



# WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 Statistical Annual Report

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### **WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT:**

*As partners in our community we will perform our duties with fairness and respect for all citizens. We will have the courage to do what is right, stand against what is wrong, and Return with Honor in all our endeavors.*

### **VALUES:**

**Service** - It's our honor and privilege to serve the citizens, businesses, and visitors of Walla Walla. We hold ourselves personally accountable for providing our community with the best possible Police services.

**Pride** - We work hard to earn the respect of the community we serve. We are proud of our achievements as individuals and as a community partner in helping make Walla Walla the best place to live, work, and visit.

**Integrity** - Each member of the Walla Walla Police Department holds themselves and each other to the highest level of integrity. We are honest, transparent and authentic. We pride ourselves on having and acting with strong moral principles and values. We do what's right.

### **VISION:**

Committed to making your safety our top priority!

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No doubt 2020 provided us all with opportunities to overcome certain challenges. We managed to work our way through a health pandemic presented by the COVID-19 virus. We managed to work our way through an economic pandemic in part caused by the fallout of the health pandemic. And, we continue working our way through a social pandemic in the calls for social justice and reforms to policing in America.



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

In that context, the men and women of the Walla Walla Police Department have been able to overcome the issues presented by these challenges and continue to meet our mission by focusing on and living our core values of Service, Pride and Integrity. The men and women of the Police Department exemplify these values in everything they do, which in turn leads to positive outcomes.

One of those positive outcomes can be seen in the engagement of a diverse group of community members who agreed to serve on the Chief's Advisory Committee. The purpose of the group is to help advise the Chief in areas where the Police Department can make changes to better serve the community as a whole. Additionally, we continue to research and arrange for a variety of enhanced training in the areas of implicit bias and de-escalation.

As a result of the economic downturn, the 2021-2022 budget reduces the commissioned officer force of the Police Department by 3 FTE's. The attrition of those FTE's will be felt in our Street Crimes Unit (SCU). The SCU is mainly charged with proactively handling violent crimes, gangs, and drugs. My hope is that we can continue our trend of reducing violent crime and crime in general with this reduction in force until City revenues allow for the replacement of these positions.

The information in the following document is a statistical summary of the efforts of the Walla Walla Police Department to reduce crime (especially violent crime) in the city as well as other data that demonstrate staff productivity. Public safety represents a large portion of general fund expenditures. As such, we are continually reviewing our own performance and local crime data to help ensure the greatest **RETURN on INVESTMENT**.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 I presented at the City Council meeting very similar information for 2016 that is contained in this summary for 2020. I am attempting to keep the data relatively the same so that trends become apparent and comparisons can be made from year to year.

Date: February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Prepared by: Scott Bieber  
Chief of Police  
City of Walla Walla



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

In 2016, the City Council approved and funded the addition of 3.5 commissioned FTE's in response to a significant up-tick in violent crime during 2015. The officers were used to form a Career Criminal Apprehension Team (CCAT) and a Gang Enforcement Team (GET). CCAT was staffed January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 with the GET being staffed on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

In 2015 we experienced a fairly significant spike in violent crime, to include 4 homicides (one occurring in the parking lot of a popular local pub). With the addition of CCAT and GET in 2016, we saw a substantial reduction in violent crimes with a drop of 38%. The violent crime trend continues to move in the right direction since 2015.

Unfortunately, the Police Department was operating most of 2020 with a 10% staffing shortage – five (5) officers short of the 48 authorized. The five (5) officers were hired early in 2020, but did not complete all of their training until the end of October 2020. As a result, three (3) officers assigned to the Special Crimes Unit (SCU) had to be reassigned to fill Patrol squads, leaving only five (5) SCU Detectives – one of whom was on light duty most of 2020 as the result of a medical issue. The four (4) remaining full-duty SCU Detectives focused on gang and drug issues, in an effort to stay attentive to the initial reason staffing was increased in 2016 – the reduction of violent crime.

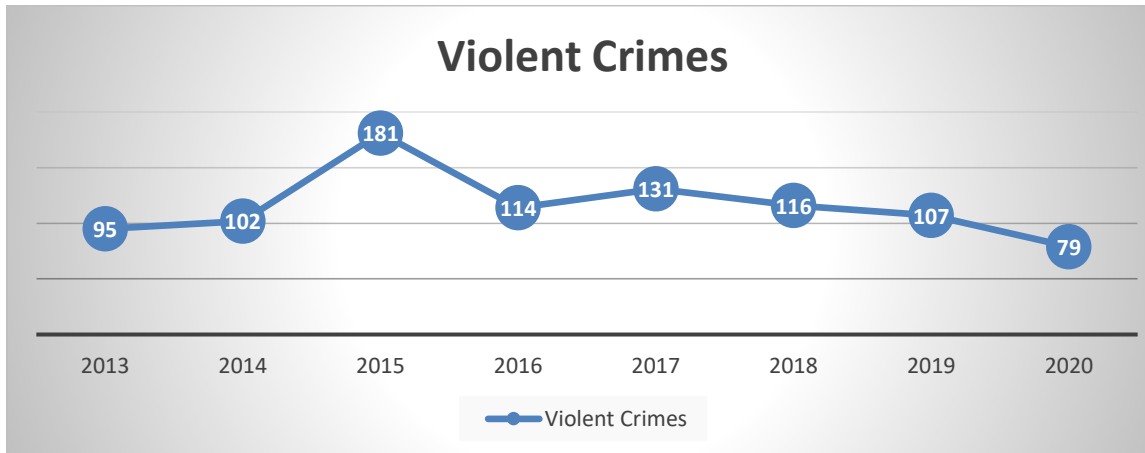
During 2020, the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) cross trained all its members in gangs, drugs, and career criminal apprehension. This has helped them deal more effectively with the prominent drivers of violent crime in Walla Walla. The 2021/22 budget reductions have temporarily dropped the commissioned staffing levels of the Police Department to 45, three short of the 48 authorized. The shortage of those three commissioned officers will continue to be born by SCU until which time City revenues return and allow us to re-staff back to 48 commissioned officers.

One of the anomalies we experience in Walla Walla with violent crime statistics is the fact we are required to count any crimes that occur inside the Penitentiary walls as City of Walla Walla crimes. Of the 79 violent crimes in 2020, 19 (24%) were committed inside the Penitentiary. Unfortunately, we are required to count those crimes in our NIBRS reporting, although we have no control over strategies or efforts to reduce them.

The graph on the next page shows the seven-year trend of violent crimes reported in Walla Walla (including the Penitentiary):



# RETURN ON INVESTMENT



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## ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY:

There are several functions that go into making Walla Walla a desirable place to live, work and play. The following pages show the Police Department's efforts in these areas:

- Reduction in Crime Rate – Group A Offenses as reported to NIBRS.
- Enhanced Response Times
- Patrol – by the Numbers
- Parking Enforcement
- Animal Control
- Code Enforcement
- Biased Based Policing Review
- Complaints vs. Kudos

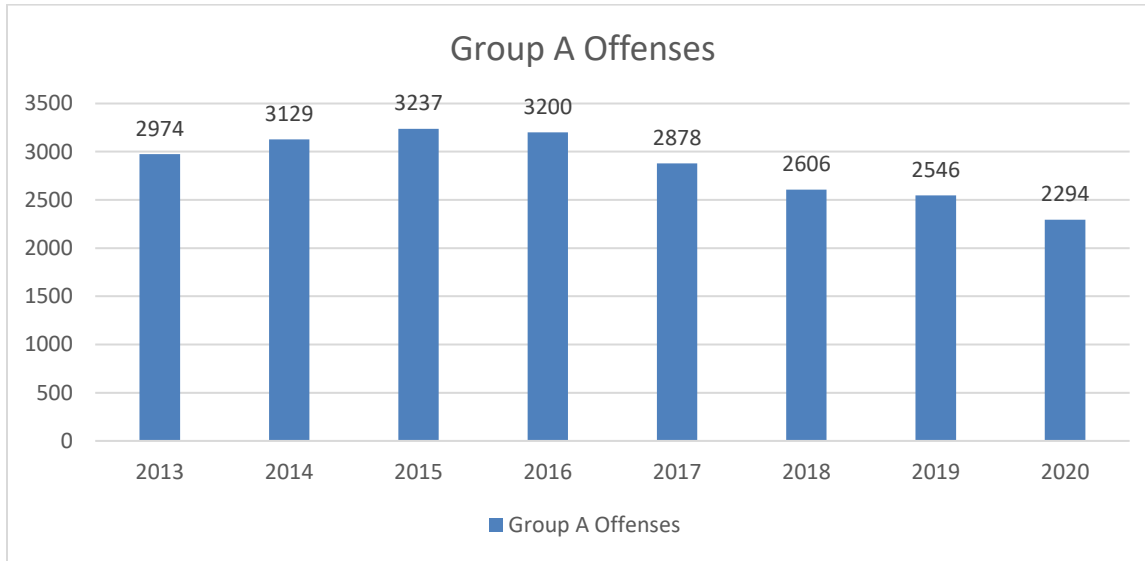
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## CRIME RATE:

The chart on the next page depicts the total reported Group A Offenses over the past eight (8) years in Walla Walla per the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Although there were subtle increases in 2014 and 2015, we continue to move in the right direction with 2020 having the fewest Group A Offenses in the past eight years.



# RETURN ON INVESTMENT



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## **ENHANCED RESPONSE TIMES:**

One of the Police Department goals is to increase the percentage of calls for service which we respond to in less than ten minutes. The chart on the next page shows the last seven (7) years of data with both the percentage and raw number of calls the officers responded to in less than ten minutes.

Our goal in the past was to respond to 80% of the calls for service in less than 10 minutes by 2018. As you can see from the chart on the next page, we exceeded that goal in 2016 and 2017 while at the same time significantly increasing the number of calls to which we responded.

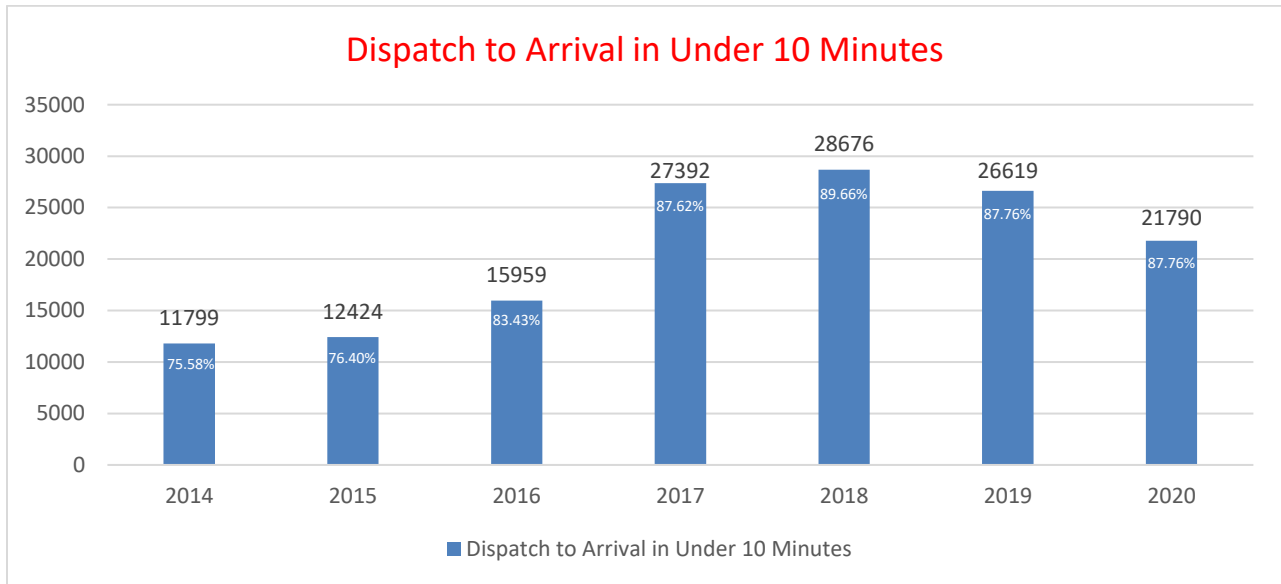
In 2018, we responded to almost 90% of all calls for service in less than 10 minutes.

In 2019, the calls for service increased to over 30,000, an increase of almost 5% over the previous year. However, the officers were still able to respond to 87.76% of those calls in under 10 minutes, even with significant Patrol staffing shortages.

2020 showed a decrease in calls for service which was fortunate since the department had 5 Officers in training and was operating in Patrol with a staffing shortage. We maintained our percentage from 2019 by once again responding to 87.76% of calls for service in under 10 minutes. The chart on the next page shows our progress since 2014.



# RETURN ON INVESTMENT



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## **PATROL – By the Numbers 2019:**

- Total number of **calls** for service – **24,828**  
Over 68 calls per day on average
  - Total number of **reports** written – **3189**  
8.7 reports per day on average
  - Total number of **arrests** made – **1263**  
3.46 arrests every day on average
  - Total **charges/tickets** written – **1576** (905 criminal / 671 infractions)  
4.3 per day on average
  - Total traffic **collisions** investigated – **701**  
1.92 per day on average
  - Total traffic **collision reports** written – **402**  
Over 1.1 per day on average
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# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

## PARKING ENFORCEMENT:

The Police Department has been without a Parking Enforcement Officer (PEO) since the end of 2019. Our previous PEO applied for and competed for an open Code Enforcement Officer position. She came out number one on the Civil Service list and was moved to the Code Enforcement position.

There were two main reasons we did not replace the PEO in 2020. First, parking enforcement became significantly more difficult as the result of an April 23, 2019 ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals Sixth Circuit which made the marking (chalking) of tires unconstitutional. Although we are in the Ninth Circuit, City Attorney Tim Donaldson advised we should abide by the Sixth Circuit ruling or risk facing a civil suit. Second, the economic impact of COVID in 2020 caused the City to reduce spending. One of the budget reductions made in the Police Department was to postpone filling the PEO position.

Council approved as part of the 2021 budget the purchase of an Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system for Parking Enforcement. This system will read plates automatically and note their location in a data base. When the Parking Enforcement vehicle drives by again, it will automatically recall those plates (vehicles) that have violated the parking time restriction. This purchase will be contingent with revenues increasing enough to allow for the filling of open positions within the Police Department. There is a possibility this might not occur until 2022.

## ANIMAL CONTROL:

Our Animal Control Officer (ACO) handled **1772** calls for service during 2020 which averages out to be just over 7 calls per day. In addition to handling the calls for service, she wrote 21 citations and gave 41 written warnings. The charts below show the ACO's calls for service totals between 2017-2020 and Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous Dog Declarations since 2010, respectively.

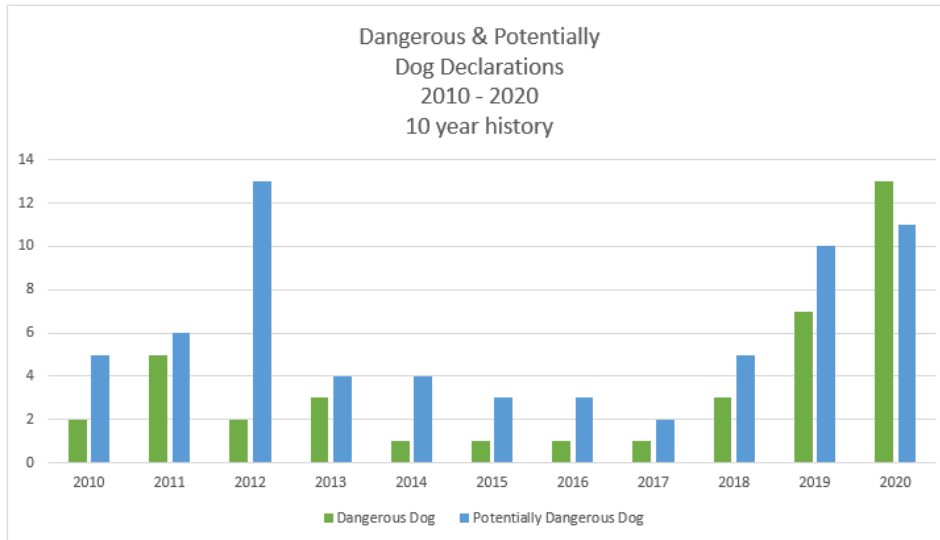
Animal Control Calls for service 2017 - 2020

YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020
Neglect Abuse	192	208	236	157
At Large	546	510	555	473
Aggressive Dog	203	233	247	257
Animal Noise/Barking	265	278	312	246
Lost/Found	330	309	393	342
Cat	64	87	105	101
Injured	48	64	78	68
Chicken	21	79	46	84
Other/Wildlife	44	40	49	44
TOTAL	1723	1808	2021	1772



# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

## ANIMAL CONTROL (continued):



It should be noted that the preparation of a Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous Dog Declaration is extremely time consuming and is completed between handling calls for service and spending random hours in various parks looking for off leash violations.

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## CODE ENFORCEMENT:

In 2020, our two Code Enforcement Officers opened **1261** new cases and were able to close **1226** cases.

The chart on the next page shows the number of total cases (closed and still open) for the past five years since Code Enforcement was reinstated in the Walla Walla Police Department.

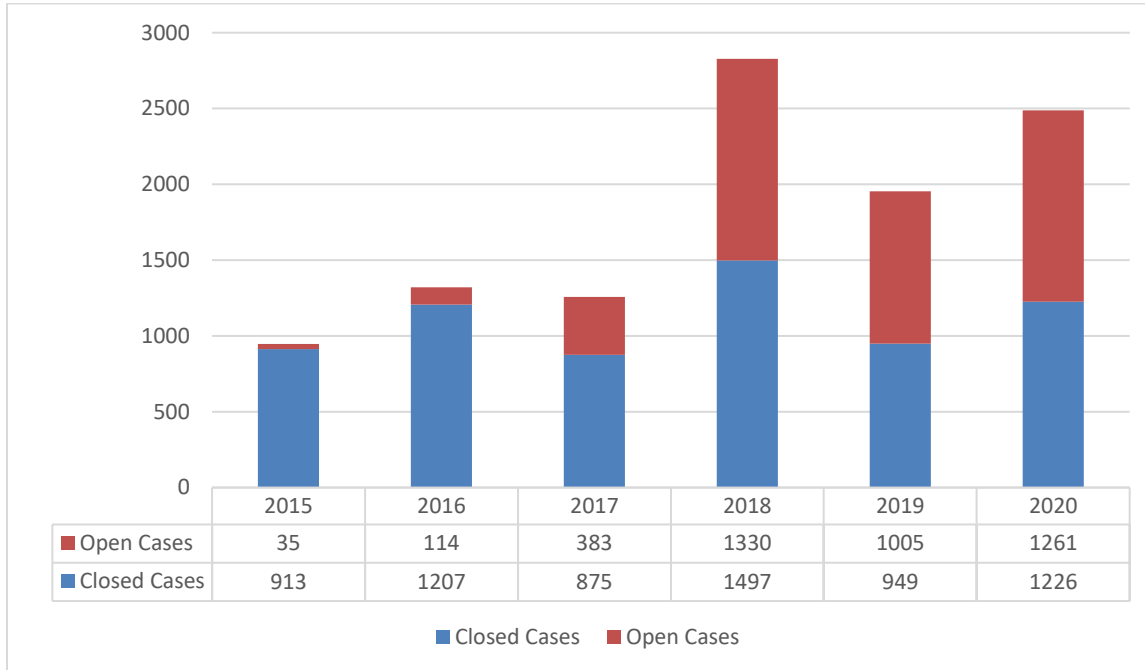
As you can see from the chart, the first two years of Code Enforcement was spent catching up and closing out already existing cases. In the past three years however, we've been able to move to a more even distribution of opening, resolving and closing code violation cases.





# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Code Enforcement – Six Year Trend



## **BIASED BASED POLICING REVIEW:**

Every year the Police Department conducts an extensive review of all reports regarding pursuits, use of force, and vehicle collision reports. Additionally, we review all Internal Affairs complaints and inquiries. A separate report is generated for this by the Patrol Captain and sent to the Chief of Police. Also included in this report is an examination for biased based policing. Although we have been conducting the review for biased based policing for several years, I thought it was important to share those results in the statistical report for 2020.

**IT SHOULD BE NOTED:** Our statistical data (arrests, criminal citations, and traffic infractions) is based on sex and race NOT ethnicity. Latino/Latina is ethnicity and not listed on a person's State identification or driver's license. Police Officers are not allowed to ask a person's ethnicity, therefore, any statistics on whether a person was Latino/Latina would at best be based on a guess. With regard to statistics, I am a firm believer in the rule: garbage in, garbage out. The information retrieved from a tracking system is only as good as the information inputted in the first place. I have added this statement so that the reader of this report understands why Latino/Latina is not listed on the charts which indicate the race of the person arrested or cited.



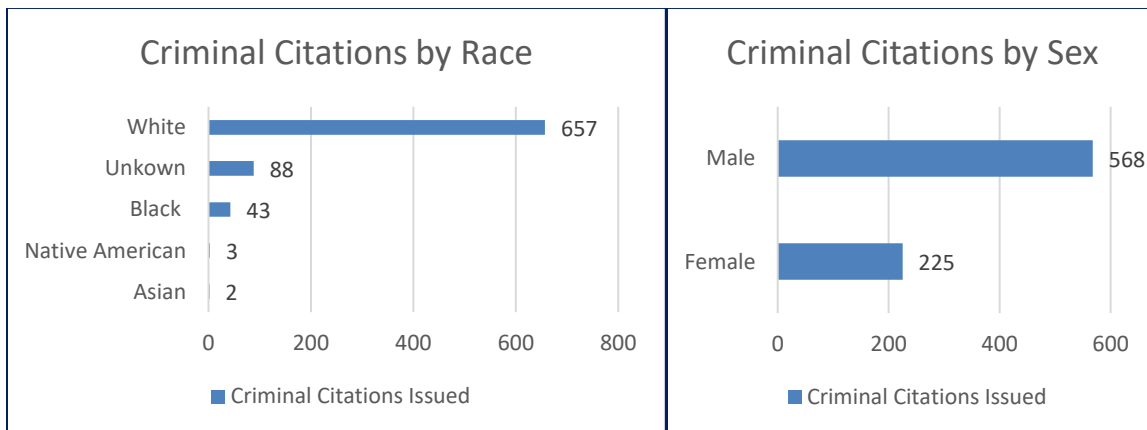
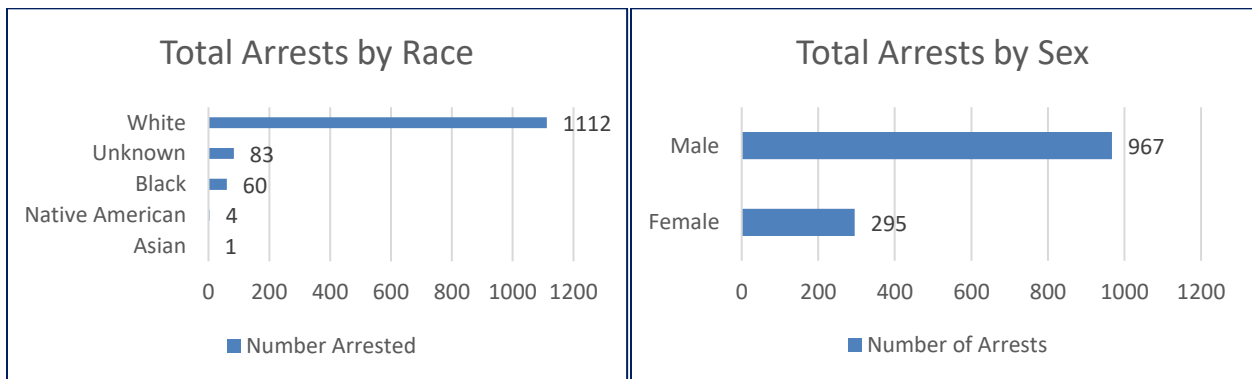
# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

## BIASED BASED POLICING REVIEW (continued):

For reference, the 2010 census provides us with the following demographic data for Walla Walla. Of course, these numbers will be updated as soon as the 2020 census information is released.

Per the 2010 census, there were 31,731 people living in Walla Walla. The racial makeup of the city was 81.6% Caucasian (White), 2.7% African American (Black), 1.3% Native American, 1.4% Asian, 0.3% Pacific Islander, 9.1% from other races, 3.6% from two or more races. Also for reference, 22% of the population identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

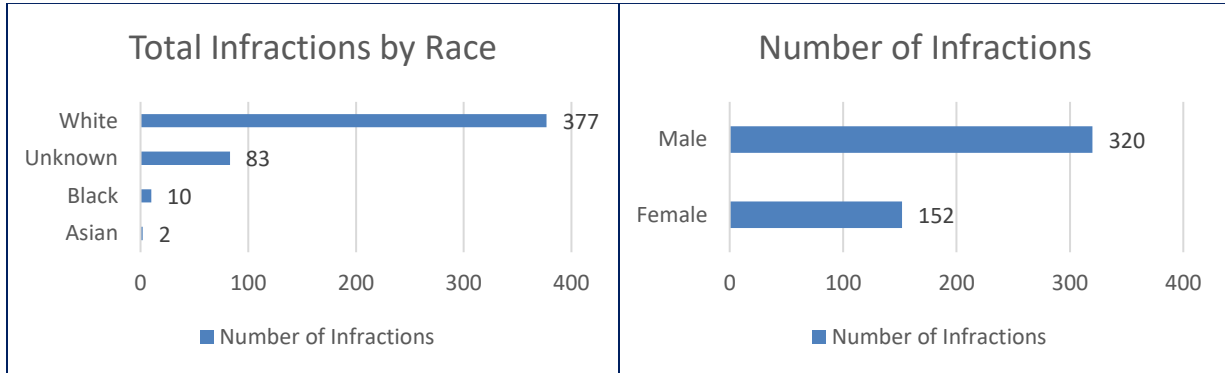
The following series of charts shows the race and sex of people arrested, cited, or given a traffic infraction by Walla Walla Police during 2020.





# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

## **Biased Based Policing Review (continued):**



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## **COMPLAINTS VS. KUDOS**

Every year the department tracks (and investigates) internal affairs complaints and compares them to the number of independent kudos, thank you messages, and notes of praise received. In 2020 we received and investigated seven (7) internal affairs complaints. Of those seven, only two were sustained (minor policy violations) and handled accordingly.

As of the end of 2020, the department had recorded 46 independent notes of praise about the department and officers either emailed or sent in via regular mail. It should be noted that at one point mid-summer 2020, the department was receiving so many emails, messages and submissions on our webpage that it was too numerous to track all of them. The community support was overwhelming.

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## **SUMMARY:**

This annual report is designed to provide Council with a snapshot of the return on investment from the Police Department. It is certainly not inclusive of everything done by members of the Department. In addition to the areas I have listed in this report, the bullet list on the next page goes through the numerous other functions of the department.



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- Our Records Unit processes thousands of documents (reports, supplemental reports, protection orders, warrants, concealed pistol licenses, NIBRS reports, public disclosure responses, traffic tickets, collision reports and many more) every year. This past year Records has been operating with one position vacant, but having the lobby closed due to COVID has also eliminated some of their work without having lobby walk-ins.
- Our Major Crimes Detectives investigate hundreds of cases each year. Each Detective carries a caseload on average of roughly 32 cases. This number is double and even triple in some cases in comparison to some local and regional law enforcement agencies. We have just set up a computer tracking system which will allow us to pull out specific statistics going forward.
- Our Community Programs staff continue to connect with and develop positive police relationships with hundreds of community residents every year through proactive programs like the Community Police Academy, Crime Free Rental Housing Training, National Night Out, Crime Victim's Advocate assistance, Domestic Violence victim assistance, Neighborhood Watch, Shred and Prescription Drug Take Back Days, and many more.
- Our civilian support personnel process thousands of pieces of property and evidence each year and the logistics of purchasing, payroll, processing HR documents and all of the other things that need to be done to keep the department operational.

This past year our Property and Evidence Tech did a complete reorganization and purge of our system, eliminating thousands of items being stored. Once the reorganization was completed, a 100% audit of the remaining items was conducted. Every single item was accounted for and in the exact location where it was supposed to be.

- Our dispatchers at WESCOM handle thousands of 9-1-1 emergency calls from all of Walla Walla County and dispatches those calls for service for all law enforcement and fire departments, including ambulances. They do so with the utmost professionalism and with the confidence of every agency for whom they dispatch.

As always, I encourage everyone (once COVID is contained) to come visit us at the Walla Walla Police Department. Take a ride-a-long; Look beyond the numbers and the national



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

headlines involving law enforcement. Get a firsthand view of the return on investment Walla Walla is getting with its Police Department.

Every member of the Police Department strives to exemplify our core values of Service, Pride and Integrity in everything they do – not only at work, but in their personal lives as well. They are dedicated to our Department motto of, “Return with Honor.”

At the beginning of this report I asserted that we "continue to meet our mission by focusing on and living our core values of Service, Pride and Integrity." I have included an item below that I believe is representative of the culture of the Walla Walla Police Department.



Amanda Brunner ► WALLA  
WALLA EYEWITNESS NEWS

20m · 📺

Thank you to officer Klicker with the Walla Walla Police Department!

Our daughter left her wallet in Marshall's this evening and someone took all of the money and her Visa gift card (around \$80) Officer Klicker felt bad for her and brought her some pizza gift cards to cheer her up!



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In future years, the Police Department will continue to provide the following reports to Council:

**Monthly Stats** – on a variety of calls for service, crimes committed, and police actions taken.

**Annual Statistical Report** – End of January, a written report containing the information like what has been included in this report.

**Annual Comparison** – April each year, a comparison of crime stats from like sized cities in Washington State.