

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Ludington
Department of Police
408 S. Harrison Street
Ludington, MI 49431
Phone: (231) 843-3425

Memorandum

To: Kaye Holman, Mayor
Ludington City Council
John Shay, City Manager

From: Chief Mark A. Barnett

Date: March 19, 2018

Re: 2017 Annual Report



POLICE ACTIVITY

Attached you will find a series of documents providing a summary of the various activities conducted by the Ludington Police Department in 2017.

Attachment #1

This report covers 2008 through 2017 and includes the following information:

- Departmental staffing levels
- Activity conducted
- Complaints Investigated
- Enforcement activity conducted
- Individual officer activity averages
- A chart illustrating trends of average officer activity

In 2017 the amount of Total Activity stayed fairly static, increasing in 2017 by 31 over 2016. The total number of Complaints Investigated increased by 254 and the number of Arrests increased by 39. Traffic Citations decreased by 105 and Parking Violations decreased by 63 citations in 2017 as compared with 2016

Attachment #2

The Reported Crime Summary lists the most serious **reported** Person Crimes and Property Crimes, as well as the two most problematic Public Order Crimes encountered by the Ludington Police Department. It covers the time period of 2008 thru 2017.

In 2017 there were 6 more reported Person Crimes, 19 more Property Crimes and an increase of 122 of the most problematic Public Order Crimes as compared to 2016

Attachment #3

Attachment #3 is the Enforcement History Report and summarizes the arrest activity for the same crime categories that are listed on attachment #2

Also included in the Enforcement History Report is information on traffic crashes, traffic citations and Operate While Intoxicated (O.W.I.) arrests, for the same time period.

In 2017 the number of arrests for Person Crimes reflect an increase 1 arrest compared to 2016. The number of Property Crimes arrests in 2017 increased by 12 from that in 2016, and the number of Public Order Crimes decreased by 12 from the previous year.

In 2017 the number of Traffic Crashes increased by 41.

Officers arrested 32 individuals for O.W.I. in 2017, which is 8 more than in 2016. (*Note: This number includes both alcohol and illegal substance intoxication driving arrests.*)

Attachment #4

The 2017 Organizational Chart illustrates the total number of Ludington Police Department personnel and how they were utilized.

- 1 Chief of Police
- 1 Police Captain
- 4 Sergeants assigned to road patrol
- 5.5 Patrol Officers assigned to road patrol
- 1 Detective
- 1 S.S.C.E.N.T. Officer
- .5 School Resource Officer
- 1 Full-time Administrative Assistant
- 1 Part-time Clerical Assistant
- 13 Police Reserve Officers (Volunteers)
- 3 Part-time (Sworn) Officers assigned to road patrol
- 2 Beach Patrol Members

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

The following information highlights incidents investigated by the Ludington Police Department that were significant due to type of incident, circumstances, amount of loss, required resources and/or the potential effect on the community.

Narcan (Naloxone) Saves

In 2017 L.P.D. officers responded to eleven (11) separate incidents in which they administered Narcan (Naloxone) to victims of an opiate overdose. The Narcan was effective in bringing nine of the eleven victims out of the overdoses. The remaining two victims died.

Child Pornography Investigation

In 2017 a Ludington resident come into L.P.D. to report that their underage relative had taken pornographic self-portraits. The Ludington resident is the minor's guardian. Ofc. Tony Kuster took the report and conducted follow-up investigation assisted by Detc. Aaron Sailor. Ofc. Jacob Miller of the D.F.L. assisted by locating and tracking the I.P.

addresses of three suspects involved on-line with the minor victim. The suspects were located in Illinois, Nova Scotia and Queensland, Australia.

The investigators sent the relevant reports to each individual law enforcement agency. The L.E. agency in Australia made contact with our department, was sent the relevant evidence, obtained a warrant and arrested the suspect in their jurisdiction. That case is currently pending trial.

The L.P.D. investigators are awaiting action on the other two suspects in separate jurisdictions.

Overdose Death

In March of 2017 officer responded to the 200 block of N. Harrison St. on an unconscious male subject. After many attempts to revive the victim, including NARCAN the victim was pronounced dead.

The follow-up investigation revealed that the victim suffered a fatal overdose of opiates. Investigators were able to identify the substance as well as the source. The individual suspected to have provided the substance was subsequently charged with delivery of a controlled substance.

The suspect pled guilty and was sentenced to one-year jail time, with 90 days to be served up front and the balance at the courts discretion.

Skate Plaza Armed Robbery

In June of 2017 officers were dispatched to an Armed Robbery at the Ludington Skate Plaza. The victim stated that they were approached by a suspect who showed the victim a handgun tucked in the waistband of the suspects pants and demanded money possessed by the victim. The victim surrendered the money to the suspect. The victim fled the scene.

Follow-up investigation was conducted and the suspect was identified however the victim became uncooperative and refused to cooperate in the prosecution. It is suspected that the victim's refusal to prosecute was related to the circumstances just prior to the robbery, that being an attempt by the victim to purchase a substance from the suspect. Case closed with no prosecution.

Embezzlement

An area organization reported the theft of funds. Follow-up investigation confirmed the theft, identified the person responsible and evidence was gathered to support the suspected crime. The suspect made statements supporting the allegations.

A short time later the investigator was advised of the death of the suspect and the investigation was closed.

Campground Larcenies

In July of 2017 L.P.D. and the Mason County Sheriff's Office received several reports of stolen high-end bicycles and other misc. items of value from Cartier Campground and Ludington State Park. Follow-up investigation included a L.E.I.N. broadcast to area

agencies. Through that broadcast and follow-up investigation five of the six stolen Ludington items were recovered and the suspect was identified.

As it turned out four other jurisdictions had similar thefts by the same suspect. Search warrants were executed and a large amount of stolen property was recovered. The suspect has been charged in the Ludington cases as well as the other jurisdictions and all are pending.

Stolen Pistol

In October of 2017 unknown suspect(s) stole semi-automatic pistol from a vehicle in the 800 of E. Filer St. On November 1st L.P.D. received a report of two juveniles walking in an alley in area of Madison & Melendy Streets. The reporting party stated that they heard a gunshot and then saw one of the suspects conceal a pistol inside a backpack.

Officers responded to the area looking for suspects matching the description provided. Investigators located one of the suspects inside the house where both suspects had been observed heading towards. Follow-up interviews of both suspects revealed which one had stolen the pistol and led to the recovery of same.

The juvenile responsible was charged in Juvenile Court, pled guilty and is serving 6 months in juvenile detention.

HIGHLIGHTS

The following highlights a number of initiatives that the Ludington Police Department is involved in. While some projects are directly linked with "traditional" law enforcement efforts, others involve activities that assist in making the community safer in a more indirect manner.

Senior Outreach Program – Ofc. Susan Maltbie

The Senior Outreach Program was developed in an effort to help Ludington's senior residents who may be isolated. The program is geared towards seniors living in the area who may have no friends or family nearby and do not have a support system in place.

Officers periodically check in with the individuals in the program to make sure their basic needs are being met.

The program experienced a reduction as two of the individuals moved into nursing facilities and neither are expected to be leaving there. Sgt. Sue Maltbie tried to stop in to visit with one of the program members a couple times but they no longer recognize Sgt. Maltbie and seemed anxious/nervous as a result of the visits so the visits were discontinued.

The remaining senior still recognizes Sgt. Maltbie and enjoys the visits.

Thankfully we do not see a huge number of individuals in the program. However, when individuals are encountered by Sgt. Maltbie or other L.P.D. members they will be

included in the Senior Outreach Program (S.O.P.). We believe that this is a good way to keep a citizen from "falling through the cracks".

Reserve Marine Unit – R/Sgt. Wally Taranko

The Reserve Marine Officers (which includes active duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard- Station Ludington) staffed the Fire & Police Boat in 2017 and conducted the following activities:

- Marine Rescue
- Dive Team response and training support
- Harbor patrol
- Response to several marine incidents
- Special events (Macker, 4th of July and the Triathlon)
- Crew member training for both the Fire & Police Departments
- Equipment recovery

Reserve Marine Unit members conducted 16 missions in 2017, including one (1) Marine Fire Suppression of a boat fire west of the Ludington State Park.

Digital Forensic Lab – R/Ofc. Steve Marx, Ofc. Jacob Miller & Dep. John Balowski
R/O Stephen Marx "retired" from the L.P.D. Digital Forensic Lab (D.F.L.) as a Reserve Police Officer in December of 2017.

As an ongoing cooperative effort between the Ludington Police Department and the Mason County Sheriff's Office the D.F.L. was staffed in 2017 by R/O Stephen Marx, Ofc. Jacob Miller and Dep. John Balowski of the Mason County Sheriff's Office. R/O Marx reported that the continued "in-house" training of both Ofc. J. Miller and Dep. Balowski has gone very well.

In 2017 the Digital Forensics Lab processed **101** devices in **69** different cases. While the majority of cases for analysis were submitted by the Ludington Police Department, the Mason County Sheriff's Office and the S.S.C.E.N.T. Team, D.F.L. personnel have also provided assistance to the Oceana County Sheriff's Office, Hart P.D. and Scottville P.D. (Note: the Oceana County Sheriff's Office provide software support for the D.F.L.)

Cases worked by D.F.L. include Intimidation/Threats, Criminal Sexual Conduct, Narcotics, Child Pornography, Fraud, and Assault, Hit & Run, Harassment, Larceny, Stolen Property and Domestic Violence. The D.F.L. assisted Ofc. Kuster and Detc. Sailor in an international Child Pornography investigation.

As described above in the *Significant Incidents* portion of this report the Ludington Police Department is becoming involved more frequently in incidents where Ludington residents are being victimized by individuals outside our City, County and in some cases outside our State and Country. The D.F.L. increases our chances of resolving those cases.

Networking Group

The Ludington Police Department continued to coordinate the Networking Group throughout 2017 to respond to criminal issues that affect the Ludington/Mason County

Community.

All the cooperating agencies continue to benefit by partnering together to address issues that are common challenges.

The listed groups continue to partner with L.P.D. in this effort:

Mason County Sheriff's Office
Michigan State Police
Scottville P.D.
Mason County Prosecutor's Office
Juvenile Court
Probation/Parole
Ludington Area Schools
Mason County Central School District
Mason County Eastern School District
C.O.V.E.
Staircase
Health Dept.

Major issues that have been addressed by this group include the truancy, sexting, gang activity, prescription medication diversion and abuse, arson, assaults, B&E's, larcenies, etc.

Target Area Problem Solving (TAPS) Committee – Sgt. Haveman

During 2017 Sgt. Haveman held monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at LPD. The meetings consisted of 1-5 members attending each month. The members range from city residents, downtown business owners and the owner of a hotel within the City. The discussions ranged from traffic concerns, property crimes, quality of life issues and to drug use. During the meetings three areas of focus were agreed upon by the members then designated as TAPS zones. I assigned POP reports to the Officers who were assigned to the city ward where the TAPS zone was located.

The committee discussed certain areas of the city that are naturally a main area of focus for Officers such as traffic concerns on Ludington Ave. We discussed changing the focus from broad areas to specific problems that can be addressed such as downtown parking or semi traffic through downtown. There were also discussions regarding drug use and abuse among the long term transient population.

The enforcement action taken within the TAPS zones include **246** traffic citations, **20** criminal complaints and **29** arrests. Along with the enforcement action there was increased patrol and a greater Officer presence preventing further issues.

The TAPS goals for 2018 include growing the membership and continuing to address areas of concern within the city of Ludington.

Sex Offender Registry Act (SORA) Report – Sgt. Haveman

In 2017 there was an average of around 45-50 registered sex offenders living within the City of Ludington at any one time. Of those that are registered typically between 5-10 were listed as non-compliant. The most common reasons for this was failure to pay the annual fee and living within a school safety zone.

Sgt. Haveman met several times with the Mason County Prosecutor regarding the prosecution of Offenders. He along with Detc. Sailor and Admin. Asst. Lindsey Bronson attended a training sponsored by the MSP SORA enforcement unit. The training focused on the enforcement of the SORA laws along with data input into Offender Watch. Because of the training LPD Officers completed residence checks on all the Offenders in the city. During the residence checks the Offenders information was updated and checked for accuracy in Offender Watch.

The MSP SORA Enforcement Unit also did a sweep in Mason County. Because of the sweep a lack of enforcement and prosecution of the SORA laws was recognized county wide. A meeting was arranged between the Mason County Prosecutor, MSP SORA unit and the Mason County Law enforcement agencies. During the meeting the legal status of the SORA laws was discussed including the status of several court cases questioning the constitutionality of the laws. Because of the meeting it was agreed that the more egregious violations of the SORA laws would be prosecuted.

In 2017 only one Offender prosecuted for violating the SORA laws. The Offender failed to verify and also moved without updating his current address. The subject was arrested and the case is still pending because he was also facing charges in the federal court system which delayed his prosecution. There is currently a signed plea agreement involving the Offender. Prosecution was declined on several cases including the Offenders living with the school safety zone.

A plan for increasing residence checks on Offenders was implemented based on the Offender's tier in Offender Watch. The increased residence checks will be continued through 2018 with the goal of maintaining the most accurate information in Offender Watch and ensuring the SORA laws are being followed. Violation of the SORA laws will be forwarded to the Mason County Prosecutor for review and prosecution. There are currently several cases being reviewed by the Supreme court and the decisions made in those cases will affect the future of the SORA laws.

Movies in the Park

Despite the rather unpredictable weather during the 2017 season we were still able to show *Sing*, *Moana* and *The Secret Life of Pets* in Rotary Park. Audiences continue to enjoy the family friendly features surrounded by neighbors and visitors to our area.

The House of Flavors sponsorship makes the event possible by providing the \$1,155.00 for movie licensing fees and Evergreen Natural Foods sponsors the projection and sound costs.

I am forwarding this "invoice" in the amount of and ask that the check be made out to the City of Ludington – Movies in the Park 2017.

In addition to the aforementioned sponsorships this event would not be possible without

assistance of Mayor Kaye Holman, Ms. Jackie Steckel, Ms. Melanie Tomaski, the Ludington High School Business Professionals of America Group, "Captain" Andrew Kimetz, Chuck Lange, Andy Kimetz and the Baby Badger, as well as Mr. Ron Maluchnik (R.C.M. Audio), Mr. Caleb Nordine and the Downtown Ludington Board.

2017 Shop with a Cop Report – Ofc. Chad Skiba & Ofc. Tony Kuster

The *2017 Shop with a Cop* campaign raised a total \$15,347.40 this year through the generosity of Wal-Mart, Meijer, the annual *Shop with a Cop Pie Auction*, Nickelson's Tree Farm, as well as a number of other donors. Combined with the \$2,335.02 left over from the 2016 campaign a total of \$17,682.42 was available for this year's event.

This year a total of 63 young people shopped at either Wal-Mart or Meijer receiving up to \$200.00, depending on the number of children from the same family. The children were selected by school counselors and were from all schools in Mason County. The schools included Mason County Eastern, Mason County Central, Covenant Christian, Ludington Area Catholic, Oaktree Academy and Ludington Area Schools.

The shoppers were paired with an officer from one of Mason County's law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Coast Guard-Station Ludington and M.D.O.C. Probation/Parole Agents. and shopped for Christmas gifts for their families and themselves. After shopping, their gifts were wrapped by volunteer wrappers and they were treated to a Jimmy John's meal.

The festive mood at Wal-Mart was enhanced by Christmas music performed by L.H.S. band and choir.

A total of 60 families received a Christmas meal delivered by officers from the Ludington Police Dept., Mason County Sheriff's Office, Scottville Police Dept. and the Michigan State Police-Hart Post. And 19 families needing a Christmas tree were treated to a Nickelson's Tree Farm Christmas tree delivered to their homes.

After expenses there was a total of \$4,211.05 in funds remaining. This money was used to purchase additional gift cards from Wal-Mart and Meijer and they were distributed to the Ludington Area Schools and Resource Center, Mason County Central Schools and Mason County Eastern Schools to be used to provide emergency needs for students at those districts.

As a result of the above the City of Ludington *Shop with a Cop* budget line item is zeroed out as of December 28, 2017.

The *2017 Shop with a Cop* program success was due, in large part, to the assistance of Administrative Assistant Lindsay Bronson from the Ludington PD, City Clerk Deb Luskin and City Treasurer Linda Rogers.

Drive Safe, Drive Sober Program

The *2017 Drive Safe, Drive Sober* campaign was a great success again despite the cold weather. This New Year's Eve celebration was a safe and enjoyable one. This success was due to the combined efforts of Abrahamson's Towing, Quinn's Tires & Tows, Oceana Auto, Fier's Towing & Recovery and the Ludington Mass Transportation Authority. A total of **1,257** individuals were transported to and from their holiday destinations, rather than

driving themselves this year, and nine (9) of those individuals had their vehicles towed free of charge.

There were no reported traffic crashes involving injuries. A total of three (3) property damage crashes were reported during this year's celebration.

A review of Mason County Law Enforcement Agencies' activity reveals that there were no arrests for Operating While Intoxicated (O.W.I.), only one (1) other arrest involving alcohol, no assault arrests or other warrant arrests were made. And only six (6) traffic citations were issued.

Thanks to the combined efforts and resources of Abrahamson's Towing, Quinn's Tires & Tows, Oceana Auto, Ludington Mass Transportation Authority, Mothers Against Drunk Driving of Mason County, SADD, Ludington Beverage Co. Inc., several Ludington-Mason County area businesses, and Mason County Law Enforcement, the 2017 New Year's Eve was another safe and enjoyable Holiday.

OBSERVATIONS / GOALS

The following progress was made on the departmental goals for 2017:

1. Staffing – A full-time police officer vacancy was filled for 2017. Only one of the three part-time police officer positions were filled for 2017. The part-time staffing issue was due to an abundance of open full-time police officer positions around the state. This created a very small candidate pool of individuals considering smaller agencies.
2. Established agreement with Ludington Area School to increase funding for School Resource Officer to go from part-time to full-time. This allowed for redeployment of other personnel to increase Digital Forensic Lab staffing in 2018.

The goals for 2018:

1. Establish and implement new strategies and collaborations to combat opiate abuse.
2. Reinstate a full-time School Resource Officer
3. Establish a two-thirds F.T.E. staffing of the D.F.L. by department personnel

CONCLUSION

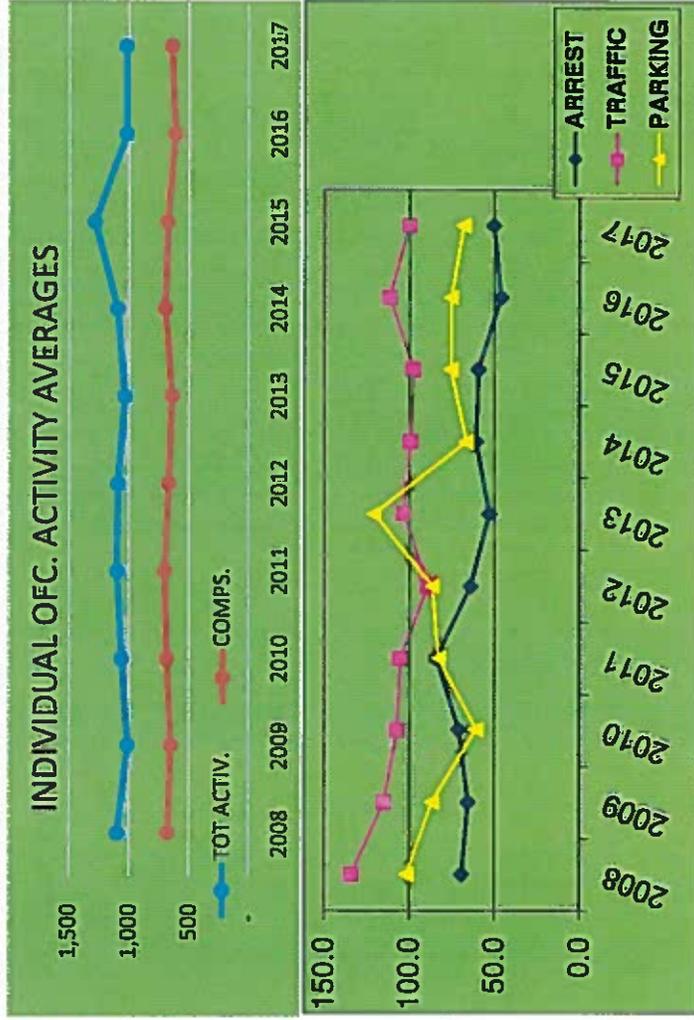
I am proud to serve alongside the men and women of the Ludington Police Department. They are a group of professional police officers and clerical staff that continue to do a great job! They continually seek ways to provide better service for the residents of the City of Ludington.

We appreciate the continued support of the citizens of Ludington, Mayor Holman, the City Council and City Manager Shay. We will continue to do all we can to make Ludington a safe place to live and visit.

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICER STAFFING AND PRODUCTIVITY STUDY

DEPARTMENTAL TOTALS											
DEPT.	TOTAL	SWORN	CLERICAL	ADMIN.	SUPPORT	PATROL POS.	TOTAL ACTIVITY	COMPS. INVEST.	ARRESTS	TRAFFIC	PARKING
2008	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	11,007	6,811	693	1343	1017
2009	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	10,111	6,529	657	1153	868
2010	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,573	6,181	640	966	547
2011	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,898	6,340	759	951	747
2012	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,828	6,027	577	804	780
2013	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,332	5,790	477	933	1088
2014	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,885	6,297	548	896	600
2015	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	11,570	6,128	535	883	681
2016	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,176	5,536	416	1007	678
2017	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,207	5,790	455	902	615

OFFICER ACTIVITY AVGS.					
YEAR	TOT ACTIV.	COMPS.	ARREST	TRAFFIC	PARKING
2008	1,101	681.1	69.3	134.3	101.7
2009	1,011	652.9	65.7	115.3	86.8
2010	1,064	686.8	71.1	107.3	60.8
2011	1,100	704.4	84.3	105.7	83.0
2012	1,092	669.7	64.1	89.3	86.7
2013	1,037	643.3	53.0	103.7	120.9
2014	1,098	699.7	60.9	99.6	66.7
2015	1,286	680.9	59.4	98.1	75.7
2016	1,020	615.1	46.2	111.9	75.3
2017	1,023	643.3	50.6	100.2	68.3



LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
 REPORTED CRIME SUMMARY

PERSON CRIMES

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Homicide (incl. Att.)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Abduction (Incl. Att.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
Robbery	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	4	4	2
Sexual Assault	32	21	18	22	22	25	18	21	21	23
Assault	97	100	141	128	108	150	149	129	153	167
Stalking	8	10	8	12	4	6	7	7	0	9
Sub-total	138	132	167	164	135	181	179	161	179	201

PROPERTY CRIMES

Arson	0	2	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	3
Burglary	34	24	37	36	46	46	38	35	55	53
Controlled Sub. Vio.	35	45	63	65	47	47	78	51	38	44
Damage to Property	71	64	73	114	78	133	122	136	162	154
Embezzlement	2	2	0	1	2	2	6	1	2	2
Fraud	55	52	70	49	52	49	40	53	43	61
Larceny	152	138	152	206	211	289	248	223	257	280
Retail Fraud	12	13	21	26	14	20	21	17	24	13
Vehicle Theft	4	6	1	4	5	8	3	7	6	11
Weapon Offenses	1	1	0	3	4	6	4	9	5	5
Sub-total	366	347	417	504	459	603	563	534	594	626

PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES

Disorderly	376	254	498	651	593	607	694	617	652	589
Liquor Violations	21	27	31	38	36	46	75	78	69	104
TOTAL	901	0	1113	1357	1223	1437	1511	1390	1494	1520

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
ENFORCEMENT HISTORY REPORT

PERSON CRIMES

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Homicide (Includes Att.)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0
Sexual Assault	5	6	2	3	4	5	1	1	2	4
Assault	48	49	72	69	44	65	86	55	63	58
Stalking	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	56	55	74	74	48	71	88	63	65	62

PROPERTY CRIMES

Arson	0	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	1
Burglary	15	13	10	11	6	10	6	3	25	5
Controlled Sub.Vio.	25	37	48	33	20	42	44	54	30	24
Damage to Property	10	7	6	9	3	13	7	7	10	8
Embezzlement	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1
Fraud	4	6	1	3	0	1	6	3	8	4
Larceny	21	8	15	16	10	14	28	28	14	28
Retail Fraud	10	4	17	12	10	15	13	12	15	13
Vehicle Theft	2	0	0	0	2	4	1	3	3	2
Weapon Offenses	1	1	2	3	1	3	2	3	3	4
	88	76	99	88	58	103	112	114	108	90

PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES

Disorderly	45	44	39	53	49	81	73	81	63	87
Liquor Violations	25	38	38	50	40	64	75	70	129	117

TOTAL ARRESTS *

	246	237	293	295	235	355	401	367	414	422
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TRAFFIC

Traffic Crashes	216	175	172	247	239	204	219	210	252	271
Traffic Citations	902	1007	883	896	933	804	951	966	1153	1343
Operate While Intox. Arrests	32	24	43	30	40	36	53	39	49	66

* Includes all of above, plus O.W.I.'s

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
2017 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

