

# Proposal for Defunding the City of Beacon Police Department

Evidence Based Strategies for Responsible Divestment and  
Restructuring of Police Practices

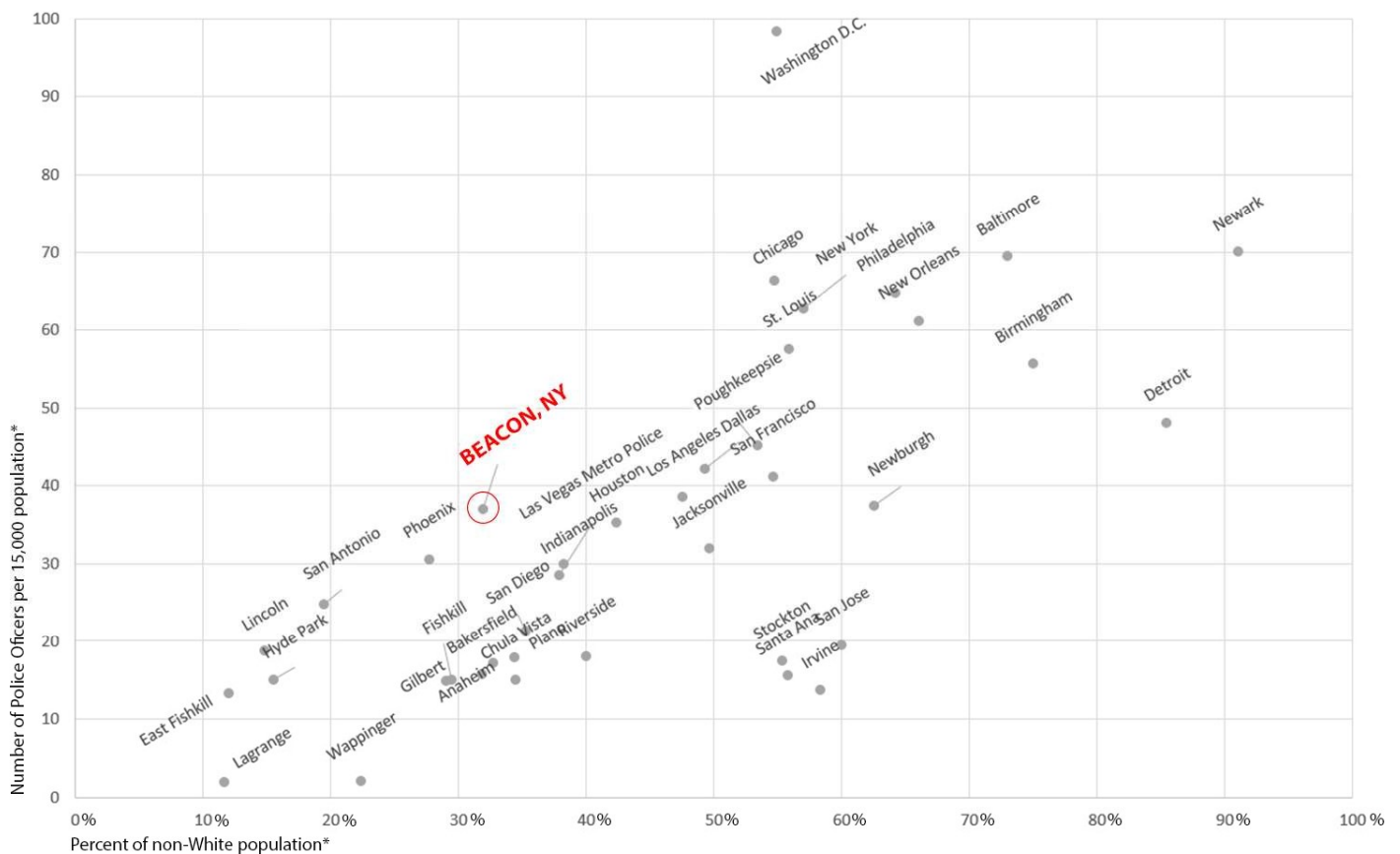
**Black Lives Matter organizers along with other communities are making a Nation Wide demand for cities to Defund their Police Departments and reinvest into community needs and restorative health and safety for ALL.**

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/defundthepolice/>

In the 1960s Police advocates successfully persuaded US Cities to increase Police numbers in direct response to growing Black populations. (Balto,2020)

This trend continues in the City of Beacon today.

Comparison of Police Force Size to Racial Demographics in 50 US Cities



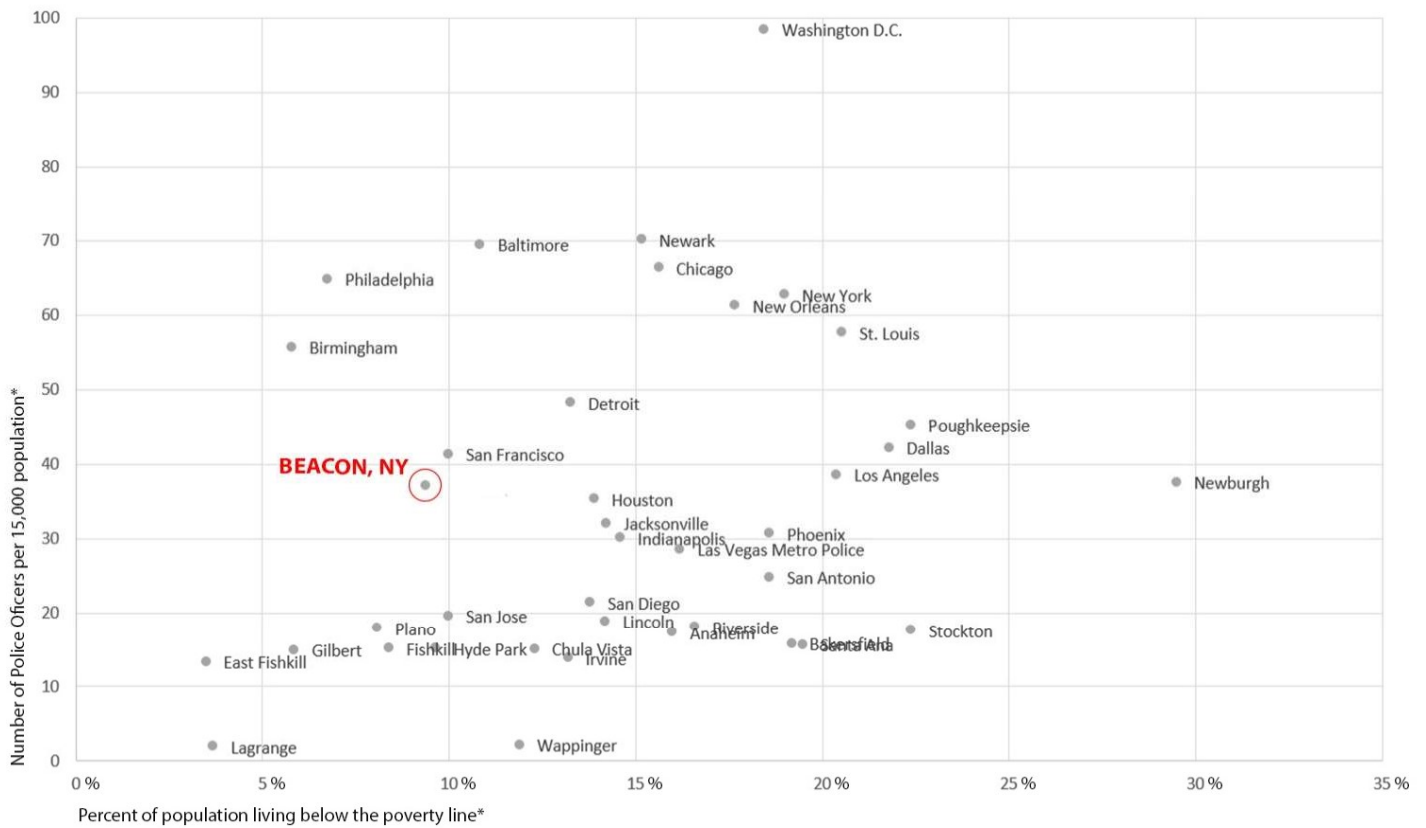
\* National calculations of Police employment and population data from 2016 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting program

\* National Poverty Rate data collected from US census

\* Mid-Hudson calculations of Police employment data from personal communication with municipal clerks.

To lesser degree there is also a correlation between Policing and poverty.

## Comparison of Police Force Size to Poverty Rate in 50 US Cities

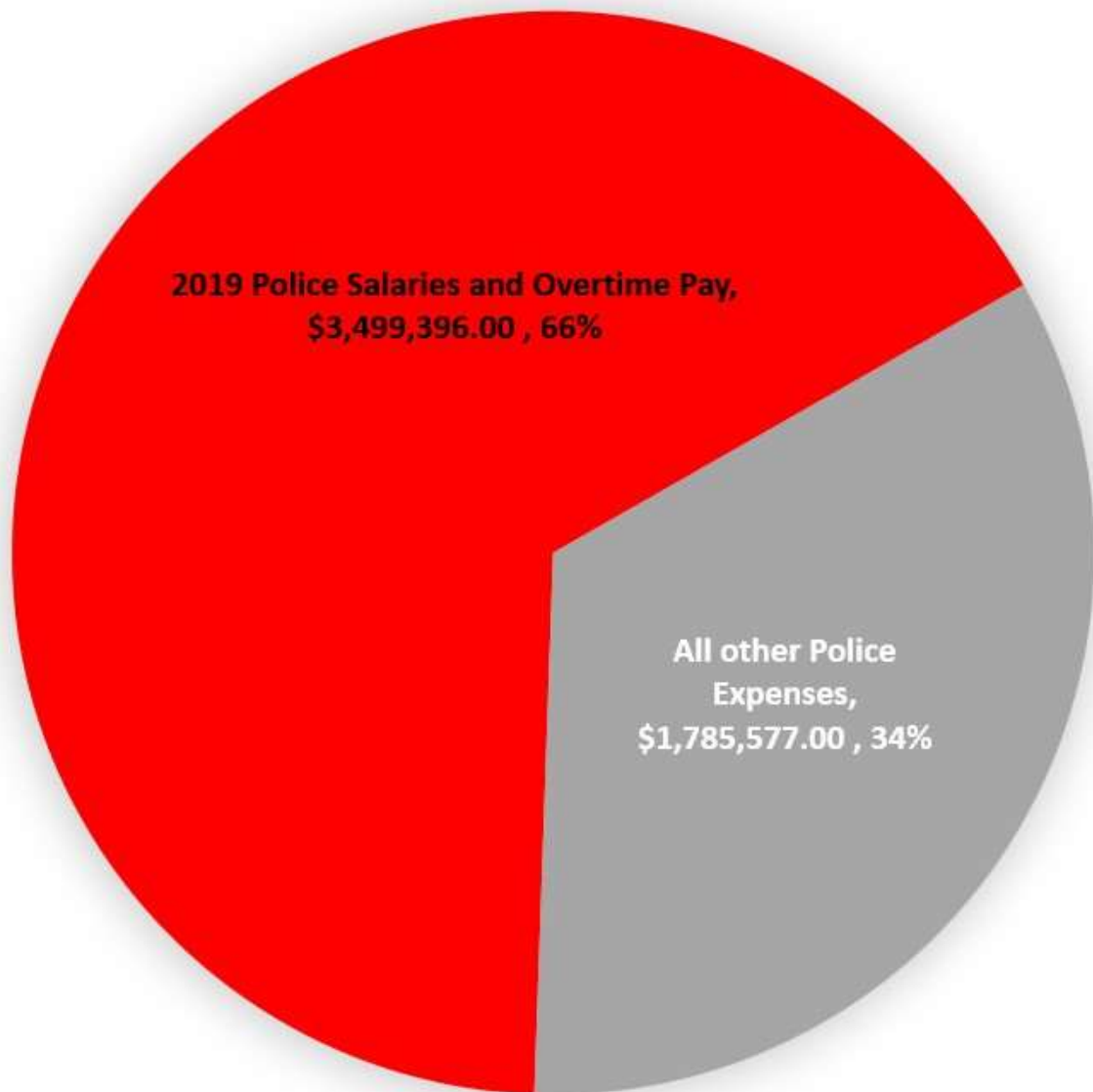


\* National calculations of Police employment and population data from 2016 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting program  
 \* National Poverty Rate data collected from US census  
 \* Mid-Hudson calculations of Police employment data from personal communication with municipal clerks.

The Beacon Police Department costs resident taxpayers \$5.5million dollars in the 2020 Budget.



The primary expenditure in the 2019 Police Budget is Officer Salaries and Over Time pay.



# The Beacon Police Department Employs 36 full time Officers paid an average of ~\$100,000/year

## City of Beacon Police Department 2019

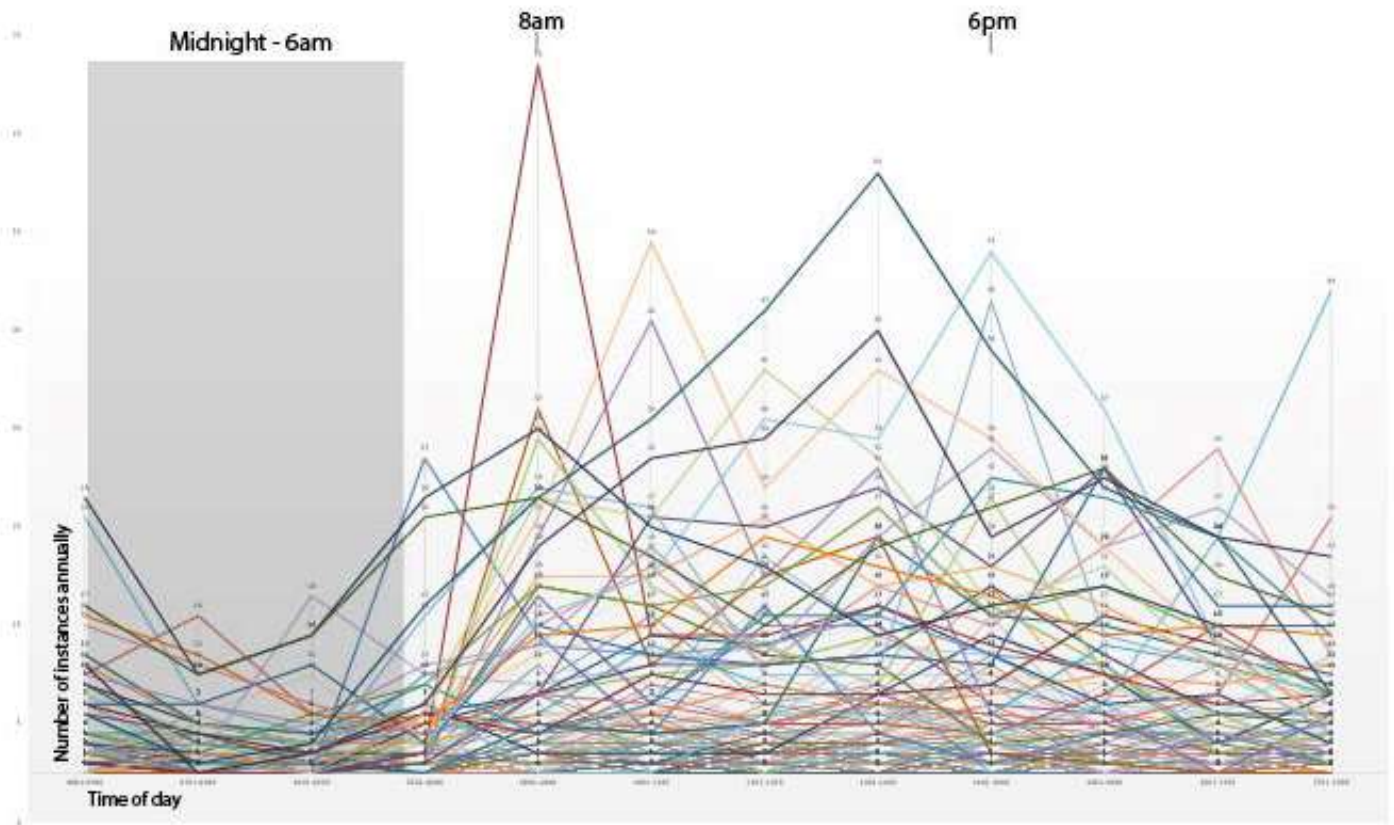
Name	2019 salary +OT	rank
Alencastro, Christian R	\$201,152	sergeant
Ingram, Steven A	\$153,953	officer
Sellick, Robert A, Iii	\$146,210	officer
Junjulas, Kevin C	\$144,945	chief
Greenough, Rush M	\$134,989	sergeant
Conti, Joseph M	\$133,894	sergeant
Frost, Sands E, Ii	\$133,342	lieutenant
Burns, Jason P	\$130,253	officer
Fredericks, Gary E	\$117,950	captain
Figlia, Thomas J	\$117,873	lieutenant
Walden, Jason D	\$115,826	sergeant
Dewey, Andrew G	\$113,617	sergeant
Lawrence, Brian J	\$113,599	detective
Johnson, Jason R	\$111,150	sergeant detective
O'Connor, Michael P	\$110,810	detective
Lucato, Louis A, Jr	\$106,963	detective
Confield, Michael R	\$104,145	officer
Irizarry, Edison, Jr	\$102,244	officer
Vargas, Affdecrin O	\$94,175	officer
Wood, Trevor L	\$91,070	officer
Sirrinc, James A	\$88,824	detective
Deleno, Joseph A, Jr	\$87,852	officer
Grey, Kelvin R	\$87,123	officer
Calderone, John C	\$84,338	officer
Durkin, Thomas G	\$71,559	officer
Rudden, Alyssa M	\$70,456	officer
Garofolo, Carl, Iii	\$63,335	officer
Blauvelt, Brent P	\$56,669	officer
Boutros, Peter J	\$36,140	officer
Akey, Emily T	\$33,702	officer
Reynolds, Aaron M	\$31,955	officer
Sequist, Kevin B	\$25,232	officer
Schettino, Christopher P	\$17,777	officer
Anderson, Kevin J	\$15,619	officer
Ruffolo, Katelyn T	\$14,946	officer
Sambells, Ryan M	\$9,850	officer

The Average Income for a City of Beacon Police Officer is \$100,000 and the Highest Paid employee earned \$204,000 in 2019.

The Average Beacon Fire Department Salary is \$81,000 and the Highest Paid Fire Dept employee earned \$117,000 in 2019

Over Time expenses for the Beacon Police Department were \$545,000 in 2019

## City of Beacon Police Department 2019 Blotter Activity by Time of Day

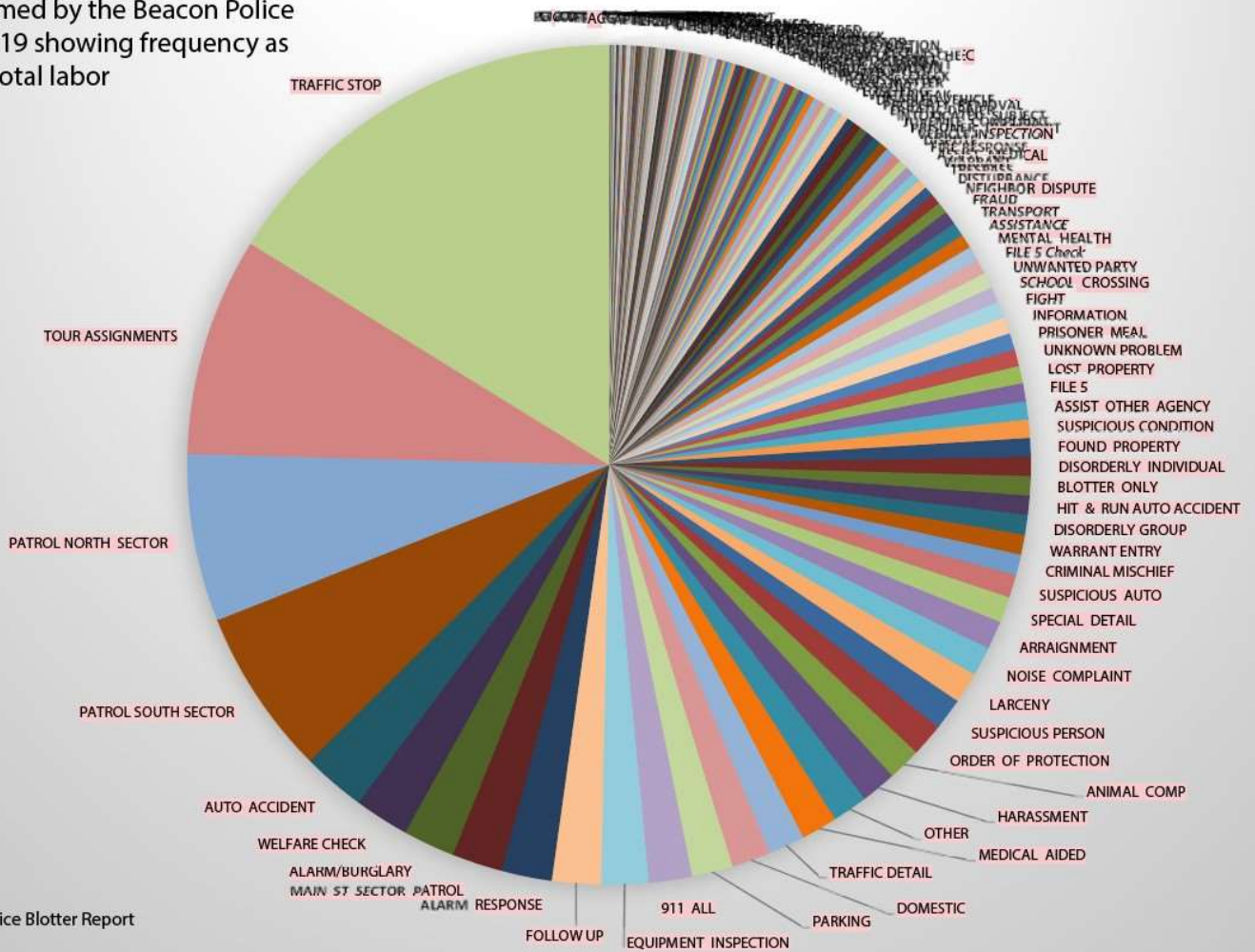


Analyzing Police activity blotter reveals that The City of Beacon Police Department is most active between 8am and 6pm performing a broad range of tasks



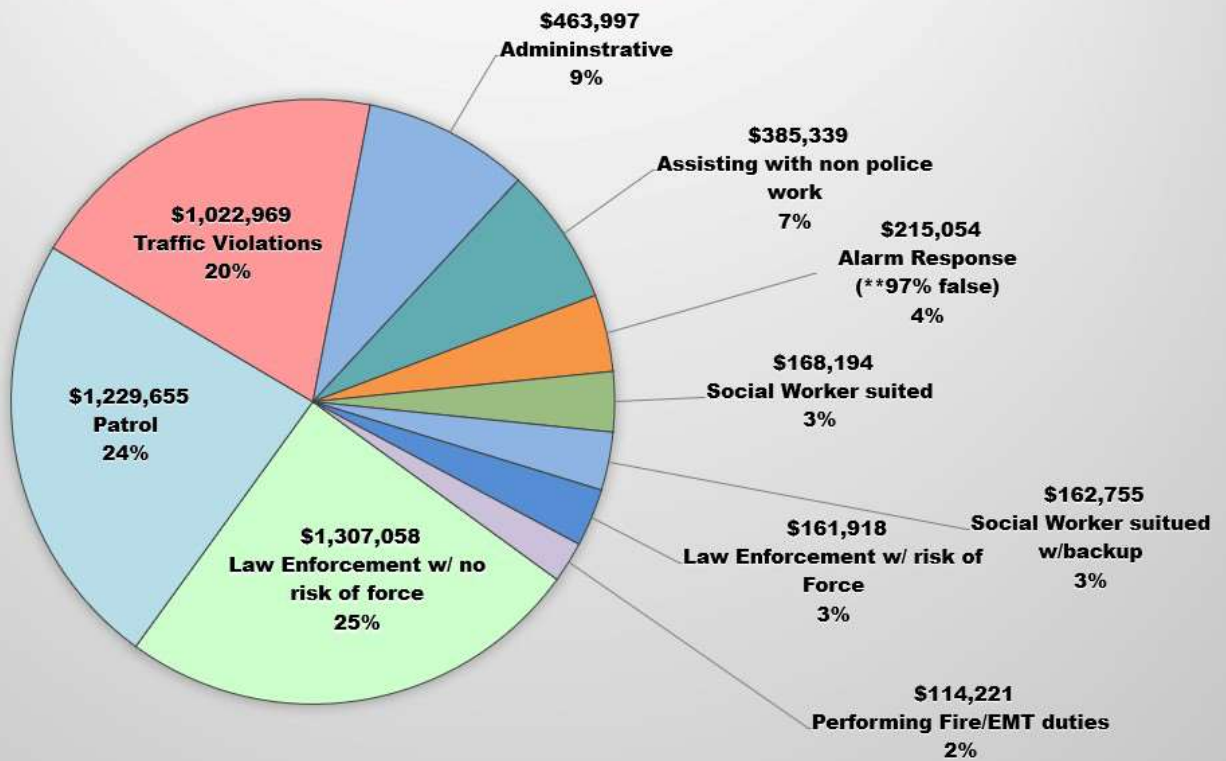
# The responsibilities tasked to highly paid Officers have expanded far beyond Law Enforcement

All tasks performed by the Beacon Police Department 2019 showing frequency as percentage of total labor



# The responsibilities tasked to Police Officers in 2019 break down into 10 general categories

## Police Blotter Activity 2019 by type, % of total, est % of budget City of Beacon



All data from 2019 Police Blotter report

# Traffic Violations:

Traffic Violations represent 20% of all Beacon Police activity in 2019.

20% of the 2019 Beacon Police Budget is \$1,022,969



- The traffic violations in 2019 averaged 5.5 violations per day.
- State police HAVE Jurisdiction to operate within city limits and regularly monitor for traffic violations along state thoroughfares 9D and Rt 52.
- Patterns in the blotter data imply that monitoring traffic is a primary component of patrols.
- Neighboring municipalities that have higher populations, more miles of road, and far fewer police to monitor traffic rely on a combination of State Troopers and infrequent monitoring.
- Beacon does not have higher rates of Traffic violation than neighboring municipalities.
- The only revenue from traffic violations in the city Budget is \$9,075 in State Aid.

## Proposal:

- Cease all random monitoring of traffic by City of Beacon Police Dept.

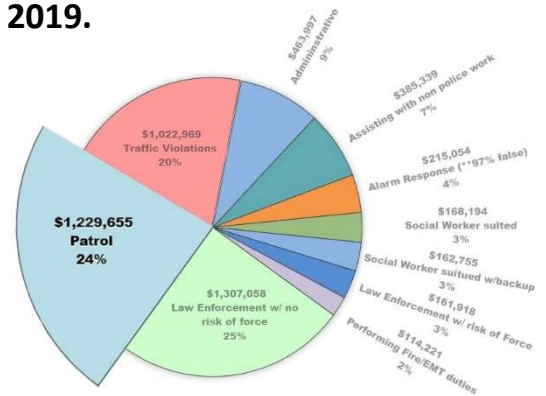
## Benefits:

- Significant fiscal benefit to be reinvested in community needs by decreasing the budgetary demands of the Beacon Police Department.

## Patrols:

Patrols represent 24% of all Beacon Police activity in 2019.

24% of the 2019 Beacon Police Budget is \$1,229,654



- Police Patrols make no significant material contribution to law enforcement or public safety. (Sherman and Eck 2002; Weisburd and Eck 2004)
- Roaming Patrols have been proven to have zero significant effect on crime prevention or reduction. (Kelling)  
<https://blueravenintelligence.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/PATROL.pdf>
- Patrol patterns often reveal disproportionate policing of Black communities and contribute to a public perception that policing is fundamentally racially biased. (Weitzer, 2000)  
<https://www.istor.org/stable/3115118?seq=1>
- Only 5% of police patrols are dedicated to Main Street

### Foot Patrol -

Research shows that increased Foot Patrol succeeds in increasing public psychological sense of safety and general confidence in Police for some populations, but has no effect on law enforcement or public safety. (Innes 2004)

### Response Time:

Response time estimates in Beacon have determines that a “vast majority of the City can be responded to in less than FOUR MINUTES from the current (Fire) headquarters location (Mase)”  
<https://www.cityofbeacon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Fire-Station-Site-Selection-Final-Report.pdf>

The fastest average police response time in a major US city is 5.46 minutes and the average response time is 10 minutes <https://www.asecurelife.com/average-police-response-time/>

### Proposal:

- Incrementally decrease all patrols to zero by 2021 fiscal year.

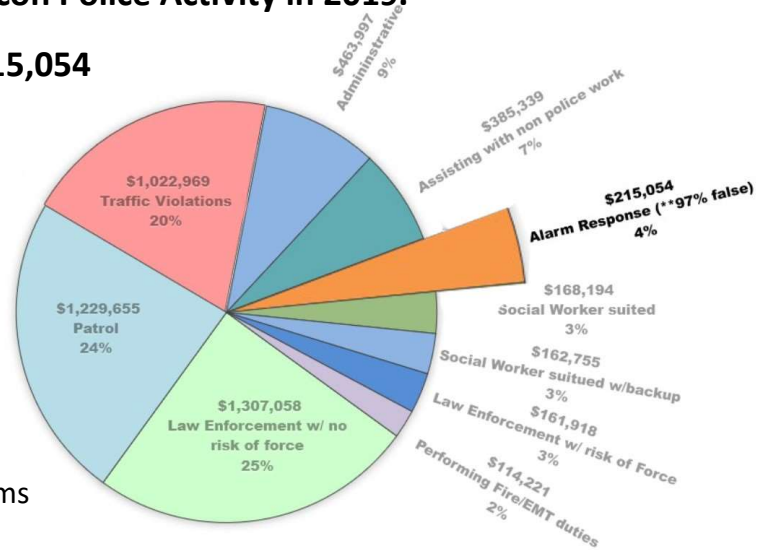
### Benefits:

- Significant fiscal benefit to be reinvested in community needs by decreasing the budgetary demands of the Beacon Police Department.
- Removes a practice historically conducive to racial bias and discrimination

# Alarm Response:

Automated Alarms represent 4% of all Beacon Police Activity in 2019.

4% of the 2019 Beacon Police Budget is \$215,054



- Independent studies of automated alarm systems estimate that 99% of burglary alarms are FALSE ALARMS. (Sampson 2007)  
<https://popcenter.asu.edu/content/false-burglar-alarms-2nd-edition-0>
- Most alarms are a service provided by private companies to higher income residences and businesses.
- Commercial spaces have the highest frequency of false alarms due to multiple employees.
- Cities nationwide have established strategies to reduce the public expense of false alarm response including:
  - Charging a fee for each alarm response
  - Requiring telephone verification before in person response
  - Requiring a permit fee for alarms

## Proposal:

- Transition to a fiscally neutral response for private alarm companies and their customers.

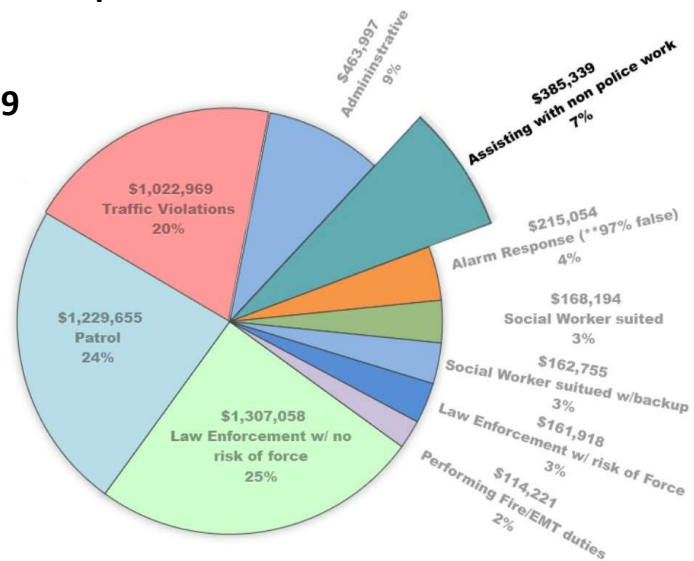
## Benefits:

- Fiscal benefit to be reinvested in community needs by decreasing the budgetary demands of the Beacon Police Department.

# Assisting with Non-Police Work:

Assisting with issues unrelated to law enforcement represents 7% of all Beacon Police Activity in 2019.

7% of the 2019 Beacon Police Budget is \$385,339



- Highly paid Police often respond to tasks outside their job description and qualifications including Animal Complaint, Water Leak, Automobile lock out, Disabled Vehicle
- Police response to these is a financial detraction from the local economy of trained professionals both public and private in fields including Animal Control, Automotive repair, Utility work, and Plumbing.
- Only 15% of these calls occur between 10pm-6am

## Proposal:

- Cease Police response to tasks unrelated to law enforcement.
- Solicit a contact list of business and agencies for referral to people calling with non police emergencies.

## Benefits:

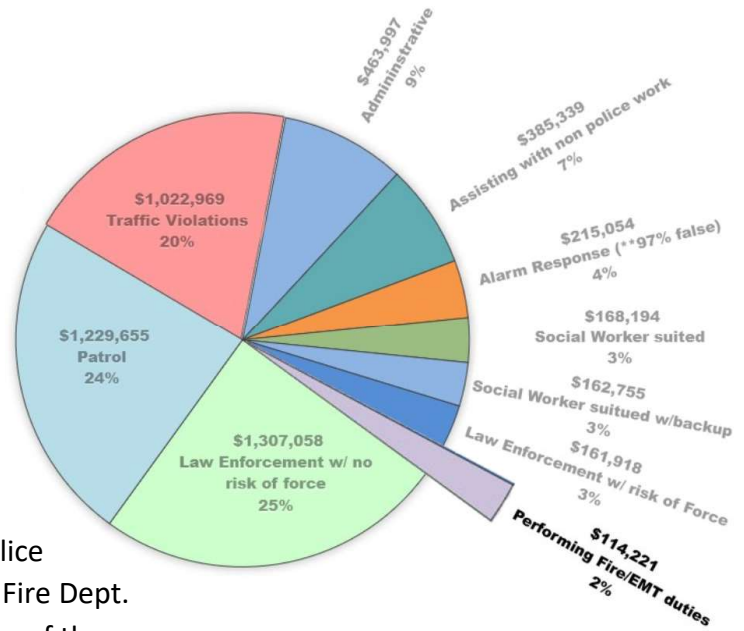
- Fiscal benefit by decreasing the budgetary demands of the Beacon Police Department.
- Stimulate and support local business and agencies that more appropriately address the specific issue.
- Eliminates the potential for injury of Police officer, residents, or animals contributing to greater public safety



# Police performing Fire/EMT duties:

Response to Fire/EMT calls represents 2% of all Beacon Police Activity in 2019.

2% of the 2019 Police Budget is \$114,221



- Supplementing Fire response with higher paid Police Officers hides true resource needs of the Beacon Fire Dept.
- The Fire Department would make much better use of these resources.

## Proposal:

- Cease Police response to tasks unrelated to law enforcement.  
Assess and appropriately fund the needs of the Beacon Fire Department

## Benefits:

- Fully funding the needs of the Beacon Fire Department would create a safer Beacon
- Protect the health and lives of Police officers by not endangering them with tasks outside their job description.

## Police work to Social work

- 6% of police calls would more appropriately be responded to by professionals with certification and expertise in mental health, trauma, mediation, and social work according to experts in social work and mental health.

[www.mhanational.org/issues/position-statement-59-responding-behavioral-health-crises](http://www.mhanational.org/issues/position-statement-59-responding-behavioral-health-crises)

- Police Activities more effectively lead by certified Social Workers include:

Welfare Check	Family Court Order	Rape
Civil Matter	Neglect	Sexual Abuse
Suicide Attempt	Psychiatric Emergency	Domestic Call
Mental Health	Drug Possession	Dispute
Neighbor Dispute	Child Abuse	Juvenile Complaint
CPS Case	Child Exchange	Intoxicated Subject
Child Neglect	Sexual Assault	Custody

- Social workers are trained and experienced in these situations without police assistance.
- Higher risk scenarios would also benefit from a social worker lead police partnership.

Mental Health America, the nation's largest non-for-profit agency for social work, operates and manages a local network of social workers specializing in emergency psychiatric crisis, suicide/suicide attempts, domestic abuse, child abuse, drug recovery, sexual assault, and more.

The Dutchess County Mental Health America branch is located in Beacon on rt52.

MHA and similar agencies can contract with municipalities for emergency call response either partnered with a police officer or operating alone.

### Proposal:

- The City of Beacon partner with Dutchess County MHA or equivalent agency to contract social workers to respond to emergency calls independently or in partnership with a police officer as appropriate.

### Benefits:

- Beginning a practice of contracting first response mental health professionals would more effectively address the needs and issues that contribute to public safety and quality of life.
- Ensure safety of the public and officers by not responding to calls outside Police expertise.
- Expands restorative and preventative strategies such as Drug treatment, mental health care, anger management, and domestic abuse support over punitive strategies.
- Social workers are required by law to carry insurance protecting the city from liability.



**Law Enforcement represents 28% of Beacon Police Activity in 2019**

**This proposal separates Law Enforcement activity in two categories**

**Law Enforcement with low Reasonable  
Expectation of Necessary Force**

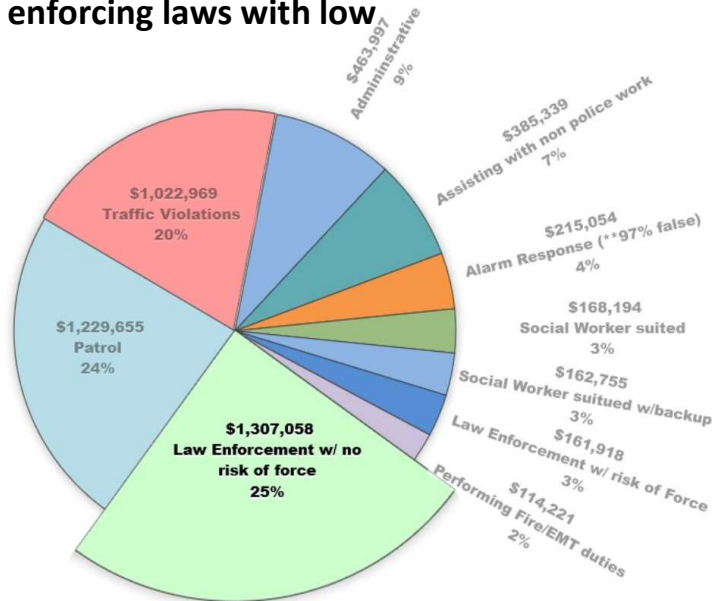
and

**Law Enforcement with Reasonable  
Expectation of Necessary Force**

# Law Enforcement with Low Reasonable Risk Requiring Force

25% of Beacon Police Activity in 2019 was spent enforcing laws with low reasonable risk requiring force.

25% of the 2019 Police Budget is \$1,307,000



- Non-police professions such as Postal workers, Utility workers, political canvassers, social workers, EMTs, and Firefighters all regularly enter private property to engage the public without expectation of personal risk.
- Instances of altercations, conflict, or personal risk in these situations are extremely rare.
- In rare cases of danger, these professions rely on retreat and calling for backup.

## Proposal

- A division within the Beacon PD created to be responsible for low risk law enforcement.
- Code Enforcement Officers would not be equipped with ballistic armor or firearms and would be in constant radio communication with dispatch.

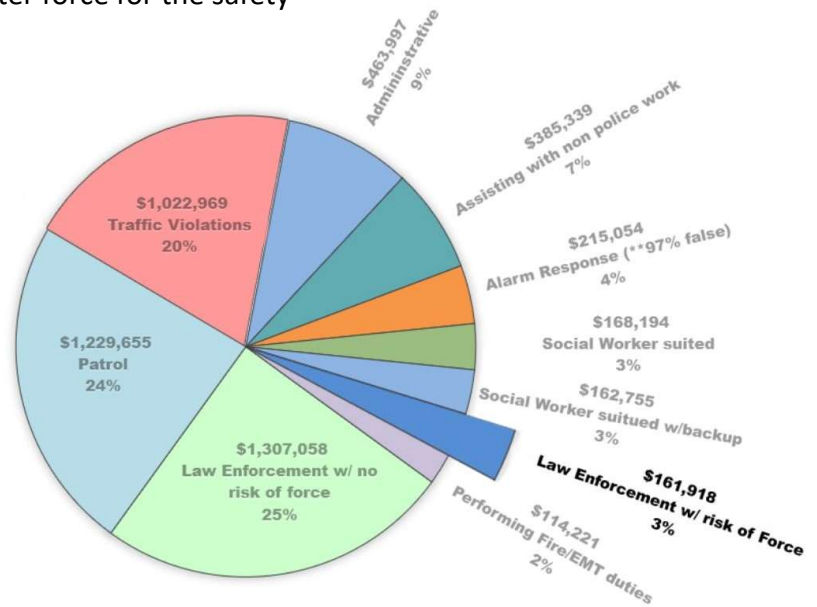
## Benefits

- Training requirements for Code Enforcement Officer would not require the same level of training in force, pain compliance, apprehension, or firearms - significantly lowering the cost to the City of Beacon.
- Reduce likelihood of escalation of low risk non violent infractions to dangerous situations.
- Reduce liability for the City of Beacon
- Fiscal benefit to be reinvested in community needs by decreasing the budgetary demands of the Beacon Police Department.

# Law Enforcement with Reasonable Risk Requiring Force

The nature of some Law Enforcement reasonably carries an expected risk that justifies a preparedness to implement force if needed.

- In 2019 3% of Police Activity in the City of Beacon was dedicated to Law Enforcement that could reasonably demand a preparedness to administer force for the safety of individuals or the public.



## Proposal

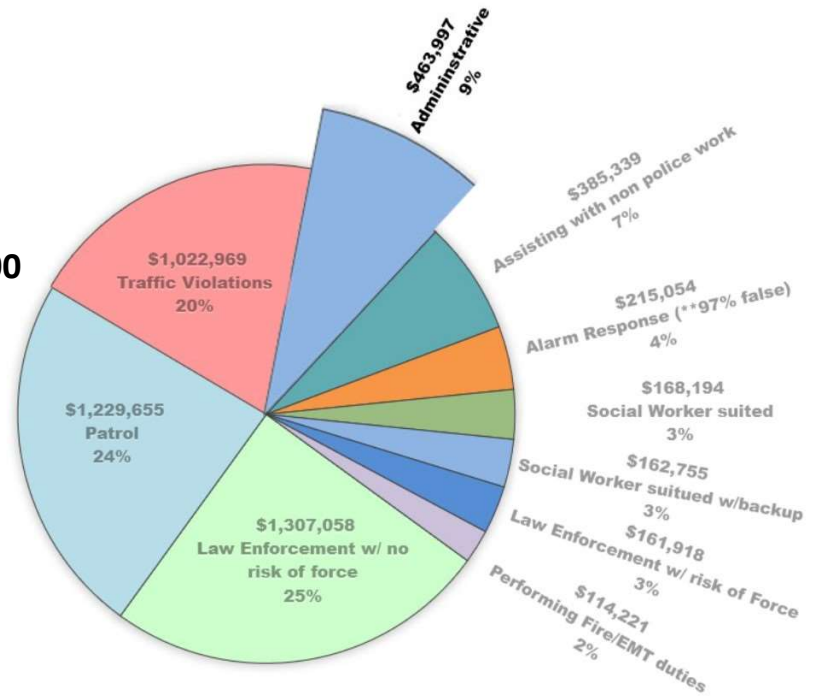
- A position created within the Police Department that is an individual trained and experienced in appropriate use of force methods and rules of engagement to ensure the safety of all parties.
- This officer would remain in direct contact with dispatch, unarmed Law enforcement, and City contracted Social Workers to respond when needed.
- The response time from the Beacon Police Station would permit this officer to respond efficiently to emergencies.

## Benefits

- Officers responding to dangerous situations would be prepared to engage in de-escalation and conflict resolution resulting in increased safety for the officers and public.
- Fiscal benefit to be reinvested in community needs by decreasing the budgetary demands of the Beacon Police Department.

# Administrative work

9% of police activity is Administrative.  
9% of the 2019 Police budget is \$464,000



- Administrative work carries zero reasonable risk and are typically non-emergencies

## Proposal:

- Conduct an audit of administrative work to determine more efficient and fiscally responsible procedures for administrative duties
- Cease the practice of conducting duties unrelated to law enforcement in body armor and with weapons.

## Benefits:

- Training requirements for Code Enforcement Officer would not require the same level of training is force, pain compliance, apprehension, or firearms - significantly lowering the cost to the City of Beacon.
- Reduce likelihood of escalation of low risk non-violent infractions to dangerous situations.
- Fiscal benefit to be reinvested in community needs by decreasing the budgetary demands of the Beacon Police Department.

# **PROPOSAL**

## **Part 1 – Police Cost Reduction (Activity)**

- Cease all Patrols incrementally to zero in the 2021 fiscal year – \$1.3 million
- Cease Traffic Monitoring by Beacon Police – \$1.2 million
- Shift to fiscally neutral Police response to private alarms - \$215,000
- Cease Police response to EMT/Fire responsibility - \$115,000
- Cease Police response to tasks unrelated to Law Enforcement - \$385,000
- Require any officer tasked with using force to hold liability insurance. (cost of city settlements currently undisclosed)

## **Reduction in Police Activity by 57%**

### **Proportionate Budget savings of \$2,967,238**

## **Part 2 – Responsible Downsizing**

- Seek a 57% staff reduction resulting in a department of 16 Officers
- Immediately cease all Police overtime.
- Immediately cease all new hiring for the Beacon Police Dept
- Actively pursue voluntary early retirement for any eligible staff.
- Compare cost of buying out contracts through layoffs with the proposed budget savings.

## **Part 3 – Increased Services of Care and Public Safety**

- Assess and Increase Fire Department staffing as needed
- Enter a contractual relationship with Social Work agencies to respond to appropriate emergency calls in partnership with 911 and BPD dispatch
- Explore community lead initiatives to reinvest \$3 million to support the needs of Beacon communities.





Social Worker suited	PSYC EMERGENCY	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total													442
Traffic	TRAFFIC STOP	143	112	48	93	179	265	185	185	133	163	255	263	2024
Traffic	PARKING	2	5	3	7	28	26	41	32	17	21	10	5	197
Traffic	TRAFFIC DETAIL	2	3	1	16	29	27	10	10	48	14	11	4	175
Traffic	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	0	0	0	0	8	4	4	4	1	3	1	1	26
Traffic	ROAD CLOSED	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	11
Traffic	ROAD RAGE	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	7
Traffic	STREET LIGHT OUT	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5
	Total													2445
	Totals:	1122	331	230	653	1859	1167	1062	1543	1704	994	849	1060	12519

	instances	% of total
Law Enforcement w/ no risk of force	3124	25%
Patrol	2939	24%
Traffic Violations	2445	20%
Administrative	1109	9%
Assisting with non police work	921	7%
Alarm Response (**97% false)	514	4%
Social Worker suited	402	3%
Social Worker suited w/backup	389	3%
Law Enforcement w/ risk of Force	387	3%
Performing Fire/EMT duties	273	2%
	12503	1
	4534650	
	696509	
Total 2019 Police Budget	5231159	
Parking Ticket Revenue	140,000	

## Links

- [https://theintercept.com/2020/07/04/chicago-police-simon-balto-intercepted/?fbclid=IwAR0Bas6gT9wVlSmZ8e0eu34q3hsGfkB29pUm3m7G7jXvkSd\\_ytEYq16ZUds](https://theintercept.com/2020/07/04/chicago-police-simon-balto-intercepted/?fbclid=IwAR0Bas6gT9wVlSmZ8e0eu34q3hsGfkB29pUm3m7G7jXvkSd_ytEYq16ZUds)
- <https://www.governing.com/gov-data/safety-justice/law-enforcement-police-department-employee-totals-for-cities.html>
- <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/position-statement-59-responding-behavioral-health-crises>
- <https://blueravenintelligence.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/PATROL.pdf>
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3115118?seq=1>
- <https://www.asecurelife.com/average-police-response-time/>