EL CERRITO POLICE DEPARTMENT
2020 ANNUAL REPORT
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Dear El Cerrito Community,

We all endured quite a year in 2020. Usually, I use this space to describe the main goals of the El Cerrito Police Department (ECPD) for the year and how the agency went about achieving them. We all know that last year was quite different from a normal year. In February 2020, management and supervisory staff met as usual to develop a department focus for the year. At the time, we knew that COVID-19 was a looming threat but did not realize the impact it would have on our region. We planned to focus agency efforts toward safety on the Ohlone Greenway and reducing automobile burglaries.

By March, it was clear that we needed to reevaluate our goals. We changed our focus to keeping our community, staff, and families healthy. We modified our workspaces, our schedules, and our methods of interacting with our community. We offered more options for online and telephonic reporting. We reduced activities that could contribute to the spread of disease, like in-person calls for non-criminal matters and traffic stops.

Our community made big changes during the pandemic as well. The parking lots at the BART stations emptied and our residential streets filled. Our neighborhoods were full of people staying home, working from home, and walking in their neighborhoods. I was one of many people who found walking to be a great way to release stress. Because of how our community changed, crime changed along with it. The patterns of the past were disrupted last year, at least on a temporary basis.

Crime in El Cerrito plummeted during the pandemic, with a 25% reduction in violent crime and a 27% reduction in property crime. This same drop was not necessarily experienced by other jurisdictions in our area. In fact, violent crime increased significantly in many cities around us.

While crime was falling, the staffing level at the ECPD also dropped. The City faced a significant budget crisis that was exacerbated by the pandemic. During budget hearings, the ECPD reduced the maximum sworn staffing of the department from 45 to 37. By the end of 2020, the ECPD hit the staffing target set by the City Council and saved the city a lot of money in the process.

This year, we included more information in our annual report. You will find statistics on the use of force, information about complaints, and new policing tools. I hope that you find it interesting and informative.

The El Cerrito Police Department is proud to serve our community. We hope that you are also proud of the work that we do.

Sincerely,

Paul Keith
Mission

We protect our community, solve crime and pursue justice.

Vision

As a model law enforcement agency, we will continue to foster an environment of collaboration, honesty, and respect with each member of our community, our department, and our allied agencies. We will represent the highest ideals of public service in carrying out our mission and living our values. El Cerrito Police Department will be known for its commitment to steadfast compassionate service and vigorous crime fighting.

Values

Individual Values

Each member of the El Cerrito Police Department recognizes that service is the foundation of our value system and ethical behavior is the cornerstone of public trust. We believe the character of our department is best reflected in the quality of service provided by each of our members during each community contact. We will demonstrate, through our actions, an uncompromising allegiance to the core principles set forth in the Police Officer’s Code of Ethics and the standards modeled at every level of our organization. Every El Cerrito Police Department employee will embrace ideals consistent with our values.

Organizational Values

As members of the El Cerrito Police Department we accept responsibility for contributing to the safety and quality of life in our community. We will meet the challenge of fulfilling our responsibility through our shared values and commitment to:

Honor

We will express with our fellow department members, and the public, that we are genuinely concerned with how we treat each other. To honor and respect others in the delivery of law enforcement service is the mindset and spirit that enables us to model our values.

Integrity

We will demonstrate our allegiance to the character of sound moral principles as described in the Police Officer’s Code of Ethics coupled with the qualities of honesty and openness. Our words will match our actions.

Pride

We will reflect in our actions that every member of our department matters and that how we get the job done is as important as simply getting the job done.

Leadership

We will serve with humility, authenticity, initiative, bearing, and courage at every level of our organization.

Accountability

We consistently improve our individual and organizational performance by enabling a culture of responsibility, openness, and continuous development. We will take responsibility for our actions and be willing to admit our mistakes.

Commitment

We will reflect our inner strength through our dedication to public service in how we carry out our mission, pursue our vision and exhibit our values.
New Employees

Community Service Officer
Gina Smith

Police Officer
John Whitney
Michael Olivieri
Jerrick Bernstine
Anthony Reina

Retirement
Lieutenant Stephen Bonini
Captain Robert De La Campa
Budget Overview

ANNUAL BUDGET

$12,294,633.00

POLICE ADMINISTRATION

$4,039,377.00

- Dispatch Services Contract
- Animal Control Services Contract
- Other Contracts
- Training
- Records Staff

POLICE OPERATIONS

$6,377,586.00

- Front Line Staff
- Traffic Division
- School Resource Officers
- Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance

POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

$1,877,670.00

- Investigators
- Evidence Contract
- Crime Lab Fees
- Crime Prevention

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Pie chart showing:
- Police Operations: 52%
- Police Administration: 33%
- Police Investigations: 15%
**Crime**

**Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny / Theft</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>902</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>1108</td>
<td>1055</td>
<td>1058</td>
<td>698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Offenses</td>
<td>1002</td>
<td>1331</td>
<td>1202</td>
<td>1519</td>
<td>1470</td>
<td>1460</td>
<td>1047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Violent crime includes murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. In 2020, there was a 25% decrease in violent crime.

Property crime includes burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft. In 2020, there was a 27% decrease in property crime. Although there was an overall decrease, there was a 29% increase in auto theft.
When officers use force to make an arrest, we carefully examine the events leading up to the use of force as well as the events following, to make sure that our officers used force reasonably and provided adequate aid in the event of an injured community member. El Cerrito officers seek compliance when making an arrest but must be prepared to reasonably respond to resistance.

In El Cerrito, a review board examines each tracked use of force. The board consists of three department supervisors and/or managers. The board reviews the report of the incident, photographic evidence, body worn videos and may call employees to answer questions. At the conclusion of the review, the board determines whether a use of force was within or outside of department policy. The board also makes recommendations on training and tactics to improve future responses. All board recommendations are reviewed by both the Police Captain and the Chief of Police.

If the board determines that a use of force is excessive, the department may conduct an additional internal investigation into the use of force with consideration given to the use of outside investigators.

**Use of Force Tracking and Reviewing**

The El Cerrito Police Department does not track the use of control holds to accomplish handcuffing, unless a person is injured or reports that they are injured. Handcuffing control holds are control techniques used during almost every arrest situation. The department tracks and reviews all other uses of force including takedowns, firearms, impact weapons, canine uses, pepper spray, electronic control devices (ECDs), direct impact munitions (bean bags, foam rounds) and personal body weapons (elbows, knees, fists). A single use of force incident may include multiple officers using a variety of techniques.

The ECPD uses a use of force reporting system known as Blue Team, a part of the software suite IAP-pro. The software includes an early warning system to notify administrators about patterns of force usage.

The ECPD Use of Force Report 2017-2019 as well as all other community publications can be found at this link: [http://el-cerrito.org/1548/Community-Publications](http://el-cerrito.org/1548/Community-Publications)

The ECPD use of force policies can be found at this link: [http://el-cerrito.org/1391/Policies](http://el-cerrito.org/1391/Policies)
Use of Force

Officers used force against subjects in 9 incidents in 2020. Because multiple officers and the use of multiple techniques are involved in each incident, the total use of force is higher than the total number of incidents.

In these 9 incidents, 5 were calls for service, two were vehicle stops, one was a pedestrian stop, and one was a suspicious circumstance.

During 2020, the Police Department began evaluating additional options for securing combative subjects. Department Staff identified a promising product known as BolaWrap™. The device has been deployed at some agencies in Contra Costa County. Early results from those agencies appear very positive. The device has helped agencies safely restrain knife wielding subjects without resorting to significant uses of force. Find more information on the BolaWrap™ on page 11.

### Types of Force Used - 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Force</th>
<th># of times used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control Hold</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Impact Munition</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD (ex. Taser)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact Weapon</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K9 Deployment/Apprehension</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper Spray</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain Compliance Technique</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Body Weapon (ex. Elbow, knee)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takedown Technique (ex. Trip, tackle)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRAP</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use of Force

Alternative Restraint Tools

**BolaWrap™**

The El Cerrito Police Department recently purchased BolaWrap™ Devices. BolaWrap™ was designed to be used on non-compliant subjects who need to be detained but are not responding to verbal commands of officers. Before an encounter escalates to a point where a higher level of force is needed to be used, the BolaWrap™ can be deployed to help safely restrain a subject from a distance, without relying on inflicting pain to gain compliance.

The BolaWrap™ is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an 8-foot bola style Kevlar tether to wrap a subject’s legs or arms at an effective range of 10-25 feet.

BolaWrap™ ensures a safe space between the subject and officer. It does not rely on pain compliance and is specifically designed to be deployed early in an encounter to decrease the potential for injury to the subject, bystanders or the officer.

**WRAP**

The Wrap, manufactured by Safe Restraints, Inc., is a temporary restraining device which provides a safe method of controlling and immobilizing a violent or potentially violent/combative subject who has been taken into custody. Used properly it can increase officer safety and reduce the risk of injury to oneself or others. The Wrap immobilizes the body and restricts a subject’s ability to kick or strike. The Wrap restrains the subject in a comfortable upright seated position so they can safely receive medical care or be transported.
Each year, the El Cerrito Police Department (ECPD) conducts investigations into the actions of El Cerrito Police Employees. The ECPD investigates complaints from two sources: members of the public and employees of the police department. Just because a person makes a complaint about a police employee, it does not mean that the misconduct occurred. It is the responsibility of trained investigators to interview involved people, gather and analyze evidence, and make a fact-based determination about the allegation.

**Complaint Process**

Members of the public can make complaints against police personnel in several ways. People can travel to the El Cerrito Police Department and pick up a complaint form. They can also visit the El Cerrito Police Department website and download a complaint form. Community members can make a complaint:

- In writing by completing a complaint form and mailing it to the Police Department
- In writing by completing a complaint form and dropping it off at the Police Department
- Verbally by calling the police department and speaking with a supervisor
- By email by contacting the Chief of Police or a command staff member

Instructions on making a complaint and the complaint form can be found on the ECPD website at: [https://www.el-cerrito.org/1004/Professional-Standards](https://www.el-cerrito.org/1004/Professional-Standards)

Once a complaint is made, it is referred to a department investigator. Depending on the nature of the complaint, it might be investigated by a trained in-house internal affairs investigator, a certified private investigator, or an investigator hired by the City’s insurance authority.

The investigator is responsible for interviewing the reporting party, witnesses, and involved employees. The investigator also collects and analyzes evidence, such as reports, recordings and surveillance footage. Once the investigation is complete, the investigator makes a determination about the investigation. The possible outcomes are:

- The allegation is **sustained**, evidence shows the conduct did occur
- The allegation is **not sustained**, evidence shows the conduct may not have occurred
- The allegation is **unfounded**, evidence shows that the conduct did not occur
- The allegation shows the employee is **exonerated**, evidence shows that the conduct did occur, but it was lawful and proper.
Internal Affairs

Discipline

All investigations are reviewed by the Police Captain and Police Chief. When an investigation is sustained, the Police Captain makes a discipline recommendation. The discipline recommendation can range from a verbal counseling up to termination. In the case of a crime, officers face prosecution.

At the conclusion of an investigation, the Chief of Police writes a letter to the reporting party to inform them of the outcome of the investigation.

Investigation Confidentiality

California State law ensures the confidentiality of internal police investigations. This does not mean that all investigations are confidential. Investigations that sustain findings for sexual assault and dishonesty are considered public record.

Investigation Results by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Citizen Complaint</th>
<th>Internal Complaint</th>
<th>Sustained</th>
<th>Not Sustained</th>
<th>Unfounded</th>
<th>Exonerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The El Cerrito Police internal investigation system is designed to respect the rights of our community members and our employees. We do not make judgements about the validity of complaints, before we have gathered evidence.
Aerial Operations

UAS (Drone) Deployment

In February 2020, the ECPD began to deploy a drone for law enforcement uses. ECPD officers and investigators use drones for evidence photography, searching for missing and wanted people, and training.

The ECPD tracks and logs all drone flights. We keep monthly deployment logs at http://el-cerrito.org/1400/Aerial-Operations.

UAS Operation

When flying the UAS, there must be an operator and an observer. The operator is a member of the El Cerrito Police Department who is trained as a UAS pilot and exercises control over a UAS during flight. The operator is solely responsible for the operation and for the input commands and piloting during flight. The observer is a member of the El Cerrito Police Department who is responsible for the visual observation of the UAS while in flight. The observer maintains visual observation of the UAS while in flight and alerts the operator of any conditions that affect the safety of the flight. Both the operator and observer complete all required department-approved training in the operation, applicable laws, policies, and procedures regarding the use of the UAS.

Drone Statistics

The drone was deployed 17 times in 2020. Because the drone could be deployed for different uses in each incident, the total uses is higher than the total number of deployments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence Search</th>
<th>Suspect Search</th>
<th>Search Missing Person</th>
<th>Scene Documentation</th>
<th>Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Administrative Division plays an essential role in the management, training, risk reduction, and effectiveness of the Department. The Administrative Division manages critical department records, ensures that officers receive continual professional training and recruits and hires new department members. The members of the Administrative division are continually looking for new department members with the character and work ethic to support the mission, vision, and values of the Police Department. With the restructuring of the Police Department in 2020, the Administrative Division also oversees the Investigations Bureau.

### Records & Property/Evidence

Records staff work as a team to provide public assistance at the front counter, provide public information, fingerprint job applicants, sign off correctable citations and various other tasks to assist the public. Records staff provided daily service to the public despite the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In 2020, the Records staff worked to implement the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS fundamentally changed the way crime statistics are reported to the FBI and replaced the Summary Reporting System which had been used since the 1920’s. Additionally, they processed 2625 reports through the records management system (RMS) plus an additional 1273 supplemental reports. Much of the statistical data entered by the Records staff is required by the FBI, Department of Justice (DOJ), National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and other law enforcement entities.

The Records staff also provides assistance to the Investigations Bureau by preparing prosecution packages for the District Attorney’s Office. These packages include copies of reports, and printouts of sensitive and confidential information. Records further assists the Investigations Bureau with warrant management which includes entering new warrants and removing warrants or updating the status as needed. The Records staff assist Patrol Officers during the booking process by providing information regarding warrants, criminal histories, stolen vehicles, missing persons and other law enforcement database records.

In 2020, the Property and Evidence unit took in 1758 pieces of property and evidence. This included items that were seized by officers, turned in for destruction or booked into safekeeping.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECORDS PROCESSED - 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2020, 80 pieces of narcotics were seized and booked into property and evidence.

In 2020, 90 firearms were booked into property and evidence for either destruction, safekeeping or seizure.
The El Cerrito Police Department Investigations Unit is comprised of a Sergeant, Corporal, and six Detectives. The ECPD also has an investigator assigned to the Safe Streets Task Force, which is run in conjunction by the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Detectives are responsible for following up on criminal reports and other incidents reported to the El Cerrito Police Department. They conduct follow up interviews, author and serve arrest and search warrants and process evidence. They also register sex and arson offenders and conduct community supervision compliance checks. Detectives prepare and present cases to the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s office. The Investigations Unit works closely and collaboratively with law enforcement partners throughout the greater San Francisco Bay Area. For example, detectives developed investigatory leads with other agencies as far away as San Joaquin, San Mateo, Marin and Santa Clara counties.

**Significant Cases**

**Felony Assault:** Detectives followed up on a case where a man was pistol whipped inside his apartment and subsequently identified the suspect who was unknown to the victim. They obtained a search warrant and recovered two firearms. The suspect was arrested pursuant to a probable cause warrant obtained by Detectives and later charged by the District Attorney’s office with several felonies.

**Armed Robbery:** Investigators followed up on an identification made through physical evidence in an armed robbery case. A Detective followed up with cellular telephone and social media account records and then obtained a probable cause warrant for the suspect’s arrest. Detectives located the suspect and conducted a search, recovering a firearm. The suspect was later convicted of armed robbery in Contra Costa County Superior Court. The assigned Detective identified the second suspect through the examination of social media correspondence and obtained a warrant for his arrest.

**Residential and Commercial Burglaries:** Detectives followed up on a series of residential and commercial burglaries. A Detective authored a search warrant for the suspect’s vehicle which resulted in the recovery of stolen property. They also followed up on evidence of the use of the stolen property in an outside jurisdiction and identified the suspect. Detectives obtained an arrest warrant, located the suspect, and arrested her. The District Attorney charged the suspect with six counts of burglary and other associated crimes.
Help Prevent Package Theft

With the COVID-19 pandemic, many consumers rely on the use of online vendors to do their shopping. Unfortunately, package theft is an all too common occurrence. Package thieves often follow delivery trucks around town and shortly after packages are delivered, they will scoop them up. They will also come around early in the morning and look for packages that have not been received yet.

Help prevent package theft with these tips:

- Choose an alternative delivery site if you are not going to be home. You can elect to have your packages delivered to your place of employment or to a delivery site such as an Amazon, Fed-Ex, UPS or the Post Office drop sites.

- Subscribe to delivery alerts to help you secure your packages as soon as they are delivered. If you have a very important delivery, opt into delivery by signature only.

- If you have a lot of package deliveries, you may wish to consider installing a package lock box.

- Cameras and video doorbells can also serve as a deterrent. If you set the motion activation feature on your cameras, you can receive instant notification that your package has arrived.

- If you are going to be out of town, arrange for a friend to pick up your mail and packages for you.
April

El Cerrito Police Officers spotted a suspicious vehicle driving the wrong way on Portola Drive near the El Cerrito Community Center. When the officers drove after the car, it pulled over in front of Wilson Elementary School and a passenger quickly exited. The vehicle fled the area and was able to get away. As officers were looking for the passenger, they heard fire alarms coming from Wilson Elementary School. With the assistance of an RPD K-9, officers searched the area and located an individual with suspected stolen property from the school.

Officers searched the elementary school and found that several classrooms had been broken into and vandalized. School staff determined that they were missing 25 laptops and several projectors from the classrooms. ECPD detectives and patrol personnel interviewed the suspect, authored several search warrants during the day, and were able to identify several other suspects. Later that same day El Cerrito Police Officers served a search warrant at a residence but none of the computers or projectors were found. After speaking with some of the involved individuals by phone, a person related to one of the suspects surrendered all the stolen laptops and other electronics at the El Cerrito Police Department.

September

Officers responded to a report of a carjacking that just occurred. Upon arrival at the scene, an officer spotted the suspect, a 47-year-old parolee, who had jumped in front of a vehicle travelling south on San Pablo Ave, forced his way inside and then ordered the driver to drive away. The driver, fearing for her safety, drove away on San Pablo Ave. Once the vehicle was stopped in traffic and officers quickly arrived, the subject fled from the vehicle. The subject was detained, and officers recognized that he was in medical distress. Officers immediately called for emergency medical services to respond and the subject was transported to the hospital for treatment. He was also found to be in possession of a large quantity of MDMA. The subject was released from the hospital several days later and taken into custody on a warrant related to this investigation as well as an outstanding parole warrant.

December

 Officers made a traffic stop on a Ford SUV for a traffic violation near the intersections of San Pablo and Potrero Avenues. When officers searched the vehicle they located an ounce of methamphetamine, several battery operated saws, a floor jack, and four catalytic converters which appeared to have been recently stolen. Officers arrested the driver, a 22 year-old male from Oakland and his passenger, a 35 year-old man from Oakland. Both men were booked at the ECPD and then transported to the Martinez Detention Facility.
In 2020, El Cerrito PD’s K9 program started off with the retirement of K9 Denzel after almost 7 years of service to the City of El Cerrito and its residents. We wish Denzel a happy retirement. Officer Cooper and K9 Roman completed their third year together. In July 2020, Officer Perales and K9 Bosco completed their training and began serving the residents of El Cerrito. Both K9 Roman and K9 Bosco are trained in protection and apprehension, as well as narcotic and article searches. K9s are used to search for suspects who have fled from Officers after committing a crime, detecting narcotics in homes and vehicles, and searching large areas for missing persons. Our K9 teams are also a resource for neighboring agencies, and are often called to assist law enforcement agencies outside of El Cerrito.

ECPD K9 Teams had numerous deployments which included 14 surrenders and 1 apprehension. On December 17th, Officer Perales and K9 Bosco assisted Richmond PD with a pursuit of a stolen vehicle. The driver fled on foot from the stolen vehicle and hid in the backyard of a residence. Officer Perales deployed K9 Bosco and conducted a search for the suspect. The yard was overgrown with vegetation and K9 Bosco alerted to the suspect hiding in a tree. Despite several K9 announcements and commands to surrender, the suspect refused to comply and was apprehended by K9 Bosco.

Over the course of the year, both K9 Roman and K9 Bosco were used frequently by other department members to conduct narcotic searches. In addition to this, due to surrounding agencies not having narcotic trained K9 teams, Officer Cooper and Officer Perales along with their respective K9 partners were used frequently by outside agencies to conduct narcotic searches. Both K9 teams had outstanding years in narcotic detection.

One notable search occurred on October 23rd when ECPD officers were called to the area of Carlson Blvd and Central Ave. The female driver was asleep behind the wheel at the traffic light and appeared to be suffering from a medical event. It was ultimately determined that the driver was under the influence of narcotics and she was placed under arrest. Officer Cooper utilized K9 Roman to conduct a narcotics search of the vehicle, and located a large quantity of heroin and cocaine. The officers also found a large amount of currency. K9 Roman conducted a narcotics sniff and alerted to the currency, which was an indication of the currency being used in the sales of narcotics. Total amount seized was 12.2 grams of cocaine, 25.5 grams of heroin, and $11,650.00.

In December, K9 Roman received a custom bullet proof ballistic vest. This was possible through Brady’s K9 Fund. Brady is an eleven year old boy from Ohio. Brady started this foundation after wondering why all K9s were not wearing ballistic vests. The donation of the vest came from a couple in Seattle Washington, Larry and Kathy St. Pierre. ECPD, Officer Cooper, along with K9 Roman want to express our gratitude and appreciation to the St. Pierre’s.

Officer Cooper/K9 Roman and Officer Perales/K9 Bosco look forward to another exciting and rewarding year working for the El Cerrito and Contra Costa County communities.
The traffic unit started 2020 with big plans to expand the unit, assist with city sponsored events, and conduct quarterly DUI checkpoint operations. The first event of the year was the Martin Luther King Jr. parade at the end of January. Being in January, this is the first opportunity for the motor officers to get reacquainted with parade riding after the holiday break. The parade went off without a hitch. Officers provided a motorcycle led escort and also assisted with traffic control to keep the parade participants safe. However, officers did not anticipate this event to be their last for the year. Once the pandemic began and public health orders were enacted, traffic officers ceased traffic enforcement stops. This was done to limit contact between officers and potentially infected individuals.

Within the next couple months of the pandemic, traffic officers rotated back to patrol and assisted with a complete rework of the schedule. Officers were distributed amongst 3 dayshift teams or 3 nightshift teams. Each team worked 7 shifts in a row and was off for 14 days following. Officers continued this for 9 weeks before returning to their normal staffing schedule. However, this did not mean that traffic officers could return to normal traffic enforcement. Therefore, officers assisted with patrol duties and functioned as emergency staffing in the event of a major incident. Unfortunately, the traffic unit would never resume a normal level of traffic enforcement stops for the remainder of 2020.

Due to a staffing reorganization within the Police Department in response to city budget concerns, the traffic unit was eliminated at the end of 2020. We are optimistic that the police department will weather the storm and be able to fully staff a traffic unit in the near future.

Traffic Unit Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citations</th>
<th>Speed Citations</th>
<th>DUI Arrests</th>
<th>DUI Collisions</th>
<th>Total Collisions</th>
<th>Fatal Collisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1050</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>203</td>
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Corporal Stephanie Ware assumed the position of Police Officer with the El Cerrito Police Department in February 2015 and became an advisor to the department Youth Explorer program in 2017. Corporal Ware earned a position in a specialty assignment as a Detective in the Investigations Bureau in May 2017, where she focused on protecting vulnerable youth and apprehending those who prey upon them. Corporal Ware graduated from the Inner Perspectives Leadership Development Program in May 2019 and immediately put those skills into practice when she was promoted to the position of Police Corporal on July 1, 2019. Corporal Ware has demonstrated the ability to respond to crisis and change with thoughtfulness and action while working to preserve the lives of the community members she serves.

Elizabeth Lopez assumed the position of Public Safety Executive Assistant with the El Cerrito Police Department in January 2018. Exec. Asst. Lopez was selected to participate in the Contra Costa County Leadership Academy in 2020. She was responsible for publishing critical data about the Police Department including annual reports, use of force reports, and department statistics. She remained focused on self-improvement and completed a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She has displayed her dedication to the community of El Cerrito and her fellow Law Enforcement Professionals by working tirelessly to enhance public trust, provide critical administrative support, and share insightful perspective.
The El Cerrito PD App is available for free in the App and Google Play Stores. With the app you are able to submit an anonymous tip, commend an officer, view upcoming events, and much more!

Nixle: Stay instantly informed of trusted, neighborhood-level public safety and community information. You choose the information you want, for the addresses you want, all delivered at no cost by text message, email, or web.

Follow us on Twitter @elcerritopd for all the latest information, events, pictures, and tweets from the El Cerrito Police Department.

El Cerrito residents can join private neighborhood websites to share information, including neighborhood public safety issues, community events and activities, local services, and even lost pets.

Follow us on Instagram @elcerritopolice to keep up with all the latest events, pictures and posts from the El Cerrito Police Department.

Stay up to date with letters the Chief of Police has written to the community. All community publications can be found at http://el-cerrito.org/1548/Community-Publications.