



2023

# HONDO POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



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[www.hondo-tx.org](http://www.hondo-tx.org)

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am honored to present the 2023 Hondo Police Department Annual Report on behalf of the dedicated men and women who serve our community. This report aims to provide you with valuable insights into the daily operations of our department and underscores our commitment to transparency. The Hondo Police Department is unwavering in our commitment, in partnership with the citizens of God's Country, to effectively and efficiently provide the highest quality of professional police services. We are guided by innovative, proactive approaches to enhance the quality of life in Hondo while always maintaining the utmost respect for the rights and dignity of all residents. Our mission is encapsulated in every facet of our service, and this report reflects our dedication to these principles. As your police department, we understand that transparency is a fundamental element of trust and collaboration. You, the citizens of God's County, deserve to be informed about law enforcement operations within your community. To that end, we have included comprehensive data in this report, covering various aspects of our department's activities to include: use of force, internal affairs investigation, animal care services, community engagement, operations, grants, and overall departmental statistical data. As we continuously strive for improvement, we have included a link to a survey aimed at gathering your valuable opinions on our department. Your feedback is essential in guiding our future direction and ensuring that we meet your expectations. This is your police department, and we are here to serve you. We value your trust and support, and we remain committed to our mission of keeping God's County safe and secure while enhancing the quality of life in Hondo. Thank you for allowing us to serve and protect our wonderful community. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Together, we can continue to make Hondo a safe and thriving place to call home.



*Justin Soza*  
Chief of Police

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Hondo Police Department is committed, in partnership with the citizens of God's Country, to effectively and efficiently provide the highest quality of professional police services by using innovative, proactive approaches to improve the quality of life in Hondo, while at the same time maintaining respect for the rights and dignity of all.

## CORE VALUES

**Integrity:** The Hondo Police Department is built upon a foundation of ethical and professional conduct. We are committed to the highest level of moral principles and ethics. All members of the department will adhere to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, which is a part of this manual.

**Honesty:** We will be truthful and trustworthy at all times.

**Fairness:** We are committed to equal application of the law to offenders and members of the public as well as the equal application of rules and regulations to all members of the department.

**Courage:** We are dedicated to meeting all challenges with the courage needed to accomplish our mission.

**Compassion:** We understand our role as community caretakers, and temper our application of the law with compassion and empathy.

## **Profile of the Government**

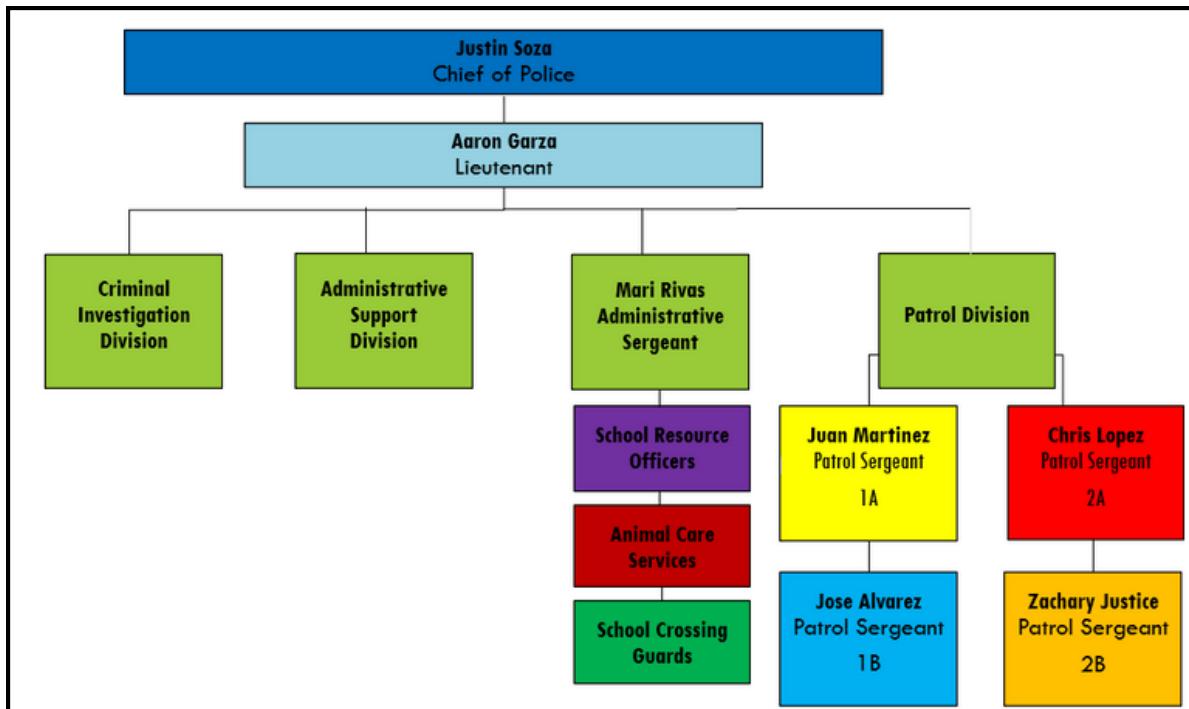
The City of Hondo, incorporated in 1942, is located approximately 40 miles west of San Antonio, Texas. The City of Hondo occupies approximately 9.6 square miles of land with an estimated population of 9,305 and an expected 3% growth over the next five (5) years. The City has operated under the council-manager form of government. Policymaking and legislative authority are vested in a City Council consisting of the Mayor and five council members. The City Council is responsible for establishing public policy on City matters by the passage of appropriate ordinances and resolutions. The City Manager is responsible for overseeing the day- to-day operations of the government, implementing policy established by City Council, and for appointing the heads of the various departments. The City provides a full range of services, including police, the construction and maintenance of streets, recreational facilities, cultural events, airport operations, water, electric, sanitation and sewer services

## **Profile of the Hondo Police Department**

The Hondo Police Department is comprised of 25 Sworn Officers, 2 Administrative Assistants, 2 Animal Control Officers, and 7 School Crossing Guards. The Hondo Police Department is primarily responsible for the protection and safe guarding of the lives and property of Hondo residents through enforcement of criminal law. The core functions are carried out through four operational services: (1)The Chief's office provides departmental leadership by initiating programs and activities, guiding and mentoring personnel, serving as a member of the City's management team, ensuring compliance with policies and procedures, delegating and monitoring work assignments, supervising subordinate staff, and managing departmental budget and associated expenditures; (2) Patrol Division, which responds to 911 calls or service, contacts victims, complainants and witnesses, completes police and accident reports, gathers information to determine a crime has been committed, transports prisoners to jail and other detention facilities, documents observations, and conducts traffic stops and issues traffic citations; (3) The Investigation Division conducts and organizes criminal investigations by reviewing assigned reports, questions witnesses, victims, and informants, examines crime scenes, collects and processes evidence, and conducts surveillance of areas related to cases and crimes; and (4) The Administrative Office provides service to all walk-in complaints, finalizes all typed reports for processing and forwarding to the proper divisions and departments or citizens, prepares monthly reports for City Manager, and City Council meetings, and dispatches calls Monday through Friday. The Police Department's continued goal is to ensure the safety of the City of Hondo's citizens, visitors, businesses, and community. The Police Department goals for 2023 included a focus on training and communication as well as upgrading the department's technology to improve officer safety and over all customer service.

The City Council approved the department's budget of \$2,524,336 for FY 2022/2023.

# Organizational Chart



## 2023 AT A GLANCE

Calls for Service



Incident Reports  
Generated



**11,450**

Reports/Supplements  
Typed

**1242**

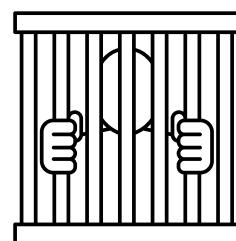
**3230**

Business Checks/  
Special Patrols



**1256**

Total Arrest



**311**

Crashes



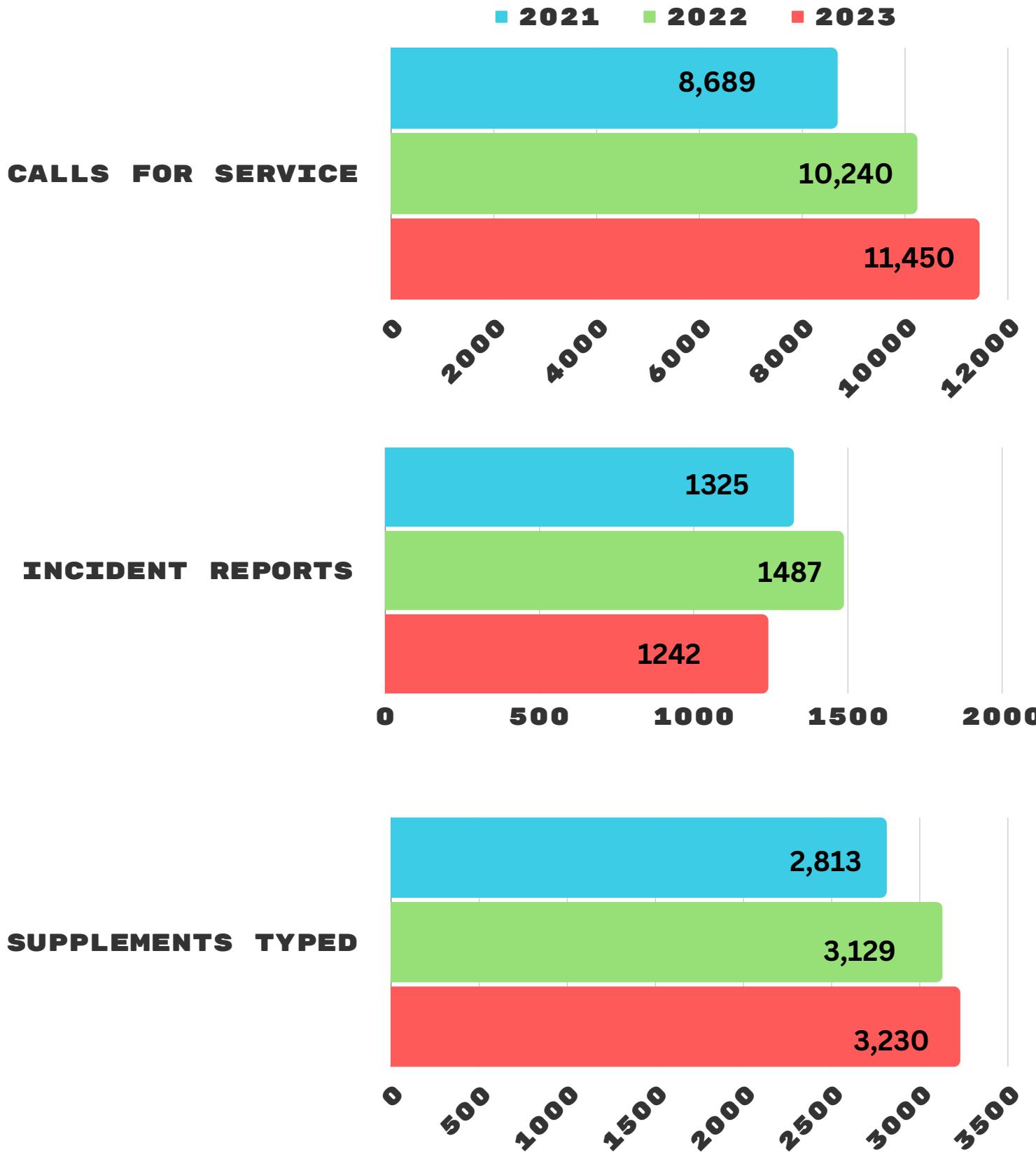
**241**

Total Traffic Stops

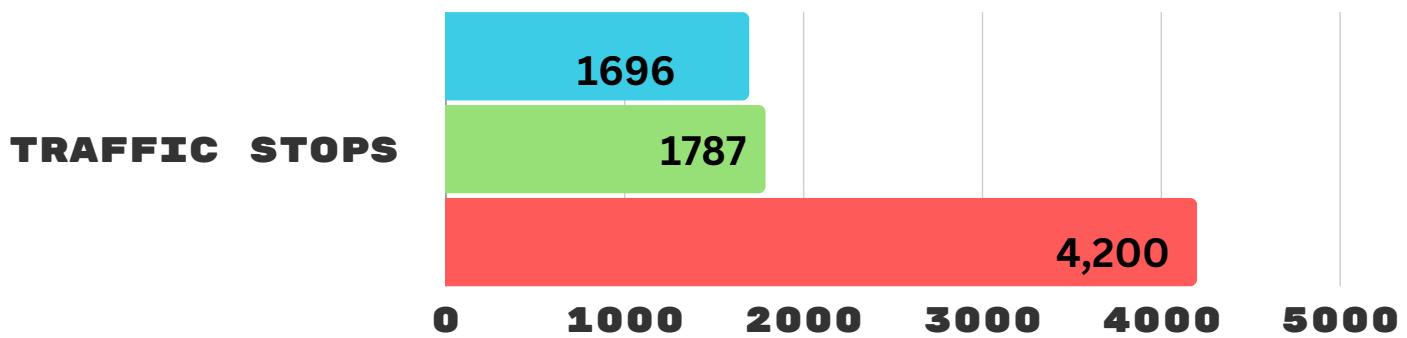
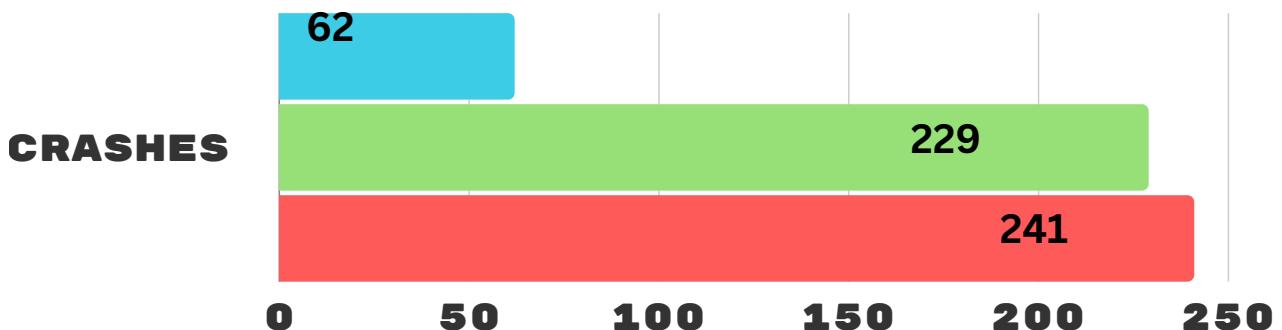


**4200**

# 3 YEAR COMPARISON



## 3 YEAR COMPARISON



# 2023 Grant Funds Received

Operation Lone Star	\$298,898.37
Office of the Governor Shield Grant	\$33,000.00
USDA	\$77,130.00
Tapeit	\$500.00

*These grants were received during FY 22/23.*



# Capital Investment



**Purchased 19 Panasonic Tough Pads, detachable key boards, and vehicle mounts to upgrade the department's in-car computer systems.**

**\$102,316.00-Grant Funded**

**Purchased 1 Thermo Scientific TruNarc Handheld Narcotics Analyzer**

**\$25,619.64-Grant Funded**





**Purchased rifle resistant shields for every HPD officer and one for every Hondo I.S.D. campus.**

**\$33,000-Grant Funded**

**Purchased 1 speed trailer with message board**

**\$34,034-Grant Funded**



## Purchased 2 New Ford Police Patrol Vehicles



**\$77,130-Grant Funded  
\$77,130-City budget**

**15 Hand held Police  
radios**

**\$21,000  
Grant Funded**



# Internal Affairs

In 2023 the Hondo Police Department received a total of 6 formal written complaints.

The Hondo Police Department takes all complaints seriously, and each complaint is reviewed by the Office of the Chief of Police. If deemed necessary, it is then assigned to an Investigator who is trained to conduct internal investigations of police officers and civilian employees as part of our Professional Standards.

Investigations of this nature can involve collecting information such as statements from the complainant, witnesses and employees on scene. They may also involve physical evidence collection and review, including audio / video data. As these types of investigations can take some time to collect, review and determine actions, the Hondo Police Department may take 60 days or more to complete, although we strive to complete these investigations as quickly as possible.

Once a determination on the complaint has been completed by the investigator, the findings will be presented to the Chief of Police. Once this has been done, you will receive a follow-up letter with the results of the investigation. All complaints are given one of the following final dispositions:

**2023**  
**Disposition of Complaints**  
2-Unfounded  
3-Sustained  
1-Exonerated

**Unfounded** - no truth to allegations.

**Exonerated** - allegations true, but are the result of adherence to departmental policy or procedure. Exonerated complaints will be reviewed by the Chief of Police for consideration of policy revision.

**Not sustained** - unable to verify the truth of the matter under investigation.

**Sustained** - allegations are true. Complaints will not be classified as sustained unless the finding is based on facts determined during the investigation.

# 2023 Use of Force Analysis

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Hondo Police Department's Use of Force for calendar year 2023. The Hondo Police Department takes its obligations seriously to effectively and efficiently provide the highest quality of professional police services with the least adverse impact on our citizens. Hondo Police Department is committed to protecting the rights of all persons and in using force only when necessary, and to the extent necessary, to achieve legal objectives. This analysis is conducted each year to comply with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 6.10 and to attempt to identify methods for reducing the number of incidents and the inherent risks involved.

Officers are trained by the department to use only the level of force necessary to bring a person under control and complete a legal objective. Police/citizen encounters can however, change instantly, and officers may be required to react quickly in using force to subdue a resisting subject. While officers prefer to escalate their level of force in an orderly manner beginning with the lowest level possible, the actions of a subject may compel officers to use a higher level of force that is immediately available to protect themselves and the public.

Hondo Police Department Policy requires Officers to document any application of force except for those arising in training, departmental demonstrations, or off-duty recreational activities.

There were a total of 22 reported Uses of Force in 2023. There was a total of 11,450 calls for service resulting in 311 arrest in 2023.

**Total Number of Calls for Service: 11,450**

**Total Number of Arrest: 311**

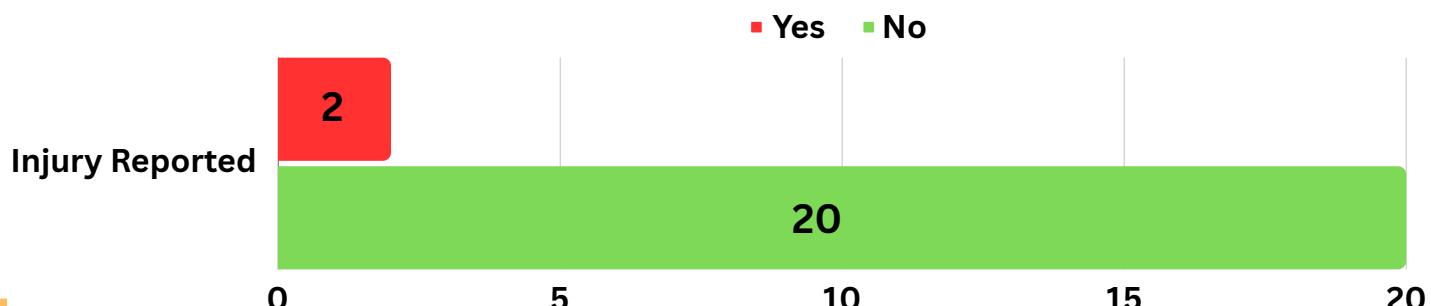
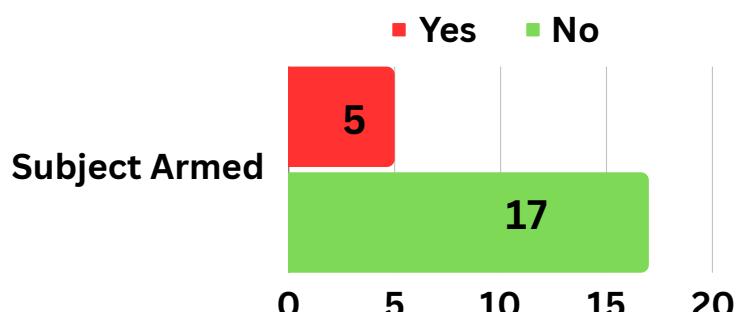
**Total Number of Applications of Force: 22**

# 2023 Use of Force Analysis

Each individual Use of Force Report is reviewed by the Officer's Supervisor, Lieutenant and the Chief of Police. At the time of the incident, the Use of Force is reviewed to ensure the use was appropriate and within the guidelines of Department Policy and Law. If the officer used force inappropriately, a departmental investigation is required and the officer may receive additional training, or in some cases, discipline up to and including termination from employment. This analysis is not intended to determine if an officer acted inappropriately, but to identify department wide trends that may suggest needed changes in policy, training, equipment or supervision.

## Hondo Police Department Less Lethal Options:

Physical Control  
OC Pepper Spray  
Taser  
Baton

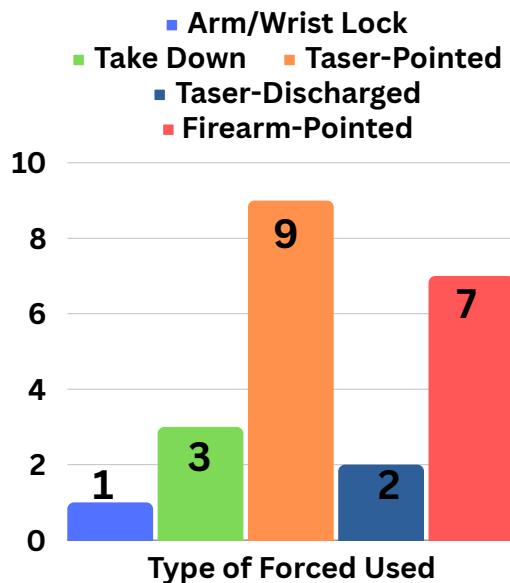
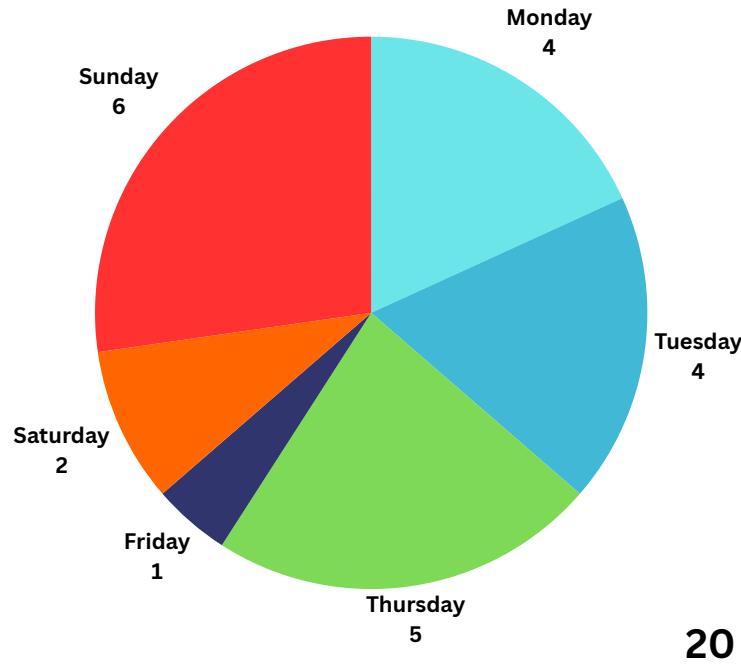


## 2 injuries were noted in Use of Force reporting:

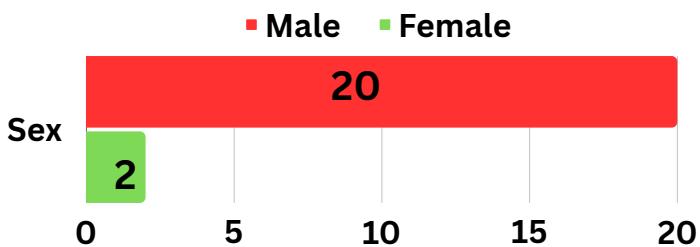
1. Small lacerations from Taser probes.
2. Minor laceration on hand from falling and climbing fences while running from officers.

# 2023 Use of Force Analysis

## Use of Force by Day of the Week

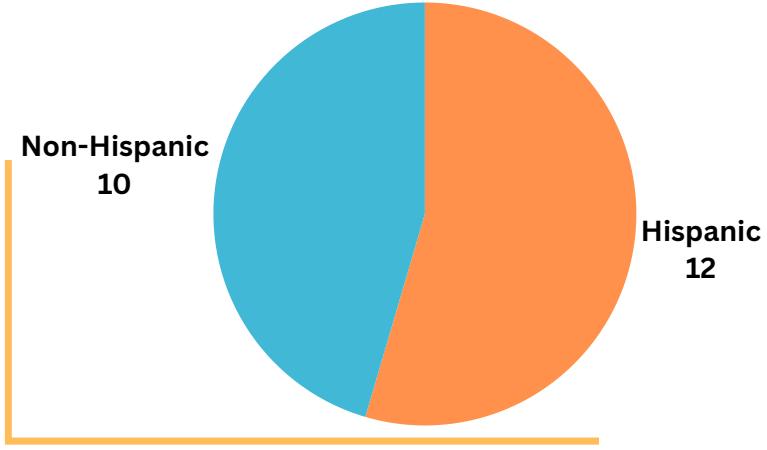


## Use of Force by Sex



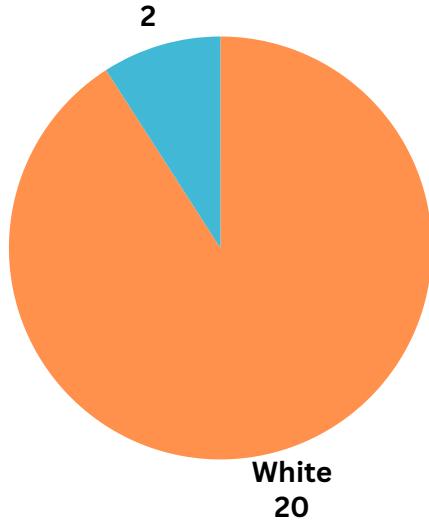
It should be noted Officers did not discharge their handguns in any of the 9 incidents reported where a handgun was drawn and pointed.

## Use of Force by Ethnicity



## Use of Force by Race

### African American



# Community Engagement

**2023 National Night OUT**  
**#Downtown #hotdogs #blockparty**  
**#communityfirst**



## 2023 Hondoween!!!!

The Hondo Police Department supplied Paletas for N.E. Wools field day. What a great way to cool off on a hot day!!!!





**2023 National Crossing Guard Appreciation Day- We are so proud to celebrate our crossing guards! Our officers gladly took over crossing guard duties so the guards could enjoy breakfast.**

Establishing connections with available resources for our community. Det. Flores and Admin. Sgt. Rivas attended a meeting arranged by the Medina County Criminal District Attorney's office. Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) met with surrounding Law Enforcement agencies to provide information about the services they provide for child victims. The Hondo Police Department now has their pamphlets and contact information available for guardians to contact for further assistance.



This year the Hondo Police Department partnered with the Medina County Sheriff's Office, Devine Police Department, and Hondo Wal-Mart for National prescription drug take back day April 22, 2023.



**Our Officers always enjoy taking the time for positive community contacts. We were invited to visit the kiddos of B.A.B.I Childcare. We learned that Elijah, one of our loyal supporters, was celebrating his birthday soon and seized the opportunity to help make it special!!! All these smiles let us know we are on the right track.**

**On 5/27/23 Officers responded to a residence regarding a large snake. The homeowners located the snake underneath a computer tower.**

**Officers took possession of it, where it was safely transported and released in a safe area into its natural habitat. The snake was identified as a Blue Indigo, non-venomous. The snake was measured roughly around 5 1/2 feet.**



**Two of the many tasty items at Medina County First Responder Appreciation Day Meat Up.**



# Training

**In 2023 our Officers completed 2870 hours  
of continuing education training**

**Some of the Training Our Officers attended include:**

- Added 2 ALERRT Instructors to our staff
- Added 3 TCOLE Instructors to our staff
- Detectives attended New Criminal Investigator Course
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Crime Scene Photography
- Detectives attended Blood Stain Pattern and Analysis Course
- Interview and Interrogation
  - Field Training Officer
  - Latent Finger Printing
- 2 Sergeants attended the Texas Sergeant Academy
- Added 1 D.A.R.E Instructor to our staff
- Detectives attend Search Warrant Course
- Stop Stick training
- Radar Training
- Leadership & supervision
- Intermediate Crime Scene
- Evidence Management



# D.A.R.E.

2023 was the first time in several years the Drug Abuse Resistance Program (D.A.R.E.) made its return to Hondo.

Chief Justin Soza made the decision to bring back the program after consistently receiving the almost automated response, “Their parents” to the question who is telling kids to not use drugs. Chief Soza explained and acknowledge, “I am not, nor are my officers, outside of making an arrest”

We all assume parents and guardians are having these discussions with their children, but as any parent knows, our kids don’t always listen to us, especially when we have their best interest in mind. So, the decision was made to bring back D.A.R.E. in an attempt to take a proactive approach to intervene before we are called upon to interact with a child who was found to be in possession of “whatever” on one of our school campuses or within our community.

While the initial thought was to educate our youth about the dangers of using drugs, we have shifted our focus and use this program as an opportunity for positive interactions to build relationships with the youth of our community as well and an opportunity to strengthen our partnership with Hondo I.S.D. and members of our community.

Hondo Police Departments D.A.R.E. program covers a wide array of topics including drug and alcohol awareness, vaping, online and social media safety, bullying prevention, and teen mental health. Additionally, the program focuses on general life skills to encourage and support good decision-making for a safe and healthy life.

\*\*\*\*\*Program was funded through funds received from the Texas Opioid Abatement Settlement.

## 2023 D.A.R.E. graduating class



# Blue Santa



**Blue Santa Account Balance End of 2022: \$ 6,873.53**

**Total Monetary Donations in 2023: \$ 3,335**

**Blue Santa Account Balance with donations: \$ 10,208.53**

**Total Expenditures for 2023: \$ 1,126.20**

**TML Insurance proceeds from claim: \$24,057.19**

**Blue Santa Account Balance End of 2023: \$ 33,139.52**

**This year, with the gift donations and  
the monetary donations the  
Hondo Police Department was able to assist:**

**35 local families**

**and**

**90 Children**

**for this holiday season.**

**35 turkeys were also given  
out to families in need this year.**

# Crime Scene



This year the Hondo Police Department added a formal crime scene division. Our staff underwent training to become Crime Scene Technicians. The training they completed included: Legal Aspects of a Crime Scene Search, Preparing for a Crime Scene Investigation, Investigating a Crime Scene, Sketching and Photographing, Fingerprinting Identification, Collection, and Preservation of Evidence, DNA Evidence, Specific Crime Scene Searches, Simulated Crime Scene, Computer and Other Electronic Evidence. In addition, they have been to training related to processing the sexual assault crime scene and Forensic Photography. We are excited to celebrate their hard work in helping the Hondo Police Department establish a formal crime scene response unit.



# Awards

## **2023 Officer of the Year**

### **Ivan Rodriguez**

“My vote for officer of the year is Ivan Rodriguez #828. His reports are consistently well written and thorough, and he has been very productive both with traffic enforcement and self-initiated activity while on patrol.”

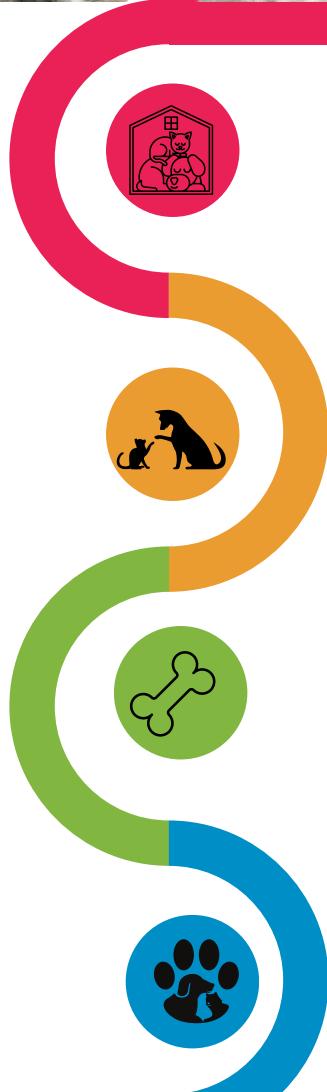
“My vote for officer of the year is Ivan Rodriguez. Officer Rodriguez has shown a constant drive to learn and provide the proper service to our community. Officer Rodriguez comes to shift ready to get to work without hesitation. He tries to assist others with answers to questions they have. Officer Rodriguez always has a positive attitude and has a positive morale boost for others on shift.”

“Ivan is a great example of what I believe a Hondo PD Officer should embody. He is always presentable and wears his uniform in a professional manner that represents our Department well. Officer Rodriguez is always respectful, eager to learn and I have yet to hear him complaining. Statistically speaking he leads in productivity - taking calls, traffic enforcements this goes to show he puts in the work as well.”

### **2023 Certificate of Merit**

**Manuel Garcia  
Arturo Lopez  
Millicent Anderson  
Danica Clark**

## Annual Intake Recap



**Impounded/Transferred In** **1278**

**Returned to Owner** **96**

**Adopted** **102**

**Released To  
Rescue/Transferred Out** **896**

**Euthanized** **121**

**Bites** **23**

**Dead Animal Pick up** **183**

**Approximately  
1500 “I Worq” orders received.**

**80 Citations issued with  
a total of 113 Violations**



# Capital Investment & Achievements



Completed the purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet Silverado truck along with a fitted dog box.

Implemented the use of body cameras by our Animal Control Officers.



The City of Hondo Animal Care Services and Shelter passed their State Inspection and both Animal Control Officers have now achieved their Basic ACO Certification.



# SPAY & NEUTER

This program helps our community combat animal overpopulation, which later reduced the number of animals filtered through our shelter.



Total of 46 residential pets serviced this year.

March Event | Serviced 22 pets | \$ 4K budgeted  
September Event | Serviced 24 pets | \$ 4k Budgeted

Pets that are serviced also receive their **Rabies** vaccine as part of the procedure; helping prevent the spread of rabies in our community.

**CITY OF HONDO  
ANIMAL CARE SERVICES  
& SHELTER**

**HONDO POLICE**

**FREE SPAY+NEUTER  
PROGRAM**

**Registration Begins:**  
MARCH 1st 2023 & will stay open  
till MARCH 10th (or until spots are filled).

**Register at the:**  
Hondo Police Department,  
1030 Avenue Y, Hondo, Tx.  
Ph# (830)426-5353

**Program is only for residents  
who reside within the city  
limits of Hondo.**

**Procedures will be scheduled  
& done by the Hondo Veterinary  
Hospital. Between the dates of  
March 13th -31st 2023.**

**PROGRAMA DE  
ESTERILIZACION GRATUITA**

Hablamos Espanol - Llama hoy.

## Huts for Mutts

This year the Hondo Animal Shelter budget was allocated \$500.00, for the Huts for Mutts program. These funds allow for the purchase of wood that has been discounted due to minor imperfections. Dog houses are then built and stored to later be disseminated to pet owners that are in need of assistance in providing adequate shelter.



"We are always looking for help! If your organization would like to schedule a workday to come in and build a dog's house, please give us a call!" - Chief Soza

*In 2023:  
4 houses were donated  
to community members.*



# Shelter Volunteer Day



Our Animal Shelter hosted its first Community Volunteer Day- volunteers assisted with various shelter duties.

## Various Focus Areas

- Kennel Deep Clean
- Kitty Condo
- Outdoor Play Area
- Paint Station (Hutts4Mutts)
- Other/Storage



## Trap Neuter Return (TNR)

This program helps combat animal overpopulation specific to stray animals in the community. The Animal Control division implemented changes on the TNR program. With several feral cat colonies identified, TNR measures were shifted to combat the feral cat population.

Captured animals are (Spayed or Neutered) by a licensed veterinarian, receive their Rabies Vaccine and returned to their captured location.

A total of 16 cats were captured- 1 of which was euthanized & the others returned.

Signs and traps to notify residents of our efforts were updated and are posted up to 24 hours prior to efforts beginning in designated area.



# Shelter Upgrades

- Upgraded window units in the Office and Kitty Condo to larger size units that also have heating capabilities.
- Two large fans purchased & installed.
- Set up both water cooling fans during summer.
- Added mulch to the play area.



# Community Involvement & Events



ACOs believe the first step of compliance comes from educating citizen of laws and ordinances. They regularly participate in events to educate and promote shelter adoptions. Below are some event flyers and safety tip publication.



Through secured Microchip donations, events were organized to distribute this service to residents.

# Plans for 2024

## **Enhanced Partnership with Hondo I.S.D.**

The Police Department has identified an opportunity to strengthen its collaboration with Hondo Independent School District (Hondo I.S.D.). This multifaceted partnership offers several advantages. Firstly, it facilitates meaningful engagement between our officers and the youth within our communities. Additionally, it allows for the strategic placement of officers on school campuses at various intervals, effectively enhancing physical security measures. This partnership aligns with our commitment to proactive community policing while simultaneously reinforcing safety protocols within educational institutions.

## **Data-Driven Decision-Making and Strategic Planning**

The department's administration is committed to data-driven decision-making and strategic planning. This approach places a strong emphasis on utilizing data and intelligence to inform its actions and policies. This is done by relying on data and intelligence, identifying trends, assessing community needs, and through allocating resources more efficiently. Further, enabling them to make well-informed, evidence-based decisions, enhancing their overall effectiveness. Rather than reacting hastily to isolated events, they proactively explore multiple avenues, considering the broader implications of their choices. This strength enables them to stay ahead of challenges, respond effectively to emerging issues, and continuously improve our services to the community.

## **Specialized Unit for Enhanced Service**

The Police Department is seizing an opportunity by leveraging the recently approved positions from the City Council to establish a specialized unit. This unit will focus on traffic enforcement and addressing specific criminal activities pinpointed through citizen complaints and criminal intelligence gathering. This strategic move is expected to bring substantial benefits to the community. The unit's dedicated focus on addressing specific complaints and criminal issues will provide a level of responsiveness that regular patrol resources may not always accommodate, given their daily service demands.

## **The Community**

The department views the community as one of its greatest assets and sees numerous opportunities in strengthening this relationship. By establishing various avenues for community engagement through public outreach initiatives, the department can build stronger connections with all community members. Furthermore, prioritizing transparency will further enhance these opportunities, fostering trust and collaboration between the department and the community. This community-centric approach represents a significant opportunity for the Hondo Police Department.

# Community Survey

We know there is always room for improvement so the Hondo Police Department invites you to take this “Community Survey on Public Safety and Law Enforcement”

It will take approximately five minutes of your time and is completely confidential. Your participation will help our agency to improve its services, processes, and reputation.

The survey is designed for a law enforcement agency to gather opinions and experiences from members of its community. The survey assesses five key components that involve your local law enforcement agency:

**\*Community involvement \*Safety \*Procedural justice \*Performance \*Contact and satisfaction**

You may come into contact with multiple law enforcement agencies, but please answer the questions thinking only about the Hondo Police Department that invited you to participate in this survey.

It should be noted the term “law enforcement agency” is used throughout the survey to refer to the Hondo Police Department.

Please indicate your response to each item by selecting the appropriate answer based on your feelings, opinions, and experiences. You may skip any survey items you do not feel comfortable responding to or know how to answer, but we encourage you to respond to as many items as possible. This is not a test, and there are no right or wrong answers. Please answer each question honestly.

Please note this is not an avenue to file an official complaint on a specific officer regarding an specific event. If you wish to file a complaint on a specific officer/ employee regarding a specific event please contact the Hondo Police Department at 830-426-5353.

