



Wellington: A Great Hometown!



Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Village of Wellington

Law Enforcement Services Plan for FY 2023

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PBSO District 8 Wellington FY 2023: Law Enforcement Services Plan

Introduction

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) provides law enforcement services to the Village of Wellington (The Village) and functions as its *police department*. PBSO has provided law enforcement services to The Village since incorporation in 1996, and throughout the years, has made modifications to the Law Enforcement Services Agreement (LESA) based upon the needs of The Village.

The Village and the PBSO LESA contract was auto-renewed for FY (Fiscal Year) 2020 and are in the fourth year of the current five-year contract. Typically, both renew LESA every five years¹. A key element of the current agreement is the requirement for the PBSO to submit an annual Law Enforcement Services Plan (LESP) wherein law enforcement accomplishments, challenges, and future goals are presented. This report is the LESP for FY 2023.

Accomplishments

Annually, law enforcement needs are recognized, addressed and directed as a result of regular meetings between the District Commander and Village Manager. In addition, ongoing reporting and interactions with the Village Council have resulted in the exchange of ideas that have yielded successful results. These meetings and presentations will continue as an integral part of our LESP in 2023.

As in years past, 2022 has continued to demonstrate that the Village enjoys a low crime rate, a high *clearance rate*, a low traffic crash rate, as well as infrequent incidents of violent crime. Consequently, as with past LESP's, the reduction of property crimes and traffic crash mitigation, will be 2023's primary focus. The use of statistical data to identify crime trends and crash patterns, along with investigative methods should assist in keeping the low rate in both categories. A continuous review of the data will allow enforcement to be deployed in the areas with the highest demand of resources. Should ancillary resources or equipment outside of the district be necessary, specialty units shall be deployed to assist and support the District 8 Deputies.

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Juvenile Crime

The Village, as in previous years, continues to enjoy low, but persistent, juvenile crime issues, property crimes, and traffic related problems. Juveniles continue to be responsible for a significant portion of the property crimes in the Village, albeit this ratio continues to trend downward (*See Next Graph Below*). Another persistent challenge is the fact that residents leave their cars unsecured, which contributes to the higher incidents of vehicle thefts and burglaries.

Village of Wellington Calendar Year (CY) Arrest Data							
Calendar Year (CY)	Pop.	Total		Adult		Juvenile	
		Arrests	% of Pop.	Arrests	% of Total Arrests	Arrests	% of Total Arrests
CY 2017	61,775	812	1.3%	688	85%	144	18%
CY 2018	62,304	545	0.9%	455	83%	90	17%
CY 2019	62,373	480	0.8%	427	89%	53	11%
CY 2020	62,650	342	0.5%	308	90%	34	10%
CY 2021	61,768	396	0.6%	352	89%	44	11%

*** Source: FDLE UCR Arrest Data - Total Arrest by Jurisdiction**

To address all juvenile related crime issues, District 8 will continue to utilize the Juvenile Arrest and Monitoring (JAM) deputy to 1) educate the District's deputies in keeping them informed about juveniles on probation, and 2) to ensure those juveniles are frequently monitored. Any juveniles found violating their probation are arrested and returned to the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). Additionally, we will work with the State Attorney's Office to address particularly troublesome juvenile cases.

The Mall at Wellington Green (The Mall) continues to attract juveniles from surrounding communities, not just to shop, but also to meet, gather and "hang out." As in past years, entertainment and eatery expansion attracted crowds of juveniles and related traffic congestion. Expansion related problems were handled by increased patrolling, traffic enforcement, and partnering with the Mall's management and security staff.

In addition to our enforcement strategies, the District's Community Policing Unit will proactively look to identify families that have *juvenile-related* problems and work with the Village to support these families with programs.

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Property Crime

Property crimes consist of all burglaries (business, construction site, residential, vehicle) and incidents of graffiti and vandalism. Traditionally, as population increases, so do property crimes. However, a review of FY 2017 through FY 2021 shows that the Property Crime Rate (PCR) has been trending downward with a dramatic 33.94% decrease in FY 2021 as compared to FY 2020. The District continues to focus heavily on the Village's PCR, as it is the principal crime occurring in the Village, the downward trend notwithstanding. Comparing FY 2020 to FY 2021, vandalism were the only property crime that saw an increase.

Vehicle burglaries remain a challenge to the Village (and surrounding jurisdictions), even though there was a 54.17% decrease in reported cases during FY 2021 than during FY 2020 (see graph below). Construction burglaries *increased* (from 0 to 2), Business burglaries decreased 27.27% (from 11 to 8), and residential burglaries *decreased* 51.92% (from 52 to 25).ⁱⁱ

The District continues to monitor vehicle burglaries and in its FY 2023 plan, will dedicate crime prevention resources to educate the public on how to mitigate the risk of being victimized and combat the problem with overt and strategic covert operations including the License Plate Reader (LPR) system.

Village of Wellington Fiscal Year (FY) Property Crime Rates * (Vandalism, Graffiti and Burglary Incidents)										
	Burglaries							Property Crime Rate		
Year	Business	Construction	Residential	Vehicle	Vandalism	Graffiti	Total Property Crime	Annual Population	Per 100 Residents	Increase / Decrease
FY 2017	23	4	80	363	108	10	588	61,775	0.952	-19.22%
FY 2018	3	4	42	320	100	6	475	62,304	0.762	-19.22%
FY 2019	12	2	44	257	84	3	402	62,373	0.645	-15.37%
FY 2020	11	0	52	216	48	3	330	62,650	0.527	-17.91%
FY 2021	8	2	25	99	82	2	218	61,768	0.353	-33.94%
(5) Year Total	57	12	243	1,255	422	24	2,013			
(5) Year Avg.	11.4	2.4	49	251	84.4	4.8	402.6	62,174	0.648	-21.13%

* Source: PBSO Crime View Database (Property Crime Cases) and
FDLE UCR Arrest Data - Total Arrest by Jurisdiction (Population)

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Crashes

A review of crash cases during a 60-month period - FY 2017 through FY 2021 - reveals that crashes in the Village trended downward 20.49.% (from 1,440 to 1,145 cases). During this 60-month period, the Village's Crash Rate (CR) averaged 2.0724 crashes per 100 residents. During FY 2021, total crashes decreased 3.70% vis-a-vis FY 2020, decreasing the CR to 1.8537 from 1.8978 (see graph below).

The District is committed to traffic safety and pro-active traffic enforcement. During FY 2023, the District will continue to deploy traffic enforcement staff to high priority areas to help minimize traffic related crashes.

Village of Wellington Fiscal Year (FY) Case Number Crash Statistics *				
Year	Annual Population	Total Crashes	Monthly Average	Crash Rate Per 100 Residents
FY 2017	61,775	1,440	120	2.3310
FY 2018	62,304	1,320	110	2.1186
FY 2019	62,373	1,348	112	2.1612
FY 2020	62,650	1,189	132	1.8978
FY 2021	61,768	1,145	127	1.8537
(5) Year Total	310,870	6,442	602	2.0722
(5) Year Average	62,174	1,288	120	2.0724

*** Source: PBSO Crime View Database (Crash Statistics)**

Over time, traffic activity damages roadway infrastructure. To prolong the useful life of the roadway system, the Village restricts Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) traffic through its borders. Vehicles with more than six wheels are prohibited by Section 54 of the Village's Code of Ordinances with certain exceptions. However, the use of Village roads as a "cut through" for CMV operators is strictly prohibited, with dump trucks the most frequent offenders.

Additional challenges are presented by illegal waste disposal on local roads and fields. During FY 2021, the District's CMV deputies stopped 233 trucks and placed 31 vehicles and 4 drivers out of service (see graph below). During FY 2023, the CMV deputies will be utilized for targeted traffic interventions as well as manage expected growth in commercial traffic.

District-8 Village of Wellington Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Report: FY 2021														
Month	Vehicles			Vehicle Type				Out-of-Service		Warnings		Citations		Arrests
	Stopped	Inspected	Post Crash Inspection	Weight Case	Other	HazMat	Manure	Driver	Vehicle	Verbal	Written	DOT	State	
Total	233	209	0	0	51	54	33	4	31	96	510	2	20	0

*** Source: District-8 - Monthly CMV Unit Statistics**

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Conclusion

Juvenile crime, vehicle burglaries, and traffic crashes will continue to be our priorities. The Street Team, Community Policing, and Traffic units will remain an active component of our LESP. The following action plans are proposed for FY 2023: Juvenile Crime issues, Vehicle Burglaries, and Traffic Safety.

Additionally, the District will continue to work with Wellington Community Services to improve conditions in focus areas. Initiatives such as neighborhood cleanups, landlord/tenant communication, neighborhood meetings, walk and talks, and code compliance operations will remain a key part of our strategy.

The Village remains one of the safest municipalities in Palm Beach County and enjoys a low cost for its law enforcement services. Looking ahead to FY 2023 and beyond, the District will continue to provide excellent law enforcement services striving to reduce property crime, increase traffic safety, reduce juvenile issues, and address equestrian concerns. The District looks forward to working with the Village to keep Wellington a “Great Hometown.”

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Action Plans, Goals & Objectives

Plan I- Juvenile Crime

Discussion:

Juvenile crime issues (property crimes and juvenile related robberies) are an ongoing problem and account for at least 11% of all crime arrests in The Village (source: FDLE 2021 Total Arrest by Jurisdiction). A percentage of these juveniles are not Wellington residents. Effective supervision of, and intervention with, juvenile offenders provides opportunities to reduce property crimes, to reduce juvenile related robberies and to direct juveniles towards non-criminal lifestyles.

Goal:

- Reduce crime through effective supervision of juvenile offenders.
- Use current Village of Wellington programs to redirect the juveniles.

Inputs:

- The District will continue to use the JAM monitoring and enforcement Deputy.
- Aggressively enforce juveniles on probation and visit each at least monthly.
- The JAM Deputy to assist and train Road Patrol Deputies on juvenile probation and enforcement.

Anticipated Outcome/Outputs:

- Reduce juvenile probation re-entry by 5% in FY 2023.
- Reduce juvenile related robberies by 5% in FY 2023.
- Reduce juvenile related crimes.

Plan II- Property Crime

Discussion:

The District remains focused on the crime rate and will target vehicle burglaries, robberies, and thefts. The information below will be instrumental in curtailing crime in the Village.

Goal:

- Maintain a low crime rate.
- Educate the citizens in protecting their property.

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Inputs:

- Combined effort of Road Patrol, Street Team, Community Policing, and Detectives.
- Use GPS technology.
- Use covert surveillance techniques and equipment.
- Utilize the LPR system.
- Utilize crime mapping and trends to focus efforts on neighborhoods, businesses, etc. where crimes have occurred or complaints have been received.
- Utilize Walk and Talk, Public Service Announcements (PSA) and CEPTD Surveys (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) of businesses and shopping centers to aid crime prevention and continue to get the word out "not to be an easy victim."

Anticipated Outcome / Outputs:

- During FY 2023, maintain the robberies to 12 or less in The Village.
- During FY 2023, property crimes to remain less than 800 cases.
- During FY 2023, 10% of burglaries to be cleared by arrest.

Plan III- Crashes

Discussion:

Speeding and crashes are consistently the most common complaint. The District is committed to traffic safety and pro-active traffic enforcement. During FY 2023, traffic enforcement staff will be deployed in targeted locations that were identified as hazards.

Goal:

- To reduce traffic crashes and minimize traffic fatalities.
- Reduce CMV complaints and illegal dumping.
- Target enforcement of seatbelts and texting while driving.

Inputs:

- Ensure District Motor and Traffic units receive all required training.
- Ensure Motor and Traffic units have all necessary equipment.
- Deploy Motor and Traffic units pursuant to traffic crash patterns and citizen initiated traffic complaints.
- Pay special attention to CMV related challenges.

Anticipated Outcome/Outputs:

- At least 10,000 traffic stops in FY 2023.
- Maintain the Village's Crash Rate at 3.00 or below.

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District 8 Staffing Allocation: FY 2022 versus FY 2023ⁱⁱ

District 8 Staffing Allocation Current FY 2022 Versus Proposed FY 2023				
Position	Current FY 2022		Proposed FY 2023	
	Allocation Funded by Contract	Allocation Provided by PBSO	Allocation Funded by Contract	Allocation Provided by PBSO
Captain	1		1	
Lieutenant	1		1	
Sergeants	7		7	
Road Patrol Deputy Sheriff	46		46	
Detective Bureau Detective Detective (TDY from PBSO)	3	1	3	1
Street Team Agent	5		5	
CMV Aggressive Driving Deputy Sheriff	2		2	
Motors Deputy Sheriff	2		2	
Community Service Aide	1		2	
Administrative Secretaries	2		2	
Law Enforcement Aide	1		0	
Clerical Specialist	1		1	
Criminal Intelligence Analyst	1		1	
Total Paid by Wellington	73		73	
Total Provided by PBSO		1		1
Total Staff	73	1	73	1

ⁱThe current five-year agreement runs from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2025. FY 2023 is the 4th Addendum (or fourth year of the five-year agreement).

ⁱⁱ Annually, the Village provides funding for 73 School Crossing Guards.

Appendix

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