Purpose of Submittal:
Below is the annual update of the Department of Public Safety.

Supporting Information:
The Department of Public Safety is under the direction of Darin Rasmussen, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police, supported by Keith Williams, Assistant Director of Public Safety/Assistant Chief of Police.

The Department’s Strategic Plan pursues three primary goals:
1) Reduce crime, disturbances, and incidents that pose potential threats of violence or create a fear of crime in the community;
2) Strengthen community awareness, involvement and interaction with the Department of Public Safety; and,
3) Develop the organization’s internal capacity and ability to promote and nurture the Community Oriented Policing philosophy among departmental personnel.

State Level Participation
Chief Rasmussen participates on the University Policing Committee of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). WASPC is the state’s recognized professional organization for law enforcement related issues and has significant influence in Olympia. The University Policing Committee meets several times a year. This committee has a mutual aid agreement among the six university police agencies for responding to major disasters or events, and a “best practice” policy for dealing with threats of violence and response to violent situations on campus.

Community Participation
Staff actively participate in professional associations and task force programs, including community committees, professional law enforcement associations, community-based crime suppression and safety task forces, and campus committees.
In partnership with Western’s Office of Off-campus Living and the Bellingham Police Department, the Department of Public Safety actively participates to address neighborhood issues that draw citizen complaints over noise, traffic, littering, and other behavioral issues. It is part of Western’s commitment to keep our students safe and be a “good neighbor” to the communities around Western’s campus.

The University Police Department continues its strong working relationship with the Bellingham Police Department, and Chief of Police David Doll, as well as with the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office and Sheriff Bill Elfo. This collaboration includes participation in the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Special Events Team for planned and unplanned disturbances.

Two of Western’s University Police Officers continue to serve as members of the Bellingham Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) and participate actively in joint training operations in the neighborhoods surrounding the University.

University Police Officers participated with other agencies throughout Whatcom County in emphasis of traffic enforcement activities. These activities included DUI emphasis patrols and general traffic enforcement.

**WWU Programs**

The Department of Public Safety utilizes uniformed police officers who present programs to the community dealing with Crime Prevention, Personal Safety, Property Protection, Substance Abuse, and other topics.

The Bicycle and Skateboard Patrol Program coordinates bicycle and skateboard safety efforts to heighten awareness of University regulations, and to allow more personalized contact with students, faculty, and staff. Officers engage in educational awareness efforts to make bicyclists and skateboarders aware of the rules affecting them, and a strong enforcement effort to hold violators who continue to ignore the rules in place for the “walk zones” accountable.

The Department works with University partners to improve safety practices for programs involving children at Western, and completes hundreds of criminal history checks for Compass 2 Campus program student volunteers annually.

The Department provides “Behaviors of Concern - Violence Prevention” training sessions for students, faculty and staff upon request. These sessions include two video presentations, “Options for Consideration” and “Flashpoint”. For easy access, the videos link from the Department’s homepage, as does Western’s “Emergency Preparedness” video.

The Campus Public Safety Advisory Council is co-chaired by the Director of Public Safety and the Director of University Residences. The Council is advisory and consultative, focused on programs, policies and procedures, and is comprised of a cross section of the University community including: students, faculty and staff, as well as identified members of the external community. It assists the Director of Public Safety and the Department in remaining responsive to the needs of the University community and by providing input on issues surrounding public safety, crime abatement, and campus security. For 2019-2020 the Council is considering the potential value of utilizing body-worn cameras by University Police Officers with an anticipated recommendation to the Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs in spring quarter. The Council meets several times a year, or as needed.
**Emergency Response and Notifications**

Through close working relationships with the Office of Communications and Marketing, the Dean of Students Office and the Environmental Health and Safety Office, a multi-faceted alert system makes it possible to notify students, faculty, and staff via text messaging and email within minutes of an event that may pose an immediate threat to the University. This system also uses the current fire alarm system to facilitate voice messages to be transmitted throughout University buildings and incorporates Desktop Notification, which sends a similar notification through all networked University computers.

The Department is in full compliance with FBI and Washington State Patrol requirements for security standards for all Western staff who may meet or work in those areas that contain confidential criminal justice information.

The Department leads a Safety Assessment Team (Threat Assessment) of representatives from Enrollment and Student Services, Judicial Affairs, University Police Department, Counseling Services, Residential Life, Student Health Center, and University Communications and Marketing. The team is in full compliance with the guidelines recommended by the National Behavioral Intervention Team Association (NaBITA) for its approach to potential issues of concern at the University. The team meets on a routine basis, as well as when necessary to deal with potentially threatening situations, and to strengthen the collective ability to resolve or mitigate issues of concern. This collaborative team of professionals has functioned well to respond to several serious incidents affecting the University.

The Department of Public Safety and the Office of Communications and Marketing annually conduct alert system tests in fall, winter and spring quarters.

**Professional Standards and Training**

Professional standards and training form a cornerstone in the development of competent police officers and civilian personnel, and are a requirement of the accreditation standards. Officers are expected to demonstrate mental and physical skills that include strong written and verbal communication abilities, knowledge of relevant laws, officer safety techniques, and proficiency at skills that support proper patrol procedures.

In 2019 all University Police Officers met or exceeded the state required hours of training in areas specifically related to their jobs. These included training in firearms, defensive tactics, active shooter training, crisis intervention, lethal force, and RAVE emergency messaging training. A priority this year was training officers in Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Investigation Training and in Basic Clery Awareness, which was presented by University of Washington Police Major Steve Rittereiser. Assistant Chief Williams attended the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Agencies (IACLEA) Annual Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia as part of the Department’s efforts for IACLEA accreditation certification.

In October 2019 the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management, Environmental Health and Safety, and the Office of Communications and Marketing conducted a drill/exercise at a University-owned building for its police officers. The exercise simulated a 7.7 earthquake and required the officers to practice real-life situations of rescue. The exercise included using student and community actors playing victims, as well as members of the press. An exercise/drill of this nature is required for universities by the Jeanne Clery Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act.
**State and Federal Reporting**

The Jeanne Clery Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act, passed by Congress in 1990, and continually modified, is in response to concerns about crime and security at post-secondary education institutions. This Act requires institutions to disclose information about university safety policies and procedures, and to provide statistics concerning whether certain crimes took place at the university. The program is a mandatory nationwide reporting effort that tracks statistical information of the seven most serious criminal offenses within geographical areas and reporting districts.

The Department of Public Safety and Enrollment and Student Services compile the on-going annual crime statistics for publication and ensure compliance with Federal Register guidelines. Updated information is provided annually for new and returning students, staff, and faculty. Police agencies also report monthly activity through the National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS) segment of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program administered by the FBI. Specific required crime and fire information is included in Clery Act (Student Right-to-Know) reporting, along with information about alcohol and drug law violations, weapons possession, and incidents of student misconduct.

Following the 2018 audit conducted by the Office of the Internal Auditor, the Department co-led a University-wide effort with the Assistant Dean of Students to address nine recommendations to improve compliance with the Clery Act. As part of this effort, the University funded a part-time Clery Compliance Coordinator position for the Department of Public Safety, as well as a project position to assist with the organization of improved reporting mechanisms for Clery-related crime data.

In March 2019, D. Stafford and Associates, a consulting firm that specializes in Clery compliance, conducted a two-day on-site assessment that resulted in additional recommendations to improve compliance based on industry standards and best practices.

**Highlighted Improvements**

- A more compliant Daily Crime and Fire Log.
- Reasonable and easily understood criteria for timely warnings and emergency notification messaging.
- Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) were identified and trained, and two four-hour CSA training sessions were conducted in November 2019 by Major Steve Rittereiser, University of Washington, for all University Police Officers.
- The 2018 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASFSR), published in September 2019, is the most comprehensive and compliant document to date, and is available at: [https://www.wwu.edu/vpess/docs/2019-20 Clery Report FINAL.pdf](https://www.wwu.edu/vpess/docs/2019-20 Clery Report FINAL.pdf)