

Memorandum

TO: Chief Doug Goodman
FROM: Officer Chip Watts
SUBJECT: 2021 Analysis of Juvenile & Youth Programs
DATE: April 21, 2022

Overview

The Ashland Police Department operates several youth programs to deter criminal activity in Town. The focus of these initiatives is to educate as well as form connections with youth to prevent crime and delinquency. 2021 continued to be a challenging time for the production of youth crime prevention programs as a result of schools restricting activities and special events being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Programs

- **Shop-with-a-Cop**
The Department's manages an annual "Shop-with-a-Cop" Holiday program using donations from throughout the community to provide gifts and food for deserving families in Town during the Christmas season. In 2021, over \$5,000 in donations of money and product from the community helped our program serve 50 children from 19 different families. We also continued our partnership with Ashland Christian Emergency Services by producing a Holiday Toy and Coat giveaway in the NP-STAR neighborhood.
- **Impaired and Distracted Driving Prevention**
The prevention of impaired and distracted driving has become a focus for our crime prevention program. Lecture and Simulated and Impaired Driving Experience (SIDNE) presentations are conducted for high-school and college students detailing the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

Additionally, presentations were introduced for new drivers to address distracted driving and how to handle interactions with law enforcement during traffic stops. These presentations were made to church youth groups and parent organized groups of teenagers new to driving to make a connection with these groups and explain the procedures officers follow during traffic stops.

- **Child Safety Seat Inspections**

The Department inspected 10 child safety seats in 2021.

- **Schools/Daycares**

- Daily visits were conducted to the schools and day cares to promote and foster relationships. This includes lunchtime visits and recreational visits on the playgrounds. Officers performed 174 school and daycare visits in 2021.
- In 2021, Department Crime Prevention personnel assisted the Hanover County Sheriff's Office in conducting two "Signal Blue" intruder drills at public schools in and near Town. These drills are conducted to train staff and prepare students in response procedures during critical incidents.
- Crime Prevention provides crisis planning and response presentations to our private school and daycares in Town.

- **Public Education Efforts**

Crime Prevention offers presentations to various groups throughout the community in an effort to educate residents regarding how law enforcement accomplishes our mission. Using our Use of Force simulator, demonstrations by specialized units such as Investigations as well as discussions reviewing different aspects of police work, we provide insight on how police officers ensure the safety of the community.

In 2021, we provided four education presentations for groups including Randolph-Macon College students, day care students and youth groups.

- **Project Lifesaver**

Crime Prevention maintains APD's Project Lifesaver program. This program provides members of our community prone to wandering off due to dementia, autism or another issue with tracking transmitters at no cost to the clients or their families. Assigned officers visit the client monthly to check the transmitter, replace batteries and positively interact with these vulnerable and at-risk members of our community.

Officers made 22 Project Lifesaver visits in 2021.

2021 Youth Events

February

- February 18: Participated in R-MC virtual Criminal Justice Career Fair.

April:

- April 6: Bike Safety Rodeo at Toddler Town.
- April 14: Presentation to R-MC Spanish Class.
- April 14: Cadet Class Instruction - Physical Training.
- April 20: Participated in Toy Drive for Children's Day 2021 with YMCA.
- April 24: Drug Take-Back; 270 lbs. collected.
- April 28: Emergency Response Discussion with RMC student.

May:

- May 3: LE Presentation to Cub Scout Group.
- May 16: LE Appreciation Day - Green Top.
- May 22: Traffic Stop Presentation to New Drivers at APD.
- May 27: Signal Blue Henry Clay ES.

July:

- July 21: Kona with a Cop.

August:

- August 3: National Night Out and Kona-with-a-Cop throughout Town.
- August 12: Cadet Training.

September:

- September 10: Attended RMC Fall Carnival.
- September 16: Cadet Training.
- September 25: Crime Prevention & Traffic Safety in partnership with the Ashland Kiwanis conducted a Child Seat Check event at Walmart.

October:

- October 7: Silent No More Presentation (Virtual).
- October 14: APD Cadet Training.
- October 22: Alcohol safety presentation for R-MC Delta Zeta Sorority.

November:

- November 16: APD Cadet Training.

December:

- December 17: NP-STAR Holiday Yard Sale Coat & Toy Give-away.
- December 20-21: Shop-with-a-Cop Holiday Deliveries.

Evaluation

The program was evaluated based on arrests and citations issued during 2021 compared to 2020 as well as a three-year average from 2018-2020.

Traffic Enforcement:

In 2021, 13 traffic summonses were issued to juveniles, compared to 14 issued in 2020, a 7% decrease. The three-year average of juvenile summons for 2018 to 2020 was 23, with 2021 demonstrating a 39% decrease.

The top juvenile traffic offenses in 2021 were:

- Speeding: 5 occurrences.
- Failure to Yield Right-of-Way: 5 occurrences
- Improper Lane Change: 2 occurrences

Criminal Enforcement:

Three juveniles were arrested in 2021, compared to 14 juveniles in 2020, a 78.5% decrease year-to-year. In 2021, 25 juveniles were listed as offenders in reports. In 2020, 46 juveniles were listed as offenders in reports.

The three-year average of juveniles arrested for 2018 to 2020 was 16.6, with 2021 demonstrating an 81.3% decrease over the average.

Juveniles accounted for three total criminal offenses. All were committed by town residents.

Offense	Number of Offenses
Aggravated Assault	1
Simple Assault	2
Total	3