

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

## YAKIMA POLICE DEPARTMENT



HONOR – COURAGE – INTEGRITY – FIDELITY



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF .....	3
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART .....	4
PERSONNEL CHANGES .....	5
EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION .....	6
COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	10
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS.....	11
STATISTICS.....	12
SPECIAL OPERATIONS .....	13
SERVICES DIVISION.....	16
YAKIMA DETENTION FACILITY.....	19
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OFFICE .....	20
DETECTIVE DIVISION .....	22
FORENSICS / EVIDENCE .....	24
PATROL DIVISION .....	25
K9 UNITS.....	26
CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT.....	27
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS .....	29
TRAFFIC .....	30
GANG UNIT.....	31
YAKIMA POLICE EXPLORER POST .....	32
LOOKING AHEAD .....	33



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

*Yakima Residents,*

*City of Yakima Stakeholders,*

*Mayor Coffey,*

*Yakima City Council Members,*

On behalf of the men and women of the Yakima Police Department, I am pleased to present the 2017 annual report. Through the narrative and statistics within this report, I hope to provide the residents of Yakima further transparency between the police department and the community which we serve.



I am exceedingly proud of my sworn officers and civilian staff who bring to life this police department. Their hard work and diligence provides stability amongst the challenges of the always fluctuating criminal justice environment. In many places throughout the country, national events continue to increase growing tensions between police and community; it is our goal to meet these adversities head on. We understand that building and maintaining strong relationships within our diverse communities is essential to achieving the critical relations needed to better serve and protect the City of Yakima. For this reason, in conjunction with our community outreach initiatives, we will continue forward with our mission of preservation of life, reduction of fear and crime, and the protection of persons and property within our community.

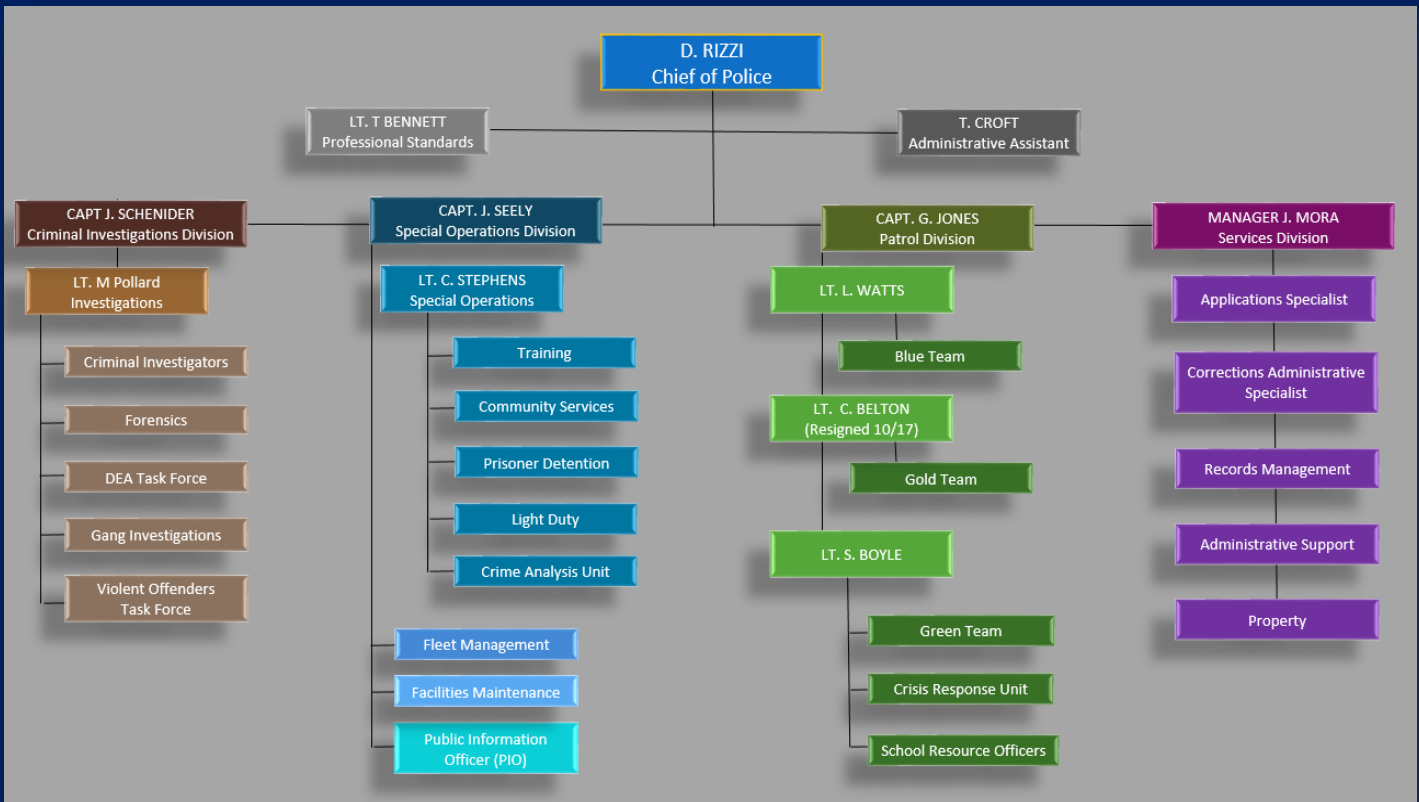
In this report, you will see in 2017 an unprecedented increase in violence towards law enforcement within the Yakima Valley. As a result, we saw 28 activations of the Crisis Response Unit, nearly double the activations from previous years. During these challenging missions, both officer and community are uniquely entwined. The dedicated officers of this department continue to demonstrate the highest levels of professional standards with their willingness to put themselves in harm's way to protect the lives of others.

I am truly honored to lead this organization. As we look ahead to the challenges of 2018, it is through mutual respect and support that will allow us to succeed and grow as a community. We look forward to gaining new community partnerships and nurturing existing ones as we move forward in 2018. The Yakima Police Department remains committed to keeping Yakima a safe place to live, work, and raise a family and we will do so through effective policing and community partnerships.

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Dominc Rizzi Jr." with a small flourish at the end.

**Chief Dominc Rizzi Jr.**

# 2017 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## CHIEF OF POLICE

Dominic Rizzi



### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS



Captain J. Scheneider

### PATROL



Captain G. Jones

### SPECIAL OPERATIONS



Captain J. Seely

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



Manager J. Mora



# PERSONNEL CHANGES

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Erick Otero, Lateral Police Officer	03/01/17
Kevin Collins, Police Services Specialist I	03/06/17
Megan Saxton, Police Services Specialist I	03/06/17
Brennon Watson, Corrections Officer	04/03/17
Colbey Molner, Police Officer	04/03/17
Sergio Marquez-Mendoza, Corrections Officer	05/01/17
Colton Stepper, Police Officer	09/05/17
Katlin Standiford, Crime and Intelligence Analyst	10/02/17
Isaac Hernandez, Police Officer	10/09/17

## PROMOTIONS

Erik Hampton, Police Sergeant	05/05/17
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## RETIREMENTS

Esther Cyr, Police Officer	02/28/17	27 Years of Service
Shelley Upton, Police Sergeant	04/30/17	26 Years of Service
Eric Walls, Police Officer	06/01/17	27 Years of Service
Tim Cruz, Police Officer	12/01/17	35 Years of Service
Jeff Guiland, Police Officer	12/31/17	26 Years of Service

# E Non-Commissioned Employee of the Year

## M SERGEANT MARITZA DAVIS

P Sergeant Davis was one of the original corrections officers  
L hired by the Yakima Police Department. Sergeant Davis  
O promoted to sergeant and took it upon herself to expand her  
Y knowledge regarding jail operations and personnel  
E management. In 2017, Sergeant Davis was instrumental in  
E overseeing the completion of the City Jail's control panel  
project. She served as the main point of contact for the  
department during the three year project. Also in 2017,  
Sergeant Davis helped negotiate the Kite Medical contract  
that provides medical services to inmates. Sergeant Davis is  
working on standardizing jail procedures, rewriting jail policy to ensure compliance with  
Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs in preparation for potential accreditation, and  
overseeing the development of all correctional staff through formal leadership training. Sergeant  
Davis is one of the most valuable personnel assets within the Yakima Police Department. For her  
outstanding work performance in 2017, and throughout her career, Sergeant Davis is recognized as  
the 2017 Yakima Police Department Non-Commissioned Employee of the Year.



*Also awarded the Certificate of Excellence*

## R Officer of the Year

### E DETECTIVE CURTIS OJA

C Detective Oja is assigned to the Special Assault Unit in the  
O Detective Division. Detective Oja's primary assignment is to  
G investigate serious felony crimes, such as domestic violence  
N incidents, sexual assaults, child pornography cases, and  
I child abuse/neglect cases. Many of the cases assigned to  
T Detective Oja are complex and sensitive in nature. In 2017,  
O Detective Oja was the lead detective in over 178  
N investigations. In addition to his primary assignment,  
Detective Oja volunteers for additional tasks for the  
betterment of the department and the victims of the crimes  
he investigates. Detective Oja gives presentations on  
Internet Safety for Children and Cyber Crimes to community  
members.



Detective Oja has worked closely with the Yakima County Prosecutor's Office in structuring a Child Advocacy Center and Multidisciplinary Team that will specialize in Child Forensic Interviewing. Detective Oja regularly volunteers to assist patrol officers and other detectives when they are in need of help during investigations. For his outstanding performance in 2017, Detective Oja is recognized as the 2017 Yakima Police Department Officer of the Year.

*Also awarded the Certificate of Excellence*



# CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

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**MORAIMA VERSTRATE** was one of two employees nominated for the 2017 Yakima Police Department's Non-Commissioned Employee of the Year. Moraima Verstrate is a dedicated employee and team player who is always willing to help others in the division. Moraima Verstrate provides excellent customer service to community members and displays leadership skills on a daily basis. In 2017, Moraima Verstrate was called upon to perform the duties as the acting Services Division Manager. She excelled at this position according to the Services Division Manager. For her excellent work in 2017, Moraima Verstrate is recognized with a Certificate of Excellence and is a nominee for the Yakima Police Department Non-Commissioned Employee of the Year.

**OFFICER FRANK BOWERSOX** was one of two officers nominated for Officer of the Year for the Yakima Police Department. Officer Bowersox is assigned as the transit officer and works primarily in the downtown business district area of the city. Officer Bowersox's duties include working closely with the Transit Division regarding issues that occur on city buses or around transit stops and the transit center. Officer Bowersox works with downtown business owners to address issues that occur in and around their businesses. Business owners speak highly of Officer Bowersox's enthusiasm and willingness to assist them in trying to find solutions to their problems. Officer Bowersox provides security for City Council meetings and has taken it upon himself to educate council members on how to respond to emergencies that could occur during meetings. In addition to his assigned duties, Officer Bowersox serves as a negotiator on the Crisis Response Unit. For his excellence in police work and willingness to accept additional duties and responsibilities, Officer Bowersox is recognized with a Certificate of Excellence and is a nominee for the Yakima Police Department Officer of the Year.



# LIFESAVING AWARD

This ribbon is awarded to any department employee directly responsible for the saving of a human life, whether on or off duty. It may also be given where evidence indicates that the actions of the officer prolonged a human life to the extent that the victim was able to receive medical care.

The following personnel were awarded the Lifesaving Ribbon in 2017:

Corrections Sergeant Dwight Charlton

Corrections Officer Mark Dole

Sergeant Ritch Fowler

Officer Ryan Avery

Officer Matt Drumheller

Officer Ben Graves

Officer Joe Scherschligt

Officer Darius Williams





# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS

The Certificate of Merit is awarded to officers for excellence in police work and for outstanding performance of duties under unusual, complicated, or hazardous conditions over any period of time.

**Corrections Officer Jason Masters** went above and beyond to ensure that the City of Yakima Jail remained supplied with meals after contaminants discovered in their water system affected premade meals.

Officer Masters recognized the importance of the situation and destroyed all 1,200 meals. Then Officer Masters ensured the jail was supplied with the appropriate food to sustain the jail through a few days.



**The Crisis Response Unit** participated in 28 missions in 2017, which is nearly double the normal activations for the unit. In addition, the SWAT Team and Crisis Negotiations Team were used to assist patrol officers with their expertise in tactics and negotiation skills during several critical incidents throughout the year.

In 2017, the Yakima Valley saw an outbreak of violent crime—not only in the city and county, but directed at law enforcement. Starting in October 2017, there were several incidents in which suspects actively engaged law enforcement, including the SWAT Team, in gunfire.

Based on the Crisis Response Unit's overall performance during 2017, the SWAT Team and the Crisis Negotiations Team are awarded the Certificate of Merit.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Coffee with a Cop



“Coffee with a Cop” gives Yakima residents an opportunity to meet with Yakima Police Officers for coffee and conversation. There is no agenda, just a chance for the public to get to know the officers that serve in their neighborhoods. In 2017, we held three “Coffee with a Cop” events. These events have proven to be extremely popular with both officers and community members.

Due to the popularity of the “Coffee with a Cop,” the Police Department and City of Yakima Parks & Rec introduced “Cupcake with a Cop” at Roosevelt Elementary. Four of these events, sponsored by the “Beyond the Bell” afterschool program, were held and they continue to build integral relations between Yakima law enforcement and our youngest community members.

YPD also joined The Range, LLC, for the third annual “BBQ with the Cops” in October. The Yakima Police Department is building relationships with the community, one coffee, cupcake, (or burger!) at a time.



## Heroes & Helpers



On December 14<sup>th</sup>, 15 officers from the Yakima Police Department volunteered their time to participate in the sixth annual “Heroes and Helpers” event hosted by the Yakima Target Store. “Heroes and Helpers” is a program in which uniformed officers take children shopping for Christmas. Officers from the department identify children in need throughout the year for this event. The Yakima Target store donated 19 gift cards to the shoppers and let them into the store before it opened to the public. The children can spend the gift cards on themselves or family and friends. The officers assist by making gift suggestions and help keep track of the amount spent. Most of the officers reached deep into their own pockets when it came time to check out. After the children completed their shopping, officers helped with gift wrapping. Year after year, officers look forward to this program and it is one that we hope to continue for many years to come.



# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

## Community Academy

The Community Academy, held in May and June, was a major success. This program meets once a week and is designed to educate residents in a classroom setting and provide them with a stronger understanding of the different jobs their officers perform for the community. This 12 week program builds community relations, understanding, and transparency with Yakima residents.



## Trunk or Treat

Sponsored by Owens Cycle, Upper Valley public safety agencies participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Law enforcement, fire departments, and ambulances from throughout the area provided a safe and fun way for the children of our community to enjoy Halloween. In 2017, over 2,500 children Trunk or Treated with us!

## Police vs. Fire Softball

In September, Yakima PD challenged the Yakima FD to a friendly softball game. A great game was played, with 16 firefighters and 11 police officers suiting up and dusting off their gloves. After an exciting back and forth game, the police pulled off a 15-14 win. Officer Marc Scherzinger and Firefighter Dan Jensen were voted the MVP's by their peers. Thank you to all who made this game an absolute success!



# CRIME STATISTICS

NIBRS Offenses	2014		2015		2016		2017	
POPULATION	93,080		93,220		93,410		93,986	
NIBRS Violent Crimes	Total	Per 1,000	Total	Per 1,000	Total	Per 1,000	Total	Per 1,000
Homicide	2	0.02	7	0.08	13	0.14	12	0.13
Forcible Sex Offenses	166	1.78	171	1.83	192	2.06	210	2.23
Robbery	114	1.22	128	1.37	128	1.37	152	1.62
Aggravated Assault	253	2.72	330	3.54	316	3.38	357	3.8
TOTAL	535	5.75	636	6.82	649	6.94	732	7.78
NIBRS Property Crimes	Total	Per 1,000	Total	Per 1,000	Total	Per 1,000	Total	Per 1,000
Burglary	1079	11.59	1272	13.65	1114	11.92	902	9.6
Larceny Theft	2849	30.61	3152	33.81	3215	34.42	2856	30.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	738	7.93	702	7.53	654	7	581	6.18
Arson	39	0.42	25	0.27	29	0.31	15	0.16
TOTAL	4705	50.55	5151	55.26	5012	53.66	4354	46.33
OVERALL TOTAL	5240	56.3	5787	62.08	5661	60.6	5086	54.11
PERCENT OF CHANGE		10%		-2%		-11%		

32 YEAR TREND Total Part I - Rate Per 1,000



The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is the official source of data on crime in the United States, published by the FBI. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) was implemented by the FBI to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement.

This report displays NIBRS Offenses which correlate to the UCR PART I Crimes; categorized as the eight most serious crimes (Homicide, Forcible Sex Offenses, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson.)



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION



The Yakima Police Department Special Operations Division is diverse and consists of Community Services, Training, Crime Analysis, and the City Jail. There is one captain, one lieutenant, one sergeant, one police officer, two non-commissioned Community Services Officers, one non-commissioned Crime and Intel Analyst, one Police Services Specialist I, and one non-commissioned Public Information Officer in this division. The jail has three corrections sergeants and eleven corrections officers. The Special Operations Division fulfills a large number of duties that are essential to the overall operation of the department.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Crime Free Rental Housing, Block Watch, Child Passenger Safety, and public education are all part of the Community Services Unit. There is one officer, two non-commissioned Community Services Officers, and one Police Services Specialist I assigned to the unit. This group provides community presentations, station tours, child car seat checks, and organizes public events for the police department.

## BLOCK WATCH

Block Watch is a program sponsored by the Yakima Police Department to help people organize on a block-by-block basis to prevent crime in their neighborhood. Block Watch is not a patrol function, but a network of neighbors looking out for each other. A police officer patrolling your neighborhood may not recognize a stranger in your yard, but your neighbors would. The Yakima Police Department has over 100 active Block Watches within the city limits, meaning they have completed all the steps required to form a Block Watch.



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

America's Night Out Against Crime takes place annually on the first Tuesday of August. This year's event took place on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> and was YPD's 32<sup>nd</sup> year participating in the event. This effort promotes involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, and neighborhood camaraderie. National Night Out sends a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized in taking a stand against crime and drugs. In 2017, Yakima celebrated with 26 individual block parties.





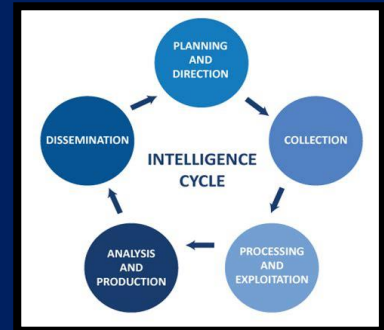
# SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

## CRIME & INTELLIGENCE

The Crime and Intelligence Unit is focused on both short and long-term data analysis to support tactical, strategic, and administrative intelligence within the Yakima Police Department. Currently, the unit is made up of a single Crime and Intelligence Analyst. The unit performs analysis on current crime series and patterns as well as providing various forms of investigative support for ongoing cases.

The Crime Analysis Unit is responsible for reviewing crime and disorder data: identifying and analyzing patterns, trends and problems within the data sets. They then create and disseminate information that allows police agencies to reduce, solve, and prevent crime.

The Crime Analysis Unit primarily supports the Investigations, Special Operations, and Patrol Divisions of the Yakima Police Department.



## CRIME FREE RENTAL HOUSING

The Crime Free Rental Housing program is a partnership between the Yakima Police Department, local landlords, and tenants working together to foster a healthy and safe rental housing community. Through education and support, the Crime Free Rental Housing program addresses rental-based illegal activities and special needs with the goal of reducing calls for police service and creating a safer and more stable living environment for residents. Illegal activity on or around rental property can have a substantial negative impact to the landlord and to the surrounding neighborhood, including a decline in property values, increased property damage, and loss of rent. Benefits of the CFRH Program include a stable, more satisfied tenant, increased demand for rental property, lower maintenance and repair costs, improved property values, and improved personal safety for renters.

In 2017, the Crime Free Rental Housing program provided 5,101 notifications to landlords and had almost 4,418 local properties enrolled in the program.



# SERVICES DIVISION

The Yakima Police Department Services Division is comprised of many units, to include Police Services & Records, Administrative Services, and Property & Evidence. The division consists of a Police Services Manager, four Police Services Leads, four Police Services Specialist II, and 11 Police Services Specialist I. The Services Division provides a variety of support services to the operational divisions of the department, as well as to the public.

## Services & Records

The Police Services Specialists assigned to the Services and Records Units are the primary point of public contact for most telephone and walk-in traffic, and are responsible for taking TRU (Telephone Reporting Unit) reports, data entry, records management, and statistical reporting. In addition, they provide various customer services, including the issuance of concealed pistol licenses, performing criminal records checks, fingerprinting for professional licensing, processing warrants, and preparing reports for public disclosure.



## Administrative Services

The Administrative Unit of the Services Division is comprised of five very distinct and diverse roles within the police department. These include Finance, Transcription, Electronic Home Monitoring, Timekeeping, and COBAN In-Car Video Systems.

## FINANCE

The finance office is staffed by one full time Police Services Specialist II and is responsible for managing the department's petty cash, processing of department invoices, issuing City Purchasing cards, and balancing the till for the Services Unit and the Yakima City Jail. This office is also responsible for preparing budget reports for the department.



## TRANSCRIPTION

The transcription office is staffed by one full time Police Services Specialist I and is responsible for transcribing all of the more than 900 interviews conducted by the department's officers and detectives.

## ELECTRONIC HOME MONITORING

The Electronic Home Monitoring office is staffed by one full time Corrections Administrative Specialist and is the point of contact for defendants who are mandated by the court to participate in Electronic Home Monitoring. This office also coordinates with the court and jail to determine a subject's requirements and eligibility for the program. Program enrollment for 2017 was 193 for EHM and 45 for alcohol monitoring.

## TIMEKEEPING

The timekeeping office is primarily responsible for processing the department's 187 employee time cards through the TAMS system to ensure accuracy and compliance with FLSA rules. This office works closely with the payroll officer for the City of Yakima. In addition, the timekeeper is responsible for annual OSHA reporting and injury claims for the department.

## COBAN

The COBAN office is responsible for processing COBAN in-car video requests and sharing them using a file sharing and storage program called "the box."





# Property & Evidence



The personnel of the Property & Evidence Unit in the Services Division is responsible for the processing, preservation, release, and destruction of all items collected annually by the Yakima Police Department. The unit is staffed by three full time employees: a Police Services Specialist I, a Police Services Specialist II, and a Police Services Lead.

Upholding the security and control of all items in the unit's possession is an essential part of the job. Personnel have been trained in proper storage techniques to ensure that the integrity of property and evidence is maintained and is currently in the process of becoming certified through the International Association of Property and Evidence. A computerized barcoding system,

called the BEAST, is used to maintain the detailed records necessary to preserve the chain of custody for the over 50,000 items of evidence, found property, and property held for safekeeping currently being stored by the Yakima Police Department.

Property personnel are required to ensure all applicable laws related to seizures, forfeitures, prisoner property, and lost or found property are adhered to. Unless an item is contraband or must be held for investigation, every reasonable effort is made to ensure that it is returned to the rightful owner. Items which cannot be returned are disposed of in the appropriate manner. Items may be auctioned online through PropertyRoom.com, donated to local charities, converted to department use when possible, or in the case of contraband and firearms, legally destroyed. For 2017, 11,959 items were disposed of by one of these means.



The unit is also responsible for conducting background checks, preparing items for evidence view and court, and completing data entry into multiple specialized computer systems.



# CITY OF YAKIMA

## DETENTION FACILITY



The City of Yakima Detention Facility began operations in 1996, following the completion of the Richard A. Zais Jr. Center for Law and Justice.

The detention facility operates a full service correctional facility as defined by RCW 70.48., which houses a maximum of 81 adult male offenders charged with and/or convicted of misdemeanor crimes occurring within the City of Yakima.

Currently, a team of 14 corrections officers and sergeants, all of whom are trained and certified by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, operate the detention facility. At full staff, the command structure of the City of Yakima Detention Facility consists of one captain and one lieutenant from the Special Operations Division, three corrections sergeants and 11 corrections officers.

The City of Yakima Detention Facility is a 24-hour operation. Staff are assigned to perform various duties and responsibilities, such as:

- Care, custody, and safety of incarcerated offenders
- Maintaining the safety and security of the facility
- Supervising and performing daily activities within the facility.
  - This includes bookings, releases, classification of inmates, service of meals, recreation, religious programs, visitation, inspections of housing areas for sanitation and security breaches, inmate counts, medical visits, provide safe and secure transports to numerous court proceedings, track prisoner time served, and respond to any type of emergency situation within the facility.

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OFFICE

The Yakima Police Department's Office of Professional Standards will uphold the public trust by performing unbiased, thorough investigations of alleged employee misconduct while seeking the truth, safeguarding the rights of employees and community members, and ensuring that all persons involved are treated with respect.

During 2017, the Yakima Police Department conducted 44 formal internal investigations. Below is a list by division and department with their corresponding number of internal investigations.

- City Jail 1
- Police Department 42
- Other Employees 1

## O.P.S. Investigations By Year

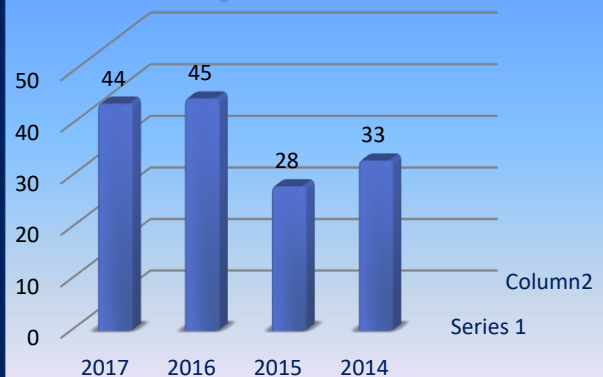
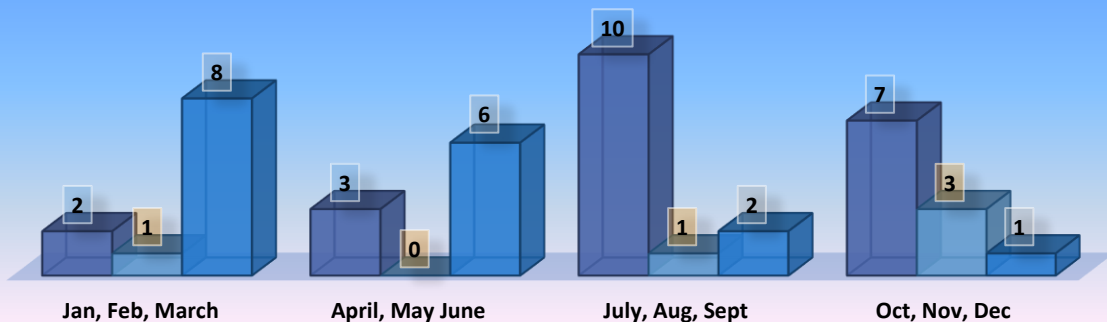


Figure (1) displays the annual internal investigation numbers over the last four years. The Professional Standards Office had been assigned an average of 37 investigations. The increased number of investigations since 2016 is mainly due to the improved documentation of complaints through the Blue Team and IAPro Software purchased in 2016. In previous years, minor incidents were often handled in memo form and not issued a control number. With the new software, those incidents are assigned a control number and are accounted for in audits.

## 2017 INVESTIGATIONS BY MONTH

Figure (2)



We experienced the highest number of complaints in the months of March and July. We experienced no complaints during the month of May. The majority of complaints were received during the second half of the year, with 24 from July to December and 20 from January to June.

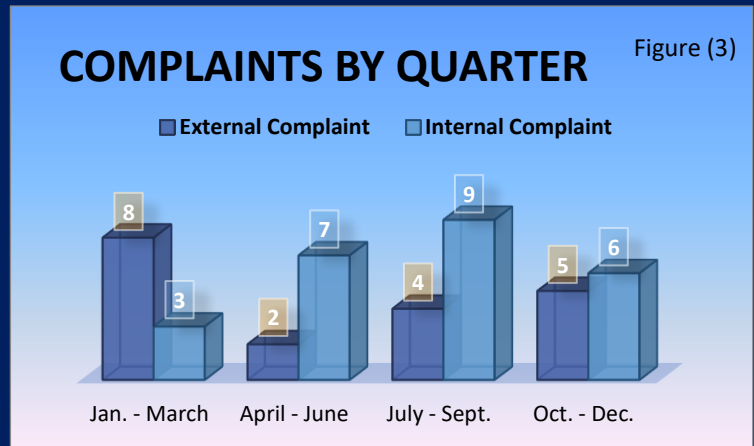


# Professional Standards Office

The Professional Standards Office categorizes complaint sources in two ways:

*External Complaint:* A complaint that is most likely the result of an interaction with a resident and a Yakima Police officer.

*Internal Complaint:* These complaints are generated by officers, supervisors, or command staff as result of allegations of policy violation(s) committed by police personnel.



These complaints were divided quarterly and represented in figure (3). Each category is represented by a specific color.

Lastly, the chart below (figure (4)) represents the resolutions in percentage of the total internal investigations assigned to the Professional Standards Office.

## DISPOSITIONS

Each personnel complaint shall be classified with one of the following dispositions:

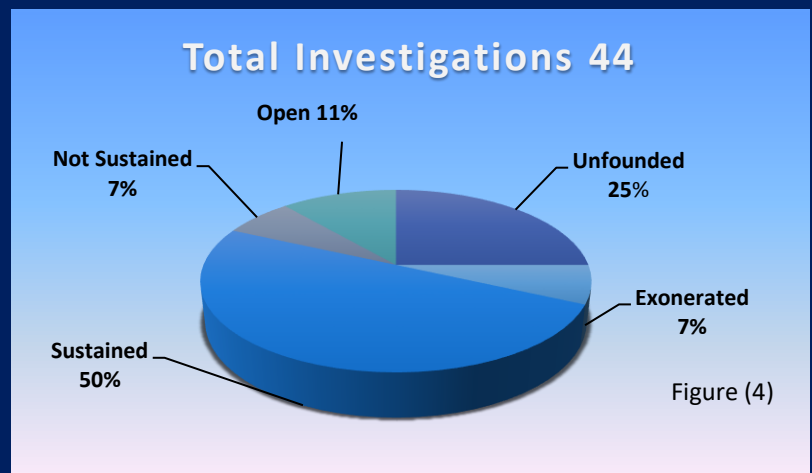
*Unfounded:* When the investigation discloses that the alleged acts did not occur or did not involve department members. Complaints that are determined to be frivolous will fall within the classification of unfounded.

*Exonerated:* When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred but that the act was justified, lawful, and/or proper.

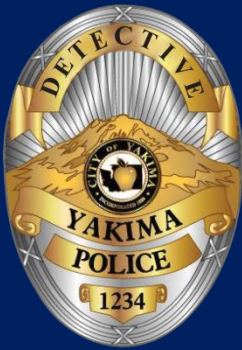
*Not sustained:* When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the member.

*Sustained:* When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

*Open investigations:* Those that have not received a final disposition.



# DETECTIVE DIVISION



The Yakima Police Department Detective Division is staffed by one captain, one lieutenant, four sergeants, and 21 investigators. There are several units within the Detective Division, including the Major Crimes Unit, the Property Crimes Unit, the Special Assault Unit, and the DEA Drug Task Force.

## Major Crimes Unit

The Major Crime Unit (MCU) is comprised of one sergeant and four investigators. MCU personnel investigate homicides, other suspicious deaths, serious assaults including shootings and stabbings, as well as robberies, missing persons, and other major felonies committed within the city limits of Yakima. YPD Major Crimes investigators are highly trained, seasoned investigators who have proven to be steadfast street-level investigators prior to their assignment with the MCU. These investigators frequently work very long and irregular hours, especially during the initial hours of a homicide or other major felony crime investigation.

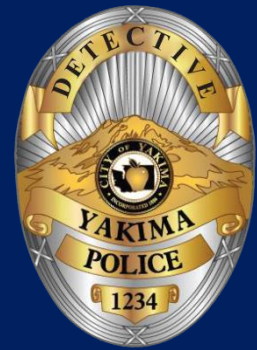


## Property Crimes Unit

One sergeant and five investigators comprise the Property Crimes Unit of the Yakima Police Department. This unit investigates crimes related to property such as burglaries, auto thefts, larceny, and shoplifts from local stores. Fraud investigations, forgery, embezzlement, and identity theft are also investigations conducted out of this unit. Property Crimes Investigators receive the greatest number of cases, receiving about 67% of all reported crime in the City. Additionally, these investigators are called out to help on any major crime, and may have to put their own investigations on hold to assist the Major Crimes investigators on homicides or other major felony crimes.

## Special Assault Unit

The Special Assault Unit (SAU) is comprised of one sergeant and six investigators. The SAU handles some of the most difficult cases faced by law enforcement—crimes against children. Cases range from physical abuse and neglect to the most serious child assaults, as well as runaway children. In addition, the SAU is tasked with domestic violence cases, as well as any sexual assault cases within the City of Yakima. Also, the SAU works with the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, working cases that their national investigations return to suspects in our area.



Due to the nature of the crimes they investigate, SAU Detectives are some of the best trained individuals within YPD. All incoming investigators attend a training specializing in child forensic interviews. As they progress, they attend classes on crimes against children and women, focusing on their specific investigatory field.

The SAU works closely with our community partners such as Department of Social and Health Services, the YWCA, Comprehensive Healthcare, and others. This allows victims to receive all of the assistance needed.

## DEA Drug Task Force



The Drug Task Force investigates narcotics usage and distribution and the crimes associated with those activities. There is one sergeant and three investigators from the Yakima Police Department on this task force. Many nuisance drug houses and drug dealers have recently found themselves the focus of investigations from members of the task force as local and federal investigators work together to rid Yakima of its drug problem.



# FORENSICS & EVIDENCE

The Forensic Lab processed 391 items for the Yakima Police Department in 2017. YPD's Forensic Lab is made up of a Lab Supervisor and Evidence Technician. Not only does this unit handle the needs of YPD, but they also support cases from Lower Valley municipal departments, federal agencies, and the Yakima County Sheriff's Office. The YPD Forensic Lab processes items using chemical analysis and specialty microscopic equipment to visualize and compare evidence.

## Forensics Lab Functions

The Yakima Police Department Forensic Lab services the community of Yakima and surrounding areas with crime scene response, latent print development and analysis, and firearm and tool mark examination.

**Crime Scene Response:** Technicians assist detectives with evidence recognition, evidence collection, blood stain pattern analysis, trajectory determinations, scene documentation, and scene reconstruction.

**Latent Fingerprint Development and Identification:** Technicians process evidence for latent prints and compare the prints to those from known individuals. These technicians also enter prints into the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) and search a variety of computerized databases for matches to known individuals.

**Firearm and Tool Mark Analysis:** Technicians examine and compare firearms, ammunition components, gunshot residues for distance determinations, and tool marks. These members also reconstruct shooting scenes, restore obliterated serial numbers, image fired ammunition components for inclusion in the Integrated Ballistics Identification System / National Integrated Ballistics Information Network to establish links to other criminal events.



# PATROL DIVISION

The Uniformed Patrol Division of the Yakima Police Department is the largest and most visible division. The Patrol Division has an authorized strength of 75 police officers, 12 police sergeants, three police lieutenants, and one police captain. This division responds to more than 56,000 service calls each year that can range from relatively simple disturbance calls through serious crimes against persons. Officers in the Patrol Division are not response driven, but use a variety of methods to address varying facets of community issues.

The Patrol Division has a number of squads within its ranks that include patrol district units, and some specialty units such as the Gang Enforcement Team, Canine Team, Traffic Enforcement Unit, and School Resource Officers. An ancillary duty of the Patrol Division is the regional Crisis Response Unit (CRU) for specially trained officers that are either assigned to the SWAT Team or Crisis Negotiations Team. 2017 was especially challenging for the CRU with 28 crisis situation call-outs.

The Canine Team was forced to retire one of the Patrol K9's this year, and efforts persist to replace this very valuable tool. The Canine Team responded to 109 deployments this year that resulted in 14 apprehensions.

In a cooperative effort and grant funding assistance awarded to Comprehensive Healthcare, a Designated Mental Health Professional (DMHP) was assigned to the division for providing evaluations and resource management of community members in crisis. The DMHP rides along with patrol officers in the field and responds to calls—a resource not normally available to responding officers - to facilitate. Such services, interventions, and diversions provide better long-term problem-solving options. The department and Comprehensive Healthcare are investing in options that can lend to more DMHP coverage seven days per week, and throughout the year.

The Patrol Division is an important part of the department's priority for community outreach. The department sponsored five "Roll Call BBQ" events, where district officers hold roll calls in neighborhoods where neighbors, young and old, have the opportunity to interact with officers directly. The department also held three "Coffee with a Cop" events at various are establishments. This continues to be a popular experience for many attendees.





# K9 UNIT



The Yakima Police Canines are primarily trained as a locating tool for officers. They are trained in searching and tracking suspects who flee from the police. Canines are usually deployed to locate suspects that have fled from serious crimes, as well as finding evidence left behind by a suspect. The Yakima Police Department has two patrol canines—Officer Mark McKinney and K9 Dexter, and Officer Rob Walters and K9 Covah. All YPD canines and their handlers must pass a rigorous initial training program and testing to become certified. They also must continue to train monthly and test annually to maintain their certification.

In 2017, YPD's K9 Unit was utilized for the following:

- 109 K9 assists or deployments
- 14 Suspects Located
- 5 Articles found (weapons, suspect clothing, etc.)
- 25 Areas cleared for officers

In 2017, retired K-9 Kazan, passed away at the age of 13. The Belgian Malinois served at the Yakima Police Department for seven years before he retired as a drug dog in 2013. He is survived by his handler, Detective Kevin Lee.



**Kazan**

2000-2013

Photographed Above



# CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT

## SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (SWAT)

The SWAT Team and Crisis Negotiations Team are multi-agency teams that make up the Crisis Response Unit. The unit was activated for 28 missions to assist Yakima Police officers, as well as several law enforcement agencies throughout the Yakima Valley in 2017. The officers utilized their expertise in tactics and negotiation skills to resolve the critical incidents they were called to assist with. The missions the team responded to included planned search warrants, barricaded subjects, the

apprehension of violent offenders, and crowd control operations.

The SWAT unit is comprised of officers from the Yakima Police Department, deputies from the Yakima County Sheriff's Office, and officers from the Union Gap and Grandview Police Departments. The unit is also staffed by two YPD reserve officers, both who

are tactical medics— one officer is a practicing medical professional in the private sector and the other is a paramedic with the Yakima Fire Department. These two individuals provide their expertise on a volunteer basis. The SWAT

team trains 20 hours monthly and its members must maintain rigorous standards, both physically and mentally. The SWAT Team is considered a level II intermediate team capable of providing containment and intervention.





# CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT

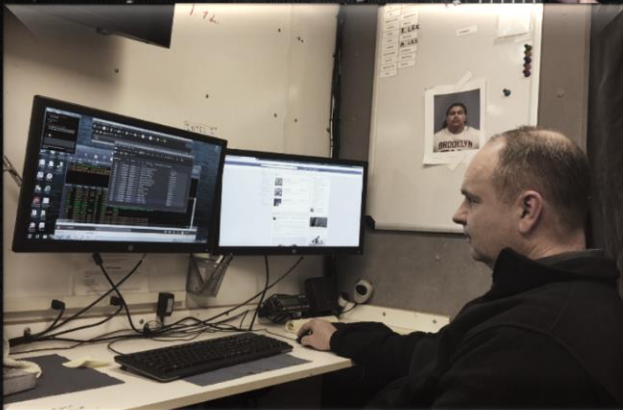
## CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS TEAM (CNT)



The CNT is comprised of officers from the Yakima and Union Gap Police Departments, Department of Corrections, and mental health professionals from Comprehensive Healthcare. The CNT trains a minimum of 70 hours a year, which allows them to hone their negotiating skills, ensure their equipment is functioning properly, and receive updated training regarding dealing with people in crisis.

In 2017, the Yakima Valley saw an outbreak of violent crime—not only in the city and county, but directed at law enforcement. Starting in October 2017, violence toward law enforcement increased in the Yakima Valley. For this reason, the Crisis Response Unit saw a dramatic increase in the number of calls which they responded to in 2017.

The Crisis Negotiations Team worked closely with SWAT throughout this time period, to plan and develop the best possible response to each unique incident occurring in Yakima.





# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The Yakima Police School Resource Officers (SRO) are police officers who are assigned to schools in the Yakima School District. The main goal of the SRO is to provide security and to prevent juvenile delinquency by promoting positive relations between youth and law enforcement. The position encompasses four major components which allow the officer to achieve the goal: safety, law enforcement, education, and counseling. These four components allow the SRO to take a proactive approach to law enforcement. SRO's are not just police officers on campus—they provide all law enforcement duties on their assigned campuses. They educate students by teaching classes on campus, as well as counsel students and parents on various topics. The SRO becomes involved in the students' lives as a positive role model. The intent is that the positive experiences students have with the SRO will bridge the gap between juveniles and law enforcement, and in doing so, help prevent juvenile crimes and create trust in law enforcement that will last a lifetime.

The Yakima Police Department, in partnership with the Yakima School District, has seven police officers who are assigned to schools throughout the district. Each SRO is stationed at a high school or middle school, but also have elementary schools assigned to them as well.





# TRAFFIC UNIT

The primary duties of the Traffic Unit are traffic complaint enforcement, school zone enforcement, collision reduction enforcement, collision investigations, escorts, and special event traffic control. Motorcycle officers also respond to dispatched patrol calls as backup. The goal of the Traffic Unit is to reduce the number of traffic collisions, injuries, and fatalities. They emphasize enforcement of collision causing violations and occupant safety violations. Most of the traffic officers have received extensive training in collision reconstruction and investigation. Within the Traffic Unit, you will find a motor sergeant, five motor officers, and the transit officer.

The Traffic Unit diligently works with various community programs to build strong relations and encourage safe pedestrian and vehicle practices. This includes partnering with the Yakima School District to teach traffic safety rules to students and school crossing guards. Traffic is also involved in providing traffic control and security for various events occurring within the City of Yakima throughout the year.





# GANG UNIT

Recognizing the impact that street gangs play on community safety, the Yakima Police Department implemented the Gang Unit in January of 2004. The Gang Unit performs proactive gang-related investigations and assists other divisions and agencies with gang-related investigations. The gang unit utilizes intelligence-led policing concepts to further their efforts to disrupt and dismantle continuing criminal street gang activity.

The Gang Unit consists of two proactive units, as well as an investigations unit. Each proactive unit is comprised of one sergeant and three officers. The investigations unit is comprised of one sergeant and three investigators. The Gang Unit's skills were put to the test during an outbreak of violent crimes in 2017. During that time, there was a series of homicides and armed robberies being committed by street gangs. The efforts from the Gang Unit resulted in the arrests of multiple street gang members and a decrease in violent crimes throughout the City of Yakima



# YAKIMA POLICE EXPLORERS



The Yakima Police Explorer Post 275 is a community-based policing program consisting of teenagers and young adults between the ages of 16 and 20 who are interested in a law enforcement career. In 2017, the Explorer Post averaged 14 members who had completed a week long Explorer Academy. The post completed 3,531 volunteer service hours in 2017. The volunteer hours were served either within the Yakima Police Department or within our community.



The Explorers meet each Thursday evening and they consist of law enforcement trainings, leadership classes, discuss upcoming events, and team building activities. Each year, the Explorers attend two State Explorer Academies, and one National Explorer Conference every other year. The Explorers also participate in competitions and trainings offered either here in Yakima or hosted by other police agencies around the state. Explorers are taught the fundamentals of leadership, respect, responsibility, and honor.

We understand that not all of our Explorers will have a career in law enforcement; however, we do want all of our Explorers to become leaders in their communities. The Explorer Post would not exist if it wasn't for the generous donations received mainly from our Yakima Police Officers and city employees. Our Explorers work very hard to be excellent representatives of the Yakima Police Department, and pride themselves on community service.

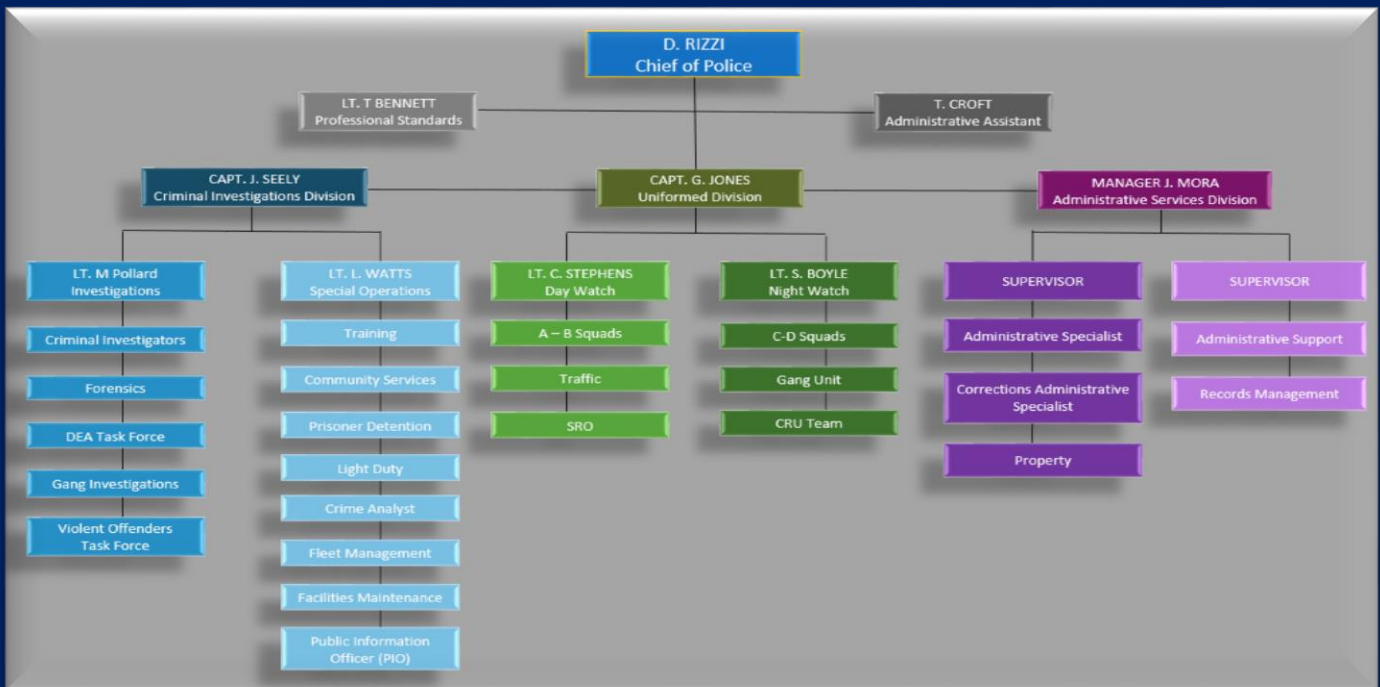




# LOOKING AHEAD

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Due to a reduction in force, the Yakima Police Department has taken on a new organizational structure in 2018. Differing from the 2017 model, the new structure creates a leadership of two captains and one civilian manager vs the 2017 structure of three captains and one civilian manager. The new chart will go into effect in April 2018.



## RECRUITMENT OFFICER



The Yakima Police Department will be re-assigning one officer to fill the new position of Recruitment Officer in April of 2018. Due to the challenges of recruitment over the last several years and numerous retirements within the department, it has become a priority to increase our recruitment effort. Officer Hailie Meyers has been selected for the position and has identified the following key strategies for increased recruitment for YPD.

- Recruit and maintain highly qualified applicants that reflect the diversity of the Yakima community.
- Create a pool of qualified candidates in advance of department needs.
- Encourage community policing, by engaging in a variety of activities on and off duty to build trust within the community.
- Create a larger social media presence.
- A focus on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing.

# CONTACT US



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<https://www.facebook.com/YakimaPoliceDepartment>



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<https://www.instagram.com/yakpd/>



TWITTER:

<https://twitter.com/yakimapolice>



YOUTUBE:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCslyi7Zw5N9e8bVP8-B\\_JWA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCslyi7Zw5N9e8bVP8-B_JWA)

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Information obtained in this report is subject to change. Efforts have been taken to ensure that the information contained herein is accurate, timely, and complete at the time of this publication. If additional information is needed or any questions arise, please contact the Yakima Police Department with the contact information above.