



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED AGENCY"*

John R. Mason  
Chief of Police

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1287 HEBRON RD. • HEATH, OHIO 43056 • (740) 522-2141 • FAX (740) 522-6365

# Annual Report



# For The Year 2015



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES



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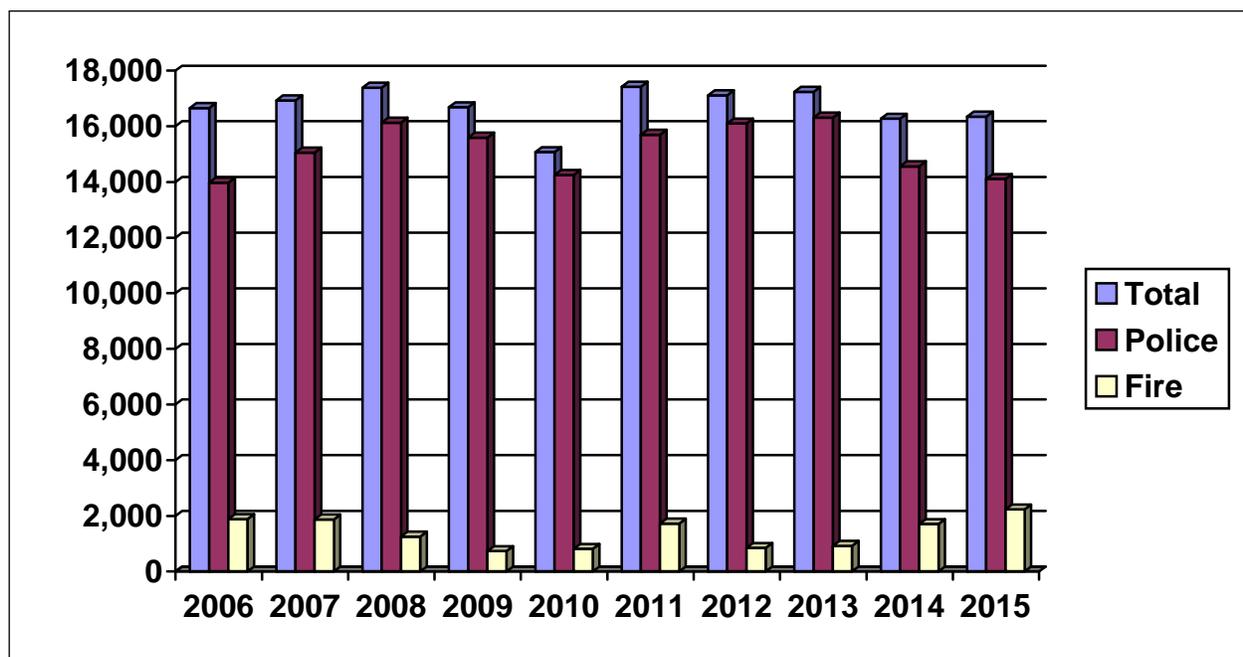
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# Administrative Reports For The Year 2015



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

## CALLS FOR SERVICE 2015

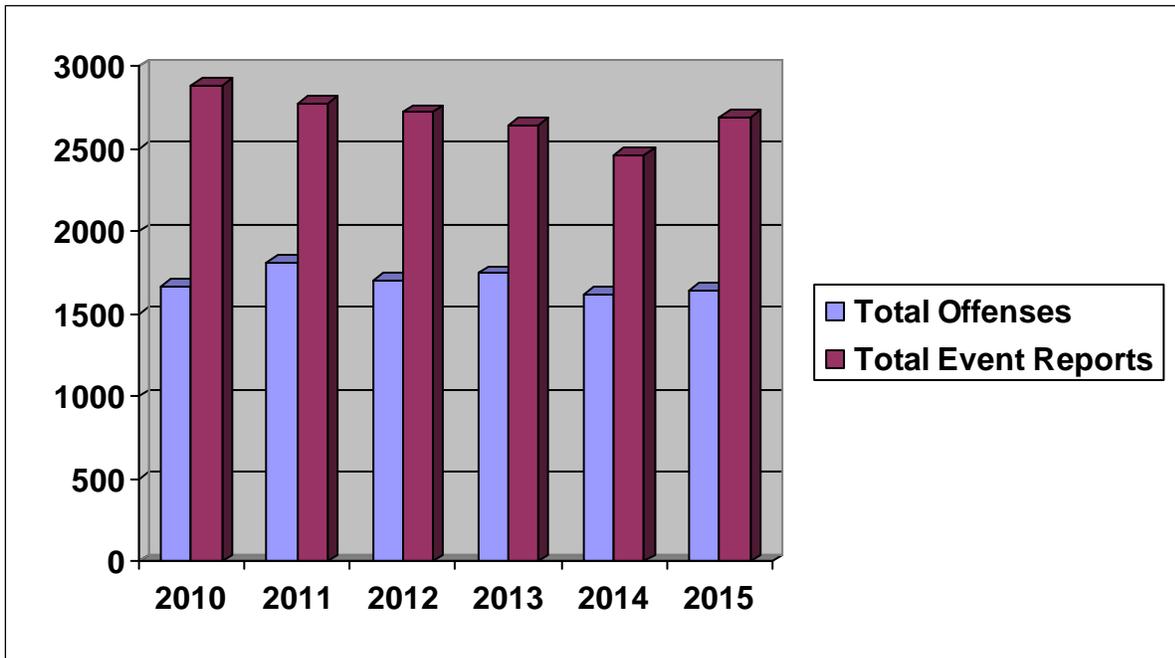


Calls for Service or CFS, is a wide range of contact that police and fire have with the public. Not all CFS are crime related. Many CFS involve traffic incidents such as traffic stops with citations or crash investigations. Many of the CFS are crimes in progress, under investigation or simply follow up. There are still other CFS that consists of police or dispatch assisting a citizen for non-criminal matters such as fingerprints for employment or answering questions in regards to private matters. Calls for service also are comprised of a mix of self-initiated calls by officers and officers responding to complaints.

The above diagram shows the number of calls for service for the last 10 years including 2015. The numbers are tallied to show both police and fire separately and then a total of both combined.

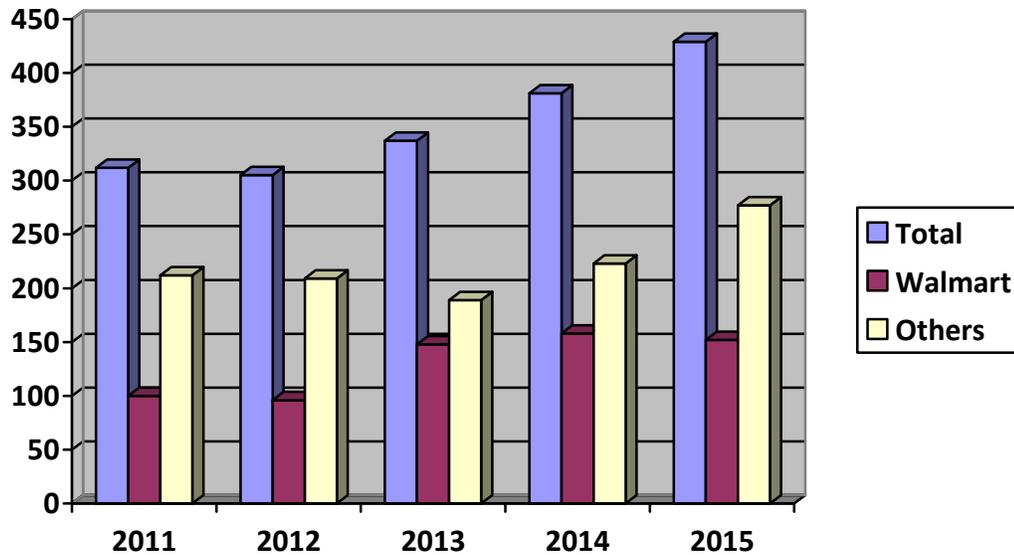
The 2015 year has shown a drop in police calls for service but an increase for fire which as slightly edged the total calls for service above the 2014 year. It should be noted that currently Licking County 911 dispatches Heath fire and medics calls for service and then documented in the CAD system by HPD Dispatch. Therefore there are most likely more calls for service that may not have been documented.

The decrease in police CFS could be associated with a change in documenting calls for service. For instance, officer meal breaks have been counted in the past but are no longer documented as a CFS. This gives an appearance that the CFS is down in reality it is close to the same as the previous years. Additionally the number of offenses of crimes associated with 2015 is slightly higher than 2014 as well as event reports.



Traffic stops also generate a call for service. Traffic citations have increased from 2014 by 204. There a total of 883 traffic citations issued in 2014 and a total of 1,087 traffic citations issued in 2015. This would suggest that officers were more pro-active.

A recent study of the number of theft offenses was conducted. The total number of thefts that occurred for each year of the last five years, was compared to the number of thefts that occur at a popular local shopping business, Walmart. Each year the number of theft related reports that were investigated by the Heath Police Department has increased. And each year, more than a quarter of those reports are investigated at Walmart. The majority of these thefts are crimes that are uncovered by Walmart loss prevention and then turned over to the police for investigation and prosecution. See diagram below.



Crime prevention is the key to lower the theft related crimes, however these crimes do occur on private property and the property is controlled and monitored by civilians. The police are typically contacted after a suspect has been apprehended which typically leads to an arrest and conviction. With the continued trend of drug use, it is believed that a large majority of theft related crimes are associated with drugs either directly or indirectly.

### Conclusion

Calls for service each year will continue to fluctuate depending on many unknown variables that cannot necessarily be controlled by law enforcement. A few things that law enforcement can be involved with, is to increase community patrol to assess the needs of the community. Additionally, increased presence at identified hot spots of crime, such as Walmart, to offer deterrence to crime should be considered. A second suggestion is to create a detailed organized plan to assign officers to a specific section of town with a specific set of objectives on an almost daily basis. This should be catered to the shift hours as well and should be instituted by the Team Sergeant. Finally, as suggested year after year, increase the number of officers to the police department to assist with crime fighting is a must.



# Response to Resistance 2015

## Type of Response to Resistance

Condition of Suspect/Arrestee	Firearm	Vehicle	Baton	Taser	Chemical Agent	Canine	Open Hand
Alcohol/Drug Use Suspected	0	0	1	2	0	1	2
Under Mental Stress	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
None	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
Totals:	0	0	1	4	0	2	3

Cause for Response:	To Affect an Arrest	Control Prisoner/Subject	Defend Officer
Totals:	8	4	1

Historically over the past five years, the department has averaged 5.4 incidents against persons that required a Response to Resistance (RTR) Report to be completed per policy. RTR reports over this time frame were: 2011 (3), 2012 (5), 2013 (5), 2014 (6) and 2015 (9).

The majority of RTR reports filled out by officers were due to officers having to humanely put down injured/sick animals. Those reports were not included in this analysis as they were not directly related to officer/suspect interactions. One report had two types of force (one of which was a knee strike). Three reports had multiple separate reasons for the use of force which is the reason that the total number of reports (10) is different than the totals listed above. There were also two RTR reports submitted for the same report, one each by two different officers.

The total number of incidents that required a Response to Resistance report remains very low in comparison to the total number of arrests the Heath Police Department makes over the course of a year. There were 591 total arrests in 2015 with 10 Response to Resistance reports made. This totals 1.6 percent of all arrests. The Taser X26 CEW was used more than any other response (4 times). Canine and open hand were used twice each, a baton was used once. A knee strike (which is not reflected in the above numbers) was also used once. One report indicated both the use of Taser and open hand. Six of the RTR reports indicate force was only

used to affect an arrest. One indicates it was just to control a subject. One report shows it was used to both affect an arrest and control a subject. Another report shows it was used to affect an arrest, control a subject and defend an officer.

The review of 2015 incidents showed that in 7 instances the suspect/arrestee was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol/drugs. Two of those are from the same incident and suspect, but two different officers. There were 3 instances that indicated there was no mental stress or substance abuse suspected. All incidents were reviewed per procedure and substantiated as proper applications of force. There were no trends or patterns identified by this review that would require further action.



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## Pursuit Analysis 2015

DATE	TIME	INITIAL COMPLAINT	SUPECT ACTIONS	PURSUIT TERMINATION
1/1/15	0304	Driving under suspension	Slow speed/ quick acceleration and evasive action	Crash into pole
4/20/15	1650	Shoplifter	High speed and dangerous evasive actions	Disabled vehicle/ suspect fled on foot
9/1/15	1329	Voyeurism	High speed and dangerous evasive actions	Terminated/ caught by neighboring jurisdiction
10/27/15	0953	No license plate	High speed and dangerous evasive actions	Crash with realty, fled on foot and caught

Number of vehicle pursuits for the previous five years (by year):

2010 – 3  
2011 – 4  
2012 – 3  
2013 – 3  
2014 – 1





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During 2015 the Heath Police Department had two vehicle pursuits that began as driving offenses and two that started from criminal complaints. The first was very brief in nature, involved a juvenile driver and resulted in a crash and OVI charge. Only one Heath patrol unit was involved. An LCSO Deputy happened to be in the area and assisted with the apprehension. An adult passenger in that vehicle was transported to the hospital for injuries from the crash. Although it does not appear any policy was violated, I did not receive the debrief for this incident.

The second pursuit of the year involved a pregnant female fleeing from a shoplifting complaint. She eventually ramped a steep grade at a railroad crossing, which apparently disabled the vehicle. The suspect fled on foot briefly before being apprehended. Three Heath units, one a patrol Sergeant, were involved in the 2.8 mile pursuit on relatively straight rural roads. The Sergeant intended to call off the pursuit due to heavy traffic. Somehow his in-car radio switched channels to fire band. Also, the in-car mic became dislodged from its cradle and fell to the passenger side floor. The pursuit ended before he was able to safely send any transmission. There were no noted policy violations.

The third pursuit stemmed from a complaint of voyeurism. Three marked patrol units were involved, several unmarked units, the HPD truck and one special duty unit in a marked patrol car also assisted. Three supervisors were involved. The pursuit was eventually terminated by a Heath PD supervisor. The debrief documented issues in communicating with neighboring agencies due to different radio systems. This issue should be resolved when we switch to MARCS. It was recommended that Heath officers attend a class for Pursuit Termination Technique (PIT). It is believed this technique, if applied correctly, may have ended the pursuit quickly and safely. It was determined that Heath PD policies were violated. This due to the amount of HPD vehicles being involved in the pursuit, and the fact that the HPD truck did not terminate once the pursuit was well underway with those other vehicles. It does not appear any officer was disciplined, but these issues were to be discussed at driving training later in the year.





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The final pursuit was with a motorcycle for no license plate. Two Heath PD units were directly involved in the pursuit. A third unit was trying to catch up to it. Although it was high speed, traffic was light for the duration. It ended when the rider lost control and laid the bike down. A foot chase ensued and he was eventually caught. The debrief indicates no policies were violated.

Three of these pursuits were at high speeds. Other than the passenger of one of the fleeing vehicles, there were not any injuries to innocent persons due to these pursuits. There are no apparent trends or patterns. I conducted a review of the current pursuit policy and reporting procedures. There are no recommendations to amend/change them at this time.

Prepared by Sgt. Mike Banks



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In 2015, there were a total of 7 documented citizen complaints filed against Heath police officers and 2 complaints filed by department employees against other department employees. All 7 of the citizen's complaints were either closed or unsubstantiated. One of the employee complaints was unfounded and one results in the employees involved being counseled.

The first citizen's complaint was closed and alleged that an officer improperly towed a disabled vehicle. The investigation stated that the vehicle was partially in the roadway and presented a road hazard based on pictures of the vehicle's position.

The second citizen's complaint alleged that an officer was rude to the complainant during a traffic stop. The complaint was closed and found not substantiated.

The third citizen's complaint alleged that an officer was rude to the complainant. This complaint was closed and found not substantiated after the in car video footage was reviewed.

The fourth citizen's complaint alleged that an officer in emergency response had not properly cleared an intersection prior to entering against a red light. The complaint was closed after review of the in car video footage of the incident.

The fifth citizen's complaint alleged that officers harassed, embarrassed and emotionally traumatized the complainant's developmentally disabled child. This report was closed and not substantiated.

The sixth citizen's complaint was of officer misconduct and was closed as unfounded.

The seventh citizen's complaint alleged that an officer was rude and disrespectful to her and called her a liar. This report was closed as not substantiated after review of relevant media.

The internal employee complaints both involved verbal arguments between department employees. Although both matters were addressed with the employees involved, only one of the reports involved both employees involved being counseled.

## Conclusion

All complaints were investigated and reviewed according to policy and procedure. All of the complaints were in regards to allegations of misconduct. These complaints were in regards to different officers each time. The car audio/video assisted in resolving four of the complaints,

and other media, specifically pictures, calls on recorded departmental telephone lines, and internal security camera footage inside the department helped resolve 4 of the complaints. When looking at citizen's complaints against department personnel, there was an increase over the last 2 years regarding the total number of complaints; however, the number of complaints is below the numbers for 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Total number of citizen complaints from the previous five years:

2014=3

2013=3

2012=8

2011=8

2010=8

Definitions:

Unfounded complaint: a complaint found to have no basis to the allegation.

Not sustained: a complaint that has no real evidence to support the allegation.

Sustained: a complaint that has been found to have evidence that supports the allegation.

Exonerated: total relief of any guilt or blame on the part of the accused officer.

Prepared by Sgt. Mike Banks



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## Employee Grievances 2015

There were no grievances filed for the year of 2015. All potential disputes were resolved prior to the grievance process.

### Last four years:

2014: 7 grievances

2013: 3 grievances

2012: 4 grievances

2011: 2 grievances

Prepared by Sgt. Norman Ream





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# Crime Analysis

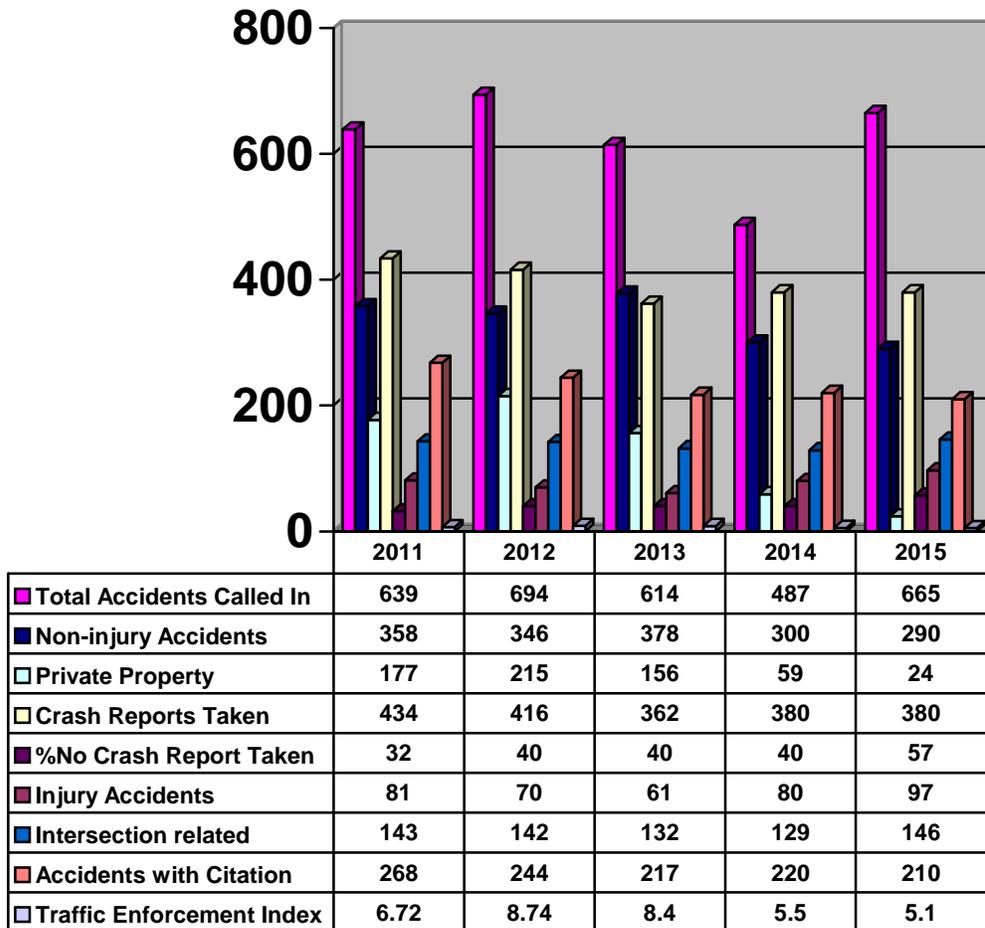
For the Year

# 2015



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

# Traffic Analysis for the Year 2015



## Accidents

The last five years have shown a constant decrease in the number of accidents reported with 2014 being the lowest. A change came in 2015 with significant increase of reported crashes. Reported accidents and the number of Ohio crash reports (OH1) submitted will always vary. Officers responding can find the drivers do not require an OH1 report to be completed and exchange information. This is common for private property crashes. Other situations happen quite frequently such as no accident being found or the accident was in another agency's jurisdiction. The total number of actual crash reports taken did not increase from 2014 but remained exactly the same.

The number of non-injury traffic accident reports taken was fluctuated for the last five years however in 2015 the non-injury reports dropped slightly. Unfortunately the number of injury traffic crashes increased in 2015 by 17 reports. This includes two fatal crashes. Intersections related accidents accounted for about 38% of the crash reports. This is a slight increase from 2014 which was only 33%.

The majority of the reported injury accidents were identified as ACDA. This type of crash is caused by driver inattention and can only be influenced by driver education. SR 79 and Hopewell Dr./Parkview Dr. and SR79/Irving-Wick Dr. are all tied for having the most reported intersection related injury crashes. These intersections are difficult to monitor with use of stationary patrols due to its design and operating businesses in the area during peak hours. The median section of SR79, which is between Hopewell Dr. and Andover Rd, remains the top location for injury accidents. This area is also difficult to monitor with stationary patrols. The total number of accidents increased in this area from 2014 as well as did the injury accidents.

Additionally, both fatal crashes occurred on SR79 as did the majority of the injury accidents. SR 79 is the heaviest traveled road and the most widely used in the city throughout the day.

## **Traffic Enforcement Index**

The Traffic Enforcement Index was developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to measure the effectiveness of traffic enforcement programs in reducing accidents. It represents the number of traffic violation convictions for hazardous moving violations, in relation to the number of accidents involving personal injury and/or death. There were two fatal accidents in 2014 and two fatal accidents in 2015.

The IACP has determined through research that a TEI of 25 in urban areas results in a most effective enforcement to accident ratio. For a rural area, a TEI of 15 is considered most effective. Using the index on an annual basis allows law enforcement agencies to evaluate the quality of their traffic enforcement efforts and establish effective patrol strategies.

$$\text{TEI} = \frac{\# \text{ Of Convictions For Hazardous Moving Violations (Heath 2015) } 501}{\# \text{ Of Accidents Involving Personal Injury/Death (Heath 2015) } 97} = 5.1$$

As the formula above demonstrates the TEI for 2015 for the city was 5.1, which is well below the suggested TEI number for a rural or urban area and the lowest recorded for the last 5 years. According to the number of injury/fatal accidents in 2015 (97) the department would have needed 1455 convictions of hazardous moving violations to obtain a TEI of 15 and 2425 convictions to reach a TEI of 25.

2425 divided by .96 (conviction rate) = 2526 HMV (citations needed to obtain desired TEI). The conviction rate for HMV citations filed by our department remains around 96% in Licking County Municipal Court. The man-hours necessary to accomplish this is not attainable at current staffing levels being below authorized strength.

## **Conclusions**

These recommendations were made in 2015 to increase the TEI:

1. With the change of daytime personnel and added officers, the OIC or Shift Commander should create and direct traffic teams to monitor traffic and enforce traffic laws in specific areas and specific times.
2. Stricter enforcement of traffic laws pertaining to following too closely.
3. Encourage officers to take crash reports at every scene and issue a citation when fault can be determined.

## **Recommendations**

In addition to the above recommendations, heavy traffic enforcement should be applied to SR79 specifically during early morning rush hour and during afternoon/evening hours.



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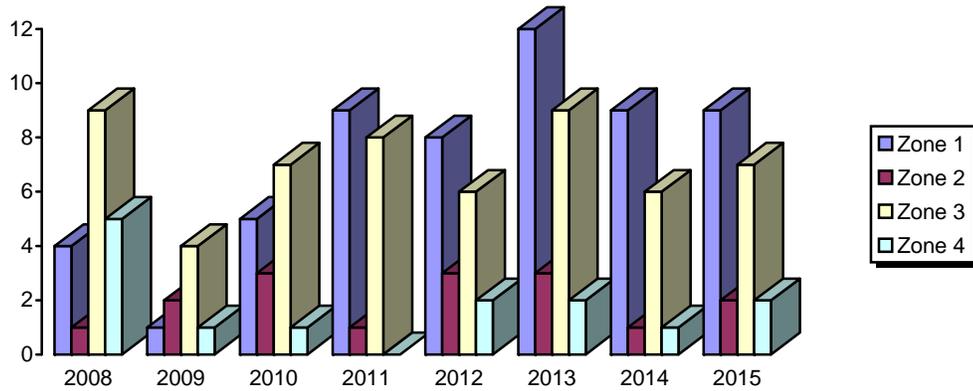
## ACCIDENTS ON HEBRON RD BETWEEN ANDOVER & PARKVIEW (NEW MEDIAN AREA) 2010 TO 2015

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TOTAL # ACCIDENTS	58	62	50	35	37	48
INJURY ACCIDENTS	8	18	9	5	8	10

### CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

ACDA	37	39	32	23	25	40
Drive onto Road/ Yield	6	6	3	2	0	2
Right of Way/Turning Left	7	5	4	0	0	0
Marked Lanes	3	3	4	2	6	2
Failure to Yield/Private Dr	3	6	2	2	2	1
Signal /Changing Course	1	2	0	3	1	1
Failure to Control	1	0	0	1	2	1
Operation @ Stop Sign	0	1	0	1	0	0
Single vehicle crossing 79 Construction /Ditch	0	0	2	0	0	0
Right Away @ Intersection	0	0	1	0	0	0
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	0	0	1	0	1	0
Starting & Backing	0	0	1	0	0	0
Medical	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mechanical	0	0	0	0	0	1

# Automobile Theft 2015



Zone 1 = North of Irving-wick Dr W. and West of SR79  
Zone 2 = South of Irving-wick Dr W. and West of SR79  
Zone 3 = North of Irving-wick Dr E. and East of SR79  
Zone 4 = South of Irving-wick Dr E. and East of SR79

In calendar 2015, the Heath Police Department investigated 20 cases of theft of a motor vehicle or unauthorized use of motor vehicle. The total number of reported motor vehicle thefts increased by three, in comparison with 2014.

# Burglary and Breaking and Entering 2015

	Burglary		B & E		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
<b>Sunday</b>	1	3	1	3	2	6
<b>Monday</b>	5	1	4	2	9	3
<b>Tuesday</b>	2	9	1	1	3	10
<b>Wednesday</b>	6	5	2	2	8	7
<b>Thursday</b>	7	3	2	2	9	5
<b>Friday</b>	3	2	1	0	4	2
<b>Saturday</b>	1	4	0	1	1	5
<b>Unknown</b>	6	10	18	9	24	19
	31	37	29	21	60	58

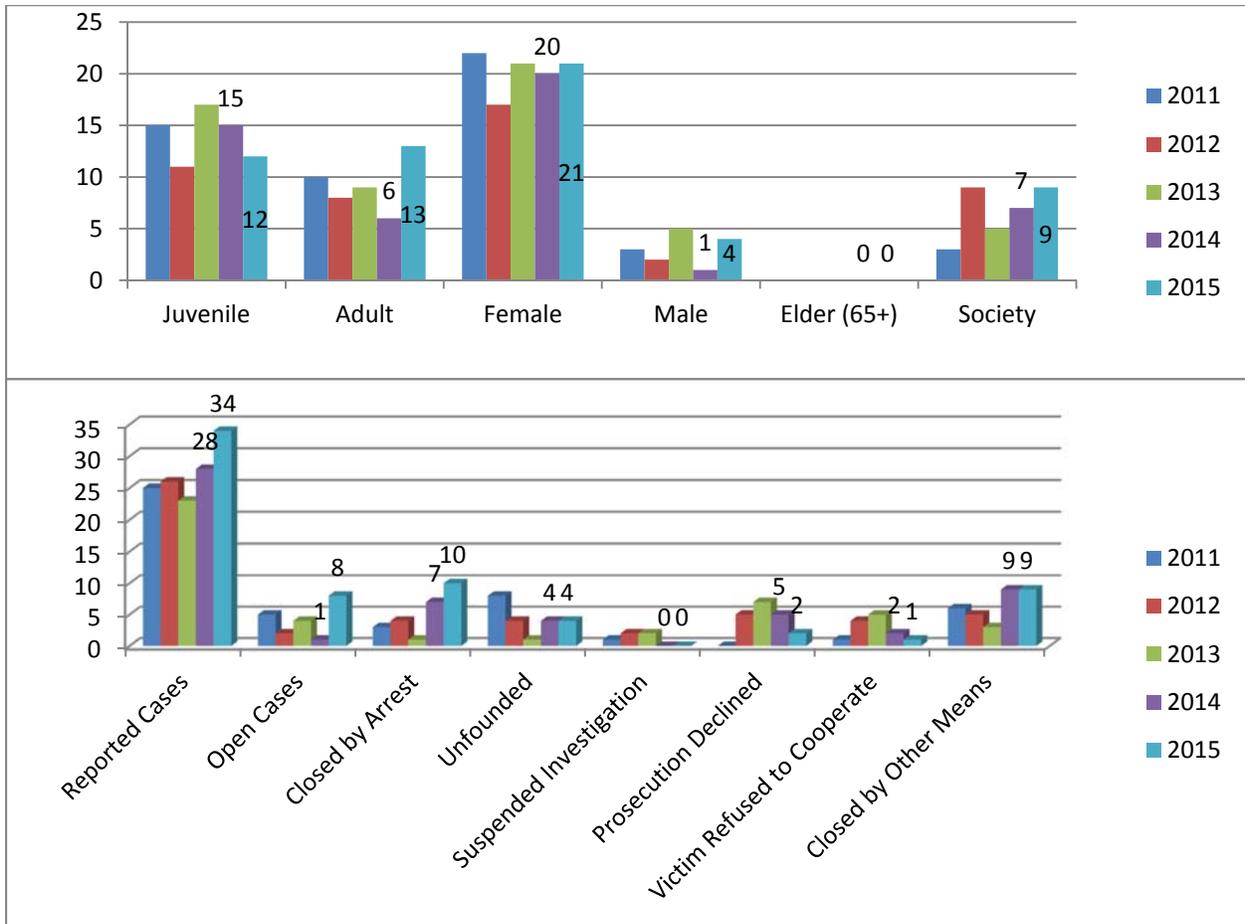
Breaking and entering is trespassing in an unoccupied structure and therefore this crime is generally committed against closed businesses and other uninhabited structures. Burglary is trespassing in an occupied structure or one when occupants are likely to be present, and therefore is generally committed against a residence. Burglary can also apply to a separate but attached portion of the structure such as a garage.

There are times when a victim is unable to determine the exact day in which the offense occurred. Therefore, an unknown category was created to reflect that data.

For calendar year 2015, the number of reported burglaries increased by 6. The data shows that most burglaries occurred on Tuesday.

The total number of reported 2015 breaking and entering reports decreased to 21 reports.

## *2015 SEX OFFENSE DATA*



In 2015 there were 34 cases investigated as possible sex offenses. The majority of victims were female adults.

The number of cases involving society as a victim increased by 2, from 7 to 9 complaints. Again there were no reported cases of elderly victims.

In 2015, ten cases resulted in filing of criminal charges an increase from 2014. Cases closed by arrest indicate the filing of criminal charges due to the facts of the criminal investigation.

## 2015 SEX OFFENSE DATA

The number of unfounded cases remain the same as 2014 with four. The number of cases closed to the victim refusing to cooperate declined in 2015 to just 1 instance. At the end of 2015, zero investigations remained suspended.

The offenses listed include public indecency incidents as well as sexual assaults and sex with minor children. Many sex offenses go unreported because of the emotional damage caused, and fear of the process of investigation and trial of the accused. Many times the offender is a relative or trusted person in the home, and revelation of the crime may occur many years after the incident. Therefore, prevention and deterrent methods used on other crimes do not work here. Education of the public is the best tool, and it is important for the department to sponsor programs that inform the public, especially children, how to protect themselves. The department follows the county protocol and works side by side with investigators from the Licking County Children's Services in this effort.

The agencies investigators are members of the Licking County Kids Team, which provides the Kid's Place. The Kid's Place is a non-profit facility provided for child victims of physical abuse and sexual abuse. Here the children receive physicals and exams, as well as a private interview facility for Law Enforcement and Family Services, geared for the comfort of the child. The Kid's Place also completes consultations and rechecks. Both detectives have received advanced training in dealing with sex cases and child abuse cases. The department has been with Kid's team since 1999. We should continue to support their efforts to participate in this program and continue our advance training in this area.



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## Review of Agency Practices for the Year 2015 Prohibition of Bias Based Policing By Chief John Mason

General Order 0154 strictly forbids bias based profiling by officers of this department. By definition, bias based profiling is the selection of individuals for enforcement measures based solely on a common trait of a particular group such as race or gender.

Officers of this department rely on strict adherence to articulable reasonable suspicion and probable cause. Our mission and values statements guide us in our endeavor to always do the right thing.

The department does not collect data on the race of all occupants in a stopped vehicle. We do however record the race on any citations issued to the driver and/or occupants. The race of an individual is not recorded for all field interviews unless a card is submitted. These cards are provided to the officer for use in the field to record information, but are not required.

State statutes and the local courts control all asset seizure and forfeitures. Any seizure made by an officer of this department must be in accordance to General Order 0105 (Search and Seizure) as well. General Order 0154 also prohibits bias based profiling regarding asset seizure and forfeiture and seizure. All property forfeitures for this department are approved by or prepared by the Licking County Prosecutors Office.

*A review of citizen complaints was conducted for 2015 and no complaint contained an allegation of a bias based practice. In 2014 a citizen's survey was conducted and no complaints or allegations of bias were found in any returned replies. A review of our Personnel Early Warning System was also conducted and no problems identified.*

The prohibition against bias based profiling is in General Order 0154 as stated above. This general order is covered for new officers during the stops and approaches section of the Field Training Program. Our Mission, Vision, and Values statements reinforce this message. *Annual training including different legal aspects of the issue is conducted as part of the in-service training program that includes Ethics and Conducting Professional Traffic Stops.*

After conducting a review of our training documentation and the citizen complaint review, I find the current practices are sufficient. The department will continue this training and review procedure to insure that prohibited practices do not occur, and that proper discipline will take place in any instance it may be discovered.





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1/14/2016

## Recruiting Analysis 2015

The departments recruiting efforts are limited by the restrictions of the Civil Service Commission. The Commission does not allow applications to be completed unless the hiring procedure has begun and a test has been approved. The department is not permitted to keep applications as the Commission retains these documents until an eligible list is established after a test has been given.

The recruiting plan calls for the recruiters to focus on finding quality candidates for the Reserve Program. In 2015 the process began and two male candidates completed the application and background investigation. It is hoped that one will be sworn in during January and February. The recruiters failed to attend any job fairs or academy classes in 2015. We again must focus on getting the recruiters out to the annual county job fair and into the COTC, Eastland, and Muskingum academies to look for reserve candidates. Efforts should focus on a target group of females as the department currently is at 11% and the standard is 14%.

There were no police officer full-time openings in 2015 and no examinations given.

The "Rule of Three" in the civil service rules limits the number of eligible candidates the department can begin background investigations on at one time. I have once again strongly suggested to the Mayor and the Commission that the rule be changed to five. The rules were revised in 2015 but no change was made to the eligible rule.

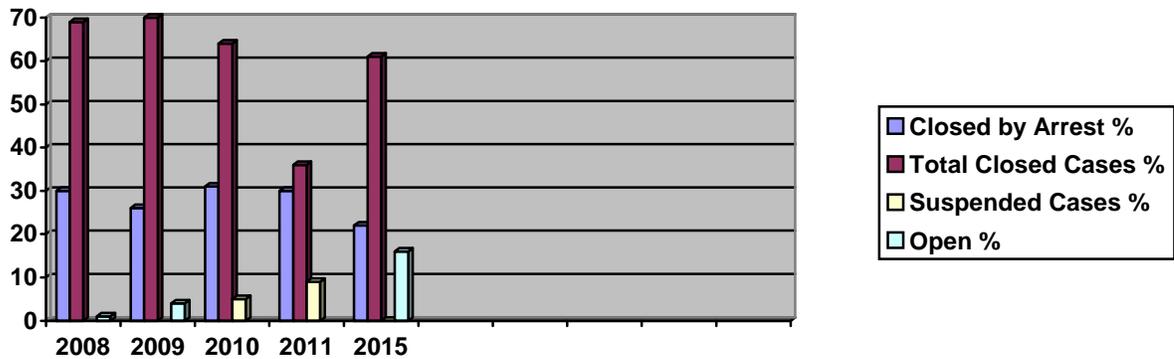
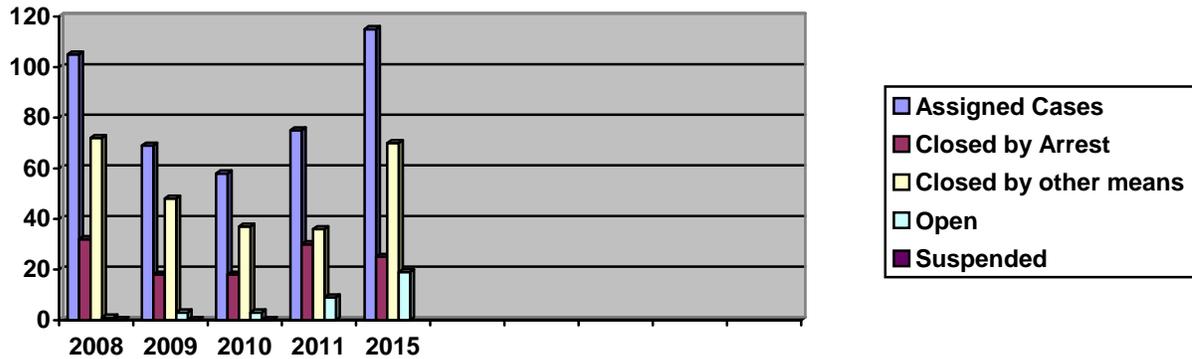
In summary the target group for the recruiters will be females and recruiting activity should be increased by attending job fairs and local academy classes in an effort to build our reserve force.

Chief Mason



# Support Sections for 2015

## Detectives



In 2009 we included suspended cases in with the closed cases. The case closed data includes the following clearance codes: unfounded, prosecution declined, victim refused to cooperate and suspended cases. In 2015, 22% of the total number of cases assigned (115) were closed by arrest. In relation to the total number of criminal offense reports (1733), the Detective section officially investigated 6% of the total criminal offense reports.

In 2015 the Detective section set a goal of assisting the patrol officers with more of their investigations, regardless of degree of offense.