

NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025



# *NEW CASTLE*



# *POLICE DEPARTMENT*



# *2025 ANNUAL REPORT*

## LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

*As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.*

*I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.*

*I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.*

*I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.*

*I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.*

*I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... **LAW ENFORCEMENT.***

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## MAYOR

Greg York

## CITY COUNCIL

Rex Peckinpugh - President

Michael Guffey

Jeff Hancock

Jerry Walden

Aaron Dicken

Lynn Perdue

Mark Koger

## POLICE MERIT BOARD

Kirk Robbins-President

Van Goar

Paul Jannsen

Jeff Coatie

David Nantz

Mark Cronk

Scott Murphy

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## Letter from Police Chief

*As we come to the end of another year, I am honored to reflect on the progress and accomplishments of the New Castle Police Department. It is with great pride that we present our Year-End Report, summarizing the dedicated efforts of our officers, staff, and the unwavering support from the New Castle community.*

*Throughout the past year, our department has remained committed to its core values of integrity, professionalism, and community partnership. Together, we have tackled challenges, celebrated successes, and worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. A huge challenge we have faced over the last several years has been staffing, and I am proud to report that in 2025 we finally returned New Castle Police Department to normal staffing levels.*

*As we move forward into the upcoming year, the New Castle Police Department remains committed to fostering a safe and secure environment through collaboration, transparency, and community involvement. We appreciate the ongoing support from the residents of New Castle and look forward to building upon the successes of the past year.*

*Thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility of serving and protecting our community. Together, we will continue to make New Castle a place we are all proud to call home.*

*Sincerely,*

*Matt Schofield*

*Chief of Police*

*City of New Castle*



## **NCPD RANK STRUCTURE**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

*Chf. Matt Schofield – Chief of Police*

*†AC. Justin Wardlow – Assistant Chief*

### **UNIFORM DIVISION STAFF**

*Cpt. Jim Nicholson – Uniform Division Commander*

*\*Lt. Adrian Darling – A Team Commander*

*\*Lt. Josh Hedges – B Team Commander*

*†Sgt. Neil Sealover – A Team Dayshift Supervisor*

*\*†Sgt. Zack Medford – A Team Nightshift Supervisor*

*\*†Sgt. Eric Jackson – B Team Dayshift Supervisor*

*\*Sgt. Justin Farr – B Team Nightshift Supervisor*

*\*†Sgt. Jason Boring – Training Coordinator*

### **DETECTIVE DIVISION STAFF**

*†Cpt. Scott Ullery – Investigation Division Commander*

*†Det. Sgt. Chase Hightower – Investigator*

*\*†Det. Tyler Reece – Investigator*

*Det. Nick Rhodes – Investigator*

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## UNIFORM DIVISION PATROL OFFICERS

- Ty Terrell ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- Joe Tompkins ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- \*Tony Hughes ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- \*†Chase Koger ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- Dustin Sult ★★★★★★★★★★★
- \*†J Buckingham ★★★★★★★★★★★
- Kirstyn Shafer ★★★★★★★★★★★
- †Ellis Evans ★★★★★★★★★★★
- Joshua Harter ★★★★★★★★★★★
- \*Jake Nicholson ★★★★★★★
- \*Joshua Roe ★★★★★★★
- Brady Renner ★★★★★
- Trevor Morrison ★★★
- Jackie Hernandez ★★★
- Zach Lee ★★★
- Britton Adkins ★★
- \*Dawson Schmidt ★★
- Hannah Campbell ★★
- Levi Stewart ★
- Quentin Hedges ★
- Jared Wise

★ Denotes one year of service  
† Denotes an ILEA Certified Instructor  
\* Denotes a Field Training Officer

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

*Dear Citizens of New Castle,*

*One of the most tremendous responsibilities that a Police Officer will ever receive is the responsibility to ensure that their agency is trained, equipped, staffed, and prepared to effectively police their community. This is a responsibility that I take seriously and I am proud of the hard work, dedication, and commitment that the men and woman of New Castle Police Department demonstrated during 2025.*

*New Castle Police Department, yet again, far surpassed the state mandated training requirements for a police officer in 2025. It will always be our goal to strive to exceed these minimum standards in an effort to provide a technically and tactically proficient police department to our citizens.*

*During 2025, New Castle Police Department continued equipping our officers with the necessary equipment to provide a high quality of service. Items such as laptop computers, drones, body-worn-cameras, police vehicles, radios, and other equipment were all purchased as needed throughout 2025. While we always want to equip our officers with the necessary equipment, we also have a responsibility to be fiscally responsible. While often times this means prioritizing equipment for a period of time, we are proud of the progress that we have made, and continue to make, as an agency.*

*Staffing has been an ongoing battle within law enforcement nationally for several years. New Castle Police Department will continue to place maximum emphasis on recruiting and retaining professional and talented police officers for our community. We are proud of the progress that we have made in returning NCPD to normative staffing levels.*

*Preparation to effectively and safely police our community is never ending. Through challenging and realistic training, New Castle Police Department continues to build preparedness to face any situation. The men and woman of New Castle Police Department face these challenges eagerly. We are proud of the growth and development demonstrated by our officers during 2025 and look forward to a safe and productive 2026.*

*Respectfully,*

*Justin Wardlow*

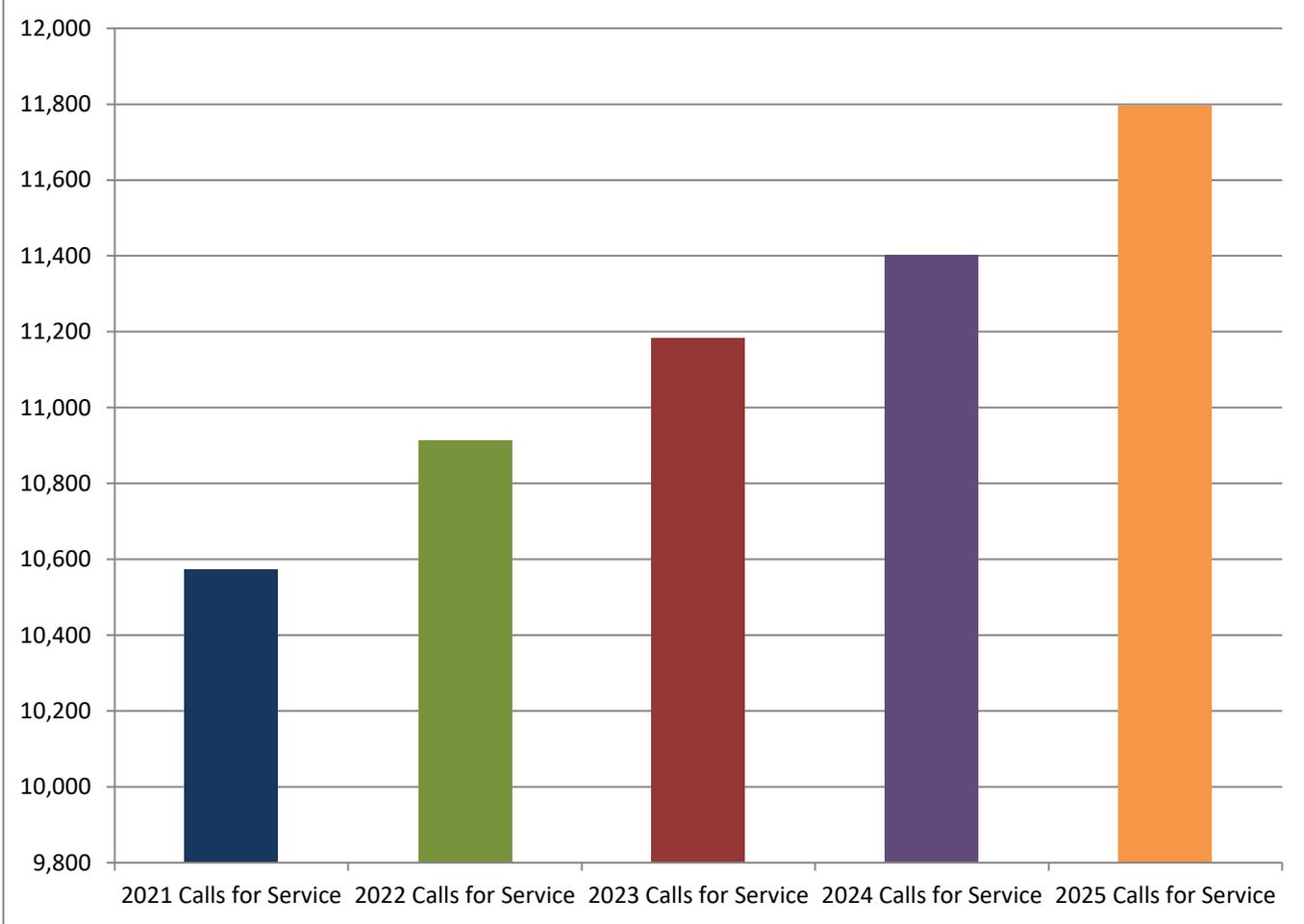
*Assistant Chief of Police*

*City of New Castle*



# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## NCPD Service Calls

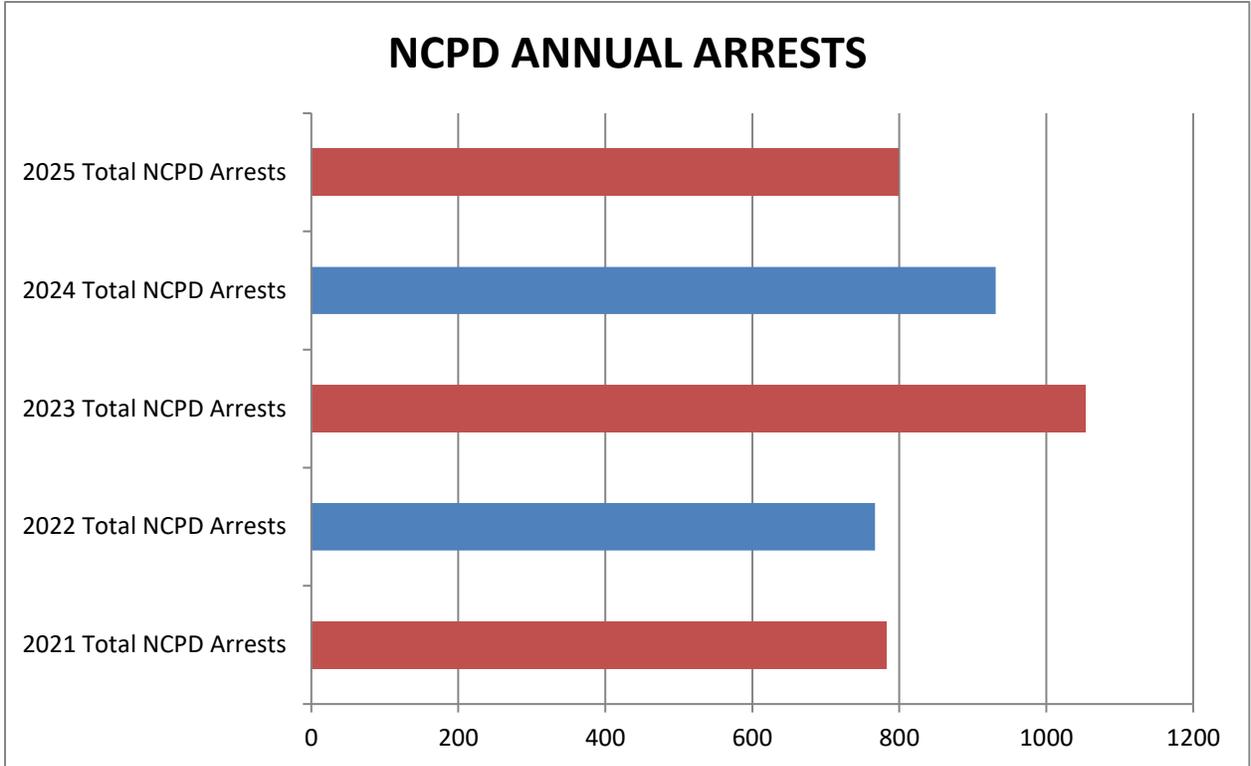


*Starting midway through 2021, New Castle Police Department stopped responding to non-violent civil calls where no crime had been committed. The purpose of this guidance was to mitigate introducing law enforcement officers into situations where citizens had not committed a crime. In select situations, interjecting law enforcement into situations where no crime has been committed can escalate, rather than de-escalate, situations.*

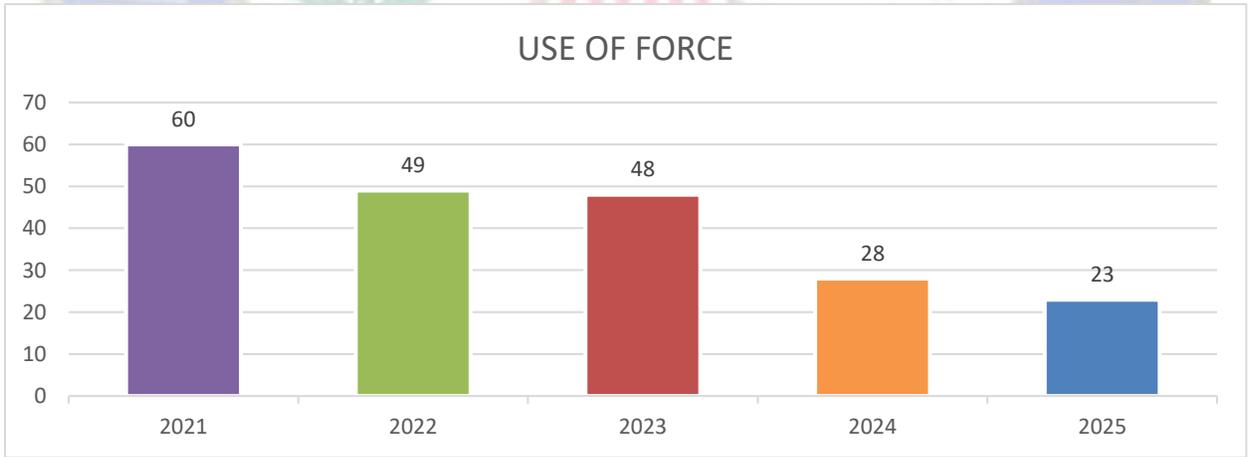
*Examples: Landlord Tenant Disputes, Child Custody Disputes, Juvenile Problems*

*Additionally, New Castle Police Department has seen a steady increase in calls for service since 2020. If NCPD was still responding to non-violent civil calls, our call volume would be even greater. This means that in 2025 an average road officer responded to approximately 500 calls for service. This does not factor in traffic enforcement, presence patrols, events, and/or the numerous others roles and responsibilities that are entrusted to our officers in addition to responding to calls for service.*

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

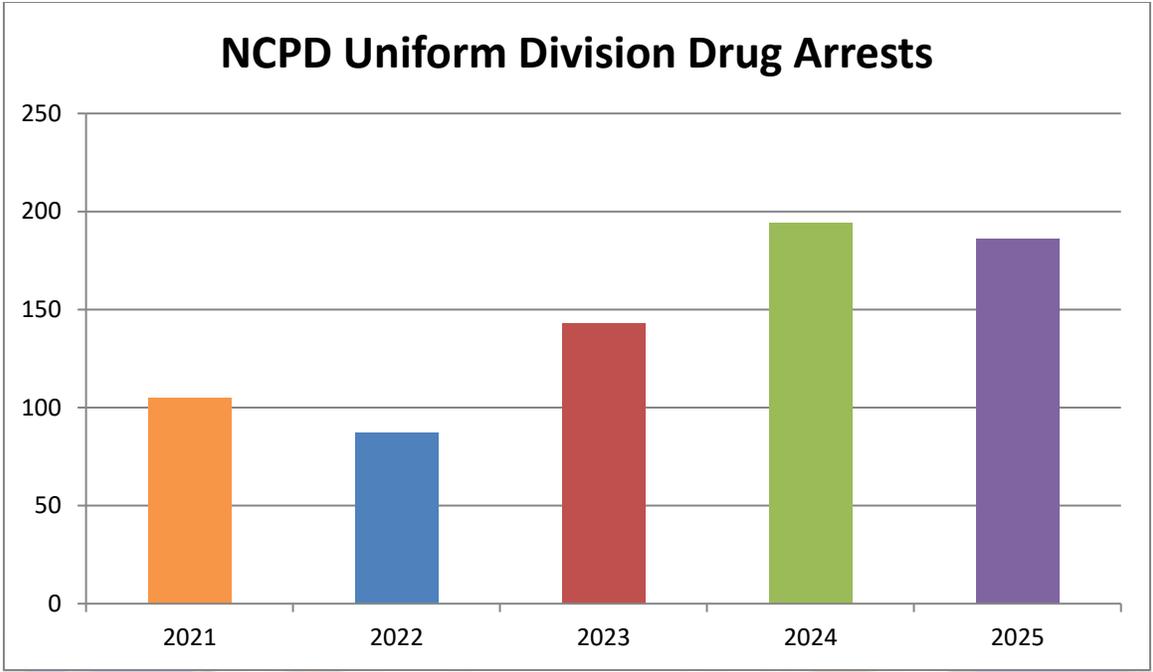


*This data is the total number of incidents resulting in adult arrests, and not the total number of individuals arrested. For example, if a call resulted in 3 individuals being arrested it is tracked as 1 arrest incident. Additionally, many misdemeanor arrests are resolved through summoning the accused into court rather than incarcerating the individual in jail.*

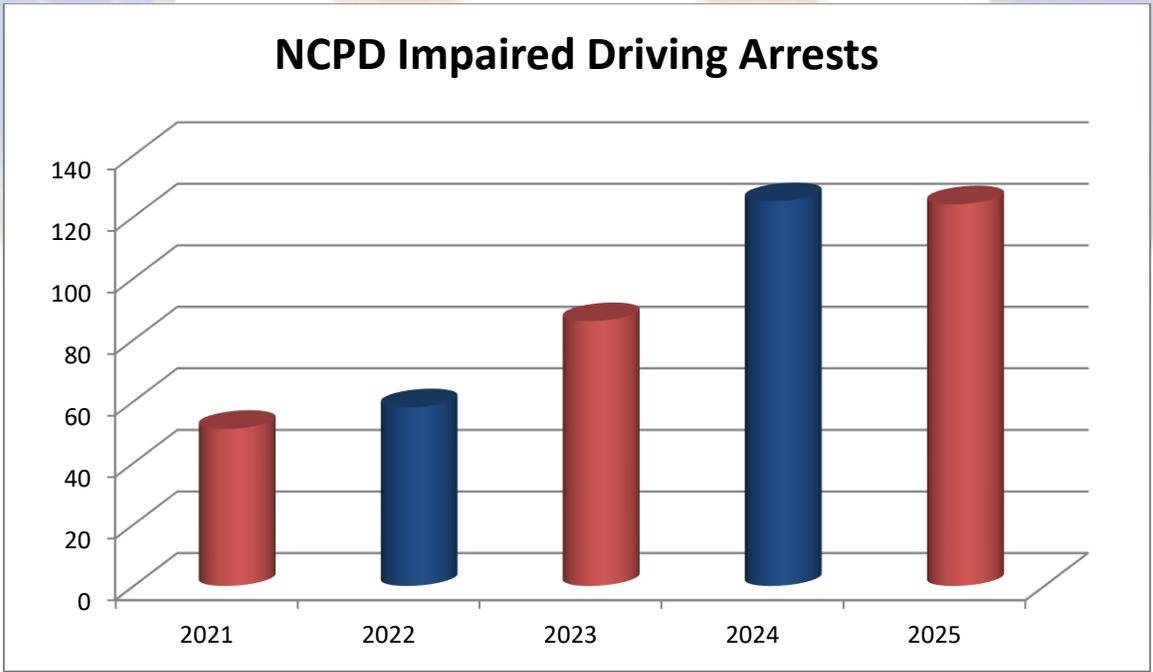


*Since 2021, New Castle Police Department has been tracking and reviewing all Use of Force incidents involving NCPD. During 2025, New Castle Police responded to 11,795 Calls for Service and conducted over 3,798 traffic stops. Of these 15,593 police encounters a Use of Force incident was involved 23 times. This means that in 2025 NCPD resolved all police encounters peaceably without force 99.85% of the time. This is well below the national average.*

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

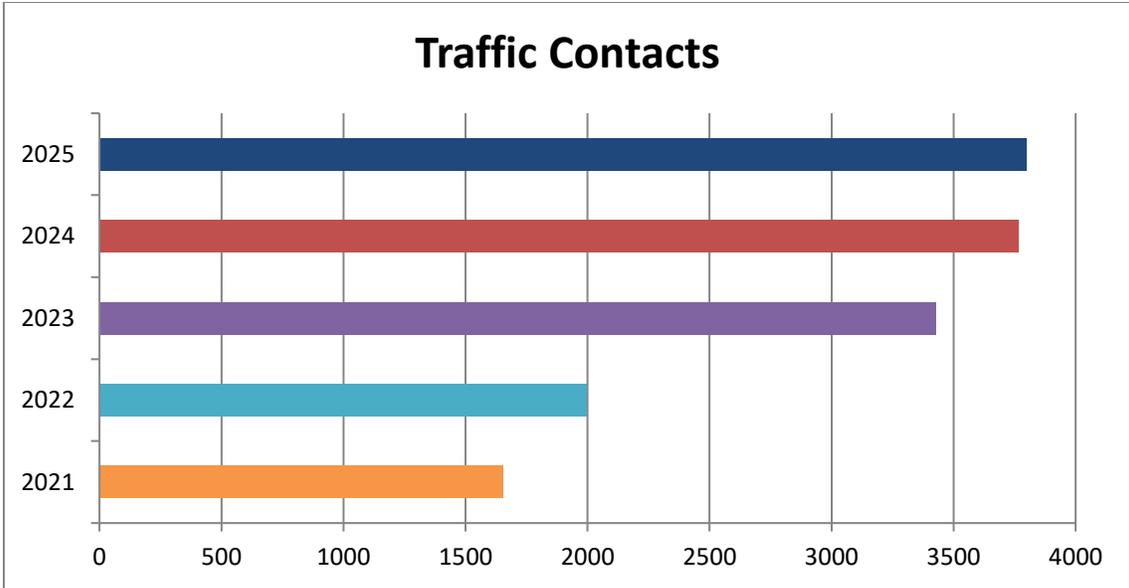


*NCPD remains committed to combating the illegal sales, distribution, and possession of illegal drugs and narcotics within our community.*

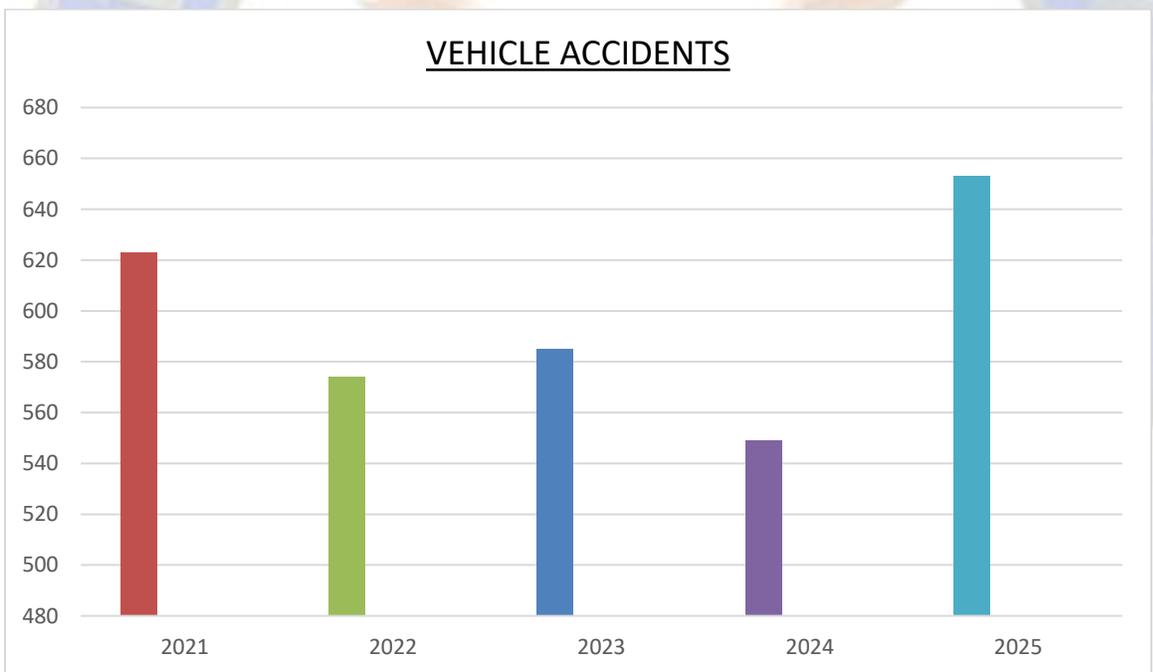


*In 2025 NCPD arrested 124 impaired drivers during. This was made possible in part due to the Operation Pull-Over Grant. **New Castle Police Department would like to remind our community to DRIVE SOBER! Drink responsibly, never drive under the influence of drugs, use designated drivers, or call a friend for a ride.***

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025



*These numbers include traffic citations and traffic warnings. NCPD encourages traffic enforcement in an effort to combat impaired driving, narcotics distribution, and safe driving.*



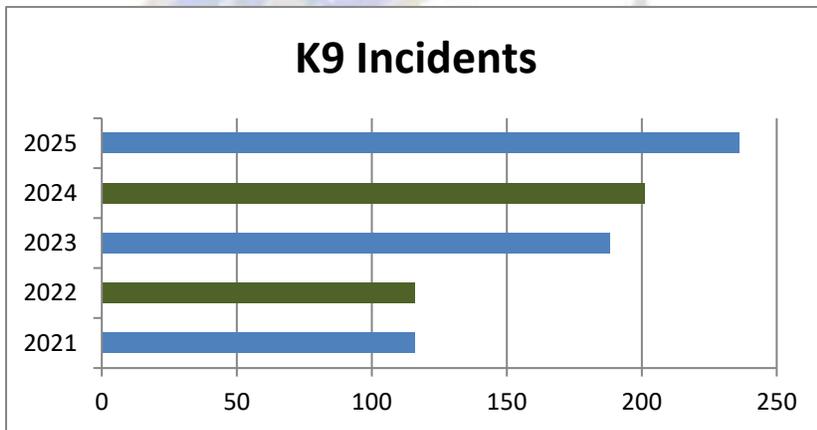
*In 2025, New Castle Police Department saw a 19% increase in traffic accidents. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) the number one action that an agency can take to protect life and property is aggressive traffic enforcement. **If you reside in an area, and/or believe there are certain areas that would benefit from increased traffic enforcement contact New Castle Police Department at 765-521-6810.***

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## **NCPD K9 PROGRAM**

*The New Castle Police Department K9 Unit currently consists of three dual-purpose trained Belgian Malinois: Sgt. Farr and K9 Kori have partnered for 7 years, Ofc. Nicholson and K9 Awpur have partnered for 4 years, and Ofc. Morrison and K9 Emma have partnered for 2 years. NCPD is working towards a 4<sup>th</sup> K9 for around the clock K9 coverage.*

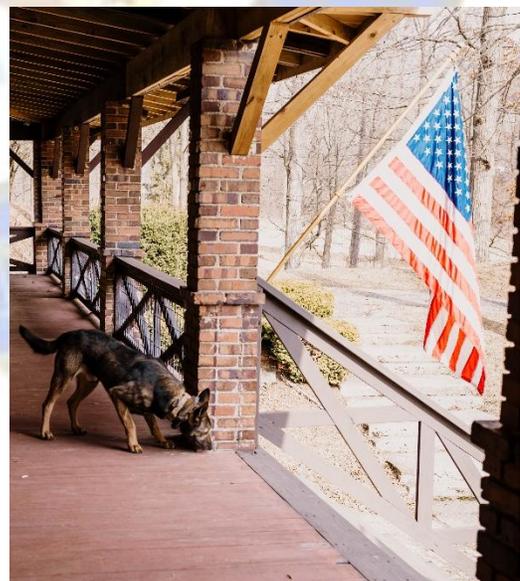
*All of NCPD's canines were trained by Vohne Liche Kennels. NCPD K9 handlers train continuously throughout the year to maintain their proficiency. In addition to patrol duties and combating narcotics, our K9 Unit also makes it a priority to interact with the citizens of New Castle by conducting demonstrations for various schools, organizations, and civic groups when requested.*



*NCPD would like to thank the City of New Castle and the citizens of our community for their continued support of our K9 Program.*

*The K9 Program is not funded through the City of New Castle, but relies solely on fundraising and donations.*

*Anyone wishing to donate to the NCPD K9 program may do so at 197 North 6th St. New Castle, IN 47362 Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm. We greatly appreciate all of your support.*



# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## HENRY COUNTY SWAT TEAM

*The Henry County SWAT Team is a specialized joint tactical team comprised of Officers from the New Castle Police Department and Deputies from the Henry County Sheriff's Department. Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team members undergo rigorous bi-weekly training to develop their physical, tactical, and technical skills to prepare them to quickly respond to any situation that duty calls them to within Henry County.*

*The advanced training, tactics, and equipment help to ensure the safety of the greater Henry County community from even the most extreme incidents. The SWAT team also partners with trained negotiators to try to resolve situations peacefully. The team is under the direction of Chief Schofield in City limits, and under Sheriff John Sproles in the County.*

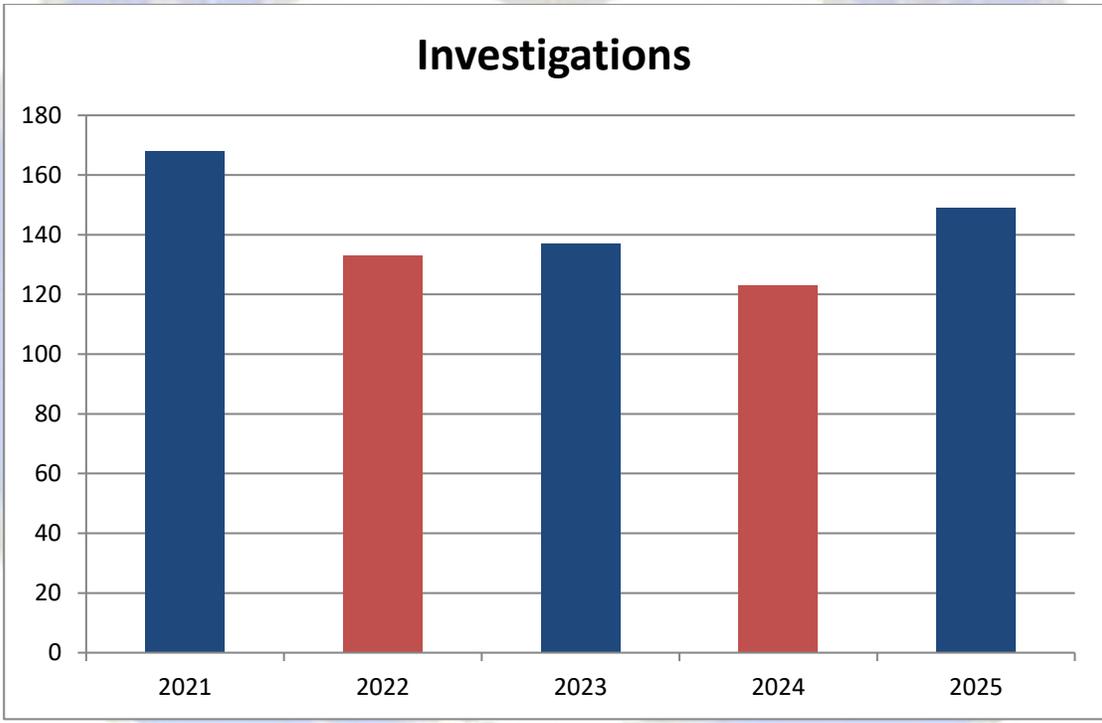


# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## NCPD DETECTIVE DIVISION

*The New Castle Police Department Detective Division conducted 149 Criminal Investigations over the course of 2025 resulting in numerous felony arrests. Many criminal investigations are complex and require many hours of investigation. Detectives spend time tracking down leads, interviewing witnesses and suspects, and completing reports to facilitate prosecution in these investigations.*

*During 2025, NCPD Detectives investigated, several death investigations, multiple sex offenses, and several complex financial crimes. This is just a small sample of the types of investigations being conducted by our Detectives on a daily basis.*



*Complex criminal investigations can take days, weeks, months, or in some cases, years before being completed. We greatly appreciate the hard work of all of our detectives and investigators as they diligently pursue suspects, collect evidence, and work with the Patrol Division to apprehend offenders. **In the event that you need to speak with a Detective regarding an investigation dial (765)-521-6810.***

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

*New Castle Police Department responds to numerous property crimes every year. In the last 5 years NCPD has seen significant decreases in property crimes. NCPD appreciates the vigilance of our citizens, business owners, and officers as we all work together to mitigate these types of criminal offenses.*



- *Burglary has decreased by 61% since 2021, but has climbed since 2023*  
*Please report any suspicious activity in or around homes in your neighborhood!*
- *Shoplifting has decreased by 60% since 2021 in the City of New Castle*
- *Theft has decreased by 51% since 2021 in the City of New Castle*



# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

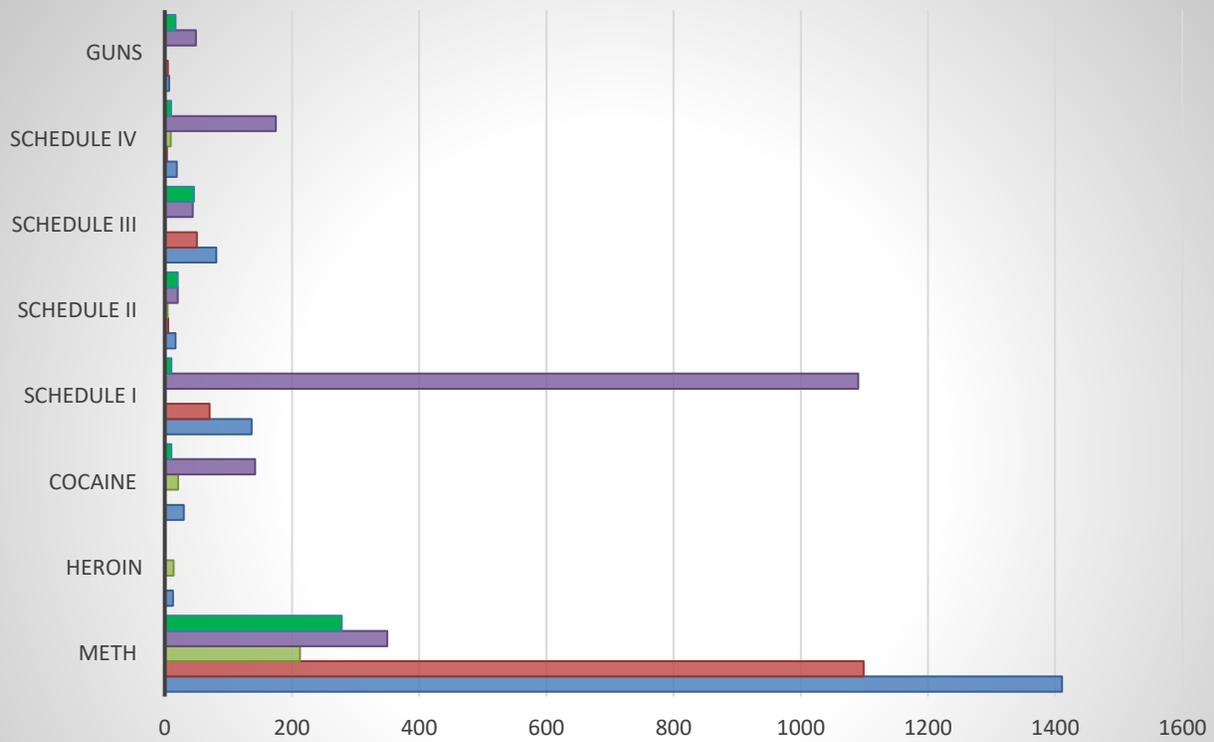
## Henry County Area Drug Task Force

*New Castle Police Department contributes undercover narcotics officers to the Henry County Area Drug Task Force. These officers conduct narcotics investigations in and around Henry County in an effort to combat the sales and distribution of illegal drugs and narcotics.*

*NCPD and HCSD worked together to begin a new street level Specialized Interdiction Unit (SIU) to further combat drug trafficking, sales, and transportation in our community.*

*Narcotics Officers from NCPD made multiple purchases for narcotics, conducted numerous Search Warrants on phones, vehicles, and residences suspected of dealing drugs/narcotics, and made numerous arrests on suspects involved in the sale, use, or distribution of drugs/narcotics. **If anyone has information on drug activity in their community contact: 521-DRUG or henrycountydtdf@gmail.com***

### 2021-2025 SEIZURES (GRAMS)



	Meth	Heroin	Cocaine	Schedule I	Schedule II	Schedule III	Schedule IV	Guns
2025	278	0	10.5	10.4	20.5	46.1	10	17
2024	350	0	141.9	1090.4	20.5	44.1	174.4	49
2023	212.8	13.7	21	0	4.3	1.2	9.5	0
2022	1099	0	0	70.5	5.3	50.6	3.5	5
2021	1411	13	30	136.5	17	81	19	7

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

*Over the course of 2025 our SROs were able to complete additional training to ensure the safety and security of the school campuses and children they are assigned to protect. Our SROs are responsible for safety and security of the children and faculty at New Castle High School, New Castle Middle School, Riley Elementary School, Parker Elementary School, Sunnyside Elementary School, Westwood Elementary School, and Wilbur Wright Elementary School.*

*In 2025 New Castle Police Department and New Castle Community School Corporation continued working together in an effort to increase safety and security within our schools. NCPD and NCCSC have worked together successfully to add an additional full-time SRO. Officer Tony Hughes will be assigned fulltime as the Middle School SRO, and Officer Chase Koger will continue serving as the fulltime High School SRO. They will continue to be supported by NCPD's part-time SROs.*

*New Castle Police Department and New Castle Community School Corporation continue to look for ways to expand the safety and security of our schools as well as ensure the protection of our most important resource, our children. We look forward to the continued growth of the SRO Program to better serve New Castle Community School Corporation and their student body.*



# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## NCPD OFFICER TRAINING

*All NCPD Officers are certified through the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board (ILETB) within their first year of employment. This consists of 16 weeks of training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy after a 16-week Field Training Officer (FTO) Program. After completing the initial stage of training all officers must complete mandatory In-Service training annually.*

*Training our officers to perform their duties safely and effectively continues to be a top priority for the New Castle Police Department. The Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board mandates that all sworn police officers complete 24 hours of annual in-service training; however, it is our goal to far surpass this minimum standard on an annual basis. NCPD would like to thank the 13 officers who serve as ILEA certified instructors, and the 12 officers who serve as FTOs.*

*Throughout the year NCPD Officers complete multiple firearms trainings, defensive tactics trainings, emergency vehicle operations training, de-escalation training, and many other trainings to ensure that our officers are able to safely, efficiently and professionally complete their duties. Officers are also afforded opportunities to go to advanced trainings and schools to grow their skills.*

*In 2025, The Chief of Police, the Police Merit Board, and the City of New Castle worked together to establish a new position to coordinate the field training process, the yearly ILETB mandated training requirements, and the training of the new NCPD Reserve program. Sgt. Jason Boring was appointed as the first NCPD Training Sergeant to ensure that NCPD is in compliance with all state and federal mandated requirements, and to facilitate NCPD's dedicated training staff.*

*Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board Requires 24hrs of Training Annually, NCPD is proud to be far exceeding the State requirement for training.*

- *Average Training Hours for All Officers – 67 HRS*
- *Average Training Hours for SRO's – 186 HRS*
- *Average Training Hours for Detectives – 60 HRS*
- *Average Training Hours for K9 Officers – 133 HRS*
- *Average Training Hours for SWAT Officers – 174 HRS*
- *Average Training Hours for Reserve Officers – 32 HRS*

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025



## **NCPD RECRUITING**

*Recruiting qualified applicants is a year-round effort. NCPD and the civilian Police Merit Board are always looking for qualified applicants to participate in our competitive hiring process. Officers assigned to the recruiting team are all volunteers and assist in job fairs, college outreach, and any other recruiting drives initiated by NCPD.*

*New Castle Police Department also accepts lateral candidates. Lateral applicants must have completed the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and be in good standing with their current law enforcement agency. By accepting lateral applicants NCPD is able to attract more qualified candidates and save money required to train newly hired officers.*

*While we are excited about the possibility of hiring lateral applicants NCPD's goal is and always will be, to work together with the Merit Board in order to hire, train, and equip the best police force we can for the residents of the City of New Castle.*

*If you know of a person that would be an asset to policing the City of New Castle, please encourage them to apply for NCPD. Additional information can be found on the New Castle Police Department Facebook page and by contacting New Castle Police Department at (765)-521-6810.*



# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025



## **NCPD RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM**

*In 2024, Henry Community Health and the New Castle Police Department began discussing the possibility of working together to raise the level of training and proficiency for HCH security staff who oversee the safety of the many HCH campuses' employees and patients: Henry County Hospital, Healthlink Employer Clinic, Northfield Park, Forrest Ridge Medical Center, Knightstown Health Campus, and Fred's Pharmacy.*

*An agreement was reached and beginning in 2025, NCPD assumed the training of the current 15 members of the Henry Community Health's security team as NCPD Reserve Officers. The NCPD Reserve Officers receive many training hours through HCH regarding their specific roles of working in the healthcare field. Additionally, to be certified as NCPD Reserves, the officers must also complete a 40-hour ILEA certified Pre-Basic Academy training, and must maintain the same yearly training requirements as full-time sworn officers.*

*NCPD looks forward to continuing to work with HCH to help serve and protect our community together in this unique partnership. If you would like to join the HCH security team and become an NCPD Reserve Officer, please contact Nick Razor, HCH Head of Security, or apply online at <https://www.hchcares.org/careers/> to begin your career.*



# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025



## **NCPD 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- *NCPD returned to normal staffing levels - 2 New Officers successfully hired & trained*
- *Ordered 8 new police vehicles for 2025, and 6 for 2026 to maintain NCPD vehicle fleet*
- *Added a Training Sergeant Position*
- *Additional Officer Certifications: 11 Gun Liaisons (forensic techs), 2 Phlebotomists, and 10 Officers received CIT training for the Crisis Intervention Unit*
- *Partnered with HCH to add an NCPD Reserve Officer Program*
- *Partnered with HCSO to start the Specialized Interdiction Unit (SIU) to combat drugs*
- *Partnered with NCCSC to add an SRO to the New Castle Middle School*

## **NCPD 2026 OBJECTIVES**

- *Maintain NCPD staffing levels at full strength*
- *Continue to work with our community partners to serve the community*
- *Continue to fight to lower crime in the City of New Castle*
- *Purchase new police vehicles as budget allows to maintain vehicle fleet*
- *Continuously seek out new and diverse training opportunities for all officers*
- *Continue to evaluate equipment needs and considerations*
- *Continue strengthening police and community relations*

# NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025



*ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NEW CASTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THANKS FOR REVIEWING OUR ANNUAL 2025 REPORT!*



***IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ASSISTANT CHIEF JUSTIN WARDLOW or CHIEF MATT SCHOFIELD 765-521-6810***