

# TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018



# Truth or Consequences Police Department

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## REPORT FROM THE CHIEF--CALENDAR YEAR 2018

The Truth or Consequences Police Department's *Annual Report 2018* has the key objective of communicating statistics and accomplishments achieved by the Police Department during 2018. Additionally, I will provide a synopsis of goals and objectives that we hope to achieve during 2019. Besides this cover letter, this annual report has five (5) sections: 1. the department's mission statement; 2. significant accomplishments; 3. crime statistics; 4. the department's organizational chart; and finally, 5. Animal Shelter/Animal Control operations

I am proud to state that our crime statistics for 2018 indicates that our *Violent Crime Rate* and *Property Crime Rate* for 2018 over 2017 was greatly reduced as follows: Violent Crime Rate was reduced **54%** and Property Crime Rate was reduced **26%**. Violent Crime consists of the crimes of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and murder. Property Crime includes larceny/theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Our city's crime rates (violent & property crimes) are lower than the latest reported rates for the entire state of New Mexico. We certainly hope to continue with such crime control strides. Additionally, as specified within the *Animal Shelter* section our euthanization rate is far below the most recent documented national rate. Finally, during calendar year 2019 my vision is to launch the following invaluable initiatives that not only will continue to prevent & control crime and reduce citizens' fear of crime, but will also continue to enhance the professional stature of our police agency: matriculating our department into the New Mexico Law Enforcement Accreditation Program and Community Based Policing (Community-Oriented Policing).

I salute the devoted men and women of the Truth or Consequences Police Department. Their hard work and dedication is undeniably the cornerstones of our agency. I am extremely proud of the effort that has been put forth by each employee. The support received from our Mayor, City Commissioners, and City Manager Morris Madrid is greatly appreciated: their support in approving the necessary funding for staffing our agency, equipment, and crime control programs certainly are the key ingredients attributing to the successes produced by our agency. Finally, I thank our citizens: those we are employed to *serve and protect*. Their continued support of the department and respect for our Officers, other staff, and programs is what makes our employees complete a day's work feeling proud of their contributions to our city.

Very truly yours,



Randall Aragon  
Chief of Police



Truth or Consequences, NM

Partnership



Police

Community

Truth or Consequences, NM  
Partnership



# ***TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES POLICE DEPARTMENT***

## ***MISSION STATEMENT***

***THE TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL RENDER THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF POLICE SERVICE IN A PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL MANNER, WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS RELATED TO CRIME AND SOCIAL DISORDER, THEREBY ENSURING SAFETY AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE.***

***THIS MISSION IS SUMMARIZED AS:***

- REDUCE CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME.***
  
- PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITY TO IDENTIFY AND SOLVE PROBLEMS.***
  
- EFFICIENTLY MANAGE THE PUBLIC RESOURCES WE HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH.***

**Truth or Consequences Police Department**  
**Significant Projects/Programs--Calendar Year 2018**

INITIATED	PROJECT NAME	SYNOPSIS OF PROJECT	SAVINGS/POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES
02/2018	Nightstick Flashlights Introduced	Nightstick flashlights were issued to all Officers.	These state-of-the-art rechargeable flashlights will insure Officer safety due to their high-powered illumination and ability to be carried on their utility belt at all times.
08/2018	Body Worn Cameras (BWC's)	17-Coban BWC's that were introduced into departmental operations in the latter part of 2017 were now working effectively. The BWC's are worn by all Officers working patrol operations. The department initially experienced a lack of follow-through on technical support from Coban. A concerted effort on our part (with their management) finally resulted in resolving BWC technical issues.	Studies have clearly indicated that Officers wearing BWC's and those in contact with Officers both generally conduct themselves in a more professional and "level-headed" manner because they are cognizant that their conduct/performance is being recorded.
08/2018	Chief's Update Weekly Radio Show	This weekly 15-minute radio show (hosted by Chief Aragon on FM 101.9) was eagerly approved by Frances Luna (Publisher of the Sierra County Sentinel and station owner). The radio show has the goal of providing our T or C listening audience with: key crime prevention tips, updates relating to police activities, key crime incidents reported during the past week, and on a periodic basis, interviewing key local personnel working in our criminal justice arena.	This weekly communique to our citizens has certainly been well acclaimed as a "customer friendly" means of providing public safety tips and critically important information to our community relating to criminal justice matters and issues. For those that miss the broadcasts (Tuesdays at 10 A.M., Wednesdays at noon, and Thursdays at 5 P.M.) a "hot-link" for each show is posted on the "Truth or Consequences Police Department" Facebook page.
08/2018	"Tips from the Chief" Monthly Article in the <i>Cobblestone Shopping Guide</i>	The Publisher of this monthly publication asked Chief Aragon to consider authoring a monthly article relating to crime prevention tips. Articles are brief and certainly relate to the prevailing issues in our community.	As with the aforementioned radio show this monthly media publication has also been well acclaimed as a "customer friendly" means of providing key public safety tips to our community.

**Truth or Consequences Police Department**  
**Significant Projects/Programs--Calendar Year 2018 (Continued)**

INITIATED	PROJECT NAME	SYNOPSIS OF PROJECT	SAVINGS/POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES
09/2018	T or C Animal Shelter & Animal Control Officer Standard Operating Procedure & Animal Shelter Volunteer Handbook Submitted to City Commission for approval to be adopted as official directive for applicable operations.	Both handbooks were approved by the City Commissioners and became the official operating procedures for both programs.	Included in the Animal Shelter Volunteer Handbook was appointment of a Volunteer Coordinator: Robbin Brodsky. Ms. Brodsky was a tenured/experienced animal welfare executive, having served as President of the <i>Sierra County Sierra County Animal Rescue Society</i> (SCARS). Applications to serve as “volunteers” numbered 23. This initiative included volunteers to serve as greeters, clerical workers, dog & cat socializers (e.g., walking dogs and playing with cats), shelter upkeep, & adoption marketing assistance. Besides providing on site shelter assistance the volunteers have also assisted in providing a superb communications outreach network (via Facebook, emails, etc.) that is greatly assisting with adoptions and rescue of dogs & cats.
10/2018	Radio Communications Concerns.	Due to geographic concerns (hills & valleys) transmission & reception of radio traffic was intermittent to non-existent in the following locations: Rodeo Arena area, Middle & High School, areas on N. Date Street, and the most of the areas in the vicinity of Walmart. As a “test” our communications vendor (R.T.C., Inc.) placed a “temporary” repeater antenna on the water tank located at exit 79 to determine if this would remedy the aforementioned communications issues.	The “temporary” repeater setup has proven successful relating to radio traffic. Consequently, along with other needed police equipment the City Commission authorized the Police Department to submit an application to the <i>New Mexico Finance Authority</i> for a loan (with possibility of partial subsidization) that included \$26,436.54 to finance the installation of new repeater system that would be installed at the location where the “temporary” system is located.

**Truth or Consequences Police Department**  
**Significant Projects/Programs--Calendar Year 2018 (Continued)**

INITIATED	PROJECT NAME	SYNOPSIS OF PROJECT	SAVINGS/POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES
11/2018	Sierra County Beggar/Panhandling Coalition	The Coalition was formed due the fact that studies have indicated that that many panhandlers/beggars have an alcohol or substance abuse problem. Consequently, it was deemed important to inform and educate the residents of Sierra County and T or C (and have them embrace) that providing monetary donations to the panhandlers/beggars frequently only contributes to their addictions and enables continued substance-abuse and other unhealthy life-style choices. The coalition unanimously decided that to combat this situation (and to prevent enabling beggars/panhandlers by providing cash to purchase unhealthy items), that our citizens should be encouraged to refrain from providing monetary donations directly to the beggars/panhandlers and instead donate to the United Way of Southwest New Mexico, who will share donations with resource providers in Sierra County.	Two (2) types of handouts were produced for distribution: those for beggars/panhandlers and those for citizens. T or C Police Officers (while patrolling) and Sheriff's Deputies will distribute handouts to those individuals observed panhandling/begging. The handout will essentially list the Coalition's mission statement and also a key state agency that is available to assist with their homelessness, welfare needs, etc. The handout for citizens (to be distributed by Chief Aragon & the Sheriff Hamilton at meetings) is designed to educate them as to the coalition's mission statement asking them to embrace the reality that donating money directly to those panhandling/begging is not a solution to the welfare needs of those panhandling/begging. Such monetary donations should be provided to the United Way of Southwest New Mexico. Six (6) months after this initiative is initiated the coalition will convene & conduct a <i>review &amp; analysis</i> to determine its strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats.
12/2018	Assessment of Animal Shelter Operations.	To insure our Animal Shelter operations were moving in the right direction Frank Bryce, President, Humane Society of Southern New Mexico (a prominent animal welfare guru), was invited to conduct an overall assessment of operations. A synopsis of Mr. Bryce's findings included the following excerpts of his report:	Unquestionably having volunteers is a "force multiplier" that enhances our work in process (productivity) for internal shelter operations, engages and enhances our partnership with our community, and certainly will continue to amplify the exodus of animal companions from our

		<p>“Your small staff and limited resources seem to be being used as efficiently as anyone could ask and the shelter certainly stands above most I have visited.” “I am more pleased with your establishment of a "Friends of the Shelter" which can do a great deal for public awareness, local fund raising and grant submissions. Having an understanding, supportive and involved community will be such a resource.”</p> <p>One important finding included his commentary that our shelter size is currently adequate as long as we continue to aggressively work on adoptions and rescue efforts to move animals out of the shelter to “forever homes”.</p>	<p>shelter. Additionally, the “Friends of the Shelter Coalition” will continue to provide animal welfare and/or animal shelter advice and guidance to the Chief and Command Staff to insure we remain on the “cutting edge” of shelter and animal control operations.</p>
12/2018	Shop with a Cop Program	<p>This initiative (this is the seventh year) resulted in raising \$8,000 from civic clubs and citizens. Approximately 60-70 children (selected by the T or C Schools) shopped in Walmart for Christmas gifts and needed clothing to the tune of \$100 per child. Additionally winter jackets for the children were also purchased from the donations. A total of 10-Offices from the following departments participated by shopping with their assigned child: T or C Police Department, Sierra County Sheriff’s Office, &amp; the NM State Police.</p>	<p>This annual initiative certainly has received glowing reviews from parents of children shopping, the children themselves, our community, and the Officers shopping with the children. Besides insuring that the children received a wide array of Christmas gifts each child’s parent/guardian provided each Officer with a listing of clothing that they desired each child to select for purchase.</p>



**2014-2018**  
**Truth or Consequences Police Department Crime Stats.**



	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	OFF	% -/+	OFF	% -/+	OFF	% -/+	OFF	% -/+	OFF. 2018	% -/+
<b>Murder</b>	0	0	2	+200	0	-200	0	0	1	+100
<b>Rape</b>	4	+100	4	0	0	-400	3	+300	0	-300
<b>Robbery</b>	2	+100	3	+33	0	-300	1	+100	0	-100
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	127	-19	108	-15	61	-44	99	+62	46	-54
<b>TorC Violent Crime Total</b>	133	-16	117	-12	61	-48	103	+69	47	-54
<b>NM Violent Crime Total</b>	12,459	-3	13,681	+10	14,619	+7	16,359	+12	(2)	
<b>Burglary</b>	75	+108	61	-19	63	+3	30	+52	28	-7
<b>Larceny-Theft</b>	204	+19	155	-24	134	-14	135	+1	90	-33
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	11	+83	14	+27	11	-21	9	+18	11	+33
<b>Arson</b>	1	+67	2	+100	1	-50	4	+300	3	-25
<b>TorC Property Crime Total</b>	291	+34	232	-20	209	-9	178	-15	132	-26
<b>NM Property Crime Total</b>	73,877	-4	77,094	+4	81,931	+6	82,306	0	(2)	
	<b>Rate</b>	<b>% -/+</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>% -/+</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>% -/+</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>% -/+</b>		<b>% -/+</b>
<b>TorC VC Rate</b>	2,048	-1	1702	-17	887	-48	1,498	+69	684	-54
<b>NM VC Rate</b>	597	-4	656	+10	703	+7	784	+12	(2)	
<b>TorC PC Rate</b>	4,482	+59	3,375	-25	3,040	-10	2,589	-15	1,920	-26
<b>NM PC Rate</b>	3,542	-6	3,697	+4	3,937	+6	3,942	+1	(2)	
<b>Calls for Service</b>	(1)		(1)		6,863		4,053		8,976	
<b>Population</b>	6,493		6,875		6,875		6,875		6,875	
<b>Officers per 1,000 Pop.</b>	NM= 2.1 T or C=2.5		NM= 1.9 T or C=2.3		NM= 2.1 T or C=2.3		NM= 2.1 T or C=2.2		NM=(3) T or C=2.0	
<b>DUI</b>	21		18		6		15		30	

**Legend:**

- (1) Not Tabulated by SCRDA until 2016.
- (2) Will not be available until November 2019 as per FBI Crime in the U.S. Publication.
- (3) Will not be available until NM DPS Calculates in 2020.



Truth or Consequences Police Department  
 Organizational Structure  
 Effective 12-1-18

**Recapitulation (Police Dept.)**

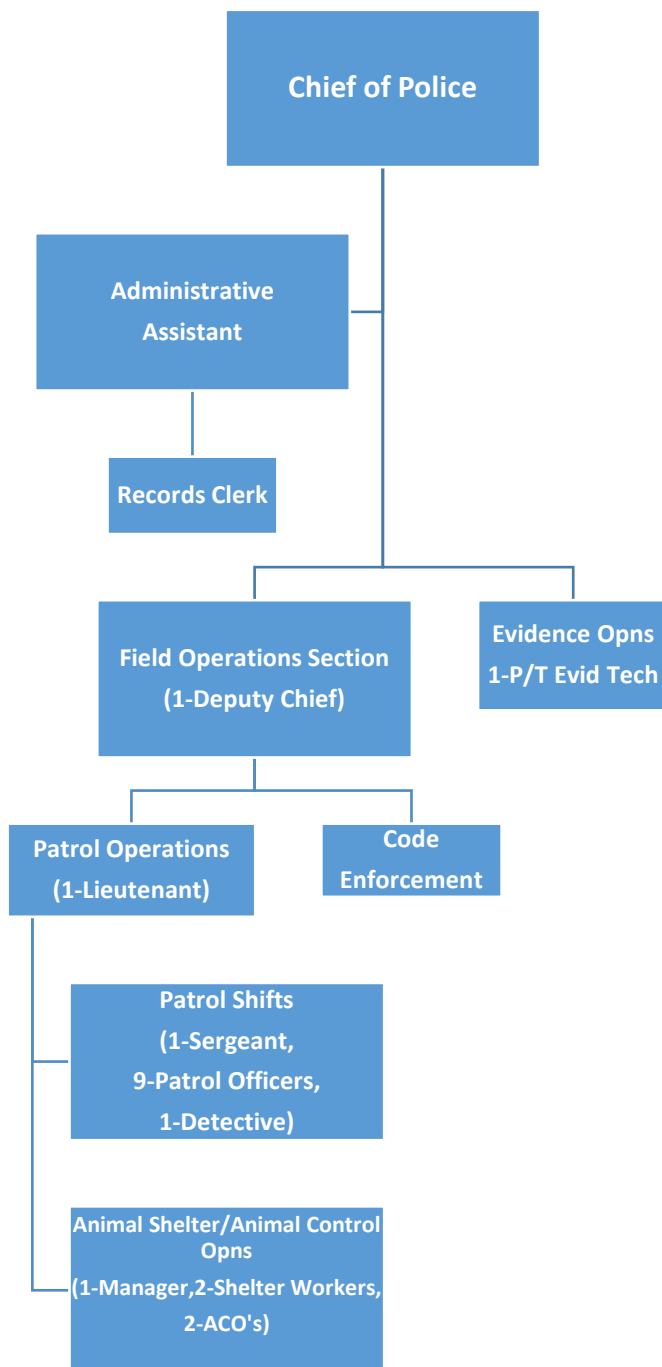
- 1-Chief of Police
- 3-Admin Personnel (1-Admin Ass't, 1-Rcds Clerk, 1-P/T Evid Tech)
- 1-Captain
- 1-Lieutenant
- 1-Sergeant
- 9-Patrol Officers
- 1-Detective
- 1-Code Enforcement Officer
- 1-Animal Shelter Manager
- 2-Animal Shelter Employees
- 2-Animal Control Officers

**Summary of Authorized Staff:**

- 8-F/T Civilian Employees
- 1-P/T Civilian Employee
- 14-Sworn Officers

**Total Auth F/T Employees: 22**

**Total Auth P/T Employees: 1**



# T or C Animal Shelter--End of Year Report CY 2018

## Total Animals into Shelter: 830



## Summary of Dispositions



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Dog Euthanasia Rate =  $10\% (61/635) \times 100 = \underline{10\%}$

\*(National Rate = 56 %)

Cat Euthanasia Rate =  $6\% (11/195) \times 100 = \underline{6\%}$

\*(National Rate = 71 %)

\*(Cited August 25, 2016, *Animal Shelter Euthanasia - American Humane*)