



POLICE
2024 Annual Report



INDPENDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Independence, Kentucky

Population: 29,743

Chief: Brian Ferayorni

Land Area: 17.70 Sq. Miles

Budget: \$5,986,479.00

Roadways: 168 Miles

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HISTORY

The City of Independence can trace its roots back to the early 19th century. We were not always known as Independence. Independence was originally named Crewitt's Creek on November 20, 1837. On April 30, 1840 Campbell County split thus creating Kenton County. This "independence" from Campbell County resulted in the city we now call Independence. Independence was officially named on October 7, 1840.

In 1842, the town of Independence, Kentucky was incorporated, encompassing the "block" surrounding the Kenton County Courthouse located on Madison Pike. Over 150 years later the City of Independence is one of the largest cities, by land area, comprising over 23 square miles.

Independence grew significantly as a result of annexing enormous plats of land in surrounding areas from 1960 to 1984. The section of the city known as Cherokee was annexed into the city in the 1960's. This brought large portions of Taylor Mill Road (KY 16) into the boundaries of the city. Independence then expanded towards the west, annexing the Beechgrove area in the early to mid 1970's. In 1981, the city continued westward to the Boone County line, annexing all of the area from Turkeyfoot Road to the railroad over pass on Industrial Road. The three major thoroughfares through the City are Taylor Mill Road (KY 16), Madison Pike (KY 17) and Richardson Road (KY 1829), and KY 536 which travels through Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties.

The 2020 Census has Independence's population as 28,920. Continued commercial and residential construction will grow that number in the coming years.

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF FERAYORNI



Mayor Chris Reinersman
City Administrator Chris Moriconi
Fellow Officers & Staff
Citizens of Independence:

First and foremost, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for your hard work and dedication behind the scenes. The Independence Police Department could not have flourished and grown without your unwavering support. As we move forward, I welcome the challenges ahead and assure you that our department will continue to provide the exceptional police services that you and the citizens of Independence have come to expect.

My vision for the Independence Police Department remains unchanged: *to be the standard by which all other police departments strive to measure themselves*. To that end, I have been actively building partnerships with other agencies and law enforcement institutions, such as the Kenton County Jail and the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT), to establish joint services and programs that will be mutually beneficial. I have also surrounded myself with not only outstanding officers but strong leaders—leaders who inspire those around them to be the best versions of themselves.

I am pleased to present the **2024 Annual Report** for the Independence Police Department, which provides a comprehensive summary of our activities and achievements over the past year. Despite the many challenges facing law enforcement today, the men and women of this department remained steadfast in their commitment to delivering professional, effective, and efficient police services to the City of Independence. I want to express my deepest gratitude to my administrative staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the year—without them, none of this would have been possible. A special thanks to Police Secretary Catherine Weger for her efforts in compiling and publishing this report.

Like many departments across the country, we faced significant staffing shortages in 2024 due to a shrinking applicant pool and officers leaving the profession or transferring to other agencies. Despite these challenges, we have worked diligently to fill vacancies with both lateral hires and new recruits. Two officers successfully completed their training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training, and another officer who joined us in late 2024 is set to graduate in early 2025. Additionally, we made a significant step in expanding our resources by hiring a social worker, Taylor Graham, joined our team in early 2025.

Excellence is at the core of everything we do. In 2024, the command staff and I implemented several key initiatives to further enhance our department and the community we serve. These include the introduction of **Flock Safety** technology to locate stolen vehicles and wanted persons, the addition of **AEDs** in our cruisers so officers can administer lifesaving care to our citizens, and the training of an officer as a **Phlebotomist** to strengthen our DUI investigative capabilities.

I am incredibly proud of the Independence Police Department and the dedicated men and women who serve here. Despite increasing call volumes and a rise in violent encounters, they continue to perform at an exceptionally high level. This report offers insight into some of the challenges we face daily and underscores the critical role we all play in keeping our community safe.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to another year of progress and excellence.

Sincerely,
Brian Ferayorni, Chief of Police

FOREWARD FROM ASST. CHIEF BOYLE

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the unwavering dedication, professionalism, and commitment that our officers and staff exhibit every day in the service of our community. 2024 was a year of significant milestones for our department, marked by achievements that strengthen our ability to serve and protect those we are sworn to uphold.

One of the highlights of the year was the expansion of our K9 unit. Adding a second canine position will enhance our capabilities in the field. In addition, we are excited to have received approval for a cutting-edge drone program, which will greatly augment our ability to respond to critical situations with precision and efficiency.

More than ever before, we took great pride in deepening our connection to the community by increasing our participation in more local events. These engagements strengthen the bond between our officers and the residents we serve, reinforcing the importance of trust, understanding, and cooperation in our shared efforts to build a safer community.

The department also welcomed a new initiative with the approval and hiring process for a Police Social Worker. This new position will allow us to respond to the complex needs of our community with empathy, providing valuable resources and support for those in crisis.

We are equally proud to recognize the outstanding actions and dedication of our officers, whose contributions continue to elevate the standards of our profession. This year, we awarded one Life Saving Award, three Silver Star for Bravery awards, and three General Commendations in recognition of heroic actions in the line of duty. Furthermore, our officers received more than 10 City Proclamations for their exemplary service further underscoring their commitment to the community.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide exceptional service to all, and we are excited to continue innovating and growing as we embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It is with great pride that I present this report, celebrating a year of growth, achievement, and dedication to the safety and well-being of our community.

Jacob Boyle, Assistant Police Chief



MISSION STATEMENT

To form a partnership with the community and work within that partnership to maintain the public peace and improve the quality of life by providing fair and impartial police services in a professional manner.

CORE VALUES

As leaders in our community, we are committed to law enforcement professionalism through:

FAIRNESS: We treat everyone in an impartial, equitable, sensitive, and ethical manner.

HONESTY: We are truthful and open in our interactions with each other and with members of our community.

INTEGRITY: We are honorable, trustworthy, and strive to do what is right.

POSTIVE ATTITUDE: We strive to bring positive and constructive influence to our dealings with each other and our community.

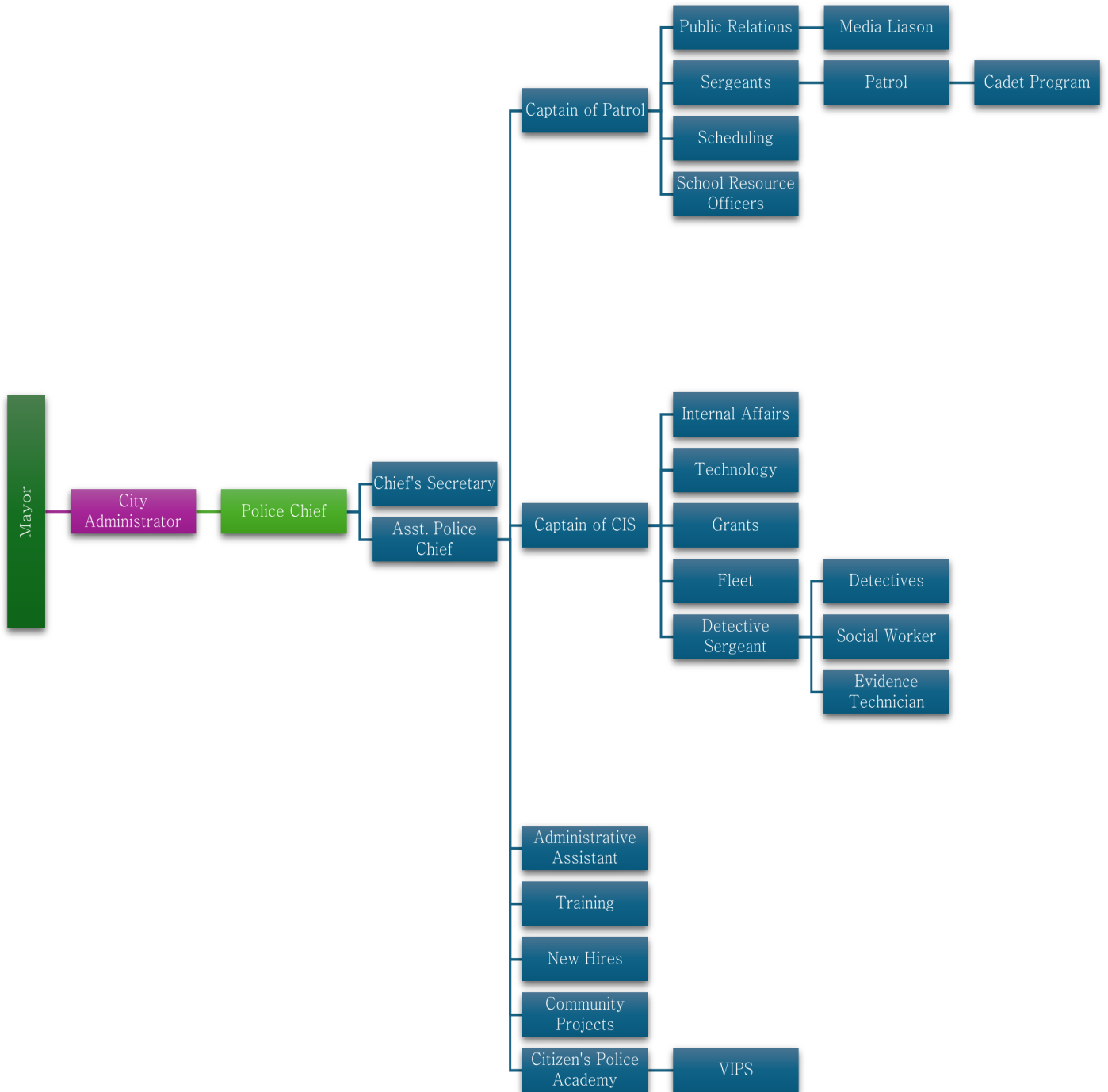
RELIABILITY: We are conscientious, professional, responsible, and dependable in our dealings with each other and our community.

RESPECT: We value ourselves, each other, and members of the community showing understanding and appreciation for our similarities and differences.

TEAMWORK: We work together within the Department and with members of our community to achieve our goals, making use of diverse skills, abilities, and views.

VALUE: We value human life, personal dignity, personal and professional integrity as the basis of community trust, fair and impartial enforcement of all laws, professional excellence, and all members of the Independence Police Department both sworn and non-sworn.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



COMMAND STAFF



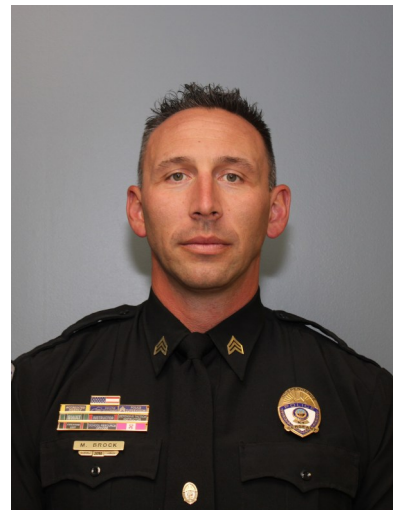
Chief Brian Feraorni
Serving since 2007



Asst. Chief
Jake Boyle
Serving since 2009

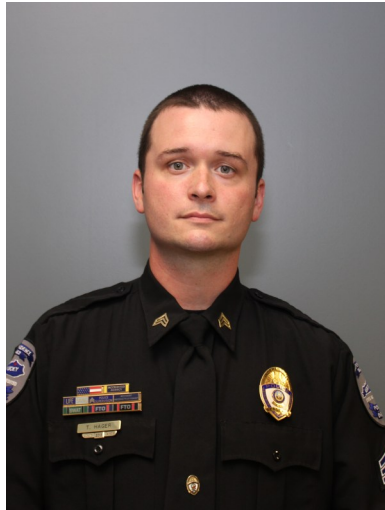


Captain
Joe Moffett
Serving since 2009

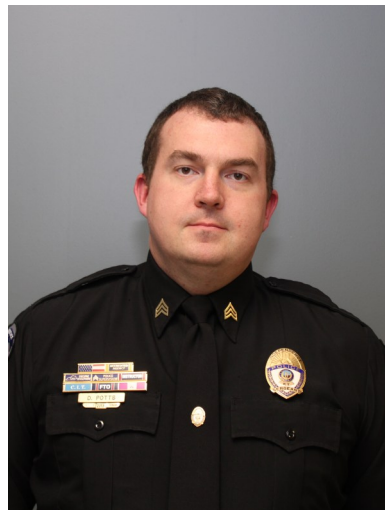


Captain
Mike Brock
Serving since 2010

PATROL COMMAND



Sergeant
Travis Hager
Serving IPD since 2015



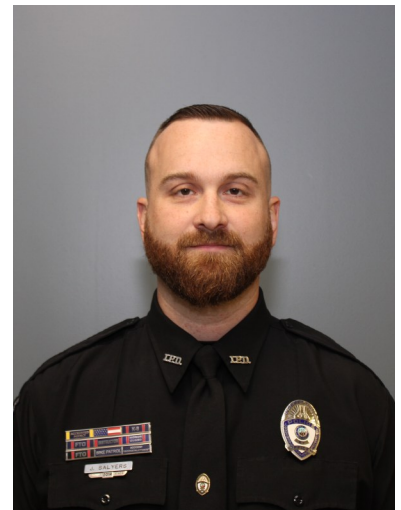
Sergeant
Danny Potts
Serving IPD since 2016



Detective Sergeant
George Kreuzjans
Serving IPD since 2021

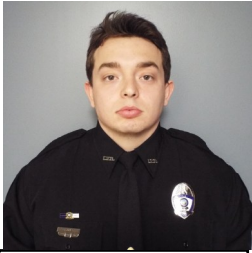


Sergeant
Matt Fassler
Serving IPD since 2018



Sergeant
Josh Salyers
Serving IPD since 2014

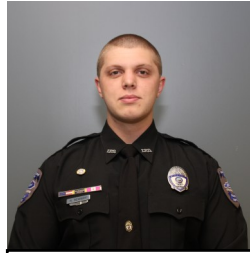
PATROL



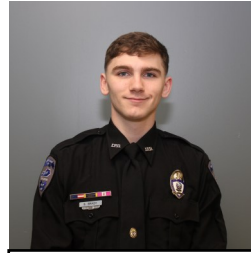
Officer (Academy)
Gage Ashcraft
Serving IPD since 2024



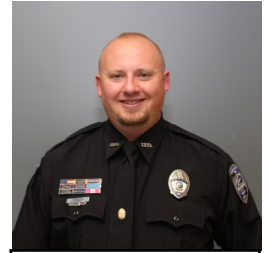
Officer
Tim Bailey
Serving IPD since 2017



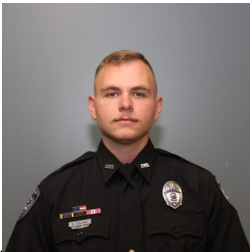
Officer
Nathan Beikman
Serving IPD since 2022



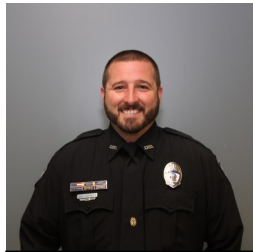
Officer
Dakota Brady
Serving IPD since 2022



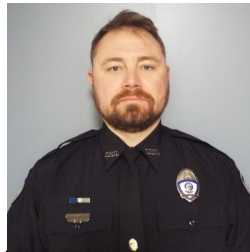
Officer
Jonathan Collins
Serving IPD since 2013



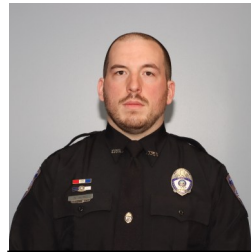
Officer
Sam Collins
Serving IPD since 2022



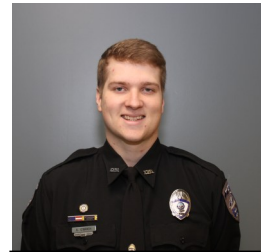
Officer
Chris Huhn
Serving IPD since 2022



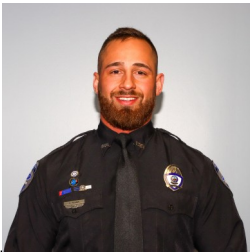
Officer
Ryan Jones
Serving IPD since 2024



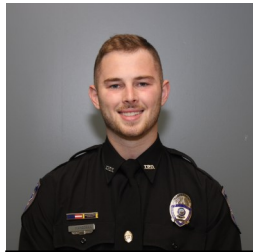
Officer
Nathan Kling
Serving IPD since 2023



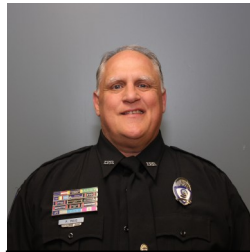
Officer
Cole O'Brien
Serving IPD since 2022



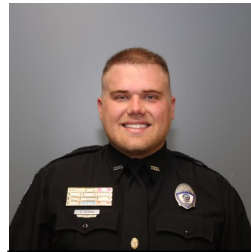
Officer
Will Parks
Serving IPD since 2024



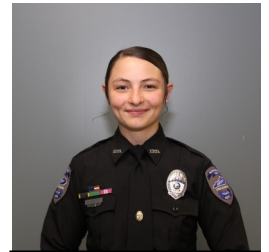
Officer
Hunter Ransdell
Serving IPD since 2022



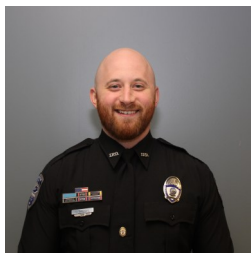
Officer
Pat Reis
Serving IPD since 2022



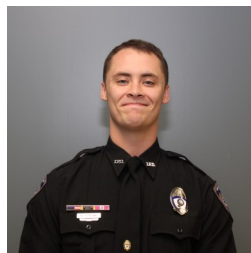
Officer
Tyler Runge
Serving IPD since 2017



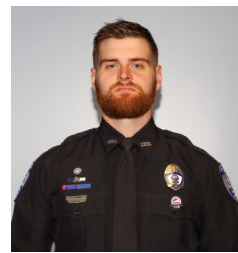
Officer
Kelli Shafer
Serving IPD since 2022



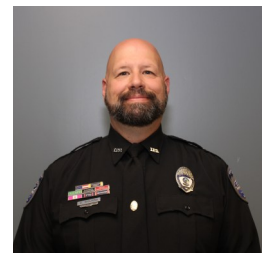
Officer
Tyler Spegal
Serving IPD since 2018



Officer
Nathan Strunk
Serving IPD since 2022

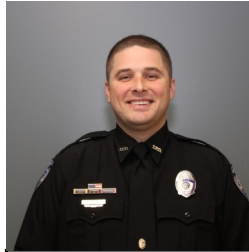


Officer
Zach Teunis
Serving IPD since 2024



Officer
Doug Wolking
Serving IPD since 2019

K-9

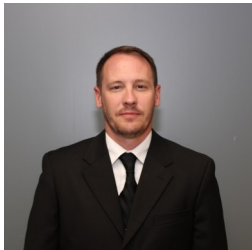


K9 Handler
Ben Bridges
Serving IPD since 2016

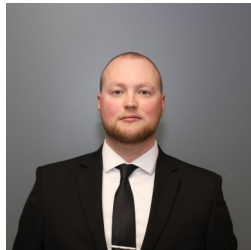
K9 Officer
Cairo
Serving IPD since 2024



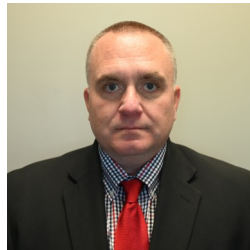
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION



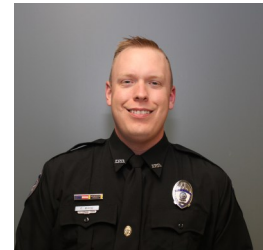
Detective
Adam Strine
Serving IPD since 2016



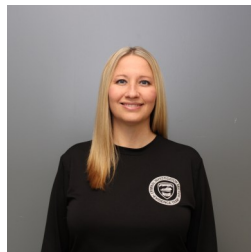
Detective
A.J. Kenner
Serving IPD since 2020



Detective
Eric Higgins
Serving IPD since 2023

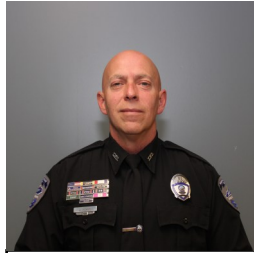


NKDSF Agent
Paul Mace
Serving IPD since 2022



Evidence Tech
Melissa Stenger
Serving IPD since 2023

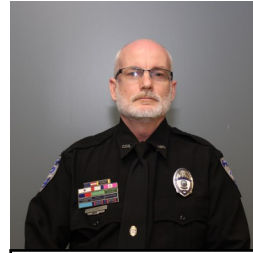
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



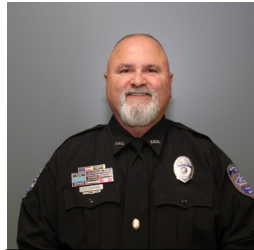
S.R.O.
Summit View Academy
Jeremy Adams
Serving IPD since 2022



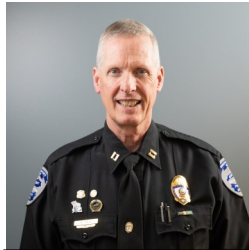
S.R.O.
Simon Kenton
Rob Auton
Serving IPD since 2020



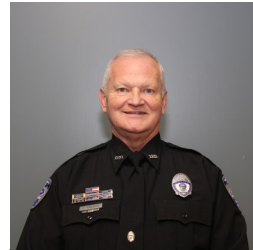
S.R.O.
Summit View Academy
Todd Bennett
Serving IPD since 1998



S.R.O.
Kenton Elementary
Phil Dunford
Serving IPD since 2018

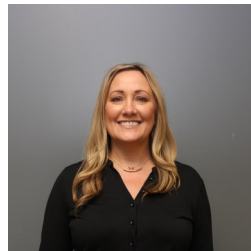


S.R.O.
St. Cecilia School
Scott Paul
Serving IPD since 2023

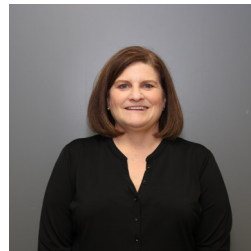


S.R.O.
Beechgrove Elementary
Dave Tobergte
Serving IPD since 2018

POLICE CLERKS



Michelle Runge
Serving IPD since 2015



Catherine Weger
Serving IPD since 2005

2024 BUDGET

	2024-2025 Original Budget
FINES & ACCIDENT REPORT FEES	5,000.00
BASE COURT/HB 413 REVENUE	20,000.00
INCENTIVE (KLEPF) PAY	184,900.00
FEDERAL GRANTS	2,000.00
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER RE-IMB.	213,000.00
DONATIONS K9 PROGRAM	2,500.00
AUCTIONS & SALE OF SURPLUS	1,000.00
Insurance Proceeds	4,000.00
SECURITY FEES	32,000.00
POLICE FUND RAISING	0.00
Total Police Revenue	464,400.00
TOTAL GEN FUND REVENUE	464,400.00
SALARIES	3,200,000.00
RETIREMENT	1,239,723.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	184,000.00
MEDICARE	53,446.00
SECURITY WAGES	26,500.00
LONGEVITY	21,200.00
REGULAR OVERTIME	100,000.00
COURT OVERTIME	10,000.00
HOLIDAY	80,000.00
SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL	22,260.00
INCENTIVE PAY-KLEFPF	184,900.00
Total Police Personnel	5,122,029.00

	2024-2025 Original Budget
TRAINING & EDUCATION	52,500.00
MOBILE PHONE & COMMUNICATIONS	27,300.00
K9 EXPENSES - DONATIONS	0.00
K9 Expenses - City	3,150.00
POLICE SUPPLIES	33,600.00
CCP SUPPLIES	5,000.00
UNIFORMS	63,000.00
GASOLINE	136,500.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	12,000.00
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	12,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	2,000.00
Total Police Other Expenditures	429,950.00
EQUIPMENT EXPENSE	25,000.00
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - CRUISERS	290,000.00
Taser/Body Cam Maint Contract	100,000.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE	2,000.00
COMPUTER EQUIP/SFTWARE	17,500.00
Total Capital Outlay	434,500.00
Total Police Expenditures	5,986,479.00

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating administrators then conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals is assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.

The Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Program is one of the most valuable and cost effective ways currently available to departments that wish to enhance overall agency effectiveness and professionalism. Accredited departments benefit from the use of consistent and proven procedures, clearly outlined policies, and efficient practices. In addition, accreditation serves to create a feeling of confidence among your residents that their police/sheriff department recognizes the importance of establishing and maintaining as high a degree of effectiveness and professionalism as possible.

Accreditation:

- Provides a means of independent evaluation of agency operations.
- Provides a basis to correct deficiencies in the agency's operations before they become public problems.
- Requires that agencies commit policies and procedures to writing.
- Provides a norm for an agency to judge its performance.
- Has the potential to reduce liability insurance costs.
- Promotes accountability among agency personnel and the evenhanded application of policies.
- Enhances the reputation of the agency, thereby helping to attract the most qualified candidates for employment.
- Minimizes an agency's exposure to liability, reducing vicarious liability suits.
- Builds a stronger defense against lawsuits and citizen complaints.
- Increases the community's confidence in its police/sheriff department.
- Recognizes agencies for meeting standards of excellence.

The Independence Police Department became an accredited agency in 1999. The department has been Re-Accredited in 2004, 2009, 2014, 2018, and 2022. The next Re-Accreditation is scheduled for 2026. Approximately 25% of Law Enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Kentucky have been awarded such a prestigious honor. The citizens of Independence are well served by having an Accredited Police Agency.

TRAINING

In order to recruit and maintain the most highly qualified employees, our office requires in-depth hiring practices and a great deal of training for all of our employees who are selected. To become an Independence Police Officer you must go through a lengthy and specifically designed process to ensure that we are investing in people that will best serve our community.

For officers, once selected, the applicant must pass the statutorily required Peace Officers Professional Standards (P.O.P.S.) testing. This consists of a physical agility test, a suitability screening, psychological and drug testing, a polygraph examination and an extensive background check. Only after successfully passing these standards would a job offer be extended. Once hired, an applicant must attend and graduate from the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) Basic Training Academy, which consists of 20 weeks (800 hours) of intensive training. Upon graduation, the new officer (trainee) will enter into the Field Training phase. Over approximately 16-18 weeks the trainee will be accompanied by rotating FTO's who will instruct them on patrol techniques, departmental procedures, and an law enforcement duties. Due to an increased need for law enforcement officers, the DOCJT has experienced an influx of students causing Academy classes to fill quickly. Because of this departments, such as the Independence Police will permit the newly hired officer to begin Field Training prior to their Academy date.

All sworn officers are required to complete a minimum of forty (40) hours of in service training yearly. Additionally, certifications, or recertifications are required for the Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) which are the computers used in the officer's cruiser, and as a Breath Test operator. Once a year each officer must qualify with their handgun and encourage them to also take advantage of qualifying any other weapons they may need to utilize.

An assortment of other training opportunities present themselves throughout the year. To be economically savvy we send our officers to additional trainings to become instructors in Tasers, driving, K9, and firearms, They then can provide 'in house' training to their fellow officers. For those officers who wish to rise in the ranks, there are multiple training opportunities such as Academy of Police Supervision (APS), Criminal Justice Executive Development (CJED), among others.

INDEPENDENCE POLICE OFFICERS (45)

2024 TRAINING HOURS

TOTAL: 4119 HOURS

Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT): 2181 hours

Outside/Additional Training: 1938 hours

TRAINING NOTABLES

- ◆ Officer Bridges and Officer S. Collins became Defensive Tactics Lethal Instructors,
- ◆ Officer Bridges became a K9 handler.
- ◆ Officer J. Collins, Officer O'Brien, Officer Kling, Officer Reis, Detective Kenner, Detective Strine, and Sergeant Potts were certified as Taser Instructors.
- ◆ Officer S. Collins and Officer Kling became certified in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement. (ARIDE)
- ◆ Captain Moffett, Sergeant Hager, Sergeant Potts all graduated Criminal Justice Training (CJED)
- ◆ Officer Runge and Officer Shafer became Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) instructors.
- ◆ Officer Jones became a Firearms instructor.
- ◆ Officer Spegal became the department's Phlebotomist.
- ◆ Officer O'Brien became a certified instructor in Gracie University's specialized Defensive Tactics program for law enforcement. (GST)
- ◆ Officer Wolking became certified as a First Aid/CPR/AED instructor.
- ◆ Officer Huhn and Officer Strunk became certified Accident Reconstructionist.
- ◆ Pat Reis received his Drone pilot's license.

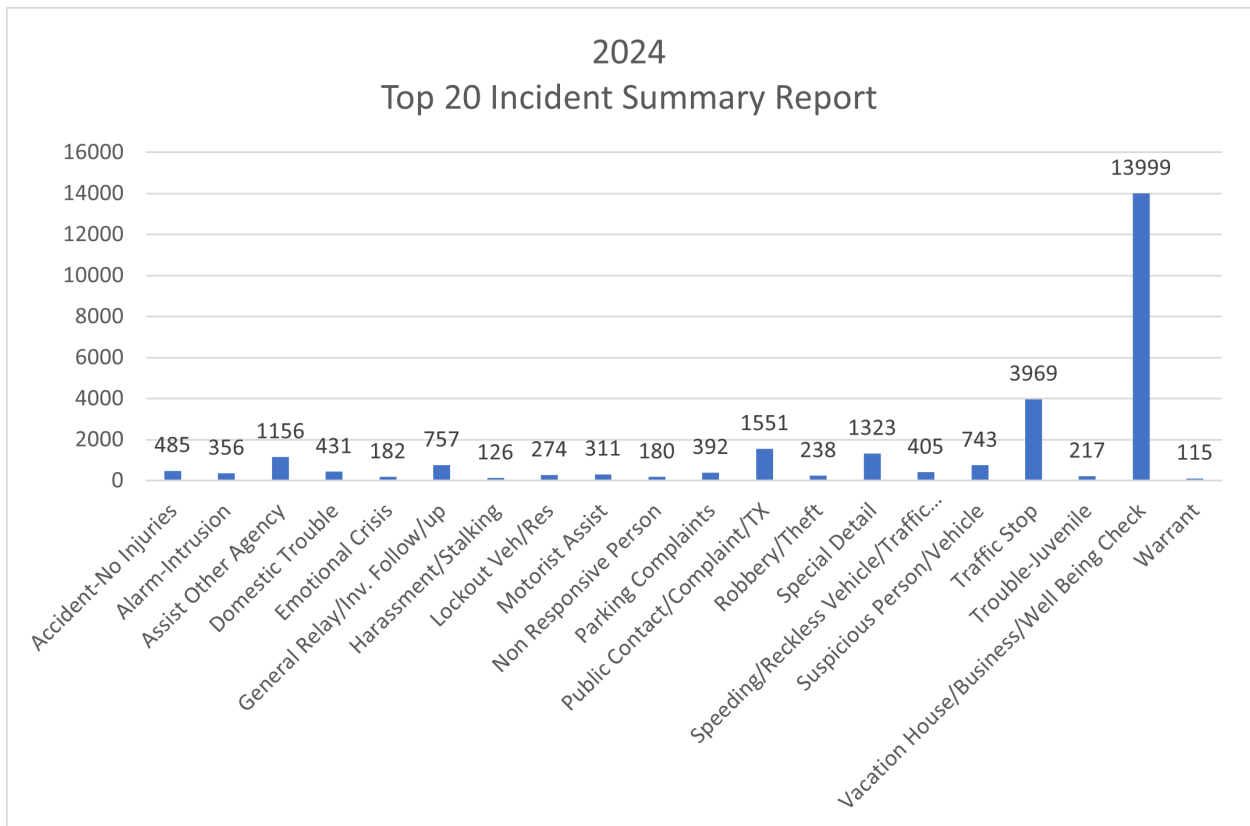
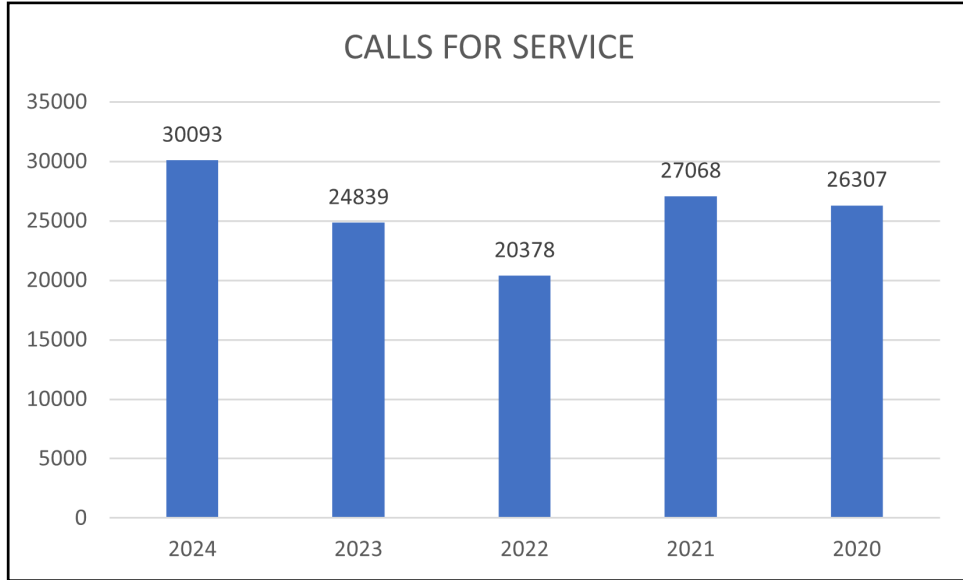
DATA

The following pages contain statistics that are important to the Independence Police Department. In order to implement effective, proactive, and predictive strategies we must look to our collection of data. The more accurate, complete, timely and available the crime data is collected and kept at a police agency, the better job they can do with it in fighting crime.

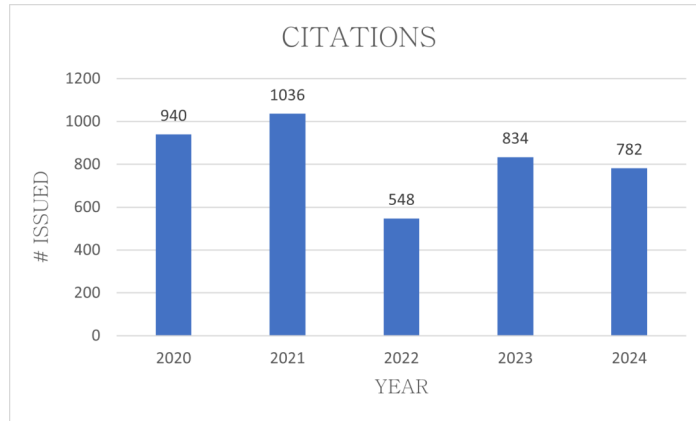
Emphasis in this Annual Report is placed on 2024 crime totals, but totals from previous years are provided for comparison. Our data is provided by Law Enforcement Records Management Systems (LERMS) and Kentucky Open Portal Solutions (KYOPS). The integrity of LERMS and KYOPS data is dependent upon both the accuracy and frequency with which the data is entered and user's interpretation. No warranty, either expressed or implied is given to the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability for any particular purpose of the information contained in LERMS and KYOPS.

NIBRS/CAD DATA

All telecommunications for the Independence Police Department are handled by the Kenton County Communications Center. All Kenton County agencies are dispatched from this one location. Calls for service are documented when police officers are tasked to respond to a situation or initiate enforcement activity themselves.

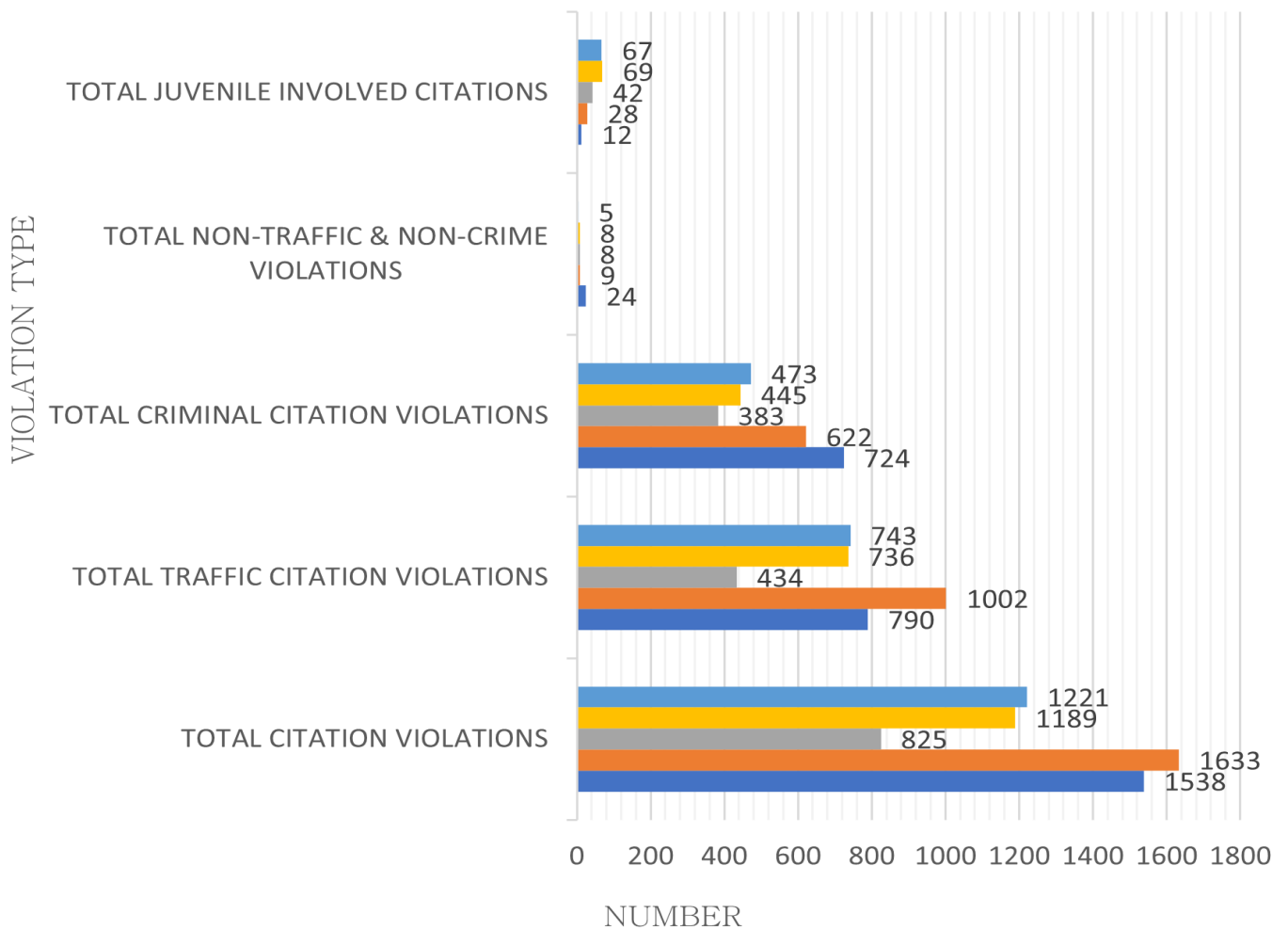


CITATION DATA

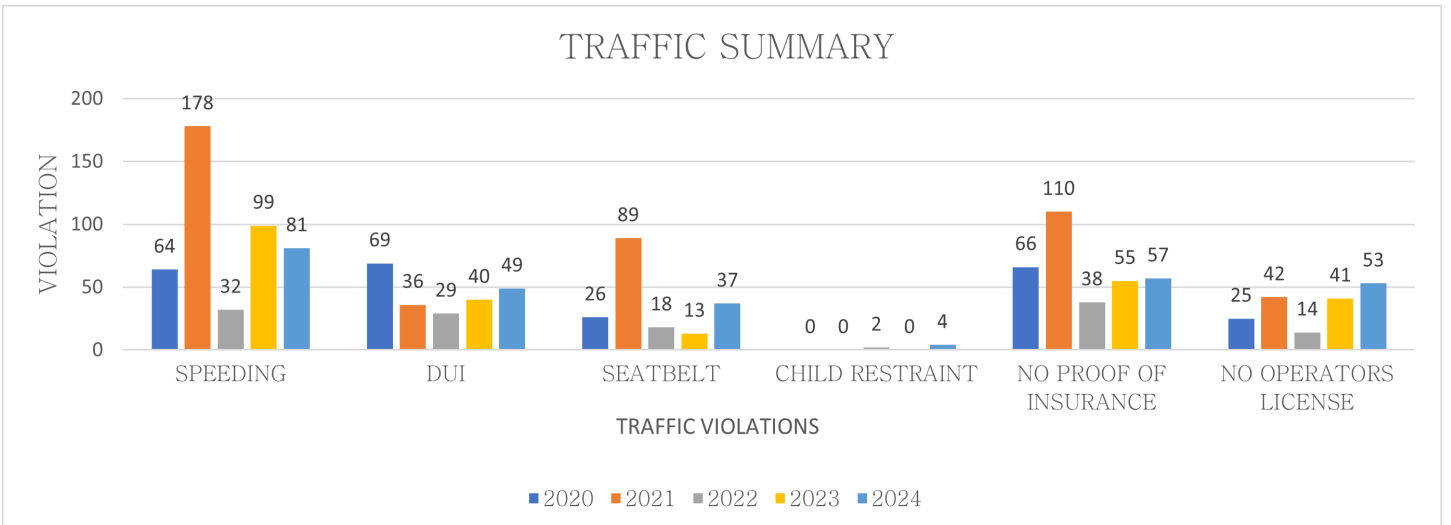
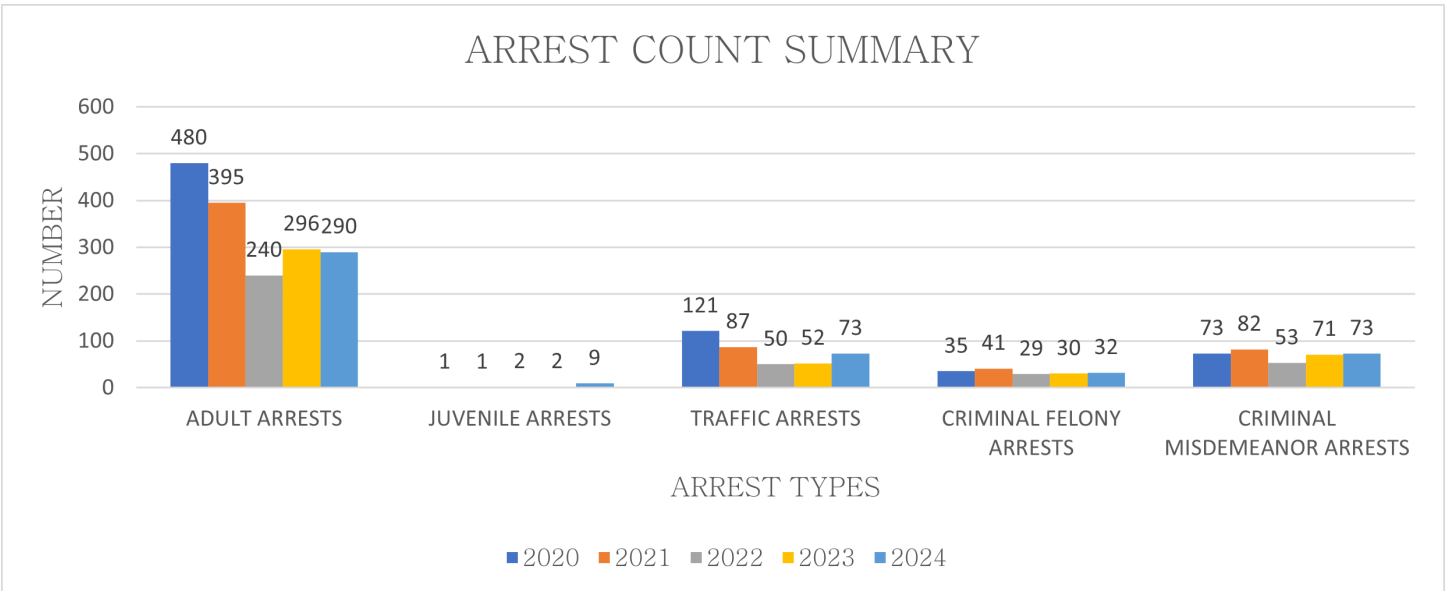
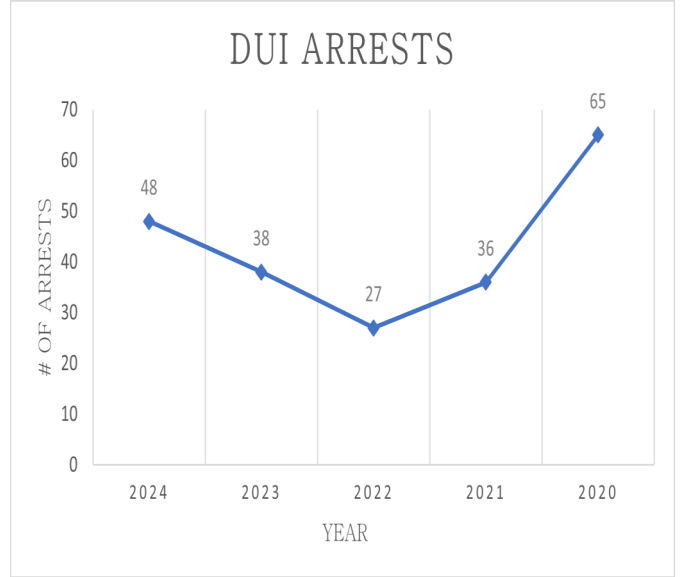
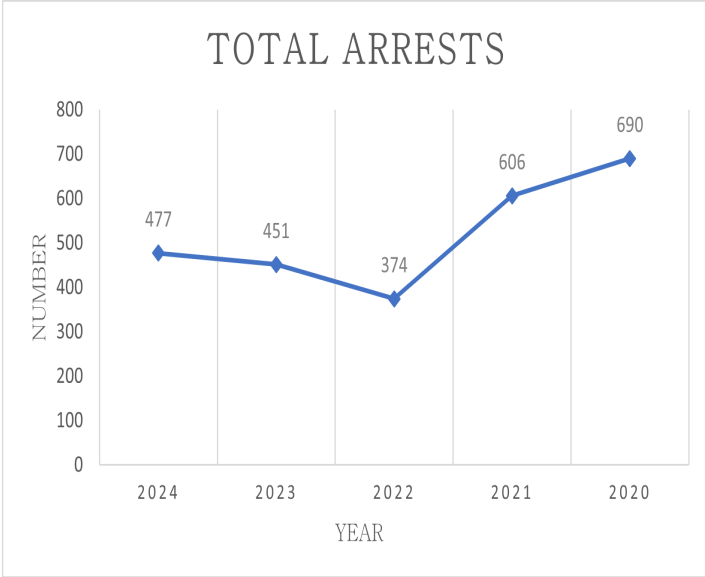


CITATION VIOLATION SUMMARY

■ 2024 ■ 2023 ■ 2022 ■ 2021 ■ 2020



CITATION DATA



COLLISION DATA

COLLISION STATISTICS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Number of Collisions	427	447	445	461	462
Injury Collisions	51	60	52	59	39
Total Injured	66	103	76	79	64
Fatal Collisions	1	0	0	0	0
Total Killed	1	0	0	0	0
Property Damage Collisions	375	387	393	402	423
Alcohol/Drug Collisions	15 / 9	11/2	8/6	13/1	15/8

COLLISION: HUMAN FACTORS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cell Phone	8	4	5	9	8
Disregard Traffic Control	6	13	9	5	11
Distraction	25	23	18	21	26
Emotional	2	4	1	3	2
Exceeded Stated Speed Limit	12	6	5	15	7
Failed to Yield Right of Way	28	47	45	53	61
Fatigue	4	1	4	2	1
Fell Asleep	5	2	6	6	3
Following too Close	3	5	5	6	16
Improper Backing	28	12	26	18	19
Improper Passing	6	10	8	5	7
Inattention	173	176	161	200	196
Lost Consciousness/Fainted	4	1	5	3	1
Medication	3	1	2	2	0
Misjudge Clearance	47	53	56	54	75
Not Under Proper Control	58	72	53	70	63
Overcorrecting/Oversteering	10	11	12	12	9
Sick/Physical Disability	0	2	1	1	0
Too Fast for Conditions	21	19	32	17	26
Turning Improperly	3	9	9	15	5
Failed to Keep Proper Lane	16	24	22	32	25
Other	13	14	23	19	11
TOTAL	475	509	508	568	572

INDEPENDENCE ACCIDENTS OCCUR MOST	2024	2023
TIME OF DAY	3:00p.m. - 3:59 p.m.	3:00p.m.-3:59p.m.
DAY OF WEEK	Friday	Tuesday
MONTH	October	May/November Tied
STREET	Madison Pike	Taylor Mill Road

CRIME DATA

For reporting purposes, criminal offenses are divided into two major groups. Part I incidents are considered to be more serious crimes such as property crimes and violent crimes. Part II crimes include less serious crime involving an individual.

The integrity of the KyOPS data is dependent upon both the accuracy and frequency with which the date is entered and user's interpretation. Therefore, no warranty, either expressed or implied, is given to the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability for any particular purpose of the information contained in KyOPS.

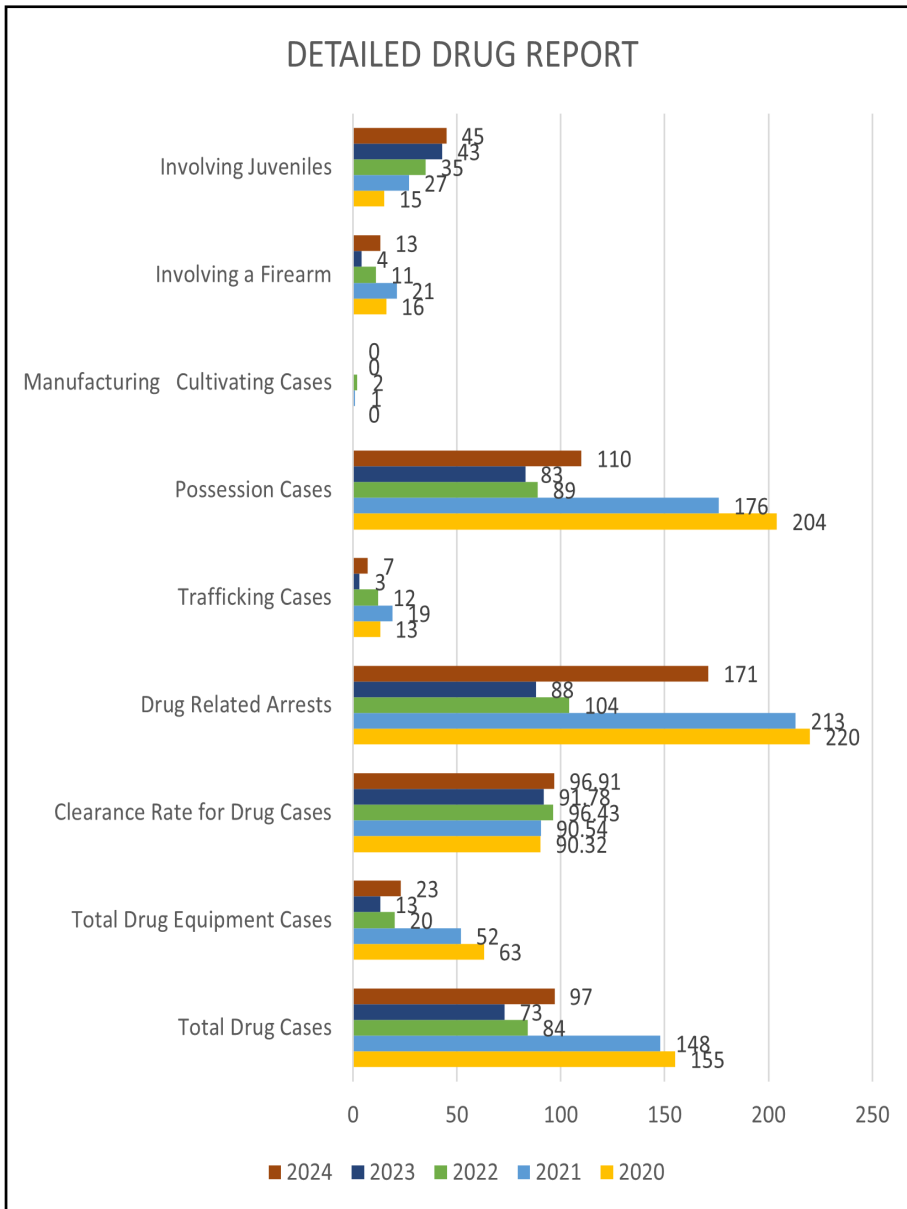
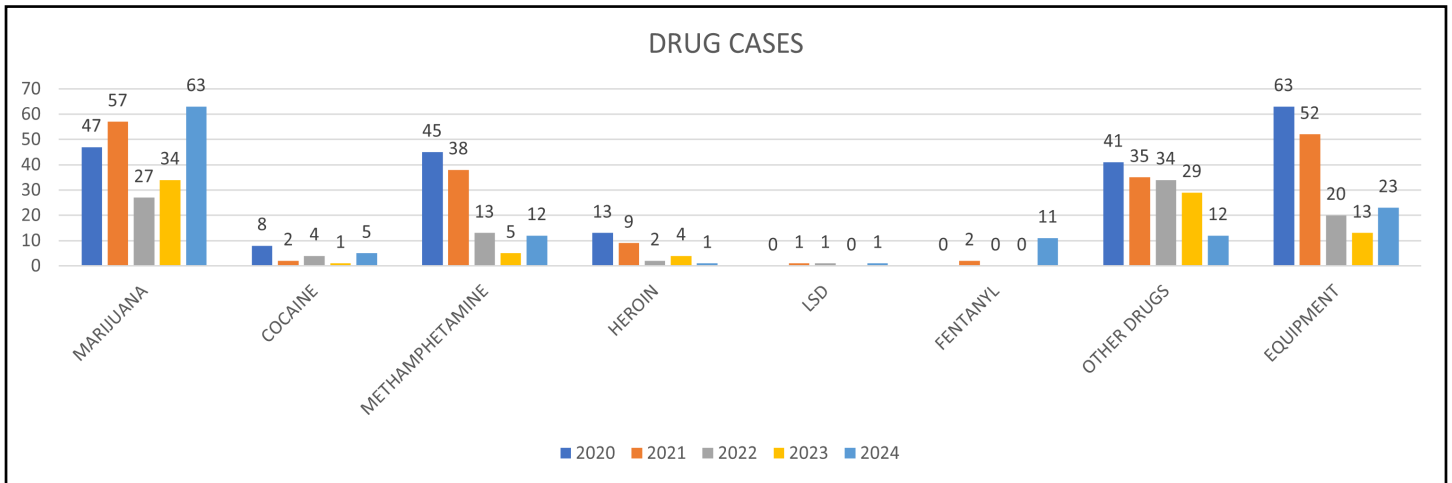
PART 1 CRIMES

CHARGE	2022	% Closed	2023	% Closed	2024	% Closed
Murder and Non -Negligent Manslaughter	1	100%	2	50%	0	0%
Forcible Rape	9	56%	10	45%	5	20%
Robbery	1	100%	1	100%	1	100%
Aggravated Assault	7	100%	8	88%	10	58%
Breaking and Entering	14	87%	9	56%	7	29%
Larceny-Theft (Except Auto Theft)	91	54%	80	64%	79	17%
Auto Theft	20	65%	17	65%	18	17%
Arson	0	0%	1	100%	1	100%

PART II CRIMES

CHARGE	2022	% Closed	2023	% Closed	2024	% Closed
Other assaults	103	95%	136	91%	120	91%
Forgery & Counterfeiting	6	50%	5	60%	6	83%
Fraud	23	63%	30	71%	29	67%
Stolen Property, Buying, Receiving, Possess	2	50%	4	75%	3	100%
Vandalism	49	71%	60	75%	61	65%
Weapon Offenses; Carrying, Possessing, Etc.	1	100%	2	100%	6	86%
Sex Offenses (Except Forc Rape & Prost.)	24	67%	37	64%	19	74%
Sales/Manufacturing-Opium?Cocaine & Derivatives (Mor, Her, Cod)	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Sales/Manufacturing-Marijuana	3	100%	3	100%	3	100%
Sales/Manufacturing-Syn Narcs-Manu Narcs/Demerol, Methadones	1	100%	33	100%	2	100%
Sales/Manufacturing-Others-Dang. Non-Narc Drugs (Barbs, Benzed)	40	100%	0	0%	23	100%
Possession-Opium/Cocaine & Deriviatives(Mor, Her, Cod)	5	10%	6	100%	6	100%
Possession-Marijuana	21	100%	31	97%	60	97%
Possession-Others-Dangerous Non-Narc Drugs (Barb, Ben)	22	100%	8	100%	19	100%
Offenses Against Family & Children	13	100%	10	80%	8	100%
Driving Under the Influence	13	100%	16	94%	27	96%
Liquor Laws	1	100%	1	100%	5	100%
Drunkenness	4	100%	4	100%	10	100%
Disorderly Conduct	26	93%	28	91%	46	88%
All other Offenses (Except Traffic)	34	83%	45	94%	33	97%
Runaways	2	100%	2	100%	4	75%

DRUG DATA



The City of Independence is not immune to many of the problems which face our large urban cities across America. The Independence Police Department answers calls of the abuse of prescription medication, illicit drug usage, and drug trafficking. The officers find these drugs on traffic stops, in homes, on our streets, and in our schools.

Many of the other crimes committed can be traced to drug use. Property crimes such as burglaries, robberies, and thefts can normally be linked to the need for money to purchase drugs. IPD has taken a proactive approach to fighting the drug problem. The Department's Drug Unit allows for our officers who have received specialized training to monitor high drug usage areas and types of drug used. The Unit is trained to analyze tips called in my the community and act on them. The IPD Drug Unit cooperates and shares information with other agencies to help track drug traffickers from community to community.

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

OFFICER ACTIVITY	2022	2023	2024
VACATION CHECKS (individual entries)	261	254	183
IMPOUNDS	54	64	53
CITY CITATIONS (PARKING, NUISANCE)	185	136	123
TOTAL EXTRA DUTY DETAILS (hours)	283	424	495

TOP 3 OFFICERS: CITATIONS	2024	
	CITATIONS	CHARGES
PO SAM COLLINS	78	117
PO DAKOTA BRADY	61	113
PO RYAN JONES	54	103

TOP 3 OFFICERS: ARRESTS	2024
PO DAKOTA BRADY	42
PO NATHAN BEIKMAN	34
PO RYAN JONES	29

TOP 3 OFFICERS: COLLISION REPORTS	2024
PO TIM BAILEY & PO PAT REIS	30
PO TYLER SPEGAL	28
PO NATHAN BEIKMAN	27

TOP 3 OFFICERS: CRIME REPORTS	2024
SRO ROB AUTON	50
PO NATHAN BEIKMAN	26
PO COLE O'BRIEN	24

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

A school resource officer (SRO) is a sworn law enforcement officer who works in schools to prevent crime and keep students safe. SROs are employed by local police departments and work closely with school administrators. In 2024 the Independence Police Department was proud to have 6 SROs in 5 of the city's schools.

In 2019, Senate Bill 1, the School Safety and Resiliency Act, brought about new security programs and encouraged schools to hire an SRO. In 2022, House Bill 63 took that a step further by requiring officers on every school campus in Kentucky by Aug. 1, 2022. We were fortunate to have officers in place by that August 2022 deadline and even placed an officer in our local private school for 1/2 of the year.

The safety of the school is the officer's primary responsibility. He works alongside the school administration to ensure safety of both the students and faculty. The SRO has three main functions: Law Enforcement Officer, Advisor and Mentor. He is a uniformed officer who implements both the school rules as well as universal laws. He visits with classes, is seen at arrival and dismissal, and is present at school functions to develop personal, working relationships with students, parents, and families. Most importantly the SRO's goal is to be a positive role model. The youth of today need direction that is not found on social media or by using electronics. The SRO encourages the importance of high moral standards, using good judgement, being discreet, consistent and fair, respect, and having concern for the whole school community.



RETIREMENT

Independence K9 Jocko retired in November 2024. Jocko served the City of Independence, as a very handsome German Shepherd that had been exported from Slovakia. Jocko served the department as a dual purpose narcotics K9. He and his partner Officer Josh Salyers served together for 3 years.

In 2021, Jocko joined the Independence Police becoming the 82nd K9 donated by the Matt Haverkamp Foundation. The Matt Haverkamp Foundation was established in November 2005 in remembrance of a beloved son, dear friend, and K9 police officer. The purpose of The Foundation is to continue Matt Haverkamp's legacy and keep his memory alive by supporting the law enforcement agencies in communities in the greater Cincinnati area.

Jocko, was named after the famous Navy Seal Jocko Willink who is a Silver Star and Bronze Star recipient and a veteran of the War in Iraq.

Appointed 12/06/2021

Retired 11/11/2024



AWARDS

LIFE SAVING AWARD



On August 7, 2024 officers responded to a call to assist the EMT paramedics with a “Bleeding” incident. The call referenced a 2-year old, female, had her leg severed by a riding lawn mower in the back yard.

Knowing he would more than likely be the first on scene, Officer Ryan Jones began mentally and physically preparing to do what he could to help save this little girl’s life. Enroute to the call, Officer Jones began preparing a tourniquet to apply to the juvenile. Upon arrival, Officer Jones approached the mother holding the child and began speaking to both of them in an attempt to calm them down, all the while he was applying the tourniquet to the leg.

Once the tourniquet was applied, the child and mother were taken by paramedics/ambulance to the Air Care landing zone. Officer Jones, also, made his way to the landing zone and as the paramedics were tending to the child’s injuries, Officer Jones had the wherewithal to comfort the child’s mother during this traumatic time.

Following the call, Officers Jones and other shift officers returned to the scene to clean any evidence of the traumatic event from the victim’s yard. This was done so the family would not be reminded of the trauma that had occurred when they returned from the hospital.

The Independence Fire Chief reached out to the IPD command staff with progress reports from the hospital on the child’s status. The Fire Chief conveyed his gratitude for the swift efforts that Officer Jones took on the call as it undoubtedly had saved the child’s life.

Due to his efforts Officer Ryan Jones was awarded Life Saving Award.



Photo courtesy of Nikki Petty Photography

For the same August 2024 event, Officer Ryan Jones was recognized at the Northern Kentucky firefighters Association Annual Banquet.

AWARDS

POLICE EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE



Sergeant Josh Salyers

Sgt. Josh Salyers of the Independence Police Department was awarded the Police Excellence in Community Service Award for his work in organizing FOP Lodge 75's annual holiday food drive. In his nomination letter, Colonel Brian Ferayorni of the Independence Police Department detailed Salyers' role in transforming the drive from a small event, originally supporting around 10 families, into a large-scale effort providing food to as many as 70 families across Independence, surrounding cities, and unincorporated areas of Kenton County.

IMPAIRED DRIVING AWARD

In December 2024 PO Dakota Brady, along with nearly 200 state and local law enforcement officers were honored for extraordinary efforts to protect motorists from impaired drivers as part of Team Kentucky's continuing commitment to save lives on Kentucky roadways.

Officer Brady was presented with the Highway Safety All-Star Award - a commemorative baseball bat from Louisville Slugger.

Silver Star

On January 7, 2024, Officers responded to an active domestic dispute involving the use of knives and firearms. Upon arrival, officers heard gunshots from inside the residence and quickly entered the home. The officers, without regard to their safety, took swift action to detain the suspect and get the victims to safety.

On behalf of the American Police Hall of Fame & Museum Officer Nathan Kling was awarded a Silver Star for Bravery for his extraordinary heroic actions performed in the line of duty.

Commendation

Police Officer Sam Collins and Police Officer Nathan Strunk received a General commendation for their outstanding actions and performance of their duties on January 7, 2024.

Proclamations

The Independence Police CIS was awarded a Proclamation from Mayor Reinersman for their diligent work, evidence collection, and investigation that brought the January 7, 2024 event to a successful conclusion.

NOTEWORTHY

BIKE PATROL

Police Bike Patrols became popular with police agencies in the early 20th century. The maneuverability of bicycles on crowded sidewalks and their ability to navigate narrow, crowded driveways offered advantages over what is provided by a traditional police vehicle.

The Independence Police Bike Patrol Unit is comprised of several officers who are equipped with specially designed bikes. The officers have received Police Mountain Bike Training. These officers patrol the various side streets and off road paths in the city. These officers are assigned to different sections of the city at different times to provide more coverage. While on the bike, an officer is able to sneak up on unsuspecting suspects and/or situations. Bike Patrol is a way for officers and the public to have more interaction because the officer is more accessible while on the bike. Bike Patrol has proved to be very beneficial during city events.

SPEED MONITORING

The Independence Police takes speeding within the city seriously. Citizens contact the department regarding ongoing issues on streets in their neighborhoods. The officers take the information and will monitor the area using various methods. Officers will patrol the area more closely during the time speeding is said to be an issue. The IPD also has a Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer (S.M.A.R.T.) to use. The piece of equipment is a flashing speed limit sign attached to a trailer that sits on the street. It is used as a reminder to drivers of the speed on a particular road. A similar piece of equipment used is a Radar Speed Sign. These are attached to poles in various areas to remind drivers of the speed. This unit is more often used in areas where the speed limit is determined by the area, such as neighborhoods, school zones, work zones, parks, daycare areas, churches, etc.

The IPD also has a STEALTH Speed Detector Device. This unit is mounted on a utility pole along a street, in a problem area. The device is not easily seen by motorists, therefore obtaining true data of speed. The information gathered from this device is utilized to aid in decisions regarding speed humps and stop signs.

FLOCK CAMERA SYSTEM

In 2024 the Independence Police Department added Flock Safety to their crime fighting arsenal. 10 Flock Safety LPR's were installed to create a virtual gate around the city. This new system cuts out the infrastructure by having the units solar and battery powered and utilizing a cellular network. A license plate reading camera gives police the evidence they really need to eliminate crime and keep your community safe. The goal of Flock is to shape a safer future together between law enforcement, the community, businesses, and schools. More than 3,700 communities across the country utilize this system to help solve and deter crime in the pursuit of safer communities. On average, 2,200+ crimes are solved per week with the help of Flock Safety. IPD has had several successful incidents solved due to the information the Flock system provided.

NOTEWORTHY

HONOR GUARD

The Independence Police Honor Guard is a ceremonial police unit dedicated to upholding the highest values and traditions of the men and women of law enforcement. Officers of the Independence Police honor guard are committed to representing the City of Independence and their law enforcement family, both locally and nationally. The Independence Police Honor Guard honors our fallen officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

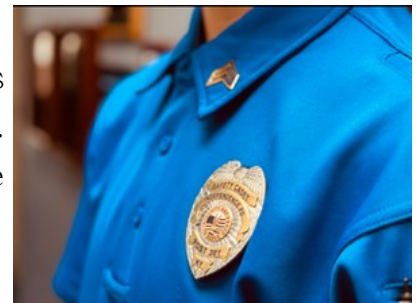
The Guard remains ready to serve at the direction of the chief of police and participate at various city and department sponsored events. The Independence Police Honor Guard is civically minded and remembers our military veterans, as well as individuals and organizations that are dedicated to public service.

The Color Guard forms the core of the Honor Guard's activity by proudly displaying the national and state colors at various events. The presentation of colors is customary at the opening of various patriotic or sporting events and is often accompanied by the playing of the National Anthem.

POLICE CADETS

The Independence Public Safety Cadet Program provides an opportunity for young men and women to learn about law enforcement by using classroom presentations and practice exercise that focus on the latest crime prevention and crime control methods. The Cadet Program emphasizes character development, community involvement, and leadership. This program serves the citizens of Independence and the Independence Police Department by active involvement in community events. The Cadets perform their duties with honesty, sound judgement and respect for the rights of individuals.

The Public Safety Cadets meet several times a month and is open to young men and women who are 14 to 20 years of age. The team attends competitions with other teams from around the area and tri-state.



INTERN PROGRAM

The Independence Police Department has welcomed students from Northern Kentucky University who is majoring in Criminal Justice to intern with the PD. The college student spends an entire semester doing police related jobs and activities. Internships provide excellent resume material, give students real world work experience, help students define their career goals, enable networking opportunities, and provide the potential to serve as a gateway for employment at the host agency/organization.

NOTEWORTHY

S.W.A.T.

Special Weapons And Tactics (S.W.A.T.) a law enforcement unit, which uses military-style light weapons and specialized tactics in high-risk operations that fall outside of the capabilities of regular, uniformed police. The Independence Police Department is proud to have 3 active members of the Northern Kentucky S.W.A.T. team. The team is a



multi-jurisdictional, joint law-enforcement unit, specialized to respond to high risk or unusual situations that require a specialized police response. Their duties include: confronting heavily armed criminals; performing hostage rescue, counter-terrorism operations, high risk warrant arrests, and entering armored or barricaded buildings. The team is equipped with specialized firearms and equipment.

FTO PROGRAM

The Field Training Program is an integral part in the process of becoming an officer. The program is designed to yield officers who can work by themselves in a safe, skillful and professional manner. The program, which once lasted 14-weeks upon graduation from the Police Academy, can now be implemented prior to entering the Academy for some initial training and then completed after graduation. The FTO program consists of 3 phases.

The training received is "hands-on" where the recruit officer is learning from veteran officers how to perform the duties of a police officer in the field. The FTO Program expands on the topics such traffic enforcement, criminal law and procedure, use of force, city geography, community relations, report writing, and other related law enforcement topics. Each recruit is graded daily and a weekly progress report is made. It is through the Field Training program that the success of the Independence Police Department is built and the future is made. It is the responsibility of the Field Training Officers to embrace a training philosophy that ensures every recruit officer is given the maximum opportunity to show he/she can do the job and to recognize our responsibility to the public we serve that we retain only the most competent police officers.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY/VIPS

The Citizens Police Academy program is an 8 week course that provides an in-depth view into various areas of law enforcement. This educational and informative program allows citizens the opportunity to learn more about the daily work of a police officer. This program forms a partnership between citizens and police officers to form a safer community. Scheduling the program depends on availability of officers, presenters and public interest.

The VIPS Program is an offshoot of the Citizens Police Academy that provides support and resources for our agency. The program's ultimate goal is to aid officers by performing basic duties such as vacation/business checks, assistance with city events or office duties. Independence VIPS volunteers continue to assist IPD. Volunteers periodically drive the VIPS vehicle and patrol the city doing vacation/business checks.

NOTEWORTHY

THE POINT

The Independence Police welcomes students from The Zembrodt Education Center which is a division of The Point Arc of Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati to come and intern with us for several weeks. The Zembrodt Education Center (ZEC) was created to give people with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to reach their highest potential educationally, residentially, socially, and vocationally. ZEC strives to increase growth and support for individuals and families in the Greater Cincinnati region. This program known as Career Exploration is through The Point's Employment Services.

The 9 students from area schools and their 3 sponsors joined us in November 2024. 1 Staff. The student interns learned about our K9, SROs, Cadets, Drug Strike Force, and CIS. The highlight of their time with the IPD was participating in a ride-a-long with an officer in a cruiser.

The student intern's experience helped them to gain knowledge in problem solving, communication skills, following directions and working with others and individually.

GRANTS

The Kentucky General Assembly created a \$15 million grant program in the Office of the Attorney General's Department of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to help law enforcement and first responders purchase body armor, duty weapons, ammunition, electronic-control devices and body-worn cameras. The Independence Police Department was awarded the privilege to purchase two (2) vests. Grants help offset some of the department's capital and operational costs. Captain Joe Moffett works diligently seeking and researching grant funding through The grant totaled approximately \$1500.00.



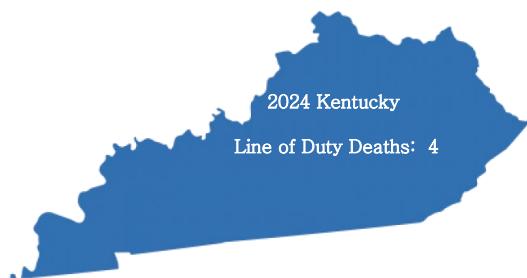
Police Social Worker

Hired Taylor Graham

Joined us in January 2025

OFFICER DOWN

<i>UNITED STATES</i>	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
9/11 Related Illness	5	6	10	8	24
Accidental	0	0	1	0	0
Aircraft Accident	1	0	6	2	3
Animal Related	0	0	2	0	0
Assault	1	6	0	2	5
Automobile Crash	20	24	32	22	20
Boating Accident	0	0	0	0	1
COVID-19	210	383	81	6	1
Drowned	4	3	0	1	2
Duty Related Illness	4	4	7	5	4
Fall	0	1	0	3	0
Fire	0	0	1	1	1
Gunfire	45	62	60	47	49
Gunfire (Inadvertent)	5	2	4	1	3
Heart Attack	6	19	13	7	16
Heatstroke	0	0	2	0	1
Motorcycle Crash	4	3	2	3	3
Stabbed	0	3	0	0	2
Struck by Train	0	0	0	1	0
Struck by Vehicle	8	14	4	4	13
Training Accident	0	1	1	0	0
Unidentified	0	0	0	1	3
Vehicle Pursuit	2	3	4	0	1
Vehicular Assault	13	17	14	10	12
	328	551	244	124	164



2024 K9 Line of Duty Deaths

Duty Related Illness: 2	Stabbed: 1
Exposure to Toxins: 1	Fire: 1
Struck by Vehicle: 2	Gunfire: 8
Training Accident: 1	Heatstroke: 3
Vehicular Assault: 1	

2024 IN PICTURES





Independence Police Department
5409 Madison Pike
Independence, Kentucky 41051
Kenton County
(859)3562697