



ATHERTON DEPARTMENT OF

POLICE

2022 Annual Report



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of Buschman Photography



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ATHERTON BY THE NUMBERS

Incorporated 1923	2020 Population 7,188
Land Area 5.0 SQ MILES	2022 Full-Time Police Employees 30

APD MISSION

The mission/motto of the Atherton Police Department is to serve with honor, integrity and professionalism.

OUR VISION & VALUES

Organizational Vision:

- We will perpetuate a strong work ethic that fosters pride in ourselves, in our careers, and in our Department. We will be a model agency, integrating the most advanced technology and proactively providing professional law enforcement services. Our values will be reflected in the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- Additionally, we shall consider our responsibilities and obligations as a vital and transparent measure for every action within our Department.
- We shall be attentive to the needs of by interacting, listening, and responding to our citizens. We choose to go the extra mile and take the extra time to provide special service with a personal touch for our community. In essence, we will have a readiness to do without being asked and to do more than would be asked.
- We will treat one another with respect and dignity and will resolve issues openly in a timely manner.
- We will always give each other the benefit of the doubt, creating a working climate of genuine teamwork and conscientious support.

Core Values:

- We will constantly strive to attain the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
- We will share ownership, as a team, for the outstanding service we provide to the community.
- We will aspire to sustain a trusting work environment built upon dignity, courtesy and mutual respect.
- We will always remain accountable to one another, our Department, and our community for our performance.
- We will appreciate that the origin and responsibility for leadership rests within each of us in the organization no matter what our rank or position.
- We will respect and honor those who have come before us and the traditions they have established and will set an example for those who follow.
- We will increase and expand our personal and professional growth through continued education and involvement in our community.

Guiding Principle and Philosophy: “No Call Too Small.”

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



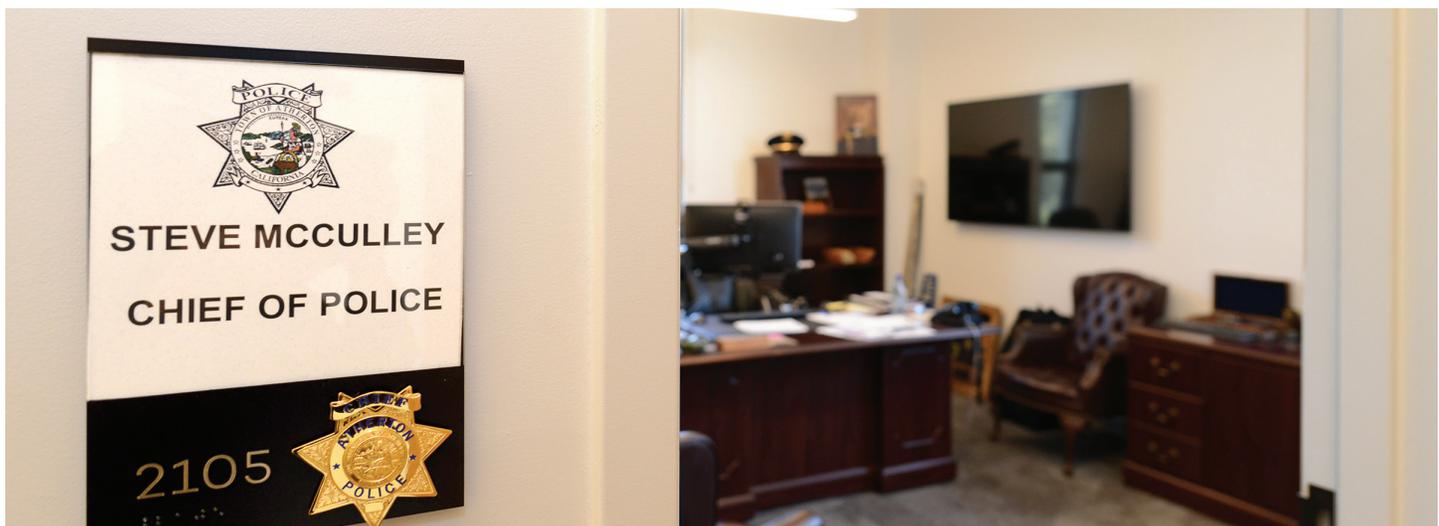
It is my honor to serve as the Chief for the Town of Atherton. As we celebrate our 100 years of service, I reflect on our community and how fortunate we are to have such supportive residents.

Our Police staff of sworn and nonsworn members work with honor, integrity and professionalism. Through our high level of ongoing training and expertise, our diverse staff are well trained, professional, and ready to respond to protect and serve.

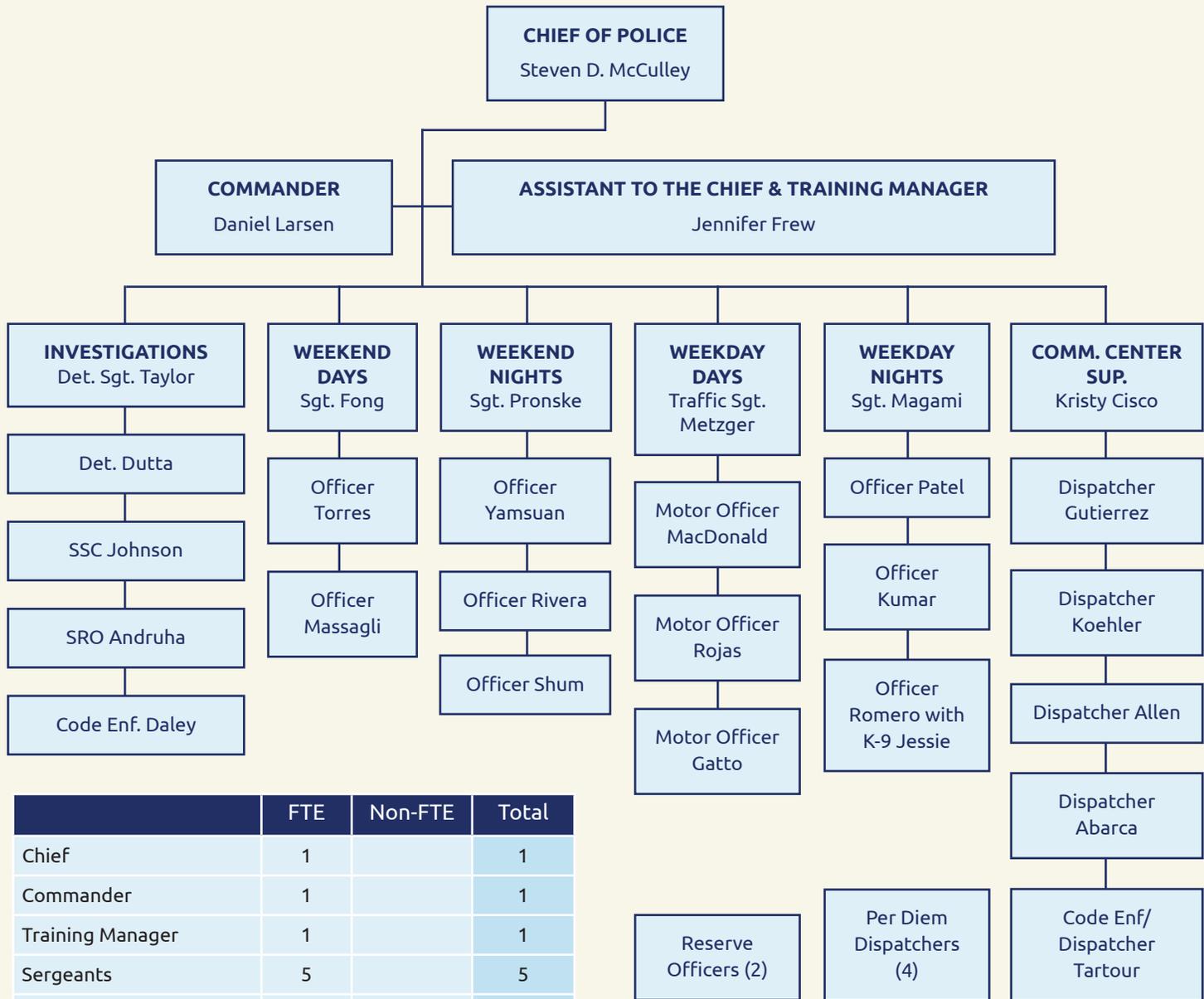
We continue to mirror the 6 pillars of law enforcement—

1. Build trust and legitimacy;
2. Continuous policy review and oversight;
3. Increase our use of effective technology and social media platforms;
4. Continue our efforts with community policing and crime reduction;
5. Ongoing training and education; and
6. Officer/Staff safety and wellness. These tenants are what make Atherton an exceptional place to live, raise your family and receive personalized customer service seldom seen in other law enforcement agencies.

— Steven D. McCulley



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



	FTE	Non-FTE	Total
Chief	1		1
Commander	1		1
Training Manager	1		1
Sergeants	5		5
Officers	14		14
Dispatchers + Disp. SUP.	5		5
Reserve Officers		2	2
Per Diem Dispatchers		4	4
SSC	1		1
Code Enforcement	1		1
Code Enf/Dispatcher	1		1
			36



DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

- ▶ ADMINISTRATION/COMMAND STAFF
- ▶ COMMUNICATIONS/DISPATCH/RECORDS
- ▶ INVESTIGATIONS
- ▶ PROPERTY/EVIDENCE
- ▶ TRAFFIC/PATROL
- ▶ CODE ENFORCEMENT



Administration

The Atherton Police Department is committed to providing exceptional public safety service and believes in taking a leadership role in fostering community partnerships. By cooperating to identify and solve issues we can make this great town even safer and more secure. This division includes the Chief of Police, Police Commander and the Assistant to the Chief/Training Manager.

Dispatch/Records

The Police Communication Center is located at the Town Center and operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Citizens who call the Police Department speak with a dispatcher who immediately relays the reported information to officers in the field, thus enabling an immediate response time. The Communications Center is a modern facility utilizing the latest technology to handle complaints and concerns efficiently and effectively. Residents with alarm systems connected directly to the Police Department have their alarms monitored in the Center for free which reduces police response times.

Investigations

The Investigations Division is responsible for investigating cases reported through the Patrol Division. Crimes investigated include thefts, home and auto burglaries, identity theft, crimes against children, and sexual assaults.

Property / Evidence

Atherton Police Property/Evidence Division collects and recovers many items of each week. Once items are submitted as evidence or booked into the Property Room, only the property officer can handle or release items. All property releases are concluded by appointment only.

Traffic

The Department has a specialized unit of motorcycle officers primarily focused on reducing traffic collisions and improving the adherence to traffic laws within the Town of Atherton. The Traffic Officers investigate traffic collisions, educate the public about traffic safety, and work with the Town Staff and Town Engineer to improve the overall safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians using our streets and roadways. The Traffic Officers also attend community events, deliver presentations on traffic safety to students at local schools, and assist the patrol division as needed to reduce and prevent crime.

Code Enforcement

In addition to inspection and investigation of properties and buildings, the code enforcement officer's duties include determining the nature of environmental or health hazards, nuisance violations, unsafe building conditions, and education and enforcement of applicable Town ordinances.

Patrol

The backbone of a police organization, patrol officers and supervisors handle day to day calls for service, attend public meetings, perform inspections of citizen's homes for crime prevention preparedness, handle traffic collision investigations, write citations for moving violations and vehicle equipment violations, and conduct highly visible patrols throughout the Town. Uniformed Patrol Officers work 12 hour shifts, 7 days a week and 24 hours a day. This coverage is to proactively deter criminal opportunity and leave our residents with the true sense of safety and security they have come to know and expect in Atherton.



COMMAND STAFF

Chief of Police—Steven D. McCulley

Commander—Daniel Larsen

Assistant to the Chief/Training Manager—Jennifer Frew

ATHERTON SERGEANTS

The role of the police sergeant is one of the most important roles in any police department. The position involves getting the job done through others, coaching, professional development, maintaining the standards and policies of the department; maintain responsibility to be an evaluator in the continuous appraisal of officers and creating/ maintaining a professional and safe workplace with an emphasis on professional teamwork.



Left to right (front row): Sgt. K. Pronske; Det. Sgt. J. Taylor
Left to right (back row): Sgt. J. Fong; Sgt. D. Metzger; Sgt. B. Magami

2022 CRIME SUMMARY

2022 APD Dashboard

Murder—There were no murders in 2022.

Sex Offenses—There were 2 cases reported in 2022 and 1 in 2021.

Robbery—There were no robberies in 2022 and 3 in 2021.

Aggravated Assault—There were 2 aggravated assaults last year. This is down from 2021 which had 9 reports. Aggravated assault is similar to simple assault. It is an attempt to cause serious injuries to another person without any regard for human life. Elements that raise any simple assault to an aggravated assault typically includes the use of a weapon, the intent of the perpetrator, the degree of injury caused, and the status of the victim.

Simple Assault—There were 9 reported cases in 2022 and 3 in 2021. Simple assaults are defined as intentional, unlawful threat by word or acts to do violence to another person, coupled with an apparent ability to carry out the threat, and which creates a well-founded fear in such other person that violence is imminent.

Residential Burglary— There were 16 residential burglaries reported in 2022, representing a significant decline of 45 in the previous year.

Larceny— The wrongful taking of personal goods of another with the intent to convert them to the taker’s own use. In other words – it’s theft. We had 48 cases in 2022 and 75 in 2021.

Motor Vehicle Theft—There was 1 report of a stolen vehicle in 2022 and 3 in 2021.

Arson—We had 1 report in 2022 and none in 2021.

Cases Reported	2022	2021	Difference
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	2	1	+1
Robbery	0	2	-2
Aggravated Assault	2	9	-7
Simple Assault	9	3	+6
Residential Burglary	16	45	-29
Larceny	48	75	-27
Stolen Vehicle	1	3	-2
Arson	1	0	+1
Total Violent Crimes	4	12	-8
Totals	83	150	-67



PART 1 CRIMES IN SAN MATEO COUNTY AND IN CALIFORNIA



Cases Reported	San Mateo County 2021	California 2021
Homicide	18	2,361
Rape	876	14,435
Robbery	522	43,628
Aggravated Assault	855	123,122
Burglary	2,219	136,275
Stolen Vehicle	2,320	179,956
Larceny	10,752	541,368
Arson	99	11,138
Total Violent Crime	2,271	183,546
Totals	17,661	1,041,145





COMMUNICATIONS

Cases Reported	2022	2021
Total Calls for Service	9,931	10,017
Total Number of Cases	606	705
Cases Sent to the D.A.	232	233
Misdemeanor Arrests	201	220
Felony Arrests	39	41
Citations Processed	5,123	5,127
Parking Citations Routed	142	157
Records Checks	140	136
Warrants Entered/Updated	183/58	124/86
CAD Entries	26,051	28,177
Phone Calls Handled	26,778	30,148

The Communications Center staff are the first friendly and professional faces you see when you enter the Atherton Police Department. The staff consists of a Dispatch Supervisor along with 4 full-time Dispatchers/Records Assistants. We also have a hybrid position of a part-time Dispatcher/Code Enforcement Officer.

The Division is responsible for handling a multitude of tasks and services for the Department to include all 911 and non-emergency calls for service, report processing, telephone calls, citation processing and records requests.

Above are Division statistics Dispatch continues to focus on providing a high level of customer service and professionalism to members of the community, the Department, and other law enforcement related departments and agencies.

With our state of the art Communications Center, our staff has handled over 26,000 phone calls in 2022.

RESIDENTIAL ALARMS & OFFICER RESPONSE TIMES

In 2022 dispatch processed 1,388 alarms (not including fire alarms) between the Bosch panel, citizens calling in audible alarms and alarm company calls. Of those 1,388 calls, officers responded to 1,017 alarm calls because some alarms are cancelled prior to officers arriving on scene.

Cases Reported	2022	2021
Total Alarms Processed	1,388	1,580
Officers Responded to	1,017	1,099
New Alarm Permits	12	41

There are 3 types of Calls for Service from the Police Department. In order of priority: High, Medium, and Low priority.

High Priority calls are in-progress events where persons or high-value property are in immediate danger and require a multiple officer response. This is a lights and siren response to a crime in progress, injury collisions, or medical emergency.

Medium Priority calls are in-progress events without an immediate danger to persons or property. Multiple officers may be necessary for these calls. These calls take precedence over all other calls for service and require an immediate police response (non-lights and siren), but the incident may not be in progress. The most common medium priority calls are burglary, robbery, sexual assault, and residential burglary alarm activations. The latter is the most frequent call in Atherton.

Low Priority calls are other calls for service. Events may no longer be in-progress, so immediate response is not as urgent. These calls normally require a single officer. Officers may or may not be immediately dispatched to these calls. Low priority calls include dogs off leash in HP Park, parking violations, construction noise or activity, and follow-up police reports.



Dispatcher Antoinette Gutierrez

Priority Level	Number of calls	Average Response Time	Goal
High	44	2:07	<4 minutes
Medium	2,399	4:26	<6 minutes
Low	4,539	6:30	<8 minutes

Response times are calculated from the time the call is dispatched until the time the officer arrives on the scene.

TRAFFIC & COLLISIONS



Officer Ed Rivera is one of 14 Police Officers in Atherton. In addition, we have 5 Sergeants, a Commander and Chief with our authorized fully staffing level of 21 sworn police officers.

Each officer is fully equipped with a body worn camera and each police vehicle has an in-car computer along with audio and video monitoring that begins once Code 3 emergency lights and siren equipment is activated.

Traffic Collisions	2022	2021
Non-Injury	42	41
Minor Injury	19	9
Severe Injury	0	2
Fatality	0	0





Car vs. Bike Collisions	2022	2021
Driver at Fault	3	1
Bicycle at Fault	2	0
Totals	4	1

Car vs. Pedestrian Collisions	2022	2021
Driver at Fault	1	2
Pedestrian at Fault	0	1
Totals	1	3



Traffic Citations/Warnings	2022	2021
Other Moving	725/1,056	464/771
Speed	637/1,354	743/1,662
Bicycle	4/9	0/0
Pedestrian	13/9	0/2
Unlicensed Driver	258/0	372/20
Insurance	12/17	62/13
Suspended Driver	73/0	85/0
Drugs	24/0	36/0
DUI	47/0	61/0
Other Criminal	6/13	6/1
Mechanical	308/281	108/81
Parking	117/0	142/2
Truck Route	4/9	0/7

PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

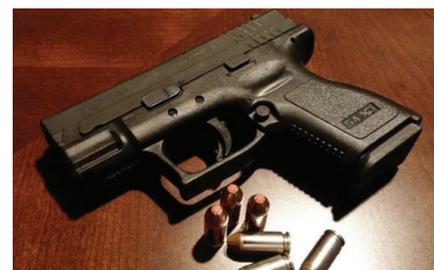
Evidence sent to lab analysis

Type of Testing	2022	2021
Toxicology	68	43
Drug Testing	11	15
Firearms	8	4
Fingerprints	3	4
DNA	14	6
Totals	104	72



Items managed within the police department

Type of Property	2022	2021
Firearms	26	41
Currency	6	31
Narcotics	58	80
Other—ID, Credit Cards, Weapons, Clothing	378	511
Totals	536	663



The Atherton Police Department leverages technology to increase officer safety, de-escalate situations, reduce/prevent/investigate crime and reduce use of force incidents. The technology includes:

- Autonomous Drone – Drone as a first responder technology gives first responders a live overhead view before they arrive on the scene.
- BolaWrap – The BolaWrap discharges a Kevlar cord that can temporarily restrain an individual from up to 25 feet away. With one deployment of the BolaWrap and wrapping the subject's arms or legs, officers can restrict the subject's mobility and restrain them.
- Fixed ALPR Cameras – Fixed Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) are placed throughout Town and provide 24/7 monitoring to protect against property crime, violent crime, stolen vehicles, and more.
- Axon Body 3 – This body worn camera (BWC) reduces motion blur and improved low-light performance enables you to better see the truth at any moment. Featuring multiple microphones, wind noise reduction and other advancements, Axon Body 3 lets you play back clear audio for a better sense of what happened at the scene.
- Axon Taser 7 – The Taser 7 is the most effective of the Taser lineup and gives officer the confidence to de-escalate dangerous situations.

Erica Johnson, our Support Services Coordinator manages the Property and Evidence Room along with being the Court Officer and handles all Police fleet issues.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations Division is responsible for investigating cases reported through the Patrol Division. Some of the crimes investigated include thefts, home and auto burglaries, identity theft, crimes against children, and sexual assaults. The goal is to arrest the person(s) responsible for the alleged crime. In addition, the Investigations Division works closely with the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office to assist in the prosecution of the investigated cases.

The Investigations Division is also responsible for keeping updated on legal issues, crime trends, and disseminating that information to the Patrol Division. The Detectives work closely with the community to make sure they are informed of current crime trends.



In 2022, 40 cases were sent up from patrol officers for follow-up and investigation.

Detective Sergeant Jeff Taylor & Detective Gina Dutta

Investigation Type	2022	2021
Information Only	0	1
Suspended Cases	29	19
Referred—Hillcrest DA	3	1
Referred—Outside Agency	4	1
Adult Arrest	3	2
Referred—Adult DA	7	7
Located—Returned	1	0
Cited—Juvenile	6	0
Juvenile Arrest	0	2
Active Cases	11	2
Total Cases to Investigations	40	34



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



School Resource Officer Andruha handles all school matters at our 9 schools in Town.



SRO Officer Andruha at Menlo-Atherton High School
Current student population: 2400

As part of the Department’s commitment to community policing and in partnership with the Menlo Park, Sequoia Union High School, Los Lomas School Districts, Sacred Heart Schools, the Menlo School, and Menlo College APD has one full time School Resource Officer (SRO).

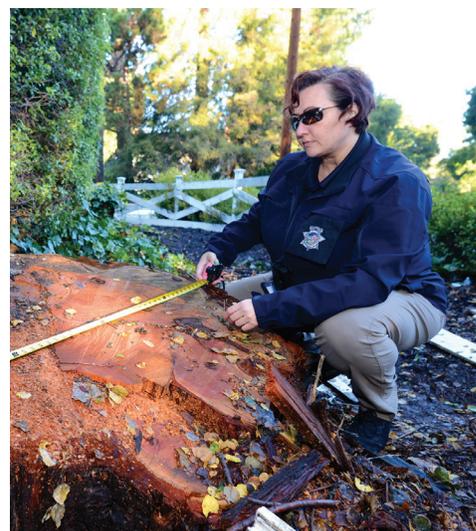
The SRO serves over 8,000 students and over 2,000 staff. Officer Dimitri Andruha began his second year as the SRO for FY 22-23 and has contact with all 9 schools in Town. Our SRO performs a variety of functions at the schools and in the community. He has completed the Basic SRO Course and Campus Law Enforcement Course to assist with his duties. Officer Andruha performs his standard law enforcement role using his previous 15 years of experience as a high school math teacher and wrestling coach.

SRO’s are a student mentor and act as an informal Counselor to help with student success. APD SRO also assists with the 911 Program for kids, attends: the holiday Shop with A Cop, the annual toy drive for a local elementary school, Coffee with a Cop, and National Night Out.

School	Incidents (2022)	Community (2022)	Traffic Enforcement (2022)	Cases (2022)
Adelante	511	28	3	0
Encinal	686	79	12	2
Las Lomas	510	49	11	2
Laurel	225	17	13	1
M-A HS	926	267	14	46
Menlo College	757	38	0	17
Menlo School	190	20	5	3
Sacred Heart	141	24	1	7
Totals	3,946	522	59	78

CODE ENFORCEMENT

	2022	2021
Cases Opened	242	169
Cases Closed/Compliant	161	155
Cases Pending/Active	81	38
Written/Formal Notices Issued	58	47
Total Citations Issued	145	143
Total Amount in Citations Issued	\$171,800	\$203,760
Total Amount in Citations Paid	\$130,400	\$164,760
Citations Rescinded	\$(11,100)	\$(2,600)
Heritage Tree Penalties Paid	\$95,000	\$134,700
Compliance Rate	66.5%	91.1%
Citation Collection Rate	75.9%	70.6%



Code Enforcement Officer Lisa-Marie Daley



The Municipal Code's purpose is to protect property values and the environment by providing requirements for all property owners to follow, thereby creating a standard of living that everyone in the community can enjoy. Code Enforcement strives to achieve voluntary compliance by educating the public on the municipal codes and related ordinances.

Although the majority of issues are resolved through this method, Code Enforcement also employs a variety of enforcement tools to facilitate compliance. Commonly requested compliance services are as follows:

- Animal Issues (dogs off leash, nuisance barking, unsanitary conditions, etc.)
- Zoning and Land Use Issues (home occupations, setbacks, fences, etc.)
- Health and Safety (trash accumulations, debris, pest and vector issues, etc.)
- Construction Regulations (building permits, start times, parking, noise, etc.)
- Encroachments (permits, items in right-of-way, etc.)
- Landscape Issues (heritage tree trimming and damage, maintenance, permits, etc.)
- Public Nuisances (unmaintained/abandoned properties, trash cans, noise issues, graffiti)



CANINE TEAM

Officer Diego Romero with K-9 Jessie completed 148 hours of training and handled 4 cases that were tracking/recovery related.

K-9 Jessie and Officer Diego Romero of the Atherton Police Department. K-9 was created to help the department with its primary function, the preservation of life and property. The K-9 Unit assists in achieving this goal by promoting an atmosphere of service and safety in the community, utilizing K-9's in general and specialized patrol to enhance crime prevention, crime suppression, criminal investigation, and Police Officer/Citizen protection.





A particularly unique, challenging, and useful position, K-9 handlers are very carefully chosen, because this assignment is a commitment to a highly trained animal, as well as to the police department and community. Police dogs are imported from other countries, such as Denmark and Germany. Atherton Police currently utilize Belgian Malinois dogs. The personality of the handler must be paired with that of the dog, and highly qualified trainers of police service dogs assist the department in this process. Then, the handler and his/her new partner train together for several weeks, then several hours each week for the rest of the time that dog works for the police department. The patrol cars are specially designed and modified for the comfort and safety of these dogs.



TRAINING

The Atherton Police Training Unit was very busy in 2022. The unit consists of a civilian Training Manager Jennifer Frew who is also in charge of the management of all training and hiring for the police department. This includes a wide variety of training which is crucial to sworn and nonsworn personnel in order to stay in compliance with the Commission on the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). On average, each Officer / Civilian employee receives at least 100 hours of training each fiscal year. Topics can include—Defensive tactics, active shooter response, domestic violence, legal update, First Aid/CPR, less lethal, firearms and driver training (EVOC), tactical dispatcher, wellness and resiliency just to name a few.

The Police Budget is robust for training and in FY 21-22 we invested \$46,149.75 to send our personnel to training sessions for the total training hours of 2,923. We also received \$6,978.56 in reimbursement from POST.

The Atherton Police Department prides itself in recruiting and hiring the highest caliber of individuals. Providing initial and on-going training to allow officers and civilian staff to excel is a top priority of our agency allowing the Department to better serve and protect our community.

To date, we are fully staffed as an organization which shows our ability to recruit and retain our personnel as we appreciate all that they do each and every day.



Traffic Officer Kenneth MacDonald

Briefing Training

Briefing trainings occur every day. Officer MacDonald is one of our Taser instructors and all PD staff receive annual recertification of the use of the Taser.

Other briefing topics include:

Policies in Lexipol, critical incidents, officer involved shootings, use of force, search techniques, body camera usage, panic alarm responses, tourniquet applications, response to missing persons.

Thank you to our generous donor, Mr. Mervin G Morris, who equipped our wellness room with a large training area with equipment to conduct defensive tactics, arrest and control/handcuffing techniques.

We moved into the new building in late 2021 and every day we are very appreciative. We have also received donations for canines and equipment, a Supervisor's Truck, an additional motorcycle for traffic, a drone to assist in the field, a new Bosch receiver in our Communications Center, & medical equipment and training for tactical medicine for police personnel. Thank you all for your continued assistance and support!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



We are fortunate to have highly engaged community members, police employees and philanthropists to partner with on so many exciting activities in our Town.

This is our 5th year of Shop With A Cop. Three children are selected by each of the schools at Laurel, Encinal and Las Lomitas for their hard work and good character.

A.D.A.P.T.



A.D.A.P.T.

Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team

About A.D.A.P.T.

We are an all-volunteer group of proactive Atherton residents who formed A.D.A.P.T. in 1999 to partner with Atherton Police to educate, communicate with and aid fellow Athertonians in preparing for major emergencies and natural disasters.

Specifically, we:

- Empower Atherton residents, their families, and neighborhoods organize to develop emergency plans and improve their overall readiness.
- Create and lead training exercises and disaster drills within the community.
- Disseminate relevant emergency preparedness materials, information, and resources to the community.
- Facilitate organizational and coordination meetings with the Atherton police, the 8 schools located in Atherton (8,000 students in Atherton daily), Atherton town officials, and our 14 Areas/neighborhoods.

Our Mission

A.D.A.P.T.'s sole mission, in partnership with the Atherton Police Department, is to train and organize Atherton residents to be resilient, responsive, capable and recovery-able in the event of a town-wide emergency, pandemic or disaster event.

Our Partner: Atherton Police Chief Steve McCulley, Atherton Police Department

"Get involved now with A.D.A.P.T. Atherton is fortunate to have A.D.A.P.T. as the go-to resource for disaster and major emergency training and preparation. Empower yourself and your family, for our police force, fire services and medical response teams will likely not have the ability to reach every resident for at least 7 days after an emergency. Join me every month at A.D.A.P.T.'s Community Meetings for real world emergency training."





THE MEN & WOMEN OF THE ATHERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

"To serve with honor, integrity & professionalism."

