

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK

Status and Information Report

Report No. 8 for 2022

April 15, 2022

To Mayor Thompson and Town Council,

The goal of the Status and Information reports is to share relevant information in a timely fashion. The Status and Information Reports are distributed to the Town's elected officials, residents, and employees. Status and Information Reports are also available to businesses and visitors through the Town website. The reports are published in English and Spanish. The next Status and Information Report will be published on April 29, 2022.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

FY2023 Budget Public Hearing	Saturday, April 23, 2022 9:30 a.m.	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250484281?pwd=d210RmJSL1pFa2tyVzdkdVJEN3FJQT09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 812-5048-4281 Passcode: 579554
Special Legislative Meeting and Work Session	Monday, April 25, 2022 7:00 p.m.	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87478940570?pwd=VWNsRzZlczNrK2ZYRkV6aitoZk5oUT09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 874-7894-0570 Passcode: 579554
Tax Rate Public Hearing and Legislative Meeting	Monday, May 2, 2022 7:00 p.m.	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85263539545?pwd=QnNrc0R3Y0RWMXZ0OXFRWG0vTWtFZz09 Or call: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 852-6353-9545 Passcode: 579554

Administration

- Town Hall - limited in-person office hours: As the 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people remains below 15, Town Hall offices are open for walk-in business on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The office hours will remain limited through the Municipal Center Renovation project and may be adjusted depending on the construction schedule and any change in COVID-19 locally. Masks are required.

It is good to note that the 7-day rolling average in Prince George's County had fallen to 3.09 on March 22nd. However, this number has climbed and today the number is 10.02. Please continue to be safe.

- Meetings with Staff: Staff are available for virtual meetings when the Town buildings are closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Municipal Center Project. Virtual meetings can be scheduled by phone or by e-mail. If you need assistance with scheduling a virtual meeting, please call 301-927-6381.
- Remote Notary Services available: Staff are available to perform Remote Notary Services for Town residents. Remote Notary Services will be performed through a virtual platform approved by the Maryland Secretary of State. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Keith Robinson at krobinson@riverdaleparkmd.gov, Denisa Caballero at dcaballero@riverdaleparkmd.gov, or call 301-927-6381.

Council Direction Summary

The Mayor and Council provided direction to staff through the following Legislative Actions:

1. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter agreement with Sowing Empowerment & Economic Development, Inc. (SEED) for an amount not to exceed \$76,000 through June 30, 2022, to administer Emergency Housing Assistance program - **Approved**
2. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter of support to M-NCPPC regarding administrative review of the proposed changes to Discovery District - Lots 15-17- **Approved**
3. Introduction of Ordinance 2022-OR-02 regarding Ethics Ordinance Revisions – Financial Disclosure - **Introduced**
4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-08 regarding reappointment of Ethics Commission members - **Adopted**
5. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-09 regarding process for the purchase of vehicles - **Adopted**

Community Engagement

- Earth Day Clean-up: The Anacostia Watershed Society will hold its biannual neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The clean-up will be held at Riverside Neighborhood Park on Riverside Drive. The Town currently has 48 registered volunteers. Vaccinations are required of all volunteers over the age of five.

- Fair Summary of Ordinance 2022-OR-02: The following legal advertisement ran in the *Enquirer-Gazette* on April 14, 2022.

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
FAIR SUMMARY OF
ORDINANCE 2022-OR-02

This is to give notice that the Riverdale Park Town Council has introduced and intends to take action on Ordinance 2022-OR-02.

Ordinance 2022-OR-02 will amend financial disclosure provisions of the Town's ethics ordinance for certain Town employees and appointed officials; authorize the Town Ethics Commission to require certain employees and appointed officials to file annually comprehensive disclosures; correct certain terminology; and generally, relate to financial disclosure requirements for certain Town employees and appointed officials.

Ordinance 2022-OR-02 is available for inspection by the public on the Town's website www.riverdaleparkmd.gov, by e-mail request to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov, or by calling 301-927-6381.

- FY2023 Tax Rate Public Hearing Notice: The following legal advertisement ran in the *Enquirer-Gazette* on April 14, 2022.

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
Notice of Public Hearing

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park seek public comment on maintaining the Town's Real Property Tax Rate at 0.6540 per \$100 of assessed value. This Public Hearing is not required under State of Maryland Law because the Town's assessable base as reported by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation contracted in the most recent assessment.

A virtual public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2022. To join, visit

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85263539545?pwd=QnNrc0R3Y0RWMXZ0OXFRWG0vTWtFZz09>

Or call: 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 852-6353-9545 Passcode: 579554) to participate. The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Testimony may also be mailed to: Town of Riverdale Park, Real Property Tax Rate Testimony, c/o Town Clerk Jessica Barnes, 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 or e-mailed to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov. Written comments will be accepted for seven (7) days following the virtual public hearing. The Fiscal Year 2023 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget is scheduled to be introduced on April 25, 2022.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-927-6381 for further information.

- FY2023 Budget Public Hearing Notice: The following legal advertisement ran in the *Enquirer-Gazette* on March 24, 2022.

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Riverdale Park will hold two public hearings to receive public comments on the proposed FY2023 Budget.

PLACE OF MEETING: Virtual Meetings via Zoom

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

DATES:

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83934913952?pwd=NU1kNjVXUm8rS0hWcklWcDBIVklJUT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 839-3491-3952

Passcode: 579554

and

Saturday, April 23, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250484281?pwd=d2l0RmJSL1pFa2tyVzdkdVJEN3FJQT09>

Or call: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 812-5048-4281

Passcode: 579554

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO: The Town of Riverdale Park at 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 or e-mailed to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

- COVID-19 Test Kits Available: The Town has received an allocation of COVID-19 test kits from Prince George's County. Town residents are eligible to receive tests through this municipal allocation. Town residents can pick up two (2) test kit packs at Town Hall on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Proof of Town residency will be required.
- Legal Help for Immigration Court: Free legal advice is available for immigrants who must appear before Maryland's immigration court because they are at risk of deportation. Children, families, and adults can call 443-703-3054 or go to www.probonomd.org/help-for-immigrants to request to speak to an attorney using WhatsApp.
- COVID Care Program: The Prince George's County Health Department's COVID Care Program is for residents who have been exposed to COVID-19 or who are COVID-19 positive. The program assists residents with social service needs, including connecting to health insurance, medical care, and mental health care at a Federally Qualified Health Center, Food, Living situations, Utilities, Transportation, and other needs.

The County will also assist with isolation and quarantine: deliver COVID Care Kits to the homes of people who consent. COVID Care Kits include PPE, cleaning supplies, tissues, toilet paper, and educational materials. Food insecure residents will also receive a 2-week supply of food, including fresh produce, canned goods, and kitchen staples like bread, tortillas, and rice.

If you are aware of Prince George's County residents who has tested positive for or who were exposed to COVID-19 and need services, please refer them to the COVID Care Program at <https://assess.pgchd-phin.app/index.php/181471/lang/en/newtest/Y> Questions can be sent to COVIDcare@co.pg.md.us Those who qualify will be contacted by a Community Health Worker from the Prince George's Healthcare Alliance.

- Prince George's County Homeownership Preservation Program (HOPP): A partnership has been established between Prince George's County and Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to launch the new Prince George's County Homeownership Preservation Program (HOPP). The program prioritizes homeowners who live within one mile of the Purple Line to provide resources to address the home's critical health, safety, and accessibility related needs to help promote and enable the transfer of generational wealth by preserving homeownership for families in need. Funding is limited, apply [here](#) and/or share the information with your neighbors.
- Senior Call Check: Senior Call Check is a FREE service available to adults 65+ in Maryland. Seniors can receive an automated daily call at a time they designate. After 3 attempts and no answer, the department will contact designated alternates to check on residents. Registration can be completed over the phone at 1-866-50-CHECK (1-866-502-0560) or online <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/senior-call-check.aspx>
- Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund: The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development launched the Maryland Homeowners Assistance Fund in late 2021. The Fund will be open to homeowners statewide. Visit the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund webpage to learn more about the program and the eligibility requirements. <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Pages/HomeownerAssistanceFund.aspx>
- Water Bill Assistance: The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has resumed water service turnoffs. WSSC Water is encouraging customers that need assistance to establish convenient payment plans or apply for financial assistance to prevent a water service turnoff.

Contact WSSC Water at 301-206-4001 Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit the WSSC Water website https://www.wsscwater.com/assistance?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

- Community Input: Input from the community is welcomed and encouraged as we navigate a new medium for holding public meetings. The public is invited to join the meetings virtually or e-mail comments to community_input@riverdaleparkmd.gov. The internet or a smart phone are not the only ways to join in. You may also call from a landline telephone to listen to the meeting and provide comments or call Town staff prior to the meeting and we will assist you with submitting your comments. We look forward to hearing from you!

- Trash Concerns App Streamlines Process: The Trash Concerns app can be used to order a new trash can, report missed recycling, and any other trash related concerns. http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/how_do_i/trash_concerns/index.php



- Social Media Outreach: Thank you to those who follow the Town on our social media platforms. The Town’s social media continues to expand our reach in sharing information. The Town’s website remains the primary source for electronic information. Facebook and secondary Twitter accounts expand efforts to amplify our messaging. At this time of great change, it is important that residents and businesses assist the Town in growing our social media outreach. As of today, you have increased followers to 2,311. We need your assistance to continue the Town’s outreach efforts. If you have not visited, liked, and followed our Facebook page, please do so. If you already have, encourage your neighbors, friends, and business associates to do the same. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/RiverdaleParkMD/>



- The Town of Riverdale Park (TRP) is also active on the following social media platforms and ask that you join us:
 - Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/riverdaleparkmd_gov/?hl=en
 - Twitter: https://twitter.com/Riverdale_Park
 - YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ/videos?view_as=subscriber

Environment

- Longfellow Street Storm Water Project supplies are on their way: The pipe inventory for the long-awaited Longfellow Street Storm Water Project is on its way from Conroe, Texas. Given local supply chain issues, the supplies had to be ordered from further away. The contractor, CSE, located the company and staff finalized the details.



- Weatherization Programs: Programs are available to help income eligible households lower their energy bills. The [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development \(DHCD\)](#) offers programs that may provide help with things like insulation, hot water system improvements, heating/cooling repair or replacement, renewable energy systems, and other

health and safety enhancements free of charge. For questions or help with the application call 1-855-583-8976.

- WSSC Notification System: If there is a water or sewer emergency in or near your neighborhood, get alerts via text or email. Visit <http://wsscwater.com/cns> to register.
- JEDA Trucking Bulk Trash Pick-up Services: As a reminder, Bulk Trash Collection is provided by appointment only on Thursdays. Schedule collection by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesdays by calling 240-604-6077 or online at www.jedatruckinginc.com/book-online.
- Yard Waste Mondays: Yard waste collection is every Monday. Yard waste needs to be at the **curbside by 6:00 a.m.** Residents are responsible for the following items:
 - Yard waste must be placed in paper bags or reusable bins that are clearly marked "Yard Waste"
 - Branches and limbs need to be bundled with rope or string (do not use wire), additionally all branches, limbs, and bundles must be:
 - less than 4 feet long,
 - individual branches less than 3 inches in diameter
 - weigh less than 60 pounds.
- Recycling Collection – important note: The Recycling Collection Program is provided by Prince George’s County. Items will not be collected if the items to be recycled are placed in any type of plastic bag. Town staff continue to receive reports that recycling items placed for pick-up are in plastic bags. Prince George’s County requires that recycling be placed in a blue tote or in a reusable collection container that is clearly marked “RECYCLING” or with an “X.”
NO PLASTIC BAGS OF ANY KIND ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RECYCLING CONTAINER (i.e., plastic grocery bags, plastic wrappers on soda or water containers). For additional information, please call 311 or 301-883-5810.

Development

- Purple Line Construction Notices: Residents are encouraged to subscribe for updates via e-mail or text message. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, visit www.purplelinemd.com, find “Construction” and click on “Subscribe for Updates.” The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.
- TRP-RPS – Riverdale Park Station News: For more information on store openings, events, and development news, check out the Riverdale Park Station transit and general websites and social media pages:
 - General Website: <https://thestationrp.com/>
 - Facebook: Riverdale Park Station: <https://www.facebook.com/TheStationRP/>
 - Twitter: @thestationrp: <https://twitter.com/thestationrp>
 - Instagram: thestationrp: <https://www.instagram.com/thestationrp/>
- Notices Received by Town:
 - Notice was received from Crown Castle informing that they are in the process of expanding and improving its wireless network throughout Maryland. Development of this network requires that a series of wireless antenna sites be developed to carry mobile

telecommunication radio signals throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Crown Castle has made an application to the Prince George's County Telecommunications Transmission Facility Coordinating Committee (TTFCC) to construct a new pole-top mounted telecommunication facility using existing wood poles in a public right of way. The proposed utility pole is located at 6639 Powhatan Street, Riverdale, MD 20737. For more information contact Heather McComas at PGCountyPermitting@CrownCastle.com.

- Upcoming Meetings: This feature in the Status and Information reports is provided to ensure awareness of upcoming meetings that may have information or agenda items related to development in or near the Town. Below please find links to the agendas for the Board of License Commissioners, the Planning Board, and the Historic Preservation Commission. Please visit the links for additional information:

Historic Preservation Commission: April 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting.
https://www.mncppc.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_04192022-644

Planning Board: April 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Virtual Meeting.
<http://mncppc.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=14&ID=1649&Inline=True>

Board of License Commissioners: *No information available at time of report.*

- Development Activities from March 31, 2022, to April 14, 2022

Permits: Building / Storage Containers

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2022 Totals
Permit Inspections Conducted	0	27
Building Permits Issued	1	28
Stop Work Orders Issued	0	2

Permits Issued:

Permit #	Address	Work Description	Est. Investment
2022-B-28	4601 Riverdale Road	6-Foot Fence	\$7,120
Est. Investment Bi- Weekly Total:			\$7,120
Est. Investment FYTD 2022 Total:			\$2,895,176

Licenses:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2022 Totals
Multifamily Rental Inspection Conducted	0	21
Multifamily Licenses Issued	0	20
Single-family Rental Inspection	0	70
Single-family Licenses Issued	8	61
Business License Inspections Conducted	0	128
Business Licenses Issued	1	130

- Neighborhood Improvement Activities from March 31, 2022, to April 14, 2022

Community Standards Violations by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2022 Totals
Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	3	92
Exterior Conditions	2	101
Interior Conditions	3	122
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	0	29
Safety	5	76
Sanitation	1	8
Total Violations Found:	14	428

Services Provided by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2022 Totals
Complaint Responses Performed	13	223
Fines Issued	6	31
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	17	289
Violation Notices Issued	4	67
Warnings Issued	10	179
Total Services Provided:	50	789

Note:

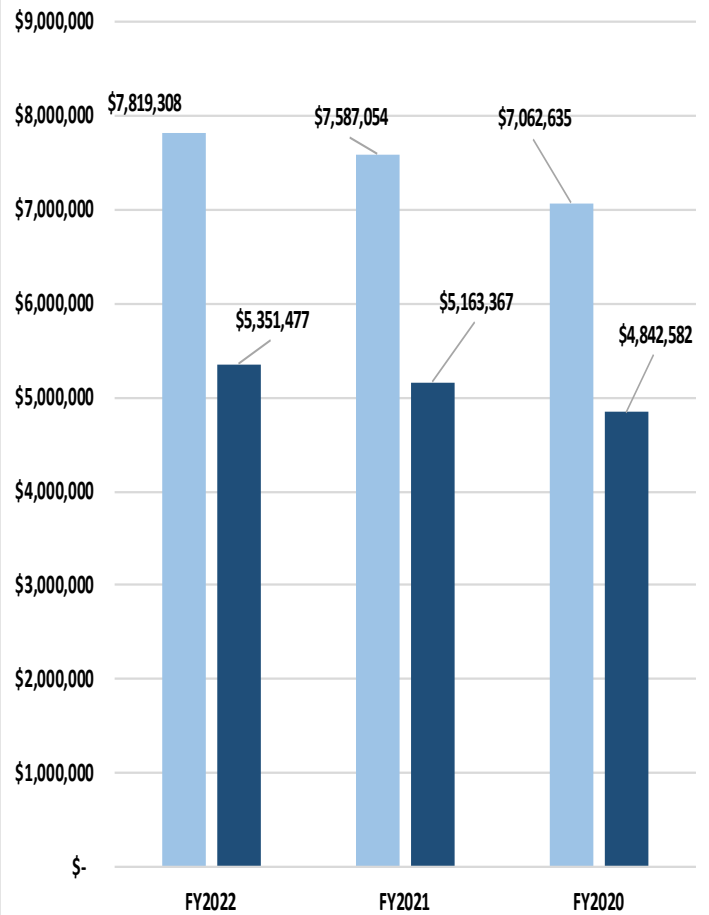
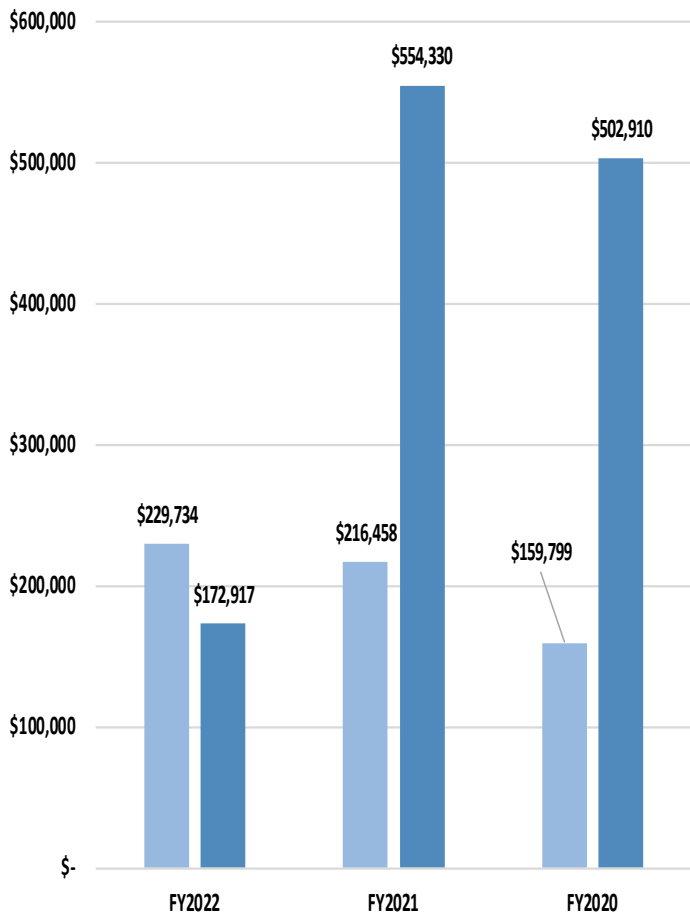
1. "FYTD" means Fiscal Year to Date, starting from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.
2. "Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish" includes violations pertaining to the storage of waste materials in interior or exterior property areas.
3. "Exterior Conditions" include, but not limited to chipping, flaking, and peeling paint, graffiti, storage of inoperable vehicles, damaged accessory structures, driveways, doors, overhangs, roofs, stairways, walls, windows, and other exterior components.

4. *“Interior Conditions” include, but not limited to; cracks and holes in ceilings, floors, and walls, missing stair railings, water-damaged surfaces, and lack of proper ventilation.*
5. *“Overgrown Weeds” include grass or weeds more than 10 inches in height.*
6. *“Safety” includes, but not limited to; damaged/missing electrical outlets, covers, light fixtures, carbon monoxide and /or smoke detectors, lack of escape windows in bedrooms, missing address numbers, major structural damage, and unsafe buildings.*
7. *“Sanitation” includes, but not limited to; insect/rodent infestation, mildew/mold on surfaces, uncleanliness, and storage of hazardous waste.*

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Finance

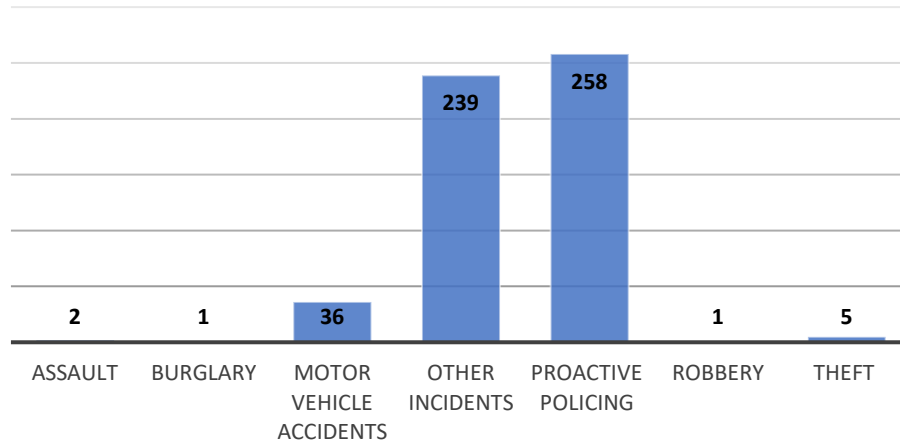
Mar			YTD Total		
FY2022	FY2021	FY2020	FY2022	FY2021	FY2020
\$ 229,734	\$ 216,458	\$ 159,799	\$ 7,819,308	\$ 7,587,054	\$ 7,062,635
\$ 172,917	\$ 554,330	\$ 502,910	\$ 5,351,477	\$ 5,163,367	\$ 4,842,582
\$ 56,817	\$ (337,872)	\$ (343,111)	\$ 2,467,831	\$ 2,423,687	\$ 2,220,053



Revenue =	
Expense =	

Public Safety

542 Calls for Police Service 03/31/2022 to 04/13/2022



Calls for Service defined: A call for service is any activity performed by a sworn police officer in the performance of their assigned duties. Calls for service covers both proactive activities such as area checks and traffic enforcement, as well as a portion of field investigative reports, traffic accidents, and response to various incidents. Calls received for dispatch are also included in the calls for service total.

Staff are working to enhance reporting capabilities to more accurately differentiate between proactive police actions and responding to dispatched incidents. The above chart illustrates that at a minimum, 258 or 48 percent of calls for service were proactive actions on the part of the Town's police officers.

Proactive Policing includes traffic safety, business and residential checks, field interviews, and quality of life issues.

Other Incident includes disorderly complaints, fights, suspicious subjects/vehicles, parking complaints, traffic complaints, and assisting individuals.

Highlighted reports:

- Officers responded to the 4600 block of Sheridan Street for a theft. The victim reported unknown suspect(s) removed a package from their front porch.
- Officers responded to the 5400 block of 54th Avenue for a family dispute. Responding officers contacted the parties involved and one person was arrested for having an active arrest warrant.
- Officers responded to the 5500 block of Kenilworth Avenue for a vandalism. The victim reported unknown suspect(s) damaged his vehicle with a brick.

- Officers responded to a business in the 6200 block of Rhode Island Avenue for a theft. The investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) removed the victim's wallet from a locker.
- Officers responded to the 5700 block of Riverdale Road for a robbery. The investigation revealed the victim was walking to the bus stop when an unknown suspect approached and pushed the victim to the ground. The suspect took the victim's purse and fled to an awaiting vehicle. The victim refused medical treatment and the investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded to a business in the 6700 block of 45th Avenue for a commercial burglary. The investigation revealed two unknown suspects forced entry into the business by breaking a window. Once inside the suspect forced open several cash registers. The suspects then fled to an awaiting vehicle. The investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded the 4600 block of Van Buren Street for a theft from auto. Responding officers located two vehicles in the parking garage had their windows broken and property removed.
- Officers responded to the 5400 block of 54th Avenue for a domestic assault. The investigation revealed the suspect, and his girlfriend were having a verbal dispute which escalated. During the altercation the suspect struck the victim with a closed fist. The suspect was placed under arrest for 2nd degree assault.

Update:

On March 14th, Town police officers responded to a business in the 6300 block of Baltimore Avenue for an armed robbery. Through an investigation, the detectives identified a suspect. On March 31st, the suspect was arrested and charged with armed robbery and 1st degree assault. Well done!

Respectfully submitted,



John N. Lestitian, Town Manager