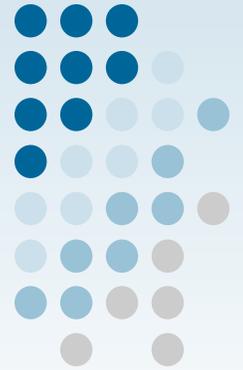
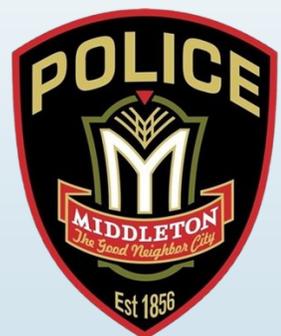


# 2023 Annual Report



## Middleton Police Department

*The mission of the Middleton Police Department is to  
“make a positive difference in the quality of life in our  
community.”*





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# Message from the Chief

## Chief Troy Hellenbrand



Citizens of Middleton, Mayor Kuhn, Elected Officials, Police Commission Members, Public Safety Committee Members, City Administrator Bryan Gadow, fellow Department Heads and Police Department Staff,

On behalf of the men and women of the Middleton Police Department, I present you with our 2023 annual report.

It is bittersweet to be writing my last chief's message as the Police Chief of the Middleton Police Department. After 30 years in law enforcement, 25 of which have been with the Middleton Police Department, I have announced my retirement at the end of 2024. When I started my career all the way back in 1994, as a young 21-year-old kid with a full head of hair, I remember veterans telling me how quickly your career will go by. Those wise veterans were not joking as it really does seem like yesterday when I started this career as a young police officer in the City of Columbus eager to make a difference in society. Looking back, I have fond memories of meeting and working with so many different community members and organizations, developing friendships which will last a lifetime, and working with so many amazing men and women who took an oath to serve our community and to risk their lives to make our communities safe. It takes a special person to work in law enforcement and I have had the pleasure to work with some of the kindest individuals throughout the past 30 years. Even though I will no longer be a member of the Middleton Police Department, the Middleton community and Police Department will always have a special place in my heart. My future endeavors are unknown; however, I am hoping to stay connected with this wonderful community in some capacity in the future.

One only has to watch the evening news or scour social media to see criminal behavior is common in our society and even in the Dane County area. As a Middleton community, we are fortunate that we continue to see a low number of serious crimes compared to similar sized communities locally and nationally. One of the most serious crimes in our community in 2023 was a homicide which occurred at one of our local car dealerships in March. This tragic incident, which resulted in the death of a 34-year-old male employee, was contained to this business and, based on the hard work by members of the Middleton Police Department, the suspect was apprehended within hours of this incident.

As I look back on my career and specifically at my tenure as the chief, there is just one area that I feel has not been adequately addressed by those who make decisions impacting the future direction of our city – providing sufficient city staff for the size of our community. In the past 10 years the city has grown by over 5,000 residents; however, the Police Department has only been able to add five additional police officer positions with two of these positions being related to the passing of the 2022 city referendum. Nationally, according to the FBI, on average there are 2.4 police officers per 1,000 residents which the City of Middleton yearly continues to fall well short of. In 2023, the City of Middleton had 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents and this gap continues to widen each year as requests for additional staffing is declined through the annual budget process. As previously mentioned, serious crime in our community is low and I credit a great deal of this to the proactive activities of my staff and partnerships we have developed with members of our community. I have grave concerns that, as our community continues to grow and the demands on the Police Department continue to increase, the first activities to be eliminated because of the lack of staffing are our proactive activities. If the city wants to continue to be known as a safe community, priorities have to be set to make sure staffing levels at the Police Department are adequate moving forward.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to the Middleton community. It has been an amazing journey and one that I have no regrets taking. From a young boy seeing how fast I could ride my bike down the Century Avenue hill to becoming the Police Chief of this community, it truly has been a blessing and one I would not have been able to achieve without the support of so many in our community. From my past teachers to coaches to supportive neighbors, all of you played a part in guiding me on this journey – thank you! Take care, God bless, and please continue to support the amazing men and women who work in the law enforcement profession and who are willing to lay down their lives to keep all of us safe.

# Mission, Vision & Values

*Make a positive difference in the quality of life in our community.*

“We will be leaders in our community and among our peers. We will be a model for integrity, service, innovation and excellence.”

As members of the Middleton Police Department, our personal and professional values reflect the core ideology of our organization. These are the deeply held principles to which we are committed and which will not change over time. These values are what our organization lives and breathes, and are reflected in all of our efforts and activities.

**Integrity:** We recognize the complexity of police work and exercise discretion in ways that are beyond reproach and worthy of public trust. We are honest in words and deeds. We demonstrate self-discipline, particularly when no one is watching or listening.

**Respect:** We treat everyone in our community and workplace with courtesy and dignity. We are committed to a work environment that is safe and open. We recognize and foster the individual talents and strengths of our fellow employees, and we celebrate their successes.

**Diversity:** We recognize that respecting the inherent differences in individuals is essential to creating an inclusive organization and community.

**Trust:** We believe in the reliability, truthfulness, ability and strength of those around us, and we strive to be trustworthy in all of our words and actions.

**Synergy:** We work together to accomplish more as a team than we can individually.

**Leadership:** We seek to positively influence others to achieve goals that meet the needs of our organization and community. We accept our responsibility as leaders within the community and strive to be a model among law enforcement agencies.

**Professional Development and Growth:** We recognize that our employees are our most valuable asset and we are dedicated to their mental and physical well-being. We constantly strive to provide opportunities for all of our employees to enhance their personal growth and job satisfaction. We recognize that this is a shared responsibility and we encourage and support the initiative of all employees to seek out and obtain individual training and education.

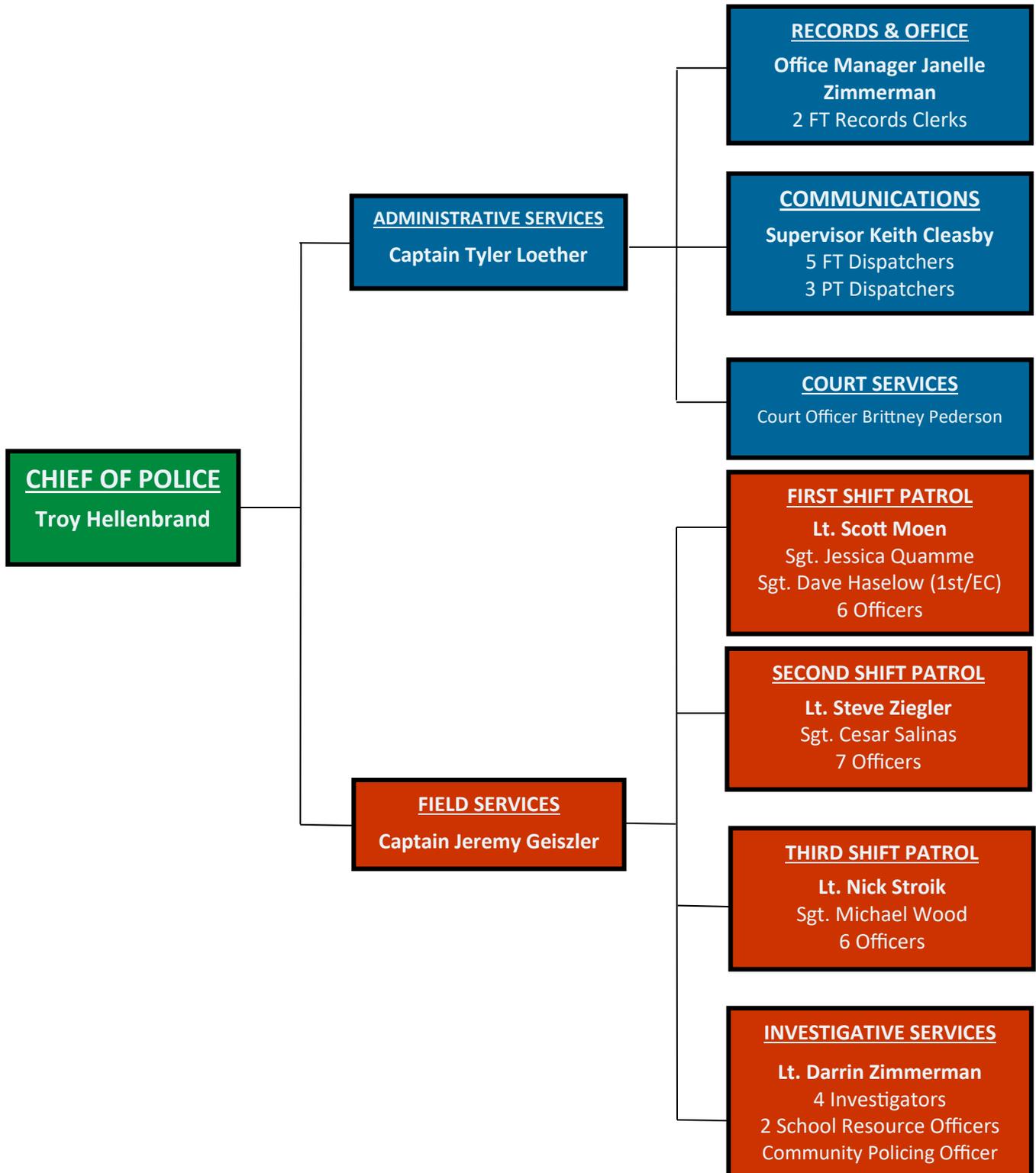
**Dependability:** We consistently and reliably provide quality service to our community, allied organizations, and fellow employees, as partners in the task of policing.

**Accountability:** We are each responsible for the quality of our performance and for the reputation and morale of the department. We are committed to conducting ourselves in accordance with our Oath of Honor.

**Competence:** We are prudent stewards of the public’s grant of authority and resources. We are knowledgeable and proficient in the use of police strategies and skills and we meet or exceed contemporary professional standards for service and performance.

**Courage:** We accept our moral responsibility to take action against injustice and wrong-doing. We will exercise fortitude in the face of danger and stand resolute against actions which compromise our values.

# Organizational Chart



# Department Awards

## Captain Tyler Loether



In 2023, the Middleton Police Department Awards Committee held their annual meeting to review cases and various achievements to determine which of our employees would receive recognition. The awards are handed out the following spring at a ceremony during Police Week. Congratulations to all of those who were recognized!

### Lifesaving

On April 11, 2023, at 10:47 am, Detective Jill Tutaj was on her way to work when she noticed a bicyclist down on the bike path on County Highway M just outside the City of Middleton. Detective Tutaj immediately stopped to assess the

patient along with another passerby. The victim, a 69-year-old male, was pulseless and not breathing. Detective Tutaj and other citizens started CPR, including chest compressions, until Waunakee EMS arrived and took over medical care. Detective Tutaj performed CPR for approximately three minutes prior to EMS arriving. The victim was eventually transported to the hospital where he made a full recovery. Just weeks later, the victim in this case came to the police department to thank Detective Tutaj in person for helping save his life. State Representative Alex Joers also recognized Detective Tutaj as a Hometown Hero in front of the state legislature for her actions in this incident.



On August 8, 2022, Officer Julie Carbon responded to the 3100 block of Deming Way for the report of a pulseless, non-breathing patient. The victim had been doing concrete work outside when he suddenly suffered a heart attack and collapsed. Officer Carbon retrieved an AED from her squad and immediately began lifesaving measures including delivering several shocks until Paramedics arrived and took over. The subject was transported to the hospital where he subsequently had surgery and made a full recovery.

On December 14, 2022, Officers David Schultz and Dan Withee were dispatched to the 6300 block of Pheasant Lane for the report of a 73-year-old who suffered an unknown medical event and was possibly not breathing. Upon arrival, Officers Schultz and Withee assessed the victim's condition and found her unresponsive, pulseless, and not breathing. Officer Withee immediately started chest compressions while Officer Schultz prepared and administered a dose of Narcan. Multiple AED shocks were given, and Officer Withee continued chest compressions throughout the rescue process. The victim eventually regained a pulse and Officer Withee assisted with rescue breaths until paramedics transported her to the hospital. The victim was released from the hospital and was doing well.

### Lifesaving - Narcan

Lifesaving – Narcan awards are awarded to any employee whose action directly contributed to the saving or significant prolonging of a human life by the deployment of Naloxone (Narcan). For a number of years, our department has kept a supply of Narcan in each squad car due to seeing an increase in overdoses in our area. In 2023, there were a number of officers awarded in this category for their quick thinking and delivering Narcan to a patient in need in the field.

The 2023 award recipients were:

Officer Elizabeth Jackson  
Officer Matt Jacobs  
Officer Gerald Kapinos  
Officer Dan Withee

### **Outstanding Service**

Brian Lary has been a dispatcher with the police department since 2007 and is consistently a very dependable, knowledgeable, strong member of our dispatch team and agency. Brian is a certified Communications Training Officer and has trained most of our dispatchers hired since he started. Brian completes detailed reports on training activities and is a mentor and “go to” for co-workers, both during and after training. Brian is also a TIME System Validation Officer for our agency, trained and specializing in verifying that all of our CIB and NCIC records are complete, accurate, and active. Brian always shows up to work early, with a positive attitude, is willing to stay late, and frequently helps out co-workers by switching shifts or doing whatever he can to assist. He also has no unexcused absences and did not use any sick leave in 2022. Brian should be commended for his dedication, high level of service, and professional excellence.

### **Exceptional Performance**

On March 3, 2023, Dispatcher Caitlin Olewinski answered a 911 call from the mother of a teen who had been violent with family, had access to firearms and was threatening suicide by cop. Within less than 30 seconds of the initial call, Caitlin dispatched multiple officers and a supervisor. Despite the quickly escalating nature of events and frantic caller, Caitlin remained calm and in control of the radio, setting a clear, calm tone for her officers. While responding officers were developing their tactical plan, Caitlin did an outstanding job with the caller, remaining on the phone with her for over 14 minutes, updating her on what was happening while relaying relevant information to officers. Caitlin did an exceptional job with this incident and her judgment, initiative, courage, teamwork, and immediate recognition and response to this incident were exemplary and helped ensure everyone remained safe.

On October 7, 2022, a frantic caller to the Middleton Police Department reported that her husband was missing and possibly suicidal. The entire shift began working as a team to find the missing man. Recognizing that the missing person wanted to be away from people and close to a park with water, Officer Ryan Roettger checked Governor Nelson State Park, where he found the husband’s unoccupied car. Officer Roettger talked with people in the park to let them know he was looking for a missing person and gave them a physical description. He then began searching the area on foot. A short time later, one of the park guests that Officer Roettger contacted found the missing man in a secluded area and called police. The man was lethargic and could not stand up. Officer Roettger’s key decision to check the State Park, locate the vehicle, then search on foot and provide a description of the man to park guests is what led to his being found alive. Had much more time gone by, this case would have had a very different outcome.

On Monday, March 20, 2023, the Middleton Police Department responded to MSI Auto on Parmenter Street, for the report of a man possibly shot. Middleton Dispatchers Tim Hoeksema and Stacie Zwettler immediately started fielding calls from witnesses and aired pertinent information to Middleton staff. After leaving the scene, the suspect called 911 and spoke with the Dane County 911 Center. Dispatcher Hoeksema took the initiative to check the number that the suspect called from and was able to get her identified using law enforcement database resources. During the time period surrounding this homicide, Dispatchers Hoeksema and Zwettler handled a 350% increase in phone calls compared to normal and passed on critical information in the early investigation.

Sergeant Cesar Salinas was among the first to arrive at what was a chaotic scene where a person had been shot and it was unclear what happened. It was quickly learned that the suspect fled in a vehicle and Sergeant Salinas began providing directives to locate this person as quickly as possible. He also eventually became the Incident Commander and established a command post. While Incident Commander, Sergeant Salinas was the primary point of radio and phone contact at the scene, gave direction to responding units, and generally kept things running smoothly at the scene so Detectives could begin doing their work.

Detective Lieutenant Darrin Zimmerman arrived on scene and immediately began directing investigative resources and assigning tasks to be completed to ensure a proper investigation. Simultaneously, he started communicating with multiple area agencies as it was learned where the suspect lived and where she may be hiding on the west side of Madison. Once apprehended, he helped coordinate two crime scenes, numerous resources, and assigned Detective Dan Jones to interview the suspect. He also coordinated all the needed follow-up in the days that followed.

Detectives Dan Jones, Kathleen Riffenburg, and Jill Tutaj all immediately responded to the homicide scene to begin interviews and collect evidence. Detective Jones assisted at the scene initially before being assigned to interview the suspect after her arrest. He was able to build a rapport with her over time and eventually obtained a confession to the homicide. He also worked with K-9 Officer Howard Statz to ensure important evidence was collected.

Detective Tutaj led the evidence collection at the homicide scene and was assisted by Detective Riffenburg. They worked diligently to ensure that everything was carefully collected, which is vitally important during a homicide investigation. Detective Riffenburg also assisted with interviews of key witnesses and helped review calls to dispatchers from witnesses.

K-9 Officer Howard Statz was attending training nearby and responded to assist once he heard what was happening. His role was critical at the second scene as he built a rapport with the suspect's family, communicated key information to Detective Jones during his suspect interview, and ultimately his efforts led to the recovery of the suspect's clothing worn during the homicide, and also the firearm.

Although this was a tragic homicide, due to the tremendous teamwork of everyone involved, this case was solved in less than two hours and the suspect was arrested and taken into custody. Everyone who was assigned a role played a part in the successful outcome, but the above officers and civilian staff should be particularly commended on a job well done for their exceptional performance.

## **Significant Anniversaries**

- Officer Gerald Kapinos - 5 years as of August 2022
- Captain Tyler Loether - 10 years as of August 2022
- Detective Dan Jones - 20 years as of August 2022
- Captain Jeremy Geiszler - 20 years as of November 2022
- Officer Tom Wilson - 20 years as of February 2023
- Dispatcher Wendy McKnight - 25 years as of September 2022
- Sergeant Dave Haselow - 25 years as of December 2022
- Officer Rich O'Connor - 25 years as of February 2023

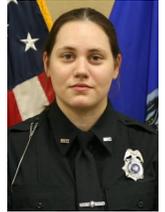
## **Reaccreditation**

The Middleton Police Department is one of 44 police agencies in Wisconsin that is accredited by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG). In January, three assessors from other agencies throughout the state came to our department for three days to assess our compliance with 242 standards established by WILEAG as best practices for law enforcement agencies. The results of that on-site review were then referred to the WILEAG board. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Middleton Police Department was reaccredited for a period of three years.

# Staff Changes

## New Hires

In June of 2023, **Brittany Blankenship** was hired as a police officer with our department. Brittany is originally from Missouri and is a graduate of UW-Stout with a degree in Criminal Justice & Rehabilitation. She is also a graduate of the law enforcement academy at Chippewa Valley Technical College. She has completed field training and is currently assigned to second shift patrol.



**Cortez Clark** was sworn in as a police officer in June of 2023. Cortez is from Janesville and recently graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a double major in Sociology & Social work with a minor in Criminal Justice. He attended the law enforcement academy at Madison College and graduated in December. He has completed field training and is currently assigned to third shift patrol.

In December, **Rebekah Jacobsen** was hired as a full-time records clerk. Rebekah is a graduate of Waukesha County Technical College and has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. She has experience as a dispatcher with the Monona Police Department and is also a part-time dispatcher here in Middleton.



## Promotions



**Janelle Zimmerman** was promoted to the Office Manager position in March. Janelle has been with our department since 2001, previously serving as a Records Clerk and the Court Officer. She now supervises and manages the day-to-day operations of our administrative office.

In June, **Brittney Pederson** was promoted to the role of Court Officer for our department. The court officer ensures that criminal cases are properly submitted to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution, and also has a key role in maintaining our evidence and property systems. Brittney holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from UW-Oshkosh and has previous experience as a probation agent with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. She has also served as an Alternative Sanctions Program Coordinator with Journey Mental Health.



In October, **Tyler Loether** was promoted to Captain. Captain Loether has been with our department since 2012, serving as patrol officer, school resource officer, detective, field training coordinator, sergeant, and lieutenant. Captain Loether has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from UW-Madison and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Management from UW-Platteville. He started his career as a patrol officer for the Janesville Police Department in 2011. Captain Loether is in command of Administrative Services.

## Retirements

Office Manager **Lynn Endres** announced her retirement effective April of 2023 after over 27 years of distinguished service with the police department. Lynn started as a part-time Municipal Court Clerk in 1995, and prior to serving in her current role since 2018, she also served as our Court Officer & Evidence Manager.

Detective **Kathleen Riffenburg** retired in May after 14 years of service. Prior to serving as detective, she also served as patrol officer, field training officer, and a drug recognition expert. Kathleen also founded our Battle of the Badges fundraiser, raising over \$100,000 since 2012 for local families affected by childhood disease. Before serving here, she was a police officer in Bakersfield, California and a US Naval Corpsman.

# Significant Incidents

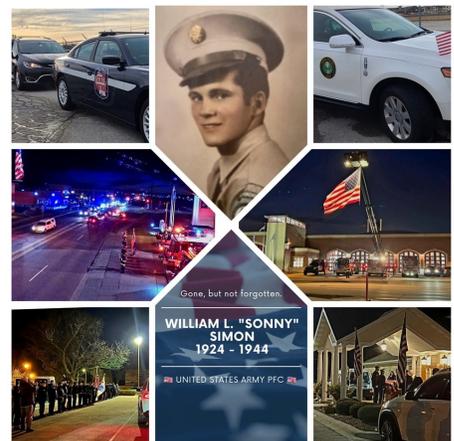
- On Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at approximately 1:51 AM, a Middleton officer on patrol located a vehicle crash near the intersection of University Avenue and Mendota Avenue. Another responding officer located a subject running on Branch Street and identified him as the driver of the crashed vehicle. He was later identified as 21-year-old Isaiah Goplin.

The investigation showed that Goplin was eastbound on University Avenue at a high rate of speed and failed to negotiate the curve in the road at the intersection with Branch Street. The vehicle left the roadway and struck the traffic light control box, several trees, and the building at 6630 University Avenue. Goplin showed signs of impairment and was subsequently arrested for second offense Operating While Intoxicated and was also cited for several traffic violations. A blood sample was obtained and Goplin was released to a responsible party. This case is still pending in court.

- On March 14th at approximately 11:10 PM, Middleton officers were sent to an active disturbance involving a female subject damaging property at an apartment in the 6200 block of Maywood Avenue. Upon arrival, officers located the suspect, Clarisa Herrera, climbing down from the victim's patio. The 77-year-old victim told officers Herrera entered the apartment by damaging the sliding door, and once inside, attacked and injured the victim. Herrera was arrested and jailed on multiple charges including physical abuse of an elderly person, criminal damage to property, criminal trespass to dwelling, and discharging bodily substances at officers. The case is still pending in court.
- On Monday, March 20, Middleton Police were dispatched to MSI Auto Sales at 3012 Parmenter Street for the report of a disturbance. Upon arrival, officers discovered that an adult male had sustained a gunshot wound during the altercation. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The investigation identified 23-year-old Jakira Anderson as the suspect. With assistance from the Madison Police Department, Anderson was arrested within approximately two hours and was booked into the jail on a charge of first-degree intentional homicide. Anderson was recently found guilty of that same charge at trial and is awaiting sentencing.

- William "Sonny" Simon, the namesake of the Middleton VFW Post 8216, was killed in action in Germany in November of 1944 and his remains were recently identified. In March, the Middleton Police Department, along with assistance from the Wisconsin State Patrol and members of VFW Post 8216, was able to escort Private Simon's remains back to Middleton for his funeral and burial. We were honored to be a part of bringing a local hero home.



*Pursuant to the directive of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as found in Supreme Court Rule 20:3.6, Trial Publicity, you are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.*

# K9 Program

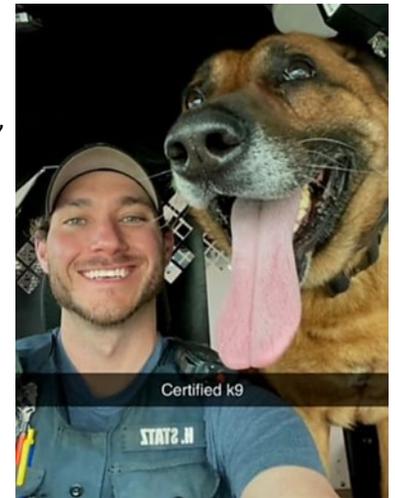
## Lieutenant Steve Ziegler



K9 Szeci and his Handler, Officer Statz, were happy to have another great year serving the Good Neighbor City. K9 Szeci and Officer Statz continue to enjoy getting out and spending time with supporters. They made numerous trips this year to area schools, businesses, and public events. K9 Szeci has so many abilities and loves being able to show off all of his talents.

Officer Statz and K9 Szeci had another successful year on the road. K9 Szeci stayed consistent in 2023 and was deployed over 40 times. In all of the deployments, K9 Szeci proved his value. K9 Szeci particularly excels

at tracking and area searches. On several incidents, K9 Szeci directly assisted in locating several people with the help of other law enforcement agencies. In early summer, K9 Szeci was called to assist the Dane County Sheriff's Department after a subject had fled from an attempted traffic stop. While K9 Szeci was beginning his track, a drone was deployed to assist in the search. The drone operator announced that K9 Szeci tracked to a residence with a subject seen hiding on a porch. The subject was taken into custody and confirmed to be the driver who had fled from the vehicle. Along with his strong tracking capabilities, K9 Szeci was also credited with numerous drug seizures and the recovery of three firearms. One of these firearms was an illegal short barreled rifle.



K9 Szeci and Officer Statz continuously work hard on their training, sharpening their skills to best protect our community. They have built great relationships with our community, and likewise the community has been very helpful in providing training locations for K9 Szeci and his counterparts from other jurisdictions. Training in new environments is imperative to keep learning fresh abilities that challenge and grow the K9 units. K9 Szeci is often called upon to assist various tactical teams in providing additional capabilities in training and deployments in our area.

K9 Szeci and Officer Statz look forward to another great year and encourage our residents to keep an eye out for them and say hello.

# Neighborhood Officers



## Sergeant Dave Haselow

Neighborhood Officers  
Sergeant Dave Haselow

The Middleton Police Department has a long-standing philosophy of community policing, found in the partnerships we form with the community. Our Neighborhood Officer Program was established in 2005 to help the police and community work cooperatively to identify and solve problems that impact the quality of life in the community. Neighborhood Officer teams consist of patrol officers assigned to each of the 12 neighborhoods in the city, with one officer assigned to each neighborhood.

Middleton's development of many multi-family residential buildings has caused a higher concentration of residents in a small area. This tends to create a higher volume of calls for police service and can negatively impact the quality of life for those living in apartment buildings. Officers are now assigned to apartment complexes with a high population density and/or high volume of calls for police services. These officers connected with management and residents to improve our response to their needs.

In 2023, our neighborhood officers teamed with community members, residents, and other stakeholders on more than a dozen neighborhood concerns. These concerns included drug use and drug sales, neighbor disputes, repeated domestic disturbance issues, and constant noise complaints. Our officers worked with the parties involved and helped create a positive resolution.

Our neighborhood district map can be found on our website at [www.middletonpd.com](http://www.middletonpd.com) under Community Programs. If you have any questions for me, please contact me at [dhaselow@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:dhaselow@cityofmiddleton.us) or at 608-824-7321.

### **Middleton Police Department Neighborhood Officers:**

<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	<b>OFFICER</b>
East 1	Officer Matt Jacobs
East 2	Officer Matt Jacobs
East 3	Officer Lucas May
East 4	Officer Nick Miazga
West 1	Officer Dan Withee
West 2	Officer Aleesha Kozar
West 3	Officer Saygo Henderson
West 4	Officer Ryan Roettger
South 1	Officer Tom Wilson
South 2	Officer Tom Wilson
South 3	Officer Gerald Kapinos
South 4	Officer Gerald Kapinos
<b>APARTMENT COMPLEX</b>	<b>OFFICER</b>
Arbor Lakes	Officer Jake Ungerer
Meadow Ridge & The Aviary	Officer Jesse Sellek
Spring Tree	Officer David Schultz

# Crisis Intervention Team



**Sergeant Dave Haselow**

Crisis Intervention Team  
Sergeant Dave Haselow

In 2023, Middleton Police Officers responded to 636 calls for service involving mental health consumers. A majority of our officers have received specialized training in working with people struggling with mental health. This is a drastic change to how law enforcement has handled these difficult situations in the past as we have become much more empathetic and compassionate toward our neighbors with mental illness. All too often, we have found that society's response to someone in crisis can place mental health consumers in the criminal justice system when a more appropriate response may have connected them with mental health services instead.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) was originally created to train officers to help our mental health consumers who were in the midst of a mental health crisis and needed immediate, professional help to prevent them from injuring themselves or others. Officers on our CIT have received specialized training to develop positive relationships and confidence with mental health consumers, improve our referral and treatment of people with mental illness, avoid unnecessary use of force, and improve overall safety.

When an at-risk mental health consumer is identified, an officer from our CIT is assigned to work with him/her. That Crisis Intervention-trained officer then works with the mental health consumer to link them to appropriate, effective services and resources. This can be a long-term, ongoing relationship that helps keep community members safe and better able to function in society.

Officer David Schultz  
Officer Tom Wilson  
Officer Jake Ungerer  
Officer Dan Withee  
Officer Aleesha Kozar  
Officer Kevin Thompson  
Officer Gerald Kapinos  
Officer Kim Wood  
Officer Julie Carbon  
Officer Howard Statz  
Officer Ryan Roettger  
Officer Matt Jacobs

Officer Nick Miazga  
Officer Todd Dart  
Officer Cassidy Ruchti  
Officer Brittany Blankenship  
Detective Jill Tutaj  
Detective Slobodan Rozic  
Sergeant Cesar Salinas  
Sergeant Mike Wood  
Sergeant Jessica Quamme  
Sergeant Dave Haselow  
Lieutenant Nick Stroik

If you have any questions about Middleton Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team, please contact me at [dhaselow@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:dhaselow@cityofmiddleton.us) or 608-824-7321.

# School Resource Officer

## Officer Kim Wood, Middleton High School



Hello! I am Officer Kim Wood, the School Resource Officer at Middleton High School. I also provide coverage for Clark Street Community School, the Early Learning Center and Cardinal Academy. With over 17 years of service with the Middleton Police Department, I have held a variety of positions including Detective, Community Awareness Officer, Patrol Officer and now SRO.

Our student population has remained consistent at approximately 2,300 students in the high school and 140 at Clark Street Community School, not to mention over 300 staff members. I continue to strive to build relationships with our students and staff through classroom conversations, passing time between classes, and over lunch in the north and south commons. I also started a monthly Coffee with a Cop event to reach more kids

through our mutual love for coffee and treats. My office continues to be a spot for both students and staff to stop in, whether coming for a visit or to gain inspiration for decorating.

For the 2023 calendar year, there were over 300 calls for service. These calls for service saw an increase from 130 incident reports for the end of the 2022/23 school year to almost 180 incident reports for the first half of the 2023/24 school year. Much like the calls for service our patrol officers investigate, I too saw incidents ranging from sexual assaults, child pornography investigations, thefts, drug investigations, fights, harassments, property damage and mental health related calls.

As this school year comes to an end, I look forward to continuing my journey as the School Resource Officer next school year!

# School Resource Officer

## Officer Julie Carbon, Kromrey Middle School



During the Spring Semester of the 2022/2023 school year, I partnered with Elm Lawn School Counselor Taylor Klinzing and with Northside School Counselor Kari Brezenski to teach the safety curriculum through Second Step.

Lastly, I completed several Alcohol and Drug presentations to our 8th grade health classes, including the importance of saying no.

During the Fall Semester of the 2023/2024 school year, I participated with the elementary schools' staff during orientation week on our active threat drills which included barricading, and the use of our active threat protocol. I presented to 6th and 8th grade classes at Kromrey on Internet Safety and their Digital Footprint.



In December of 2023, Director of Technology Brian Miles and I presented Internet Safety to parents district-wide with direction from our local Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

During our spring semester, I responded to 81 calls for service pertaining to incidents at our schools. Also, five citations were issued and there were zero arrests. During our fall semester, I responded to 45 calls for service pertaining to incidents at our schools. Also, three citations were issued.

# Traffic Safety

## Sergeant Jessica Quamme



Traffic safety and traffic enforcement continues to be one of our main concerns at the Middleton Police Department. We handled 461 traffic complaints in 2023 that were called in by other drivers on the road. Most of these complaints were for aggressive driving behavior, vehicles on the side of the road, or suspected impaired drivers.

The Middleton Police Department handled 15 traffic complaints reported by citizens in 2023. Most of these complaints were for speed violations and stop sign violations. Our officers spent extra time on these traffic complaint areas and made stops for the violations observed. Some of the traffic complaints we received are long-term projects and have continued to have enforcement action taken throughout the year and will carry over into 2024.

Our department also has a motorcycle officer who focuses on traffic enforcement as well as community engagement. Officer Jesse Sellek was on the motorcycle for 44 shifts this year and drove over 2,400 miles. Officer Sellek attended special events such as the EAA Pancake Breakfast, National Night Out, Cars Curing Kids, assisted in escorting the First Lady of the United States, participated in a funeral escort for a former Middleton employee, and led the Good Neighbor Festival parade.



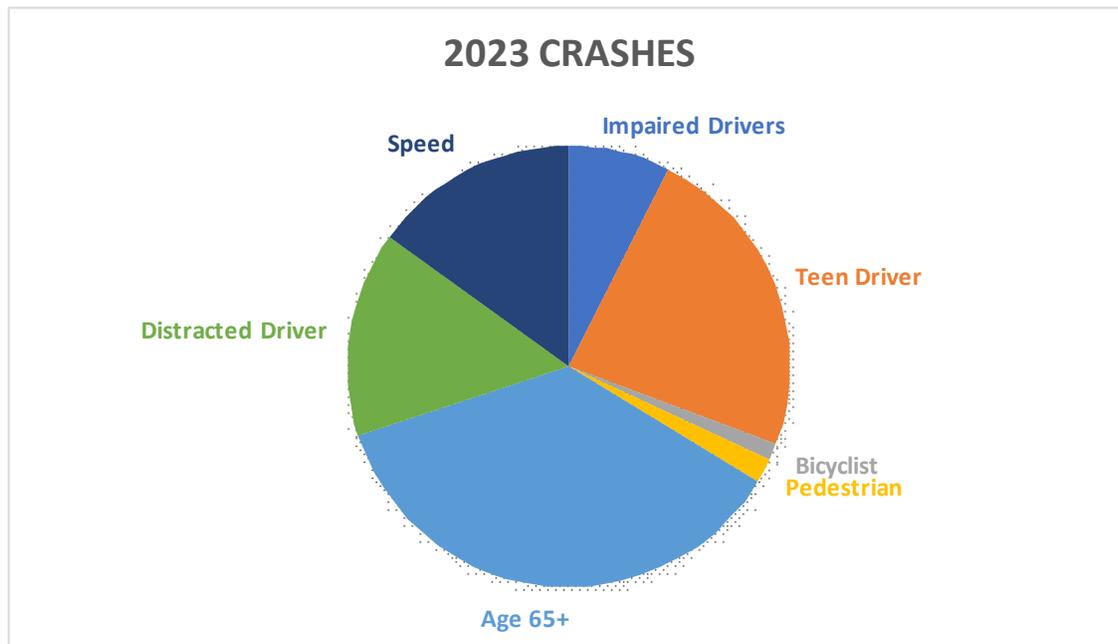
The Middleton Police Department participated in an Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) Enforcement grant and a Speed Enforcement grant in 2023. Our department teamed up with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Police Department to create a task force for these grants. Our OWI grant provided our departments with an additional \$24,373 in funds to put more police officers on the road to enforce OWI laws. Our Speed grant provided our departments with an additional \$18,180 in funds to focus on speed enforcement. The grants were worked from December 2022 – September 2023.

We also participated in the Special Enforcement Periods of “Drive Sober-Winter,” “Click it or Ticket,” and “Drive Sober-Labor Day” enforcements. These enforcements focus on seatbelt and OWI violations and are conducted during officers’ regularly scheduled shifts.

# Traffic Report

There were 442 reportable crashes with 90 injuries in 2023, compared to 422 crashes with 58 injuries in 2022. This is a 4.7% increase in crashes, with a 55% increase in injuries. The crashes included the following:

- 24 crashes involving impaired drivers (alcohol and/or drugs)
- 6 crashes involving pedestrians
- 4 crashes involving bicyclists
- 76 crashes involving teen drivers
- 118 crashes involving drivers aged 65+
- 49 crashes involving distracted drivers
- 49 crashes involving speed



In total, officers conducted 4,041 traffic stops, issuing 2,165 traffic citations and 2,513 warnings in 2023. This included 84 Operating While Intoxicated arrests, five of which were for Operating with a Detectable Amount of Restricted Controlled Substances, three violations of Absolute Sobriety, and 18 citations for Consuming or Transporting Open Intoxicants in a Motor Vehicle.

Remember to be mindful of other drivers on the road, keep the phone down, and drive safely!

# Community Policing Programs

## Officer Jake Ungerer



In 2023, Middleton Community Police Partnership (MiCoPP) continued its mission to enhance community safety and foster positive relationships between law enforcement and residents. At the heart of our efforts lie the two main goals of our organization: forming community partnerships to alleviate governmental burdens through volunteer activities, and combating community deterioration through crime prevention programs and events.



The year kicked off with Madison Area Crime Stoppers Night at Capital Ice Arena in January, marking the beginning of collaborative efforts to promote community safety and crime prevention. As the year progressed, the department engaged in a variety of events and programs designed to strengthen bonds between law enforcement and the community.



In April through May, we hosted the Citizen Academy, providing civilians with insight into law enforcement procedures and encouraging understanding and cooperation between police and the community. This educational initiative was followed by the Youth Academy in July, empowering young individuals and encouraging respect for law enforcement from an early age.



Throughout the year, the department organized various community events, notably including National Night Out in August, which held our highest attended event with approximately 800 participants. Other events included Custard with a Cop in September, Ride with a Cop to School in May and November, and Downtown Halloween in October, providing opportunities for positive interactions between officers and community members of all ages. Additionally, collaborative efforts with organizations such as the Optimist Club led to events like Cops and Bobbers in September, strengthening relationships between law enforcement and youth through shared recreational activities.



The department also prioritized community outreach through partnerships with local businesses and organizations. From Car Seat Events with Safe Kids Madison to Senior Car Care at Middleton Ford with the Senior Center, these partnerships allowed us to address diverse community needs and promote safety and well-being for all residents.



These efforts, combined with ongoing programs like the Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS) program and Police Internship, demonstrated the dedication of the Middleton Police Officers and our partners to building a safer and more united Middleton community.

# Communications Center

## Supervisor Keith Cleasby

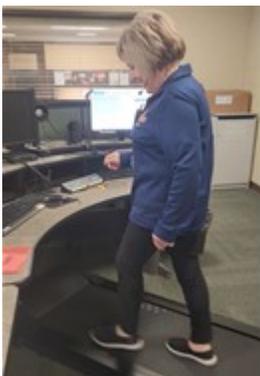


The Middleton Police Department has a dedicated state-of-the-art Communications Center staffed 24-hours a day, every day of the year by five full-time dispatchers, three part-time dispatchers and a Communications Center Supervisor. In addition to managing radio communications between the police department and all of the city's police officers, the center processes an average of 30,000 calls each year, including non-emergency calls and text messages to 608-824-7300, as well as landline and mobile calls and texts to 911. While 911 calls to our center increased over 24% in 2023, our annual 911 call answer time statistics continue to exceed national standards. In 2023, our dispatch staff answered 98.8% of 911 calls within 15 seconds, and 99.6% of 911 calls within 20 seconds. This is an improvement over our local statistics last year, and well above the national standard of 90% within 15 seconds, and 95% within 20 seconds.

In 2023, we focused on training, technology, wellness and community outreach. Our dispatchers received a combined total of almost 400 hours of specialized training, including topics like Crisis Intervention, Active Shooter Incident Management, Tactical Dispatching, Critical Thinking, Peer Support and more. Our dispatchers also partnered with our officers and officers from other local agencies during active shooter drills so dispatchers and officers each have a better understanding of what happens on the other side of the radio.



Our Communications Center launched new state-of-the-art technology that helps our dispatchers better pinpoint locations of mobile 911 callers who may not be able to provide their location, as well as technology that allows callers to voluntarily give dispatchers temporary access to the camera on their mobile phone allowing the dispatcher to livestream with the caller giving the dispatcher "eyes on scene" to provide responders with accurate, up-to-date information to enhance the response and safety of everyone involved.



As with all of our staff, employee wellness is always a top priority. In 2023, we added a desk treadmill to our Communications Center for our dispatchers to offer them a means of getting up and moving while still being able to perform their job to help reduce the health risks of a job that is primarily sedentary. We also have a dispatcher on our department Peer Support Team, a core group of employees trained to provide support, information and referrals to employees and family members seeking assistance, whether it is related to a critical incident, day-to-day work stress, or personal life stress.

This year, we also started to include dispatchers in our community outreach events, such as National Night Out, as well as career fairs to help citizens understand the important role that our dispatchers play on the public safety team, and to help everyone meet the heroes behind the headsets who are often heard but never seen.

# Communications Center



## Communications Center Phone Stats – 2023

Total Calls Processed	25,461
Incoming Non-emergency	18,723
Incoming 911 & Wireless 911*	2,749
Non-Emergency Text Messages	3,906
Text-to-911	83
Busiest Day of the Week	Thursday
Busiest Hours of the Day	12:00pm - 4:00pm

\*The National Emergency Number Association 911 Call Processing Standard states that 90% of 911 calls shall be answered within 15 seconds, and 95% of 911 calls shall be answered within 20 seconds. In 2023, our staff answered 98.8% of 911 calls within 15 seconds, and 99.6% of 911 calls within 20 seconds.

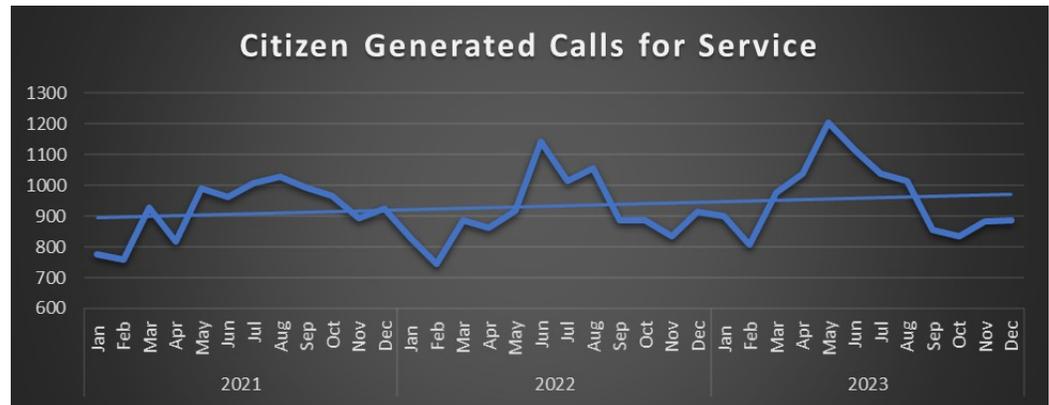
# Department Statistics



## Captain Jeremy Geizler

### Department Statistics

As the city continues to grow, we are seeing a steady increase in calls for service. As with past years, we again noticed a peak in calls for service during the warmer months of the year. In May of 2023, our staff fielded 1,206 citizen generated calls for service, which is the highest recorded for any month during the last 3 years.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	776	757	927	817	989	964	1009	1029	995	966	893	923
2022	829	745	887	862	916	1142	1016	1056	888	885	835	913
2023	901	808	977	1038	1206	1115	1040	1013	855	836	884	886

One of the largest driving forces in this increase of calls for service continues to be mental health related issues. In 2023, we responded to 636 such incidents, a 27% increase over the year before and **59% increase in the past two years.**

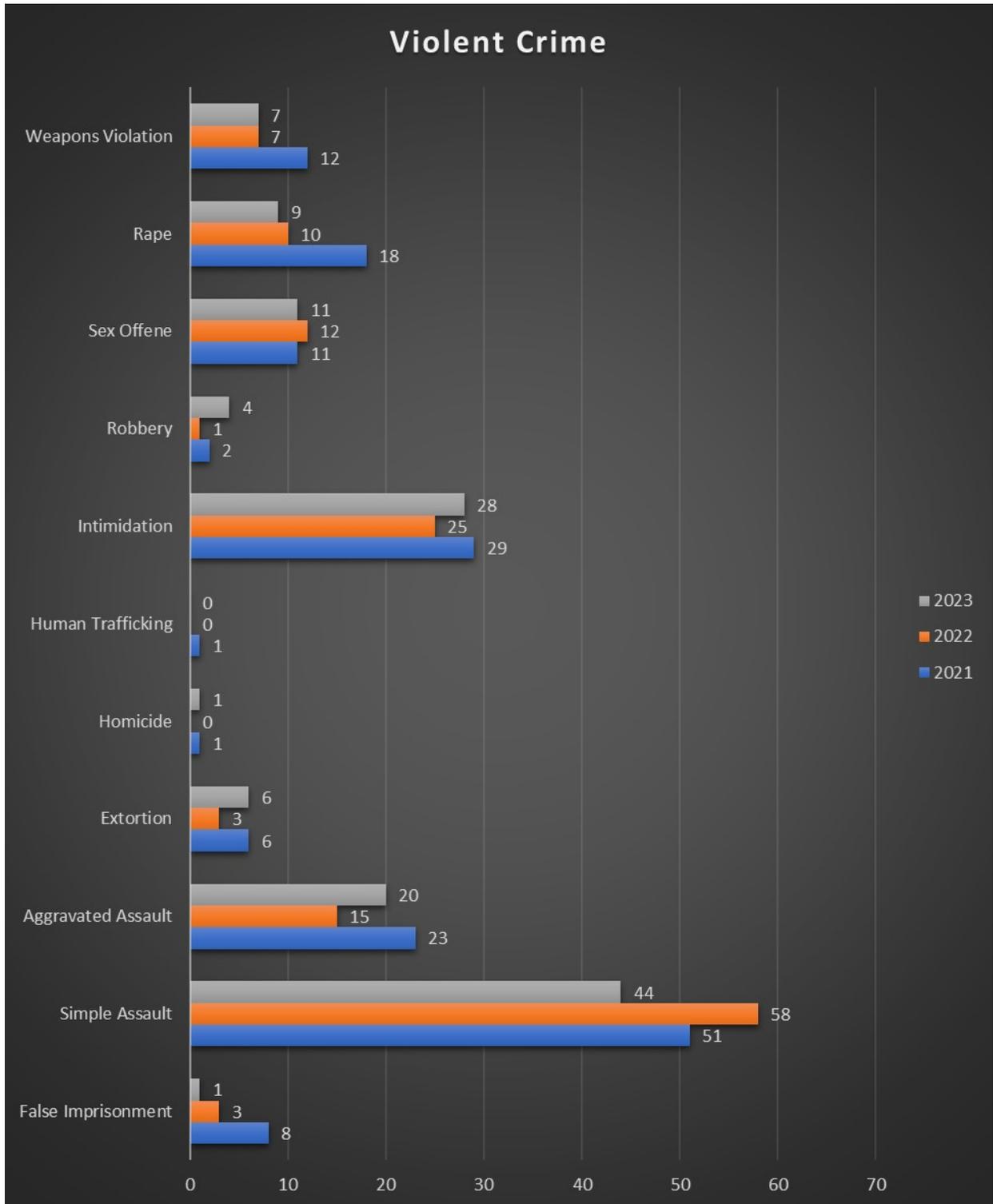
To deal with these incidents compassionately and appropriately, officers often spend a great deal of time on the call and there may be multiple officers involved. The number of these incidents alone does not account for the total staff time spent handling these complex situations.

Property crime continued to decline in 2023. The most significant decrease was less motor vehicle thefts, theft from auto incidents, and theft of auto parts. In addition to traditional enforcement efforts, the Middleton Police Department has continued active participation with our law enforcement partners throughout Dane County to proactively address the rise in these incidents over the past few years.

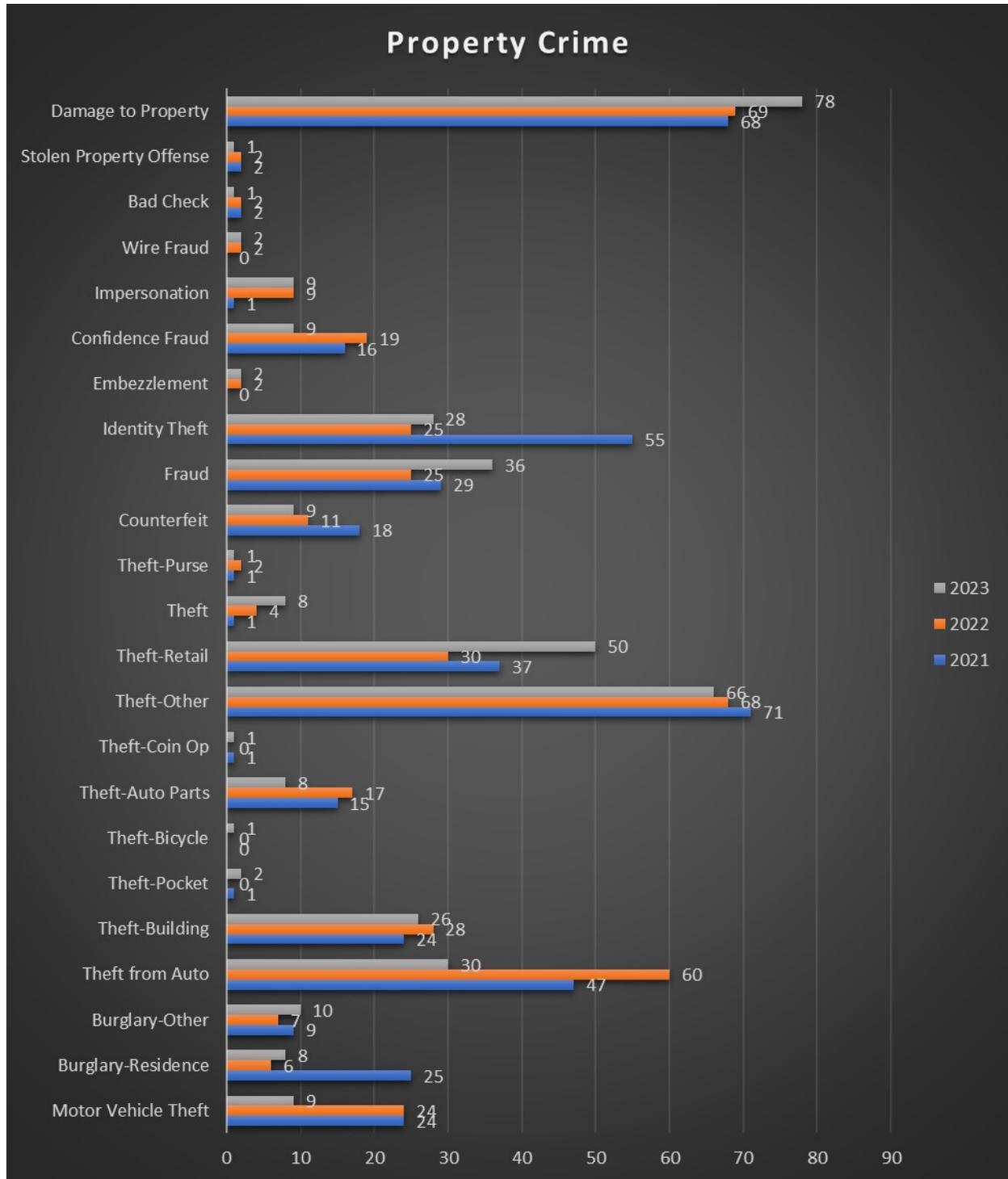
We further enhance these efforts through community education and outreach efforts to help our community members prevent these types of incidents from occurring. One such example is our Crime Prevention Notice which officers will issue when conducting proactive patrols.

In addition to the decrease in property crime, there was also a slight decrease in violent crime in 2023.

# Violent Crimes



# Property Crimes



# Use of Force

## Captain Jeremy Geiszler



In 2023, the Middleton Police Department responded to 18,318 calls for service. Of those incidents, Middleton officers utilized some level of force 31 times. This means that force was applied in 0.17% of all incidents officers responded to throughout the year. This is fewer than each of the past 4 years:

2023: 31 incidents, 0.17% of all incidents  
2022: 51 incidents, 0.27% of all incidents  
2021: 47 incidents, 0.26% of all incidents  
2020: 65 incidents, 0.40% of all incidents  
2019: 52 incidents, 0.24% of all incidents

Before looking at the numbers below, some explanation is necessary to fully understand how they were calculated. Each incident involving force may or may not involve multiple officers and/or multiple subjects. Understandably, the more significant an incident, the more likely there is to be multiple officers involved. Furthermore, each incident frequently involves multiple levels of force from each officer as they sometimes progress through the intervention options. Each separate application of force from each officer is documented in the numbers below, so the number of applications of force will naturally be higher than the number of incidents involving force.

In 2023, there was a total of 71 applications of force against 29 individuals. Of note, this year we are no longer reporting incidents where sick and injured animals were dispatched. The reason for that is because the general public is usually only interested in use of force against people and because the statistics can be noticeably impacted by the uncontrollable number of animals that need to be dispatched in any given year. Given the change in the way we are reporting use of force, this also means that care should be taken when comparing current numbers to prior years.

The Middleton Police Department takes use of force seriously and has a multi-step review process for each incident that involves force at the level of a compliance hold or higher. The purpose of this review process is to ensure all uses of force are within policy, that the policy is appropriate, and that our training and equipment are adequate.

In addition to the immediate review of all uses of force, the Middleton Police Department also does quarterly reviews. This data is shared with the Lieutenants, the Captains, and the Chief. At the end of the year there is also an annual review. All of these reports are also discussed at the quarterly Lieutenant meetings which allows for better tracking of employees' uses of force to determine whether there are any trends.

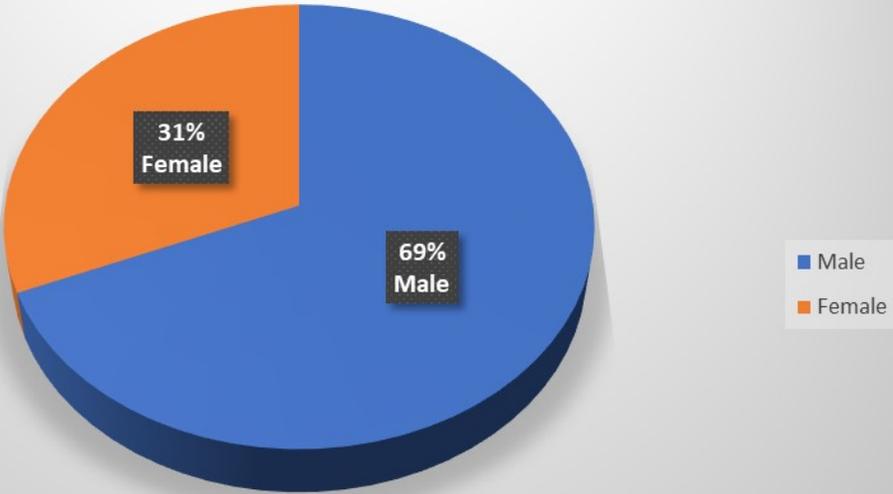
All officers are required to fill out Critical Incident reports that are then reviewed by their immediate supervisor. Those incidents are then referred to the Captain for a secondary review and, if needed, a Critical Incident Review Board (CIRB) is convened. This is a board consisting of 3-5 employees who review an incident as required by policy or at the request of a supervisor. The CIRB met to review five uses of force in 2023. The CIRB found all of the incidents to be within policy.

Below you will find a breakdown of the uses of force for the year by quarters. You will also find several graphs showing the demographics of the subjects which force was applied to, as well as a historical chart showing the uses of force broken down by each officer.

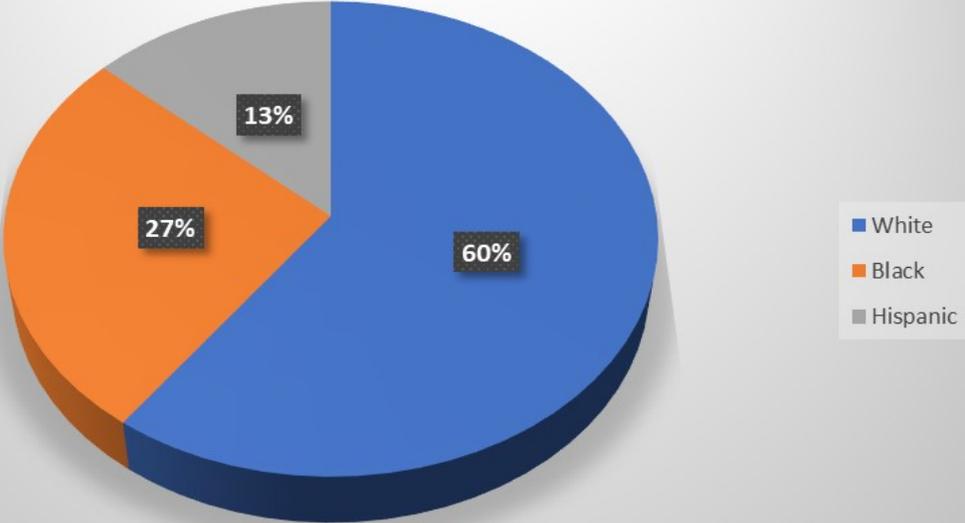
	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4	2023 Total
Number of Applications of Force	35	9	13	14	<b>71</b>
Calls for Service	4457	5116	4617	4128	<b>18318</b>
Number of Incidents Involving Force	13	4	4	10	<b>31</b>
Percent of Incidents Involving Force	0.29%	0.08%	0.09%	0.24%	<b>0.17%</b>
Taser Pointed at Suspect	1	1	2	1	<b>5</b>
Taser Arc Warning	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Taser Fired at Suspect	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
BOLA Wrap Pointed	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
BOLA Wrap Fired	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Less Lethal Shotgun Pointed at Suspect	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Force - Decentralized	11	1	5	5	<b>22</b>
Force - Escort Hold	7	0	4	4	<b>15</b>
Force - Compliance Hold	3	0	1	1	<b>5</b>
Force - Strikes / Blows	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Firearm Pointed at Suspect	10	7	1	5	<b>23</b>
Firearm Discharged at Suspect	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Canine Deployed - Bite	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Canine Deployed - No Bite	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Other	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
	35	9	13	16	<b>73</b>

*\*The incident in the "other" category involved a subject being stabilized against the wall.*

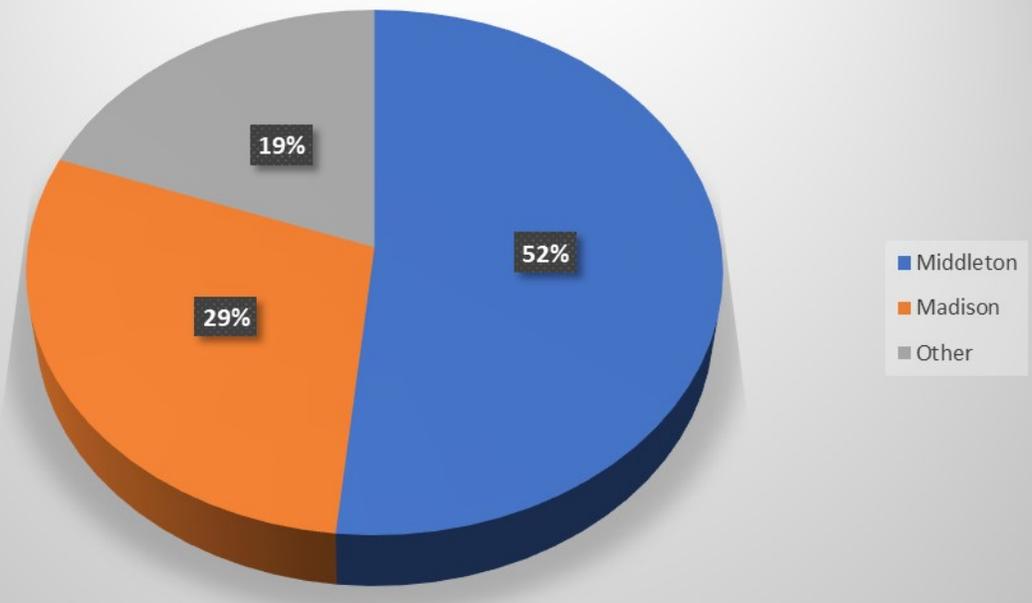
### 2023 Use Of Force By Gender



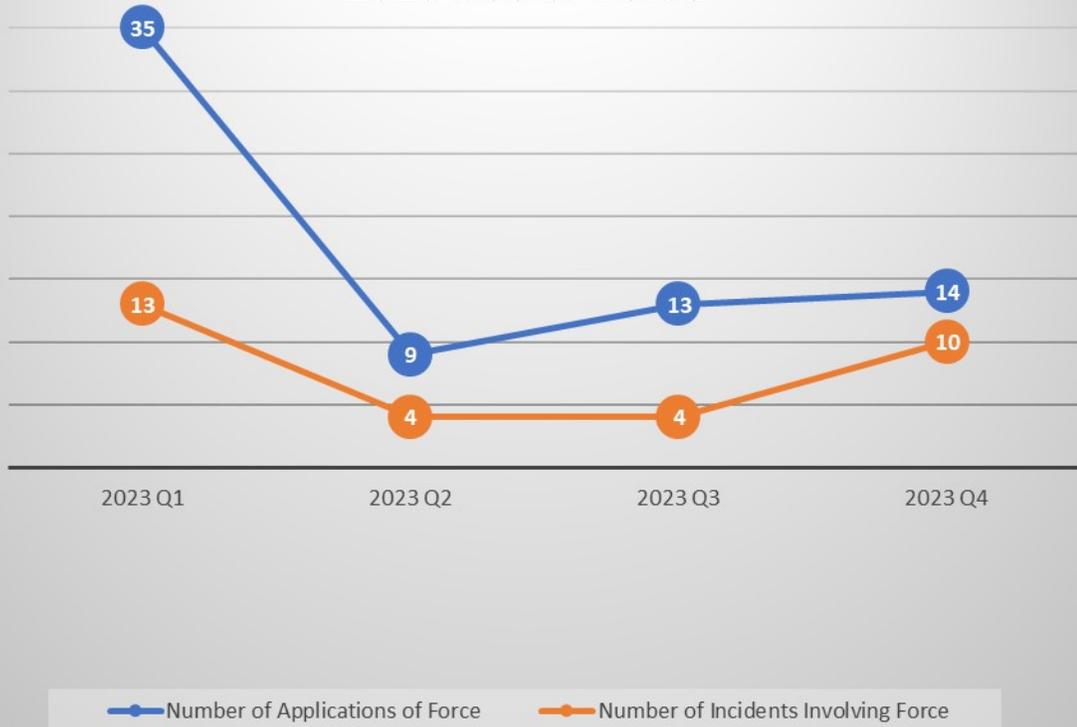
### 2023 Use of Force By Race



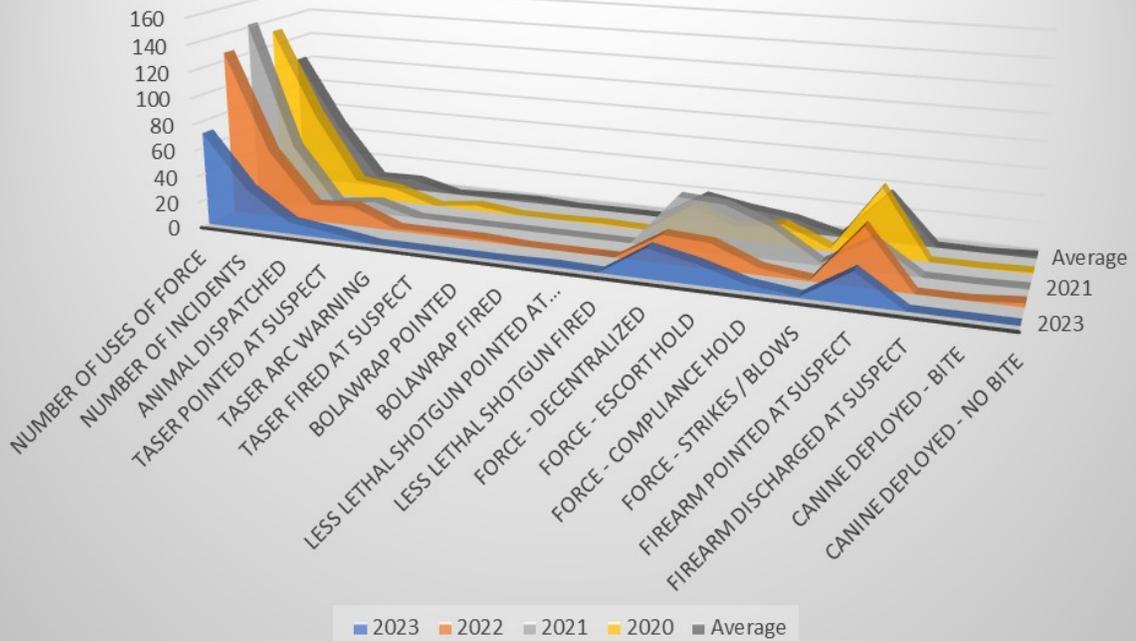
## 2023 Use Of Force By Address Of Subject



## 2023 Use Of Force



## Annual Use Of Force



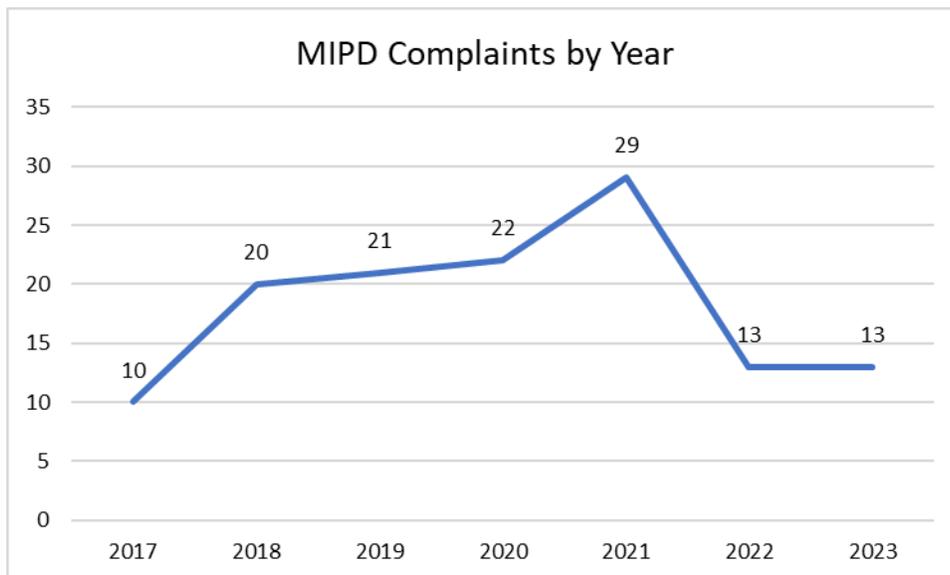
# Citizen Complaints

## Captain Tyler Loether



The Middleton Police Department takes any allegations against our employees seriously and thoroughly investigates all complaint allegations. In 2023, there were 13 total complaints filed against our staff throughout the year, which held steady with the prior year.

Most employee complaints are assigned to a Lieutenant to investigate, or in the case of a civilian employee, their direct supervisor. More serious allegations, or those made against a Lieutenant, are assigned to a Captain for investigation. Each investigation involves interviews of the complainant and involved employee(s), witnesses, as well as a review of relevant reports, body camera video, and/or squad video. When the investigation is complete, it is forwarded to the Administrative Captain for review and the original complainant is notified of the findings.



When received, complaints are grouped into one of the following categories:

**Use of Force** – Excessive or inappropriate use of force.

**Property** – Money, property, evidence or other valued items have been damaged, or taken and not properly accounted for, receipted, or placed in property/evidence.

**Conduct** – Misconduct, other than those more specifically defined by another category, which tends to bring reproach or discredit upon the department.

**Disparate Treatment** – Treatment of an individual that is different from that of another because of race, sex, age, origin, orientation, status, beliefs, appearance, or handicap.

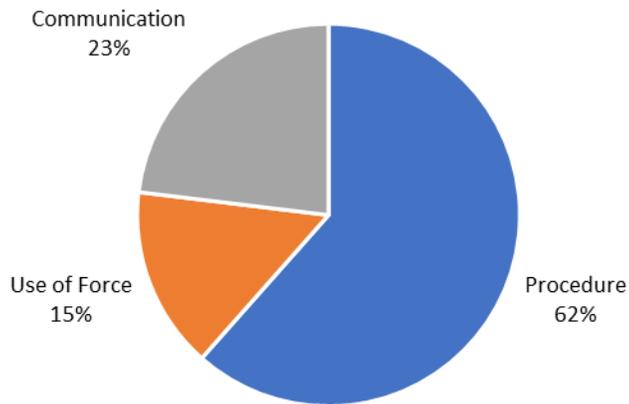
**Communication** – Attitude, rude conduct, or verbally abusive conduct other than those addressed in the disparate treatment category.

**Performance** – Work performance which fails to meet or conform to department standards or requirements of an administrative nature such as lateness, misuse of sick time, etc.

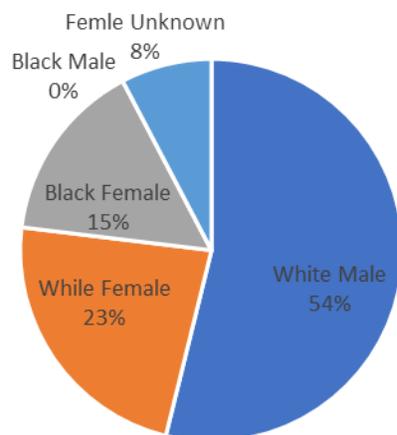
**Procedure** – Conduct which violates policy, procedures, rules, standards of conduct, or order of a superior officer and which are not more specifically addressed in the performance category.

In 2023, the following types of complaints were investigated. The below data also breaks down the race and gender of the complainants, as well as complaint dispositions.

### 2023 Complaint Types



### 2023 Complaints by Sex/Race



Complaint dispositions are broken down into the following categories:

**Unfounded** - The investigation has produced sufficient evidence to prove that the act or acts alleged did not occur. This finding shall also apply when individual personnel named in the complaint were not involved in an act that did occur.

**Exonerated** - The act alleged did occur, but the employee's actions were justified, legal and proper.

**Undetermined/No Finding** - There is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation.

**Unintentional Error** – The act (or omission) did occur and it is deemed improper, but was the result of an employee's mistake made in good faith.

**Sustained** - The investigation disclosed enough evidence to prove the allegation.

**Misconduct Not Based on Complaint** - Investigation into the complaint reveals other actions that would be a violation of policy, operating procedure, rules, standards of conduct, or law, but these actions were not a part of the original complaint.

**Policy Failure** - The employee's actions were in accordance with policy, procedure, or rules, but there is some flaw in the policy that permitted the actions, or there is no applicable policy to address the situation and/or the employee's actions.

**Withdrawn** - The complainant has withdrawn the complaint, and no further investigation or action is warranted.

**Time Limits** – The complaint has been filed more than 90 days after the alleged incident, no law violations are alleged, and the complainant cannot show good cause for the delayed reporting.

