



# Safe Roadways Initiative

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Traffic Enforcement Division

# Contributing HPD Divisions

- Traffic Enforcement Division
- Vehicular Crimes Division
- Major Offenders Division
- Emergency Communications Division
- Major Assaults and Family Violence Division



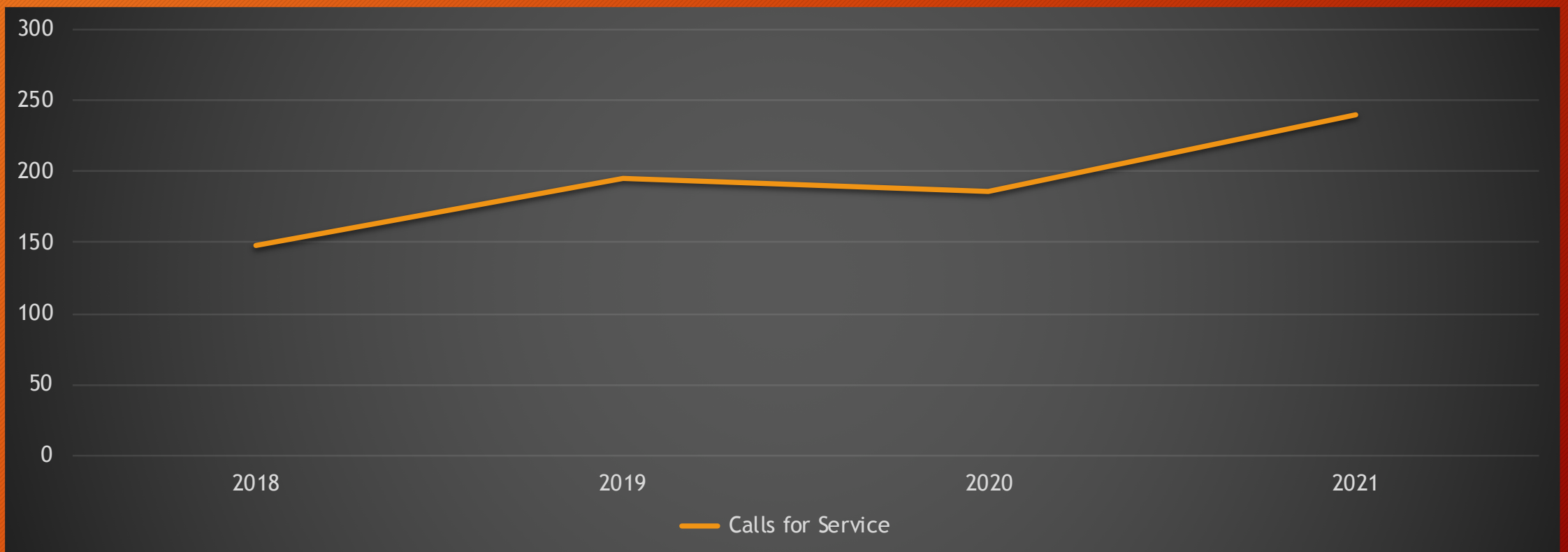
# Partner Agencies

- Harris County Precinct 1
- Harris County Precinct 3
- Harris County Precinct 5
- Harris County Precinct 7
- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Harris County Precinct 2
- Harris County Precinct 4
- Harris County Precinct 6
- Harris County Precinct 8
- Houston Metro Police Department



# Monthly Road Rage Incidents

- The number of road rage incidents have increased 29% since 2018



# Aggressive Driving and Road Rage

- Road rage incidents can lead to many criminal offenses such as intentional crashes, assaults, aggravated assaults, shootings, and murders
- These incidents occur most frequently on our freeways
- They can happen almost any time of day, but tend to occur during high traffic times of day

# Plan of Action - Education and Messaging

- Education and messaging will be a significant component of our efforts to equip Houston motorists with the tips and the tools to avoid these incidents
- Traffic Enforcement Division Safe Driving Pamphlet
- Social Media
- TxDOT Message Boards
- Private Partners

# Plan of Action - Education and Messaging

- Tips for avoiding actions that provoke other motorists
  - Avoid tailgating
  - Let drivers pass
  - Use turn signal
  - Let drivers merge
  - Consider others in parking lots

- Tips for avoiding confrontation
  - Avoid eye contact
  - Do not respond to aggression with aggression
  - Be tolerant and forgiving
  - Avoid offensive hand gestures
  - Call 911 if threatened

# Safe Driving



## STAY SAFE!

- **Use a seat belt at all times!**  
This includes the driver and all passengers. Ensure all children are safely secured in the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt that is age and size appropriate and that meets current state law.
- **If impaired by alcoholic beverages and/or medications:** please avoid operating any motorized transportation (vehicle, motorcycle, bicycle, etc.).
- **Be well rested before driving:** take rest breaks in safe and appropriate areas as needed.

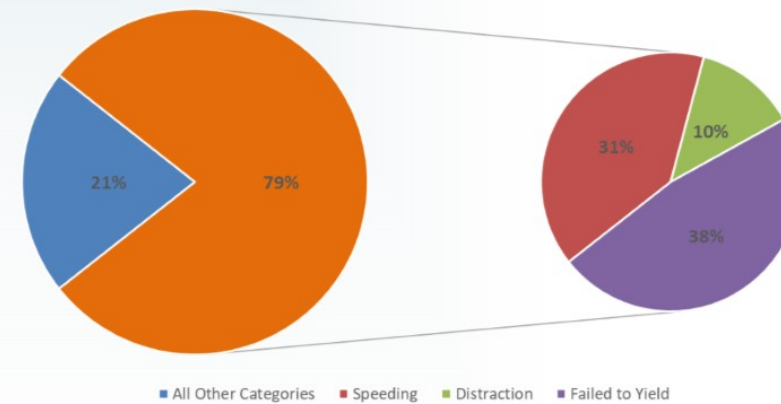
## STAY FOCUSED!

- **Driving requires your full attention.**  
Avoid distractions such as texting, eating, or drinking. Avoid using any type of electronic device unless it is an emergency.
- **Continually monitor current traffic conditions.**  
Be alert of situations that may require defensive driving actions to be taken.

## ROAD RAGE!

- **Reduce your stress!**  
Pre-plan your trip and allow plenty of time to get to your destination.
- **Be patient** and courteous to other drivers. Remember they have families too.
- **Do not take other drivers' actions personally;** take the high road.
- Keep your cool in traffic.
- Avoid aggressive driving.

## Crash Statistics



\*11 contributing factors related to crashes. Top 3 factors account for 79% of all crashes.

\*Crash Summary by Contributing Factor Categories  
Dates From: 1/1/2021—5/31/2021



# Plan of Action - Enforcement

- HPD Officers working in a combination of marked and unmarked units will patrol major freeways in the city during peak traffic times
- Regional partners will act as a force multiplier communicating directly with HPD units working this initiative
- Officers will be proactively looking for aggressive driving behavior:
  - Excessive speeding
  - Following too closely
  - Multiple lane changes without signaling
  - Obscene gestures and other acts of aggression directed at motorists
  - Unreasonable use of vehicles' horns

# Plan of Action - Enforcement

- Unmarked units will assist in identifying aggressive driving behavior to marked units which will then pursue applicable citations or criminal charges such as reckless driving
- This program will work in tandem with our Violent Crime Reduction Initiative (VCRI)
- A priority objective of the VCRI is to take illegal guns off the streets, which will decrease the likelihood of road rage shootings

# So Far So Good...

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Within the first 4 days of the program, we have already seen a 20% reduction in road rage related calls for service

- Traffic Stops - 114
- Total Arrest - 6
- Total Citations - 270

# Conclusion

- The combination of education, messaging, and enforcement will be used to reduce the frequency and severity of incidents involving road rage
- This initiative will be enhanced by collaborating with our regional partners, all of whom have committed to participate in this program

# Questions?

Thank you for your continued support of the Houston Police  
Department

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