



Year in Review 2020

Los Banos Police Department

A message from the Chief,

Hello Los Banos, I think it goes without saying that 2020 has been one of the most remarkable years in recent history. From the unprecedented measures we have all had to take due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to a significant increase in crime locally, to the approval of a new 24 million dollar state-of-the-art, police facility. 2020, will certainly be a year we look back at.

This year in review represents a summary of the daily duties the amazing men and women of your Los Banos Police Department take on every day. In the early months of COVID, we modified our daily duties to keep staff safe, but I am pleased to report that all COVID related public response modifications are long behind us. LBPB personnel have been operating under their normal operational standards for months, though we continue to take all necessary precautions to keep us all safe.

Crime in Los Banos is ALWAYS our number one priority and no one has been more disappointed in the increase in violence in our community, than our staff. Thankfully, the brave men and women of this Department fight every day to make Los Banos the safest community in the valley. Our staffing allocation is dedicated to responding to, and preventing crime in Los Banos. Our patrol staff are provided up to date information regarding criminal activity and their patrols are focused on those areas where we are seeing higher rates of crime. In September, we staffed a dedicated gang unit, whose sole duty is to attack gang-related crime. We have seen an impact on the streets because of their efforts.

Personnel recruitment was an important aspect of our efforts in 2020. As we hire and train additional personnel, we continue to direct those new resources to meet the needs of our community. 2021 represents an exciting opportunity to increase our efforts in proactive traffic enforcement, gang violence reduction, and community policing.

Social media resources continue to be our chief communication tool with our residents. If you have not had the opportunity to, I encourage you to friend LBPB's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LosBanosPolice> to stay up on all the latest news involving LBPB and the Los Banos community.

During the latter part of 2020, the City was awarded a Community Development Block grant for Code Enforcement services. The grant provides for an additional Code Enforcement Officer for the next 3 years! Our Code Enforcement efforts are based on the principles of education, voluntary compliance and keeping Los Banos beautiful.

We did not let COVID change everything at LBPB in 2020! We held our annual food drive that raised several TONS of food; our 'beards are back' program bought Christmas meals and gifts for amazing families and we were able to make a monetary donation to two local organizations who serve Los Banos residents.

We continued our partnership with our wonderful friends at the Los Banos Walmart where we were able to provide well over 55 children with a fantastic Christmas in 2020! Way to go Walmart!

We are looking forward to 2021 as a new day and a new opportunity to continue to make Los Banos the best community in the central valley, but we cannot do it alone. To be the best, it will take the best of all of us; it is all our responsibility, including YOURS, to make Los Banos the best in 2021!

Regarding some of the data...we have implemented new systems inside LBPB that allow us to capture data that we have not before. When you see 'No Data' in the coming pages, it is because our previous system was unable to capture the data that we can now!

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division is responsible for the investigation of crimes of violence, including murder, assaults, domestic violence, sexual assaults, and missing person investigations as well as the investigation of property crimes including burglary, thefts, and fraud cases. The Investigations Division investigated nine homicides and 61 shootings in 2020. Investigations is comprised of a Detective Sergeant and three Detectives.

A Gang Unit was created in September to address the increase in violent crimes and gang activity within the City. The Gang Unit is comprised of a Gang Sergeant and a Gang Officer.

We hope to add additional personnel to our Investigations Division as Measure H Officers are hired and trained.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------|
| Cases Assigned to Investigations | 837 | 813 | 739 |
| Cases Assigned to Gang Unit | Included w/ Investigation Cases | Included w/ Investigation Cases | 138 |
| Search Warrants Served | 67 | 48 | 104 |

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Communications Division is the vital link between the community and Police and Fire personnel. The Division is comprised of a Dispatch Supervisor and nine Public Safety Dispatchers. They are responsible for receiving emergency and business line calls, dispatching Police and Fire units to calls for service, monitoring radio traffic and information via Mobile Data Terminals. Dispatchers are also responsible for the timely entry of data into state and federal databases.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 9-1-1 Calls | 18,688 | 17,917 | 18,328 |
| Business Lines | No Data | No Data | 62,206 |
| Total Incidents | 43,294 | 34,534 | 49,592 |

CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Animal Control Services

A Code Enforcement Officer and an Animal Services CSO provide Animal Control Services under the supervision of the Code Enforcement Sergeant. Animal Control Services staff are responsible for the maintenance and care of the Animal Shelter and the Code Enforcement Officer responds to animal related calls for service.

We attribute our lower impound numbers and calls for service to COVID-19. With more of our residents working from home, we saw a decrease in animals running at large.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Animal Control Calls for Service | 2,653 | 2,162 | 1,695 |
| Dogs Impounded | 1,111 | 1,029 | 624 |
| Cats Impounded | 794 | 773 | 574 |
| Animals Adopted | 208 | 146 | 63 |
| Animals Sent to Rescue | 1,006 | 834 | 640 |
| Animals Reclaimed or Returned | 337 | 313 | 237 |

Community Preservation

The Community Preservation section of Code Enforcement is supervised by the Code Enforcement Sergeant and is comprised of an Administrative Clerk, three Code Enforcement Officers, and a grant funded contract employee. The Community Preservation staff focus on maintaining a safe and desirable living and working environment for Los Banos.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|-------|
| Abandoned Vehicles Abated | 427 | 437 | 742 |
| Administrative Citations | 475 | 574 | 337 |
| Complaints Received | 1,456 | 1,734 | 2,080 |
| Proactive Activity | No Data | No Data | 1,002 |

CRIME STATISTICS

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Difference 2019-2020 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Homicide | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 350% |
| Rape | 11 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 14 | 17% |
| Robbery | 35 | 41 | 36 | 36 | 35 | -3% |
| Aggravated Assault | 74 | 89 | 99 | 92 | 160 | 110% |
| Violent Crime | 121 | 138 | 143 | 142 | 218 | 54% |
| Burglary | 253 | 220 | 242 | 229 | 280 | 23% |
| Larceny | 733 | 699 | 658 | 509 | 491 | -4% |
| Vehicle Theft | 175 | 162 | 168 | 150 | 160 | 7% |
| Property Crime | 1161 | 1081 | 1068 | 888 | 931 | 5% |
| Total | 1282 | 1219 | 1211 | 1030 | 1149 | 12% |

Part 1 crimes consist of eight crime offenses, which have been deemed serious crimes that occur with regularity in all areas of the country, and are likely to be reported to Police. These offenses are criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The Police Department will be transitioning from UCR reporting to NIBRS reporting in 2021 per FBI and DOJ requirements. This new reporting system will significantly affect and change the statistical categories and figures once the transition occurs. NIBRS is an incident based reporting system versus the hierarchical crime based UCR system.

OFFICER STATISTICS

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Difference 2019-2020 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------------|
| Arrests | 2,205 | 2,126 | 1,868 | -13% |
| Calls for Service | 34,862 | 23,371 | 26,959 | 16% |
| Officer Initiated Calls | 8,432 | 11,163 | 11,146 | -1% |
| Traffic Stops | 1,601 | 3,176 | 5,322 | 68% |
| Traffic Collisions | 418 | 462 | 346 | -26% |
| Case Reports | 5,967 | 5,514 | 5,448 | -2% |
| Total Citations Issued | 2,197 | 3,524 | 2,299 | -36% |

Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Police Department and is comprised of four Sergeants and 18 Patrol Officers who bring dedication and a passion to serving the community each day.

They are the most visible division within the Department. The Patrol Officers are the ones you see driving black and white patrol vehicles while responding to calls for service, enforcing traffic laws, conducting traffic collision investigations, providing proactive patrol, and leading preliminary criminal investigations.

JAIL / COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

The Los Banos Police Department maintains a Type-1 jail facility. Community Service Officers (CSOs) are responsible for the maintenance of the jail as well the intake and care of inmates.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total Bookings | 1,239 | 1,242 | 1,120 |
| Male Inmates | 1,038 | 1,019 | 891 |
| Female Inmates | 201 | 223 | 229 |

PROPERTY / EVIDENCE

The Property/Evidence Technician is responsible for the receipt, storage, safekeeping, release, and disposal of all property and evidence that comes under the control of the Los Banos Police Department. Proper maintenance of the evidence and its chain of custody are critical to the successful prosecution of suspects who pose a risk to the community.

The Property/Evidence Technician conducts constant checks and balances including audits, inventories, and safety inspections to assure all policies and best practices are being followed.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Items Processed | 3,128 | 3,060 | 4,323 |
| Firearms Collected | 76 | 105 | 78 |
| Replica Firearms | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| Illegal Substances | 216 | 193 | 235 |

RECORDS

The Records Division is responsible for all aspects of document control within the Department. Records Clerks process, maintain, and distribute all police files and handle public requests for records. They ensure that reports are sent to allied agencies and the Merced County District Attorney's Office for review and submission of charges. Records staff also handle lobby contacts, Live Scans, background checks, subpoenas, citation entry, vehicle releases, and other clerical duties.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cases Routed to Agencies | 2,278 | 1,697 | 3,084 |
| Subpoenas Processed | 1,000 | 1,043 | 653 |
| Live Scans | 590 | 577 | 204 |
| Dog Licenses Issued | 111 | 175 | 148 |