



## Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: April 2022

After two years of cancellations, postponements, and having to learn to work and live parts of our lives virtually because of the pandemic, this summer is shaping up to be a very busy season as Gahanna and communities across the nation return to normalcy. Here at home, Gahanna's premier event, the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival, returns to its traditional mid-June weekend, June 17-19. That same weekend the nation will celebrate Juneteenth (note - City offices will be closed on June 20 in observance). In Columbus, the Pride march likewise returns June 17- 18 to an in-person celebration and expects to welcome more than 700,000 visitors to Central Ohio. These multiple weekend events promise to offer a range of activities for residents and visitors alike. Other summer activities in the City, including graduation parties, Memorial day remembrances, Independence Day celebrations, concerts, festivals and many community gatherings hosted by our dedicated Parks & Recreation Department and local community groups are all on tap for Summer 2022.

So that families and visitors can focus on fun while attending our local events, the Division of Police continues to work with organizers and planners to promote a safe and enjoyable environment for all. From implementing traffic and roadway safety plans to preparing for high-visibility event patrols, the Division and its community partners are working diligently to ensure that effective public safety measures are in place. More broadly, throughout the City there will be a focus on residential area and business district patrols, an increase in bike-officer patrols, and other summertime safety initiatives. Whether you're enjoying a backyard barbeque at your home in one of our many diverse neighborhoods or visiting Gahanna for the first time this summer, we wish you and your family an enjoyable and "in-person" summer of fun! As always, the men and women of the Gahanna Division of Police remain dedicated to helping you do so safely.

**Jeff Spence**  
*Chief of Police*

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## Summary of Division Activity for March



### Support Services – Communications Center:

Communication Technicians handled 866 9-1-1 calls throughout the month. 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center were answered in an average of 3.3 seconds. No text-to-911 messages were received.

74% of all 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center originated from cellular phones while 13% were received from VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.

An additional 1,709 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines in March.

Overall year-to-date call volume has increased 21% over 2021.

3,016 calls for service were dispatched during the month.

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## Summary of Division Activity for March

2636

2022 Year-to-Date  
Total 9-1-1 Calls

2177

2021 Year-to-Date  
Total 9-1-1 Calls

21.08%

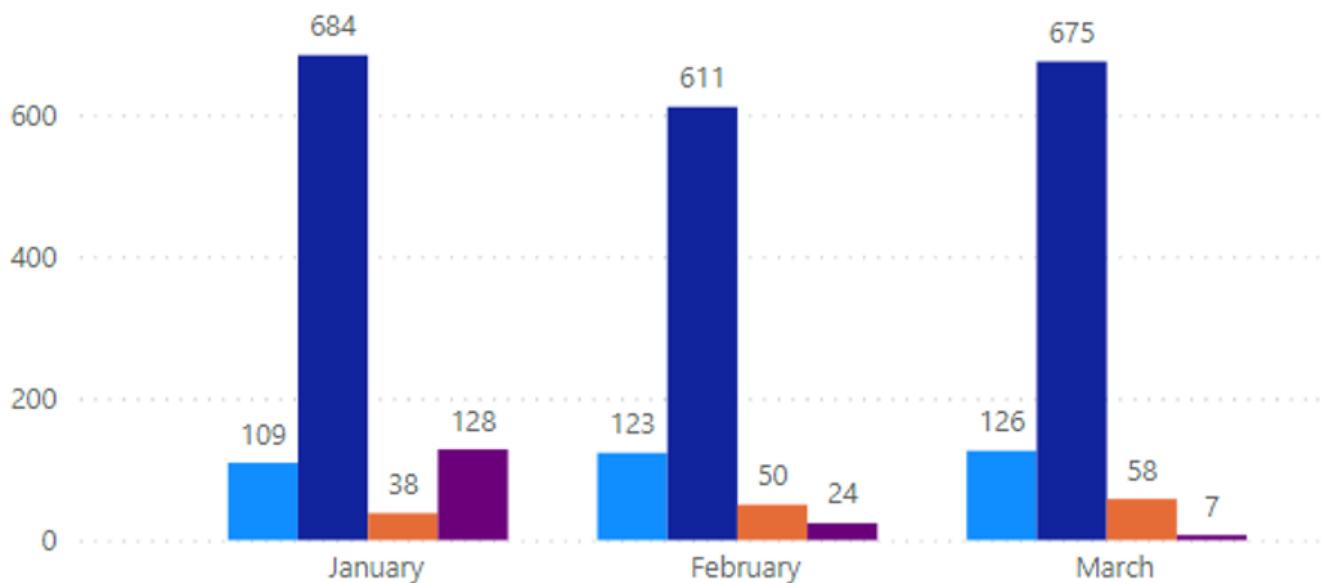
% Change  
Year-to-Date Total  
9-1-1 Calls

### Gahanna 9-1-1 System Data

| Month    | 9-1-1 Total | 9-1-1 Wireless | 9-1-1 Wireline | 9-1-1 VoIP | No ANI/ALI | Average Answer Delay (Seconds) | Abandoned Calls | Rollover Calls | Non-Emergency Lines | Text to 9-1-1 |
|----------|-------------|----------------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| January  | 959         | 684            | 38             | 109        | 128        | 4.00                           | 28              | 0              | 1948                | 0             |
| February | 811         | 611            | 50             | 123        | 24         | 3.00                           | 32              | 0              | 2085                | 0             |
| March    | 866         | 675            | 58             | 126        | 7          | 3.00                           | 27              | 0              | 1709                | 0             |
| Total    | 2636        | 1970           | 146            | 358        | 159        | 3.33                           | 87              | 0              | 5742                | 0             |

### Total 9-1-1 Calls by Month & Type

● 9-1-1 VoIP ● 9-1-1 Wireless ● 9-1-1 Wireline ● No ANI/ALI



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## Field Services: March 2022

-369 offense and arrest reports were generated including a summary of the following incidents by type:

- One robbery occurred.
- 18 thefts from vehicles were reported in March; some involved forced entry.
- 26 incidents of criminal damaging were reported; arrests were made in two incidents.
- Two burglaries were reported.
- Two Breaking & Entering offenses were reported in March.
- 12 vehicles were reported stolen with an arrest in a separate incident. Many of the stolen vehicles were either Kia or Hyundai models. Juveniles and young adults are believed to be the suspects in nearly all the incidents.
- Incidents of assaults (no domestic nexus) are as follows:
  - One aggravated assault with one arrest.
  - Six simple assaults; two arrests.
- Domestic-related responses include:
  - 14 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
  - Two arrests for Domestic Violence were made during the month.
  - Two offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
- Drug offenses for the month include:
  - Drug/Narcotics violations – two offense reports; three arrests.
  - Drug equipment violations – one offense report taken.
  - One non-fatal overdose occurred in March. Fentanyl is suspected to have been involved in the incident.



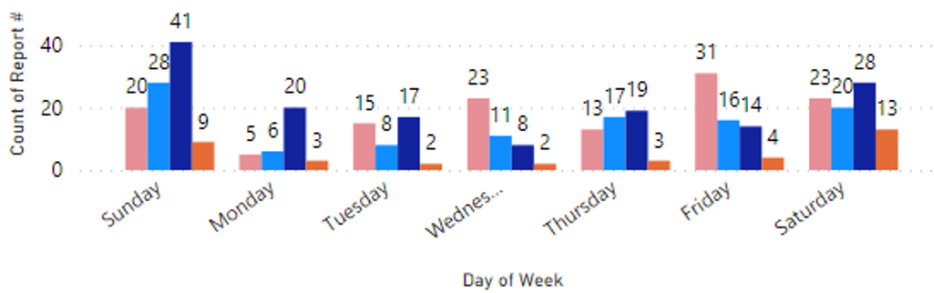
## Field Services: March 2022 (page 2)

- 38 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.
- Two field interviews were conducted resulting in reports.
- Officers conducted 748 self-initiated traffic stops with 314 traffic violators issued citations; 13 arrests were made from the stops.
- The Division responded to 42 motor vehicle crashes with a further breakdown as follows:
  - No traffic fatalities occurred during the month.
  - No crashes were classified as serious injury suspected.
  - Three crashes were classified as minor injury suspected – 7.14% of crash responses.
  - Four were classified as injury possible – 9.52% of responses.
  - The remaining 35 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 83.3% of responses.
  - Five crashes occurred on IR-270 – 11.9% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
  - Four incidents involved alcohol and/or drug impairment – 9.52% of responses.
  - Four commercial vehicle crashes occurred during the month – 9.52% of crash responses involved a commercial motor vehicle.
  - One crash involved a motorcycle – 2.38%.
  - Distractions were reported in 12 of the 42 crashes.
- Patrol officers made 10 arrests for impaired driving (OVI).
  - Two arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
  - The results of blood/urine tests in three incidents are pending laboratory analysis.
  - The average blood alcohol content for the four arrestees that submitted to breath testing was .16 or two times the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio (.08).
  - The period between Friday evening into Sunday morning resulted in the highest number of arrests (5).

## Summary of Division Activity for March 2022

### Arrests by Day of Week

Year ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022

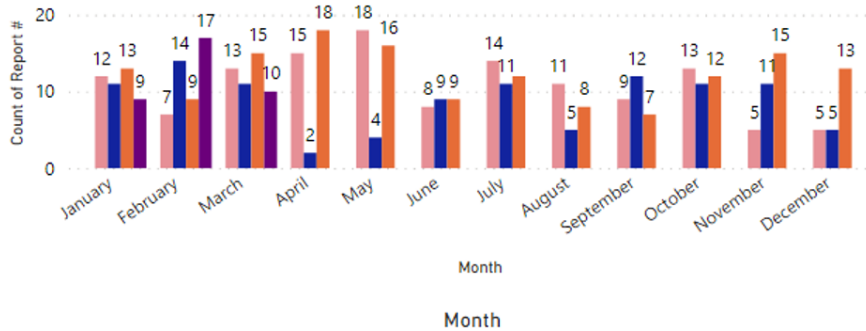


### Average BAC

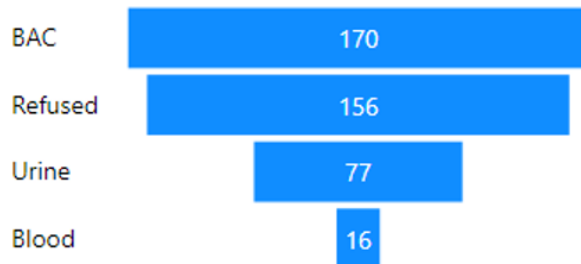


### Arrests by Month

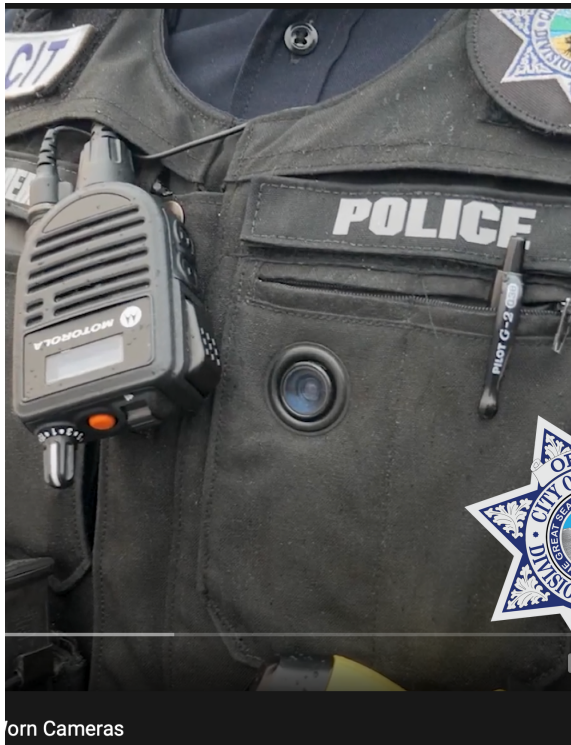
Year ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



### Testing Type Total



## Investigative Services



- The Division's detectives were assigned 104 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained four investigative subpoenas and executed five search warrants during the month.



## Community Liaison Officer Position Created

While the Division expects all officers to apply the principles of community-oriented policing, it also recognizes – given the multitude of tasks an officer must perform – that some opportunities to initiate or maintain community outreach efforts are limited. This constraint, along with the increasing prevalence of calls for service involving individuals in emotional or mental health crisis, those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, and interaction with members of vulnerable groups, has resulted in the need for a more specialized and sustained response strategy.



Kelie Moffitt, Community Liaison Officer

To address this critical need, the Division has deployed its first Community Liaison Officer (CLO) – Officer Kelie Moffitt. Officer Moffitt will leverage her particularized skills and years of experience to help better serve the City’s special needs groups and help resolve particularized community concerns. Officer Moffitt will do so by developing and sustaining collaborative relationships with community members, coordinating with social services and other community-based networks, and working with impacted family members and other stakeholders to identify underlying problems and implement effective solutions. She’ll advance the Division’s efforts to provide sustained assistance by conducting periodic follow ups, responding to community referrals, and assessing the effectiveness of ongoing intervention efforts. Officer Moffitt will also work with the Division’s School Resource Officers (SRO) to help promote the wellbeing and success of Gahanna’s youth and student population.

In alignment with the Division’s existing community policing framework, Officer Moffitt will more broadly serve as a conduit between the Division and neighborhood groups, businesses, and community members to positively impact public safety and quality of life concerns. Critically, as part of the City’s enduring commitment to equality and inclusivity, this will include strengthening relationships between the Division and members of traditionally underserved groups and others who may have felt left behind. Officer Moffitt is honored to serve as the Division’s first CLO and looks forward to working with our residents, business community and neighborhood groups. Officer Moffitt can be contacted by email at [kelie.moffitt@gahanna.gov](mailto:kelie.moffitt@gahanna.gov), or call 614.342.4217.



## Traffic Safety Update



As COVID-19 restrictions began to ease, the resulting return to pre-pandemic roadway conditions and traffic volumes caused the Division to realign its roadway safety and traffic enforcement initiatives. This began by expanding directed traffic enforcement operations in traditionally high-crash zones and through the re-engagement of other traffic safety initiatives. Among those, officers continue their efforts to remove impaired drivers from our roadways. In the first quarter of this year, officers have made 36 arrests for operating a vehicle under the influence (OVI). This is on pace with first quarter OVI arrests in 2021, a year during which officers made 147 total OVI arrests – an increase of 31% from 2020 and the most since 2015. The Division remains an active member of the Franklin County DUI Task Force. As part of this multi-agency partnership and county wide effort to target impaired drivers, the Division continues to deploy additional officers during peak times associated with an increase in OVI violations. Additional patrols were most recently conducted the week of St. Patrick's Day.

In mid-March, the Division's three Speed Monitoring and Notification Devices (SMND) began their deployments to various locations to reduce speeds and raise awareness. The devices feature prominent LED screens that display the speed of an approaching vehicle in conjunction with a series of warning lights. The Division had two SMND in 2021, utilizing them at 20 different residential roadway locations around the city (all 25 MPH zones). Together, they monitored traffic for a combined 345 days and recorded the speeds of over 400,000 vehicles. The devices proved to be highly effective – when they were present the average combined speed (at all locations) was 27.5 MPH. With its recent acquisition of another SMND, the Division expects to expand its traffic monitoring capacity in 2022 and further enhance neighborhood safety.

## Traffic Safety Update (page 2)

In April, the Division began its participation in a distracted driving awareness campaign that included public outreach and driver education efforts through its social media platforms and the positioning of electronic messaging boards near primary roadways. Additionally, the Division partnered with Troopers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Columbus Post to promote extra visibility and focus on distracted driving and occupant restraint violations. The deployment of officers to school zones also began in April. Through mid-April, approximately 30 combined school zone operations at multiple locations have been conducted, resulting in numerous stops for school zone speeding violations. School zone operations will continue throughout the Spring in an effort to promote student safety.

The holistic approach taken by the Division to improve traffic safety can be illustrated through a comparison between its traffic enforcement activity since the beginning of the year to mid-April and the same period last year. This year through mid-April, officers have conducted 21% more traffic stops (2089 vs. 1634); issued 56% more citations (871 vs. 558); issued 12% more warnings (1120 vs 997); and made 14% more arrests out of traffic stops (56 vs. 49).

Traffic safety concerns are frequently voiced by our residents directly to Division in calls or emails, at community meetings, through elected leaders and in various Gahanna-centered social media sites. Our education, enforcement, partnership with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and collective data collection efforts are all focused with the singular goal to "Provide safe travel for motorists and pedestrians throughout the City of Gahanna."



## Help Needed to Identify Kroger Marketplace Theft Suspects

On March 11, 2022 the female suspect in the photo (right) attempted to steal almost \$1,000 worth of merchandise from Kroger Marketplace located at 300 South Hamilton Road. She was approached by store security which caused her to leave the items, fleeing the area.



**In-store surveillance image**

On February 11, 2022, the male suspect in the photo (right) removed a quantity of merchandise from Kroger Marketplace. The suspect was observed leaving the area in a silver Buick Sedan.



**In-store surveillance image**

Retail theft impacts everyone in our community. Anyone with information that may lead to the identity of these suspects is encouraged to contact the Division's detectives at 614.342.4240. Callers may remain anonymous.

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## Coffee with a Cop



# COFFEE WITH A COP

MAY 11, 2022. 8-10 AM  
STARBUCKS 1370 N. HAMILTON ROAD



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Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE  
*"To Serve and Protect"*



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."