



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**POLICE**  
DEPARTMENT

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024







CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**POLICE**  
DEPARTMENT

**INTERIM CHIEF ROD POLLARD**  
**INTERIM CHIEF TODD MILLER**

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The Harrisonburg Police Department has a long history of adaptability and resilience. In 2024, our officers once again demonstrated their strength, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to serving the residents of Harrisonburg.

In June, Chief Kelley Warner announced her resignation, choosing to return to Pennsylvania to reconnect with family. Her departure marked a significant transition for the department, and in response, Deputy Chiefs Rod Pollard and Todd Miller stepped up to serve as Interim Chiefs of Police. This dual-leadership approach was unconventional within the traditional quasi-military rank structure, which typically designates a single chief. However, both Chief Pollard and Chief Miller embraced the challenge, bringing complementary strengths that not only maintained stability but also drove meaningful progress within the department.

Working closely with the City Manager's Office and Human Resources, they revitalized key initiatives that had previously stalled, focusing on both retention and recruitment efforts:

#### Retention Initiatives:

- Reinstated the Career Development Program
- Developed a new Career Development framework
- Created a new pay band for career police officers
- Increased staffing to levels not seen in nearly a decade

#### Hiring & Recruitment Improvements:

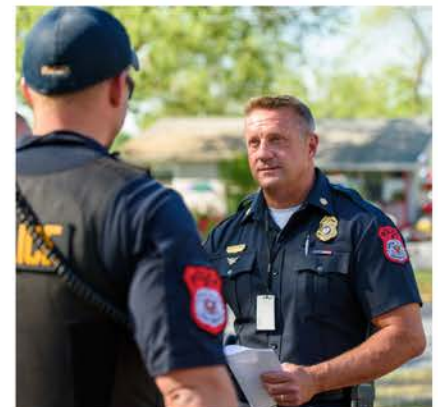
- Streamlined the hiring process
- Enhanced signing bonuses
- Implemented a contract buyout program



These efforts have strengthened our department's foundation and positioned us for continued success in the years ahead. We remain committed to serving our community with professionalism, integrity, and dedication.



**Roderick G. Pollard**  
**Christopher Todd Miller**  
**Acting Police Chiefs**





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# Strategic Overview



In the fall of 2023, a group of employees and leaders of HPD attended a strategic planning retreat and developed a set of short and long-term objectives to accomplish within five years. Work began in 2024 on the following:

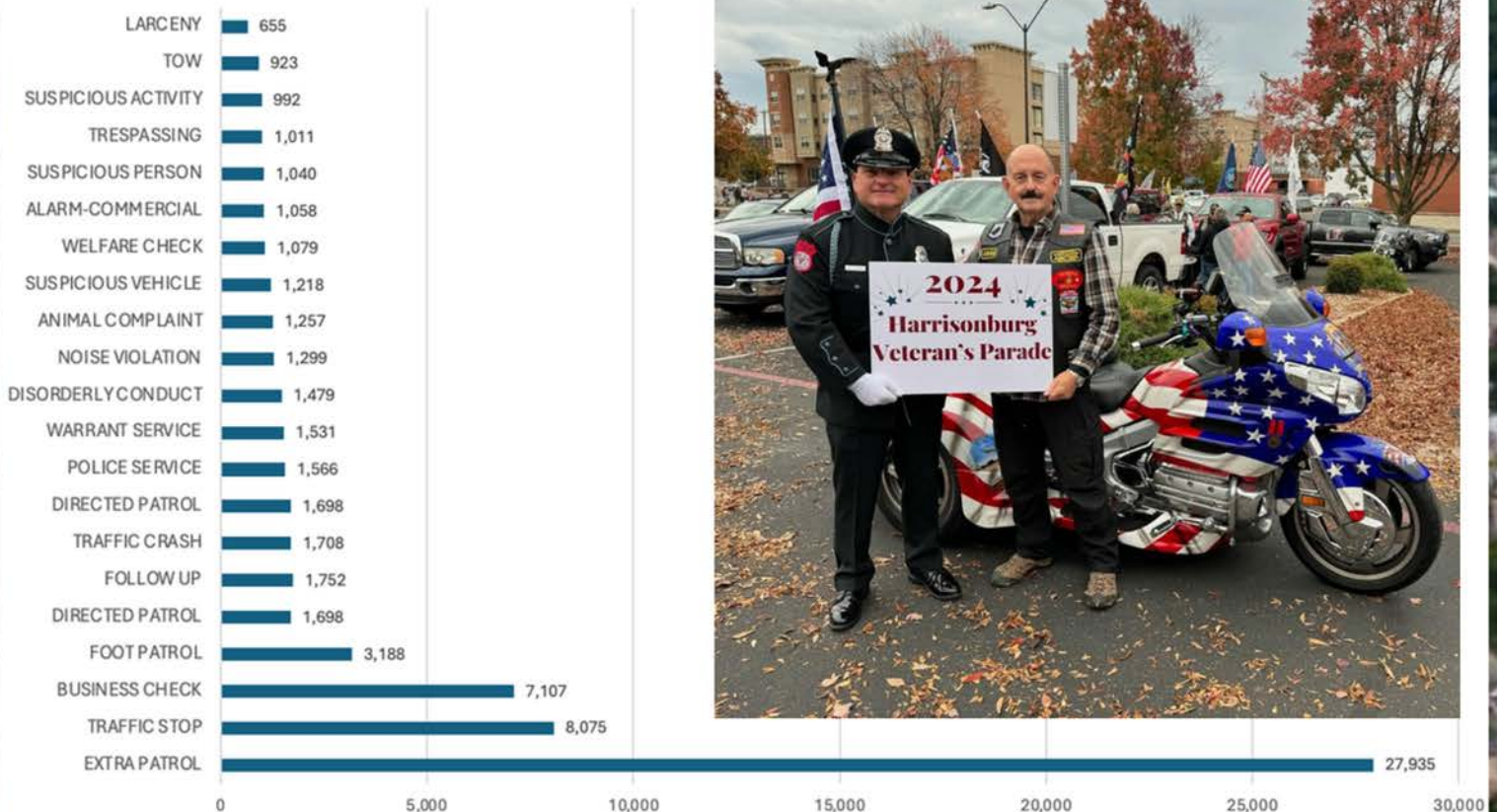
- Achieve full staffing
- Improve the recruitment process
- Expand Career Development
- Improve community engagement
- Expand take-home car program
- Develop a Police Cadet Program

# Restorative Justice

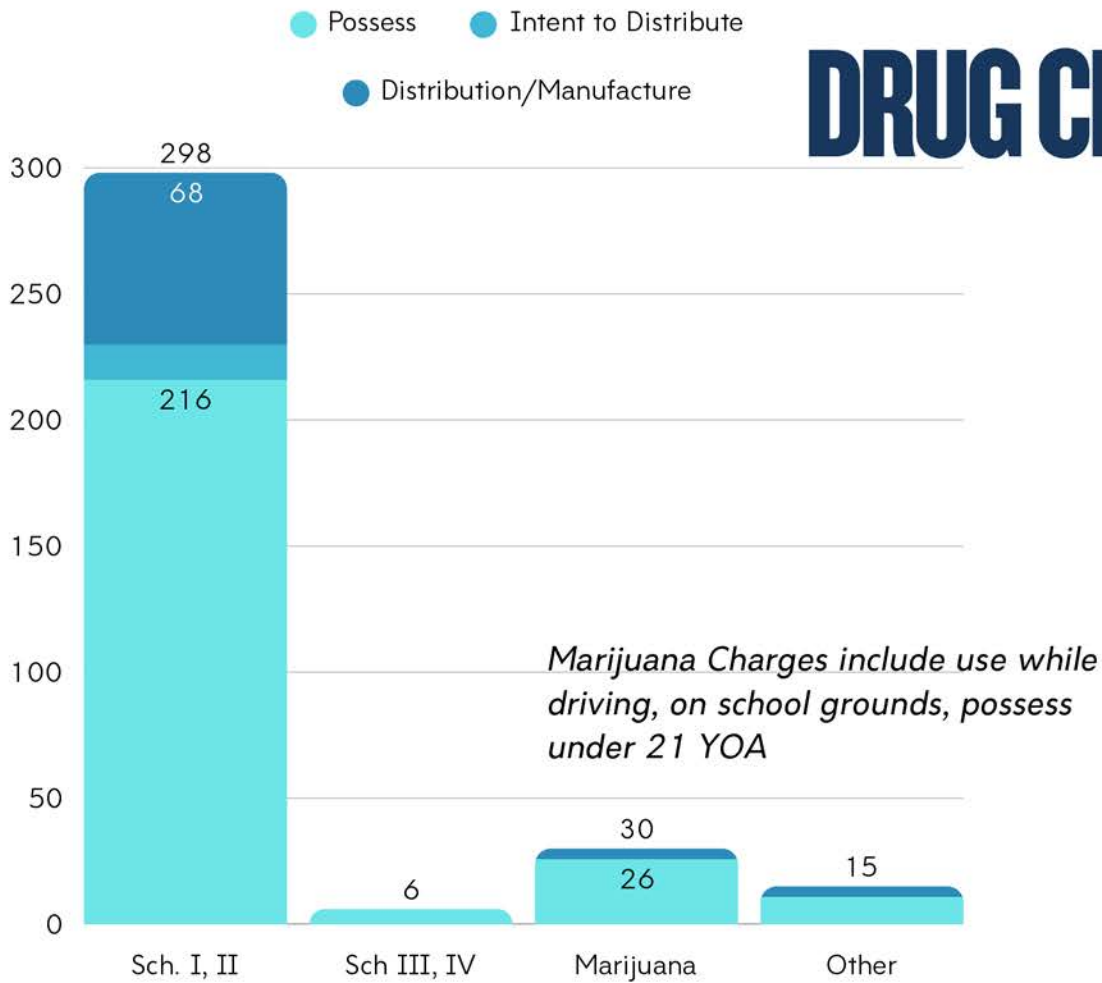
This year, HPD expanded its partnership with the JMU Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices to participate in restorative justice circles with students facing nuisance violations. HPD officers hosted 5 restorative circles and had about 50 students participate. Restorative justice is an alternative method to holding students accountable for their actions based on acknowledgment of the harm done instead of traditional punishment. These circles provide a learning experience for students and encourage them to consider the consequences of their actions.

## Statistical Overview

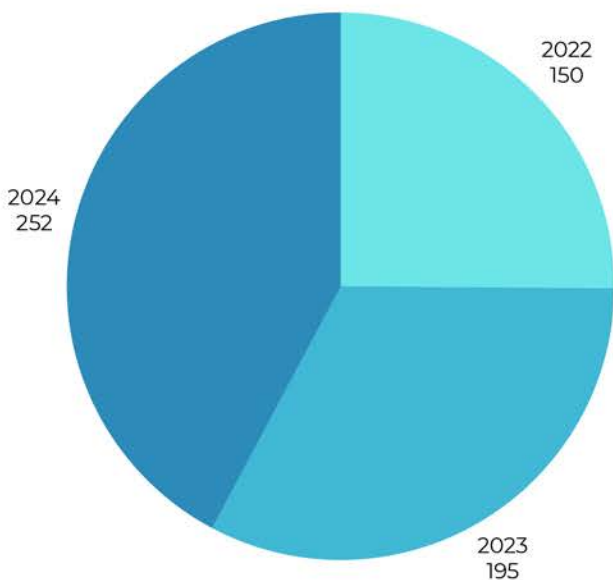
### Top 20 Incident Based Reports in 2024



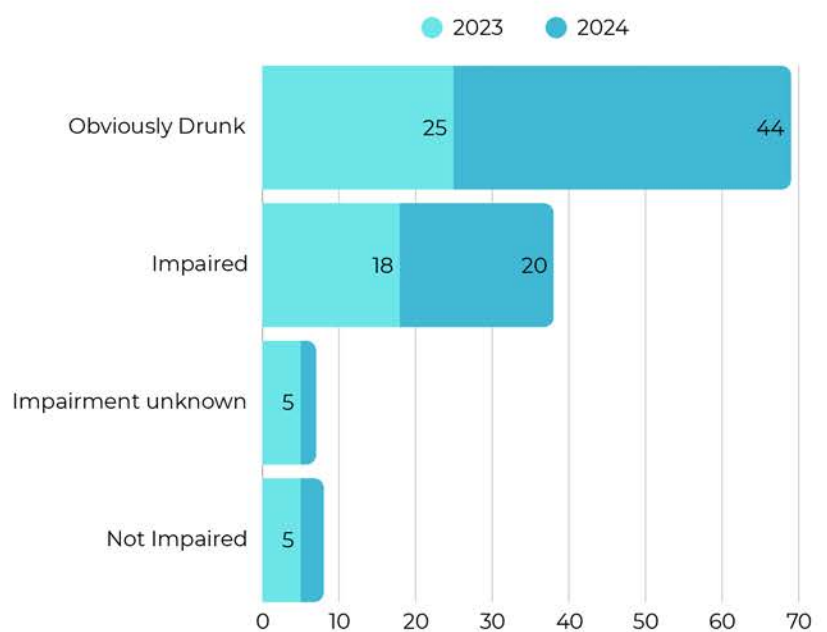
# DRUG CHARGES



# DRUNK DRIVING



The chart above shows the numbers of DUI arrests reported in each of the past three years. The chart right shows the impairment level for alcohol-related crashes in 2023 and 2024.



# Awards



## MADD

Officer Rugg was awarded the MADD Virginia Law Enforcement Award in December 2024. Officer Rugg led the department in DUI/DIUD arrests in 2024 with a total of 56.

## Valor Award

Sergeant Brian Tusing, Officer John A. Denny, Officer Alaina C. McWhorter and Officer Rose Mary Nuno were presented with the 2024 Award for Valor from the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) for their actions responding to a domestic disturbance involving a firearm and abduction of a woman in May 2023. (photo above)

## Kiwanis

Officer Zachary Scull was awarded the Kiwanis Lawperson of the Year Award. This award is a testament to his dedication to the Harrisonburg community.

## SOARS

Detective Mike Spiggle has been awarded the Law Enforcement Commendation and Medal for 2024 by the Fort Harrison Chapter of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution.





# Accreditation



ACCREDITED AGENCY



In October 2024, HPD was awarded reaccreditation by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). After the initial accreditation period, reaccreditation occurs every four years after specific policy, personnel, and service standards are met. Each year is considered a “term” and each term begins the day after the assessment is completed and ends on the anniversary date of the beginning of the assessment.

Accreditation is no small achievement and requires meticulous attention to detail, teamwork, communication, discipline, and accountability. Accreditation increases our ability to prevent and control crime through more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services to the Harrisonburg community. It also enhances community understanding of the law enforcement agency and its role in the community as well as its goals and objectives. Citizen confidence in the policies and practices of HPD is of utmost importance, and accreditation, in conjunction with the philosophy of community policing, commits us to a broad range of programs (such as crime prevention) that directly benefit the public.

# Administration



2024 was full of changes in the Organization. Chief Warner accepted the position of police chief in Solebury Township, Pennsylvania, which allowed her to return home to her family. Chief Warner implemented the work zone speed cameras which has led to improved traffic safety on East Market Street. She placed an important emphasis on highlighting all the amazing work our department does through the creation of our Community Outreach and Communication Specialist position that has revitalized our social media outreach. She was also focused on promoting the health and wellness of our staff and community through the implementation of HPD's first Facility Dog, Hudson.



Deputy Chiefs Rod Pollard (pictured above left) and Todd Miller (pictured above right) began sharing the Interim Chief role in early July of 2024 while the City worked on a strategy for recruiting and selecting a new chief. Both chiefs played an integral role in revising the department's Career Development Program and other administrative initiatives that led to a more efficient and effective hiring process. By the end of 2024, the police department was set on a trajectory to be at full staffing by the second quarter of 2025.



Kyra Meek (above) was hired to fill the Administrative Specialist to the Chief role that was left vacant when Mackenzie Grimes was selected to fill the Criminal Investigation Division Administrative Specialist role in late 2023.



Juliana McGrath (left) was hired to fill the newly created Outreach and Communication Specialist position. Juliana is dedicated to deliver our message to the community with a consistent theme, develop our social media (Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn ), develop weekly community

alerts and public service announcements, coordinate with the City's Communication team, and collaborate with the Community Resource Unit. In addition, this position would also be actively involved in developing new recruiting strategies through social media.

# Professional Standards

The Professional Standards Unit investigates complaints, use of force incidents, and administrative investigations. The unit also manages recruitment and hiring of all new police employees.

	Exonerated	Substantiated	Unfounded	Unsubstantiated
<b>Citizen Complaints</b>	2	1	4	0
<b>Administrative Investigations</b>	2	8	0	0

Use of Force	Show of Force	Officers Injured	Citizens Injured	Arrests Made
69	58	7	20	92

The unit fulfilled its objective to improve and expand the recruitment processes by creating a more efficient process while increasing recruitment opportunities. In February HPD began offering same-day testing opportunities to police applicants. For the first time, applicants took the written test, physical agility test, and had a panel interview all on the same day. In total, 42 interviews were conducted for both sworn officer and civilian positions.

14 new employees were hired in 2024 and 10 hiring processes were opened for positions including Mental Health Co-Responder, Administrative Specialist, Crime Analyst, Evidence Custodian, Interns, Parking Services Patroller, Police Recruit, Police Officer, and School Resource Officer. There were also multiple internal promotion processes for positions in Investigations, Community Resources, Professional Standards, and Patrol.

At the start of 2024, HPD had 14 officer vacancies. At the end of the year, only 11 vacancies remained.

# Promotions



## Lieutenants Hancock and Wetherell

In April the department held a promotional process for the position of Police Lieutenant. The process consisted of a written examination and an oral interview panel with law enforcement professionals from around the Commonwealth. Sergeants John Hancock and Brooke Wetherell were chosen to fill the two Lieutenant vacancies in the Patrol Operations Division.



## Sergeants Driver and Siever

Based on the sergeants' promotional process in 2023, Rusty Driver (pictured left) and Tyler Siever (pictured right) were selected and promoted in May and June, respectively.



## New Chaplains

Auxiliary Officer Jeff Fisher and Pastor Sarah Bailey joined the Chaplains Division of the HPD, tripling the support offered by existing Chaplain Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner. The Chaplains serve as a confidential support resource to officers and the community. They attend ceremonies and ride with officers on duty. In October 2024, Chaplain Sarah Bailey provided the invocation for the 2024 Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement training conference, hosted by HPD at Hotel Madison.



# Retirements

## Christopher Ray

Chris Ray began his law enforcement career as a jailer with the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office in 1998. He became a sworn officer working for the Grottoes Police Department in 2000 and joined HPD 8 months later.

Officer Ray became a K-9 handler in 2006, partnering with K9 Trigger, then K9 Spartan. Ray became a School Resource Officer at Thomas Harrison Middle School in 2015 while remaining involved with police k9 training. He was a founding member of the Bigs in Blue program through the Boys and Girls Club in 2019 and served on the Honor Guard team and Civil Disturbance Unit. Ray retired on January 1, 2024 after serving 23 years with HPD.

## Bradley Boyce

Officer Boyce joined HPD in June 2011, spent 8 years on the SWAT Team, and was selected as a K9 Officer in 2015 with his partner, Max. During his tenure at HPD, Officer Boyce received the honor of Officer of the Year in 2015, a Medal of Valor in 2016, and was given special recognition by James Madison University's Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices for his support of the program, Calling the Shots.

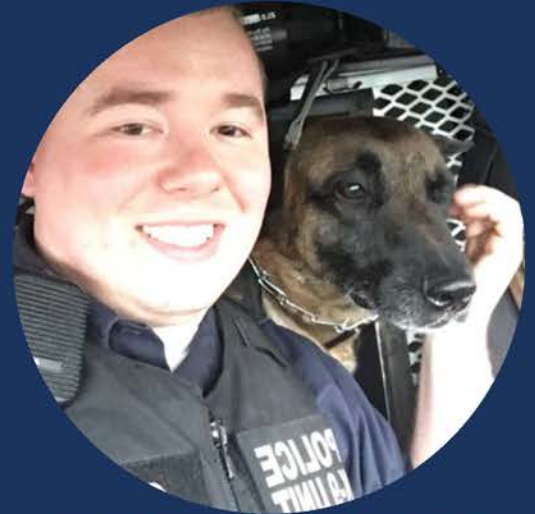
## Anne Byrd

Since 2009, Anne Byrd has been a crossing guard at the city schools, providing a warm smile to kids and parents at the beginning and end of the day. Anne was the primary crossing guard for Spotswood Elementary; however, she was always willing to help in any capacity needed. She has impacted thousands of lives during her 15 years as a crossing guard.



CHRISTOPHER RAY

January 1, 2024



BRADLEY BOYCE

May 1, 2024



ANNE BYRD

June 7, 2024

# Personnel Development



## Cultural Diversity Training

20 employees attended 40 hours of training online and in-person during basic Crisis Intervention Training

## Leadership Development

19 employees attended ten different Leadership Courses. This includes the FBI-LEEDA (Law Enforcement Executive Development Association) trilogy of courses: SLI (Supervisor Leadership Institute), CLI (Command Leadership Institute), and ELI (Executive Leadership Institute) as well as a Command and Leadership Seminar course provided by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. Six employees completed the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy in 2024.

## In-Service Training

88 Employees received a total of 4,400 hours of in-service

## New Officers

12 New officers received a total of 18,249 hours of training.

## Police Academy Training

26 employees attended 52 classes at the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy.

## Outside Training

52 employees attended 85 different classes hosted outside the area/state of Virginia.

## Online Training

51 employees attended a total of 468 hours of online training. This includes miscellaneous training courses, recertifications, or live Zoom courses/seminars.

## Training Unit

HPD prides itself on the quality of training we are able to provide to our officers. Our in-house training division is made up of one sergeant, two full-time officers, and one part-time officer. They provide in-service training to HPD officers, monthly training to HPD's S.W.A.T. team, pre- and post-academy training to new recruits, and help coordinate countless other external opportunities for officers.





## 38th Annual Training Conference & Awards Ceremony

Harrisonburg, Virginia  
October 13-17, 2024



In October 2024, Harrisonburg hosted the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement's 38th Annual Training Conference. A team of law enforcement officers and professional staff from HPD worked for 18 months to plan the conference, which took place at the Hotel Madison and Conference Center of the Shenandoah Valley.

Presentations centered around the theme "TRUST: The Keystone of Teamwork, the Bedrock of our Relationships with Ourselves, Each Other, and Our Community." Speakers included Dr. Shawn Andrews; the Team behind the NorCal Rapist investigation in Sacramento, CA; Harrisonburg-Rockingham Assistant Commonwealth Attorneys Mandie Strecky and Alycia Eldridge; Corinne Gellar, retired Virginia State Police; Officer Rebecca Bechtel and Lieutenant Brooke Wetherell with HPD; Timberville Chief J.R. Dodd; retired Texas Ranger Lieutenant Todd Martin, and former HPD Chief Kelley Warner.

Over 130 participants from Delaware, Washington D.C., Texas, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Jersey, NSA, Defense Counterintelligence and Security, the Office of the Attorney General, and the US Probation Office attended the three-day conference and networking events.





# Records

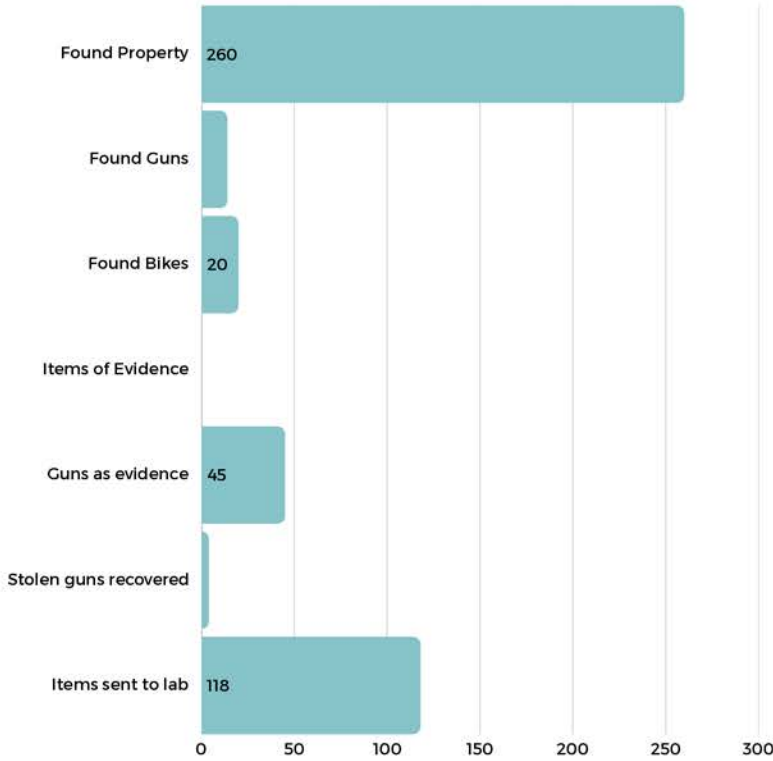
HPD's Records Department continues to set the standard across Virginia for their attention to detail and organization of police records. This year, our records department underwent an audit from the Virginia State Police, which takes place every three years. During this audit, Criminal Justice Information System auditors reviewed 2 out of 3 missing persons reports and found both to comply with the audit requirements. 15 out of 304 wanted person entries were checked and found to comply with audit requirements as well as 15 out of 161 wanted vehicle entries where only one error was found. The records department received a commendation from VSP for their dedication to keeping and maintaining accurate law enforcement records, and their hard work allows operations to run smoothly throughout the department.





# Evidence

Over 1,300 items of property or evidence were processed by the evidence room in 2024.



Adrienne Moos was selected to be HPD's newest part-time Evidence Custodian in May of 2024 to assist full-time evidence custodian Courtney Driver. To ensure a smooth transition, Courtney created a new training manual for evidence custodians and updated the current evidence room policy manual to ensure accuracy.

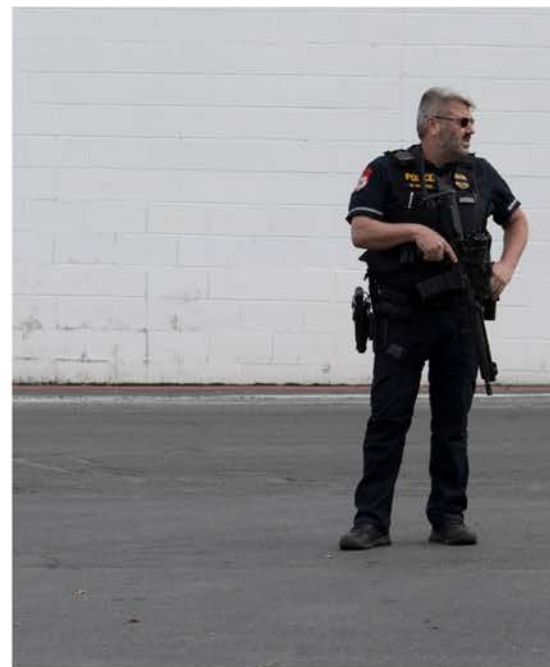
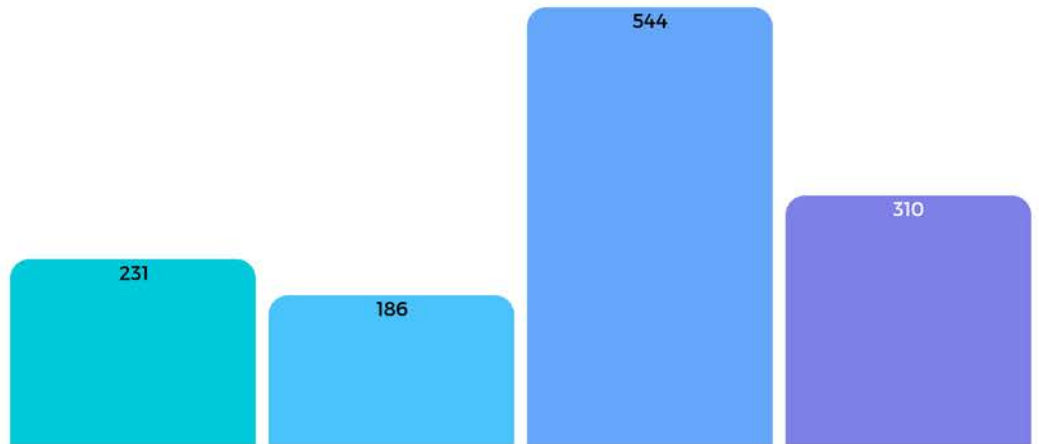


# Patrol

Officers responded to 79,809 calls for service and conducted 48,003 proactive patrols

In 2024, patrol officers focused heavily on DUI/DUID enforcement. There was a notable increase in DUI/DUID arrests from 2023 to 2024 because of this effort, and officers were able to proactively work to prevent death and injury due to impaired driving. Officer Timothy Rugg made 56 DUI/DUID arrests, the most of any patrol officer, and earned an award from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving).

● DUI/DUID Arrests   ● TDO/ECO Calls   ● Mental Health Incidents   ● Drug Arrests



# Technology and Equipment



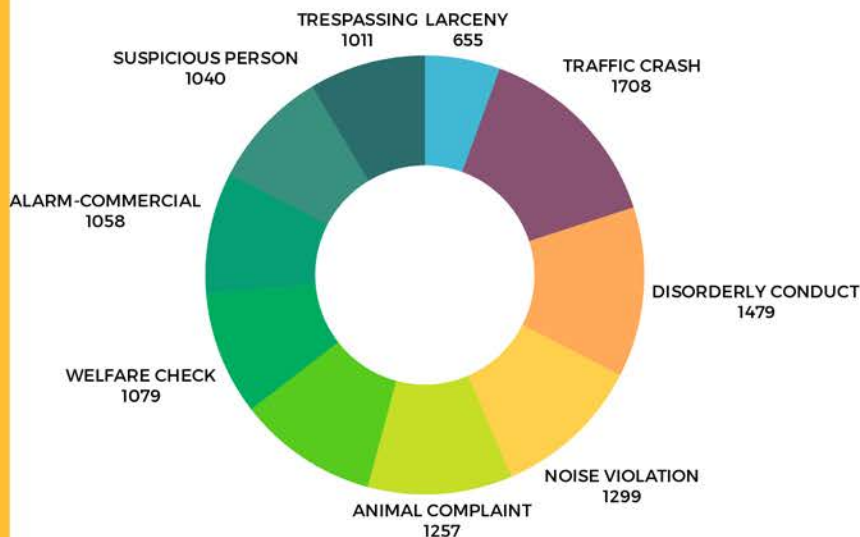
Officers train on the use of the WRAP restraint device

One of the most significant technological advancements regularly used by the Patrol Division is the Flock Safety Cameras. In 2024, these cameras played a crucial role in recovering 24 stolen vehicles, with a total value of approximately \$453,851. In addition to vehicle recoveries, the cameras helped locate and apprehend several wanted individuals and assisted in safely locating 10 missing persons traveling through the city. By leveraging this technology in daily operations, the Patrol Division continues to demonstrate its commitment to high-quality police work and the dedication of officers to their community. In 2024, Flock helped recover and/or identify the suspects responsible for the theft/destruction of \$636,778 worth of property.



Above: all HPD officers transitioned to red dot optics on their firearms.

## Top Ten Reactive Calls



Below: Officer Leeper operates a drone



## DUI with Serious Injury

On September 22, 2024, officers responded to a DUI vehicle crash on Reservoir St. Upon their arrival, they found a vehicle that had gone off the roadway impacting a fire hydrant, road sign and flipping several times before landing 203 ft. away from where it had left the roadway. As officers approached the vehicle, they found a trapped male driver who had sustained life threatening injuries. Officers were able to act quickly extract the male from the vehicle so that medical assistance could be rendered. The male subject was charged with DUI, flown to UVA and was able to recover from his life threatening injury's.

## Tobacco Hut Robbery

On October 13, 2024, officers responded to Tabacco Hut on South Main Street for a reported armed robbery. Officers arrived and reviewed video footage while securing the crime scene. Once a suspect description was obtained, Detectives from MCU arrived to interview witnesses. Later that week, an arrest was made. The efficient work by patrol played a key part the successful arrest in this case.

## Food Lion Robbery

On October 17, 2024, just four days after the armed robbery at Tobacco Hut, officers responded to an armed robbery at Food Lion on Port Republic Road. While on scene at the robbery, a disorderly conduct with a weapon call was dispatched at the nearby apartment complex, Deer Run. Several officers responded to the scene and coordinated with officers at Food Lion, ultimately determining that the suspect at Deer Run was responsible for the robbery as well. A K-9 unit then successfully tracked the suspect from Food Lion to the location of the disorderly conduct call. Detectives from MCU conducted interviews and obtained a search warrant that led to the seizure of multiple items of evidence.



## 22nd Annual S.W.A.T. Competition

16 teams from 12 localities came to Harrisonburg for this year's competition. Teams participated in 7 events to test critical skills like teamwork, technique, and tactical strategy. Stafford County Sheriff's Office took first place overall.



# Auxiliary Police

THE CITY OF  
**HARRISONBURG**  
VIRGINIA



HPD's auxiliary unit consists of 10 sworn officers and 8 administrative volunteers. This year, Rick Warford and Megan Huddleston (pictures here with Lt. Sellers in the middle) began their auxiliary training, and Rick is currently completing his field training. Auxiliary officers provide additional support to patrol squads, help with traffic control, and attend community events.

# Investigations

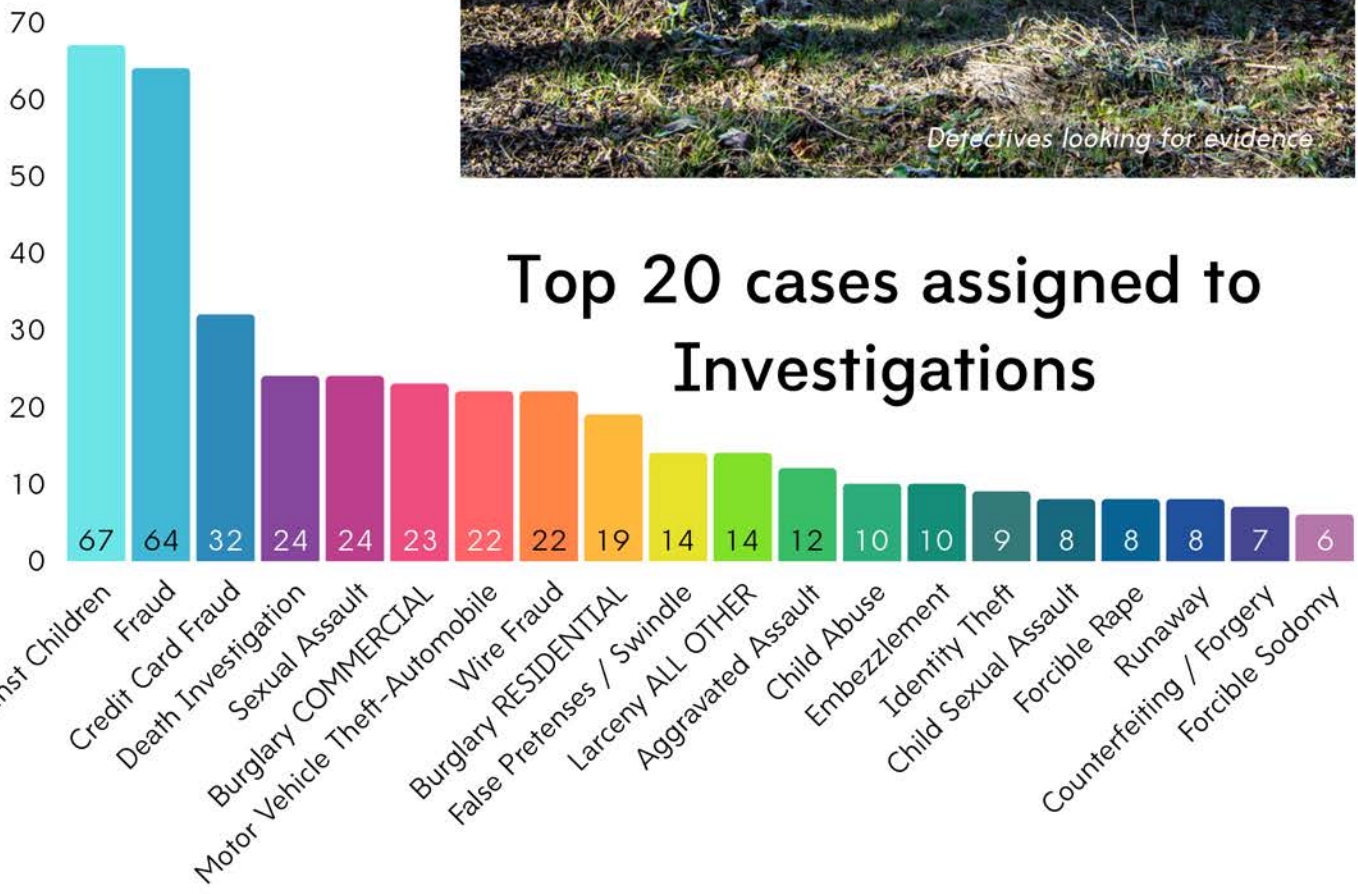


Resulting from the Strategic Objective to fully staff positions throughout the agency, General Investigations filled two internal positions. Officers Petit and Stunda transferred from the patrol division into Detective positions.

Detective Randall Life is HPD's Digital Forensics Examiner. He assists investigations by gathering data from cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices. In 2024, he handled 236 devices, some of those for agencies other than HPD. Thanks to his advanced skillset, Det. Life frequently assists the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office and local town police departments.



*Detectives looking for evidence*



**Top 20 cases assigned to Investigations**



## Golden Pony Shooting

Officers responded to a call for shots fired outside of the Golden Pony in March 2024. Officers rendered emergency aid to the victim before investigating and identifying Alexander Ramos Perez as the suspected shooter. In April, deputies arrested Perez after a traffic stop. He was charged with three felonies.

## Vladimir Petrovich Mazur arrest

Beginning in September of 2023, officers from HPD, the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police and Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources collaborated to investigate commercial burglaries in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. During execution of a search warrant, evidence from at least six different cases was found, valued at \$45,000. Mazure was charged in 2024 with 12 felonies, including drug and weapons charges.

## Kia Boyz

The viral "Kia Boyz" trend came to Harrisonburg in 2024. This trend refers to a social media challenge and subsequent surge in car thefts targeting Kia and Hyundai vehicles, primarily those manufactured between 2011 and 2021, due to their easily bypassed ignition systems. The trend originated on social media platforms like TikTok, where videos demonstrated how to steal these vehicles using a USB cable to bypass the ignition system, which lacked engine immobilizers. In 2024, Harrisonburg had 6 cars stolen thanks to this trend, leading to 31 different charges on 4 juveniles. Thanks to efforts from night shift patrol officers and HPD detectives, this trend was eradicated in the city.

# R.U.S.H. Drug Task Force

The R.U.S.H. Drug Taskforce is a multijurisdictional effort to combat illegal drug trafficking in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Comprised of One HPD Detective, Patrick Smoot, three Rockingham County Sheriff's Office Detectives, and three Virginia State Police Detectives, the task force was able to confiscate over seven million dollars' worth of illegal drugs in 2024. More methamphetamine was recovered than any other drug, totaling over 60,000 grams, and marijuana fell second with over 20,000 grams seized. There were 337 cases initiated by the task force in 2024 leading to 388 charges on individuals. Detective Smoot initiated 46 individual cases in 2024.

## Recovered Narcotics

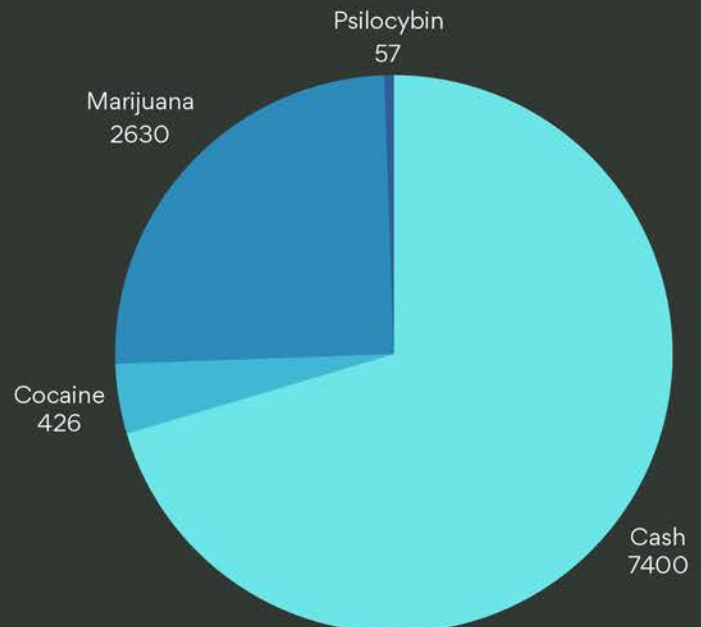
Methamphetamines	60,000+ grams
Marijuana	20,000+ grams
Total \$\$ of illegal drugs seized	\$7,000,000+

## Gang-Fentanyl Seizure

Fentanyl seized	Arrests
401 pills	2
Firearms	Felony Warrants
2	28

August-September 2024: In an effort to combat the illegal sale of fentanyl in Harrisonburg, Det. Smoot purchased and seized 401 Fentanyl pills and recovered 2 guns from blood gang members. This investigation led to 28 felony warrants and 2 individuals arrested on charges of distribution, weapons of terrorism, child endangerment, and felony possession of firearms, along with others.

January-March 2024: During the entirety of this investigation, Det. Smoot and his R.U.S.H. partners purchased 426 grams of cocaine. The case concluded with a search warrant where an additional 2,630 grams of marijuana, 57.43 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, 2 firearms, and \$7,400 in cash were found. In total, 14 warrants were served and 3 people were arrested. Warrants included multiple schedule I/II distribution charges, and felony firearm possession, among other felony charges.





# Violence Against Women Investigator

Through the Department of Criminal Justice Services funding program, Virginia Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution, HPD has a detective dedicated to providing services to gender violence victims.

Overall, HPD took 104 reports of sex offenses in 2024, 11 reports of stalking, eight rape, 238 domestic assaults, four domestic assaults involving a weapon and we served 199 protective orders.

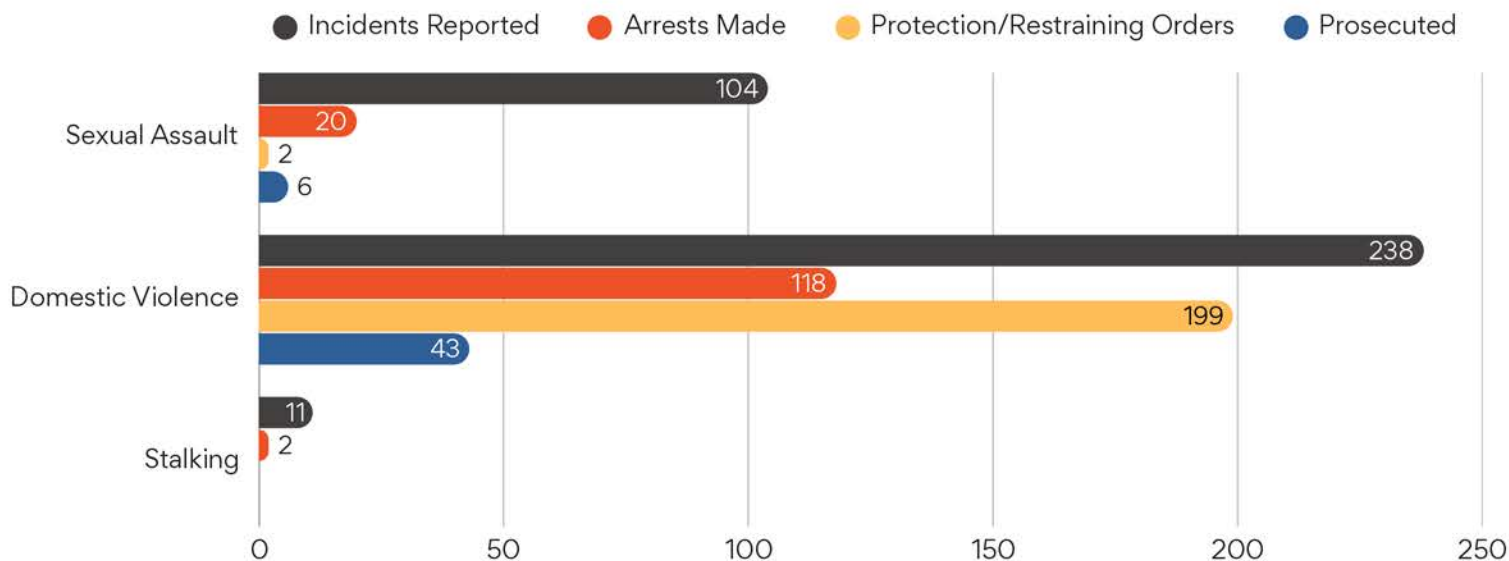
In 2024, Detective Aaron Dove was assigned 61 cases overall. 17 of those cases were sexual in nature, and 3 were stalking. Det. Dove is assigned a variety of other cases to assist the Criminal Investigations Division wherever necessary.

The VSTOP detective has worked closely with the Victim Services Coordinator to help provide and offer services the victims of crime to include sexual assault, stalking and domestic violence. Volunteers have contacted over 250 victims in 2024.

Detective Dove was able to attend advanced training in trauma-informed interviewing for both victims and suspects. Detective Dove was able to start the Lethality Assessment Program to further the resources that are given to victims in an intimate partner violence incident.



## Sexual Violence Statistics, 2024 activity for all HPD officers



# Facility Dog



Det. Greg Miller and his paw-tner Hudson are HPD's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) team. HPD is a member of the NOVA/DC ICAC Taskforce, which is made up of 52 local, state, and federal agencies from around the Washington D.C. area working to investigate online child exploitation and child pornography cases.

Hudson joined HPD in May 2024 and was gifted to us by Mutts With a Mission based in Virginia Beach, VA. As a facility dog, Hudson is able to provide comfort to officers, community members, and children in stressful situations. Det. Miller was chosen to be Hudson's handler due to the sensitive nature of his work and the interactions he has with the public every day. Since Hudson came to HPD, he has assisted Det. Miller with several dozen interviews of children, multiple speaking engagements, visits to the Commonwealth's Attorney's office, community events, and school visits. He has become an important member of the department and the community.

# Funding/Grants

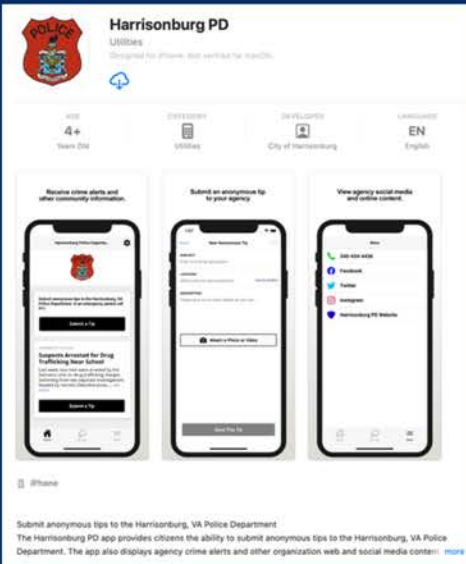


In 2024, the Department undertook several project with grant funding:

- **DMV/National Highway Transportation Safety Grants** to reduce severe injuries and deaths caused by speed and alcohol impaired driving and to improve pedestrian/bicycle safety.
  - **DCJS Virginia Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution Grant** to continue funding a detective dedicated to investigating violent crimes against women.
  - HPD received funding from two **DOJ Edward Byrne Memorial Police Equipment Grants**: we purchased Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) and updated radar units to outfit newly purchased patrol vehicles.
  - **ARPA Equipment Grant** used to purchase automated license plate recognition (ALPR) equipment and vehicles equipped with camera systems that integrate with the ALPRs.
  - **Bureau of Justice Assistance Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program** was initiated. The program seeks to create a co-response team of mental health professionals within HPD, able to respond quickly to incidents requiring field-based assessment and assistance for mental health crisis.
  - **DCJS Combatting Hate Crimes program**, partnering with our Muslim and Jewish Communities. Helped provide funding for security enhancements at the Islamic Center and Mosque, and funded police security details during vulnerable times.
  - **DCJS School Resource Officer Program** funded two new SROs to be placed in the newly opened Rocktown High School.
-

# tip 411

In July 2024, tip411 was launched enhancing communication between HPD and the community. Through tip411, citizens are able to submit anonymous tips directly to HPD and engage with officers in a two-way conversation. We can also send out alerts through tip411 during major traffic events, severe weather, and emergency situations.



220 tips received

21 alerts sent

5 identifications of possible suspects to crimes


Download the Harrisonburg PD app or Text "HPDVA" to 847411



**TRAFFIC ALERT**

1:10 PM: Traffic has resumed as normal throughout the area.

TRAFFIC ALERT: Vine St. between Old Furnace Rd. and Country Club Rd. is currently closed as crews with HFD respond to a structure fire in the area. Vine St. is inaccessible from Meadowlark Dr. as well. Please avoid the area and allow first responders to work.



Download

Know something? [Submit a Tip](#)

ALERT GROUPS: Traffic Alerts

# Community Resource Unit

The Community Resource Unit focuses on community outreach, crime prevention, and school safety to build relationships, bridge gaps, and improve relationships with the community. The Community Resource Unit hosts several community events and safety education classes, conducts threat assessments, and partners with local community leaders, businesses, and nonprofit groups.

In April, HPD participated in the annual Drug Takeback Day sponsored by the DEA. This event takes place twice a year in April and October, and in April it was combined with a touch-a-truck event at Valley Mall. Over 1,000 people attended this event, and 195 lbs. of unused and expired medication were collected- the most of any previous collection day.

The 29th Annual Community Police Academy began in March 2024. Attendees spent 10 weeks learning about HPD operations and had the opportunity to participate in a driving demonstration, time at the shooting range, and a visit to the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy. This class gives community members a unique opportunity to see first-hand what law enforcement officers do on the job and the many different specialties within HPD. Attendees ranged from college students to retirees, all passionate about learning more about HPD.



*High Five Fridays*



*Patch Camp Attendees*

**In 2024, CRU participated in 213 events hosting a total of 72,268 people which equates to 375 hours of direct interaction with the community.**

# Traffic Unit

## Traffic Safety

HPD's traffic unit consists of one sergeant and three officers who focus their efforts on ensuring the safety of drivers, pedestrians, school and transit buses, and anyone using the roads in Harrisonburg.

## Traffic Calming

In 2024, HPD received numerous complaints about wrong-way drivers on Hawkins St. Tube counters were placed in the area to gather data on driving direction and speed, and it was found that this specific area of the city did have an issue with people driving in the wrong direction. Traffic officers consistently patrolled the area pulling over wrong-way drivers, and HPD and Public Works partnered to put new markings on the road bringing better awareness to the one-way street.

## Public Education

Sgt. Westfall earned local celebrity status by starring in the department's social media video series "Wednesdays with Westfall". This bi-weekly video series highlights important traffic safety reminders in an engaging yet informative way and has garnered global attention with viewers as far away as Australia. Topics range from crosswalk safety to distracted driving, and in 2024 the videos had a combined 2,184,500 views on Facebook from over 10 different countries.



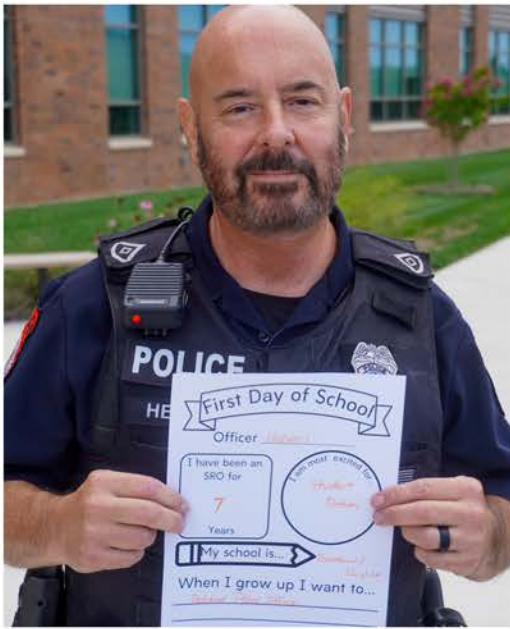
Accident Reconstruction

## Statistics

In 2024, there were 4,791 traffic citations issued and 1,638 were issued by the four traffic officers. Leading traffic offenses include driving without a license, speeding, and driving while holding a cell phone.



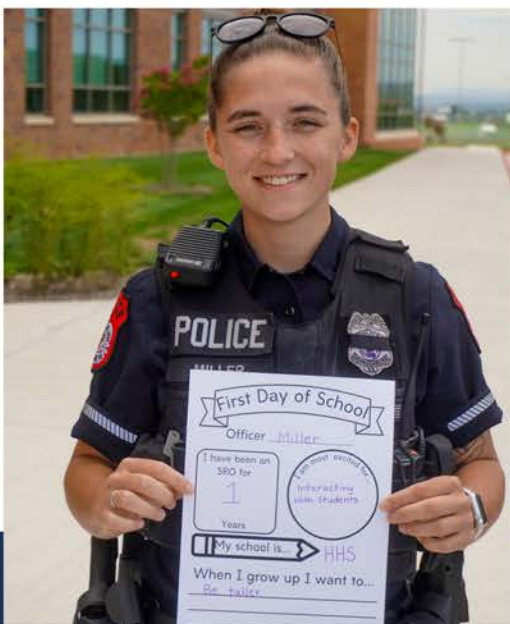
# School Resource Officers



In August, 2024 Officer Jordan Miller and Officer James Weaver started the school year as SROs, both successfully completing the Basic SRO Course hosted by DCJS. Officer Miller was assigned to Harrisonburg High School, working alongside Officer Terrell, and Officer James Weaver became the first-ever SRO at the newly established Rocktown High School—a milestone for the department. Officer Ronnie Bowers furthered his professional development by attending the NASRO Conference in Florida, gaining valuable insights into best practices for school safety and student engagement.



The SROs also built meaningful relationships with students through athletics. MPO Terrell and MPO Weaver coached football at their respective schools, while Officer Miller also dedicated time to coaching girls' basketball at Harrisonburg High School. These roles allowed officers to reinforce values such as teamwork, dedication, and accountability while strengthening trust between students and law enforcement. Their commitment extends beyond the school day, and in 2024, between athletic events, dances, and other extracurricular activities, they accumulated over 550 hours of after-school service.



# D.A.R.E



Officer Bechtel (Known to her students as Officer B!) is HPD's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Officer. D.A.R.E. is a national program taught in elementary schools that aims to help keep children away from drugs and build good decision-making skills. At the Turks Baseball "D.A.R.E. Night" game, fourth grader and D.A.R.E. graduate Maddox Abreu threw the first pitch.

**REBECCA BECHTEL  
(LEFT)**

D.A.R.E. Officer

Lessons taught

**23**

Students impacted

**332**

# VSLU



In 2024, the Victim Services Liaison Unit enhanced its outreach capabilities by forming a volunteer program. In total, volunteers logged 384 hours calling victims and working on follow-ups to ensure they have the resources they need following victimization. In addition to providing services to crime victims, Tina Abreu, Victim Services Coordinator, attended community events visited local elementary schools and after-school programs, and accompanied detectives to specific resource and recovery groups.

**TINA ABREU**

Victim Services Liaison Unit  
Coordinator

Victim Contacts

**1,335**

Volunteer Hours

**384**



# K-9 Unit

HPD has three police K9s: Zeus, Riggs, and Kyro.

The K9s and their handlers completed over 900 hours of training in 2024. Zeus, the newest member of the team and the Department's first Dutch shepherd, completed his training at Shallow Creek Kennels in Pa. and was certified by the Virginia Police Canine Association (VPCA). All three K9 teams attended Effective Engagement: Teaching Controlled Aggression. MPO Eric Hummel attended a K9 team training instructor course in Fort Peirce, FL. MPO Chandler Thomas attended K9 tactical team integration, and two handlers attended the HITS K-9 conference in New Orleans, LA.

### Flick and Kyro



### Hummel and Zeus



### Thomas and Riggs



### Deployment Stats

Deployments	<b>88</b>
Narcotic Seizures	<b>31</b>
Arrests	<b>15</b>

### Drug Seizures

Methamphetamine	<b>3.8 kg</b>
Heroin	<b>3 gm</b>
Cocaine	<b>4.2 gm</b>
Other	<b>48.2 gm</b>

### Other Seizures

Guns	<b>1</b>
Currency	<b>\$7,300</b>

# Animal Care & Control

Officer Geoff Bechtel and Officer Joey Lezotte are HPD's two Animal Control Officers. In early 2024, Officer Lezotte finished his field training and was released as a solo officer.

Notable case: HPD Patrol Officers received multiple calls from neighbors concerned about dogs not being taken care of properly. They alerted Animal Control, and Officer Bechtel responded to the home. Upon arrival, Officer Bechtel found a family of dogs including a Mom, Dad, and five puppies who were being neglected. In conjunction with patrol, the home was deemed unfit for both humans and animals. All seven dogs were taken to the SPCA and have since been adopted.

*ACO Lezotte*



*Officer Bechtel*



→ Total Animal Complaints	<b>1,261</b>
→ Complaints handled by ACO	<b>832 (65%)</b>

# Honor Guard

The Harrisonburg Police Department Honor Guard was formed in 1990 and is a part-time unit comprised of sworn officers from within the department. The Honor Guard stands as a symbol of respect, tradition, and unwavering commitment to duty. The team's priority is to honor and pay respects to fallen officers and their families. This is accomplished through each member's personal discipline, precision, and deep sense of reverence. In the face of tragedy, the Honor Guard stands as a pillar of strength, symbolizing the unbreakable bond within the law enforcement community.

Members of the Honor Guard attend services across Virginia and neighboring states. The Honor Guard also represents HPD at many ceremonies that require the national and state flags to be presented. This includes departmental swearing-in ceremonies, parades, promotions, sporting events, and others deemed appropriate. The Honor Guard Team has worked to strengthen its relationships with surrounding Honor Guard Teams, extending training to include the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, the surrounding towns, and the Rockingham County Fire and Rescue personnel.

The Honor Guard Team debuted its new Ford Transit vehicle, pictured below right, which will be used for team travel to events. This was a collaboration with Steven Toyota, who donated a team to help design the wrap, and Alliance Vehicle Solutions (AVS), who facilitated the donations of lights and sirens and donated the installation labor for the equipment.



## Fallen Officer Statistics

Virginia, 2024

**4**

National, 2024 preliminary numbers

**147**

Gunfire: 52  
Traffic: 46  
Medical Events: 35





CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**POLICE**  
DEPARTMENT

## **OUR MISSION**

The Harrisonburg Police Department will partner with our community to reduce crime, solve problems and improve quality of life.

## **OUR VISION**

An unwavering commitment to community safety and security through selfless acts of service.

## **OUR VALUES**

### **HONOR**

We are honorable because it is the foundation on which all other values depend.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

We are accountable in word and deed because our actions have a direct effect on the community we serve.

### **DEDICATION**

We are dedicated to delivering the highest quality service because we are committed to earning the trust and respect of our community.

### **INTEGRITY**

We act with integrity because it is the cornerstone on which the trust of our community is built.

### **PROFESSIONALISM**

We are a professional organization because we are committed to providing the highest level of service and safety.

# Credits

## Photography:

Juliana McGrath  
Rebecca Bechtel  
Scott Sellers

## Design and Editing

Juliana McGrath  
CeCe Dodd

## *Oath of Honor*

*On my honor,  
I will never betray my badge,  
My integrity, my character,  
Or the public's trust.*

*I will always have the courage  
To hold myself and others  
Accountable for our actions.*

*I will always uphold the Constitution,  
The community,  
And the agency I serve.  
So help me God.*

# Agency Details



Since 1872

## Address

101 N. Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

## tip411

Text "HPDVA" to 847411

## Contact

540-434-4436 Non-Emergency Communications  
540-437-2600 Phone Directory  
[www.harrisonburgva.gov/police](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/police)  
Facebook HarrisonburgPoliceDepartment  
Instagram @HarrisonburgPD  
YouTube @HarrisonburgPD  
LinkedIn: Harrisonburg, VA Police Department

## Employees

HPD employs up to 114 full-time, 4 part-time sworn police officers, 22 full-time and 13 part-time civilian employees.





