

Blue Ash Police Department

2016

Annual Report





Blue Ash Police 2016 Annual Report

January 2017

Points of interest:

- 24,846 details logged
- 1,902 incident reports taken
- 3,276 traffic stops
- 2,568 traffic citations/warnings handed out
- 82 OVI arrests
- 924 total arrests

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To All Community Members of The City of Blue Ash:

All of the men and women of the Blue Ash Police Department work hard every day to provide you with the highest level of professional, practical community oriented policing that any community across America could expect from their public servants. Our forty-seven employees work as one team with a common mission and purpose: "With courage, integrity and compassion they serve, safeguard and educate our community by providing superior services that sustain a safe environment and high quality of life."

The year 2016 was filled with many new and exciting changes and challenges both internally and externally for our department and its dedicated members. For the past two years the police department command staff and city administration have worked together on a long-term succession plan to adequately prepare the police department for anticipated retirements at all levels within the agency. In July two police officers were hired after an extensive search that embraced modern recruiting methods and standards that invited qualified and diverse candidates to apply for the positions. One of the newly hired officers is the son of parents who emigrated from the Middle East. He speaks fluent Arabic and is already sharing his experiences in cultural diversity as a lesson to the other officers. Another newly hired officer is an experienced police officer who has dedicated his life to public service. Following the completion of this process the department promoted two Sergeants from the patrol staff. Jun Cho and Todd Stewart [and his K9 partner Cash] became Sergeants in October. To put the capstone on the succession plan, two Lieutenants were promoted from the Sergeant, and in November we realized the completion of that portion of the plan. The Sergeants and Lieutenants will mentor for the next year with current commanders to develop their leadership and management skills.

Outside of our walls there were inevitable and unexpected changes and events that also impacted our community and our department. The heroin epidemic reached very serious levels in the fall as the number of overdose victims skyrocketed and addiction to this horrid drug seemed to be out of control. Carfentanyl claimed many victims and Blue Ash was not immune to its reach. Police officers became proficient in the use of naloxone to revive at least eight individuals, and efforts were underway to try to steer those in need towards health services and addiction treatment. Another great concern for us was the heavy scrutiny our profession was under across the nation, and the public unrest over police-community relations that grew to unprecedented levels. We watched as officers around the nation came under assault and in some cases lost their lives doing what they loved to do. We were fortunate to have anticipated the call for prioritizing community-police relations long before the national outrage made it a critical mandate for police agencies. We have a well-established tradition and culture of engaging community members, businesses and corporate partners, and youth through education and training programs. We expect that every employee already operates under the principles of community-oriented policing and make extra efforts to engage with all of our community members. We now have a full-time Community Resource Officer who helps coordinate many programs to engage all citizens. The officer helps coordinate programs with the Sycamore Schools and community groups as well as participates with local and regional social services and task forces to find solutions to needs within our neighborhoods as they arise.

The law enforcement profession requires a constant regimen of training to keep officers up to date with technology, legal issues, and advancements in theoretical and practical applications to do their jobs. We take training seriously and try to ensure that all of our employees receive basic and advanced levels of important and relevant courses. Officers receive training on mental health and mental illness response, with some of our staff trained as Crisis Intervention Team members. We lead the region in training for all law enforcement to be better equipped to handle these sensitive calls for service. We participate in the Ohio Collaborative efforts to standardize policing policies on critical topics such as Use of Force, Use of Deadly Force, Community Engagement and Recruitment.



(Continued on page 3)



Did you know?

Our core
values are:

Courage

Integrity

Compassion

In 2016 the Blue Ash Police Department had 34 full-time police officers with a support staff of 7 full-time and 4 part-time employees. The makeup of employees following the chain of command can be seen at the right.

- In February, the Blue Ash Police welcomed their newest dispatcher, Rebecca Koligian, and in July, officers, Chady Chahine and Mark Owens to the force.
- At the end of February, Mary Meyer retired from her position as the Records Clerk after 15 years of service.
- In October, Patrol Officers Jun Cho and Todd Stewart were promoted to the rank of Sergeant after an extensive testing process.
- In November, with the newly appointed Sergeants, the Blue Ash Police Department promoted Roger Pohlman and Scott Noel to the rank of Lieutenant.
- Lt. Pohlman will mentor under Lt. Schueler for 2017 to oversee support operations and Mayor's Court. Lt. Noel will mentor under Lt. Boyatt for patrol, investigations, and dispatch operations.

Blue Ash Police Department Organizational Chart

- Chief Paul Hartinger
 - Captain Rich Riley
 - Operations Lieutenants Joe Boyatt & Scott Noel
 - Investigations Sergeant (1)
 - Detectives (2)
 - Road Patrol Sergeants (6)
 - Patrol Officers (19)
 - Dispatchers (6)
 - Administrative Lieutenants Steve Schueler & Roger Pohlman
 - Records
 - Property Room (1)
 - Fleet Maintenance (1)
 - Scheduling (1)
 - Mayor's Court (2)

Finances

The operating budget for the Police Department for 2016 was \$6,509,500. Actual expenses for 2016 were \$6,155,061.

Mandatory fines from convicted drug offenders amounted to \$840 and mandatory fines from convicted drunk drivers amounted to \$1,398.

(Continued from page 2)

We achieved certification from the Ohio Collaborative and are committed to being actively involved in the efforts to provide high quality service to our community.

We are optimistic that 2017 will bring many opportunities for us to interact with all of our community members. We take seriously the national spotlight on our profession and will strive to answer the call to build better community and police relations. We will examine our operation and make efforts to increase transparency and access to our department. We encourage you to peruse this report and ask questions of us. We are certain that the Blue Ash Police Department provides superior services and high quality policing services and are always looking for ways to make life better for all citizens and visitors to the City of Blue Ash.

Paul W. Hartinger, Chief of Police



Notable Events

The department completed an active shooter training exercise at the 123rd Air National Guard Base. Active shooter training prepares officers for what they may have to experience in a real-life situation with wounded individuals and an unknown shooter that may still be on the move.

ALiCE training was conducted for many local businesses. ALiCE is the #1 active shooter civilian response training for organizations. It teaches a new method to handle an active shooter versus the traditional “lockdown only” approach. For more information on ALiCE for your organization, contact the Blue Ash Police Department.

Lt. Riley and Sgt. Charron represented the Blue Ash Police Department along with 75 other agencies in assisting Cleveland Police at the 2016 Republican National Convention.

The Blue Ash Police Department received the AAA Platinum Traffic Safety Award for the seventh year in a row. Participation in campaigns such as “Click it or Ticket” and “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” show the strong dedication the department has to traffic safety.

The department hosted its third annual Open House for the public to gather information about some of the daily activities and tools the police department has access to. This was followed by the third session of the Blue Ash Citizen’s Police Academy. The Citizen’s Police Academy is an 8-week series that introduces citizens to the daily operations of the police department.

The Blue Ash Police Department in conjunction with Target and many other departments in the city hosted another successful Target Bike Rodeo. The Target Bike Rodeo allows children to see some of the vehicles used in emergency services, have their bikes checked for safety, and receive a free bike helmet.

Many members of the department participated in community outreach events throughout the year. Some of these include: Willa Washington scholarship basketball tournament, Walk Like MADD, National Coffee with a Cop Day, 2016 Latino Expo, Inclusive Excellence Symposium at NKU, and multiple safety presentations for local organizations. These events helped the Blue Ash Police Department to receive full certification from the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board.



Major Cases

In February, officers responded quickly to a shooting in Hazelwood. During a community meeting over the event, officers on patrol responded and successfully apprehended someone breaking into a home in the Hazelwood Community.

In December, the Blue Ash Police uncovered what Hamilton County is calling “one of the most extensive human-trafficking cases.” Four individuals are currently under indictment and the case is ongoing.

College Graduates

In 2016, the Blue Ash Police Department congratulated Dispatcher Kevin Deye on earning a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree from Tiffin University.



Patrol Operations



Did you know?

A property crime occurs every 3.8 seconds in the United States.



About the Patrol Division

The Patrol Division of the Blue Ash Police Department is comprised of six Sergeants and nineteen Patrol Officers working three shifts. In 2016 Patrol Officers took reports for 1,902 incidents, a 6.6% increase from 2015. The average response time for officers to arrive on scene of an incident is 7 minutes and 26 seconds. According to *American Police Beat*, the average response time nationwide is 10 minutes.

The listing to the right shows a breakdown of which shift each Sergeant and Patrol Officer was primarily assigned to at the end of 2016. Officers bid shifts each year and are awarded their shift bids based on seniority.

The chart below shows a breakdown of every report taken, excluding traffic crashes. Incidents may fall into multiple categories however only the primary category is shown in the chart. This shows that not every report an officer takes may be criminal in nature and in 2016 non-criminal reports equaled about 26.1% of the total reports.

1st Shift

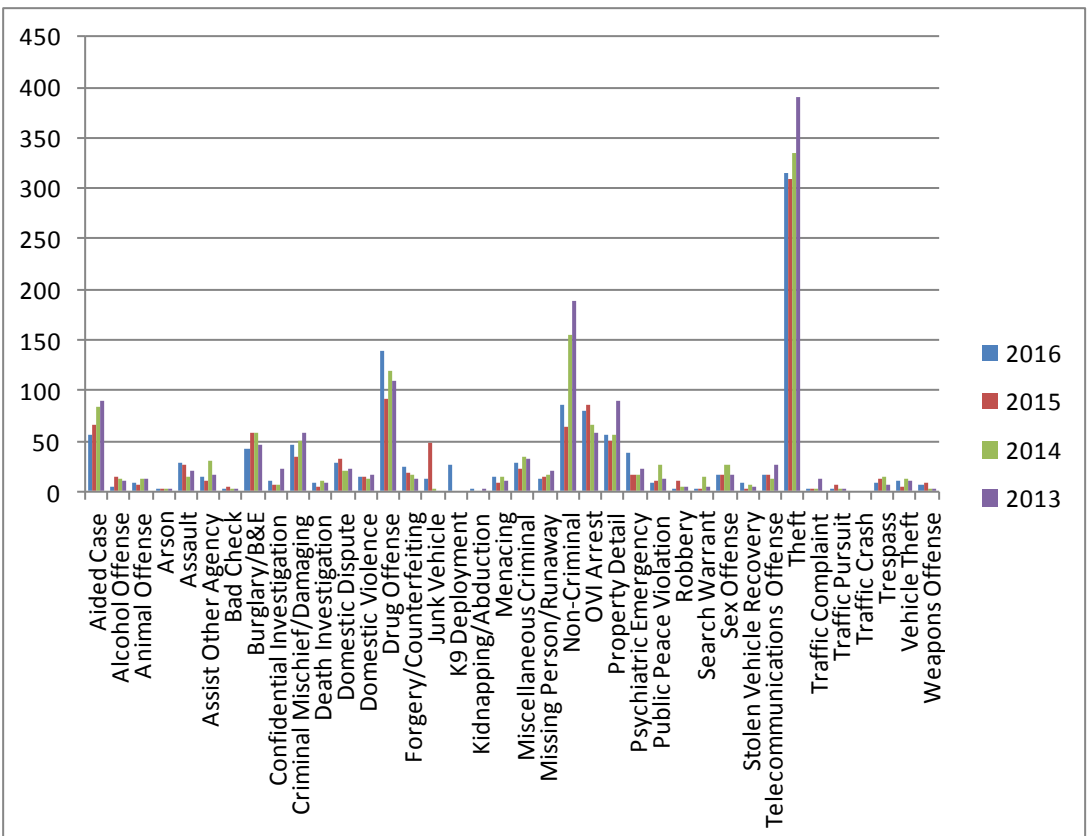
Sergeant Jim Wimmers
Sergeant Robert Gerhardt
Officer Jim Kelley
Officer Beth Roach
Officer Ken Schrand
Officer Chris Zielinski
Officer Gary McNeal
Officer Steve Keller
APO Steve Fromhold

2nd Shift

Sergeant Allison Schlie
Sergeant Jun Cho
Officer Mark Ziegler
Officer Dane Baumgartner
Officer Brendan McKinney
Officer Kate Tolle
Officer Chady Chahine
Officer Mark Owens

3rd Shift

Sergeant Pete Ballauer
Sergeant Todd Stewart
Officer John Connolly
Officer Bill Fritts
Officer Brandon Taylor
Officer Jason Asbury
Officer Jason Huff
Officer Dustin Moore



On Duty 24/7

In 2016 Blue Ash Police Officers were dispatched via calls received by the Hamilton County Communications Center and six dispatchers at the Blue Ash Police Department. In 2016 they accounted for 9,656 calls for service the officers responded to. Each of these calls was logged into a Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD) by a Blue Ash Police Dispatcher where they also logged an additional 15,189 officer-initiated details. The chart below shows how details were reported to the Blue Ash Police over the past four years.

The Blue Ash Police Dispatchers are also responsible for notifying city emergency personnel when issues arise for the general public such as snow removal, trees in the roadway, or the railroad for issues with train crossings.

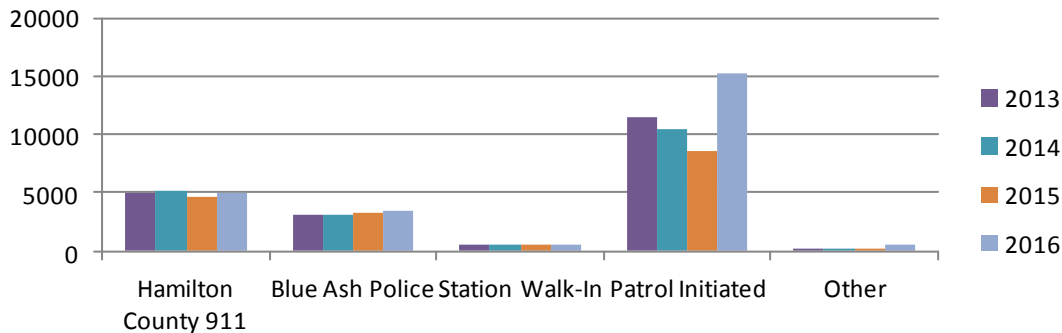
At the end of 2016, Sara Gerrety retired from the Blue Ash Police Department after 31 years of service. Our other dispatchers are Katie Farmer, Sarah Miller, Kevin Deye, Judie Dreyer, and Rebecca Koligian.

The top dispatches for 2016 come from the following categories:

Security Checks	7,255
Traffic Stops	3,276
Vacation Checks	2,089
Alarm Drops	1,737
EMS/Fire Runs	1,389
Traffic Crashes	1,053
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	794
Lockouts	702
Disabled Vehicles	570
Theft Offenses	496

Those details account for 77.9% of all details in 2015.

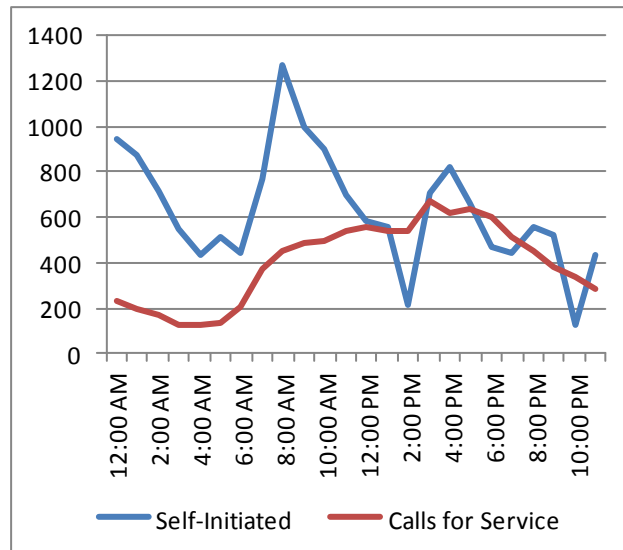
Dispatches by Year



Did you know?

Approximately 240 million 9-1-1 calls are made in the U.S. each year. 70% of those are made from wireless devices

The chart to the right shows the number of details logged per hour for 2016. The three busiest hours for details initiated by officers are the 12:00 AM, 8:00 AM, and 9:00 AM hours respectively and account for 21.1% of the daily self-initiated details. The three busiest hours of calls for service where the public calls in to request our assistance are the 3:00 PM, 4:00 PM, and 5:00 PM hours respectively and account for 19.9% of the daily details.





Did you know?

Every 1 minute and 26 seconds there is a traffic crash in the state of Ohio.



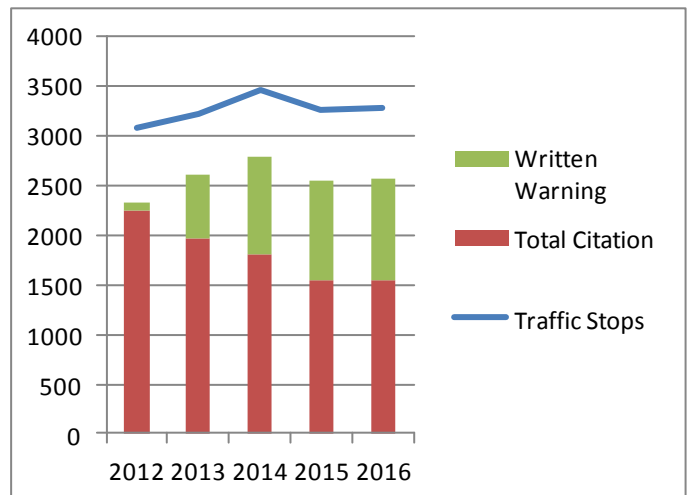
About Traffic Safety

The Traffic Safety Officer is responsible for the investigation of all serious injury and fatal crashes, as well as minor/routine crashes when available. The Traffic Safety Officer also acts as a liaison between the police department and residents to address traffic-related issues. This is accomplished by working with the Public Works department to improve traffic plans, working with the traffic engineer to set light timing cycles, giving presentations to community groups and businesses to raise awareness, and providing officers with the tools that they need to actively enforce traffic violations (maintaining the Datamaster, RADARS, LIDARS, and organizing OVI Task Force enforcement hours, etc.) The traffic safety officer also coordinates the operations portion of the Hamilton County OVI Task Force and works with all city departments to plan out operations for the special events in the city (Taste of Blue Ash, Red White and Blue Ash, races, and more).

In 2016, the Blue Ash Police Department started training officers in online traffic crash reporting. The training process is extensive, but the benefits are worth it. In 2017, crash reports will be more readily available online once the department is fully trained.

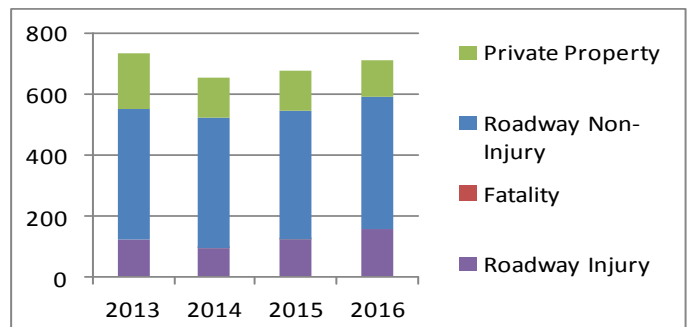
Traffic Citations

Patrol Officers made a total of 3,276 traffic stops during 2016. During those traffic stops, a total of 2,563 traffic citations or written warnings were handed out to drivers. Both of these numbers are extremely close to 2015 resulting in a steady traffic enforcement. Written warnings are utilized when officers feel traffic violators do not meet the level of needing a fine but need a documented violation on file.



Traffic Crashes

In 2016 there were 593 roadway traffic crash reports taken. This is an 8.8% increase over 2015. During the same time, private property crashes saw a 10.5% reduction to 120.



Hamilton County OVI Task Force

About the Task Force

The Hamilton County OVI Task Force is comprised of 31 Hamilton County law enforcement agencies and the Ohio State Highway Patrol and is currently managed by the Blue Ash Police Department. Together they conduct OVI checkpoints and a number of saturation patrols that target impaired drivers throughout the year in an effort to reduce alcohol related fatalities. The Task Force participates in two national highway safety campaigns: Click It or Ticket, held over Memorial Day Weekend, and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, held over the Labor Day Weekend.

The Task Force operates from the federal fiscal year, running October to September, via a \$225,000 grant funded through the Ohio Department of Public Safety and National Highway Traffic Administration. With these funds the Task Force also plans numerous training and educational activities for law enforcement such as:

- Mocktails
- DRE Conference
- ARIDE
- And much more

Hamilton County OVI Task Force Member Agencies

Addyston PD
Amberley Village PD
Blue Ash PD
Cheviot PD
Cincinnati PD
Cleveland PD
Colerain Township PD
Deer Park PD
Delhi PD
Fairfax PD
Glendale PD
Golf Manor PD
Greenhills PD
Hamilton County SO
Lockland PD
Loveland PD
Madeira PD
Mariemont PD
Milford PD
Montgomery PD
Mt. Healthy PD
Newtown PD
North College Hill PD
Norwood PD
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Reading PD
Sharonville PD
Springdale PD
Terrace Park PD
Woodlawn PD
Wyoming PD



2016 Year in Review

Checkpoints

Checkpoints: 17
Cars Checked: 12,156
Hours Worked: 1,864
OVI Arrests: 36
Felony Arrests: 3
Stolen Vehicles: 1

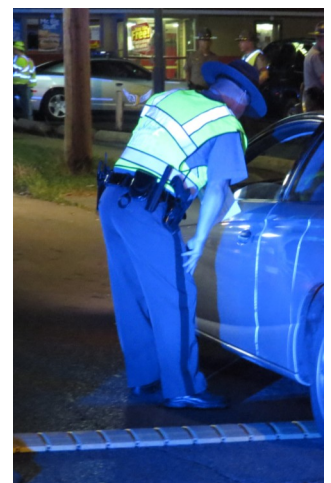
Saturation Patrols

Traffic Stops: 2,268
Hours Worked: 1,657
OVI Arrests: 30
Felony Arrests: 27
Driving Under Suspension: 208
Seatbelt Violations: 60
Speed: 685

Notable Event



The OVI Task Force purchased a new trailer to carry all of their supplies for checkpoint locations. This trailer was paid for by the grant and replaces aging equipment.





Did you know?

**A violent crime
occurs every
26.3 seconds in
the United
States.**



The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) is responsible for investigating crimes that require a more extensive period of time or greater complexity than road patrol officers are able to handle. In 2016 this section was comprised of Sergeant Edward Charron along with Detectives Bob Rockel, and Jeff Lewis. Together, the detectives worked 353 cases assigned to their unit.

The Blue Ash Police Department participates in the Ohio Incident Based Report System (OIBRS) which follows the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In 2016 949 criminal cases were handled by officers and detectives. This is up 3.6% from 916 in 2015.

The FBI Uniform Crime Report for 2015 reveals that in metropolitan counties nationwide, 46.0% of violent crimes were cleared and 19.4% of property crimes were cleared. The Blue Ash Police Department cleared 27.7% of violent crimes and 18.2% of property crimes in 2016. During 2016 we saw a decrease in the numbers of violent crimes such as robbery, sexual assaults, and aggravated assaults however a noticeable increase in drug violations.

Crime Breakdown

Of the 949 criminal offenses that occurred in Blue Ash in 2016 the majority of them were theft offenses. Theft accounted for 29.2% of all criminal offenses and are up 6.5% from 2015. Misuse of credit cards (where cards are stolen or cloned) account for the biggest increase in theft offenses. The Blue Ash Police Department highly recommends using cash or credit cards over debit cards as it protects the consumer from an immediate financial loss.

Drug and narcotic offenses are the second largest category making up 20.0% of criminal offenses.

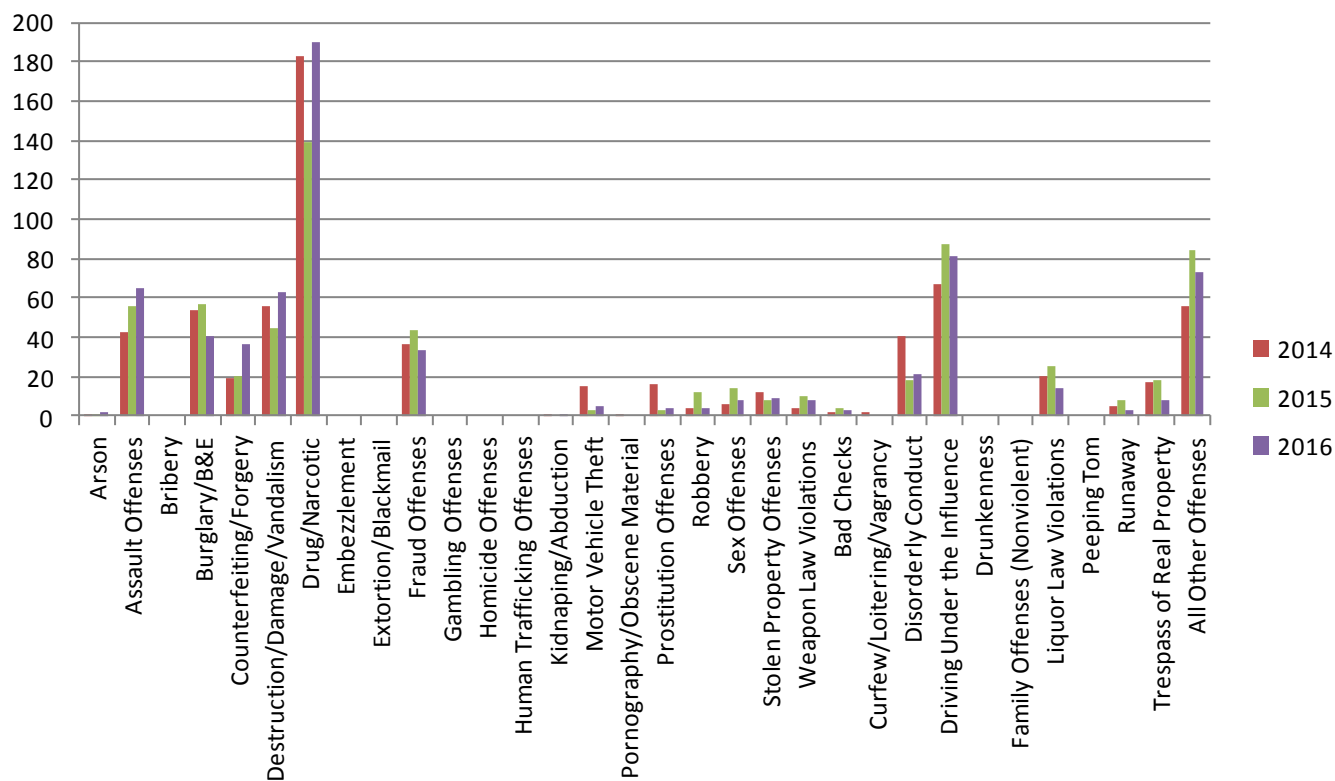
Officers have been proactive in addressing the third largest category, driving under the influence. In 2016 there were 82 OVI arrests by Blue Ash officers.

Arrest Breakdown

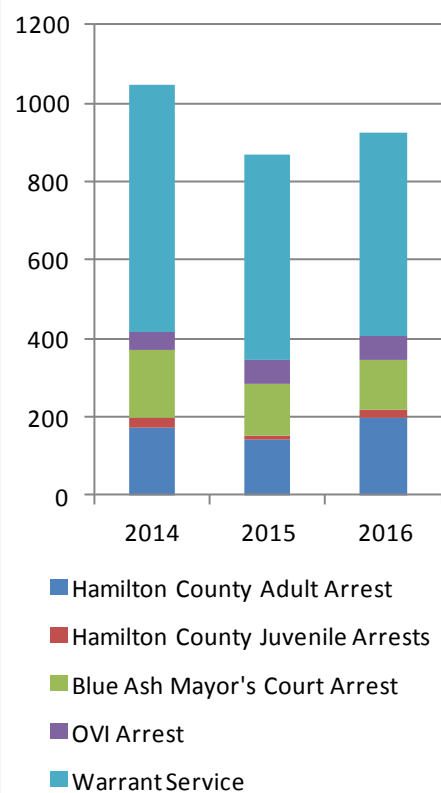
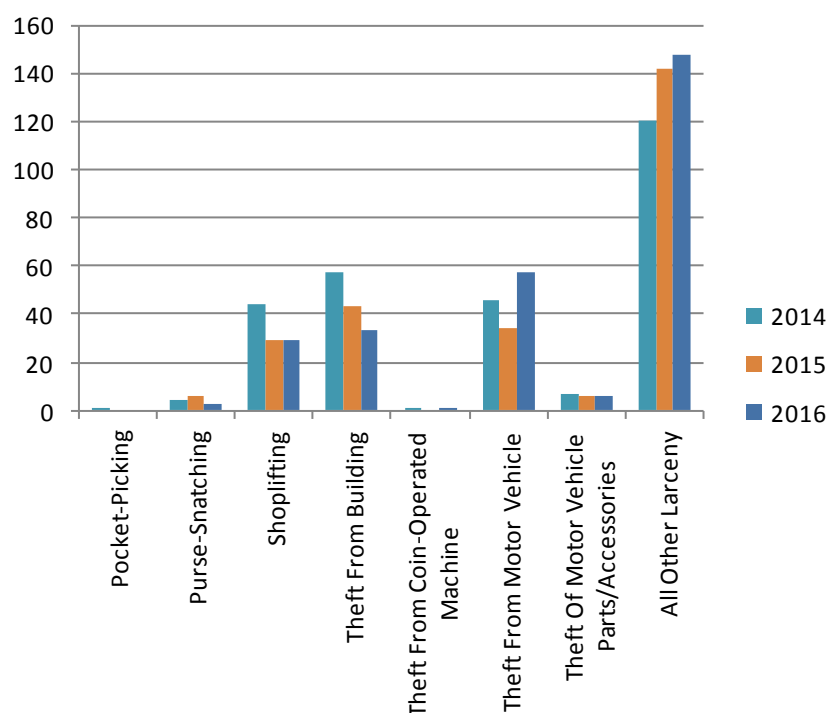
Total arrests for 2016 are up 6.2% compared to prior years, ending with 924 arrests for the year. The largest arrest area for the Blue Ash Police Department is in serving warrants. These include warrants for Hamilton County, Blue Ash, and other law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Even though this was the largest area, warrant services showed a 1.97% decrease over the year.

The largest increase from the prior year is in juvenile arrests, which are up 76.9% from 2015. This is partially due to the proactive enforcement methods of the patrol officers around the various parks of Blue Ash.

Crime Breakdown



Theft Breakdown



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Did you know?

There are 260 Mayor's Courts in the State of Ohio, and 23 in Hamilton County.

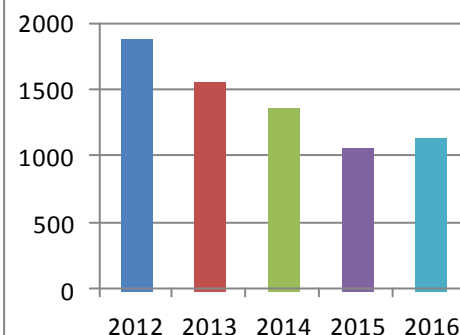
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About the Mayor's Court

The Blue Ash Mayor's Court is responsible for prosecuting misdemeanor criminal and traffic violations of the Codified Ordinances of Blue Ash. In 2016 it had an operating budget of \$129,800 with total expenses of \$109,066. Through fines and costs they brought in \$86,726.

Mayor Lee Czerwonka presides over the Mayor's Court, which operates under authority granted by Ohio Revised Code §1905.01. Brenda Traxler serves as the Mayor's Court clerk and she is assisted by part-time clerk Joy Puttman.

Total Cases

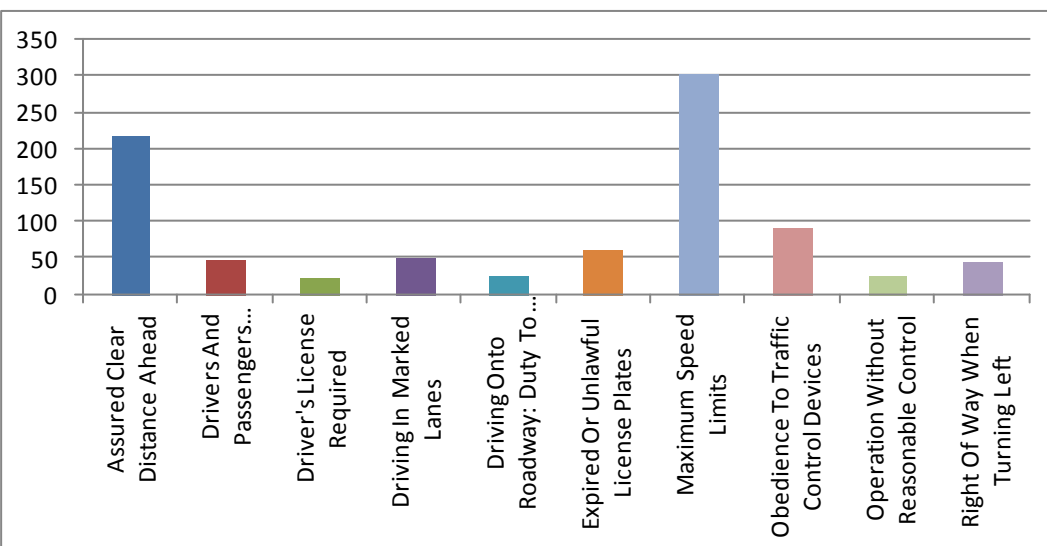
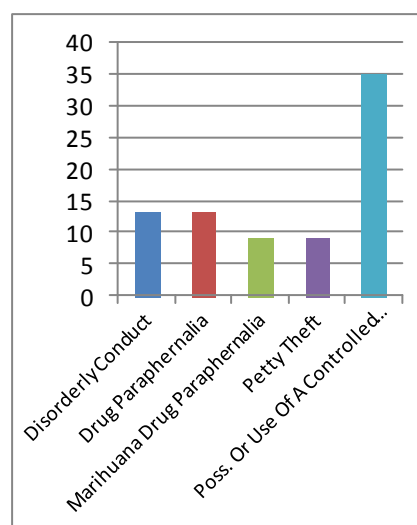


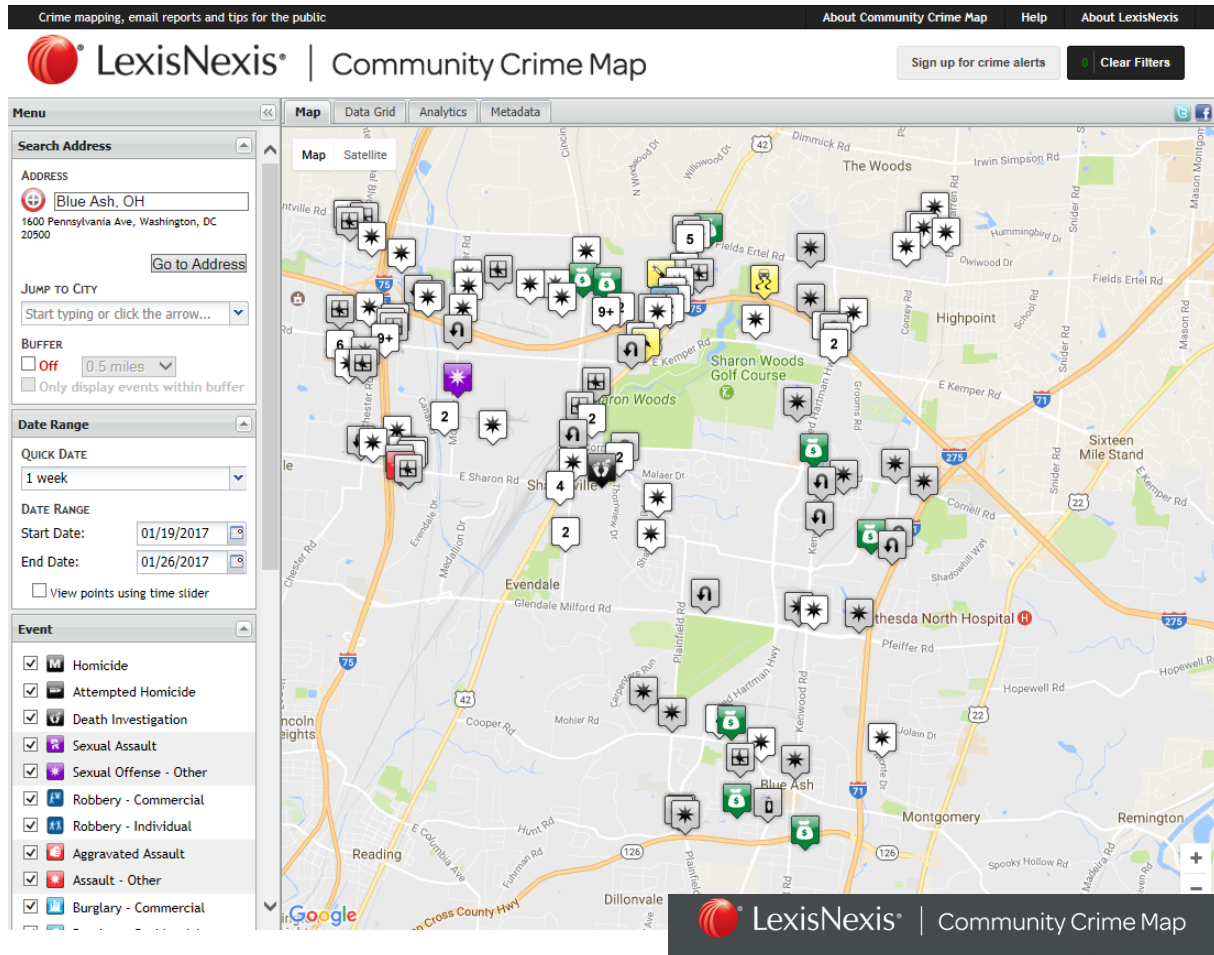
Top Charges

90% of the cases heard in Mayor's Court were traffic violations. The other 10% were criminal cases.

69.3% of all criminal cases heard by the Mayor's Court were found in five criminal violations shown at the right. Minor drug violations were the top cases heard by the Mayor.

86.1% of all traffic cases heard were found in the ten categories shown below. The top two categories, speed and assured clear distance, resulted in 50.3% of all traffic violations.





In March 2015, the City of Blue Ash entered into an agreement with Bair Software to provide Blue Ash crime data to the public using Google Maps' well-known, intuitive mapping interface. In 2016, Bair was bought out by LexisNexis.

Through Community Crime Map, citizens can view basic information on crime reports made in Blue Ash since January of 2012. The crime/incident type, street-level address, date and time are displayed for the users. The information can be viewed in a variety of formats and sorted on different criteria.

Data is uploaded twice daily by our records management system and includes all crimes occurring in Blue Ash. Currently, there are almost 13,000 incidents uploaded to the site by Blue Ash. Citizens can report anonymous tips to the police department by clicking on any incident and submitting the tip through CrimeStoppers. Citizens can also sign up for Crime Alerts that notify you daily by e-mail when a report occurs nearby.

www.CommunityCrimeMap.com

Daily Neighborhood Watch Report	
Crimes within 2.0 miles of 4335 Glendale-Milford Rd. Blue Ash, OH	
JANUARY 23, 2017 to JANUARY 24, 2017	
The quality of Neighborhood Watch Reports depends directly on the frequency agencies upload their data. If an agency does not upload data on a daily basis, then your report will not include all the crime that occurred in your area.	
Crimes that Occurred Yesterday	
	Miscellaneous Criminal Offense 96XX Kenwood Rd, Blue Ash, OH Jan 25, 2017 at 11:43 am 1.55 miles #201700163 Data provided by Blue Ash Police Department
	Traffic Crash - Roadway 16XX IR Jan 25, 2017 at 8:19 am 1.55 miles #201700162 Data provided by Blue Ash Police Department
	Theft 47XX Cornell Rd, Blue Ash, OH Jan 24, 2017 at 4:30 pm 1.49 miles #201700161 Data provided by Blue Ash Police Department
	AUTO ACCIDENT INJURY 111XX Main St, Sharonville, OH Jan 24, 2017 at 2:53 pm 1.77 miles #201700961 Data provided by Sharonville Police Department
	Wanted Person 53XX Idalia Ave, Blue Ash, OH Jan 24, 2017 at 1:46 pm 1.45 miles

Information can also be accessed from other local agencies including: Anderson Township, Colerain, Covington, Delhi, Erlanger, Loveland, Miami Township, Milford, Sharonville, Silverton, and Union Township.

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Blue Ash Police Department Mission Statement

*With courage, integrity, and compassion we serve,
safeguard and educate our community by providing superior
services that sustain a safe environment and high quality of life.*

Visit Us Online!

www.blueash.com/police
www.facebook.com/BlueAshPolice
-Twitter- @BlueAshPD

About This Publication

This publication was produced by Dispatcher Kevin Deye. For questions about this document contact Lt. Steve Schueler at 513-745-8555.

Public Records Requests

The Blue Ash Police Department is happy to serve the community and comply with requests for police records, which are handled pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §149.43. Records may be requested by contacting our Records Office at 745-8687, the dispatcher at 745-8555, or by e-mailing records@blueash.com. Records may be picked up, mailed, or sometimes even e-mailed (depending on the type of document).

