# ANNISTON POLICE



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



## Table of Contents

Coversheet	1
Table of Contents	2-3
Letter from the Chief	4
Agency Profile	5
Chief of Police	6
Organizational chart	7
Uniform Division	8
Investigative Division	9
Special Operations Division	10
Administrative Division	11
Training and Inspections Unit	12
Agency Accreditation	13-14
2022 Crime Report	15-22
Officer of the Year	23
Officer of the Quarter	24-25
The Community Relations Unit	26-27
APD Yearbook 2022	28-29
Calls for Service	30
All Calls for Service	31
Zone 1 Calls for Service	32
Zone 2 Calls for Service	33
Zone 3 Calls for Service	34
Zone 4 Calls for Service	35

ľ	Moving Forward4	
	Calls for Service Charts	
	Zone 8 Calls for Service	
	Zone 7 Calls for Service	
	Zone 6 Calls for Service	
	Zone 5 Calls for Service	

#### Letter from the Chief

To the Mayor, Council, City Manager, and the Citizens of Anniston,

The men and women of the Anniston Police Department are dedicated to providing the excellent service you expect from those who are entrusted to serve and protect our community.

We are no strangers to innovation and challenge in the pursuit of excellence, as demonstrated by our policies and programs. From being one of the first local agencies to implement body-worn cameras (over a decade ago) to obtaining accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, we continuously look for ways to improve our services.

We are proud of our relationship with the community we serve, and we would like to continue to build on that relationship moving forward. We know public trust is earned through transparency and the day-to-day interactions with our staff. We encourage our staff to seek out opportunities to assist and communicate with the public outside of calls for service and traffic stops. We believe this will help build good relationships and give us a better understanding of the needs our community.

We were one of the first agencies in our area to expand our footprint to social media, and we realized very quickly that we could reach more people faster with valuable information and updates. Other police agencies have contacted us because of our success with different social media platforms. Police cannot accomplish their mission by themselves; it takes the trust and support of the community they serve. We would like to invite more members of our community to join us in our mission. Anyone who has questions or concerns about police activity is encouraged to contact us any time of day. Walk-ins are welcome, but we can also be reached by phone, mail, or email. All of our contact information is available on our website at <a href="https://www.annistonal.gov/police">www.annistonal.gov/police</a>.

Thank you for your continued support,

Chief Nick Bowles



## Agency Profile

The City of Anniston's Police Department has been proudly serving our community since 1883. We are dedicated to keeping our community safe and providing professional law enforcement services to the City of Anniston.

The Anniston Police Department is located at 174 West 13th Street. We are a municipal police department with 91 sworn positions and eight civilian positions. We provide service to both the city limits and the police jurisdiction (a combined estimated population of 43,000 people).



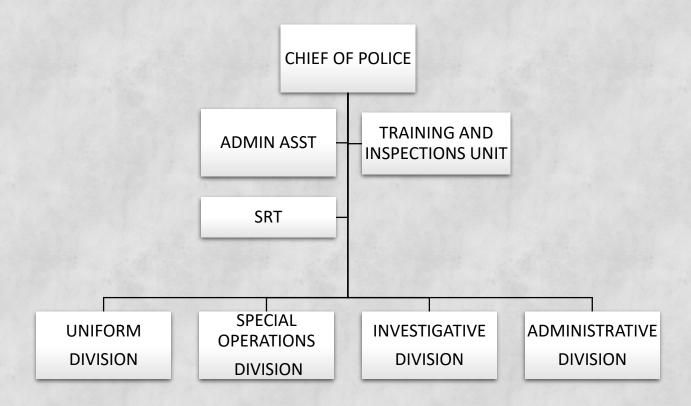
Chief Nick Bowles commands the Anniston Police Department. He is a twenty-two-year veteran of the department, gaining experience at every rank before becoming the Chief of Police in July of 2020. He graduated from the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy in November of 2000. He has earned more than 1,400 hours of continuing education and has obtained a Bachelor's Degree in

Criminal Justice from Central Christian College of Kansas. He joined the Alabama Chiefs of Police Association in 2016 and has accrued over 140 of the 280 hours needed to earn the title of Certified Law Enforcement Executive.

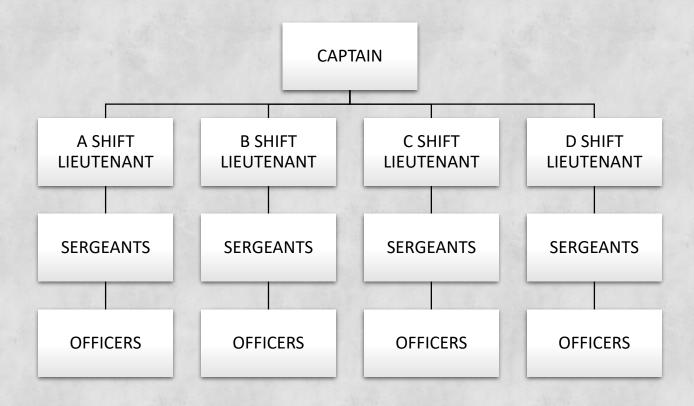
Chief Bowles began his career in Anniston in August of 2000 as a patrolman in the Uniform Division. He spent the next decade gaining experience in both the Uniform and Investigative Divisions. He spent the last decade in various supervision assignments, beginning with his promotion to the rank of sergeant in February of 2010.

During his career, Chief Bowles produced the department's first recruiting video and updated the department's recruiting material. He played a key role in updating the department's policies and procedures manual, as well as earning our first certification from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. He was a member of, and eventually commanded, the Special Response Team. He gave multiple active shooter briefings and trainings to local churches, preschools, and businesses. In the fall of 2019, he created the Community Relations Unit. He has also attended several peer exchanges and trainings to find innovative ways to help reduce the violent crime in our area.

The organizational chart of the Anniston Police Department is listed here. The four divisions (Uniform, Special Operations, Investigative, and Administrative) and the Training and Inspections Unit all have commanders that report directly to the Chief of Police. Each division and unit listed here will be described in greater detail on the following pages.



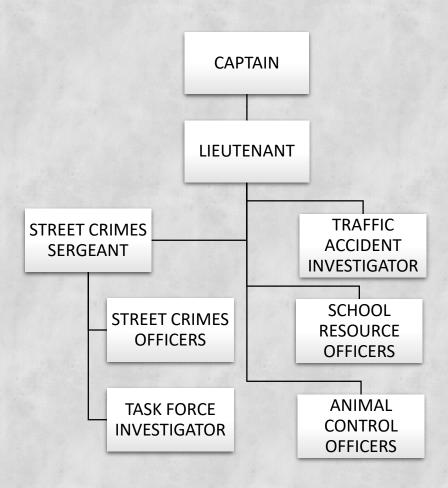
The Uniform Division is under the command of Captain Chris Sparks. Commonly known as the "Patrol Division," it is considered the backbone of the Anniston Police Department, and it contains the most personnel. This division responds to calls for police service, as well as preventive patrol, 24 hours a day. This division is separated into four shifts. Each shift is commanded by a lieutenant and supervised by two sergeants. There are 12 officers assigned to each shift, in addition to the supervision, when fully staffed.



The Investigative Division is under the command of Captain Matt Caballero. This division is responsible for follow-up investigations of crimes reported to the Anniston Police Department, collection and processing of evidence, locating and arresting people with outstanding warrants, and sex offender notifications. This division includes a lieutenant, sergeant, seven case investigators, three crime lab technicians, two warrant officers, and a division secretary when fully staffed.

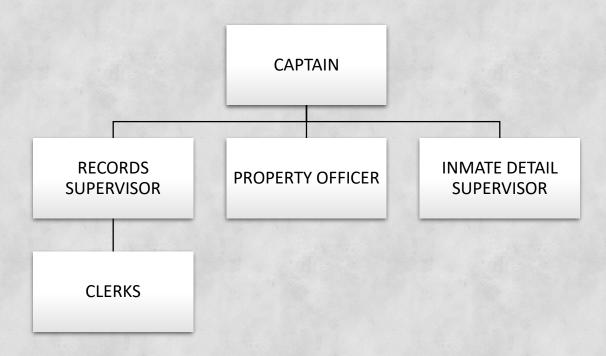


The Special Operations Division is under the command of Captain Justin Sanford. This division is responsible for animal control, traffic enforcement, traffic accident investigations, information technology systems, crime analysis, fleet management, street-level crime investigations, and providing police resources to the local school system. This division has a lieutenant, sergeant, four street crimes officers, two school resource officers, a traffic accident investigator, two civilian animal control officers, and one investigator assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Major Crimes Unit when fully staffed.

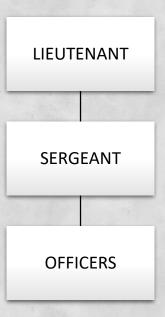


The Administrative Division is under the command of Captain Clint Parris. This division is responsible for the police budget, procuring equipment and supplies, maintaining police records, property control (found, seized, etc.), facility maintenance, and the inmate work detail. The civilian side of this division has a records supervisor, two clerks, and an inmate work detail supervisor. This division also has a sworn police officer that manages the property room and takes walk-in reports during regular business hours.

The commander of this division coordinates with the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office and Calhoun County 9-1-1 for communication and jail services contracted out to these entities.



The Training and Inspections Unit is under the command of Lieutenant Brett Lloyd. This unit is responsible for the recruitment and training of police personnel, internal affairs investigations, and the management of personnel records/systems. A sergeant supervises the training function of this unit. Newly hired police officers are assigned to this unit while they undergo basic police academy training.



## Agency Accreditation Update

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations. CALEA Accreditation is a voluntary process, and participating public safety agencies, by involvement, have demonstrated a commitment to professionalism. The program is intended to enhance organization service capacities and effectiveness, serve as a tool for policy decisions and management, promote transparency and community trust, and establish a platform for continuous review. Additional information is available on the CALEA website at <a href="https://www.calea.org">www.calea.org</a>.

The Anniston Police Department began the accreditation process in late 2015. The assessment process includes extensive self-assessment, annual remote web-based assessments, and quadrennial site-based assessments. Additionally, candidate agencies are presented to the Commission for final consideration and credentialing. We had an onsite assessment in December of 2016. Not only did we have to prove that we have policies and procedures in place to comply with the mandated standards, but we also had to prove we are complying with those policies and procedures. This process was done through physical observations conducted by two assessors. We passed inspection and were awarded our first accreditation by the Commission in March of 2017.

The accreditation process requires annual reviews of proof of compliance with 189 standards after initial accreditation. These standards range anywhere from how we conduct an oath of office for a new police officer to how we use force in a situation. We catalog and upload our proofs of compliance throughout the year to a records management system. We then give an assessor remote access to those records for an annual inspection to be conducted every year from the initial accreditation date.

In September of 2020, assessor Brian Childress completed the 2020/Year 4 annual assessment of the Anniston Police Department, for Tier 1 Law Enforcement Accreditation. This assessment was for our second accreditation award, which was awarded to us on March 25, 2021.

In March of 2022, we completed our annual assessment and we are still in compliance with CALEA standards.



## 2022 Crime Report

We documented 1808 Part 1 offenses for 2022. These offenses include Criminal Homicide, Sexual Assault, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, and Motor Vehicle Theft. Overall, Part 1 crime increased by 10.31 percent from the prior year and our Part 1 crime clearance rate was 54.09 percent (crimes solved – either cleared by arrest or by exceptional means). Part 1 crime can be broken down into two categories, violent crime and property crime.

Violent crime (Criminal Homicide, Sexual Assault, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault) decreased by 9.93 percent from the prior year and our violent crime clearance rate was 69.62 percent. There were 8 homicides, 16 sexual assaults, 22 robberies, and 326 aggravated assaults. Violent crime accounted for 20.58 percent of the total Part 1 crimes reported in 2022.

Property crime (*Burglary, Larceny-Theft, and Motor Vehicle Theft*) increased by 17.13 percent over the past year and our property crime clearance rate was 50.14 percent. There were 261 burglaries, 1040 larceny-thefts, and 135 motor vehicle thefts. Property crime accounted for 74.76 percent of the total Part 1 crimes reported in 2021.

Publications reporting crime rates often only include city limit population data when establishing per capita crime rates. Anniston has a population of around 21,000 people but it serves around 43,000 people when you include its three-mile police jurisdiction. It should be noted that almost every report shows a crime rate twice as high as it actually is for our city.

Violent crime in Anniston saw a new historic low in 2019 with 334 violent offenses reported that year. There were 471 violent offenses reported in 2020, 414 violent offences reported in 2021, and 372 violent offenses reported in 2022, which is the second lowest number recorded since dating back to 1985 (The earliest year searchable in by the Crime Data Explorer).

Historical crime data can be found using the Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer on their website. According to the FBI's website, The FBI's Crime Data Explorer (CDE) aims to provide transparency, create easier access, and expand awareness of criminal, and noncriminal, law enforcement data sharing; improve accountability for law enforcement; and provide a foundation to help shape public policy with the result of a safer nation. Use the CDE to discover available data through visualizations, download data in .csv format, and other large data files.

The Crime Data Explorer can be accessed by clicking the following link: <a href="https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend">https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend</a>

The National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) was established by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide an innovative framework to enhance federal support of state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecution authorities in enhancing public safety.

PSP began as a pilot program, the Violence Reduction Network, in 2014 and is designed to promote interagency coordination by leveraging specialized law enforcement expertise with dedicated prosecutorial resources to promote public and community safety.

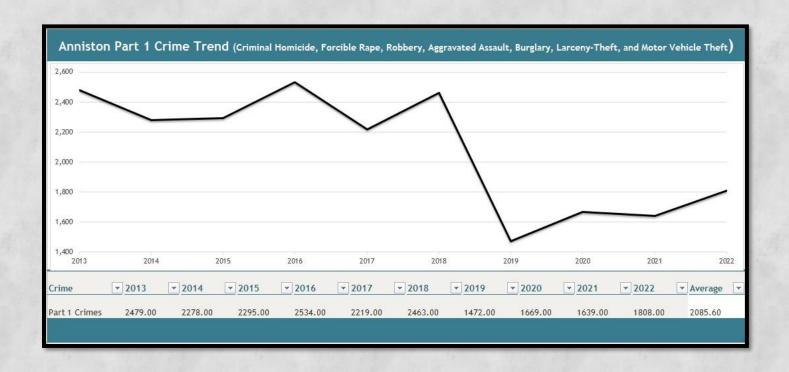
PSP serves as a DOJ-wide program that enables participating sites to consult with and receive expedited, coordinated training and technical assistance (TTA) and an array of resources from DOJ to enhance local public safety strategies. This model enables DOJ to provide jurisdictions of different sizes and diverse needs with data-driven, evidence-based strategies tailored to the unique local needs of participating cities to build their capacities to address violent crime challenges.

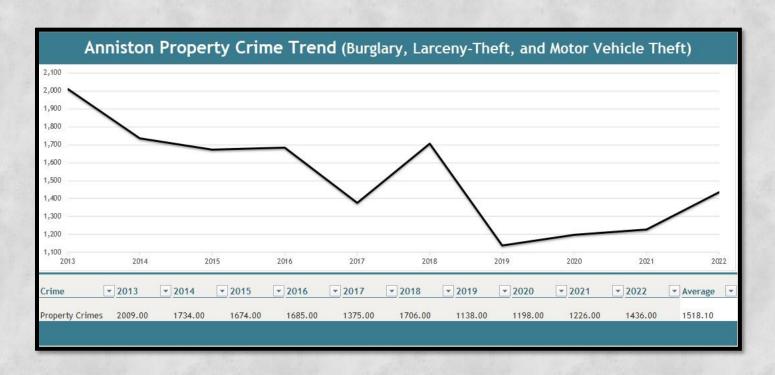
#### **PSP** Approach

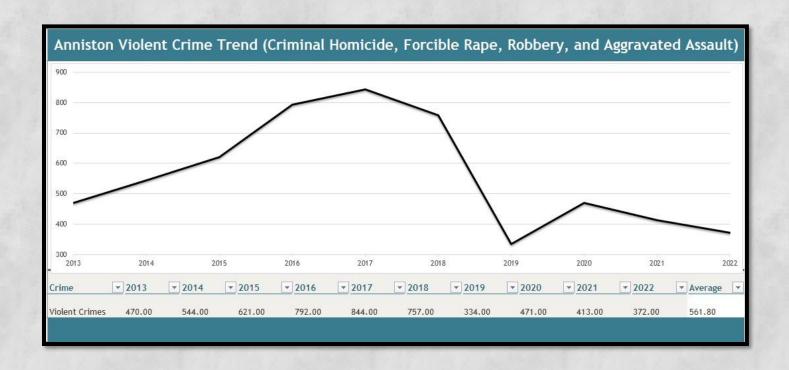
- 3-Year Commitment
- Strategic Site Liaison Assigned
- Customized Symposium
- Expedited Delivery of Assistance in Eight Core Areas:
   Criminal Justice Collaboration, Community Engagement, Crime Analysis, Gun Violence, Constitutional Policing, Federal Partnerships, Technology, and Investigations
- Peer Learning and Exposure to Communities of Practice

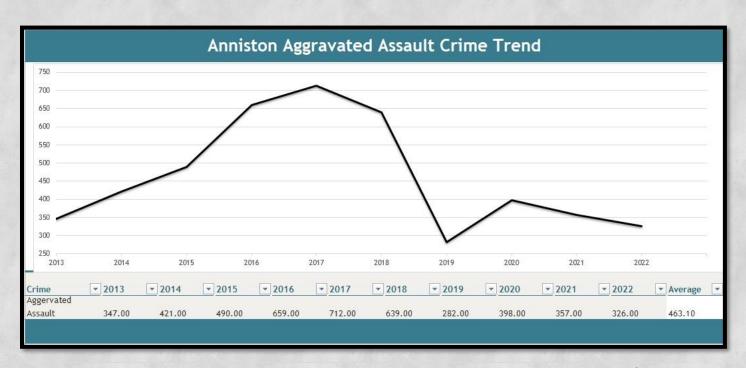
In 2019, the Anniston Police Department was designated as a Public Safety Partnership site. Only ten cites in the United States were awarded this designation that year. We also partnered with the Oxford Police Department and started sending personnel to the East Metro Area Crime Center. This partnership provided us with access to new technologies and regional information resources.

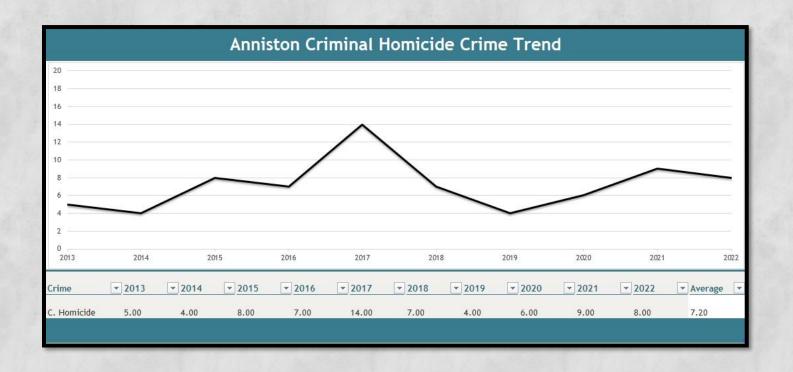
The next few pages contain graphs to visualize the progress of reducing our crime rate over the past few years.

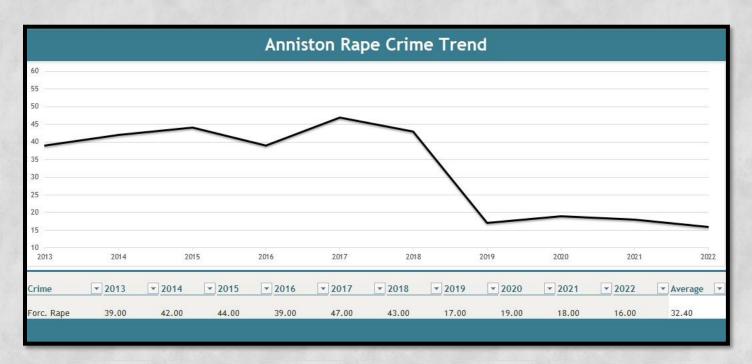


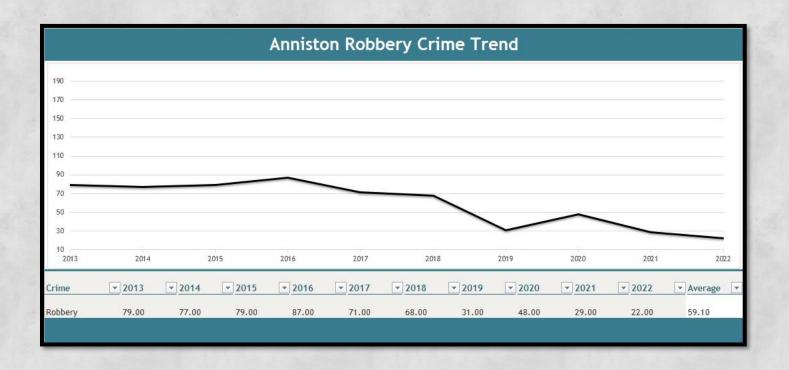


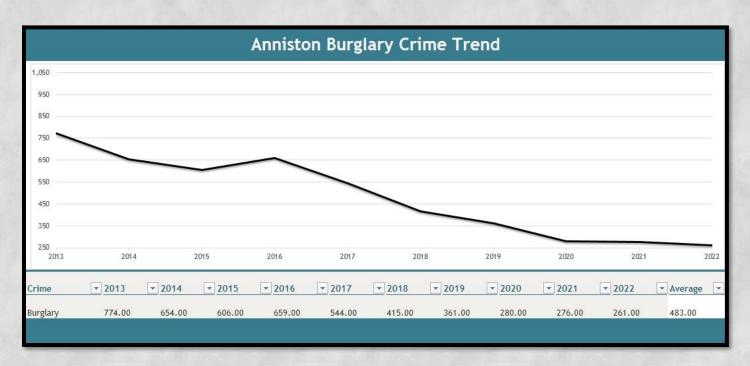


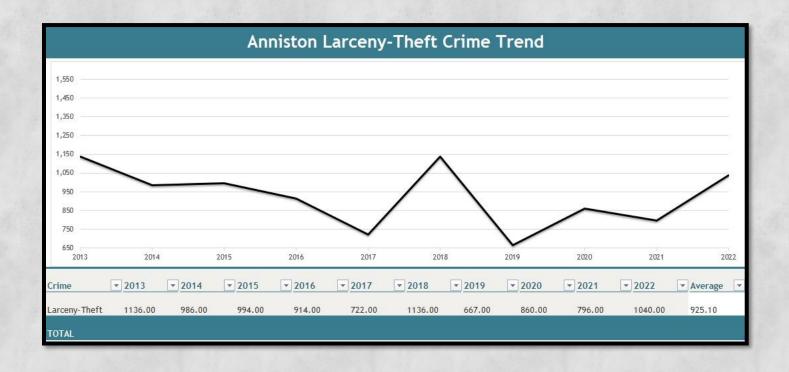


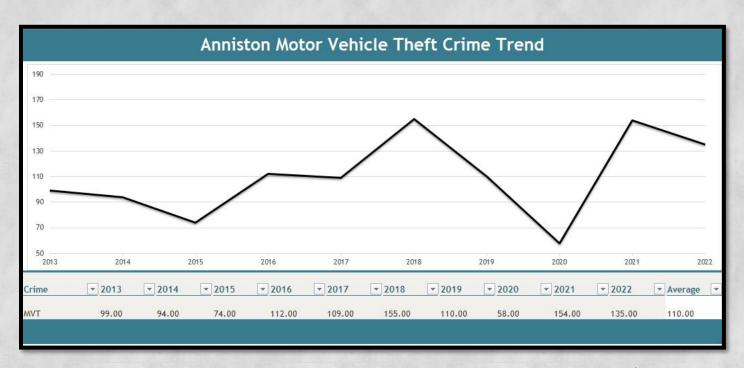












### 2022 Officer of the Year



Corporal Anthony Green was selected as Officer of the Year for 2022 because of his excellent service.

Corporal Green was assigned to the Street Crimes Unit for the first half of 2022, but staffing shortages in the department caused him to take a temporary assignment to a patrol shift for the remainder of the year. He is a very dependable officer, and his work

ethic did not change because of the reassignment. He helped lead the shift while continuing to work on some street crimes' projects he did not want to see suffer because of the move.

A primary goal of the Street Crimes Unit is narcotics enforcement, but Corporal Green's vision does not stop with simply getting drugs off the street. He also focuses his efforts on rehabilitating the users. During the past year, he has worked with New Directions Rehabilitation Center and has facilitated multiple addicts' entry in their program. Three people have now successfully graduated that program. These people were able to turn their lives around and they still report to Corporal Green the difference he has made in their lives.

Our profession can sometimes feel like a revolving door of the same people being arrested for the same things, and this can cause some officers to become callous. Corporal Green has stayed focused on one of our main mission objectives; helping people.

## 2022 Officers of the Quarter



Sergeant Dannis Collins was selected as Officer of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2022.

Sergeant Collins was a corporal when he was selected for this nomination. The department faced staffing shortages throughout the year, and morale was a concern because of the increased workload on the remaining workforce.

Sergeant Collins was the most senior officer on his shift, and his shift mates looked to him for guidance. He would come to

work early every day with a great attitude. He coordinated shift gatherings outside of work to make his co-workers feel like family. He set a great example for his shift mates and led his shift though the challenges of the time.



Corporal Gabe Colindres was selected as Officer of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2022.

During the quarter, Corporal Colindres was dispatched to the call of an individual threating suicide with a gun. He was able to make a connection with the person after some time. The individual was emotional and intoxicated at the time of the encounter which presented a challenge with communication.

Corporal Colindres was able successfully get the individual the help they need and there is no doubt that his negotiating skills were instrumental in the positive outcome of the incident. He followed through with everything he said he would do after the encounter and showed he cared throughout the entire situation.

Corporal Colindres also serves as a field training officer on his shift and as a member of the department's special response team.



Corporal Anthony Green was selected as Officer of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2022.

During the quarter, Corporal Green was dispatched to a call where an individual was trying to assault and run away from DHR personnel. When he arrived, the individual was throwing rocks at responding patrol cars as they approached.

The individual was emotionally disturbed and visibly upset.

Corporal Green took his time and was eventually able to get through to the individual with understanding and compassion. He was able to defuse the situation through de-escalation tactics and bring about a positive outcome.

Corporal Green was off duty when he heard a second call dispatched regarding the same individual less than a week later. Corporal Green, having already built a rapport with the individual, took the call on his own time, showing just how much he cares about the people in this community. He was commended by DHR for his actions during both calls.



Officer Christopher Bush was selected for Officer of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2022.

During the quarter, Officer Bush was one of the most proactive officers in the department. He regularly takes time outside of his normal working hours to further his knowledge and follow up on his investigations. He is very patient and takes the extra time to thoroughly explain a process to a citizen or help someone in need.

He became a field training officer and helps mold new recruits after they complete police academy training. He does all of this with a positive attitude.

## The Community Relations Unit

Police officers are tasked with ensuring the safety of the community. These daily tasks usually include answering calls for service, traffic enforcement, conducting criminal investigations, and making arrest when needed. Officers must also be able to provide a social service function, which is key to building a strong relationship with the people they serve. Officers can help augment other community resources that primarily deal with mental health issues, homelessness, and well-being, but are often underfunded or understaffed.

The community must have trust and absolute confidence in their police department. Police officers cannot be in every neighborhood, school, or business at all times. They rely on the help of the citizens in the community to reach out and provide information to assist with their duties. Some citizens are reluctant to come forward with information to aid the police if they believe that they are unfair or unjust towards the citizens they serve. Police must be transparent in their duties and get to know the community on a level other than enforcement actions.

The Anniston Police Department and the Community Relations Unit understand the need for a stronger bond between officers and the citizens of Anniston. The Community Relations Unit (CRU) is made up of a diverse group of officers from different backgrounds and walks of life. CRU participates in many community events throughout the year. This past summer, CRU members put on a class titled "Why Police Do, What They Do". Officers taught information about the Anniston Police Department, it's mission to its citizens, and the structure of the department. Citizens also learned about APD's use of force policy, and they were given the opportunity to put those skills to the test by being an

officer in our virtual simulator. These informative programs help to bridge the gap between the officers and the community they serve.

During 2022, CRU members participated in over 50 events throughout the year. The annual Christmas Toy Drive is the most predominate event the unit participates in. This year they were able to provide gifts to over 117 children and their families in the local area. Many families who had not signed up to receive gifts showed up, but members of CRU did not hesitate to do whatever they could to provide gifts for those families as well. This program is an excellent opportunity for officers to get to know the community and speak to them about any other needs citizens may have.











## APD Yearbook 2022

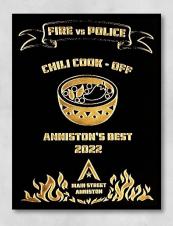
This section of the report is dedicated to preserving the history of the Anniston Police Department from year to year. It will contain some notable accomplishments for the year, as well as department trends that can change with time.



APD's float took first place in the City of Anniston's 2022 Christmas Parade. The theme of the parade participants was "a Hollywood Christmas." Our float featured the "APD Blues Brothers Band."

The band consecutively played three songs during the parade. They were "Gimme Some Lovin'," Sweet Home Chicago," and "Soul Man," from the Blues Brothers movie. All of the members of the band were actual APD members. Chief Nick Bowles played the guitar, Investigator Doug White played the bass, Lieutenant Brett Lloyd played the drums, Sergeant Justin Hartley played the trumpet, Pastor Rick Searle played the saxophone, and Investigators Christopher Cunningham and Jake Ford provided the vocals. Lieutenant Emily McCullars played the part of Sister Mary Stigmata during the performance.





APD also won the first Fire vs. Police Chili Cook-Off in 2022.



APD has always had a strong social media presence. Our Facebook page was one of the first police pages in our area, and it quickly amassed several followers. We were able to reach several of our citizens with informative posts with just the click of a button.

We branched out to TikTok in 2022. To our surprise, or pilot video went viral, prompting national news

interviews and attention. We were able capitalize on the success of the new platform to help with our recruitment efforts. The was extremely useful, especially in a time of low police applicant numbers across the nation.



### Calls for Service

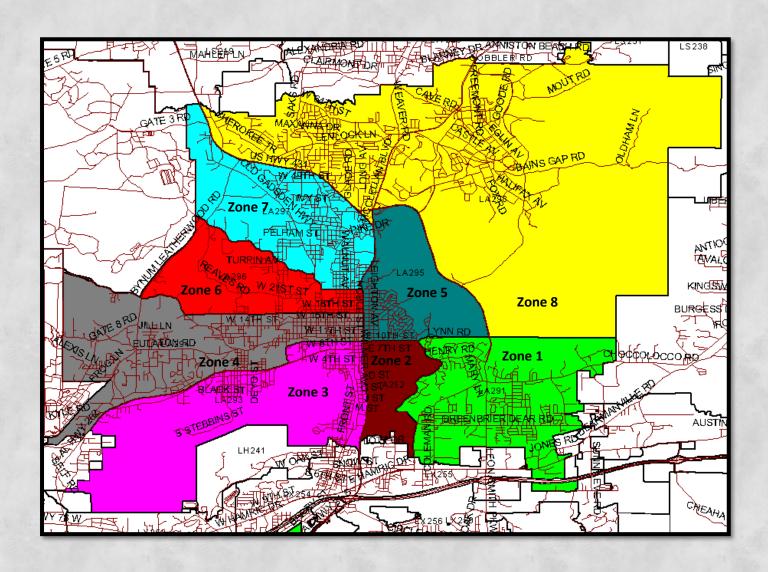
The Anniston Police Department answers several calls for service each year. These calls can range anywhere from violent crimes in progress to someone wanting us to deliver a message to a family member that they cannot reach. Areas of Anniston are placed into zones for a response. Officers are assigned to one of our eight zones as their primary area of responsibility for the shift.

During 2022, The Anniston Police Department responded to 38,532 calls for service. We also made, or assisted with, 9,634 traffic stops in addition to those calls, totaling 48,166 documented police contacts. The calls for service and traffic stops resulted in 411 felony arrests, 1,931 misdemeanor arrests, 2,546 traffic citations, and 7,424 warnings. We completed 3,789 Incident/Offense reports (reports taken to document a crime or incident of significant importance) and 2,810 Miscellaneous Incident reports (reports taken to document something other than a crime or incident of significant importance). We also investigated 929 traffic accidents. Part 1 crimes (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, and Motor Vehicle Theft) only accounted for 4.7% of our calls for service. Violent crimes only accounted for 1% of our calls for service.

The next few pages contain maps of each zone with the number of calls answered in that area.

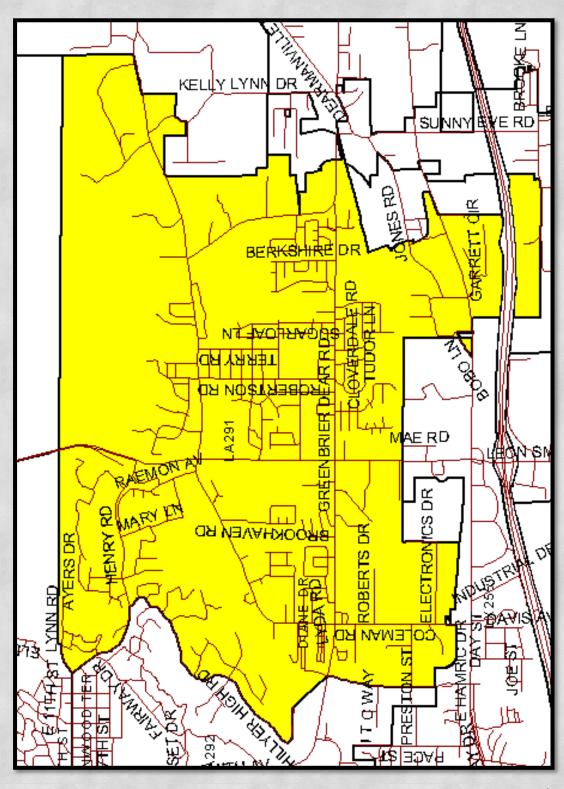
## Zone map of Anniston

## 2022 – 38,532 Calls for Service



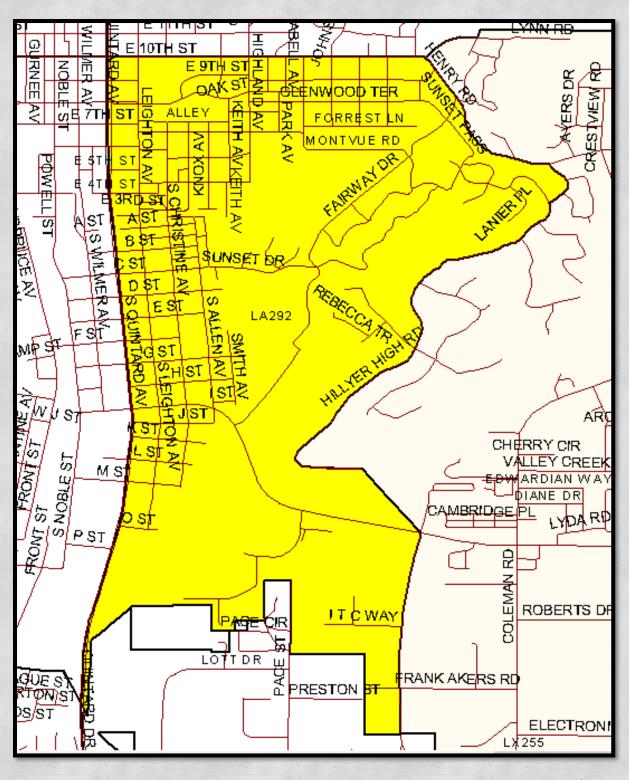
# <del>-N</del>

## 2022 – 3,188 Calls for Service



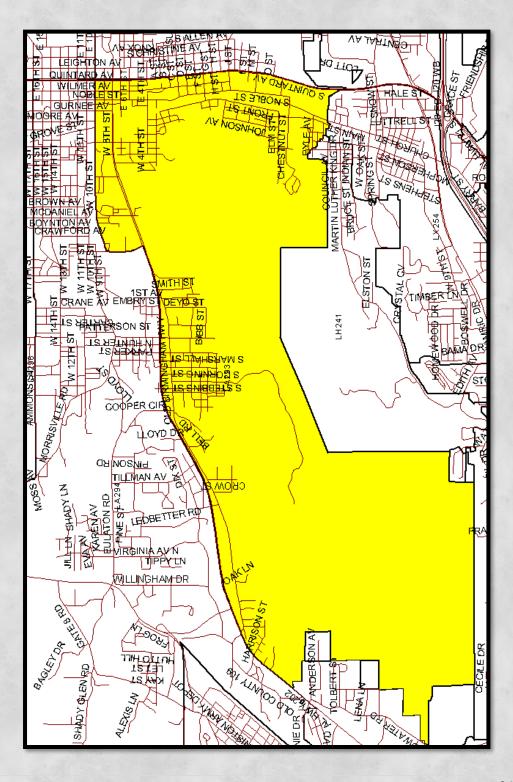
# h

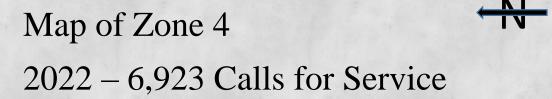
## 2022 – 2,865 Calls for Service

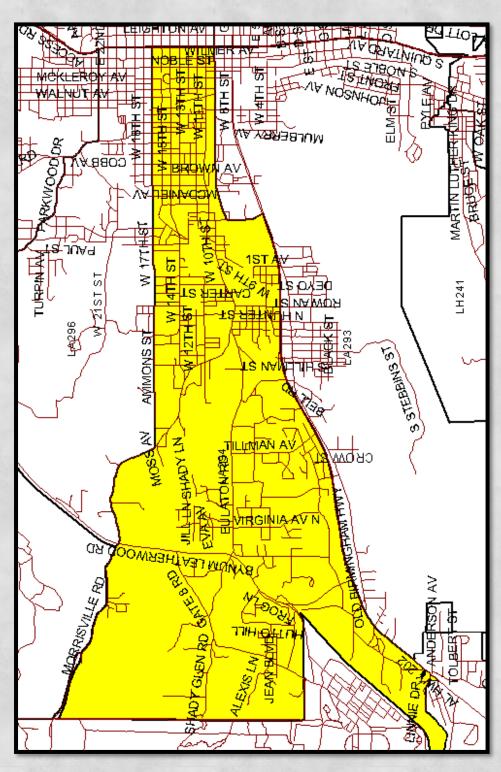




## 2022 – 5,833 Calls for Service

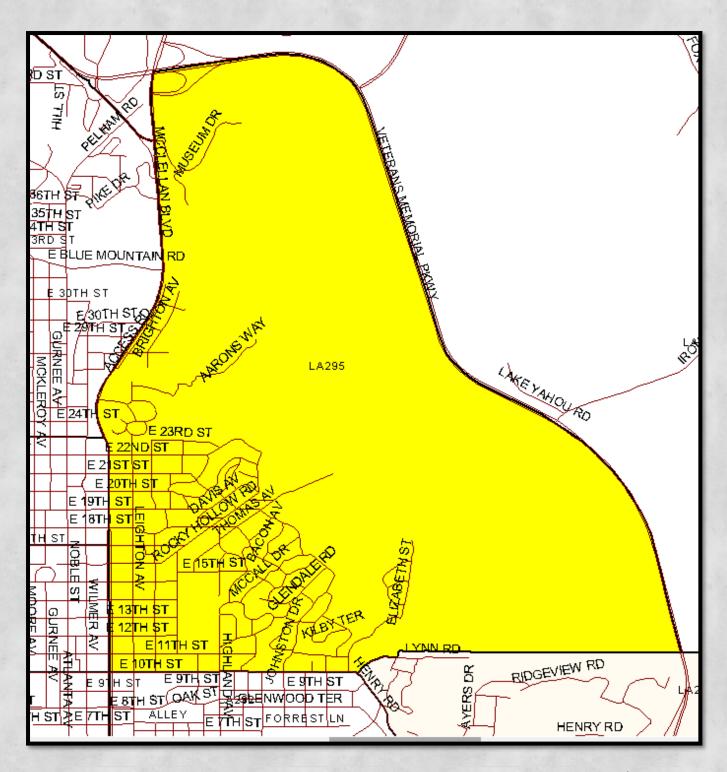






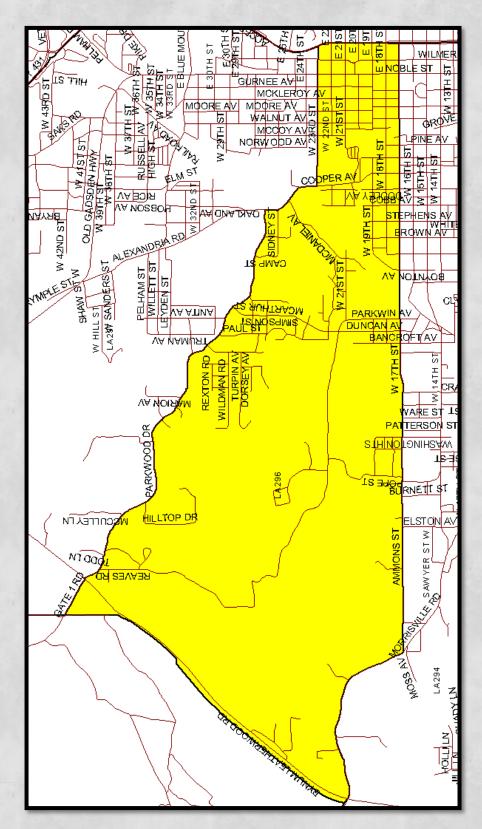


# Map of Zone 5 2022 – 3,608 Calls for Service



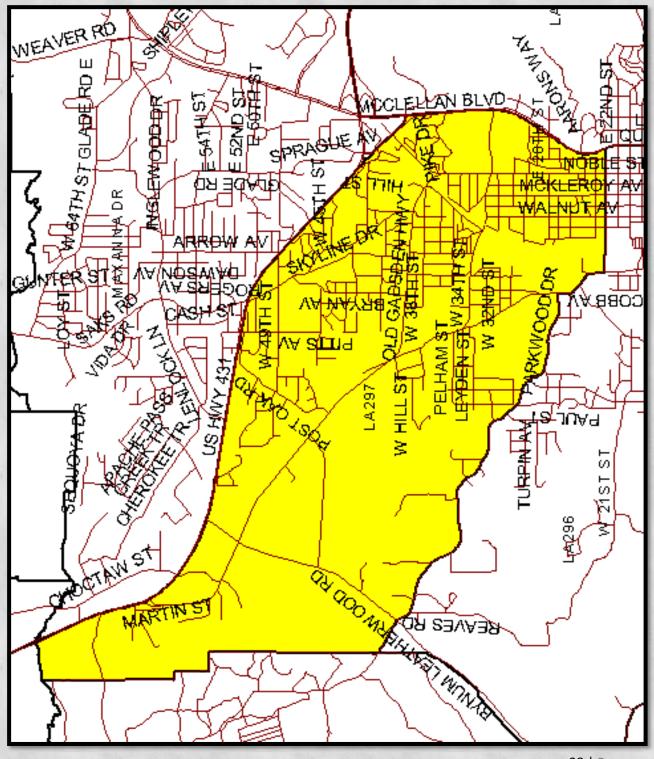


## 2022 – 2,923 Calls for Service



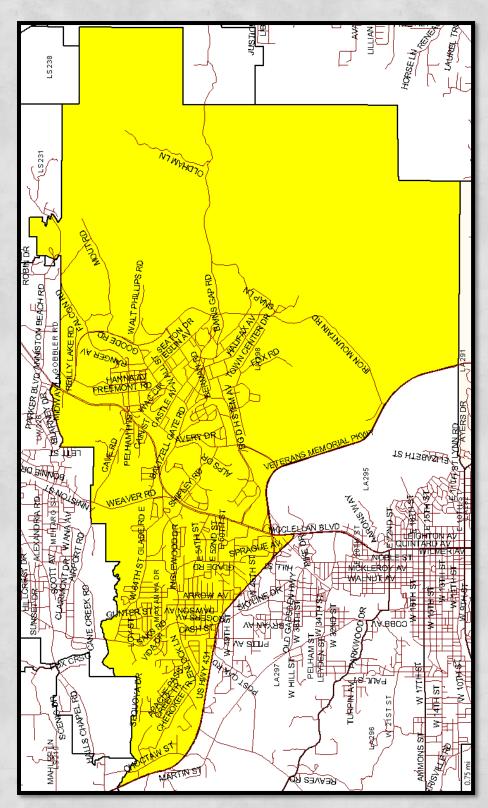
# Map of Zone 7 2022 – 5,307 Calls for Service



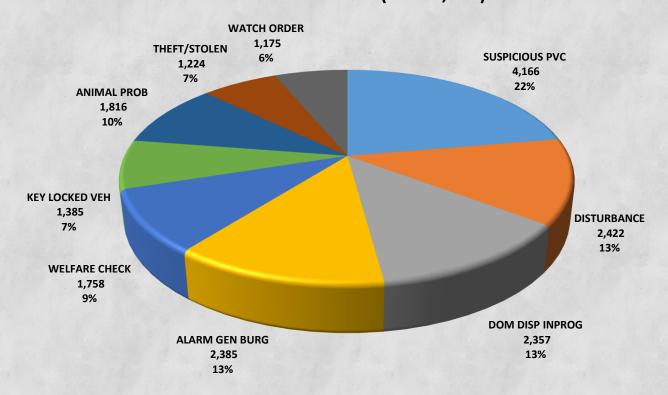


# Map of Zone 8 2022 – 7,313 Calls for Service



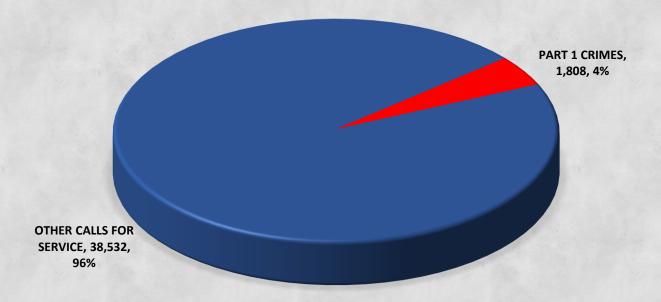


## **TOP CALLS FOR SERVICE (over 1,000)**

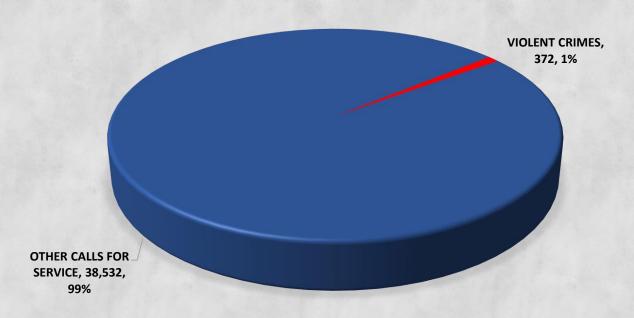




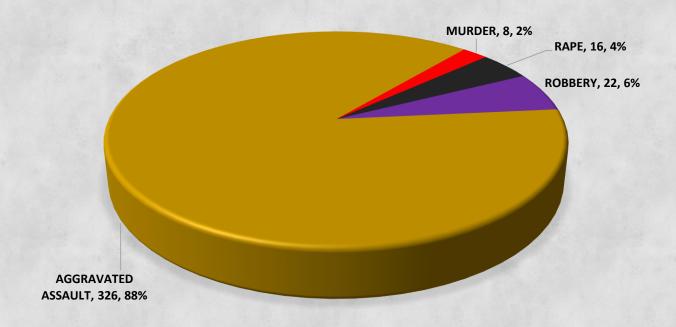
#### **2022 PART 1 CRIMES VS OTHER CALLS FOR SERVICE**



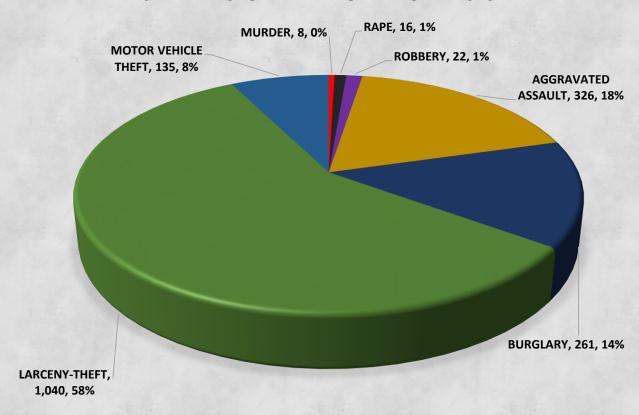
#### **2022 VIOLENT CRIMES VS OTHER CALLS FOR SERVICE**



#### **2022 ANNISTON VIOLENT CRIME OFFENSES**



#### **2022 ANNISTON PART 1 CRIME OFFENSES**



## Moving Forward

Providing safety to the citizens and visitors of Anniston is our primary mission. We are always looking for ways to improve our services. We will continue to evaluate our policies and procedures to ensure we are operating at our best. We will continue to take advantage of our partnerships and the opportunities they present to better serve our community.

A few years ago the City of Anniston formed the Anniston Police Citizen's Advisory Committee. We have also become more transparent by publishing several internal reports to our website. We also post weekly statistic reports to our popular social media pages, along with public safety campaigns. We will continue to be transparent and engage with our community outside of enforcement situations through professional department-wide encounters.

In short, we will continue to provide professional police service with honor, integrity, and the respect that you have come to expect from your police department, and we appreciate your continued support.