

CITY OF BELLAIRE  
NORMAN-ZARATE  
POLICE & MUNICIPAL COURT



BELLAIRE  
Police Department  
2021 Year in Review

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## Message from the Chief



As the Chief of Police for the City of Bellaire, I am pleased to present the Bellaire Police Department's 2021 Year in Review. This report provides a summary of department activities for calendar year 2021 and contains important statistical data relevant to police operations. It is my hope that the data is useful for the community and provides a benchmark for future department operations.

While this report provides statistical data in a clear, easy to read format, something that is not clear is the hard work, dedication, and service displayed by each of our employees every day. Since my swearing in as Chief in August 2021 I have promoted a philosophy of "community service first." This philosophy is evident in our new and improved Community Outreach function that you'll see featured at the end of this report. I believe that community engagement and transparency are the hallmarks of a strong and progressive police department, features that the Bellaire Police Department has embraced and strives to promote.

Community outreach is just one facet of police operations. Another is quality supervision and accountability. To that end in 2021 I undertook a project to enhance accountability within the department by creating additional supervisory positions to ensure an adequate span of control. Each Patrol Squad now has dedicated first- and second-line supervisors tasked with ensuring adherence to department policies and expectations.

Another important area of policing is training. It is my belief that a better trained employee is a more efficient and effective community servant. In 2021 I was able to expand the department's training budget and ensure that all employees, from the line officer to the Division Commanders, had an opportunity to attend quality training in order to better provide the level of service the citizens of Bellaire need and deserve.

While the department provides professional law enforcement in Bellaire, we do so in partnership with the community. Sir Robert Peele said it best: "The police are the public and the public are the police." Community support and involvement are critical for this partnership to work and critical to ensuring the continued safety and tranquility of the City of Bellaire. We could not be as effective as we are without community support. It is with your support that we continue to make Bellaire a great place to live, work, and grow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Onesimo Lopez".

Onesimo Lopez  
Chief of Police

## Police Administration



### Support Services Captain Jeffery Cotton

Captain Jeffrey "Jeff" Cotton has served in Law Enforcement since 1996, joining the Bellaire Police Department in 1998. He holds a Master Peace Officer License and is certified as a Mental Health Officer, Special Investigator, SRT operator, Crime Prevention Inspector, and Intoxilyzer Operator. Captain Cotton has served the Bellaire Police Department as a Bailiff, Patrol Officer, Community Resource Officer, Field Training Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Lieutenant over the Office of Professional Standards, SRT Commander, and Patrol Captain. As Commander of the Support Services Division, Lt. Cotton is responsible for managing the Criminal Investigations Division, Property and Evidence unit, Warrant Unit, and Court Security personnel



### Uniformed Services Captain Anthony Hefferin

Captain Anthony "Tony" Hefferin commands the Uniformed Services Division which is the largest division in the department. Captain Hefferin is responsible for managing the Patrol Division, Traffic Unit, Jail Division, and Animal Control Division. Captain Hefferin served in the United States Navy from 1993 to 1998 and was discharged at the rank of E-4 / Third Class Petty Officer. Captain Hefferin started serving with the Bellaire Police Department in 2004 and has served the City of Bellaire in multiple capacities including Patrol Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Special Response Team Operator, and Assistant Team Leader.



### Civilian Operations Manager Melissa Galan

Melissa Galan began her 20+ years of public safety service with the Galena Park Police Department. After service with Galena Park, Ms. Galan briefly served with the West University Police Department before joining the Bellaire police Department in 2007. Ms. Galan worked her way up from Telecommunicator to Communications Supervisor to Civilian Operations Manager. In this capacity Ms. Galan is responsible for the Records Division and Telecommunications Division or Dispatch.

## Leadership Team



*Lt. Dan Kerr*  
Patrol Squad  
Commanders



*Lt. Darrell Hollie*



*Lt. Andre Porter*



*Lt. Shane O'Sullivan*



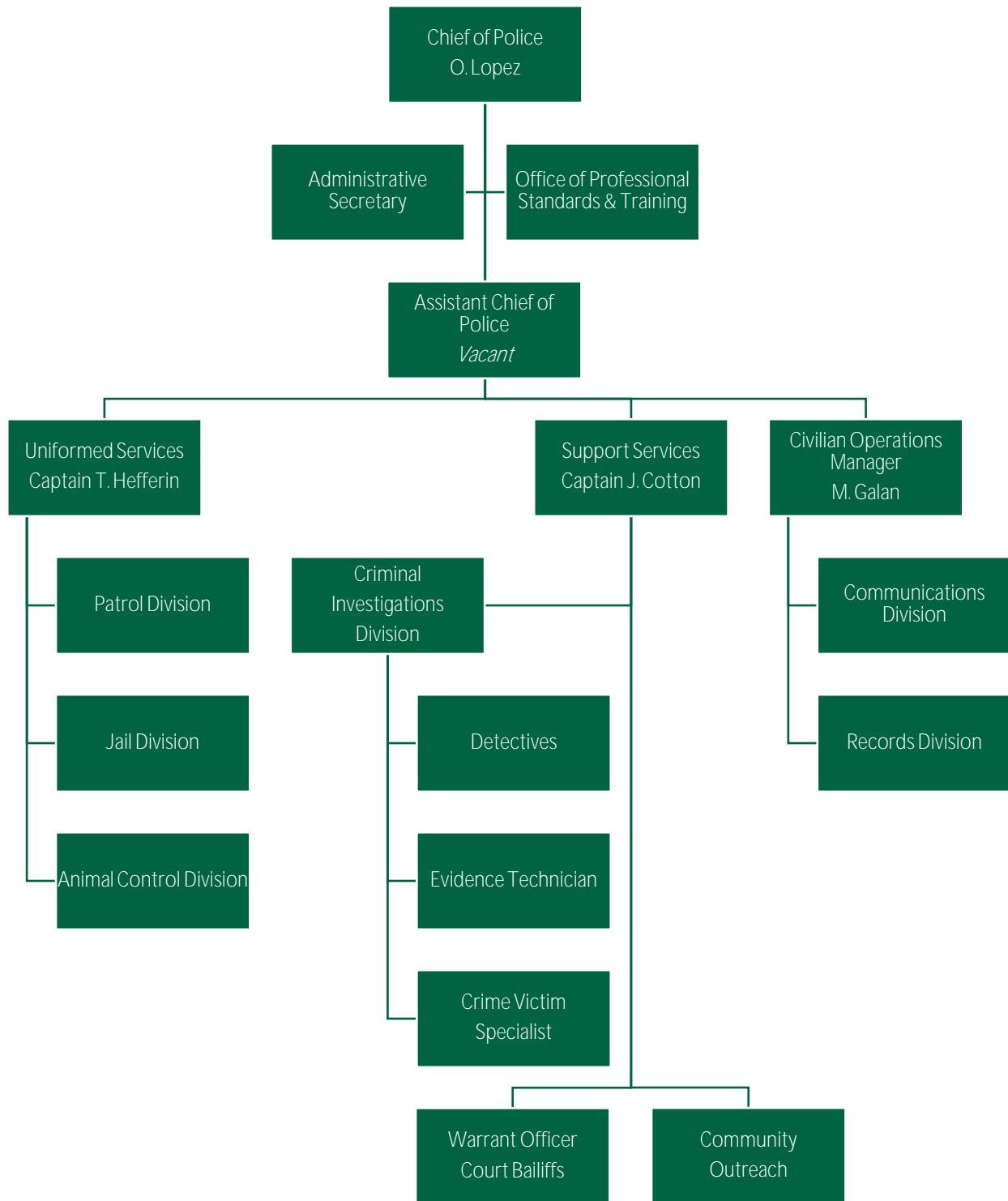
*Lt. Doug Clawson*  
Criminal Investigations  
Division Commander



*Lt. Karen Kramer*  
Office of Professional  
Standards & Training



# Organizational Chart



## Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

*The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) adopted the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics at their 64th Annual IACP Conference and Exposition in October 1957. The Code of Ethics stands as a preface to the mission and commitment law enforcement agencies make to the public they serve.*

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... law enforcement.



Officer Roger Balerio sworn in by Judge Jerel S. Twyman

# Vision, Mission, & Values

## Vision

As a premier law enforcement organization, the Bellaire Police Department's vision is for the City of Bellaire to be the safest community in the area by blending excellence in policing with community partnerships.

## Mission

The dedicated professionals of The Bellaire Police Department, in cooperation with the citizens of Bellaire, shall strive to provide a secure and viable community through:

- The protection of the fundamental rights of all people;
- Open communication and alliance with citizens;
- The promotion of pride and trust through the continual performance of responsibility, honesty, integrity, and discipline;
- Active recruitment, development, and retention of quality personnel; and,
- Proactive innovation to anticipate and meet the challenge of our changing environment.

## Values

Service - We provide quality service to all. We understand the expectations of us as professionals and accept those high standards in the delivery of services. We are accountable for our actions to ourselves as well as the community we serve. We recognize and accept the responsibility that comes with our authority as peace officers.

Honor - We will honor our community, our government, and our Department by our actions, reflecting strong character as well as practicing the values of our Department. We are honest and forthright in all our dealings. We are loyal to our community, our profession, our Department, and to ourselves. Our loyalty is for the greater good and not self-serving. We respect all persons and their rights.

Courage - We will act with courage in the face of danger. We will have courage in our decision making, ensuring that we act in an ethical manner with integrity and compassion.

2021

# Year at a Glance



**29,094**

Calls for Service



**2,140**

Alarm Calls



**55**

Violent Crimes



**375**

Property Crimes



**670**

Training Hours



**2.38 min**

Highest Priority  
Response Time (avg)



**18,862**

Population Serviced



**551**

Vehicle Accidents



**159**

Accidents with Injuries

## 2021 Year at a Glance –

This snapshot data provides a broad overview of department operations for calendar year 2021. These statistics are meant to be representative of the work the men and women of the Bellaire Police Department do every single day.

  
**2,662**

Traffic Stops

  
**104**

DWI Arrests

  
**517**

Arrests

  
**2,702**

Followers

  
**1,034**

Page Likes

  
**9**Internal Affairs  
Complaints  
**549**

Logged Property

  
**38**

Sworn Officers

  
**15**

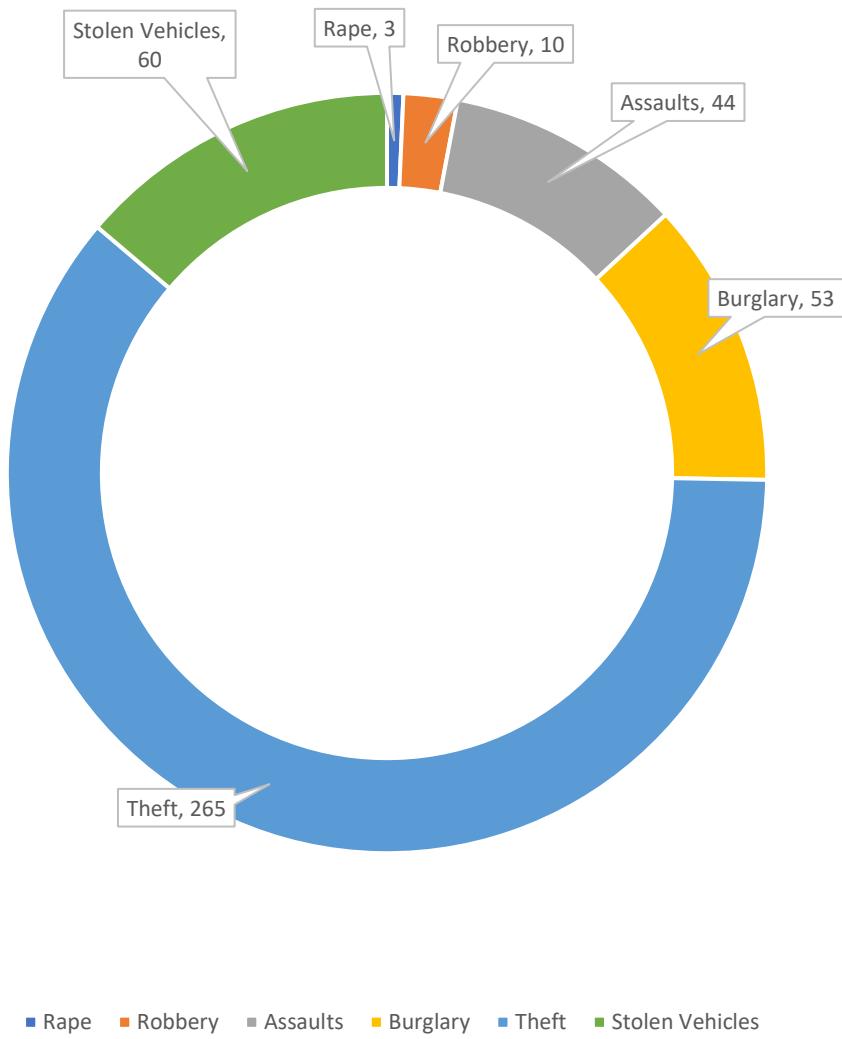
Civilian Personnel

## Criminal Investigations Division

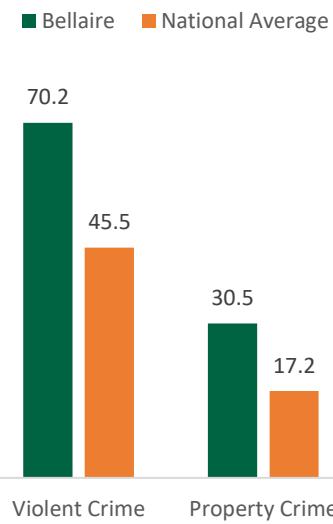
The Criminal Investigations Division is one of the smaller divisions within the Police Department. The activities of this division include the investigation of criminal offenses, preparation of criminal cases for filing with the District Attorney's Office, analysis of trends in criminal activity, and processing of major crime scenes.

The Criminal Investigations Division is comprised of one Lieutenant, three assigned Detectives, one rotating Detective, one Crime Victim Specialist, and one Evidence Technician. This division is dedicated to conducting thorough and professional investigations into incidents of crime as well as working to implement solid crime prevention measures within our community.

2021 Crime Data



% Clearance Rates  
2021



*National average data only available for 2019.*

## Crime Victim Specialist

The goal of the Crime Victim Specialist program is to provide services, protect, and advocate for victims of crime, family members of victims to assist in preventing further victimization and secondary trauma. Additionally, this specialist serves as a conduit between crime victims, the police department, detectives and other entities in the criminal justice system. The crime victim specialist provides information on case status, available restoration resources, and provides additional support to victims as needed.



### **Bellaire Police Crime Victim Specialist**

Miranda DiBenedetto  
(713) 662-2898

Provides victims of crime in Bellaire with an advocate and resource for assistance. Assistance includes rights, resources, and referrals.



### **Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Program**

Crime Victims' Compensation Program  
(800) 983-9933

Helps crime victims and their immediate families with the financial costs of crime.



### **HAWC 45 YEARS**

Ending domestic and sexual violence for ALL

Houston-Area Women's Center.  
(713) 528-2121

Offers help for victims experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault.  
Available 24/7.



end abuse / begin again®

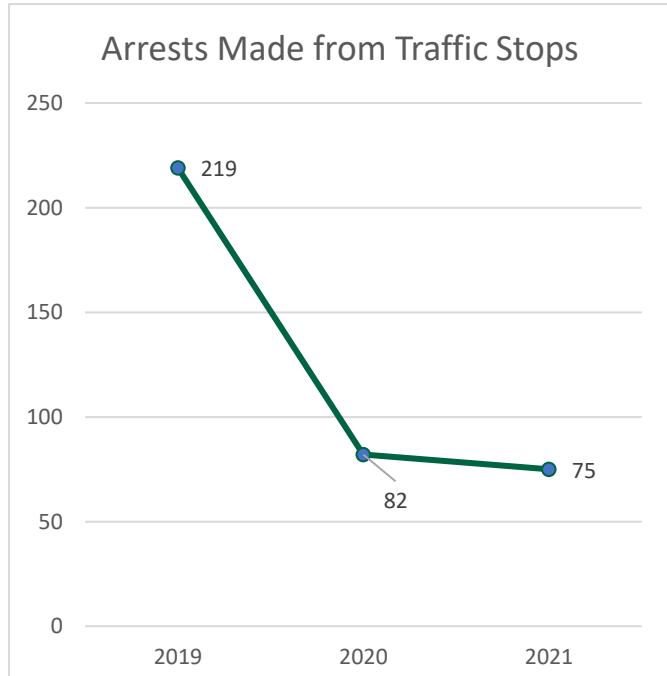
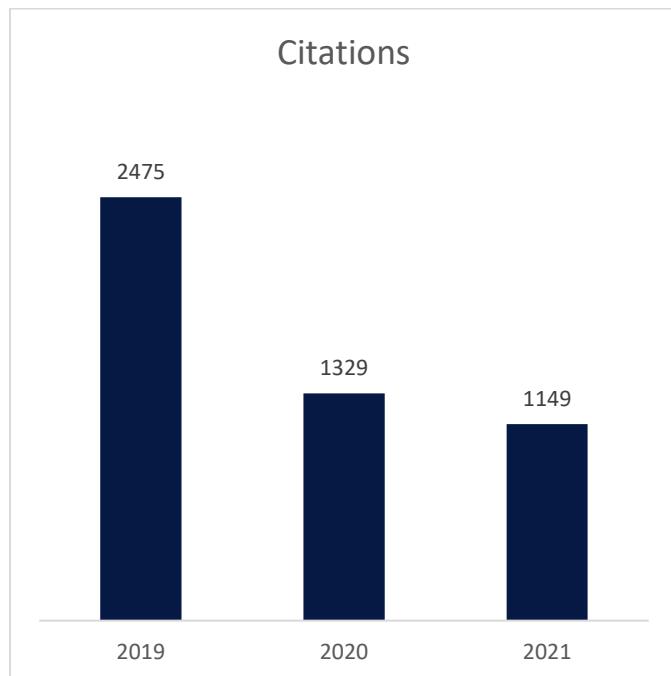
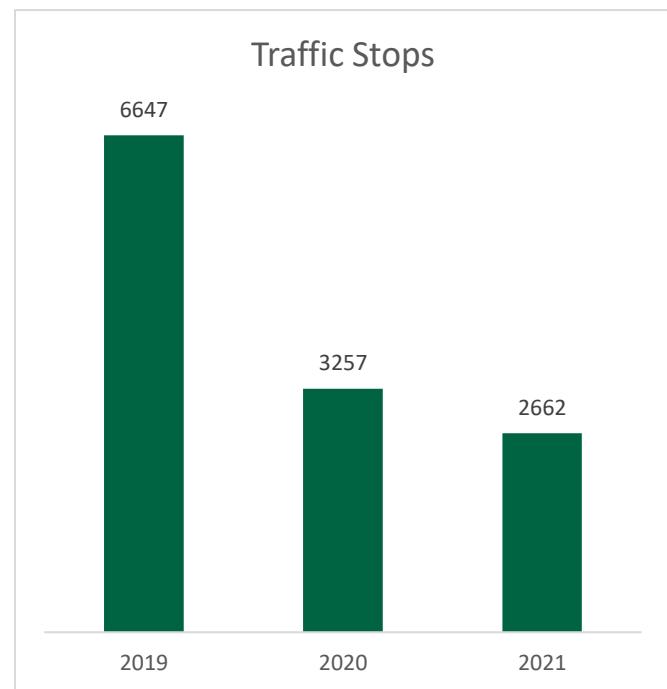
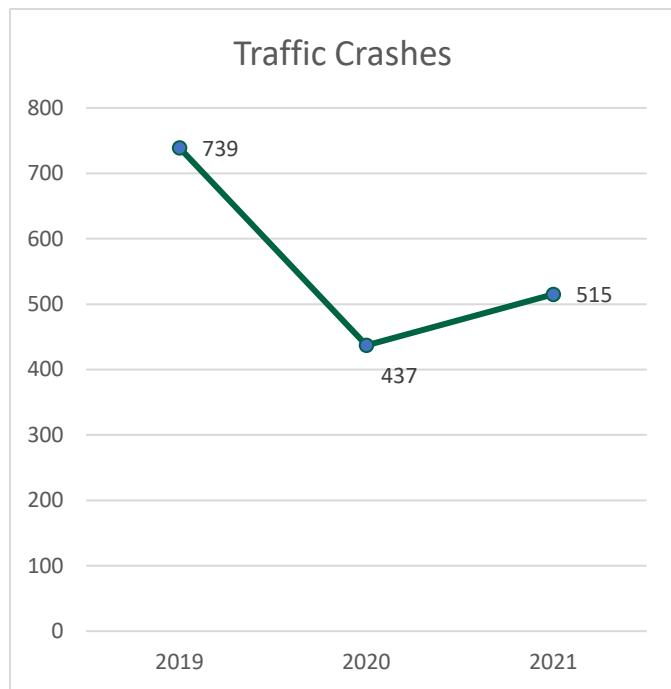
Harris County Domestic Violence Legal Aid

(713) 224-9911

Provides free legal aid to victims of domestic abuse in Harris County.

## Traffic Enforcement

The City of Bellaire is bisected by I-610, one of the busiest and most congested roadways in Houston. I-610 traffic combined with the thousands of cars that travel through the city and who travel to destinations within the city every day stretch the capabilities of Patrol staffing as we work to keep the streets safe and investigate traffic-related offenses.



## Racial Profiling

The Bellaire Police Department is committed to providing professional policing services, free of bias, while treating all people fairly and equitably. All law enforcement agencies in Texas are required to submit incident-based traffic stop data in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 2.131 – 2.138. Chief administrators of law enforcement agencies must submit racial profiling reports to their governing body and to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

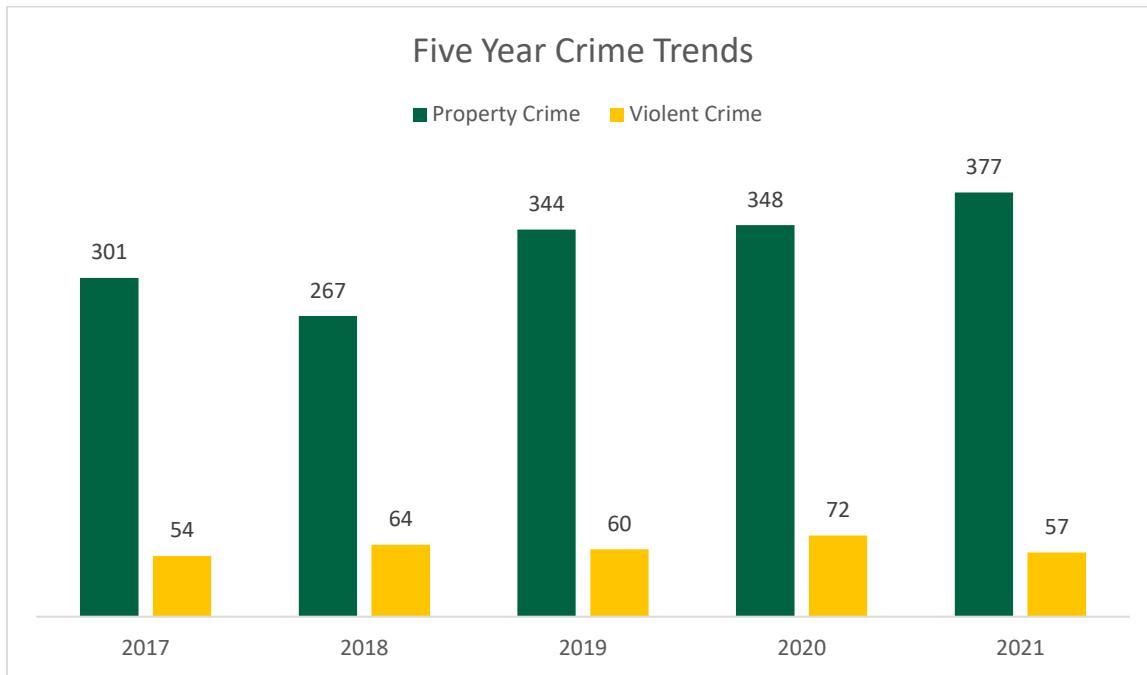
Year	Alaska / Native American / Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	White	Hispanic/ Latino
<b>2019</b>	0.41%	8.56%	31.82%	28.04%	31.17%
<b>2020</b>	0.43%	7.37%	31.69%	30.83%	29.69%
<b>2021</b>	0.83 %	7.51%	30.32%	27.24%	34.11%

Year	Male	Female
<b>2019</b>	1.1%	7.4%
<b>2020</b>		
<b>2021</b>		



## Crime Trends

The following charts show crime trends for the preceding 5 years.



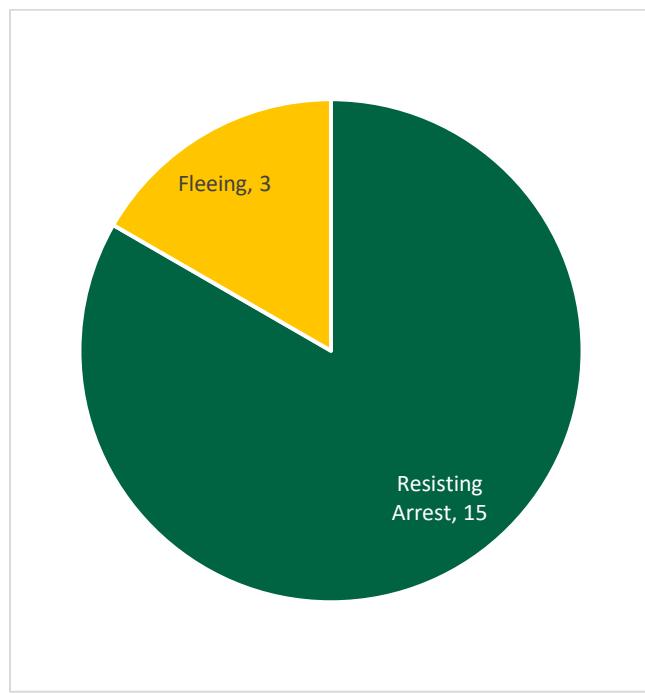
While violent crimes went down in 2021, property crimes have steadily increased year to year since 2018. Thefts make up the majority of these property crimes. While every theft is different, there are steps that the public can take to reduce the chances of their becoming a victim of theft.

- When you leave your home or office, even for a moment, always keep your doors and windows locked. Do not prop open or disengage the locking system on the door or windows.
- Never leave your purse, wallet, book bag, laptop, cell phone, earbuds, or other property unattended even for a moment in a public setting. Never leave these items in plain sight in a vehicle. Before you walk away from your property: “stop, think and secure.”
- Keep an updated list of all personal property that have serial numbers, especially your personal electronics and bicycles.
- Please note the MAC addresses on any technology that has access to the internet. This information may help detectives track down items that are stolen.
- Download the “Find my iPhone” (works for Mac laptops as well) app and use it for all your Apple products.
- When locking your bicycle, use a steel “U” lock rather than a cable lock. Lock the frame and tire together to a stationary object. If the bike has an easily removable seat, we recommend you remove the seat and take it with you.
- If you are the victim of a theft, report it immediately to the Bellaire Police Department at (713) 668-0487. We are available 24 hours a day.

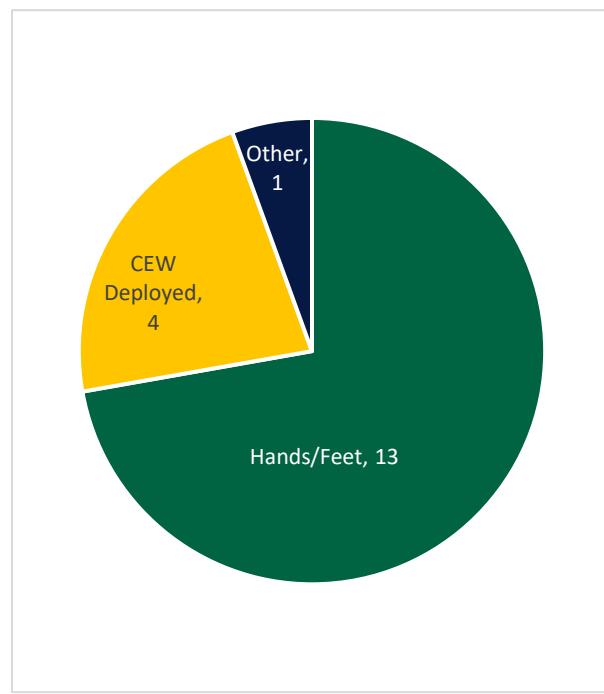
## 2021 Response to Resistance Statistics

In addition to conducting administrative reviews of each incident involving use of force, the Bellaire Police Department annually conducts a systematic, structured analysis to recognize patterns or trends and evaluate the overall effectiveness of our Response to Resistance policy. This process allows the department to make necessary improvements in training, equipment, the Early Warning System, or policy.

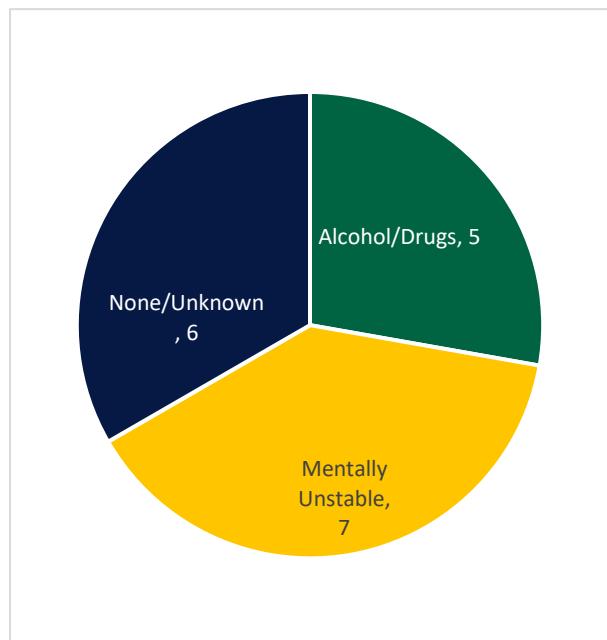
In 2021 the Bellaire Police Department documented 18 incidents where force other than a firm grip or direction was used. The following charts show the reasons force was applied and the types of force used. “Hands/Feet” means that officers relied on their physical strength to overcome the resistance encountered.



Reason Force Used



Type of Force Used



Subject Influencing Factors

“CEW Deployed” refers to the use of a department-issued Taser.

“Other” refers to the use of a device called the WRAP. The WRAP is a safe restraint system designed to protect subjects and personnel by reducing the possibility of injury and death. The WRAP immobilizes an individual in a seated position to lessen the possibility of injury to themselves or others.



## Promotions & New Employees

### Promotions



Detective Monica Andrade



Sergeant Dallas Norman



Lieutenant Andre Porter

### New Employees



Information Coordinator  
Danyelle Green



Officer Liang Han



Officer Steven Deliphose



Officer Francisco  
Soto-Villalobos



Officer Nathanael Rios



Officer Roger Balerio



Officer Stefanie Garza

## Community Engagement



informal venues to engage the community in relaxed settings.

Building partnerships with the community is a pivotal component of effective crime prevention in any locality. When law enforcement is able to effectively engage and involve the community in crime prevention efforts citizens become an extension of the police and positively impact the level of crime and the perception of crime in the city. With this in mind, the Bellaire Police Department has increased its community outreach efforts and intentionally finds formal and



This new approach to citizen engagement began with the department's first "Coffee with a Cop" event. Local businesses volunteer to host this monthly event and provide coffee and the venue for citizens to stop by and visit with Bellaire police officers in an unstructured format. This is a 'win' for all involved: the police department engages with community; the community gets to interact with the officers that patrol their neighborhoods; and local businesses are highlighted in advertising and the department's social media accounts.



citizen interaction, we still participate in our regular annual events. National Night Out, held the first Tuesday in October, is one such event. National Night Out encourages neighbors to come out and get to know one another while at the same time building a sense of

The department also engages the community by appearing at area festivals and events. Officers and civilian staff are assigned to attend events such as the monthly Party at the Pavilion, Trunk or Treat events, and Holiday in the Park. The intent is to encourage one-on-one interaction with area youth and the police to build up trust in law enforcement and familiarity with police officers in Bellaire.

While the Bellaire PD has started new and innovative programs aimed at



community with their law enforcement officers. Bellaire police officers interact with citizens where they live and get feedback on issues important to their specific neighborhood while sharing food and fellowship.



Public safety in Bellaire is not just about the police. Whenever possible the police department will partner with the Fire Department in community outreach events. For example, annually the Police and Fire Departments coordinate "Santa Sightings" where the Fire Department gives Santa Claus a tour of the city and the Police Department provides an escort. This helps keep the magic of Christmas alive and well in Bellaire and is a treat for our youngest citizens.