

2016

ANNUAL REPORT

MINNETRISTA

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

PAUL A. FALLS

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

"FIGHT CRIME. PROMOTE SAFETY."

Public Safety



Sworn Personnel-Command Staff

Chief Paul Falls
Lieutenant Craig Squires
Sergeant Mike Kokesh
Sergeant Pat Cummings

Non-Sworn Personnel

Lori Brazil, Secretary
Amie Langenfeld, Secretary
Brad Carlson, CSO
Volunteer Police Reserve Officers

Sworn Personnel-Police Officers

Officer Jonathan Stutelberg
Officer Chad Griggs
Officer Nathan Hintz
Officer Jesse Schmidt
Officer Ryan Wegner
Officer Brandon White
Officer Michael Bruzek
Officer Justin Thompson
Officer Joshua Brown

Overview

With all that has been going on around the country the past couple of years, I am always happy to report that we have completed another safe & successful year. 2016 was no exception. As a public safety agency, we continually evaluate and evolve to ensure that we are utilizing best practices in our ongoing efforts to keep staff and citizens safe.

The city of Minnetrista continued to experience significant growth in 2016. While we are excited about the growth, it also presents many challenges. Maintaining service levels is one of the most significant challenges associated with growth. As long as we continue to grow significantly, it is important to monitor and adjust staffing levels appropriately in order to continue to deliver the high level of service associated with a full service police department.

Significant change continued in 2016. Community Service Officer Ryan Farniok left us to pursue college full time. Officer Justin Thompson joined our team in August of 2016. Justin came to us with several years of prior law enforcement experience with the Three Rivers Park District and the McLeod County Sheriff's Office. Officer Joshua Brown joined us in September of 2016 and came to us with several years of corrections experience with the Dakota County Sheriff's Office.

After several years of evaluation, I am happy to report that we added a drug task force position to specifically address narcotics investigations in our communities. This has been a growing need that requires an incredible amount of time, resources, and expertise.

Public Safety



Our Mission

The Mission of the Minnetrista Public Safety Department is to “Fight Crime and Promote Safety.” We achieve our mission by faithfully enforcing the law, by working with our community, listening to them and educating them, by working as a team, treating each other with respect and by acting professionally and ethically.

Training

Police Officers in Minnesota are required to be licensed and certified in a number of proficiencies in order to be employed.

The Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Agency (POST) governs training and licensure for police officers. Police officers are required to earn a minimum of 48 hours of continuing education every three years in order to maintain their license. Much of this training is held in-house, such as; use of force, taser, and firearms training. In addition, all of our officers participate in ongoing monthly on-line training through the League of Minnesota Cities. On-line training topics include everything from use of force issues to legal updates and mental health.

There is also a significant amount of external training as well. This training includes topics such as, but not limited to, emergency vehicle operation, pursuit intervention tactics, crime prevention, first aid, crime scene management, mental health, domestic assault intervention and interview techniques.

In addition to individual training, many of our police officers also attend instructor level training so they can serve as department instructors in various topics. Of our current 13 officers, 9 of them are certified instructors in areas ranging from DARE, Use of Force, Firearms, Taser, Hobble Restraint, and Lidar. Additionally, we have two certified Glock Armors and two certified AR15/Rifle Armors.

Public Safety



Public Safety Services Provided

The Minnetrista Public Safety Department is a full service police department providing a wide range of public safety services. To best deliver these services, our agency is broken up into 6 divisions: patrol, investigations, support services, community services, school resource officer (SRO), and emergency management.

Patrol

We provide 24/7 single patrol coverage and 16/7 double patrol coverage. In addition to general patrol, we provide services including but not limited to; responding to calls for service, traffic enforcement (internally and as part of the statewide Safe & Sober Program), vehicle lock-outs, chaplain response, residential and commercial security evaluations, house checks, court ordered civil standbys, mediation services, as well as community education events such as Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, and Citizens Academy.

Investigations

We provide full criminal investigation (felony, gross misdemeanor, and misdemeanor) services as well as administrative investigations such as liquor licenses, employee and vendor background checks, etc. Additional services include complaint response and investigation, preparation of cases for court, as well as alcohol compliance checks and evidence room oversight.

In addition to routine investigations, 2016 brought a number of complex and time consuming cases such as; several criminal sexual conduct cases, burglaries, assaults, felony level thefts, death investigations, as well as several financial crimes. With the advancement of technology comes the demand for much more complex, skilled, and time consuming investigations in order to locate, retrieve and secure evidence.

Support Services

The Minnetrista Public Safety Department provides a wide range of support services. Those services include but are not limited to; answering phone calls from the public, records management, records checks, records retention, processing reports for the public as well as other agencies in compliance with data practice laws, updating suspense files, preparing discovery motions for trial, and other paperwork, monitoring and updating predatory offender records, processing evidence, dog licensing, as well as a host of additional tasks as necessary.

Public Safety



Community Services

In addition to support services, the Department provides a host of other important services to the public such as; code enforcement, animal control, car seat inspections, civil fingerprinting, security reviews for planning projects, fire service reviews, city code updates and research, public safety education through Trista Day and other events, school interactions, and attendance at all City Council meetings. The Department also coordinates the use of the public safety facility for regional training and other meetings.

School Resource Officer

Officer Brandon White took over the School Resource Officer (SRO) position in 2014, which is a three year assignment. The SRO works out of the Mound-Westonka High School office during the school year and at the public safety facility during the summer months. The SRO is responsible for juvenile investigations, DARE, child safety education, security at schools within our jurisdiction, public safety planning for sporting events, graduation, dances, and homecoming. The SRO also processes special event and gun permits. The SRO's time is split approximately 50/50 between school related and non-school related activities.

Emergency Management

The Director of Public Safety serves as the Emergency Management Director for the cities of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius. Both cities are part of the Lake Minnetonka Regional Emergency Operations Plan along with Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District, and 19 other lake area cities. The department provides a full range of emergency management services consistent with an all hazards approach. Our emergency plan addresses everything from natural disasters such as; tornados, floods, and wild fires, to train wrecks, plane crashes, explosions, accidental releases of hazardous materials, enemy attack or other similar types of events that pose a potential treat to the public health and safety in the Lake Minnetonka Region. These services include implementing the emergency plan when necessary, preparing emergency plans, providing training for staff and citizens, managing the outdoor warning system, as well as budgeting for emergency preparedness programs and equipment.

Fire Services

The Department also coordinates with both St. Bonifacius and Mound Fire Departments for the provision of fire services in the community. There were 190 total calls for fire service within our jurisdiction (St. Bonifacius & Minnetrista): 108 calls by the St. Bonifacius Fire Department (67 in Minnetrista and 41 in St. Bonifacius), and 82 calls by the Mound Fire Department (47 fire and 35 rescue), in 2016.

Public Safety



Public Safety Activity

There were 5761 Incident Complaint Reports (ICRs) written in 2016, a decrease of 11% from 2015. Incident Complaint Reports are calls for service, officer-initiated service and traffic enforcement – any event that results in a reportable occurrence.

The overall clearance rate for ICRs was 97%.

Tickets Issued

Tickets are comprised of citations and warnings. There were 1479 warnings issued and 780 citations issued in 2016 for a total of 2259, compared to 3071 in 2015.

Traffic Crashes

There were 16 personal injury crashes, 24 animal-involved crashes, 88 property damage crashes and 23 vehicles off the road or other-category crashes, for a total of 151 crashes in 2016, down 2% from 2015.

Arrests

There were 96 adults arrested and 16 juveniles arrested in 2016. Arrests do not always mean the person was jailed. In some cases a citation is issued and other cases are charged by our prosecuting attorneys and the suspect may never be in custody.

There were 73 civil fingerprints processed in 2016. These are done for a variety of reasons, with job application requirements being the most common.

Criminal Investigations

There were 100 Part I (most serious) crimes and 291 Part II (serious) crimes investigated by this Department in 2016, for a total of 391, down 7% from 2015. The Minnetrista Public Safety Department had a clearance rate for closing criminal cases of 73%.

Permits

There were 108 applications received for handgun permits in 2016, compared to 90 in 2015.

There were 5 special event permit applications reviewed in 2016, compared to 7 in 2015.

Public Safety



Response Time Analysis (from Dispatch)

2016 Total

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>Dispatch at Scene</i>	<i>Response Time</i>
1	738	7 min	7.54 min
2	191	7.76 min	8.36 min
3	3751	9.08 min	10.57 min
4	398	9.96 min	11.72 min
<i>Total/Avg</i>	5078	8.8 min	10.14 min



Commendations

Commendations are truly a reflection of the outstanding staff and the high level of dedication they have for their job and the community as a whole.

Minnetrista Public Safety staff received 3 commendations for their outstanding work and dedication in 2016:



- AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - BRANDON WHITE

FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE MOUND WESTONKA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK CRASH. YOU HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE NORMAL SCOPE OF DUTIES IN YOUR CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO EDUCATE OUR YOUTH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES. YOUR EFFORTS HAVE MOST CERTAINLY CONTRIBUTED TO OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION.

- AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - CRAIG SQUIRES

FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATIVE SKILLS AND PERSEVERANCE DURING THE COURSE OF A VERY COMPLEX CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT INVESTIGATION INVOLVING A 13 YEAR OLD JUVENILE (CASE #15006015). THE VICTIM HAD A HISTORY OF MAKING FALSE ACCUSATIONS IN THE PAST MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT TO SUBSTANTIATE HER CLAIM. YOUR ABILITY TO OBJECTIVELY SIFT THROUGH ALL OF THE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO SUBSTANTIATE THE FACTS IN THIS CASE WERE EXEMPLARY AND ULTIMATELY LEAD TO CHARGES AGAINST THE ADULT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS HEINOUS CRIME.

- MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD - JON STUTELBERG

FOR SERVING AS THE DEPARTMENT RESERVE COORDINATOR FROM FEBRUARY 2012 TO JANUARY 2016. YOU ASSUMED SOLE RESPONSIBILITY AND OVERSIGHT OF THE RESERVE PROGRAM, IMPROVED MANY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES RESULTING IN A MORE EFFICIENT UNIT AND ASSISTED WITH THE TRANSITION OF THESE DUTIES TO A NEW COORDINATOR. THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

Public Safety



Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team

The Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team was formed in 2006 to address the growing need for a tactical response to critical incidents. This multi-agency team is a collaboration of five Lake Minnetonka area agencies (Minnetrista Public Safety, West Hennepin Public Safety, Orono Police, South Lake Minnetonka Public Safety, and Wayzata Police) and currently consists of 16 officers. The Minnetrista Public Safety Department currently has 3 officers assigned to the team. All members of the SWAT team have completed a variety of specialized training.

The Lake Minnetonka SWAT Team responds to critical incidents such as barricaded suspects and hostage rescue. The team is also utilized for high risk search warrants and suspect apprehensions.



Public Safety

Crime Prevention Fund



The Crime Prevention Fund is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. One hundred percent of the profits from fundraising and donations go to support youth, drug awareness and meaningful crime prevention ventures and programs.

The Crime Prevention Fund fundraises to support Crime Free Safe Communities. They are not part of any government entity and the IRS prohibits all 501c3 organizations from any political activity. A Board of Directors governs the Crime Prevention Fund and the Minnetrista Public Safety Director and the Orono Police Chief are advisors to the Board of Directors.

A few of the worthwhile ventures they financially support are DARE and Officer Friendly school programs, unbudgeted public safety related equipment, educational crime prevention materials, novelties for children and adults, public training and speakers, Citizens Academy, and Trista Day. The Crime Fund also sponsors things like bike rodeos, picture contests, National Night Out, community Drug Free Forums, and prescription drug take back programs. Additionally, the Crime Fund is able and willing to raise Reward money if requested by their Law Enforcement Advisors.

The Crime Prevention Fund is an important nonprofit organization that tirelessly serves our communities. In order to support these worthwhile causes, the Crime Prevention Fund hosts an annual Crime Prevention Charity Golf event as well as a direct mail program in the Fall. The Crime Prevention Fund reminds us all that “Giving Back Matters.”

Your support has most certainly contributed to safer communities through education, training, and awareness for enforcement. I would like to extend a very sincere thank you to all citizens, business community members and the Crime Fund members for supporting the Minnetrista Public Safety Department in our continuous effort to keep our communities safe.



Public Safety



Volunteer Reserve Officers

Volunteer Reserve Officers play a very important role in our commitment to public safety. Members of our reserve organization volunteer their time and efforts to assist the department with a wide variety of tasks such as:

- ◆ Prisoner transports to jail, detox, etc.
- ◆ Business checks
- ◆ House checks
- ◆ Event security
- ◆ Traffic control
- ◆ Vehicle impounds
- ◆ Assist with crosswalk enforcement and other traffic enforcement details
- ◆ Provide an extra set of eyes and ears in the community
- ◆ Provide additional police presence and visibility in the community
- ◆ Public safety education

In 2016, our volunteers donated over 208 hours of their time. Our volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Many of them are training to become licensed police officers. Others come from non-law enforcement backgrounds and are just looking for ways to give back to the community. Whatever the reason, our volunteers play a critical role in helping us deliver the best possible services to the citizens we serve. We are always in search of additional volunteers to join our reserve team.

