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Cleburne sees 47.9 percent drop in crime since 2012

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Cleburne Police Chief Rob Severance summarizes the Cleburne Police Department's 2017 Annual Report during a Cleburne City Council meeting on Tuesday. According to the report, Part 1 offenses decreased by 47.9 percent from 2012.
Jessica Pounds/CTR

Part 1 offenses decreased by 47.9 percent from 2012, according to the Cleburne Police Department's 2017 Annual Report.

Part 1 offenses include murder, sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft.

Cleburne Police Chief Rob Severance summarized the report during Tuesday's Cleburne City Council meeting.

"Crime rates fluctuate based on a variety of reasons including economic health of the area, education levels and the cultural environment between the police and citizens," he said. "Since 2012, Cleburne police have taken significant strides to ensure the safety and health of our community."

A total of 1,496 people were arrested in Cleburne in 2017, including 164 for Part 1 offenses.

Severance credited increased police presence and the department's institution of Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety, or DDACTS, which the department adopted shortly after Severance became chief in December 2012.

DDACTS, through geo-mapping and real-time analysis, helps identify high crime and traffic accident hot spots, which tend to move around over time. Such information allows a police department to better align their resources to maintain a high presence on those areas.

"The top arrested offenses in 2017 include 963 for warrants, 267 for drug offenses and 164 that were alcohol related," Severance said. "We have continued our emphasis on Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety, which integrates location-based crime and traffic crash data to determine the most effective methods for deploying law enforcement resources."

Cleburne Mayor Scott Cain said the DDACTS system is obviously working.

"Chief, on behalf of the entire community — thank you," he said. "We live in a community where we have a sense of safety and we feel comfortable. You guys are making us safer and safer. So, thank you. Job well done."

The department's patrol division, which is made up of four squads, conducted 12,731 traffic stops last year.

The most frequently cited traffic violations in 2017 include driver's license invalid or expired (1,006), speeding (826), no liability insurance (658), expired license plate (570) and failure to stop (323).

“What these guys are doing out there for us is phenomenal,” Cleburne City Manager Steve Polasek said. “This makes me feel really good about where we live and what these ladies and gentlemen are doing for this community.”