

# Cedar Hill Police Department



## 2021 Annual Report



**Chief Ely Reyes**

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*Cedar Hill is Safe !*

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# Message from Chief Ely Reyes

Greetings:

On behalf of the men and women of the Cedar Hill Police Department, I am pleased to present our 2021 Annual Report. As it was for much of the previous year, 2021 was a challenging time for our community and the Police Department. As we continued to face the challenges of COVID, we were thrust into an unprecedented winter weather event significantly impacting our community and the entire region. Our community came together to provide many resources to our community members in need and the men and women of this department, once again stepped up to the challenge.

Although we had to cancel many of our in-person programs, we were still able to conduct our ever so popular neighborhood walks. These walks, with the assistance of our elected officials, city administration and all city departments, have become one of the best ways we interact with our community members, building relationships, one door at a time. We are thankful that we have been able to have many other in person programs with the public again as these programs are important to continuing to build upon the strong police-community relationships Cedar Hill has experienced for many years. We will be starting back up with our Citizen Police Academy and numerous other opportunities for our community members to get involved. Please follow our Facebook page and check out our website for details on how you can help us to make this great city of ours even better.

Nationally, we saw a significant increase in violent crime and gun related crime. Cedar Hill was not immune to this trend, but fortunately we did not see the same level of increases as many other cities in our region and across the nation. I am thankful for the proactive policing efforts of our officers which directly impacts all of our safety, resulting in Cedar Hill continuing to have the lowest violent crime rate in the Best Southwest.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you. Take care of yourselves and each other.

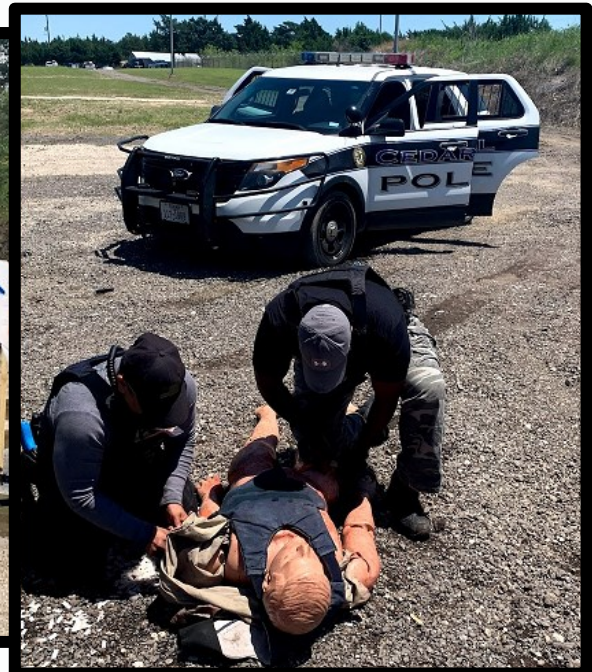
Ely Reyes  
Chief of Police  
Cedar Hill Police Department

## Professional Standards Division

The Professional Standards Division is responsible for the administration of the internal affairs investigative process, screening applicants for employment positions within the department, and developing, scheduling, and conducting training for all sworn and non-sworn personnel.

Additionally, Captain Colin Chenault and Sergeant David Podany oversee the hiring and training of Police Academy recruits, maintain compliance with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement; including the department's contractual training license, and provide wellness resources through the southwest region's First Responder Resiliency Program.

In 2021, the department logged 4,122 in-person training hours. Through the ongoing response to COVID-19, the department continued to rely on online training classes to supplement in-person training by attending 222 additional courses. Some of the training courses taken during 2021 include: Fair and Impartial Policing/ De-escalation for all sworn personnel, Officer Down/Officer Rescue training, hosted an Intermediate Crime Scene course, and completed a Standardized Field Sobriety Test update course.



## Internal Affairs Unit

In 2021, Officers responded to 21,294 calls for service and initiated 10,623 traffic stops. These 31,917 incidents resulted in 11 Internal Affairs complaints from citizens. That is one citizen complaint for every 2,901 contacts. An additional 27 complaints were filed on officers internally for a total of 38 complaints. Internal complaints are initiated by other officers and supervisors when they observe or identify a policy violation through our internal auditing processes. A total of 44 allegations were included in the 38 complaints. Body-camera and vehicle operations accounted for more than 50% of the total complaints for 2021.

Types of Complaints Investigated 2021	Internal	External
Discourtesy	1	6
Vehicle Operation	8	
Dishonesty	1	
Damaged Property	4	
Neglect of Duty	1	
Body Camera Violation	9	
Conduct Unbecoming		1
Traffic		1
Excessive Force	1	1
Improper Tactics/Procedures	5	2
Pursuit Policy Violation	2	
Insubordination	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>

Findings of 2021 Investigations	#
Exonerated	3
Sustained	33
Not Sustained	1
Unfounded	1
Administratively Closed	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>43*</b>

\*One investigation from 2021 remains open

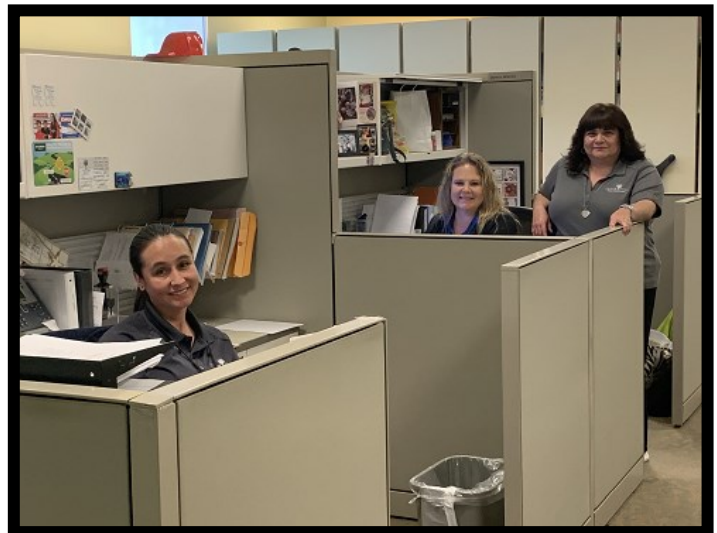
## Technical and Information Services Division

The TIS division is made up of the Public Services Unit, Alarm Billing Unit, Property & Evidence Unit, and the Administrative Services Unit which includes 3 Community Service Officers. The division is managed by Lt. Pam Brown who also oversees the Axon in-car and Body Worn camera system, Criminal Justice Information System security, mobile computer terminals, internal records management and computer aided dispatch systems.



## Records and Alarm Billing

The Records Clerks and Alarm Billing Coordinator's first line supervisor is Police Information Supervisor John Stevens. The unit's employees include Donia White, Roxanne Villafranco, Yasmine Johnson, and Alarm Billing Coordinator Yolanda Kommer. This unit is responsible for submitting monthly National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) reports. These reports document the number and types of crimes committed each month in the city. This unit verifies each arrest, incident, accident, supplement, or other type report entered in the Records Management System (RMS) daily. In 2021, the Records unit completed 3,286 open records requests, 15 attorney general opinions, and 123 hours spent on BWC/In-car camera requests.



## Public Service Officers

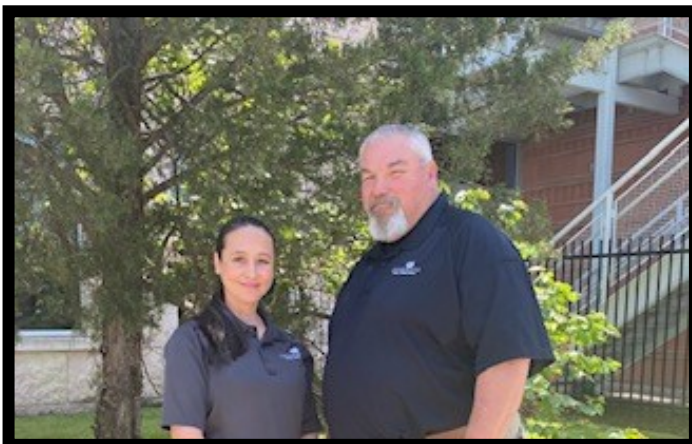
The Public Service Officers (PSOs) work 24/7 to ensure that any person that comes to the Police Department lobby receives assistance. The five dedicated PSOs are Roxanne Villafranco, Tracy Ferrell, David Goodspeed, Jared Salinas, and Caleb Tomlinson. They ensure all traceable property identifiable by a serial number is entered into the National Crime Database, as well as validating all accident reports, entering all wanted persons and Protective Orders.

Additionally, they monitor the calls for service and provide assistance to officers needing the Specialized On-Call units to respond and oversee the TLETS terminal for warrant confirmations or urgent state messages.



## Property and Evidence Unit

The Property and Evidence unit's first line supervisor is Police Information Supervisor John Stevens. Property Room Coordinator Rachel Knuppel is responsible for the daily care, custody and control of any property/evidence submitted to the property room. The property/evidence is maintained until it



can be lawfully released or destroyed. Currently there are 24,917 pieces of property and evidence logged into the property/evidence room. In 2021, 3,292 pieces of property and evidence were booked in and 2,889 pieces destroyed.

## Community Service Officers

The Cedar Hill Police Department's three Community Service Officers (CSOs) are Matt Grigsby, David Burgamy (retired) and David Goodspeed (moved to Public Service Officer). In November 2021, Animal Control Officer Shawn Burke moved over to the police department as a Community Service Officer and Public Service Officer Caleb Tomlinson also joined the team. The CSOs are civilian support staff that respond to calls for service, such as burglaries, frauds, and thefts that are not in progress to help free up the Patrol Officers to respond to crimes in progress. They help process crime scenes, collect evidence, check on abandoned vehicles and help with traffic control on minor accidents. CSOs also review all On-Line reports and process them into the Records Management System.





## Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible presence of the Cedar Hill Police Department. The Patrol Division works 12 hour shifts, with two Lieutenants, four Sergeants, four Corporals and 30 Officers. The city is divided into 5 reporting districts. The patrol officers are dispatched to calls for service by the Southwest Regional Communications Center. The patrol officers responded to 21,294 Citizen initiated calls for service, and self-initiated 44,921 calls while proactively patrolling the city. The ability to respond to calls for service in a timely and safe manner is a high priority for the city. Officers were able to respond to Emergency Priority calls for service in 6 minutes and 19 seconds, an increase from 5 minutes and 44 seconds from 2020. Non-Emergency response times also increased from 13 minutes and 18 seconds in 2020 to 15 minutes and 16 seconds. With Cedar Hill's proactive response to crime and high visibility patrols in neighborhood and shopping centers, Cedar Hill's violent crime rate of 1.73 in 2021 continues to be the lowest in the Best Southwest Region. There was a 13.33% decrease in the Crime Index rate comparing 2020 to 2021. Since 2016, Cedar Hill has experienced a 49.06% decrease in the Crime Index.

VIOLENT CRIME 2021						
	Cedar Hill	DeSoto	Duncanville	Lancaster	Dallas	Grand Prairie
Homicide	2	7	4	3	245	10
Rape	12	20	10	18	591	52
Robbery	22	38	35	41	2,421	76
Agg. Assault	49	107	113	161	7,887	297
Population	49,148	56,145	40,706	41,275	1,304,379	196,100
Violent Crime rate per 1,000	1.73	3.06	3.98	5.40	8.54	2.22

Crime Data from Crime In Texas Online Portal as of 04.18.2022  
Population from 2020 Census

PROPERTY CRIME 2021						
	Cedar Hill	DeSoto	Duncanville	Lancaster	Dallas	Grand Prairie
Robbery	22	38	35	41	2,421	76
Burglary	63	128	137	85	6,925	331
Theft	616	757	620	762	27,917	2,626
Motor Vehicle Theft	115	205	237	192	11,809	476
Population	49,148	56,145	40,706	41,275	1,304,379	196,100
Property Crime Rate per 1,000	16.60	20.09	25.28	26.17	37.62	17.89

Crime Data from Crime In Texas Online Portal as of 04.18.2022  
Population from 2020 Census

# Of the Year Awards...



## **Rookie Officer of the Year Eugene Suk**

Officer Eugene Suk is a highly motivated officer, often described as a team player covering additional shifts to assist with manpower coverage. Officer Suk always has a smile on his face and has a positive energy that is contagious. He carries himself with great confidence promoting outstanding leadership making Cedar Hill a safe community.



## **Officer of the Year Josue Pena**

Officer Pena is described as always giving his best effort and always has a great attitude. He has a passion for DWI's and continues to improve the internal training related to the enforcement of DWI's. Officer Pena will do anything for anyone, without complaint, and always with a smile on his face.



## **Support Officer of the Year James Valenti**

Officer Valenti is described as a very enthusiastic officer that will go out of his way to help anyone. Even though he is assigned to Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, he continues to help out patrol. He has a positive attitude and he is always smiling and making people laugh. He is one of the most reliable and dependable officers and an all around great person.

# Of the Year Awards...



## **Supervisor of the Year Sergeant James Porter**

Sergeant Jimmy Porter is described as a supervisor that is approachable and takes care of his troops. He is a team player with a great attitude and works hard to help everyone grow and develop. He constantly goes above and beyond for his officers making sure they are always prepared.



## **Support Supervisor of the Year Sergeant Chad Cooley**

Sergeant Cooley embodies the department's culture of high standards and always goes above and beyond in everything he does. He never hesitates to provide assistance to any department when needed. He is always professional, organized, meticulous and always does his best and expects the same out of his officers.

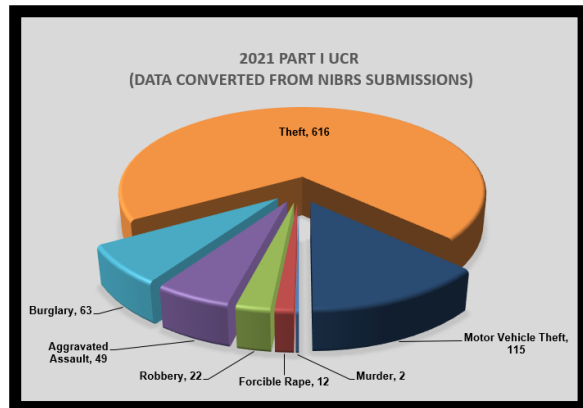


## **Civilian of the Year Tracy Ferrell**

Tracy always has a positive attitude and handles each job task with poise and ease along with a great work ethic. Tracy often modifies her hours to assist with shift coverage. She provides assistance to officers on calls, assists with department projects and often goes above and beyond to help anyone in the community.

## Criminal Investigation Division

The Criminal Investigation Division is comprised of a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, eight Detectives, two Civilian Investigators, a Forensic Manager, a Crime Analyst and the Digital Media Coordinator. The division oversees all criminal investigations and reviews all reports generated by the patrol division. In 2021, 4,580 cases were created with 2,319 criminal cases assigned for additional follow-up. Cedar Hill had a 17% clearance rate for all Part I Crimes and a 39.84% overall clearance rate for all crimes for 2021.



Year	Cedar Hill	Desoto	Duncanville	Lancaster	State Average
2011*	32%	14%	12%	10%	29%
2012*	37%	12%	13%	12%	20%
2013*	34%	25%	13%	11%	20%
2014*	33%	21%	14%	15%	20%
2015*	36%	19%	13%	10%	20%
2016*	30%	16%	16%	12%	19%
2017*	30%	17%	19%	6%	18%
2018*	29%	17%	19%	13%	17%
2019*	28%	11%	9%	12%	15%
2020†	19%	9%	4%	11%	13%
2021†	17%	9%	6%	16%	12%

\* Data taken from Crime In Texas Report (DPS) † Data taken from Crime in Texas Online Portal



## Forensics Unit

The Cedar Hill Police Department employs civilian support personnel to perform the processing of crime scenes and collect various types of evidence. Crime scene personnel respond directly to the scenes when requested by officers or detectives. The Forensic Unit consists of one full-time Forensic Manager, Ashley Zachry. This is a manager position where she oversees the daily operations of the crime scene unit and crime lab. She responds to major crime scenes to process the scenes including photography, latent print processing,



DNA and evidence collection. She often assists the Criminal Investigation Division in search warrants by documenting the scene and logging seized evidence. She utilizes the FBI Universal Latent Workstation to submit latent prints recovered from crime scenes into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, for comparison to state and federal fingerprint data bases. Additionally, she also processes items of evidence to recover latent prints, hairs, fibers, and/or DNA. Cedar Hill currently utilizes the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Science (SWIFS), Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Lab, Armstrong Forensic Laboratory, ATF-National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) to analyze ballistics, DNA, and narcotics. In 2021, she responded to 68 crime scenes which is a slight decrease from the 77 crime scenes she responded to in 2020. She is often called upon to respond to other jurisdictions to assist in processing scenes. Ashley is a member of both the International Association for Identification and the Texas division of the IAI. She has also presented to numerous conferences across the state.

## Traffic Unit

The Cedar Hill Traffic Unit is comprised of Lieutenant Sandefur, Sergeant Cooley, Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Inspectors- Officer Sweeney and Officer Valenti, and two part-time Motor Officers, Don Crymes and Eduardo Cerda. During 2021, Officer Crymes received specialty training that allowed him to obtain his Motor Instructor Certification. This will allow him to put on schools and train other aspiring Motor Officers. A big part of the Traffic Unit's goal is educating the young people before they start driving. The department made 10,623 traffic stops and worked 1,378 accidents, while responding to 674 traffic complaints.



## Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Inspections



Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Inspectors Lincoln Sweeney and James Valenti conducted 711 inspections, identified 4,136 violations with 56% of the trucks taken out of service for safety violations. Each truck taken out of service and off the roadway potentially saves lives! The national out of service average is 20.7%. The majority of violations cited were brakes, lighting, tires, wheels and over weight.

In 2021, CMVE Inspector Lincoln Sweeney was re-elected as the Vice-President of the Board of Directors for the Local Region of Commercial Vehicle Safety.



## Police and Community Team



It is the goal of the Police and Community Team to build lasting relationships with our citizens. We understand that our city is safer when the community and the police partner together. The PACT Unit

is led by Lieutenant Sandefur, Sergeant Hammel, Corporal Brackenridge, Officer Rodriguez, Officer McSwain, Officer Knott, and Officer Malone.



While practicing current safety protocols these officers still connected with the community through the 2021 Youth Summit, 3 Back to School Rallies, Senior Center Bingo, Scare on the Square, National Night Out, and countless other small community events. Officer Knott became part of the Big Brother Big Sister Program and became a 'Big in Blue' for

a little sister in our community. It is all a part of our commitment to showing Cedar Hill that their Police Department is there for them.

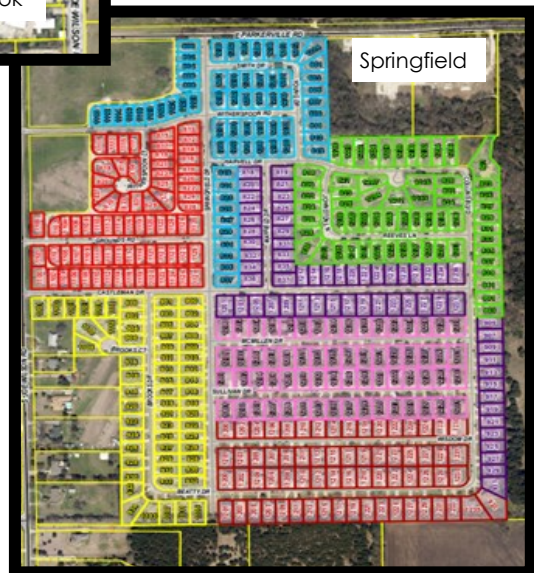
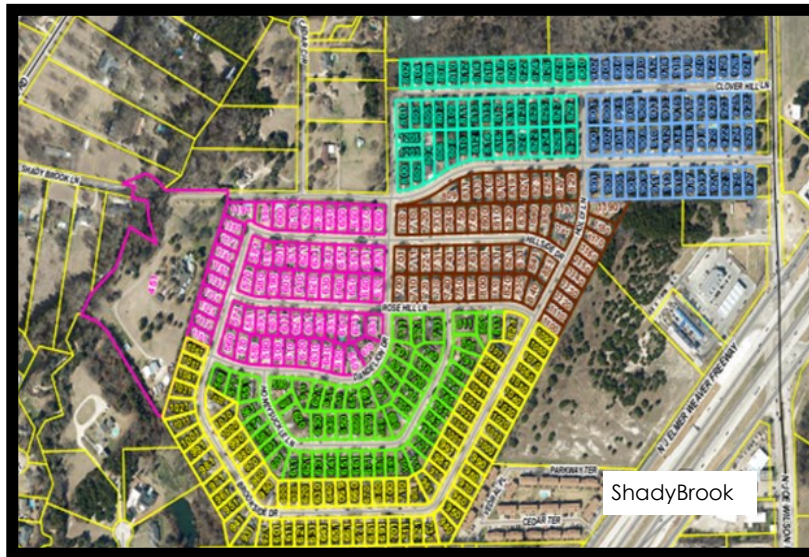


## Neighborhood Service Level Strategy

In 2021, the Police Department coordinated 4 Neighborhood Walks. The Neighborhood Level Service Strategy (NLSS) is designed to identify the unique service priorities, crime concerns, and quality of life issues for each neighborhood. NLSS recognizes the specific issues and concerns at the micro-community, or neighborhood level. In an effort to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the neighborhood priorities, neighborhood walks include a range of city and community representatives. Neighborhood Walks seek to identify the individualized priorities and challenges to more effectively address citizen concerns and quality of life issues. This approach is used to identify issues, in addition to crime, which affect the perception of safety and quality of life.



# Neighborhood Service Level Strategy





## Citizens Police Academy

In 1997, Cedar Hill started the Citizens on Patrol Program. Although the COVID Pandemic altered how we all interact and conduct business, our citizen volunteers were eager to get back in and lend a hand. The COP's were able to get back out and patrol the city and resume Handicap

Parking Enforcement in our business districts. In 2021, the Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association contributed 1,200.5 hours of their time to assist the police department in many areas. Additionally, the Citizens on Patrol program spent 1,119 hours and drove 1,388 miles patrolling the city to assist the police department. They volunteered to help with traffic control at Scare on the Square and they helped with our CHPD Youth Summit. More importantly, the Citizens on Patrol volunteered their time to help with our delivery of meals to the elderly who are homebound.



# CEDAR HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHPD

"Serving and Protecting with Integrity"

## **Compassionate**

Concern and caring  
for our community

## **Honest**

Integrity and truth  
in all actions

## **Professional**

In everything we do

## **Dedicated**

To building  
relationships that  
promote trust and  
respect

## VISION

To be a premier law enforcement agency  
that is trusted and respected by all to make  
Cedar Hill the safest community in Texas

## MISSION

To provide the highest quality of service  
that promotes and maintains a safe  
environment in partnership with the  
community consistent with our values



  
**CEDAR HILL**  
**Police Department**

*"A state accredited law enforcement agency"*

285 Uptown Blvd - Building 200, Cedar Hill, TX 75104

972-291-5181

