

Corpus Christi police issue 9K more traffic tickets than last year, 10 fewer fatal wrecks

Julie Garcia, Corpus Christi Caller Times Published 5:24 p.m. CT Nov. 27, 2018

Expect to see early vote totals shortly after polls close. Holding onto those results until then is part of the protocol for protecting elections. Wochit



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(Photo: Courtney Sacco/Caller-Times)
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Ten fewer people died on Corpus Christi roads than in the last fiscal year, according to the police department's annual performance report.

The drop in traffic fatalities coincides with a department-wide initiative to make more traffic stops in accordance with a Traffic Enforcement Safety Plan and the addition of two stealth patrol cars.

The department issued 53,979 traffic citations in fiscal year 2017-18 — 9,200 more than it did in 2016-17, according to the report that Chief Mike Markle presented Tuesday to the Corpus Christi City Council.

The directive was in response to last year's 34 traffic fatalities, the highest in recent years, according to officials in March.

The number of traffic deaths for 2017-18 is 24, a decrease of 10 from the previous fiscal year, and the lowest number in at least four years.

The traffic enforcement plan was put into play in March to "reverse the trend (of rising injuries and deaths as results of crashes) and reduce the total number of injuries and deaths that occur as a result of crashes."

More DWI arrests

Officials consider the number of drunk driving arrests a way to measure the department's goal of improving traffic safety by reducing traffic deaths and injuries.



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DWI officer Samantha Baldwin performs a field sobriety test of a suspected drunk driver on Friday, April 6, 2018. (Photo: Casey Jackson/Caller-Times)

Sixteen more people were arrested on suspicion of drunk driving, putting the total at 1,345, according to the report.

The number of DWI arrests spiked at 135 in March, soon after officers were told to pull over people more often as part of their daily patrols. March is also the month of spring break festivities.

The lowest monthly number of DWI arrests in the fiscal year was 87 in October 2017.

The number of alcohol-involved deaths dropped by two to 13 for 2017-18. It's not clear whether they were all drunk driving-related.

More: [Corpus Christi assistant police chief: 'There seems to be no end' to DWIs](#)

In 2016, Senior Officer Samantha Baldwin and another officer were appointed to address the rising number of DWI arrests and alcohol-related crashes. The number of DWI arrests dropped by 66 in fiscal 2016-17 and 50 this year.

Fewer overall arrests, 911 calls

About 1,400 fewer people were arrested for any offense, according to the report. The number of adult and juvenile arrests was 16,852.



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DWI officer Samantha Baldwin takes a suspected drunk driver into custody after a field sobriety test Friday, April 6, 2018. (Photo: Casey Jackson/Caller-Times)

In recent years, the highest arrest rate was in fiscal year 2015-16 at 20,654 arrests.

More: [Authorities hope heroin roundup makes dent in local drug trade](#)

Metrocom dispatchers received about 18,500 fewer emergency 911 calls this year.

Other findings

The number of property crimes (12,045) did not change year-over-year. The number of violent crimes decreased slightly.

There were six fewer violent crimes at 2,454. The number peaked in 2015-16 at 2,726 but dropped by more than 250 the next year.

The clearance rate of both types of crimes is 18.23 percent, down about 2 percent from last fiscal year.

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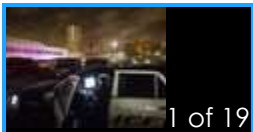


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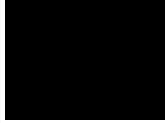


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