



2015

Annual Report



This historical photo first published by the Sequim Gazette, was taken before the creation of the 101 bypass. In those days, the resident Sequim Elk herd would cross highway 101 as it passed through the city. As illustrated by the two Sequim Officers stopping traffic to protect the herd, then as now, Sequim Police dutifully serve and protect all who live, visit and work in our beautiful Olympic Peninsula town.

Sequim Police Department

'Personal Attention to our Community'

William M. Dickinson,
Chief of Police

www.sequimwa.gov/police



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

WILLIAM DICKINSON



Welcome to the 2015 Sequim Police Annual Report. This report is comprised primarily of statistical data to provide a perspective on the law enforcement activities in the City of Sequim, but we have also taken a moment to reflect on a few of the outstanding staff who serve the citizens, visitors and businesses in our community. Happily, 2015 marks a third year of decline in our overall crime rate. Still, when you look at the first graph on page 3, you will see that our overall crime rate is higher than most and this begs an explanation. Crime rates are based on crimes per 1000 population. Sequim has only 7000 residents; however our school district population is roughly 30,000. Further, Sequim has become the commercial center of the Olympic Peninsula with virtually all of the “big box” stores serving both Clallam and Jefferson Counties with a total population of over 100,000. Typically, a town of 7000 would not be host to such a large number of retail businesses, so while this brings jobs and sales tax revenues to our city which is good, it also attracts a high number of shoplifting and associated theft cases. Please see the bottom graph on page 4 to visualize that the vast majority of our crime rests in the larceny/theft category. When you divide the very large number of shoplifting/theft cases by our small population, our overall crime rate is driven to a high ratio. We have included the graph on the top of page 4 to illustrate that Sequim is much like other small towns in Washington who host large retail and shopping districts. In this regard, Sequim’s overall crime rate is lower than those comparable cities.

While responding to retail thefts keeps our officers busy, I would encourage readers to look beyond this particular crime category before assessing the safety of our town, as the larceny rate does not reflect at all on the safety of our community. If you now look at the bottom graph on page 3, you will see that aside from a one-off year in 2012, Sequim has a violent crime rate that is very low, lower in fact than the state and national averages. Ours is not a violent community and we aspire to keep it that way!

2015 also marked the year of moving into our new police station and the creation of a formal Emergency Operations Center where the City can now be better prepared to handle a major disaster. By now, the technology bugs of our new building have largely been worked out. The first of our two major initiatives from our 5 year strategic plan has been accomplished. The Police Department now embarks on our second major initiative which will be the process of seeking State Accreditation. Only 20% of the State’s 300 or so law enforcement agencies have successfully accomplished the task of meeting 132 best practice standards. Sequim Police have adopted policies and procedures to meet those standards and now that we are operating in a new facility which meets State requirements, we will voluntarily stand before a group of outside assessors in 2016 to evaluate and determine whether our small town police force will be equal to those few others who meet the bar.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the work of our faithful Police Dog Chase. Chase has been instrumental in locating evidence, finding suspects, and making friends with every citizen he meets. Chase was diagnosed in late 2015 with a stomach tumor. He underwent successful surgery and is undergoing follow up treatments. Police Dog Chase is now 11 years old and has served the police department and community well for 9 years. We will be retiring him early in 2016 so that he can live out the rest of his days with his beloved master, Sgt. Mike Hill. Thanks to the very generous support of our community, we anticipate purchasing a new dog and selecting a new handler in 2016.

William M. Dickinson

2015 DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Sequim Police Department, created in 1913, serves and protects the citizens of Sequim 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Nineteen commissioned officers and three reserve officers staff the three daily work shifts. The officers making up the supervisory team include the Chief, the Deputy Chief, three Sergeants, and one Detective Sergeant. One officer, in partnership with the School District, serves as the dedicated School Resource Officer.

Police support services are performed by the two non-sworn Police Records Specialists and the Assistant to the Chief. Additionally, the Sequim Police Department has twenty Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) who provide additional support services to the staff and the officers. The Police Department's business office is open to the public Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours calls to the office are routed to Pencom, the regional dispatch center.

The members of the Sequim Police Department are seriously dedicated to the agency's Mission Statement - "To partner with the community in preserving the peace and reducing the incidence of crime for everyone who lives, works, and visits in our city."

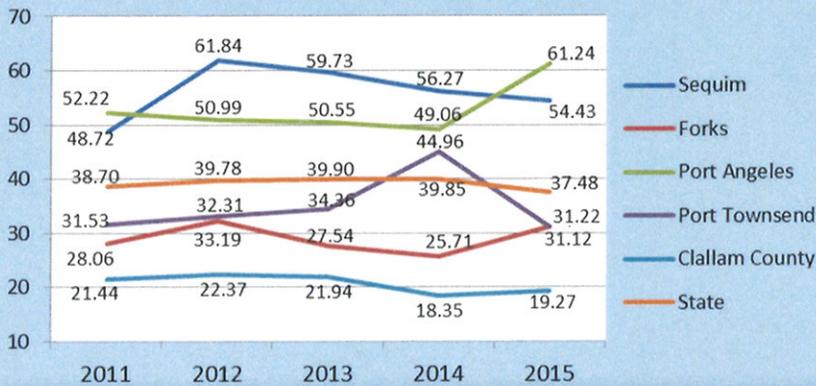


Statistics Development

In the 1980's, responding to Law Enforcement's need for more detailed crime data, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) began development of a new National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), and moved away from the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) method. In 2011, the Sequim Police Department was one of the first police agencies in the state to make the transition to NIBRS for reporting monthly crime data to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), the state's compiling agency for crime data. However, as not all of the nation's law enforcement agencies have made the switch to NIBRS reporting, the FBI continues to publish UCR statistics in their annual compilation of national crime statistics. For consistency, the crime data presented in this report is derived using UCR data compiled by the FBI. Because UCR does not capture non-crime reporting work load information, we track call-load information from Peninsula Communications (PenCom) who handles our 9-1-1 phone calls and dispatching services. We also gather information from other sources such as the regional Law Enforcement Records Management System in order to capture data such as warrant arrests, subpoena services, follow-up investigations, and so on. The data of the activities of our volunteer program, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) is compiled in-house, as is that of our Business Office Activities.

COMPARISON CRIME RATES

Crime Rate Per 1,000 Population



Overall crime rate per 1,000 population—national, State of Washington, and Olympic Peninsula cities

Actual number of offenses in violent crime categories

Sequim - Violent Crime



Violent Crime - Olympic Peninsula Comparisons vs. State & National Averages

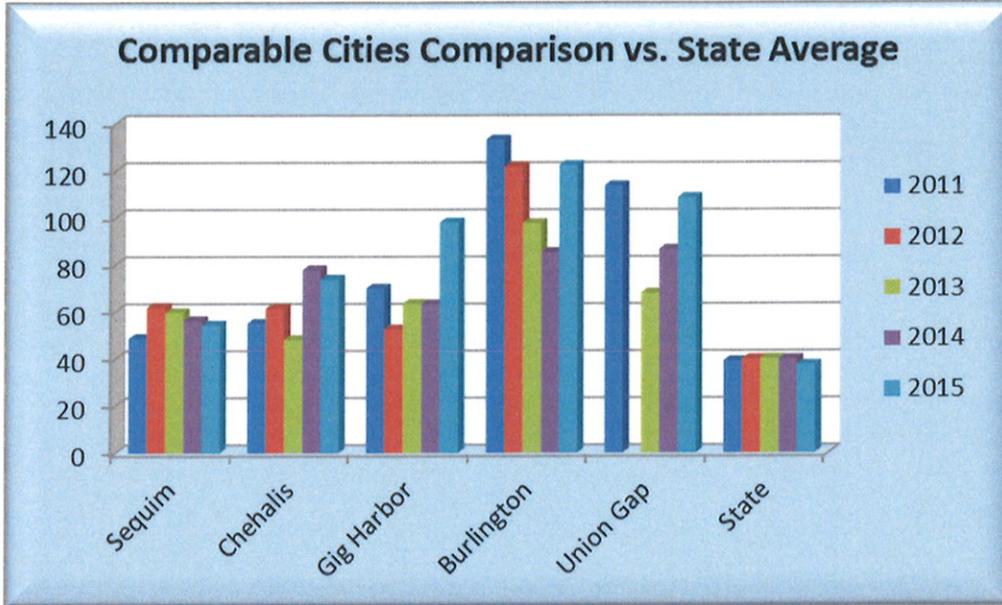


Overall violent crime rate per 1,000 population—National, State of Washington, and Clallam County cities..

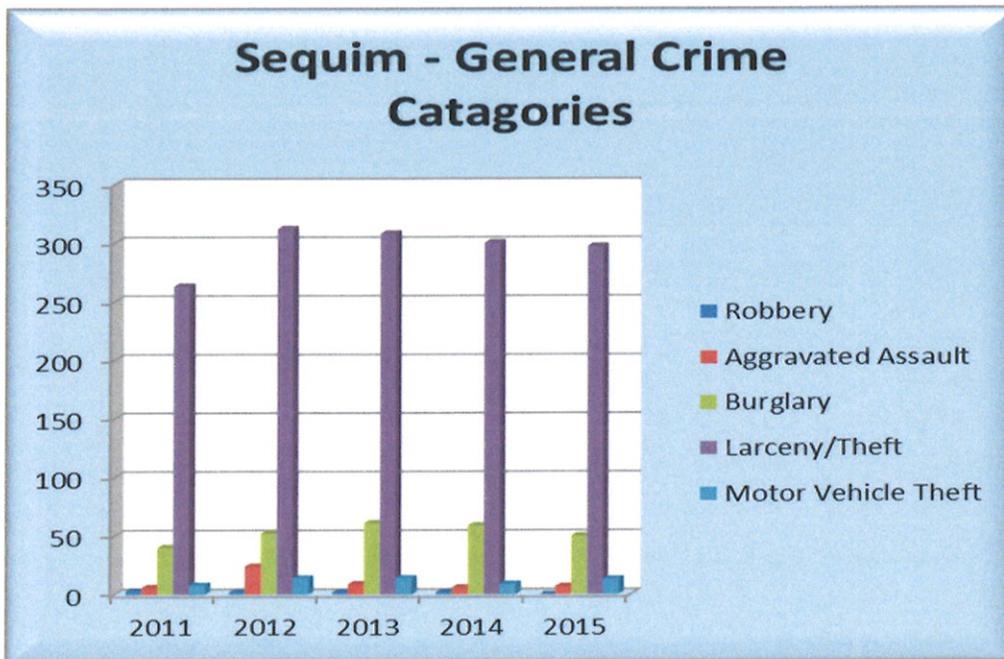
Domestic Violence

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Verbal/ No Arrest	43	36	14	15	25
Physical/ Arrest Made	53	75	42	37	50

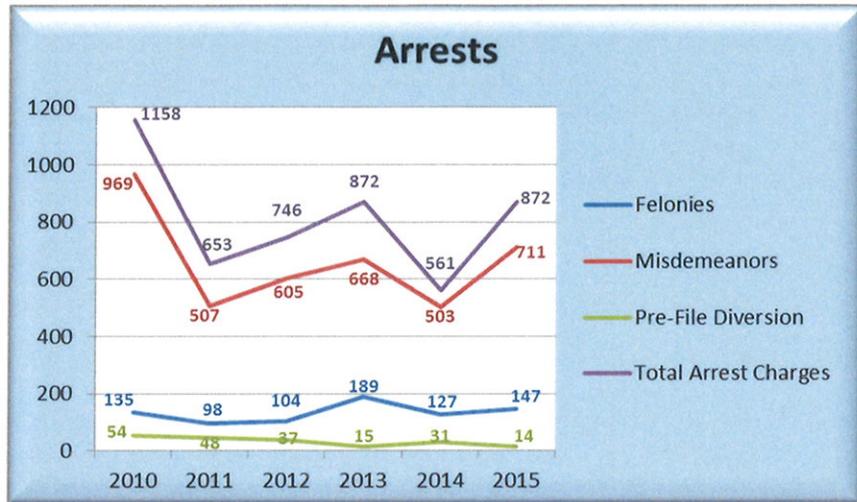
CRIME CATEGORY STATISTICS



Cities comparable to Sequim's population; all are regional shopping destinations.
State crime rate is also called out for comparison

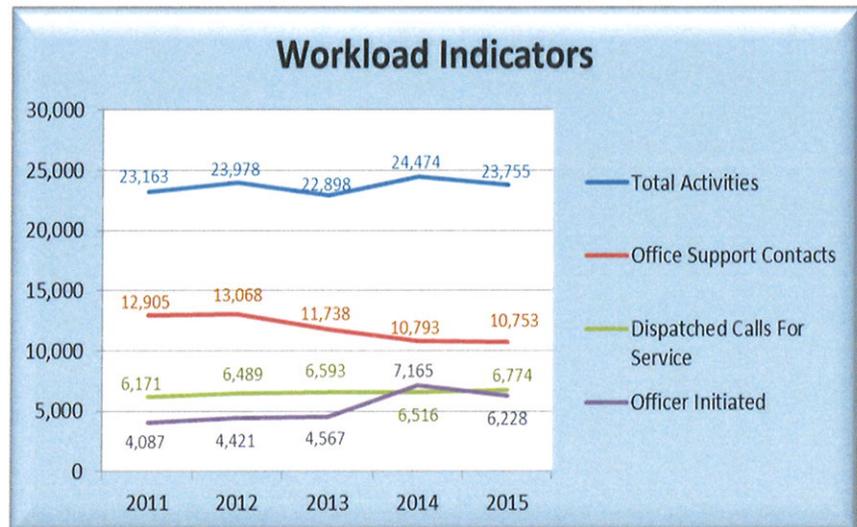


ANNUAL ACTIVITY LEVELS



Ticket Statistics

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Criminal Citations	121	126	108	107	122
Infractions Issued	345	374	263	224	219
Warnings Issued	208	116	45	176	197



Business Office Activities

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Phone calls	8,471	7,377	6,130	6,633
Walk-ins	4,597	4,361	3,876	4,120
Total Front Office Public Contacts	12,068	11,738	10,006	10,753
Number of Concealed Weapons Permits Processed	115	122	92	127

2015 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

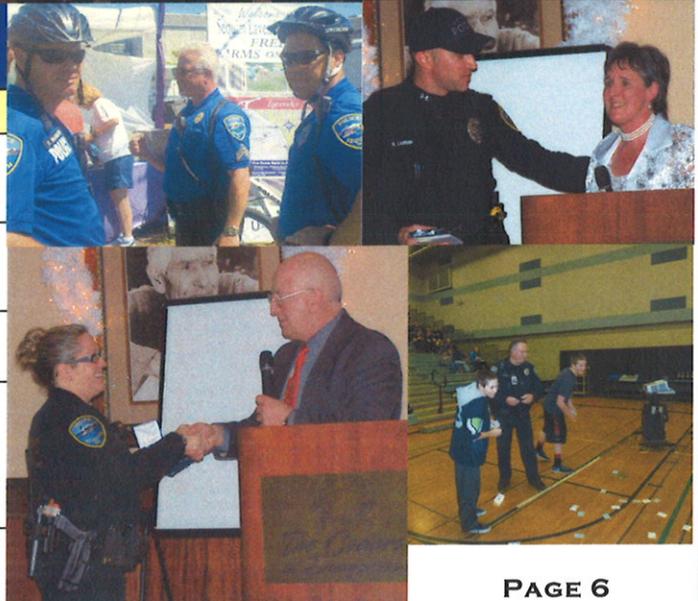


Officer Activities

	2013	2014	2015
Welfare Checks-people	275	314	328
Welfare Checks – 911 hang-ups	717	798	787
Alarms	307	281	331
Suspicious Person/ Circumstance/Vehicles	611	599	616
Parking Complaints	76	68	69
Noise Complaints	71	80	92
Disturbances	219	235	259
Domestic Disturbance	48	52	61
Drug activity	55	50	34

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

	2013	2014	2015
Total Annual Volunteer Hours	3,936	3,716	4,088
Vacation House Checks	1,977	1,455	1419
Radar Trailer, hours deployed	144	103.5	77
Child Passenger Safety Seats Installed /Inspected	92	44	52
Project Lifesaver Clients	17	12	10



2015 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

2015 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Kindryn Leiter was voted by the supervisory staff of the Sequim Police Department to receive the 2015 annual Officer of the Year Award.

During 2015, Officer Leiter was one of the department's top performers in self-initiated activity. During the year's frequent personnel shortages, Officer Leiter stepped-up on numerous occasions and without complaint, when called upon to cover vacant shifts. Additionally, she took on the added responsibility of becoming a Crisis Intervention Team Instructor for the department. Officer Leiter's consistently positive attitude is infectious and she is held in high regard by her co-workers. Because of her upbeat approach to her job and willingness to listen, she has been able to de-escalate many of the volatile contacts she has had during of her short tenure with the Sequim Police Department.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Deputy Chief Sheri Crain earned the 2015 Sequim Police Department Commendation Award. Throughout 2015 and much of 2014, DC Crain was assigned to facilitate the largest move of police and city services in the department's history. From researching similar police facilities in Washington and Oregon in 2013 and 2014, to preparing for the extensive planning process for design of the police department to coordinating the actual move with other city departments, Sheri performed admirably. That the entire process took place as quickly and efficiently as it did was a testament to her sheer will and determination to accomplish this mountainous mission.

Through countless days of exhausting effort, Sheri demonstrated the can-do attitude that exists in our department's values of Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence. Deputy Chief Crain is therefore very deserving of this department's Commendation Award.

The 2015 Commendation was awarded to **Chief's Assistant Victoria Ormand** for her significant contributions providing outstanding administrative work, greatly benefiting Sequim Police Department in successfully hosting the 11th Cooperative Olympic Peninsula Law Enforcement Academy (COPLA 11).

During the 5-month, 360-hour academy, Victoria was responsible for printing and organizing almost every sheet of paper the students received. She ensured that the academy staff and students had all necessary supplies, including printing an entire master copy of the CJTC curriculum — comprised of thousands of pages organized into 17 volumes. Victoria also did an outstanding job of anticipating instructor and student needs, keeping the tight schedule on track.

PARTNER OF THE YEAR

The Partner of the Year Award recognizes the individual who the Sequim police officers would most want to have as a "Partner on Patrol." This award entails the trust and respect of the staff and embodies an individual who is professional in both action and appearance. It is designed to recognize those qualities that are most desired in any policing partner: dedication, technical competency, tactical competence; self motivation and trust. Voted the 2015 Sequim Police Department's Partner of the Year is **Officer Cory Hall**.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION COMMENDATION AWARD

During the 2015 Sequim Irrigation Festival, a subject was observed using his cell phone to take illicit videos of a teenage female. The subsequent search of the seized cell phone revealed fifty-six video depictions of minors engaged in pornographic activities.

Detective Devin McBride successfully repaired the images, identifying their origins by interacting with multiple worldwide and national investigative agencies. Detective McBride's professionalism, dedication, investigative, and technical skills lead him to arrest and interview the suspect, and ultimately convinced a hesitant prosecutor's office to charge the case.

For 15 months, **Detective Paul Dailidenas** lead the investigation of a theft, money laundering and embezzlement case that included a loss of almost two million dollars. Detective Dailidenas tracked down several suspects, identified many institutions where financial records evidence was located, and authored dozens of search warrants to recover that evidence. After numerous hours of coordinating with prosecutors and negotiating with judges, Paul was able to successfully bring this case forward for prosecution.

LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Officer Anthony Graham, Officer Kindryn Leiter, Officer John Southard, and Detective Paul Dailidenas each received Letters of Recognition for outstanding performance of their duties in a manner that demonstrated professionalism, devotion to duty, and dedication to the performance of the departmental mission.



2015 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION, CONT.

CITIZEN SERVICE MEDAL

In 2014, **Heike Ward** joined the SPD Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program. Because of her computer skills, she was asked to assist with the updating of the bail schedule book. She dedicated many hours to recreating the book in a more adaptable software. As the officer in charge of the project was assigned to the graveyard shift, she often met with him at the station early in the morning to incorporate the updated information he supplied, all while as she was recovering from wrist surgery.

With the Chief's support, Heike sought the training necessary to become the Sequim Police Chaplain. She was ordained as a Minister, attending over 100 hours of training as well as graduating from the Washington State Criminal Justice Commission's Police and Fire Chaplains Academy. In September of 2015 Heike officially became the Sequim Police Department's Chaplain, having earned the respect of the officers. Because of her hard work and commitment to the members of the Sequim Police Department and to her community, Chaplain Heike Ward is deserving of the 2015 Citizen Service Medal.

Kim Treece, a retired Atascadero, CA. Police Sergeant, joined the Sequim Police Department VIPS in 2012. As a former VIPS supervisor, she was soon drafted by SPD staff to develop a VIPS training program. As there were no written procedures in place, working with SPD staff, she built the first SPD VIPS Policy and Procedure manual.

With the book in hand, Kim developed a training program for new VIPS, becoming their primary trainer. By combining her experience with the knowledge of SPD Staff and veteran VIPS, Kim Treece has developed a sound and consistent training plan which contributes

TARGET ZERO TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARDS

The Target ZERO Program is a statewide program designed to eliminate all fatal traffic crashes. The Sequim Police Department created this award to recognize officers who achieved a minimum of ten drunk driver arrests and/or initiate at least 300 vehicle stops over the course of a year.

The following Sequim staff received the Traffic Safety Award for their outstanding efforts in 2015:

Sergeant Dave Campbell, Officer Kindryn Leiter, Officer John Southard, and Officer Stephanie Benes



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