



Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee Meeting
June 9, 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. Public Hearing: June 17 @ 6:30 PM amending Chapter 80 of the Borough Code titled "Peddling And Soliciting; Handbills And Posters; Street Performances", to amend the regulations related to Peddling and Soliciting. (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, workplan and issues raised at prior meetings (attachment)

V. Old Business

- A. Approve May 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting minutes (attachment)
B. Discuss drafting an Ordinance to prohibit the sale of kratom and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) in the Borough of West Chester (attachment)

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

Issue: Review proposed amendments to Chapter 112

D. 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

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

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 CHAPTER 80 OF THE BOROUGH CODE TITLED “PEDDLING AND SOLICITING; HANDBILLS AND POSTERS; STREET PERFORMANCES”, ARTICLE I TITLED PEDDLING AND SOLICITING TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS RELATED TO PEDDLING AND SOLICITING.

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. Chapter 80 of the Borough Code titled, “Peddling and Soliciting; Handbills and Posters; Street Performances”, Article I, titled, “Peddling and Soliciting” shall be amended in its entirety and replaced with the following new Article I:

“ARTICLE I. Peddling and Soliciting.

§ 80-1. Purpose.

This Article is intended to regulate soliciting and peddling in the Borough to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare; to protect against criminal activities, such as fraud and burglary; to minimize disruption and disturbance to residents and businesses and to maintain the public streets and sidewalks in a safe and passable condition.

§ 80-2. Definitions; word usage.

A. As used in this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

GOODS

Any wares, foodstuffs, merchandise, or services offered for sale, whether or not displayed.

LEGAL HOLIDAY

New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

PEDDLER

Any Person who goes upon the premises of any private residence or business in the Borough, not having been invited by the occupant thereof, or any Person who goes upon the Borough streets, sidewalks, or other public place, carrying or transporting

Goods, wares, merchandise, personal property, or services of any nature, or offering the same for sale.

PEDDLING

All activities ordinarily performed by a Peddler as indicated under the definition of "Peddler" herein.

PERSON

Any natural Person, partnership, association, corporation, or other legal entity.

SOLICITING

All activities ordinarily performed by a Solicitor as indicated under the definition of "Solicitor" herein.

SOLICITOR

Any Person who goes upon the premises of any private residence or business in the or business in the Borough, not having been invited by the occupant thereof, or any Person who goes upon any or Borough street, sidewalk, or other public place, for the purpose of offering, taking or attempting to take orders for the sale of Goods, merchandise, wares or other personal property of any nature for future delivery or for services to be performed in the future, or for the solicitation of support or donations where said support or donation is unsolicited by the Person or entity being solicited.

- B. The singular shall include the plural; the plural shall include the singular; and the masculine shall include the feminine and neuter.

§ 80-3. License required; fee.

No Person shall engage in Peddling or Soliciting within the Borough without first having obtained from the Borough a license, including any application fee or related fees, in an amount set by resolution of the Borough Council.

§ 80-4. Application for license.

- A. Every Person desiring a license under this article shall file an application with the Borough prior to commencing Soliciting or Peddling activities. The application shall include, at a minimum, the following:
 - (1) The applicant's full name, date and place of birth, local address, permanent address, telephone number, and copy of driver's license or other form of photo identification.
 - (2) The name, address, telephone number, and tax identification number of the applicant's employer or principal.

- (3) The nature of business or activity in which the applicant wishes to engage within the Borough and a description of the Goods to be sold or the service to be performed.
- (4) The days of the week and hours the applicant wishes to engage in such activity and the specific location where the peddling or soliciting shall occur.
- (5) If a vehicle is to be utilized, a description of the vehicle, the vehicle license number and expiration date, operator's driver's license number and expiration date and proof of automobile liability insurance.
- (6) An authorization from the applicant's employer or principal, which shall contain an agreement on the part of the employer or principal, in consideration for issuance of the license, to become liable for any and all acts of the applicant, while in the Borough.
- (7) An FBI clearance certificate that is dated within 12 months from the date of the application.
- (8) Proof of possession of any license or permit which the applicant is required to have under federal, state, county or other local law in order to conduct the proposed Peddling or Soliciting including proof of registration with the Commonwealth based on the Pa. Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act.
- (9) An acknowledgement that the applicant is aware of and understands the regulations set forth in this article.
- (10) If the applicant intends to utilize other people to assist in the Peddling or Soliciting, all applicable information shall also be supplied for each person, and each person will be required to obtain his/her/their own license.

B. Licenses are not transferable to any other Person or entity.

§ 80-5. Exemptions.

The following Persons, although subject to all other provisions of this Article, are exempt from the license and application requirements when engaging in the activities described herein:

- A. Persons who have been licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to engage in an activity described below, when so engaged:
 - (1) Real estate broker.
 - (2) Insurance broker.

(3) Securities broker.

B. Political campaign workers.

C. Any organizations that are exempt from registration and licensing based on the Pa. Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act.

§ 80-6. Issuance of license; display and exhibit.

A. Upon receipt of such an application and the prescribed fee, the Borough shall have 10 business days to review and verify the information provided.

B. The Borough may deny a license if: 1) the application is incomplete; 2) the FBI clearance certificate evidences that the applicant was convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving dishonesty, deceit, fraud, theft, sexual offenses, or crimes of violence in the past 10 years; 3) there are misrepresentations in the application; 4) any fraud or deceit is identified in the application; 5) there is prior failure to comply with any law concerning Soliciting, Peddling or consumer sale; or 6) the sale or offering for sale of illegal merchandise or services is proposed.

C. If the application is otherwise in order and there are no grounds for denial of a license as set forth in 80-6.B above, the Borough shall issue the license to the applicant.

D. The license shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance.

§ 80-7. Standards of conduct.

Every person to whom a license has been issued shall in the conduct of his/her activity comply with the following standards of conduct:

A. He/she shall carry his/her license at all times and exhibit it upon request to any police officer or ordinance officer of the Borough and to any person upon whom he/she shall call or with whom he/she shall talk.

B. He/she shall not permit any person to have possession of his/her license and shall immediately report its loss to the Borough Manager. He/she shall not cause or permit his/her license to be altered or defaced in any way.

C. He/she shall not enter or attempt to enter any dwelling or otherwise remain upon any private property without the invitation or permission of the occupant or property owner and shall immediately leave any premises upon request of the occupant or property owner.

D. He/she shall engage in soliciting only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, on Saturday and legal holidays, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday only in the Town Center Zoning District.

- E. He/she shall not occupy any fixed location upon or along any of the streets, alleys, or sidewalks of the Borough for the purpose of peddling or soliciting, with or without any sign, stand, counter, or cart.
- F. He/she shall not occupy or operate in a congested area where the activities may impede or inconvenience the public or block safe pedestrian access. He/she remain a minimum of five feet from all entrances to buildings.
- G. He/she shall inform the Borough Police Department, in writing, of any changes to information supplied on the then-current application within five days of such change.
- H. He/she shall immediately surrender his/her license to the Borough of West Chester Borough Manager upon suspension or revocation thereof.
- I. He/she shall maintain a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and automobile liability coverage valid for the duration of the license period.

§ 80-8. Denial, suspension, and revocation of license; appeals.

- A. The Borough is hereby authorized to suspend or revoke any license if the holder fails to comply with the standards of conduct or responsibilities set forth in this article. A license may also be suspended or revoked upon the basis of:
 - (1) Fraud, misrepresentation or false statements in the license application;
 - (2) Fraud, misrepresentation or false statements by the licensee in the course of Peddling or Soliciting;
 - (3) Peddling or Soliciting in violation of this article or in a manner that violates federal, state, or local law or regulations or the terms of any other license involved in the Peddling or Soliciting;
 - (4) Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving dishonesty, deceit, fraud, theft, sexual offenses, or crimes of violence.
 - (5) Peddling or Soliciting in a manner as to create a public nuisance, a breach of peace, or endanger the health, safety, or general welfare of the public.
- B. No part of a license fee shall be refunded to any Person whose license shall have been denied, suspended, or revoked.

§ 80-9. Peddling and Soliciting on Borough owned land.

- A. Any person licensed under this article or exempt under §80-5 hereof shall not occupy or use any street, alley, sidewalk or land owned by the Borough for the purpose of engaging in peddling or soliciting unless approved as part of a special

event pursuant to §80-9.B below or approved as a food truck in accordance with applicable food truck regulations in the Borough Code.

- B. Any person that has received approval from Borough Council to conduct a special event within the Borough shall be responsible for the vendors participating within the boundaries of that event. The organizer of the event shall register each vendor with the Borough Manager and supply information required by § 80-4 of this article. Registered vendors will receive permission to operate their stands for that special event only and will not be required to pay the registration fee required by this article. No other vendors will be permitted within the boundary area of such event during the time period designated for the special event. Existing businesses in the Borough will be permitted to sell merchandise in the area adjacent to the business, provided that such business complies with and conducts such sale in accordance with the vendors' responsibilities and guidelines applicable to such special event.

§ 80-10. Public collection.

Public collection (bucket brigades) shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of § 80-7. Each person participating in the public collection shall identify on his or her body the name of the organization or cause which the funds are collected for. No public collection will be permitted on Sunday. Only one nonprofit or charitable organization will be permitted to conduct a public collection on any permitted day or within any permitted time period. A nonprofit or charitable organization shall be permitted to conduct a public collection twice per calendar year, provided that each collection is at least six months after the last public collection conducted by such nonprofit or charitable organization.

§ 80-11. Violations and penalties.

Any Person who violates or permits a violation of this chapter shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding brought before a Magisterial District Judge under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, be guilty of a summary offense and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$600, plus costs of prosecution, including reasonable attorneys' fees. In default of payment thereof, the defendant may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 30 days. Each day or portion thereof that such violation continues or is permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense, and each section of this chapter that is violated shall also constitute a separate offense.”

SECTION 2. Severability.

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

SECTION 3. 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 E GAY STREET

WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Monthly Report May 2026

Incident Summary

Total Incidents for May:	172
West Chester Borough:	76
East Bradford Township:	19
West Goshen Township:	41
Birmingham Township:	3
Thornbury Township:	4
Westtown Township:	11
Mutual Aid Responses:	18
Total Time in Service:	77:13:39
Average Manpower:	7.2

Total Incidents for 2026:	827
West Chester Borough:	345
East Bradford Township:	89
West Goshen Township:	184
Birmingham Township:	15
Thornbury Township:	32
Westtown Township:	69
Mutual Aid Responses:	93
Total Time in Service:	369:26:09
Average Manpower:	8.0

Training/Activity Summary

May	
Total Training Hours:	846
Total Activity Hours:	1,054

2026	
Total Training Hours:	5,030
Total Activity Hours:	7,583

Property Loss

May		
	Property	Contents
Pre Incident Value:	\$15,250,000	\$7,075,000
Estimated Loss:	\$100	\$1,100

2026		
	Property	Contents
Pre Incident Value:	\$36,540,900	\$34,138,100
Estimated Loss:	\$3,620,600	\$1,788,820

Significant Incidents

May 6 - Brush Fire / Garfield Avenue, West Goshen Township

May 27 - Apartment Fire / W Market Street, West Chester Borough

May 30 - Brush Fire / Greenbank Avenue, West Goshen Township



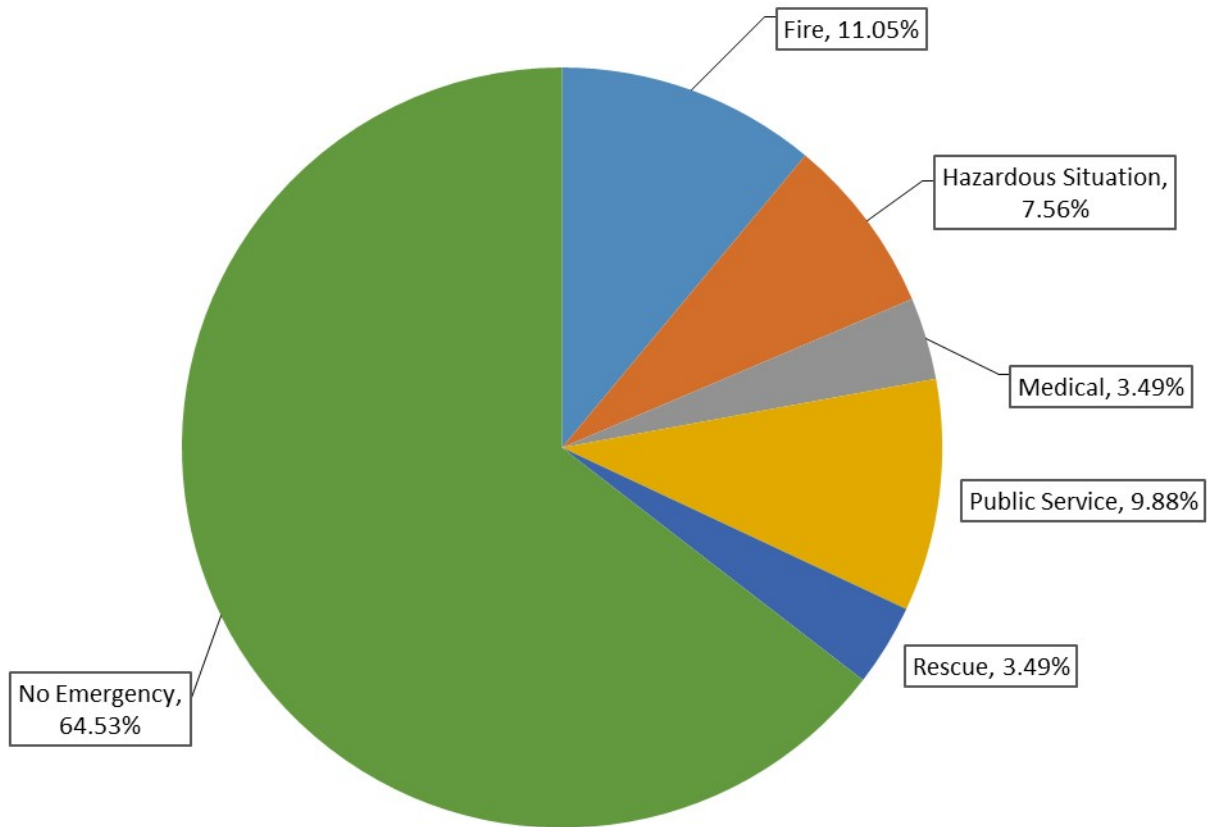
West Chester Fire Department

401 E GAY STREET

WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Major Incident Types May 2026



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fire	19	11.05%
Hazardous Situation	13	7.56%
Medical	6	3.49%
Public Service	17	9.88%
Rescue	6	3.49%
No Emergency	111	64.53%
Total	172	100.00%



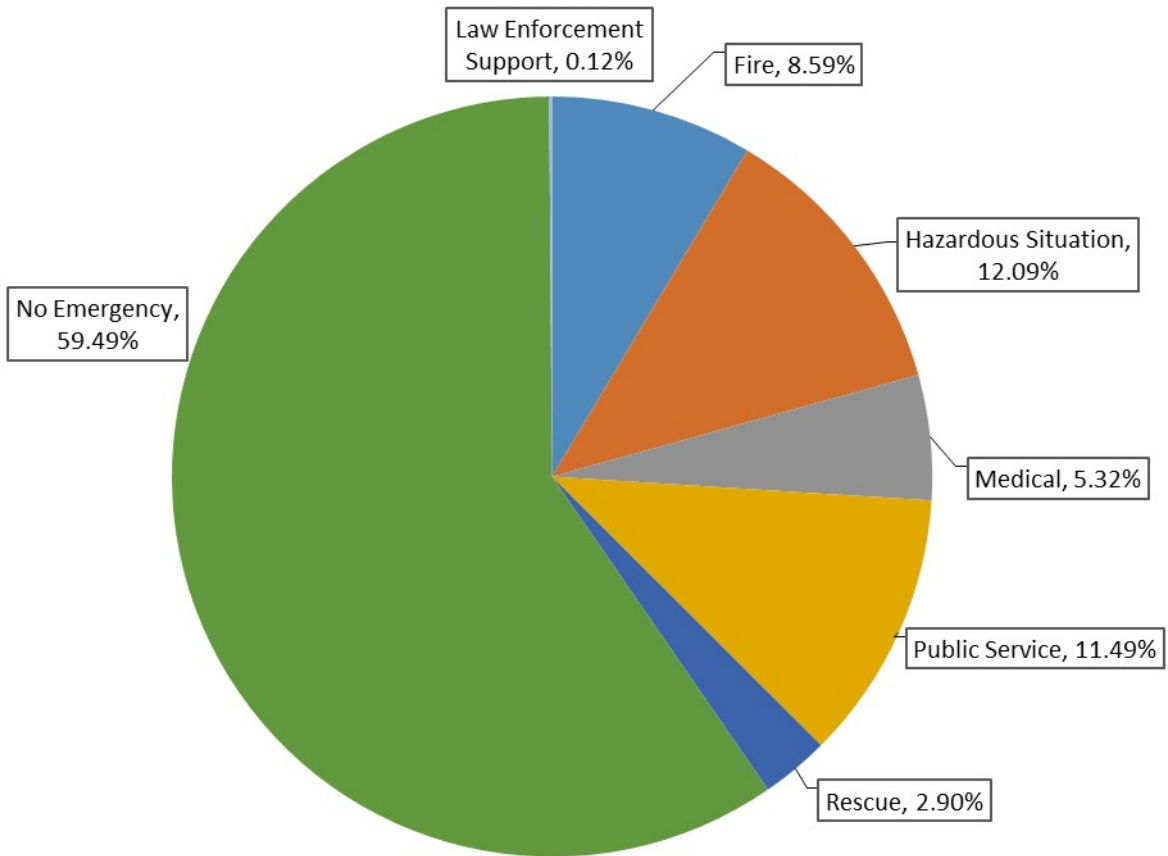
West Chester Fire Department

401 E GAY STREET

WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Major Incident Types 2026



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fire	71	8.59%
Hazardous Situation	100	12.09%
Medical	44	5.32%
Public Service	95	11.49%
Rescue	24	2.90%
No Emergency	492	59.49%
Law Enforcement Support	1	0.12%
Total	827	100.00%



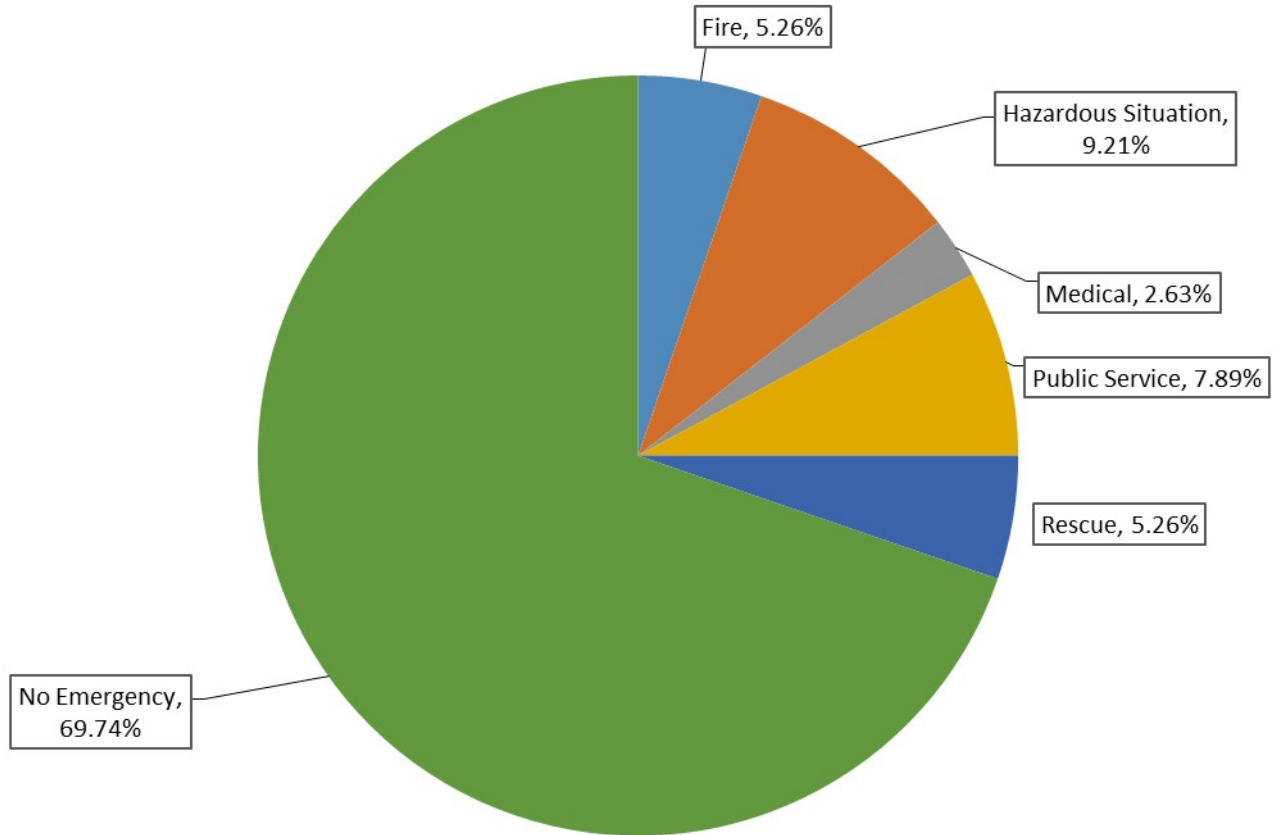
West Chester Fire Department

401 E GAY STREET

WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Major Incident Types May - West Chester Borough



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fire	4	5.26%
Hazardous Situation	7	9.21%
Medical	2	2.63%
Public Service	6	7.89%
Rescue	4	5.26%
No Emergency	53	69.74%
Law Enforcement Support	0	0.00%
Total	76	100.00%



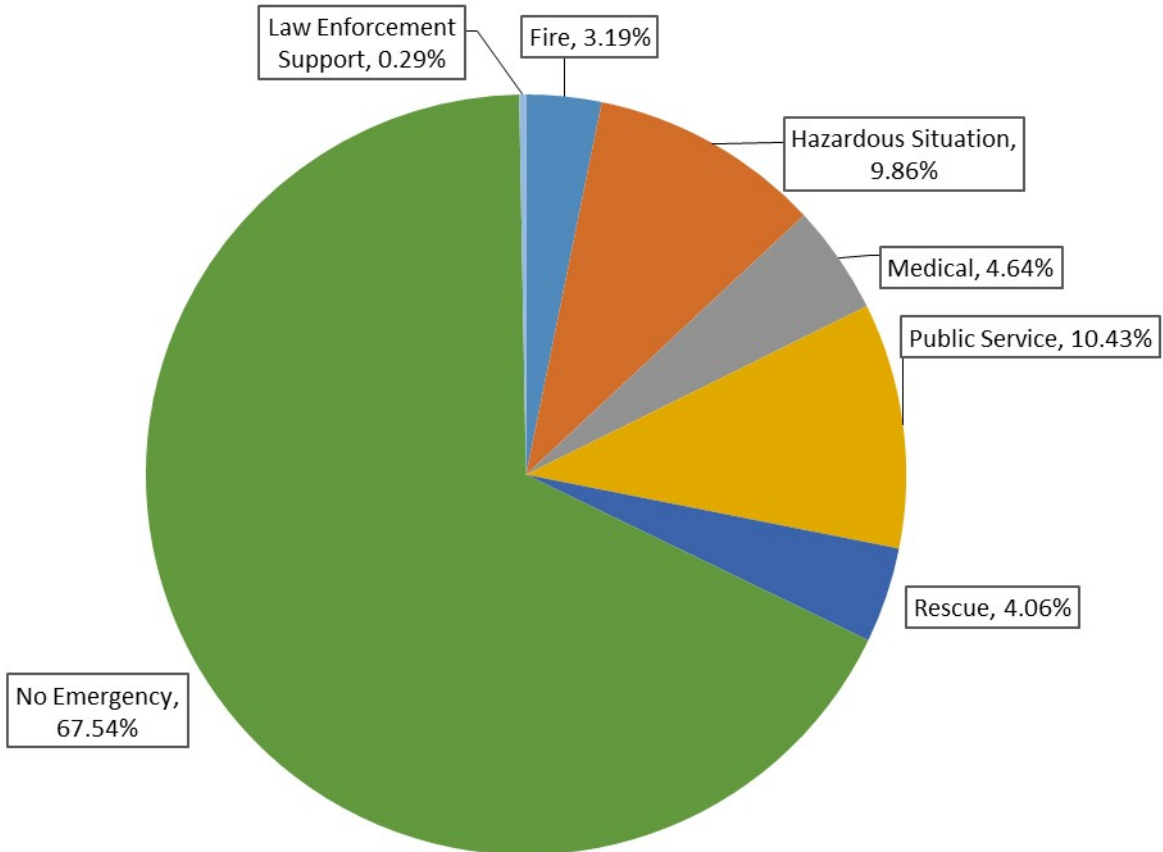
West Chester Fire Department

401 E GAY STREET

WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380

TELEPHONE: 484-887-2817

Major Incident Types 2026 - West Chester Borough



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fire	11	3.19%
Hazardous Situation	34	9.86%
Medical	16	4.64%
Public Service	36	10.43%
Rescue	14	4.06%
No Emergency	233	67.54%
Law Enforcement Support	1	0.29%
Total	345	100.00%

WCPD Monthly Report

June 2026



What's happening this month?:



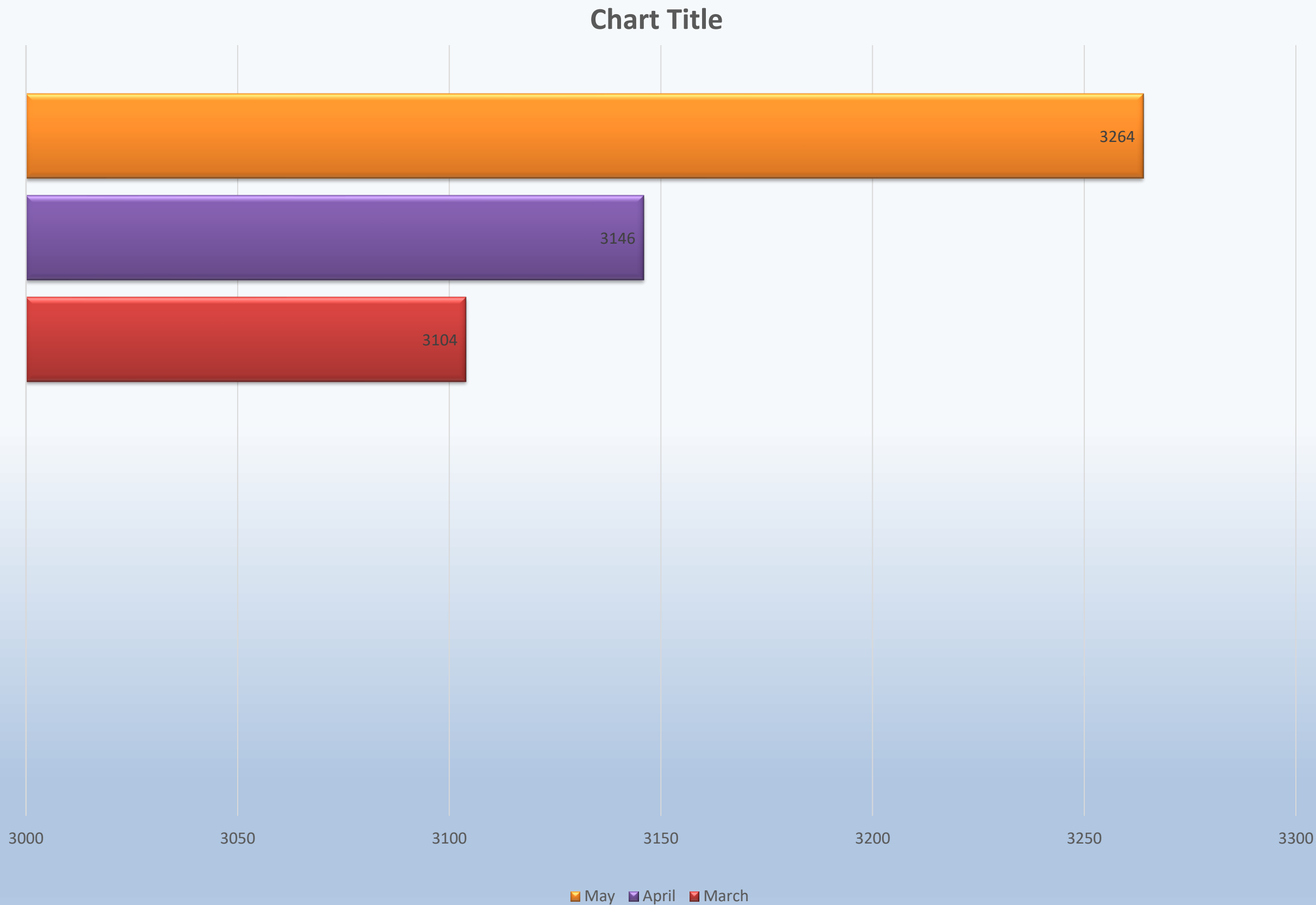
- Philadelphia is a host city for the 2026 World Cup
- Increased traffic and visitors in the surrounding counties, including Chester County
- World Cup Watch Party: Friday evening 6/12 on West Gay Street



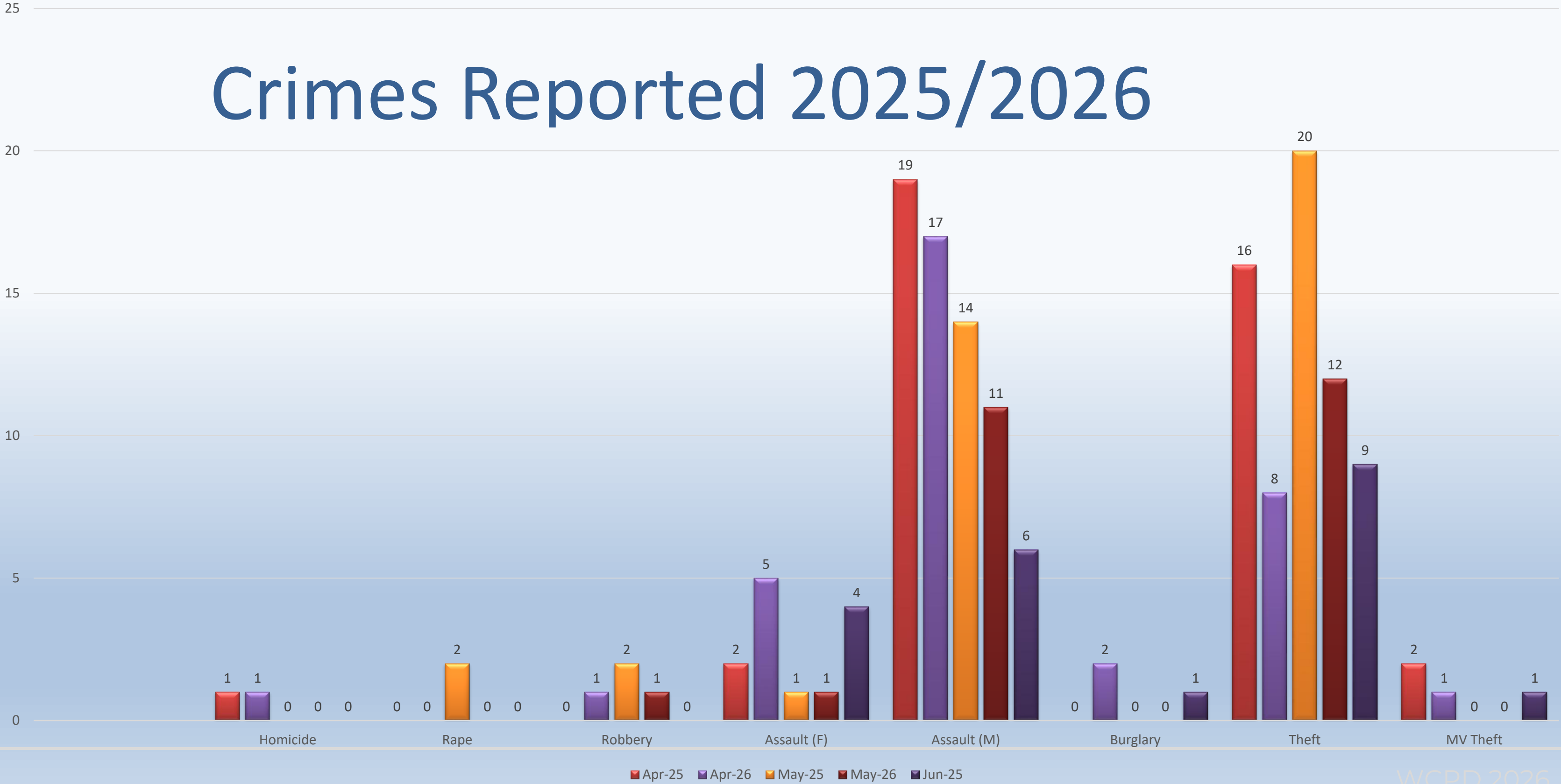
What's happening this month?:

- All police officers will be completing their state-mandated defensive tactics training beginning this month
- Communications officers will be starting their APCO - Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – training and certification this month
- Three new police officers sworn-in

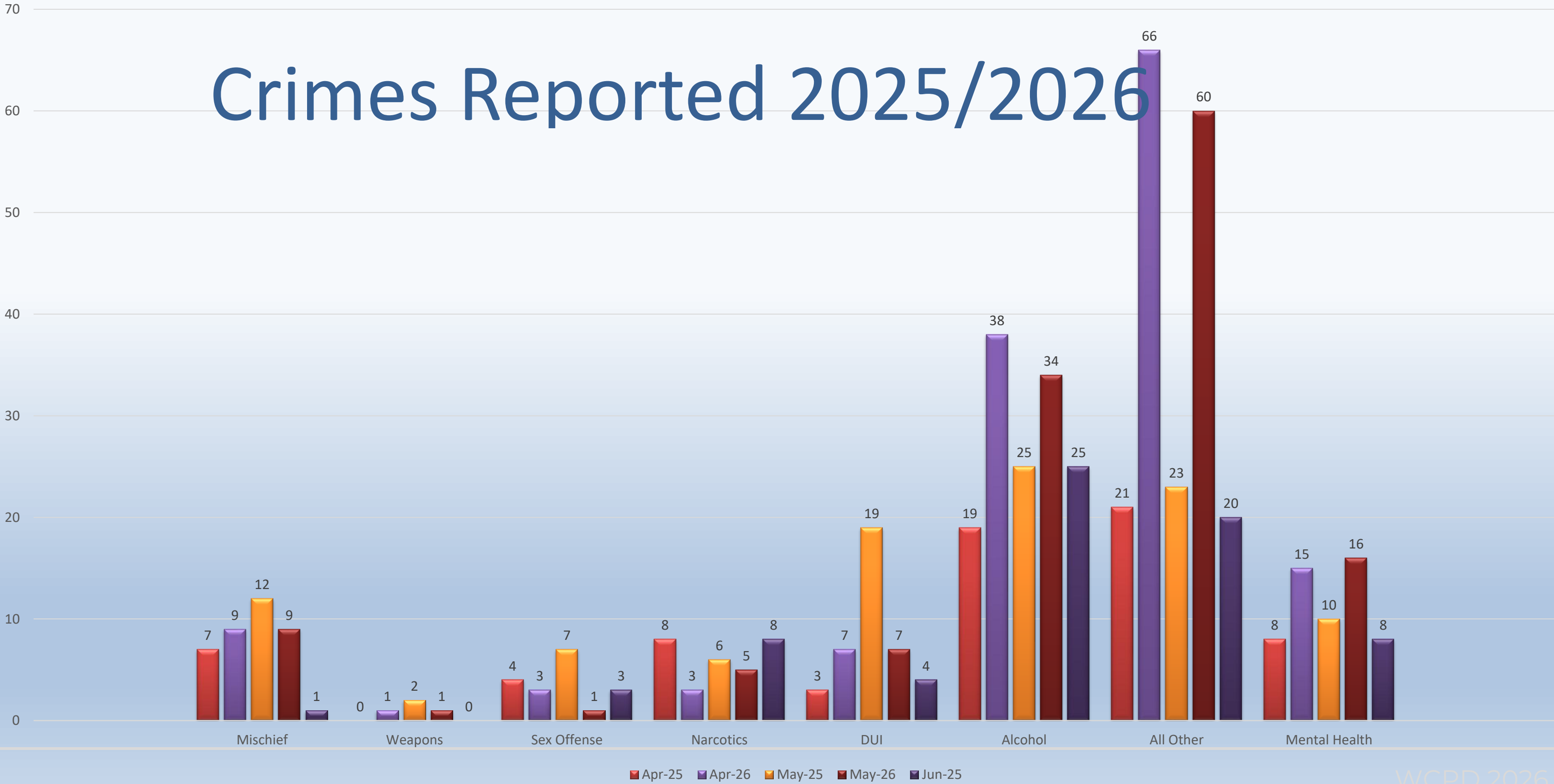
Total Calls for Service to WCPD:



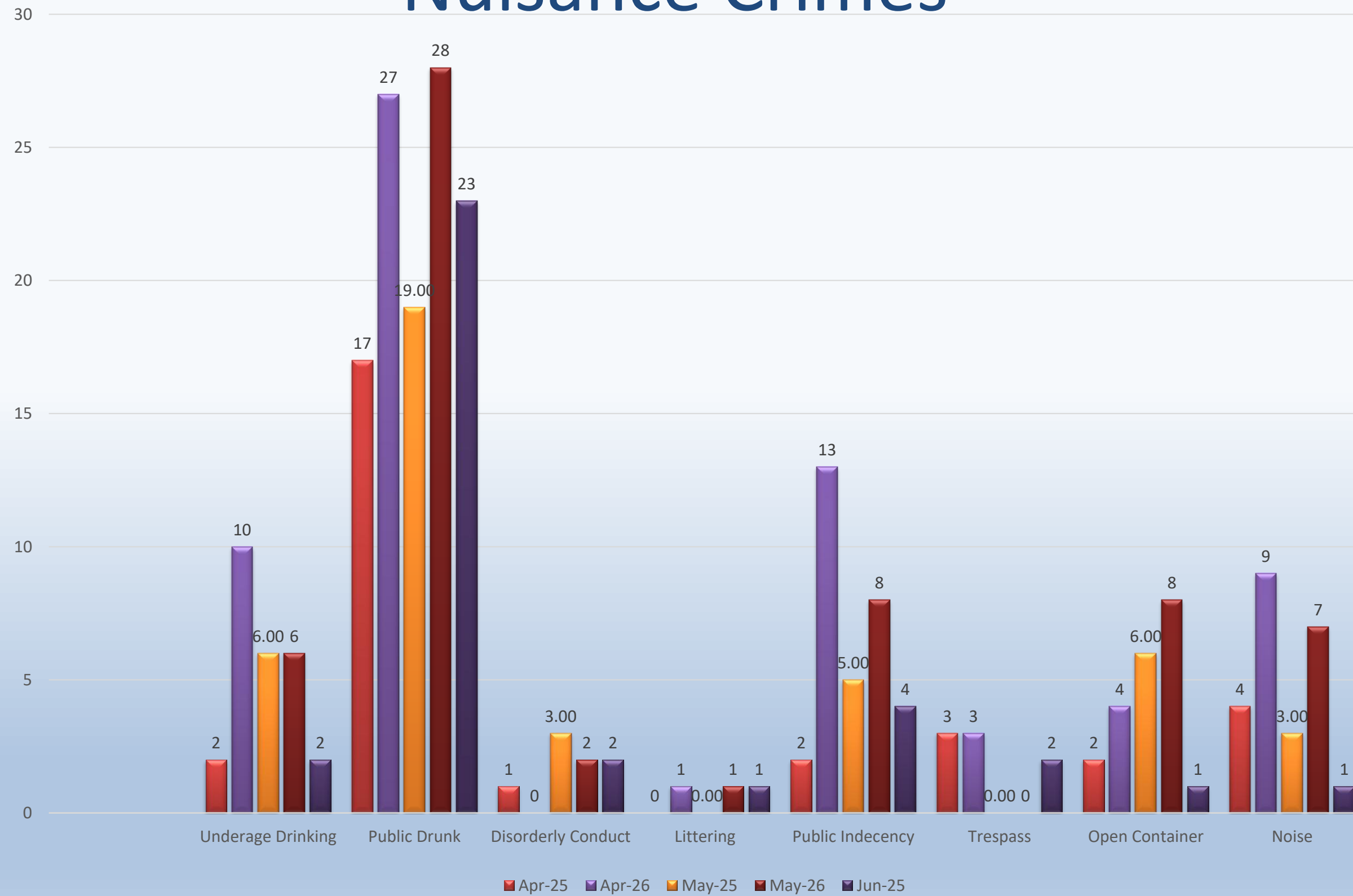
Crimes Reported 2025/2026



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



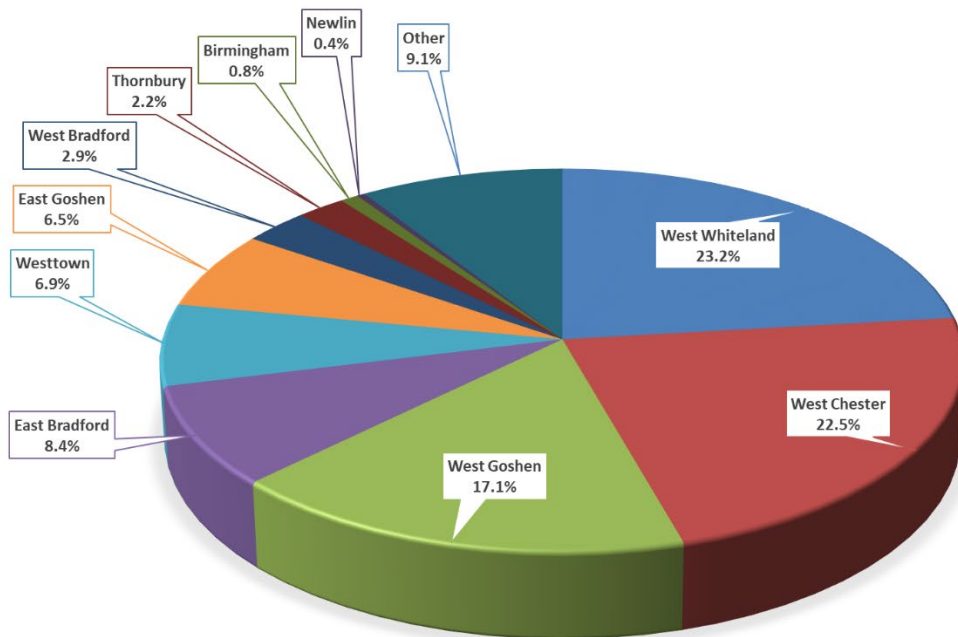
www.west-chester.com



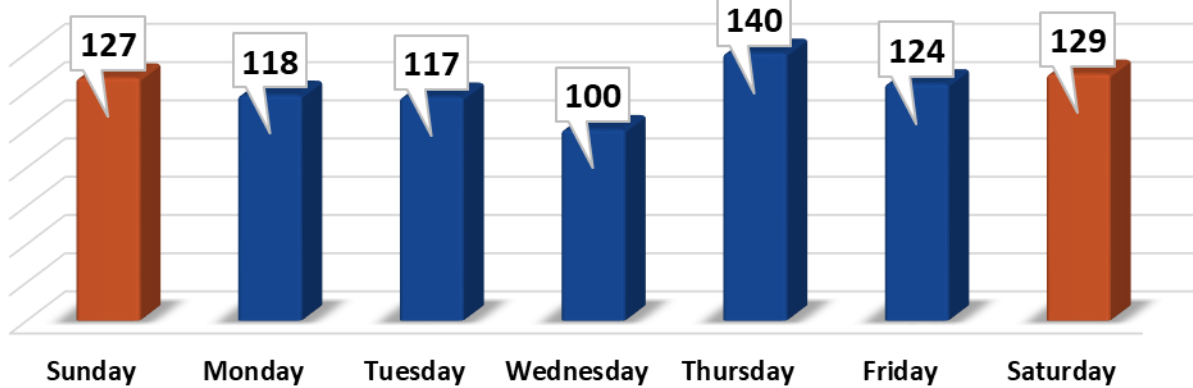
May 2026
OPERATIONS REPORT

CALL VOLUME

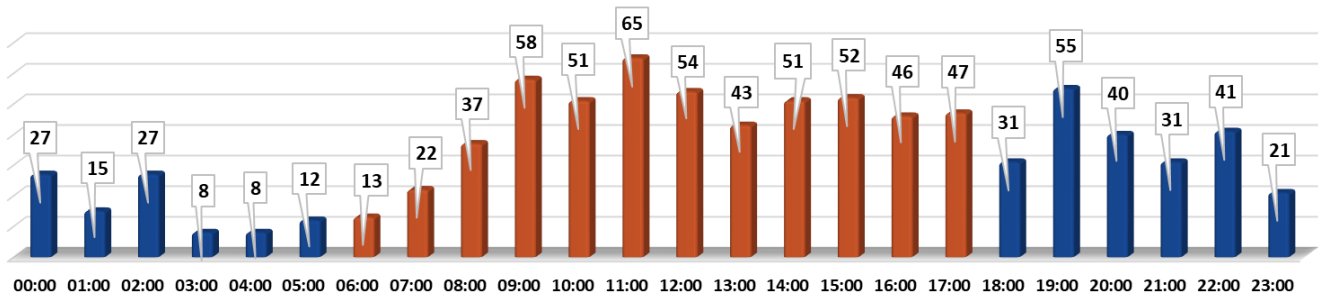
Municipality	Month	% of Calls	YTD
West Whiteland	198	23.2%	965
West Chester	192	22.5%	985
West Goshen	146	17.1%	697
East Bradford	72	8.4%	345
Westtown	59	6.9%	316
East Goshen	56	6.5%	288
West Bradford	25	2.9%	132
Thornbury	19	2.2%	76
Birmingham	7	0.8%	35
Newlin	3	0.4%	18
Uwchlan	16	1.9%	
East Whiteland	13	1.5%	
Downingtown	9	1.1%	
East Caln	7	0.8%	
Upper Uwchlan	5	0.6%	
Caln	4	0.5%	
West Vincent	4	0.5%	
Willistown	4	0.5%	
Pocopson	3	0.4%	
Charlestown	2	0.2%	
Coatesville	2	0.2%	
West Pikeland	2	0.2%	
East Brandywine	1	0.1%	
East Marlborough	1	0.1%	
East Nantmeal	1	0.1%	
Elverson	1	0.1%	
Pennsbury	1	0.1%	
Thornbury, DELCO	1	0.1%	
Valley	1	0.1%	
	855		



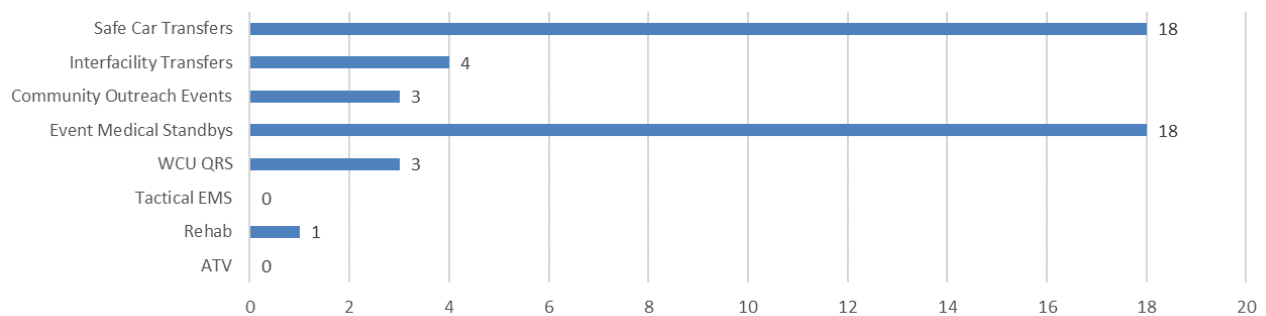
Call Volume By Day of Week



Call Volume By Hour

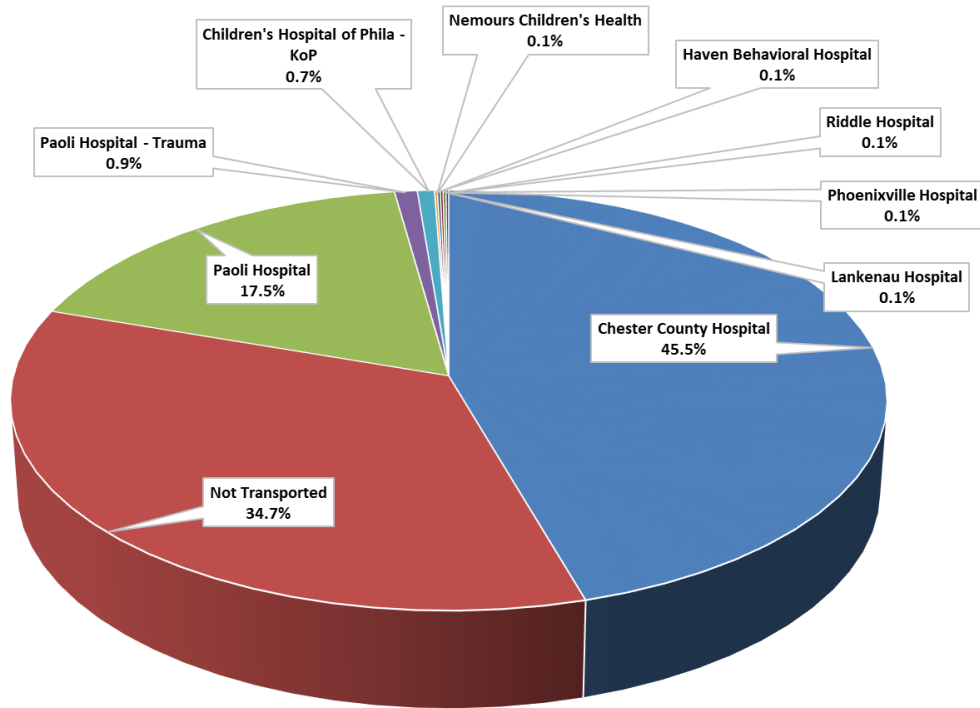


Interfacility Transports & Special Operations



HOSPITAL DESTINATION INFORMATION

Receiving Hospital	Total	%
Chester County Hospital	389	45.5%
Not Transported	297	34.7%
Paoli Hospital	150	17.5%
Paoli Hospital - Trauma	8	0.9%
Children's Hospital of Phila - KoP	6	0.7%
Nemours Children's Health	1	0.1%
Haven Behavioral Hospital	1	0.1%
Phoenixville Hospital	1	0.1%
Lankenau Hospital	1	0.1%
Riddle Hospital	1	0.1%
	855	
	Transported: 558	65.3%
	Not Transported: 297	34.7%
	855	



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

West Chester University Calls

	Total	%
Total WCU Calls	16	1.9%
WCU Calls in West Chester	15	1.8%
WCU Calls in West Goshen	1	0.1%
WCU Calls in East Bradford	0	0.0%

Alcohol / Drug Suspicion

	Total	%
Patient Reported Alcohol Use	48	5.6%
Patient Reported Drug Use	18	2.1%
Alcohol / Drug Suspicion	13	1.5%
Total:	79	9.2%

GFAC Calls Upgraded/Downgraded

Upgraded to ALS	39	4.6%
Upgraded to IALS	22	2.6%
Downgraded to IALS	22	2.6%
Downgraded to BLS	133	15.6%

Average Times

Dispatch To Enroute	1:19
Enroute To On Scene	6:44
On Scene Time	18:59
Transport Time	12:18
ER Wait Time	13:15
Dispatch To Available	57:19

Calls Covering Other Agencies

Goshen Fire Co.	32
Uwchlan Ambulance	29
Minquas Fire Co.	22
Malvern Fire Co.	8
East Whiteland Fire Co.	5
Concordville Fire Co.	5
Longwood Fire Co.	5
Modena Fire Co.	2
Westwood Fire Co.	2
Riddle EMS	1
[REDACTED]	111

Responses By Station

Main Station (Station 55)	436
East Goshen (Station 155)	21
East Bradford (Station 255)	133
West Chester University (Station 355)	7
West Whiteland North (Station 455)	180
West Whiteland South (Station 555)	82

MEDICAL CATEGORIES

Call Types		
ALS Respiratory Difficulty	116	13.6%
BLS Sick Person	96	11.2%
BLS Fall	93	10.9%
ALS Heart Problems	87	10.2%
BLS Accident	40	4.7%
ALS Stroke	36	4.2%
ALS Fall	33	3.9%
BLS Mental Health Emergency	27	3.2%
BLS Injured Person	27	3.2%
ALS Unconscious Person	23	2.7%
ALS Diabetic Emergency	21	2.5%
BLS Abdominal Pain	20	2.3%
ALS Unresponsive Person	20	2.3%
BLS Overdose	19	2.2%
ALS Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest	15	1.8%
ALS Syncope	14	1.6%
ALS Seizure	14	1.6%
Medical Alarm	13	1.5%
BLS Back Pain	10	1.2%
ALS Hypotension	10	1.2%
ALS Accident	9	1.1%
ALS Hemorrhage	8	0.9%
Accident with Entrapment	8	0.9%
ALS Overdose	7	0.8%
BLS Seizure	7	0.8%
ALS Injured Person	6	0.7%
ALS Choking	6	0.7%
ALS Maternity	6	0.7%
BLS Hemorrhage	6	0.7%
BLS Allergic Reaction	5	0.6%
House Fire	4	0.5%
BLS Dead on Arrival	4	0.5%
ALS Allergic Reaction	4	0.5%
Trailer Fire	4	0.5%
BLS Unknown Nature	3	0.4%
BLS Syncope	3	0.4%
ALS Assault With Injuries	3	0.4%
Accident with Fire	3	0.4%
Building Fire	3	0.4%
ALS Chemical Burn	2	0.2%
Accident Involving a Pedestrian	2	0.2%
Barn Fire	2	0.2%
BLS Assault with Injuries	2	0.2%
Standby	2	0.2%
BLS Maternity	2	0.2%
ALS Electrocution	1	0.1%
ALS Exposure	1	0.1%
Apartment Fire	1	0.1%
Forcible Entry	1	0.1%
Gas Alarm	1	0.1%
Gas Leak Inside	1	0.1%
Investigation Inside	1	0.1%
Helicopter Landing Zone	1	0.1%
Residential Rescue	1	0.1%
Accident Involving a Structure	1	0.1%
855		

West Chester Borough

List of suggested actions to address excessive noise and nuisance activities in the Borough

List as of 6/7/2026

Bucket	Action	Priority Bucket	Notes	Current State	Est Complete
Potential Ordinance Changes/New Ord/Other that may need Legal assist	Unruly Gathering Ordinance	Short Term	<p>Bryan's top priority. Idea is to attach violations to a location vs an individual.</p> <p>Legal Question – can municipality attach a non-criminal/civil penalty prior to a criminal penalty? (Need to confirm with Kristin. That said, overall no major callouts regarding legality of putting forth an ordinance like this (noting that there are already similar ordinances in PA).)</p> <p>Biggest callout is whether or not this will provide the impact we are looking for.</p> <p>There is some overlap with Points Program that were discussed and it was called out that that program also needs to be reviewed.</p> <p>Another callout is whether or not it would be useful to acquire landlord feedback. That can be done during the BAU approval process.</p> <p>Bryan sent out some additional details, after our meeting</p>	In Progress	Bryan targeting to have in place prior to August, student returns
Enforcement	Update Permit Parking timing/locations in the SE	Short Term	This is on the Parking Committee Agenda for 2026	Prioritized To be worked by end of 2026	End of 2026
Communication	Meet with WCU/WCU Students at the beginning of each semester to discuss borough laws, trash, parking, noise, etc.	Short Term	<p>Ramsey working with Lexie and students to arrange agenda and coordinate a date.</p> <p>Callout that we need to provide more details to the students of our rules and what we don't want them to do (they are asking for these details).</p>	In progress	September 2026 (first meeting)
Communication	Improved coordination with WCU regarding registered parties.	Short Term	<p>Stephen Hobson (WCU) plans to share list of Fraternity Parties planned for 2026/2027 (list to be shared August/Sept timeframe).</p> <p>Bryan has provided by WCU from 1Q2025. (Need to understand what "pending approval" means. We can ask Stephen).</p> <p>Drew and TJ (WC Fraternity Presidents) also pledged to keep communication more open with Borough Council during 2026/2027 season.</p>	In Progress	Aug/Sep 2026 - Get first list and then ongoing conversations.
Enforcement	<p>More proactive police patrols - during the fall/spring (foot/bicycle)</p> <p>Periodic parked police car at "hot" locations</p>	Short Term	Per Chief Lee this has started	In Progress	May-26
Enforcement	<p>Additional B&H enforcement for Trash.</p> <p>Heightened trash enforcement around the SE area the day of trash pickup (apparently there was a woman who used to travel the streets on trash pick up day (before the pickups happened) and write up citations during the week and the residents said it was very effective)</p>	Short Term	<p>Both of these have started.</p> <p>B&H is now working on Saturdays, as of May. Scheduled were adjusted to better match prior processes that include someone writing citations prior to trash collection.</p>	In Progress	May-26

Potential Ordinance Changes/New Ord/Other that may need Legal assist	Update Points Program	Mid-Term	The group aligned that our Points Program could use an overhaul (Newark's program is a good example of some additional things we could do). A target would be to work internally and with Landlord feedback to make adjustments by the start of the next rental season (May/June 2027).	Not Started	May/June 2027
Communication/Collaboration	Create groups/additional collaborative volunteer opportunities to give residents and students the opportunity to get to know each other, which tends to result in more neighborly connections.	Mid-Term	This has been discussed and should be spearheaded by the WCCCC - Nicole to keep pushing the group there	In Progress	Continued
Enforcement	Increased use of State Police resources, when we know there will be a similar "Homecoming like" party weekend.	Mid-Term	We do this for Homecoming, but the question is where there are additional opportunities to request this support up front? (Ex: St. Patrick's Weekend?)	Need to discuss further	
Potential Ordinance Changes/New Ord/Other that may need Legal assist	Review Chapter 66 and what Landlords need to have in their leases.	TBD		Not Started	
	Adjust Chapter 112-809 C(b) - Which allows Band concerts, carnivals and or other performances between 10am and 11pm. 99 or less people legal on any property.	TBD		Not Started	
	Party Registration process for the borough	TBD		Not Started	
	Establish PILOT program (done in other municipalities) which creates an agreement with WCU regarding funding to support our efforts regarding approved WCU gatherings.	TBD		Not Started	
Student Driven Actions	Improved communication with borough regarding scheduled Fraternity Parties.	Short Term	Mentioned Above	Fall 2026	
	No Fraternity Parties on Thursdays.	Short Term	Began in Spring 2026 and to continue into fall. Initial feedback from residents is positive on this.	Began Spring 2026	
	Spread out of allowable Frat parties on any given night/weekend.	Short Term		Tested Spring 2026 to continue into fall.	
	Increased # of "sober" to "non-sober" individuals monitoring the parties.	Short Term		Tested Spring 2026 to continue into fall.	
	Adjustment of Timing Fraternity Parties	Short Term	Fraternities suggested end at 12am, need to confirm if this is in alignment with our ordinance. One says 11pm, but that may just be if the party is outside with a band.		

Meeting Minutes

Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee of Borough Council

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 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 – 6:00pm
- II. Announcements - None
- 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

Fire Chief Marc Scanlon reports WCFD responded to 181 incidents in April, with 71 being in the borough. April 2026 had the largest number of calls in the history of the department. Prior to that the record was 170 calls during Hurricane Irma. Volunteers continue to train each month. In April there were four significant incidents, three house fires and one brush fire, none of which were in the borough. There is a waterline project on South Church Street, and the department is looking to have a fire hydrant relocated from Dean Street and Woodbine Alley to South Church Street, where there is no hydrant. There are two hydrants currently on Dean Street and Woodbine Alley that are extremely close to one another. The fire department is unsure if there will be a cost since there is work already being completed.

B. Monthly WCPD Report

Chief Lee shares that Officer Stu Smith will be retiring on Friday, May 15th. Officer Smith has a 32 ½ year career with the department and his ceremonial walkout will be on Friday at 3:00pm. The hiring process continues and Chief Lee and Mayor DeBaptiste interviewed candidates. Three candidates will be brought to council work session for approval of conditional offers of employment. He reports that one candidate will need the police academy, which starts in July. Chief Lee thanks the Civil Service Commission, the mayor, and the council for their help with the process. In April officers attended crisis intervention team training, WC has the most officers trained in crisis intervention in the county, nearly at 100%. Also, an officer, hired nearly a year ago, attended standardized field sobriety test training last month. The department continues their investigation in cooperation with the district attorney's office into the pedestrian struck crash that occurred on April 12th. The department responded to 3140 calls in April. This includes service and criminal calls. There is a homicide call on the report referring to the vehicular death that continues to be investigated. The nuisance calls are reported under "All Others". The breakdown of this shows an increase in April. Chief states he has had discussions with council, neighborhood groups, both publicly and privately about what they can do as police and law enforcement. He heard from

these conversations people would like more foot patrols and bike patrols, having more officers more visible in the neighborhoods. Bryan Travis states he has seen the bike patrols, but noticed on his home cameras that on the previous weekend he did not see a nighttime patrol car go by his home after 2am. Chief Lee explains the officers are there, but out issuing citations or taking a person to the station. An officer will be off the street for 20-30 minutes or more on station, then will return to the area immediately. Lisa Kearns has asked for data from the last three years to compare to current. Month by month and year by year comparisons. Chief will organize data in a format the committee requests.

C. Monthly GFAC Report

Justin Robbins, GFAC Director of Operations/Deputy EMS Chief, reports GFAC responded to 808 calls in April, 219 of which were in West Chester Borough. Justin shares that the crews transported patients to different locations that are not in their call area in response to hospital overcrowding. It is faster for crews to transport patients to Riddle Hospital and Christiana Care in West Grove to get a faster turnaround from these out of area hospitals that are less busy than Chester County Hospital. It is important to clear and be available for other calls for service. Saturday, May 16th is GFAC's community festival and this kicks off National EMS Week. GFAC was awarded the Distinguished Service award from the Chester County EMS Council.

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

Chair Bryan Travis gives an update on his three goals for the committee. The first goal was truck restrictions. The borough solicitor has given Bryan a couple truck ordinances from surrounding townships, and he still needs to review them. He hopes to bring it to June's meeting. Goal two is the EMS/public safety tax/funding gap. The expense side has started to be discussed at the Finance Committee. And the third goal is quality of life issues. Tonight we are discussing unruly social gatherings. All three goals are intertwined with other committees, so you may hear discussion outside of this committee, but they originated in Public Safety & Quality of Life.

V. Old Business

A. Approve April 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting minutes (attachment) **Approve 3-0**

B. Motion to approve draft amendment to Chapter 80 – Peddling, Soliciting, Handbills and schedule a public hearing for June 17, 2026 (attachment)

Issue: Review amendments to Chapter 80

Committee Chair Travis met with borough solicitor, Kristin Camp, to discuss some of the issues the small business owners in town had brought to last month's meeting. Bryan also met with store owner Malena to get more details about the concerns she had with soliciting and possible interference with business activities, such as blocking doors, making people feel uncomfortable or unwelcomed. One addition to ordinance is adding specific location where peddling or soliciting shall occur, no fixed location with a table. Also, needed is proof of registration with the Commonwealth based on the PA Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act. Also cleaning up language or ordinance by updating exemptions in the ordinance that need to be cleaned such as removing A and B of 80-5, which refers to farmers markets and sales of goods by owner who would donate to charity. Added distance requirement for solicitors or peddlers of at least 5 feet from door for business or office. **APPROVED 3-0**

C. Motion to direct the Solicitor to prepare a draft ordinance on the use of vape shops in residential neighborhoods in proximity to parks, schools, and bus stops in the residential zoning districts. **TABLED TO JUNE MEETING**

VI. New Business

A. Discuss Unruly Social Gathering Ordinance and Criteria

Issue: Mass gatherings in residential areas.

Chair Bryan Travis shares that the idea of an unruly social gathering ordinance has been brought to committee for discussion and possible implementation. There was discussion last month, and in previous years, about this type of ordinance in response to large, loud gatherings in the southeast neighborhoods. Bryan shares that many college towns have Unruly Social Gathering Ordinances. The committee needs to decide if this is something we need. If we agree that we need it, we need to create some definitions for it. Since there are many towns with this, there are examples for the committee to review. He sees the current ordinances that correspond with this behavior, such as Chapter 66 and the point system, are long-term solutions and an unruly social gathering ordinance would be a short-term solution that would address the event itself. Lisa Kearns states yes, we need to look at it and it would cross the board in the borough. It would include short-term rentals, owner occupied, student rentals, and long-term rentals. Brian McGinnis states it is something we should consider, but with everything already in place we would need to make sure we are not over duplicating the process. Bryan Travis reminds the committee that this is just a discussion. This would address the event at the moment it is occurring. Newark, DE has both a point system and an unruly gathering ordinance. Mr. Travis shares the Newark, DE list of items on the unruly social gathering ordinance. PASSHE schools where towns have the ordinance are Bloomsburg, East Stroudsburg, and Indiana University of PA. All committee members approve of bringing this discussion to council.

Anne Carroll, representing CASE, comments that the noise ordinance which was contained in Chapter 73 is now tied into the zoning ordinance which is Chapter 112. In 112 809C 2B versus 4B. And they are repeated in 73 A2 and B2. They believe they are contradictory to each other. There is concern of the amount of money that is being spent on the solicitor to assist when the council is not quite there with their information. Mr. Metrick mentions another question is what this ordinance has that current statutes and state statutes currently don't have. Sean Berry comments his appreciation that the committee is looking at an ordinance that would have the ability to protect neighbors in the borough. Jim Sergeant of South Walnut Street feels the unique problem is that WCU is a dry campus and this pushes all of conduct issues off campus. If the university allowed those of age to drink on campus, there may be more control. We cannot continue to allow the behavior of those who behave badly, there needs to be ramifications.

B. Motion to permit colored lights to be installed on Gay Street in recognition of Pride Month

Issue: Strings of rainbow lights wrapped around light poles along Gay Street for month of June

APPROVED 3-0 Michael Hartman, of West Barnard Street, shares that Phoenixville and Media paint crosswalks and our crosswalks in town are brick, so he came up with this creative idea for Pride Month. The Chester County Equity Alliance agreed to assist with the fundraising and funding of the lights.

C. Motion to approve resolution to destroy police records that have exceeded the retention periods as required by PA law. (attachment) **APPROVED 3-0**

D. Special Event Applications (SEAs) (attachments)

Issue: Approve Special Event Permits **All APPROVED 3-0**

1. 7.9.26 Clydesdales Parade – downtown West Chester (Hosted by: Downtown West Chester and Penn Distributing)
2. 6.12.26 World Cup Watch Party – Open Air Market (Hosted by: Downtown West Chester, West Chester Parks and Recreation, Kildare's)
3. 9.12.26 Up on the Roof Fundraiser – Chestnut Street Garage (Hosted by: Downtown West Chester)

4. 10.11.26 F4 Chili Cook-Off – downtown West Chester
5. 10.17.26 Unite 4 HER 5k – downtown West Chester
6. 12.5.26 Jingle Run – 5 k loop (Hosted by: Care Center Foundation)

VII. Other Business

Committee member Lisa Kearns brings the suggestion of a companion ordinance to the Vape Shop one being drafted now. The companion ordinance would prohibit the manufacture, sale and public use of Kratom and its synthetic concentrate. Kratom is derived from the leaves of tree grown in Southeast Asia and acts on the same brain receptors as opioids, heroin, and fentanyl. There are no FDA approved uses for Kratom or its synthetic concentrate. All branches of the US military have banned Kratom. She would like to prevent the next opioid type epidemic. Mr. Travis asks if other entities have this route to ban a specific product? Lisa states Scranton has it in Pennsylvania and the state of California has cities that have passed ordinances too. Pennsylvania has been discussing banning it, but may take some time to pass through the channels. Lisa shares a draft of an ordinance she has started. The committee agrees to put it on the June committee agenda.

VIII. Adjournment 7:16pm

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. XX- - 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 is a home-rule municipality organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and governed by an elected Borough 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 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."

WHEREAS, Kratom is not lawfully marketed in the U.S. as a drug product, a dietary supplement, or a food additive (FDA)

WHEREAS, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has listed kratom as a "drug of concern"

WHEREAS, there has been a 1,200% jump in Kratom-related calls to Poison Control Centers over the last decade, according to the US Centers for Disease Control, with 167 cases reported to PA Poison Control Centers between Jan 1, 2022 and June 30, 2025

WHEREAS, Coroners in multiple PA counties, including Chester County, have confirmed Kratom-related fatalities

WHEREAS, All branches of the US Military completely ban Kratom use in all forms – active duty or reserves – on or off duty

WHEREAS, 7-OH is a concentrated synthetic version of Kratom and is 13 or more times more potent than morphine, acts on the same brain receptors as opioids, and is engineered to be addictive and there are no prescription or over-the-counter drug products containing kratom or its known alkaloids that are legally on the market in the U.S.

WHEREAS, Kratom affects babies during pregnancy. The baby may be born with symptoms of withdrawal and need treatment

WHEREAS, West Chester has always prioritized public safety, responsible commerce, and the well-being of our 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.

SECTION 2. PROHIBITED ACTS.

It shall be unlawful for any person within the Municipality 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 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 Police Department, Code Enforcement Officers, Health Department, or any other official authorized by the Municipality.

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 Municipality may seek injunctive relief, license suspension, license revocation, or any other remedy authorized by law.

SECTION 5. PENALTIES.

A. Civil Penalties.

The Municipality 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. Administrative enforcement costs;
5. Closure orders for businesses operating in violation of this Ordinance.

Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

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 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 immediately upon final enactment as provided by law. Compliance date is 60 days after enactment.

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 CS COMMERCIAL SERVICE DISTRICT; 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, ~~tobacco~~ 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 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 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 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 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 the lot is used as a school, religious use, public recreation facility, day care center 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) Smoking shall be prohibited within a tobacco store/smoke shop.

(8) 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

PART 6
DISORDERLY GATHERINGS

§ 6-601. Purpose and Intent. [Ord. 856, 1/27/2003, § 1]

The Town Council of the Town of Bloomsburg finds and determines as follows:

- A. That certain private properties require a disproportionate amount of police service with many calls requiring response to maintain order and public peace and safety and to stop public disturbances at parties or other social events so that there is less police personnel and resources available for other locations, emergencies and duties within the Town of Bloomsburg, thereby placing a disproportionate and unfair burden upon the residents of the Town of Bloomsburg.
- B. That the host of a disorderly party or other social event and those persons attending such party or event should be held criminally responsible for any public disturbances or other acts of disorderly conduct thereat.
- C. That owners of private properties derive a benefit from the aforesaid police service.
- D. That owners of private properties have a responsibility to manage their properties to minimize required police service to maintain order and public peace and safety and to stop public disturbances, to minimize the burden upon the residents of the Town of Bloomsburg and to promote the health, safety and welfare of the public in general.
- E. That owners of private properties can minimize required police service to maintain order and public peace and safety and to stop public disturbances by diligent and strict management and regulations of their properties.
- F. That assessment of police service costs as provided in this Part is reasonable and will have a deterrent effect and encourage more responsible management of private properties.
- G. That it is not the intent of this Part to discourage or suppress calls or requests for police service, but rather to encourage and stimulate diligent and strict management and regulation of private properties by the owner thereof and to promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Bloomsburg.

§ 6-602. Definitions. [Ord. 856, 1/27/2003, § 2]

As used in this Part, the following terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended:

DISORDERLY GATHERING — A gathering at which any public disturbance occurs.

GATHERING — A party or event involving a group of persons who have assembled or are assembling for a social occasion or activity on private property.

HOST — The person who owns, leases or is otherwise in possession and control of the private property where the gathering takes place and/or who organized, sponsored, conducted, hosted or permitted such gathering, invited persons to attend such gathering or was otherwise in charge of such gathering.

OWNERS — The person, persons, corporation or other entity who holds record title to the private property.

POLICE SERVICE COSTS — The cost to the Town of Bloomsburg for police services rendered in responding to a call at a disorderly gathering or otherwise maintaining order and public peace and safety and stopping public disturbances at a disorderly gathering including, but not limited to, the salaries and other compensation of police officers, appropriate administrative costs allocable thereto, prorated costs of equipment, the cost of repairing damaged Town of Bloomsburg equipment and property, and the cost of any medical treatment of injured police officers. This cost shall either be fixed from time to time by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomsburg, based upon the average cost for a typical police response or be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Chief of Police.

PRIVATE PROPERTY — Any land, building or other structure, including single and multifamily dwellings and commercial and industrial buildings not owned by a public entity.

PUBLIC DISTURBANCE(S) — Any act by a host or those persons attending a gathering involving public drunkenness, consumption of an alcoholic beverage in public, the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors, public urination or defecation, the unlawful deposit of trash or litter on public or private property, damage to or destruction of public or private property, the obstruction of public roads, streets, highways or sidewalks, interference with emergency or police services, unreasonable noise, use of profane or obscene language or gestures, indecent exposure, fighting or quarreling, or any other act defined as disruptive conduct by the Town of Bloomsburg's Code of Ordinances or any other conduct which otherwise disturbs, annoys, injures or endangers the health, safety or welfare of the residents of the Town of Bloomsburg residing in the neighborhood or vicinity of the gathering.

PUBLIC ENTITY — Any federal, state or local government, school district or agency, or authority created or organized thereby.

PUBLIC PROPERTY — Any land, building or other structure owned by a public entity.

§ 6-603. Violation. [Ord. 856, 1/27/2003, § 3]

No host or person attending a gathering shall commit any act of public disturbance. No host shall hold, conduct or have a gathering where any act of public disturbance occurs or continue a gathering where any act of public disturbance has occurred or is occurring.

§ 6-604. Arrest of Violators. [Ord. 856, 1/27/2003, § 4]

In addition to the right to file a citation against violators under and pursuant to the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, police officers may also arrest a host or person attending a gathering who violates § 6-603 of this Part, provided that the police officer views the public disturbance and in the case of the host, the host is in attendance at the gathering at the time of such public disturbance, although nothing herein shall prevent a host from being cited for violation of § 6-603, whether or not any person attending the gathering is arrested or cited for a violation.

§ 6-605. Penalties. [Ord. 856, 1/27/2003, § 5]

Any host or person who violates § 6-603 of this Part shall be guilty of the offense of disorderly

gathering and upon conviction thereof in a summary proceeding be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 and/or be imprisoned for a period not to exceed 90 days.

§ 6-606. Owners Required to Pay Police Service Costs. [Ord. 856, 1/27/2003, § 6]

An owner is required to pay police service costs to maintain order and public peace and safety and to stop public disturbances for each response by the police to a disorderly gathering in excess of one response during any thirty-day period of time.

§ 6-607. Notice to Owners of Police Service Costs. [Ord. 856, 1/27/2003, § 7]

Whenever the police are called to respond to a disorderly gathering for the purpose of maintaining order and public peace and safety and stopping public disturbances, the Chief of Police or his duly authorized designee shall notify the owner of the private property where the disorderly gathering took place and also the agent of such property if the owner has designated an "agent" in accordance with the Town of Bloomsburg's Regulated Rental Unit Occupancy Ordinance, by regular mail at the last known address of such owner and operator, that the police were called to respond to a disorderly gathering at the owner's property for the purpose of maintaining order and public peace and safety and stopping public disturbances and that if the police are again called to respond to a disorderly gathering at such property within 30 days after their initial response, such owner shall be required to pay police service costs to the Town of Bloomsburg for such responses.

§ 6-608. Collection of Police Service Costs. [Ord. 856, 1/27/2003, § 8]

After the second response to a disorderly gathering within 30 days as provided in § 6-607 of this Part, the Chief of Police or his duly authorized designee shall notify the Town of Bloomsburg Treasurer, in writing, of the name and address of the owner of the private property where the disorderly gathering took place, the dates of the initial and subsequent response(s) and the total amount of police service costs incurred for or during such responses. The Town of Bloomsburg Treasurer or his/her duly authorized designee shall then bill the owner for the said amount, which shall be due and payable to the Town of Bloomsburg within 30 days of such billing.

§ 6-609. Failure to Pay Police Service Costs. [Ord. 856, 1/27/2003, § 9]

Any police service costs which have not been paid within 30 days of the billing therefore may be collected, together with a penalty of 10% thereof and interest at the rate of 10% per annum added thereto, by civil action against the owner and/or may be imposed or assessed against the owner's private property as a municipal claim as provided by law.

Draft Ordinance: Unruly Social Gatherings

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 TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR UNRULY SOCIAL GATHERINGS; TO AUTHORIZE POLICE ABATEMENT OF SUCH GATHERINGS; TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOSTS, ATTENDEES, PROPERTY OWNERS, TENANTS, AND OCCUPANTS; TO AUTHORIZE RECOVERY OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL COSTS; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

Section 1. Purpose and intent.

The Borough Council of the Borough of West Chester finds that unruly social gatherings can create unreasonable noise, public intoxication, underage drinking, obstruction of streets and sidewalks, litter, property damage, interference with emergency response, and other conditions that threaten the health, safety, welfare, peace, and quiet enjoyment of residents, visitors, businesses, and neighborhoods.

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect public safety and neighborhood quality of life by establishing clear standards for social gatherings, assigning responsibility to hosts and attendees, authorizing police officers to abate unruly social gatherings when necessary, and allowing the Borough to recover certain municipal costs associated with repeated police responses.

This ordinance is intended to supplement, and not replace, other provisions of the Borough Code, including but not limited to ordinances regulating noise disturbance, public nuisances, alcohol, disorderly conduct, property maintenance, rental housing, streets and sidewalks, and emergency services.

Section 2. Definitions.

For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ATTENDEE

Any person who is present at a social gathering.

BOROUGH

The Borough of West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

CHIEF OF POLICE

The Chief of Police of the Borough of West Chester, or the Chief's authorized designee.

HOST

Any person who organizes, sponsors, conducts, permits, allows, controls, or has a

substantial role in arranging a social gathering. The term includes, but is not limited to, a tenant, occupant, lessee, resident, property owner, or person with authority or control over the property where the gathering occurs.

OWNER

Any person, partnership, corporation, association, limited liability company, trust, or other entity holding legal or equitable title to real property in the Borough.

POLICE SERVICE COSTS

The reasonable costs incurred by the Borough for police, code enforcement, public works, fire, emergency medical, or other municipal services used to respond to, investigate, monitor, control, disperse, clean up, or abate an unruly social gathering. Such costs may include personnel, equipment, administrative costs, damage to Borough property, and related enforcement costs, to the extent permitted by law.

PUBLIC DISTURBANCE

Any act or condition occurring at, near, or because of a social gathering that disturbs, annoys, injures, obstructs, or endangers the health, safety, welfare, peace, comfort, or repose of residents, neighbors, attendees, pedestrians, motorists, police officers, emergency responders, or the public. Public disturbance includes, but is not limited to:

1. Public drunkenness, disorderly intoxication, or alcohol-related conduct that creates a risk to public health, safety, welfare, peace, or order;
2. Underage possession, consumption, purchase, attempted purchase, or transportation of liquor, malt beverages, or brewed beverages, including conduct prohibited by 18 Pa.C.S. § 6308;
3. Selling, furnishing, supplying, giving, providing, or allowing a minor to possess alcoholic beverages on property owned or controlled by the person charged, including conduct prohibited by 18 Pa.C.S. § 6310.1;
4. Any violation of the Pennsylvania Liquor Code, the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, or other applicable state law involving the possession, consumption, sale, furnishing, transportation, or distribution of alcohol;
5. Public urination or defecation, including by an attendee who has exited the premises and is within 1,000 feet of the premises;
6. Unreasonable noise, amplified sound, electronically produced noise, yelling, chanting, or other sound disturbance, including any noise disturbance prohibited by Chapter 73 of the Code of the Borough of West Chester;
7. Noise that is plainly audible across real property boundaries, through partitions common to two residential units, or through partitions between a person within a building and a public way, common area, parking lot, sidewalk, street, or neighboring property;

8. Fighting, threatening behavior, violent or tumultuous behavior, harassment, quarreling, or other conduct constituting disorderly conduct under 18 Pa.C.S. § 5503;
9. Obscene language, obscene gestures, lewd conduct, indecent exposure, or other conduct constituting disorderly conduct under 18 Pa.C.S. § 5503;
10. Creating a hazardous, physically offensive, or unsafe condition by any act that serves no legitimate purpose, including conduct prohibited by 18 Pa.C.S. § 5503;
11. Obstruction of streets, sidewalks, alleys, driveways, rights-of-way, common areas, parking lots, or emergency access, including by attendees who have exited the premises and are congregating upon or blocking public rights-of-way within 1,000 feet of the premises;
12. Interference with police, fire, emergency medical, code enforcement, public works, or other public safety services;
13. Refusal or failure to comply with a lawful order of a police officer or other authorized Borough official to abate, disperse, or control an unruly social gathering;
14. Littering, accumulation of trash, broken glass, cups, cans, bottles, beverage packaging, or other debris, including excessive littering defined as 20 or more items of trash lying on the ground, pavement, yard, sidewalk, street, alley, or other public or private area;
15. Damage to or destruction of public or private property, including criminal mischief occurring at the premises or committed by an attendee within 1,000 feet of the premises;
16. Illegal parking, blocking of travel lanes, unsafe pedestrian or vehicle conditions, or any condition that impedes access by police, fire, emergency medical, or other public safety vehicles;
17. Occupancy of roofs, porches, balconies, decks, yards, or structures in a manner that creates a safety hazard, including non-permitted occupancy of rooftops;
18. Open burning, fireworks, unsafe fire conditions, or conduct that creates a risk of fire, explosion, injury, or property damage;
19. The use, possession, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia by an attendee at the premises or within 1,000 feet of the premises;
20. Trespassing by an attendee on private property within 1,000 feet of the premises after exiting the premises;
21. A gathering of more than 150 persons without a required Borough special event permit, when such permit is required by applicable law;
22. Any use of or activity upon property that, by reason of flame, smoke, odors, fumes, noise, dust, trash, garbage, debris, or unsafe conditions, unreasonably interferes with

the reasonable use, comfort, enjoyment, health, or safety of neighboring property, including conduct constituting a public nuisance under Chapter 84 of the Code of the Borough of West Chester;

23. Any act constituting a disorderly premises, disorderly conduct, public nuisance, noise disturbance, property maintenance violation, rental housing violation, zoning violation, fire safety violation, or other violation of the Code of the Borough of West Chester;
24. Any conduct that violates the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Pennsylvania Liquor Code, Code of the Borough of West Chester, Chester County regulations, or other applicable federal, state, county, or local law; or
25. Any other conduct arising from a social gathering that threatens the health, safety, welfare, peace, good order, quiet enjoyment, or reasonable use of neighboring property, public spaces, streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way, or the Borough.

SOCIAL GATHERING

A party, event, assembly, celebration, or gathering of persons on private property, public property, or in any place within the Borough, whether indoors, outdoors, or both, whether or not alcohol is present, and whether or not the gathering is open to the public.

UNRULY SOCIAL GATHERING

A social gathering of four or more persons at a residence, rental property, private property, public property, or other premises within the Borough where three or more public disturbances occur, or where a police officer determines that the gathering presents an immediate threat to public health, safety, welfare, peace, or order.

Section 3. Prohibited conduct.

- A. No host shall hold, conduct, sponsor, permit, allow, or continue an unruly social gathering.
- B. No attendee shall commit, cause, aid, encourage, or participate in a public disturbance at a social gathering.
- C. No host shall fail to take reasonable steps to prevent, stop, or abate a public disturbance once the host knows or reasonably should know that such disturbance has occurred or is occurring.
- D. No person shall refuse or fail to comply with a lawful order of a police officer or other authorized Borough official issued for the purpose of abating, dispersing, or controlling an unruly social gathering.
- E. It shall not be a defense that a host did not personally commit the public disturbance, provided that the host knew or reasonably should have known of the social gathering and failed to take reasonable steps to prevent, stop, or abate the public disturbance.

Section 4. Police authority to abate or disperse unruly social gatherings.

A. Whenever a police officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a social gathering has become an unruly social gathering, the officer may take reasonable steps to abate the public disturbance and restore public peace, safety, and order.

B. Police abatement may include, but is not limited to:

1. Directing a host to reduce noise, remove hazards, stop unlawful conduct, or restore order;
2. Directing attendees to leave the property or surrounding area;
3. Dispersing persons from the gathering upon notice;
4. Closing or clearing porches, yards, sidewalks, streets, alleys, or other areas where persons are creating unsafe or unlawful conditions;
5. Requesting assistance from fire, emergency medical, code enforcement, or other public safety personnel;
6. Issuing citations or filing criminal charges when authorized by law;
7. Arresting persons when authorized by law; and
8. Taking other lawful action necessary to protect public health, safety, welfare, and peace.

C. Before dispersing a gathering, a police officer shall, when practical under the circumstances, provide notice to the host, attendees, or persons present that the gathering has been declared an unruly social gathering and must be abated or dispersed.

D. Failure to comply with a lawful order to abate or disperse an unruly social gathering shall constitute a separate violation of this ordinance and may also constitute a violation of other applicable law.

E. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of a police officer to take immediate action without prior notice when necessary to address an emergency, prevent injury, protect property, preserve evidence, stop criminal conduct, or maintain public safety.

Section 5. Responsibility of hosts, tenants, occupants, and owners.

A. A host, tenant, occupant, lessee, or resident who permits, allows, conducts, or continues an unruly social gathering shall be responsible for violations of this ordinance.

B. An owner may be responsible for police service costs as provided in this ordinance when the Borough is required to make repeated responses to an unruly social gathering at the same property.

C. Nothing in this ordinance shall require proof that the owner was present at the property during the unruly social gathering in order for the Borough to provide notice or recover police service costs after repeated responses, provided that such recovery is permitted by law.

D. Nothing in this ordinance shall limit the Borough's authority to pursue remedies available under any rental housing, property maintenance, public nuisance, noise, zoning, or other applicable ordinance.

Section 6. Notice to owner after police response.

A. When the police respond to an unruly social gathering for the purpose of maintaining order, protecting public peace and safety, stopping a public disturbance, or abating the gathering, the Chief of Police or authorized designee may provide written notice to the owner of the property where the gathering occurred.

B. The notice may state:

1. The date and location of the police response;
2. The nature of the public disturbance;
3. That a subsequent police response to an unruly social gathering at the same property within 30 days may result in assessment of police service costs; and
4. That the owner, tenant, occupant, host, or other responsible person should take reasonable steps to prevent further violations.

C. Notice may be sent by regular mail, certified mail, personal delivery, electronic mail if available, or any other method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice.

Section 7. Recovery of police service costs.

A. If the police are required to respond to an unruly social gathering at the same property more than once within a 30-day period, the Borough may assess police service costs for the second and any subsequent response during that 30-day period.

B. The Chief of Police or authorized designee may certify the dates of response, location, nature of the disturbance, and amount of police service costs incurred.

C. The Borough may bill the owner, host, tenant, occupant, or other legally responsible person for recoverable police service costs, to the extent permitted by law.

D. Any bill issued under this section shall be due and payable within 30 days of the billing date.

E. Unpaid police service costs may be collected by civil action, municipal claim, lien, or any other lawful method available to the Borough.

F. The assessment of police service costs shall be in addition to, and not in place of, any fines, penalties, citations, arrests, code enforcement actions, rental license remedies, nuisance actions, or other remedies available under law.

Section 8. Violations and penalties.

A. Any host or attendee who violates this ordinance shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding, be subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, plus costs of prosecution, and, upon default of payment, may be subject to imprisonment to the extent permitted by law.

B. Each violation of this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.

C. Each day or portion of a day during which a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

D. A violation of this ordinance shall not preclude enforcement under any other applicable federal, state, county, or Borough law.

Section 9. Exemptions and protected activity.

A. This ordinance shall not apply to lawful expressive activity, peaceful assembly, religious activity, political activity, labor activity, or other activity protected by the United States Constitution or the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, provided that such activity does not involve a public disturbance as defined in this ordinance.

B. This ordinance shall not prohibit gatherings lawfully authorized by Borough permit, provided that the gathering complies with the terms of the permit and all applicable laws.

C. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to limit emergency response, police authority, or enforcement authority otherwise available under law.

Section 10. Relationship to other ordinances.

The provisions of this ordinance are cumulative and shall be in addition to all other remedies and enforcement powers available to the Borough, including but not limited to those relating to noise disturbance, public nuisances, disorderly conduct, alcohol-related offenses, rental housing, property maintenance, fire safety, zoning, streets and sidewalks, and emergency services.

Section 11. Severability.

If any sentence, clause, section, or part of this ordinance is held invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect or

impair the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance. Borough Council declares that it would have adopted the remaining provisions regardless of the invalidity of any one provision.

Section 12. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 13. Effective date.

This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

OFFICE USE ONLY - NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Date Application Received: 5/5/24 Date Payment(s) Received: _____
(inside of 60-day-out window)

YES N/A

Completed and Signed Application

Date of event/Event time/Set up/Breakdown

6/20/24 4-7pm 9a-4p 7p-9p

Map of the Event or Location of the Event

List of Streets to be Closed for the Event

S. Brandywine b/w Mulberry Al. & Sharpless St.

List of Borough Services requested - to be reviewed by West Chester Borough

WCPW - Road closing equipment

Non-refundable application fee - may be cash, check, or money order

\$50.00 online

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 Public Works YES NO Date: _____

Approved by Parking Department YES NO Date: _____

Approved by Parks and Recreation YES NO Date: _____

Approved by Police Department YES NO Date: _____

Approved by Borough Council YES NO Date: _____

Notes:

