

# SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019 YEAR-END REVIEW



This 2019 Year-End Review for the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) contains information on the organization's major accomplishments for the year. The report is a snapshot of the Department's significant success. It includes staffing, recruitment, hiring, technological advances, crime rate and community engagement, which are all in alignment with the Department's Strategic Plan, and made possible with the continued support of the City Council and City Manager.

## POLICE OFFICER HIRING

The SAPD Human Resources (HR) Division shifted its focus on recruitment strategies with the implementation of a comprehensive recruitment and hiring strategic plan. The Department was challenged with recruitment and hiring



**50 new police officers** for the calendar year. The recruitment team identified target candidates, evaluated and implemented a streamlined hiring process. In December 2019, the SAPD reached its goal of hiring 50 new police officers, something that **had not occurred in over 20 years**. The HR Division also processed and hired 36 new professional staff personnel and facilitated the promotion of 17 employees.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2019, SAPD increased its social media footprint. One of the goals of the Department was to utilize social media as an effective tool to interact with residents and share valuable information. SAPD uses Instagram to share unique photos and videos of officers and staff at community events, interacting in neighborhoods, crime information and many other occasions. The SAPD's Instagram account saw a significant increase with over 31k followers in 2019, maintaining its distinction as the most followed social media site of any law enforcement agency in Orange County. The Department's Facebook and Twitter social media accounts will continue to be used for everyday communications, alerts, advisories, crime prevention tips, wanted subjects, and more.

## DE-ESCALATION TRAINING

Historically, the Training Division functioned primarily in ensuring officers completed state-mandated training.



In 2019, the Training Division made several technological accomplishments. The new VirTra Force Options Simulator was introduced. This is a state-of-the-art regional training platform. The new system uses video laser and programming to train officers on de-escalation, sensitivity and decision-making during and after a confrontation. The simulator offers a variety of different scenarios with numerous choices of outcomes. In addition to helping officers make sound decisions during high-stress incidents, the simulator strengthens officers' communication skills in stressful situations and enhances officer articulation of the force used and why.

## Message From The Chief Of Police



The men and women of the Santa Ana Police Department are proud to continue the exceptional service we equally provide to everyone in our City.

A newly revised Community Oriented Policing Philosophy, completed with Vision, Mission and Values; a five-year 2019-2024 Police Department Strategic Plan; the hiring of 50 NEW Police Officers; reduction in Priority 1 emergency calls for service response times; reduction in gang-related homicides; de-escalation training; enhanced social media imprint and genuine, positive community engagement are just a few of the significant accomplishments for 2019.

This increase in staffing has and will directly continue to support the following priorities:

1. Patrol Operations (core function)
2. Homelessness Response
3. Proactive Violent Crime Response (Metropolitan Division established in January 2020)
4. Vice Operations

These priorities are consistent with the Department's Strategic Plan, the City Council, City Manager and our Santa Ana community.

We look forward to 2020, as we continue to serve our Santa Ana community, focusing on our values: *transparency, excellence, accountability and making a difference.*

**DAVID VALENTIN**  
Chief of Police



(TASER 7)

After extensive research, the Training Division discovered there was a decline in the deployment of the TASER as a force option due to a reduction in its effectiveness. The Training Division developed a formal proposal, which was approved, to upgrade the Department's TASER inventory. The new TASER 7 is more effective, easier to use, and it is brighter and louder, which enhances de-escalation.

Other notable accomplishments from the Training Division include the completion of Advance Officer Training, transitioned from Glock 22 (40 cal) to Glock 17 (9 mm), and published 126 policies/procedures/legal updates.

## PROACTIVE RESPONSE TO CRIME

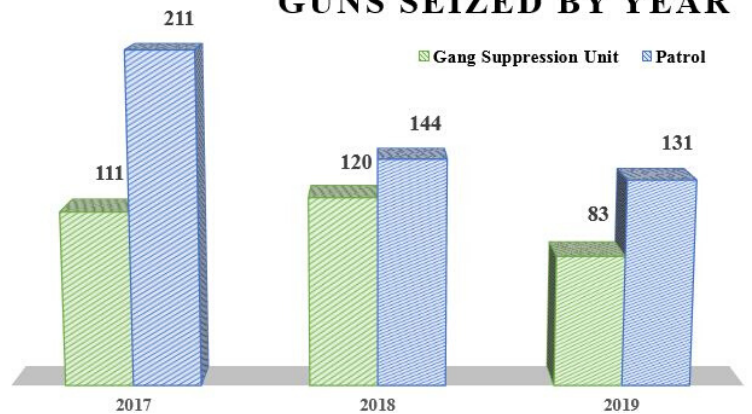
The Orange County Violent Gang Task Force (OCVGTF) initiated "Operation Black Rhino." During this investigation, firearms and narcotics were seized during controlled purchases and search warrants. Several of the target subjects had felony arrests or convictions for firearms offenses and other violent crimes, including attempted murder and murder. After the investigation, the OCVGTF and its task force partners conducted "Operation Black Rhino" takedown, which included simultaneous enforcement operations executed at 15 different locations.

### 3 YEAR HOMICIDE COMPARISON

	2017	2018	2019
NON-SPECIFIC	7	13	9
GANG RELATED	14	9	5

During the strategic planning process, one of the top community concerns was addressing gang crime. In 2019, the gang homicide rate was **reduced by 44%**, year to date from 2018-2019 and the overall homicide rate was reduced by over 36%.

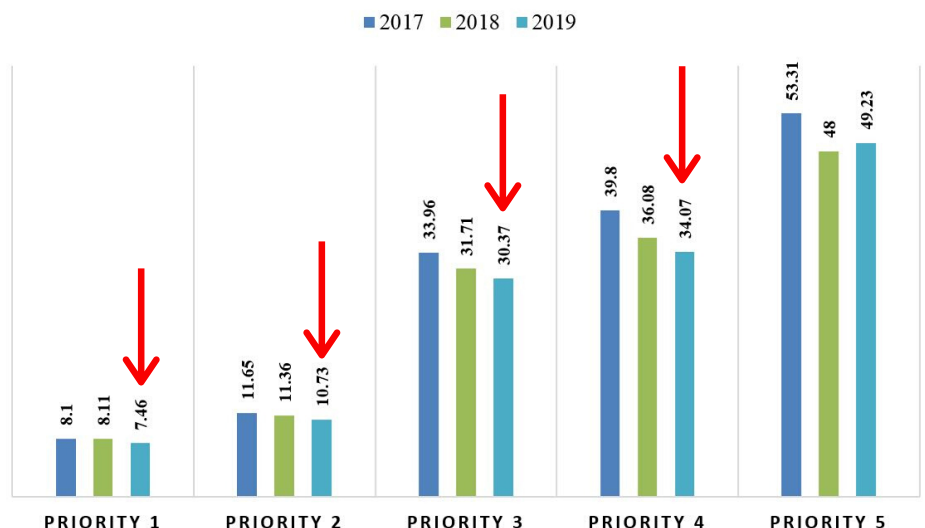
## GUNS SEIZED BY YEAR



## RESPONSE TIMES/HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2019, the Field Operations Bureau focused its efforts on patrol staffing, response times, and community engagement. The Patrol Division's core function is the response to calls for service. Under the SAPD Strategic Plan Goal #3 of Increasing Operational Excellence and Efficiency, the Patrol Division **reduced its Priority 1 response times from 8:10 minutes in January to 6:32 minutes in December, a decrease of over 20%**. The annual average for Priority 1 response was 7:46 minutes. Patrol staffing was increased due to the continued hiring success.

### ANNUAL AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES



(Corporal Velasquez with residents from The Link Shelter)

Staffing was also enhanced for the Homeless Evaluation Assessment Response (HEART) and Quality of Life (QOLT) Teams. The HEART program focuses on proactive policing and engagement with our homeless population through outreach and collaboration with public, private, and nonprofit entities. Area patrol officers were once again assigned to attend Neighborhood Association Meetings, which directly support the Police Department's Strategic Plan to increase community engagement.