

## **TRAFFIC CRASH ANALYSIS FIRST QUARTER 2024**

To be proactive in reducing the number of crashes that occur annually, the Punta Gorda Police Department conducts a quarterly crash analysis. Therefore, the Accident Report by Intersection report, Accident Report by Zone report, Injury and Property Damage Analysis report, Accident Report by Parking Lot report and the Accident Report by Non-Intersection report generated in the OSSI accident module along with Monthly Activity Reports, CAD Directed Patrol Traffic report and CAD Traffic Stop report are utilized as resources for data presentation in the identification of problem areas (if any), and recommendations toward public education and/or enforcement action(s).

The data for the first quarter of 2024 (January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>) was reviewed and analyzed. There were 213 total crashes within the City, with 88 occurring at intersections and another 65 occurring on a roadway other than at an intersection. Parking lot crashes (60) are included in the total crash number, however, are not broken down by location, due to these crashes being attributed to design issues related to the parking lots themselves.

Of the 213 total crashes that occurred within the first quarter of 2024, seven (7) of the crashes involved a bicyclist, two (2) crashes involved a motorcyclist and two (2) crashes involved a pedestrian.

Of the seven (7) crashes involving a bicyclist, two (2) were due to the motorist failing to yield the right of way to the cyclist either at an intersection or at the entrance/exit of a parking lot. Three (3) of them were due to the cyclist failing to yield the right of way to the motorist causing them to run into the vehicle. At one (1) crash it was determined that both the operator of the vehicle and the bicycle were at fault. In the last of the crashes involving a bicycle, the officer did not determine fault.

Of the two (2) crashes involving a motorcyclist, one (1) of them was due to the motorcyclist riding between vehicles and striking a car in the side. The second motorcycle crash was a single-vehicle crash in which the rider lost control after avoiding hitting another vehicle.

Of the two (2) crashes involving a pedestrian, one (1) was due to the pedestrian failing to yield the right of way to the motorist while entering the roadway. The second pedestrian crash was due to the motorist not seeing the pedestrian while backing out of a parking spot in a parking lot.

There was a decrease of 40 total crashes in the first quarter of 2024 from the first quarter of 2023.

### Data Presentation

#### Top Intersections

Rank	Location	No. of Crashes
1.	West Marion Avenue at Maud Street	T-6
2.	Tamiami Trail at Carmalita Street	T-5
3.	Cross Street at West Marion Avenue	T-4

- Five (5) of the six (6) crashes that occurred at the intersection of West Marion Avenue and Maud Street were due to the vehicle on Maud Street failing to yield the right of way to the vehicle on West Marion Avenue. The other crash was due to a vehicle attempting to make a left turn onto Maud Street from the center lane of West Marion Avenue causing them to strike the vehicle traveling in the left lane of West Marion Avenue. There was one (1) possible injury reported and two (2) vehicles were towed from the scene.
- All five (5) crashes that occurred at the intersection of Tamiami Trail at Carmalita Street were due to the vehicle on Carmalita failing to yield the right of way to the vehicle on Tamiami Trail. There were two (2) injuries and two (2) vehicles towed from the scenes.
- Of the four (4) crashes that occurred at the intersection of Cross Street at West Marion Avenue, one (1) was due to a medical issue. One (1) was due to a vehicle following too closely. Two (2) crashes were due to a vehicle on Cross Street failing to yield to a vehicle on Marion Avenue. The crashes at this intersection resulted in one (1) injury and one (1) vehicle being towed from the scene.

### Injuries Related to Roadway Crashes

Injuries	Zone/Amount
Injuries Related to Roadway Crashes	Zone 1 - 17
	Zone 3 - 7
	Zone 5 - 3
	<b>Total - 27</b>

Of all 27 injuries, there was 1 incapacitating injury and 26 non-incapacitating injuries. There was an increase of 6 injuries in the first quarter of 2024 from the first quarter of 2023.

### Identification of Problem Areas

<b>Zone Breakdown (Including Parking Lots)</b>	<b>Number</b>
Zone 1	101
Zone 3	76
Zone 5	36
<b>Total Crashes</b>	<b>213</b>

- Zone 1 represents 47.5 percent of the 213 city-wide crashes which is a decrease of 21.67 percent from the first quarter of 2022.

### Response to 2023 Fourth Quarter Crash Analysis

Lieutenant Shane Chodakowsky and Charlie Squad were tasked with assessing and addressing the information contained within the fourth quarter of the 2023 Traffic Crash Analysis Report. The data for the fourth quarter in 2023 indicated the following high crash intersections;

1. Tamiami Trail at Carmalita Street (4 crashes)  
Tamiami Trail at East Marion Avenue (4 crashes)  
West Marion Avenue at Maud Street (4 crashes)
2. Cross Street at West Marion Avenue (3 Crashes)  
Cross Street at West Virginia Avenue (3 Crashes)  
East Marion Avenue at Nesbit Street (3 Crashes)  
Jones Loop Road at Indian Springs Cemetery Road (3 Crashes)  
West Marion Avenue at Tamiami Trail (3 crashes)

During the first quarter of 2024, Patrol focused enforcement on Tamiami Trail (northbound and southbound) from Airport Road to Retta Esplanade, East Marion Avenue at Nesbit Street, Jones Loop Road, and West Marion at Maud Street. During the 1st quarter of 2024, Patrol conducted the following enforcement:

- A total of 274 Directed Traffic Patrols were conducted, 122 of which were within the identified problematic area.
- A total of 405 traffic stops were initiated, 168 of which were within the identified problematic area.

- A total of 127 Uniformed Traffic Citations were issued during the first quarter of 2024.
- A total of 354 Written Warnings were issued during the first quarter of 2024.
- A total of 9 DUI arrests were made during the first quarter of 2024.
- The radar trailer was deployed during the first quarter of 2024 to address speeding complaints in the Punta Gorda Isles neighborhoods and on Burnt Store Road.
- The message boards were deployed to assist public works with a road closure in the downtown area, at West Marion Avenue and Maud Street to assist with minimizing vehicle crashes, and at three separate locations to assist with the Pedal and Play Event.
- The Punta Gorda Police Department also participated in the 2023 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” Campaign that ran through January 1, 2024.

During the fourth quarter of 2023, 51.6 percent of the crashes occurred in Zone 1. During the first quarter of 2024, 45.5 percent of all written warnings and citations were issued in zone 1. It shall be noted that officers conducted speed enforcement within Punta Gorda Isles, Burnt Store Isles, and Burnt Store Road in response to citizen complaints.

This information was documented in a memorandum composed by Captain Norman Nahra, which was filed in the source file.

#### **Recommendations toward Public Education and/or Enforcement Action(s)**

The information contained within the memorandum is meant to be used as a tool, not only for enforcement-related activity but for educational purposes as well. As it is the objective to gain voluntary compliance with Florida State Statutes from the motoring public, members of the agency have several resources at their disposal to help the agency meet the aforementioned goal. Included in the resources available to members of the agency are: the uses of unmanned line vehicles (if available), two speed radar trailers, three message boards, and directed traffic patrols.

The information contained within this analysis identifies that there was an increase in the number of crashes within the City since the fourth quarter of 2023 (a total increase of 35 crashes). An increase in crashes is a normal pattern as many of the seasonal residents return from their northern homes for the winter months and the number of events held within the City increases as well. There was a decrease of 40 crashes in the first quarter of 2024 from the first quarter of 2023.

In response to this analysis, supervisors are requested and encouraged to continue their diligent traffic enforcement-related activities. Captain Nahra will appoint a squad to lead the response to this quarter's analysis and the subsequent completion of the SCARS report.

Please use this data for the appropriate education and enforcement by you and your squads in the target areas mentioned above. Feel free to use the full resources of the department. Remember, the objective is for enforcement action taken to correlate with a reduction of overall crashes for the next quarter and at the above-listed locations.

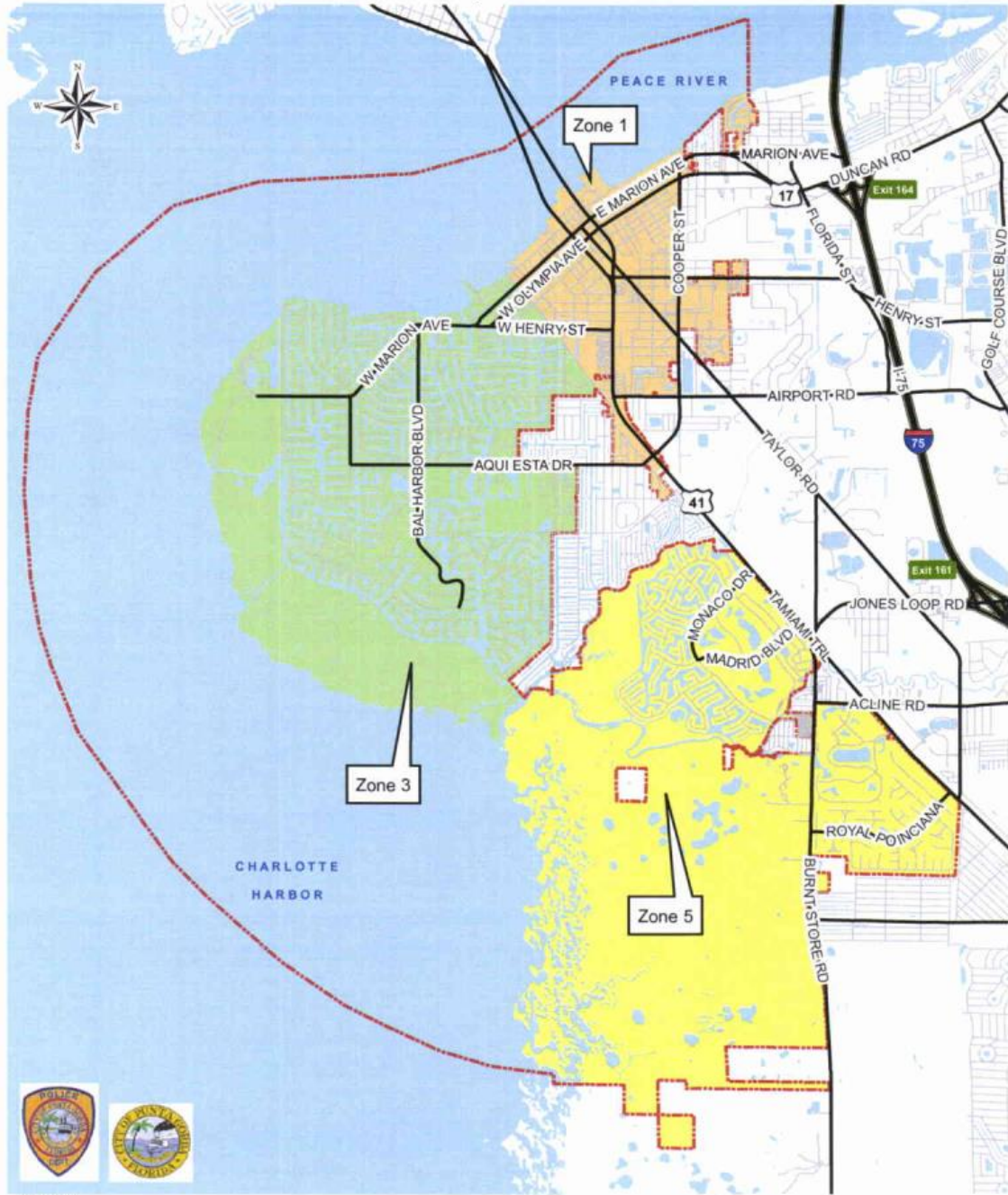
Finally, the raw data reports used for this analysis can be viewed via the 'P' drive under Operations/Uniform Patrol Section/Traffic/Traffic Analysis Report/2024/1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.

**Resources:**

Injury and Property Damage Analysis Report  
Accident Report by Intersection Report  
Accident Report by Zone Report  
Accident Report by Parking Lot Report  
Accident Report by Non-Intersection Report  
Monthly Activity Reports  
CAD Directed Patrol – Traffic Report  
CAD Traffic Stop Report

/s/  
elb

# Police Zones - City of Punta Gorda



- Legend**
- City Limits
  - Zone 1
  - Zone 3
  - Zone 5
  - I-75
  - Major Road
  - Street



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