



May 9, 2023

Ms. Hope Sullivan
Community Development Director
Carson City Planning Division

Ms. Sullivan,

The Sheriff's Office is providing input to the "Growth Management of 2023 Residential Permit Allocations and AB 240 (2019) Growth Management Report to State Legislators" as you've requested. The information below is provided based on approximately the last 10 years of data collected, except where otherwise noted.

General Staffing Conditions:

- Sheriff's Office Sworn Staff: 104 Sworn
- Patrol Division: 56 Deputies & 2 Civilian
 - 2 Deputies in whole or part grant funded
 - 5 Deputies assigned to Traffic Management
 - 6 Deputies assigned to schools
 - 2 Deputies and 1 civilian assigned to MOST
- Detention Division: 31 Deputies & 8 Civilians
 - 2 Deputies assigned to Court Services
 - 1 Deputy assigned to Medical
- Investigations Division: 14 Deputies & 4 Civilians
 - 2 Deputies assigned to state or federal task forces
 - 2 Deputy partially grant funded
 - 5 assigned to Special Enforcement/Gangs
- Communications Division: 20 Civilians
- Civil/Records Division: 7 Civilians

Note: This list is not all inclusive of hourly employees.

In response to department recommendations specific to your request, the below is provided:

1. *Does your department or agency have any extraordinary service capacity issues that would be negatively impacted by residential growth in 2023-2024? If so, identify the issues.*
 - a. **The capacity to house mental health inmates.**
 - b. **Labor shortages at the Public Safety Communications Center, currently 10% of positions are vacant with a historical effective rate of 70%. This issue is being addressed within the local budgetary allowances.**
2. *Do you recommend limiting the number of residential building permits (new construction) that will be made available for the 2023 calendar year to address these*

issues? If so, what limit, and how will this limit on residential growth help resolve your service capacity problem? **RESPONSE: None for the period identified.**

3. What are your recommendations to solve any service capacity issues identified above? **RESPONSE: None for the period identified.**

In response to Growth Management, Purpose, of the Boards findings and declarations, the individual unit breakdowns concerning the overall conditions for Public Safety, Law Enforcement, in the community are provided for consideration:

Major Sheriff's Office Key Growth Indicators:

- **Overall Crime Index:** 10-year trend, up to 2022, shows continued overall crime reduction
- **Emergency Response Times:** In greater than 91% of calls, Deputies report on scene within 5 minutes, 16 seconds, which is about 1 minute faster than 2021.
- **Traffic Management:** Rates were steady over the 10-year trend at 400 to 500 calls for service per year until approximately 2016 and peaking in 2019 at 650 per year (est. 30% increase in activity/labor). Bulk of accidents reports are non-injury accidents, which have increased steadily since 2014 from 200 to 500 annually.
 - Accident occurrence rates decreased in 2022, the highest rate of occurrence was July-Dec.
 - Fatality crashes increased in 2022 to 8, from 2021 which had 7, while the 10-year trend is 4 per year.
- **Sheriff Call Volume:** Call volume continues to be steady over the 10-year average.
- **Detention Bookings:** Total bookings in the Detention Center are holding steady at between 2500- 3300 per year over the 10-year average.

Public Safety Communications Division:

- **Annual telephone call volume decreased in 2022 by approximately 3600 calls. Staffing levels at the Communications Center has reached a critical level as the center is only staffed with 2- 3 personnel per shift, which is easily overloaded during a critical incident call.**
- Sheriff 911 Incoming Calls are holding steady between 25,000 and 30,000 per year
- Fire 911 Incoming Calls are holding steady between 10,000 and 11,000 per year
- Computer Aided Dispatch labor distribution (law) holding steady at 105,000 to 125,000 per year. Significant increases are related to medical activity. These call volumes are all within the 10-year average, despite growth.

Sheriff's Patrol Division:

- **Calls for Service** have held steady over 10-year period at 15,000 to 20,000.
- **Traffic Accident** 2022 accident rates decreased to 567 compared to 580 in 2021.
- **School Activities** fell slightly in 2022 to 2,942 compared to 3,034 in 2021 but remained higher than the average of 2,250 to 2,500 calls for service annually in previous years. There is no indication of considerable student population growth in the near future, however, densely populated environments (Carson Middle School and Carson High School) continue to draw the heaviest volume of activities.
 - Note: School response calls for service at the school sites have held steady at 200-300 per month since inception of the School Resource Officer program in 2015.

Coroner's Office:

- **Total Death Rate in Carson City:** The 10-year average for reported deaths in Carson City is about 850. We had a high of 1034 and a low of 751. 2020-2021 Pandemic impact resulted in a 38% increase in death rate during 2020-2021. In 2022, the death rate of 938 reflected a downward trend towards average.
- **Total Coroner/On-Scene Response Calls:** In 2022 Coroners responded to 225 calls, which was 124 less than the previous year. This downward trend was the result of the pandemic mitigation of screening coroner calls and limiting on-scene responses. This impact resulted in a 35% decrease in the number of On-Scene Responses conducted. Prior to the pandemic this scene response category held steady at 300-350 scene responses per year.
- **Suicides:** Self-inflicted deaths increased to 27 in 2021, which was a year into the Pandemic while there were only 18 in 2013. This was an increase of 50% increase in 2021. Suicides dipped to 16 in 2022, consistent with Pre-pandemic numbers.
- **Drug Overdoses:** This category increased from 8 in 2013 to 18 in 2022. This was an increase of 10 overdoses, or a 125% increase. In 2023 drug overdoses are currently on track to equal or slightly exceed 18.

Detention Division:

- Total Bookings at the Detention Center decreased in 2022 by almost 11% to just over 2900, compared to almost 3300 the year previous.
- Average stay in jail is 140 days. 27% increase from previous year.
- Average Daily Population in 2022 (162 inmates) was up by 29% from the previous year. **The average daily population to Original Construction Capacity (224) is at 82%. Capacity levels greater than 80% of original construction should be considered to exceed critical health, safety, welfare capabilities and necessitate additional staffing considerations.**
- One of the causes for the increase in average stay is due to the NPRA system and criminal justice reforms. Many low-level offenders are being released, however, those who don't qualify for release stay in custody longer. Another cause is the majority of the mentally ill are waiting for bed space at forensic facilities. Some of these inmates are waiting 6 – 8 months for services.

Civil/Records Division:

- No remarkable increases or decreases in overall workload indicators have been seen over the previous 10-year period.

Conclusion: Immediate and short-term abilities for the law enforcement sector to maintain quality services should be assessed as “good”. While the Deputy to Population Ratio continues to be significantly below the statewide average, as well as the regional average, the department has done well at keeping up with the community demand. Concerns for long-term abilities rests in the more rural environments of the community, including the western Lake Tahoe (recreational) region, and the eastern housing growth areas along the Carson River front.

Additional long-term considerations must be given to specific groups that have an impact on growth & law enforcement services:

- Homeless & transient population growth
- Mental health & crisis intervention, and services growth

- Congested population affordable apartment style housing construction

All three of these conditions are determined to be having significant impacts on law enforcement and public safety services. Continued growth of these conditions would easily overwhelm current staffing postures, resource availabilities, and could negatively impact current growth projections.