



# Memo

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Chief Dan Losada  
**Date:** January 20, 2020  
**Re:** End-of-Year Information

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Attached please find the ten year comparison statistics for the Knoxville Police Department. The numbers are based on the calendar, not budget year. Below are some of the highlights.

KPD was not at full staff for all of 2019. Three officers were hired in December 2018 but two of these were in training until August while the third never finished his training before leaving the Department. Officer Brown also retired in November leaving the Department short another officer. Currently, KPD has one officer in training and one open spot that we are in the process of filling. This manpower issue is part of the reason for lower numbers. Officer initiated activity, like traffic enforcement falls when officers are spending more time on assigned calls and writing reports.

In March 2019 KPD changed how we handle animals turned over to the Humane Society. Previously, people were able to reclaim their animals and officers would then have to find them to serve citations for allowing animals to run at large. In March people reclaiming an animal had to pay the fine before the animal was released from the shelter. In ten months 54 people reclaimed animals. This resulted in a significant time savings for officers as they no longer needed to write reports and did not have to try and find the animal owners.

There were 6742 calls for service, down about 6% from last year. The number of reports written decreased by 173 to 824. Officers made a total of 287 arrests, a decrease of 84 from last year.

177 accidents were reported, 24 more than last year. The number of persons injured was 25 persons with no fatalities, up four from last year.

Drunken driving arrests fell by 63% to 30. Officers arrested 24 people for public intoxication (up 10) and 23 people for disorderly conduct/disturbing the peace, the same as 2018. There were 63 drug related arrests in 2019, a significant decrease.

According to Juvenile Court Services, a total of 66 juvenile referrals were made by KPD, 39% of all Marion County referrals. This is about the same as last year. The most common reasons for a juvenile referral by KPD were disorderly conduct (16) and theft (7). Six of the referrals were for felonies. 13 of the referrals were alcohol or drug related.

The total number of traffic stops made in 2019 fell 17% to 1986, a ten year low. 741 traffic citations were written. Citations were issued in about 37% of all traffic stops made. Speeding and no proof of insurance were the most common citations.

949 parking tickets were written in 2019, a 13% increase.

Twenty-four "Use of Force" reports were filed in 16 incidents. This is down from 52 reports in 35 incidents in 2018. Tasers were displayed twelve times requiring use just three times. Firearms were displayed six times by four different officers but never used. Five suspects and three officers reported being injured during these incidents.

One other significant incident occurred on September 3, 2019 around 3 p.m. On that day Officer Brown initiated a pursuit of a van that was speeding through a school zone as school was letting out. The driver of the van accelerated to high speeds, leaving Officer Brown well behind. After leaving the City limits the driver of the van crossed the road and entered the ditch. The van then hit a driveway access which launched the van in the air resulting in a fatality to the sole occupant. This accident happened outside the City limits and was investigated by the Iowa State Patrol. The incident was recorded on car video and a portion of that video was released to the media. Blood tests later showed the driver was intoxicated at the time of her death.

KPD is addressing the manpower shortage we experienced in 2019. Hopefully the recent hires will decide to stay in Knoxville long term. KPD competes with the metro area for qualified candidates. As those agencies improve their pay and benefit plans it will get tougher to recruit and retain officers.

KPD has been able to handle the increased demand by streamlining how we do business and temporarily reassigning non-patrol officers, including the Police Chief to patrol duties. KPD will continue to do this but, if the trend continues, an additional officer may be needed soon.

