

FISCAL YEAR
**2019
2020**

ANNUAL REPORT

Sonoma County
Sheriff's Office



MISSION STATEMENT & CORE VALUES

In partnership with our communities, we commit to provide professional, firm, fair, and compassionate public safety services with integrity and respect.





Annual Report
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020
Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

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MARK ESSICK

Sheriff-Coroner

We have been tested as a community this year perhaps more so than any time in the memory of most. A pandemic has shuttered us, and we don't yet know the full effect. A new conversation about race has paused us, appropriately demanding we reflect on how we treat one another. Wildfires continue to rage, leaving destruction in their wake once again. And yet, we're reminded how resilient we are, and how coming back together is second nature.

No matter the struggles, our office won't be diverted from the work that needs to be done.

We set a bold agenda last year in our Strategic Plan – a framework to guide us in our mission of doing our job in partnership with the community, with accountability and transparency. This document, our first annual report, is the accountability component of that plan.

In it, we'll take a deeper look at the data that tells us where we are, what we've accomplished, what has changed and how we can grow. We'll examine the response to the Kincade Fire and how an ongoing look at best practices can improve how we respond in times of crisis. We'll take a close look at how COVID-19 has affected our operations since the County released its Shelter at Home order on March 17.

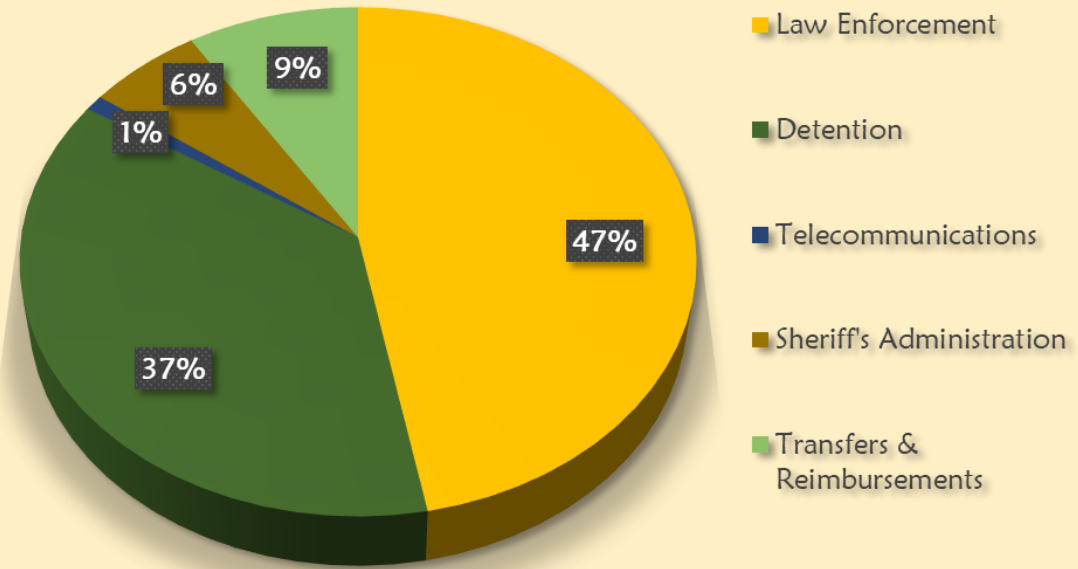
Transparency demands honesty, and I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize that our local institutions have been tested this year. Not one of us has been through this combination of events – pandemic, economic collapse, social unrest, and natural disasters.

It reinforced the importance of communication – among elected officials, between agencies and the people we serve. We must each tell our story and build strong, open lines of communication. While social media can often feed negativity, it can also prevent misinformation and encourage dialogue. By taking our social media program seriously, we're communicating directly with more than 100,000 followers in the community – and that communication goes both ways.

This is certainly not intended to be a comprehensive document. Our work is never done, and we must continue to raise the bar each and every day. This is a partnership between this office and you – the people we suit up for. Keeping you safe and secure in your home and community is more than a job, it's what we feel called to do.

Introduction from the Sheriff

Total Budget = \$184,091,167



Total Allocated Staff: 634.5		
Law Enforcement Division	298.5 allocated staff	223 sworn deputy sheriff 6 sworn correctional deputies 69.5 civilian
Detention Division	285 allocated staff	1 sworn deputy sheriff 203 sworn correctional deputies 81 civilian
Telecommunications	5 allocated staff	5 civilian
Sheriff Administration	47 allocated staff	10 sworn deputy sheriff 2 sworn correctional deputies 35 civilian
Total Extra Help Staff: 95		
Extra Help	95 allocated staff	51 sworn deputy sheriff 15 sworn correctional deputies 29 civilian

With about 635 full time and 95 extra help positions, we are constantly hiring at the Sheriff's Office. One of the Sheriff's top priorities is creating a staff that better reflects the community we serve. This is a long process with immediate opportunities to get started.

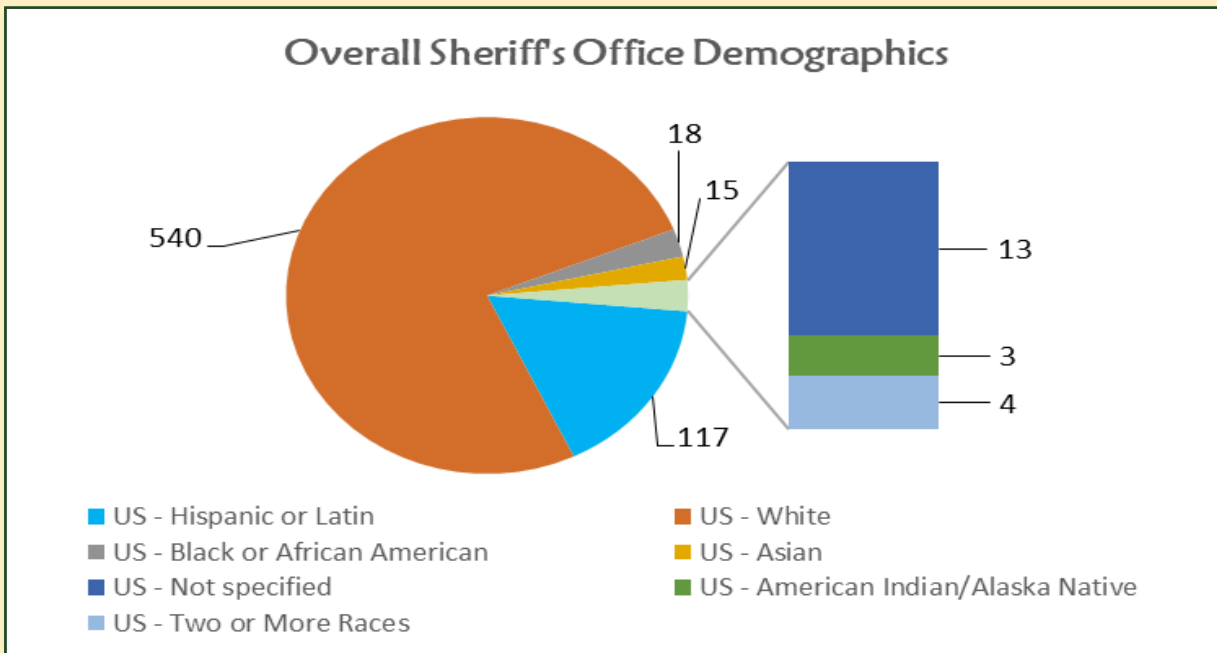


The Sheriff's Office processed **996 candidates** for a variety of positions. The candidates are first vetted by County HR to assure the Minimum Qualifications are met before the names are sent to the Sheriff's Office. Ultimately, **63 were hired**.

We're recruiting at career fairs and events with more people of color and women in attendance; advertising job opportunities on bilingual and Spanish-language media outlets; promoting job opportunities on social media; and participating in community events so community members continue to get to know the Sheriff's Office.

The COVID-19 health crisis has had a significant impact on all aspects of the hiring process. The testing process for entry level sworn recruitments was halted as a result of County shelter-in-place orders. This impacted our ability to hire sworn staff as the State of California did not have alternative online testing available. We are using phone and virtual meetings to answer questions, conduct interviews, and complete the extensive background process. While this has slowed our overall ability to fill vacancies, it is our highest priority to adhere to current health guidelines to assure the health and safety of Sheriff's Office personnel as well as candidates applying for our positions.

For additional information on careers at the Sheriff's Office, please contact our Recruitment Team at: Sheriff-Recruitment@sonoma-county.org.



Sheriff's **Dispatch** provides emergency and non-emergency dispatching services for the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County, Town of Windsor, City of Sonoma, and the Probation Department. Dispatch is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In Fiscal Year 19-20 a total of 159, 970 calls were received.

Dispatchers never know what the next call will bring. It could be an armed robbery; an infant not breathing; a house on fire; a vehicle accident with injuries; or a minor noise complaint. Highlights from the last year include:

- ◆ Dispatchers successfully managed the Kincadee Fire evacuations and responding mutual aid peace officers.
- ◆ In December 2019, the dispatch area was remodeled, taking it from 12 workstations to 14.
- ◆ COVID-19 brought an increase of non-emergency calls from the public seeking clarification on the Sonoma County Health Orders.



29,774
9-1-1 calls received

99.9%
of 9-1-1 calls were
answered in **less**
than **10 seconds**



Dispatcher at a new workstation

Success Story

The Fourth of July is always a busy night for dispatch, but this year's holiday took an unexpected turn. Dispatchers took 673 calls that day; nearly half of those calls came in during a five-hour period. The usual calls were coming in, such as fireworks and alleged gunfire. Then, around 8:00 p.m., dispatch started receiving calls about a man assaulting people. He ended up stealing a car, injuring eight people, and tried to run over two peace officers. Throughout a chaotic and intense evening, dispatchers handled every call quickly, with precision and grace, to keep deputies and community members as safe and informed as possible.

Patrol deputies are the most visible and perhaps well-known members of the Sheriff's Office. They patrol your neighborhoods, proactively search for people committing crimes, and show up when you call for help.

83,016 calls for service in unincorporated Sonoma County were generated in FY 19-20.

We made significant operational changes in response to COVID-19. We reduced in-person contacts as much as possible and use PPE when in-person contact is necessary. We respond to calls for service by phone when possible and ask people to make reports online when appropriate.

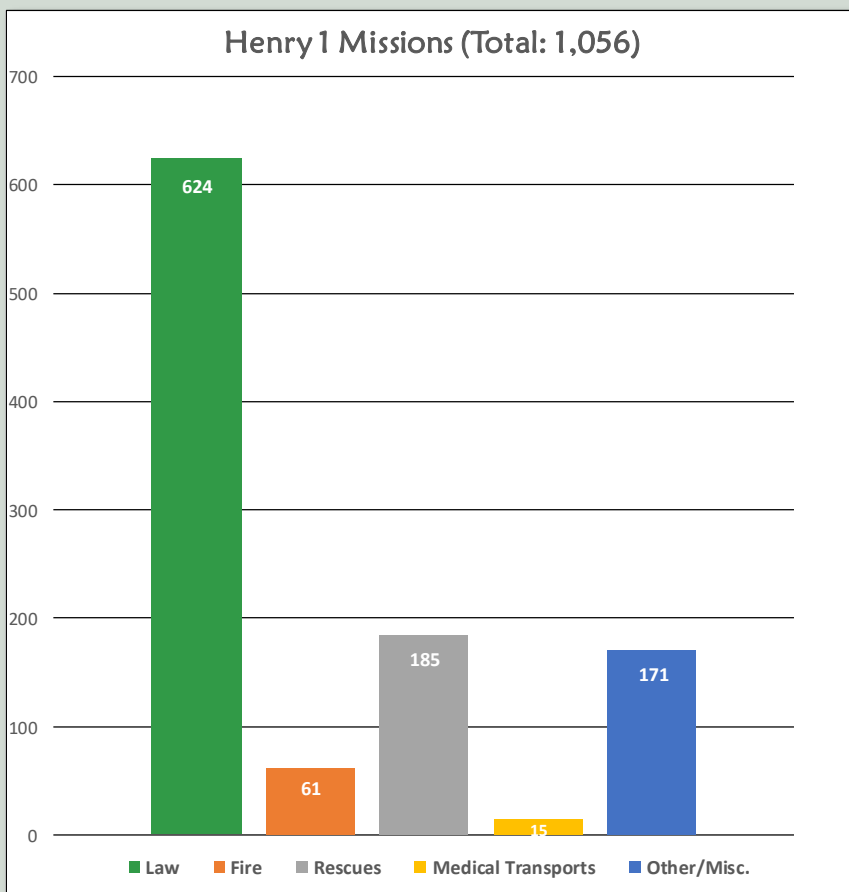
It is incredibly challenging to stay healthy when our job duties require us to interact with people in person and we aren't always able to properly social distance. Despite several confirmed and suspected exposures to COVID-19, so far no deputies have contracted COVID-19 while on duty.

3,474
Arrests were made by Patrol staff*
**in unincorporated areas*

4.9%
Arrests where Use of Force was used*
**3 year average in unincorporated areas*

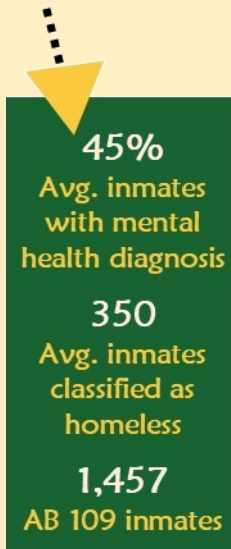


Our internationally known **Helicopter Program** is unusual for a Sheriff's Office. It provides law enforcement, rescue, firefighting, and medical transport services for Sonoma County and the region. The Henry 1 crew is well-known for its ability to conduct long line rescues, which means they can quickly rescue people in difficult terrain. During the Kincade Fire, Henry 1 provided aerial intelligence for fire and law officials to help them understand the scope and potential dangers of the fire.



Patrol & Henry 1

We operate two **Detention** facilities, commonly called jails: the Main Adult Detention Facility (MADF) and North County Detention Facility (NCDF). The MADF functions as the booking site for all of Sonoma County. All defendants that are arrested and booked into jail begin here. After an evaluation by staff, an inmate is housed in MADF or transferred to the NCDF. Inmates at NCDF are categorized as non-violent, who pose little threat to public or institutional safety. Additionally, they have demonstrated appropriate behavior in custody and are active in programs designed to aid in their re-entry into the community.



The inmate population is complex. We are responsible for housing and caring for minimum, medium, and maximum security inmates. Both men and women are housed at the MADF and may have a mental health diagnosis and/or be homeless. Due to AB 109, which reduces State prison populations by sending those prisoners to county jails, some inmates have long sentences and more violent histories.

Over 57,000 doses of medication were dispensed during the 19-20 Fiscal Year.

Detention facilities function like cities. In a normal year, the average daily population is approximately 1,100 – 1,200 inmates. An inmate can live there for a few days or several years and may require services to support his or her basic human needs. Services at our detention facilities include physical and mental health care, nutrition, laundry, janitorial, educational, spiritual, and visitation services. We contract with a company that provides comprehensive medical, behavioral health, and dental services for inmates.

Prior to COVID-19 ceasing most programming, in Fiscal Year 19-20, over 4,500 classes were offered to inmates.

One of our goals is to ensure an inmate leaves in better condition than when he or she arrived at jail. Educational classes are a key component of that goal. We have a variety of programming options designed to facilitate successful re-entry into our community. These programs provide evidence-based programming shown to reduce recidivism. We collaborate with community-based organizations to provide programs, including anger management, creative conflict resolution, drug and alcohol counseling, general education, job and life skills, literacy, parenting, mental health, and religious/spiritual studies. In March 2020, The COVID-19 pandemic caused our programs to cease due to their in-person delivery format. However, we were able to continue some minimal programming through a correspondence format, as well as utilize our programming tablets.

In Fiscal Year 19-20, all correctional deputies started wearing body worn cameras, just like patrol deputies.

The use of body worn cameras in our detention facilities has increased transparency and enhanced the mission of the Sheriff’s Office by accurately capturing incidents as they occur. This program went live on August 6, 2019. Each correctional deputy was issued a body worn camera and docking station. They are provided ongoing training and support to ensure they are comfortable with using the technology and equipment.

Staff working at detention facilities have had to respond to a variety of emergencies this year, including the first PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs, the Kincade Fire, and COVID-19. Of all these emergencies, the response to COVID-19 most significantly impacted operations in these facilities. The response consisted of two primary objectives: implement safety procedures and reduce the population.

Detention facilities are especially susceptible to a COVID-19 outbreak because many unrelated people are living together. It is easy for COVID-19 to spread quickly amongst staff and inmates if allowed into the building. In consultation with an industrial hygienist, Detention staff created a response plan. The plan is designed to prevent COVID-19 from entering the buildings and, if it does get in, prevent it from spreading. Notable procedures include:

- ◆ House all new inmates in a quarantine module for 14 days
- ◆ Use negative pressure rooms to house inmates who test positive for COVID-19
- ◆ Require Personal Protective Equipment for all staff and inmates
- ◆ Provide health screenings for everyone entering the building, every time
- ◆ Implement strict surface sanitizing procedures

Detention Division's COVID-19 response plan captures every detail in a 29-page document.



Success Story

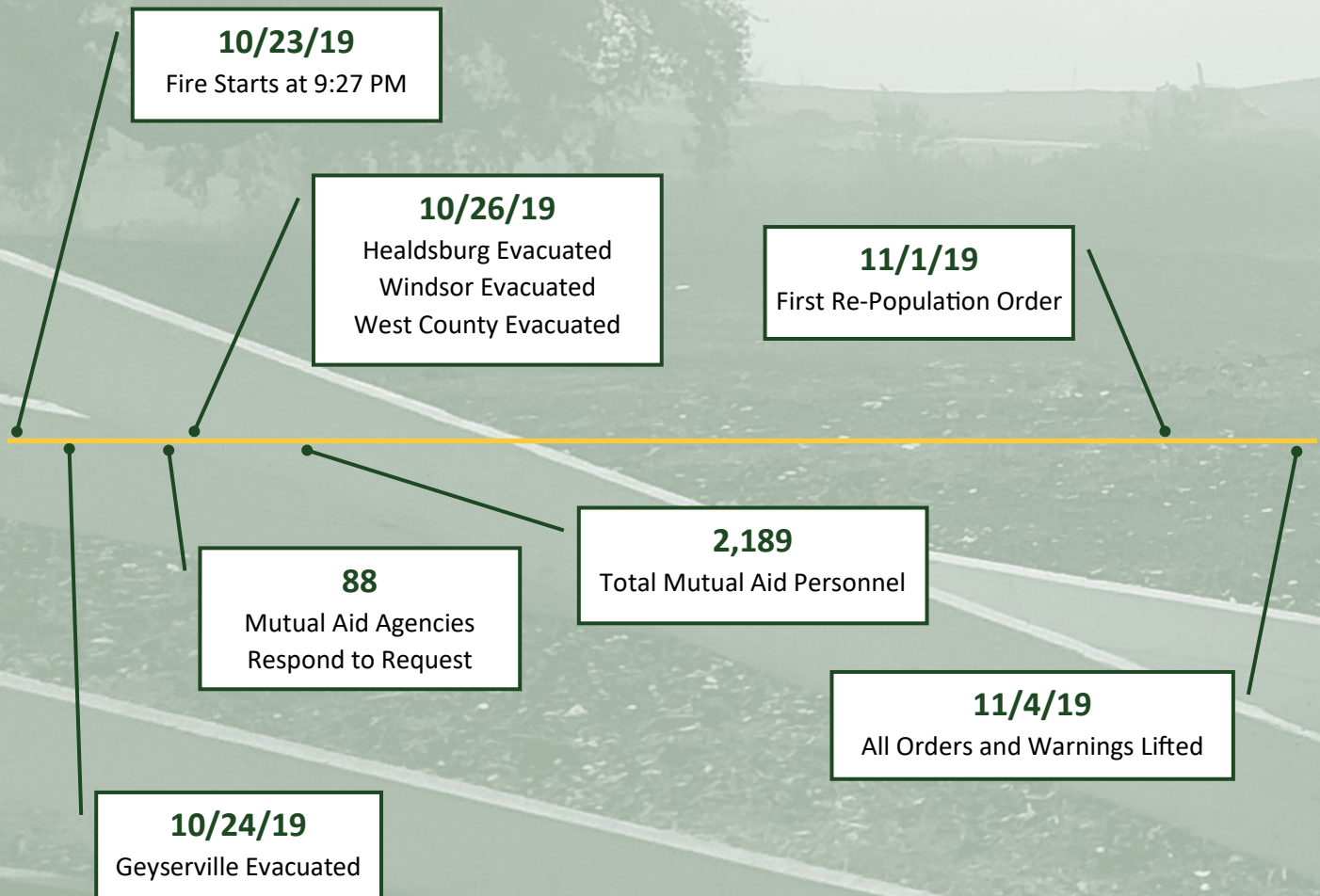
The opioid epidemic has become a public health crisis with devastating consequences across the country, including increases in opioid misuse and overdoses. Jails are not exempt from this issue. In response, the Detention Division partnered with the California Department of Health Care Services to obtain Narcan nasal spray to counteract opioid overdoses. Several of our Fire and Life Safety Deputies were trained as instructors in the use of the nasal spray and all Correctional Staff completed training in its use. During Fiscal Year 19 -20 Detention staff administered Narcan to 14 inmates exhibiting signs of opioid overdose with a 100% success rate. As an example, in February, a recently booked arrestee used narcotics that he had smuggled into the jail. He was still in our booking area awaiting transfer to a housing unit. He overdosed and began to turn grey and stopped breathing. Our booking and medical staff responded and administered Narcan. By the time the ambulance crew arrived to transport the arrestee to the hospital, he was alert and responsive. This is one of 14 success stories that exemplify the impact of our Narcan program and the amazing work Detention staff do on a daily basis.

Kincade Fire

The Kincade Fire was a fast-moving, wind-driven fire that started the evening of October 23, 2019 in the hills northeast of Geyserville. We immediately evacuated residents from those hills and, after several hours, the community of Geyserville. As the fire grew over the next several days, the Town of Windsor and City of Healdsburg followed suit. As the fire continued burning, the fire modeling predicted the fire would burn through the Town of Windsor, cross Highway 101, and burn through west county all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Sheriff Essick made the difficult decision to evacuate all of west county.

It worked. Not a single person died in this fire. Furthermore, the empty streets allowed firefighters the space to work and ability to focus on the firefighting mission. As a result of these efforts, the fire did not burn down the Town of Windsor, nor did it cross Highway 101. The Kincade Fire response taught each of us that early evacuations save lives and save communities.

The Sheriff's Office ordered the largest evacuation in County history at approximately 180,000 people in total. This was no small feat. West county evacuations were complicated by the first PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs, which could have prevented residents from receiving alerts on their landlines and cell phones. It required the cooperation of our mutual aid partners and, most importantly, the residents in the fire's path.

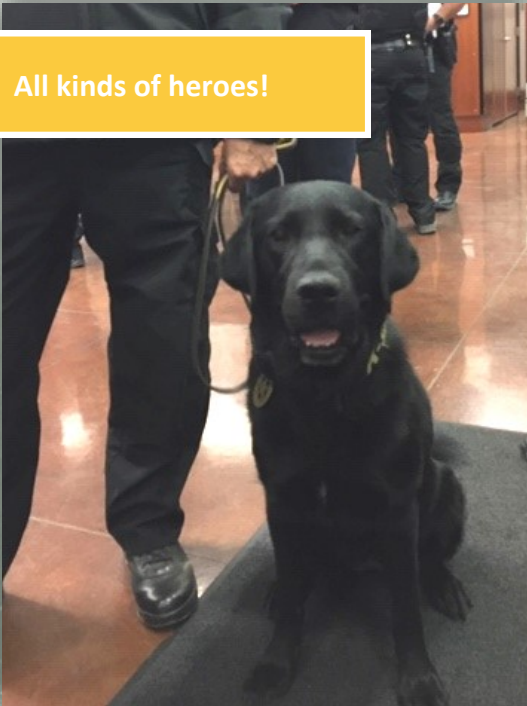




Mutual Aid Fire Departments Responding



Patrolling Evacuation Zones



All kinds of heroes!



Welcome Back Evacuees



Mutual Aid Law Enforcement Briefing

Detectives investigate specific cases that exceed the capabilities of regularly assigned patrol deputies. Cases assigned to detectives require more time and expertise given the complexity and/or severity of the crime.

Investigations consists of four units assigned to a main office Lieutenant and investigates the following types of crimes:

- ◆ **Violent Crimes (VCI)** – Felony crimes against people, including assaults, robberies, kidnapping, weapons violations, missing persons, hate crimes, homicides, and officer-involved shootings.
- ◆ **Property Crimes (PCI)** – Felony property crimes, including burglaries, fraud/forgery, embezzlement, auto theft, identity theft, arson, and agriculture crimes. Felony drug crimes including sales and trafficking of methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, and illegal marijuana operations (e.g., butane honey oil labs).
- ◆ **Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DVSA)** - Misdemeanor and felony assaults involving domestic violence, stalking, restraining order violations, sexual assaults, crimes against children, elder abuse, and dependent adult abuse.
- ◆ **Crime Scene Investigations (CSI)** – Supports all investigative units and patrol by conducting forensic analysis on evidence. This includes fingerprints, bloodstain analysis, photo enhancements, DNA collection, and cell phone forensics.



With the exception of initially working from home when possible, COVID-19 protocols did not affect the daily operations of the Investigations Bureau.



The **Coroner's Unit** is managed separately by a different Lieutenant to avoid potential conflict of interest with other units in the Investigations Bureau. The Coroner's Unit is responsible for investigating the cause and manner of all violent, sudden, unusual, or unattended deaths in Sonoma County. On May 12, the Coroner's Unit started surveillance testing for COVID-19 during every death investigation it performed. Between May 12 and June 30, they conducted 79 COVID-19 tests with 0 positive results.

Success Story

On November 2, 2016, a young man named Kirk Kimberly was found buried in a shallow grave at Sonoma State. He was stabbed multiple times. Two months later, a reward of \$12,500 was offered to anyone with information leading to the arrest of his killer. For more than three years, Violent Crimes Detectives conducted follow-up interviews, reviewed evidence, and searched for his killer. Detectives interviewed a suspect in early 2020 who was in custody for a separate court case. On March 2, 2020, they arrested him. Daniel Carrillo, 20 years old, was arrested and charged with Mr. Kimberly's murder. While Kirk's family will always mourn his death, we hope this arrest brings them closure.

The **Central Information Bureau** is comprised of four units. COVID-19 protocol has forced more records to be transmitted electronically, which is far more efficient than providing hard copies.

- ◆ The **Records Unit** retains and processes all records maintained by us, such as crime reports. This Unit also manages the Central Warrant System, which contains all warrants issued within the county.
- ◆ The **Public Records Act (PRA) and Discovery Unit** processes all our public records requests, subpoenas requesting our records or the appearance of our employees, and discovery requests from the District Attorney and defense attorneys. As a result of changing laws, increasing public interest, and COVID-19, Public Record Act requests have more than doubled over the last year.
- ◆ The **Property/Evidence Unit** is responsible for the collection, storage, security, disposal, and return of evidence and other property obtained by our staff. This Unit maintains the chain of custody, which is crucial in criminal cases.
- ◆ Our **Main Office Reception Desk** assists members of the public with a wide array of services as the public's first point of contact. Services include taking select crime reports, fingerprinting, updating registrations for sex, gang and arson registrants, releasing vehicles, and general customer service. COVID-19 caused the lobby to temporarily close to the public.



The **Civil Bureau** serves process and executes levies pursuant to Government Code 26608. The Sheriff is required to execute all process and orders deemed valid and issued by competent authority. The Sheriff is also the levying officer for property located within the county. The Civil Bureau carries out these responsibilities by serving process for civil actions at the request of individuals, attorneys, and other agencies. Civil actions are orders issued by a court that often pertain to collecting money or property to be seized and/or sold in order to satisfy a money judgment. Civil actions can require the service of legal documents such as Temporary Restraining Orders (TROs), Earning Withholding Orders (EWOs), and civil subpoenas. This Bureau also processes and executes eviction orders.

In response to COVID-19, the Civil Bureau provided services by appointment only, accepted some applications via email, and staff members worked from home when possible.

We have several **Volunteer** programs, including the Explorer Program, Volunteers in Policing, Search and Rescue, and the Dive Team.

The **Explorer Program** is designed for 15-21 year olds who are interested in a law enforcement career. Explorers learn about law enforcement and the values of commitment, leadership, and community service. The Explorers meet and train regularly, compete with other Explorer Posts in regional competitions, and serve at community events with Sheriff’s Office staff. The Program is co-sponsored by the Sheriff’s Office and the Boy Scouts of America.

Volunteers In Policing (VIPs) are community member volunteers who assist us with duties not specifically defined as law enforcement activities. VIPs are not peace officers, do not make arrests, and do not carry weapons. After training, VIPs may be assigned to a sub-station, contract city, or a specific unit. Under supervision, they assist with activities such as special events, Community and Youth Academies, Neighborhood Watch meetings, courthouse tours, vacation house checks, parking enforcement, and clerical/data entry.



Our **Search and Rescue (SAR)** Team has been in existence since 1976. On May 18, 1976, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors authorized the Sheriff’s Office to conduct Search and Rescue missions. The Search and Rescue Team is comprised of a sergeant, four deputy coordinators, and approximately 41 volunteers. This team is responsible for searching for missing and lost persons, rescuing community members when necessary, and responding for mutual aid requests from neighboring counties. SAR volunteers train regularly and are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The **Dive Team** is a specialized team within Search and Rescue. They perform underwater searches to recover drowning victims, homicide victims, evidence, and vehicles. This year they completed seven missions, conducted one annual skills assessment, and regularly met and trained together.

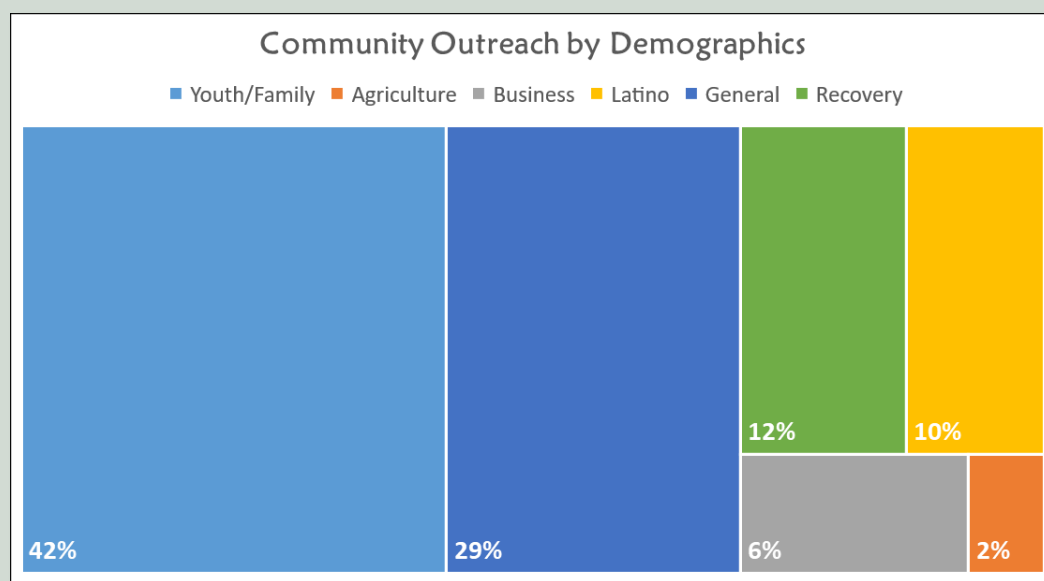
Success Story

In May, an 82-year-old man walked away from his Oakmont home after leaving a brief note for his wife. He didn’t come back. The Search and Rescue Team responded to look for him. He was considered “at risk” because of his age and his dementia-like symptoms. The Team started their search on the golf course as he often liked to walk around the course looking for golf balls. The Marin County Search and Rescue Team responded for mutual aid. On the third day, he was found alive in a creek bed just 500 yards from his home. He was taken to the hospital for medical treatment and reunited with his wife.

We are committed to **Community Engagement** by all members of the Office. The beginning of the fiscal year started out strong with our participation in regular events and the hosting of Town Halls, including our first Spanish language Town Hall in January. We added a bilingual Public Information Officer to our efforts. When the COVID-19 stay at home orders were issued in mid-March, all in-person engagement ceased. This drastically impacted our ability to maintain relationships with the people we serve. We shifted our focus to a virtual platform by placing more videos and educational material on social media and attending virtual meetings as they became the “normal” way to conduct business during COVID-19. Following the killing of George Floyd, we actively listened to community members and provided factual information about our use of force policies.

Over 50,200 people were reached through community engagement events (Town Halls, Coffee with a Cop, Neighborhood Watch, and other specific presentations, etc.).

In Fiscal Year 19-20, staff spent over 414 hours at these events.



We provide law enforcement services for the **Town of Windsor** and **City of Sonoma**. Community members calling for help in one of these cities reach our dispatchers, and a deputy from their respective police department shows up to help them.

In Fiscal Year 19-20 we renewed the contract with the City of Sonoma. Each city has guaranteed staffing levels as part of their contract. Each city also has access to other Sheriff’s Office resources, such as the Investigations Unit, Records, or the Public Information Officer, when needed.



13,770 Calls for Service
803 Arrests
1 Chief
20 Deputy Sheriffs
1 Administrative Aide
1 Community Services Officer

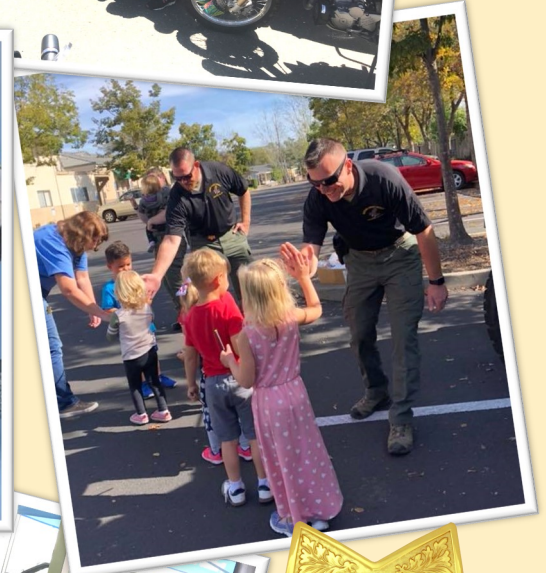
Windsor Police Department



10,854 Calls for Service
447 Arrests
1 Chief
9 Deputy Sheriffs
1 Community Services Officer

Sonoma Police Department

Picture Album



We love working for you Sonoma County!



www.sonomasheriff.org

707-565-2650

So We May Never Forget

Celebrate Their Contributions

Remember Their Sacrifices

David Campbell, Deputy Sheriff

End Of Watch: January 16, 1862

Ab Crigler, Deputy Sheriff

End Of Watch: April 28, 1888

James Petray, Sheriff

End Of Watch: December 5, 1920

Rasmus L. Rasmussen, Deputy Sheriff (Constable)

End Of Watch: April 20, 1927

Merrit Deeds, Deputy Sheriff

End Of Watch: August 23, 1975

Ed Wilkinson, Sergeant

End Of Watch: April 17, 1977

Brent Jameson, Deputy Sheriff

End Of Watch: October 23, 1980

Bliss Magly, Deputy Sheriff

End Of Watch: October 23, 1980

Frank Trejo, Deputy Sheriff

End Of Watch: March 29, 1995