



# ANNUAL REPORT

BEEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2022



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402 N. Washington St  
Beeville, TX 78102

## A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF KEVIN BEHR

*Being a “hometown boy”, I am truly honored and humbled to serve as Beeville’s 25<sup>th</sup> Chief of Police. This position is the culmination of my 34 years in law enforcement. We are pleased to share with you our Beeville Police Department Annual Report, a look back at 2022. At the Beeville Police Department, we let data drive much of what we do, and the analysis of data gathered has helped us solve crimes, as well as prevent others. We will continue to engage our community partners to participate in the education of our officers and to provide resources and services essential for the safety of our community and the healing of victims of crime.*

*During 2022 the Department strengthened our working relationships with the Bee County Sheriff’s Office and the Beeville Independent School District Police, as well as other surrounding law enforcement agencies, allowing us to partner our crime fighting more effectively. We continue to provide countywide assistance services when requested by the Sheriff and regularly train and participate in a countywide Special Response Team (SRT). The Department also continues its partnership with Bee County Sheriff’s Office as an integral part of a mental health evaluation transport team.*

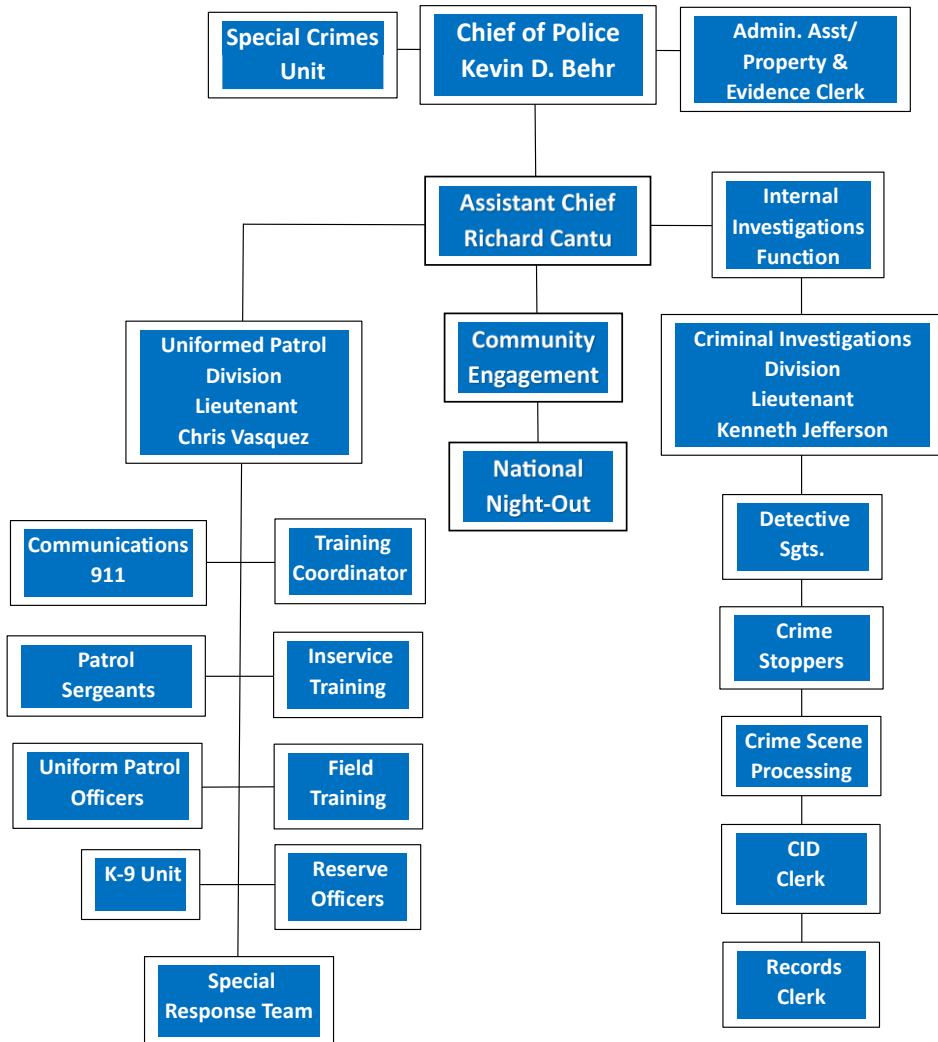
*We, as an organization, believe in community wellness through the delivery of quality service. We will continue to respect and protect the rights of all people. We will treat all people fairly, impartially, and with concern and compassion, to reduce crime and the fear of crime within the community. Our goal is always to de-escalate a situation whenever possible, using force only as a last resort.*

*Positive engagement with the Community is a core component to successful policing, and we are intensely focused on providing the best customer service and public safety strategies possible. Despite any challenges we faced as an organization, we are making significant strides to improve our policing model, provide transparency, enhance our training, and reimagine our department for the better. As we exit the COVID era, we look forward to having more community conversations and informal events to strengthen our relationships with all our constituents.*

*I’m proud to lead the members of the Beeville Police Department team—from officers, dispatchers, civilian staff, and reserve officers, each person on our team plays a vital role in ensuring your public safety. I hold our department to professional standards by implementing best practices centered on service and conduct that is grounded upon our core values. I invite you to browse through our report to learn about our department, our service, our accomplishments, and our amazing staff.*



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## Geographical Description

The City of Beeville is located in the Coastal Bend Region of Texas. It is the County Seat and the only incorporated City in Bee County, Texas. It encompasses 6.8 square miles and has a population of approximately 13,669. The Beeville Police Department employs 23 sworn police officers and 9 civilian personnel.

## MISSION

The Beeville Police Department is staffed by a dedicated and diverse group of professionals committed to working the community to make the City of Beeville a safe and desirable place to live, work or visit. Our mission is to partner with the community to solve problems and improve public safety in a manner that is fair, impartial, transparent, and consistent.

## VISION

Through collaborative efforts and partnerships, the Beeville Police Department guards the life, property, and constitutional rights of all and pursues justice with compassion and respect for all our citizens to ensure a safe and secure community.

## CORE VALUES

**Integrity:** The Beeville Police Department is built upon a foundation of ethical and professional conduct. We are committed to the highest level of moral principles and ethics. All members of the department will adhere to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.

**Honesty:** We will always be truthful and trustworthy.

**Fairness:** We are committed to equal application of the law to offenders and members of the public as well as the equal application of rules and regulations to all members of the department.

**Courage:** We are dedicated to meeting all challenges with the courage needed to accomplish our mission.

**Compassion:** We understand our role as community caretakers and temper our application of the law with compassion and empathy.





Assistant Police Chief Richard Cantu monitoring an Active Shooter Drill at a local school conducted in partnership with BISD Police, Bee County Sheriff's Office, TDPS and other area local and State law enforcement agencies.

## **CRIME STATISTICS**

The **Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program** compiles official data on crime in the United States, published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The UCR is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of nearly 18,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on crimes brought to their attention.

Crime statistics are compiled from UCR data and published annually by the FBI in the *Crime in the United States* series. The FBI does not collect the data itself. Rather, law enforcement agencies across the United States provide the data to the FBI, which then compiles the Reports.

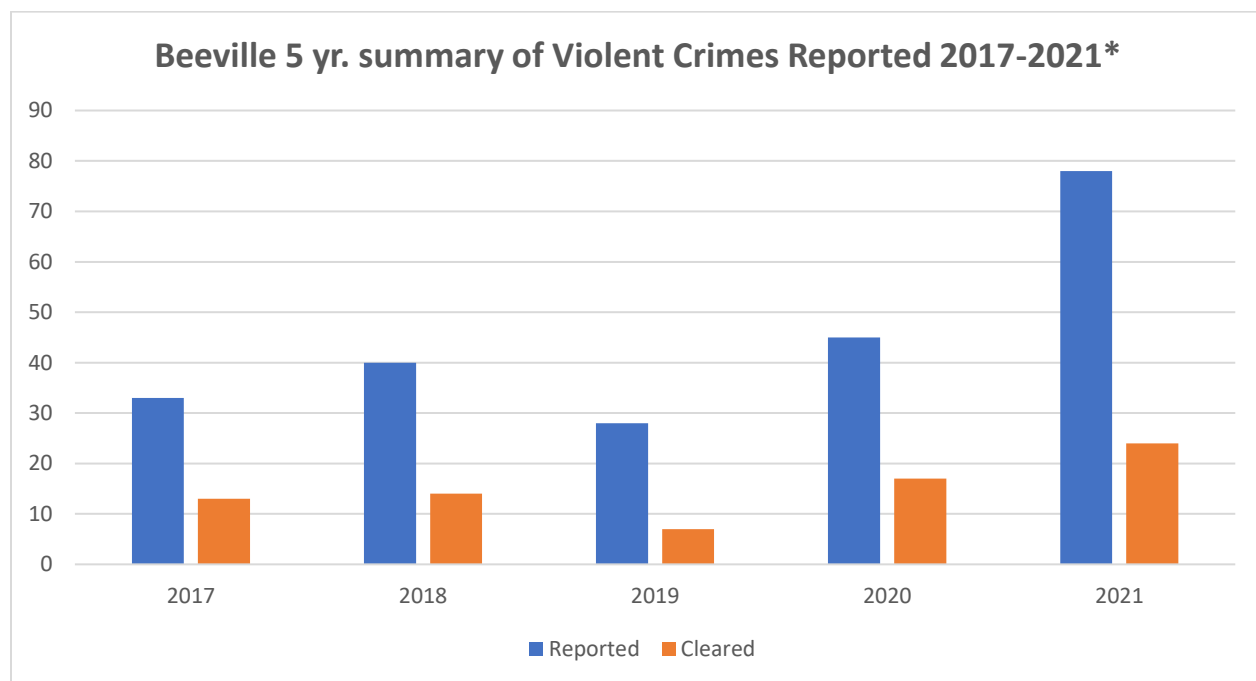
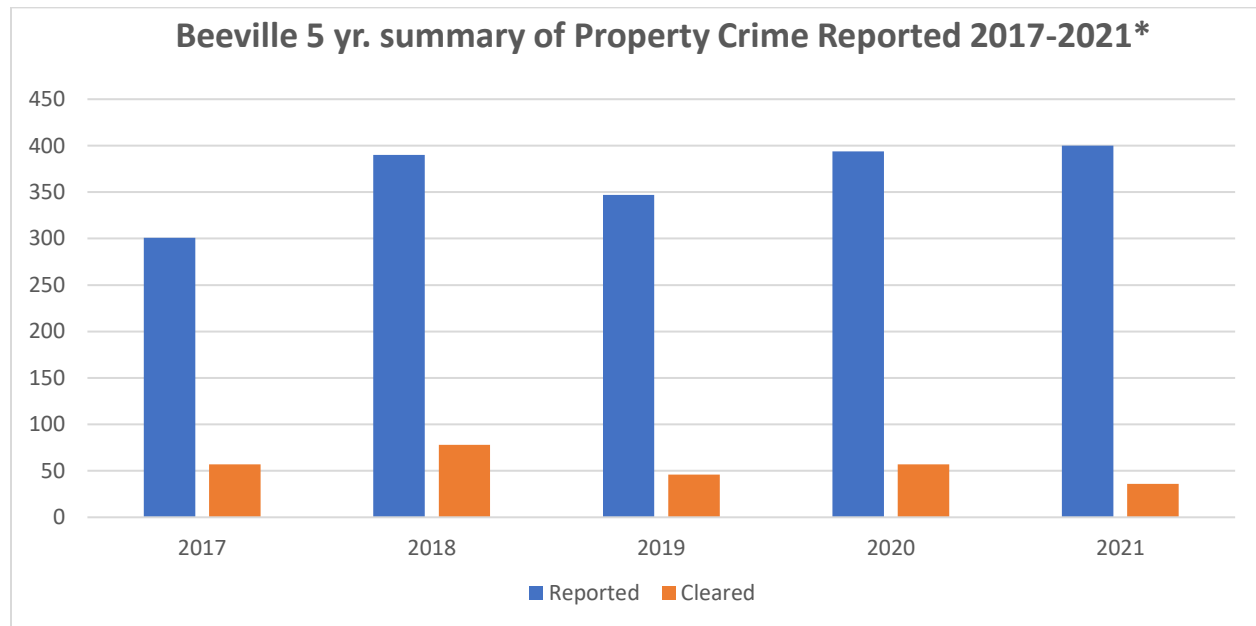
Part 1 crimes are collectively known as **Index Crimes**. This name is used because Part 1 crimes are considered quite serious, tend to be reported more reliably than others, and the reports are taken directly by the police and not a separate agency which aggregates the data and does not necessarily contribute to the UCR.

In Part I, the UCR indexes reported incidents of index crimes which are broken into two categories: violent and property crimes. Aggravated assault, forcible rape, murder, and robbery are classified as violent while arson, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor

vehicle theft are classified as property crimes. In addition, the Department also utilizes the Crime In Texas Statistics collected and published by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

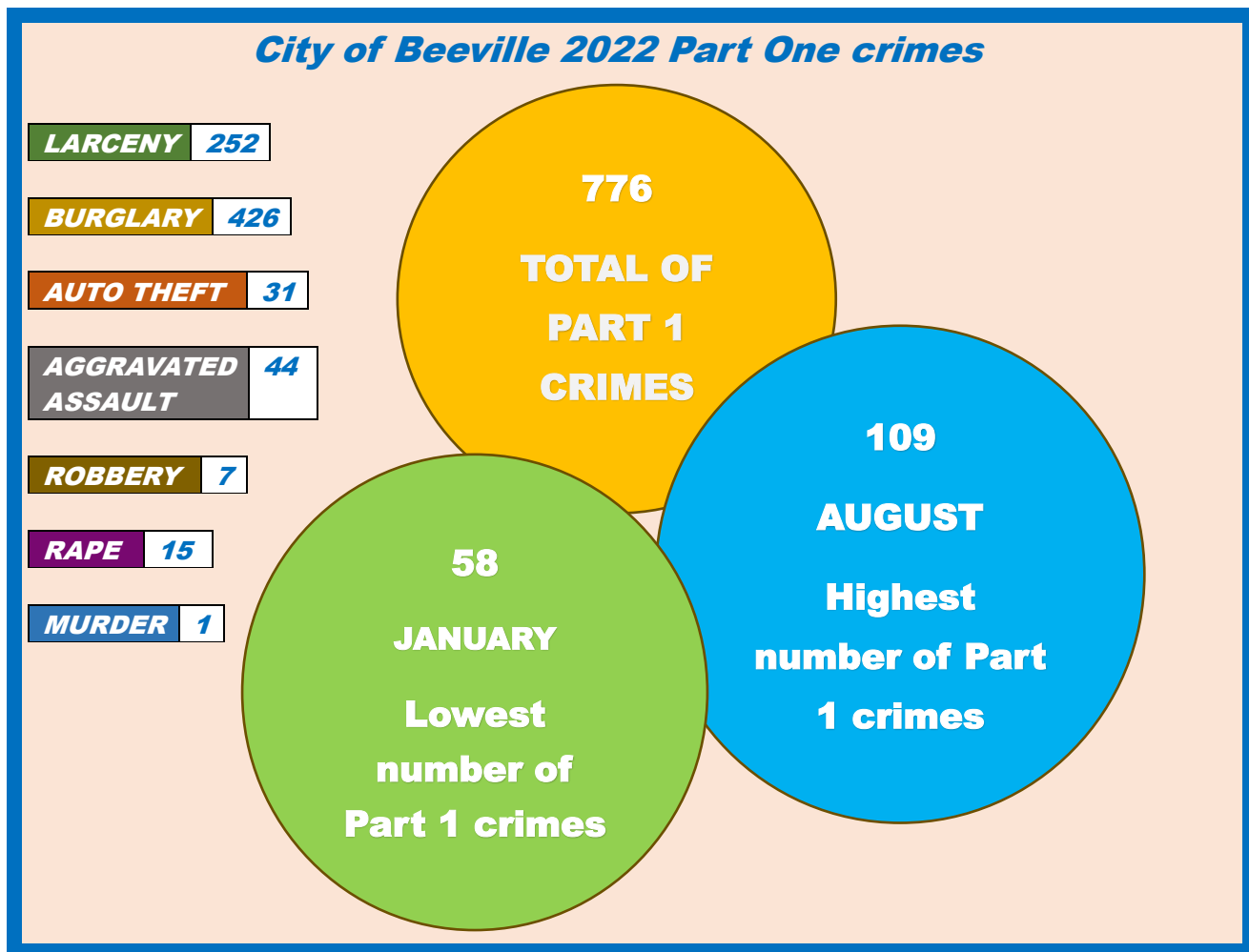
These are reported as **Offenses Known to the Police**. The UCR cannot estimate the amount of crime committed but not reported.

**PROPERTY AND VIOLENT CRIMES SUMMARY for BEEVILLE**



\*Although submitted, the 2022 statistics are not yet published by UCR as of this writing. The information below is taken directly from TDPS and BPD statistics for calendar year 2022.

**Cleared:** A clearance refers to the resolution of offenses by law enforcement. An offense is considered cleared when an offender is arrested. An arrest may result in the clearance of multiple crimes, or multiple arrests may clear a single crime.





**BPD Patrol Division officers playing basketball with local kids.**

## **BREAKDOWN OF the BPD DIVISIONS**

### **PATROL DIVISION**

The Patrol Division is commanded by a Lieutenant and consists of 14 sworn officers. These officers are the “tip of the spear” of the Department and respond to both non-emergency and emergency calls for service at all hours of the day or night. They regularly interact with the members of the community to deliver exceptional law enforcement service to the public. There are four (4) patrol sergeants assigned to the Division who provide first-line supervision for each shift of officers. A K9 unit is assigned to the Division, providing a great asset in our drug-fighting efforts.

The uniformed patrol officer is the first line of defense against crime, seeking out criminal activity and taking appropriate action as the situation dictates and the law allows. The patrol officer is the first to respond to a call for service or the report of a crime and is



typically the initial investigator for all offenses reported by a citizen or observed by the officer.

## **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PATROL OFFICER**

- Driving and safe operation of police vehicles
- Continual positive engagement with the community
- Documenting incidents in police reports and gathering of evidence
- Maintain a close familiarity with Beeville Police Department rules and regulations as well as State laws and City of Beeville Ordinances
- Maintaining required Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) training mandates
- Impartial and Bias-Free Policing
- Keeping the peace
- Searching, pursuing, and detaining suspects
- Responding to burglar, robbery, or medical alarms
- Making arrests
- Enforcing traffic and parking laws
- Investigation of vehicular crashes that occur on public roadways and streets.
- Routinely engaging citizens and participating in Community Policing activities
- Working with other local, state, and federal partners
- Preparing for and attending court appearances
- Participating in mandatory and elective training
- Keeping proficient with firearms and self-defense

## **Traffic Enforcement**

Enforcement of traffic laws is one of the important pillars of local policing and directly related to ensuring the safety of the public. By enforcement of traffic laws, we attempt to correct errant driving behaviors through behavior modification. When drivers disobey the law, consequences must be attached to such unsafe conduct through the issuance of traffic citations, and at times custodian arrest, depending on the severity of the offense committed.

As our officers patrol the city, one of their many tasks is to constantly monitor traffic. Their job is to act on violators who may pose a danger to the motoring public or pedestrians by their driving behavior. In many instances errant drivers are educated about their driving and issued only a warning. Realize that our job is to make safer drivers and reduce crashes, not generate income for the City through citations.

For calendar year 2022 the Beeville Police Department made **3,479** traffic stops. Of those, only **936** citations were issued. That equates to **27%** of all traffic stops resulting in a fine and/or arrest of the driver. BPD officers also arrested **43** persons for Driving While Intoxicated during 2022.

The Department investigated **428** vehicle crashes during 2022, **64** of which were major crashes involving injury or death.



## COMMUNICATIONS

The receiving and dispatching of calls for service function of the Department is operated by six (6) civilian telecommunicators. The Beeville Police Department Communications Division, in addition to the Beeville Police Department, also dispatches for the Beeville Fire Department and county-wide Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The Beeville Police Department Communications Division handled a total of **26,888** calls for service in 2022.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Criminal Investigation Division is commanded by a Lieutenant and has three (3) Detective Sergeants assigned to it. It is the responsibility of this Division to investigate all reported felonies and certain categories of misdemeanor crimes that occur within the City of Beeville. Detectives are responsible for conducting follow-up on most arrests and criminal offense reports made by the Uniform patrol officers by;

- collecting physical evidence
- processing major crime scenes
- submitting physical evidence for analysis or further processing
- interviewing witnesses,
- taking statements and confessions
- completing comprehensive case files on each criminal investigation for presentation to the prosecutor of jurisdiction.
- Working with other local, state, and federal partners
- Preparing for and attending court appearances
- Participating in mandatory and elective training
- Keeping proficient with firearms and self-defense

The Division has one (1) civilian records clerk assigned to assist in case preparation.

The **Special Crimes Unit** is a part of the CID, but operationally reports directly to the Chief of Police. The Special Crimes Unit is assigned to investigate organized criminal activity dealing with narcotics offenses and other vice-related crimes.

This Unit consists of one Detective Sergeant and a Police Officer-Investigator. In 2022, this unit executed nine (9) drug related search warrants resulting in the arrest of numerous offenders and the seizure of illegal drugs headed for the streets of our City along with firearms, US currency from drug sales, and vehicles used in the sale and delivery of illegal substances.

## RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Department Records Clerk is responsible for the management of the operation of the Police Records function. The Records Clerk oversees maintenance of all Police records and automated information systems, including policy compliance with audit requirements for the accuracy, security, and operational use of Criminal Justice Information System data. In addition, the Records clerk ensures accurate and thorough information is provided to the internal and external users of records services and requests for information pursuant to the Texas Open Records Act.



Hoop time again!

## **COMPLIMENTS OR COMPLAINTS**

Your Police Department is committed to providing exceptional police service to our community. In keeping with our Core Values, citizen cooperation and input is essential for the Department to succeed in this goal. Every citizen had the right to compliment or complain on a police officer or other Department member. To remain accessible, consistent, and transparent, the Department actively solicits input from the public by providing an accessible process to report both compliments and complaints concerning the Department and its members.

A new policy was put in place and effective May 2022. Special Order 1 **Citizen Complaint or Compliment Procedures**, and clearly establishes our responsibility to remain transparent and open to those we serve. To better accommodate the public, a form was created allowing a citizen lodging a compliment or complaint to document the circumstances of their encounter with the officer or other Department member. It also provides due process and establishes protection for the officer against false or frivolous complaints.

The form allows the Department to capture facts, allegations, and other specific information concerning a complement or complaint. To further assist the public, the form provides answers to 12 commonly asked questions related to making either a complement or a complaint.



This new policy will become permanent and placed in the Department **General Orders Manual**, which contains our standards of conduct, rules and regulations by which members must abide.

## Compliments

The Beeville Police Department always appreciates and is grateful for compliments concerning the actions and good deeds of its employees. Acknowledgement of a job well done has a positive and lasting effect upon our employees. Both written and oral compliments and praise submitted by the public are forwarded through chain of command to the member(s). Such compliments may also be reiterated by a letter of commendation issued at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

## Complaints

Persons desiring to make a complaint against a Department member must understand the importance of submitting their complaint in writing with their signature affixed at the end of the document. Under current Texas Law, law enforcement officers have certain rights when being investigated for a possible conduct violation. (**Note:** *The Texas Government Code, Section 614.022, provides that all complaints to be considered on law enforcement officers must be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint.*)

A formal complaint is defined as a formal written allegation made against a member of the Department, which could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination, and which alleges one or more of the following:

- An infraction of Department rules, regulations, or policies; **or**
- An illegal act.

The sole purpose of the investigation is to seek out the facts in a particular situation and to ascertain the truth in an objective, impartial, and fair manner. The investigation or inquiry may be conducted by a supervisor or by the Internal Affairs function of the Department, depending on the content, substance, and severity of the alleged violation of the Department's General Orders, City policies and/or BPD Standard Operating Procedures Manuals.

Allegations contained in a formal complaint investigation may have one of four outcomes:

- Unfounded. The allegation is false, not factual.
- Exonerated. The incident occurred but was lawful and proper or was justified under the existing conditions.
- Not Sustained. There is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegations.
- Sustained. The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence.

A sustained complaint may result in disciplinary action of one or more of the following:



- Counseling
- Remedial training
- Reassignment
- Formal written reprimand
- Disciplinary probation
- Suspension (Time off without pay)
- Termination (Indefinite Suspension)

The complainant is notified by letter of the results and findings of the investigation. The officer involved, and the officer's supervisor will receive a copy of the letter sent to the complainant that describes the results and findings of the investigation.

The complaining party(ies) may request and will be granted a meeting with the Chief of Police to discuss the findings.

### **National Night Out 2022**







## ON THE HORIZON

Your Beeville Police Department is a work in progress. We pride ourselves on being an organization that can adapt, evolve, and be resilient at the same time. We are committed to values like integrity, professionalism, and respect. Most of all, we are committed to you—the Beeville Community. We are excited that will soon be moving into a new police department, and we are very excited about this opportunity to grow.

Maintaining optimal staffing levels and recruiting new dispatchers and police officers has been challenging this past year for every law enforcement agency, and Beeville is no exception. However, we continue to see quality applicants seek us out for career opportunities. They, like many others, want to be a part of what Beeville has to offer. Who we hire and what we do every day in our policing endeavor is a direct reflection of who we are. We set high expectations for ourselves, because we know this community expects us to be the best.

It is our intention to achieve Accreditation of the Department through the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA). This voluntary program requires a Police Department to attain

and maintain 172 separate standards that are identified as Best Practices for law enforcement. Being “Accredited” means that the agency has proven to independent assessors that they meet or exceed all the 172 identified Best Practices for Texas Law Enforcement Agencies.

These Best Practices cover all aspects of law enforcement operations including use of force, protection of citizen rights, pursuits, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations. While being “Accredited” does not guarantee an agency will not make a mistake, it does ensure that the agency has carefully thought about these critical issues, has developed policy and procedures to address them, and has systems in place to identify and correct problems.

In closing, we will continue to work hard to not only meet your expectations, perhaps to even surprise and delight you at times. As we look to the horizon, and keep the wind at our back, we are charting a new course for our department.

We are dedicated to building an inclusive culture that is rich with diversity, experience, wisdom, and positive energy. We are constantly fostering a team of professionals who will lead this department into the next decade and do so with the highest level of integrity and dedication to service and community.

Thank you for reviewing our Annual Report and we look forward to what next year will bring.

### **In Memory of Officer Matthew Jimenez**



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

***The Department would like to thank the following for their support in 2022;***

- **Our City Council**
  - Mayor Brian Watson
  - Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Willow II
  - Councilmember Bennie Puente
  - Councilmember Alexis Bledsoe
  - Councilmember Darryl Martin
  
- **Our City Government**
  - City Manager John Benson
  - Assistant City Manager John Chen
  - City Secretary Gabriela (Gabby) Hernandez
  - Finance Director Kristine Horton
  - Human Resources Director Dena Hernandez
  - Information Technologist Salvador (Sal) Garza
  
- **Our Partners in Fighting Crime**
  - Bee County Sheriff's Office
  - Texas Department of Public Safety
  - Beeville ISD Police Department
  - Coastal Bend College Police Department
  - Crime Stoppers
  - County and District Attorney's Offices
  
- and finally, **Our Community**