

TRAFFIC CRASH ANALYSIS THIRD 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 third quarter of 2024 (July 1st through September 30th) was reviewed and analyzed. There were 138 total crashes within the City, 48 occurring at intersections and 47 on a roadway other than an intersection. Parking lot crashes (43) are included in the total crash number; however, they are not broken down by location because they are attributed to design issues related to the parking lots.

Of the 138 crashes within the third quarter of 2024, none involved bicyclists, two (2) involved pedestrians, and five (5) involved motorcycles. Of the two (2) pedestrian crashes, one (1) involved a pedestrian riding a skateboard through a stop sign while looking at their phone and striking a car. The pedestrian was found to be at fault. The officer did not determine fault in the second pedestrian crash.

Of the five (5) motorcycle crashes, one (1) was due to a vehicle failing to yield and making a left turn in front of the motorcycle. One (1) involved two (2) motorcycles, with the second motorcycle following too closely and striking the other motorcycle in the back tire. One (1) involved a motorcycle losing control and striking an unoccupied vehicle in a parking lot. The two (2) remaining crashes involving motorcycles were single-vehicle crashes caused by the operators losing control and sliding across the pavement.

It is encouraging to note that the total number of crashes in the third quarter of 2024 has decreased by 26 from the same period in 2023. This positive trend reflects the effectiveness of our ongoing efforts to improve traffic safety in Punta Gorda.

Data Presentation

Top 3 Intersections

Rank	Location	No. of Crashes
1.	Tamiami Trail and E. Olympia Avenue	T-3
2.	Tamiami Trail and E. Retta Esplanade	T-3
3.	W. Marion Avenue and Tamiami Trail	T-3

1. One (1) of the three (3) crashes at the Tamiami Trail and E. Olympia Avenue intersection was due to one vehicle traveling east on E. Olympia going straight in the left turn-only lane of E. Olympia, striking another car next to it that was turning left from the left turn or straight lane. One crash was due to a vehicle traveling eastbound on E. Olympia Ave. failing to yield the right of way to a car traveling northbound on Tamiami Trail. One (1) crash was due to a vehicle headed northbound on Tamiami Trail failing to yield the right of way to the car eastbound on E. Olympia Ave. No injuries were reported, and two (2) vehicles were towed from the scene.
2. One (1) of the three (3) crashes at the intersection of Tamiami Trail and E. Retta Esplanade was due to the vehicle on E. Retta Esplanade failing to yield to a vehicle northbound on Tamiami Trail. One (1) crash at this location was due to one car turning left from the center lane of Tamiami Trail into another northbound vehicle in the left lane. The final crash was due to a car turning left from E. Retta Esplanade onto Tamiami Trail, failing to yield to another car going straight through the intersection westbound. One (1) injury was reported, and six (6) vehicles were towed from the crash scenes.
3. Of the three (3) crashes at the intersection of W. Marion Avenue and Tamiami Trail, two (2) involved two vehicles both turning right to go north on Tamiami Trail, with the car in the leftmost right turn lane drifting into the vehicle in the rightmost turn lane. One (1) involved a car changing lanes into another car while trying to make way for an ambulance. The crashes at this intersection resulted in no injuries and no vehicles being towed from the scenes.

Injuries Related to Roadway Crashes

Injuries	Zone/Amount
Injuries Related to Roadway Crashes	Zone 1 - 13 Zone 3 - 3

Zone 5 - 0

Total - 16

Of the 16 injuries, one (1) was a fatality, one (1) was incapacitating, and fourteen (14) were non-incapacitating. There was a one (1) injury decrease from the third quarter of 2023 to the third quarter of 2024.

Identification of Problem Areas

Zone Breakdown (Including Parking Lots)	Number
Zone 1	70
Zone 3	40
Zone 5	28
Total Crashes	138

4. Zone 1 represents 50.6 percent of the 138 city-wide crashes, a decrease of 6.1 percent from the third quarter of 2023.

Response to 2024 Second Quarter Crash Analysis

Lieutenant Kelvin Jimenez and Delta Squad were tasked with assessing and addressing the information contained within the second quarter of 2024 Traffic Crash Analysis Report. The data for the second quarter of 2024 indicated the following high crash intersections;

1. Cross Street at West Marion Avenue (5 Crashes)
2. West Olympia Avenue at Shreve Street (4 crashes)
3. Bal Harbor Boulevard at Aqui Esta Drive (3 Crashes)

During the third quarter of 2024, Patrol focused enforcement in the area of the above three intersections. During the third quarter of 2024, Patrol conducted the following enforcement:

- A total of 412 Directed Traffic Patrols were conducted, 105 of which were within the identified problematic area.
- A total of 1,064 traffic stops were initiated, 319 of which were within the identified problematic area.
- A total of 299 Uniformed Traffic Citations were issued during the third quarter of 2024.
- A total of 882 Written Warnings were issued during the third quarter of 2024.
- A total of 10 DUI arrests were made during the third quarter of 2024.

- The radar trailer was deployed during the third quarter of 2024 to address speeding complaints in the Burnt Store Isles neighborhood.
- The message boards were deployed to assist public works with a road closure and traffic control for the annual fireworks celebration.
- During the third quarter of 2024, the Punta Gorda Police Department participated in and submitted the required data to the Florida Department of Transportation for the 2024 Operation Southern Slow Down Speed Enforcement Campaign and the 2024 Labor Day “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” National Enforcement Mobilization Campaign.

During the second quarter of 2024, 54.1 percent of the crashes occurred in Zone 1. During the third quarter of 2024, 50.8 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.

Recommendations toward Public Education and Enforcement Action(s)

The information in the memorandum is meant to be used for enforcement-related activity and educational purposes. The objective is to gain voluntary compliance with Florida State Statutes from the motoring public. The agency's members have several resources at their disposal to help the agency meet the goal mentioned above. The resources available to the agency's members include unmanned line vehicles (if available), two-speed radar trailers, three message boards, and directed traffic patrols.

This analysis identifies a decrease in the number of crashes within the City since the second quarter of 2024 (a total decrease of 23 crashes). A reduction in crashes is a typical pattern as many seasonal residents have returned to their northern homes for the summer months, and the number of events held within the City also decreases. There was also a decrease of 26 crashes in the third quarter of 2024 from the third 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 appropriate education and enforcement by you and your squads in the abovementioned target areas. Feel free to use the department's full resources. Remember, the objective is enforcement action to correlate with reducing 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/2024/3rd 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

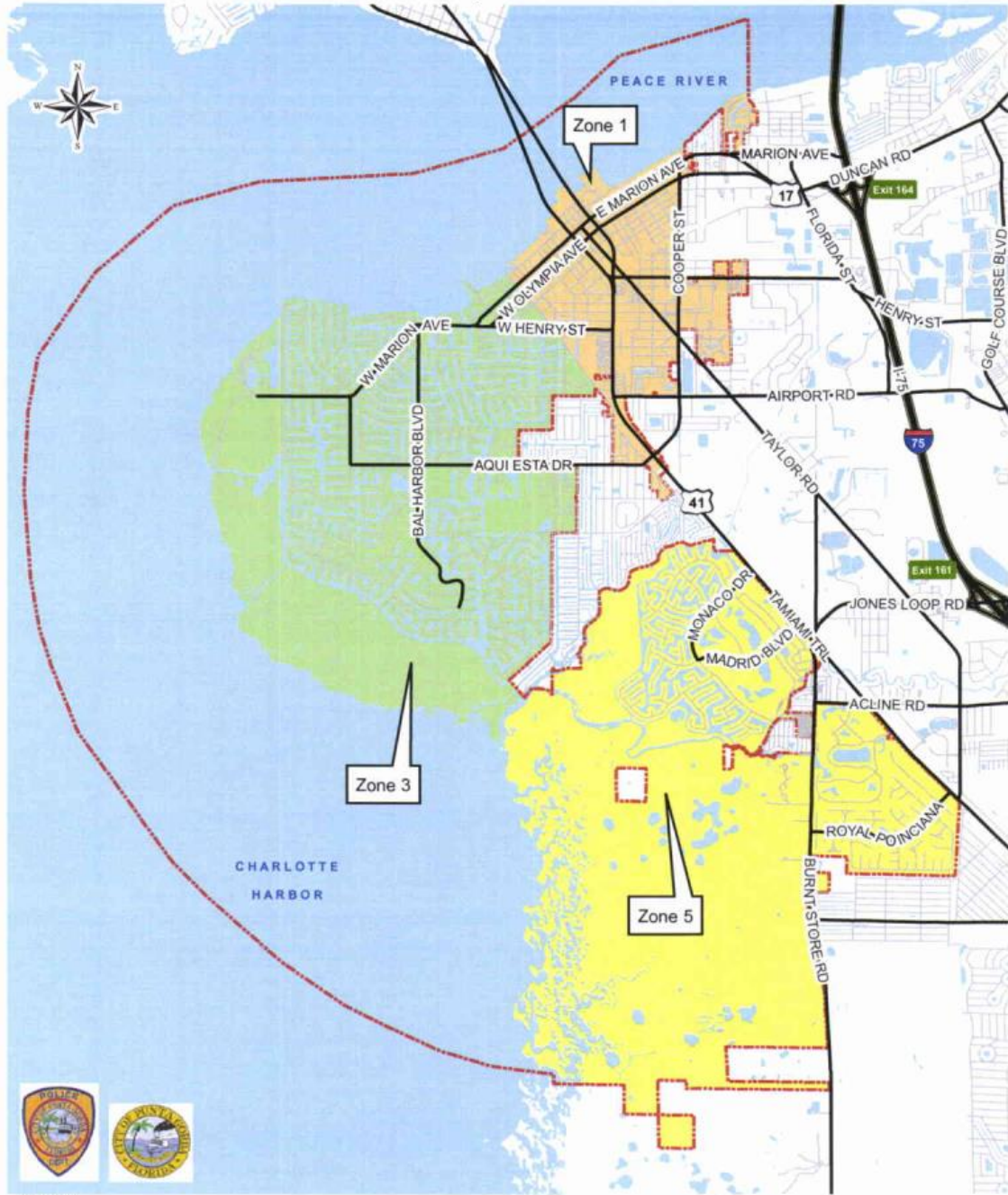
CAD Directed Patrol – Traffic Report

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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