City of New Albany

Police Department

2018 Annual Report

Canine handler Officer Joe Rehnert and his canine partner Amigo

Dear Citizens and Visitors of New Albany,

Welcome to the New Albany Police Department's 2018 Annual Report. We believe that each of you have a right to know what type of law enforcement services and activities have occurred within New Albany and more importantly, the resources being devoted to providing an appropriate police response to local problems and concerns.

In this report, you will find Police Department statistics from 2018. We have also included statistical data from previous years to reflect the way in which different categories of crime and enforcement activities have been increasing and/or decreasing from previous years. The police department submits the community's crime statistics to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. The UCR divides crimes into two categories, Part I crimes including homicide and forcible rape and Part II which includes serious but lesser crimes including assault and theft.

The department made significant strides in addressing illicit drug activity in 2018. The department's proactive efforts were specifically focused on drug activity that impacted school age children. The department executed numerous search warrants resulting in the seizure of Marijuana, Heroin, MDMA, and numerous other illicit drugs. In addition to drugs, numerous weapons and cash were seized resulting in various felony charges. The department also added a new drug detecting canine, Amigo. In addition to patrol duties, Amigo and his handler Officer Joe Rehnert will be regularly present on the campus of New Albany Schools.

The department also entered its third and final year of its self-assessment as part of the accreditation process through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The self-assessment process will end in 2019 and the department will then be assessed by CALEA. If CALEA determines that the department has met all of the standards, then the department will be awarded its accreditation.

Personnel changes also dominated the year for the department. Some of the department's most significant changes in 2018 included the addition of seven new officers, Police Clerk Lauren Johnson, Dispatcher Erica Johnson and Police Chaplain Debra Lowery. Additionally, Joel Strahler was promoted to sergeant, Elizabeth Lybarger was promoted from dispatch supervisor to the communication center manager and there were several specialty position changes.

The men and women of the New Albany Police Department are committed to keeping pace with community growth to ensure the safety and security of those who live, travel, and/or work in New Albany. We hope that you find our 2018 Annual Report interesting and informative.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that could improve our annual report, please contact me via email (gjones@newalbanypolice.org), telephone (614-855-1234), or mail at 50 Village Hall Road; P.O. Box 271; New Albany, Ohio 43054.

Sincerely,
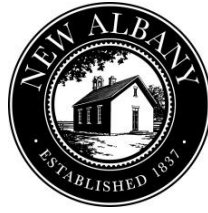
Gregory V. A. Jones
Chief of Police

CITY OF NEW ALBANY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the men and women of the New Albany Police Department, in partnership with the community, are committed to the prevention of crime and the protection of life and property. We are proactive in promoting, preserving, and maintaining a feeling of safety and security to all citizens and visitors. We maintain the public's trust by holding ourselves to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism in the delivery of law enforcement services. We provide a quality work environment and continually strive to develop each employee through effective training and leadership.

VISION STATEMENT

To meet the growing needs of the community, the New Albany Police Department will continue to provide the highest level of law enforcement services available through a department-wide community policing philosophy. Provision of police services will be accomplished by hiring the most qualified personnel, providing superior training to all personnel, and providing the most current equipment, technology, and facilities to provide these services.

CITY OF NEW ALBANY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

VALUES STATEMENT

We, the men and women of the New Albany Police Department, hold these values and principles to be of the utmost importance:

PROFESSIONALISM

We conduct ourselves, both on-duty and off-duty in a manner that reflects favorably on our profession and the community we serve. We take pride in our appearance and demeanor. We hold ourselves to the highest standards and will not allow friendships, prejudices, or animosities to influence our decision-making when providing law enforcement services. We continuously strive for excellence through training, education, and innovation.

INTEGRITY

We are guided by the principles of honesty and integrity in our daily lives. We constantly strive to maintain the public's trust through honesty and integrity in both words and actions.

RESPECT

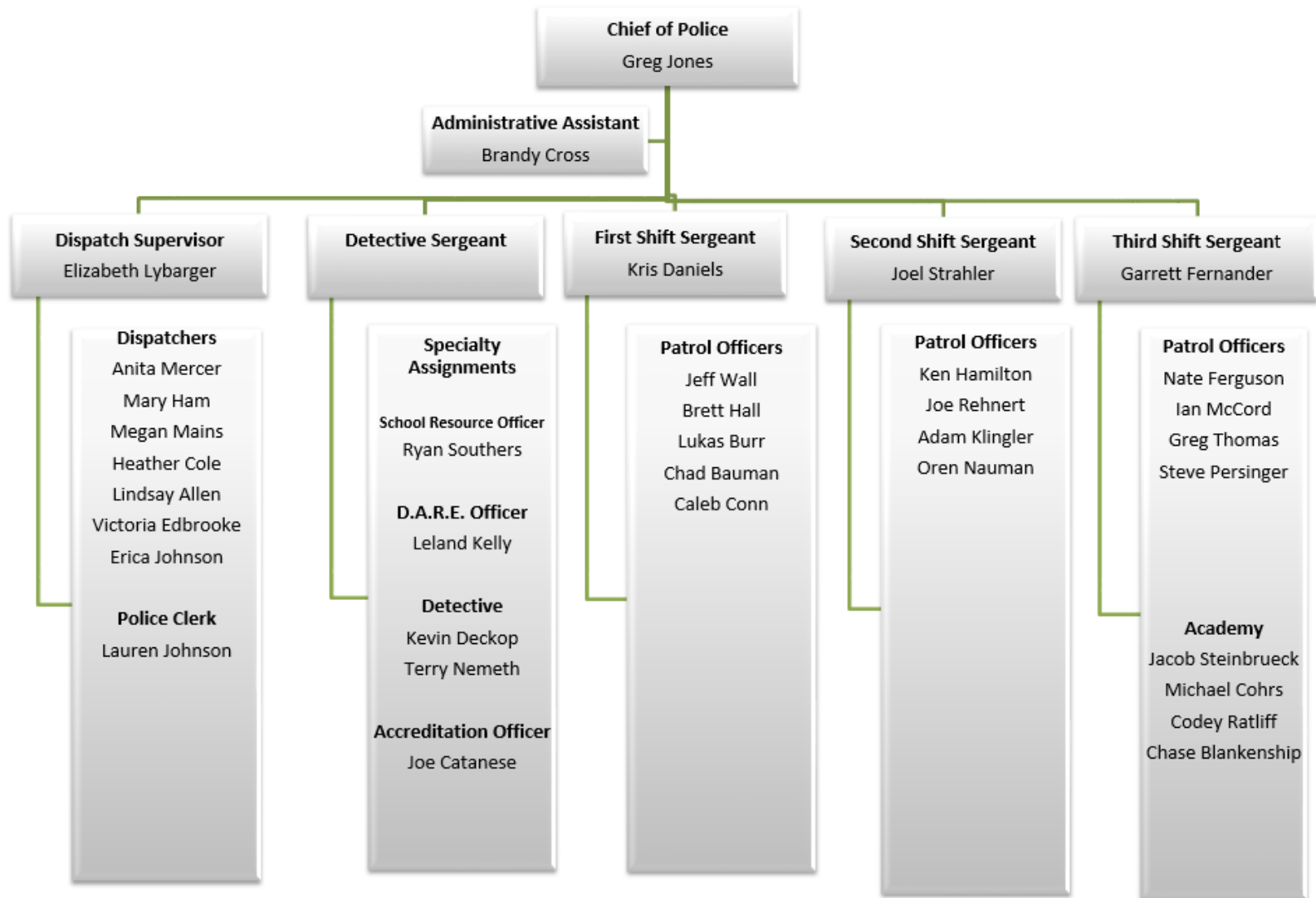We treat all people with the dignity and respect they deserve. This includes the protection of individual rights while upholding the laws and ordinances of the United States of America, the State of Ohio, and the City of New Albany.

COMPASSION

We conduct all citizen contacts with courtesy and compassion. We are sensitive to the needs of others and possess empathy in dealing with individuals in their time of need.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The chart represents the organizational structure of the New Albany Police Department as of December 2018. This chart depicts the current chain-of-command within the organization.

Chief of Police
Greg Jones

Administrative Assistant
Brandy Cross

Dispatch Supervisor
Elizabeth Lybarger

Detective Sergeant

First Shift Sergeant
Kris Daniels

Second Shift Sergeant
Joel Strahler

Third Shift Sergeant
Garrett Fernander

Dispatchers
Anita Mercer
Mary Ham
Megan Mains
Heather Cole
Lindsay Allen
Victoria Edbrooke
Erica Johnson

Police Clerk
Lauren Johnson

Specialty Assignments

School Resource Officer
Ryan Southers

D.A.R.E. Officer
Leland Kelly

Detective
Kevin Deckop
Terry Nemeth

Accreditation Officer
Joe Catanese

Patrol Officers
Jeff Wall
Brett Hall
Lukas Burr
Chad Bauman
Caleb Conn

Patrol Officers
Ken Hamilton
Joe Rehnert
Adam Klingler
Oren Nauman

Patrol Officers
Nate Ferguson
Ian McCord
Greg Thomas
Steve Persinger

Academy
Jacob Steinbrueck
Michael Cohrs
Codey Ratliff
Chase Blankenship

PERSONNEL

The growth of the city and the attrition of personnel meant that hiring talented and qualified people was a significant priority in 2018. Newly hired full-time staff of the department include:

- Lauren Johnson, police clerk;
- Erica Johnson, dispatcher;
- Oren Nauman, police officer (hired from another central Ohio police department and did not attend academy);
- Steven Persinger, police officer (hired in 2017 but did not complete academy and field training until 2018);
- Jacob Steinbrueck, police officer (graduated from academy in December);
- Caleb Conn, police officer (hired from a suburb of Cincinnati and did not attend academy);
- Michael Cohrs, police officer (currently attending academy and will graduate summer 2019);
- Codey Ratliff, police officer (currently attending academy and will graduate summer 2019);
- Chase Blankenship, police officer (currently attending academy and will graduate summer 2019);

Additional personnel updates in 2018 include:

- Debra Lowery joined the department as the police chaplain. The department had not had a chaplain for many years. Mrs. Lowery brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to the position.
- Officer Terry Nemeth, a five year veteran of the department, was chosen to fill a second detective position.
- Officer Joe Rehnert, a twelve year veteran of the department was selected as the canine handler. Amigo, a German Short Haired Pointer was selected as Officer Rehnert's canine partner.
- Officer Joel Strahler, a twenty one year veteran of the department was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sergeant Strahler previously served the department in patrol, as a school resource officer, canine handler, and a block watch advisor.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Communication Center Employees at their Annual Meeting held December 2018
Megan Mains, Mary Ham, Heather Cole, Elizabeth Lybarger, Victoria Nauman, Erica Johnson, Lindsay Allen, and Anita Mercer

In 2018 New Albany Police Department's Communication Center received 996 emergency/911 calls. They also received over 5,100 non-emergency calls. The communication center logged 14,072 computer aided dispatch (CAD) entries. Entries into the CAD system include emergency and non-emergency calls for service, walk-ins, and officer initiated activity.

Throughout the year, the city prepared to offer Text to 911 to the community. The availability of Text to 911 can be a potential life saver for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability. It can also be a life line for those who cannot speak due to an injury or medical condition and those who are unable to call because they are in a threatening position.

As part of the Metropolitan East Communications Consortium (MECC), New Albany and the MECC have been prepared to go live with the system for some time. However, the plan was to roll out the Text to 911 system countywide at the same time. The department prepared by implementing new software and training the dispatchers on the use of the system. The system went live in Franklin County in January 2019.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Drugs of Abuse

The police department has taken several steps to limit the availability of drugs of abuse in New Albany. In 2017 a prescription drug drop box was installed in the lobby of the police department. In 2018 the department collected 134.69 pounds of medication for destruction. That amount of medication removed from the medicine cabinets and night stands of homes in the community is far more than what was anticipated when it was installed.

The police department also teamed up with the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) Drug Take Back Initiative for two events in 2018. The events gave citizens the opportunity to turn in unwanted medications for destruction. Fifty three pounds of unwanted medication was collected and removed from homes where the medications could have been abused, accidentally ingested, or disposed of improperly.

The department also focused on training, criminal intelligence, and sound investigative practices as part of a renewed effort to curb the availability of drugs of abuse in New Albany. Several successful drug investigations culminated in search warrants on the homes of suspected traffickers. During those searches six guns and a variety of drugs were seized including; marijuana plants, THC, cocaine, methamphetamine, OxyContin, and psilocybin mushrooms. By the end of 2018, investigators and patrol officers seized over eighteen pounds of marijuana, 937 pills, and over two and half pounds of a variety of other drugs.

7.5 pounds processed marijuana
100 marijuana plants
8.5g of psilocybin mushrooms
8 unit doses of OxyContin pills
4 firearms

Most recently, the city purchased a single purpose police canine to help detect drugs. Amigo and his handler Officer Joe Rehnert began their training in December 2018 and assumed their duties as a K9 team in 2019. Amigo is a German Short Haired Pointer and in addition to drug detection, can track people and perform article searches.

2017-2018 Deer Management Program

The New Albany Deer Management program ran from September 30, 2017 through February 4, 2018. Of the 101 hunters who were eligible for the program, 53 of them were active during the season. Twenty-six deer were harvested. Twenty-three of those were does and three were bucks. This year, two deer were donated to the food pantry. The deer management program helps to thin the deer population within the city and reduce the chances of car accidents involving deer.

National Accreditation

In September 2018 the Police Department began the third year of its self-assessment step in becoming accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The three year process will culminate in the summer of 2019 when CALEA assesses the department. If the assessment is favorable, the department will receive its accreditation in November 2019.

Over the past two and half years the department has been working to fulfill 181 CALEA standards. Most of the standards involve modifying or creating directives, modifying department operations, and documenting proof that the department is fulfilling the best practices required by the directive and standards.

Ohio Collaborative for Law Enforcement

The City of New Albany Police Department was successfully credentialed through the Ohio Collaborative - Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services in March. This initiative, established by then Governor Kasich works to improve community-police relations and find solutions to the tensions and concerns between community members and the police that serve them. As part of this year's process the department submitted policies related to the Use of Force in Response to Resistance and Community Policing for review.

Community Outreach

The police department is fortunate to receive widespread support from the community. Community engagement has undoubtedly played a significant role in the public's backing. Although we highlight some of the organized activities in this report, the department's engagement also occurs on a daily basis and often in one on one contacts between officers, dispatchers and community members. The department remains dedicated to being proactive in maintaining a safe community and the public's trust.

Safety Town

New Albany Safety Town celebrated its 15 year anniversary in 2018. Safety Town has grown from one (1) camp with four (4) sessions teaching eight (8) topics to a two (2) camp option teaching 12 topics. The program has enjoyed significant growth, with attendance increasing from 214 campers in the first year to a record high of 450 graduates in 2016. For the past two years Safety Town had to limit the number of sessions in order to permit the custodial staff to perform necessary building maintenance prior to the start of the new school year. In spite of the reduced schedule, attendance is still holding at 400 campers.

The reputation of New Albany Safely Town has spread throughout our neighboring communities. Recently, approximately 2/3 of campers have been New Albany residents while approximately 1/3 have been from Johnstown, Gahanna, Westerville and Columbus. The Safety Town curriculum continues to grow in order to teach our children best safety practices.


Bike Helmets and Ice Cream

The city partnered with Johnson's Ice Cream to provide a coupon for a free scoop of ice cream to children found wearing a bike helmet while riding their bikes. The program was launched in late May 2018 and ran through the end of September. By the end of the summer, 225 coupons were redeemed for ice cream. It is often more practical for a bike officer to approach children on bicycles. The interaction is a great chance for the officers to build a positive relationship with the children in the community and the children have an opportunity to see an officer wearing a bike helmet.

Wearing helmets can reduce the risk of a head injury by up to 85%; 75% of all fatal cycling accidents involve a head injury. Facts like these is what lead the City of New Albany to enact a bike helmet law in March 2016. The law requires all riders under 18 years old to wear a bike helmet. The intent was to save lives by creating better habits. The cities efforts to promote bicycle safety dates back over ten years when the safety town program began and children attending were provided free helmets and learned the importance of wearing them while riding.

Distracted Driving Simulator

Officer Klingler attended the health fair at First and Main on March 31, 2018. He presented the driving simulator and discussed the ways in which the police department engages with the New Albany community. The distracted driving simulator is available at many community events and in the schools during the year to help raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.
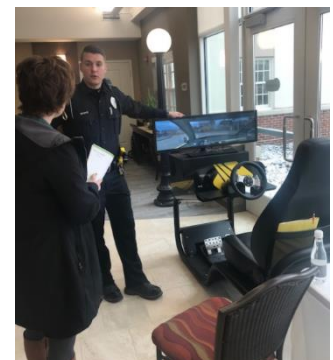
R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense System) Course

The police department held its first R.A.D. course of the year in March. The free 12-hour course is offered by the department several times per year and classes can be provided to groups or organizations upon request.


Citizen Police Academy

The police department began its 2nd Annual Joint Citizen Police Academy with the Gahanna Police Department. This year's academy class included 29 students. Participants enjoyed a free 10-week community education program that highlighted the values, mission, and operations of the New Albany and Gahanna police departments. This program afforded both agencies an opportunity to work together and share experiences with participants who benefited from the combined knowledge and efforts of subject-matter experts. Following graduation from the program, members were able to do ride-a-longs with officers. The civilian rider "patrols" with officers went very well. The 2018 Citizen Police Academy video can be viewed at https://newalbanyohio.org/stories/thank-you-2018-citizen-police-academy-participants/.
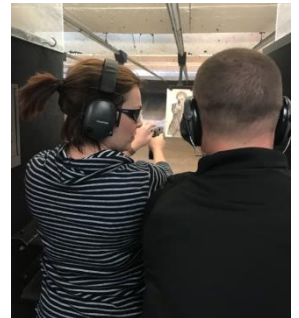
Fawn Rescue

Officer Catanese saved a fawn after it fell into a window well of a home located in the Country Club community. A video was taken and shared on the city's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).
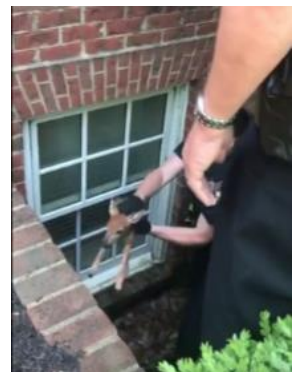
City-Wide Active Threat Training

Officer Southers and Officer Kelly taught an active threat class to city employees. Over the course of two days, thirty (30) employees were taught basic principles of surviving an active threat encounter.

ALiCE Training

Officer Southers and Officer Kelly instructed an ALiCE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Active Threat Response class at Homeside Financial. The class was customized and condensed to approximately an hour to fit within their time constraints. Twenty (20) of their managers attended the class. Officers Southers and Officer Kelly were requested to teach the class to assist with the development of the company's new Emergency Response Plan.

Firearms Training

All officers attended in-service firearms training days at the Newark Police Department's range. The City of Newark has been very gracious in allowing New Albany to use its range over several years.

The training focused on proficiency with department issued rifles. Officers have an opportunity to problem solve in the event of a weapon malfunction. They also participate in use-of-cover scenarios.

Halloween 2018

Officer Kelly wore the Lego Police Officer mask and hands costume around the New Albany's ELC, primary and intermediate building for their Halloween parties. The costume was a huge success. Students and staff complimented his attire.

Officer Klingler, Police Clerk Lauren Johnson, and Dispatcher Lindsay Allen all represented the police department at the Healthy New Albany Halloween Event. The police department provided child ID's, a cruiser for the children to tour, and an officer to answer questions. Approximately 700 children participated in this event.

Item of Special Interest

The good work of Officer Klingler, Detective Nemeth, and Detective Deckop resulted in the felony arrest of two individuals from Florida who were involved in an identity theft ring. The department executed two search warrants related to the case and impounded hundreds of items as evidence. Federal law enforcement authorities joined the investigation.

STATISTICS

Calls for Service

The number of calls received by the Communications Center is outlined below. Calls for service are the number of calls for assistance that were received and dispatched. The chart below separates these calls by emergency and non-emergency.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Year	Emergency	Non-Emergency
2013	586	3758
2014	584	3713
2015	670	4269
2016	1495	4786
2017	1300	5817
2018	996	5239
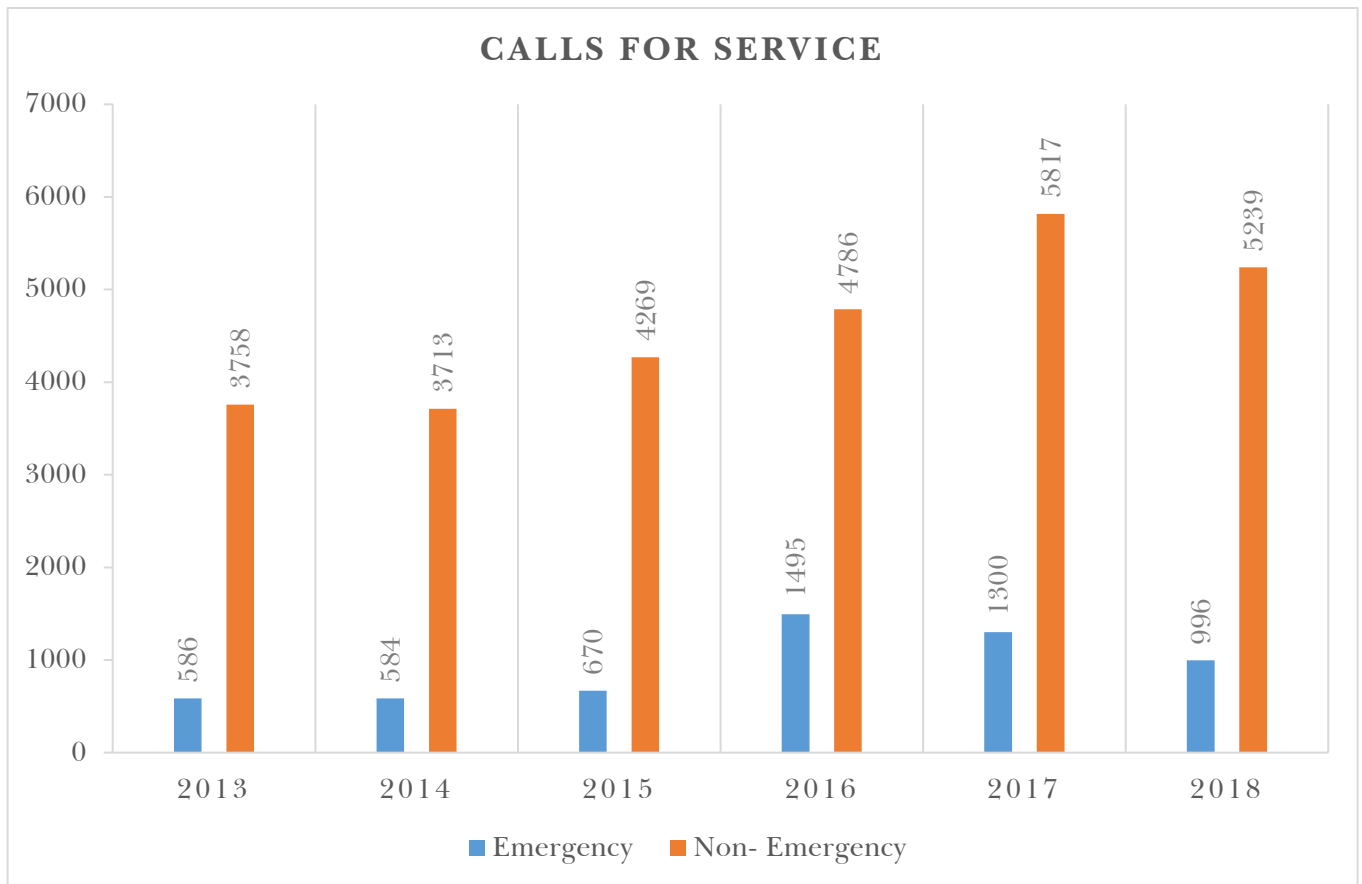
Offense/Incident Reports Taken

The New Albany Police Department takes three basic type of reports- offense reports, incident reports and traffic crash (accident) reports. An offense report is defined as a violation of the criminal code. An incident report is used to record non-criminal calls for service, such as found property or domestic disputes. An accident report is a traffic crash that is recorded on a prescribed State of Ohio form (OH-1). The chart below depicts the total number of reports taken.

OFFENSE AND INCIDENT REPORTS

Year	Reports
2013	598
2014	590
2015	719
2016	758
2017	1027
2018	1067
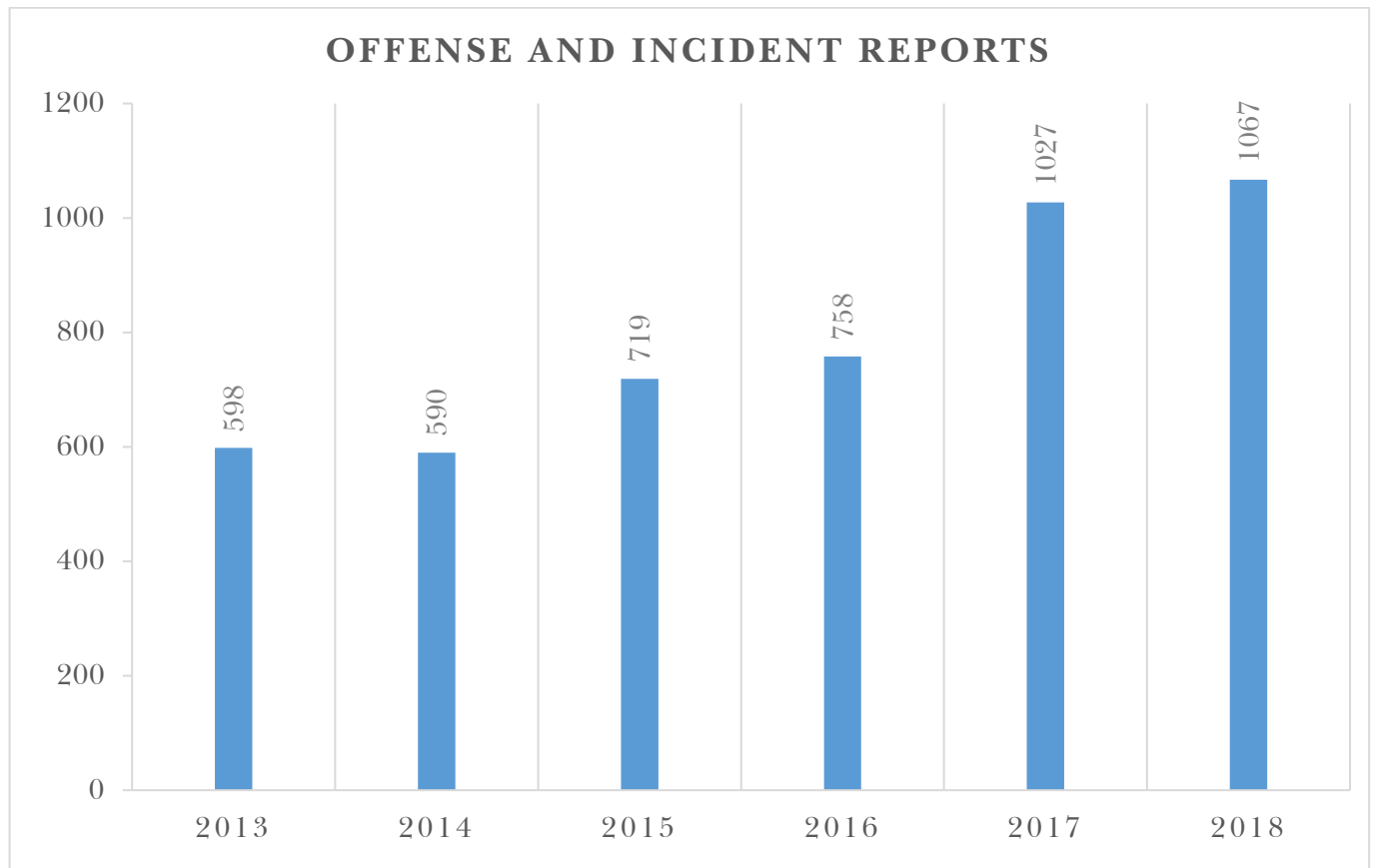
Please note: prior to 2017, statistics were pulled differently and categories may have been previously combined

Incident/Offense by Category

The below statistics are divided into incidents, Part I offenses and Part II offenses. Incidents are non-criminal calls for service. Part I offenses are defined as index crimes, as these crimes are considered quite serious and tend to be reported more reliably than others. Part II offenses are defined as the following: simple assault, curfew offenses, loitering, embezzlement, forgery and counterfeiting, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, drug offenses, fraud, gambling, liquor offenses, offenses against the family, prostitution, public drunkenness, prostitution, sex offenses, stolen property, vandalism, vagrancy, and weapon offenses.
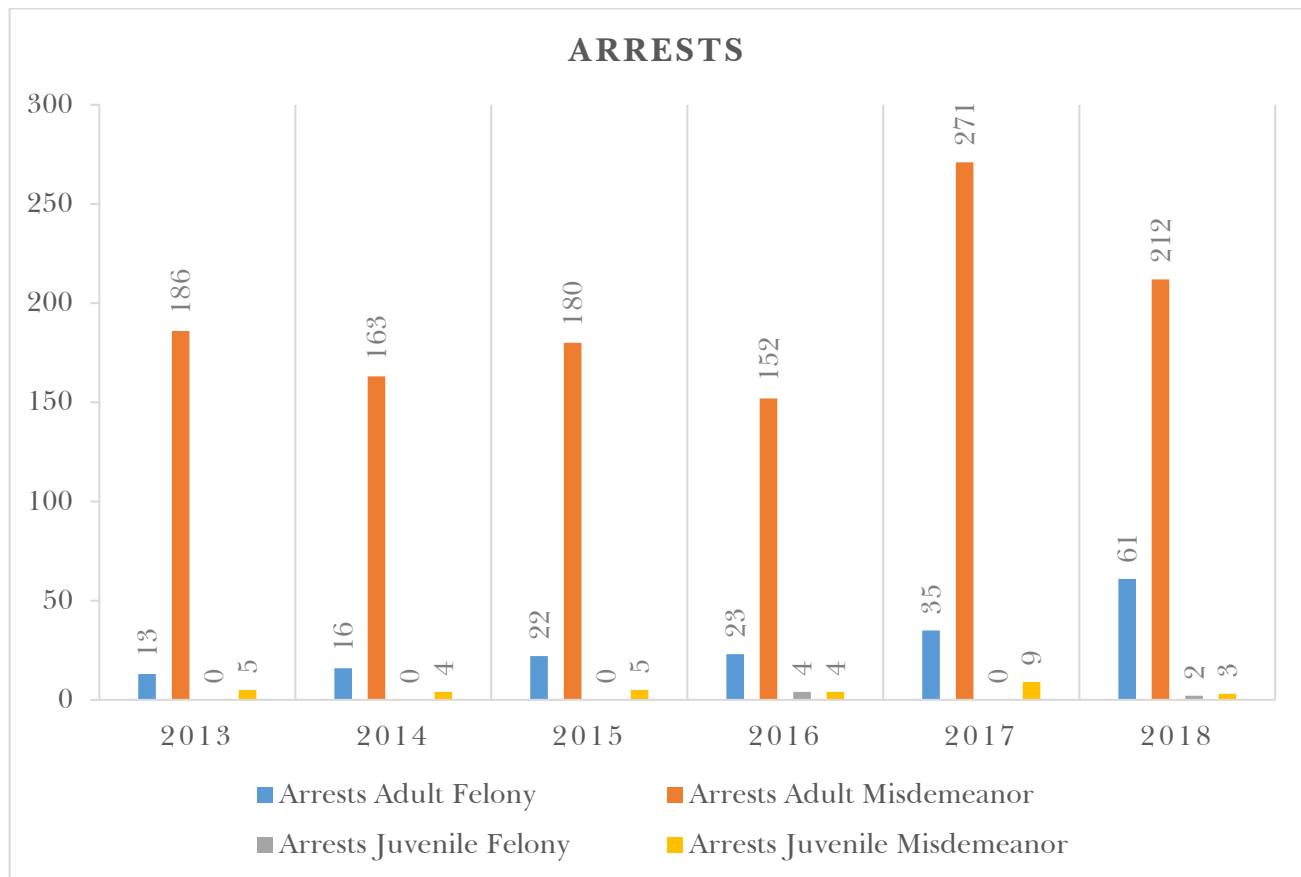
Incidents Reported	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total Incidents
DOA	0	0	0	0	3	2	5
Domestic Dispute - Non Violent	7	9	16	15	34	54	135
Humane Destruction of Animal	22	6	20	10	10	1	69
Lockouts	250	247	253	245	254	232	1481
Mental Health Crisis	0	4	7	16	8	10	45
Push Bumper Release	9	10	5	14	9	5	52
Suicide	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
Suicide Attempt	4	8	14	12	15	13	66

Part I Offenses Reported	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total by Offense
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	6	2	8
All Other Larceny	100	11	128	155	31	34	459
Arson	3	0	1	0	0	0	4
Breaking and Entering/Burglary	7	9	2	1	6	13	38
Justifiable Homicide (Not a Crime)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	0	5	0	9	4	20
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pocket-Picking	0	0	0	0	11	3	14
Purse Snatching	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rape - Forcible	2	1	1	3	2	1	10
Robbery	0	0	3	1	0	1	5
Sexual Assault With an Object	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Shoplifting	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sodomy - Forcible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft From Building	0	0	0	0	25	44	69
Theft From Coin Operated Machine	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Theft From Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	26	16	42
Theft Of Motor Vehicle Parts/Acces.	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

| Part II Offenses Reported	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total by Offense
Abduction	4	1	1	0	5	2	13
All Other Offense (2013-2016 included DV)	14	20	26	20	43	36	159
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Assault (Simple)	20	16	23	10	31	34	134
Bad Checks	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bribery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Disorderly Conduct	6	5	5	12	7	5	40
Drug Offense	28	45	56	52	129	149	459
Drug Equipment/Drug Paraphernalia	19	23	35	41	97	115	330
Drunkenness	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Extortion	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
False Pretenses/Swindle	0	0	0	0	5	10	15
Family Offense (Non-Violent)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling - Forcible	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Forgery/Counterfeiting	12	10	3	8	1	3	37
Fraud - Credit Card/Auto Teller	53	42	75	41	4	13	228
Fraud - Welfare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud - Wire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling - Betting or Wagering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling - Equipment Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling - Operating or Promoting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hacking Computer Invasion	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Human Trafficking - Commerical Sex Crimes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking - Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Identity Theft	0	0	0	0	39	26	65
Impersonation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	17	21	32	22	24	5	121
Liquor Laws	21	15	14	29	24	33	136
Manslaughter - Negligent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OVI	91	114	93	67	105	90	560
Peeping Tom	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pornagraphy/Obscene Material	0	0	0	0	3	3	6
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prostitution - Assisting or Promoting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prostitution - Purchasing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape - Statutory	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Runaways (Under 18)	5	1	4	1	3	0	14
Sex Offenses	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
Sports Tampering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property; buying; receiving; possessing	4	8	7	11	6	6	42
Tampering with Evidence	1	1	1	1	0	0	4
Trespass of Real Property	6	8	20	12	17	6	69
Vandalism/Criminal Damaging	24	34	29	35	49	23	194
Weapons; Carrying; Possessing, etc.	1	9	5	6	5	24	50

Arrests

The New Albany Police Department investigates criminal offenses to the fullest extent possible. When a suspect can be identified, it is our policy to file the appropriate criminal charges. Common felony arrests include: Breaking and Entering, Domestic Violence, Drug Possession, OVI (3 or more priors), and Receiving Stolen Property. Common misdemeanor arrests include Assault, Driving under Suspension, Menacing, OVI (1st or 2nd), Theft, and Drug Abuse/Paraphernalia. A breakdown of both adult and juvenile felony and misdemeanor arrests for the past several years is as follows:

ARRESTS

Year	Arrests Adult Felony	Arrests Adult Misdemeanor	Arrests Juvenile Felony	Arrests Juvenile Misdemeanor
2013	13	186	0	5
2014	16	163	0	4
2015	22	180	0	5
2016	23	152	4	4
2017	35	271	0	9
2018	61	212	2	3

■ Arrests Adult Felony ■ Arrests Adult Misdemeanor ■ Arrests Juvenile Felony ■ Arrests Juvenile Misdemeanor
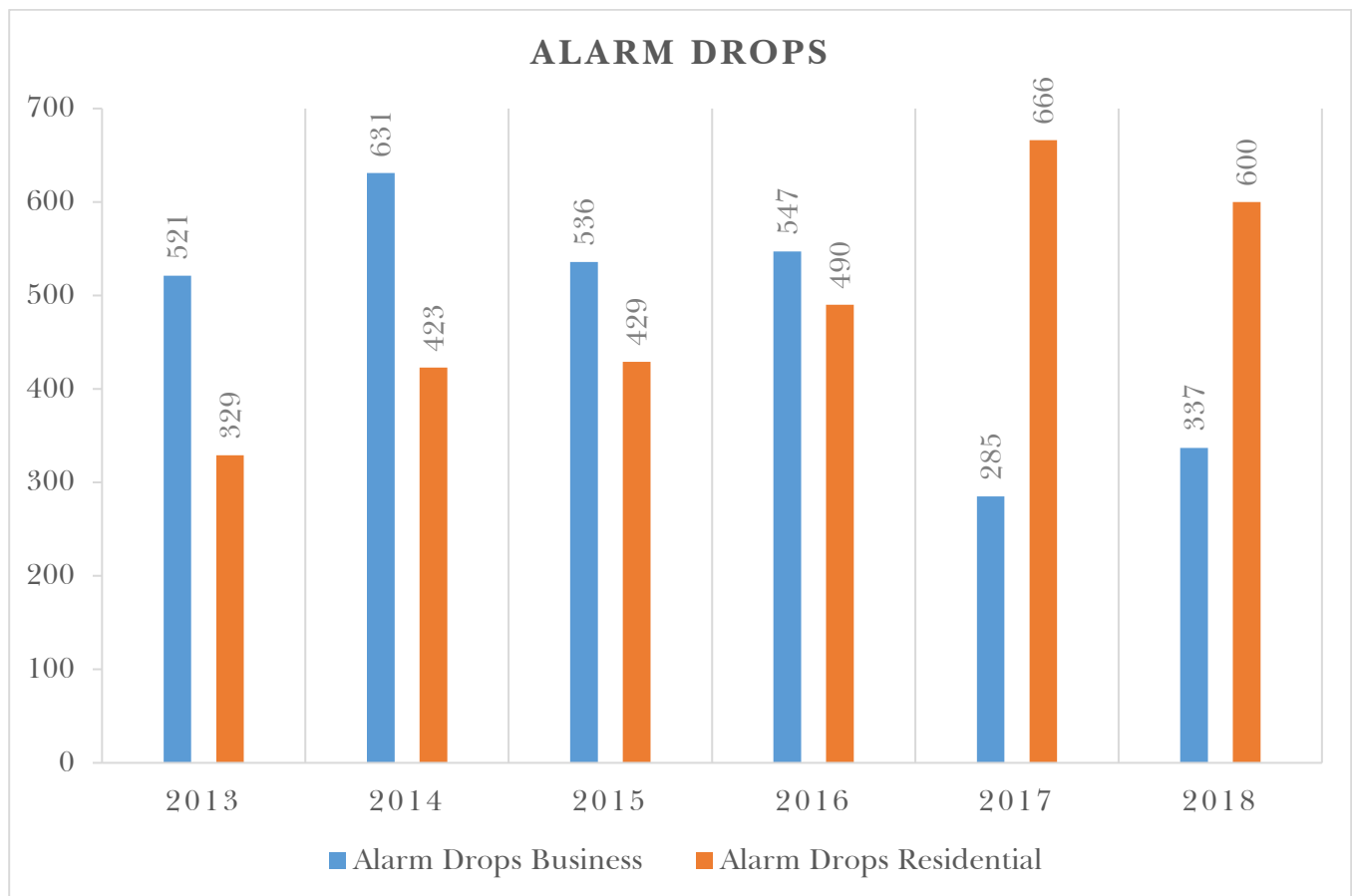
Citations

The New Albany Police Department issues both citations and warning to motorists who are observed violating traffic laws within New Albany. Warnings are often issues for minor moving violations, equipment violations and parking violations. When investigating traffic crashes, it is the policy of the department to issue a traffic citation(s) to the at-fault driver. The department also takes an aggressive stance against drunk driving in an effort to minimize the loss of property and life within our community. A breakdown of warnings and the different citations issued are depicted in the chart below.
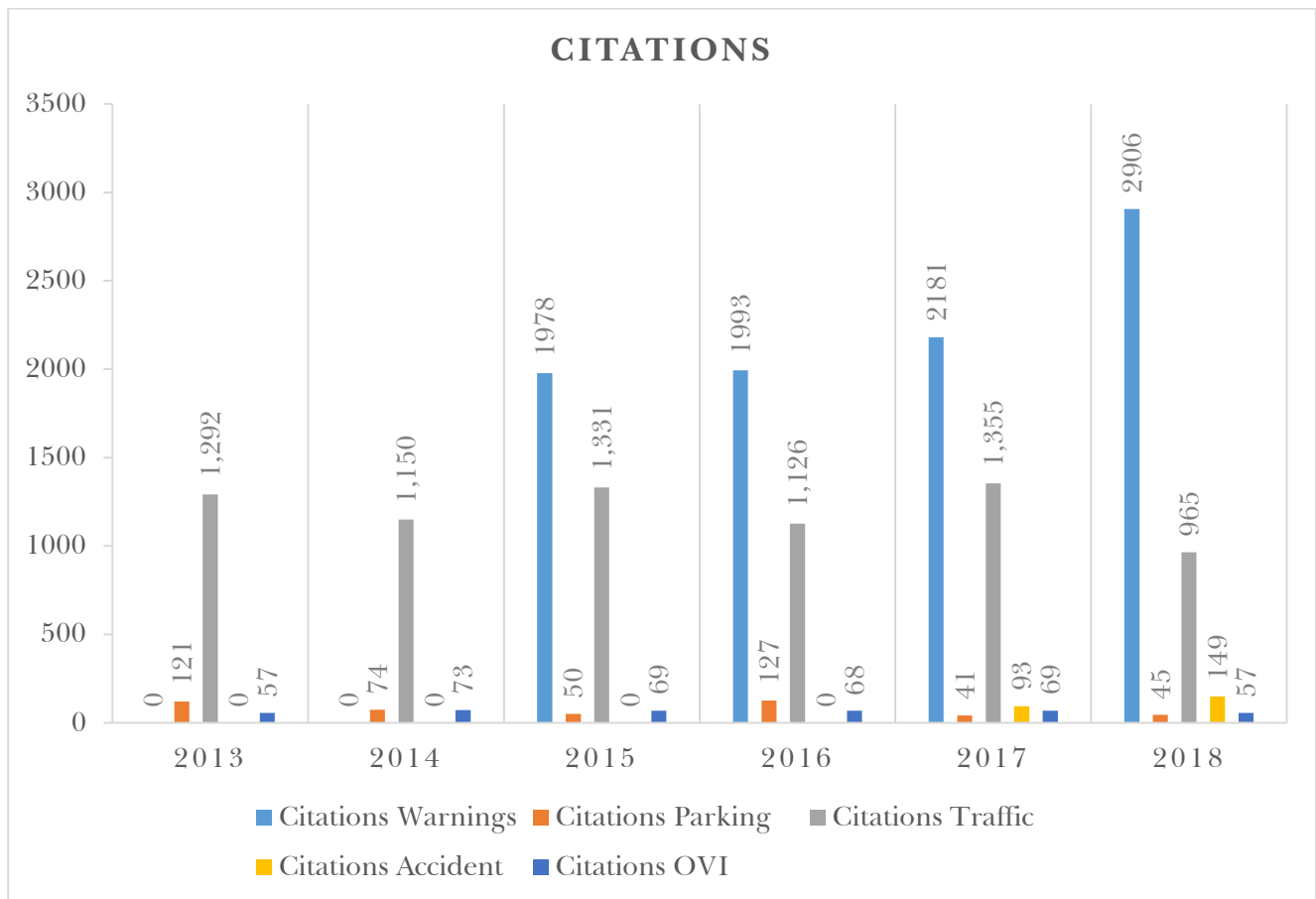
Please note: "0" indicates data is not available. The department implemented a new records management system in 2017, which is why data is unavailable.

Alarm Drops

The New Albany Police Department responds to all residential and business alarms that are received by the communication center. Pursuant to Codified Ordinance 705.02, an alarm permit is required for each residential and business alarm located in New Albany. In an effort to prevent habitual false alarms, the city charges a fee for excessive false alarms (after 3) occurrences in one calendar year. Additional information can be found by calling or visiting our website.

ALARM DROPS

Year	Alarm Drops Business	Alarm Drops Residential
2013	521	329
2014	631	423
2015	536	429
2016	547	490
2017	285	666
2018	337	600

Vacation/Business Checks

The New Albany Police Department prides itself in providing superior law enforcement services to the community. One way we provide this service is through periodic commercial/residential vacation checks. A resident can contact the department to request a vacation check by calling or visiting the website. A breakdown of vacation and business checks completed by officers is depicted in the chart below.

VACATION AND BUSINESS CHECKS

Year	Checks
2013	785
2014	1414
2015	2206
2016	2799
2017	2510
2018	1472
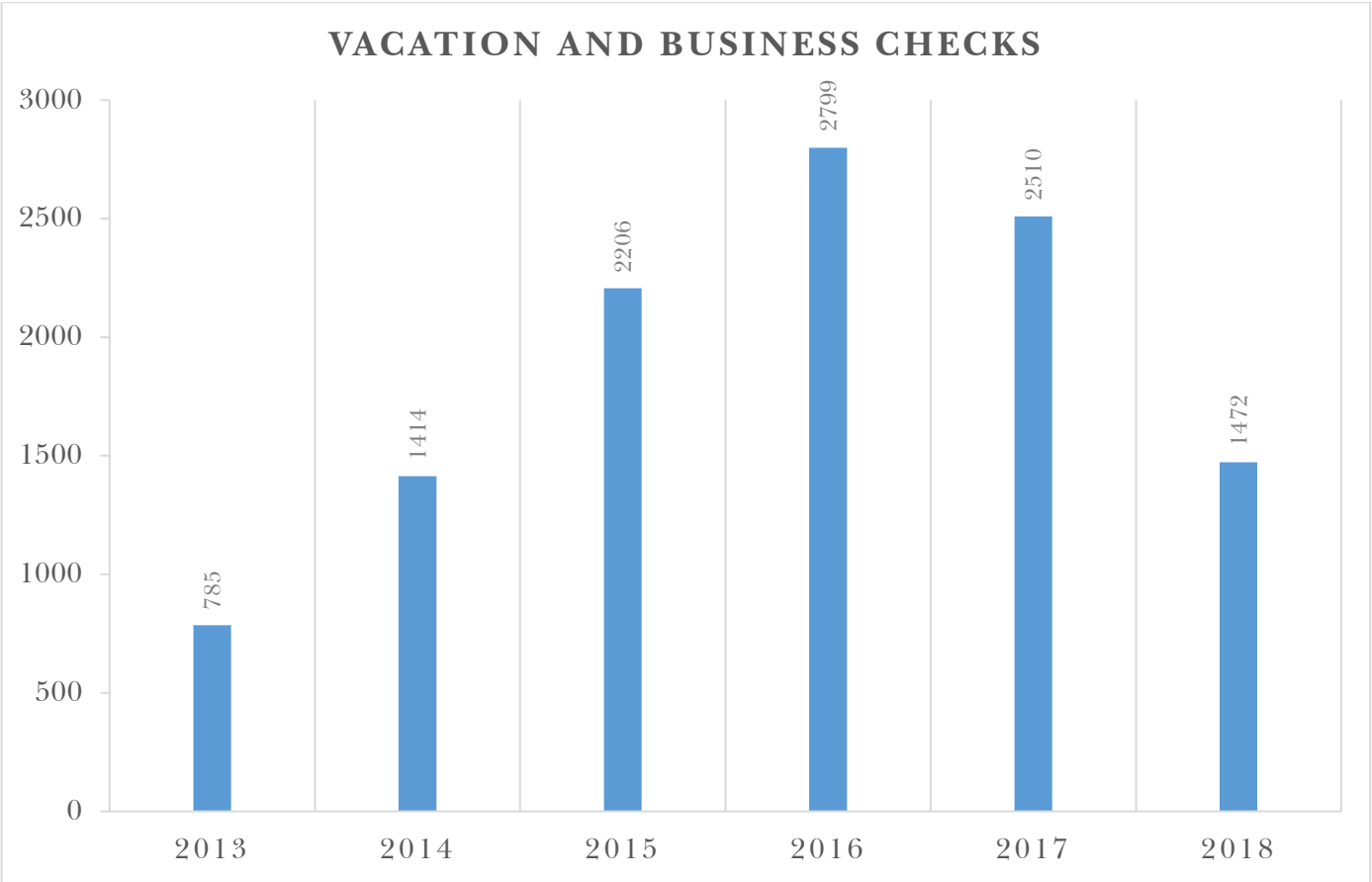
Training

Training plays a significant role in the level of professionalism and competency of the New Albany Police Department. The city has consistently dedicated a great deal of funding and resources towards the development of our employees through effective training. By utilizing various training resources, the department continues to progress in many areas within our department, such as investigations, juvenile crimes, crisis response and leadership. Training allows our department to improve the services provided to our community.

TRAINING HOURS

Year	Internal	External
2014	194	1507
2015	418	1461
2016	351	1566
2017	307	978
2018	460	847