



2020

# ANNUAL REPORT

## UTICA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Prepared by the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center



Greetings:

Every year brings new challenges for the Utica Police Department and 2020 was no different.

In January of 2020, the state enacted changes went into effect for bail reform and discovery.

In March of 2020, Covid-19 thrust UPD into a new and unfamiliar role: public health policing. This has proved to be a crisis like no other, even for a police department which is primed to respond to the most serious of incidents. Never in my 33 years as a police officer did I imagine having to provide policing services during a world-wide pandemic that shut down most of our economy and killed over 530,000 U.S. citizens.

Then, on May 25, 2020, the world was shaken by the tragic death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, who was killed by Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. The outrage from the death of George Floyd lead to protests and civil unrest throughout our country. This tragedy had many people questioning police training, policies and practices, and demanding meaningful reforms. On June 12, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed Executive Order 203 requiring each local government in New York State to adopt a policing reform plan that will maintain public safety while building mutual trust and respect between the police and the communities they serve. I am happy to say that most of the reforms that were highlighted by the Governor are measures we already have in place.

I'm immensely proud of how UPD rose to meet these challenges and continued to lay the groundwork for even greater accomplishments in the future. We will remain a police department that is always looking to improve and be progressive.

Our focus at UPD continues to be the prevention of violent crime and the abatement of gang activity. Through technology, intelligence-led policing and most significantly, an extremely talented police force, we will tackle crime-fighting in 2021 with a laser-like focus.

Your continued support of our department is vital to our success. We thank you, and are honored by the opportunity to serve you.

Mark Williams  
Chief of Police  
City of Utica





# Utica Police Department



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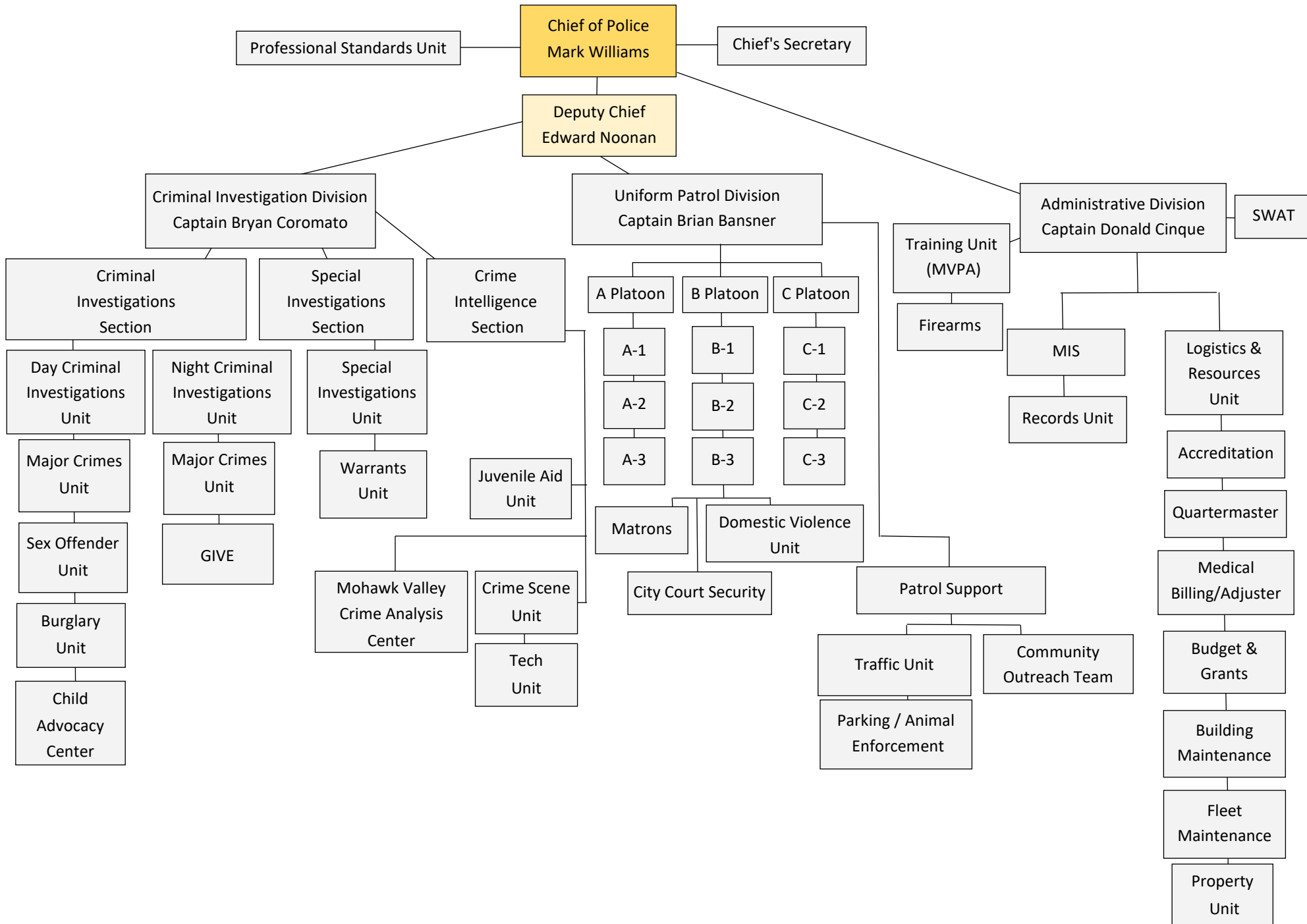
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## Utica, N.Y.



# UTICA POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## OUR CURRENT STATISTICS

The Utica Police Department covers an area of 16.76 square miles and serves a population of approximately 59,750. Mayor Robert Palmieri was elected into office in 2011 and continued to serve through 2020.

The Utica Police Department is an accredited agency and subject to regular reviews by the New York State Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Program. Accreditation is a progressive and contemporary way of helping police agencies evaluate and improve their overall performance. It provides formal recognition that an organization meets or exceeds general expectations of quality in the field. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.

The New York State program became operational in 1989 and encompasses four principal goals:

- To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies utilizing existing personnel, equipment and facilities to the fullest extent possible.
- To promote increased cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies and other agencies of the criminal justice services.
- To ensure the appropriate training of law enforcement personnel.
- To promote public confidence in law enforcement agencies.



The Accreditation Program is comprised of a set of standards developed to further enhance the capabilities of an agency, and is divided into three categories: Administrative, Training, and Operations Standards.

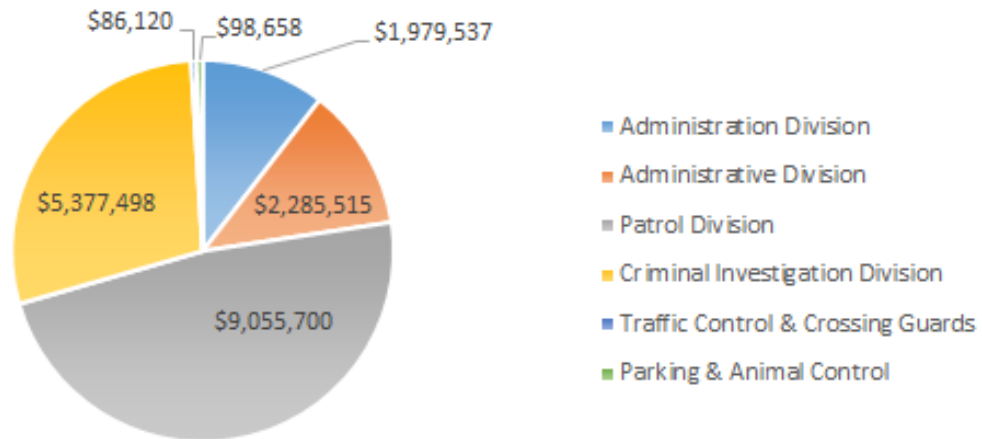
- Standards in the Administrative category have provisions for such topics as agency organization, fiscal management, personnel practices, and records management.
- Training standards encompass basic and in-service instruction, as well as training for supervisors and specialized or technical assignments.
- Operations standards deal with such critical and litigious topics as high-speed pursuits, roadblocks, patrol, and unusual occurrences.

## ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Utica Police Department's April 2020-March 2021 Budget is \$18,883,028

### OPERATING BUDGET

April 2020- March 2021 Operating Budget



### 2020 GRANT AWARDS

2020 Grant Awards	Equipment Purchased	Funds Received
Bulletproof Vest Program	68 Vests	\$26,400
Tactical Team Grant 2018	Night Vision Goggles	\$20,979
Tactical Team Grant 2018	SWAT Entry Items	\$2,194
Tactical Team Grant 2018	SWAT Ballistic Plates	\$49,890
Tactical Team Grant 2018	SWAT Clothing	\$18,993.08
<b>TOTAL PURCHASES:</b>		<b>\$118,456.08</b>

# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

## Administrative Division Units

### MIS

- Computer systems maintenance, software and hardware updates, upgrades and repairs.

### Records

- Maintenance of all police records and files, and servicing of public requests for information.

### Training

- Provide up-to-date training on current law enforcement trends and updates from the Municipal Police Training Counsel.

## Logistics & Resources

- Management of employee services and building/equipment maintenance.

### Accreditation

- Responsible for maintaining standards set forth for the accreditation process.

### Budget & Grants

- Management of department's fiscal resources, and application/report management of departmental grants.

## Training Unit

- Coordinates and administers departmental training programs.
- Administers training to police officers from outside agencies.
- Plans and develops departmental training standards and programs.
- Monitors training methods and identifies training necessary for adherence to state and federal laws, and department policies.
- Prepares and distributes training bulletins.
- Maintains records of training, standards, programs and lesson plans.
- Administers in-service and field officer training programs, firearms training and qualifications and police academy programs.



UPD Regional Training  
**2,388 hours**



UPD In-Service Training  
**56 hours**

## ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

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### SWAT

METRO SWAT is a New York State certified SWAT team comprised of members from the Utica Police Department, The New Hartford Police Department, and the Oneida County Sheriffs' Office. It is a regional team that serves the entire County of Oneida. Currently, there are 11 members from Utica, 4 members from New Hartford, and 6 members from the Sheriffs' Office.

- There were **168 hours** of training completed in 2020
- There were **19 operations** conducted in 2020.
  - 5 of which were within the county but outside Utica's geographical boundaries.
  - 1 of these 5 was assisting the Department of Homeland Security Investigations.



## GRADUATING CLASS

In 2020, the Utica Police Department began the process of hiring officers to fill several vacancies within their ranks. After a rigorous hiring process that included physical agility testing, background investigation, polygraph and psychological evaluation, several individuals were chosen to attend the Mohawk Valley Police Academy in June 2020.

In April 2021, the following officers will graduate from MVPA after completing six months of academy training and twelve weeks of Field Training:

- Edgardo Colon
- Daniel Forte
- Bryan Gill
- Colin Madia
- Angelo Marroccolo
- Bryce Patterson
- Drew Putrello
- Jariel Rodriguez
- Alex Sperling
- Andrew Taft



# UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

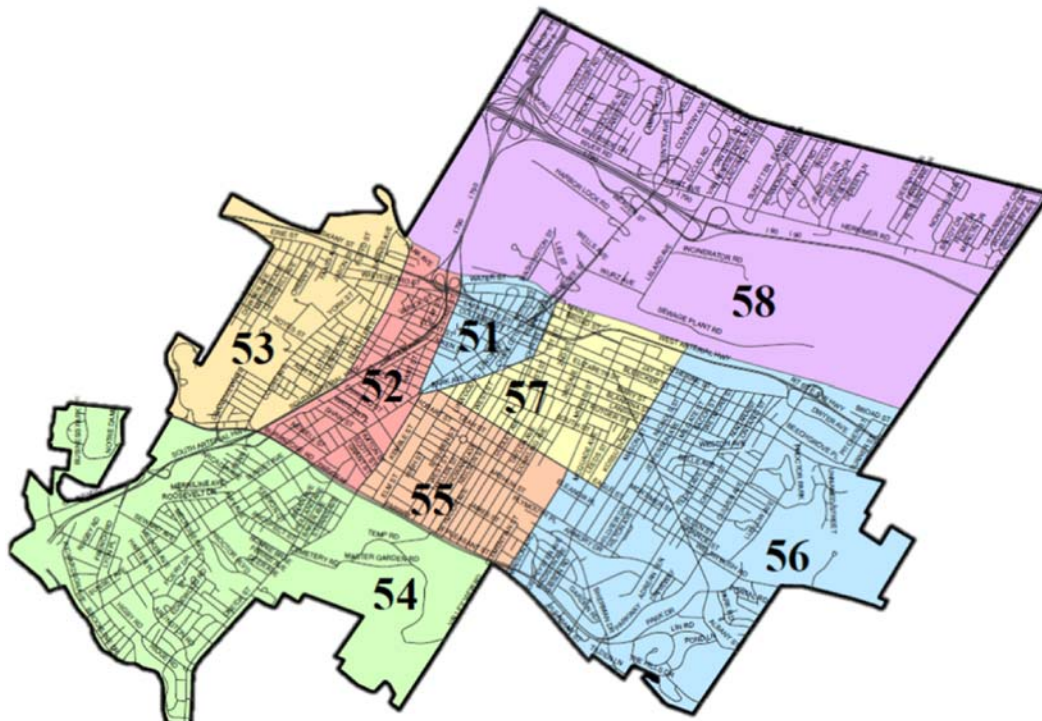
The Patrol Division is responsible for providing direct police services to the public. Its primary responsibility is to provide continuous patrol coverage and traffic control.

In order to provide for continuous patrol coverage, patrol is divided into three "platoons" (8.25 hour tours of duty) based on department needs. A lieutenant commands each of the three platoons (designated as the A, B and C platoons) further subdivided into three squads (i.e. A1, A2 and A3). Subordinate supervisory officers assigned to each squad are accountable to their respective platoon commander.

Officers have responded to over 44,000 CAD and 911 calls during the 2020 calendar year. This does not include other incidents such as motor vehicle stops, premise checks, or other self-initiated investigations.

### Units

- A Platoon
  - B Platoon
    - Matrons
    - Domestic Violence Unit
    - City Court Security
  - C Platoon
- K-9 Units
- Patrol Support
  - Traffic Unit
  - Community Outreach Team
  - Parking / Animal Enforcement



## UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

### Traffic Unit

The Utica Police Department Traffic Unit is a two officer unit that plans and coordinates large events that impact traffic flow throughout the City of Utica. The Traffic Unit also conducts traffic surveys and researches, reviews and writes traffic legislation.

It is the policy of the Utica Police Department to provide for the safe and orderly flow of traffic by encouraging public compliance with traffic laws through both discretionary and mandatory enforcement.

The department shall promote traffic safety through the effective use of its resources and provide information to the public and appropriate traffic engineering authorities to assist in identifying and remedying the causes of motor vehicle accidents and other traffic problems, as necessary.

Beyond traffic enforcement and traffic control for special events, the UPD Traffic Unit conducts regular traffic studies to keep the city roads safe for all.

- 2020 Statistics
  - 54 DWI Arrests
  - 2,512 Motor Vehicle Accidents
    - 531 Hit and Run Accidents
    - 1,638 Property Damage Accidents
    - 340 Personal Injury Accidents
    - 3 Fatal Accidents





## UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

### K9 Unit

- PO Sean Bubnis & K9 Wolf (dual purpose K9 Team, DCJS certified – Explosive Detection and Patrol/Tracking)

2020 Total Utilizations = 100

- Explosive Scent Detection for threats and suspicious packages = 7
- Pre-Event Explosive Scent Detection Sweeps = 8
- Building Searches = 5
- Tracks = 4
- Premise Checks = 76

- PO Jordan Dodge & K9 Brophy (DCJS certified – Explosive Detection)

2020 Total Utilizations = 15

- Explosive Scent Detection for threats and suspicious packages = 15

- PO Al Castilla & K9 Varick (DCJS certified – Narcotics Detection)

2020 Total Utilizations = 15

- Narcotics Scent Detection = 15

- PO Kyle Piersall & K9 Dak (DCJS certified – Narcotics Detection and Tracking)

2020 Total Utilizations = 5

- Narcotics Scent Detection = 4
- Tracks = 1



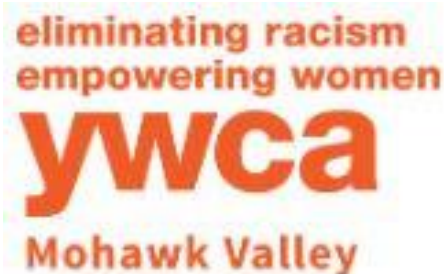


## UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

### Domestic Violence Unit

It is the policy of the Utica Police Department to respond to every domestic incident as a serious call for service. Department members shall consistently seek to enhance the safety of victims and their children through a combination of law enforcement and referral to domestic violence service providers. The Department will further promote officer safety by ensuring that officers are fully prepared to respond to and effectively deal with domestic violence calls for service.

The Utica Police Department partners with the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley in order to provide victims of domestic violence with advocacy and services. These services include shelter, court advocacy, hotline advocacy and counseling.



# UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

## The Community Outreach Team

The Utica Police Department Community Outreach Team is responsible for numerous tasks dealing with quality of life complaints and improving the relationship between the police and the community we serve. The officers participated in **75 events/programs** in 2020, both in person and virtually due to covid-19. These events included:

- Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency—Adopt a Cop Program
- Homeless Outreach with Oneida County Social Services and Municipal Housing Authority
- Refugee Consortium Meetings
- Office for New American Consortium Meetings
- Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition Meetings
- City of Utica Neighborhood Association Meetings
- Coffee with a Cop Program
- City of Utica Weekly Quality of Life Sweeps
- Community Safety Presentations
- Police Community Athletic League
- Career Fairs and Career Speaker Events
- Community Prayer Events
- National Night Out Event
- Boy Scouts of America Event
- BLM—Stop the Violence Event
- Pop-Up Community BBQ Events
- COVID-19 Community Awareness - Campaign/Mask Distribution/Advisals



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

## Criminal Investigation Division

It is the policy of the Utica Police Department to place case responsibility for felony crimes and some misdemeanor crimes against persons and property, serious or unusual incidents, homicides and suspicious deaths and any other cases assigned by the Chief of Police. Personnel and cases shall be assigned within the division on the basis of expertise. Police officers assigned to conduct criminal investigations shall be titled investigators.

The United States Constitution guarantees every citizen certain rights and protections, i.e. the right to legal counsel, protection against self-incrimination, protection against unlawful search and seizure, the right to privacy, etc. Every member of the department bears a strict liability to comply with and safeguard those constitutional obligations. Members of the Criminal Investigation Division, by virtue of the nature of their specific duties, must be keenly aware of these obligations and keep current with any court decisions that may affect these rights.

## Major Crimes Unit

The Major Crimes Unit is comprised of 5 Investigators. Their primary role is to investigate homicides, shooting assaults, bank robberies, and other serious crimes or investigations assigned at the discretion of the CID Commanding Officer.

City of Utica Index Crime					
Crime Type	5YA	2019	2020	Last Year % Change	5YA % Change
Homicide	5	6	11	83%	120%
Rape	20	17	15	-12%	-25%
Robbery	101	144	73	-49%	-28%
Agg Assault	219	203	212	4%	-3%
Burglary	370	267	255	-4%	-31%
Larceny	1,654	1,747	1,528	-13%	-8%
MV Theft	86	99	108	9%	26%
Violent Crime	345	370	311	-16%	-10%
Property Crime	2,110	2,113	1,891	-11%	-10%
Overall Index Crime	2,455	2,483	2,202	-11%	-10%

# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

## Special Investigations Section

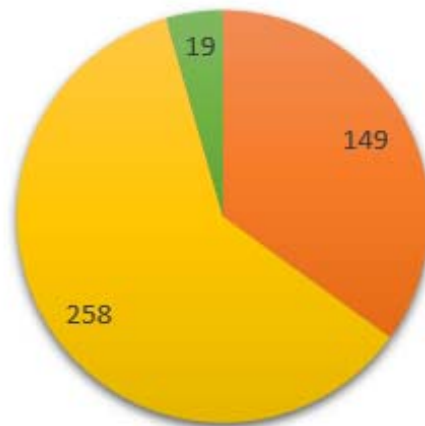
The Special Investigations Section is made up of the Special Investigations Unit, the Tactical Unit, and the Community Outreach Team. Special Investigations is responsible for such things as street-level drug interdiction, mid-level narcotics investigations, quality of life complaints and community policing.

## The Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit investigates street to mid-level narcotic activity and short-term to mid-term investigations. They are responsible for the department's narcotic testing and provide supporting documentation for local/county prosecution.

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84	
Search	\$110,838
Warrants	Seized
Executed	
.....	.....

## 2020 Arrests



Felony Misdemeanor Violation



## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

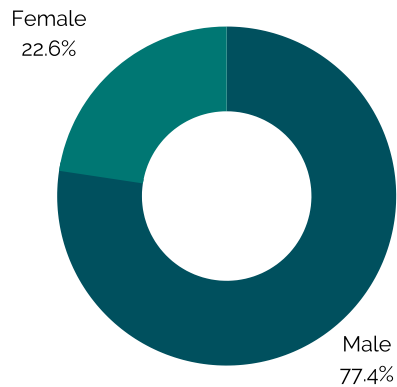
### Juvenile Aid Unit

The Utica Police Department's Juvenile Aid Unit deals specifically with the problems of young people. Although they are members of a municipal police department, juvenile officers are set apart from other police personnel by their emphasis on youth. The primary objective of the Juvenile Aid Unit is to prevent juvenile delinquency and provide services that will have a positive impact on juvenile behavior.

The Juvenile Aid Unit has the added responsibility of assisting guardians with juveniles in need of supervision, even if their activity does not amount to criminal conduct. The Juvenile Aid Unit investigates, processes and refers juveniles who engage in criminal acts and offenses against the community. It maintains all juvenile records, independent from the normal records keeping function of the department's Records Unit. The unit is also responsible for investigating all missing persons cases, both adults and juveniles.



### 252 Juvenile Suspects



### Warrants Unit

The Warrants Unit is responsible for recording and enforcing all Utica City Court warrants and assisting any outside agency requesting information or resources.

The Warrants Unit is staffed by two investigators and a Warrants Specialist. The unit also works in collaboration with the United States Marshals Service.

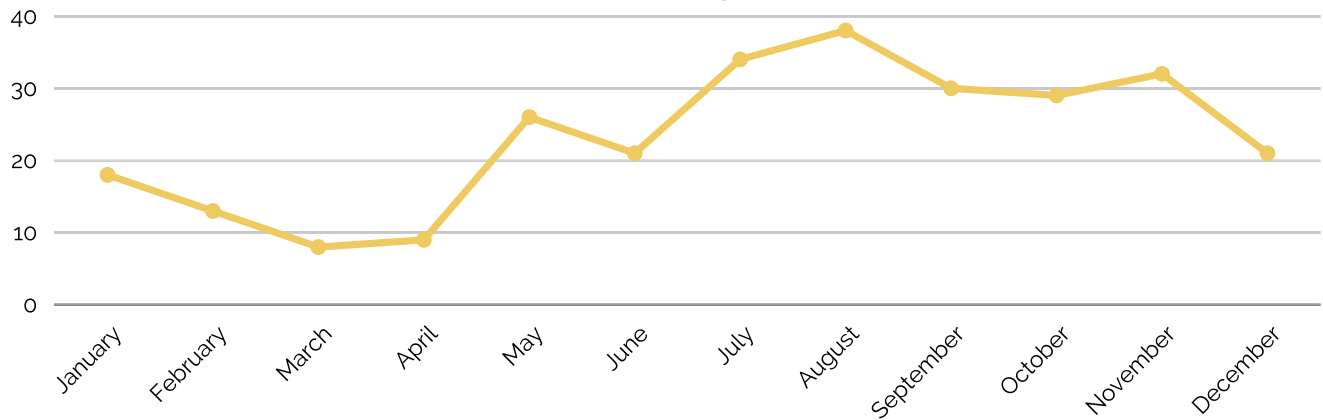
1,677 Warrants  
Closed

# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

## Burglary Unit

The Burglary Unit consists of three investigators solely assigned to the investigation of burglary complaints.

### 2020 Burglary Incidents



## Sex Offender Unit

It is the policy of the Utica Police Department to use all reasonable means to assist in the investigation of non-compliant sex offenders, to educate the public about personal safety precautions and to train designated law enforcement personnel on registration, notification, verification and community education procedures. This department recognizes that sex offenders can pose a significant risk to the community and that community fear may be fueled by confusing sex offender laws and lack of understanding of law enforcement efforts to hold sex offenders accountable. This department is guided by federal and state laws regarding the registration, public notification and verification of convicted sex offenders to enforce compliance and to prevent future victimization. This department also recognizes that law enforcement agencies are responsible for maintaining registration files, verifying compliance with registration laws, investigating violations of such laws and new offenses, and locating non-compliant or absconded offenders. The Sex Offender Unit is staffed by a single investigator from the agency who is responsible for over three hundred registered sex offenders residing in the City of Utica.

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174

Home Visits

in 2020

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20

Arrests

in 2020

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## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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### **Crime Scene Unit - Mobile Forensic Investigation Center**

During the 2020 calendar year the Crime Scene Unit experienced an enormous surge in demand due to the increase in homicides, non-fatal shootings and property crimes. This strain stretched the unit's resources, however, the members were able to identify and cross train officers from the Patrol Division to supplement the workload.

The Mobile Forensic Investigation Center continued to see unprecedented growth. We have received requests for assistance from many agencies across New York State because they do not own the tools or technology that we have been able to bring to the Utica Police Department. Each year, demand on the unit grows as more people rely on smart phones to communicate. We have a plan in place to train additional UPD members in 2021 so that the case load can be divided, as requests for assistance grow.

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### **Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center**

During the 2020 calendar year, the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center (MVCAC) faced many challenges with the advent of COVID-19 and the summer protests in response to the in-custody death of George Floyd. In terms of COVID-19, we were forced to have some staff work from home, which was possible due to the hard work of our information technology staff, both at the department and through DCJS. During the summer protests, our civilian staff logged extra hours monitoring social media and stationary surveillance, providing valuable intelligence to our patrol division. In 2020, we saw a tremendous increase in overall requests for service due to an uptick in bullet to body shootings and property crime. As mentioned last year, the MVCAC is an important component of the Oneida County Overdose Response Team and this year we assisted with the implementation of a web based real time overdose dashboard. With our budget secured through 2021, we plan to roll out a number of 180/360 degree cameras in the City of Utica and to help our partner agencies link up to a state wide information sharing portal called Force Point. We also hope to resume the in person meetings and trainings that we missed out on during 2020.



## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

### GIVE

The goal of the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative is the elimination of shootings and homicides, or aggravated assaults, where applicable, through the integrated use of evidence-based strategies that are incorporated into the four core elements of GIVE: People, Places, Alignment and Engagement.

GIVE is a DCJS funded project that allots one full-time GIVE funded officer position and one part-time GIVE funded officer position at the Utica Police Department. The initiative is a joint venture involving the Utica Police Department, the Oneida County District Attorney's Office, Oneida County Probation and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office.

**59**  
Guns Recovered  
in 2020





## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

### The Oneida County Child Advocacy Center

The Oneida County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is comprised of members of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Rome Police, Utica Police, and New York State Police, as well as victim advocates from the YWCA, victim counselors from the Oneida County Department of Family and Community Services, the Center for Family Life and Recovery (CFLR), and the Neighborhood Center. CPS caseworkers are also assigned to the CAC. Medical personnel work at the CAC on an on-call basis to serve victims as well. The CAC is the designated agency to investigate cases of child sex trafficking, and has a specialized counselor to deal exclusively with victims of sex trafficking, and high-risk youth. The CAC is a member of ICAC which stands for Internet Crimes against Children. As part of ICAC, the CAC is involved in child pornography investigations in conjunction with the NY State Police. Sheriff's Office investigators assigned to the CAC also monitor approximately 250 registered sex offenders countywide. Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente Jr., Sheriff Robert Maciol, District Attorney Scott McNamara, DFCS Commissioner Colleen Fahy-Box, and other partners in the CAC have designated the Oneida County Sheriff's Office to manage the operations of the center.



Total number of cases investigated - **890**

Total number of children served -**869**

Gender of children served: Male **250** Female **619**

Age of Children 0-6 Years **256**, 7-12 Years **244** 13-18 Years **369**

Sexual Abuse Cases **720**

Physical Abuse **30**

Neglect **23**

Total number of Offenders **652**

Total number of arrests **61**

Medical Exams provided to **58** Children

Counseling provided to **178** Children

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

The Professional Standards Unit is made up of one supervisor and one investigator. They work at the discretion of the police chief. Their primary responsibility is to record, register and maintain staff control of all internal investigations involving police personnel. These investigations include, but are not limited to, the evaluation of use of force, civilian complaints and inquiries related to alleged police misconduct. They are also responsible for background investigations, both civilian and police, and for conducting any necessary audits in relation to police property and evidence.

### Complaints/Allegations Received 2020

Finding	Count
Unfounded/False	6
Not Sustained with Ancillary	2
Not Sustained	1
Sustained	6
Exonerated	3
Within Policy	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>

## USE OF FORCE STATISTICS

### 2020

2,886 criminal arrests  
 802 MHL 9.41 arrests

Force used in 4.3% of arrests

Force Used	Count
Pepper spray	5
Empty hand control	68
Firearm discharge	2
Hard hand strike	12
Point handgun	10
Take down	50
Taser announcement	7
Taser deployment	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>

\*Highest level of force recorded from incident when multiple methods of force were used

\*Source UPD RMS Pamet

## WHAT'S NEW

### 2020 Additions

The Utica Police Department has partnered with community members to form a Police & Community Athletic League (PCAL) to promote positive interactions between law enforcement and our community's youth. PCAL is a partnership between the Utica Police Department, Bridging the G.A.P (BTG), Pathways to Justice Careers and the Oneida Square Project.

In February 2020, the City of Utica's Access and Inclusion Committee organized a Solutions Summit which brought the community together to discuss effective ways to stop gun violence. Support for PCAL was expressed by community members who attended the Summit. This program is being implemented due the collaborative efforts of Bridging the G.A.P. and the Utica Police Department over the past several years. Due to the limitations of physical and athletic interaction, as a result of COVID-19, the first PCAL activity consisted of a 4-week Video Game Competition.





## 2020 EVENTS

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**October 2020** -The Utica Police Department took part in Drug Take Back Day, the national event encouraging people to turn in their unneeded prescription drugs to the Utica Police Department for safe disposal.



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**November 2020**- The No Shave November fundraiser raised money which was donated to the Police Community Athletic League.

**December 2020** - Holiday gift card drive. Members of UPD raised \$745 for gift cards to donate to families in need during the holiday season.



# COVID-19

While COVID-19 presented challenges for everyone in our community, many local businesses and individuals generously donated food, masks and other supplies to the members of the Utica Police Department. We are grateful for the support shown to us.



## WHERE WE ARE NOW

After a year of protests for racial equity and police reform, the Utica Police Department and the city are working to make sure everyone's lives are more inclusive. The Utica Police Department condemns hate, racism and white supremacy of any kind and looks forward to working with the community to further improve all relationships.

In 2020 Mayor Robert Palmieri announced his appointments to the city's police reform advisory committee. This is an 18-member committee, created to comply with a statewide executive order, which includes members from local government, police and various community leaders. This committee is tasked with outlining a reform plan by April 1, 2021.

# BLACK LIVES MATTER







Utica Police Department  
413 Oriskany St W. Utica, NY 13502  
315-735-3301



City of Utica, NY Police Department



@UticaPolice

[HTTP://WWW.CITYOFUTICA.COM/DEPARTMENTS/POLICE-DEPARTMENT/INDEX](http://www.cityofutica.com/departments/police-department/index)