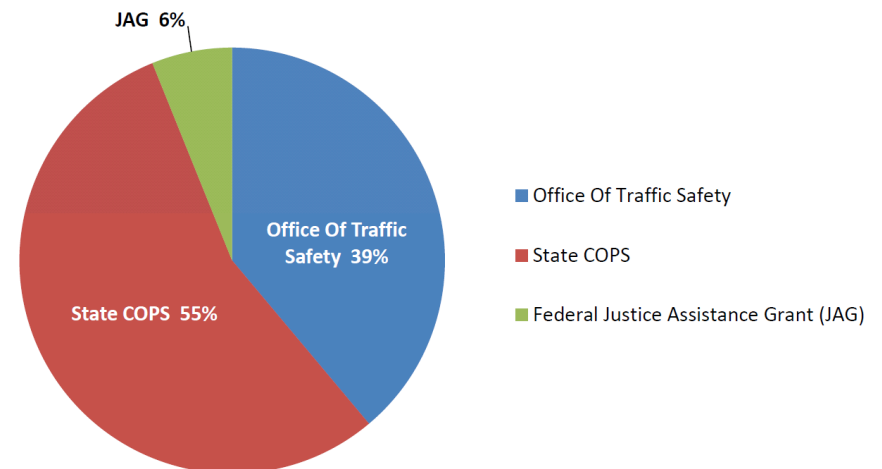
The Financial Operations of the Visalia Police Department are managed by Financial Analyst Liz Ybarra, who reports directly to the Chief of Police and is responsible for managing the Operating Budget, Capital Projects, and Grants. As the liaison between the Police and Finance Department, she ensures the Department is in compliance with all financial operating policies, procedures, and facilitates all Department purchases.

The Police budget represents approximately 42% of the City of Visalia’s General Fund. The General Fund is primarily funded from general tax revenues such as sales tax, transient occupancy tax, and property taxes. Taxes pay for services that have a general fund benefit to the community, such as public safety, recreation services, parks, and development services. The City’s General Fund Revenue for FY 2019-20 was \$71.8 million.

SOURCES OF GENERAL FUND REVENUES FY 2019-20



GRANTS FY 2019-20



OPERATIONS DIVISION



Captain Brian Winter



The Operations Division is led by Captain Brian Winter and consists of two bureaus; the Patrol Bureau and Special Enforcement Bureau. The Patrol Bureau is comprised of various units including the K9 Team, Commercial Policing Unit, Homeless Outreach & Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) Team, Traffic Unit, Honor Guard Unit, and Volunteers In Police Services (VIPS), to name a few. The Special Enforcement Bureau is comprised of the Special Enforcement Unit, Narcotics Unit, and the Tulare County Agencies Regional Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET) Task Force.

COMMERCIAL POLICING UNIT

The Commercial Policing Unit plays a vital role in the safety and success of our two main commercial districts. The Mooney Boulevard commercial district is the largest and busiest, currently policed by two officers. They are responsible for the area of Mooney Boulevard from Noble Avenue to Visalia Parkway. The downtown commercial district is monitored by one officer and covers Giddings Street to Santa Fe Street and Murray Avenue to Mineral King Avenue.

Commercial Policing is a highly proactive unit which helps reduce the calls for service that normally would have been handled by Patrol Officers. Businesses in the community can contact these officers directly, resulting in more efficient responses and comprehensive resolutions.

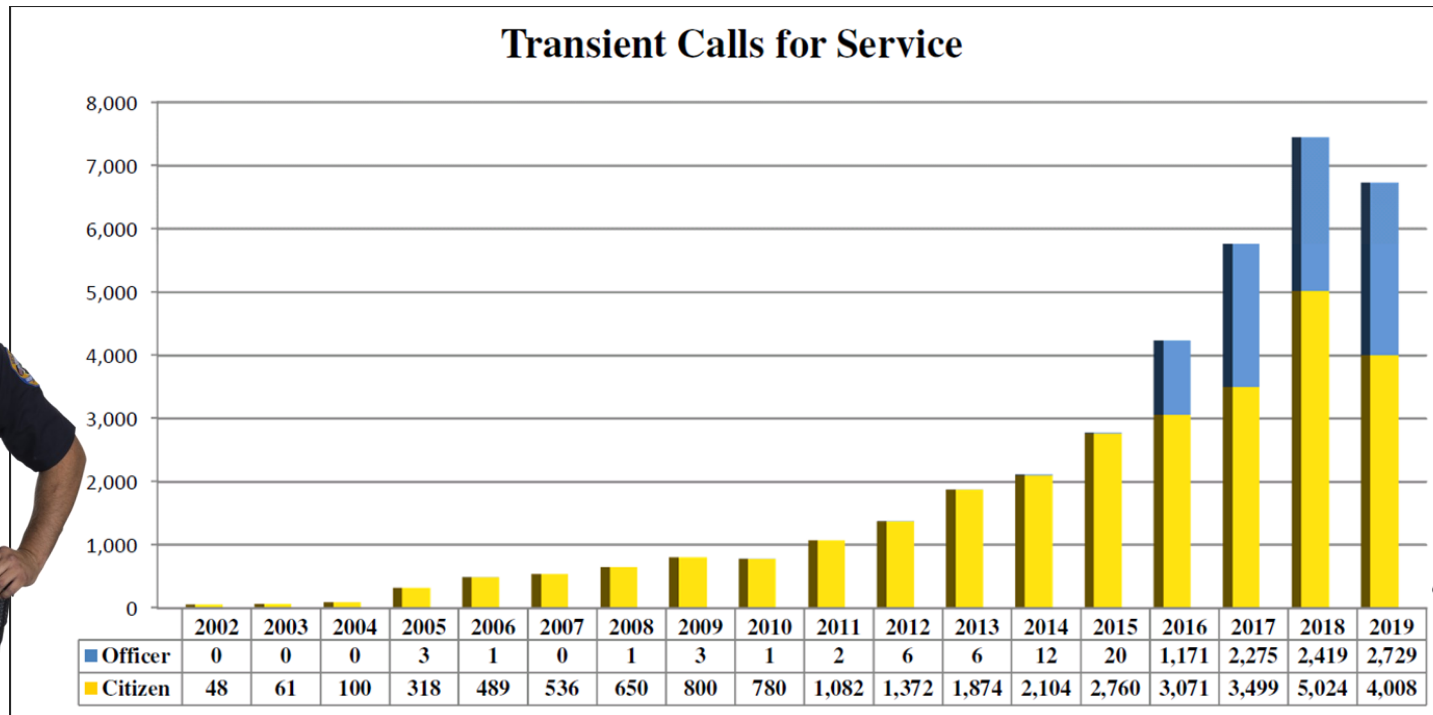


HOMELESS OUTREACH & PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT (HOPE) TEAM

The homeless issue has been and continues to be one of the most prevalent and challenging issues affecting cities across California, including Visalia. The Homeless Outreach & Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) Team respond to homeless-related calls for service and become experts on the process of getting homeless individuals necessary services. HOPE Officers partner with a Mental Health Clinician, from Tulare County Mental Health, weekly to provide immediate services to clients currently in crisis. HOPE Officers attend monthly meetings with community partners, City of Visalia personnel, and local businesses, as needed, to hear and address city-wide concerns about the homeless population.

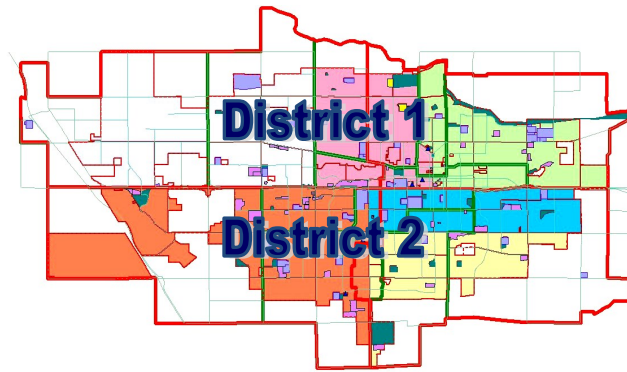
The HOPE Team has been instrumental in updating and passing municipal codes to address the challenges in city-owned parks. The HOPE Team receives constant training with regards to new laws, federal court rulings, and proper procedures that are affected by these court rulings. In August of 2019, the HOPE Team expanded from four to six officers, allowing the Team to handle 50% of the transient-related calls for service and lessening the burden on Patrol. The additional officers have provided a much-needed resource to increase the proactive aspect of this team. The HOPE Team addresses camps within the city limits and utilizes community partners in an effort to keep Visalia clean, while still continuing to offer services and avenues to help the homeless transition to a better quality of life than what they are currently experiencing.

Transient Calls for Service



PATROL BUREAU

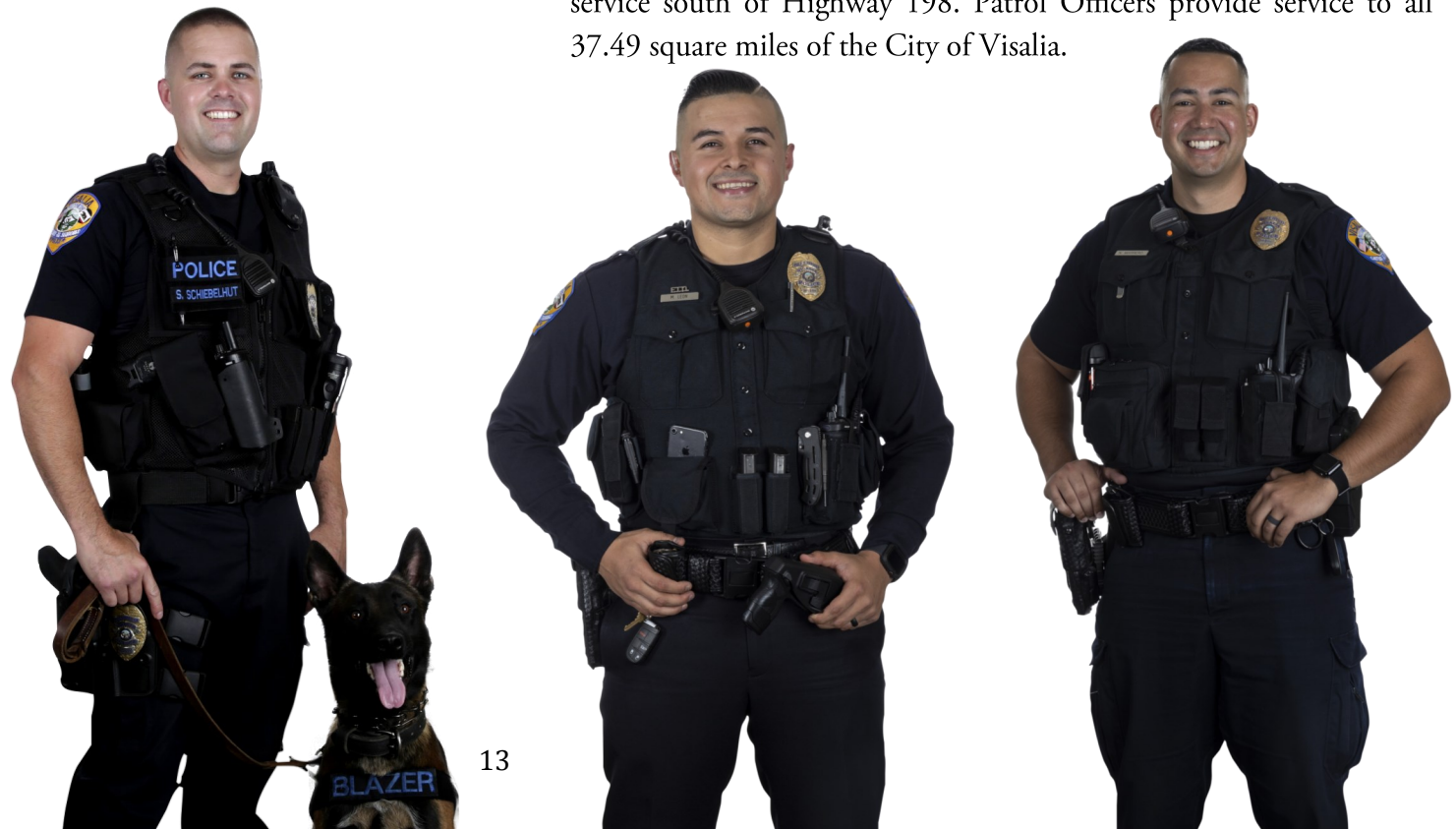
PATROL



Members of the Visalia Police Department's Patrol Bureau recognize the most important product they offer is high quality service. Officers continually strive for excellence, performing their duties with competence and compassion.

The Patrol Bureau serves as the foundation of all police services. There are currently 81 police officer positions allocated to Patrol, including six K9 Officers, ten Sergeants, two Agents, and five Community Service Officers.

The Patrol Bureau currently operates out of two substations. The District 1 Substation, overseen by Lieutenant Luma Fahoum, monitors calls for service north of Highway 198. The District 2 Substation, overseen by Lieutenant Kevin Kroeze, monitors calls for service south of Highway 198. Patrol Officers provide service to all 37.49 square miles of the City of Visalia.

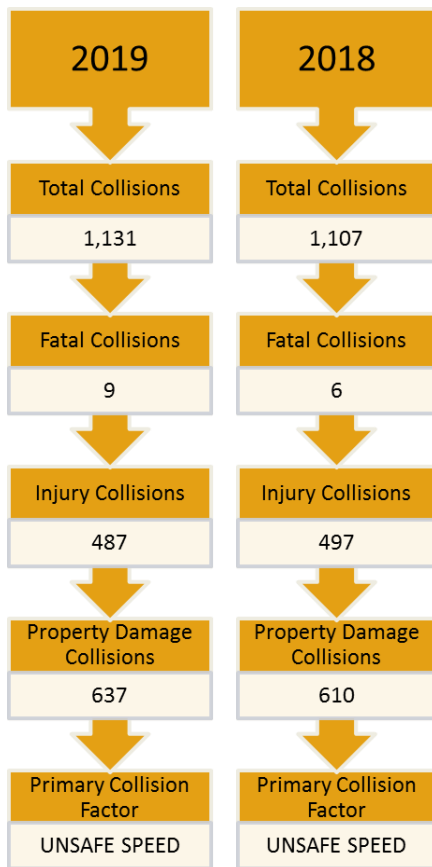


TRAFFIC UNIT

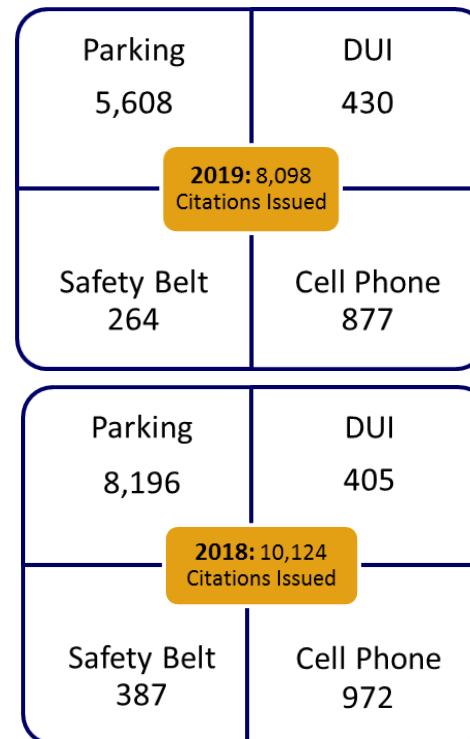
The Traffic Unit is committed to the safety of the motoring, pedestrian and bicycling public. The Unit's mission is to enforce the California Vehicle Code and educate the public in an effort to reduce collisions and prevent fatalities. This year, the Traffic Unit partnered with the Office of Traffic Safety on several grant-funded details aimed at fulfilling the mission of enforcement and education. The Traffic Unit also partnered with the Central Division of the California Highway Patrol regarding illegal street racing within Tulare County.

In 2019, the Traffic Unit developed a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)-Certified training course for driving under the influence (DUI) investigations for all new officers within the Visalia Police Department. This course is also available to outside agencies and provides advanced training in DUI recognition to equip more officers with the expertise to recognize impaired drivers and reduce DUI violations.

Collision Comparison



Citation Comparison

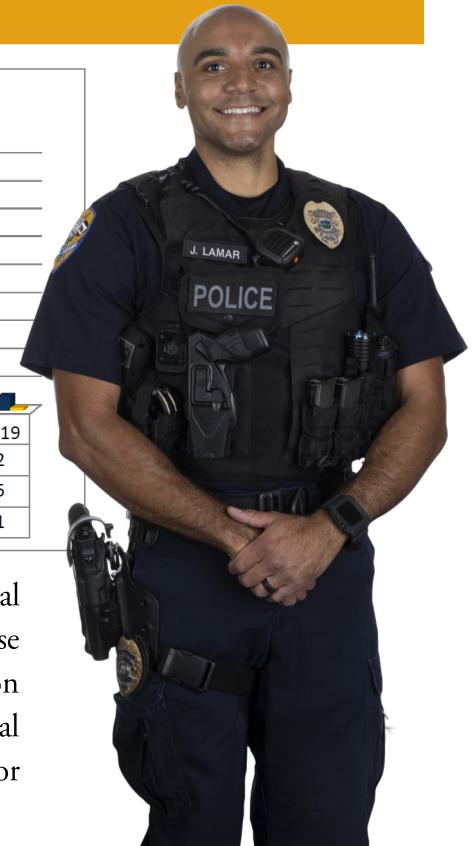
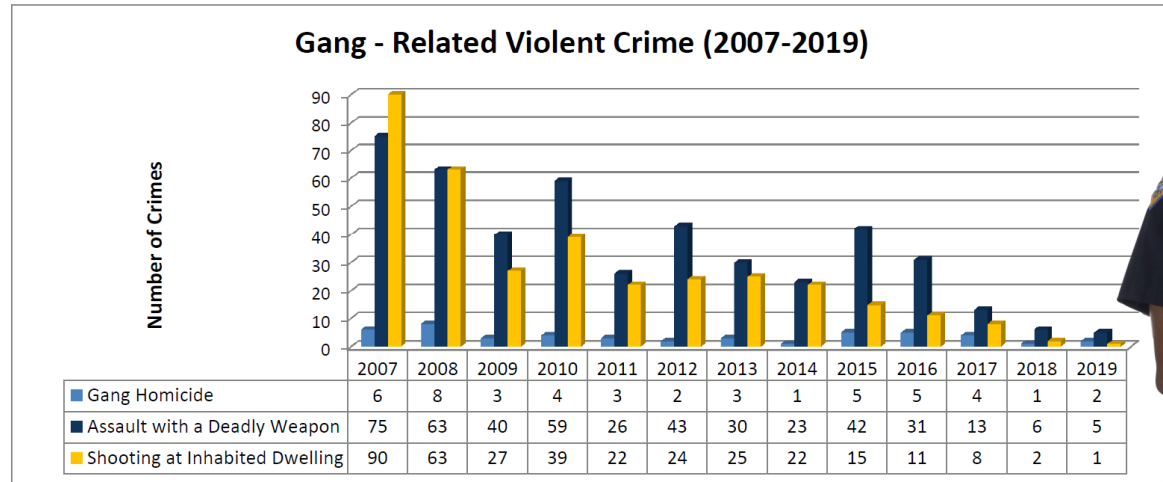


*Total citations issued also include parking citations.



SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT



The mission of the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) is the disruption of criminal activity, including violent street gangs and how they support their gang activities. These activities include the manufacture, transportation, sale and use of illicit drugs, possession and sales of firearms, and human trafficking within the City of Visalia. The Special Enforcement Unit is also responsible for addressing any criminal behavior or investigations that are deemed necessary by the Visalia Police Department.

NARCOTICS UNIT

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Arrests 102 | Methamphetamine Seized 7.5 lbs. | Heroin Seized 18 g. |
| Cocaine Seized 4.8 lbs. | Marijuana Seized 252 lbs. | Firearms Seized 28 |

The mission of the Narcotics Unit is to investigate, identify, apprehend and assist in the successful prosecution of persons involved in narcotics-related crimes. These offenders are often involved in manufacturing, distributing, and sales of illegal narcotics and other dangerous drugs within the City of Visalia. The Unit's goal is to improve the quality of life for all members of the community by impacting the incidence of drug-related crimes through strict enforcement and prosecution.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Visalia Police Department supports strong enforcement of human trafficking laws by assigning two officers to work closely with the Tulare County Human Trafficking Task Force. The officers are members of the Special Enforcement Unit and perform a variety of investigative and enforcement activities to help eliminate human trafficking within the City of Visalia.

In 2019, the officers assigned to Human Trafficking completed 16 hours of training and conducted 18 human trafficking-related details in conjunction with the Tulare County Sheriff's Office and the Tulare County District Attorney's Office. The details resulted in initiating 12 investigations, 14 business inspections, four case submissions to the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, and 15 human trafficking related arrests.



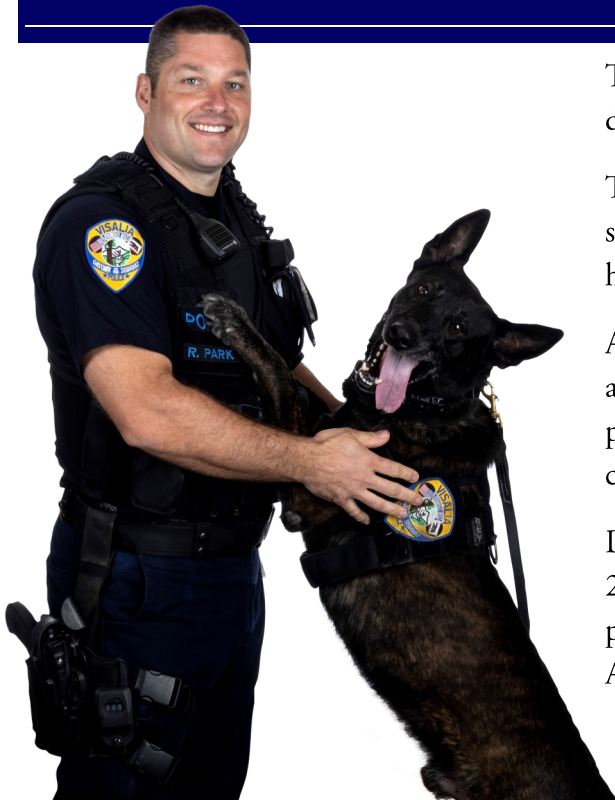
K9 TEAM

The K9 Team works alongside patrol officers to respond to calls for service with a focus on intervening during in-progress crimes.

These highly trained teams are capable of searching large areas to locate hidden suspects, conduct article searches, and search for missing persons. The K9 Team has one detective whose sole training, along with his K9 partner, is centered around the detection of narcotics.

Aside from public safety activity, the K9 Team is active in community outreach events such as Coffee with a Cop, Cocoa with a K9, National Night Out, and Hometown Heroes. The K9 Team also conducts private demonstrations for schools, youth programs, and other organizations. In 2019, the Team conducted 115 demonstrations.

During the Sierra K9 Trials, the Visalia Police Department K9 Team placed 1st in Article and Area Search, 2nd in the Open Division, 4th in Obedience, and 5th in Overall Protection. Members from the Team also participated in the Bakersfield K9 Trials and placed 1st in Building Search, 2nd in Overall Protection, 3rd in Agility, and 5th in Obedience.

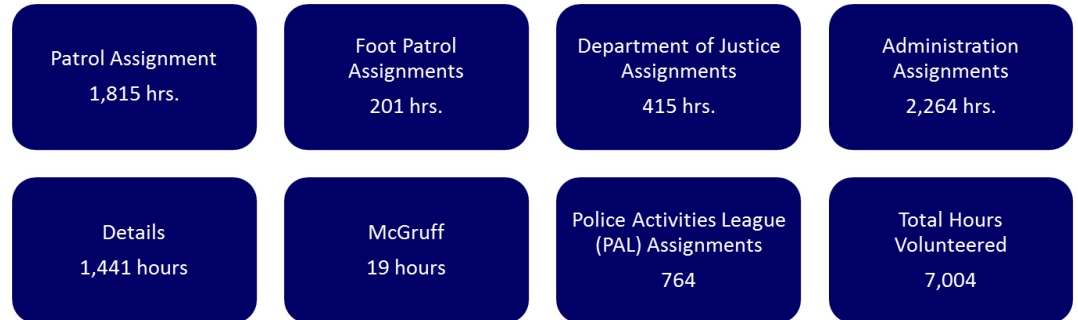


VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICES (VIPS) UNIT



The Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) Unit is used to supplement and support sworn and professional staff. The VIPS Unit is comprised of a group of 38 highly motivated citizens who become volunteers after completing the Visalia Police Department's 10-week Citizens Academy. Volunteers are an important part of the organization, and they have proven to be a valuable asset to the Department by helping increase the Department's responsiveness through delivery of services and information input.

These dedicated VIPS provide the Department crucial support in a variety of areas including, but not limited to: conducting proactive patrols, issuing parking citations, providing assistance at DUI checkpoints, providing traffic control at scenes, searching for missing persons, and participating in a wide variety of community outreach events throughout the year.



EXPLORER POST #32

Visalia Police Department Explorer Post members are Visalia youth, between the ages of 14-20 years old, who have shown interest in the Department and are seeking careers in law enforcement. The goal of the program is to provide these youth with a greater awareness of the law enforcement profession through training, competitions, and mentoring by officers. Most importantly, the program seeks to build character and develop responsible, caring, and successful adults through participation and community engagement. In 2019, members participated in parking details, parades, competitions, Explorer Academy role-playing, and they received a variety of police-related training. A number of past Explorers have gone on to realize successful law enforcement careers.



BODY-WORN CAMERAS (BWC)



Body-Worn Cameras are managed by a Digital Evidence Technician who is responsible for the collection and storage of digital evidence that aids officers and Tulare County District Attorney prosecutors in criminal prosecutions.

In 2019, the Department began the use of Axon Citizen, which is a digital link that can be emailed or text messaged to witnesses of crimes who have captured digital evidence (video, audio, or photographic evidence) on their phones, surveillance systems, or computers. The evidence can then be easily shared with Visalia Police Department detectives and officers. Officers can add the digital evidence to their case, if applicable, and then forward it to the Office of the District Attorney.



The Department also began the use of Axon Capture, which allows staff to create digital evidence (photos, audio and video files), from an assigned iOS device while in the field. The files are then directly uploaded, along with captured BWC footage, onto a digital evidence management system. This integration eliminates the need for staff to carry the multiple devices traditionally needed to obtain such evidence.

A total of 13,812 digital evidence items were sent to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution purposes. Since the implementation of the Body Worn Camera Program, in August of 2018, the Department has amassed nearly 20 terabytes of stored digital evidence data.

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) UNIT

The Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Unit is used in various assignments throughout the Department. Currently, the UAS Unit has members assigned to the Bomb Squad, HOPE Team, SWAT Team and Patrol. The use of unmanned aerial systems enhances search capabilities and improves officer safety. Searching for fleeing suspects and missing persons are the most common uses for the air units. The Unit is equipped to conduct night-time searches with forward-looking infrared (FLIR) capabilities and a high-intensity spotlight. The UAS Unit also conducts demonstrations for schools, youth programs and local events such as National Night Out and Hometown Heroes.

Pilots
7

Missions
65



ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Staff, family, and friends gathered to honor and congratulate recipients at the Visalia Police Department's Second Annual Awards Ceremony. A total of 18 awards were handed out during the event. Categories & recipients included: Volunteers of the Year – Brenda Sanchez & Mike Wagner; Professional Staff Employee of the Year – Kris Lara; Records Employee of the Year – Jeannette Fenley; Communications Operator of the Year – Dominique McKenzie; Officer of the Year – James Cummings; Watch Commander's Award – Michael Elliott & Vincent Muto; Life Saving Award – Sean O'Rafferty, Arturo Alvarez, Jacob Sorensen & Randy Lentzner; Medal of Merit Award – Christopher Balderas, Jonathan Lamar, Arturo Alvarez, & Brooke Wright; Medal of Valor Award – Robert Avalos & Robert Meier.



CHAPLAIN KENT MISHLER



CHIEF JASON SALAZAR



VICE MAYOR STEVE NELSEN





PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

In November of 2019, Chief Jason Salazar held a Promotional Ceremony to recognize 10 promotions. These promotions included a Captain, two Lieutenants, five Sergeants, and two Agents. This is the largest set of promotions to take place in the Department since 2007, when 17 staff members were promoted as a result of the expansion to the District Substations.

CAPTAIN
Candido Alvarez



LIEUTENANTS
Andrew Swarthout and Kevin Kroeze



SERGEANTS
**Jared Hughes, Sean O'Rafferty, Nathan Flaws,
Ramona Whaley, and Celestina Sanchez**



AGENTS
Jacob Sorensen and Arturo Alvarez



RETIREMENTS



CAPTAIN
STEVE PHILLIPS
22
YEARS OF SERVICE



SERGEANT
STEVE SCOFIELD
36
YEARS OF SERVICE



OFFICER
ROBERT ZIEG
30
YEARS OF SERVICE



OFFICER
DOMINIC MENA
24
YEARS OF SERVICE



OFFICER
BILL BROKHOFF
20
YEARS OF SERVICE

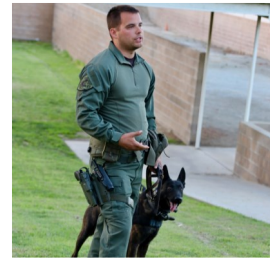
We acknowledge the contributions Captain Steve Phillips, Sergeant Steve Scofield, Officer Robert Zieg, Officer Dominic Mena, and Officer Bill Brokhoff made to the Visalia Police Department, the public, and the community as a whole. We wish them the very best in their retirement and thank them for their years of service and commitment to the City of Visalia and the law enforcement profession.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Visalia Police Department accepts applications for its Citizens Police Academy on an ongoing basis. The 10-week Citizens Police Academy takes place once per year, beginning the first Thursday in March of each year.

The Citizens Police Academy is a pre-requisite for becoming a Volunteer in Police Services (VIPS). The Citizens Police Academy allows potential volunteers to become acquainted with the inner workings of the Visalia Police Department, while being trained to assist in non-hazardous duties. The Academy is highlighted with a Demo Day where members of the K9 Team, SWAT Team, and Bomb Squad conduct demonstrations for the participants.

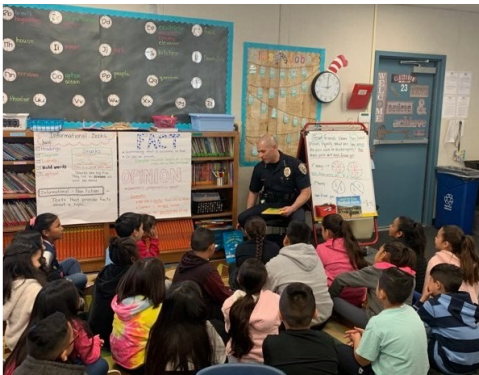
For more information on the Citizens Police Academy visit visalia.city/vpd or contact the Community Outreach Coordinator at 559-713-4370.



READ ACROSS AMERICA

In 2019, the Visalia Police Department was invited to read books to students at various Visalia Unified School District schools for “Read Across America Day.”

Chief Jason Salazar, members of Command and Supervisory Staff, along with Youth Services Officers, enjoyed reading to many attentive and eager students. Through these outreach efforts, officers and school staff help promote the value of reading and learning, particularly for children and young adults.



OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION



Captain Candido Alvarez

The Operations Support Division is led by Captain Candido Alvarez and is comprised of the Investigations Bureau, Support Services Bureau, and the Professional Standards Bureau.

The Investigations Bureau encompasses the Violent Crimes Unit, Property Crimes Unit, Crime Lab, Property & Evidence Unit, Youth Services Unit, and Police Activities League (PAL). The Support Services Bureau consists of the Communications Unit and Crime Analysis Unit. The Professional Standards Bureau consists of Media Relations, Personnel/Training, Recruitment, Internal Affairs, Community Outreach, the Records Unit, and Fleet Services.



PROPERTY CRIMES UNIT

The Property Crimes Unit is responsible for investigating residential and commercial burglaries, vandalisms, vehicle burglaries, all thefts, frauds, embezzlements, and shoplifting.

In 2019, the Property Crimes Unit investigated an incident regarding the sale of counterfeit merchandise. This investigation resulted in the seizure of over \$810,000 in counterfeit products.

Total Cases Investigated

1,040

Average Clearance Rate

50%

Cases Referred to DA

290

Total Arrests Made

137

Search Warrants Served

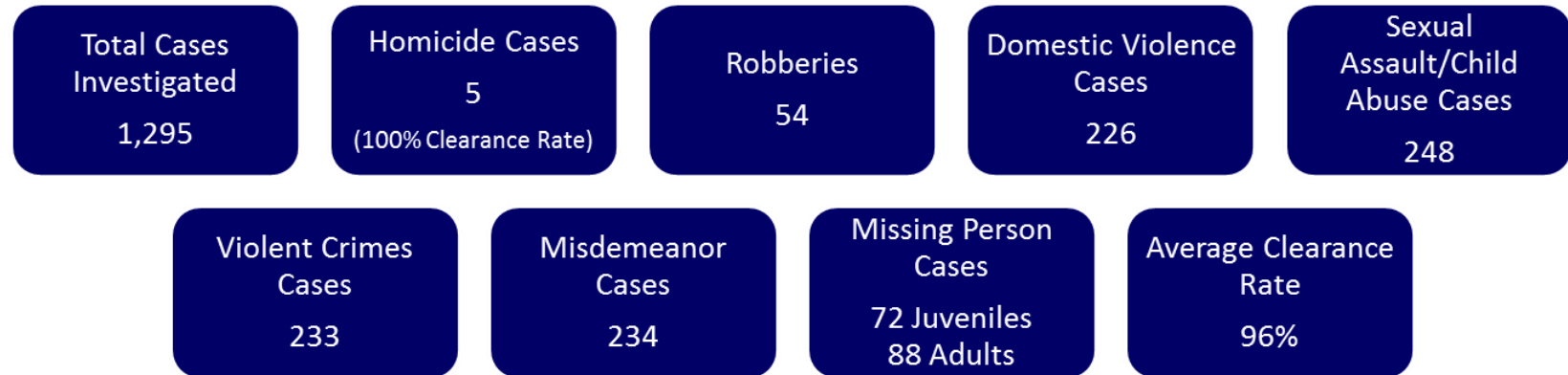
42

Recovered Property/Cash Total Value

\$1,107,055



VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT



The Violent Crimes Unit is responsible for the investigation of crimes of violence, including murder, assaults, domestic violence, sexual assaults, and missing persons investigations.

The Violent Crimes Unit had two major investigations in 2019. The first occurred in April of 2019, when Violent Crimes Detectives were contacted by homicide detectives from the Fresno County Sheriff's Office regarding the location of a body in their jurisdiction linked to a missing person case from the City of Visalia. During this investigation, Visalia detectives learned Alberto Contreras was reported missing from Visalia in 2011. Detectives were able to determine that Buford King was responsible for the death of Alberto Contreras in 2011 and buried his body at a residence in Tulare County. Detectives exhumed the remains and obtained a criminal filing on Buford King for Contreras' murder.

The second major case was the arrest of Nickey Stane who was discovered to be the "Central Valley Predator". This investigation consisted of a series of sexual assault cases that began in 1999 and concluded in 2002 in the City of Visalia. Through the years, a DNA profile of the suspect had been identified with no known identity. With the help of genealogy DNA testing, Nickey Stane was formally identified as the suspect. Stane was arrested and subsequently charged with the sexual assaults. Stane was also connected to a homicide that occurred in the City of Fresno in 1996. He has since been charged with that murder and will face homicide and sexual assault charges in Fresno County.



YOUTH SERVICES UNIT

The role of the Visalia Police Department Youth Services Unit is to provide guidance and police services to students and staff of the Visalia Unified School District, as well as all youth in the City of Visalia through instruction, mentoring, counseling, enforcement, and engagement.

Youth Services Officers provide a highly visible presence at school campuses to reduce criminal activity and provide a safe environment that is conducive to learning. It is the goal of the Youth Services Unit to discharge its responsibilities in a timely, impartial, consistent, and collaborative manner with school staff.



POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE (PAL)



The Police Activities League (PAL) works with youth and operates an after-school program at the Wittman Center. PAL also conducts many community events throughout the year to engage with the local citizens and youth of Visalia.

In 2019, PAL had 156 boxing participants, 312 “drop-in” program participants, and 63 camp participants. The average drop-in rate was 18 daily participants for boxing, 42 for general activities, and 11 for Youth Leadership meetings. In total, PAL held three field trips, two fundraiser events, and three holiday events consisting of the Christmas Tree Lighting, Breakfast with Santa, and Coat Giveaway.



PAL also hosts the Visalia Resolution 5K Run annually on January 1st in downtown Visalia. In 2019, the PAL Resolution Run had a total of 251 participants with 78 youth participating in the event. The event helped fund 52 PAL youth attend the annual PAL Honor Camp near Oakhurst, California.

PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE UNIT

The Property and Evidence Unit is responsible for the receipt, storage, safekeeping, release, and disposal of all property and evidence that comes under the control of the Visalia Police Department. Proper maintenance of the evidence and its chain of custody are critical to the successful prosecution of suspects that pose a risk to the community.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Incoming Evidence 12,472 | Incoming Found Property 683 | Incoming Safekeeping Property 1,724 | Incoming Stolen/Recovered Property 17 | Incoming Property for Destruction 440 |
| Outgoing Evidence 7,813 | Outgoing Found Property 666 | Outgoing Safekeeping Property 1,729 | Outgoing Stolen/Recovered Property 17 | Outgoing Property for Destruction 425 |

CRIME LAB

The Crime Lab directly supports the Investigations and Patrol Bureau with crime scene and evidence analysis. The successful prosecution of criminal cases is reliant on competent and ethical evidence collection. Additionally, the Crime Lab frequently provides presentations to the community and participates with the Visalia Unified School District's Linked Learning Academies by providing in-class presentations, assisting with the annual career day, and the annual Law & Justice job shadow day. This year, the Crime Lab also participated in Visalia Parks and Recreation's Junior Police Academy.



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Total Assignments 463 | Field Assignments - Business Hours 431 | Field Assignments - Call Outs 32 | Lab Assignments 62 |
| Total Live Scans 157 | Sex Offender Registrations 702 | Total Cases with Latent Prints 119 | Latent Print Identification Hit Rate 35% |



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU

The Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) plays a variety of roles within the Visalia Police Department. The Bureau oversees the Public Information Officer, Media Relations, Internal Affairs, Community Outreach, Recruitment, Personnel, Training, the Records Unit, and Fleet Services. In 2019, PSB continued strong hiring efforts to fill many vacant positions attributed to standard employee attrition rates and growth associated with Measure N funding. Measure N provides the City of Visalia with a reliable, ongoing, local source of funding that is controlled with citizen oversight.



RECORDS UNIT

The Visalia Police Department's Records Unit serves the public and the Police Department in processing, maintaining, and distributing all police files and handling public records requests. The Court Services Unit serves as a liaison between the courts and the Department, processing incoming subpoenas and requests for information needed for upcoming criminal proceedings. The Records Unit faced new court-mandated filing deadlines this year which reduced the time allowed for processing of arrest packages. Staffing and work hour adjustments were made to ensure paperwork was submitted to the courts within the designated time frames. Also, new legislation was implemented this year, governing the release of police records which increased public requests and operational demands on Records staff.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Visalia Police Department understands its success is dependent upon a strongly forged partnership with the community. The Community Outreach Coordinator is tasked with engaging the many facets of the community by providing crime prevention information and participating in various events throughout the City of Visalia.

The Community Outreach Coordinator organizes department-wide community engagement efforts such as National Night Out and the Citizens Police Academy. All events are coordinated with the assistance of Department staff with the goal of improving trust and building relationships with the community, while making Visalia a safer place for all.



Coffee with a Cop
Events
6

Contacts made during
Coffee with a Cop
640



The Community Outreach Coordinator is also one of the team members who operates the Department's Social Media accounts. In 2019, Facebook followers increased by 13% to 35,909, Instagram followers increased by 56% to 11,000, and Twitter followers increased by 11% to 5,200.

Follow us to receive important information from the
Visalia Police Department. @visaliapd



SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The Communications Unit is a vital link between the community and field services personnel. It also works as a liaison between the public and the Department. Communications Operators receive, categorize, and monitor calls for service and dispatch information via Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) and radio communications to appropriate emergency personnel. In March of 2019, the Visalia Police Department Communications Unit became the first agency in Tulare County to begin accepting Text-to-911 calls. Accepting emergency calls by text message, instead of traditional voice communications, provides equal access to emergency services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community and provides an alternate method for reporting emergencies when traditional avenues are unavailable or dangerous.



| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| CALLS FOR SERVICE | Police 135,682 | Fire 16,497 | Animal Control 8,286 | 9-1-1 Calls 73,705 |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|

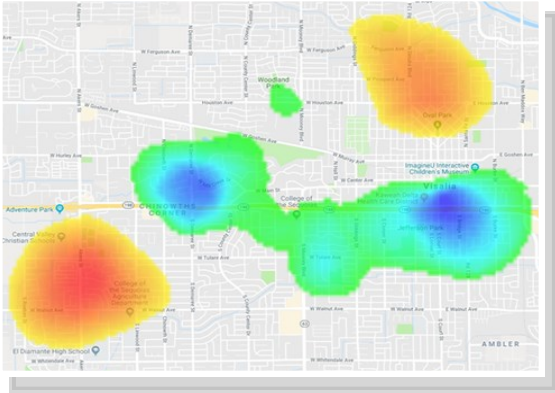
CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT



The Crime Analysis Unit is tasked with collecting and interpreting relevant crime data to determine Department-wide operational needs. It also maintains department statistics and reports monthly to the state Department of Justice (DOJ).

The Crime Analysis Unit is currently using ArcGIS Pro for Crime Mapping which is keeping the Unit and the Department on the leading edge of mapping technology and capabilities.

In 2019, the Crime Analysis Unit assisted the Violent Crimes Unit in identifying suspect Nickey Stane, in a cold sexual assault series that occurred between 1999-2002.



HONOR GUARD



Visalia Police Department's Honor Guard provides a range of ceremonial functions at Department, City of Visalia, and civic events. The Honor Guard also represents the Department by attending funerals to honor Law Enforcement Officers killed in the line of duty. This year, the Honor Guard attended six law enforcement funerals, posted/presented colors at 13 events, attended seven trainings, and participated in the annual Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial.

FIREARMS TRAINING UNIT

The Firearms Training Unit is comprised of six certified firearms instructors who provide training for weapon handling and skills necessary for the safe and proficient use of firearms. The Unit also provides scenario-based training for critical decision making, understanding of policies, and de-escalation techniques.

Firearms training sessions transition from a classroom environment to the range. Officers are trained on the duty handgun, patrol shotgun, and less lethal weapons. Every quarter, sworn employees attend a scenario and skill-based training, with specialty courses offered throughout the year.



FIRST RESPONDERS ACADEMY AND ACADEMY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

COMMUNITY AND DEPARTMENT EVENTS



Members of the Visalia Police Department, along with other local first responders, participated in Visalia Unified School District's First Responder Career Day held at the Visalia Emergency Communication Center (VECC).

Students enrolled in Golden West High School's First Responders Academy and Redwood High School's Academy of Law and Justice took a tour of the Visalia Emergency Communication Center (VECC) where they had the opportunity to see how an emergency call is dispatched.

Students then observed how officers respond and investigate a collision caused by an impaired driver from the beginning of an investigation and concluding with a case prosecution.



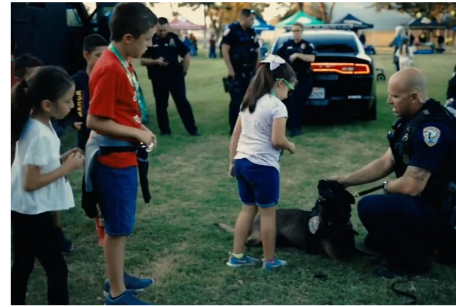
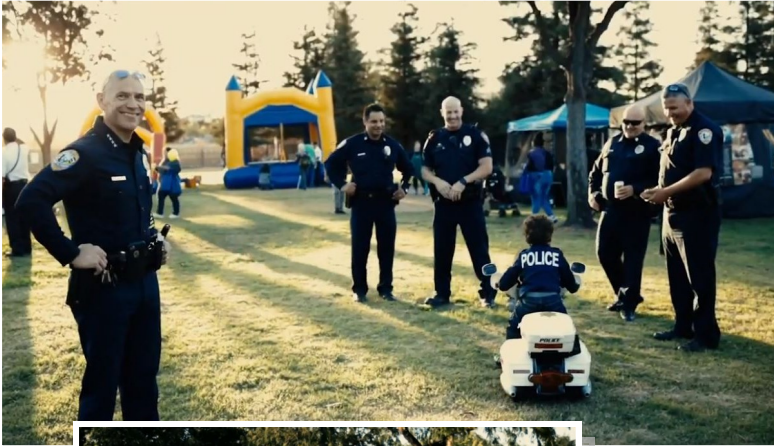
JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY



Visalia Police Department participated in a week-long training for Visalia Parks and Recreation's Junior Police Academy Cadets. The Cadets spent their days doing calisthenics and received specialized training by members of the Department's SWAT Team, Traffic Unit, Crime Lab, K9 Team, and Bomb Squad.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



In previous years, officers would travel throughout the city and would visit various neighborhood block parties for National Night Out. However, in order to maximize community engagement and resources, in 2019, the Visalia Police Department held its first centralized event at Recreation Park. Several local agencies, community organizations, and food vendors participated in the carnival-like atmosphere. Many community members, including children, took advantage of the demonstrations, interacted with officers, enjoyed giveaways, played games, and ate delicious food. Having one event at a centralized location was very well received by the community and considered a huge success by the Department. The Visalia Police Department looks forward to growing this event in future years on the first Tuesday of October, to avoid the August heat.



TULARE COUNTY PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL

Members of the Visalia Police Department participated in the Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial, during National Police Week in May. The ceremony is held annually and honors fallen officers from throughout the County of Tulare who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities.



24-HOUR VIGIL



Members of the Tulare County Chief's Association and their departments participated in the 24-Hour Vigil in honor of National Police Week. The vigil was held at the Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial.

RECOGNITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Lt. Ron Epp
Outstanding Partner in Education
Visalia Unified School District



Lt. Luma Fahoum
LAPD Leadership
Los Angeles Police Department



Det. Jacob Sorensen and Det. Mona Whaley
Leadership Visalia
Visalia Chamber of Commerce



Sgt. Dan Ford
Sherman Block
Leadership Institute



Sgt. Bill Diltz
Sherman Block
Leadership Institute



CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING (CIT)



The Visalia Police Department and Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) host a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) course for law enforcement personnel four times a year. To date, 81% of Visalia Police Officers have attended this vital training. The course trains participants on how to identify individuals who are in a crisis situation and teaches techniques on de-escalation. The goal is to peacefully resolve crisis situations and provide needed mental health care for the consumers experiencing a crisis. This CIT course far exceeds State and Federal mandates and is offered to law enforcement officers throughout Tulare and Kings Counties.

As a result of its success, both agencies received recognition from California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) for this achievement. The Department is committed to this continued collaboration and strongly believes in its successes. As a result, Communications Operators also attend this course, as they are often first in the line of first responders handling crisis-related incidents. This partnership in training began in 2008 and continues to provide valuable tools for officers in its 12th year.



CITY OF VISALIA EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

The City of Visalia's Annual Employee Service Awards ceremony was held in December, 2019. The event recognizes employees for their years of service to the City of Visalia.

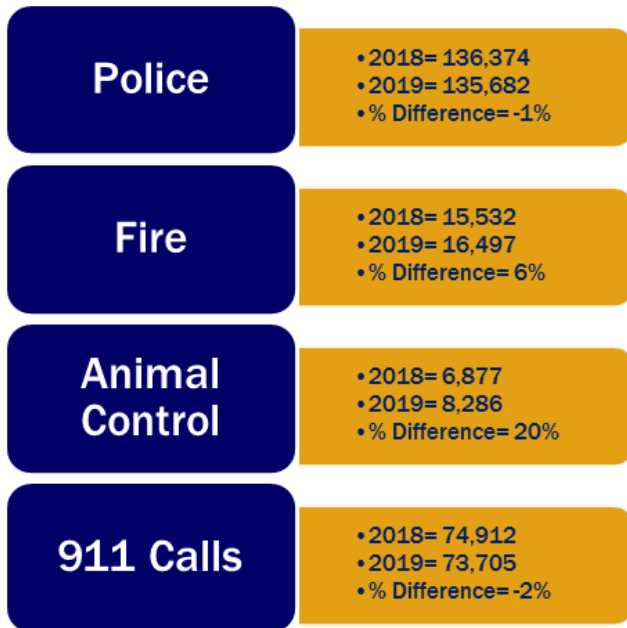
The following Visalia Police Department members were recognized for their years of service: Candido Alvarez (25 yrs.), Jonathan Lamar (5yrs.), Jacob Sorensen (5 yrs.), Clay Moffett (20 yrs.), Kevin Rodriguez (5 yrs.), Alaina Pena (15 yrs.), Nathan Flaws (20 yrs.), Ramona Whaley (15 yrs.), Luma Fahoum (20 yrs.), Edwin Canto (20 yrs.), Richard White (35 yrs.), Jared Whaley (15 yrs.), Michael Short (15 yrs.), Timothy Haener (15 yrs.), Robert Meier (5 yrs.), Steven Hays (15 yrs.), Jeannette Fenley (10 yrs.), Richard Rubalcaba (5 yrs.), Henry Martinez (5 yrs.), Desiree Gillioun (5 yrs.), Stacy Handley (25 yrs.), Kevin Kroeze (15 yrs.), Diane Owensby (20 yrs.), Jason McWilliams (20 yrs.), Daniel Roberts (15 yrs.), Kristen Morton (15 yrs.), and Ray Castro (5 yrs.)



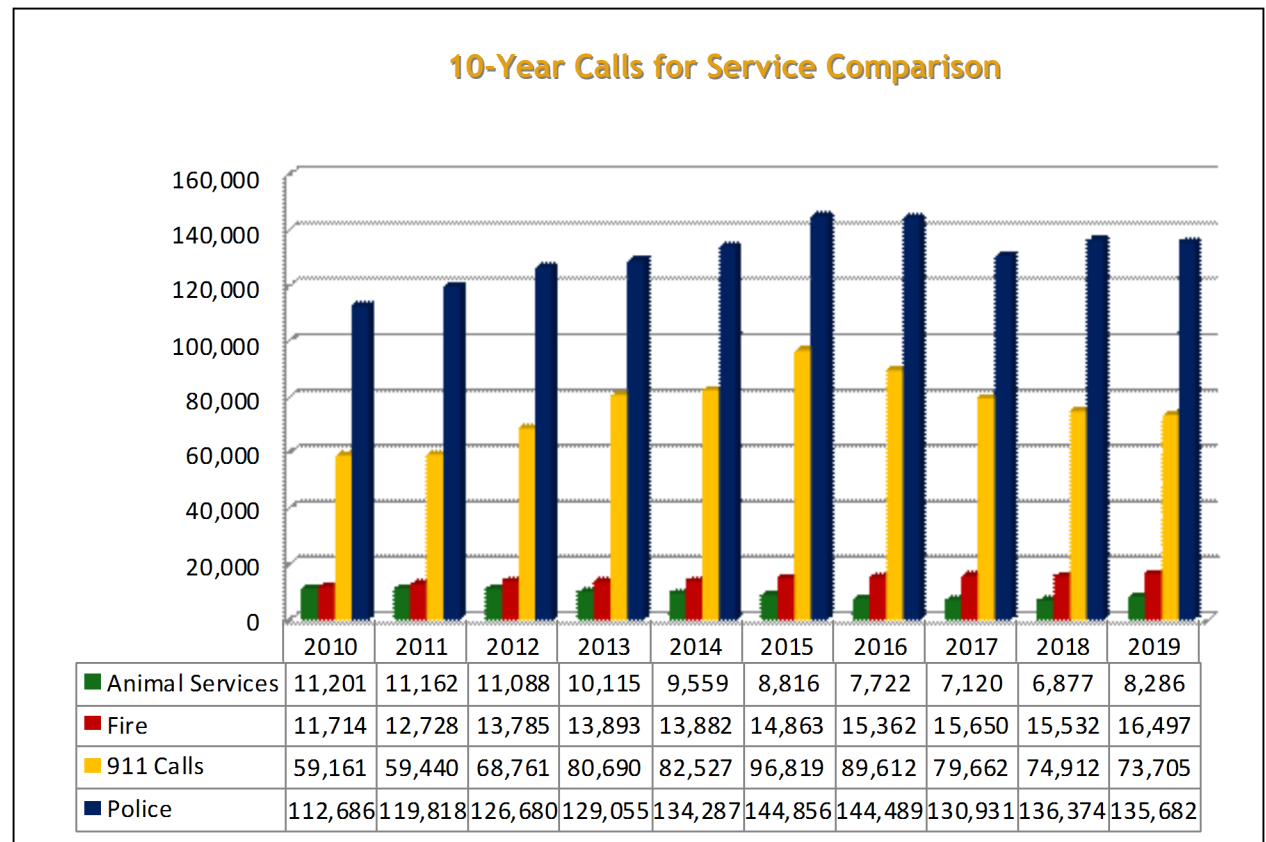
STATISTICS



Calls for Service Comparison

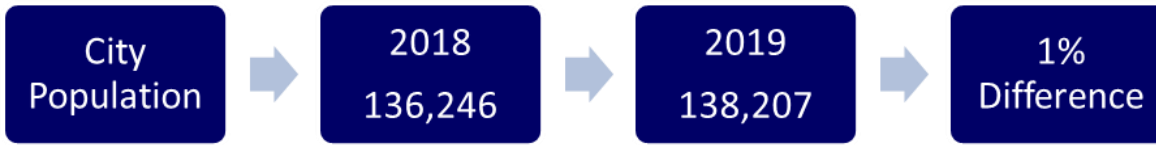


10-Year Calls for Service Comparison



STATISTICS

Demographics



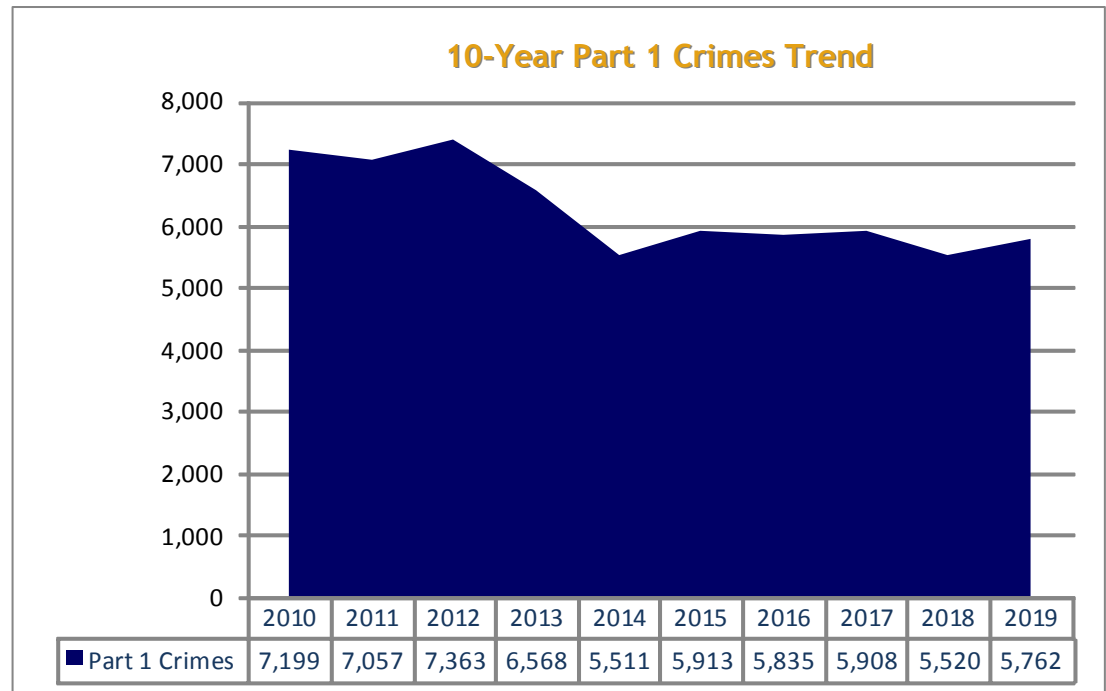
Arrests

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Adults | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 6,588 • 2019= 7,511 • % Difference= 14% |
| Juveniles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 280 • 2019= 339 • % Difference= 21% |
| Total | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 6,868 • 2019= 7,850 • % Difference= 14% |

Part 1 Crimes

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Homicide | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 3 • 2019= 5 • % Difference= 67% |
| Rape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 107 • 2019= 111 • % Difference= 4% |
| Robbery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 138 • 2019= 159 • % Difference= 15% |
| Assault | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 1,294 • 2019= 1,587 • % Difference= 23% |
| Burglary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 748 • 2019= 747 • % Difference= 0% |
| Larceny-Theft | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 2,701 • 2019= 2,627 • % Difference= -3% |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 529 • 2019= 526 • % Difference= -1% |
| Totals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018= 5,520 • 2019= 5,762 • % Difference= 4% |

10-Year Part 1 Crimes Trend

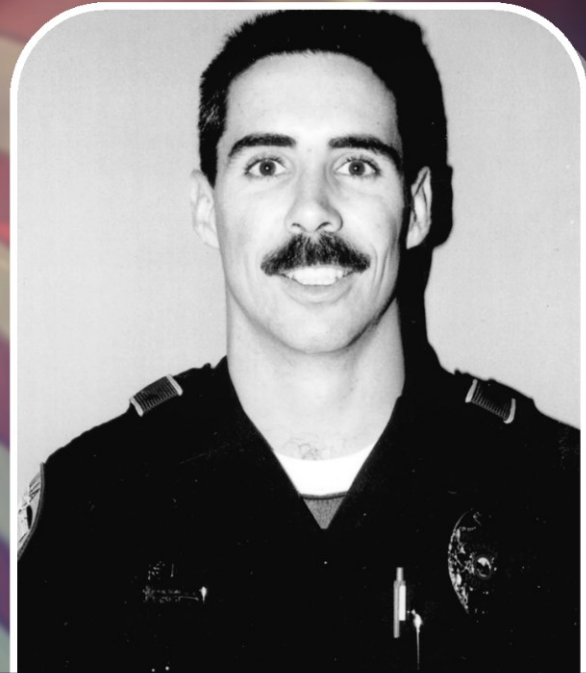


IN MEMORIAM



SERGEANT CHARLES H. GARRISON

Visalia Police Department
EOW: Tuesday, November 5, 1946

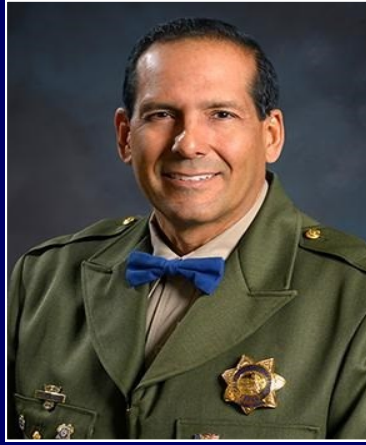


OFFICER JAMES J. RAPOZO

Visalia Police Department
EOW: Friday, January 9, 1998

IN HONOR THERE IS VALOR.

2019 CALIFORNIA FALLEN OFFICERS



Officer Natalie Corona
Davis Police Department
Davis, CA
EOW: 01/10/19

Sergeant Steve Licon
California Highway Patrol
Riverside, CA
EOW: 04/06/19

Officer Esmeralda Ramirez
Los Angeles Police Department
Los Angeles, CA
EOW: 06/09/19

Officer Juan J. Diaz
Los Angeles Police Department
Los Angeles, CA
EOW: 07/27/19

Officer Andre Moye, Jr.
California Highway Patrol
Riverside, CA
EOW: 08/12/19



Deputy Carlos J. Cammon
Orange County Sheriff's
Riverside, CA
EOW: 08/23/19

Deputy Brian D. Ishmael
El Dorado County Sheriff's
Placerville, CA
EOW: 10/23/19

Officer Jonathan Diaz
Lemoore Police Department
Lemoore, CA
EOW: 11/02/19

Officer Tara O'Sullivan
Sacramento Police Department
Sacramento, CA.
EOW: 06/19/19

Officer Leon and Officer Studinger pictured here at the Memorial.



FOLLOW US, WE'RE SOCIAL!

