

Office of the City Manager

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

DATE: April 8, 2021

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for April 12, 2021 Council Meeting

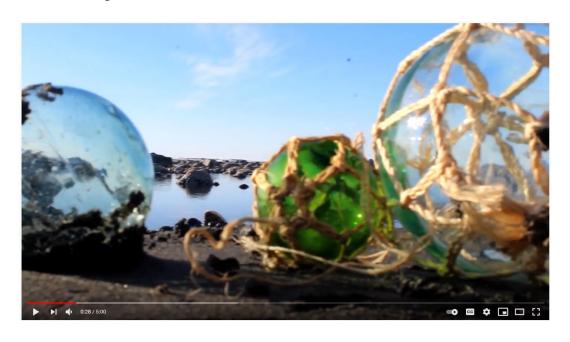
FY22/23 Budget

The Council met for work sessions on March 31st and April 5th to continue discussing various budget topics which included the Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Port & Harbor Enterprise, Public Works, Admin Fees, Fleet and Reserves. The conversations have been valuable for staff as we work to produce the budget which will be introduced in the coming months. The session on the 5th is the last "off-cycle" work session we're intending to host, but there are plans to add discussions about reporting and the fee schedule to future agendas. I started budget reviews with Directors on April 6th, about a week ahead of schedule.

Japan Sister City Film Video Contest

Homer and Teshio, Japan have enjoyed a Sister City relationship since 1984. Over the years, the relationship has been nurtured by occasional delegation visits between the Cities. This year, the Anchorage Consular Office of Japan offered a Japan-Alaska Friendship Video Campaign to help strengthen sister city connections.

On their own time, Homer Parks employees Matt Steffy and Stevie Drescher co-produced "Sisters & Sea Messages" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNl4TsqLH5k, which won second place honors from among the eleven videos submitted to the campaign. First place went to Obihiro City, Japan's production of "Moving with Seward Towards a Brighter Future."



This value of the Sisters & Sea Messages video (a first-time film production by two friends) has spread beyond rekindling a relationship that spans the ocean – it has led to a permanent cultural installation and a valuable technology donation to a local youth organization. The Howard's have offered to donate the 16" glass float featured in the video for display at a City location, and the prize awarded by the Consular Office of Japan for winning top Alaska honors, an Oculus Quest 2 virtual reality system, will be donated to the Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic's Rec Room giving youth there access to many educational, artistic, puzzle solving, and social programs available today. Congratulations to Matt and Stevie and thank you for your creative work.

HVFD CARES Equipment

In 2020, Council approved use of CARES Act funds to purchase some emergency medical response equipment for the Volunteer Fire Department. The Lucas CPR machines and power load patient lift systems have been received and staff has been training on their use. The Lucas CPR machines provide consistent quality CPR for those in cardiac arrest and allows responders to perform quality CPR without exposing EMTs to the risk of COVID airborne/droplet particles. The photo below shows the power load patient lift system which allows HVFD's responders to load a patient up to 600 pounds without additional help to lift the cot. This equipment reduces injury risk to responders and patients.



Kayak Rescue - A Successful Multi-Department/Agency Response

On Monday, April 5th at 11am a 911 emergency call went out to Police Dispatch regarding an overturned kayaker in Mud Bay, approximately two miles northwest of the Harbor. The Homer Police Department, Homer Volunteer Fire Department, Homer Port & Harbor Department, and Alaska State Parks worked together to successfully respond to the incident. Aiding dispatch was the Harbormaster who had a long distance view of the kayakers via the Harbor's camera system. Alaska State Parks landing craft Phoresy was first on the scene and was able to locate and retrieve the distressed and hypothermic kayaker from the water. The kayaker was safety transported to the Homer Spit Marine terminal and delivered to an EMS crew who provided care and transport to the hospital. The Harbor tug, crewed by Deputy Harbormaster Matt Clarke and Harbor Officer

Ricky Borland, provided assistance to the second kayaker who was still in their kayak but unable to paddle back to shore. The Harbor tug also retrieved the kayak of the individual rescued by the Phoresy.

Luckily everyone walked away from this incident. A quick call to 911, a trained and dedicated staff, and the proper use of a PFD saved the day in this situation. I encourage the public to please ensure they understand the weather conditions and personal limits when launching any kind of motorized or non-motorized craft into the ocean. It is a wonderful recreational resource, but it is also very dangerous.

Vessel North Pacific Update

In my report for the March 8th Council Meeting, I provided an update on efforts to move the North Pacific and remove weight and equipment form the vessel (Council passed resolution 21-021 allowing for surplus sale of salvaged equipment). The update below provided by Harbormaster Hawkins picks up with inspections of the vessel's hull:

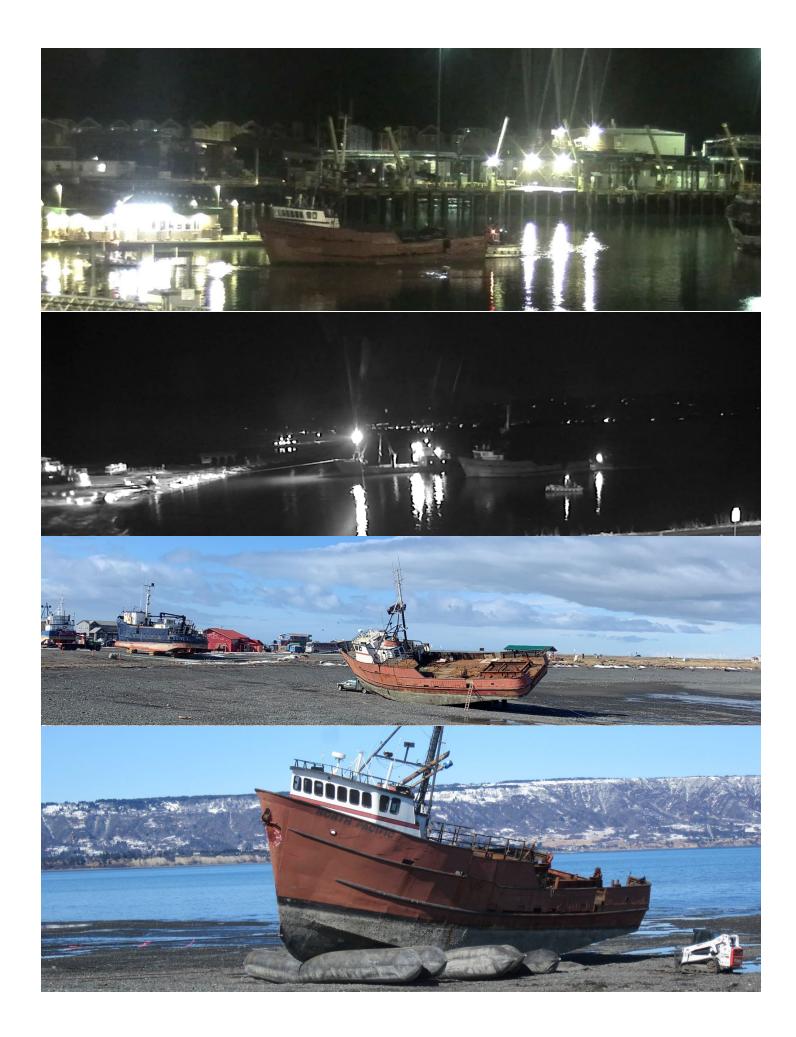
We hired Vision SubSea to use their ROV to look over the hull. We were concerned that there could be damage to the hull that would damage (pop) an airbag. Unfortunately due to the growth on the hull, the ROV did not allow us to see what we needed to see and we needed a new plan.

Hull inspection #2 we moved the boat onto the Steel grid so that we could do an out of water inspection. You may have heard that the tide waits for no man, it also is a major cause of sleep deprivation to those who have to work them. We put her on the grid at 2pm on March 12th, met back at the boat at 8pm low water for the inspection, and then met back at the 2am high water on the 13th to take her back off the grid and once again tie up to B transit. She passed the inspection and the contractors were now comfortable with moving to the next phase.

Deputy Harbormaster Matt Clarke and I met with Fortune Seas owner and Ian Pitzman and his port Captain Tyson Alward on Tuesday the 30th at 0315 at the Fish Dock with the Harbor Tug and Skiff. We made the tug up to the North Pacific for what I hope is the last time and game planed on deck for moving the North Pacific to the beach landing. I would run the tug and Matt the Skiff and we had Ian on the bow of the NP with a handheld helping give distances off and directions. Book high was scheduled for 0413 and our intentions were to run the boat up onto the beach at the peak of that 22' tide. Our timing was good and we arrived off shore of the beach landing about 25 minutes ahead of the tide. Tyson and harbor officer Sean McGrorty set up range markers using their vehicle lights on shore to give us something to aim at as it was hours until daylight. At about 0410 from approximately 400 yards offshore we turned the North Pacific towards the beach landing and pushed with full power at Tyson and Sean until the vessel grounded to a full stop.

Matt ferried a large mooring line from the bow of the NP to the beach using the skiff where Tyson attached it to a large concrete block and securing the boat to the beach at the highest tide of the series.

Fast forward to April 6th and the Fortune Seas Marine crews are moving the boat up the beach using air bags. Our plan is to put her in the vacant lot across outer dock road until July when Alaska Scrap will break her down into scrap and dispose of the waste material. There are still a lot of steps in the process before we can put this one behind us, but so far so good.



Special Event Code Update Project

In my repot to Council for their meeting on February 22nd, I indicated an interest in reviewing the special event code (HCC § 19.02) as it did not seem to be a good fit for the types and scale of events held in Homer. Councilmembers Venuti and Hansen-Cavasos volunteered to join an interdepartmental team of staff members that I have assembled to investigate this issue. We were able to meet with both Councilmembers the week of April 5th and identified opportunities for improvement to a number of topics within City code which have a nexus to special events (mobile food vendors, itinerant merchants, fireworks, and parking). In the coming months, we will be bringing forward some proposals which will hopefully make Homer an easy City to work with to develop fun and safe events that can be enjoyed by both residents and visitors.

Now Hiring Temporary Employees for the Summer Season

The City is currently hiring for a number of temporary positions that include gigs with the Library, Harbor, and Parks crews. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/ to learn more and apply online. We are also recruiting for full-time police officers and a part-time library technician.

COVID-Related Updates

COVID Risk Status

On March 30th I moved the City from the "Orange" to "Yellow" level on our COVID risk framework. This allowed the Library and the HERC to expand their availability to the public. The Library is now open for visits without an appointment, but is still maintaining restricted hours. Community Recreation programs in the HERC are being modified to allow drop-in use during certain times. For the most up to date information, I recommend checking the website: https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/herc-open-activities-drop-and-reservations-available-starting-april-1.

Council Chambers

The Council Chambers are close to being complete. All wiring is in place and the dais is being closed up, the monitors are in place, speakers installed, old microphones have been rebuilt (we reverted to use of the old mics for now due to supply chain constraints), and usage of the Chambers hinges on the receipt and programming of a second camera unit. In the meantime, our Yellow risk status has allowed more in-person meetings for staff and we have used the space to meet. The photo below shows staff discussing identified gaps in our non-motorized transportation network.



Enclosures:

- 1. April Employee Anniversaries
- 2. Homer Police Department Annual Statistical Report for 2020
- 3. Homer Foundation Grant Report



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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: **Andrea Browning**

DATE: April 12, 2021

April Employee Anniversaries SUBJECT:

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Joe Young	Public Works	14	Years
Rick Pitta	Police	12	Years
Travis Brown	Planning	9	Years
Erica Hollis	Port	9	Years
Jean Hughes	Public Works	7	Years
Jaclyn Arndt	Fire	5	Years
Dave Berry	Library	2	Years
Ricky Borland	Port	2	Years
Aaron Yeaton	Public Works	2	Years

HOMER POLICE DEPARTMENT



2020 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

Homer Police Department

Purpose of the Report:

- To report to the citizens of Homer the yearly activity of the police department.
- To reflect upon the current criminal activity and compare it to the past.
- To identify trends and changes in criminal activity. Many factors influence these numbers including population changes, economics, reporting procedures, allocation of department personnel, and law revisions. These factors should be kept in mind while reviewing this report.

Permission is given to freely copy and use this information. Every effort is made to insure these numbers are as accurate as possible. Any numbers found in error are corrected in the following report.

Organization of the Report:

This report contains statistics of offenses and incidents defined by the FBI in the Uniform of Crime Report (UCR) as well as the statistics of offenses and incidents defined by the State of Alaska and the Homer Police Department.

UCR is a national crime reporting system administrated by the FBI. This program provides a nationwide view of crime based on the monthly submission of statistics by law enforcement agencies. UCR facilitates the comparison of the crime trends between Homer and other cities in the nation.

Source of Data:

The numbers were extracted from the 2020 Incident and Arrest Logs, monthly reports and past yearly reports kept by the Homer Police Department.

Homer Police Department Goals

- Actively and aggressively investigate all criminal activity that occurs within the City of Homer.
- Work with the community to address citizen concerns and create a positive and safe environment for growth and public prosperity.
- Promote and maintain crime prevention activities with an emphasis on citizen involvement, public awareness and education.
- Maintain a highly trained, professional police force that is prepared to respond to all emergencies and provide a rapid and safe resolution to all calls for service.

Homer Police Department Mission Statement

To protect the public from criminal wrong doing, keep the peace and maintain order, assist in the orderly flow of traffic, serve the public in times of emergency and enforce the law of the land.

Copies of this document may be obtained from:

Homer Police Department Mark H. Robl, Chief of Police 625 Grubstake Avenue Homer, AK 99603 Ph: (907) 235-3150 Fax: (907) 235-3151

Email: police@ci.homer.ak.us

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REPORTED INCIDENTS BY CATEGORY

CALL CODE	2020	CALL CODE	2020
911 Hang Up	328	HAZMAT	0
Abandoned Vehicle	60	Human Trafficking	0
Accident – non Vehicle	0	Kidnap	1
Aircraft	4	Liquor Laws	1
Alarm	100	Litter / Illegal Dumping	11
Animal Call	102	Lost / Found Property	219
Arson	0	Miscellaneous	69
Assault	40	Missing Person	3
Agency Assist	1 <i>7</i> 2	Murder	0
Assist Medical	58	Off Highway Vehicle Complaint	21
Assist Motorist	42	Patrol Request	54
Assist Public	149	Public Appearance	6
Burglary	9	Public Order	0
Child Support	0	Recovered Stolen Property	0
Citizen Feedback	0	Recovered Stolen Vehicle	0
Civil Issue	123	REDDI Report	222
Collision	1 <i>57</i>	Remains Unknown	0
Commercial Vehicle Offense	0	Robbery	0
Computer Crime	3	Security Check	345
Custodial Interference	0	Serve Court Documents	12
Damage Property	45	Sex Offense	12
Deceased person	18	Stalking	0
Disturbance	222	Sex Offender Registration	4
Drugs	49	Suspicious Circumstances	305
Driving Under the Influence	50	Terroristic Threatening	2
Endangerment - Adult	2	Theft – Non Vehicle	113
Endangerment - Child	2	Theft – Vehicle	16
Escape	0	Traffic	160
Extort / Blackmail	0	Transport	11
Fire	2	Trespass	114
Forgery / Fraud	35	Violate Conditions of Release	20
Fugitive from Justice	0	Warrant Arrest	42
Gaming Laws	0	Weapons Offense	2
Harassment	55	Welfare Check	391
		TOTAL INCDIDENTS 2020	3983

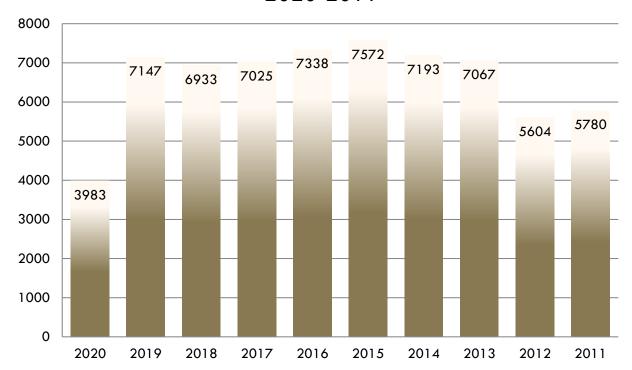
Page 4

REPORTED INCIDENTS

MONTH	2020 INCIDENTS	2019 INCIDENTS	2018 INCIDENTS	2017 INCIDENTS	2016 INCIDENTS
January	425	432	372	469	541
February	433	371	375	405	467
March	341	469	454	505	506
April	308	525	523	538	560
May	361	681	638	705	793
June	335	714	686	697	656
July	370	855	850	999	854
August	391	828	767	753	746
September	31 <i>7</i>	621	669	498	664
October	244	688	620	521	525
November	236	482	490	487	541
December	222	481	489	448	485
TOTAL	3983	7147	6933	7025	7338
% CHANGE	-44.2%	+3.1%	-1.3%	-4.3%	-

REPORTED INCIDENTS

2020-2011

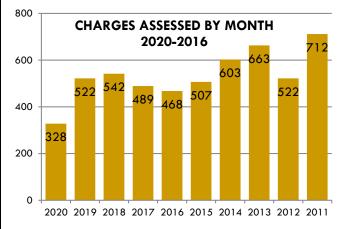


SUMMARY OF ARREST CHARGES*

Group A CHARGES	2020	2019	20: Adult	
Animal Cruelty	0	0		
Arson	0	0		
Assault: Simple	30	34	30	
Assault: Aggravated	15	-	15	
Assault: Intimidation	1	-	1	
Burglary	5	7	5	
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	1		
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	17	14	17	
Drugs: MICS I	0	0		
Drugs: MICS II	0	0		
Drugs MICS III	0	0		
Drugs MICS IV-MICS VI	17	16	16	1
Embezzlement	0	0		
Fraud	3	1	3	
Gambling	0	0		
Homicide/Murder	0	0	-	
Human trafficking	0	0	1	
Kidnap	0	0		
Larceny: Theft I	0	_		
Larceny: Theft II	6	4	6	
Larceny: Theft III	4	5	4	
Larceny: Theft IV	16	41	12	4
Larceny: Vehicle Theft	4	4	40	7
Prostitution	0	0	10	
Pornography/Obscene Material	0	1		
Robbery	0	0		
Sex Offenses	6	0	6	
Weapons Offense	8	7	8	
Group B CHARGES	0	,	-	
Disorderly Conduct	7	17	7	
Driving While Intoxicated	70	53	70	
Refuse Chemical Test(Misd or Felony)	14	10	14	
Liquor Law Violations	1	0	1	
Trespass	22	35	22	
Reckless Endangerment	2	4	2	
Resisting Arrest	6	7	6	
TRO Violation	2	4	2	
Unlawful Contact 1 st /2 nd Degree (DV)	1	1	1	
Vehicle Tampering	0	1		
Violation of Conditions of Release	32	90	32	
Warrant Arrest (FTA)	7	90	7	
Fugitive from Justice	2	4	2	
Probation Violation	0	0		
Protective Custody	3	19	3	
Harassment	1	2	1	
Obstruct Justice	7	8	7	
Traffic offenses	19	42	19	
TOTAL CHARGES	328	522	323	5

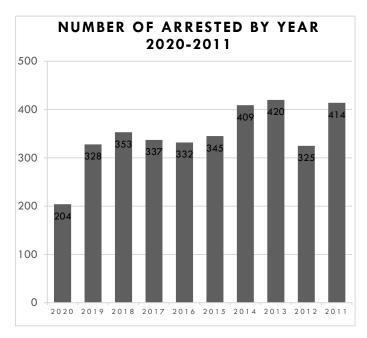
*Numbers representative of charges and not individual people

CHARGES ASSSESSED BY YEAR 2020-2011					
MONTH	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
January	40	25	17	27	54
February	11	32	32	15	30
March	30	21	48	44	33
April	7	20	32	42	25
May	29	49	36	52	62
June	46	69	69	33	55
July	22	71	49	41	46
August	33	54	60	38	43
September	30	36	47	36	45
October	36	56	73	49	29
November	36	41	37	56	18
December	8	48	42	56	28
TOTAL	328	522	542	489	468
% CHANGE	-37.2%	-3.7%	+10.8%	+4.5%	-

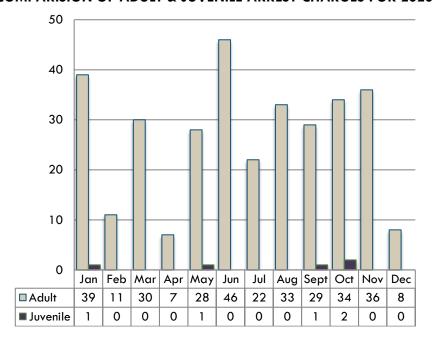


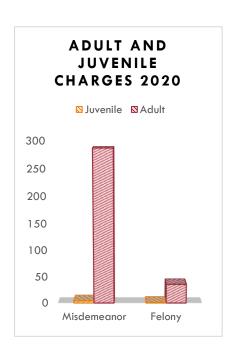
SUMMARY OF ARRESTS

NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED BY MONTH 2020-2016					
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
January	24	18	17	23	40
February	9	23	23	12	21
March	20	17	29	24	25
April	5	18	24	25	1 <i>7</i>
May	17	35	25	31	39
June	23	32	44	25	37
July	17	32	35	32	33
August	23	32	36	28	34
September	23	24	30	33	28
October	19	38	40	37	25
November	18	26	24	38	15
December	6	33	26	29	18
TOTAL	204	328	353	337	332
% CHANGE	-37.8%	-7.1%	+4.7%	+1.5%	-



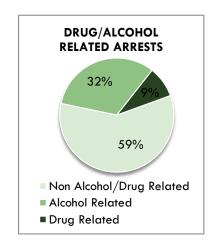
COMPARISION OF ADULT & JUVENILE ARREST CHARGES FOR 2020

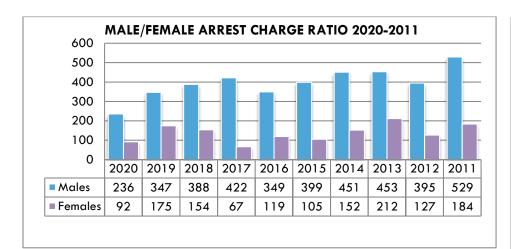


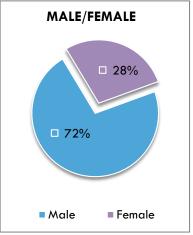


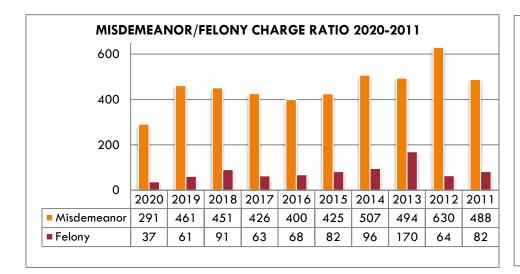
DISTRIBUTION OF CHARGES 2020

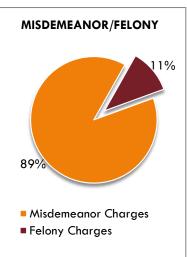
YEARLY TOTALS	ADULTS	JUVENILES	TOTALS	DRUG RELATED	ALCOHOL RELATED
ARRESTS	199	5	204	18	66
CHARGES	323	5	328		
FELONIES	36	1	37		
MISDEMEANORS	287	4	291		







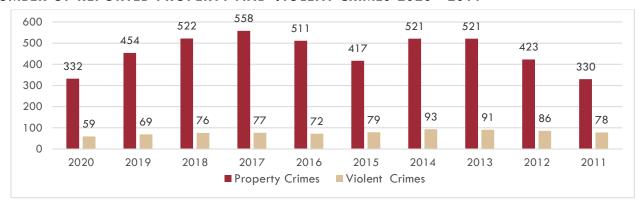




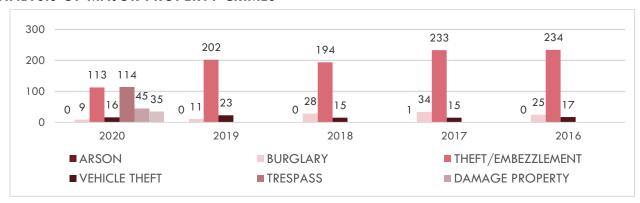
CRIMES REPORT: PROPERTY & VIOLENT

PROPERTY CRIMES 2020		VIOLENT CRIMES 2020	
ARSON	0	ASSAULT	40
BURGLARY	9	RESISTING ARREST	6
THEFT / EMBEZZLEMENT	113	ROBBERY	0
FRAUD / FORGERY	35	SEX ABUSE/ASSAULT	12
TRESPASS	114	STALKING	0
DAMAGE PROPERTY	45	KIDNAP	1
VEHICLE THEFT	16	HOMICIDE	0
TOTALS	332	TOTALS	59

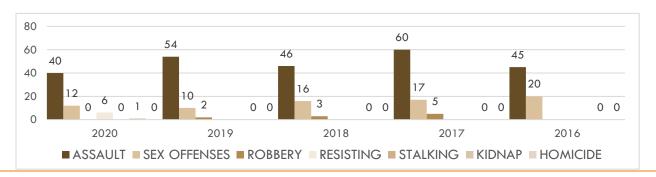
NUMBER OF REPORTED PROPERTY AND VIOLENT CRIMES 2020 - 2011



ANALYSIS OF MAJOR PROPERTY CRIMES

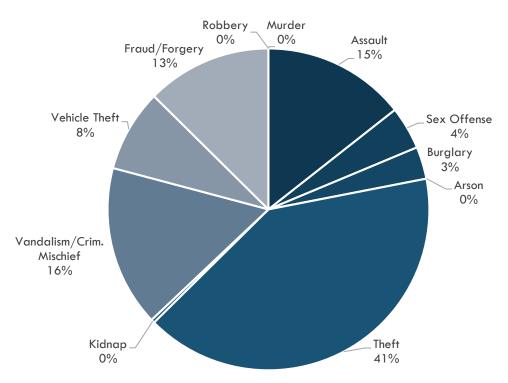


ANALYSIS OF MAJOR VIOLENT CRIMES



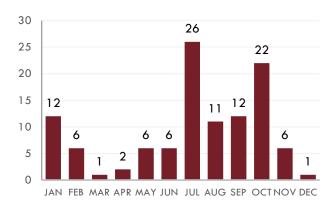
DISTRIBUTION OF MAJOR OFFENSE BY PERCENTAGE

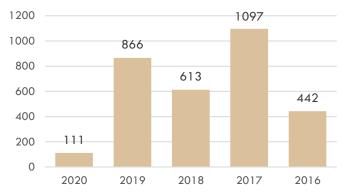
Arson	=	0
Assault	=	40
Burglary	=	9
Fraud/Forgery	=	35
Kidnap	=	1
Murder	=	0
Robbery	=	0
Sex Offenses	=	12
Theft/Embezzlement	=	113
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	=	45
Vehicle Theft	=	16



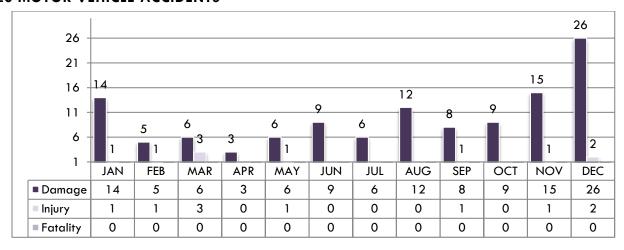
CITATIONS 2020

TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED 2020-2016

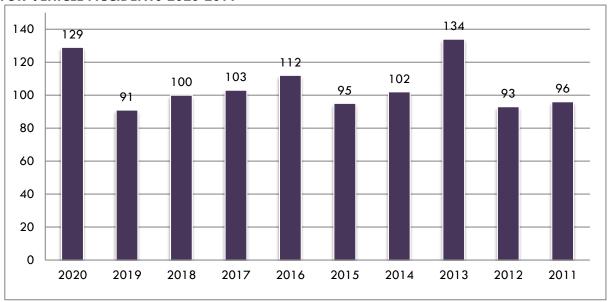




2020 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS



MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS 2020-2011



HOMER COMMUNITY JAIL

Number of Prisoners Housed

2020

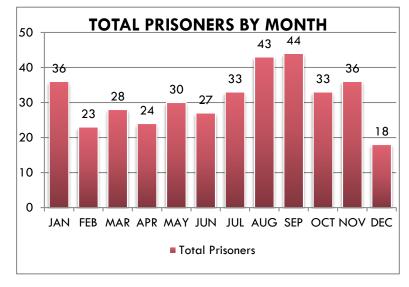
TOTALS	204	156	15	375
December	3	15	0	18
November	23	12	1	36
October	20	12	1	33
September	22	22	0	44
August	27	12	4	43
July	18	15	0	33
June	22	5	0	27
May	17	13	0	30
April	8	16	0	24
March	16	11	1	28
February	10	10	3	23
January	18	13	5	36
MONTH	City Prisoners	State Prisoners	Sentenced Prisoners	Total Prisoners 2020
MONITH	City	Camara	C t	Takal Datasasas

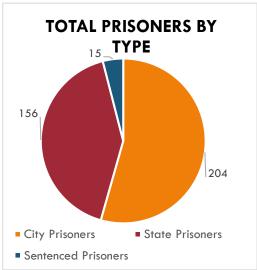
2019

City Prisoners	State Prisoners	Sentenced Prisoners	Total Prisoners 2019
9	7	1	16
15	5	2	22
15	9	4	28
15	10	1	26
29	19	0	48
29	10	0	39
26	17	2	45
23	16	3	42
17	13	1	31
36	18	3	57
22	28	6	56
26	18	4	48
261	170	27	458

NUMBER OF PRISONERS HOUSED

2020





HOMER COMMUNITY JAIL

Number of Days Served by Prisoners

2020

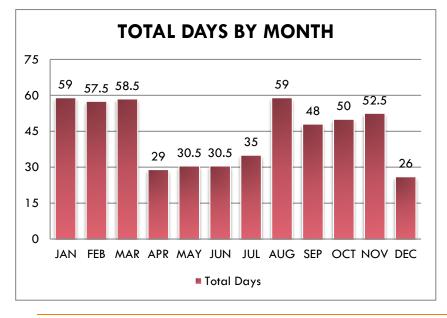
MONTH	City	State	Sentenced	Total Days
	Prisoners	Prisoners	Prisoners	2020
January	15.5	13	30.5	59
February	22	19	16.5	57.5
March	26.5	28.5	3.5	58.5
April	7	22	0	29
May	21.5	9	0	30.5
June	19.5	11	0	30.5
July	14.5	20.5	0	35
August	28.5	21.5	9	59
September	12.5	35.5	0	48
October	41.5	7.5	1	50
November	30	15.5	7	52.5
December	3.5	22.5	0	26
TOTALS	242.5	225.5	67.5	535.5

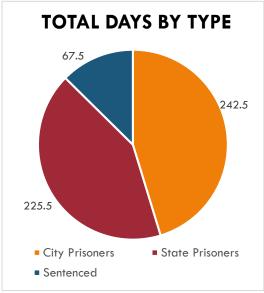
2019

City	State	Sentenced	Total Days
Prisoners	Prisoners	Prisoners	2019
8.5	8.5	4	21
20	10.5	6.5	37
25	18.5	18	61.5
13.5	12.5	4	30
35	26	0	61
32.5	9	0	41.5
27	23.5	1.5	52
24	25	1.5	50.5
29.5	25	7	61.5
45.5	28.5	11.5	85.5
24.5	33	23.5	81
28.5	20	16.5	65
313.5	240	94	647.5

NUMBER OF DAYS SERVED BY PRISONERS

2020





GLOSSARY

Arrests - For each person arrested only the most serious crime is reported to the FBI by the UCR report, providing a body count.

Assault - An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, or place the person in fear.

AST - Alaska State Troopers

Burglary - The unlawful entry of a structure with intent to commit a crime. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. The unlawful entry of a structure, including motor homes, with the intent to commit a crime.

Domestic Violence - Those crimes against the person consisting of harassment, criminal trespass and assault. The incident is considered domestic violence when the victim is a spouse or a former spouse; a parent, grandparent, child or grandchild; a member of the social unit comprised of those living together in the same dwelling; or a person who is not a spouse or former spouse but who previously lived in a spousal relationship or is in or has been in a dating courtship, or engagement relations with the person committing the act. Domestic assault is designated in the Assault/Family categories.

DV Writ Service (Domestic Violence Writ) - A special type of restraining order issued by the court when convinced that the applicant has been, or will likely be, subject to domestic violence.

DWLR/S/C - Operating a motor vehicle while operator's license is suspended, revoked or cancelled: Violation or in some limited cases an A Misdemeanor offense.

Fugitive from Justice – An individual arrested on an arrest warrant from a state other than Alaska.

HPD - Homer Police Department

Incident - Initial request for service; service provided by HPD.

NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System) - Replaced UCR, effective Jan 1, 2021.

Property Crime - Offense involving property only. No assault to persons are involved. Categories involved: arson, burglary, embezzlement/theft, fraud, forgery, trespass, vandalism/criminal mischief, and vehicle theft.

Robbery - The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or putting the victim in fear.

Service Request - All offenses or services stemming from the initial incident.

Sex Offense - Includes such offenses as: sexual abuse/assault of a minor, exploitation of a minor, incest, indecent exposure, enticement of a minor, and other offenses against minors.

Sexual Abuse - Any sexual contact of a child 15 years of age or younger by someone 4 or more years older than the victim OR any sexual contact of a child under the age of eighteen by someone occupying a position of authority over that child. (The "adult" or "juvenile" classifications denote the status of the person committing the crime.)

GLOSSARY (Cont.)

Sexual Assault - Any sexual contact with another person without consent of that person. (Note that this definition uses the term "person" and does not specify that it must be a female.) The "adult" or "juvenile" classifications denote the status of the person committing the crime.

Theft - The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Does not include embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, and worthless checks.

Theft I – Theft is committed and the value of the property or service is \$25,000 or more.

Theft II – Theft is committed and the value of the property or service is more than \$750, but less than \$25,000 – or the property is a firearm.

Theft III – Theft is committed and the value of the property or service is \$250 or more, but less than \$750.

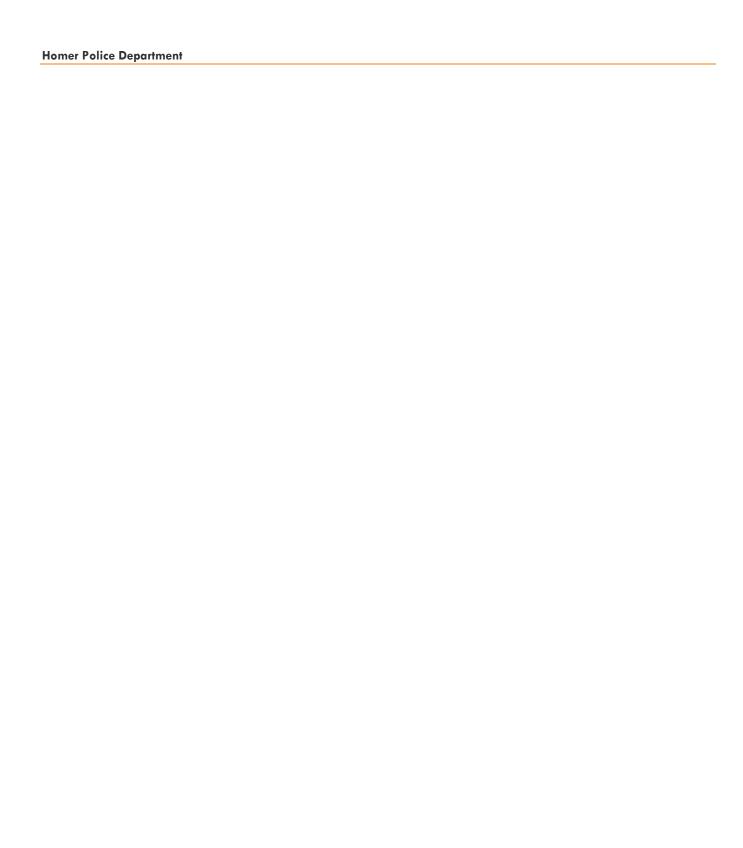
Theft IV – Theft is committed and the value of the property or service is less than \$250.

Theft of Vehicle - The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. This does not include taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by those persons having lawful access.

TRO Violation - Violating the terms of a domestic violence writ.

UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) - A nationwide voluntary program of reporting crimes; administered by the FBI. A standard used by all participating agencies, which measures crime statistics, and trends.

Violent Crime - Offense involving assault to a person. Categories involved: assaults, resisting arrest, robbery, sex abuse/assault, stalking, kidnapping and murder.



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Connecting generosity to community need since 1991.

City of Homer Attn: Hon. Mayor Castner and City Council 491 E. Pioneer Avenue Homer, AK 99603

March 26, 2021

HOMER FOUNDATION: City of Homer Grants Program 2021

Dear Mayor Castner and City Council Members:

The Homer Foundation has administered the City of Homer Grants Program since 2000. In that time over \$860,000 has been awarded to local nonprofits to support the programs and services they provide to the community.

In the 2021 funding cycle a total of \$31,500 was available for distribution. This includes funding from the city budget (\$25,000) and earned income from the City of Homer's (\$6145.93) and the City of Kachemak's endowment funds (\$276.06), which Kachemak City includes each year in the spirit of good neighbors. The Foundation adds a portion to make a nice round number. The program is administered under guidelines developed between the City of Homer and the Homer Foundation.

Requests for awards are reviewed and recommended by a community/foundation committee known as the City of Homer Grants Committee. Their recommendations are approved at the discretion of the Homer Foundation Board of Trustees. This year's City of Homer Grants Committee consisted of HF Board of Directors Paul Seaton (chair), Ken Taylor, and Dave Derry, with community members Chris Story, Chris Brown, Janie Leask, and Cass Crandall. All participants adhere to the Homer Foundation's Conflict of Interest Policy.

It is a difficult task to review organizations with very different missions, but all committee members agreed these nonprofits are high functioning organizations providing valuable programs and services to the community. Funding is considered based on three overarching areas of a.) Service to the Community, b.) Budget size and practices and c.) Broad Base of Support. This year provided an extra pressure with the compounding factors of funding pressures from state and local sources as well as the predicted need due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The committee also understands the value of demonstrating community support when organization apply for other grants. Local support can be key when leveraging other monies.

A total of 14 applications were received and reviewed. The committee's recommendations for the following awards were approved by the Homer Foundation board of trustees at their March 24^{th} board meeting:

Organization	2021 Awards
Bunnell Street Gallery	\$ 1,000
Center for AK Coastal Studies	\$ 1,000
Cook Inlet Keeper	\$ 1,000
Homer Community Food Pantry	\$ 5,500
Homer Council on the Arts	\$ 2,000
Homer Farmers Market	\$ 4,500
Homer Hockey Association	\$ 2,000
Hospice of Homer	\$ 3,500
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic	\$ 3,500
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust	\$ 1,000
Kachemak Nordic Ski Club	\$ 1,000
Kachemak Pony Club	\$ 1,000
KBBI	\$ 3,500
SPROUT	\$ 1,000
Total:	\$31,500

Each year, we take the opportunity to compile a synopsis of the economic impact of the nonprofits that have submitted applications. In 2021 these organizations generated over \$6.8 million in revenues, including \$3.6 million in new money coming into Homer from State, Federal and Foundation grants. They also employ 89 full, part-time, and seasonal employees with combined personnel expenses exceeding \$2.9 million. The data from these organizations help to illustrate just how important Homer's nonprofit sector is as an economic driver in our economy.

During times of economic down turn the City's continued support is more important than ever by providing important general operating support. These organizations are also able to leverage additional funding with City support. The community benefits because a strong nonprofit community makes Homer a safer, healthier, more vibrant place to live, play, and work.

It is an honor to administer the City of Homer Grants Program as a free service to the community, and to encourage the City of Homer to continue their support of Homer's vital, and economically important nonprofit community. If the Council wishes a presentation on the awards and state of the Homer Foundation, I am at your service.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Miller, Executive Director

Homer Foundation

235.0551

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