

SYLVANIA POLICE DIVISION

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Mayor Frye,

I am pleased to present our 2025 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 2025, the men and women of the police department faced many changes in personnel and law enforcement operations in the area. Our officer that attended the Academy in 2024, successfully completed the Academy and passed the state certification in January of 2025. Two additional officers were hired in the first quarter of 2025. These two replaced the two officers who were assigned to Sylvania Municipal Court Security. Our agency continues to maintain the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Certification.

Calls for service in 2025 increased slightly along with increases in crime reports and traffic crash rates. Calls for police service increased 4% with 11,909 in 2025 compared to 11,346 in 2024. Crime reports were also trending upward with 1170 in 2025 compared to 1076 in 2024. Traffic crashes were also up with 373 crash reports in 2025 compared to 349 in 2024. Officers spent 3820 hours on calls for service in 2025 which is a decrease in the time officers spent on calls for 2024 which was a total of 4348 hours.

We understand the importance of continuing education of our officers and staff. In 2025 our employees attended 4312 hours of training. As we continue to grow and train our current supervisors, two sergeants this year attended FBI-LEEDA (Law Enforcement Executive Development Association) which is three weeks of supervision to executive level training. All officers eligible to be acting shift commanders in the absence of a shift sergeant attended an in-house shift commander academy and some officers attended first line supervision classes. All of these programs are important supervisory training to maintain and grow our command staff and the future of our department.

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,



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.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
September 2025**

Mayor of Sylvania
Mark Frye

Public Service/Safety Director
Joe Shaw

Chief of Police
Danilynn M. Miller

Internal Affairs
Assigned by the Chief

Administrative Secretary
Janelle Benarth

Staff/Line Operations
Captain Douglas Hubaker

Special Services
Captain William Haase

Records and Support
Clerk II Heather Kelso
Clerk Danielle Hayward
Clerk Ben Ellis

Community Affairs
Sgt. Justin Bell
Ofc. Lindsey Russell

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

Court Officer
Ofc. Jake Hammer
Ofc. Dan Richardson

School Resource Officer
Ofc. Zachary Andrzejewski
Ofc. Gerald Barnswell

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
	Sgt. John Pinkstaff	Sgt. Brad Clay
Ofc. Russell Hoff		
Ofc. David Vargo	Ofc. Tanner King	Ofc. Chad Amstutz
Ofc. Patrick Gilmore	Ofc. Morgan Ferguson	Ofc. Richard Heber
Ofc. Cody Calendine	Ofc. Mitchell Boraggina	Ofc. Ryan Stager
Ofc. Kyla Simmons	Ofc. Connor Cytlak	Ofc. Erik Reichmanis
Ofc. Tessa Gardella*	Ofc. Corey Wright	Ofc. Arin Hovey *
Ofc. Austin Bly*	Ofc. Bryan Smith *	

*Probationary Officer

I. PERSONNEL

Appointments: Officer Tessa Gardella
 Officer Arin Hovey
 Officer Bryan Smith
 Officer Austin Bly
 Clerk Ben Ellis

Retirements: Cathy Lafferty

Promotions: Clerk Janelle Benarth to Chief's Assistant

Resignations: None

Termination: None

At the close of 2025 the police division strength was 40 of 41 authorized personnel: Chief of Police, 2-Captains, 7-Sergeants, 26- Officers, 0-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:

- Ohio School Resource Officers Association
- Ohio Law Enforcement Education Advocates Association
- National L.E.AD. Officers Association
- Ohio Crime Prevention Association
- Sylvania Prevention Alliance
- Lucas County OVI Task Force
- Public Safety Cadets
- Sylvania Senior Center
- Sylvania Schools
- Sylvania Board of Education
- Autism Society of Northwest Ohio
- Blue Guardian Program
- Toledo Islamic Academy
- St. Joseph's Parish
- 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
- The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
- Greater Toledo Safe Kids Coalition
- Sylvania Volunteers Program
- Sylvania Area Family Services
- Police Station Tours
- Sophia Center
- Sylvania Exchange Club
- Gold Fish Swim School
- Project iAm
- Woodrow Child Care Center

L.E.A.D.

2025 was the second year the Sylvania Police Division taught the Law Enforcement Against Drugs program in Sylvania Schools. The L.E.A.D. program replaced our D.A.R.E. program in 2024 and has been well received by students and teaching staff. Officer Russell was responsible for presenting the elementary L.E.A.D. programs to the three public elementary schools and two private elementary schools in the City of Sylvania. A Leo the Lab mascot outfit was commissioned from Avant Garb in 2025 to help promote the L.E.A.D. program in our community. He's already made multiple appearances in Sylvania's Schools and civic events and even has his own column in the Sylvania Advantage – Paws and Protect with Leo. He's a big hit!

As of December 31, 2025, 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.

Safety City

Community Affairs officers graduated 180 students from Sylvania Safety City program this year. This was the 40th year for the program. The program was held at Maplewood Elementary this year. Our education coordinator for 2025 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 third year as Southview High School's School Resource Officer. Officer Barnswell completed his second year as Northview High School's School Resource 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 and L.E.A.D. officer 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 is presented to all staff members of the Sylvania School system during orientation each new school year. It is also presented to students from 6th-12th grades by the school staff. 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. They regularly oversee A.L.I.C.E. drills that are conducted in the schools and provide feedback to the Sylvania Schools staff.

School Resource Officer Statistics

Northview High School - Officer Barnswell		Southview High School – Officer Andrzejewski	
Presentations	7	Presentations	6
Meetings /Training	36	Meetings /Training	67
General Offense /Accident Reports	10	General Offense /Accident Reports	12
Citations / Warnings	14	Citations / Warnings	0
School Related Complaints/Interview	34	School Related Complaints/Interview	161
Parking Lot Assists	14	Parking Lot Assists	34
Court Appearances	0	Court Appearances	0
Security Issues	119	Security Issues	52
Misc.	99	Misc.	182

Volunteer Program

Hour Summary	
Total Patrol Volunteer hours for 2025	66
Total Event Volunteer hours for 2025	187.75
Total Hours for 2025	253.75
Special Assignments: Volunteers worked a total of 14 events in our community this year and assisted as role players for training purposes.	

Volunteer Patrol Statistics	
Lockouts	0
House Checks	96
Road Patrol/Traffic Assists	0
Citizen/Motorist Assists	0

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:

- Traffic Crashes
- Domestic Violence and Disorderly Conduct
- Tactical Medic
- Fingerprinting/ Crime Scene Processing
- Burglaries-in-progress
- Building searches
- Active shooters
- MILO Simulator
- Firearms and Range Day
- OVI Stops
- Traffic control and radio communications
- Warrants
- Traffic stop scenarios
- Taser
- Command Staff interviews
- Team Building
- Cold Cases
- Drone Program
- Special Response Team
- Law Enforcement Policy & Procedures

Due to Township Officer Ben Bostater's promotion to Sergeant, the Sylvania Township Police Department will be appointing Officer Joe Sulaica as the Sylvania Township Liaison in January, 2026. Officer Lindsey Russell continued her role as the Sylvania City liaison, assisting Sgt. Bostater 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

Our total number of officers assigned to the Bike Patrol Unit is seven. Four **Aventon Adventure 3 Electric Bicycles** were purchased for the Bike Patrol Unit in August. Officers road a total of **27.25 hours** during normal work hours and **76 hours** of overtime. A majority of those hours were a result of working the following events: St. Joe's Festival, the Toledo Air Show, July 3rd Fireworks, Riding Late in County 48, the Northview vs. Southview football game, and Trick-or-Treat. Bike officers also patrolled our neighborhoods and parks during the summer and fall 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 2026.

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:

2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
4312	3864	3195	3154	4139	1,328	1,948

All officers of the Division successfully completed their CPT hours with the State of Ohio to maintain certification. For 2025, all officers received the required training in Use of Force, Ethics, Legal Update, Arrest Search and Seizure. Officers also had training in Officer Trauma and Wellness, Domestic Violence, Vehicle Dynamics, Report Writing and Leadership topics.

Several in house trainings were developed and held for our officers. These included: Wellness training, Report Writing, Shift Commander Academy, and Taser 10 conversion. An OPOTA class was brought to our police department as joint training with Sylvania Township Police and other area agencies covering introduction to Policy and Procedure for command staff. Three of our new officers attended Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), continuing our goal to have all officers certified in this training.

The administrative staff attended the Ohio Chiefs of Police Conference, the Ohio Collaborative Conference and the Ohio Attorney General’s Law Enforcement Training Symposium.

IV. RECORDS AND SUPPORT

The records staff answer the main administration phone line for the police department & help lobby visitors Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Services provided to the public include records requests, background checks & 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 & 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 & in compliance with the Ohio History Connection of the State Archive of Ohio.

With the passing of Ohio House Bill 315 on April 3, 2025, as it applies to public records requests pursuant to O.R.C 149.43(B)(1), involving prepayment for the production & release of dash & body worn camera video records created & maintained by the Sylvania Police Division, there was a dramatic decrease in requests. Most of the requests were made by for-profit websites or YouTube content creators. Once our policy went into effect and shared with requestors, they ultimately decided not to go through with their request.

	2025	2024
Public:		
Report requests:	945	453*
Body/dash cam PR requests:	31	84
Rolled Ink Fingerprinting	8	8
Webchecks:	159	195
Car seat checks:	40	37
Multiple Hand Gun Sales Reporting:	103	50
		<small>*actual after recount</small>
Courts:		
Subpoena/Body/dash cam for Syl. Muni	98	143
Subpoena/Body/dash cam for other courts	31	(reported together last year)
Expungements for courts:	48	71
Police:		
Solicitor permits:	38	34
Second-Hand dealer permits:	5	4
Special event permits:	10	18
Block Party permits:	5	7
Notary services:	23	16
False Alarm Letters:	78	65

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.

	2025	2024
Items in the property room that were destroyed:	627	400
Items checked into custody:	408	182
Items released to owner:	23	17
Items ready to be destroyed:	56	80
Pounds of unused Rx medicine from lobby drop-off bin:	159 lbs.	189.5 lbs.

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

Records Division Training:	2025	2024
Three records clerks	216.10 hours	53.5 hours

V. DETECTIVE BUREAU

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Active Case Load by Investigator		
Detective	Assigned	Cleared*
Sgt. Music	36	36
Det. Collins	44	45
Det. Papenfuss	65	68
Det. Espinosa	40	44
Annual Totals	185	193

*Includes cases that were being investigated from previous years.

Number of cases under Investigation as of 12/31/2025	24
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Forensic Program Examinations	
Mobile Device Extractions Completed	33
Storage Device Extractions Completed	20
Computers/Hard Drive Extractions Completed	14

(Submitted by Detective Sergeant Justin Music)

VI. CRIME REPORTS

Crime reports increased by 8% in 2025. Major crimes, as defined by the FBI Uniform Crime Report as Part I Crimes, saw no percentage change. 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. Our Homicides and Rapes were reported at none for the year, there was an increase in the number of assaults reported.

YEAR	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
REPORTS	1170	1076	1097	1034	1048
CHANGE	+8%	-1%	+6%	-1%	+13%

Major Crimes -17%

Year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Homicide	0	2	0	1	0
Rape	0	2	6	2	7
Robbery	1	2	2	1	5
Assault	73	62	74	45	65
Burglary	7	13	16	17	5

VII. TRAFFIC BUREAU

Traffic crashes increased by 6% in 2025, with a total of 373 crashes. Out of those 373 crashes, 86 resulted in injuries. We had no traffic related fatalities.

YEAR	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
CRASHES	373	349	367	363	408

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 2025 we participated in regional programs centered on OVI enforcement. Our patrol officers worked 123.75 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	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Citations	656	471	552	553	432
Violations	840	628	617	615	493

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 a 4% increase in total calls for police service in 2025. Response time to emergency priority-1 calls decreased in 2025 to 2:19 minutes. Activity increase can be partially attributed to staffing levels increasing with new hires. In 2025, officers spent approximately 3820 hours on calls for service, a 12% decrease from 2024.

Uniform Patrol Activity

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Crime Reports Taken	1170	1076	1097	1,034	1,048
Traffic Crashes Investigated	373	349	367	363	408
Traffic Citations Issued	656	471	552	553	432
Traffic Violations	840	628	617	615	493
Traffic Stops	4336	4235	4379	3256	2469
Warnings (verbal/written)	3693	3733	3795	2715	2038
Criminal Arrests (Adult/Juvenile)	335/14	245/32	254	210	258
Parking Tickets	22	18	17	17	24
Vacation House Checks	1518	581	1958	2,644	1,180
Motorist Assist - Breakdown	220	195	220	248	202
Motorist Assist - Lockout	192	177	214	205	243
Business Checks	24,432	30,663	29,706	22,948	25,237

Mutual Aid Requests	97	96	90		
False Alarms	337	328	298	311	274
Prisoner Transports to Sylvania Municipal Court	3	9			

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

Response times for our officers to all calls for services have increased since the consolidation of dispatch in 2022, which we continued to see similar times to 2024:

<u>Priority</u>	<u># of Calls</u>	<u>Response Time Minutes : Seconds</u>
Priority-1:	240	2:19
Priority-2:	7154	3:52
Priority-3:	4515	3:44

2025 Total Calls for Police Service:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Past Calls for Service:	11,909	11,346	12,061	11,211	12,593	11,474

IX. GRANTS and REVENUE

A. GRANTS

We received (2) two grants for Community Affairs in 2025. We were awarded \$10,690.38 from the Ohio Attorney General's office for Drug Use Prevention (FFY2024 program) – and \$785.79 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 2025 we received \$5,250 for our participation that went toward the payment for the officers to work at the OVI checkpoints and OVI traffic enforcement. This was the 22nd 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 \$2,779.73 in wages to conduct these checks.

Also in 2025, a reimbursement grant was received from the Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership in the amount of \$1,117.50.

REVENUE RECEIVED**2024**

Forfeiture Proceeds 225	\$23835.53
Mandatory Drug Fines 226	\$20363.15**
Federal & HIDTA 229	\$1380.39
Block Party Permit Fee	\$250.00
Continuing Professional Education Training Funds	\$64830.25
Copies of Reports	\$179.89
Event Application Fee	\$725.00
Event Permit Fee	\$31751.07
False Alarm Fee	\$6000.00
Fees for Training	\$300.00
Fingerprinting	\$5531.25
Grants	\$22043.93
Local Background Check	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$3611.67
Paid Parking Tickets	\$390.00
Program Donations	\$50,000.00
Safety City Fees	\$8617.61
Secondhand Dealer License	\$625.00
Solicitor License	\$3600.00
Vehicle Immobilization	\$470.00
*Officer Overtime Reimbursement	<u>\$410.64</u>
TOTAL	\$244,915.38

* 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 \$19,614.27 received in total in 2025.

