



Public Safety Committee Minutes

April 28, 2025

Mayor Primmer called the meeting to order at 5:15pm. Councilor Barron and Duron (arrived at 5:18pm) were in attendance, as well as staff to include: City Manager Byron Smith, Chief Jason Edmiston, Captains Travis Eynon and Scott Clark, Lieutenant Robert Guerrero, Communications Manager Amanda Hartsteen, Patrol Sergeant Chris Martin, Patrol Corporal Jarrod Flatau and William Golter, Patrol Officers Kieron Carlson and Jared Zumwalt, Records Specialist Shannon Robinson, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Introductions & HPD Personnel Update

Hermiston's Police Department (HPD) Chief Jason Edmiston introduced members of HPD who were in the audience and gave personnel updates to include:

- Retirements
 - Administrative Captain Travis Eynon is retiring June 30th and Sergeant Leonard Stokoe has announced his retirement effective July 1st. Another sergeant will also be retiring soon as well
- Captain Announcement
 - Lieutenant Robert Guerrero will be promoted to Administrative Captain on/about July 1st
- Lieutenant(s) Announcement
 - Sergeant Chris Martin will be promoted to Patrol Lieutenant and Sergeant Freddy Sotelo will be promoted to Administrative Lieutenant. Both promotions will be on/about July 1st
- Sergeant's Process
 - HPD will conduct a sergeant assessment process. Five people have applied for what will likely be four positions. Depending on how the sergeant process goes, HPD may have corporal position(s) to backfill
- Officers
 - HPD is currently doing background work with one lateral officer and has two officers at the police academy
 - Officer Levi Branson graduated from the academy on April 18th and is currently going through the internal field training program
 - HPD is also actively seeking additional people to hire for open positions on the horizon

1st Quarter (2025) Activity Report

Chief Edmiston reviewed the 1st Quarter Activity Report (attached). Information was provided to include: Total crime is down 30% from last year and down 7% from the previous 10-year average. Burglaries, general theft, and auto theft are all down from last year. Total incidents are up from last year and the 10-year average. Officer-initiated activity is up 139% and traffic stops are up 208% from last year. Total arrests and citations issued are up as well.

(Councilor Duron arrived at 5:18pm)



Public Safety Committee Minutes

April 28, 2025

Hospital Contract Update

HPD and Hospital staff met last week to discuss workspace needs and a potential start date of Tuesday, May 6th, 2025.

Past/Upcoming Events

- Building Renovations Update- construction continues to progress.
- National Police Week- A Proclamation will be submitted for the May 12th City Council Meeting
- I Love My City/Faith & First Responders on May 17th- HPD and the Umatilla County Fire District 1 staff will be participating in these events

Public Comment

None given.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

Councilor Barron commended HPD for their lockdown training and efforts stating Armand Larive Middle School recently underwent a lockdown and he repeatedly heard students say they felt safe due to the drills Officers and School Resource Officers have given. Councilor Barron asked for transient activity updates.

Chief Edmiston stated although these types of drills are not good to see, they are needed and HPD is grateful to have participation from other agencies to help in these types of community emergencies. Chief Edmiston stated transient activity has been down the last 3-4 months and hopes this is due to the outreach services provided by PATH through Stepping Stones Alliance, but HPD will continue to monitor this.

Adjournment

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:33pm.

HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Mission Statement

Without fear or favor and in partnership with our diverse community, we will create and maintain a safe environment with the reduction of crime through problem-oriented and community-based policing strategies. The quality of life for those we serve takes precedent over our individual needs.

1st QUARTER ACTIVITY REPORT

2025

<u>Incident Type</u>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Avg	Normal Range	2025	% Change Avg-'25	% Change '24-'25
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0-1	2	200%	200%
Rape	0	1	2	2	1	1	3	0	3	1	0-2	2	100%	-33%
Robbery	0	1	4	1	4	3	2	3	2	2	1-3	1	-50%	-50%
Aggravated Assault	4	7	11	6	4	2	7	6	5	6	4-7	8	33%	60%
Burglary	10	12	26	14	20	18	11	15	8	15	10-19	5	-67%	-38%
Larceny	116	70	94	104	86	69	137	153	165	110	73-148	114	4%	-31%
Auto Theft	7	11	11	10	7	9	14	18	10	11	7-15	5	-55%	-50%
Arson	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	2	1	0-2	0	-100%	-200%
TOTAL	137	103	148	137	125	103	174	199	195	147	108-185	137	-7%	-30%
TOTAL VIOLENT	4	9	17	9	9	7	12	10	10	10	8-11	13	30%	30%
TOTAL PROPERTY	133	94	131	128	116	96	162	189	185	137	100-174	124	-10%	-33%

POPULATION	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200	18775	19354	19696	19973	20322
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Hermiston Police Department 2016-2025 Crime Stats

January through March 10-year Trends

Hermiston Police Department 2016-2025 Patrol Stats - January through March

<u>Incident Type</u>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Avg	Normal Range	2025	% Change Avg-'25	% Change '24-'25
Total Incidents	5832	4917	5820	5492	5421	5343	5356	5447	5024	5406	5254-5558	7222	34%	44%
Calls for Service	2340	2218	2607	2594	2605	2358	2685	2784	3194	2598	2325-2872	2857	10%	-11%
Officer Initiated Activity	3492	2699	3213	2898	2816	2985	2671	2663	1830	2807	2408-3207	4365	56%	139%
Traffic Stops	1680	1119	1267	1480	1606	1166	1425	1145	877	1307	1056-1558	2697	106%	208%
Case Investigations	776	678	818	774	639	551	699	841	768	727	627-828	668	-8%	-13%
Total Arrests	407	310	326	326	237	201	258	310	306	298	256-339	326	9%	7%
Misdemeanor Arrests	311	237	226	243	147	139	212	240	246	222	177-268	269	21%	9%
Felony Arrests	96	73	100	83	90	62	46	70	60	76	61-90	57	-25%	-5%
Total Citations	1494	1370	1593	1804	1477	885	1266	1338	898	1347	1108-1587	1928	43%	115%

POPULATION	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200	18775	19354	19696	19973
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20322

HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

OPERATIONS –FIRST QUARTER 2025 REPORT

Captain Scott Clark

Our patrol staffing has nearly reached full levels; the remaining three positions having been filled and those members are currently in attendance at the D.P.S.S.T. basic police academy. Those officers will all be graduating from their prospective academy classes throughout the course of the second quarter 2025.

Our patrol personnel have been extremely busy during this first quarter, and it's exciting to see the outstanding work product they are able to produce when shifts are at or near necessary staffing levels. These members continue to maintain fantastic attitudes and are out on the streets working hard to remain an active and positive presence within the community.

In comparison with first quarter 2024, our measured performance numbers saw increases in nearly all categories. Total Incidents are up 80.6% (+2594 more); Officer Initiated Activity is up 173.2% (+2557 more); Traffic Stops are up 228.7% (+1864 more); Cases are down 9.7% (-64 less); and Charges/Citations are up 161.3% (+1129 more).

We have an exceptional group of diverse professionals working here at the Hermiston Police Department. The integrity, dedication, and resilience of those who serve here, magnifies each member's commitment of providing the best possible service to all community partners.

Special Events:

During this year's first quarter, Operations Division assisted with the following events:

- Officers assisted with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day annual community march, which consisted of 6 personnel providing support.

Directed Patrol Requests:

A total of (12) directed patrols (in multiple locations for various reasons), were issued during this first quarter. **Year Total: 12**

01/04/2025	01/18/2025	Five Star Auto Wash	Transient Activity
01/23/2025	02/06/2025	Hermiston City Shops	Speeding Vehicles
01/26/2025	02/09/2025	2123 NE 5 th Street	Unleashed Dogs
02/10/2025	02/24/2025	10 SE Campbell Drive	Speeding Vehicles
02/11/2025	02/25/2025	W. Highland Avenue/S. 1 st Street	Traffic Violations
02/12/2025	02/26/2025	U.S. Post Office	Transient Activity
02/18/2025	03/04/2025	Cost Less Carpet	Transient Activity
02/25/2025	03/11/2025	E. Pine Avenue/SE 7 th Street	Traffic Violations
02/25/2025	03/11/2025	630 E. Ridgeway Avenue	Transient Activity
03/22/2025	04/05/2025	135 E. Beech Avenue	Transient Activity
03/23/2025	04/06/2025	New Hope Church	Attempted Shed Burg
03/23/2025	04/06/2025	1030 SW 11 th Street #5	Prowlers at night

Vacation House Checks:

A total of (1) vacation house check was requested during this first quarter. **Year Total: 1**

HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES –FIRST QUARTER 2025 REPORT

CAPTAIN TRAVIS EYNON

Assigned Staff

(1) Captain, (1) Lieutenant (Investigations), (1) Communications Manager, (3) Police Records Specialists (4) Detectives, (3) School Resource Officers (SRO's)

Personnel Issues/Activities

With Captain Travis Eynon's pending retirement, Lieutenant Robert Guerrero has been identified for promotion when Captain Eynon retires, the date has not yet been firmly set, but will likely be sometime this summer. Sergeant Freddy Sotelo has been selected to replace Lieutenant as the next investigations lieutenant when Lieutenant Guerrero officially promotes to captain.

Records is still operating short one person who is recovering from a major medical procedure.

Division Summation for Administrative Services Division

(Investigations) As always, our detectives have been extremely busy throughout this first quarter and responded out to assist patrol on a number of investigations. They also partnered with multiple local, state and federal agencies to make a coordinated effort to get ahead of a rash of drive-by shootings. The results of this effort have been excellent so far.

In February, detectives, alongside patrol officers, responded to an armed robbery at a local business. Following an extensive two-month investigation, which involved multiple partner agencies and various investigative techniques, the detectives identified the two primary suspects. The investigation led to their arrest on charges including Robbery I, Assault III, Criminal Trespass I, Menacing, Aggravated Theft I, as well as several unrelated offenses. The case is now pending trial.

In March, detectives were assigned to investigate a reported allegation of first-degree rape. Although the victim resides outside the City of Hermiston, several challenges were encountered, which were addressed with the support of external agencies. Detectives conducted multiple interviews and executed search warrants, uncovering key evidence that supports the allegations. The case remains open as it awaits laboratory results. Once the results are received, the case will be forwarded to the District Attorney's office for further review.

In February, the Investigations Section supported the Pendleton Police Department in an operation addressing allegations of sexual abuse linked to an unlicensed medical care provider. Hermiston Detectives were assigned to conduct key interviews during the operation, offering crucial insights into the case. Their efforts led to the identification of a potential victim who had not previously been known, further advancing the investigation.

HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES –FIRST QUARTER 2025 REPORT
CAPTAIN TRAVIS EYNON

This unit sets the investigative bar very high within our region. They are extremely trusted, respected, and requested for their professionalism and expertise (not only by our personnel, but also numerous partnering agencies), whenever assistance is needed.

(Records) In spite of the reduced workforce, records is dealing with an increase in several categories compared to the first quarter of 2024. Most of the categories that are lower can be directly attributed to our massive remodel project that has significantly reduced access to records by the public. statistics are relatively stable, either slightly higher or lower when compared to this same quarter last year. All tasks keep our entire records unit extremely busy, and there is a backlog of lower priority work they attempt to get to but cannot always find the time. There is rarely a slow moment throughout the day for this unit; their hard work is extremely valued and appreciated.

(School Resource Officers ((SROs)) remain very busy and engaged within their assigned schools. During this first quarter, our SROs handled 216 separate incidents, which resulted in 43 case reports generated and 47 citations issued for different offenses. They also participated in multiple school lockdown safety drills, school events, presented and assisted patrol in multiple incidents. We are committed (in partnership with the Hermiston School District) in sending our SROs to the National School Resource Officer (NASRO) conference every year we able to do so. We do this to ensure they stay current in the operating trends of being an SRO, as well as receive any updated legal developments specific to working with youth in a school setting.

HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES –FIRST QUARTER 2025 REPORT
CAPTAIN TRAVIS EYNON

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AMANDA HARTSTEEN

- 293 RIMS CAD incidents. This includes phone calls made directly to our records personnel and lobby walk-ins.
 - 2024 1st Quarter = 470
 - **(yearly total 293 incident entries)**
- 1858 requests for information.
 - Open Records Requests = 300
 - Other Agency Requests = 1382
 - Local Background Checks = 176
 - 2024 1st Quarter = 1535
 - **(yearly total 1803 requests)**
- 171 case reports electronically sent for prosecution.
 - Umatilla County District Attorney's Office = 106
 - Umatilla County Juvenile Department = 15
 - Hermiston City Prosecutor's Office = 50
 - 2024 1st Quarter = 343
 - **(yearly total 171 reports sent for prosecution)**
- 121 case reports sent to various agency partners.
 - 2024 1st Quarter = 191
 - **(yearly total 121 cases sent)**
- 13 non-criminal fingerprinting appointments
 - 2024 1st Quarter = 75
 - **(yearly total 13 appointments)**
- 10 registered sex offenders.
 - 2024 1st Quarter = 27
 - **(yearly total 10 registrations)**
- 223 subpoena notices for officers to appear in court.
 - 2024 1st Quarter = 136
 - **(yearly total 223 subpoena entries)**
- 126 Hermiston Municipal Court warrants entered.
 - 2024 1st Quarter = 149
 - **(yearly total 126 warrants entered)**
- 1927 citations entered.
 - 2024 1st Quarter = 898
 - **(yearly total 1927 entered citations)**
 - 2023 1st Quarter = 1338
 - **(yearly total 898 entered citations)**