



STATE OF THE AGENCY CHIEFS REPORT



May 20th marks one year since I was given the honor of leading the City of Kittitas Police Department. During that short time KPD has accomplished many things that the City of Kittitas can be proud of. In our effort to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by the public we finished 2021 significantly under budget. While working to establish true 24/7 coverage we pioneered an innovative schedule, borrowing heavily from our partners in the fire service.

We have attracted and retained talented and well-trained officers during a time when most agencies are struggling to fill vacancies. According to a recent report issued by the Washington Association of Sheriff's and Police Chiefs the State of Washington maintains the lowest number of commissioned police officers per capita of any state. What this means for you is that we do more with less. Over the last year KPD has provided consistent coverage, while also putting our officers through more training hours than in any previous year on record.

Having an officer show up when you call 911 is only the first step to our mission, that officer must be well trained, well rested, and happy. By investing in training and officer wellness we have ensured that our officers not only show up, but they show up well equipped and with the right attitude to help solve any problem. In 1829 Sir Robert Peele authored the Metropolitan Police Act and established the first modern, professional police force which operated under the ideal of "policing by consent." As part of this he established 9 principles which still help govern law enforcement today. One of the most important of those principles is this; "The true test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder."

We are proud to report that comparing computer aided dispatch data from January 1st – April 21st we have realized a 25.64% decrease in our effective crime rate. We compared data from the same time period of 2021 to the data for 2022. The rate was calculated after removing self-initiated activity such as traffic stops, social contacts and vehicle contacts. We were pleased to see that our efforts are indeed paying off.

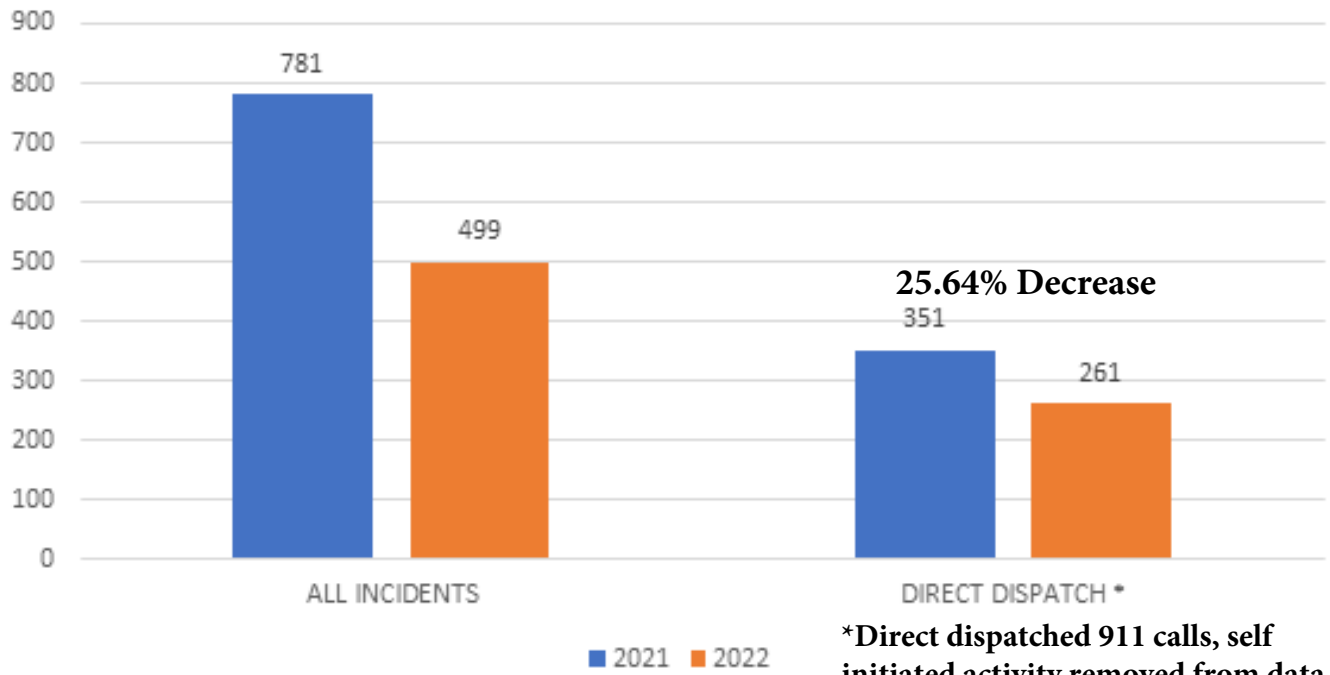
In an effort to be transparent and ensure this was not a fluke or a county wide trend we ran the same data for our neighboring jurisdictions. Crime is up significantly state wide and Kittitas County is no exception, while the Kittitas County Sheriff's office has seen a very slight increase, our sister cities have seen the same double digit increases that are affecting most communities. Kittitas has long had the reputation of being the place people could hide out because there wasn't consistent law enforcement, that reputation is over. We have made clear to the community that we are willing to spend significant effort solving every crime. Kittitas is open for business, but closed to those who wish to victimize our citizens.

An honor to serve,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Aaron Nelson".

Aaron Nelson
Chief of Police
City of Kittitas

KPD INCIDENT REPORTS 1/1 - 4/21



INCIDENTS BY TYPE 1/1 - 4/21

