

SYLVANIA POLICE DIVISION

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Mayor Frye,

I am pleased to present our 2024 Sylvania Police Division Annual Report. This report reflects the hard work, dedication and professional services provided by our men and women in blue. Our officers always strive to maintain the highest levels of service and professionalism for the citizens of Sylvania.

During 2024, the men and women of the police department faced many changes in personnel and law enforcement operations in the area. We had one officer resign in the last quarter of 2024. Our officer that attended the Academy in 2024, successfully completed the Academy and will be taking the state test early in 2025. The three officers were hired in the third quarter of 2023 have all completed their training and probationary period in 2024. Our agency continues to maintain the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Certification.

Calls for service in 2024 decreased slightly along with decreases in crime reports and traffic crash rates. Calls for police service decreased 5% with 11,346 in 2024 compared to 12,061 in 2023. Crime reports were also trending downward with 1076 in 2024 compared to 1097 in 2023. Traffic crashes were also down with 349 crash reports in 2024 compared to 367 in 2023. There were two traffic fatalities in 2024. Our calls for service and reports were down which reflects in a decrease in the time officers spent on calls for 2024 with a total of 4348 hours.

We understand the importance of continuing education of our officers and staff. In 2024 our employees attended 3864 hours of training. Some of our command staff also attended Supervisor Training and Education Program (STEP), Michigan State University School of Staff and Command, and FBI-LEEDA (Law Enforcement Executive Development Association). All of these programs are important supervisory training to maintain and grow our command staff.

Sylvania is an exceptional place to live and work. I believe that the efforts of our police officers, office staff, public safety cadets, and volunteers have all made a positive impact on the quality of life in this community. We will continue to meet and exceed the expectations of our citizens through professional community based service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danilyn M. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danilyn M. Miller

Chief of Police

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Sylvania Police Division to protect lives and property, prevent crime, and promote safety on our roadways while providing the highest levels of service in a professional manner.

CORE VALUES

- **Integrity-** Doing the right thing for the right reason.
- **Service-** We put the needs of the community first and strive to exceed expectations.
- **Professionalism-** We are committed to maintaining the highest professional standards.
- **Safety-** The safety of the public and our officers is always our highest priority.

**SYLVANIA POLICE DIVISION
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
On December 31, 2024**

Mayor of Sylvania
Craig Stough

Public Service/Safety Director
Joe Shaw

Chief of Police
Danilynn M. Miller

Internal Affairs
Assigned by the Chief

Administrative Secretary
Catherine Lafferty

Staff/Line Operations
Captain Douglas Hubaker

Special Services
Captain William Haase

Records and Support
Clerk II Heather Kelso
Clerk Danielle Hayward
Clerk Janelle Benarth
Cadet Tessa Gardella

Community Affairs
Sgt. Justin Bell
Ofc. Gerald Barnswell

Detective Bureau
Sgt. Justin Music
Det. Matthew Collins
Det. Steve Papenfuss
Det. Anthony Espinosa

School Resource Officer
Ofc. Zachary Andrzejewski
Ofc. Lindsey Russell

Line Operations - Uniform Patrol Section

<u>7-3 Shift</u>	<u>3-11 Shift</u>	<u>11-7 Shift</u>
Sgt. Andrew Thompson	Sgt. Bradley Marlin	Sgt. Eric Christen
Ofc. Russell Hoff	Sgt. John Pinkstaff	Sgt. Brad Clay
Ofc. David Vargo	Ofc. Kyla Simmons	Ofc. Chad Amstutz
Ofc. Patrick Gilmore	Ofc. Tanner King	Ofc. Jacob Hammer
Ofc. Cody Calendine	Ofc. Morgan Dietrich	Ofc. Richard Heber
Ofc. Daniel Richardson	Ofc. Mitchell Boraggina	Ofc. Connor Cytlak
Ofc. Erik Reichmanis	Ofc. Corey Wright	

I. PERSONNEL

Appointments:	None
Retirements:	None
Promotions:	Sergeant Brad Clay
Resignations:	Officer Brittany Holland
Termination:	None

At the close of 2024 the police division strength was 38 of 39 authorized personnel: Chief of Police, 2-Captains, 7-Sergeants, 22- Officers, 1-Cadets 1-Clerk II, 2-Clerks, 1-Administrative Secretary, and 1- Part-time Custodian.

II. Community Affairs

Introduction

The Office of Community Affairs continues to seek opportunities to provide effective educational programming as well as promote positive relations with members of the Sylvania Community. The officers assigned to the Office of Community Affairs are dedicated and work diligently to accomplish our mission. The Community Affairs Office and the Police Division are active in the following organizations and events:

- National Association of School Resource Officers
- Ohio Association of School Resource Officers
- National L.E.A.D. Officers Association
- National Crime Prevention Association
- Ohio Crime Prevention Association
- Sylvania Prevention Alliance
- Lucas County OVI Task Force
- Greater Toledo Safe Kids Coalition
- Sylvania Volunteers
- Sylvania Area Family Services
- Sylvania Spring Expo
- National Drug Take Back Day
- Sylvania Fall Festival
- Sylvania Chamber of Commerce
- Safety City
- University of Toledo Career Fair
- Shop with a Hero

As of December 31, 2024, the Ohio Attorney General office continues to support the Sylvania Police Division with the Drug Use Prevention grant. This funding assists with the costs associated with providing the L.E.A.D. program in our public schools as well as participating in other substance abuse prevention efforts in our community.

L.E.A.D./D.A.R.E.

2024 was the year the Sylvania Police Division instituted the Law Enforcement Against Drugs program in Sylvania Schools. The L.E.A.D. program replaced our D.A.R.E. program and has proven to be just as an important program for the office as D.A.R.E. Officer Lindsey Russell took over as the primary L.E.A.D. officer for educational programming in the community in August 2024. Due to Officer Russell's maternity leave, Officer Gerald Barnswell continued to teach L.E.A.D. in her absence. Officer Russell and Officer Barnswell were responsible for presenting the elementary L.E.A.D./ D.A.R.E. programs to the three public elementary schools and two private elementary schools in the City of Sylvania. Officer Barnswell was responsible

for presenting the middle school D.A.R.E. program to McCord Jr. High. Approximately 400 fifth grade students and 175 seventh grade students participated in our program in 2024. In 2025 we will replace our middle school D.A.R.E. curriculum with L.E.A.D.

Safety City

Community Affairs officers graduated 180 students from Sylvania Safety City this year. This was the 39th year for the program. The program was held at Maplewood Elementary this year. Our education coordinator for 2024 was Valerie Shnider. Ms. Shnider has been with the program since 2006 and continues to do an outstanding job with the program. Safety City was well received and continues to be a very important program in our community.

School Resource Officer and School Safety

Our school resource officers continue to be a resource for our community and effectively integrate into the high schools in our community. This was Officer Zach Andrzejewski's second year as Southview High School's School Resource Officer. Officer Barnswell took over as Northview High School's School Resource Officer after Officer Russell switched to our primary L.E.A.D. Officer. These officers are responsible for the general security at the school and have also proven to be a valuable resource in the schools by adapting to the various roles they play as staff members and safety professionals in the school system.

The School Resource Officers took police reports, completed investigations on school property, attended numerous school functions and talked to classes about legal issues and other police related topics. Both officers assisted school administrators with safety and security issues and attended school staff meetings as an advisor. Our School Resource Officers continue to assist with the A.L.I.C.E. school safety training in the district. Officer Andrzejewski and Officer Barnswell continue to work diligently to keep the lines of communication open with other area School Resource Officers and provide the most comprehensive service available to our school staff and students.

A.L.I.C.E. Program

The City of Sylvania Police Division and the Sylvania Township Police Division have continued to support the A.L.I.C.E. program in the Sylvania School system. This program has been presented to all staff members of the Sylvania School system and to students from 6th-12th grades. Community Affairs staff assisted with A.L.I.C.E. training that was presented to school staff members that were new to the district to ensure awareness and understanding of the concepts. The A.L.I.C.E. program provides occupants of our schools with response options to critical incidents such as active shooter incidents to help increase safety and mitigate these tragic events. Additionally, the Community Affairs staff members continue to support the school

system in the development and implementation of a comprehensive and structured approach to school safety.

School Resource Officer Statistics

Northview High School - Officer Barnswell		Southview High School – Officer Andrzejewski	
Presentations	6	Presentations	7
Meetings /Training	32	Meetings /Training	59
General Offense /Accident Reports	9	General Offense /Accident Reports	18
Citations / Warnings	7	Citations / Warnings	0
School Related Complaints/Interview	102	School Related Complaints/Interview	148
Parking Lot Assists	36	Parking Lot Assists	31
Court Appearances	2	Court Appearances	0
Security Issues	174	Security Issues	38
Misc.	93	Misc.	135

Volunteer Program

Hour Summary	
Total Patrol Volunteer hours for 2024	110.08
Total Event Volunteer hours for 2024	249.8
Total Hours for 2024	359.88

Volunteer Patrol Statistics	
Lockouts	0
House Checks	132
Road Patrol/Traffic Assists	0
Citizen/Motorist Assists	0
Special Assignments: Volunteers worked a total of 13 events in our community this year and assisted as role players for training purposes.	

Public Safety Cadets

The Public Safety Cadet program focuses on excellent training opportunities for the Public Safety Cadets to learn about Law Enforcement, as well as the opportunity to serve the community while gaining leadership skills and self-confidence. Some of the police topics that were covered during the meetings were:

- Joint Terrorism Task Force
- Taser Use
- Competition Preparation and Scenarios
- Critical Injury First-aid
- Building Searches

- Traffic Control
- Radio Communications
- Traffic Stops
- Traffic Crashes
- Ride Along Orientation
- Firearms
- Legal Process
- Careers in Law Enforcement
- Handcuffing
- Detective/Crime Scene Photography and Processing

The Public Safety Cadets worked the following events:

- Sylvania Business Expo
- Heart of Ohio Competition
- Glass City Marathon
- Pacesetter Soccer Invitational
- July 3rd Fireworks
- Sylvania Fall Festival
- Heart of Ohio Law Enforcement Explorer Competition

Officer Steve Deutschman (STPD) continued his role as Lead Mentor of the Public Safety Cadet program this year. Officer Lindsey Russell continued her roll as the Sylvania City liaison, assisting Officer Deutschman with the PSC program. We continue to coordinate with the Sylvania Township Police Department to provide a joint program for juveniles and young adults ages 14-20 years old. Our goal is to provide a program that offers an exceptional experience and opportunity for the Public Safety Cadets.

Bike Patrol

There were no big changes in bike patrol in 2024. Our total number of officers assigned to the Bike Patrol Unit is seven. Bike officers worked 81 hours of overtime. A majority of those hours were a result of working the following events: St. Joe's Festival, July 3rd Fireworks, Riding Late in County 48, the Northview vs. Southview football game, and the Olander Halloween Hike. Bike officers also patrolled our neighborhoods and parks during the summer months. The bike patrol unit has proven to be a great asset to have to this department due to the accessibility to areas patrol vehicles can't reach.

Conclusion

The Office of Community Affairs continues to support the mission of the Sylvania Police Division by presenting quality programs and services to our community. The Community Affairs officers continue to be creative in seeking opportunities to present an image of cooperation, professionalism, and quality service to our community. We look forward to the

opportunity to serve our community and meet the needs of our residents and community members in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

SGT. 

Sgt. Justin Bell #869
Office of Community Affairs
Sylvania Police Division

III. TRAINING

Proper training prepares officers and employees to act decisively and safely during stressful situations. Employees of City of Sylvania Police Division are well prepared to provide exceptional police service to the community.

Training Hours:

2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
3864	3195	3154	4139	1,328	1,948	2,431.50

All officers of the Division successfully completed their CPT hours with the State of Ohio to maintain certification. For 2024, all officers received the required training in Victim’s Rights/Marcy’s Law, Legal Updates, Responding to Mental Health Issues, Crisis Mitigation De-Escalation, and NIBIN.

Officers also received training in CPR/AED, Emergency Vehicle Operation, LEADS Security Training, Ohio Ethics Law and Law Enforcement, Taser, and Prisoner Transports.

IV. RECORDS AND SUPPORT

The records staff answer the main administration phone line for the police department and help lobby visitors Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Services provided to the public include records requests, background checks and child car seat installations. Each division of the police department needs various levels of support from road patrol, detective bureau and community affairs. In addition, criminal & traffic charges and subpoenas are processed for Sylvania Municipal and Lucas County courts. Statistical records are gathered for the department & shared with many government entities. As records are created by each division of the department, the records retention schedule is kept up-to-date and in compliance with the Ohio History Connection of the State Archive of Ohio.

	2024	2023
Public:		
Report requests:	278	358
Body/dash cam PR requests:	84	37
Rolled Ink Fingerprinting	8	8
Webchecks:	195	178
Car seat checks:	37	32
Multiple Hand Gun Sales Reporting:	50	45

Courts:

Body/dash cam for courts:	143	90
Expungements for courts:	71	53

Police:

Solicitor permits:	34	26
Second-Hand dealer permits:	4	n/a
Special event permits:	18	22
Block Party permits:	7	7
Notary services:	16	24
False Alarm Letters:	65	54

Property Room:

The property room falls under the records division and tracks the inventory for property confiscated at the scene of a crime, used for investigations, destroyed and/or returned after court cases are concluded.

	2024	2023
Items in the property room that were destroyed:	400	*
Items checked into custody:	182	*
Items released to owner:	17	*
Items ready to be destroyed:	80	*
Pounds of unused Rx medicine from lobby drop-off bin:	189.5 lbs.	166.5 lbs.

*Due to changes in dispositions, stats were not comparable for 2023.

Records Division Training:	2024	2023
Three records clerks	53.5 hours	42.5 hours

V. DETECTIVE BUREAU

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Active Case Load by Investigator		
Detective	Assigned	Cleared*
Sgt. Music	45	48
Det. Collins	41	41
Det. Papenfuss	43	52
Det. Espinosa	68	68
Annual Totals	197	

*Includes cases that were being investigated from previous years.

Number of cases under investigation as of 12/31/2024	29
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Forensic Program Examinations	
Mobile Device Extractions Completed	25
Storage Device Extractions Completed	34
Computers/Hard Drive Extractions Completed	14

(Submitted by Detective Sergeant Justin Music)

VI. CRIME REPORTS

Crime reports decreased by 1% in 2024. Major crimes, as defined by the FBI Uniform Crime Report as Part I Crimes, decreased by 17%. Certainly, any crime is not a good thing but using only percentages to identify the crime occurrences in our community does not show a fully accurate picture. We have a very low crime rate in Sylvania and just a few crimes can have a dramatic impact on crime percentages. We did have two fatalities that resulted in two Aggravated Vehicular Homicide charges. There was also one assault on a Sylvania Police Officer.

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
REPORTS	1076	1097	1034	1048	915
CHANGE	-1%	+6%	-1%	+13%	-41%

Major Crimes -17%

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Homicide	2	0	1	0	0
Rape	2	6	2	7	2
Robbery	2	2	1	5	4
Assault	62	74	45	65	29
Burglary	13	16	17	5	25

VII. TRAFFIC BUREAU

Traffic crashes decreased by 4% in 2024, with a total of 349 crashes. Out of those 349 crashes, 88 resulted in injuries with 2 traffic related fatalities.

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CRASHES	349	367	363	408	317

Traffic enforcement throughout the city is largely dictated by citizen requests for selective enforcement and information developed through traffic crash reports. When not answering calls for service or conducting crime prevention activities, officers are assigned to traffic enforcement.

Some of our traffic enforcement is funded by state and federal grants which we receive for specific enforcement programs. During 2024 we participated in regional programs centered on OVI enforcement. Our patrol officers worked 123 hours of overtime on impaired driving (OVI) and other traffic enforcement grants.

While looking at the total count of citations written by officers, it is important to note the correlation in the decrease in citations to the increase in total violations. This is because there can be multiple violations during one incident that are written on one citation.

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Citations	471	552	553	432	370
Violations	628	617	615	493	430

VIII. UNIFORM PATROL

The Uniform Patrol section comprises 70% of the Police Division manpower. These officers and supervisors provide the majority of police services to the community.

There was an 1% decrease in work activity for the uniform patrol officers in 2024 with a 5% decrease in total calls for police service. Response time to emergency priority-1 calls increased in 2024 to 2:31 minutes. Activity increase can be partially attributed to staffing levels increasing with new hires. In 2024, officers spent approximately 4348 hours on calls for service, a 33% decrease from 2023.

Uniform Patrol Activity

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Crime Reports Taken	1076	1097	1,034	1,048	915
Traffic Crashes Investigated	349	367	363	408	317
Traffic Citations Issued	471	552	553	432	370
Traffic Violations	628	617	615	493	430
Traffic Stops	4235	4379	3256	2469	2166
Warnings (verbal/written)	3733	3795	2715	2038	1784
Criminal Arrests (Adult/Juvenile)	245/32	254	210	258	222
Parking Tickets	18	17	17	24	23
Vacation House Checks	581	1958	2,644	1,180	3,295
Motorist Assist - Breakdown	195	220	248	202	180
Motorist Assist - Lockout	177	214	205	243	198
Business Checks	30,663	29,706	22,948	25,237	24,407

Mutual Aid Requests	96	90			
False Alarms	328	298	311	274	188
Prisoner Transports to Sylvania Municipal Court	9				

*SPD contracted with Sylvania Township Police in 2014 to perform prisoner transports for our department. This contract was stopped in June of 2024.

There was an 5% decrease in total calls for police service in 2024 and a 34% decrease in emergency priority-1 calls.

Response times for our officers to all calls for services have increased since the consolidation of dispatch in 2022, which we continued to see a slight increase this year:

<u>Priority</u>	<u># of Calls</u>	<u>Response Time Minutes : Seconds</u>
Priority-1:	216	2:31
Priority-2:	6946	3:32
Priority-3:	4184	3:35

2024 Total Calls for Police Service: 11346

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Past Calls for Service:	12,061	11,211	12,593	11,474	14,229	16,005

IX. GRANTS and REVENUE

A. GRANTS

We received (2) two grants for Community Affairs in 2024. We were awarded \$7918.80 from the Ohio Attorney General's office for Drug Use Prevention (FFY2023 program) – and \$1,215.35 for supplies for the DARE Program taught in Sylvania Schools.

In addition to the above grants received by our office of Community Affairs, we also participated in the Lucas County OVI Task Force that concentrates on enforcement of laws pertaining to drinking and driving. During FFY 2024 we received \$9,967.30 for our participation that went toward the payment for the officers to work at the OVI checkpoints and OVI traffic enforcement. This was the 21st consecutive year we participated in this enforcement program.

We also worked in partnership with Sylvania Prevention Alliance for a grant to conduct compliance checks on local establishments selling alcohol. We were reimbursed \$2,985.75 in wages to conduct these checks.

Our Sylvania Metro Response Team received \$5250 from an Ohio Attorney General Officer Strategic Response Training Grant. This training was hosted at Northview High School and was for Tactical Team Response to Active Threats.

Also in 2024, a reimbursement grant was received from the Ohio Workers Compensation Law Enforcement Body Armor Program in the amount of \$3,615.

REVENUE RECEIVED**2024**

Forfeiture Proceeds 225	\$432.12
Mandatory Drug Fines 226	\$38,631.98**
Federal & HIDTA 229	\$31,648.85
Block Party Permit Fee	\$200.00
Continuing Professional Education Training Funds	\$72,434.32
Copies of Reports	\$8.90
Event Application Fee	\$200.00
Event Permit Fee	\$27,775.56
False Alarm Fee	\$810.00
Fees for Training	\$0
Fingerprinting	\$7,948.00
Grants	\$27,337.20
Local Background Check	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$4855.15
Paid Parking Tickets	\$170.00
Program Donations	\$25,000.00
Safety City Fees	\$9,000.00
Secondhand Dealer License	\$500.00
Solicitor License	\$2,900.00
Vehicle Immobilization	\$105.00
*Officer Overtime Reimbursement	<u>\$0</u>
TOTAL	\$249,147.08

* Officers can be called on to do traffic control for construction projects or other events that are conducted on City Overtime. This line item reflects the wages billed to and received from the person requesting those services.

**Funds increased due to settlement payments from National Opioid lawsuit \$36,756.66 received in total in 2024.