

CITY OF CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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Message from the Chief – Chito T. Walker

As we present the 2023 Annual Report, I want to share that this document is not just a recap of the year: it's our blueprint for the future. It shows us where we've been successful and where we can improve, guiding us towards our ultimate goal: a safer community through shared responsibility and collaboration.

This past year tested our resolve with the loss of Chief Luther Reynolds. His passing created deep sorrow for us all. Yet, in his honor, we've rallied, transforming our grief into a source of strength. It's this resilience that I commend today—not just as a response to adversity but as a testament to our spirit and dedication.

Looking forward, we are not just officers and staff; we are a unified force for good, committed to public safety and community well-being. Our success lies in our ability to work together, to share the responsibility for our community's safety, and to engage with those we serve in meaningful, positive ways.



Chief Chito T. Walker's Educational and Professional Training Credentials

- Senior Management Institute for Police (PERF) – Session #86 - 2023
- National Executive Institute, Federal Bureau of Investigation – Session # 44 - 2022
- Homeland Security Executive Leadership Academy – Session #5 - 2018
- Federal Bureau of Investigations, National Academy – Session # 260 - 2015
- South Carolina Law Enforcement Commander's School - 2012
- Webster University | Master of Arts Degree, Management - 2004
- South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy | Certified Law Enforcement Credentials - 2000
- South Carolina State University | Bachelor of Science Degree, Criminal Justice (Magna Cum Laude) - 1999

In Memoriam - Chief Luther T. Reynolds



Following a courageous and lengthy battle with cancer, Chief Reynolds passed away on May 22, 2023. After announcing his diagnosis and entry into treatment in 2021, he continued to lead the Charleston Police Department with dedication and honor into 2023.

The men and women of the Charleston Police Department and the citizens of Charleston will be forever grateful for his leadership and tireless service.



Vision, Mission, Core Values, Functional Objectives



Vision

The vision of the Charleston Police Department (CPD) is to be a world class law enforcement agency committed to the values of Honor, Excellence, Accountability, Respect, and Teamwork. We demonstrate creativity, challenge our capabilities, and encourage initiative and risk-taking. We hold ourselves to a high standard of excellence and continually improve by solving problems and making decisions that benefit the community and organization. We are dedicated to service, lifelong learning, and professional growth.

Mission

It is the mission of the Charleston Police Department to serve all people within our jurisdiction with respect, fairness, and compassion. We are committed to the protection of life and property; the preservation of peace, order, and safety; the enforcement of local, state and federal laws; and the defense of the Constitution of the state of South Carolina and the Constitution of the United States of America in a fair and impartial manner.

Core Values – H.E.A.R.T.

Honor - We serve with honor through our actions, conduct, and job performance. Performed with integrity - even at personal cost - we constantly strive towards ever-rising standards.

Excellence - We seek excellence in all that we do and strive for continuous improvement. Our employees are encouraged to be innovative and creative.

Accountability - We are an organization of employees who do the right thing and are responsible for what we do and say.

Respect - We value all citizens, each other and different points of view, regardless of race, gender, appearance, individual beliefs, or lifestyles.

Teamwork - We support an environment that recognizes mutual cooperation and group accomplishments while encouraging individual contributions.



Functional Objectives

Prevention of Crime

The CPD is responsible for interacting with the community to generate mutual understanding so that there may be public support for crime prevention. Community involvement is essential to facilitate a free flow of information between the public and CPD to assist in the identification of problem areas and to inform the public of crime statistics and trends. Knowledge of the community is necessary so that each CPD employee may be instilled with a sense of concern for the crime problems and law enforcement needs in their assigned area of responsibility. The prevention of crime remains a basic obligation of society.

Apprehension of Offenders

The administration of criminal justice consists of the identification, arrest, prosecution, punishment, and rehabilitation of a law violator and it has as its objective the voluntary compliance with the law as an alternative to punishment. Once a crime has been committed, it is the duty of the police department to initiate the criminal process by identifying and arresting the perpetrator to obtain necessary evidence and cooperate in the prosecution of the case. As the certainty of swift and sure punishment serves as an effective crime deterrent, the CPD must diligently strive to solve all crimes and bring perpetrators to justice.

Community Engagement / Relations

Community policing strategies promote and encourage problem-solving and community engagement methods, which is the forefront of CPD. Community policing serves as a conduit between the department and community stakeholders to address public safety concerns and to find solutions through collaborative efforts. Furthermore, the Charleston community is embedded in every CPD employee's performance expectations for both sworn officers and professional staff.

Evidence Based Policing

The CPD has ongoing enhancements to the development of data collection and analysis capabilities. These are currently in practice in order to define effective, efficient, measurable strategies and tactics to reduce/prevent crime and the fear of crime, and to establish/maintain social order in all parts of Charleston. This will include sharing data and insights with the community it serves as well as other Charleston city agencies and municipal, county, state and federal law enforcement partners.

Accountability and Transparency

In order for law enforcement to effectively and professionally serve the community, trust must exist between the public and employees of the police department. Trust is strengthened, both internally and externally, when individuals feel accountability is demonstrated, encouraged and reviewed. The CPD strives to enhance the quality of life for every individual in the City of Charleston. Employees are expected to provide the highest quality of service to the community and will support and comply with the Constitution of South Carolina and the United States, along with rules and regulations of the CPD. The department's integrity will be maintained through a system that provides objective, fair, and thorough investigations and review of complaints against department employees.

Investment in Human Capital

The CPD is committed to continued professional development for sworn and professional staff. We understand that any type of change is difficult and an effective program must have commitment, be on-target with the training, and be continuously reinforced if we want exceptional results. The purpose of the Leadership Development Institute (LDI) is to establish a framework for lasting cultural transformation through more effective leadership at all levels. LDI's system for success is talent-based and inclusion-focused, while always having CPD's mission as a priority. The Office of Professional Development and Training (PD&T) is responsible for personal and professional development for every one of our CPD Officers. This includes everything from advanced specialized training to cultural awareness and diversity training that is required for all. PD&T also provides training to our professional staff and participates the police citizen's academy to give people an inside look at our organization.

Command Staff



Chief Chito Walker

Procedural Justice & Community Policing Bureau Commander

Hometown: Greenville, SC

BS Criminal Justice, SC State University

MA Management, Webster University

FBI National Academy #260

FBI National Executive Institute #44

Department of Homeland Security Executive Leadership #5

Police Executive Research Forum Senior Management Institute for Police

24 years in service



Deputy Chief Jack Weiss

Investigations Bureau Commander

Hometown: Gallipolis, OH

BA History, Sociology

CSU FBI National Academy #266

26 years in service



Deputy Chief Dustin Thompson

Operations Bureau Commander

Hometown: Camden, SC

BS Criminal Justice, USC

Police Executive Research Forum Senior Management Institute for Police

2022 member of Jewish Institute for National Security

22 years in service

					
Captain Andre Jenkins • Investigations Division Commander • 26 years in service • Eutawville, SC	Captain Anthony Cretella • Professional Standards Division Commander • 19 years in service • Youngstown, OH	Captain Kristy McFadden • Patrol Division Commander • 17 years in service • Quimby, ME	Captain Matt Stanley • Special Operations Division Commander • 20 years in service • Charleston, SC	Captain Jason Bruder • Community Oriented Policing Division Commander • 21 years in service • North Augusta, SC	Lieutenant Shylah Murray • Team 1 Commander • 21 years in service • Detroit, MI
					
Lieutenant Corey Taylor • Team 9 Commander • 16 years in service • North Charleston, SC	Lieutenant Sean Engles • Special Operations Commander • 12 years in service • Annapolis, MD	Lieutenant Kelly Freshman • Persons Crime Section Commander • 21 years in service • Spartanburg, SC	Lieutenant Michael Thomas • Special Investigations Section Commander • 28 years in service • Lima, OH	Lieutenant Thomas Bailey • Office of Internal Affairs Commander • 18 years in service • Charleston, SC	Lieutenant Robert Gamard • Team 6 Commander • 26 years in service • NYC, NY
					
Lieutenant Timothy Dasher • Special Events Commander • 24 years in service • Folkston, GA	Lieutenant Katrina Rivers • Team 2 Commander • 27 years in service • Charleston, SC	Lieutenant James Byrne • Team 3 Commander • 24 years in service • St Louis, MO	Lieutenant Bryant Tatman • Command Duty Officer • 20 years in service • Felton, DE	Lieutenant Heath King • Traffic Commander • 26 years in service • Columbia, SC	Lieutenant Matt Wojslawowicz • Team 4 Commander • 20 years in service • Bayonne, NJ
					
Lieutenant Paul Krasowski • Property Section Commander • 17 years in service • Newtown, CT	Lieutenant Jeffrey Harrison • Training Commander • 19 years in service • Mt Olive, NJ	Lieutenant Tonatte Mitchell • Community Outreach Commander • 28 years in service • Charleston, SC	Lieutenant George Bradley • Team 5 • 25 years in service • Mills River, NC	Lieutenant Brian Salkeld • CIU / SET Commander • 23 years in service • Somerville, NJ	Lieutenant Pat McLaughlin • Special Projects • 21 years in service • Piedmont, SC

Professional Staff / Supervisors



David Crosby <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Integration and Analysis Manager• 17 years in service• Walterboro, SC	Sergeant Craig DuBose <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accreditation Manager• 18 years in service• Manning, SC	Jillian Eidson <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director, Procedural Justice and Research• 2 years in service• Hilton Head, SC	Michael Gillooly <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspector, Office of Compliance and Policy• 4 years in service• Tucson, AZ	Judith Gordon <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director, Forensic Services Division• 37 years in service• Cleveland, OH
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Sonia Greene <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office Manager for Chief of Police• 27 years in service• Charleston, SC	Heather Mulloy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistant Corporation Counsel, PD&T• 4 years in service• Rockville, MD	Scott Newsome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director, Fleet Operations• 26 years in service• Charleston, SC	Cassandra Payton <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manager, Administrative Services• 9 years in service• Dallas, TX	Steve Ruemelin <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistant Corporation Counsel• 13 years in service• Milwaukee, WI
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Citizens Police Advisory Council (CPAC)

The Citizens Police Advisory Council (CPAC) was formed in 2018 and is composed of 18-members. The members are selected by the Mayor and city council members and include two local high school or college students. The Advisory Council serves to facilitate the involvement of the residents representing neighborhoods and communities in our city in order to improve policing and strengthen the connection between the citizens and the CPD by educating residents about CPD programs, policies and procedures and providing community feedback, comments, suggestions and recommendations for improvement.. The CPAC has been a partner and leader, assisting the agency in achieving meaningful progress in the pursuit of excellence. In 2023, Paul Tamburrino served as the Chair and Jerome Harris served as the Vice-Chair.

In 2023, the CPAC maintained two sub-committees: Communications and Policy. CPAC also formed a Complaints subcommittee that met once in 2023. The Chairperson and Chief of Police or his designee are responsible for ensuring the business of the Advisory Council, as outlined in the CPAC guidelines, is transacted in a fair and timely manner. In 2023, Paul Tamburrino served as Chair of the Communications subcommittee, Doris Grant served as Chair of the Policy subcommittee and Harrison McIver served as Chair of the Complaints subcommittee. Meetings of the full council are also livestreamed via YouTube and recorded so that the public may view them on demand. Subcommittee meetings are conducted virtually.

In 2023, the Communications Subcommittee collaborated with CPD to offer another segment of its educational series of 30-minute, public informational webinars on traffic stops. This session provided an opportunity for the police department to present on a current topic of interest and interact with the community through a question-and-answer format. The Policy Subcommittee provided feedback on select department policies as part of the policy review process. The CPAC also contributed to the CPD's External Review and Assessment by interacting with the research team, and collaborated with the CPD on an online community survey about citizen perceptions of the department.

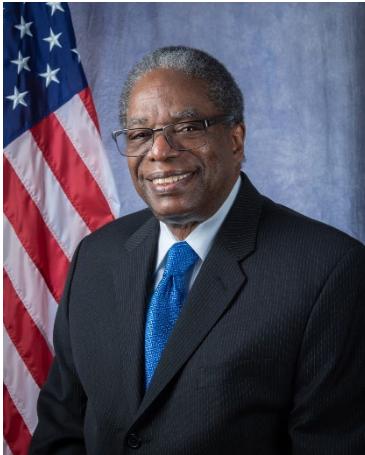
For more information regarding the CPAC, please visit its website:
<http://charlestonsc.iqm2.com/Citizens/Board/1065-Charleston-Citizen-Police-Advisory-Council>.

You may also contact CPAC, to give input, ask questions or offer suggestions for future educational sessions, at chspoliceadvisory@gmail.com.

2023 Members



CPAC Chair
Paul Tamburrino



CPAC Vice-Chair
Jerome Harris

District Representatives:

Emily Broome
Ryan Davis
Thuane Fielding
Doris Grant
Jamie Khan
Joseph Krause
Phillip Lucier
Sara Mack
Paul Tamburrino
Imogene Thomas

High School / College Representatives:

Lilliana Taylor
Moyu Yamaguchi

Mayor Appointees:

Arian Fernandez
Jerome Harris
Harrison McIver
David Saulnier

Law Enforcement Neighborhood Support (LENS)

The Law Enforcement Neighborhood Support (LENS) Foundation is a charitable foundation established in 2021, with a mission of providing law enforcement with support to strengthen community relations and improve public safety in the city. The LENS Foundation is particularly dedicated to providing funds and support to needy recipients, while providing police personnel the opportunity to take a personal interest in their community. The charity's goals are to assist local police departments in improving community relationships and to demonstrate that the police do really care about the people they serve. (*The LENS Foundation*, <https://www.thelensfoundation.com/>).

In 2023, the LENS Foundation partnered with CPD to support several community events and programs within the city, in furtherance of its mission to strengthen the relationship between the community and the police while providing support to community organizations in need. Since its inception, LENS has generously supported several community events and initiatives, as well as CPD events. In 2023 alone, LENS provided support to community programs and CPD events such as the Hispanic Heritage Month, Halloween Howl, Lowcountry Pod Program, Camp HOPE, Shop with a Cop, Santa's Escort Ride, North Pole Giving, The Flip League and the Charleston Police Executive Leadership Summit. In addition to its support of community programs, and consistent with its mission, LENS continued its support of CPD recognition initiatives in 2023, to include the annual awards banquet and the officer memorial wall located at CPD Headquarters.

Camp Hope



North Pole Giving



Halloween Howl



Santa's Escort Ride



Hispanic Heritage Month



The Flip League



The Charleston Police Department is grateful for the support of the LENS Foundation and looks forward to its continued good works in support of the department and the Charleston community!

Photographs and descriptions reprinted from the LENS Foundation website: <https://www.thelensfoundation.com/>

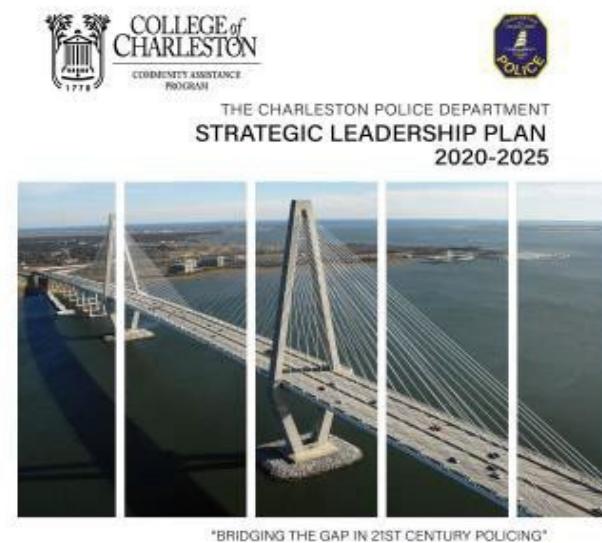
2020-2025 Strategic Leadership Plan

In line with its vision statement to be a world class law enforcement agency and mission to serve all people with respect, fairness, and compassion, the CPD consciously embarks upon the ambitious goal of excellence in all areas, self-reflection, and improvement over time. This growth-based perspective motivated the creation of a Strategic Leadership Plan (SLP). Spanning the years of 2020 – 2025, the SLP was developed by department stakeholders, in conjunction with community members, local government officials, and academic partners from the College of Charleston.

Seven different CPD divisions constitute the SLP's areas of focus and include:

- Community Outreach
- Patrol
- Special Operations
- Central Investigations
- Training and Professional Standards
- Analysis and Innovation
- Administrative Services

Each identifies high-level goals with accompanying rationales. Within each goal there are various related objectives and their associated measures. Many goals and objectives are linked with recommendations from the CPD's voluntary, community supported Racial Bias Audit and the Illumination Project. In total, the SLP contains 45 unique goals, 149 objectives, and 186 measures.



The SLP is currently accessible online at:
<https://www.charlestonsc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/27121/The-Charleston-Police-Department-Strategic-Leadership-Plan-2020-2025>

CPD continually reviews the SLP in order to gauge progress and update the community regarding progress towards its goals, objectives, and measures.

Community Outreach

Team Goal

The Community Outreach Program is responsible for the development, administration, and continual evolution of effective outreach programs, public awareness campaigns, and education programs for the Charleston community.

Objectives

1. Establish a multifaceted communication and partnership plan by using a variety of media, special events, surveys, and other direct outreach initiatives to get the community involved with local Police and City initiatives.
2. Identify key stakeholders within the community and establish strong relationships to create better community education and engagement activities.
3. Maintain key information outlets such as the City's Police website, social media, create reports and statistical analyses on proposals and surveys, and create a comprehensive community education and outreach program.

Team Makeup

The Community Outreach team is divided into Squad A, Squad B, the Housing Unit (which consists of 4 Officers), and Bridgeview Units (which consists of 2 Officers). Squads A, B, and the Housing Unit rotate monthly, Monday through Thursday and Friday through Monday. Their hours are 0700-1700. The dayshift Bridgeview Unit works a consistent Monday through Thursday shift, 0700-1700. The nightshift Bridgeview Unit rotates on a separate schedule.

2023 Highlights

The Community Outreach team worked on many events in 2023. For this report, the events will be broken down into the youth, city housing, and community, with references to goals indicated in the CPD's 2020 – 2025 Strategic Leadership Plan.

Youth

Goal #3: Increase police participation and positive encounters with the youth.

- *Completed:* Flip basketball league, mentorship with James Island Charter HS football team.
- *Recurring:* Halloween Howl, Camp Hope, Red Ribbon Week, DEEP Summer Series, Police Explorers, Beyond Basics.



City Housing

Goal #1: Build community partnerships and problem solve to improve trust between the police and citizens.

- *Recurring:* Back to school events, Halloween Safety tips distributed, Farmacy, National Faith and Blue.
- *Completed:* Food distributions throughout various community neighborhoods with Gregs Groceries.

Community

Goal #2: Create a multifaceted approach to reach all members of the community.

- *Recurring:* Polar Plunge, Cops on the Coop, Real Men Wear Pink campaign, Santa's Escort Ride, Goodnight Lights, National Night Out, Hispanic Heritage Month



Citizens Academy

In 2023, CPD held a Spring and Fall Citizen's Academy. In the Spring, there were 18 citizens who participated in 6 weeks of training, and in the Fall, there were 14 citizens who participated in 8 weeks of training. The Fall academy class included CPAC and City Council Members.

Problem Oriented Policing

The Problem Oriented Policing module was created in 2021 to track problem solving efforts. To date, there have been 2116 entries made. Neighborhood events and meetings are significant to Community Outreach and there have been 278 entries made.

Crime Stoppers of the Lowcountry

In 2023, Crime Stoppers of the Lowcountry received 1,782 tips. 20 tips have led to arrests being made in the cases. A total of \$2,250 in rewards were approved. Through the tips and arrests, a total of \$51,568 was recovered in cash or drugs seized. Also in late 2023, 4 billboards were put up around the Charleston area, each running for at least 3 months, to increase community involvement.

Overdose Outreach Program

The Community Outreach Unit has two officers officially assigned to work closely with CPD's Opioid Overdose Outreach Project Coordinator. These officers play a crucial role in helping to support victims of recent overdose and their families, helping to educate the public of the dangers of fentanyl, and helping to make access to Narcan harm reduction kits through no-contact residence drop-off.

Partnership Programs

Goal #1: Build community partnerships and problem solve to improve trust between the police and citizens.

- *Ongoing:* Collaboration with Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, Charleston Mental Health, Greg's Grocery, Roper St. Francis (Drug Take Back), and Toys for Tots.
- *Measure:* CCC and CPD work together for National Faith and Blue weekend. Farmacy takes place every week. 155 boxes were given out to the community. Over 190 pounds of drugs turned in by the community. 92 bicycles were given away.

2024 Goals

- Hold major community events quarterly, one being Open House
- Continue growing partnerships, to include focus on the Hispanic community.
- Develop sustainable youth programs.
- Continue building relationships with the senior citizen community, i.e. Lowcountry Senior Center (SALT), Waring Senior Center

Initiatives

Unhoused Population Resources (work closely with the HOPE Center)

- The Community Outreach Unit will work closely with the Hope Center to assist with providing comprehensive services to those that are or at risk of becoming unhoused. Our efforts will begin with locating encampments, building relationships, providing information and offer referrals. The Hope Center is designed to connect individuals to support and services that promote self-sufficiency and stability. With this partnership our hope is to reduce negative interactions with police in the community and help build a strong foundation to be successful with good decision-making skills in all aspects of life.

Gathering Center/ Multipurpose Center

- Create a safe, clean, and fun environment to build relationships with the youth within our city housing community. The centers are located in the Gadsden Green and Robert Mills communities.

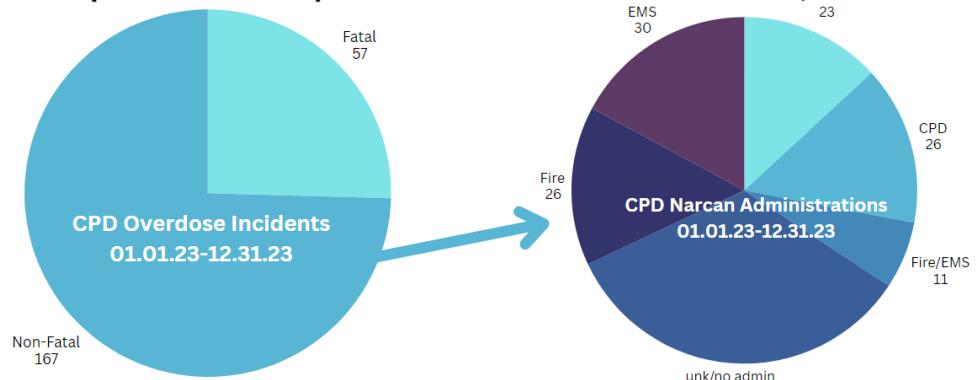
Mental Health

- Through an ongoing partnership with The Department of Mental Health the outreach team has a Mental Health clinician embedded into the unit; to help in a crisis and participate in community outreach events. The goal is to provide immediate intervention and connect families to appropriate services.

Charleston Pathway Initiative

2023 was an incredible year of growth for CPD's opioid overdose outreach team. Guided by the primary goals of the previously awarded Bureau of Justice Assistance's COSSUP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program) grant, CPD also led the city's efforts in applying for funding through SCORF (South Carolina Opioid Relief Fund). Awarded in April 2023, these funds not only helped add financial support to our growing program, through this combined effort we were able to establish contacts and routes of communication among city departments, affording a pathway that is more easily accessed by victims and families of recent overdose.

CPD 2023 AT A GLANCE **Suspected Opioid Overdoses**



Source: Critical Incident Management System (CIMS). Note: The above numbers are approximate and are supported from data pulled from incidents/calls for service reports. They have not been confirmed with toxicology reports.

Through both the COSSUP and SCORF Grants, Charleston Pathway Initiative focuses on three primary goals:

- Providing easily accessible Narcan harm reduction kits and local recovery options to the public
- Deflection to Services training for Law-Enforcement Officers/Agencies
- Cross-Jurisdictional/Organization Communication (CIMS/ACT Force)



In 2023, CPD continued to increase its response and outreach to provide support and resources to individuals and families combatting substance use disorder in these areas by:

First, CPD Community Outreach Officers, along with our Project Coordinator attempted to connect at-risk individuals with recovery services, harm reduction supplies, and peer recovery support. During 2023, these outreach efforts attempted to provide outreach resources and naloxone distribution to over 300 overdose victims and their families, friends, and others.



Additionally, Police Officers and the Project Coordinator conducted 17 Opioid Overdose Response and Narcan Administration trainings that were open to the general public at Charleston County Libraries across the county. More than 150 attendees left with Narcan Harm Reduction Kits and were empowered with the knowledge to help save a life with Narcan. In addition to Narcan Kits distributed through education events, CPD distributed over 800 Narcan Kits throughout Charleston County.



Coordinator provided Narcan training and education services to several area clubs, professional organizations, and businesses throughout Charleston like the Tri-County Black Nurses Association, Jerusalem Baptist Church, Jimmy Johns, Bert's Market, and Hollings Marine Laboratory Health and Wellness Committee.

CPD also participates in the Charleston area Addiction Crisis Task Force (ACT Force) to plan and share information regarding overdose trends and outreach resources with area agencies. ACT Force helps to join and encourage interorganizational communication among our local law enforcement, state law enforcement, hospital, emergency/fire departments, and local recovery organizations. CPD's Project Coordinator serves on this task force as the primary law enforcement contact for Charleston Police Department, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, North Charleston Police Department, and Mount Pleasant Police Department. This incredible group quickly identified the need to communicate incidents of overdose across jurisdictional/organizational lines; this is imperative to its success in helping combat this epidemic.



Cross jurisdictional and community partner communication was also a large focus of 2023. Utilizing CIMS, Critical Incident Management System, industry groundbreaker with a confirmed record of success among law enforcement

communities across the country, CIMS provides a platform that complies with HIPPA and allows area law enforcement agencies and others to share information in order to provide timely and effective outreach, Charleston County law enforcement personnel from across the county entered incidents of overdose and helped provide connections to services for victims of overdose and other at-risk individuals.



Currently, CPD, MPPD, & NCPD utilize CIMS to communicate incidents of overdose where a victim may reside in a different area other than the location where they experienced the overdose. This communication allows the jurisdictional PD and community organizations where the victim resides to respond with outreach services.

As previously stated, providing free Narcan and supplies to the Charleston community is a top priority. These efforts hope to reduce the likelihood of overdose death prior to law enforcement involvement. Anyone within Charleston County can request a free no

contact Narcan kit to be dropped off at their residence. These kits are also available, no questions asked, at CPD's front desk at any time.

As we begin 2024, our goals will be to easily identify hotspots through mapping data, increase our work with community-based nonprofits to reach at-risk residents, educate the community on drug trends such as fentanyl-lacing and counterfeit pills, integrate mental health and unsheltered population resources into the program, improve quantity and efficiency of harm reduction supplies, and communicate with members of the criminal justice system regarding information distribution and diversion possibilities.



Public Information Team

In 2023, the Public Information Team of the Charleston Police Department is highlighted for its significant expansion and achievements. The team managed numerous high-profile events, efficiently handled hundreds of media and citizen inquiries, and issued nearly 100 media releases and advisories – all while providing coverage 24 hours every day of the year. A key focus was on streamlining information-sharing networks. Leveraging evidence-based analytics for targeted social media strategies, the team successfully crafted engaging and personalized content for both internal and external audiences. This approach led to a remarkable growth in social media presence, gaining over 10,000 new followers across platforms and achieving an impressive average reach measure of over 4 million accounts with over 203,500 interactions.



Sgt Gibson the Public Information Officer providing an interview to the news.

You can follow the Charleston Police Department on the following media platforms.

X (Twitter)
@CharlestonPD

Facebook
City of Charleston Police Department
<https://www.facebook.com/CityofCharlestonPD?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Instagram
@CharlestonPoliceDepartment

Next door
<https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/sc/charleston/charleston-police-department/>

YouTube-<https://www.youtube.com/@CharlestonPD>

Ring Public Safety
<https://publicsafety.ring.com/agencies/7b4cd598-5cda-4aea-8f19-867340fee707>

Recruiting & Retention

Recruitment and hiring of qualified officers continue to be challenges nationwide. However, through dedicated outreach, deliberate engagement, and evidence-based strategies, the CPD's Recruitment, Selection, and Retention Unit continues to be successful. In 2023, the department partnered with and completed a retention study in partnership with Kent State University. The study identified strategic priorities for retention specifically for the Charleston Police Department. The strategies focused on communication, stressors on the job, promotional process, leadership, and strategic follow-up. Following the recommendations with these strategies will help with retention and improve the overall work environment.



Dannelle Goldberg, Terry Cherry, Sgt Anthony Gibson, and Dr. Wojslawowicz present the findings on the retention study conducted in partnership with Kent State University at the International Association Chiefs of Police Conference.

The department's efforts in recruiting women police officers as a part of the 30x30 Initiative showed progress in 2023. After a lower than hoped for percentage of women hired in 2022 (9.26%), the 2023 percentage of nearly 22% showed significant progress. The total percentage of women officers at the department is 16.4%.

In continued efforts established in 2023, the unit hosted 13 interns throughout the year and an additional 3 military skill bridge interns. The intent of the Charleston Police Department SkillBridge Program is to offer military personnel and their spouses, who are interested in a career with the Charleston Police Department, insight and exposure to policing methods and procedures. The SkillBridge intern is given the opportunity to learn and observe general law enforcement functions within multiple teams, units, and divisions and work with experienced police officers and other non-sworn employees to further his/her opportunities for a career as a Charleston Police Officer. The unit looks to expand upon these types of relationships and is currently working with Clemson University for an engagement weekend in 2024.

In 2023, the CPD hired 32 officers, which is a reduction from previous years, but the department continues to field numerous quality applicants. This follows three years of record-breaking hiring with 54 officers hired in 2022, 49 officers hired in 2021, and 53 officers hired in 2020.

Those interested in learning more about becoming a CPD officer can visit www.joincpd.com.

Training and Professional Standards

Charleston Police Corps 2023

Charleston Police Corps is a twelve-week program that delivers a minimum of 480 hours of instructed training content to police cadets prior to attendance at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA) Basic Law Enforcement program. The Police Corps program is a rigorous program that gives cadets the opportunity to become oriented with the City of Charleston community and the exemplary service standards expected of all Charleston Police Department employees. From the very beginning of their careers, police cadets are instructed in a multitude of different areas of law enforcement, to include ethics, peer and self-accountability, fair and impartial policing, community engagement, and leadership development.

At the conclusion of the Police Corps program, CPD celebrates the accomplishments of all cadets in a graduation ceremony held at CPD Headquarters. Following graduation, cadets attend eight weeks of basic law enforcement training at the SCCJA where, upon successful completion of the program, they are state certified as law enforcement officers. Upon return to CPD, newly certified officers continue training under the supervision of an assigned Patrol Training Officer (PTO) who will train the officer in their assigned team for an additional fourteen-week period. At the conclusion of more than eight and a half months of training, officers appear before the Release for Independent Duty Oral Board, when a final assessment is conducted to ensure officers are prepared to be released for independent duty.

In 2023, CPD held three Police Corps Class sessions throughout the year. This resulted in the training of a total of thirty-four basic law enforcement candidates. This year was unique as CPD partnered with local agencies to provide cadet training. The College of Charleston Public Safety Department and the Moncks Corner Police Department, each sent a candidate through the CPD's Police Corps program. These partnerships allowed CPD to offer its resources program to assist neighboring smaller agencies prepare their officers for the SCCJA academy.



CPD Police Corps Cadets graduating from the State Academy.

- Police Corp Class 12: 1/23/23 – 4/14/23 (11) Cadets
- Police Corp Class 13: 6/12/23 – 9/1/23 (9) Cadets
- Police Corp Class 14: 9/18/23 – 12/8/23 (14) Cadets (1 College of Charleston Public Safety - 1 Moncks Corner Police Department)

SCCJA Academy Awards: Upon graduation, the State Academy presents 4 key awards to Police Officer Candidates throughout the state. In 2023, CPD candidates received the coveted awards in every category.

- Academic Award – recipient: Cadet from Police Corp 13
- Director's Physical Fitness Award – recipient: Cadet from Class 12 and 13
- Leadership Award – recipient: Cadet from Class 12
- Marksmanship Award – recipient: Cadet from Class 13

CPD Annual In-service (Block) Training 2023

Each year, every officer within the Charleston Police Department is required to undergo annual in-service training (Block Training) to keep current with skills and proficiency, address timely issues, and to meet State and Federal legal requirements as well as CALEA accreditation requirements. In 2023, every CPD officer was provided with forty hours of annual training. This is above and beyond the state requirement of forty hours of training over a three-year period. Each day training consists of an eight-hour day of instruction, broken up into various training topics/objectives per day. CPD requires state-required blocks of instruction to have a lesson plan, reviewed by CPD's training attorney, and certified by the state academy. In 2023, Block Training encompassed the following topics: Defensive Tactics, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Response to Aggression/Intermediate Weapons Training, Tactical Medical Training, Criminal Intelligence Training, Firearms Proficiency Training, Patrol Operations Scenarios and Decision-Making Exercises, CPR and Municipal Courtroom Testimony.

To ensure compliance with training standards and in an effort to evaluate areas of potential improvement, the Professional Development & Training Office evaluated each of the courses with a three-pronged approach. This included evaluation of the student officer, evaluation of the instructor, and evaluation of the course content. Most notably, if any deficiencies were noted by the instructor cadre of a student officer, on the spot or more advanced remediation occurred to ensure accountability of appropriate training objectives.

Charleston Police Executive Leadership Summit



Class graduation from the first session of the Charleston Police Executive Leadership Summit.



Recognizing the need for advanced, accessible police executive leadership education across the state of South Carolina, Chief Luther Reynolds envisioned a program dedicated to the enhancement of law enforcement leadership throughout the state. Through the generous contributions and support from the *Charleston Police Foundation (LENS)* and the *Charleston Historic Rotary Club*, CPD developed an advanced school for law enforcement executives, titled the, “*The Charleston Police Executive Leadership Summit*”. This 96-hour program, was designed to provide law enforcement executives with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully lead a modern law enforcement agency based upon three pillars of leadership: personal growth, lessons in leadership, and community partnerships. In 2023, CPD launched the inaugural Summit, with a class of twelve law enforcement executives from eight different agencies throughout the state. The program spanned over a period of six months and required participants to travel to Charleston two days a month to attend classes.

Internal Affairs

The Office of Internal Affairs (OIA) is responsible for ensuring that the CPD operates within the boundaries and established guidelines of public trust and confidence. The department is committed to providing the highest standards of integrity and the administrative process plays an integral role in building and maintaining that public trust.

One of the functions of the Office of Internal Affairs includes the investigation, management, and review of both internal and external complaints and allegations of misconduct against department personnel, both civilian and sworn. Internal investigations stem from a complaint made by a CPD employee, while external investigations originate from a member of the public. The police department’s image and reputation greatly depends upon the personal integrity and discipline of all departmental employees. To a large degree, the department’s public image is significantly influenced by the prompt and

professional response to allegations of misconduct against its employees.

The Office of Internal Affairs also manages the reporting of all “Response to Resistance/Aggression” reports, employee-involved vehicle collisions, and all vehicle pursuits. In addition, the Professional Standards Office oversees the Early Intervention System, which quantifies all use of force incidents related to each employee.

Internal Affairs Dashboard

In June of 2021, the Internal Affairs Unit created a dashboard to provide more transparency with the community. This data dashboard depicts information in relation to internal/external investigations, investigation allegations, investigation dispositions and compliments. The data presented within this dashboard, is from January 1, 2020 to the most recent quarter. We are hopeful that by providing this data, it will continue to build trust with the community. <https://pdi-charleston-sc.opendata.arcgis.com/>

Policy

Policies and procedures are an essential aspect of any law enforcement agency. Both policies and procedures provide a framework or roadmap for the day-to-day operations of the organization. The CPD is committed to have policies that are current, up-to-date with case law, and timely with best practices and national standards. This is why the police department has undertaken a project to ensure that every policy will undergo a thorough review every three years at minimum. Some policies will even undergo an annual review, including Mission and Objectives, Office of Internal Affairs, Response to Resistance and Aggression, Weapons Training, and Vehicular Pursuits. The CPD has a total of 82 policies and to assist with open communication with the public, the department has placed a majority of policies online. (<https://public.powerdms.com/CPD5/tree>)

Accreditation

The CPD became the first municipal agency in South Carolina to attain CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accreditation in 1991, and in 2021, the department celebrated being accredited for 30 years. CALEA ensures that accredited agencies identify policy modifications, trends, improve training and officer safety, and provide timely information for the agency to promptly address use of force issues. The CALEA Law Enforcement Accreditation Program is the primary method for a police agency to voluntarily demonstrate their commitment to excellence in law enforcement by conducting an ongoing internal review and assessment of the agency’s operations, policies and procedures.

Furthermore, the department has been recognized by SCLEA (South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation), having met certain standards regarding its use of force policy as set forth by the Presidential Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities and the U.S. Department of Justice, thereby permitting CPD to be eligible for discretionary federal grants.

Body Worn Camera Program

The CPD began implementing its body worn camera program in 2015. The availability of body worn cameras enhances documentation of police-public contacts, arrests, and critical incidents, improves public trust, and advances the departmental goal of transparency.

The body worn cameras must be utilized by all uniformed officers, transport officers, animal control officers, and plainclothes officers who have a reasonable expectation that they will interact with the public. CPD’s body-worn camera policy requires officers to wear body worn cameras while on duty and performing any uniformed law enforcement function, as well as any off-duty assignment.

Supervisors will view all body worn camera footage related to a “Response to Resistance/Aggression” report. Furthermore, CPD requires supervisors and commanders to randomly select and review body worn camera videos monthly to ensure that policies and procedures are being adhered to and address any identified training issues.

Body worn camera video/audio files are maintained by the department as determined by the retention policy. All

complaints are thoroughly investigated and the body worn cameras have proven to be a very useful tool in resolving complaints.

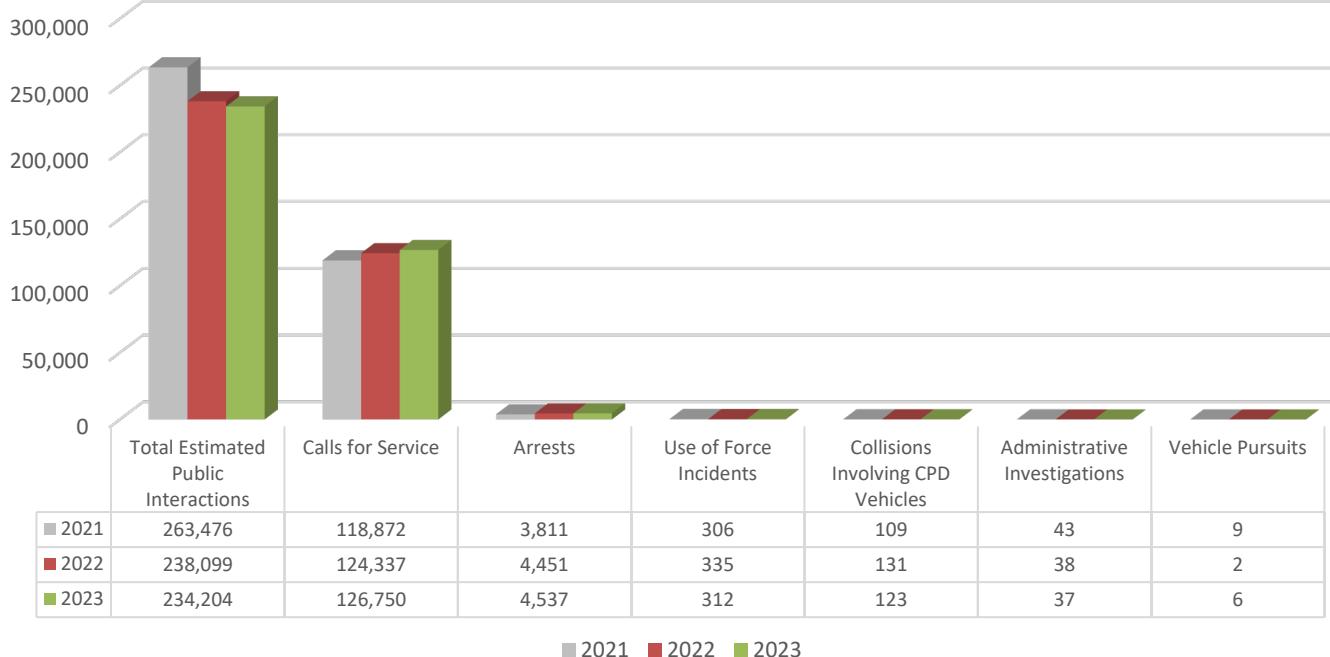
Office of Compliance and Policy

The Office of Compliance was established in 2020. The mission of the Office of Compliance is to promote integrity, accountability, and improvement of department personnel, programs, processes, and operations. The Office of Compliance will serve the public interest through impartial and independent inspections, assessments, and audits by means of transparency and accountability.

Internal Affairs At-a-Glance

The data for 2023 indicates that there was an increase in calls for service, arrests, and vehicle pursuits from the prior year. In that same period of time, there was a decrease in the number of total estimated public interactions, use of force incidents, vehicle collisions and administrative investigations.

Internal Affairs At-a-Glance

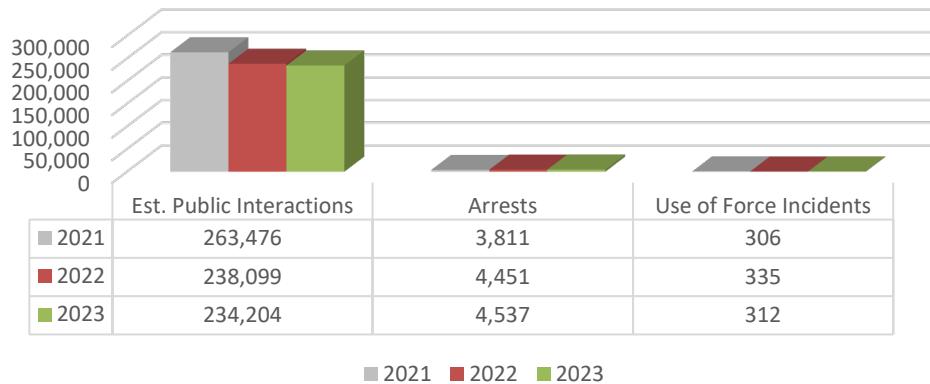


Use of Force Incidents

Data in the next table indicates use of force incidents occurred in 0.13% of the estimated public interactions in 2023, compared to 0.14% of the estimated public interactions in 2022; thus, there was a minimal decrease in the percentage rate from 2022 to 2023. This comparison indicates that for the overwhelming majority of public interactions and arrests, officers rarely used force in response to resistance in the performance of their duties.

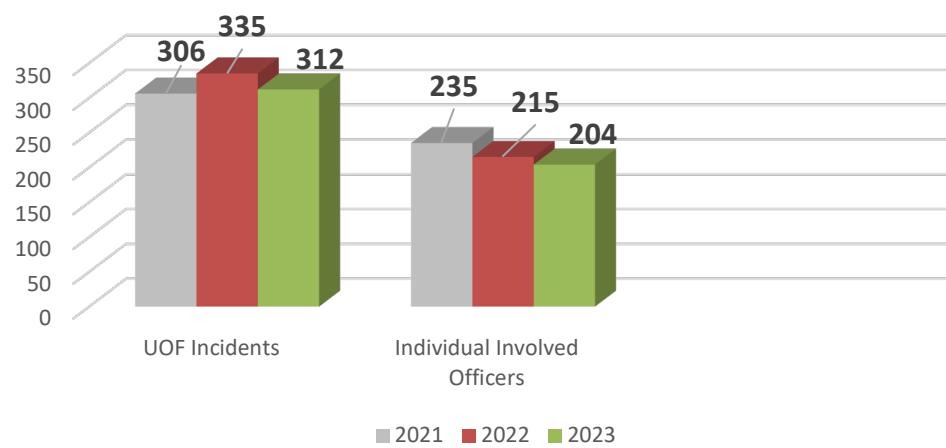
During 2023, there were a total of 312 use of force incidents that involved 204 individual officers, with some officers using force more than once throughout the year. The data shows a 6.9% decrease in the number of use of force incidents from 2022 to 2023. The number of individual officers involved that used force decreased by 5.1% from 2022 to 2023.

Activity Summary



Summary of CPD Public Interactions, Arrests, and Use of Force Incidents. **Data Source:** CPD, IA PRO

Incidents and Involved Officers



Number of UOF incidents and the number of involved officers. **Data Source:** CPD, IA PR

Investigations

A complaint is defined as an expression of discontent, dissatisfaction, or accusation made in a written or verbal form that alleges illegal activity, misconduct, or a violation of rules or regulations of the police department and/or the policies of the City of Charleston.

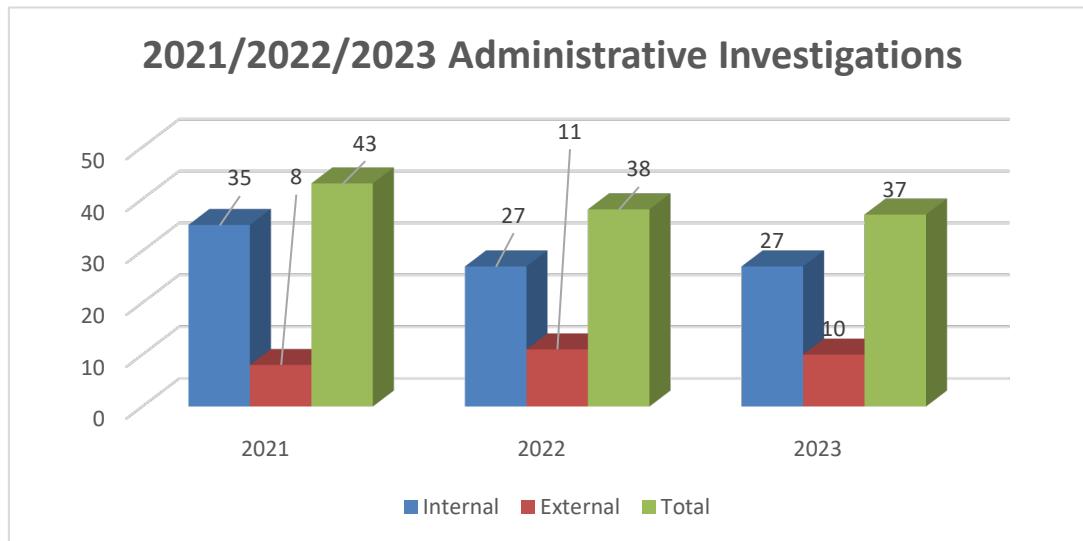
A complaint is reviewed and then assigned to either the chain of command of the involved employee or an investigator in the Office of Internal Affairs. The nature of the complaint determines the investigating entity; however, all cases are centrally recorded, tracked, and managed by the Office of Internal Affairs within the Professional Standards Office, to ensure timely completion and consistency.

While all allegations of misconduct are considered important to the department, the Office of Internal Affairs investigates allegations of misconduct that generally carry more serious consequences for the employee, the department, or community confidence in the police; while supervisors investigate those with less serious consequences. For example, the

Office of Internal Affairs would investigate complaints of unbecoming conduct, while an employee's unit supervisor would investigate allegations of rudeness.

Administrative Investigations

The Office of Internal Affairs documented, managed, or handled 37 administrative investigations throughout the calendar year of 2023 stemming from internal and external complaints. This is a decrease of 2.63% from 2022, when the Office of Internal Affairs managed 38 investigations. It should be noted that investigations may contain multiple allegations and involve multiple officers.



The investigations from 2023 that resulted in sustained action (33 cases) resulted in 44 sustained allegations, which totaled 63 actions taken. An investigation can include more than one involved employee. It is also important to note that for some of the allegations, more than one action was taken. For example, an officer may have received a written reprimand and remedial training for one allegation. There may be circumstances when an officer may have had three sustained allegations, but only one action was taken to cover all three allegations.¹

Officer Involved Shootings

There were zero officer-involved shootings in 2023.

Making a Compliment or Complaint

The Charleston Police Department encourages citizens to bring to the attention of the Department any compliments or complaints they may have involving department employees. A citizen may make a compliment or complaint by any of the following means:

- In person or in writing at: 180 Lockwood Blvd., Charleston, SC 29403,
- Via the Internet by going to <https://www.charlestonsc.gov/index.aspx?nid=1153>
- They can be emailed to the OIA at INTERNALAFFAIRS@charleston-sc.gov
- OIA can be reached by telephone at (843) 720-2447
- An on-duty supervisor can be contacted through Consolidated Dispatch at (843) 743-7200

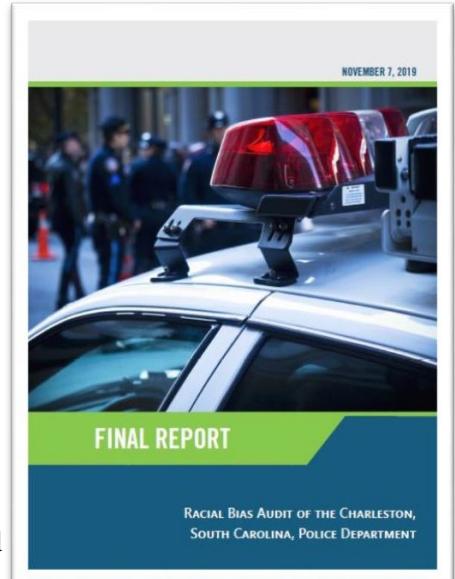
¹ A more in-depth analysis of statistics will be provided in the 2023 Office of Internal Affairs Annual Report. <https://www.charleston-sc.gov/1357/Information-Reports>

External Review and Assessment (ERA)

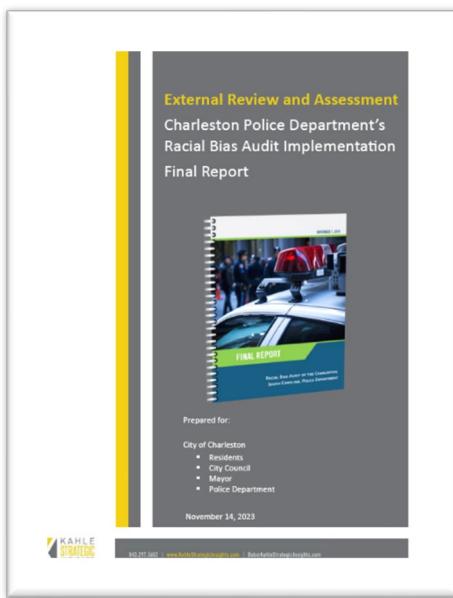
In January 2019, the City of Charleston selected the CNA Institute for Public Research (CNA) to conduct a racial bias audit of the CPD. The CNA Racial Bias Audit offered 72 total recommendations based on 48 findings that were classified into five different sections for assessment:

- Traffic stops, to include field contact cards,
- Use of force, deadly and non-deadly,
- The complaint process, internal and external,
- Community-oriented policing practices, and
- Recruitment, hiring, promotions, and personnel practices.

Over the next three years, the CPD worked diligently to implement each of the CNA recommendations from the Racial Bias Audit Final Report. At the end of 2022, the first stage of the recommendation implementation within CPD concluded. At the beginning of 2023, the final, remaining objective was for the City of Charleston and CPD to engage an independent audit firm to track and monitor CPD's progress toward implementing the recommendations. The City of Charleston and CPD contracted with a team of third-party researchers to review CPD's progress and offer guidance on next steps to fully realize and improve upon its existing implementation. An additional goal was to provide direction and recommendations to CPD on how to continue to review and assess progress in this important area over the long term.



The team worked with CPD, the City of Charleston, and members of the community to complete the assessment, which included a fidelity assessment of the recommendation implementation, a subject matter expert review and assessment, community and stakeholder engagement and feedback component, and an actionable findings and ongoing process evaluation framework.



The assessment concluded that CPD made a good-faith effort to implement the recommendations. With regard to effective implementation of the CNA recommendations that were classified by the ERA, the results of the fidelity assessment showed the following:

- 54 had clear and complete documentation
- 11 had some documentation/needed additional or ongoing work
- 2 had insufficient documentation

Other key findings from the ERA report indicated that:

- CPD has improved its data collection and analysis capabilities dramatically since 2019
- Community-Oriented Policing has become a central part of operations of CPD
- Perceptions of CPD moving in the right direction or being off-track vary widely in the community
- There is dissatisfaction in the community with the amount and transparency of community engagement.

CPD is grateful the research team, the City of Charleston, the Citizen Police Advisory Council (CPAC), and community members who participated in the ERA and, after reviewing its findings, looks forward to continuing to improve its operations and service to the community. The CNA and ERA reports can be found here: <https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2250/Racial-Bias-Audit>.

Special Operations Division

The Special Operations Division (SOD) is comprised of several teams, both fulltime and collateral, with a variety of responsibilities outside of normal Patrol operations. Four full time units exist within the SOD with each currently being led by a Lieutenant: Schools (Team 6), Traffic (Team 7), Special Events and Secondary Employment, and Special Operations (including K9, Harbor, Special Operations Response Team (SORT), as well as seven collateral duty teams).

This year, SOD continued their primary mission in all areas while focusing on enhancing tactical response capabilities with the addition of a full time Special Operations Response Team (SORT). Capt. Stanley successfully completed the NTOA Command Decision-Making and Leadership I Course to better prepare him for tactical decision making during critical incidents. Each unit had significant accomplishments throughout the year that are detailed in the reports below.

School Team

The Schools Unit (Team 6; School Resource Officer (SRO) and School Security Response Team (SSRT)) year in review captures the end of the 2022-2023 school year (Jan-June 2023) and the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year (Aug-Dec 2023). In early September, Team 6 had an initial expectation and direction of the unit meeting. During this meeting, they discussed the Charleston Police Department's Strategic Leadership Plan and the expectations of the team. The Team's focus remains to provide for the safety and security for our schools and the students and staff inside. Team 6 continues to use alternatives to arrest in our schools, when practical, by working with school administrations to have a consistent process throughout all our schools. Team 6 officers continue their efforts to build relationships and establish partnerships between school resource officers, school staff and students.

SRO/SSRT Staffing Numbers: There are currently 37 Officers assigned to Team 6, 19 of which are School Resource Officers, 14 School Security Response Team Officers, and 4 supervisors. The unit has 5 firearms instructors, 1 driving instructor, 12 certified active shooter instructors, a motorcycle-certified officer, 4 crisis negotiators, and 19 officers who are Critical Incident training certified.



In 2023 the School Security Response Team, along with the School Resources Officers continued to adapt to changing times in South Carolina. They have studied best practices and trained to make sure they are learning from incidents that have happened throughout the United States. The Team is still leading the way in instructing active shooter training to the entire department as well as several police departments in the area. They train quarterly to make sure that they are prepared to respond to a critical incident. Recently, they worked on outdoor movements and approaches to active scenes. Sharpening these skills and learning new policies and procedures are an essential part of both deterrence as well as the proper response to school incidents.

One of the main objectives of any officer who works with school-aged kids is to make a connection. The Teams focus in 2023 was to foster good relationships, in a fun way, with both the students as well as the staff at our schools. They have continued to commit to programs such as high school community circles, small discussion groups in middle schools, and many elementary school interactive events. Many Schools officers coach school sports, provide training and awareness to students and staff, and work after school sporting events. This relationship has continued in 2023 and will continue to grow in 2024.

Team 6 is heavily involved in special events within area schools. In 2023 they attended and participated in many district-wide school events such as the "Pledge Against Gun Violence", "Dealing with Cyber-Bullies", "National Walk to School Day", "Red Ribbon Week", High School Career Days, "Internet Safety Week", Lockdown Drills, Fire Drills, Halloween, Christmas and Veterans Day Events, Emergency Preparedness Meetings and reading sessions in our Elementary Schools.

In 2023, Team 6 was also instrumental in programs in specific schools such as "Breakfast with Santa", Santa's Escort

Ride, The North Pole Run, Boosterthon, "Talks with Cops", "Freaky Fridays", "Who Works at our school?", "Special Persons", "Good Decisions Presentations" and Fun-Runs.

Team 6 also supports mentoring and mediation with students and assists with conferences, home visits, team escorts, K-9 sweeps, and even teaches classes in Spanish, tourniquet application and security-related school preparation.



2023 also saw several basketball games between local schools and our CPD basketball team. This is a "Stop the Bullying" event that garnished a lot of interest and was a fun way for school officers to interact with local high school sporting teams.

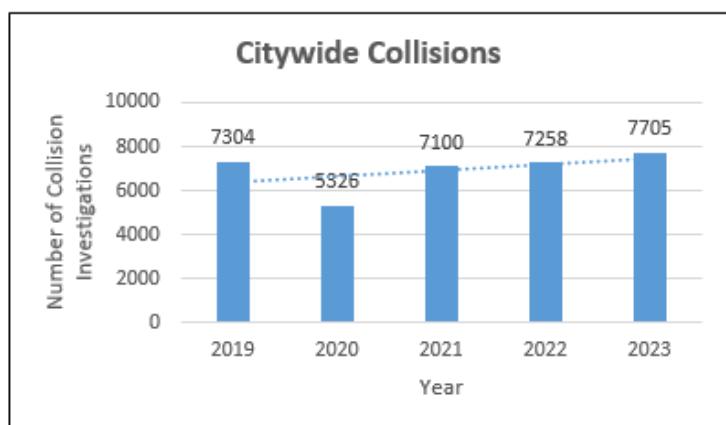
Camp Hope – Team 6 conducted three camps this summer in our Camp Hope Program. This seven-week program is always a great opportunity for positive interaction with our youth that focuses on elementary and middle school children. There are so many highlights, from group trips to the beach or water park to career discussions and life lessons such as conflict resolution. It also gives the participants a look into operations at CPD and introduces them to the many diverse officers that serve in their community. The camps conclude with a finale at Hampton Park with families invited to attend and enjoy an afternoon of food and fun with the counselors and other CPD staff.

Team 6 also staffs a police position at the Mayor's Office and the downtown Gaillard Offices/City of Charleston. That officer is responsible for daily security and assisting the privately contracted security personnel assigned. He responds to calls for service, completes security assessments at those locations, and attends city council meetings and special events related to the Mayor's Office.

Traffic Unit

The mission of the Traffic Unit is to increase roadway safety for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. Officers in the Traffic Unit strive to reduce roadway collisions as well as facilitate the safe and orderly flow for all roadway users. The unit conducts traffic related investigations, strategic enforcement initiatives, educational / awareness outreach, and collaboration with traffic engineers at the City's Traffic and Transportation Division and South Carolina Department of Transportation.

The Traffic Unit operated with approximately (16) sworn officers in 2023. The Unit is comprised with (1) Lieutenant, (1) Administrative Sergeant, (3) Traffic Investigators, and (11) Traffic Enforcement Officers. Officers in the Traffic Unit hold a variety of advanced certifications specific to traffic enforcement, impaired driving detection, and accident reconstruction and analysis. Many officers in the unit are State-certified instructors for Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and Speed Measurement Device (SMD); those officers instructed multiple training courses throughout 2023 to train and develop newer, less experienced officers. All officers in the Traffic Unit are members of the Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) and maintain an on-call schedule that provides 24/7 coverage to respond to major collision scenes involving critical injuries and/ or death.

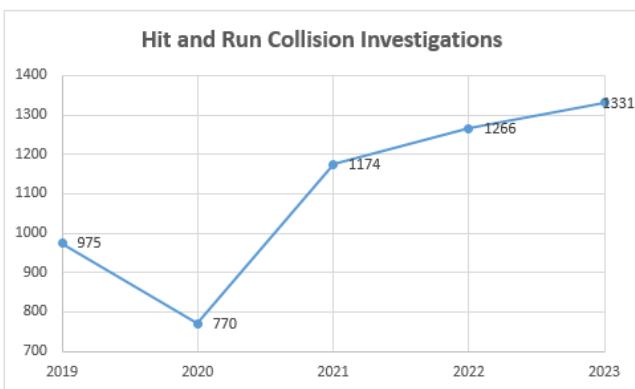


Citywide Collisions in 2023:

Charleston Police Officers investigated 7705 collisions in 2023 compared to 7258 collisions in 2022. Of all the collision investigations in 2023, 6330 occurred on public roadways while the remaining collisions occurred on private property, such as commercial parking lots.

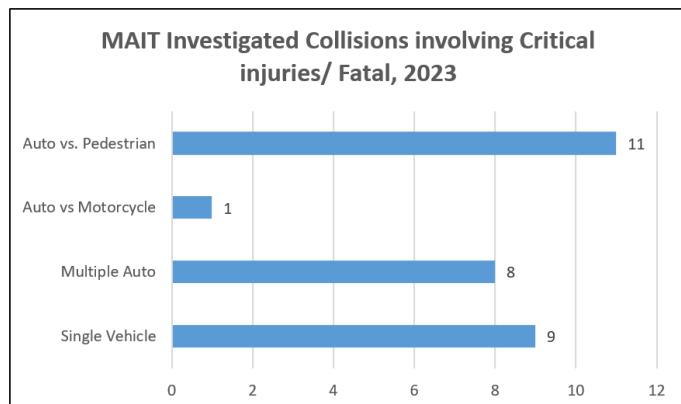
Hit and Run Collision Investigations:

The Traffic Unit investigates Hit and Run Collisions reported in Charleston that are not resolved during the initial police response. In 2023, Charleston Police initiated 1331 Hit and Run Collision investigations, which is approximately 9% higher than 2022. The unit's three full-time investigators conduct in depth investigations that involve interviewing witnesses, canvassing incident locations to locate surveillance video and bringing criminal charges against offenders when necessary.

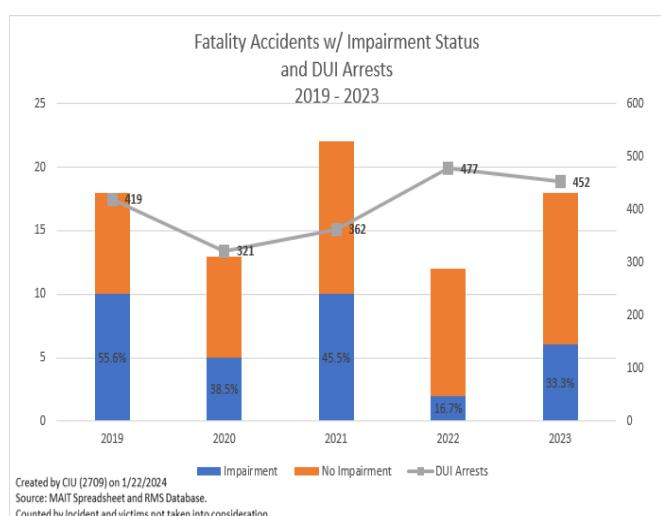
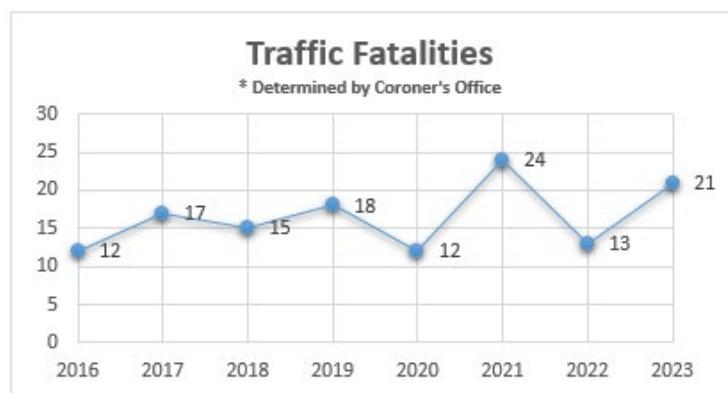


Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT):

The MAIT is responsible for investigating all major collisions that result in critical injuries and/or death. A squad of MAIT Investigators, comprised of at least (4) officers, and a Sergeant are always on call and ready to respond to major collision scenes to initiate an investigation. Generally, a collision scene entails evidence analysis and collection,



measurements/scene scans to include photographs, vehicle inspections, interviewing witnesses, and developing criminal charges, if applicable. Officers on MAIT hold a variety of advanced certifications to include multiple phases of accident reconstruction. CPD utilizes a Faro brand 3D scanning device to image collision scenes and obtain measurements.



Charleston experienced more traffic collisions in 2023, along with an increase in traffic fatalities. In total, (29) collisions prompted MAIT investigations in 2023, compared to (24) collisions in 2022.

Charleston had (21) traffic fatalities resulting from (18) fatal crashes 2023, compared to (13) fatalities in (12) fatal crashes in 2022. MAIT investigated all fatal collisions as well as (11) additional collisions resulting in apparent critical injuries. In

2023, approximately 33% of fatal collisions involved impairment compared to 2022 where 17% percent of fatal collisions involved someone under the influence of alcohol and/ or drugs.

Strategic Traffic Enforcement:

Charleston Police made 452 Impaired Driving related arrests in 2023. Officers regularly work with area partners like MADD to promote awareness of the dangers and consequences of drinking and driving. Officers also regularly conduct presentations in area schools in order to educate youth on the impacts of impaired driving. In March of 2023, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety recognized the Charleston Police Department's 2022 achievements in DUI enforcement. The department was awarded Agency of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and Officer of the Year for agencies with 101 or more officers. In addition to impaired driving enforcement, officers in the Traffic Unit focused on reducing collision rates across Charleston by targeting areas with high rates of collisions. Our analysts generate weekly reports featuring collision hot spot zones and map officer productivity in relation to the collision area to ensure our officers are addressing each collision zone.



Due to the fact that the Charleston area experienced an increase in Auto vs. Pedestrian collisions resulting in severe injuries, the Traffic unit worked with community stakeholders to develop the "Heads UP!" pedestrian safety campaign. Working in close partnership with MUSC, CARTA, and community advocates, the traffic unit produced pedestrian safety awareness materials including, a press conference featuring members of City Council, MUSC, and CPD, a social media video, signage displayed throughout the City, and even a CARTA Bus wrap!

The Traffic Unit is also tasked with investigating traffic related complaints from the community such as speeding or running of stops signs in neighborhoods. The unit is advised of the complaint directly from a citizen or the complaint is routed through other channels. The complaint is assigned and officers monitor the complaint location to determine if violations are occurring. Violations are addressed through enforcement and the amount of time spent monitoring a location is based upon the frequency of violations.

Special Events and Secondary Employment (SESE):

The office of Special Events and Secondary Employment (SESE) manages the off-duty and secondary employment relationships between Department employees and other employers to ensure that the public receives a level of service compatible with departmental standards of integrity and performance. The office is composed of one Lieutenant and a civilian employee. Off-duty job reservations and personnel assignments are handled through Extra Duty Solutions (EDS) via an online platform. The event staffing requests can range in size from one officer to over 100 officers for a large, City wide special event. For 2023, there were 386 special events approved by the Special Events Committee. The vast majority of these events requested to hire off-duty police officers to provide security and/or traffic control assistance, which resulted in a total request of more than 47,900 hours of off-duty police employment. There also were another 171 City sponsored or other jobs requiring on-duty officers to provide police assistance to ensure the safety of the public.

SESE also coordinates the issuance of First Amendment Demonstration Permits. There were a total of 64 First Amendment Demonstration Permit requests. Of those, 56 were approved as submitted and 8 were offered alternative conditions in order to provide for the safety and security of the event participants as well as the general public.

Special Operations Units:

Harbor Patrol

Harbor Patrol is a full-time unit consisting of a sergeant and three officers with the mission of ensuring the safety and security of Charleston's waterways. The unit is staffed seven days a week and is subject to after-hours callouts. Seven collateral officers supplement the unit and assist when activated. Responsibilities





and the SC Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team with multi-day trainings in the Charleston waterways.

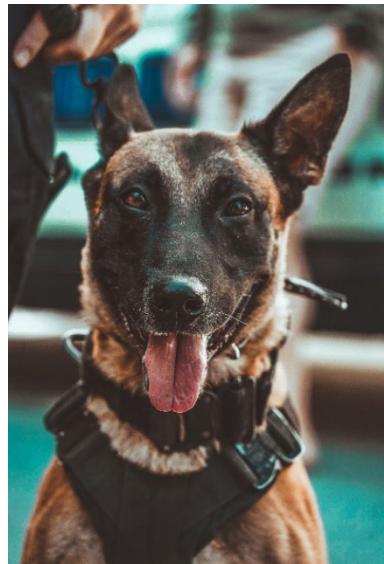
The unit participated in multiple water safety & community events in 2023 to include Operation Dry Water over July 4th weekend, National Night Out, SEWE, and multi-agency enforcement operations lead by the USCG.

K9

The K9 unit consists of five (5) dual purpose Patrol K9 teams along with three (3) Explosive Detection K9 teams. The unit is led by Sgt. Thom, who was recognized as the Department's 2023 Sergeant of the year for his leadership and dedication to the Lowcountry K9 teams. The K9 unit serves as a support tool to the Department in the following areas: building or area searches for criminal suspects, tracking of criminal suspects or lost persons, narcotic detection, criminal apprehension, and evidence searches.

In 2023, the unit accounted for 731 deployments – inclusive of 140 alarm responses, 318 officer/handler protection situations, 28 tactical deployments, and 22 apprehensions of suspects.

With the support of the LENS Foundation, the K9 unit was outfitted with bullet proof vests and has begun the selection process for its newest member - K9 Luther – who will begin service in 2024. The unit continues to strive for excellence in all they do and will continue to grow their knowledge, skill, and abilities to better serve the Department in the coming year.



Civil Disturbance Unit



In 2023, Lieutenant Corey Taylor assumed command of the Charleston Police Department's Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU). The CDU stands as the largest among CPD's specially activated units comprising of one commander, one administrative sergeant, six squad leaders, and 34 officers.

The CDU undergoes advanced training to respond to various civil disturbances adeptly with the mission to maintain peace and order. The unit conducted five training sessions in 2023 and is responsible for the Department's readiness in civil disturbance tactics. Although no unit activations occurred in 2023, the CDU remained vigilant and prepared to respond in the event of an escalated unlawful disturbance.

Crisis Negotiations

The Crisis Negotiations Team has eleven officers who are certified crisis negotiators. A crisis negotiator has specialized training in how to de-escalate individuals in crisis to achieve an optimal resolution for public safety. There were twelve training sessions throughout the year and the Team had four activations in 2023.

Negotiators are called upon to lend their expertise in de-escalation techniques throughout the year for instances including but not limited to; armed persons threatening others, barricaded wanted persons, barricaded domestics, suicidal individuals, and individuals in mental crisis.

Due to the number of interactions with individuals involving a mental health issue, the Crisis Negotiation Team conducts quarterly training and maintains a relationship with Charleston County Mental Health as well as Crisis Negotiation Teams from surrounding jurisdictions.

Explosive Devices Team

The Explosive Devices Team (EDT) has a multifaceted mission that includes subject-matter expertise in handling and investigation of suspected explosive devices, prevention and training related to explosives and hazardous materials, dignitary protection, & technical support during specialized operations.

The unit serves the Lowcountry region and is commanded by Sgt. Haithcock. In 2023, Sgt. Kursh and PO Culp completed the FBI's Hazardous Devices School to become Bomb Technicians. SPO Tulla and Sgt. Haithcock continue to provide instruction at national level training.

This year, the EDT responded to 3 found ordinance incidents, 1 suspicious powder call, 2 suspicious package calls, and 3 tactical assists.

The EDT additionally supported 17 major events to include the Cooper River Bridge Run, Credit One Tennis Tournament, Vice President visit, Dominican Presidential visit, IAAM Grand Opening, Nikki Haley appearance, former President Trump visit, as well as numerous parades, concerts, and ceremonies – an increase in 340% from 2022. The Explosive Detection K9 teams accounted for 189 deployments for sweeps, searches, and call outs – an increase in 64% from 2022.

Honor Guard

The CPD Honor Guard - consisting of thirteen members, including a bagpiper, made a significant impact through their participation in multiple events throughout 2023. They demonstrated their commitment by organizing and participating in the Celebration of Life Service for Chief Reynolds, the CPD Annual Awards Banquet, and the oath of office ceremony of Chief Walker. They represented the Department at additional Line of Duty Funerals throughout South Carolina. Additionally, they presented the colors at the Historic Rotary Club meeting and the SC Traffic Safety Officer Conference in Columbia.



Beyond these public events, the Honor Guard actively took part in promotion and retirement ceremonies, the annual Fraternal Order of Police Memorials, and the dedication of the new Memorial Wall at CPD Headquarters.

The Honor Guard engaged with teams from other law enforcement agencies, fostering collaboration and shared expertise.

SWAT

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team executed 23 high risk warrant services for Central Investigations, responded to four barricaded subject situations, and assisted the FBI with three high risk warrant services. The SWAT Team also assisted Charleston County Sheriff's Office SWAT with two high risk warrant services. The Team was activated and assisted with two large-scale, multi-jurisdictional manhunt operations - one in the Francis Marion Forest and one in rural Johns Island. The SWAT Team was activated to provide tactical support on four large public gathering events and two dignitary protection details for the U.S. Secret Service.

The Team completed 52 days of training and provided instruction to the Department on high-risk tactics, patrol response tactics, and active shooter response. The 2023 Basic SWAT School had 18 students from six agencies in the Carolinas.

Special Operations Response Team

The Special Operations Response Team (SORT) was established in October 2023 as a uniformed, 5 officer team led by Sgt. Owens. SORT's primary missions are; the capability of immediate tactical response to a critical incident & intelligence driven support of Departmental units – to include Patrol, Central Investigations, and Training.

Underwater Response Team



The Charleston Police Department's Underwater Response Team's primary mission is to assist in emergency and non-emergency situations involving any of the numerous underwater environments within the City of Charleston or other adjacent jurisdictions. These missions include maritime lifesaving, evidence or property recovery, and public safety / homeland security operations. The Team is commanded by Lt. Wojslawowicz.

During 2023, the Underwater Response Team conducted a safety and security sweep in preparation for the grand opening of the International African American Museum

in June and recovered a vehicle that had driven into the Charleston Harbor from an access point at the Carolina Yacht Club in September. The team also assisted the Central Investigations Bureau with a pond search for evidence related to a homicide in West Ashley and assisted the Charleston County Sheriff's Office with a vehicle recovery after a car left the roadway and drove into a pond on Johns Island.

In early 2023, the Underwater Response Team welcomed three new members to its ranks. These members have gone through rigorous training throughout the year and are now certified public safety divers. The Underwater Response Team also took part in several community events to include the Halloween Howl and National Night Out.

Unmanned Aerial Systems

CPD Air Operations currently has 6 FAA-Certified Remote Pilots and two Visual Observers. In 2023, they flew 117 flights for a total of 30.2 flight hours. UAS added one additional aircraft to its fleet, an Autel EVO 2 version 3. Air OPs has a total of six UAS registered with the FAA, including 2 Infrared capable platforms.

Flight Categories included: Crime Scene Photography, Aerial Overwatch for Warrant Service, Missing Person Searches, CPD Internal Media, Joint Training with SWAT, Test Flights, and Community Outreach events including Citizens Academy and Good Night Lights.

UAS added two new members in 2023. Those members successfully completed their FAA coursework and received their PART 107 Remote Pilot Certificate. UAS completed 14 Training Days in 2023 which resulted in 18 hours of flight time.

Air Ops Director Scott Newsome also serves as a FAA Safety Team Representative for the South Carolina Flight Standards District Office (FSDO). Newsome is a FAA designated Drone Pro, Commercial Pilot, and serves as a Subject Matter Expert for the FAA. Newsome was recognized by the South Carolina FAA Flight Standards District Office, in 2023, for “Outstanding Community Service”.

Central Investigations

The Central Investigations Division is comprised of Persons Crime, Property Crime, Special Investigations, Field Intelligence, Federal Task Force Officers, Intelligence Operations, and Victim Advocates. Persons Crimes detectives handle serious felony crimes such as murder, sexual assaults and robberies. The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit is also housed under the Persons Crime section. The Property Crime detectives investigate burglaries, auto thefts, and felony white collar incidents. The Warrants Division and Bond Court Unit are also within the Property Crime section. Detectives assigned to the Special Investigations Unit control and suppress narcotic and vice crimes. They also conduct investigations into overdose events. The Field Intelligence Unit detectives gather information on criminal trends and assist detectives by gathering evidence and conducting surveillance.

The Federal Task Force Officers include officers assigned to the US Marshals, ATF, FBI, Secret Service, DEA and Homeland Security Investigations. They work with our Federal partners to complete multi-level investigations that require additional resources. The Intelligence Operations Section includes civilian staff members who gather intelligence and assist detectives with investigations. They also provide helpful data and assist with crime trends. All the units with the Central Investigation Division work together to complete thorough, successful investigations.

Persons Crime

Primary Mission

The primary mission of the Crimes Against Persons Unit is to thoroughly investigate major crimes and serious incidents with an appropriate sense of urgency to identify offenders, acquire evidence for criminal prosecution, and prevent the reoccurrence of such crimes. This includes the identification of crime trends and disseminating information for the purpose of preventing any escalation in criminal activity. This unit also provides outreach to victims of serious crimes to ensure that they have sufficient resources to prevent re-victimization and appropriate support.

Organization and Investigative Data by Unit

The Crimes Against Persons Unit includes detectives who specialize in complex investigations that include: homicides, violent felony assaults, robberies, sexual assault, domestic violence, serious crimes involving juveniles, and missing persons. Victim related services are provided by a team of victim advocates who provide guidance in court hearings along with assistance locating mental health services and compensation assistance.

Lieutenant Kelly Freshman is responsible for the supervision of the detectives in the Crimes Against Persons Unit. The detectives within the unit are broken down into squads who specialize in a particular area of investigations.

Violent Crime Unit (VCU):

This unit is tasked with investigating some of the most high-profile crimes that occur in the City of Charleston. The personnel in this unit investigate homicides, deaths, serious aggravated assaults, and any additional high-profile incident that occurs. The unit is on-call to respond after hours and will typically respond to murders, shootings that involve significant life-threatening injuries, death investigations, and other significant critical incidents as needed.

Since October 2023 the VCU obtained an 88% clearance rate of homicides. The unit has also seen an 18.2 % increase in aggravated assaults over the past 5 years. The unit continues to work alongside Special Investigations Unit (SIU) during overdose death investigations as well as the ATF Task Force Officer (TFO) and FBI TFO.

There were a total of 233 cases assigned to the Violent Crime Unit in 2023, which includes 41 other types of cases (typically assigned during a central evening rotation). During larger investigations, detectives with the other units in Central assist VCU.

Clearance rates (based on crime type) are calculated for homicides and aggravated assaults which are typically investigated by VCU and are shown below. Clearance rates are defined as crimes solved by an arrest(s). When this occurs, the crime report is labeled as “cleared”.

	Active / Inactive	Cleared by Arrest	Ex- Cleared	Unfounded	Total Cleared	Total	Clearance
<i>Homicide</i>	1	8	0	0	8	9	88%
<i>Justifiable Homicide</i>	1	0	0	0	1	1	100%
						10	

		Active/ Inactive	Cleared by Arrest	Ex- Cleared	Un- founded	Total Cleared	Total	Clearance
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>								
	Firearm	65	20	1	4	25	90	27.7%
	Knife	3	7	1	0	8	11	72.7%
	Hands	14	19	4	3	26	40	65%
						59	141	

Notable Investigation Handled by the Violent Crimes Unit in 2023

In November of 2023 VCU responded to a homicide at 320 Meeting Street, Circle K. The victim had been shot multiple times. Detectives immediately began interviewing witnesses and evaluating the evidence. During the course of the investigation, it was determined this violent act was completely random. The victim and offender did not know each other and had never met. Even with these facts, VCU was able to arrest the offender within 36 hours of the crime. Making this arrest is one of the biggest accomplishments for VCU in 2023.

Robbery

This unit is tasked with investigating primarily armed and strong-arm robberies. Members of this unit also provide support to VCU investigations when needed and are subject to call out. During 2023 they also assisted the Special Victim’s Unit (SVU) when their case volume became high. Generally during this time, they assist with Domestic Violence cases and Missing Person cases.

The Robbery Unit had a total of 307 cases assigned in 2023. This number includes a large volume of cases assigned to detectives who worked in auto theft and SVU prior to being assigned to the robbery unit. Some cases in the other categories also include cases assigned from working the central rotation.

The Robbery Unit continued to keep a high clearance rate. Clearance rates are calculated for robberies in the categories of

firearm, knife, object or hands.

		Active/ Inactive	Cleared by Arrest	Ex- Cleared	Un- founded	Total Cleared	Total	Clearance
<i>Robbery</i>								
	Firearm	19	13	1	0	14	33	42%
	Knife	1	4	0	0	4	5	80%
	Hands	0	1	0	1	2	2	100%
	Object	5	4	0	0	4	9	44%
Totals						18	38	

Notable Investigation Handled by the Robbery Unit in 2023

In April 2023, the Robbery unit was assigned a series of robberies which occurred in the East Side community. Both of these robberies were committed at gun point to citizens who were doing their jobs at the times of the incidents. The victims of these crimes were traumatized and in need of assistance from the Charleston Police Department. Detectives meticulously reviewed view, interviewed numerous witnesses and were able to eventually make an identification. The offender was taken into custody within two weeks of these robberies. The offender received a no bond and is still being held prior to trial. The efforts made by the robbery unit helped restore safety to the community.

Special Victim's Unit

This unit is tasked with investigating an array of incidents including: sexual assaults, missing persons, juvenile crimes, serious domestic assaults, and other crimes.

There have been a total of 567 cases assigned to SVU personnel during 2023. The sheer number of cases handled by this unit is extraordinary. Although domestic violence investigations are typically not challenging in terms of identifying offenders, they do require immediate attention and can be labor intensive in terms of paperwork. During 2023 the department took a total of 386 domestic violence (DV) related reports which included 13 gun related DV cases.

Clearance rates for sexual assaults, which are typically investigated by SVU and are shown below.

	Active / Inactive	Cleared by Arrest	Ex- Cleared	Unfounded	Total Cleared	Total	Clearance
<i>Sexual Assaults</i>	29	9	2	14	25	54	46%

Notable Investigation Handled by the Special Victim's Unit in 2023

In July of 2023 detectives with the SVU met with a young adult victim who disclosed being sexually assaulted. The victim was a new young mother who was struggling in her new role and had little family support due to her disclosure. While working this case, SVU detectives sought multiple resources to assist the victim. They also had to overcome a language barrier and the lack of support from the victim's family. Working together as a team, the detectives and advocates were able to bring charges against the offender within one month of the report. This arrest allowed the victim some peace and the ability to begin moving forward with her life. These cases can be emotional and tiring, however the SVU detectives overcame and were successful.

Victim Advocates

The victim advocates are tasked with contacting all victims of crimes stipulated by state directive. They represent victims at court proceedings, provide essential services which are sometimes funded by the state via SOVA. They assist victims with obtaining restraining orders as well as orders of protection. They also attend community events that serve victims of crime. They assist victims by reaching out to community partners such as Liza's Lifeline for services such as housing and groceries. In 2023 they served 1681 victims and 193 child victims.

Property Crime

Primary Mission

The primary mission of the Crimes Against Property Units is to investigate burglaries of residences and businesses, motor vehicle thefts, and white collar / economic crimes. Detectives assigned to these units compile comprehensive case files for the purpose of apprehension and successful prosecution. The detectives routinely collaborate with other agencies including Federal, State, and other local law enforcement partners to enhance investigations, share intelligence, and identify offenders. Detectives also work to recover stolen property and return the items to victims. In addition to the investigative units, the Warrants Unit falls within the Crimes Against Property side of the Central Investigations Division, and their mission is to safely apprehend wanted persons associated with our criminal investigations.

Organization and Investigative Data by Unit

Lieutenant Paul Krasowski leads the Central Investigations Bureau- Crimes against Property Units, which is comprised of four units- Burglary, Auto Theft, White Collar/ Economic Crimes, and Warrants Units. Two of the units have detectives assigned to Federal Law Enforcement Agencies as Task Force Officers (TFO). The TFO's bridge relationships with our Federal Law Enforcement partners, providing additional resources and prosecutorial avenues at the Federal level for qualifying offenses.

The City of Charleston experienced a 10% increase in burglaries in 2023 compared to 2022 but a reduction of 7.6% in Motor Vehicle Thefts in 2023.

Burglary Unit

The Burglary Unit is tasked with investigating burglaries of both residences and businesses. In 2023, 43% of the reported 279 burglaries were cleared. In comparison, 253 burglaries were reported in 2022. CPD's clearance rate is just over 3x the national clearance rate for burglaries. The below chart reflects the status of burglary cases reported in 2023.

	Active / Inactive	Cleared by Arrest	Ex-Cleared	Unfounded	Total Cleared	Total Burglaries	Clearance
Burglary	151	108	3	17	128	279	43.00%

Notable Investigations Handled by the Burglary Unit in 2023

Beginning in May of 2023, the Charleston Police Department's Burglary Unit initiated a series of burglary investigations where multiple small chain style restaurants were burglarized. These incidents, which appeared to be occurring city wide, showed two suspects forcing entry into the businesses using a crowbar and then stealing or attempting to steal the business safe from inside the businesses. As their investigations progressed, our Detectives discovered similar Modus Operandi in over twenty burglaries which had been committed throughout the low country since the beginning of May.

In the following months, CPD Detectives continued to investigate these crimes and further established a pattern of activity involving restaurant burglaries. These efforts resulted in the arrest of one of the suspects for an incident in CPD's jurisdiction.

After the Defendant's arrest, CPD Detectives continued their investigation and shortly thereafter, observed that the remaining suspects appeared to remain active and had changed their tactics and target locations by burglarizing small, local Hispanic grocery stores and coin laundry operations. Once this pattern was discovered, Burglary Detectives hosted a multijurisdictional meeting with Burglary detectives from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, North Charleston Police Department, Goose Creek Police Department and Dorchester County Sheriff's Office. During this information sharing and strategy meeting, CPD Burglary Detectives presented their findings and in doing so, were able to further establish links amongst the sixty-six burglaries committed since the series began.

As a result of the CPD Burglary Unit's investigation and linkages, NCPD was able to make a quick arrest in their most recent Hispanic grocery burglary. Since this arrest, the low country has not experienced any additional commercial burglaries of this nature. CPD Burglary Detectives continue to investigate this burglary series.

Auto Theft Unit

The Auto Theft Unit is tasked with investigating stolen motor vehicles including automobiles, mopeds, motorcycles, and golf carts. In 2023, Charleston had 522 stolen motor vehicles reported compared to 562 in 2022. The below chart reflects the status of auto theft cases reported in 2023.

	Active / Inactive	Cleared by Arrest	Ex-Cleared	Unfounded	Total Cleared	Total	Clearance
<i>Auto Theft</i>	413	34	5	70	109	522	9.00%

White Collar Unit

The White-Collar Unit is tasked with investigating all types of white-collar crimes including: credit card fraud, check fraud, identity theft, credit card skimmers, forgeries, computer crimes and flim-flams that exceed \$2000 in losses. During 2023, the White-Collar Unit investigated 319 cases. The chart below shows the breakdown in case closures for white collar-related cases investigated by the White-Collar Crime Unit.

	Active / Inactive	Cleared by Arrest	Ex-Cleared	Unfounded	Total Cleared	Total
<i>White Collar</i>	250	9	21	29	59	309

Notable Investigation Handled by the White-Collar Crimes Unit in 2023

In 2023, Detective Belko investigated a complex fraudulent operation involving (2) different victims; one from Charleston, South Carolina and a second from San Francisco, California, who were preyed on by a suspect(s) who orchestrated an elaborate scheme. Over a 6-month span, the suspect(s) stole \$159,000 combined from the victims through fraud and manipulation. The suspect utilized numerous bank accounts that spanned across the country to collect, transfer, and store the fraudulently obtained money.

Despite all the complexities of the case and the logistical challenges posed by the sophisticated scheme, Det. Belko worked diligently on behalf of the victims and followed the evidence through tireless days of work. Ultimately, Det.

Belko located accounts containing the fraudulently obtained money, seized all the stolen money, and returned all of it back to the victims. The investigation required Det. Belko to communicate with banking officials across the country, draft and executed countless search warrants that eventually led him to the accounts containing the stolen money.

Warrants / Bond Court Unit

The Warrant Unit is tasked with locating offenders for both misdemeanor and felony warrants. It serves both misdemeanor and felony warrants. During 2023, the unit served 628 warrants with a total of 350 arrests. The unit is now tasked with extraditing wanted subjects who reside out of the area/ fled the area and have active warrants. During 2023, the Warrants Unit extradited 10 defendants from out of state and completed 4 in-state extraditions that were outside of the tri-county/ low country area. Warrants Detectives will extradite wanted subjects who are wanted for high level felony charges. The unit detectives received special training to complete such extraditions and hold TSA certifications to fly armed.

The Bond Run Unit ensures all defendants receive their bond hearing within the proper timeframe. In 2023, the Bond Run Unit handled 4537 arrests that occurred in the City of Charleston. The bond run officers also assist officers with correcting errors and understanding the court paperwork process. They also work closely with the victim advocates to ensure all victims are aware of their right to be present at the hearing. Several detectives within Central are also trained to complete the Bond Run job in case of emergency.

Special Investigations Unit

Primary Mission

The primary mission of the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is to investigate instances of illegal narcotics crimes, vice related crimes, such as prostitution/ human trafficking, illegal gambling and alcohol violations, and violent criminal gang activity. The SIU also investigates all overdose death cases which occur in the City of Charleston. The Charleston Police Departments' Task Force Officers assigned to DEA, FBI, ATF and HSI are also assigned to and supervised by SIU supervisors.

Organization and Investigative Data

The SIU Narcotics Unit is comprised of a Sergeant and detectives who investigate narcotics related crimes. The two DEA TFOs are also assigned within the Narcotics Unit.

The SIU Field Intelligence Unit is comprised of a Sergeant and detectives who investigate violent and criminal gangs operating in and around the City of Charleston. The FIU also routinely meets with other agencies within the area to share information and discuss crime trends occurring throughout the tri-county area. Two FBI TFO's and the ATF TFO are supervised by the Sergeant of FIU.

The Vice Unit which was re-established in 2023 is comprised of a Sergeant and a detective who are tasked with investigation prostitution, gambling, alcohol violations and human trafficking. Two TFO's assigned to HSI are supervised by the Vice Sergeant. This now includes the detective assigned to ICAC investigations.

Narcotics Unit

Special Investigations Narcotics Unit is tasked with investigating and developing cases focusing on disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations as well as individuals who are distributing and trafficking illegal narcotics in the City of Charleston.

Field Intelligence Unit

Special Investigations Field Intelligence Unit is tasked with investigating violent gang and criminal organizations operating within the City of Charleston as well as the surrounding jurisdictions as members of these organizations often move fluidly throughout the area. FIU officers routinely meet with and share information with detectives and intel analysts from neighboring jurisdictions to remain knowledgeable of criminal activity from suspected gang members.

Vice Unit

Special Investigations Vice Unit is tasked with investigating and developing cases related to illegal gambling, prostitution and alcohol violations.

Overdose Death Investigations

There were 57 Overdose Death Investigations throughout 2023. The vast majority of which were related to Fentanyl. Many deaths resulted from mixed drug toxicity, however the common factor in most was Fentanyl.

Notable Investigations for the Special Investigations Unit in 2023

In June of 2022 Detective Mapp opened Operation Trendsetter as part of a joint operation which would ultimately involve North Charleston PD, Summerville PD, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, SLED, ATF, and the FBI. TFO Detective Kevin Mapp was named CPD Detective of the Year for 2023 following a very successful investigation, Operation Trendsetter, which resulted in 15 search warrants and federal indictments of 36 suspects, total monetary seizures of \$75,000, 38 firearms, 3300 grams of fentanyl, 850 grams of cocaine. This investigation ended in May of 2023 and positively affected the entire tri-county area.

Based upon a 6-month investigation, which included several days of surveillance operations and multiple controlled purchases of cocaine, Detectives of the Narcotics Unit determined that drug dealers who were utilizing storage units in West Ashley to store their product. Two individuals were ultimately charged with Trafficking Marijuana, Trafficking Cocaine 400 grams or more, Trafficking Cocaine Base 400 grams or more, Possession of a Firearm during the commission of a violent crime x2, PWID Fentanyl, Trafficking MDMA, PWID Psilocin, Unlawful Possession of a firearm by Person convicted of a Violent Offense.

Additionally, following multiple citizen complaints of suspected illegal narcotics sales emanating from the Rawan Market, an investigation into narcotic sales within the Rawan Market resulted in a Search Warrant to the business itself and criminal charges to a patron that included Trafficking Cocaine, Trafficking Cocaine Base, PWID Marijuana, all in Close Proximity of a School, Park or playground, Unlawful Carry of a Handgun, Possession of a Stolen Handgun, Possession of a firearm by a convicted violent felon.

Crime Statistics

The following table provides yearly, citywide totals (inclusive of all CPD Teams) of crime incident data by type. A five year average is also presented for comparison. In 2023, there were 340 aggravated assault incidents, which is an increase from 2022 (316 total) and 2021 (336 total). There was one more homicide in 2023 than in 2022, for a total of 10. However, this is a reduction when compared to 2021, during which there were 16 homicides. The number of robbery incidents followed a similar pattern, with 10 more incidents occurring in 2023 (82 total) when compared to 2022 (72 total). The 2023 robbery incident figure is lower than the same total in 2021, when there was a total of 88. The number of sex offense incidents continued to decrease in 2023, for a total of 36, when compared to the same figures from 2022 (57 total) and 2021 (65 total).

Turning to property crime in 2023, there were 263 incidents of burglary/breaking & entering. This is an increase from 2022 (which had 245) but a decrease from 2021 (which had 273). Motor vehicle theft incidents again decreased in 2023

(447 total), when compared to the 2022 total of 494 and the 2021 total of 468. There were 786 theft from motor vehicle incidents, which is an increase from 2022 and 2021, when there were totals of 731 and 771, respectively.

The data for these figures came from the CPDs Ops Stat Reports, which can be found on the Charleston Police Data Initiative (PDI) section of the CPD's website: <https://pdi-charleston-sc.opendata.arcgis.com/>.

Crime Type	2023	2022	2021	5-Year Avg.
<i>Violent Crime</i>				
Aggravated Assault	340	316	336	287.6
Homicide	10	9	16	11.6
Robbery	82	72	88	89.4
Sex Offense	36	57	65	55.2
Total Violent	468	454	505	443.8
<i>Property Crime</i>				
Burglary / Breaking & Entering	263	245	273	300.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	447	494	468	447.4
Theft from Motor Vehicle	786	731	771	744.4
Total Property	1496	1470	1512	1492.0

Patrol

Uniform Patrol consists of the largest contingent of officers at CPD, separated into geographical teams to provide patrol services 24 hours a day. The following are just some of the many positive actions taken on the calls for service throughout 2023.

For geographical crime statistics and data information, please follow the link to the Public Data Initiative website: <https://pdi-charleston-sc.opendata.arcgis.com/>.

Team 1

Commander's Message - Lieutenant Shylah Murray

As 2023 comes to an end I want to take the opportunity to thank all the men and women of Team 1 for a great year. We started the year off with recognizing several officers with awards for their outstanding work in 2022 at the 2nd annual awards banquet. As expected, our Team 1 officers continued the year dedicated to assisting the people of Charleston and working to problem solve to keep our city safe. Our officers focused on the reduction and prevention of violent crime and property crime; and consistently held those accountable for committing such acts.

Throughout 2023, Team 1 focused on problem solving within the community. As we identified quality of life issues, our main concern revolved around how we can work with others within the community and provide assistance for persons who may not receive it otherwise. We forged a strong relationship with The Hope Center to contact persons experiencing homelessness and provide them with available resources. I truly appreciate the residents of Team 1 for their constant communication with my officers, so we can problem solve together, for a better community. I look forward to what this year will bring, and we will continue our efforts with livability issues and crime reduction strategies. We are committed to keeping our communities safe in 2024 through proactive and data driven policing, increased visibility, community engagement, and continuous training and education.

Exceptional Service:



- In 2023, Team 1 received multiple complaints regarding illegal narcotic sales in the area of King and Maverick Streets; in which the illicit activity greatly affected the quality of life of residents and workers in the area. Due to these complaints, Officer Mills was assigned to proactively patrol the area. Over multiple months, Officer Mills' observations and proactive investigations resulted in multiple arrests and felony charges on offenders for Trafficking Cocaine, PWID Cocaine Base, PWID MDMA/ Ecstasy, PWID Marijuana, and Unlawful Carry of Handgun. Officer Mills consistently demonstrates his hard work and dedication through his commitment to maintain public safety and uphold the law.

• On Monday, February 6th, 2023, multiple Team One officers of Squad D responded to the area of Piedmont Ave / Alberta Ave in reference to an armed robbery which had just occurred. After gathering information on scene, officers established a perimeter and engaged two individuals who matched the provided suspect descriptions. Both suspects fled and officers engaged in a foot pursuit. During the ensuing two separate foot pursuits, Officers with Squad D apprehended both suspects who were unlawfully armed with handguns and subsequently confessed to the armed robbery. Team 1 Squad D officers were each awarded with a Department Commendation award for their notable actions in this case.



- Team 1 officers take pride in the connections they form within the community. Our officers continue to work to build trust and relationships with all persons that we serve. Even though Team 1 is one of the busiest patrol teams in Charleston, Investigator Disalvo took her time to meet and speak with this young man in the community.



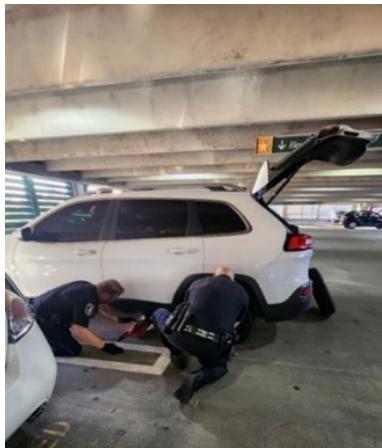
Team 2

Commander's Message - Lieutenant Katrina Rivers

Team 2 is a bustling mix of residents, businesses, tourism, and special events that all strongly define the city of Charleston. With so many activities, our law enforcement officers spent 2023 committed to crime reduction, community engagement, and safety for the people in the area. I would like to thank the officers of Team 2 for all your hard work, dedication, and continuous service to keep the community safe. I would also like to thank our community as they supported us as we navigated the loss of our beloved Chief, Luther Reynolds. Additionally, I would like to thank the residents of Team 2 for your partnership, vigilance, and communication in helping us fight crime and seek justice for victims. Team 2 is dedicated to the people of Charleston and as we embark into 2024, we will continue to work with all of you to problem solve, proactively investigate, apprehend criminals, and provide safety for all our special events and 1st Amendment demonstrations.

Exceptional Service:

- Team 2 Officers were recognized by the City of Charleston's 3rd Quarter Customer Service Initiative Committee regarding an "external compliment". A citizen relayed: "In March, I was walking on Gibbes Street near my home, and I took a very bad fall between two parked SUVs. My face struck the rear hitch and bumper of one of them, and I was knocked unconscious. I am thankful that a woman on a bicycle noticed me as I lay on the pavement in a pool of blood. She called for help and arriving in minutes were Charleston police officers Jacob Hall, Rodrick Morrow, Jeremy Wells, Master Police Officer Philip Dean and Sgt. Michael Burton. I was transported by Charleston County EMS to Medical University Hospital and was transferred to Storm Eye Institute where I underwent surgery. Officer Hall contacted me later to see how I was recovering. Our lives and property are protected by officers who are intelligent, understanding, honest, devoted, ethical, brave, and kind."



- Officers are called to assist the community with a multitude of issues every day. Many of the calls for service are criminal in nature and many are not criminal in nature. Sgt S. Tugya and PO McDermott assisted with changing a tire in a parking garage in downtown Charleston and the motorist thanked the police officers for their assistance. Thank you guys for all that you do and all that you continue to do! Also, MPO Dean was given a compliment by a citizen who stated that MPO Dean assisted her with finding her vehicle. She stated that MPO Dean was friendly, helpful, and patient when she was unable to find her vehicle. This is a great example of CPD officers providing excellent service to the public and is just one of the many ways they make a positive impact daily. To which his supervisor Sgt Burns added "I am not surprised by the compliment, as I routinely observe MPO Dean go the extra mile when assisting the citizens of Charleston. I am very thankful and proud to work alongside MPO Dean."

- In April 2023, Officers Winston & Crosby responded to Robert Mills Manor for a shooting. An adult male victim with a gunshot wound to the leg was located and Officer Winston applied a tourniquet to the victim's right leg. While Officer Winston attended to the victim, Officer Crosby provided security and rendered the scene safe for EMS/CFD personnel to take over medical care. Supervisor Sgt Hutzler stated "Their rendering of potentially lifesaving aid under stressful conditions is admirable, and it is indicative of the dedication to duty that they consistently display in the performance of their duties. A job well done." The victim survived the incident.
- Our Team 2 Administrative Sergeant, Tim Cromer, volunteers on our CPD Basketball Team which plays games throughout the community. Sgt Cromer is taking this shot during the kickoff game for The Flip League at Forest Park Playground in June 2023.

Team 9

Commander's Message - Lieutenant Corey Taylor

In tandem with the burgeoning development of Charleston's Central Business District (CBD), our patrol team dedicated to maintaining a safe environment and upholding law and order within the preeminent business corridor of South Carolina, has witnessed substantial growth. In 2023, Team 9 expanded its personnel by the inclusion of 9 officers, allowing for more proactivity with crime prevention, case investigation, and problem solving.

Team 9 officers have demonstrated their adaptability and reliability to serve residents, visitors, tourists, business owners, workers, and students within the CBD which is teeming with activities, special events, dignitary visits, 1st Amendment demonstrations, and late night entertainment options.



Our operational success is significantly bolstered by the invaluable partnerships we have cultivated with the business community. We express sincere gratitude for their unwavering support, as well as the collaborative efforts of esteemed organizations such as the Charleston Downtown Alliance and Explore Charleston. These partnerships are integral to our ability to effectively carry out our duties and contribute to the overall safety and well-being of the visitors, employees, and residents of the CBD.

Exceptional Service:

- In August 2023, the Isle of Palms Police Department issued 5 Attempted Murder warrants for the individual responsible for the widely publicized "Senior Skip Day" shooting on April 7th. The following day, Officer Stephen Herbert, who recognized the offender from downtown interactions, swiftly located and pursued the individual on foot. Officer Herbert successfully apprehended the offender, subsequently transferring custody to the Isle of Palms Police Department. This timely and decisive action demonstrates Officer Herbert's commitment to public safety and the effective resolution of high-profile cases.
- In June 2023, the North Charleston Police Department issued a Murder warrant in connection with a homicide earlier in the month. Officers from Team 9 A Squad and Team 2 A Squad swiftly located the offender in the City Market area. Collaborating on-site, the officers devised a comprehensive plan for the safe apprehension of the offender, involving coordination with the US Marshals Task Force and the CPD SWAT team.



- Over the course of the year, Team 9 Officers demonstrated exceptional diligence, effecting a total of 59 arrests related to unlawful firearms offenses and an additional 167 arrests pertaining to illegal narcotics within the CBD. At the forefront of these commendable efforts stands Master Police Officer Raymond Coble of Team 9, whose outstanding contributions were duly recognized through prestigious accolades. Officer Coble was honored with both the Knights of Columbus Officer of the Year award and the Charleston Police Department's Officer of the Year award. This resounding achievement exemplifies our unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest standards of public safety and underscores the dedication of Team 9 to the community it serves.

Under the leadership of Senior Police Officer Erica Martin, the Mounted Patrol Unit has undergone significant enhancement, benefitting from her expertise in both law enforcement and equine tactics. Senior Police Officer Martin and Officer Shaun Ferguson completed a rigorous 200-hour Mounted Police Training School conducted by the Maryland National Capital Park Police. Additionally, Senior Police Officer Brian Goggin's assignment on the unit prompted the unit to shadow the practices of the Savannah Police Department's Mounted Patrol Unit during a visit to Savannah, GA, fostering a valuable exchange of insights and best practices in mounted policing. This collective commitment to training and collaborative learning underscores the unit's dedication to continuous improvement and excellence.

- In November, eight members of Team 9 accomplished the 40-hour Law Enforcement Bicycle Association Basic Mountain Bike Officer class. This achievement equips Team 9 with enhanced resources for more effective patrolling and provides a valuable avenue to boost engagement with the citizens of the Central Business District. The successful completion of this specialized training underscores Team 9's commitment to continuous professional development and proactive community interaction.



Team 3

Commander's Message - Lieutenant James Byrne

Team 3 saw several changes in 2023, not unlike the areas of James and Johns Islands that it serves. The team received a new commander in September as Lieutenant B. Tatman transferred to the reimagined position of night shift Command Duty Officer, while Lieutenant J. Byrne moved from downtown to take the reins of Team 3. Likewise, Administrative Sergeant Y. Brown returned to Central Investigations in the fall after several years of serving the communities she was raised in, while Sergeant B. Gault was reassigned from Team 5 to fill the void. Growth of the area continued at some of the highest rates in the city, most notably on Johns Island. Despite this continuous growth, Team 3 has remained steadfast and committed to proactive crime prevention, quick response to emergencies, addressing ongoing concerns and problems, and ensuring the safety of the people of James and Johns Islands. As we move into 2024, we will continue to work with our community members and partners to keep James and Johns Islands safe. Thank you to our Team 3 officers for your exceptional service to the city.

Exceptional Service:

- Senior Police Officer A. Lee had a banner year resulting in him being named the 2023 Rotary Club of Charleston Officer of the Year. His efforts supporting the department's recruiting efforts took him to numerous events at colleges and universities across the state to attract new talent to the department. He also served as the Week 1 mentor for all fourteen Police Corps classes that the department has held, giving recruits a positive first impression as they begin their careers. He has also served as a Taser Master Instructor, a role that has him teaching protective skills to new officers and those attending annual recertification. SPO Lee also helped to develop and deliver the department's in-house leadership program, "The Charleston Way" which has been taught to members of the police and fire departments. And, when he's not busy with all of this, SPO Lee often volunteers for extra duties and fills in as the supervisor when his squad's Sergeant is unavailable. SPO Lee represents the very best of the Charleston Police Department.



- Officers P. Peters and A. Lingler maintained a strong focus on traffic safety throughout the year, particularly targeting impaired driving. These two officers were responsible for over 81% of the 53 arrests Team 3 made for Driving Under the Influence in 2023, with Officer Peters making 26 arrests, and Officer Lingler making 17. Their efforts led the team to an 83% year-over-year increase in total DUI arrests. These officers made significant contributions toward making the roads of Team 3 a safer place to drive. Pictured to the left is Officer Peters playing football with youth in the community.

- Team 3 officers went to great lengths to engage with their community in positive ways over the year. Sergeant Y. Brown and Officer E. Gomez led the effort with numerous appearances at community outreach events and neighborhood activities, including the Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff this past fall. Pictured here is Officer Gomez at CPD's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on John's Island. Officers A. Bosier and L. Taylor created a space alien-themed display (complete with officers' kids as the adorable aliens) to represent the team at the department's Halloween Howl event. These officers also took considerable steps to connect with



children in the apartments and neighborhoods of the team, purchasing candy and toys with their own money to distribute to children they saw doing the right thing. The efforts of these several officers are building positive bridges between the police and the community.

Team 4

Commander's Message – Lieutenant Matt Wojslawowicz

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the commander of Team 4 of the Patrol Division of the Charleston Police Department. While I have only been assigned as the team's commander since September 2023, I already feel like I am back at home. Team 4 was my first assignment as a rookie police officer back in 2004 so being assigned as the Team 4 commander is like a homecoming of sorts. Team 4 patrols the West Ashley geographic section of the City of Charleston. Known as the *Birthplace of Charles Towne*, West Ashley is one of the largest geographic patrol districts of the Charleston Police Department.

Since taking the helm in September, I have focused our team's efforts on three primary target areas: Crime Suppression, Roadway Safety, and Quality of Life Issues. Crime has been trending down in West Ashley and in 2023, violent crime is down 3.4% from 2022, and non-violent crime is down 2.9% from 2022. Patrol officers, in collaboration with our colleagues assigned to the Traffic Division, will continue to work on ways to increase roadway safety in the coming year. The final target area is dealing with quality-of-life issues which are sometimes best tackled with community partners. During 2023, we have partnered with The Hope Center to provide resources to those in need and those experiencing homelessness.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the great relationships that have been built between Team 4 and the community. Over the past year, officers have attended neighborhood association meetings, Coffee with a Cop events, the annual Shop with a Cop event, and monthly community breakfasts hosted by the Crisis Coastal Chaplaincy. We are always looking for ways to improve our relationships with our most important partners: the community. I look forward to partnering and collaborating with each of you in reaching our public safety goals.

Exceptional Service:

- On February 26, 2023, Officers T. Schwartz, V. Gianfala, and K. Skeels were on their way to work when a call for a structure fire went out at 3590 Mary Ader Avenue. These officers raced to the scene and found flames shooting from the right side of the building and rapidly spreading. In a display of valor, they immediately began to go to each residence checking to see if anyone was inside. These officers forced entry into several apartments saving people and pets from the engulfing fire. City Councilmembers, CPD, and Firefighters, including those from SAFD Ladder 301, hailed the officers' heroic actions.
- On December 19, 2023, Officer J. Snyder was dispatched to a subject in medical distress at 1900 Hazelwood Drive. Upon arrival, Officer J. Snyder observed an unconscious male laying on the ground turning blue. The officer recognized the signs of a probable narcotic overdose and immediately administered NARCAN to the victim. The victim regained consciousness and was transported to an area hospital for further medical evaluation by EMS. The victim is expected to make a full recovery. Officer J. Snyder's quick thinking and use of his training was instrumental in saving this victim's life.



- On June 22, 2023, Team 4 officers responded to Palmilla Apartments in reference to a complainant stating that he had been kidnapped and was being held hostage by his roommate. Officers responded and immediately established a perimeter. Once enough officers were present, the officers began making callouts and the suspect surrendered without any further incident. All of this took place during a torrential downpour, yet the weather did not deter the excellent police work of these officers to bring a safe and successful resolution to a volatile situation.



- On July 20, 2023, officers responded to a call at a gas station on Sam Rittenberg Boulevard. Officers located an individual on the roof of the gas station threatening to commit suicide. As the individual indicated that he was not going to come off the roof voluntarily, the officers created a plan in which they summoned a firetruck and used the bucket to approach the individual. Sergeant B. Marcell and Officer M. McCadden initiated dialogue with the individual who ultimately agreed to voluntarily come off the roof with the assistance of CPD and CFD resources. The professionalism and dedication exhibited by these officers without doubt de-escalated a volatile situation and allowed the individual to receive the mental health treatment needed.

- In November 2023, Officers T. McNamara, K. Skeels, D. Schlegel, and P. Cobb were proactively patrolling Hazelwood Drive due to multiple documented shootings and weapon law violations. Their observations and investigation led to the identification and arrest of an offender for multiple felony charges including PWID Cocaine Base, PWID Cocaine, PWID Marijuana, PWID Marijuana Close Proximity to School, Possession of Controlled Substance –

Schedule V, Unlawful Carry of Handgun, Possession of a Handgun by a Person Convicted of a Violent Felony, Unlawful Possession of a Machine Gun, and Receiving Stolen Goods. There is absolutely no doubt that the vigilance, training, and skills displayed by these officers disrupted and prevented any further criminal acts from being committed.

Team 5

Commander's Message – Lieutenant George Bradley

Team 5 was commanded by Lt. Matt Wojslawowicz for the majority of 2023. Lt. George Bradley took over command of Team 5 in September. Team 5 which includes Daniel Island and the Cainhoy areas of the City of Charleston is one of our largest patrol areas, and it is perhaps the fastest growing in terms of population. During 2023, Team 5 Officers focused on crime reduction, traffic safety, and quality of life issues. As violent crime remains low, officers will continue to be vigilant, and also focus on property crime reduction. Our partnerships within the community and relationship with those who live, work, and visit the area are invaluable to our success in maintaining safety for all.

Our ongoing partnership and communication with the Daniel Island Neighborhood Association to include quarterly meetings greatly helps our efforts with sharing important information and crime prevention tips. Also, with the assistance of Daniel Island Neighborhood Association, Flock cameras have been added to travel areas around Daniel Island. The last camera is scheduled to be installed in 2024. These cameras will aid with the investigations of crimes in and around the area.

Our community is also home to many large events that attract people from all over the world. Our partnership with CreditOne Stadium allows us to plan and maximize security for everyone, while minimizing traffic disruptions in the area. We are grateful for the relationships we have built as they truly assist us with our problem-solving efforts.

Exceptional Service:

- On Thursday, June 29, 2023 at approximately 2:20am, Officer B. Gonzalez was proactively patrolling the area of Daniel Island Dr/ Blakeway St and observed suspicious activity of a vehicle traveling in the area. The vehicle returned as a stolen vehicle from downtown Charleston. Officer Gonzalez, with the assistance of Officer A. Sheppard, conducted a felony traffic stop on the vehicle and four juveniles were detained without incident. The driver was found to have an active Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) pick-up order for a probation violation stemming from a Possession of a Firearm by a Person less than 18 years of age. The driver was placed under arrest and also charged with Possession of a Stolen Vehicle. Also assisting in this excellent example of pro-active policing were Sergeant B. Gault, Officer J. Hartmann, Officer A. Lingler, Officer C. Stanley, and Officer A. Lee. These officers are commended for their hard work and professionalism. This proactive work potentially prevented future property crimes to be committed in the area.



- Team 5 officers are committed to community-oriented policing and building and maintaining relationships with all persons within the community. Equally important, is the professional relationship between police and businesses. Officer Myrtle assisted Starbucks with serving community members during their sponsored Coffee with a Cop event.

Forensic Services

The Forensic Services Division is part of the Investigations Bureau of the Charleston Police Department. The Division provides crime scene investigation, photography/audiovisual and forensic laboratory services including to the Charleston Police Department. The Forensic Services Division is accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) to perform body fluid identification, digital data/image/video analysis, fire debris analysis, friction ridge enhancement and comparison and seized drug analysis. Since relocating to newly constructed laboratory space in 2021, the Forensic Services Division has focused on meeting the goals set forth in the Charleston Police Department Strategic Leadership Plan.



2020-2025 Strategic Leadership Plan Goal: *to enhance capabilities to support investigation.* Completed projects include the addition of FARO laser scanning capabilities for crime scene and accident investigations, Cellebrite Premium Services for analysis of digital devices and an Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) for access to the National integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN. The Forensic Services Division continues to make significant and consistent progress toward enhancement of services. The 2023 achievements are highlighted below.

Firearms

The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) is a national database for the capture and comparison of ballistic evidence to aid in solving and preventing violent crimes involving firearms. In 2023, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms conducted the first formal assessment of the Forensic Services Division's participation in the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). The Minimum Required Operating Standards Audit ensures that NIBIN is being used to its full potential through the generation of actionable criminal intelligence. The ATF assessment concluded that the Forensic Services Division met compliance with all audit standards. Notably, the Forensic Services Division met the "gold standard" of efficiency for entry of more than 80% of ballistic evidence into NIBIN within two days of submission. In 2023, the Forensic Services Division received 423 firearms and 798 fired cartridge casings for NIBIN entry. Of those entries, 138 leads were generated which linked a firearm to a crime and/or linked different incidents committed with the same firearm within and across jurisdictions. This information serves as valuable investigative tool for solving gun crimes.

DNA

The Forensic Services Division is in the early stages of implementation of DNA testing capabilities. Significant progress was made in 2023 beginning with hiring a 30 year veteran of the Virginia Department of Forensic Sciences as the DNA Technical leader. Additional 2023 milestones include purchase and installation of all of the required equipment and instrumentation to develop DNA profiles from items of evidence. Once purchased, comprehensive validation studies were performed on each instrument to ensure that each generates the expected results across the range of expected evidence types. Several of these studies were completed in 2023 and the remainder will be completed in 2024. Other components of the implementation plan include hiring a second staff member, validation of the probabilistic genotyping software for calculating statistics for DNA profiles and laying the administrative foundation for submission, analysis and reporting. The Forensic Services Division must achieve ANAB accreditation in DNA testing before it is able to upload and search profiles in the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The process will culminate in an ANSI National Accreditation Board assessment of the personnel, facilities, equipment and methods to ensure compliance with the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards for forensic DNA testing laboratories.

Animal Services

The Animal Control Unit is a 4 personnel unit available to serve citizens located in the Charleston City limits for animal-related calls for service. This unit operates under the Administrative Services Division, and responds to a number of different types of calls including investigating animal attacks, rescuing injured,





abandoned, stranded, or lost animals, patrolling parks and neighborhoods, addressing animal noise complaints, and investigating animal cruelty, animal neglect, and other animal related crimes among many other types of calls.

In the summer of 2023, the Animal Control Unit participated in Camp Hope for the second year in a row by making 3 presentations at different schools for the campers. Our unit presented on some of our best animal rescues and even let the campers meet some animals! The Animal Control Unit also participated in 4 career day or “touch a truck” type events across the City. Our unit was able to send some of their officers to valuable training such as Code 3 Associates’ Essential Animal Services Training and the Carolinas Unite Conference to ensure that CPD Animal Control Officers are staying up-to-date on the latest techniques and procedures and can serve our citizens and their animals to the absolute best of their abilities.

In FY23, the Animal Control Unit responded to 2,924 calls for service; 15 of those calls were on

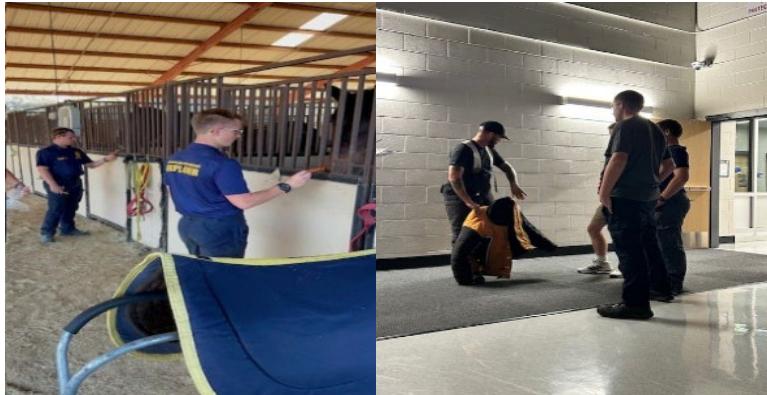
an after-hours call-out basis. The chief complaint for the top 5 calls for service were in reference to animals found running loose (514 calls for service or officer initiated), phone messages from citizens seeking information (243 calls for service), calls involving wildlife (212 calls for service or officer initiated), complaints involving feral cats (194 calls for service or officer initiated), and welfare checks on animals where neglect may have been involved (186 calls for service or officer initiated). Animal Control Officers also initiated 378 instances of feral cat trapping to have these cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated in an attempt to control feral cat populations within the City. The Animal Control Unit investigated 88 animal cruelty and/or abandonment cases that resulted in 3 misdemeanor Ill-treatment of Animals or Abandonment of Animals charges (47-1-40 part A and/or 47-1-70), with other charges potentially forthcoming following the conclusion of existing investigations. This Unit also issued 35 Charleston City Ordinance violation citations. When possible, the Animal Control Unit strives to address animal welfare type calls through education of the pet owner in an effort to keep pets with their families while still improving the animal's quality of life and avoiding prosecution of the pet owner.



The CPD Animal Control Unit is committed to maintaining a high standard of excellence to best serve the citizens and animals of Charleston.

The Charleston Police Department Explorer Post 11

The Charleston Police Department Explorer Post 11 is under the Professional Development and Training Division. The Explorer's Program is a hands-on program open to young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21 who are interested in a career in law enforcement or other related fields. Our Explorers engage in a comprehensive law enforcement training program once a week, during which they train in an array of law enforcement topics such as constitutional issues, traffic stops, DUI, suspicious person, and crime scene processing.



In addition to their extensive training schedule

Explorer Post 11 also finds the time to participate in our ride along program and volunteer in Community Events throughout the City. In 2023, five Explorers completed 101 hours of community service which include events such as the Citizens Academy and Harvest Fest.

After refining their skills, the Explorer's attend biannual conferences hosted by SCALE (South Carolina Association of Law Enforcement Explorers). While there, they test their expertise against other agencies in simulated law enforcement scenarios including felony arrest, warrant service, building clearing, verbal disturbance/property dispute, vehicle pursuits, traffic stops, building search, domestic violence response, crime scene response, and drug search warrant.



In January 2023, they attended the conference held by Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. While there they received top honors after placing 1st Overall, 2nd in Pursuit/K9 Apprehension, and 3rd Place in Person Stop/Public Disorderly Conducted, Homicide Response & Investigation and Vehicle Break In Response. In their second conference of the year, hosted by Lexington County Sheriff's Department, they were awarded: 1st in Felony Arrest Warrant/Building Clearing, 2nd in Active Shooter Response, 3rd in High Risk Traffic Stop/Pursuit, and 3rd place in Crime Scene. Additionally, Explorer Jaxon Cerneka placed 1st the Physical Ability Test.

Explorer Post 11 promotes personal growth through character development, physical fitness, good citizenship, service to others, and patriotism.

For more information about becoming a Police Explorer, please contact cpd-explorerpost11@charleston-sc.gov.

Fraternal Order of Police

Charleston Metropolitan Lodge #5 played a significant role in honoring fallen CPD officers during Police Week in May. The Lodge sponsored the annual FOP/CPD Prayer Service at Brittlebank Park, where the names of the twenty-four (24) known CPD officers who have died in the line of duty were read.

In addition to the prayer service, the lodge organized an appreciation cookout for CPD employees, ensuring that all officers could participate by hosting separate cookouts for each of the three patrol shifts.

Throughout the year, Lodge #5 consistently supports the community by sponsoring the Ronald McDonald House Bingo Night. This event provides officers with the opportunity to interact with families staying at the Ronald McDonald House, engaging in a friendly game of Bingo.

An annual highlight for Lodge #5 is the Cops and Kids event hosted at Target in West Ashley. In collaboration with the LENS Foundation, this event aims to purchase Christmas gifts for children. Officers are paired with families, assisting kids in selecting items they would like for Christmas, fostering a meaningful connection between law enforcement and the community.





CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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