

TELLURIDE MARSHAL'S DEPARTMENT



2021 Annual Report

presented by

Chief Josh Comte

Memorandum

To: Town Manager Scott Robson

From: Chief Josh Comte

Date: 4/19/22

Re: Telluride Marshal's Department 2021 Annual Report

It is my pleasure to present the Telluride Marshal's Department 2021 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.

2021 was one of the busiest years to date for the Telluride Marshal's Office, despite COVID and COVID restrictions that were still in place. Crimes Against Persons (Homicide, Forcible Rape, Assault) stayed the same as 2020 with 10 reported cases and was tied for lowest number over a 5-year period. There was a slight increase in Crimes Against Property (Robbery, Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft, Vandalism) compared to 2019 and 2020. In 2021 we had a total of 89 Crimes Against Property. This was up from 87 in 2020 and 85 in 2019 but was still lower than both 2017 (110) and 2018 (113). We also saw an increase in Crimes Against Society (Disorderly Conduct, Drug Offense, DUI, Harassment, Liquor Violation, Trespass) up to 106 in 2021 compared to 97 in 2020. This was the second lowest year in the last 5 years.

Arrests were slightly up as well in 2021 to 66 from a previous low in 2020 of 57. This is the second lowest year for arrests in the last 5 years. Some areas where arrests were higher were Crimes Against Person/Property (16) compared to 12 in 2020. DUI arrest went up to 14 in 2021, compared to 6 in 2020 and 11 in 2019.

The number of case reports was the highest in the last five years. In 2021, TMO took a total of 521 reports. The second highest year was 2018 which was 415. Our calls for service were also drastically higher in 2021 than 2020. In 2021, TMO had 6,416 calls for service compared to 4,336 in 2020. We saw increases in almost every category of calls. Calls for service include not only citizen requests for assistance, but proactive, office-initiated activity such as traffic 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.

The Town of Telluride returned to some form of normalcy during the summer with the return of festivals. The Telluride Bluegrass Festival changed its format from a 4-day event to a smaller, 7-day event. Due to the smaller daily numbers, TMO did not hire reserve officers to assist. The 7-day festival did put a significant strain on staff due to having to work the festival in addition to their normal work days. The Telluride Blues and Brews festival operated as normal. TMO did hire reserve officers for Blues and Brews but due to staffing shortages throughout the State, only 5 were able to assist. Both festivals were successful and there were minimal incidents.

During 2021, we had 2 deputies leave the department but were able to fill the vacancies a short time later. For most of 2021, we remained down 1 Code Enforcement position. As training new hires is a

time-consuming process, many of the new hires were not on solo patrol until late 2021 or early 2022. We were also budgeted for a 12th sworn position which will be a 3rd Sergeant spot. This position was approved for the 2022 budget and testing will be held shortly.

We continue to deal with increased traffic, especially in the mornings and afternoons during the school year. TMO worked with the Telluride School District and implemented a crossing guard. Not only has this eased some of the traffic related issues but has also provided a safer, and more controlled environment, for students and parents crossing.

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 2021 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 purple ink, appearing to read 'Josh Comte', with a large loop at the end.

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 increased from 4,336 in 2020 to 6,416 in 2021. This was the highest call volume in at least the last 5 years.

As noted in Appendix "A", for Crimes Against Persons we stayed the same from the previous year with a total of 10. All 10 of these were in the Assault category. For Crimes Against Property, we increased to 89 in 2021, up from 87 in 2020. In this section, we increased by 12 in Theft, 1 in Robbery, 1 in Burglary, and 1 in auto theft. We dropped 13 in Vandalism.

When looking at arrests made for both Class "A" and Class "B" offenses, the number increased from 57 in 2020 to 66 in 2021. There are many reasons for this increase in arrests. We noted increases in DUI, Disorderly Conduct and Crimes Against Person/Property.

Case reports completed for the year were up substantially from 306 in 2020 to 521 in 2021. This also was a 5-year high by over 100 more reports. This is significant because this impacts the amount of time deputies spent patrolling.

Accident reports also saw a significant increase in 2021 from 2020. In 2020 there were 86 traffic accident reports completed by TMO staff compared to 115 in 2021.

As a member of the 7th 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 responded to one call-out.

For the majority of 2021, 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. For the second year in a row, Telluride saw unprecedented visitors during the summer of 2021, most of which drove to the area. Traffic related issues remained a high priority during the summer months. TMO Deputies, responding to public concerns about traffic complaints and other public nuisance issues, issued a total of 261 county/state and municipal court citations compared to 188 in 2020. This was the second highest year since 2018. In response to community concerns, TMO made 826 traffic stops compared to 570 in 2020. Parking citations saw a significant increase as well. In 2020, there were 1,082 citations/ warnings issued. In 2021, 2,492 parking citations/warnings were issued. Out of the 2,492 citations, 2209 were parking tickets, 124 were voided, and 159 were warnings. In April of 2021, TMO implemented a new permitting and ticketing system. This has been well received by both the public and Code Enforcement.

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 multiple foot patrols a shift. Our directed patrols increased to 890 in 2021 from 392 in 2020.

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. The SRO position is extremely busy responding to calls on -campus, attending sporting events, and other school functions. The SRO also mentored 2 students. Lockdowns were initiated twice during the 2021 school year. Having the SRO on campus allowed these lockdowns to happen much quicker providing a safer environment for the students and staff. Through the SRO program, we will continue to work on building positive relationships with students, faculty, and the community.

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, 2021 to December 31, 2021 totaled 6,416. (See Appendix B).

The top twelve types of calls handled by the Marshal's Department in 2021 were the following:

- 1) Directed Patrol
- 2) Traffic Offenses
- 3) Phone Call Request
- 4) Lost or Found Property
- 5) Security Checks

- 6) 911 Calls**
- 7) Citizen Assist
- 8) Parking Problem
- 9) L.E Agency Assist
- 10) Fire/EMS Assist
- 11) Disturbance
- 12) Alarm

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 2021, the two shifts were slightly different from how they spent a shift. The two largest categories for day shift was unencumbered patrol and traffic enforcement. On day shift, these two categories accounted for 55% while on night shift they accounted for 25%. An area where there was some similarities was on Criminal Reports (10% and 15%). Another difference was in foot patrols. Foot patrols accounted for 5% 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 2021 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
2021 Crime Totals



5 Year NIBRS Crime Comparison

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	13	18	16	10	10
TOTAL	13	18	16	10	10
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Robbery	0	2	0	0	1
Burglary	2	11	2	1	2
Theft	86	80	51	52	64
Auto Theft	1	5	1	0	1
Vandalism	21	17	31	34	21
TOTAL	110	113	85	87	89
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Disorderly Conduct	17	18	24	25	14
Drug Offense	10	16	27	3	8
D.U.I.	32	17	11	6	14
Harassment	27	42	31	34	33
Liquor Violation	8	15	16	8	9
Trespass	23	31	29	21	28
TOTAL	117	139	138	97	106

Municipal Citations and Parking Tickets

County/State Citations	2018	2019	2020	2021	Parking Tickets	2018	2019	2020	2021
	116	102	57	63		5,502	2,653	687	2209
Muni Citations	153	101	131	198	Voided	258	206	76	124
Total Citations	269	203	188	261	Warning	5,016	1,903	319	159
2021 Municipal Citation Breakdown:									
Traffic: 176 Animal: 5 Other: 17					TOTALS	10,776	4,762	1,082	2,492

5 Year Comparison - Adult Arrest Totals (Does NOT include Juvenile arrests or Diversion)

ARREST CATEGORY	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Crime Against Person / Property	14	22	20	12	16
Disorderly Conduct	12	18	16	9	10
Drug Offense	8	8	16	2	1
D.U.I.	32	17	11	6	14
Liquor Violation	5	8	10	7	1
Vandalism	0	2	2	4	1
Failure to Appear & All Other	30	46	36	17	23
TOTALS	101	119	109	57	66

Year to Year Comparison

INCIDENT TYPE	2020	2021
Assault	10	10
Burglary	1	2
Disorderly Conduct	25	14
Disturbances & Disturbing the Peace	152	162
Drugs	3	8
D.U.I.	6	14
Fraud	17	29
Harassment	34	33
Juvenile Diversion Referrals	6	6
Liquor Violation	8	9
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	1
Sex Offense – Other	7	14
Suspicious Person / Circumstance	52	45
Theft	52	64
Traffic Accidents	86	115
Trespass	21	28
Vandalism	34	21

Case Report #'s per year*	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	413	415	409	306	521

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

APPENDIX B

2021 CAD* CALLS LOGGED

BY

INCIDENT TYPE



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

Year and % of Call Volume	2021	% of TOTAL Calls Rcvd.		2020
DIRECTED PATROL	890	13.8 %		392
TRAFFIC OFFENSE	826	12.8 %		570
PHONE CALL REQUEST	386	6.0 %		535
LOST OR FOUND PROPERTY	381	5.9 %		141
SECURITY CHECKS	339	5.2 %		59
911 CALLS **	284	4.4 %		183
CITIZEN ASSIST	266	4.1 %		172
PARKING PROBLEM	250	3.8 %		137
L.E. AGENCY ASSIST	182	2.8 %		153
FIRE / EMS ASSIST	177	2.7 %		253
DISTURBANCE	162	2.5 %		152
ALARM	135	2.1 %		112
SUBTOTAL of 2021 Top 12	4,278	66.6 %		2,928
TOTAL reported calls via Dispatch in 2021	6,416	47.97 % Increase in CAD calls from 2020		4,336

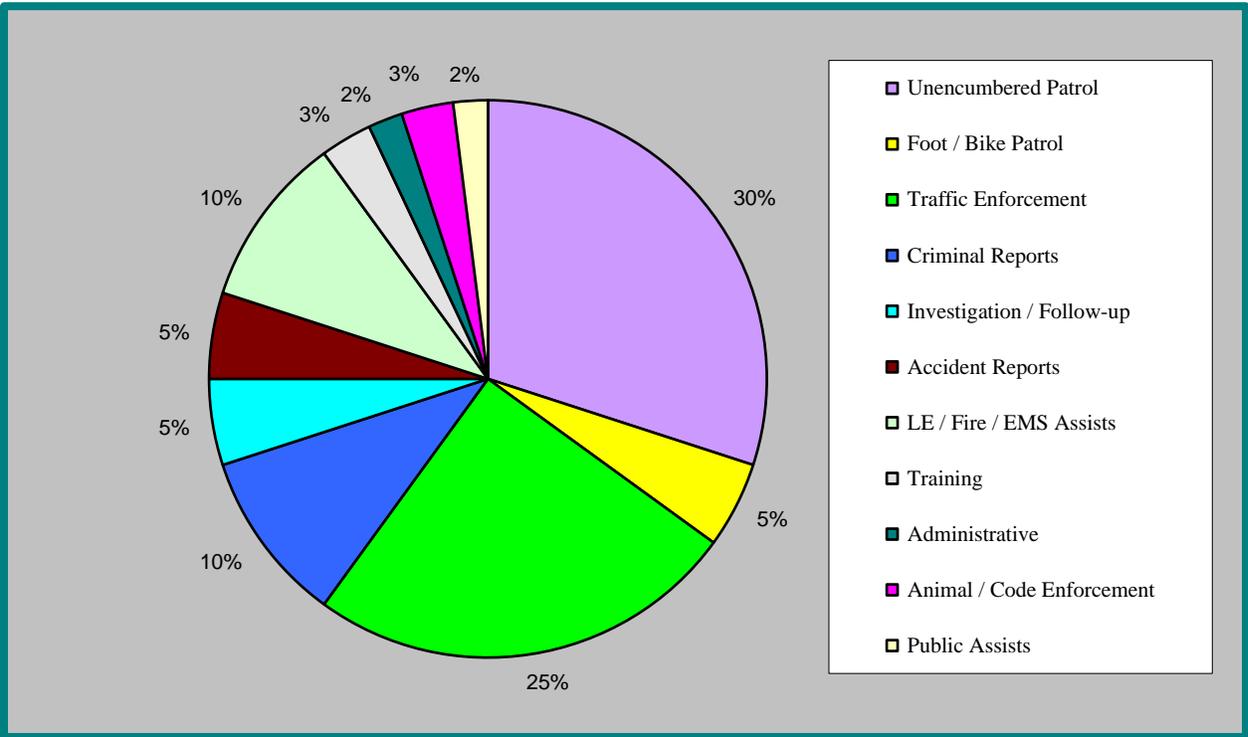
* CAD = Computer Aided Dispatch

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

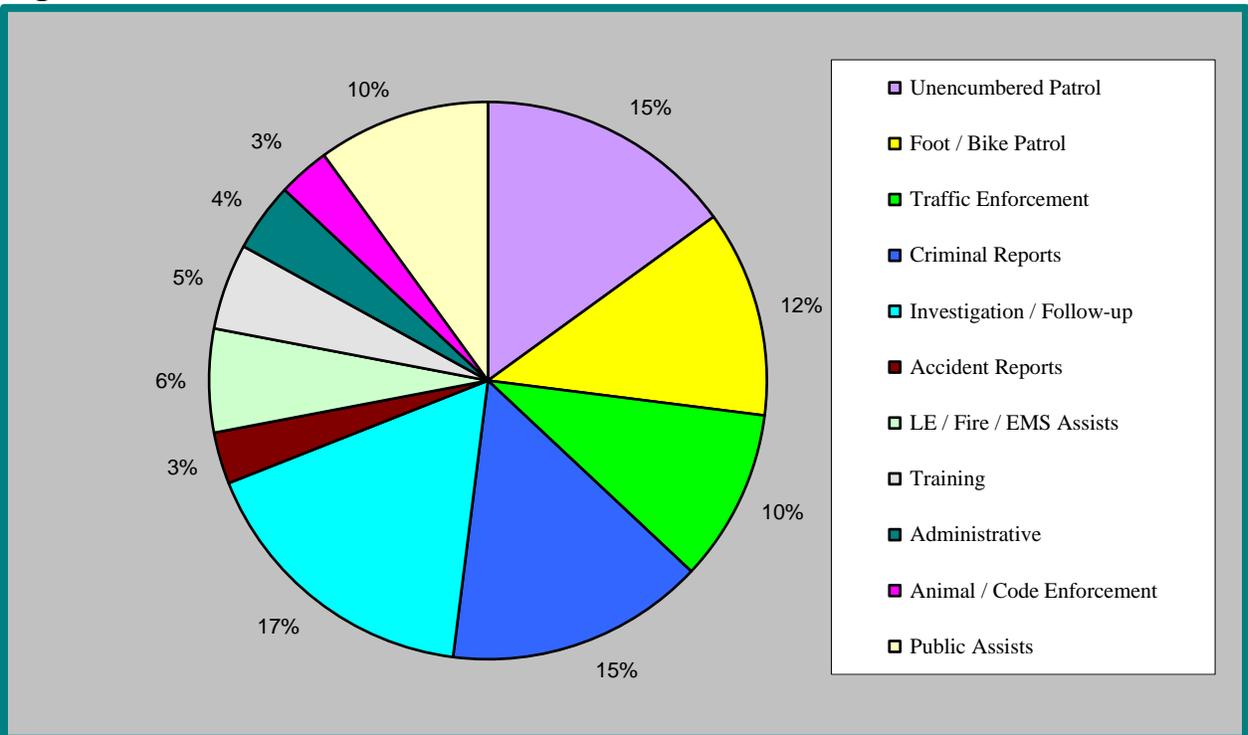
APPENDIX C

2021 DAILY FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT TIME STUDY

Day Shift



Night Shift



APPENDIX D



Telluride Marshal's Department Special Events 2021

The Town of Telluride enjoys over 40 scheduled special events per year. Smaller scale events require minor adjustments in personnel work schedules and/or the addition of extra-duty assignments to ensure the safety and welfare of the community. The large-scale events, on the other hand, require considerable planning and collaboration between several town departments, with the Marshal's Department drawing from a pool of reserve officers to supplement personnel demands. The three festivals that typically create the most significant demand on department resources are Bluegrass, the Ride and Blues & Brews.

Major festival days in 2021 totaled 10, with an attendance level of approximately 45,854. A total of 5 Reserve Officers working 150 hours, department staff working 768.50 regular and 309.25 overtime hours were required to provide the necessary law enforcement services for the two major events in 2021. Reserve officer pay and department overtime costs totaled \$20,712.50. (See below chart).

2021	Bluegrass	Ride	Blues & Brews	Totals
Concert Days	7 days (2 Weekends)	N/A	3 days	10 days
Number in Attendance	20,174		25,680	45,854
# of Reserve Officers	0	N/A	5	5
Reserve hours worked	0		150	150
Cost of Reserves	0		\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00
Reg. hours TMO Staff	567	N/A	201.50	768.50
O.T. hours TMO Staff	203		106.25	309.25
O.T. costs TMO Staff *	\$10,150.00		\$ 5,312.50	15,462.50
Custodial Arrests	0	N/A	1	1

* The mean average overtime rate for TMO sworn staff was estimated at \$50.00 per hour.