

2023

EDINBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT



**100th
YEAR
EDITION**



**2nd
Annual
REPORT**



2023

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THE CITY OF
EDINBURG



EdinburgPoliceDept



@edinburgPd



Edinburg 311 App



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Crime Stoppers

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



The Edinburg Police Department has reached a significant milestone by completing 100 years of service in protecting and serving the community. We salute all of our Heroes in Blue, who have taken the oath to protect and serve the citizens of Edinburg, Texas. To all of our city officials who have supported and remained loyal to the Edinburg Police Department, we thank you. Lastly, but most importantly, we thank the citizens of Edinburg who unwaveringly supported and trusted the Edinburg Police Department with things as precious as the safety of their families.

Edinburg's Police history is traced back to Frank Baker who was appointed as the first City Marshal and the first Police Chief Mr. Jessie Avinger. Monumental moments for the Edinburg Police Department included the first and only female Certified Police Officer Ms. Betty Rios who started as Assistant Records clerk in 1976, promoted to radio dispatcher, attended the Harlingen Police Academy, and served as a Criminal Investigator in the Juveniles Department.

Our story dates back 100 years and our legacy will carry on as we honorably continue to serve all of the citizens of Edinburg, Texas.



A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the men and women who comprise the Edinburg Police Department, it is my honor to present the 2023 Annual Report. This past year marked 100 years of the Edinburg Police Department. For decades, employees have selflessly served this community. We honor those who served before us and are proud to continue serving the fast growing Edinburg community.

We celebrated many accomplishments throughout the year to include a partnership with Tropical Texas Behavioral Health being awarded a four-year grant that will fund 3 police officers and 3 mental health counselors. With this partnership, we will better serve those suffering from mental illness. We collaborated with the University of North Texas at Dallas on counter-drug operations and with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley on researching and pursuing a police model encompassing artificial intelligence. We secured a grant to provide anonymous mental health support for our officers as well as the city providing a physical assessment through a blood test and follow up consultation. We instituted Annual In-Service training for police officers and are committed to doubling the state's mandate on training.

JAIME AYALA
CHIEF OF POLICE



We were challenged with an increase in serious crashes with some involving impaired driving. We created a Driving While Intoxicated Unit focused on identifying and mitigating impaired drivers. In 2023, DWI arrests increased 32% and overall crime decreased by 4.6%. Our community engagement continues to evolve with the first Citizen's Police Academy conducted in Spanish, the creation of the Edinburg Business Watch program, and expanding our Blue Santa into the community providing Christmas gifts to children by visiting them in their homes. In 2023, the Monitor recognized Edinburg PD as the Reader's Choice for a law enforcement agency. The annual report is a product of the work of great men and women who serve the Edinburg community.



Michael Cerda
Assistant Chief of Police



Chad Dufner
Assistant Chief of Police

COMMAND

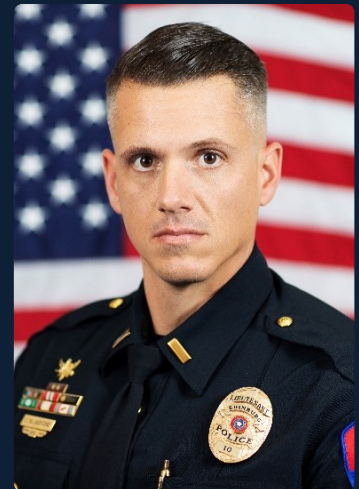
Staff



Lt. Orlando Garcia
Internal Affairs



Lt. Luciano Ozuna
Investigations



Lt. Christopher Blandford
Investigations



Lt. Oscar Trevino
Patrol



Lt. Reynaldo Reyes
Patrol



Lt. Primitivo Rodriguez
Patrol

COMMAND

Staff



Lt. Robert Vallejo
Training



Lt. Gabriel Vela-Reyna
Community Oriented Policing

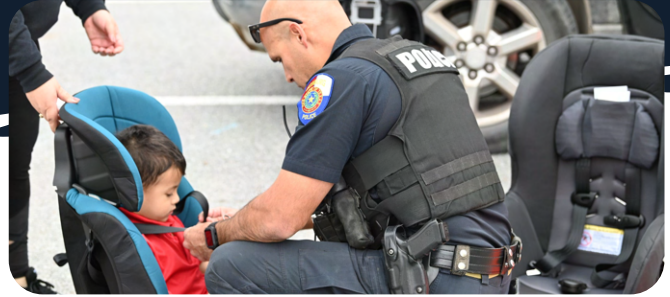
2023 MONTHLY

JANUARY



First Ever Edinburg Clergy & Police Partnership

FEBRUARY



Community Car Seat Inspection Event

MAY



14 Citizens Graduate Citizen's Academy

JUNE



Movies with a Cop

SEPTEMBER



**Juan "JJ" Marquez Awarded
911 Telecommunicator
of the Year Award**

OCTOBER



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

RECAP OF EVENTS

MARCH



Along with Texas DOT, Impaired Driver Simulator at Fiesta Edinburg

APRIL



Telecommunicator's Week

JULY



Tropical Texas Behavioral Health \$3 Million Award

AUGUST



National Night Out

NOVEMBER



Grinch on Patrol-No Refusal

DECEMBER

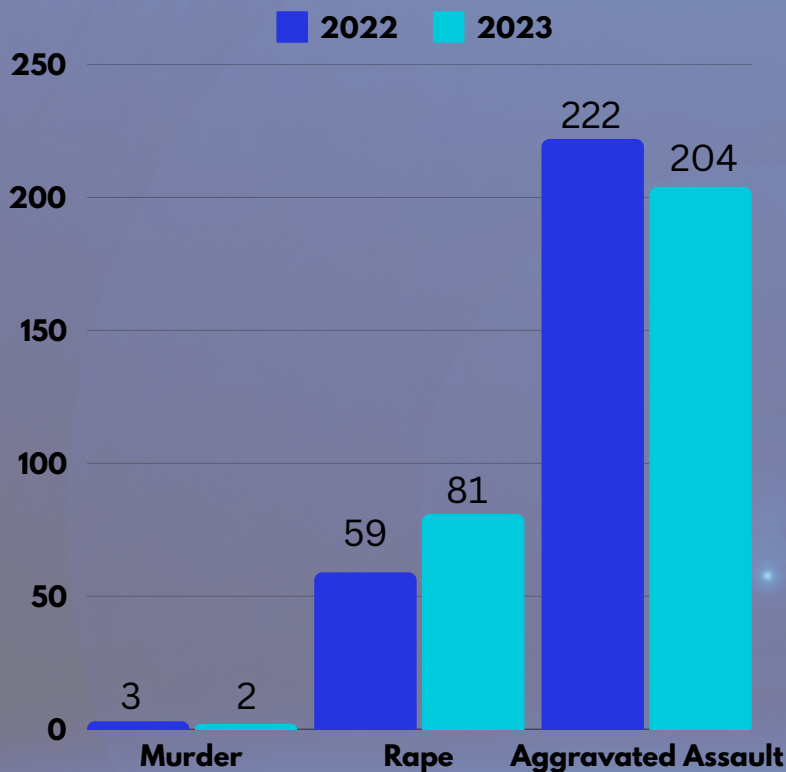


Blue Santa

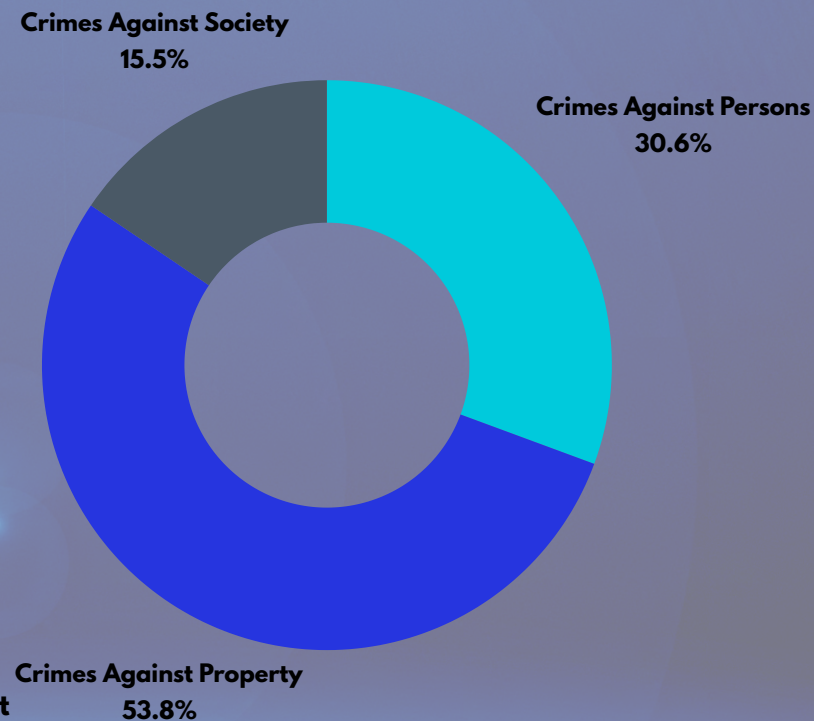
Edinburg Crime Data

The Edinburg Police Department has had another prosperous year in 2023. The overall crime rate dropped 4.6% compared to 2022. The most noticeable drop in crime were those offenses that are labeled Crimes Against Persons. The drop in Crimes Against Persons reflected a 5.93% decrease from the previous year. These offenses are crimes such as murder, rape, and aggravated assault. Out of these specific offenses, rape shows a 20% increase from 2022 to 2023. From the rape offenses, almost 60% of documented rapes or attempted rapes are labeled as having been committed by a domestic partner. Domestic partners are described as spouses, child/parent, boyfriend/girlfriend, sibling, ex-boyfriend/girlfriend, foster child/parent, other family member or other household member relationships. There were no reported rapes that were committed by an unknown person to the victim. The dramatic rise in rape for 2023 may be attributed to domestic abuse education and empowering the victims of domestic abuse to speak up and notify authorities. Our Crime Victim Liaisons play a critical role in this advancement and the additional Crime Victim Liaison we gained as part of the Office of the Attorney General grant in 2023 may be attributed to this success. Aggravated assault saw a decrease of 8% and murder was down over 33%!

Crimes Against Persons



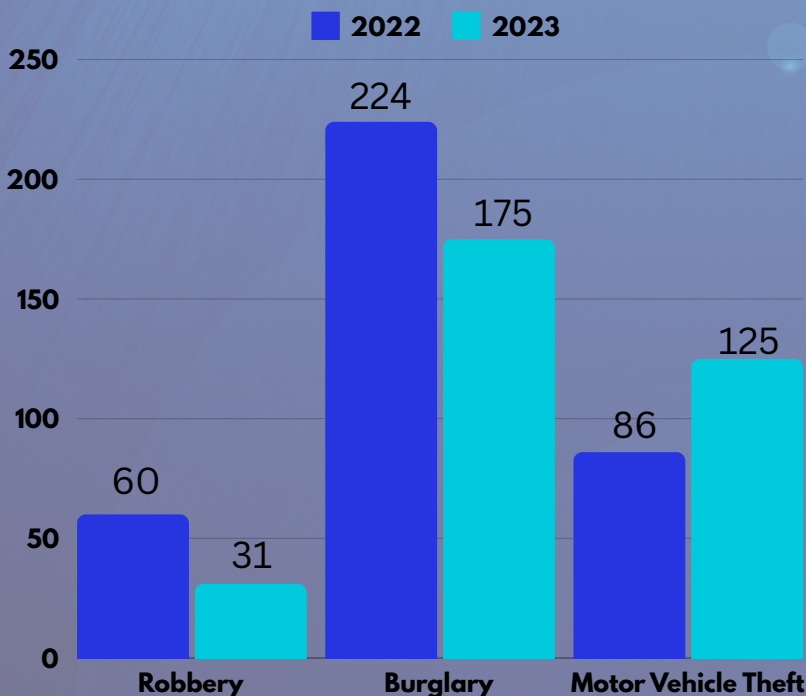
Overall Crimes by Category



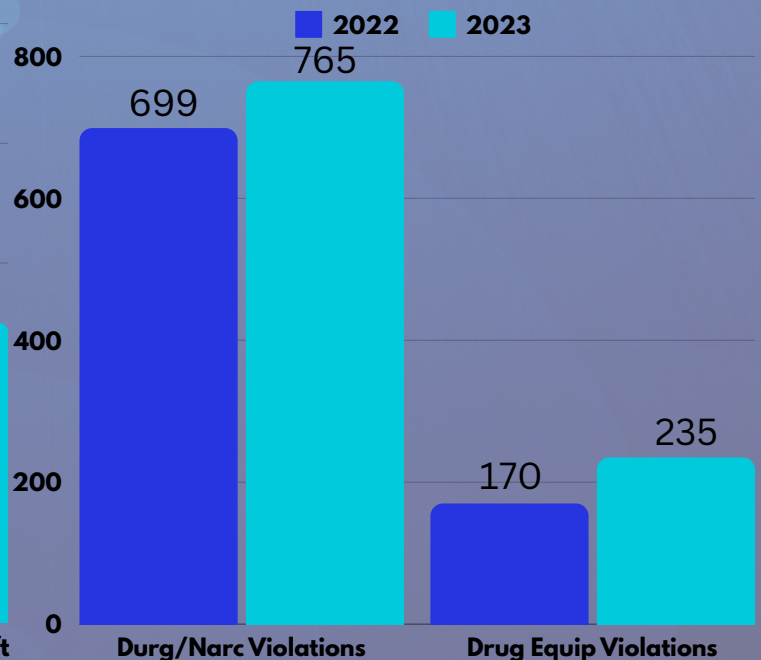
Statistics

Robbery, burglary/breaking and entering, and motor vehicle thefts fall under the umbrella of Crimes Against Property. In 2023, robbery reflected a 48% decrease and burglary reflected a 22% decrease. However, we saw a high increase of motor vehicle thefts for Edinburg with a 45% increase for the year. As a corridor between Mexico and the United States, Edinburg is a prime target with the easily accessible Highway 281 running through the center of Edinburg which facilitates the transportation of vehicles into Mexico prior to the victims realizing they're missing.

Crimes Against Property



Crimes Against Society



Crimes Against Society is a group of offenses where an increase in reported crimes is actually a positive sign. Crimes Against Society paints a picture of how hard our officers are pursuing violations within our area of responsibility. Drug equipment violations reflected a dramatic 38% increase. What does this mean? This means that our officers are conducting better searches on the vehicles, persons, or property during encounters. Similarly, drug and narcotic violations also saw an increase of 9% for the year and all of the Crimes Against Society reflect a 14% increase. Thank you to our officers who are busy cleaning up our streets!

Safety Tips

As the Edinburg Police Department pushes to maintain safe neighborhoods within the city, we are confident the best way to deter crime is to shine a light on the issues. EDPD has launched Socrata Citizen Connect to keep YOU informed of what is happening in your own neighborhoods. With Socrata Citizen Connect, you can receive automated alerts to your email daily, weekly, or monthly. Additionally, the Edinburg Police Department Community Oriented Policing Unit, holds neighborhood watch meetings for citizens to voice their concerns. During these meetings, safety tips are discussed and citizens are informed on how to gather as much data and report the information to police when suspicious incidents occur. Below are a few more safety tips.

Motor Vehicle Thefts

We saw an increase in motor vehicle thefts in 2023. The most targeted vehicles were GMC and Chevrolet trucks. The vehicles were taken from homes, shopping centers, and restaurants. EDPD recommends parking in well lit areas of parking lots. Avoid parking lots that cannot be seen from the street. Security cameras are recommended and provide suspect information to our officers in case of a theft. Do not leave your vehicle's keys inside your car. However, the method criminals are using to take GMC and Chevrolet trucks is by using key programmers as seen below. After market anti-theft devices can help minimize the chance of a vehicle theft. We don't encourage our citizens to confront the thieves however, we encourage to gather as much information for us to identify the suspects.



**KEY
PROGRAMMERS**



ANTI-THEFT

Safety Tips

Burglary/Breaking and Entering

Burglaries in Edinburg saw a decrease in 2023, however, we encourage our citizens to remain vigilant and report suspicious incidents as they occur. Crime can be prevented by sharing of information. Sharing information on different platforms within your own neighborhood watch groups can remind your neighbors to double check locks on windows and doors. Vehicles are also an easy target to break into. Most burglarized vehicles occurred by chance. The most common way of breaking into a vehicle is by simply opening an unlocked car. That sounds pretty easy!

- 1 Lock your door
- 2 Park in well-lit areas
- 3 Report suspicious activity
- 4 Gather information and share information with others



<https://edinburgtx-pd-transparency.connect.socrata.com>

DWI AWARENESS

According to the Law Enforcement Advanced Data Reporting System (LEADRS), 121 crashes in Edinburg were attributed to a driver being impaired by alcohol or drugs in 2023. This reflects a 16% increase compared to 2022 where only 104 crashes were attributed to an impaired driver.



On August 9, 2023, Edinburg Police Department joined forces with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and other local and state law enforcement partners and emphasized Edinburg's **NO REFUSAL** city policy.


No refusal means a blood specimen will be drawn under a warrant regardless of refusal to take a breathalyzer exam.

32% INCREASE IN DWI ARRESTS FROM 2022

Innocent lives were taken in Edinburg due to driving while impaired. Edinburg Police Department did not take that lightly and amped up our patrol. As part of our initiative to combat DWI's within our city, EPD launched an unprecedented DWI Unit dedicated solely to identifying drivers who are suspected of driving while intoxicated. The implementation of the DWI Unit yielded favorable results. In 2023, 452 DWI arrests were made. This was a considerable difference compared to the 342 DWI arrests in 2022.

2022

104 Crashes


 **76% Males**

24% Females



2023

121 Crashes

 **79% Males**

21% Females



MAKE A PLAN

EDINBURG IS A NO REFUSAL CITY!

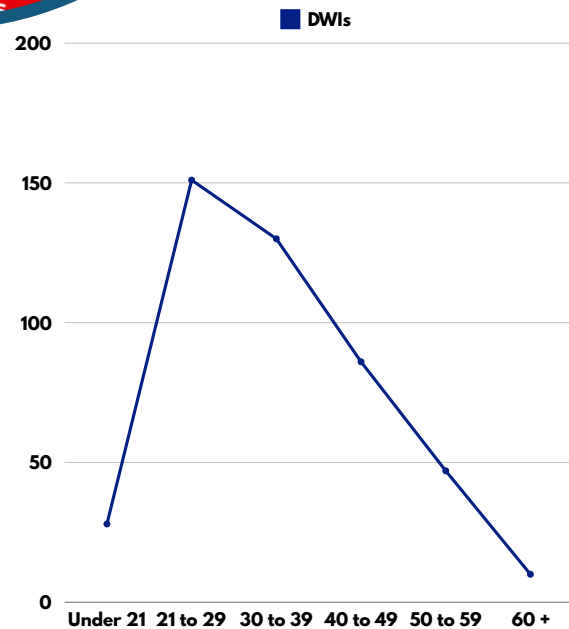
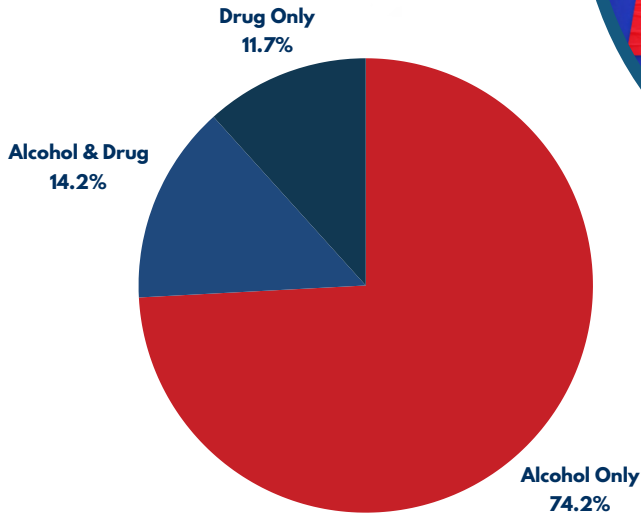
DRIVE SOBER, OR GET PULLED OVER • THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK • SLOW DOWN



Say "No!" to impaired Driving

Designate a driver

Use Uber or Lyft



In 2023, the weekends yielded the majority of Edinburg's DWI arrests. Saturday led with 117 arrests, followed closely by Sunday with 99 arrests. As seen above, driving while impaired is not limited to driving while under the influence of alcohol, it also encompasses other factors like drugs. Drivers under the influence of additional factors like drugs accounted for 11.7% of all DWIs. The majority of drivers who were arrested for a DWI, were between the ages of 21 to 29 years old. Drivers under the legal drinking age accounted for 28 of the 452 total arrests for 2023. The majority of all arrests were between the hours of 11 PM to 5 AM. If you intend on drinking, we ask you to take a rideshare, designate a driver or simply say "No!" to impaired driving.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR

The Management Services Administrator oversees a total of 7 Civilian Divisions with a total of 64 civilian employees.



JAIME AYALA

POLICE CHIEF

Police Department Head, oversees the Management Services Administrator and the assigned Civil and Non-Civil Divisions.



IRIS ALVARADO

Management Services Administrator

Oversees civilian divisions within the Police Department. Reports directly to the Police Chief.

The Management Services Administrator (MSA) for the Edinburg Police Department, is tasked with overseeing the Department's civilian divisions. This involves maintaining close collaboration with each division, ensuring that their workflow runs seamlessly, and complies with all pertinent local, state, and federal regulatory requirements. To maximize the effectiveness of these Divisions, the MSA undertakes frequent reviews of their standard operating procedures (SOPs) and uses these to formulate recommendations and proposals, which are then presented to the Chief of Police.

The top priority is ensuring the community receives the best possible service. This requires that the MSA ensures the employees have access to the necessary training and tools to operate at peak efficiency. The divisions the MSA oversees are responsible for a wide range of critical operations, and it is crucial that these operations are carried out to the highest possible standards.

For fiscal year 2022-2023 the Department was budgeted \$28,740,128.56. Responsibilities include forecasting department needs by collaborating with all Department Divisions to ensure all needs are budgeted.

COMMUNICATIONS

Elias Martinez, Communications Manager

The Division is currently staffed with, 1 manager, 3 supervisors and 20 dispatchers.

27 - Budgeted Positions (3 Vacancies)

RECORDS

Erika Cantu, Data Processing Supervisor

The Division is currently staffed with, 1 Supervisor, 13 Office Specialists, and 1 Administrative Specialist.

15 - Budgeted Positions

JAIL

Arturo Rincon, Jail Supervisor

The Division is currently staffed with, 1 Detention Specialist Supervisor and 9 Detention Specialists.

11 - Budgeted Positions (1 Vacancy)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Graciela Mancias, Administrative Assistant

The Division is currently staffed with, 1 Administrative Assistant who oversees 5 Administrative Specialists.

6 - Budgeted Positions

FLEET

Rene Davila, Fleet Specialist

The Division is currently staffed with, 1 Fleet Specialist who oversees 1 garage attendant.

2 - Budgeted Positions

PD FINANCE

Rogelio Garcia, Special Services Manager

The Division is currently staffed with, 1 Special Services Manager and 1 Administrative Specialist.

2 - Budgeted Positions

PD GRANTS

Mary Gonzalez, Grant Analyst

The Division is currently staffed with, 1 Grant Analyst.

1 - Budgeted Position

Civilian Divisions:

1. Communications Division
2. Records Division
3. Jail Division
4. Criminal Investigations
- Administrative Division
5. Fleet Division
6. Police Department Finance Division
7. Police Department Grants Division

CRIME VICTIM LIAISONS



Crime Victims Liaisons work closely with the Community Oriented Policing Division and take pride in going out to the community to train, educate, engage, prevent and build bridges between the department and our citizens.

The Edinburg Police Department is honored to have two Crime Victim Liaisons, Mariana L. Lopez and Selena Guerrero Salas, which make up the Victim Services Division. In 2023, the second Liaison was added to our team through grant funding acquired through the Office of the Attorney General. The mission of the Victim Services Division is to provide a central mechanism for crime victims to participate in the criminal justice system. As Crime Victim Liaisons, they are dedicated to assist crime victims and their families through several services including, but not limited to, Protective Orders, Crime Victim Compensation, Address Confidentiality Program, Daily Victim Information and Notification, personalizing a safety plan, and advocating through referrals. Along with this, the liaisons also empower and support victims and their families by accompanying them to hospitals, law enforcement offices, prosecutors' offices, courts, and funerals. As liaisons, they work closely with various social services and legal agencies within the City of Edinburg and Hidalgo County. A list of said agencies include, Mujeres Unidas, Baptist Children Family Service (BCFS), the Hidalgo Community Service Agency, Children Advocacy Center, and many more.



**September 25th
National Remembrance Day for
Murder Victims**

Mariana L. Lopez was recognized with the Crime Victim Services Award 2023 for her exceptional commitment and dedication to crime victims and their families by the non-profit organization Family and Friends of Murdered Children.

The division intervened and assisted in 820 cases in 2023

MENTAL HEALTH WITHIN OUR RANKS



SOUTH TEXAS COUNSELING AGENCY

Edinburg Police Department's Chief Jaime Ayala recognizes the importance of a healthy state of mind within our own ranks. First responders face many challenges magnified by trauma and every facet of their lives are impacted. As one of the leading providers of mental healthcare services, South Texas Counseling Agency partnered with the Edinburg Police Department to remove the stigma of seeking out mental health assistance for our first responders.

A holistic approach to mental health services sheds light on how mental healthcare impacts families and communities as a whole. This initiative builds a strong foundation for our officers to be in their best state of mind while they continue to diligently serve our community. We're changing how our community sees and responds to mental health. There is no shame in seeking out mental health assistance and we're here to provide it.

MENTAL HEALTH UNIT



MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE PARTNERSHIP

TROPICAL TEXAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Goal 1

Increase the capacity of mobile crisis response teams while expanding access to our community

Goal 2

Increase collaboration to improve crisis stabilization in our community for adults, children, and youth

Goal 3

Improve equity in the continuity of care and post-crisis follow-up, including for those with suicidal ideation and/or previous suicide attempt

Edinburg Police Department and Tropical Texas Behavioral Health have formed a **Mental Health Crisis Co-Responder Team**. The team is comprised of 3 Edinburg Police Officers and 3 qualified mental health professionals referred to as Case Managers. The police officers receive additional and intensive training in behavioral health and crisis intervention. The \$3 million funding was facilitated by a grant from the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**. Funding for this program will fund the salaries for the officers, case managers, and additional support staff over a projected 4 years.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Communications Staff

The Edinburg Police Department Communications Division Consists of 20 Communications Operators, 3 Communications Supervisors, and 1 Communications Manager. Fully staffed, Communications is a team of 27. Communications Operators are state-recognized as first responders. Operator positions are TCOLE licensed and require continuous education. The Division handles all communications services for the Edinburg Police Department, Edinburg Fire Department, and Animal Control. The Communications Division is also a public service answering point (PSAP), which makes us an Emergency 911 answering center with the capability of assisting a population of 100,000 plus citizens.



Elias Martinez
Communications
Manager

Our Mission Statement

The mission of every dispatcher for the Edinburg Communications Division is to contribute to the quality of life and safety of residents, visitors, employees, and first responders by providing professional dispatch and 911 communications services.

The Communications Division has had a remarkable year and is pleased to share its achievements. Team members have worked diligently to receive prestigious awards at the state, county, and city levels. With this outstanding recognition, the Edinburg Police Department Communications Division has established itself as a leading Communications Center in South Texas. The team is committed to excellence and looks forward to continuing this momentum in the coming years.

Arely Fuentes, Communications Operator, was awarded the Employee of the Month for July for her exceptional dedication to her work. Juan Marquez Jr., Senior Communications Operator, was honored as the Telecommunicator of the Year in September by the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District (RGV911) for his remarkable skills in handling high-pressure situations. RGV911 also recognized four outstanding individuals - Communications Supervisors Isidro Jara, Brenda Alvarado, Adolfo Zapata, and Communications Manager Elias Martinez - for their exceptional contribution to law enforcement. Their tireless service and unwavering dedication spanning 10, 15, and 20 years have made them an integral part of the organization. It is an honor to acknowledge their invaluable contribution through years of service to the safety and well-being of the community.

The Communications Division proudly announces that this year, the team has collectively achieved the highest number of training hours to date.



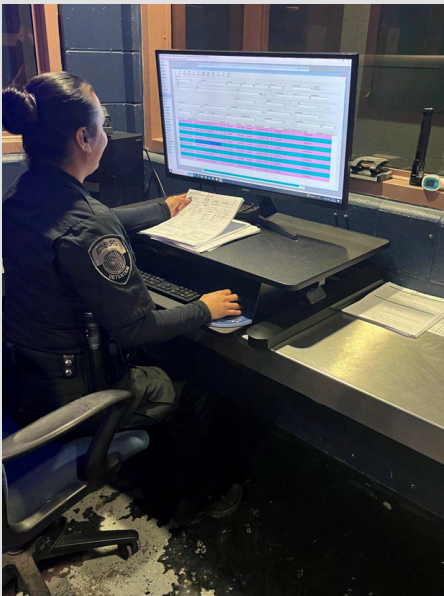
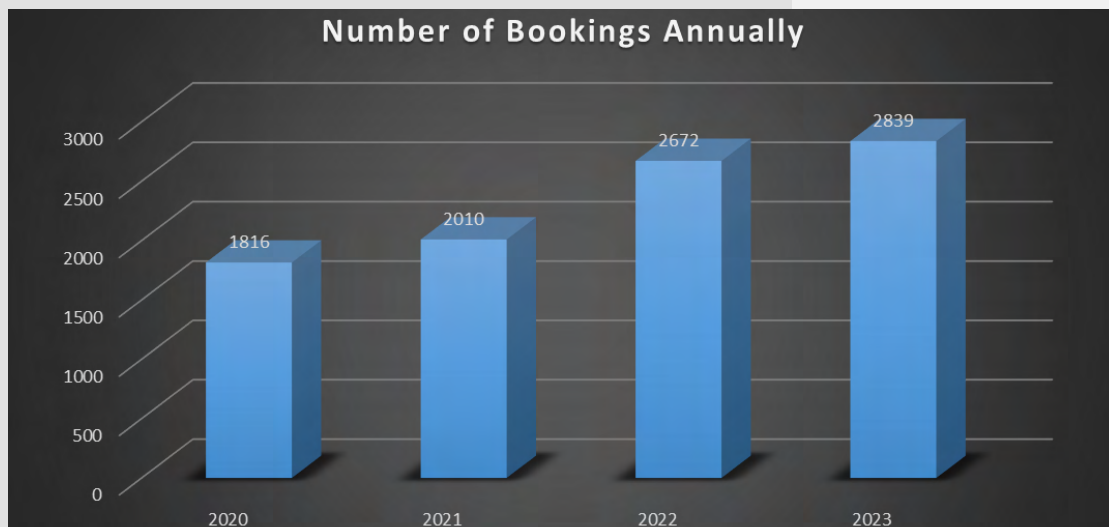
1. Telecommunicator of the Year
2. Community-Oriented Dispatch Initiative
3. New TXDPS Associate Regional Trainers
4. Focused On Mental Health & Education

2023 Custom Training
Dispatch Mental Health Initiative Active Listening

JAIL DIVISION

The Jail Division is comprised of 10 Detention Specialists and 1 Detention Specialist Supervisor. These professionals are responsible for processing and caring for inmates brought in by the Edinburg Police Department Patrol and Criminal Investigation Divisions, as well as other law enforcement entities. The inmates may reside in the facility for up to 72 hours before being released or transferred to another facility. Detention Specialists have responded to numerous disturbances within the facility, including combative and suicidal subjects, and have demonstrated their ability to resolve such situations efficiently through their training.

Presently, the Detention Specialists have received numerous hours of training, both online and in-service, and are actively working towards certification through the primary jailer's academy. In 2023, they have processed 2,839 adult and juvenile inmates and as projected, booking numbers have surpassed previous years. The Detention Specialists have served our community with excellence and have worked diligently to ensure the safety of both the inmates and the public.



Arturo Rincon
Detention
Specialist Supervisor

JOINING FORCES TO DETER CRIME



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD JOINT COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE



The Texas Army National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force (JCDDTF) is a joint task force made up of multiple military branches. JCDDTF provides support to federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies when requested when a drug nexus is apparent. In 2023, the Edinburg Police Department was the first local police department to sign a memorandum of understanding with the JCDDTF in the Rio Grande Valley. As part of the understanding, Edinburg Police Department was assigned an intelligence analyst from the military. The analyst assists in all cases with a drug nexus within the city of Edinburg.

PATROL DIVISION



MARKED PATROL UNITS: 50

LIEUTENANTS-3 UNITS

SERGEANTS- 4 UNITS

STONE GARDEN- 4 UNITS

COP'S- 4- UNITS

PATROL- 35 UNITS

**THE PATROL DIVISION
RESPONDS TO
APPROXIMATELY 65,000
CALLS PER YEAR.**

The Edinburg Police Department was established in 1923 and has grown significantly in the last 100 years. Currently, the Edinburg Police Department has 114 sworn officers assigned to the patrol division. The division falls under the command of three (3) Patrol Lieutenants and twelve (12) Patrol Sergeants.

Each Patrol Lieutenant supervises four sergeants under their respective shifts. There are three shifts that overlap during a 24 hour period. Patrol Sergeants and Patrol Officers work ten (10) hour shifts, while the Patrol Lieutenants work eight (8) hrs. shifts. Shifts rotate every three months, while days off rotate monthly.

Patrol functions include; responding to emergencies, enforcing traffic laws, investigate motor vehicle accidents, preventing crime, community policing, identifying, and arresting suspects and perpetrators of criminal acts.

Patrol Officers and Supervisors are also allowed to join specialized units within the department. These units include; SWAT, Field Training Officer, Drone operator, Honor Guard, Hostage Negotiator, Drug Recognition Expert, Breath Test Operator, Bike Patrol, Mental Health Officer, and Fitness Specialist.

GRANT ANALYST

With the city's growth, Edinburg Police Department acquired a Grant Analyst to oversee a total of 11 grants, 5 Memorandums Of Understanding (MOUs) and interlocal agreements with other cities and agencies.

The police department received \$2,797,346.40 in 2023 alone. With just one of these grants, the department was able to obtain 65 bulletproof vests for new officers and replaced expired vests. Another grant, awarded through the Office of the Governor, facilitated the department to hire a Crime Victim Liaison to provide services and assistance directly to victims of a crime.

Our grants department is responsible for assisting in the pursuit of grant funding from federal, state, regional, local and foundation/private entities. The department researches, develops, plans, budgets, implements, monitors and reports on all grants, MOU's and interlocal agreements for the police department.

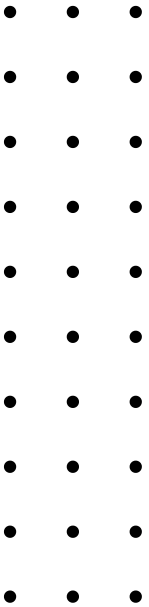
Mary Gonzalez
Grant Analyst



PROCUREMENT DIVISION



The division ensures that all purchases comply with all city ordinances and state and federal procurement laws and regulations. The division also oversees the Police Department Quartermaster, responsible for ordering all police supplies and equipment, maintaining proper documentation, inventory tracking, and auction/surplus/destruction of equipment. It is also the division's responsibility to develop a budget that is both balanced and grounded in realistic assumptions to achieve financial success.



Rogelio "Roy" Garcia
Special Services Manager

INNOVATION

The procurement team has initiated the implementation of a new inventory-tracking software that can be accessed on any mobile device. This software can track all items issued to an officer or a specific location and provide accurate and detailed reports for auditing purposes.

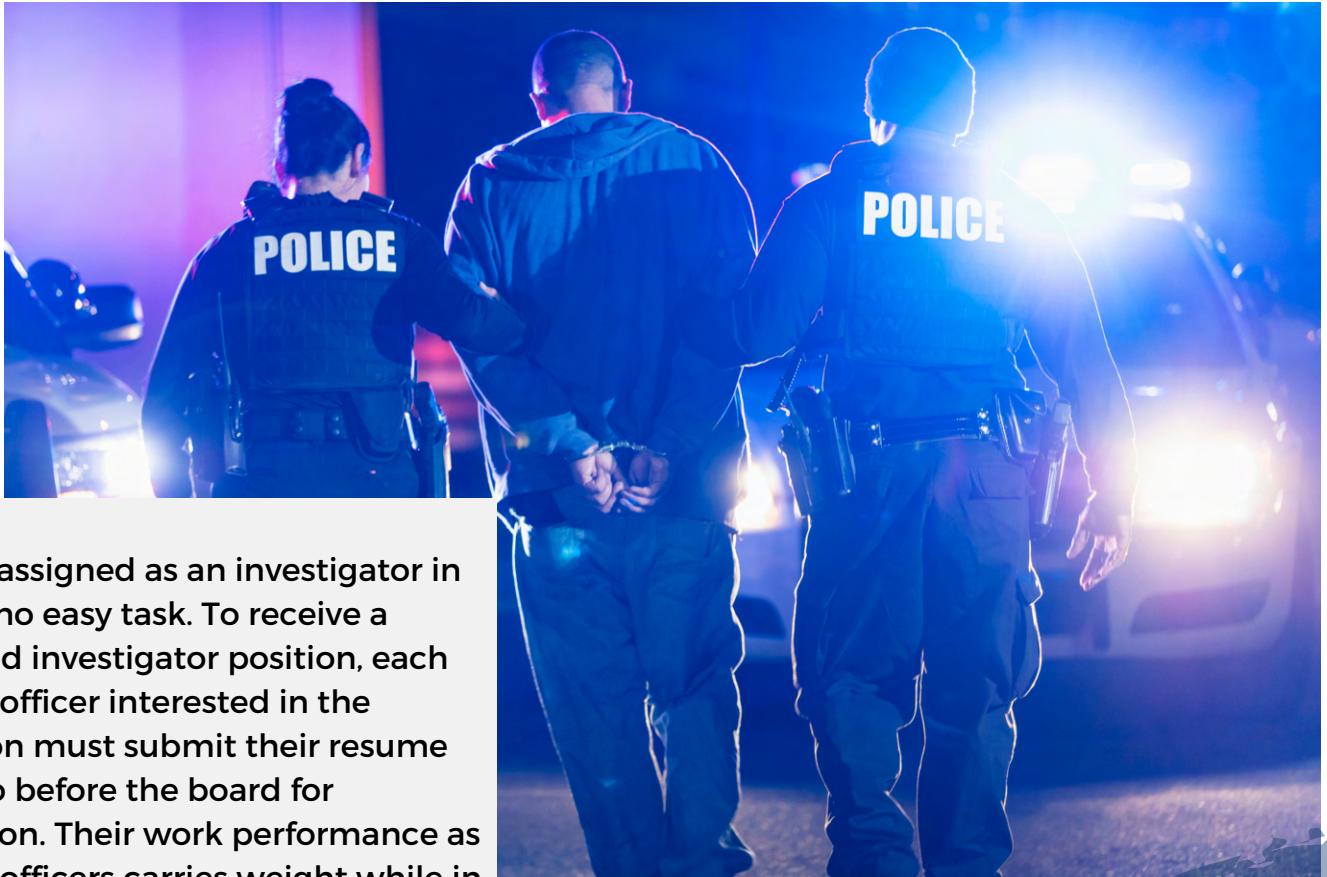
Delia Jaramillo
Administrative
Specialist



Edinburg Police Department is dedicated to acquiring goods and services in a way that is both efficient and cost-effective, while also protecting the interests of city taxpayers. The Edinburg Police Department Procurement Division has 1 Special Services Manager and 1 Administrative Specialist.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (CID)

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) at the Edinburg Police Department is made up of 30 investigators who are assigned to specific task force groups. The taskforce groups include crimes against persons, crimes against property, auto theft taskforce, narcotics division, and traffic division. These 30 officers were assigned over 4,000 cases in 2023.



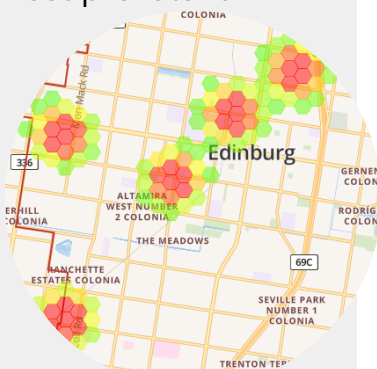
Being assigned as an investigator in CID is no easy task. To receive a coveted investigator position, each patrol officer interested in the position must submit their resume and go before the board for selection. Their work performance as patrol officers carries weight while in the selection process. Performance such as traffic stops, self-initiated incidents and report writing are some of the many contributing factors that will assist in the decision to assign an investigator.



CRIME & INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

In most recent years, a data driven approach on fighting crime has led police departments across the nation to rely heavily on crime analysts. Crime analysts track trends within their area of responsibilities and make recommendations as to where to send additional manpower.

As the sole crime analyst for the Edinburg Police Department, Carla Bautista works diligently alongside the Records Division, Patrol Division, and Criminal Investigative Division to identify trends and “hotspots” where crimes are most prevalent within the City of Edinburg.

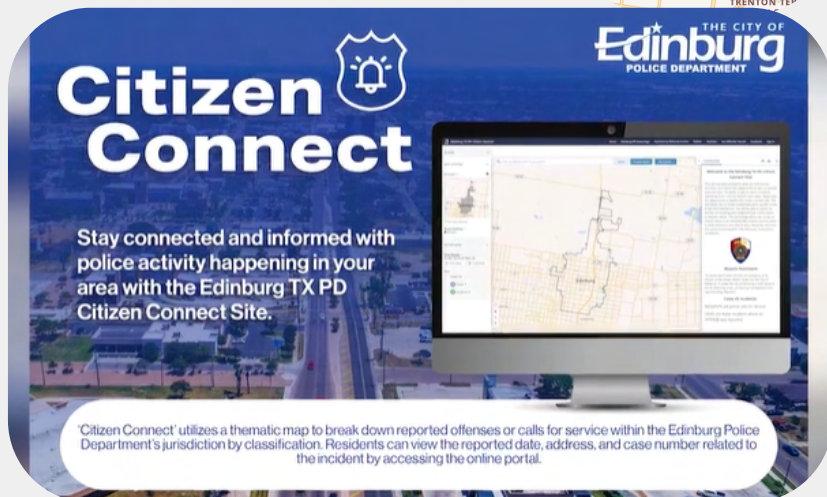


Carla Bautista
Crime & Intelligence Analyst

In an effort to maintain transparency within the City of Edinburg, the Edinburg Police Department launched it's first-ever crime mapping application. The application known as **Citizen Connect**, is a real-time, web-based application open to the public. Citizen Connect tracks calls for service and offenses within the Edinburg jurisdiction and is updated every 15 minutes.

What does this mean to our citizens?

Our citizens can now get automated alerts of any incidents that happen near and around their homes. Putting a spotlight on crimes inadvertently helps deter those crimes by simply reminding our citizens to double check their doors and cars. This is referred to as situational awareness.



<https://edinburgtx-pd-transparency.connect.socrata.com>

CHIEF'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

The Police Chief's administrative assistants typically manage administrative tasks, schedules, and communication for the chief. They may coordinate meetings, handle correspondence, and assist in maintaining organized records within the police department. It's a crucial role supporting the chief's office and ensuring smooth day-to-day operations.

Additionally, the administrative assistants often act as a liaisons between the chief and other department members, relaying important information. They may be responsible for drafting reports, managing office supplies, and handling inquiries from the public. The role requires strong organizational and communication skills to facilitate the efficient functioning of the Police Chief's office.



Alma Rodriguez
Administrative Assistant



Yvette Briones
Administrative Assistant

Moreover, the police chief's administrative assistants might assist in preparing budgets, managing official documents, and maintaining confidentiality on sensitive matters. They often play a pivotal role in coordinating special events, preparing agendas for meetings, and handling logistics related to the chief's responsibilities. This position demands a high level of discretion, attention to detail, and the ability to multitask effectively.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CID is composed of five Administrative Specialists and one Administrative Assistant, including three who work in the Criminal Investigation Division, one in the Juvenile Division, and one in the Traffic Division. The Administrative Specialists handle phone calls, assist citizens and guests of the City of Edinburg, merge arrest reports, and prepare case packets for the District Attorney's office. They also file paperwork, order office supplies, prepare case files for each gang member arrested, generate monthly and yearly reports, assist investigators as needed, and perform other required duties. As Administrative Specialists, the staff takes care of the paperwork side of the daily arrests by printing the offense reports and criminal history paperwork for the investigators.

All administrative specialists are cross-trained in different investigation divisions to help run the division smoothly, except for the traffic administrative specialist who operates the traffic division office. The Traffic Division includes all DWIs, hit-and-run accidents, significant accidents, and other traffic-related crimes.

All Administrative Specialists undergo in-office and local training at the Edinburg Training Center. Occasionally, the specialists travel out of town to continue their education. These classes help keep us updated on the computer software we use and network with other law enforcement agencies to collaborate on ideas and information. The staff works with and assists two Lieutenants, five Sergeants, and 30 Investigators in the Criminal Investigations Division, Juvenile Division, Traffic Division, and Narcotics/Auto Theft/Gang Divisions.



Graciela "Gracie" Mancias
Administrative Assistant



RECORDS DIVISION

The Edinburg Police Records Division is composed of 11 Office Specialists, 1 Administrative Specialist, and 1 Data Processing Supervisor. The Records Division's main goal is to provide professional public service to the community and ensure efficient operation, record-keeping, and administrative duties for the Edinburg Police Department.



Erika Cantu
**Data Processing
Supervisor**

Records manages a vast amount of information and are responsible for various tasks, including:

- **Entering and maintaining data in national and local law enforcement databases.**
- **Processing court orders to Seal or Expunge police records.**
- **Updating existing records.**
- **Creating and maintaining police records, reports, logs, case files, and other departmental documentation and materials.**
- **Retrieving information from the filing system when requested.**
- **Assisting with subpoenas, pre-trials, and status reviews.**



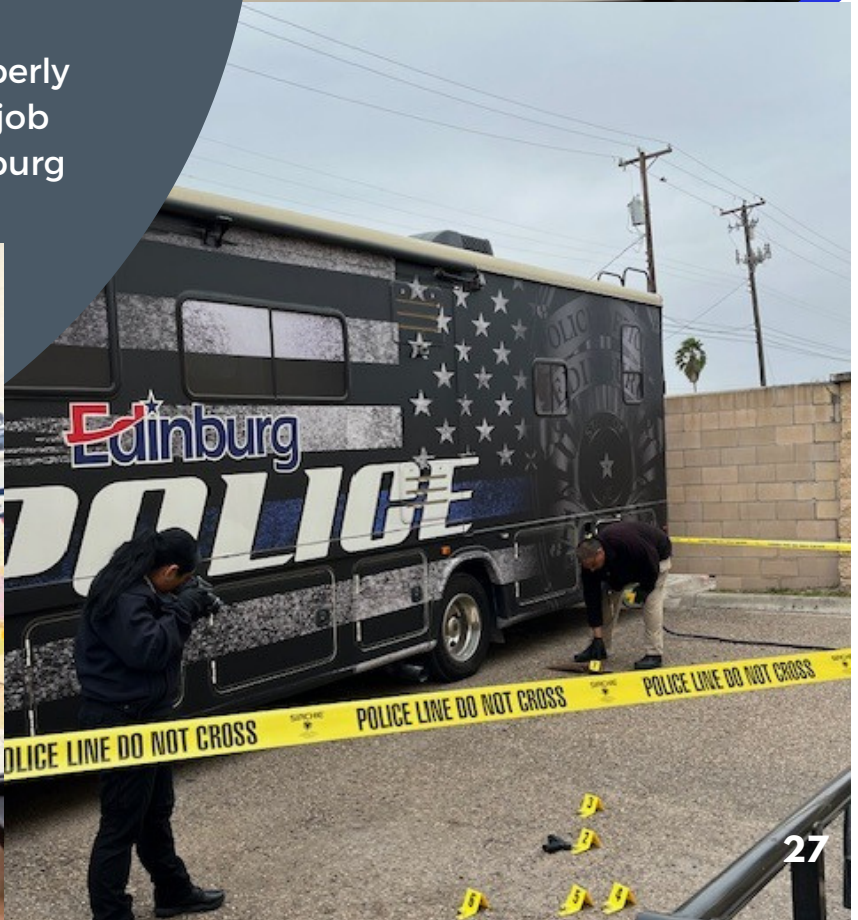
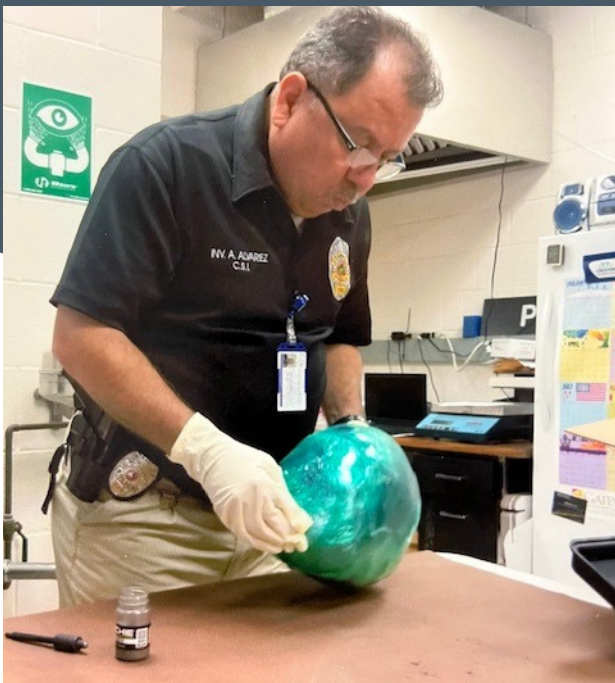
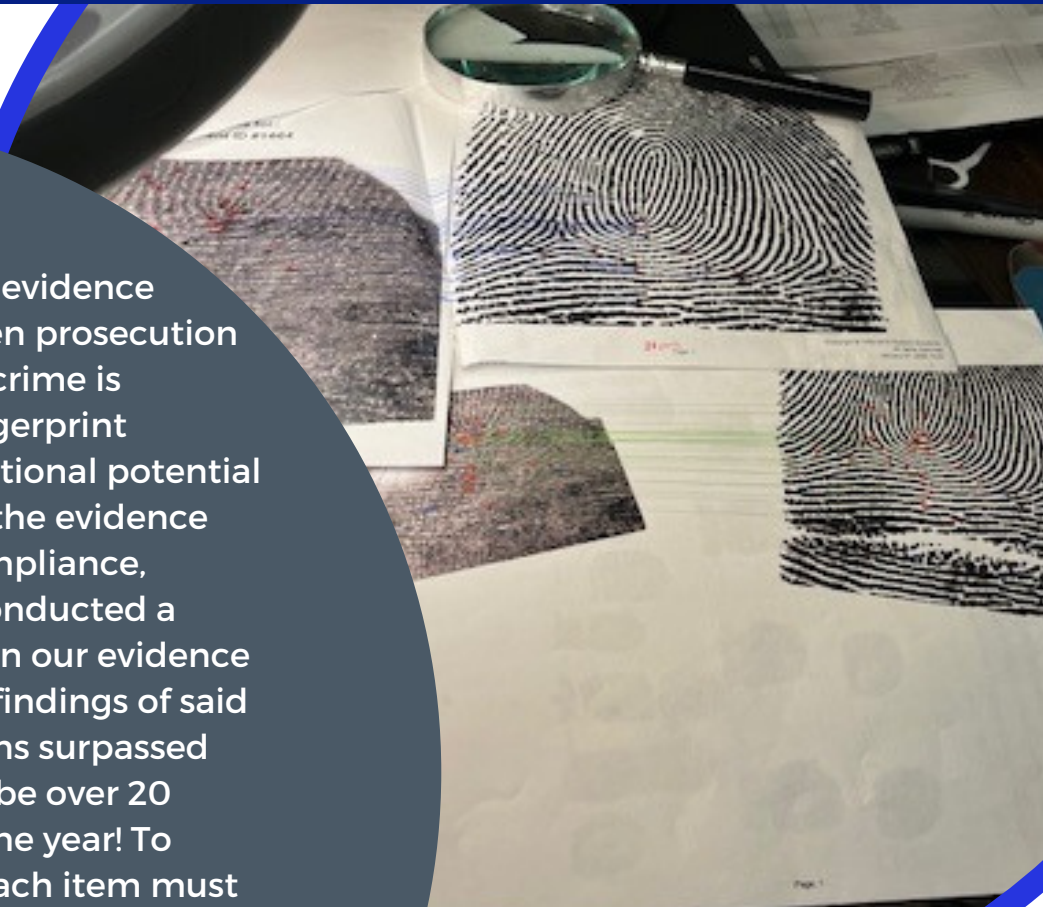
Records Request



This fiscal year (2023), the Records Division has received over 3,000 Open Records/Inner Agency/CPS requests and provided more than 2,200 Accident Reports, resulting in \$12,800 in revenue. Our Records Division is committed to serving the community and is always ready to assist citizens with any questions or requests.

CSI & EVIDENCE DIVISION

Crime scene investigations and evidence division is a critical division when prosecution of an individual suspected of a crime is awaiting resolution or trial. Fingerprint analysis, DNA analysis, and additional potential evidence is processed through the evidence room. In efforts to maintain compliance, Edinburg Police Department conducted a voluntary audit of all inventory in our evidence vault in 2023. According to the findings of said audit, the average intake of items surpassed 651 items a month. That would be over 20 items a day and 7,812 items in the year! To better put this in perspective, each item must be documented in the case file, examined, processed, booked into evidence, and properly disposed of once the case is resolved. This job is handled by 5 staff members at the Edinburg Police Department.



HONOR GUARD



13 Honor Guard members and 1 Honor Guard Commander

The Honor Guard represents the department at funerals, civic functions and other events directed by the police chief. At funerals the group will provide color guard, ceremonial or honorary pallbearers, casket watch, and provide honors to both active and retired personnel, whether sworn or civilian. The Honor Guard averages about two events per month, sometimes more. In 2023, we had the honor of sending the entire Honor Guard to assist in the Funeral services of San Benito PD, Lt. Milton Resendez. The honor guard also assisted in the funeral service of Edinburg Fire Department-Fire Chief Shawn Snider. Honor Guard officers had the honor to attend the Dallas Cowboys first responders game, the Texas State Capitol for Police Memorial Week in Austin and anticipated to send another group of officers to Washington, DC to train with "Old Guard" at Fort Myer in Virginia during National Police week in May 2024.



AVIATION UNIT



The Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) Unit, or more commonly known as the Aviation Unit, is equipped with six (6) high-tech drones. Each drone has their own primary capability. The drones are utilized on search and rescue missions, crime scene and traffic accident evidence videography, overwatch during SWAT activated high-risk search warrants and critical incidents, traffic flow overwatch, and as security overwatch during all major city events. The Aviation Unit is made up of 10 pilots who are overseen by Lieutenant Orlando Garcia

2023 DRONE STATS

73
DEPLOYMENTS

95
HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME

53
SUPPORTED CASES

EDPD acquired a Tether Drone system which uses a permanent physical link in the form of a flexible cable that provides continuous power and communication for situations that require flight endurance greater than that of the free-flying battery powered drone.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING



NEW INITIATIVE: EDINBURG PD BUSINESS WATCH

The Edinburg Police Department takes pride in its community-based relationships and their long-lasting impact on the City of Edinburg. The Community Policing Division, which is comprised of four officers, has throughout the year been actively engaged in fostering connections with the community. By establishing neighborhood watch groups, and organizing regular meetings, the department has effectively addressed problems and concerns within the city. In the fall of 2023, the Edinburg Police Department launched Business Watch which mirrors neighborhood watch on a commercial level. Additionally, through grants such as Project Safe Neighborhoods, increased officer presence has been deployed, focusing on community engagement and enforcement. In late November the Edinburg Police Department was ranked 11th in the nation through the National Association of Town Watch Awards program for their community effort on their 27th Annual National Night Out. On December 8, 2023 the Edinburg Police Department capped off an awesome year of community engagement with its annual Operation Blue Santa in which over 4,000 toys were distributed to children from the community.

TRAINING ACADEMY



The Edinburg Police Training Academy has been busy preparing new generations of officers. In 2023, 14 cadets graduated from the Edinburg Police Academy and were sworn in as Edinburg Police Officers.



14 INDIVIDUALS GRADUATED THE CITIZENS ACADEMY



8 INDIVIDUALS GRADUATED THE SPANISH CITIZENS ACADEMY



7 INDIVIDUALS GRADUATED THE CLERGY ACADEMY

OVER 42,000 TOTAL TRAINING HOURS

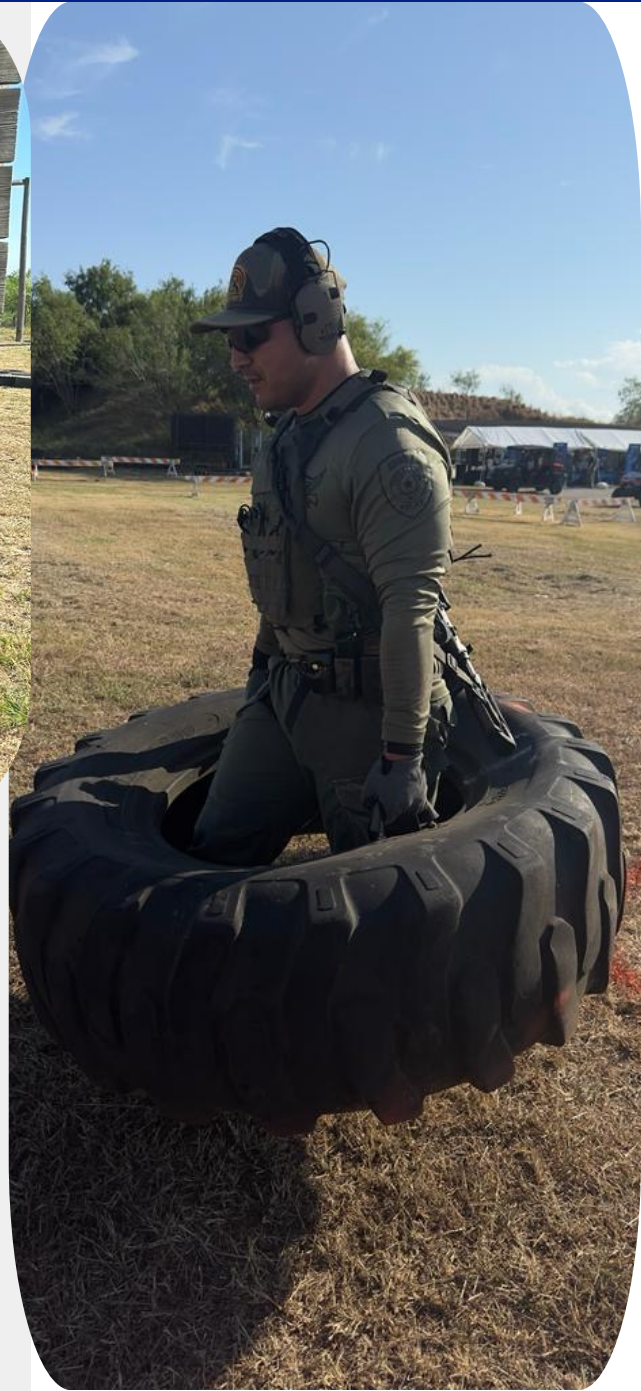
ADDITIONAL TRAINING PROVIDED

- 6 new sergeants attended the Texas Sergeant Academy (2 week course)
- Problem Oriented Policing training was provided for all officers
- 4 supervisors attended the FBI Command College
- Assisting Groups and Individuals in Crisis (for peer support officers)

SWAT



The Special Weapons and Tactics Unit is a specialized unit comprised of 18 tactically proficient officers from the Edinburg Police Department. This team is first to be called in cases where barricaded subjects are involved. Additionally, this team serves warrants for homicides, aggravated assaults, and aggravated robberies. These officers conduct a culmination of trainings to encompass medical training, advanced shooting, and advanced tactics. It is mandated by law that these individuals reach a threshold of additional hours of training annually. Each of these officers have earned a spot on the team.



SWAT COMMAND

- ONE LIEUTENANT
- ONE SERGEANT

PERSONNEL

- 2 TEAMS
- 16 OFFICERS

K9 UNIT



K9 Officer Rasco

Dual Purpose
Narcotics Detection & Patrol
8 Years Old
Handler: Officer David Santivanez



K9 Officer Tina

Narcotics Detection
6 Years Old
Handler: Officer Omar D. Pacheco



K9 Officer Roki

Narcotics Detection
6 Years Old
Handler: Officer "JJ" Balderas

Edinburg's K9 Officers are a pillar in patrol and narcotics investigations. The highly trained and skilled K9's assist our officers in probable cause and consensual searches of vehicles and homes. The K9 Officers, along with their handlers, are certified by the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA) to standard. Each K9 serves a purpose such as narcotic detection or criminal apprehension. Officer Rasco serves as a dual purpose K9, Officer Tina and Officer Roki serve as narcotic detection K9s. Edinburg Police Department K9 Officers and their handlers are mandated to attend over 30 hours of training monthly. In 2023, K9 Officer Rasco served his last full year on patrol and is due to retire in 2024.



MOTORCYCLE UNIT



Edinburg Police Department is the home of two dedicated motorcycle units. The unit is responsible for conducting traffic enforcement throughout the city. Our Motorcycle Officers Joel Del Villar and Ruben Pedroza conducted 5,613 traffic stops and identified 7,267 violations. The motorcycle unit is projected to double in officers in 2024.





RENE DAVILA
FLEET SPECIALIST



MOISES HERNANDEZ
GARAGE ATTENDANT

The role of a Police Department Fleet Specialist/Garage Attendant is critical in ensuring the operational efficiency and safety of law enforcement vehicles. This position involves managing the maintenance, repair, and procurement of vehicles utilized by police officers, detectives, and other law enforcement personnel. The Fleet Specialist/garage attendant is responsible for overseeing the fleet's entire lifecycle, from acquisition to disposal, and must possess a deep understanding of automotive mechanics, procurement procedures, and budget management.



PROMOTIONS



PROMOTIONS INCLUDED

- Sergeant Reynaldo Reyes to Lieutenant
- Sergeant Primitivo Rodriguez to Lieutenant
- Officer Juan Gonzalez to Sergeant
- Officer Alex Cruz to Sergeant
- Officer Oscar Tijerina to Sergeant
- Officer Zachary Saenz to Sergeant



ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET



ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET



ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET



AWARDS

**Support Staff
of the Year**

Javier Deleon



**Civilian Supervisor
of the Year**

Isidro Jara



**Rookie
of the Year**

Javier Ponce



AWARDS



**Officer
of the Year**

Maria Mason

**Detective
of the Year**

Armando Celedon



**Police Supervisor
of the Year**

Lt. Reynaldo Reyes



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Assistant Chief Chad Dufner graduated from the FBI National Academy. The FBI National Academy is a 10 week academy and is known as one of the premier law enforcement training programs in the world.



In 2023, Chief Ayala was appointed as the Assistant Presiding Officer to the prestigious Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Advisory Committee for Law Enforcement Agency Standards. Also, the president of the South Texas Police Chiefs Association.



Lt Gabriel Vela-Reyna successfully graduated from Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) program. This training provides senior police executives with intensive training in the latest management concepts.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



This past August we celebrated our 27th Annual National Night Out. As we did last year, our team with support from the City Communications Team submitted our NNO efforts to the National Association of Town Watch. In 2022, we ranked 17th and in 2023, we are excited to share we improved our national ranking to 11th place.



For the first time and with over 17,000 votes cast, the Edinburg Police Department was voted Readers Choice Award for favorite law enforcement agency. We had members of our team present to participate and receive the award!

