

**2014**



# Paynesville Police Annual Report

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*Chief Paul Wegner*

Paynesville Police Department

12/31/2014



# Paynesville Police Department

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Chief Paul Wegner

December 31, 2014

City of Paynesville  
221 Washburne Ave  
Paynesville, MN 56362

Honorable Mayor Jeff Thompson  
City Council Members  
City Administrator Renee Eckerly

On behalf of the City of Paynesville, I am pleased to present the Paynesville Police Department's 2014 Annual Report.

As you review the document, you will see that 2014 was a very active year for the Paynesville Police Department. Aside from our normal everyday activities in 2014, the staff was involved with several activities that will leave a lasting impression with the community for years to come. The Department continues to reach out and partner with other agencies in the area to provide a safer community for all. All officers of the Paynesville Police Department are currently working for the Belgrade Police Department to assist them through a transition similar to what Paynesville experienced in 2012. I could not be more proud of all the officers for their willingness to step up and help in Belgrade's time of need. Paynesville truly has a great group of officers serving our community.

As you look at the crime stats for the department, you will see that the activity level of the department is up. The hard work and dedication of the department's officers continue to make the City of Paynesville a safe place to live, work, and raise a family.

The continued support from the Paynesville City Council and the City's leadership team is greatly appreciated, as are the enhanced relationships that are being created daily with the public through our outreach efforts.

As you review the report, I hope you take the same pride as I do in knowing that the members of this department are making a positive difference in the lives of the citizens of Paynesville. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as the Chief of Police for the City of Paynesville.

Respectfully,

Chief Paul Wegner  
Paynesville Police Department

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# 2014 Paynesville Police Department Staff



Paul Wegner  
Chief of Police



Bruce Elfering  
Patrol Officer



Charles Buggs  
Patrol Officer



Kelsey Thompson  
Patrol Officer



Brady Klingfus  
Patrol Officer/ EM Director

# Operations

*The Paynesville Police Department provides 24 hour coverage, 365 days a year to the 2,429 citizens of Paynesville. Officers are responsible for patrolling 2.3 sq miles of city property and often times are called to assist neighboring communities and agencies. In 2014, the Paynesville Police Department logged 51,790 patrol miles for the year. This was an increase of 13,225 miles over 2013.*

*The department is comprised of the Chief of Police, three full-time officers and a part-time officer. In 2014, the department increased the part-time officer's position from a quarter time position to a half-time position to allow for covering officer's time off. The department is responsible for all calls for service that occur within the City of Paynesville. In 2014, the department responded to 5,056 calls for service and generated 2,251 case files.*

*Officers of the Paynesville Police Department are responsible for not only responding to the calls for services, but are also responsible for processing the crime scenes, interviewing all individuals involved, and conducting any necessary follow-up investigation.*

*Officers routinely respond to non-criminal calls for service as well. The department continues to provide multiple public services, including door checks at local businesses, foot patrols through local apartment complexes and sporting events, and community outreach activities.*

*In addition to the officer's normal shifts, officers of the Paynesville Police Department partner with St. Cloud PD, Stearns County Sheriff's Office and other local and regional agencies to routinely provide extra traffic enforcement under the Towards Zero Death (TZD) initiative. Part of the initiative is to provide high visibility traffic enforcement to areas of Stearns County having issues related to traffic crashes and deaths. This has proven to be one of the most effective methods of reducing injuries and deaths from traffic-related crashes.*



*In 2014, the department dramatically increased its efforts to reduce traffic related deaths in Stearns County. Officers conducted an additional 557 hours of traffic enforcement, as compared to 139 hours of enforcement in 2013. Officers also took part in the I-90/I-94 Challenge in early August, a nationwide effort to prevent traffic deaths on Interstate 90 and Interstate 94 during that period.*

*In May 2014, the Paynesville Police Department, along with partnering agencies in the*



*Stearns/Benton TZD grant, were awarded the first ever Minnesota TZD Commissioner's Award. This award was established to recognize efforts of law enforcement agencies participating in the TZD initiative. The award is presented by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Chief Wegner accepted the award on behalf of the Paynesville Police Department from Commissioner Dohman.*

# Activity Highlights

*Throughout 2014, officers of the Paynesville Police Department have worked hard to address many issues facing the community. The department saw a sharp up-tick in calls for service at the high school after the start of the 2014-2015 school year. The start of this school year was the first year of anti-bullying legislation and laws mandating changes. Officers and the School District worked hard to address the issues facing the students and often times incorporated the parents in the problem solving process. Together the department and district are working to provide a safe, bully-free environment for all of the students at the Paynesville Area Schools.*

*Officers continued to focus investigations on narcotics violations and crimes associated with narcotics. By the end of 2014, the department had conducted multiple investigations into narcotics violations, which have currently led to 5 new felony charges against 4 separate individuals with several cases still being investigated.*

*In January, Officer Thompson responded to a fire at the Plaza Apartments. The subsequent investigation into the fire led to an arrest of one of the residents for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Arson. While the damage was limited to a storage, the potential loss was significant in that multiple residents were home sleeping at the time. The suspect later pled guilty to the crime.*

*The Department also sent a total of 40 cases to the County Attorney's Office for review with charges being filed in 30 of the cases with 9 still under review.*

*In September, Officer Klingfus responded to a medical emergency at one of the local businesses. Upon his arrival, he found an employee unresponsive on the floor. Officer Klingfus took immediate action and started CPR on the employee. The employee regained consciousness and recovered from the incident. Officer Klingfus received numerous compliments on his response and can be credited with saving the employee's life. Officer Klingfus received a Letter of Recognition for his efforts in the matter.*

## Community Outreach

*The members of the Paynesville Police Department continued to increase their community outreach efforts throughout the year.*

*Officers attended a variety of activities involving Community Education and Early Childhood and Family Education. In February, Chief Wegner attended a meeting with area residence and spoke with them about current scams affecting the community. In April, Officer Thompson and Officer Buggs attended separate ECFE classes. Officer Thompson was able to interact with the children during this class. Officer Buggs*



attended the Hero's Gathering at BugBee Hive Resort. Officer Buggs was able to assist the kids with different projects and even walked away with a new shield. In September, Chief Wegner and Officer Klingfus also participated in the ECFE Fair which included fingerprinting, a bouncy house, food, and the State Farm Bear. Officer Klingfus even got involved in the act and joined the kids in the bouncy house.



The Paynesville Police Department with the assistance of the MN Office of Traffic Safety and support of the Paynesville Area Community Education began teaching a new initiative to the parents of teen drivers. In the spring of 2014, Chief Wegner taught the first ever class developed to inform parents about teen driving laws and rules. The program, called Point of Impact, was developed by the Office of Traffic Safety to help parents understand their responsibility in the education

and training of their teen driver. The program was well received by the participants and almost every parent of a student in the class was present. By the fall class, every parent was in attendance. Community Education has also added the training to all upcoming driver's training class.



Officer also participated in Dairy Queen's annual fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network. Residents had the opportunity to take aim at Chief Wegner in the dunk tank. Some were successful and others not so much. But fun was had by all and in the end the all money went to support a worthy cause. Officer Thompson put her dance moves to the test in the parking lot and joined one of the many dance line that had formed. While none of the other officers attempted to join her, we all rooted her on and took photos for later.



*Officer Buggs also created and implemented a Senior Safety Class, which he presented to local seniors at CentraCare's Washburne Court in September. Officer Buggs was able to focus on scams currently facing our seniors and other ways our seniors could protect themselves from becoming the victim of a crime. The seniors found Officer Buggs' presentation to be very informative.*

## Training and Grants

*Officers completed over 100 hours of training in 2014. Most of the training was focused on POST mandated training including Emergency Vehicle Operations, Use of Force, Defensive Tactics, Firearm Qualifications and Taser Qualifications. Officer also received training on the X-2 Taser, which the department purchased to replace the old outdated ones previously used. All officers in the department now carry an issued and are responsible for the care function of the tool.*

*In November, Chief Wegner represented the Paynesville Police Department at the 2014 TZD Conference in Duluth. Chief Wegner found the information presented at the conference extremely valuable and actually lead to the identification of narcotics seized by the department a few weeks earlier. Chief Wegner also attended a recertification course for Taser Instructors.*

*In 2014, Chief Wegner also took over as the training coordinator for the Stearns County Chiefs Association. Chief Wegner was able to bring a Use of Force Simulator to the county on two occasions to train all agencies in Stearns County in decision making as it related to deadly force. Not only were officers able to utilize the training simulator, Chief Wegner demonstrated the system to the Paynesville City County and allowed them the opportunity to participate as well. Councilmembers were able to get a glimpse of some of the situations officers face on a daily basis. Special thanks to the Columbia Heights Police Department for allowing the use of their equipment. Chief Wegner was also appointed to the Minnesota Chief of Police Association's Education/Training Committee.*



*The Paynesville Police Department also received several grants and equipment awards during the year. Early in the year, the department was awarded a new radar system for the squad car from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety- Office of Traffic Safety. The Department received the radar for its continued efforts and support of the states TZD Initiative. The Department also applied for and received a grant through CenterPoint Energy as part of the Community Partnership Grant. The department used the matching funds to purchase a new squad car camera system for the car. At the end of 2014, the department applied for a grant for additional equipment for the squad car through the Office of Traffic Safety. The department has not heard whether they received the grant however.*

# The Transformation Continues

*In 2013, the Paynesville Police Department went through a significant transition and transformation. The department turned over 40% of the staff and lost the part-time officer in early 2014. With the loss of the part-time officer, the department re-evaluated the needs of the department and the amount of time the part-time officer was needed. The City ultimately decided that the department needed to hire a half time position to assist in covering other officer's time off and other needs of the department. The City also decided to combine the position with the Emergency Management Directors position, thus creating a full-time position and ultimately bringing stability to the position.*

*In March 2014, Brady Klingfus was hired as the new Police Officer and Emergency Management Director. Officer Kingfus quickly acclimated to the department and community. Officer Klingfus has worked on several projects in the Emergency Management Director's capacity, including the implementation of the CodeRed Emergency Notification System for not only the City of Paynesville, but also Paynesville Township and CentraCare Health Paynesville. Officer Klingfus was acknowledged with a Letter of Recognition for his response and action to a medical emergency at the CMCU Branch in Paynesville.*

*In addition to Officer Klingfus, Diane Fournier continued to volunteer her time with the Paynesville Police Department. Fournier put in 152 donated in 2014. Fournier is responsible for tasks ranging from filing to late notices on administrative fines.*

*In late 2014, all officers of the Paynesville Police Department offered their off time and services to the City of Belgrade and Brooten as they went through a transition with their Chief of Police. Chief Wegner was hired as Interim Chief of Police for the department and all other officers were hired as part-time employees to fill open shifts vacated by the Chief of Police.*

# Paynesville Police Department

## Statistics

### Year to Year Comparison

Crimes Against Persons			
Description	2012	2013	2014
Assault	9	12	11
Disorderly Conduct/ Public Urination	3	3	6
Domestic/ Verbal Disputes	28	17	33
Fraud	7	8	4
Gun person with	5	4	0
Gun shots fired/heard	4	1	3
Harassment/Restraining Order Viol	26	14	18
Human Services	0	3	14
Identity Theft	1	1	0
Child Abuse/Neglect	6	2	4
Sexual Assault	7	2	8
Robbery	1	0	0
Threat Complaint	16	15	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>112</b>
% increase over previous years		-27.50 %	36.58 %

Property Crimes			
Description	2012	2013	2014
Arson	0	0	1
Burglary	10	11	12
NSF/ Worthless Check	18	24	7
Thefts	59	46	62
Counterfeiting	1	1	0
Forgery	0	2	0
Stolen Vehicle	2	5	1
Stolen Vehicle Recovered	1	1	2
Tamper with a Motor Vehicle	0	1	0
Trespassing/ Unwanted Person	10	10	12
Damage to Property	33	19	20
No Pay Customer	15	32	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>133</b>
% increase over previous years		2.00 %	-12.50 %

<b>Traffic Enforcement</b>			
<b>Description</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Traffic Stops	407	681	1,485
DWI/Underage Drink & Drive	4	9	19
Vehicle Pursuit	0	0	1
Accident- includes Boat/Plane/Train	31	45	38
Fatal Accidents	0	1	1
Hit and Runs	0	5	9
School Bus/School Violations	0	4	1
Driving Complaints- includes ATVs and Snowmobiles	23	29	31
Motorists Assists	8	17	41
Deer Permits Issued	2	6	4
Parking Violation	52	97	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>1,738</b>
% increase over previous years		69.60%	94.40 %

<b>Public Service Activities</b>			
<b>Description</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Assists- Agency/Business/Person	112	556	704
Citizen Contacts	11	144	117
Door Checks	0	278	386
Open Doors	3	15	28
Foot Patrols/ Park Patrols	0	76	607
Escorts	19	19	15
Medical Assists	71	80	76
School Patrols	0	116	223
Fingerprinting	0	14	22
Alarms	41	53	74
Paper Service	7	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>2,255</b>
% increase over previous years		413.60%	66.30 %

## Other Criminal/Ordinance Violations

Description	2012	2013	2014
Intoxicated Person	5	7	5
Deceased Person	2	2	2
911 Hang-up	6	5	4
Abandoned Vehicle/Bike	5	4	5
Animal Complaint	54	42	63
Illegal Burning	1	3	2
Civil Matter/Dispute	26	26	34
Curfew Violation	3	1	2
Court Order Violation	0	0	1
Illegal Dumping	5	1	3
False Info to PO	0	0	1
Fire- Building/Car/Wild/Other	9	7	7
Found/Lost Property	11	17	25
Fireworks Complaint/Violation	2	4	3
Gas Leak	1	1	8
Hazardous Conditions	11	16	8
Matter of Information	25	21	21
Juvenile Problem	13	16	19
Missing Person/Runaway	7	10	4
Narcotics Violation	0	4	9
Noise Complaint/Loud Music	11	15	15
Ordinance Violation	0	4	10
Phone Complaint	7	6	18
Pornography Violation	0	0	0
Suicide Complaints/Threats	3	11	16
Suspicious Activity/Vehicle/Person/Smell	49	88	76
Underage Consumption	2	0	5
Vulnerable Adult Complaint	0	0	0
Warrant Arrest/ Attempted	20	31	32
Warrant/ Search Warrant Executed	0	3	7
Welfare Check	58	45	47
Misc Public Contacts	23	42	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>524</b>
% increase over previous years		20.30%	21.30 %

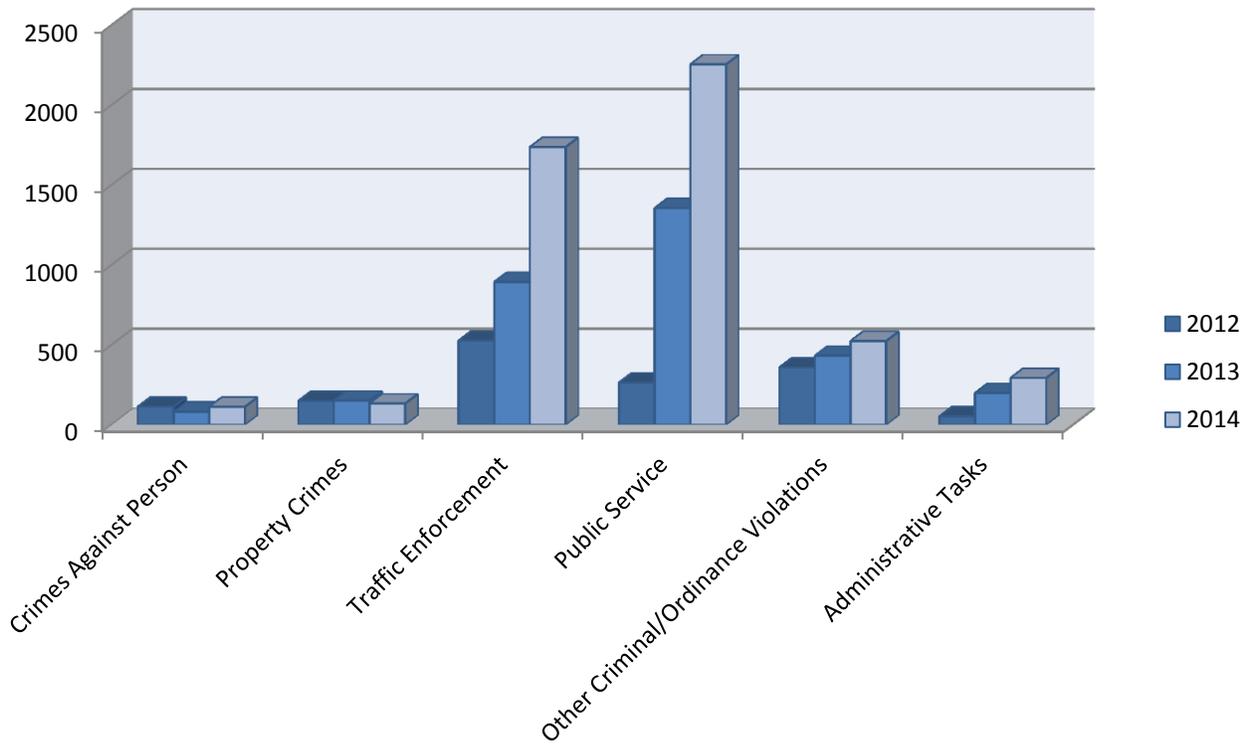
<b>Administrative Tasks</b>			
<b>Description</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Administrative Cases	0	4	0
Follow-Up Investigations	34	81	151
Meetings Attended	1	28	36
Gun Permits Issued	1	30	22
POR Registration	6	11	15
Training	9	2	12
Background Check	2	1	8
Records Request	0	41	43
Court	0	0	5
Compliance Checks- Alcohol/Tobacco	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>293</b>
% increase over previous years		275.50%	47.24 %

<b>Total Calls for Service</b>			
<b>Description</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Calls for Service	1465	3120	5056
Case Files Generated	1070	1529	2251

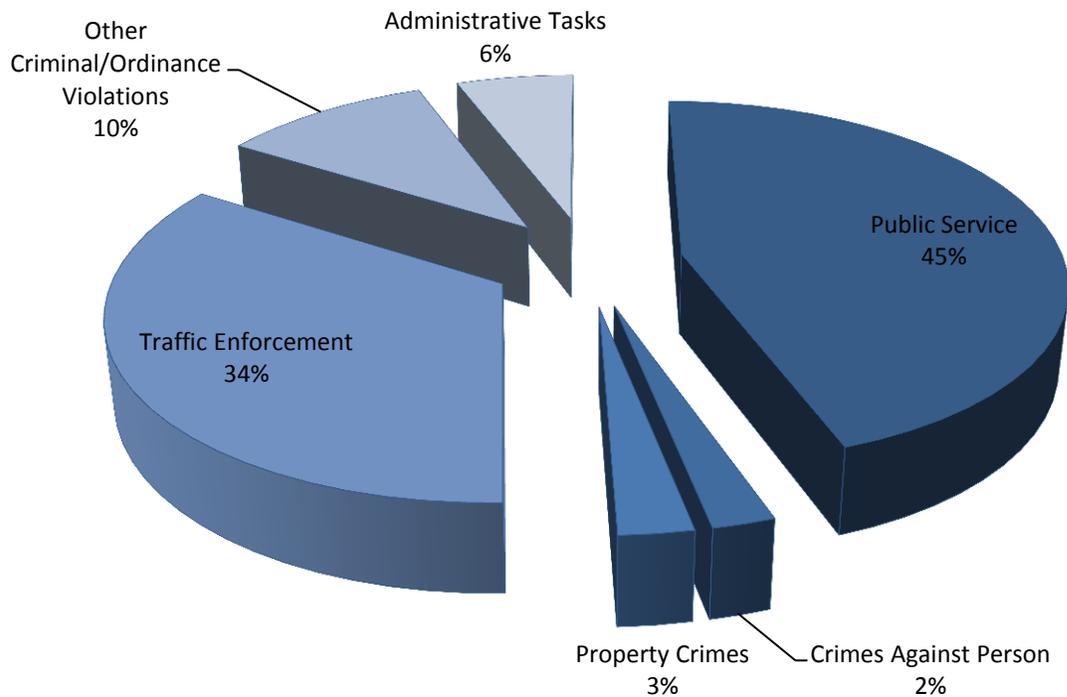
<b>Squad Mileage</b>			
<b>Description</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Squad Mileage	20,585	38,567	51,790

<b>Criminal Charges</b>			
<b>Description</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Felony Criminal and Delinquent Charges	8	13	15
Misdemeanor Violations	194	165	373
Custodial Arrests	22	31	53

## Police Calls Comparison



## 2014



# In Memory of Joseph Schmitz

## A Brother Lost Too Soon



**August 7, 1969 ~ March 27, 2014**

*Joseph Mark Schmitz, was born on August 7, 1969, in Paynesville, the son of Clarence and Martha (Thielen) Schmitz. He grew up in Roscoe, where he attended school in Paynesville graduating in 1987. After high school, Joe entered the United States Air Force. He served his country and received an honorable discharge on July 11, 1991. Joe returned to the Paynesville Area where he attended Alexandria Technical College and earned an A.A.S. in Law Enforcement. He then began working in Paynesville as a Police Officer. While working for the Paynesville Police Department, Joe also received his Taxidermy License and started Schmitt's Taxidermy.*

*On April 27, 2007, Joe united in marriage to Stacy Landborg at Paynesville Lutheran Church. This union was blessed with a son. The family made their home in rural Paynesville where Joe continued to work for the Paynesville Police Department and part-time for the Cold Spring/Richmond Police Department. In 2012, Joe began working for the Sartell Police Department where he worked until his death.*

*Joe worked for the City of Paynesville for over 18 years as a police officer. He was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, friend, and brother in blue. Joe was cherished by many in the community and on the Paynesville Police Department. Joe will always be remembered by those whose lives he touched and impacted both on and off duty. Joe was one of a kind and will be missed by all who knew him.*