

# FERNDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

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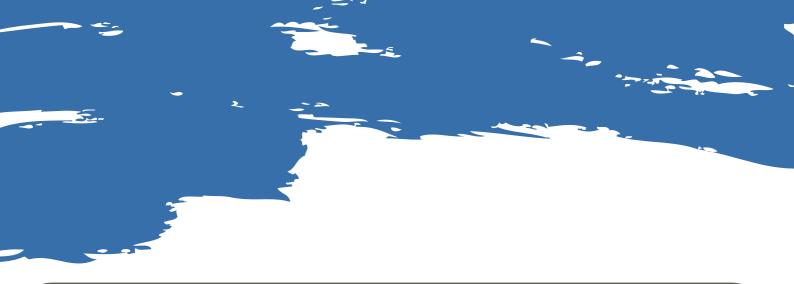
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FERNDALE



#### MISSION STATEMENT

Always working to improve our community while recognizing the dedication and service of our employees.

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

Partnering with our diverse community to provide public safety with integrity, professionalism, and honor.



Core values are the fundamental beliefs of a person or organization. These guiding principles dictate behavior and can help people understand between right and wrong in the workplace.



#### **CORE VALUES**

Integrity

The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness. Acting with sincerity, truthfulness, and honor.

Compassion

Sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings and misfortunes of others.

Service

An act of assistance. Providing a favor, kindness, or helping hand.

Commitment

The state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity. A pledge or undertaking. An engagement or obligation that restricts freedom of action.

Courage

The ability to do something that frightens one. Strength in the face of pain or grief.

# Chief Dennis Emmi



Dennis Emmi was named Ferndale's Chief of Police on January 1, 2021, following a two-year tenure as the department's Captain. He is a 27-year veteran, starting his law enforcement career with the department in 1994 as a Police Service Aid. Chief Emmi is a lifelong resident of Ferndale and a Ferndale High School alum. Emmi is a 2009 graduate of the Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff and Command and a graduate of the 286th session of the FBI National Academy. He served six years as an Airborne Infantry soldier in the Michigan Army National Guard. Chief Emmi has risen through the ranks of the Ferndale Police Department as a patrol officer,

Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. Throughout his career, Emmi served as a Detective with the Oakland County Narcotic Enforcement Teams, Deputy Team Commander and Sniper Team Leader of Southeast Oakland SWAT Team, and Team Commander of the Ferndale Police Honor Guard.

He is a member of the Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police, the Southeastern Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the FBI National Academy Associates. Chief Emmi is currently serving on the Oakland County Prosecutor's Law Enforcement Advisory Board and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Narcotic Enforcement Teams Advisory Board of Directors. Chief Emmi adheres to the six pillars of community policing set forth by the President's task force on 21st Century Policing. One of the task force recommendations was the creation of a Citizens Police Advisory and Review Board to promote community engagement and to build trust and legitimacy. Over the past two years, he has worked closely with city officials to create the city's first Citizens Police Advisory and Review Board. This newly created body will review police conduct complaints, conduct policy reviews, and provide recommendations to the City Manager. Chief Emmi is committed to continually improving police community relations while being a benchmark for a modern police department.

# Street Corner Round Table

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Over the last few years, Chief Emmi has hosted an event called the "Street Corner Round Table" in which the Chief of Police and officers from the department connect with residents in neighborhoods across the city. Residents volunteer to host the event in their front yard or a local park. Residents are invited to come out and speak directly with the Chief and his staff. There is an open round table forum where everyone can ask questions and meet our officers. Topics usually include traffic safety, crime prevention, city updates, and current events. These events are usually held during the summer months. Click here to sign up as a host.





### **PATROL DIVISION**





# PATROL DIVISION



The Ferndale Police Department's Patrol Division is the largest unit in the department. It is the backbone of the department. The Patrol Division provides service 24/7 365 days a year. Patrol officers respond to calls for service, investigate crimes, write reports, enforce traffic laws, arrest suspects, and provide varied services to the community. A patrol officer's day may consist of responding to a car accident, conducting a traffic stop, mediating a neighborhood dispute, making an arrest, or helping someone locked out of their car. Patrol officers are always on duty, ready to respond and serve and protect those in need.

The Patrol Division consists of four platoons working twelve-hour shifts. There are two dayshift platoons and two nightshift platoons. Dayshift patrol officers start their workday at 7 a.m. and nightshifts start at 7 p.m. Each platoon is supervised by a lieutenant and a sergeant. A fully staffed platoon will have five patrol officers and two dispatchers.

Captain David Spellman commands the Patrol Division. Captain Spellman has over 27 years of experience with the department.



















Lt. Daniel Kuzdzal



### CALLS FOR SERVICE



# Calls For Service

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The Ferndale Police Department responded to over 20,905 calls for service in 2023.



January narch April May June July Just noctober per per January Representation of the December

# Calls For Service

Call Type	Count
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT / TRAFFIC MISCELLANEOUS A COMPLAINT	5,614
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT / PARKING COMPLAINT	1,859
LIQUOR INSPECTION	1,616
SUSPICIOUS PERSONS	925
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	819
BUILDING CHECK - FE	811
EXTRA ATTENTION CHECK - FE	624
ASSIST MEDICAL	573
CHARGEABLE ALARM	499
WELFARE CHECK	478
PARK CHECK - FE	463
PROPERTY DAMAGE TRAFFIC CRASH PDA	463
REQUEST TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT - FE	296
ASSIST CITIZEN - VEHICLE LOCKOUT	217
CUSTOMER TROUBLE	198



# PATROL STATISTICS



# Statistics

The Ferndale Police Department is staffed 24/7, and 365 days a year with police and dispatch. The Ferndale Police Department is staffed for 42 officers and 8 dispatchers.

During 2023 patrol operations officers conducted the following:



Patrolled over 161,620 miles

217 Felony Arrests Made

811 Misdemeanor Arrests Made

12,840 911 calls answered

24,935 non-emergency calls answered

5,280 citations issued & 2,670 warning citations issued



### **DETECTIVE BUREAU**



# Detective Bureau

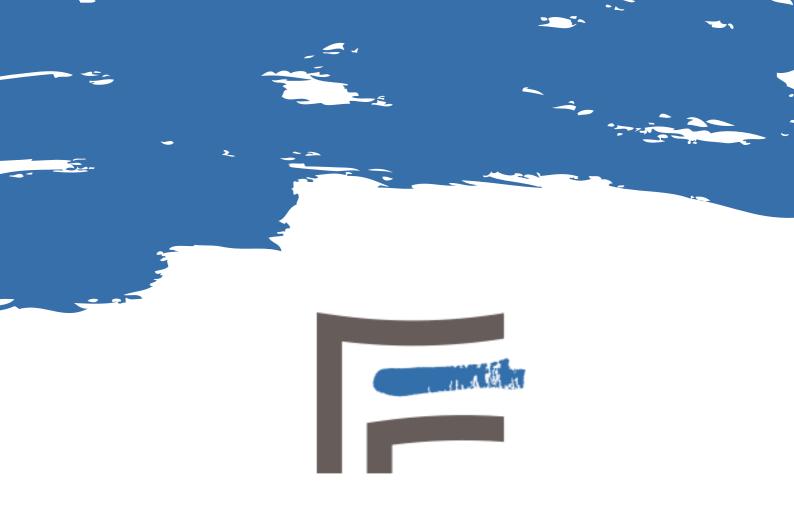




The Ferndale Police Department Detective Bureau is commanded by Detective Lieutenant Shane Ptak. The detective bureau consists of 4 detectives who investigate complaints initiated by the patrol division and three taskforce officers in special assignments.

Detectives investigate cases from the report phase through its final disposition. Detectives require unique skills and abilities to manage their cases properly. These skills include a firm grasp of the Constitution, elements of a crime, evidence collection, interviewing, time management, courtroom testimony, and report writing. In 2023, the detective bureau investigated over 20,905 case reports, including assault, attempted murder, home invasion, and weapons offenses. They obtained 859 arrest warrants.





#### **SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS**



# Special Assignments OAKLAND COUNTY

#### **Narcotics Enforcement Team**

The Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) is comprised of several officers from 24 agencies in Oakland County. These officers typically function as an undercover unit. The main function of the unit is to investigate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals involved in the street-level delivery of controlled substances in the local neighborhoods.

In 2023, NET conducted 345 investigations related to the delivery of narcotics. The Ferndale officer assigned to NET conducted 49 investigations, 15 of those within the City of Ferndale. Fourteen arrests were made from the Ferndale cases alone. NET officers also confiscated a large number of illicit drugs and illegal firearms.



# Special Assignments



#### **Drug Enforcement Administration**

The Ferndale Police Department also has one officer assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). This task force investigates large-scale narcotics trafficking and money laundering operations across the globe.

In 2023, our task force officer initiated 20 federal cases and seized a large number of illicit drugs, illegal guns, and assets obtained through the sale of illegal narcotics.

# Special Assignments



# Oakland County FBI Gang & Violent Crimes Task Force

The Ferndale Police Department has one officer assigned to the FBI Gang & Violent Crimes Taskforce. The taskforce is a collaboration of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies tasked to address violent crime committed by criminal groups of 2 or more people. The taskforce pursues violent gangs through sustained, proactive, coordinated investigations to obtain prosecution on violations such as racketeering, firearm offenses, drug conspiracy, armed robbery, kidnapping, and homicide.



#### **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**







Sgt. Janessa Danielson

In 2019, the Ferndale Police Department established the Professional Standards Sergeant. The initial goal was for the position to guide the department through obtaining accreditation from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. Accreditation is a coveted blue-ribbon standard for the law enforcement industry and requires an agency to follow national best practices. The department achieved this goal in 2020. In 2023, Professional Standards Sergeant Janessa Danielson led the department to achieve reaccreditation. This is a rigorous audit that demands departments show proof they are following their accredited policies. The Professional Standards Sergeant assignment has expanded to oversee the Transparency Dashboard, Police Conduct Complaints, and Internal Investigations.



# Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission



The Ferndale Police Department has been an accredited agency since 2020. In 2023, Sergeant Danielson conducted a rigorous process to become reaccredited through MLEAC. The program encompasses 108 standards that guide the Ferndale Police Department in its pursuit of excellence. These standards serve as a foundation for professional objectives, transparency, accountability, and overall performance improvement. The department underwent a thorough self-analysis to align our operations with these standards, and trained assessors verify validated our re-accreditation.

Achieving accredited status puts the Ferndale Police Department in rare company. Only 65 police departments across Michigan have achieved initial accreditation and Ferndale is one of just 25 departments to achieve reaccreditation. Ferndale continues to lead from the front for best practices and standards in law enforcement.



#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER



# Community Engagement Officer





Community Engagement Officer Jillian Mahlmeister is in her fourth year of being the CEO at the Ferndale Police Department. CEO Mahlmeister has significantly grown the department's community-oriented policing model. Through this model, the department has strengthened partnerships, developed trust, and discovered new ways to serve the community. CEO Mahlmeister meets with students, residents, organizations, stakeholders, and business owners. CEO Mahlmeister has embedded herself in the community by becoming a conduit to the police department through various outreach programs.



# Citizens Police Academy



In 2023, CEO Mahlmeister hosted our eighth Citizen's Police Academy. The program takes place annually in the fall, and applicants can register through the city website. Participants meet once a week for four weeks. The academy provides a unique window into the operations of our police department. Participants learn about patrol, investigations, evidence collection, prosecution, use of force, internal affairs, and department policy. The academy includes presentations, guest speakers from the Oakland County Prosecutors Office, and a hands-on "shoot or don't shoot" training in a 360 virtual simulator.

#### **Hope Not Handcuffs**



In 2017, the Ferndale Police Department became the first law enforcement agency in Oakland County to take part in the Hope Not Handcuffs program. This program was formed by Families Against Narcotics (FAN) and the Police Addiction Recovery Initiative. Those in need of immediate assistance with addiction are welcome to come into the lobby of the Ferndale Police Department without judgment or fear of being arrested. Volunteer "angels" provide support to those in need by arranging in patient treatment and transportation. Following treatment, individuals will receive referrals for continued support to reinforce a healthy recovery. Local partners involved in the program include all of Macomb County, the Michigan State Police, Harper Woods, CARE of Southeast Michigan, Medstar, and Universal Ambulance. Hope Not Handcuffs has been an excellent resource for those who wish to receive help for their addictions.

# Quick Response Team (QRT)

In September of 2021 the Ferndale Police Department, in partnership with Families Against Narcotics (FAN), began implementing a FAN Comeback Quick Response Team. The initiative is focused on aiding people struggling with addiction due to opioid use disorder. The Quick Response Team is a three-member unit consisting of a police officer, a peer recovery coach, and a family recovery coach. This team typically responds or "comes back" to a residence within the city that has dealt with a recent non-fatal drug overdose. The department recognizes the need to further help families and victims that are affected by this epidemic. The team offers information, support, and assistance in recovery services and community resources to those in need.

#### Ferndale QRT stats for 2023:



83 total visits



35 conversations accepted



36 doors answered



20 individuals and families accepted services



10 fentanyl test strip kits distributed



22 Narcan training and kits distributed



6 comfort kits distributed





## **Common Ground**

helping people move from crisis to hope

The Ferndale Police Department has had a long-standing partnership with Common Ground. Common Ground is a 24-hour crisis service agency that assists youths, adults, and families in crisis. When officers encounter someone in crisis, they complete a referral to Common Ground. Common Ground then reaches out to the person in crisis and provides them with resources and treatment options. These range from therapy services and support groups to housing for runaways and battered spouses. This partnership has allowed our officers to provide people in crisis with more resources. Ferndale officers often deal with individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Our officers help individuals with assistance beyond our capabilities by connecting them with viable resources.





#### DOWNTOWN RESOURCE OFFICER







Ofc. Andrew Roth

On January 1, 2022, Ofc. Andrew Roth was named the department's first Downtown Resource Officer (DRO). Ferndale is the first department to implement a DRO in Metro Detroit. This position was inspired by the Downtown Development Authority as a way to connect the downtown community with the police department's investigators and community engagement programs. DRO Roth serves as a hybrid detective/community engagement officer who specializes in crime prevention, crisis intervention, conflict resolution, special assistance programs, and special event safety.





## **AUXILIARY POLICE**



# **Auxiliary Unit**



In 1956 the City of Ferndale established its first unit of Police Auxiliary. The unit consists of 12 volunteer Auxiliary Officers. Like sworn officers, auxiliary officers are required to pass a comprehensive background check and attend a reserve police academy. Sgt. Austin Bishop and Detective Paul Simpson lead the unit to support patrol with special events, sporting events, house checks, traffic control, crowd control, and downtown foot patrol. Our Ferndale auxiliaries also enjoy participating in ride-alongs with officers on patrol. The Ferndale Police Department is proud of the unwavering spirit and volunteerism of the auxiliary department. One of their favorite to attend is the "Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams," where officers take police cars to the children's wing of Beaumont Hospital around the holidays and participate in emergency vehicle lights display for sick children.





## MULTIJURISDICTIONAL TEAMS



#### Multijurisdictional Teams



# Oakland County Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT Team

The Ferndale Police Department has one officer assigned to the Oakland County SWAT Team. The Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) is a highly skilled, highly trained group of officers selected from only seven agencies in Oakland County. This team responds to critical incidents like active shooters, barricaded gunmen, hostage and rescue, high risk search warrants, and civil disturbances.

#### Multijurisdictional Teams

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#### **Mobile Field Force**

The Ferndale Police Department is a founding member of the Oakland County Tactical Response Consortium (OakTac). OakTac is organized into two main disciplines: Mobile Field Force and Active Assailant Response Training. OakTac is comprised of thirty-four law enforcement agencies in Oakland County.

The department has five officers assigned to Mobile Field Force and Captain Spellman is the executive field commander. The Mobile Field Force serves to mitigate incidents involving civil disorder. The team trains with other MFF teams in the region and stands ready to respond to large-scale civil disorder in southeast Michigan.

The department also has several instructors who participate in the Active Assailant Response Training Consortium. OakTac provided uniformed active shooter response training for all Oakland County law enforcement agencies.



#### **RECORDS BUREAU**



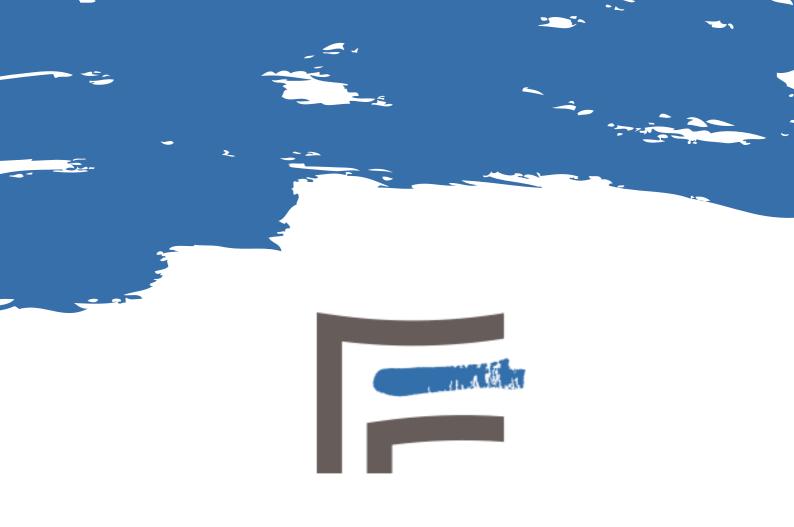
#### Records Bureau

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The records bureau consists of two records clerks and two part-time property officers. Isha Gillyard currently serves as the department's records coordinator. The records bureau provides services to the public Monday through Friday by phone or walk-in at the records window located in the lobby of the police department.

The records bureau maintains the department's electronic reporting system (CLEAR), processes FOIA requests, provides police reports to the public, and supports the City Attorney's office and the 43rd District Court.



#### RETIREMENTS



#### Retirements



Records Coordinator Tamica L. Brooks

Thank you Miki for your 37 years of dedicated service.





#### RECRUITMENT



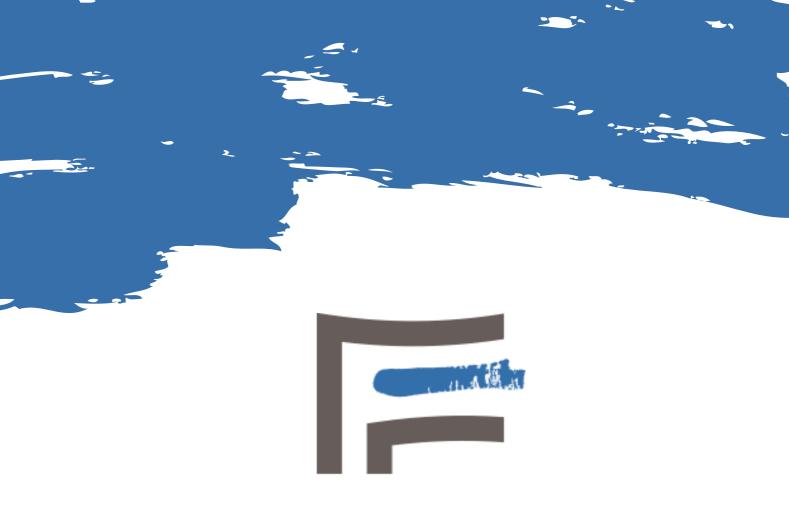
# Recruitment

The Ferndale Police Department continues to seek out and hire new officers. The department uses a wide net approach to recruit experienced officers. students planning or currently enrolled in a police academy, and people with varied backgrounds and life experiences. The department hire strives to and retain trustworthy, able, and well-rounded, officers to serve and protect the City of Ferndale. The department has a comprehensive recruitment action plan. The goal is to hire from a qualified and diverse pool of candidates.



When a position opens in the department, the recruitment team seeks out qualified candidates by posting job openings at police academies, meeting students enrolled at academies, and attending job fairs at colleges and universities. Those interested can also visit the City's website for further information related to the recruitment process.

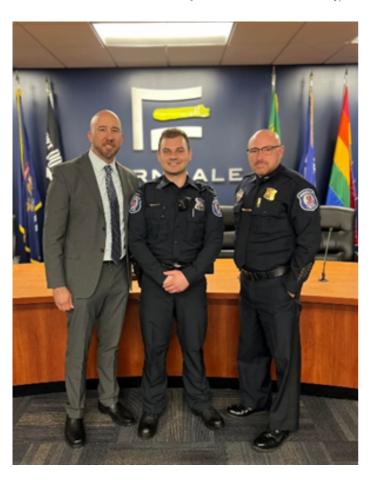




#### **NEW HIRES**



# New Hires



Ofc. Antonio Monteleone (Dec 2023)





Ofc. Yousif Shamoon (Dec 2023)





#### **AWARDS**



# Awards

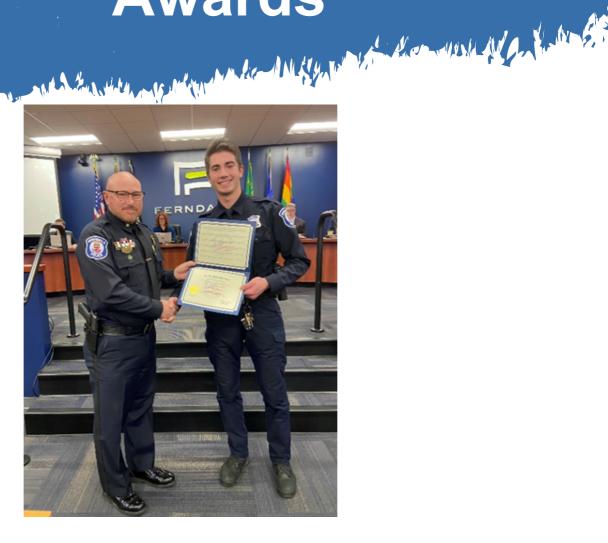
The Ferndale Police Department recognizes and appreciates the hard work, dedication, and service of our officers. We are proud of the men and women who serve the community of Ferndale. The department recognizes exceptional police performance or service through its awards committee. Awards are presented throughout the year, but two notable achievements are listed below.



#### 2023 Police Officer of the Year:

Patrol Ofc. Joseph Milobar joined the department in 2021. Ofc Milobar has sought out and been assigned various other duties and responsibilities, such as, Evidence Technician, Field Training Officer, and a member of the Honor Guard. As an Evidence Technician, Ofc. Milobar processed four nonfatal shooting scenes during the year. Ofc. Milobar has received praise from our detectives and members of the Oakland County Crime Scene Response Team for his attention to detail. As a member of the Honor Guard, Ofc. Milobar reliably answered the call for service, even while working nights and attending college during the day.

#### **Awards**



#### **Department Citation Award:**

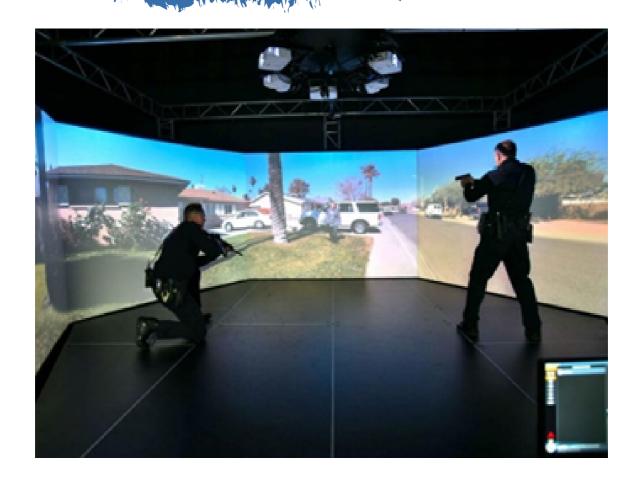
Patrol Ofc. Brett Bush joined the department in 2022.Ofc. Bush received the Department Citation for his outstanding performance on November 14, 2023. Ofc. Bush apprehended a serial armed robber who had previously robbed our 7-Eleven stores. Ofc. Bush observed the suspect casing the 7-Eleven store on E. Nine Mile and Hilton and attempted to make contact with the individual. The individual fled from Ofc Bush on a bicycle. Ofc. Bush pursued the suspect and subsequently apprehended the individual after a short vehicle and foot pursuit. The armed suspect was found to be responsible for six other armed robberies in our neighboring cities.



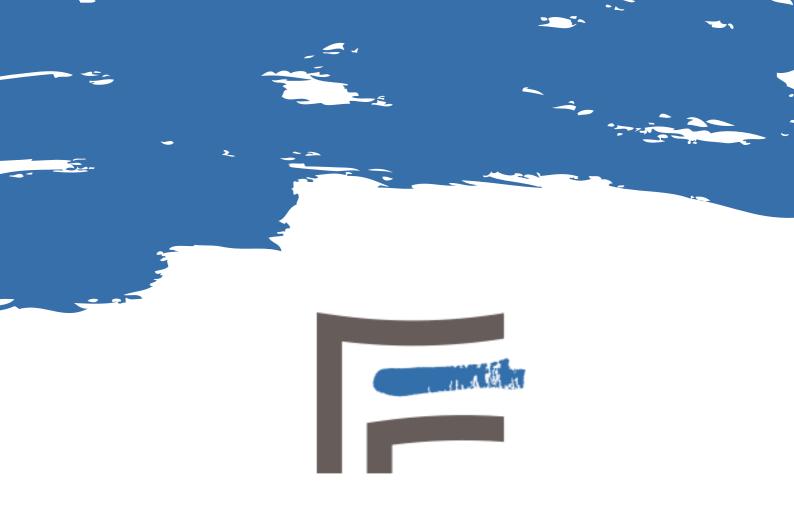
#### **TRAINING**



#### Training



In 2019, the department created the Response to Resistance Team to oversee in-service training. The members of this team are certified instructors in firearms, less lethal weapons, defensive tactics, crisis intervention, and de-escalation techniques. The team tailors their training to current trends and employs national best practices. Their training includes weapons qualifications, force-on-force scenarios, reality-based problem-solving, life-saving training, and de-escalation techniques.



## RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE



# Response to Resistance

The Ferndale Police Department's Response to Resistance policy states that officers utilize the amount of force that is objectively reasonable considering the totality of circumstances that are confronted in order to affect an arrest/or accomplish the lawful performance of duty while protecting the public. Officers must perform their duties professionally, with respect for others, and in a manner that endeavors to protect and preserve life.

A Response to Resistance includes when officers display and/or use force. A show of force is defined as a gesture with a lethal and/or less-lethal weapon directed at a person as a means to coerce or gain compliance. An example would be pointing a firearm at a subject and giving verbal commands. A use of force is defined as the attempt to establish control through physical means in the presence of resistance, given the totality of the circumstances. The officer in charge and the police captain conduct independent reviews of all responses to resistance. These meaningful reviews include reviewing all related video footage, police reports, and witness interviews. The final review determines if the use of force was within policy and training.

The Response to Resistance team produces an annual report detailing the department's use of force encounters.

In 2023, Ferndale officers responded to 20,905 calls for service and made 863 arrests. Officers displayed or used force during 39 of those incidents.





### COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY AND REVIEW BOARD (CPARB)



# Community Police Advisory And Review Board (CPARB)

In 2023, the City of Ferndale established a Citizen Police Advisory and Review Board (CPARB) and corresponding ordinance. The Board aims to improve and strengthen police-community relations through enhanced transparency and community-level participation. This is the first CPARB in Oakland County, further solidifying our commitment to fair and impartial policing.

The ordinance authorizes the Board to Review Police Conduct Complaints and Response to Resistance reviews rep, consider citizen appeals and complaints, and provide the City Manager with independent reports and recommendations based on their reviews and findings. The board also conducts racial impact assessments of current Police Department policies and reviews cooperative law enforcement agreements for consistency with the City of Ferndale's values.



#### TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD



### Transparency Dashboard

In 2021, the Ferndale Police Department launched the Transparency Dashboard which can be accessed through the City of Ferndale website. The dashboard is an open and transparent portal for the public to review the department's data and statistics.

The Ferndale Police Department updates our transparency dashboard regularly with statistics ranging from:

- Calls for Service
- · Citation's Issued
- Warning Citation's Issued
- Arrest's
- Response to Resistance
- Training Attended

- · Crime Mapping
- Traffic Crashes
- Police Complaints
- Crime Trends
- Mental Health Referrals
- Police Policies





### FAIR & IMPARTIAL POLICING



#### Fair & Impartial Policing

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The Ferndale Police Department completes monthly reviews of all officers' video footage to ensure they are policing fairly and impartially. Our officers routinely attend implicit bias training that equips them with the knowledge and skills needed to reduce and manage their biases. In 2023, our supervisors conducted over 150 fair and impartial reviews of officer's video footage.

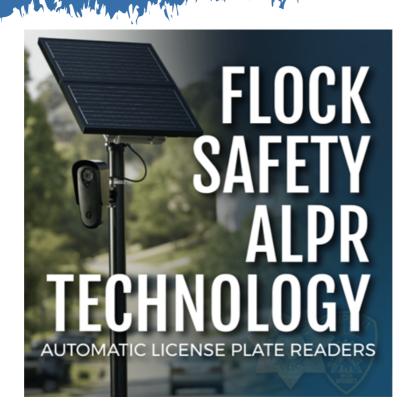


#### New Body Worn Cameras

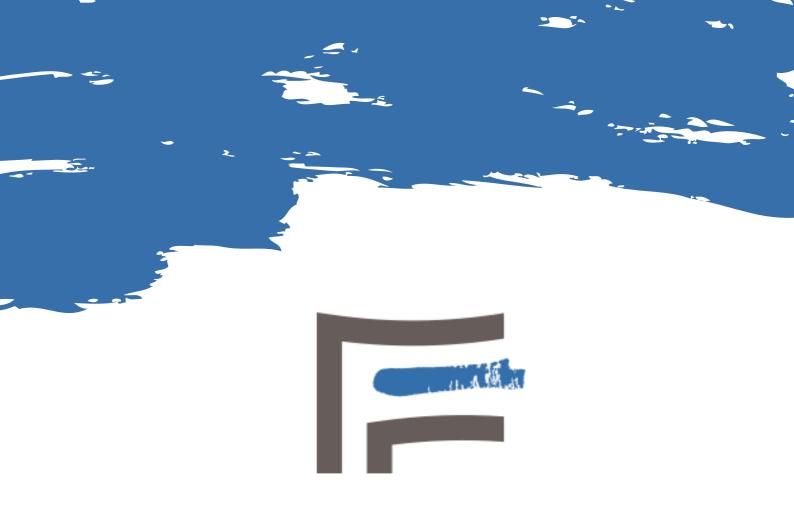


In 2016, the Ferndale Police Department became the first agency in Oakland County to use Body-Worn Cameras, pursuing our commitment to transparency. In 2023, we upgraded our equipment to the AXON X3 camera system. This new technology allowed the batteries in our cameras to last longer, capturing more video, and allowed the video to be directly shared with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office via a cloud-based server. Every officer on patrol wears a body-worn camera that works in concert with their in-car camera systems.

## Flock Safety Cameras (ALPR)



In 2023, the City of Ferndale adopted a two-year pilot program for the Flock Safety automated license plate readers. This decision was made after great consideration in balancing public safety and privacy. The police department spent a year researching the product, gathering feedback from the public through town hall meetings, and tailoring a policy that fit the needs of our community. The pilot program allows 16 cameras for the first 60 days and then is reduced to 8 cameras. Flock Safety only detects license plates and vehicles. It does not detect facial recognition, people, gender, or race. Flock Safety can only be used by Ferndale detectives to investigate serious crimes and is strictly prohibited from being used for immigration and traffic enforcement. In 2023, detectives used Flock Safety to solve multiple armed robberies, breaking & entering, accidents, hit-and-run accidents, and stolen vehicle cases. Please visit our Flock Safety Transparency Portal for more information.



#### **CLOSING MESSAGE**



#### Closing Message

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Thank you for checking out our annual report! Our department strives to be innovative, inspired, inclusive, and with integrity. We take pride in our noble profession and are honored to serve you and our community. Please consider following us on social media, and our City of Ferndale webpage for updates throughout the year.

The Ferndale Police Department is always looking for people who want to join us in making Ferndale a safe and engaged community. Please see our hiring flyer to learn how to make a difference!



