



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



**Buckeye Police Department**

[www.buckeyeaz.gov/residents/police](http://www.buckeyeaz.gov/residents/police)

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# MAYOR, COUNCIL & CITY MANAGER



*Mayor  
Jackie A. Meck*



*City Manager  
Roger Klingler*



*District 1  
Tony Youngker*



*District 4  
Patrick HagEstad*



*District 2  
Jeanine Guy*



*District 5  
Craig Heustis*



*District 3  
Michelle Hess*



*District 6  
Eric Orsborn*

# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

It is my great honor to continue to serve as Police Chief of the Buckeye Police Department, an outstanding public service agency in the great City of Buckeye. In 2018, the men and women of this department excelled in carrying out our mission of being, "Always ready, professional and committed to the people we serve." This accomplishment is due to the dedication and talent of our sworn and civilian employees, as well as our thriving group of volunteers. The success of the Buckeye Police Department is also the result of a supportive City Council and City Management Team. Above all, our achievements in the past year reflect the interactive and trusting relationship we enjoy with the citizens of this city, for which we are grateful.



Protecting lives and property in a courteous, respectful and transparent way, continues to be our top priority. The demand for police services has increased with our first responders answering 45,879 calls for service in 2018. Population in Buckeye grew by 18% from 2017, and while our officer to 1000 residents decreased slightly, our crimes per 1000 residents stayed the same at 18.

In November 2018, the Department underwent an extensive assessment of the Public Safety Communications Center by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The excellent review rating kept the Department well on its way to becoming the first CALEA Accredited Public Safety Communications Center in the state of Arizona.

Throughout 2018, we continued to promote key personnel and hire positions to add to the professionalism of the organization including: an Administration Lieutenant, who is also our in-house legal advisor, a grant funded Victim Advocate, and our first full-time Public Information Officer to assure transparency and the expansion of our interaction with the community through social media.

Technological advancement has allowed for increased customer service, with the launch of Text to 9-1-1 services for Buckeye residents. This provides an alternate method for the public to contact the police department during an emergency.

I am a firm believer in training. To that end, nearly half of our patrol officers are now certified in crisis intervention and de-escalation to address the growing number of calls involving those with mental health issues. Our officers are also equipped with and trained in a myriad of less-lethal options for the preservation of life.

Our volunteers maintained a significant presence in daily operations. The Department hosted two Citizen Academy classes, a Youth Teen Academy during the summer and re-instated the Buckeye Police Explorer Post, which currently has four police advisors and 14 cadets.

These are just some of the highlights BPD has accomplished in 2018. As you read this report, I believe you will have as much pride in this Department as I do. The future is bright for our city and your Buckeye Police Department. We remain diligent and committed to reducing crime and improving the quality of life for our residents!

*Larry Hall*

*Chief of Police*

## MISSION STATEMENT/VISION STATEMENT/CORE VALUES

### Mission Statement

*Always ready, professional and committed to the people we serve.*

### Vision Statement

*United in the spirit of teamwork, the Buckeye Police Department will work together with the Community to resolve problems, reduce crime and the fear of crime, and provide a safe environment for everyone.*

### Core Values

T

Trust

R

Respect

A

Accountability

I

Integrity

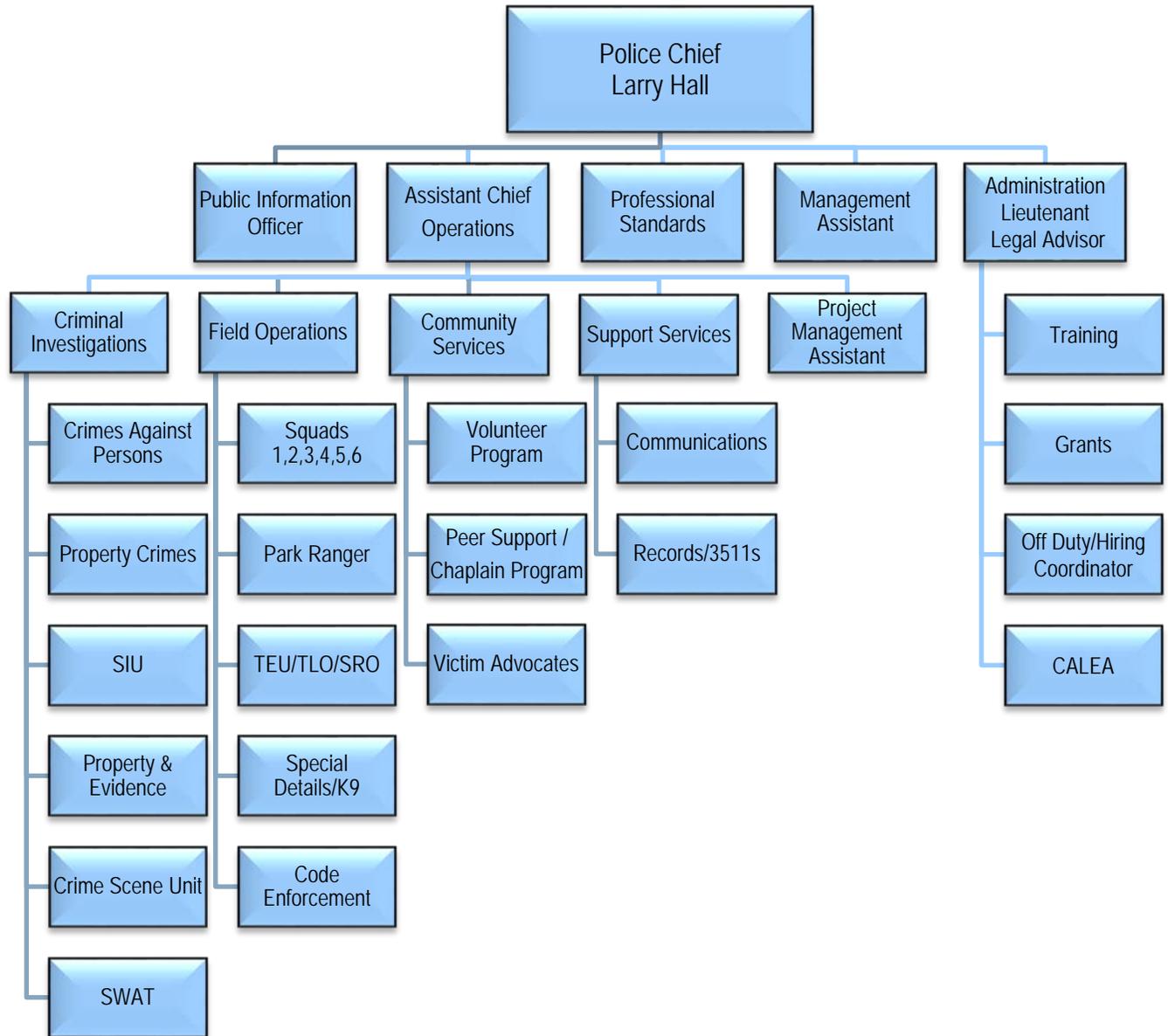
T

Teamwork

S

Service

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

In the fall of 2018, the Buckeye Police Department hired its first full-time Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO is responsible for both internal and external communications for the Buckeye Police Department, to employees, citizens, visitors and local, state, national and international media.

Donna Rossi serves as the inaugural Buckeye Police PIO and reports directly to Chief Larry Hall. As the primary spokesperson for the agency, Donna's duties include media and public relations, management of the Department's social media accounts and community relations.



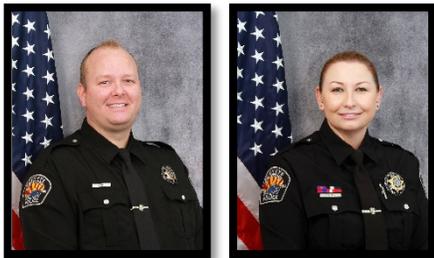
**Donna Rossi**  
**Public Information Officer**

The public and media information function is a 24/7 operation. In addition to the full-time PIO, two sworn personnel, Det. Tamela

Skaggs and Det. Larry Biffin

assist in PIO duties and take on-call PIO shifts.

The PIO is also responsible for establishing a crisis management strategy, planning and implementing informational campaigns and branding and promoting the Department in accordance with its mission.



**Det. Biffin**

**Det. Skaggs**

Throughout the year, the PIO team issues news releases, responds to scenes and disseminates vital information to the public via

various social media platforms. Social media continues to dominate, and is an integral part of the communication and citizen engagement strategy of the Buckeye Police Department. In the last quarter of 2018, the footprint of the Buckeye Police Department's social media profile increased significantly. The push to increase our social media followership will be a priority.



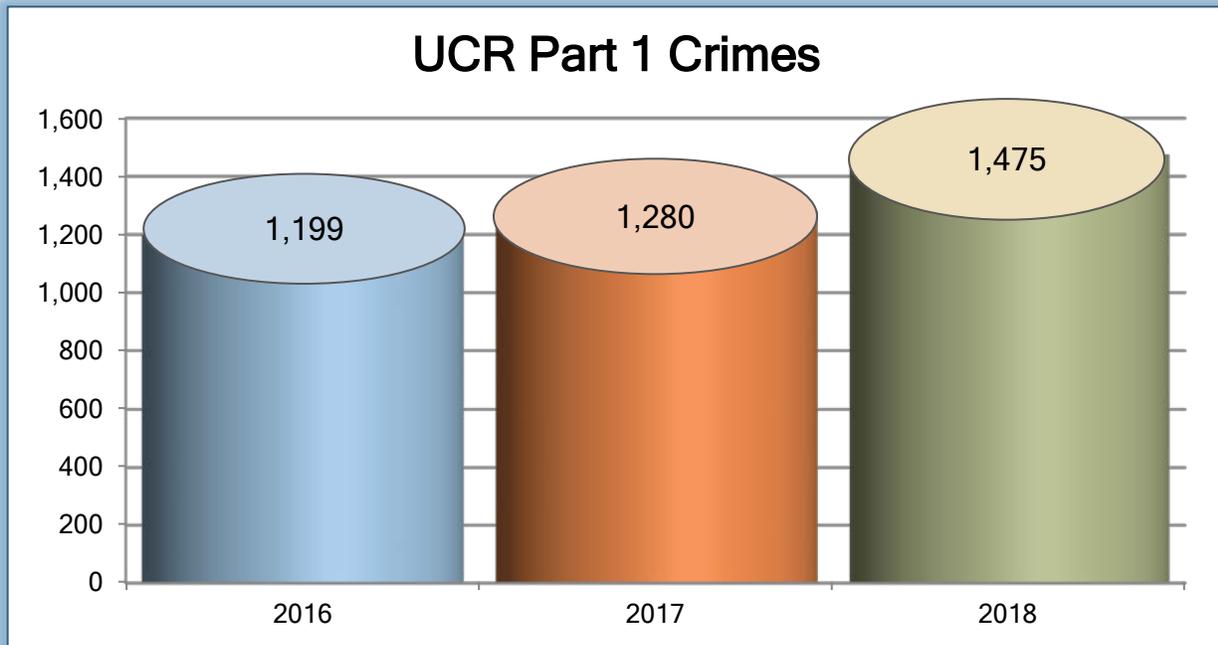
In 2018, local and statewide media outlets continued to keep a watchful eye on the Buckeye case of missing 10-year-old Jesse Wilson. The Department continues to be available and responsive to the media regarding that case and all others affecting the community. When necessary, the PIO or on-call PIO will work with scene supervisors to conduct media on-camera or radio interviews.

In the coming year, the Public Information Office will continue to support the mission of reducing crime and the fear of crime, by disseminating timely, factual and informative information to the public and media. Transparency and truthfulness is at the core of our messaging.

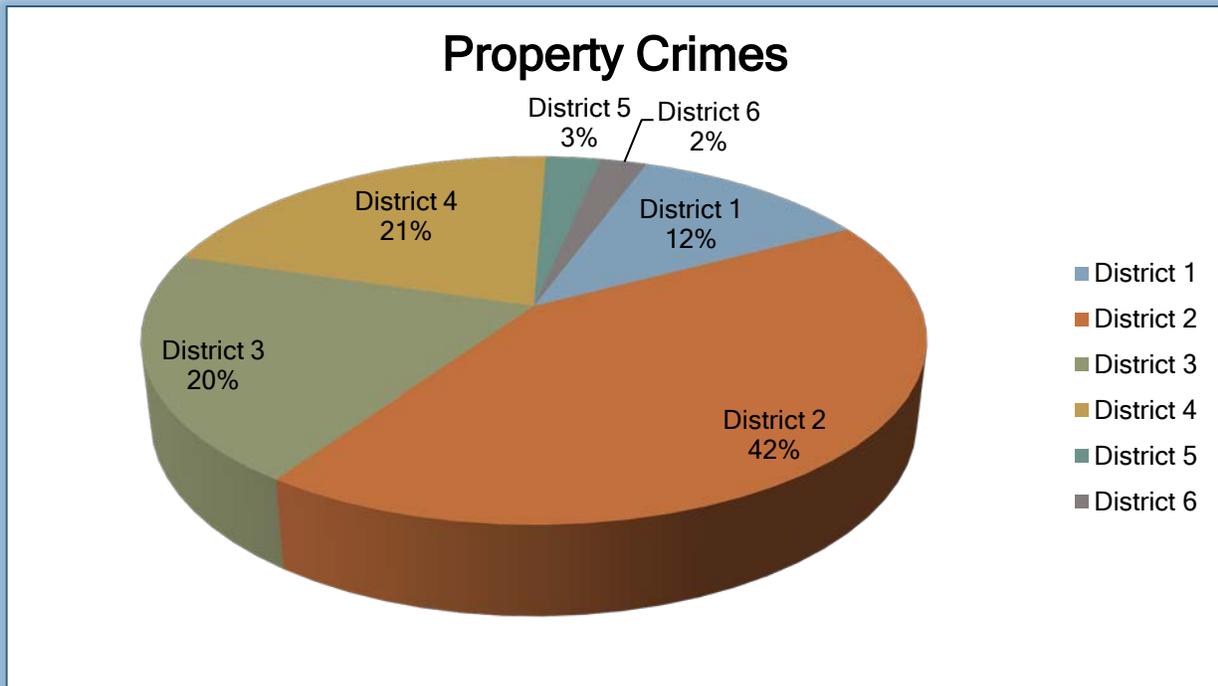
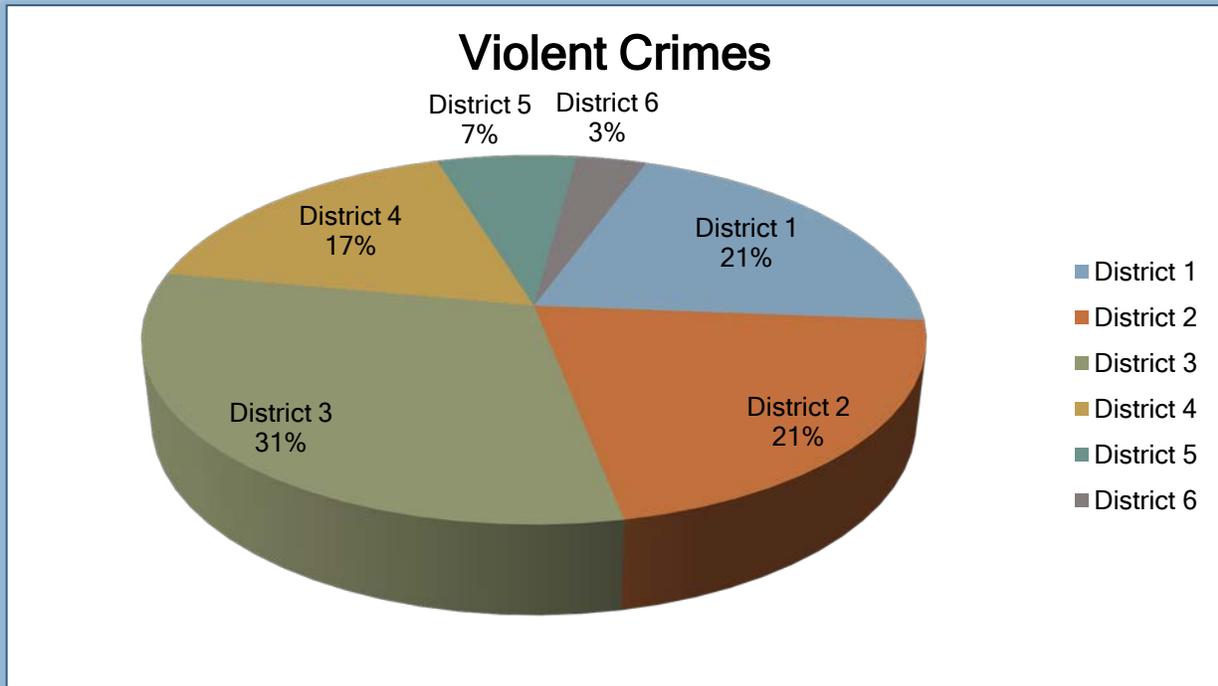
# CITY OF BUCKEYE FBI INDEX CRIMES

Year	Homicide	Sex Assault	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson	Total
2016	2	15	15	53	111	931	70	2	1199
2017	4	27	16	37	149	980	64	3	1280
2018	2	30	16	78	172	1112	64	1	1475

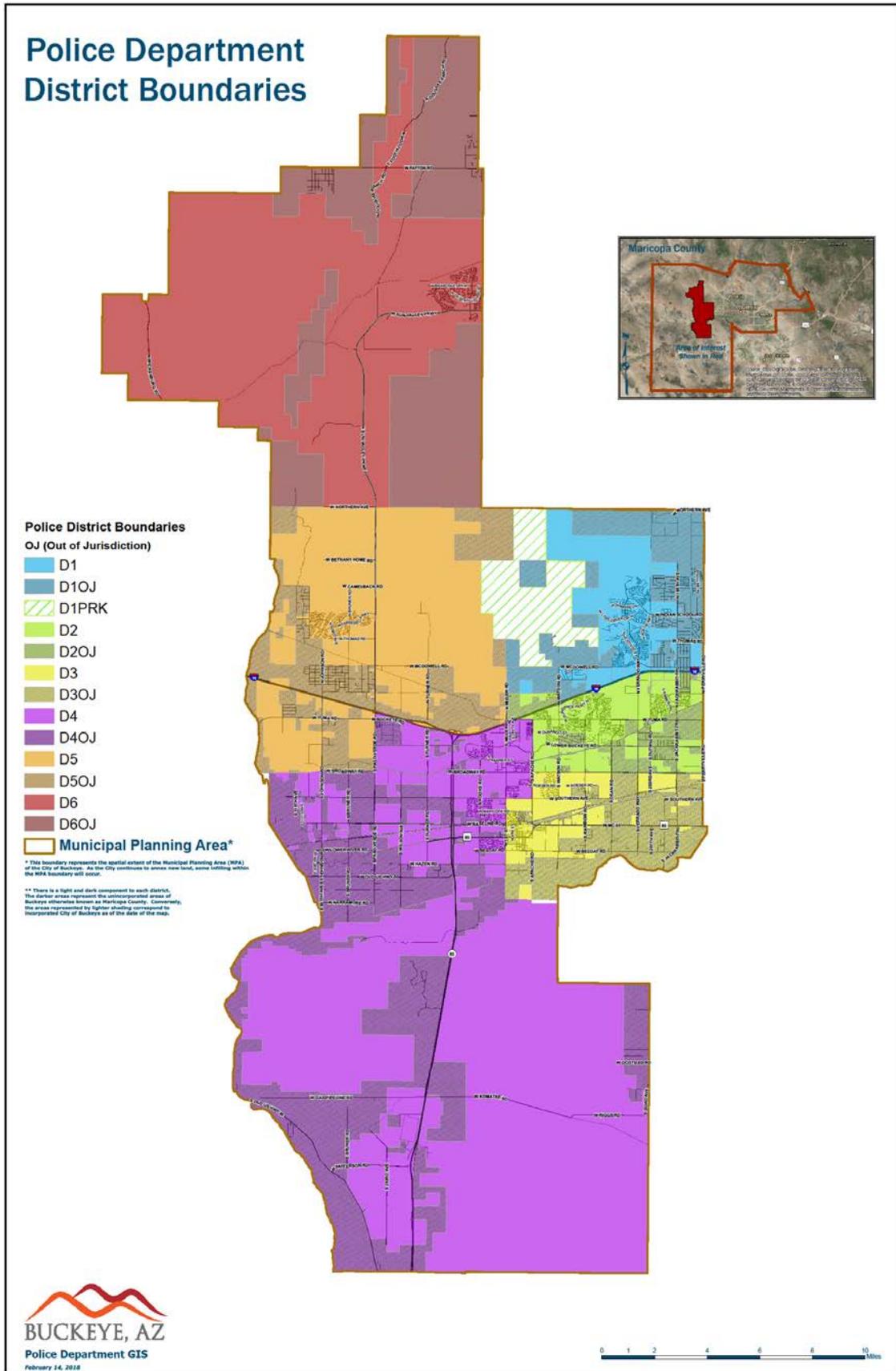
Year	Total Part 1 Crimes	% Change	Population	Crimes Per 1000	Police Officers per 1000
2016	1199	5%	65,845	18	1.3
2017	1280	7%	70,000	18	1.3
2018	1475	18%	80,000	18	1.2



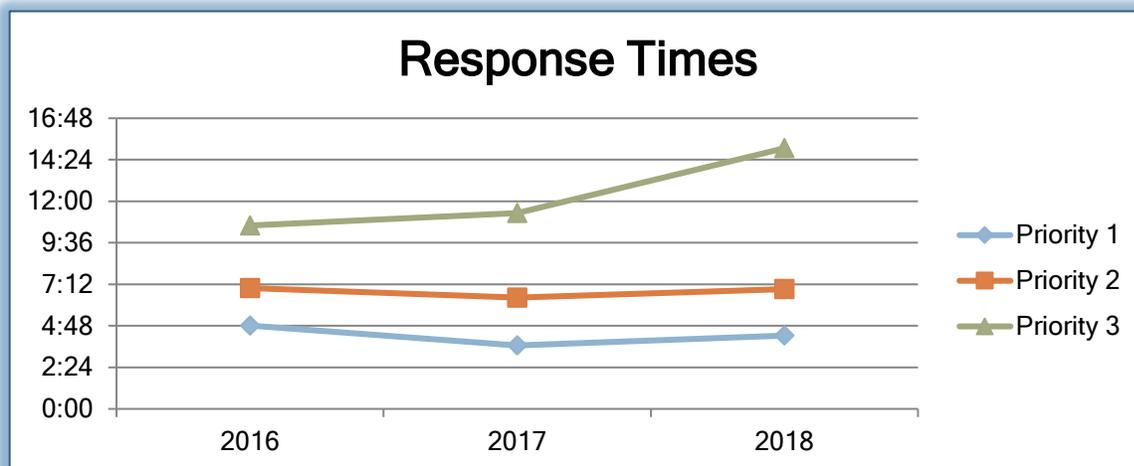
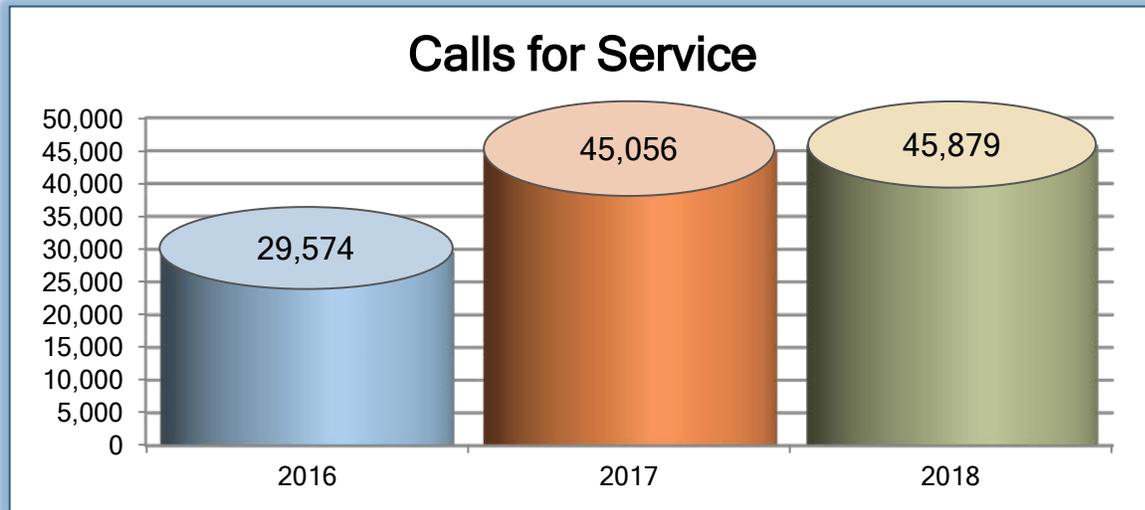
# CRIMES BY DISTRICT



# DISTRICT MAP



# CALLS FOR SERVICE



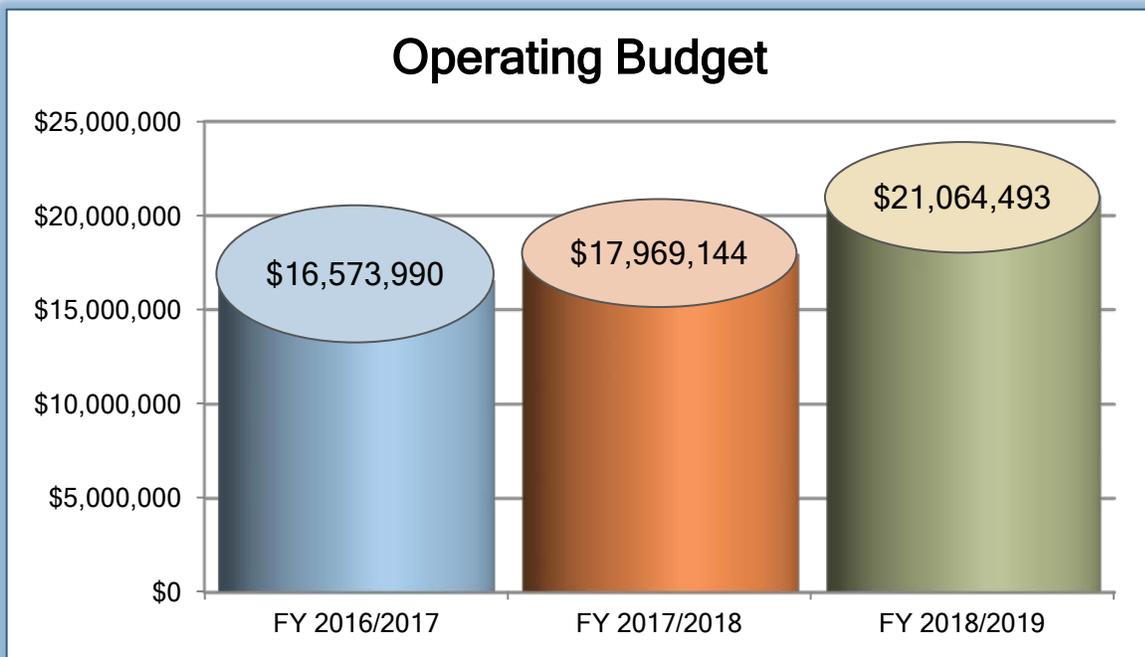
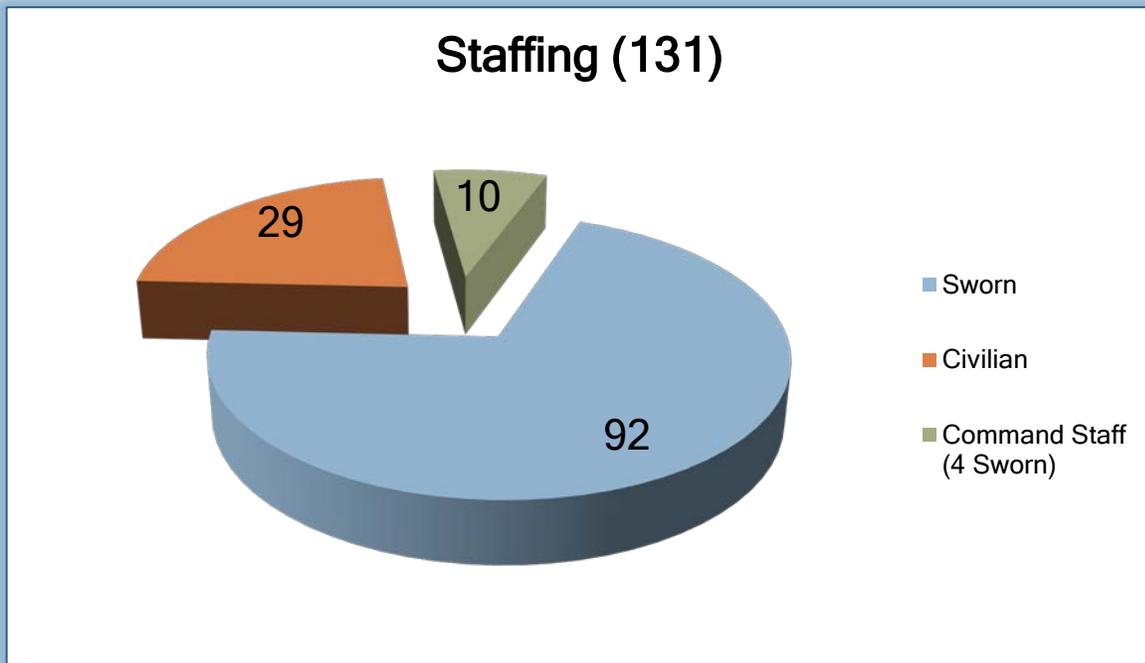
## Response Times

**Priority 1** calls are those in which there is an imminent danger to life or major damage/loss to property, or an in progress or just occurred major felony. These would be of a serious nature or have a degree of immediate personal danger or harm. This includes business and residential hold up and panic alarms.

**Priority 2** calls are those in which a crime in progress might result in a threat of injury to a person, or major loss of property or immediate apprehension of a suspect. These calls are urgent but not known to be life threatening. This includes traffic accidents with injuries, traffic accidents blocking a roadway, residential panic alarms, business audible hold-up/panic alarms and business silent burglar alarms.

**Priority 3** calls are non-emergency requests for service to report a crime after the fact. This includes audible residential and business burglar alarms and silent residential burglary alarms.

# STAFFING / OPERATING BUDGET



# ACCREDITATION / CALEA



In 1979, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies was created through the combined efforts of four major law enforcement organizations: the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriffs' Association, and Police Executive Research Forum.

The four founding membership associations joined forces to create the Commission and to appoint its members. It is composed of 21 members, of whom at least 11 are law enforcement professionals and the balance is from other governmental areas and the private sector. The Commission reflects broad representation from state and local levels, as well as from many regions throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

In the Commission's view, the standards reflect the best professional requirements and practices for a law enforcement agency, training academy and public safety communications center. The standards' requirements provide a description of what must be accomplished by the applicant agency but allows wide latitude in determining how it will achieve its compliance with each applicable standard. This approach allows independence, and is the key to understanding the universal nature and flexibility of the standards approved by the Commission for this manual. Compliance should never be limited to a single means of achievement. Consequently, compliance is always attainable.

The Commission expects accredited agencies to maintain compliance and live by the letter and spirit of the standards. There is a presumption on the part of the Commission that agencies operate in compliance with their written directives. Successful agencies, then, focus single-mindedly upon complying with the standards in a manner that most effectively meets the needs of their individual agency and the citizens they serve. The agency must consider its mission, its legally mandated responsibilities, and the demands of its service community in determining which standards are applicable to it, and how it will comply with applicable standards.

In pursuit of organizational excellence, the Buckeye Police Department was awarded International Law Enforcement Accreditation in 2016. In November 2018, the Department underwent an extensive assessment of the Public Safety Communication Center by the Commission to determine compliance with the applicable communications standards. The Department achieved an excellent review rating, and will receive its initial communications accreditation in May 2019. This award will recognize the Buckeye Police Department as the only Arizona law enforcement agency with dual accredited status.

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

## Professional Standards Unit

Seventy-four internal affairs investigations were conducted during 2018, alleging violations of Buckeye PD policy.

The conclusions of these investigations are as follows:

<i>Disposition</i>	<i>Count</i>
Exonerated	12
Not Sustained	7
Policy Failure	8
Sustained	27
Unfounded	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>

## Biased-based Citizen Complaints

Policy 401 (Bias Policing) requires the police department to investigate all allegations of bias-based profiling. All formal citizen complaints and internal investigations are tracked in IA Pro, a computer application that was adopted in 2015. An “early warning system” feature of IA Pro provides for easy detection of complaint and investigation trends that may occur. The use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) was also implemented in August, 2015. BWC camera footage is randomly audited by supervisors and administrators. Both of these programs have increased the abilities of BPD to record complaints and applicable incidents of bias-based policing. As a result, early intervention and proactive corrective measures are possible. Between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, no citizen complaints of allegations of bias-based policing issues were filed against Buckeye Police Department personnel.

# GRANTS/NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS

## Grants

The police department received multiple grants in 2018 totaling more than \$800,000. Funding was awarded from multiple state, federal and private sources such as: The Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Arizona Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Justice, Firehouse Subs Foundation among others. In addition to grant funding, multiple Memorandums of Understanding with different agencies allowed the Police Department to obtain and use resources to better serve the citizens of Buckeye and the surrounding rural areas.

## New Hires and Promotions

### WELCOME:

Stephen Farmer  
Ze'Vohn Carson  
Michael Saltz  
Tyler Rapisardi  
Thomas Dominguez  
Claudia Slate  
Marlene Valladares  
Donna Rossi  
Tiffany Borges  
Stacy Kirshner

### PROMOTIONS:

Sergeant C. M. Wilt  
Records Supervisor R.C. Weber



# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER UNIT (SRO)

## SROs

The Buckeye Police Department is committed to community involvement and the safety of our students. The SRO unit is led by one Sergeant and has five School Resource Officers. These officers receive specialized training in dealing with school violence, juvenile crimes, juvenile education and juvenile counseling. This past summer the SRO unit attended training to learn how to track down cyber threats. The mission of the unit is education through crime prevention. SRO's are there as an extension of school staff and provide a resource to staff, students and parents. Our SRO's interact daily with students by providing educational classes on law and legal matters, social media usage, sexting and bullying.

The City of Buckeye currently has four high schools, each having a School Resource Officer assigned to campus. One additional SRO is assigned to the City's 14 elementary schools. Part of their daily duties include traffic enforcement in the school zones, to be on hand to assist with student matters, and to arrest serious student offenders, as well as provide support to school staff.

During 2018, the SRO Unit participated in the Lunch with Blue program at the elementary schools, the Steven Martin Toy Drive, the Get in the Way initiative with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and conducted a summer Youth Teen Academy, which hosted 20 seventh and eighth graders who learned about law enforcement. The Department also reestablished the Buckeye Police Explorer Post which currently has four advisors and 14 cadets.

## False Alarm Reduction Program

Since the inception of the False Alarm Reduction Program in January 2014, the City has seen an 11% decrease in false alarms and a 3% decrease in all alarm calls. In 2018, 252 calls were canceled prior to an officer being dispatched to the alarm location. Using a conservative average of \$50 per alarm call, there was an approximate savings of \$25,200 in false alarms and 504 officer/dispatcher hours, while also bringing in more than \$57,000 in City revenue.

# NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES/VOLUNTEERS

Neighborhood Services is a combination of community policing programs, which include: Block Watch, Citizens on Patrol, Citizens Academy, City Hall Volunteers, Buckeye Police Foundation, Victim Assistance, Police Administration Window, Motor Assistance, Bike Bots, Buckeye Cares, Chaplains, Records and SWAT.

## **Block Watch**

The Neighborhood Block Watch program is made up of individual units scattered through the City of Buckeye, with 183 active Block Watch Captains. Meetings are held each month with the Block Watch Captains to provide them with monthly crime statistics that are disseminated throughout the community. Each Block Watch is required to hold a minimum of two meetings per year. This vital program helps in the deterrence of crime as Block Watch is neighbors looking out for neighbors, and reporting any suspicious activity, people or vehicles. Our Captains are kept informed on any crimes in their area with apps on their phones, and/or emails.

## **Citizens on Patrol**

This program continues to prove to be an asset to the Department, as it involves citizens patrolling the streets of Buckeye in marked vehicles, increasing the eyes and ears of the Buckeye Police Department in our community. We currently have four vehicles that patrol the City of Buckeye; one is stationed at the Festival Public Safety Building, the second is stationed at the Verrado Fire Station and the last two are stationed at the Police Department located at 100 N. Apache Rd. This program calls for two volunteers in one vehicle. This allows one to focus on driving and the other to be focused on the surroundings, looking for any abnormalities in the community and then reporting them to uniformed officers. This group is the eyes and ears of the Police Department. They currently are 59 strong. The Motor Assistance Vehicle is also part of the Citizens on Patrol program. The men and women who take part in this program, assist with traffic control, crime scene management and other non-critical duties. This allows officers to be relieved and return to their patrol duties.

## **Chaplains**

The Chaplaincy program is a unique group of men and women who have taken on the role of support for officers and families in need. The program is a non-denominational ministry of volunteer chaplains who provide support, training, crisis intervention and counseling. The purpose is to create an environment of trust, confidentiality, reliance and professionalism in which employees and the public can feel comfortable with the support a police chaplain can provide. We currently have a staff of six chaplains. One is on call at all times.

## **City Hall**

This group of 21 dedicated men and women monitor the front lobby of City Hall, giving directions and information to the public. The program has been in existence since 2010 and is staffed by Buckeye Police Department Volunteers. In 2018, volunteers served nearly 2,300 hours at City Hall, saving the City more than \$55,000 in salaries. Over the last seven years, this averages a savings of more than \$ 400,000 for the City of Buckeye.

## **Citizens Academy**

This program continues to grow in popularity, uniting the community with the Buckeye Police Department. Attendees learn from first-hand experiences, training, lectures and interactive classes about the inner operations of the Buckeye Police Department. We continue to conduct two, 6-week classes per year, with each class being full of new, excited citizens from the community wanting to learn about and get involved with the Police Department. We currently hold classes in Buckeye and Festival Ranch.

## **Buckeye Police Foundation**

The Buckeye Police Foundation is a non-profit organization that became a reality in February 2016. This program, funded by private and corporate donations, provides opportunities that otherwise would not be accessible to the Department. It is a stand-alone program with all funds coming from outside sources, thus not being a strain on the Department. It opens up opportunities only afforded to non-profit organizations. The Foundation was awarded two grants in 2018 which allowed for the opening of Buckeye's first Domestic Violence Shelter.

### **Bike Bot**

The Bike Bot program was started in 2016. Officer Rusty Star continues to be utilized for interaction with children of all ages. We track Officer Star's appearance and he continues to be popular with the community. Thus far, Officer Star has been in front of more than 20,000 people. He has done several readings at the Coyote Library, appeared at the Buckeye Air Fair, attended Lunch with Blue and attended other events like the Veteran's Day Parade. In the future, Officer Star will be utilized more in the school system for educational purposes such as "stranger danger", drug awareness, and personal safety.

### **PD Sundance Administration Window**

The Sundance Administration Window project was started on March 1, 2016. This project allows the public face-to-face access to the Police Department while saving tax dollars. Since opening, the volunteers who monitor the front lobby area have saved the Police Department \$100,000. The volunteers meet and greet the public, answer questions, give directions and ensure public needs are met.

### **Victim Assistance**

The Victim Assistance program is making an impact in the community. This program lightens the load of officers, and at the same time meets the needs of crime victims. In 2018, the Department hired a full-time Victim Advocate with the assistance of two grants, one state and one federal for a value of more than \$450,000. These funds will ensure the program continues to address the unique needs of those affected by crime.

### **Volunteers in Police Services (VIP's)**

All of the above programs fall under the umbrella of the Volunteers in Police Services program. This program is overseen by the Neighborhood Services Manager, who reports directly to the Assistant Chief of the Buckeye Police Department. Quarterly and annual reports are submitted to the Chief of Police outlining the progress and feasibility of each program. In the last five years, the VIP groups logged more than 50,000 volunteer hours valued at \$1,901,235. Currently, there are 120 volunteers active in various programs falling under the VIP's umbrella.

