

BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Partnering with the Community
to Provide Service and Safety



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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



2023 was an extraordinary year for the Boulder Police Department and I am grateful to reflect on all that we accomplished together during that year. In 2023 we envisioned a new, progressive, and ambitious plan to guide our policing work forward. Under Chief Herold's leadership, we gathered data-driven policing frameworks – stratified policing models, and problem-oriented policing approaches – to guide what would become our new Boulder Police Department Plan. Boulder's City Council unanimously approved the Reimagine Policing Plan in September 2023, and we've been hard at work putting it into place and bringing its vision into action ever since.

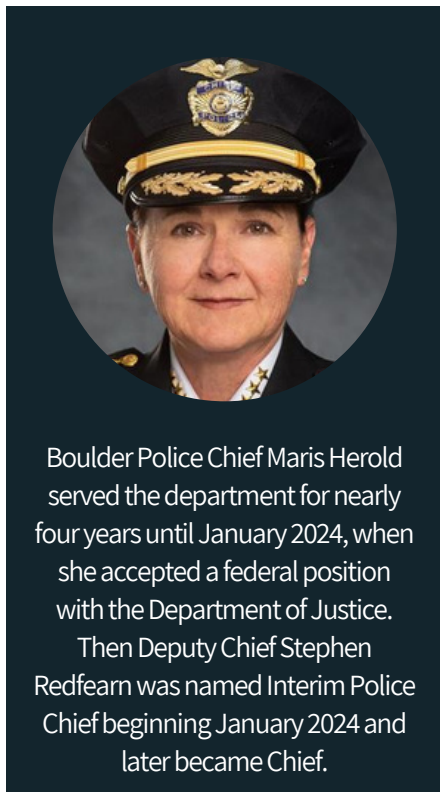
In addition to developing the Reimagine Policing Plan, we also hosted a successful Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) conference in Boulder for hundreds of local, national, and international participants. POP conference attendees learned about real world policing themes such as stratified policing, understanding racial disparities in data sets, and alternative responses to community requests for police service. I was honored to present at the conference alongside Boulder Police's own Chief Maris Herold, Dr. Daniel Reinhard, and with policing experts from around the world.

We had many advances within our own department as well. In our 911 dispatch center, new technology such as Prepared911 gives 911 callers the option to share their phone camera with our dispatchers, giving us the ability to see what the caller is seeing in real time. This helps our first responders better describe suspects, locations and what's going on as we actively respond to a scene.

Another exciting development in 2023: after 20 years, we re-launched our K9 program. We welcomed Astro, a female labrador, to our department to help with explosives and munitions detection and community engagement. Our K9 unit fills an important need when it comes to calls regarding explosives, firearms, and other gun-related crimes. Boulder is a dog-loving community, and Astro has quickly become a beloved member of our department at many community events.

It has been my honor to serve our community alongside the many professional staff and sworn members of our department during 2023 and beyond. As Chief Maris Herold passed the torch to me in January 2024, I was grateful for all that we had accomplished together under her leadership. Our work together in 2023 set our department up for success into 2024 and beyond.

With gratitude, honor and service,
Chief Stephen Redfearn





BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT

OUR MISSION

Partnering with the Community to Provide Service and Safety

OUR VISION

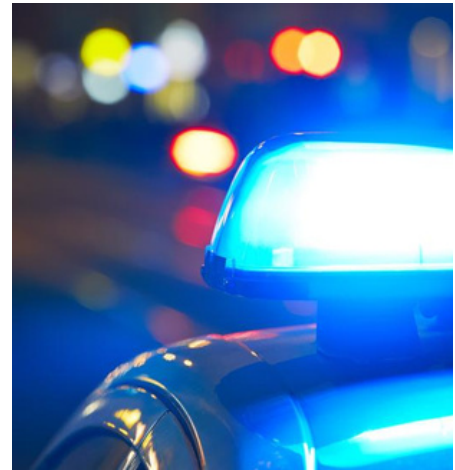
The Boulder Police Department strives to be a premier law enforcement agency and a model of excellence in policing by creating partnerships, building trust, reducing crime and improving the quality of life for our community.

WHAT WE VALUE

- Public Trust
- Accountability to the Law
- The Rights of all People
- Courage and Selfless Honor
- Personal and Organizational Integrity
- Excellent Service
- Respect for our Community and One Another
- Our Employees and their Service to our Community

2023 PUBLIC SAFETY OVERVIEW

Below are some key indicators about public safety in Boulder during 2023 and the response of the Boulder Police Department.



CALLS FOR SERVICE

72,945

This is the number of calls for service to the police department and it includes both 911 calls and non-emergency calls. In 2023, the five most common types of calls included:

- medical calls
- animal complaints
- welfare checks
- trespassing
- noise complaints

However, many different kinds of circumstances can fit into any one of those categories. Call issues may be solved by a dispatcher or require one or more police officers to respond to a scene.

In recent years BPD has implemented several strategies and technologies to improve communication with the community. For example, the dispatch center can now receive livestreaming video to help us better understand an emergency event. We also employ a text message-based survey sent out to users of police services to help us understand whether the community was satisfied or unsatisfied with the emergency response they received.

2023 PUBLIC SAFETY OVERVIEW

Number of Reports

18,569

This is the count of police reports, both for criminal and non-criminal circumstances, written by BPD employees. It includes online crime reports and altogether these reports document a wide range of circumstances like missing persons, vehicle impounds, death investigations, and many others.

Drug Offenses

475

This is the number of drug crimes charged by BPD officers for any kind of drug possession, distribution, or manufacturing incidents. This includes the possession or sale of drugs like fentanyl (a lethal synthetic opiate), and other substances such as methamphetamine.

Number of Custodial Arrests

2,019

This is the number of arrests involving an officer detaining a community member and transporting them to the jail. These circumstances are both as a function of observed crime, and from active warrants for crimes that previously occurred. This number is separate from tickets or summons to court that are not custodial arrests; this is also separate from involuntary transports to a drug treatment center, hospital, or mental health facility.

Number of Traffic Crashes

2,727

This is the number of traffic crashes, including those with and without an officer present. These vary in level of seriousness. There were four fatal crashes in Boulder and approximately 251 crashes that involved any kind of injury in 2023.

Records Information Requests

6,968

This is the number of public information requests that came into the Boulder Police Department through the Records and Information Services unit (e.g., this excludes information requests from other law enforcement agencies or other city departments). These vary in breadth and scope with some requests being for a single report and others requiring tens or hundreds of hours of redaction, analysis, or collating.

Victims Helped

1,755

This is the number of victims assisted by Victim Services. These are victims of crime or other disasters (e.g., fires) that benefit from being connected to resources and compassionately trained staff and volunteers.

2023 PUBLIC SAFETY OVERVIEW

Person Crime

1,518

"Person crimes" are a designation used by the federal government to group and compare crimes between the over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States using its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) classification. They include assault, intimidation, murder, and sex offenses (like unlawful sexual contact). The greatest number of these is "simple assault" - like university student brawling or someone punching someone else with a closed fist.

Property Crimes

5,585

Property crimes include things like burglary, motor vehicle theft, shoplifting, identity theft, and other crimes involving property. The greatest number of property crimes are theft and vandalism.

Proactive Police Incidents

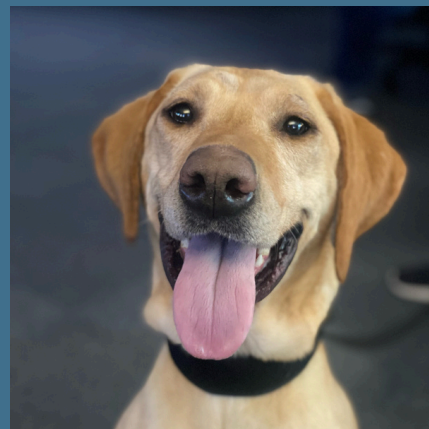
20,594

Proactive police incidents include high visibility directed patrols, patrols on foot or bike in Boulder's public spaces, traffic stops, and pedestrian contacts in the community.

Animal Protection Incidents

4,784

This is the number of incidents in 2023 that involved an Animal Protection Officer (APO). For most of the year we had four APOs and one working supervisor. About six out of every ten of these incidents were animal complaints (a kind of call for service from the community). Among all kinds of calls for police service, animal complaints are commonly among the top five kinds of calls we receive; these complaints warrant their own team with specialized training and experience. Animal protection also responded to about 46 other kinds of problems in Boulder that had an animal protection component. For example, our team helped to evacuate or house animals during structure fires. APOs are also active in the community. About 1/3 of their incidents in 2023 were patrols, self-initiated incidents, or investigations into circumstances (such as dog bites).





2023 BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted the International Problem-Oriented Policing Conference
- Updated our Digital Systems to Better Serve the Public
- Reinstated the K9 Program and Onboarded our K9, Astro
- Recruited Diverse New Officers and Professional Staff
- Developed and Approved Our Reimagine Policing Plan
- Pledged to the 30x30 Initiative
- Awarded Grant Funding to Increase DUI Enforcement
- Awarded Grant Funding for Virtual Reality Technology to Improve Training
- Implemented Additional Community Feedback Tools to Inform Activities

CONTACT US

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