



2024 ANNUAL REPORT





City Manager Monte Falls



City Council

- Mayor John Cotugno
- Vice Mayor Linda Moore
- Councilmember Tracey Zudans
- Councilmember John Carroll
- Councilmember Taylor Dingle

Special thanks to our 2024 sponsors:

- Strunk Funeral Home
- Walmart Neighborhood Market
- Publix
- Riverside Cafe
- Waldo's Restaurant
- Law Office of Murphy & Walker
- Costa D'Este Resort
- Vero Beach Hotel & Spa
- VB Foundation

VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Directory

David E. Currey

Chief

The Vero Beach Police Department's 2024 Annual Report and Statement was designed and produced by the Professional Standards Division.

Editor

Officer Kelsea Marty

Photographers

CSI Mike Gasbarrini

CSI Robert Skoglund

Communications Center

Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Non-Emergency (772) 978-4600

Office of the Chief of Police

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(772) 978-4609

Recruitment Division

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Human Resources

1053 20th Place, Vero Beach, FL

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For information: info@vbpd.org

VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT



Annual Report

2024

Vero Beach Police Department

1055 - 20th STREET
VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960-6441
Telephone (772) 978-4610
Fax (772) 978-4691

Office Of The
CHIEF OF POLICE




Dear City Manager Falls, Mayor Cotugno, City Council Members, and Citizens of Vero Beach:

As your Chief of Police, it is my honor to lead the dedicated men and women of the Vero Beach Police Department. We are committed to providing a professional police service which promotes a sense of safety and high quality of life for all who reside, work, and visit our beautiful community!

The following is a Public Safety review from 2024:

- ✓ Three (3) Police Officers were hired in 2024.
- ✓ One (1) Police Officer (Detective Lee Evans), and One (1) Civilian (Communications Officer Kari Ryan) retired in 2024.
- ✓ We continued to offer free gun safety classes at our firearms facility for community members.
- ✓ Our Foundation continues to grow through community outreach and partnerships!
- ✓ The following employees reached workplace milestones in 2024:
 - Officer/PIO Kelsea Callahan 5 years
 - Communications Officer Kari Ryan 30 years
 - Animal Control Officer Scott Lee 15 years
 - Corporal Jennifer Brumley 10 years
 - Systems Administrator Jon White 10 years
 - Corporal Oscar Dominguez 30 years
 - Detective Lee Evans 25 years
 - Sergeant Chris Cox 25 years
 - School Resource Officer Jeremiah Willis 10 years
- ✓ In January, Michael Guadiani was arrested for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon for a stabbing incident that took place at Grind & Grape on New Years Eve.
- ✓ In January & March, Officer's Rich Chimenti & Jeff Otis became the first Community Partnership Unit (CPU) Officers.
- ✓ In March, we hosted Public Safety Day for the Indian River County Leadership Program.
- ✓ Another successful Vero Beach Air Show took place in May.
- ✓ Sergeant Sean Toole graduated from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Leadership Academy in August.
- ✓ Sedrick Upton was arrested in October for committing an armed robbery at Mulligans Beach House in August.
- ✓ Hurricane Milton, along with three (3) tornadoes made land fall in our city in early October.
- ✓ Christmas parade, Meals on Wheels, Shop with a Cop, Coffee with a Cop, DEA Drug Take Back, Back to School fill a bus, Salvation Army Holiday Red Kettle (we won the Public Safety Challenge), and the Special Olympic Law Enforcement Torch Run were some of the events we participated in during 2024.
- ✓ VBPD had 39,420 calls for service and 617 (23 juveniles) total arrests in 2024.
- ✓ K-9 Officer James Doty and Systems Administrator Jon White were voted VBPD Employees of the Year for 2024.

Sincerely,


David E. Currey
Chief of Police



COMMAND STAFF



Chief David Currey



Deputy Chief Matt Monaco



Lt. Daniel Cook



Lt. Matt Harrelson



Lt. Chris Roberts



Lt. Phil Huddy



Lt. Brian Kerensky

SUPERVISORY STAFF



Sgt. Brian Hesse



Sgt. Chris Cox



Sgt. Frank Adamski



Sgt. Brad Kmetz



Sgt. Megan DeWitt



Sgt. Dennis DeAcetis



Sgt. Sean Toole



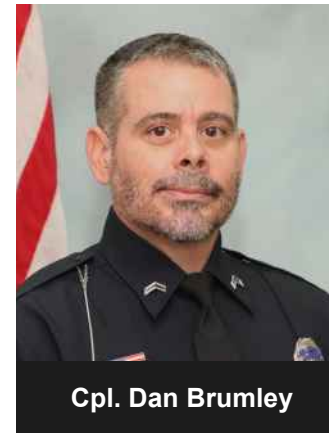
Cpl. Jennifer Brumley



Cpl. Oscar Dominguez



Cpl. Gregory Plumb



Cpl. Dan Brumley

2024 VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

SWORN OFFICERS

Chief David E. Currey
Deputy Chief Matt Monaco
Lieutenant Daniel Cook
Lieutenant Matthew Harrelson
Lieutenant Phil Huddy
Lieutenant Brian Kerensky
Lieutenant Chris Roberts
Sergeant Frank Adamski
Sergeant Chris Cox
Sergeant Brian Hesse
Sergeant Megan DeWitt
Sergeant Brad Kmetz
Sergeant Dennis DeAcetis
Sergeant Sean Toole
Corporal Gregory Plumb
Corporal Jennifer Brumley
Corporal Oscar Dominguez
Corporal Dan Brumley
Detective Greg Matakaetis
Detective Giovanni Fonseca
Detective Sean Crowley
Detective Mike Gasbarrini
Detective Robert Skoglund
Detective Eduardo Somoza
Detective Russell Lachowicz
K-9 Officer Chayse Hatfield
K-9 Officer James Doty
Public Info. Officer Kelsea Marty
Traffic Officer David Farquharson
Traffic Officer John Scroggin
Officer Rodrigo Aguilar
Officer Richard Chimenti
Officer Austin Amburgey
Officer Kassandra Ayala
Officer Ethan Bannister
Officer Haley Hogue
Officer Brian Green
Officer Jason Jones
Officer Kyle Kuehn
Officer Arturo Luna
Officer Ivan Covarrubias
Officer Camilla Defriese-Romero
Officer Jesse Maslan
Officer Ali Gonzalez
Officer Matthew Gonzalez
Officer Sebastian Gonzalez
Officer Morgan Saucier
Officer Soledad Hernandez
Officer Mark Vandhuynslager
Officer David Wells
Officer Paul Wickert
Officer Jeremiah Willis
Officer Wyatt Brumley

CIVILIAN STAFF

Communications Division

Communications Supervisor IV: **Kari Ryan**
Senior Communications Officer II: **David Schrier**
Senior Communications Officer II: **Jack Dube**
Call Taker II: Brandy Hall
Call Taker II: Alison Stewart
Call Taker: Tonigaye McCleon
Call Taker: Kendra Hockaday
Call Taker: Nicole Thomas
Call Taker: Brittany Valencia

Parking Enforcement

John Makolin

Animal Control

Scott Lee

Fiscal Specialist

Frances Hall

Records Division

Maria Rodriguez
Jennifer Delarosa
Rosie Lake

Information Systems

Jon White

Code Enforcement Unit

Melody Sanderson
Jamila McGee

Evidence Tech. Terri Dillon

Secretarial Staff

Julie Poteat, Sr. Executive Sec.



PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is commanded by the Captain and is the largest division in the police department. It consists of the uniform patrol division and traffic/motor, K-9, CRT, animal control, and parking enforcement units. Members of the Division are also responsible for field training operations.

A staff of two lieutenants and four sergeants provides additional command and leadership duties within the division. Staff members ensure personnel levels are maintained, daily operations are conducted, and special projects are completed. Projects include, but are not limited to directed patrols in response to specific crime problems, general patrols for overall crime deterrence, traffic watches for motor vehicle safety, and foot patrols for increased contact with the public.

TRAFFIC AND MOTORCYCLE UNIT

In 2024, the Vero Beach Police Department investigated 845 crashes, 176 of these crashes resulted in injury. The 176 injuries included 0 fatalities. 28 crashes involved pedestrians and 17 crashes involved bicyclists.

In 2023, the Vero Beach Police Department investigated 872 crashes, 176 of these crashes resulted in injury. The 176 injuries included 2 fatalities. 24 crashes involved pedestrians and 14 crashes involved bicyclists.

In 2022, the Vero Beach Police Department investigated 828 traffic crashes. 169 of these crashes resulted in injury. The 169 injuries included 4 fatalities. 20 crashes involved pedestrians and sixteen crashes involved bicyclists.

Traffic crashes occurring on roadways = 620

Traffic crashes occurring in parking lots = 210

Traffic crashes occurring Monday - Friday between 6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. = 575

Traffic crashes occurring Monday - Friday between 6:00 p.m. & 6:00 a.m. = 107

UNIFORM PATROL

The Uniform Patrol Division contains four patrol shifts that work in twelve-hour shifts. Alpha (day) shifts 1 and 2 work 6am to 6pm and the Bravo (night) shifts 1 and 2 work 6pm to 6am.

There is a Sergeant and Corporal supervising each shift. Members of the uniform division patrol geographic zones to prevent and detect crime and respond to, or initiate calls for service. They conduct preliminary and follow up investigations, enforce traffic laws, and make arrests as necessary to protect and serve the citizens of this community. In 2024, the Uniform Patrol Division answered 39,357 calls for service, ranging in nature from traffic crashes to burglaries and domestic disturbances. During these responses, some met the criteria for arrest totaling 452 misdemeanor arrests, 394 felony arrests and 18 DUI arrests.



INVESTIGATIONS



VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

TO: All Media
FROM: Chief David E. Currey
SUBJECT: Narcotics Arrest (VBPD Case #2024-1947)
DATE: 10/25/24

On 09/13/2024 at 1:21 pm, Vero Beach Police Officers responded to the 1400 block of 20th Ave in reference to a disturbance between a male and female subject. Officers made contact with a black male, Omarion Hodges, and a black female, Paris Render, who were involved in a disturbance over a cellphone. Officers separated Hodges and Render and Hodges was detained until additional officers arrived on scene. During this time, Paris Render walked back to her vehicle, which was in close proximity, and waited to make contact with additional officers. Patrol officers began to investigate the disturbance between Hodges and Render. Vero Beach Police Department Officers arrested and charged Hodges with possession of drug paraphernalia after a digital scale with illegal drug residue was located in Hodges front pants pocket. Paris Render was released on scene by investigators.

During the course of the initial investigation, Vero Beach Police Department detectives with the Special Investigations Unit arrived on scene and conducted further investigation into additional narcotics located on scene. Vero Beach Police Department investigators seized 135.1 gram of marijuana, forty seven (47) oxycodone pills, a digital scale, and \$25,949.96 in US currency.

Over the next several weeks, investigators discovered additional surveillance video of Paris Render striking Omarion Hodges while he was walking in the roadway with her vehicle on 14th Place just west of 20th ave, which, occurred just prior to the initial officers arriving on scene. After an extensive review of the evidence, including officer's bodycam, surveillance cameras in the area, fingerprint analysis, and interviews, investigators were able to obtain arrest warrants for Omarion Hodges and Paris Render.



INVESTIGATIONS

Omarion Hodges was arrested by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office on 10/22/24.

Omarion Hodges faces the following criminal charges:

1. Trafficking Oxycodone- Bond \$150,000
2. Obstructing Justice/ Tampering with Evidence- Bond \$10,000
3. Possession of Marijuana over 20 grams- Bond \$7,500



Omarion Hodges
DOB: 09/19/2004

Paris Render was arrested by the Ft. Pierce Police Department on 10/24/24.

Paris Render faces the following charges:

1. Trafficking Oxycodone- Bond \$150,000
2. Obstructing Justice/ Tampering with Evidence- Bond \$10,000
3. Possession of Marijuana over 20 grams- Bond \$7,500
4. Aggravated Battery- Bond \$50,000



Paris Render
DOB: 10/11/2004



CRITICAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Critical Response Team (C.R.T.) currently consists of nine members who receive advanced training in the use of special weapons and tactics. New members must complete an approved S.W.A.T. Basic Operators Course. C.R.T. members receive additional training in defensive tactics, firearms proficiency, less-lethal weapons, rappelling, hostage rescue, and building searches. The C.R.T. can be activated to respond to barricaded suspects, hostage situations, threatened suicide incidents, active shooters in buildings, sniper incidents, special investigations, service of warrants, and protection of V.I.P.'s.



RECRUITMENT

The Recruiting Division routinely interacts with police academies, on-line employment services, state and local law enforcement agencies, state testing sites and colleges both locally and throughout the state, to obtain the best possible qualified applicants. All applicants that qualify and meet our hiring pre-requisites are required to successfully pass a five-member oral review board, polygraph, physical and psychological assessment as well as a thorough and meticulous background investigation. The Vero Beach Police Department hires Florida State certified police officers. From January through December 2024, 3 individuals were hired to fill patrol officer vacancies. This supports the departments' roster of 61 sworn officers.



K-9 UNIT

The Vero Beach Police Department Canine Program has been in existence since 1989. The Canine Unit is comprised of two Canine Teams. The canines are German Shepherds imported from Europe. Prior to working as a K-9 team the canine and handler must complete an extensive school lasting 10-12 weeks. In school the team learns to work together and trust each other. Both must pass several tests to become certified and able to work in the community. The K-9 teams train weekly and obtain State certification annually. The K9 teams may also certify at least once a year regionally and nationally in the areas of Patrol and Detector Dog for the United States Police Canine Association.

The Canine Unit is a valuable resource to all the officers in the field because of their ability to search buildings and track areas more effectively for persons suspected of committing a crime. The canine is trained to use his keen sense of smell to detect narcotics in vehicles and buildings. In addition to their normal duties the Canine Unit performs demonstrations for schools and community groups around the county.

TRAINING

The Training Division establishes regular in-service training to all sworn officers based on the training requirements and standards of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (F.D.L.E.). Classes include, active shooter, firearms, blood borne pathogens, vehicle operations, discriminatory pro-filing, handling the mentally ill and tactical patrol procedures to name a few. All courses of instruction range from high liability to general criminal justice issues, as well as current topics instructed by other agencies and criminal justice professionals. This division also assists department personnel with locating, registering, and attending career development, incentive and college degree courses. The majority of our officers are in the process of, or have completed their Associate, Bachelor and/or Masters Degree programs.

Some Vero Beach police officer's serve as instructors at Indian River State College (I.R.S.C.) Criminal Justice Center; instructing both Basic Recruit classes, advanced and career development courses and academic classes for degree seeking students.

FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM

Due to the complexities of modern policing, when the Vero Beach Police Department hires a new sworn officer after a very selective hiring process; he or she is assigned to a Corporal or Senior Officer for several months of on the job training. Field Training Officers must go through specialized training and a selection process.

The primary responsibility of a Field Training Officer (FTO) is to make every effort to ensure the new officer completes the FTO program and is qualified to work as a solo police officer.

SPECIAL EVENTS



From January through December 2024, police officers worked a total of 8,116 hours of pre-arranged overtime. Throughout the calendar year the department handled numerous special events to include sporting, dignitary protection, airport flight security, cultural, seasonal and private overtime assignments, such as the Sunset Saturdays and Downtown Friday Street Parties and musical events; utilizing the officers' training and expertise to provide a fun, safe environment.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Social Media

The Vero Beach Police Department regularly transmits crime prevention information, crime alerts and police department related information via social media. The following social media sites are utilized by the Vero Beach Police Department: Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, Media-Alert, and VBPD website www.vbpd.org.

In addition, the Vero Beach Police Department maintains an e-mail list of city residents involved in the Neighborhood Watch program and transmits regular Neighborhood Crime Alerts to the residents participating in the program.

The Community Services Division provides training in home security, personal safety, active shooter training, bank robbery awareness, scams, con games, and other crime prevention and awareness topics. This endeavor is furthered by a partnership with service clubs, Neighborhood Watch groups, and special presentations for senior citizens, schools, and churches. Community Services represents the department in many other organizations in the community, to include the Boys and Girls Club of Indian River County, United Way of Indian River County, Rotary Club, and The Samaritan Center.

The Community Services Unit also has 3 Crime Watch Groups: Central Beach, Fairlane Harbor and Carolina Trace Neighborhoods with Crime Prevention.

R.A.D. Systems

R.A.D. Systems stands for Rape Aggression Defense System. R.A.D. Systems is not associated with R.A.D. Kids.

R.A.D. Systems is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. The R.A.D. Systems program is a comprehensive, women only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training.

R.A.D. Systems is a nationally taught program with over 7000 certified instructors. Since the program began in 1989 over 300,000 women have been trained.

R.A.D. Systems is the only existing program of its kind that is free and offers a lifetime return and practice policy.

The Vero Beach Police Department hosts two R.A.D. Systems classes per year. Each class lasts for five days, two hours each day.



FREE Gun Safety Classes

In January 2024, we proudly launched our free gun safety classes for the public, a significant initiative aimed at promoting responsible firearm ownership and safety within our community. These classes are held at our VBPD gun range, providing participants with a safe and controlled environment to learn. Led by our highly qualified and trained firearm instructors, the courses cover essential safety protocols, handling techniques, and responsible usage, ensuring that all attendees gain valuable knowledge and skills.



Accreditation

An accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that an entity has met specific requirements and prescribed standards.

The Vero Beach Police Department has been accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFLA) since February of 2002. The initial accreditation is valid for three years and we have completed the reaccreditation process in 2005, 2008, 2011, and 2014., 2017, 2020 and 2023. The next accreditation year will be 2026.

NEW UNITS

In late 2023, we received exciting news: our department was approved for the addition of four new officers. This expansion allowed us to enhance our capabilities and better serve our community. With the addition of these officers, we welcomed two Community Policing Unit (CPU) officers, one marine officer, and one airport officer. In 2024, these new positions were set to officially commence their roles, marking a significant step forward in our commitment to public safety and community engagement.



COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Communications Section is under the direction of the Professional Standards Lieutenant. The dispatch center serves as the focal point for information coordination between various operational units of police department and citizens. One supervisor and nine communications officers provide 24-hour dispatch coverage for the City of Vero Beach. Dispatchers are responsible for answering incoming telephone calls, dispatching police units where needed, receiving, relaying, and recording information to and from field units and contacting other resources which may be needed to provide service. Vero Beach operates one of three enhanced 9-1-1 communications facilities within Indian River County. In 2024, the center received 39,357 calls for service complaints.

Records Management and Purchasing

The Records Management section consists of an Administrative Assistant and a Clerical Specialist. Traffic citations, crime reports, and crash investigations are among the many items archived and processed by the records section personnel. These documents are correlated and disseminated to various agencies and divisions throughout the department, county, state, and country.

The Vero Beach Police Department's Fiscal Specialist is responsible for all accounts payable and for obtaining and distributing equipment and supplies.



Information Technology

The Information Technology section consists of a Systems Administrator. The department's dispatch and records management are computerized, which requires specific skills and certifications from the State to be able to handle the private data that flows through a Law Enforcement Agency. In addition to the data, keeping all of the officers connected while on the road is another large responsibility. The Systems Administrator addresses everyday computer issues that the 76-person department encounters 24/7. Information Technology sections is also responsible for maintaining the department's security in regards to on-line social media presence.

RETIREMENTS



Detective Lee Evans



Kari Ryan

Employees of the Quarter 2024

Jan-March Rosie Lake

April-June Jen DelaRosa

July-Sept Jon White

Oct-Dec Maria Rodriguez

Officers of the Quarter 2024

Jan-March Jesse Maslan

April-June Sebastain Gonzalez

July-Sept Rich Chimenti

Oct-Dec James Doty

Employee of the Year 2024



Jon White

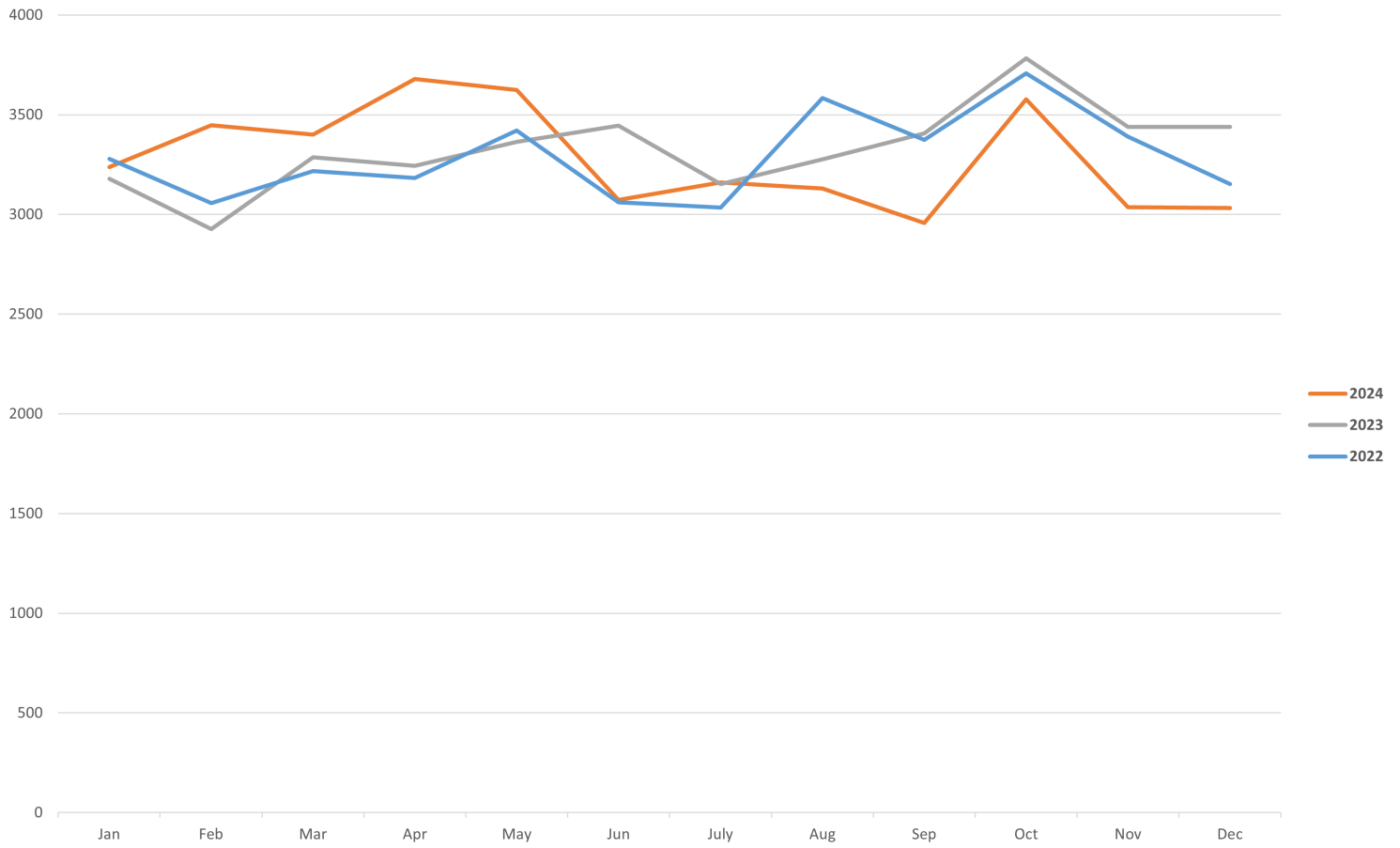
Officer of the Year 2024



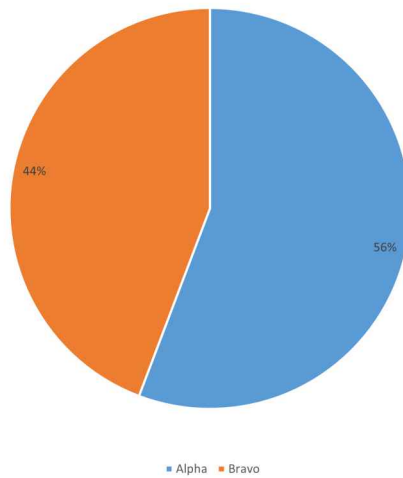
Ofc. James Doty

STATISTICS

Calls for Service Per Month - 2024

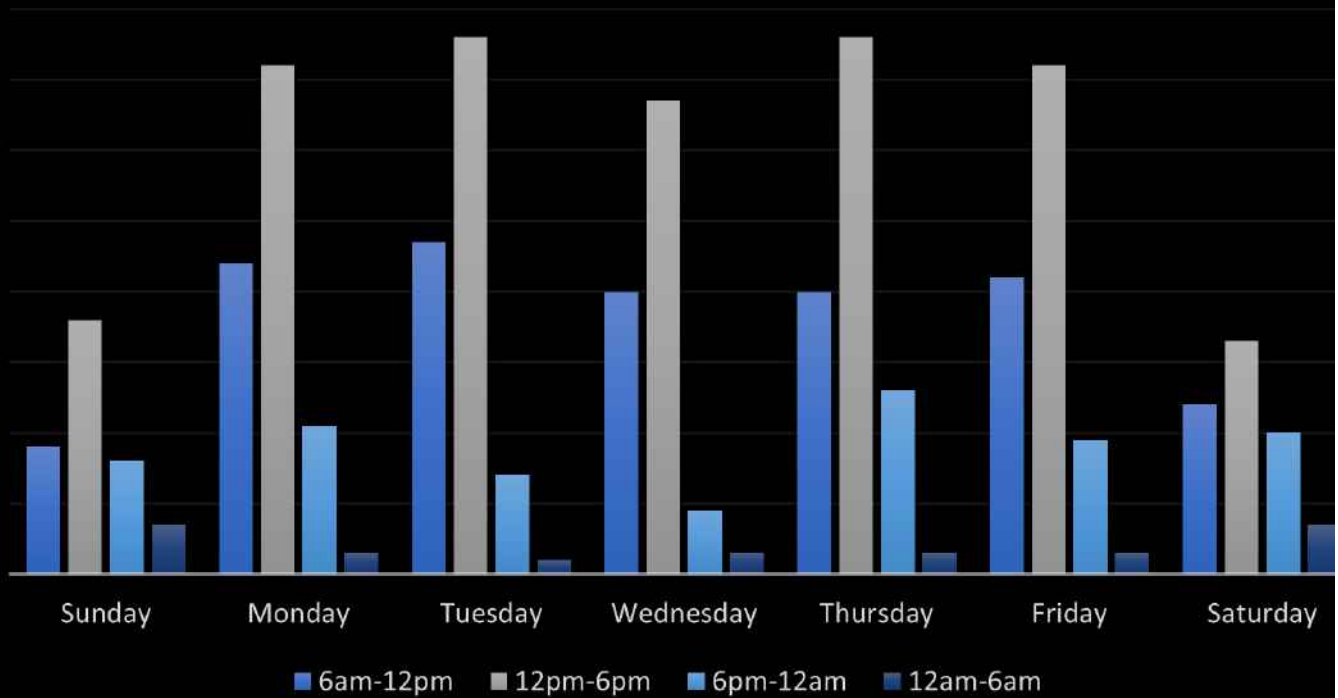


Calls for Service by Shift - 2024

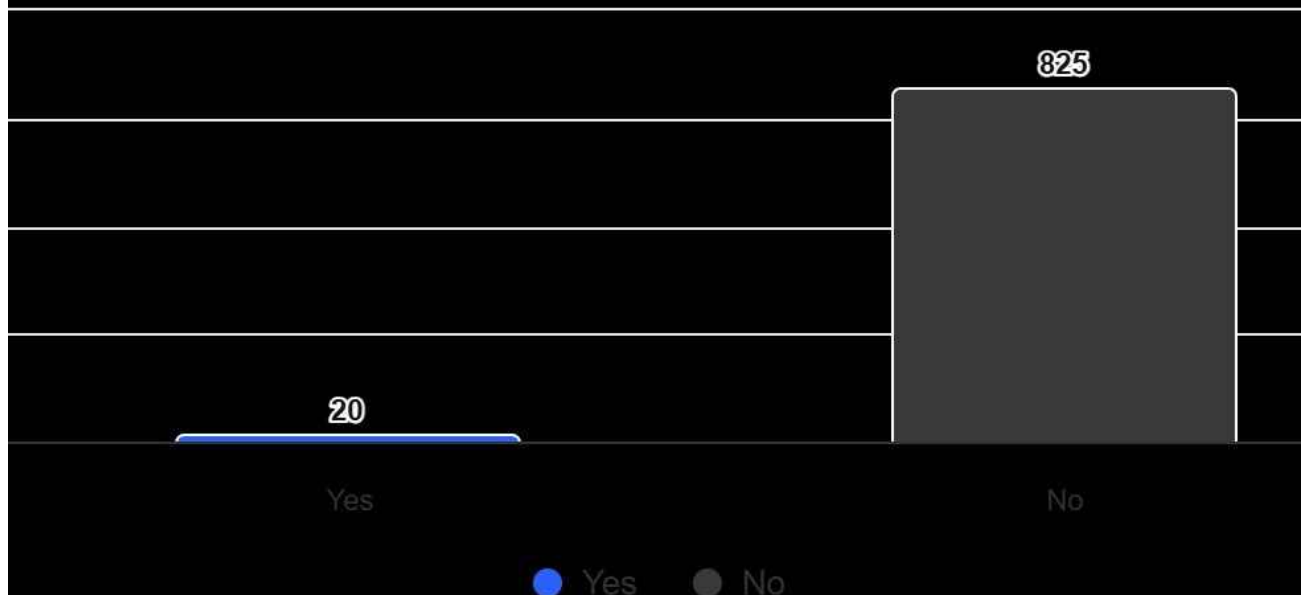


STATISTICS

2024 Crashes by Day and Time



Alcohol Related Crashes



STATISTICS

Crash Severity

