

SINCE 1907

PIEDMONT POLICE

CALIFORNIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

WELCOME FROM CHIEF BOWERS



Welcome to the Piedmont Police Department's 2024 Annual Report.

2024 proved to be a transformational year highlighted by the increase to authorized dispatch staffing and construction of the new public safety Dispatch Center.

Our organization also raised our professional bar by becoming an Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) agency. ABLE provides specific training and resources for agencies to prevent employee misconduct, avoid police mistakes and promote officer health and wellness.

In this report, you will find information about crime data, trends and insight into other core areas including our community programs, investments in technology, and partnerships with our schools.

As I look forward to 2025, I am excited by what lies ahead as we continue to strengthen our organization, complete the new Dispatch Center, and continue to provide a high level of service in partnership with our community.

Yours in service,
Jeremy Bowers, Chief of Police

OUR MISSION

The Piedmont Police Department is dedicated to providing quality service in an honest, ethical and impartial manner. We strive to reduce crime and improve public safety by engaging with our community and utilizing innovative technology.

OUR VISION

The Piedmont Police Department contributes to community safety and equity by continually exemplifying the best of policing.

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

Our organizational legitimacy is based on the ethics and honesty of each employee to ensure we earn and maintain trust.

PROFESSIONALISM

As dedicated employees, we are committed to and accountable for providing outstanding service.

RESPECT

With each personal encounter, we treat all with dignity and acknowledge the need for voice and listening in order to build trust and find solution.

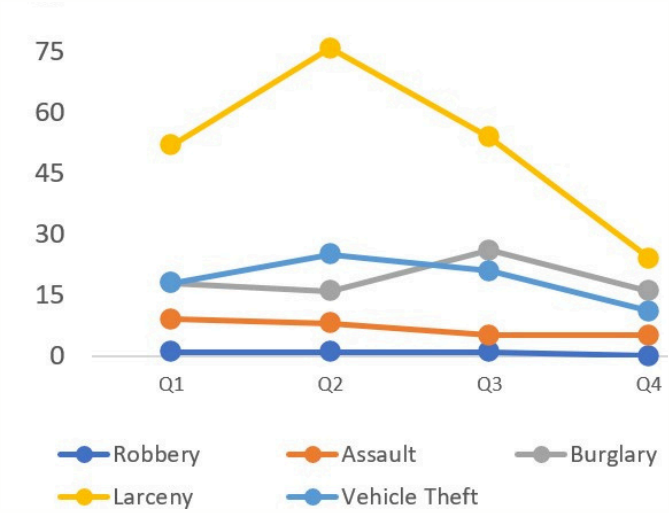
RESPONDING TO TRENDS

Crime and measures of crime are complex. Our approach to addressing crime is rooted in a well-trained, fully staffed department that partners with the community to maintain a high level of public safety.

CRIME TRENDS: 2024 IN REVIEW

Piedmont experienced a decrease in overall reportable offenses in 2024 as compared to 2023 across a broad range of crime categories - most notably robberies, larceny thefts, and assaults. While overall property crime trended down in 2024, an increase in burglaries is a concern.

The Department continually assesses crime trends and perceptions of safety, and applies effective policing approaches in a constitutional, equitable, and just manner.



AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS

771 ALPR INCIDENT RESPONSES

48 ALPRS IN PIEDMONT

65 RECOVERED VEHICLES

16 ARRESTS FROM ALPRS

An ALPR incident or "hit" is when a wanted vehicle comes into our City, is detected by our ALPR system, and patrol resources are deployed to take enforcement action.

Since 2013, Piedmont Police have used Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras to alert dispatchers in real time when wanted vehicles enter Piedmont. Officers are then deployed immediately to locate and take enforcement action.

These numbers show some of the outcomes of the ALPR program, but don't tell the whole story. Hundreds of vehicles fled from officers in 2024. These represent crimes prevented as offenders often use stolen vehicles or stolen plates to commit crime.

Building on the success of this program, we expanded our ALPR footprint in 2024 with nine new camera locations.

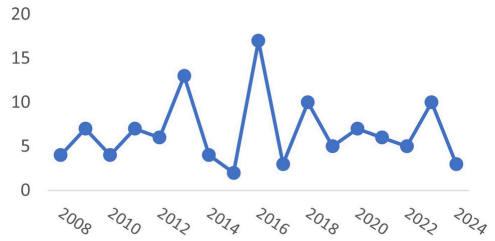
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Historical data provides important context for the Police Department and the community, allowing us to evaluate current crime levels against past trends.

ROBBERY

The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

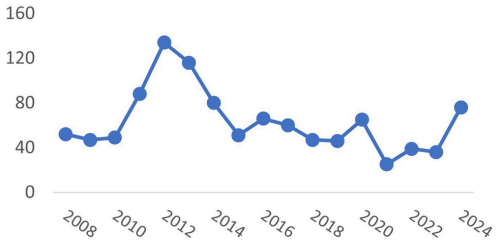
Robbery numbers tend to swing sharply from year to year. Networks of offenders will repeatedly engage in this behavior until disrupted by investigation and arrest. PPD identifies and arrests a high number of robbery offenders due to effective investigations conducted by detectives, supported by tools such as ALPRs and Public Safety Cameras.



BURGLARY

The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

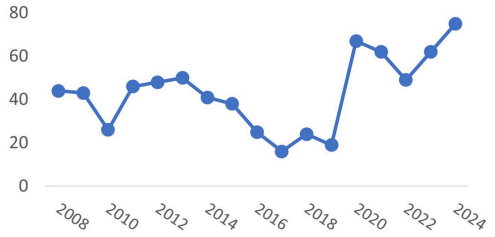
After several years of steady decline, burglaries increased this year from 47 reported incidents in 2023 to 76 in 2024. Employing crime prevention measures such as ensuring external doors are locked, private property is well-lit, and using technology such as cameras and home monitoring systems can deter burglars and aid investigations when burglaries do occur.



VEHICLE THEFT

The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

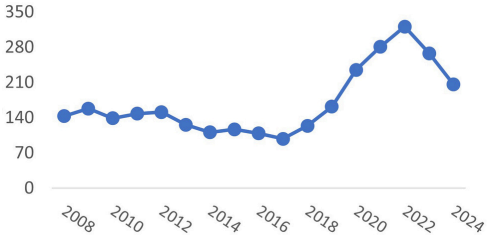
During 2024, vehicle theft continued to rise throughout the region as criminals take advantage of design vulnerabilities in several models of vehicles. PPD assigns officers to the Alameda County Regional Auto Theft Task Force to aid in dismantling criminal auto theft rings.



LARCENY

The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.

Larceny-theft decreased from 337 reported offenses in 2023 to 206 reported offenses in 2024. The reduction in catalytic converter thefts is a contributing factor in the reduction of larceny-thefts. While the Police Department continuously conducts proactive patrols to mitigate thefts and other crimes, we cannot overemphasize the importance of basic crime prevention actions such as not leaving valuables in vehicles.



INVESTING IN DISPATCH

Dispatch acts as the nerve center for our community's access to safety services, fielding over 13,000 calls each year for the Police and Fire Departments. In 2024, we made two critical investments to enhance this function.

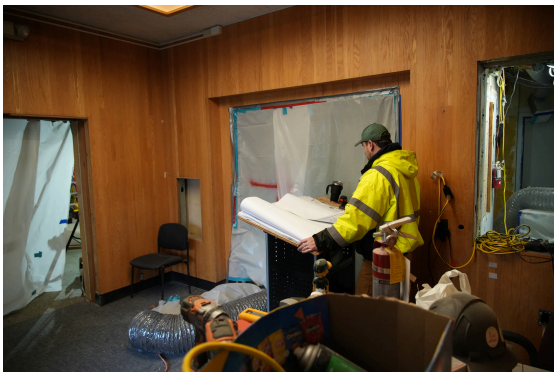
DISPATCH CENTER RENOVATION

In June, we started construction on our new 9-1-1 dispatch center. This long needed project will relocate the formerly cramped dispatch center into a space that formerly served jointly as the City's Emergency Operations Center and the Police Department's conference and interview room.

The former space was severely undersized, unable to accommodate modern technologies, and located in an area that has not been seismically retrofitted, posing risk to continued operations in a catastrophic event.

Infrastructure upgrades associated with this project will benefit the entire Police Department, including a secure and independent electrical system and backup generator that can power the entire building.

Construction is expected to be complete in late Spring.





INCREASED DISPATCH STAFFING



Our hard-working Dispatch Team

The workload for dispatch staff has increased significantly over the last decade and will continue to trend upward with the implementation of next generation 9-1-1 capabilities.

Concurrent with the physical space improvements, we've increased dispatch staffing for the first time since 1978. Two new dispatch positions, including a dispatch supervisor, were added last year, a staffing increase made possible by the March 2024 passage of Measure F.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Trust between the community and our Department is the "secret sauce" in our success. We work to build this partnership and a sense of shared responsibility for public safety through a variety of community programs and events.

COP ON THE BLOCK

Cop on the Block brings rank and file officers into neighborhoods so residents can get to know them. Our officers, in turn, have an opportunity to become familiar with the unique character of our different neighborhoods.

Find upcoming events at piedmont.ca.gov/CopOnTheBlock.





COFFEE, CARS, AND COPS





Our annual car show, organized by Officer Tyler Petit, grows in success every year. Each September, the community comes together to spend the morning connecting with Police Department staff while admiring over 100 classic and exotic cars from across the region.

BARK IN THE PARK

We teamed up with Public Works for a series of dog-focused pop-up events in Piedmont parks this fall. "Bark in the Park" gives our Community Service Officers an opportunity to connect with dog owners and answer questions about dog licensing, off-leash permits, and enjoying our parks with your furry friends.





CONNECTING WITH OUR YOUTH

Building connections with young members of our community is a high priority for PPD. From being at school sites every day to collaborating with school leaders on safety plans, to introducing high school students to the possibilities of a career in law enforcement, we're there.

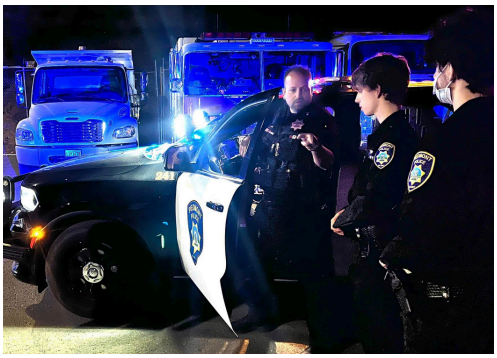
JUVENILE OFFICER

The relationships built with the faculty and staff of our local schools by PPD's Juvenile Officer Hugo Diaz play a pivotal role in our shared responsibility of youth safety.

With extensive training in youth development and appropriate, non-enforcement, methods to support youth in our community, the Juvenile Officer acts as a liaison with local schools and provides education and outreach on a wide variety of issues.



EXPLORER PROGRAM





Our Explorer Program offers young men and women ages 14 to 21 an introduction to a career in law enforcement. Explorers learn first-hand about the duties and responsibilities of police officers and dispatchers and receive training in law enforcement policy and procedures, tactical and physical agility, and forensics.

This program helps students build skills that will serve Explorers throughout their lives - team building, character education, and leadership.

Beyond training, Explorers play an important role in the community by assisting at events like Coffee, Cars, and Cops, the Harvest Festival, National Night Out, and Halloween Trunk-or-Treat.

Know a student who might be interested? Contact Sergeant Nicole Casalnuovo at ncasalnuovo@piedmont.ca.gov.

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