

BELLEVUE NEBRASKA - POLICE DEPARTMENT



2020 - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD

The Bellevue Police Department 2020 – 2021 Annual Report is based on the time period running from July 1st, 2020 – through June 30th, 2021. The only exception being the Officer of the Year – which is selected for the calendar year 2020.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Welcome to the Bellevue Police Department Annual Report and thank you for taking the time to learn more about our organization. As our Mission Statement reads, “we are a proud and dedicated group of men and women committed to enforcing the law and serving our community’s public safety needs.” We are honored to serve Bellevue, and are dedicated to providing service with integrity and courage.

As you know, this has been a tenuous time for everyone due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. The Bellevue Police Department – like all other critical services – has continued on with our mission throughout. We have been forced to adapt, but are unwavering in our dedication to the mission of public safety.

With the 2020 Census results back, Bellevue has grown at an impressive rate over the last ten years – growing 28% from 50,137 (2010 census) to 64,176 (2020 census). With this growth, the police department must also grow to meet the needs of our ever-growing community. In late 2020, a needs assessment was completed by the Command Staff of the BPD, and it was determined that there was a need to expand the department by 11% - growing from 100 sworn to 111 sworn positions. Working with Mayor Hike, City Administrator Ristow, as well as the City Council, they endorsed this plan for growth, which will be completed over two years – with completion in the winter of 2022. As previously stated, our city administration is dedicated to a relentless pursuit of improvement and public safety for their citizens.

We strive to maintain open lines of communication, foster an atmosphere of transparency, and work collaboratively in order to meet the needs of the community. We encourage community members to participate in our numerous community-related programs and safety events hosted by our Department. You can also follow those efforts on our department Facebook and/or Twitter (@bellevuepolice).

It is my honor to serve you, and the great members of the Bellevue Police Department. I am honored to be a member of, and to serve, such a wonderful community. I can be reached by office phone at 402-293-3048 or by email at ken.clary@bellevue.net.

Chief Ken Clary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Clary', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHIEF CLARY'S BACKGROUND

Chief Ken Clary was sworn in as the Bellevue Police Chief on September 1, 2020. Ken came to the City of Bellevue with over 26 years of law enforcement experience – having worked for the Iowa State Patrol from 1994 to September, 2020.

Ken received his Master in Public Administration degree from Upper Iowa University, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska Omaha. He was selected by the National Institute of Justice as a Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) Scholar (where he served from 2016-2019). He also graduated from the FBI National Academy (Session 269), completed the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) – Leadership in Police Organizations training, and Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. He currently serves as an Executive Fellow for the National Police Foundation, and was inducted into the Center for Evidence-Based Policing Hall of Fame in 2019. In October, 2020, he was selected as recipient of the IACP J. Stannard Baker – Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety Award winner.

Ken has also served his community as a Special Olympics Torch Run Volunteer for several years. He currently serves as the Board Chair for the Food Bank of Iowa. Ken has been awarded the Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award on two occasions for his philanthropic efforts (2014 and 2016).

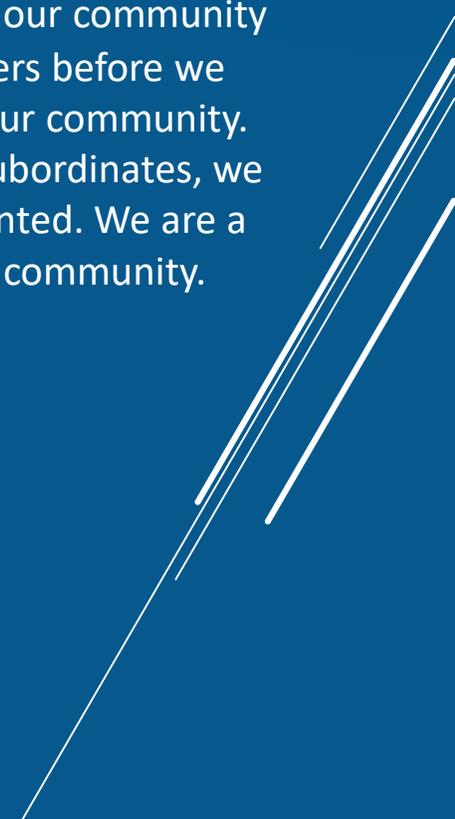


BELLEVUE POLICE DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY – There is no other value more important than this one. We are honest in thought, word, and deed. We keep our promises. We are trusted by our peers, subordinates, supervisors, and the community. The consequences of having an integrity problem are devastating.

COURAGE – It takes incredible courage to venture into scenarios that most everyone else runs from. We have the courage to be brave in other people's darkest hour. We have the courage to fight and protect those that can't protect themselves. We have the courage to put ourselves in harm's way to protect one another. Just as important, we have the courage to do the right thing, even when it's difficult or unpopular.

SERVICE – We are dedicated and committed to serving our community as it pertains to their public safety needs. We help others before we help ourselves. We take pride in our selfless service to our community. We serve one another. Supervisors serve their staff. As subordinates, we serve our supervisors. We never take each other for granted. We are a collective whole serving one another as we serve our community.



OPERATIONS DIVISION – PATROL

OBJECTIVE:

The Bellevue Police Department Operations Division is organized to meet the needs of the Department and the City. It is comprised of four, 12-hour work shifts. The main focus of the Patrol teams is to respond to calls for service and to proactively work towards a reduction in crime, as well as traffic enforcement through proactive policing.

OPERATING PROCEDURE:

The Bellevue Police Department has four shifts, each comprised of a Shift Commander at the Lieutenant rank, with two Sergeants acting as first line supervisors. These supervisors are split into coverage of the City north and south, with each supervisor currently overseeing four Officers and the north Sergeant overseeing an additional K-9 Officer. Each Officer is assigned to a marked patrol vehicle and works a solo assignment. All four shift Lieutenants report to a Captain who is the Division Commander. The Division Commander reports to the Assistant Chief of Police.

PATROL ACTIVITY:

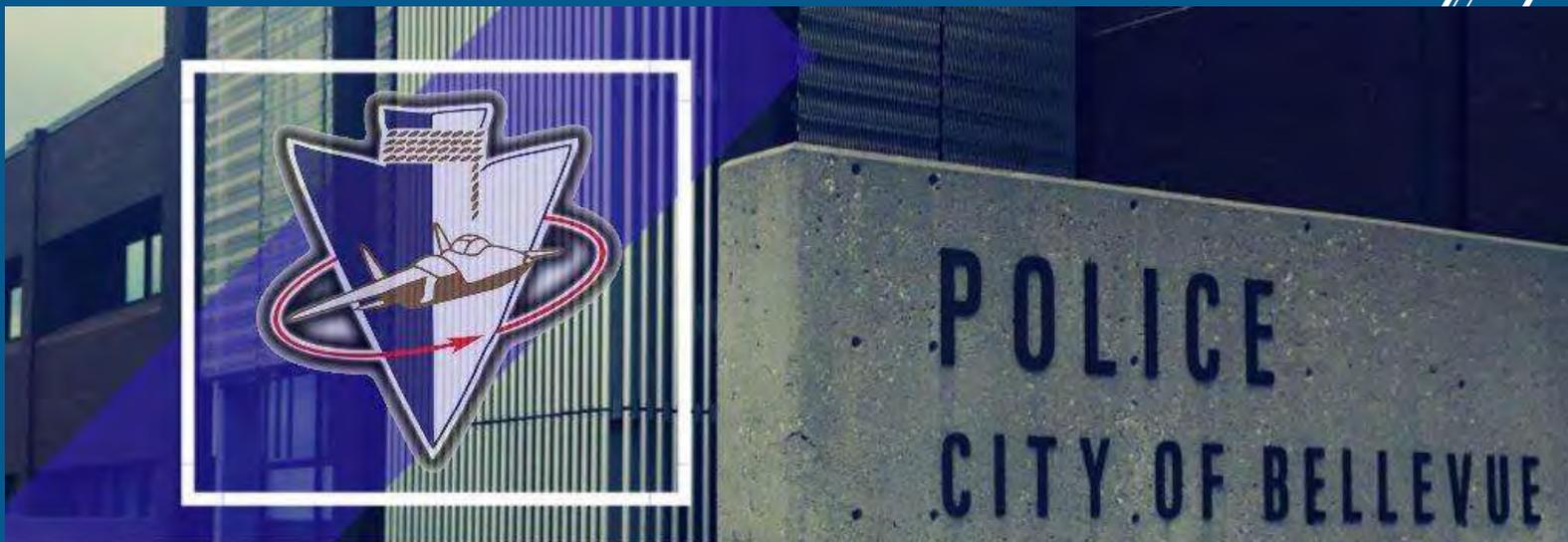
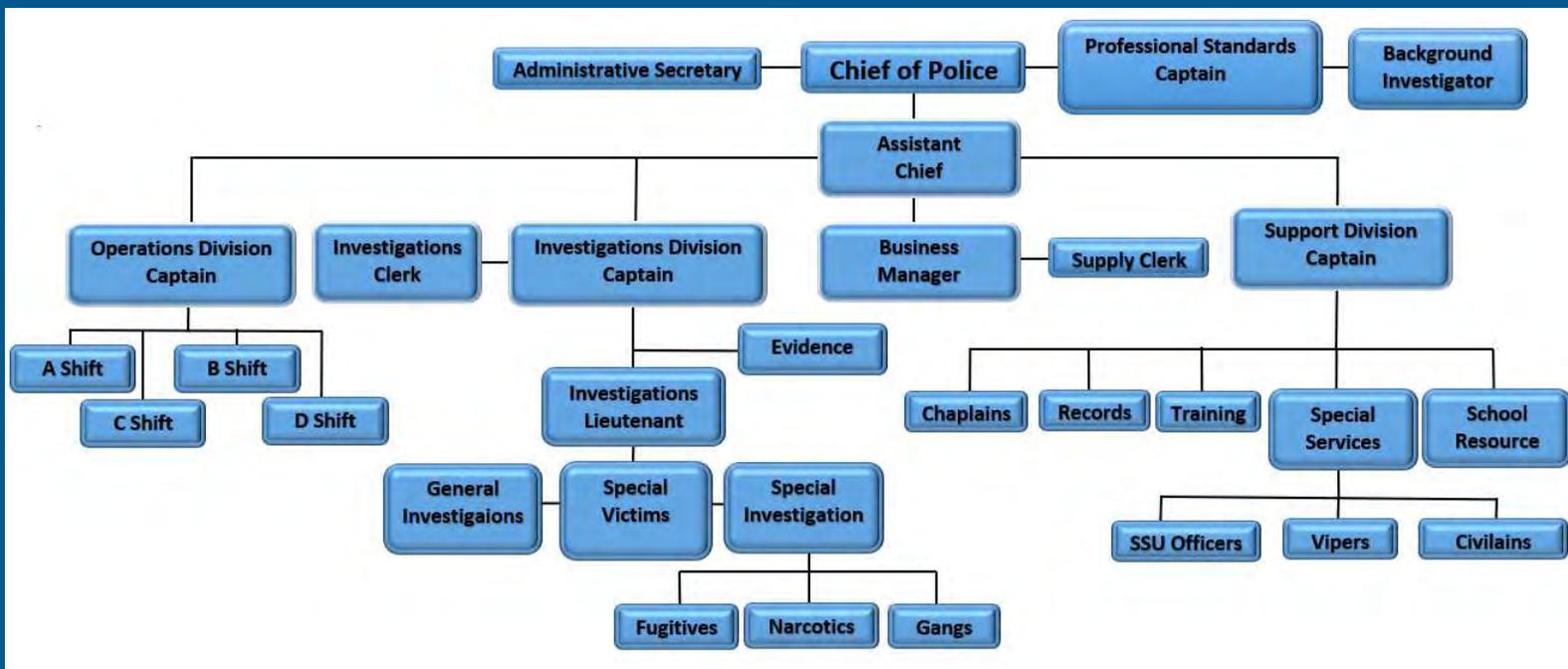
Calls for Bellevue Police services vary widely and require an extensive knowledge of law and police procedure. During this reporting period, there was a slight decline in call volume – falling by 3.36% -- and the Bellevue Police responded to **43,970** calls for service. Our most common calls for service ranged from officer-initiated traffic stops and business checks, to investigating suspicious activity and responding to disturbances.

Bellevue Police Officers also investigated over **900** motor vehicle crashes during this reporting period.

BELLEVUE POLICE DEPARTMENT TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

The Bellevue Police Department is comprised of up to 105+ sworn and 17 civilian employees. The Department is broken into three primary divisions (Operations, Investigations, and Support), as well as the Office of Professional Standards.

During this reporting period, BPD added the position of Assistant Chief of Police.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

OBJECTIVE:

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is commanded by a Captain and a Lieutenant. CID is responsible for many different types of investigations including property crimes, violent assaults, sex crimes, domestic violence, fraud, and narcotic crimes. These cases involve a special subject matter, jurisdictional implications and are more time consuming. Detectives get their cases from either the Uniformed Patrol Division, Child Protective Services, or other Law Enforcement Agencies. CID is comprised of the following (3) units: Special Investigations Unit (SIU), General Crimes Unit (GCU), and the Special Victims Unit (SVU).

In total there were 1542 cases that were vetted through GCU and SVU, with over 750 of them being assigned for investigation.

	ASSIGNED		TOTAL CASES
	GCU	SVU	Assigned & unassigned
2020 - JUN	16	54	134
JUL	19	37	121
AUG	29	42	138
SEP	26	41	126
OCT	24	29	115
NOV	32	32	115
DEC	33	27	109
2021 - JAN	29	15	104
FEB	15	21	84
MAR	16	35	105
APR	22	44	133
MAY	21	34	106
JUN	15	43	152
TOTAL	297	454	1542

SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

OBJECTIVE:

The Unit was initially established as a Community Policing Unit and has expanded its overall mission to include a multitude of tasks to include:

- Community relations projects and special events.
- Assist the Training Unit with new recruit pre-academy and pre-FTO training.
- Assist with Department-wide annual training in various fields to include; firearms, Defensive Tactics, Close Quarter Combat, Patrol Tactics.
- Selective traffic enforcement beyond what is provided by patrol teams.
- Department Liaison with multi-family housing areas managers.
- Support the Special Investigations Unit with uniform assistance.
- Support the Department Unmanned Aircraft program.

All events from March 2020 to May 2021 were cancelled due to Covid 19 with the exception of Cops and Bobbers 9/2000 and Market to Market relay on 10/2020.

TRAINING UNIT

The Virtra Simulator was upgraded during this reporting period, which allowed for better use of that equipment for BPD and our training partners. The addition of another officer to the training bureau has proved to be of great assistance to the unit. The training bureau recorded a total of **10,282** training hours for the Department. This includes nearing completion of a Patrol Rifle program – placing rifles into service for all officers who wish to have one.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

OBJECTIVE:

The Bellevue Police Department's School Resource Officers consist of four officers and one sergeant to oversee the unit. One officer is assigned the Bellevue East High School, Bellevue West High School, Bryan High School and Bryan Middle School.

The Bellevue Police Department's SRO Unit is committed to ensuring the safety of all students, staff and visitors at all schools in the City of Bellevue. This is accomplished by SROs being present and visible at the schools. Our SROs proactively address any suspicious and /or criminal activity that is seen or reported to them by students, staff or other citizens with concerns.

The Bellevue Police Department SRO Unit focuses on building positive relationships with the youth of this community. SROs build these positive relationships not only to prevent and deter at-risk youth from being involved in criminal activity, but in an effort to provide them the support and resources needed to be successful in life. SROs are not only tasked with acting in a law enforcement capacity, but also take on the informal roles of educators, counselors, mentors, etc.

- The SRO Unit has many goals each year, which include the following:
 - Ensure the safety of all students, staff and visitors
 - Educate students about drugs, alcohol and tobacco
 - Combat poverty and hunger amongst the youth in the city
 - Suicide Prevention and Depression Awareness
 - Combat bullying
- Combat child abuse, domestic violence, family violence cycles, sexual assaults, distribution of nude photos, misuse of social media, assaults, etc
 - Get youth more involved in the community
- Educate youth and parents/guardians about interacting with law enforcement
 - Educate parents / guardians about various youth trends



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

OBJECTIVE:

The Bellevue Police Department's Office of Professional Standards is responsible for the timely and thorough investigation of ALL allegations of employee misconduct. The unit is responsible for

- Investigating and documenting all investigations
 - Sworn Police Officer Hiring
- Media Relations – Public Information Officer (PIO)
 - Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC)
- Writing, housing, and modifying policy using PowerDMS
 - Email and telephonic Department inquiries
 - Maintaining Use of Force records
 - Supervising Department social media accounts
 - Maintaining personnel files
- • Coordinating with and assisting the Legal Department on various matters, including personnel issues, threats of lawsuits, and policy implementation



OFFICER WELLNESS

Officer mental health and wellness was a focus at BPD in 2020. The average person will experience 1.5 to 2 critical incidents in their lifetime, while the average police officer will experience 800 in a twenty-year career. For this reason, we must ensure the mental health of the officers we ask to protect us daily.

BPD began work with the First Responders Foundation, and contracted with them for counseling services. Leah (Harms) O'Brien (pictured lower right) is a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner, Certified Professional Counselor, and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor in Nebraska, who specializes in working with first responders and their spouses. She has more than six years of experience working in the mental health and substance use field. Leah received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Nebraska Wesleyan University and her Masters degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the University of Nebraska Omaha. She is also trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), which is designed to help alleviate the distress associated with traumatic memories. She provides counseling services weekly by appointment.

BPD also purchased and trained a Therapy Dog 'Mo' (pictured lower center). He is assigned to Officer Ashley Meyers and works his shift supporting BPD officers, as well as all citizens he comes in contact with.

Finally, BPD created a 'Blue Room' (pictured lower left) with massage chairs, television, and Bluetooth speakers. This room is designed to allow officers to relax during their break time – giving them a well-deserved mental and physical break.



2020 - 2021 INITIATIVES

The Bellevue Police Department has identified the following areas of focus for 2021:



2021 Initiatives

SAFE ROADWAY INITIATIVES

IMPAIRED DRIVING

DISTRACTED DRIVING

SEAT BELT/SPEED VIOLATIONS

SAFE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

NARCOTICS ARRESTS

WEAPONS VIOLATIONS

LOW RESPONSE TIMES

INVESTIGATIVE CLEARANCE RATES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VEHICLE THEFTS/BREAK-INS

OFFICER INITIATIVE

OFFICER READINESS TRAINING

SERVICE-COURAGE-INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE IN POLICING COMMITTEE

The Bellevue Police Department strives towards excellence on a daily basis. We also try to recognize our officers for outstanding service. The Excellence in Law Enforcement Committee meets quarterly to review officer submissions, which are interactions that exceed expectations. One officer is selected each quarter (as Officer of the Quarter) based on their outstanding work. From those four selections each year, one officer is selected as the Officer of the Year.

Officer of the Quarter

1st Quarter – Aaron Jezek and Dave Saum

2nd Quarter – Aaron Jezek

3rd Quarter – Aaron Jezek

4th Quarter – Jamey Murray

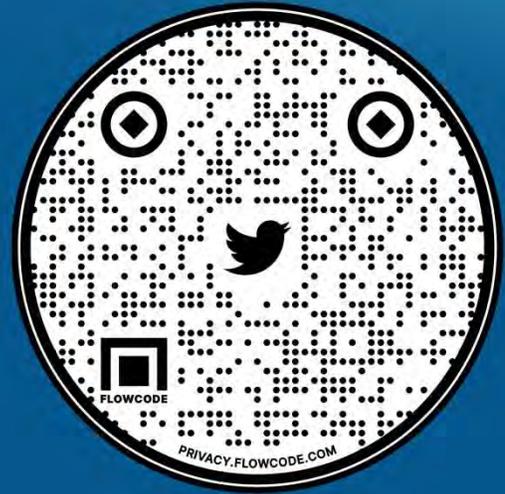
Officer of the Year

Aaron Jezek

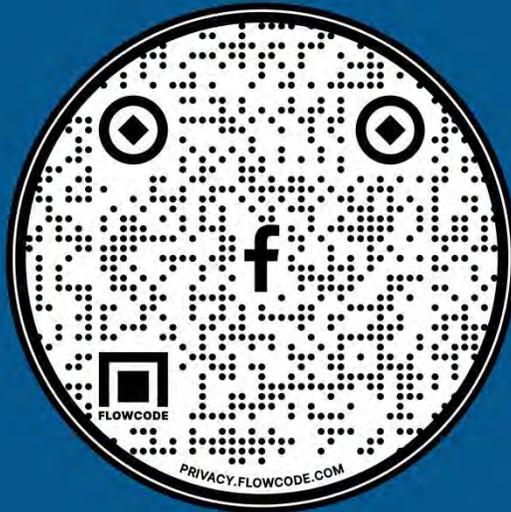
Officer Aaron Jezek was chosen as the 'Officer of the Year' based on his actions throughout the year, resulting in the first officer in BPD history to receive the Officer of the Quarter three times in one calendar year. These awards were given due to multiple high-level investigations that resulted in arrest.

FOLLOW THE BELLEVUE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ON TWITTER



OR



FACEBOOK

OR CHECKOUT OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/BELLEVUEPOLICEDEPARTMENTNEBRASKA



SCAN ME

