



Duluth Police Department

2022 Annual Report



(218) 730-5400



Police@DuluthMN.gov



2030 N Arlington Ave.,
Duluth, MN 55811



“

As a police department we want to build trust with our community members so they know this is their department, a place where they can find help, be connected with resources, and feel heard. When we engage with people, we have an opportunity to cultivate relationships into partnerships allowing us to work together to improve community safety.

-Chief Mike Ceynowa

”

Mission Statement

To provide a safe Duluth for all by strengthening relationships and serving in a respectful, caring, and selfless manner.

Core Beliefs

- We recognize that our authority comes from our social contract with the community.
- People will believe that we are there to serve them if we are kind, caring and compassionate, and our actions match our words.
- People will trust us if they believe we are protecting their rights.
- Every interaction leaves a lasting impression.
- The safety of both our community and officers are paramount.

Values

Fair
Accountable
Caring
Transparent

2022 was a year of transition for the Duluth Police Department. We saw a record number of retirements and people leaving for other opportunities.

With change, many movements occurred within the department to fill open positions and provide more opportunities for existing staff.

Despite the staffing shortages, DPD was still able to show a decrease of crime overall, attend many community events, increase recruitment efforts, and focus on the wellbeing of our employees.

The Duluth Police Department will continue to strive to maintain the safety of those who live, work, and play within the City of Duluth as well as continue to build relationships in every corner of the city.



2022 Stats

82,948

Total Calls for Service

835

Crimes Against Persons
(assault/rape/homicide/robbery)

132

Sworn Personnel

3,802

Crimes Against Property
(burglary/fraud/theft/vandalism)

38

Professional Staff

3,050

Crimes Against Society
(narcotics/disorderly conduct)



"I just wanted to send a thank you so much to all the police officers this holiday season. You risk your lives every day to keep Duluth safe. I really look up to all of you. I also wanted to say I am so grateful for the new officers stepping up and coming on the force. I also like seeing women on the force. I'm also praying for your safety every day. Have a great holiday and again thank you so much."

"Thank you for the difficult work you do to protect and help us. I pray for all of you every day for safety and good health and blessings. I don't know all your names, but God does. Thank you again."

"I am honored to live where officers know how to de-escalate conflict and are having success at tackling the high overdose death rate. Way to go!"

"We never envisioned being robbed at gun point. The speed an action of the Duluth Police resulted in our safety and the apprehension of the suspect. Your officers were extremely professional, and, above all, compassionate. I am extremely grateful."

"I want you to know how calming and helpful everyone was when my husband passed away. One officer has checked back with me several times to make sure I am OK. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate her. You can be very proud of your police department and know that we are glad you are here. Take care and stay safe."

"The Duluth Police Department saved my life. I am so thankful for my second chance and that a mistake I made didn't define me forever."

Continuous Improvement/Innovation

The Duluth Police Department is committed to continuous improvement, accountability, and transparency. DPD hires dedicated and caring police officers who show up to each call in a respectful, caring, and professional manner.

Below are a few ways DPD continues to protect and serve with our community:

- Officers were equipped and trained on cutting edge technology, such as Axon's Taser7.
- Completed the Racial Bias Audit request for proposal and selected a vendor with community input.
- Incorporated new language in the School Resource Officer contract with ISD709 and continued to collaborate with the school district.
- Started up the Citizen Police Academy again after a two year pandemic pause as a way to build and maintain relationships with members of our community while giving residents a hands-on experience with DPD staff.
- Gathered input from the 2022 citizen community survey. 70% of respondents rate DPD at good or excellent overall performance.
- Intentional diversity recruitment efforts - in 2022, we hired six female police officers.
- Every officer at DPD completed a mandatory mental health check in.
- The Community Service Officer-Intern Program continued to expand, creating an additional pool of potential candidates.
- In 2022, the Substance Use Response Team added 214 new clients.
- The CORE (co-responder) Unit added 140 new clients.
- DPD's first female Interim-Chief of Police was announced after Chief Mike Tusken retired.
- The first ever Stop Data Report was published.
- The Crisis Negotiations Team continued to expand giving DPD additional options for responding to individuals experiencing mental health crises.
- CODE4, DPD's community engagement bus, continued to be a popular way for our community to spend time with our staff.
- DPD participated in the Pink Patch Project to show our support for individuals suffering from cancer.

Recruitment and Retention

In Minnesota, law enforcement agencies have multiple openings vying for the same pool of candidates who are POST-licensed. In summary, there are more job openings than there are eligible applicants to be police officers in our state.

Here at the Duluth Police Department, we are making it a priority to recruit a professional, creative, and diverse workforce. Our goal is to build a department that looks like the diverse community it serves.

In 2022, we released a Recruitment and Retention Plan that highlights DPD's intentional efforts in recruiting and retaining high-quality staff. DPD has an authorized strength of 157 sworn members, and currently has 132. Getting back to full strength will allow our officers to not only continue providing a safe Duluth for all, but grow personally and professionally while maintaining and developing community relationships.



Officer Jeremy O'Connor and his K9 Kallie attend a career fair.



Members of DPD man a booth during a career fair event at a local high school.

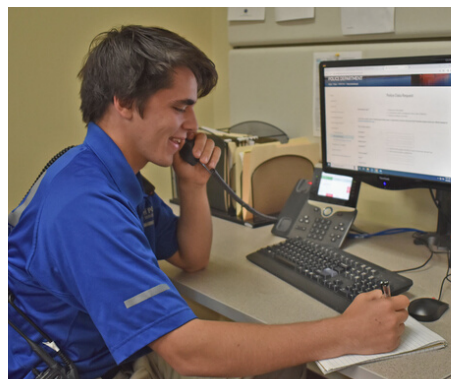


Investigator Morgan Cekalla smiles as he shows a student DPD's equipment.

Community Service Officer-Interns



Community Service Officer-Intern Macie Vanburkirk takes a picture during Kids, Cops, and Cars.



Community Service Officer-Intern Lincoln Bailey takes a police report over the phone.



Community Service Officer-Intern Katie LaTourelle directs traffic during Grandma's Marathon.

The Duluth Police Department's Community Service Officer-Intern Program has evolved as an important recruitment tool for the police department. This past year, six CSO-Is became sworn officers.

CSO-Is are law enforcement students who get hands-on learning experience responding to a variety of calls for service. This program gives individuals an advantage in the recruitment process as they are knowledgeable about DPD's policies and procedures.

Moving forward, we will continue to grow this program to help increase our staffing levels.

CORE & SURT

The Duluth Police Department continues to build and maintain partnerships within our community. It's a community wide approach to address Substance Use Disorders, mental health issues, and people experiencing homelessness. We are working to meet people in their places and spaces while growing our partnerships with groups to address the needs of our community, like HDC and CADT.

Mental Health Unit (CORE): DPD's CORE (co-response) Unit, responds and assists in calls for service ranging from mental health to homelessness, bridging the gap between responding to behavioral health crises and getting individuals the help they need.

SURT: DPD's Substance Use Response Team builds relationships, provides outreach, and connects individuals with resources to those who are living with Substance Use Disorder.



Social Worker Patty Whelan visits with a member of our community.



Social Worker Megan Tezak looks out at Lake Superior.

Community Engagement

In 2022, members of the Duluth Police Department participated in a variety of community events. We also sponsor a variety of community events. These events help maintain and build relationships within our community.



SRO Bill Stauber snaps a photo with a 'Junior Officer'.

- Blue Santa
- Torch Run
- Polar Plunge
- Pancake Day
- Operation K9
- Ice Cream Socials
- Coffee with a Cop
- Kids, Cops, & Cars
- National Night Out
- Grandmas Marathon
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Basketball Tournaments
- High School Career Fairs
- Get Hooked on Fishing Program
- Christmas City of the North Parade



Sergeant Rob Hurst demonstrates to a student at East High School how to hold a piece of equipment.

Patrol, Investigative, Administrative Divisions

The Duluth Police Department is separated into three main divisions to serve our community to the best of our ability. The three divisions are; Patrol, Investigative, and Administrative. Below is highlight from each division.

PATROL DIVISION

Officers identified a male as the suspect in over 15 residential building burglaries that occurred in the City of Duluth. After gathering information of his whereabouts, officers set up a perimeter and entered a residence.

The male attempted to hide from officers and barricaded himself in a room. After multiple attempts to de-escalate the situation, officers made entry into the room and the male was detained.

Evidence from multiple burglaries were seized, along with homemade lock pick tools and a card key from one of the burglaries.

The excellent work done by officers lead to the arrest of a prolific burglar and the recovery of evidence taken during the commission of these burglaries.

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Over the past several years, investigators from the Sex Crimes, Abuse & Neglect (SCAN) Unit have been investigating a career criminal and dangerous male. The individual was being investigated for ten Criminal Sexual Conduct involving juvenile females.

After multiple investigative techniques were used, charges were forwarded to the St. Louis County Attorney's Office.

After continued surveillance, 16 additional counts of Violation of a Harassment Retraining Order were added. In February 2023, the male self-admitted to the crimes and was sent to the state's largest, secure psychiatric hospital.

The care and compassion to the victims welfare, as well as the collaboration and dedication between the agencies involved, resulted in the common goal of keeping our communities safe.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Duluth Police Department's Professional Standards Unit (PSU) has played a pivotal role in bringing our staffing levels up. This Unit attended a variety of career fairs throughout Minnesota to intentionally recruit more of a diverse workforce. Throughout 2022, the PSU also made an appearance at local high schools to build and maintain relationships with students in Duluth.

The Professional Standards Unit has continued the PEER Support Program, which provides confidential assistance to members of the Duluth Police Department from peer counselors. This program is especially beneficial for members of DPD to lean on during critical incidents.

It's an important tool that DPD is committed to maintaining and expanding for mental health wellness.

Lake Superior Violent Offenders Task Force

298

Total Search Warrants

210

Task Force Arrests

1,516

Grams of Fentanyl Confiscated

65

Fatal Overdoses
(task force area)

19,680

Grams of Meth Confiscated

615

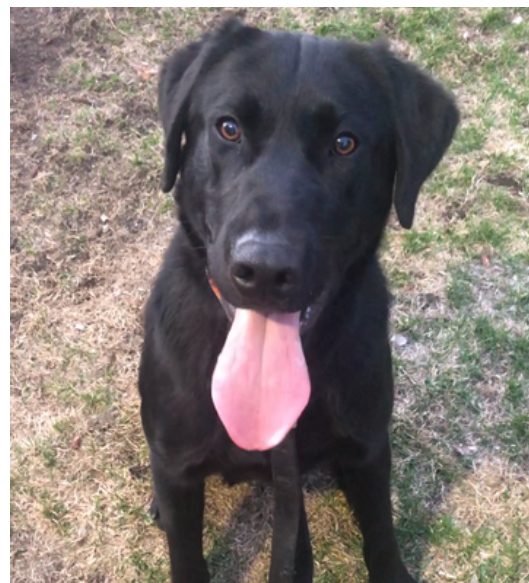
Non-Fatal Overdoses
(task force area)

100

Firearms Seized

Criminal complaints filed in St. Louis County District Court over the past couple of months charged 17 alleged members of a Duluth/Superior based Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) with participating in a criminal organization that imported substantial quantities of a fentanyl/heroin mix, a methamphetamine/fentanyl mix, methamphetamine, and several other controlled substances into the Duluth/Superior area. Task Force members have been investigating the DTO since July 2022.

During the course of the investigation, law enforcement agencies executed over 50 search warrants, seized nine firearms, a homemade explosive, a firearm "Switch", which turns a semi-automatic handgun into a fully automatic weapon, 10 vehicles, and \$74,377 in U.S currency. Also seized during the investigation was 8509 grams of a meth-fentanyl mix, with a total street value of \$850,914; 204 grams of fentanyl, with a total street value of \$37,740; 1759 grams of methamphetamine, which has a total street value of \$131,925; along with several other illegal drugs.



LSVOTF received a federal grant to purchase a narcotics K9. Pictured above is K9 Maverick.

Thank you for reading the Duluth Police Department's 2022 Annual Report. We look forward to continuing to protect and serve with the citizens of Duluth for many years to come.

www.duluthmn.gov/police



@DuluthMNPolice