

City of Lafayette Police

2023 Annual Report



"A Community Partnership"

2023 Lafayette PD Annual Report



Message from the Chief

I am honored to share the 2023 Annual Report for the Lafayette Police Department. I am proud of the work our team at the Police Department has done over the past year to ensure public safety in the Lafayette community. We value the relationship the Police Department has with our community and the continual support you give us. Community engagement and collaboration are vital to ensuring public safety and we value your input. In 2024, we will continue to evaluate for areas of improvement and adjust resources to provide the highest level of service and professionalism.

In 2023, Lafayette Police handled 12,007 calls for service, took 1,168 police reports, and made 302 arrests. The Police Department prioritizes protecting residents and businesses. We focus on preventing crime, but when it does occur, we invest the resources to solve it and apprehend those involved.

In 2023, the Slow Down Lafayette traffic safety program was started, focusing on engineering, education, and enforcement. Education and enforcement involved a public campaign with yard signs and social media. The PD deployed equipment to collect speed data throughout Lafayette, which has been shared publicly on the City's website. The Police Department issued 1,022 traffic citations in 2023 and expects to increase enforcement in 2024 to improve roadway safety for everyone.

Emergency preparedness is an ongoing priority for the City Council, focusing on education, prevention, and evacuation routes. In 2023, the PD also worked to improved resiliency, communications, training, and public education.

The Lafayette Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of service and protection to our community. We will continue to remain vigilant in safeguarding the lives, rights, and property of those we serve. We appreciate your ongoing support and partnership in the Police Department's success.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Alldritt".

Ben Alldritt, Chief of Police

Police Department Core Values

Honor

Courage

Commitment

Leadership

Teamwork

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Crime in Lafayette – 2023

Crime is categorized into two broad categories: person crimes and property crimes. Crimes such as robbery, rape, domestic violence, assaults, and murder are examples of persons crimes. Thefts, burglaries, and vandalism are common examples of property crimes.

Overall crime was down in 2022, but there are still categories of crimes the Police Department continues to strive to reduce.

UCR Part 1 Crimes

The FBI'S Uniform Crime Report (UCR) collects and reports data on crime across the U.S., sourcing information from law enforcement agencies. It includes 8 major categories: criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The use of UCR allows anyone to compare crime rates between various cities.

2023 Part 1 Uniform Crime Reporting (F.B.I. UCR)

Part 1 Category		Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
1	Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Robbery	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	9
4	Assault	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4
5	Burglary	10	6	4	6	5	3	5	4	2	2	10	3	60
6	Larceny	20	13	10	11	18	15	15	17	18	16	17	9	179
7	10851	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	3	4	0	2	1	23
8	Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
		32	23	15	20	28	21	24	25	27	19	29	14	277

Reference:

Category 3 – Robbery: Includes robbery with a weapon or by force using hands, fists, etc.

Category 4 – Assault: Includes felony assaults with weapons and with hands, fists, feet, etc.

Category 5 – Burglary: Includes residential, commercial, and out buildings.

Category 6 – Larceny: Includes all theft, shoplifting, bikes, buildings, etc, except for theft of a vehicle.

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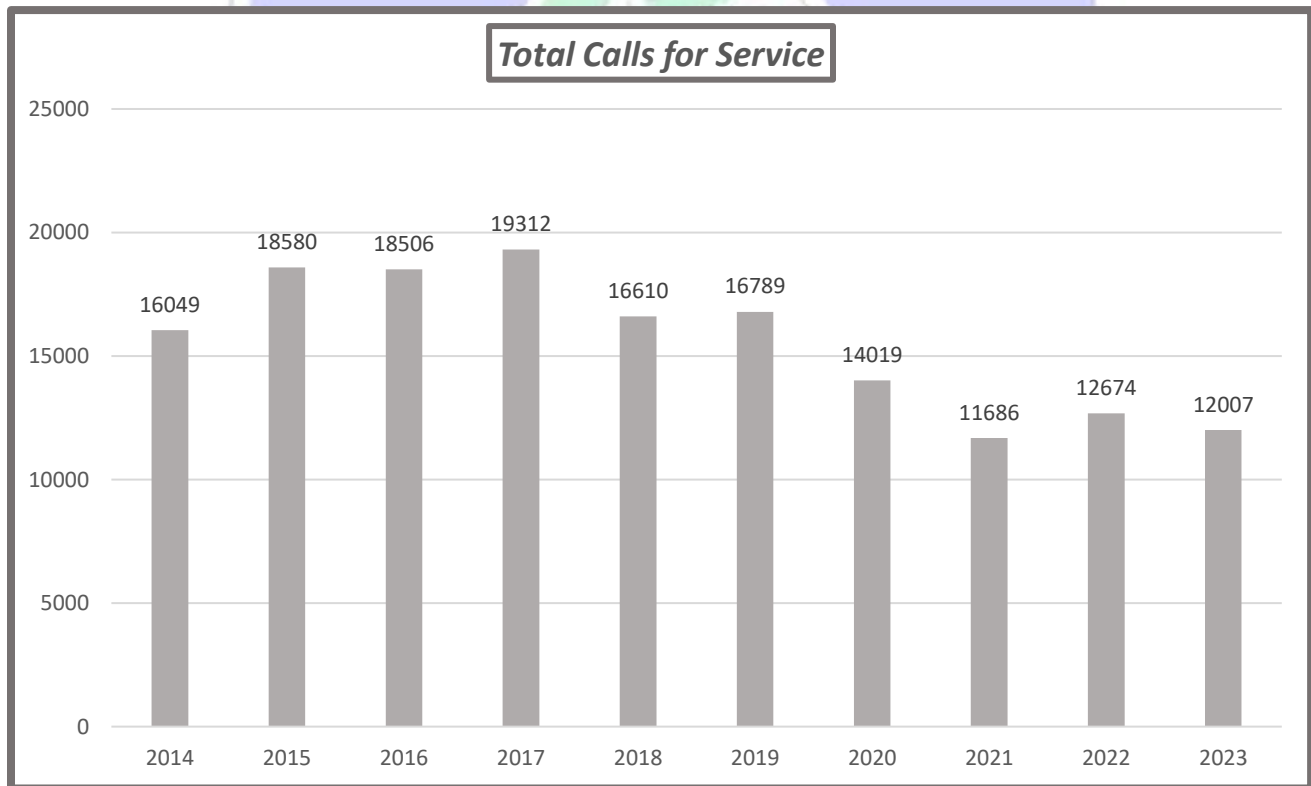


10 Year Comparison of Part 1 Uniform Crime Reporting (F.B.I. UCR)

Part 1 Category		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Rape	0	2	2	5	2	0	1	1	2	2	0
3	Robbery	6	7	5	5	4	5	3	10	3	9	9
4	Assault	37	28	40	25	18	24	16	19	12	3	4
5	Burglary	110	96	49	65	41	23	42	32	25	62	60
6	Larceny	275	324	433	288	257	191	286	199	202	143	179
7	10851	28	19	41	41	19	18	30	30	24	39	23
8	Arson	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Yearly Totals		456	476	570	433	342	261	378	292	268	258	277

Calls for Service

In 2023, the Lafayette Police Department received 12,007 calls for service. A call for service is generated anytime a citizen calls into Dispatch requesting service or when an officer initiates some form of proactive patrol. Common calls for service are traffic concerns, requests for patrol, and reports of criminal activity.



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Person Crimes

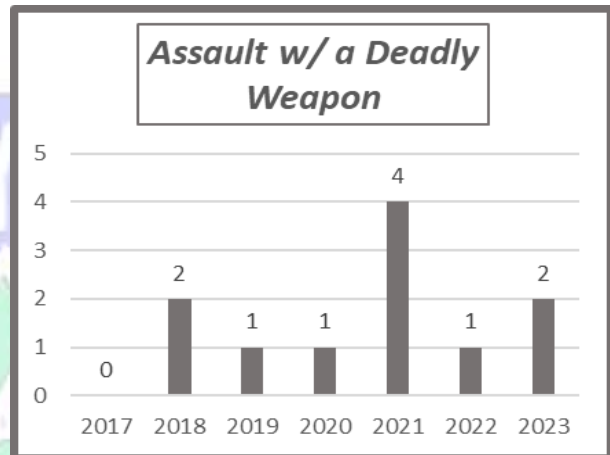
Crimes against persons are the highest priority as they have the largest impact on the victim. The Lafayette Police Department continues to invest all the necessary resources in investigating persons crimes and bringing the suspect to justice. Violent crime in Lafayette remains low at 13 reported Part 1 violent crimes for 2023. **This equates to 51.2 violent crimes per 100,000 versus the 2022 National average of 380.7 violent crimes per 100,000 and the 2022 California average of 494.6 violent crimes per 100,000.**

Assault with a Deadly Weapon (ADW)

In 2023, Lafayette experienced one ADW. Assaults with Deadly weapons typically include the use of guns and knives, but can include other objects that can be used to inflict injury.

Case:

In August, Officers responded to a domestic disturbance. When Officers arrived on scene, they observed the husband had significant swelling to the side of his head. It was determined the wife had struck him on the side of the head with a cell phone. Officers arrested the wife for assault and domestic violence.



Kidnapping

There were no reported kidnappings in Lafayette for 2023.

Carjacking

In May, around 10:20 p.m., a lady was walking to her vehicle in a grocery store parking lot. Two 15-year-old boys approached her and used physical force to take her vehicle and flee the area. Orinda PD Officers located the vehicle on SR-24 and a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was involved in a solo vehicle collision in Oakland and both juveniles were taken into custody. The District Attorney's Office filed charges against both juveniles.

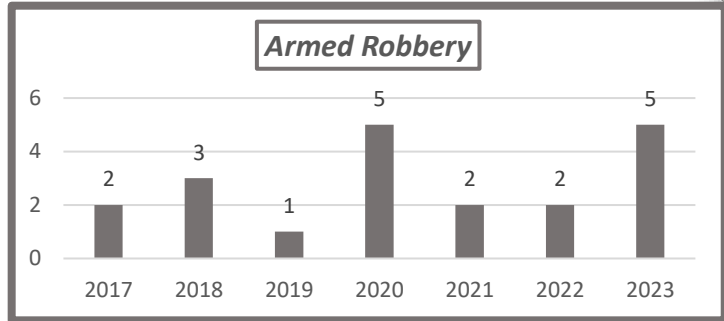


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Armed Robbery

Armed robbery is used to identify crimes of robbery when a weapon used when taking something of value from a person. In 2023, Lafayette experienced five armed robberies in the Mt. Diablo area. Proximity to Highway 24 and BART makes for easy ingress and egress.



Cases:

In April, two subjects entered a local store and stole several bottles of liquor. When employees confronted the suspects, one of the suspects grabbed the front of his waistband, inferring he had a firearm. The suspects fled the store. Using situational awareness cameras, Officers were able to locate the suspect's vehicle but the vehicle had a temporary paper plate that was unreadable. DNA was collected and the case is ongoing.

In April, an Oakland resident came to Lafayette to visit a family member. While in the driveway of the home, she was approached by two subjects. They used a firearm to rob her. Using situational awareness cameras, Officers were able to locate the suspect vehicle and learned it was a stolen vehicle associated with an armed robbery in Alameda. During the investigation, it was determined the suspects had followed the victim from a marijuana grow operation in Oakland. The victim decided to not cooperate with the investigation.

In May, three subjects entered a local convenience store, brandishing firearms. They struck in the head with a firearm and stole cash and cigarettes. Using situational awareness cameras, Officers were able to identify the vehicle used by the subjects. It was learned the suspects had robbed a store in Vallejo thirty minutes prior to the Lafayette robbery. The suspects were later arrested in the San Jose area for committing similar crimes. Working with other Bay Area law enforcement agencies, the suspects were charged with multiple crimes, including the Lafayette robbery.

In August, a subject entered a local gas station and using a knife, robbed the store of cash and drinks. A Lafayette Officer quickly located the vehicle and a pursuit ensued. The suspect was arrested after crashing his vehicle in a ditch. It was learned the suspects was wanted for robbery and carjacking in Nevada. The District Attorney's Office filed charges.

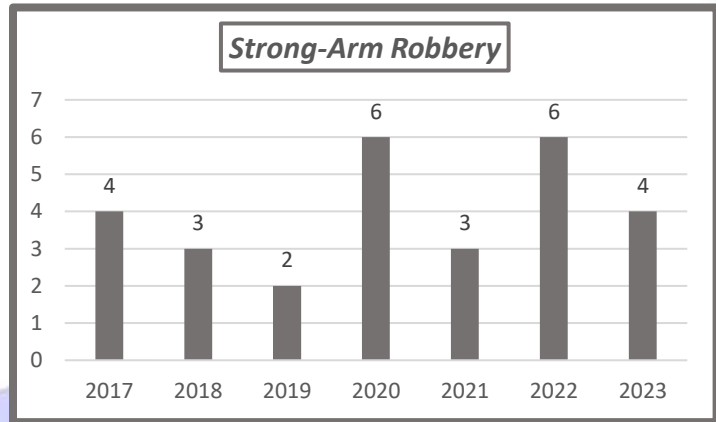
In October, a subject entered a local grocery store and shoplifted. When confronted by an employee, the suspect swung a bottle of alcohol at the employee as he exited the store. Officers have not be able to identify the suspect.

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Strong-Arm Robbery

Strong-arm robbery is used to identify crimes of robbery when something of value is taken from a person by the use of force or fear. Lafayette typically experiences these crimes in the downtown as criminals come into town, many times engaging in shoplifting.



Cases:

In January, a citizen entered their vehicle in the parking lot of a local bank. A suspect smashed out her passenger side window and stole her purse. The victim was uninjured the suspects fled the area in a vehicle. Using situational awareness cameras, Officers identified the suspect vehicle, but determined it had stolen license plates. The case is on-going.

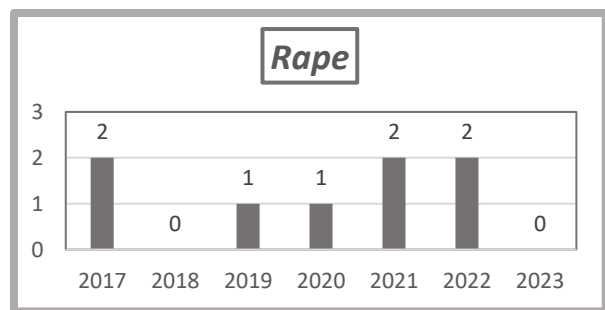
In February, two subjects entered a local grocery store and stole several bottles of alcohol. When confronted by an employee, the suspects pushed and threatened the employee before fleeing the store. A vehicle description and license plate were obtained and broadcast to surrounding law enforcement agencies. Walnut Creek PD located the vehicle and arrested the suspects. The District Attorney's Office filed charges against both suspects.

In May, a subject entered a local store and entered the back-office area to commit a robbery from the safe. The suspect physically attacked an employee and threatened them. The suspect was able to flee with cash. A K-9 track was done, but the suspect was not located. The suspect did discard clothing items that were found during the search and submitted to the Sheriff's Office Crime Lab for DNA processing. The suspect was later identified by his DNA and it was learned he had served Federal prison time for a bank robbery committed in Sacramento. The District Attorney's Office filed charges.

In May, a subject shoplifted at a local grocery store. When confronted by an employee, the suspect lifted a bottle of alcohol and charged at the employee. The employee was not struck and the suspect fled the store. Responding Officers located and arrested the suspect. He was also in possession of methamphetamine. The District Attorney's Office filed charges.

Rape

The Lafayette Police Department takes the report of a sexual assault seriously and devotes all necessary investigative resources. In 2023 there were no reported rapes.

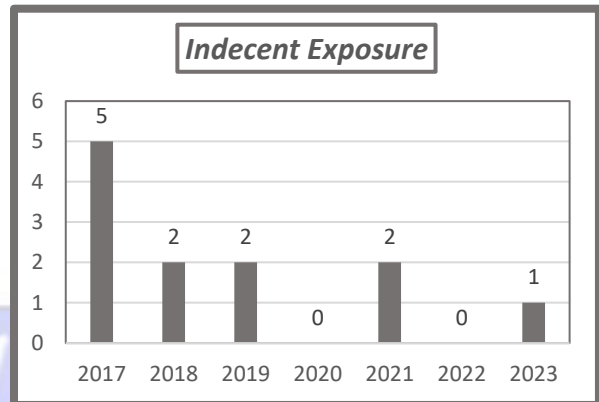
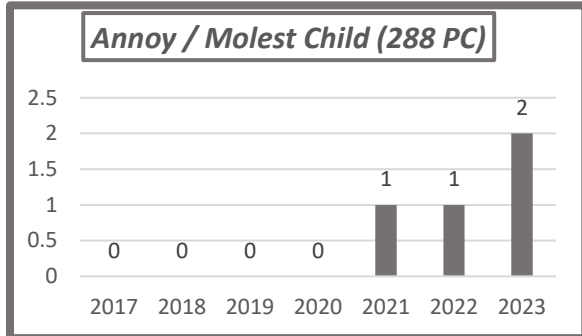


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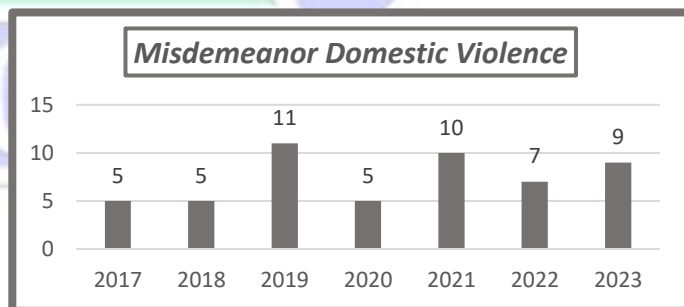
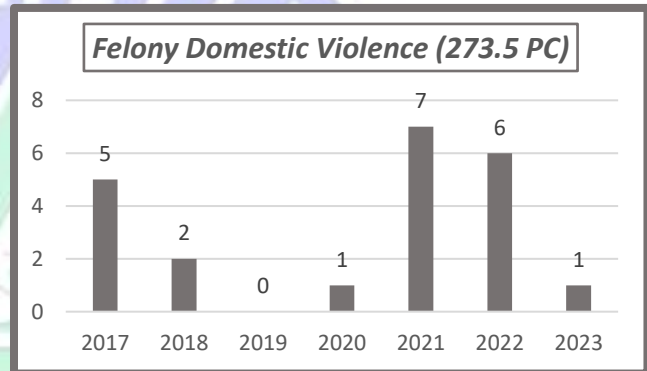
Other Sex-Related Incidents

There are additional types of sex-related crimes that occurred within Lafayette in 2023. The Lafayette Police Department's Investigations Unit has specialized training in sex-assault investigations and work diligently to solve these crimes.



Domestic Violence

In 2023, the Lafayette Police Department responded to one reports of felony domestic violence and investigated nine reports of misdemeanor domestic violence. The difference between felony and misdemeanor is the injuries inflicted. By nature, domestic violence incidents are extremely dangerous for everyone involved, the victim, the police, and the family members who may be dragged into the problems of the relationship.





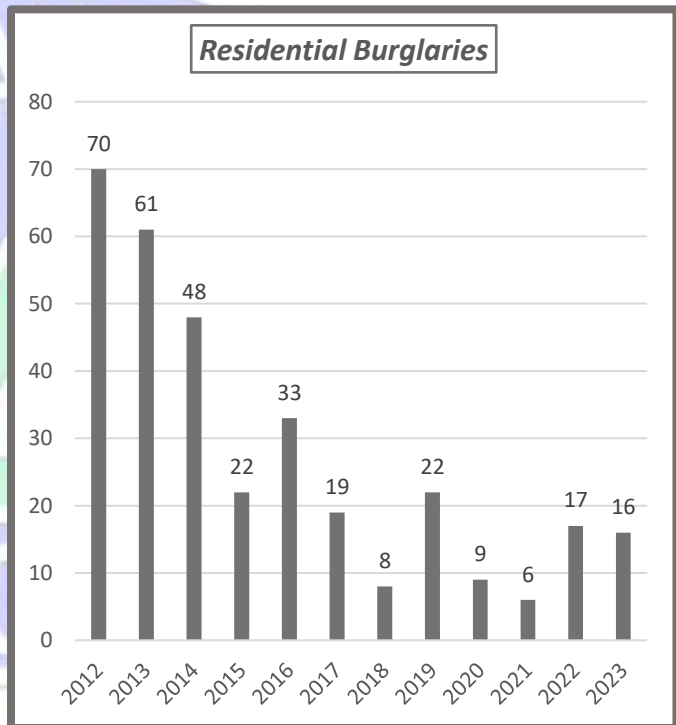
Property Crimes

The largest number of crimes that occur within Lafayette are those that target items of property. Lafayette is seen as a destination point for many of the criminals who want to ply their trade in the city due to the perceived affluence. Many property crimes can be prevented by residents by remembering to do simple tasks like removing valuables from cars and locking windows and doors before leaving home. Property crime in the City of Lafayette was 264 reported Part 1 property crimes for 2023. **This equates to 1,040 reported property crimes per 100,000 versus the 2022 National average of 1,954 property crimes per 100,000 and the 2022 California average of 2,314 property crimes per 100,000.**

Residential Burglaries

In 2023, Lafayette experienced 16 residential burglaries. At this time, six have been solved. This is a reduction in solved cases compared to prior years. A case-by-case review indicated either no available surveillance and/or physical evidence, such as DNA or latent fingerprints, were developed in the unsolved cases.

There are few crimes that are as invasive to a family as a residential burglary. When a burglar enters a home, they not only take property, but also the sense of safety and security a resident once held. That is one reason Lafayette Police Department expends time and effort in solving these cases, to prevent the criminals from breaking into another home, and victimizing another family. The value of putting 100% effort into every one of these cases is if the criminal is arrested, he/she cannot burglarize another home.



We highly encourage residents to consider installing some type of camera on their home. This could be as simple as Ring doorbell. Many time cameras provide a lead that a case can be built upon.

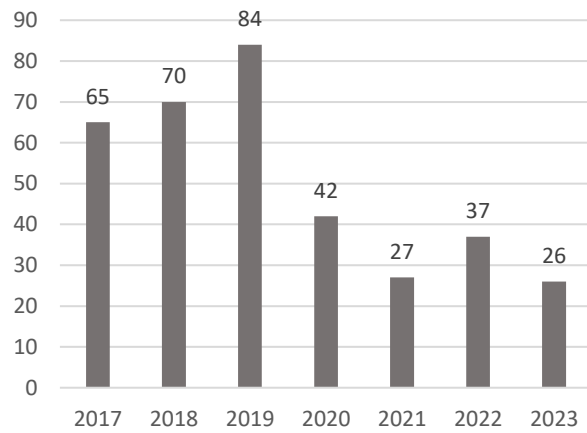
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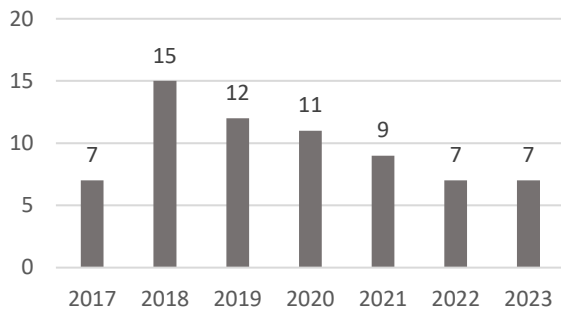
Auto Related Crimes

Many auto crimes can be prevented. A criminal typically won't break into a car if they cannot see anything visible - the risk vs. reward equation just does not work out. However, a backpack, computer bag, or purse left on a seat in plain view is a tempting target.

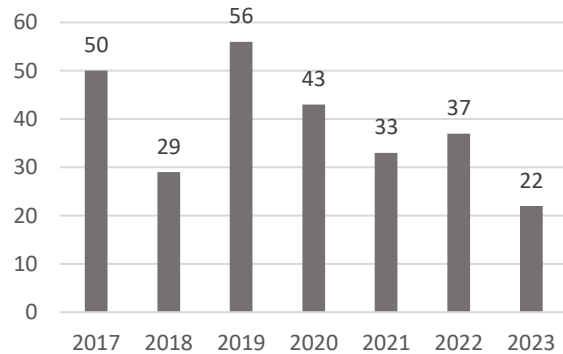
Auto Burglaries



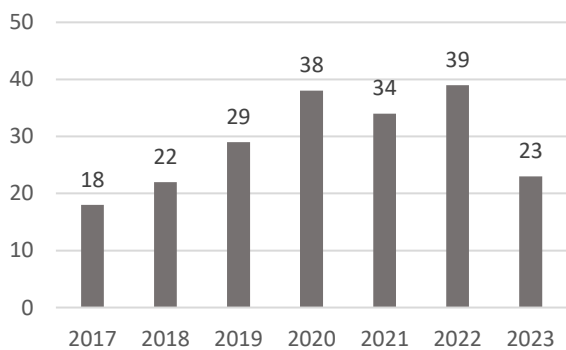
Grand Theft from Vehicle (loss over \$950)



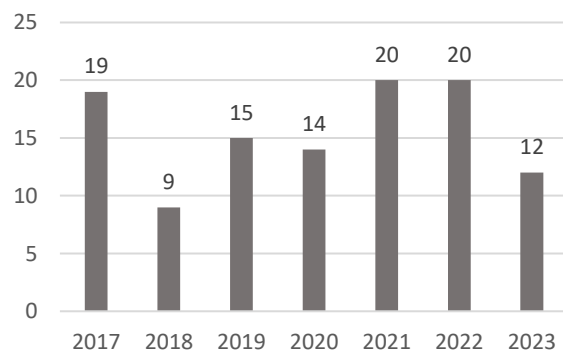
Petty Theft from Vehicle



Stolen Vehicles



Recovered Vehicles

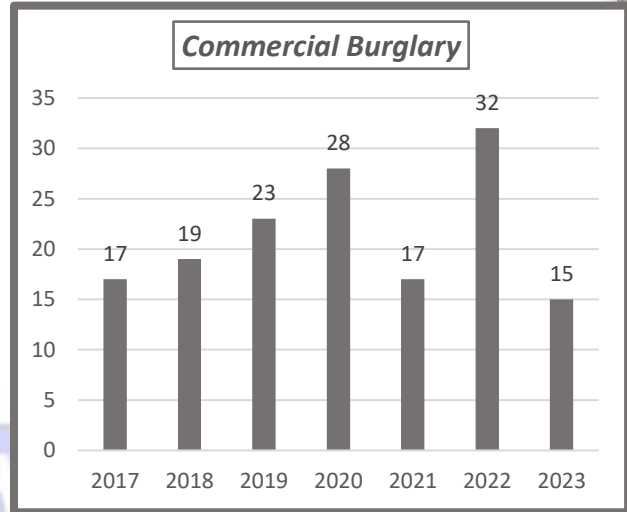


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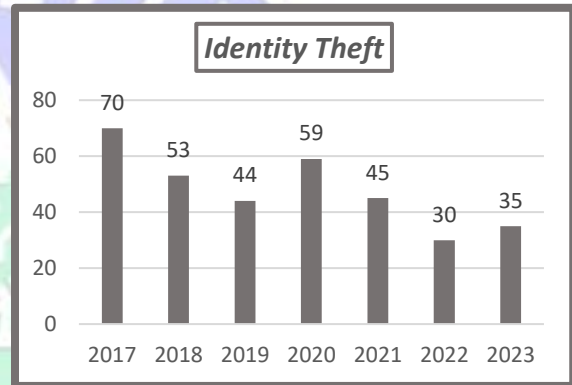
Commercial Burglary

The crime of commercial burglary occurs when a criminal enters a business with the intent to commit theft or some other crime. In Lafayette, the typical commercial burglary occurs overnight, while the business district is empty of employees and customers. In 2023, there were 15 commercial burglaries reported in the city. Four have been solved at this time.

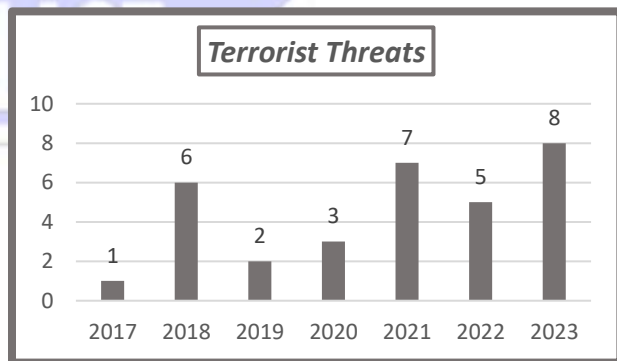


Other Crimes of Note

Identity Theft is a crime that has impacted many Lafayette residents in the past. The crime has historically been on the rise as more and more credit card numbers are compromised. Lafayette has continued to see a reduction, which may be a result of more retailers requiring credit cards with chip security.



Terrorist Threats is a crime that involves an individual threatening another individual, group, or facility. The crime occurs when an individual makes a statement that is intended to be taken as a threat and suggests they will harm a person or group.



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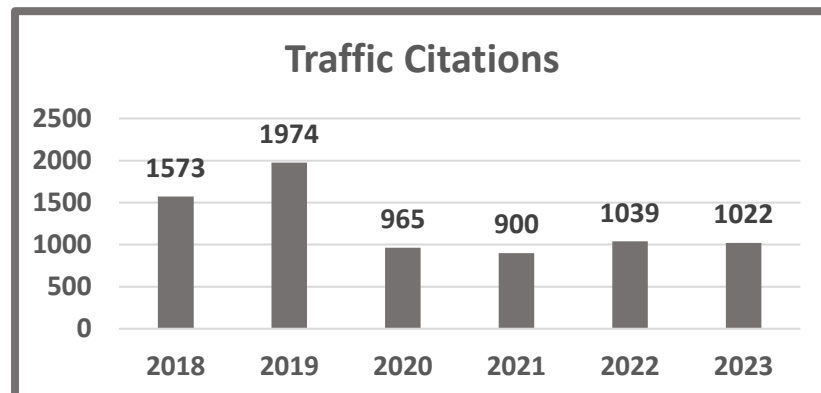
Traffic Safety

The Traffic Unit works to reduce accidents in Lafayette by using the “Three E’s” of traffic safety: Enforcement, Engineering, and Education. The Traffic Unit meets regularly with the City’s Transportation Planner to identify problem areas where engineering solutions may have a calming effect on traffic, resulting in fewer accidents and less need for enforcement. The Traffic Unit reviews collision rates and locations, along with citizen complaints, when considering areas for enforcement efforts.

Lafayette Police and the City of Lafayette launched the Slow Down Lafayette Program at the beginning of August 2023. The program is focused on reducing or eliminating serious injury and fatal traffic collisions in the City through a combination of traffic data analysis, real-time speed awareness displays, and public education. Data gathering equipment is used to measure traffic volumes and speeds in areas of concern, and data analysis determines where the current areas are with increasing collision risk. Realtime speed display signs and mobile display trailers, and targeted traffic enforcement, are used in areas where we need to reduce speeds. The Slow Down Lafayette Program is also providing educational information through social media, school parent organizations, and community events, helping road users understand how to increase their safety on the roads.

During this last year, the program accomplished the following:

- Acquired 2 low-profile radar measurement devices, 2 temporary speed display signs, 2 speed display trailers, and 2 LIDAR devices to assist with speed enforcement.
- Analyzed over 1.3 million vehicle records.
- Reduced the number of speeders by 20% - 25% in areas where display signs and traffic enforcement are used.
- Provided educational materials on crosswalk safety, school bus safety, eBikes, and a variety of weather and other traffic-related notices.



Slow Down Lafayette E-bike Safety Tips

Dear Parents, family, and friends of Lafayette students,

eBikes have become very popular among students and make it easier for them to commute to and from school.

Here are a few reminders on how to keep your students safe:

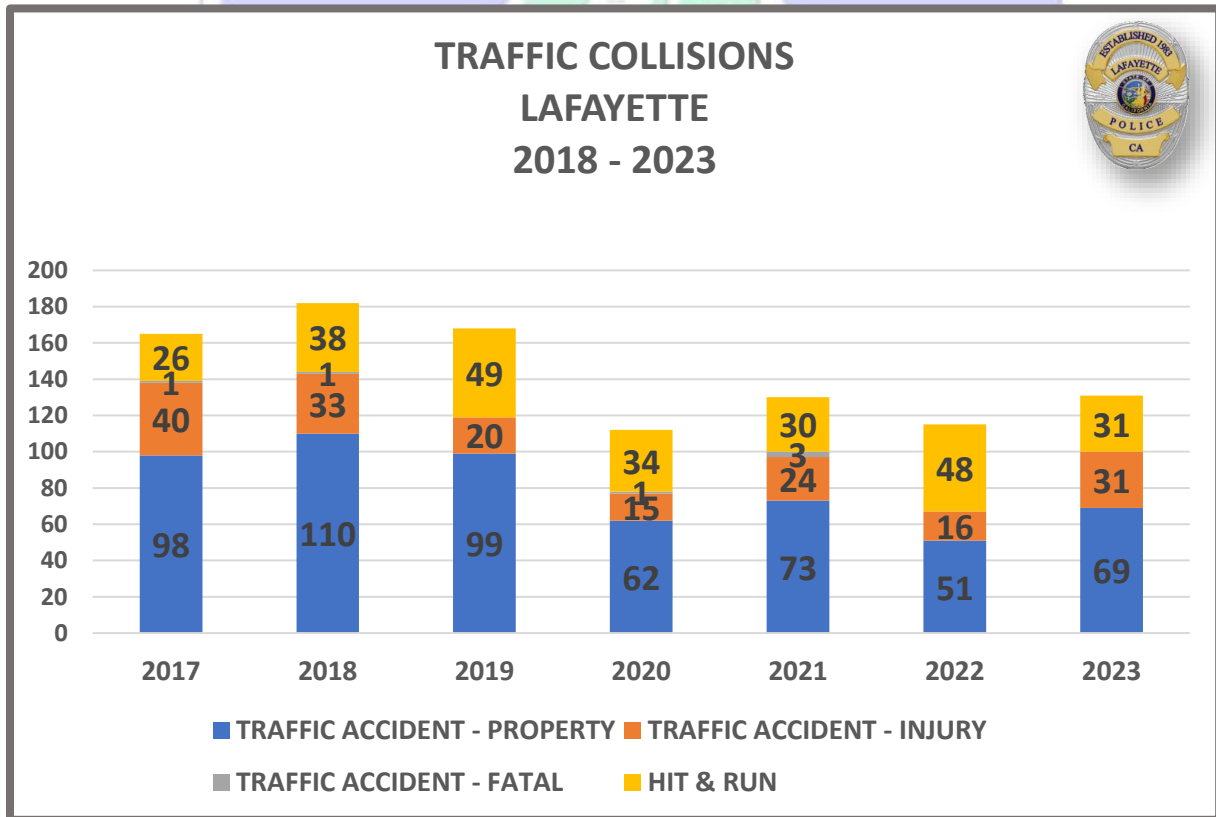
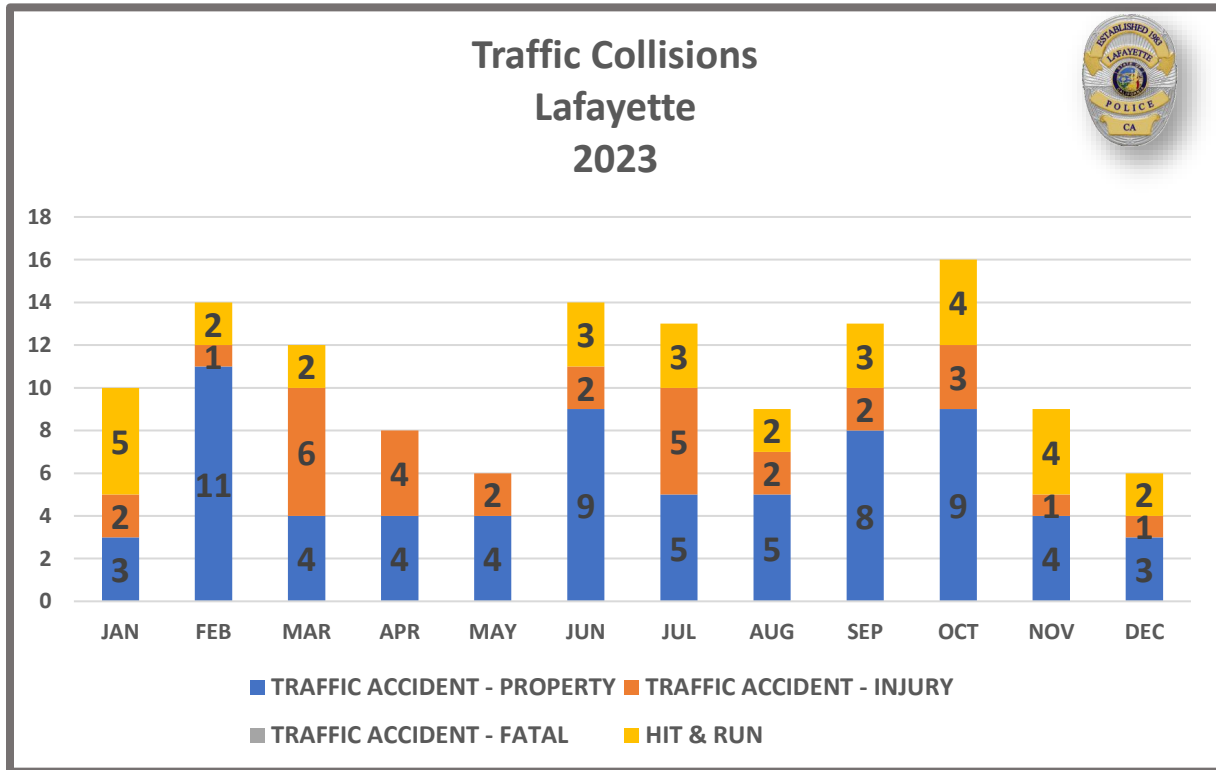
Reminders:

- **Bicycle helmets:** Riders under 18 years old must wear an ASTM or CPSC rated bike helmet that is **properly fitted and fastened**.
- **Risk of injury:** Teach your children to respect ebike speeds and to ride safely. An ebike's speed and weight can have kinetic energy 8X that of a regular bicycle, greatly increasing injuries in a crash.
- **eBike restrictions:** Class 1 (pedal assist) and Class 2 (throttle assist) ebikes go a maximum of 20 mph exclusively powered speed, and there are no age restrictions. Class 3 ebikes go up to 28 mph powered, and riders must be 16 or older and wear a helmet regardless of age.
- **Not legal:** eBikes modified to go faster than their original design limits, and those without pedals, are almost always not street legal.

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Slow Down Lafayette Program
Lafayette Police Department
94549Traffic@gmail.com | 925-299-3283
www.lovelafayette.org/slowdown

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Crime Prevention Commission

The Police Department is very fortunate to have a group of concerned citizens who volunteer their time to make our community safer. The members of the Crime Prevention Commission work with the police department staff to help reduce the number of crimes that occur within the community. Yearly, the Crime Prevention Commission assists in facilitating Citizens Academies and providing Internet Safety presentations for parents of school-aged children.



The Crime Prevention Commission meets monthly, and each meeting is publicly noticed. This is a great opportunity for community members to engage, ask questions, or discuss concerns. In 2022, the Commission participated in the Art & Wine Festival, hosting a booth and providing crime prevention materials to the community.

Citizens Academy

We were excited to host a Citizens Academy in the Spring of 2023. The Citizens Academy consisted of five sessions which involved criminal justice, traffic safety, investigations, use of force simulator, and firearms range. In 2023, a Spring and Fall Citizens Academy will be hosted.

Vacation Home Checks

Lafayette PD offers Vacation Home Checks to residents. A request can be submitted on the City's website or called into the PD. A member of the Lafayette PD will conduct a personal check of the resident's home. This is a great resource in increasing Police presence in neighborhoods. This service is provided free of charge and the PD receives positive feedback from residents who use this service. In most cases, due to the length of vacation, PD staff does several checks for each request.

Emergency Preparedness Commission

The Emergency Preparedness Commission is made up of citizens who prioritize our City's emergency plans and preparedness. In 2016, the Commission completed the City's Wildland Fire Plan. This plan outlines Police and Fire priorities during times of emergency. The Commission continually evaluates the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

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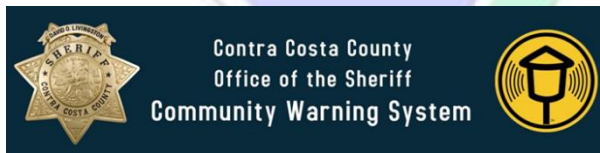
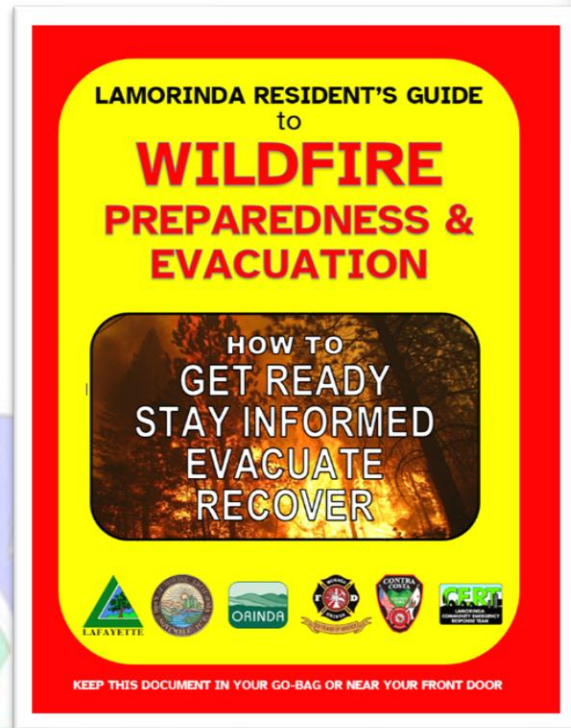


Lamorinda Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation

In June 2022, the Lamorinda Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation was updated and mailed to every mailing address in the Lamorinda area. This guide contains the essentials for individuals and families in emergency preparedness and evacuation. The content is like what residents would receive in an emergency preparedness presentation from CERT, fire, and police departments. The guide can also be downloaded from the City of Lafayette website.

This publication was a joint effort by the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission and the Lafayette Police Department, with support from the Orinda Police Department, Moraga Police Department, the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department, the Contra Costa County Fire District, and Lamorinda CERT

The Guide continues to be made available to citizens both online and at the Police Department.



Community Warning System (CWS) -

The Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) is the County's alert system for time-sensitive and potentially life-saving information.

Many residents have signed up, but we continue educate and stress the importance of residents registering with CWS.



ALERTWildfire Cameras - In November 2019, the Lafayette Police Department began working with the ALERTWildfire program to install and maintain a network of cameras across Contra Costa and Alameda County used for the detection, alerting, and monitoring of wildfires. The ALERTWildfire program's mission is to provide access to Pan-Tilt-Zoom fire cameras to help firefighters and first responders to discover/locate/confirm wildfires, scale fire resources, monitor fire behavior, help evacuations through enhanced situational awareness, and ensure contained fires are monitored appropriately.

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Lafayette Police Department Emergency Services Analyst John Cornell handled the installation of multiple cameras and coordinated camera locations and training with other agencies. Additionally, the City supported the cost of installation for sections of a new microwave network designed specifically for the ALERTWildfire system across Contra Costa County. To date, Lafayette PD has installed over 50 ALERTWildfire cameras across Contra Costa and Alameda counties which have already been used for fire-fighting operations.



Residents can view the numerous cameras within and surrounding the Lamorinda area. The camera images on the public facing side of the website are updated every ten seconds. Several cameras installed by Lafayette PD are on private property and not visible on the public website. The cameras can be accessed by designated police and fire personnel.



Zonehaven (Genasys Protect) – Zonehaven is working to improve the utilization of evacuation zones in Lamorinda, giving Police and Fire the ability to evacuate residents more effectively during an emergency. Visit

www.zonehaven.com to learn more on this ongoing project and the technologies being provided. Through this partnership, Lafayette will have the ability to make more effective decisions, share information with mutual aid resources and create a common operating picture during incidents with evacuations.

Lafayette Emergency Radio – AM 1670

In 2020, Communications Analyst Jeff Heyman and Emergency Services Analyst John Cornell worked together to launch the City of Lafayette's community information and emergency radio station. It is a FCC-licensed radio station that transmits 24/7 throughout the area on AM 1670. The station is designed to provide City of Lafayette with news and information that citizens can listen to at any time, including during emergencies, such as power outages, wildfires, and other disasters.





Police Department Mission

The Lafayette Police Department works in partnership with our diverse community to safeguard the lives, rights, and property of the people we serve. With unwavering dedication, we provide innovative professional law enforcement services to our community. We accomplish this mission by maintaining our Core Values while always conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards.

Police Department Command Staff

Chief Benjamin Alldritt	(925) 299 - 3221
Sergeant Amanda Sears	(925) 299 - 3223
Sergeant Scott Plier	(925) 299 - 3234
Sergeant Daniel Wells	(925) 299-3286
Admin. Analyst Cathy Surges-Moscato	(925) 299 - 3220

