

**Wolfeboro Police Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2022**

**Members present:** Chairman Steve Wood, Commissioner Robert O'Brien and Commissioner Shawn Coope

**Staff present:** Chief Dean Rondeau, Captain Mark Livie, Sherri Moore – Recording Secretary,

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

*Chairman Wood entertained a motion to enter non-public session to discuss Budget and Personnel.*

**Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to enter into non-public session RSA 91 A: 3, a to discuss Budget and Personnel at 3:31 P.M. Commissioner Coope seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien – yes, Shawn Coope – yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.**

*Being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner O'Brien entertained a motion to exit non-public session and re-enter public session.*

**Chairman Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission exit non-public session RSA 91 A: 3, at 3:55 PM. Commissioner Coope seconded. Roll call vote: Shawn Coope-yes, and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.**

The Commission re-entered public session at 3:55 PM.

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to seal the Non-Public Minutes.

**Commissioner Coope moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to seal the Non-Public Minutes. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Roll Call vote: Bob O'Brien – yes, Shawn Coope – yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Wood entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Consideration of Minutes**

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to accept the August 18, 2022.

**Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the August 18, 2022, public minutes as prepared. Commissioner Coope seconded. Members voted, all in favor, the motion passed.**

**Activity Reports**

Chief Rondeau reported on the following activity reports for the month of August.

**Incidents:** He reported 46 incidents, an increase from the previous month.

**Offenses by month:** He reported 79 offenses for the month.

**Arrest status report:** He reported an increase from the previous month, a total of 25.

**Collisions YTD report:** He reported 13 collisions.

**Traffic stops YTD report:** He reported a decrease from 250 to 235 with traffic stops last month and 45 tickets were issued out of those stops. Resulting in a 19.14% (an increased) chance of getting a ticket.

**Personnel Analysis report:** The report is a synopsis of each officer's activity for the month.

**Detectives Report:** N/A

**School Resource Officer (SRO):** N/A

### **Chief's Items**

Chief Rondeau did not read his report but is attached.

### **Captain's Items**

None

### **Questions from the Press**

None

### **Board of Selectmen's Representative**

None

### **Commissioner's Items**

Chairman Wood introduced those sitting at head table that came to participate in the Safety Forum. Those sitting at the table were: Recording Secretary/Executive Admin, Sherri Moore; Commissioner Coope; Chairman Steve Wood; Commissioner O'Brien; Police Chief Dean Rondeau; Police Captain Mark Livie; GWRSD Superintendent, Dr. Caroline Arakelian; Fire Chief Tom Zotti. Chairman Wood went on to share that he invited Fire Chief Zotti to the forum because of what we learned from Sandy Hook...that we need to get EMS to be able to save as many lives as possible.

Chief Zotti shared that he was recently notified and attended an active shooter/incident command training at the Police Academy. It was a three-day training. He also shared that through a grant the fire department was able to receive 3 sets of protective (ballistic) gear and can now outfit 6 staff members. The Fire Department has been in contact with the Police Department to start training jointly.

Chairman Wood explained the roll of the EMS in an active shooter situation. He also shared that we have one officer on the Belknap County Swat Team.

Chief Rondeau shared that the motive to join the Belknap County Swat Team was to add resources should an unfortunate situation occur. He went on to share that being able to add ten to twelve personnel would be beneficial. We are not in the days where 150 candidates are applying for police positions...we need to add resources.

Chairman Wood shared with people in attendance that we (the Commissioners) would like to hear from the public, but they will not share tactical information. He added that he was glad that the Superintendent (Dr. Arakelian) could be in attendance. Chairman Wood told Dr. Arakelian that the Commission would like to see a second School Resource Officer (SRO) added. He also shared that he is a little invested in the school system because he has a daughter and grandchildren in the school district. He went on to share that in years to come he would like to see a third school resource officer added that would be split between the elementary schools. It would not only benefit the schools but also the Town. Adding one additional SRO is something he would like to see move forward with for the next (2023) budget.

Superintendent Arakelian thanked the Commission for inviting her to the safety forum because safety and security is important. She offered that she would bring the addition of one SRO to the board. She also shared that over time, half of the students in GWRSD are at the Kingswood complex and that SRO Devine is in a lot of places but can't be everywhere. Partnership is key so students and staff are working together.

Chairman Wood shared that one thing that had not been brought up yet at the forum for parents and students, is that if you see something, say something. There have been situations that have been brought to the school's and/or the Police Department's attention and those situations have been mitigated. Letters have gone out explaining how situations have been mitigated.

Chief Rondeau shared that he can't emphasize enough, even information that may seem innocuous, to still say something. He went on to share that there has been a lot of discussion about the new Public Safety Building (PSB) and hears and is sensitive to the citizen's desire to leave the building in the current location. Citizens have expressed concern with the safety and think the proximity to the schools is a deterrent for bad stuff.

Chairman Wood gave credit to the Town Manager for having the current location of the PSB be considered again. The current facility is equidistant to the high school complex and Carpenter Elementary School. He thinks that a majority of the public would like to see the PSB remain in its existing location. He also asked Tom Bell from the Budget Committee to share the idea of adding an additional SRO position with the Budget Committee.

Tom Bell agreed and shared that the more the elementary school kids get exposed to SRO's the better the outcome long term.

### **Public Comment**

Larry Borland of Wolfeboro shared a little about his background. He was on a school board for eight years and the school system he was a part of mirrors our school system. He was also a critical care physician at the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. He went on to share that an incident occurred seven years ago where a student in his school district stabbed 23 students. He wishes to offer his assistance to the school system because of the information that he has gained after going through an incident like that.

Ronnie Harding of Wolfeboro shared that she had taught for 36 years in Florida (and retired in 2017). She had students that went to Parkland School and offered three steps that are simple but very effective in school safety:

1. School monitoring – see something, say something. No matter who it is.
2. Classroom/Building doors should be locked. The school should have a policy of having doors locked. The classrooms should also have a door stop to wedge under the door.
3. Make drills really routine.

Chairman Wood thanked Ms. Harding and shared that he volunteered for 20 years at schools. He shared that bullying is prominent in schools and it looks different now, it's online. He implores parents to be diligent to know what kids are doing. For parents to check in with children who may be acting despondent or downtrodden. Nothing is too small to report. He asked Superintendent Arakelian about safety measures being taken at the schools.

Superintendent Arakelian shared that \$470,000 in grant safety upgrades have been submitted this past August. As far as training drills, the school district's emergency plans have been submitted to Homeland Security for approval. She also went on to share that she appreciates "see something/say something" and to include what is seen on social media. Also be aware of kids who are self-harming...if you notice kid who no longer show interest in the things they use to, to tell someone.

Tracey Rose shared that she is the new principal for Carpenter Elementary School. She thanked Captain Livie for inviting her and shared that she is very appreciative to have the School Superintendent and the Police Department working together. She shared a concern about the lack of signage signifying the school zone where Carpenter Elementary School is. She has had conversations with police and is working to change the front of school and have a bus loop. She will do anything to keep the children safe.

Cate of Wolfeboro shared that she came to the meeting to bring up the topic of drugs. In particular the use of marijuana on the bus. She shared that she has many kids in the school district and they have told her that marijuana is being used daily on multiple buses. She would like to see something done about this issue.

Chief Rondeau responded that he does not want to see drugs in Wolfeboro, and they will do the best they can to get to the bottom of it.

Cate shared that she was also informed of drugs that are in the schools that look like candy...they are called edibles but look like candies.

Chief Rondeau shared that the marijuana of today is not like it was...it is much more potent and concentrated. The kids know this and are up on pop culture. The Officers are trained to recognize the effects of drugs.

Jody Persson of Wolfeboro shared that when running for Selectmen last year he had a meeting at the high school and was able to just walk in. He was not stopped by anyone and found that to be concerning.

Chief Rondeau replied that he thinks that might be an anomaly. The Chief was up at the high school a lot (last year) and the doors were locked. He thinks overall that the schools are fairly safe, but we are improving...it's a work in progress. It takes school resources and community involvement.

Jody Persson replied that he was very happy with what he heard discussed today and would love to see a second SRO.

Chief Rondeau shared that the Kingswood Complex is a huge complex and when in session there are about 2,000 faculty, staff, and students. He agrees that there is a need for additional security and understands there is a cost. Something that is troubling him is that there has been a lot of violent crime in NH over the last year. He feels that we need to really take care of our citizens and the most vulnerable, children and the elderly. We need to care for all of our citizens no matter what.

Jody Persson shared that he will be running for Selectman again. He believes that (Town) money is spent on things that are important.

Chief Rondeau replied that times are changing, and we need to be prepared and forward looking. He needs to look down the road and project what is coming and structure assets towards that. He continually needs to come up with ways to keep citizens safe.

Ronnie Harding inquired based on what Cate was saying about drugs use on the buses...is there a policy for drug use on buses? Could they lose their privilege to use the bus?

Superintendent Arakelian responded that not only is there a policy but also State Law. The policies are all on the GWRSD website and encourage people to report the issue.

Cate asked how often are the videos checked and how often do they work? Things were reported but cameras were not working.

Superintendent Arakelian responded that the cameras are only one piece of the puzzle. Kids are tricky; need to have communication and need more than technology. There is a need to continually educate.

Carrie of Wolfeboro shared that she came out to the Forum to hear about the SRO. As a parent, we want deterrence, an offense not defense. She went on to share that there was an incident at Brewster a few years ago and she drove to Town Hall and sat there for 40 minutes. She did not see a police presence at Carpenter the entire time.

Chief Rondeau responded that with that scenario; it was further north where the incident happened. They were able to get the bad guy immediately and locked down.

Carrie asked what if the target changes?

Chief Rondeau replied that she brought good points about having not all resources in one location.

Chairman Wood shared that with the use of social media people start talking and things get spun up. With the use of social media be mindful of what's going on. There is lots of misinformation that gets put out on social media.

Commissioner O'Brien shared that as a commissioner, we don't get audiences and it's unfortunate and he applauds the people that came out today.



Chairman Wood shared that he was hoping for a bigger crowd. We need people to support the endeavors of the Police Department and school district. The Commission wants everyone to feel like they can approach the Police Commissioners.

Commissioner O'Brien shared that the Commission has started a program to meet with the community and have coffee.

Commissioner Coope shared that he can't appreciate enough for the people who came out and this is just the beginning. He would like to see more SRO's. His own kids felt comforted seeing a school resource officer in their schools. He would like to see the Commission invited to the school board meeting in the next couple of months.

Cate shared that she spoke to about ten people that would come to the Police Commission meetings, but they would have to be held at 5:30 pm.

Chairman Wood shared that he recognized the fact that 4:00 pm is when people are still working. He will make a note to discuss the time. He then asked if there was anything else?

Superintendent Arakelian thanked the Commission for inviting her.

Chairman Wood announced that the next meeting will be on Wednesday (typically held on Thursdays), October 19, 2022, at 4:00 pm in the Bradley Room at the Wolfeboro Public Library.

*Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.*

**Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 5:49 PM.**  
**Commissioner Coope seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Sherri Moore**

TO: Wolfeboro Police Commission

FROM: Dean J. Rondeau  
Chief of Police

SUBJ: Chief's Items (Aug 2022) for 15 September 2022 Wolfeboro Police  
Commission meeting

DATE: 07 September 2022

**Non- Public: We have no need for a non-public meeting tonight.**

**GENERAL BUDGET ITEMS:** There will be an end of quarter budget (Third Quarter) review after the Chief's presentation during the October Police Commission meeting. Right now, we are doing just "ok" with Police and Dispatch Budgets. We are projecting for a "within the bottom line" ending to both budgets, but it will be close. Gas and oil are still running hot and are projected to be approximately 10-12K dollars over budget due to the low gas forecast of the FY 22 budget. This is with the Police Department's gas constriction plan, had we not done that we would have been over by anywhere between 15-20 K. Incidentally, based on a meeting and guidance received from the Town Manger's Office, I have ended our gas constriction plan effective 25 August 2022; as the Town has come online and said that they will cover any gas overages from their budget, if we stay within our forecasted gasoline usage. We are approximately under that usage by just over 1000 gallons.

**Budget snapshot prepared by Captain Mark Livie:**  
**Police Budget**

**Payroll week – 35 – 67.308%**  
**Budget Week – 36– 69.231%**

<b>Cluster of Five</b>		
<b>Hourly Wage</b>	<b>underspent by 4.074%</b>	<b>\$32,324.42</b>
<b>Part-time</b>	<b>overspent by -3.306%</b>	<b>\$ -4,397.94</b>
<b>Overtime</b>	<b>overspent by -16.047%</b>	<b>\$-19,836.34</b>
<b>Social Security</b>	<b>overspent by -1.636%</b>	<b>\$-519.59</b>
<b>Retirement</b>	<b>underspent by 4.111%</b>	<b>\$17,280.75</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>underspent by</b>	<b>\$24,851.30</b>
<b>PD budget</b>	<b>underspent by 1.932%</b>	<b>\$38,305.05</b>
<b>Dispatch Budget</b>		

Part-time	overspent by -3.214%	\$-1186.35
Overtime	underspent by 14.078%	\$3,801.06
Social Security	underspent by 7.014%	\$2,024.45
Retirement	underspent by 4.778%	\$2285.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>underspent by:</b>	<b>\$6,924.48</b>
 Dispatch budget	 underspent by: 1.105%	 \$5,649.81
Animal Control budget		
Hourly:	underspent by: 67.308%	\$13,064.48
MCO Budget:	underspent by: 65.796%	\$16,539.14
Total all three budgets	underspent by: 2.868%	\$71,299.40

Prepared by:  
Captain Mark Livie

#### **FY 23 Budget process:**

We have all but completed the construction of the FY 23 budget and have met the Town Manager's suspense of turn in on 2 September 2022. COLA's and the Union contract funds have yet to be added. I am sure there will be some last-minute changes as the budget now moves through the approval process. All updates made at the Commission's 9 Sept 2022 Budget meeting have been added and the budget updated in accordance with the Commission's wishes.

**PERSONNEL:** Officer Aiden Stienman is on duty and at the Police Academy. All is going well, and I will keep the Commission informed. I met with him last 2 Sept when I was down there to teach the Traffic Crash Reconstruction portion of the Academy. He seems to be doing very well. Officer Chris Dustin will be on full time duty at the end of Aug and is schedule to go to the Academy in January 2023.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Myself and members of the PD's Command Team recently met to review and update our 91-A policy and pricing based on recent Court decisions. A new policy is in the works and once I have reviewed it, I will present it to the Commission for approval. Incidentally, 91-A training was held today (15 Sept 2022) at 10:00 and was instructed by attorneys from our insurance carrier PRIMEX. The training was well attended by the entire Command Staff; and Investigator Warn, who had IA (IA Internal Affairs training at a distant location),



will attend the training at a later date. He has already had the PRIMEX training, but a refresher is always good on this all too important subject matter.

#### **Training:**

**Officer Peaslee Swat Training**

**SRO Devine SRO Conference**

**Juvenile Service officer Jason Boucher – SRO Conference**

**Aiden Steinmann – Police Academy**

**Dispatch: NSTR**

#### **Operations (Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions):**

In terms of Police investigations, prosecutions, and operations, the month of August was busy, with sixteen Defendants and (16) defendants. Our Prosecutor continues to work through the extraordinary case load created by the Courts in terms of their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Detective and SRO**

There is no SRO report this month as there was no school in July.

#### **Prosecutions:**

The month of August saw sixteen (16) defendants responded to seventeen (17) charges. Of those, eleven (11) charges, were plead or found guilty at trial, six (6) charges were Placed on File (POF) pending good behavior, restitution, classes, or counseling as part of their agreement.

The conviction rates this past month is one hundred percent (100.00%) with \$7937.86 dollars in fines, restitution, and penalties meted out by the Courts.

**Safety and Security matters:** Aug proved to be a busy month for traffic. We were up 30% percent in crashes from 10-13 in Aug. We are still realizing significant increase in traffic volumes because of a variety of reasons as briefed in previous meetings. I suspect the traffic to our Town will continue to be heavy all season long, so please plan for this in advance and leave earlier for destinations. Additionally, I believe our population density has increased significantly over the last year, and I am forecasting that it will continue to increase for the next three to five years as folks continue to

escape our major population centers and move to less densely populated areas of our Country.

Lastly, during significant weather events if you don't have to go out-don't. A vast majority of our crashes occur during periods of inclement weather. Plan for needs ahead of these storms, cancel non-important appointments or events if possible. Additionally, please be mindful of sand and other debris still on the roads after the long winter. This will hinder a vehicle's stopping ability. Please give our very talented road crews the space and time they need to get our roads cleaned up, and please be careful when passing them-thanks.

**Dispatch:** Dispatch continues to work hard, and we will soon be gearing up for our fall months, we stand ready for any snap SPOTS inspections the State wishes to unleash on us

**Motor Vehicle Enforcement:** In an effort to mitigate the traffic crashes we realize monthly; we will be continuing a strong proactive approach to motor vehicle enforcement-this can be seen in our monthly briefing slides. We will be conducting aggressive speed reduction patrols all through Town-so please if you are in a habit of speeding-don't! Lastly, we continue to deploy assets and patrols to our identified problem areas.

A matter of note: we are still seeing significant numbers of vehicles with overdue registrations and inspection stickers. Tickets this past month were up significantly 45 issued! Mostly due to inspection, registration, expired license! Our Highways Safety patrols are now out in force, and you are running at great peril to yourself or family members if you allow improperly registered or inspection vehicles to operate on our ways. Please have these vehicles registered and inspected and check your license regularly so you know when it expires. The time you save may be your own! This is a word to the wise-you will get caught!

## **OUTREACH AND MATTERS OF INTEREST:**

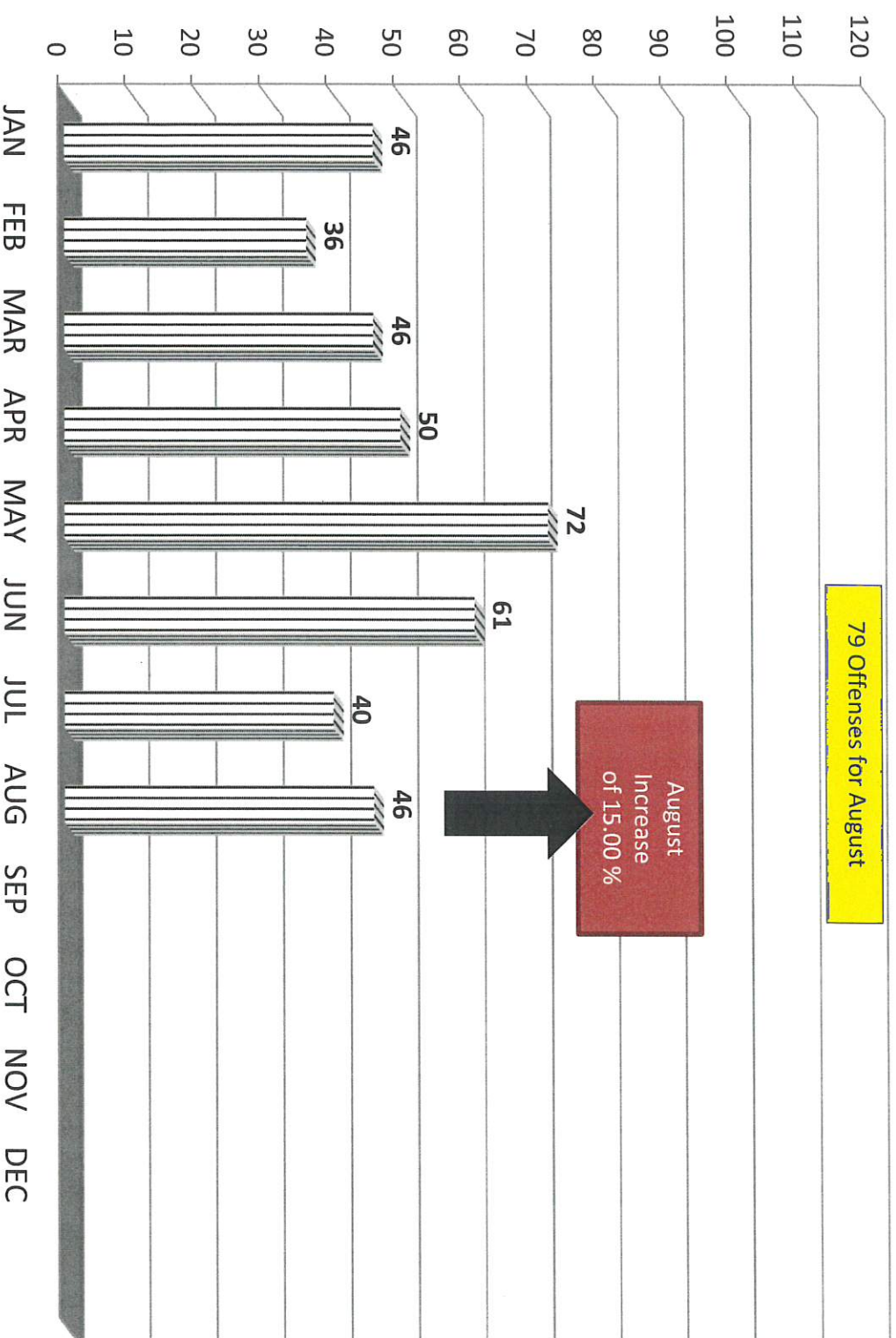
We are still engaged in a wide variety of TV and talk shows along with Town of Wolfeboro committee programs.

On 8 Sept the Captain and I attended the Public Safety Building CIP meeting. All is going well, and we are looking at multiple options. I will keep the Commission informed if any changes are made to the site, building, or location. Banwell Inc is the new architectural firm. The project is moving forward.

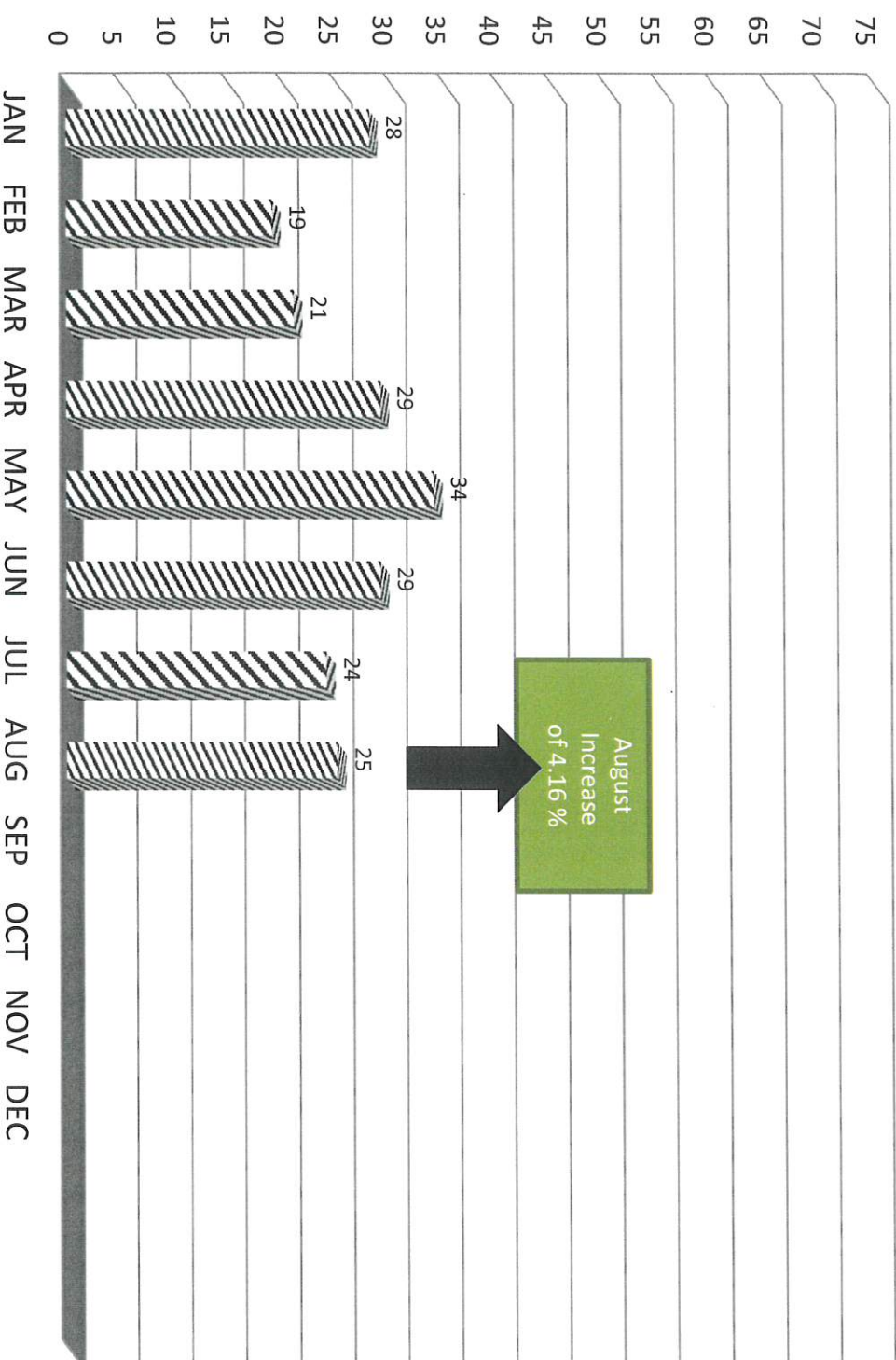
**Safety Tip of the Month:** The kids are back in school. Please be mindful of children walking and biking to school. Please stop and give school buses a wide birth-they are picking up and discharging passengers. As school as stared,

traffic will become congested in the AM, especially now that we have more folks living and residing in Town. Please leave earlier for scheduled appointments or work-thanks.

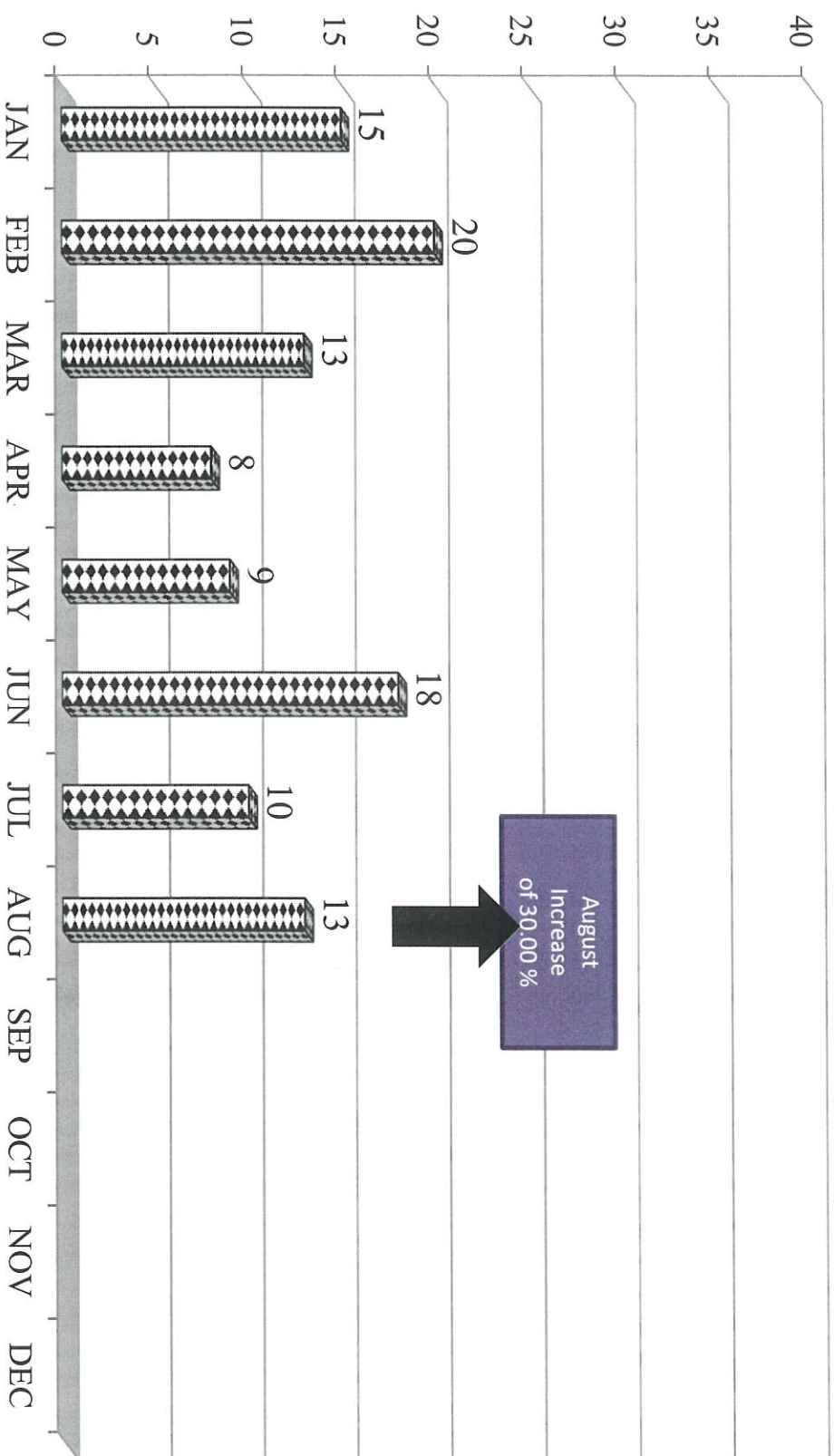
# INCIDENTS (CASES) YTD 2022



# ARRESTS YTD 2022



# COLLISIONS YTD 2022





# TRAFFIC STOPS YTD 2022

45 Tickets given out.  
19.14 % chance of getting a ticket.

August  
Decrease  
of 15.00 %

