

Port Authority of Allegheny County Police



Annual Report 2025

Message from the Chief

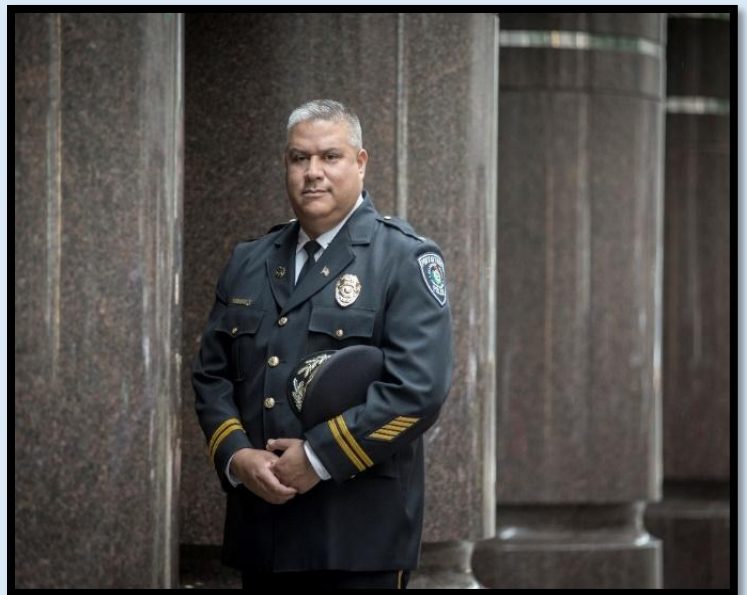
This annual report is produced by the Port Authority of Allegheny County Police Department to help support the Department's mission of ensuring a safe and secure environment within the transit system, reducing crime through a highly visible police presence and proactive enforcement of the law, and promoting public confidence and transparency by working in partnership with our stakeholders and the communities served by Pittsburgh Regional Transit.

Change in law enforcement is both constant and imminent. As Chief of the Port Authority Police Department, I feel a profound sense of humility and pride in the opportunity to share in this growth with you. It is truly through our officers' daily dedication, vigilance, and commitment to the citizens that we serve that we can accomplish the vision set forth in our mission statement.

A fundamental component of earning the public's trust includes transparency and the ability to form partnerships with our community under which the safety and security will continue to flourish. Transparency and commitment form the foundation of our service and accountability to the citizens we serve. I believe in an ongoing process of advancement and growth as a professional law enforcement agency and re-affirm our commitment to making this department an agency in which every member can be proud. As Chief of Police, I am honored to serve with a group of Law Enforcement professionals who re-commit themselves daily to serving the customers and employees of Pittsburgh Regional Transit with honor, pride, and dignity. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Chief of Police

Matthew Porter



Structure of the Department

The Port Authority Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency for Pittsburgh Regional Transit. The officers possess the powers of a municipal police officer in the immediate and adjacent vicinity of the property of the corporate authority or elsewhere within this Commonwealth while engaged in the discharge of their duties in pursuit of transportation system business. The Department has 63 members and is comprised of sworn and non-sworn personnel. The Department, as of the issuance of this report, is currently budgeted for the following positions;

49 Sworn Pennsylvania Act 120 Certified Police Officers

1 Chief of Police

1 Deputy Chief of Police

3 Lieutenants

1 Detective Sergeant

5 Sergeants, which includes 2 K9 Sergeants

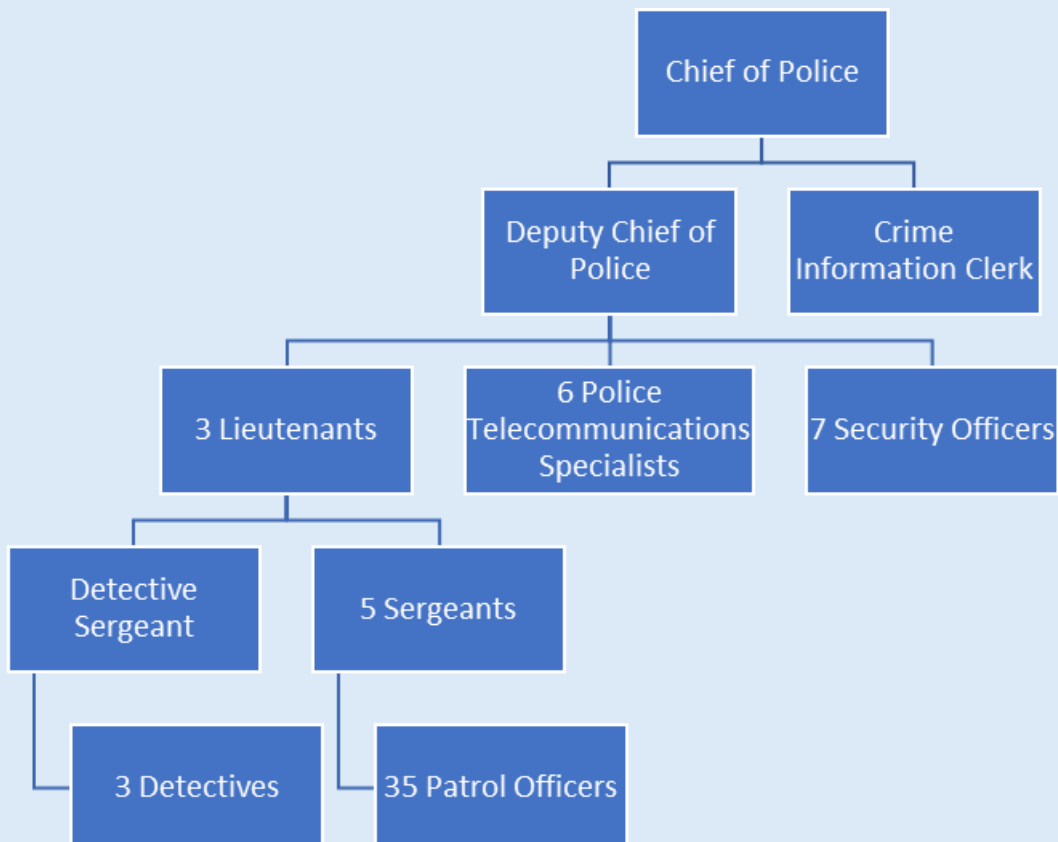
3 Detectives

35 Patrol Officers

1 Crime Information Clerk

6 Police Telecommunications Specialists

7 Security Officers



Over the last several years, and like many law enforcement agencies across the country, our Department has faced ongoing staffing challenges. These challenges are fueled by an unprecedented lack of police officer candidates applying for open positions. This shortage of new officer candidates has left police departments competing for a smaller pool of candidates. In 2023, the staffing deficit left the department functioning below 70% of its budgeted staff. In 2024, the Department Command Staff and PRT's Employment Department worked diligently and adopted new hiring initiatives. PRT leadership then ratified new collective bargaining agreements focused on officer recruitment, professional development and retention with the Port Authority Transit Police Association (PATPA). These initiatives were only possible with significant support from PRT's Board, Chief Executive Officer Katharine Kelleman, and PRT's senior management team, along with the leadership and cooperation of PATPA, and have had a tremendous impact on both officer hiring and retention. In 2025, the Department reached its full budgeted staffing level for the first time since 2014 under Chief Porter's leadership.

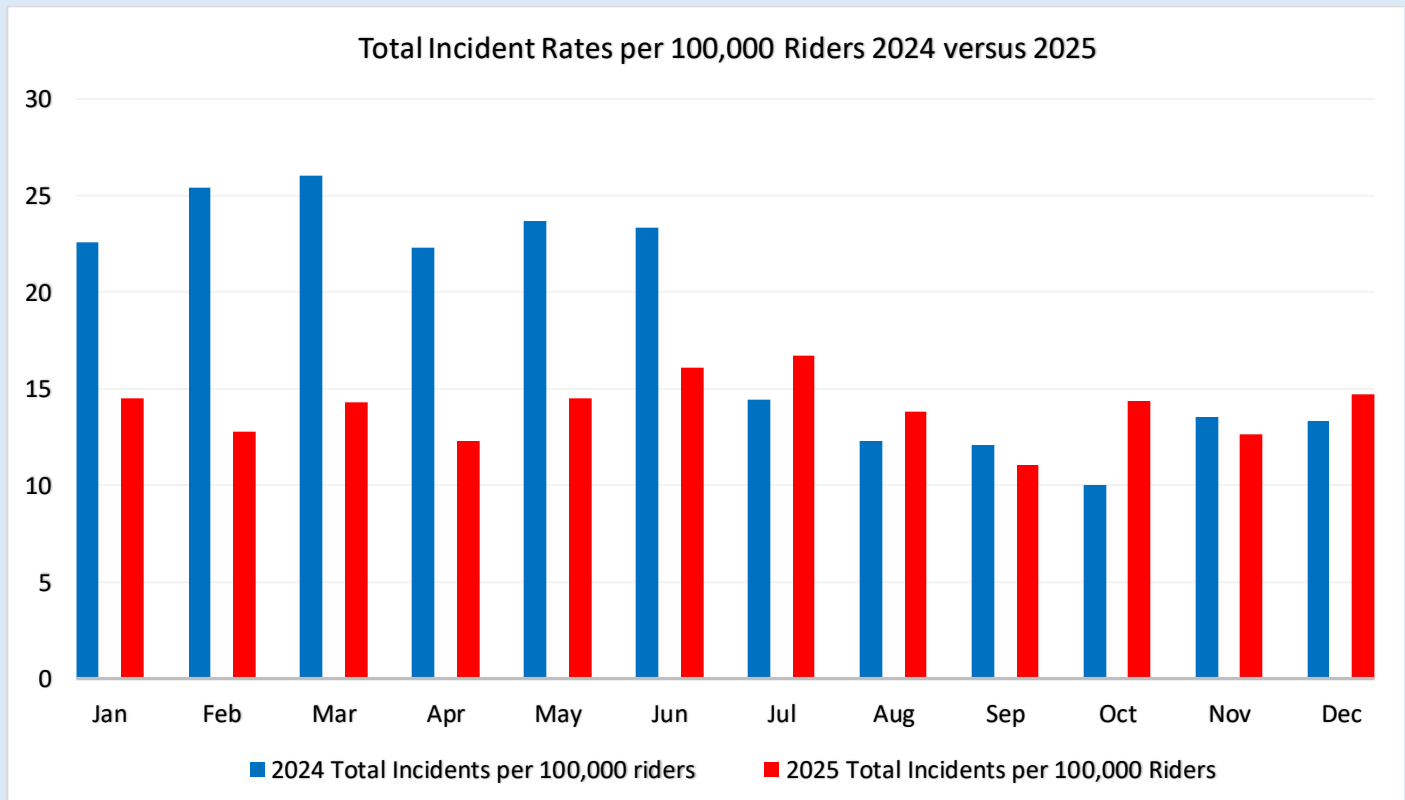
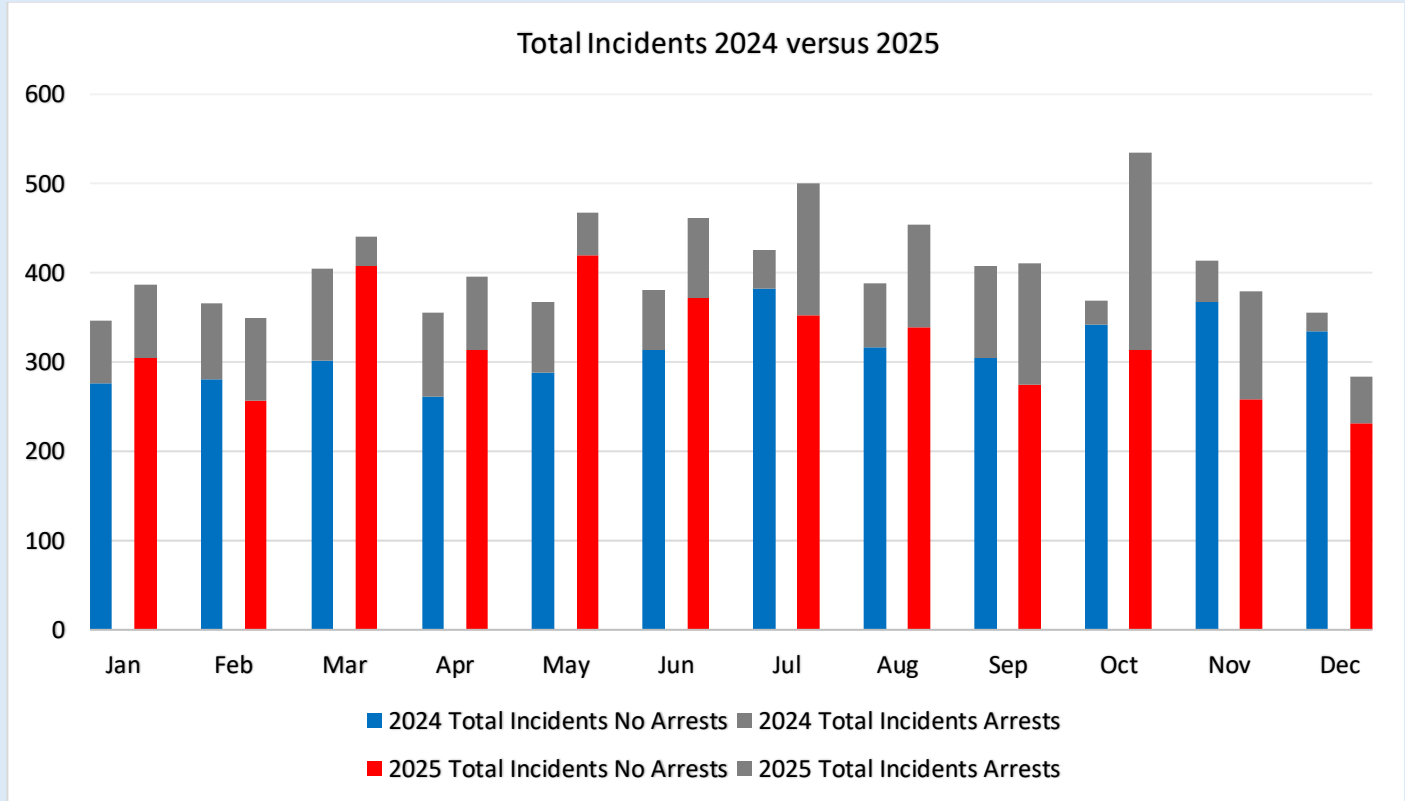
Statistics

The following section outlines Statistical Crime Data and is compiled based on incidents per 100,000 riders. For comparison, we have included the prior calendar year (2024) and the current calendar year (2025) being reported on. Our statistics are divided into five (5) categories: Crimes Against Persons, Property Crimes, Quality of Life Incidents, Mutual Aid Incidents, Transit Oriented Policing Services (TOPS), and Other Incidents.

STATISTICS 2024 VERSUS 2025

TOTAL INCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS PER 100,000 RIDERS

The charts below outline the total incidents as well as total incidents per 100,000 riders.

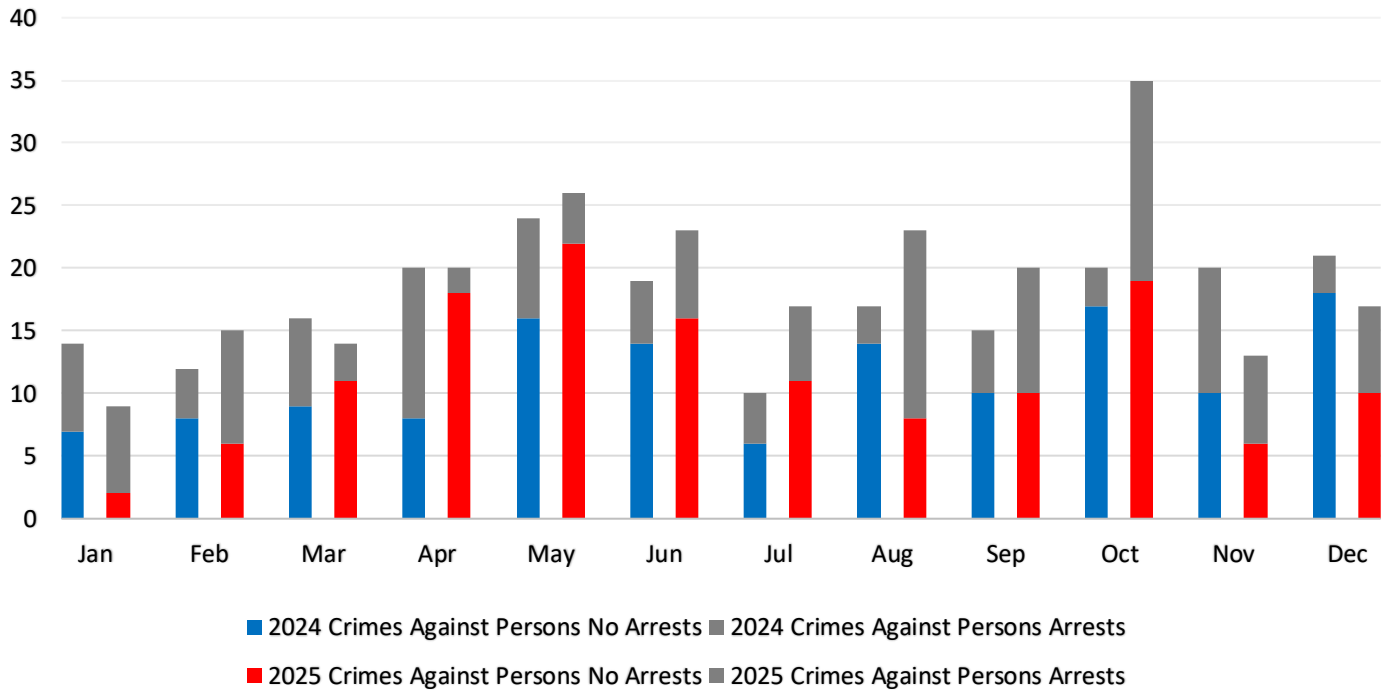


STATISTICS 2024 VERSUS 2025

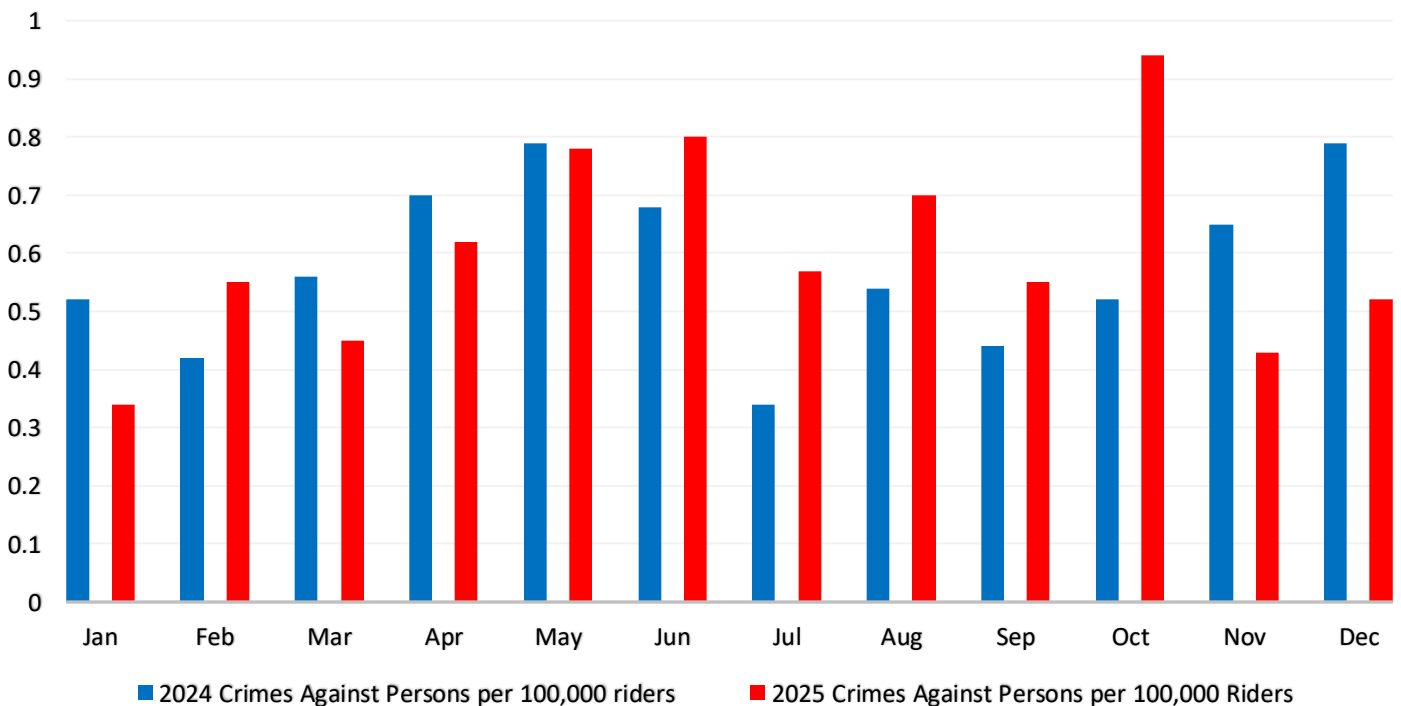
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS AND CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS PER 100,000 RIDERS

Crimes against persons data includes reported incidents of criminal offenses which usually involve bodily harm, the threat of bodily harm, or other actions committed against the will of an individual.

Crimes Against Persons 2024 versus 2025



Crimes Against Persons Rates per 100,000 Riders 2024 versus 2025

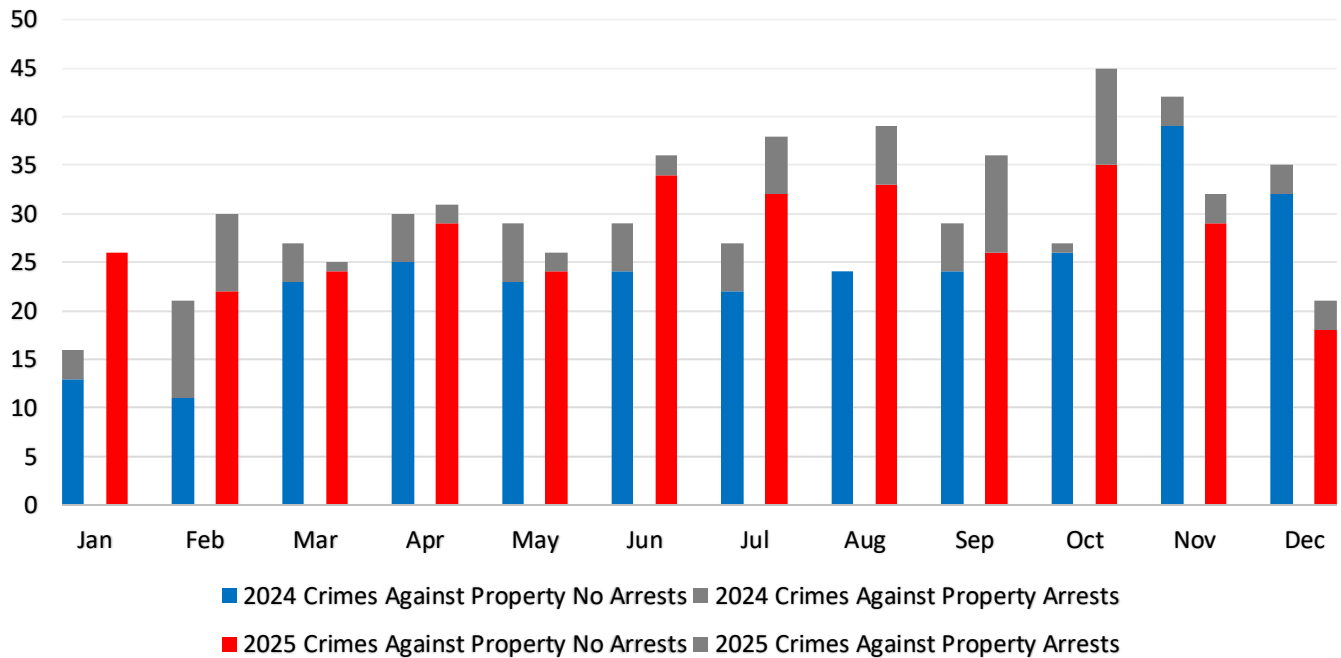


STATISTICS 2024 VERSUS 2025

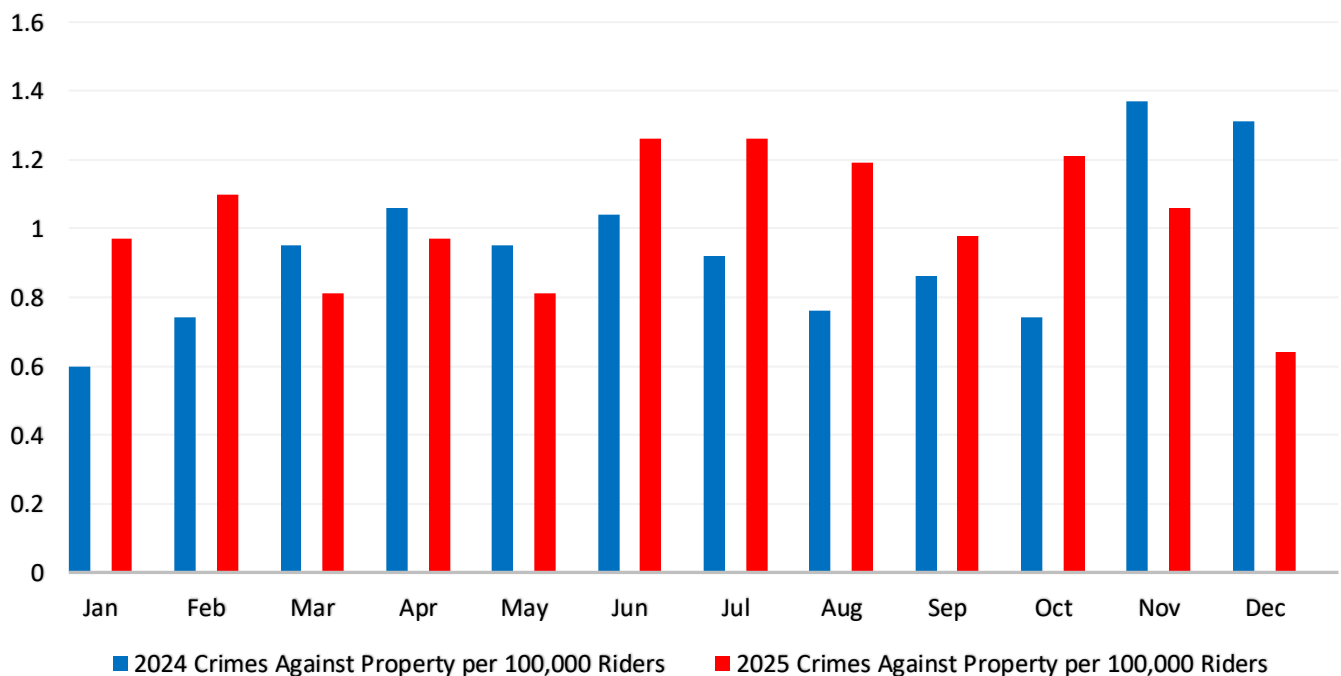
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY AND CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY PER 100,000 RIDERS

Property crimes data include reported incidents of many common crimes involving the taking or destruction of someone's personal property or entering someone else's property without permission.

Crimes Against Property 2024 versus 2025



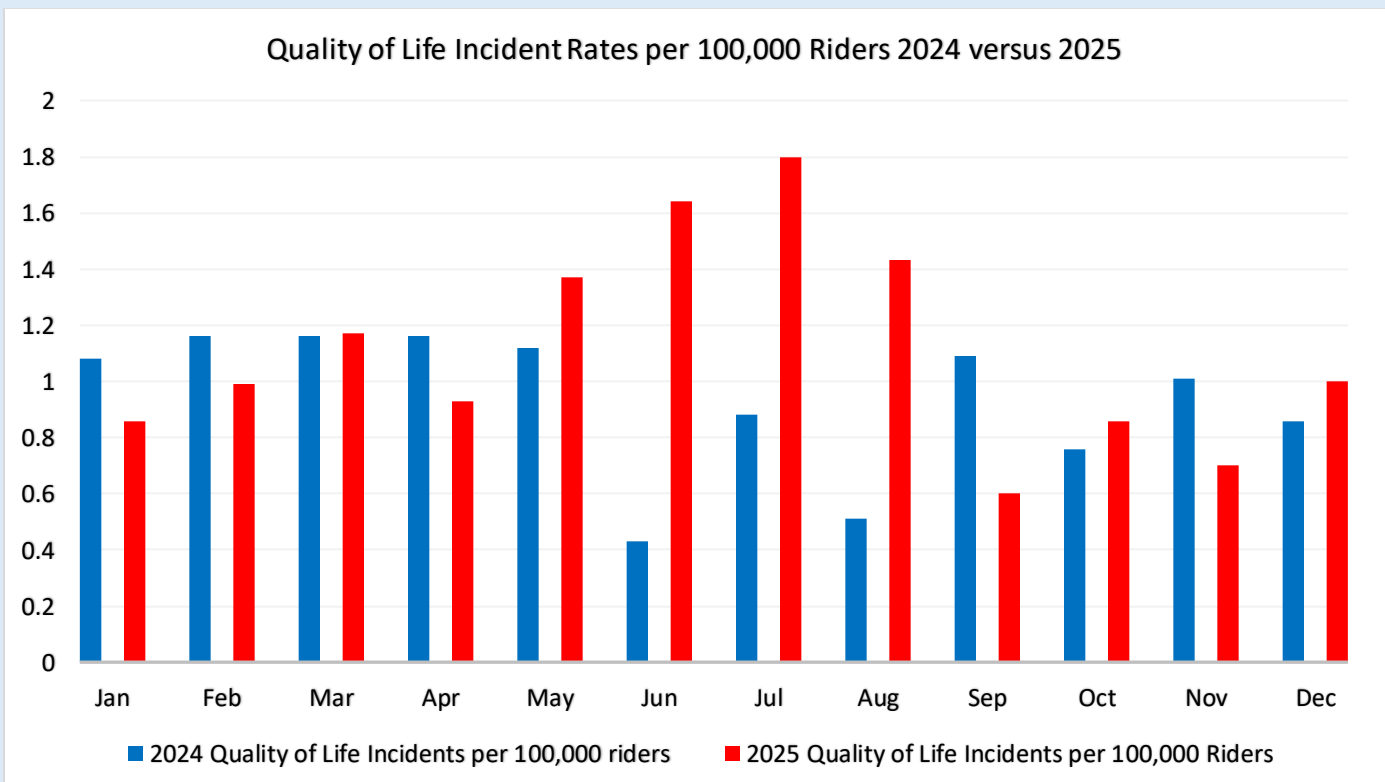
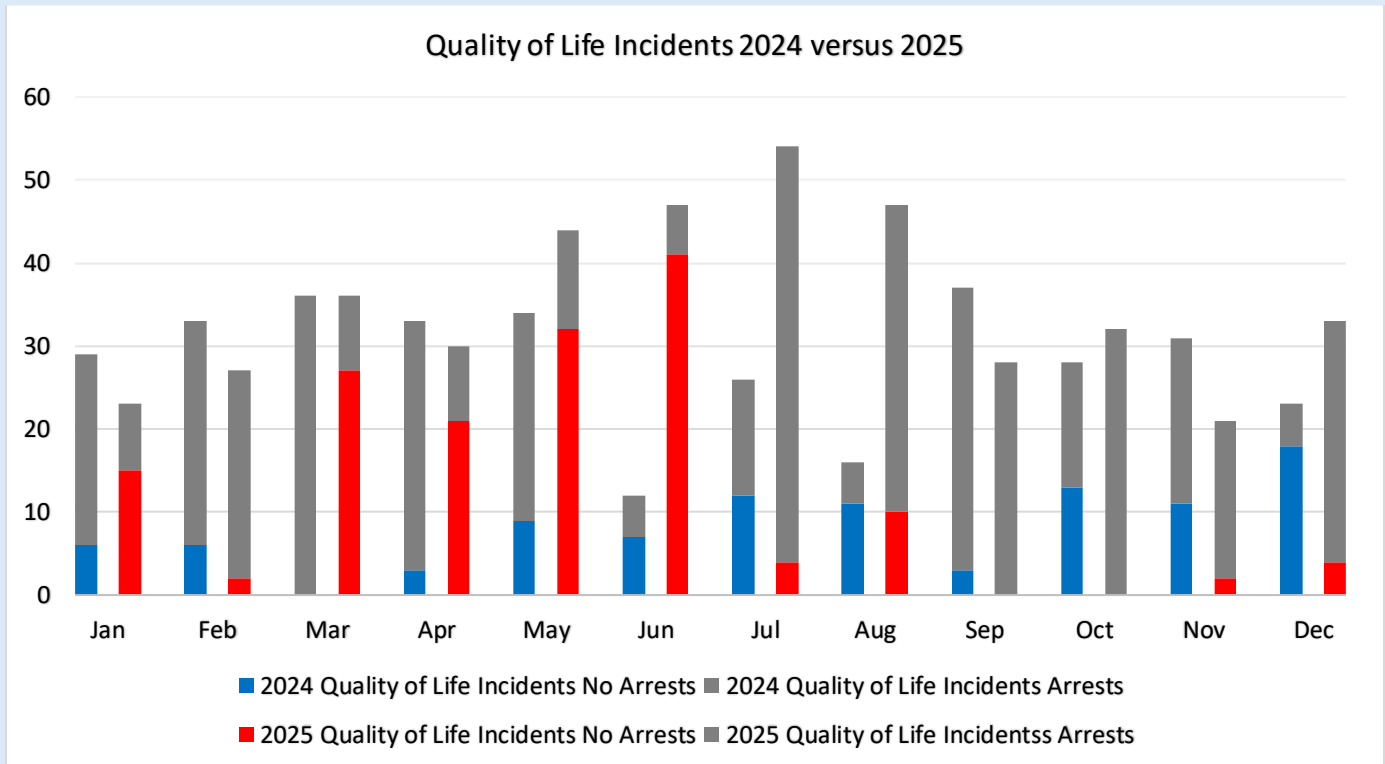
Crime Against Property Rates Per 100,000 Riders 2024 versus 2025



STATISTICS 2024 VERSUS 2025

QUALITY OF LIFE INCIDENTS AND QUALITY OF LIFE INCIDENTS PER 100,000 RIDERS

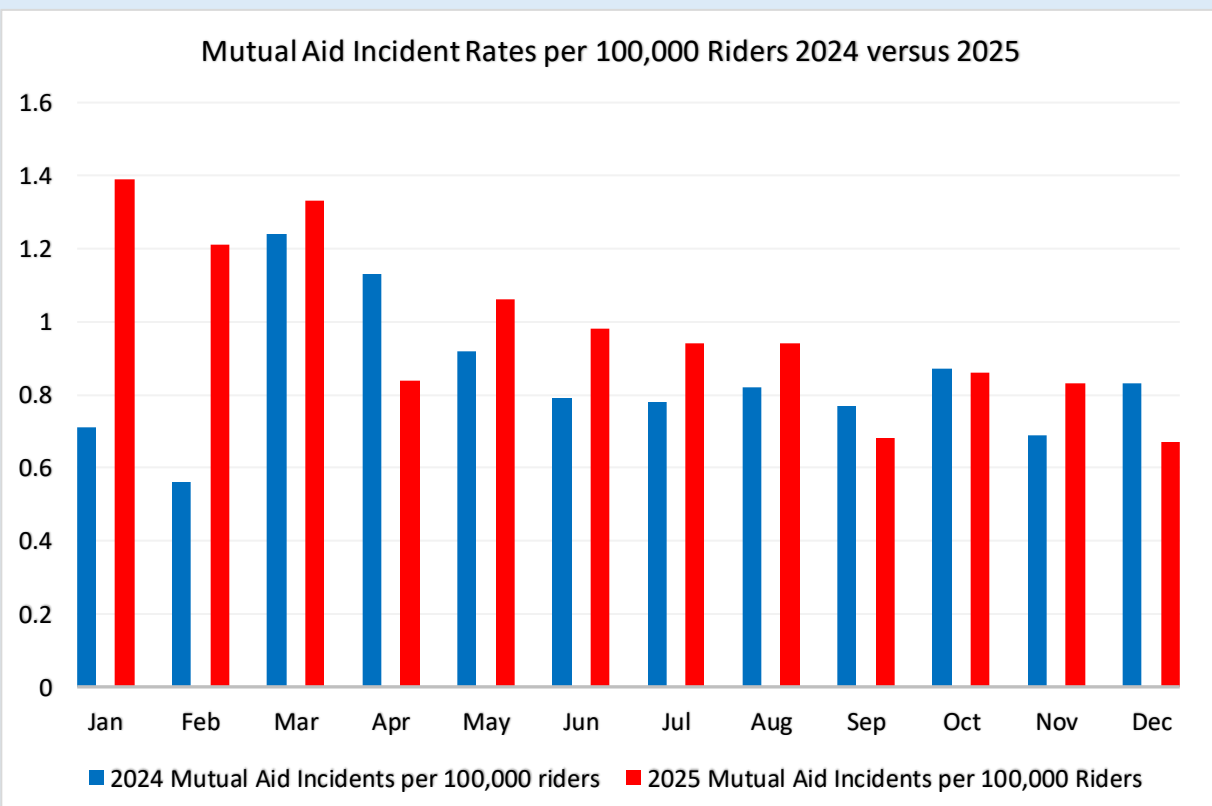
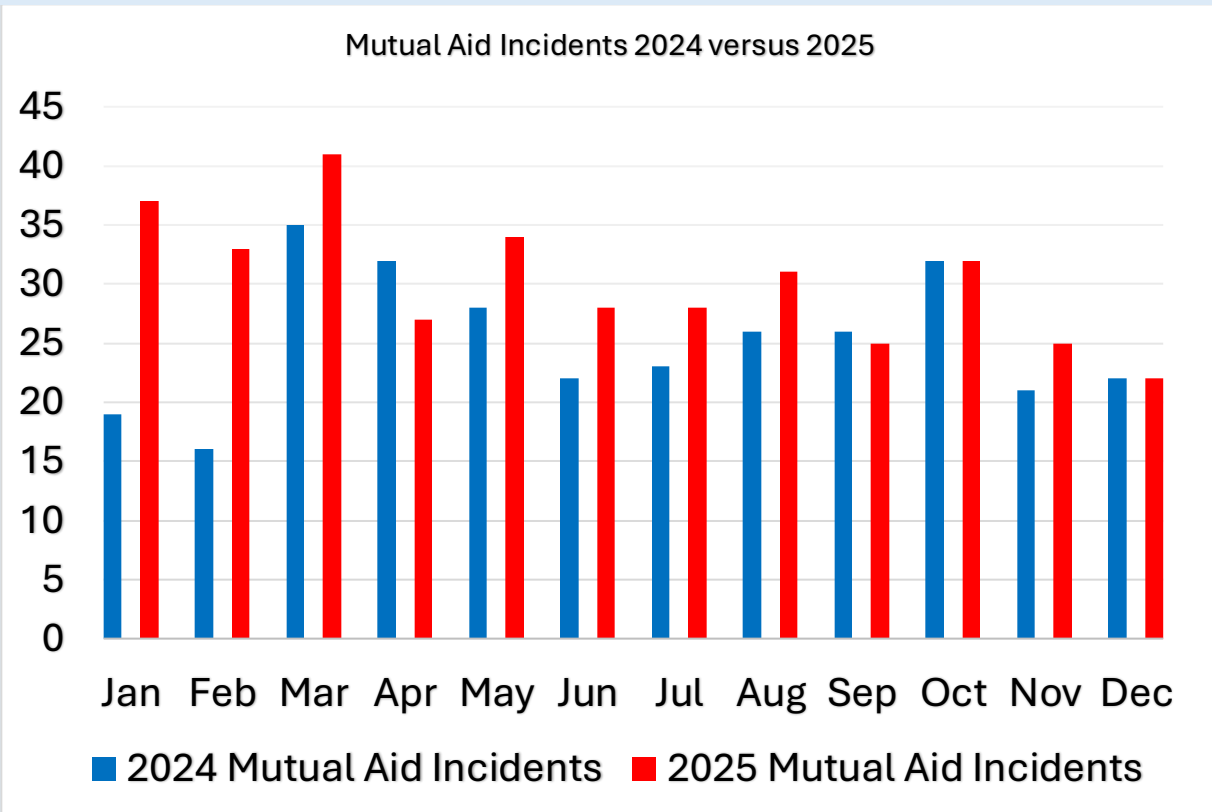
Quality of life incident data includes reported incidents that affect the public's quality of life. These include things such as public intoxication and disorderly conduct.



STATISTICS 2024 VERSUS 2025

MUTUAL AID INCIDENTS AND MUTUAL AID INCIDENTS PER 100,000 RIDERS

Mutual Aid incident data includes reported incidents that Port Authority Police receive from or give assistance to another law enforcement agency.

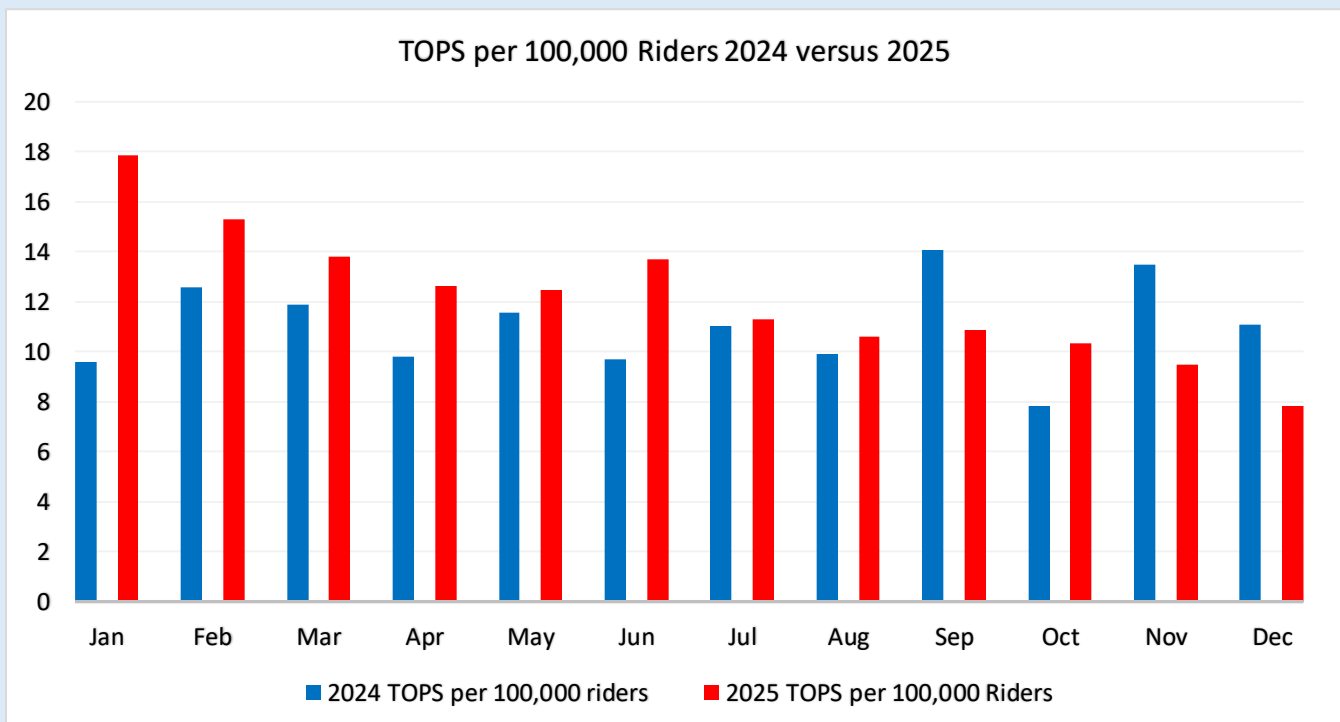
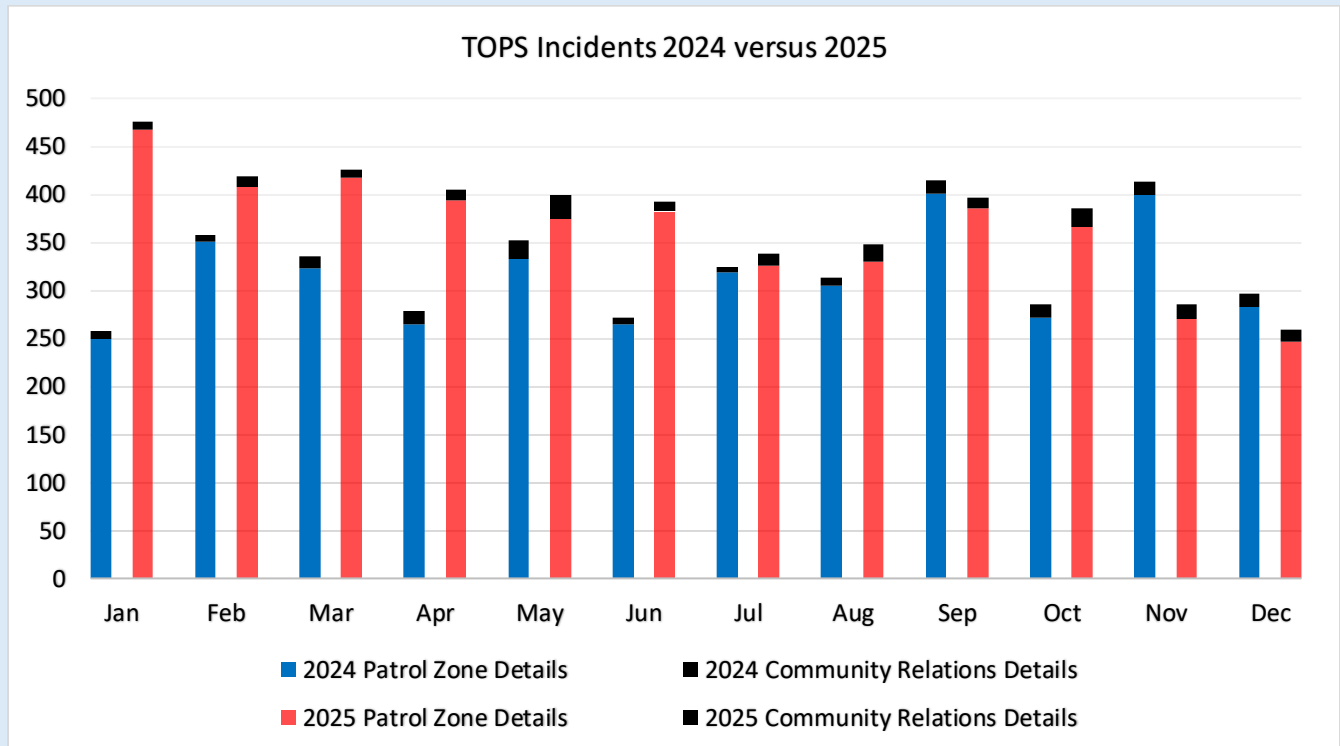


STATISTICS 2024 VERSUS 2025

TOTAL TRANSIT ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES AND

TOTAL TRANSIT ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PER 100,000 RIDERS

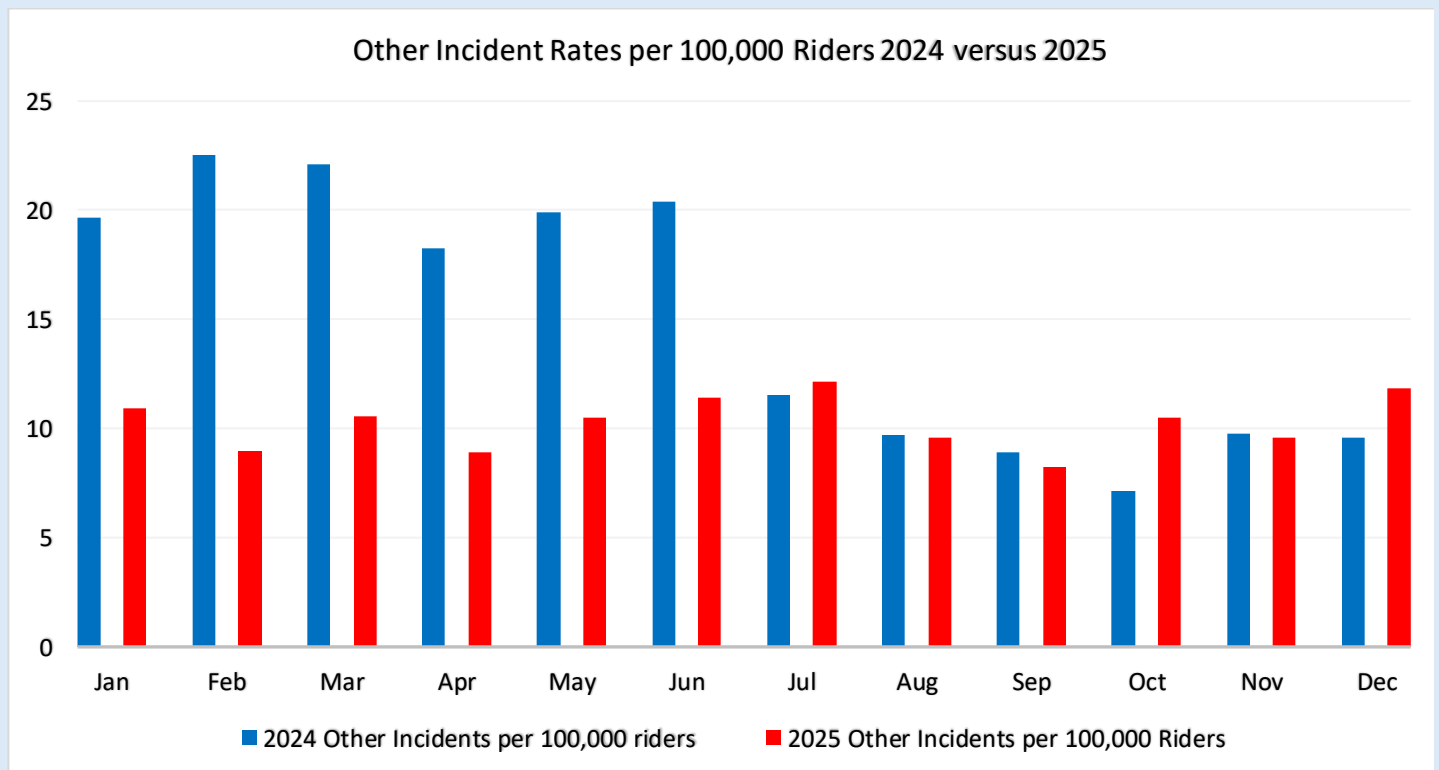
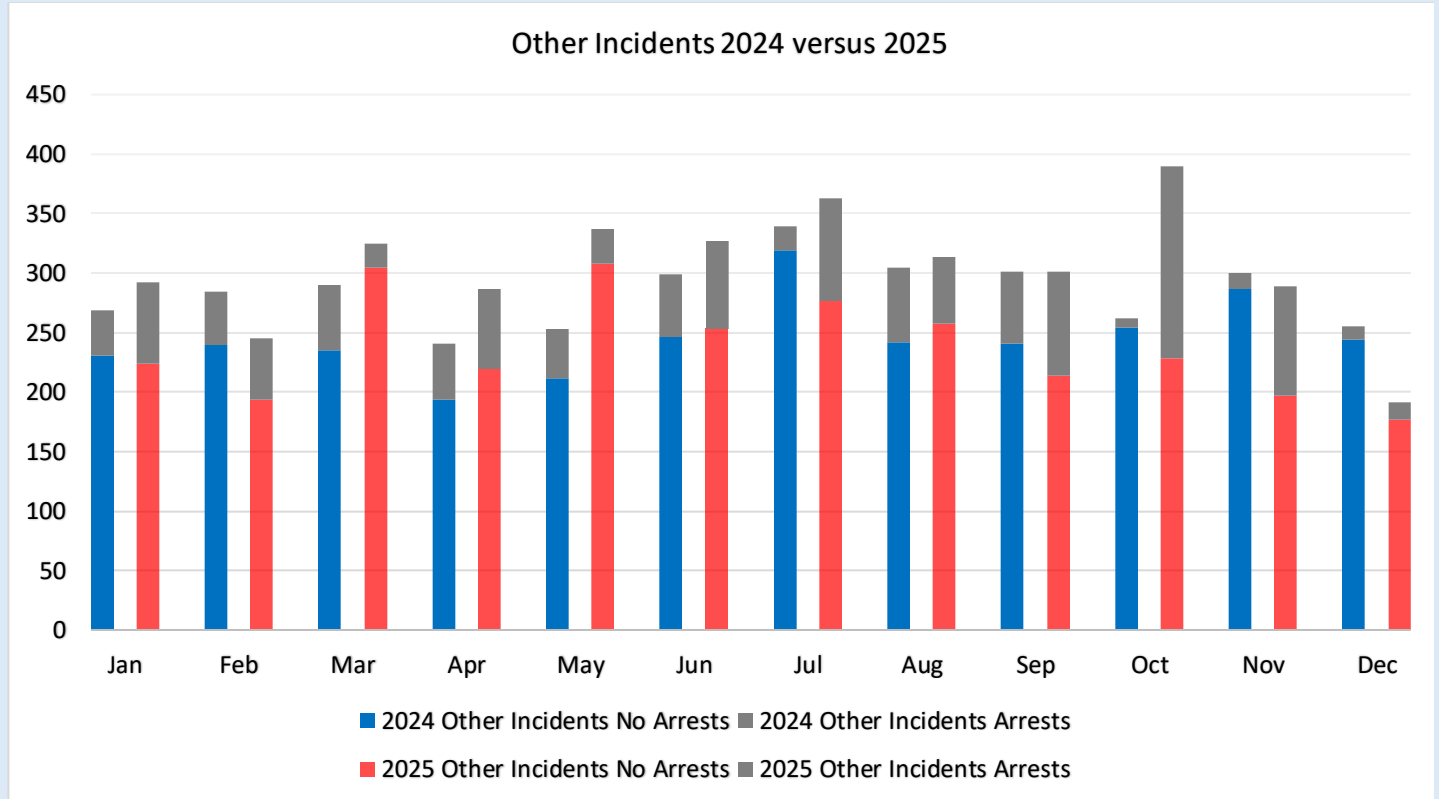
Transit Oriented Policing Services (TOPS) includes patrol zone details or directed patrols and community relations details. These are incidents that are designed to build our relationship with our transit community.



STATISTICS 2024 VERSUS 2025

TOTAL OTHER INCIDENTS AND TOTAL OTHER INCIDENTS PER 100,000 RIDERS

Other incidents include 67 different types of incidents including the following: Collisions, medical emergencies, video forensics reports, traffic offenses, driving under the influence, warrant arrests, and alarm calls.



Transit Oriented Policing Services

The Port Authority Police Department continues to be a leader in transit-oriented policing initiatives throughout Allegheny County. The Department regularly participates in community events to help us better know and understand the diverse community of employees and riders that Pittsburgh Regional Transit serves.

Special Olympics

Chief Porter has continued his service for Special Olympics as the Law Enforcement Torch Run Director for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to his torch run duties, Chief Porter organizes and participates in multiple polar plunges throughout the year. The Pittsburgh Polar Plunge raised over \$1.2 million in 2025 with Chief Porter's team raising over \$70,000 alone.



Port Authority Police Law Enforcement Torch Run Team



Chief Porter Polar Plunge



Special Olympics Western Pa. Spring Sectionals

Transit Oriented Policing Services

Bigs in Blue

The Port Authority Police Department has two officers participating in the Bigs in Blue program at Keystone Oaks Middle School in Mt. Lebanon. This year, the Port Authority Police Department again hosted reverse day. On reverse day, the “littles” traveled to a police department and got a more detailed look into the officers’ (their “bigs”) work.



Sgt. Peles at reverse Day at Port Authority Police Station



Officers Hudak and Hannon on the ropes course

Safe Kids Allegheny County

Port Authority Police continues to be active members of Safe Kids Allegheny County. Safe Kids Allegheny County is a community coalition focused on reducing accidental childhood injuries in our region. In 2025 we partnered with Be SMART and Project Child Safe to provide free gun locks to attendees at the Pittsburgh Auto Show. The group also participated in walk and roll to school days.



Officer Battin with the Be SMART team advocating for safe firearm storage

Transit Oriented Policing Services

Allegheny County Communities and Police Together

Allegheny County Communities and Police Together (ACCAPT) was started back in 2020 by the Allegheny County Police, Allegheny County Sheriff's Office, and PA State Police. The group's mission is to share resources without municipal borders while in partnership with community members. The Port Authority Police joined the group at its start and continue to support community-based initiatives throughout Allegheny County.



Officer Cappalunga at 7th Annual Coffee with a COP



Officers Testa and Cappalunga at Women in Public Safety Expo

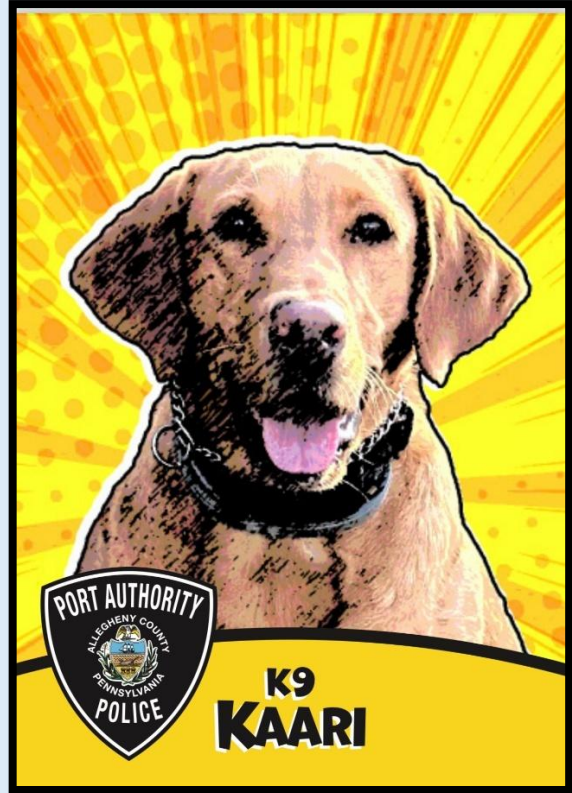


Officer Dollard at Pedal With Police

K9 Division



Name: Mitch
Breed: Chocolate Lab
DOB: April 25, 2018
Hometown: Gainesville, Georgia



Name: Kaari
Breed: Red Fox Labrador
DOB: March 18, 2019
Hometown:

This year, we are highlighting the work of the department's K9 division. The K9 division was started in 2003, and the early K9s were dual purpose German Shepherds capable of patrol and explosive detection. Over the years and consistent with evolving trends in law enforcement, the Department has shifted to strictly explosive detection K9s currently consisting of K9 Mitch and his handler Sgt. Nate Schwartz and K9 Kaari and his handler Sgt. Jerad Peles. Both K9s are single purpose bomb dogs and can detect odors from black powders, plastic explosives and a variety of homemade explosives. The initial training of the dogs is approximately five (5) weeks where the handler and the dog train together, but the most essential part of the training involves the handler and the K9 bonding and learning to work cooperatively.

On a typical day, the K9 and their handler will do routine checks on the PRT subway system and respond to calls for unattended packages. An unattended package is different from a suspicious package. A suspicious package would not only be unattended, but it would also exhibit

characteristics such as wires protruding from it, and once it is deemed suspicious, a K9 is not called but rather it is handled by the bomb squad. On the other hand, if it is only an unattended package, the K9 responds, and if the package is determined to be safe, then PRT service can continue its normal operations, thus usually causing only a minimal disruption in transit service. Community outreach events have also become a big part of the K9 units and include attending events involving both children and adults to teach others about the unit. Also, part of a routine day involves regular breaks and play time for the K9, and the K9 run and training areas are conveniently located on the East Busway.



Sgt. Schwartz and K9 Mitch and Sgt. Peles and K9 Kaari at a community event

The handlers and K9s train a minimum of four (4) hours every week, either at the Port Authority Police station or with other K9s throughout Allegheny County. The Port Authority Police Department maintains a vault, which is approved by the ATF, to store explosive training aids for the K9s. Each K9 officer also has an assigned vehicle that is outfitted for the K9. In the back is a crate area for the dog to sit when traveling and each car is also equipped with a protection system that notifies the handler immediately if at any time the temperature in the vehicle becomes too hot or cold for the K9. The system emits a very loud alarm and a notification directly to the K9 officer via a pager they always have on their utility belt.

Each handler takes their dog home at the end of the day and the dog lives within the handler's residence with their family and other pets, although they are provided with an outdoor kennel. One of the challenges K9 handlers face is taking a vacation and finding a trustworthy and reliable person to watch the K9. The average career time for a K9 is ten (10) years and after that time, the K9 retires and lives its remaining years with the handler and the handler's family as the K9's quickly become an important part of the handler's life and family.



Mitch in his car



Sgt. Peles and K9 Kaari

Port Authority Police Operations Center

The Port Authority Police Operations Center serves as the communication hub for police, fire, medical and other emergency response incidents for the Port Authority Police Department and Pittsburgh Regional Transit. The center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2025, and with budgetary approval from PRT leadership, Chief Porter added a sixth dispatcher to the team to provide additional support during times of higher call volume.



Police Telecommunications Specialist Nicole Schwab



Police Telecommunications Specialist Chris Bucci

The Port Authority Police Operations Center is one of just two operations centers in the region directly linked to the Allegheny County 911 Computer Aided Dispatch Center. When requests for service are received, the incident can be viewed in real time by the Allegheny County 911 Center. Police Telecommunications Specialists are responsible for accessing the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN) to provide law enforcement officers in the field with driver license and motor vehicle information, state criminal history record information, Protection from Abuse orders and other information found in national and international criminal justice databases. The specialists also monitor a video wall displaying CCTV feeds from over 500 cameras across Allegheny County.

Port Authority Police Security Officers

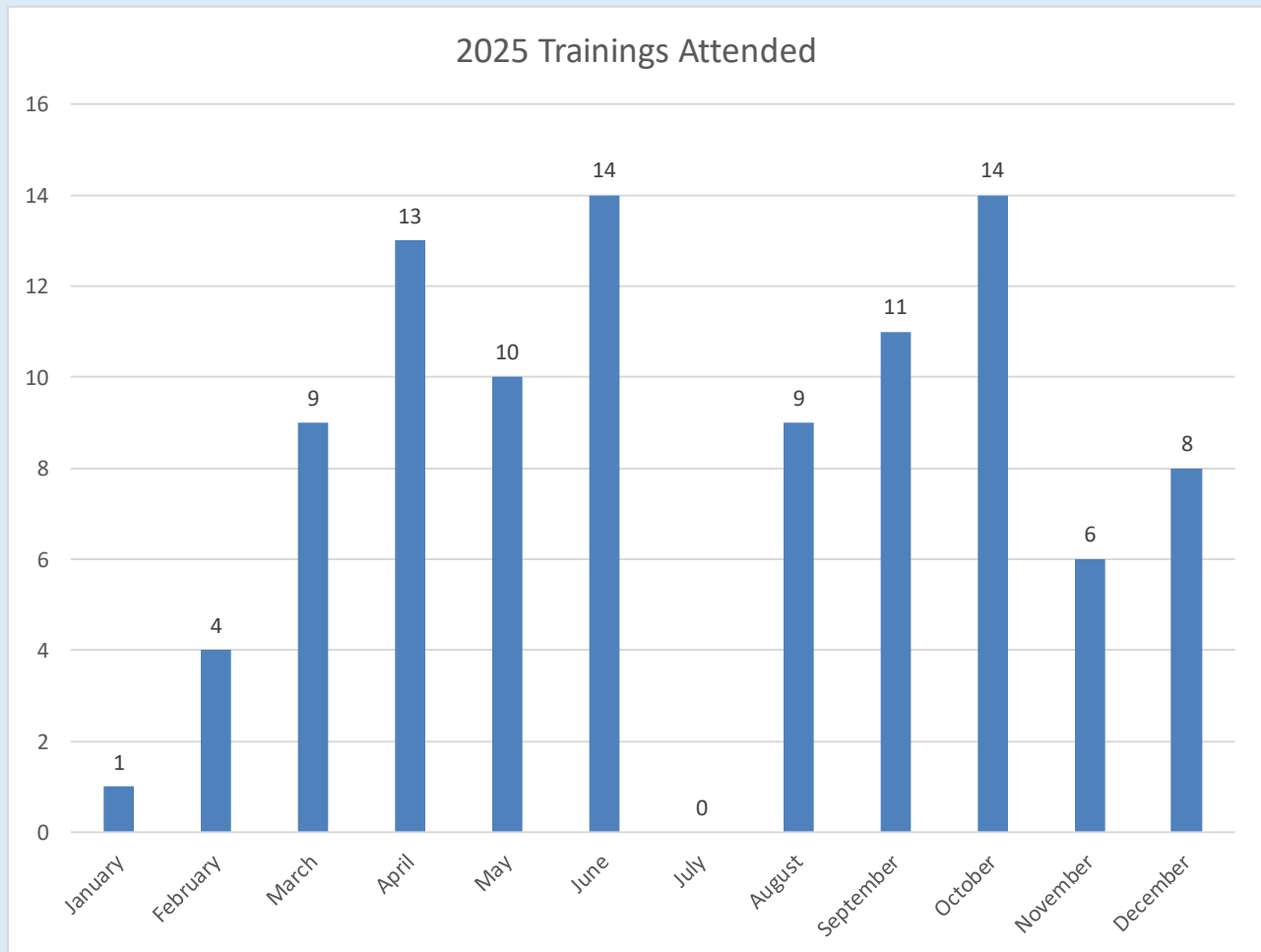
The Port Authority Police Department currently has seven (7) security officers assigned to the East Liberty Garage and South Hills Village Rail Center. Maintaining staffing levels for security officers has also been an ongoing challenge. The security officers are responsible for being the eyes and ears of the Port Authority Police Department. They escort people to and from lost and found and perform both vehicle and foot patrols at each location outside of regular working hours. Security officers also respond as needed to police, fire, and medical emergencies and provide critical information and support to first responders.

Highlights

Bus Rapid Transit

In 2025, Pittsburgh Regional Transit opened the first section of its Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. This project will provide a vital connection between downtown Pittsburgh and Uptown, Oakland, and East End neighborhoods. BRT entails the implementation of dedicated bus lanes and new bus stations with several amenities. The first phase consisted of the downtown portion, which involves 5 new bus stations and a 1-mile bus lane. This entailed the addition of CCTV cameras at the stations along with emergency phones. The BRT stations create a new concentrated patrol effort both at the stations and in the bus lanes to ensure safety of the patrons and the expedited bus service.

Police Training



Future Goals and Objectives

New Records Management System

In 2025, the procurement process started to purchase a new records management system (RMS) for the police department and should be completed in 2026. The system currently in place has been used since 2008. Implementation of the new system will be migrating several years of data from the old system into the new system. In addition, the new cloud-based system will improve analytics, enterprise search features and help with NIBRS compliance. The system will also incorporate use of force data and tracking.

ELERTS “See Say” application

Chief Porter and PRT’s Chief Safety Officer, Burt Jennings, are looking forward to going live with the ELERTS See Say App in 2026. The See Say App is a cloud-based incident reporting app that lets customers use their mobile phones to report crimes or other problems throughout PRT’s system in real time. This will increase the ways customers can communicate with us to include text messages, webforms, QR codes, emails, and from within the app. The See Say app is easy to use and intuitive, even for a person who is in distress. The app will also allow for anonymous reporting.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to review the Port Authority Police Department's annual report for calendar year 2025. Nothing is more critical to a police department's success than for the community it serves to trust and be engaged with law enforcement. It is the ongoing goal of the Port Authority Police Department to continue to be transparent in its operation and to continue to make transit-oriented policing services the highest priority for the department. It's through these efforts, and others, that we can create a partnership with the community we serve and continue to build collaborative and proactive relationships with Pittsburgh Regional Transit's customers, employees, and other stakeholders critical to the agency's mission, vision, and values.

Please expect to receive future reports regarding the Port Authority Police Department. Questions, comments, and feedback, including content you would like to see in future reports and/or questions or concerns regarding the calendar year 2025 Annual Report are welcomed and encouraged. Feedback can be provided directly to Chief Porter via e-mail at mporter@portauthority.org or by calling the Chief's direct office line at (412) 255-1376.

And please remember, if you ever see anything concerning while using PRT's transit system, please call 911 or the Port Authority Police Department directly at (412) 255-1385. We all are safer on public transit and in our neighborhoods and community when we **See Something** and **Say Something!**