



EDINBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022

1ST ANNUAL REPORT





EdinburgPoliceDept



@cityofedinburg



Edinburg 311 App



OPEN RECORDS
REQUEST



ANONYMOUS
TIPS

Contact Us:

1702 S. Closner Blvd.

Edinburg, TX 78539

956-289-7700

Fax: 956-381-6753

Dial 9-1-1 for Emergencies



Crime Stoppers

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Ramiro Garza Jr.

Mayor's Message

I am pleased to present the Edinburg Police Department's annual report. I am extremely proud of our hometown department and the work they do to make our city a better place to live, work and enjoy an unsurpassed quality of life.

Public safety is a key component and a top priority for our Edinburg City Council and our 5% overall reduction in crime in the last year shows the remarkable job that the Edinburg Police Department is doing.

The citizens of Edinburg are truly grateful to the men and women of Edinburg PD for their dedicated service and unwavering commitment to build stronger, safer neighborhoods to enhance our quality of life. Our department does an incredible job in creating strong community engagement bonds with effective police work, civic policing initiatives and school mentoring programs.

On behalf of the entire City Council, I want to congratulate the hundreds of police employees for their dedication and commitment in protecting our community. We are stronger together.

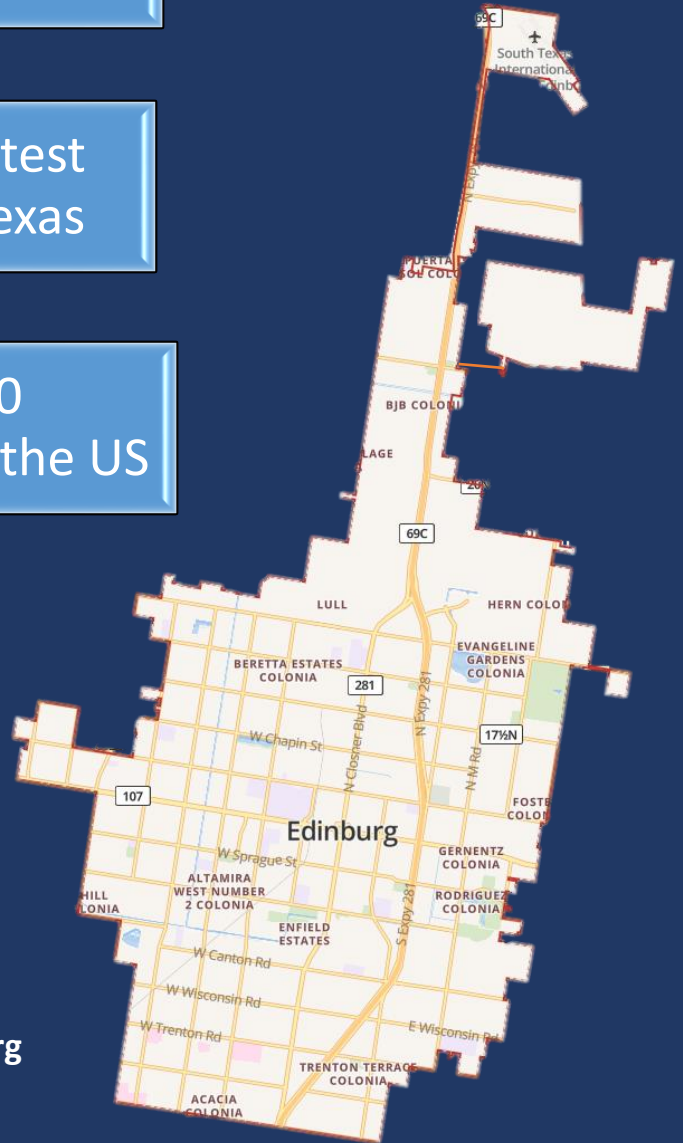
Mayor Ramiro Garza Jr.
City of Edinburg

City of Edinburg

Edinburg Population:
102,483 people.

Edinburg is the 5th fastest
growing large city in Texas

Edinburg is in the TOP 20
fastest growing cities in the US



Edinburg Facts:

Edinburg is 44.78 square miles

The University of Texas RGV is located in Edinburg

City Council Members



David White
Mayor Pro Tem



Daniel "Dan" Diaz
Council Member Place 1



Jason De Leon
Council Member Place 2



Johnny Garcia
Council Member Place 3

City Manager's Office



Myra L. Ayala
City Manager



Jesus R. Saenz
Assistant
City Manager



Tom Reyna
Assistant
City Manager



Nelda Ramirez
Assistant
City Manager

Edinburg Police Department



Jaime Ayala

Chief of Police

On behalf of all the dedicated members of the Edinburg Police Department, I am honored to present the 2022 Annual Report. Over the past year, our city has experienced an incredible amount of growth with over 60 Sub-Divisions under construction, streets and drainage improvements and community engagement efforts growing at an all-time high. Edinburg is the fastest growing city in the Rio Grande Valley and as we match its growth, our department must continue to thrive and provide the most effective and efficient police service possible.

As we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to see the virus affecting our community and our workforce. We are in unprecedented times where mass shootings and officer deaths continue to impact our country and our state. The senseless killings that occurred in Uvalde, Texas with 21 lives lost-19 of which were elementary students. As we continue to experience critical incidents across our country, we must continue to prepare our workforce and community to readily respond and perform at optimal levels. In the wake of Uvalde, our training staff held Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) in partnership with the Edinburg CISD and the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley.

I want to pause and share some of the great things happening in the police department. Our COP unit is stepping up their initiative with programs. We revived the Edinburg Citizens Police Academy and created the Edinburg Chaplains and Police Partnership. We are holding quarterly meetings with our Community Watch Groups. We began a pilot project with the Edinburg CISD Athletic Department to create Edinburg's Coach 5-0 mentoring program. Robert Vela H.S and Edinburg North H.S. athletics have engaged our officers in this effort.

At the department, we have focused on Legitimacy and Procedural Justice in our community and within our ranks. The year we focused on re-visiting our patrol model, police processes, training and a review of our staffing levels. I am truly grateful to those who continue to serve in this noble profession and appreciate the dedication and commitment our workforce displays every day.

Edinburg Police Assistant Chiefs



Michael Cerda
Assistant Chief



Chad Dufner
Assistant Chief

Police Department's Mission Statement

"To Serve and Protect the lives and property of all citizens of the United States, Texas and the City of Edinburg. To make the City of Edinburg a safer place to live by deterring crime, conducting investigations and apprehending offenders."

Internal Affairs Officer

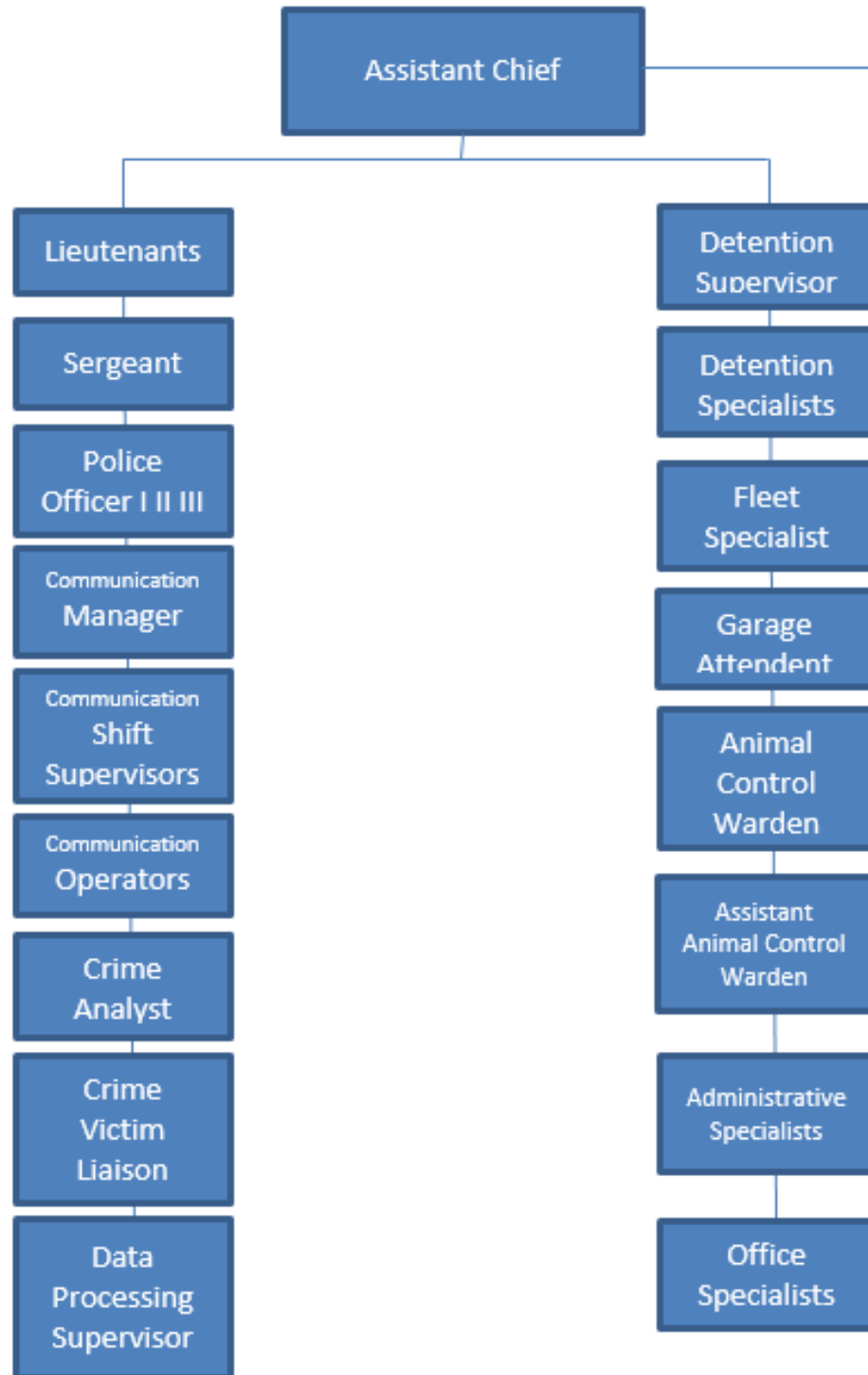


Lieutenant Orlando Garcia
Internal Affairs

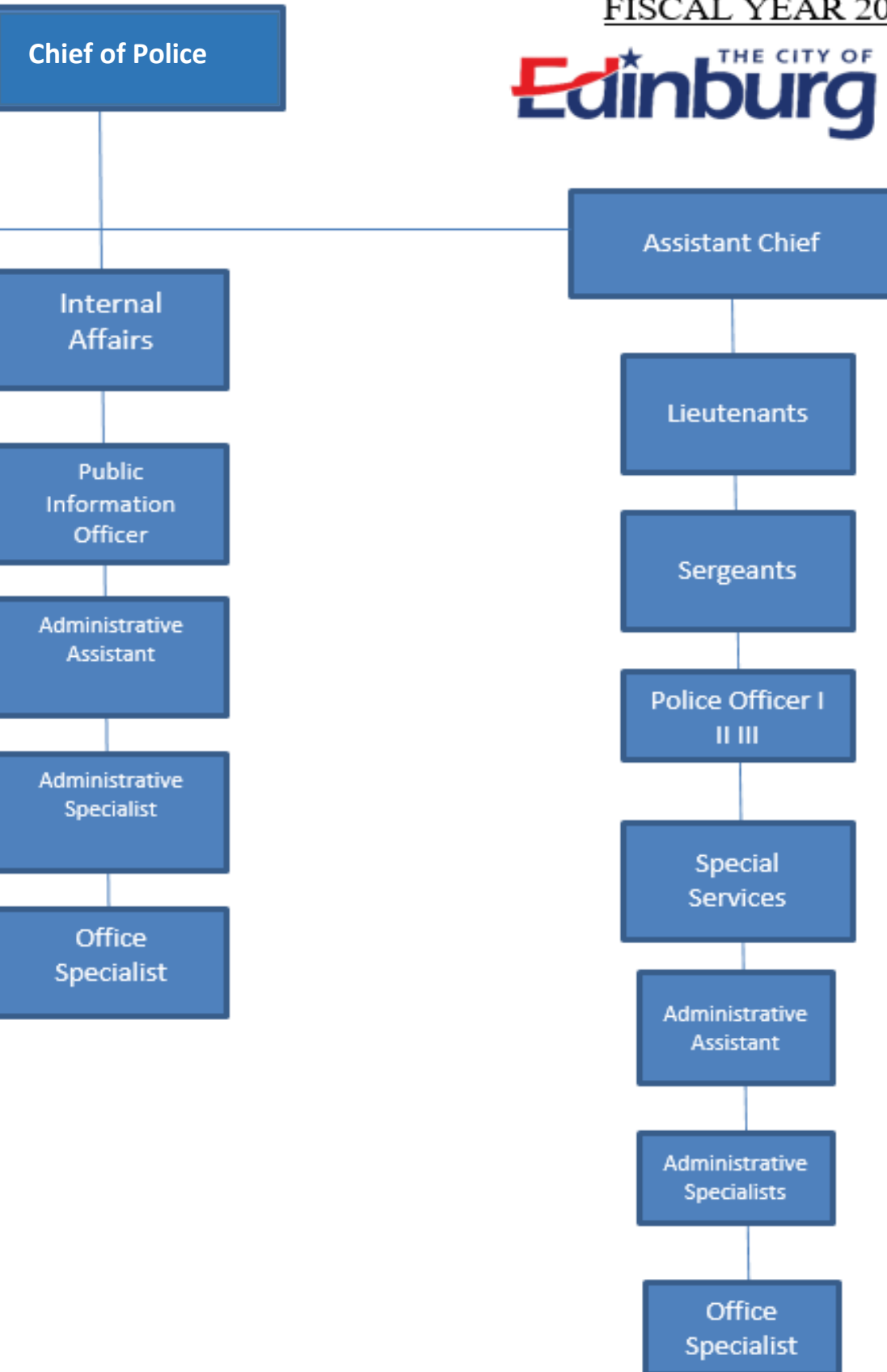


ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Department: Police Department



FISCAL YEAR 2022



Comm Sta



Lieutenant Oscar Trevino
Patrol



Lieutenant Gabriel Vela-Reyna
Patrol



Lieutenant Christopher Blandford
Patrol

Command



Staff



Lieutenant Edgardo Ruiz
Investigations



Lieutenant Luciano Ozuna
Investigations



Lieutenant Reynaldo Sepulveda
Community Oriented Policing



Lieutenant Robert Vallejo
Training

2022 AT



JANUARY

Civil Service Tests

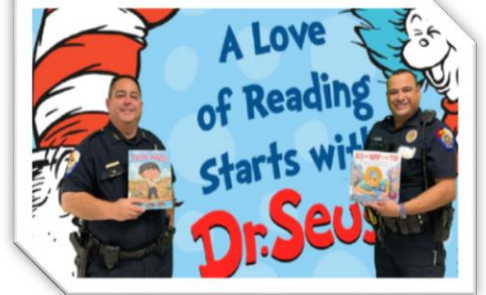
Civilians aspiring to be police officers take the civil service test and are ranked amongst their peers. Those who test highest move forward in the application process.



FEBRUARY

Starfish Award

Our Crime Victims Liaison, Ms. Isamar Ochoa, was recognized by Angels of Love RGV for her compassion towards victims of Domestic Violence.



MARCH

Read Across America

Read Across America is an annual celebration to promote the love of reading within our youth. This event goes hand-in-hand with children's author Dr. Seuss' birthday.



APRIL

Life Saving Award

Officer Joaquin Garcia is recognized for his successful efforts to save a life. It's all in a day's work for our local heroes.



MAY

National Police Week Proclamation

During National Police Week, we express our gratitude for our selfless public servants.



JUNE

World Elder Abuse

Elder Abuse Awareness Month draws attention to our elderly community and encourages each of us to take a stance against their abuse.

A GLANCE



JULY

Movie with a Cop

Movie with a cop is done with families in mind. Families are encouraged to bring their chairs, blankets, and snacks to the park and enjoy free popcorn as they watch a movie projected on a big screen.



AUGUST

National Night Out

NNO is an annual community campaign bridging the gap between law enforcement and our community. This year, Edinburg Police Department was recognized by NNO Town Watch.



SEPTEMBER

Coffee with a Cop

Coffee with a Cop is a program created in an effort to better communicate with citizens outside of crisis situations.



OCTOBER

Public Safety Conference

This conference targets mental health, public safety, and campus safety.



NOVEMBER

Citizens Police Academy

The academy educates in topics such as patrol procedures, criminal investigations, firearms, driving, police K-9's and more. Open to all citizens.



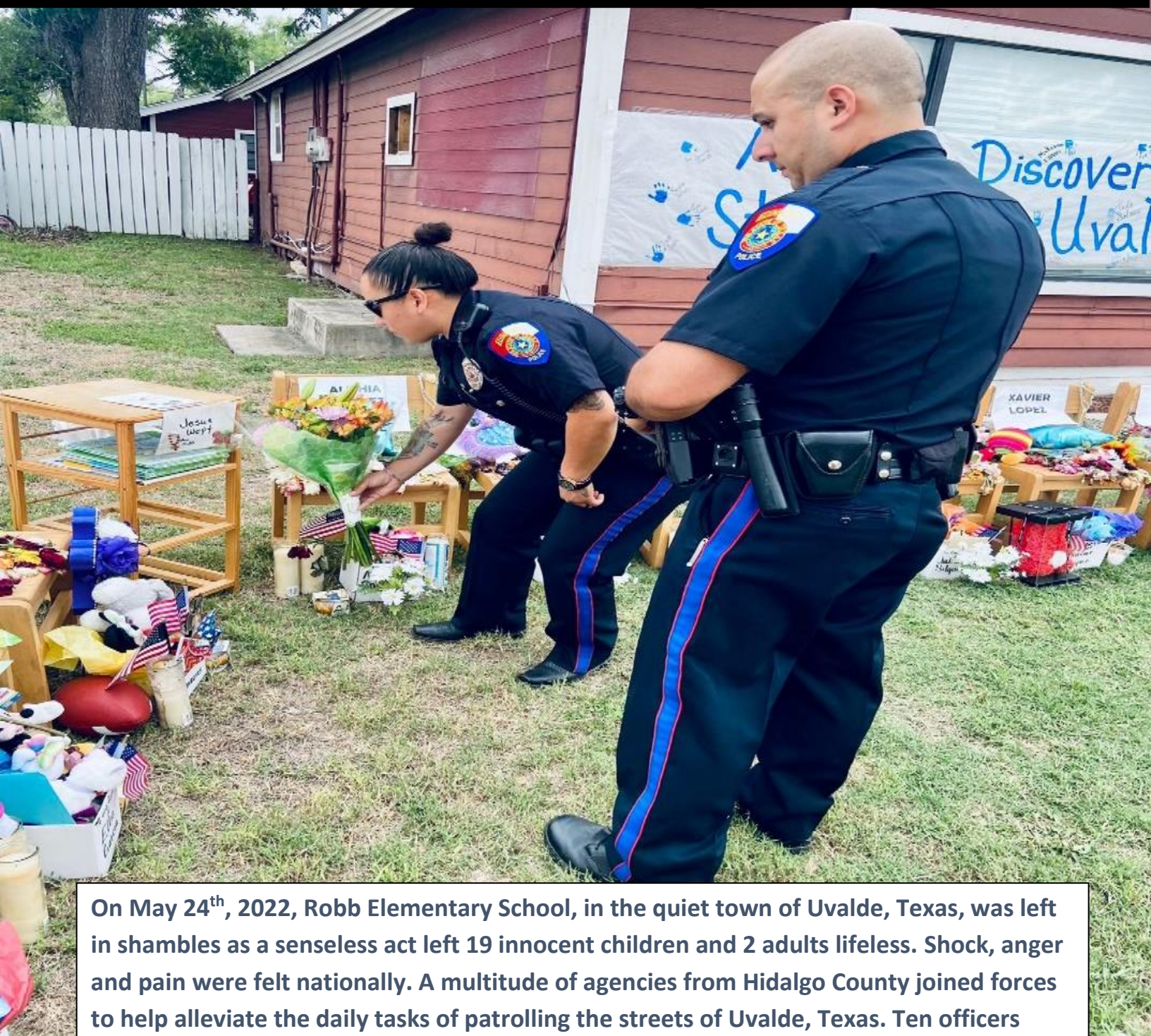
DECEMBER

Blue Santa

Operation Blue Santa provided hundreds of toys and gifts to our community during this holiday season.

OPERATION COYOTE WATCH

THE UVALDE TRAGEDY



On May 24th, 2022, Robb Elementary School, in the quiet town of Uvalde, Texas, was left in shambles as a senseless act left 19 innocent children and 2 adults lifeless. Shock, anger and pain were felt nationally. A multitude of agencies from Hidalgo County joined forces to help alleviate the daily tasks of patrolling the streets of Uvalde, Texas. Ten officers from the Edinburg Police Department pulled 14 hour days for two weeks following the tragedy. We stand firm and united with all of our counterparts. Our prayers continue to go out to all of the families impacted.



Crimes Against Persons

Homicide Offenses
Kidnapping/Abduction
Sex Offenses
Assault Offenses
Sex Offenses Non-Forcible
Human Trafficking

Crimes Against Property

Arson
Extortion/Blackmail
Burglary/Breaking and Entering
Larceny Theft Offenses
Motor Vehicle Theft
Counterfeiting/Forgery
Fraud Offenses
Embezzlement
Stolen Property Offenses
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property
Bribery

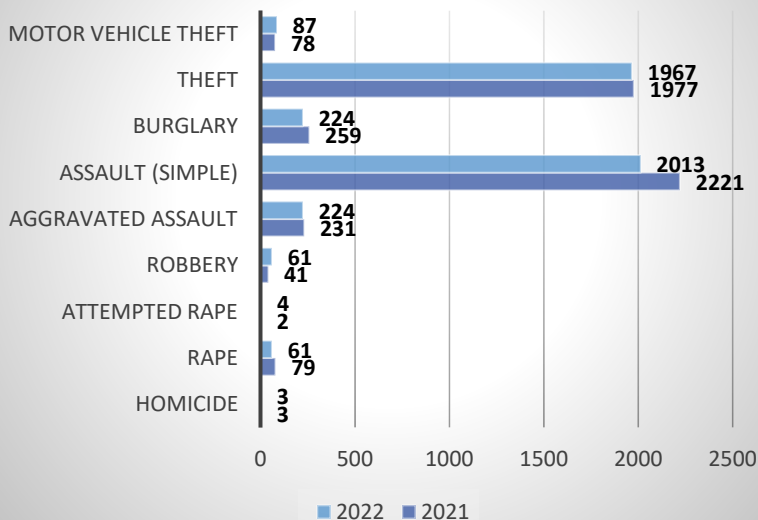
Crimes Against Society

Drug/Narcotic Offenses
Pornography/Obscene Material
Gambling Offenses
Prostitution Offenses
Weapons Law Violations
Animal Cruelty

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is how crime data is collected in uniformity nationwide.

Crimes are DOWN 5.05%

Summary by Volume 2021 vs 2022

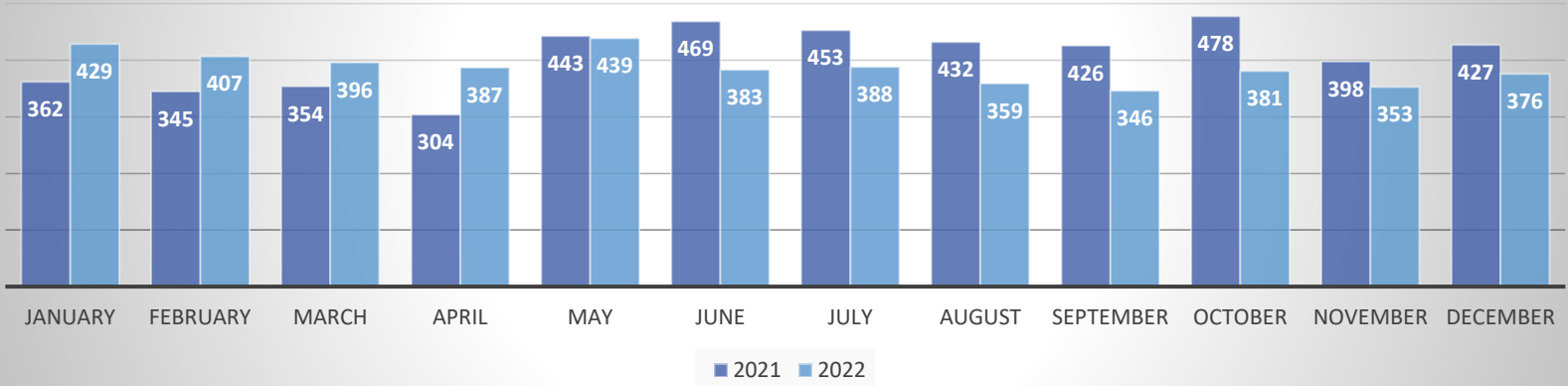


Edinburg Police Department Summary of Volume by Offense 2021-2022

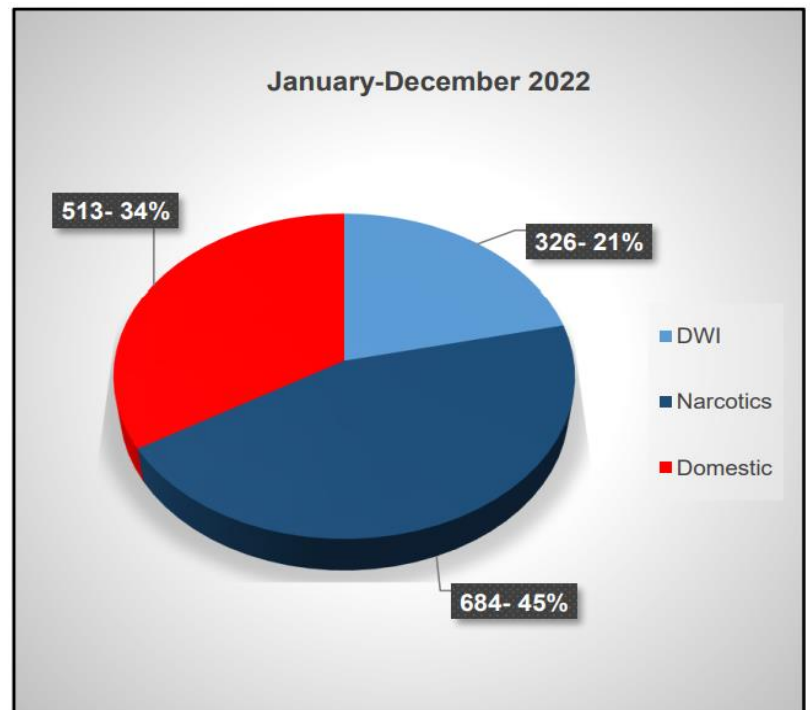
Offense Classification	2021	2022	% Difference
Homicide	3	3	0.00%
Rape	79	61	-22.78%
Attempted Rape	2	4	100.00%
Robbery	41	61	48.78%
Aggravated Assault	231	224	-3.03%
Assault (Simple)	2221	2013	-9.37%
Burglary	259	224	-13.51%
Theft	1977	1967	-0.51%
Motor Vehicle Theft	78	87	11.54%
Total Offenses Reported	4891	4644	-5.05%

CRIME STATISTICS 2022

Overall Crime Trends 2021 vs 2022



Arrest Totals By Description January-December		
Description	2021	2022
Domestic	473	513
DWI	273	326
Narcotic	459	684
Total	1205	1523
Comparison	26.39%	



With crimes dropping by 5.05% in 2022, we see a substantial 35.39% rise in overall arrests for the year.

Arrest Totals January-December		
Year	2021	2022
Total	2105	2850
Comparison	35.39%	



THE CITY OF
EAST GULL

HONOR GUARD



The Edinburg Police Department has a group of 11 Honor Guard members who fall under the Honor Guard Commander Sergeant Primitivo Rodriguez. The Honor Guard represents the department at funerals, civic functions and other events directed by the Edinburg 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 two funerals per year, with the majority assisting other agencies such as the Sheriff's Office or other local municipalities in our county. This past year Edinburg Police had the honor of sending two members to the City of San Angelo and assisted them in a funeral to honor a fallen District Attorney Investigator.

Those officers interested in becoming part of the Honor Guard must have at least 3 years of service with the department and be recommended by his/her immediate supervisor. The Honor Guard has been on display in events such as the Dallas Cowboys First Responders game and the State Capital for Police Memorial Week in Austin. Training is conducted once a month in various locations to include at local funeral homes. During training, they practice flag folding and presentation, color guard, 21-gun salute, Honor watch, Pallbearers, and drill and ceremony. Most of the members have attended and received honor guard training at the US Border Patrol Honor Guard Academy.



ARRESTS 2022

Robbery Arrests

Juveniles accounted for 4.76% of arrests in 2022

Females accounted for 14.28% of arrests in 2022

Males accounted for 80.95% of arrests in 2022

Aggravated Assault Arrests

Juveniles accounted for 4.83% of arrests in 2022

Females accounted for 24.19% of arrests in 2022

Males accounted for 70.96% of arrests in 2022

Motor Vehicle Theft Arrests

Juveniles accounted for 13.04% of arrests in 2022

Females accounted for 8.69% of arrests in 2022

Males accounted for 78.26% of arrests in 2022

CRASHES 2022

2,917
Crashes

5,900
Units
Involved

8,373
Persons
Involved

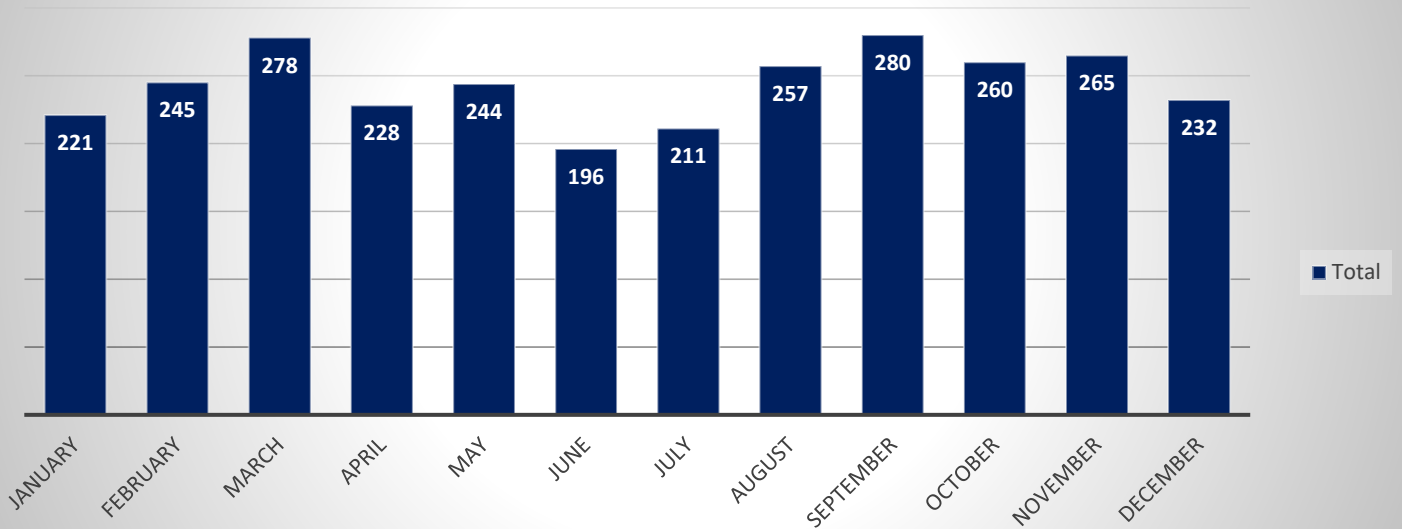
3 Fatal
Injuries

45
Suspected
Serious
Injuries

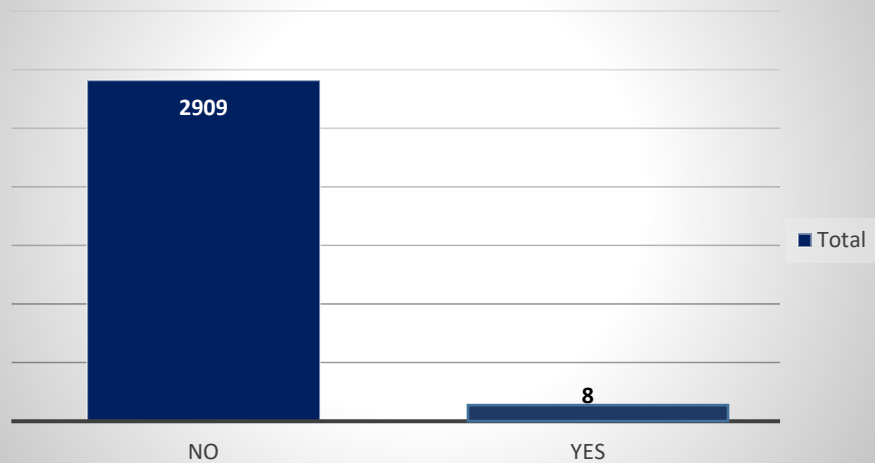
239
Suspected
Minor
Injuries



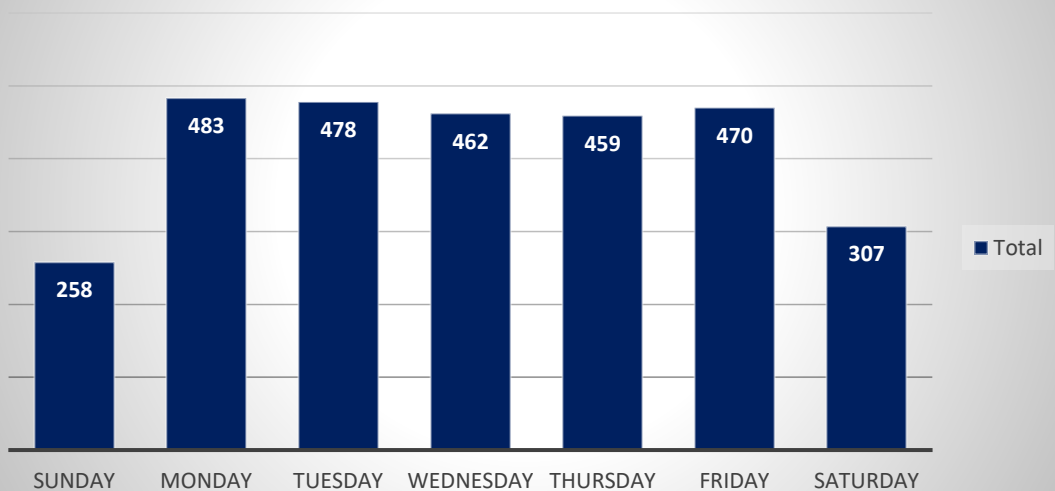
Crashes by Month



Crashes in Active School Zones



Crashes by Day of the Week



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

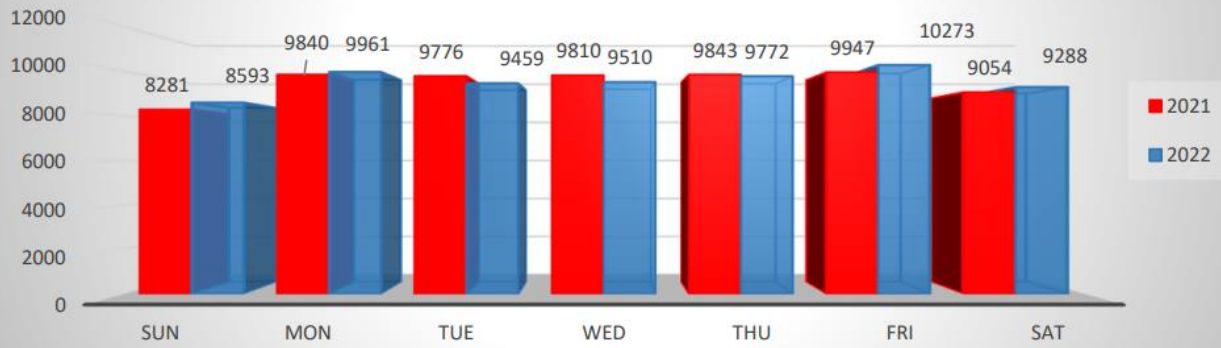
We pride ourselves on our intuitive, quick, and responsive Communications Division. The Communications Division works 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. The average calls for service, or 911 calls, total an astonishing 66,000 calls a year! Each of these calls are dispatched in an average time of 4 minutes and 2 seconds. The calls for service are only projected to grow alongside our Edinburg population. Leading the Communication Division with 15 years of dedicated service to the Edinburg Police Department is Communication Manager Elias Martinez. Mr. Martinez is a 2-time recipient of the “Professional Trainer of the Year Award”

given to the top trainer in the state of Texas. As an Associate Trainer, Mr. Martinez is licensed to train federal, state, and local agencies in regards to investigative tools to deter crime. His abilities to properly train and assist in maintaining licensure, has earned the Communications Division at the Edinburg Police Department the coveted spot of “Best Dispatch Team of the

Year” at county level. The team has gone on to win individual awards such as three (3) “Silent Hero Awards.” These awards are given to 911 dispatchers where heroic life-saving decisions had to be made and the outcomes were short of phenomenal. Mr. Martinez credits his team of 3 supervisors and 22 communications specialists for the group’s success.



Calls for Service By Day of the Week January-December



AVIATION UNIT

Established in 2020, 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. Missions requiring extensive search over a vast area are highly

simplified with the assistance of the Aviation Unit all while minimizing exposure to our police officers. The Aviation Unit is made up of 10 pilots who are overseen by Lieutenant Orlando Garcia.



Pictured above, are three of our trained officers preparing to set the drones into action.

DRONE STATS

Deployed-79 times

Flight Hours-85 hours

Case Support- 49 Cases



Support Purposes:

Crime Prevention

Evidence Gathering

Investigations

Surveillance

Training

TRAFFIC DIVISION



The traffic division consists of 3 detectives and 1 supervisor. The traffic division investigates a variety of cases to include the following: hit and run accidents, vehicular evading arrest, drunk driving related arrests or offenses, and major accidents resulting in serious bodily injury or death. The traffic division assists in all major crime scenes which require 3D

scanning by using the FARO scanner. For community events, the traffic division gives presentations during the clergy and citizen's academy and works alongside the municipal court in giving drugged and drunk driving presentations (Project U) to juveniles who are subject to court community hours.

DWI CASES IN 2022

Total Cases

342

Average BAC: 0.140



24%
Female



76%
Male



TRAINING ACADEMY

The LCPL. Derek Hernandez Police Training Facility sees an average of 18 police cadets come through its doors and graduate after 6 months of intensive training, with a 95% passing rate. The training facility is made up of 3 classrooms with 6 in-house police officers who also serve as academy instructors. The training facility is not limited to the Edinburg Police Department, it is also at the disposal of other Edinburg City Departments and often used by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Evins Juvenile Detention Center.





K9 UNIT



K9 Officers Include:

5-year-old Tina, who is trained to detect narcotics. Tina's handler is Officer Omar Pacheco. 7-year-old Rasco, who serves as a dual purpose K9. Rasco's handler is Officer David Santivanez. Lastly, 5-year-old Roki, who is also trained in detection of narcotics. Roki's handler is Officer Juan "JJ" Balderas.

SWAT



The Special Weapons and Tactics Unit is a specialized unit comprised of 14 additionally skilled police officers led by SWAT Commander, Lieutenant Christopher Blandford. This specialized team serves warrants for homicides, aggravated assaults/robberies and first to be called when dealing with barricaded subjects. In 2022, SWAT additional training encompassed Tactical Medicine, Precision Rifle Shooting, and Advanced Tactics Schools with almost 200 hours of training performed a year concurrent to their daily duties.

SWAT Command

- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Sergeant

SWAT Personnel

- 2 Team Leads
- 10 Officers





RETIREMENT

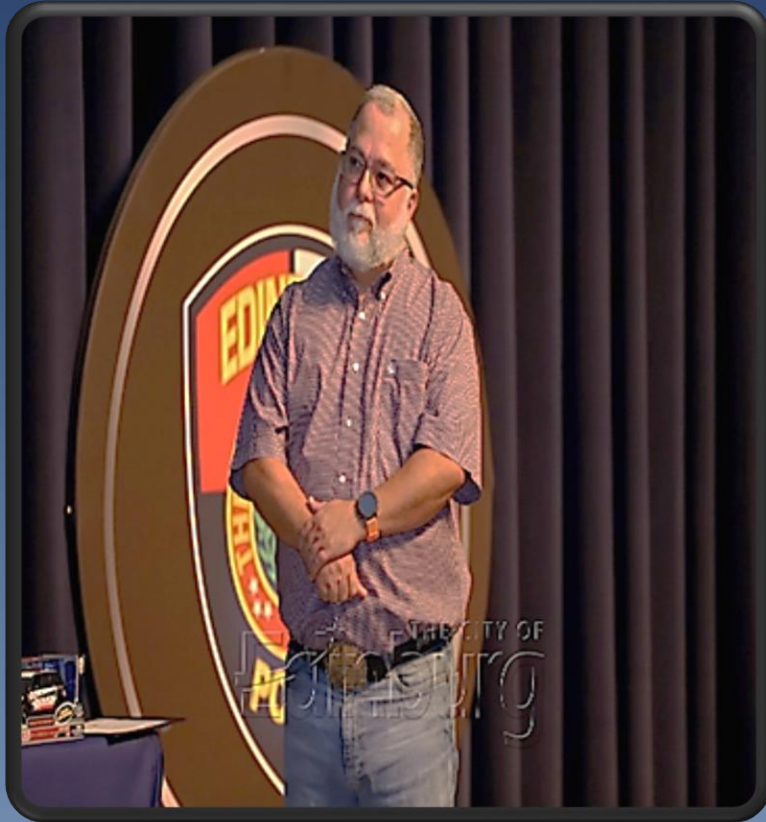


PETER DE LA GARZA
40 YEARS

BALDEMAR GOMEZ
30 YEARS



MENTS



MANUEL ALVAREZ
25 YEARS

Javier Reynero
25 YEARS



Thank you for your service!

RECOGNITIONS



Pictured Above:
Officers Jacob Aguilar and Erick Garza
receiving the “Life Saving Award” on
August 5th, 2022.



Pictured Above:
Lieutenant Reynaldo Sepulveda
attended the Senior Management
Institute for Police Executives Training
held by “PERF” Police Executive
Research Forum.

Pictured to the right:
Officer Jose Oviedo receiving the
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
Hero Award on August 25th, 2022.





Pictured to the left:
Officer Noel Barajas receiving the
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
DWI Enforcement and Outstanding
Rookie of the Year Award on August
25th, 2022.



Pictured Above:
Investigator David Sanchez receiving
the City of Edinburg Employee of the
Month Award in July of 2022.



THE CITY OF
Fairburg

GREATNESS IS EARNED
NEVER AWARDED



THE CITY OF
Fairburg



THE CITY OF
Fairburg

Coach 5-0 Mentor Program



Edinburg Police Department launched its first-ever “Coach 5-0” mentor program in the local high schools. This program was designed to help mentor local athletes while working alongside them in the gym. Topics discussed with the athletes include domestic violence, assaults, and simple things such as the implications of driving without a driver’s license. Thank you to all of the welcoming coaching staff at Edinburg North High School and Robert Vela High School.



Community-Oriented Policing

Community-Oriented Policing is a policing method focusing on developing relationship with the community. Edinburg Police Department's C.O.P. Division focuses on systemic crimes in particular areas and aligns resources, police officers and community members to deter those crimes. C.O.P. Lieutenant Reynaldo Sepulveda oversees the 4 officers assigned to the division. Neighborhood Watch meetings are held regularly by the stakeholders and a C.O.P. officer in particular areas. Attendance for these meetings is open to the public and highly encouraged. During these meetings, tips on how to report information to police with proper descriptions of cars and suspicious persons are given. While it is not feasible to always have an officer in a particular area, empowering our community to speak up against crime is key and bridging the gap between our officers and community through the C.O.P. division strengthens the trust in the officers.



“We see in policing many selfless acts of kindness, not to be recognized but because it is in our hearts to wear the badge and serve our community.”

-Chief Ayala

Crime Victim Liaison



Edinburg Police Department is home to our Crime Victim Liaison Isamar Ochoa. Ms. Ochoa, provides support to victims and their families through assistance to Crime Victims Compensation funds, accompaniment, advocacy, registration to as Victim & Information

Notification, protective order application assistance, transportation, crisis intervention, follow-ups, and emergency shelter placement. The goal of the Crime Victim Liaison is to contact every survivor of a violent crime and ensure that they are protected. Any victim of a violent crime should not feel like they are alone nor should they carry any shame in asking for assistance. In 2022, Ms. Ochoa was able to coordinate help and assist 655 victims of violent crimes with simple gestures such as accompanying victims to hospitals, law enforcement offices, and courts or more noticeable gestures such as providing monetary assistance with funds from the crime victims compensation fund. The most used form of assistance in 2022 was that of advocacy. From the 655 victims in 2022, 356 of these victims received assistance in the form of advocacy.





Black & White Awards Gala

Thursday Feb 24, 2022 • 6:00pm • The Radisson Hotel
For Information & Reservations Call (956) 972-0685

Recipients

Starfish Award



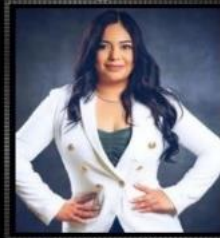
Isamar Ochoa

Vision Award



Terry Canales

Courage Award



Michelle Villagran

Community Angel
Award



Nahiely "pinky" Garcia

Generosity of Spirit
Award



Estella DeAnda

Grants Division

The Edinburg Police Department relies on the City Manager's recommendation for annual funding. In 2022, funding allocated to the Edinburg Police Department surpassed \$28 million. Along with said funding, the PD applies for a multitude of state and federal grants to help supplement the PD's mission of keeping the City of Edinburg and its constituents safe. The funding agencies of these grants vary from the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, Texas Department of Transportation, Office of the Governor, and the Department of Justice- just to name a few. The funds from these grants are allocated to allow for the PD to fund the salary of additional Police Officers, to provide safety equipment and body-worn cameras, to enforce traffic related laws to reduce crashes, and to enhance enforcement along routes leading to and from the US and Mexico border. The culmination of the grants has added over 670,000 dollars to the Police Department in fiscal year 2022 alone! Please join us in thanking them for keeping our Brothers and Sisters in Blue at the forefront of the mission.



Records



The records division at the Edinburg Police Department is made up of 1 supervisor and 12 records clerks. The team serves as the gateway to open records requests and accident reports. In 2022, 2,777 accident reports were sold and 2,702 open records requests were fulfilled by our diligent team. In addition to these requests, the records division is responsible for validating every piece of information for all offenses reported in Edinburg. Lastly, this team reports all offenses to the Texas Department of Public Safety as mandated by law.

Administration

Our administration team has built a solid foundation for our officers to confidently hit the streets. The daily tasks, that at times may seem mundane, are accomplished by the police department administration team. Each of the pictured individuals contribute considerably towards the overall mission of the department. Tasks like coordinating events, time-keeping, pay, grants, uniforms, training, prosecution packet collection, and so much more rely heavily on administration. Thank you each for your continued dedication!



Women in Law Enforcement



Criminal Investigations Division



The Criminal Investigations Division at the Edinburg Police Department is made up of 38 investigators who are additionally fragmented into task force groups assigned to crimes against persons, crimes against property, auto theft task force, narcotics division, and traffic division. In 2022, the Criminal Investigations Division were assigned 4,290 cases for the year.







THE CITY OF
EDINBURG



Motorcycle Unit

The Motorcycle Unit is made up of two officers. Officer Ruben Pedroza and Officer Joel Del Villar, work as a self-initiated team and conduct traffic stops throughout the city. In 2022, our Motorcycle Unit accounted for 5,548 traffic stops. Together, these two officers identified 7,173 violations, wrote 3,678 citations, and issued 1,870 warnings.

Fun Fact:

5,192 people have been stopped in Edinburg by one of our 2 motorcycle units. 294 have done it more than once!



Promotions



Michael Cerda to Assistant Chief

Christopher Blandford to Lieutenant

Mario Rodriguez to Sergeant

Genaro Gonzalez to Sergeant



Joaquin Mendoza to Sergeant

Gabriel Vela-Reyna to Lieutenant

Rogelio Paez to Sergeant

Jesus Gaytan to Sergeant

Carlos Romero to Sergeant

Mental Health



Maurice Alleyne an 18-year veteran of the Edinburg Police Department is a State Certified Mental Health Officer. Officer Alleyne has been assigned as the primary mental health specialist in the PD. His accolades include a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and is first to be called for hostage negotiations. Officer Alleyne teaches mental health classes for our officers at the training center and works closely with Tropical Texas Behavioral Health and has been granted direct admission privileges.

Annual Awards



**2022 POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR
OFFICER JOSE OVIEDO**



**2022 PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT
STAFF SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR
ERIKA CANTU**



**2022 PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT
STAFF OF THE YEAR
ISAMAR OCHOA**



**2022 POLICE SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR
LIEUTENANT
GABRIEL VELA-REYNA**



RETIREE BALDE GOMEZ



CHIEF'S RECOGNITION COIN



MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS



**EDINBURG
CRIME STOPPERS**



CHIEF'S RECOGNITION COINS



2022 RETIREE BALDE GOMEZ



2022 RETIREE OZIEL PLATA



CHIEF'S RECOGNITION COINS

