



ARCANUM POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIMINAL CASE REVIEW 2020-2021

Purpose:

Report created to show the successes and failures of our investigation and prosecution policy.

Overview:

In 2020, The Arcanum Police Department set guidelines and requirements pertaining to the handling and disposition of criminal investigations. The department's policy is to investigate crimes thoroughly and with due diligence and evaluate and prepare criminal cases for appropriate clearance or submission to the Prosecutor.

All criminal cases start as an incident report and then progress to a criminal case depending on the amount of documentation, leads, and solvability that are cultivated during any investigation. Generally, we have far fewer criminal cases than incident reports.

In 2020, the department began monitoring their cases more aggressively by tracking the progress of criminal investigations to ensure we stayed within compliance with the above overview of the department's overall mission in providing our community with the quality of life they all desire. Having a robust investigation and prosecution policy also gives us the tools needed to investigate cases in such a way that exhibits the professionalism we are aiming for as an agency which becomes a deterrent for criminals in knowing that crimes will be investigated and prosecuted.

2020 Review:

In 2020 our agency had 505 complete incident reports, and of that, 39 became criminal investigations. Criminal investigations range from assaults, drugs, thefts, sex crimes, and miscellaneous cases, and of the 39 criminal cases, the agency successfully solved 33 cases. This is an 84% solve rate. Additionally to the six unsolved cases, one victim did not wish for the investigation to continue. The Prosecutor's Office declined to take one case, and one case was a drug trafficking complaint where the suspects left our community prior to the case being solved. The three remaining cases involved animal cruelty, burglary, criminal damage, and theft, with no suspects and no leads. If we had been more successful in those six cases, our solved cases rate would have risen to 100%. While this is a possibility, and the report shows a certainty of dedication our agency has given to our criminal cases, it also shows we can improve to reach our real goal of a 95% solve rate.

During the 2020 year, our office had a 98% conviction rate in all charges, affidavits, and traffic citations submitted to the court. The high percentage of conviction rate clearly shows that when our agency submits criminal and traffic complaints to the court, they have been appropriately investigated and resulted in the successful prosecution of cases. One percent was contributed to dismissal complaints of criminal and traffic citations where the main complaint



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was successful in prosecution. The other percent was due to officer errors in paperwork. This shows that we still have room to improve while we have been successful.

2021 Review:

In 2021 our agency was successful in our criminal and traffic cases. The agency had 486 reports which were similar to 2020. Of the reports taken, our office opened 48 criminal cases. Criminal investigations range from assaults, drugs, thefts, sex crimes, and miscellaneous cases, and of the 48 criminal cases, the agency successfully solved 43 cases. This is an 89% solve rate.

Additionally to the five unsolved cases, in three cases, the victim decided not to pursue the investigation before solving the case; these were primarily theft cases where the victim knew the suspect, and in two cases, the Prosecutor's office declined to pursue charges one being possession of an unmeasurable amount of narcotics where testing would have been difficult.

New in 2021, our agency began tracking activity events by Officers. This ranges from all calls of services, including where incident reports and criminal cases were taken, and all other forms of activity, such as area and business checks, community contacts, and stationary radar, to name a few. All Officers listed an overall 14,400 different activities during the 2021 year. This activity is listed in the report to show that the amount of dedication officers deliver to the community is not just the investigation of criminal cases. This aggressive activity assists in deterring offenders from committing an offense in our community by having a visible police department with activity patrols.

During the 2021 year, our office continued with a 98% conviction rate in all charges, affidavits, and traffic citations submitted to the court. The circumstances were similar to 2020 in that failures were contributed to dismissals of complaints, both criminal and traffic citations, where Officer errors in the paperwork were the cause or where the primary charge was successful, but companion charges were dismissed.

Result:

Combining 2020 and 2021, we have an overall criminal case solve rate of 87%, and together as an agency, we increased our solved cases by 5% from 2020 to 2021. This shows that our agency is on the correct path for success in providing our residents with the professionalism they want for their communities police department. We as an agency are dedicated to the investigations our agency embarks on and approaches them with due diligence. While our agency saw minor failures with criminal and traffic citation dismissals in court, the percentage of loss was far within the margin of error in having a 95% conviction rate.

The Arcanum Police Department will use this data as a benchmark for future years to ensure we are staying within the accepted rate of failure for a police department and work each year to increase our successes in criminal cases.