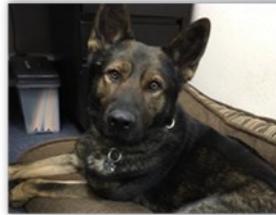


MORGAN HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT



2019 Annual Report

OUR COMMUNITY

Over the years, Morgan Hill has remained a community committed to its residents and businesses. While our community has grown, its small town sense of community has remained. It is important that our residents, businesses, and city continue to collaborate on where we have been and where we are going. Your Police Department also looks forward to enhancing our partnerships to assist us as we grow and look ahead so that we may continue to provide a high level of service to everyone in our community.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Enhancing Public Safety—Longtime Top Priority
- Emergency Operations Center for Morgan Hill is located at the Police Department
- Our K9, Basco has his own Instagram feed
- Mobile Command Vehicle is shared with Gilroy Police Department

A MESSAGE TO YOU



Interim Chief of Police
Shane Palsgrove



I would like to present our Annual Report and thank you for giving us this opportunity to provide you with highlights about your Morgan Hill Police Department. Our team of dedicated law enforcement professionals and trained volunteers is committed to using best practices in crime prevention, intervention, and the enforcement of laws and regulations.

The following pages show some of our organizational operations, community outreach, and statistics for 2019. Last year tested the strength of our police department teammates as well as our community: Together we faced tragedies that occurred at The Ford Store Morgan Hill and the Gilroy Garlic Festival. While these events shouldn't be forgotten, they have provided lasting partnerships and improved strategies to make Morgan Hill an even safer community in the future.

I invite you to learn more about what our organization is doing to address our community's needs and to participate in our various programs.

YOUR MHPD

Our police department teammates are assigned to 1 of 4 divisions: **Administration** (including Office of Emergency Services), **Field Operations** (Patrol), **Special Operations** (Investigative Services), and **Support Services** (Records and Dispatch).

These divisions work together for our combined goal of providing a high level of service for everyone in Morgan Hill. This includes focusing on our collective public engagement efforts and continuing to build and foster our community relationships. These relationships not only create a sense of unity within Morgan Hill, but also bring a joint effort to fighting crime.

Our efforts are aligned with our City Council's vision and ongoing priorities, including supporting our youth, seniors, and entire community, and preserving and cultivating public trust.

In 2019, we were privileged to have the following teammates join us.



Officer
Matthew
Donatoni



Officer
Kyle
Tolentino



Officer
Kira
Sareli



Officer
Sarah
Una'Dia



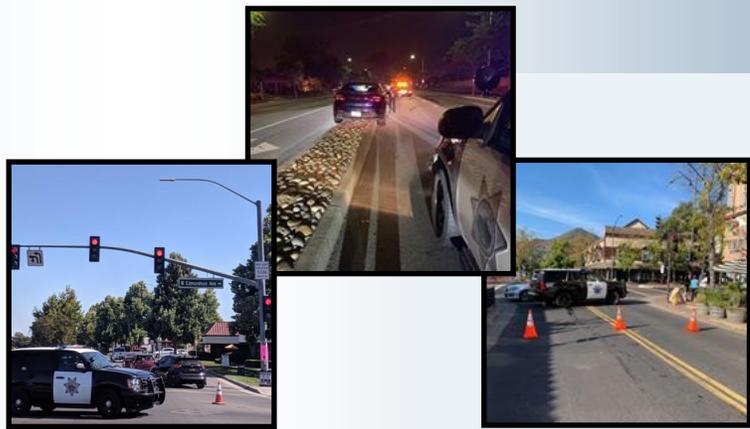
MSO
Jared
Huddleston



Officer
Eddy
Gutierrez



Dispatcher
Kodi
De La Torre



2019 CASE HIGHLIGHTS

-Felony Weapons Possession- Officer Sapien conducted a vehicle stop on Del Monte Avenue. Once the vehicle stopped, the front passenger immediately exited the vehicle and fled south towards Cosmo Avenue. While the remaining occupants were apprehended, a nearby citizen updated responding officers with the direction of the front passenger's escape. Captain Kokesh located the front passenger hiding in a porta-potty at Park Place apartments. While searching the area between the vehicle and the porta-potty, Captain Kokesh located a loaded 9mm handgun and Xanax pills. The front passenger was arrested and booked in County Jail as a felon being in possession of a firearm and possession of a loaded firearm while in a vehicle or public place. The driver was arrested and given a citation for driving without a license. These subjects were also connected to a shooting on E. Edmundson Avenue the following night.

-Stolen Vehicle & Commercial Burglary- Corporal Gridley investigated a business burglary on Church Street. The suspect stole a 2014 Corvette, then caused \$8,000 in damage to the vehicle. Detective Woodrow executed a search warrant, and the suspect was contacted and arrested for burglary, being in possession of stolen property, vandalism, and being in possession of controlled substances, and booked into County Jail. In addition, Corporal Gridley located methamphetamine, ¼ lb. of cocaine, \$4,300 in cash, Xanax, a .38 caliber stolen handgun, a .32 caliber unregistered handgun, and multiple rounds of ammunition.

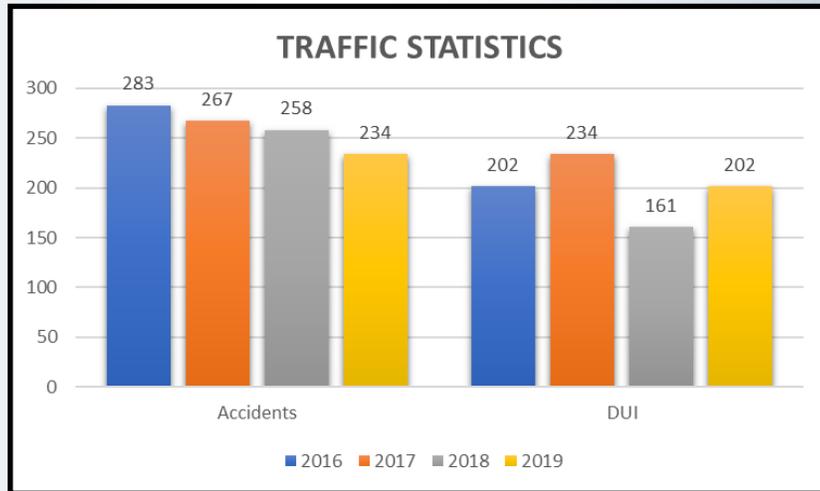
-Robbery- Dispatchers De La Torre and Yates received a call reporting a robbery in progress at the Jack In The Box on Condit Road. Officers Sareli and Sapien responded to the scene and arrested the male suspect as he was exiting the restaurant. During the investigation, it was learned that the suspect had assaulted one of the employees and forced the employee to open the cash register as he simulated a weapon in his waistband. Witnesses ran out of the business and called 911 to report the incident. The suspect was unable to open the cash register and was confronted by Officers Sareli and Sapien as he attempted to leave the business. He was booked in County Jail on multiple felony charges.

-Stolen Vehicle- Officer Donatoni located a stolen vehicle in the parking lot of the Executive Inn. As officers were watching over the area, two subjects entered the stolen vehicle and drove north on Condit Road. Officer Benitez set up stop sticks in the area of La Hacienda Restaurant to disable the vehicle. A high-risk stop was then attempted; however, the vehicle fled north onto U.S. Highway 101 as it drove on its tire rims. A Pursuit Intervention Technique (P.I.T.) was attempted, but the vehicle was able to regain control and drove directly towards and collided with Officer Donatoni's vehicle. A second P.I.T. was successful and the vehicle then became fully disabled. The two subjects were taken into custody; one subject was released on a citation for possession of methamphetamines, and the other subject was booked in County Jail on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges.

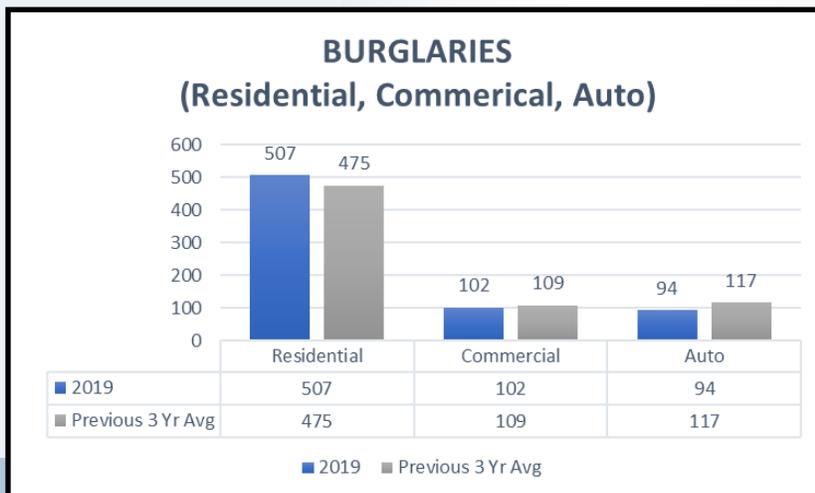
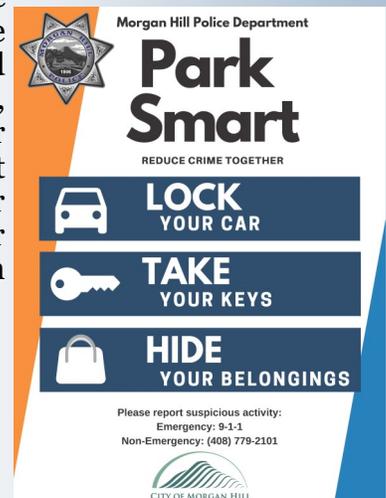
POLICE ACTIVITY



Traffic You have told us our focus needs to be on traffic. Distracted driving and speeding issues continue to be of greatest concern and can be mitigated with education and compliance. We have seen a growing number of these issues turn into not only concerns for our community, but also lead to collisions. We continue to help citizens become more aware drivers through community outreach, education, and enforcement. The table below shows the year-to-year comparison of Accidents and DUIs.



Burglaries The most common types of crime in Morgan Hill are residential, commercial, and auto burglaries. Burglaries involve follow-up work that include neighborhood checks, identifying and interviewing suspects, writing and serving search warrants, making arrests and coordinating with retailers to help deter thefts. For areas that are particularly hard-hit, our Crime Analyst provides data (collected by our department as well as from our regional law enforcement partners who are experiencing similar crimes) to our detectives and patrol officers to assist them with developing a targeted plan for reducing and deterring burglaries.



Our goal is to deter suspects from committing crimes and, in situations where we were unable to do so, return the stolen property to its rightful owner.

This chart shows that burglaries in 2019 were approximately at the average of burglaries from 2016-2018.

POLICE ACTIVITY

As you may have noticed, crime fluctuates year-to-year, and our response to the fluctuation can be attributed to many factors, including proactive policing, transitions in laws and sentencing, and staffing increases or decreases.

In 2019, our officers continued spending their shifts responding to calls for service and proactively enforcing laws. Homelessness, traffic, and burglaries were specific areas of interest.

Even in our ever-changing world, Morgan Hill continues to have a low rate of crime and is a safe city.

Response Times When you need us we are there! Response times indicate the span of time from when the dispatcher receives the call to the time the officer arrives on scene. We are committed to do our best to arrive promptly when help is needed.

We separate the type of calls into two categories: Priority 1 (life-threatening situation, e.g. shots fired) and Priority 2 (non-life-threatening situation, e.g. drunk in public).

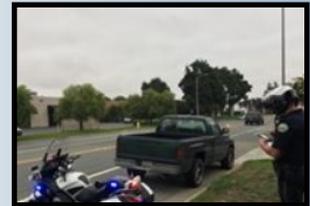
2019	Response	Average of Time
Priority 1 Call	5 minutes	3 minutes 25 seconds
Priority 2 Call Response Time	8 minutes	4 minutes 31 seconds

Several factors influence our response times, such as the severity of other calls, time of day, and distance where the officer is responding from. On average, we are able to respond under our response time goal for both life threatening and non-life threatening calls.

Safety We see safety in many forms, but the definition is the same: to be or feel protected from danger, risk or injury. Morgan Hill Police Dispatchers and Officers answer your emergency calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The number of 9-1-1 calls has increased in the last year, which not only impacts our dispatchers but also the officers that respond to those calls.

2016	2017	2018	2019
# of 9-1-1 Calls			
13,829	14,143	13,263	14,396



PROACTIVE POLICING



Our department applies proactive policing practices as we strive to prevent and reduce crime in Morgan Hill. This strategy allows for our sworn and civilian teammates to concentrate on crime suppression, addressing incidents before they occur or escalate. This is a way to partner with the community in deterring crimes from happening.

Animal Services In addition to enforcement duties, Animal Services is responsible for:

- Providing emergency medical care for stray animals that are seriously ill or injured.
- Providing a listing of lost and found pets.
- Responding to reports of animal neglect and abuse.
- Tracking potentially dangerous animals within city limits.
- Enforcing laws pertaining to animals.

Graffiti Abatement Like all cities, Morgan Hill has its share of graffiti. Graffiti is everybody's problem, and when left untouched, it hurts property values and sends a message that nobody cares about the community.

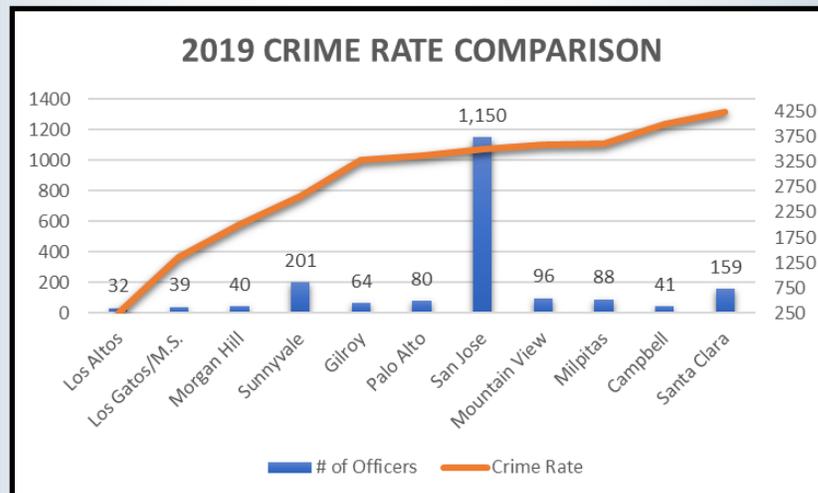
To address this, we have a graffiti abatement coordinator who responds to graffiti issues as soon as reported.



Crime Rate Comparison The crime rates shown below provide a measure of the severity of crime problems within cities in Santa Clara County. The crime rate is calculated by using the number of crimes reported for each 100,000 population and the population of the city.

We reported 904 cases (i.e. homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft, and arson) multiplied by 100,00 and divided by our 2019 population of 45,135. Which gives us a crime rate of 2,002 or 20 crimes per 1,000 residents.

As shown in this chart, Morgan Hill is ranked both third in the lowest number of Officers and Crime Rate.



PROACTIVE POLICING

Homelessness Homelessness affects communities on a national, regional, and local level. Our goal is to find a balance between offering services and enforcement. We have homeless liaison officers assigned to Patrol and Special Operations. Officer Rios and Detective Price lead our engage efforts contacting those affected and connect them with services from our City Housing Department, County Partners and Community and Faith-Based Organizations. The partnerships we have with our community provide localized and well-balanced homeless strategies that give people a hand up. We have seen great success in the programs and services offered.

Programs and Services in Morgan Hill that are available include:

- FOCUS—Morgan Hill Safe Parking Program
- Edward Boss Prado Foundation—HOPE Program
- Community Supper and Pantry Program
- Santa Clara County Homelessness Prevention System
- Catholic Charities' Countywide House Sharing Program
- The Salvation Army's Family Services Assistance

The Police Department also works with our Community Services Department to post no trespassing signage, clean up overgrown shrubbery, send out notices to private property owners and owners of unsafe vehicles in an effort to minimize hazardous situations.

Community Policing The three main components of community policing include engaging police/community partnerships, effective problem solving, and the organization's willingness to try different approaches.

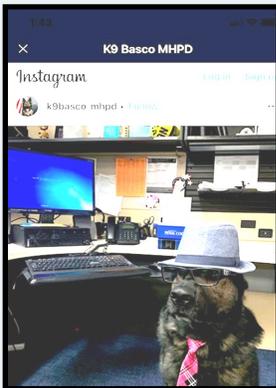
We have built partnerships by visiting different community groups, hosting community events (National Night Out, Tip-a-Cop, Coffee with a Cop), providing easier ways to communicate between police officers and the community, and inviting the public to learn more about law enforcement and their Morgan Hill Police Department (Community Police Academy).

We value these partnerships as they help build trust between our department and our community, a trust that we can all rely on in times of crisis, need, and day-to-day life.

Community policing has been our department's focus and is one that is everchanging to meet the needs of those around us as well as our department. We look back on our successes and are ready to continue moving forward with our commitment to building a safer community and improving the quality of life for all of us.



Follow us on social media for public safety updates!



Follow Basco on Instagram
[kobasco_mhpd](https://www.instagram.com/kobasco_mhpd)



MORGAN HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Now Hiring Police Officers Entry Level / Lateral



Compensation & Benefits

- Competitive Bay Area Salary & Benefits
- Tuition Reimbursement
- 3/12 Patrol Work Schedule
- Special Assignment Opportunities:
- Medical/ Dental Coverage
- Detectives
- Educational Incentives
- K9
- Bilingual Pay
- FTO
- Holiday Pay
- Motors
- Annual Uniform Allowance
- Honor Guard
- High Quality Equipment, Vehicles and Facility
- Bicycle Patrol
- Retirement Benefits:
- Regional SWAT Team
- Classic 3% @ 50
- Crisis Negotiation Team
- PEPPA 2.7% @ 57
- School Resource Officer
- Task Force Assignments



www.morganhill.ca.gov

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency 24-Hour Dispatch: (408) 779-2101

Public Counter/Front Desk

Monday—Friday, 8 am—5pm, (408) 776-7300

Download our mobile app!



Morgan Hill
Police Department
16200 Vineyard Boulevard
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

www.morganhill.ca.gov



9-1-1

**Call If You Can.
Text If You Can't.**

Text to 9-1-1 is now available in Santa Clara County.

If you need help, but can't safely speak on the phone or are unable to speak, use your mobile phone to send a text message to **911**.

When to use it

Calling is the best and fastest way to reach 9-1-1. But you should text if:



You're deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability.



You're in a situation where it's not safe to call 9-1-1 for help.



You're having a medical emergency and cannot speak on the phone.