



Locust Police Department
Locust, NC

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2024 DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE STATISTICS

By: Chief of Police Jeff B. Shew

Explanation For Clearance Statistics Reports

The Locust Police Department began an intentional 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 most 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 and do not include other types of interactions such as general traffic stops or traffic crash investigations. In 2024, due to a steadily increasing volume of general calls for service in a rapidly growing city, a change was made in department reporting policy to allow Locust officers to forego completing incident reports for minor non-criminal calls for service where involved parties do not specifically request an incident report. In those cases, Locust officers are still expected to activate their body cameras and if applicable in-car dash cameras to record any encounters as well as to provide call notes to our county dispatch software for record keeping purposes.

A statistics explanation key/glossary and an analysis of 2024 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.

2024 Clearance Statistics Analysis

For the 2024 calendar year, the fifth year of the Locust Police Department under the administration of Chief of Police Jeff B. Shew and Assistant Chief Kevin R. O'Connor, a change was made in department reporting policy due to a steadily increasing volume of general calls for service in a rapidly growing city. This change allowed Locust officers to forego completing incident reports for minor non-criminal calls for service where involved parties do not specifically request an incident report. In those cases, Locust officers are still expected to activate their body cameras and if applicable in-car dash cameras to record any encounters as well as to provide call notes to our county dispatch software for record keeping purposes. Because of this change, there was and will continue to be a noticeable decrease in completed incident reports utilized for these statistics despite an increasing call for service volume in the city.

For 2024, the Locust Police Department produced 1,103 incident reports for clearance consideration. This number considers only reports for the purpose of these clearance statistics and the significant decrease from all prior years was explained above. Total incident reports do include any non-criminal reports the department still produced and will always have a positive clearance contributing to an overall high total incident clearance percentage. The overall clearance percentage for all criminal and non-criminal calls for the Locust Police Department in 2024 was 93.7%. This clearance percentage included 55 incidents that resulted in leads being exhausted and 15 incidents that remained open at year's end for the 2024 calendar year. The 93.7% overall clearance percentage would represent a small .6% increase from the overall clearance percentage in 2023, and remained in-line with all other years where this method of analysis has been utilized.

For incidents deemed as criminal incidents and/or property crime/fraud incidents, reported incidents and clearance percentages would not have been impacted by the department's new reporting policy as any criminal incident will always require an incident report. For 2024, confirmed criminal incidents were successfully cleared at 86.7%. Property crime/fraud incidents were successfully cleared at 78.6%. Both of these clearance percentages are recognized as department records since this type of analysis began. It should always be noted that in a smaller city with a lower 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 negate the performance of Locust Police Department officers and investigators in 2024 whose efficient response times, and dedicated follow-up investigation of incidents that either resulted in on-scene arrests or charges obtained for criminal incidents resulted in a high percentage of effective clearance. These clearance percentages for criminal and property crime incidents would represent sizeable clearance percentage increases of 13% and 11.1% respectively compared to final percentages one year ago. It should be noted also however that there were 55 fewer confirmed criminal incidents and 46 less property crime/fraud incidents in 2024 compared to 2023, but less reported crime in Locust is always a positive development.

Reviewing a year-to-year comparison from 2018 when clearance statistical analysis began to this past year shows that 2024 was another solid and even record-breaking year for department clearance as successful clearance percentages were record highs in criminal categories and in-line with all other years for overall incidents.

The Locust Police Department is extremely proud of all of our officers in our patrol and investigations divisions that are responsible for our agency's continued 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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Final Department Clearance Statistics 2024

*Statistics are based on department produced incident reports only

Agency

Total reported incidents – 1,103

Total open incidents – 15

Total closed incidents (Excluding leads exhausted) – 1,033

Leads exhausted/inactive incidents – 55

Other circumstance incidents – 665

(Incidents that are non-criminal, or criminal allegations but disposed as unfounded, victim refused, etc.)

Total closed percentage (Excludes leads exhausted incidents) – 93.7% (+.4% From Previous Month)

Total criminal incidents (Resulting in arrest, leads exhausted, or inactive) – 427

Total criminal incidents cleared by arrest – 370

Total cleared by arrest percentage – 86.7% (-3.6% From Previous Month)

Total property crime/fraud incidents – 295

Total open property crime/fraud incidents – 12

Total leads exhausted property crime/fraud incidents – 51

Cleared property crime/fraud incidents (Arrest or other satisfactory disposition) – 232

Total cleared property crime/fraud percentage – 78.6% (+2.4% From Previous Month)

YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON (Final For Given Year)

Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Reported Incidents	1,611	1,737	1,928	1,799	1,791	1,786	1,103
Confirmed Criminal Incidents	356	357	406	360	389	482	427
Property Crime/Fraud Incidents	228	275	335	266	278	341	295
Total Closed %	93.97%	94.8%	93.8%	94.9%	95.3%	93.1%	93.7%
Cleared By Arrest %	69.9%	75.4%	79.1%	76.7%	79.2%	73.7%	86.7%
Cleared Property Crime/Fraud %	67.5%	68.7%	69.9%	66.5%	71.2%	67.5%	78.6%

***Reported Incidents Are Significantly Lower Due To Locust Officers No Longer Required To Do Reports On Many Non-Criminal Incidents.**