

# South Milwaukee Police Department 2023 Annual Report

Chief William Jessup





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# South Milwaukee City Officials

**Mayor**

**Jim Shelenske**

**City Administrator**

**Tami Mayzik/ Patrick Brever**

**Assistant City Administrator** **Katie Crosby**

**Police and Fire Commission**

**Bob Weber**

**Heather Frederick**

**Ramon Navarro**

**Donald O'Kray**

**Carla Uphill**

**Tobie Weberg**

**William Jessup**

**Brett Briesemeister**

**Craig Maass**

**Ramon Navarro**

**Tim Backes**

**Joseph Bukowski**

**Lisa Pieper**

**Peggy Clark**

**David Bartoshevich**

**Kelly Martyka**

**Christopher Smith**

**Sandi Wesolowski**

**Karen Skowronski**

**Municipal Judge**

**City Attorney**

**City Clerk**

**City Treasurer**

# **Mission Statement:**

**In partnership with the community, we strive to enhance the quality of life through the reduction of crime, fear and disorder.**

## **Goals:**

- Develop an effective, efficient and responsive management system**
- Increase agency-community partnerships**
- Provide a more effective allocation of resources**
- Increase job satisfaction for all employees**
- Treat all persons with respect, courtesy and fairness**
- Identify, control and reduce crime**
- Protect Constitutional guarantees**
- Facilitate the safe movement of people and vehicles**

# Values:

Central to our mission is a set of values that will guide our work and decisions and allow us to make significant contributions to the quality of life in South Milwaukee.

## Competence

We are prudent stewards of the public's grant of authority and resources. We are accountable for the quality of our performance and the standards of our conduct.

## Courage

We place the safety of others before our own and accept our moral responsibility to take action against injustice and wrongdoing. Police members are expected to take prudent risks on behalf of the public.

## Integrity

We recognize the complexity of police work and exercise discretion in ways that are beyond reproach and worthy of public trust. Honesty and truthfulness are fundamental elements of integrity.

## Respect

We hold life in the highest regard. We treat all citizens and colleagues with dignity and respect, and are fair and impartial as we perform our duties.

## Leadership

We seek to influence human behavior to achieve organizational goals that serve the public while developing individuals, teams and the organization for future service. We are all responsible for the performance, reputation and morale of the department.

## Restraint

We use the minimum force and authority necessary to accomplish a proper police purpose. We demonstrate self-discipline even during high stress events.

# Organizational Chart



# A Letter from Chief Jessup

To the citizens of South Milwaukee, Mayor James Shelenske, City Administrator Patrick Brever, the South Milwaukee Common Council, the South Milwaukee Police & Fire Commission, and members of the South Milwaukee Police Department:

In 2023 I completed my sixth year as Chief of Police for the South Milwaukee Police Department and I continue to be immensely proud of the excellent service our staff provides to our community. I am pleased to present to you the 2023 South Milwaukee Police Department Annual Report and I believe you will find that it provides an accurate overview of the challenges and accomplishments, as well as the activities undertaken by our staff to enhance public safety in South Milwaukee.

The past year brought some notable changes to our staff, with the hiring of four new police officers, Derek Dosedla, Scott Cholewinski, Mariah Neuharth and Tanner Knaak. They are great additions to our force and are looking forward to serving this community for many years. We were also joined by a new police clerk, Kim Vukovich, and a new dispatcher, Melissa Slapczynski. They are proving to be excellent additions to our staff. 2023 also brought a new program to our department, a K-9 Unit. We swore in Rocket as our first canine officer in approximately 20 years and we are excited to have him join us on patrol!

The police profession comes with many responsibilities but crime prevention is always near the top of the list. In addition, quick response times are equally important as we continue to advance the department's mission and vision. We strive to make our city safer through a community-based policing strategy that is responsive to the needs of individuals and businesses while following a set of principles that fosters mutual respect. Our members are committed to their profession and they work tirelessly on behalf of our citizens to provide prompt, effective service that keeps our community safe.

While we have seen reductions in crime over the past several years, our work is never done. As we move forward, we will surely encounter new challenges but I am confident in our members and grateful for the support of our community. In partnership, we will overcome those difficulties and will make South Milwaukee healthier and stronger.

Sincerely,

Chief William Jessup



# A Letter From the Operations Commander

Hello and thank you to the citizens of South Milwaukee. Your continued support of SMPD is very much appreciated this year. Thank you very, very much. Also, thank you to the Officers, Dispatchers and Clerks at SMPD who keep working hard at their jobs, doing what they can to serve the citizens of our community and keeping it safe!

We did add some new members to the SMPD family this year. Welcome Officers Derek Dosedla, Scott Cholewinski, Mariah Neuharth and Tanner Knaak! These young officers have already demonstrated the desire for public service and displayed excellent attitude toward police work. We have also added Dispatcher Melissa Slapczynski and Clerk Kim Vukovich to the family. Welcome Lisa and Kim! They acclimated quickly to their jobs and are doing great work.

This year continued the developing trend of petty theft, mostly committed by non-residents of South Milwaukee. Our community, like others in the Milwaukee area, have had to deal with subjects coming to our city, committing crimes and then leaving. Suburban police departments have gotten much better at sharing information, which has led to several arrests in these types of cases. Fortunately, violent crime remains very low for South Milwaukee – so low that no crime patterns exist for violent crime in our community.

Community Policing remains a very high priority for the South Milwaukee Police Department. Once again, SMPD held its Annual Community Night Out, Shop with a Cop and the DARE Golf Outing, along with many other events. Officers continue making efforts to conduct traffic enforcement and foot patrols of businesses and schools.

And now.... you know what's coming... My Broken Record Plea! Get involved! If you see something, say something! If something doesn't seem right, call SMPD and ask for us to check it out. The best way for citizens to assist the police in staying safe is to keep valuables out of sight and out of vehicles, when not necessary. Please, please, please.... lock your cars and houses! This has shown to reduce the chances you become a victim of theft by 80 - 90%! Other ways to assist include use and sharing of surveillance video and social media activity - even simply taking note of suspicious activity. Most criminal activity is witnessed by someone whether or not they recognized it at the time it occurred.

Sincerely,

Captain Chad Milow



# A Letter From the Administration & Services Commander

The Administration & Services Division is comprised of the  
Communications Center  
Investigations Section (Investigators and School Liaison Officers)  
Records Department  
Internal Affairs  
Accreditation

The Communications Center handled over 26,000 events in 2023. Four full-time, two part-time, and several substitute dispatchers are responsible for all incoming calls to the police department, all radio transmissions for police and fire, and all 911 emergency calls. We faced several personnel changes in 2023. Roberta Plachinski who worked as a dispatcher for over 27 years for our department, retired in the first month of 2024. Our dispatch operations will be moving over to the City of Oak Creek in 2025, as we are consolidating dispatch centers. In 2024, our dispatch center will continue to provide the best emergency services and customer service to the community.

The Investigations Section is comprised of a lieutenant, two school liaison officers and three investigators, including one member who is assigned to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group. The liaison officers are assigned to the South Milwaukee High School and the South Milwaukee Middle School but they also spend time in the elementary schools, teaching the DARE program.

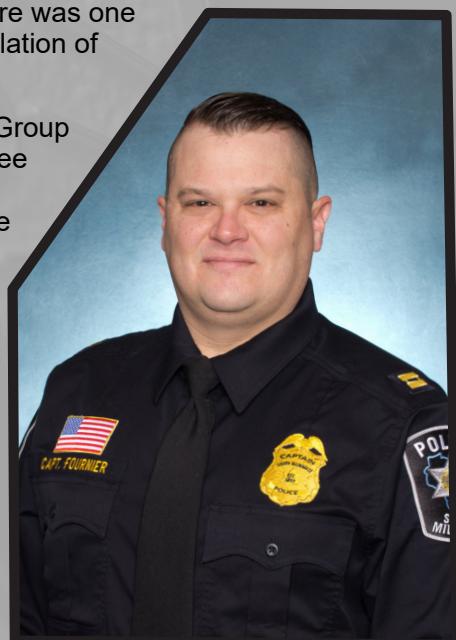
The Records Department is comprised of two full-time clerks and one part-time clerk. The records section is open Monday through Friday 7am-6pm and is closed on the weekends and holidays. The records section handles hundreds of records requests, as well as winter parking permits and the collection of fines and payments.

The Internal Affairs section investigates citizen complaints. There was one incident in 2023, where a department member was found in violation of department policy.

As members of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG), we go through a full accreditation process every three years. I am happy to announce that the South Milwaukee PD accreditation team completed the accreditation process, and we were awarded our 9<sup>th</sup> accreditation in May of 2023.

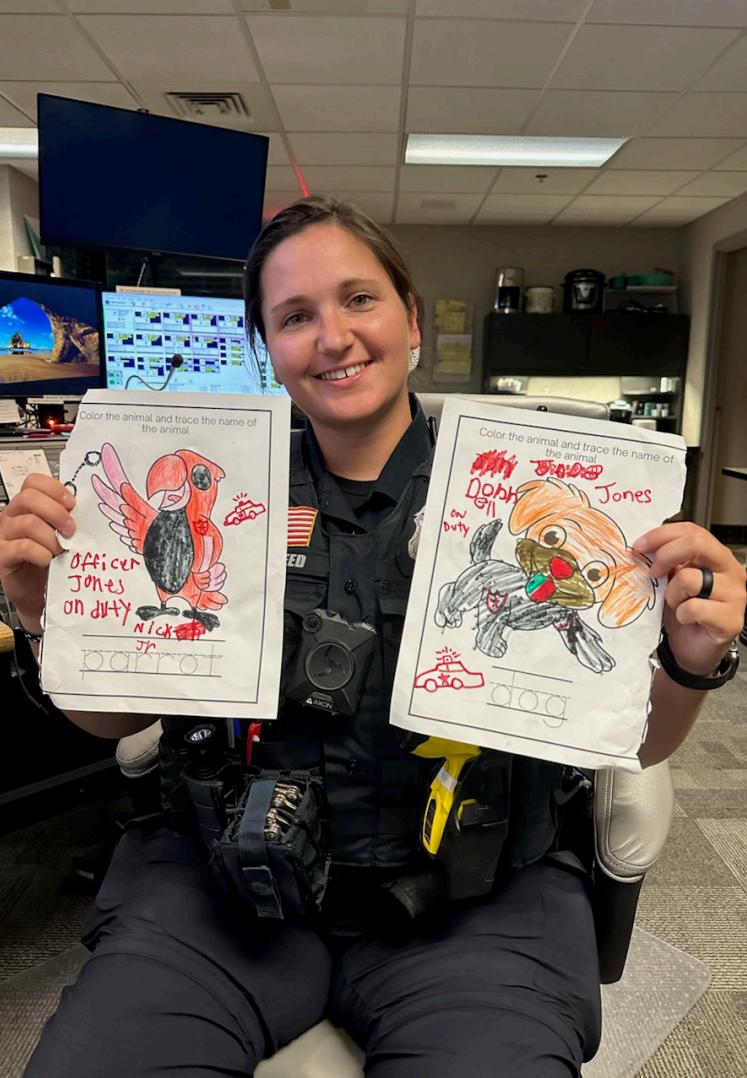
The hard work and dedication of the sworn and non-sworn members of the Administration and Services Division is admired and appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Captain Dan Fournier

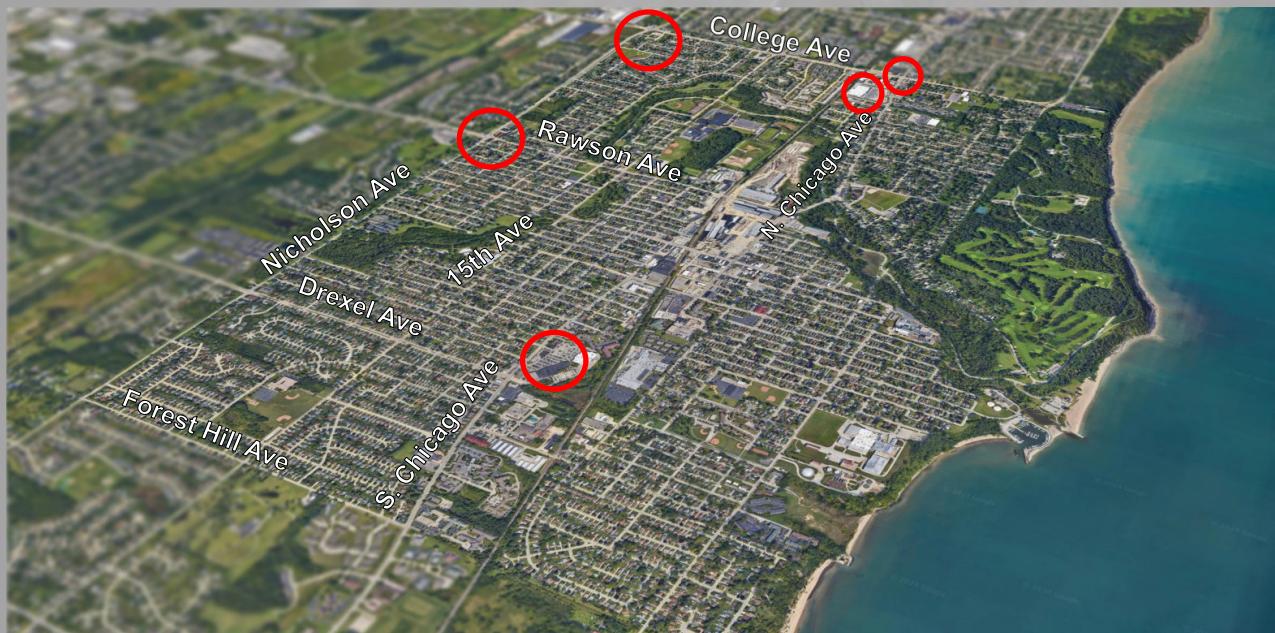
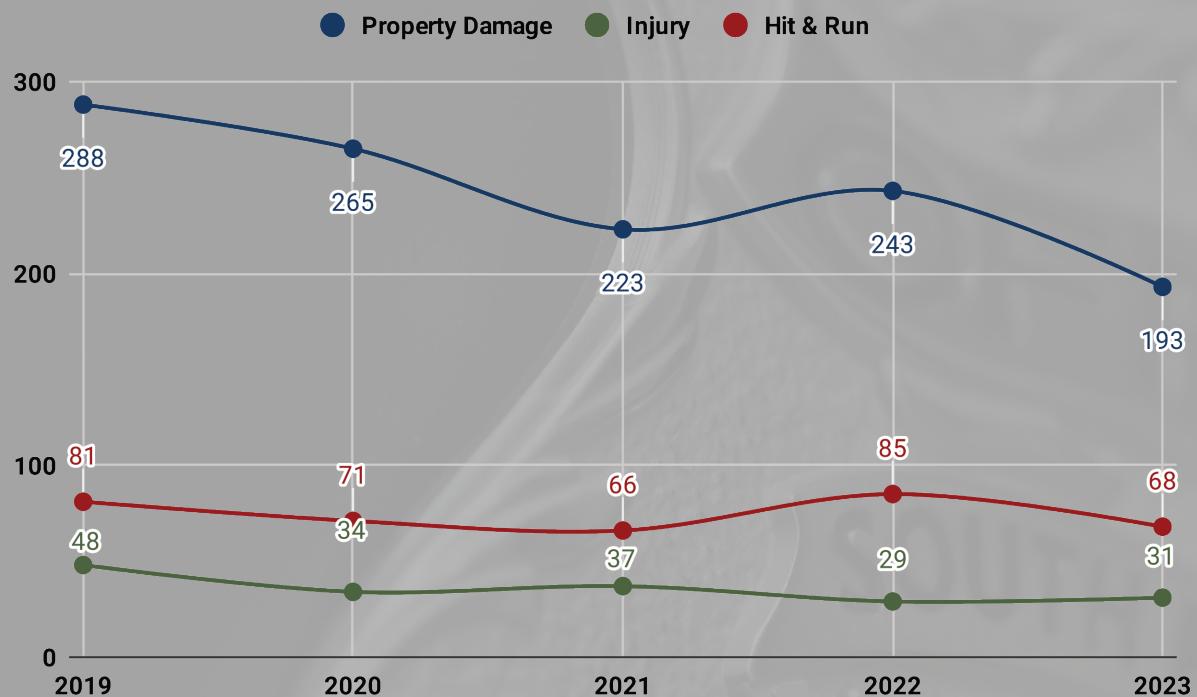






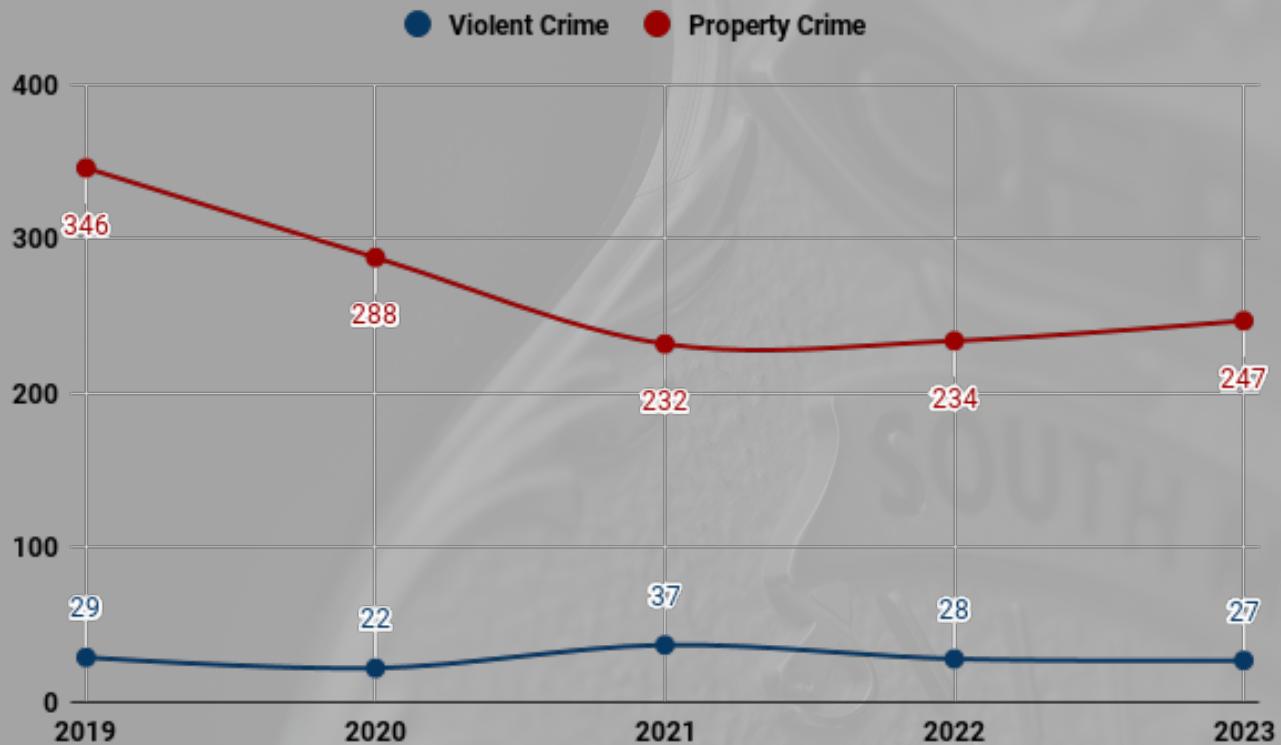


# Traffic Crash Statistics



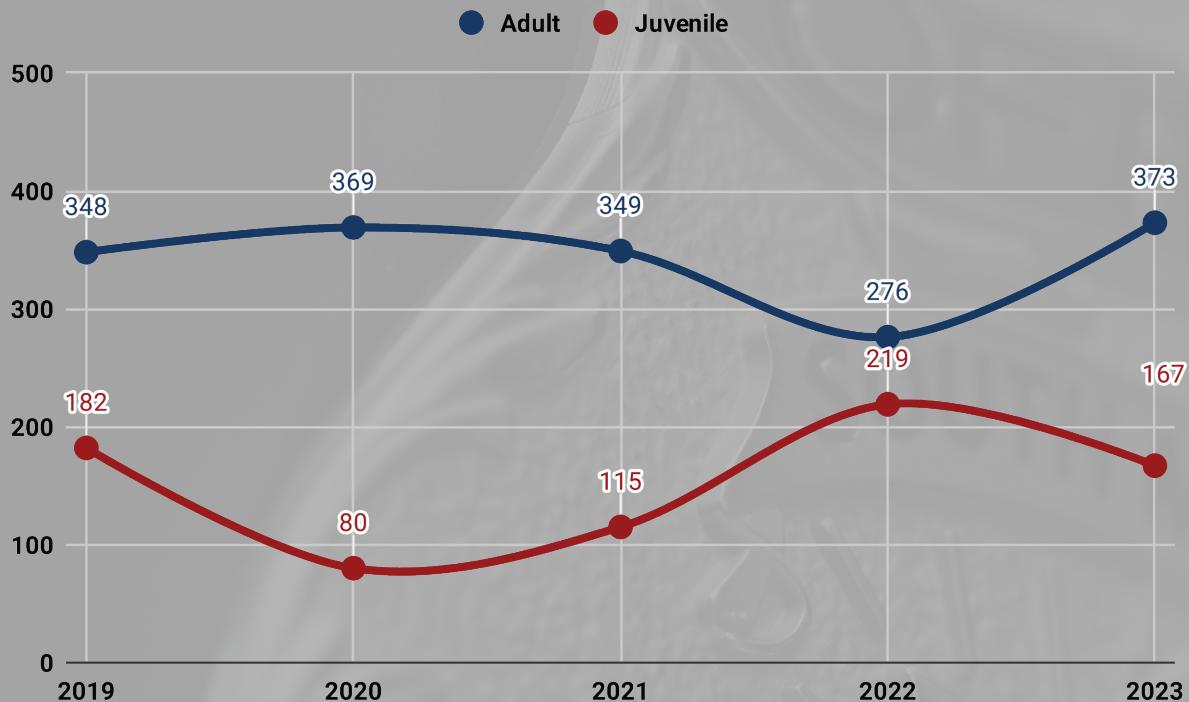
The above map illustrates the areas of highest traffic crashes. As expected, the intersections with the highest traffic volume and the shopping centers with the most vehicle traffic were the areas where most crashes occurred.

# South Milwaukee 5-Year Crime Trends



**2023 showed a slight increase in Property Crime while Violent Crime remained relatively unchanged.**

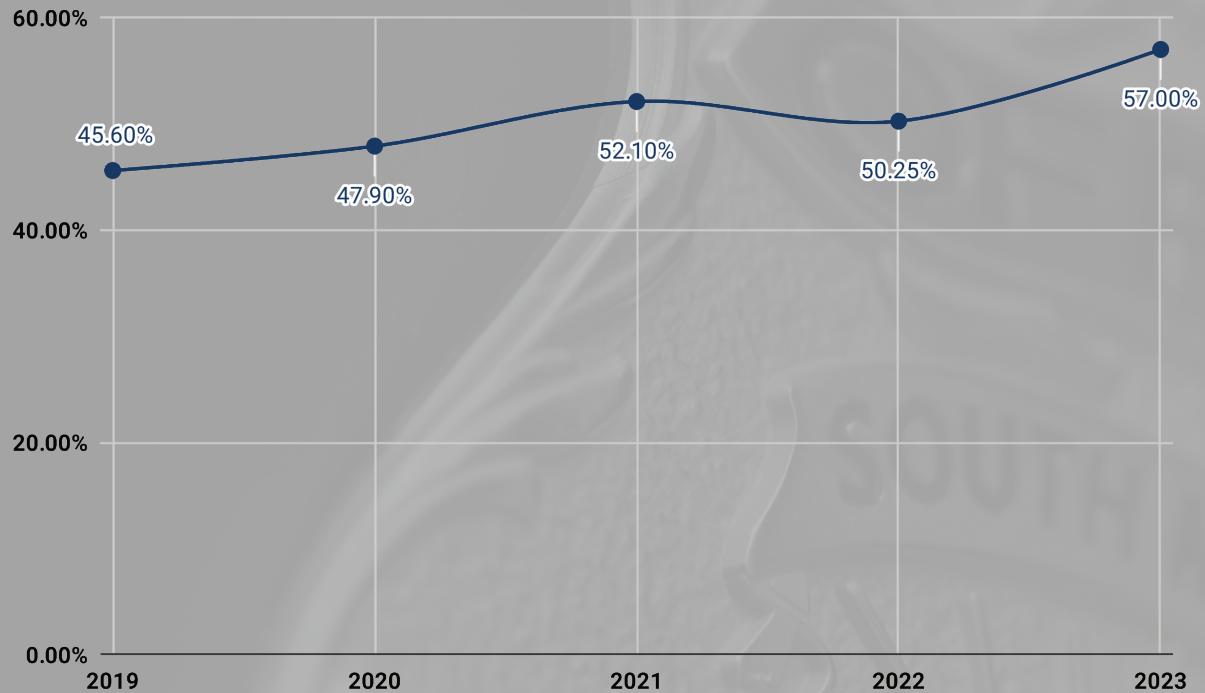
# Arrest Statistics



**2023 showed an increase of 35% in Adult arrests.**

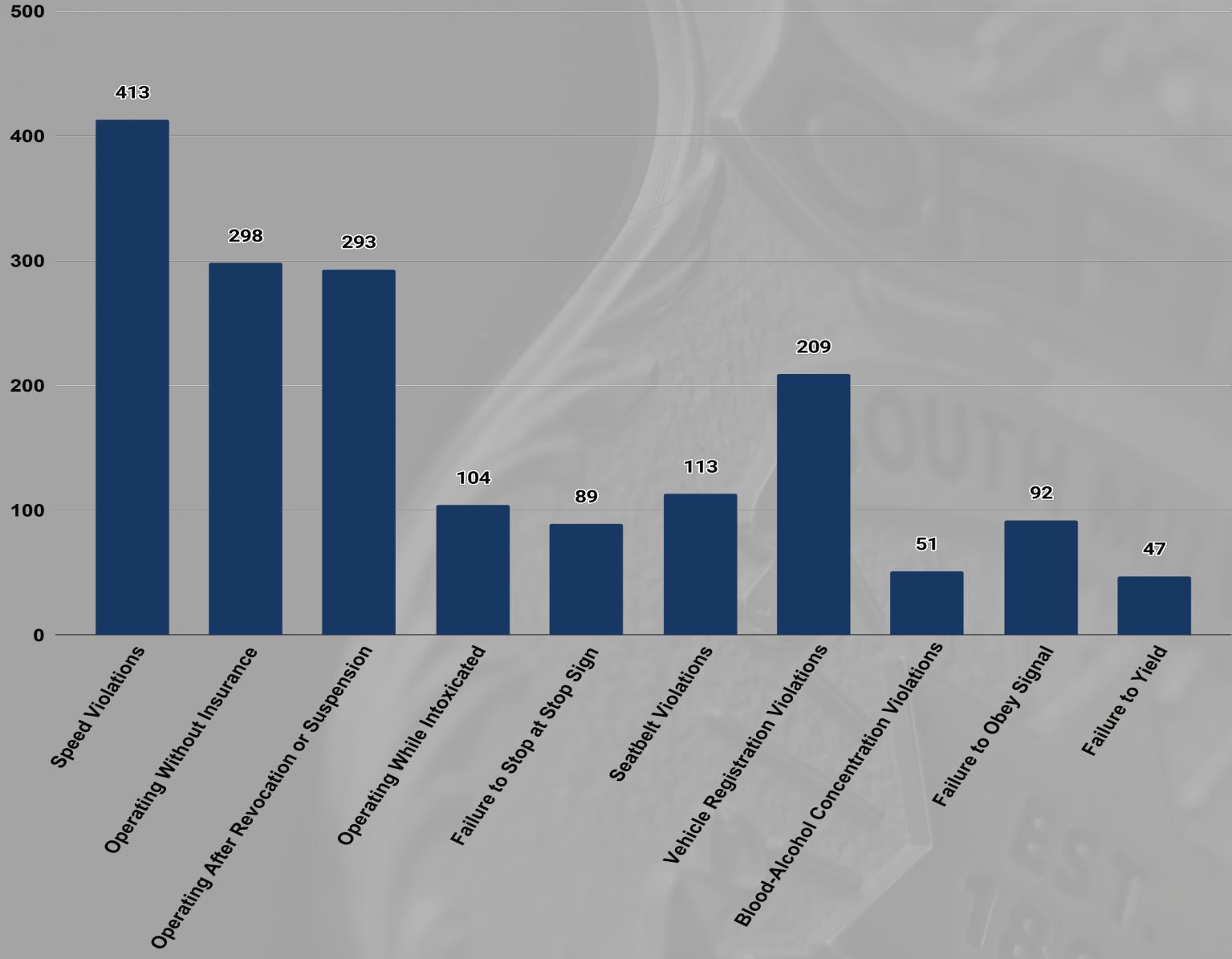
**2023 showed a decrease of 24% in Juvenile arrests.**

# Clearance Rates



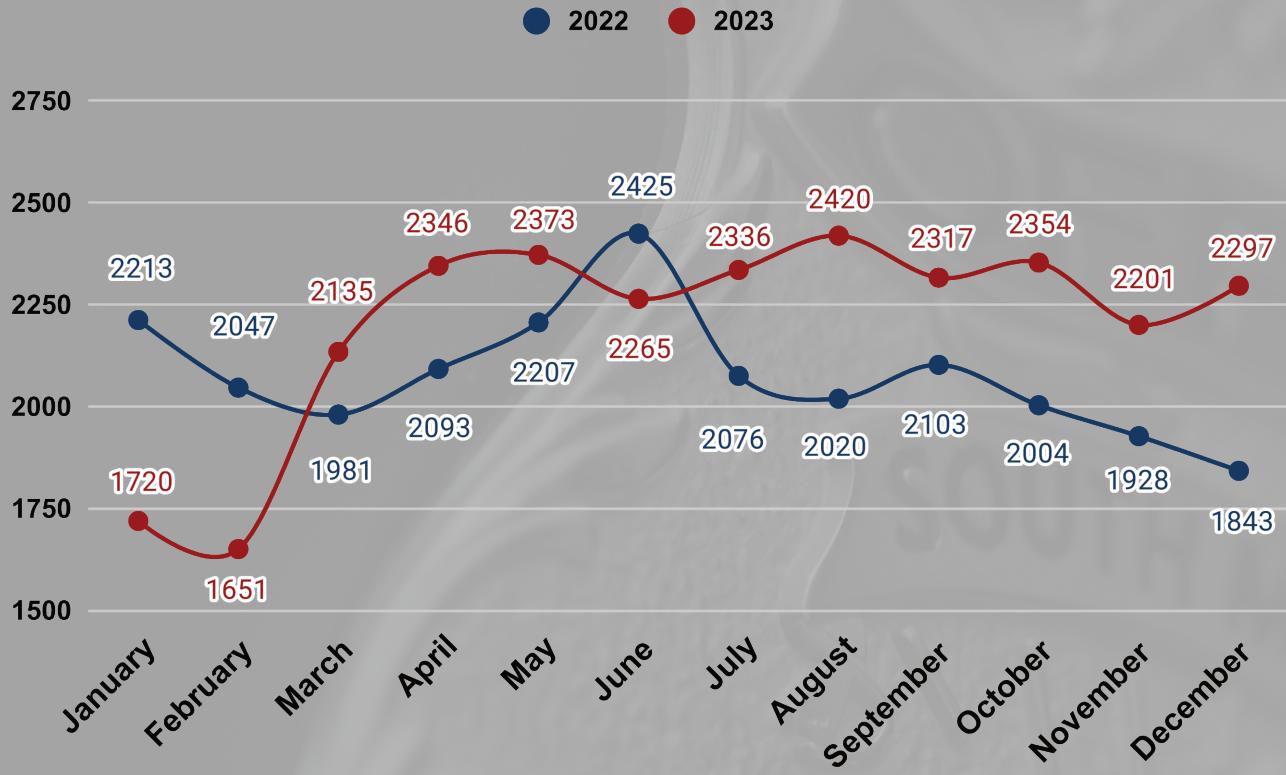
**Clearance rates have continued to increase over the past 5 years, with a 7% increase in 2023.**

# Traffic Citations



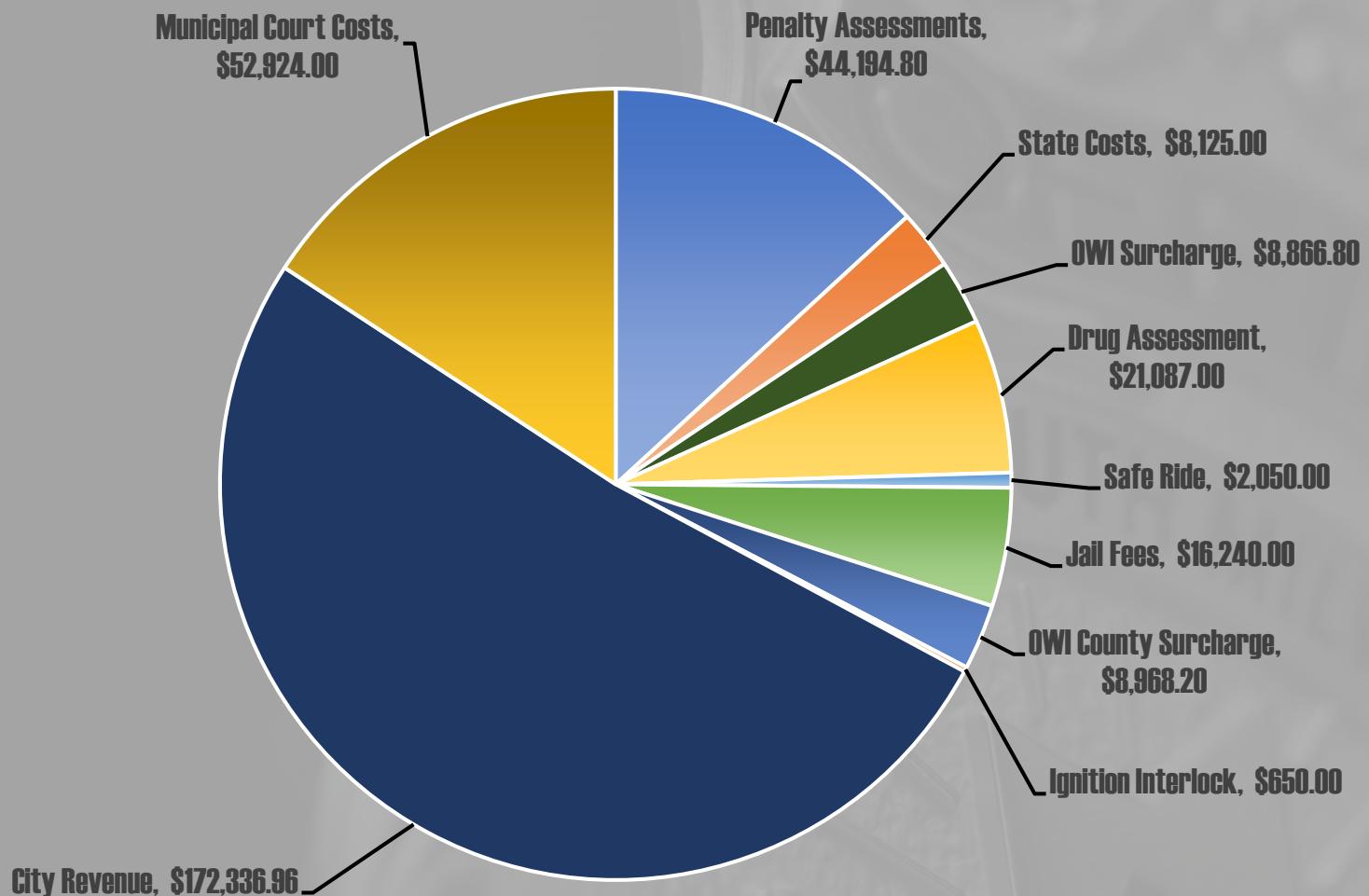
Officers have discretion in deciding how to resolve traffic violations. In some cases a verbal or written warning is appropriate, in other cases a traffic citation is necessary. The above graph shows some of the the more common citations given.

# Calls for Service



Calls for Service fluctuate throughout the year, with the summer months usually being more demanding. 2023 showed a 6% increase in total Calls for Service.

# Assessments Paid and Revenue Collected



Funds obtained from both Traffic and Non-Traffic Citations are dispersed to several different organizations. Net income from citations is deposited into South Milwaukee's General Fund.

# The South Milwaukee Police Department Budget

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Salaries</b>	<b>2,731,235</b>	<b>2,889,420</b>
<b>Dispatchers</b>	<b>252,601</b>	<b>272,951</b>
<b>Custodial Wages</b>	<b>21,040</b>	<b>21,709</b>
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>1,357,121</b>	<b>1,385,871</b>
<b>Overtime</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Comp Time</b>	<b>10,750</b>	<b>10,750</b>
<b>Holiday Pay</b>	<b>152,918</b>	<b>160,564</b>
<b>Physical Exams</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,850</b>
<b>Training Fees</b>	<b>14,550</b>	<b>14,500</b>
<b>Uniform Allowances</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>6,500</b>
<b>Conferences, etc.</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Operating Supplies &amp; Expense</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>74,000</b>
<b>Narcotic Control</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Private Ambulance Service</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Dues</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>
<b>Heating Fuel</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>4,600</b>
<b>Maintenance of Office Equipment</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Maintenance of Police Radios</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Maintenance of Vehicles</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>

# SMPD Training

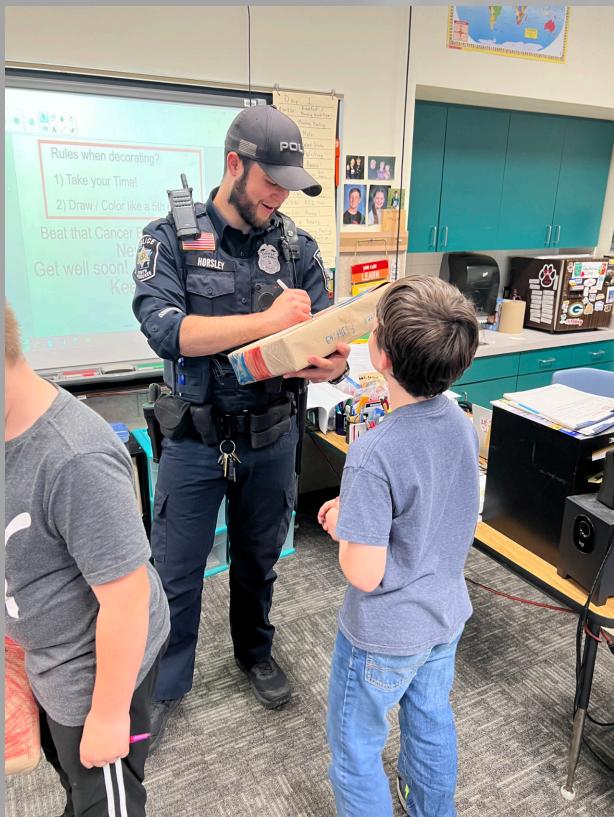
**Expanding the knowledge base of our Officers and maintaining their skills is crucial to the performance of South Milwaukee Police Department. In 2023 Officers completed 3,186 hours of training. Training varies from topics such as Crisis Intervention to Courtroom Testimony.**

# 3,186 Training Hours



# Our Community

**Officer Edwards shows off SMPD's motorcycle, a Harley Davidson Electra Glide.**



**Officer Horsley helps students send care packages to cancer survivors.**

# Our Community



**Officer Horsley teaches proper hand signals during a Bicycle Safety event at Blakewood Elementary School.**

**A SMPD squad car decorated for Christmas at the Commons**



# Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Unit responds to the diverse needs of our community in many ways, including organizing community policing events, conducting business and residential security surveys, assisting with neighborhood watch groups, and teaching civilian response to active shooter events (CRASE). In 2023, the Crime Prevention Unit organized SMPD's Community Night Out and Shop with a Cop. Crime Prevention Unit Officers also attended several other events, including LionsFest/Heritage Days, to engage with the citizens of the South Milwaukee Community.



# South Shore Joint Tactical Unit

**The South Shore Joint Tactical Unit is comprised of 36 officers from South Milwaukee, St. Francis and Cudahy PDs. This unit includes, seven Crisis Negotiators, and three Snipers. By combining with the other two communities, we are able to pool our resources and training to develop an effective team.**

**The purpose of the unit is to serve search warrants and respond to critical incidents, such as barricaded subjects and hostage situations. During 2023, the SSJTU served 12 search warrants and had one critical incident which involved an armed barricaded subject, who initially shot a firearm out of his residence. It ended peacefully with the subject surrendering.**



# Awards



**Erik Hurd, of Brew City Towing, received a Citizen Recognition Award for his continued support of South Milwaukee Police Department and the community.**

**Merit Awards were presented to Investigator Siefert, Investigator Kramer, Investigator Walusay, Officer Schmidt, Officer Staegge, Officer Klecha, and Officer Perkowski for a homicide investigation.**



# New Officers



**Derek Dosedla (4<sup>th</sup> from left)** served in the Army National Guard for 7 years before studying History at UW-Oshkosh. He enjoys working out and motorcycles as well as spending time with his family.

**Scott Cholewinski (3<sup>rd</sup> from left)** served as an auxiliary officer at SMPD and studied Criminal Justice at MATC. He enjoys target shooting and cars. He also likes to spend time with his family in his free time.

# New Officers



**Tanner Knaak (4<sup>th</sup> from right)**  
studied Forensic Investigation at  
UW- Platteville. He enjoys working  
on cars, fishing, working out, and  
spending time with his family in his  
free time.

**Mariah Neuharth (first row 3<sup>rd</sup> from left)** studied Criminal  
Justice at MATC before joining  
SMPD. She enjoys escape rooms  
and spending time with her family  
in her free time.



# Rocket

The South Milwaukee Police Department is proud to introduce Rocket, our first K-9 in 20 years. K-9 Rocket is a year and a half old Dutch Shepard. He was born in Hungary and flown to the United States in September of 2023. Rocket and K-9 Handler Matthew Edwards completed a 5 week intense training program at Jessiffany Canine Services school in November of 2023 and are now serving the community together. Rocket is trained in narcotics detection, article detection, tracking, criminal apprehension, and handler protection. Rocket and Officer Edwards continue to train a minimum of 16 hours each month and look forward to being a new resource for South Milwaukee Police Department and the community.





**Compiled by  
Officer James Rodman**