

# Traffic Enforcement & Management Public Safety Commission Presentation

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Lieutenant William White  
Austin Police Department  
April 3, 2023



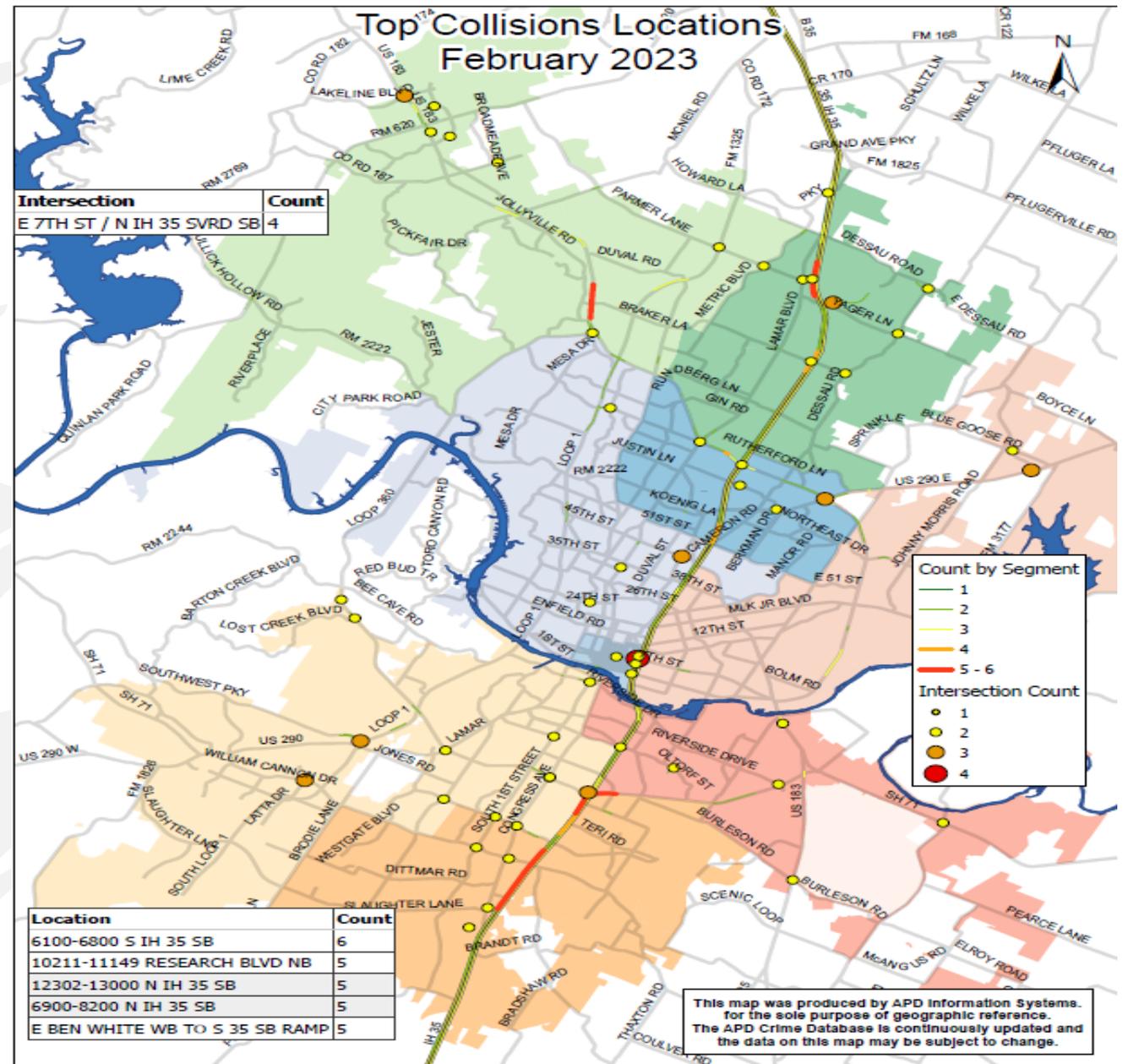
# APD Time Spent on Crashes (2021)



- APD responded to ~24,000 crashes (6% of all APD responses)
- APD response to these scenes included over
  - 51,400 APD units
  - 56,000 APD staff
  - 66,800 hours
- Estimated staffing costs in 2021 for crash scene response-
  - Exceeds \$4.14 million (using estimated cost of \$15/hr to operate and maintain APD patrol vehicles)

# Primary Concentration Areas

- High-speed roadways
  - significant portion of crashes, serious injury crashes, and fatalities occur
  - I-35, US Hwy 183, Ben White





# Prioritization- Programs

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- Proactive enforcement focused on high traffic collision concentration areas
- Grant funded support
  - Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)
  - Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP)
- Opportunity for overtime for officers
  - Number officers involved has significantly dwindled due to staffing shortages
- Focus is on reduction of:
  - Aggressive driving
  - Speeding
  - Driving while intoxicated
  - Failure to use occupant restraint systems
  - Intersection traffic control violations
  - Violations of state and local ordinances regarding cellular and texting devices



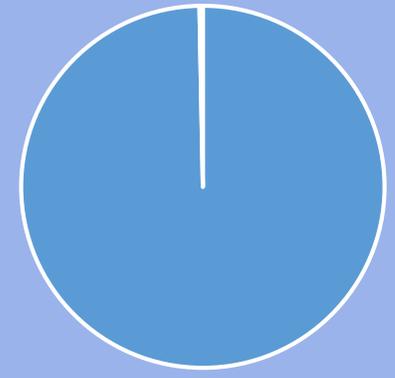
# Prioritization- Staffing Challenges

- HEC previously was centralized component for on-duty proactive traffic enforcement
  - Motors Unit
  - DWI Unit
  - Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit (CVE)
- Staffing shortages required reallocation of everyone back to patrol
  - Exception of five CVE members
- Now is a decentralized approach to traffic enforcement and management
  - Individual patrol commands determine which areas to prioritize and resources to allocate



Traffic stops in 2022: **12,889**

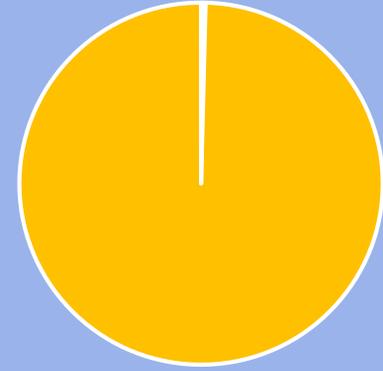
Incident Type



Officer-Initiated Dispatched

99.7% were officer-initiated

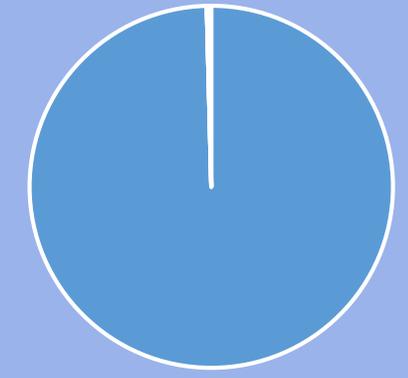
Priority Level



P0 P1 P2 P3

99.7% were priority level 3

Response to Resistance



None Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4

99.6% did not involve a response to resistance

Total hours spent on-scene: **10,108\***

\*does not represent total hours spent by all officers, as multiple officers may work one incident

# Traffic Accidents: Guidelines for APD's Role

Current criteria for response in place since October 2021

APD responds when

- Driver does not agree to exchange information
- Driver suspected of being intoxicated/under the influence
- City of Austin vehicle is involved

APD does not respond when

- Vehicles are drivable and there are no injuries
- Old, unreported crashes (including Leaving the Scene)



# Traffic Accidents: Expectations for APD's Role

- Create a safe area
  - Ensure injured parties are attended to by medical personnel
  - Identify parties involved and ensure required information is exchanged
  - Request tow trucks as necessary
  - Work to determine possible violations and take appropriate action
  - Complete a TXDOT Crash Report (CR-3) when required
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# Roadway Safety Programs: Coordination of Efforts

## HERO

- Highway Emergency Response Operator
- Contracted with TXDOT
- Manage traffic safety and management on roadways
- Can receive direct APD authorization to call for tow trucks on disabled vehicles
  - First city to implement
- Reduces need for officers to respond to incidents

## AIMHigh

- Austin-area Incident Management for Highways
- Quarterly meetings to address topics focused on roadway safety in Austin area
- Stakeholders include APD, TXDOT, HERO, AFD



# Traffic Enforcement Jurisdiction

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- APD has jurisdiction to enforce traffic on any roadway within the City of Austin
- Within city limits, APD has primary jurisdiction on all roadways
  - If another agency also has jurisdiction in area within city limits, they can also enforce traffic
- Applicable to multiple agencies
  - DPS
  - Travis County
  - Williamson County
  - Hays County
  - AISD
  - College police departments

Questions?

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