

Missoula City Council Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee Minutes

May 21, 2025

3:15 PM

Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)

Attend in person: City Council Chambers, 140 W Pine, Missoula MT

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka

Members absent: Sierra Farmer, Gwen Jones, Eric Melson, Jennifer Savage

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes from May 14, 2025

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 2024 MPD Annual Report Presentation

Missoula Police Chief Michael Colyer gave an overview of the department's 2024 annual report. With just over 55,000 police incidents in 2024, the department investigated a total of 83 complaints. The data shown covers the type of complaints made and the category of what the person is concerned about, in addition to the investigative findings of the complaint. He pointed out that the most common complaint is a procedural type of complaint, i.e. They think that an officer skipped a step. Chief Colyer also pointed out that the tracking of compliments wasn't as thoroughly done as intended in 2024. In 2025, MPD already has 18 compliments and is tracking them more closely.

In discussing use of force, Chief Colyer spoke about the types of force that were used against people in those 55,000 police incidents. The vast majority of the types of use of force is reflected in the Firearms Displayed column, which is a commonly accepted and best practice in our profession to control a situation.

As part of the update in Axon, with the Committee's support, MPD is now capturing 99.6% of use of force data, over the previous 86%. In addition, the system measures use of forces by employees and when a trigger point is reached, which is four incidents in 30 days, an automated notice goes to supervisors. These alerts are reviewed by three levels of supervisors so that nothing catches them by surprise.

Other topics covered during the presentation were volume of police incidents compared to previous years, the addition of adding non-sworn employees as Community Service Specialist and Reserve Officers to free-up officers and becoming more financially responsible, and the extensive training the officers received in 2024. He then reviewed crime statistics stating that violent crime is down in three of the four categories: robberies, assault, and homicide. The one category that is up is sexual intercourse without consent, commonly referred to as rape. He also emphasized the seriousness of the fentanyl issue and the numbers of applications of Narcan that had to be used on individuals who overdosed. Traffic crashes and high-risk locations were also discussed noting that eight out of the 10 high-risk locations are along Reserve Street. The other thing that jumps out at him is the 16 1/2 increase in hit and run crashes.

Chief Colyer further went on to tout the successes of K-9 deployments between both dogs. He stated that methamphetamine and fentanyl continue to be the big seizures for MPD. He also discussed the top five types of case assignments investigated by the Detective Division which included Felony Assault and Felony Theft at the top of the list.

Digital Forensics is of great value in the Detective Division with over 16 terabytes of data collected. He emphasized the importance of keeping the data secure, organized and hardware managed.

Our Special Teams had 11 deployments, an increase from 2023, which included five criminal barricades, and one homicide suspect pursued. The equipment, training, and the consumables that come with Special Teams is also continuing to skyrocket in price. Being able to replace the consumables and replace the specialized equipment as it ages out continues to get very expensive.

In terms of recognition, the department awarded: one Police Medal, 10 Lifesaving Medals and two Meritorious Service Medals. He specifically recognized the officers who received the CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Awards. This award is given because of a significant incident or significant accomplishment that are oftentimes recognized by outside entities, members of the CIT Team, or other members of the behavioral/mental health community.

The presentation concluded with follow-up questions from Committee Members who engaged in the report's findings.

4. ADJOURNMENT

4:07pm