



MORRO BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

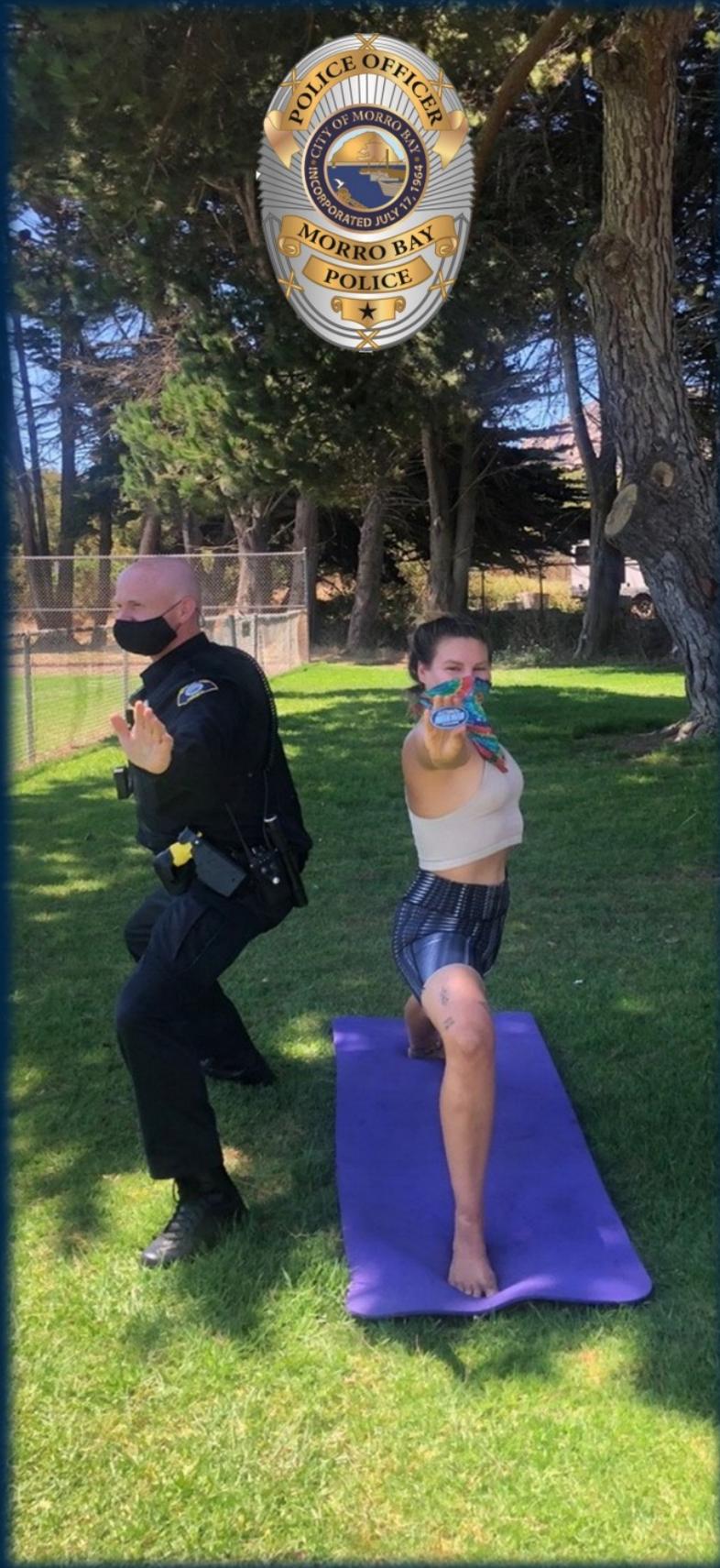


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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Morro Bay Police Department, we are excited to present to you our Annual Report for 2020. This report outlines a summary of the accomplishments made by all of those who serve within our amazing organization. From our sworn and professional staff, our dedicated and committed volunteers, our supportive City and Regional Partners and our Chief's Advisory Committee Representatives, we have been able to weather the storm of this past year.

I would like to personally thank all of these hardworking people for their continued commitment to providing the highest level of professional public service. Our team members are invested in our department vision to provide "Excellence in Service" and it shows every day they show up for work to serve this community.

While 2020 began as any other year, it quickly turned into one of the most challenging years many of us have ever seen, including in the law enforcement profession. We had to quickly learn to adapt and navigate through the global COVID-19 pandemic which had devastating impacts on our community, our state, our country and around the world. While the financial impacts of the pandemic will be felt for several years, the human toll of this virus will be felt for a lifetime as many of us lost family, friends, and co-workers across the globe.

In addition to the COVID pandemic we witnessed the horrible death of George Floyd in Minneapolis that sparked nationwide civil unrest, protests, riots and anti-police movements across the country. This, and several other law enforcement use of force incidents across the country brought about national movements for police reform and changes in legislation leading to many discussions between community members and those agencies who serve and protect their communities. Many of the impacts of these movements are still taking place and the final outcomes are yet to be determined. Your Morro Bay Police Department took an in-depth look at our own internal policies related to such things as Use of Force, Carotid Restraint, De-escalation, Conflict Resolution, and an officer's Duty to Intervene, and made significant revisions and improvements to our policies where needed. All Morro Bay PD policies can be found online through our city website for our community to review.

Here locally, San Luis Obispo County experienced several active shooter situations, bringing to light the many dangers that police officers face each day. With these types of incidents in mind, we evaluated and reassessed our operational readiness and made additional changes in our training and equipment protocols to make sure all our front-line personnel have the needed safety equipment and training to always keep our community safe, in any critical incident situation. Emergency preparedness remains a top priority even in the most difficult of times.

All these events have had significant impacts on our city, our department, and our community members. Some of these impacts may not be realized for years to come, while others have had both immediate and long-lasting implications in how we perform our day-to-day operations.

This report will highlight many of the operational and administrative components of the Morro Bay Police Department and give our readers some insight into the daily operations of a full-service police department. We continued to see significant impacts to our homeless community as shelters and homeless services were severely impacted by the pandemic throughout San Luis Obispo County limiting available resources.

MBPD continues to focus on our community “quality of life” issues for both residents and visitors and we officially launched our Neighborhood Cop program to increase our community interaction and engagement efforts. While the COVID pandemic limited many of Morro Bay’s special events throughout the year, therefore limiting our ability to personally interact with our community, we are very excited and looking forward to the end of the pandemic and once again meeting with members of our community and those who visit our beautiful central coast paradise.

Leading this group of dedicated men and women through this most challenging and difficult year has been an eye-opening experience. Seeing the commitment, self-sacrifice and compassion of our department and city staff has been very humbling. I could not be prouder to work with such an amazing group of people. Be sure to let them know how much you appreciate their dedication to keeping our community safe.

Jody Cox, Chief of Police

Morro Bay Police Department



ABOUT MBPD

The Morro Bay Police Department employs 20 full-time and two part-time employees, this includes 18 sworn officers, two full-time and two part-time civilian employees. These staff members provide service to Morro Bay's community of over 10,500 residents. In addition to full-time employees, the Police Department relies heavily on civilian volunteers to enhance our community's level of services. These volunteers include citizen volunteers, Police Chaplains, and Police Explorers.

OUR MISSION

Provide the highest level of police services in partnership with our community.

VISION

Excellence in Service.

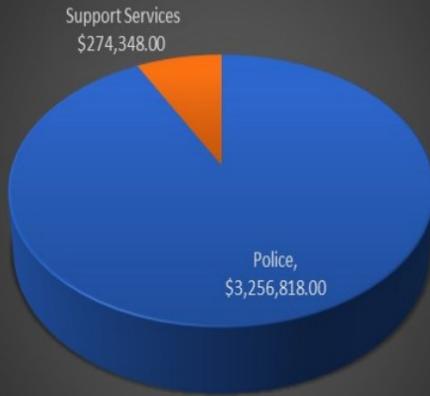
ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

- We will be accountable to ourselves, the public and the law enforcement profession.
- We will be open through our communication within the department and with the community of Morro Bay.
- We will be ethical, honest, and courageous, both on and off duty.
- We will respect the rights and dignity of all people.
- We will continue our commitment to innovation and creativity when problem solving.
- We will practice fairness and consistency in our actions.
- We will exemplify professionalism, excellence, and high-quality public safety services.
- We will remain committed to teamwork within the department and with the community to maintain the finest public safety services on the central coast.

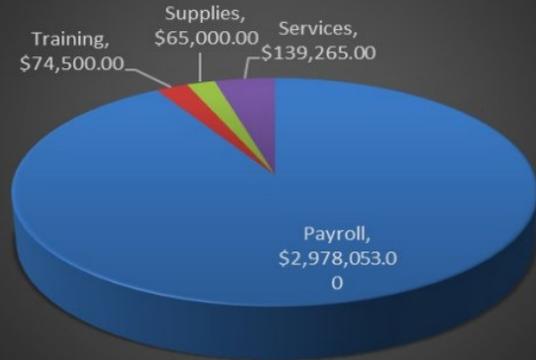


BUDGET

FY 20/21 Budget \$3,531,166.00



Police Budget \$3,256,818.00



Support Services \$274,348.00



Measure Q \$845,000.00



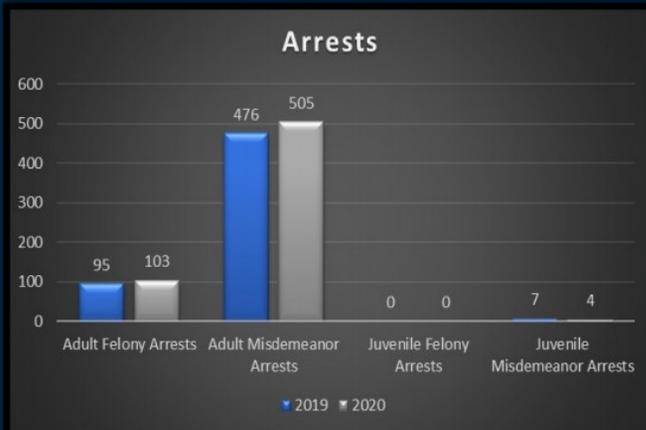
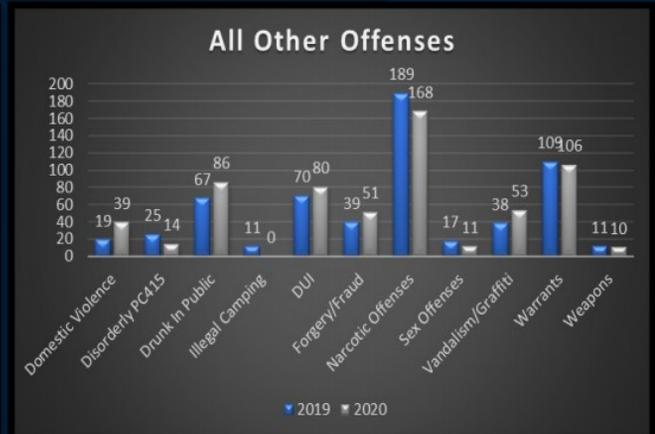
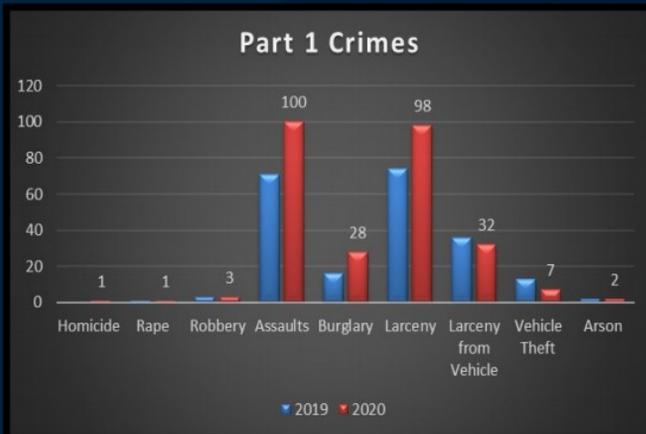
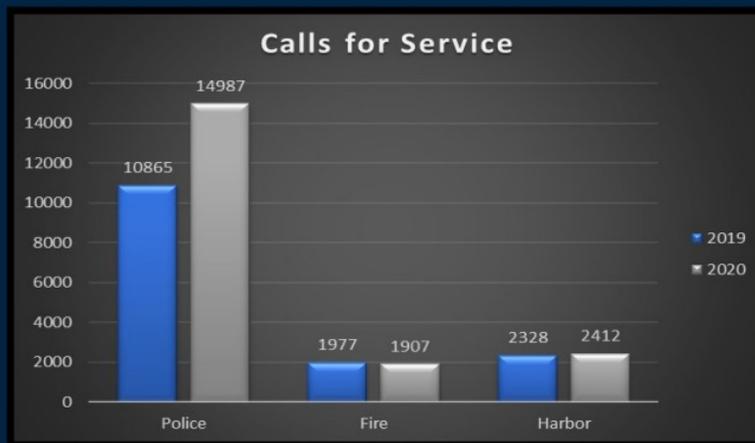
The financial impacts of the pandemic were immediately realized through the loss of many city staff members due to lost city revenues and budget cuts and even a sworn police officer position was held vacant. These cuts impacted much of the city's ability to provide the level of service our community has come to expect from our dedicated city staff. While many people were unable or unwilling to go to work due to the risks of COVID, our city staff accepted significant pay cuts and continued to show up every day and perform their jobs to the best of their abilities, sometimes placing themselves and their families at risk. Their commitment and sacrifices are truly appreciated by all those whom they serve. We Thank all of our community for continuing to support us during these very challenging times, proving that we truly are #RockSolidTogether.



STATISTICS

2020 was another busy and challenging year for MBPD as we continued to provide 24/7 police services to our community, residents, businesses, and visitors while working through several staffing shortages. Our recruitment team continued to work hard to find highly qualified new officers to add to our team, bringing on three new officers in 2020. Although working short staffed, we continued to see a significant increase in calls for service responding to nearly 15,000 calls (compared to approx. 11,000 in 2019) and seeing an increase in over 600 arrests. This was also very challenging due to legislation resulting in zero bail policies, early inmate releases and county jails not accepting most prisoners due to COVID and social distancing requirements.

During 2020, Morro Bay Police Officers authored nearly 1,300 total reports, 577 of those reports were closed with an arrest, 56 cases were submitted to the District Attorney's Officer for review of charges.





2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

COVID-19 Pandemic

Like all others in the world, the department faced several challenges related to the pandemic. Officers and professional staff adapted to county health policies and worked hard to keep our community and each other safe. The city experienced an unprecedented number of visitors during the pandemic.



Death of George Floyd (Minneapolis, MN) and Social Justice Movement

After the death of George Floyd, cities across America saw mass protests. Locally, our agency responded to dozens of protests to help protect lives and property for protestors and community members alike. The department utilized our Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) to aid in the monitoring of large group movements without directly interfering with the protest.

Communicating in 2020

The pandemic limited face to face communication as citizens remained home. The use of virtual meetings through video applications such as Zoom became a new way of delivering information and maintaining a strong connection with the community. MBPD used Zoom meetings to deliver presentations, participate in community meetings, conduct department meetings, and trainings.



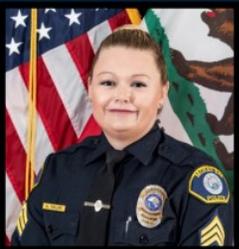
OPERATIONS DIVISION



Commander Amy Watkins oversees the operations division, sworn personnel in the operations support division, community outreach, fleet services, and serves as the department Public Information Officer. Commander Watkins began her career in January 2000, and joined the Morro Bay Police Department in August 2019. Commander Watkins has worked a variety of assignments including Patrol, Investigations, Special Enforcement Unit, and SWAT. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and is a graduate of CA POST Command College.

The mission of the Operations Division is to ensure the safety and security of those who work, live and visit Morro Bay. We accomplish this by providing timely and professional public safety services to the community utilizing a problem solving approach in partnership with the community through prevention, suppression, and apprehension strategies.

The Operations Division is comprised of Patrol, Traffic, Bike Patrol, Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit (UAS), School Resource Officer, Homeless Outreach Team, Volunteer Patrol, Neighborhood Cop Program, Operations Division is the largest division in the department and is made up of 15 sworn employees



Sergeant Nicole Taylor, an 9 year veteran of MBPD, she is one of four patrol watch commanders who supervises patrol officers during daily operations. Sergeant Taylor is responsible for organizing police operations during special events such as Avocado Margarita Festival, Harbor Fest, and AMGEN. Sergeant Taylor also coordinates department outreach events such as Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.



Sergeant Dale Cullum, an 11 year veteran of MBPD, is one of four patrol watch commanders responding to community calls for service and supervising patrol officers. Sergeant Cullum oversees the department enforcement grants for tobacco. The department uses grant funds to enforce local ordinance or state law related to the illegal sale and marketing of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to minors and youth. These enforcement efforts may include, retailer compliance checks, retailer training programs, public education outreach, parent engagement and education, tobacco retail license inspections, preventing and deterring use of tobacco products on school premises.



Sergeant Mark Martin, an 18 year veteran of MBPD, is one of four patrol watch commanders supervising patrol officers and answering community calls for service. Sergeant Martin is the department Field Training Program Coordinator. As the FTO Coordinator he is responsible for trainee/FTO assignments, remediation, review of the Daily Observation Reports (DORs) and other weekly and end of phase reports. Sergeant Martin is responsible for managing the department's sexual assault registrant program (290 PC). Under CA Penal Code section 290, people convicted of certain sex crimes must register as a sex offender with the local law enforcement agency.



Sergeant Robert Hufstetler, a 22 year veteran of MBPD, is one of four patrol watch commanders supervising patrol officers during daily activities and maintaining a patrol presence looking for traffic violators. Sergeant Hufstetler is the sergeant in charge of the department Traffic Unit and Bike Patrol Team. Sergeant Hufstetler trains officers on proper riding techniques and safety measures while operating the department motorcycles or electric bikes. Sergeant Hufstetler develops enforcement operations for officers to conduct to help promote safe driving in the community. Sergeant Hufstetler is a member of the department's Peer Support Team.



Patrol Unit

The Patrol Unit is the largest unit within the Morro Bay Police Department. The officers of this unit perform the most visible and recognized functions of the department. These officers are the ones who you see behind the wheel of the patrol cars who respond to emergency calls for service, look for lost children, comfort those who suffer a loss or are the unfortunate victims of a crime, arrest intoxicated drivers, enforce traffic laws, conduct traffic accident investigations, lend a helping hand when needed, and proactively patrol the streets keeping an eye out for criminal activity and keeping the community safe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



Senior Officer Gene Stuart



Senior Officer Will Marvos



Officer Art Vasquez



Officer Christian Galaz



Officer Billy Bower



Officer Aaron Miller



Officer Jason Ta



Officer Dustin Silva



Officer Alex Gillespie

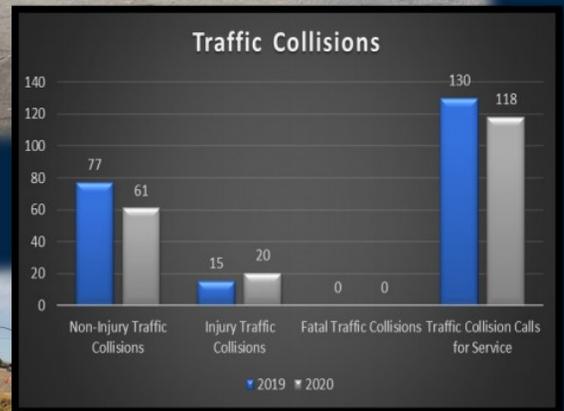


Traffic Unit

The Morro Bay Police Department Traffic Unit is an ancillary duty assigned to patrol officers who have successfully completed the CA POST required Motorcycle Operations and Training course.

Every MBPD officer is required to attend basic and intermediate traffic collision investigation courses. Officers are also sent to traffic enforcement related training such as Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), Breathalyzer Alcohol Test training, Radar/LIDAR (speed enforcement) training, and Standard Field Sobriety Test training. MBPD officers are trained similar to officers in larger agencies who work traffic as a primary duty.

The department currently operates two Zero Electric Police Motorcycles and utilizes two refurbished BMW police motorcycles for training and special events. In addition to traffic enforcement, the MBPD Traffic Unit is frequently utilized for special events and traffic control.



Bike Patrol Team

The Morro Bay Police Department's Bike Patrol Team is staffed by police officers as a special assignment during community and special events. The Bike Patrol Team focuses on problem-solving and proactive patrols of downtown, the Embarcadero, public parking areas, and during community events in an effort to establish an approachable police presence. Patrolling on a bicycle gives officers a unique opportunity to interact with the community and address specific livability issues. The Bike Patrol Team deploys at planned and unplanned community events for crowd monitoring, enforcement and citizen interaction.





Police Volunteers

The Morro Bay Police Volunteer Unit consists of citizens who contribute their time and talents to the Morro Bay Police Department and our community. Volunteers support and supplement police department services, in non-hazardous duties, to free up police officers and staff to perform other duties and tasks critical for public safety. In 2020, there were 13 active volunteers assisting the department.

Some of the tasks performed by our Police Volunteers in 2020 include:

- * Traffic Control
- * Volunteer Patrol
- * UAS Flights
- * Missing Person Response
- * Special Events
- * Fleet Maintenance
- * Fingerprinting
- * Clerical Duties
- * Records Support

In 2020, our volunteers worked more than 2,000 hours. These hours were worked prior to and after the pandemic closed many facilities within our community. With large numbers of visitors coming to Morro Bay and increased calls for service, our volunteers dressed in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and continued to answer the call in support of the community.





School Resource Officer



The Morro Bay Police Department’s School Resource Officer (SRO) Program was developed in partnership with the San Luis Coastal Unified School District to address juvenile crime, safety concerns, and to add positive mentorship to our community’s youth. Morro Bay’s School Resource Officer Gene Stuart is assigned to Morro Bay High School and Del Mar Elementary School.

Officer Stuart takes an interactive approach with students at the schools. Officer Stuart not only investigates crimes on campus, he also participates in a variety of activities including:

- Act as a liaison between school administration and the Police Department.
- Perform classroom presentations concerning law enforcement as a career, social media safety, traffic safety, drug and alcohol prevention.
- Patrol campuses and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Collaborate with the Investigations Division and Juvenile County Probation Department.

The SRO strives to create a safe learning environment by being available for the needs of the students, staff, and community.

During the suspension of in-person learning due to the COVID pandemic the SRO remained on campus to support school staff with distribution of learning materials, campus security, and interaction with special needs students visiting the campus for instruction.





Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)

The mission of the Morro Bay Police Department's Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Unit is to provide airborne support to police operations in a safe, responsible, and transparent manner to preserve the peace, increase officer safety, reduce response times for aerial support, and improve the quality of life in Morro Bay.

UAS are small, remotely operated, unmanned aerial systems; also commonly referred to as drones. They are efficient and effective in providing law enforcement critical information to respond to calls for service, emergencies, or to conduct criminal investigations. Some examples include: providing an overhead view of an area or incident for ground personnel, safely clearing the interior of buildings, providing detailed documentation of crime scenes, accident scenes, and searching for lost or missing persons.

In 2020, Morro Bay Police Department UAS Unit was used for numerous law enforcement and community related activities. Here in Morro Bay the UAS Unit assisted with calls for service related to locating missing and suicidal subjects, structure fires, locating wanted subjects, and monitoring of traffic during busy weekends as a result of the pandemic. As the county's only full-time operational UAS team, the MBPD UAS Unit was requested by all county law enforcement agencies to aid in protests, aerial support during active shooter situations, crime scene documentation, and to capture aerial photographs of the impact of increased visitors to the central coast during the pandemic.

In 2020, the MBPD UAS Unit flew 218 missions, totaling 47 hours of flight time, and 250 miles in distance flown. Equipment used by the UAS Unit are the DJI Phantom 4 and the DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise.





OPERATIONS SUPPORT DIVISION

The Operations Support Division is comprised of Investigations, Training Unit, Property & Evidence, Records, Lobby Services, and Professional Standards.

The mission of the Operations Support Division is provide the highest level of service to the community and members of the police department. The Administrative Sergeant supervises a Police Detective, a Training Coordinator, and the School Resource Officer. The Support Services Manager oversees a full-time professional staff member, and two part-time professional staff members make up this division. The division is also supported by members of the department volunteer unit.



Sergeant Tony Mosqueda a veteran of the Morro Bay Police Department serves as the department's Administrative Sergeant. Sergeant Mosqueda supervises the Investigations Unit, serves as the department training manager, coordinates all department scheduling. Sergeant Mosqueda is also assigned department administrative duties such as internal affairs investigations, policy reviews, fleet maintenance, and maintains the department's Mobile Data Computers. Outside of his administrative duties, Sergeant Mosqueda is the department's Range Master and Taser trainer.



Support Services Manager Bonnie Johnson oversees the department Records and Property & Evidence Units. As the Operations Support Manager, Bonnie also serves as the Administrative Assistant to the Police Chief and Commander, and manages the department's records management system (RMS), records retention, body worn camera and in-car video system, personnel records, statistical information, and processing of digital evidence for the District Attorney's Office. Bonnie works closely with Chief Cox to prepare and manage the department's annual budget.



Investigations Unit

The Morro Bay Police Department Investigations Unit is supervised by the department Administrative Sergeant and consists of one detective who receives specialized training. In addition to the assigned detective, qualified officers are placed on an on-call rotation to provide 24 hour investigations coverage. The detective provides support and guidance to officers conducting criminal investigations in the field.

Detectives are responsible for investigating crimes which occur within the city of Morro Bay and submit cases to the District Attorney's Office for review. Throughout 2020, investigators and officers spent countless hours conducting follow-up, authoring search warrants, and providing court testimony. During 2020, MBPD investigations unit received 35 cases for investigation, out of those cases thirteen arrests were made, and fourteen cases were sent to the District Attorney's Office for review of charges.

Highlighted Cases for 2020

Homicide on Allesandro Street



On Jan 25th, Sean Maneely was arrested and later pled guilty for the death of Andrew McTaggart. McTaggart was stabbed by Maneely during a physical altercation in a storage unit.

CITY OF MORRO BAY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
850 Morro Bay Boulevard
Morro Bay, CA 93942

NEWS RELEASE

MBPD case number: 20000105 **Date/Time occurred:** Jan. 25, 2020 1549 hours

Type of incident: 187 PC Homicide **Location:** 1100 FBk, Allesandro, Morro Bay

Victim: Andrew McTaggart II **Age:** 58 YOA **Morro Bay**

Suspect: Sean Maneely **Arrested:** 53 YOA 01-25-2020 Morro Bay

DETAILS:

On Saturday January 25, 2020 at approx. 3:49 pm, Morro Bay police officers were dispatched to the 1100 block of Allesandro Ave. regarding a possible disturbance. While responding to the scene officers were advised of physical altercations with report of the victim being injured. Upon arrival officers located several subjects on scene and determined that two male subjects had been involved in a physical altercation in or near one of the storage units at the scene.

Officers located the victim Andrew McTaggart, with a stab wound in the upper left chest area and immediate first aid was rendered to the victim. The victim was subsequently transported by ambulance to an area hospital where he later died as a result of his injury.

The suspect, Sean Maneely, was located on scene and immediately detained for further investigation. Morro Bay Police detectives and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Forensics Crime Lab responded to investigate the incident. During the investigation it was determined the two male subjects were familiar with each other and may have been involved in an earlier verbal argument leading to the physical altercation. It did not appear that any of the other subject's present were involved in the physical altercation.

Suspect Maneely was transported to the Morro Bay Police Department for further investigation and subsequently booked into the San Luis Obispo County Jail on one count of Homicide-187 PC.

Anyone who has any information regarding this incident is asked to please contact Sgt. Tony Manuquas or Detective Greg Ginnick at the Morro Bay Police Department (805)772-6225 or San Luis Obispo County Crime Stoppers at (805)849-STOP.

Prepared by: Chief J. Cox

www.morrobayca.gov | (805) 772-6225 | www.facebook.com/CityOfMorroBay

Morro Bay Police Department
November 10, 2020

A successful close to a case. Detective Marvos (pictured) with assistance from MBPD patrol officers, were able to locate and recover a stolen bike for one of our visitors from San Diego. The bike was reported stolen Monday by the owner. #morrobaypolice #vacationsaved #still-serving



Embarcadero Commercial Burglaries

On October 21st patrol investigated several businesses on the Embarcadero reporting overnight burglaries. Suspects were located and arrested for commercial burglary.



CITY OF MORRO BAY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
850 Morro Bay Boulevard
Morro Bay, CA 93942

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident: MBPD Case # 20001125 **Date/Time:** 10/21/2020, 1141 hours

Offenses:

- 459 PC - Burglary (felony)
- 496 (A) PC - Possession of stolen property (felony)
- 182 PC - Criminal Conspiracy (felony)

Location: Front Street & Beach Street

Victim(s): Confidential

Suspect Information:	Age	Arrested
Suspect #1 - Shane Matthew Willbite	40	Yes
Suspect #2 - Samantha Christina Estes	51	Yes





Professional Standards & Training

The Morro Bay Police Department not only provides but encourages professional growth and continued development of our employees. This empowers each employee with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide a professional service level that meets Morro Bay's expectations.

The objectives of the Training Program are to:

- Enhance the level of law enforcement service to the public.
- Increase the technical expertise and overall effectiveness of our personnel.
- Provide for the continued professional development of department personnel.

Training of personnel includes in-house training, specialized outside training courses, and Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified training. The Department's annual training exceeds POST accreditation standards and is compliant with police agency best practices and state and federal law.

In 2020, Officers attended 1,496 hours of training, and Professional Staff attended 40 hours. Many in-person trainings were cancelled as a result of COVID sending several trainings online and virtual.

2020 Trainings

- Threat Assessment & De-escalation
- Crisis Intervention
- Internal Affairs Investigations
- Supervisory Leadership Institute
- California Public Records Act
- ICI Homicide and Sexual Assault Investigation
- Traffic Collision Investigation
- Drug Abuse Recognition
- Field Training Officer



POST

Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training



Records

Under the direction of the Support Services Manager, Records is responsible for all aspects of document control within the department. The one full-time and one part-time Records Technicians process, maintain, distribute all police files and Public Records Requests. In 2020, the records unit processed 1,288 reports , 517 supplemental reports and 92 accident reports.



Becky Musolff started with the department in January of 2017. Becky is the department's full-time records technician and also the training coordinator.



Christie Montoya started with the department in August of 2019. Christie is the department's part-time records technician.



Property & Evidence

The Property & Evidence Unit consists of one part-time Evidence Technician. The Property and Evidence Unit is responsible for the receipt, storage, safekeeping, release and disposal of all property and evidence that comes under control of the department. The Property & Evidence division processed 1,695 pieces of property that includes Evidence, Found and Safekeeping items.



Tami Ponder is the department's Property & Evidence Technician. Tami started with the department in 2012 as the part-time Property & Evidence Technician.





Chief's Advisory Committee

Chief Jody Cox created the Chief's Advisory Committee (CAC) as a resource to formulate strategies, develop policing concepts, and to increase public awareness regarding police policy issues. The Committee's purpose is to address concerns associated with police-community relations, the improvement of the Morro Bay Police Department operations, and public safety issues in order to further enhance the quality of life in our community. The committee is intended to provide a forum for discussions concerning community issues and the goal is to have a broad spectrum of viewpoints represented through the committee members and the police department.

The Inaugural Committee consists of five members, comprised of a diverse cross-section of active community members throughout the City of Morro Bay. These members will represent a range of interests, expertise and experience, which include business owners, educational leaders, non-profit organizations, public relations, faith community, youth representation and more.

Members are chosen to serve on the committee for their professionalism, integrity and commitment to their community. The term for committee members is limited to two years to allow for greater participation by additional interested parties.

2020 Chief's Advisory Committee Members

- Meredith Bates mlbates@kcbx.net
- Colette Came colette@comesecurityalarms.com
- Rick Cobbs cobbsrockx2@gmail.com
- Steven Diaz sdiaz@ppbi.com
- Patricia Gordon prgordon49@sbcglobal.net





NEIGHBORHOOD COP PROGRAM

Morro Bay Police Department Launches Mobile App to Connect with the Community 24/7

The Morro Bay Police Department is thrilled to announce the launch of our custom mobile app for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices. Morro Bay residents now have a direct connection with the department for the latest community news, instant public safety notifications, and more.

The app was developed to aid the department with the introduction, management, and outreach connected with the new Neighborhood Cop Community Program. The app will provide a central location for community members and residents to identify their "Neighborhood Cop" officers and register for the program.



Morro Bay Police Department
Neighborhood Cop Community Program

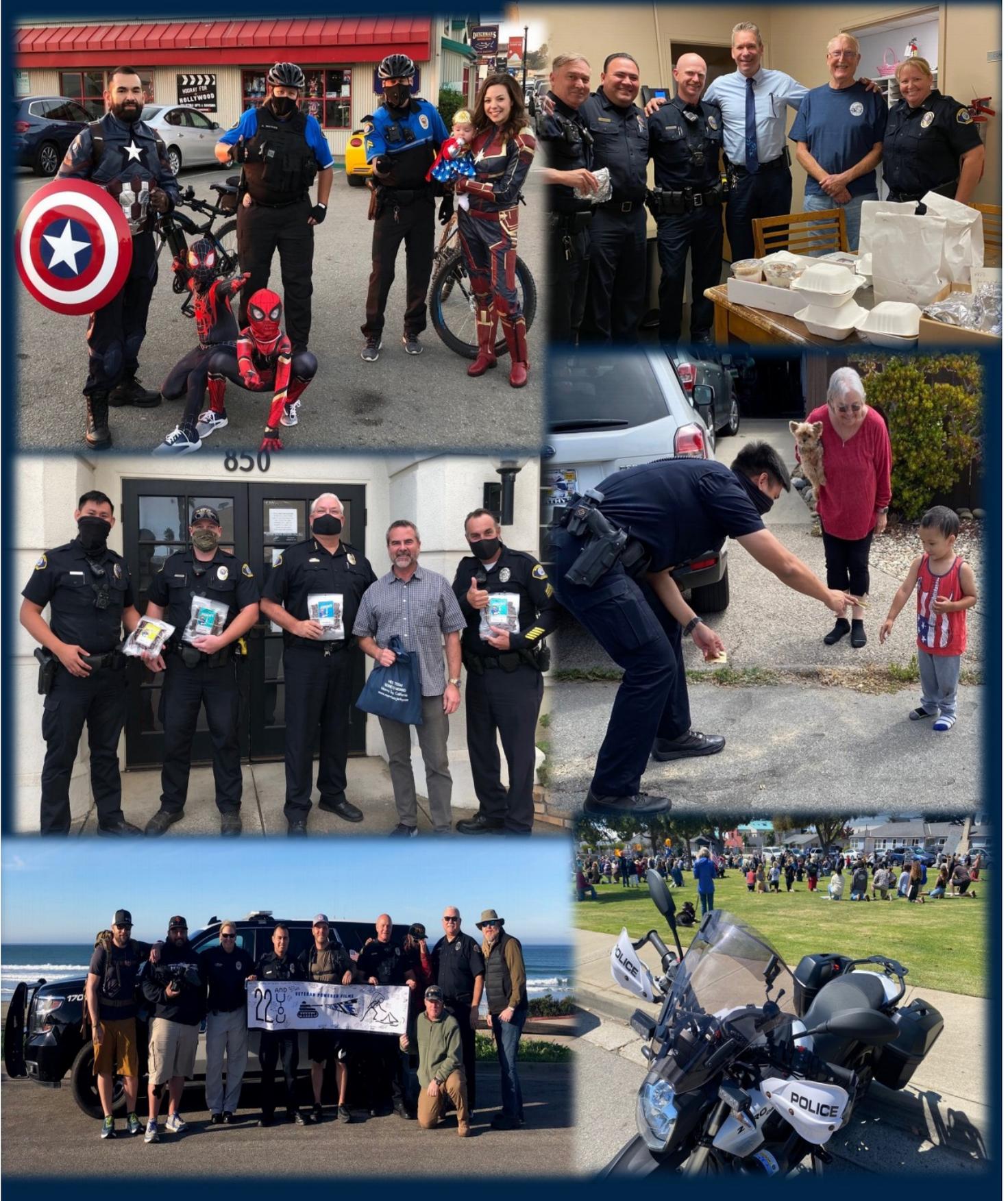
The Neighborhood Cop program was created to enhance open communication, build trust, and increase transparency. The officers will support our community in managing the quality of life for the residents and businesses within the City of Morro Bay. The Neighborhood Cop program will strive to address concerns before they escalate into major problems.

The "Neighborhood Cop Program" allows officers to take ownership of assigned sectors and reach out to the residents and businesses to help them solve some of the issues that they have within their residing area. An example of some of these issues that an officer assigned to a specific area may handle include:

- On-going disturbances
- Parking issues
- Animal issues
- Vandalism
- Crime trends
- Drug related issues
- Transient issues



MORRO BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT



IN THE COMMUNITY



WHY I WEAR THE BADGE

“I wear the badge because it’s so much BIGGER than me. I grew up always standing up for the one’s who couldn’t defend themselves. For me, I wear the badge to help those individuals have a voice, serve with pride, and remain humble at the same time.”

- Officer Art Vasquez



“I wear the badge because as someone who grew up in Morro Bay I wanted to work closely with the police department and help support the men and women who keep the community I love safe.”

- Support Services Manager Bonnie Johnson

“I wear the badge because it's the most challenging and rewarding work I've ever done. I thoroughly enjoy protecting and serving my community. Most importantly, I want to set a good example to my community and peers of how a police officer should conduct themselves and hopefully be a part of the positive shift in Law Enforcement.

- Senior Officer Gene Stuart





RECOGNITION

OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Officer Art Vasquez - A two year veteran of the Morro Bay Police Department, Officer Vasquez has quickly made a name for himself within the department and our community. Officer Vasquez has received several compliments and commendations for his work during investigations and community contacts. Officer Vasquez approaches each contact with patience and understanding. Art prides himself on being an active member of the department both on and off-duty. Attending new officer swearing in ceremonies, employee appreciation gatherings, and promotional ceremonies, Art takes joy in celebrating the successes of others. Officer Vasquez was selected to the department’s Field Training Program to help train and model MBPD officers of the future.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Christie Montoya began her career with the department in August of 2019, quickly learning her role as the part-time records technician and did a great job supporting the full-time staff as well as ensuring officer reports were complete and free from errors. Christie has become a valuable asset to the department with her attention to detail and unrelenting desire for producing outstanding work. Community members who enter the lobby of the PD or call on the phone are often greeted by Christie’s friendly disposition and eagerness to help.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



John Romero dedicated over 400 hours of time to the Morro Bay Police Department in 2020. John spends many hours each week in his role as the volunteer in charge of fleet maintenance. If there is an issue with a patrol unit or a vehicle needs service, John is quick to respond and gets the issue taken care of. The work John does with the fleet saves department staff time and money when it comes to keep our emergency vehicle operational. John also responds day and night to callouts during traffic collisions, busy weekend traffic control, missing persons, and special events. John is truly a dedicated community servant and we are fortunate to have him.



RETIREMENTS

Rick Catlett

Rick retired in March after a 34 year career in law enforcement. Rick started his career with the Farmersville Police Department in 1986 and later joined the Morro Bay Police Department in 1996. Rick served in various roles including as the department's Motor Officer/trainer, FTO coordinator, traffic sergeant, and acting commander.



Greg Gruich

Detective Greg Gruich started his career in public service with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department in May 1989 and served there until joining the Morro Bay Police Department in 2015. Officer Gruich has served in many roles throughout his career including: the Detentions, Operations and Administrative divisions as an officer, detective and sergeant and has served in many specialty assignments including investigations, Gang Unit, STEP/SWAT team member, Search and Rescue, Swift Water Dive Team, Crime Lab and Internal Affairs.





AWARDS

Sergeant Nicole Taylor completed the “Support the Blue” 10k in her full gear and uniform to honor those fallen officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting the communities they serve.



Senior Officer Gene Stuart received the Distinguished Service Award presented by the International Footprint Association California Central Coast Chapter 73, in recognition of his outstanding professionalism and service to our community.

Unable to meet and celebrate the Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation program this year, Sergeant Tony Mosqueda was honored in person by the King David Masonic Lodge of San Luis Obispo in appreciation for Tony’s service to the community.



