



**Chief's Report  
Ruston Police Department  
Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

The following is a recap of calls for service and self-initiated traffic stops in 2022, with a percent of change from the same category totals of 2021.

Calls for Service 2022 2300	Calls for Service 2021 1655	Percent of Change 61% increase
Traffic Stops 2022 523	Traffic Stops 2021 751	Percent of Change 56% increase

The SOAR Ordinance was instrumental in giving the officers the tools they needed to go after the nuisance and danger of reckless drivers. We are starting to see SOAR orders, signed by Judge Miller, issued upon those who disturb our City with their vehicle noise and dangerous driving. The Department will put the license plates contained in the SOAR order into the automatic license plate readers, which will then alert our officers when they return to the City. If they violate the order, we will impound their vehicle and book the offending driver into the Pierce County Jail.

The 2021 so-called police reform laws of Washington will be addressed this legislative session by Pierce County Prosecutor Mary Robnett (and others), and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. The changes in use of force by officers compelled an unfunded mandate to provide more less-lethal options for officers due to unprecedented "rules of engagement" by police.

In response, the Department recently completed the purchase of a projectile launcher by a Belgian company called Fabrique Nationale. Known as the FN303 launcher, it is a pain compliance tool which launches accurate disintegrating projectiles at suspects. The projectiles can contain paint to mark the suspect for later identification, OC powder to severely irritate the eyes, and even polymer projectiles to break auto glass in the case of a barricaded suspect. Though the devices were expensive, and the non-reusable projectiles even more so, it is necessary to be able show the Department considers lethal force to be a final option.

Presented by Nestor Bautista