

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Lake Worth Police Department

A year defined by growth, outreach, and development.



This page intentionally left blank.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief -----	3
Noteworthy Accomplishments -----	4
Community Outreach & Events -----	5
2022 Crime Report Summary -----	6
2022 Crime Data Summary -----	7
2022 Traffic Safety Report -----	8
Use of Force Report -----	9
Pursuit Report -----	10
Conclusion -----	11



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



As your Chief of Police, I have a front row seat to the amazing work being done by our members in the community. The men and women of our department have worked tirelessly over the past year in pursuit of our mission to create a safe environment where life and commerce thrive. In 2022, we saw remarkable growth and progress in many areas, many of which are highlighted in this year's annual report.

In 2022, overall call volume increased more than 14%, officer-initiated activity increased by nearly 32% and more than 10,000 hours of training were accumulated by our department members. Even with a growing demand for police service, our officers and detectives continue to solve crime at rates far beyond national averages. I am proud of our department, and I hope you are as well.

We consider it an honor to have the community's trust and support and we do not take it for granted. It is because of you, our citizens and supporters, that we are able to perform at such a high level. Although we have a wonderful complement of talent within our department, it is your trust and support that sustains us. From the Mayor and City Council down, the men and women of this department know where they stand in the eyes of the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve alongside some of the finest public servants in Texas!

In your service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.T. Manoushagian".

J.T. Manoushagian



NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



In November of 2022, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International awarded the Lake Worth Police Department's Communications Center the Project 33® (P33), Agency Training Program Certification.

With its selection, the Lake Worth Police Department became the first communications center in Tarrant County, fourth in the State of Texas, and the 92nd in the United States to earn the prestigious Agency Training Program Certification designation. (Read the full press release [here](#).)

Prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year, the City of Lake Worth and Lake Worth Police Department partnered with Lake Worth Independent School District to be the sole provider of School Resource Officers (SROs) to all LWISD campuses. The natural partnership brought the security needs of the district and the capabilities of LWPDP together, benefitting everyone involved.

With the agreement, the Lake Worth Police Department added an additional SRO and an SRO supervisor, bringing the unit's total strength to 4 officers.



In June of 2022, the Lake Worth Police Department became the first non-railroad law enforcement agency in Tarrant County to be accepted into the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project™, Georgetown University Law Centers national training and support initiative for U.S. law enforcement agencies committed to building a culture of peer intervention that prevents harm.

By demonstrating a firm commitment to transformational reform with support from local community groups and elected leaders, the Lake Worth Police Department joins a select group of more than 215 other law enforcement agencies and statewide and regional training academies from across North America. (Read the full press release [here](#).)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EVENTS

Positive police interaction with the community is paramount to building open, trusting relationships. Members of the Lake Worth Police Department are expected and encouraged to actively seek opportunities to build trusting relationships with the citizens and visitors of Lake Worth. Two new community outreach events were launched in 2022 and are detailed below.



Coffee with a Cop is a new community event that was launched in 2022 and hosted by businesses throughout Lake Worth that takes place once every two months. This community event is meant to bring members of the community and police department together to have real, face-to-face conversations without an agenda. The event's motto is: *"Real People. Real Relationships."* and the goal is to create an opportunity for the police and the public to interact in a meaningful, authentic way. More information about Coffee with a Cop can be found on the department's website at www.lakeworthtx.org/police.

In the summer of 2022, Lake Worth PD launched *Pops with Cops* – an outreach program focused on bringing the community together in one of the City's beautiful parks to play games, listen to music, and of course - enjoy a popsicle! Two events were held in 2022; one in Rayl Park and one in Keyhole Park. Both events were well attended and reached a combined 800 people. Pops with Cops is 100% free to the community and is funded entirely by money lawfully seized from drug dealers and other criminal offenders. The use of these funds takes money that was once used to destroy communities and reinvests it back into the community so that life and commerce can thrive.



2022 CRIME REPORT SUMMARY

The overall crime index in the City of Lake Worth increased by 23% in 2022. Overall call volume also increased (14%) along with officer-initiated activity (32%). Robberies and burglaries remained low, maintaining a downward trend. However, the number of thefts, motor vehicle thefts, and assaults increased. Fortunately for our community, Lake Worth detectives solve these crimes at a much higher rate than the national average.

Theft, specifically retail theft (shoplifting), is the most frequent crime committed in Lake Worth. In 2022, thefts increased by 12%. With multiple major retailers in our community, Lake Worth is prone to higher instances of shoplifting. Most theft involves property with a value of less than \$100, which is a class C misdemeanor. In these cases, a citation is typically issued. If the value of the property stolen is over \$100 or if the person accused of theft has 2 or more previous convictions, an arrest is made. ***Despite being Lake Worth's most common crime, theft cases in 2022 were cleared at four times the national average*** (65% compared to 15.1%).

Across the State of Texas, motor vehicle theft has increased. In 2022, the City of Lake Worth saw a slight increase in vehicle theft from previous years with 27 vehicles stolen. In response, the Lake Worth City Council authorized the department's participation in the Tarrant Regional Auto Crimes Task Force (TRACTF). With this partnership, the Lake Worth Police Department has assigned one full-time detective to the TRACTF in support of their mission and the mission of the Lake Worth Police Department.



No matter how effective a police department's policing strategy may be, there are certain crimes that the police have difficulty seeing or preventing. For example, assaults occurring inside a residence is a crime that is not easily seen during routine police patrols. In fact, assaultive crimes often occur in constitutionally protected places like homes where the police cannot enter without a lawful reason or a warrant. Because of that, police response to these crimes is normally reactive rather than proactive. In these cases, we focus on the solve rate of the crime as a measure of police effectiveness.

The Lake Worth Police Department continues to maintain extremely high solve rates across all crime categories. The following solve rates correspond to the reported crimes on the next page: Sexual Assault = 100%, Robbery = 100%, Assault – 88%, Burglary = 48%, Theft = 65%, and Motor Vehicle Theft = 78%.



2022 CRIME DATA SUMMARY



Figure 1 - 2021 Crime Data Summary

1) Intoxication manslaughter listed as murder, by rule

Source: TX DPS YTD Analysis of offenses against person, property, and society: 2019-2022



2022 TRAFFIC SAFETY REPORT

As Northwest Tarrant County's busiest thoroughfare, we understand the importance of traffic safety. In 2021, Texas experienced 4,489 traffic-related deaths (a 15% increase from the previous year) compared to 2,064 homicides. Reducing these unnecessary deaths is the primary reason police engage in traffic enforcement. However, traffic enforcement is not just about enforcing traffic laws. Stopping vehicles for traffic violations is also one of the primary methods police use to reduce other crimes as well. Active traffic enforcement is one of the reasons Lake Worth remains one of the safest cities in Tarrant County.

During 2022, Lake Worth Police Officers made a total of 5,962 motor vehicle stops - a 16% decrease from 2021, but a 6% increase from 2020. Staffing was identified as the primary reason for the reduction in motor vehicle stops in 2022. When fully staffed, the department anticipates an increase in overall traffic enforcement in 2023.

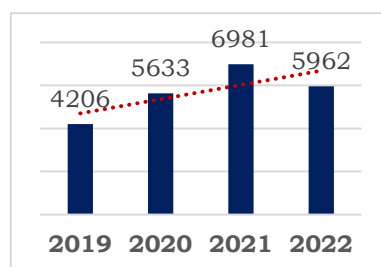


Figure 2 - 2022 Traffic Stops

With more than 250,000 people passing through per day, traffic crashes are inevitable. However, through proactive enforcement and education, **our team has reduced reportable traffic crashes by 39% over the last six years.**

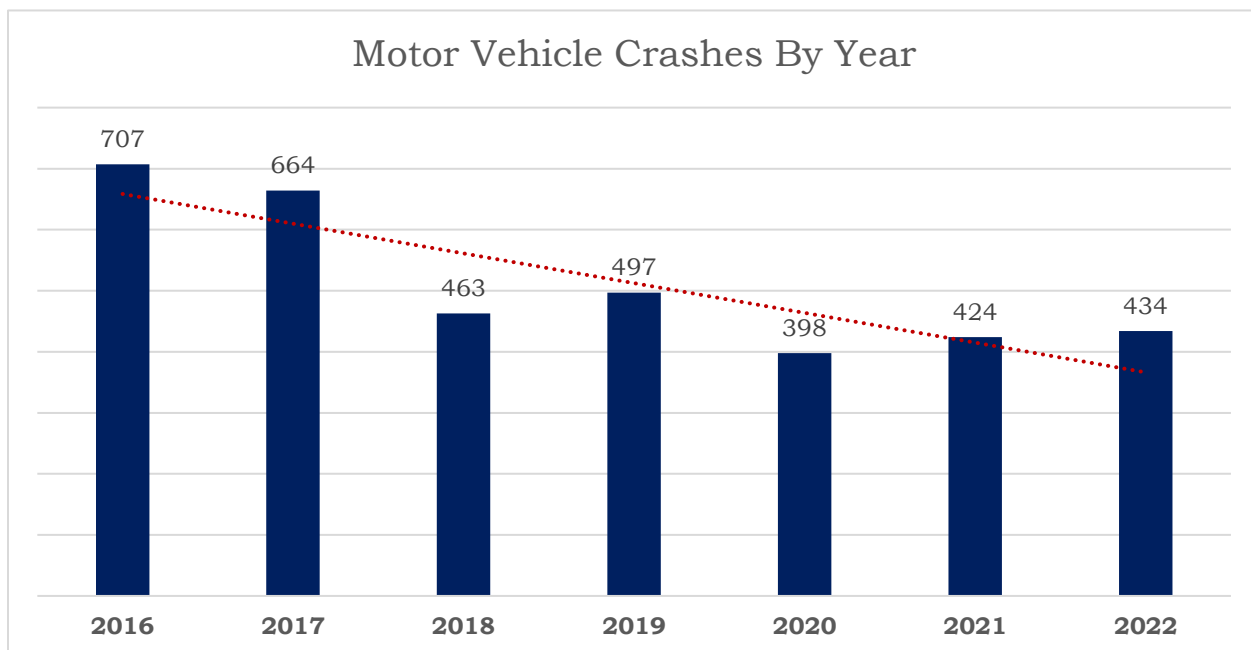


Figure 3 - 2020 - 2021 Crash Comparison, 2016 - 2022 Crash Comparison



2022 USE OF FORCE SUMMARY REPORT

Many force options are available to Lake Worth police officers to choose from, and officers are expected to choose the most appropriate force option based on the facts and circumstances encountered. Officers are expected to apply only the minimum amount of force necessary. Because the use of force is drastically different than the display or show of force, this year's report differentiates between the two.

In 2022, officers used force 31 times – a slight decrease (-9%) from 2021 (34). The most common type of force used was weaponless control techniques (29). On two occasions an intermediate weapon was used (electronic control weapon - Taser), and there were no firearms discharged in 2022. Each time force is used, it is thoroughly reviewed by the officer's supervisor, divisional commander, and the Chief of Police. Each review examines the reasonableness of the force used and ensures compliance with department policy and law. ***In the 31 use of force cases reviewed in 2022, all were in compliance with department policy.***

Reasonable force is almost exclusively used in response to unlawful resistance. Anytime resistance is involved, the potential for injury exists for both the resistive person and the officer(s). Out of the 31 use of force incidents in 2022, there were seven that involved a minor injury (scrapes, complaint of pain, etc.), and one that involved a broken bone.

There were 28 shows of force in 2022, with the most common being the pointing of a firearm (21). Others included the pointing of an electronic control device (Taser) (6) and the display of a police K-9 (2). Shows of force are reviewed in the exact same manner as uses of force, and the reasonableness is evaluated for compliance with law and department policy. ***In all instances where force was shown in 2022, all were found to be in compliance with department policy.***



Figure 4 – LWPD Use of Force Continuum



2022 PURSUIT SUMMARY REPORT

In 2022, the Lake Worth Police Department engaged in 18 vehicle pursuits, none of which resulted in injury as a result of the pursuit. As an accredited law enforcement agency, the Lake Worth Police Department is required to have a policy that includes: 1) the criteria for initiating a pursuit, 2) the method for conducting a pursuit, 3) the supervision of a pursuit, and 4) the criteria for terminating vehicle pursuits. These requirements are fulfilled in [LWPD Policy 7.15 – Vehicle Pursuits](#).

Of the 18 vehicle pursuits in 2022, eight were aborted by the pursuing officer or supervisors (generally for safety concerns) and ten resulted in the successful arrest of the driver. Of the ten pursuits that resulted in arrest, five involved the voluntary surrender of the driver and five resulted in the suspect crashing his or her vehicle and being apprehended as a result. The only property damage caused because of vehicle pursuits in 2022 was to the suspect's own vehicle.

Each time officers engage in a vehicle pursuit, it is thoroughly reviewed by the officer's supervisor, divisional commander, and the Chief of Police. Each review examines the reasonableness of the pursuit and ensures compliance with department policy and law. Of the 18 vehicle pursuits reviewed in 2022, 16 were in compliance with department policy. Of the two that were found to be noncompliant, the officer(s) involved were disciplined in accordance with departmental policy.



CONCLUSION

Tarrant County, Texas is home to an estimated 2.1 million people. Over the last ten years, Tarrant County's population has increased by more than 16% making it the second fastest growing county in Texas and the fifth fastest growing county in the United States. The City of Fort Worth's population has also increased exponentially, and in 2020 it became the second fastest growing major city and the 12th largest city in the United States.

Each day, an estimated 250,000 people pass through the City of Lake Worth. This significant movement of people represents about 12% of Tarrant County's total population. Most people passing through do so for work, school, and entertainment. In many ways, the City of Lake Worth is the gateway of commerce for west Tarrant County. That is why it is the mission of the Lake Worth Police Department to create a safe environment where life and commerce thrive.

At the Lake Worth Police Department, our standard is excellence. Over the last three years, the crime and crash prevention strategies used by the Lake Worth Police Department reduced crime despite being surrounded by significant growth, development, and skyrocketing crime. Although proud, we remain committed to our mission and are taking additional steps to ensure crime does not gain a foothold in our community.

The Lake Worth Police Department also continues to focus on and implement the recommendations found in the [President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing](#). Just as the Task Force suggests, our focus remains on the following pillars: 1) building trust and legitimacy, 2) policy and oversight, 3) technology and social media, 4) community policing and crime reduction, 5) training and education, and 6) officer wellness and safety.

In the coming year, the Lake Worth Police Department will build upon the successes of 2022 and continue to provide our community with the excellent service and protection it deserves.



