



Annual Report

2021



Table of Contents

01

Foreward

05

Accreditation

07

Administration

- Professional Standards
- Use of Force Review
- Records Unit
- Evidence Unit
- Information Technology
- Training and Personnel Development
- Crime Statistics

17

Patrol Operations

- Calls for Service
- Significant Calls
- Tactical Patrol Officers

22

Special Operations

- Criminal Investigations
- Notable Investigations
- Digital Evidence Forensics Lab
- Internet Crimes Against Children
- Community Resource Unit
- Traffic Unit
- K9 Unit
- Animal Care and Control
- Police Auxiliary

37

Specialty Units

- Emergency Response Team
- Crisis Negotiations

39

Awards/Promotions

42

In Memoriam

Message from Chief Warner

I am delighted to present the Harrisonburg Police Department 2021 Annual Report. This report highlights our department's efforts to support the community and how HPD has worked hard to make Harrisonburg one of the safest cities in the Shenandoah Valley.

2021 was a year of endings and new beginnings. Two members of our command staff resigned; Lieutenant Philip Read resigned and became the Chief at Bridgewater Police Department, and Deputy Chief Gabriel Camacho left HPD to explore new adventures. Midway through the year I joined the ranks of the police department as the 22nd Chief of Police in Harrisonburg's history.

This past year has not been without its challenges. COVID was certainly at the top of the list. Officers had to remain vigilant day in and day out with personal protective equipment while responding to increased calls for service as life slowly returned to normal post-pandemic. Fortunately, with City protocols in place, all our officers remained safe with exception of a handful of exposures and positive cases.

Another challenge for us in 2021 was staffing. By the end of the year we were down fifteen officers. This created a great challenge for our supervisors, officers and professional staff as we redirected our resources to ensure that emergency calls for service were still top priority. Safety has always been, and always will be, at the core of our mission.

Page 1



Chief Kelley D. Warner was sworn in on July 1, 2021. She had previously served the Abingdon Township, Pennsylvania Police Department for 32 years.

Despite COVID and our staffing levels, I am pleased to report that our officers increased their proactive patrols over the last year. Proactive patrols are designed to allow our police officers the opportunity to be productive without traditional enforcement actions. Examples of proactive patrols are business checks, foot patrols and directed patrols. The officers utilize contacts with the community and problem solving to help resolve specific issues in their neighborhoods.

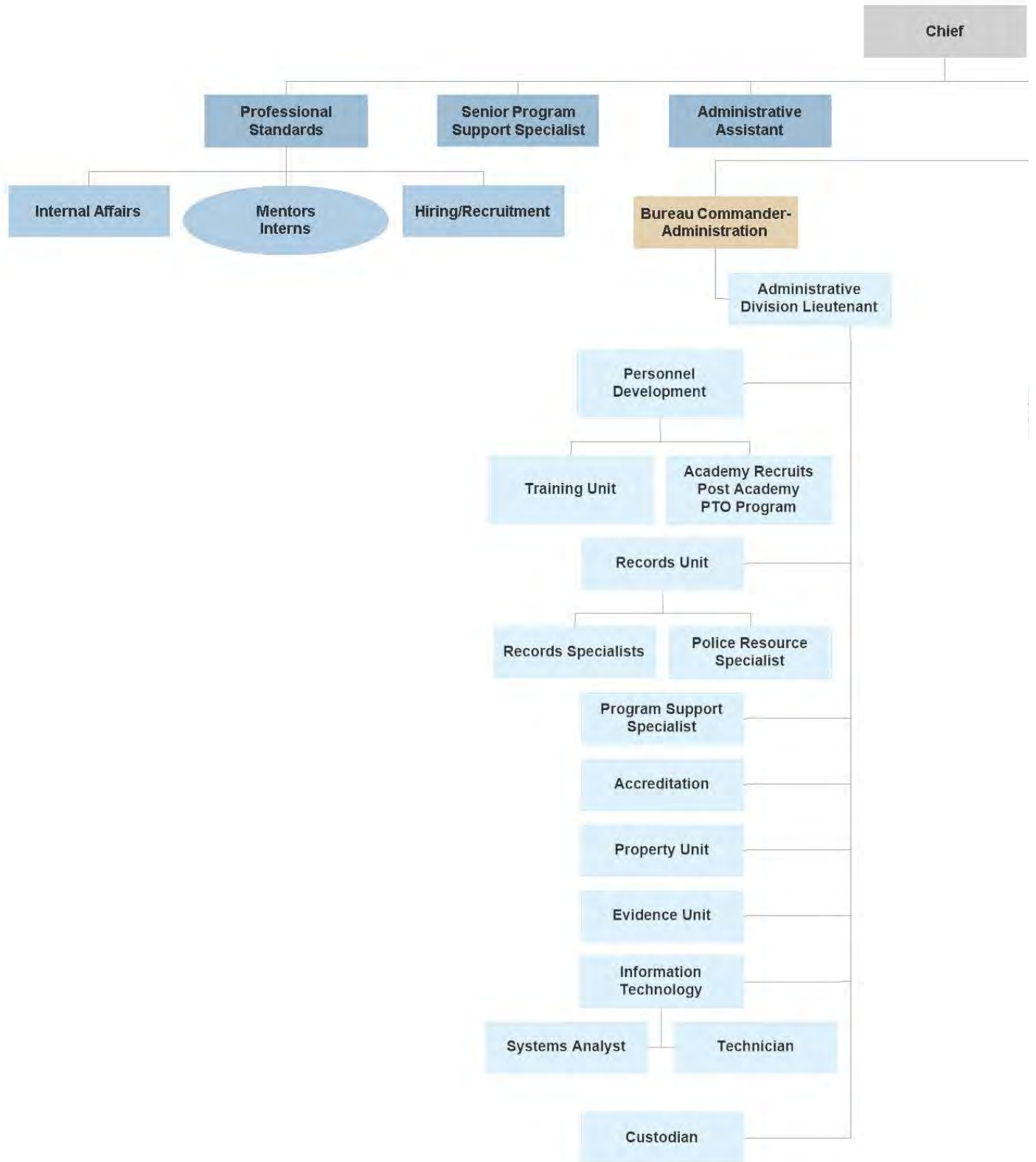
2021 was the first year since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that HPD was able to fully implement our Proactive Patrol approach to preventing crime. I am very pleased to report that despite our staffing issues, your Harrisonburg Police Department was not going to let its guard down! Since 2020 was truly an anomaly, the police department compared 2021 crime statistics to 2019 statistics. We found a dramatic decrease in crimes against persons from 919 in 2019 to 516 in 2021. Cases of property crime also fell, from 1762 in 2019 to 1688 in 2021 - a trend that has continued since 2015. Our goal moving forward in 2022 is to be more involved with the community, and to show our residents and visitors how they can partner with their police department to problem-solve neighborhood crime and quality of life issues.

Also of note, in November of 2021 we received the long overdue formal recognition of having achieved state accreditation in 2020. This is an achievement that has been awarded to only 104 of the 350 law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth. Accreditation ensures that Harrisonburg Police Department policies are congruent with best practices in law enforcement today.

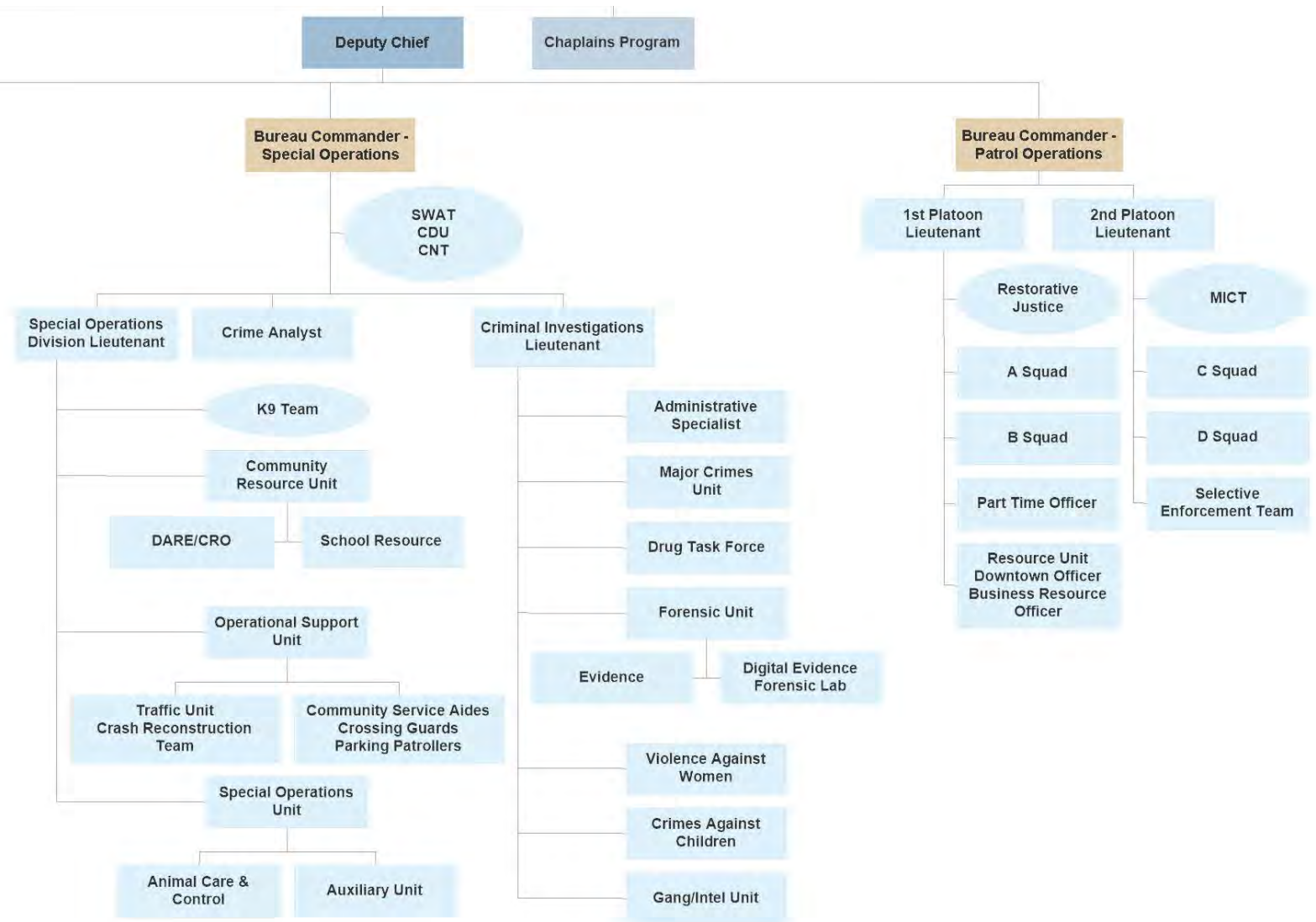
2021 was undoubtedly a challenging year for us all. One thing I am sure of is that our police department was, and continues to be, committed to overcome any obstacle. I look forward to continuing to work with the members of our community as we put their needs first, while being guided by our values of Integrity, Accountability, Honor, Leadership and Diversity.



2021 Harrisonburg Police



Organizational Chart



Accreditation



The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) has been established to provide law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth with an avenue for demonstrating that they meet commonly accepted professional standards for efficient and effective agency operation. The mission of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission is to advance law enforcement professionalism through the establishment of professional standards and the administration of a formal mechanism by which Virginia agencies can be systematically measured, evaluated, and updated.

Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission Goals

- To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the delivery of services
- To promote cooperation and coordination among all components in the criminal justice system
- To ensure the appropriate level of training for law enforcement personnel
- To promote public confidence in law enforcement
- To promote the professionalism of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Page 5

On August 12, 2020, the Harrisonburg Police Department started its first term in the four-term re-accreditation process. The department is working hard to make sure that we stay in compliance with the VLEPSC standards listed above. On December 1, 2021, the Harrisonburg Police Department officially received their accreditation certificate presented by Harvey Powers with Department of Criminal Justice Services.



OUR **MISSION** REMAINS THE SAME: To partner with our community to reduce crime, solve problems, and improve quality of life.



Our Core Values:

- integrity
- accountability
- honor
- leadership
- diversity



Professional Standards

The Professional Standards Unit consists of one Sergeant and two Detectives. The primary responsibility of the Professional Standards Detectives is to coordinate and conduct the hiring processes for all new officers within the Harrisonburg Police Department. This process can take up to four months from the time a recruitment ad is posted until the officer is hired. The process includes physical agility testing, arranging panel interviews, conducting thorough background investigations that include a polygraph examination, medical screening and psychological testing. These Detectives are essentially the first impression a potential officer has of the Harrisonburg Police Department.



Police Applicant Testing

Hiring Processes

Contacted over 70 potential candidates for the position of police officer, conducted four (4) external processes, interviewed 26 people, conducted twelve (12) background investigations, and hired four (4) new police new police recruits.

Promotions & Specialties

Coordinated the specialty unit and promotional processes involving fifteen (15) people for different positions resulting in eight (8) transfers and three (3) newly promoted Sergeants.

Training & Events

Attended multiple trainings including: Internal Affairs Certification Training, the MidAtlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement Conference, Use of Force Investigations, Negligent Hiring Liability for Law Enforcement, Hiring Retaining & Maintaining the Best Employees, and others. Manned recruitment booths at three hiring events.



The Professional Standards Unit Sergeant is responsible for conducting all internal investigations involving serious violations of policy by HPD officers and civilian employees. The Sergeant assists HPD Command Staff with investigations and/or citizen complaints handled at the division level.

In 2021, the Professional Standards Unit investigated or assisted in investigating six (6) internal investigations, fourteen (14) citizen complaints, and four (4) administrative investigations.

Administrative Investigation:

An investigation conducted at the Division Level (either a Lieutenant or Captain) involving alleged violations of policy or alleged officer misconduct. These investigations are reviewed by the Bureau Commander and Professional Standards.

Internal Investigation:

An investigation conducted by the Professional Standards Supervisor of alleged serious misconduct, policy violations, or alleged violations of criminal statutes. These investigations are reviewed by the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee.

Outcomes of Internal Investigations

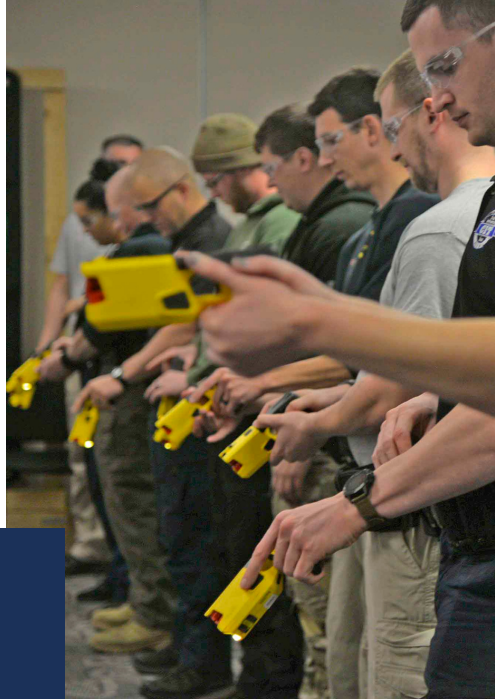
- 5 Substantiated
- 1 Unfounded

Outcomes of Citizen Complaints

- 2 Substantiated
- 12 Unfounded

Outcomes of Administrative Investigations

- 2 Substantiated
- 1 Unfounded
- 1 Unsubstantiated



Use of Force Review

Was the use of force within or outside of the Harrisonburg Police Department's Use of Force Policy and/or other directives?

Were other force alternatives reasonably available?

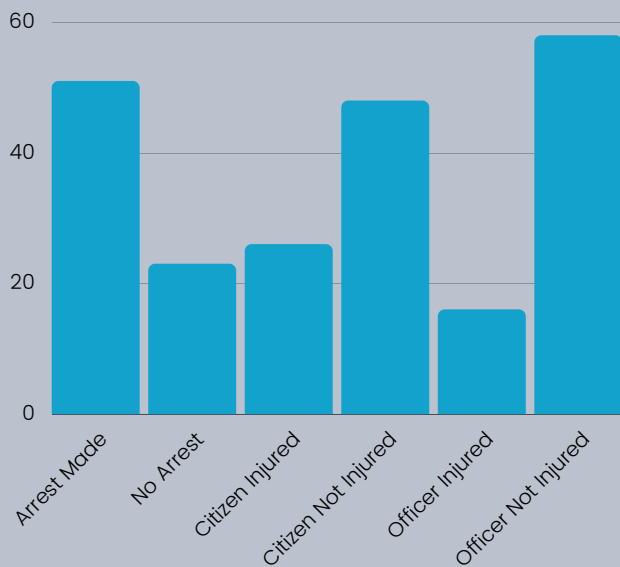
Were proper tactics employed per policy and training?

Does the incident indicate a need for change(s) to the department's written directives, policies or training procedures?

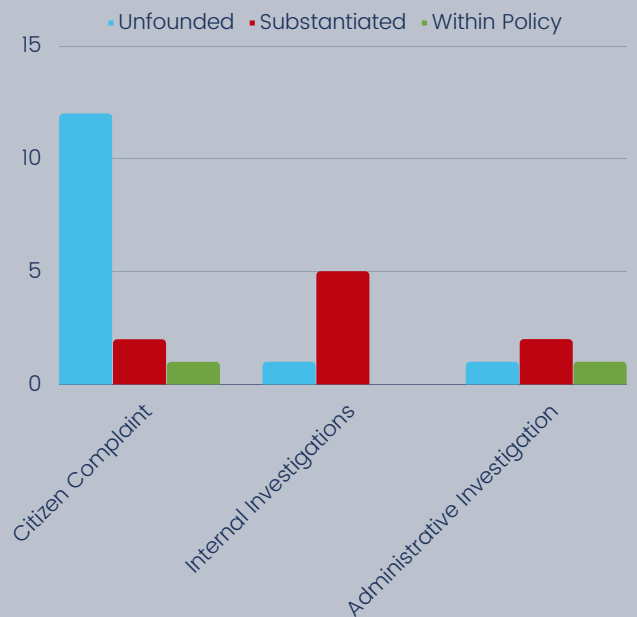
The Use of Force Board establishes a process for the Harrisonburg Police Department to review the use of force by its employees. This review process shall be in addition to any other review or investigation that may be conducted. The role of the Use of Force Review Board (UFRB) is to decide whether the force used in the incident under review was in accordance with the guidelines/policies of the Harrisonburg Police Department. UFRB will meet at least once a month or more frequently if necessary. In addition, the Chief of Police may request the Use of Force Review Board to investigate the circumstances surrounding any use of force incident. The UFRB is empowered to conduct reviews of any and all types of employee-involved use of force incidents, including all incidents where an officer discharges a service weapon, utilizes other department weapons, devices or techniques to include physical contact. The UFRB will not review any use of force incident that is being investigated by the Professional Standards office.

Use of Force Dashboard

Use of Force Outcomes

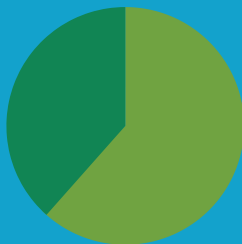


Investigative Results



Vehicle Crashes

Avoidable
38.5%



Unavoidable
61.5%

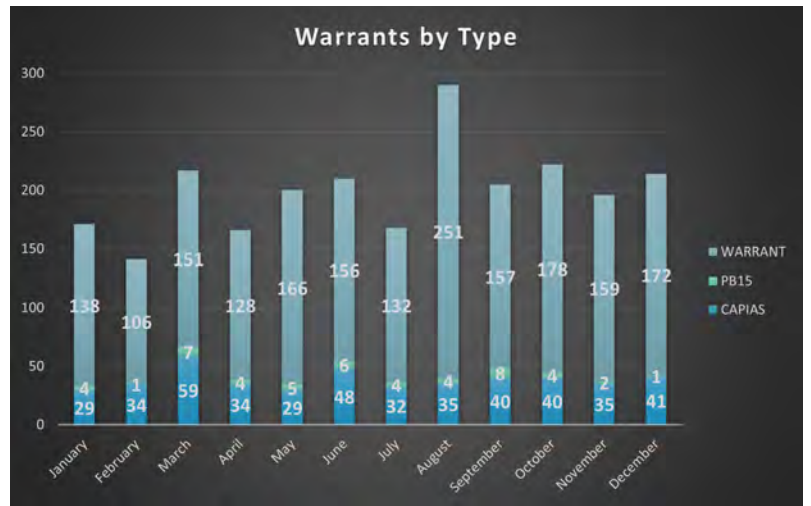
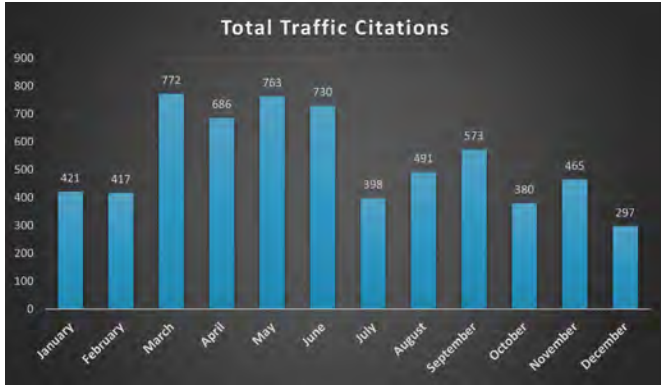
Vehicle Pursuits

Not Within Policy
40%



Within Policy
60%

Records Unit



The Virginia State police performs an audit every three years to maintain the integrity of VCIN (Virginia Criminal Information Network). The administrative part of the audit checks for contracts, manuals, certified operators, instructors, retention of records, destruction of records, etc. The in-person part of the audit checks a percentage of our VCIN entries to ensure we have the correct information, and that we are properly maintaining all records. During the year the Records Specialists look at all the details regarding the entry and make sure no mistakes were made. The auditors check entries made on wanted people (323), missing persons (2), stolen tags and vehicles (191). The entries are required to have a copy of the report, and all the printouts obtained from the VCIN terminal including DMV, criminal history, proof of crosschecks, pictures, and officer reports.

The CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) portion of the audit verifies we are following the security requirements to ensure our information is protected. The main goal is to safeguard criminal justice information by providing a set of requirements associated with the creation, viewing, modification, transmission, dissemination, or destruction of criminal information.





Thank you!



Debra Claytor retired after 23 years serving HPD, from 1998 as an Evidence Clerk through 2021 as a Records Specialist. Thank you Deb for your many years of service.

Evidence Unit

The Evidence Unit is made up of two civilian employees who are responsible for maintaining and keeping track of the department's more than 5,000 items of evidence. While their number one priority is to maintain the security and integrity of the department's evidence, they also perform a variety of different tasks so that police officers can devote their time to assisting the community.

The Evidence Specialists are responsible for the intake, storage, security, maintenance, and disposal of all evidence and property that is taken in by HPD. They transport evidence to and from the State Crime Lab; return property back to the owners; create Request for Laboratory Examinations for lab submissions; conduct evidence reviews; collect over the counter medications from the medication disposal box in the lobby of the Public Safety Building; testify in court when needed; along with many other tasks.

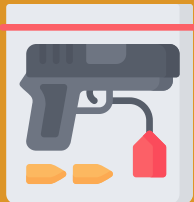
In 2021, the Evidence Unit processed 1,667 items of evidence. They also Completed Pre-Data Bank PERK Inventory List for Office of the Attorney General.



309 items submitted to the state lab



90 items returned to owners



43 guns destroyed



6 bicycles returned to owners
18 bicycles donated to charity



Information Technology

The Police Information Technology Unit (IT) welcomed Brian Eye, our new PC Support Specialist, after Scott Bowen transferred to City Hall.

One of our more significant projects was implementation of a major Tyler Computer Aided Dispatch upgrade, going from v2018 to v2020.1. This involved participation from several agencies in the Harrisonburg / Rockingham region. In order to facilitate long-term teleworking options, remote Virtual Private Network (VPN) access was enhanced, with implementation of two factor authentication across the city's Microsoft Office 365 system for increased security.



Other notable achievements:

Assisted the Records Unit in providing information to the Virginia State Police to achieve a very successful audit.

Replaced 51 desktops, laptops, and Mobile Data Computers in patrol cars.

Facilitated the installation of approximately two dozen additional network drops in several locations throughout the building.

Began migration of all vehicles using Sprint cellular connections onto the Verizon 5G system.

Performed significant upgrades to the BlueTeam and IAPro systems, making those services more accessible to existing staff as well as new users.

Performed a major software upgrade for all Brazos workstations.

Began regular product reviews with Tyler Technologies on the CAD, LERMS, and Brazos systems to address performance and technical errors more quickly.

Began review of our aging surveillance camera systems, putting our needs into a formal request for quotation. Will wrap this up in early 2022.

Our local Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority (HRHA) upgraded their temperamental community surveillance system and IT facilitated the upgrade to continue HPD's access into that system.



Training and Personnel Development

During 2021 there were a lot of obstacles for the Training Unit to work through. Mandatory annual trainings were forced to be altered due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

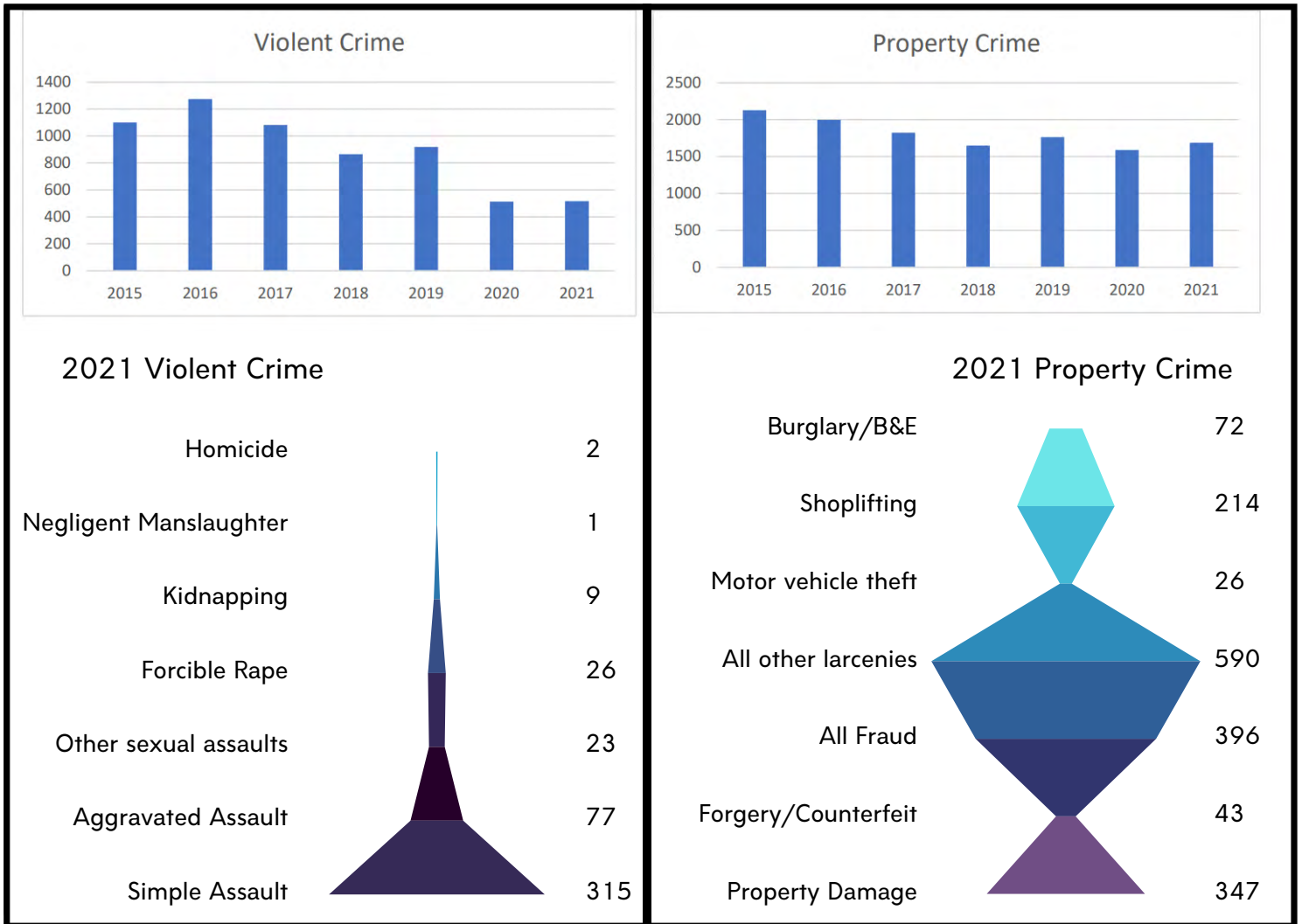
The Training Unit conducts seasonal training sessions that are mandatory for all officers:

- Winter training sessions included bi-annual CPR recertification, annual Taser recertification and practical exercises that incorporated de-escalation drills.
- Spring training completed our use of force reviews along with firearms stress fire courses and defensive tactics training.
- Summer includes low-light training and firearms qualifications utilizing the regional academy's indoor range, and regional rapid response training to help hone officers' skills dealing with active shooters.
- Fall firearms and driver training occur during the months of October and November.

Training	# of Employees	# of Training Hours
Critical Incident Training	8	255
Online/Virtual Trainings	98	over 500
Academy Classes	73	29 different courses
Outside Training	100	50

Snapshot of Harrisonburg Crime Statistics

While a large number of incidents are reported to the police, many are not crime related. Mental health incidents, natural death investigations, miscellaneous reports, and others were entered into the Records Management System as a "miscellaneous" offense. In late 2019, HPD replaced the outdated records management system. Incidents can be entered without assigning a criminal offense to the report. This explains the discrepancy in the number of miscellaneous offenses reported in 2020-2021 compared to the past.



- Violent Crime increased by .78% from 2020 to 2021, but was still significantly lower (516) than in 2019 (919)
- Property Crime also increased by 6.3% from 2020 to 2021, but remained lower (1688) than in 2019 (1762)

100% of the crimes resulting in death have resulted in the arrest of an offender.

Patrol Operations



Our community is diverse, and we strive to meet the needs of everyone in the city we serve. Once again in 2021, the Operations Division has experienced what is now a national crisis: a shortage of manpower, especially in the struggle to fill all of its open positions. Through all of this and coupled with the continuing challenges brought on by the world pandemic, Patrol has never wavered in its commitment to the community, maintaining our core values of providing legitimacy and procedural justice. Even with these challenges, we are committed to overcoming and adapting to meet our community's needs. Our officers embody a team approach, while at the same time recognizing our unique individual strengths, and together working as one to accomplish the mission. Many times throughout the year, uniformed patrol officers were able to take initial calls, investigate, and then work in conjunction with the Major Crimes Unit to bring cases to closure.

Harry Truman
said, "It is
amazing what
you can
accomplish if
you do not care
who gets the
credit."

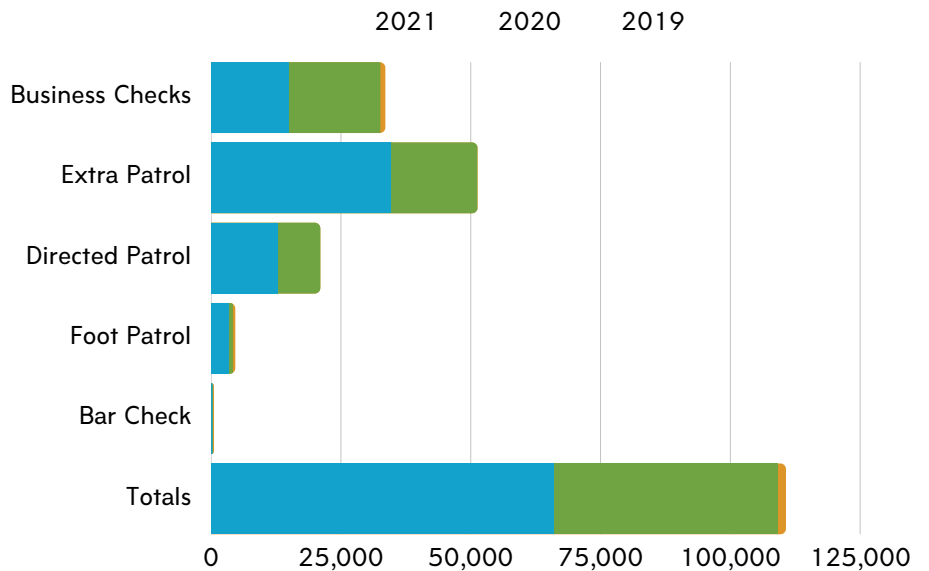
Patrol Calls for Service

Patrol is the backbone of the department and is responsible for most of the calls for service generated by the community. In 2021, HPD answered 111,895 calls for service compared to 78,466 in 2020; this represents a 42.6% increase in the number of calls for service (this includes proactive calls for service and citizen generated).



These proactive numbers represent the Operations Division Crime Prevention initiatives. These numbers represent a nearly 53% increase over the previous year.

Officers continued to be proactive and increased the proactive patrols throughout the city. In 2021, crimes against persons was reduced by 1.5%.



Mental Health Call Type	total hours 2021	total hours 2020
Emergency Custody Order	1,015	970
Temporary Detention Order	647	248
Other Mental Health Call	764	449
Attempted Suicide	124	191
Welfare Check	443	248

2021:
2,993
 hours dedicated to mental health calls

Significant Calls for Service

On May 4, 2021, officers responded to a Burglary on E. Market Street. During the investigation, officers identified a stolen vehicle taken from the lot. Officers located the vehicle and initiated pursuit. The vehicle then struck a police vehicle and crashed. The individual was arrested without incident.

On July 7, 2021, officers responded to the Evilion Inn for a disorderly call. Upon arrival they observed blood over the motel room walls and floor. A male was observed actively stabbing himself, screaming that he had killed someone and was covered in blood; officers entered the motel room to render lifesaving aid.

On September 5, 2021, an officer observed a fight in the downtown area where a man pulled a gun from his waistband and pointed it at another person in the crowd. The officer was able to take the male into custody without incident, likely preventing a shooting.

On September 9, 2021, an officer responded to Purple & Gold Way for a threats call. As he started to speak with the victim at the front door of her residence, the suspect pulled up to the area and fired several shoots at the apartment. The officer pushed the victim into the residence and secured the door. He then took up a position to cover the front entrance while getting the victim and her roommates to a safe location inside. Additional officers arrived a short time later and set up a perimeter to repulse any additional attempts by the suspect. The suspect fled the scene and was found later in Goochland County.

On October 6, 2021, an officer responded to Clayton Homes for a report of a stolen modular home worth \$70,000. HPD issued a press release, and witnesses reported seeing the stolen home travelling through Campbell, Pittsylvania, and Halifax counties. The suspect, who was subsequently caught and arrested, was also wanted through Loudon County, Virginia, Maryland, and Michigan. Patrol, HPD's Major Crimes Unit, and other partner agencies, with invaluable help from the public, were key to this investigation's successful outcome.

Just after midnight on November 28, 2021, officers were dispatched to a disorderly call for service in an eating establishment on Court Square. When the first responding officer arrived, he was met with active resistance from numerous individuals, one who attempted to take the officer's sidearm. Acting quickly, the Patrol supervisor directed available and arriving units to bring the situation under control, ensuring violators were detained and parties separated.

On the night of December 7, 2021, Patrol officers responded to a "Flash mob" of over 400 individuals that had formed in a housing complex between Usman Circle and Sully Drive. Drawing on many years of experience in dealing with large crowds, personnel from D Squad were able to get control of the situation and disperse the crowd within an hour, thus preventing potential violent situations and further violations of law.



Two years ago, a local resident reached out to HPD to share her story and her gratitude for retired (passed) HPD Lieutenant Leon Byrd, who served with HPD from 1965 to 1992 and passed away in 2007. The resident noted that Lt. Byrd was buried in a small, untended historical African American cemetery in the Briery Branch area. She outlined that she visits his grave every fall but it was getting nearly impossible to find the small marker and the area was so overgrown it would soon be impossible to get to the grave site at all.

In November, we were able to take a team of HPD officers and detectives, led by Lt. Grubbs, to the cemetery and clear the front half of the Spring Creek Cemetery, a historically black cemetery, and clean the entire area around Lt. Byrd's grave. We were grateful for the opportunity to honor Lt. Byrd's memory and his service to Harrisonburg and the department. With the help of the Foundation and community donors, we are also going to place a stone memorial marker at Lt. Byrd's site in the near future.

Tactical Patrol Officers

The purpose of the Tactical Patrol Officer Unit is to increase opportunity for additional training, develop confidence and enhance officers' capabilities. It reinforces one reason that they became police officers, which is to be guardians of the community.

A patrol officer's competency level in everything from community policing efforts, to cultural diversity, to ultimately having to engage in a life threatening deadly force encounter, must be at the very highest levels to be able to earn the community's respect and support.

The training level and skillsets that many officers possess today are far more advanced than generations past. This evolution is due to the ever-increasing number of threats to schools, the workplace, and our communities at large. HPD acknowledges this fact, and trains our patrol officers to ensure they can respond swiftly and effectively to a myriad of possibilities by providing advanced training and equipment that was once strictly reserved for highly trained tactical teams. This forward operating strategy has now become standard operating procedure in contemporary law enforcement organizations and is a crucial element of a well-crafted response to life threatening critical incidents.

In 2021, a specialized school was implemented which would allow patrol officers to practice and internalize skills such as breaching and tactics as well as other skills that can only be touched on in yearly training. This school—"The Tactical Patrol Officer School"—bridges the gap between the normal training that patrol officers receive, and the extensive training that SWAT officers receive. Since these advanced skills are perishable, the "Tactical Patrol Officer" conducts 8 hours of maintenance training throughout the year.

Patrol officers "LEAD THE WAY" in every sense of the word in today's never ending battle as Guardians.



Shield:

The protection that the officer provides to the community.

Sword: the honor & integrity with which officers' must conduct themselves.

Lightning Bolt: the speed & surprise required when called upon, or forced to act, to save a life.

Rifle: the special equipment that the officer must be prepared to use to save lives.

Criminal Investigations

The Criminal Investigations Division is comprised of the Major Crimes Unit, Crimes Against Children Detective, Drug Task Force, Gang Task Force/Intel Unit, Forensic Unit, and the Violence Against Women Detective.



494 — New Cases Assigned

While many investigations are assigned to a single detective, cases often involve detectives from various disciplines working together to share information and expertise.



497 — Cases Closed

48% of all closed cases were closed by arrest, exceptional clearance, unfounded, information only or by turning the investigation over to another agency. The remaining 52% were reclassified as inactive or closed by leads exhausted.



281 — Digital Examinations

The Digital Evidence Forensics Lab examined an HPD record setting 281 devices with 99 of those for neighboring agencies.



37 — Crimes Against Children Cases

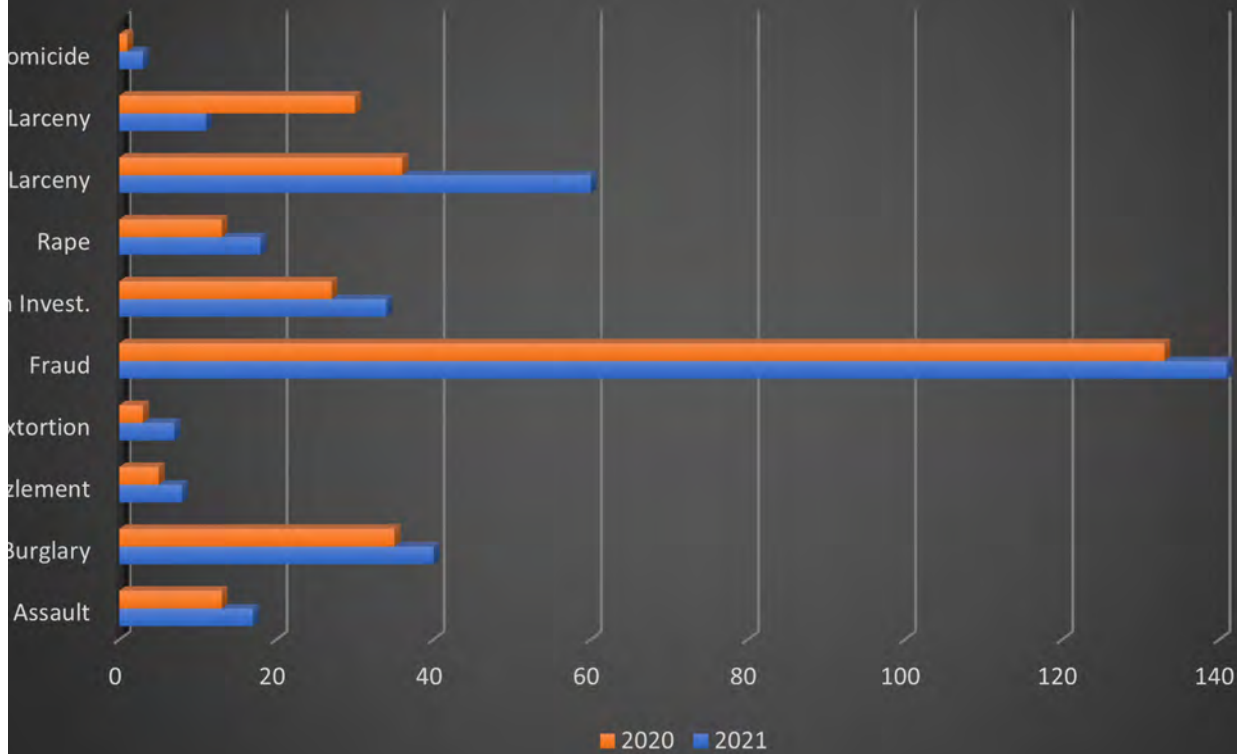
The Crimes Against Children unit, a member of the Northern Virginia Washington, DC Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, handled 37 investigations including those involving child pornography, sex with a minor, sextortion and sexual assaults.



Violence Against Women

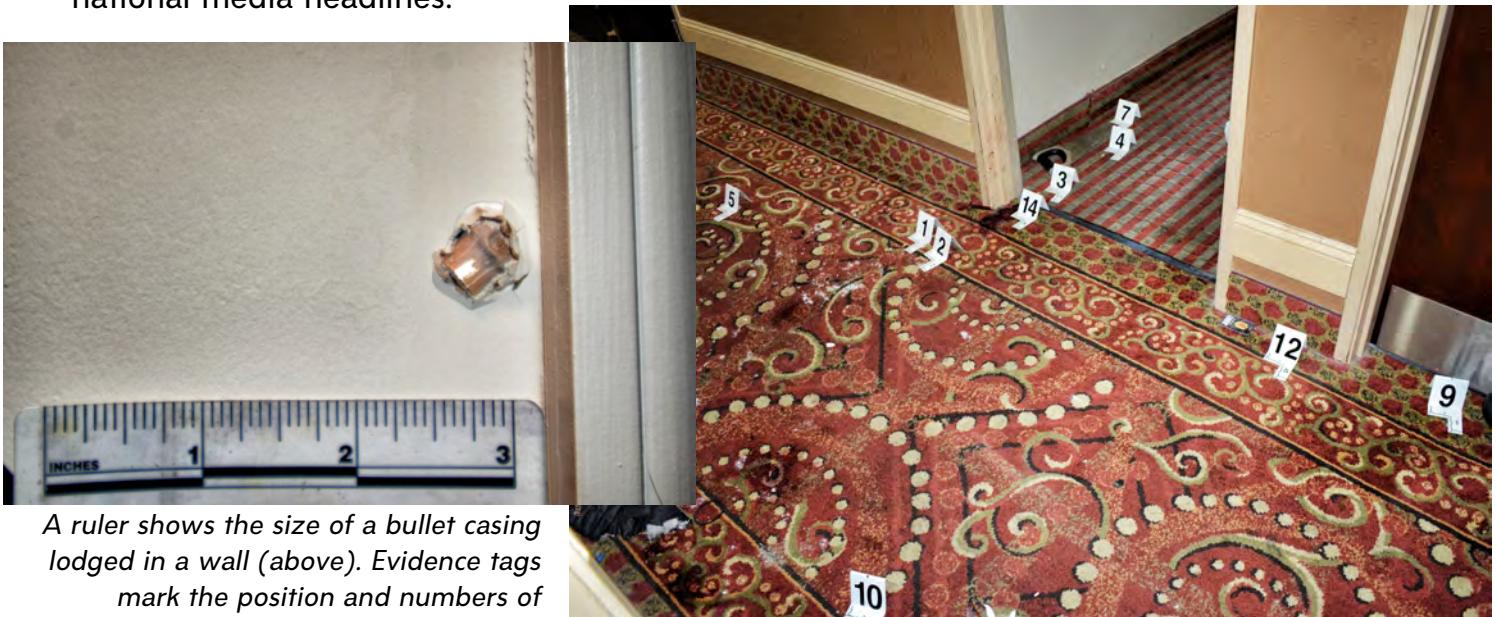
The Violence Against Women detective established a department mandated Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The LAP is a tool used by officers on the scene of intimate partner violence calls to help evaluate the immediate danger to the victim and provides a direct contact to victim resources and services.

Major Crimes



In 2021, the Major Crimes Unit conducted three homicide investigations. The first was in August for the tragic crash-related death of a 7-year-old child where the offender was charged with DUI Involuntary Manslaughter.

The other two investigations were separate, but related. Two missing adult females, one from Harrisonburg and one from Charlottesville, were found deceased at the same location in Harrisonburg. The investigation showed that they died on separate dates in October and November, and both had significant contact with the eventual arrestee. This offender was arrested for multiple homicides throughout several jurisdictions in the National Capital Region. The arrest of the offender and subsequent investigations made national media headlines.



A ruler shows the size of a bullet casing lodged in a wall (above). Evidence tags mark the position and numbers of casings on the floor (right).

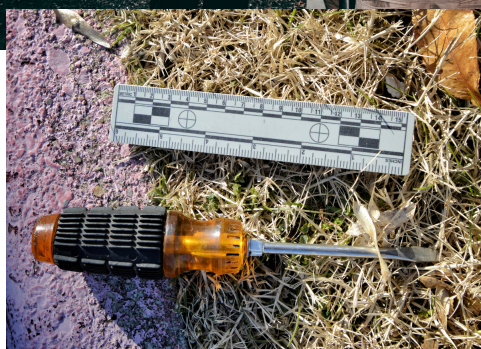
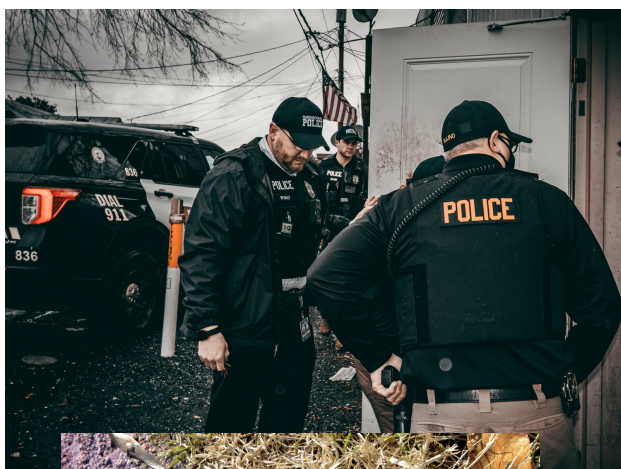
Notable Investigations

In June, a hotel employee was savagely beaten by a drug fueled offender. The beating was so severe that the victim was in a coma for months and was left in a permanent vegetative state. The offender was charged with attempted murder, malicious wounding, abduction, several counts of assault on law enforcement and other charges.

In July, a local business suspected an employee of embezzlement and detectives began investigating. The offender was in control and oversight of their financial accounts. Over a multi-year period, the offender stole nearly \$250,000 by funneling checks into her personal accounts. This resulted in several felony embezzlement charges.

In October, a brazen thief stole an entire home from a modular home dealer in the City. Detectives quickly located the home on a remote piece of property in Halifax County near the Virginia and North Carolina border. Along with the modular home, detectives recovered construction equipment, such as excavators and skid steers, stolen from multiple locations throughout Virginia. Not surprisingly, the offender was also wanted on larceny related charges.

Also in October, detectives began investigating a substantial embezzlement case. The offender, who was in a position of financial authority, created a shell corporation and awarded a lucrative contract to himself. In all, nearly \$1 million was embezzled over a two-year period which was used to finance the offender's personal financial investments, vehicle purchases and lavish lifestyle. The offender was charged with felony money laundering and multiple felony embezzlement charges. This is the largest embezzlement case ever investigated by HPD.



Top left: Officers and Detectives work to secure a scene. Bottom left: Close-up photo with scale showing a potential piece of evidence in a robbery case. Right: Detective Dyer surveys a scene while ready to don his facial covering, a typical 2021 procedure.

Technology and crime are intertwined today more than ever before. HPD's Digital Evidence Forensics Lab (DEFL) examiner, Detective Randall Life, says that "digital evidence can be found in most of the cases assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division and will only increase as technology continues to develop." Cell phones, tablets and computers, vehicles, social media accounts, bank accounts, phone records, smart devices, doorbell cameras, cryptocurrency and digital media storage devices are forms of evidence that are likely present in many cases received by the Major Crimes Unit. HPD's DEFL examines and extracts data from a wide variety of digital and electronic devices. Examinations are performed for basic cases involving drug distribution, missing persons, and burglary to our most high-profile crimes including robbery, kidnapping, and homicide. The DEFL also plays a critical role in the investigation and prosecution of internet crimes against children. The direct link between detectives, the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, and the digital forensics lab expedites communication and problem solving when dissecting and explaining complex digital information.

Having in-house digital forensics capabilities at HPD staffed with a certified and exceptionally trained examiner is a tremendous advantage for the community. Instead of sending devices to a regional state lab with a six-month backlog, our officers typically receive the extracted information in a matter of one to two days after submission. This translates into being able to analyze data and identify and apprehend suspects almost immediately, thus reducing their chances of re-offending. Ultimately, HPD's DEFL contributes significantly toward keeping the community safe.

In 2021, the DEFL examined an HPD record setting 281 devices, nearly 50 devices more than the previous year. In addition to examining devices for HPD's cases, the DEFL offers its services to assist agencies from surrounding jurisdictions. 95 devices were submitted by 10 different agencies during 2021. These agencies ranged from local city and town police departments to fire marshals and agencies such as the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police and Homeland Security Investigations.

Digital Evidence Forensics Lab (DEFL)



Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

HPD's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) detective, Det. Greg Miller, focuses on keeping children safe from predators. Det. Miller explains that "it's important that we educate, advocate for and protect our kids from those attempting to take advantage of them." HPD is a member of the Northern Virginia - Washington, DC Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which receives cyber tips from outside sources and forwards them to HPD's ICAC unit to locate victims or to investigate offenders who exploit minors. Other cases are received from complainants who report crimes directly to HPD's ICAC office and to other HPD officers who refer these cases to Detective Miller. In 2021, HPD's ICAC unit conducted 37 investigations, which included child pornography offenses and other child sex crimes. This unit utilizes various tools to locate offenders in child sexual abuse and child pornography investigations.

ICAC investigations are very time consuming due to sensitive and detailed interviews, executing search warrants, and obtaining and reviewing vast amounts of digital media for evidence. Additionally, HPD's ICAC unit assists other local ICAC detectives to apprehend predators who attempt to solicit minors for sexual encounters. The detective will also handle cases of habitual runaway juveniles. The focus of those investigations is to help reveal the underlying cause and provide the minor and family with appropriate community-based services. HPD ICAC frequently works with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and other affiliates when the investigation leads detectives outside the immediate Harrisonburg area. Other responsibilities of this unit are education and prevention, which are achieved through outreach to schools and other venues to educate parents and children on issues such as human trafficking and best practices for internet and social media safety.



Community Resource Unit

The Community Resource Unit (CRU) is comprised of a CRU Sergeant, CRU Officer, four School Resource Officers and a DARE Officer. In 2021 the unit was able to get back to safely engaging the community in many ways. It was great to have some of our larger community events like National Night Out and Shop-with-a-Cop return to normal. We look forward to a 2022 full of neighborhood events, education, and continuing to build stronger community relationships.

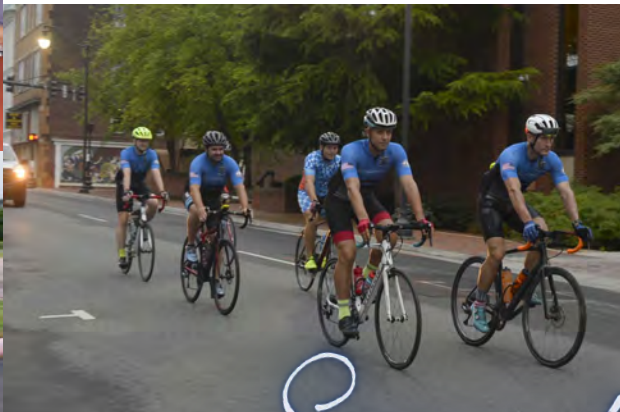


The Salvation Army provides a great service to people in need and HPD is glad to lend a helping hand. Unloading the Berry Family Food Drive donations, ringing the bell for the “Red Kettle Challenge”, Angel Tree Gift Donation Program and supporting Easter and Thanksgiving Food Distribution Days are many of the ways HPD helps throughout the year.



Kids Safety & Fun Day

A true team effort played out on Community Street for HPD's Kid Safety and Fun Day in May of 2021 behind HFD's Station #4. Detectives serving food, golf cart rides, Seat Belt Convincer demonstrations and Special Operations and Patrol vehicle exploration made a great day for all who attended. Community Street is a focus for our District Officers and HPD wanted to help in the investment of the area, not only in an enforcement approach, but by building strong relationships with families in a fun and educational way.



The Special Olympics Torch Run and Bike Ride is greatly anticipated by HPD each year as an early summer event to show support and honor the local Area 4 athletes and coaches. A twenty-mile run around the City of Harrisonburg and then a one-hundred-mile bike ride around Rockingham County displays the dedication and teamwork our friends at Special Olympics have every day. A Fall banquet is a great chance to meet athletes and look back at a successful and rewarding year.

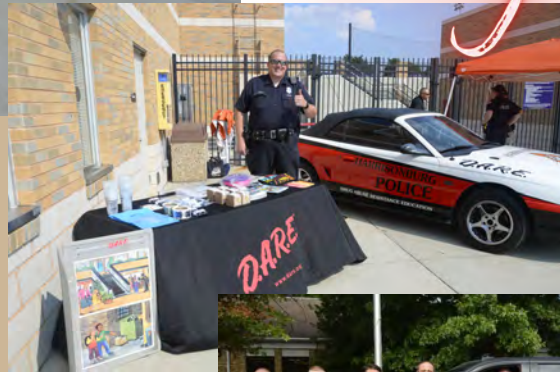
Special Olympics Torch Run





Turks DARE Night

The Turks Baseball DARE Night was a big hit for HPD officers and especially Chief Warner's first pitch debut with Sgt Drugo's kids (photo on page 4). Late 2021 marked the end of era as the 1994 DARE Mustang was retired and upgraded to a 2021 Chevy Tahoe sporting DARE graphics and reminding DARE students to make safe and responsible choices in their lives.



National Night Out for 2021 was a return to the neighborhoods of the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community (VMRC), Mosby Heights and the Northeast Neighborhood along with adding a new stop for the Islamic Association of the Shenandoah Valley on Country Club Rd. It was great to have the convoy rolling out again and meeting neighbors in person for a National Night Out of great festivities.



JMU Block Party



The James Madison University Freshman Block Party welcomed students to Harrisonburg with safety information, a ride in the Seat Belt Convincer, K9 Demonstrations, and a motorcycle escort from campus to downtown.



A "Touch-a-Truck" event was held at Lowe's with HPD vehicles from Patrol, Animal Control, Community Resource and SWAT all on display for up close inspection by kids and family members.



Touch-A-Truck

Harrisonburg's Citizen Academy toured the police department and learned about the various divisions and roles the officers take to serve the community.



Citizen's Academy



Coffee with a Cop was back at the Harrisonburg Farmer's Market. With help from Hydroquenchers on Port Republic Rd, good discussions and even better coffee brought people together.





Best Weekend Ever



Downtown Renaissance's Best Weekend Ever was an opportunity to greet families at the Public Safety Building with safety information.



Shop with a Cop

Families and Officers came together to spend holiday time shopping for gifts and spreading cheer, courtesy the Harrisonburg Police Foundation



Harrisonburg City Schools were back for in person learning in the Fall of 2021 and "Community Helper Lessons" were back on for a great start to the school year!



School Resource



National Walk to School Day was held at Waterman and Keister Elementary. With help from the Traffic Unit all the students arrived safely with many high-fives handed out that morning.

A safe and positive school climate encourages good behavior and relationship building, and HPD and the Harrisonburg City Public Schools (HCPS) have partnered to assign School Resource Officers in Harrisonburg schools for over 25 years. The role of our SROs is to be a positive law enforcement presence while interacting in different school activities, extracurricular programs, and sporting events and assisting school staff in daily duties. Our SROs serve as role models, law-related educators, and positive mentors for our students, and we value these relationships.

This year Officer Christine Hostetter joined Ronnie Bowers at Harrisonburg High School while Chris Ray and Tony Hermes continued their partnerships with Thomas Harrison Middle School and Skyline Middle School. In addition, "Officer Mike" Gangloff continued to engage our elementary school students as the D.A.R.E Officer.



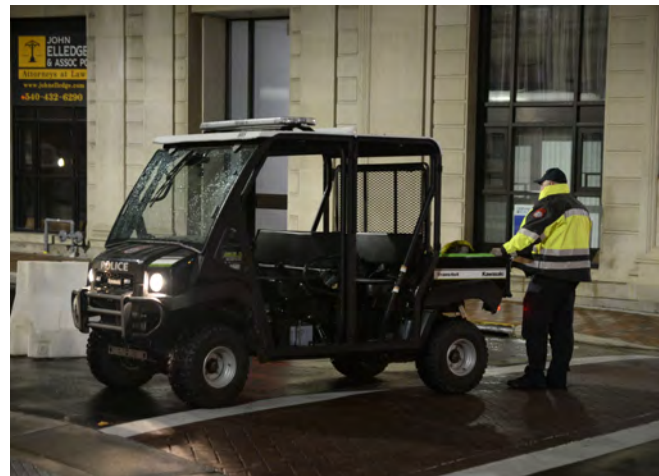
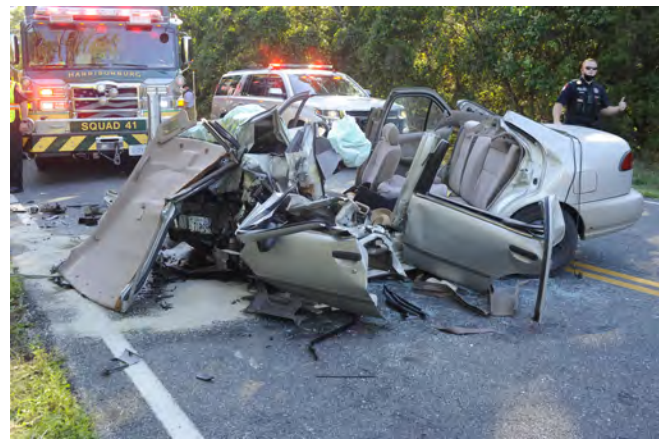
In 2021 a trend in much of the nation was to review and even discontinue SRO programs. In March of 2021, the Harrisonburg City Public Schools convened a task force (faculty, students, parents, community leaders) to evaluate our local program. The group reviewed public surveys, presentations, focus groups and interviews with SROs. In November, the School Board unanimously decided to keep SROs in the schools. MPO Tony Hermes was HPD's primary representative on the task force and was instrumental in this review process!

Traffic Unit

The Harrisonburg Police Department Traffic Unit focuses its efforts on crash reduction and overall traffic safety. The unit includes three traffic officers: MPO Greg Deeds, MPO Kevin Argiro, and MPO Justin Kline, and is led by the Traffic Unit Supervisor Sgt. Wayne Westfall. The goal of the unit is to reduce the number of traffic crashes through education and enforcement efforts. By utilizing data from traffic studies, crashes, and traffic-related complaints from community members, the unit focuses its efforts where intervention is most needed in the city. This often leads to designating specific areas for traffic calming efforts through planning, enforcement, and education. While enforcement is an important aspect of the Traffic Unit, issuing warnings and educating drivers on unsafe actions is also a major focus of the unit.

In 2021 the unit worked more crashes (516) than in 2020 (306), but these numbers were still well short of pre-pandemic statistics of 991 in 2019. The unit was still very busy overall in 2021, as it handled over 4,000 traffic-related calls for service. Some non-enforcement roles and responsibilities of the Traffic Unit include the speed calibration of the city police fleet speedometers, participating in community events, and education efforts in the community. Additionally, the unit is active with the city's Traffic Safety Commission and Advisory Board.

HPD's Accident Reconstruction Team (ART) also falls under Special Operations and is led by the Traffic Unit Supervisor. This team is comprised of officers from various units in the department, and the team is utilized when a traffic crash results in serious bodily injury or death. ART members receive specialized training in traffic crash investigation techniques to best interpret the evidence at the scene to better understand the cause of a traffic crash.





*Left to right:
Officer Hummel and K9 Vader
Officer Dolph and K9 Tyr
Officer Boyce and K9 Kyro*

*Below:
Officer Flick and K9 Kyro*



Police K-9 Unit

The Harrisonburg Police Department K-9 Division consists of 4 K-9 handlers. The K-9's are a valuable resource to the department and community. Some of their responsibilities include drug detection, building searches, criminal apprehension, tracking, directed foot patrols, and community educational events.

As examples of how HPD K-9's are utilized at HPD, here are two cases to highlight in 2021:

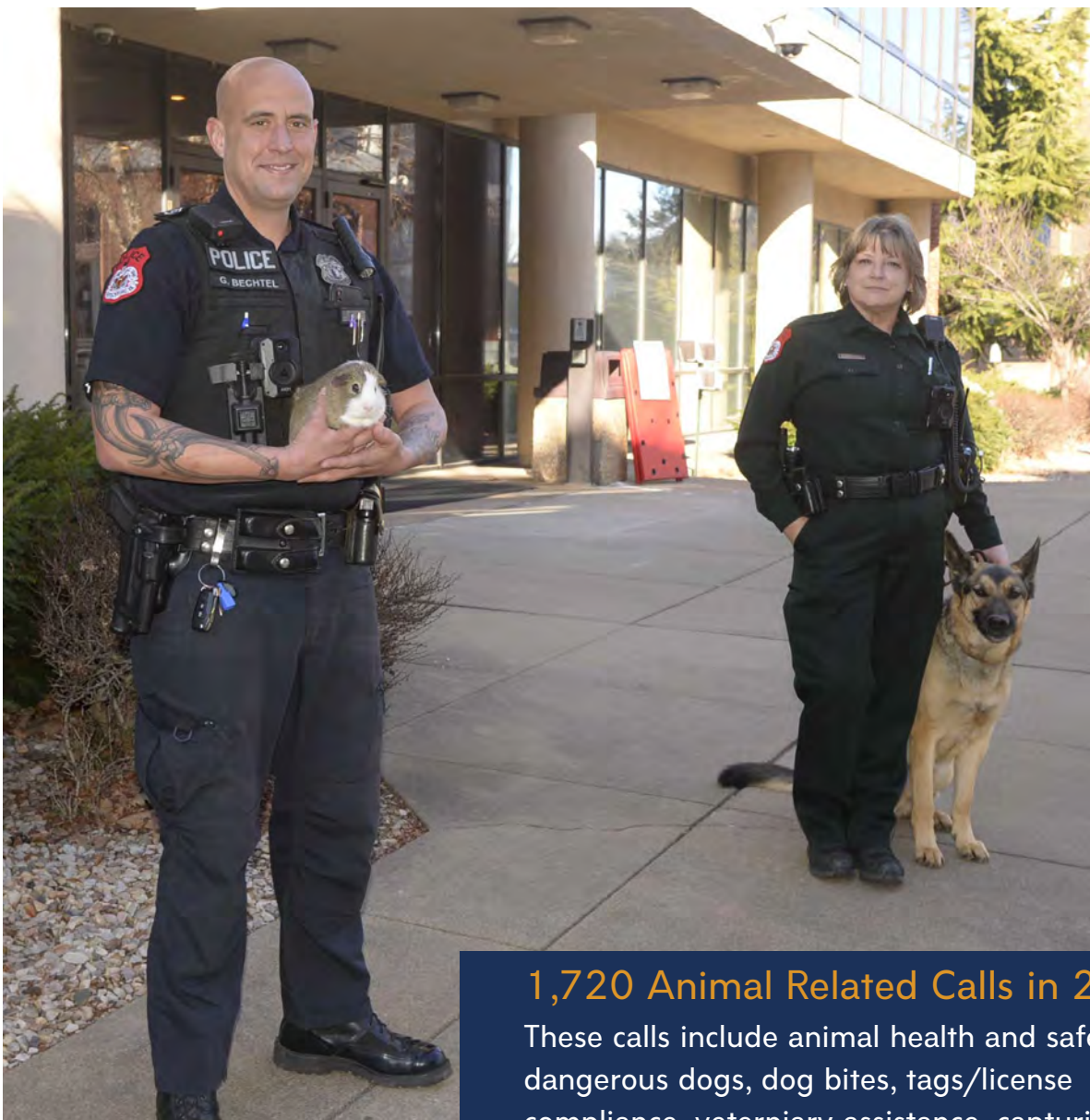
HPD officers responded to a barricaded situation of two individuals who had escaped prison and were barricaded in a residence. HPD deployed multiple resources to resolve the situation while one individual came out peacefully, the other refused to come out. The individual was hidden in the crawl space of the residence and MPO Dolph, with his partner K-9 Tyr, deployed into the crawl space and located and successfully apprehended the individual.

HPD Officers responded to a robbery that had just occurred and Officer Flick with K-9 Kyro responded to the scene. Kyro was able to track the path of the suspect and locate the stolen items. Officer Flick had just completed his training to become a certified handler and this robbery was one of his first cases with Kyro.

Animal Care & Control

The Harrisonburg Animal Care and Control unit is comprised of one civilian animal control officer, Ann Reed, and one sworn police officer, Geoffrey Bechtel. Bechtel serves a dual role as certified police officer and certified animal control officer. The unit continues to attend specialized training applicable to their roles and responsibilities.

Animal Care and Control works closely with the Department of Wildlife Resources regarding wildlife animal related calls, including euthanasia of dangerous or possibly rabid wildlife. The unit prides itself on the positive partnership working with the community through community events, animal advocacy groups, and educating youth groups.



Officer Bechtel, left; Officer Reed, right

1,720 Animal Related Calls in 2021

These calls include animal health and safety, dangerous dogs, dog bites, tags/license compliance, veterinary assistance, capturing loose animals, injured and/or rabid animals, and community education.

Police Auxiliary



The Auxiliary Police Unit has nineteen members who provide operational and administrative support to the Harrisonburg Police Department.

A component of the Special Operations Division, the all-volunteer Auxiliary Police Unit has eight sworn officers—one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, and six officers—who have met the Commonwealth of Virginia’s law enforcement training standards. There are also eleven members who are committed solely to administrative services.

The Auxiliary Unit provides additional patrol officers during peak activity periods and handles traffic and crowd control functions at special events such as parades and charity runs. They also serve as members of specialty units, such as the Major Crimes Unit, Community Resources, Restorative Justice, and the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) as well as assist the Department with a variety of administrative projects.

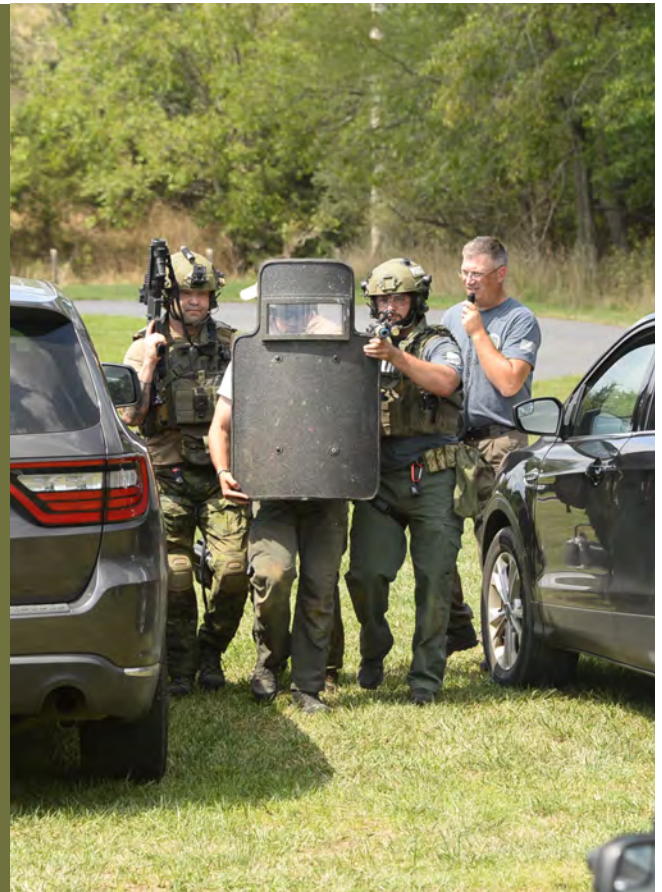
The wide-range of private sector skills and knowledge that the Auxiliary Officers bring to the Department has proved to be an important resource in furthering the Department’s mission. They include photography, high-level audio-visual technologies, medical expertise, teaching, corporate management and small business entrepreneurship, education, intelligence analysis and the creative arts.

Emergency Response Team

The Harrisonburg Police Department's Emergency Response Team (ERT) is comprised of the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) and the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). The goal of each of the ERT's two entities is to substantially reduce the risk of injury or loss of life to community members, police officers and suspects. While the SWAT team focuses more specifically on tactical responses to situations and the CNT focuses more on communications aspects of a critical incident, the two teams work well together to offer modern strategies that are in line with the expectations of the Harrisonburg community.

SWAT

HPD's SWAT team is comprised of 20 Officers and three tactical medics. The SWAT team is available for deployment on a 24/7 basis and the team holds two SWAT training days each month. SWAT members train as a team to deploy to incidents that require additional resources or tactics beyond those offered through the department's traditional police response. Incidents to which SWAT might deploy include a wide variety of scenarios, but more typically include those involving barricaded suspects, armed individuals, and other high-risk incidents where safety of the public and of the officers and individuals involved necessitate deployment of the team.



Crisis Negotiations

HPD's CNT is comprised of nine negotiators who each train for different roles on the team, such as primary negotiator, secondary negotiator, coach, and technical specialist. The CNT trains as a team once each month and is available for deployment at all hours on a call-out basis. The CNT strives to diffuse and resolve situations through communication strategies. Crisis Negotiators are HPD officers who receive advanced training in communication skills such as verbal de-escalation, crisis intervention, and active listening.



One particularly significant incident that occurred during 2021 occurred in April when a man from out of state was staying at a Harrisonburg motel while struggling through a mental health crisis and suicidal intentions. Family members of the man had obtained an emergency custody order for his mental evaluation, as the man was suicidal and having delusions.



Patrol officers responded and began communications with the man while he was armed with a knife and threatening suicide. Both the SWAT team and CNT responded to the scene to assist. For several hours, the man threatened suicide and seemed intent on baiting officers into a lethal force encounter. While it was a very tense situation, officers eventually utilized less lethal munitions and brought the man into custody without further incident.

Peer Support

Peer Support's goal is to meet the needs of our organization and our family in blue's emotional/mental wellness. Our agency provides a comprehensive array of services to those involved in traumatic events from the job or personal issues that arise in their lives. In 2021 the peer support team was utilized 51 times.

Seven of those utilizations were for outside agencies that had experienced traumatic events while on duty.

Awards

The following employees received awards in 2021:



Life Saving Award

The Life Saving Award is presented to an employee of the Department who takes direct, immediate, and positive action to preserve the life of another person who was in real and imminent danger of dying.

AWARDED TO:
(PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT)

Stephen Burrows

Kevin Fowler

Michael Gulino

Dwayne Jones

Steven Kramer

Stephanie Lanphier

Megan LaPrevotte

Christopher Terrell

Circle Of Excellence

AWARDED TO:

Kevin Fowler

The first ever Strength In Peers Circle of Excellence Award presented to Officer Fowler for his community contributions in peer support and crisis intervention.



Meritorious Action

AWARDED TO:

*Dwayne Jones (3), Jared Getz,
Logan Scott (not pictured)*

The Meritorious Action Award (Ribbon) is presented to an employee of the Department for an act of personal courage while engaged in a police activity that demanded immediate action and efforts to prevent injury or death to others or prevent significant property damage.

Award of Excellence

AWARDED TO:

Christopher Terrell



The Award of Excellence is presented to an employee(s) in the Department in recognition of exemplary work, service, leadership or an act or series of acts, completed in a highly professional manner within the scope of normal duty, but performed in such a manner as to merit special recognition.

Distinguished Service

AWARDED TO:

Erin Miller



The Distinguished Service Award reflects outstanding professional performance that exceeds the requirements of normal duty, involving a single act or project that contributes in significant measure to the success of a major endeavor.

Sergeant Promotions

Kevin Fowler
Patrol Supervisor

Kyle Ritchie
Patrol Supervisor

John Hancock
Community Resource
Supervisor

(not pictured)



Know Ye, That Reposing Especial Trust
and Confidence
In the Prudence, Integrity, and Ability of
These officers
Who has met All Requirements for
promotion

We, the undersigned, do hereby confer
said in the name of, and by the authority
of

the Commonwealth of Virginia
County of Rockingham
City of Harrisonburg

In testimony whereof, we have herunto
affixed our hands



In Memoriam

Col. Donald Gene Harper
1942-2021



Colonel Harper Served HPD from 03/16/1992 until 04/01/2012.

He began his career in law enforcement in 1964 with the Fairfax County Police Department retiring after 20 years as a Major, became chief of police with Town of Vienna in 1984, and was hired as Harrisonburg's police chief in 1992, retiring after 20 years.

He is one of the founders and the first president of the National Capitol Area Special Equipment and Tactics Association.

Colonel Harper acquired an extensive background in Special Weapons and Tactics and had commanded over 250 hostage/barricade situations throughout his career. He was a guest lecturer for the FBI, CIA and other law enforcement agencies and academies on response to hostage/barricade incidents, incident scene command, hostage negotiations and crowd management.

In addition, Colonel Harper worked as a consultant for the National Sheriff's Association and the U.S. State Department in training law enforcement personnel, domestic and international.

During his off-duty hours you would find Don attending sports events and practice of his children's or grandchildren's teams, fishing lakes and rivers, and later a major spectator at many local sporting events in and around Harrisonburg or wherever his son, David, happened to be coaching.

Forever in our hearts...

