



Bremerton Police Department Annual Report

2020



1025 Burwell St. Bremerton, WA 98337 Ph: 360-473-5220

Tom Wolfe Chief of Police



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF	3
ACCREDITATION	4
2020 OVERVIEW	5
USE OF FORCE	6-7
PURSUIT	8
ACCOUNTABILITY	9-13
BIASED BASED POLICING	14
K9	15-17
STAFF RECOGNITION	18-19



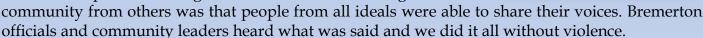
A Message from the Chief

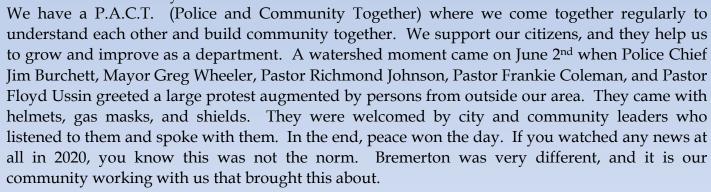
Greetings,

The Bremerton Police Department is glad to share with you our 2020 annual report. We spent a good part of the last year and a half retooling and reworking the report with input from some of our supporters and critics. The goal was to bring you content and information that was easier to understand and covered areas at the forefront of community conversations.

We have had a lot of changes in rapid succession that delayed rolling out the report. Our goal for the 2021 report will be to have it out within the first quarter.

Operating during a pandemic for most of 2020 created some operational challenges and changes in policing. We also facilitated ten different protests during the lockdown. What distinguished our





The Bremerton Police Department has been a Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (W.A.S.P.C.) accredited agency since 2014. This critical certification requires meeting 137 specific standards. Eight particular areas are kept up yearly to stay in compliance. I am proud to announce that your police department is on track to re-accredit in 2022.

2021 promises a lot of change, and the Bremerton Police Department looks forward to the challenge of meeting that change while continuing to partner together with our community.

We would love to see you at one of our P.A.C.T. meetings throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the department with your thoughts, ideas, or questions.

Tom WolfePolice Chief



Accreditation

The purpose of law enforcement agency accreditation is to professionalize the law enforcement industry by providing a review process for agencies to be certified as operating under industry best practices and standards.

The current accreditation program was created in 2007 and is overseen by the WASPC Accreditation Committee, Accreditation Commission, and Board of Directors. The Committee is responsible for maintaining accreditation standards. The Commission is responsible for reviewing accreditation on-site reports and making recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for conferring accreditation.



Bremerton Police Department's Accreditation Timeline:

2014

Accredited for
the 1st time

2018

Successfully

Completed
Reaccreditation

Reaccreditation



There are 260 law enforcement agencies in Washington and only 65 of them are accredited- that's only 25%!

Accreditation Standards:

The purpose of the WASPC Accreditation Program is to recognize agencies operating under industry best practices and standards. There are 137 accreditation standards covering nineteen major law enforcement areas:

- 1. Goals and Objectives
- 2. Role and Authority
- 3. Use of Force
- Management, Staffing, Organization and Utilization of Personnel
- 5. Records Management
- 6. Information Technology
- 7. Unusual Occurrences
- 8. Health and Safety
- 9. Fiscal Management
- 10. Recruitment and Selection
- 11. Training
- 12. Performance Evaluation
- 13. Code of Conduct
- 14. Internal Affairs
- 15. Patrol Function
- 16. Traffic Function
- 17. Investigative Function
- 18. Evidence and Property Control Function
- 19. Prisoner Security

Benefits of Accreditation:

- Increase public confidence in the agency
- Increase credibility
- Provide a systemized agency self assessment
- Broaden perspectives
- Intensify administrative and operational effectiveness
- Ensure recruitment, selection, and promotion processes are fair and equitable
- Strengthen understanding of agency policies and procedures by agency personnel
- Improve agency morale and pride to decrease susceptibility to litigation and costly civil court settlements
- Potentially reduce liability insurance costs
- Provide state and local recognition of professional competence







Use Of Force

In 2020, Bremerton Police Department Officer's were involved in 180 incidents that resulted in the Use of Force. Of the 180 Incidents, 80 of them required a secondary tactic to be utilized and 25 of those required a 3rd tactic to be utilized. *All 180 uses of force were within department policy*.

Defining Force:

The definition of force is anything more than physically moving someone or grasping their arm to direct them. Bremerton Police Officers must document all uses of force beginning at the lowest level of force used to overcome resistance.

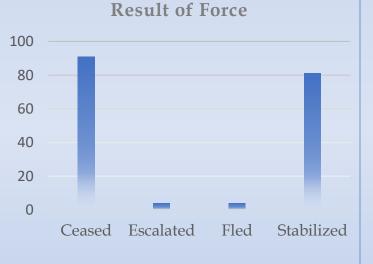
Process:

- ❖ The officer's immediate supervisor reviews the use of force report to ensure compliance with the law and department policies.
- ❖ After the initial review, it goes through 2 additional reviews by command staff personnel.

All use of force reports are reviewed by command staff to look for trends, issues, and potential biases to ensure no problems need addressing. The Department examines bias toward any one group.



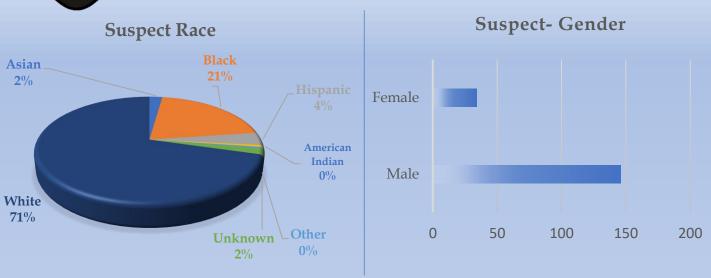








Use Of Force



Review and Analysis of Use of Force Events - 2020

The analysis demonstrates that force was used 180 times, out of all 46,020 police responses in 2020. Police Officers used force less in .39% of all calls that police responded to or initiated. In 2019, Police Officers used force 117 times while responding to 45,477 calls for service. Use of Force accounted for .25% of all calls resulting in the use of force.

Bremerton Police use time, distance, and resources to help the resistive person de-escalate their violent behaviors. For de-escalation to work, suspects must be willing to cooperate. There are times and situations where that is not possible to use only verbal tactics. Some form of reasonable force is needed to de-escalate a volatile, violent, or resistive person. De-escalation is an outcome; it is not a result. De-escalation is not a specific technique. Tools, tactics, and timing allow people the opportunity to de-escalate themselves and get the services that they need to address whatever crisis they are experiencing. Peace and safety are the goals at the onset of each critical incident.

Each division Captain pulled and reviewed each individual report associated with any minority citizens and use of force. They looked for force patterns against minorities and respective officers who were using force more than their peer group. *No patterns or issues with the use of force by officers in 2020 emerged from this review.*

In reviewing the totality of force used by the Bremerton Police Department, there is no bias, patterns or signs of misuse of force based on the data collected.



Pursuits

VEHICLE PURSUIT: A vehicle pursuit is an event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspect who is attempting to avoid apprehension while operating a motor vehicle by using high-speed driving or other evasive tactics such as driving off a highway or turning suddenly.

ATTEMPTING TO ELUDE: Refers to the actions of a vehicle operator who, after being given a visual or audible signal to bring the vehicle to a stop, fails or refuses to immediately stop the vehicle and drives in a reckless manner while attempting to elude a uniformed officer operating a pursuing police vehicle that is equipped with emergency lights and siren (RCW 46.61.024).

Our policy allows officers to engage in vehicular pursuits of fleeing suspects when:

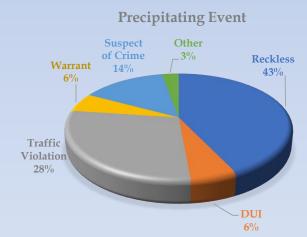
- (a) The initiating officer reasonably believes and can articulate that the violator has committed, or attempted to commit, a felony crime of violence, or,
- (b) The officer observed such a degree of hazardous driving by the offender, prior to police involvement, that the offender will likely cause death or serious bodily harm to another person if not stopped.

Pursuit and other driving training is regularly conducted both in the classroom and at the driving range to reinforce the policy. It is the policy of the Bremerton Police Department to weigh public safety first when determining to chase a suspect or not.

In 2020, 35 Suspects attempted to elude BPD.

- In 27 of the 35 instances, Officers terminated their attempts to stop the vehicle.
- The remaining 8 were completed* pursuits
 - All 8 led to the arrest or the establishment of Probable Cause to arrest the suspect.
 - 3 led to suspect collisions
 - 0 led to Officer collisions.

^{*}Pursued until: suspect surrender, collision, or termination tactic utilized.



Review and Analysis of Vehicle Pursuits - 2020

We determined that officers made the decision not to engage in pursuit or terminate pursuit 74% of the time. By making this decision they are complying with BPD policy and ensuring the safest conditions for the community. In 2020, 3 pursuits were deemed out of policy. Those Officer's have received employee counseling and retraining on the pursuit policy. An analysis of the pursuit training and policy shows these are having the right impact by limiting the number of pursuits officers are engaging in.

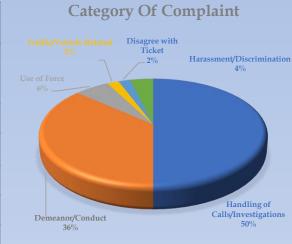
In 2019, 33 individuals attempted to elude police, with 4 completed pursuits. While the number is slightly higher for 2020, the engaged pursuits were reviewed by command staff personnel and deemed to be compliant with our policy and were necessary to ensure the safety of the public.



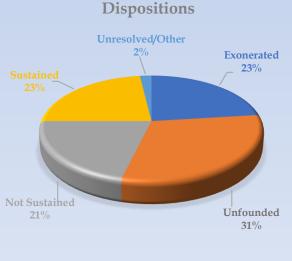
Accountability- Complaints

In 2020, The Department recorded 39 complaints with a total of 52 allegations. The Department takes all complaints seriously and fully addresses them. There are no parameters placed on how a citizen can make a complaint. An anonymous complaint will be taken and followed up to the extent possible.

General Categories of 2020 Complaints (1)	
Respondents were dissatisfied with the handling of calls, investigations, or reports.	26
Demeanor / courtesy / rudeness/Conduct	19
Use of Force/Detainment	3
Traffic Violations / Vehicle Use by Officer	1
Disagreed with Traffic Ticket	1
Harassment / Discrimination	2



Dispositions	Explanation of Dispositions	# of Complaints
Exonerated	The alleged act occurred, but that the action was justified, lawful, and proper.	12
Unfounded	The allegation was false or not factual or that the alleged act(s) did not occur or did not involve Department personnel.	16
Not sustained	There is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the employee.	11
Sustained	The act occurred, and it constituted misconduct. (2)	12
Unresolved/ Other Dispo	The complainant did not respond to the Sergeant's attempts to contact them. Referred to Mental Health Navigator	1



^[1] Some complaints fit two or more categories (ex. "I didn't like getting a ticket <u>and</u> the officer was rude." Judgments are made as to the best category fit for such complaints.

^[2] Complaints are logged in this category if any portion sustained.



Accountability- Complaints

Complaint #	Description of Complaint	Disposition		
C20-01	Complainant felt there is a conflict of interest.	Unfounded		
C20-02	Officer towed stolen vehicle when RO requested no towing on original report.	Exonerated		
C20-03	Overall complaint about quality of police service.	Unfounded		
C20-04	Excessive force when being handcuffed.	Not Sustained		
C20-05	Provided complainant's name.	Unfounded		
C20-06	Violations of BPD policies.	Unfounded		
C20-07	Complainant felt officer was rude during contact.	Not Sustained		
C20-08	Pat-down by officer made the complainant uncomfortable.	Not Sustained		
C20-09	Officers gathered for a large gathering in violation of the Governor's policy.	Sustained		
C20-10	Displaying of a Blue Line American Flag on patrol vehicle.	Exonerated		
C20-11	Accusation of an officer having sex	Unfounded		
C20-12	Complainant alleged officers broke down her door without a warrant	Unfounded		
C20-13	Complainant felt arrests should have been made on the theft of his vehicle.	Unfounded		
C20-14	2 complaint #'s issued to C20-13 by mistake.			
C20-15	Treatment of suspect during an arrest on a warrant	Exonerated		
C20-16	Complained that the report and investigation was insufficient.	Sustained		
C20-17	Complainant felt officer should have allowed him to exit vehicle to confirm that his lights were operational.	Exonerated		
C20-18	 Corporal accidently shredded the check. Handling property prior to submittal. 	Not SustainedSustained		
C20-19	Complained that the corporal made a statement as to mental illness.	Not Sustained		
C20-20	Officer was rude to complainant. He made comments about parenting skills.	Sustained		
C20-21	 Harassment by Bremerton PD. Harassment by City (Waste Management) Inadequate service by Bremerton PD. Homophobia by Bremerton Police Officers 	UnfoundedUnfoundedUnfoundedUnfounded		
C20-22	 Did not complete a thorough preliminary investigation. Failure to document incident. 	SustainedSustained		
C20-23	 Officer told complainant that she called requesting a welfare check. Nothing done at the scene by either arresting or separating victim from suspect. Officer was rude, unprofessional, and dismissive. 	ExoneratedUnfoundedNot Sustained		



Accountability- Complaints

Complaint #	Description of Complaint	Disposition
C20-24	Unhappy that officer issued ticket since they weren't from Washington State.	Not Sustained
C20-25	Complained cash was missing from a vehicle that was impounded and searched.	Not Sustained
C20-26	 Improper stop. Rudeness. Failure to document incident properly. Improper frisk of passenger. 	 Sustained Sustained Sustained Not Sustained
C20-27	Inaccuracies in collision report.	Unfounded
C20-28	 Vio. of Policy 342.3 – Preliminary Investigations Vio. of Policy 343.2.1 – Required Reporting Vio. of Policy 339.4.9 – Conduct Towards the Public 	 Exonerated Exonerated Exonerated
C20-29	Witnessed an incident where an officer ignored a passing vehicle that needed assistance with a road rage incident.	Exonerated
C20-30	Vio. of Policy 339.4.9 – Conduct Towards the Public	Exonerated
C20-31	Dissatisfied with services over the years from various LE agencies and was reluctant to call 911 in the future.	Not Sustained
C20-32	 Officer only spoke with victim, not grandmother. Officer didn't provide name and badge number. 	Exonerated Sustained
C20-33	Vio. of Policy 339.4.5 – Abuse of Authority. Felt privacy was violated. Believes Navigator and NCIS agent supplied information to neighbor regarding his alleged mental state.	Unfounded
C20-34	Accused officer of assaulting him during arrest.	Exonerated
C20-35	Corporal didn't contact the person making threats. Reporting parties didn't want to file a criminal complaint, just wanted the incidents documented.	Unfounded
C20-36	Complainant believed BPD and BFD personnel were visiting massage therapist at her apartment complex. Suspects drugs and prostitution involvement.	Referred to Mental Health Navigator
C20-37	Vio. of Policies 100 and 420 – Arrest or Detention of Foreign Nationals	Sustained
C20-38	Vio. of Policy 339.4.10 – Conduct Toward the Public: Officer didn't identify himself during a call.	Unfounded
C20-39	Witness observed officer driving recklessly.	Sustained
C20-40	Officer yelled at and cussed her for driving through a collision scene.	Not Sustained



Accountability-Internal Investigations

Review and Analysis of Internal Investigations/ Complaints

The Bremerton Police Department takes any allegations of unprofessional behavior or misconduct on the part of our employees seriously. All complaints are fully investigated.

In 2020 the Department initiated and completed 5 internal investigations.

The analysis demonstrates that the Department is quick to address minor to severe complaints and then act when sustained.

The following Internal Affairs investigations were completed in 2020:

IA Number	Description	Disposition	Action Taken
01-20	Conduct Unbecoming of an Officer	Sustained	Letter of Reprimand
02-20	Intoxicated on Duty	Unfounded	No action taken
03-20	Conduct Unbecoming of an Officer	Not Sustained	No action taken
04-20	Allegation of sex offence 30 years prior to hiring	Unfounded	No action taken
	onto the department.		
05-20	Excessive use of Force	Exonerated	No action taken

Accountability- Employee Collisions

Per internal policy, all collisions involving police department employees are investigated regardless of the degree of damage. Majority of these driving incidents involved low speeds and minimal damage (i.e., minor scrapes and dents) and would not get classified as reportable collisions under Washington law.

Each collision gets reviewed by an internal panel of Department members who evaluate all available data and then classify the collision as 'preventable' or 'non-preventable.' Action taken depends on many factors, including the employee's previous driving history, the amount of damage, and the degree of inattention involved.

In 2020, there were 14 accidents involving police department employees.





Accountability- Civil Claims

Claim #	Incident Date	Cause	Effect	Amount Demand	Amount Issued	Status
20200011	12/9/2019	Officer issued no trespass order	Denial of civil rights without due process	\$100,000.00	\$55.00	Closed Litigated No Award
20200012	12/9/2019	Officer issued no trespass order	Denial of civil rights without due process	\$50,000.00	\$0	Closed Payment Denied
20200033	1/10/2020	Improper vehicle impound	Towing & impoundment fees and damages	\$710.68	\$983.68	Closed with Payment
20200037	3/21/2020	Improper vehicle impound at Evergreen Park	Towing fees TBD by Kitsap Towing	\$0.00	\$200.56	Closed with Payment
20200049	4/1/2012	Workplace environment	Discrimination, hostile work environment & retaliation	\$2,300,000.00	\$1,979.25	Open
20200050	5/3/2020	Employee switched lanes & hit her vehicle	Damaged driver side of vehicle & back tire	\$9,524.38	\$9,524.38	Closed with Payment
20200090	9/3/2020	Responding to call at Super 8 Motel on Kitsap Way	Unable to clean boots covered in human feces	\$168.65	\$62.50	Closed with Payment
20200095	8/8/2020	Vehicle impound	Improper impound of vehicle	\$452.32	\$452.32	Closed with Payment
20200107	9/23/2020	Patrol vehicle backed into his parked vehicle	Damage to left front side of Toyota Corolla	\$2,553.38	\$2,553.38	Closed with Payment

Biased Based Policing-Traffic Citations/Arrest

	(Ex., DUI, D License S	fic Infractions riving While uspended, Driving)	(Ex., Speedir Yield, Cell ph	nfractions ng, Failure to one violation, Violation)	Arrests		Demographics (US Census 2019)	
Race	# By Race	% By Race	# By Race	% By Race	# By Race	% By Race	Bremerton (est. 41,405)	Navy* (est. 15,601)
White	159	73.6%	730	73.8%	1767	77%	72.3%	58.2%
Black	34	15.7%	100	10.1%	368	16%	6.2%	19.1%
Hispanic	9	4.1%	60	6%	92	4%	11.1%	16.7%
Asian/Pacific Island	4	1.8%	55	5.5%	49	2%	.6%	5.6%
American Indian	1	.4%	4	.4%	26	1%	.9%	3%
Unknown	9	4.1%	40	4%				
Total	216		989		2302			

The impact that the military presence in and around Bremerton has on the Police Department's enforcement statistics is unknown. Naval Base Kitsap employs 15,601 active-duty members who are not included in Bremerton MSA population or demographic statistics. They do, however, live, work, and play here while traveling our roads. The military's presence must be considered in the Bremerton Police Department's enforcement statistics' overall calculus.

Analysis:

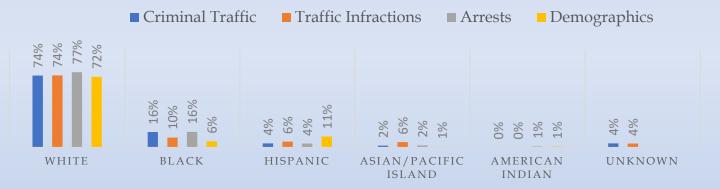
The Bremerton Police Department prohibits race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or affiliation with any other similar identifiable group from being used as the basis for providing different levels of law enforcement service or the enforcement of the law.

Police agencies use a best practice to learn whether bias-based policing is systematically occurring via analysis of discretionary traffic stops. The Bremerton Police Department can track infractions issued by race through the electronic capture of SECTOR (Statewide Electronic Collision and Ticket Online Records) data.

In reviewing the data collected from citations issued and arrests, there are no concerns of bias.

The Operations Captain and the Support Service Captain individually reviewed each report of the use of force involving any minority. They looked for overuse, abuse, and any patterns suggesting issues with any employees using force. This fourth layer of scrutiny of the use of force showed no patterns of bias.

The police department received no complaints of racial or bias policing involving race for 2020.

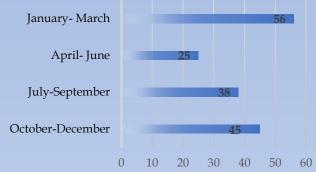




K9 Applications

Narcotic K9 Applications by K9 Remy and Officer Avery

Total Applications: 164



- 11 guns seized
- 121 arrests
- 14,842 grams of meth
- 512.30 grams of heroin
- 50.10 grams of cocaine
- 84 search warrants K9 Remy was involved with by either giving PC for a search warrant and/or assisting on a search of residence of a search warrant.
- \$233,357 in cash was seized *

* RCW 69.50.505 allows law enforcement agencies to seize proceeds from drug traffickers, or property that was used to facilitate drug trafficking. This law requires a robust legal process where law enforcement agencies are required to provide proof, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the proceeds or property is subject to forfeiture. In some instances, proceeds and/or property are ordered, by a hearing examiner, to be returned to the owner in those instances where law enforcement is unable to prove their case. In instances where proceeds or property is ordered to be forfeited to law enforcement, those funds can be used to further drug trafficking investigations. The State of Washington oversees this program and requires law enforcement agencies to report the seizure and forfeiture of cash and property, on a quarterly basis, and requires payment of 10% of these proceeds to the State of Washington.

Highlights

- ❖ DET (Directed Enforcement Team) Officers made perhaps the largest drug bust for a random traffic stop in BPD history. K9 Remy alerted on the vehicle and the DET Officers wrote a search warrant. Inside of the vehicle, they located 1,111 grams of meth, 40.4 grams of heroin, drug paraphernalia and a stolen handgun. A total of 2.45 pounds of drugs were recovered from the vehicle.
- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle with expired tabs leaving a well-known drug house. K9 Remy alerted on the vehicle. A search warrant was written on a backpack. Two large bundles of cash totaling \$4,158 was found along with 4.5 grams of meth, 5.0 grams of heroin, a stolen firearm, 61 fentanyl pills, scales, baggies and other drug paraphernalia. The money was seized by SOG.
- ❖ A traffic stop was made on a BMW in the Super 8 motel parking lot for a subject with multiple felony warrants for his arrest. K9 Remy alerted on the vehicle. A search warrant was written on the vehicle. DET officers found in the same backpack from a few months prior, \$6,249 in cash, 85 grams of meth, 41.60 grams of heroin, 4.0 grams of cocaine, another stolen firearm, and drug paraphernalia. SOG seized the BMW and the cash.

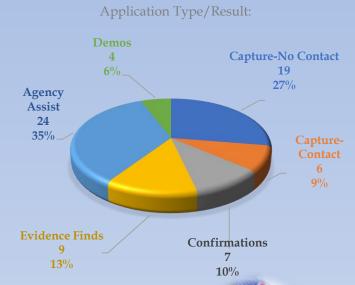


K9 Applications

Generalist K9 Applications by K9 Esco and Officer Faidley

Total Applications: 79





Highlights

- ❖ K-9 Esco was called out from home in order to track a residential burglary suspect that fled from deputies on Lake Flora Rd. K-9 Esco tracked from the suspect's truck, through the woods and began to circle back to the suspect vehicle. Suddenly, K-9 Esco ducked into the woodline behind a tree stump and found the motionless suspect hiding in wait. This is a very dangerous situation for law enforcement, and the reason K-9's like Esco are used.
- ❖ K-9 Esco was called out from home to the scene of a residential burglary where a KCSO Deputy had been struck by the fleeing vehicle. The vehicle was located, and a stolen firearm was discovered inside. K-9 Esco tracked for over an hour and a half through multiple yards, heavily overgrown sticker bushes, and 2 barbed wire fences. Some of the areas were so overgrown that K-9 Esco and the officers on scene had to crawl on their stomachs to get through the brush. After numerous announcements, the suspect failed to surrender. K-9 Esco was sent into the overgrown brush along Highway 16 and the suspect quickly surrendered.



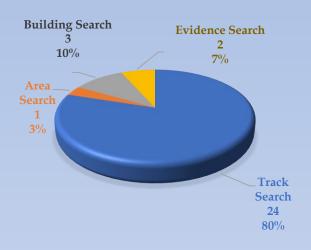


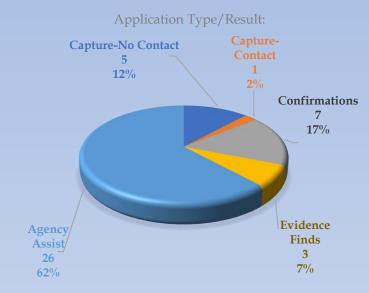
K9 Applications

Generalist K9 Applications by K9 Loki and Officer McComas

Total Applications: 29

Reason for application:





Highlights

- ❖ K9 Loki was deployed to assist KCSO / NCIS during an operation where two illegal arms dealers were apprehended in Port Orchard. Suspects later said they surrendered without resisting largely due to the presence of K9 Loki.
- ❖ K9 Loki assisted in locating a DV suspect and felon in possession of a firearm hiding inside of a building.



Staff Recognition



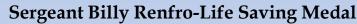
Retirement of Chief Burchett

At the end of May 2021, Chief Jim Burchett called it a career after 28+ years here at BPD. He had an incredible career, and we thank him for his service and leadership! With COVID restrictions in place, we couldn't give him the retirement party he deserves; however, we will make up for that in the future!

He is now enjoying his time with family. Thank you Chief, you are missed!



The Bremerton Police Department takes great pleasure in awarding:





Christmas Day 2020, A man called 911 for medics because his cousin, the passenger, was unconscious. There was mention of the incident involving a heroin overdose. Sergeant Renfro, being just seconds away, located the car and saw the reporting party attempting CPR. Sergeant Renfro noted the woman was "ashen blue" and not breathing. Her eyes were fixed, her mouth agape, and she appeared deceased. He took over lifesaving efforts, noting light to no pulse in the patient. After removing the woman from the vehicle, he began chest compressions and administered one dose of Narcan, which did not appear to have an effect. Using his CPR shield, Sergeant Renfro provided a couple of rescue breaths and administered a second Narcan dose.

At this point, the patient took a deep breath on her own, and Sergeant Renfro was able to now feel a slight pulse. Had it not been for Sergeant Renfro, this patient would have likely died that Christmas day. For his prompt and unselfish act of rendering aid, Sergeant Renfro is receiving the Life Saving Medal.



Officer Chris Faidley-Life Saving Medal

On October 6, 2020, Officer Chris Faidley was off-duty at his residence when his neighbor's 9-year-old grandson rushed over, asking Chris and his wife, Colleen, for help. The 9-year-old's grandfather had sustained an injury to his leg that was severely bleeding. Chris went to the house, noted the injury was significant and that the man had lost a lot of blood. Chris initially used his belt to stop the bleeding, but it became apparent that a proper tourniquet was needed. Chris retrieved his department issued tourniquet and applied it to the man's leg.

Medics from Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue said Chris likely saved the man's life, as the smallest of wounds for someone with his condition could be fatal if not immediately treated. For his prompt and unselfish act of rendering aid and assistance to the victim, Officer Faidley is receiving the Life Saving Medal.



Staff Recognition

The Bremerton Police Department takes great pleasure in awarding:



Officer Kasey Trask Medal of Valor and Life Saving Medal

Officer Alexander George Life Saving Medal



In the early morning hours of May 12, 2020, Cencom dispatched Officer Kasey Trask to the area of E. 19th Street to investigate an unknown problem. Cencom said the disturbance sounded as though a male and female were involved in some form of verbal and possible physical altercation. The dispatcher said a male could be heard making threats such as: "I'm going to make you pay" and "I'm going to kill you." A second voice could be heard saying, "I am sorry. I am sorry. No, please!"

As Officer Trask approached the apartment, he heard yelling and loud banging coming from inside. Once at the door, he heard a female gasping for air and a male grunt and yell. Officer Trask's loud knock went unanswered.

He heard a male say, "You won't like it, but you're going to take it" and the female continuing to gasp for air. Risking his own personal safety to save the life of an apparent assault victim, Officer Trask made the unselfish decision to kick the door in, enter the apartment, and take action to save a life. Once the door was forced open, he and Officer Alexander George entered the apartment together. As they entered the living room area of the residence, Officer Trask saw a naked man, wielding a knife above his head. The man was straddling a female laying on her stomach. He saw blood spewing from the back of the victim's head as the man continued to hold the knife in a stabbing position, with the tip of the knife aimed toward the female. The victim was using her hands to protect the back of her head.

Officers Trask and George bravely approached the suspect at gunpoint and ordered him to drop the knife. The man looked in the officers' direction but failed to immediately drop the knife. Upon receiving a second demand to drop it, the man looked toward the officers and threw the knife in their direction. The knife struck a wall near the officers.

The man complied with officers at that point, and they were able to safely restrain him. Once the suspect was detained, Officers Trask and George began life-saving measures on the victim until medics arrived. The immediate action by Officers Trask and George likely saved the victim's life. For their prompt and unselfish act of rendering aid and assistance to the victim, Officers Trask and George are receiving the Life Saving Medal. Officer Trask is additionally awarded the Medal of Valor for his conspicuous act of extraordinary heroism by forcibly entering the apartment in an effort to save the life a domestic violence victim.