



# Los Banos Police Department 2017 Year in Review



## Message from Chief Gary Brizzee

Welcome to the 2017 Los Banos Police Department Year in Review. This report showcases the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of the men and women who proudly serve you, the citizens of Los Banos.

2017 was yet another year of growth and challenges for the men and women of the Los Banos Police Department. The mission of our Police Department is based on two basic principles that lead us in the performance of our duties which are 1) We have pride in the service we provide to everyone and, 2) We have integrity in all our actions. This is commonly referred to as “Pride in Service, Integrity in Action” and these principles guide our staff as they carry out our mission everyday. The actions of our officers and other staff during 2017 exemplified these principles.

Sergeant Ivan Mendez and Officer Eduardo Solis were awarded the Department’s Medal of Valor for their efforts in rescuing a small child and an elderly woman from a burning home on March 30, 2017. The Medal of

Valor award is the Department’s highest award and is bestowed upon an individual who voluntarily overcomes circumstances of imminent peril to their own life while in the performance of their duties.

On July 31, 2017, officers responded to a family member trespassing who gained entry to an apartment at an Apartment Complex. During the incident, officers made contact with the subject and attempted to convince the subject to step outside. The subject refused and would not comply with the officer’s requests. A struggle ensued and during the struggle, a shooting occurred where both officers and the suspect were shot. The officers thankfully survived their injuries and are continuing to recover. This was an exceptional occurrence for the Department that will have a lasting effect on all those involved.

During 2017, the Los Banos Police Department proudly added a new member to our K9 team. K9 Maverick is assigned to handler Officer Todd Carter and is trained to apprehend suspects, protect his handler, and detect a variety of illegal narcotics.

We also added a new Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System in May 2017. The new system allows for integrated communication between Police, Fire, and state databases. The new system also has a public website that allows residents to obtain information regarding incidents, cases, arrests, crime maps, and other pertinent police information. The website is <https://lbpd.crimegraphics.com>.

The City of Los Banos is an amazing city, and the efforts of our police officers, civilian support staff, volunteers, citizens and the steadfast public safety support from our City Council continue to make a positive impact on the quality of life in our community.

Please take a few minutes to learn more about your Police Department’s different divisions and the services we provide. You will find that our staff is dedicated, highly trained, and an enthusiastic group of professionals who take enormous pride in their work. They are ready to work with you to make your home, your business, and this community an even better place to live.

I invite you to follow us on social media in order to stay connected with what is happening at the Department and in our community. Please find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/LosBanosPolice](https://www.facebook.com/LosBanosPolice) or Twitter at [@LosBanosPolice](https://twitter.com/LosBanosPolice).



**Pride in Service, Integrity in Action**  
**Los Banos Police Department**

## Patrol Teams

The Los Banos Police Department is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by up to 26 Patrol Officers. There are six patrol teams that cover three shifts during the week and three shifts on weekends. Officers work day shift, swing shift, or midnight shift and rotate assignments every three months. Patrol Officers spend most of their shift responding to dispatched calls for service including crimes in progress, disturbances, thefts, and traffic collisions. The remainder of their shift is spent patrolling streets, assisting citizens at the Department who request officer expertise and completing incident reports.

### Los Banos Police Department Patrol Statistics

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Difference 2016-2017
<b>Calls for Service</b>	24,700	26,216	28,876	30,250	35,508	15%
<b>Total Citations</b>	4,590	4,176	4,132	5,352	4,588	-17%
<b>Total Arrests</b>	2,307	2,322	2,352	2,755	2,638	-4%

#### DEPARTMENT STAFFING

##### Office of the Police Chief

Chief Gary Brizzee

##### Administrative Division

Commander Ray Reyna

- Special Services Unit

Police Sergeant (1)

Detectives (4)

Task Force Detective (1)

- School Resource Officer

Police Officers (3)

- Code Enforcement

Police Sergeant (1)

Code Enforcement Ofc. (2)

Admin Clerk (1)

Animal Shelter CSO (1 PT)

CSG Officer (1)

- Jail Division

CSO (5)

##### Operations Division

Commander Jason Hedden

- Patrol Division

Police Sergeants (5)

Police Officers (20)

Officer Trainee (1)

- PAL

Police Officer (1)

Volunteer (1)

- Facilities

Public Safety Custodian (1)



## Communications

### DEPARTMENT STAFFING

Continued

#### Police Support Services

Police Services Manger

Brenda Geary

- Communications

Public Safety Dispatchers  
(11)

- Records Division

Admin Clerk (3 FT, 1PT)

- Crime Analysis

Crime Analyst (1)

- Property / Evidence

Property/Evidence  
Technician (1)

#### Volunteers

- VITAL Volunteers

22 members

- Los Banos Volunteers  
for Animals (LBVFA)

12 members

The Communications Division is comprised of 11 authorized Police Dispatcher positions. Dispatchers handle both emergency and non-emergency calls for service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and play a pivotal role in the Department's efforts to meet increasing demands for police services. As the first point of contact, Dispatchers answer approximately 8,500 emergency (9-1-1) and non-emergency calls monthly, ensuring resources are dispatched rapidly and efficiently.

The Police Dispatcher is the vital link between the citizen and the officer who will be sent to the call. Not only do they relay information from the caller to the officer in the field, they have the ability to access several different law enforcement databases to obtain critical information that will assist the patrol officer. Dispatchers are also the primary link to other law enforcement agencies who may be called upon for emergency assistance should the need arise.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total 9-1-1 Calls</b>	<b>9,710</b>	<b>16,115</b>	<b>17,504</b>	<b>18,308</b>	<b>19,047</b>
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>35,322</b>	<b>42,211</b>	<b>48,941</b>	<b>49,082</b>	<b>49,516</b>



## Code Enforcement - Community Preservation

The Code Enforcement Division provides Community Preservation and Animal Control Services to the community of Los Banos. The Code Enforcement division is staffed by a Police Sergeant, two Code Enforcement Officers, an Administrative Clerk, and a part time CSO.

The City of Los Banos also has a Code Enforcement Officer through CSG Consultants thanks to a three year grant that was awarded to the City for the period starting August 1, 2016 through September 30, 2018. The Code Enforcement Officer provided through the grant is authorized to conduct code enforcement services in a designated census tract within the City.

The Code Enforcement Community Preservation Program's mission is to work in partnership with the residents and businesses to beautify and maintain a safe and desirable living and working environment. The mission is met by administering a fair enforcement program following the motto of "voluntary compliance," which means we first attempt to educate residents on violations and provide solutions before resorting to punitive action. This is carried out by working in partnership with other City Departments, public service agencies, residents and business owners to correct violations of the Los Banos Municipal and Zoning Ordinances.

During 2017, City Council adopted two new City Ordinances that were developed by Administrative and Code Enforcement staff to assist both Community Preservation and Animal Control. The first ordinance, the Animal Control Ordinance was adopted help reduce pet overpopulation and the second ordinance, the Marijuana regulation ordinance was developed to regulate marijuana usage in Los Banos.

### 2017 Code Enforcement Statistics:

**Number of abandoned vehicles cited: 375**

**Administrative Citations issued: 802**

**Complaints Received: 1205**

**Complaints Closed: 1180**



## Animal Control Services

One of the Department’s two Code Enforcement Officers is assigned to Animal Control. This Officer is responsible for maintaining the City’s Animal Shelter with the assistance of a part-time CSO and volunteers. This is an enormous task considering the City’s pet population. Animal Control responds to calls of unleashed, stray, injured and deceased animals. In addition, they also investigate noise complaints, the inhumane treatment, and hoarding of animals. There were 2,518 Animal Calls for Service in 2017. Animal Control Services also administers a Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program. This City program pays a substantial portion towards the cost of spay and neuter services and is funded by fines and penalties. In 2017, 185 pet licenses were issued and combined with out volunteer staff 759 spay/neuter vouchers were issued. The Los Banos Police Department in assistance with the LBVFA has an 82% save rate at the Shelter.

### Animal Control Services Statistics

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Dogs Impounded</b>	1,368	1,380	1,267	1,258	1,168
<b>Cats Impounded</b>	1,038	1,018	1,168	1,072	914
<b>Animals Adopted</b>	347	266	291	345	292
<b>Sent to Rescue</b>	1,180	1,337	1,483	1,252	1,126
<b>Reclaimed by Owner</b>	262	316	260	349	295

## Investigations Unit

The Los Banos Police Investigations Division is responsible for investigating all felony cases that are reported in the City of Los Banos. These cases include homicides, assaults, burglaries, rapes, and other high profile crimes.

The division handled over 500 cases during 2017, served 118 search warrants, and conducted 60 tactical operations. The investigators are on-call 24 hours a day to investigate serious crimes and are dedicated to efficient, timely, and thorough criminal investigations.



## Jail / Community Service Officers

The Police Department maintains a Type-1 jail facility that allows the Department to house twenty inmates for up to 96 hours, excluding holidays and weekends. The Los Banos jail is the only booking facility located on the west side of Merced County and is used by Merced County Probation, Gustine Police Department, Dos Palos Police Department, Merced County Sheriff's Office, CHP, California State Parole, Fish and Game, and California State Parks.

Community Service Officers are responsible for the intake and care of inmates. Their duties include booking, photographing, and fingerprinting all inmates. They are also tasked with providing three meals a day for inmates, conducting hourly jail checks, identifying health related issues that may require medical or mental health services, maintaining cells, and ordering facility supplies.

Maintenance of the jail is a stringent and rigid process that is subject to thorough County and State inspections. The California Board of State and Community Corrections also performs a bi-annual facility inspection. The jail is inspected annually by the Merced County Civil Grand Jury.

<b>TOTAL BOOKINGS IN 2017:</b>	<b>1,726</b>
<b>Male Inmates:</b>	<b>1,462</b>
<b>Female Inmates:</b>	<b>264</b>



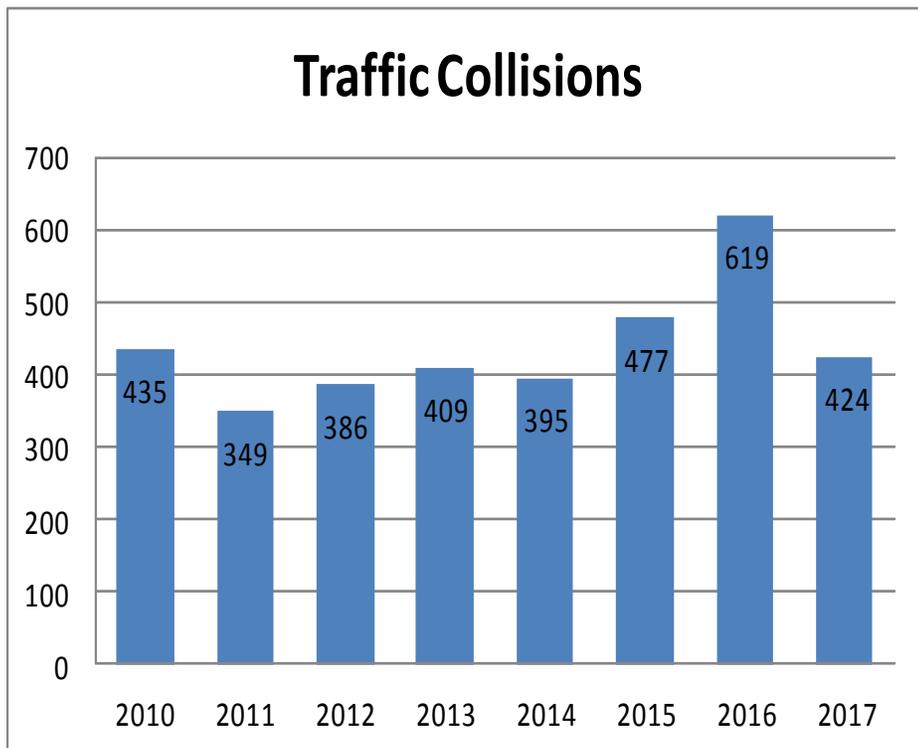
## Police Records Unit

The Records Unit is staffed by three full-time Administrative Clerks and one part-time Administrative Clerk. The Records Unit is a central repository of records vital to an efficiently running law enforcement agency. It maintains records including crime reports, traffic collisions, citations, citizen information reports. It may also be the citizen's first point of contact with the Police Department, either through the business line or the front desk.

The Records Unit is open to the public Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (excluding holidays). During lobby hours Records personnel provide assistance to citizens with crime reports, collision reports, ticket sign-offs, local background checks, fingerprinting, and other services. In addition, they assist other agencies with local records checks and other relevant information.

The Records Unit is also responsible for processing reports and forwarding them to the District Attorney and other agencies for filing and prosecution. They also respond to all court record sealing requests, subpoenas, Public Information Act requests, and records checks from civilian and law enforcement agencies.

## Traffic



Patrol Officers enforce traffic laws as part of their daily duties. When available two Police Officers work traffic enforcement as a collateral duty assignment to target specific traffic complaints and concerns.

The Department is committed to the safety of pedestrians, especially students going to and from school. Patrol Officers are frequently assigned to patrol areas around the schools to ensure traffic laws are being obeyed.



## School Resource Officer Program

The City of Los Banos is committed to helping keep our schools safe. The Department has three Police Officers assigned as School Resource Officers with two assigned to the Los Banos Unified School District and one assigned to the Merced County Office of Education. SROs take an interactive approach with students at their schools. They not only investigate crimes on campus, but also participate in a variety of activities including;

- Presentations on traffic safety, alcohol and drug prevention
- Assist in the coordination and presentation of “Every 15 Minutes” program
- Act as a liaison between school administration and the Police Department
- Patrol campuses and surrounding neighborhoods
- Coordinate and implement campus security and “active shooter” training
- Provide security at home football games and graduation ceremonies

The SROs maintain an open and honest relationship with students working to promoting a positive image of law enforcement.



## Magnet Task Force

The Los Banos Police Department is part of a county-wide task force dedicated to reducing drug and gang related crimes in Merced County. The team consists of officers from the Los Banos Police Department, Merced Police Department, Atwater Police Department, CHP, Merced County Sheriff's Department, Merced County Probation, California Department of Justice (DOJ), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and Merced County Child Protective Services (CPS).

In 2017, the Los Banos Police Officer assigned to MAGNET completed:



**Search warrants served: 12**

**Wire affidavits: 1**

**Arrests: 16**

**Endangered children removed: 1**

**Firearms seized: 1**

**U.S. currency seized: \$33,026**

### **DRUG SEIZURES:**

**Processed marijuana: 18,345 grams**

**Concentrated cannabis: 3,317 grams**

**Methamphetamine: 5,360 grams**

## Property & Evidence

The Property/Evidence Technician is responsible for managing all property and evidence which comes into the Police Department. This includes three distinct functions; receiving, storage, and disposition. Property received into the Department includes a wide variety of items including; bikes, personal property, guns, drugs, biological evidence, money and any items that may be viewed as evidence.

### **2017 Property / Evidence Statistics:**

**Pieces of Evidence collected: 3,020**

**Firearms collected: 35**

**Replica Weapons collected: 15**

**Illegal Substances collected: 241**



## Crime Analysis / Crime Statistics

The crime analyst supports the Department by compiling crime statistics. The range of data includes patrol activity by officer, traffic collision data, and crime data for a certain area or within a certain radius. The crime analyst also provides general neighborhood crime prevention information to residents and businesses as requested.

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) requires law enforcement agencies to provide monthly Part 1 crime offense data which become part of the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR). UCR Part 1 crimes are eight crimes or offenses including; murder and non-negligent homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny theft, and arson. These offenses were chosen because they are serious crimes, they occur with regularity in all areas of the country, and are likely to be reported to law enforcement.

<b>PART 1 CRIMES</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Difference 2016-2017</b>
<b>HOMICIDE</b>	1	1	2	1	2	100%
<b>RAPE</b>	3	3	5	11	6	-45%
<b>ROBBERY</b>	31	29	39	35	41	17%
<b>AGGRAVATED ASSAULT</b>	74	91	88	74	89	20%
<b>BURGLARY</b>	256	207	309	253	220	-13%
<b>LARCENY</b>	691	607	815	733	699	-5%
<b>VEHICLE THEFT</b>	107	87	243	175	162	-7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,163	1,025	1,501	1,282	1,219	-5%

## Police Activities League



Los Banos PAL completed its 28th year providing crime prevention programs in Los Banos. PAL is led by Officer Noah Jones who receives administrative support from Rosemarie Santos, a 19 year full-time volunteer who donated over 2,000 hours of service in 2017. The PAL program remains a popular program among residents. In 2017 PAL organized the following programs:

- Girls Softball - 326 participants and 192 volunteers
- Junior Giants - 403 players and 96 volunteers
- Sober Graduation - 268 students and 33 volunteers
- Flag Football - 156 participants and 23 volunteers
- Kops for Kids - Toys provided to 302 families

## VITAL Volunteers

The Los Banos Police Department is privileged to have a group of 22 dedicated VITAL members. VITAL stands for Volunteers Interacting to Advance Law Enforcement. VITAL members are residents of Los Banos who have the desire and drive to give back to their community by volunteering their time to better our community. Annually, VITAL donates over 1,500 hours of service to the Department. VITAL provides services that the Police Department would not be able to offer without their dedicated commitment. Some of the duties include traffic control at Spring and Fall Street Fairs, Veteran's Parade, May Day Parade, National Night Out, Harvest of Fun, Christmas Parade and Los Banos High and Pacheco High School homecomings. They also spend hours patrolling our City to document road hazards, abandoned vehicles and report graffiti.

## Los Banos Volunteers for Animals

Annually, the 12 Los Banos Volunteers for Animals (LBVFA) donate over 8,000 hours of service to open the Animal Shelter to the public every Saturday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. for animal adoptions. During the remainder of the week, the volunteers feed and groom the animals, sanitize kennels, maintain the grounds, launder pet bedding, and interact and socialize the pets to prepare them for adoption. LBVFA also works closely with animal rescue groups to transfer dogs and cats who have not found a home. Their work helps to contribute to the 82% save rate for Animal Control Services.



## Community Involvement

The Los Banos Police Department is committed to working with the Community of Los Banos to engage and participate in many of the events we have each year. During 2017 the Los Banos Police Department held the following events:

- **April 2017 - Graffiti Clean-Up Day**—In collaboration with Pacheco High School and the Department of Public Works, 56 volunteers donated a day of service to keep our community graffiti free.
- **July 2017—Operation Chill**—7-11 partnership for youth outreach.
- **September and November 2017 - Coffee with A Cop**—this event brings police officers and the community together to learn about each other and discuss issues affecting the community.
- **October 2017 - National Night Out**—this annual event brought community members to meet and interact with local law enforcement, fire, and other public service agencies.
- **December 2017 - Canned Food Drive**—The Department collected over 15,000 pounds of non-perishable food items that were donated to local charities.
- **December 2017 - Shop with A Cop event** - Over 40 students were treated to a shopping spree with Police Officers at the local Wal-Mart.



## 2017 Los Banos Police Department Awards

**Officer of the Year:** Kristifer Hew & Aaron Pinon

**Dispatcher of the Year:** Elizabeth Deeming

**Support Employee of the Year:** Steven Arellano