



Santa Cruz Police Department



Message from the Chief

I am proud to present the Santa Cruz Police Department’s Annual Report for 2015. We achieved much during this past year, including completion of my fifth year as the Police Chief for this fine city. Through the hard work and selfless dedication of our sworn officers and civilian staff, the community has seen a 5% drop in Part I violent crimes. Most notably, sexual assault dropped by 30% and aggravated assault dropped by 4% in 2015 as compared to 2014. We will continue to be ever vigilant in our efforts to reduce violent crime in our community.

Property crimes continued to trend upward in 2015, with larceny (theft) being the overall leader in Part I property crimes and auto theft showing the highest percentage increase in 2015 compared to 2014. We have seen a reduction in the recidivism rate of our chronic, low-level nuisance offenses through our collaborative efforts with the Bob Lee Community Partnership for Accountability, Connection and Treatment program, named after our late District Attorney.

There are many challenges we will address in the coming year. We continue to combat the unintended consequences of the AB109

prison realignment bill in 2011, which diverted low level offenders and parole violators to serve their sentences in County jails instead of State prisons, and mandated supervision by County probation officers upon their release from custody. We must also evaluate and respond to impacts following the passage of Proposition 47 in 2014, which reduced many drug and property crimes to misdemeanors. Proposition 47 has the potential to drive crime rates up and impact the quality of life for our residents. Many argue it has already done so. It takes an entire community to address crime and the fear of crime. The Santa Cruz Police Department is proud to collaborate with other community stakeholders such as our schools, law enforcement partners, service and faith-based organizations and community members working together in doing our part to ensure a safe, clean, robust and thriving environment. We must continue to preserve the quality of life for our residents and visitors through strong community policing programs.

The Santa Cruz Police Department saw many accomplishments in 2015, including implementation of a full-time police officer focused on neighborhood problem-solving efforts and quality-of-life issues. We hired two critical support staff members in 2015: a Principal Management Analyst who will focus on budget, crime trends and data analysis,

and a Community Relations Specialist who manages all aspects of media, communications and community affairs.

In planning for the future, we will be analyzing our staffing and workload in an effort to determine if we have the optimum number of employees, both sworn and non-sworn, to meet the service needs of our growing community. It is important to anticipate what public safety resources will be needed in our community during the years to come. We will be launching an online bicycle registration program in collaboration with local bicycle shops in an effort to capture bicycle registration information at the point-of-sale. This program will provide ease of registration for bicycle owners through an online process that can be completed in minutes from any computer with internet access. With the national attention received elsewhere regarding strained relationships between police and the public, it is crucial to maintain, strengthen and continue building new relationships with the community we serve. In closing, I would like to thank our staff at the Police Department and extend my gratitude to the residents of the city of Santa Cruz for partnering with the hard working and dedicated women and men of the Santa Cruz Police Department to ensure a safe and prosperous community for everyone who works, lives and recreates here.





Santa Cruz Police Department Executive Team

- | | |
|--|--|
| Chief of Police, Kevin Vogel | Professional Standards, Sergeant Jose Garcia |
| Deputy Chief of Police, Rick Martinez | Records Manager, Jacqui Drechsler |
| Deputy Chief of Police, Steve Clark | Principal Management Analyst, Lupita Alamos |
| Investigations Commander,
Lieutenant Bernie Escalante | Community Relations Specialist, Joyce Blaschke |
| Patrol Commander, Lieutenant Dan Flippo | Executive Assistant to the Chief, Beverley Vogel |
| Patrol Commander, Lieutenant Warren Barry | Administrative Assistant, Anna Concepcion |
| Patrol Commander, Lieutenant Christian LeMoss | Administrative Assistant, Kimberlee Steele |

City Government

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cynthia Mathews, Mayor | Pamela Comstock, Councilmember |
| Cynthia Chase, Vice Mayor | Micah Posner, Councilmember |
| David Terrazas, Councilmember | Richelle Noroyan, Councilmember |
| Don Lane, Councilmember | Martín Bernal, City Manager |

PHOTOGRAPHY: TIM CATTERA PHOTOGRAPHY

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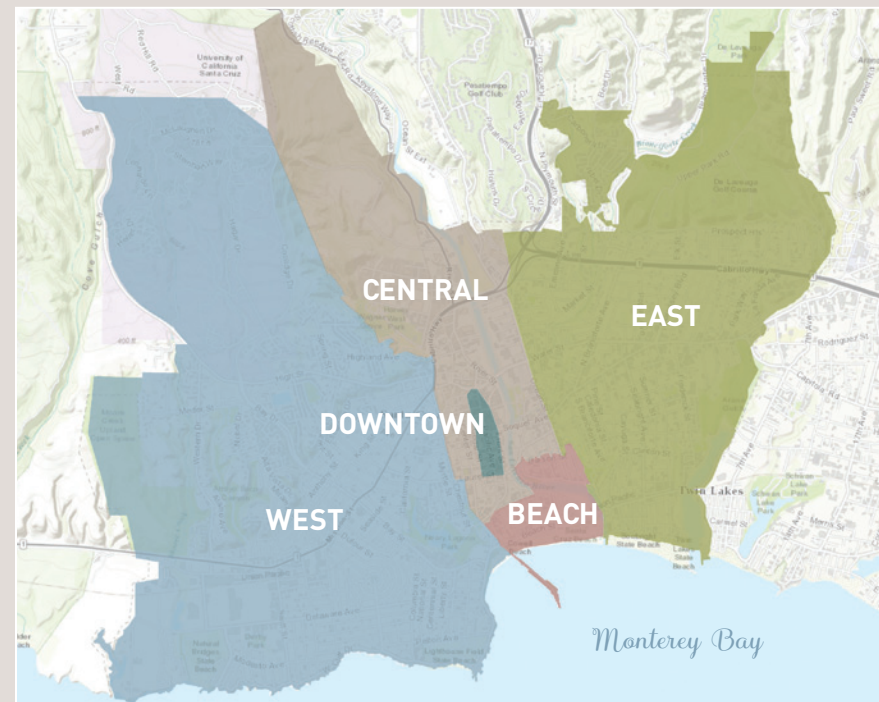
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DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

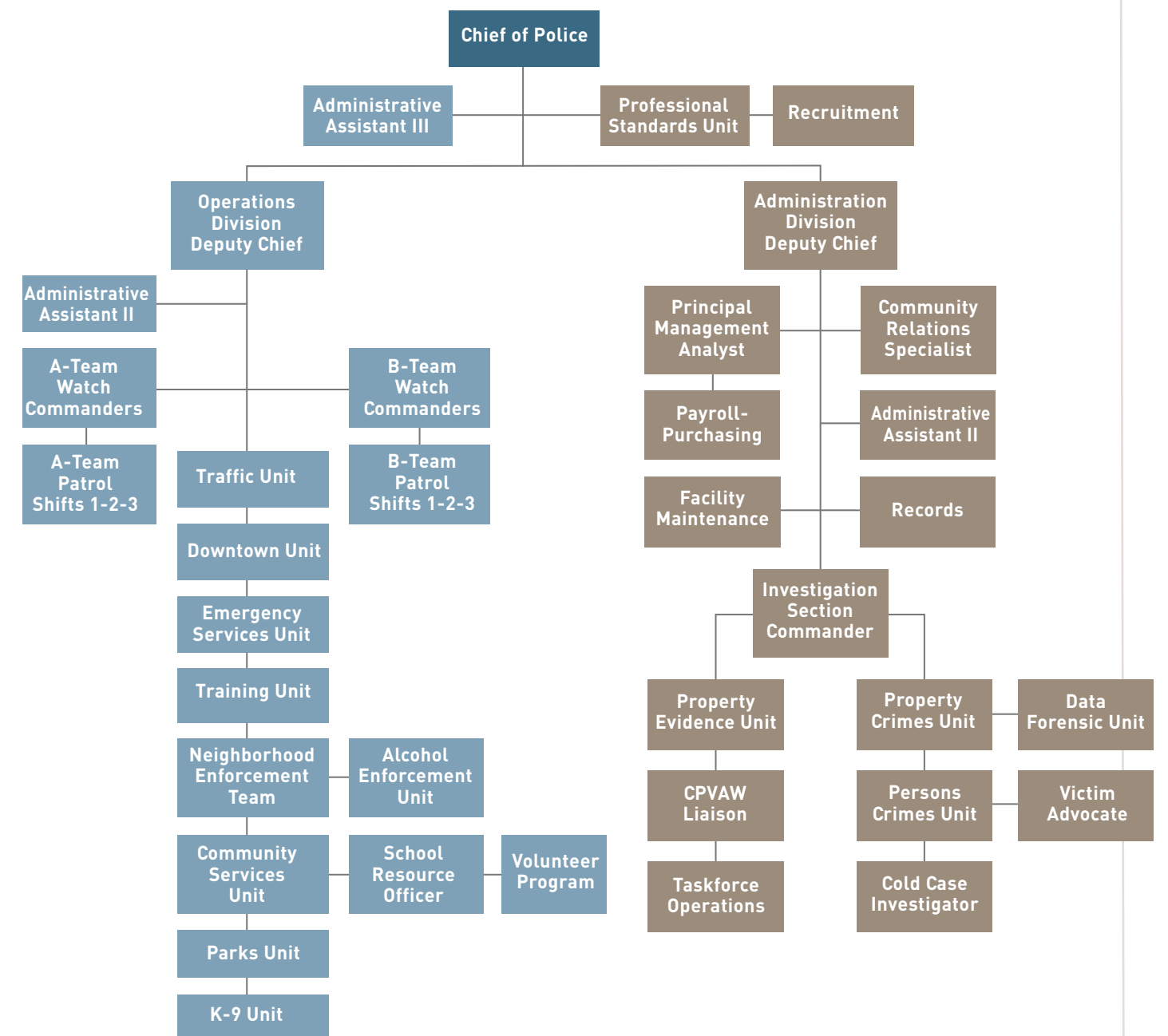
The Santa Cruz Police Department is dedicated and proud to serve the residents of and visitors to our city. A team of 119 employees, 94 budgeted sworn officers and 25 non-sworn civilian staff, serve a population of 63,789 residents in a city of 12.7 square miles. Members of the Department work diligently to meet the unique challenges of public safety in a city that plays host to a large tourist population, special events, and seasonal attractions. With a finite amount of resources, the city is divided into five patrol beats: West, East, Beach, Central, and Downtown. The beats are designed to maximize coverage and provide efficient response to calls for service.

SCPD PATROL BEATS



Organization

The organizational structure of the Department is divided into two divisions. The Operations Division consists of the Patrol Section, Traffic, Community Services, Parks, Neighborhood Enforcement Team, Downtown, Alcohol Enforcement, Training, School Resource Officer Program, K9, and Emergency Services. The Administration Division consists of the Professional Standards, Payroll and Purchasing, Recruitment, Crime Analysis, Community Relations, Investigations, Property Evidence, Records and the Administrative Support Services Team.

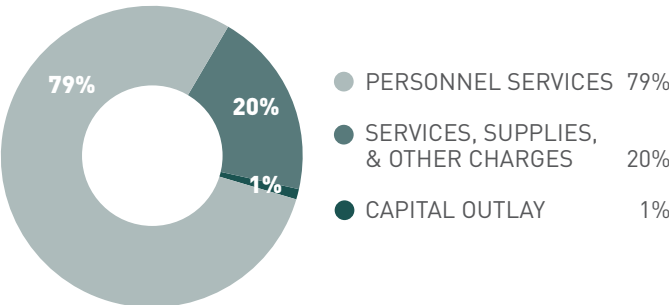


Budget

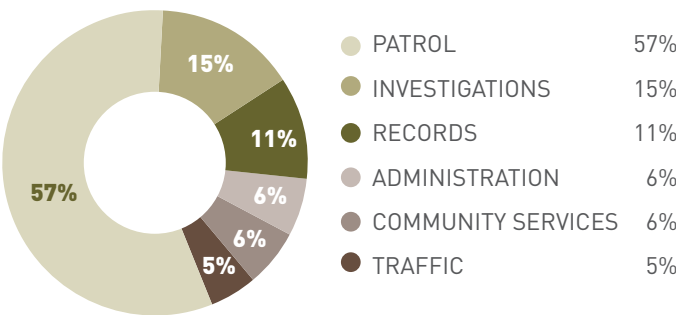
The Police Department operates on an approximately \$25 million budget or 29% of the City's General Fund. The majority of funds, 79% or \$19,805,972 of the police department budget is spent on personnel services. The remaining 21% or \$5,111,881 is allocated toward services, supplies, and capital outlay items. In Fiscal Year 15/16, which includes the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, the Santa Cruz Police Department's budget increased 3.9% from Fiscal Year 14/15.



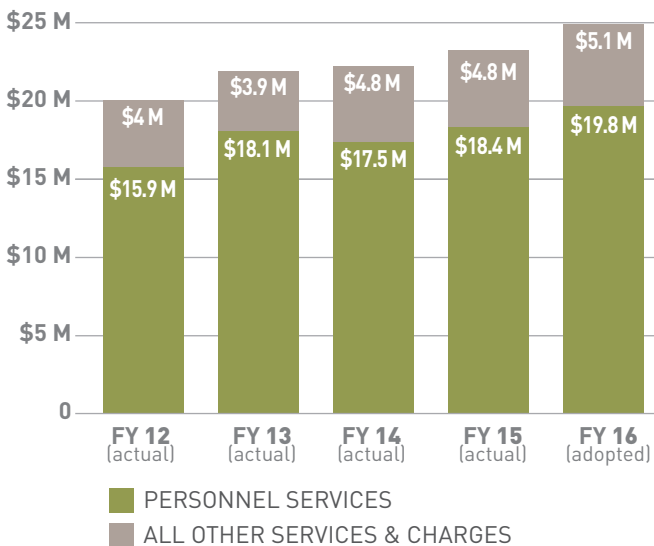
FY15/16 Adopted Budget



FY15/16 Expenses by Activity



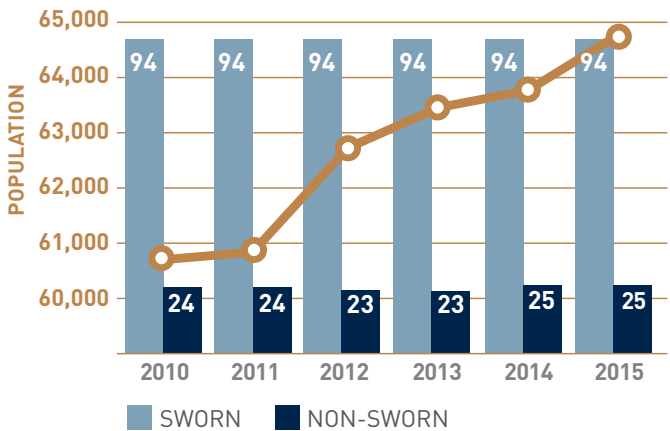
SCPD Budget Trends



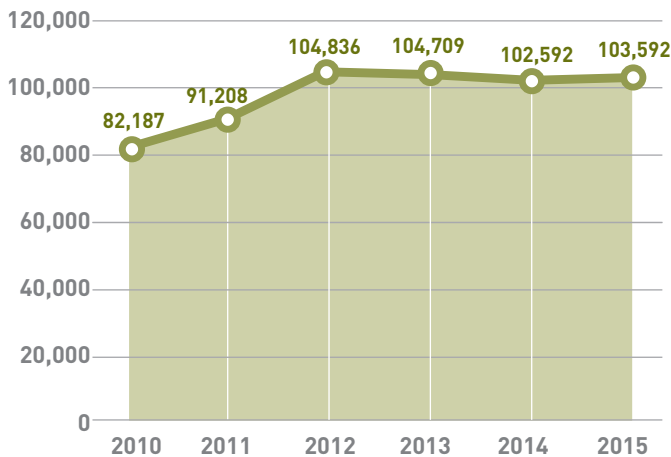
Personnel and department budget levels have remained status quo over the past five years with 94 budgeted sworn positions. Recent increases in the Department's fiscally conservative budget are largely due to rising costs in employee health and retirement benefits. Despite an increase in calls for service, city population, and special events, the Department is effective and efficient in service delivery without a significant increase to the overtime budget.



SCPD Staff Levels & Santa Cruz Population



Calls for Service

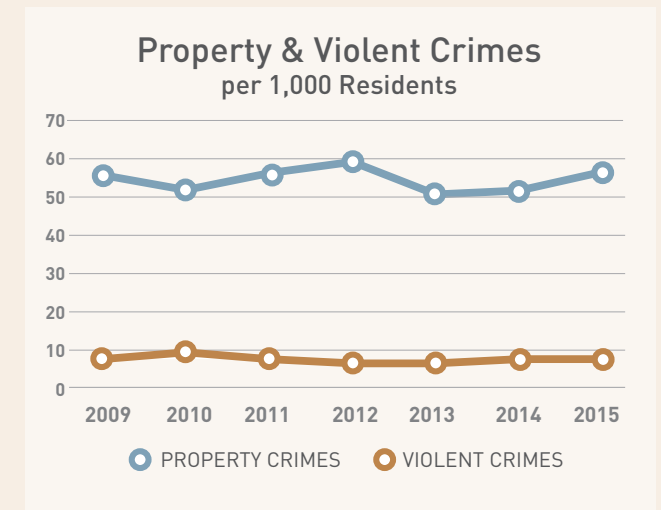
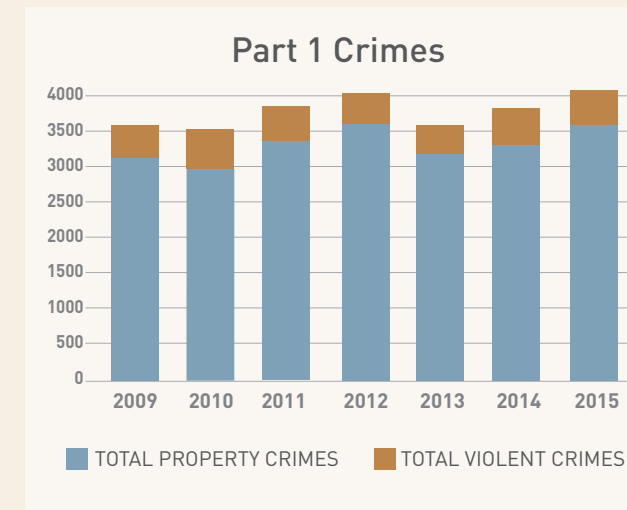
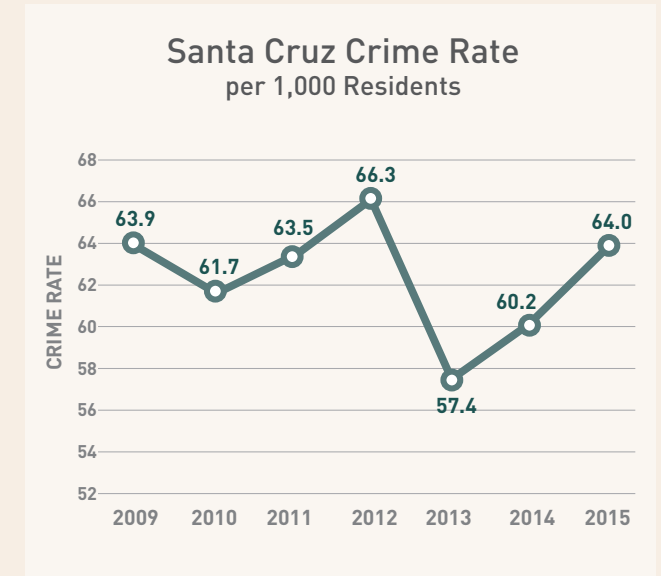
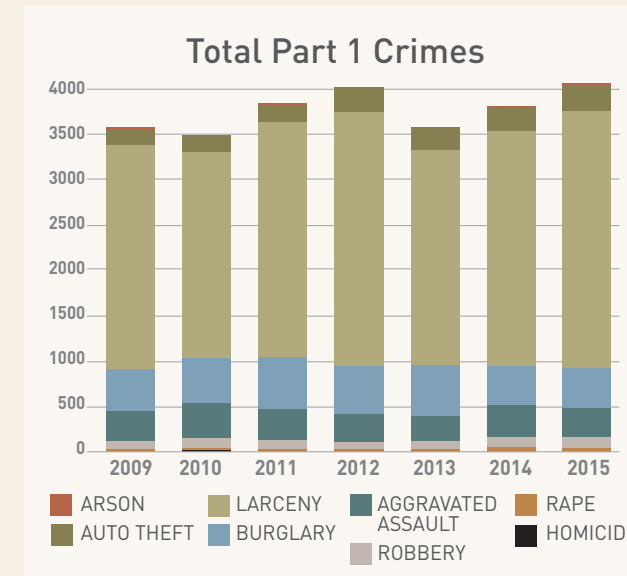


While population and work volume continues to grow, Department staffing levels have remained the same.

CRIME TRENDS

Statistics

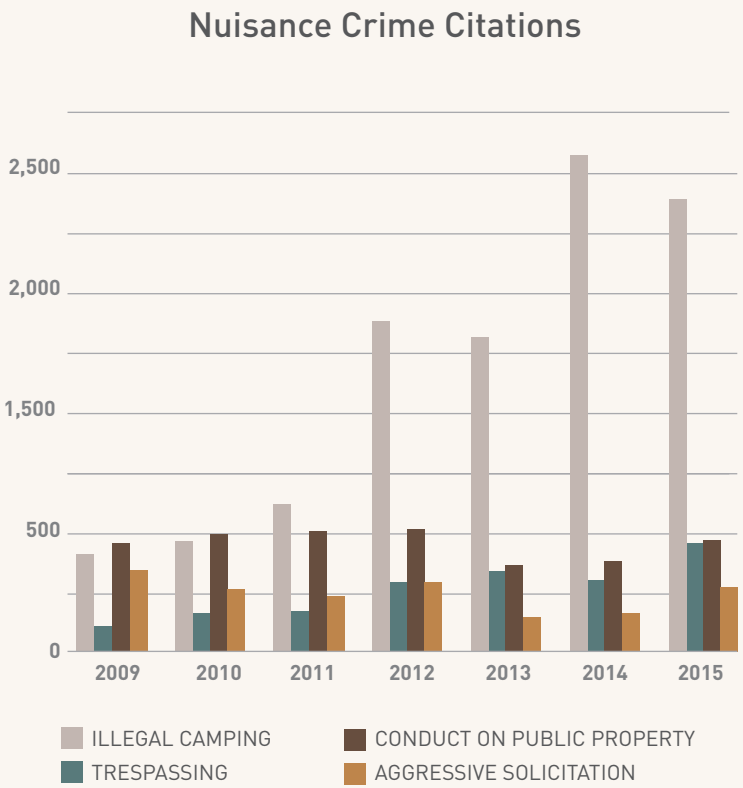
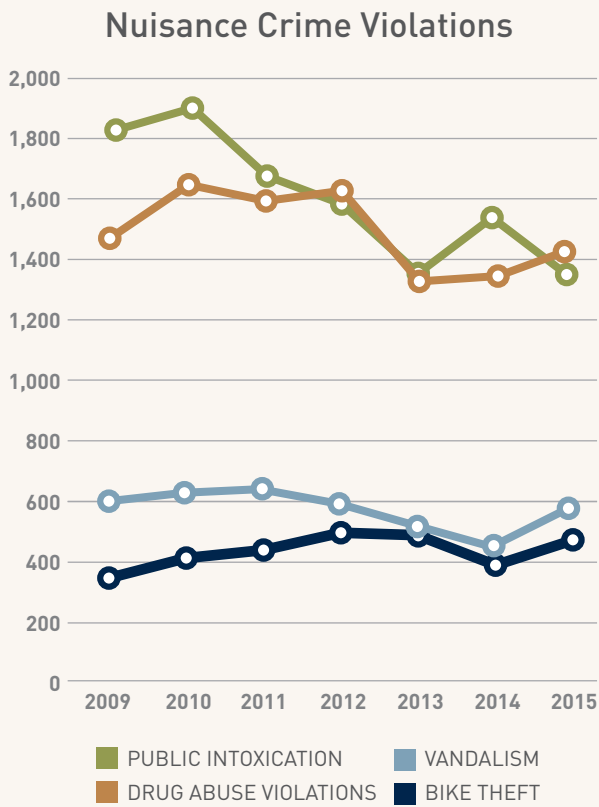
Like most cities, Santa Cruz measures crime using the eight major crime categories, or Part 1 Crimes, defined by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, larceny, burglary, auto theft, and arson. In 2015, Part 1 Crimes in Santa Cruz rose seven percent. Violent crime, which includes homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault decreased by five percent to 499 reported crimes. Property crime, which includes burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson, rose almost nine percent to a total of 3,586 reported crimes. The graphs show total Part 1 crimes were the highest in 2015 but, when considering population increase, the crime rate was less than 2012's peak of 66.3 crimes per 1,000 residents. A variety of factors affect crime in Santa Cruz, including the County Jail location, transient population, a high density of alcohol outlets, limited health and human services, and seasonal population increases.



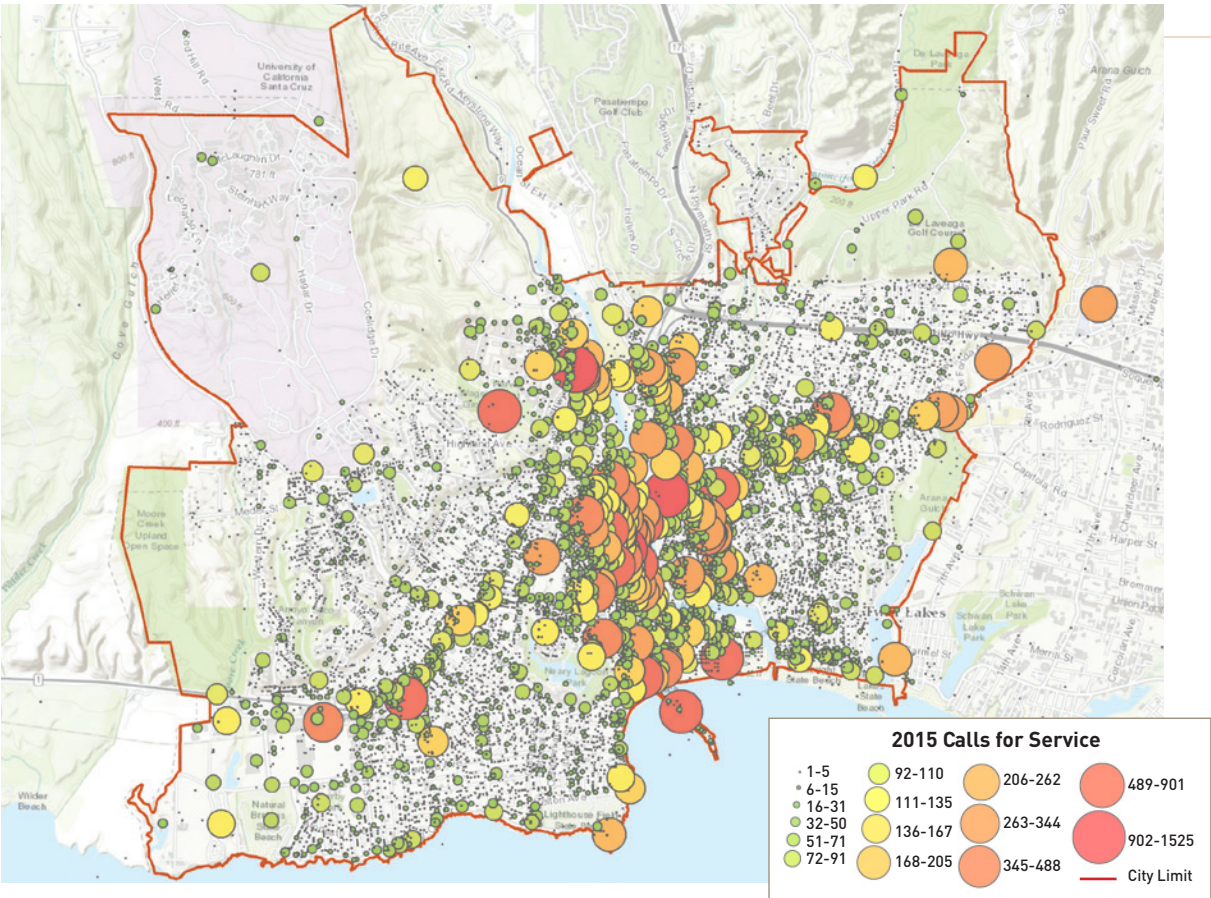
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Larceny	Burglary	Auto Theft	Arson
2014	1	63	109	351	2602	420	250	23
2015	2	44	116	337	2832	431	300	23

Nuisance Crimes

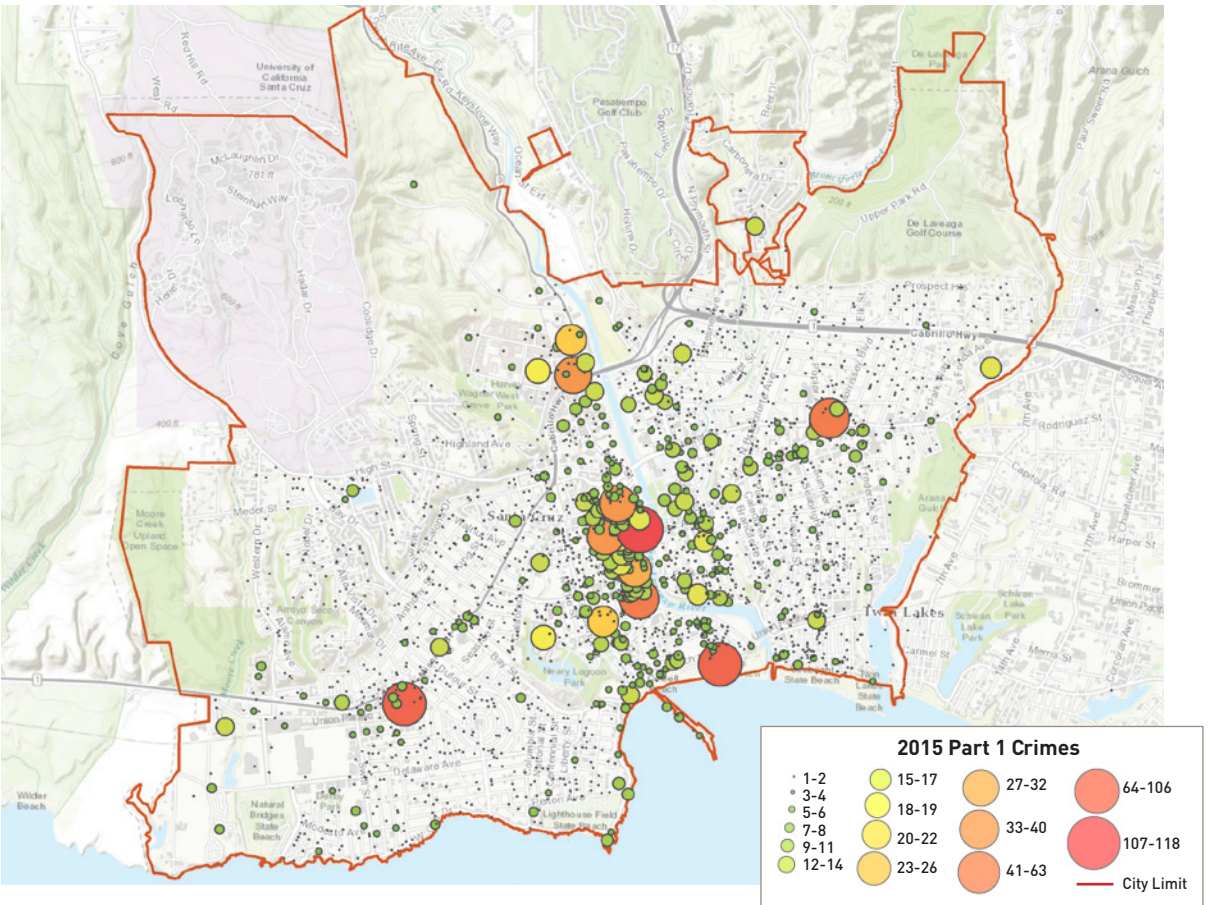
Integral to the Department’s mission regarding community safety and well-being is addressing and resolving quality of life issues for all Santa Cruz residents. The Police Department takes a collaborative approach to problem solving which includes successful partnerships with various law enforcement, local municipal and health and human service agencies. We recognize that crime is a social problem and that the greatest impact to crime reduction is addressing the issues at their root cause.



2015 CALLS FOR SERVICE



2015 PART 1 CRIMES



Administration Division

The primary function of the Administration Division is to provide leadership and administration for all divisions, sections and units of the department. This is accomplished through the provisions of command direction, formulation of policy, financial coordination, supervision of special investigations, staff inspection, community relations and communication, risk management, research and development and personnel administration. The administrative functions of the section include budget responsibility for the entire Department, grant program administration, crime analysis, and purchasing of all department supplies and services.

The Administration Division is comprised of the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Administration, Professional Standards Unit, Principal Management Analyst, Community Relations Specialist, Payroll and Purchasing Clerk, Administrative Assistant III and Administrative Assistant II.



Recruitment

The recruitment function of the police department is overseen by the Deputy Chief of Administration. The Deputy Chief coordinates with the City Human Resources Department in the recruitment of all police department employees. The Deputy Chief coordinates pre-employment processes for the police department, including interviews, polygraph examinations, background investigations, medical examinations, psychological examinations and the final Chief's hiring interview.

Police departments nationwide are experiencing recruitment challenges; this has been particularly true in the Santa Cruz County area. The high cost of living and a competitive job market contribute to the current hiring difficulties. The Department engages in an aggressive recruitment strategy to maintain a fully staffed force. The hiring and training process for a Police Officer Position is extensive, taking approximately 12 months.

Police Officer Trainee Recruitment: Hiring Timeline



The Department maintains a high standard when recruiting qualified police officer candidates. For example, in the Police Officer Trainee recruitment, of the 134 candidates that submitted an application for the position of Police Officer Trainee, only 3 were hired and sent to the police academy.

Once an officer is hired as a member of the Santa Cruz Police Department team, retention is high due to the challenges and other rewarding aspects of the work, as well as a healthy organizational culture. Over two thirds of the sworn positions have been with the Department for more than 10 years.



INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

The goal of the Investigations Section is to gather and preserve evidence, identify and apprehend perpetrators, and prepare cases for successful prosecution and conviction. Detectives investigate complex cases assigned to the Persons or Property Crimes Units. The Persons Crimes Unit focuses on homicide, sexual assault, robbery, assault and battery, domestic violence and crimes against children. The Property Crimes Unit focuses on burglary, larceny, embezzlement, auto theft, identity theft, bicycle theft, vandalism, forgery and fraud cases. The section also manages and monitors sex offender, gang and arson registrants within the city.

In a unique partnership with State Parole and County Probation, Santa Cruz Police Department provides collaborative work space that facilitates access to juvenile and adult offender cases. The caseload for the two probation officers consists primarily of persons who reside within the jurisdiction of the city of Santa Cruz.

The Victim Advocate coordinates rights and benefits for crime victims during various stages of follow-up to the crime. The Victim Advocate facilitates communication among agencies concerned with the investigation of criminal cases involving victims.

Forensic Unit

The Forensic Unit specializes in the investigation, recovery and analysis of evidence. In the past few years, we have expanded the digital forensic capabilities, allowing the retrieval of evidence from electronic devices capable of storing data such as computers, hard drives, memory cards, digital cameras, cell phones and gaming devices.



Notable Investigation Cases in 2015

NOTABLE CASES

ONE OF THE MORE HEARTFELT AND sad cases the Investigations Unit solved was that of the homicide of 8 year old Madyson Middleton. Detectives worked around the clock, coordinating with over 50 FBI Agents, Santa Cruz and San Mateo County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Teams, among other local agencies. The case was solved and an arrest made within 25 hours of the initial missing person report.

NOTABLE CASES

DETECTIVES INVESTIGATED A home burglary case, after releasing surveillance video images and, thanks to a tip from the public, the suspect was located and detained within 24 hours. Detectives searched the home of the burglar and recovered the stolen items, along with a shotgun and assault rifle.

NOTABLE CASES

THE GANG UNIT FOLLOWED UP ON A shooting investigation involving multiple incidents by the same suspect. The team located and detained the suspect with the gun in his possession. Forensic investigation revealed evidence connecting the suspect to the same gun used in the various incidents. The case was a great collaboration between the Gang Unit, Detectives, and the Neighborhood Enforcement Team.

NOTABLE CASES

A REPORT OF A MISSING TEEN was made in December. After interviewing family and friends, detectives were able to locate the runaway teen in Texas. Detectives facilitated and coordinated with Texas deputies to ensure the safe return of the girl.

Property and Evidence Unit

The Police Department processes more than 100,000 pieces of evidence and property each year. This team coordinates the lab processing, storage, organization and tracking of all items booked into evidence by our officers. Found and unclaimed property items are handled in accordance with State law and are either returned to the owner or finder, disposed of or auctioned.



Gang Unit

The Police Department contributes officer time and financial support for two county-wide task force operations, the Gang Task Force and the Narcotics Task Force within the Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team. The Gang Task Force focuses on gang crimes, violence, and weapons, while the Narcotics Task Force focuses on drug related investigations. The teams employ strategies of suppression and intervention to address violent and drug-related crime throughout the county.

Cold Case Investigator

The Investigations section also includes a Cold Case Investigator that focuses on unsolved homicide cases. The position is staffed by a retired law enforcement officer who works on these cases on a part-time basis. A very notable case includes the “Pogonip Jane” homicide; after 22 years, the identity of the victim was finally discovered to be that of 17-year old Kori Joanne Lamaster.

Professional Standards

Professional Standards is responsible for ensuring the integrity of the department through extensive, impartial and objective investigations of allegations of employee misconduct. Investigations are reviewed by the Deputy Chief of Police, the Chief of Police and the Independent Police Auditor, to determine possible employee misconduct or the need to revise existing departmental procedures. Additionally, the Professional Standards Unit routinely conducts random audits of various police department functions to ensure that internal policies and procedures are being followed.

Payroll and Purchasing Clerk

The Payroll and Purchasing Clerk is responsible for overseeing purchasing, employee payroll, inventory tracking and cost recovery programs. This function is overseen by the Deputy Chief of Administration.

Principal Management Analyst

The Principal Management Analyst is responsible for monitoring crime trends, analyzing specific crime incidents, grant research and administration, budget review and preparation and research of innovative and contemporary law enforcement programs.

Community Relations Specialist

This position is an integral component of the Department’s strategy to increase community outreach, keeping our residents informed of crime incidents, public safety measures, and overall Department programs. Adapting to the growing use of social media, our Department is appropriately represented through various platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, as well as our Department blog and website.

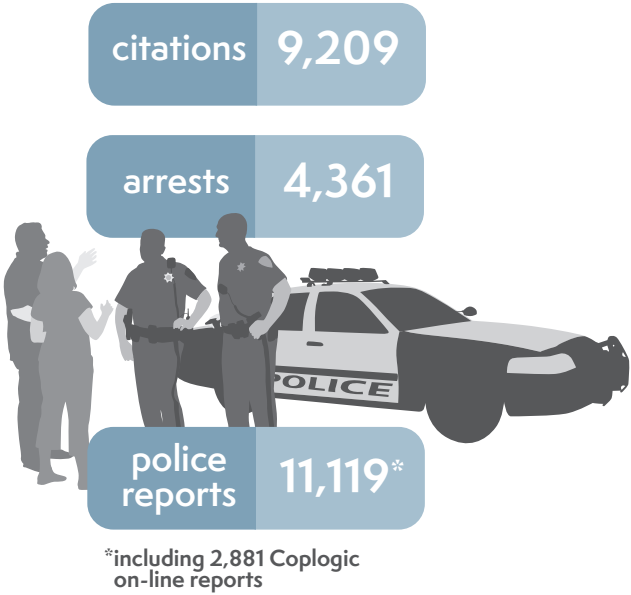


Records Section

The Records Section is a dynamic and essential function of the Department, processing thousands of records a year and providing excellent customer service. The section is responsible for processing records pertaining to arrests, traffic citations, accident reports, warrants for arrest, trespass authorization letters, bicycle licenses, as well as providing customer service to the many visitors and callers needing assistance. In addition, Records prepares required documentation needed by the District Attorney in preparation for arraignment and prosecution of arrestees. Public Records Act requests as well as those made by outside agencies are also handled and prepared by the team. The Records Manager is responsible for maintaining compliance with State and Federal records access requirements and making timely reports of crime statistics to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The team is also responsible for maintaining records relating to stolen vehicles, missing persons, restraining orders, and stolen property and entering this information into local, state and national law enforcement telecommunication system databases.

2015 Total Process & Review Statistics



Operations Division

PATROL SECTION

The Patrol Section of the Department spans various functions and assignments including vehicle and foot patrol services for crime prevention, crime detection and investigation, apprehension of criminal offenders, recovery and return of stolen property, traffic enforcement, accident investigation and other public service functions. This also includes year-round downtown foot patrol and summer foot patrol in the Beach/Boardwalk area.

A 24 hour operation, the Patrol Section is the backbone of the Department, handling over 100,000 calls for service a year. Most importantly, our patrol officers are invested in the community, forming strong partnerships and relationships that further the Department's mission to keep Santa Cruz a safe place to live, work and play.



Downtown Unit

The Santa Cruz central business district encompasses an 18-square block area that is the social focal point of our community. A supervisor and a team of officers are assigned to the Downtown Unit providing foot and bicycle patrols in our downtown area. The Downtown Unit maintains close working relationships with the Downtown Association, merchants, shoppers, residents, the downtown mental health outreach worker, visitors, and youth.

In 2015, the Downtown Unit continued to partner with the Economic Development Department to address public safety and nuisance issues in Downtown through policy modifications that facilitate better use of public spaces. Another notable partnership that has improved the enjoyment of the Downtown is that with the Bob Lee Community Partnership, Accountability, Connection, and Treatment (PACT) program. In its inception, the program targeted recidivists in the Downtown by coordinating and connecting the individual with the support and treatment needed. The success of the PACT program has now expanded beyond the Downtown borders to reach city-wide clients.

Similarly, our partnership with County of Santa Cruz, affords a Downtown Outreach Worker that responds to calls with officers. The Outreach Worker engages

with homeless individuals and those needing mental health support services and connects them to the appropriate resources. The focus of the partnership is to reduce future criminal justice intervention and to support the transition out of homelessness.



Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET)

A supervisor and a team of officers are assigned to our Neighborhood Enforcement Team and respond to specific, identified problems within the city. This unit is comprised of personnel with specialized training, expertise and a variety of creative, problem solving tactics to address issues and improve the quality of life in our city. The Neighborhood Enforcement Team focuses its attention on a variety of criminal activities, including gangs, weapons, narcotics, burglary, and prostitution. They also work to resolve chronic neighborhood problems in need of a focused and sustained commitment.

Notable NET Cases in 2015

NOTABLE CASES

IN 2015, THE THREE OFFICERS assigned to the unit completed 442 case assignments. In the course of resolving these cases, the team made 272 arrests and issued 246 citations.

NOTABLE CASES

IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMPLAINTS of suspicious activity and possible drug sales along the San Lorenzo River Levee, the NET and Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team (SCCACT) conducted a successful drug sting operation, resulting in the arrest of seven suspects for selling methamphetamine and heroin to the undercover officers.

NOTABLE CASES

THE NET RESPONDED TO A BOMB threat at Harbor High. After the safe evacuation of the school, the Team, in collaboration with the Fire Department and school staff, determined there were no explosive devices. A witness came forward with information regarding the juvenile that had placed the false bomb threat call. Later that afternoon, the NET arrested the youth at his residence and confirmed that there were no explosive devices to carry out the threat.

NOTABLE CASES

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL JOINT DRUG operation between NET and SCCACT included the arrest of a suspected drug dealer. The arrest netted the seizure of three firearms, one which had been reported stolen in Washington; a variety of drugs with a combined street value of approximately \$42,000; and \$28,000 in cash.



Mental Health Liaison

Another strategic and key partnership is our relationship with County Mental Health and the Maintaining Ongoing Stability through Treatment Team (MOST) program. The Santa Cruz Police Department was the first law enforcement agency in the county to implement the pilot program. The MOST liaison splits her time between the Downtown and Parks Unit as well as responding to calls city-wide. The liaison assists with calls involving potential mental health issues and provides mental health intervention and assessment services. Another benefit of the position is the integration into the Police Department’s Crisis Negotiation Team to assist in de-escalation tactics in crisis situations. Also, as part of the Crisis Intervention Team, the MOST liaison provides training on the topic to the Santa Cruz Police Department. In 2015, the MOST liaison made 1,349 contacts and referrals, and 691 mental health assessments while in the field with our officers.

Alcohol Enforcement Unit

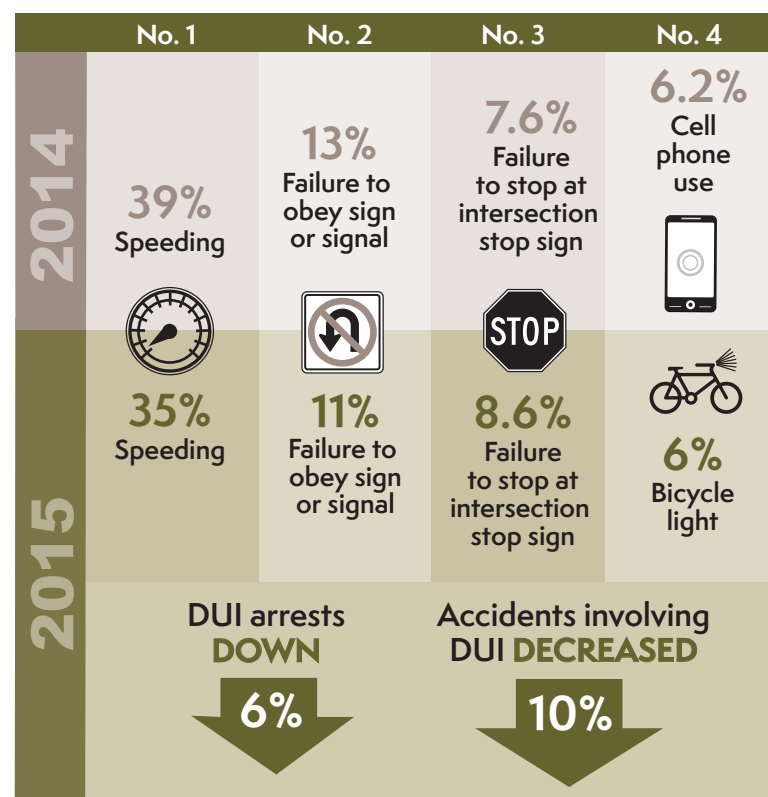
The Alcohol Enforcement Unit is responsible for monitoring alcohol sales at all licensed establishments within the city of Santa Cruz. This unit is responsible for gaining compliance from alcohol licensees through education and enforcement. The Alcohol Enforcement Unit works closely with the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control in providing free prevention and education training through the State Department of Alcohol Beverage Control’s LEAD Program (Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs). The Alcohol Enforcement Unit position is funded through a fee charged to all alcohol licensees within the city.

Drug and alcohol addiction issues are significant crime contributors in Santa Cruz. The Serial Inebriate Program, run by the County and supported by the Department, is designed to reduce the number of arrests for public intoxication by targeting and rehabilitating the repeat offenders. Of the 77 most recently identified Serial Inebriates in the County (defined by 5 arrests within a 6 month period) 90% originate from the city of Santa Cruz. The addiction problem is fueled by the high concentration of alcohol outlets throughout the city. From July 2014 to July 2015, over 60% of the alcohol related jail bookings were made by Santa Cruz Police Department versus the other law enforcement agencies in the county.

The Alcohol Enforcement Unit is committed to reduction of crime stemming from alcohol abuse. In collaboration with the Planning Department, the unit has been successful in identifying and regulating high-risk alcohol outlets. We will continue to participate and partner with the County’s Serial Inebriate Program and Sobering Center to address and reduce addiction in our city.



TOP 4 Moving Violation Citations



Traffic Unit

The Traffic Unit is primarily responsible for the enforcement of traffic laws and the investigation of traffic collisions, including hit and run criminal cases. The goal of the Traffic Unit is to maintain the orderly flow of traffic and reduce the number of traffic collisions on our city streets. This is accomplished by both education and enforcement activities. The unit assists on patrol calls for service, administers the school crossing guard program, responds to neighborhood traffic complaints, conducts traffic collision follow-up investigations, maintains traffic collision and enforcement statistics, conducts public and school traffic-safety education programs and develops special programs to promote vehicular and pedestrian safety within our city.

Abandoned Vehicle Abatement

In response to the community's desire to improve its appearance and to reduce an attraction to crime, a half-time Community Service Officer is assigned to remove any vehicle parked on a public street for more than 72-hours. Several abandoned, broken down and/or stripped vehicles are removed from our city streets each week. In 2015, 128 inoperable and nuisance vehicles and RVs were removed from the streets of Santa Cruz, an increase of 48% over 2014 removals.



Community Services Unit

The Community Services Unit has two full-time officers dedicated to crime prevention, education, and community outreach activities. Some of the successful programs run by the unit include the Citizens' Police Academy in English and Spanish, Teen Public Safety Police Academy, PRIDE, and BASTA.

The Santa Cruz Police Department's Citizen Police Academy offers city residents an inside look at the various aspects of law enforcement through a series of lectures, demonstrations and discussions. The 10-week program covers topics such as police investigations, gang culture, narcotics, arrest tactics, the court system, as well as presentations from our Emergency Services and K9 Units. Tours are also part of the program; participants visit the Regional 911 dispatch center and the County Jail. Each session is facilitated by an expert in their field and participants are encouraged to ask questions.

Youth outreach and intervention is the foundation to any crime prevention strategy. Our Community Services Unit police officers have educated, engaged, and developed trusting relationships with hundreds of Santa Cruz youth. The Teen Academy follows the same program outline as the Citizen's Police Academy, but is geared toward a youth audience.

Fostering a fun and dynamic learning experience, this program is run throughout the summer.

The Santa Cruz Police Department, in partnership with Santa Cruz City Schools, created the Personally Responsible Individual Development in Ethics (PRIDE) program — a multi-faceted approach to early gang prevention for local middle school-aged kids. The program is designed to educate, mentor and guide at-risk youth in the decision-making process. Due to the success of the program, it is now being hosted at the two middle schools year-round.

The Broad-Based Apprehension, Suppression, Treatment, and Alternatives (BASTA) program focuses on preventing and reducing youth gang violence, school truancy, suspensions, expulsions, and alcohol and drug abuse. Our Community Services police officers participate in county-wide collaborative events and host parent education nights as well as summer sports camp programs.

The Community Services Unit also focuses on identifying, addressing and resolving criminal and public nuisance complaints throughout the city. The unit works closely with neighborhood groups at resolving problems and abating suspected drug houses, resolving conflicts resulting from close proximity of residential and industrial land uses, loud and unruly parties, public nuisance crimes, and blight.



Parks Unit

The Parks Unit was created in 2006 following a voter-approved sales tax initiative in the city of Santa Cruz known as Measure H. Staffed by a Police Sergeant, Police Officer and four Community Service Officers, this unit works closely with the City’s Park Rangers to maintain a safe environment in our city’s neighborhood parks, open spaces and waterways.

In addition to patrolling our parks and open spaces, the Parks Unit coordinates and participates in several clean-ups throughout the year. Responding to public safety concerns at Pogonip, the unit and Park Rangers organized a substantial clean-up yielding more than 80 cubic yards of trash. The team found and removed more than 20 illegal campsites that were contributing to blight, environmental damage, and hindering public enjoyment of the openspace.



K-9 Unit

Lobo and Argus are our two police dogs that, together with their handlers, make up the K-9 Unit for the Santa Cruz Police Department. The police dogs are an effective tool in locating, detaining and apprehending suspects, assisting in crowd control situations, as well as locating missing persons and property. Like regular police officers, the K-9s are also required to complete POST certified hours of training. At the end of their shift, the dogs go home with their handlers and remain a family pet until the next work day.

Training Unit

The Training Unit is responsible for ensuring all staff are in compliance with Department and State mandated training. The unit also manages the Field Training program for newly hired officers, and the ongoing professional development of all personnel. The Department’s goal is to deliver training that meets and exceeds basic requirements to best serve the needs of our community.

Before an officer is assigned to a beat and allowed to patrol unsupervised, they must go through the Department’s 18 week Field Training program. A field training officer will mentor and supervise the police officer trainee on local ordinances, policies and procedures.

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requires that officers receive 24 hours of training every two years. The Santa Cruz Police Department’s training program exceeds that of POST accreditation standards, providing our officers up to 160 hours of training, annually. Officers receive training on crisis and mental health intervention, cultural diversity and sensitivity, identifying and responding to human trafficking, and tactical communication. They also receive training on critical skills like firearm qualifications, driving, and arrest and control tactics. With the newly developed Tactical Medic Program, special teams completed emergency medical training in partnership with the Santa Cruz Fire Department and Dominican ER staff.



School Resource Officer Program

The School Resource Officer program is a cost-sharing partnership with Santa Cruz City Schools that provides primary assignment of an officer to the two high schools and middle schools in the city. This partnership provides the opportunity for the Santa Cruz Police Department to develop a positive relationship and open communication among police, students, school staff and the community. In 2015, our School Resource Officer responded to and investigated more than 180 incidents at the schools, in addition to regular checks and contacts. Police presence at the campuses deters outside criminal influences and reduces violent crime and the number of calls for service. The School Resource Officer also educates students, parents and staff about gangs, drugs, and the dangers in the use of social media.



Emergency Services Unit

As the most highly-trained law enforcement team in Santa Cruz County, including members that have won state competitions in firearms and tactics, the Emergency Services Unit (ESU) trains on proactive and safe approaches to high-risk incidents. Specifically, the team has been used for high-risk warrant services on homicide suspects and gang houses, crowd control, hostage negotiations and water-based recovery and searches. ESU is broken into three specialties: Tactical, Dive and Hostage Negotiation.

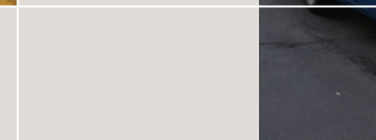
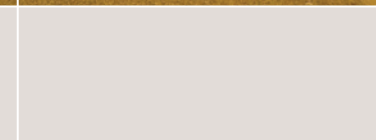
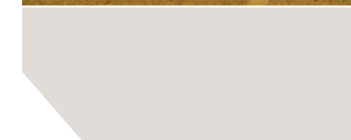
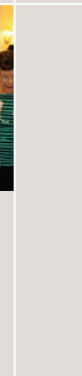
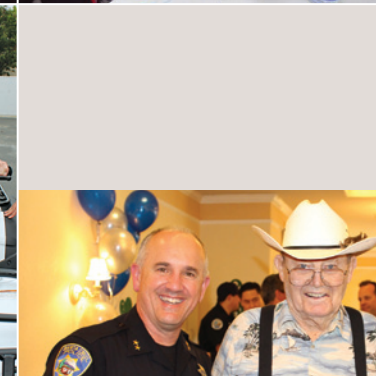
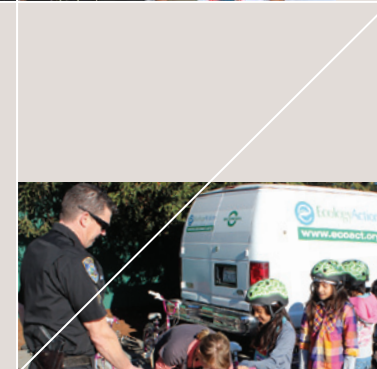
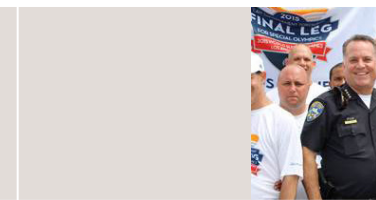
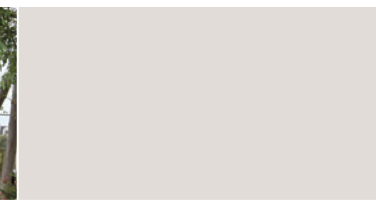
The Tactical Team works to safely execute arrest and search warrants, barricaded subjects, hostage rescue, and critical incidents that standard patrol officers are not trained or equipped to handle. Using modern and specialized equipment, the team trains in simulated situations throughout the year to maintain a high-level of preparedness for all crisis situations.

Santa Cruz Police Department was the first on the Central Coast to develop a Tactical Medic Program, incorporating specially trained medical personnel.

These teams coordinate and perfect their skill in high-risk lifesaving scenarios. The team partners with Santa Cruz Fire and Dominican ER medical doctors.

The Dive Team is deployed to assist in crime scene investigations and recovery occurring in an underwater environment. Processing underwater crime scenes requires specialized and ongoing training in the areas of search and recovery techniques, underwater photography, low and no visibility diving, underwater navigation, and the collection and preservation of evidence in waterborne environments. Since waterborne operations are inherently dangerous and require specific skills, each team member is required to maintain an advanced rescue diver certification.

Hostage Negotiation Team specialists aim to facilitate and negotiate safe conclusions to crisis situations. The team provides skilled negotiators to de-escalate and affect surrender in critical situations where suspects have taken hostages, barricaded themselves and/or exhibit suicidal behaviors.



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Officer of the Year

Each year, the Santa Cruz Police Department recognizes an officer who demonstrates exceptional performance above and beyond the call of duty. Nominated and selected by their peers, this award went to **MATT MULVIHILL** in 2015. Matt's proficiency in crime scene investigations, DUI enforcement, and vehicle theft recoveries has earned him numerous awards, including eight certificates of recognition for crime scene processing, special recognition for making 10 DUI arrests in 2008, and the CHP Master 10851 Award honoring his cumulative recovery of 112 stolen vehicles valued in excess of \$550,000.

Lifesaving Award

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors honors outstanding emergency responders for their lifesaving efforts. **OFFICER JESSE PIDCOCK** received the award in 2015 for saving the life of William Curtis when he collapsed while riding his bicycle. Officer Pidcock was the first to respond, and after assessing the situation, he immediately began CPR until paramedics arrived.



Promotions

Following a competitive testing process, two very deserving veteran officers, Bill Azua and Bill Clayton were selected and promoted to the position of Police Sergeant.

SERGEANT AZUA is a 20 year veteran of the Santa Cruz Police Department. He began his career assigned to foot patrol in the Beach Flats neighborhood. During his assignment, Sergeant Azua worked in partnership with the community to achieve positive change in the Beach Flats neighborhood. His active involvement was critical in garnering support for change, raising awareness of gang violence and reducing instances of violent crime. Sergeant Azua has enjoyed a number of specialized assignments during his career. Sergeant Azua is also a recognized expert in the field of gang and narcotic related crimes. Prior to his promotion, Sergeant Azua was



working in partnership with the Homeless Services Center to provide a better working relationship with law enforcement and the community.

SERGEANT CLAYTON worked in patrol, where he formed important community relationships and implemented creative strategies to improve neighborhood quality of life. Sergeant Clayton spent five years in the Traffic Unit as a motorcycle officer, where he developed an expertise in traffic collision investigations. A true leader in his field, he partnered with the California DMV where they developed a new process for tracking down scofflaw car owners during hit and run investigations. Sergeant Clayton serves on the department's Emergency Services Unit as an experienced Hostage and Crisis Negotiator. Prior to his promotion, Sergeant Clayton was assigned as a Field Training Officer, responsible for the training of new officers.

Years of Service

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sergeant Mike Medina
Sergeant Scott Campbell

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Officer Mike Hedley
Sergeant Bill Azua
Officer Patrick Bayani
Detective Juan Gallegos
Officer Ken Deeg

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sergeant Dave Forbus
Sergeant Arnold Vasquez
Officer Karina Ceceña
Detective Bruce Cline



Santa Cruz Police Department

155 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-420-5800



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youtube.com/SantaCruzPolice