

ROCKLEDGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



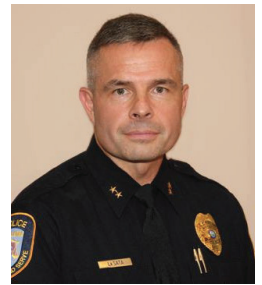
2020 ANNUAL REPORT DIRECTOR JOSEPH P. LASATA



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Public Safety Director Joseph P. LaSata



Honorable Mayor, Members of City Council, and Citizens of Rockledge:

There are no words to describe 2020. It's been a year like none other in modern times. A year filled with unexpected challenges, the world changed. The COVID-19 global pandemic arrived, by the beginning of March, we knew — like every other public safety organization — the pandemic reality would bring an entirely new set of challenges, requiring an extremely agile response. We wasted no time adjusting our mission, with our newly articulated purpose in mind. We committed to three very specific and clear objectives, and have stuck with them:

- To protect the health, safety and well-being of our people;
- To be there for our residents, business owners, and visitors; and
- To keep our department strong.

We developed new pandemic-related solutions at lightning speed.

The year's second major wave of change began in May, after an in custody death our country and department witnessed civil unrest on a previously unseen scale. Again, after closely monitoring the social climate, we hosted and policed one of the largest demonstrations in the state, and again with agility dealt with and diffused multiple incidents of aggression towards our members.

Throughout the year, we continued our commitment to delivering the highest standards of quality service. RDPS has remained strong because of our values-particularly professionalism, service and compassion which are the underpinnings of our focus on doing the right thing. These are values that have guided those who came before us for over 105 years and are even more relevant to the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and civil unrest. Our character is both internally embedded and externally recognized, being ranked as the 20th safest city in the entire state of Florida, and our continued success in recruiting the best candidates speak for themselves.

Most important, through all the challenges of 2020, our culture — as created and sustained by each member of the RDPS — was revealed to be our greatest strength. In the moment when we needed it most, we came together as one, a community aligned to our shared values and committed to our shared future. That's how we responded with creativity and resolve to the greatest test of our careers, and that's how we'll continue to serve through collaboration, agility and care – all to go beyond expectations for those we serve. Thank you for your interest and trust in our department. I welcome your thoughts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. LaSata', written in a cursive style.

Joseph P. LaSata, Director - Rockledge Department of Public Safety



Deputy Chief-Police Donna Seyferth

2020 was an unprecedented year of challenges; the most significant, the COVID-19 Pandemic. Although the year was wrought with complications and change including the daily need for Personal Protective Equipment; there were substantial positive outcomes for Rockledge Public Safety. One noteworthy outcome was the collaboration and teamwork developed between both public safety departments. The cooperation between the two (fire and police) agencies enabled quick decisive problem solving and better service to our community.

Another noteworthy accomplishment of police department was the intra-agency joint effort of officers and investigators worked tirelessly together to solve three homicides and make arrests. Rockledge Police were closing roads and protecting the rights of our citizens to allow for a peaceful march through the city involving more than 3,000 participants. This took place during 2020's national civil rights demonstrations with widespread violence erupting in cities across the country. Our usual routine of children in school, people at work and businesses operating, was quickly replaced with parents scrambling, the workforce operating from home and businesses struggling daily to operate with safety requirements changing by the moment. The police department has always had a cohesive relationship within the divisions, but in 2020, the cohesiveness was taken to a new level. School resource officers assisted wherever they were needed when the schools moved to virtual learning. Cross trained patrol officers assisted in the communications center to help reduce both stress and budget shortfalls. Communications officers fielded incredible numbers of phone calls from anxiety ridden people with questions about Covid, mask requirements and curfews.

Always seeking to stay ahead of issues, Director LaSata implemented an additional layer of supervision and mentorship. This came on the form of senior sergeants, lieutenants and command staff working at least one late shift per week alongside the patrol squads. This new initiative has been enlightening and well received.

In law enforcement, so many things can and often do go wrong. There are always unexpected variables. Yet, the officers of Rockledge Public Safety press on with their mission to protect and serve and they do it better than anyone. I am beyond proud and humbled by the courage, heart and pride shown by our officers every day.

"The single greatest tool law enforcement has is communication and we strive to improve upon it every day."



Deputy Chief- Fire James Wilson

For the Fire and EMS Division, 2020 was a challenging year of epic proportion. While the year started out with little fanfare, by the middle of March response tactics had been updated. Constant situational reports became the norm and personnel were called on to adapt to the ever-changing response environment of the COVID-19 Pandemic. All new terms such as “Infectious Surveillance” or “IS Alert” became a part of the everyday language and, while it was a struggle initially to acquire the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), never once did any call for assistance go unanswered nor did any crew member suffer a response related illness until late in the summer. The tactics meant to protect personnel and extend the Personal Protective Equipment inventories were so effective that almost every other municipality in Brevard followed the example set by Rockledge.

In addition to facing the challenges associated with a pandemic, the Fire and EMS Division constantly strived to maintain its high standards of response and performance. Even though the pandemic forced changes in the testing methods used, new firefighters were hired, a new Lieutenant was promoted and four personnel attained full “solo” Paramedic status.

On the horizon, Rockledge Fire and EMS is now preparing for the potential of being called on to assist in the mass vaccinations for the COVID-19 virus. This seemingly insurmountable challenge represents a change in our response mode from a reactive one to a proactive. Fortunately, as difficult as 2020 was it also served to prove just how capable our department really is and how dedicated the members truly are to the success of our mission.



Core Values and Mission

**INTEGRITY
EXCELLENCE
PUBLIC SERVICE**



“To provide comprehensive fire and emergency services to the community for the preservation of life, property, and the environment.”

“To improve the quality of life by reducing crime and fear through enhanced partnerships with our stakeholders and by being responsive to citizen’s needs at all times.”



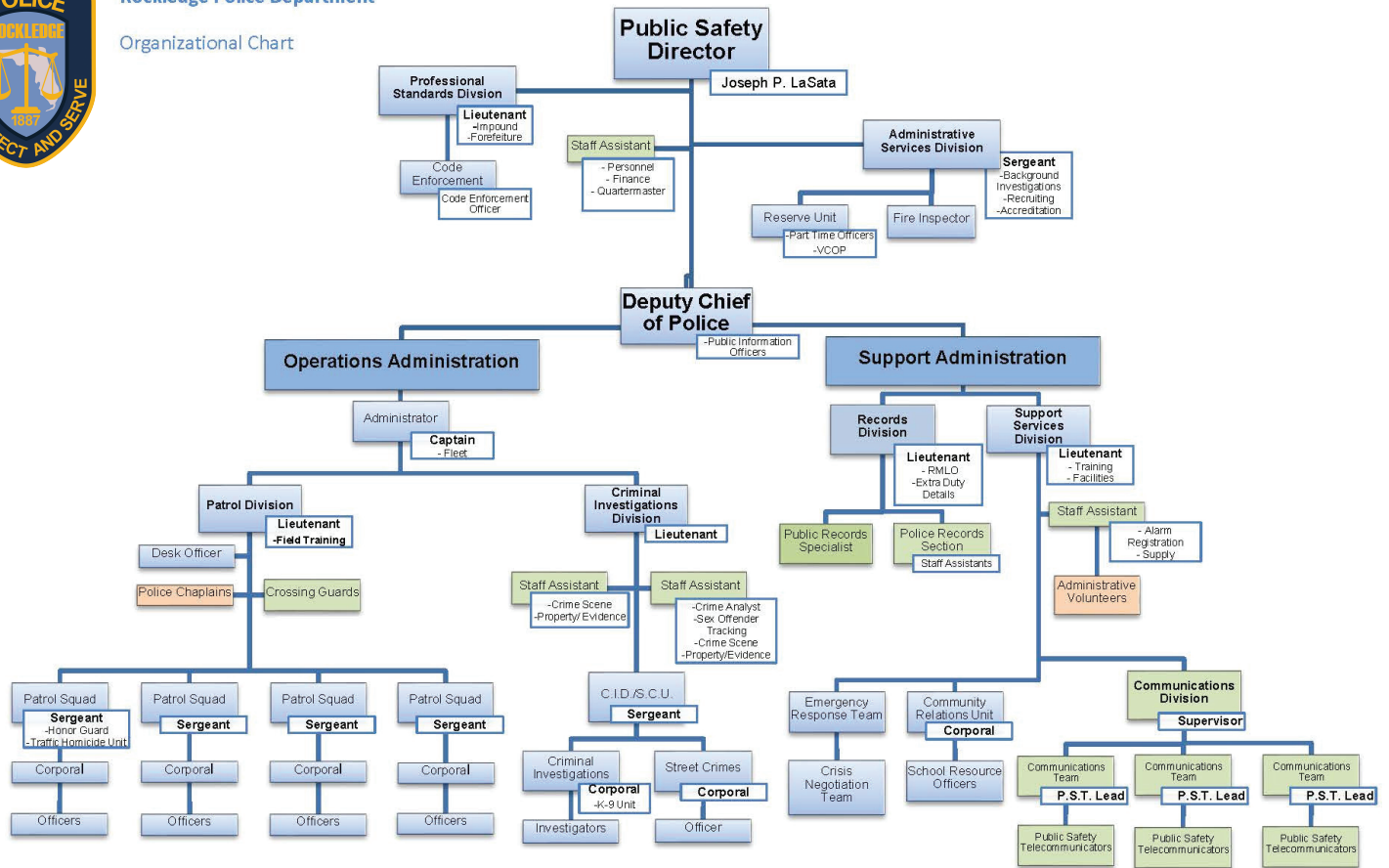
**INTEGRITY
PROFESSIONALISM
FAIRNESS
SAFETY
SERVICE
LOYALTY
COMPASSION**

Police Department Organization



Rockledge Police Department

Organizational Chart



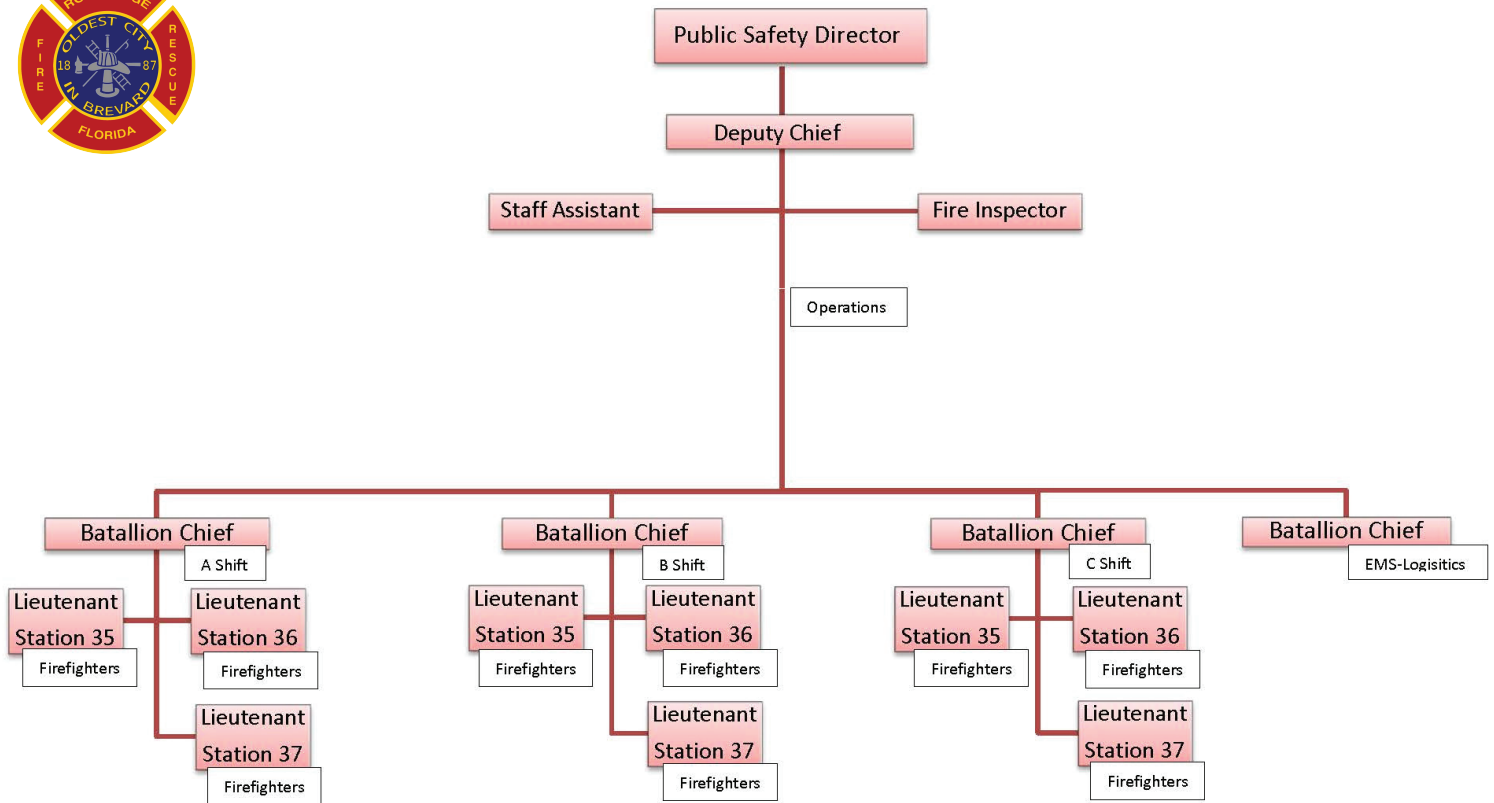
Type	#
Sworn	57
Civilian	30
Volunteer	9

Revised 08/21/2019



Fire Department Organization

Rockledge Department of Public Safety
Rockledge Fire Department



Revised 06-18-2018



Department of Public Safety

Employee Diversity

POLICE		FIRE	
Total Officers	57	Total Firefighters	40
Minority Officers	24	Minority Firefighters	6
Percentage	42	Percentage	15
Total Civilians	26	Total Civilians	1
Minority Civilians	22	Minority Civilians	1
Percentage	85	Percentage	100
Total Employees	83	Total Employees	41
Minority Employees	46	Minority Employees	7
Percentage	55	Percentage	17





COVID-19

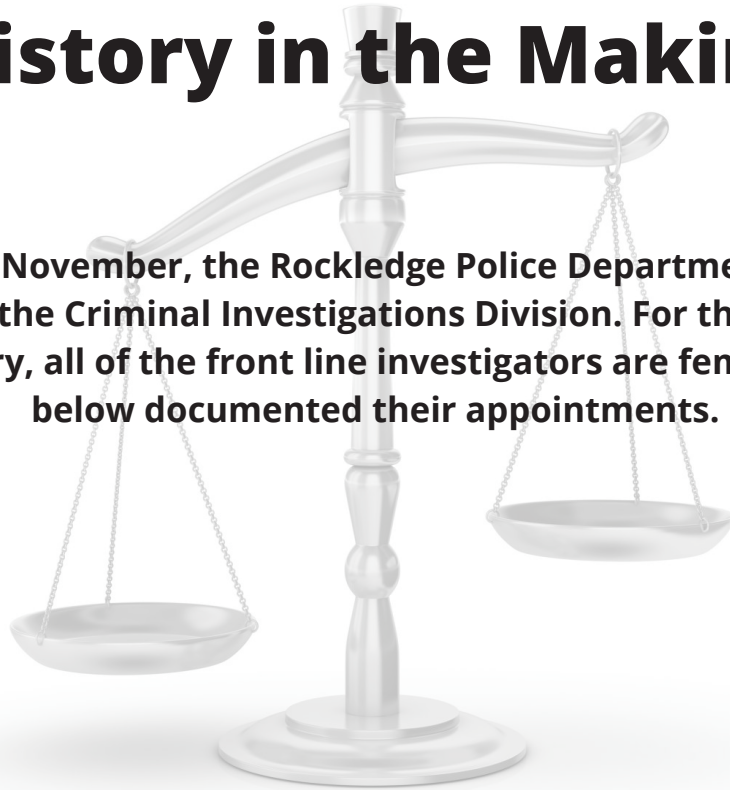


The COVID-19 pandemic created many new challenges for the Department of Public Safety. The people that make up the Department rose to the challenges in order to seamlessly deliver emergency services to the community. In addition, the relationships that have been established and maintained with our community partners, resulted in donations and acquisitions that kept our first responders protected.



History in the Making

Between January and November, the Rockledge Police Department appointed four new investigators to the Criminal Investigations Division. For the first time in the department's history, all of the front line investigators are female. The photograph below documented their appointments.

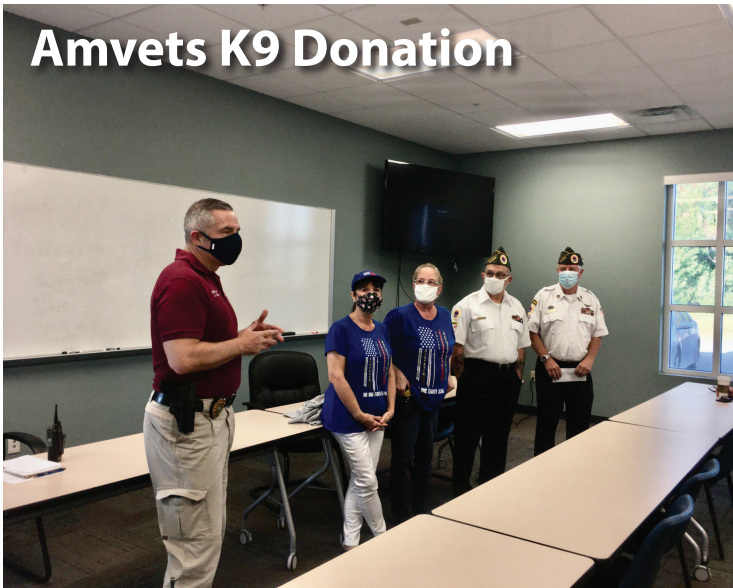


From left to right: Inv. Banks, Inv. Navigato, Inv. Romnosky, and Inv. Blake

Community Engagement



Neighborhood Picnic



Amvets K9 Donation



Nationally Recognized Prescription Delivery Initiative for our Elderly



Stuff a Cruiser

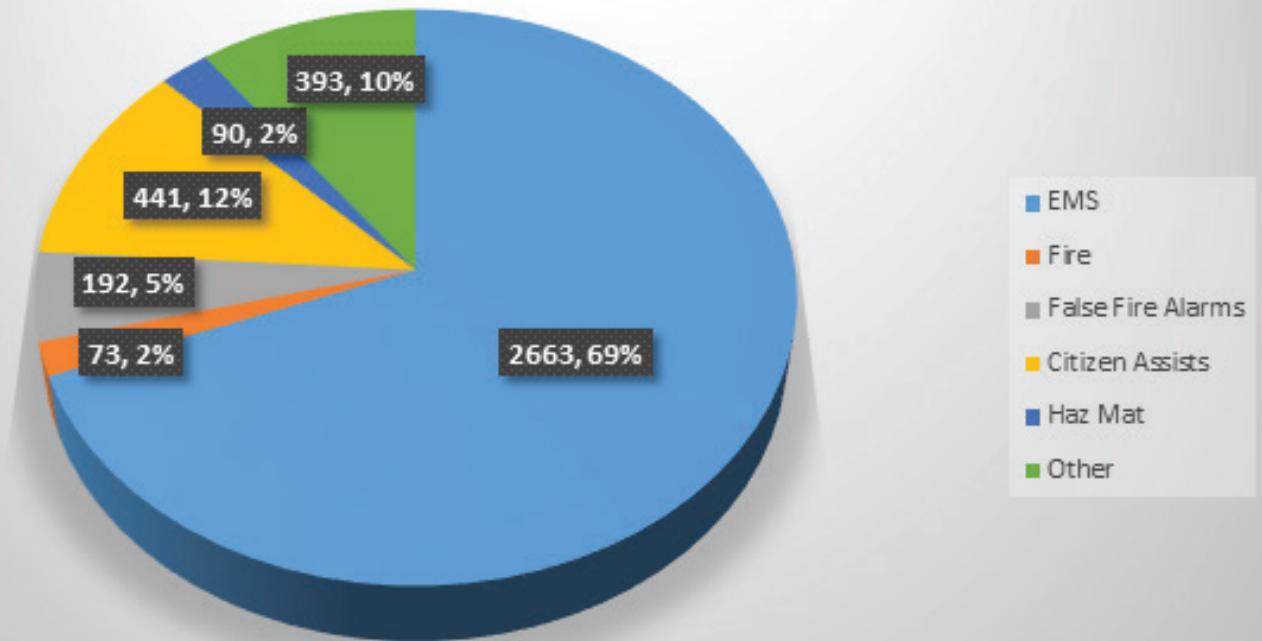


Church Donation

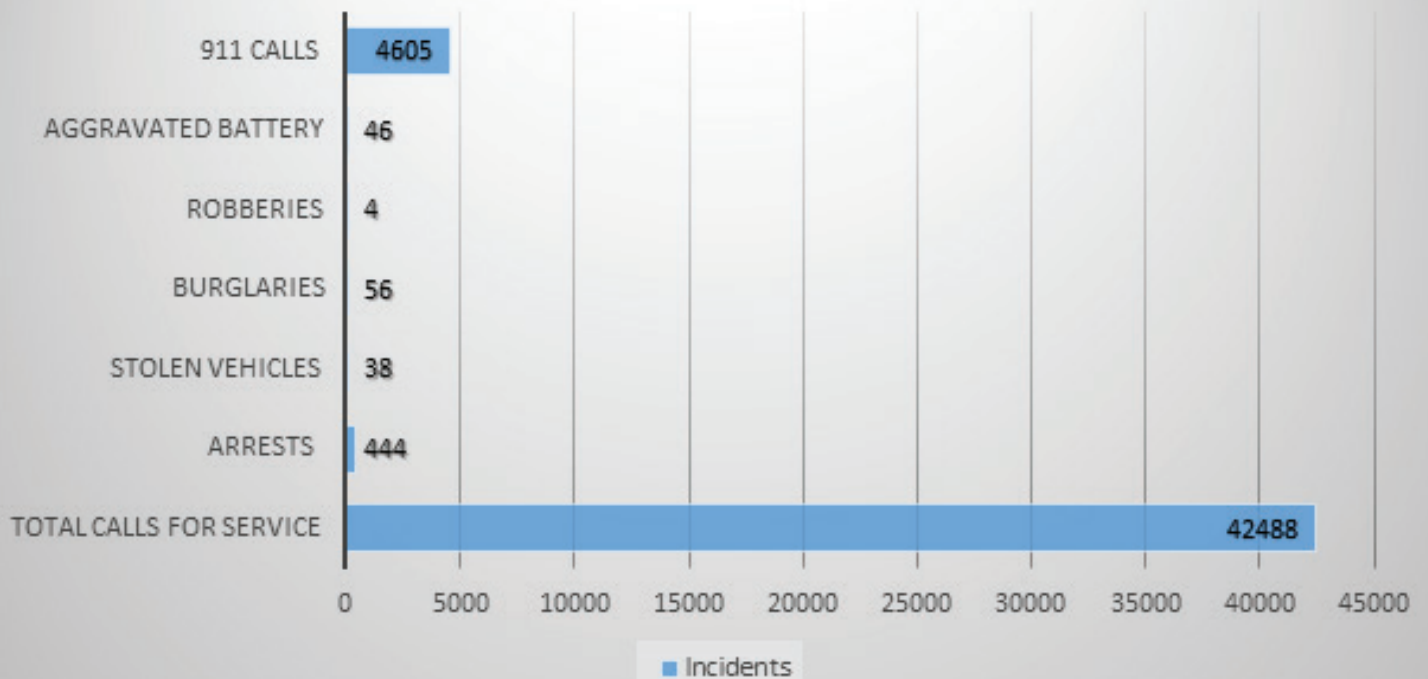
Community Engagement



Fire Department Response Highlights



Police Department Response Highlights





2020 Crime Data

Property Crime Incidents

Burglary	56
Theft	255
Vehicle Theft	38

Overall decrease of 10.28% from 2019

Violent Crime Incidents

Homicide	3
Rape	7
Robbery	4
Aggravated Battery	46

Overall decrease of 3.23% from 2019

Data based on Uniform Crime Report



Traffic Data

Traffic Citations- 1644

Total Crashes- 397

Most Frequent Crash Locations

1. Barnes Blvd. and Murrell Rd.
2. Barton Blvd. and U.S. 1
3. Barton Blvd. and Fiske Blvd.

Crashes most frequently occurred on Saturday, followed by Friday as the next most frequent day.

The most common time of day was between 3:00PM and 5:00PM.

Professional Standards

The Professional Standards Division is tasked with investigating internal and external complaints of Public Safety Department departmental policy violations of a minor or more serious nature.

INTERNAL-

Total Complaints 20

Sustained Internal Complaints 20

EXTERNAL-

Total Complaints 1

Sustained External Complaints 1



2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget

**Total Police Operating Budget-
\$ 6,502,800**

**Total Fire Operating Budget-
\$4,497,478**

Both divisions finished under budget for the year while maintaining continuous staffing during the COVID pandemic.

Letters from Leaders

"The Rockledge Department of Public Safety continues to demonstrate a high level of professionalism and courtesy that we are very proud of. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has created new and ongoing challenges, it has truly brought out the best in our Public Safety employees. It is comforting to know that we have such professionals representing our city, and I speak for the entire City Council when I say that we take great pride in our Public Safety Department."

-Thomas Price, Mayor

"I am very proud of the Rockledge Department of Public Safety. This year has been an extraordinarily interesting year with the pandemic and civil unrest, and our public safety employees have continued to do what they do best – take care of people. They serve and protect the citizens of Rockledge each day despite the unprecedented circumstances that surround all of us, and I am extremely grateful and proud of our Department for all that they do!"

-Dr. Brenda Fettrow, City Manager

"2020 served to reinforce our people are our greatest asset-I have said it often and with good reason. Their determination and dedication in unprecedented times illustrated the value we place on service to all our stakeholders."

- Joseph LaSata, Public Safety Director/Chief of Police

"As a Rockledge resident and former City Council member, I am extremely proud of the Rockledge Public Safety Department in their diversity efforts. Not only have they built a diverse organization reflecting the composition of our community, they have provided a decision making table with a diversity of thought process and input that will certainly make sure that all viewpoints are are considered when key decision are made."

-Kendall Moore, Attorney-Rockledge

"Rockledge Police Department continues to be one of the most professional law enforcement agencies in the State of Florida. Their commitment to the community they serve is outstanding. It is a pleasure to serve them as an Assistant State Attorney".

-Phil Williams, Assistant State Attorney

"2020 proved to be a year of challenges to every sector of our community. Rockledge Police and Fire have risked their own health in the COVID-19 crisis, while working to build relationships across the community in a time of painful social unrest. When I watch from my Rockledge office window as officers buy food and water for the homeless, I am heartened by the kindness of the officer and the leadership that comes from the top to build a public safety culture."

- Robyn Hattaway, Attorney, Commissioner, Port Canaveral District 5r



2020 Annual Report



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