

2023

---

# ELLENSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

---

ANNUAL REPORT



# 2023 was a year of highs and lows

To the Honorable Mayor, City Council and the Ellensburg Community, I present the 2023 Ellensburg Police Department Annual Report.

This past year there appears to be a return to normalcy in the post-COVID world of policing in Ellensburg. We handled 18,173 calls, 300 fewer than 2022. Officers made approximately 940 criminal contacts which was 9% fewer than 2022. Mental health-related referrals were the same as 2022. We had a 32% increase in juvenile arrests. We have seen significant improvements in crimes involving child victims, violent crimes and malicious mischief crimes. Unfortunately, drug-related deaths grew significantly. We have made continued progress of several programs and projects which will reduce crime and improve the quality of life for our community.

2023 is the first full year where the animal shelter was managed by the Yakima Humane Society. The primary benefit to the community has been the full utilization of our Animal Control Officer for animal patrols and bite investigations. We had a record year of animal-at-large calls and several significant dog bites. I anticipate the call volume to dissipate as we continue with sustained patrols and enforcement into the coming year.

In 2023, we celebrated the retirement of Sgt. Brett Koss who has served the community for more than 26 years. With Brett's retirement a vacancy for sergeant was created. At the conclusion of the testing Kliff Caillier was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Detective Ryan Potter was promoted to corporal.

## HIRING

We started 2023 with three vacancies: a patrol officer, an analyst and a records clerk position. Additionally, a sergeant retired and an officer transferred to another agency leaving the department with five vacancies to fill. The hiring process has taken a lot of time and resources from our primary mission. We did not reduce our hiring standards and I'm glad to report the department is fully staffed with outstanding employees. Our new employees are Kaila Moore (Law Enforcement Records Clerk), Michel Navarro (Police Officer), Kraemer Rickman (Police Officer) Jacob Claybaugh (Police Officer), and Eliann Carr (Crime and Intel Analyst).

## CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY

Three years ago the department moved to an accountability-driven leadership model which utilizes timely data to assist in crime reduction and prevention



strategies. This process further utilizes data and analysis to focus on individuals, crimes and locations where crime is occurring. In support of this strategy, the department created an analyst position. Beginning in 2021, we worked with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) on a grant to evaluate the feasibility of the department creating an analytical program. Through this partnership, BJA contracted with IDEA analytics, a Phoenix-based company specializing in law enforcement data analysis. In 2022, IDEA completed their assessment and determined we were prepared to move forward. As part of Council's 2023 - '24 budget, funding for the analyst position was approved and on Sept. 1, 2023, we hired Eliann Carr. As we further develop our analytical capacity, we look forward to reducing the victimization of our community.

Everybody in the department is working very hard to meet the needs of our community and we are excited to see what new challenges 2024 brings to the city and to our profession.

## CRIME REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY

During the last couple of years crime in Washington and across the nation has dramatically increased for a variety of reasons. In Ellensburg we have been fortunate that violent crimes and overall crime is continuing in a downward trend; however, we are not immune. We are feeling the effects of criminals from outside of Kittitas County. Victimized our community has come in many forms from pursuits involving stolen vehicles, to smash and grab burglaries to organized crime groups. Ellensburg is being targeted.

In response to these threats and others we are creating a drone program, thanks to the funding and support of the Council, to assist in locating and apprehension of criminals. This technology will also assist with scene security during tactical operations and search and rescue calls.

We are also looking at other technology, which is being commonly used to detect stolen vehicles, a growing problem both in Ellensburg and statewide.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve this wonderful community and the City of Ellensburg as your police chief.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ken Wade".  
Chief Ken Wade

FROM THE CHIEF



# Thank you all for your service



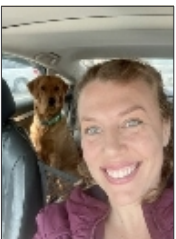
**Sgt. Brett Koss** retired on June 29 after more than 26 years of service to the City of Ellensburg. Sgt Koss was hired as a police officer on Nov. 11, 1996. He was promoted to sergeant on April 1, 2008, and has served in several specialty assignments over the years, including K-9, Detective Sergeant, Reserve Coordinator, and more. Thank you for your service, Sgt Koss, and congratulations on your retirement!

**Kaila Moore** joined the Records team on Feb. 16, 2023. Kaila is an Ellensburg High School graduate, and her background includes working at Central Washington University as a payroll coordinator and at Winegar's as a team lead. Kaila is also a volunteer firefighter with Kittitas County Fire District 1.



**Jacob Claybaugh** joined the Ellensburg Police Department on Feb. 16, 2023 as a police officer. He has been an officer with the Central Washington University Police Department since 2021. Originally from Minnesota, Jacob went into the military before joining the police profession at CWU. He has two children.

**Michel Navarro** joined the department in November. She was born and raised in Southern California and graduated from Central Washington University with a Law and Justice degree and a minor in Sociology. Michel is a committed rugby player, which has taken her around the world and exposed her to people and culture. She retired her rugby uniform to pursue a career in law enforcement with a mission to help others. She worked at a youth corrections facility, Central Washington University Police Department, and built solid relationships in the community. She's excited to learn, serve and help the community.



**Eliann Carr** joined the department on Sept. 1, 2023 as the Crime and Intelligence Analyst. Eliann retired from the U.S. Airforce after 20 years of service and has worked in academia teaching psychology for the past nine years. Her knowledge in strategic planning and data analysis will help the EPD team continue to serve and support the Ellensburg community.

**Kraemer Rickman** is a Washington native and an Ellensburg transplant. Before joining EPD, he worked in the construction industry building homes. Becoming a police officer has been a long-standing goal and he's excited to give back to the Ellensburg community that has poured so much into him. He is excited to serve and help in his role as an officer while pursuing excellence. He enjoys spending time with his family and the great outdoors.



# HELLO & GOODBYE





# Recognition



## Officer of the Year – Ryan Shull

The Ellensburg Police Department has selected Detective Ryan Shull as the Officer of the Year for 2023. Detective Shull has spent the past 12 years serving the department as a detective. His extensive knowledge of criminal investigations and his tireless work ethic have given him many successful resolutions to his cases. He is a team player who not only shares his investigative knowledge with others but is willing to help them in a moment's notice. Detective Shull's dedication to the police department and to the citizens of Ellensburg has not gone unnoticed.

## Chief's Award – Dan Hansberry

For his many years of providing leadership and support to the Ellensburg Police Department, Washington State Special Olympics, CASA and the many committees and commission which impact the quality of life in Ellensburg.



2023 AWARDS





# Officers used minimal amount of force



Washington State law requires each law enforcement agency to report individual incidents where a police officer employed by the agency used force .

Of the 18,173 calls handled by officers in 2023, a response to overcome the resistance of an individual occurred .00016% of the time.

There were four instances where officers were assaulted during 2023. In one of those assaults a suspect advanced on the officer with a knife. In another the suspect advanced on an officer with a rock.

The Ellensburg Police Department has a reporting system in place for any incident in which any level of

force or display of force was used by an officer.

The shift supervisor completes an investigation into each incident of response to resistance and the results are documented within a software program called SmartForce.

This electronic reporting system meets state and federal use of force reporting standards and provides data analysis, including an early warning matrix. The early warning matrix is used to analyze officer complaints, use of force, officer involved collisions and vehicle pursuits. Through this process all officers were found to be in compliance.

INCIDENT TYPE	2021	2022	2023
A fatality occurred in connection with the use of force;	0	0	0
• Great bodily harm occurred in connection with the use of force;	0	0	0
• Substantial bodily harm occurred with the use of force;	0	0	0
• Discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person;	0	0	0
• Pointed a firearm at a person;	1	0	0
• Used a chokehold or vascular neck restraint;	0	0	0
• Used an electronic control weapon, a Taser, against a person;	0	0	1
• Used oleoresin capsicum spray against a person;	0	2	0
• Discharged an impact munitions at or in the direction of a person;	0	1	0
• Struck a person using an impact weapon or instrument	0	0	0
• Used any part of their body to physically strike a person;	1	0	1
• Used a vehicle to intentionally strike a person or vehicle;	0	0	0
• Engaged in a vehicle pursuit;	1	0	0

RESISTANCE RESPONSE



# Department investigates all complaints



The Ellensburg Police Department accepts all complaints involving any member of the department and complaints about the department itself.

- During 2023, the department received eight complaints, which included, two response to resistance, three job performance and three off-duty complaints.
- Of those eight complaints, five were unfounded and three were sustained.
- One job performance complaint alleged bias policing and was determined to be unfounded.\*
- Four of the investigations were initiated by the department administration based on information received and brought to the command staff's attention.

## ALL COMPLAINTS ARE:

- Reviewed by command staff and assigned to a supervisor for investigation.
- All complaints alleging criminal conduct are referred to an outside agency for criminal investigation.

- All investigations include witness statements, officer's reports, body camera footage, surveillance video and any physical evidence.
- Completed investigations are reviewed by command to ensure they are complete.
- The chief reviews the investigation and determines the findings.
- The chief notifies the involved officer(s), the complainant, the union representative in writing.
- Complaints involving discipline, a criminal violation or using force causing serious injury or death are reported to the Criminal Justice Training Commission.
  - Finding may result in de-certification.
- All investigations are reviewed by the city attorney
- All are reviewed by the county prosecutor
- All are entered and tracked in computer program for trend analysis and or future training needs.
- Data is compiled and shared with the city council and the public in department's annual report.

INCIDENT TYPE	2023	2022	2021
• Job Performance	3 (*1)	9 (*5)	10 (*1)
• Vehicle Operation	0	0	3
• Excessive Force	2	0	3
• Off-duty Conduct	3	1	0
• Complaint total	8	10	16
*Bias Policing allegation			

\*Unfounded means there was insufficient evidence to show a violation of policy occurred. Exonerated means the alleged incident did occur, but the actions were within department policy and the law.

COMPLAINTS



# Eyes on the road, hands on the wheel



In 2023, Ellensburg Police Officers received both classroom and practical instruction pertaining to Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVOC). In the spring of 2023, officers attended their annual in-service training where they received classroom instruction covering department policy pertaining to pursuits. Additionally, they received training in the use and application of a pursuit tactical intervention known as Stop Sticks.

That summer officers received realistic pursuit driving training at the Hanford Emergency Vehicle Operators Course in Richland. This facility is a closed course facility allowing officers to train in realistic pursuit driving conditions while in a safe location. The operation of a patrol vehicle comes with great responsibility, especially during emergency driving. For that reason about 72 hours of EVOC training was provided to officers over the course of 2023.

# EVOC TRAINING





# Continued training improves skills



Training for a police officer begins when the officer attends the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission's 720-hour Basic Law Enforcement Academy. Once an officer graduates, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission mandates each officer attend a minimum 24 hours of continuing education each year. The Ellensburg Police Department holds an annual 40-hour in-service training which covers basic topics related to law enforcement including de-escalation, less lethal options, defensive tactics, firearms proficiency, evidence collection, and legal update. Most of those classes were taught by our own officers who received training to be state



certified instructors. We also included training from outside presenters on bias-based policing, Alzheimer's, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, and financial well-being.

Officers are also encouraged to participate in additional training outside of the department that aligns with their career goals which would benefit their knowledge in law enforcement. In 2023, officers averaged 78 hours of individual training, exceeding the state mandate. The Ellensburg Police Department will continue its commitment to provide training to our officers to help give the citizens of our community with the best possible services.

# TRAINING



# Patrol is the department's back bone



The Ellensburg Police Department's patrol division plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of the community. Patrol officers conduct routine patrols throughout the city to deter crime, maintain order and respond to emergencies. While doing so they monitor high-traffic areas, neighborhoods and commercial districts to address safety concerns and prevent criminal activity. Locations are identified for increased patrol emphasis by ongoing analysis of previous calls for service and complaints from residents. Patrol officers respond promptly to emergency calls including reports of crimes in progress, accidents, medical emergencies and disturbances.

Traffic enforcement is a primary duty of patrol officers. By enforcing traffic laws and regulations officers promote road safety and reduce the risk of accidents. Conducting traffic stops, issuing citations, warnings and educating motorists about traffic laws and safe driving practices is part of the department's goals and objectives.

Officers engage in community policing while on patrol, building positive relationships with community members through proactive engagement, outreach events and partnerships. This is accomplished by collaborating with residents, businesses, schools and community organizations to address concerns and

improve quality of life for all. There are organized events throughout the year to include National Night Out, Cop on Top, Touch-a-Truck and the Citizen's Academy. Beyond these events officers are encouraged to build relationships with the community during the normal course of their shift.

Overall, the patrol division plays a vital role in maintaining public safety, preventing crime and fostering positive relationships with the community. Through proactive policing, responsive service and collaborative partnerships, officers work to create a safer and more secure environment for all residents and visitors.

There are 21 officers assigned to the patrol division. When fully staffed 20 of these officers are assigned to four patrol squads with five officers on each squad. Patrol squads work a 12-hour shift ranging from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. It's important to point out that this is an optimum staffing schedule but due to vacancies, vacation, training and sick leave, full staffing levels are not always realized. The operations captain oversees the patrol division and works closely with the patrol sergeants toward achieving the department's goals and objectives. A full-time School Resource Officer is assigned to the patrol division and supplements the day shift squads when school is not in session.

## 2023 PATROL STATISTICS

**Calls for service: 16,860**

**Reports written: 4,669**

**Traffic Stops: 3,010**

**Check welfare: 808**

**Suspicious: 799**

**Animal Problem: 798**

PATROL





# Detectives specialize in case type



Detectives are from left: Derek Holmes, Ryan Potter, Sgt. Cameron Clasen, Ryan Shull, Daniel Ashby and John Bean.

The Ellensburg Police Department has five detectives who are supervised by Sgt. Cameron Clasen.

Three generalist detectives investigate a variety of crimes ranging from fraud, child abuse, rape and controlled substance homicides. Cases are forwarded to the criminal investigations unit from patrol officers who take the initial report. If a case needs additional investigation that may require a lengthy process or a specialized skillset, patrol officers can refer the case to a detective. The three generalist detectives include Ryan Shull, Ryan Potter and Daniel Ashby. Ryan Shull has been in the unit since 2011, Ryan Potter was selected to be a detective in 2020 and Daniel Ashby came to the unit in late 2022. The generalist detectives investigated more than 200 incidents in 2023.

The unit also has two Anti-Crime detectives who are primarily responsible for proactive criminal investigations focusing on drug distribution and property crimes. John Bean has been an Anti-Crime detective since 2015, and Derek Holmes has been an Anti-Crime detective since 2018. Anti-Crime detectives

investigated more than 50 cases in 2023 and assisted generalist detectives in larger investigations and crime scene processing.

The generalist detectives are all part of the Central Basin Investigation Team which is an independent investigative team (IIT) serving Kittitas, Grant and Adams counties. An IIT is a team of qualified and certified investigators, civilian crime scene specialists and at least two non-law enforcement community representatives who operate completely independent of any involved agency to conduct investigations of police deadly force incidents. An IIT is created when multiple law enforcement agencies enter into a written agreement to investigate police use of deadly force incidents in their geographical regions. All generalist detectives have obtained their lead investigator certificates through the Criminal Justice Training Center. The certificate indicates they have the required experience and training such as homicide investigation, interview and interrogation, violence de-escalation and mental health training.

# DETECTIVES





# Records staff is first to help



Records clerks from left are Renee Moore, Cammie Dixon, Kaila Moore, Lisa Tweed and Supervisor Kristy Holcombe.

When entering the Ellensburg Police Department, whether to file a report with an officer or fill out a public records request, the first person you will see is a Records Clerk. The Records Division is made up of four full-time records clerks and one records supervisor.

As your first point of contact with the department, records clerks will direct you to the appropriate forms, departments or officers to best assist you, whether by phone, e-mail or in person. Every record, report, ticket or document handled or generated by the police de-

partment will make its way to Records. Records clerks are then responsible for data entry, transcription of recordings, dissemination of confidential information and gathering and reporting statistics.

Additionally, the Records Division fulfills public disclosure requests, concealed pistol license applications and processes parking ticket payments, just to name a few. Information to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is submitted monthly for further crime analysis.

## 2023 RECORDS STATISTICS

**Concealed Pistol Licenses: 165**  
**Firearms Processed: 431**  
**Warrants Entered: 395**

**Court Orders Entered: 172**  
**Public Disclosure Requests: 1367**  
**Reports Processed: 4657**

# RECORDS



# Officer is friendly resource in schools



The 2023 school year marks School Resource Officer Lucas Anderson's second year in the SRO position.

Officer Anderson has engrained himself in the schools and is an appreciated presence each day. He has worked hard to build relationships with both faculty and students on all Ellensburg School District campuses.

Officer Anderson splits his time between each

of the schools, providing security and education to each. Not only does SRO Anderson walk the halls in the schools and various games or events, but he also provides numerous presentations in classrooms throughout the year.

Driving past or visiting one of the schools you will likely see SRO Anderson conducting school zone traffic enforcement before and after school or walking the commons and halls, interacting with students.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

# It's about quality for code officers



The Code Enforcement division consists of two limited-commissioned officers who handle parking enforcement as well as nuisance ordinances throughout the City of Ellensburg. With limited parking in the downtown as well as around Central Washington University's campus, Code Enforcement spends a significant amount of time patrolling the RPZ zones and downtown areas.

Code Enforcement also deals with quality-of-life and nuisance issues. Some of these issues include large amounts of garbage in areas, weed abatement as well as snow and ice removal in the winter months.

If you have any nuisance or parking concerns, please contact Code Enforcement at (509) 962-7282 or email at [parking@ellensburgwa.gov](mailto:parking@ellensburgwa.gov), Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## 2023 CODE ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

**RPZ Time: 241 Hours**

**RPZ Warnings: 291**

**RPZ Tickets: 366**

**Parking Time: 526 Hours**

**Parking Complaints: 568**

**Parking Warnings: 1,605**

**Proactive Nuisance Calls: 1,023**

**Downtown Time: 404 Hours**

**Downtown Warnings: 751**

**Downtown Tickets: 609**

**Code Warnings: 258**

**Code Complaints: 250**

CODE ENFORCEMENT



# Officer uses proactive approach



2023 marked the first complete year of the Ellensburg Police Department's Animal Control Division not being in charge of operating the animal shelter.

In the fall of 2022, the animal shelter was placed under contract with the Yakima Humane Society. This change has allowed Heidi Monson, EPD's Animal Con-

trol Officer, to be more proactive in the community as well as be more available for animal complaints and investigations. Through proactive patrols, contacts and education, the Animal Control Division is continually working on reducing non-compliance issues which often lead to bites or other issues.

## 2023 ANIMAL CONTROL STATISTICS

**Calls for Service: 574**  
**Impounded Animals: 139**

**Bite Investigations: 27**  
**Dangerous Animal Investigations: 14**

**Animal City Park Violations: 163**

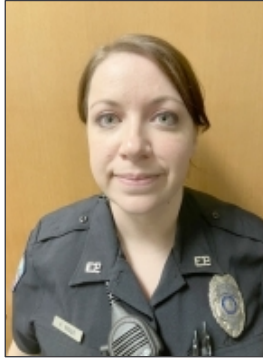
ANIMAL CONTROL



# Reserves are essential

In 2023, the Reserve Officer Program for the Ellensburg Police Department thrived. We conducted a joint reserve academy with the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office. While the class was small, we welcomed our newest reserve Kelsie Riggs into the program. Since graduating she has been actively riding with full time officers, taking reports, investigating criminal behavior and she even made a few arrests.

The addition of Reserve Officer Riggs brings our cadre up to six officers. Those officers include school administrators, professional security officers and a food delivery driver. The reserves each received a minimum of 24 hours of continuing training this year. They trained in such exciting topics



as patrol tactics, use of force, defensive tactics, de-escalation, Crisis Intervention and Duty to Intervene training.

Officers in the reserve program volunteer to serve their community as part time police officers in order to make the community safer and be positive role models in the community. In addition to working the road, reserve officers take part in many community outreach programs such as, Cop on Top, The Kittitas County Rodeo Parade, National Night Out, Shop with a Cop and school athletic events.

If you are interested in the reserve program, contact Corp. Josh Ingraham at [ingrahamj@ci.ellensburg.wa.us](mailto:ingrahamj@ci.ellensburg.wa.us). We would love to have you along for the ride.

## 2023 RESERVE STATISTICS

**Reserve Officers: 6**

**Hours Worked: 1,705.5**

RESERVES



# Huge turn out for Eat with the Heat



The 2023 Ellensburg Police Department Eat With the Heat and National Night Out event marked the 13th anniversary that the department has sponsored the event.

Each year the Ellensburg Police Department hosts this community event geared toward child safety, on the first Tuesday in August. A free barbecue was provided to the community along with numerous displays from local law enforcement and first responder agencies which allowed community members the chance to interact with first responders in a positive manner.

Other educational booths were also present from agencies including a car seat safety inspection booth,

Child ID kit booth, Kittitas Valley Hospital, Kittcom, ASPEN, CASA, 811 Call Before You Dig and more.

THE 2023 event was by far the largest turnout EPD has ever had. The food line snaked through the event and spanned the entire venue. Servers made more than 700 burgers and 250 hot dogs to eager families. The weather was perfect, and the event went off without issue.

Thank you to our partnering first responders, KVFR, WDFW, CWU PD, KCSO, DNR and WSP. Another thank you to Super One Foods, Fred Meyer, Franz Bakery, Sysco, Twin Pines Drive In and Utopia who supply the food for the event each year.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



# Fun for all at annual event



The 2023 Cop on Top event was a great success as Law enforcement raised more than \$6,000 for Special Olympics Washington during the event.

This year's event had a couple new twists. Thanks to a grant from Fred Meyer, the department was able to obtain 150 backpacks and fill the packs with back to school items to give as goodie bags to school age children. We also raised money for the event by bringing in a dunk station where kids and community members



could take their chances at dunking a police officer. Chief Wade was the first to volunteer. Chief Wade definitely got soaked.

A hot dog barbecue was also offered by Fred Meyer, with the proceeds going to Cop on Top. Last year also marked the last year to see Capt. Dan Hansberry on the roof of Fred Meyer. Capt. Hansberry was the one who initially started Ellensburg's Cop on Top event and has been a staple on the roof each year. He will be missed as he moves into retirement.

COP ON TOP



# Keeping children safe



The Ellensburg Police Department currently has two certified Car Seat Technicians – Records Specialist Cammie Dixon and Officer Christian Alviar.

In 2023, EPD hosted three Car Seat Clinics for community members. Car Seat Techs were also

available for inspections and questions at the annual National Night Out barbecue held in August.

In 2023, about 102 car seat checks were performed by technicians and 25 car seats were gifted to families in need.

CAR SEATS



## Giving back



In 2023, 12 EPD officers participated in the annual Kittitas County Shop with a Cop and Firefighter event this year. A total of 53 elementary children from Kittitas County met with local first responders at the Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue station where they enjoyed a breakfast prepared by the Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue firefighters.

Local first responders purchased bicycles so the children who needed a bicycle had the opportunity to be drawn to win one. Once the drawing was done, there were seven names that hadn't been drawn so two first responders decided to go in together to purchase the remaining seven bikes for the children who weren't drawn. This means every child who needed a bike this year got one! They were also provided with a

new helmet.

The children enjoyed a shopping spree with their first responder at BiMart. Children picked out gifts for themselves as well as for others in their family. The children got to meet Santa on their way out of BiMart and get their picture taken.

New this year, 20 local elementary teachers volunteered to wrap the gifts the children purchased. Also new this year, Windermere Real Estate provided all the children and their family with a Christmas meal basket that included a ham with sides.

Money was raised from community donations, grants and from first responders. The generosity of this community amazes us each year and we are honored to participate with our local partnering agencies.

# SHOP WITH A COP





# Taking a peek behind the scenes



Every year the Ellensburg Police Department puts on a Citizen's Academy for citizens of this community. The academy is focused on giving general knowledge of police operations, the hiring and selection process for officers, traffic enforcement, use of force, the detectives division and mental health issues in law enforcement and the community.

The course gives the students an opportunity to get a tour of EPD, Kittcom and the jail. Students also get to practice emergency driving, shooting in our indoor range and going through scenarios. This course is not just for people wanting a career in law enforcement, but people that want to learn more about how the EPD serves the community.

CITIZEN'S ACADEMY





WE ARE YOU

