

2023

TELLURIDE MARSHAL'S DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

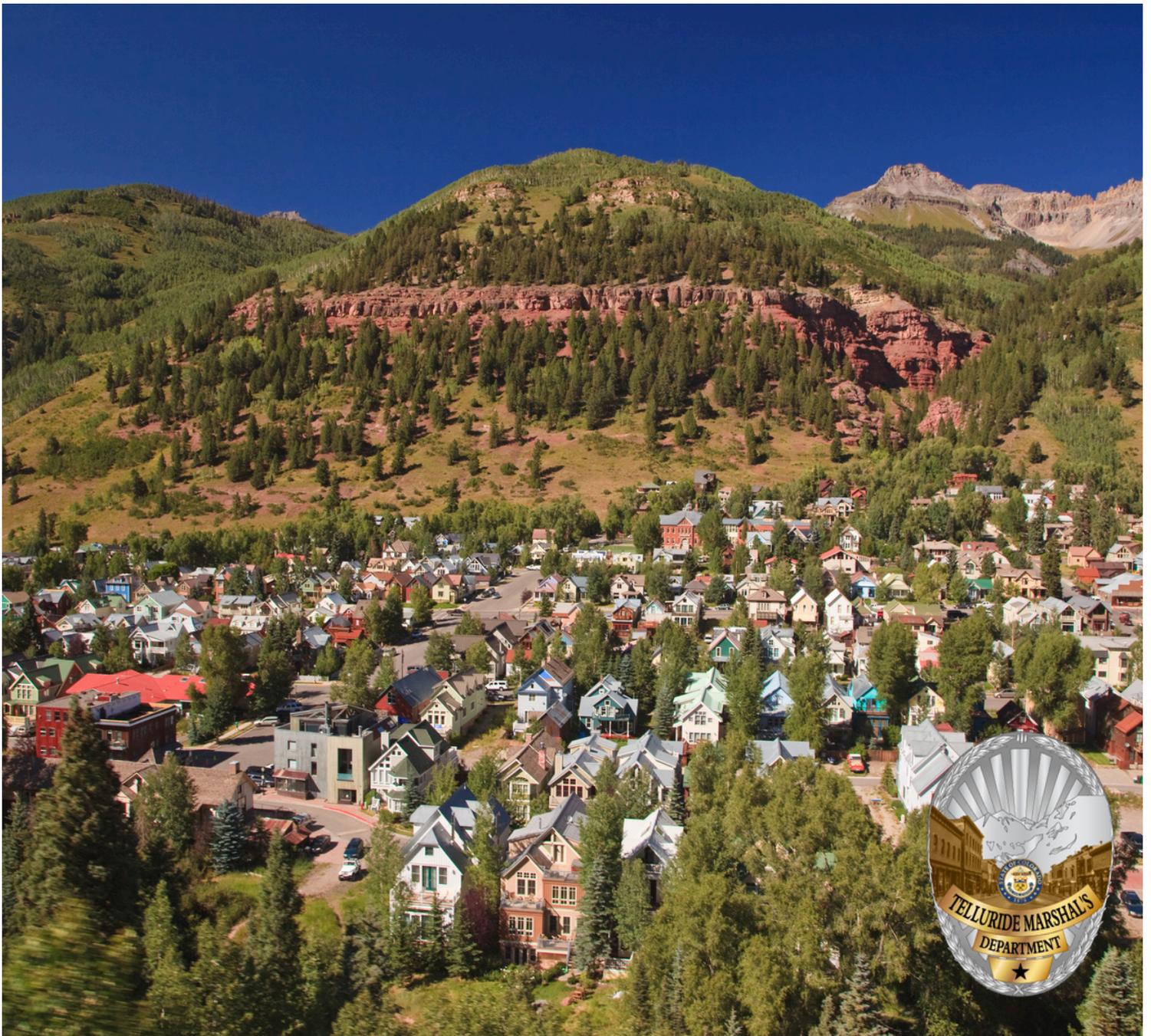


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A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF

It is my pleasure to provide you with the Telluride Marshals Department 2023 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. Overall, we saw a decrease in some categories with increases in others. Festivals continued with their normal operations and capacity, and we all enjoyed a successful festival season. Recruitment and retention continue to be a challenge which is consistent with national trends. We continue to improve our relationship with the community and seek new and innovative ways to build positive relationships.



Chief Josh Comte
2023 Marshal's Department Annual Report

MARSHAL'S DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE

The Telluride Marshal's Department ended 2023 with 10 total sworn deputies with 3 open positions (1 Sergeant and 2 Deputies vacancies). One of the 10 deputy positions was a new hire who began the Technical College of The Rockies Law Enforcement Academy in January of 2024. This recruit is slated to graduate in May of 2024. In November of 2023, we completed a testing process for our one vacant Sergeant position and found a great candidate. This Sergeant started with us in February of 2024, filling our last vacant Sergeant position. We continue to actively recruit both laterals and recruits for our 2 vacant Deputy Marshal positions. We have found success in patience and will continue to seek out the best candidates for our department and community.

For Code Enforcement, we enjoyed much of 2023 with a full staff (2 positions). Towards the end of 2023 we lost one of our code enforcement officers but were able to fill the position in early 2024.

Like many other law enforcement agencies nationwide, we are experiencing staffing challenges. These shortages have a significant impact on staff. Staff had to work additional shifts, often work by themselves, which can lead to a decrease in morale. Despite these challenges and shortages, the Telluride Marshals Department remains committed to providing a high level of service and professionalism to our community.

Position	Filled	Open
Chief Marshal	1	0
Patrol Sergeant	3	0
Deputy Marshal	6	2
School Resource Officer	1	0
Code Enforcement Officer	2	0
Administrative	2	0
TOTAL	15	4

Chief Josh Comte

2023 Marshal's Department Annual Report

RECRUITMENT UPDATE

As previously mentioned, retention and recruitment continue to be a challenge not only for our department, but departments nationwide. We currently have 2 deputy marshal positions. For the Deputy Marshal Position, we have had these positions open since December of 2022 and continue to get small numbers of applicants. Staff members have traveled the State speaking at academies in efforts to get our name out there.

Working collaboratively with our HR Department and Communications team, we continue to seek new ways to recruit. In 2022 we created a recruitment video for our department which has been widely viewed and continues to be routinely posted on social media. We currently post job listings on various social media sites, newspapers throughout the State of Colorado as well as nationally, other online job postings and recruitment websites are also utilized.

Although we are down 2 positions, our staff remains committed to providing the highest level of service to our community. Staff is routinely asked to pick-up extra shifts and often work alone. They do this without complaint. Despite being short staffed, we are committed to finding the right fit for our department and community.



WESTCO DISPATCH

The Telluride Marshals Department utilizes Western Colorado Regional Dispatch (WestCo) for our dispatch services. WestCo, which is based in Montrose, Co currently oversees 21 agencies to include both law enforcement and Fire Departments. Recently, a “mountain channel” was created to streamline services to 5 law enforcement agencies from WestCo. These agencies include Telluride Marshals Department, Mountain Village Police Department, Ouray County Sheriff’s Office, Ouray Police Department, and Ridgway Marshals Office.



Staffing WestCo Dispatch

WestCo is experiencing the same recruitment and retention challenges as law enforcement. In 2023, WestCo, on average, had 18 of their 23 positions filled.

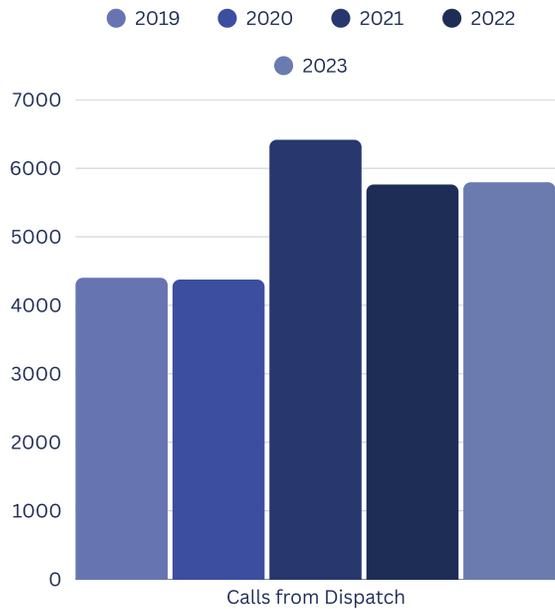


CALL VOLUME



Calls from Dispatch

In 2023, the Telluride Marshals Department had 5,796 reported calls from Dispatch. This is up .05% from the previous year where we had 5,763 calls. Based on call volume from the past 5 years, it is evident that our call volume continues to remain high and higher demands are being placed on our personnel.



CRIME IN 2023

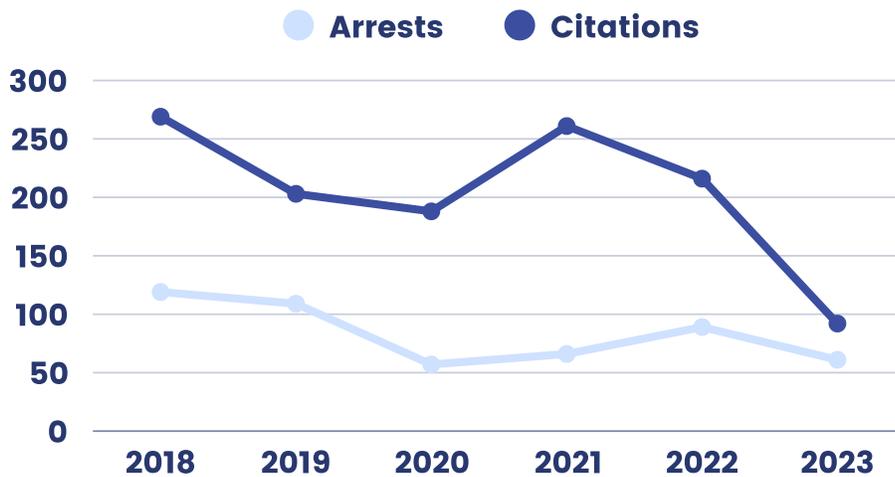
Overall, crime throughout the Town of Telluride has seen a marked increase year over year with some record highs and concerning trends as it pertains to assaults and hit and runs.

Crime Category	Total	Details
Crimes Against People	11 (incl. 1 Forcible Rape)	I am happy to report that in 2023, our assault crimes dropped back down to 10. We had 1 report of Forcible Rape which was the first time reported in the last five years. Overall, we had 11 reported crimes in the Crimes Against Persons category (10 assaults and 1 forcible rape).
Crimes Against Property	104 (5-year high)	We also saw significant increases in Crimes Against Property with our biggest jump in Theft. In 2022 we have 56 reported thefts compared to 77 in 2023. This jump, along with 3 reported stolen vehicles, pushed us to a 5 year high in Crimes Against Property at 104 compared to 84 in 2022.
Crimes Against Society	121	For Crimes Against Society, we had our second lowest year in the 5 years at 81 compared to 121 in 2022. We saw decreases in all crimes withing Crimes Against Society.
Hit and Runs	33	We saw a significant increase in Hit and Runs in 2022 from previous years with 16 compared to 3 in 2021. We again saw a significant increase in Hit and Runs in 2023 with 33 compared to 16 in 2022. In some of these cases, vehicles struck pedestrians and fled the scene. In others, significant damage was caused to vehicles or property. This continues to be a growing trend.



Arrests and Citations

Here's a quick look at trends for arrests and citations



61
Arrests in 2023

92
Citations issued in 2023

Arrests

In 2023, the Telluride Marshals Department arrested 61 individuals compared to 89 in 2022 and 66 in 2021. Again the number of arrests was lower than pre-pandemic years of 2018 (119) and 2019 (109).

Citations

In 2023, a total of 92 citations were issued with 55 individuals being issued County/State Citations and 37 individuals being issued citations into Municipal Court. This was much lower than 2022 (216).

USE OF FORCE

In 2023, members of the Telluride Marshal's Department had 4 reported Uses of Force. These four incidents included two pointing of departmental issued handgun at a suspect and two hand on mechanical force. All four uses were found to be within policy and appropriate leading to two felony arrests and 2 domestic violence/arrest misdemeanors. We have not had any complaints regarding use of force.



300.1.1 Definitions

Deadly force - Force reasonably anticipated and intended to create a substantial likelihood of causing death or very serious injury.

Force - The application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents or weapons to another person. It is not a use of force when a person allows him/herself to be searched, escorted, handcuffed or restrained.



300.2 Policy

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Deputies are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Deputies must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

The Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting deputies with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests.

DE-ESCALATION



We at the Telluride Marshals Department understand the value in De-Escalation and De-Escalation training. We currently have 5 Deputy Marshals who have attended Crisis Intervention Training, up from the 2 the previous year. This is an intensive 40-hour class where officers are taught how to effectively de-escalate crisis situations and recognize when someone may be in a mental health crisis. This training provides officers with the appropriate tools to safely resolve and de-escalate a situation. We have two additional deputies enrolled in this class in May. Additionally, we sent 2 Deputy Marshals to become instructors in ICAT (Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics) which is another form of De-Escalation training. It is our goal to have every deputy marshal attend these classes.

Furthermore, we have created a Crisis Intervention Program at our department. It is our goal to train on these techniques quarterly (as often as we train in defensive tactics and shooting).





TRAINING



Training remains a top priority for our staff. Over the past year, Telluride Marshals staff have attended a variety of training to better serve our community. Staff members have traveled throughout the country to attend training and conferences to stay current on the latest training and bring back these methods to our department. We continue to train with our neighboring agencies in variety of disciplines. In addition to these trainings, we continue to work with our local first responders and Telluride School District officials on Active Shooter training. In total, sworn staff participated in more than 800 hours of training.

During the summer of 2023, Chief Comte was selected to attend a 3-week leadership course for Law Enforcement Executives at Boston University. This class was put on by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and instructors were graduate level instructors of schools such as Harvard, MIT, University of Texas, and Johns Hopkins, to name a few.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



During the 2023/2024 school year, our SRO, Deputy Moody, issued the following citations into municipal court: 9 reports for Theft/Shoplifting, 5 for Minor in Possession (THC), 1 tobacco offense, and 2 mental health assists.

We are proud of the working relationship we have with the Telluride School District and their continued support. Additionally, we continue to work with TSD Staff on Active Shooter training to include lockdown drills, tabletop scenarios, reunification plans/ training, and law enforcement response to active shooter.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

In 2023, Code Enforcement issued a staggering 5,783 parking citations, 800 warnings, and voided 135 (3%) citations. These numbers are much higher than 2022 where 1,582 were issued with 180 warning and 37 (21%) tickets voided. Deputies have also been tasked with taking a more active role in parking enforcement, especially during the night hours.

Citations & Parking	Total	% Change
Parking Citations	5783	266% ▲
Warnings	800	344% ▲
Voids	135	3% voided

Chief Josh Comte

2023 Marshal's Department Annual Report

FESTIVALS

In 2023, we had two major festivals in Town Park, Telluride Bluegrass and Blues and Brews. Everyone in attendance was in good spirits and well behaved. Between the two festivals, a total of 2 arrests were made.

Staffing of these festivals is continuing to be a challenge. In years past, we were able to hire a dozen or so reserve officers to assist with the festival as well as calls in town. This past year, we were only able to get 8 reserve officers for Bluegrass and 6 for Blues and Brews. Given our own staffing challenges, as well as the continued decrease in reserve officers, we are exploring different security options with Festival personnel going forward.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We continue to seek creative ways to engage with our community. In addition to continuing foot patrols, in which was logged 361 in 2023, and having a visible presence in the community, in 2023 we continued our partnership with various community groups to help further these relationships.



Communities That Care (CTC)

In this program, we work with CTC and High School students and have monthly meetings, centered around athletics, to provide High School Students safe alternatives on Friday nights. These have been very well attended, with upwards of 40 people attending some events. We are continuing this in 2023 and looking to expand to two nights a month.



Coffee with a Cop

This is a community outreach program geared towards our Latinx and Immigrant community. This arose out of a need to establish positive relationships and dispel any rumors. These meetings are held monthly and have been well attended. These meetings have been very beneficial to all those who attend, and we are continuing these efforts into 2023.



Student Mentorship

Two staff members are acting as mentors to local High School Students who wish to pursue a career in Law Enforcement.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Ride Alongs

Provided community members opportunity to ride with Deputy Marshals. We have also had students shadow staff members for school projects.

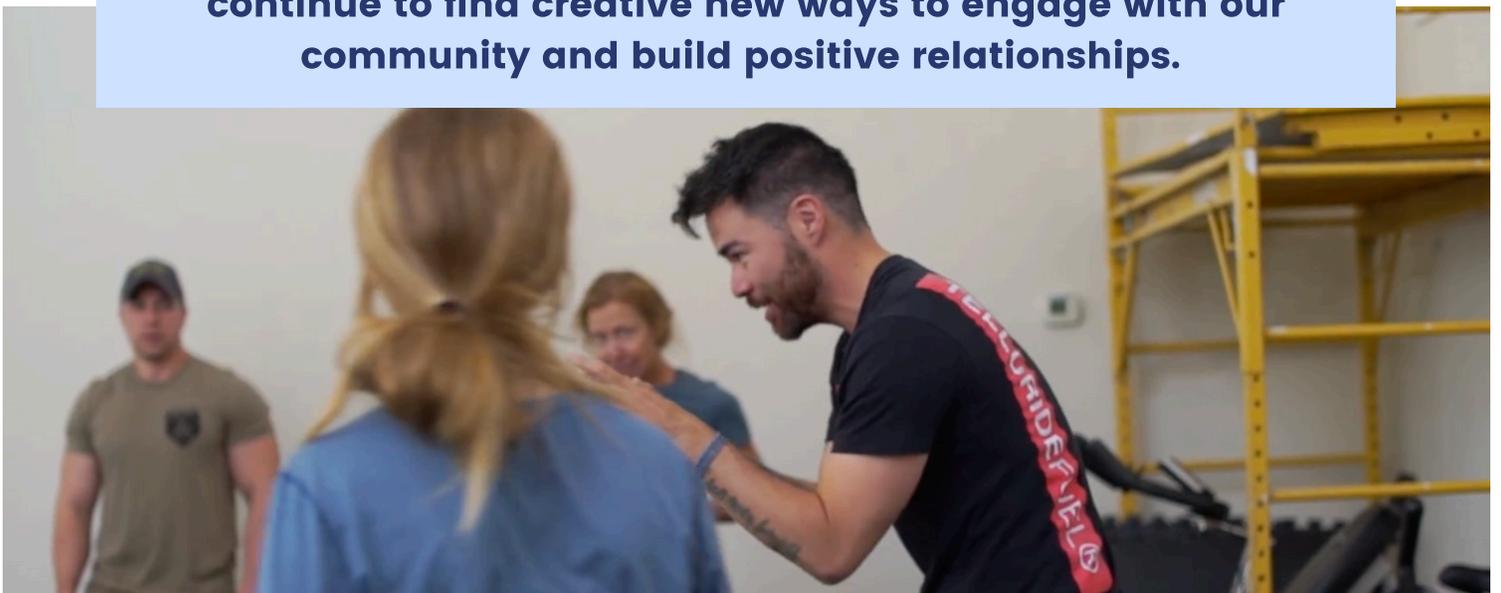
Social Media

With the addition of the Town PIO, Lindsey Mills, our department has been much more engaged on social media which has received positive reviews and support from the community.

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Community Outreach is a key departmental goal as we continue to find creative new ways to engage with our community and build positive relationships.



2023 AWARDS CEREMONY

In conjunction with the Mountain Village Police Department, we held our first formal awards ceremony. During this ceremony, the exceptional work of the Telluride Marshals Department staff was highlighted for those in attendance. Additionally, the 3 community members were identified and awarded for their efforts in service to our community and partnership with the Telluride Marshals Dept. Award winners were as follows:

- Dep. Jimmy Moody - Life Saving Award and Distinguished Service Award
- Dep. Sean Stogner - Distinguished Service Award and Chief's Citation
- Dep. Jeremiah Mason - Chief's Citation
- Jeanette Loven - Chief's Citation
- Kalli- Baillargeon - Chief's Citation
- Joyce Kimball - Chief's Citation
- Laura Fehrenbacher, Ximena Rebolledo Leon, Claudia Garcia Curzio - Chief's Citation



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very proud of the great work the men and women of the Telluride Marshals Department display on a daily basis. We are dedicated to ensuring the continued safety of our residents and visitors and are very appreciative of the continued support we receive from the community.

I would like to thank the Town of Telluride Town Council, Town Manager Scott Robson, and the Telluride community for their continued support of the Telluride Marshals Department.

I would also like to thank Joyce Kimball for her efforts in compiling these statistics and data collection.

Thank you to the Telluride community for your continued involvement in making this incredibly special Town a safe place to live, work, and visit. We look forward to continuing our service in 2024.



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