



BURLINGTON POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

October 2023



IACP 2023

The annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference is the largest gathering for the policing profession, attracting 18,000+ attendees from law-enforcement agencies, non-profits, vendors, and other partners around the world. This year's was held in San Diego, and the Burlington Police Department was proud to be an Education Workshop presenter, with a presentation about the CAIP program called "Bridging the Gaps." Left to right, CSL Anna Wageling, CSS Lacey Smith, and Chief Murad gave a well-received overview of Burlington's innovative efforts on alternative response.

Oct 23, 2023 – all data preliminary & subject to change





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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE CELEBRATING 130 YEARS



Oct 23, 2023 – all data preliminary & subject to change



ENCAMPMENT CLOSURE



After a confirmed assault and allegations of drug production, various City of Burlington stakeholders determined that a large homeless encampment near the waterfront needed to be closed. Those stakeholders included the Special Assistant to End Homelessness, the Department of Public Works, Parks Recreation & Waterfront, and the Police Department. Following [the encampment policy that the City created with the ACLU](#), steps were taken to notice the people in the encampment and work with

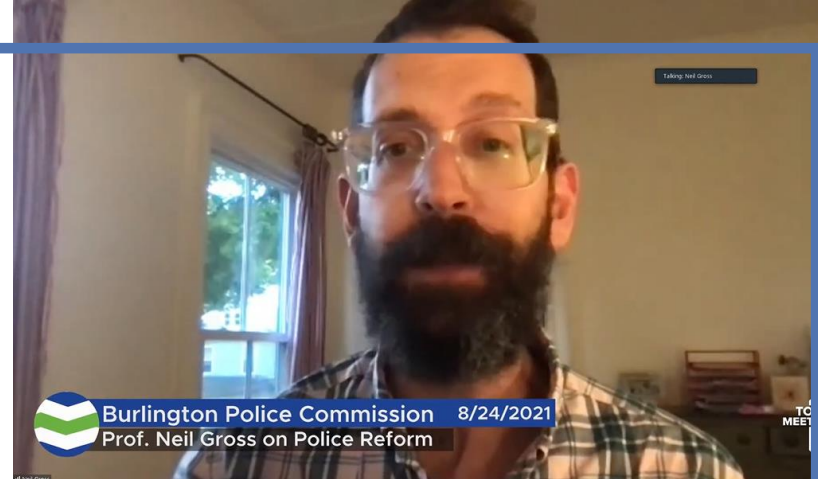
them to find alternative places to stay. After allowing several days for people staying in the encampment to clear on their own, employees with Parks, DPW, and the BPD dismantled the encampment. During the operation police did not find evidence of drug production, but did recover a large number of bicycles, many of which had been dismantled and damaged. Those that could be associated with specific owners are in the process of being returned.



SPEAKERS ON REFORM



Professor Neil Gross appeared in front of Burlington Police Commission on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 (you can [see it on YouTube on Town Meeting TV](#); his comments begin at the 1:02:30 mark). His recent TIME article, “[The Myths Holding Back Police Reform](#),” is worth a look.



The fact that the Police Commission invites national-level thinkers speaks volumes.

Myth 1: The Police Can't Prevent Crime. In sum and substance, Prof Gross notes that “the larger the number of police officers in an area, the less crime there tends to be.”

Myth 2: Police Reform Compromises Public Safety. This is untrue, of course, although he observes that the relationship is complicated. In most cities, the reallocations known as “defunding” never happened, but officer headcounts did decrease. And while overall crime did not rise, “in the impoverished, racially segregated neighborhoods where gun violence is concentrated, it was spot on to describe crime as soaring.”

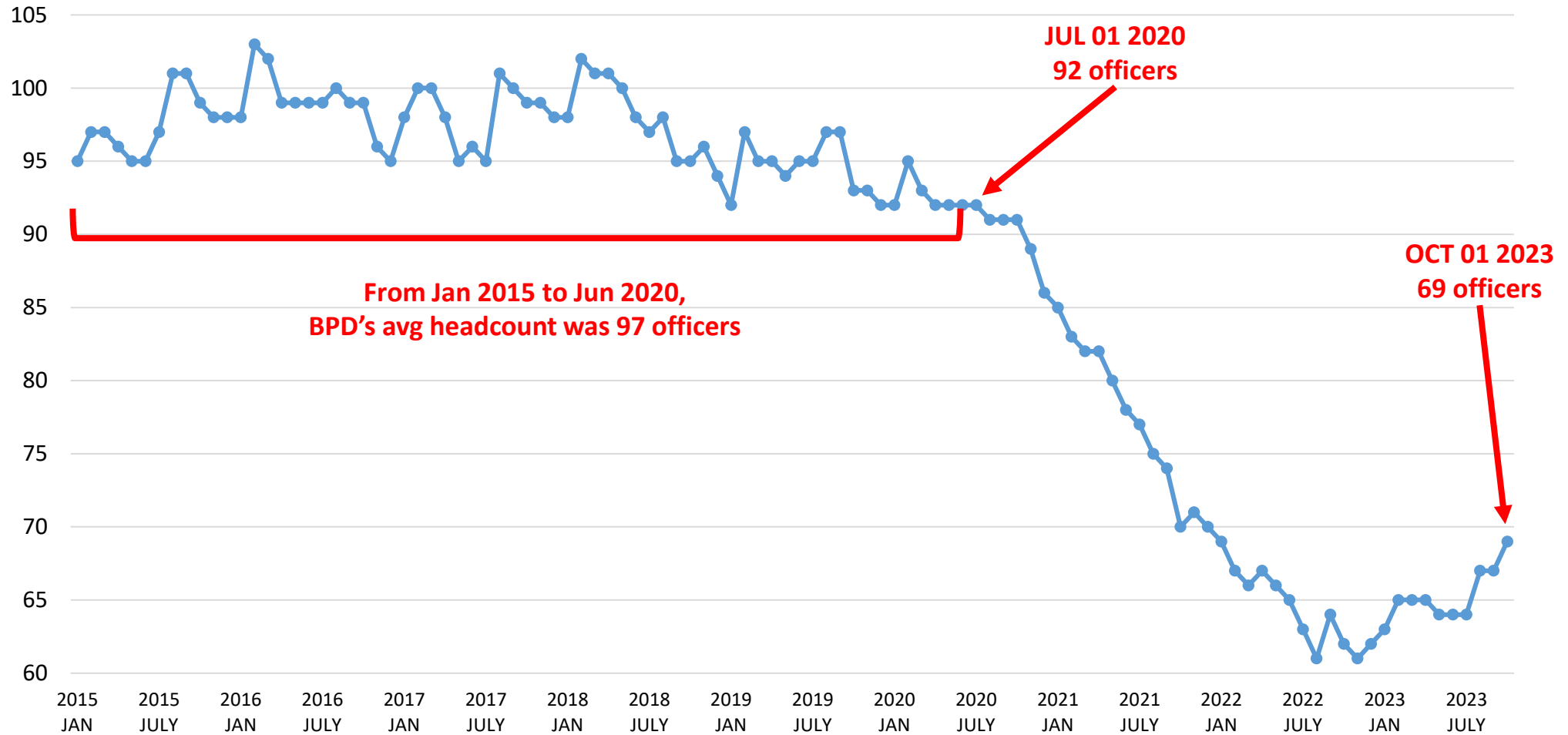
Myth #3: Because of Policing's Racist Origins, There Is Nothing We Can Do to Improve It. He notes that this origin has truth in the antebellum American south, but that elsewhere in the US, police “sprang from different roots. Boston and New York, for example, established police departments with full-time, uniformed officers in the mid-19th century for the same reason that European cities like Paris and London had done so earlier: urbanization generated crime and public disorder problems—along with mounting social anxieties—at a scale that previous, more informal systems of justice administration couldn't handle.”

There is much more to the article than this summary, of course. At 3,300 words, it's a piece worth reading in its entirety.



BPD SWORN OFFICER HEADCOUNT, 2015-2023

TOTAL SWORN HEADCOUNT, as of the first of each month, month-by-month



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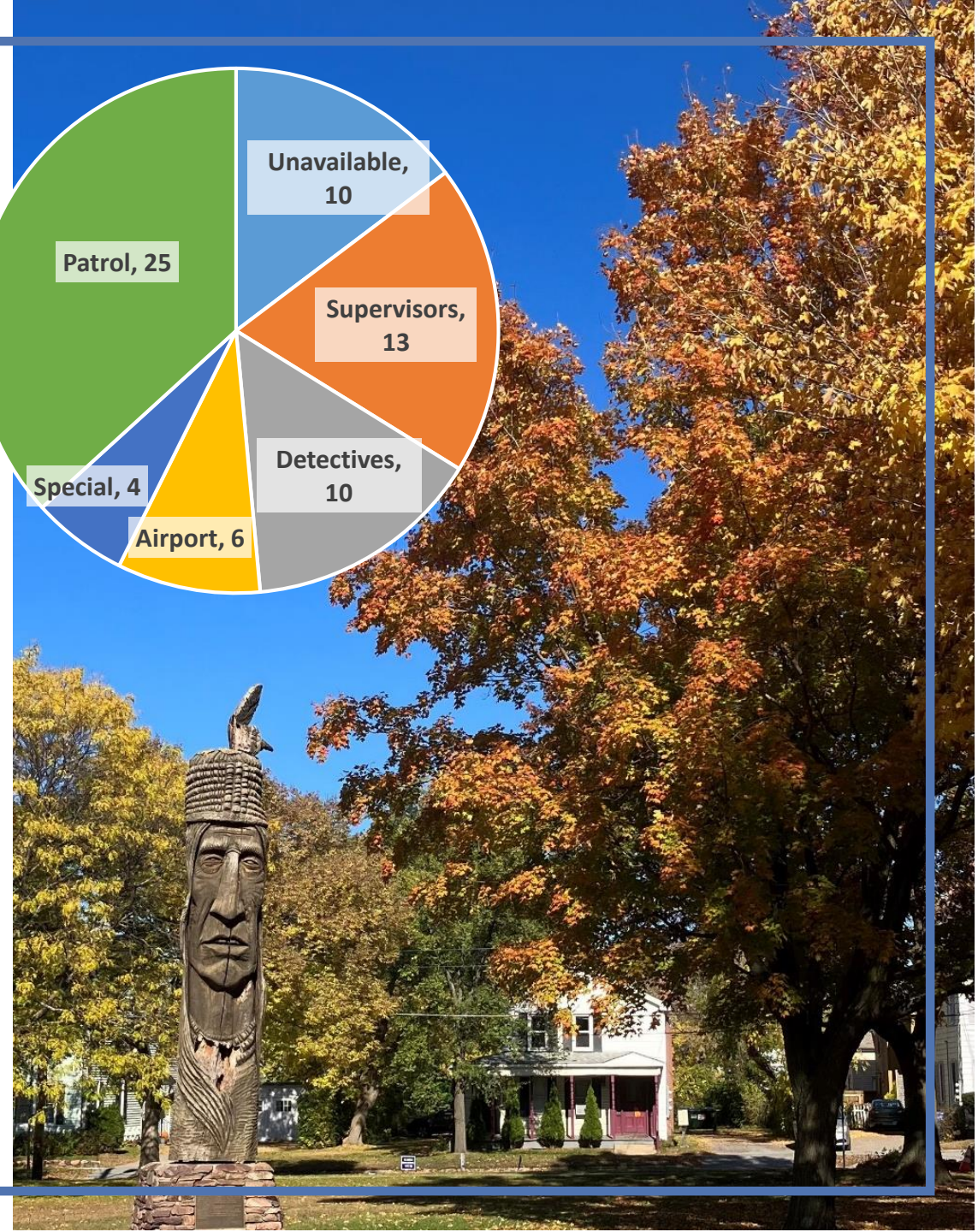
68 TOTAL, 58 AVAILABLE

As of October 15, 2023, the BPD has **68 total sworn officers**, of whom 58 are available to be independently deployed. Historically, headcount has been in the high 90s; currently we are authorized for 87 officers.

- minus 10 on injury, on FTO, or at VPA = 58
- minus 13 supervisors = 45
- minus 10 detectives = 35
- minus 6 airport officers = 29
- minus 2 special assignments = 27
- minus 2 Marketplace officers = 25

25 officers on Patrol

Additionally, BPD currently has 5 CSOs (of 11) and 5 CSLs (of 6)





REVISED PRIORITY RESPONSE PLAN

PRIORITY 1	High priority.
PRIORITY 2	Middle priority. (*) = situationally dependent; some may be Priority 1 or Priority 3.
PRIORITY 3	Low priority. Response may be delayed based on officer availability; may receive a CSO response.

We originally implemented [the Priority Response Plan](#) in May 2021. We have made several revisions, shown in this chart. The categorization of incidents has **not** changed. (Our primary goal remains **NEIGHBORS' PHYSICAL SAFETY**, so Priority 1 incidents are still Priority 1 incidents, etc.) But many Priority 3 incidents will now receive a different response.

In the chart, **incidents labeled "CSO"** will initially receive a response from a CSO, rather than a police officer, unless the incident evolves in a way that changes its category or requires a sworn officer.

Incidents labeled "ONL" (for "Online Only") will be diverted to an online reporting function. Unless extenuating circumstances apply, callers will be asked to make an online report. There are reporting mechanisms for callers who do not have Internet access.

Additionally, during daytime weekday hours when DSB detectives are available, **DSB will handle untimely deaths.**

911 Hangup	Cruelty to a Child	Illegal Dumping	CSO	Robbery
Airport AOA Violation	Cruelty to Animals	Impeding a Public Officer		Runaway
Airport Duress Alarm	Custodial Interference *	Impersonation of a Police Officer *	CSO	Runaway Apprehension
Airport PHASE Alarm *	Disorderly Conduct *	Inciting a Felony		Search
Alcohol Offense	Disorderly Conduct by Elec Comm	Intoxication	CSO	Search Warrant
Animal Problem	Disturbance	Investigation - Cold Case		Sex Offender Registry Violation
Arrest on Warrant	DLS	Juvenile Problem *		Sexual Assault
Arson	Domestic Assault - Felony	Kidnapping		Sheltering/Aiding Runaway
Assault - Aggravated	Domestic Assault - Misd	Larceny - from a Building		SRO Activity
Assault - Simple	Domestic Disturbance	Larceny - from a Motor Vehicle		Stalking
Assist - Agency	Drugs	Larceny - Other		Stolen Vehicle
Assist - Car Seat Inspection	Drugs - Possession	Larceny from a Person		Subpoena Service
Assist - K9	Drugs - Sale	Lewd and Lascivious Conduct		Suicide - Attempted
Assist - Motorist	DUI	Lockdown Drill		Suspicious Event *
Assist - Other	Eluding Police	Mental Health Issue *		Theft of Rental Property
Assist - Public	Embezzlement	Minor in Possession of Alcohol		Theft of Service
Background Investigation	Enabling Consumption by Minors	Missing Person		Threats/Harassment *
Bad Check	Escape	Motor Vehicle Complaint	CSO	Traffic
Bar / Liquor License Violation	Extortion	Noise	CSO	Trespass *
Bomb Threat	False Info to Police	Obstruction of Justice		TRO/FRO Service
Burglary *	False Pretenses	Operations		TRO/FRO Violation
CHINS	False Public Alarms	Ordinance Violation - Other	CSO	Unlawful Restraint
Community Outreach	False Swearing	Overdose		Untimely Death
Compliance Check	Fireworks	Parking	CSO	Use of Elec Comm to Lure a Child
Computer Crime	Foot Patrol	Possession of Stolen Property		Uttering a Forged Instrument
Contributing to Delinquency of Minor	Forgery	Prescription Fraud	ONL	Vandalism
Counterfeiting	Found/Lost Property	Prohibited Acts		VIN verification
Crash - Fatality	Fraud	Property Damage	CSO	Violation of Conditions of Release *
Crash - Injury to person(s)	Fugitive From Justice	Reckless Endangerment *		Voyeurism *
Crash - LSA *	Graffiti Removal	Recovered Property	CSO	Weapons Offense
Crash - Non-Investigated	Hindering Arrest	Resisting Arrest		Welfare Check *
Crash - Property damage only	Homicide	Retail Theft		
	Identity Theft	Roadway Hazard		



INCIDENT VOLUME

YEAR-TO-DATE 10/15

Year-to-date, **incidents in 2023 are up 21% compared to 2022. They are up 39% over 2021.**

Patrol officers are addressing the same number of incidents as in 2018 with 50% fewer patrol officers.

Of the 24,196 incidents in 2023 so far, 3,195 have been “stacked”—i.e., 13%.

Additionally, 3,008 have been referred to online reporting, or 12%.

	YTD INCIDENTS (as of 10/15)	%Δ
2018	24,105	100%
2019	22,923	↓5%
2020	19,660	↓14%
2021	17,444	↓11%
2022	19,971	↑15%
2023	24,196	↑21%
	Δ 2018 to 2023:	no change

It should be noted that not all incidents are crimes. They are more accurately “calls for service.” As shown on the previous slide, there are more than 100 categories of incident. The fact that incidents are up does not necessarily mean that crime is up; as the next slide shows, some categories of criminal incident are up and some are not.



SELECTED VALCOUR INCIDENTS, YTD AS OF OCTOBER 15

	Assault - Agg	Assault - Simple	Burglary	Crash w Injury or Fatal	Disorderly Conduct	Domestic Assault*	Domestic Disturb	Gunfire	Larceny (all)**	Mental Health Issue	Overdose	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Stolen Vehicle	Traffic
2018	44	148	128	75	114	51	397	4	457	624	43	15	52	21	2,139
2019	42	124	78	72	120	64	379	3	553	605	40	18	42	45	1,549
2020	44	123	85	45	120	43	509	10	605	752	74	16	50	52	1,033
2021	51	119	143	70	116	33	468	13	863	774	111	9	37	101	557
2022	55	141	151	81	114	37	446	25	1,204	961	180	17	33	272	337
2023	44	160	146	97	71	40	379	10	1,136	796	376	17	27	260	510

* = combines incidents categorized as “Domestic Assault – Felony” and “Domestic Assault – Misdemeanor”

** = combines incidents categorized as “Larceny from a Person,” “Larceny – from a Building,” “Larceny – from Motor Vehicle,” and “Larceny – Other”

NOTE: All categories shown year-to-date, through October 15 of their respective year

NOTE: These data are derived from Valcour incidents. Valcour is the BPD’s computer-aided dispatch and records-management system. Incidents are initially categorized by dispatch according to the information provided by a caller; the category may be changed by the officer who responds to the scene and/or the detective who takes the case. Offense data and/or NIBRS data may differ.



THE BPD IS HIRING!

\$74,500
starting pay

\$100,000
top pay (when contract matures)

and a \$15,000
hiring bonus

- City retirement with 5-year vesting
- Shift differential, weekend, and holiday pay
- **full medical benefits** and wellness incentives
- Retirement after 20 years of service at 50% salary
- Retirement after 25 years of service at 75% salary
- 15-step pay scale for non-supervisory employees
- Overtime can be received as cash or vacation accrual
- **10-hour workday, 4-days-on/3-days-off schedule**
- **Weekends off every other month**
- Yearly education bonus
- Beards and tattoos permitted
- Various **specialty assignments** such as detectives, narcotics, K9, domestic violence prevention, airport
- **Applicant can be a non-U.S. citizen** if applicant is a permanent resident / green-card holder

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