Blue Ash Police Department
2018
Annual Report

Blue Ash Police 2018 Annual Report

January 2019

Points of interest:

- 24,597 details logged
- 1,869 incident reports taken
- 3,899 traffic stops
- 3,358 traffic citations/warnings issued
- 48 OVI arrests
- 891 total arrests

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To All Community Members of The City of Blue Ash:

The Blue Ash Police Department continues to be a regional leader in the delivery of police services. We strive daily to build strong partnerships with our supportive residents, the Sycamore School District, and our business community. Through these partnerships we are able to provide an atmosphere where our residents and visitors can enjoy a safe and enjoyable lifestyle. The dedicated men and women of the Blue Ash Police Department are a collection of the best that law enforcement has to offer. Our men and women strive to be the best we can be each and every day.

The safety of our residents and visitors is of paramount importance to us and are the reason we do what we do. To support this mission, we have increased our presence in every Sycamore School building in our City with the focus on our elementary schools. Our dedicated team of ALICE instructors trains hundreds of residents, employees, and school personnel in best safety practices. We finalized a multi-year implementation of state of the art safety equipment for our officers. Our officers are better protected and have the equipment to better serve the community.

This year we implemented equipment, programs, and software which allows our employees to better analyze data, respond to calls for service, and more efficiently do our jobs. We have also increased our social media presence in an effort to teach, inform, and disseminate information to the community. We also implemented our Blue Ash Police Department Survey website so that we can receive direct feedback from the people that we serve. The feedback we receive provides us with an opportunity to learn and better serve the community.

The Blue Ash Police Department is committed to providing superior services through proactive initiatives, partnerships, and goals. We are honored to be charged with this duty and we will strive to do our very best. We welcome the opportunity to hear from our partners and we look forward to many great years to come.

Scott D. Noel
Chief of Police

About the Blue Ash Police Department

In 2018 the Blue Ash Police Department had 33 full-time police officers with a support staff of 9 full-time and part-time employees. The makeup of employees following the chain of command can be seen at the right.

- In January, the Blue Ash Police welcomed Christian Keuffer, Eric Nelson, and Brentten Wiley, and in July, Eric Bolser, as their newest officer. In November, Sarah Robers and Ashley Newell were welcomed as the newest dispatchers.
- The Blue Ash Police would like to congratulate the following retirements and resignations:
  - In January, Chief Paul Hartinger retired after 29 years
  - In March, Officer John Connolly retired after 17 years
  - In June, Officer Mark Ziegler retired after 15 years
  - In June, Lt. Joe Boyatt retired after 29 years
  - In August, Dispatcher Mary Lamping after 1 year
  - In November, Sgt. Edward Charron retired after 23 years
  - In November, Dispatch Melissa Masten after 1 year
- After Joe Boyatt's retirement, he was hired back on as an Auxiliary Police Officer

Blue Ash Police Department Organizational Chart

- Chief Scott Noel
  - Patrol Lieutenant Roger Pohlman
    - Road Patrol Sergeants (5)
      - Patrol Officers (18)
      - Traffic Safety Officer (1)
      - Auxiliary Police Officers (3)
  - Administrative Lieutenant Steve Schueler
    - Records (1)
    - Property Room (1)
    - Fleet Maintenance (1)
    - Scheduling (1)
    - Mayor's Court (2)
  - Support Services Lieutenant Rob Gerhardt
    - Detectives (3)
    - Directed Patrol Officer (1)
    - Community Resource Officer (1)
    - Dispatchers (6)

Finances

The total budget (combined with carryover) for the Police Department for 2018 was $7,030,203. Actual expenses for 2018 were $6,635,013.

In 2018 Blue Ash was awarded $57,949 seized from a drug courier during a traffic stop and two vehicles from forfeiture cases.

Did you know?

Our core values are:

Courage

Integrity

Compassion

Notable Events

The Blue Ash Police Department received the AAA Platinum Traffic Safety Award for the ninth 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.

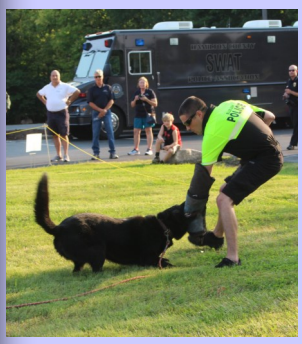
ALiCE training was conducted for many local businesses, including the members of the 123rd Ohio Air National Guard and the Blue Ash Fire Department. ALiCE is the #1 active shooter civilian response training for organizations. The Training is primarily teaching the facility members how to improve their chances of surviving during an attack by an armed intruder until law enforcement arrives. It teaches a new method to handle an active shooter versus the traditional “lockdown only” approach. The PD benefits by testing our response and ability to manage the incident through Unified Command. For more information on ALiCE for your organization, contact the Blue Ash 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 engagement- 511 total officer hours, with over 17,200 persons engaged during public appearance details (Coffee with a Cop, ALICE, Operation Give Back, Cram-A-Cruiser, Holiday Store, Canstruction Food Drive).

The Blue Ash Police Department continued partnerships throughout the year with; the Crisis Intervention Training in Hamilton County, Special Needs and Awareness Program (SNAP), Human Trafficking Work Group of South West Ohio (HTWGSWO), Blue Ash Business Association, End Slavery Cincinnati, Freedom Center, Easter Seals, Willa Washington Scholarship Fund, Sycamore Community Schools, Blue Ash HOA’s, Boy/Girl Scouts, Asian Community Alliance, Hamilton County DDS, Adult Protective Services, MADD, Women Helping Women, and many more.

Patrol Operations



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 2018 Patrol Officers took reports for 1,869 incidents, a 0.5% decrease from 2017. The average response time for officers to arrive on scene of an incident is 7 minutes and 1 second. 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 2018. 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 2018 non-criminal reports equaled about 33.5% of the total reports.

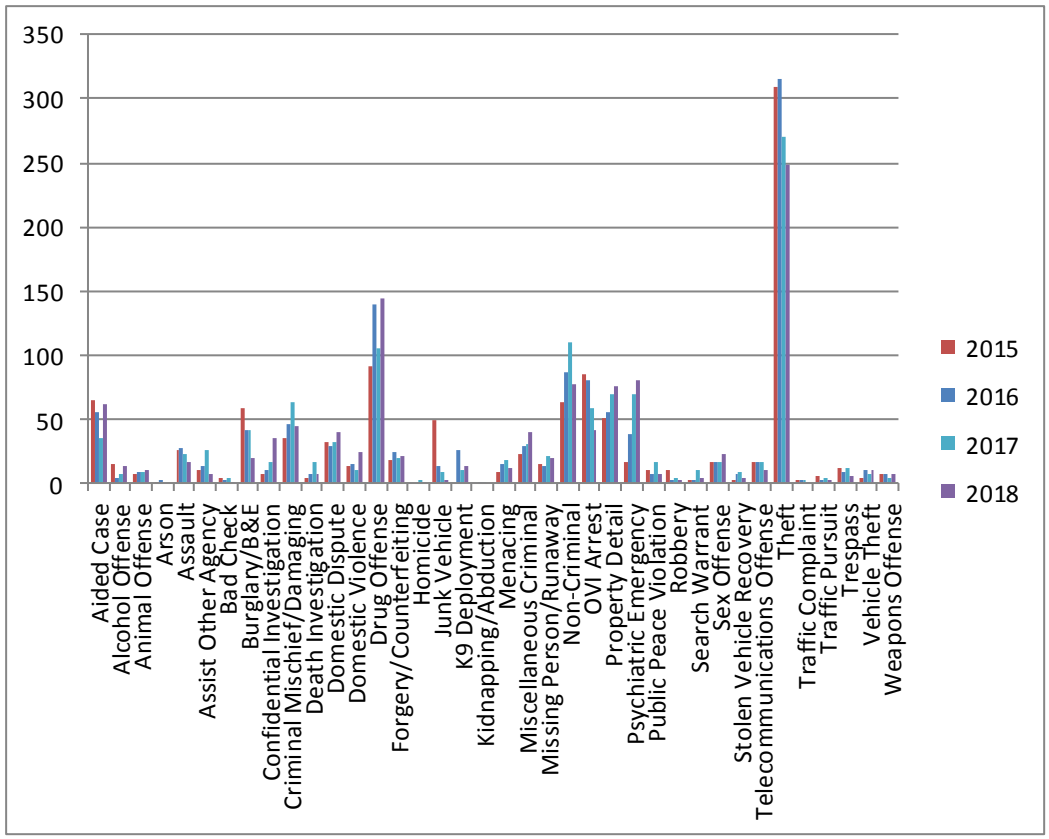
1st Shift
- Sergeant Allison Schlie
- Officer Bob Rockel
- Officer Jim Kelley
- Officer Brandon Taylor
- Officer Jason Huff
- Officer Mark Owens
- Officer Dane Baumgartner
- APO Steve Fromhold

2nd Shift
- Sergeant Jun Cho
- Sergeant Steve Keller
- Officer Dustin Moore
- Officer Kate Tolle
- Officer Chady Chahine
- Officer Erik Nelson
- Officer Brentten Wiley
- Officer Eric Bolser

3rd Shift
- Sergeant Pete Ballauer
- Sergeant Todd Stewart
- Officer Ken Schrand
- Officer Bill Fritts
- Officer Jason Asbury
- Officer Michael Jackson
- Officer Christian Keuffer

Did you know?

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



Dispatch Operations

On Duty 24/7

In 2018 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 2018 they accounted for 9,925 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 14,679 officer-initiated details. The chart below shows how details were reported to the Blue Ash Police over the past four years.

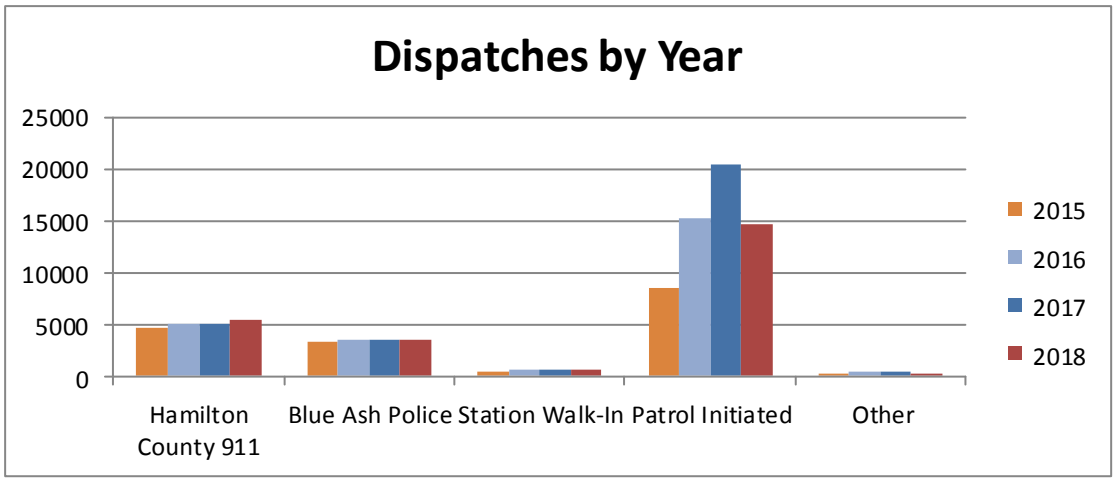
The Blue Ash Police Dispatchers are also responsible for notifying city emergency personnel when issues arise for the general public such as snow removal, trees in the roadway, or the railroad for issues with train crossings.

In 2018, Mary Lamping and Melissa Masten resigned from their positions. Sarah Robers and Ashley Newell were selected from a lengthy list of candidates to join the Blue Ash family. Our other dispatchers are Katie Farmer, Sarah Miller, Judie Dreyer, and Rebecca Koligian.

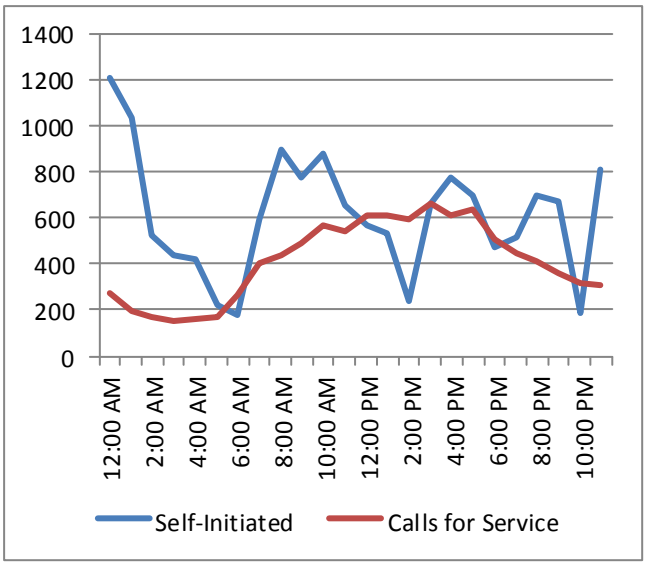
The top dispatches for 2017 come from the following categories:

Security Checks	5,928
Traffic Stops	3,908
Alarm Drops	1,848
EMS/Fire Runs	1,336
Traffic Crashes	1,068
Vacation Checks	803
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	753
Disabled Vehicles	701
Lockouts	636
Traffic Complains	532

Those details account for 70.0% of all details in 2018.



The chart to the right shows the number of details logged per hour for 2018. The three busiest hours for details initiated by officers are the 12:00 AM, 1:00 AM, and 8:00 AM hours respectively and account for 21.4% 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 19.3% of the daily details.



Did you know?

Approximately 240 million 9-1-1 calls are made in the U.S. each year. 80% of those are made from wireless devices

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 traffic operations for the special events in the city (SummitFest, Red White and Blue Ash, races, and more).

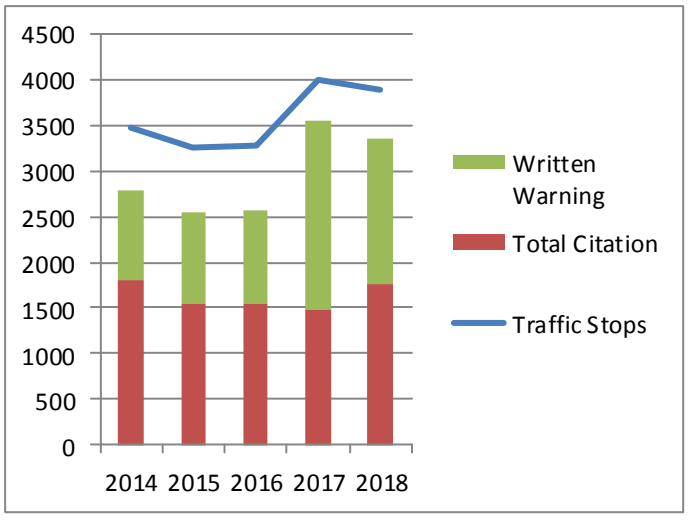
After a two year hiatus to work road patrol, Officer Dane Baumgartner returned as the Traffic Safety Officer for the Blue Ash Police Department. Officer Baumgartner has been with the Blue Ash Police Department since 2007.

Did you know?

Every 1 minute and 52 seconds there is a traffic crash in the state of Ohio.

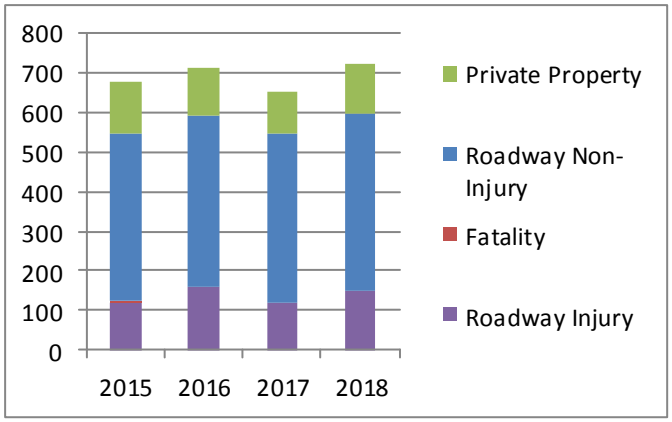
Traffic Citations

Patrol Officers made a total of 3,899 traffic stops during 2018. During those traffic stops, a total of 3,358 traffic citations or written warnings were handed out to drivers. 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 2018 there were 600 roadway traffic crash reports taken. This is a 10.1% increase over 2017. During the same time, private property crashes saw a 10.0% increase to 121.



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:

- Mocktail Event
- DRE Conference
- OVI Detection training for officers
- Education Events
- Volunteer and Partner with MADD
- And much more

Hamilton County OVI Task Force Member Agencies

Addyston PD
Amberley Village PD
Blue Ash PD
Cheviot PD
Cincinnati PD
Cleves 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

2018 Year in Review

Checkpoints

Checkpoints: 16
Cars Checked: 10,217
OVI Arrests: 19
Felony Arrests: 4
Misdemeanor Arrests: 20

Saturation Patrols

Traffic Stops: 1,956
Hours Worked: 1,599
OVI Arrests: 28
Felony Arrests: 20
Driving Under Suspension: 212
Seatbelt Violations: 2
Speed: 532

Follow us Online...

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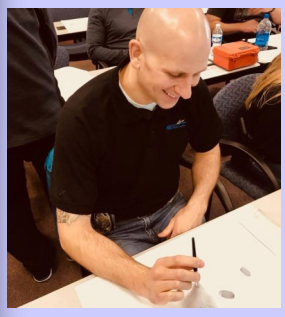
-Twitter- @HCOVITF

Criminal Investigations Section



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 2018 this section was comprised of Lt. Rob Gerhardt along with Detectives Jeff Lewis, Jason Swartwout, and Mark Niehaus. Together, the detectives worked 263 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 2018, 852 criminal cases were handled by officers and detectives. This is down 1.0% from 861 in 2017.

For 2018, 263 cases were assigned to CIS for follow up and 335 cases were assigned to officers. 486 of those were cleared with arrest, where the victim refused to follow through, or unfounded. 115 were closed with no investigative leads. 53 currently remain active under investigation or with warrants issued. The other 254 cases were solved at the time of the offense with an arrest and no need for follow up. That equates to a 86.9% clearance rate for cases in 2018.

Did you know?

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

Crime Breakdown

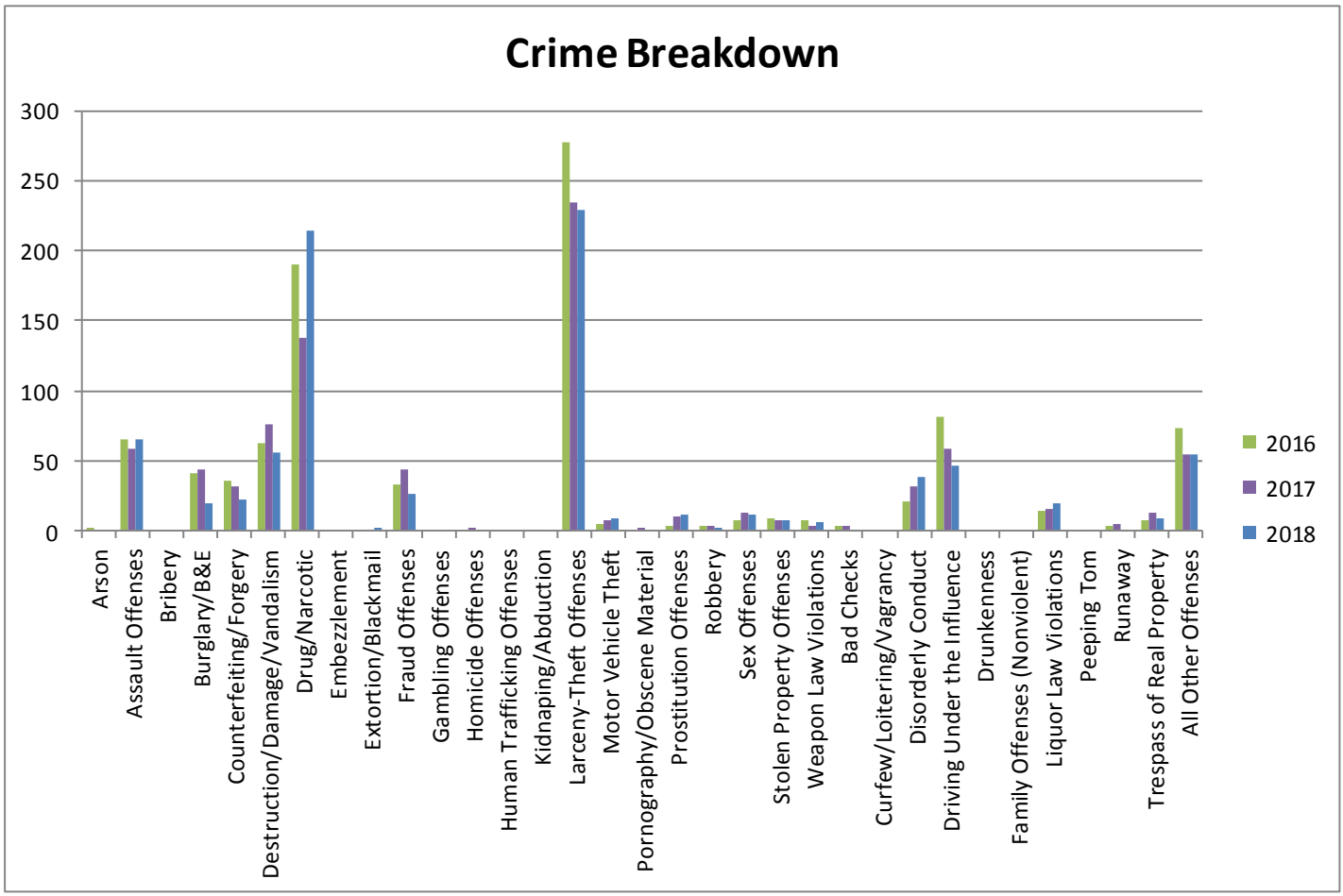
Of the 852 criminal offenses that occurred in Blue Ash in 2018 the majority of them were theft offenses. Theft accounted for 26.9% of all criminal offenses and are down 2.5% from 2017. Drug and narcotic offenses are the second largest category making up 25.1% of criminal offenses.

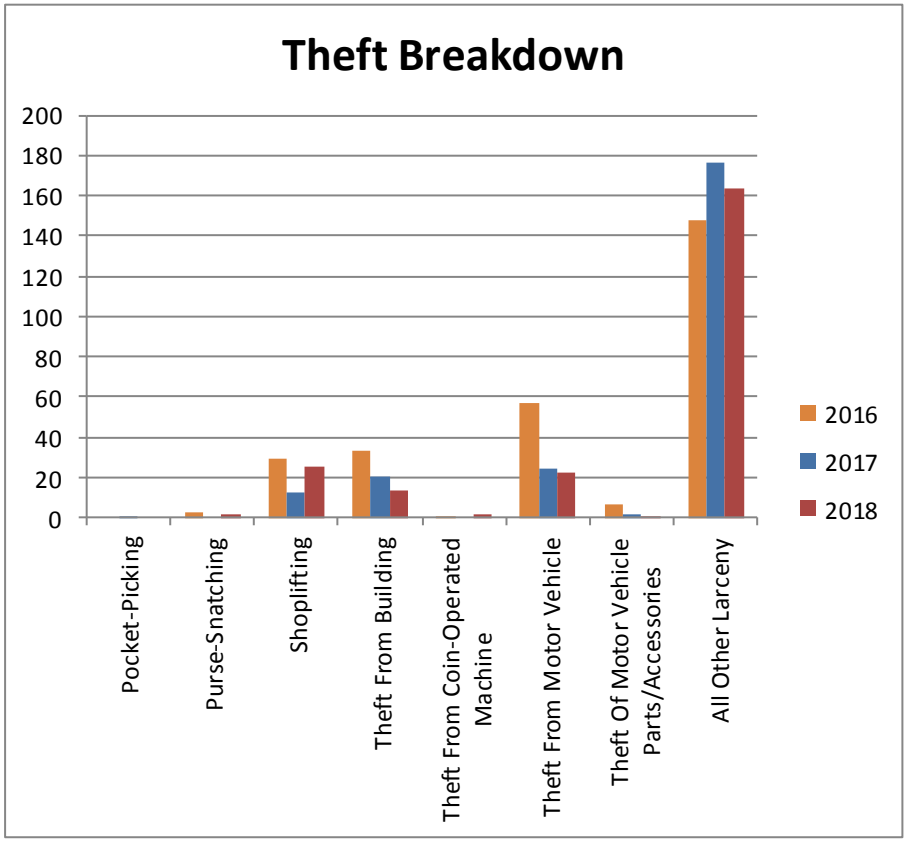
Arrest Breakdown

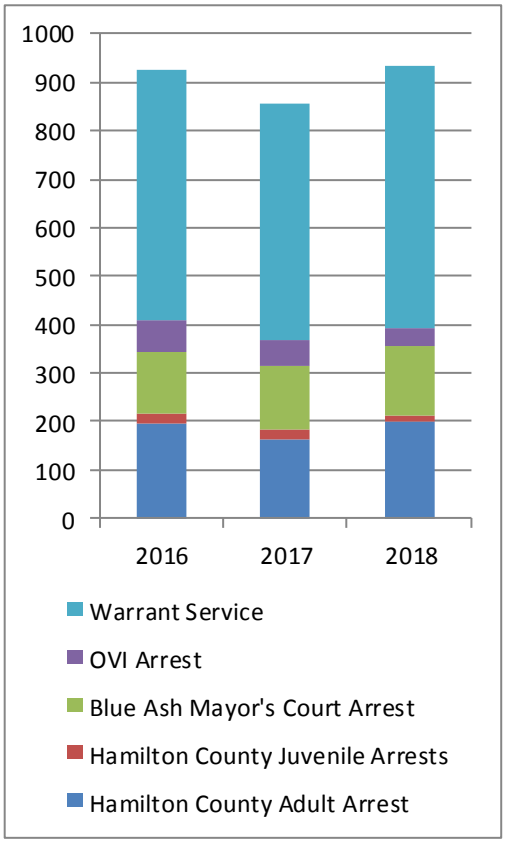
Total arrests for 2018 are up 9.2% compared to prior years, ending with 934 arrests for the year. The largest arrest area for the Blue Ash Police Department is in serving warrants. These include warrants for Hamilton County, Blue Ash, and other law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

Special Operations

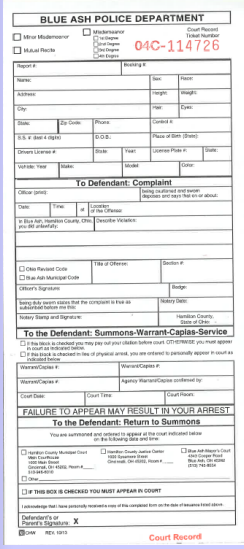
To assist in reducing the drug offenses, 41 special operations were conducted in 2018. This is most noticeable in the increase in drug/narcotic offenses for 2018. The increase is due to a proactive effort to seek out drug offenders. Blue Ash hopes through special operations that individuals addicted to drugs can be targeted and then provided the assistance they need to become drug free. Blue Ash Officer's successfully administered Narcan to nine individuals in 2018


Crime Breakdown
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
Arson
Assault Offenses
Bribery
Burglary/B&E
Counterfeiting/Forgery
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism
Drug/Narcotic
Embezzlement
Extortion/Blackmail
Fraud Offenses
Gambling Offenses
Homicide Offenses
Human Trafficking Offenses
Kidnaping/Abduction
Larceny-Theft Offenses
Motor Vehicle Theft
Pornography/Obscene Material
Prostitution Offenses
Robbery
Sex Offenses
Stolen Property Offenses
Weapon Law Violations
Bad Checks
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy
Disorderly Conduct
Driving Under the Influence
Drunkenness
Family Offenses (Nonviolent)
Liquor Law Violations
Peeping Tom
Runaway
Trespass of Real Property
All Other Offenses
2016
2017
2018


Theft Breakdown
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Pocket-Picking
Purse-Snatching
Shoplifting
Theft From Building
Theft From Coin-Operated Machine
Theft From Motor Vehicle
Theft Of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories
All Other Larceny
2016
2017
2018


1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2016
2017
2018
Warrant Service
OVI Arrest
Blue Ash Mayor's Court Arrest
Hamilton County Juvenile Arrests
Hamilton County Adult Arrest

Blue Ash Mayor's Court


BLUE ASH POLICE DEPARTMENT

04C-114726

To Defendant: Complaint

To the Defendant: Summons-Warrant-Capias-Service

FAILURE TO APPEAR MAY RESULT IN YOUR ARREST

To the Defendant: Return to Summons

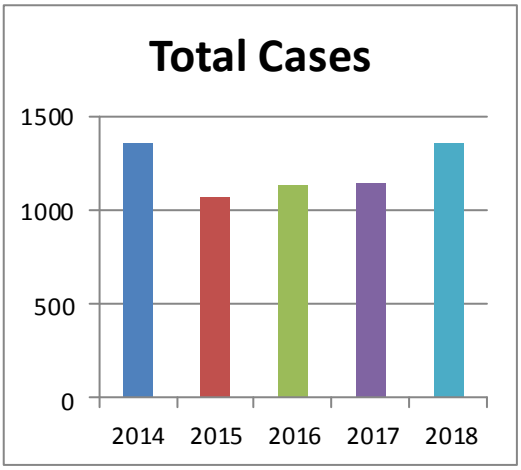
IF THIS BOX IS CHECKED YOU MUST APPEAR IN COURT

Court Record

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 2018 it had an operating budget of $149,924 with total expenses of $129,319. Through fines and costs they brought in $117,507.

Magistrate John O'Shea presided over the court. Brenda Traxler serves as the Mayor's Court clerk and she is assisted by part-time clerk Joy Puttman.



Did you know?

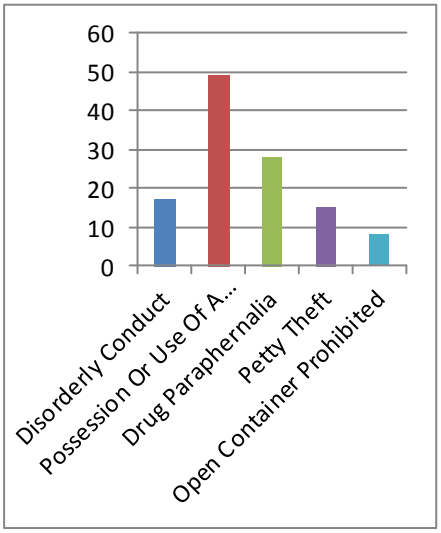
There are 260 Mayor's Courts in the State of Ohio, and 23 in Hamilton County.

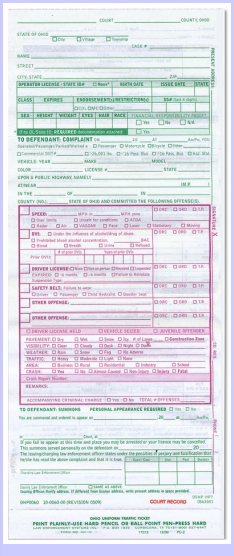
Top Charges

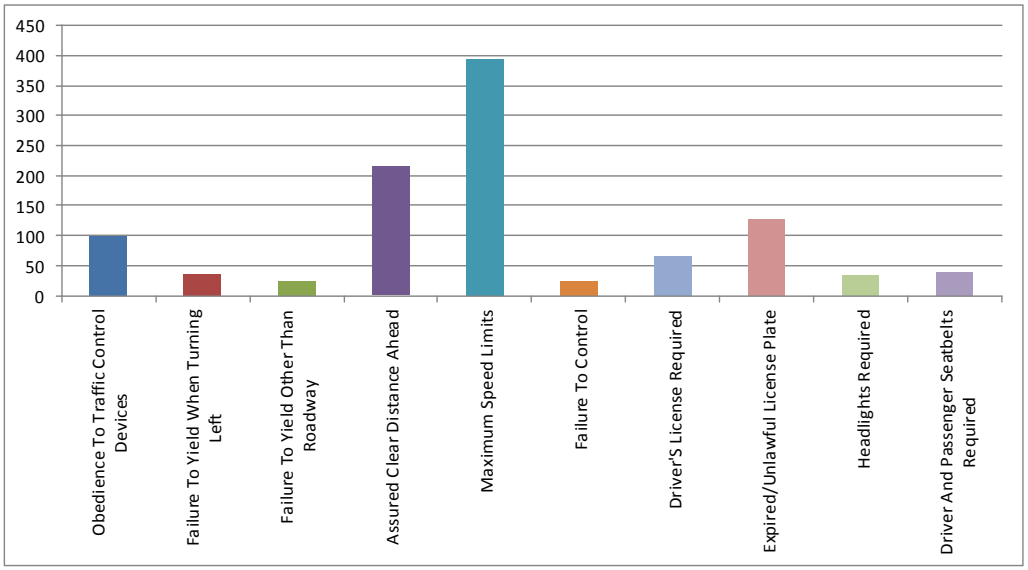
89% of the cases heard in Mayor's Court were traffic violations. The other 11% were criminal cases.

73.1% 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.

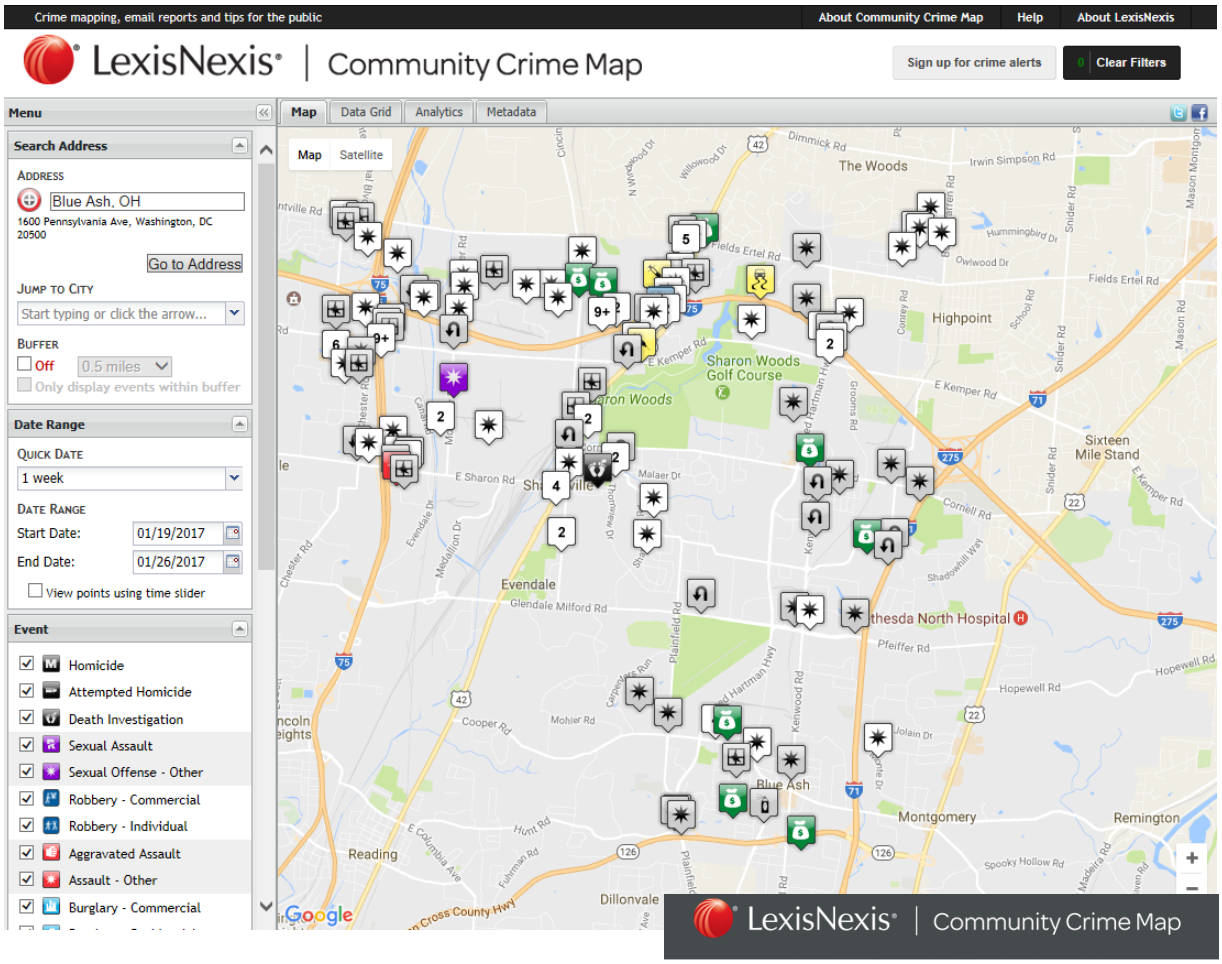
85.2% of all traffic cases heard were found in the ten categories shown below. The top two categories, speed and assured clear distance, resulted in 46.8% of all traffic violations.




COURT RECORD



Community Crime Map

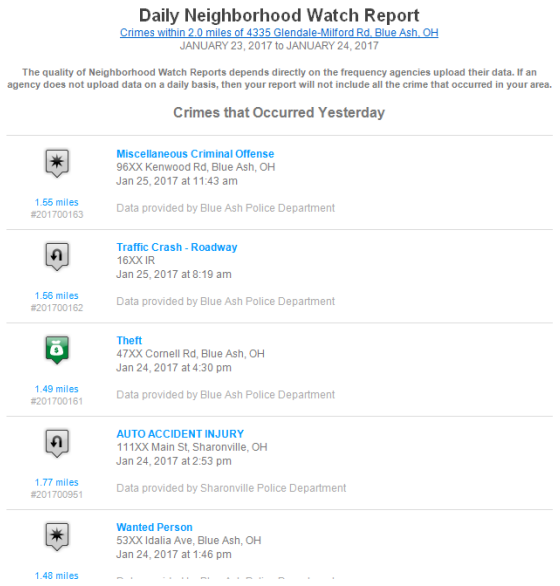


In March 2015, the City of Blue Ash entered into an agreement with Bair Software to provide Blue Ash crime data to the public using Google Maps' well-known, intuitive mapping interface. In 2016, Bair was bought out by LexisNexis.

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 14,000 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
1.56 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
#201700951
Data provided by Sharonville Police Department

Wanted Person
53XX Idalia Ave, Blue Ash, OH
Jan 24, 2017 at 1:46 pm
1.48 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.

Blue Ash Police Department
4343 Cooper Rd
Blue Ash, OH 45242

Phone: 513-745-8555
Fax: 513-745-8598
E-mail: police@blueash.com

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 Police Technical Services Specialist 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 the 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).