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CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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# MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER THOMAS J. FROMME

As we enter into 2022, its time to reflect and report on the activities and conditions of the City. This year, we passed our 2020 Newport Comprehensive Plan. NewportFORWARD is the lens we will use as we continue to grow as a City. Now is the time to reignite our optimism and look both back and forward at our accomplishments and goals.

We have placed a priority on serving our community in building vibrant neighborhoods, meaningful places, and healthy and safe communities; while knowing we need economic prosperity, resilience, and environmental stewardship to survive. The City understands the need for open, transparent, good government as we create solid transportation, access, and mobility infrastructure.

As you will see in this report, there are many wonderful things happening within the City. Through this pandemic, commercial and residential construction has significantly increased, police calls and arrests have decreased, and basic services have been maintained. There are many improvements happening, such as Festival Park and the US27 Smart Corridor.

As a community, we have weathered the turbulent 2020's, and we are on a path to grow out of this pandemic. I am thankful to our employees who serve the citizens and to the citizens who help keep our City thriving everyday. Thank you for looking back on 2021 and being excited for 2022 with us.



# PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS

## Mayor

Thomas L. Guidugli, Jr.

## Commissioners

Frank T. Peluso, Sr

Elisabeth Fennell

Kenneth Rechtin

Jerry Peluso

## City Manager

Thomas J. Fromme

## Department Heads

Fire/EMS Chief - Frank Peluso

Chief of Police - Chris Fangman

Public Works - Ray Ebert

Project Director - Doug Roell

Code Enforcement - Brian Steffen

Director of Finance - Leonard Kuntz

## Office of the City Manager

City Attorney - Daniel R. Braun

City Clerk - Janie Patterson

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Goal 4: Transportation, Access, Mobility, and Utilities

Goal 5: Environment Stewardship

Goal 6: Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 7: Good Government

## Key Metrics

Fire Department

Police Department

Community Services

Code Enforcement

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Established Emergency Medical Services at the Promowest Music Pavilion.
- Continued participation with public education in the schools through the juvenile fire starters program and annual fire prevention week poster contest.
- Continued involvement with regional response teams by actively participating in the fire investigation team and supporting efforts of the technical rescue team.
- Upgraded radio communication system, allowing for better communications in larger structures and direct communications with regional police and fire departments.
- Began a search for an assistant fire chief, promoted 1 Battalion Chief, 2 Lieutenants, 3 Engineers, and hired 3 new fire/medics reducing the vacancies and decreasing stress placed on current staff.



The Average Run Response Time is 3.5 Minutes, which is 30 seconds quicker than NFPA standard.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Developed and implemented the Newport Community Services/Quality of Life Division.
- Purchased and installed solar powered stop signs and crosswalks.
- Completed phase one of the I-471 bicycle/pedestrian trail healthy living initiative.
- Developed and implemented the Newport Police Cadet Program.
- Implemented a career development/certification program to encourage advanced education.
- Trained the Criminal Investigations Division on the operation of the Crime Scene Team FARO Crime Scene Mapping system.



Met the state requirement to employ an SRO in every Newport Independent public school.

Expanded the Newport Police Department citywide camera system by purchasing and installing additional cameras.





## PUBLIC SERVICES AND PARKS AND RECREATION

- Continued work on major projects: Festival Park, James Taylor Park, RT 9 underground utilities, Carothers Road, South Monmouth Street, and more.
- Installed youth basketball court, bio-swale, and plantings in Bernadette Watkins Park.
- Excavated an additional 27 spaces for street trees for the West End Citizens Coalition.
- Completed a 5 year review of the floodwall with the Army Corp of Engineers.
- Hired an assistant for Community Services.
- Completed construction projects including the 1000 block of Vastine Alley, the 800 block of Google Alley, and repaired and installed 3 damaged corners and 6 handicap panels.

## Basic Services

Sewer and Road Repairs  
Floodgate Maintenance  
Repair Tree Damaged Walks  
Street Sweeping  
Snow and Ice Removal  
Leaf Pickup  
Streetlight Maintenance

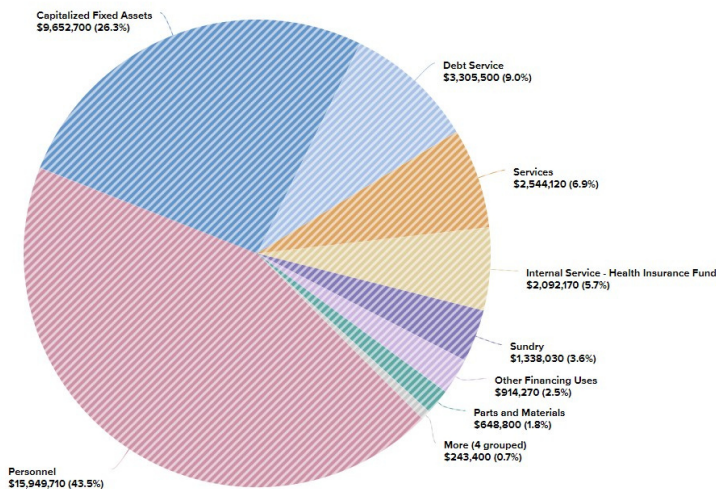


## CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Completed the implementation and transition to an online Building permit system, allowing applicants to apply and pay online anytime and anywhere.
- Completed the City's Recertification of the Community Rating System for Flood Plain Management.
- Completed the update and adoption of new Flood Plain Maps.
- Issued 943 Building Permits and collected \$294,048 in permit fees based on an estimated construction cost of \$98,530,133.
- Integrated the Historic COA permit process with the Building and Zoning Permit process.
- Collected \$530,614 in delinquent taxes, liens, and fees through the City's Legal Department.
- Continued the process of the comprehensive review of the City's zoning code and historic preservation guidelines.

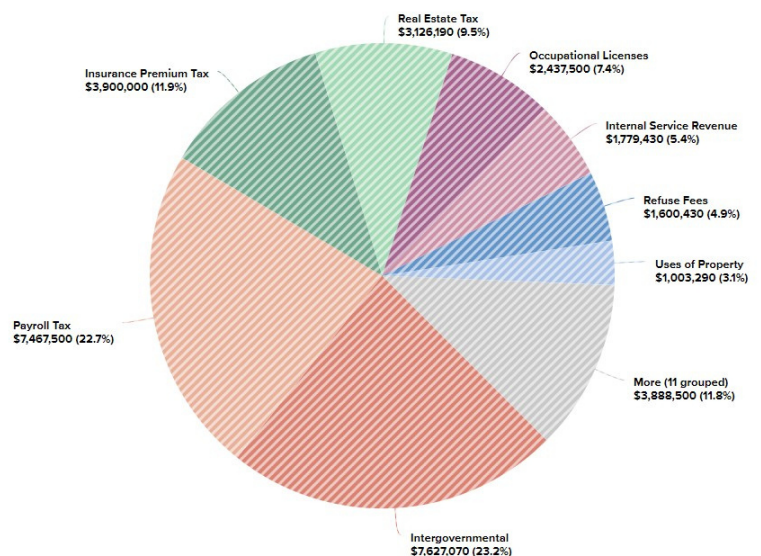
# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Initiated the implementation of Springbrook's 'Extended Budgeting' module.
- Hired a full-time Staff Accountant.
- Converted computer room into secondary vault/ long-term record storage room, which includes a racking system.
- Implemented 'BP & ZP Tracker' system for Building Permit to investigate issues: OL status, unpaid taxes, rental licensing, and ABC issues.
- Fully Implemented the Integration of 'Online Building Permit System (Braintree)' and its inclusion into the General Ledger and Tracker.
- Completed a 'Four-Year Budget Forecast' for Amended FY'22, FY'23, FY'24 and FY'25.
- Brought the Deputy ABC Administrator back into the Finance Department.
- Instituted the Ambulance Provider Assessment Program (APAP) resulting in additional revenues of \$38,510 and tax expense of (\$23,600).



FY21-22  
Revenues

FY21-22  
Expenses



# STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



## 2022 Goals

Goal 1: Strong Vibrant Neighborhoods

Goal 2: Meaningful Places

Goal 3: Economic Prosperity and Resilience

Goal 4: Transportation, Access, Mobility, and Utilities

Goal 5: Environmental Stewardship

Goal 6: Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 7: Good Government

# **Goal 1: Strong Vibrant Neighborhoods**

Newport's neighborhoods are part of its unique identity. A system of strong vibrant neighborhoods with a variety of housing options and quality of life amenities is the foundation to retaining existing residents and attracting newcomers.

## **Police**

- Implement pedestrian crosswalk safety project near city parks.
- Expand Newport Police Department city-wide camera system to specific locations.

## **Fire**

- Continue involvement with Neighborhood Groups.

## **Code Enforcement**

- Enforce/strengthen property maintenance code.
- Continue systematic enforcement of property maintenance code scheduling.

## **Planning and Economic Development**

- Update the Zoning Code and Zoning Map.

# Goal 2: Meaningful Places

Newport will strengthen the connection between its people and the places they share. We will take pride in our history, appreciate and celebrate the many cultures that make up our community. Through frequent dialogue and interactions between our diverse neighborhoods and business districts, we will establish a cohesive and unified identity for Newport in a way that enhances our sense of community. We value public space, public art, entertainment, and our unique blend of historic and contemporary development.

## **General Government/Finance**

- Plan and conduct temporary low-cost events, such as the Car Show.

## **Police**

- Assist in the planning, development, and safety of the second phase of the pedestrian/bike trails.
- Continue expansion of improved of City traffic and parking signals.

## **Fire**

- Pre-incident planning for new Corporex Development.

## **Code Enforcement**

- Continue Historic Preservation Program, encourage federal and state historic tax credits, and promote incentives to encourage historic renovations.
- Continue to look for Historic District expansion opportunities into the Buena Vista Neighborhood.

## **Planning and Economic Development**

- Continue to install public art.
- Create general design criteria/guidelines for new construction and renovation.

## **Capital Projects**

- Enhance Columbia Street as a major entry to Riverboat Row.
- Continue Phases for Monmouth Street Paver Replacement.

# Goal 3: Economic Prosperity and Resilience

Newport's economy will be a balance of vibrant retail districts with lively venues for local and regional visitors, and office/commercial areas that are home to contemporary jobs that provide a living wage for residents and a solid tax base for the community. Newport will be a hub for local entrepreneurs as well as a regional economic driver.

## **Fire**

- Create emergency action plans for all target hazards, identify and establish pre-incident plans for each.
- Continue involvement with regional response teams, actively participate in the fire investigation team, and support efforts of the technical rescue team.

## **Code Enforcement**

- Provide support to businesses navigating the permit and approval process.
- Continue to provide oversight of developments to ensure that they are sustainable and complement existing residents and businesses.

## **Planning and Economic Development**

- Continue to enhance business attraction and retention efforts, including incentive programs.
- Develop a strategy to efficiently market underutilized properties to promote occupancy and infill development.
- Investigate the use of a Monmouth Street Business District improvement Program/Main Street Program.
- Redevelop the Newport Steel site and other economic development projects.

# Goal 4: Transportation, Access, Mobility, and Infrastructure

Newport will have and maintain well-connected and safe multi-modal transportation, communications, and utility networks. Newport will collaborate with communication and electric providers to ensure aesthetic, sustainable, and accessible utilities. Newport will have access to safe and sanitary water and sewer utilities, and will maintain flood and storm water protection infrastructure for the safety of the public.

## **General Government/Finance**

- Create a Coordinated Capital Investment (CCI) team.

## **Police**

- Establish preferred route for KY9 traffic to access the 11th Street Bridge and install signage.
- Conduct a parking management study focused on the CBD.

## **Code Enforcement**

- Develop and implement a policy on installation of adequate conduit functions as part of all roadway improvements and development projects.

## **Planning and Economic Development**

- Include requirements in zoning codes and development agreements for riverfront developers to install public pedestrian and bike crossings connecting from KY8/KY9 to the riverfront.

## **Capital Projects**

- Construct US 27 and Carothers Road streetscape and road diet improvements.
- Continue to evaluate Smart Corridor Improvements along US 27 and Monmouth Street.

# Goal 5: Environment

## Stewardship

Newport values the contributions that trees, parks, rivers, streams, and natural habitats make to human well-being, and recognizes the importance of protecting and enhancing the natural environment. We will do this proactively and in a sustainable manner to ensure our green assets are here for generations to come.

### **Police**

- Research/development of department electric vehicle pilot program.

### **Fire**

- Replacing an ambulance and pick-up truck from 2005 to models with updated emission standards.
- Revamp the business inspection program by moving to paperless.

### **Public Services and Parks and Recreation**

- Continue the tree planting program.
- Continue to maintain and improve existing parks and greenspaces.

### **Code Enforcement**

- Continue strict enforcement of the tree ordinance and landscape requirements for new development.

### **Planning and Economic Development**

- Conduct a traffic study to determine the feasibility of converting one-way streets to two-way streets.

### **Capital Projects**

- Install shoreline stabilization improvements.

# Goal 6: Healthy and Safe Community

Newport will offer a high quality of life that fosters healthy lifestyles where activity is part of everyday life. We will utilize public space, including valuable parks and open space assets, to travel, gather, exercise, recreate, and promote a healthy lifestyle. Newport will have access to local food options, including community gardens. We will provide high levels of service for public safety.

## **Police**

- Continue to develop/enhance community-oriented policing practices.
- Implementation of a drone program to assist with accident reconstruction and crime scene documentation.

## **Fire**

- Expansion of physical health and wellness program with extra consideration given to mental health.

## **Public Services and Parks and Recreation**

- Continue to maintain and improve existing parks and greenspaces.
- Replace outdated and broken equipment.

## **Capital Projects**

- Finalize Festival Park master plan, identify additional funding.
- Complete concept plans for General James Taylor Park.
- Develop a water access plan for the riverfronts.

# Goal 7: Good Government

Newport will continue to provide effective local governance in order to foster an overall high quality of life for our citizens. The City Government will continue to be accessible, open, and fiscally responsible. We will work with regional partners to leverage strengths and resources and make long term capital plans to maintain infrastructure and prepare for the future. We will preserve public safety and increase property values while continually looking for ways to improve our processes and collaborate with others for the benefit of the community.

## **General Government/Finance**

- Improve access and search functions for City Ordinances posted online.
- Create a communications plan for the City.
- Update City's website.
- Continue to collaborate on mutual responses, joint services, purchases, and other opportunities across all departments.

## **Police**

- Collaborate with US-27/Monmouth Street project to implement safety plan and camera placement.
- Increase public relations outreach.
- Continue development and recruitment for Newport Police Cadet program.

## **Code Enforcement**

- Continue to enforce the building and property maintenance codes to preserve quality of life and safety.

## **Fire**

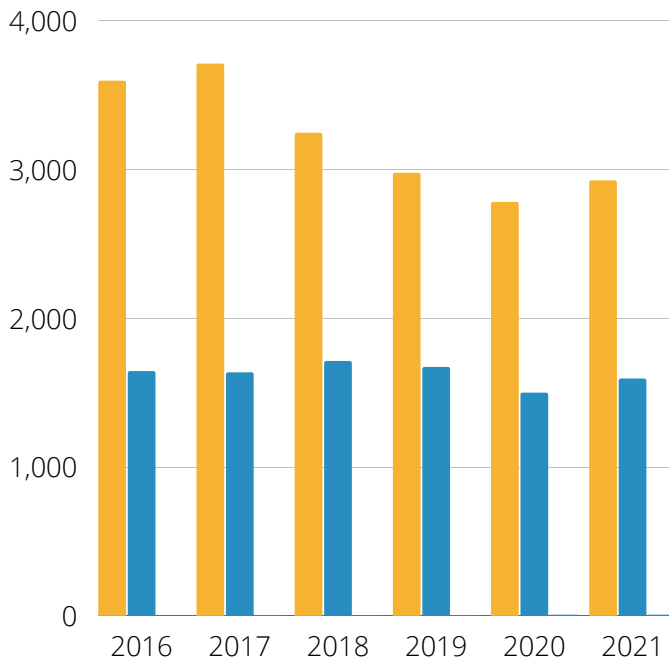
- Achieve and maintain full staff through innovative recruiting.

## **Municipal Projects**

- Continue City building renovations.

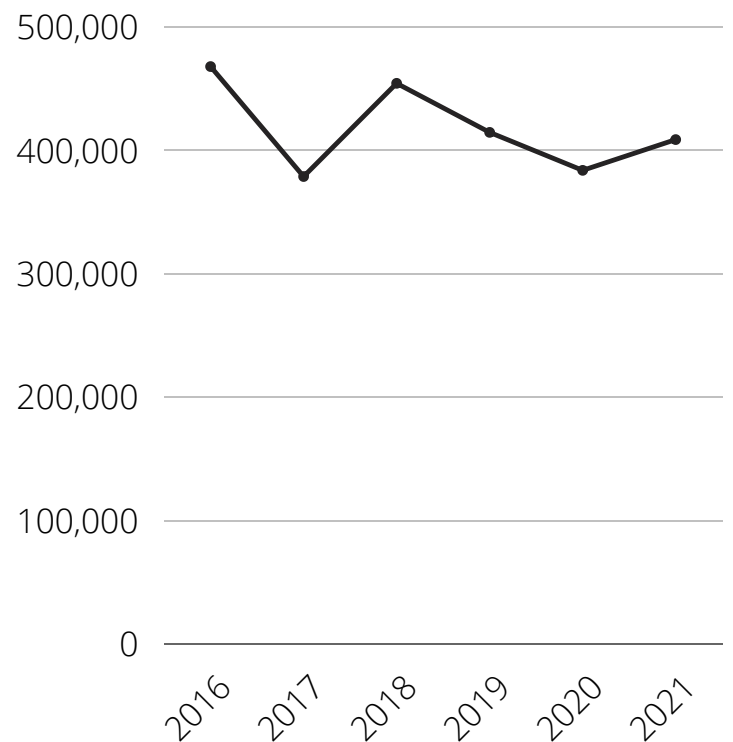
# Fire

## 2021 in Numbers



### Paramedic and Fire Runs

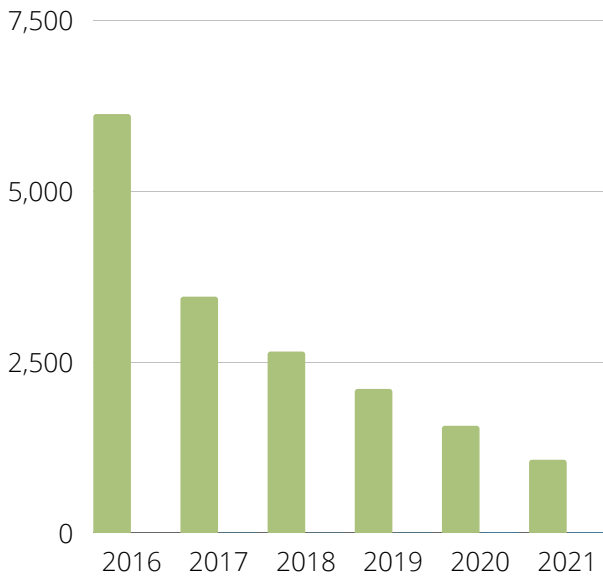
### Ambulance Revenue



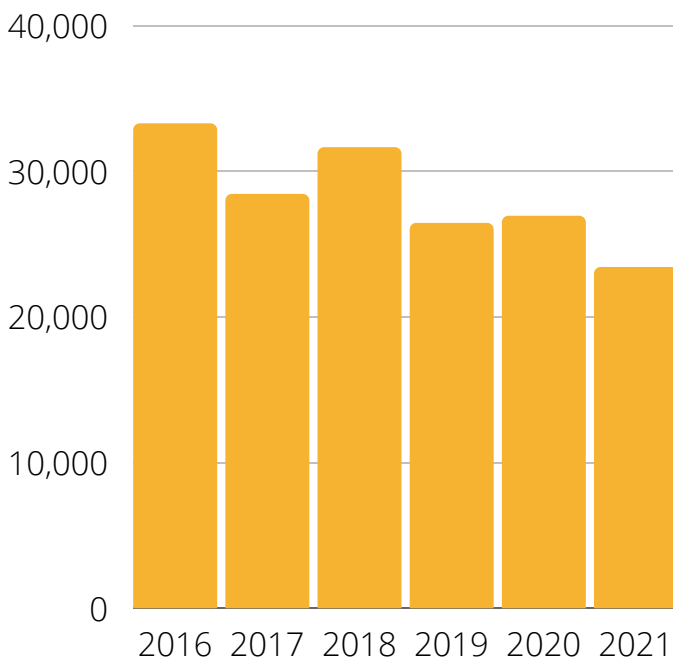
| Fire              | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      | 2020      | 2021      |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Paramedic Runs    | 3,592     | 3,710     | 3,245     | 2,976     | 2,780     | 2,925     |
| Fire Runs         | 1,643     | 1,636     | 1,712     | 1,672     | 1,499     | 1,594     |
| Inspections       | 678       | 573       | 675       | 518       | 334*      | 342*      |
| Ambulance Revenue | \$467,833 | \$387,724 | \$454,249 | \$414,503 | \$383,730 | \$408,658 |

\* Impacted by Covid

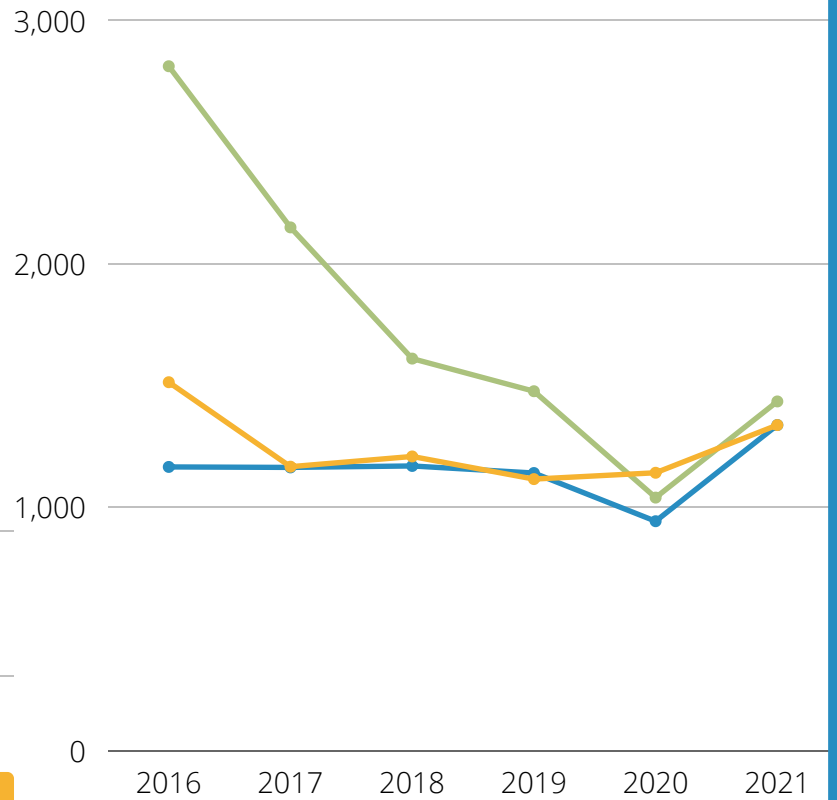
## Physical Arrests



## Police calls



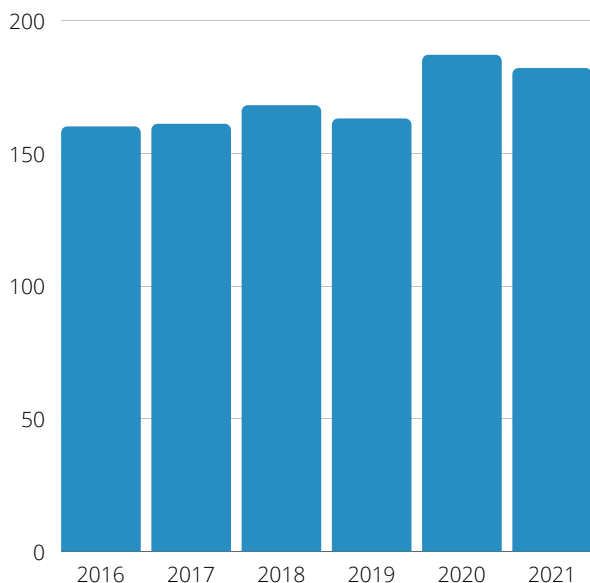
# Police 2021 in Numbers



Traffic citations  
Traffic accident reports  
Offense reports

| Police                    | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      | 2020      | 2021      |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Police Calls              | 33,269    | 28,424    | 31,632    | 26,433    | 26,922    | 23,404    |
| Traffic Citations         | 2,811     | 2,149     | 1,610     | 1,476     | 1,039     | 1,434     |
| Physical Arrests          | 6,116     | 3,450     | 2,646     | 2,100     | 1,562     | 1,065     |
| Traffic Accident Reports  | 1,165     | 1,163     | 1,169     | 1,140     | 942       | 1,133     |
| Offense Reports           | 1,513     | 1,166     | 1,208     | 1,115     | 1,141     | 1,337     |
| Response to Resistance    | 12        | 15        | 15        | 8         | 6         | 6         |
| Parking Violations        | 5,430     | 5,319     | 5,431     | 5,302     | 1,902     | 5,421     |
| Parking Meter Collections | \$234,174 | \$214,992 | \$221,126 | \$224,817 | \$109,948 | \$179,412 |

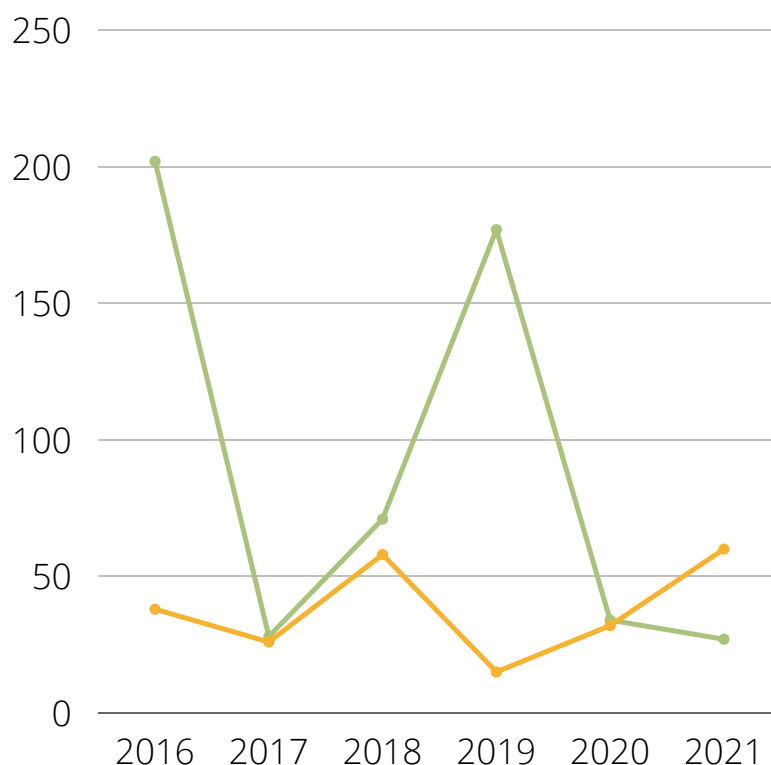
# Public Works and Parks and Recreation



Days streets were swept

Trees planted  
Trees removed

## 2021 in Numbers

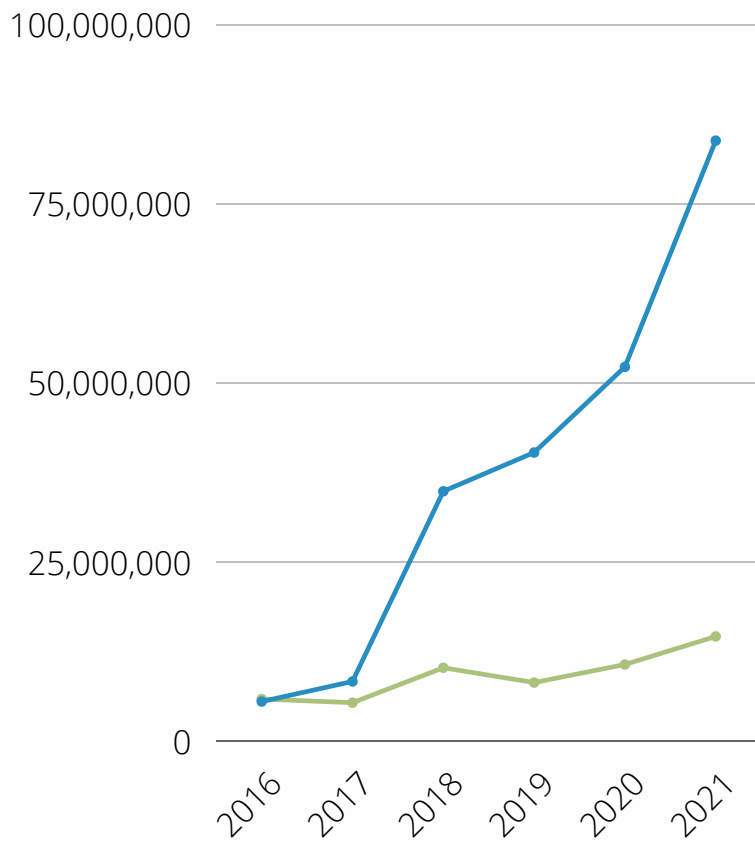


| Public Works              | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Street Miles Paved        | 1.6  | 1.4  | 0    | 3.7  | 0.75 | 1.4  |
| Tons of Asphalt           | 390  | 164  | 98   | 88   | 38   | 41   |
| Potholes Filled           | 3897 | 1640 | 920  | 879  | 390  | 619  |
| Handicap Access Ramps     | 13   | 12   | 10   | 14   | 7    | 8    |
| Trees Removed             | 38   | 26   | 58   | 15   | 32   | 60   |
| Trees Planted             | 212  | 28   | 71   | 177  | 34   | 27   |
| Overtime for Snow Removal | 430  | 135  | 535  | 370  | 69   | 590  |
| Days Street Swept         | 160  | 161  | 168  | 163  | 187  | 182  |
| Field Use/Permits         | 87   | 742  | 396  | 408  | 450  | 471  |
| Streetlights Replaced     | 750  | 600  | 19   | 7    | 6    | 15   |

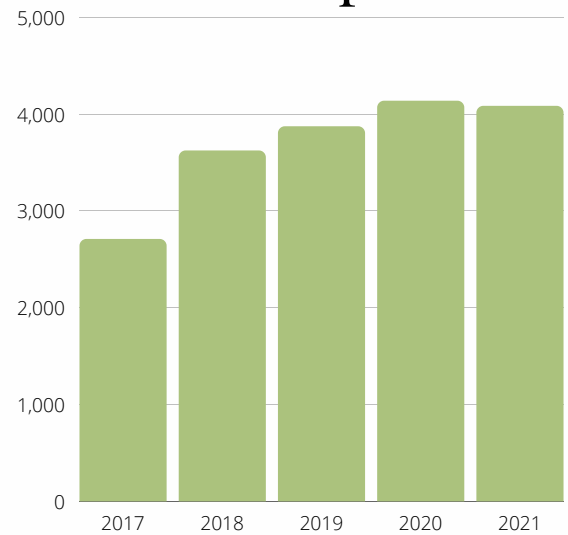
# Code Enforcement

## 2021 in Numbers

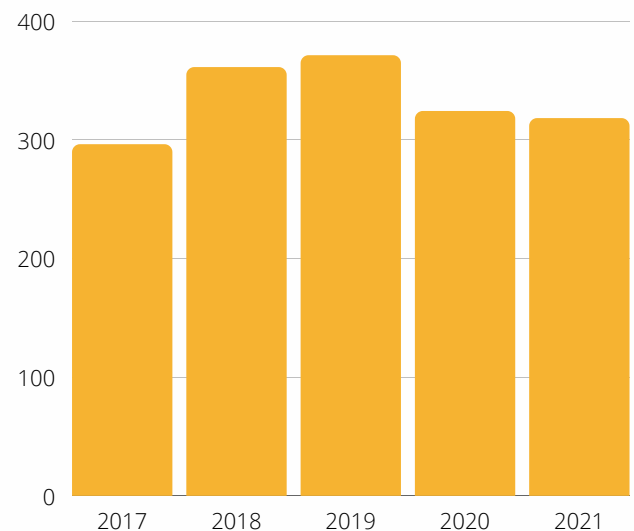
### Residential and Commercial Construction Costs



### Code Inspections



### Historic Preservation COA's Issued



| Code Enforcement                   | 2017        | 2018         | 2019         | 2020         | 2021         |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Code Enforcement Citations         | 555         | 1,339        | 677          | 493          | 408          |
| Code Inspections                   | 2,707       | 3,621        | 3,871        | 4,135        | 4,082        |
| Condemnations                      | 19          | 16           | 11           | 21           | 11           |
| Residential Permits                | 463         | 508          | 642          | 614          | 742          |
| Residential Construction Cost      | \$5,409,907 | \$10,285,311 | \$8,219,777  | \$10,740,398 | \$14,655,400 |
| Residential Permit Fees            | \$48,939    | \$64,522     | \$69,726     | \$82,202     | \$114,084    |
| Commercial Permits                 | 159         | 166          | 200          | 171          | 201          |
| Commercial Permits Cost            | \$8,376,022 | \$34,922,106 | \$40,333,341 | \$52,288,784 | \$83,874,733 |
| Commercial Permit Fees             | \$35,765    | \$101,127    | \$123,436    | \$176,345    | \$179,964    |
| Complaints                         | 1,440       | 1,506        | 1,303        | 1,108        | 705          |
| Historic Preservation COA's Issued | 296         | 361          | 371          | 324          | 318          |

# Thank you for your support



## NEWPORT

KENTUCKY

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