

Lakewood Police Department

2023 Annual Report





Letter from the Chief

On behalf of all of us here at the Lakewood Police Department, I want to personally thank you for taking the time to read our 2023 Annual Report. This report gives us an opportunity to share with you its exemplary accomplishments and successes over the past year. We at the Lakewood Police Department pride ourselves on protecting and serving our community with integrity, intelligence, and initiative. We are continually focused on the enhancement of public safety, building our community trust, improving techniques in crime prevention and crime reduction, ever conscious of efficient resource allocation, as an agency being diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Additionally, the Lakewood Police Department will always be accountable and transparent, professional, well-trained, and attentive to trends in technology and innovation.

Since our inception in 1970, we have prided ourselves on being a professional, progressive-minded police department that embraces change and celebrates advanced education. From tactics and policies to personnel, and training, we are ever ready and equipped to grow and adapt with our changing community. This includes utilizing modern technology, increased training, and working in unison with civilian experts in mental health disorders and substance abuse disorders, to help better serve our community members.

We cannot even begin to accomplish our goals without the continued cooperation and support of our Lakewood community. You, our supporters, encourage and motivate us to be the best, most effective police department in the metro area. It's a relationship we value and will continue to foster. We are extremely proud to serve and protect the community members, and visitors to Lakewood. It is an organizational mantra to work hard to earn and maintain our community's trust and respect. Thank you for your continued support of the Lakewood Police Department.

Sincerest Regards,

Philip A. Smith Jr.
Chief of Police

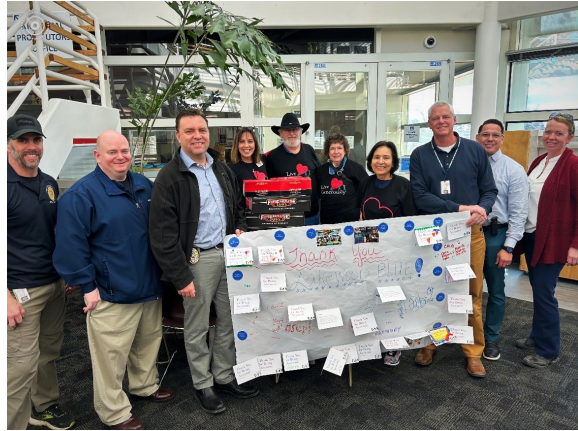
Mission

The men and women of the Lakewood Police Department will protect and serve with integrity, intelligence, and initiative. Working with our community, we will bring to justice those who commit crime and cause disorder in our City.



Lakewood Police Department in the Community

A large piece of our crime fighting and prevention successes are a direct result of our relationships in the community we serve. The men and women of the Lakewood Police Department regularly participate in community meetings, block parties, National Night Out and other gatherings to engage directly with our citizens. In addition, we throw our own community celebrations such as the annual Cops that Cook Pancake Breakfast to visit with our community and to help raise funds for those in need through our Caring by Sharing program.



Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) programs provide public safety agencies with an opportunity to voluntarily meet an established set of professional standards, which require:

- Comprehensive and uniform written directives that clearly define authority, performance, and responsibilities.
- Reports and analyses to make fact-based and informed management decisions.
- Preparedness to address natural or man-made critical incidents.
- Community relationship-building and maintenance.
- Independent review by subject matter experts.
- Continuous pursuit of excellence through annual reviews and other assessment measures.



The Lakewood Police Department is proud to have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 1986.

Every four years, CALEA assessors re-examine the department's compliance with the commission's exacting standards. Lakewood has maintained its accreditation status, demonstrating that it conforms to the highest standards of contemporary law enforcement services. Since 2011, the department has been honored for "Law Enforcement Accreditation with Excellence." Only 10 percent of accredited agencies have received this prestigious award.

In 2021 the Lakewood Police Department was proud to earn our 11th reaccreditation. Maintaining this standard of excellence from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), Incorporated is a daily endeavor embraced by all department personnel. CALEA's goals are to consistently formalize essential management procedures; establish fair and non-discriminatory personnel and coordination; increase community and staff confidence in the agency; and strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities.

2023 Crime Stats

OFFENSE	2021	2022	2021/2022 % Change	2023	2023/2022 % Change
Murder/Homicide	15	14	-7%	14	0%
Sexual Assault	185	205	11%	170	-6%
Robbery	200	292	46%	234	-20%
Aggravated Assault	502	636	27%	819	8%
Arson	46	47	2%	51	-18%
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	1052	1138	8%	854	-25%
Pocket-Picking	15	19	27%	14	-7%
Purse-Snatching	31	32	3%	25	-11%
Shoplifting	1919	1363	-29%	1496	-17%
Theft from Building	116	94	-19%	114	20%
Theft from Coin Operated Machine	4	4	0%	10	0%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1269	1323	4%	1168	-9%
Theft from Motor Vehicle Parts	527	851	61%	781	-11%
All Other Larceny	1996	1630	-18%	1350	-12%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1436	1995	39%	1524	-28%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	125	119	-5%	93	21%
False Pretenses/Swindle/Con Game	544	444	-18%	528	23%
Credit Card/ATM Fraud	309	240	-22%	366	37%
Impersonation	47	51	9%	71	58%
Welfare Fraud	2	3	50%	2	100%
Wire Fraud	25	42	68%	56	51%
Identity Theft	374	907	143%	263	24%
Hacking/Computer Invasion	27	31	15%	20	-29%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	2365	2282	-3%	2929	12%



Lakewood Police Department Patrol Division

As the primary responders to emergency calls within the city, the Agents of our Patrol Division are on the front lines, keeping our community and its residents safe. Patrol agents are assigned for a full year to one of three sectors (North, Southwest, Southeast), so that they can become more familiar with the residents, business owners and crime trends in their area. Aside from normal police patrol duties, the Patrol Division also consists of various specialty units including teams that address community needs and problems involving homelessness, mental health, traffic, major crimes, career criminals, gang activity and issues in the areas of the Colorado Mills Mall and Belmar.

Community Action Team (CAT)

The Community Action Team (CAT) is responsible for administering a variety of crime prevention programs. Education, directed intervention, mediation, and enforcement are areas of particular focus. This unit plays a critical role in our community policing efforts, including addressing homelessness and those suffering from mental illness.

Traffic Team

The Lakewood Police Traffic Team is dedicated to motorist and pedestrian safety. This is done through statistic-driven enforcement, special events and tips and requests from our community. While all patrol agents are responsible for traffic safety in Lakewood, the Traffic Team is focused on this single goal. Traffic Detectives are responsible for investigating hit and run traffic collisions while the Lakewood Police Traffic Team is involved in numerous enforcement and special city events such as marathons and enforcement campaigns.

Special Enforcement Team (SET)

The Special Enforcement Team (SET) is responsible for tracking and suppressing criminal activities along with proactive police contacts with gang members. The team provides directed enforcement intended to impact the most pressing criminal activity, locations, offenders, patterns, graffiti and trends of gang activity. SET will respond, handle and investigate a variety of gang-related crimes, career criminals, warrant arrests and graffiti.

Colorado Mills Mall Team

The Lakewood Police Department Mills Substation is a limited service police station housing seven agents, two detectives, and a sergeant. The agents in the station proudly serve northwest Lakewood. The substation facilitates a closer relationship between the department and the community using a community-oriented policing philosophy called Sector-Based Policing. The Colorado Mills Mall Team was developed to handle the traffic, criminal and non-criminal issues specific to the mall and surrounding areas.

Canine Unit (K-9)

The K-9 Unit responds to incidents involving tracking and locating individuals eluding capture and provides officer protection. It also is used for detection of narcotics. The K-9 unit is called upon in many types of situations, some due to the danger agents would be exposed to and others because of K-9's unique and often superior senses. Before ever being used in the field, the team of handler and K-9 teams undergo extensive training. Training continues on a regular basis for as long as they are a part of the K-9 unit.



Lakewood Police Department Investigation Division

The Investigations Division is primarily responsible for conducting follow-up criminal investigations, collecting, preserving, and analyzing physical evidence, arresting offenders, filing criminal cases, and assisting with the prosecution of those cases. The Investigations Division is made up of teams of detectives specializing in behaviors associated with specific crimes, along with detectives assigned to Federal and State funded tasks forces. The Investigation Division also helps ensure victims of crimes receive the resources and assistance they need through our Victim Assistance Unit.

Team, Persons Team, Burglary/ Robbery Team, Economic Crimes Team and Victim Advocates. The upper floor houses the Theft Team, Crimes Against Children Team and Juvenile Crime Team including School Resource Officers. The Special Investigation Unit, Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Teams round out the Division. These teams are also responsible for gathering criminal intelligence and conducting background investigations for liquor licenses, towing operators, pawnshops, adult retail businesses, and massage parlors. The Victim Assistance Unit staffed by non-sworn personnel provides direct services and crisis intervention to victims and witnesses of crimes. The Victim Assistance Unit oversees the Victim Compensation Fund.

The Lakewood Police Department continues to co-host the multi-agency Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force. CMATT's mission is to investigate continuing problems

caused by auto theft crimes in the Denver metropolitan area. CMATT is funded by the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority and supported by the partnering law enforcement agencies. CMATT utilizes a proactive investigative approach incorporating data sharing and public education to impact the organized criminal efforts related to auto theft.

The Criminalistics Section, which is also part of the Investigation Division, is staffed by non-sworn personnel. They provide support service for the evaluation, processing, and scientific examination of physical evidence. The staff possesses considerable technical expertise in a wide variety of disciplines including fingerprint comparison, photography, computer analysis, crime scene reconstruction, and the collection and preservation of evidence.



Those sections include:

Community Services

The Animal Control Unit enforces municipal ordinances relating to the welfare of animals and the responsibilities of animal owners. It plays a critical role in educating citizens about the humane and safe treatment of animals and responding to public safety concerns with companion animals, exotic pets, and indigenous wildlife. Compliance with the Jefferson County dog licensing requirements is a continuing focus.

- The Code Enforcement Unit provides enforcement of the Municipal Code as it relates to nuisance violations, which include overgrown vegetation both on private property and adjacent rights-of-way, inoperable motor vehicles, the accumulation of junk and rubbish, parking of commercial vehicles and trailers on City streets, wood burning, overflowing dumpsters, trash and graffiti. Officers also enforce the Zoning Ordinance as it pertains to land use issues, parking requirements, fence regulations, home businesses, and signs.
- The Crime Analysis Team is composed of personnel who analyze and disseminate timely and pertinent information relative to crime patterns and trends to assist in daily operations.
- The Property & Evidence Unit serves the Lakewood Police Department and citizens by accepting and maintaining items booked for safekeeping and evidentiary value. The preservation, storage, custody tracking, and timely release of property and evidence are essential functions of the Unit.
- The Technology Liaison Sergeant provides coordination to the Information Technology (IT) Department to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the computer applications that are utilized by the police department. This position is also responsible for application training, management of software programs, and with the oversight of the Records Management System.
- The Volunteer Program assists in a wide variety of programs to include enforcing disabled parking violations, assisting motorists, and booking abandoned property. Volunteers are also enlisted to help with various community events.



Lakewood Police Department Support Services

The Support Services Division encompasses several sections of the Lakewood Police Department that provide crucial services to our community. These sections provide both administrative and technical support to the Lakewood Police Department and the community.

Records

The Police Records Section serves as the police department’s primary information management center. The section manages and disseminates all criminal justice records to include incident/ crime reporting, warrant processes, municipal and county bonds, traffic and criminal citations, quality control monitoring of electronic ticketing, and expungement orders. The information is maintained to assist victims of crime, enhance the decision-making for investigations, and for the timely prosecution of criminal activity. Additionally, the section collects, processes, and submits statistical crime information to the state and federal crime databases.

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Section is responsible for administering Lakewood’s Emergency Management and Homeland Security programs and providing response to hazardous material incidents.

Professional Standards

The Professional Standards Section oversees the Police Recruitment Team and works closely with the Human Resource Department (HR) in recruiting, selecting and promoting qualified police personnel who reflect our community’s diversity and values. This section operates the Police Recruit Training Academy, conducts in-service training, manages the written directive system, processes employee commendations, and investigates complaints of misconduct against police employees.

Police Planning and Analysis Unit

The Police Planning and Analysis Unit is responsible for coordinating the preparation of the department’s annual budget, reporting of the department’s grant and seizure funds, and providing research and planning assistance. This unit manages the department’s accreditation process.

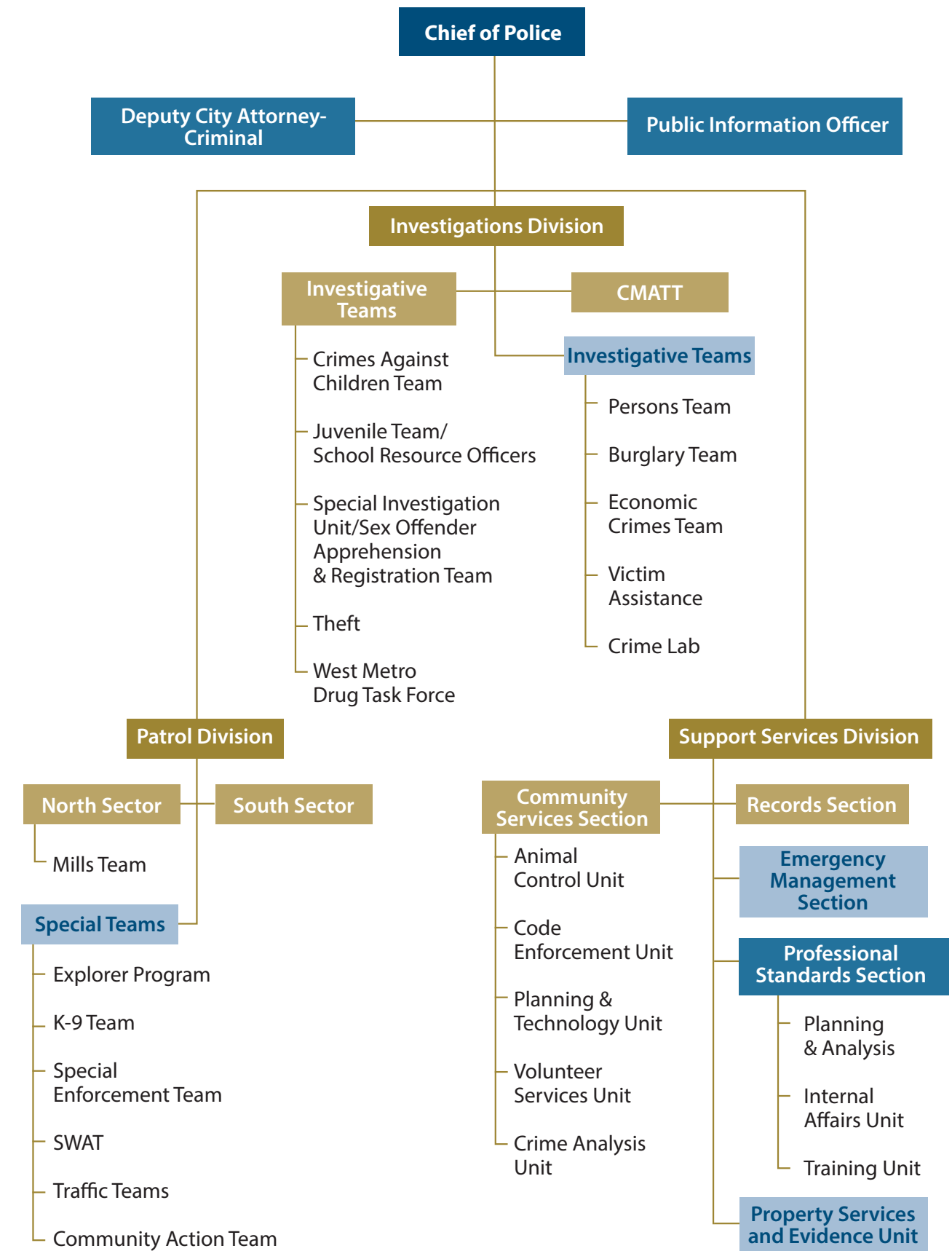


Internal Affairs/ Professional Standards

This chart demonstrates the different types of force that were used, recognizing that multiple types of force may be used during a single incident and by multiple officers. In 2023, agents were involved in 100 use of force incidents.

	2023
Commendations	
Number	60
Personnel	184
Internal Affairs Cases	
Investigations - Internally/Externally Generated	29
Informational Inquiry	44
Administrative Review Cases	
Traffic Accident Review - Preventable Accidents	29
Use of Force Review	
Taser	71
Physical	109
K-9	0
Baton/ASP	2
OC Spray	0
Firearm	5
Other	1
Pepperball	3
Foam Baton/Bean Bag	4
Subtotal	195

Lakewood Police Department Organization Chart



Lakewood Police Department

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For all non-emergency: 303-980-7300
[Join LakewoodBlue.com](http://JoinLakewoodBlue.com)

   @LakewoodPDCO



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