

# 2018 stats



## SLP Police

**Total calls for service:**  
**42,524**

**1 call every 12 minutes**

### Top five calls for service

- Traffic stops
- Suspicious activity
- Alarms
- Parking complaint
- Welfare checks

#### Part 1 crimes\*

1,315

- 75 crimes against persons (assault, robbery, rape)
- 1,240 property crimes (theft, burglary, vehicle theft, arson)

*\*Includes theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, aggravated assault, robbery, rape, arson and homicide*

**Traffic stops:** 6,267  
**Warnings:** 4,044  
**Citations:** 1,942

#### Part 2 crimes\*\*

1,112

*\*\*Includes DWI, narcotics, vandalism, forgery/fraud, criminal sexual conduct, disorderly conduct, other assault, obscenity, stolen property, fleeing police, gambling, liquor violations and weapons offenses*

**Animal calls:**  
**214**

**Animal impound:**  
**61**

Busiest day of the week is **Friday**

Busiest time of the day is from **10 - 11 p.m.**

### Budget

The actual budgeted expenditures of the 2018 police protection and communications budgets totaled \$9,613,796. The 2018 budget had an allocation of \$8,806,850 for salaries and benefits, approximately 92 percent of the total budget.

### Top violations

- Parking violations
- Expired tabs
- Vehicle registration violation
- Driving after revocation

**Issued 199 gun permits**  
**Issued 62 solicitor permits**

October is the busiest month.  
7,020 reports written  
170 DWI arrests  
1,110 arrests  
814 cases investigated  
256 individuals booked in the jail



## St. Louis Park Police Department 2018 Annual Report



# Letter from Chief Harcey



In its 2015 final report, the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing noted that the use of technology in policing is one of the six most important initiatives to build trust and legitimacy in policing. To ensure that we maintain that trust and legitimacy, it's important that we not only implement the technology, but that we also evaluate, prepare comprehensive policies and train officers on appropriate use of technology. I'm pleased to report that the St. Louis Park Police Department has applied these recommendations to the development of our body-worn camera program.

In November 2017, I recommended to the St. Louis Park City Council that the police department implement a body-worn camera program to help in collecting evidence, writing accurate reports and providing greater transparency and accountability. To develop a comprehensive policy on the appropriate use of body-worn cameras that would meet the community's expectations, an internal team evaluated best practices, model policies and state statutes about the use of body-worn cameras.

The final policy was developed through an extensive community engagement process and was approved by the city council. In fall 2018, a second internal team evaluated body-worn camera equipment from several companies to find the best solution to meet department needs. Axon was selected after much evaluation and testing. Officers began using body-worn cameras in April 2019, following extensive training.

I am confident that the work done by staff to involve and inform community partners resulted in a body-worn camera program that meets the goals of enhancing evidence collection and report writing and providing greater transparency and accountability to the community.

Another 2018 goal was to involve the police department in a strategic planning process to guide our work over the next three to five years. Working with a facilitator from Ethical Leaders in Action, command staff developed input opportunities for all department members, including a survey, personal interviews and participation by a cross-section of the department in a one-day planning session.

This resulted in a redefined mission and values, as well as four strategic initiatives:

- Align roles and duties departmentwide
- Promote employee wellness
- Lead in the creation of a community mental health collaborative
- Increase dispatch staffing to meet operational demands

I am proud of the excellent work of the department in developing the body-worn camera program and in the strategic planning process. Our staff takes great pride in serving and engaging our community to make St. Louis Park a great place to live, work and learn. We are grateful for the ongoing support and partnerships with our elected officials, city administrators and the community.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as the chief of police for the City of St. Louis Park.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Harcey".

Mike Harcey, chief  
St. Louis Park Police Department



# Collaboration



The mission of the St. Louis Park Police Department is to provide a safe community through quality service, community partnerships and professionalism.

Operating philosophy:

- A commitment to community-oriented policing
- Deliver effective and efficient services
- Provide a positive work environment for employees

Through its mission and philosophy, the police department seeks to support the city's overall mission of providing collaborative, quality and responsive services to residents.

## School resource officer program and D.A.R.E.

Four police officers are assigned as school resource officers during the school year, serving as resources for students, teachers and school administrators. One officer is assigned to St. Louis Park Senior High School and another at St. Louis Park Middle School, with a third serving private schools, including Benilde-St. Margaret's. The middle school resource officer also teaches the seventh-grade D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. A fourth officer serves as school resource officer to Aquila, Cedar Manor and Susan Lindgren elementary schools and also teaches the D.A.R.E. program to fifth-grade students.



## A Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP)

position, funded by Hennepin County and filled by a Hennepin County employee, was added in 2013 to help connect the police department to immigrant communities.

## New Americans Academy



In 2018, in partnership with Adult Options in Education ELL (English Language Learners), the police department hosted a six-week New Americans Academy class. The academy provides an opportunity for adult immigrants and refugees to

learn more about police procedures and laws and to become familiar with other city services. The classes allow students and officers to get to know one another and to build trust.



## Multicultural advisory committee

The multicultural advisory committee (MAC) was created in July 2015 with the mission of enhancing communication and understanding between law enforcement and the community and to create an inclusive environment for all.

In 2017, the MAC requested a strategic planning process to assist committee members in identifying and implementing projects to accomplish its mission. The MAC continued that work in 2018, hosting the Sweet Potato Comfort Pie and Iftar dinner events.

The MAC partnered with Rose McGee of Sweet Potato Comfort Pies to bring St. Louis Park community members together to support its Somali neighbors who were affected and grieving losses after the 2017 attack in Mogadishu, Somalia. Both Somali and non-Somali community members baked the pies together. After baking together, attendees were invited to stay, enjoy pie and share stories to promote solidarity and healing.

In partnership with St. Louis Park Community Education, the MAC hosted a second annual Iftar dinner, created to bring Muslims and people of all faiths together during the holy month of Ramadan. Following a presentation on Islam, participants break the fast together. Non-Muslim participants can observe Muslim prayer and everyone shares in the evening Iftar meal and lively conversation.

## Police advisory commission

The police advisory commission's (PAC) goals are to increase awareness of police department capabilities and services, provide an opportunity for community involvement and input in police services and encourage positive interactions between the police department and the community. The work of the commission changes as the needs of the community change. Commissioners design and create their own initiatives each year.

In 2018, the PAC:

- Coordinated with the multicultural advisory committee and the human rights commission to review the body-worn camera policy and provide feedback to the city council.
- Initiated the creation of public service announcement videos.
- Started a 5K run to raise money for the St. Louis Park Crime Fund, which supports youth events. The 5K run took place again in 2019 and is slated to become an annual event.

# Outreach



## Citizens' Police Academy

This 10-week, hands-on informational program allows people who live or work in St. Louis Park to get an inside look at what it's like to be a police officer. Participants learn about the role and function of the police department and how they can play an important part in crime prevention. Topics covered include the history and philosophy of the police department, training, patrol operations, use of force, dispatch center, K-9 operations, investigations and narcotics. Participants tour the police department and jail, ride along in a squad car with a police officer and actively participate in demonstrations and scenarios.

## Skateapalooza



Coming up on its fourth year in 2019, the Skateapalooza event helps create positive interactions between police and the skateboarding community. Officers use the event to build trust in the community and to provide a venue to introduce kids to skateboarding. With free lessons, demonstrations, games and prizes, the event has grown considerably, with new partnerships with other city departments, community skate shops and parks, Global X Games and Ride MN.

## Winter and spring break programs



Started by the police department community outreach team, this program actively seeks young people with uncertain home life schedules during the long winter and spring school breaks. Program events include ice skating, snow tubing, trampoline parks, skateboarding and more. Some

education comes along with the fun, including visiting a soda bottling company and touring U.S. Bank Stadium. The kids and officers also participate in a community give-back activity, such as cleaning trash from skate parks and packing 200 food boxes for the homeless.



## Cops and kids holiday shopping

Cops and Kids Holiday Shopping celebrated its fifth year in 2018, with another fun-filled night of food, laughs and shopping. Thirteen St. Louis Park Middle School students went home with gifts for their families from Target and Cub Foods and with bellies full of food from Park Tavern.

## Summer teen center

2018 marked the inaugural year of the teen center, a police department community outreach team initiative operated in partnership with Knollwood Church. Located in a church-owned space, the teen center is filled with games and activities. Officers open the space one day a week to youth, providing a safe and fun environment to interact with friends, police and other city employees, and to have lunch and snacks. Social workers from Cornerstone were on hand for those who wanted to talk about issues affecting them at home or in the community.

## Jobs in the park

Currently in its second year, this three-day event helps youth learn about job opportunities with the city, as well as applying and interviewing for jobs. The program will help any youth in the community find a job, but focuses on at-risk teens. This initiative has led to an effective collaboration between St. Louis Park Middle School and St. Louis Park Senior High School; the City of St. Louis Park parks and recreation, maintenance and human resources divisions; the city-operated Westwood Hills Nature Center and Methodist Hospital.

## Police substations

To provide police officers with resources in the neighborhoods they serve, the police department operates several substations throughout the city. Substations provide all the necessary resources for officers to write reports, meet with community members and maintain a presence in the neighborhoods.

Substation are located at:

- The Shoppes at Knollwood, 8332 Hwy. 7
- Excelsior & Grand, 4717 Park Commons Drive
- The Shops at West End, 1623 West End Blvd.



# Quality



## Pathways to Policing

The City of St. Louis Park is participating in Pathways to Policing, an innovative program designed to remove barriers for nontraditional candidates who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement and who have at least a two-year associate degree from an accredited college or university. The program focuses on candidates without the means to pay for or availability to attend a law enforcement academic program while in their current careers.

Operated in partnership with the Bloomington Police Department and several other metro police agencies, Pathways to Policing offers an intensive training program through Hennepin Technical College that allows candidates to complete training in four months rather than two years. Once they've successfully completed the training program and passed the Peace Officers Standards and Training exam, candidates are sworn in as police officers.

"The Pathways to Policing program has allowed us to hire two outstanding nontraditional candidates who bring valuable life experiences to the department," said St. Louis Park Police Chief Mike Harcey. "The program has allowed our candidates to overcome a common barrier for nontraditional candidates by assisting them in completing their police officer licensing requirements while employed with our department."



## Chaplain program

Eight chaplains volunteer their time with the chaplain program. They are available as professional, nondenominational resources who donate hundreds of hours of their time to provide confidential spiritual guidance and counseling for department staff, their families and the community each year.

# Responsiveness



## Drug Take Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.4 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from home medicine cabinets.

Twice a year, the police department partners with the DEA and other police departments nationwide for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The most recent event resulted in collection of more than 160 pounds of medication.



## Medicine disposal

The police department has joined Hennepin County's coordinated medicine disposal program. A drop box is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the police department lobby, 3015 Raleigh Ave. S., to dispose of household medicines, including prescription, over-the-counter and pet medicines. Medicines should be brought in their original containers. No ID is required, and the service is free. Visit [www.hennepin.us/medicine](http://www.hennepin.us/medicine) for a list of accepted medicines and items that aren't accepted. The box is monitored and emptied by trained police staff members, with contents taken for safe destruction multiple times each year.

Proper disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications:

- Prevents chemicals from entering groundwater and drinking water, which can happen when medications are thrown away in the garbage, flushed down the toilet or washed down the drain.
- Eliminates the possibility of burglars finding prescription medicines during a break-in to either use or sell on the street.
- Reduces the risk of accidental consumption by children or pets.

# Awards



## **Officer Blomsness named 2018 officer of the year** *(above left)*

The officer of the year award is presented annually to an officer who has demonstrated consistent principles of integrity, fairness and a commitment to service within the community.

In 2018, Officer Matthew Blomsness worked as a patrol officer. He is also a member of the SWAT team, works as a firearms instructor and is a patrol training officer. His nomination for the award said in part, "Matt is an example of what a St. Louis Park police officer should be. He is someone who takes his professionalism seriously. He treats everyone with respect. His work product is an example for others to follow. He strives to learn and improve every day, and involves himself in many aspects of the department...he takes on many tasks and does them with excellence."

Officers are nominated by their peers for the award; officers select the officer of the year by voting on nominations during the police department's annual meeting. Officer Blomsness has been with the department for 12 years and currently supervises the SWAT team.

## **Officer Erickson receives award of valor** *(above right)*

Officer Jacob Erickson received the St. Louis Park Police Department Award of Valor, which is awarded to an individual who, conscious of danger, intelligently, and in the furtherance of public safety, distinguishes themselves by the outstanding performance of an act of gallantry and valor at imminent hazard to life, above and beyond the call of duty or routine humanity.

On July 5, 2018, officers responded to a reported assault involving a knife. While dispatchers and officers assisted the victim to safety and relayed essential information, Officer Erickson and others approached the front of the house. When a man charged toward the officers with a knife, Officer Erickson used his shield as a defensive weapon and incapacitated the man, allowing him to be disarmed before being taken for medical care and evaluation.

The team of emergency responders on scene agreed that Officer Erickson's bravery and handling of the shield when confronting the knife-wielding man prevented the use of deadly force while also ensuring the safety of officers.

# Police reserves



## **Police reserves**

The reserves unit includes 14 volunteers who range in age from 20 to over 60. In 2018, the reserves volunteered more than 922 hours helping with night patrols and city events, including Fourth of July fireworks, National Night Out, school carnivals and D.A.R.E. graduations.



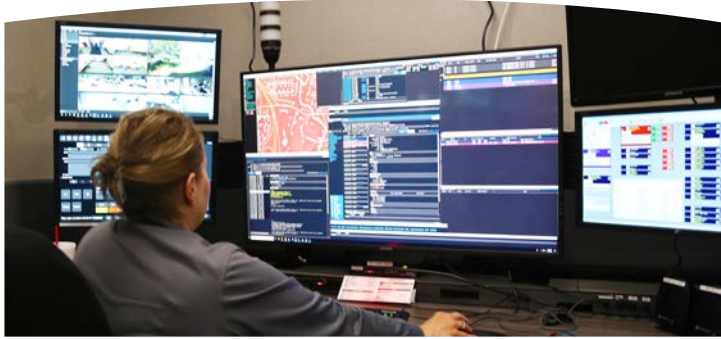
## **Police Explorers Program Post #3505**

The St. Louis Park Police Explorers Post #3505 is one of the longest-running law enforcement explorer posts in the nation. The volunteer program offers youth ages 14 to 21 a chance to learn firsthand the duties and responsibilities of police officers. Explorers meet every Tuesday evening to participate in role playing activities, class study and social exercises related to a career in law enforcement. Explorers also volunteer at local community events with police officers.

To apply the information they have learned, explorers participate in competitions and mock scenarios at the Minnesota Law Enforcement Conference each year. National conferences are held every other year. Fundraising covers much of the training, equipment, competition and travel expenses; some additional costs are associated with competitions in other cities or states. To learn more about the program, call 952.924.2600 and ask to speak with an explorer advisor.



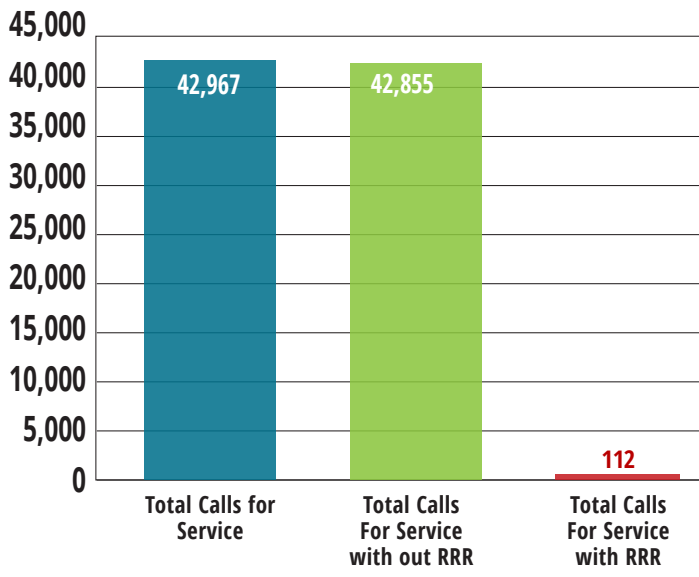
# Patrol and dispatch



## Dispatch center

The Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), or dispatch center, is staffed by eight full-time dispatchers and four part-time dispatchers. The dispatchers use Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) in conjunction with an integrated E911 system to process calls for service and manage information critical to responding police, fire and medical units. Calls for service are also sent electronically to responding police officers through a mobile computer (MCD) system. Each year the dispatch center handles more than 26,000 calls to 911, and about 33,000 additional non-911 calls.

## 2018 CALLS FOR SERVICE AND RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE INCIDENTS



## Response to resistance incidents (see above graph)

Response to resistance reports (RRR) are required when force is used that is greater than routine handcuffing. In 2018, of the 42,967 calls for service, force was used or displayed 112 times – 0.26 percent of total calls for service.

## Patrol

The patrol division includes six sergeants and 29 patrol officers who work a combination of 10-, 11- and 12-hour shifts. The shifts overlap to provide more comprehensive coverage during shift changes and extra resources during peak periods of activity. This schedule also allows officers time to engage the community in addressing crime and other issues that affect quality of life.

# Crisis negotiations



## Crisis negotiations team

The crisis negotiations team includes a sergeant, six officers and a dispatcher. All team members receive an initial 40 hours of basic crisis negotiator training, which involves working with negotiators from around the metro area. Professional actors play the roles of those in crisis. Team members learn to use the equipment and tactics necessary to de-escalate someone in crisis. Team members typically attend an advanced 40-hour course after they have been on the team for a year or two.

In addition to the initial training, team members train quarterly as a team and with consortium partners. During the 32 hours of training, the St. Louis Park team works closely with teams from Eden Prairie, Edina and Minnetonka. The trainings involve scenarios, speakers and often members of the community who have experienced a crisis situation and a police response. A typical member with two years of experience on the team has received more than 100 hours of specialized training. The team will train up to an additional 40 hours a year.

In 2018, crisis negotiators helped the SWAT team with five high-risk search warrants and assisted patrol with a subject in a mental health crisis. The purpose of crisis negotiators at a high-risk search warrant is to ensure the team is immediately prepared to establish crisis communications if a subject becomes barricaded or is actively resisting the efforts of the SWAT team. They are also there to calm and inform neighbors and others as to the purpose of the police action and what to expect.

Already in 2019, a member of the St. Louis Park crisis negotiations team assisted Edina with a four-hour stand-off. Officers were able to de-escalate the situation and take the subject safely into custody.

# SWAT and task force



## SWAT team

The St. Louis Park Police Department SWAT team includes two sergeants, 11 officers and one St. Louis Park firefighter, who is trained as a tactical medic. All team members receive an initial 40 hours of specialized tactical training at Southwest Metro Basic SWAT School, a consortium of SWAT teams from Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park police departments. St. Louis Park SWAT officers take this assignment over and above their daily duties and are required to train at least 10 hours a month. Six months of training dates are St. Louis Park SWAT only and the other six months are consortium training with the Southwest Metro SWAT. The St. Louis Park SWAT team competes yearly in a SWAT Training Conference at Camp Ripley in northern Minnesota.

Officers interested in joining SWAT must have a minimum of two years' police experience, demonstrate shooting proficiency and physical agility and be interviewed by SWAT team supervisors. Positions on the SWAT team help officers build experience and gain leadership skills.

## Drug task force

The St. Louis Park Police Department participates in the Southwest Hennepin Drug Task Force, which includes officers from Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. The task force works together to conduct undercover operations and drug enforcement. One St. Louis Park police officer is assigned full-time to the task force; however, other officers may assist with task force activities during their off-duty time or as assigned.

## Mass casualty training

St. Louis Park has been training for regional response to a mass casualty since 2014. Officers participate in and lead ongoing yearly training for a large regional response in event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

# Community service



## Community service officers

Community service officers (CSOs) provide support services such as maintaining police equipment, issuing citations for non-moving violations, monitoring the jail and giving tours to visitor groups. In 2018, the department had one full-time CSO coordinator and four part-time CSOs/cadets. The CSO coordinator is responsible for training, evaluating and coordinating activities of the CSOs/cadets. CSOs/cadets are hired on a temporary, part-time basis and must be attending an accredited post-secondary law enforcement program while employed, with the intent to become a licensed police officer.

## Field training program

The police officer field training program combines adult learning theory and problem-solving tools, which encourages new officers to use a proactive mindset to identify and solve problems in communities. In 2018, six new officers participated in field training, which included 650 hours in a squad car and 3,900 additional hours of training.

