

# **Gurley Alabama Police Department**

## **2017**

## **End of the Year Report**



# A Message from the Chief

It is with great pride that I present you with the 2017 Gurley Police Department (GPD) “*End of the Year Report*”. In the following pages, you will find highlights of the GPD’s accomplishments, which were made possible by the hard work, dedication and teamwork of our officers. I continue to be amazed by the support our Department receives from our residents, visitors, and leaders of our Town. It is only with your support and cooperation that we are able to accomplish so much.

Our focus for 2017 was to provide a “wide open” Community Policing program. Allowing our citizens to assist us as team mates has resulted in improved community relations, an increased exchange of information and a sense of pride in our Town like never before. Hardly a day goes by where someone doesn’t call to give us information on activity in their neighborhoods.

After my first year here, I joked that if I could get 30 people from Gurley in jail, this Town would be like Mayberry. I am proud to say that many of these 30 have been arrested. Drug manufacturing and sells have decreased as Meth labs were raided. Domestic violence has drastically decreased. Public intoxication is nearly non-existent. Unfortunately, as we take one offender off of the streets, someone else rushes in to take their place. While this is an aggravating fact, the men and women of the Gurley Police Department will continue to fight the crime that plagues not only us, but every town and city in our country. With the assistance of our community, we will win!

The safety of our residents is the primary focus of our officers. We strive to ensure our Town is known as a great place to raise your family. As larger cities work their city limits towards ours, it is vital we keep our Town from being swallowed up. We do this by being active in our communities. We have worked to provide activities for our residents to enjoy. Our annual “Police and Patriots” Car Show grows every year. Our “Music in the Park” concerts have been a huge success. We have held Town Hall Meetings to allow an exchange of information between our Town administration and departments, and our community. I swell with pride every time I see someone wearing a Gurley Police T-Shirt.

I look forward to 2018 and promise the officers of “your” department will continue to serve, protect and honor our community.

*Barry W. Pendergraft*  
Chief of Police

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Gurley Police Department will serve our community by protecting life, liberty, property and defending the constitutional rights of all people with compassion, fairness, integrity, and professionalism.

## **CORE VALUES:**

The following values are the basis of all functions of the Gurley Police Department.

- **PROFESSIONALISM:** We strive for excellence in our dedication to duty and our quality of service by adhering to the highest standards of the police profession.
- **INTEGRITY:** We exhibit honesty and character through ethical conduct and moral behavior in our personal and professional lives.
- **COURAGE:** We pursue the mental, physical, and moral strength to resist opposition, withstand danger, fear, and adversity in the performance of our duty.
- **KNOWLEDGE:** We seek truth, awareness, and understanding through education, experience, and training.
- **COMPASSION:** We treat every person with respect and we demonstrate an empathetic understanding in our efforts to serve them.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** We hold ourselves accountable for our performance and conduct; individually, to each other, our Department, our Government, and our Community.

## **VISION STATEMENT:**

The Gurley Police Department will provide the highest quality police services to our citizens and partner with our community to identify and resolve problems. We will constantly evaluate and improve our efforts to enhance public safety and improve the quality of life for all people in Gurley.

We will fulfill this vision by being efficient and firm in our pursuit of justice, tempered with empathy, compassion, and a conscientious respect for the diverse community we serve. We will execute our duties in an impartial, ethical, and professional manner. We will never stray from our path.

# **LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS**

As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner which does not bring discredit to me or my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will never engage in acts of bribery nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... LAW ENFORCEMENT.

# **Gurley Police Personnel**



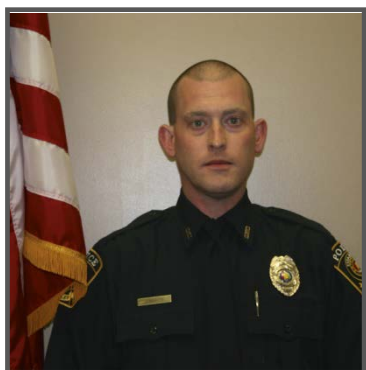
**Barry Pendergraft - Chief of Police**



**Sergeant Cheryl Wooden**



**Officer Steve Davis**



**Officer James Martin**



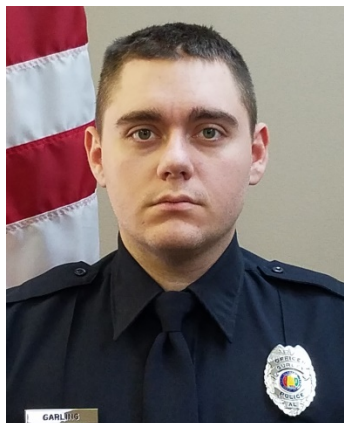
**Investigator Gordon Haynes**



**Officer Darius Pryor**



**Officer Ben Jennings**  
**Community Relations Officer**



**Officer Cody Garling**

## **Personnel Changes**

### **2017 Hires**

#### **Officer Cody Garling**

Officer Garling was hired to fill the slot previously held by Officer Steve Davis. Officer Garling is a local resident and is eager to hit the streets. After he attends the Police Academy, he will join our force as one of “your” police officers

## **2017 Resignations**

### **Officer Steve Davis**

Officer Davis retired from our department and plans to spend more time with his family. Steve was one of our most popular officers within the community due to his outgoing personality. Steve NEVER missed an opportunity to talk to our residents and was very proactive with his community policing efforts. Luckily, Steve is going to continue to assist us as a part time officer while Officer Garling attends the police academy.

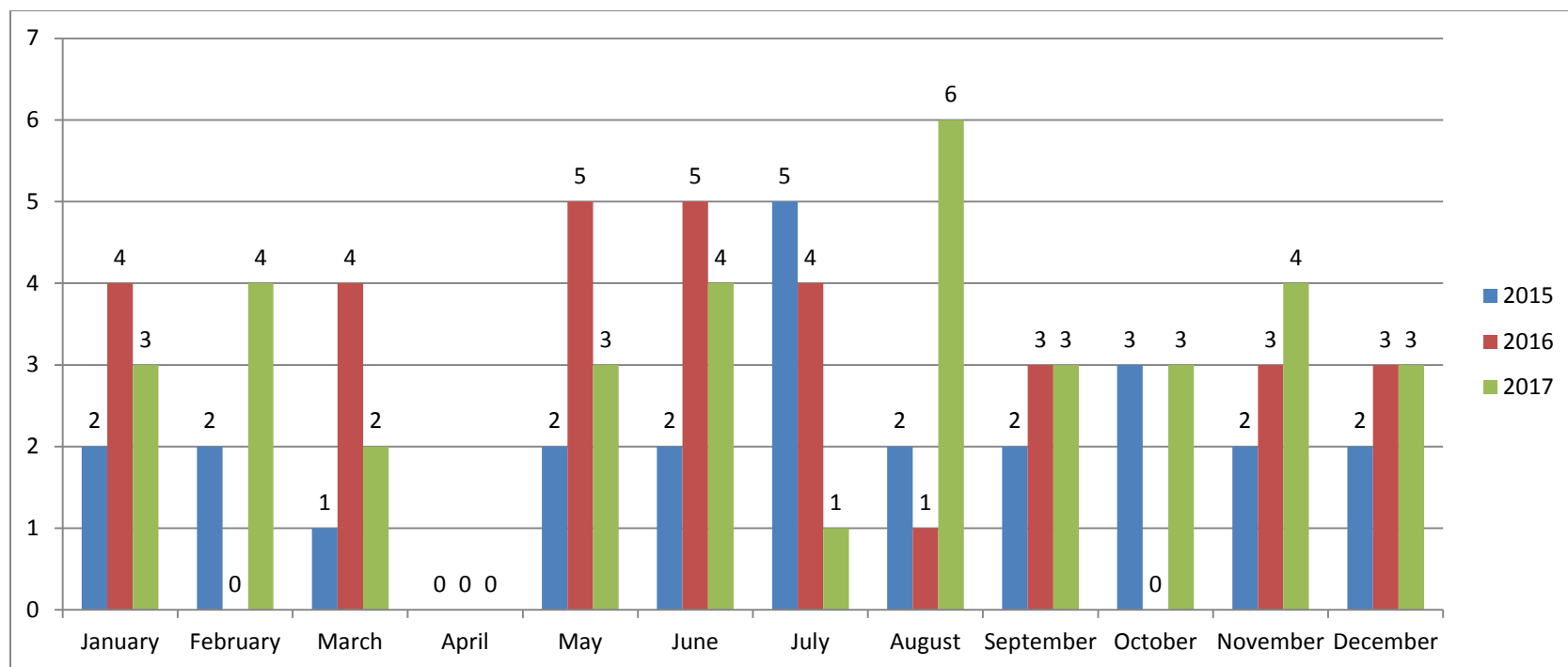


# 2017 Gurley Police Statistics

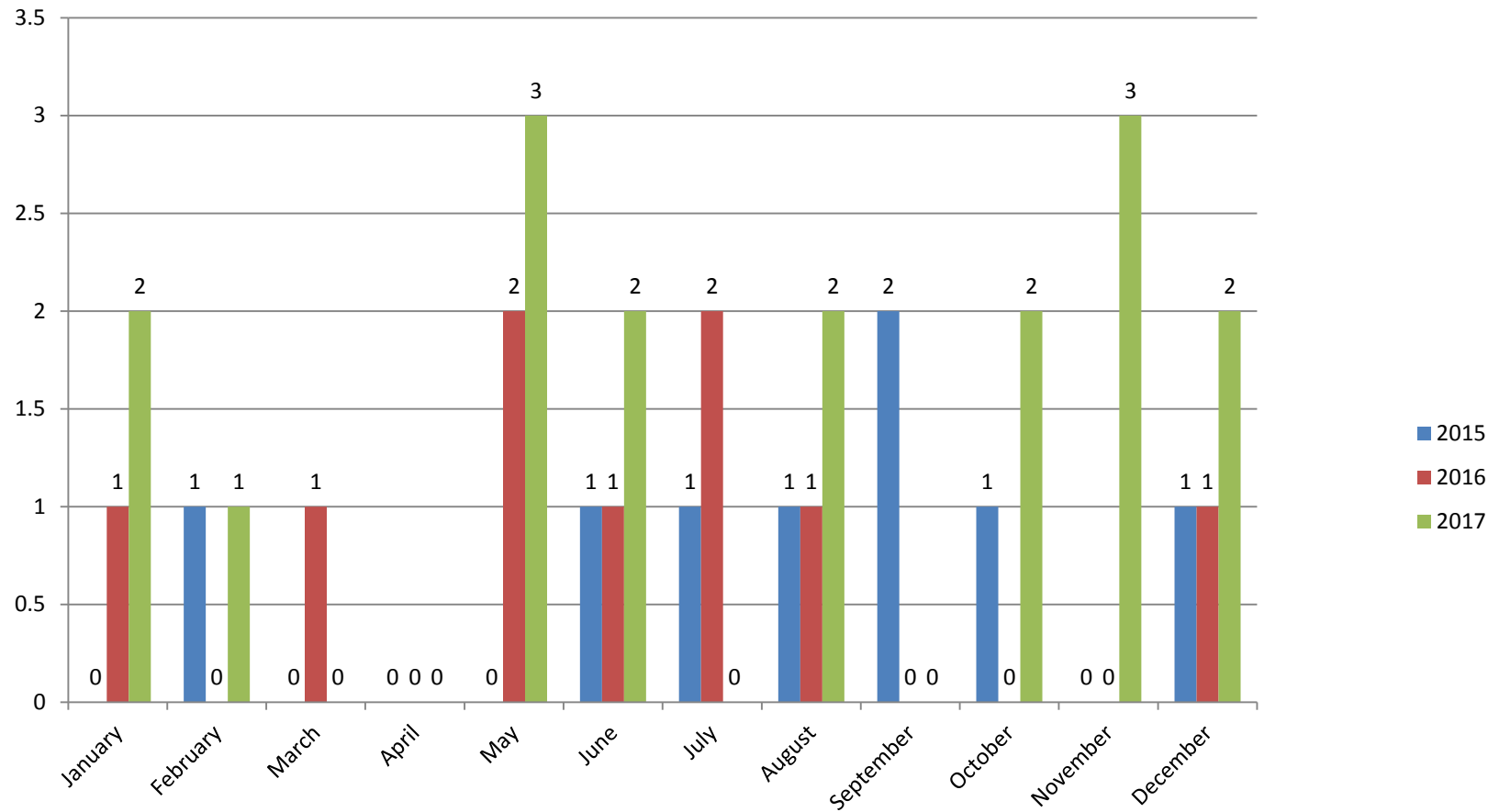
Below are GPD statistics for the 2017 calendar year. Comparison to 2016 and 2015 statistics are included.

## Traffic Crashes

There were 36 Traffic Crashes in the Town of Gurley in 2017. There were no fatality crashes in 2017. There were 17 crashes with injuries in 2017, eight more than 2016. There were no fatalities in 2017.

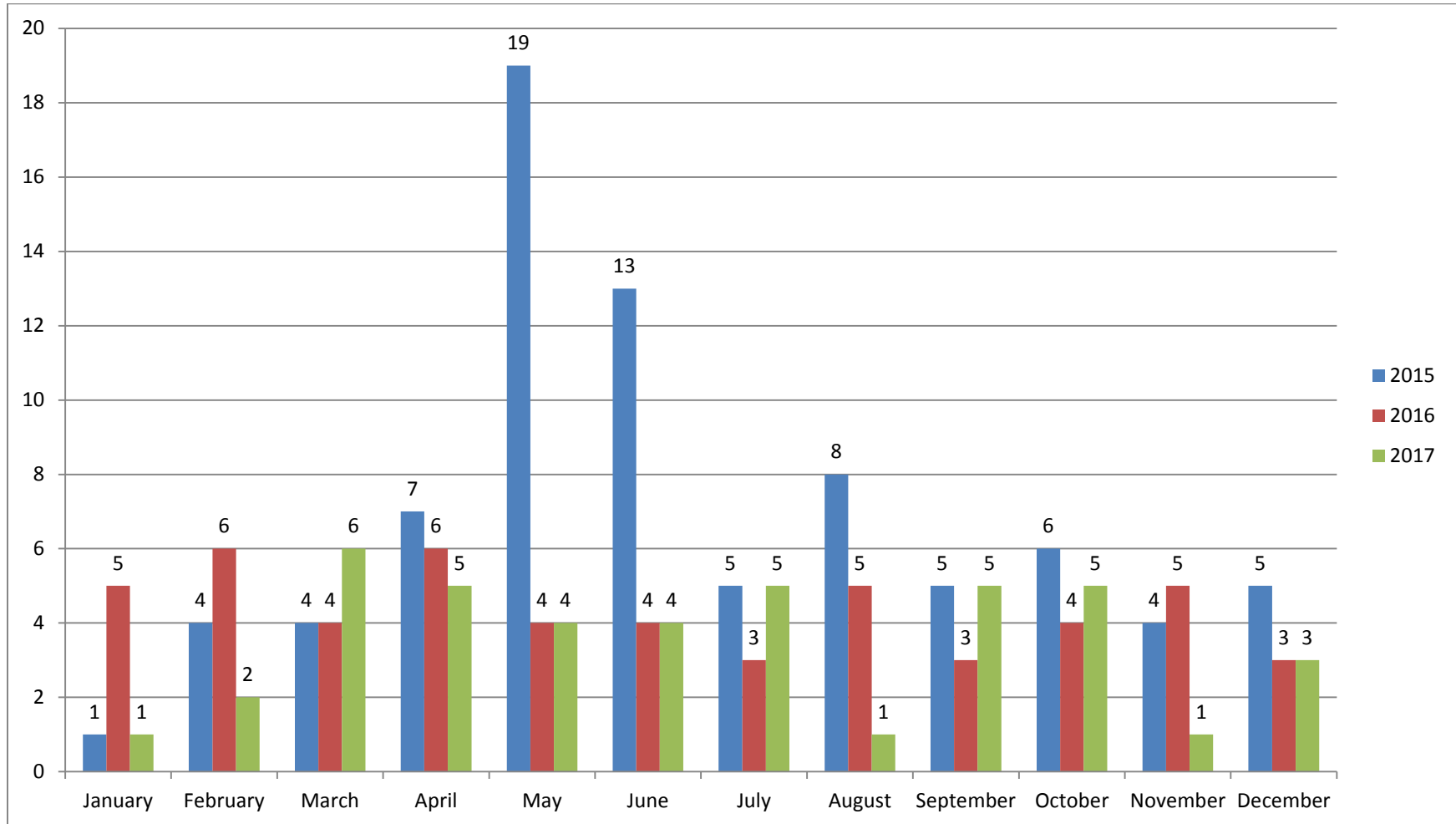


# Crashes With Injuries



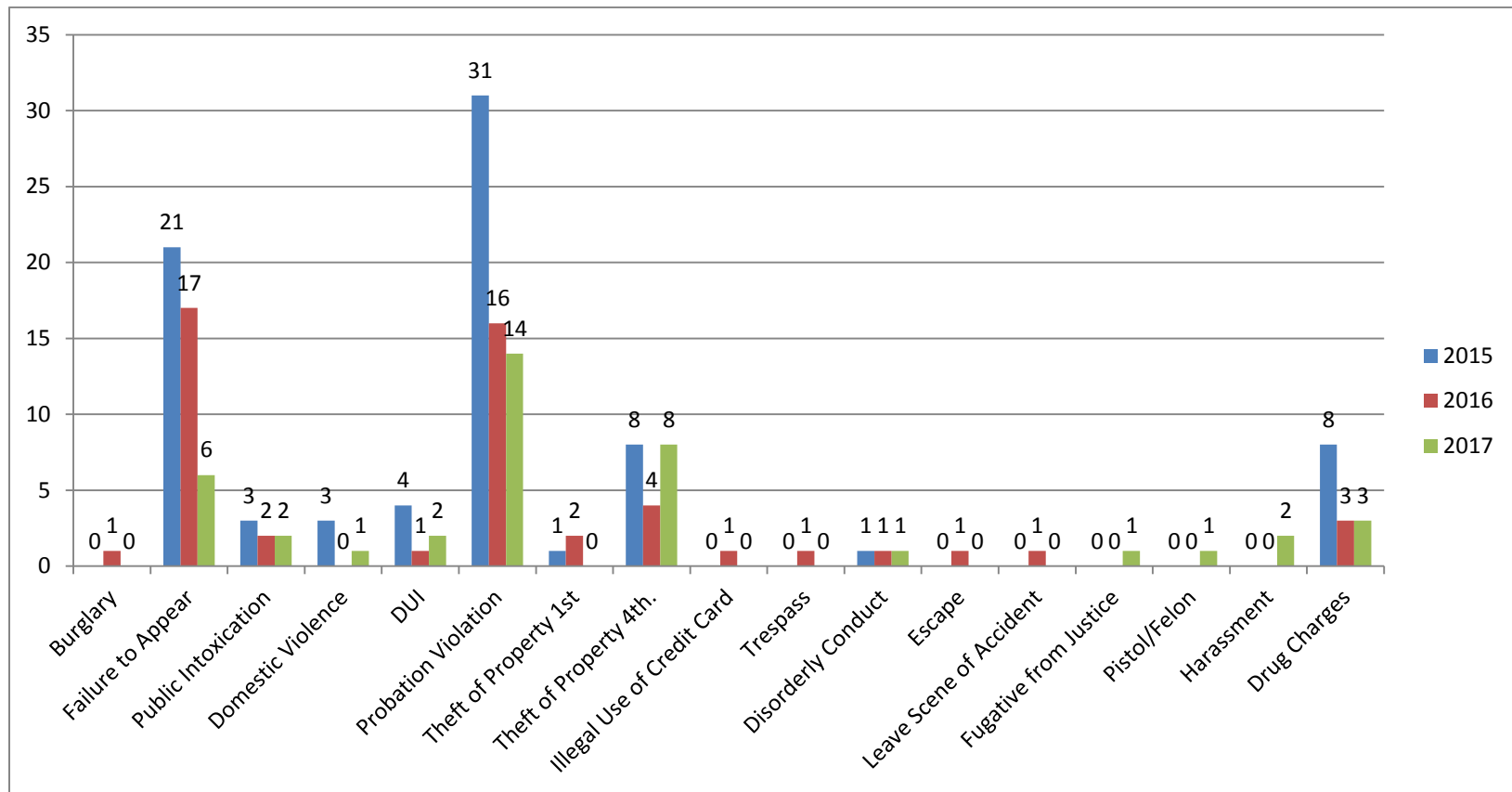
# 2017 Arrests

There were 42 arrests made by GPD officers in 2017. Four of these arrests were felonies.

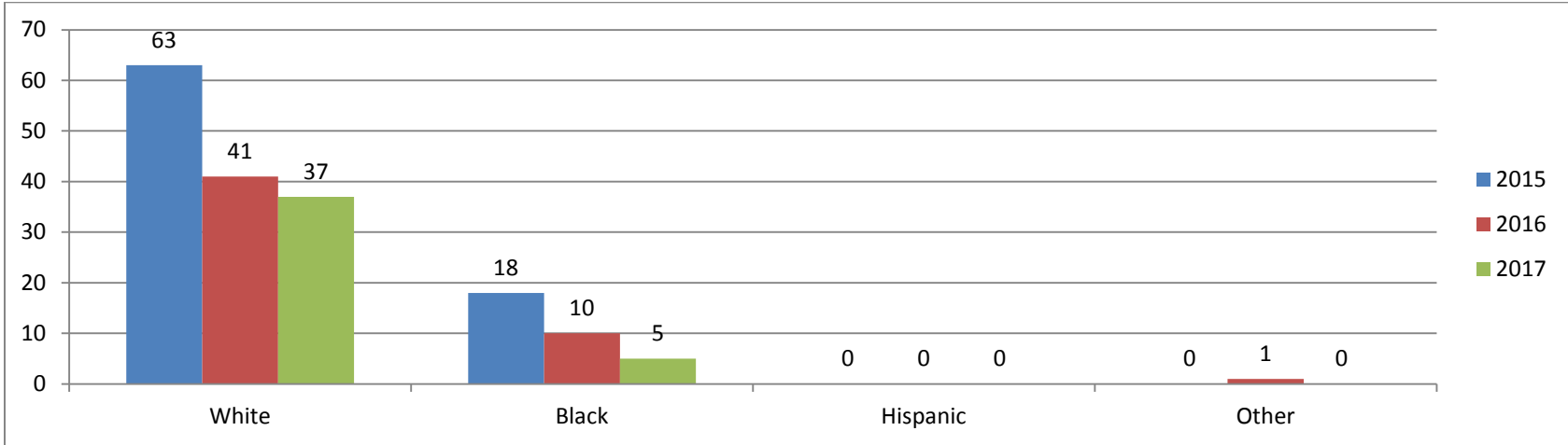


# Arrest Offenses

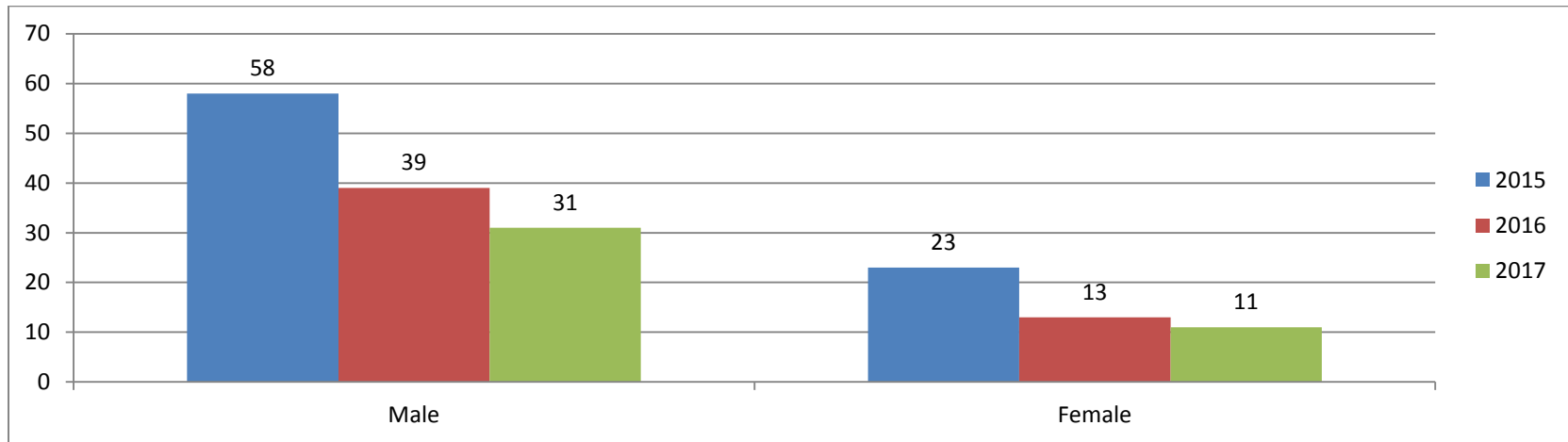
This chart represents the offenses suspects were arrested for. Numerous drug charges are not listed due to the STAC Team documenting the arrests. Felony drug cases where Meth Labs were raided are not included in these numbers. They are kept by the STAC Team.



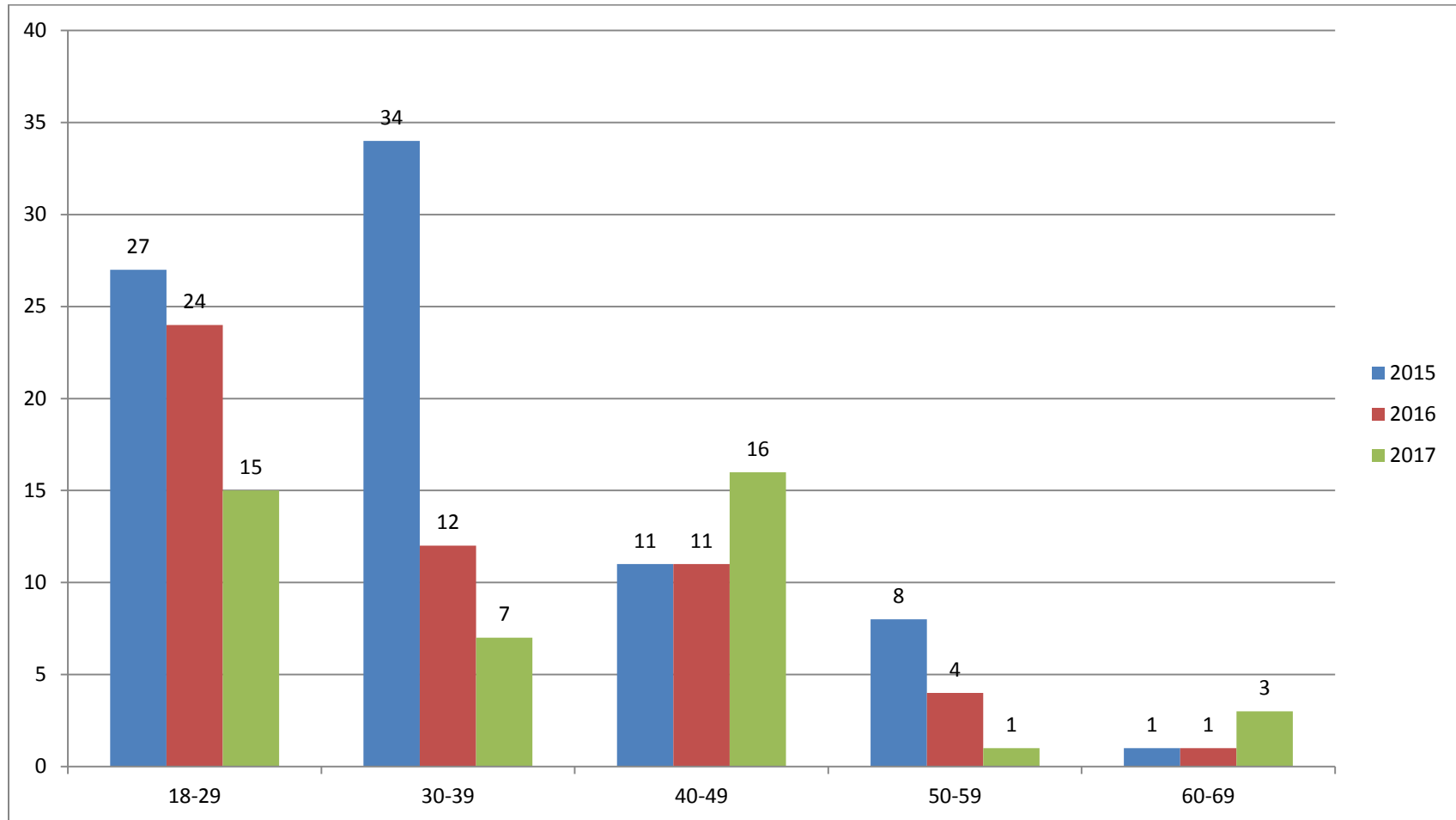
## Arrests by Race



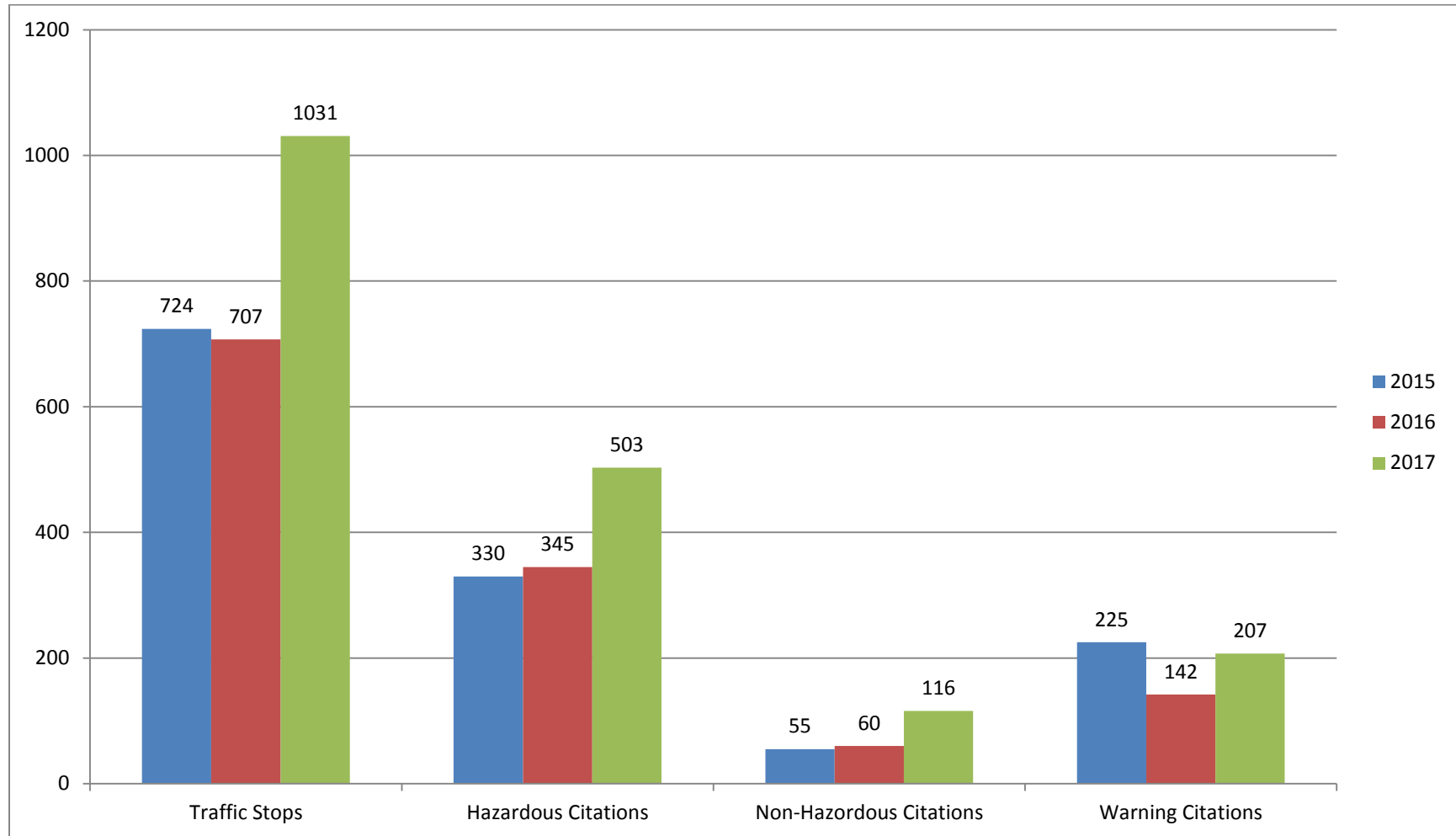
## Arrests by Gender



# Arrests by Age

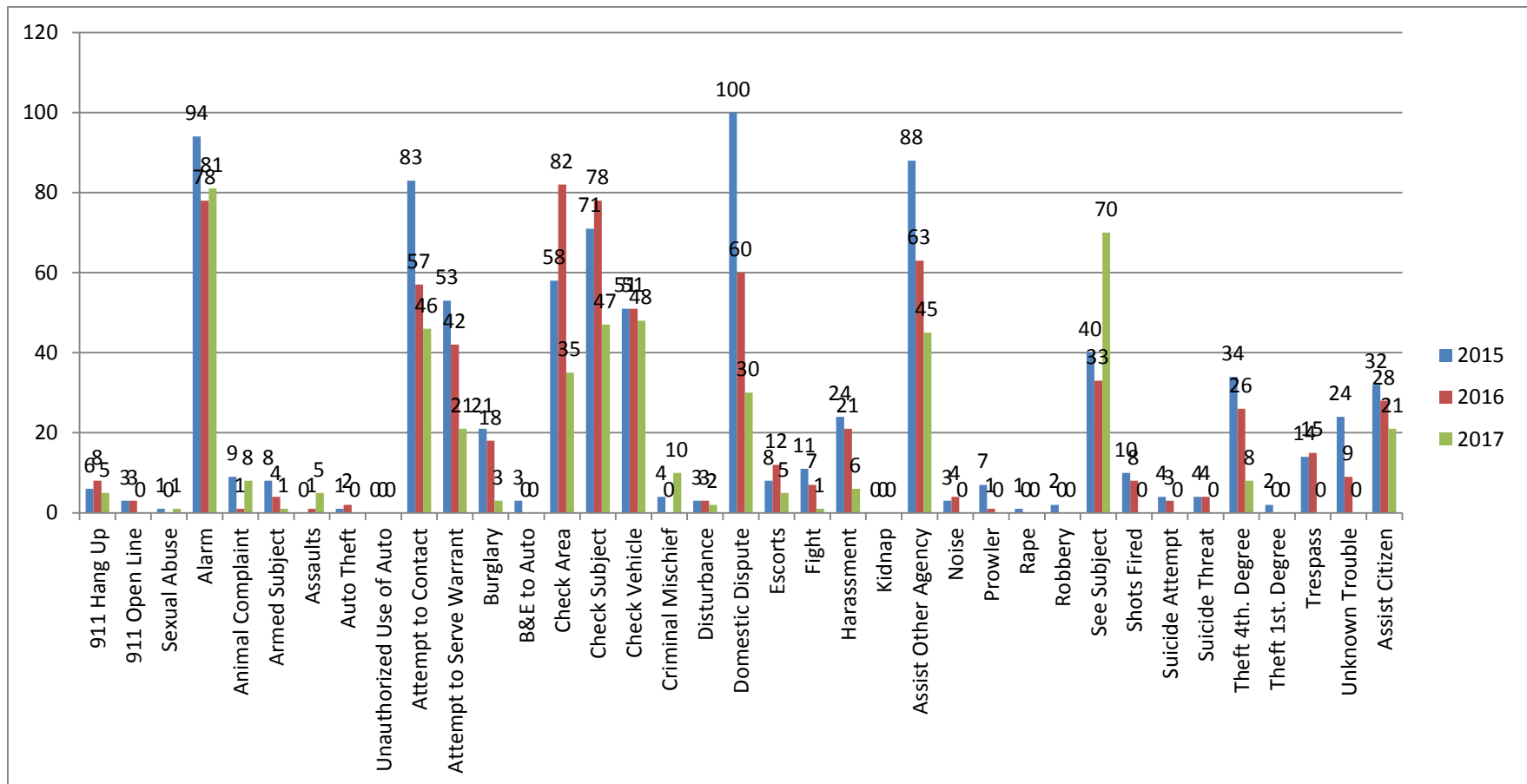


# Traffic Enforcement



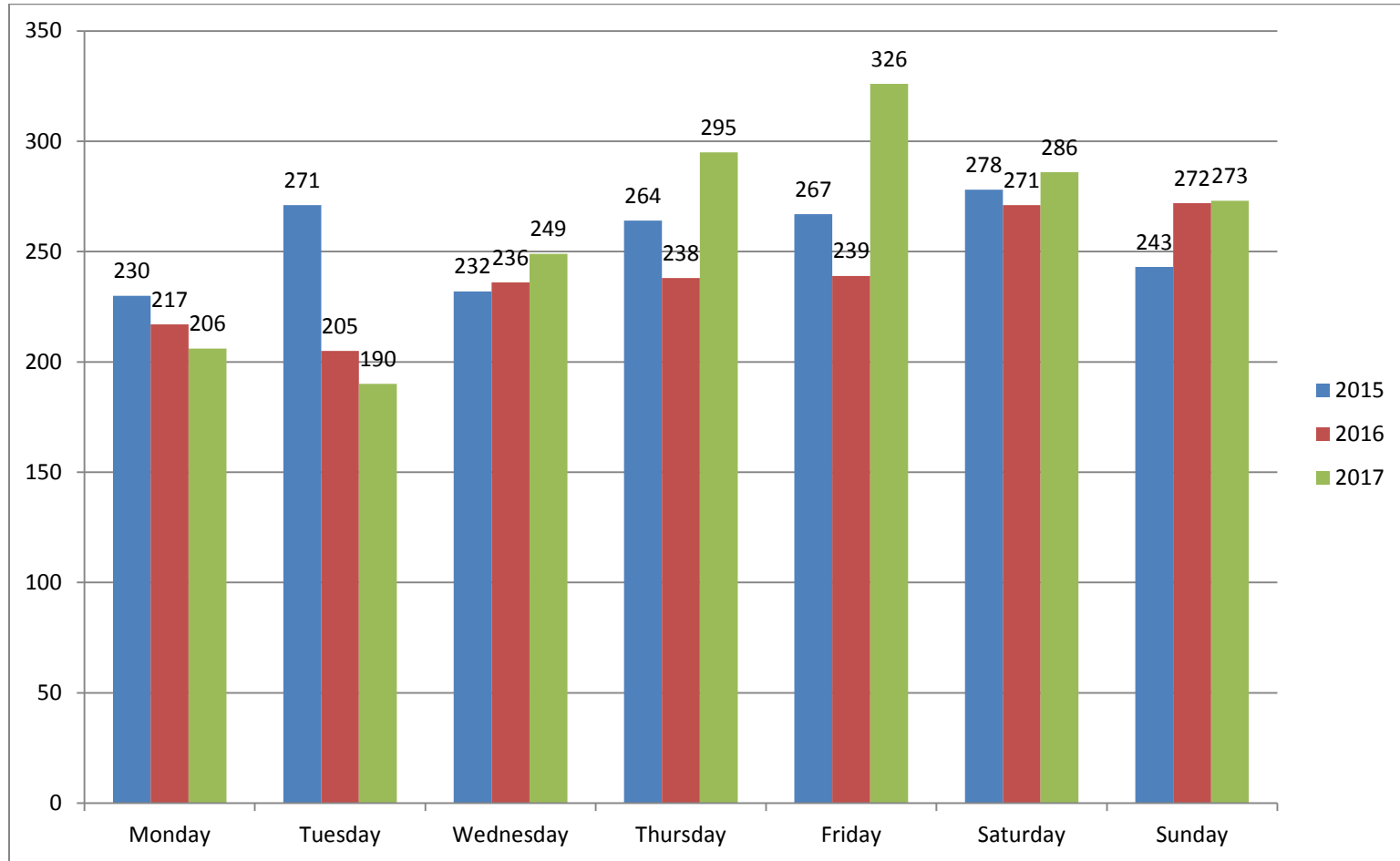
# Calls for Service

There were 1825 calls for service in the Town of Gurley in 2017. This chart details the major calls for service dispatched to GPD officers in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Our focus in 2017 was to lower the number of Domestic Violence incidents. As this chart shows, Domestic Disputes were down 50% from 2016 and down 70% from 2015.

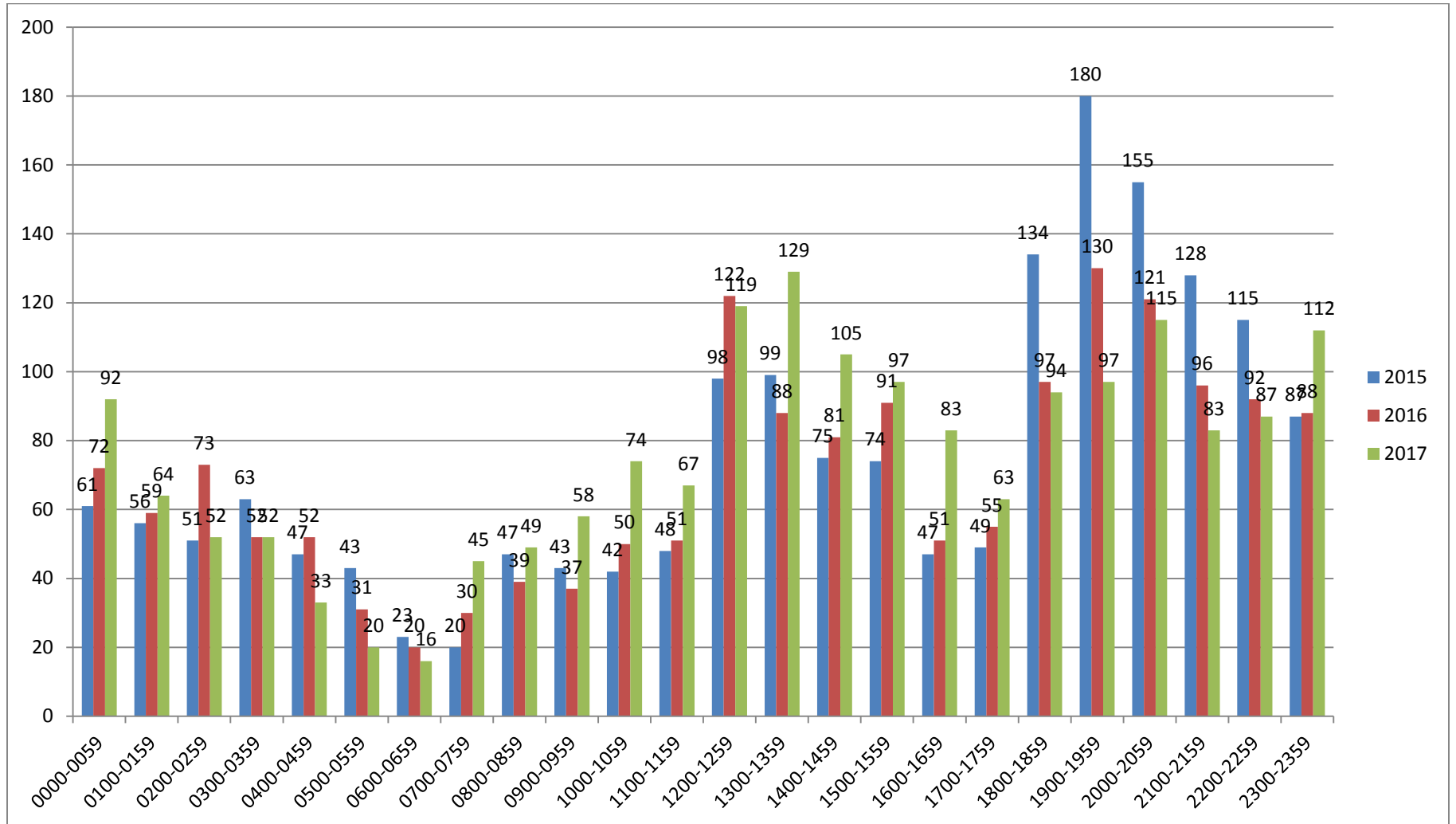




# Calls by Day of the Week



# Calls by Time of Day



# **GPD Activities**

## **Vehicles**

GPD currently has 5 marked patrol cars and 2 unmarked patrol cars. One of the unmarked cars is the Chief's car and the other is a spare used by officers and town employees when out of town travel is required. One of these cars is a 1999 model, two are 2001 model year, two are 2008 models and two are 2014 models. New cars have been requested and are being considered.

## **Public Relations**

In keeping with the Community Policing model we follow, Town Hall meetings were held to discuss topics that affect our residents. These allow our residents and administrators to discuss ideas, problems and concerns that affect our community. We recently met with the seniors in Paint Rock to discuss their needs and concerns that we may be able to address for them. A follow up meeting is planned for early 2018.

Officer Jennings continues to liaison with local groups and churches in order to provide a true Community Policing Program. He has met with local civic groups and included them in our scheduled activities. Below are some of the contacts and events Officer Jennings established.

- Met and worked with the Gurley Lions Club;
- Conducted 3 Awards Nights at Council meetings;
- Met with the Paint Rock Seniors;
- Participated in the Gurley Christmas Parade;
- Met and worked with the Gurley Senior Center;
- Met with the Multi Faith Council;
- Attended the Keel Mountain Pres. Church Cookout;
- Attended the Shipp's Baptist Church Easter Egg Hunt;
- Attended the Gurley Methodist Church Anniversary;
- Assisted with the Gurley Library 5K Run;
- Attended the Volunteer Breakfast at Madison County Elementary;
- Assisted with the Gurley Farmers Market;
- Attended meeting with the Gurley Masons;
- Attended weekly dinners at the Gurley Cumberland Church;
- Provided Church Safety Training;
- Conducted Child Safety Classes at Gurley Methodist Church;
- Met with all kindergarten classes at Madison County Elementary;
- Coordinated Town Hall Meetings;

- Gave out candy at Gurley's Trunk or Treat event;
- Attended the Veteran's Day program at Gurley Elementary;
- Led a T-Shirt sales effort to raise funds;
- Manned a booth at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Show;
- Coordinated a Car Show/Community Event;
- Attended Vacation Bible School at Shipp's Baptist Church;
- Provided a Safety Presentation at the Hartford Farm Devotion;
- Coordinated 5 Music in the Park Events showcasing local talent;
- Donated bottle caps to Madison County Elementary to purchase athletic equipment.

These are just a few of the community contacts Officer Jennings has made. His hard work has been a true example of our Community Policing effort.

Fundraisers were a big asset to our department's equipment needs. Raffles were conducted raising much needed funds to help our officers perform safely and professionally. These funds have been used for improved equipment and training for our officers.

Our Facebook Page has received many visits and comments. Please feel free to "Like" our page and check it often. "The Gurley Police Department". We post news of coming events and activities of our officers.

The GPD entered a float in the Town Christmas Parade. Officer's children, grandchildren and friends rode on the float as representatives of our Department.

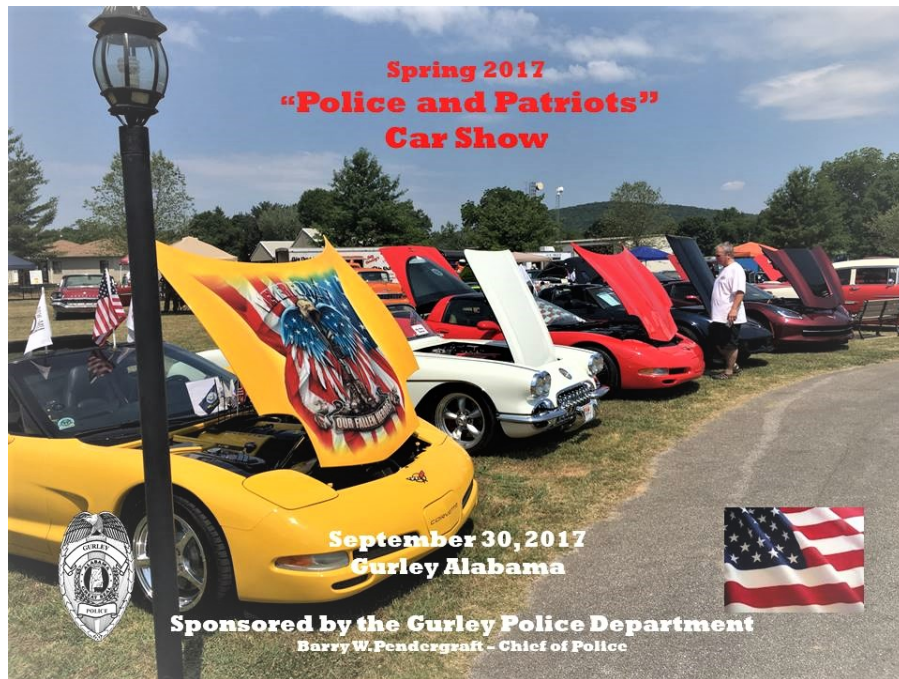




We also prepared a “Thin Blue Line” Christmas Tree in Stone Park.



The “3<sup>rd</sup>. Annual Police and Patriots Car Show” was held at Gurley Park. The event was well attended by residents, vendors and proud car owners.



Many of you will remember that we honored Mr. Pat Patterson as our Veteran of Honor at the 2016 “Police and Patriots” Car Show. Mr. Patterson was a World War II veteran who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. I am sad to report that Mr. Patterson recently passed away. We were honored to have him participate in our car show and can’t express the gratitude we have for his service to his Country.



This year's Veteran of Honor was Ron Alexander. Mr. Alexander, along with his lovely daughter accepted the Honor on behalf of his fellow armed services members. Ron's love for his daughter and his country displays a heart that go from a loving father to a dedicated warrior in an instant.

You may recall it was Ron who stopped and assisted Officer Haynes and I as we wrestled a combative suspect a few months back. His selfless act allowed us to gain control of the man until he could be tazed and handcuffed. He is truly an asset to our community.







## Music in the Park

One of the comments expressed most in our Town is there is nothing to do. Well, we went to work on community events to provide an avenue to gather with our neighbors and support our local talent. We put together 5 different “Music in the Park” events where we could sit in the park and enjoy different types of music. These events were some of the most well received activities we put together.







## Chaplains

Four local pastors volunteered to participate in this valuable program to provide counselling, comfort and support to our officers in time of need. Even in our small Town, officers see death, pain and are witness to things most people can't comprehend. For years officers were required to keep it bottled up inside, lest they be called weak. This led to alcohol problems, marital problems and police suicides. Now we understand officers need an outlet to release these inner demons and that's alright to be human. These trained religious leaders provide that outlet.

Our Chaplains are allowed to ride in the car with our officers and provide counselling if the officer requests it. This is a large commitment. There is danger riding with an officer and these members of our local clergy eagerly place the wellbeing of our officers above themselves. I am proud to profile our Chaplains!



**Pastor John Sowell**



**Pastor Hurley Grissom**



**Pastor Toy Brindley**



**Pastor Shane Rodriguez**

My special Thanks! to all of these gentlemen!

# Complaints

Each officer in the GPD is expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Sometimes, people believe they have been mistreated by officers and wish to file a complaint. Some file a formal complaint. This involves coming to the GPD, writing a statement and signing their name. Others file informal complaints. These are usually by phone and no statement or signature is obtained.

Formal complaints, if confirmed, can result in formal disciplinary action being taken against the officer. Informal complaints, if confirmed, can only result in a discussion between the officer and the Chief of Police. No formal disciplinary action can be taken on informal complaints, however these discussions usually result in better police performance.

There were **NO** formal complaints made in 2016 or 2017 against GPD officers.

# Warrants

In April of 2014, there were over 800 arrest warrants on file waiting to be served. With the addition of an NCIC terminal and the efforts of our officers, this number was soon cut down to approximately 350. The 2017 number is 112. There are two outstanding Felony Warrants. One is in prison and one is in jail in Tennessee.

# Drug Enforcement

Drug enforcement continued to be a priority in 2017. Numerous drug houses were raided and arrests made. The aggravating part is as soon as we shut down one drug house, someone opened another to take their business. We will continue to focus on drug enforcement in 2018 and will not quit until we rid our community of the felons who prey on our children.

I am very pleased with the calls and emails from our citizens giving information on people and locations involved in drug activity. Most of the information has proven to be true and has helped us focus on specific people.

# A Look to 2018

2018 holds many more exciting events!

- Community meetings with surrounding Towns;
- Fall "Police and Patriots Car Show";
- "Concerts in the Park" showcasing local talent;

- Personal Safety for Females Classes;
- Firearms Safety Classes with live fire at the GPD Range;
- Home Security Assessments;
- Establishment of the Gurley Community Watch Program;
- Operation ID;
- Yard Sales and Farmer's Markets;
- Community Meetings with the Chief;
- And Many More!

## Conclusion

2017 was an exciting year for our Department. I am proud of the efforts of our officers and the support of our Town administration and our residents. As always, my door is always open to each of you. I encourage you to call or stop by to give your comments or suggestions to improve our services. My philosophy is simple. If it's legal, if it's practical and if it's ethical, we can do it!

I ask you to participate in our upcoming activities. These events are held with the community in mind. Help us keep our Town active. Help us give our youth something to do besides running the streets. Help us keep drugs out of our community.

I am honored to serve as your Police Chief and look forward to the exciting events coming in 2018. My goal is to make the Gurley Police Department the best trained, equipped and professional small town police department in the State of Alabama. Together, we can make that a reality.