

*LAKESIDE PARK – CRESTVIEW HILLS
POLICE DEPARTMENT*



**ANNUAL REPORT
2024**

Contents

From the Chief	3
Department Mission Profile	4
Governance	5
Personnel	6
Notable Accomplishments	8
Grants Awarded	11
Statistics	12
Objectives for 2025	19
Conclusion	21



From the Chief:

On behalf of the men and women of the Lakeside Park - Crestview Hills Police Department (LPCHPD), I am pleased to present our 2024 annual report. This report will highlight the activities and accomplishments of the LPCHPD. It is our hope that the reader will find the information herein useful and informative.

The year 2024 brought about the retirements of several members of LPCHPD and subsequently the beginning of several new careers.

Clerk Melissa Sies retired after 19 years of dedicated and unparalleled service as the police clerk. Clerk Sies's roles within the agency were vast and her contributions critical to the efficiency of the department. Clerk Sies handled all police clerk duties as well as human resource and accounting responsibilities. In addition, Clerk Sies was involved in the planning and administration of the department's annual charity car show. During her tenure, Clerk Sies received certification on state and national levels as a Master Municipal Clerk as well as several other industry recognitions.

Ptl. Shawn Kleier retired with 16 years of service to LPCHPD and over 41 years of service in the public safety field. Ptl. Kleier was a wealth of knowledge and experience in a multitude of public safety realms. He served as a mentor to many of his colleagues.

Ptl. Chris Steward retired with 24 years of law enforcement service, 2 of those years with LPCHPD. Ptl. Steward was also a wealth of knowledge and experience. Ptl. Steward continues to serve the region as the Director of Safety at a nearby university.

As a result of those retirements, LPCHPD has welcomed several new members to the team. Clerk Heather Markus comes to us with several years of experience as a deputy city clerk. Ptl. Joel Tignor comes to us with 13 years of law enforcement experience. Ptl. Ethan Boyers is a recent graduate of Thomas More University and is eager to begin his law enforcement career. We look forward to long and distinguished LPCHPD careers for these new team members.

Please join me in welcoming these new members of our team. I encourage you to get to know the men and women sworn to protect your community. My staff and I always welcome the opportunity to get to know the citizens of Lakeside Park and Crestview Hills.

- *Col. Brad C. Degenhardt*



Our Mission

Form a partnership with the community, and work within that partnership to maintain the public peace and improve the quality of life by providing fair and impartial police services in a professional manner

Our Values

Human life and personal dignity - Personal and professional integrity as the basis for community trust - Fair and impartial enforcement of all laws - Professional excellence

Our Vision

Collaborative success through individual Honor, Integrity, and Devotion

Our Ethos

Exemplifying Honor and Courage through our actions of protection, service above self, and steadfast defense of the Constitution of the United States

Our Priorities

Protect the Citizens and Guests of Lakeside Park and Crestview Hills
Enforce all legally enacted laws justly and without malice
Uphold the Constitution of the United States of America
Uphold the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
Rigorously confront, investigate, and combat all criminal activity
Guard against corruption
Earn and preserve the community's trust
Develop and maintain public and professional partnerships
Remain impervious to political influence

THE LAKESIDE PARK – CRESTVIEW HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Setting the standard of Excellence through Valor, Professionalism, Empathy,
and Respect*

Governance

The Lakeside Park – Crestview Hills Police Department is overseen by the Lakeside Park – Crestview Hills Police Authority Board. The Board is comprised of council members from each city. The cities alternate years of majority and the chairmanship rest with the majority city.

Police Authority Board for 2024

*William Dorsey
(Chairman)*

Crestview Hills Council Member

*Paul Markgraf
(Vice-Chairman)*

Mayor of Lakeside Park

David Kramer

Crestview Hills Council Member

Brian Waite

Lakeside Park Council Member

Ed Wise

Crestview Hills Council Member



Personnel

The men and women of the Lakeside Park – Crestview Hills Police Department endeavor to provide exemplary law enforcement service to the citizens and guests of Lakeside Park and Crestview Hills. Their professionalism and dedication to duty epitomizes service above self.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year started</u>
<i>Command Section</i>	
<i>Colonel Brad Degenhardt (Chief of Police)</i>	2000
<i>Patrol Section</i>	
<i>Sergeant Sam Goodman</i>	2007
<i>Sergeant Mike Paolucci</i>	2007
<i>Sergeant James Jackson</i>	2007
<i>Patrolman Shawn Kleier (retired July 2024)</i>	2008
<i>Patrolman Jon Henderson</i>	2011
<i>Patrolman Brett Mullins (Detective)</i>	2012
<i>Patrolman Todd Amann (Detective)</i>	2016
<i>Patrolman Nicholas Metzger (resigned July 2024)</i>	2020
<i>Patrolman Justin Holman</i>	2020
<i>Patrolman Christopher Steward (retired December 2024)</i>	2022
<i>Patrolman Amanda Armstong</i>	2023
<i>Patrolman Joel Tignor</i>	2024
<i>Patrolman Ethan Boyers</i>	2024

Personnel (continued)

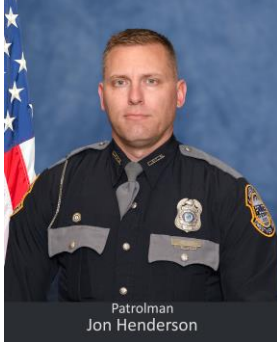
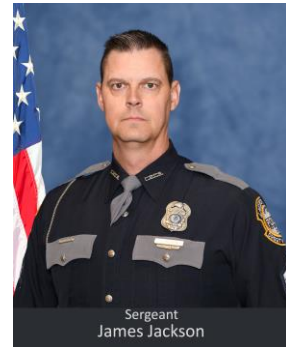
Support / Administrative Section

Police Clerk Melissa Sies (retired December 2024)

2005

Police Clerk Heather Markus

2024



Notable Accomplishments for 2024

Crime Prevention Partnerships. The department worked in conjunction with the Crestview Hills Town Center and its tenants while leveraging technology designed to reduce crime through detection, prevention, and apprehension. This partnership resulted in at least six theft preventions, four on-site arrests with numerous criminal charges, and provided evidence in countless cases that could have otherwise gone unsolved. The partnership also resulted in the recovery of \$35,178 in stolen property.

Community Engagement Initiatives. Department personnel continued to promote a primary principle of the department's mission statement through their involvement in a variety of community engagement initiatives. These included, but were not limited to, presentations to youth groups, holiday events in both cities, babysitter safety classes, child safety seat installations, and various other public speaking events. All these emphasized the department's professional presence within the community.

Charity Car Show. The department hosted a charity car show on the campus of Thomas More University in June 2024. This event fostered healthy community relations, highlighting the department and the cities of Crestview Hills and Lakeside Park, while providing support to a worthy charitable cause. Through the efforts of department personnel, \$4,500 was raised for Supporting Heroes. To date, the Lakeside Park/Crestview Hills Police Car Show has raised \$24,000 for charity.

Student Police Academy. The department continued its partnership with Thomas More University (TMU) through an academy for TMU students modeled after the department's successful Citizens' Police Academy. This academy is intended to afford a glimpse of the day-to-day operational activities and responsibilities of law enforcement. The collaborative effort is designed to identify those who might be interested in a vocation in law enforcement, with the intent of creating a pool of potential applicants to aid in recruitment efforts. This successful community engagement and recruitment endeavor is integrated into an existing TMU criminal justice class.

Active Threat Community Training Program. The department continued to be a leader in the Northern Kentucky Region by assisting multiple school districts, both private and public, as well as private entities such as healthcare providers and other professional services with Active Threat Response planning and training. The department has personnel certified as instructors in numerous related disciplines, using such knowledge to create a program which is an amalgamation of the various offerings. These efforts were made to customize the active threat program to the specific needs of individual consumers.

Active Threat First Responder Training. In addition to our law enforcement active threat response training, the department participated in multi-disciplinary training to further expand public safety capabilities in the event of an active threat. The training involved coordinating with Fire and EMS for rapid casualty intervention by facilitating their expedited entry into an active threat scene.

Advanced Training. All officers completed the required training mandated by Kentucky Administrative Regulations and offered through certified in-service training centers. Personnel also attended various advanced and specialized trainings such as Kentucky Criminalistics Academy and Criminal Justice Executive Development. The department also continued its commitment to officer skill development and enhancement through regular training in diminishing skillsets including Firearms, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Defensive Tactics, and Active Threat Response.

Professional Development. The department continued its strong emphasis on professional development with a robust commitment to the investment of resources into its most valuable asset, our personnel. Our team consists of individuals with a variety of experiences, skillsets, and talents that when melded together comprise a highly professional team. We encourage and promote opportunities for department personnel to strive to improve themselves through training and education. We have personnel with military service, advanced degrees, state and national certifications, and various achievement recognitions.

Computer Forensic Examinations. The department continued its strong emphasis on Cyber Crime Investigation. We are one of the few departments in Northern Kentucky that has an officer who graduated from an elite training program presented by the United States Secret Service, earning certification as a Computer Forensic Examiner. This certification has afforded our department a higher level of investigative aptitude. As more crimes are being facilitated with cyber platforms, this investigative skillset is critical to the successful prosecutions of such offenses. This has also placed our department in a leadership position as other departments are now seeking our assistance with cases involving a cyber footprint.

Women's Self Defense. The department has been instructing self-defense classes for women for over 23 years. We have several officers certified as RAD instructors. RAD, which stands for Rape Aggression Defense, is a self-defense class taught exclusively to women. It has gained national recognition as a premier self-defense program for women. RAD's core four principles of awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance are coupled with basic physical defensive moves, all of which when combined, afford a woman the option to defend herself. In 2024, we continued to provide this critical skill to empower women to defend themselves by holding classes throughout the year, providing this potential life-saving training to women from Crestview Hills, Lakeside Park, and the surrounding communities.

Mental Health Support. There should always be a strong emphasis placed not only on the physical health of those in Law Enforcement but also their mental wellbeing. Nationally, more officers lose their lives to suicide than to gunfire. To address this issue, the department continued to work with mental health professionals that are public safety competent and specifically trained to mitigate the stressors that Law Enforcement personnel are exposed to. The department remains at the forefront of law enforcement health and wellness through innovative wellness programs and involvement in regional peer support efforts.

Grants received in 2024

The department was awarded five grants in 2024 for a combined value of \$62,966.27.

These included:

- Kentucky Homeland Security Law Enforcement Protection Program - \$50,869.00. This grant was utilized to replace the agency's aging patrol rifles.
- Kentucky League of Cities Safety Grant - \$1601.00. This grant through the agency's insurance carrier was utilized to receive a 50% reimbursement of the purchase costs for modified in-car locking mechanisms necessary to secure the new duty rifles.
- Kentucky Attorney General Body Armor Grant - \$3,000.00. This grant provides ballistic vests to sworn officers at no charge. In 2024, LPCHPD ordered 3 ballistic vests through this grant at a value of approximately \$1,000 each.
- Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant - \$1,496.27. This federal grant reimburses 50% of the cost of ballistic vests. In 2024, LPCHPD utilized this grant for 3 ballistic vests.
- Kentucky Department of Highway Safety Grant - \$6,000.00. This is a continuation grant that provides funding for personnel overtime to be used for traffic enforcement activities. The end goal is to increase the safety of the community through the realization of a decreased rate of collisions through aggressive enforcement of traffic safety laws.

Statistics for 2024

The following graphs show the statistics for crime, auto collisions, calls for service, total incidents, calls per city, and mutual aid.

For the following graphs: Total Incidents include all activity, Total Calls for Service include all dispatched activity, Total Auto Collisions include all collisions reported, and Total Crime includes all misdemeanors and felony cases. There are also graphs that depict mutual aid - the times the department gave assistance as compared to the times the department received assistance. Lastly, there are graphs which illustrate an analysis of incidents per city and total calls per city.

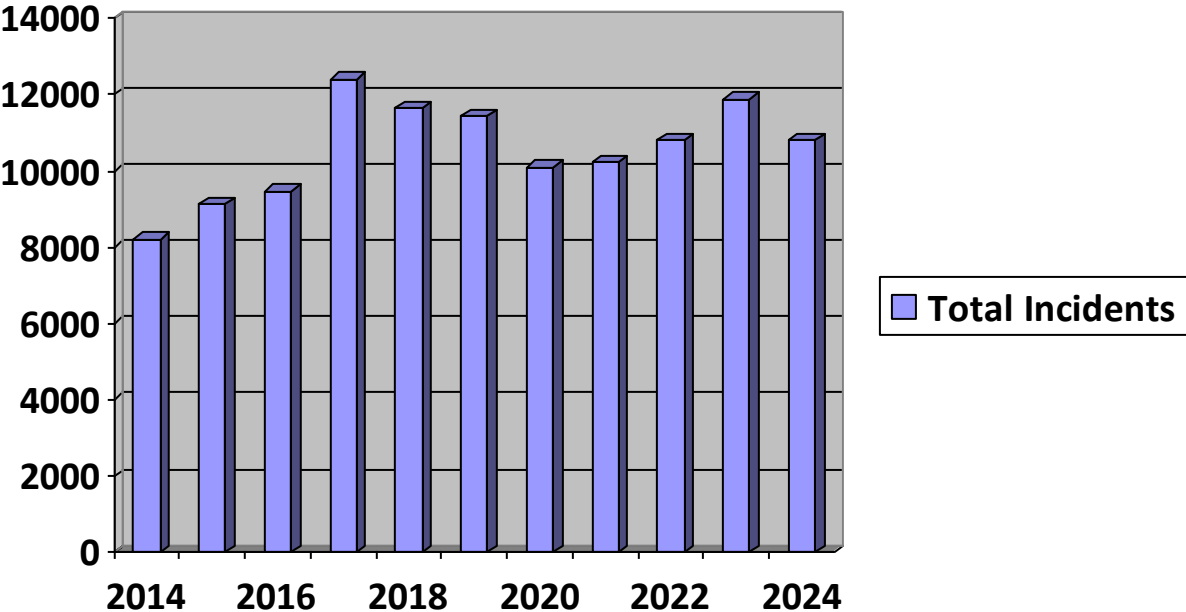
In 2024, the department's total incidents decreased 9.4%. The total calls for service decreased 18.9%. The amount of auto collision investigations increased 10.7%. The total crime reported to the department increased 22.6%.

The amount of non-theft crimes reported in 2024 remained relatively unchanged from the previous year. Of the crime reported, theft continues to be the primary driver. 63.1% of the crime reported was theft, which is up from 59% in 2023. 56% of reported thefts were attributable to retail theft at the Crestview Hills Town Center, up from 44% in 2023. These increases are a result of increased theft reporting and detection arising from the departments ongoing efforts with the Crestview Hills Town Center and its tenants to streamline communication and leverage technology to prevent, deter, and prosecute retail theft. A majority of the remaining theft is predicated by criminals and opportunists, typically from outside Crestview Hills and Lakeside Park, committing such crimes through remote means or during their travels through the cities. This is one reason the department has placed a significant emphasis on public education related to crime prevention and reporting suspicious activity. Leveraging the power of various media and technology that assists in detection, prevention, and investigation of criminal activity remains a priority for the agency.

The department has noticed a significant increase in traffic volume on many of its major thoroughfares which factors into the increased collisions. The department will work vigorously with stakeholders to decrease collisions through engineering and enforcement to optimize the safety of motorists transiting our roadways.

Lakeside Park – Crestview Hills Police Department

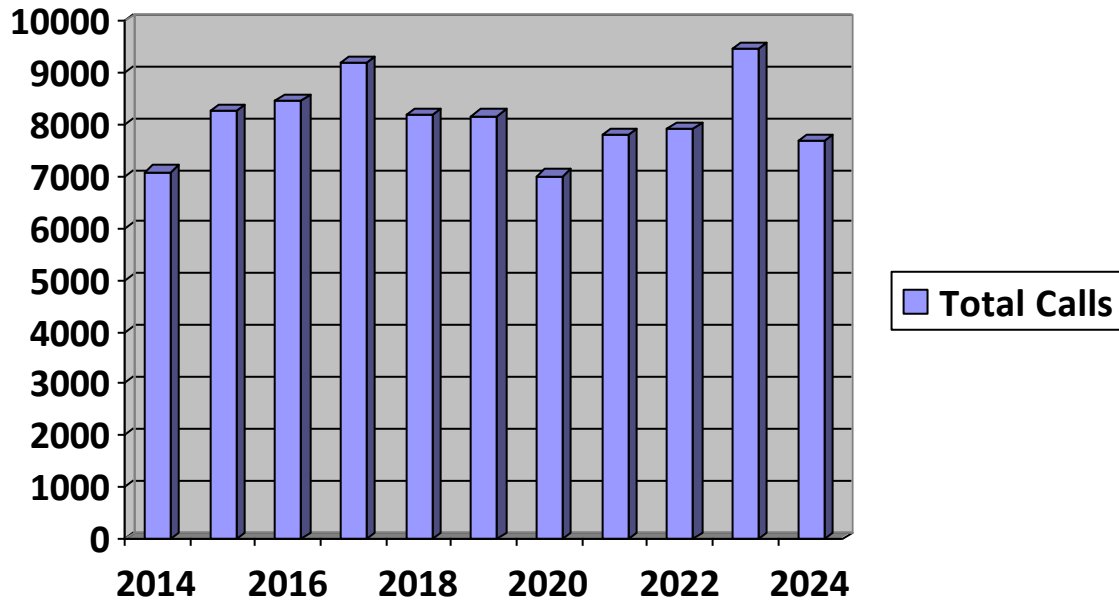
Total Incidents from 2014 to 2024



<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
2014	8,209
2015	9,132
2016	9,475
2017	12,409
2018	11,662
2019	11,431
2020	10,105
2021	10,237
2022	10,812
2023	11,885
2024	10,810

Lakeside Park – Crestview Hills Police Department

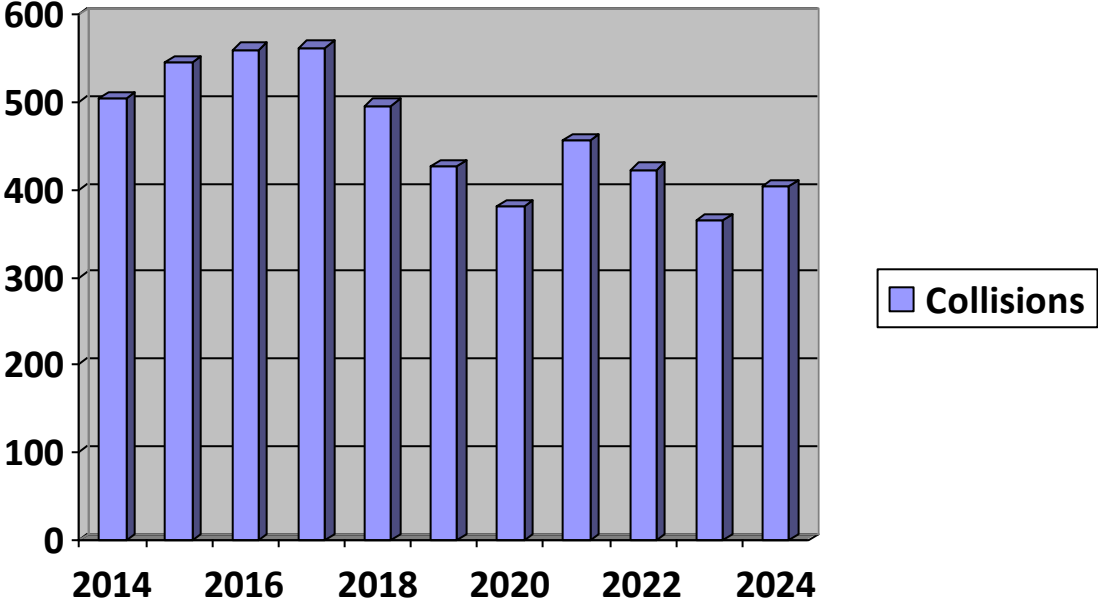
Total calls for service from 2014 to 2024 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Standards



<u>Year</u>	<u>Totals</u>
2014	7,082
2015	8,272
2016	8,466
2017	9,190
2018	8,194
2019	8,169
2020	7,016
2021	7,792
2022	7,913
2023	9,478
2024	7,690

Lakeside Park – Crestview Hills Police Department

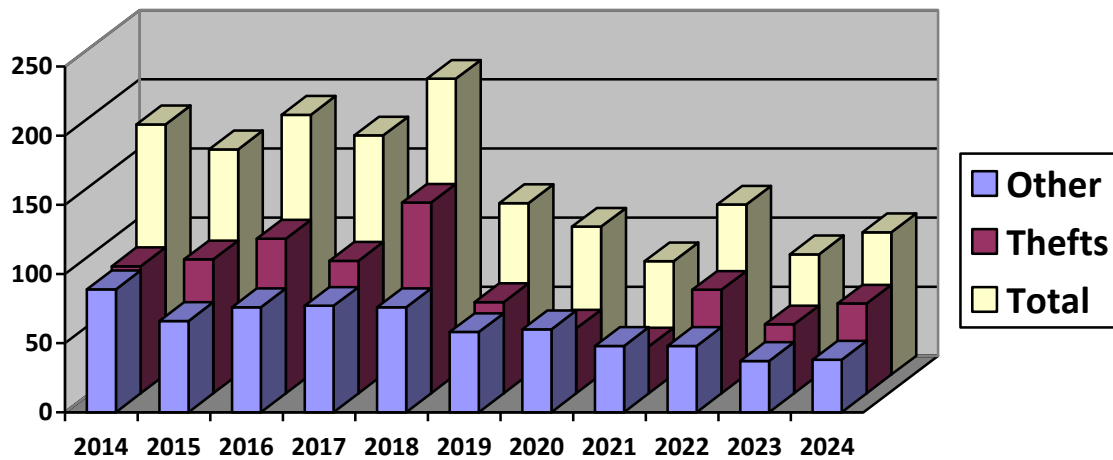
**Total reported auto collisions from 2014 to 2024
KSP Auto Collision Reporting Standards**



<u>Year</u>	<u>Totals</u>
2014	504
2015	546
2016	561
2017	563
2018	497
2019	427
2020	381
2021	456
2022	423
2023	365
2024	404

Lakeside Park – Crestview Hills Police Department

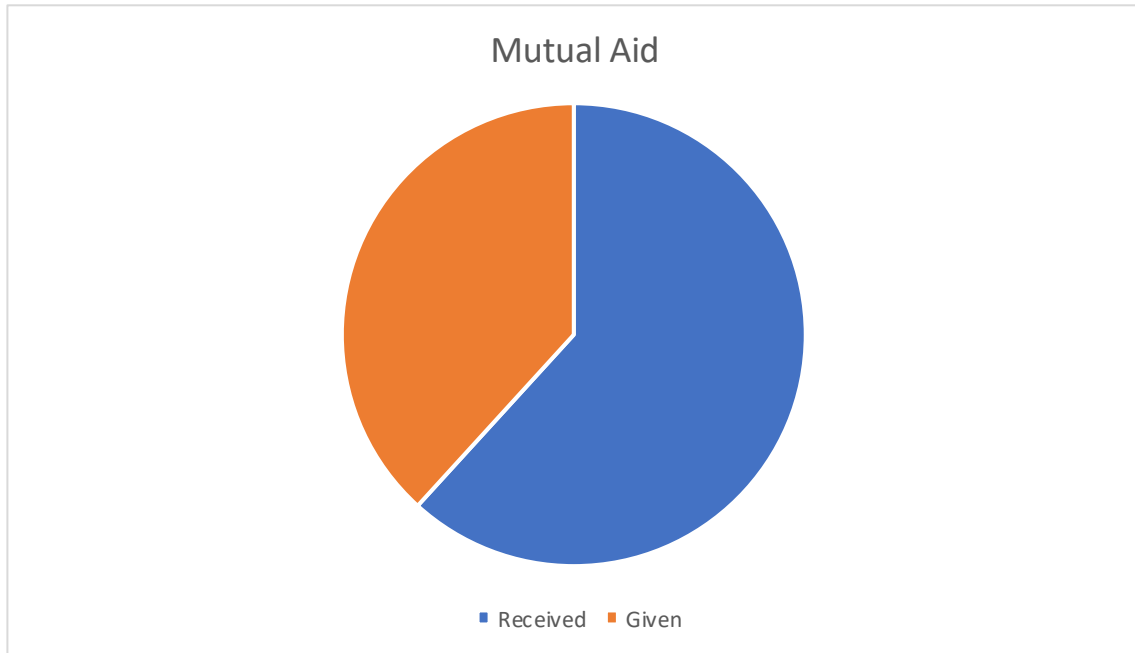
Total crime reported from 2014 to 2024 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Standards



<u>Year</u>	<u>Totals</u>
2014	181
2015	163
2016	188
2017	173
2018	214
2019	124
2020	107
2021	82
2022	123
2023	84
2024	103

Lakeside Park – Crestview Hills Police Department

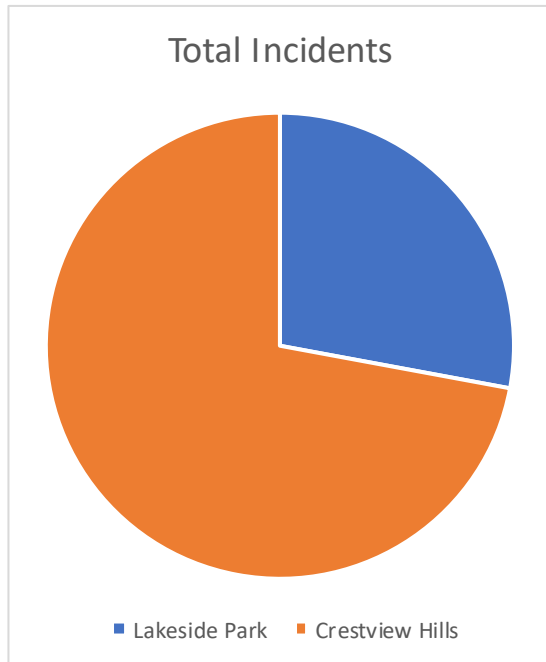
Total calls for service from 2024 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Standards Mutual Aid Received and Given



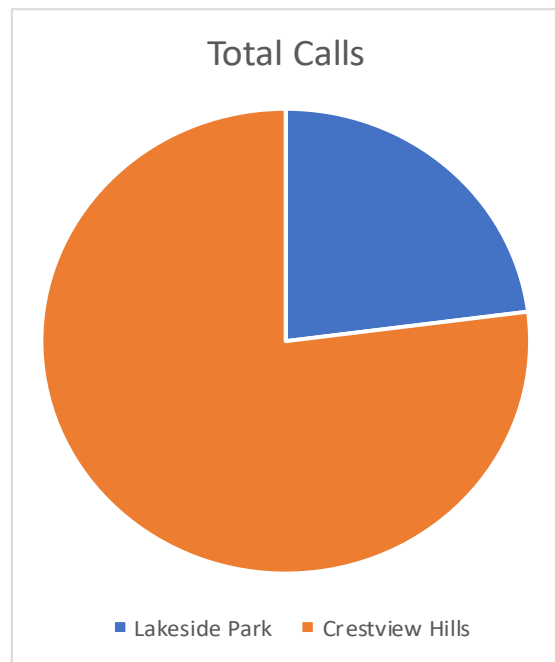
<u>Mutual Aid</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Received	1,119
Given	693

Lakeside Park – Crestview Hills Police Department

Total Incidents 2024 Breakdown by City



Calls for Service 2024 Breakdown by City



<u>City</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
Lakeside Park	2,605	27.90%
Crestview Hills	6,723	72.07%
Total	9,328	

<u>City</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
Lakeside Park	1,443	22.97%
Crestview Hills	4,839	77.02%
Total	6,282	

Statistics used for these charts are based on the monthly reports of activity verified and mapped inside the city limits of Lakeside Park and Crestview Hills, respectively. Due to limitations in the records management system, it does not account for calls where locations were unverified or mapped outside the city limits.

Additional statistics on pages 13 and 14 account for all activity including mutual aid and enforcement that mapped outside city limits, however that additional data cannot be accurately assigned or dedicated to Lakeside Park or Crestview Hills statistics.

Objectives for 2025

The following goals and objectives for 2025 are intended to continue the department's tradition of providing an exemplary and innovative level of service to the cities of Lakeside Park and Crestview Hills.

- **Charity Car Show.** The department will present a fifth charity car show. The 2025 Car Show will benefit the Northern Kentucky Police Chiefs Foundation, whose mission is to prepare officers through advanced in-service training, protect officers through mental health and wellness support, and preserve the memory of officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
- **Student Police Academy.** The department will continue its partnership with Thomas More University (TMU) to present a fifth Student Police Academy.
- **Community Outreach.** The department will continue its strong community outreach programs such as RAD classes, child safety seat technician services, active threat response training, residential security surveys, and business security forums.
- **Innovative Partnerships.** The department will continue to leverage new technology, via vendors and stakeholders in respective areas, to prevent crime and remedy existing crime issues, in addition to traditional preventative and investigative techniques.
- **Recruitment.** We will continue to develop ongoing partnerships with key community stakeholders to identify quality individuals who have the desire to pursue a career in law enforcement.
- **Retention.** The department will continue to innovate ways to retain qualified personnel. These may include not only financial incentives but also strategies that can help to realize personal self-actualization.
- **Threat Assessment for Concert and Event Security.** The Crestview Hills summer concerts have become a staple in the Northern Kentucky community. The department will continue to conduct assessments of all possible threats to ensure the safest environment possible for concert patrons.

- **Diminishing Skills Proficiency.** The Department will continue its vigorous training regimen to hone and sharpen the officers' skills in firearms, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operations and active threat response.
- **Leadership Development.** The Department will augment its depth of leadership through mentoring and command level trainings for all supervisory personnel to ensure that they will be ready to assume command level assignments.
- **Traffic Safety.** With the increase in traffic volume and the subsequent increase in collisions, the department will continue working with local and state stakeholders to optimize the safety of our roadways. The department will designate a liaison to coordinate agency efforts with outside agencies, city officials, as well as state highway personnel and engineers to increase the efficacy of roadway safety efforts.
- **Increase Technical Capabilities.** The department plans to acquire state of the art equipment to compliment the technical skillsets and certifications that our officers possess. Scene mapping items such as Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) are critical tools to assist our investigators and collision reconstructionist in accurately depicting scenes. In addition to scene mapping, a UAV drone can assist with locating missing persons/search and rescue, locating wanted persons, and venue security, among other capabilities. The department will acquire a Variable Message System (VMS) radar trailer. This trailer can fulfill numerous roles such as displaying traffic or safety messages, radar speed tracking and display, and acting as a directional arrow board. The trailer will assist in our traffic safety efforts through driver awareness, driving behavior modification, and traffic studies to optimize enforcement efforts. The trailer will also be utilized at various community events. Lastly, the department will purchase two electronic assist mountain bikes to replace two of our current aging bike patrol mountain bikes. The new e-bike mountain bikes are purpose built for law enforcement to provide the latest advancements in bike patrol safety, functionality and comfort to our officers.

Conclusion

For 57 years, the cities of Crestview Hills and Lakeside Park have collaborated for the betterment of their citizens to provide the necessary and important service of Law Enforcement. This constant support and devotion from both cities has facilitated the opportunity for the Lakeside Park - Crestview Hills Police Department to become a leader within the Northern Kentucky Law Enforcement community. Whatever the future holds, we will continue our tradition of excellence, exemplifying the benefits of our collaborative structure as a model for others to follow.

