



CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

Police Community Advisory Committee



Meeting #1
Bridgeview Resource Center
March 14, 2024



Agenda

- Introductions
- Committee purpose and timeline
- Group agreements
- Break
- About our community
- About VPD
 - Introduction to known gaps and needs
- Discussion
- Closing reflection and next steps



4-Minute Activity



Reflect with a Partner

Partner Conversation

With a partner, take 90 seconds each responding to the prompt below:

- **Describe a time that you helped someone in our community, or they helped you. What happened as a result?**

When your partner is sharing, take the opportunity to fully listen.

Please avoid the temptation to jump in or comment.





Committee Overview

- The committee includes 13 community members and three members of the City Council:
 - Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle
 - Councilor Erik Paulsen
 - Councilor Sarah Fox
- Committee members will build on the department's recent efforts to improve police services



Committee Purpose

In the coming months, members will help identify:

- Community safety needs
- Ways to improve policing and public safety
- Outcomes and impacts that are meaningful to the community
- Funding recommendations



Our Big Questions

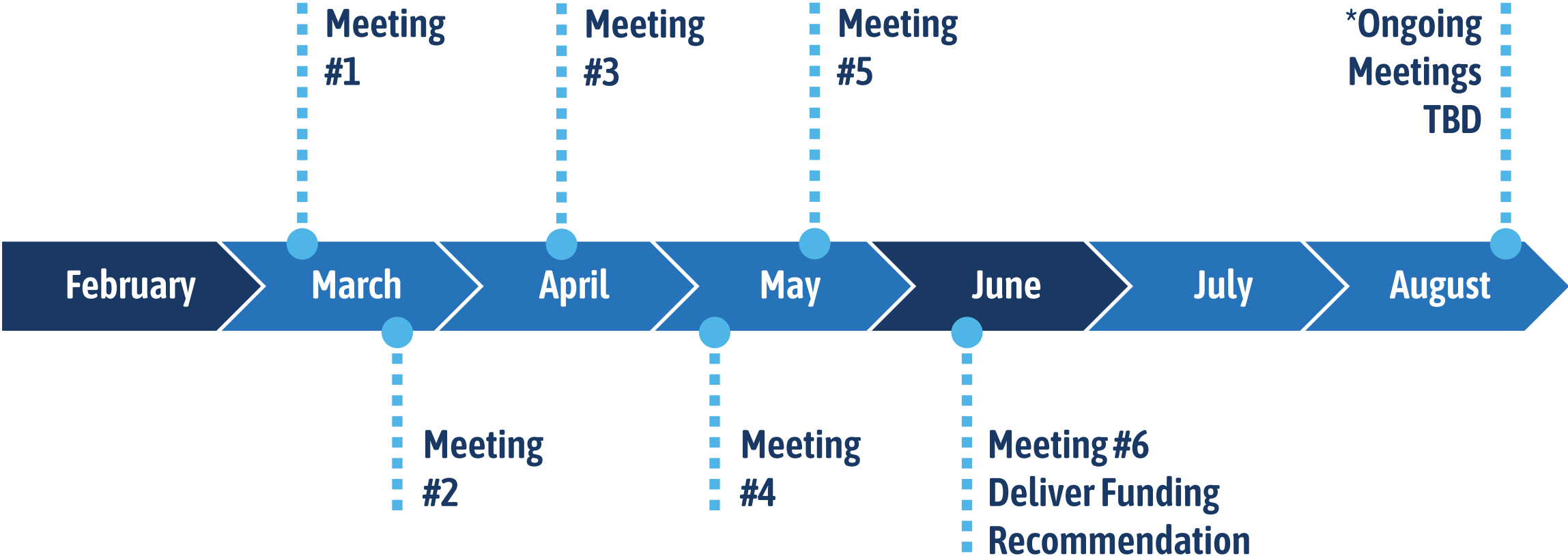
In the coming weeks and months, we'll work to answer:

- How can the City of Vancouver ensure that police services are resourced to meet the needs of our growing community?

- How can the City address gaps in staffing, facilities and technology to ensure that Vancouver is a safer place for all community members?

- What outcomes and impacts are most important to the community?
- How can the City report on these outcomes in ways that build accountability and trust?

Committee Timeline



*Future meetings to be determined with committee input



Meeting Schedule

Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled for:

- Meeting #1: 6–8 p.m. on **March 14** at Bridgeview Resource Center
- Meeting #2: 6–8 p.m. on **March 28** at Bridgeview Resource Center
- Meeting #3: 6–8 p.m. on **April 18**, location TBD
- Meeting #4: 6–8 p.m. on **May 9**, location TBD
- Meeting #5: 6–8 p.m. on **May 30**, location TBD
- Meeting #6: 6–8 p.m. on **June 6** or **June 13**, location TBD



Group Agreements

- Speak from your own experience
- Listen to understand each other
- Be curious
- Recognize that we all carry wisdom
- Create space for others to share
- **What agreements would you add?**



Five-Minute Break



Getting to Know Our Community

Who lives, works and learns
in Vancouver?

William Cooley
Community Engagement Manager
City of Vancouver



Community Demographics

- Take a few minutes to review the community profile and Our Vancouver factsheets
- As you read, reflect on:
 - What, if anything, is surprising to learn about Vancouver?
 - How does this data reflect your experiences and the experiences of people you know in the community?



What People Love About Vancouver

- Sense of community
- Small-town feel with access to big City amenities
- Connection that comes from time together, particularly cultural and community events
- Proximity to nature

***Replace with Updated Slide**

Frequently Mentioned Hopes for the Future

- Safety in all forms: Safety from crime, safer streets and roads, safety from hate or bigotry, safety for young people, etc.
- Affordable housing and preventing displacement
- Economic prosperity
- Community and neighborhood connections (between places and between people)
- Environmental stewardship and climate resiliency
- Care for parks and public spaces

Getting to Know the Vancouver Police Department

Organizational capacity,
gaps and needs

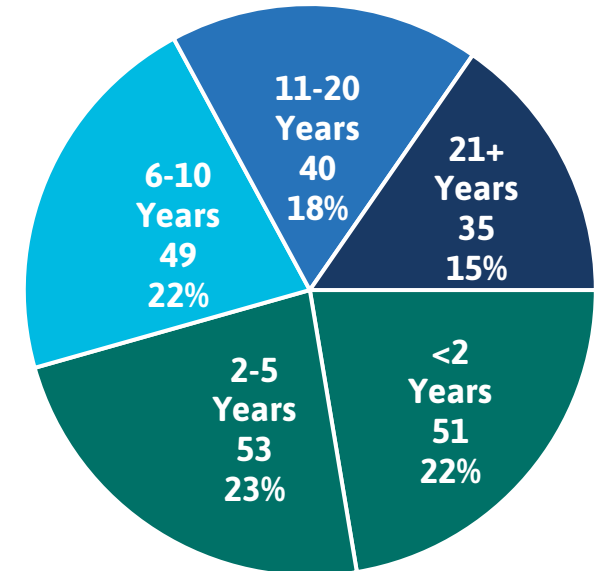
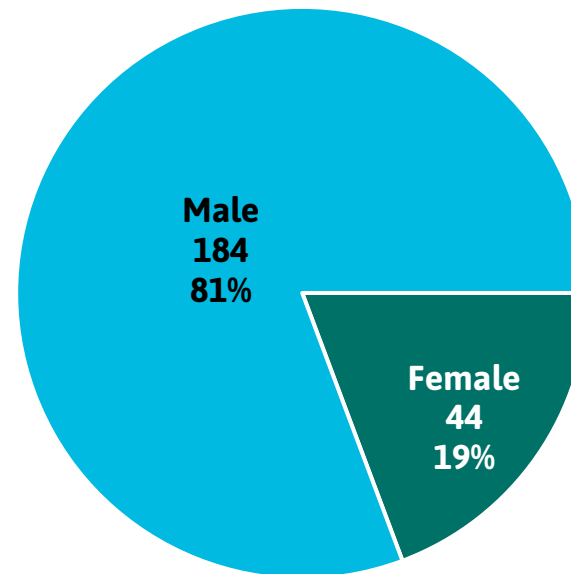
Erica Nilsen
Assistant Chief
Vancouver Police Department



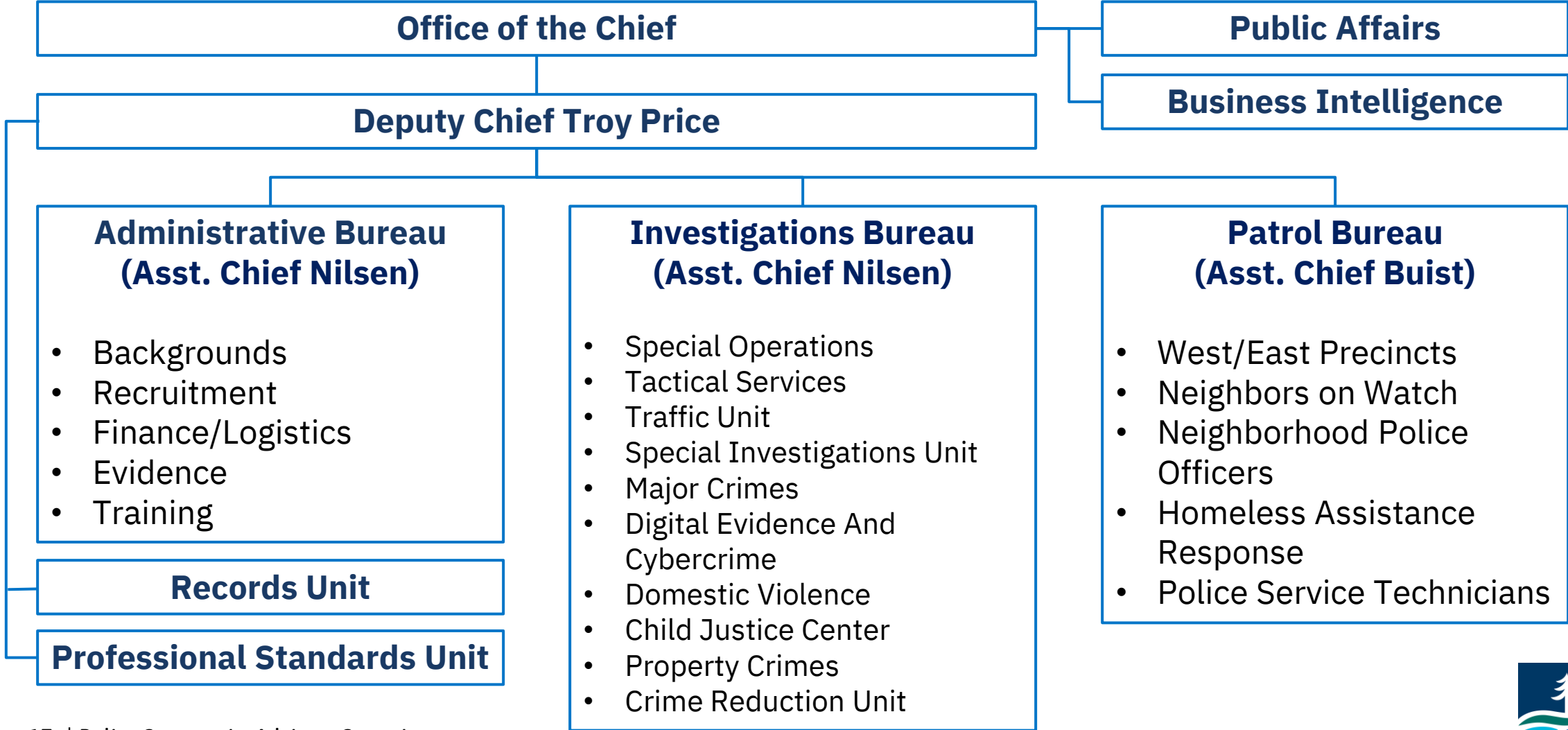
About the Vancouver Police Department

Partnering with our community to preserve life, protect property and enhance livability.

- Authorized 58.5 professional staff
- Authorized 244 commissioned personnel
- 46% of commissioned personnel have been with VPD for five or less years
- 19% of commissioned personnel are female



Organization Chart Overview



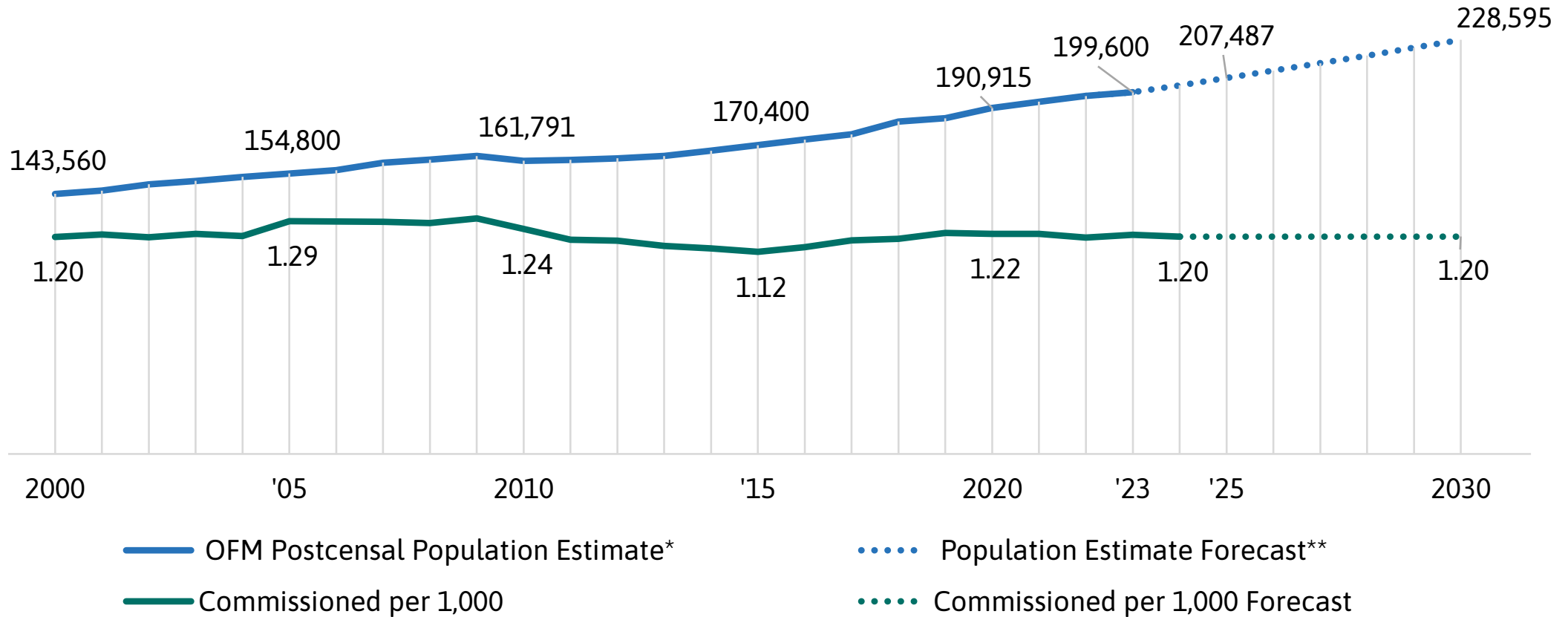
Public Safety Ecosystem

- VPD operates within a broader public safety ecosystem
- A wide range of partner agencies and organizations help address the many factors that affect safety
- Closing gaps in VPD capacity will have a ripple effect across the system



City of Vancouver Population Growth

And Authorized Commissioned Personnel per 1,000 Population (2000-2023)



*Decennial years are presented as actual Census counts; other years are postcensal estimates

**Based on an 10-year average annual growth rate of 2.0%



WA Cities Serving Above 100,000 Population

City	Total Population (2022)	Total Commissioned Personnel (2022)*	Commissioned Personnel Per 1,000
Seattle	762,500	1,077	1.41
Spokane	230,900	341	1.48
Tacoma	220,800	324	1.47
Vancouver	197,600	212	1.07
Bellevue	153,900	172	1.12
Kent	137,900	156	1.13
Everett	113,300	190	1.68
Renton	107,500	116	1.08
Spokane Valley	107,100	104	0.97
Federal Way	101,800	136	1.34

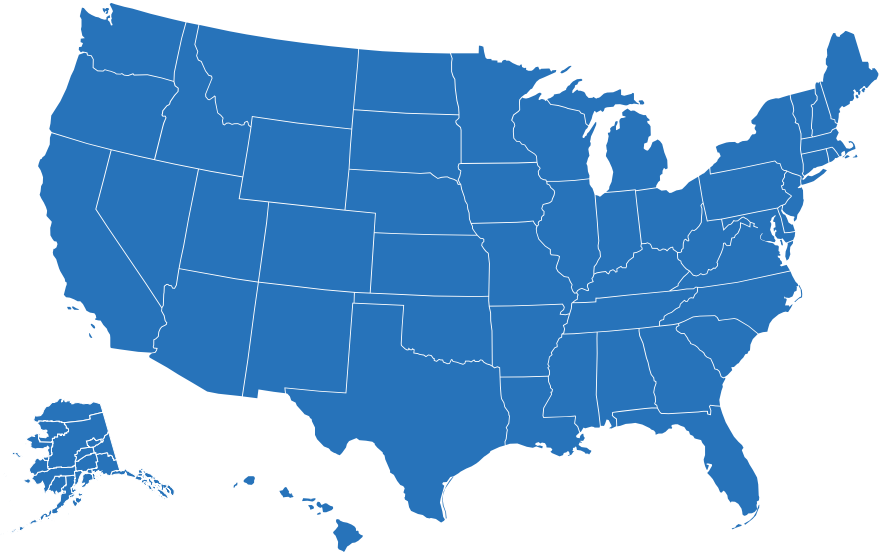
Staffing Compared to State and National Averages

Vancouver: 1.07 Commissioned Personnel per 1,000 Residents



Washington State Average for
Municipal Police Departments:

1.29 Commissioned Personnel
per 1,000 Residents



National Average
(Cities 100,000 – 250,000):

1.60 Commissioned Personnel
per 1,000 Residents



Baseline Clark County Law Enforcement Capacity

County	Total Population	Countywide Commissioned Personnel	Commissioned Personnel Per 1,000 Population
Clark	520,825	447	0.86
Pierce	928,937	967	1.04
Spokane	550,700	651	1.18
City of Vancouver*	197,600	212	1.07

**City of Vancouver represents authorized commissioned personnel in 2024. County data represents 2022 point in time actual commissioned employees.*

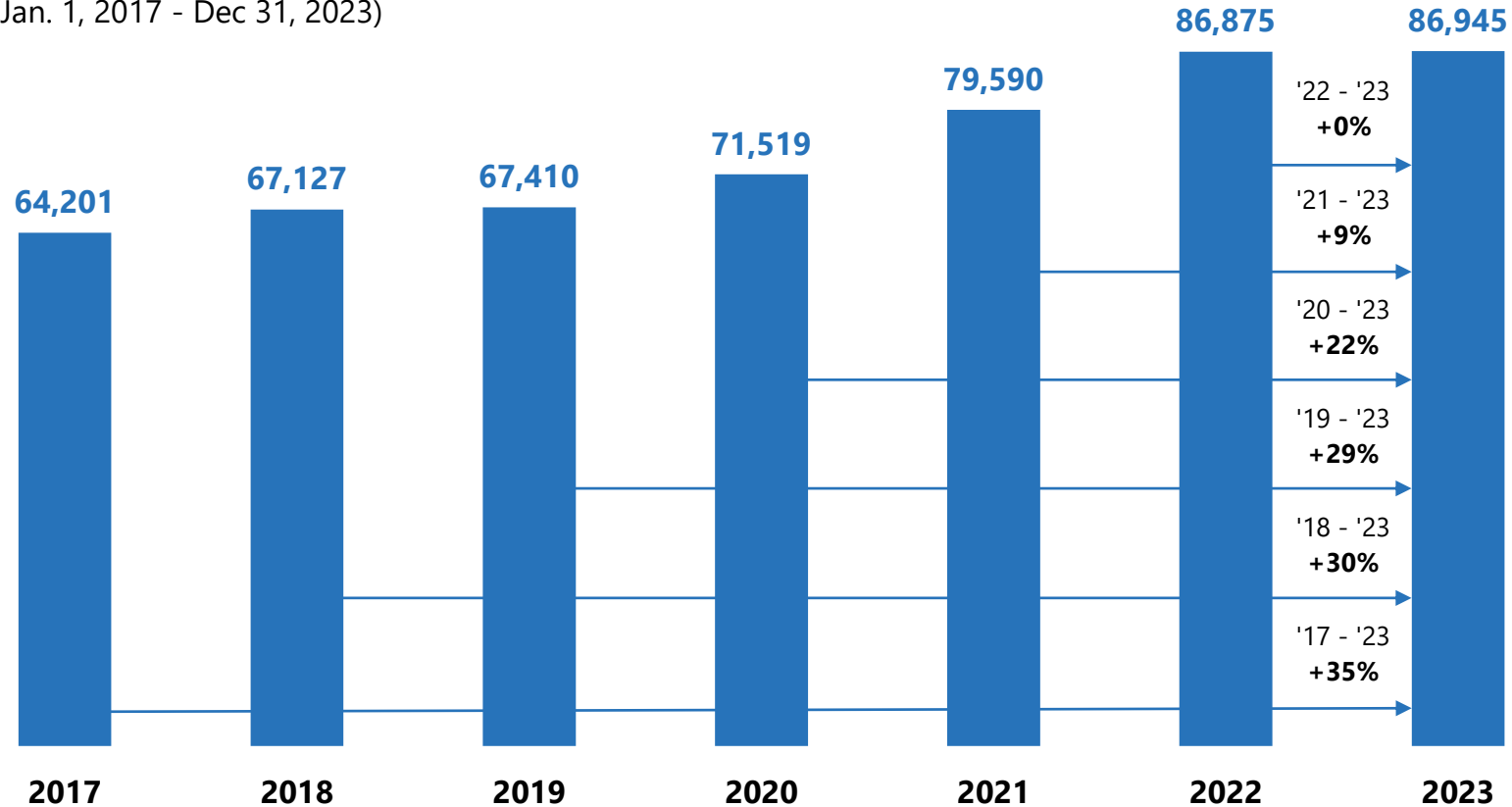


Calls for Service

Call volume growth (2017 – 2023)

Community-Initiated Calls For Service

(Jan. 1, 2017 - Dec 31, 2023)



Patrol Staff Capacity

Current state

- Calls are increasing in complexity, requiring increasingly significant number of resources and time
- Multiple times per day, one call can deplete patrol resources

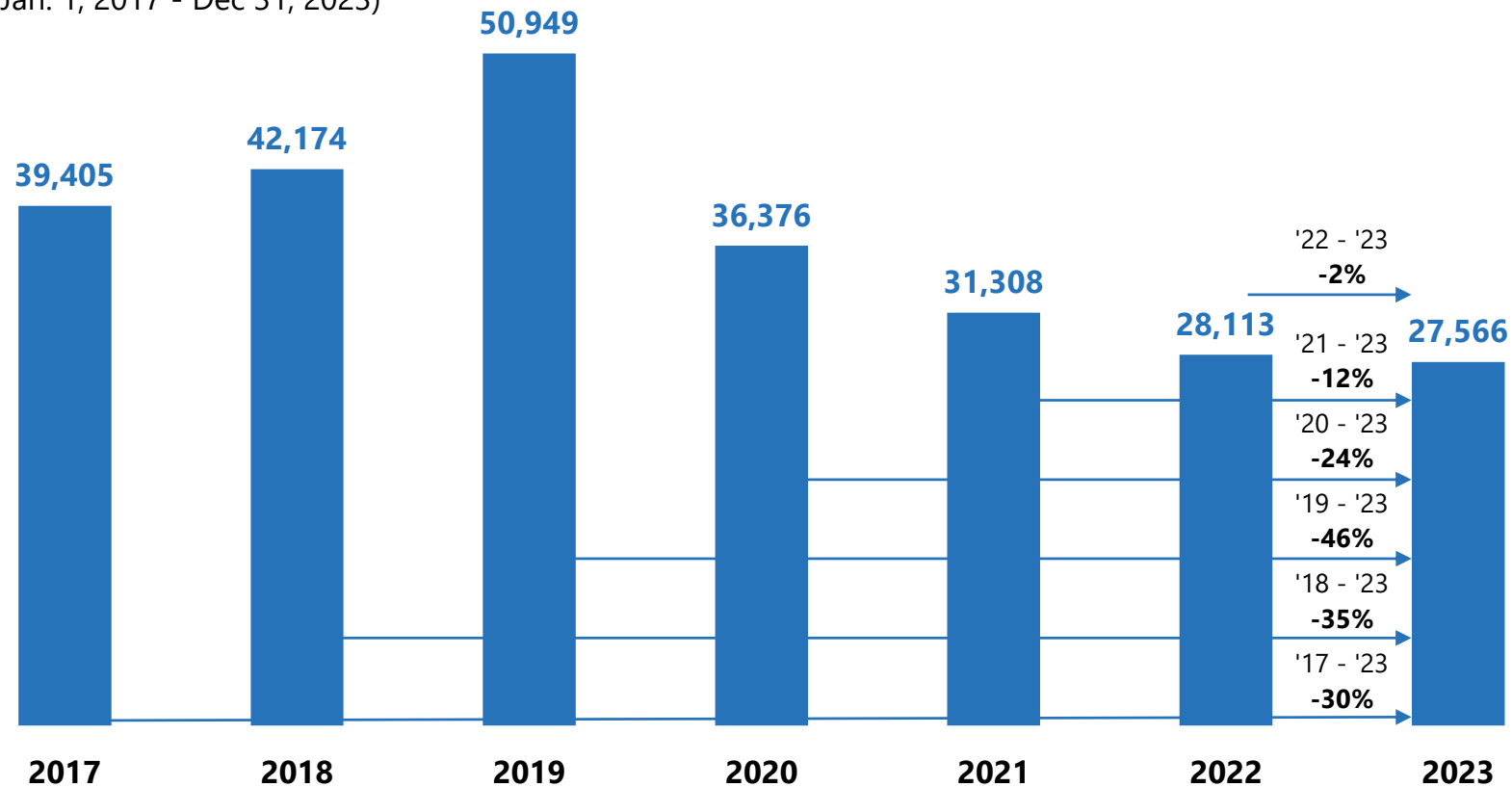


Officer Initiated Activities

Proactive activity decline (2017 – 2023)

Officer-Initiated Events

(Jan. 1, 2017 - Dec 31, 2023)



Investigations Capacity

Detectives Investigate an Average of 1,700 New Cases Every Year

- Average detective investigates approximately 60 cases a year
- Each detective will close all these cases by arrest, referral to prosecution, or suspend due to lack of investigative leads
- Nearly 3,100 cases a year not being worked due to lack of capacity



Community Impacts

Current staffing levels limit VPD's ability to engage in:

- Proactive policing
- Traffic enforcement
- Community engagement
- Investigations and criminal follow-up



Discussion



4-Minute Activity



Reflect with a Partner

Partner Conversation

Take 90 seconds to write down your responses to the prompt below, then spend one minute each sharing with a partner:

- **What, if anything, surprised you tonight?**
- **What is a topic that you are looking forward to talking about during future committee meetings?**



Closing Reflections



Next Steps

- Thank you for joining us tonight
- Our next meeting will be from **6–8 p.m. on March 28** at Bridgeview Resource Center
- City staff will send you an updated calendar invitation the week before the meeting
- Please fill out the form on your table before you leave



Thank You



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cityofvancouver.us/policeadvisory

