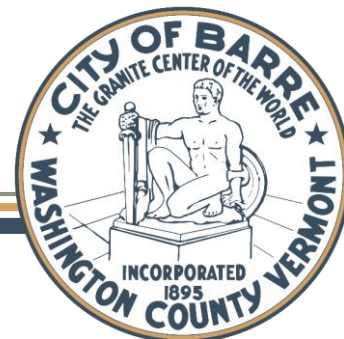




PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM

JANUARY 13, 2025
ALUMNI HALL



WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S FORUM

- **Purpose:** Hear from residents directly about higher levels/intensity of quality of life complaints.
- **Goal:** Inform residents about City efforts to address quality of life concerns, hear about enforcement, judicial system and statutory challenges and barriers.
- **State/City Officials:** Police Chief Brad Vail, State's Attorney Michelle Donnelly, Barre City Councilors, Representatives and Senators.
- **Format:** City officials to make brief presentation, opportunity for State officials to make brief remarks, comments from the public (2 minutes each, strictly enforced).



The poster features a blue and white color scheme with a background image of a classical building. In the top right corner, there is a circular seal with the text 'THE GRANITE CENTER OF THE WORLD' and '1895'. The main title 'PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM' is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, it says 'Join City leaders and State's Attorney Michelle Donnelly to:'. A list of topics is provided, including quality of life concerns, police response, justice system perspective, and upcoming initiatives. Event details include the date (Monday, January 13), time (5:30 PM - 7:00 PM), location (2nd Floor Conference Room, Alumni Hall), and Zoom meeting information (ID: 840 2971 6053, Passcode: 069912). The website 'www.barrecity.org' is listed at the bottom.

PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM

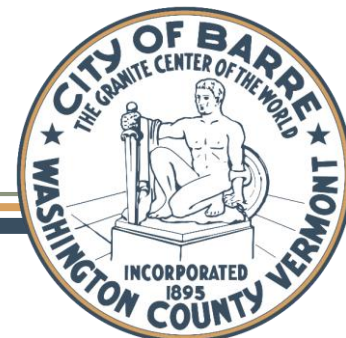
Join City leaders and State's Attorney Michelle Donnelly to:

- Hear about quality of life concerns
- Police Department response
- Justice system perspective
- Next steps and upcoming initiatives
- Share your concerns and be heard

Monday, January 13
5:30 PM- 7:00PM
2nd Floor Conference Room,
Alumni Hall
(20 Auditorium Hill)

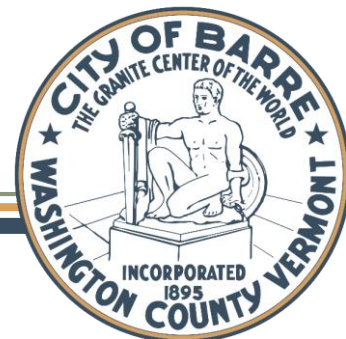
Meeting ID: 840 2971 6053
Passcode: 069912

Website
www.barrecity.org



LOCAL IMPACT IN BARRE CITY

- Higher levels of criminal activity has been reported and observed locally
 - Vandalism in City Hall Park
 - Overnight parking at Auditorium and Cow Pasture with associated littering
 - Litter/refuse in public parks and playgrounds
 - Suspected drug use and activity
 - Open containers and smoking in City parks
 - Petty theft reported by City merchants
 - Aggressive panhandling and harassment



STATEWIDE ISSUE, NOT ONLY IN BARRE

PUBLIC SAFETY



Crime steadily rises, stolen vehicles spike in Hinesburg

There have been 51 cases of vehicles stolen or recovered in Hinesburg this year, according to Cambridge. Last year there were 12; in 2022 there were four and in 2021 there was only 1.



Burlington pastor says church 'under siege' from drug users, homeless



Concerns continue over safety and increasing violence in Burlington



'It's overwhelming': In St. Albans City, petty crime prompts frustrated residents to organize

Neighborhood watch groups have started up to keep an eye out for illegal behavior. But some fear rhetoric on social media has reached a boiling point.



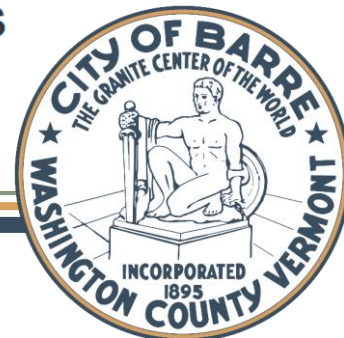
Brattleboro seeks to boost police presence to address rising crime

BRATTLEBORO — Amid a crescendo of complaints about drug dealing and related illegal acts, local leaders are seeking to add more police staff and space to fight a community-wide rise in crime.



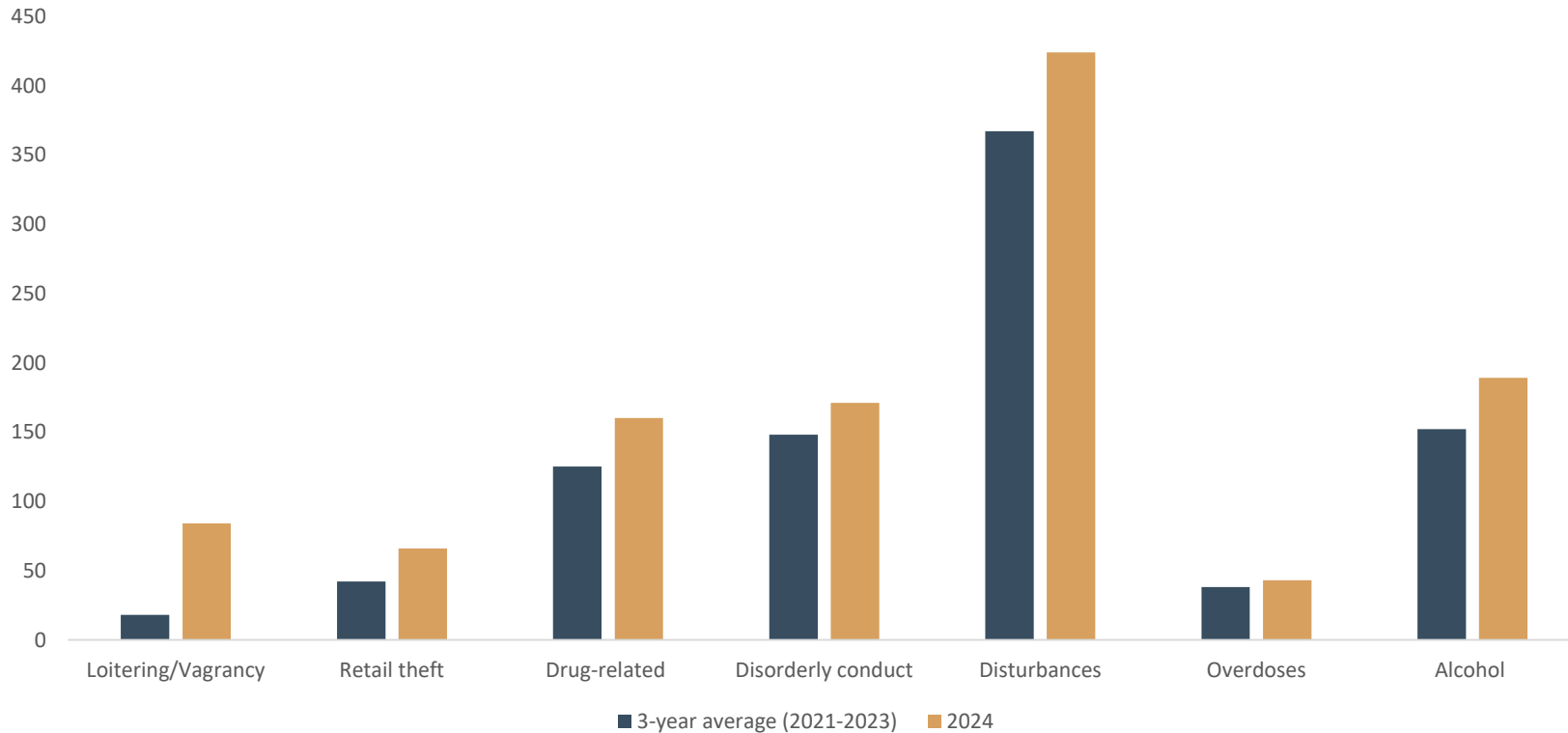
Barre Town officials join chorus complaining about increased crime, lack of accountability for offenders

By Eric Blaisdell Staff Writer Jan 8, 2025



PERCEPTIONS ON INCREASED CRIME BACKED BY DATA

Quality of Life Complaints
3-year average vs. 2024

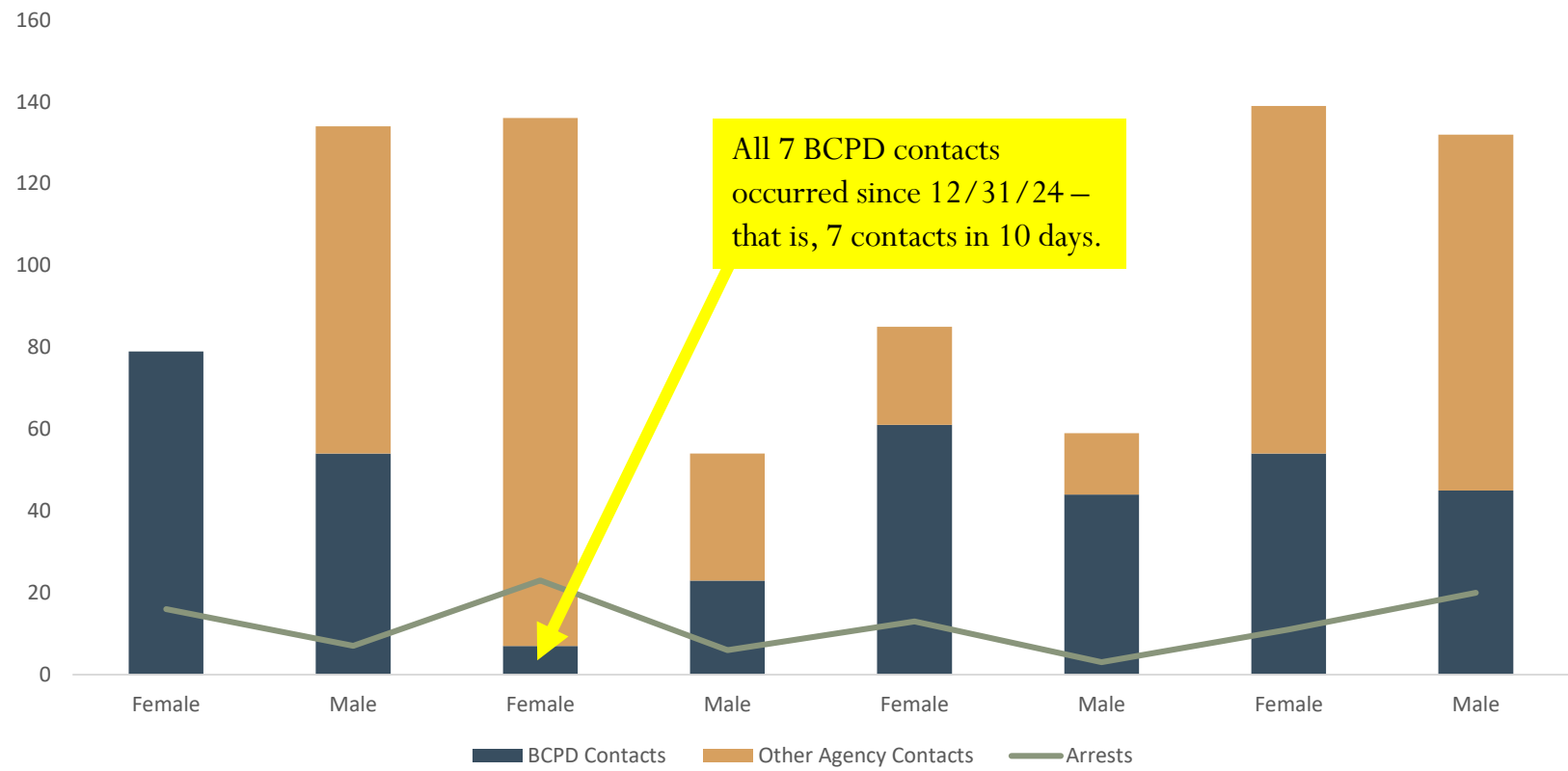


Across the board, complaints related to quality of life issues are on the rise in 2024 compared to the prior three years (2021-2023).



FREQUENT AND REPEATED POLICE CONTACTS WITH SAME INDIVIDUALS

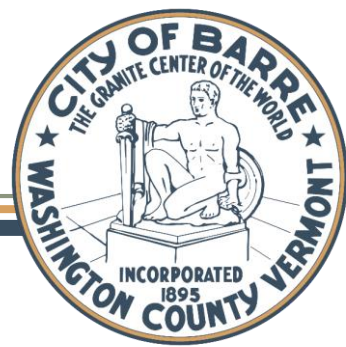
Recurring Offenders



All 7 BCPD contacts occurred since 12/31/24 – that is, 7 contacts in 10 days.

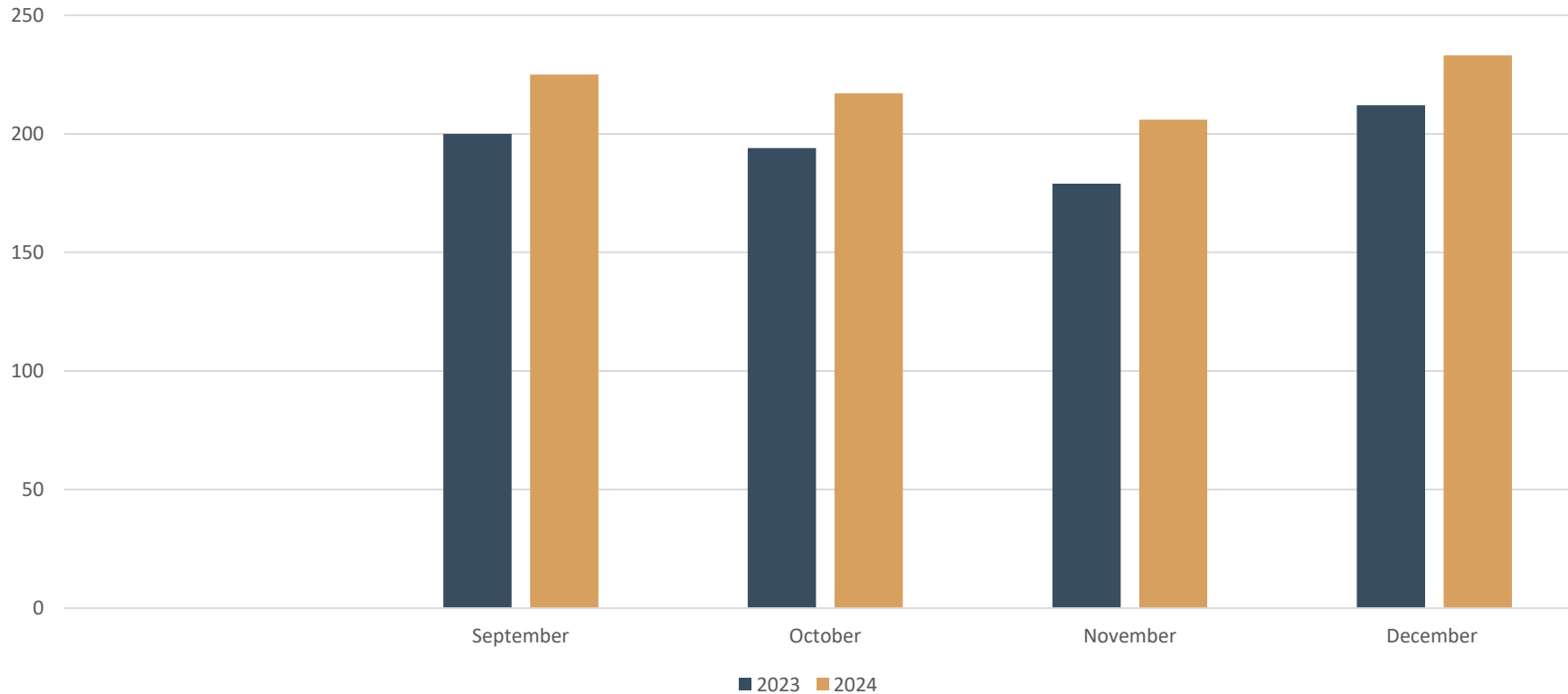
Individuals with 8 highest contacts accounted for 367 BCPD contacts in 2024 and 451 contacts with other agencies.

Only 1 of these individuals is currently lodged by law enforcement.

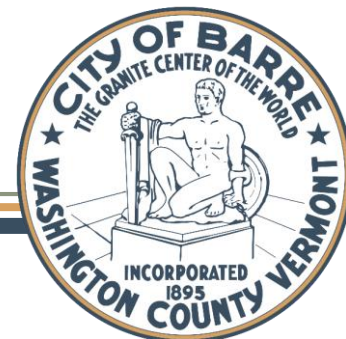


INCREASE IN EMS CALLS

Increase in EMS Calls
2023 vs. 2024



There has been a 12.2% increase in EMS calls when comparing September – December 2023 to 2024.



CITY RESPONSE

Goal:

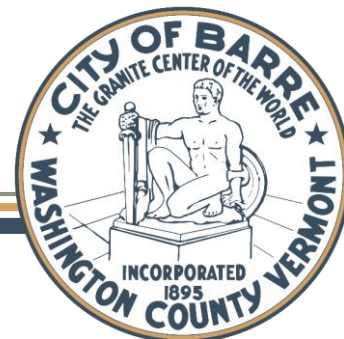
- Show empathy for those in need of medical attention, mental health supports, food/water, and other services.
- Recognize that we have an obligation to the ~8,000 other residents of Barre who wish to recreate and use public spaces with their families free from criminal or substance abuse interference.

- Increased Police Department foot patrols this summer in hot spots with dedicated OT shifts focused solely on quality of life enforcement
 - Core downtown/City Hall Park
 - Churches, People's Health & Wellness lots
 - Auditorium/Cow Pasture parking lots
 - Focus on alleged criminal complaints
- Increased litter/trash pick up by Facilities and DPW
- Engaging with local stakeholders and fellow municipalities on best practices and available supports



CONSIDER PUBLIC CONDUCT ORDINANCE

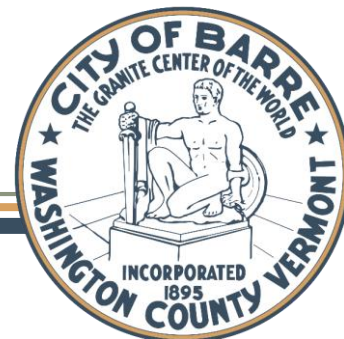
- Similar ordinance passed by Brattleboro select board. Ordinance was overturned by representative special town meeting.
- **Purpose of the ordinance:**
 - Establish boundaries on acceptable community conduct in shared public spaces
 - Issue municipal tickets/notice of trespass on individuals whose conduct is harmful, dangerous, illegal, or unreasonably disruptive
- **Status of the ordinance:** Nothing has been proposed yet to the City Council.
 - This ordinance is being considered by staff as one tool to allow BCPD to address rising quality of crime complaints.



GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE

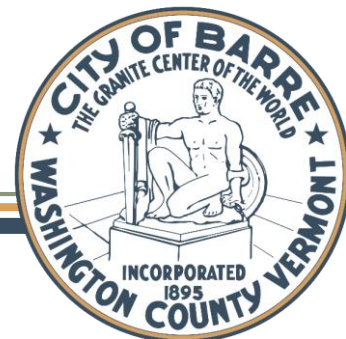
- Establish behavioral no trespass zones where boundaries on behavior will be enforced:
 - Within 200 feet of schools
 - All public parks, playgrounds, cemeteries, recreation facilities
 - Within 50 feet of ATMs, parking kiosks/meters, vending machines, gasoline pumps
 - City Hall, Barre Opera House, Public Safety Building, Auditorium, BOR, Aldrich Library and Alumni Hall

Areas selected to encourage settings that are suitable for all ages, safe handling of money, and welcoming public forums accessible to all members of the community.



GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE

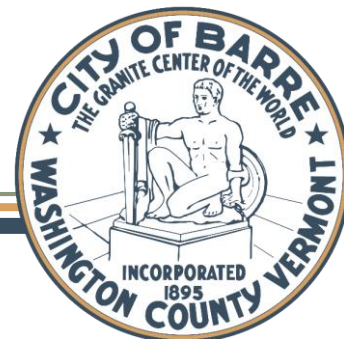
- Establish prohibited behaviors in the identified areas
 - **Class A:** Possession, use, sale of drugs, injury or harm to another person (challenging to a fight), threats of physical harm, sexual or lewd behavior (\$200 fine)
 - **Class B:** being under the influence of drugs/alcohol, open containers, public urination/defecation, destroying/vandalizing City property, interfering with passage of people on public right-of-ways, abusive/profane/threatening/harassing language, unreasonable noise (\$50 fine)
 - **Class C:** Failing to abide by City rules or reasonable directions of City staff related to rules/policy, leaving personal items unattended (\$25 fine)

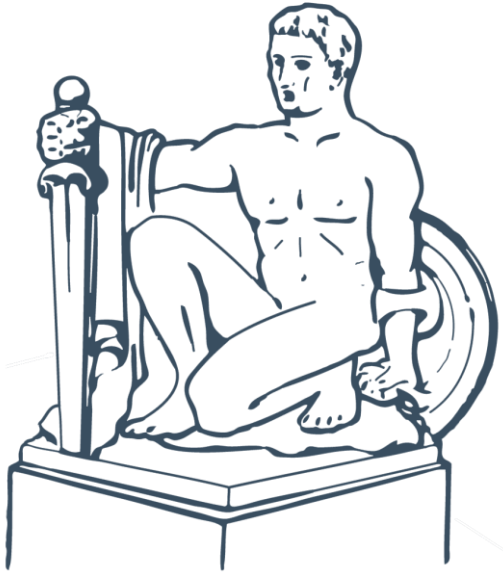


FEEDBACK SOUGHT TONIGHT

- Share your experiences/concerns with rising quality of life complaints.
- Make suggestions about how you think City and State officials can address your concerns.
- Provide feedback on possible acceptable conduct ordinance.
 - No specific language to respond to at this moment. Any ordinance that is proposed would require City Council approval (including presentation of specific language).
 - Brattleboro ordinance is a model, but not necessarily the exact approach Barre City needs to take.
 - Provide general feedback on the tenets of the potential ordinance.

- Forum will conclude promptly at 7PM.
- Speakers will be limited to 2 minutes each.
- Second round of comments (time permitting) after all other attendees have had an opportunity to speak once.





THANK YOU

WWW.BARRECITY.ORG



@BARRECITYVT

