

# SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT 2020 YEAR-END REVIEW



This time last year, concepts such as “stay home order,” “mask mandates,” and “social distancing” were unknown to most of us. Today they are part of our everyday language as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact all aspects of our lives. The collective challenges resulting from COVID-19, civil unrest, and budgetary fallout from the economic slowdown have never been experienced concurrently in our law enforcement profession. Through the following report, the

Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) will quantify and provide a *summary* overview of our accomplishments in 2020, in the face of a truly unprecedented time.

## TRAINING DIVISION

While many police departments stopped training due to COVID-19, the SAPD Training Division developed methods to continue training officers in critical topics while complying with CDC guidelines. This included training and issuance of the new Taser 7 enhanced technology, exceeding POST compliance for required personnel, enhancing our de-escalation training platform and implementing a new sergeant-training program.

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The newly redesigned and state of the art City of Santa Ana Emergency Operations Center (EOC), co-located within the Police Department, is a central command and control facility responsible for facilitating emergency management, and ensuring the continuity of any major operation response. The EOC has been activated continuously (at various activation levels) for 9 months for the COVID-19 pandemic response; the longest EOC activation in the City’s history.

In support of the Santa Ana CARES (Coronavirus Aid Release & Economic Security) program, the EOC managed the selection, acquisition and prioritized distribution of PPE citywide.



## QUALITY OF LIFE TEAM (QOLT)



Quality of Life Team (QOLT) addresses homelessness related issues, working with city departments, county resources and nonprofits to address unauthorized encampments, abandoned property and providing outreach to those experiencing homelessness.

Staffing increased from one full-time employee to a sergeant and 10 police officers. Over 2,092 individuals were contacted with ties to Santa Ana, and 339 were sheltered at The Link shelter.

## Message From The Chief Of Police



2020 has been unquestionably one of the most challenging years in contemporary history. A global pandemic, racial inequity, police accountability and economic impact; all concurrently framed unparalleled and unprecedented public safety challenges for our Department.

Through it all, and in partnership with our community, we have and will continue to emerge a better police service industry and department.

When Departments turned inward and away from their communities during the pandemic, we safely redirected and enhanced community services to provide critical support. We focused on core services in lowering response times to all 9-1-1 emergency and all priority levels of calls for service; successfully and safely handled well over 130 protests, demonstrations and marches with focus on de-escalation tactics; implemented a Family Justice Center within the Department that has successfully continued to provide critical victim support throughout the pandemic; restructured the PAAL Center to enhance virtual learning for our most vulnerable students and families; and we were recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office (Hiring Grant) for our community oriented policing investments.

As a Department, we have engaged in meaningful local, regional and national dialogue and research on how we best enhance police services that are focused on transparency, equity and constitutionally defensible policing practices. We have and will continue our focus of learning from all major policing incidents in an honest, accountable and responsive manner. I am proud of the manner in which the women and men of the Santa Ana Police Department responded to the various challenges and opportunities throughout 2020, which was focused on servant leadership and placing our **community first**.

Along with our new Mayor and City Council, and the continued support of our City Manager and the Santa Ana community, we look forward to a successful 2021.

**DAVID VALENTIN**  
Chief of Police

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In spite of the challenges we faced during this difficult pandemic, SAPD personnel continued its commitment to placing our **community first** by engaging in numerous CDC compliant community events such as: Food Distribution Events, Jr. CSI Training Academy and Hot Chocolate With A Cop, to name just a few.



During the holiday season, police personnel came together in collecting thousands of toys and gifts benefiting our most vulnerable families.

In partnership with various neighborhoods, community groups, and individuals, police personnel distributed these toys, most of which were sponsored by police employees, in direct support of our community during this difficult pandemic.

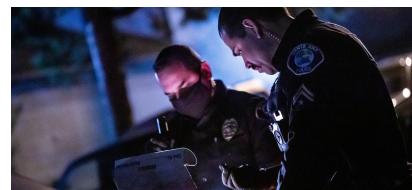
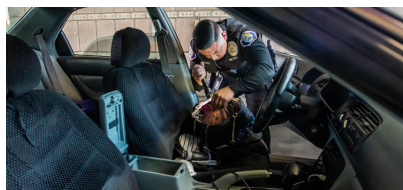
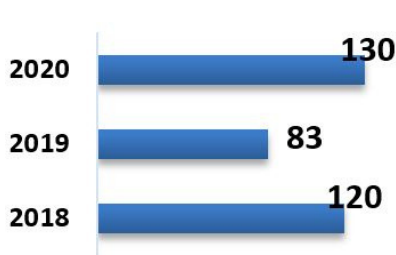
## PROACTIVE RESPONSE TO CRIME

During 2020, there was an overall increase in homicides. However, there was a significant increase in firearms seized in relation to 2019. The Department's commitment to traditional enforcement, which directly compliments its community oriented policing philosophy, continues to focus on responding to, mitigating and actually preventing crime.

### 3 YEAR HOMICIDE COMPARISON

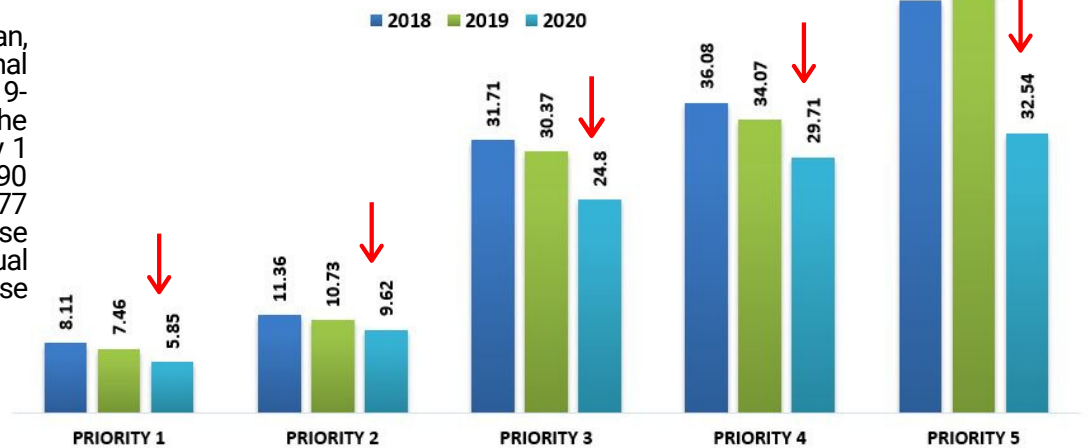
	2018	2019	2020
NON-SPECIFIC	13	9	7
GANG RELATED	9	5	8

### GUNS SEIZED BY YEAR - METROPOLITAN DIVISION



### ANNUAL AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES

Under the SAPD Strategic Plan, Goal #3 of Increasing Operational Excellence and Efficiency (2019-2024 Police Strategic Plan), the Department reduced its Priority 1 response times from 6.90 minutes in January to 4.77 minutes in December; a decrease of over 21.6%. The annual average for Priority 1 response was 5.85 minutes.



## STREET RACING - S.T.E.A.R.R.D.



In response to street racing and vehicles taking over intersections to engage in reckless driving, the SAPD Traffic Division deployed a three-pronged approach to deter this type of activity in the City known as S.T.E.A.R.R.D. (Strategic Traffic Enforcement Against Racing & Reckless Driving). SAPD has a zero tolerance policy for reckless driving / street racing and has made this issue a top priority. Partnering with local agencies that share the same traffic safety concerns, this regional initiative is lead by SAPD. Involved personnel have conducted enforcement which resulted in the following:

**CITES 783    IMPOUNDS 42    ARRESTS 128**