

PADUCAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Robin Newberry
444-8590

The Paducah Police Department is pleased to report that statistics compiled for the year 2015 show reported offenses in three of the four violent crimes against persons categories – murder, rape, robbery and assault – dropped from 2014.

Homicides dropped from two to one, rapes dropped from 16 to 11 and robberies dropped from 40 to 36. The one category that increased was assaults, up 10 from 33 to a total of 43.

In the remaining major crime categories, auto thefts and arsons inched up, while burglaries and larceny reports pushed our overall numbers up, with increases in both. The higher number of larceny reports is due, in large part, to the continued increase in reported shoplifting incidents – accounting for more than 50% percent of the total.

Oddly, total reported violent offenses – murder, rape, robbery and assault – remained exactly the same from 2014 to 2015, with 91 reports each year. Property crimes, which encompass burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson, rose overall by a total of just 70 reported offenses.

The police department lost three seasoned officers to retirement in 2015 – an assistant chief, a captain and a sergeant. At our lowest point, in July 2015, we were short 13 officers on the street. We remain a young department, with 22 new officers hired in two years – 12 in 2014 and 10 in 2015. Three of those still are attending the state Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy, but will be back and serving the public in Paducah in a few months.

In 2015, there were 1,455 major offenses, classified by the FBI as “Part I Crimes,” reported to the Paducah Police Department. The 2015 figure includes: one reported homicide; 11 reported rapes; 36 reported robberies; 43 reported assaults; 162 reported burglaries; 1,145 reported larcenies (thefts); 53 reported auto thefts; and four reported arsons.

The number of homicides in Paducah dropped back to one in 2015, down from two (plus one attempted homicide) in 2014. There were none reported in 2013. Something sparked an altercation between Andy B. McAmis, 51, and Harold B. Bone, 56, about 9 p.m. Oct. 30, 2015, at Dolly McNutt Plaza in downtown Paducah. A passer-by found Bone’s body 12 hours later with what appeared to be puncture wounds. McAmis was arrested three days later by authorities in Joliet, IL.

Part II Crimes – simple assaults, forgery, fraud, criminal mischief, sex offenses (other than rape), drug violations, offenses against family and children and “all others” ended 2015 with 2,802 reported offenses.

Paducah police officers received 45,469 calls for service (including officer-initiated calls) in 2015, up eight percent from 2014. 2,224 of those resulted in the arrest of an adult, and 187 in charges against juveniles.

There was about an eight percent drop in the number of adult arrests in 2015 compared to 2014, and a 15 percent drop in the number of juveniles charged.

Paducah police officers served 989 warrants and 139 criminal summonses in 2015.

The law allows law enforcement officers to intervene and take mentally ill people into custody when they represent a danger to themselves or others, and they are unwilling to take action themselves. In 2015, the Paducah Police Department took 75 people into emergency custody, compared to 55 in 2014, 53 in 2013 and 34 in 2012. This trend mirrors national numbers, a matter of concern for all law enforcement agencies.

Officers investigated 1,906 vehicle collisions in 2015. In total, 393 of the collisions resulted in injuries to 592 people. There were eight people killed in seven separate collisions. Officers issued 4,685 traffic citations – ranging from speeding and red light violations to having no insurance and texting while driving – and 3,554 courtesy notices.

“Collision reduction continues to be an area of focus for the Paducah Police Department,” Chief of Police Brandon Barnhill said. “With low gas prices and an improving economy, there are more people on our roadways. We concentrate on speeding and traffic light violations, impaired driving and distracted driving – like texting while driving – but we must continue our work with the community to reduce the number of collisions in our city.”

In the Support Services Division, detectives in the General Investigations Unit cleared 70.6 percent of the cases they investigated in 2015, slightly higher than the unit’s clearance rate in 2014. The detectives were assigned 225 cases. Detectives were called out on investigations 76 times, and were tasked with one applicant background investigation.

The department’s Digital Forensics Unit conducts forensic investigations on computers, cell phones and other digital media for the Paducah Police Department and for other law enforcement agencies in western Kentucky.

In 2015, Sgt. Justin Crowell and Det. Justin Hodges examined 312 computer hard drives, cell phones and other digital media, which includes SIM cards, flash drives and GPS units, compared to 304 in 2014. These examinations were conducted in connection with cases ranging from homicide and robbery to sex and drug offenses and thefts. The two officers opened 130 cases for investigation: 55 for the Paducah Police Department with 95 exams and 75 for other law enforcement agencies with 217 exams.

The Drug and Vice Enforcement Unit opened 121 cases and charged 129 people in 2015.

The problem with prescription drug abuse continued, and the department prescription drug investigator opened 149 investigations and charged 38 people. The Paducah Police

Department's semi-annual Drug Take-Back days resulted in the disposal of a record 584 pounds of prescription medications turned in by the public, up from 360 pounds in 2014.

Also under the Support Services Division is the department's Records Unit. As the name implies, it is responsible for maintaining all the department's records.

There were 941 parking tickets written in 2015. Officers logged in 3,005 pieces of evidence. Evidence personnel, with approval from the court, disposed of approximately 3,345 old items of evidence. The Evidence unit maintains more than 11,000 items of evidence and conducts random quarterly audits to maintain the integrity of the system.

"The Paducah Police Department continues to be the region leader in law enforcement," Chief Barnhill said. "Our personnel are second to none. They are given the best equipment and training, and, in return, it is expected that they continue to provide the most professional and highest level of service back to the community they serve."