



Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee Meeting

July 7, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

This meeting is recorded for public record.

Committee Members:

Bryan Travis, Chair

Brian McGinnis

Lisa Kearns

Chief of Police: Joshua Lee

Director of Parks & Recreation: Keith Kurowski

Borough Manager: Sean Metrick

Fire Chief: Mark Scanlon

Director of Operations Good Fellowship Ambulance Club: Justin Robbins

Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee Meeting:

I. Call to Order

II. Announcements

- A. There will be a Public Hearing on August 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM to amend an Ordinance of the Borough of West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania, amending the Code of the Borough of West Chester, Chapter 112 titled "Zoning" to amend Section 112-202 to amend the definition for retail store or shop and to add a definition for tobacco store/smoke shop; Section 112-304.c to add a tobacco store/smoke shop as a use permitted by Conditional Use in the TC Town Center and CS Commercial Service districts; and to add a new Section 112-917 to adopt regulations for tobacco store/smoke shops. (attachment)

III. Comments

Comments, suggestions, petitions by residents, taxpayers and visitors in attendance regarding items that are not on the agenda. Please be advised there is a 5-minute time limit which is at the discretion of the Council President and/or Chair.

IV. Reports

- A. Monthly WCFD Report
- B. Monthly WCPD Report
- C. Monthly GFAC Report
- D. Public Safety Committee – Chair Report

V. Old Business

- A. Motion to Approve June 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting minutes (attachment)

- B. Motion to approve an Ordinance to Prohibit Sale, Manufacture & Public Use of Kratom, Kratom-Derived Products and Concentrated 7-OH Substances. (attachment)
- C. Discuss Unruly Social Gathering Ordinance and Criteria
Issue: Mass gatherings in residential areas.

VI. New Business

- A. Special Event Applications (SEAs) (attachments)
Issue: Approve Special Event Permits
Mount Carmel Block Party - (E Miner St b/w Bolmar & Poplar) - 7 25 2026
Set up 8 am - 12 pm; Event 12-4 pm; Breakdown 4-5 pm
- B. Motion to approve request from the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County to hang ribbons in downtown West Chester; and, approval to hang ribbons along Church and High Streets along the WCU campus
Item: Approval for ribbon hanging in the West Chester Borough

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

Visit www.west-chester.com for access to all attachments.

Agendas are posted to www.west-chester.com by noon 3 business days prior to the meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ - 2026

BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER

CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, CHAPTER 112 TITLED “ZONING” TO AMEND SECTION 112-202 TO AMEND THE DEFINITION FOR RETAIL STORE OR SHOP AND TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR TOBACCO STORE/SMOKE SHOP; SECTION 112-304.C TO ADD A TOBACCO STORE/SMOKE SHOP AS A USE PERMITTED BY CONDITIONAL USE IN THE TC TOWN CENTER AND CS COMMERCIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS; AND TO ADD A NEW SECTION 112-917 TO ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR TOBACCO STORE/SMOKE SHOPS.

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED and it is hereby enacted by authority of the Council of the Borough of West Chester that Chapter 112 of the Code of the Borough of West Chester, titled “Zoning” shall be amended as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 112-202, titled “Definitions”, shall be amended to amend the following definition:

RETAIL STORE OR SHOP

An enterprise engaged in the sale of goods or merchandise to the general public, and the rendering of services incidental to such sale, for items such as antiques, books, beverages, confections, dry goods, flowers and plants, foodstuffs, gifts, garden supplies, hardware, household appliances, jewelry, notions, paint, periodicals, stationary, or wearing apparel, including a dispensary. A retail store or shop which maintains 20% or more of its total display area for the sale of tobacco, tobacco products, Delta (8, 9, 10) or THC products, kratom, ingestible CBD products or materials, or vaping products shall be considered a tobacco store/smoke shop for the purposes of this Chapter.

SECTION 2. Section 112-202, titled “Definitions”, shall be amended to add the following definition:

TOBACCO STORE/SMOKE SHOP- A retail store or shop primarily engaged in selling tobacco and/or tobacco products, CBD, THC, kratom, and/or vaping products. A retail store or shop which maintains 20% or more of its total display area for the sale of tobacco and/or tobacco products and vaping products shall be considered a tobacco store/smoke shop for the purposes of this Chapter. A retail store or shop which holds itself out as a “tobacco store”, a “smoke shop”, a “vape shop” or similar establishment, shall also be considered a “tobacco store/smoke shop” for the purposes of this Chapter. Examples of

vaping products referred to in this Chapter include, without limitation, vaporizers, vape pens, vapor products, hookah pens, electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, e-cigs, e-pipes and any other electronic nicotine delivery systems (“ENDS”). ENDS shall be deemed noncombustible tobacco products. Tobacco products as referred to in this Chapter shall include, without limitation, matches, lighters, hookahs, pipes, chewing tobacco, cigarette rolling machines, ashtrays, pipe tools, pipe supplies and pipe accessories.

SECTION 3. Section 112-304.C and the table of uses permitted by conditional use in the TC Town Center and CS Commercial Service District shall be amended to add the following use:

8. Tobacco Store/Smoke Shop.

SECTION 4. A new Section 112-917 titled, “Standards for tobacco store/smoke shop” shall be added and provide as follows:

“§112-917. Standards for tobacco store/smoke shop.

- A. In addition to the requirements in § **112-1008** that apply to all uses permitted by conditional use, tobacco stores/smoke shops shall also comply with the standards and criteria in this section.
- B. The following standards shall apply to a tobacco store/smoke shop which is permitted by conditional use in the TC Town Center and CS Commercial Service District.
 - (1) A tobacco store/smoke shop shall be located a minimum of 500 feet from another lot where there is a building or structure used as a tobacco store/smoke shop, as measured from the property line.
 - (2) A tobacco store/smoke shop shall be located a minimum of 500 feet from another lot where there is a building or structure or a lot that is used as a school, religious use, public recreation facility, day care center, school bus stop or library, as measured from the property line.
 - (3) A tobacco store/smoke shop shall not be permitted on a lot or within a building that is improved with a residential dwelling or dwellings.
 - (4) Persons under the age of 18 shall not be permitted to enter a tobacco store/smoke shop without a parent or legal guardian. Businesses shall be responsible for verifying the age of consumers. Exterior signage shall be provided stating that minors are prohibited from entering the facility without a parent or legal guardian.
 - (5) Tobacco stores/smoke shops shall not employ persons under the age of 18.

- (6) The sale of tobacco and vape products through self-service displays in a tobacco store/smoke shop shall be prohibited.
- (7) Food sales shall be prohibited within a tobacco store/smoke shop.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any sentence, clause, section or part of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts hereof. It is hereby declared as the intent of Council of the Borough of West Chester that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included therein.

SECTION 6. REPEALER. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances conflicting with any provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective upon enactment as provided by law.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

**COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH
OF WEST CHESTER**

Sean Metrick, Secretary

By: _____
Nicole Scimone, President

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Lillian L. DeBaptiste, Mayor



West Chester Fire Department

401 EAST GAY STREET

◆ WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380 ◆

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Monthly Report June 2026

Incident Summary

Total Incidents for the Month:	157
West Chester Borough:	73
East Bradford Township:	17
West Goshen Township:	28
Birmingham Township:	1
Thornbury Township:	13
Westtown Township:	13
Mutual Aid Responses:	12
Total Time in Service:	63:10:12
Average Manpower:	7.2

Total Incidents for the Year:	984
West Chester Borough:	418
East Bradford Township:	106
West Goshen Township:	212
Birmingham Township:	16
Thornbury Township:	45
Westtown Township:	82
Mutual Aid Responses:	105
Total Time in Service:	432:36:21
Average Manpower:	7.9

Training and Activity Summary

For the Month	
Total Training Hours:	1081
Total Activity Hours:	1023

For the Year	
Total Training Hours:	6385
Total Activity Hours:	8827

Property and Contents Loss

For the Month		
	Property	Contents
Pre-Incident Value:	\$600,000.00	\$350,000.00
Estimated Loss:	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00

For the Year		
	Property	Contents
Pre-Incident Value:	\$37,140,900.00	\$34,488,100.00
Estimated Loss:	\$3,640,600.00	\$1,793,820.00

Significant Incidents

- Vehicle Fire / W Miner Street, East Bradford Township
- Building Fire / E Gay Street, West Goshen Township
- Dumpster Fire / E Washington Street, West Chester Borough
- Brush Fire / Route 202, West Goshen Township



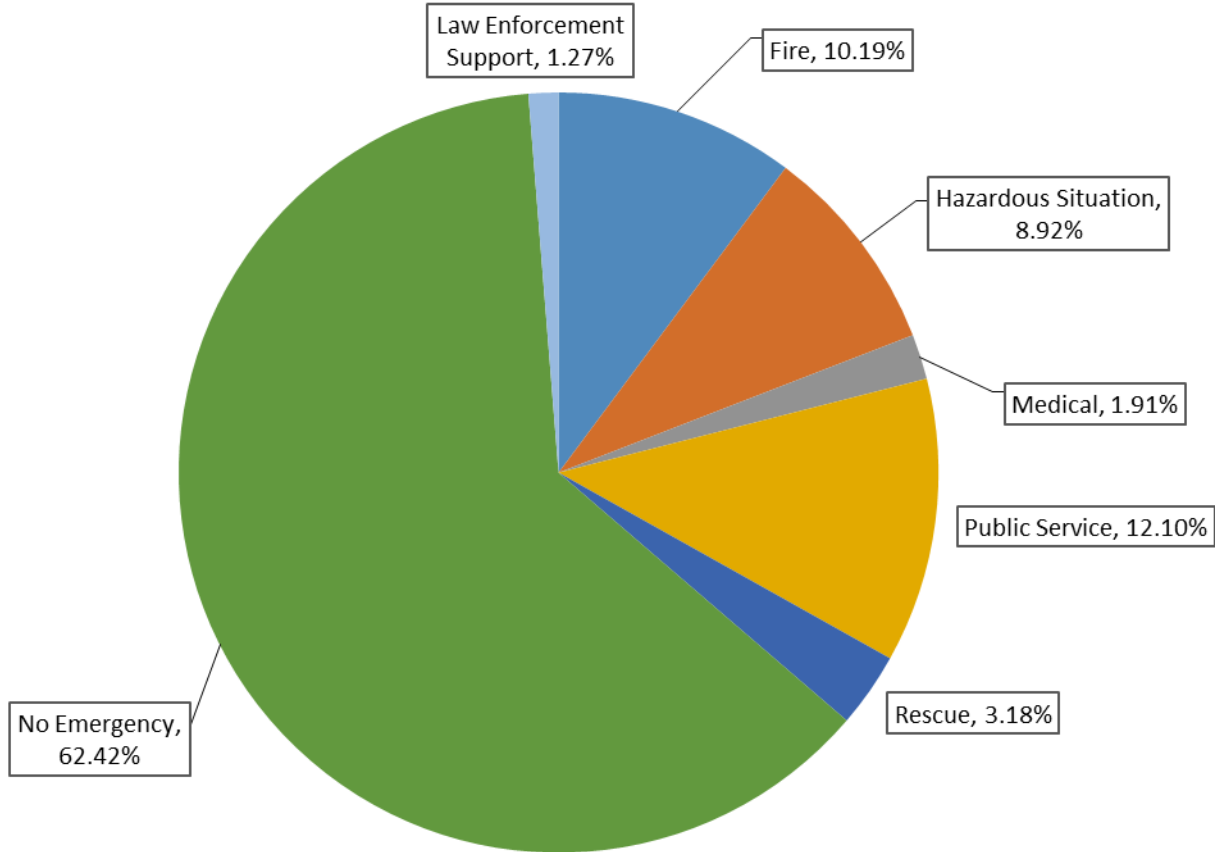
West Chester Fire Department

401 EAST GAY STREET

◆ WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380 ◆

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Major Incident Types June 2026



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fire	16	10.19%
Hazardous Situation	14	8.92%
Medical	3	1.91%
Public Service	19	12.10%
Rescue	5	3.18%
No Emergency	98	62.42%
Law Enforcement Support	2	1.27%
Total	157	100.00%



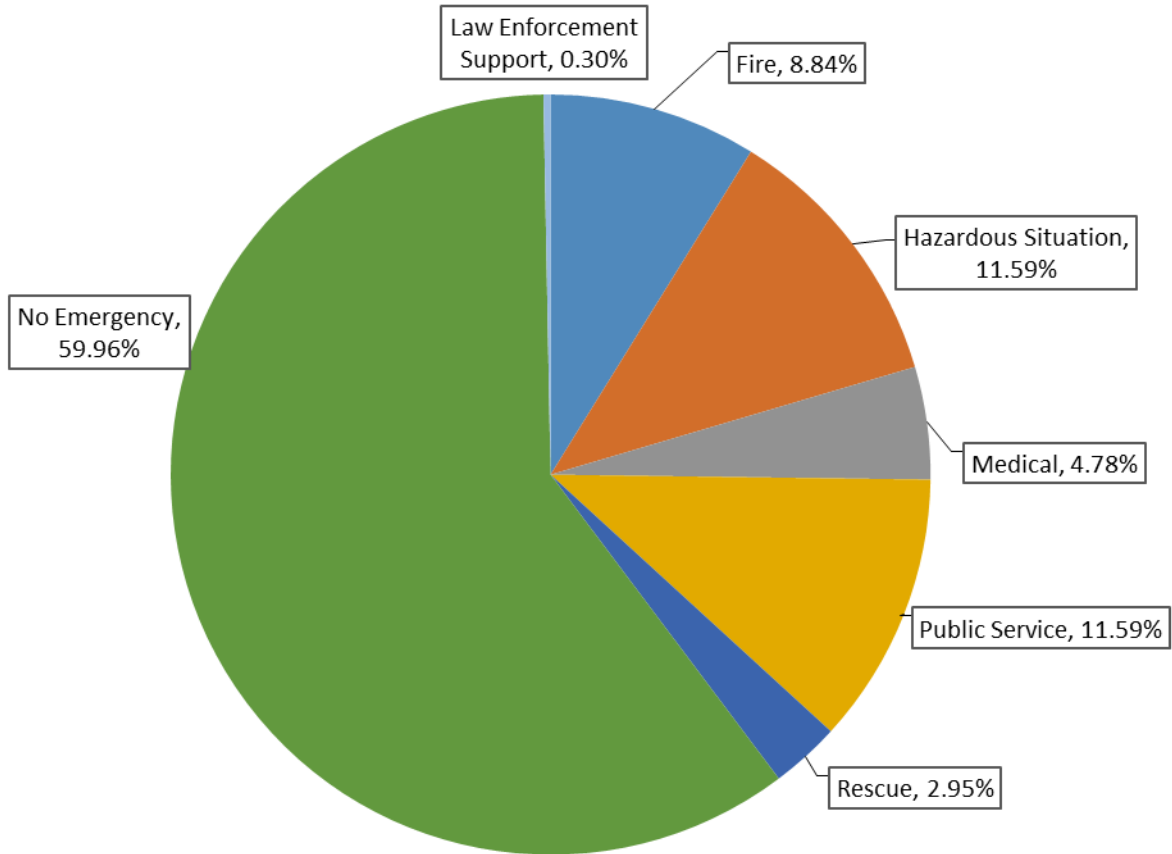
West Chester Fire Department

401 EAST GAY STREET

◆ WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380 ◆

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Major Incident Types 2026



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fire	87	8.84%
Hazardous Situation	114	11.59%
Medical	47	4.78%
Public Service	114	11.59%
Rescue	29	2.95%
No Emergency	590	59.96%
Law Enforcement Support	3	0.30%
Total	984	100.00%



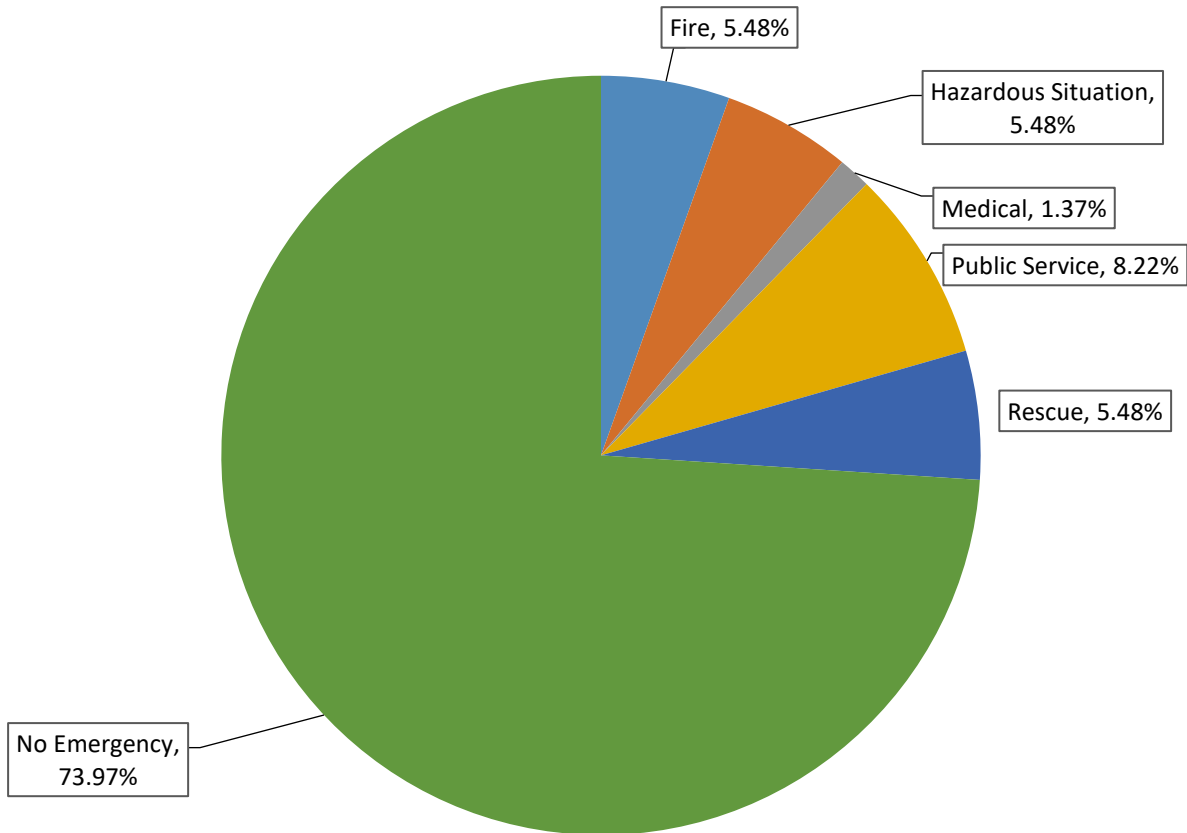
West Chester Fire Department

401 EAST GAY STREET

◆ WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380 ◆

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Major Incident Types June - West Chester Borough



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fire	4	5.48%
Hazardous Situation	4	5.48%
Medical	1	1.37%
Public Service	6	8.22%
Rescue	4	5.48%
No Emergency	54	73.97%
Law Enforcement Support	0	0.00%
Total	73	100.00%



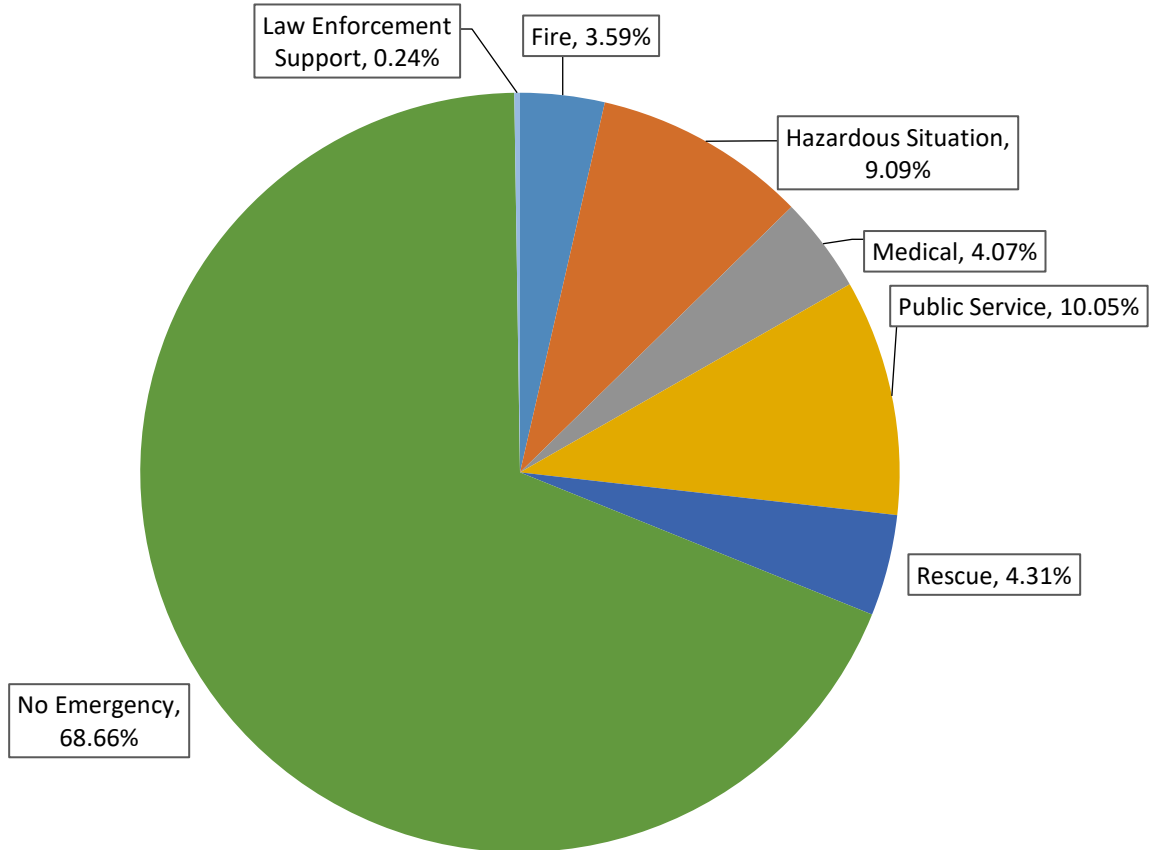
West Chester Fire Department

401 EAST GAY STREET

◆ WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380 ◆

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Major Incident Types 2026 - West Chester Borough



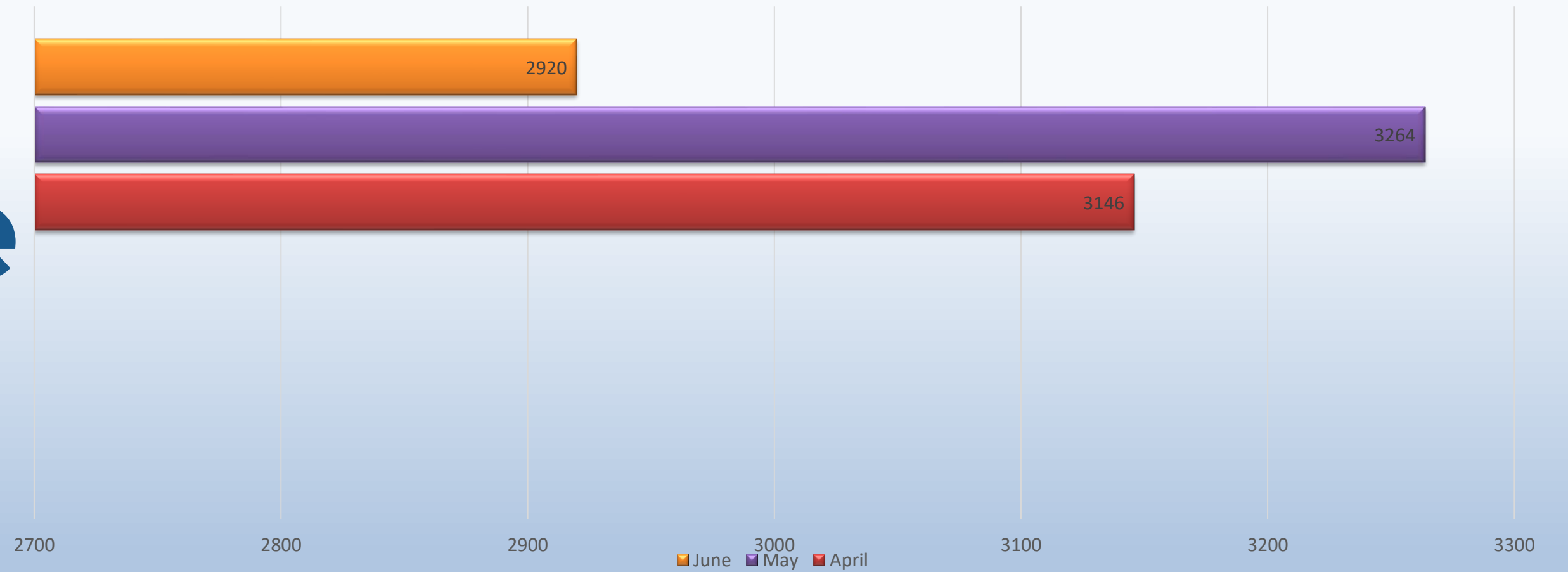
Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fire	15	3.59%
Hazardous Situation	38	9.09%
Medical	17	4.07%
Public Service	42	10.05%
Rescue	18	4.31%
No Emergency	287	68.66%
Law Enforcement Support	1	0.24%
Total	418	100.00%

WCPD Monthly Report

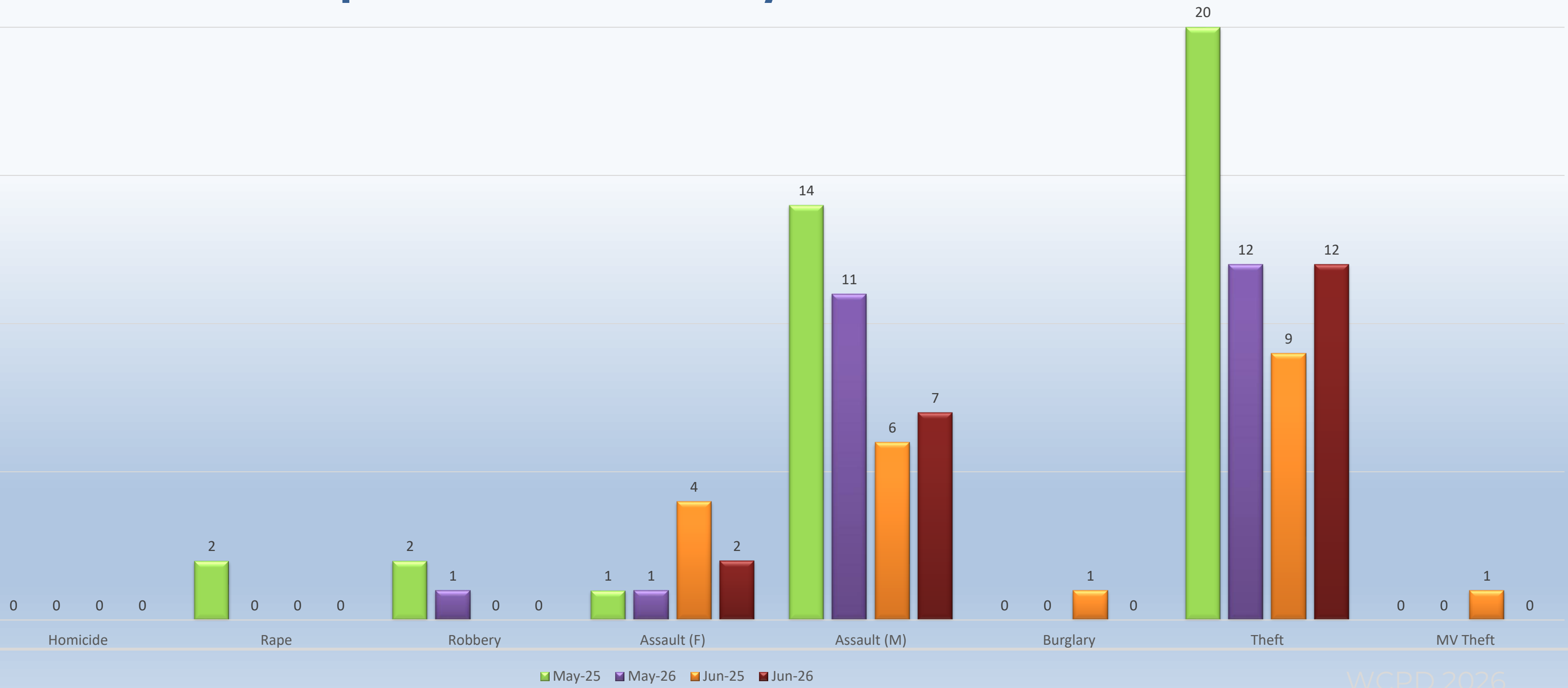
July 2026



Total Calls for Service to WCPD:



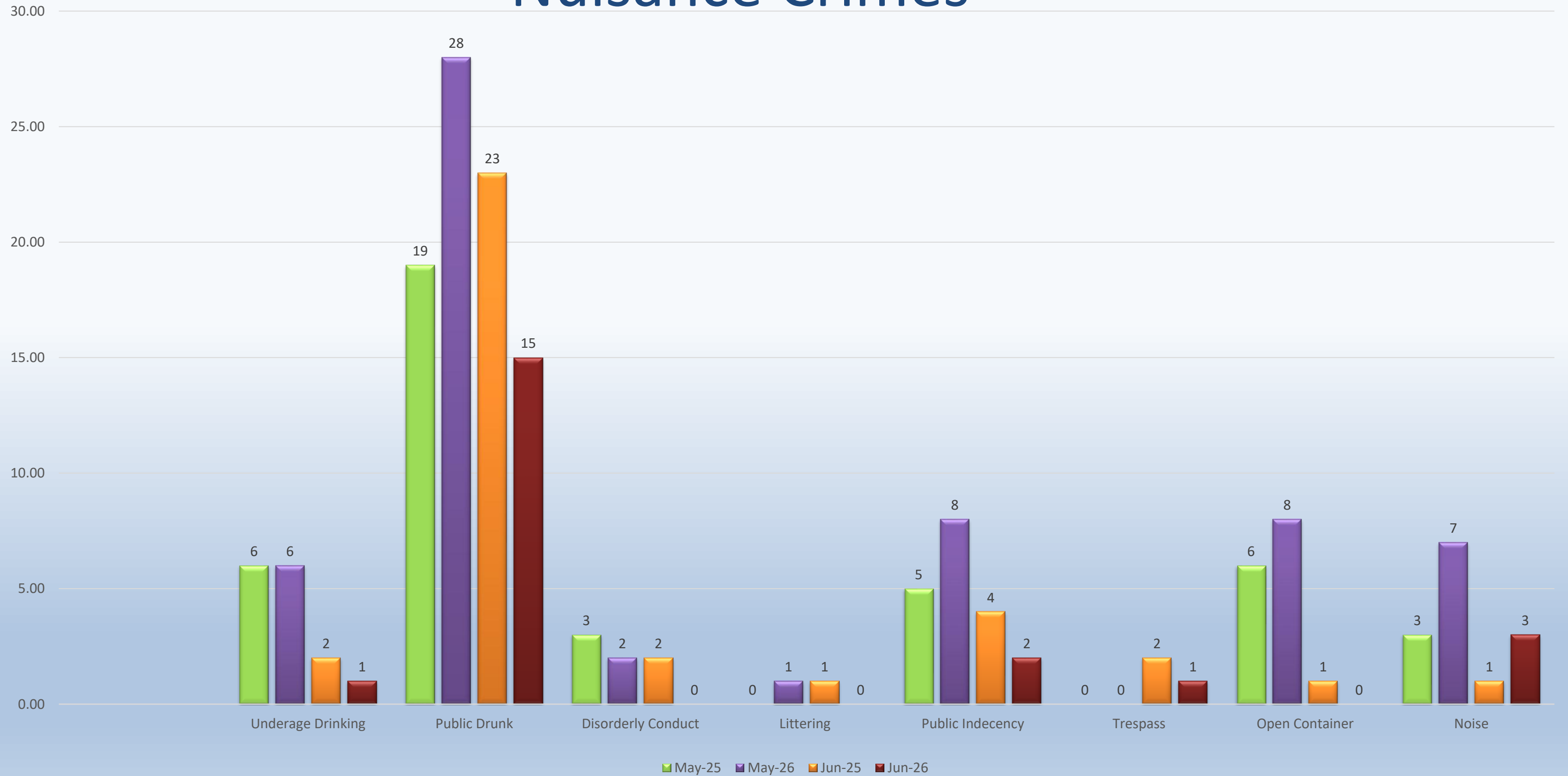
Crimes Reported 2025/2026



Crimes Reported 2025/2026



Nuisance Crimes



Get in Touch:

For more information



PoliceChief@west-chester.com



401 East Gay Street, West Chester,
PA 19380



+610.436.1323



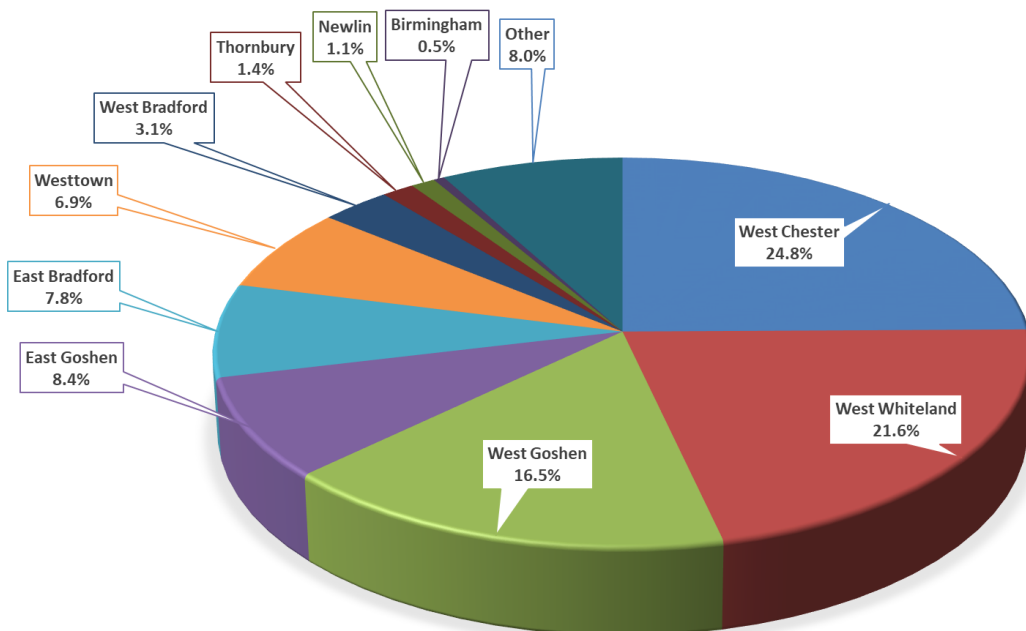
www.west-chester.com



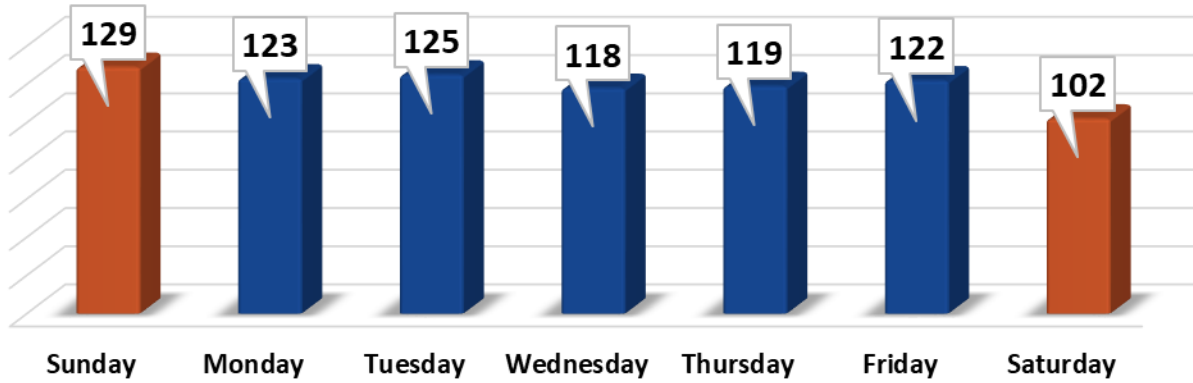
June 2026
OPERATIONS REPORT

CALL VOLUME

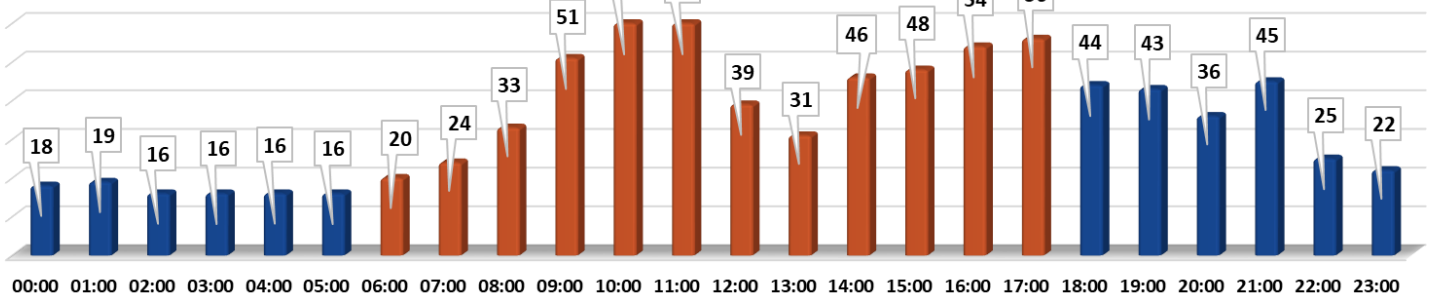
Municipality	Month	% of Calls	YTD
West Chester	208	24.8%	1192
West Whiteland	181	21.6%	1145
West Goshen	138	16.5%	835
East Goshen	70	8.4%	358
East Bradford	65	7.8%	410
Westtown	58	6.9%	374
West Bradford	26	3.1%	158
Thornbury	12	1.4%	88
Newlin	9	1.1%	27
Birmingham	4	0.5%	39
East Whiteland	13	1.6%	
Uwchlan	12	1.4%	
Downingtown	8	1.0%	
East Caln	8	1.0%	
Caln	6	0.7%	
Pocopson	3	0.4%	
West Pikeland	3	0.4%	
Upper Uwchlan	2	0.2%	
West Brandywine	2	0.2%	
West Caln	2	0.2%	
Charlestown	1	0.1%	
Coatesville	1	0.1%	
East Marlborough	1	0.1%	
Kennett	1	0.1%	
Marcus Hook, DelCo	1	0.1%	
Pennsbury	1	0.1%	
Thornbury, DelCo	1	0.1%	
Willistown	1	0.1%	
	838		



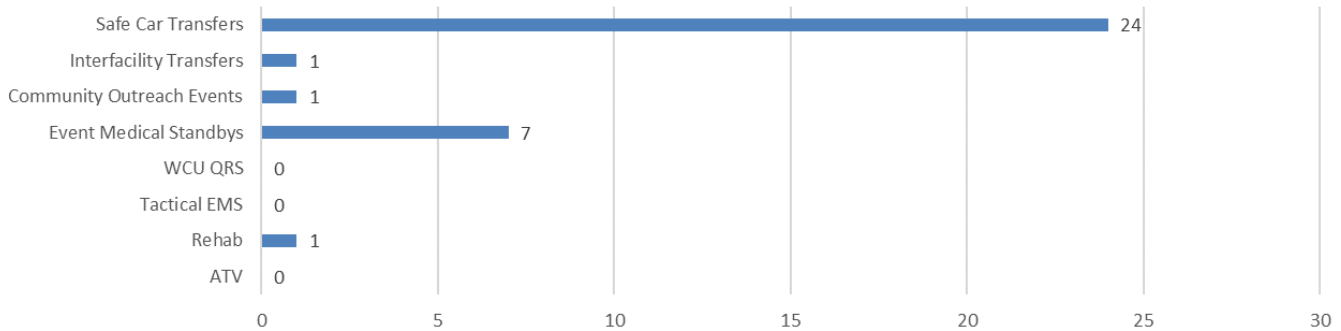
Call Volume By Day of Week



Call Volume By Hour



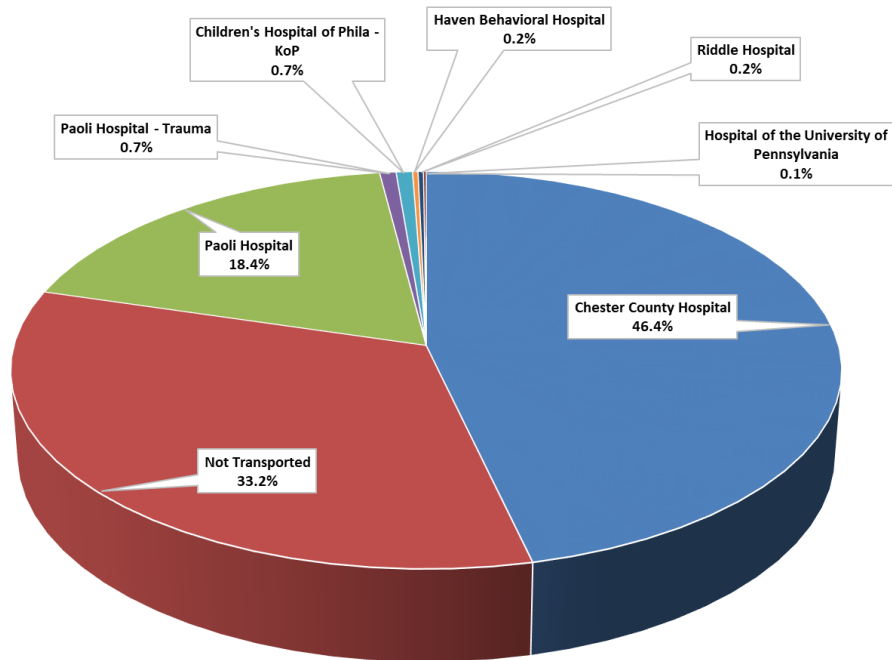
Interfacility Transports & Special Operations



HOSPITAL DESTINATION INFORMATION

Receiving Hospital	Total	%
Chester County Hospital	388	46.3%
Not Transported	278	33.2%
Paoli Hospital	154	18.4%
Paoli Hospital - Trauma	6	0.7%
Children's Hospital of Phila - KoP	6	0.7%
Haven Behavioral Hospital	2	0.2%
Riddle Hospital	2	0.2%
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania	1	0.1%
Nemours Children's Health	1	0.1%
	838	

Transported:	560	66.8%
Not Transported:	278	33.2%
	838	



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

West Chester University Calls

	Total	%
Total WCU Calls	7	0.8%
WCU Calls in West Chester	4	0.5%
WCU Calls in West Goshen	1	0.1%
WCU Calls in East Bradford	2	0.2%

Alcohol / Drug Suspicion

	Total	%
Patient Reported Alcohol Use	40	4.8%
Patient Reported Drug Use	13	1.6%
Alcohol / Drug Suspicion	13	1.6%
Total:	66	7.9%

GFAC Calls Upgraded/Downgraded

Upgraded to ALS	39	4.7%
Upgraded to IALS	11	1.3%
Downgraded to IALS	21	2.5%
Downgraded to BLS	105	12.5%

Average Times

Dispatch To Enroute	1:19
Enroute To On Scene	6:28
On Scene Time	17:17
Transport Time	12:13
ER Wait Time	13:16
Dispatch To Available	56:06

Calls Covering Other Agencies

Goshen Fire Co.	28
Uwchlan Ambulance	18
Minquas Fire Co.	25
Malvern Fire Co.	4
East Whiteland Fire Co.	3
Concordville Fire Co.	2
Longwood Fire Co.	7
Modena Fire Co.	2
Westwood Fire Co.	4
Washington Hose Co.	1
[REDACTED]	94

Responses By Station

Main Station (Station 55)	428
East Goshen (Station 155)	42
East Bradford (Station 255)	134
West Chester University (Station 355)	0
West Whiteland North (Station 455)	166
West Whiteland South (Station 555)	69

MEDICAL CATEGORIES

Call Types		
ALS Respiratory Difficulty	113	13.5%
BLS Sick Person	100	11.9%
BLS Fall	87	10.4%
ALS Heart Problems	65	7.8%
BLS Mental Health Emergency	45	5.4%
BLS Accident	43	5.1%
BLS Injured Person	33	3.9%
ALS Stroke	31	3.7%
ALS Fall	31	3.7%
BLS Abdominal Pain	24	2.9%
ALS Unresponsive Person	23	2.7%
ALS Hypotension	19	2.3%
Medical Alarm	19	2.3%
ALS Syncope	18	2.1%
ALS Unconscious Person	18	2.1%
BLS Overdose	17	2.0%
ALS Hemorrhage	17	2.0%
ALS Diabetic Emergency	14	1.7%
ALS Seizure	13	1.6%
BLS Back Pain	10	1.2%
BLS Assault with Injuries	7	0.8%
ALS Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest	7	0.8%
BLS Hemorrhage	7	0.8%
ALS Accident	6	0.7%
ALS Overdose	5	0.6%
ALS Injured Person	5	0.6%
House Fire	4	0.5%
Accident with Entrapment	4	0.5%
ALS Maternity	4	0.5%
ALS Assault With Injuries	4	0.5%
Accident with Fire	3	0.4%
ALS Exposure	3	0.4%
Standby	3	0.4%
BLS Unknown Nature	3	0.4%
ALS Allergic Reaction	3	0.4%
BLS Allergic Reaction	3	0.4%
BLS Maternity	3	0.4%
BLS Syncope	3	0.4%
Building Fire	3	0.4%
ALS Choking	2	0.2%
BLS Seizure	2	0.2%
CO Alarm	2	0.2%
Gas Leak Inside	2	0.2%
Other Rescue	1	0.1%
Water Rescue	1	0.1%
ALS Stabbing	1	0.1%
BLS Dead on Arrival	1	0.1%
Assist the Ambulance	1	0.1%
BLS Equestrian Accident	1	0.1%
Apartment Fire	1	0.1%
BLS Exposure	1	0.1%
Accident Involving a Pedestrian	1	0.1%
ALS Shooting	1	0.1%
	838	



Celebrate

MORE LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive
Leaders Save Lives
**Good Fellowship Ambulance
Corporation**

3rd Floor Practical Room
600 Montgomery Ave
West Chester, PA 19380

Tuesday, July 21, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: LSL Chester County to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Give blood July 13 to 31 for a Fandango Movie Reward
by email to see a movie on us! rcblood.org/July**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Minutes

Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee of Borough Council

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

Committee Members: Bryan Travis, Chair
Lisa Kearns
Brian McGinnis

Staff & Representatives: Joshua Lee, Chief - West Chester Police Department
Keith Kurowski, Director of Parks & Recreation
Sean Metrick, Borough Manager
Mark Scanlon, Fire Chief West Chester Fire Department
Justin Robbins, Director of Operations Good Fellowship Ambulance Club

I. Call to order 6:53pm

II. Announcements

Public Hearing on June 17th at 6:30pm for Amending Chapter 80 – Peddling & Soliciting

III. Comments, suggestions, petitions by residents in attendance regarding items not on the agenda.
(Please be advised that all public comments have a 5-minute time limit.) None

IV. Reports - (Attachments)

A. Monthly WCFD Report

Chief Mark Scanlon shares WCFD responded to 172 incidents in April, with 76 incidents in the Borough. The May 4th building fire at WCU was found to be suspicious and is being investigated by the Chester County Fire Marshal's office. In the borough there was a building fire at Haven Behavioral Hospital on May 24th, an apartment fire on West Market Street on May 27th and a vehicle rescue on May 28th. The department helped GFAC celebrate their 75th Anniversary on May 16th.

B. Monthly WCPD Report

Chief Lee shares that the WCPD participated in the Special Olympic Law Enforcement Torch Run. To fundraise for Special Olympics and celebrate the Special Olympic PA games in State College PA from June 6th-9th. WCPD officers are completing their mandated defensive tactics training this month. Also, the WCPD Communications staff are completing their annual training for APCO, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials. Three new officers are to be sworn in on June 12th. Chief Lee shares his monthly report with a new formula that compares prior month and year statistics to the current and following month. Chief Lee reports that the traffic fatality is still under investigation and once the DA's Office releases the report, it will be shared on the WCPD Crimewatch page.

C. Monthly GFAC Report

Justin Robbins, Director of Operations, reports there were 855 calls for service with 192 of them in the Borough. Justin shares the warm weather events that GFAC will be attending this Spring. Multiple 5k's and other races every weekend and large community events. They participated in 18 just in the month of May. Justin thanks everyone who attended and participated in GFAC's community event in May. He also reports that GFAC once again, received the American Heart Association's Gold Award for the clinical care provided by their crews in 2025.

D. Public Safety Committee – *Chair Report, workplan and issues raised at prior meetings (attachment)*

Committee Chair Bryan Travis reports a subgroup met to discuss the collected information, neighborhood group comments and internal notes to prioritize some the efforts and issues that need to be attended to pertaining to large parties which create excessive noise, nuisance activities and/or unruly social gatherings in the borough. Possible municipal laws or ordinances of how we define, manage and mitigate large gatherings that are held on private property. Is this something to tie into the point system? What are the consequences for the property owner if a rental property? This potential ordinance would apply to owner-occupied residences as well. Another item to look at would be possible extension of permit parking timing, including weekends in the residential zones. Also, better communication with WCU leadership, student organizations, and student government for flow of information between the borough and these groups. Another possibility is an overhaul or rewriting of the point system ordinance. Trash is another issue that is being addressed and is improving. There has been some student driven action. Some fraternities and sororities agreed to do better by putting some more self-regulating elements in place so that things are better under control and the neighbors do not get upset. The whole system depends on self-regulation. Nicole Scimone states this outline is like a plan of record (POR) of ideas that have been borough driven, student driven, WCU faculty drive, WCCC driven it is everyone working together for a better quality of life. Public Comment: *Anne Carroll*, Chairperson of CASE (Civic Action Southeast), she states CASE is concerned with WCU sanctioning fraternity and sorority parties in NC2. If they approve this the university should take responsibility for them. Possibly there could be an off-campus resource officer to work with students as they transition to residential areas. Also, campus police to patrol know functions and notify WCPD if issues come up. *Lee Miguel*, president of TKE 626 S High Street. They ideally would like guidelines from the town to follow. Also, the noise ordinance, there is no set level or definition to abide by currently. Bryan mentions that is one of the items they will be working on. *Amber Decker Haynes*: 118 South Matlack Street and Director of Student Connection and Belonging with Fraternity and Sorority Life at WCU. She would like to open the dialogue of communication to include university staff and to work collaboratively to figure things out together. Nicole Scimone shares that this document is a constant work in progress and will have items added and restructured. *Bernie Flynn*: 313 West Miner Street, he asks Amber if the university gives money to fraternity and sorority organizations for parties. There are rumors that this is occurring. Amber states that no, WCU, is not funding parties for organizations. Nor should the organizations be using their funding for parties. That is against their bylaws and constitutions.

V. Old Business

A. Approve June 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting minutes (attachment)

in the Borough of West Chester. (attachment) **Approved 3-0**

B. Discuss drafting an Ordinance to prohibit the sale of kratom and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) in the Borough of West Chester (attachment)

Lisa Kearns explains details of Kratom and its synthetic form 7-OH. It is not approved to be marketed in the US. It is banned in California and many European countries. It is a drug of concern; the US military has also banned any forms and use of Kratom. The ordinance would ban the sale, manufacture, and use of Kratom, Kratom derived products and concentrated 7-OH products in the Borough. Brian McGinnis thanks for bringing this to everyone's attention. He thinks fines are too low, and not a deterrent. Bryan Travis philosophically has an issue banning a substance that is not illegal. He also questions why it is legal. He thinks it could be a slippery slope. Lisa explains it depresses respiration and many people do not know this. It is not regulated and people mix it with

other medications that can have serious consequences. Bryan asks Chief Lee if he has an opinion about the product or if he has seen any overdose from it. Chief Lee responds no to having an opinion and no to he has not seen any issues with the product. Bryan Travis agrees to move this to full council. Public Comment: *Anne Carroll*, 506 South Franklin Street, shares her concerns with Kratom. The problem is that no one knows what they are taking, it varies from store to store, and manufacturer to manufacturer. She states the problem is you think you are taking something to give you a short high, but it is something addictive. She was relieved to see the exemption for medically approved uses in the ordinance draft.

C. Motion to adopt Zoning Amendment for Chapter 112 – Smoke/Vape Shops (attachment)

Issue: Review proposed amendments to Chapter 112 **Approved 3-0**

After discussion amongst committee members, they have agreed upon the following amended changes: potentially expand Section 4B to include town center, eliminate Section 4B.7, include other products that fit under the definition of vape, tobacco and smoke products, and include bus stop restrictions. The committee approved 3-0 for this to go to full council, where it would need approval for a public hearing to amend Chapter 112.

D. Discuss Unruly Social Gathering Ordinance and Criteria

Issue: Mass gatherings in residential areas.

Bryan Travis shares the ordinance that the Town of Bloomsburg has for Disorderly Gatherings, which has been in place since 2003. He shares the intent behind this is similar to WCB's issues. This includes a disproportionate amount of police services, cost of police services, public disturbances, and disorderly conduct. He would like to enforce recovery costs for municipal services that are currently in our ordinance. Bryan Travis shares a draft ordinance created for Borough. There are 25 items of which some need to be revised, condensed, combined or removed. This list will essentially consolidate 3 or 4 current ordinances that are scattered across our current borough codes. It also adds a few items that are missing such as to further define public disturbances. At Smart Growth they will discuss special event permit for an outdoor event at a private residence with more than 100 guests. This is a work in progress and Bryan will take committee and public suggestions. Mr. Travis will create version two of this to send to the solicitor. *Stephen Hopson*, Associate Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life at WCU, suggests involving the students as well as the other people and groups the committee has consulted concerning the ordinance. He states that research suggests that individuals involved with policy creation have a higher level of adherence to the ordinance. Since we are working toward a better coexistence of students and residents, having student perspective and insights could be helpful. Bryan Travis would like to include students, business owners, landlords, residents, and those already part of the WCCCC. He reminds everyone that it is up to the borough to manage and regulate the rules that are in place and for them to be followed, but all input is appreciated for a successful outcome.

VI. New Business

A. Special Event Applications (SEAs) (attachments)

Issue: Approve Special Event Permits

Block Party – Graduation Party – 9am-9pm, S. Brandywine b/w Mulberry Alley and Sharpless Street – June 20, 2026

Withdrawn – property owner did not attend meeting

VII. Other Business **None**

VIII. Adjournment **8:30pm**

Visit www.west-chester.com for access to all attachments.
Agendas are posted to www.west-chester.com by noon 3 business days prior to the meeting.

DRAFT

ORDINANCE NO. ____ - 2026

BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER

CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO PROHIBIT THE SALE, MANUFACTURE AND PUBLIC USE OF KRATOM, KRATOM-DERIVED PRODUCTS AND CONCENTRATED 7-OH SUBSTANCES WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED and it is hereby enacted by authority of the Council of the Borough of West Chester as follows:

WHEREAS, the Borough of West Chester (the “Borough”) is a home-rule municipality organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and governed by an elected Borough Council (“Council”) vested with legislative authority over municipal policy, appropriations, and the use of Borough resources pursuant to the Borough’s Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) has labeled kratom as “the next wave of the opioid epidemic” and stated, “There are no FDA-approved uses for kratom [and the FDA] continues to warn consumers not to use any products labeled as containing the botanical substance kratom or its psychoactive compounds, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine.”; and

WHEREAS, kratom is not lawfully marketed in the United States as a drug product, a dietary supplement, or a food additive; and

WHEREAS, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) has listed kratom as a “drug of concern”; and

WHEREAS, there has been a 1,200% jump in kratom-related calls to poison control centers over the last decade, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control, with 167 cases reported to Pennsylvania poison control centers between January 1, 2022 and June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, coroners in multiple counties in Pennsylvania, including Chester County, have confirmed kratom-related fatalities; and

WHEREAS, all branches of the United States military completely ban kratom use in all forms – active duty or reserves – on or off duty; and

WHEREAS, 7-OH is a concentrated synthetic version of kratom and is at least 13 times more potent than morphine, acts on the same brain receptors as opioids, and is engineered to be addictive; and

WHEREAS, there are no prescription or over-the-counter drug products containing kratom or its known alkaloids that are legally on the market in the United States; and

WHEREAS, kratom affects babies during pregnancy and may lead to a baby being born with symptoms of withdrawal and in need of treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Council has always prioritized public safety, responsible commerce, and the well-being of its residents;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED and it is hereby enacted by authority of the Council of the Borough of West Chester as follows:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

KRATOM PRODUCT

Any product, compound, mixture, preparation, extract, derivative, concentrate, resin, or substance containing any part of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa*, including its leaves, alkaloids, extracts, or synthesized equivalents, whether marketed for human consumption or otherwise.

7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE PRODUCT or 7-OH PRODUCT

Any product containing 7-hydroxymitragynine, whether naturally derived, chemically synthesized, converted, concentrated, isolated, or otherwise produced, including analogs, derivatives, salts, isomers, or compounds substantially similar in chemical structure or effect.

SELL or SALE

To offer for sale, barter, exchange, transfer, distribute, deliver, furnish, provide, advertise for sale, or otherwise dispense for consideration or without consideration.

POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE

Possession of a prohibited product in quantities, packaging, labeling, marketing, or circumstances indicating an intent to sell, transfer, distribute, or deliver the product to another person.

MANUFACTURE

To produce, prepare, process, compound, convert, package, repack, label, or otherwise create a prohibited product.

PERSON

Any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, business entity, organization, estate, trust, governmental entity, or other legal entity.

USE

To ingest, inhale, smoke, vape, chew, consume, apply, or otherwise introduce a prohibited product into the human body.

BOROUGH

The Borough of West Chester.

SECTION 2. PROHIBITED ACTS.

It shall be unlawful for any person within the Borough to:

- A. Sell or offer for sale any Kratom Product or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Product;
- B. Manufacture, process, package, distribute, or deliver any Kratom Product or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Product;
- C. Possess any Kratom Product or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Product with intent to distribute;
- D. Use or consume any Kratom Product or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Product in any public place or private property open to the public; and
- E. Maintain, operate, or knowingly permit any establishment or premises to be used for the purpose of selling or distributing Kratom Products or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Products.

SECTION 3. EXEMPTIONS.

This Ordinance shall not apply to:

- A. Any federally approved pharmaceutical product lawfully prescribed and dispensed by a licensed healthcare provider or pharmacy;
- B. Possession or handling of prohibited products by law enforcement personnel, emergency responders, forensic laboratories, or government agencies acting within the scope of official duties; or
- C. Research activities conducted by accredited educational or scientific institutions in compliance with applicable federal and state law.

SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT.

- A. This Ordinance may be enforced by the Borough Police Department, Code Enforcement Officers, or any other official authorized by Borough Council.
- B. Authorized officials may inspect commercial premises open to the public during normal business hours to ensure compliance with this Ordinance.
- C. Any prohibited products found in violation of this Ordinance may be seized and destroyed in accordance with applicable law.
- D. The Borough may seek injunctive relief or any other remedy authorized by law.

SECTION 5. VIOLATION AND PENALTIES.

Any person who violates or permits the violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof in a summary proceeding brought before a District Justice, be guilty of a summary offense and shall be subject to the payment of a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000, plus the costs of prosecution. Upon default of payment thereof, the defendant may be sentenced to imprisonment in the county prison for a period of not more than 30 days. Each section or provision of this Ordinance that is violated shall constitute a separate offense, and each day or portion thereof in which a violation of this chapter is found to exist shall constitute a separate offense, each of which violations shall be punishable by a separate fine imposed by the District Justice of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000, plus the costs of prosecution, and upon default of payment thereof, the defendant may be sentenced to imprisonment in the county prison for a term not more than 30 days.

SECTION 6. NUISANCE DECLARATION.

Any property, business, establishment, or premises used in violation of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and may be subject to abatement proceedings and other lawful remedies.

SECTION 7. NON-PREEMPTION.

This Ordinance shall be interpreted and applied to the fullest extent permitted under state and federal law. Nothing herein shall be construed to permit conduct prohibited by state or federal law.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid it shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect within sixty (60) days of enactment.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

**COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH
OF WEST CHESTER**

Sean Metrick, Secretary

By: _____
Nicole Scimone, President

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Lillian L. DeBaptiste, Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. ____ - 2026

BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER

CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO PROHIBIT THE SALE, MANUFACTURE, AND PUBLIC USE OF KRATOM, KRATOM-DERIVED PRODUCTS, AND CONCENTRATED 7-OH SUBSTANCES WITHIN THE BOROUGH

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED and it is hereby enacted by authority of the Council of the Borough of West Chester as follows:

WHEREAS, the Borough of West Chester (the "Borough") is a home-rule municipality organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and governed by an elected Borough Council ("Council") vested with legislative authority over municipal policy, appropriations, and the use of Borough resources pursuant to the Borough's Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") has labeled kratom as "the next wave of the opioid epidemic" and stated, "There are no FDA-approved uses for kratom [and the FDA] continues to warn consumers not to use any products labeled as containing the botanical substance kratom or its psychoactive compounds, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine."; and

WHEREAS, kratom is not lawfully marketed in the United States as a drug product, a dietary supplement, or a food additive ~~(FDA)~~; and

WHEREAS, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") has listed kratom as a "drug of concern"; and

WHEREAS, there has been a 1,200% jump in kratom-related calls to poison control centers over the last decade, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control, with 167 cases reported to Pennsylvania poison control centers between January 1, 2022 and June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, coroners in multiple counties in Pennsylvania, including Chester County, have confirmed kratom-related fatalities; and

WHEREAS, all branches of the ~~United States~~ - military completely ban kratom use in all forms – active duty or reserves – on or off duty; and

WHEREAS, 7-OH is a concentrated synthetic version of kratom and is at least 13 ~~times~~ more potent than morphine, acts on the same brain receptors as opioids, and is engineered to be addictive; and

WHEREAS, there are no prescription or over-the-counter drug products containing kratom or its known alkaloids that are legally on the market in the United States; and

WHEREAS, kratom affects babies during pregnancy and may lead to ~~at~~the baby being born with symptoms of withdrawal and in need of treatment; and

WHEREAS, the ~~Borough Council of West Chester~~ has always prioritized public safety, responsible commerce, and the well-being of its residents;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained and enacted by ~~the Borough Council of the Borough of West Chester, Chester County Pennsylvania,~~ as follows:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Ordinance:

A. “Kratom Product” means any product, compound, mixture, preparation, extract, derivative, concentrate, resin, or substance containing any part of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa*, including its leaves, alkaloids, extracts, or synthesized equivalents, whether marketed for human consumption or otherwise.

B. “7-Hydroxymitragynine Product” or “7-OH Product” means any product containing 7-hydroxymitragynine, whether naturally derived, chemically synthesized, converted, concentrated, isolated, or otherwise produced, including analogs, derivatives, salts, isomers, or compounds substantially similar in chemical structure or effect.

C. “Sell” or “Sale” means to offer for sale, barter, exchange, transfer, distribute, deliver, furnish, provide, advertise for sale, or otherwise dispense for consideration or without consideration.

D. "Possession with Intent to Distribute" means possession of a prohibited product in quantities, packaging, labeling, marketing, or circumstances indicating an intent to sell, transfer, distribute, or deliver the product to another person.

E. "Manufacture" means to produce, prepare, process, compound, convert, package, repack, label, or otherwise create a prohibited product.

F. "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, business entity, organization, estate, trust, governmental entity, or other legal entity.

G. "Use" means to ingest, inhale, smoke, vape, chew, consume, apply, or otherwise introduce a prohibited product into the human body.

H. "Borough" means the Borough of West Chester.

SECTION 2. PROHIBITED ACTS.

It shall be unlawful for any person within the Borough to:

A. Sell or offer for sale any Kratom Product or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Product;

B. Manufacture, process, package, distribute, or deliver any Kratom Product or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Product;

C. Possess any Kratom Product or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Product with intent to distribute;

D. Use or consume any Kratom Product or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Product in any public place or private property open to the public;

E: Maintain, operate, or knowingly permit any establishment or premises to be used for the purpose of selling or distributing Kratom Products or 7-Hydroxymitragynine Products ~~within the Borough.~~

SECTION 3. EXEMPTIONS.

This Ordinance shall not apply to:

A. Any federally approved pharmaceutical product lawfully prescribed and dispensed by a licensed healthcare provider or pharmacy;

B. Possession or handling of prohibited products by law enforcement personnel, emergency responders, forensic laboratories, or government agencies acting within the scope of official duties;

C. Research activities conducted by accredited educational or scientific institutions in compliance with applicable federal and state law.

SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT.

A. This Ordinance may be enforced by the Borough Police Department, Code Enforcement Officers, **Health Department**, or any other official authorized by the Borough.

Commented [KC1]: Borough doesn't have a Health Dept and doesn't have authority to authorize the County Health Dept to enforce this.

B. Authorized officials may inspect commercial premises open to the public during normal business hours to ensure compliance with this Ordinance.

C. Any prohibited products found in violation of this Ordinance may be seized and destroyed in accordance with applicable law.

Commented [KC2]: This language should be discussed and approved by the Chief.

D. The Borough may seek injunctive relief, **license suspension, license revocation**, or any other remedy authorized by law.

Commented [KC3]: What type of license are you referring to?

SECTION 5. VIOLATION AND PENALTIES.

A. Civil Penalties.

Any person who violates or permits the violation of any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof in a summary proceeding brought before a District Justice, be guilty of a summary offense and shall be subject to the payment of a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000, plus the costs of prosecution. Upon default of payment thereof, the defendant may be sentenced to imprisonment in the county prison for a period of not more than 30 days. Each section or provision of this chapter that is violated shall constitute a separate offense, and each day or portion

Commented [KC4R3]: The Borough doesn't issue business licenses per se- it issues zoning permits for uses but this is not an appropriate remedy under the MPC for a zoning violation and this ordinance is not a zoning ordinance.

Commented [KC5]: Based on the Borough Code, this type of ordinance should be enforced in a summary criminal manner.

thereof in which a violation of this chapter is found to exist shall constitute a separate offense, each of which violations shall be punishable by a separate fine imposed by the District Justice of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000, plus the costs of prosecution, and upon default of payment thereof, the defendant may be sentenced to imprisonment in the county prison for a term not more than 30 days.~~The Borough may impose:~~

- ~~1. Civil fines not exceeding \$100 for a first offense;~~
 - ~~2. A fine not exceeding \$200 for a second offense; and \$500 for a third and subsequent offenses~~
 - ~~3. Suspension or revocation of **municipal business licenses**;~~
 - ~~4.1. Administrative enforcement costs;~~
 - ~~5. **Closure orders for businesses operating in violation of this Ordinance.**~~
- ~~Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.~~

Commented [KC6]: I am not aware of any business licenses the Borough issues.

Commented [KC7]: I am not sure this is an appropriate remedy.

SECTION 6. NUISANCE DECLARATION.

Any property, business, establishment, or premises used in violation of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and may be subject to abatement proceedings and other lawful remedies.

SECTION 7. NON-PREEMPTION.

This Ordinance shall be interpreted and applied to the fullest extent permitted under state and federal law. Nothing herein shall be construed to permit conduct prohibited by state or federal law.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid it shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Topic Consideration

Date:

Department Head Name:

Council Sponsor Name:

Ordinance Number / Title:

Issue:

After discussion at Public Safety Committee meetings and subsequent meetings with staff it has been proposed that there is a need to consider modifications to existing ordinances to combat concerns over unruly gatherings and noise issues throughout the Borough.

Plan of Action:

- Modify Chapter 73: Noise disturbance to clarify for both residents and for enforcement.
- Modify Chapter 84: Public Nuisances to include a definition of disorderly gatherings, includes clearer information on what is considered a disorderly gathering and gives a separation violation and penalty for this conduct. All of these items will tie into the
- Chapter 66 points system.
- Discuss opportunities for partnership with Police and WCU.

Next Steps:

- Provide drafts of ordinance amendments to Public Safety Committee in August, after staff has reviewed internally.
- Provide ordinance amendments to Chapter 91: Shows, Carnivals & Parades that will provide regulations for Special Events, including the Gay Street Closure.
- Provide draft of Food Truck Ordinance

Other Departments Involved:

Administration, Building & Housing, Police, Parking, Recreation, Finance

Timeline:

August 2026: Draft ordinances will be provided for review to Public Safety for discussion, intending to move to Council Work Session for review/approval to have solicitor draft amendments & schedule hearing.

OFFICE USE ONLY - NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Date Application Received: 6/3/26 Date Payment(s) Received: 6/3/26

YES N/A

- Completed and Signed Application
- Date of event/Event time/Set up/Breakdown
see attached
- Map of the Event or Location of the Event
see attached
- List of Streets to be Closed for the Event
see attached
- List of Borough Services requested - to be reviewed by West Chester Borough
WCPW
- Non-refundable application fee - may be cash, check, or money order
online \$50.00
- Applicant's Certificate of Insurance
- West Chester Police Department Fees - required for runs
- List of Food Vendors with Chester County Health Department Licenses
- List of Sub-Contractors with Certificates of Insurance
- Proof of public transportation approval if public streets are to be closed
- Proof of notification to Good Fellowship Ambulance - required for runs
- Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Permit if alcohol is to be served

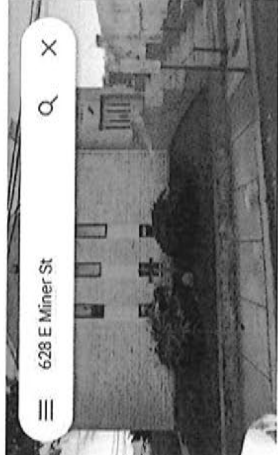
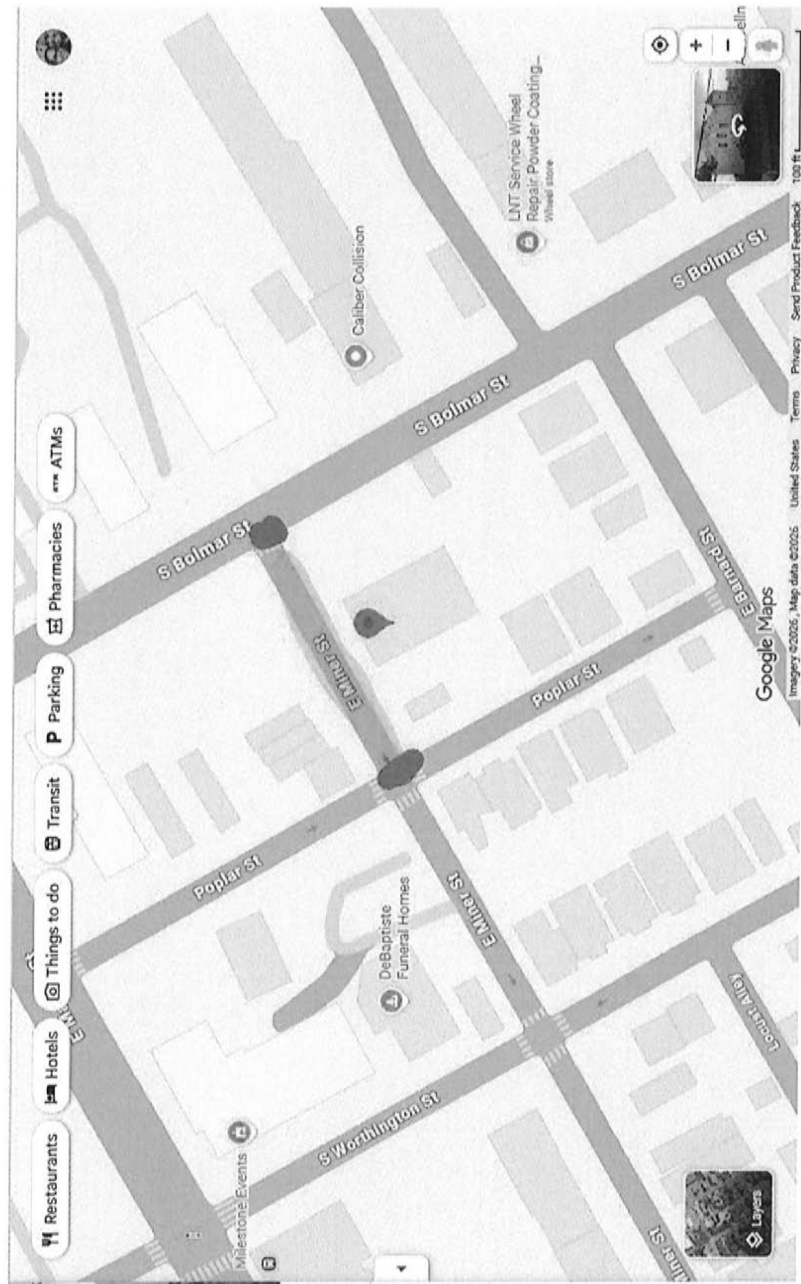
Approved by Pubic Works	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Date: _____
Approved by Parking Department	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Date: _____
Approved by Parks and Recreation	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Date: <u>KAC 7/1/26</u>
Approved by Police Department	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Date: _____
Approved by Borough Council	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Date: _____

Notes:

Permit #: SE-26-0027 Status: COMPLETENESS REVIEW Contact: Jackson, Tisha Site Address: 628 E MINER ST
 Type: SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT Project Name: Mount Carmel Church Block Party Contractor: WEST CHESTER, PA 19382

Name	Value
DAY-OF CONTACT NAME:*	<input type="text" value="Tisha Jackson"/>
DAY-OF CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:*	<input type="text" value="REDACTED"/>
DATE OF EVENT:*	<input type="text" value="07/25/2026"/>
SET-UP TIME:*	<input type="text" value="0800"/>
BREAK-DOWN TIME:*	<input type="text" value="1800"/>
EVENT START TIME:*	<input type="text" value="1200"/>
EVENT END TIME:*	<input type="text" value="1600"/>
TYPE OF EVENT:*	<input type="text" value="Block Party"/>
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:*	<input type="text" value="100"/>
NUMBER OF WORKERS:*	<input type="text" value="20"/>
LIST ALL STREET CLOSURES:*	<input type="text" value="E. Miner between Bolmar and Poplar"/>
IMPACT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:*	<input type="text" value="No"/>
FOOD VENDORS:*	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRAFTERS:*	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRAFTERS COUNT:*	<input type="text" value="0"/>





628 E Miner St
Building

- Directions
- Save
- Nearby
- Send to phone
- Share

- 628 E Miner St, West Chester, PA 19382
- Suggest an edit on 628 E Miner St
- Add a missing place
- Add your business
- Add a label
- Your Maps history