

PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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A MESSAGE FROM

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR ERIK FADDEN

March 31, 2024

3400 Plymouth Boulevard
Plymouth, MN 55447

Honorable Mayor Jeff Wosje
City Council Members
City Manager Dave Callister

On behalf of the City of Plymouth, I am pleased to present the Plymouth Public Safety Department's 2023 Annual Report.

In this report you will note that this past year was full of many challenges, perseverance, and great work performed by the members of the public safety department. This past year brought unique trials with complex criminal investigations, legislative changes affecting our school resource officers, and construction project delays that required all department members to be creative and flexible.

Despite the challenges faced, the department continued to manage each issue with professionalism and consistency in providing the high level of service our residents deserve. Recruitment and retention of public safety staff is a difficulty facing law enforcement. Our department is no exception. Despite staffing shortages, our Team continued to find opportunities to curb criminal activity. In 2023, the city's crime rate was down 15%.

This annual report will give you a comprehensive overview of our work over the past year. Know that we will continue to focus on connecting with our community to build trust and legitimacy and will prioritize efforts to recruit and retain quality employees.

I want to thank Mayor Wosje, the City Council, and City Manager Dave Callister for your continued support to the women and men that work in public safety.

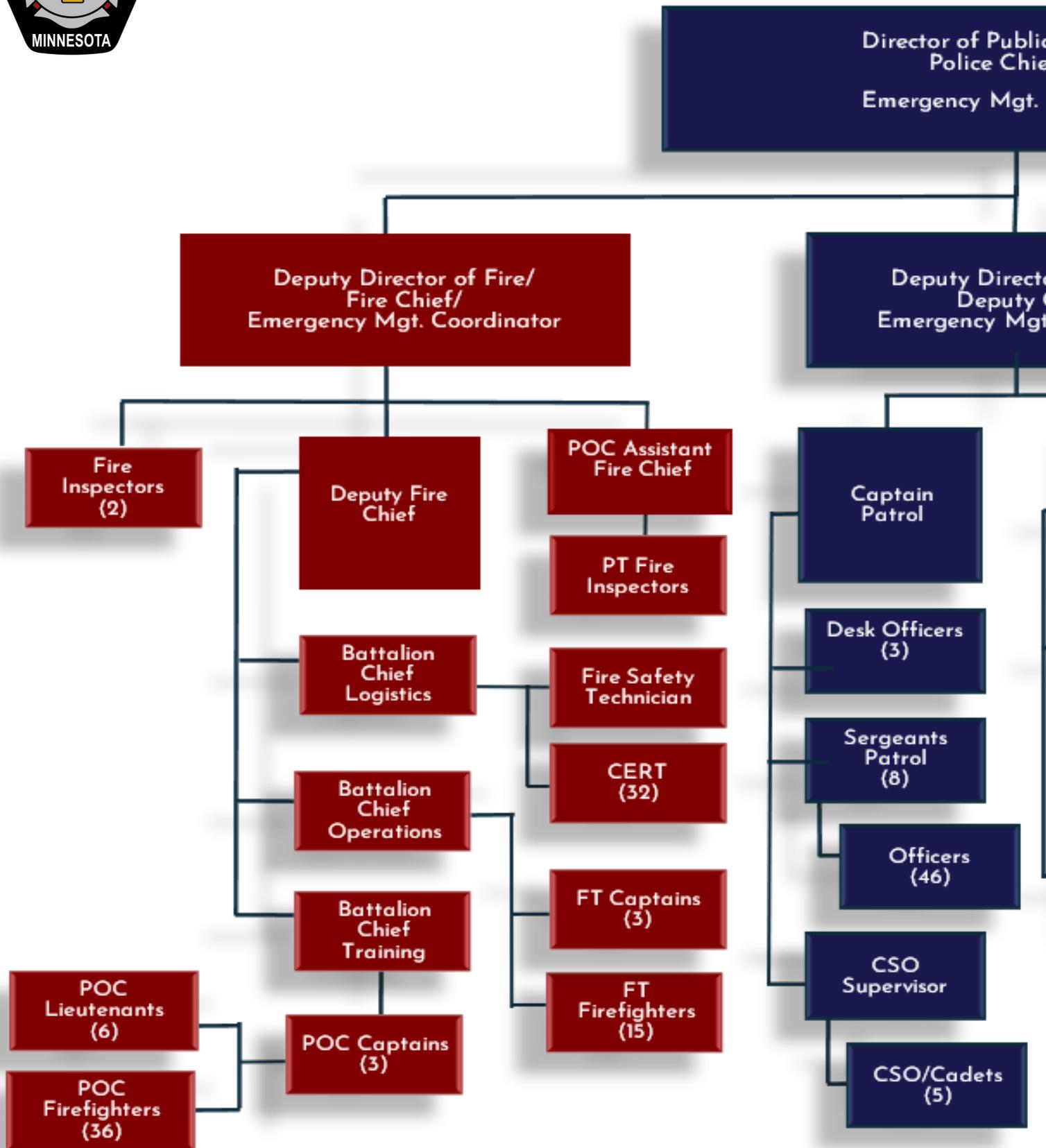
Respectfully Submitted,



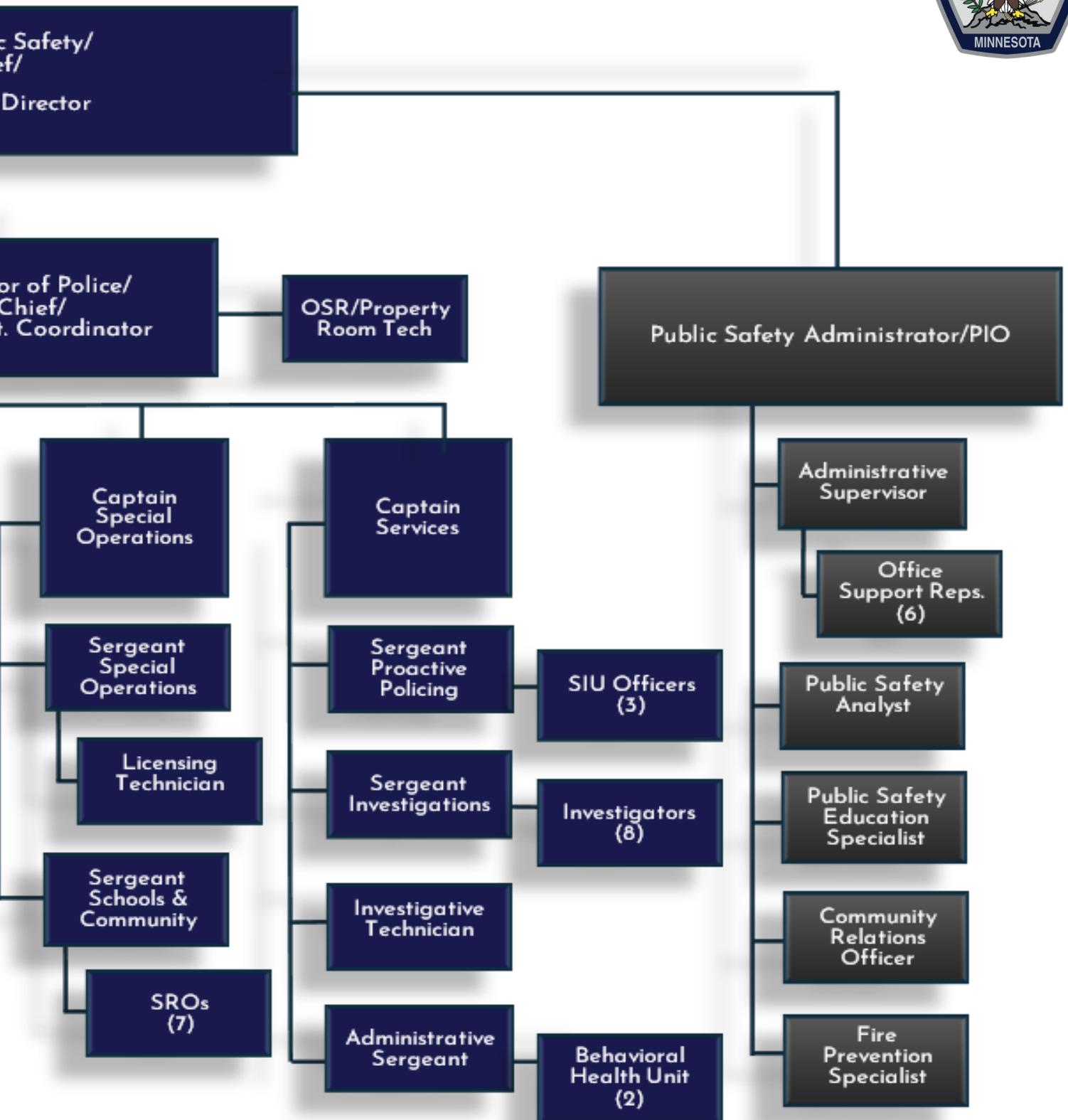
Erik Fadden
Public Safety Director/Police Chief



PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW





MISSION STATEMENT

Making a difference through emergency response, customer service and community education.



Operations

In 2023, six part time firefighters were hired and will be going through the West Suburban Fire Academy through the spring of 2024. They will become operational firefighters by end of 2024 and will bring the current total of part-time firefighters to 29. Currently, these part-time firefighters fill a fourth spot at each station, cover shifts when career firefighters take time off, and respond to call backs.

The department maintained a timely and effective response to 5,430 calls for service in 2023. That's an increase of 1,733 calls from last year. As the city grows and call volumes continue to increase, Fire Department's command staff is confident that its planning and preparation will provide high quality customer service and efficient response times throughout the city.

The fire department saw two long-term civilian fire inspectors retire in early 2023. They were replaced by two firefighters with inspection and plan

review experience and assigned to prevention as fire inspectors. This transition in staffing has allowed us to continue to prioritize prevention through safer buildings while adding to our response capabilities.

Our current prevention staff is made up of the following:

- Fire Chief/Fire Marshal
- Part-time On-call Assistant Chief
- Two Career Inspectors
- Three Part-time On-call Inspectors

In 2023, our fire inspection division completed:

- 490 Commercial Inspections
- 134 Fire Alarm Permit Inspections
 - ◇ Project Valuation **\$808,202.39**
 - ◇ Permit Fees Collected **\$20,114.73**
- 293 Sprinkler System Permit Inspections
 - ◇ Project Valuation **\$1,948,778.48**
 - ◇ Permit Fees Collected **\$43,006.39**
- 149 Tank, Tent, and Firework Inspections



Call Types	2023	2022	2021
Fire	193	164	189
Rupture, Explosion	7	1	6
Rescue & EMS	3,309	1,780	1,332
Hazardous Condition	178	188	181
Service Call	398	408	471
Good Intent Call	818	677	579
False Alarm	472	495	452
Severe Weather, Disaster	0	6	0
Special Incident	0	10	3
Report Only	121	0	0

Fire: includes cooking, vehicles, grass & brush, and dumpsters
Rupture, Explosion: Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat (no fire)
Rescue & EMS: Trauma, illness, vehicle crashes, missing person search, stuck in elevator
Hazardous Condition: Non-fire emergencies including gas leaks, fuel spills and down power lines
Service Call: Request for lift assists, smoke or odor removal, and assist other agencies
Good Intent Call: Non-emergency calls for smoke seen, chirping smoke or CO detectors
False Alarm: Unwanted or unintentional alarm, no emergency
Severe Weather, Disaster: Severe weather, lightning strike (no fire)
Special Incident: Citizen complaint, other
Report Only: Call taken as report

Equipment / Technology

Automated Paging System

A new function for Fire Station 2 and 3 is the addition of Automated Fire Paging. Automated Fire Paging works on its own radio channel, therefore the fire page is done as soon as the call is entered into the system and the dispatcher hits send on the keyboard. The system knows who to page and what resources are needed automatically. This process limits any delay in notifying the fire department.

Gas Monitors

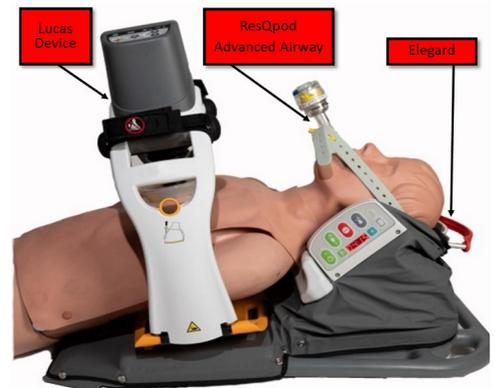
Our four-gas monitors which were nearing their end-of-life were replaced with five-gas monitors. In the past, the four gas monitors could monitor O₂ (oxygen), CO (carbon monoxide), Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), and LEL (lower explosive limits). The new five gas detectors also can monitor for HCN (hydrogen cyanide) which is found in homes that have had fires. Firefighters now only need the one device to monitor these dangerous gases.



EleGARD Device



The EleGARD device allows fire crews to give better care to patients in cardiac arrest. The device is used alongside the Lucas machine (automatic chest compression device), and the AED to provide the patient with the best possible outcome during a cardiac arrest.

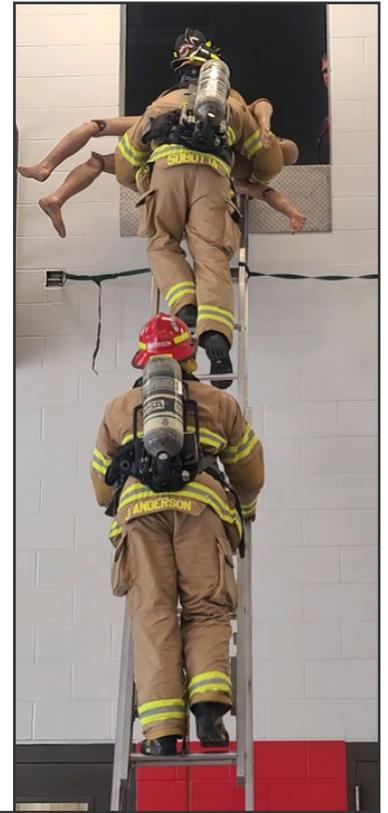


Firefighter Training

Each year the Plymouth Fire Department participates in more than 8,000 hours of training to be prepared to respond to any hazard within our community. This includes all types of structure fires, hazardous material incidents, car accidents, emergency medical situations, technical rescue, and more. In 2023, we spent extra time training on emergency medical situations and technical rescue. This has increased the capability of our department and ultimately the care and services we provide to the City of Plymouth.

In 2023, we completed a three-year plan to upgrade all our firefighters from Emergency Medical Responder (State certification) to Emergency Medical Technicians (National certification). This upgrade allows our organization to offer more comprehensive medical care in the pre-hospital setting and better prepares our organization to respond to the ever-changing environment we work in. In the spring of 2023, we added the EleGARD to our “bundle-of-care” for patients suffering from cardiac arrest. The EleGARD is a patient positioning device that will elevate a patient’s head and upper body during chest compressions while using an automatic compression machine. The elevated CPR method has seen incredible results in improving cardiac arrest survivability. More training plus more experience equals better patient care.

In 2023, we added three people to Minnesota Task Force 1. This is an Urban Search Rescue Team that also conducts technical rescues involving people trapped in confined spaces, trench or structural collapse, and high angle rope rescue. Adding these three firefighters will improve our response in the community and expand training capabilities within our department.



Community Assistance Specialist

The Community Assistance Specialist was a new position for 2023 and Traci Luniewski was hired to fill the role. The Community Assistance Specialist coordinates with the police and fire departments to improve the health and safety of the community members who have a limited personal support system.

The Community Assistance Specialist works to identify community members’ needs, then connects them with resources such as mobility services, transportation, food programs, prescription assistance, and assist them with healthcare system navigation. This ultimately decreases the need for public safety response by addressing the chronic issues that have historically been handled by first responders.



Traci Luniewski



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide superior protection and service by reducing crime and enhancing the quality of life expected by our community. We accomplish this through innovative strategies and collaboration, along with a commitment to our core values:

Integrity | Accountability | Professionalism | Respect | Excellence

Our mission defines us.

Services

Investigations

In 2023, detectives were assigned to investigate more than 727 criminal cases. This represented an 8% increase over last year's case assignments. These cases ranged from misdemeanor-level crimes to major felony crimes.

This past year, Plymouth experienced two homicides, a stabbing, as well as other serious events that required detectives being called out to the scene. Our talented group of detectives were able to investigate these serious events and successfully charge those involved.

The Investigations Unit also partnered with a variety of federal, state, and other law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes that occurred in Plymouth. Because establishing and maintaining relationships with other agencies is critical to effectively investigating and prosecuting criminal cases, the unit works closely with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Hennepin County Child Protection, Hennepin County Probation and CornerHouse.

The Investigations Unit is made up of six promoted detectives, two rotating detectives, and one sergeant. Sergeant Scott Whiteford has supervised the unit since January 2023.

Detectives Molly Lynch, Jeff Voller, Warren Anderson, Amy Goodwin, Mike Passig, and Nick Benesch serve as promoted detectives. Ryan Hazen and Matt Krueger served as rotating detectives (four-year terms) and left the unit during 2023. These detectives specialize in persons, property, and financial crimes.

Special Investigative Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is a unit within the Services Division which works closely with the Patrol Division. The unit also works collaboratively with neighboring agencies as well as other specialized units. The unit focuses on quality-of-life issues in the city. They provide support to the Patrol and Investigative Division when needed, and assist them on more complex investigations.

In 2023, SIU participated several retail theft operations where they partnered with neighboring agencies to focus on high volume thefts in our retail areas. These initiatives resulted in numerous arrests for theft and arrest warrants. These same agencies worked together on "Guardian Angel Operations" that identify and arrest individuals that actively solicit minors for sexual acts. Numerous arrests were made for solicitation of a minor as well as narcotic possession.

SIU was an affiliate to Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) and had a dedicated officer to investigate these crimes. At the end of 2023, Plymouth returned the investigation of these crimes to the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Arrests/Activity by SIU in 2023

Controlled Substance.....	7
ICAC investigations.....	15
Thefts.....	33
Arrest/Search Warrants.....	17

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program

During 2023, there were a total 32 public safety deployment missions comprised of 71 flights, 10 hours and 41 minutes of flight time, and 55 miles covered

There were another 107 training flights, 9 hours and 42 minutes of flight time, and 27.2 miles covered

**This was only public safety flight times and does not include flights flown by other city departments.*

Professional Standards

Hiring/Staffing

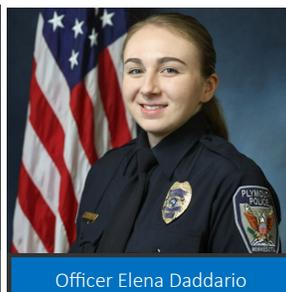
During 2023, we were in a continuous hiring cycle for the position of police officer. Like many agencies, we are down a number of officer positions and continue to worked diligently to recruit and hire quality candidates. We have made efforts to have a broad group of officers participate in the hiring process. This has been beneficial as officers have input in who their future partners may be and they can see firsthand the quality of candidates currently interested in the law enforcement profession. We continue to have high interest in other positions within the police department. We received large numbers of applications for Community Service Officer, Cadet, and Pathways to Policing processes. We have placed an emphasis using these positions to focus on candidates that are interested in a career in law enforcement. With the amount of interest in these positions we are encouraged that the future is bright for the Plymouth police department.

Police Officer: 108 applications

- 18 applicants were backgrounded
- 7 police officers hired

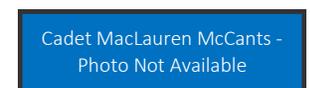
Community Service Officer: 30 applications

- 27 interviewed
- 1 hired Blane McLaughlin



Cadet Program

The Cadet Program was developed in 2022 and we hired our first Cadets in 2023. This program has been a great addition to our department and has garnered attention and interest among law enforcement students. We received 69 applications, interviewed 30 candidates, and hired 2 cadets. The philosophy behind this position is to hire young adults interested in becoming police officers and provide them on the job training similar to the duties of our CSO's. Cadets receive the benefit of tuition reimbursement towards their law enforcement degree program. This program will be expanded in 2024 to four positions.



Pathways to Policing

The Pathways to Policing program is a grant funded program offered through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. This program focuses on working adults who are interested in becoming a police officer. To be eligible, candidates are required to already have a degree from an accredited college or university. Eligible candidates go through an interview process and police officer background prior to attending police training. Candidates that successfully pass the interview and background attend an intensive education program at a local college, which is approximately 22 weeks. Upon successful completion, candidates are eligible to take the POST test and become full-time police officers with the agency. We received 31 applications for the Pathways program, interviewed 29 candidates, and hired one who is currently in field training.



2023 Promotions

Lorelie Batula - promoted to Administrative Supervisor, January 3, 2023

Mitch Martinson - promoted to Sergeant, April 29, 2023

Dave Anderson - promoted to Sergeant, May 19, 2023

Background Checks

It was another busy year for background checks. We completed a total of 87 backgrounds. Detective Jeff Voller's services were needed in general investigations so retired officer David Carlson was hired to take over police officer background investigations and some CSO/cadet backgrounds. His help has been very beneficial and he has transitioned well into this new role. Other backgrounds are completed by retired South Lake Minnetonka Lieutenant Steve Neururer.

Property Room

The property room is responsible for the safe-keeping, disposition, and record-keeping for all property that is collected by or turned into the police department. All items submitted into the property room must be properly packaged for the protection of the property and the persons who may need to handle it; to protect any evidentiary material that may be searched for by Crime Lab technicians; and to maintain the chain of custody of the property to meet court standards.



Patrol

The Patrol Division is comprised of a Patrol Commander (Captain), 8 Patrol Sergeants, and approximately 50 patrol officers, including 2 officers solely dedicated to traffic enforcement. One officer is assigned as a DWI Grant Car and focuses primarily on impaired driving violators. The other traffic officer addresses day-to-day traffic concerns and crashes. Due to staffing shortages, our officers have had to do more with less. We continue to provide a high level of service to the community but do so with fewer sworn officers working the street.

The patrol division has managed a high level of visibility within the community that we attribute our lower crime rates. Officers continue to tackle an increased level of disdain for law and order by some. Patrol officers were again involved in higher numbers of vehicle pursuits; however, most pursuits quickly end with officers self-terminating for public safety concerns. Officers continue to engage with the community through planned and unplanned encounters to build meaningful relationships with our citizenry.

Traffic Citations			
	2021	2022	2023
Hazardous Moving			
Careless/Reckless	23	11	16
Defective/Improper Equipment	259	194	391
Disobey Signs & Signals	208	205	306
Fail to Yield	67	70	59
Following Too Closely	19	13	4
Improper Lane Usage/Wrong	55	42	77
Improper Passing	25	15	28
Improper Turning	44	42	24
Improper/No Signal	13	9	16
Inattentive Driving	233	200	261
School Bus Stop Arm	35	33	34
Speed	1109	882	1231
Stop Sign	260	162	232
Non-Hazardous Moving			
DAR/DAS/DAC	916	667	628
Improper Registration	637	658	1076
No Insurance	182	192	256
No MN DL within 60 days	139	119	152
Other DL Violations	164	111	129
Seat Belts	71	41	56
Unreasonable Acceleration	3	2	1
Non-Moving			
2 to 5am parking/over 12 hours	395	212	550
Fire Lane/Fire Hydrant	53	61	53
Handicapped Parking	43	36	71



Crashes

Includes crashes on private property and Hit & Run crashes.

Type	2021	2022	2023
Fatal	1	2	0
Property Damage	687	736	832
Personal Injury	104	116	117

K9 Unit

The police department maintained 3 K9 Teams in 2023. Officer Grabau is paired with K9 Romeo; Officer Duncan is paired with K9 Rico; and Officer Coopet is paired with K9 Reign. The canines are all German Shepherds, and all were imported through a well-established local vendor. This same vendor provides the initial 16-week basic patrol dog training that certifies the teams as police service dogs and handlers. The training is grueling and requires a high level of dedication and commitment by both the dog and handler. Our K9 Unit is well respected within our region. Our K9 teams average 300 deployments per year and 2023 was no different. Our teams assist with calls within and well outside our city borders. The department is fortunate to have three



dedicated K9 teams and we are always willing to help our surrounding communities. In fact, many of our K9 calls for service are outside of Plymouth. K9 deployments range from locating missing persons, recovering evidence related to crime scenes, and tracking. All three of our teams are also certified in detecting specific illegal narcotics. The dogs can detect the odor of illegal narcotics while on traffic stops, storage garages, or within residences when a search warrant allows. The teams must certify annually in both patrol work and narcotic detection.

The K9 Unit attracts great community attention and support at large community events. The teams take part in many outreach activities including school presentations, business visits, and public demonstrations. The K9 Unit was established through community donations and continues to receive financial support from various nonprofit organizations like the Plymouth Crime and Fire Prevention Fund and the Plymouth Lions Club.

Community Service Officers

The Community Service Officer (CSO) unit includes a CSO Supervisor and four full-time Community Service Officers. Community Service Officers work alongside the department's Cadets and are responsible for a wide range of tasks. Community Service Officers handled over 2,000 calls for service in 2023. Many of these calls are related to violations of city code, parking complaints and issues, animal concerns,



rubbish accumulation, and other city ordinances.

Community Service Officers are frequently requested to assist with various patrol needs including traffic control, criminal booking procedures, and the transportation of evidence between the police department and other government entities. CSO's often have the opportunity to connect with members of the community while engaging in various Community Engagement events. Featured in the photo is CSO Payne and CSO Supervisor Raskin who partnered other Public Safety staff to deliver meals to local veterans in honor of Veteran's Day. In 2023, CSO's played a key role in the department's Book and Badges children's literacy initiative.



Special Operations Division

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

PPD SWAT made progressive steps in both training and equipment in 2023. The entire team was fortunate to attend the Special Operations Training Association of the Upper Midwest Tactical Conference in St. Cloud, MN. Four members also attended the National Tactical Officer's Training Conference in Aurora, CO in August. These training events allow SWAT officers to gain knowledge and learn firsthand the latest, best practices regarding tactics, equipment, and training across the nation.

The team also obtained funding for a "pole camera" that will be used to increase stand-off distances between officers and potential armed/violent threats to help diffuse dangerous situations. Additionally, the team acquired Pepperball launchers to add to its less lethal capabilities. Lastly, the team saw the departure of Sgt. Dave Durenberger, an Assistant Team Leader and long-range observer that spent over 12 years on the team. His commitment to the team's development and standing is greatly appreciated.



SWAT Hostage and Crisis Negotiation Team

The SWAT Hostage and Crisis Negotiation Team continues to be used at an increased rate each year. In 2023, there was a 50% increase in negotiator-related incidents. The Team also aided seven other cities in nine different incidents.

Eight negotiators, a technical advisor, and a mental health advisor serve on the Team that is led by Sergeant Scott Whiteford. The Team trains regularly throughout the year in specialized areas of hostage and crisis negotiation, mental health, and high-risk warrant service. Members also train with other departments around the area. In 2023, Officers Syhre and H. Olson joined the team. As new members, they are certified as negotiators through the FBI's Regional Crisis Negotiation Course. In 2023, four members of the team received their certification in Advanced Crisis Negotiations.

West Command Mobile Field Force

The Plymouth PD Mobile Field Force Unit has eight patrol members and one supervisor. In 2023, they attended three quarterly trainings, one of which the Department hosted. They partnered with Minnetonka Police Department and hosted the training at the Hennepin County Home School in Minnetonka. Approximately 120 officers and 25 role players attended. The training was technically designed to be as realistic as possible for the personnel attending. There was one PPD range training to shoot and qualify in turnout gear and several personnel attended Pepperball instructor training. In 2023, the Mobile Field Force took pride that they were one of only two member agencies to shoot live fire as a group. As a member agency we had one call out.

Schools and Community

At the beginning of 2023, The Schools and Community Unit was staffed with seven School Resource Officers (SROs) and a Sergeant to provide school safety and security in both the Robbinsdale and Wayzata School Districts. A change in legislation in August of 2023 directly impacted the safety and security of officers hired by school districts. Because of this legislative change, the department made a difficult and sudden change to the SRO program for the 2023-2024 school year. The Plymouth Police Department created a 3-officer unit that handled all school related incidents, including 911 calls for service, general security during the school day, and security at some larger school sporting events.



The Schools and Community Sergeant assists with the public safety planning of the City’s larger events, including Fire and Ice, Music in Plymouth, Night to Unite, and Plymouth on Parade. This position also coordinates with other City departments to ensure safety and traffic/parking control at community events. Additional responsibilities of the Schools and Community Sergeant are overseeing our Reserve Officer program, handling adult protection cases, and providing education to local businesses on emergency preparedness.

Training Unit

In 2023, the police department had a historic year of training. We opened a new training facility in the City of Maple Grove with three other member agencies. The facility, which was an expansion and remodel of our existing training facility, features two classrooms, two ranges, a mat room, a reality-based training area, and a virtual training room. The new facility and its technology allow officers to attend the most realistic training possible.

The police department also implemented new technology to promote, schedule, and track training. This technology also allows officers to take annual refreshers and exams online. Officers and support staff attended approximately 9,905 hours of training in 2023. This was up from 7,825 hours of training in 2022.

Compliance Checks

The department conducted one round of compliance checks for licensed alcohol establishments and one round for tobacco establishments in 2023. For businesses licensed to sell alcohol, there were eight compliance failures out of 63 completed checks on, which equal a 12.7% failure rate. The previous year, the failure rate was 7.0%. For businesses licensed to sell tobacco, there were four compliance failures out of 36 completed checks, which equals a 11.1% failure rate. The previous year failure rate was calculated at 8.6%. Administrative penalties for violations were imposed. License holders served 6 six months and 15 days of suspension for these violations as compared to 25 in 2022.

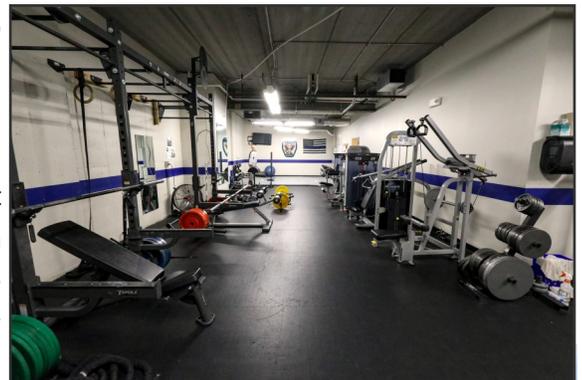
Number of Background Checks Processed	
Firearms	387
Liquor	126
Massage	103
Peddler	88
Total	704

Special Operations Division

Health and Wellness

The Health and Wellness program is overseen by a Captain and four officers and has grown over the last several years to meet the needs of our department. Our Wellness Committee Members have a wide range of training and experience. The wellness program includes offerings in the form of an on-duty fitness program utilizing a world-class workout center, a mentoring program, a newly established peer support program, a mandated annual psychological check-up for officers, and additional optional psychological visits for the officers, their spouses, or the officer’s children. These same six psychological visits are also offered to our non-sworn support staff as well.

Sworn officers and non-sworn support staff also have access to Chaplain resources, access to financial well-being resources, therapeutic options for stress relief and peace of mind, and access to a nutrition program that works with employees to provide a personal and customizable meal plan for healthy eating. The department employs an emergency room physician who is also a part-time sworn officer for our department. This officer/physician consults on the topics of sleep, nutrition, and fitness for our officers, and we are very fortunate to have this resource!



Behavioral Health Unit (BHU)

The BHU was officially launched in August 2019. In 2022, the embedded social worker position was upgraded to a full-time position to meet the community’s needs more adequately. The mission of the BHU program is to improve the quality of service provided to the community by facilitating connections between members of the public and needed health services. BHU also provides information and resources to meet the community’s future mental health needs.

The goal of impacting our community members directly is being achieved by the following groups: Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), officers who respond directly to the location where a person may be in crisis, Behavioral Health Assistance (BHAT) who provide follow-up and resources to the person/family involved, and Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP) who review cases/events that are submitted that have a mental health crisis component or concern.

The Community Assistance Specialist worked in conjunction with the Behavioral Health Unit to identify community members’ needs, then connect them with community resources.



Referral Volume				
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual
264	251	275	272	1062

Public Safety Administration

The Administrative Division is responsible for customer service, records management, retention, processing and dissemination of police reports, public safety community engagement efforts, and crime and fire data analysis. The division is responsible for compliance with Minnesota Government Data Practices, public information, technology support, and providing administrative support to both police and fire personnel.

The Administrative Division is comprised of an Administrative Supervisor, seven public safety Office Support Representatives, three Community Engagement team members (Community Relations Officer, Public Safety Education Specialist, and Fire Prevention Specialist), a Public Safety Data Analyst, and Public Safety Administrator. The team is committed to providing the highest level of customer service and support possible to the members of the department and the community.

In 2023, the Office Support Services team processed over 47,500 incident reports and 2,050 public data requests. The Division’s Data Analyst prepared 233 report requests requiring data analysis.

Statistics / Data

Group/Category	2021	2022	2023
Arson	5	0	3
Assault Offenses	288	260	284
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	263	176	133
Counterfeiting/Forgery	37	35	30
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	261	224	163
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	202	153	68
Embezzlement	1	4	11
Extortion/Blackmail	2	0	3
Fraud Offenses	493	311	309
Homicide Offenses	2	5	2
Human Trafficking Offenses	0	0	5
Kidnaping/Abduction	1	1	0
Larceny/Theft Offenses	800	743	660
Motor Vehicle Theft	88	87	74
Pornography/Obscene Material	9	16	17
Prostitution Offenses	0	0	0
Robbery	7	11	7
Sex Offenses	35	27	24
Stolen Property Offenses	23	19	10
Weapon Law Violations	31	29	28

Group B/Category	2021	2022	2023
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	64	93	98
Driving Under the Influence	208	232	158
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	5	5	2
Liquor Law Violations	31	51	27
Trespass of Real Property	6	11	16
All Other Offenses	411	347	294

In the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), offenses are either Group A or Group B type. Group A offenses are included in reported offense statistics while Group B are only included in arrest statistics. Each offense committed within an incident is assigned to one of three classifications: Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Crimes Against Society.

The definitions developed for NIBRS are not meant to be used for charging persons with crimes. To the contrary, they are simply a way of categorizing or organizing the crimes committed throughout the United States.

Public Safety Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Team recorded 259 public safety community engagement events in 2023, dedicated more than 1,100 hours, and reached thousands of community members from schools, neighborhoods, faith organizations, social service, senior, and business communities. Engagements focused on developing relationships with the community and providing education on crime prevention, fire and life safety, and a variety of other topics.

The Department hosted Cops and Bobbers, Books and Badges, Home Alone Workshops, Bingo with Badges, 2nd grade fire prevention education, police/fire station tours, K9 demonstrations, and much more.

In 2023, the Public Safety Department introduced five new initiatives:

“Use-of Force Workshop” for Local Officials: The Department piloted its first “Use of Force” workshop for the Plymouth City Council and local officials. The goals of the workshop were to increase understanding of officer training related to use of force and the complexities surrounding critical incidents. Survey responses taken after the workshop showed that the City Council felt it to be a valuable experience.

“Traffic Stop Experience” for Driver’s Education Classes: In August, teens in driver’s education classes participated in a “Traffic Stop Experience.” This simulation allowed students to “experience” being pulled over by an officer. Students learned reasons officers pull cars over, why they ask certain questions during the stop, and what drivers should do during the stop to make things go smoothly. After the experience, 81% of students said they learned something new and enjoyed hearing officers talk about their personal emotions and experiences when making stops. 96% of students said that the experience was meaningful and helpful. They reported it gave them an understanding of what an officer experiences during a stop and gave them skills for interacting with police. We will be hosting the experience again in 2024.

Homework Club and Monthly Dinners with Element Apartments: Public Safety staff partnered with volunteers of St. Phillip the Deacon Church, Wayzata Community Church, Christ Memorial Church, Sunset Hill Elementary School, and Wayzata high school volunteers to establish a “Homework Club” at Element Apartments. Many students who live at Element Apartments qualify for a federal education program. In the Fall of 2023, the team hosted quarterly, free community dinners with families, teachers, volunteers, and public safety staff.

Books and Badges at the Plymouth Library: The Community Engagement Team brought their Books and Badges readings to the Plymouth Library and elementary schools. Using books donated by the Starfish Assignment, officers provided a free copy of the book that they read to each participating child.

Tours of the Police Station for Senior Living Communities: Five senior living communities brought their residents to the public safety department to take a private tour of the facility to meet one another, share perspectives, ask questions, and see some of the technology that we use in the line-of-duty.



Presents with Public Safety



The Public Safety Department received generous donations from the Plymouth Lions and Plymouth Rotary for the 11th annual Presents with Public Safety event. Kohl's graciously hosted the program at their store. Using monetary donations,

each child was given a Kohls gift card and the opportunity to shop with a Police Officer or Firefighter. They were able to select gifts for themselves and family members. This experience creates the opportunity to build relationships that leave a lasting impression on staff, volunteers, and families within our community.

Night to Unite—Aug. 1st 2023

Night to Unite (NTU) was another successful event in Plymouth. The Department hosted a NTU Coordinators meeting before the event. 195 coordinators attended to hear Chief Fadden present Department updates, enjoy refreshments, and pick up their NTU t-shirts and materials.



182 block parties registered for NTU and drew in an estimated 5,000 neighbors in attendance. Police officers visited 59 parties, firefighters visited 39 parties, and public works staff visited 25 parties.



Work with Rental Properties

The Department's Community Relations Officer maintains a close working relationship with the city's 63+ multi-housing rental complexes. These communities face unique challenges distinguishing them as key stakeholders in crime prevention efforts. Training for property managers is held by the department for city licensure. This collaboration has allowed for effective communication and information sharing. Together we proactively engage in creating safer communities.

Annual Public Safety Recognition Event

The annual recognition event held in March 2023, was the first combined public safety event that brought police, fire, and citizen's together under one roof at the Plymouth Community Center to recognize outstanding works. The Plymouth Police and Fire Departments' internal recognition committees reviewed submissions for potential recipients for incidents that occurred in 2022. Awards were given for organizational accomplishments, years of service, exceptional acts of service and bravery, and courageous actions by citizens.

Citizens Academy

Sixteen community members took part in the 24th annual Citizens Academy. Classes ran for 12 weeks, with a December graduation. The academy works to expand the public's knowledge of the police and fire departments and helps strengthen the partnership between public safety professionals and the community.

Consistently, Academy participants give speakers high praise in their evaluations. Most students were referred to the academy by a friend or family member who had previously graduated from the course. Among participants' favorite moments were the interactive Fire Station session with emergency medical and mechanical interventions, trying on turn-out gear and using rescue equipment, and a ride in the tower ladder bucket. Police highlights were the firearms, virtual training simulation at the North Metro Training Facility, K-9 Unit, SWAT, and Hennepin County's 9-1-1 Dispatch Center.



Public Safety Volunteers

Reserve Officer Program

During 2023, the Plymouth Police Reserve Unit logged 2,619 volunteer hours providing assistance to the community and the Department. 51% percent of the hours were patrol, 18% supported multiple city and school events, and 11% supported officer and Explorer training. This compares with 2,587 hours logged in 2022, a 1.2% increase. The reserves continued to increase their participation and help augment sworn officer participation in community engagement events.

At year's end the Reserve Unit had 15 volunteer reserve officers. This year the program had two reserve officers leave to become a CSO and Cadet with our department (CSO Jack Sueker and Cadet Mac McCants). In 2023, we recruited Reserve Officers Tony Grabinski and Adam Orton to join our team. The Reserve Unit is a solid group with healthy rapport in and amongst both the reserves and sworn officers.

Officers Brianna Bannon, Kevin Schik, and Jake Groth continued to serve as the Reserve Advisors. Officer Bannon oversees the Reserves' defensive tactics training and equipment. Officer Groth oversees the field training (FTO) process and streamlines the Reserve patrol processes. As in prior years, Officer Schik has kept his monthly training presentations fresh and relevant while also becoming a taser instructor.

Sergeant Dallas Gjesvold's ongoing engagement and leadership continues to support the recruiting and FTO processes while keeping the unit updated with ever-changing policies. He also provides pertinent information that is critical to improved reserve performance. With the help of a healthy budget, the reserves were able to continue to outfit new recruits with new, well-fitting uniforms and equipment.

The Reserve Officer Command Staff consists of volunteers: Emy Peasha (Captain), Mark Robbins (Patrol Sergeant), and Dean Sherman (Administration Sergeant). Reserve Officers took on new roles within the Department that expanded our Community Engagement outreach, such as participation in Books and Badges, Bingo with Badges, Senior Safety Presentations, and more. Our Volunteer Reserves bring valuable skills and authentic diversity to the Department's outreach.



Explorer Program

Police explorers are between the ages of 14-20 and participate in learning a wide variety of law enforcement topics to include traffic accident reconstruction, traffic stops, and investigation of several types of criminal acts.

This year was a ‘transition year’ in which two seasoned advisors stepped down from the program after eight years of dedicated service. Officers Tony Elia and Sara Klaes were essential to the stability and success of the program. Sergeant Shawn Grande was reassigned to another specialty unit. Sergeant Grande’s duties of overseeing the explorer program were turned over to Sergeant Dave Anderson.

Also, seven new officers became explorer advisors: Lisa Topp, Brianna Bannon, Megan Soultz, Ryan Peterson, Sgt Drew Gilmore, Scott Kroeger, and Anthony Boone.

In 2023, three new explorers joined the post and eight explorers returned from last season. We began a new schedule and switched to every other week Tuesday evenings. The post received another generous donation from the Plymouth Crime and Fire Fund. Eight of our explorers, five advisors, four role players and two judges will travel to the 2024 state conference in Rochester in April 2024.



CERT

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a group of 19 volunteers, who can assist the Public Safety Department in a variety of ways. Large scale emergency events, community preparedness, community education events and setting up the city’s Emergency Operations Center, when needed, are just a few duties our CERT Team performs. All members are well trained and stand ready to help if the need arises. In 2023, CERT recorded 206 hours of training and service.



Chaplain Program

This program consists of area volunteer pastors from a variety of religious denominations. Chaplains respond to death scenes, counsel officers and family members, visit sick or injured officers, and assist at difficult situations. Currently we have 11 Chaplains that share a rotating monthly schedule of on-call status.

We are fortunate to have such a talented group of professionals to draw upon in times of need. Although we are thankful that 2023 proved to be a slower year for callouts, the chaplain team remains ready and able in 2024!

