



Police Department City of Wisconsin Rapids

444 West Grand Avenue Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495

DANIEL HOSTENS, CHIEF
TEL: (715)-423-4444
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Date: April 8, 2024

To: Mayor Shane Blaser

Wisconsin Rapids Police and Fire Commission

Wisconsin Rapids Common Council

From: Daniel Hostens, Chief of Police

RE: Report on the Police Department activity for March 2024

Departmental Activity/Training:

Police and Fire Commission meeting

Wood County Law Enforcement Executives meeting.

North Central Chiefs of Police Meeting.

Meeting with ODC on grant for Co-Responder Program

Command staff meeting.

Completed mandated training and monthly range training.

Monthly Special Response Team (SRT) and Crisis Negotiator (CNT) training

Sergeant Burger attended the Supervising Patrol During Critical Incidents online class.

Officer Guse, WRPD Chaplain Turner, and WRPD Chaplain O'Connor attended the International Conference of Police Chaplains – Regional Training in Lake Geneva, WI.

Officer Contreras and Office McHugh attended an active shooter training hosted by MSTC in Wisconsin Rapids.

Sgt. Jazdzewski, Officer Plowman, and Officer Jaye attended Special Response Team training.

Sgt. Borchardt attended Hostage Negotiation Level II training and Community Leadership.

Officer Krier attended Instructor Development training.

SRO Pelot and SRO Olivares attended 32 hours of Active Shooter Threat training.

Sgt. Daven attended a 9-hour Property and Evidence Procedure training.

Sgt. Daven, Detective Richter, and Detective Wetterau provided patrol crew training and updates. Some topics covered were evidence collection/packaging, storage, digital evidence, drug collection/testing, and report writing.

SRO Olivares attended the Level II Crisis/Hostage Negotiator training with the Negotiator team.

For the month, 2024 vs. 2023:

Calls for Service	2024	1,399	2023	1,429
OWI	2024	8	2023	5
Traffic Crash Inv.	2024	43	2023	29
Traffic/Municipal Citations	2024	175	2023	229
Written Warnings	2024	361	2023	441
Restricted Parking Tickets	2024	79	2023	183

Administration Staff

Ordinance	March Days Worked	Calls for Service	Written Warnings	Citations	Complete without Enforcement Action	Parking Citations	OWI	Arrests	Crash Reports	Totals
Andrys	15	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	20

Open Records	Request	Completed	Denials	Redactions	Pending Release	Time (in hours)
March	53	51	0	3	2	8.7

Notable Incidents

Officers were sent to a report of multiple juveniles who were said to have jumped the fence and were actively trespassing on the property. Officers Drew and McHugh canvassed the area on foot and made visual contact with five people inside the gated area of private property. They were given verbal commands to stay put, and all the juveniles fled on foot, where a foot pursuit ensued. Sgt. Killian caught one of the juveniles who had jumped a fence, and two others gave up and complied. Officer Drew contacted one party by the YMCA and got a verbal confession that he had fled on foot from the scene. That male was 17 and was arrested for Resisting/Obstructing an Officer. Wood County Sheriff's Department assisted with the search for additional involved persons and was able to catch and detain an additional juvenile. All juveniles were transported to the Police Department, where guardians were contacted. WRPD worked with WCSD to apprehend all the involved persons without significant incident. Wood County intake was contacted and made aware as all involved parties are known to the PD with multiple prior Police contacts. The incident resulted in 1 criminal arrest for Resisting, five municipal citations for trespass to land, four municipal citations for Resist/Obstruct, 1 citation for underage possession of alcohol, 1 citation for underage alcohol consumption, and 1 citation for underage possession of tobacco products.

Wood County Dispatch advised that there was a disabled truck in the travel lanes in front of the courthouse on Market Street. Officer Krummel contacted the vehicle and found significant front-end damage, but the vehicle was not occupied. Officer Krummel investigated the incident and was able to follow antifreeze on the roadway to Spring Street, where he found the vehicle was involved in a hit-and-run accident with a fire hydrant. Contact was attempted at the registered owner's house and was not successful. The vehicle was towed by Nieman's tow service and held until contact was made with the registered owner. Contact was made with the owner the next day, and the owner attempted to say that his vehicle had been stolen. Officer Khang was working on a separate case with the owner and shared information with Officer Krummel that cast doubt on the validity of the stolen vehicle. The owner was ultimately cited for the owner's liability. Officer Krummel went beyond the normal scope of investigations to track the vehicles' route and find the location of the Hit and Run crash.

Officers responded to a report of a male juvenile being choked by an adult. Officers responded and found that there was an event at the Performing Arts Center, and many people had gathered outside because of the disturbance. Officers contacted the juvenile, who was crying and was in distress. EMS staff was called to the scene, and petechia was observed in one of the juveniles' eyes because of the altercation. Information for the suspect was given out, and Officer Krummel was able to locate the suspect vehicle and suspect in the south student lot. Officers Mortel and Greening collected witness statements and collaborated with SRO Olivares, who was able to provide access to school cameras as there were conflicting stories regarding what had happened. Ultimately, cameras showed the suspect adult male attempting to remove his girlfriend's son from one of the classes as he was causing a

disturbance. After entering the hallway, a physical altercation ensued where the suspect placed the juvenile in a rear choke hold with his arm firmly placed around the juvenile's neck. The suspect was subsequently arrested for physical abuse of a child and strangulation.

Officers responded to a neighbor who called and stated a juvenile female was at her door with cuts on her arms and said she had been in a physical altercation. Officer Greening arrived on the scene and contacted the juvenile. The juvenile stated that her family makes and sells egg rolls, and she sold some of them to her teacher. Her teacher did not have all the money and said she would get it to her after spring break. The juvenile reported this to her father, who became upset and accused the juvenile of stealing money. Through the physical actions of the father, the juvenile ended up on the ground, after which the father stepped on her head two separate times intentionally and kicked her in the ribs. Officers contacted the father, and he was arrested for physical abuse of a child and transported to the Wood County Jail without incident.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a highly intoxicated female on the premises that was causing a significant disturbance. Officers Drew and Greening arrived on the scene and contacted the female, who was found to have an outstanding warrant for her arrest. When they attempted to affect the arrest, the female became physically resistive and combative. Additional units responded to the scene and assisted with the arrest. The suspect continued to resist LE and EMS staff while being transported to the hospital for medical clearance. The suspect was eventually transported to the Wood County Jail and booked on charges of Disorderly Conduct, Resisting/Obstructing, and the outstanding warrant. One Officer sustained a minor injury and was treated at the ER, and associated paperwork was completed regarding the incident.

Lt. Lubeck responded to a death investigation involving a 13-month-old child. The child was found deceased in her crib. Interviews were completed for all witnesses, and a canvas of the apartment complex and neighboring residence was drawn. Lt. Lubeck worked with the Wood County Coroner's office, and an autopsy was completed at UW Hospital in Madison. The investigation remains ongoing, pending a final autopsy report and toxicology report.

Detective Bailey is working on an ICAC case involving a juvenile female from Wisconsin Rapids and an adult male from Florida. The adult male was paying the juvenile female to send inappropriate photos of herself. Detective Bailey will attempt to coordinate with federal agencies as this crime covers multiple states.

Sgt. Daven investigated a case where an adult male was placing a hidden camera in a bathroom inside of his home and capturing nude photographs/videos of numerous victims. Sgt. Daven was able to identify and contact ten victims who were being video recorded or photographed without their knowledge while using the restroom. The suspect in this case was a youth counselor and former coach at a local high school. Many victims were former athletes he had coached previously and are now adults. As a result of this investigation, Sgt. Daven referred 34 charges to the District Attorney's office for Representations Depicting Nudity, statute 942.09(2) (am)(1).

Ofc Brockman conducted a traffic stop on 8th St S near Airport Ave for a vehicle without working registration lamps. After stopping the car, the male passenger exited the car and tried walking away from the stop. Ofc. Brockman instructed the male to get back in the vehicle. K9 Ofc. Paltz arrived, and K9 Kubo conducted a free-air sniff around the car. K9 Kubo indicated a positive indication for the scent of controlled substances. A search of the vehicle was performed, and 7 grams of methamphetamine, 4 grams of THC, drug paraphernalia, and prescription medications were located.

Ofc. Brockman attempted to pick up a warrant at a residence. Ofc. Brockman located two subjects in the residence with active warrants. One of the subjects had a Department of Corrections warrant that had been active for over six months. Both subjects were arrested.

Officers were advised of a pursuit initiated by the Wood County Sheriff's Department headed into the city. Officers joined in the pursuit and followed to the vehicle owner's residence. It was learned that a passenger in the vehicle had a gunshot wound, and officers were able to assist WOSO in locating the firearm that was tossed from the car. WOSO investigated the gunshot wound as it happened outside of the city.

Officer Krier was observing traffic on HWY 34 at High St. and observed a motorcycle N/B at a high rate of speed and driving recklessly. Officer Krier attempted a traffic stop. The driver failed to stop, resulting in a brief pursuit.

The motorcycle driver failed to maintain control and crashed north of town at HWY 34 and HWY 66. The subject was taken into custody without any further resistance. Upon searching the subject, 28.2 grams of methamphetamine were located.

Officers Jaye and Brockman were dispatched to a non-responsive female infant. Upon arrival, medical personnel were on the scene and stated the 1-year-old was deceased. WRPD detectives were contacted and are currently handling this investigation.

Officer Plowman stopped a vehicle for a cracked windshield. Upon stopping, Officer Plowman learned that the driver had an active warrant and was placed under arrest. During Officer Plowman’s search of this subject, he located a total of 16.32 grams of methamphetamine. The subject was also out on felony bond.

Other Activity

- Judge Wolf signed an Order for Dismissal on March 13, 2024, officially dismissing 22-CF-440, which is the first-degree intentional homicide trial against Donald Maier. Maier is now deceased.
- WRPD received 14 Child Protective Service Reports from Wood County Human Services for investigation and review.
- Sgt. Borchardt was on FML for ten days due to an injury.
- Sgt. Jazdzewski was off on workers comp for five days due to a work-related injury.
- Officer Zalewski was off for ten days on FML due to the birth of his son.
- SRO Pelot gave a “Risky Youth Behavior” presentation and a presentation to a local Cub Scout group.
- SRO Olivares continued overseeing the student academy throughout March. Detective Richter, Detective Wetterau, and SRO Pelot presented at the student academy in March.

K9 Kubo

Narcotics Deployments	Narcotics Found	Patrol Deployments	Demonstrations	Training Hours	Agency Assists

* Information was not available at the time

K9 Lex

Narcotics Deployments	Narcotics Found	Patrol Deployments	Demonstrations	Training Hours	Agency Assists
3	2	2	2	12.5	3

Drugs Taken In:

Marijuana	10.62 grams 2 THC Cart.
Methamphetamine	69.67 grams 10ml liquid in a syringe
Fentanyl	.9 grams
Cocaine	.18 grams
Psilocybin Mushrooms	31 grams
Other: Gabapentin	1 Unit

Overtime:

Overtime Hours							
	Crew A	Crew B	Crew C	Crew D	Detectives	Code Enf.	Totals
Call time	2.00	6.00	6.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	34
Chapter 51	5.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.63
Community	6.00	3.75	8.25	0.00	34.50	0.00	52.5
Court	0.00	24.00	12.00	16.00	2.67	0.00	54.67
Emergency call	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
FMLA	87.00	153.00	4.50	39.00	6.00	0.00	289.5
Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Late Call	11.63	3.75	11.63	7.50	1.50	0.00	36.01
Other	1.50	2.50	0.00	1.50	22.50	0.00	28
Sick	0.00	27.50	18.00	19.00	3.00	0.00	67.5
Training	72.75	12.63	79.50	45.75	18.74	3.00	232.37
Cover Training	18.00	12.00	13.50	2.25	0.00	0.00	45.75
Vacation	15.00	12.00	11.25	31.50	0.00	0.00	69.75
Worker's Comp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Search Warrant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
FTO Pay	0.00	20.25	4.50	13.51	0.00	0.00	38.26
K9 Pay	21.00	0.00	0.00	21.00	0.00	0.00	42
Total	240.51	277.38	169.13	207.01	98.91	3.00	995.94

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444 West Grand Avenue Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495

DANIEL HOSTENS, CHIEF
TEL: (715)-423-4444
FAX: (715)-423-4408

To: Sgt. Dean Fleisner
Date: February 28th, 2024
Re: Letter of Commendation

Shift commander Sergeant Dean Fleisner displayed high quality leadership abilities while assisting and leading Crew A through a more in-depth suspicious persons complaint. Sgt. Fleisner was leading Crew A through a call that was investigated to the fullest extent and in result was able to make numerous high-quality arrests.

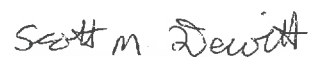
On February 28th, 2024, Officers on Crew A received a complaint of suspicious activity at a local bar and requested a walk through of the establishment. Officers recognized the description of subjects as possibly the same individuals at a gas station earlier in the shift who were called in as doing suspicious possible drug activity in the bathroom. As Officers arrived 2 individuals took off running and made it inside of a residence. This residence was also previously reported as possible drug activity as short-term traffic was observed taking place. Officers were able to make contact with two individuals who came outside and were arrested on probation holds. While officers were searching the subject they located cocaine on him. Due to the fact the owner of the residence was on probation and had drugs on him along with the other suspicious drug activity an ACT 79 search was conducted of the residence. Officers believed that other subjects were still hiding inside, Sgt. Fleisner deployed his K9 partner Lex and gave commands from the front door. Two other subjects did comply and exit the residence. One of which had active warrants for his arrest. Once a protective sweep of the house was done a more thorough ACT 79 search was completed which Officers located:


- 120g of Marijuana.
- Numerous Drug Paraphernalia.
- 1.1g of Methamphetamine.
- 4.1g of Cocaine.

Charges that were requested to the DA's Office included: Possession of THC, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Maintaining a Drug Trafficking House.

Sgt. Fleisner you are commended for your leadership abilities and willingness to lead by example. This level of leadership and work ethic displays what the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department embraces in the WRPD Vision Statement which are Professionalism, Dedication, and Effective leadership.

Well Done!


Scott M. Dewitt
Deputy Chief


Dan Hostens
Chief of Police

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444 West Grand Avenue Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495

DANIEL HOSTENS, CHIEF
TEL: (715)-423-4144
FAX: (715)-423-4408

To: Detective David Bailey
Date: March 18, 2024
Re: Letter of Commendation

Detective Dave Bailey is commended for his commitment and dedication to the investigation involving the death of Benny Skruggs. This investigation began in 1985 and involved numerous generations of Investigators from various agencies; the most recent being Detective Bailey. In September 2022, Donald W. Maier was charged with 1st-Degree Murder for the intentional killing of Benny Skruggs. Unfortunately, on February 22, 2024, Maier was found deceased in his prison cell prior to the conclusion of his court proceedings. Although this case did not reach the final disposition desired due to circumstances outside of the criminal justice system's control, Detective Bailey's hard work did not go unnoticed. Detective Bailey was faced with many difficult tasks throughout this investigation and handled them with great perseverance. Detective Bailey was asked to learn a complex investigation that began decades before his employment at the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department. Many key contributors to this investigation such as witnesses, associates of the suspect and victim, and former investigators have since passed. All former investigators in this case have retired and are no longer members of their respective agencies. The case file for this investigation contained approximately 566 pages of written reports, which resembled the complexity and extensive amount of time spent on this investigation Detective Bailey was tasked with learning and investigating. Throughout this investigation, Detective Bailey displayed his ability to work well with other contributors such as former investigators, various prosecutors, Judges, and State Crime Lab staff, to name a few. Detective Bailey was tasked with reviewing many, potentially hundreds of letters written by Maier to various contributors to this case, proving to be a timely and cumbersome process. Detective Bailey completed additional follow-up interviews to prepare this case for an anticipated jury trial as new information became available and was very actively working to bring a complete, thorough investigation in front of a jury.

At the conclusion of this investigation, it was clear that Detective Bailey displayed tremendous dedication, commitment, and attention to detail through his contributions to this lengthy and complex investigation. Detective Bailey's ability to successfully manage this decades old investigation, as well as his current caseload, is a testament to his commitment to this department and those who have spent countless hours investigating this homicide previously.

Well Done!

Scott M. Dewitt
Deputy Chief

Dan Hostens
Chief of Police



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DANIEL HOSTENS, CHIEF
TEL: (715)-423-4444
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To: Cherylynn West
Date: March 14, 2024
Re: Letter of Commendation

On March 14, 2024, Cherylynn West assisted a citizen who was in the lobby at the Police Department window. Cherylynn West immediately recognized that the female was in a wheelchair and had some difficulties communicating through the window. Cherylynn West was able to gather that citizen was there to drop off paperwork in reference a Financial Fraud complaint. Citizen reported that her husband had been using her identity to open accounts in her name, file and kept her tax returns, all against her knowledge or consent. Knowing the difficulties that were presented Cherylynn went out into the lobby to speak with her.



Cherylynn West you are commended for your compassion and extra effort you took to assist this citizen. This response and level of service is what the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department embraces in the mission, vision, and values.

Well Done!

Scott M. Dewitt
Deputy Chief

Dan Hostens
Chief of Police