

Hudson Police Department

The Hudson Police Department responds to every request for service; traffic, criminal or civil. Our response to traffic concerns can be enhanced visibility in specific locations for simple enforcement of the traffic law statutes. "Traffic" includes the investigation and reporting of crashes, to included private property accidents. Crime reporting may result in the giving of simple information, forwarding the information to another police department, or the actual reporting and subsequent investigation, potentially leading to arrest and prosecution. Requests for assistance in the civil realm may simply be advice, the taking and documenting of information or forwarding either a report or the individual to the proper non-criminal justice department, whether it is within the City or elsewhere.

Further, many of these 'calls' for service may be handled by our dispatchers, not just our officers. Recent proposed changes to 911 PSAP's (public safety answering points), both in funding and staffing, has caused an overemphasis on the that part of what a dispatcher does, which is one of the least of his/her duties. It is difficult to always quantify what our dispatch center means to our community beyond the answering of 911 and the subsequent dispatching of emergency personnel and vehicles.

The police department also has programming beyond just responding or reacting to calls for service. We are members of two multi-jurisdictional teams, Metro SWAT and the Summit Metro Crash Response Teams. The former gives us a response capability to those calls that require a specialized response that are beyond the capabilities of regular officers or where more manpower is needed for an emergent situation. We have four officers of our department as members. The latter allows a specialized response to fatal or very serious, complex crashes, that need investigation beyond most regular officers' training and experience. Many of these officers are also trained as crash re-constructionists, using sophisticated scanners and other technology. Coincidentally, and I'm proud to report, that both commanders of these two multi-jurisdictional teams are Hudson police officers.

We also have two officers assigned to the public and private schools located in Hudson as School Resource Officers (SRO's). One works mainly in the middle and high schools, and also serves as a juvenile hearing officer, working under the authority of the Summit County Juvenile Court, while the other works in the elementary schools, and Seton and Montessori Schools; this officer also maintains certification as a crime prevention specialist. WRA has its own security, but our SRO/Juvenile officer works cooperatively with them as needed or requested.

We also maintain a Senior Watch program, where officers are assigned to seniors meeting the requirements for the program. Mentioned earlier, our Juvenile Diversion program continues, where juveniles suspected of committing misdemeanor crimes have their 'cases' heard here, instead of at the Summit County Juvenile Court. We also work cooperatively with Hudson Fire, EMS, and Public Power, amongst others, to present Safety Town every summer to incoming kindergartners. We also have a small Auxiliary officer unit, designed to assist officers with traffic control at crash scenes, help with non-criminal, low-risk activities and staff the designated days/times for civilian fingerprinting offering. In addition to the formally titled offerings above, we also do vacation watches, and respond to motor vehicle and residential lockouts, services many departments have discontinued.

Our patrol officers are the real face of the department, as they are the ones responding to our numerous calls for service. In addition to their usual yet varied duties, many have other responsibilities, such as evidence and property technician, certified bicycle operators, some do weekly checks on breath-testing equipment, while another assures that all speed measuring devices are checked for annual certification. Another analyzes cell phones with equipment received via a grant. We have officers who are police motorcycle trained, while others' interests lie in criminal investigative follow-ups, helping to ease the detective's work. We also have officers trained as trainers, in areas ranging from domestic violence, to firearms, to defensive tactics. Other areas include pepper spray training, and standardized field sobriety testing. We also have fifteen officers who have completed crisis intervention team training, an intensive week-long learning to deal with and de-escalate those who are suffering mental health crises.