

# Mounted Patrol Unit Annual Report

2020



Madison Police Department

## New Horse Addition!

In February the team entered into a trial contract with James Rotzoll, owner of a Clydesdale/Hackney named Thor. Given COVID restrictions and civil unrest stemming from the George Floyd incident on May 25, the team was unable to adequately evaluate Thor during the initial trial period. This led to several extensions to the trial period which ultimately went through July 15<sup>th</sup>. Over this time frame, the Friends of Madison Mounted Horse Patrol (FOMM) graciously covered the costs to have professional horse trainer Kelly Messera work with and evaluate Thor. This proved invaluable and gave the team greater insight as to Thor's potential as a police mount. At the conclusion of the trial period, it was the team's recommendation to move ahead with the purchase of Thor. This was approved by Acting Chief Wahl and Thor was purchased shortly thereafter through a donation by FOMM in the sum of \$3,500.



Thor, a gelding Clydesdale/Hackney cross, was born May 29, 2010. He is approximately 17 hands high and weighs roughly 1,600 pounds. He is a very friendly horse who is motivated by treats!

During his two-year probationary period he will continue to learn his role as a police mount while acclimating to the streets of Madison. If he is able to pass all requirements, he will become a full-fledged member of the mounted unit in the summer of 2022!

## Horse Sponsorship

In 2020, the horse sponsorship program continued its success. All six horses were sponsored at the annual rate of \$5000/ea. This funding is used to ensure the horses get the proper care, training and equipment they need to be successful in their roles. Typically, sponsors receive a visit from their horse at a place of their choosing. With COVID concerns and restrictions, these visits were largely postponed until 2021.

Chevy successfully completed his probationary period and on November 09 he was presented his badge by Acting Chief Wahl signifying his permanent status with the unit. His sponsor, Laura Harrington, helped make this a special day indeed. He is doing awesome as our latest off-probation mount!



## 2020 Sponsors

“Bubba” sponsored by Al and Kathleen von Ruff of Woodstock, IL

“Chevy” sponsored by Laura Harrington of Madison, WI

“Cooper” sponsored by Lynne and Rich Schifreen of Madison, WI

“Doctor B” (aka “Doc”) sponsored by Indigo Trails & Stacey Bean

“Thor” sponsored by Chad Becker of Becker 505

“Torres” (aka “Mr. T”) sponsored by Laura Callahan of First Weber Realty

## Training

### Pete Ramey Hoof Clinic

Most of this year's specialized training had to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions. This included the NAMUCA conference, the UW Large Animal Rescue course and joint training with the Wisconsin State Fair Police. We were however able to send Officers Tom Coyne and Ruben Gonzalez to a two-day hoof care clinic hosted by renowned hoof specialist Pete Ramey. As a department who does all of its own farrier work, this clinic provided a framework for Tom and Ruben to build on. Day three consisted of hoof dissection with our veterinarian, Howard Ketover of Irongate Equine and Officer Ken Mulry, our team farrier. Here they studied the various parts of the hoof and how each part works with the other parts to make it a functional system. On day four Ken provided hands-on training as Tom and Ruben trimmed our herd. They will be taking more responsibility for farrier duties in 2021.

## Horsemanship and Equitation

During full-team trainings and on administrative days, the team continued to train under Kelly Messera where we continued to work on our horsemanship skills. We also worked the horses to make them more confident and comfortable in their roles.

The team tried something new this year; Black Max. This simulation horse monitors all sorts of rider aspects such as seat, leg pressure, posting balance etc. The simulator responds to you while showing, in real time, how you are doing. This was extremely beneficial as each rider saw what they did well and what they need to improve on. We will continue to use this training opportunity in the off-season and into 2021.



## Retirements

### Officer Kathryn Wahl

After 13+ years of dedicated service to the mounted program, Kathryn made the decision to step down from the team effective in late July. Kathryn's contributions to the team are too numerous to capture here suffice it to say that her dedication, knowledge and willingness to bring up new riders has helped shape this team into the professional, highly functional team it is today. Thank you for your service!



### Sergeant Shawn Engel

I started my career with MPD in 1995 and took over as the supervisor of the mounted unit in February 2017. Leading the mounted team has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my career. Working alongside the officers, mounts, the FOMM Board and Dr. Ketover has been an amazing experience. Rarely have I seen more dedication by a group of individuals. By coming together, this team has done and will continue to do amazing things. I consider it a blessing to have had the opportunity to play a small part in this.

Thank You!

# Friends of the Madison Mounted Horse Patrol



In 2020, there were four voting board members comprised of citizen volunteers. These volunteers worked closely with sponsors while also raising additional money through fundraising efforts. The success of the mounted program is largely due to the tireless efforts of these volunteers!

Chairwoman Coco Chaussee will be stepping down after this year. Through her leadership, the board continued to raise the necessary funds to keep the team viable. We sincerely thank her for her several years of service and

## Fundraising Efforts

### Horse Sponsor Program

All six city-owned mounts continued to be sponsored at \$5,000 annually.

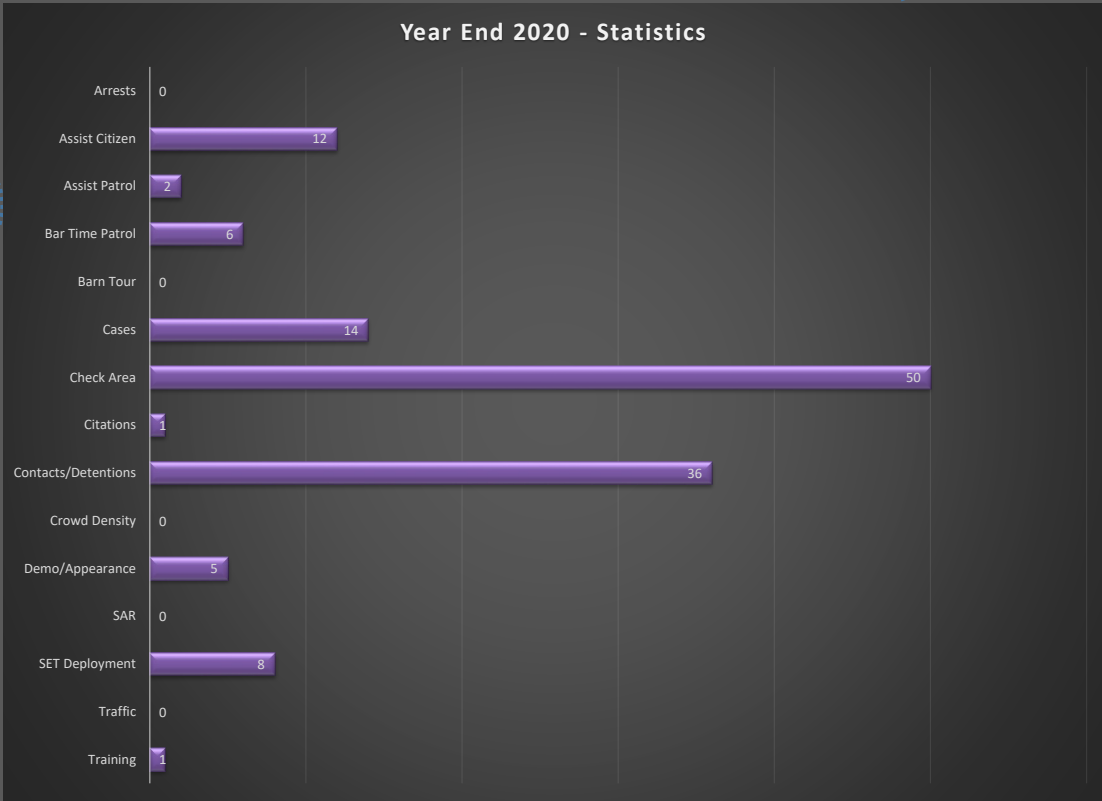
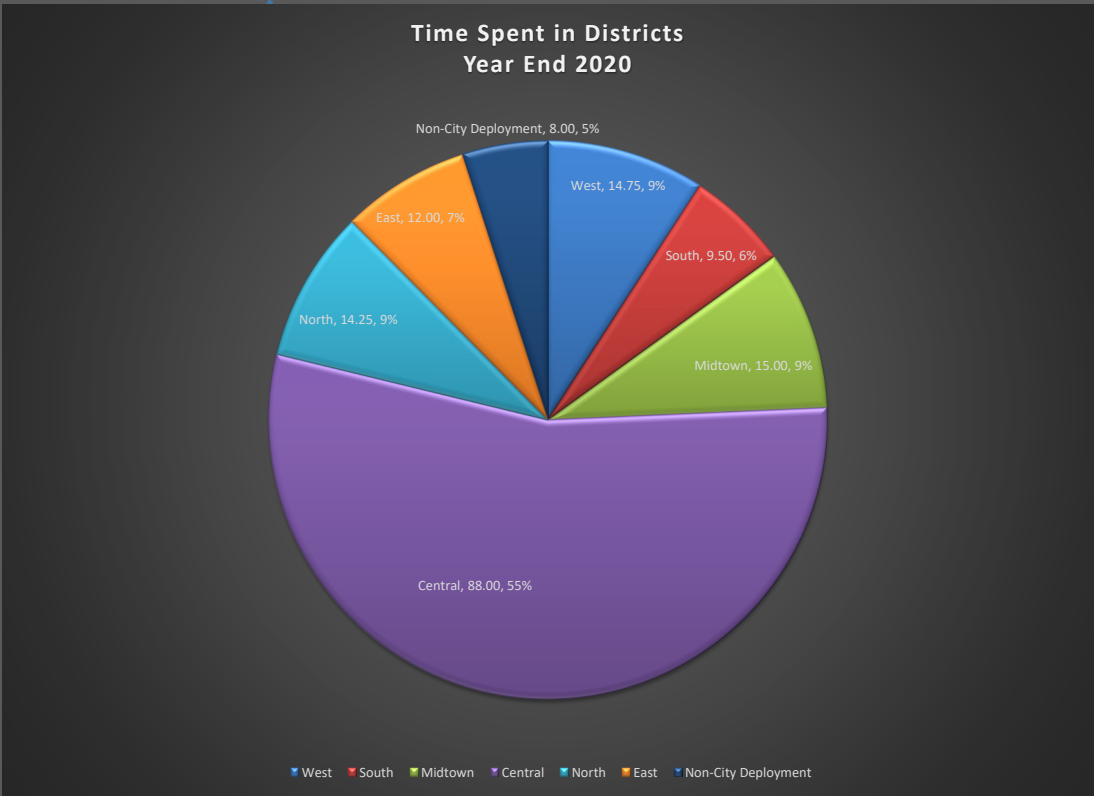
### Scavenger Hunt

A fall scavenger hunt was planned in lieu of a running race given COVID restrictions. This event was not well attended as people were tired of virtual events by the fall. It may be something that is tried in the future.

### Giving Tuesday

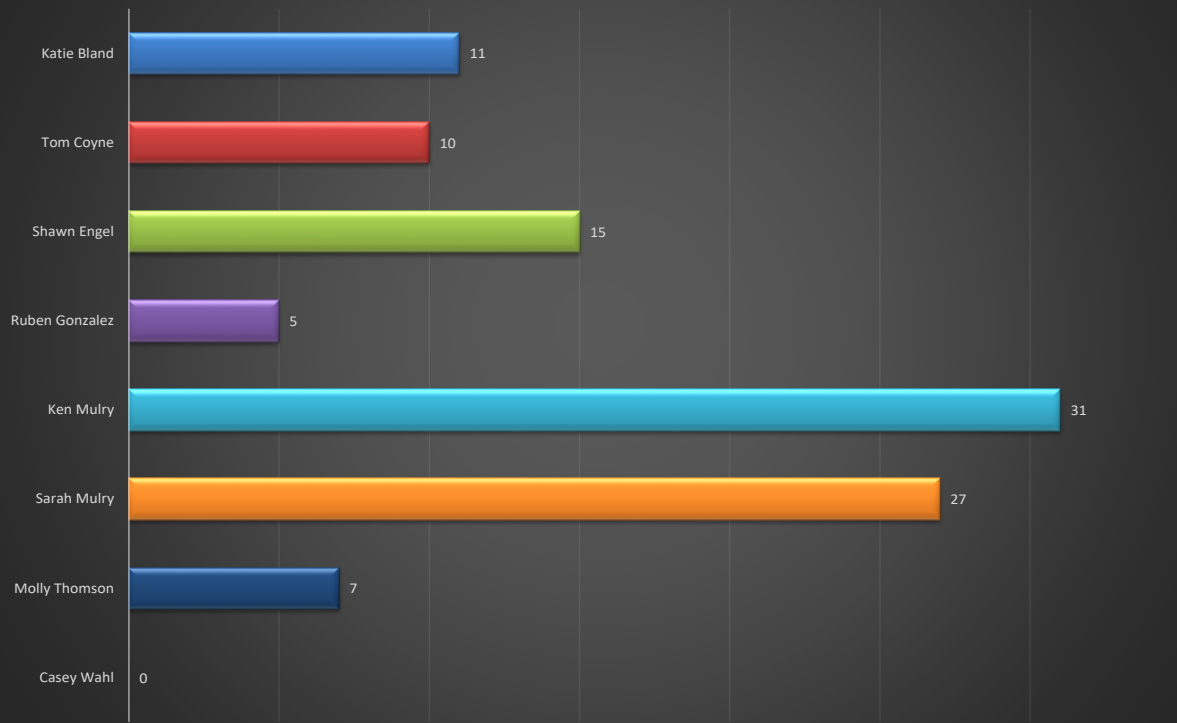
In December, a push was made through Facebook to help raise money for continued horse training. Several donations were made totaling several hundreds of dollars.

# 2020 Statistics



★ Only 5 appearances in 2020 due to COVID restrictions

### Rider Deployments Year End 2020



### Horse Deployments Year End 2020

