



Public Safety Committee Minutes

October 23, 2023

Councilor Primmer called the meeting to order at 5:15pm. Councilor Hardin was present, as well as Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan. Councilor Linton was absent. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Chief Edmiston, Captains Travis Eynon and Scott Clark, Communications Manager Amanda Hartsteen, Patrol Sergeant Leonard Stokoe, Training Corporal Tim Miers, Patrol Officer Jovanny Bedolla-Chavez, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Police Department

- **Introductions and Personnel Updates**

Hermiston's Police Department (HPD) Chief Edmiston, introduced Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan and members of HPD who were in the audience, and gave personnel updates to include: the HPD is currently down six people; individuals have been hired but are waiting to attend academy. Once academy has been completed, individuals will continue training at HPD before being released to solo duty, this entire process takes about six months to complete. As stated previously, there continues to be a decline in the number of individuals seeking law enforcement/public safety careers. The HPD continues to recruit, however, recruitment and retention can be difficult as many area PD's are seeking similar staffing and many have pay and benefit packages that are greater than HPD making HPD less desirable.

- **3rd Quarter Activity Report**

Chief Edmiston reviewed the 3rd quarter activity report (attached) stating total crime is up 37% from the 10-year average and up 16% from last year which mostly consists of property crimes. There is a staggering increase in the amount of larceny and burglary cases from residences and commercial businesses. Attempted murder is counted in the homicide statistic rate as required per the State of Oregon and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Major and violent crimes such as rape, robbery, and aggravated assaults, as well as auto thefts are down, which is always good. Transient activity to date, in 2023, account for 26% of HPD's total call load demand. Total incident and calls for service are up which can be viewed as a positive thing as many people still have faith and trust in the PD to call for help and are also tired of the criminal activity taking place in our community. There is also an increase of people with home cameras who are more openly coming forward to report something captured on video. Chief Edmiston stated he continues to believe the crime increase is due to the continual decriminalization of certain crimes by the Oregon legislature and Measure 110 which will continue to adversely impact the livability of our citizens.

Chief Edmiston stated HPD targets criminal behavior not people unless they are engaged in crime. This is important because HPD will need the City's and Communities support as they move towards combating crime in a more aggressive approach to those issues impacting the livability of our citizens.



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Chief Edmiston stated that despite HPD being understaffed by 20%, he is incredibly proud of the hard work his men and women do to combat crime and stay active in the community.

- **HPD & Umatilla County Sheriff Joint Crime Update**

Chief Edmiston and Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan gave information regarding the partnership shared within the region to help combat crime despite limited resources, as well as efforts being made to contend with recent aggravated crime.

- **Past/Upcoming Events**

Faith & First Responders- Chief Edmiston thanked the Kiwanis Club, Parks and Recreation, and the Eastern Oregon First-Responders Chaplains Association for all their work making this event a success.

Retired Lieutenant Randy Studebaker Memorial- Chief Edmiston thanked the community for their love and support to the Studebaker family.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

Chief Edmiston and Sheriff Rowan answered questions from the Council regarding: 411 Service, additional support from State Police, and the relationship between the Bureau of Land Management, Sheriff's Department, and the City to establish what can be improved at Oxbow Trail so people feel safer while using this.

Adjournment

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.

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.

3rd QUARTER ACTIVITY REPORT

2023

Hermiston Police Department 2014-2023 Patrol Stats - January through September

Incident Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg	Normal Range	2023	% Change Avg-'23	% Change '22-'23
Total Incidents	17784	17731	16940	17070	16648	17414	16206	16771	16217	16976	16532-17419	17100	1%	5%
Calls for Service	9774	7676	7753	8122	8640	8879	7985	8495	9086	8490	8115-8865	9886	16%	9%
Officer Initiated Activity	8010	10055	9187	8948	8008	8535	8221	8276	7131	8486	8004-8967	7214	-15%	1%
Traffic Stops	3717	5109	4735	3970	3161	4235	3965	3939	3355	4021	3616-4425	3352	-17%	0%
Case Investigations	2155	2485	2365	2337	2534	2451	1781	1956	2234	2255	1969-2542	2472	10%	11%
Total Arrests	952	1051	1039	954	920	1014	614	620	847	890	729-1051	960	8%	13%
Misdemeanor Arrests	651	816	788	652	642	739	431	453	640	646	527-765	741	15%	16%
Felony Arrests	301	235	251	302	278	275	201	167	207	246	203-290	219	-11%	6%
Total Citations	4466	5310	4698	4775	4128	5186	3569	3304	3348	4309	3606-5013	3554	-18%	6%

POPULATION	17240	17345	17520	17730	17985	18200	18775	19354	19696
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Incident Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg	Normal Range	2023	% Change Avg-'23	% Change '22-'23
Homicide	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	0-2	3	200%	200%
Rape	2	3	7	2	6	3	7	6	5	5	0-2	4	-20%	-20%
Robbery	11	3	0	2	7	7	6	10	9	6	5-8	4	-33%	-56%
Aggravated Assault	5	9	20	26	27	25	11	15	33	19	11-27	26	37%	-21%
Burglary	62	42	40	40	72	52	38	50	29	47	33-62	37	-21%	28%
Larceny	309	313	321	283	373	352	249	284	391	319	265-374	477	50%	22%
Auto Theft	19	33	21	29	36	24	22	23	36	27	21-33	30	11%	-17%
Arson	2	1	0	2	3	2	5	2	1	2	1-3	4	100%	300%
TOTAL	410	405	410	385	525	465	340	392	505	426	357-496	585	37%	16%
TOTAL VIOLENT	18	16	28	31	41	35	26	33	48	31	23-38	37	19%	-23%
TOTAL PROPERTY	392	389	382	354	484	430	314	359	457	396	333-459	548	38%	19%

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Hermiston Police Department 2014-2023 Crime Stats
January through June 10-year Trends













