

# TRAFFIC CRASH ANALYSIS

## FIRST QUARTER 2020

In order to be pro-active with reducing the number of crashes that occur yearly, 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 2020 (January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>) was reviewed and analyzed and indicated there were 185 total crashes within the City, with 66 occurring at intersections and another 119 occurring upon 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 185 total crashes that occurred within the first quarter of 2020, 2 crashes involved bicyclists with only one bicyclist sustaining non-incapacitating injuries and 2 crashes involved motorcycles with one motorcyclist traveling at a high rate of speed and the other motorcycle being struck while it was unoccupied and parked in a parking lot. Both vehicles involved with the crashes involving bicyclists were traveling at a very low rate of speed and the motorcyclist that was traveling at a high rate of speed succumbed to her injuries upon arrival at the hospital.

There was a decrease of 39 total crashes in the first quarter of 2020 from the first quarter of 2019 (this includes an increase of 9 parking lot crash). The decrease of total crashes in the first quarter of 2020 from the first quarter of 2019 can be attributed to the Executive Orders issued by Governor Ron DeSantis to stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Data Presentation

#### Top Intersections

Rank	Location	No. of Crashes
1	Maud Street at West Olympia Avenue	5

2	East McKenzie at Tamiami Trail	4
T-3	Tamiami Trail at Airport Road	3
	Tamiami Trail at East Marion Avenue	
	Taylor Street at West Charlotte Avenue	
	West Marion Avenue at Goldstein	

- There were a total of 7 intersections in where 2 crashes occurred and 31 intersections where 1 crash occurred.
- Of the 5 crashes that occurred at the intersection of Maud Street and West Olympia Avenue, 1 was a side-swipe that occurred on West Olympia Avenue, 1 was a rear-end collisions that also occurred on West Olympia Avenue and the other 3 were a result of the vehicle on Maud Street not yielding the right of way to the vehicle on West Olympia Avenue. All 5 crashes were minor and there was a total of 1 non-incapacitating injury and 1 possible injury reported.

### Injuries Related to Roadway Crashes

Injuries	Zone/Amount
Injuries Related to Roadway Crashes	Zone 1 - 11
	Zone 3 - 6
	Zone 5 - 5
	<b>Total - 22</b>

- Of the 22 total injuries, 20 injuries were non-incapacitating injuries, 1 injury was incapacitating and 1 traffic fatality which was due to a motorcyclist traveling at high rate of speed (in excess of 75 miles per hour). There was a decrease of 16 injuries in the first quarter of 2020 from the first quarter of 2019.

### Identification of Problem Areas

Zone Breakdown (Including Parking Lots)	Number
Zone 1	124
Zone 3	39
Zone 5	22
<b>Total Crashes</b>	<b>185</b>

Zone 1 represents 67.0 percent of the 185 city-wide crashes which is a decrease of 7.5% from the first quarter of 2019.

### **Response to 2019 Fourth Quarter Analysis**

Lieutenant Shane Chodakowsky and Charlie Squad were tasked with assessing and addressing the information contained within the fourth quarter of 2019 Traffic Crash Analysis report. During the first quarter of 2020, Patrol focused enforcement on Tamiami Trail (northbound and southbound) primarily in the downtown Punta Gorda area of East Marion Avenue and West Marion Avenue. Also patrolled was the intersection of Cooper Street at Airport Road and East Virginia Avenue at Mary Street. During the first quarter of 2020, Patrol conducted the following enforcement:

- A total of 276 Directed Traffic Patrols were conducted, 61 of which were within the identified problematic area.
- A total of 1,162 traffic stops were initiated, 30 of which were within the identified problematic area.
- A total of 172 Uniformed Traffic Citations and 1,052 Written Warnings were issued during the first quarter of 2020.
- A “Dummy” car was deployed at problematic intersections when available.
- The message board and radar trailer were also utilized throughout the city limits to assist with traffic complaints received during the first quarter of 2020. Combined they were placed in 9 separate locations throughout the quarter.
- The Community Engagement Unit was deployed as a traffic enforcement measure to combat complaints of speeders and other traffic violators throughout the City.
- The Punta Gorda Police Motor Unit, when available was assigned to the problem intersections to conduct extra traffic patrols.

During the first quarter of 2020, 67.0 percent of the crashes occurred in zone 1. During the first quarter of 2020, 82.7 percent of all written warnings and citations were issued in zone 1.

This information was documented in a memorandum composed by Lieutenant Shane Chodakowsky, 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 of Florida State Statutes from the motoring public, members of the agency have a number of 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, unmarked patrol units, the speed radar trailer, the message board and directed traffic patrols.

The information contained within this analysis identifies that there was a decrease in the number of crashes within the City (a total decrease of 14 crashes) since the fourth quarter of 2019. Part of the decrease in the number of crashes can be attributed to the seasonal residents returning home for the summer sooner than anticipated and the Executive Orders issued by Governor Ron DeSantis to stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the first quarter of 2019 there was a total of 224 crashes, which is 39 more than the first quarter of 2020.

In response to this analysis, supervisors are requested and encouraged to continue their diligent traffic enforcement related activities. Lieutenant David Lipker and Echo Squad will 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/2020/1<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

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