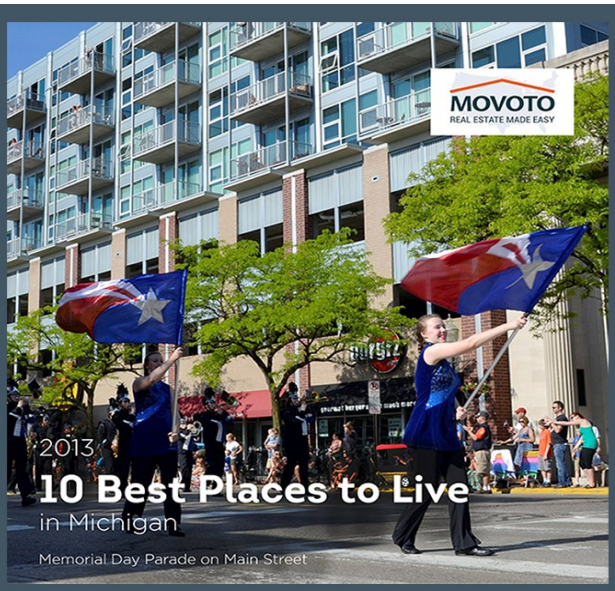
Royal Oak Police Department
2014 Annual Report

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT



If you're happy to call Royal Oak home, you can thank the Royal Oak Police

Terrific cities care about low crime rates, which is why Royal Oak is consistantly named as one of the happiest and best places to live in the country. When comparing cities, national real estate blogs, such as Livability, Movoto and AreaVibes, all acknowledge Royal Oak has one of the better safety rankings in the nation. As one blogger put it, when it comes to making sure our citizens avoid bad days, Royal Oak is doing a great job

"Royal Oak's crime rate has steadily decreased and remains well below the national average." - Livabilty

Keeping Royal Oak Safe

Royal Oak
POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department 2014 Annual Report

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Chief's Message

I am pleased to present the 2014 Royal Oak Police Department Annual Report. Included in this report you will find operational data, crime statistics, and a variety of other information on police activity in 2014.

Royal Oak continues to see dramatic reductions in Part A crimes. Part A crimes dropped 4.3 percent from the previous year and have dropped 25.5 percent over the last four (4) years. Comparing crime statistics over long periods of time can be complicated due to changes in crime classifications and how crime is reported. What is not complicated is that in 2014, Royal Oak had fewer home invasions, fewer vehicles stolen and fewer assaults than at any other time on record. We had 10 robberies in 2014, which is up one (1) from our all time low in 2011.

Royal Oak's low crime rates were a factor in many of the "top 10" lists in which Royal Oak was recognized as a great place to live, work and play.

One of our primary focuses in 2014 was to continue the rebuilding of the police department. This process has taken a little longer than we expected, but we are committed to doing it right. The investment we make today in selecting and training new officers will benefit our community for decades to come.

After dropping to historic staffing lows in 2011, the police department sought the community's support for a public safety millage. At that time we sought funding to bring the police department's staffing level to 79 sworn officers. Although 79 sworn officers is over 20 percent less than we had a decade ago, and less than we had at any time (prior to 2011) in the modern history of the department, we did our research and promised that if the millage was approved we could provide exceptional police service with 79 officers. I am very pleased to report that we are making good on our promise.

The department was reorganized to change the way police service is provided. The single most important factor in our success however, is having an agency filled with dedicated professionals who are committed to providing the best service possible. The efforts of the officers and civilian employees of the police department cannot be overstated. An organization cannot succeed without good employees and we have great officers in the Royal Oak Police Department. Everyone is committed to our vision of building Michigan's premier police agency; one that is a recognized leader for efficiency, effectiveness, innovation, and public safety.

Looking forward to 2015, our department will be fully staffed early in the year. Using drug forfeiture funds, we will be adding a second K-9 unit and we also intend to offer a Citizen Police Academy in the fall.

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Mission Statement

"To Keep Royal Oak Safe"

Vision Statement

"To build Michigan's premier police agency that is a recognized leader for efficiency, effectiveness, innovation, and public safety"

Our Core Values

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Integrity

The Royal Oak Police Department will strive to maintain the highest level of moral values and standards of conduct while demonstrating fairness and equality to those we serve. Integrity is the cornerstone of our profession. It is a sacred quality that is essential to maintain public trust and mutual respect. The Royal Oak Police Department will be steadfast in adherence to a code of moral excellence and incorruptibility. We will maintain a standard of conduct that reinforces the ideals of honesty, accountability and pledge to hold ourselves to the highest legal, moral and ethical standards.

Loyalty

The Royal Oak Police Department will be faithful to the highest ideals of law enforcement. We will be loyal to the community in action and deed with the understanding the safety of the citizens of Royal Oak is our primary mission. We will maintain an unwavering allegiance to the law, our profession and those we serve and protect.

Compassion

The Royal Oak Police Department will be ever mindful and conscientious of the emotional and physical well being of all those we strive to protect. We will be understanding and by deed, assuage the suffering and provide consolation to all those affected by, or involved in the criminal justice process. We will be pillars of fairness, and, by example, provide solace and an atmosphere where all citizens are equal and protected.

Courage

The Royal Oak Police Department will maintain the strength of mind, body and spirit to encounter and withstand danger, fear or difficulty, with firmness and surety of purpose. We will confront difficult situations with confidence and determination to overcome any obstacle put before us. We will put the safety of others above our own and will not hesitate to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

Service

The Royal Oak Police Department will demonstrate the desire to contribute to the welfare of others by responding appropriately to the needs and demands of the community. We will put service before self and strive for excellence in all we do. We are committed to faithfully and selflessly performing our duties with the goal of enhancing public safety and reducing the fear of crime. We are dedicated to working with the public to ensure the highest level of service and feeling of security for those we serve.

Retirements, Promotions and New Hires

2014 Retirements

- Lieutenant Donald Morris
- Police Service Aide Sharyl Pace

2014 Promotions

- Lieutenant Robert Reilly (from sergeant)
- Sergeant Eric Baroky (from police officer)
- Sergeant Jacob Theisen (from detective)
- Sergeant Terrence Oaks (from detective)
- Detective Matthew Murray (from police officer)
- Detective Karly Wingart (from police officer)

2014 New Hires

- Officer Dominick Catanese
- Officer John Love
- Officer Ryan Spangler
- Officer Andrew Rougeau
- Officer Ryan Addis
- Police Service Aide Benjamin Cameron
- Police Service Aide Kelly Hadin
- Parking Enforcement Officer Maureen Sage
- Parking Enforcement Officer Richard Bremer
- Parking Enforcement Officer Joseph Gagliardi
- Records Clerk Aarika Bloodgood
- Records Clerk Jenny Calabrese
- Police Desk Attendant Patricia McCrae
- Police Desk Attendant Ann Marie Becker

Operational Data

The following sections are comprised of seven key categories:

- Organizational Make-up
- Citizen Complaints
- Lawsuits
- Records Division
- Patrol Division
- Criminal Investigations
- Training

Organizational Make-up

The following table represents a nine-year comparison of the number of personnel budgeted for the Royal Oak Police Department.

Positions	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Chief	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Chief	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Lieutenant	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
Sergeant	13	13	12	12	9	11	10	10	13	13
Detective	8	8	7	8	8	7	5	5	7	7
Police Officer	64	64	64	64	56	51	45	45	51	51
Police Service Aide	11	11	11	11	10	9	9	8	12	12
Admin. Assistant	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Records Superv.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Clerical/ Secretarial	7	7	5	5	3	1	1	1	2	2

Royal Oak Police Department

Police Records Division

The Records Division consists of one records supervisor, two records clerks, two part-time records clerks and one property officer.

The Records Division assists the public Monday through Thursday on the telephone or at the counter. Other duties include maintaining the department's electronic records system (CLEAR), checking and issuing Royal Oak residents gun permits, registering of weapons, processing of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, ink fingerprinting, conducting vehicle auctions, issuing reports to involved parties and insurance companies and providing requested report information to the city attorney's office and 44th District Court.

In 2014, the Records Division processed the following requests:

Accident Reports requested	312
Incident Reports requested	357
Audio Tape and FOIA Requests	314
Citizen Record Checks	48
Record Check requested by mail/fax	721

Crime Statistics

Crime is reported to the State and FBI as Part A-F offenses:

Part A Offenses include the following: murder, negligent homicide, some forcible and non forcible sex offenses, robbery, assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, kidnapping, forgery, some frauds, some liquor law violations, embezzlement, damage to property, weapon violations, commercialized sexual offenses, drug laws and gambling.

Part B Offenses include the following: some frauds, some non forcible sex offenses, non violent family offenses, OUIL, liquor law violations, obstruction/escape, disorderly conduct, state, local and federal offenses, local ordinances, juvenile offenses and specific traffic offenses, which are arrestable.

Parts C, D, E, & F Offenses include lesser offenses and response types that are not reportable as crime statistics to the State and FBI.

Royal Oak Police Department

Crime Stats

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	2013	2014	Percentage of Change
Part A Crime	2,305	2,205	-4.34%
Part B Crime	1,271	1,228	-3.38%
Total Reports	40,744	45,937	12.75%

Crime Statistics Reported to State and FBI

Calendar Year:	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Part A Offenses	3,635	3,899	3,776	3,615	3,242	2,949	2,963	2,601	2,305	2,205
Part B Offenses	2,260	2,205	2,621	2,562	2,478	2,199	1,948	1,179	1,271	1,228
Total Part A & B	5,895	6,104	6,397	6,177	5,720	5,148	4,911	3,780	3,576	3,433
Part A Change	10.6%	7.3%	-3.2%	-4.3%	-10.3%	-9.0%	.5%	-12.2%	-11.4%	-4.3%
Part B Change	27.8%	-2.4%	18.9%	-2.3%	-3.3%	-11.3%	-11.4%	-39.5%	7.8%	.3.38%
Annual Change	16.7%	3.5%	4.8%	-3.4%	-7.5%	-10%	-4.6%	-23%	-5.4%	-4.0%

A partial breakdown of these crimes over a 10-year period:

Offense	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Murder	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1
Aggravated Assaults	67	56	101	90	70	67	52	50	50	43
Simple Assaults or Intimidation	631	592	592	533	522	527	458	375	352	342
Robbery	35	32	32	38	18	18	9	12	22	10
Forcible Rape	13	8	20	21	23	19	13	11	9	10
Burglary	322	320	255	256	197	213	228	183	120	78
Motor Vehicle Thefts	217	218	158	134	114	110	108	96	68	45
Arson	8	9	6	18	7	8	1	3	1	3
Larceny Thefts	1,062	1,075	1,073	993	820	807	887	711	574	446
Narcotic Violation	421	401	437	546	519	390	419	379	389	478
Disorderly Conduct	1,374	1,322	1,302	1,320	1,319	1,307	1,179	1,359	1,370	1,320
Traffic Accident	3,029	2,657	2,397	2,418	2,147	2,013	2,262	2,191	2,271	2,318

Royal Oak Police Department

Police Patrol Division

In 2014, the Royal Oak Police Department continued its pursuit of providing the highest level of service to the community. The department was able to pull within reach of its full staffing level by hiring five new officers in 2014. Our officers have made a commitment to our core values, mission statement, and most of all, this community.

The patrol level (Police Officers, Sergeants and Lieutenants) have the most contact with the general public. The patrol division has focused on developing a customer service oriented style of policing. This philosophy has improved our relationship with the community, our businesses, and has enabled us to build upon the public's trust.

The officers assigned to the patrol division respond to all types of calls for service. From traffic crashes to traffic enforcement to all types of emergency scenarios, the Royal Oak Police Department is a full-service police department.

The patrol division is responsible for answering 911 and landline phone calls. The personnel who answer these calls obtain all the pertinent information, enter the information into the computers and dispatch police, fire or EMS personnel.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Phone Calls 911 and Non Emergency	N/A	N/A	70,544	69,645	60,111	85,458	107,341	85,024	84,645	84,683
Total Incidents Dispatched	34,340	33,733	31,743	30,451	28,953	29,848	28,675	36,197	39,571	44,616

The patrol division also responds to traffic complaints such as excessive speeding or no thru traffic as staffing allows. Traffic complaint response may include:

- Utilization of the department's SMART trailer to give a more accurate count of vehicular traffic and average speed.
- Initiating a formal request to have the staff traffic committee look at the problem and make recommendations.
- Coordinating with the City Traffic Engineer to evaluate roadways.

In addition, the patrol division performs background investigations for taxi and limousine driver permits, evaluates and approves valet parking applications, directs the crossing guard program, coordinates the repair and inspection of handheld preliminary breath test machines, Auto-cite, radar units, and investigates other traffic related issues.

Royal Oak Police Department

Police Patrol Division

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Calls for Service

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
34,340	33,733	31,743	30,447	28,953	29,848	28,675	*36,197	39,571	44,616

*Calls for service increased significantly in 2012 due to our department implementing the ICMA recommendation of listing traffic stops as calls for service. Traffic stops where not accounted for in the previous years.

	2013	2014	% Change
Total Reports Filed	40,744	45,937	%12.75

Yearly Accident Summary

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Non-Injury Accidents	2,619	2,382	2,092	2,117	1,958	2,863	2,111	1,935	2,030	2,075
Injury Accidents	337	274	303	299	187	150	150	255	241	241
Fatal Accidents	3	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	2
Totals	**2,959**	**2,657**	**2,397**	**2,418**	**2,147**	**2,013**	**2,262**	**2,191**	**2,271**	**2,318**

Overall Department Ticket Summary

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Traffic Violations General	20,886	22,205	19,818	19,187	15,856	11,986	12,163	11,382	12,317	13,080
Traffic violations-Accident Scene	1,142	1,001	980	999	710	949	979	832	873	925
Traffic violations-Motor Carrier	1,208	1,375	837	748	303	327	464	400	209	142
Ordinance violations	Not Availa-ble	Not Availa-ble	Not Availa-ble	Not Availa-ble	1,356	1,162	1,494	1,653	1,666	1,701
Total violations	23,236	24,580	21,635	20,934	19,581	15,586	16,594	14,267	15,065	15,848

Royal Oak Police Department

Patrol Division Statistics

Traffic Enforcement Mobilizations

In 2014, the Royal Oak Police Department once again participated in the traffic mobilization program. The program is funded through use of grant monies made available by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety and Planning. In Oakland County, the grant program is administered through the Traffic Improvement Association.

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

Drive Sober OR Get Pulled Over

This is a state wide mobilization effort to combat drunk driving. Media announcements and newspaper stories precede the enforcement dates. Members of the participating agencies are present during these press conferences.

The mobilization dates in Royal Oak were: March 17, March 21, March 22, March 27 through March 29, April 3, July 1 through July 3, July 5, July 9 through July 12 and August 21 through August 22.

The Royal Oak Police Department dedicated 136 personnel hours and conducted 205 traffic stop investigations, resulting in 22 total arrests: 18 for operating while intoxicated, two for driving while license suspended, one for open Intoxicants in a motor vehicle and one warrant arrest. Officers issued 120 traffic violations while working these dates.

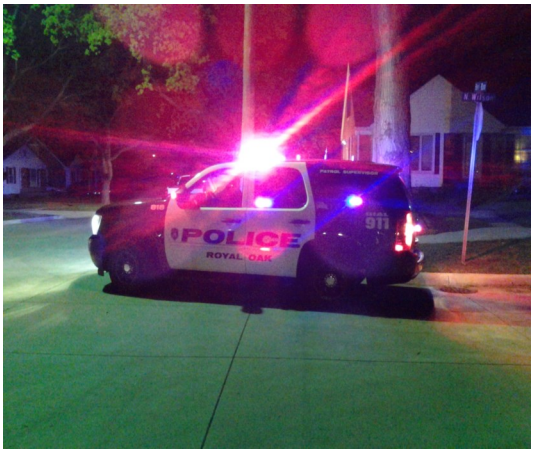
Royal Oak Police Department

Meet Your Midnight Shift

Lt. Bill Sawyer

The midnight shift is commanded by Lieutenant Bill Sawyer. The shift begins at 11 p.m. and finishes at 7 a.m. It currently consists of three sergeants, 13 officers and three police service aides.

The City of Royal Oak has a busy and vibrant Central Business District (CBD) during the midnight shift hours. The CBD attracts visitors from all over the metro Detroit area to enjoy the area restaurants, bars and shows held at the local theaters.



The midnight shift assigns officers to the Central Business District (CBD) from Wednesday night through Sunday morning. A strong emphasis is placed on community policing and high visibility patrols to make visitors feel welcomed and safe. CBD officers also conduct nightly business walkthroughs at the various downtown bars and restaurants. Establishing an officer presence in the CBD promotes a good professional relationship with the business community as well as assists officers in identifying potential problems. Officers also ensure that each establishment is maintaining the standards set forth by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) and the Royal Oak ordinances.

Midnight shift officers regularly monitor all of the city's motels to ensure these establishments follow the city ordinance that requires all guests to be registered. Officers make contact with management at these establishments and conduct systematic checks of the guest registries. With this information, officers are able to locate individuals wanted for criminal offenses and / or persons violating conditions of their parole / probation. In 2014, officers conducted a total of 144 motel checks, which resulted in 32 arrests.

The department K-9 Unit, featuring K-9 Ryker and his handler, Officer Richard Chipman, are assigned to the midnight shift. K-9 Ryker is cross-trained in two areas of specialization: narcotics detection and tracking. This dynamic duo is also assigned to the Southeast Oakland SWAT Team. In 2014, the K-9 Unit responded to 131 service calls where a canine was needed.

Click the link below to meet Officer Chipman and K-9 Ryker.

Watch K9 Video

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Royal Oak Police Department

Meet Your Day Shift

Lt. Robert Reilly

The day shift is commanded by Lieutenant Bob Reilly. The shift begins at 7 a.m. and finishes at 3 p.m. It currently consists of three sergeants, 15 officers and four police service aides.

Day shift officers are responsible for keeping the City of Royal Oak safe when its population significantly swells due to peak business hours. As a result, officers are tasked with increased motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Day shift officers regularly handle traffic crash reports and investigations as well as traffic enforcement. Additional duties include: sex offender registry compliance, taxicab inspections and school crossing guards. Another added responsibility for the day shift is assisting the 44th District Court with prisoner transports, arraignments and processing for confinement at the county jail.

Day shift patrol officers utilize community policing concepts with their increased contacts with business owners, residents, and visitors to the City of Royal Oak.

Day shift patrol officers do monthly checks of sex offenders registered in the City of Royal Oak and visiting out-of-state offenders. This includes verifying the information that sex offenders report to the State of Michigan and to the City of Royal Oak such as occupation, employment, motor-vehicle registration and contact information.

In addition to the above outlined duties, day shift patrol officers do routine checks of student drop-offs and pick-ups at schools in Royal Oak. This is accomplished through coordination with the various school principals. The goal is to ensure the safety of school children by facilitating the safe and efficient drop-off and pick-up for students and parents. Patrol officers on this detail are in fully-marked police cars and are highly visible to the public. A day shift officer also coordinates the school crossing guards to ensure that key crossing points are covered so that school children walking to and from school can cross major intersections safely.

One of the busiest locations during the day is inside the police station. This is due to the high volume of phone calls and walk-in police reports received each day. The personnel inside the police station process all emergency calls (911), non-emergency calls and dispatch the necessary Police, Fire and EMS units to these calls for service. Day shift also handles many of the city's special events. These special events include holiday parades, block parties, 5K / 10K runs (Oak Apple, Detroit Zoo) and special events at Farmers Market.

Royal Oak Police Department

Meet Your Afternoon Shift

Lt. Mike Moore

The afternoon shift is commanded by Lieutenant Mike Moore. The shift begins at 3 p.m. and finishes at 11 p.m. It currently consists of three sergeants, 14 officers and four police service aides.

Of the three shifts, afternoon shift typically handles the most calls for police service and is busy from beginning to end. It is a unique shift because it is a blend of both day and midnight shifts. Early in the shift, afternoons handles the evening rush hour and traffic related complaints. As the shift progresses, the city comes alive. The downtown area, known as the Central Business District (CBD), begins to thrive. The officers assigned to work this area are primarily focused on community policing. The CBD officers concentrate their efforts on patrolling the theaters, restaurants, bars, and retail shopping establishments. It is not uncommon to see officers walking around the downtown on foot or patrolling on bicycles. If you are new to the area or have a question, don't hesitate to seek out one of our officers and they will point you in the right direction.

Afternoon shift also assigns officers on motorcycles to patrol the city during the warmer months. The motor officers enforce traffic laws, handle police calls for service, and also visit community events such as the concerts at the Center Street Pop-Up Park and the Farmers Market venue.

Several times a year, the afternoon shift officers participate with Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) during Operation Nighthawk. This is a joint effort between Royal Oak and Michigan Department of Corrections to ensure probationers and parolees living in Royal Oak are adhering to their conditions of probation. This operation has proven to be successful and this partnership continues to grow.

Royal Oak Police Department

Motor Carrier

Motor carrier officers are certified through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, a section of the U.S. Department of transportation. Currently, the police department has two officers that have completed the necessary two-week training course and subsequently worked under the tutelage of the Michigan State Police Traffic Safety Division before receiving official certification.

Motor carrier officers are required to perform a minimum of 32 Level I inspections per year. A Level I inspection is an examination of all the driver documentation and complete vehicle inspection. The inspections are required by the Michigan State Police in order for the officer to maintain their Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) certifications. The primary goal of this program is to improve the safety, security, and productivity of commercial vehicle operations. Enforcement also helps ensure conditions of the road are maintained.

The motor carrier officers also ensure that the department's portable weight scales are recalibrated on an annual basis as required by law. Both officers are trained and certified for weighing. commercial motor vehicles.

Commercial Vehicle Violations

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Overweight	4	7	1	0	0	0	5	26	9	0
Defective Equipment	853	982	475	474	192	199	301	121	64	22
Operator License	58	45	41	33	11	3	4	3	3	11
Insurance	4	6	19	5	5	0	8	8	1	0
All Other CV Violations	289	335	301	236	95	125	146	242	141	109
Total	**1,208**	**1,375**	**837**	**748**	**303**	**327**	**464**	**400**	**217**	**142**

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

Parking Enforcement

The Royal Oak parking enforcement staff is made up of 11 uniformed civilian Police Department employees supervised by the day shift lieutenant. Parking enforcement hours of operation are 11 a.m. to midnight Monday through Saturday. Parking enforcement complies with the Michigan Vehicle Code and Royal Oak City Ordinances.

The goal of the Parking Enforcement staff is to support quality of life in the city through the effective enforcement of parking laws and regulations that provide for the efficient flow of traffic, emergency response access, and turnover of parking spaces in both residential and business districts.

The primary role of a parking enforcement officer is to patrol an assigned city area by vehicle or on foot and ensure compliance with existing parking ordinances.

The majority of this time is spent on meter enforcement in the downtown area. However, every year, parking enforcement officers respond to thousands of parking related calls for service in every area of the city. These many services include bagging meters for the city's many special events, disposal of abandoned vehicles, and complaints of parking violations on private property and residential streets. By the nature of their duties, the parking enforcement staff serves an essential supporting role to the police department.

Overall Parking Enforcement Violations Issued

Parking Enforcement	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Violations issued by PEO's	77,642	65,853	90,409	78,278	85,870	88,268	96,180	91,970	93,891	87,384
Uniform Officers	1,574	1,115	1075	728	203	36	743	1,248	2,091	4,650
Beaumont Security	893	458	461	711	692	501	398	372	332	361
Oakland Comm. College	116	93	100	59	27	25	70	71	71	59
TOTAL (non- PEO)	2,583	1,666	1,636	1,498	922	562	1,211	1,691	2,494	5,070
OVERALL TOTAL	80,225	67,519	92,045	79,776	86,792	88,830	97,391	93,661	96,385	92,454

Royal Oak Police Department
Criminal Investigation Division

Lt. Dave Clemens

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is commanded by Lieutenant David Clemens. The division is fully staffed, operating with seven detectives, one police officer, one part-time crime analyst, and one part-time secretary.

CID supervisors review each and every case assigned to this bureau and, based on the "solvability factors," decide if the case will be assigned to a detective, closed, or placed in an electronic file to await further developments.

Sgt. Keith Spencer

Managing the number of cases assigned to each detective is a crucial component of the investigative process. Effective management of the caseload has yielded an increase in warrants obtained.

In 2014, Detectives Terrence Oaks and Jacob Theisen were promoted to the rank of Sergeant, leaving two vacancies. Officers Karly Wingart and Matt Murray were promoted to detective, filling these vacancies. Both were exceptional police officers and are quickly becoming exceptional detectives. Additionally, Sergeant Carter completed his three-year commitment as the division sergeant in April of 2014 and is now assigned to patrol. Sergeant Keith Spencer was selected to fill the vacant position. Sergeant Spencer was a detective from 2005-2012. His prior experience and knowledge as a detective has already proven to be beneficial to the day-to-day operations of the bureau.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cases Assigned	1,059	1,133	914	886	931	807	915	613	766	837
Warrants Obtained	442	562	563	552	545	419	354	288	310	395
Warrants Obtained Per Cases Assigned	42%	50%	62%	62%	59%	52%	39%	47%	41%	47%

Royal Oak Police Department
Criminal Investigation Division

Crime Analyst Position

Pete Pizzorni

Pete Pizzorni continues to be an asset to the police department working as the crime analyst. Pete has over 37 years of law enforcement experience and a work ethic that is second to none. Since he has come aboard, his contributions have greatly benefitted the Criminal Investigations Division with identifying crime patterns and trends in the City of Royal Oak.

Pete has used his skills and contacts to assist our department, as well as other area police departments, with developing and identifying suspects in crimes.

Remember, the criminal element does not limit committing crimes to one jurisdiction. Pete understands crime patterns in Royal Oak and how they relate to crimes in other jurisdictions. His ability to identify the relationship between crimes that do not seem to be connected has directly impacted identifying criminals, bringing them to justice, and making Royal Oak a safer community.

The following is a small sample of cases Pete had an active role in solving:

- The CID investigated four home invasions, which occurred between late February and early March. During the course of the investigation, Pete obtained information regarding a break in that occurred in Ferndale. Pete was able to develop the name of a suspect that was possibly involved in the Ferndale crime and relate him to the four cases in Royal Oak. This information led to the eventual arrest of two suspects. Although there wasn't enough evidence to tie the suspects to the crimes in Royal Oak, the suspects were eventually charged for the home invasion committed in Ferndale. The investigative work by Pete and the CID resulted in these two serial home invasion suspects being apprehended and prosecuted.

- The CID investigated five larceny in a building cases. The suspects were targeting realtors hosting open houses in Royal Oak as well as surrounding communities. Pete and CID detectives identified the crime pattern and believed the crimes were being committed by the same two suspects.

- Pete and CID detectives networked with area realtor associations and other jurisdictions that experienced similar crimes. During the course of the investigation, two suspects were identified. As a result of the investigation, specifically Pete's intelligence gathering and coordination with other jurisdictions, both suspects were charged with felony larceny in a building and felony use of a stolen financial device.

Royal Oak Police Department
Criminal Investigation Division

Michigan Department of Corrections

Agent Matthew Roznowski continued as the MDOC Liaison to the police department during 2014. The partnership between MDOC is a significant part of the police department's mission of "Keeping Royal Oak Safe."

Agent Roznowski assists the detective bureau on a daily basis by identifying potential suspects, providing immediate detainers of parolees taken into custody, and closely monitoring all parolees living in the City of Royal Oak. His position also provides an avenue for our detectives to immediately interview parolees who may be involved in a crime.

Agent Mathew Roznowski

His expertise has been an asset on numerous cases involving State of Michigan parolees and probationers, resulting in numerous arrests and prosecutions. Agent Roznowski is able to gather and disseminate beneficial intelligence to our department as well as other area departments.

In 2012, there were 35 active parolees living in the City of Royal Oak. By the end of 2014, the total dropped to five. The 30 parolees no longer living in the city have either moved out or were returned to prison. The significant reduction is a testament to Agent Roznowski's commitment to the City of Royal Oak. He conducts random home visits to ensure parolees are abiding by the rules and regulations of their parole and has a zero tolerance policy for any criminal violations.

Agent Roznowski and the partnership with the MDOC continue to be an invaluable resource to the Royal Oak Police Department. This partnership is a great example of how the police department has taken proactive measures to provide another layer of law enforcement to help prevent crime.

Royal Oak Police Department
Criminal Investigation Division

Narcotics Enforcement Team

The Royal Oak Police Department has one officer assigned to the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET). This is a multi-jurisdictional undercover unit assigned to investigate and arrest individuals for the delivery of controlled substances. NET also assists our department with serious non-narcotic related cases.

NET initiated 801 cases in 2014, six of those cases were initiated or investigated in Royal Oak. NET detectives executed 243 search warrants, arrested 376 suspects, and seized 207 firearms.

Additionally, our NET officer was involved in other crew-initiated cases in other local jurisdictions. The NET officer was the affiant on numerous search and arrest warrants, the majority of which were felony possession and delivery charges through the Oakland County Prosecutors Office. Below are several highlights from their 2014 campaign against drugs:

- Net detectives acted on information that a subject was selling large quantities of marijuana in Royal Oak and were able to arrest the suspect for marijuana sale. That arrest led to a subsequent residential search warrant being executed and the recovery of several long guns, 20 pounds of marijuana, and 50 marijuana plants. The suspect was charged with manufacturing marijuana, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and possession with intent to deliver marijuana.

- While conducting surveillance operations on suspects possibly selling methamphetamine, Net detectives determined they were actually part of an organized retail fraud ring operating in the Tri -County area. The suspects were stealing merchandise from area stores, storing it at a Royal Oak residence, then transporting it to a warehouse in Hazel Park. As a result of the investigation, a search warrant was executed at the warehouse in Hazel Park. NET detectives recovered over $1 million in stolen merchandise and cash. Five subjects were arrested and charged with receiving and concealing stolen property and running a criminal enterprise.

- NET detectives acted on a tip regarding a possible marijuana grow operation at a residence in Royal Oak and seized over 100 marijuana plants, approximately 10 pounds of marijuana, and a handgun. Additionally, information led to a house in Ferndale where an additional 40 marijuana plants were seized. In addition to the marijuana seizure, $70,000 in cash and $30,000 worth of property were seized as well. Two subjects were arrested and charged with manufacturing marijuana and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Royal Oak Police Department
Criminal Investigation Division

Narcotics Enforcement Team (continued)

- NET Detectives received information that a subject was having narcotics delivered to his apartment in Royal Oak via U.S. Mail. NET Detectives intercepted a package scheduled for delivery containing narcotics. A controlled delivery was set up and the suspect accepted the package. NET Detectives executed a search warrant at his residence. Two ounces of methamphetamine and $49,000 in cash were seized as well as evidence that the suspect intended to cut the methamphetamine and sell it. The suspect was charged with delivery/ manufacture of methamphetamine.

- NET Detectives, in conjunction with the Royal Oak Police Criminal Investigations Division, set up a controlled buy of a laptop computer stolen from a Royal Oak resident's car. The suspect was arrested for receiving and concealing stolen property. NET Detectives interviewed the suspect and he admitted to breaking into the car and stealing the computer. During the interview he also implicated himself in a home invasion which occurred in Huntington Woods. The information was forwarded to the Huntington Woods Police Department and he was subsequently charged with home invasion as well.

Total Narcotic Seizures

(1,136.90) pounds of marijuana
(2,679.00) marijuana plants
(770.90) grams of hash
(2,172.30) grams of heroin
(1,004.23) grams of crack cocaine
(7,337.53) grams of powder cocaine
(212.00) units of LSD
(1,498.70) units of ecstasy
(13,479.00) units of prescription pills
(10,613.11) units of dangerous drugs

Total Narcotic Seizures in Royal Oak

(5.99) pounds of marijuana
(167) marijuana plants
(1.30) grams of heroin
(71.30) grams of methamphetamine
(8.0) units of LSD
(195.00) units of ecstasy
(13.00) units of prescription pills
(1,548) units of other dangerous drugs

Approximate street value for all narcotics seized $14,792,438.

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

Southeast Michigan Financial Crimes Task Force

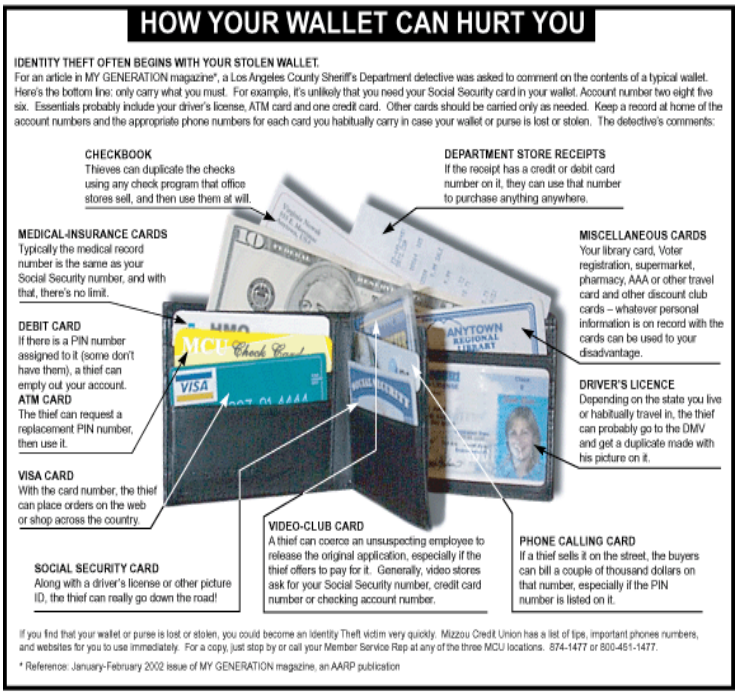
The Royal Oak Police Department continued its involvement with the Southeast Michigan Financial Crimes Task Force (SEMFCTF) in 2014. One Royal Oak detective is part of this group that consists of five local detectives from local police departments (Novi, West Bloomfield, Royal Oak, Southfield and Troy), two agents from Homeland Security Investigations and five U.S. States Secret Service agents. In 2014, the U.S. Postal Inspector Service and Internal Revenue Service also placed an investigator into SEMFCTF.

SEMFCTF investigates various types of organized financial crime (ID theft, credit card fraud, check fraud, tax fraud), frequently interacting with investigators from other law enforcement agencies and the banking industry. SEMFCTF cases are most often initiated by individual victims filing a fraud or identity theft report at their local police departments. Members of the unit are also contacted directly by bank investigators and other local law enforcement entities about organized fraud activities or when fraud suspects are in police custody.

The existence of SEMFCTF facilitates information and intelligence sharing between local, state and federal law enforcement, connecting individual financial crime acts and developing cases against organized criminal groups that are conducting large scale fraud operations. SEMFCTF detectives also investigate and obtain state criminal charges against the perpetrators of the smaller financial crimes cases that are not tied to larger organized groups.

As an additional benefit, SEMFCTF offers the opportunity for the local investigators within the unit to receive advanced training in cell phone and computer forensics. The various training courses are attended at no cost to the respective local departments.

During 2014, SEMFCTF made dozens of state and federal arrests, with 47 warrants pending grand jury indictment. Over $6 million in fraud losses have been tied into SEMFCTF cases. SEMFCTF has executed over two dozen search warrants, leading to the seizure of thousands of dollars in cash, property and 17 firearms. Many SEMFCTF cases are very complex, involving multiple suspects and jurisdictions. They are long arduous investigations and take months or years of investigation before the case is presented for charges.



Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

School Liaison Officer

Officer Cathy Szydlowski

Officer Eric Baroky continued his role as the School Liaison until May of 2014, when he was promoted to sergeant. Officer Cathy Szydlowski was selected and assigned to the School Liaison position when the new school year started in September. Officer Szydlowski has continued the professional working relationship with Royal Oak High School staff members and students. She meets regularly with the leadership within the school district, as well as networks with school staff and administrators to assist with the daily operations of the school district.

The School Liaison Officer (SLO) reports to the CID and works at the Royal Oak High School whenever school is in session. The primary mission of the SLO is to foster a safe and secure environment within the high school and address any minor criminal matters involving juveniles within the City of Royal Oak. In addition, the SLO works closely with school administrators, social workers and counselors to address the many issues that arise.

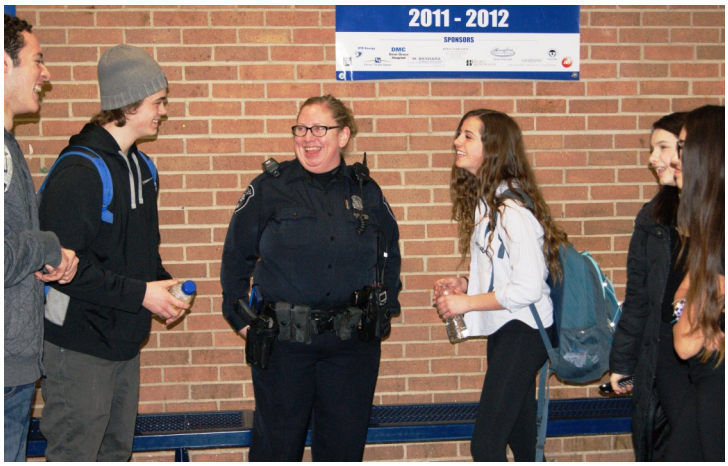
The SLO's daily presence inside the High School fosters familiarity with the student body and an effective working relationship with the staff. This relationship, combined with the access to data and information from both the school and the police department, make it possible for the SLO to quickly deal with and resolve many issues in an effective and efficient manner. The SLO's daily activities result in hundreds of parental contacts over the course of a year. The majority of these contacts result in expressions of gratitude and fosters a positive image for the ROPD and the school district.

The SLO handles all minor offenses involving any school-aged child. The SLO responds to many issues that arise at Churchill and the Royal Oak Middle School, along with the six elementary schools and various other non-public schools within the city. Additionally, the SLO assists with emergency drills and traffic concerns within these schools. During the summer, the SLO handles several tasks in preparation for the Woodward Dream Cruise and Arts, Beats & Eats. The SLO helps process permits and coordinates the volunteers for the events.

Royal Oak Police Department
School Liaison Officer

Additional SLO Duties

- Runaway Juvenile investigations
- Networking and sharing information with School Principals and other agencies
- Attend ROHS and Churchill graduation ceremonies
- Attend various school sporting events, dances, parent-teacher conferences
- Homecoming / Prom / Senior all-night party committees
- Classroom presentations on various topics
- Arrange and assist with K-9 sweeps
- School Board – Attend and give testimony at expulsion hearings
- Daily Report review for matters involving High School students / family problems
- Assist School Officials with residency verifications / investigations
- School surveillance camera system - monitor, review, facilitate repairs
- School parking lots – monitor, enforcement
- Truancy home visits
- Coordinating with County Juvenile Caseworkers
- Coordinating with Royal Oak Community Coalition
- Coordinating with Save Our Youth Taskforce
- Coordinating with Royal Oak Youth Assistance
- Return calls and emails from parents who initiate contact seeking advice



SLO Statistics

- Cases Assigned: 58
- Disciplinary Interviews attended: 6
- Restitution collected: $800.00
- Violations issued: 19 parking, 12 tobacco, 3 traffic, 8 ordinance
- Juvenile Petitions sent out: 5
- Diversion Cases: 20
- Expulsion Hearings: 2

Royal Oak Police Department
Professional Standards Unit

Created in September of 2013, the Professional Standards Unit consists of one lieutenant and one sergeant. The Professional Standards Unit is responsible for interviewing police department applicants, employment background investigations, internal investigations, coordination of departmental training, as well as the Field Training Unit, special event permits and Liquor Control Commission (LCC) investigations. This unit answers directly to the Chief of Police and also performs many administrative tasks assigned by the chief.

Since the passage of the 2012 Public Safety Millage, the police department has been dedicated to hiring the necessary amount of officers to allow us to operate in a more efficient manner. In 2014, the Professional Standards Unit conducted 76 employment interviews for police officers, 31 employment interviews for police service aides (PSA), eight employment interviews for civilian records clerk and 10 employment interviews for the new position of police desk attendant.

Additionally, the Professional Standards Unit was involved in the hiring and background investigation process of nine employees in 2014.

The Professional Standards Unit also coordinated and processed all the permits for the special events held in 2014. These events include the various events at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, numerous charity runs (Oak Apple run, Priority Health run, etc.), Royal Oak in Bloom, annual parades and walks, as well as permits pertaining to the Woodward Dream Cruise.

A very important duty of the Professional Standards Unit is the coordination of the Field Training Officer Unit. This unit is responsible for the training of new officers. Each new officer must successfully complete 17 weeks of training which consists of riding with a field training officer (FTO) every day. The FTO's evaluate the new recruits in categories ranging from orientation and report writing to officer safety and decision making. The Professional Standards Unit meets with the new recruits, as well as the training officers, on a weekly basis to evaluate their progress.

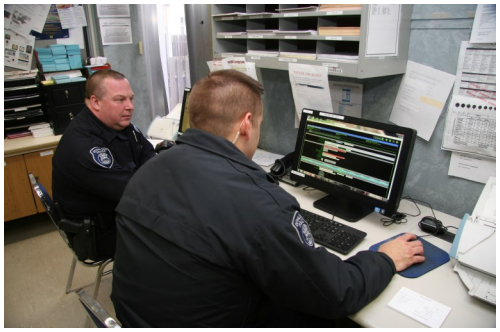
Royal Oak Police Department
Training

The Royal Oak Police Department must shape its future, not leave it to chance. It is the responsibility of police administration to provide training for department personnel as a means to advance the employees' professional growth and competence while enhancing the overall ability of the department to provide improved service to the community.

In-service Training includes annual instruction to all personnel in such areas as firearms, pathogen exposure, first aid and CPR, and defensive tactics, etc. The figures below represent total hours per officer.

Advanced Training includes individualized instruction in areas such as interview and interrogation, accident investigation, search and seizure, incident command, radar operation, breathalyzer operation, surveillance techniques, specialized investigation courses, etc. The figures below represent total hours training for all department personnel during the year.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
In-Service (total department training hours per officer)	32	24	32	45	17	14	14	24	26	22
Advanced training hours (for all personnel)	1,903	5,330	6,909	3,988	3,199	1,963	1,809	2,593	4,220	3,388



The Royal Oak Police Department has several specialized units with instructors dedicated to training our officers in-house; they include firearms, defensive tactics, police motorcycle, police mountain bike patrol, field training officers and communication training officers to name a few. These instructors ensure our officers remain certified in several areas according to state mandates.

Royal Oak Police Department
Training

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Firearms and Range Unit

During the month of October, firearms range staff conducted three days of intense in-service training for four consecutive weeks. At the conclusion of the training, all 58 Royal Oak officers who attended the course were fully qualified and trained in the use and deployment of this new weapon system. Royal Oak Officers were subjected to two days of training on a 100-yard outdoor range and one day of classroom and low-light indoor range training.

At the conclusion of training, all three patrol shifts and personnel assigned to the criminal investigations division were equipped with multiple qualified officers to carry and deploy the new rifles.

Defensive Tactics Unit

Royal Oak Police Department
Other Units and Resources

Royal Oak
POLICE DEPT

Police Motor Unit

Police Honor Guard Unit

Police Mountain Bike Unit

Royal Oak Police Department

Southeast Oakland SWAT Team

Five Royal Oak officers are currently assigned to the Southeast Oakland SWAT Team. This is a multi-jurisdiction, special response team consisting of officers from Royal Oak, Ferndale, Madison Heights, Berkley and now Hazel Park. The Southeast Oakland SWAT Team officers are on call when needed.

The Southeast Oakland SWAT Team is utilized to handle dangerous situations such as high risk search warrants and barricaded gunmen.

In order to be accepted to the Southeast Oakland SWAT Team, officers must attend and pass one of the state's most rigorous and intense tactical training academies. There is also sniper section within the team, and those officers have additional training to stay proficient.

In 2014, the team was utilized on only one call for service. The call was for a high-risk warrant service in which narcotics and guns were seized.

Below you will find a link to a video showing the SWAT Team conducting a warrant service on dangerous felons in Ferndale. This video is several years old because it could not be released until the case was completely adjudicated.

Watch SWAT Video

Royal Oak Police Department

Auxiliary Police Program

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

The Royal Oak Auxiliary Police are civic-minded men and women who volunteer their time to assist the police department. They come from all different backgrounds and various occupations. They are trained and equipped to detect and report situations requiring police services. They service the community by patrolling on foot, bicycle and patrol cars and providing extra eyes and ears for the police department.

The following are some areas in which the Auxiliary Police assist the police department:

- Conduct residential and commercial business checks
- Assist with community festivals, parades, concerts, street fairs, and park patrols
- Crime prevention activities
- Traffic control
- Pick up abandon bicycles
- Residential vacation checks
- Report street light outages

2014 Auxiliary of the Year Winners

In 2014, two auxiliary officers were given the award of Auxiliary of the Year. Mark Chopp and Richard Haase were selected by their peers for this honor.

Mark Chopp has been an auxiliary for the Royal Oak Police Department since 1996. Mark has logged the most volunteer hours for the auxiliary unit for several consecutive years. He also serves as a Field Training Officer for the auxiliary unit and trains new auxiliary officers. Mark is a valuable member of the auxiliary unit and serves as a mentor for many auxiliary officers.

Richard Haase started as an auxiliary officer in 2011 in which he was named Rookie of the Year. He is a Field Training Officer for new members and volunteers many hours with the unit. Richard is very committed to the City of Royal Oak and also serves on the steering committee.

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

Woodward Dream Cruise

Nearly 20 years ago, in Royal Oak, a few Woodward Avenue business owners convened over a burger and started reminiscing about "the old days," when they cruised Woodward Avenue in the '50s. At this meeting, they devised a plan to start advertising a "cruise" to be held on the third Saturday of August. The first year started out with little fanfare or special events, just cruising up and down Woodward in their old muscle cars.

Over the years, the cruise has grown exponentially and gained significant corporate sponsors . The Woodward Dream Cruise is billed as the largest one-day car show in the world. It is also known as the largest car cruise in the world, attracting 30,000 muscle cars, street rods, custom, collector and special interest vehicles. The cruise route embraces 16 miles, running from the State Fair grounds in Detroit all the way to Pontiac, with an estimated 1.5 million spectators. Of these 1.5 million spectators, close to one million of them line Woodward Avenue between 10 Mile and 14 Mile Roads, the majority of which is the City of Royal Oak. Though the event is billed as a one-day event, it has expanded to an unofficial week long event.

The City of Royal Oak is the epicenter for this event. The Dream Cruise originated in Royal Oak. It is in Royal Oak that a majority of the corporate sponsors lease space to showcase their products. Additionally, it is near Woodward and 13 Mile where the greatest concentration of people collect.

The Royal Oak Police Department takes on a leadership role to coordinate and direct all law enforcement meetings associated with the Dream Cruise. This year was no exception. The meetings include not only local law enforcement directly affected by the Dream Cruise, but also included are the FBI, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, MSP, Oakland County Emergency Management and Oakland County Department of Health and Human Service, and the National Weather Service.

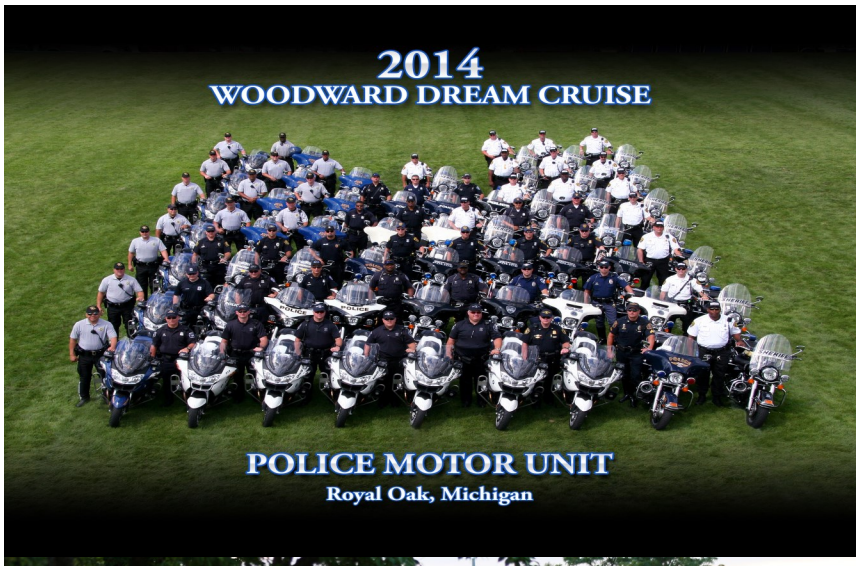
Prior to and during the event, the Royal Oak Police Department serves as a clearinghouse for information to be disseminated to local police departments. We are able to disseminate information efficiently and effectively through a listserv email system that we developed.

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

Woodward Dream Cruise

Responsibility for coordinating the law enforcement assets for the Dream Cruise requires much more than calling a few meetings. Planning for this event is more than scheduling the officers. The planning phase incorporates everything from coordinating amateur radio assistance to checking and approving Special Event Permits to organizing support from dozens of other police departments. It requires managing volunteers, providing lodging for our weekend prisoners and everything in-between. This planning process involves hundreds of hours of commitment for the police department and its administration. This commitment and dedication to the planning effort has ensured a safe family-oriented environment for everyone to enjoy for the past 20 years.



Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

Arts, Beats & Eats

Once again, Royal Oak hosted the annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats. Held on Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, this event is very popular and draws upwards of 350,000 to 400,000 visitors. The festival is located in our downtown and offers highly-regarded Fine Art exhibits, more than 200 live performances on ten stages and local restaurants showcasing their cuisine.

With the exception of a brief rainstorm, the weather was beautiful and the event was a success.

Similar to preparing for the Dream Cruise, Arts, Beats & Eats involves extensive planning and coordination with outside agencies. The Michigan State Police, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, CN Railway, and several other area departments send staff to supplement our resources.

This was the fifth year for this event and this department has continuously tweaked and revised the operational plan to ensure the event is safe, secure and enjoyable for those who attend.

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

Giving Back to the Community

Royal Oak Charity Golf Event

In July, the Royal Oak Police Department hosted their second annual charity golf outing at Red Run Country Club. The goal of this event is to allow participants to experience the best of what Royal Oak has to offer while raising money for a very worthy cause. Over 50 local sponsors generously donated their time and resources to this great event. The night before the outing, a severe storm struck the area causing flooding and power outages. However, this did not deter the 140 golfers who, thanks to the staff at Red Run Golf Club, were still able to enjoy an afternoon of golf. On behalf of the entire Royal Oak Police Department, we would like to thank all who participated in this event. Your participation allowed us to raise over $15,000. One-hundred percent of the proceeds from this event went to The Boys and Girls Club of Oakland and Macomb Counties, which is located in Royal Oak.

Mark your calendars, the third annual outing is already being planned for August 3, 2015.

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

Giving Back to the Community

FOURTH ANNUAL ROYAL OAK GUNS & HOSES POLICE FIRE CHARITY HOCKEY GAME

Guns and Hoses Charity Event

The Royal Oak Guns & Hoses Charity Hockey game was created in 2010 by Royal Oak Police Department Sergeant Patrick Stanton and Royal Oak Fire Department Firefighter Tony Cattini. Sergeant Stanton based the concept of a charity hockey game on his childhood experiences in Marquette where his father, a Marquette City Police Officer, participated in a similar annual charity hockey game called “Pigs & Heat.”

Now entering its fifth year, the game features the hockey teams of the Royal Oak Police & Fire Departments as they team up to play for a charitable cause. Since the game’s inception in 2010, the Royal Oak Guns & Hoses Charity Hockey game has raised nearly $25,500 for various charities in the Metro Detroit area.

In 2014, approximately 500 fans witnessed the Royal Oak Police Department beat the Royal Oak Fire Department by a score of 9-3, tying the overall series at two games apiece. The event was once again a success as the beneficiary, the Canine Advocacy Program, was presented with a check for $5,500.

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department
Significant Cases and Events in 2014

Home Invasion Suspects Arrested

Royal Oak detectives investigated a home invasion case, which occurred in the 300 block of N. Edgeworth. The suspects kicked in the rear door of the residence and stole jewelry and an iPad. As a result of the investigation, two subjects were charged with home invasion second degree. Home invasion second degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 15 years or a fine of not more than $3,000, or both. One of the subjects had prior felony convictions for assault with intent to do great bodily harm, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony and was on parole when he committed the crime.

Suspect Charged With Open Murder and Arson

Royal Oak detectives investigated a homicide. The victim called the Royal Oak Police Department and reported her son was attempting to blow up the house. Responding officers found the house in flames and officers attempted to gain entry into the home, but were forced back by heat and smoke. Royal Oak Fire Department personnel were able to gain entry and found the mother deceased in the basement. Her son was arrested at the scene. As a result of the investigation and witness interviews, detectives determined the suspect intentionally started the fire. He was charged with one count of open murder and one count of first degree arson. Both charges carry a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Suspect Charged With Attempted Home Invasion

Royal Oak detectives investigated an attempted home invasion case. A female resident was attacked while walking up to her home on the 3200 block of N. Blair. The woman was walking up to her front porch when she was suddenly grabbed from behind by an unknown man armed with a large knife. The suspect pinned her arms down and forced her towards the front door. The victim's fiancé observed the attack, tackled the suspect, and fought with him. The suspect managed to break free and flee from the area in a stolen vehicle.
As a result of the investigation the suspect was charged with attempted home invasion first degree and receiving and concealing stolen property. The suspect has an extensive criminal history which includes stolen vehicles, drug crimes, home invasion, armed robbery and escape prison.

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department
Significant Cases and Events in 2014

100 Year Storm Hits Royal Oak

During the evening of August 11, 2014, metro Detroit was hit with torrential rains causing severe flooding throughout the area. Royal Oak was one of the areas hit hardest by the storm.

Thousands of homes were flooded and a section of Stephenson Highway was washed away in one of the worst floods in the state's history.

When the storm hit, officers quickly jumped into action and positioned themselves strategically throughout the city to assist stranded motorists and residents. In what turned out to be the busiest day in the history of the department, the afternoon shift responded to 309 calls for service.

The scope of the damage was not fully appreciated until the next day when the mayor declared a state of emergency.

Police Chief O'Donohue is also Royal Oak's Emergency Management Coordinator. Chief O'Donohue quickly went into "triage" mode, accessing the damage and coordinating the city's efforts with Oakland County Homeland Security.

Armed Robbery at Local Market

Royal Oak Police Detectives investigated an Armed Robbery that occurred at Wilson's Market located at 901 E. 11 Mile Road. The suspects, armed with handguns, entered the store and demanded money. They took an undisclosed amount of currency and fled the store. During the investigation the same suspects committed similar robberies in Madison Heights and Clinton Township. During the robbery of the store in Clinton Township, one of the suspects shot and killed the store owner. As a result of a joint investigation involving Royal Oak Detectives, Madison Heights, Clinton Township, and the ATF, the suspects were identified. Although no charges were obtained for the robbery in Royal Oak, four suspects were charged with Armed Robbery and Open Murder for the robbery committed in Clinton Township.

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

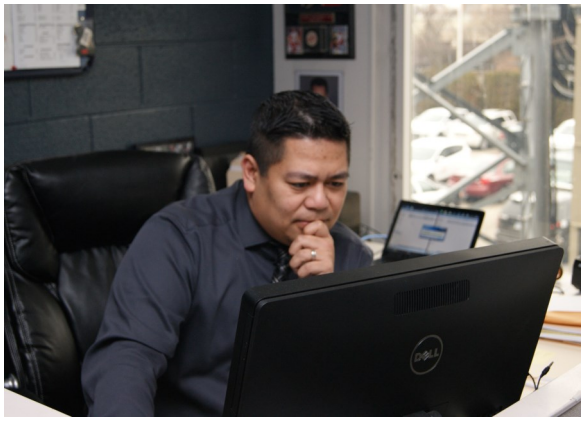
Royal Oak Police Department
Significant Cases and Events in 2014

Man with a Knife Threatens Family and Neighbors

Royal Oak detectives investigated a domestic violence and felonious case. During a family argument, the suspect grabbed a kitchen knife and attempted to stab his father. The father and a female friend retreated to a basement bedroom and barricaded the door. The suspect tried to force his way into the bedroom, but was unable to and fled the home. He encountered a couple in the 1200 block of Midland and threatened them with the knife as well. The suspect was arrested on Midland, near Campbell, where he was found still armed with the knife. No one was injured during the incident. The suspect was charged with two counts of felonious assault and one count of domestic violence.

Suspect Charged With Armed Robbery

Royal Oak detectives investigated an armed robbery of a Speedway Gas Station. The suspect entered the gas station with a large kitchen-style butcher knife, demanded money from the register then fled the store on foot. Responding officers quickly set up a perimeter around the area and began a K-9 track. Officers found the suspect in a nearby home where they arrested him. As a result of the investigation, the suspect was charged with Armed Robbery, which carries up to a life sentence. The suspect has an extensive criminal history which included felony receiving and concealing stolen property, felony larceny in a building and felony use of a stolen financial transaction device.



Suspect Charged With Indecent Exposure and Flee and Elude

Royal Oak detectives investigated an indecent exposure and flee and elude case. The suspect was exposing his genitals to patrons at a local coffee shop. The suspect left the coffee shop as officers arrived and lead them on a lengthy vehicle pursuit before being apprehended. As a result of the investigation, the suspect was convicted of indecent exposure and flee and elude and is awaiting sentencing. The suspect has an extensive criminal history including flee and elude, weapons offenses and selling narcotics. **Click on the link below to watch a video of the pursuit.**

Watch Indecent Exposure Pursuit Video

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department
Significant Cases and Events in 2014

Suicidal Subject Taken Into Protective Custody

Royal Oak officers responded to the intersection of 12 Mile and N. Main on a report of a suicidal person armed with a large knife. In addition to receiving numerous 911 calls from witnesses, the police department also received a 911 call from the subject armed with the knife in which he stated to the call taker, “I’m at Thirteen and Main, come get me.”

Officers arrived at the intersection and observed two people standing outside a vehicle; one was armed with a knife and the other was later identified as the subject’s mother. The officers ordered the subject to drop the knife. He ignored their commands and began deliberately advancing towards the officers. The officers deployed a Taser, which effectively disabled the subject, allowing them to safely disarm and handcuff him.

The 38-year-old Royal Oak resident, who has a history of mental illness, was transported to Providence Hospital for a psychological evaluation. Officers learned that immediately before this incident, he had told his mother that he was going to kill himself by getting the police to shoot him. Royal Oak Detectives reviewed the case. Because of the subject’s history of mental illness, he was not charged with a crime. **Click the link below to view a video of this incident.**

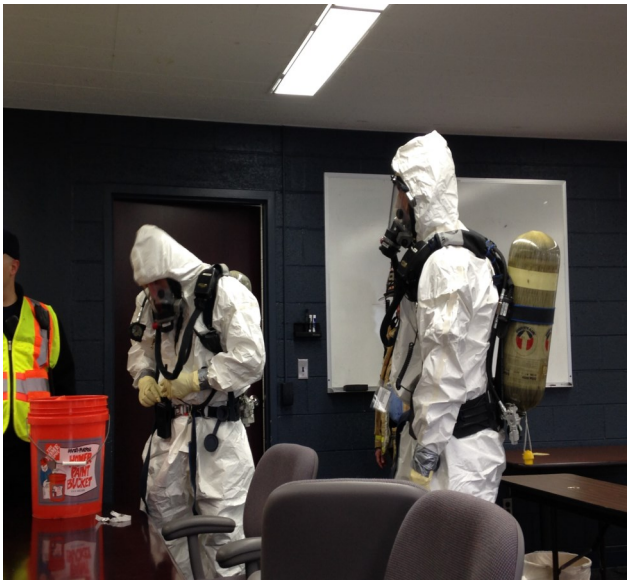
Watch Taser Incident Video

Powdery Substance Causes Evacuation of Police Station

The Royal Oak Police Station was evacuated after a detective opened an envelope containing an unknown, white, powdery substance.

The Oakway Haz-Mat Response Team responded to the police station immediately. The substance was tested and determined to be cornstarch.

Approximately 25 people, including two prisoners, were evacuated as a precautionary measure. However, normal police services were not disrupted. All 911 and police business calls were transferred to Madison Heights Dispatch during the two-hour shutdown.



Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

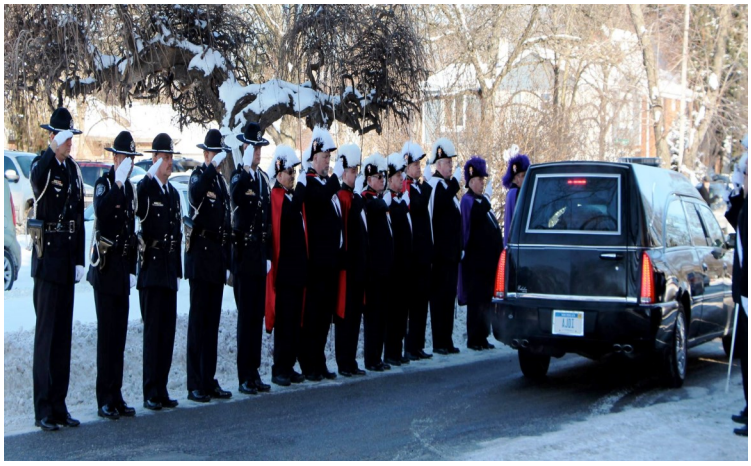
Significant Cases and Events in 2014

Record Breaking Snowfall in 2014

The winter of 2014 saw a 130+ year record for snowfall broken. The city declared a total of six snow emergencies between January 1, 2014 and March 12, 2014. When a snow emergency is declared, officers get out in front of the plows and attempt to clear the streets of parked cars. If our officers are unable to get in touch with a vehicle owner to remove their vehicle from the street, a parking violation is issued. Officers issued a total of 4,388 snow emergency violations during that time period.

Royal Oak Says Farewell to an Icon

2014 started on a sad note with the passing of Monsignor Easton from Shrine of the Little Flower. Monsignor Easton served as pastor at Shrine since 1990. To honor his life of service, the police department sent our honor guard to participate in the funeral services. Monsignor was very active in the Royal Oak community and will be missed.



2014 Royal Oak Police Department Grant Awards

Throughout 2013, the Royal Oak Police Department applied for, and was awarded, a number of different grants and awards that were provided at the state and federal level. Listed below is a summation of these grants and what they encompassed.

1) $15,516 received from the Office of Highway Safety to enforce the "DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER" campaign.

2) $6,916.81 received from the U.S. Department of Justice-Office of Justice Programs to assist in the purchasing of bulletproof vests for our officers.

2014 Royal Oak Police Department Citizen Complaints and Lawsuits

It is the policy of the Royal Oak Police Department to accept and investigate any complaints of employee misconduct or wrongdoing. This department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are consistent with our mission statement and core values. The complaint procedure provides citizens with a meaningful and effective avenue for legitimate complaints against a member of the police department. It is the intention of the police department to encourage public support and confidence through the assurance of a fair and thorough investigation of all complaints.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Complaints	13	14	16	10	8	7	8	8	6	8
Excessive or Unnecessary Force / Assault Complaints	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	1

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Lawsuits	4	5	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1
Excessive or Unnecessary Force / Assault	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Royal Oak POLICE DEPT

Royal Oak Police Department

Police Award Recipients

It is a great privilege to introduce some of the staff of the Royal Oak Police Department who stood out in 2014. These individuals were nominated by their peers or supervisors for exceptional performance. Following the March 12, 2015 meeting of the Citation Review Board, we are pleased to announce the names of award recipients.

2014 Award Recipients are as Follows:

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR	Officer Michael Stajich
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE	Janet Grobbel
MERITORIOUS SERVICE	
For an incident on February 9, 2014	Officer Timothy Brown
For an incident on November 11, 2014	Officer Stephen Scafone Officer Donald Scher
For year long effort enforcing taxi cab laws	Officer Jamie Hill
CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION	
For an incident on July 10, 2014	Madison Heights Officer Koehler
For an incident on August 11, 2014	Lieutenant Michael Moore Lieutenant Michael Frazier Lieutenant David Clemens Sergeant Donald Swiatkowski Sergeant Jake Theisen Sergeant Keith Spencer Sergeant Terrance Oaks Officer Daniel Pelletier Officer James Wern Officer Zachery Nottle Officer Timothy Brown Officer Jason Manning Officer Michael Paramo Officer Anthony Gagliardi Officer Nathan Heppner Officer Joseph Francis Officer Joseph Yerke Officer Richard Chipman Officer Donald Scher Officer Bruce Handrinos

Royal Oak Police Department

Police Award Recipients (continued)

2014 Award Recipients are as Follows:

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

For an incident on August 11, 2014 (continued)	Officer Donald Scher Officer Bruce Handrinos Officer James Stehlin PSA Teri Murray PSA Regina Chandler PSA Benjamin Cameron
For an incident on September 2, 2014	Officer Andrew Izydorek Officer Dominic Catanese
For an incident on September 11, 2014	Officer Andrew Izydorek Officer Richard Chipman
For an incident on October 13, 2014	Officer John Love
For an incident on November 4, 2014	Madison Heights Officer Koehler
For an incident on December 1, 2014	Officer Brian Kucel Officer Dominick Catanese
For an incident ending on September 29, 2014	Crime Analyst Pete Pizzorni
For year long effort enforcing taxi cab laws	Lieutenant William Sawyer

UNIT CITATION

FTO training efforts since June, 2012	Lieutenant Michael Frazier Lieutenant William Sawyer Sergeant Steve Teichow Sergeant Keith Spencer Sergeant David Vanness Sergeant Eric Baroky Sergeant Jake Theisen Officer Mathew Murray Officer Richard Chipman Officer Timothy Brown Officer Karly Wingart Officer Michael Stajich Officer Jason Manning Officer Brian Honsowetz

Royal Oak Police Department

Police Award Recipients (continued)

2014 Award Recipients are as Follows:

UNIT CITATION

FTO training efforts since June, 2012 (continued)	Officer Andrew Izydorek Officer Brian Zelakewicz Officer Zackary Nottle Officer Bret Nelson Officer Jamie Hill PSA Teri Murray PSA Paul Urbanowicz PSA Stacy Sheldon PSA Patricia Curtis PSA Joseph Ivy

LETTER OF RECOGNITION

For an incident on November 4, 2014	Officer James Stehlin