

SOUTH EUCLID POLICE



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Honorable Mayor Georgine Welo and Members of the South Euclid City Council, it is my privilege to present to you the 2024 Annual Report for the South Euclid Police Department. This report was prepared to provide you with some insight into the daily services provided by our officers.

The South Euclid Police Department, which was established in 1924, continues to provide our residents with a professional workforce, acting with respect, fairness, and accountability. Our dedicated police force is comprised of forty full-time sworn officers, two part-time officers, three auxiliary officers, and three administrative support staff. This dedicated group of men and women take pride in working with our residents to solve problems that effect public safety.

In 2024 Officer's responded to 29,466 calls for service. While calls for service have remained consistent over the past three years, overall, our reportable crimes are down 7% from the previous year. Shoplifting and theft continue to lead all reportable crimes at 27%, while assault and other crimes against persons account for 19% of the overall call volume.

The police department had two retirements in 2024. Assistant Chief Robert Abele retired after 33 years of service and Detective Christine Marabito retired after 30 years of service. Also, one officer resigned to take a position in the Akron area. The department, just as law enforcement nationwide, continues to struggle to recruit and retain quality candidates to fill police vacancies. The police department tested 73 candidates in 2024 with only two candidates successfully completing the entire process. Officer Brian Taylor was hired in July and Officer Tim Staley began the police academy in August of 24' and successfully graduated in early March of 2025.

South Euclid Safety Forces continue to build on the past success of First CALL. The First CALL (Crisis Assistance & Local Linkage) program is an alternative crisis response team which first started as a pilot program in Shaker Heights and now serves five eastside communities. The team includes behavioral health clinicians and peer support staff that, when needed, respond to calls for service with our police officers and EMS crews. The First Call team provides services to anyone needing help related to mental health distress, poverty, homelessness, or substance abuse.

In January of 2024, the police department implemented a new drone unit. Seven officers attended 40 hours of training to prepare for the exam administered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). All seven officers successfully passed the grueling test and have been issued their Unmanned Aerial System pilot's license. The Drone Team activated thirty-two times in 2024. The unit is responsible for successfully locating suspects that fled from police on three separate occasions, and all without endangering the safety of the officers or the suspects. As technology improves and our pilots gain more experience, I have no doubt that our drone unit will save lives, enhance safety, improve operational effectiveness, and provide real-time situational awareness.

In closing, I want to thank Mayor Welo for fostering collaboration and providing opportunities for growth. I also want to thank the members of City Council. Their commitment to providing the resources and backing necessary for our officers to effectively serve and protect our community is greatly appreciated. Lastly, to the residents of South Euclid, thank you for your continued support of our officers. Your Trust and appreciation mean the world to them as they work tirelessly to keep our community safe.

Respectfully,



Joseph Mays
Chief of Police

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PERSONNEL

Retirements

Assistant Chief Robert Abele
Detective Christine Marabito

Resignations

Viktoia Bodnar

New Hires

Brian Taylor
Summer Davis
Tim Staley

Promotions

James Wilson – Assistant Chief
Michael Fink – Lieutenant
William Lazor - Lieutenant
Miles Blansette – Sergeant
Brian Shamblin - Sergeant
Steve Wilson - Sergeant
Michael Demario – Sergeant
Christopher Cooper - Detective
Robert Baldyga - Corporal
Alexander Clementi - Corporal
Brandon Bliss - Corporal

Personnel

In 2024 the South Euclid Police Department

- 40 Sworn Officers
- 3 Administrative support staff
- 1 Special police officer
- 3 Auxiliary police officer

DANGEROUS DOG

This ordinance passed in January 2005 to protect residents from dogs running loose or becoming a danger to any person or animal while off the premises of the owner.

When the Police Department receives a complaint, a determination made by the discretion of the Police Chief, based on the facts presented as to whether the dog is dangerous or vicious. Once a dog is determined to be dangerous/vicious, the owner receives a certified letter which states the owner has 30 days to comply with the stipulations of the ordinance. If the owner fails to comply, they are charged criminally for each violation. -The owner has the right to appeal within ten days after receiving the notice by making a written request to the South Euclid Municipal Court for a hearing on the question of whether the dog is dangerous or vicious.

- Since the program's start, the Chief has deemed 106 dogs to be dangerous/vicious.
- Twenty-seven of those residents appealed to their dogs deemed dangerous/vicious and 5 were overturned.
- Three cases turned over to Cuyahoga County to determine if dogs should be deemed dangerous via state code.

RECORDS CRIME STATS

Statistics taken from OIBRS

Crime Statistics	2023	2024
Murder	0	3
Negligent Homicide	0	0
Justifiable Homicide	0	0
Kidnapping	0	1
Forcible Rape	5	7
Forcible Sodomy	0	1
Sexual Assault with an Object	0	0
Forcible Fondling	14	5
Robbery	7	16
Aggravated Assault	34	20
Simple Assault	193	171
Intimidation	5	39
Arson	1	0
Extortion/ Blackmail	1	1
Burglary B&E	14	27
Pocket Picking	33	2
Purse Snatching	1	5
Shoplifting	250	170
Theft from Building	57	34
Theft from Coin Operated Machine	0	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	58	26
Theft of MV parts/access.	5	4
Other Larceny	34	89
Motor Vehicle Theft	62	44
Counterfeit/ Forgery	9	4
False Pretenses/ Swindle	4	6
Credit Card/ Teller Machine Fraud	20	6
Impersonation	0	0
Welfare Fraud	0	0
Wire Fraud	25	56
Embezzlement	0	2
Identity Theft	41	25
Hacking/Computer Invasion	1	0

RECORDS CRIME STATS CONTINUED

Crime Statistics	2023	2024
Stolen Property Offenses	7	18
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism	107	162
Drug/ Narcotic Violations	5	5
Drug Equipment Violations	0	3
Incest	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0
Pornography/ Obscene Material	3	2
Betting/ Wagering	0	0
Operating/Promoting/Asst. Gambling	0	0
Gambling Equipment Violations	0	0
Sports Tampering	0	0
Prostitution	0	0
Promoting/ Assisting Prostitution	0	0
Bribery	0	0
Weapons Law Violations	21	11
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	1
Animal Cruelty	2	1
Bad Checks	8	0
Curfew/ Loitering/ Vagrancy Violations	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	42	30
Driving Under the Influence	22	40
Drunkenness	2	9
Family Offenses, nonviolent	8	4
Liquor Law Violations	7	14
Peeping Tom	0	0
Runaway	51	43
Trespass of Real Property	41	33
All Other Offenses	94	106
TOTAL	1294	1228

RECORDS TRAFFIC STATS

CITATIONS	2023	2024
Citation Total	2181	2407
Parking Total	4618	3566
Assured Clear Distance	36	41
Audio Volume	3	3
Child Restraints	15	11
Driving Left of Center	14	12
Driving on Closed Road	9	9
Driving Over Marked Lines	8	8
Driving Under Suspension (all types included)	379	391
Driving Unsafe Vehicle	4	1
Yield to Traffic/ Pedestrian	20	25
Expired Plates/Display of Plates	486	530
Headlights Required	6	9
3Hit Skip Accident	16	18
Motorcycle Endorsement	1	3
Jaywalking	0	0
No Valid Operator's License	208	197
Red Light	153	99
Passing Left of Center	0	0
Reckless Operation	14	9
Right of Way	66	33
Right Turn on Red After Stop	2	2
Right Turn on Red Prohibited	20	29
Seatbelt (driver and passenger)	122	137
Shortcutting	2	2
Signals Before Changing Course	9	22
Speed	275	417
Squeal Tires	2	0
Starting and Backing Vehicle	12	7
Stop Sign	114	120
Stopping for School Bus	0	1
Taillights/Rear License. Plate Illum	9	3
Temp Permit w/o License Driver	21	13
Turn at Intersection/Center Turning Lane	7	7
Weaving Course	1	70
Prohibit Use of Cell Phone	11	5
Miscellaneous Traffic Offences	60	173

NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS

OFFENSE	2023 CASES	2024 CASES
Non-Traffic Total	405	351
Assault	0	3
Barking & Howling Dogs	3	1
Child Endangering	4	8
Compliance with Lawful Fleeing	0	5
Compliance with Lawful Order	0	3
Contribute to Truant/Delinquent Juv.	2	2
Criminal Damaging	5	12
Criminal Trespass	23	23
Cruelty to Animals/Neglect	2	2
Discharging Firearms	1	1
Disorderly Conduct	20	22
Disturbing the Peace	0	0
Loud and unnecessary noises	0	2
Dog Running Loose	14	23
Abandoning Animals	0	1
Registration of Dogs/Dogs required tags	0	14
Drug Abuse/Possession	5	0
Drug Paraphernalia	2	0
Falsification	0	3
Loitering	0	0
Obstructing Official Business	6	15
Open Container	10	17
Possession of Fireworks	0	2
Providing False Information	2	1
Public Indecency	1	0
Sale Liquor Underage Person	0	0
Theft	224	195
Resisting Arrest	1	0
Snowplow Permit Required	1	1

RECORDS – MONTHLY FEE TOTALS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>REPORTS</u>	<u>SNOWPLOW PERMIT</u>	<u>TOW</u>	<u>KENNEL</u>	<u>PARKING</u>
JANUARY	\$65.70	\$65	\$400.00	\$20.00	\$18,316.68
FEBRUARY	\$86.90	\$25	\$775.00	\$20.00	\$35,283.33
MARCH	\$69.80	\$0	\$700.00	\$20.00	\$34,040.01
APRIL	\$64.40	\$0	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$23,156.25
MAY	\$84.10	\$0	\$825.00	\$0.00	\$21,990.95
JUNE	\$82.90	\$0	\$425.00	\$20.00	\$11,951.73
JULY	\$76.10	\$0	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$13,943.41
AUGUST	\$11.10	\$0	\$625.00	\$0.00	\$9,565.88
SEPTEMBER	\$79.80	\$0	\$600.00	\$40.00	\$10,519.40
OCTOBER	\$85.00	\$55	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$10,691.01
NOVEMBER	\$16.00	\$335	\$475.00	\$0.00	\$11,238.83
DECEMBER	\$23.00	\$300	\$675.00	\$20.00	\$9,366.22
TOTAL FEES	\$744.80	\$780.00	\$7,250.00	\$140.00	\$210,063.70

JAIL

Information provided by Lieutenant Mike O'Connor the following data describes the population and cost of operating the Jail in 2024:

The South Euclid Municipal Jail is a holding facility for arrested adults awaiting court proceedings in the South Euclid Municipal Court, and arrested juveniles awaiting transport to County Detention or release to their parents. The jail is a 12-day facility, capable of housing 8 males and 5 females on any given day.

The jail is serviced by the members of the South Euclid Police Department which includes booking, fingerprinting, hygiene, meals, and transport between other facilities.

The overall general operation and costs of the jail facility are the responsibility of the Jail Administrator.

Additionally, in 2024 we added a new two-way communication system for the jail as well as implementing a new jail management software system from Motorola.

Average Daily Population	Total	Male	Female
Low day prisoners		0	0
High day prisoners		6	4
Arrests	502	338	164
Time Servers	35	21	14
Average Stay of Court Commitments			
Meals Served	2312		
Breakfast	675		
Lunch	805		
Dinner	832		
Total Cost of Meals	\$13,294.50		
Prisoner Care			
Treated	42		
Transported	31		
Laundry Costs	\$3,144		
Laundry Deliveries	52		
Cost for Pharmacy and medical supplies	\$1,145		
Other Costs (supplies, toiletries, uniforms, bedding)	\$775.85		

TRAINING

Information provided by Assistant Chief Wilson

South Euclid Police Officers attended the following trainings in 2024.

COURSE DESCRIPTION	CREDITS EARNED	DATE COMPLETED
FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute	28.00	11/15/2024
Responding to Mental Health Issues	2.00	9/10/2024
Ohio School Threat Assessment	3.00	9/10/2024
Response to Mass Violence and Mass Protest Seminar	4.00	9/6/2024
NIBIN Overview	1.00	9/6/2024
Interviewing the Crime Victim	1.00	9/6/2024
Ethics and Professionalism	1.00	9/1/2024
Effective Communication and Safe Interaction with Persons in Crisis	2.50	8/31/2024
Community Diversity and Procedural Justice	2.00	8/31/2024
Crisis Mitigation - An Ohio Model	2.00	8/18/2024
Legal Updates 2024	2.00	8/18/2024
Communication Disabilities	1.50	7/21/2024
NIBIN III	0.25	7/12/2024
Clandestine Drug Lab Recertification/Refresher	N.C.	7/12/2024
Veterans In Crisis	2.00	7/11/2024
Victims' Rights - Marsy's Law	1.00	7/11/2024
BCI Lethal Use of Force and OIS Investigations	1.00	4/23/2024
	26.25	

FTO TRAINING

Information provided by Lieutenant Mike Fink

The field training unit is an essential element of the South Euclid Police Department. Field training officers (FTOs) have great responsibilities. Not only are they a trainer for new recruits, but also an integral part of the decision to keep or dismiss new recruits based on their observations. The South Euclid Field Training Unit is a group of highly dedicated trainers with wide and varied experience. When a new officer joins the South Euclid Police Department, they enter the field training program. The length of the program is determined by the new officer's experience and education. In general, an officer who has just completed the police academy will spend approximately 20 weeks training with a field training officer before being certified for solo patrol. The training will cover all facets of the job, including investigations, traffic enforcement, patrol tactics, use of force, community policing methods, and much more. For officers coming to the department with previous law enforcement experience, the program has flexibility that allows for accelerated training.

South Euclid Field Training Unit by the Numbers:

Trainers: 9

Supervisors: 3

Total Years of Police Experience: 111

Average Years of Police Experience: 13

Since mid-2021, the South Euclid Police Department has seen an unprecedented number of new officers join the department and enter the field training program. These officers included recruits who had just graduated from the police academy as well as experienced officers from other agencies who transferred to SEPD.

Officers Trained in 2024 - 3.

Total Time Trained – 1990 Hours

In 2024, several experienced Field Training Officers were promoted to sergeants and left the field training program. Several other patrol officers stepped in the role and have begun training our new police officers.

YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

Information Provided by Patrol Officer Joe DiLillo, Patrol Officer Adam Singerman, Patrol Officer James Patrick

The 2024 South Euclid Youth Police Academy was again a success. New instructors include Officer. Corey Spencer and Auxiliary Officer Marquell Scott complimented Officers DiLillo and Singerman, who have been a part of the program since its start in 2014. Returning Cadets could build on previous instructions. These cadets include Brush Sophomore Anastasia Mansfield, Memorial 8th Graders Zuri Hart and Kyiah Armstrong, and Greenview 6th Grader Marissa Quinn Bell.

New cadets include students from both Greenview and Memorial, who either have an interest in becoming a police officer or simply looking for a fun way to spend part of summer vacation. Both summer sessions were again at maximum capacity as we welcomed guest speakers with a wide range of experience.

These include former police officer Holly Miktarian, Greenview School Dean of Engagement Thomas Coleman, and Case Western Reserve University Police Officer Sarah Shendy.



Cadets along a tour of Mansfield Reformatory, filming location for the classic film, The Shawshank Redemption

YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY



Sgt. Miles Blansette conducts a K9



Visit with Fire and Police

HONOR GUARD

Information Provided by Sergeant William Lazor

The South Euclid Honor Guard consists of members of the South Euclid Police Department. A new Manual of Arms was adopted, combining some of the best ceremonial drill movements from the US Army, Marine Corps and Air Force Drill Manuals, while keeping with time honored traditions. Unit members designed and approved their new uniforms. The Honor Guard Unit has received generous donations from University Suburban Health Center, Walmart, Legacy Village, and other contributions to make it all possible. Donations were used to purchase the leather gear and equipment, while the clothing portion was paid for by each individual member. The unit's rifles, the venerable M-1 Garand, are on loan from the Department of Civilian Marksmanship.

The Honor Guard routinely participates in the City of South Euclid's Memorial Day Parade and provides a rifle salute at the City's War Memorial.

The unit is honored to train and prepare to represent the South Euclid Police Department, as the Ceremonial Unit at any time duty calls.

The Unit members are:

Lieutenant William Lazor – Unit Commander
Sergeant Brian Shamblin
Corporal Bob Baldyga
Corporal Shauna McCann
Patrol Officer Brian Bolinger
Patrol Officer Christopher Hillier
Patrol Officer Kenan Senel

CANINE UNIT

Information Provided by Lieutenant Fink

The South Euclid Police Department K9 Unit founded in 2002 to support the efforts of Patrol Officers and detectives in a variety of ways. The South Euclid Police K9 teams trained in:

- Narcotics Detection
- Firearms Detection
- Building and Area Search
- Evidence Recovery
- Tracking
- Suspect Apprehension
- Handler Protection
- Community Policing
- Tactical Operations

In 2024, the South Euclid Police K9 Unit saw considerable change. In January, K9 Kolbe officially retired from the South Euclid Police Department and his partner, Mike Fink, was promoted to lieutenant. Following Kolbe's retirement, Lieutenant Fink began focusing his efforts on training the K9 unit and is no longer managing a dog. Sadly, In June is missed by his family and the department. Also in January, K9 Kaos retired and his partner, Miles Blansette, was promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Blansette partnered with a new dog, K9 Riggs. Kaos is relaxing at home with Sgt. Blansette and his family.

In the spring, the K9 Unit held tryouts for the position of K9 handler. Patrol Officer Mike Susnik and Patrol Officer Jim Patrick were selected to join the unit. In June of 2024, Patrol Officer Susnik partnered with K9 Vader and completed basic K9 training at Shallow Creek Kennels in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania in July. Patrol Officer Patrick paired with K9 Jack in September and graduated in October. This brought the K9 unit up to four dog teams, with one team assigned to each of the department's four platoons.

Also in 2024, the South Euclid Police Department assigned two K9 teams to the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force, a collaborative, district-wide law enforcement effort that is dedicated to the pursuit, apprehension, and successful prosecution of violent adult fugitives across the Northern District of Ohio with outstanding state and federal felony warrants. Patrol Officer Delehanty and K9 Arie, along with Sgt. Blansette and K9 Riggs, are available to help the Task Force as needed in their search for the most violent offenders in northeast Ohio.

The ultimate success of a police K9 team, and the resulting safety of the community, is related to the amount of quality training the team receives. It is for this reason that the South Euclid Police Department K9 Unit pursues advanced training with a sense of urgency. Both Lieutenant and Sgt. Blansette serve as K9 evaluators for the Ohio Attorney General's Office. In addition, the department is certified to conduct in-house K9 training through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Lieutenant Fink holds national accreditation through the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) as a Master Trainer of patrol and narcotics detection K9 teams.

CANINE UNIT CONTINUED

Our K9 unit is also the anchor agency for a regional K9 training group that meets bi-monthly to conduct in-service K9 training. The group is made up of dog teams from several area law enforcement agencies. Additionally, Lieutenant Fink has had numerous articles published in the journal for the North American Police Work Dog Association. He also instructs as a member of the NAPWDA Tactics Committee at the Patrol Dog Tactics and Survival workshop, which is taught nationwide. This allows him to bring back innovative training techniques to our K9 unit and those in the Cleveland area.

The K9 Unit is the beneficiary of tremendous support from the South Euclid Police K9 Foundation, a non-profit foundation established by members of the community to support the needs of the K9 teams serving the department. They provide equipment and training for the current dogs, as well as medical treatment for the retired dogs. The foundation also covers all memorial expenses when a K9 passes away.

In 2025, the K9 Unit will be busy working to train the new K9 teams to meet the high standards set by department and its prior K9s.

ACTIVE K9'S

K9 Arie
2018-Present



K9 Arie is a 7-year-old Belgian Malinois and is assigned to Patrol Officer Pat Delehanty. He is a multipurpose K9 trained in narcotics detection, patrol functions and tactical operations. Patrol Officer Delehanty and Arie are also members of the EDGE SWAT Team and routinely deploy on a wide variety of high-risk operations throughout the area, as well as the U.S. Marshal's Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force.

CANINE UNIT CONTINUED

**K9 Riggs
2024-Present**



K9 Riggs is a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois and partnered with Sgt. Miles Blansette. Riggs is the first South Euclid Police K9 to train in firearms detection, in addition to patrol functions and deploys as part of the EDGE SWAT Team. Sgt. Blansette and Riggs are also members of the U.S. Marshal's Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force.

**K9 Vader
2024-Present**



K9 Vader is a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois/German shepherd cross and partnered with Patrol Officer Mike Susnik. He trained in narcotics detection and patrol and joined the department in July of 2024.

CANINE UNIT CONTINUED

**K9 Jack
2024-Present**



K9 Jack is a 1-year-old Belgian Malinois/Dutch Shepherd cross who joined the department in October, partnered with Patrol Officer Jim Patrick and is trained in narcotics detection and patrol duties.

Retired

**K9 Kaos
2013-2024**



K9 Kaos, a German shepherd, retired from active duty in January of 2024. Kaos partnered with Sgt. Miles Blansette and was known for his strong personality when working, as well as for his persistence in convincing his human co-workers to play ball with him in the station. Kaos served as a patrol/narcotics dog and was also a part of the EDGE SWAT Team Tactical K9 Program. He spends his retirement at home with Sgt. Blansette and his family.

CANINE UNIT CONTINUED

In Memoriam

K9 Kolbe 2013-2024



K9 Kolbe, a Belgian Malinois, joined the South Euclid Police Department in 2013 and served as Lieutenant Mike Fink's partner until his retirement in 2024. He was the first multipurpose K9 at SEPD and was trained in narcotics detection and patrol work. He will be remembered as being the first dog in the EDGE SWAT Tactical K9 Program. As part of EDGE, Kolbe and Lieutenant Fink deployed on over 250 high risk operations throughout the area. Like his predecessor K9 Rex, Kolbe was a regular visitor to the classrooms at Adrian Elementary School where he loved the attention of the students and staff.

K9 Oktane 2013-2017



K9 Oktane joined the South Euclid Police Department in 2013 and his partner, Patrol Officer Dustin Smoot, was a dual-purpose narcotics and patrol dog. Oktane was a small German shepherd with a huge heart and was ready to go to work at any moment. He was an outstanding tracking dog, once tracking a robbery suspect several blocks to his hiding place in backyard shed. He did all this with a severe cut to his leg that required multiple stitches. Sadly, Oktane was diagnosed with cancer at age 5 and passed away in December of 2017.

CANINE UNIT CONTINUED

K9 Recon 2006-2013



K9 Recon, a German shepherd and Belgian Malinois cross, was the second police K9 to join the South Euclid Police Department in 2006. He was assigned to Sgt. Miles Blansette. Recon was a tall, slender dog with a unique personality. He was incredibly serious when working and then could seemingly flip a switch and be a funny, friendly dog who was well loved by the community.

K9 Rex 2002-2012



K9 Rex was the founding member of the South Euclid Police K9 Unit. Rex was a beautiful black sable German shepherd and was partnered with Lieutenant Mike Fink. Purchased with confiscated drug money, Rex became an ambassador for the police department, visiting dozens of community events each year. He had a wonderful career that set an extremely high bar for the dogs that would follow. Among his most important accomplishments was the locating of the gun used to kill a police officer in a neighboring community. Rex adored and loved by the children of Adrian Elementary School, who held a school-wide party for him when he retired in 2012.

CANINE UNIT CONTINUED

"I ask for one thing - that in still, far off days, someone who knew me should, in their daily rounds, suddenly pause, caught by some sight or sound, some glance, some phrase, some trick of memory's ways, which brings me to mind. Then I shall wait, eager with hope, perhaps to hear 'how great if he were with us still!'"

And then at the end, all I wish for is just 'he was my friend.'"

From "A Soldier's Epithet"

DETECTIVE BUREAU

Information provided by Lieutenant Parisi

In January of 2024, SEPD received call about a kidnapping. Investigation revealed that a male had broken into the home of the mother of his children and took her from the residence. The male tracked via his cell phone and with negotiations, the male dropped off the female unharmed. The suspect arrested and charged. His case is pending in Cuyahoga County Court.

In July of 2024, a theft of a motor vehicle theft reported from a local car dealership reported that a male and female came into test drive two cars and left with them. Investigation found a couple responsible for similar thefts elsewhere in Cuyahoga County. OSHP managed the investigation and charged the couple.

In July of 2024 SEPD responded to a disturbance at BP. Investigation revealed that a male tried to rob a customer at gunpoint. The customer fought with the male and was able to get control of the gun. During the struggle over the gun two of the suspects' associates joined in the fight over the gun. All three suspects were involved found and charged. Their case is pending in the courts.

In September of 2024 officers received a call from Walmart. Investigation revealed that store loss prevention saw a male shoplifting. The suspect confronted by store loss prevention and an off-duty police officer working security there. The male fled and seen concealing items underneath a car in the parking lot. Officers were able to apprehend the male and found that the items the male concealed under the parked car were handguns. The male denied ownership of the gun; however, DNA testing linked the male with the guns.

In October of 2024 SEPD received a call about a robbery occurring at Chase Bank in South Euclid. Investigation revealed that while an ATM technician was servicing the machine, the victim was approached by two males wearing masks. Both masked males pointed handguns at the technician and demanded money. The males took four cassettes holding cash from the ATM. The amount of cash stolen reported as being over \$120,000.00. During the investigation one of the suspects was found, arrested, and charged. The investigation is on-going with collaboration with federal law enforcement authorities.

In November of 2024 SEPD investigated a shooting that resulted in the death of a male. The Cuyahoga County medical examiner ruled this shooting a homicide. A suspect was immediately arrested after the shooting and the investigation is ongoing. In November of 2024 SEPD investigated a shooting in which a male shot in the hip while standing in the parking lot of a local bar. Investigation revealed that the male had an interaction with a couple who were in a vehicle parked in the same parking lot. The male half of the couple shot the victim after an altercation. The investigation is on-going.

In November of 2024 SEPD investigated an incident where three people were shot at a residence. Investigation revealed that during a house party there was an altercation involving uninvited guests to the party. The uninvited guests left but later returned and began shooting at the house. Three attendees of the party were struck by bullets; none had any life-threatening injuries. Over sixty shell casings were found at the crime scene, including high-powered rifle rounds. The investigation is on-going.

DETECTIVE BUREAU-CONTINUED

On 04/15/2024 at 18:02hrs an off-duty officer working at Giant Eagle, 4401 Mayfield Rd, notified of a male that ran as Asset Protection was trying to stop him. The male was wearing a maroon outfit and a maroon hat and was last seen running north bound towards the Community Center property. Patrol checked the area, and he could not be found. On 04/16/2024 Detectives checked the Community Center cameras for the male was found running from the Giant Eagle property and entering the rear door to the Community Center. Once inside, the male seen removing the maroon clothes he was wearing and changing into a different outfit. Further video evidence revealed that the male was an employee of the Community Center. The male was terminated from his job and charged with the theft of \$9.99 in prepared foods.

On 11/25/2024 patrol officers received a FLOCK notification about a stolen vehicle which was entering the Walmart property located at 1868 Warrensville Ctr. Rd. The vehicle, stolen from Cleveland State University, was found parked in the parking lot of Walmart. Witnesses gave a description of the occupants and reported that they entered Walmart. The four individuals were later detained inside of Walmart. One of the females was over the age of 18 and placed under arrest and returned to the South Euclid Jail for further investigation. The other three, two females and a male, were juveniles and gave names and birth dates to officers on scene. The juveniles were released to an adult. Video from Walmart revealed that the adult female was not the driver of the vehicle. Detectives interviewed the adult female and after extensive questioning, she revealed the name of the driver which was not the name given while on scene at Walmart. Further investigations found the juvenile driver. The adult female was released without charges. Charges are pending through juvenile courts on the juvenile driver. The juvenile driver identified by South Euclid Detectives in a second theft incident in a neighboring community and charges are pending for that incident.

On Thursday, July 25, 2024, SEPD responded to the 4100 block of Stonehaven Road for a female whose vehicle was just taken at gunpoint by three unknown juveniles who had their faces covered. The victim was briefly able to track the vehicle, through an app, and the vehicle was pinged in multiple areas of Cleveland's Eastside.

SEPD sent a bet on the lookout (BOLO) to Greater Cleveland law enforcement agencies. Through the BOLO, Cleveland Police Gang Impact Unit (GIU) and 5th District Violence Response Team (VCRT), contacted SEPD to inform the vehicle was used in multiple shootings in Cleveland over that weekend. The vehicle was recovered, unoccupied in Cleveland, and processed for DNA. During SEPD's investigation we learned the vehicle used a car wash in Steelyard Commons in Cleveland. The driver's face was captured on surveillance cameras. Sharing the photo with GIU, they were able to identify the driver, who is a known gang member, and his gang was already under investigation by GIU. Based off the surveillance photo, GIU was able to trace a known phone number associated with the gang. The cell data puts the phone on Stonehaven Road at the time of the aggravated robbery, the other locations in Cleveland the vehicle pinged in the app along with the locations of the shootings. The test results from the DNA swabs for the inside of the vehicle were a match to another member of the gang.

DETECTIVE BUREAU-CONTINUED

Although SEPD was unable to identify the three suspects who committed the aggravated robbery, working with GIU and 5th District VCRT, the driver from the surveillance camera was charged with receiving stolen property by Cleveland Police. SEPD's investigation aided GIU/VCRT in solving the shootings and vehicle used. Charges against the gang members include criminal gang activity, receiving stolen property (x4), felonious assault (x2), improperly handling of a firearm in a motor vehicle and discharge of firearm on or near prohibited premise and the court cases are still on-going.

On August 22, 2024, SEPD was called to AT&T about an employee working with an unidentified male and together they committed theft of almost \$20,000 worth of products. The unidentified male posed as a customer, who would open fraudulent accounts by producing fake Ohio Driver's Licenses and have the accounts set up on a payment plan. With the help of the Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center, detectives learned that the male used 9 Driver's Licenses to obtain nineteen devices totaling \$19,779.81. The employee admitted to AT&T that they knew it was fraud but continued anyhow because setting up new accounts earned them a higher commission.

The case was presented to the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury, the male was indicted on 29 counts and the employee indicted on 23 counts which included grand theft, identity fraud and tampering with records. The court case is still on-going.

COMMUNITY DIVERSION

Information Provided by: Diversion Officer Jennifer Crow

The Community Diversion Program was created to offer Juveniles and families an opportunity to voluntarily take part in community-based services in lieu of a formal court action.

In 2024 the South Euclid Juvenile Diversion Program had fourteen contacts with 9 participants. The purpose of the program was to set up meetings with the juveniles instead of having court proceedings. The first meeting includes the juvenile and parent to use positive reinforcement to make corrective action.

Allowing juveniles to make amends and receive supportive services at a grass roots level within the community allows juveniles to better understand their behaviors, decision making points, and impact on the community overall.

The goal of this program is to provide positive interactions with various leaders and offer diverse options to address the specific needs of the juvenile and family, provide mentorship and guidance to the juvenile, and steer them towards successful completion of court involvement.

Officer Crow contacts the parent or guardian, to inform them that their juvenile can take part in the Diversion program. A notice given to the parents/guardians, with a goal in mind of a meeting within seven days of receiving the complaint. During the meeting, there is discussion as to what course of action to take. There are many options discussed but a common assignment is some form of community service.

During the meeting we discuss juveniles' behavior at home as well as at school. We are looking for tools to improve in any area needed to help the parents/guardians and juveniles via community service if beneficial to the juvenile. The goal is to spend quality time with people in the community acting as a positive role model and allowing the juveniles to be part of something community based. The response has been positive for both the juvenile and parents.

TRAFFIC

2024 CRASH TOTALS

TYPE OF ACCIDENT	FATAL	INJURY	POSSIBLE INJURY	PROPERTY	TOTAL
2 MOTOR VEHICLES IN TRANSPORT	0	42	64	225	331
SELF REPORTED ACCIDENT	0	0	0	203	203
PEDESTRIAN	0	2	1	0	3
PARKED MV	0	2	3	38	43
PEDACYCLE	0	1	1	0	2
ANIMAL	0	0	0	3	3
FIXED OBJECTS	0	7	4	32	43
OTHER OBJECTS	0	0	0	4	4
OTHER NON-COLLISON	0	0	0	2	2
TOTALS	0	54	73	507	634

TRAFFIC- CONTINUED

POLICE MOTORCYCLE

The Motorcycle Unit is currently staffed by two (2) officers, Corporal Robert Baldyga and Patrolman Mark Preztak. These officers ride motorcycles if weather permits. To be a member of this unit, officers must successfully complete a two-week certification course. The two-week training culminates in a challenging obstacle course composed of both slow and high-speed exercises. The training is very intense and demanding for all levels of riding. One of the requirements to keep their riding status is an annual proficiency course that takes place at Bexley Park in May.

The Motorcycle Unit is used for special traffic details that include running radar on side streets and in school zones. The Motorcycle Unit also acts as an escort for a variety of functions.

REPORTABLE ACCIDENT STATISTIC COMPARISON

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
FATAL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
INJURY	125	45	38	45	34	41	54
Possible Injury		83	70	61	86	74	73
PROPERTY DAMAGE	637	639	550	651	586	517	507
TOTAL	763	767	658	757	706	632	634

EDGE SWAT

Detective Dave Carpenter – Euclid Police Department

The EDGE SWAT Team is a multi-jurisdictional team made up of members from eight (8) communities, including: Beachwood, Bratenahl, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Pepper Pike, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, and University Heights. Currently, the team consists of 25 SWAT Officers, 8 Tactical Medics, and 3 Tactical Canines. The EDGE SWAT Team led by Team Commander Detective Dave Carpenter of the Euclid Police Department, Assistant Team Commander Detective Josh Schultz, of the Euclid Police Department, and Training Coordinator/Senior Team Leader Sergeant Marc Imbrogno of the University Heights Police Department.

This past year brought the departure of six officers from our team, most of which were unexpected losses. This dropped our staff to a level that required an increased workload for the remaining officers. The remaining thirty-six officers stepped up and filled the voids to ensure that missions were safely and successfully completed. We would like to express our gratitude to them for their professionalism, devotion to improving this team and themselves, and commitment to their communities. The residents, business owners, school officials, and government leaders of our communities should be proud of our SWAT Team and know that our team is competent to manage any critical incident. We would also like to acknowledge and thank those that left us: Beachwood Assistant Fire Chief Matt Domonkos and Lieutenant Mike Iacobucci, Cleveland Heights Police Sergeant Matt Lasker and Detective Tom Rini, Euclid Police Captain Mike Janson and Officer Hunter Kovach, and South Euclid Police Officer Jim Patrick for their service and dedication to the EDGE SWAT Team. Captain Janson commanded the SWAT team from 2022 until his retirement from law enforcement in 2024.

Captain Janson served both Euclid SWAT and EDGE SWAT throughout his career and played a significant role in developing EDGE SWAT into what it is today. Detective Rini also retired from law enforcement in 2024 after being an original member of the team's explosive breaching group where he found his niche and helped to develop the program. Assistant Chief Domonkos' promotion required a resignation to focus his service to better his agency as he had during his time with EDGE. Lieutenant Iacobucci resigned as Assistant Medic Coordinator after 20+ years of service to Beachwood SWAT and EDGE SWAT. Sergeant Lasker resigned from his growing role within SWAT as a trainer and leader to focus his service towards commanding the Cleveland Heights Police Academy. Officer Kovach and Officer Patrick resigned within their first year of service to SWAT. Officer Kovach resigned to pursue a career outside of law enforcement after the death of a coworker. Officer Patrick resigned from SWAT to take on a role as a Canine Officer for South Euclid Police Department, where we are hopeful that he can reintegrated to the Tactical Canine program in the future.

In 2025, substantial replacements needed to offset the losses. As a result, the SWAT Team is expecting to add 10-14 SWAT Officers, 2-3 Tactical Medics, and a Tactical Canine.

EDGE SWAT Continued

Bratenahl is adding their first SWAT Officer. Cleveland Heights expecting to add 2 SWAT Officers and their first Tactical Medic. Euclid expects to add 2-4 SWAT Officers. Shaker Heights is expecting to add 2 SWAT Officers and their first Tactical Medic. South Euclid is expecting to add 2 SWAT Officers and a Tactical Canine. University Heights is expecting to add 2 SWAT Officers and their first Tactical Medic. We appreciate the support of our communities to provide these additions and the desire of these officers to better themselves and those around them while wishing them success in future endeavors.

Operational Highlights:

In 2024, EDGE SWAT continued its mission of excellence in law enforcement and tactical operations. With a commitment to professionalism, teamwork, and community safety, our team successfully executed sixty-two (62) high-risk operations. Through dedication and collaborative efforts with other agencies, the team has upheld our standards of service and made significant contributions to public safety. While many SWAT deployments were to serve high-risk search and arrest warrants connected to drug trafficking (23) or offenses of violence (24), ten (10) deployments were responses to armed, barricaded subjects exhibiting a propensity for violence. These numbers reflect a decrease in operational tempo, but a 200% rise in barricaded subjects from 2023. In 2024, thirteen (13) operations were related to homicides, including the resolution and subsequent services for the murder of Euclid Police Officer Jacob Derbin on May 11/12, 2024. EDGE SWAT continues to have good working relationships with Cleveland SWAT, Cuyahoga County SWAT, Ohio State Highway Patrol SWAT, WEB SWAT, FBI, DEA, USMS, and ATF. Numerous operations were served on behalf of or in conjunction with these units. The EDGE SWAT Team also continues to provide security for high-risk events, such as religious extremist threats associated with the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

The EDGE SWAT team is looking forward to 2025 to continue to grow and build upon the accomplishments of 2024 while integrating a large contingent of next-generation SWAT Officers. EDGE SWAT will continue to train hard and remain mission ready to serve our communities with dignity and respect.

EDGE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT

Information provided by Sergeant Timothy O'Haire



In 2024, the Edge Accident Investigation Unit (EDGE AIU) enacted ten (10) times. Six of the activations were for fatal crashes that occurred within the EDGE communities. Five crashes involved serious injuries, and one involved a hit/skip crash from a pursuit.

This past year, AIU spent considerable time training, reviewing, and finalizing investigative reports, utilizing mock crashes to maintain skills, and trained new members on our equipment and procedures. One member of the unit attended Crash Reconstruction training, and one member attended advanced training for Crash Data Retrieval software.

After the City of Pepper Pike joined EDGE, we welcomed a member of their department to AIU. We investigated one fatal crash that occurred in Pepper Pike in 2024.

AIU ended 2024 with eight members from the seven participating members of EDGE. We plan to increase that number during 2025.

In 2024, AIU responded to forty-seven percent less crashes than in 2023. However, fatalities saw a twenty percent increase compared to 2023. Total activation for the unit was down thirty-seven percent compared to the two-year running average (2022 & 2023).

A summary of all AIU callouts listed on the following page.

EDGE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT

Annual Statistics

2/16/2024	2930 Richmond Rd.	Beachwood	24006640	Fatal (1) & Serious Injury
4/12/2024	Eddy Rd. & I-90	Bratenahl	2024-000108	Fatal (1) & Serious Injury
4/15/2024	Cedar Rd. & Lee Rd.	Cleveland Heights	2401461	Pursuit Crash
4/19/2024	I-90 E/B & Eddy Rd.	Bratenahl	2024-000120	Fatal
6/8/2024	I-271 S/B MP 29.0	Beachwood	24023168	Serious Injury, OVI
7/2/2024	Monticello Blvd./Parkside Blvd.	South Euclid	2024-001271	
7/20/2024	Lee Rd./Van Aken Blvd	Shaker Heights	2024-001199	Hit Skip/ Unknown Injuries
9/22/2024	I-271 S/B MP 29.2	Beachwood	24038080	Fatal (1)
10/24/2024	1318 Warrensville Center Rd.	Cleveland Heights	2404176	Fatal (1)
11/18/2024	I-271 N/B MP 30.0	Pepper Pike	2470171	Fatal (2)
11/30/2024	Monticello Blvd./Pembroke	Cleveland Heights	2404694	Serious Injury

EDGE CROWD CONTROL MANAGEMENT TEAM

The EDGE Mobile Field Force Team (MFF) requested at the end of 2024 to change its name to The Crowd Management Team. This change reflects the team’s current abilities and presents a more community-friendly image.

Since established in 2016 the team has expanded its abilities from the traditional “Stomp and Drag” to include a “Bicycle Rapid Response Team.” The bike enables the team to move swiftly and efficiently when deployed for planned or unplanned events. The bikes create a movable barrier between the protestors and themselves while providing the ability to move crowds in desired direction. Bicycles do not hinder as they move through crowds and city streets with the team being able to stay ahead of the demonstration. These advantages help to maintain order and protect lives and property.

In addition, the team has worked on incorporating small team tactics for crowd monitoring and management. This enables fewer members of the Crowd Management Team to respond quickly to potential issues and effectively delegate the limited personnel resources while maintaining a safe environment to prevent the disturbance from escalating.

In 2024, Five members completed the Basic Patrol Bike Course. Seventy-four percent of the team completed Bike Crowd Control Management. These courses instructed by Sgt. John Lally of the Euclid Police Department. The team performed well learning barricades, slides, and arrest techniques.

The team deployed for the October 7th memorial at the Jewish Federation and demonstrated the success of our highly mobile tactics. We were able to positively engage with citizens, cover more ground on foot than in a patrol car, and remain in a state of readiness for rapid deployment into riot or arrest formations, if necessary.

EDGE Crowd Management Team (CMT) Training hours:

- 120 Hours Basic Patrol Bike Course
- 184 Hours Bicycle Rapid Response Training
- 768 Hours Monthly Training Attendance in 2024
- 1072 Hours Training for 2024

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO)

Joe Di Lillo Jr, School Resource Officer

The South Euclid Police Department continues to offer police support to the four buildings in our district. Officer Joe Di Lillo has served the police department for 19 years, the last 6 as School Resource Officer for the South Euclid-Lyndhurst School District.

At the request of 8th Grade Health Teacher Mark Gartland, Officer Di Lillo brought in "OVI Goggles" to simulate alcohol impairment and demonstrate Standard Field Sobriety Tests. Mr. Gartlands Health Class was covering Alcohol Drug use that week and asked Officer DiLillo to speak to the class.

Officer Di Lillo joined by Officer Brian Taylor for the Principals Award Ceremony at Rowland School. Officers attended the event supported by Sylvia Marshall, Principal at Rowland Elementary School.

Thanks to a generous donation and our officers time, 15 Memorial Junior High students had \$5,000 to split on toys, groceries/household items, and video games. Students who applied required a referral from a staff member at Memorial Junior High School. The applicants selected to participate by our committee were National Honor Society students, Honor/Merit Roll students, and Youth Police Academy Cadets.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO)



Officer Di Lillo on the upper playground of Greenview School during recess. By simply visiting our buildings daily, Ofc. Di Lillo builds and strengthens relations with the student's district wide. In general staff and students enjoy an enhanced feeling of safety while at school.

**2024
Memories**



HIGHLIGHTS
