Locust Police Department
Locust, NC

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2019 DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE STATISTICS

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Explanation For Clearance Statistics Reports

The Locust Police Department began a conscious tracking of incident clearance statistics in 2018. Clearance of incidents has always been compiled through the computer database the department utilizes for reporting. In an effort to maximize oversight and officer accountability however, a manual tracking process was begun to monitor incident follow-ups and clearances beginning with the 2018 calendar year. This oversight is to assure that we are providing the best possible service to those who report incidents to the Locust Police Department, and to assure that investigating officers are following all investigative leads to completion with the ultimate goal of a successful clearance in every incident assigned. It should be understood however that many times, criminal incidents are referred to our agency that are impossible to "solve" or successfully clear. This understanding is provided to our officers with the only expectation being that they do the best they can with each assigned incident, even if that only amounts to a single follow-up phone call with the victim. Locust officers are not "judged" by their clearance percentage unless it is clearly observed that a lack of follow-up activity may be contributing to a lower clearance percentage.

Clearance statistics for the purpose of this reporting are based on completed incident reports only. A statistics explanation key/glossary and an analysis of 2019 statistics follow beginning with the next page:

Statistics Explanation Key/Glossary

Total Reported Incidents –
This number represents all reported incidents where an incident report is completed.

Total Open Incidents –
Reported incidents that are still open for further investigation. These incidents also include those where probable cause has been developed to obtain an arrest warrant for a suspect however they have not yet been apprehended and served with warrant.

Total Closed Incidents –
Reported incidents that have been successfully closed with a satisfactory disposition. This excludes incidents closed as leads exhausted or inactive which are not considered satisfactory though they are common due to no leads to follow in an investigation.

Leads Exhausted/Inactive Incidents –
Reported incidents where all investigative leads have been exhausted or did not exist to begin with. Inactive incidents used to deal with major incidents where leads are exhausted or incidents involving property that are entered into a nationwide stolen property database. The two terms are now used interchangeably in our department's reporting system.

Other Circumstance Incidents –
Reported incidents that are non-criminal in nature. These incidents also include any that could have been considered criminal in nature but were cleared when it was deemed to be unfounded, the victim refused to cooperate, or prosecution was declined among several other possibilities. Other circumstance incidents will always represent the vast majority of reported incidents as most of the incidents the department responds to are non-criminal in nature.

Total Criminal Incidents –
Reported incidents that are labeled as violations of criminal statute, and also result in a satisfactory disposition of an arrest made, or an unsatisfactory disposition of leads exhausted or inactive (no arrest made). Some incidents may be labeled as violations of criminal statute however, if they are disposed after a determination that it did not occur, a victim will not cooperate with an investigation or other similar circumstance, they are no longer considered criminal incidents and are labeled as "other circumstance".

Total Criminal Incidents Cleared By Arrest –
Reported criminal incidents that result in an arrest made. An arrest can be made by the issuance of a citation, or by taking into custody.

Total Property Crime/Fraud Incidents –
Reported incidents that are considered property crime or fraud type incidents. Because property crime and fraud related incidents represent the largest incidence of criminal activity and concern currently in Locust, an additional clearance category was made specifically for these types of incidents. Unlike criminal incidents which are only labeled as such if the description of the offense results in an arrest or exhausted leads, an incident is placed in the property crime/fraud category if the offense is considered to be related to property crime or fraud regardless of the final disposition.

Total Open And Leads Exhausted Property Crime/Fraud Incidents (Two Separate Categories) –
See above descriptions for open incidents and leads exhausted incidents. The description would be the same for property crime/fraud incidents but would involve those types of incidents only.

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Cleared Property Crime/Fraud Incidents –
Incidents that have been reported and considered as property crime or fraud incidents that result in a satisfactory disposition such as an arrest but also if they are ruled to be unfounded incidents, a victim refuses to cooperate, or prosecution is declined.

2019 Clearance Statistics Analysis

For the 2019 calendar year, the final year of the Locust Police Department under retiring Chief Frank L. Hartsell, the Locust Police Department produced 1,737 incident reports for clearance consideration. This number considers only reports for the purpose of these clearance statistics and would represent an increase of 126 completed reports from the prior calendar year. As stated, the vast majority of reports taken are non-criminal in nature, or they are incidents that result in a disposition to consider them as non-criminal. Because of these factors, it is understandable that the overall closed/clearance percentage would be high in a city with a relatively low occurrence of criminal incidents. The overall clearance percentage for the Locust Police Department in 2019 was 94.8% which was largely due to 79.96% of completed reports being non-criminal in nature or ending with a disposition where they would be deemed as non-criminal. This clearance percentage included 88 incidents that resulted in leads being exhausted and only two incidents that remained open at year's end for the 2019 calendar year. The 94.8% overall clearance percentage would represent an .8% increase from the overall clearance percentage in 2018.

For incidents deemed as criminal incidents and/or property crime/fraud incidents, clearance percentages for 2019 were 75.4% and 68.7% respectively. It should be noted that in a smaller city with a low incidence of overall criminal activity, there is a greater possibility of achieving higher clearance on criminal and property crime incidents as opposed to a large city with significantly higher rates of criminal activity. This should not take away from however that the percentages the Locust Police Department was able to achieve in 2019 was also the result of highly efficient response times, and dedicated follow-up investigation of incidents that either resulted in on-scene arrests or charges obtained for criminal incidents. These clearance percentages for criminal and property crime incidents would represent clearance percentage increases of 5.5% and 1.2% respectively compared to final percentages one year ago.

The Locust Police Department is extremely proud of all of our officers in our patrol division that are responsible for the vast majority of our agency's high clearance rates. They are dedicated officers that always respond quickly, work efficiently, and follow-up relentlessly to achieve successful and satisfactory dispositions at a very high percentage.

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2019 Clearance Statistics

*Statistics are based on department produced incident reports only

<u>Agency</u>
Total reported incidents – 1,737
Total open incidents – 2
Total closed incidents (Excluding leads exhausted) – 1,647
Leads exhausted/inactive incidents – 88
Other circumstance incidents – 1,389
(Incidents that are non-criminal, or criminal allegations but disposed as unfounded, victim refused, etc.)

Total closed/cleared percentage (Excludes leads exhausted incidents) – 94.8% (93.97% In 2018, +.8%)

Total criminal incidents (Resulting in arrest, leads exhausted, or inactive) – 357
Total criminal incidents cleared by arrest – 269

Total cleared by arrest percentage – 75.4% (69.9% In 2018, +5.5%)

Total property crime/fraud incidents – 275
Total open property crime/fraud incidents – 2
Total leads exhausted property crime/fraud incidents – 84
Cleared property crime/fraud incidents (Arrest or other satisfactory disposition) – 189

Total cleared property crime/fraud percentage – 68.7% (67.5% In 2018, +1.2%)