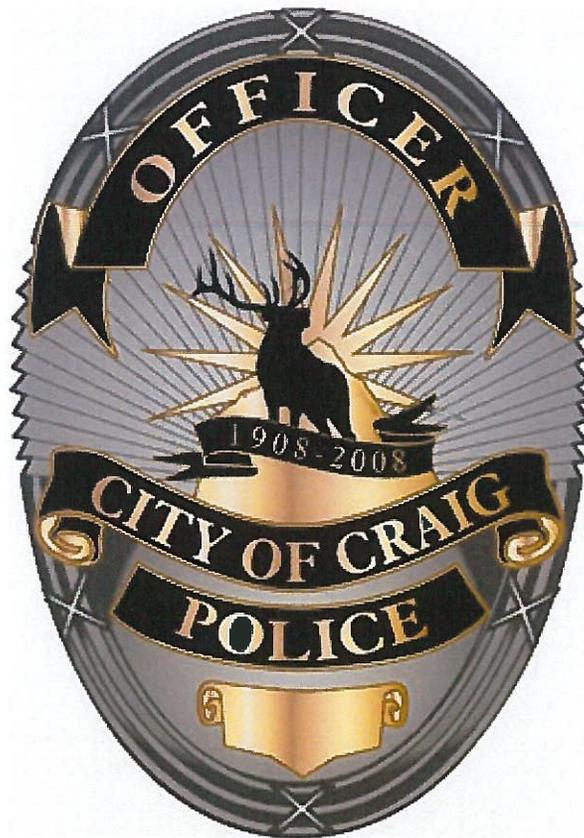


# CRAIG POLICE DEPARTMENT

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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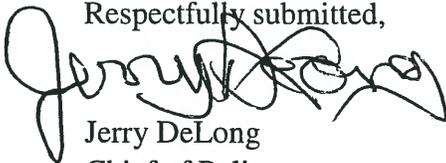
## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

This annual report contains information about police services in our community. It is a reflection of the dedicated, compassionate and professional team members of our department.

Despite the challenges we faced in 2017, we continued to provide high quality service to our community members. Although several of our more experienced members left employment with the City of Craig for other opportunities, we achieved a very high clearance rate on criminal violations while still providing excellent service to the public.

It is an honor to be a part of this team of men and women who are committed to serving the citizens and guests of this community with the highest level of integrity. We are dedicated to providing service to everyone with equality and respect. I am proud of all our team members; they are the reason for our success.

Respectfully submitted,



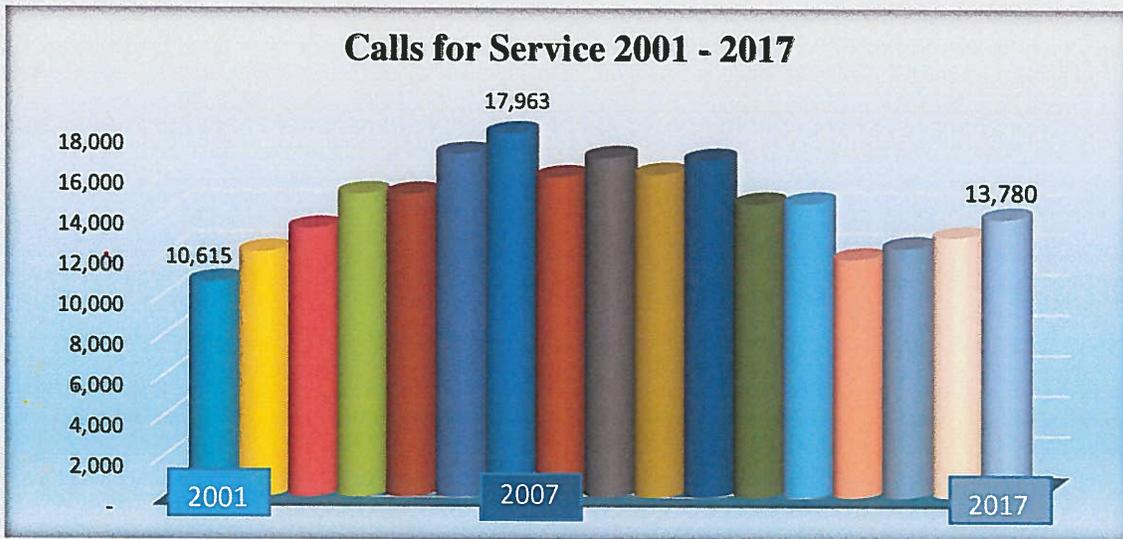
Jerry DeLong  
Chief of Police

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## CALLS FOR SERVICE

Officers responded to 13,780 calls for service in 2017, a nearly 7% increase from 2016. These numbers are somewhat deceiving because they do not include some important functions that officers do. For example, officers were also involved in nearly 2,000 follow-up investigations, 378 Community Policing activities, 571 phone calls, and 2,051 warrant/CCIC checks. If one was to include all these activities the call load rises from 13,780 to 18,946 (5,166 more activities that all take time). The busiest months of the year were August with 1,839 calls, May with 1,751 calls, June with 1,737 calls, October with 1,677 calls and July with 1,674 calls. Call volume was fairly evenly dispersed throughout the days of the week, with Friday and Wednesday having the highest call volumes (16% and 15% respectively), and Sunday had the lowest volume (11%). As has been the case in prior years, the hours between 0900 and 1600 see the largest demand for service with approximately 48% of the calls. All other hours remain consistently busy, with the 0300 hour having the lowest volume, at 18%, in 2017.



## CRIME

Criminal activity is broken down into two groups. The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Group A and B crime totals are shown in the chart below. They compare 2016 and 2017 offenses. The Group B offenses reflect arrests only, not the total number of incidents that were responded to.

| <b>NIBRS CRIME SUMMARY</b>    | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>% Change</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total Group A Offenses</b> | <b>728</b>  | <b>665</b>  | <b>-9%</b>      |
| <b>Total Group B Offenses</b> | <b>925</b>  | <b>850</b>  | <b>-8%</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL ALL OFFENSES</b>     | <b>1653</b> | <b>1515</b> | <b>-8%</b>      |

Total offenses for the year were 1,515, which is an eight percent decrease from 2016. Our officers take a great deal of pride in their job and work very hard to clear cases they investigate. As a result, 54% of the cases investigated were cleared. According to the Statista Dossier, the clearance rate in the United States in 2016 averaged 34.5%. We tend to follow the national trends that “property crime” is the most often committed and least often solved type of crime. In 2017, 469 adults were arrested for criminal violations, which is an 11% decrease from 2016. Sixty-three juveniles were arrested in 2017 compared to 66 juvenile arrests in 2016.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV)**

Domestic Violence investigation continues to be a high priority of the department. For several years, the Department of Criminal Justice grant-funded a Domestic Violence Resource Officer position within the department, however that funding ended in 2017. Despite this significant loss, the department made 59 DV arrests in 2017.

**DUI ENFORCEMENT**

Fifty DUI arrests were made in 2017, representing a 30% decrease from 2016. Somewhat surprisingly, Thursdays saw the most DUI arrests, followed by Wednesdays. Although DUI arrest times varied widely, the largest concentrations were in the 1800 to 0100 time frames. In 2017, the department began tracking the reason for DUI arrest to include alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. The breakdown was as follows: alcohol = 31; marijuana = 10, and other drugs = 9.

|                    | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | % Change |
|--------------------|------|------|------|----------|
| <i>DUI Arrests</i> | 54   | 71   | 50   | (30%)    |

**TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS**

During 2017, 316 calls for service were received relating to traffic accidents, a 15% decrease from 2016. The chart below shows the breakdown by month. Of those, a total of 222 resulted in an accident report being taken by officers. The difference in the number of calls versus the number of reports taken can be attributed to several factors, including receiving multiple reports of the same accident (several witnesses calling at the same time), and calls that after the initial investigation are found to not be an accident (such as a slide off with no damage).



## INVESTIGATIONS – DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

There were major changes to the investigations unit this year. In August, two seasoned investigators left the Craig Police Department for other opportunities. This had a huge impact on the types of cases that could be followed up on by Investigations, especially domestic violence cases. To fill the gap, Norm Rimmer and Ryan Fritz served as both School Resource Officers and Investigators from August 1st through the end of the year. Both deserve high praise for handling the majority of the investigations during this time period with the diligent support team of Investigative Technicians Blake Abdella and Terrienne Wheeler.

Investigations handled 84 cases including 46 sex crimes investigations, 28 death and other crime investigations (including one ongoing homicide investigation), and 10 domestic violence related investigations (all prior to 8/1/2017).

## SIGNIFICANT CASES

- In the early morning of March 30th, 2017, a fight between two males in an alley near the Trav-O-Tel motel resulted in the death of one of the males. The other male was originally charged with manslaughter, but after a lengthy investigation the charges were dropped and the case was cleared as self-defense.
- In April of 2017, the police department received an anonymous letter advising that a Moffat County High School athletic coach was having inappropriate sexual relations with female students. This led to several months of investigation involving numerous past and present female high school students. The coach has now been charged with numerous charges including sexual exploitation of a child. This case is still under investigation.
- On the evening of October 4, 2017, officers responded to the Bear Valley Inn on a report of a shooting. On arrival, they found an unconscious male with a gunshot wound to the head. The male later died at the hospital. His wife, the only other occupant in the room, has now been charged with homicide. This case is pending trial.

## INVESTIGATIONS – NARCOTICS

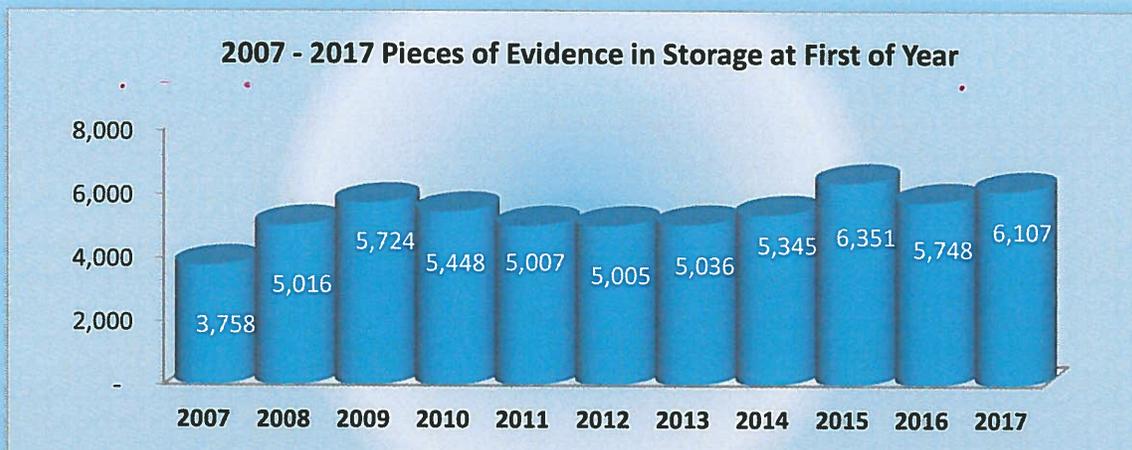
The All Crimes Enforcement Team (ACET) is comprised of a Task Force Commander from the Craig Police Department and one Task Force Officer from each of the Moffat County Sheriff's Office, Routt County Sheriff's Office and Steamboat Springs Police Department. They are dedicated to the communities we serve and a credit to our law enforcement profession.

ACET conducted 41 total investigations in 2017, up from 31 investigations in 2016. Thirty-seven of the 41 investigations were narcotic-related and four investigations were to assist other agencies in our jurisdiction. Of the 41 investigations, 14 were in Routt County and 27 were in Moffat County. The seized drugs included heroin, methamphetamine, LSD, MDMA and marijuana. ACET filed or will file drug-related charges on 28 defendants in Moffat and Routt County, up from 24 defendants in 2016. Task Force Officers executed 24 search warrants in 2017, up from 18 search warrants in 2016.

## INVESTIGATIONS – EVIDENCE

Crime Scene and Evidence Technician Blake Abdella maintains the evidence and property section for the Police Department and the Moffat County Sheriff's Office. In 2017, the department transitioned to Evidence.com, a secure cloud-based data management, sharing and storage system. This transition has streamlined digital evidence management for all parties involved, resulting in a significant decrease in the need to burn CD/DVDs for discovery.

There are currently more than 6,100 items being stored in our evidence facilities. During 2017, there were 1,705 items of evidence submitted into the property room; 325 items were returned to their owner; 974 items were destroyed; 50 items were sent to CBI (either hand carried or sent UPS); 34 CD/DVDs were copied for the District Attorney's office; and nine items were opened for photographing, copying, and/or fingerprinting.



## ANIMAL CONTROL

During 2017, a total of 1,641 animal complaints were handled. Of those, 1,141 (69.5%) were CSO calls. The remaining animal complaints were handled by the patrol division. Since one CSO position was cut in 2014, the patrol division has handled a larger percentage of animal complaints. There were 510 animals impounded at the animal shelter. The disposition of the impounds are outlined in the table that follows. During the year, 48 summonses were issued. Fifteen of the summonses were for vicious animals, nine of which resulted in injury. Officers took reports of 23 animal bites. Twenty of these were for dog bites, and three for cat bites.

| IMPOUND DISPOSITION: | DOGS       | PUPPIES   | CATS       | KITTENS   | OTHER    | TOTAL      |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| RELEASED TO OWNER    | 165        | 11        | 9          | 1         | 0        | 186        |
| ADOPTED              | 60         | 10        | 35         | 45        | 3        | 153        |
| EUTHANIZED           | 3          | 0         | 63         | 16        | 0        | 82         |
| TRANSFERRED          | 24         | 0         | 29         | 29        | 0        | 82         |
| OTHER                | 1          | 0         | 2          | 4         | 0        | 7          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>253</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>138</b> | <b>95</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>510</b> |

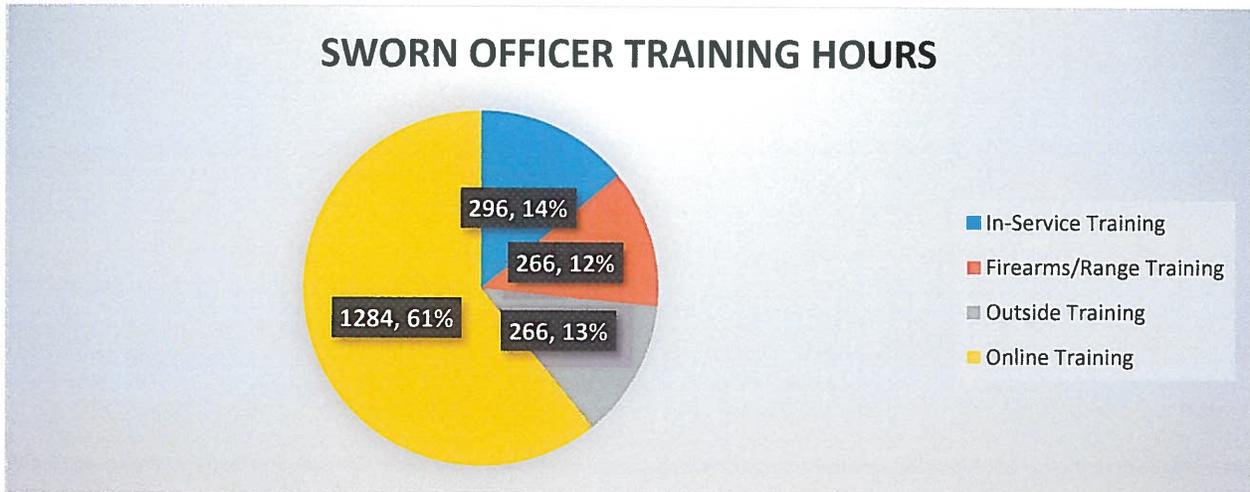
## CODE ENFORCEMENT

In 2017, CSOs handled 527 community service complaints, which include abandoned vehicles, code enforcement, and parking complaints. They also completed 349 VIN inspections. They dealt with junk and trash at 93 properties; either red tagged or warned owners for 197 vehicles (typically for being junked/inoperable, displaying expired plates, or interfering with snow removal); addressed weeds/grass at 155 properties; and issued warnings for other general code violations at 15 properties. Additionally, CSOs towed 24 vehicles from public and private properties. The cost of property abatements in 2017 was \$1,505.75. A total of 40 Administrative Citations were issued, eight parking citations and 27 parking warnings.

## TRAINING

Between State and Federal mandates, officers are required to receive approximately forty (40) hours of training a year. The annual mandatory training includes 24 hours of in-service training, of which at least 12 hours must be in what are deemed the “perishable skills” of Arrest Control, Driving, and Firearms. In addition, HB-1287 mandated that all four of the following classes be completed by July 1, 2017: Proper Holds and Restraints training, Anti-Bias training, Community Policing/Community Partnership training, and De-Escalation training. All CPD sworn officers completed the mandatory training within the prescribed deadlines. Overall, sworn officers completed a total of 2,112 training hours, 61% of which was completed online.

## SWORN OFFICER TRAINING HOURS



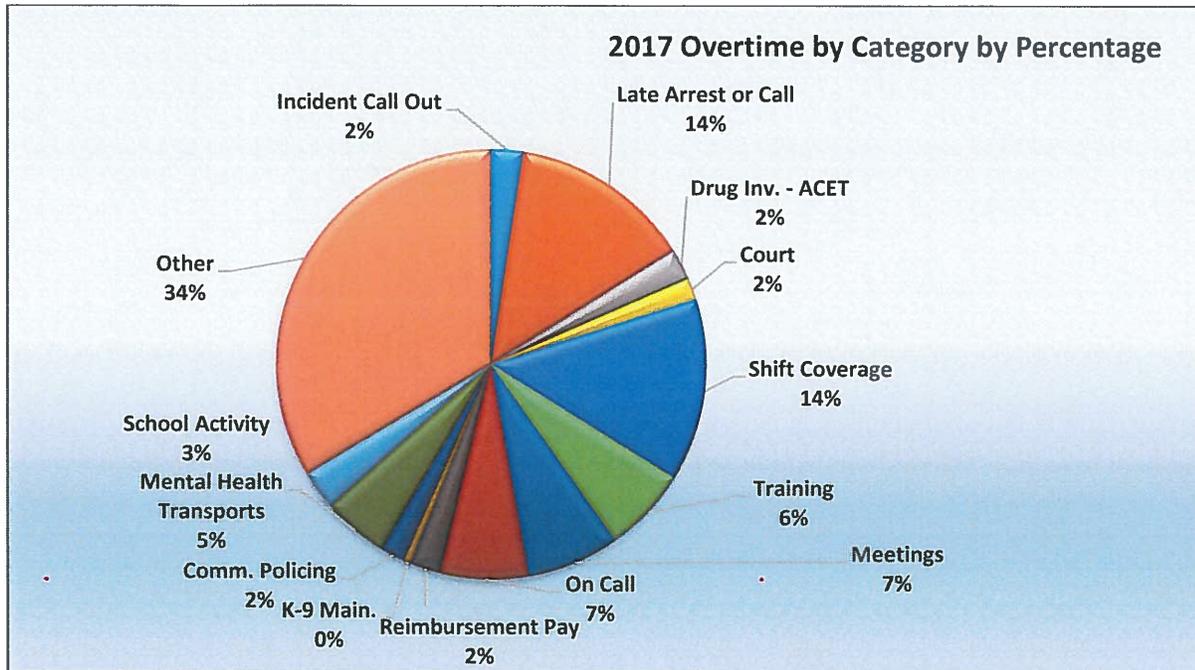
### MENTAL HEALTH TRANSPORTS

Historically, when a patient is admitted to the hospital on an involuntary mental health hold (M-1) and subsequently needs to be transported to a facility for further treatment, police officers transport the patient to the facility. In 2016, Officers made 37 transports at a cost of \$12,845. Due to staffing shortages in 2017, officers often were not available to assist in the transports. Local mental health organizations implemented a pilot program to use a private transport company in those situations. As a result, in 2017, officers made 25 transports at a cost of \$8,700. It is estimated that six additional transports were made by a private company. Because the cost of the private transports ultimately decreases the funding available for mental health treatment, which has a potential negative impact on our citizens and community as a whole, the department will continue to assist with mental health transports whenever possible.

### OVERTIME

Overtime hours increased 18% from 2016. Twenty-eight percent of overtime hours were spent covering late calls/arrests and additional shifts due to short staffing. The "other" category is our largest expense and includes the paid holiday time (five days per officer) in patrol division. Council approved this plan to increase officer availability due to the staff reductions in 2014. By paying this time we added 65 shifts of availability.

Not all overtime is paid in cash, some is taken as comp time. The following chart reflects all hours, regardless of how they were compensated, by category and by percentage for 2017.



## 2018 PRIORITIES

As we move forward into 2018, we intend to focus on the following priorities:

- In partnership with the community, provide high quality police service to create a sense of safety and security that improves the quality of life in our community.
- Increase Officer safety through acquisition of protective equipment.
- Work to become fully staffed and fully trained, including a Domestic Violence Investigator, Detective Sergeant, School Resource Officer, and authorized Patrol positions.
- Continue to foster a positive work environment that rewards and retains employees, and considers their health and well-being.

## CLOSING

On behalf of the men and women of the Craig Police Department, we thank you for your support and the honor to serve our community.