

# 2018



# Woodfin Police Department Annual Report

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# TOWN OF WOODFIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Michael J. Dykes, *CHIEF OF POLICE*

## **A Message from the Chief**

Dear Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and Citizens of Woodfin,

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Woodfin Police Department, I am delighted to present to you the 2018 Annual Report. This report gives a brief overview of the state of the Department along with a snapshot of the various incidents with which our officers deal every day. You will also notice included are the Mission Statement and Core Values which guide the members of the Department. By following these guidelines, we work toward a common goal and apply the same values and standards while offering the highest level of service to our community.

Having been the Chief of Police for just over a year now, I begin to truly appreciate the hard work and dedication that the officers of this Department put forth. Their commitment has yielded exceptional results in the areas of reducing crime and improving the quality of life of many of our citizens. As we continue to deal with exponential growth within the Town, these officers remain committed to working with our citizens in a community setting and building valuable partnerships.

One of the greatest challenges the Department dealt with in 2018 was filling vacant positions left by retirements and resignations. A total of six new officers were hired within 2018. Though we are grateful for the officers that have joined us and expect many great things from them, there was still a significant strain placed upon the other officers as we persevered through hiring processes and training programs. It is our hope that stability becomes the new norm for the Department and we can cultivate this new group of officers into the dedicated professionals Woodfin has come to be known for.

As we move forward into 2019, the support given to us by our elected leaders and our community will make anything possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Dykes". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue rectangular background.

Michael J. Dykes, Chief of Police

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Woodfin Police Department is to work with all citizens to preserve life; maintain human rights; protect property; and promote individual responsibility and community commitment.

## Core Values of the Woodfin Police Department

- Honesty** Officers will be honest in all things, including to themselves and to the community they serve.
- Integrity** Officers will do the right thing, all of the time, never impugning their character by misdeed or action.
- Compassion** Officers of the Department are caring and kind and will deal with everyone with dignity and reverence to the situations they face.
- Loyalty** Officers will be loyal to each other and to the public they serve, keeping a watchful on all and ready to protect and defend them.
- Professionalism** Officers will exhibit the highest levels of professional behavior at all times, regardless of the adversities they encounter.
- Dedication** Officers will stay true to the mission and profession they have chosen, law enforcement, being ever vigilant and aware.

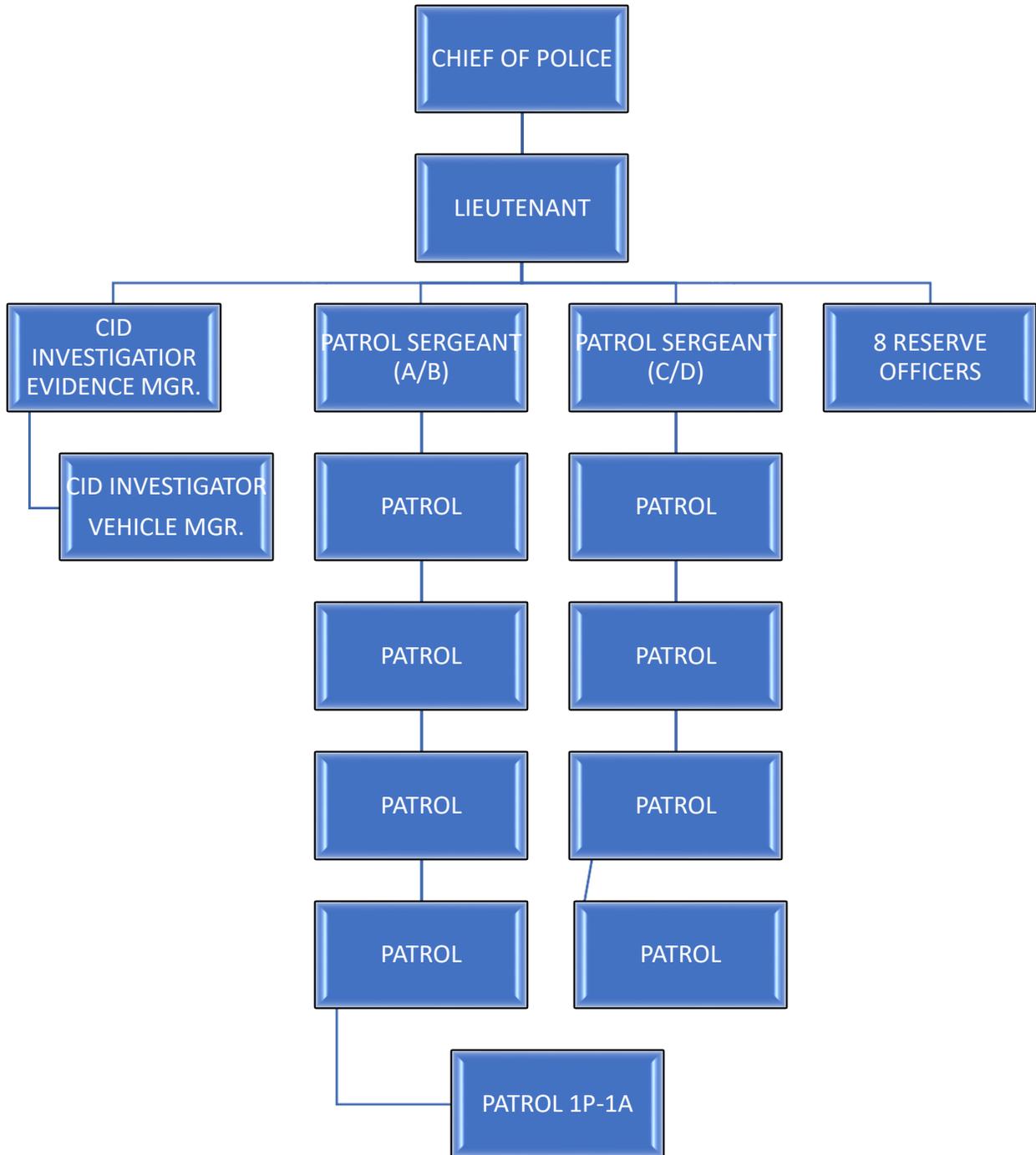
## Organization and Operational Components

The Woodfin Police Department is tasked with providing services to an ever-growing community. Those duties include protection of life and property, maintenance of order, investigation of incidents, and enforcement of laws, both criminal and traffic. The Department is responsible for not only the approximately 7000 plus citizens who reside within the corporate limits, but also for the close to 90,000 travelers who pass through the ten square miles of the Town of Woodfin on an almost daily basis.

The Department employs fifteen full-time sworn law enforcement officers, each having unique qualities and gifts they contribute to provide a full spectrum of policing services. These range from specialties in traffic investigations to latent evidence processing to interacting with members of the community. This makes the Department a “full-service” police agency. The roster also includes eight Reserve Officers who donate their time and talents to the Town of Woodfin.

<b>Rank/Position</b>	<b>Allotment</b>
Chief of Police	1
Lieutenant	1
Patrol Sergeants	2
Patrol Officers	9
Investigators	2
Reserve Officers	8

# WOODFIN POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGINIZATIONAL CHART.



## NEW HIRES

2018 brought an unprecedented era of change to the Woodfin Police Department. Within the calendar year, six new officers were hired and placed onto the force. Since they joined us, each has made significant contributions to the Department and become vital members of our law enforcement family. The new officers are:

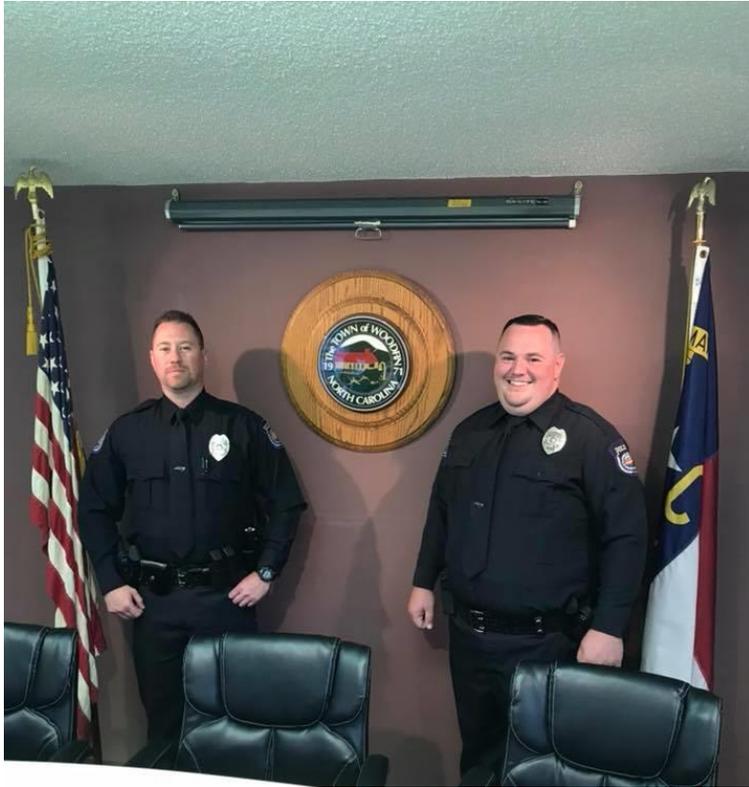
**Claire MacPeck** – January 2018 (not pictured)



**Jason Gregg** – April 2018



**Caleb Harris** – April 2018



**Michael Owenby & Christopher Morrow – May 2018**



**Seikoyen Sasaki – October 2018**

## Training

In an effort to provide the community with the most professional Officers available, the Woodfin Police Department emphasizes the need for training. Officers are required to undergo at least twenty-four hours of state-mandated In-Service training annually, which includes topics such as firearms qualifications, legal update, juvenile minority sensitivity training, and officer safety, just to name a few. The Department also requires yearly hazardous materials and blood-borne pathogens awareness training and biennial certification in CPR. This instruction is mainly presented by instructors from within the Department in a large classroom setting once a month. Occasionally, outside instructors who possess specialized knowledge or certifications are brought in or classes may be taken online.

In addition to State-mandated training, our officers also take advantage of numerous opportunities to train on their own. Officers attend training through North Carolina Justice Academy, the Public Safety Training Center at A-B Tech, other community colleges, or at training conferences around the state.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The 2018 Woodfin Police Officer of the year is reserve officer Terry Miller. Ofc. Miller retired from the North Carolina Arboretum and has prior experience at the Asheville Regional Airport and the Asheville Police Department. He gives tirelessly of his time and is a dedicated and hard-working employee. Ofc. Miller was chosen by his peers in an anonymous submission process.



The Town of Woodfin continues to rank among the Top 20 Safest Cities in North Carolina according to Safewise.com. In 2018, the Town moved down two spots to number 12, but still holds onto a top 20 ranking and eight places above any other municipality in Buncombe County. Woodfin received the honor of 16<sup>th</sup> place on the homesnacks.net Safest Places in North Carolina list for 2018. We credit such incredible rankings to the citizens of Woodfin who look out for each other and make the jobs of the officers so much easier.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

2018 brought the eighth annual Public Safety & Community Night to Woodfin. Representatives from the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, the Weaverville Police Department, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Woodfin Fire Department, West Buncombe Fire Department, Buncombe County Emergency Management, NC SafeKids, and MAMA were all on hand with displays and presentations on how they help keep the citizens of Woodfin safe and healthy.

Woodfin Elementary School hosted its fourth annual career day in which the Woodfin Police Department was invited to attend. Officers made a short presentation to each of the grades regarding their duties and then answered questions.

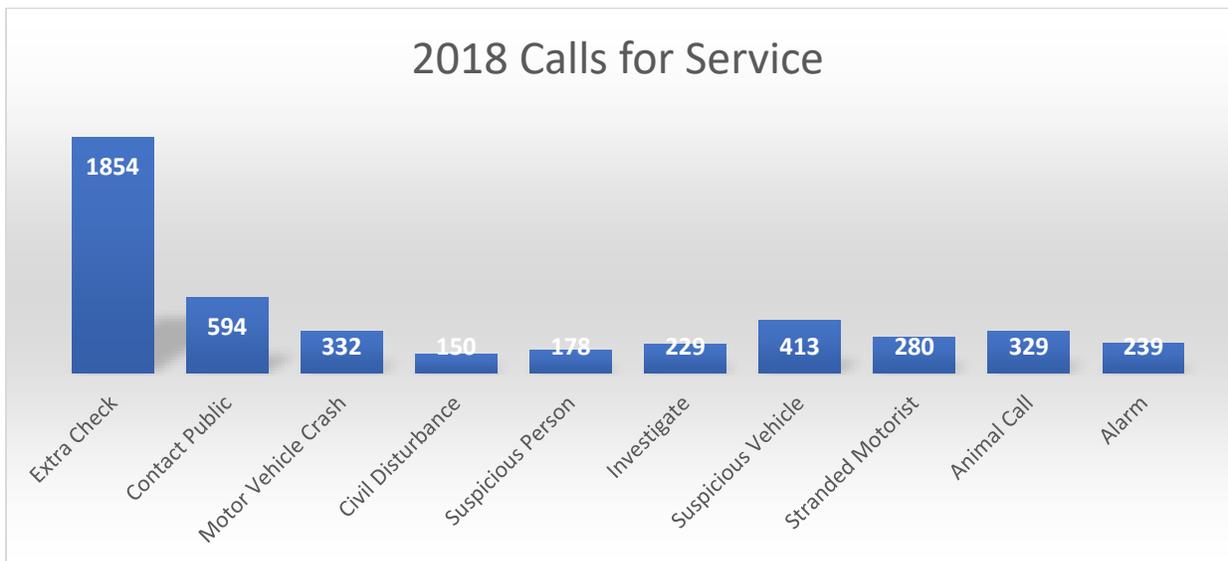
The Woodfin Police Department continued its involvement with Reynolds Mountain Christian Academy with its participation in their Annual Transportation Day. Students were able to see many of the vehicles which can impact their lives including police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, garbage trucks, delivery trucks, dump trucks, buses, and tractor-trailers. The students had the opportunity to tour many of the vehicles as well as see and hear the equipment utilized by the emergency services.



Finally, Woodfin Police provided traffic direction and security for several road races that made their way through the streets of Woodfin in 2018. Included in these were the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Woodfin 5K, the Asheville Half-Marathon, the Lilly Collier Ride for North Carolina Outward Bound School, and the Gran Fondo cycling event.

## CALLS FOR SERVICE

The Woodfin police department answers a vast variety calls for service. They can include providing information about Town services or ordinances, resolving a dispute between neighbors, or providing critical life care for injured victims. Each call for service is logged in our (CAD) Computer Aided Dispatch system. In 2018 the Woodfin Police Department answered **9632** calls for service. In comparison, the Department had 7019 calls for service in 2017. This amounts to nearly an increase of over **37%** from the previous year and a 38% increase over the five-year average. Listed below is a graph showing the top ten calls for service, excluding officer-initiated traffic stops.



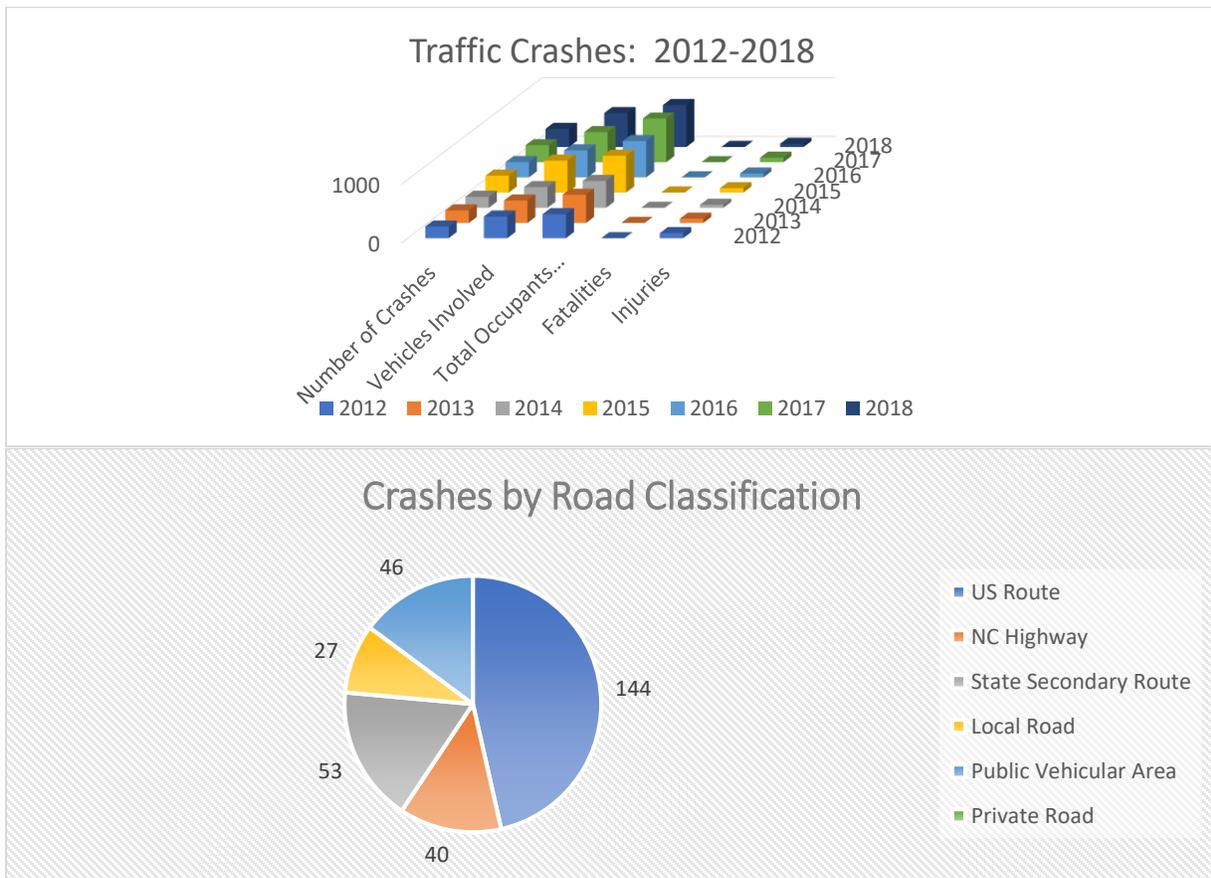
Displayed below is the comparison for the same call types from 2012 through 2018.



# TRAFFIC

In 2018, the Woodfin Police Department investigated **310 motor vehicle crashes**. This is a 7.3% increase from 2017 and a 15.9% over the five-year average. These crashes ranged from minor “fender-benders” to a major fatality incident. Reports show that there were 54 known injuries and one death on the roadways in Woodfin for 2018.

In 2018, Officers with the Woodfin Police Department conducted 1846 Traffic stops. This was a **46.16% increase** over 2017 (1263).

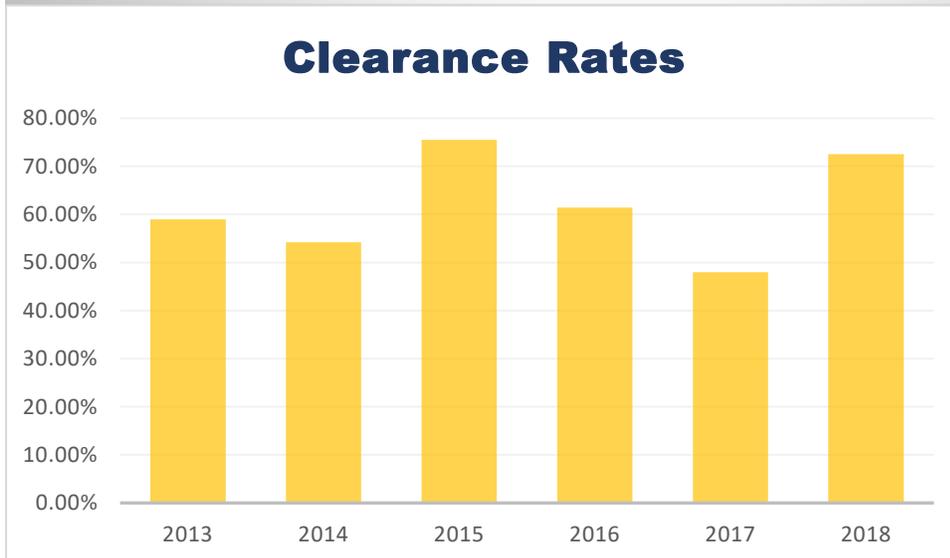
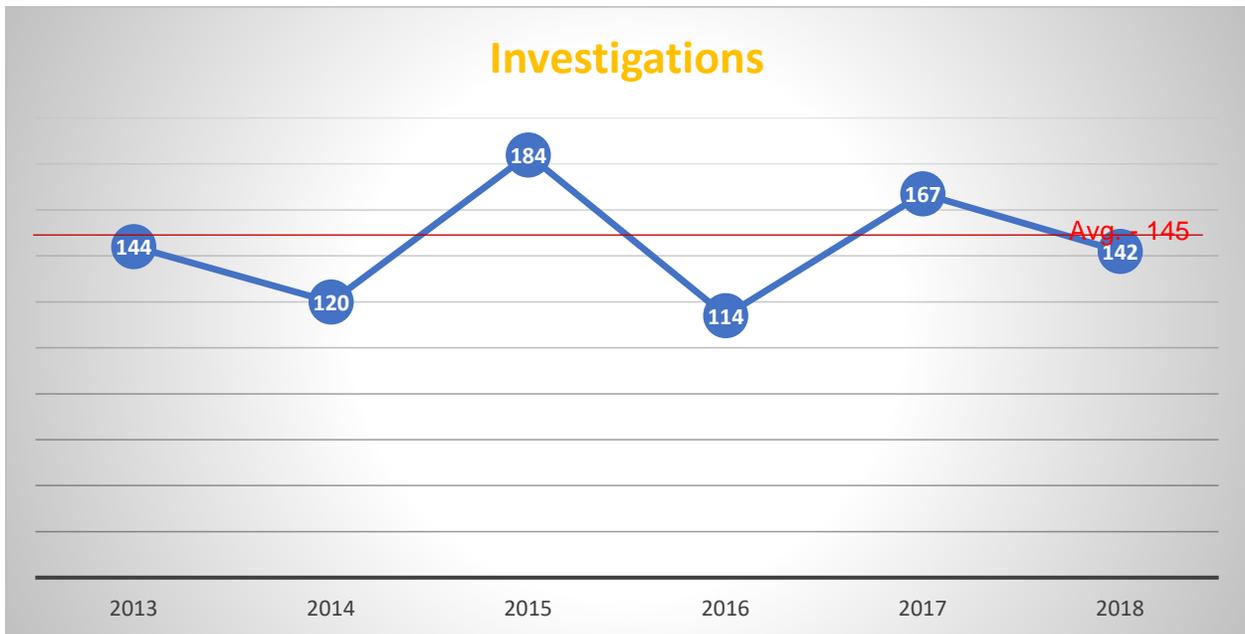


The Woodfin Police Department participates in traffic initiatives sponsored by the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. **Click It or Ticket** promotes the increased awareness of occupant protection laws in North Carolina. During the **Booze It & Lose It** campaigns, departments statewide emphasize the prevention and identification of drivers who are impaired. Other campaigns include **No Need to Speed, BikeSafe NC**, and other traffic safety awareness issues.

In 2018, Officers issued **1024 citations** for motor vehicle and other misdemeanor offenses along with **654 warning tickets**. They also arrested **18 drivers** for the offense of **Driving While Impaired**

## INVESTIGATIONS

The Woodfin Police Department utilizes two full-time detectives to follow up on cases initiated by patrol officers that require more in-depth investigation than can be afforded by the responding officer. These investigators are tasked with handling both Misdemeanor and Felony cases. In 2018, Detectives with the Woodfin Police Department took on over **142** investigations. Historically, our Detectives have averaged **145** investigations over the past five years (2013-2017). This actually resulted in a slight decrease of approximately 2.6% in new investigations.



Subsequently, Detectives cleared **72.53%** of these assigned cases. By clearing a case, we mean the case was either unfounded to begin, an arrest was made or a warrant issued, or the case was closed in some exceptional manner such as the District Attorney's office decided not to

prosecute the case, the victim refused to cooperate with police, or a lost or missing person was located. The previous clearance rate for the past five years averaged out to **62.33%**.

## CRIME STATISTICS

Every year, the Woodfin Police Department collects and submits to the FBI the reported Part I and Part II Crimes that have occurred within the Town of Woodfin. In October of 2018, the Woodfin Police Department began a change in the way our data was reported to the FBI, which is through the new National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Instead of only one crime occurring for each incident, each crime type is now counted. This may initially result in what looks to be an increase in reporting numbers, but in reality it more closely reflects the true nature of the incidents to which the Police Department responds. This data allows the Department to view crime trends and patterns as a tool for crime analysis purposes. Although these statistics are useful in identifying and predicting criminal conduct, they are not the only factor in determining the Town's public safety needs. Crime is driven by many factors such as economic conditions, employment opportunities, shifts in demographics, population, resources, and fluctuations in law enforcement staffing.

Type of Index Crime	Index Offense	Year	Number Reported Offenses	Number Offenses Cleared	Percentage
Violent Crime	Homicide	2018	0	0	0%
	Homicide	2017	0	0	0%
	Rape	2018	3	1	33%
	Rape	2017	1	0	0%
	Robbery	2018	2	2	100%
	Robbery	2017	0	0	0%
	Agg. Assault	2018	11	9	82%
	Agg. Assault	2017	6	5	83%
Property Crime	Burglary	2018	59	14	24%
	Burglary	2017	52	21	40%
	Larceny	2018	62	13	21%
	Larceny	2017	73	17	23%
	MV Theft	2018	11	8	73%
	MV Theft	2017	5	3	60%
	Arson	2018	4	4	100%
	Arson	2016	0	0	0%

## ARREST DATA

In 2018, Woodfin Police officer affected 240 physical arrests. This is a 30.43% increase from 2017. The charts below break down the demographical information on those arrests.

