



# Astoria Police Department

Dedicated to Duty

-

Committed to Community

2014 Annual Report



What an honor to lead the men and women of the Astoria Police Department. When Chief Curzon announced his retirement in October and I was initially appointed as Interim Chief I knew that I had inherited a great assignment.

Chief Curzon and I had worked together over the last several years improving systems and the support for the individuals that work serving our community. I knew that we had accomplished most of our agenda and that we were now in a good place to start moving further forward.

While many Departments are currently struggling with their community's perception of them we have not had this same problem. It is not because we have not had controversy. Instead it is because we have a Department that has legitimacy in its community. Our officers are involved in the community. They have children in your day cares and schools, they help coach your youth sports teams, you see them in the grocery store, shopping downtown and in your neighborhood.

The Police Department does not have a community policing "Program." Instead, we have a value of being part of the community and finding long term solutions to persistent problems instead of just responding to calls for service. We leverage our community partners whenever we can knowing that many of the things our community calls on us to help them with are not policing problems but issues best served by a variety of social agencies.

You will find in the pages that follow a summary of the last few years. We have not done an annual report in the 23 years I have been associated with the Department. While in future years we will keep it to the year in review, it seemed too hard to stop at just one this time. There are many untold stories that we would love to share with our community.

Have you liked us on Facebook? We have a vibrant community on our Facebook page that we update several times a week (sometimes several times an hour). You can find there: traffic alerts, quick tips, press releases, questionnaires, weather warnings, and appeals for information. If you want to stay up to date, like, follow and subscribe at [www.facebook.com/AstoriaPolice](http://www.facebook.com/AstoriaPolice). You can also follow Chief Johnston at [www.facebook.com/ChiefJohnston](http://www.facebook.com/ChiefJohnston).

Astoria Police are also on twitter @AstoriaPD and YouTube user name: AstoriaPolice



# Our First Annual Report in at Least 20 years.

That is pretty exciting to us. What can you expect from this report? A summary of the year that was. Those events we thought were significant. The comings and goings, the organizational chart of the agency and a statistical overview of our activities. We hope you find it useful.

Please give us input on ways that you think we can improve it. You can always provide us feedback through [www.facebook.com/AstoriaPolice](http://www.facebook.com/AstoriaPolice) or through our dispatch website at [www.astoriadispatch.com](http://www.astoriadispatch.com).



## Comings and Goings

Because this is our first report in 20 years we are including all that joined and left in 2012 through 2014



### Leaving:

Records Spec. Morgan McFadden  
Communications Officer Allison Hord  
Communications Officer Les Jordan  
Communications Officer Jennifer Schermerhorn  
Communications Officer Steve Crosby  
Communications Officer John Muth  
Communications Officer Amy Ritter  
Communications Officer Amy Mecomber  
Communications Officer Justin Gillenwater  
Officer Ryan Sisley  
Officer Joe Symonds  
Corporal Tim Gillum  
Officer John Decker  
Chief Peter Curzon

### Joining:

Records Spec Melinda Humphrey  
Records Spec Kat Taylor  
Officer Arthur (AJ) Duryea  
Officer Dan Koehnke  
Officer Cory Gerig  
Officer Jair Macareno  
Reserve Officer Mike Stanton  
Reserve Officer Jim Pierce  
Communications Officer Jennifer Peden  
Communications Officer Melanie Hughes  
Communications Officer Amy Mecomber  
Communications Officer Justin Gillenwater  
Communications Officer Jennifer Schermerhorn  
Communications Officer Steve Crosby  
Communications Officer John Muth

### Promoted/Appointed:

Deputy Chief Brad Johnston promoted to Chief  
Officer Nicole Riley appointed to Detective  
Officer Chris McNeary promoted to Sergeant

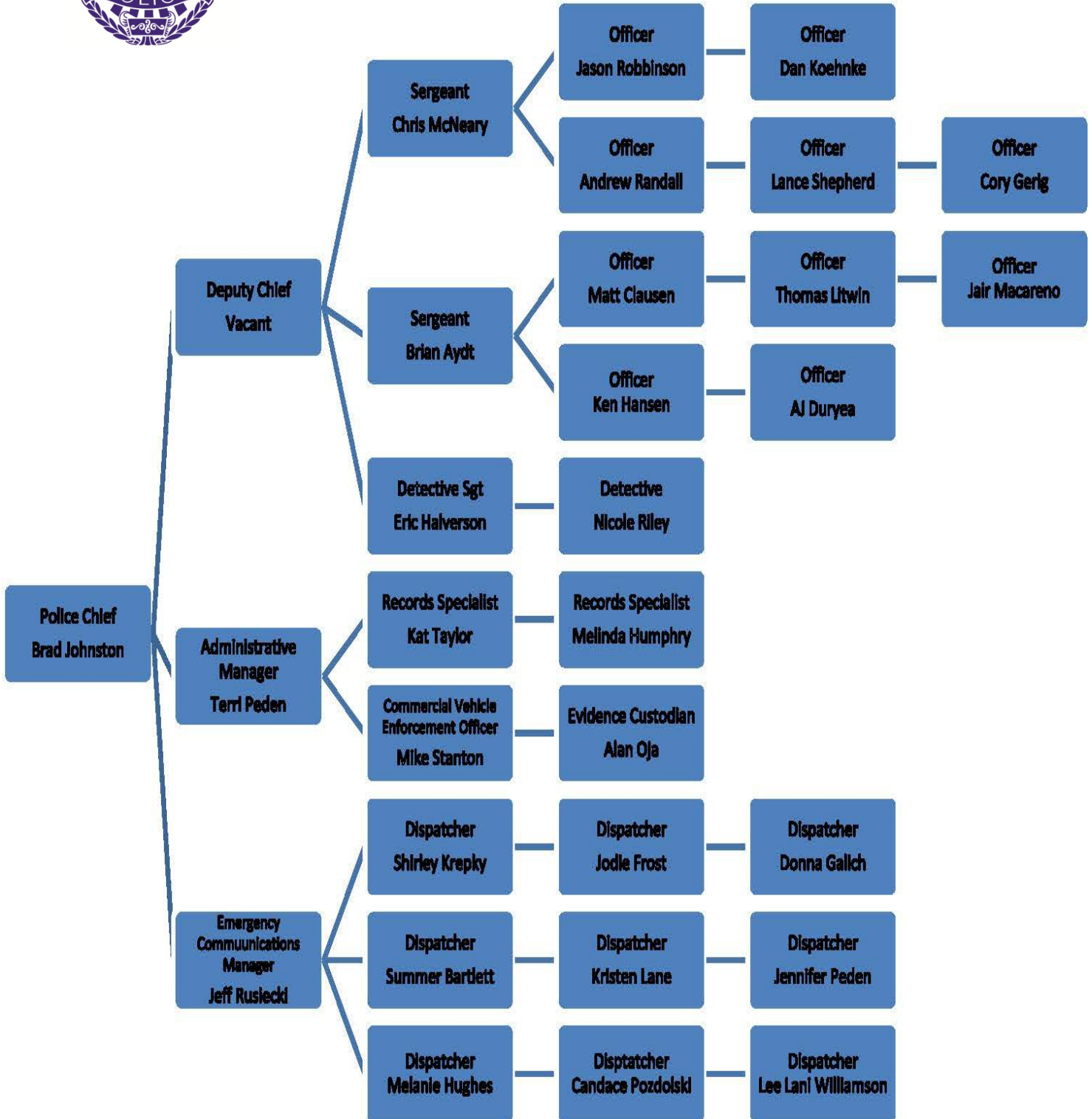


Officer Dan Koehnke receiving the top shot award at his Basic Police Class graduation





# Astoria Police Department Organizational Chart



# Records Division

The Records Division consists of the Administrative Services Manager, one full-time Records Specialist and one part-time Records Specialist. The Records Division personnel have many duties in addition to processing cases. Some of these include data entry of traffic citations, completing attorney discoveries, serving and tracking subpoenas, fulfilling records requests and issuing taxi driver's licenses.



Pictured above are Records Specialists Kat Taylor and Melinda Humphrey during Kat's initial training.

The Department will reach nearly 4300 cases this year. The Records Department is responsible for the data entry, copying and distribution of these records. The files shown at left reflect  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total files being stored at the Police Department. The remaining files are located behind these files and in file cabinets located in a separate storage area. Those located in the separate storage area are the files we hold for unnatural deaths. These are kept for a minimum of 75 years.

Also part of the support services function is our Evidence Room (pictured right). Part of our 2012 remodel was a move away from stray shelves, gym baskets, lockers, and cabinets to a high density system that allowed us to consolidate the evidence room into a smaller footprint improving the organization of evidence.

In addition to the main evidence room we maintain a long term evidence room for long term and permanent cases, an outdoor impound area for vehicles, and an indoor impound area for vehicles prior to processing and large items that cannot be stored in the primary evidence room. Additionally, we maintain a secure drying cabinet (for evidence that is wet or has bodily fluids on it), gun safes, drug safes, and refrigerated storage.





# Patrol

The patrol division is the heart and soul of the Police Department. It is made up of 10 officers, 2 Sergeants and a Deputy Chief. We consider Patrol to be our core competency. The thing we do before all others. We are committed as a Department to putting at least two police officers on the streets every hour of every day. We are the only Department in the County that has maintained that standard for more than twenty years.



The patrol officer is the first responder of the Police Department. They are out in all weather all hours of the day working traffic crashes, lost dogs and initial response to all manner of crimes.

## Case Highlight

### Criminal Impersonations

Astoria Police investigated three cases in 2014 of two women pretending to be police officers. The first two, oddly enough were both at the same hotel.



In January Officer Gerig, overhearing information another officer was receiving from a hotel, was able to identify Lydee Steinberg (then 40 of Astoria) as a suspect. Steinberg had called the hotel using a false name to attempt locating her girlfriend who she was involved in ongoing domestic disputes with. She was indicted by a Clatsop County Grand Jury in June of 2014.

In April 2014 then 47 year old Christina Dress went to the same hotel Steinberg had called. She was dressed in black and carrying a firearm in an exposed holster. She told the employees at a hotel that she was sent there by the Chief of Police to raise funds for a charity event. Dress was later located and arrested for Criminal Impersonation.

In October 2014 Dress was again arrested for Criminal Impersonation and Carrying a Concealed Weapon. She was at the CMH ER and dissatisfied about the way a friend was being treated. She displayed a badge, told the staff she was a police officer and was armed. Dress was indicted in both cases.

# Investigations

The Investigations Division of the Department is responsible for conducting follow up criminal investigations, preparing cases for prosecution, and working with the District Attorney's (DA) office to ensure the DA's office has the information it needs to move forward in the resolution of a case. In 2014 the office handled 167 investigations. From January—October that was with a single investigator. In October we assigned a second investigator to general crimes. In addition to the 167 current APD cases, there were 4 ongoing Major Crime Team cases, and two cold cases.

The Investigations Division is often assigned to incidents that include serious assaults, robberies, sexual assaults, missing persons, child abuse, death investigations, fire investigations, and financial crimes. The ultimate goal for an investigator is the pursuit of the truth.

An investigator can also be called out to assist at major criminal incidents such as a bank robbery, a homicide, or a sexual assault. An investigator can also be called out to assist during the early stages of an investigation when the situation has the potential to become a major or long term investigation.

The Investigations Division is also a part of three investigatory teams: the Clatsop County Major Crime Team, the Clatsop County Multi Disciplinary Child Abuse Team, and the Clatsop County Fire Investigation Team. These three teams are comprised of members from other county and state agencies that come together to investigate incidents, share information, and provide assistance to each other as it relates to their individual missions.

Currently the investigations division is comprised of a Detective Sergeant and a Detective.

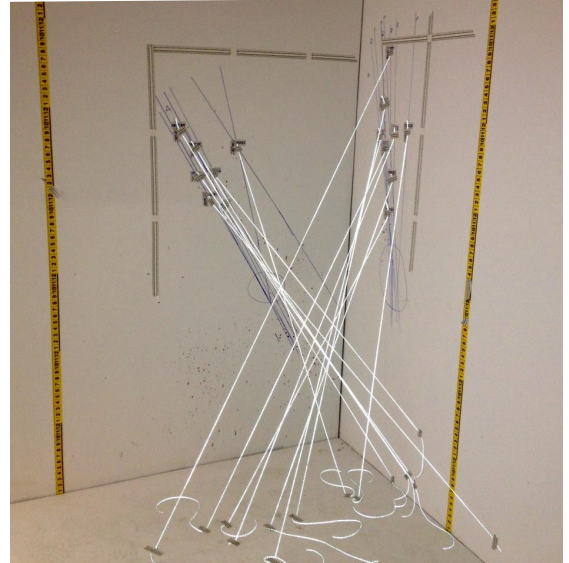
## Featured Case Aggravated Theft Case

This case is an example of how involved a case can become. In late 2013 Astoria Police were notified by Wauna FCU that a customer had negotiated a fraudulent check for \$85,051. This started a long term investigation into the circumstances surrounding the cashing of the check. Detective Sergeant Halverson learned that the check was cashed by Jeanne Reeves, then 42 of Astoria. His investigation caused him to obtain a search warrant for Reeves' Facebook account and a court order for phone records where he learned she was corresponding with a person she identified as her fiancé. Halverson worked with a Calgary Police Sergeant, A Calgary Law Firm, the FBI, the Oregon State Police, and Oregon Department of Corrections,

The search warrant on Reeves' Facebook page returned more than 13,600 pages of information. This had to be reviewed to determine relevant portions and to search out evidence of the crime. In the conversations with the "fiancé" there was evidence that Reeves agreed to accept a check and send cash back from the check to the fiancé who was sending it. Ultimately, Reeves accepted the check (which was a forgery), kept all the money and indicated almost immediately to the "fiancé" that she believed it was a scam.

In May 2014 a Grand Jury indicted Reeves on charges of Aggravated First Degree Theft, First Degree Theft and Laundering a Monetary Instrument. In October 2014 Reeves pled guilty to two counts of Aggravated Theft.

This investigation took 8 months, involved 16 narratives, hundreds of hours reviewing evidence and interviewing witnesses. It is just one example of how the technological impacts and the flattening of the world creates additional investigatory requirements. In a new case the investigators are working on they are required to work through the State Department to obtain records from a Canada based tech company. As the world gets smaller, investigations become more complex.



Pictured above is training related to blood spatter analysis attended by then Detective Randall. The training was funded by a grant and conducted by NYPD.

# Dispatch

Clatsop County has two public safety answering points (PSAP). These are the places where 911 calls are answered. The Astoria Police Department maintains one of these centers. In addition to being a PSAP, the City contracts with public safety agencies to provide dispatch services. The Astoria 911 Center dispatches for:

- Clatsop County Sheriff's Office
- Astoria Police Department
- Warrenton Police Department
- Port of Astoria Security
- Westport Fire and Rescue
- Knappa, Svensen, Burnside RFPD\*
- John Day-Fernhill RFPD\*
- Astoria Fire and Rescue
- Olney Walluski Fire and Rescue
- Lewis and Clark RFPD\*
- Warrenton Fire
- Warrenton RFPD\*
- USCG Airstation Fire
- Elsie Vinemaple RFPD\*
- Oregon State Forestry

\*RFPD is a Rural Fire Protection District

The men and women of the Astoria 911 Center provide 24 hour a day service to the community. The current staffing is 9 certified dispatchers and an Emergency Communications Manager. In 2014 they answered about 73,000 non-emergency calls and 13,000 911 calls resulting in a total of 44,500 calls for service to the subscriber agencies.

Funding for the Astoria 911 Center comes from a combination of 911 tax dollars and subscriber fees. Each agency that subscribes for dispatch service pays a fee based on population, calls for service, and assessed valuation of its service base.

Emergency Communications Manager Rusiecki said that he could not be prouder of the hard working staff we have answering the public's call, dispatching police and fire personnel, and notifying the public of severe weather. Once again two dispatchers were recognized by their peers and professional associations. The Association of Professional Communications Operators (APCO), as well as the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), recognized dispatchers Shirley Krepyk and Summer Bartlett. Shirley was recognized with a state level critical incident award and Summer received a local life saver award.





# Dispatch (Continued)

**Phone Upgrade**—In May of this year the Astoria Dispatch Center was one of the first 911 centers in the state to be upgraded with a state of the art Vesta 4.0 911 telephone system. This system also included Mapstar which allows the dispatchers to see the caller's location on a map when calling from a land line and, if the information is transmitted, from the cellular provider.

This new system will allow us to operate well into the future, and when the State is ready, the capabilities will exist for us to receive text messages, video, and photos. With thorough planning and talented technicians managing every aspect of this installation, the center remained in service throughout the project.

**Managing a Multi-site Communications Network** – This year, the largest (literally) challenge we faced was from mother nature and the close proximity of a large, diseased tree to critical public safety infrastructure. For several years we have had an arborist monitor the health of this tree. Unfortunately this year's inspection revealed an infestation of carpenter ants which necessitated in the removal of this very large sitka spruce at our Coxcomb Hill radio site.



The system that routes your 911 calls

Additional base radios, as well as multiple control paths, allow the center to continue operations under extreme weather as well as during natural disaster events. By having our communications network spread out over several mountain tops, as well as in two states, we have taken every precaution possible to have communications with our first responders under a variety of adverse scenarios.



Arbor Care Tree Service working to remove a tree threatening the Coxcomb communications tower.



A radio technician from Day Wireless performing maintenance at the Coxcomb Radio site. Part radio, part network site each of these sites grows in complexity.



# Truck Inspections

During late 2011, the Astoria Police Department entered into an agreement with ODOT to provide funding for truck inspection activities. Being at the junction of Highways 101, 30 and 202 Astoria sees a lot of commercial vehicle traffic. There are many regulations affecting commercial motor vehicles that most officers are not trained to find and may not have authority to enforce. ODOT agreed to reimburse the City 80% of the cost of activities related to truck inspections. Astoria hired a part time temporary officer who was a retired state trooper to provide 20 hours per week directed at commercial vehicle enforcement. We also trained three additional officers to conduct enforcement activities.



During the 2013 Astoria Police conducted more than 190 truck inspections.

An audit of the program indicated that the costs to the City are covered 100% by the reimbursement from ODOT and fines.

# Parking

Of all the enforcement activities a Department undertakes Parking is by far the most controversial. While the tickets are a fraction of the cost of moving violations, people receiving them tend to be passionate.

The Astoria Police Department began supervising the parking control officer in 2011. Parking control enforcement was conducted by Reserve Sergeant John Hord. He patrolled downtown using a bicycle during good weather and an electric vehicle during the inclement weather.

In addition to the downtown parking enforcement Officer Hord also helps with code enforcement and patrolling the river walk by bike and his electric car. Code enforcement includes abandoned vehicles, business license compliance, junk ordinance violations and similar offenses. Having someone dedicated to these functions is invaluable to the Department. It allows officers to stay on the street but ensures follow up is consistent on some low level offenses that can be critical to quality of life.

Officer Hord retired in October 2014. His position is currently unfilled while we examine this program to ensure that we are providing the right service to the community.





# Remodel

This section of the report is old news. However, we never got to share the information at this level so we are including it in this year's report so that our community can get a good picture of the scope of the project.

A huge thanks in this project goes to Chief Pete Curzon, Project Manager Al Jaques and PNC construction and their crew.

In late 2011 the City of Astoria obtained a grant from the Oregon Military Department Office of Emergency Management that allowed for a seismic rehabilitation of the public safety building. The 1.5 million dollar grant allowed for upgrade of the facility to immediate occupancy in the case of a seismic event. This included substantial work to exterior areas that were vulnerable, replacement of the roof, tying it into the structure, and improvements to the interior to prevent damage from infrastructure that had not been tied into the structure.



Taking advantage of the cost to mobilize a construction company the Department was able to also reconfigure some areas both affected and unaffected by the seismic work. Professionalizing the storage capabilities of the evidence room, rearranging some work areas to fit how we do work now, expanding our conference room to provide more options, expanding our dispatch capabilities, providing a place for firefighters to work, and creating an interview room that will allow the Department to comply with requirements to record interviews.







It also required that the Departments move from the public safety building into temporary housing at the Yacht Club.

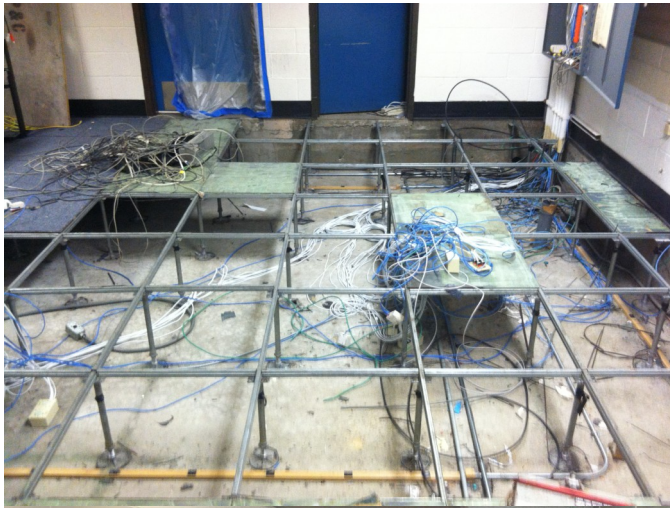
Moving a business that has to stay operational 24/7 can be challenging. Especially when a big call comes in on moving day.





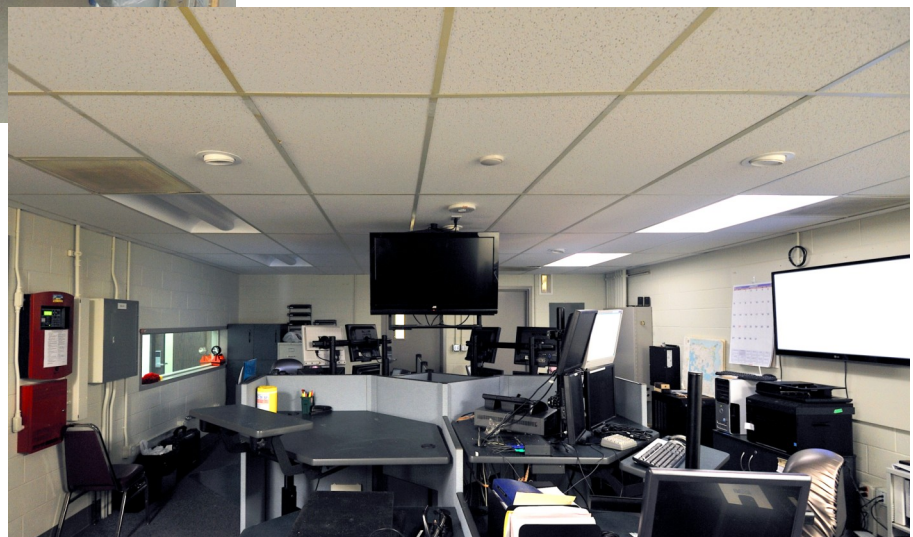
# Dispatch Remodel

It takes a lot of wiring to run a dispatch center. Pictured right and below is the dispatch center after dispatch was relocated into a temporary trailer. In the 20+ years since the establishment of the Astoria Communications Center technology has changed in very significant ways. Phone lines were converted to network wiring, and the system has moved to a computer controlled phone system. Each dispatch station has several computers and four displays (Phone, Map, Computer Aided Dispatch, and Radio)



Pictured at left is the temporary dispatch trailer which sat in the Fire Department Apparatus Bay during the remodel. The trailer had several challenges including noise, security, and space limitations. Dispatchers had to be flexible during this period. Not everything worked quite like it was supposed to.

At long last the dispatchers were able to move back into an upgraded space. Moving from 2 1/2 positions to space for 4 1/2 spaces with three full workstations and a call taker position represents a significant improvement in capabilities.



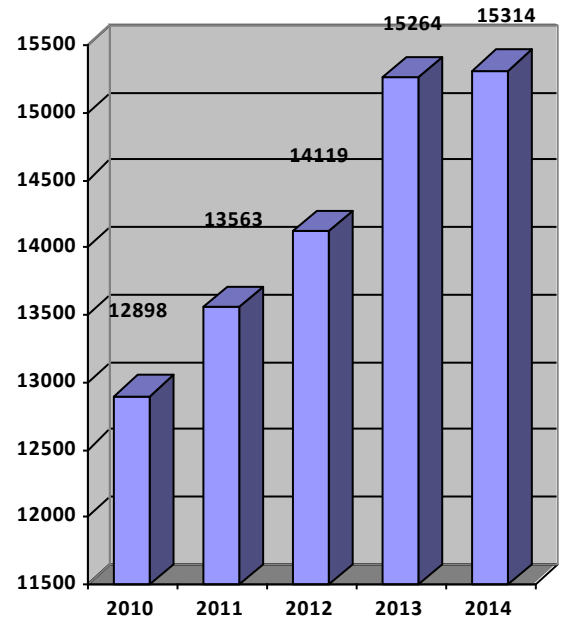
# Dispatch Statistics

## Calls for service

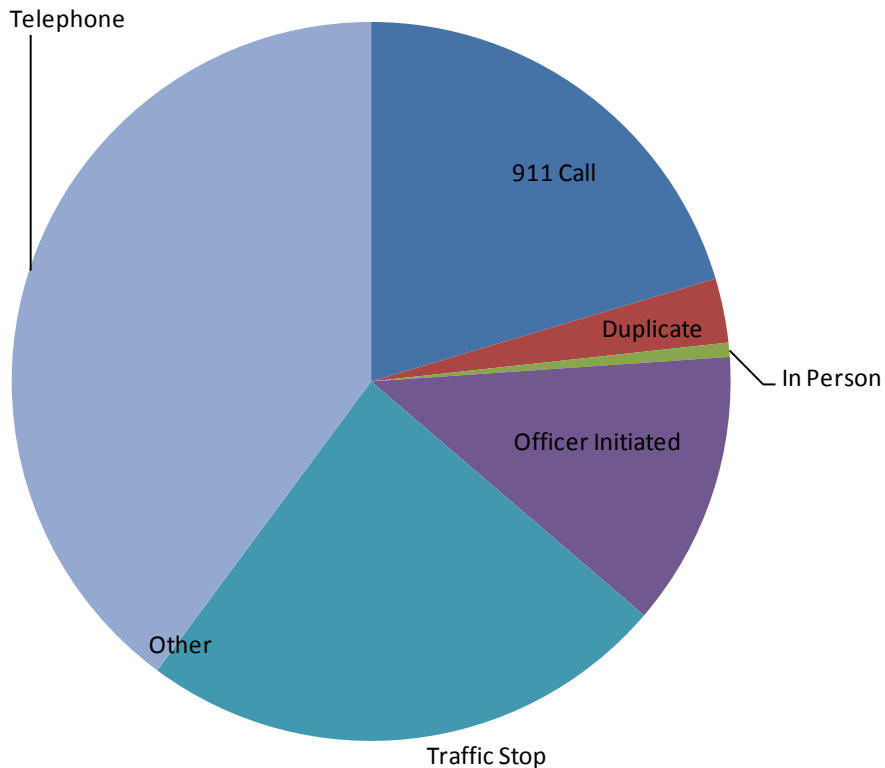
A call for service is created every time an officer is dispatched or a person calls requesting information, response, or advice. It also is created by officers discovering things (self initiating). Calls for service is a good indicator of general business. We are seeing an increase in the dispatched calls and a decrease in self initiated activity (likely as a result of declines in discretionary time)

<i>Source</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
911 Call	2393	2527	2939	3122
Duplicate	260	317	411	442
In Person	59	47	76	98
Officer Initiated	1784	1650	1811	1893
Other	2	3	2	1
Radio	2	2	1	
Telephone	5027	5616	5673	6103
Traffic Stop	4030	3957	4351	3655
Wire/TTY	6			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13563</b>	<b>14119</b>	<b>15264</b>	<b>15314</b>

## Calls for Service



## 2014 Calls for Service by Origin





# Statistics Continued

Call Type	2011	2012	2013	2014
TRAFFIC STOP	3289	2799	2845	2540
HANGUP 911	928	963	1360	1451
OTHER ALL	1161	1284	1115	1126
TRAFFIC CITE	689	1005	1327	931
DISTURBANCE	834	985	1022	1052
SUSP CIRCUMSTANCES	978	977	823	839
PROPERTY CRIMES	700	659	641	554
INTERVIEW, FIELD	500	611	667	612
TRAFFIC ROADS	849	455	395	322
INFORMATION	436	505	354	443
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	14	344	449	504
DOG/ ANIMAL COMPLAINTS	258	262	289	359
MOTOR VEH ACCIDENT	275	284	267	305
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	42	290	358	371
PHONE CONTACT		120	322	451
PROPERTY FOUND	186	195	213	253
WARRANT ARREST	203	188	209	212
FOLLOW UP ENTRIES	126	135	205	336
ALARM FALSE	188	181	162	174
MISCELLANEOUS	117	65	197	323
ASSIST RENDERED	375	79	115	104
TRUCK INSPECTION	54	181	220	214
WELFARE CHECK	60	170	189	214
ABANDON/JUNK	183	142	156	150
DHS REFERRAL	196	135	149	148
WARRANT INFORMATION	107	107	126	94
MVA, HIT & RUN	115	97	97	119
PROPERTY LOST	83	96	110	109
FORGERY/FRAUD	55	58	111	144
MISSING PERSON	78	86	69	72
TRESPASS	3	45	76	171
SICK PERSON CARED FOR	63	52	44	89
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	34	62	68	68
DRUGS-ALL	62	63	58	24
Assorted other	346	480	512	458

## CALL TYPES

When calls for service come in, Dispatchers categorize them in broad categories. These may change after the officer arrives and after further investigation, the call may become something completely different from its initial classification. The table at left includes information as categorized by the dispatcher. As an example of how this classification works, a call of a bar fight could start as a disturbance, upon investigation the officer could learn that a victim was assaulted. This would result in the investigation being classified as an assault, even though the initial call was a disturbance.

Notable increases in calls for service over the four years covered here were disturbances, 911 hang-ups, Traffic Complaints, Motor Vehicle Crashes, Truck Inspections, and Forgery/Fraud cases. One of the troubling increases was the category of Sick Person Cared For. These calls are for mental health issues.

# Statistics

## Crime Reporting OUCR

In 1929 the International Association of Chiefs of Police recognized the need for a reliable, uniform, national crime statistic system. The FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing and archiving the statistics (Source FBI website <http://1.usa.gov/bJW6bC>) Today, nearly 17,000 agencies use the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system to tabulate crime reports. The crime types in this report are the UCR defined crimes and do not match Oregon Law, where definitions are different for crime types.

Oregon agencies report through the Oregon State Police, this system is called the Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting (OUCR) system.

All agencies must transition to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) no later than January 2017. Astoria PD is working with their records system vendor to ensure they will be compliant. The new system will require a significant increase in data entry time.

## Crime Types OUCR

OUCR classifies Crimes into three parts. **Part I** crimes are serious crimes such as murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. **Part II** crimes are primarily nonperson property crimes. **Part III** crimes relate to reporting of Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted (LEOKA)

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total Part I Crimes</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>525</b>
Homicide	1		
Forcible Rape	2	5	14
Robbery	11	1	7
Aggravated Assault	19	34	15
Burglary	145	115	149
Larceny	469	419	319
Motor Vehicle Theft	30	17	21
<b>Total Part II Crimes</b>	<b>1824</b>	<b>2141</b>	<b>2328</b>
Simple Assault	144	208	177
Arson	2	5	4
Forgery	15	22	17
Fraud	46	83	125
Stolen Property		2	
Vandalism	142	192	224
Weapon Offenses	12	18	17
Prostitution			2
Sex Crime	23	15	29
Drug Offenses	127	156	131
Offense Against Family	13	19	19
Liquor Law Offense	68	91	119
Disorderly Conduct	278	387	346
Trespass	826	810	1022
Runaway	41	34	30
Other	87	99	66
<b>Total Part III Crimes</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>
Officer Assaulted	8	21	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>2509</b>	<b>2753</b>	<b>2873</b>

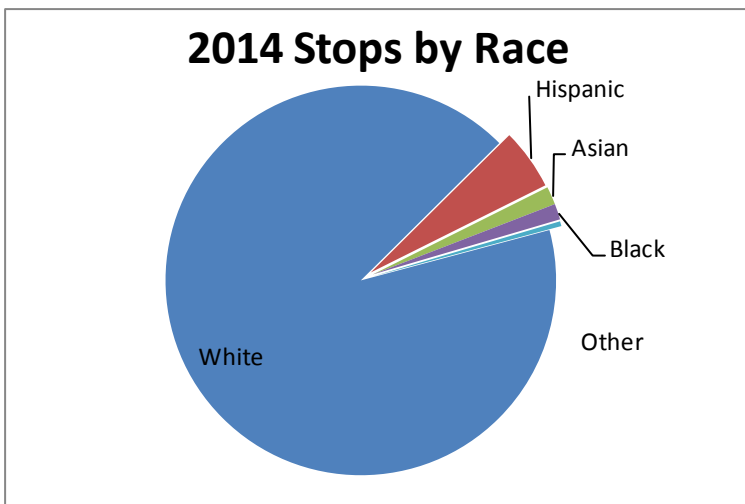


# Statistics Continued

## Racial Profiling Data

In 2009 the Astoria Police Department began collecting data related to racial profiling. We did not, and still do not, believe we have an issue related to this but knew that if we did not capture data this we would never be able to have a factual discussion. In addition to the perceived race of the driver, officers capture the reason for the stop (Traffic, BOLO, Etc), whether someone was searched, and what the result of the stop was. Data includes all stops initiated by police officers.

<b>Stops by Perceived Race</b>					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
<b>White</b>	3764	3747	4161	3421	15093
<b>Hispanic</b>	238	221	230	189	878
<b>Asian</b>	57	47	70	56	230
<b>Black</b>	41	29	44	49	163
<b>Native American</b>	7	4	5		16



In other jurisdictions not only who gets stopped but what enforcement action they received has been questioned. Below is the enforcement action taken after the stop by perceived race over the last five calendar years. Other races are tracked but have contact numbers so low they were not included in the data.

## Actions after Stop

<b>Enforcement Action</b>	<b>Race</b>			
	W	H	A	B
<b>Warning</b>	11056	634	192	129
<b>Speed Warning</b>	2952	157	59	23
<b>Citation Issued</b>	2730	205	37	25
<b>Speed Citation</b>	1560	94	31	16
<b>Field Interview</b>	968	57	5	20
<b>DL Violation Cite</b>	446	70	3	7
<b>Safety Belt Warning</b>	245	4	4	3
<b>Safety Belt Citation</b>	203	8	2	1
<b>Commercial Vehicle Inspection Warning</b>	71	1		
<b>Other</b>	268	16	4	3

# Statistics Continued

## Citations

When surveys are conducted about what the most important police issues in a community are, consistently, no matter where they are, every city gets the same results. At the top of the list is traffic complaints. While the Astoria Police Department firmly believes that education and engineering are important to improving traffic safety, we also believe in enforcement.

Astoria Police do not have a dedicated traffic unit but instead ask officers to carry on traffic enforcement and education on a daily basis in conjunction with their other duties. This does two things. It empowers the officer who is handling other calls in the residential neighborhoods to deal with the issues in that neighborhood while he is there. It also means that all of our officers are contributing to the solution. Not just one “traffic cop.”

Citations Issued	Year
1291	2014
1764	2013
1383	2012
962	2011

### Offenses by Type

These offenses represent the offense most frequently cited by Astoria Police Officers.

