

# TELLURIDE MARSHAL'S DEPARTMENT



## 2020 Annual Report

presented by

**Chief Josh Comte**

Memorandum

To: Town Manager Ross Herzog

From: Chief Josh Comte

Date: May 3, 2021

Re: Telluride Marshal's Department 2020 Annual Report

It is my pleasure to present the Telluride Marshal's Department 2020 Annual Report which provides an overview of the department's staffing, service demands, the status of crime and traffic in the community and the impact of special events on services and budget.

Like the rest of the nation, Telluride was heavily impacted by the global pandemic. Dealing with a pandemic and public health orders was something new for everyone, including the Telluride Marshal's Department. Early on, TMO staff refrained from proactive work handling most calls via a phone call where applicable. Given the constantly changing environment with the pandemic, this decision was made to keep TMO staff, and the public, healthy and maintain a department that could effectively respond to calls and perform our daily functions. Following directions from the State as well as County Public Health officials, the Telluride Marshal's Department took an education first approach when dealing with violations or questions regarding Public Health Orders.

In another first for the Town of Telluride, during the summer months, the north side of Colorado Ave was closed to traffic as to allow outdoor dining. This had a very positive impact on those businesses on Colorado Ave but had negative impacts on surrounding neighborhoods due to increased traffic. All westbound traffic was pushed to Pacific Ave or Columbia Ave resulting in complaints of speeding and other traffic violations. Telluride also saw extremely high levels of tourists in town over summer, which only added to the heavy traffic flow throughout town.

The Class "A" categories of offenses that constitute Violent Crime and Serious Property Crimes saw a dramatic decrease from the previous year and once again, was our lowest number in the last five years. Property Crimes remain the highest number of the Class "A" crimes and were slightly higher than 2019 but are still the second lowest year over the past 5 years. Class "A" crimes are the more serious of offenses and include Homicide, Sexual Assault, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft and Auto Theft. Please see Appendix A for further.

Class "B" offenses include Trespass, Disorderly Conduct, Harassment, Liquor Violations, Vandalism and Criminal Mischief, Drugs and Failure to Appear and All Other. In this category, we saw a significant decrease to 97 total cases compared to 138 in 2019. This was again a 5 year low.

In the area of arrests, 2020 saw the lowest number of arrests in 5 years with a total of 57 adult arrests. The only category that saw an increase was in vandalism. All other categories saw significant decreases the most substantial decreases appearing in arrests for Failure to Appear, Drug Offenses, and Disorderly Conduct.

Calls for service, as recorded by our regional dispatch center WestCo, saw a 1.5 % decrease in 2020 from 2019. Calls for service include not only citizen requests for assistance, but proactive, officer-initiated activity such as traffic stops and parking enforcement, building checks, citizen assists, and other circumstances discovered by officers while on patrol. Responding to community concerns accounts for most of our officers self-initiated activity with the focus being on quality of life issues for residents and visitors.

In a typical year, we would enjoy a large number of festivals however, due to COVID, there were no festivals held in town during 2020.

During 2020, the Telluride Marshal's Department hired 6 new employees, 4 Deputies and 2 Code Enforcement Officers. These hires helped us fill much needed vacancies but training new employees is a time-consuming process with each deputy participating in our Field Training Program for approx. 4 months and Code Enforcement for 2 months.

We at the Telluride Marshal's Department would like to thank Mayor Delanie Young, the members of Town Council, Town Manager Ross Herzog, and the citizens of Telluride for their continued support over the previous year. I would also like to thank the Telluride Marshal's staff for their professionalism, dedication to the community, and flexibility in dealing with all the challenges 2020 presented.

We will continue to work with, and serve, the community, protect the constitutional rights of all citizens, and defend the quality of life enjoyed in Telluride.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Comte", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Josh Comte

Telluride Marshal's Department

\*Thank you to Joyce Kimball for her hard work and dedication in compiling the crime data presented in the report.

## **CRIME, TRAFFIC, and PARKING in TELLURIDE**

Calls for service handled by our dispatch center decreased from 4,402 in 2019 to 4,336 in 2020. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row of a reduction in calls for service.

As noted in Appendix "A", the combined Class "A" categories of Violent Crimes and Property Crimes saw a decrease overall. For Crimes Against Persons, we dropped to a total of 10, down from 16 in 2019. All of these were in the Assault category. For Crimes Against Property, we increased to 87 in 2020, up from 85 in 2019. In the section, we increased by 3 crimes in Vandalism and up 1 crime in Theft.

When looking at arrests made for both Class "A" and Class "B" offenses, the number was drastically reduced from 109 in 2019 to 57 in 2020. There are many reasons for this drop in arrests. Due to COVID restrictions, TMO staff was limiting their proactive enforcement in order to remain healthy. Second, San Miguel County Jail imposed restrictions on what crimes they would take arrestees for. Third, due to Public Health Orders, many local businesses were closed and for a decent amount of time, large gatherings were not allowed, and people were asked to remain in their home.

Case reports completed for the year were down from 409 in 2019 to 306 in 2020. This also was a 5-year low.

Accident reports also saw a decrease in 2020 from 2019. In 2020 there were 86 traffic accident reports completed by TMO staff compared to 151 in 2019.

As a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Critical Incident Investigation Team, we continue to participate in the investigation of officer-involved shootings that occur in the area. On average, the team is called out at least once a year to investigate critical incidents in our judicial district. Our Detective did not respond to any callouts this year.

For the majority of 2020, we had two Code Enforcement Officers, one of whom was brand new. A third was hired however resigned from the department a short time later. Per our MOU with San Miguel County, TMO Code Enforcement continued to assist with animal calls in San Miguel County.

As a tourist destination, the Telluride Marshal's Department maintains the philosophy that public education in regard to traffic, municipal ordinances, and parking regulations is the first level of enforcement in most circumstances. Issuing verbal and written warnings provides the officer the opportunity to inform and educate the community and visitors of ordinances specific to Telluride in a non-punitive manner. Telluride saw unprecedented visitors during the summer of 2020, most of which drove to the area. Additionally, Colorado Ave was turned into a one-way road with the north side closed to allow outdoor dining. This caused traffic to be diverted to Columbia Ave and Pacific Ave. Stops signs were added at all intersections for east/ westbound traffic on Columbia Ave in an effort to reduce speeding. Responding to public concerns about traffic complaints and other public nuisance issues, deputies issued a total of 188 county/state and municipal court citations compared to 203 from the previous year. This number is significant, again due to COVID, TMO refrained from proactive activity during the early months of the pandemic. Parking citations saw a significant decrease as well. In 2019, there were 4,762 citations issued. In 2020, only 1,082 parking citations were issued. Out of the 1,082

citations, 687 were parking tickets, 76 were voided, and 319 were warnings. Again, a main reason for this reduction was due to COVID. For approximately three months (March- June), the Town of Telluride did not enforce parking violations. Additionally, our ticketing system was malfunctioning and unable to be used causing additional challenges.

In an effort to work with the community, Directed Patrol remains a priority for the department when not responding to calls for service. Directed patrols place deputies in designated geographic areas in response to citizen complaints. These complaints can range from traffic related issues to criminal and nuisance related activity. Along with traffic enforcement, foot patrols became a focus for our department with deputies conducting two to three foot patrols a shift.

In collaboration with the Telluride R1 School District, the Telluride Marshal's Department was able to put a full-time school resource officer (SRO) on campus. This was made possible by being awarded a federal grant which helped partially fund the position. Even with the intermediate and high school being remote for most of the year, our SRO was still extremely busy responding to a total of 108 calls between August 2020-June 2021. During the 2020/2021 school year, there was one citation issued for a minor in possession and there were zero arrests/ detentions made. Of the 108 calls, they ranged from assisting in parent/ teacher meetings, vaping/tobacco use on campus, fighting, mentoring, assisting with traffic control, and suicidal subjects. Having a full-time SRO was an area we had hoped to improve on going into 2020 and I believe we have accomplished this. Through the SRO program, we will continue to work on building positive relationships with students, faculty, and the community. Please see Appendix D for a further breakdown.

In conclusion, it is important to point out that raw statistical data provides only a partial picture of crime taking place in our community and it is sometimes difficult to fully understand how the data relates to increases or decreases in population, or to the number of people visiting and transiting the area. Appendix A provides an historic overview of crime statistics as they relate to the Town of Telluride.

It should also be noted that human behavior does not recognize geographic or jurisdictional boundaries and any town, regardless of its size, has the potential of experiencing crime. Fortunately, our overall crime numbers remain low, and through a continued partnership with the community, we can work together to provide a high level of public safety.

### **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system managed by the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center (WestCo) compiles data regarding calls for service; any situation that requires a deputy marshal and/or code enforcement response. Calls for service include citizen requests for assistance of the Telluride Marshal's Department, officer-initiated activity called into dispatch by deputy marshals and code enforcement, or calls assigned by the Marshal's Department. CAD calls received from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 totaled 4,336. (See Appendix B).

The top twelve types of calls handled by the Marshal's Department in 2019 were the following:

- 1) Traffic Offense
- 2) Phone Call Requests
- 3) Directed Patrol
- 4) Fire/EMS Assist
- 5) 911 Calls \*\*
- 6) Citizen Assist
- 7) L.E. Agency Assist
- 8) Disturbance
- 9) Lost or Found Property
- 10) Parking Problem
- 11) Municipal Code Violation
- 12) Alarm

\*\* Additionally, we had 42 calls for Public Health Order. At the beginning of the pandemic, there was no easy way to account for the number of PHO calls we had as we did not have a CAD section for public crime. Eventually (approx. April 2020) calls for Public Health Order violations were given the tag "Public Order Crimes." From April 15, 2020, thru the end of the year, Telluride Marshal's Dept. responded to 42 of these types of calls. It should be noted that CAD does not differentiate between people calling in asking for guidance or questions related to the Public Health Orders versus those calls regarding violations.

Calls for service only provide a snapshot of officer activity throughout the work shift. Our deputies routinely engage in unencumbered patrol, traffic enforcement, bar checks, building checks, foot patrols, crowd management, and involvement in community service events that don't often get logged by dispatch. Deputies are frequently the first point of contact for citizens who require help or as a resource for non-crime related referrals.

In past years, the Daily Field Activity Report (DFAR) Time Study showed differences between day and night shifts in how they spent their time. Previously, the typical day shift patrol differed drastically from that of night shift due to the nature of calls handled, the time available for officer initiated activity and directed patrol, and the number of patrol deputies assigned per shift. The day shift deputy investigates a higher percentage of criminal reports due to the delayed discovery and/or reporting of crimes until business hours, the increased commuter/ visitor population during the shift, more cars involved in traffic accidents, and the opportunity to further investigate reports during the day.

Day shift deputies are also tasked with more administrative duties such as vehicle and equipment maintenance. More time dedicated to activity such as criminal investigations and administrative responsibilities allows less unencumbered time for officer-initiated activity such as traffic enforcement and foot patrol.

In 2020, the two shifts were much more equal in how they accounted for their time. The two largest categories for both shifts were unencumbered patrol and traffic enforcement. On day shift, these two categories accounted for 38% while on night shift they accounted for 31%. An area where there was some difference was on Investigation/ Follow-up. On day shift this accounted for 15% of their time while

it only accounted for 9% of the time for night shift. Another difference was in foot patrols. Foot patrols accounted for 4% of day shifts activities while it accounted for 12% of night shift.

Night shift tends to have more in-progress calls requiring additional personnel to safely respond and provide the necessary backup. More patrol deputies on the night shift allow for increased officer-initiated activity and directed patrol. Appendix "C", the 2019 DFAR Time Study, provides a sample breakdown of the time dedication of a patrol deputy on day shift and night shift.

APPENDIX A

TELLURIDE MARSHAL'S DEPARTMENT  
National Incident-Based Reporting System  
2020 Crime Totals



5 Year NIBRS Crime Comparison

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	20	13	18	16	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Robbery	0	0	2	0	0
Burglary	11	2	11	2	1
Theft	86	86	80	51	52
Auto Theft	7	1	5	1	0
Vandalism	44	21	17	31	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>87</b>
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Disorderly Conduct	28	17	18	24	25
Drug Offense	13	10	16	27	3
D.U.I.	83	32	17	11	6
Harassment	38	27	42	31	34
Liquor Violation	28	8	15	16	8
Trespass	36	23	31	29	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>97</b>

Municipal Citations and Parking Tickets

County/State Citations	2017	2018	2019	2020	Parking Tickets	2017	2018	2019	2020
	84	116	102	57		4,964	5,502	2,653	687
<b>Muni Citations</b>	207	153	101	131	<b>Voided</b>	343	258	206	76
<b>Total Citations</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>Warning</b>	<b>5,301</b>	<b>5,016</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>2020 Municipal Citation Breakdown:</b>									
Traffic: 89    Animal: 23    Other: 19					<b>TOTALS</b>	10,608	10,776	4,762	1,082

**5 Year Comparison - ADULT ARREST TOTALS (Does not include Juvenile arrests)**

ARREST CATEGORY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Crime Against Person / Property	28	14	22	20	12
Disorderly Conduct	15	12	18	16	9
Drug Offense	13	8	8	16	2
D.U.I.	83	32	17	11	6
Liquor Violation	4	5	8	10	7
Vandalism	6	0	2	2	4
Failure to Appear & All Other	36	30	46	36	17
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>57</b>

**Year to Year Comparison**

INCIDENT TYPE	2019	2020
Assault	16	10
Burglary	2	1
Detox Holds	1	0
Disorderly Conduct	24	25
Disturbances & Disturbing the Peace	119	152
Drugs	27	3
D.U.I.	11	6
Harassment	31	34
Juvenile Diversion Referrals	11	6
Liquor Violation	16	8
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0
Sex Offense – Other	8	7
Suspicious Person / Circumstance	67	52
Theft	51	52
Traffic Accidents	151	86
Trespass	29	21
Vandalism	31	34

Case Report #'s per year*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	506	413	415	409	306

\*Case report numbers may be drawn for criminal reports, incidents, accidents, agency assists, etc.

APPENDIX B

2020 CAD\* CALLS LOGGED

BY

INCIDENT TYPE



12 Most Frequent Radio and Telephone Calls through WESTCO Regional Dispatch Center

Year and % of Call Volume	2020	% of TOTAL Calls Rcvd.		2019
TRAFFIC OFFENSE	570	13.1 %		450
PHONE CALL REQUEST	535	12.3 %		465
DIRECTED PATROL	392	9.0 %		488
FIRE / EMS ASSIST	253	5.8 %		323
911 CALLS **	183	4.4 %		122
CITIZEN ASSIST	172	3.9 %		141
L.E. AGENCY ASSIST	153	3.5 %		170
DISTURBANCE	152	3.5 %		119
LOST OR FOUND PROPERTY	141	3.2 %		149
PARKING PROBLEM	137	3.1 %		196
MUNICIPAL CODE VIOLATION	128	2.9 %		235
ALARM	112	2.5 %		120
<b>SUBTOTAL of 2020 Top 12</b>	<b>2,928</b>			<b>2,978</b>
<b>TOTAL reported calls via Dispatch in 2020</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>1.5 % Decrease in CAD calls from 2019</b>		<b>4,402</b>

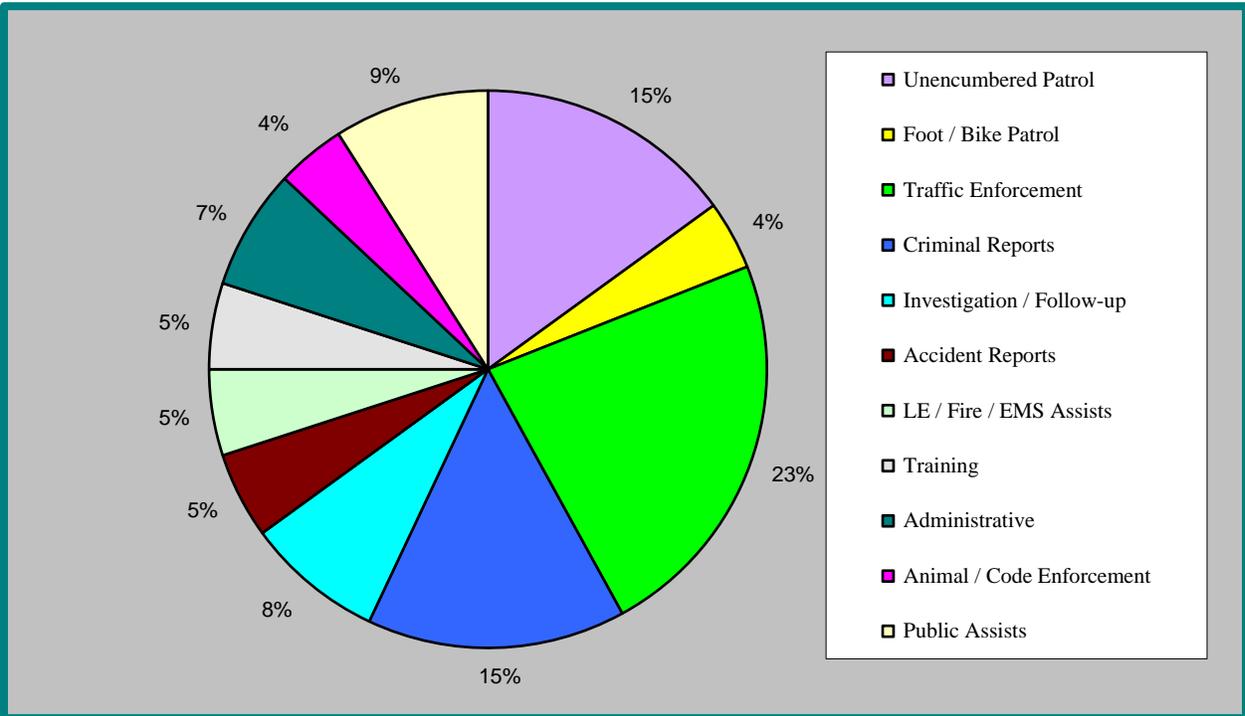
\* CAD = Computer Aided Dispatch

\*\* 911 Calls include 911 hang-ups, misdials and open lines.

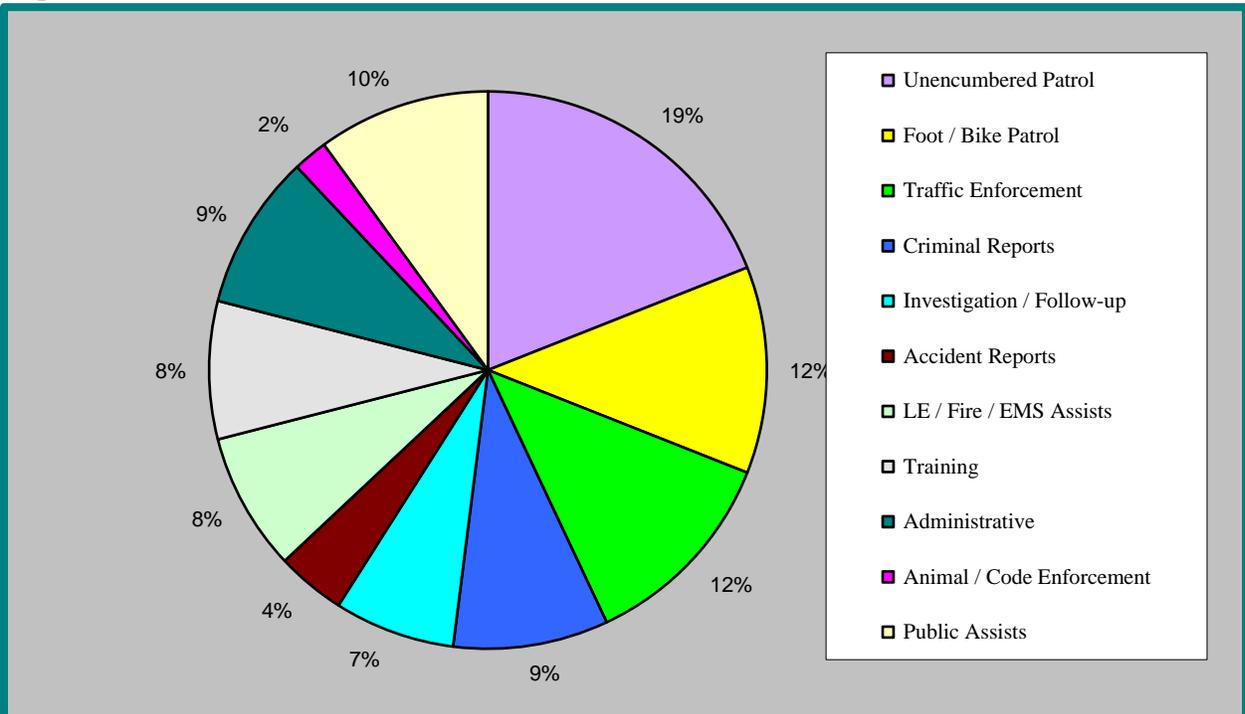
## APPENDIX C

### 2020 DAILY FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT TIME STUDY

#### Day Shift



#### Night Shift



## Appendix D

<b>TELLURIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>			<b>Month to Month Report 2020 -2021</b>								
<b>SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER</b>	Aug'20	Sep'20	Oct'20	Nov'20	Dec'20	Jan'21	Feb'21	Mar'21	Apr'21	May'21	Yr End 2020-21
Assist Elementary School									1		1
Assist Intermediate School						1				3	4
Assist Middle School										1	1
Off campus Presentations				2							2
On Campus Presentations/Zoom							1		4		5
STAFF INCIDENT	1		2					2	1		6
Vandalisms											na
Tobacco/Vape Violations								1			1
Alcohol/Marijuana						1		1	2	1	5
Narcotics Incidents										1	1
Suspicious incident								1		1	2
Threat								1	1		2
Weapons				1							1
Suicidal subject/attempt						2		1	2		5
Theft					1	1			1		3
Sex Assault Report			1	1				1			3
Child Abuse Report										1	1
Assault			1								1
Truancy issue-assist TSD		4					1	1	1		7
Disturbance/Fight								1			1
Bullying/harassment						1	1			1	3
Parent Conf/Meeting			3	2	3	2	4				14
Damaged Property								1			1
Domestic Violence									1	1	2
Asst. Other Agency		2				1	1				4
On Campus Traffic Accidents											na
Lost property									1		1
Direct Traffic		1									1
Behavioral Problems											na
Asst Juvenile Diversion		2									2
Welfare check							1				1
Asst Social Services		3				1	1				5
Dolphin House interviews			1					1			2
Parent/staff Crime Report									<u>1</u>		1



**High School**

Ninth Grade	78
Tenth Grade	66
Eleventh Grade	75
Twelfth Grade	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>TSD total students</b>	<b>898</b>
TSD staff (estimate from HR)	150