

## Peoria Police Department 2014-2015 Overview

The Peoria Police Department is proud of the excellent service it provides to the citizens of Peoria. Our mission is to ensure a high quality of life and safety by partnering with our employees and community to maintain trust and to preserve life and property. To address the needs of our growing community, we have emphasized a strategy with three key approaches:

- Engage the Community
- Prudent Use of Technology
- Data-Based Decision Making

**Engage the community**-Peoria Police remains at the forefront of a “Community-Based” policing approach. In this day and age, public safety cannot solve problems alone. Instead, we have worked hard to develop partnerships with community members, business leaders, government representatives, educators and members of the clergy. This is best exemplified through our United Community Action Network (U.C.A.N), an award-winning effort designed to problem solve Peoria’s unique challenges. Through these community-centric programs, and with extensive officer training, the community-based philosophy is reflected in the daily activities of every member of the department.

### **Prudent Use of Technology**

As communities evolve, the police that protect them need to grow as well. The Peoria Police Department recognizes the benefits of a growing technological world and in the past year has taken steps to implement new technology to better serve citizens.

An example of this is our investment in body worn cameras. At this point, all patrol officers, sergeants, traffic and K-9 officers are now equipped with these important devices. Also, the City has begun its use of the Hunchlab predictive policing software, which helps officers to better understand where crime could occur before it does.

### **Data-Based Decision Making**

Peoria Police compiles extensive data regarding, crime, crash and traffic information. However, the department takes it to the next level by employing modern statistical and geographical software to help understand and utilize data effectively. As a result, such analysis helps determine patrol deployment strategies.

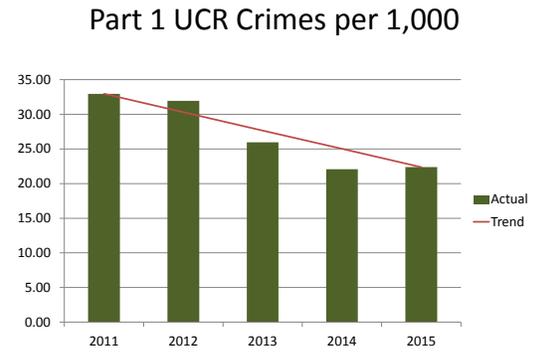
Traditionally, Police agencies assess data on an annual basis. Recently, the City finished its compilation of 2015 data. An overview of the results is listed on the following page:

## Police Data

Per federal and state mandates, all cities are required to report UCR crime data to the FBI and the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

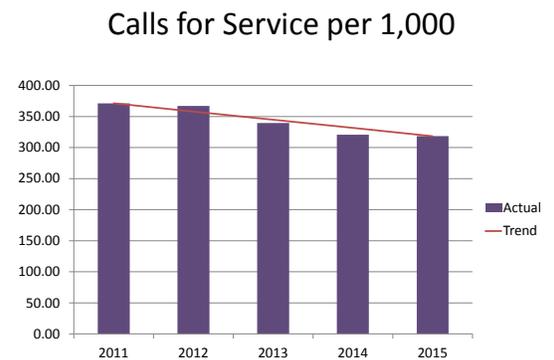
### Major Crimes

- Over the last five years, the City has realized a downward trend in crime. For example, Major Crimes per 1,000 residents in the City of Peoria have fallen 32% since 2011.
- In the last year, Crimes per 1,000 residents increased 1.28% from 2014 to 2015.
- The latest monthly crime numbers (May 2016) show a 6.4% decrease in overall crime from the prior month.
- The City of Peoria participates in a nationwide Benchmark Cities Group to compare crime data with comparable agencies. Overall, the 22.4 crime rate per 1,000 remains well below the Benchmark average of 30.4.



### Calls for Service

- Likewise, over the last five years the City has experienced reductions in overall calls for service. In that period, the number of calls per 1,000 residents has dropped by 14.2%.
- In the last year, Peoria received 318 calls for service per 1,000 residents, a decrease of less than 1%.
- Peoria's 318 calls per 1,000 residents remain significantly lower than the Benchmark Cities Group average of 463.



### Response Times

- The department places high emphasis on responding to the high priority calls throughout the City. In comparing the last year from May 2015 to May 2016, the average response time to Priority One calls has increased by 11 seconds. It is important to note that such increases of less than 30 seconds are not statistically significant for cities of our size.
- Our police leadership continually evaluates data to assess response times in the high-growth areas.

The full data detail is available, and can be provided upon request.

## Staffing Levels

The Peoria Police Department has 195 sworn positions, of which nine are currently vacant. These openings were created by various circumstances such as promotions, retirements, resignations and lateral transfers. To manage staffing levels, the department aggressively fills the vacancies on a consistent basis. Fortunately, application numbers remain strong for both recruits and lateral transfers.

The City is also doing a good job at retaining its officers. Despite a number of retirements in recent years, the turnover rate for sworn police positions remains low, trending between 5-7% annually.

Peoria has focused on being an employee-centric organization. This was certainly illustrated during the downturn, as the City avoided layoffs, maintained position levels, and absorbed significant health care cost increases (rather than passing on the burden to employees). This philosophy continues today, as witnessed with recent "premium holidays" to Peoria employees.

Some recent notes of interest:

- In the last year, the Peoria Police Department lost three officers to other agencies, two to Phoenix Police Department, and one to Paradise Valley Police Department.
- In that same period, the City hired 11 officers from other agencies throughout the state.
- In the current interview process, six lateral applicants are also in consideration.
- In comparison with the Benchmark Cities Group, Peoria's police annual compensation increase is appreciably higher than the benchmark average.
- Peoria remains an employer of choice, with more than 200 applications received for police recruit positions.
- Eight new sworn officer positions have been added in the last five years. This occurred during a period when the City experienced significant reductions in crime, and witnessed slower growth in resident population.
- A groundbreaking ceremony will occur July 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the \$10.8 million facility expansion at the Pinnacle Peak Police Sub-Station. An additional 17,000 square feet of building space will be added, and will include additional police training facilities, holding areas, and office space to help the department distribute its patrol presence more efficiently.

## Notable Accomplishments

The Peoria Police Department prides itself on being a premier law enforcement agency. In the last year, this was demonstrated with a number of achievements. For example:

- The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) awarded the Peoria Police Department with the **Gold Standard** Accreditation (one of two cities in Arizona with this honor). CALEA focuses on the high standards of professional excellence in the law enforcement community.
- Officers within the Department received several individual awards from various state agencies for outstanding service.
  - Officer David Fernandez was honored with the 2016 National School Resource Officer of the Year.
  - Detective Mike Griffin has received a series of high profile awards, including
    - In February 2016, received a Certificate of Special Recognition from the FBI Director for his assistance with the arrest of a wanted suspect.
    - Was recently awarded the 2016 State Terrorism Liaison Officer of the Year.
    - In 2015, was given the “Most Outstanding Regional Drug Trafficking Enforcement Award” by the U.S. Department of Justice.
  - Sergeant Bobby Wong was awarded a Special Recognition Award in 2014 from the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center.
  - Sergeant Russ Scarborough was awarded the Exemplary Traffic Safety Award in 2014 from the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety.
  - Detective Chris Boughey was given the 2014 Honor Award from the Ayaan Hirsi Ali Foundation for his work regarding honor violence and forced marriage.
- The City of Peoria Police Department was designated as a Model School Resource Officer Program by the National School Resource Officer Association.
- The Department, as well as Chief Minter, was awarded several awards for their commitment and dedication toward fostering relationships with members of the community.