

# LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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

**Memorandum**

To: Ryan Cox, Mayor  
Ludington City Council  
John Shay, City Manager

From: Chief Mark A. Barnett 

Date: March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Re: 2015 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 2015.

Attachment #1

This report covers 2005 through 2015 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 2015 the amount of Total Activity increased by 1,685 from 2014. However, the total number of Complaints Investigated decreased by 169, the number of Arrests decreased by 13, Traffic Citations decreased by 13 and Parking Violations increased by 81 citations.

An officer retired at the end of September 2015. That position was vacant from October 1 through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. This vacancy had an impact on the complaint investigation, arrests and traffic citations totals for 2015.

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 2005 thru 2015.

In 2015 there were 3 more reported Person Crimes than in 2014. However there were 87

fewer Property Crimes in 2015, as compared with 2014.

In 2015 we experienced a decrease of 160 of the most problematic Public Order Crimes as compared to 2014.

### Attachment #3

The **Enforcement History Report** summarizes 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.

### **Arrests**

In 2015 the number of (74) arrests for Person Crimes remained the same as in 2014. The number of Property Crimes arrests increased from 88 in 2014 to 99 in 2015 and the number of Public Order Crimes decreased 103 in 2014 to 77 in 2015.

### **Traffic Crashes**

In 2015 the number of Traffic Crashes decreased by 75, from a total of 247 in 2014 to a total of 172 in 2015.

The year-to-year traffic crash totals from 2005 through 2015 have shown a general decline. In fact traffic crashes have decreased forty-nine percent (**49%**) since 2005!

### **Operate While Intoxicated (O.W.I.)**

The number of O.W.I. arrests in 2015 was 43 showed an increase from the 2014 total of 30.

### Attachment #4

The 2015 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 (Split between LASD and Road Patrol)
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 Part-time Clerical Assistant (20 hours)
- 15 Police Reserve Officers (Volunteers)
- 3 Part-time (Sworn) Officers assigned to road patrol

\*The fourth Sergeant position was filled at the end of December of 2015

## **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.

### **Baby Kate Homicide Investigation**

Through the combined efforts of the Mason County Prosecutor's Office and the Michigan Attorney General's Office Mr. Phillips has been charged with Open Murder and a Preliminary Examination was held in front of Judge Wadel. After a lengthy adjournment Judge Wadel dismissed the charge of Open Murder. The prosecution appealed the decision to Judge Cooper who reversed Judge Wadel's decision and bound the case over to Circuit Court for trial.

This case is still pending until a court decision is made determining whether Judge Wadel can act as the Circuit Trial judge. This issue is pending before the Michigan Supreme Court.

### **Organized Criminal Activity Involving a Core Group of Suspects**

From the spring thru the fall of 2015 the Ludington Police Department investigated a series of criminal acts perpetrated by a core group of suspects. The crimes included the Breaking of Entering of Marijuana Grows (wherein the product was brought to the City and sold). Other crimes included Home Invasion, Safe breaking, a B&E of the Animal Hospital where drugs were stolen and information assisting in other criminal acts perpetrated in other jurisdictions, including the larceny of drugs from a veterinarian's truck in Oceana County.

Other crimes included Felonious Assaults, a fight where a laser sighted "toy gun" was aimed at the victim. Many of these crimes involved evidence that was discovered by the Digital Forensics Lab.

The Ludington Police Dept. worked in a task force with members of the Mason County Sheriff's Office, Oceana County Sheriff's Office, M.S.P. and the Mason County Prosecutor's Office to investigate this organized group.

As a result of this investigation seven (7) Ludington residents were arrested, many of them on multiple charges.

### **O.W.I. Arrest of Sammy Seymour**

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 off-duty Tpr. Was arrested at Delia & Loomis for Operate While Intoxicated. The first trial ended in a mistrial due to hung jury. Mr. Seymour eventually pled guilty to O.R.V. – Operating While Impaired.

### Home Invasion & C.S.C. in the 100 Block of E. First St.

On July 5th, 2015 the suspect (a Ludington resident) broke into the victim's home and sexually assaulted her while she was sleeping. A three count felony warrant was obtained for the suspect and he was arrested for two counts of C.S.C. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Home Invasion.

### Felonious Assault /Strangulation in the 800 Block of S. Washington

On November 19, 2015 officers responded to a Felonious Assault / Strangulation complaint. The ensuing investigation resulted in issuance of a two count warrant for - Count 1: Assault by Strangulation and Count 2: Assault or Assault and Battery.

### Fatal Fire Investigation – 302 N. Rowe St.

On December 14, 2015 officers responded along with members of the Ludington Fire Department to a structure fire at 302 N. Rowe St. The fire claimed the life of the two residents. Investigation coordinated with the M.S.P.-Fire Marshall did not find any foul play involved in the fire.

### Transition to New Record Management System

In December of 2015 the department transitioned to a new records management software. The Statewide Records Management System is managed by the Michigan State Police and is envisioned to combine data from across the state, making information available from other agencies to enhance investigative capabilities.

This transition was accomplished at no additional cost to the City of Ludington.

## **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, if successful, assist in making the community safer in a more indirect manner.

### Senior Outreach Program – Ofc. Susan Maltbie

You may recall that in 2014 Sgt. Sue Maltbie instituted the Senior Outreach Program which was developed in an effort to help Ludington's senior residents who may be isolated due to medical conditions, financial situations, absence of familial support or the like. The program was launched with three citizens.

Although there were two (2) individuals that left the program, two (2) more were signed up, keeping the program membership at three (3) individuals

Officers periodically check in with the individuals in the program to make sure their basic needs are being met. This proactive interaction is meant to monitor the welfare of these individuals without waiting for a problem to occur and be reported.

While we do not anticipate a huge number of individuals in the program, we do believe that this will be a good way to keep a citizen from "falling through the cracks".

#### Reserve Marine Unit – R/Sgt. W. Taranko

The Reserve Marine Officers (which includes active duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard-Station Ludington) assisted in staffing the Fire & Police Boat in 2015 and conducted the following activities:

- Dive Team response and training support
- Harbor patrol
- Response to several marine incidents
- Special events (Macker, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Triathlon)
- Crew member training for both the Fire & Police Departments
- Beach closings

Reserve Marine Unit members conducted 33 missions in 2015.

#### Digital Forensic Lab – R/Ofc. S. Marx

R/O Stephen Marx continues to volunteer his time to operate the Digital Forensic Lab (D.F.L.) at the Ludington Police Department. The D.F.L. is a cooperative effort and is currently staffed by R/O Marx, Ofc. Jacob Miller and Detc. Mike Kenney of the Mason County Sheriff's Office.

Although it was difficult to have Ofc. Miller in the lab a great deal in 2015 R/O Marx reports that the "in-house" training is continuing. R/O Marx makes it clear that Ofc. Miller's progress is directly linked to the amount of time that he spends working in the lab.

In 2015 efforts were made to find ways to increase DFL staffing. The Mason County Sheriff's Office has committed to increasing their staffing during the fall, winter and spring seasons beginning in January of 2016.

In 2015 the Digital Forensics Lab processed eighty-seven (87) different devices associated with forty-four (44) different cases, as listed below:

- Sixty-eight (68) cell phones
- Eight (8) computers
- Nine (9) tablets & I-pods
- One (1) storage device
- And one (1) loose media

While the majority of cases for analysis were submitted by the Ludington Police Department and the Mason County Sheriff's Office, investigative assistance was also provided to the S.S.C.E.N.T. Team, the Oceana County Sheriff's Office, Scottville P.D. and Hart P.D.

The cases associated with these devices include:

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Criminal Sexual Conduct
- Arson
- Child Pornography
- Illegal Drugs
- Home Invasion-stolen firearms
- Assault
- Protection Orders
- Bomb Threats
- A case involving the trading of guns for drugs

**Court Testimony** – Digital Forensics Lab personnel provided expert testimony in four (4) court proceedings in 2015.

**D.F.L. Goals** - R/Ofc. Marx states, while not in the immediate future, at some point he intends to end his involvement with the D.F.L. Consequently he lists the following as goals that need to be met to continue the important work of the Digital Forensics Lab:

1. Sustainability through training
2. Dedicated personnel for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours per week
3. Continued funding for license renewal, equipment and new software as needed.

This has been in the neighborhood of \$4,000-\$10,000 annually and shared between L.P.D. and M.C.S.O.

### Networking Group

The Ludington Police Department continued to coordinate the Networking Group throughout 2015 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 Prosecutor's Office  
Juvenile Court  
Probation/Parole  
Ludington Area Schools  
Mason County Central School District

Mason County Eastern School District  
Staircase  
Mason County Sheriff's Office  
Michigan State Police

Major issues that have been addressed by this group include the sexting issue, gang activity and prescription medication diversion and abuse.

## T.A.P.S. – Sgt. D. Maltbie

In 2015 the T.A.P.S. committee identified 4 target areas during the year in which officers were assigned to focus their attention. The identified target areas and problems to be addressed were as follows:

<u>Neighborhood(s)</u>	<u>Problems</u>
1. Neighborhoods 301-302-305	Park/Traffic issues/Aggressive driving
2. Neighborhoods 303-304-307	Parking/ Traffic Enforcement
3. Neighborhood 202-203-205-206	Larcenies/Damage to Property
4. Neighborhood 501-502-202-205-206	Larcenies/ MDOP'S/Traffic Issues

The following enforcement activities were conducted in these areas.

- Arrests (Custody) 82
- Traffic Citations 225

This activity was the result of the volunteer efforts of the T.A.P.S. committee members working together with L.P.D. officers. Their participation is truly appreciated.

## Community Involvement

2015 was the first year for the *Cops and Robbers 5K* race. This event, along with the *Pie Auction* were established by Ofc. Tony Kuster to raise funds for the annual *Shop with a Cop* Christmas event held at the Ludington area Walmart store.

All of this fundraising netted \$8,000.00, allowing 53\* Mason County kids \$150.00 each to shop for Christmas gifts for themselves and their families. (\* the sibling sets received less per child due to total amount for the same family). Approx. 50 law enforcement/public safety personnel donated their time to make this event possible!

Other activities such as *Water Safety Day* and the department's participation in the *Blessing of the Badges* and *Light Parade* are great opportunities to positively interact with the community. The officers do a great job in all of these events!

## Sex Offender Monitoring (SOR) – Sgt. Dean Schultz & Sgt. Mike Haveman

This report will summarize the SOR activity from 2015. Sgt. Haveman, took over as the SOR coordinator from Sgt. Dean Schultz who retired at the end of September 2015. At the end of 2015 there were 42 offenders listed on the SOR with an address in the city of Ludington, they were all compliant with the SOR.

After the transition Sgt. Haveman went through each person on the SOR to ensure the information was complete and up to date. He found several who were behind on their annual

fee. They were contacted and all of them have come into the Ludington Police Department to pay the annual fee.

During 2015 there were three investigations into SOR violations were completed and the allegations were unfounded. The investigations included failure to register, a failure to update employment information and failure to change address.

Three cases were investigated and showed the SOR laws has been violated. The cases were sent to the Mason County Prosecutor for issuance of warrants for the appropriate charges.

The department continues to work closely with the Mason County Probation & Parole Office as several sex offenders on the SOR are currently on Probation or Parole. Sgt. Haveman met with Probation & Parole to discuss the risk assessment on the sex offenders in Mason County who are currently on Probation or Parole. In particular he assisted them on Halloween with checking several residences to ensure the offender were following the laws and rules governing them for Halloween. During those residence checks 1 offender was found in violation, charges were requested for him.

Residence checks for everyone on the SOR were completed in October & November. During the checks there was 1 subject found to be in violation for failure to update employment, there is currently an open investigation in regards to that subject. Everyone else was located at their residence and no other violations were found. Monthly checks were completed ensure the Offenders had registered on time as required.

During 2015 there was 1 subject listed as Homeless and living in Ludington. That subject had failed to register when he was supposed to. An investigation was initiated and discovered he was lodged in jail in Tennessee. The Sheriff's Department where he was lodged was contacted and discovered he was lodged for failure to register. Michigan's records were updated to reflect his move to Tennessee.

There is a large concentration of Offenders living at Carr Manor, many of them move there when they are paroled to Mason County. Special attention has been and will continue to be made there because of the large concentration of "high risk" sex offenders and the proximity to Foster School.

The efforts of the department's monitoring of the Registered Sex Offenders are greatly aided by the hard work of Administrative Assistant Lindsay Bronson and Clerical Assistant Kathy Brown.

### Drive Safe, Drive Sober Program

The 2015 *Drive Safe, Drive Sober* campaign was a great success again this year making 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 **1,026** individuals (+1 dog) were transported to and from their holiday destinations, rather than driving themselves this year, and eight (8) of those individuals had their vehicles towed free of charge.

There were no reported traffic crashes involving injuries. A total of four (4) property damage crashes were reported during this year's celebration.

A review of Mason County Law Enforcement Agencies' activity reveals that two (2) arrests for Operating While Intoxicated (O.W.I.), nine (9) other arrests involving alcohol, four (4) assault arrests and four (4) other warrant arrests were made. And only one (1) traffic citation was issued.

This effort was possible due to the combined support of Mothers Against Drunk Driving of Mason County, SADD, Ludington Beverage Co. Inc., several Ludington-Mason County area businesses, and Mason County Law Enforcement.

Since 2003 a total of 9,787 area residents and visitors have chosen to celebrate responsibly by riding rather than driving, and 156 individuals had their vehicles towed free of charge.

### Movies in the park

*Movies in the Park* continued to be a popular event during the 2015 season, on Thursday nights in City Park at the Kiwanis Band shell.

This event would not be possible without assistance of Ms. Gail Lyons, Ms. Kaye Ferguson-Holman, Ms. Jackie Steckel, Ms. Melanie Tomaski the Ludington High School Business Professionals of America Group, "Captain" Andrew Kimetz, Chuck Lange and the Baby Badger, as well as Mr. Ron Maluchnik (R.C.M. Audio), Mr. Caleb Nordine, the Downtown Ludington Board and the sponsorship of the House of Flavors..

## **OBSERVATIONS / GOALS**

A review of the above data leads us to the following conclusions regarding our progress in meeting the 2015 goals and new 2016 goals:

### 2015 Goals

1. The goal of preparing for a transition in the Digital Forensics Lab when R/O Stephen Marx "retires" is a work in progress. As previously stated Ofc. Miller's training is progressing. More importantly Steve Marx is still with us in the DFL!
2. The goal of assessing the Department's position relative to audio/video documentation of officer/citizen contact was partially realized with the installation of a new audio/video recording system in the department's interview rooms. The new system provides a recorded view of the entire area of all the rooms with enhanced picture quality and storage capability.

## **2016 Goals**

1. Continue to prepare for a transition in the Digital Forensics Lab that will provide a minimum of twenty-four (24) hour per week lab coverage when R/O Stephen Marx is gone.
2. Continue to evaluate the need for improved in-car and acquiring new, body mounted audio/video recording systems that document police/community interactions.

As previously stated the current climate of police/community relations around the country highlights the need to reduce the potential for city liability, while maintaining professional police procedures.

3. Overhaul the current L.P.D. Policy & Procedure Manual with a STANDARDS, OPERATIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL that will act as a "Patrol Guide", available in the field as well as in the office.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Ludington Police Department are a group of professional police officers and clerical staff that continue to do a great job!

The men and women of the department strive to have positive professional interactions with the citizens and visitors of Ludington on a daily basis. Whether it be through problem solving on a complaint, interacting with visitors to the department or at one of the numerous public events. The members of the Ludington Police Department will continue to serve the needs and address problems encountered by the citizens of this community.

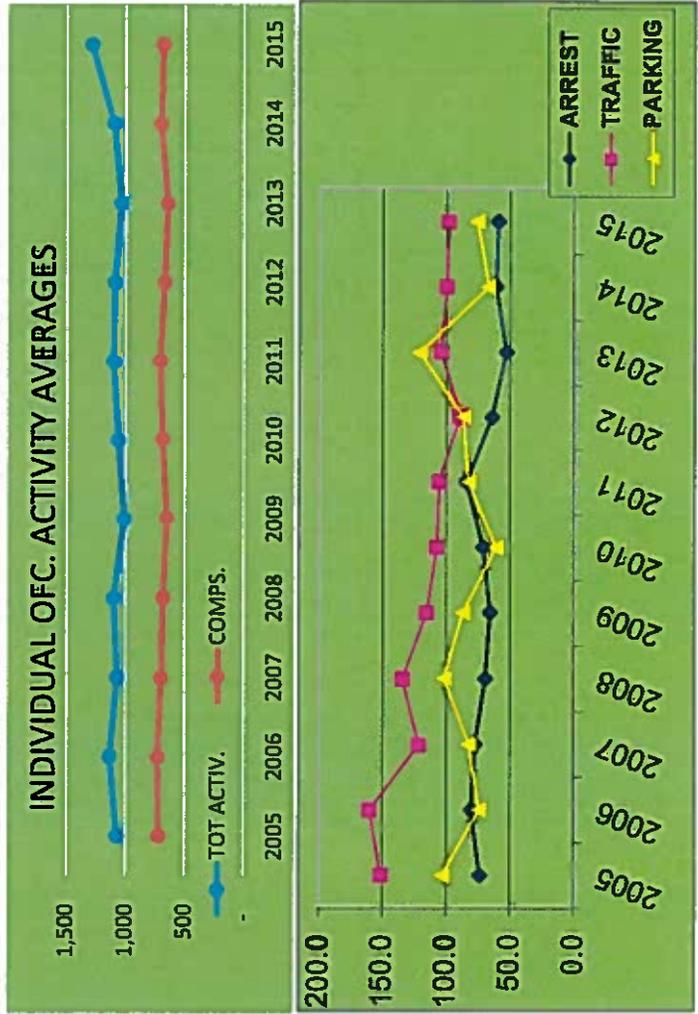
We appreciate the continued support of the citizens of Ludington, Mayor Cox, the City Council and City Manager John Shay. We will continue to do all that we can to make Ludington safe.

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICER STAFFING AND PRODUCTIVITY STUDY

DEPARTMENTAL TOTALS

YEAR	DEPT. TOTAL	SWORN	CLERICAL	ADMIN.	SUPPORT	BUDGETED PATROL POS.	TOTAL ACTIVITY	COMPS. INVEST.	ARRESTS	TRAFFIC	PARKING
2005	16	15	1	2	3	10	10,739	7203	736	1514	1031
2006	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	11,317	7275	807	1603	743
2007	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	10,718	6966	774	1216	821
2008	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	11,007	6811	693	1343	1017
2009	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	10,111	6529	657	1153	868
2010	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,573	6181	640	966	547
2011	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,898	6340	759	951	747
2012	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,828	6027	577	804	780
2013	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,332	5790	477	933	1088
2014	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9,885	6297	548	896	600
2015	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	11,570	6128	535	883	681

YEAR	TOT ACTIV.	COMPS.	ARREST	TRAFFIC	PARKING
2005	1,074	720.3	73.6	151.4	103.1
2006	1,132	727.5	80.7	160.3	74.3
2007	1,072	696.6	77.4	121.6	82.1
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	69.6
2011	1,100	704.4	84.3	105.7	83.9
2012	1,092	669.7	64.1	89.3	67.7
2013	1,037	643.3	53.0	103.7	129.9
2014	1,098	699.7	60.9	99.6	66.7
2015	1,286	680.9	59.4	98.1	75.7



LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
 REPORTED CRIME SUMMARY

**PERSON CRIMES**

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Homicide (incl. Att.)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
Abduction (incl. Att.)	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	1
Robbery	0	2	1	0	2	4	4	2	1	3	0
Sexual Assault	18	22	22	25	18	21	21	23	23	18	16
Assault	141	128	108	150	149	129	153	167	169	159	151
Stalking	8	12	4	6	7	7	0	9	4	6	5
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>173</b>

**PROPERTY CRIMES**

Arson	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	3	0	3	7
Burglary	37	36	46	46	38	35	55	53	70	76	73
Controlled Sub.Vio.	63	65	47	47	78	51	38	44	50	45	33
Damage to Property	73	114	78	133	122	136	162	154	182	208	176
Embezzlement	0	1	2	2	6	1	2	2	1	7	7
Fraud	70	49	52	49	40	53	43	61	35	63	31
Larceny	152	206	211	289	248	223	257	280	288	311	350
Retail Fraud	21	26	14	20	21	17	24	13	10	14	6
Vehicle Theft	1	4	5	8	3	7	6	11	9	11	17
Weapon Offenses	0	3	4	6	4	9	5	5	7	10	6
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>706</b>

**PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES**

Disorderly	498	651	593	607	694	617	652	589	496	496	539
Liquor Violations	31	38	36	46	75	78	69	104	94	97	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>1223</b>	<b>1437</b>	<b>1511</b>	<b>1390</b>	<b>1494</b>	<b>1520</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>1518</b>

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ENFORCEMENT HISTORY REPORT

**PERSON CRIMES**

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Homicide (Includes Att.)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1
Abduction	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0
Sexual Assault	2	3	4	5	1	1	2	4	5	5	0
Assault	72	69	44	65	86	55	63	58	70	73	56
Stalking	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
	74	74	48	71	88	63	65	62	79	81	57

**PROPERTY CRIMES**

Arson	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	1
Burglary	10	11	6	10	6	3	25	5	26	22	11
Controlled Sub.Vio.	48	33	20	42	44	54	30	24	44	47	31
Damage to Property	6	9	3	13	7	7	10	8	12	18	8
Embezzlement	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	5	2
Fraud	1	3	0	1	6	3	8	4	6	7	4
Larceny	15	16	10	14	28	28	14	28	31	20	18
Retail Fraud	17	12	10	15	13	12	15	13	6	10	4
Vehicle Theft	0	0	2	4	1	3	3	2	3	3	5
Weapon Offenses	2	3	1	3	2	3	3	4	3	4	3
	99	88	58	103	112	114	108	90	131	137	87

**PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES**

Disorderly	39	53	49	81	73	81	63	87	57	81	86
Liquor Violations	38	50	40	64	75	70	129	117	163	113	148

<b>TOTAL ARRESTS *</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>443</b>
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**TRAFFIC**

Traffic Crashes	172	247	239	204	219	210	252	271	259	292	335
Traffic Citations	883	896	933	804	951	966	1153	1343	1216	1603	1514
Operate While Intox. Arrests	43	30	40	36	53	39	49	66	78	80	65

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

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2015 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

