

Groveport Police Department



*City Council Report
Mayor Lance Westcamp
Groveport City Council*

Casey M. Adams, Chief of Police
cadams@groveport.org

Training, Officer Activities and monthly report information: **April 2024**

Calls to Service & Incident Reports	Number	Calls to Service & Incident Reports	Number
Franklin CO SO Mutual Aid	1	Accidents	10
Madison TWP PD Mutual Aid	4	House Watches	2
Madison Twp. Fire Mutual Aid	1	Public Assist	6
Obetz PD Mutual Aid	5	Domestic Violence/Dispute	2
CPD/ CFD/Other Agencies Mutual Aid	1	Burglary Related Call(s)	0
911 Hang Up	4	OVI Arrest	1
Residential/Business Alarm Response	60	Larceny/Robbery	6
Animal Complaints	2	Weapon Related Calls (Gun/Knife/ETC)	3
Mileage	18,691	Missing Persons/Juveniles	1
Call Party by Phone	1	Disabled Vehicle/Stranded Motorists	2
Sheriff's Dispatches/Self-Initiated Calls	208 / 390	School Related Dispatched Calls	39
Follow-Up on Previous Call to Service	7	Stolen/Unauthorized Use	3
Day Shift % of Calls to Service	23%	Suspicious Person(s)/Vehicle(s)	30
Afternoon Shift % of Calls to Service	40%	Threats/Harassment Calls to Service	8
Mid-Night Shift % of Calls to Service	37%	Vandalism	5
Investigate Unknown Complaint	12	Suicide (attempts)/ DOA/Mental Health Call/Overdose Related Calls to Service	4
Traffic Citations/Traffic Stops	85 / 202	Sex Related Crimes	1
Training Hours	112 hours	Arrests made	9
Referrals (FCCS)	1	Juvenile Complaints	8
Drunk/Disorderly Conduct Related	0	Assault/Fight Calls to Service	3
Neighborhood Complaint	1	Open Door/Building Call to Service	4
Calls to Service/Incident Reports	448 / 113	Other: Trespass	3

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Groveport School Resource Officer Report

Prepared By: SRO Ptl. Kurt Boso

Month:

Very good month. First time I can remember I had no reports for a month.

April 2024 SRO stats

4/18/24-Fight between male and female student in AC room. Code D to Madison Twp.

Clearance Codes to Dispatch and Call for Service:

Code A= Advised Individuals

Code B= Arrest or Citation

Code C= No Contact or Unfounded Complaint

Code D= Referred to Another Agency

Code I= Impound of Property

Code M= No Action Official Action Taken

Code R= Report Taken

Patrol Activity for the Month of **April 2024:**

The Patrol Division Calls to Services were either Dispatched or Self-Initiated, they accounted for 535 Calls to Service for the month, which is 89% of the work load for the Groveport Police Department. The other 11% or 63 Calls to Service were generated by either the School Resource Officer, Patrol Operation Liaison, Detectives, or the Police Administrative Staff members.

Break Down of Calls to Service; Incident Reports; Traffic Stops and Traffic Citations:

<u>April Shift Totals</u>	<u>Calls to Service</u>	<u>Incident Reports</u>	<u>Traffic Stops</u>	<u>Traffic Citations</u>
<u>Day Shift</u> 6am to 2pm	121 23%	18 16%	16 8%	8 9%
<u>Afternoon Shift</u> 2pm to 10pm	213 40%	57 51%	104 51%	44 52%
<u>Night Shift</u> 10pm to 6am	201 37%	37 33%	82 41%	33 39%

Figures based on Matrix Reporting System and Groveport Clerk of Courts Statistics



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Case Subtype	Cases	%
Assault	3	2.01 %
Children's Service Referral	1	0.67 %
Complaint	8	5.37 %
Criminal Damage/Vandalism	5	3.36 %
Criminal Trespass	3	2.01 %
Disabled Vehicle	2	1.34 %
Domestic Dispute	1	0.67 %
Domestic Violence	1	0.67 %
Hit Skip	1	0.67 %
House Watch	2	1.34 %
Information	1	0.67 %
Larceny/Theft	6	4.03 %
Mental	1	0.67 %
Miscellaneous	1	0.67 %
Missing Person Reported	1	0.67 %
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	2.01 %
Mutual Aid - Madison TWP F.D.	1	0.67 %
Mutual Aid - Madison TWP P.D.	4	2.68 %
Mutual Aid - Obetz P.D.	5	3.36 %
Mutual Aid - Other	1	0.67 %
Mutual Aid - Sheriff's Office	1	0.67 %
OVI / Physical Control	1	0.67 %
Person in Jeopardy	1	0.67 %
Property Impound	2	1.34 %
Public Assist / Lock Out	6	4.03 %
Rape	1	0.67 %
Traffic Citation- <i>based on how the Call to Service was entered into the Matrix</i>	58	38.93 %
Traffic Offense- <i>based on how the officer entered the information into the Matrix</i>	16	10.74 %
Unspecified Call	1	0.67 %
Vehicle Crash	9	6.04 %
Warrant	2	1.34 %
Total	149	100.00 %

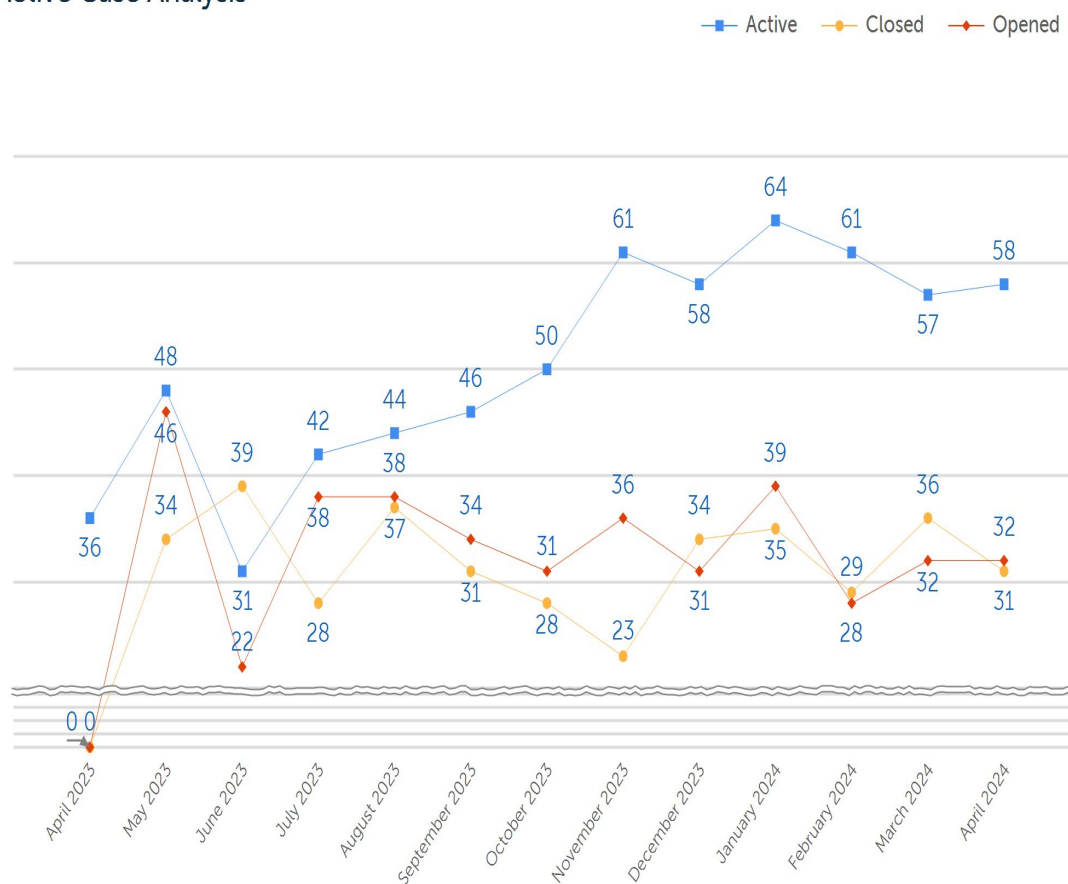
For Cases opened between 4/1/2024 and 4/30/2024 for all case types, all units, all office regions, all teams, grouped by Case Subtype



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Groveport Police Department Active Case Analysis from April 2023 thru April 2024

Active Case Analysis





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New Officer Update-

Ptl. Joshua Dillard has completed his first 6 months of the 12-month new employee probationary period. Sgt. Ernie Bell has been impressed with Ptl. Dillard's balance of patrolling the city and traffic enforcement during the shift, and that Ptl. Dillard is always eager to learn something new each shift. Ptl. Dillard has conducted the last two self-initiated OVI Arrests from a simple traffic violation, and not being directed to the OVI Arrest due to a traffic accident.

Ptl. Robert Ross has been with the Groveport Police Department for 8 weeks, and Lt. Josh Short has advised that he has not seen any training issues with Ptl. Ross's performance on patrol. Ptl. Ross has been on his own, acting as a single status patrol unit for two weeks, and we have seen him perform his duties with a pro-active patrol stance in his daily schedule. He has not been reluctant to get out and meet the business workers, engage with the kids at the schools, and handle the calls to service with little to no help from his Field Training Coach. During the month of May, Ptl. Ross will be moved to Day Shift for awhile to learn from the Detective Bureau, Ptl. Javier Herrera who will taking him around to all the schools and the courts that we deal with on a daily basis, and become familiar with the Groveport Madison High School.

Training-

Sgt. Josh Gilbert has finished the second phase of the STEP Supervisory Course, which requires him to interview local community leaders (Formal & Informal), and create a paper on leadership styles and how these leadership styles would deal with a community project that affects the police department operations.

Sgt. John Westhoven has completed his first phase of the PELC Supervisory Course. He will be working on several papers for this course, but the main paper that he had to seek approval from my office on, was a project that creates a change within the organization. Sgt. Westhoven will be working on evaluating and updating the police department's vehicle fleet services, this is due to his job assignment being responsible for our fleet services and evaluating, problem solving and developing methods to addressing replacement and maintenance of our current and future police vehicles.

Both Sergeants have expressed the challenges they are facing during their supervisory courses and daily work load while on duty, they are beginning to realize that being a leader requires not only daily balance when it comes to their patrol obligations, but future time management to handle their administrative duties during their work week.

Ptl. Forrest Benner and Ptl. Kevin Chavez were recommended to become the newest members of the Taser Instructor Program with the police department. This 8-hour training was offered by Taser, and this now gives us multiple instructors on multiple shifts within the police department, to not only instruct and certify our officers, but to also re-certify the officers annually in the operation and use of the taser units that have been updated over the past three years.

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Ptl. Forrest Benner was also recommended by the Firearms Range Personnel to become the newest Firearms Range Instructor for the Groveport Police Department. I agreed with the recommendation based on Ptl. Benner's contributions to the operations of the police department. Ptl. Benner is an officer who volunteers to handle assignments, like being a Field Training Officer Coach, he has always been one of the more active officers when working patrol, and Ptl. Benner has demonstrated an ability to learn and lead when he is on duty. All these qualities are why I feel Ptl. Benner was an excellent choice to become a firearms instructor, and he completed the 40-hour Firearms Instructor Course that was taught by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in early April.

Sgt. Josh Gilbert, along with other GPD officers attended a one-day Peer Support Group Training in late April. The Peer Support Group is one part of the overall Wellness Program and initiative that I have been looking to establish since taking over as Chief in 2021. Sgt. Gilbert has been a great asset to the development of the program by evaluating other police departments Wellness Programs, taking as much information from the other police departments, and applying those aspects of their programs to our police department. Sgt. Gilbert has also taken the initiative of reshaping how the Police Awards/Recognition Program should operate in the future. Both programs will be presented to the entire police department as a whole in the near future.

Finally, I have begun talks with the vendor who instructs on Equal Opportunity Employment and Workplace Acceptable Conduct, in order to provide the Groveport Police Department a 3-hour training on this subject matter in the Fall of 2024. I have spoken to the Personnel Department about my intentions to hold this training, and HR Generalists Annie Short advised that she was familiar with the vendor/instructor, and she would speak with Personnel Director Joyce Myers of possibly expanding our training to other city departments. It has been many years since we have had the subject matter discussed by an outside expert, and I feel with all the new staff, it would be a good time to host this training.

Fleet Patrol Vehicles-

With the support of Mayor Westcamp and City Council, the Groveport Police Department has order and received 3 of the 4 new 2024 Dodge Durango Patrol Vehicles. We have been in contact with the vehicle outfitter to arrange a time to begin the outfitting of these vehicles, in order to place them in service as quickly as possible. From what we have learned from Parr Public Safety who is the vendor that handles the emergency patrol vehicle outfitting, there are still some delays in the equipment arrival and scheduling of the outfitting, and we are looking somewhere between June & July before the outfitting can begin. It is my hope is that all new patrol vehicle will be in service by early October.

Patrol Car 13, which is a 2018 Ford Police Utility was taken out of service during the month, and transferred to the City Engineer & Building and Zoning Department for their use. The vehicle will be replaced by one of the new Dodge Durango Patrol vehicles that we are awaiting to be outfitted. The vehicle that was taken out of service was striped of all the emergency equipment and vehicle logos, City Engineer Steve Farst has already utilized the vehicle to attend a training conference outside the city.



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Captain Kurt Blevins Report-

NOTABLE: I am pleased to report that our July 4th planning is progressing smoothly. As we approach the middle of June, I anticipate having all necessary arrangements in place. We have considered the challenges we faced last year and have taken strategic changes to mitigate potential issues.

Once again, I would like to mention Sergeant Gilbert for his exceptional efforts in assembling the Peer Support Team. His dedication and resourcefulness have been invaluable. The Peer Support Team will play a crucial role in promoting Officer Well-Being within our department.

Chief Adams has consistently emphasized the importance of Officer wellness since assuming his role as Chief. It is encouraging to see such an effort and focus on mental and well as physical health for the Officers.

- **POLICY REPORT:**

The following Policy Sections were reviewed and distributed by my office for required department wide scenario based daily training, called Daily Training Bulletins for April 2024:

- 1011 – Seat Belts / 1011.8 - Vehicle Airbags
- 1012 – Body Armor / 1012.3 - Issuance of Body Armor
- 334 – Chaplains 334 / 334.4 - Recruitment, Selection and Appointment
- 303 – Control Devices and Techniques / 303.5 - Baton Guidelines
- 700 – Agency Owned and Personal Property / 700.2 - Department-Issued Property
- 309 - Domestic Violence / 309.4.2 - If No Arrest Is Made
- 1006 – Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace / 1006.4 - Member Responsibilities
- 413 – Field Training Officer Program / 413.2.1 - Selection Process
- 1016 – Fitness for Duty / 1016.3 - Supervisor Responsibilities
- 1016 – Fitness for Duty / 1016.4 - Non-Work-Related Conditions
- 302 – Handcuffing and Restraints / 302.3.2 Restraint of Pregnant Persons Prior To Booking
- 405.2 Hazardous Material Response
- 320 – Information Technology Use / 320.3 Privacy Expectation
- 322 – Media Relations / 322.2.1 Media Request
- 1010 – Personnel Complaints / 1010.6.4 Dispositions
- 329 – Private Person's Arrest / 329.4 - Officer Responsibilities
- 308 – Response to Calls / 308.3 - Requesting Emergency Assistance
- 1002 – Special Assignments and Promotions / 1002.3.1 General Requirements
- 300 – Use of Force (Use of Force to Seize Evidence) / 300.3.2 Factors Used to Determine the Reasonableness of Force
- 300 – Use of Force / 300.5.1 - Notifications to Supervisors
- 300 – Use of Force / 300.5 - Reporting the Use of Force
- 703 – Use of Vehicles / 703.3.2 - Other Use of Vehicles
- 606 – Warrant Service / 606.8 - Detentions During Warrant Service



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Curious or Questions about a particular policy? Feel free to contact me with your concern or question

kblevins@groveport.org

- **OBJECTIVES:**

- Policy 801 - Property and Evidence; Policy updates on processing and handling of evidence, specifically drugs and or weapons. Emphasis on those items within our facility. To be released in May after review.
- Policy 701 – Suspicious Activity Reporting. There are 2 policy updates within this policy. To be released in May after review.
- Policy 429 – Personal Communication Devices. There are 5 policy updates within this policy. To be released in May after review.
- Potential Policy Addition – Forensic Genetic Genealogy / Investigative. I will be looking at this potential policy addition for release in May after review.

Lt. Josh Short- Report-

Officer Rob Ross is progressing well in his training and has been on 2nd shift with Ofc Lee Benner. Benner is giving him very high praise and said he immediately fit in with our officers. Rob is expected to complete his FTO training within the next two weeks and will be assigned to 1st shift for the first part of his probationary year.

On the 4th we had a full staff supervisors meeting consisting of all admin staff and the shift sergeants. This was one of our quarterly meeting so that all supervisors can get on the same page and we can address any issues as a leadership group.

On the 11th I met with Madison Township Fire and Sgt Tiller from Madison Twp PD to discuss our ongoing Rescue Task Force training. This training will ensure that all three agencies work as one team in the event of an active shooter event. We are working up to a large-scale interdepartmental training in early June.

On the 22nd I attended the "Portrait of a Cruiser" event hosted by GM Schools. This gathering consisted of school and community leaders who discussed traits and characteristics of what a good GM student should possess.

On the 30th I met with management for Shaklee warehouse to assist them and schedule for active shooter training. They were seeking this training and had learned through the Rickenbacker group that Groveport PD was able to help them out. We have scheduled a date in May for their first training.



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NON-HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY OF NOTE:

4/9 Officers went to Madison Christian School to help navigate a custody issue between parents. There were no issues.

4/9 Officers responded to Groveport Elementary on report of a female student who was assaulting staff and being disorderly. Upon arrival officers saw the female student refusing to heed teachers and trying to leave the building. Student was also screaming and cursing and pushing at staff. Officers had to physically pick her up and remove her from the building into a patrol vehicle where she continued to scream at and threaten officers and school principal. The Franklin County Crisis deputy arrived and transported the student to Children's Hospital for evaluation.

4/15 Officers responded to Middle School Central on report of a disorderly student. Upon arrival student had calmed down but principal wanted charge for disorderly conduct due to student refusing to listen and for ransacking an office.

4/22 Officers called to Middle School Central on report of assault where a male student was punched by another male student. Suspect student was charged with assault.

4/24 Officers responded to Middle School South on report of an assault on a male student. Another male student was charged with assault for striking that student in the back of the head.

Sgt. Sam Yockey Report for Afternoon Shift 2pm to 10pm-

Monthly Highlights:

Arrested two people with active misdemeanor warrants

Charged a suspect with Criminal Trespass for coming back to a business that he was originally trespassed from.

We had an increase in mental health related/suicidal calls. We had a total of four calls which all had a positive outcome due to officers and medics.

We started bike patrol this month which resulted in some great social interactions and good laughs from the social media community.



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Sgt. Josh Guiler Report for Relief Shift-

Monthly Highlights:

Second and third shifts have been seeing an upswing in suspicious person(s) and vehicles calls. Both shifts have also been handling a lot of business alarms. Second shift assisted Three Creeks Metro Parks on a man with a long gun within the park. Officers located the suspect who ended up having an air gun and was unaware that he was not supposed to have it on park property. The suspect was turned over to Park Rangers. No other criminal

Sgt. Ernie Bell Report for Mid-Night Shift 10pm to 6am-

Monthly Highlights:

Mid-Night Shift has experienced the takeover racers several times in April. Forty to Fifty cars would descend on Loves Truck stop or Sheetz and take over the property. Most of the vehicles had no license plates showing and they would do burn outs in the parking lots or on the streets, and if a Police Officer tried to pull them over, they would take off, wanting us to chase them. There has been a lot of restraint in not chasing them. There was at least one shot fired call among them. We would assist Madison Township, Franklin County Sheriffs, and Obetz Police in trying to herd them towards I-270 to get them out of our areas. Recently they have been trying to take over the Amazon Warehouse parking lots.

We have also had our share of attempted car thefts and stolen cars coming into Groveport, either to break into cars or steal another car. The flock camera system has helped in this area tremendously. In fact, we have had several stolen cars enter our city and we have been on top of them and ended up chasing them away. (We did not pursue)

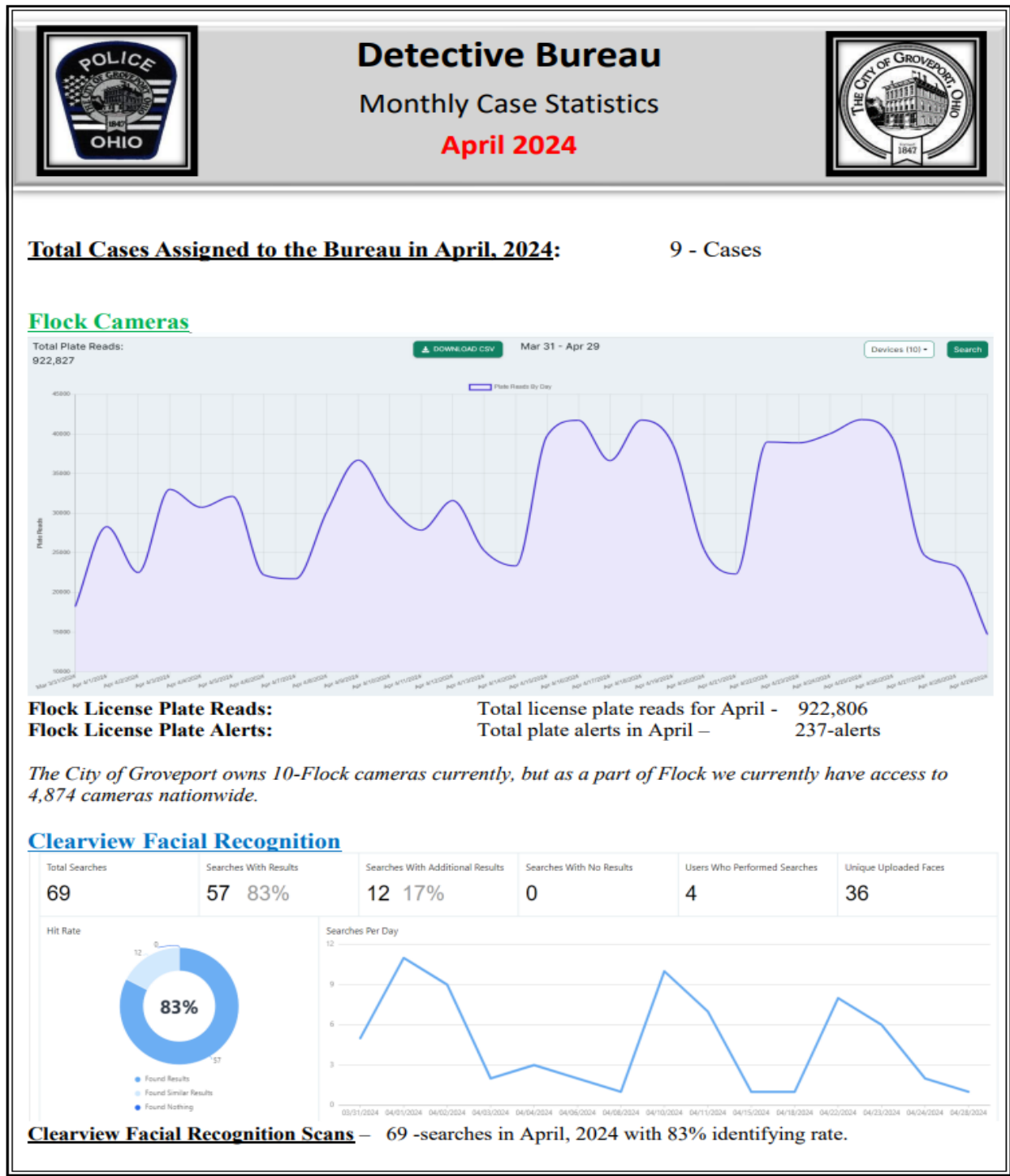
We will be doing bike patrols as man power and weather allows. These will be concentrated on the downtown area and apartments. The stolen cars seem to be attracted to the apartments, probably because the cars they are looking to steal are there. (Hyundai's and Kia's.)

Also, as you can see Traffic enforcement has increased on our shift. Being visible on traffic enforcement on midnights is essential to deterring other crimes, such as car break ins, it can give those who are not familiar to our community an impression that there a more officers on patrol, compared to the real number of patrol cars normally patrolling the city. For those who are familiar with our community, they cannot predict our presence if we are spread out across the city and creating a high visibility atmosphere by making traffic stops and interacting with suspicious activity as it is discovered.



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Sgt. Josh Gilbert Detective Bureau Highlights-





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Currently we have 5-users on the department using facial recognition. Someone from each shift on the department has capabilities to perform searches. 5-users is what our plan allows with Clearview.

The Groveport Detective Bureau processes countless search warrants and subpoenas each month to complete our cases. With these court orders being needed for nearly every investigation, it would be very difficult to keep an exact number processed each month.

*As of April, 2024, Franklin County Municipal Court Judges will no longer sign search warrants for records being held out of the State of Ohio. Detectives now have to obtain these warrants from a Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge. This is going to be very time consuming as a large amount of our warrants are executed for data from Facebook, Cash app, Instagram and cell-phone companies who are not in Ohio. Common Pleas court warrants all have to be hand delivered to the judge.

Notable Cases:

- On April 4, 2024, detectives assisted in identifying a juvenile who entered the City of Groveport in a stolen vehicle and stole a female's purse from her vehicle while she was pumping gas at Kroger Fuel. The victim has been reimbursed the charges to her credit card and charges are pending.
- On April 10, 2024, detectives began working a male suspect who stole a large number of items from Ace Hardware. The male has been identified and charges will be filed.
- On April 24, 2024, detectives began investigating an alleged sexual assault to a juvenile resident by a known juvenile to her. This case is ongoing.
- The detective bureau assisted in arrested a male from a catalytic converter theft case who had outstanding warrants. Subsequently he plead guilty to the theft of converters here in Groveport and was extradited back to Indiana for outstanding warrants.
- Detective Amabile has been using his cryptocurrency training to assist other agencies in central Ohio. During the month of April, Detective Amabile was able to assist Pickerington Police in returning \$35,000 to a victim who had been scammed in cryptocurrency.



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Training

- Sgt. Gilbert completed one week of training in Birmingham, Alabama at the Secret Service's National Forensic Institute for skimmer forensics. "Skimmers" are devices placed on gas pumps, ATMs, point of sales and anywhere else you would use your credit card to purchase items in person. These "skimmer" devices steal your credit card number during the transactions. The Secret Service has donated to the City of Groveport around \$10,000 in equipment to help combat these thefts.
- Sgt. Gilbert and Detective Fairman attended officer wellness training as part of the peer-support team.

Criminal Activity Trends

The detective bureau is seeing a drastic increase in investigating vehicles being stolen from our city or crimes being committed in the city where the suspect is in a stolen vehicle. Along with this, detectives are dealing with a lot more violent crimes being committed by juveniles.