



# Lake County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Daniel A. Dunlap  
104 East Erie St., Painesville, Ohio 44077 (440) 350-5504  
**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**



## 2019 Detective Bureau Annual Report

By  
Captain Ron Walters

Detective Dominic Hren

Detective Jeff Belle

Detective Cory Svagerko

Detective John Kelley

Detective Donovan Buchs

Detective Mike Zgrebnack

Detective Zack Ropos

Members of the Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau pride themselves on the completion of complete and detailed investigations while working hand and hand fostering relations with various law enforcement partners and members of the criminal justice profession. Alone we are strong, united we are stronger.

The Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau is generally comprised of a supervisor, 4 general duty detectives and two detectives detailed full time to the heroin task force.

2019 was another busy year for the Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau with 679 cases handled. 136 felony charges filed, and 48 misdemeanor charges. It was also another year with only four criminal trials on Detective Bureau cases. This fact alone speaks volumes.

2019 was yet another year of change in the Detective Bureau with the promotion of two Detectives to the positions of Patrol Sergeants. These being Detective Zack Ropos (Transferred to patrol 08-02-19), Detective John Kelley (Transferred to patrol 09-06-19) The vacancy of Detective Kelly's position remained unfilled for the remainder of the year while a new hire on patrol is in training.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau is unique in that in addition to general duty cases, investigations of crimes that occur within the townships we patrol we handle a number of cases specific to a Sheriff's Office:

- Sexual Offender cases, both compliance checks and failure to register cases.
- Jail Investigations, assaults, conveyance of contraband, furlough violations etc..
- Records requests, Jail and phone call records.
- Concealed Weapons Registration violations,
- County Office Investigations: Board of Elections, Treasurer's Office, Probation and Prosecutors office.
- Warrant related service/investigations. (Note: At any time, the Sheriff's Office holds about 800 to 900 active arrest warrants)

In addition to the above the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau handles all major internal affairs investigations, not only for the Sheriff's Office but for all county office holders.

The Detective Bureau also conducts pre-employment CVSA exams for not only the Sheriff's Office but also for other county agencies and police agencies. This past year 61 such exams were conducted.

The Detective Bureau is also involved with a number of county wide initiatives/programs:

Alcohol compliance checks of retail outlets throughout Lake County were conducted for underage sales. Last year 141 such checks were conducted with a total of 27 violations cited into county municipal courts and the state for licensing violations. This is a marked increase in underage sales as compared to last year's (2018) compliance rates which were a 163 locations checked and only 16 found to be non-compliant.

2017 a total of 188 retail carry out locations were checked with 33 locations being non-compliant.

2016 a total of 172 retail carry out locations were checked with 42 locations being non-compliant.

2015 a total of 119 retail carry out locations were checked with 41 locations being non-compliant.

2014 a total of 120 retail carry out locations were checked with 45 being non-compliant.

These retail compliance checks are done in conjunction with a grant awarded to Crossroads of Lake County and a responsible server program that they operate.

Tobacco compliance checks are conducted at retail sales locations throughout Lake County in conjunction with grant allocations received by the Lake County General Health District. This year a total of 86 locations were checked and 7 were found to be non-compliant by selling cigarettes to underage minors. The clerks who made the sales were cited into court.

In 2018 a total of 76 locations were checked and 15 were found to be non-compliant.

In 2017 a total of 40 locations were checked and only 2 were found to be non-compliant.

Bar compliance checks – This initiative is conducted in conjunction with the Ohio Investigative Unit. These checks focus on establishments that local law enforcement has had complaints on. Undercover agents enter the bar and observe violations and the owner / bar employee is then cited. These checks are conducted in conjunction with the local jurisdiction and the Ohio Investigative Unit.

Actively assist Lake County Narcotics Agency with informant development and information sharing. Detectives also assist with manpower as needed on an operational basis. One would be remiss not to recognize the Lake County Jail as a source for the gathering of intelligence information / informant development in a pro-active manner.

Members of the Detective Bureau stand at the ready to assist any Law Enforcement agencies in the furtherance of their investigation and/or prosecution by arranging/facilitating interviews with inmates or the copying of inmate jail calls, assistance in securing arrest/search warrants or conducting interviews for out of state agencies. Last year 213 such assists were conducted for various agencies by the general case detectives.

Another area unique to a Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau are furloughs from jail issued by various Lake County Judges to inmates for various reasons, usually some sort of medical appointment or work release. Detectives will follow inmates who are incarcerated on drug charges to see if they deviate from the instructions contained within the order. Last year 1 inmate did so and were subsequently charged with escape for their actions.

## GENERAL DETECTIVE STATS FOR 2019

The chart below will reflect the statistics for the four detectives assigned to the General Detective Division of the Sheriff's Office. As one can see these detectives handled a total of 290 cases and filed 105 criminal charges. These detectives handle involved and time-consuming cases such as sex offenses, homicide, embezzlement cases etc.

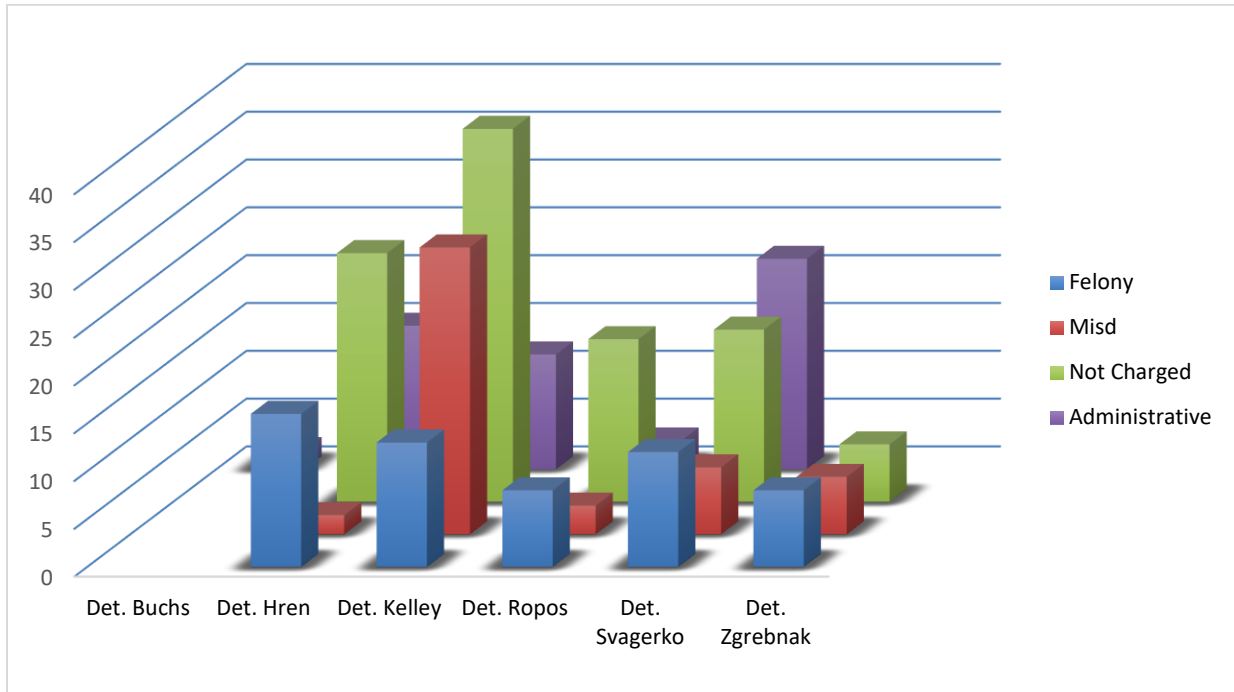
Count of Case Type	Det. Buchs	Det. Hren	Det. Kelley	Det. Ropos	Det. Svagerko	Det. Zgrebnak	Grand Total
Accidental shooting			1				1
Aggravated Burglary			1				1
Aggravated Robbery		2	1		1		4
Alcohol compliance checks			1				1
Arson		1			1		2
Arson Offender Registry					2		2
Assault			1		1	1	3
Assault/Agg. Menacing/Unlawful Restraint				1			1
Assist Fire			1				1
Assist other agency		1	8	3	19		31
Attempt. Burglary						1	1
Bad Checks		1					1
Breaking and Entering		10	1	6	2	4	23
Burglary			1		1	7	9
CCW Invest			1	1	1		3
Child endangering			1				1
Civil Matter			2		1	1	4
Counterfeiting						3	3
Credit Card Fraud		1					1
Criminal Damaging					1		1
Criminal Trespass					1		1
Disorderly Conduct		1					1
Disseminating matter harmful to juveniles			1				1
Domestic Violence				1	1		2
Falsification					1		1

Forgery/Tampering with Evidence				1			1
Fraud		1					1
Gross Sexual Imposition		2		1	1		4
Identity Theft			3				3
Illegal conveyance			1				1
Illegal Distribution of Tobacco					3		3
Impersonating Police Officer					1		1
Inducing Panic			1		2		3
Internal Investigation			2				2
Jail Calls		1					1
Juvenile Complaint			1	1			2
Kidnapping		1					1
Pandering Obscenity					1		1
Passing Bad Checks					1		1
Possession of Drugs				2			2
Possession Dang. Ord./Weapon Disability				1			1
Property					1		1
Public Indecency				1			1
Rape		4	1	1	6		12
Receiving Stolen Property		1	1				2
Recovered Stolen Vehicle						1	1
Retaliation		1					1
Sex Offender Reg.		4	23	2	1		30
Sex Offense		1					1
Sexual Assault			1				1
Sexual Imposition						1	1
Suspicious circumstance		5	6	3	2	2	18
Suspicious Death			1		1		2
Telecommunications Harassment			1				1
Theft		2	6	4	11	3	26
Theft from a Motor Vehicle		2					2
Theft of a Motor Vehicle		1					1
Theft of a motor vehicle/auto brite						1	1
Theft of Drugs		1					1
Tobacco Compliance						5	5
Unauth. Use of a Computer System/civil matter						1	1
Underage sale of alcohol			27				27

Unlawful Sexual Conduct w/ a Minor		1					1
US Marshals Task Force		14					14
Vandalism					1		1
Vehicular Vandalism						1	1
Warrant Detail	2	1			2		5
Weapons under Disability		1					1
Welfare Check				1			1
Suspicious circumstance				2			2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>290</b>

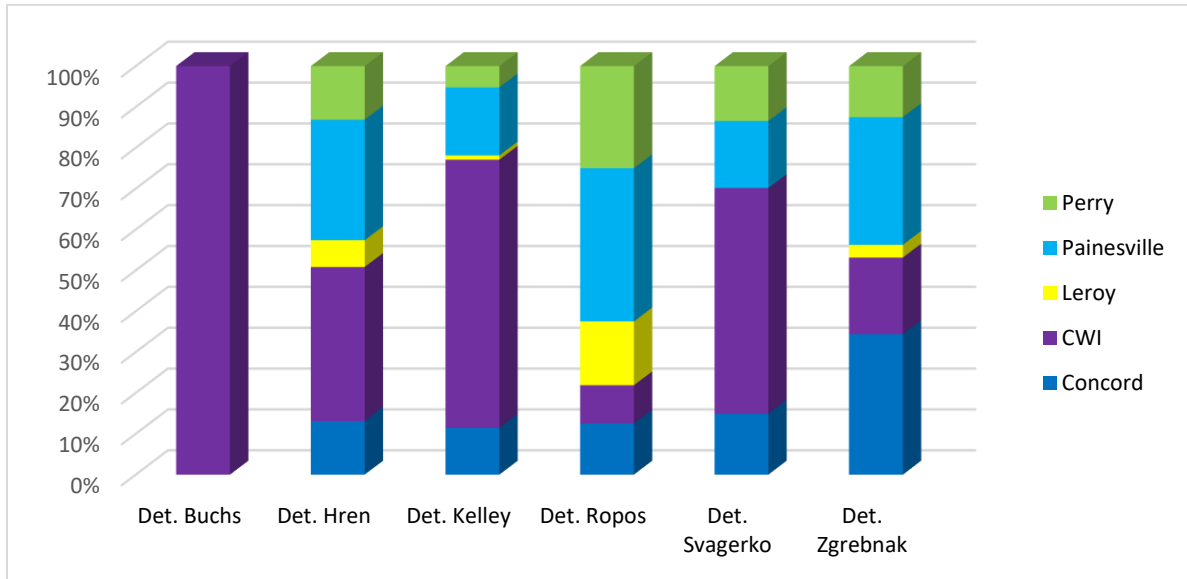
This chart will also provide a breakdown of offense by type of offense investigated.

<b>Count of Felony/Misd</b>					
	<b>Felony</b>	<b>Misd</b>	<b>Not Charged</b>	<b>Administrative</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Det. Buchs				2	2
Det. Hren	16	2	26	15	59
Det. Kelley	13	30	39	12	94
Det. Ropos	8	3	17	3	31
Det. Svagerko	12	7	18	22	59
Det. Zgrebnak	8	6	6		20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>265</b>

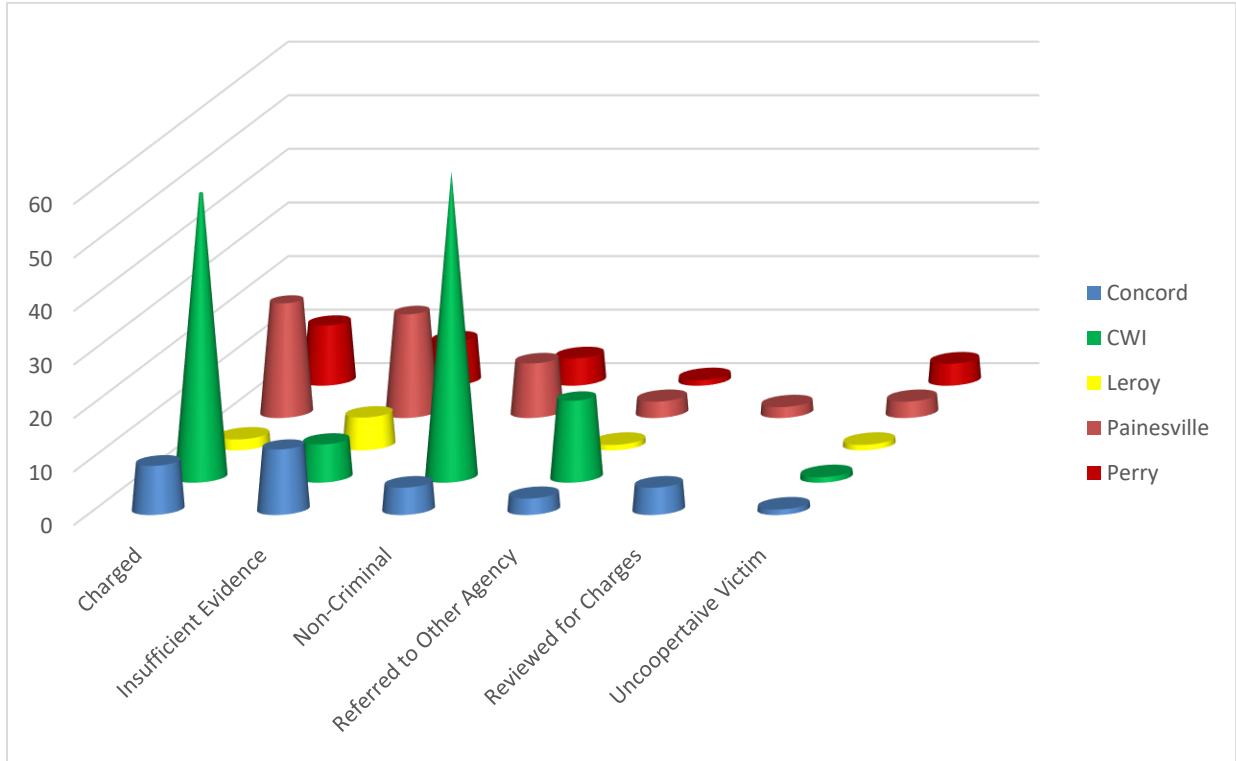


The following charts reflect the number of cases handled by the General Division Detectives by jurisdiction. CWI in the graph is reflective of “County wide initiative.

Count of Location	Concord	CWI	Leroy	Painesville	Perry	Grand Total
Det. Buchs		2				2
Det. Hren	8	23	4	18	8	61
Det. Kelley	11	63	1	16	5	96
Det. Ropos	4	3	5	12	8	32
Det. Svagerko	10	37		11	9	67
Det. Zgrebnak	11	6	1	10	4	32
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>290</b>



Count of Location	Concord	CWI	Leroy	Painesville	Perry	Grand Total
Charged	9	53	2	21	11	96
Insufficient Evidence	12	7	6	19	8	52
Non-Criminal	5	57		10	5	77
Referred to Other Agency	3	15	1	3	1	23
Reviewed for Charges	5			2		7
Uncooperative Victim	1	1	1	3	4	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>265</b>



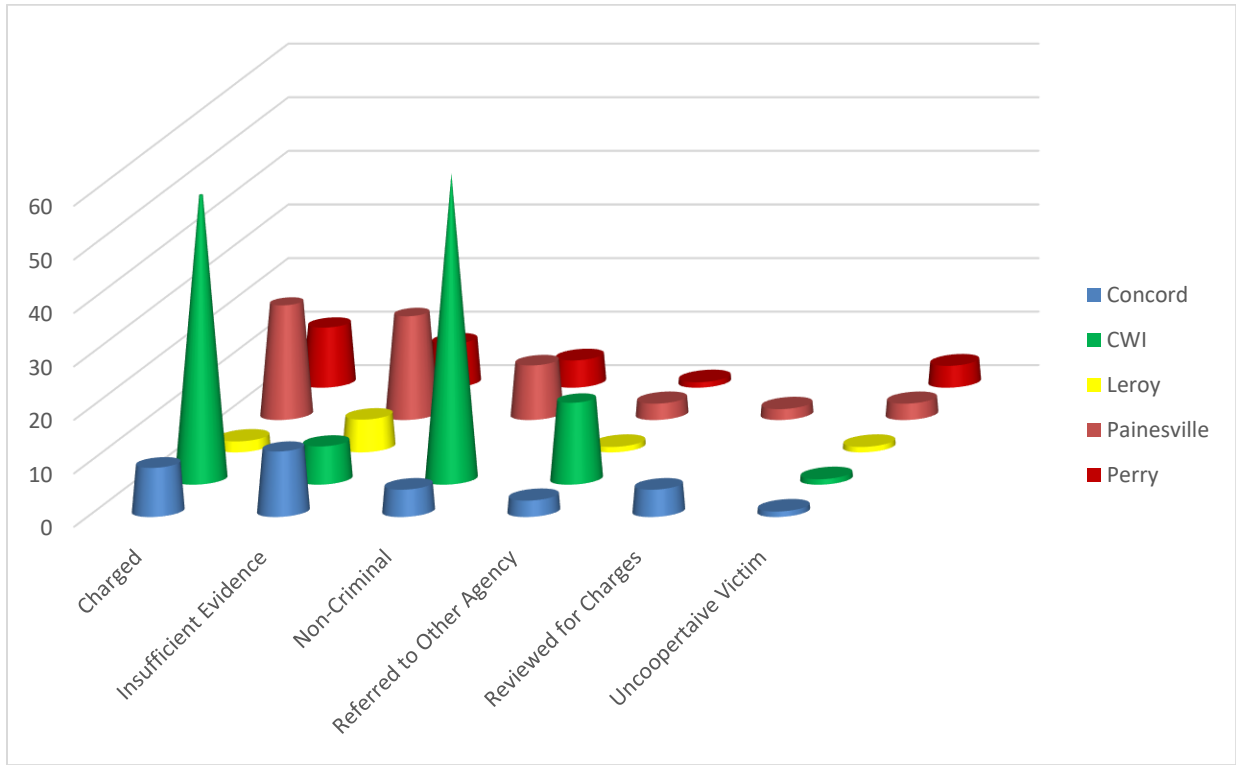
### LAKE COUTY HEROIN TASK FORCE STATS

2019 was the fifth full year of operation for the Lake County Heroin Task Force which was formed at the end of 2014. The task force staffed by two detectives has been active on many fronts this past year.

The Task Force has assisted the Lake County Narcotics Agency and respective local law enforcement on several fronts, from running confidential informants, assisting in search warrants, conducting surveillance, to conducting various narcotics buys throughout the various cities in Lake County. These tasks can be time consuming and labor-intensive operations to build a strong criminal case.

Although heroin remains the # 1 epidemic drug, and the deadliest drug. Task Force drug investigations regarding sales in Lake County have seen a steep increase in cocaine, meth and marijuana sales within the county. It is rare a known heroin dealer will travel into Lake County. This primarily due to the sentences, handed down by Lake County Courts, if caught trafficking in the county. Another factor that plays into this equation is the non-reliability of heroin addicts to work as informants.

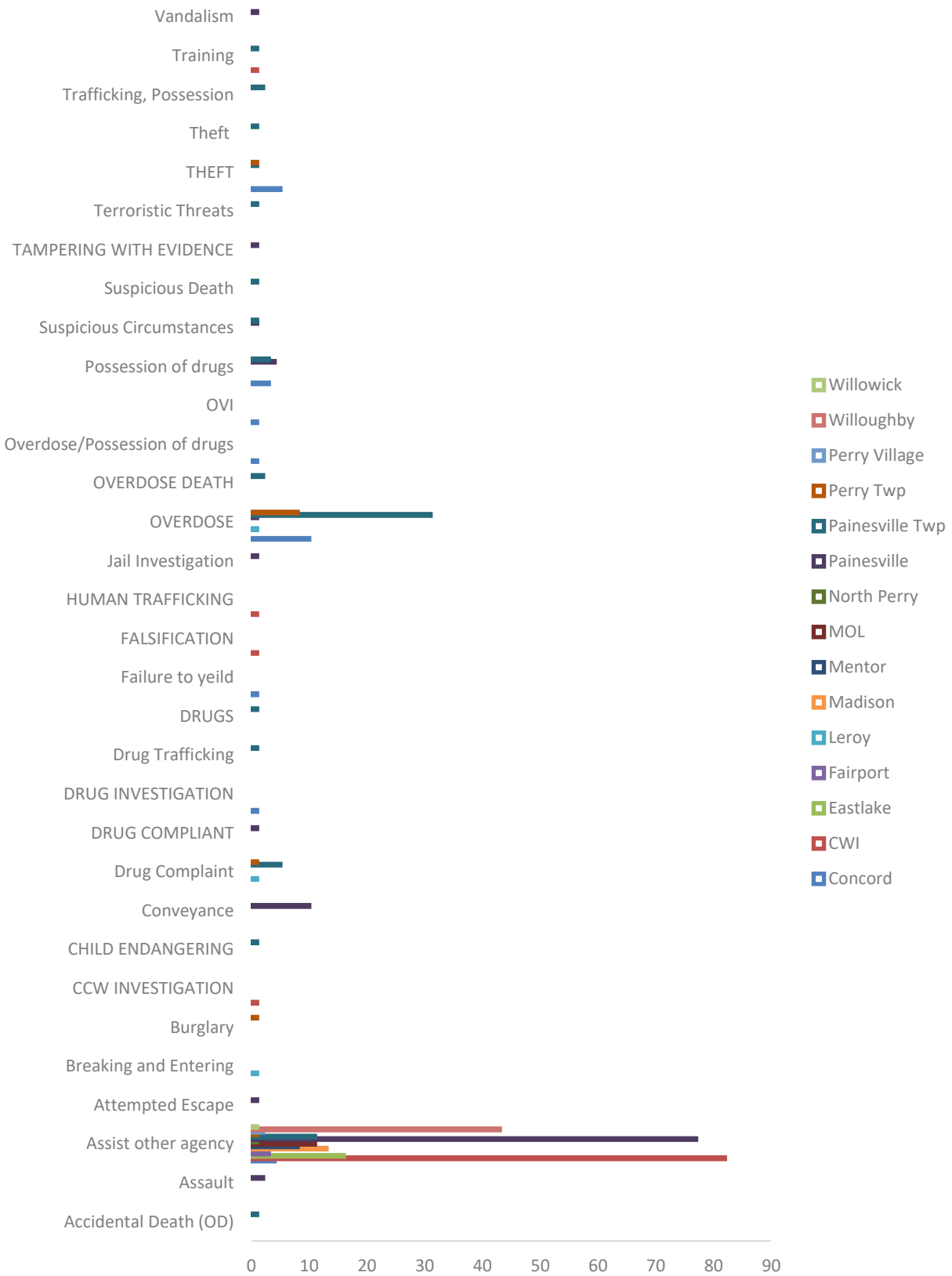
## RESOURCE ALLOCATION DISTRIBUTION BY JURISDICTION AND CASES



Jurisdiction	2019	2018
Concord	26	28
Eastlake	16	31
Fairport	32	7
Grand River	0	2
Kirtland	0	4
Kirtland Hills	0	0
Leroy	3	9
Madison Township	13	21
Madison Village	0	1
Mentor	13	25

MOL	11	13
North Perry	1	0
Painesville	100	95
Painesville Twp	64	51
Perry Twp	12	11
Perry Village	2	3
Timberlake	0	0
Waite Hill	0	0
Wickliffe	0	0
Willoughby	44	24
Willoughby Hills	0	2
Willowick	1	4
County Wide Initiative	86	106
<b>Totals</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>437</b>

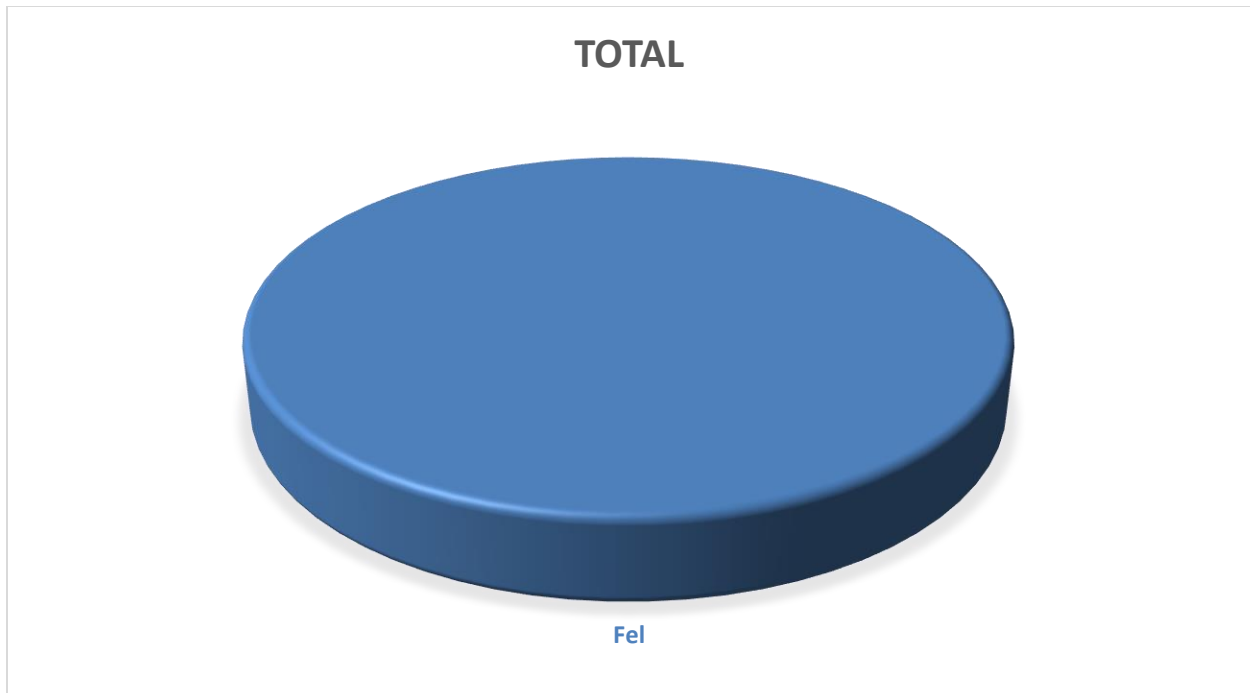
# 2019 Heroin Task Force Cases



Count of Location	Concord	CWI	Eastlake	Fairport	Leroy	Madison	Mentor	MOL	North Perry	Painesville	Painesville Twp	Perry Twp	Perry Village	Willoughby	Willowick	Grand Total
Accidental Death (OD)											1					1
Assault										2						2
Assist other agency	4	82	16	3		13	8	11	1	77	11	1	2	43	1	273
Attempted Escape										1						1
Breaking and Entering					1											1
Burglary												1				1
CCW INVESTIGATION		1														1
CHILD ENDANGERING											1					1
Conveyance										10						10
Drug Complaint					1						5	1				7
DRUG COMPLIANT										1						1
DRUG INVESTIGATION	1															1
Drug Trafficking											1					1
DRUGS											1					1
Failure to yield		1														1
FALSIFICATION																1
HUMAN TRAFFICKING																1
Jail Investigation										1						1
OVERDOSE	10				1					1	31	8				51
OVERDOSE DEATH											2					2
Overdose/Possession of drugs	1															1
OVI	1															1
Possession of drugs	3									4	3					10
Suspicious Circumstances										1	1					2
Suspicious Death											1					1
TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE										1						1
Terroristic Threats											1					1
THEFT	5										1	1				7
Theft											1					1
Trafficking, Possession											2					2
Training		1									1					2
Vandalism										1						1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>389</b>

As the above chart reflects the task force this past year had generated 389 case investigations, developing enough evidence so that 79 felony crimes were charged.

	Count of Fel/Mis
Felony	79
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>79</b>



### SENATE BILL 110 STATS

With the passage of Senate Bill # 110 late in 2016 the task force detectives have established a data base to track heroin overdoses for compliance with the bill's provisions. If a person does not seek treatment and provide law enforcement with documented proof of such treatment or referral to treatment within 30 days, they may be charged. 2019 was the third full year of data tracking with the data base. Cooperating /inputting agencies are displayed in the proceeding graph. In 2018 a total of 252

reported overdoses were tracked. This year a total of 211 overdoses were tracked for Senate Bill 110 compliance.

The graph below reflects the various jurisdictions that are providing data to the Lake County Sheriff's Office for Senate Bill 110 tracking stats for the county.

	Count of TOWNSHIPS
CONCORD	10
EASTLAKE	12
FAIRPORT	2
LEROY	1
MADISON TWP	11
MENTOR	13
MOL	11
NORTH PERRY	1
PAINESVILLE	37
PAINESVILLE CITY	58
PERRY	9
PERRY VILLAGE	2
WILLOUGHBY	44
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>211</b>

The graph below designates Senate Bill 110 compliant/non-compliant stats for 2018. Of the 211 cases displayed in the above graph, these are the cases where physical evidence is found on scene supportive of criminal charges for a non-compliance status with the provisions of the bill.

Count of DISPOSITION			Grand Total
	COMPLIANT	NON-COMPLIANT	
CONCORD		1	1
EASTLAKE	1	5	6
FAIRPORT	1		1
MADISON TWP	2	6	8
MENTOR	1		1
MOL	1	4	5
PAINESVILLE	6	7	13
PAINESVILLE CITY	2	16	18
WILLOUGHBY		6	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>59</b>

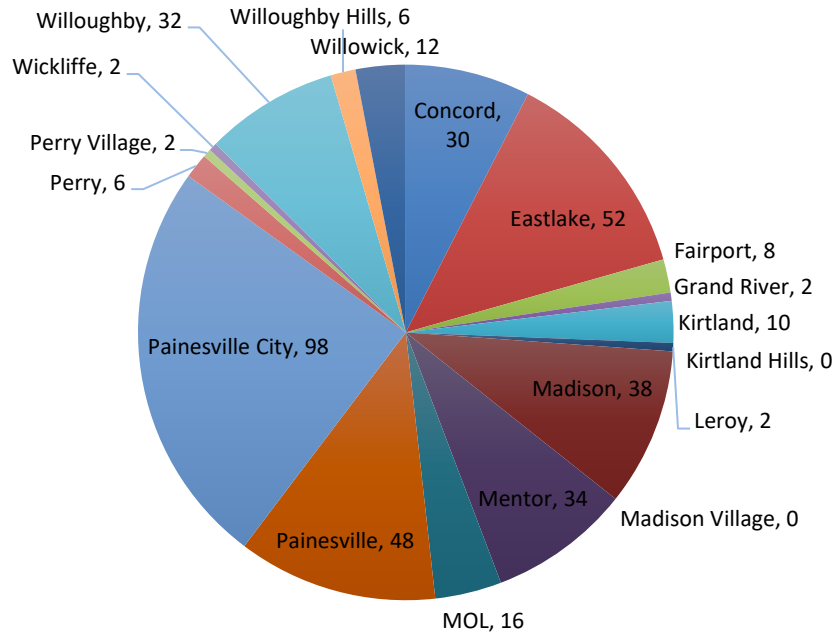
	Count of CHARGED
CHARGED	49
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>49</b>

	Count of DECEASED
CONCORD	1
EASTLAKE	1
FAIRPORT	0
LEROY	0
MADISON TWP	0
MENTOR	0
MOL	0
NORTH PERRY	0
PAINESVILLE	3
PAINESVILLE CITY	4
PERRY	1
PERRY VILLAGE	0
WILLOUGHBY	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12</b>

### Quick Response Team

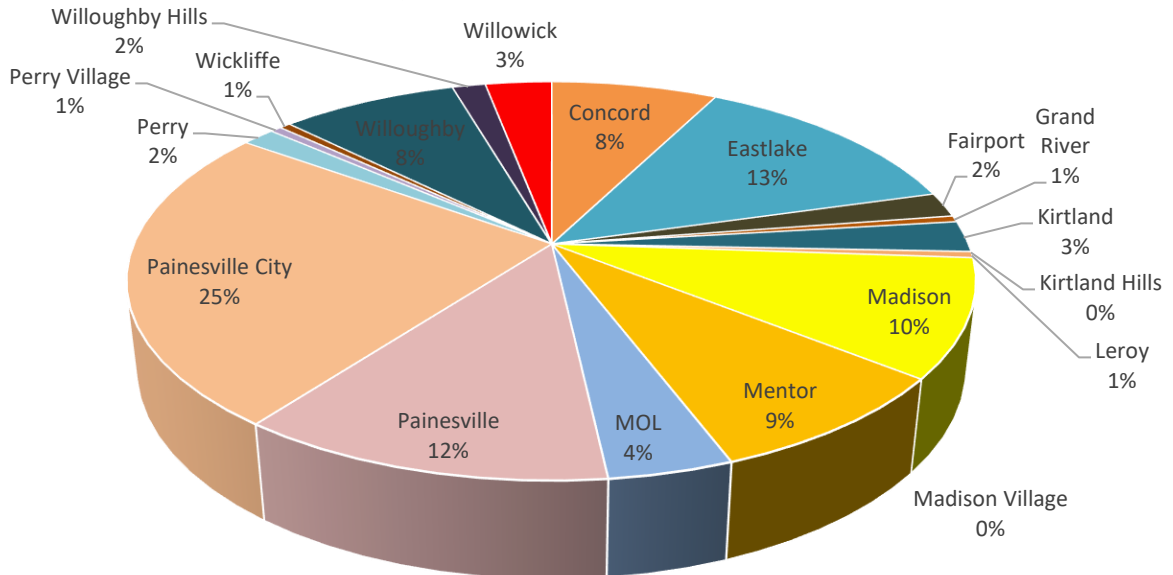
2019 was the second full year of operation for the Quick Response Team which is a partnership the Lake County Heroin Task Force has formed with the Lake County ADAMHS Board, Signature Heath, Concord Township Fire Department and Perry Village Police Department. The basis of the program is to engage with person/s that overdoses within 5 days of the overdose to offer assistance with various treatment options. This program was rolled out in October of 2017 and by years end the QRT Team had made 34 home visits and one third of the people accepted or were already engaged in some form of treatment. The Lake County Sheriff's Office was awarded a three-year grant of \$80,000.00 for the development and operation of this program by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's office. This year attempts were made to engage 252 clients some with multiple home visits. The chart below reflects the jurisdictional breakdown of the home visits.

### Quick Response Team Visits by Numbers



There is a direct correlation to referral time. The quicker we get the overdose referral and respond; the more likely clients are open to treatment and are home.

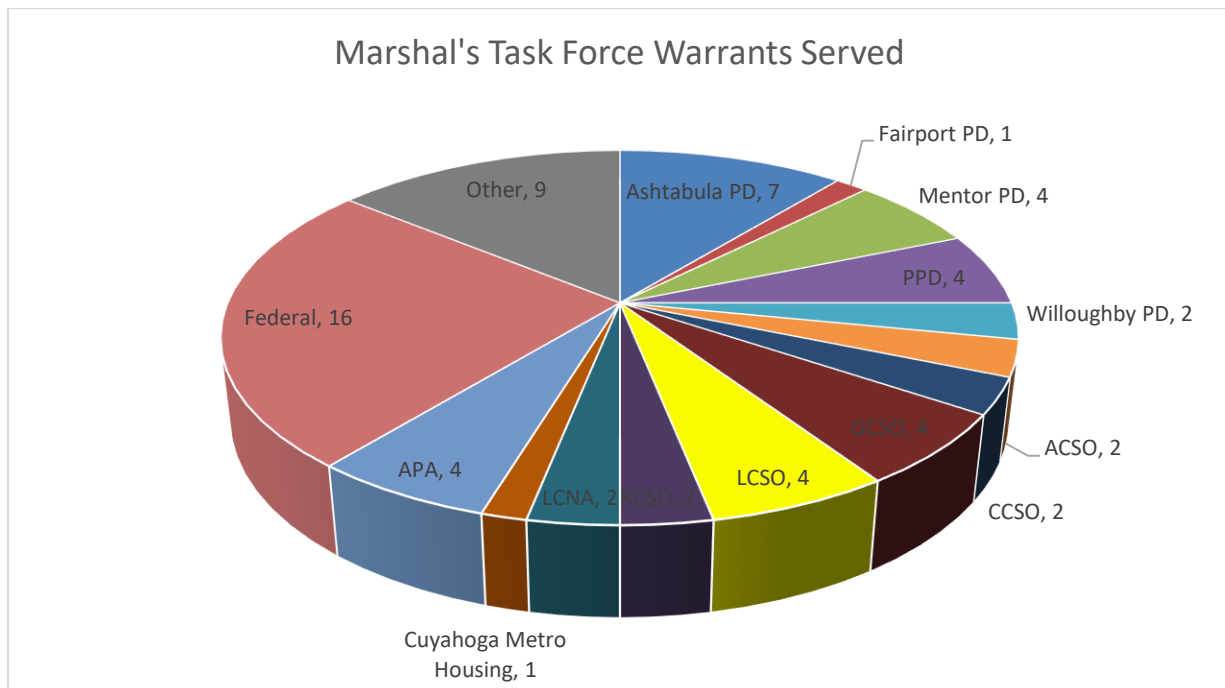
### Quick Response Team Visits by Percents



The Task Force will also continue to grow and enhance existing established programs all the while looking to find new and innovative ways to combat the heroin epidemic in Lake County, be it through enforcement action, education or treatment. We can make a difference when we work as one.

### United States Marshal Service Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force

Another county wide initiative that the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau is involved with is the United States Marshal Service, Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties) As a result of the part time Task Forces efforts a total of 65 warrants were served by the task force. 17 of those were warrants issued by Lake County Courts, 16 were federal warrants and 32 were out of county warrants. All warrants served were felony arrest warrants.



## **2019 Notable Cases**

### **2019-001660 - Armed Robbery of a Gas Station**

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office responded to Sines Marathon, 1744 N. Ridge Rd, for an armed robbery. A long white male suspect entered the store, brandished a handgun, and demanded cash from the register. The suspect made off approximately four hundred and sixty dollars in cash. An investigation by the Detectives along with the assistance of the Euclid Police Department identified the suspect as Brian Snyder. Information was obtained that revealed Mr. Snyder purchased a motel room at the American Motel, 18510 Euclid Ave, after fleeing the robbery. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 The United States Marshals Violent Fugitive Task Force (Painesville Division) arrested Mr. Snyder at the American Motel without incident. Mr. Snyder later confessed to committing the robbery at Sines Marathon. Mr. Snyder subsequently pled guilty in Lake County Common Pleas Court to Robbery and on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 was sentenced to four years in prison.

### **2019-010250 - Serial Breaking and Entering's Across Ohio/Theft of Motor Vehicles**

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office responded to Sam's Auto Group, 3350 N. Ridge Rd, for a motor vehicle theft. A black male suspect forcibly entered the leasing office and stolen a set of car keys to a Chevy Traverse. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the Chevy Traverse was in Toledo, Ohio after a breaking and entering to a Speedway in Rossford. This investigation identified the suspect in the Sam's Auto Theft as Deshaun Scott. During this investigation Lake County Sheriff's Detectives were able to identify Mr. Scott as the suspect in a previously unsolved theft from Sam's Auto Group on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. In addition to these two incidents the investigation by Detectives identified Mr. Scott as a suspect in a previously unsolved theft at Sines Marathon on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as well as unsolved thefts in Rocky River, Wayne County, and Sheffield Lake, Ohio. Each of thefts involved breaking in to gas stations or convenience stores and stealing contents inside, which included an ATM. Mr. Scott's case here in Lake County has been forwarded to the Lake County Prosecutor's Office for pending charges.

### **2019-030950- Sexual Battery of a Fourteen-year-old Female**

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau began an investigation in to a sexual assault involving a thirty-four-year-old male suspect, Wayne Russell, and a fourteen-year-old female family member. This investigation revealed Mr. Russell had been engaging in sexual intercourse with the fourteen-year-old victim over the past year. The sexual assaults began when the victim had been approximately ten years old and escalated to

Mr. Russell engaging in sexual intercourse with her after she turned thirteen years of age. Because of this investigation Mr. Russell was indicted by a Lake County Grand Jury on twenty-four various counts of sexual assault. Mr. Russell ultimately pled guilty to seven counts of Sexual Battery and one count of Gross Sexual Imposition. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Mr. Russell was sentenced to forty years in prison for his crimes.

### **2019-053657- Kidnapping**

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office responded to 1651 Mentor Ave Unit 512 for a male who had two women held at gunpoint inside. Due to the circumstances the Lake County Sheriff's Office SWAT team was called out to respond. Prior to making entry the suspect, Maurice Rice, had fled the scene and both females were able to make it out safely. SWAT team members recovered a firearm hidden inside a drop ceiling in the kitchen. SWAT officers located Mr. Rice a short time later during a traffic stop on Route 2 in Mentor. The investigation revealed Mr. Rice had become involved in an altercation with two females inside who had asked Mr. Rice to leave. During the argument Mr. Rice retrieved a handgun from the drop ceiling and pointed it at both females, holding them against their will. Mr. Rice was indicted by a Lake County Grand Jury on charges of Kidnapping, Abduction, Burglary, and Having Weapons Under Disability. On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Mr. Rice pled guilty to Having Weapons Under Disability and Abduction. This plea carried with it a one-year firearm specification. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Mr. Rice was sentenced to two years in prison.

### **2019-068085- Serial Breaking and Entering's across Lake and Geauga Counties**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office responded to Red Creek Bar and Grill, 1820 N. Ridge Rd, for a breaking and entering. A long male suspect utilized a pry bar to enter the establishment and attempted to steal money from a gaming machine. This incident set off a series of thirteen other identical breaking and entering's to local bars which included The Red Hawk Bar and Grill, Painesville Twp. Park, Painesville American Legion, Mentor Amvet's, Perry Amvet's, Mentor-on-the-Lake Amvets, Chardon VFW Post, Fairport VFW post, and the American Legion in Madison. An investigation by Sheriff's Detectives as well as the diligent work of Lake County Patrol Deputies identified the suspect in these incidents as Richard Gau. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Sheriff's Deputies located Mr. Gau fleeing the scene of a break in at the Perry Amvets. After his arrest Deputies recovered evidence linked to these break ins. Mr. Gau's case has been bound over to the Lake County Common Pleas court and each of these incidents is being prosecuted by the Lake County Prosecutor's Office.

### **2019-077919- Weapons Possession at Lake Dine and Dance**

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office responded to Lake Dine and Dance, 520 Fairport Nursery Rd, for a report of shots fired in the parking lot. Upon arrival Deputies located five shell casings in the parking lot. An investigation revealed Bernard Melton had brought a handgun inside the bar and had it concealed in his waistband. An argument broke out among patrons which led to a male removing the firearm from Mr. Melton's waistband. At this time those involved in the argument dispersed without incident. Several minutes later the gun changed hands among several individuals before ending up in the possession of Demetrius Hines. Mr. Hines is then observed shooting approximately five rounds in to the air in the direction of Fairport Nursery Rd. Nobody was injured because of this incident. This case has been forwarded to the Lake County Prosecutor's Office for charges against Bernard Melton for Having Weapons Under Disability, Possession of a firearm in a beer/liquor premises and Carrying Concealed Weapons. This case has also been forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office for a review of charges against Demetrius Hines.

### **2019-012628- Aggravated Theft**

On February 27, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office began investigation into a Theft case involving family members living in Concord Township. 30-year-old Joseph Yanul was reportedly scamming his family members. The scam involved Yanul claiming that he was owed gambling winnings, but he needed to pay the taxes first. Family members cashed in savings, cashed in retirement funds, and took out loans to the tune of over \$560,000. Yanul admitted that he forged court documents to perpetuate this scam. He admitted he spent all this money on a gambling addiction. Yanul pled guilty to Aggravated Theft and Forgery and in June 2019 was sentenced to five years in prison.

### **2019-030663- Rape**

In July 2019, the Lake County Sheriff's Office began investigation into a reported Rape of a 3-year-old in 2017 in Perry Township. A 14-year-old inmate that was currently incarcerated in a juvenile correctional facility in Ohio had admitted to counselors that he had a sexual encounter with his 3-year-old female neighbor approximately two years ago. Detectives interviewed the juvenile suspect and he admitted to the sexual encounter which constituted Rape. Investigation revealed that the victim had remembered and described the incident in detail. The case was sent to the Juvenile Prosecutor's Office for charges.

### **2019-032815- Inducing Panic**

On May 15, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office received a report that a 17-year-old student of Auburn Career Center in Concord Township made threats against the school. Investigation revealed that there was evidence that the student looked up threatening and inappropriate internet pages in school using their school issued student profile. The case was sent to the Juvenile Prosecutor's Office for charges.

### **2019-050341- Pandering Obscenity involving a Minor**

On July 21, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office received a complaint from a 17-year-old female from Concord Township claiming that an ex-boyfriend posted pictures of her in a state of nudity on social media. The 17-year-old ex-boyfriend admitted that he sent the picture to an anonymous third party "exposure" account since he was upset about the break-up. The case was sent to the Juvenile Prosecutor's Office for charges.

### **2019-061304- Impersonating a Peace Officer**

In July 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office received complaints about a male subject calling area businesses throughout the county claiming to be from the Sheriff's Office and soliciting funds for a music show. It was known that the local Fraternal Order of Police lodge had hired a company to solicit donations to support the lodge's upcoming annual music concert. The promotional company was contacted, and the involved promotional employee was identified. Although the promotional employee claimed he read from an approved script, he was warned that any future complaints about him representing himself as a Sheriff's Office employee could lead to criminal charges. On September 3, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office received three additional complaints about the same subject purporting himself to be calling from the Sheriff's Office and not the Fraternal Order of Police. The case was forwarded to Painesville Municipal Court for criminal charges.

### **2019-063474- Receiving Stolen Property and Theft**

Between June 2019 and August 2019, the Lake County Sheriff's Office had investigated a series of construction site thefts involving heavy equipment and trailers. On September 12, 2019, LCSO received another complaint of a stolen excavator tractor on a trailer. Investigation led to the recovery of the tractor and trailer along with the identification of two suspects. A search warrant on a storage facility led to the recovery of an additional seven pieces of large heavy equipment that spanned from Lake, Geauga, and Cuyahoga counties. One of the

suspects was cooperative with the investigation and provided details about the property. The case has been forwarded to the Lake County Prosecutor's Office for pending charges.

### **2019-065263**

On September 19, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office received a complaint of a Theft in progress from a location in Perry Township. The stolen property was a trailer. Video surveillance provided a good description of the suspect vehicle. A few days later, an astute Deputy on patrol located the trailer and truck parked at a nearby residence. Detectives conducted surveillance at the residence and found the truck and trailer leaving. A traffic stop was performed, and the trailer was confirmed to be the stolen trailer while the driver, Christopher Harkins, was believed to be the theft suspect. Harkins plead guilty to Receiving Stolen Property at Painesville Municipal Court and was sentenced to 90 days in jail with a 12-month probation.

## **DISPOSITION ON CARRY OVER CASES**

### **2017-078136 - Aggravated Robbery**

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Lake County Sheriff's Office became aware of an aggravated robbery which occurred the previous evening at 2512 Madison Avenue in Perry Twp. The investigation revealed Jacob Sartain along with two other juvenile males went to this address after being invited over by the resident. Prior to their arrival, Mr. Sartain along with the two juveniles had planned to rob the male of drugs and money. Upon arrival Mr. Sartain brandished a handgun and assaulted the resident using the firearm along with other physical means. The two juveniles stole drugs, money, and personal property from the resident. The three fled together in a vehicle which they left abandoned in a nearby residential development. The two juveniles had their case adjudicated through the Lake County Juvenile Court which resulted in both serving sentences in the Lake County Adult Jail facility. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Mr. Sartain pled guilty to aggravated robbery with a firearm specification and felonious assault. On April 28 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 Mr. Sartain was sentenced to seven years in prison for his role in this incident.

### **2017-072590 - Daytime Burglary**

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 the Lake County Sheriff's Office responded to 6423 Ravenna Rd for a burglary. This residence was equipped with home surveillance which showed a white male suspect enter the home and proceed to take numerous items from inside. The male is overheard via home audio communicating with a male who he referred to as "Stevie." A red

Chevrolet Monte Carlo being driven by a white male picks up this suspect and the two flee the residence. An investigation later identified these two as Michael Kapsouris and Stephen Blazo. These two were also identified as suspects in a separate attempted burglary which occurred on the same day at 6273 Ravenna Rd. Mr. Kapsouris would later plead guilty to his role in these incidents. During a trial in July of 2019 a jury found Mr. Blazo guilty of Attempted Burglary and Burglary. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Mr. Blazo was sentenced to thirteen years in prison.

### **2018-010972-Shooting at Lake Dine and Dance**

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 The Lake County Sheriff's Office responded to Lake Dine and Dance located at 520 Fairport Nursery Rd. in Painesville Twp. for a complaint of a shooting that had just occurred. Subsequent and lengthy investigation by the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau revealed that one Eugene Wade III was at the establishment and was seen on video surveillance discharging a firearm from the parking lot toward a moving vehicle. His actions resulted in the shooting of one Janelle Dowdy. Based on the extensive and collaborative investigation by this agency, this matter was eventually sent before the Grand Jury and a "true bill" was returned for charges against Mr. Wade, to include charges of Attempted Murder. Mr. Wade was found guilty after a jury trial on charges of Weapons Under Disability, Felonious Assault, Carrying Concealed Weapons, Possession of firearm in a beer/liquor premises, and discharging a firearm on or near a prohibited premise. The Jury found Mr. Wade not guilty of attempted murder. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Mr. Wade was sentenced to twenty years in prison.

### **2018-049930 - Aggravated Robbery**

On July 10<sup>th</sup> The Lake County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau was notified by Lake County Prosecutor's Office Victim Assistance Advocate Gladys Figueroa of an aggravated robbery that had occurred days prior at 1740 Mentor Ave., Lot #48, in Painesville Twp. VA Figueroa was acting on behalf of the victim who had contacted her, who she identified as one Arturo Gonzalez. Through an interpreter, Mr. Gonzalez stated that on July 6, 2018, he was asleep inside his trailer when a female he knew as Lindsey Medina entered the dwelling without his permission and came into his bedroom where he was asleep. She asked him for money and he admitted that he gave her \$30.00 and she left. A short time later, two unidentified black males entered through the same unlocked door, came into his bedroom and assaulted and robbed Mr. Gonzalez at gunpoint, taking money, jewelry and electronics. Detectives later spoke with neighbors who recalled seeing a silver SUV in the area which left at a high rate of speed and then found that Ms. Medina had been affiliated with a vehicle matching that description with another agency. The vehicle was then located on video surveillance and later at the owner's residence in Concord Twp. Ms. Medina and her boyfriend, Jeffrey Bynes were found inside the residence and placed into custody for unrelated warrants for their arrest and a consent search of the residence resulted in Detectives locating the

handgun used in the incident. Both Ms. Medina and Mr. Bynes admitted to their roles in the incident. The investigation identified the second male suspect as Manson Bryant. In February 2019 a jury found Mr. Bryant guilty of Aggravated Burglary, Aggravated Robbery, Kidnapping, Abduction, Weapons Under Disability, and Carrying Concealed Weapons. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Mr. Bryant was sentenced to twenty-eight years in prison.

Captain Ron Walters