

RACINE POLICE
DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT

2024

# CITY AND RACINE POLICE DEPARTMENT GOVERNANCE

#### Mayor

Cory Mason

#### **City of Racine Common Council**

District #1 Jeff Coe

District #2 Mollie Jones

District #3 Olivia Turquoise-Davis

District #4 David Maack

District #5 Melissa Kaprelian

District #6 Sandy Weidner

District #7 Maurice Horton

District #8 Marcus West

District #9 Terry McCarthy

District #10 Sam Peete

District #11 Mary Land

District #12 Henry Perez

District #13 Renee Kelly

District #14 Alicia Jarrett

District #15 Cory Sebastian

#### **Board of Police and Fire Commission**

President Robert Turner
Vice President Rebecca Strommen
Secretary Carl Hubbard
Commissioner Thomas Binger

Commissioner Angelina Cruz



### **DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

#### **Medal of Honor**

W. Joseph Burinda Benjamin Eiden

#### Medal of Valor

Thomas DeBaker Max Golden Kevin Sell Kyle Trousil Chase Vela

#### **Exemplary Officer Award**

W. Joseph Burinda Kane Castel Kellen Gullifor Christopher Kupper Jon LeGath Alicia Mitchell

#### **Outstanding Police Service Award**

Travis Brady Emily Draves Michael Gordon

#### **Lifesaving Award**

Stephanie Barry Christopher Carson Conner Musurlian Adam Schuls

#### **Award of Excellence**

Brady Brenner
Zachary Brenner
Todd Lauer
Zachary Morris
Adam Schuls
Dakotah Snyder
Bryce Spaulding
Daniel Wasmund

#### **Unit Citation**

Crisis Negotiation Team
Chad Anderson
Melissa Diener
Emily Draves
Juan Garcia
Jon LeGath
Brinelle Nabors
Konner Scott
Andrew Simon
Jody Spiegelhoff
Jacob Ulickey

#### **Law Enforcement Assistance Award**

Joseph Costabile

#### **Civilian Employee Police Service Award**

Julia Jones Chelsea Kerr Elizabeth Willman

#### Citizen Public Service Award

Deloris Walton



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### **DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP**



**ALEXANDER RAMIREZ**Chief of Police

The end of 2024 marked my first full year as Chief of Police. As I look back on the accomplishments, 2024 saw a reduction in overall crime. This is the third year in a row that overall crime has been reduced. The reduction in crime is the true test of police efficiency. Inside this report, you will read about other successes. Additionally, you'll read about our engagement with the community, something that I am very proud of. Please take the time to read the annual report.

The work does not get done by one person. It's a collaborative effort by many. I want to first thank the men and women of this Department. They deserve my gratitude and appreciation for what they do day in and day out, and of their continued commitment to the city and to the community. I also want to thank the many community partners and programmers. Their assistance and collaboration in making the community safer makes it easier to succeed in the city. Finally, I want to thank our professional staff as they too are committed to providing their services and support for the Department.

In closing, in 2024, we adopted the phrase "Committed to Community." We know that the work is never done. Let's continue working together. I look forward to working alongside all department members and our community to ensure that Racine remains a safe, vibrant, and thriving place for everyone.





**RICHARD TOELLER**Assistant Chief of Police

With great pride, I am honored to have dedicated 28 years of my life to serving our community. I am particularly delighted to now assume the position of Assistant Chief of Police. While I miss the daily interactions with our esteemed citizens, I eagerly embrace the challenges that lie ahead and derive great satisfaction from witnessing the growth and development of our department's

young leaders. I am particularly proud of our officers who have embraced our nationally recognized Community Oriented Policing model. They have taken ownership of their responsibilities to their neighborhoods and continue to strive to enhance the safety and quality of life within our community.



# JESSIE METOYER Deputy Chief

It is an honor and privilege to serve as Commander of the Investigative Division of the Racine Police Department. This division includes the Detective Bureau, Violent Crimes and Intelligence Unit, Identification Unit, Criminalist Section, NIBN Unit and Crime Analysis, and the Major Crimes Unit. Each year I look forward to highlighting accomplishments within our division. This

year I'd like to recognize a sensitive crimes investigator and the cold case homicide arrest, the latter will be covered later in this report.

In 2024 a senior detective with two decades of investigative experience received special recognition from the Racine Child Advocacy Center and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Investigator Melissa Diener received this award in September 2024. She was recognized for her outstanding efforts over the last two decades. Throughout the 21 years that Melissa has been an Investigator she has either handled sensitive overflow cases or full-time sensitive crime cases. This case load is arguably one of the most difficult to carry for long periods of time. Handling juvenile victim cases is emotionally draining and devastating for anyone to handle. When children are victims of sex and/or violent crimes investigators put their all into bringing the perpetrators to justice. Investigator Diener is an expert in handling juvenile victims, child advocacy interviews and building rapport with our most vulnerable victims. Due to outstanding efforts, Inv. Diener was presented with the Collaboration Award from the Racine Child Advocacy Center and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.



#### **ADAM MALACARA**

### **Deputy Chief**

The Patrol Division continues to grow as we added new officers in 2024. The Patrol Division is the largest division of our agency consisting of four shifts, the COP Unit, K-9 unit, School Safety and Security Unit, SWAT, Crowd Control Team, as well as many other units and teams. The Patrol Division works hard not only to address quality of life issues and crime, but also to foster

relationships with the members of the community. By doing so we hope to create a community that is safe and prosperous for our citizens as we serve with understanding, fairness, and compassion.

The Racine Police Department understands the importance of community involvement and we appreciate the support and commitment our citizens provide. We are grateful for the many community partners who share in our organizational success. I commend the members of the Racine Police Department's Patrol Division for their commitment to our community.



## **CHAD MELBY**Deputy Chief

I was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief in April 2024 after spending nineteen years in law enforcement. Currently, I serve as the Deputy Chief of the Support Services Division, which encompasses several units, including the Training Unit, Courts Unit, Customer Service Representatives, Technology and Fleet Management Unit, Records Division, Community Service Officers,

and Crossing Guards. Each of these units plays a crucial role in the overall functioning of the police department, contributing to various areas such as officer training, recruitment and hiring, handling animal complaints and investigations, processing records requests, and managing the budget. It is an honor to work alongside the dedicated men and women of the Support Services Division, which consists of seven sworn officers and thirty-seven civilian staff members.



### **RETIREMENTS**



**Ted Batwinski** 18 Years of Service



**Steven Beal**13 Years of Service



**Jeffrey BeBow**29 ½ Years of Service



**Dennis Cecchini** 25 Years of Service



**Andrew Matson** 21 Years of Service



Kristin Mireles
21 ½ Years of Service



Jason Rich 27 Years of Service

### **PROMOTIONS**



**Deputy Chief Richard Toeller** Promoted to Assistant Chief



**Lieutenant Adam Malacara**Promoted to Deputy Chief



**Lieutenant Chad Melby** Promoted to Deputy Chief



Sergeant Kevin Sell
Promoted to Lieutenant



**Investigator TJ Bodnar** Promoted to Sergeant



Officer Brinelle Nabors Promoted to Sergeant

### **PROMOTIONS**



Officer Konner Scott Promoted to Sergeant



Officer Bennett Thill Promoted to Sergeant



Officer Aaron White Promoted to Sergeant



Officer Jeffrey Nikolai Promoted to Investigator

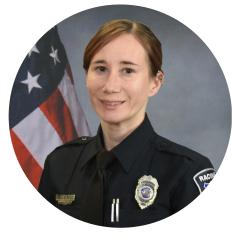


Officer Heriberto Benitez
Promoted to Sergeant



**Support Service Manager Julian Jones**Promoted to Director of Support Services

### **NEW HIRES**



Elizabeth Alvarado



Cole Bailey



**James Bennett** 



Kaleb Chappell



Nicholas Coca



**Riley Fitzgerald** 



Nakia Guyton



Tyler Jacob



**Anthony Johnson** 

### **NEW HIRES**



Joseph Kroening



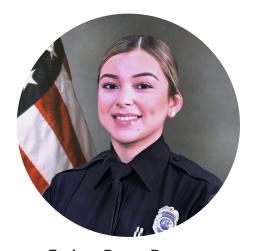
**Timothy Martin** 



**Xochitl Morales** 



Jorge Paniagua



Fatima Perez-Romero



Jordan Reed



Carlos Rojas

### **NEW HIRES**



**Gregory Sanders** 



**Channing Schultz** 



William Thompson



**Ross Toeller** 



**Tanner Weimer** 



**Dietrick Williams** 



Daniel Zajaczkowski

### **COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY**



The Racine Police Department is deeply committed to engaging with and serving our local community. Our department actively participates in many prominent downtown events throughout the year, including Party on the Pavement, First Fridays, and various parades. These events provide us with the opportunity to connect with residents, foster positive relationships, and promote community safety in a fun and engaging environment.

In addition to our participation in local events, the Racine Police Department maintains a strong partnership with the Neighborhood Watch program. We hold monthly meetings at our Community Oriented Policing (C.O.P.) houses, where we collaborate with residents to address concerns, share updates, and discuss safety initiatives. One of the highlights of this partnership is the coordination of the annual National Night Out (NNO) events, held at multiple locations across the city. These events offer a unique opportunity for the police and community members to come together for a night of food, fun, and entertainment, helping to strengthen the bond between law enforcement and residents.

Furthermore, the Racine Police Department is proud to support the C.O.P.S. (Concerns of Police Survivors) program, which organizes a summer camp for children who have tragically lost a parent in the line of duty. This initiative not only provides these children with an opportunity for healing but also reinforces our ongoing commitment to supporting families affected by the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers. Through these programs and events, the Racine Police Department continues to build and maintain strong, positive relationships within our community, ensuring a safer and more connected environment for all.



#### **Community Recognition**

#### Chief Alex Ramirez

Chief Alex Ramirez was awarded Safe and Sound's 2024 Neighborhood Changemaker Award for Public Safety. Chief Ramirez plays an integral role in supporting their mission to build safe and empowered neighborhoods in Racine. Chief Ramirez has utilized the COP Houses to provide programming that amplifies community police relations.



#### Lieutenant Walter Powell

Lieutenant Walter Powell was honored with an award at the Racine Community Coalition's annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy. Lieutenant Powell's unwavering dedication to fostering positive relationships, building trust, and bridging the gap between the community and law enforcement has made a lasting impact on the Racine community.



#### Investigator Melissa Diener

Investigator Melissa Diener received the Collaboration Award from the Racine Child Advocacy Center (CAC) for her dedicated partnership with the Multidisciplinary Team and the CAC, helping children and families.



#### Officer Gabrielle Hood

Officer Gabrielle Hood was selected by Local Radio Station 620WTMJ for their Salute to Service. During the interview, several people offered experiences they've had with Officer Hood that demonstrated her strong connection with the community. Officer Hood is a foster parent, former basketball coach, and currently the Robert Quintanilla COP house officer.



#### Officer Travis Brady

Officer Travis Brady received the Virginia Buhler Humanitarian Award at the Heritage Committee of Racine's 2024 Heritage Ball.



#### Officer Michael Gordon

Officer Michael Gordon received the First Responders Award at the Heritage Committee of Racine's 2024 Heritage Ball.



#### Officer Colin Powell

Officer Colin Powell was recognized by Siena Catholic Schools for his support of their seven schools and 1500+ students by providing presence, law enforcement, investigation, education, and threat guidance and assessment training. Officer Powell serves as the Community Liaison for Siena Catholic Schools of Racine and is an outstanding role model and a valued member of the Siena team!



### **CIVILIAN SPOTLIGHT**

Theresa Sullivan has been a loyal Civilian member of the Racine Police Department since May 31, 2000. Theresa was hired as a Records Clerk and evolved to become a Customer Service

Representative for the Records Department. She currently works as the Records Specialist for the department and her contributions while in this position



have been invaluable. Prior to the newly created, Records Specialist position, there were issues with streamlining the records request process, which Theresa has been very successful in correcting. This success is evident by the lack of litigation processes received by the City Attorney's office connected to records requests. She serves as the liaison between multiple organizations inside and outside of the City of Racine. Theresa is also responsible for the Crossing Guard program where the employees who interact with her highly respect her. They sing praises of how approachable she is and appreciate her calm demeanor. These are just a few items Theresa is tasked with, as she was just given the responsibility of handling NIBRS monthly reporting, and she's the go-to-person for double coding. She takes pride in her work and is willing to do what is asked of her with reassurance and a smile.



Diane Ryan was hired as a Transcriber for the Racine Police Department on February 2, 2015. Since her employment, she has transformed the Transcribing Department into a stellar area and has been recognized as such. The Racine Police Department Transcribing Department is used as a model for the Transcribing Departments in other jurisdictions. Diane has been the one constant Transcriber for the department as others have come and gone. In a department where four people are needed, there have been long stretches of time where Diane was the only Transcriber working. During these times, she has maintained the status of being the best Transcribing Department among the other

jurisdictions. Diane has a high standard of performance that she refuses to compromise and helps identify applicants that can meet and maintain this



standard. She will come in at a moments notice for emergencies without any complaints, and will get the job done.

Lisa Ramirez, the Municipal, Traffic and Criminal Court Clerk for the Racine Police Department,

has dedicated 35 years of exemplary service to the department. In her role, Lisa is entrusted with the critical responsibility of accurately entering



and routing all OWI cases, Chapter paperwork, and arrest records. She collaborates closely with the District Attorney's Office to ensure that all necessary documentation and charges are properly filed.

### PINK PATCH PROJECT FUNDRAISER

The Racine Police Department has participated in the Pink Patch Project since 2020, when one of our own received the devastating news that she had breast cancer.

We have a contest for Racine Police Department personnel to design the Pink Patch shirt. The design gets selected by the upper command staff and the winner gets recognized by having their name placed on the back of the design.

To date we have donated \$8028.00 to various breast cancer foundations, which include Pink Paddlers, Ofc. Lina Edwards, Susan G Komen, and Terese's Flowers of Hope.

Terese's Flowers of Hope was created when Sergeant Jacob Ulickey's mother, Terese, was battling metastatic breast cancer for the third time. Terese loved flowers and her family made sure she had them when she received treatment. Terese wanted to pay it forward by sharing her flowers with other patients to brighten their day. After an outpouring of support, a 501c3 was created and continues "Spreading Hope, One Bouquet at a time".

2024 Pink Patch Design winner was Ofc. Kenneth Meyer.



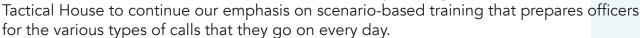
### TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT

#### **Training**

The Training Unit had a groundbreaking year in 2024 with new training initiatives and goals being met. The Training Unit was responsible for the hiring and training of 22 new officers. The Training Unit plays an integral role in the hiring process of new police officers.

In 2024 the Training Unit expanded the training for officers following their law enforcement academy graduation to over 3 weeks to ensure that they are well prepared and ready to go out on their first day of patrol. The

prepared and ready to go out on their first day of patrol. The Training Unit conducted training for the entire Police Department to include: Active Shooter/Room Clearing, Ballistic Shield, Less Lethal (PepperBall), Taser, Firearms, and Casualty Care in addition to numerous on-shift trainings. The Training Unit was able to continue to utilize the VirTra® Simulator and a recently redesigned



#### Recruitment

The Racine Police Department has faced significant staffing challenges since 2020. In each subsequent year the need for effective recruitment of members of our community to

step up and become members of the Racine Police Department has become more imperative. Through careful consideration and planning in recruitment efforts we have met the goals set before us to continue to get back to a full staffing level. Just a few short years ago we were 60 officers below staffing. We have continued to meet the challenge each year with hiring 20-30 members each calendar year.



We have seen the development of our Police Cadet Program involve the hiring of two of our initial cadets as Police Officers in 2024, Xochitl Morales and Gregory Sanders. This program continues to help prepare youth from our community with experience in law enforcement and readiness to begin a career at the Racine Police Department.

We have increased our recruitment team to 25 members to make an impact at Career Fairs in the Racine community and the surrounding area, Technical Colleges, and Universities. Through this effort we saw our highest numbers of applicants in 2024 than in the previous 4 years.



### **COPS N' KIDS**

Julia Witherspoon has been an integral figure in the Racine community for many years, demonstrating unwavering dedication and service. For 17 years, Julia served as a Racine Police Officer, where she worked to strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the community, with a particular focus on the youth. Drawing from her own experiences growing up as the oldest of 12 children, Julia recognized the financial barriers that many families face, limiting their ability to provide books for their children.

Her commitment to education led to a pivotal moment. While responding to a burglary call at a warehouse, Julia discovered 10,000 books in good condition but unsuitable for resale. She was granted the books and, alongside fellow officers, began distributing them directly from squad cars to community members. The initiative quickly gained traction, and Julia founded the Cops 'n Kids Reading Center, located at 800 Villa St. The center became a cornerstone of the community, providing access to books, tutoring, and educational programs, while also fostering a love of reading among Racine's youth.

For 25 years, the Cops 'n Kids Reading Center has played a vital role in supporting local children and families. The center hosted 22 Annual Holiday Book Giveaways, allowing children the opportunity to engage with members of the Racine Police Department, Racine Fire Department, FBI, and Green Bay Packer Hall of Famer LeRoy Butler III.

As Julia enters retirement, her contributions to the community stand as a testament to her dedication and leadership. Over the years, Julia has been recognized through numerous media appearances, accolades, and even presidential acknowledgments, all of which are a reflection of her remarkable service and impact.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Julia for her exceptional work and commitment to the Racine community. We wish her nothing but the best in her retirement and thank her for the lasting legacy she leaves behind.















### **COP HOUSES**



#### Marty Defatte COP House1522 W 6th St:

Officer Carlos Reyes participated in a Co-Ed Youth Soccer Clinic at Pershing Park to promote physical activity, bring the community together, and teach youth the beautiful game of soccer. The clinic worked with beginners to skilled players who wished to take their game to a new level. Soccer cleats were donated for this event.

CRIMES BY COP AREA : 1522 W 6TH STREET								
	2023	2024	% CHANGE					
	V	OLENT	CRIMES					
HOMICIDE	3	1	-100%					
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	13	11	-15%					
RAPE	4	5	25%					
ROBBERY	2	4	100%					
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	22	20	-9%					
	PROPERTY CRIMES							
BURGLARY	6	1	-83%					
THEFT	5	9	80%					
AUTO THEFT	20	14	-30%					
ARSON	0	0	-					
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	31	24	-23%					
	MISCE	LLANE	OUS CRIMES					
SIMPLE ASSAULT	20	13	-35%					
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	27	10	-63%					
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	26	38	46%					
PUBLIC ORDER	50	57	14%					
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES	123	118	-4%					



#### William Wadewitz COP House 1750 Mead St:

To Celebrate Hispanic Heritage month and strengthen relationships between the Racine Police Department and the Hispanic community, Ofc. Jennifer Peralta (Bodnar) / Ofc. Colin Powell and the Spanish Center partnered to host a "carne asada" filled with music, food, and meaningful conversations. Thanks to the support of the Racine Library, Gran Morelos, Emma's Tacos, and Mi Jacalito.

CRIMES BY COP AREA: 1750 MEAD STREET								
	2023	2024	% CHANGE					
	V	IOLENT	CRIMES					
HOMICIDE	0	1	-					
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	5	3	-40%					
RAPE	1	2	100%					
ROBBERY	0 0							
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	6	6	0%					
	PROPERTY CRIMES							
BURGLARY	4	2	-50%					
THEFT	4	4	-					
AUTO THEFT	9	12	33%					
ARSON	0	0	-					
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	17	18	6%					
	MISCE	LLANE	OUS CRIMES					
SIMPLE ASSAULT	12	12	-					
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	8	8	-					
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	15	25	67%					
PUBLIC ORDER	22	33	50%					
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES	57	78	37%					



**Dr. Thelma Orr COP House 1146 Villa St:**Officer Colin Powell held the annual Pumpkin Painting event. Swan's Pumpkin Farm graciously donated the pumpkins again this year and Officer Powell provided the painting materials. Neighborhood youth enjoyed an evening of painting and conversations with Racine and Mount Pleasant COP Officers.

CRIMES BY COP AREA: 1146 VILLA STREET								
	2023	2024	% CHANGE					
	V	IOLENT	CRIMES					
HOMICIDE	1	2	100%					
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	14	25	79%					
RAPE	8	3	-63%					
ROBBERY	8	6	-25%					
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	31	36	16%					
	PROPERTY CRIMES							
BURGLARY	7	11	57%					
THEFT	13	8	-38%					
AUTO THEFT	40	44	10%					
ARSON	0	1	-					
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	60	64	7%					
	MISCE	LLANE	OUS CRIMES					
SIMPLE ASSAULT	48	54	13%					
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	31	23	-26%					
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	73	90	23%					
PUBLIC ORDER	136	145	7%					
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES	288	312	8%					



#### Richard Polzin COP House 1900 16th Street: In the month of December, Ofc. Brady Brenner and additional COP members participated in an event with Orchestrating Good to deliver Christmas Gifts to over 100 community members in the City of Racine. Orchestrating Good, The City of Racine COP Unit, as well as the Village of Mount Pleasant COP Unit, gathered numerous families from within the City and neighboring jurisdictions and community centers to attempt to spread Christmas Cheer. A parade of decorated squads as well as a retired ambulance, was filled with gifts and driven throughout the City to locate families and children in need. These gifts were provided free of charge in an attempt to bridge bonds between law enforcement and the community as a whole. Thanks to the support of Orchestrating Good, this event continues to further these endeavors.

CRIMES BY COP AREA: 1900 16TH STREET								
	2023	2024	% CHANGE					
	VI	OLENT	CRIMES					
HOMICIDE	2	0	-100%					
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	10	14	40%					
RAPE	5	1	-80%					
ROBBERY	2	5	150%					
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	19	20	5%					
	PR	OPERTY	CRIMES					
BURGLARY	15	7	-53%					
THEFT	12	10	-17%					
AUTO THEFT	18	34	89%					
ARSON	0	0	-					
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	45	51	13%					
	MISCE	LLANE	OUS CRIMES					
SIMPLE ASSAULT	23	27	17%					
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	28	15	-46%					
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	44	58	32%					
PUBLIC ORDER	121	140	16%					
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES	216	240	11%					



## **Ernice & Bernice Styberg COP House 2437 Anthony Ln:**

Officer Travis Brady hosted the DRT Grocery Giveaways on the third Thursday of each month at the Anthony Lane COP House. Due to financial constraints and a shortage of food donations, after four years, this program came to an end. Thanks to all of the community members who attended the events and to all of the community volunteers who worked long hours each month to make it happen.

CRIMES BY COP AREA : 2437 ANTHONY LANE							
	2023	2024	% CHANGE				
	V	OLENT	CRIMES				
HOMICIDE	0	0	-				
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1	1	-				
RAPE	0	0	-				
ROBBERY	1	3	200%				
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	2	4	100%				
	PROPERTY CRIMES						
BURGLARY	6	2	-67%				
THEFT	9	4	-56%				
AUTO THEFT	15	12	-20%				
ARSON	1	1	-				
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	31	19	-39%				
	MISCE	LLANE	OUS CRIMES				
SIMPLE ASSAULT	10	12	20%				
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	5	5	-				
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	26	25	-4%				
PUBLIC ORDER	43	36	-16%				
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES	84	78	-7%				



#### **Robert Quintanilla COP House 1140 Geneva St:**

Officer Gabrielle Hood was able to meet with a Kindergarten class at Hope Christian School. Officer Hood talked with the students about safety, both in and out of school, as well as how to be a good citizen. Students were able to ask questions and wrapped up the visit with a tour of the squad car, which included the chance to sit in the driver's seat!

CRIMES BY COP AREA: 1140 GENEVA STREET							
	2023	2024	% CHANGE				
	V	OLENT	CRIMES				
HOMICIDE	0 (						
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	11	8	-27%				
RAPE	0	3	-				
ROBBERY	1	100%					
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	12	13	8%				
	PROPERTY CRIMES						
BURGLARY	3	4	33%				
THEFT	7	8	14%				
AUTO THEFT	13	11	-15%				
ARSON	0	0	-				
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	23	23	0%				
	MISCE	LLANE	OUS CRIMES				
SIMPLE ASSAULT	28	19	-32%				
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	13	18	38%				
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	33	24	-27%				
PUBLIC ORDER	42	59	40%				
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES	116	120	3%				

### **SHOP WITH A COP**

The 11th annual Shop with a Cop event was held on December 14, 2024. The Racine Police Department partners with the Racine Unified School District to identify worthy students to participate in the program. The students are nominated by RUSD staff based on good behavior and academic performance. Fifty students are chosen to shop with a cop from one of the local law enforcement agencies and given money to spend on gifts for themselves and their families. The Shop with a Cop program is funded 100% from donations. The donations come from members of the community, POLICE local businesses and some major organizations. The Racine Police Department would like to thank SC Johnson, the Racine Police and Retired Racine Police Associations, Racine Community Foundation, RUSD, Pepsi Co., and Walmart for donating to this years Shop with a Cop!



### **NIBIN PROGRAM/CRIME ANALYSIS**

In 2024, the Racine NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) Program and Crime Analysis Unit created several new positions. This included a NIBIN administrative assistant and a data analyst. Along with the hiring of these new positions, a college internship program was created within the NIBIN Unit, to sort through thousands of records of lead data involving violent crime data within the City. Due to both units main goal of tracking violent weapon offenses, a grant involving the Racine County District Attorney's office was also utilized to create a multijurisdictional shoot room within the Police Department. This multi-jurisdictional shoot room allows a Racine Police Department Criminalists (NIBIN Acquisitions Technician), to conduct firearm testing in an enclosed controlled environment, to enter a larger magnitude of casings for the County. Furthermore, this will allow more analysts to understand how firearms are traveling across Southeastern Wisconsin. The Racine Police Department's rapid expansion of the NIBIN Program has been recognized regionally, as well as nationally, for the multitude of success stories submitted and proactive work on counter-weapons trafficking cases.



### **VCIU**

The Violent Crime Intelligence Unit (VCIU) completed a second successful year under its' combined task force structure which was created in late 2022. The Racine Police Department is task force partners with the FBI, ATF, DEA and the US Marshals and with the creation of VCIU, the department combined all these resources in one unit to combat violent crime in and around the City of Racine.

During 2024, members of VCIU investigated over 151 violent crime cases to include but not limited to homicide, attempted homicide, aggravated assault, robbery, narcotics violations and arson. In total, the team served (52) search warrants, made (217) arrests, recovered (38) firearms and seized over \$30,000 in US currency. Of the arrests made, (40) cases were sent for federal indictment consideration. The majority of which were for violent offenders found in possession of firearms which had been used to carry out violent crimes.

Joining a troubling national trend, the City of Racine is confronting the widespread and harmful presence of fentanyl in the area. VCIU has tackled this issue with great success and, through a long-term federal conspiracy investigation that extended to Mexico, were able to recover several hundred thousand Fentanyl pills. One seizure alone resulted in the recovery of over 50lbs of Fentanyl from within our city. The work done by this unit has undoubtedly saved lives in our area.

As a result of the exceptional work done by the VCIU team, we are excited to announce our expansion of an additional Task Force Officer in the US Marshals and one with the DEA. Our ability to bring all the federal task force resources together and work towards a common goal has become the textbook example for addressing violent crime in any community.



### **RACINE MOTOR UNIT**

With 2024 being a presidential election year, the Racine Police Motor Unit was tasked with several high-profile escorts into the City of Racine. Traffic Investigator Dan Nelson and Officer



Dan Tredo shared the responsibilities of organizing the routes and conducting the escorts of President Joseph Biden, President-elect Donald

Trump, Vice President-elect JD Vance, and Vice-Presidential candidate Tim Walz. Those operations involved the collaboration of several units within the Racine Police Department, as well as numerous local, state, and federal agencies.

Additionally, the Motor Unit honorably accepted the requests to plan the escorts for the funerals of U.S. Army Air Force Staff Sgt. Ralph H. Bode and City of Racine Firefighter FF Maxwell Bayer. Sgt Bode was a World War II tail gunner whose remains were recovered after 80 years of being declared Missing in Action. Racine Fire Department FF Bayer tragically died off-duty in a traffic crash. The unit was again assisted by several other units as well as local and state agencies to make these operations run smoothly.

The Republican National Convention (RNC) was held in Milwaukee, which the Racine Police Motor Unit was utilized for the movement of candidates throughout



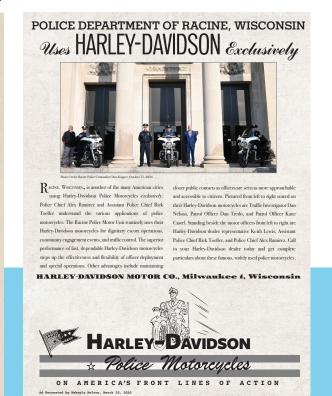
six long days. Motor units from across the State of Wisconsin came together for several training sessions leading up to the RNC and culminated in a seamless operation during the week.

The Motor Unit was pleased to add Officer Kane Castel to the team after he successfully completed the rigorous 80-hour training course in 2024. Officer Castel already showed great interest in the program and is eager to

become as involved as possible. Looking forward to 2025, the Motor Unit is hoping to add more operators to further the unit's mission for traffic safety within the City of Racine.







### FITNESS COMMITTEE

"The mission of the Racine

**Police Department Fitness** 

Committee is to maintain a

functional and progressive

knowledgeable, quality and

and guidance; maintain and

increase physical readiness;

organize programs, events

and challenges which foster

comradery, increase the moral

wellness of the department".

and overall mental and physical

fitness center; provide

safe workout education

Nearly 25 years ago, members of the Racine Police Department embarked on an effort to create a new fitness center. The original goal was to provide state-of –the –art equipment

that would allow sworn officers the ability to increase strength, tone muscle and condition their cardiovascular system. Over the years, the fitness center had endured much wear and tear. Little had been done to update or maintain the equipment. During that time, the world of fitness had evolved immensely. Along with these factors, policing in the 21 Century has also evolved in many ways. The Racine Police Department realized all the above factors

and knew it was time to address the needs of the fitness committee in every aspect to create a complete, multi-focused, functional and sustainable plan.

In serving a community as a police officer, it is imperative to be physically fit, to effectively and safely perform the rigors of the profession. Being "Fit" goes beyond the physical demands and benefit's it represents. Being fit reduces stress, improves mental health, provides a better chance for a longer happier life, can help with better

decision making on calls, can reduce the chance of injury and illness, just to name some of the benefits of fitness.

During 2024, The Racine
Police Department moved
from about a 1200 square foot
workout room with 20-year-old
equipment and unveiled their
new fitness center that is over
5000 square feet and equipped
with multiple state-of-the-art
equipment. The center is named
Frontline Fitness and allows

for 24/7 usage. It is a perfect place to work towards the fitness committee's mission. From the dedication over the years, and specifically in 2024, the fitness center is now benefiting Racine Police Department personnel, police cadets, along with the Racine Fire Department and fire/rescue cadets.





### PEER SUPPORT

It is the goal of the Peer Support Team to create a positive impact on police culture to eliminate the negative stigma attached to seeking help and

talking about the trauma/ stressors impacting those in law enforcement. The Peer Support Team as part of the Racine Police Department Wellness Program provides a way



for employees to discuss problems with their peers who can understand/relate and offer both support and resources. Additionally, the Peer Support Team helps family members of law enforcement officers as they navigate the stress that comes along with a loved one in this career field and learn effective coping strategies.

In 2024, the Peer Support Team had the opportunity to collaborate with Chaplain Art Rader and Mental Health Professional Elizabeth

Willman on many occasions to provide training, critical incident debriefs, and wellness services to the officers and families of the Racine Police Department. With these services being offered on a more regular



and consistent basis, the understanding of the importance became apparent and the amount of support for the program grew exponentially. Throughout the year, the team continued to build

on the efforts being made to introduce Peer Support early on with training and information sessions offered to all our new hires and their families on the day of their swearing in, during the academy, and in the post academy. Members of the team



strive to consistently make themselves available and accessible to all officers by attending roll calls, offering Morale Meals sponsored by the Racine Community Foundation, and participating in multiple other community-based events.

Training for members of the Peer Support Team and the Wellness Program is a top priority and 2024 was no exception. Members participated

in advanced Crisis
Intervention Training
(CIT) put on by the
National Alliance on
Mental Illness (NAMI)
where topics such as
building a peer support
team, stress, anxiety,
Post -Traumatic Stress
Disorder (PTSD), and
the impacts of the job
on mental health were



discussed. Officers and clinicians were able to provide insight and share relatable personal experiences, helping other officers learn how to identify symptoms and access resources. Additionally, the Racine Police Department hosted Critical Incident Stress Management

(CISM) training for our members as well as members of neighboring departments. Members of the Peer Support team along with Elizabeth Willman also continue to actively participate in the Wisconsin Department of Justice Peer Support conference as attendees and presenters.



### **CADET PROGRAM**

The mission of the Racine Police Department Cadet Program is to develop educated, well-trained, and diverse candidates to prepare them for a career in law enforcement. Cadets attend weekly meetings where they are taught job-specific topics by sworn officers and participate in scenario-based training.

In 2024, 10 sworn officers served as cadet mentors. These officers developed lesson plans and scenarios to teach cadets during the weekly meetings and accompanied cadets to department and community events.

Paid cadet positions are also offered following a rigorous application process that mimics the process undergone by those that become sworn law enforcement officers for the City of Racine. Paid cadets assist



with online report processing and community outreach as well as any additional tasks requested by sworn officers or support staff. The goal of these positions is to prepare future applicants for a career as police officers in the City of Racine.

2024 saw many successes for the Racine Police

Department Cadet Program. Cadets participated in over 150 hours of community service, including attending and assisting with the Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks,



Anthony Lane COP House Grocery Giveaway, St. Patrick's Day Parade, National Night Out, Holiday Parade, Cops n Kids Book Giveaway, Cops n

Cuts, Shop with a Cop, and Waffle Wednesday. The paid cadets combined to process over 580 online reports, reducing the workload for patrol officers and investigators.

Former cadets Gregory
Sanders and Xochitl
Morales graduated from
the law enforcement
academy in 2024. Ofc.
Sanders has completed
the field training program
and Ofc. Morales is
currently working through
the field training program.



The Racine Police Department Cadet Program plans to continue its programming and community outreach throughout 2025.



### **COLD JUSTICE TV SHOW**



In 2024, our department had the honor of working alongside the production team of Cold

Justice, a nationally recognized TV show on Oxygen, to bring attention to a cold case homicide that had remained unresolved for decades. The episode



focused on the tragic case of Derby Wagner-Richardson, a victim whose life was senselessly taken in 1987.

Investigators Tonya Scarvers and Todd Lauer took on the challenging task of collaborating with the Cold Justice team, going above and beyond their already demanding workloads to ensure

that the case received the attention it deserved. The investigative process involved countless hours of meticulous work, including locating and reviewing all evidence,



submitting it to various labs, consulting with the District Attorney's Office, and organizing extensive case files. In addition to this, the team worked tirelessly to locate witnesses, attend meetings, and ensured all necessary legal documents and releases were completed before filming even began.

Throughout the investigation, Investigators Scarvers and Lauer faced significant obstacles. These included challenges such as a lack of cooperation from some members of the victim's family, the destruction or deterioration of crucial evidence, the death of key witnesses, and the demolition of vital properties. Furthermore, the community's fear surrounding Derby's homicide added an additional layer of complexity. Despite these challenges, no new forensic evidence was discovered, even with advancements in

technology. However, Inv. Scarvers and Inv. Lauer did not relent. They revisited the case with determination, reinterviewing witnesses, including former law



enforcement officials who had played critical roles during the original investigation, and uncovering information from individuals who still lived in fear due to the case.

By early February 2024, the investigation was thoroughly organized and ready for presentation to the Cold Justice team. Filming began, adding further pressure to an already intense situation. During this time, both investigators worked tirelessly, often sacrificing personal time and family commitments to ensure that every detail was accounted for and no stone was left unturned in the pursuit of justice.

Once filming concluded, the case was presented

to District Attorney
Patricia Hanson, who
subsequently signed an
arrest warrant for the
suspect in the homicide.
Multiple search warrants



were executed in the City of Racine, resulting in the location of the suspect and the recovery of multiple firearms. The suspect is awaiting trial on the following charges:

- 1st Degree Murder, Use of a Dangerous Weapon
- Possession of Electric Weapon (x2)
- Possession of Firearm by a Felon (x4)
- Alter Identity Marks/Manufacture Property

Thanks to the unwavering dedication and hard work of Investigators Scarvers and Lauer, an arrest was made in a case that had remained unsolved for over 30 years. This resolution brings

a sense of closure and peace to Derby Wagner-Richardson's family. Derby was a loving mother who fiercely fought for her daughters, and it is with great pride that we can now bring her family the justice they so rightly deserve.

Investigators Scarvers and Lauer, when called upon, rose to the occasion, embracing the challenges of this case and contributing



to a profound impact on both the community they serve and the victims of violent crime. Their efforts stand as a testament to our department's commitment to seeking justice, no matter how long it takes.





### **STATISTICS**

TOTAL CRIMES CITY OF RACINE								
	2023	2024	% CHANGE					
VIOLENT O	CRIMES							
HOMICIDE	12	6	-50%					
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	185	181	-2.2%					
RAPE	110	95	-13.6%					
ROBBERY	37	51	37.8%					
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	344	333	-3.2%					
PROPERTY CRIMES								
BURGLARY	185	152	-17.8%					
AUTO THEFT	244	169	-30.7%					
THEFT	669	667	-0.3%					
ARSON	4	4	0%					
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	1102	992	-10%					
MISCELLANEO	US CRIM	ES						
SIMPLE ASSAULT	559	528	-5.5%					
WEAPONS VIOLATION	342	273	-20.2%					
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	852	954	12%					
PUBLIC ORDER	1725	1736	0.6%					
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES	3478	3491	0.4%					

TRAFFIC CITATIONS								
	2023	2024	% CHANGE					
DRIVER'S LICENSE	854	1247	46%					
INSURANCE	771	936	21%					
REGISTRATION	433	873	102%					
TRAFFIC CONTROL VIOLATIONS	379	531	40%					
EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	277	434	57%					
LANE VIOLATIONS	307	369	20%					
FAIL TO YIELD	326	361	11%					
SEAT BELT VIOLATIONS	345	330	-4%					
SPEED VIOLATIONS	321	329	2%					
RECKLESS DRIVING	378	243	-36%					
HIT AND RUN	217	242	12%					
OPERATING UNDER INFLUENCE	157	182	16%					
INATTENTIVE DRIVING	104	112	8%					
MISCELLANEOUS TRAFFIC	85	99	16%					
IMPROPER TURNS	69	77	12%					
INTOXICANTS IN VEHICLE	33	31	-6%					
ACCIDENT REPORT VIOLATIONS	22	28	27%					
PARKING VIOLATIONS	3	6	100%					
PEDESTRIAN VIOLATIONS	2	4	100%					
TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS	5083	6434	27%					



NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS											
2023 2024 % CHAN											
ANIMAL VIOLATION	470	634	35%								
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	366	305	-17%								
PROWLING	16	60	275%								
TRESPASS	55	56	2%								
THEFT	23	51	122%								
CURFEW	39	46	18%								
RESIST OFFICER	34	45	32%								
DRUG VIOLATION	33	42	27%								
LIQUOR VIOLATION	9	39	333%								
TOBACCO BY MINOR	8	21	163%								
MISUSE OF 911	19	17	-11%								
VANDALISM	19	12	-37%								
TRUANCY	10	11	10%								
LIQUOR AGE VIOLATION	9	10	11%								
PARK VIOLATION		10	-								
IMPROPER DUMPING	21	10	-52%								
LITTERING	4	9	125%								
UNREASONABLE SOUND	2	8	300%								
LICENSED PREMISE VIOLATION	4	8	100%								
WEAPONS VIOLATION	5	7	40%								
MISCELLANEOUS TRAFFIC	8	6	-25%								
OPEN FIRE	4	5	25%								
NEGLIGENT FIRE	6	5	-17%								
DISORDERLY HOUSE	2	3	50%								
FIREWORKS	3	1	-67%								
PANHANDLING	8		-100%								
GLEANING	1		-100%								
TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS	5083	6434	21%								

PARKING CITATIONS TOP 30 VIOLATIONS								
	2023	2024	% CHANGE					
STREET STORAGE	26863	16182	-40%					
EXPIRED METER	4625	6705	45%					
ABANDONED VEHICLE (ON STREET)	2443	2152	-12%					
NO PARKING ANYTIME	380	585	54%					
RESTRICTED PARKING	286	548	92%					
SNOW EMER	373	225	-40%					
TOW-AWAY ZONE	74	503	580%					
FIRE HYDRANT	142	164	15%					
DRIVEWAY	121	159	31%					
INDICATED SPACES	136	126	-7%					
PRIVATE NOT POSTED	130	115	-12%					
PRIVATE POSTED	104	126	21%					
HEAD ON	110	113	3%					
PROHIBITED	89	34	-62%					
SIDEWALK	58	60	3%					
BOAT RAMP IND SPACES	8	88	1000%					
LOADING ZONE SCHOOL	28	66	136%					
HANDICAPPED PARKING	38	34	26%					
UNATTENDED VEH TRF HAZ	27	34	26%					
LOTS RESERVED	18	42	133%					
CURB	29	30	3%					
BUS STOP	21	33	57%					
SCHOOL ZONE	16	36	125%					
INDICATED METERS	14	36	157%					
LOADING ZONE	27	17	-37%					
CROSSWALK 15	19	23	21%					
FIRE LANE	23	17	-26%					
FIRE VEH ONLY	25	12	-52%					
STOPPING OR PARKING PROHIBITED	8	25	213%					
CROSSWALK	14	15	7%					
TOTAL CITATIONS ISSUED	36249	28305	-22%					

CALL	S FOR S	ERVICE									
	2023	2024	% CHANGE	MISSING PERSON	326	235	-28%	MISCELLANEOUS UNLAWFUL ACT	62	64	3%
TRAFFIC OFFENSE	4556	5916	30%	INVESTIGATION	146	232	59%	TRANSPORT	46	59	28%
CIVIL TROUBLE	5644	5689	1%	RUNAWAY JUVENILE	234	229	-2%	SHOPLIFTING IN PROGRESS	54	58	7%
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	3778	3913	4%	AUTO THEFT	278	229	-18%	NO SQUADS	49	56	14%
PARKING VIOLATION	2205	3310	50%	FIREWORKS	312	227	-27%	ROBBERY	32	49	53%
ABANDONED VEHICLE	2937	2571	-12%	DAMAGED PROPERTY	211	224	6%	RECOVERY OF STOLEN	87	47	-46%
ASSIST OJ	2574	2498	-3%	ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	345	223	-35%	PROPERTY			
WELFARE CHECK	2461	2217	-10%	FOUND	202	220	9%	LOCKOUT	39	47	21%
ANIMAL	1672	1897	13%	PROPERTY	270	200	250/	SPECIAL EVENTS	22	47	114%
COMPLAINT	1636	1695	4%	DOMESTIC ABUSE	279	208	-25%	SHOPLIFTING	27	43	59%
UNWANTED	1854	1695	-9%	BURGLARY	239	206	-14%	ADMIN	50	42	-16%
PARTY	1054	1075	-970	CRIMINAL	295	201	-32%	BURNING VIOLATION	44	38	-14%
EXTRA ATTENTION	1456	1569	8%	DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	020	000	4.404	INJURED OFFICER	30	33	10%
CRASH	1587	1557	-2%	MAN DOWN MAN WITH A	238 164	200 195	-16% 19%	MISCELLANEOUS ENFORCEMENT	38	32	-16%
WARRANT	1188	1268	7%	GUN	104	175	17%	WIRE DOWN	135	29	-79%
FAMILY TROUBLE	1306	1229	-6%	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	244	166	-32%	NATURAL GAS	24	28	17%
MENTAL SUBJECT	1330	1146	-14%	SEX OFFENSE	142	146	3%	LEAK			11.75
RECKLESS DRIVING	920	1067	16%	MISCELLANEOUS CALL FOR	290	178	-39%	DRUG OVERDOSE	76	26	-66%
911 HANGUP	607	870	43%	SERVICE				WEAPONS VIOLATION	35	26	-26%
RESCUE RUN	738	819	11%	VANDALISM	127	132	4%	SEXUAL ASSAULT	26	25	-4%
SHOTS FIRED	628	813	29%	DEATH INVESTIGATION	163	129	-21%	HEALTH	39	23	-41%
TROUBLE WITH KIDS	684	761	11%	ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	136	124	-9%	VIOLATION LISENCED	27	23	-15%
LOUD MUSIC	636	748	18%	INTOXICATED	106	123	16%	PREMIS			
THEFT	705	681	-3%	TRESPASSING	90	122	36%	BROKEN WATER MAIN	8	23	188%
HIT AND RUN	740	629	-15%	TEMPORARY	140	99	-29%	FOLLOW UP	19	22	16%
FIRE	656	616	-6%	RESTRAINING ORDER				DUMPING VIOLATION	17	22	29%
ASSAULT	630	574	-9%	BUILDING	68	98	44%	FLEET ACCIDENT	19	20	5%
FIGHT	544	504	-7%	CHECK DRUG OFFENSE	81	93	15%	LOST ARTICLE	25	20	-20%
AID MOTORIST	347	418	20%	DEBRIS IN	58	87	50%	LIQUOR	5	18	260%
TRAFFIC HAZARD	437	416	-5%	ROADWAY	30	07	30%	OFFENSE			
TRAFFIC INCIDENT	353	404	14%	CHILD ABUSE	77	86	12%	TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	52973	54965	4%
NOISE VIOLATION	319	383	20%	OPERATING VEHICLE WHILE INTOXICATED	78	83	6%				
FRAUD	294	296	1%	RECREATING	75	80	7%				
CRIME PREVENTION	218	270	24%	VEHICLE COMP FOUND CHILD	60	77	28%				
INFORMATION	253	258	2%	FLOCK	156	76	-51%	-			
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	373	251	-33%	TREE OR	91	67	-26%				
ORDINANCE	147	235	60%	BRANCH DOWN				4			

### A special thank you to:

Makayla Nelson, Sergeant Alicia Mitchell, and Racine Police Department members who contributed to this publication.

