



*Police Department – City of Lafayette*  
**2018 Annual Report**



***“A Community Partnership”***

# 2018 Lafayette PD Annual Report



## Message from the Chief

I am pleased to present the Lafayette Police Department's 2018 Annual Report. In 2018, the City of Lafayette continued to experience a downward trend in overall crime, with a significant decrease in residential burglaries. The violent crime rate in Lafayette is very low and relatively stable. The Police Department evaluates for areas of improvement throughout the year and adjusts resources in order to provide the highest level of service and professionalism to the citizens of Lafayette.

The Police Department enjoys a great deal of success based on large part to the levels of support and cooperation within the community. The citizens of Lafayette, the City Council, and the City staff all share a common vision to keep the residents, their property, and their rights safe. I am fortunate to lead a group of committed professionals within the Police Department who work hard to make the lives of citizens in the City of Lafayette better every day.

In an effort to build on an already robust community engagement program, the Police Department started "Recess with a Police Officer." The Police Department has committed to joining one school per week to engage with students in a relaxed environment. This engagement strategy allows for school children to build lasting relationships with the police officers that serve them and their families every day.

Thank you,  
Chief Ben Alldritt



## Police Department Core Values

Honor      Courage      Commitment      Leadership      Teamwork

***" A Community Partnership "***

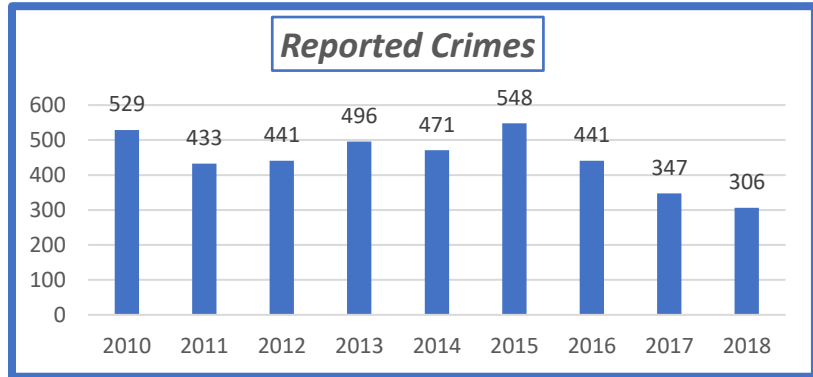
# 2018 Lafayette PD Annual Report



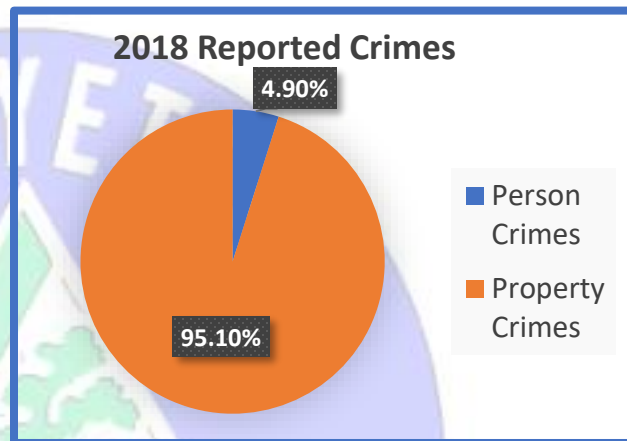
## Crime in Lafayette – 2018

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.

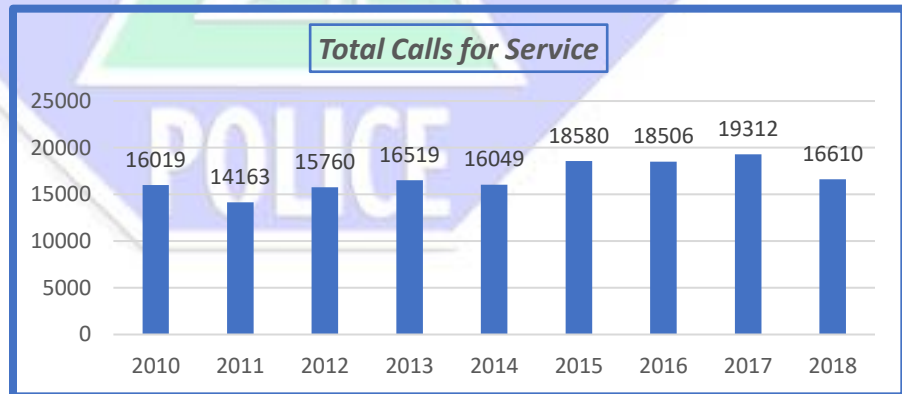
Thefts, burglaries, and vandalism are common examples of property crimes.



In 2018, Lafayette experienced a 12% reduction of all reported crimes compared to 2017. The vast majority of reported crimes was for property related offenses and was consistent with prior years. Crimes against persons remained extremely low and consistent with prior years. The greatest reduction in crimes was in property crimes, specifically residential burglaries.



In 2018, the Lafayette Police Department received 16,610 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 City experience two Assaults with Deadly Weapons, one attempted kidnapping, six robberies, two assaults on officers, and two indecent exposure cases. There were no reported rapes or child sexual assaults for all of 2018.

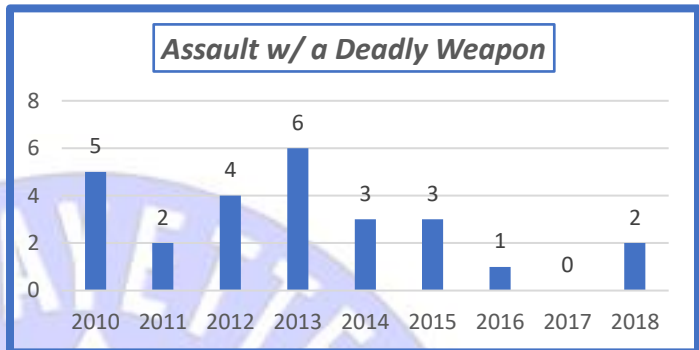
### Assault with a Deadly Weapon (ADW)

In 2018, Lafayette experienced two ADWs. Assaults with Deadly weapons typically include the use of guns and knives, but can include other objects that can be used to inflict injury.

#### **Cases:**

**In January 2018**, a woman was approached by a man in a parking lot in the 900 block of Moraga Road. The man had a knife which he pressed against her. The woman was able to activate the panic button on her vehicle and distract the man. She took advantage of the distraction, kneed the man in the groin, and was able to get into her vehicle. The suspect fled the area and the case is still open.

**In July 2018**, a dating couple was visiting the Lafayette area during a road trip through the state. During a fight, the woman struck the man in the head with a fire extinguisher and was arrested for the assault.

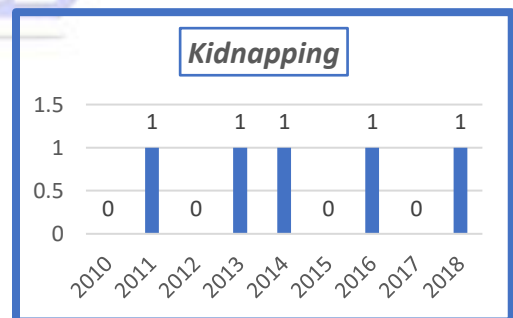


### Kidnapping

In 2018, Lafayette experienced one kidnapping.

#### **Case:**

**In September 2018**, a female citizen was walking in the 3500 block of Mount Diablo Boulevard, heading to the BART Station, when a sedan drove-up alongside of her. Two men exited the vehicle wearing masks while the driver stayed in the vehicle. The two suspects grabbed the woman and tried to pull her towards the car. The woman screamed, pulled away from the two men, and fell to the ground. The two suspects ran back to the vehicle and fled the areas. The woman was able to call 911 and Lafayette officers responded.



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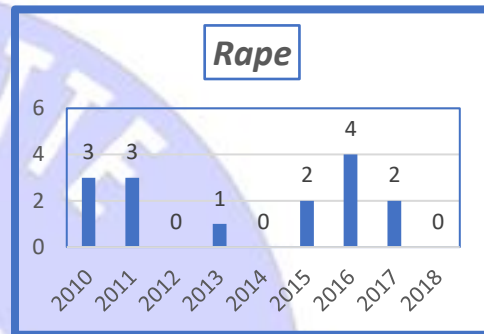
## Case Continued -

Lafayette officers used the neighborhood cameras to identify the suspect vehicle and license plate. Lafayette detectives worked with local law enforcement agencies to locate the suspect vehicle and detain the occupants within 24 hours of the attempted kidnapping. Lafayette detectives identified one of the occupants of the vehicle as a suspect in the kidnapping and located Halloween style masks inside the vehicle.

Within 60 hours, of the attempted kidnapping, Lafayette detectives identified the other two suspects and issued warrants for their arrest. With the help of local law enforcement agencies, detectives arrested the other two suspects. The District Attorney's Office filed kidnapping and robbery charges against the suspects. I charges on the suspects.

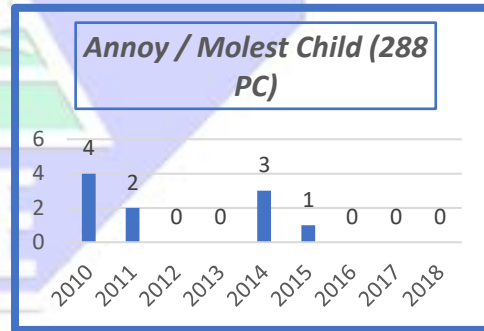
## Rape

The Lafayette Police Department takes the report of a sexual assault seriously and devotes any investigative resources necessary. In 2018, one rape was initially reported to Lafayette Police, but it was later determined to have occurred in Walnut Creek Police jurisdiction. Walnut Creek Police subsequently conducted the investigation.



## Other Sex-Related Incidents

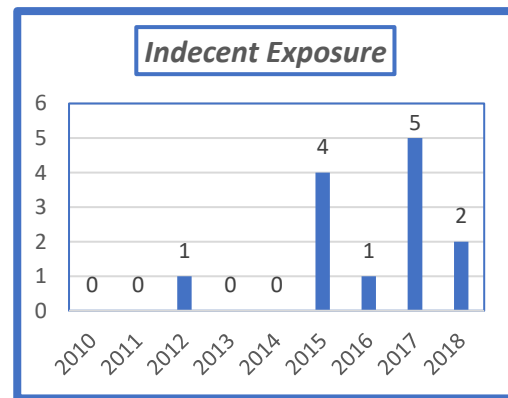
There are additional types of sex-related crimes that occurred within Lafayette in 2018. The Lafayette Police Department's Investigations Unit has specialized training in sex-assault investigations and work diligently to solve these crimes.



## Indecent Exposure

### Case:

In October 2018, Lafayette Police received a call of a suspicious man who was touching his genitals over his clothes and staring at children while sitting in his parked car near Lafayette Elementary School. The citizen caller provided a description of the subject and his vehicle. A Lafayette motor officer located the vehicle as it entered eastbound Highway 24. The driver was arrested and later linked to a similar crime at a neighboring jurisdiction. The District Attorney's Office charged the suspect with lewd acts in a public place.

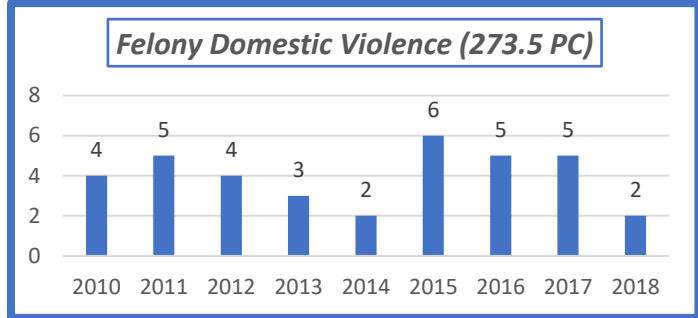


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## Domestic Violence

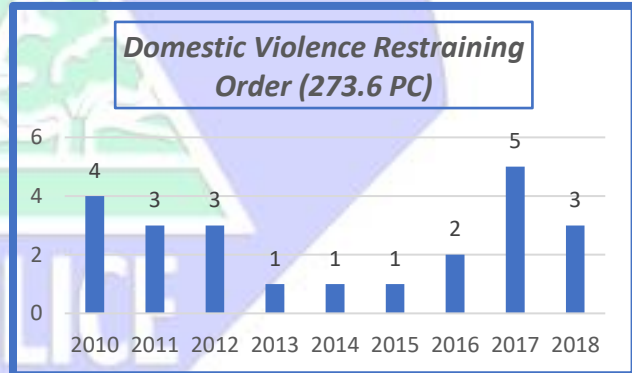
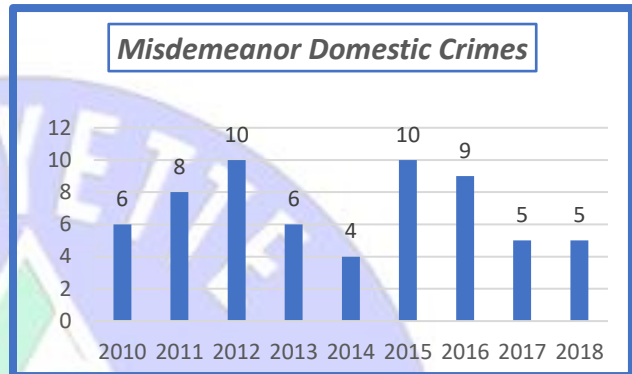
In 2018, the Lafayette Police Department responded to two (2) reports of domestic violence. By nature, domestic violence incidents are extremely dangerous for everyone involved, the victim, the police and the family members who may be dragged into the problems of the relationship.



## Other Related Crimes

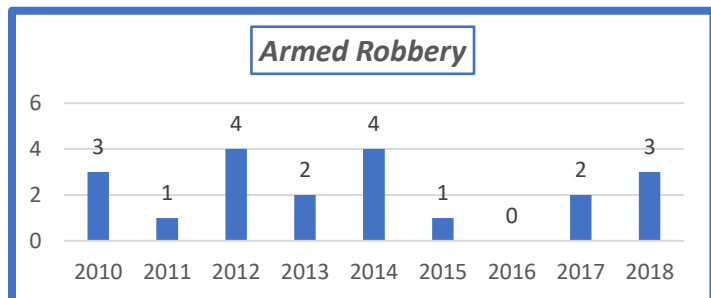
Like many other crime categories, there are other crimes that relate to domestic violence that occur in Lafayette. The Police Department participates in several programs that work with families who have been affected by domestic violence.

Over the years, the State Legislature has enacted several laws that require police officers to take action when they respond to this type of an incident. The "must take" provisions of the law mandate that officers determine who was the primary aggressor in a situation and place them under arrest. It is routine for officers to obtain an emergency restraining order for victims of domestic violence.



## Armed Robbery

In a typical year, Lafayette experiences several robberies, most of which occur in the downtown business district. Proximity to Highway 24 and BART, makes for easy ingress and egress. In 2018, we experienced three armed robberies.



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## Cases:

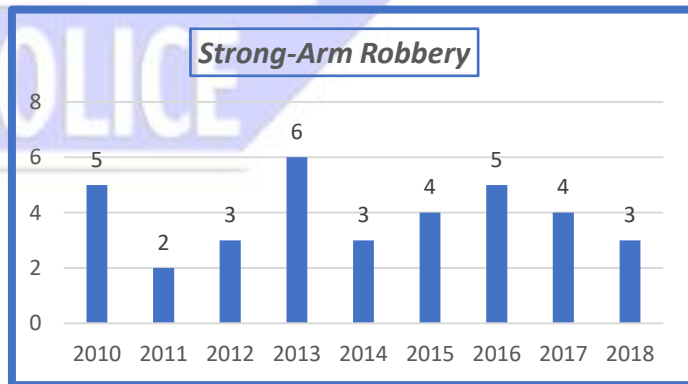
**On January 3**, a suspect pulled into a drive-thru at a restaurant, ordered food, and then pulled up to the cashier window. The suspect pointed a handgun at the cashier and demanded money. Using the businesses cameras, detectives were able to identify the make and model of the vehicle. Through the course of the investigation, the vehicle and suspect were identified as being involved several other similar type robberies in other cities in the Bay Area. The suspect was later arrested by a nearby agency and Lafayette detectives were able to connect him to our robbery. The District Attorney's Office charged the suspect with numerous crimes.

**On May 7**, a citizen was walking from BART in the 1000 block of Oak Hill Rd. The citizen observed a vehicle stopped with the driver side door open. He went to check on the occupants and was instead, robbed at gun point. Utilizing camera footage from a local business and neighborhood cameras, detectives were able to identify the vehicle and the driver. Oakland Police assisted in locating the vehicle in their city. Lafayette detectives responded to the area and were assisted by Oakland PD in locating the suspect and his girlfriend. Detectives were able to recover the victim's stolen laptop and other items. The suspect was arrested, and the District Attorney's Office filed robbery charges against the suspect.

**On May 15**, Lafayette officers took a report of an armed robbery that occurred on a walking trail near BART. The victim was robbed of his backpack at knife point by two suspects. At the time, surveillance of the suspects was obtained from a BART train, but no identification was made. Detectives worked the case and in August, another police agency was able to identify one of the suspects and Detectives obtained an arrest warrant. In October, the suspect was arrested for a crime in Oakland and the Lafayette PD arrest warrant. At the same time, an Oakland PD Officer was able to identify the second suspect who was currently in custody at Santa Rita Jail. Detectives interviewed both suspects and the District Attorney's Office filed robbery charges against them.

## 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 several of these crimes in the downtown as criminals come into town and try to take laptops, purses, and cell phones from individuals.



## Cases:

**On April 22**, an individual was working in a local parking lot when a dispute occurred with another subject. The subject was upset with the worker and during the argument the suspect forcibly took the worker's cell phone. The subject was located by Officers and after an investigation, placed under arrest for a variety of charges, including strong-arm robbery.

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## Cases Continued -

**On August 19**, a subject stole items from a local grocery store and was confronted by one of the employees. The subject punched the employee once in the chest and left with stolen items. Officers were able to locate the subject and place him under arrest for strong-arm robbery.

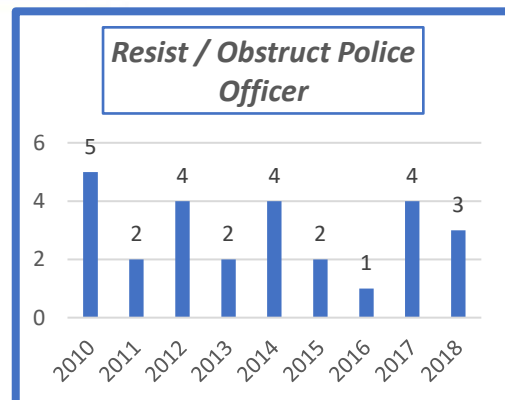
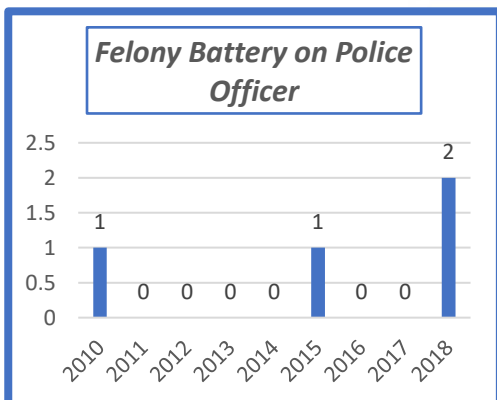
**On September 30**, a citizen was sitting inside Peet's Coffee on Mount Diablo Boulevard when two men entered the coffee shop and ripped the laptop from the citizen as he was typing. The two suspects fled the coffee shop and were seen entering a black sedan that appeared to be waiting for them. Utilizing video cameras, the license plate of the vehicle was identified. Based on a law enforcement flier by Berkeley PD on a similar case, Lafayette detectives began working with them. Three suspects had been arrested by Berkeley PD in a theft case. Two of the suspects were able to bail out and appeared to have committed additional crimes in Berkeley, Davis, Sacramento, and Lafayette. Working in collaboration with Berkeley PD, one of the suspects was identified and Berkeley PD issued an arrest warrant. The investigation is on-going.

### VINELink Program

Within Contra Costa County, crime victims have an excellent tool to identify where an offender is while they are in our jails and when they are released from custody. The VINELink Program is an internet alerting tool that can be programmed to automatically notify you when changes are made in an arrestee's custody status. The VINELink Program can be accessed at [www.vineline.com](http://www.vineline.com). It's a completely free service and only requires that you know the name of the inmate who you want to track. All our arrestees are housed by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office.

## Other Crimes of Note

The safety of first responders is extremely important and there are two crime categories that help to better understand what police officers, fire fighters, and medics experience daily. Most of these incidents involve individuals who visit Lafayette and find themselves in some type of trouble.





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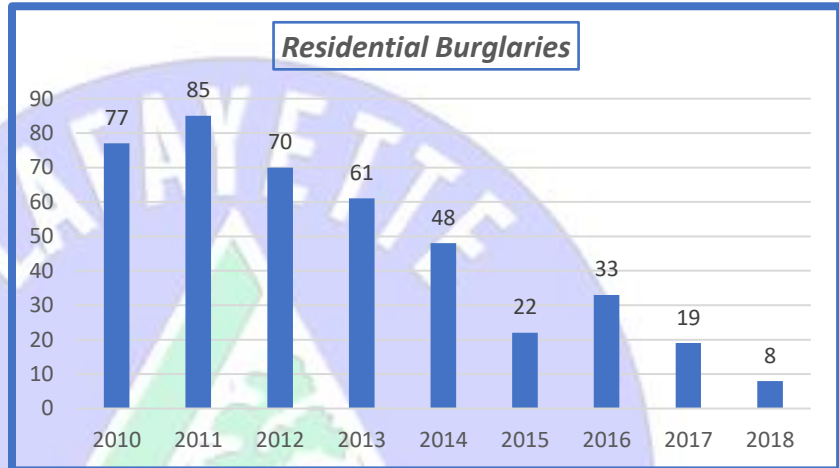


## Property Crimes

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, there is also a perception that residents are careless with their homes and valuables. This thought is reinforced sometimes when the criminals come to town and are able to steal large amounts of cash or jewelry. 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.

## Residential Burglaries

In 2018, Lafayette experienced 8 residential burglaries, the lowest number of burglaries in over twenty years. **Lafayette detectives were able to make arrests in 7 of the 8 cases – recovering property from several the crimes.** There are few crimes that are as invasive to a family than a residential burglary. When a burglar enters a home, they not only take property, but also the safety and security a resident once held.



That is one reason Lafayette Police Department expends so much time and effort in solving these cases – to prevent the criminals from breaking into another home – victimizing another family. The value of putting 100% effort into every one of these cases is if the criminal is arrested quickly, he cannot burglarize another home. In 2018, none of the eight burglaries were committed by the same suspect.

## Residential Camera Systems

The residential burglary rate in Lafayette has decreased significantly over the past eight years while the closure rate of cases has continued to increase. The credit is due in part to the decision in 2014 to begin installing neighborhood cameras. Cameras installed by businesses, residents, and the Police Department have assisted officers in solving more crimes and making more arrests. Combine this with an informed and involved community, these successes should continue in the community



Having an image of the suspect vehicle and/or the suspect makes a **BIG** difference in improving the solvability of a crime. Installing a camera inside and outside a home can be relatively easy and a low-cost security improvement. In most theft cases, there is no previous relationship between the suspect and victim.

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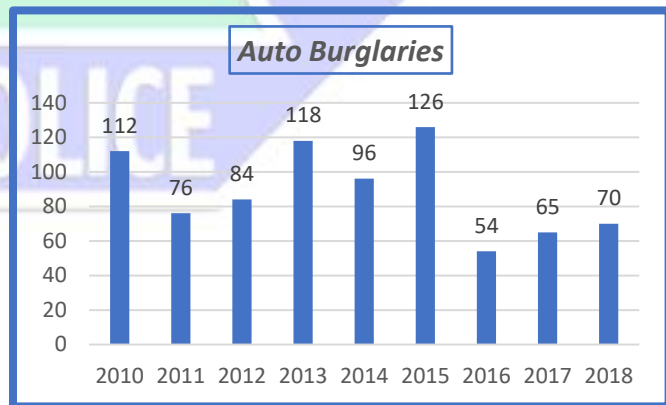
Due to living in the Bay Area which is interconnected by roads and the BART system, many times we are looking for a needle in a haystack. Having a camera image of a suspect or vehicle, gives police the advantage and ability to begin a fruitful investigation that typically leads outside the city. A single image of the suspect vehicle has led Lafayette Police to solving the majority of the felony crimes that occur in Lafayette.

## **Burglary Prevention Tips:**

- Keep all doors and windows locked, even if you are at home, or will only be gone a short time or are “just going next door.”
- Make sure all locks are functioning properly.
- Never allow someone you don’t know into your residence. If someone comes to your door needing assistance, offer to call the police for them, while they wait outside.
- Keep valuable items out of sight of passers-by.
- Keep a list of your valuables, including the serial numbers and unique characteristics. If a burglary does occur having this information can greatly help in the investigation and recovery process.
- Be alert to persons going from house to house, looking in windows or knocking on doors. Report suspicious persons to the police. Make note of the person’s physical description, clothing, tattoos or other distinguishing characteristics and give that information to the police.
- Keep all entrances to your residence well-lit and maintain landscaping to prevent hiding places.
- Beware of burglars posing as solicitors. All persons must have a Solicitation Permit issued by the City prior to going door-to-door. After you verify the solicitor has the proper permit and if you choose to let them in your residence, do not leave them alone while they demonstrate their product.
- Don’t advertise the property you have recently purchased or received as a gift. Put the boxes in a trash bag or trash container, or better yet, cut up the boxes and place the pieces in your recycling bin. If you leave them out anyone can see what you now have inside your residence.

## **Auto Related Crimes**

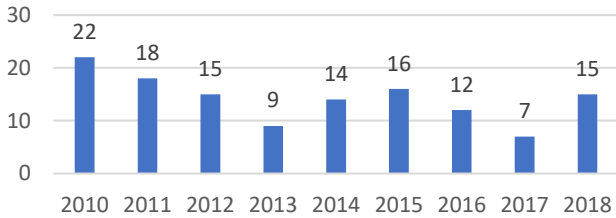
Most auto crimes can be prevented. A criminal typically won’t break into a car if they cannot see anything visible - the risk vs. reward equation just does not work out. However, a backpack, computer bag, or purse left on a seat in plain view is a tempting target. In 2018, Lafayette experience a slight increase in auto burglaries.



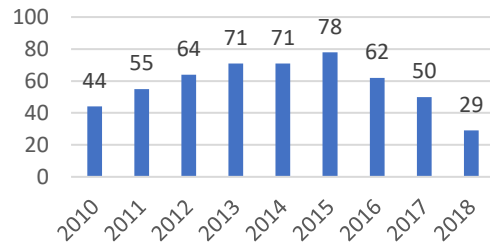
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**Grand Theft from Vehicle  
(loss over \$950)**



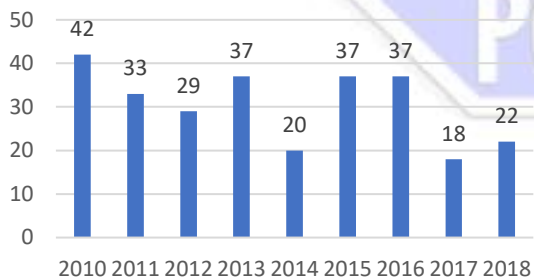
**Petty Theft from Vehicle**



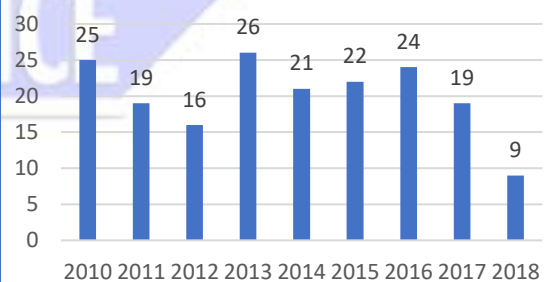
## What should you do to prevent auto burglaries?

- Beware of leaving laptops, tablets, cell phones, briefcases, purses in plain sight when making a quick stop for an errand, coffee or food.
- Lock your car at all times when it is unattended.
- Never leave items of value in your vehicle.
- Items of value in the trunk are not safe if you leave the car unlocked – most cars have a trunk release inside the car.
- Never leave your wallet or purse inside the car, even it is in your garage (sometimes people forget to close the garage door at night).
- Roll all your windows up when you leave your car.
- At night, park your car in an area that is well-lit.
- If possible, park your vehicle in a location where it is under video surveillance.

**Stolen Vehicles**



**Recovered Vehicles**

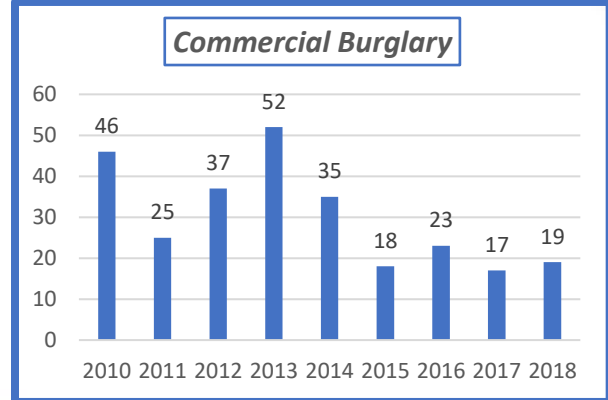


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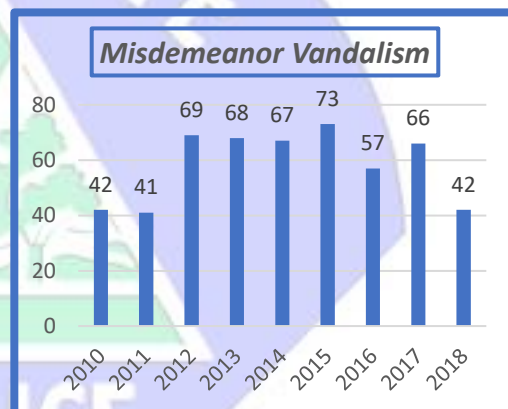
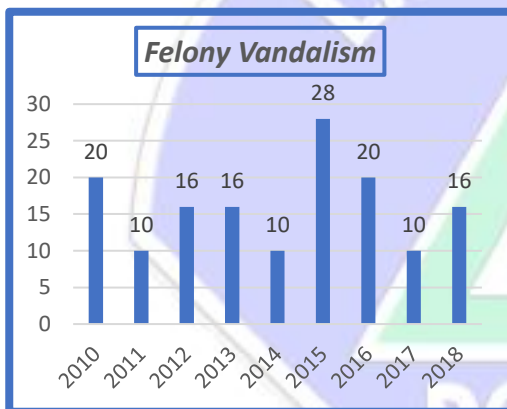
## Commercial Burglary

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 2018, there were 19 commercial burglaries reported in the city.



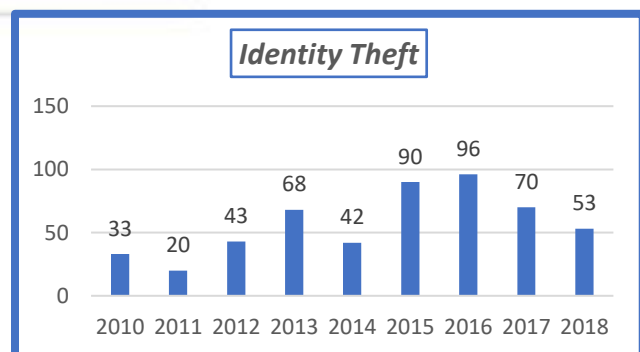
## Vandalism

In 2018, the Police Department responded to a variety of vandalism cases. The most typical vandalism occurs when a criminal intends to commit a burglary, but is either interrupted, or finds nothing of value. An example is a criminal breaking out a car window, not find anything of value and leaving empty handed.



## Other Crimes of Note

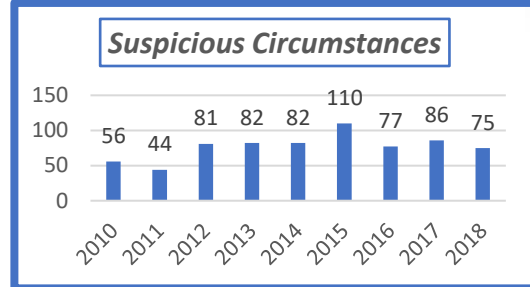
**Identity Theft** is a crime that has impacted many Lafayette residents in the past. The crime has historically been on the rise as more and more credit card numbers are compromised. Lafayette has continued to see a reduction, which may be a result of more retailers requiring credit cards with chip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



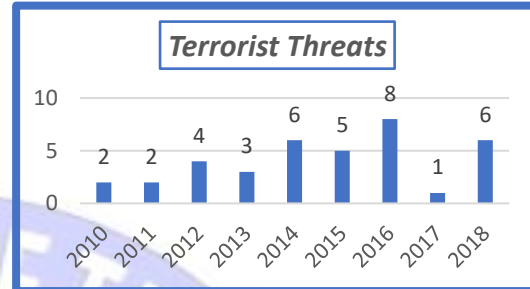
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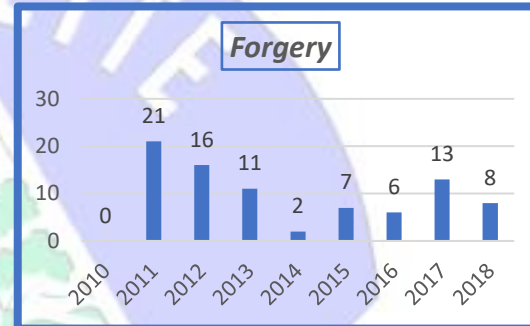
**Suspicious Circumstance** is a title that is assigned to reports that are important to record, but do not necessarily meet the definition of a specific crime. These reports are reviewed by supervisors at the Police Department and other members of the staff to look for any links or connections to other crimes.



**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.



**Forgery** is a crime that involves a false document, signature, or other imitation of an object of value used with the intent to deceive another. The most common form of forgery is signing someone else's name to a check. Additionally, objects, date, and documents can be forged. In Lafayette, residents usually become victims through mail theft. Suspects will typically recreate or alter stolen checks. Forgery also included individuals attempting to cash fake currency.

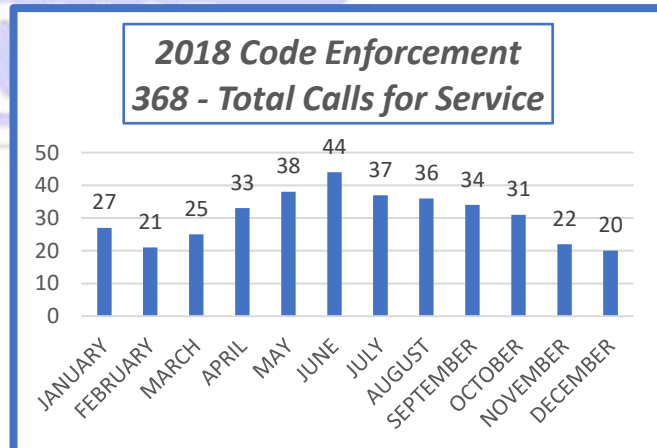


## Code Enforcement

In Lafayette, the Code Enforcement Unit is within the Lafayette Police Department. In 2018, the Code Enforcement Unit handled 368 complaints from residents.

The top six calls for service:

- 1) Fire hazards & weed abatement
- 2) Property Maintenance
- 3) Inoperable vehicles and boats in public view
- 4) Construction without a permit
- 5) Tenant – Landlord – Neighbor disputes
- 6) Animals



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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. In 2018, the Commission continued to support the "Lock Up Lafayette" and "Don't Feed the Bears" Campaigns. "Lock up Lafayette" is designed to remind residents about their responsibility to lock their doors and windows when they leave their home. "Don't Feed the Bears" is designed to remind residents to secure their



vehicles and not leave valuables in plain sight. The Commission hands out crime reduction information and hang signs reminding neighbors of their responsibility.

## 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.



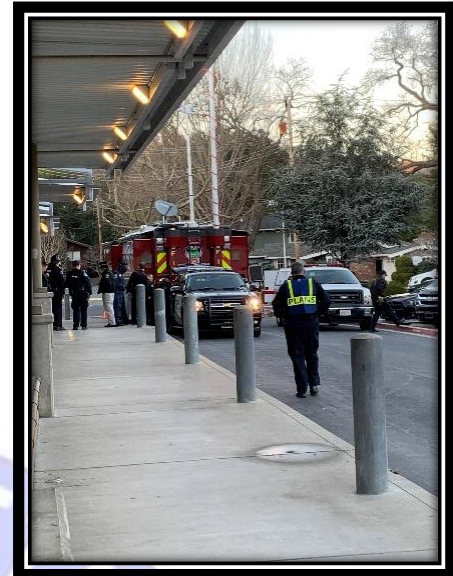
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## School Security / Safety

School safety is a priority for the Lafayette Police Department and the City of Lafayette. For the last several years, Lafayette Police have been working with both the Orinda and Moraga Police Departments to ensure all officers are familiar with the various aspects of responding to an emergency on any one of the Lamorinda school campuses.

If an active threat incident occurs in the Lamorinda area, all three police agencies responding. All three agencies operate on the same Sheriff's Office radio channel and regularly work together on in-progress crimes and emergencies. The group meets twice a year to conduct joint training, involving members of local fire and EMS teams. Similar training is also conducted with the staff members of local school campuses to make sure they are aware of the types of emergencies they may experience while in the workplace.



Lafayette Police continually review our tactical and medical response to active threat scenarios. In 2018, several officers completed the Active Shooter Instructor Course; increasing the number of in-house instructors from three to seven. Additional personnel also attended tactical medical courses. The Lafayette Police Department strives to ensure we are prepared to provide quality care and safety for Lafayette citizens, especially our children.

This past year Lafayette Police started "Recess with a Police Officer" at our schools. This is an effort to increase police presence on school campuses in a positive environment and to continue developing relationships with school staff and students. Several times a month, police department staff spend lunch or recess at a school campus. Lafayette youth are amazing, and the Lafayette Police Department staff really enjoys spending time on campuses.

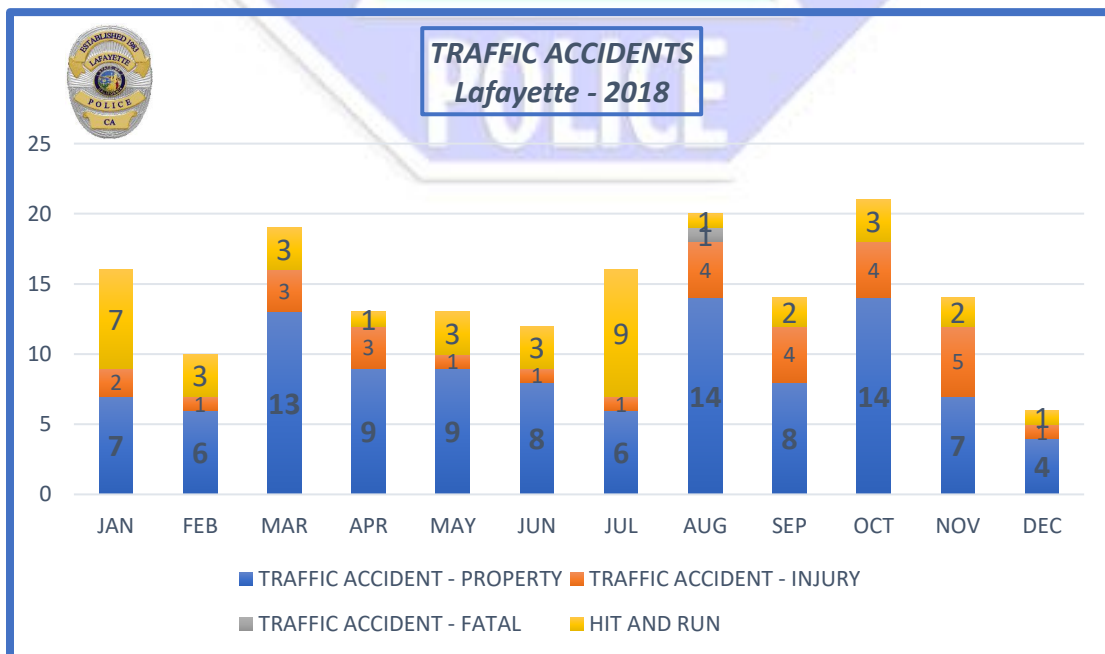
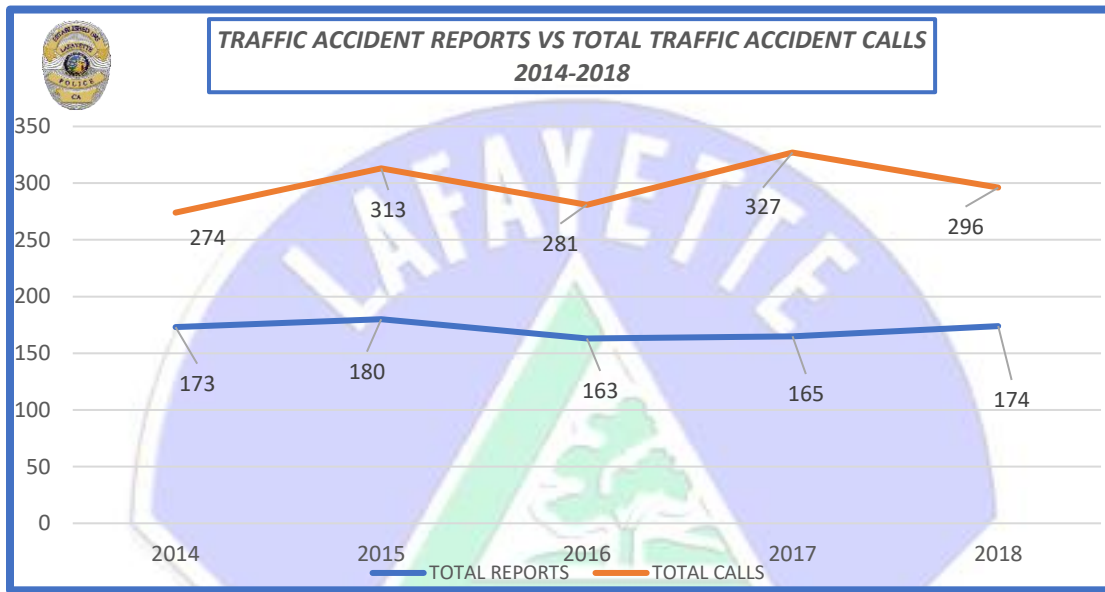


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## Traffic Safety

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.

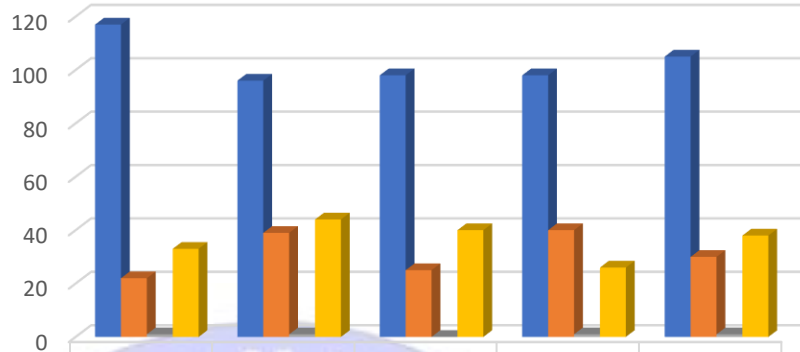




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## TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS Lafayette 2014-2018



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT - PROPERTY	117	96	98	98	105
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT - INJURY	22	39	25	40	30
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT - FATAL	1	1	0	1	1
HIT AND RUN	33	44	40	26	38

## Police Command Staff Contact

Chief Benjamin Alldritt (925) 299 - 3221

Sergeant Thomas Rossberg (925) 299 - 3234

Sergeant David Londono (925) 299 - 3223

Supervisor Cathy Surges-Moscato (925) 299 - 3220

