

PROFESSIONALISM ● INTEGRITY ● RESPECT ● ACCOUNTABILITY

HARRISONBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

**UNIFIED VISION,
UNIFIED MISSION,**

Unified Community

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Harrisonburg
VIRGINIA





MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF OF POLICE

2017 was a transition year for the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD). The Department's 16th police chief, Stephen Monticelli, retired after 5 years of dedicated service and accomplished many goals which advanced the agency and improved safety in the City.

Chief Monticelli was a progressive manager and loved any technological advancement that furthered the effectiveness of the HPD. He is credited for modernizing the agency's use of technology to include the Records Management System, Computer Aided Dispatch System, Lexipol policy automation, and modernizing the police cruiser fleet. He is also credited with deploying evidence-based practices to include Crisis Intervention Training, Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS), restorative justice, geographic policing and a dedicated domestic violence detective.

Chief Monticelli established a career development program to enhance training, encourage advanced education and reward professional development for officers. Because of these accomplishments and the hard-work of the sworn, civilian and volunteer employees, the Harrisonburg Police Department continues to enjoy a great reputation.

On November 8, 2017, after retiring from the Fairfax County Police Department and later the Albemarle County Police Department, I came out of retirement to serve as Interim Police Chief for the City of Harrisonburg. After 9 months of service, the City is preparing to welcome a new chief to the ranks of the HPD and I will return to retirement. Coming out of retirement and serving this great city has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my law enforcement career. Working shoulder to shoulder with the employees of the HPD allowed me to witness first-hand their love and dedication to the residents and visitors of Harrisonburg. To the residents of Harrisonburg, it's been an honor to serve you and to work side-by-

side with city government, residents and advocates to make the city safer. To the women and men of the HPD, I've enjoyed leading you through this transition and I assure you that the future is bright. I'm genuinely proud of the women and men of the HPD for dedicating their lives toward keeping our city safe. Policing this community cannot be successful without the support of our residents. I look forward to hearing good things about the HPD under the leadership of the new Chief of Police.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'SL Sellers'.

Colonel Steve Sellers
Chief of Police (Interim)

The Harrisonburg Police Department will

unite

with our community to reduce crime and improve safety by enforcing the law, solving problems, and

encouraging

citizen responsibility for community safety &

quality of life.

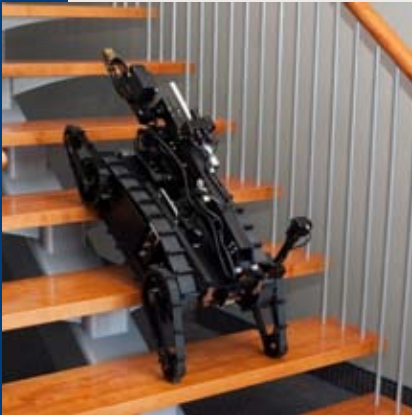


CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES



Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Robot

The Harrisonburg-Rockingham UAV Team consists of members from the Harrisonburg Police and Fire Departments, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue and Dayton PD. This team manages the training, maintenance and use of UAV's and Robots across the City and County. These tools help protect the community by allowing efficient and effective aid in searches for people, safe assessment of HAZMAT scenes, hostage negotiations, investigation of potential explosive packages; and the ability to obtain images of crashes, crowds, or crime scenes that would be impossible to achieve without them.



WRAP Restraint System

The WRAP restraint system was introduced to Patrol in 2017. This system helps officers safely restrain violent, potentially violent and individuals attempting self-harm. In all applications of the WRAP in 2017, there were no reported injuries after placing someone in the restraint. Reducing injuries and keeping the individual and officers safe were our primary objectives when implementing the WRAP.



D.E.F.L. LAB

The Harrisonburg Police Department Digital Evidence Forensics Lab (DEFL) handles the acquisition and analysis of digital evidence related to criminal investigations. Items examined include computer hard drives, mobile phones, tablets, and flash cards. The DEFL handles an average of 150 separate items of digital evidence each year.



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative Justice is an alternative approach to dealing with crime that focuses on the needs of victims, offenders and the community as a whole, and seeks outcomes that involve offenders taking responsibility for their actions and behavior.

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/hpd-restorative-justice>

BIGS IN BLUE

The Bigs in Blue program pairs volunteer police officers as "Bigs" to "Littles" with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Harrisonburg/Rockingham County. Officers have the opportunity to mentor children in our community and help develop future community leaders.



BIGS IN BLUE

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

The Harrisonburg Police Department has certified instructors in the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERT) Program and trains with local area police officers. The reactionary skills necessary to combat the active shooter are not inherited; they must be learned, coordinated and practiced to ensure a correct response. The ALERT Program has also trained civilians in our Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Avoid-Deny-Defend awareness program.



ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Harrisonburg Police Department works closely with the City's Transportation Safety & Advisory Committee (TSAC) to facilitate a safe coexistence amongst all modes of traffic in the City. HPD also works with the Virginia DMV and uses grant funding to enforce safe driving, walking and biking on City streets.

CHIEF'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Chief's Advisory Committee is to act in an advisory capacity to the Harrisonburg Police Department by bringing feedback from the community concerning public safety issues. The committee is devoted to the exchange of ideas and strives to be a voice to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Harrisonburg.



POLICE EXPLORERS

POLICE EXPLORERS

The HPD Explorers were involved with many events and trainings this year focusing on patrol topics such as traffic stops, probable cause and various court cases to build their knowledge foundation. Explorers put their skills to use in practical exercises and as always participate in many community events such as National Night Out and Safe Kids Safety Days.

SOUL FOOD DINNER

Police Officers and other community members get together each February to enjoy southern cuisine prepared by the Northeast Neighborhood Community (NENA).

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/soul-food-dinner>

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This crime prevention based annual event allows Harrisonburg's local government officials to travel throughout the City in a police convoy that stops in neighborhoods to hear concerns, meet residents and have a lot of fun. The importance of neighborhood connectivity is emphasized during the stops and shows how important teamwork between the police, local agencies and the people is to create safe communities.

MONSTER MASH

HPD supports downtown efforts during Halloween to provide a safe place to Trick-or-Treat for youngsters. McGruff the Crime Dog, Vince & Larry the Crash Test Dummies and HPD officers greet costumed kids in front of the Public Safety Building for photos and candy.

SALVATION ARMY/ BRENT BERRY FOOD DRIVES

The local Salvation Army and The Berry Family Food Drives provide assistance to people in Harrisonburg, and HPD plays a supportive role throughout the year by dedicating officers to help gather the food collected by the organizations. People in Harrisonburg benefit from the efforts of these organizations and HPD is proud to be invited to play a role in their efforts.

COMMUNITY HEROES AND HELPERS

Through a multi-tiered holiday initiative, Officers utilized private donations and a Target Community Initiative grant to help underprivileged families have a positive interaction with officers who helped furnish gifts and money.

COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY

The 2017 Community Police Academy continued to provide a great relationship building experience to members of the public by bringing them into HPD to learn about all aspects of the department. Classroom presentations, hands-on practical scenarios and police equipment demonstrations all give attendees valuable insight into law enforcement practices and procedures. The CPA is a yearly function for HPD and is dedicated to creating safe communities.

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/community-police-academy>

SOUL FOOD DINNER



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



BRENT BERRY FOOD DRIVES



SHOP WITH A COP

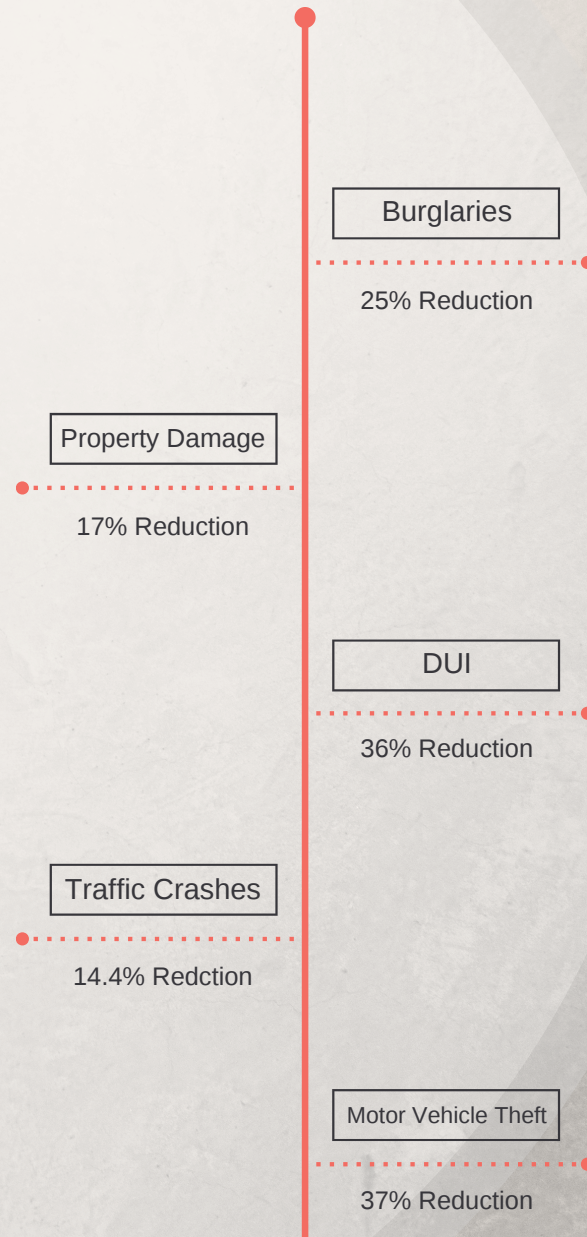


Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS)

DDACTS is an operational model that uses integration of location-based crime and collision data to establish effective and efficient methods for deploying law enforcement resources. Using geo-mapping to identify areas that have high incidences of crime and collisions, DDACTS uses traffic enforcement strategies that play a dual role in fighting crime and reducing collisions and traffic violations. Drawing on the deterrent of highly visible traffic enforcement and the knowledge that crime often involves the use of motor vehicles, the goal of DDACTS is to reduce the incidence of crime, collisions, and traffic violations across the country

2017 Achieved Goals:

- The following crimes were reduced by the listed percentages, all greater than the goal of a ten percent reduction within the DDACTS Zone (District 5):



Assessing percent change with small counts may be misleading. Many of the focus crimes have very low numbers.

Vehicle Crashes:

In 2017 there were 921 accidents involving 1,867 vehicles reported to the state:

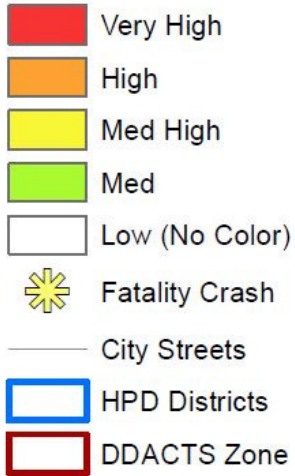
Accident Types:

- 1 Fatal Accident
- 191 Injury Accidents
- 729 Property Damage Accidents

This map displays the density surface for those accidents, indicating where more crashes occur.

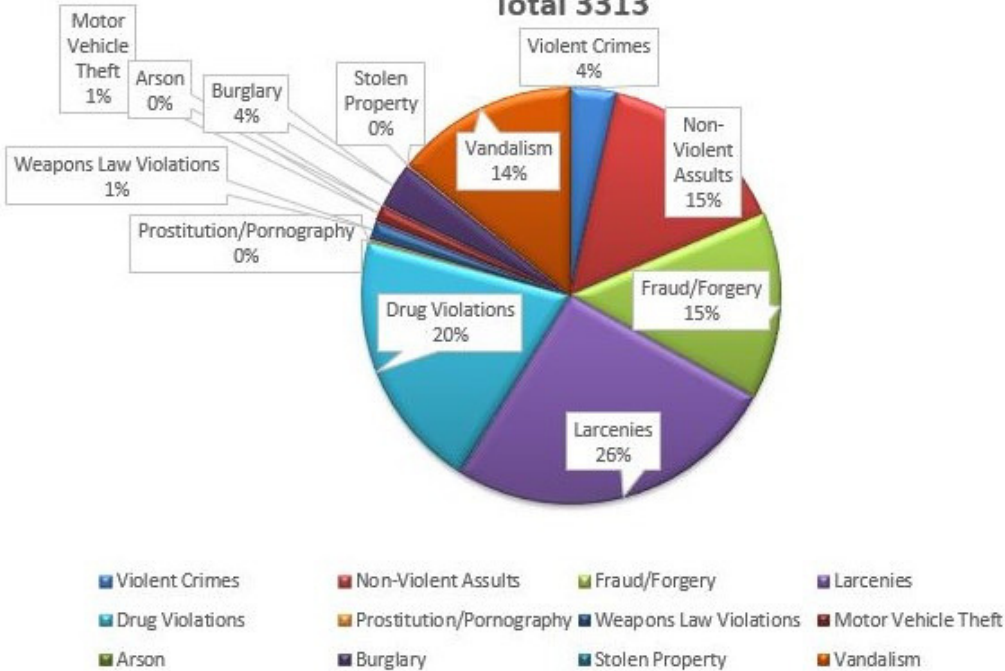


Crash Density 2017 Vehicle Accidents



Crime Statistics:

2017 Group A Offenses Total 3313



- 3%** of crime in Harrisonburg is violent in nature
- 7%** lower rate of sexual assaults than comparable Virginia regions*
- 20%** of violent crime occurs in Harrisonburg from the 4 cities closest to Harrisonburg in population*
- 100%** clearance rate for the 9 homicides that have occurred since 2015

*based on comparable population size, Charlottesville, Danville, Manassas and Harrisonburg

One Vision



One Mission



One Community



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Mental Illness Crisis Team

MICT Officers are specially trained to understand and resolve problems within the mentally ill community. The MICT officer's responsibility is to serve as the primary officer responsible for responding to any call for service that has a mental illness component. They are also being tasked with developing partnerships with public and mental health organizations not only in our jurisdiction but also any surrounding jurisdictions the department depends on for support.

Goals/Objectives:

- Improve officer safety by utilization of a specialized unit trained to recognize and handle the issues surrounding mental health in the community.
- Increase access to mental health treatment, supports, and services by forming partnerships with mental health professionals and public and private institutions that treat mental illness.
- Decrease the frequency of these individuals' encounters with the criminal justice system by recognizing the root cause of a crisis as mental illness and seeking the appropriate care.
- Reduce certain costs incurred by our agency in responding to mental health crises by resolving crises informally to prevent them from escalating in costly operations.

2017 MENTAL HEALTH CASES

- 339 Mental Health related Calls for Service
- Over 90 Emergency Custody Orders served totaling over 430 hours of case time.
- Nearly 50 Temporary Detention Orders served totaling over 230 hours of case time
- 937 hours worked on 235 Mental Health Cases

Domestic Violence & Violence Against Women Prevention

Through the V-STOP Grant (Virginia Stop Violence Against Women), the Harrisonburg Police Department's Major Crimes Unit has created a DOVV (Domestic Violence and Violence against Women) program which has assigned a Detective and an Auxiliary member to focus on violent crimes against woman including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. V-STOP offers grant funds to successful applicants for activities which increase the apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women.

The program can assist victims by offering services that are provided within the community and surrounding area to help facilitate recovery for the victim. A victim would report the crime to the Emergency Communications Center, a patrol officer would respond and handle the situation appropriately. Once the report has been filled a member of the DOVV program will read the report and determine through a "lethality assessment questionnaire" if the case needs to be further investigated by a Detective. The Detective can look at the offender's prior history to help determine how the investigation should proceed.

Public Information Officer Team & Social Media

The Public Information Officer (PIO) Team continues to evolve to best serve HPD and the Community as communication and digital platforms evolve. Staffed to ensure 24/7 coverage of all shifts and incidents, PIO's provide timely and effective information regarding traffic, weather and manmade hazards, and critical incidents to the media and devices people use most.

The increase in digital presence also invites community involvement in solving crimes, identifying suspects, and instilling a sense of responsibility for community action. In 2017, the team's additional efforts and focus garnered 2400 additional page followers, expanding the Department's reach and connection to the community while increasing trust in transparency and reliable timely information.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



The Harrisonburg Police Foundation Awards Banquet was conceived as a platform for the Harrisonburg Police Department to formally honor excellence in service and performance of duty. Officers and employees are recognized and celebrated by their peers as having performed in an exemplary and professional manner. 2017 Award recipients are listed to the right.

Community Service Award
Lieutenant Rod Pollard

Harper Award
Captain Tom Hoover

Customer Service Award
Custodian Carol Campbell

Leadership Award
Sergeant Philip Wonderley

Recruit of the Year
Officer Pamela Diaz

Officer of the Year
Detective Greg Miller

Medal of Valor
Officers Justin Kline,
Dwayne Jones, Joshua Joseph

Distinguished Action
Officer Sarah Campbell

Life Saving Award
Lieutenant Todd Miller,
Sergeant Rachel Hammer,
Officers Alex Piper, Cody Burgoon, Mark Stutes,
Brian Jones

Award of Excellence
Sergeant Philip Read,
Officers Greg Deeds,
Joshua Joseph, Patrick Smoot, David Hanlon,
Kevin Argiro, Colton Wetherell, Paywand Sofy,
Dylan Johnson

"Now this is police work. I applaud you. Good job HPD"
"Good Work guys.. Nothing like being prepared and trained to do the job !! Awesome"
"Thank you to all Men and Women serving in the Blue . You are appreciated"
"Way to go HPD! Thank you for all you do to keep our community safe!"
"Que bien gracias por ayudar a la comunidad!"
"Appreciate HPD's incredible and selfless service to our community! Keep up the hard work!"
"This are the good guys! All police Dpt should will be able to help the community in diversity situations. Thank you very much. FELIZ NAVIDAD!"

Through our online reporting system, the Professional Standards Unit received one service complaint, and one complimentary performance report.

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/hpd-file-a-compliment-or-complaint>

OUR VISION...

High Performance Organization Leadership Model

The City plans to move towards the High Performance Organizations (HPO) model of leadership moving forward. Department Heads, mid-level managers and front-line supervisors will be expected to become thought leaders, understanding and navigating through this formalized management process. The HPO Framework is a conceptual, scientifically validated structure that managers can use for deciding what to focus on in order to improve organizational performance and make it sustainable.

Strategic Planning

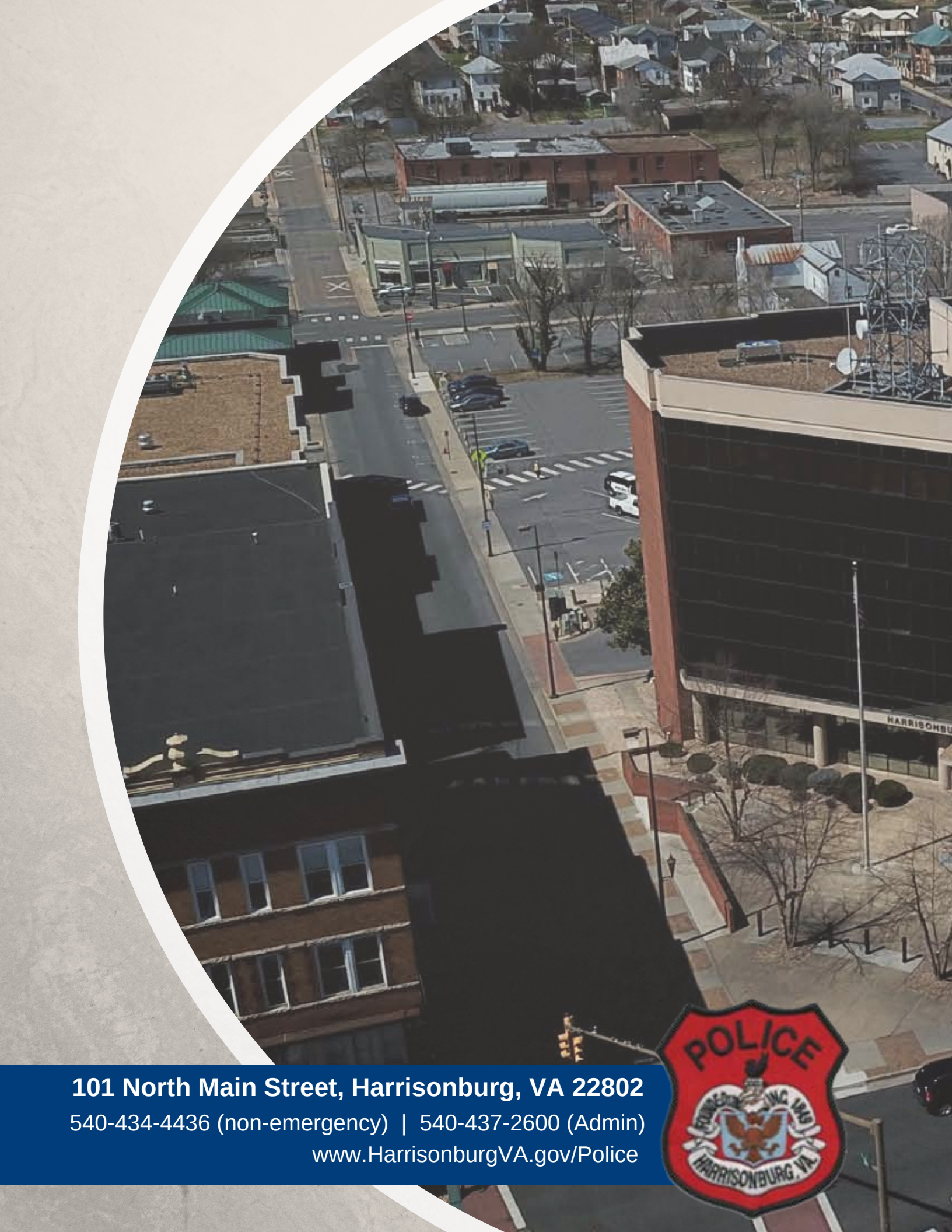
Currently the City and the Police Department have a goal to begin strategic planning in 2018. HPD will focus on community engagement, mental illness response, and officer wellness and suicide prevention.

Stratified Policing

In 2018 the Harrisonburg Police Department will undergo training to develop a stratified policing approach to crime. This model promotes evidence-based policing and accountability as a 21st century police strategy. Stratified Policing is "an organizational model for crime reduction that seeks to systematize problem solving, analysis, and accountability so that they become institutionalized into what police do."

(from "A Police Organizational Model for Crime Reduction")





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540-434-4436 (non-emergency) | 540-437-2600 (Admin)

www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/Police

