



2020

Report to the Community
Series III of IV

**Vehicular, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Accident Data,
Citizen Complaint Data, Community Engagement**



Bexley Police Department Report to the Community 2020

DRAFT DISCLAIMER

The 2020 Community Policing Report is being released in a series of draft sections. The final report, incorporating all sections, will be released in the fall of 2020, and will be informed in part by feedback received from these draft releases.

To submit your feedback, please visit:
www.bexley.org/policereport



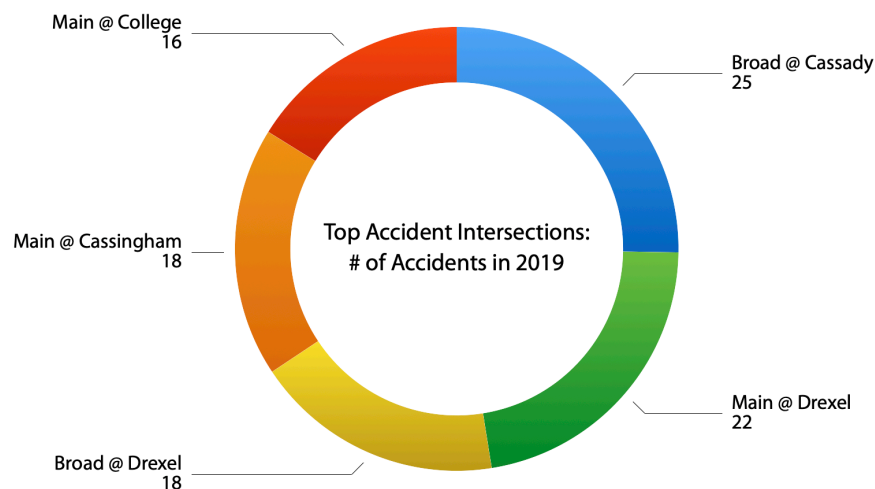
Bexley Police Department Report to the Community 2020

Vehicular, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Safety & Accident Data

Despite efforts to enforce distracted driving laws, and public information campaigns around distracted driving, Bexley continued to see increases in motor vehicle accidents in 2019, echoing trends seen throughout the country. Accidents on Main Street and Broad Street continued to be the primary locations, with the top five accident intersections profiled in the graph below.

Motor Vehicle Accident Statistics

Year	Total Accidents	Involved injuries	Involved fatalities	Involved OUI Violation	Pedestrian Struck	Bicyclist Struck	Not involving cyclist or pedestrian
2017	265	13	0	2	4	5	256
2018	290	21	0	7	4	5	281
2019	304	23	0	1	7	6	291



The majority of accidents involving bicyclists occurred in instances where cyclists were riding bikes through crosswalks at speeds. In response to this, the City created the “Cross with a Cop” program, in order to help raise awareness of safe crossing habits for student pedestrians and cyclists.

Citizen Complaints

The Bexley Police Department maintains high standards of personal and professional conduct for its employees. Any allegation of misconduct involving an employee of the City is taken very seriously. Citizen complaints are filled out online at www.bexley.org/complaint, or can be made in writing at the police station or city hall. A citizen who files a complaint against an employee is asked to provide as much detailed information as possible so that the alleged violation can be fully and fairly investigated.

The complaint process is very thorough and requires accountability from the employee and the supervisor throughout the chain of command.

In 2019, two formal complaints were received. One complaint alleged that the detective bureau failed to pursue charges in a case due to bias. This complaint was not sustained, as in the instance under complaint the detective bureau pursued criminal charges, and those charges were denied by the grand jury. The other complaint alleged that officers failed to arrest a suspect in a criminal matter. The complaint was not sustained, due to the impropriety of arresting the subject under the circumstances of the case.

Complaint Results	2017	2018	2019
Complaint Sustained	N/A	N/A	N/A
Complaints Not Sustained	1	N/A	2

Types of Complaints Received	2017	2018	2019
Officer Rudeness	1	N/A	N/A
Bias or Discrimination in Enforcement	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bias or Discrimination in Failure to Pursue Charges	N/A	N/A	1
Failure to Arrest Suspect	N/A	N/A	1
Total Incidents	1	0	2

Creating an environment where citizens have easy access and a good understanding of the complaint process is important to the City, as complaints provide vital information necessary to assist the department in training, discipline, and empathy. In 2020, several changes to the complaint process have been instituted, including creating a Complaint Liaison program to assist complainants with the process, and the establishment of a Civilian Review Advisory Board in order to ensure third-party oversight of complaints of bias or discrimination involving City employees. For more information, please visit www.bexley.org/complaint, and www.bexley.org/citizen-review.



Bexley Police Department Report to the Community 2020

Community Engagement

The Bexley Police Department strives to regularly engage with the community through events, activities, and programs throughout the year. Community engagement is a critical function of the department, and helps officers connect with the community in positive and proactive ways.

Bexley Citizens Police Academy

The Bexley Citizens Police Academy is designed to give citizens a better understanding of the capabilities of the police department. It is not intended to make citizens into police officers, but to allow citizens to learn more about police operations and to experience the following: crime scene investigations, crime prevention, traffic enforcement, gang awareness, firearms/use of force, ride-alongs, and legal requirements. This program is free for all participants, and in 2019, we celebrated 16 graduates of the academy!

DEA Drug Take Back Day

According to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.9 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. Drug Take Back Day provides an opportunity for residents to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medications. In 2019, the Bexley Police Department safely disposed 129 pounds of medications received from residents! To learn more about this national program, visit www.takebackday.dea.gov.

Cross with a Cop

This program provides an opportunity for children and students to learn more about pedestrian and bike safety. At Cross with a Cop, participants learned about Bexley's helmet laws, sidewalk safety, and how to properly cross a busy intersection.



Officers and alumnae of the Bexley Citizens Police Academy with gifts for



Officer Chapman and students on Main Street for Cross with a Cop events



Sergeant Overly at the Southwest Bexley Block Party, assisting DARN with bike and helmet distribution



Officer Shawver at the Safe Routes to Montrose alley & street painting project

Tours of the Bexley Police Department

Various local civic organizations have participated in tours of the Bexley Police Department – including the Bexley Women’s Club, Cub Scout troops, Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout troop, and others. During a tour of our police headquarters, visitors get to see the dispatch room where emergency calls are received, the property room where confiscated items go, historic police memorabilia, and more!

Safe Routes to Montrose Alley & Street Painting Project

To enhance the safety of crosswalks and alleyways leading to Montrose Elementary Schools, residents, community members, and Bexley police officers joined efforts in painting fun and vibrant crosswalks that are difficult to miss! In addition to the new crosswalks, officers facilitated a bike helmet giveaway and fitting, and Animal Control Officer Jennings helped with an informal Safety Town event.

Block Watch Program

Our block watch program is designed to link residents to the Police Department, and Block Watch Captains are able to communicate upcoming events, resident concerns, and safety issues relating to the block. If you are interested in getting involved, or creating, your block watch program, please call Sergeant Dawn Overly at (614) 559-4444.

Cops and Kids Events

Police officers and other leaders within the department engage in field games and a cook out with kids in the neighborhood! The 2019 Cops and Kids event occurred at Maryland Elementary in association with the Green Bexley Fair.

RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) Class for Women

The Rape Aggression Defense course has its foundations in education and awareness. The course includes lecture, discussion and self-defense techniques suitable for women of all ages and abilities, and is designed to empower women with effective self defense techniques.

Southwest Bexley Block Party

At the annual Southwest Bexley block party, officers assist with bike helmet fitting and bike licensing in partnership with DARN. Bike helmet giveaways and fittings also occur from time to time at other community events.

Bike Patrol

Bexley maintains a bike fleet of 8 bikes, with 18 officers actively engaged in the program. Officers on bicycle patrol throughout the City, and you may even see them running radar in school zones! The bike patrol program allows officers to interact more directly with community members and access areas unavailable to cruisers.