

# Probation & Parole Overview

Deputy Chief Wayne E. Bye



## Purpose of Probation and Parole

- The Probation and Parole Division promotes the mission of the Department of Corrections by providing effective supervision, sanctions, and alternative programs to adult offenders. The Division provides offender supervision and programming through professional staff that supports the needs and concerns of crime victims, their families and the citizens we serve.
- Essentially, we try to ensure Public Safety by effectively supervising offenders. We work with those willing to change but understand that some belong in Prison.

## Region III Summary

- Made up of 12 Counties Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Teton, Cascade, Meagher, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Fergus, Golden Valley, Petroleum, and Musselshell.
- Main Office in Great Falls. 18 Officers, 3 Supervisors, 3 Admin Support, 1 Hearings Officer and 2 PSI Writer.
- Cut Bank and Shelby have 2 Officers each, 1 Admin Support and 1 supervisor. Lewistown has 2 Officers and 1 Admin Support.
- We have Institutional P&P Officers Assigned to Nexus Treatment Center, Crossroads Prison, and a Liaison with the Great Falls Pre-Release.

## What are Probation & Parole Officers?

- Designated Public Safety Officers, not Sworn Officers
  - PO's have arrest and search authority of offenders on supervision based on reasonable suspicion rather than probable cause
  - PO's can detain offenders without due process up to 72 hours in order to complete an investigation if they are on Probation supervision. Longer if on Parole or Conditional Release
  - Warrantless searches
  - Armed, equipped and trained
    - All Officers complete a 9 week basic academy at Montana Law Enforcement Academy and have additional training throughout their career.
  - We cannot investigate new crimes
  - We cannot intervene in Civil Matters (divorce, child custody, rent payments)

## Cascade County Offenders

- Approximately 1045 offenders
  - Average standard caseload 65-85 offenders
- 1 caseload of sex offenders totaling 76
  - Tim Hides
- 1 Officer assigned to Mental Health Caseload
  - Brittany Smith
- 1 Officer assigned Intensive Supervision Program (ISP)
  - Cory Purves
- 2 Officers assigned to Treatment Court, Adult Drug Treatment and Veterans Court
  - Christie Slaughter and Josh Green
- 1 Officer Assigned to US Marshal Fugitive Task Force
  - Mike Stimac

## Community Involvement

- Our Officers participate in a number events, task forces, and advisory councils including:
  - Special Olympics Games, Torch Run and Tip a Cop
  - DUI Task Force
  - Drug Task Force
  - Jail Advisory
  - Human Trafficking Task Force
  - Toby's House Crisis Nursery
  - Mental Health Board
  - Violent Offenders Task force



## Types of Supervision

- Probation
  - Deferred or Suspended portion of a sentence. Under the jurisdiction of the Court. Revocation proceedings are handled by the Court.
- Parole
  - Custody portion of a sentence. Under the jurisdiction of the Board of Pardons and Parole. Revocations are handled by Hearings Officers at the direction of BOPP.
- Conditional Release
  - Custody portion of a sentence. Under the jurisdiction of DOC. Revocations are handled by Hearings Officers

## Types of Supervision cont...

- Essentially everyone on supervision has similar rules

## Supervision Rules

- Standard Conditions are set through MT Administrative Rules
  - All offenders sentenced after those were adopted should have those conditions. However, judges have waived them on rare occasions
  - Conditions limit travel, alcohol use, drugs, gambling, restitution, employment
- Special conditions are ordered for specific crimes.
  - For example, DUI Offenders limited ability to drive
  - Sex Offenders, related to treatment, internet access, contact with minors, etc.

## Typical Probation and Parole Officer Duties

- Meet with offenders in the office. Refer them for Services
- Conduct offender checks in field, at home, work, etc.
- Investigate violations, absconders, handle calls from victims, concerned citizens and family members.
- Assist Law Enforcement by working closely with them on investigations, searches, etc.
- Write Pre-Sentence Investigations, Reports of Violations, Disciplinary Reports and other documentation.

## Agency Cooperation

- We have great working relationships with Law Enforcement Agencies including GFPD, CCSO, MHP, ATF, USM and others
- We also work closely with County Attorneys, Child Protective Services, Great Falls Pre-Release

## Challenges

- Housing
- Sober Activities
- Peer Support

## How can the City Help?

- Continue allowing us to work with our partner agencies
- Help us to educate and empower the public
- Include us in plans to address crime or similar issues in the city

## Questions about Department of Corrections or Offenders

- Department of Corrections Website
  - <http://cor.mt.gov/>
- Offender Information Website (Conweb)
  - <https://app.mt.gov/conweb/>
- Montana Sexual/Violent Offender Registry
  - <https://app.doj.mt.gov/apps/svow/>
- What Is Public Information?
  - Crimes, Locations, Release Dates, Parole Dates, Status, Court Information
- Victim services
  - <http://cor.mt.gov/Victims>
  - Call – Toll Free (888) 223-6332 or (406) 444-0447

## Closing

- You can also call our Office
  - 406-727-6061
- Questions?

