

COTATI POLICE DEPARTMENT



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The 2020 Cotati Police Department Annual Report is herein presented for your review. First of all, I want to thank you for taking time to read this report. I hold in high regard the opinions and input of the citizen's and business owners of Cotati . I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to follow us on social media.



Recruitment and retention of officers, dispatchers, and civilian personnel is a challenge that faces every Law Enforcement agency. Members of the Department have done an incredible job seeking out exceptional people to work for the Cotati Police department. Our 911 dispatch center is fully staffed and our police officer ranks are also at full strength. I have and always will strive to hire reserve police officers for the future success of this department to better serve the City. We will strive to build a diverse team of men and women from a variety of backgrounds and maintain a high level of professionalism within the department.

As we move forward in 2021, we will focus on expanding our community policing philosophy through personal outreach to stakeholders to remain proactive in reducing crime, increasing traffic safety, enhancing citizen and business engagement and the overall wellbeing of the City. We are also focusing training on employee health and wellness, effective ways to engage people who are in mental health crisis, and not only learning about, but understanding implicit bias, enhancing de-escalation tactics and collecting Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) data over 6 months early. The Cotati Police Department is a progressive department that will continue to look for unconventional ways to maintain and build trust and legitimacy with the citizens we serve.

Michael Parish
Chief of Police



Officer Reinke, a young recruit, and Chief Michael Parish

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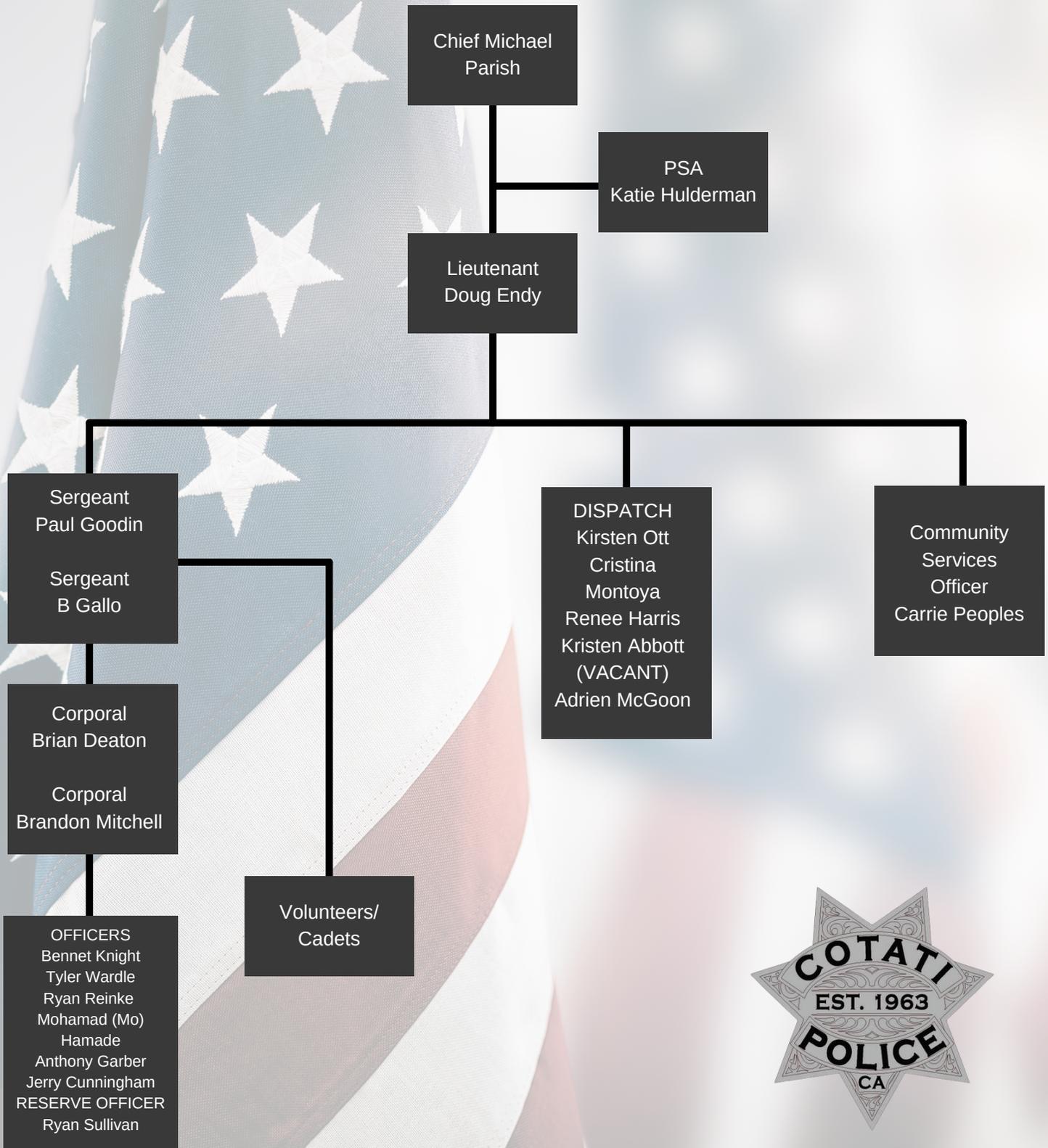
COVID-19

The COVID-19 Pandemic changed the Police Department's usual operations. We closed our lobby, changed employee shifts to avoid co-mingling through creation of cohorts, deployed personal protection equipment and made fewer officer-initiated contacts. These modified procedures were enacted to help reduce exposure and the potential for viral outbreaks among our employees or the residents we serve, and ensure we could continue to provide public safety staffing 24/7. Even though we modified our usual daily activities, we remained on-duty 24/7 answering 911 calls, responding to calls for service and maintaining our high visibility patrols.

Given the challenging environment due to COVID-19, law enforcement statistics will certainly look different for the year 2020. We may never know the exact effect that COVID-19 will have on reporting crimes. Many of our mandated reporters, such as school employees and health care providers, had limited contact with persons during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders kept more people in the home and less drivers on the road.

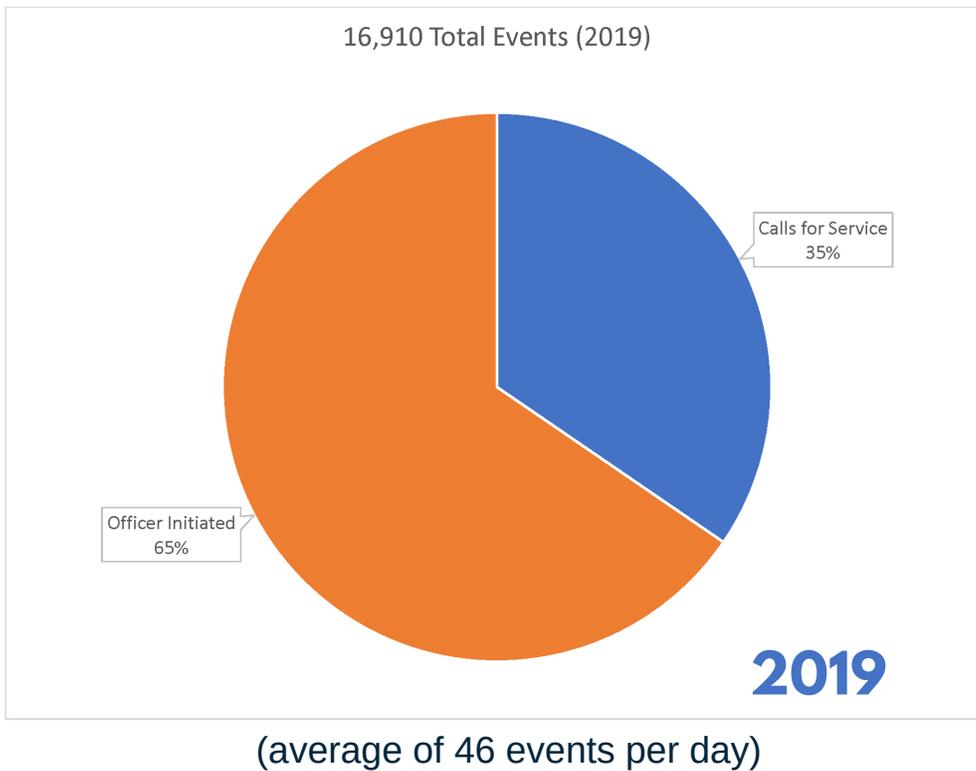
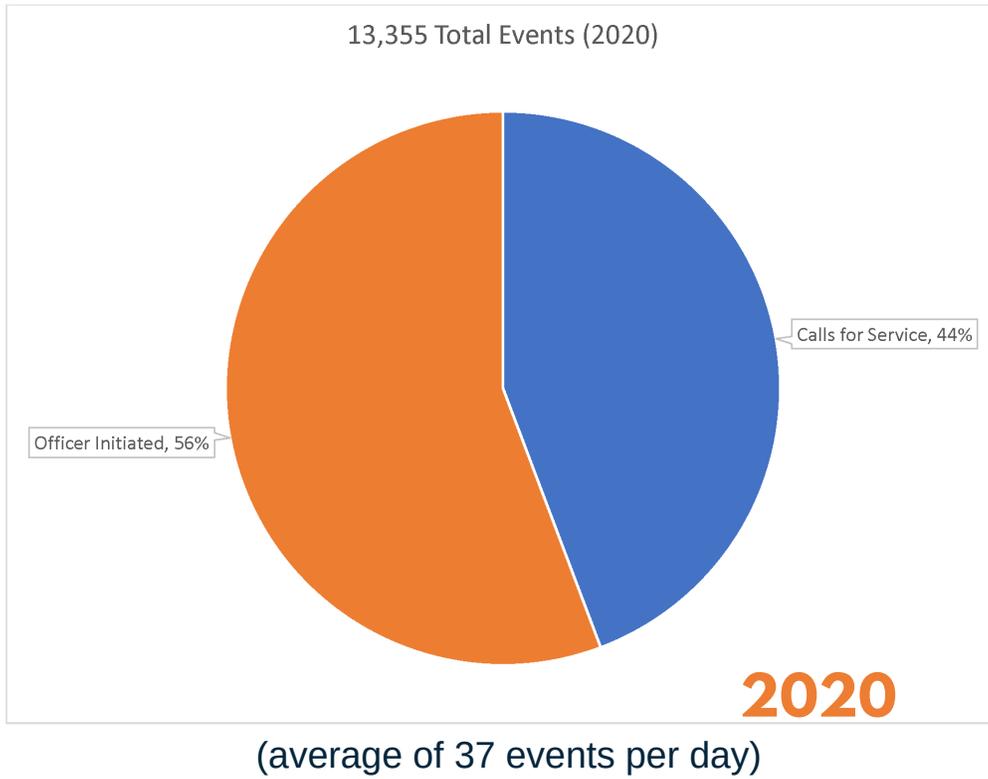


ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

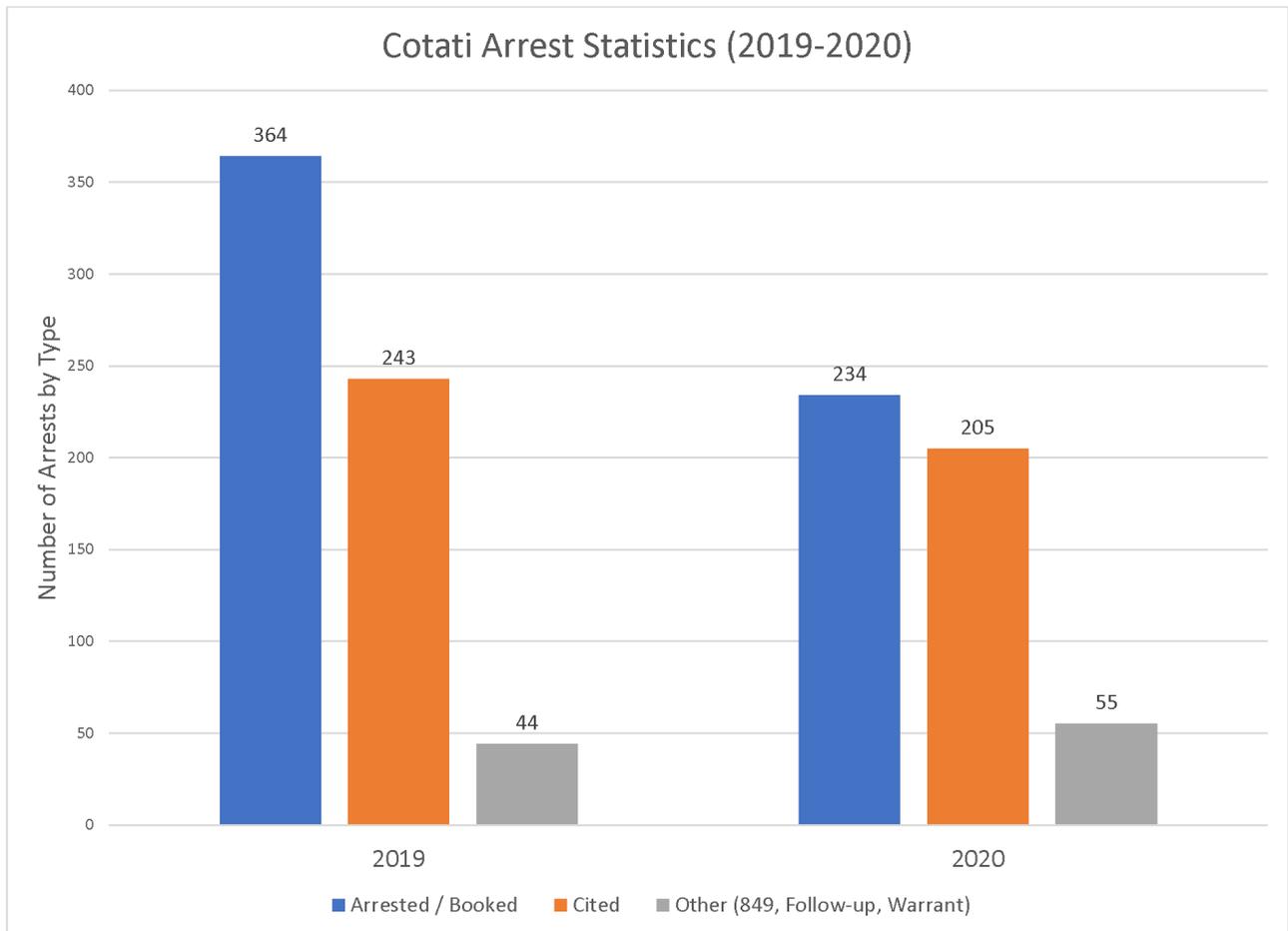


CRIME ANALYSIS & REVIEW

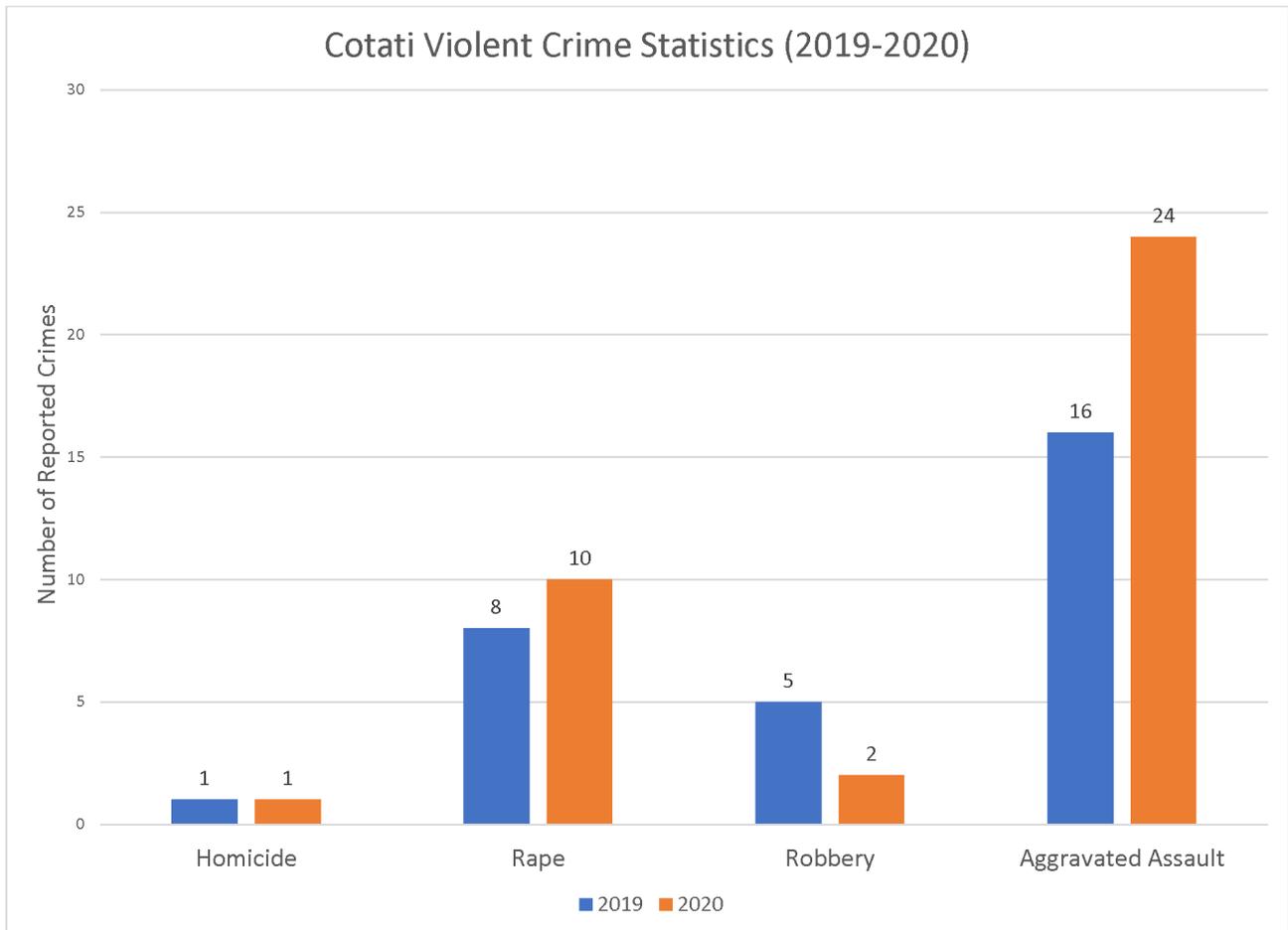
CALLS FOR SERVICE



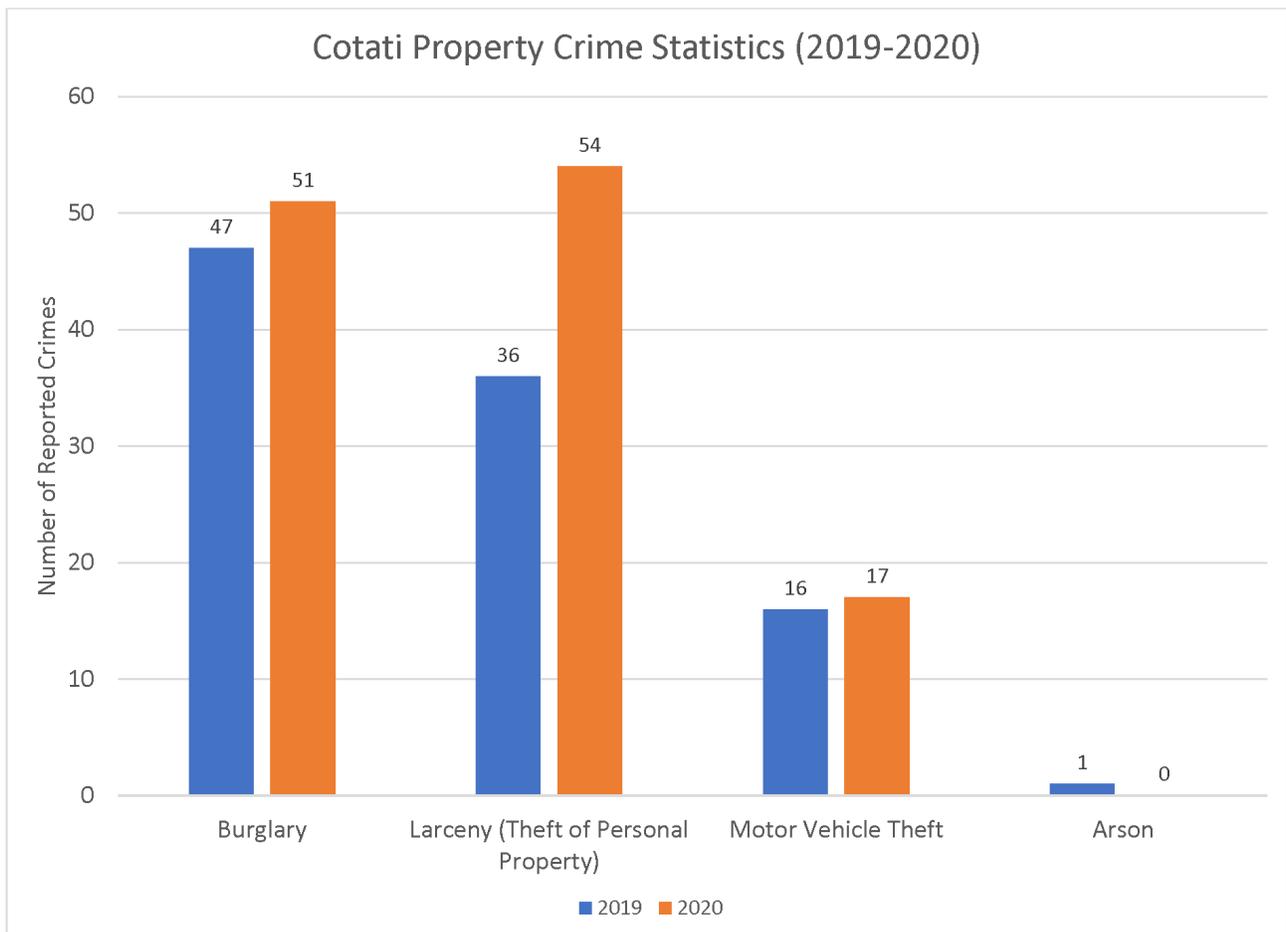
COTATI ARREST STATISTICS 2019-2020



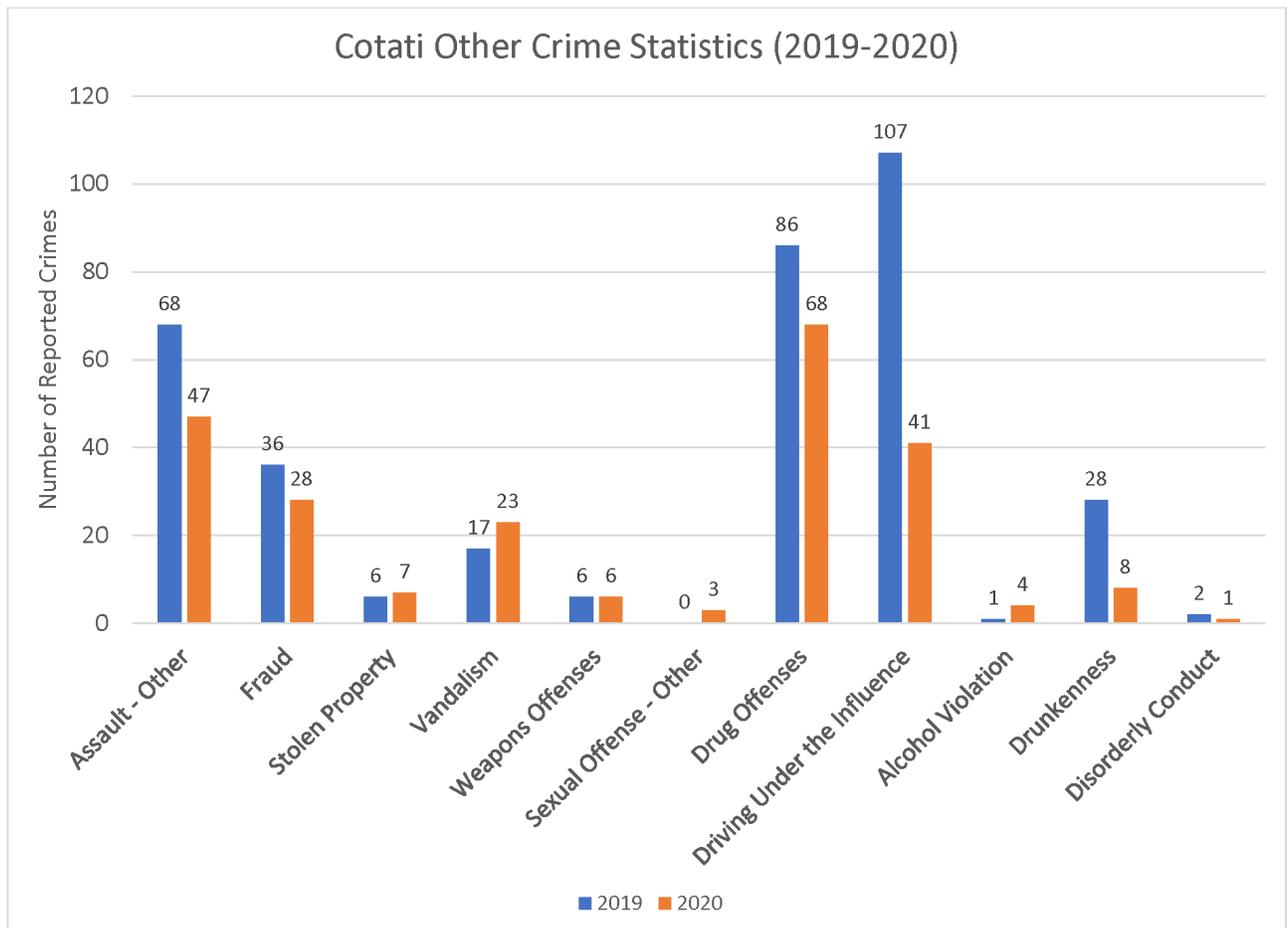
COTATI VIOLENT CRIME STATISTICS 2019-2020



COTATI PROPERTY CRIME STATISTICS 2019-2020



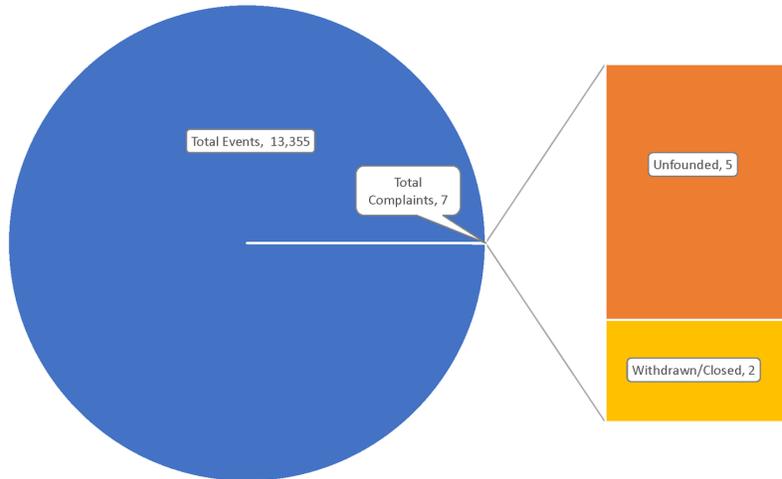
COTATI OTHER CRIME STATISTICS 2019-2020



CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

2020 Total Events & All Complaints with Outcome

In 2020, the Police Department received a total of 7 complaints out of a total of 13,355 events, which is a complaint rate of 0.05%. The police department receives complaints through a variety of sources, including the official complaint form, emails, and verbally. For every complaint received, the Police Department investigates the allegations.



The process begins with the Lieutenant reviewing the complaint, reviewing all available materials (such as police reports, body worn camera, etc.), followed by interviews of the complainant and any involved police staff. The Cotati Police Department was the first agency in Sonoma County to implement a full deployment of body worn cameras on all of our officers, which has assisted in the review of complaints or other events.

For the purposes of this report, the complaints have been grouped in two ways: by outcome after investigation and by category of initial allegation. Of the 7 complaints received, the categories of initial allegations are as follows:

- Procedural : 6
- Conduct Unbecoming : 1
- Use of Force : 0

The definitions of the terms used are as indicated below. Not all terms are used this year due to the nature of the complaints received.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

OUTCOME AFTER INVESTIGATION

EXONERATED - Allegation is true but actions were lawful.

NOT SUSTAINED - Facts revealed do not substantiate the allegation.

WITHDRAWN/CLOSED - Case was closed as matter was withdrawn by the complainant or complainant was unresponsive to attempts to contact.

SUSTAINED - A true finding supported by facts, generally results in officer discipline and/or re-training.

UNFOUNDED - Not true. Actions alleged did not occur.

CATEGORY OF ALLEGATION

PROCEDURAL - This category of allegation typically involves complaints of unfair parking enforcement, contesting traffic tickets, failure to for officer to act, etc.

CONDUCT UNBECOMING - This category of allegation is a complaint of rude or discourteous behavior of the officer.

USE OF FORCE - This category of allegation is a complaint regarding officer use of force.

TOWNHALL MEETINGS

In 2020, we had two Police Townhall Meetings which were at the request of Cotati City Council following the George Floyd incident in Minneapolis. As Chief, I presented statistics, policies, procedures and daily duties of our police department at the first Townhall Meeting. Additionally I shared our robust community outreach and dedication for making Cotati a safe place to work and live. Questions and comments by Council Members and during public comment were answered with some follow up research requested by the City Council. At the second Townhall Meeting, recent changes in police policy, Racial Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) information updates, and next step recommendations were discussed and presented. These recommendations for next steps included:

- Early implementation of RIPA; and
- Creation of this annual report to the community; and
- Review of annual RIPA reports for best practices; and
- Re-affirm our commitment to train our officers above and beyond POST standards, including implicit bias training, and de-escalation training; and
- Updating the citizen complaint form and making it available on the website; and
- Conducting a community survey on racism; and
- Working with a third party to conduct a policy compliance review to ensure policies/training/and practices are aligned.

Since these Townhall Meetings, we are now positioned to begin collecting RIPA data 6 months early on July 1, 2021, our City conducted a survey on racism in Cotati and presented this to the City Council and community on January 26, 2021, we updated and re-published our use of force policies, we are currently updating the citizen complaint form, we are currently undertaking the policy compliance review, and we received implicit bias and de-escalation training. Additionally, the passage of the Sonoma County's Measure O in November 2020 will help fund support for homeless and people in mental health crisis populations. Our hope is that Measure O will be a key part of the solution for a better response to calls-for-service relating to mental health.



POLICIES

Our department policy manual is available on the City Website. The California Legislature continues to enact new laws and case law continues to change policing in California. Among the most recent legislation is SB-230 Law enforcement: use of deadly force and training policies, AB-1506 Police use of force, AB-392 Peace Officers: deadly force. As laws and case law continues to change, our policies are regularly updated to ensure compliance with current laws and best practices in policing.

TRAINING

The Cotati Police Department is a California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified agency. Our Police Department, like all other POST certified agencies, are continually audited for compliance. California is widely recognized to be among the most progressive states in the United States with regard to modern police training and policies. In Cotati, our officers and dispatchers train to a higher standard than the already nation-leading state standards. In 2020, many of our perishable skills classes and other trainings were canceled due COVID-19, however we did participate in virtual trainings and conducted firearms qualifications. Additionally in 2020, we participated in implicit-bias training, tactical communications, critical incident response, de-escalation and bias based policing trainings. For 2021, we will continue to improve our skills and move forward through contemporary policing.

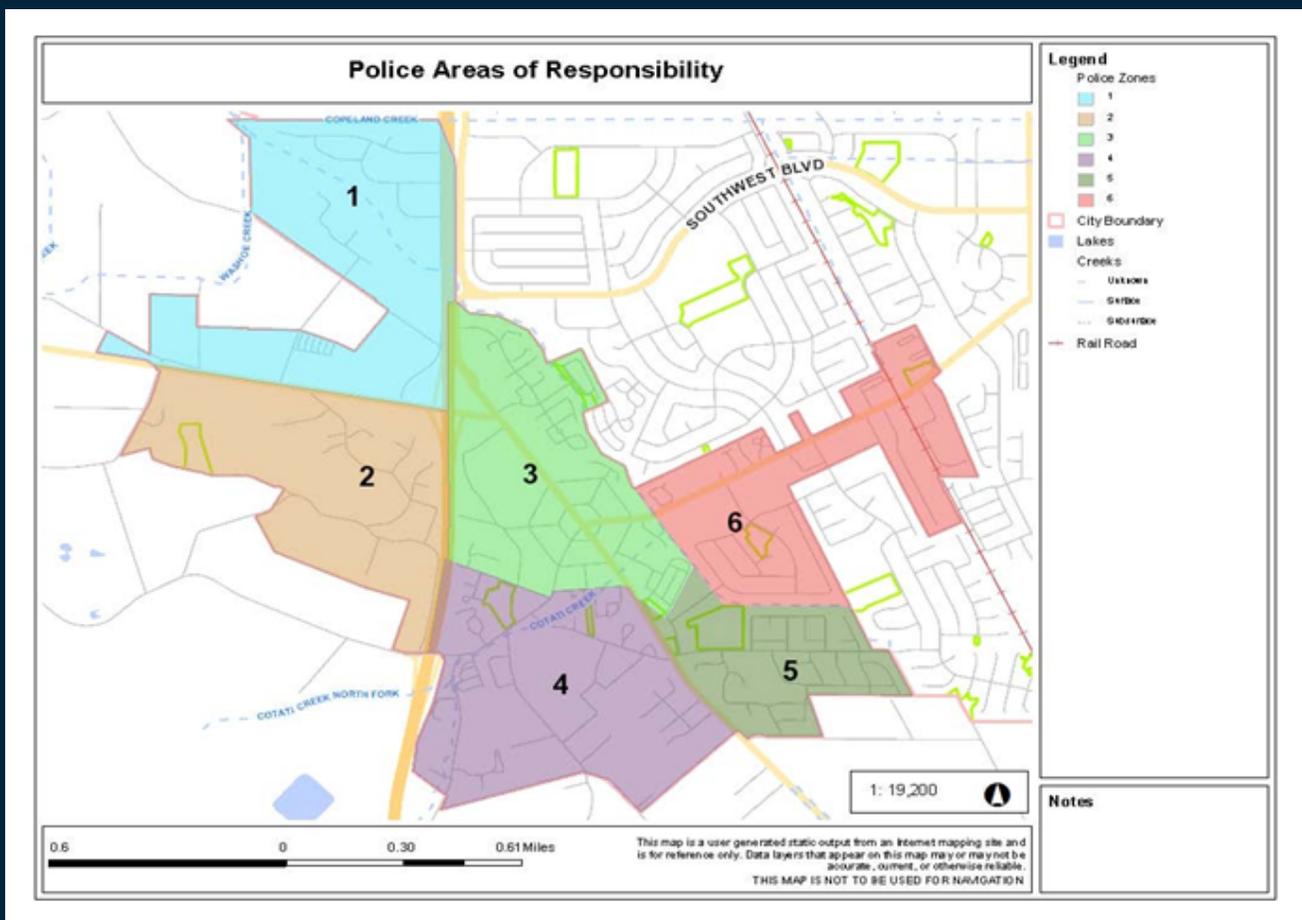
RECRUIT TRAINING OFFICERS



The Cotati Police Department is proud to have two Recruit Training Officers (RTOs) assigned to the Santa Rosa Junior College's Public Safety Training Center (the Regional Police Academy). This is unique among all small agencies in Sonoma County, and uncommon for even the larger agencies. Sergeant Baudelia Gallo and Officer Tyler Wardle are cadre at the Academy, assisting full-time faculty and instructors to provide future law enforcement officers with the knowledge and skills to better serve and protect California communities.

NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICER MEETINGS

Cotati Police Officers hosted two Neighborhood Officer meetings in 2020 for each of the areas. Cotati is comprised of six (6) areas (beats) mapped and available for view on our City Website. An individual officer is assigned to each area and their phone numbers and emails are available to citizens and business owners to ask questions and pass on information. Officers rotate annually to allow them to better learn the areas and for residents and businesses to better know our officers.



SONOMA COUNTY'S WALLBRIDGE & GLASS FIRES

Sonoma County had wildfires return in 2020. These dangerous fires threatened both incorporated and unincorporated communities. Cotati Police Officers responded to these fires for mutual aid, assisting fire and law allied agencies in evacuations, road blocks for citizen safety and conducted anti-looting patrols. We are always there in times of need - for not only Cotati, but wherever we can make our neighboring communities a safer place.



ANIMAL CONTROL

Community Services Officer (CSO) Carrie Peoples is our designated animal control officer. When Carrie is not available, our police officers respond to calls for service regarding both domestic and wild animals. Carrie is also in charge of dog licensing for our City. It is important that everyone license their dogs, so that we can better serve you and your pet if they get loose or have other issues. Cotati contracts with Rohnert Park Animal Services for sheltering our animals. Carries also performs parking enforcement, vehicle abatements and manages police evidence.



DISPATCH



The Cotati Police Department employs six (6) Police Dispatcher/Clerks. Our police dispatch is a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), receiving all 911 calls for law enforcement, fire, and medical emergencies for both the City of Cotati and the Sonoma State University campus. Sonoma State University contracts with the City of Cotati to provide public safety dispatch for the University campus. In addition to 911 calls-for-service, our dispatchers answer regular police business call for our City and the University, and our dispatchers are also clerks who process police records, Public Records Requests and other administrative duties. Our lobby is typically open to the public, but during COVID-19 the lobby was temporary closed and business was conducted over the phone, via email, or by appointment.

MADD AWARD

In 2020 Officers Mohamad Hamade and Anthony Garber were recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for their significant impact on roadway safety in Cotati. Combined these two officers arrested 56 drunk drivers in 2019. MADD presented Officers Hamade and Garber with the prestigious DUI enforcement medals that they proudly wear on their uniforms.



PATROL



Uniform Patrol is a 24-hour per day operation for all 365 days of the year. Normally, a minimum of two officers are always working in our City. Our police officers patrol neighborhoods and businesses, responding to in progress call-for-service relating to law enforcement and fire and medical emergencies. Additionally, officer conduct traffic enforcement, parking enforcement, vacation house checks, animal control response, business checks and provide backup (mutual aid) to allied law enforcement agencies.

K-9 TEAM

We are fortunate to have Corporal Brian Deaton and his partner REMO as our K9 Team. REMO is a dual-purpose trained Police K9 for the apprehension of violent offenders and the detection of Cocaine, Heroin and Methamphetamine. We also make our K9 Team available for mutual aid for our law enforcement partner agencies. REMO was procured through the Sean's K9's grant program.



TRAFFIC OFFICER



Officer Ryan Reinke, who rides a Harley Davidson Police Road King, is our full-time Traffic Officer. Officer Reinke completed Motor Officer training in 2020. His primary duty is traffic enforcement - concentrating on driving behavior that causes accidents, such as speeding and distracted driving. Officer Reinke is also assigned to traffic accident investigations. If you have a traffic complaint, please go to the City website and submit your concerns

OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT

In 2020 we received confirmation that we were awarded a traffic safety grant totaling \$28,000 for the Federal Fiscal Year 20/21 . This funding will be used to increase traffic safety by focusing on factors that cause collisions such speeding, distracted driving and impaired driving. We will also use this grant to pay for training related to field sobriety testing and advanced impaired driver recognition. Additionally the grant funds traffic safety presentations.

CADETS & VOLUNTEERS

The police department has both Cadets and Volunteers, which assists our department and provides them with hands on experience for a future in law enforcement. Our cadets are typically high school students who help with mutual aid for parades and other events in Sonoma County, including our own Kids Day Parade. Cadets also go on ride-alongs with officers, attend in-house trainings and criminal justice field trips. Our volunteers help with daily duties at the police department, such as processing alarm permits and keeping inventory of police equipment and supplies. Often our cadets and volunteers become police officers, deputy sheriffs, correctional officers and public safety dispatchers.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Cotati Police Department has a strong relationship with the Rancho Adobe Fire District, Sonoma State University Police Department and the Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety. Together, through teamwork, mutual aid, and allied training, we make Cotati and Rohnert Park a safer place to live and improve the quality of life for our community.



SCHOOL OUTREACH

Thomas Page Academy (TPA), a K-8 public school, is administrated by the Cotati-Rohnert Park School District. Our police department has a strong working relationship with TPA students, faculty and administration. In the past, our police department has held fundraising events which supplied every TPA student with their school supplies; we have held Cocoa with a Cop and even participated with New Hope Church distributing shoes to all the students. We perform daily walk throughs at TPA to enhance the schools' safety and are in regular communication with the school administration.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

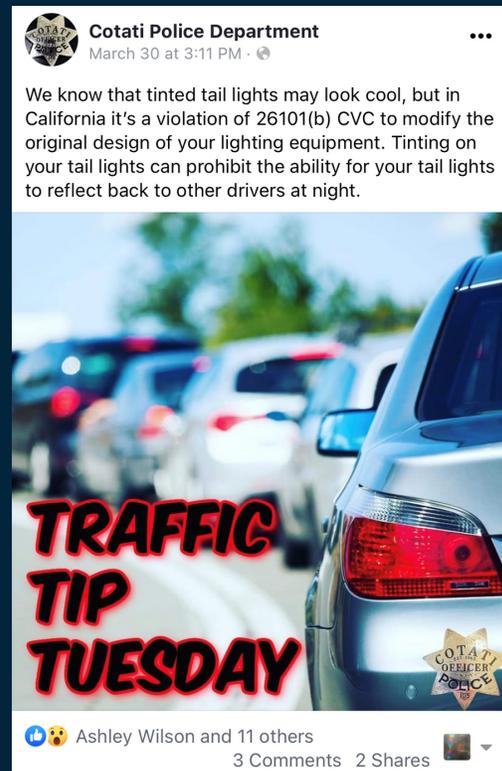
Before Covid-19 we were able to host our Coffee with a Cop events in early 2020. We hosted these events by moving around our City to all coffee shops, a few restaurants and even a grocery store. We look forward to returning to hosting Coffee with a Cop and hope that you will join us.

In 2020 we did not host National Night Out due to Covid-19, but we are hopeful for a return in 2021. We did participate in our Annual Toy Drive, partnering with the Rohnert Park/Cotati Rotary and Rancho Adobe Fire District. We also had a drive-thru Cookies with Santa for the Holidays, supplying Cotati families with the ingredients to bake cookies at home.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Our police department has a robust social media presence. We use Facebook and have a following of 3,500 “friends,” as well as Instagram with over 1,800 followers. Our posts consist of arrests, crime prevention tips “dog of the month,” “Traffic Tuesday,” arrests and more. For emergencies we use Nixle alerts to text safety information. The goal of the social media outreach is to use different platforms to keep different segments of our residents informed.



facebook.com/cotatipolice



[@cotatipolicedepartment](https://instagram.com/cotatipolicedepartment)



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for alerts and advisories**