

SARASOTA PD

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

CHIEF JAMES RIESER





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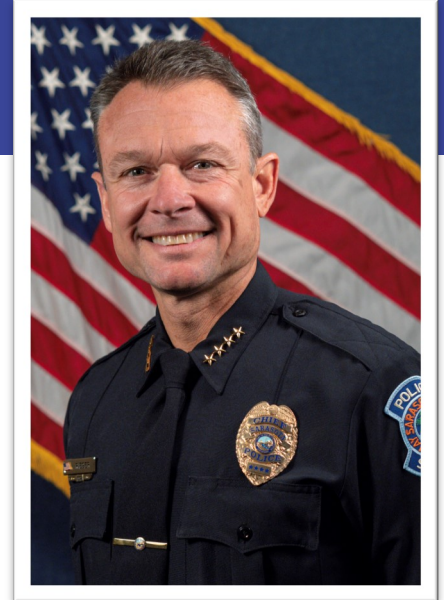
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Chief James Rieser

James.Rieser@SarasotaFL.gov



**Chief of Police
James Rieser**

On behalf of the dedicated members of the Sarasota Police Department, it gives me great pleasure to present our 2020 Annual Report which provides a summary of our work and highlights our accomplishments for the year.

As the new Chief of Police, I am honored and privileged to have the incredible opportunity to lead this amazing and dedicated group of sworn officers and civilian support staff. I continue to be impressed by their professionalism and compassion; it is clear they are deeply committed to serving the residents and businesses of our community.

2020 was an unprecedented year in law enforcement. Our community and the nation faced unique challenges this past year, from the worldwide health crisis of Covid-19 to the tragic death of George Floyd which sparked numerous national and local protests. Our department confronted these challenges and despite the difficult circumstances, they continued to respond to calls for service and provide critical services for our residents and community.

Looking ahead, I will ensure our department is well positioned to innovate and meet the needs of our growing community through technology and continued community policing efforts. One new form of technology we will be adopting and rolling out later this year is a Body Worn Camera (BWC) program. I am excited about the implementation of the program and very proud of our staff for their hard work and effort to bring it to fruition. The BWC program will enhance the department's commitment to transparency and further strengthen the trust between our officers and the community they serve. Adoption of this program will also meet one of our strategic goals.

While this annual report cannot document everything that our department accomplishes during the year, I am confident it will provide you a representative sample of our interaction with the community and our dedication and commitment to addressing crime, safety, and livability in the City of Sarasota.

Please feel free to contact our department if you have any questions. I encourage you to visit our website and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Next Door) to learn more about our programs.

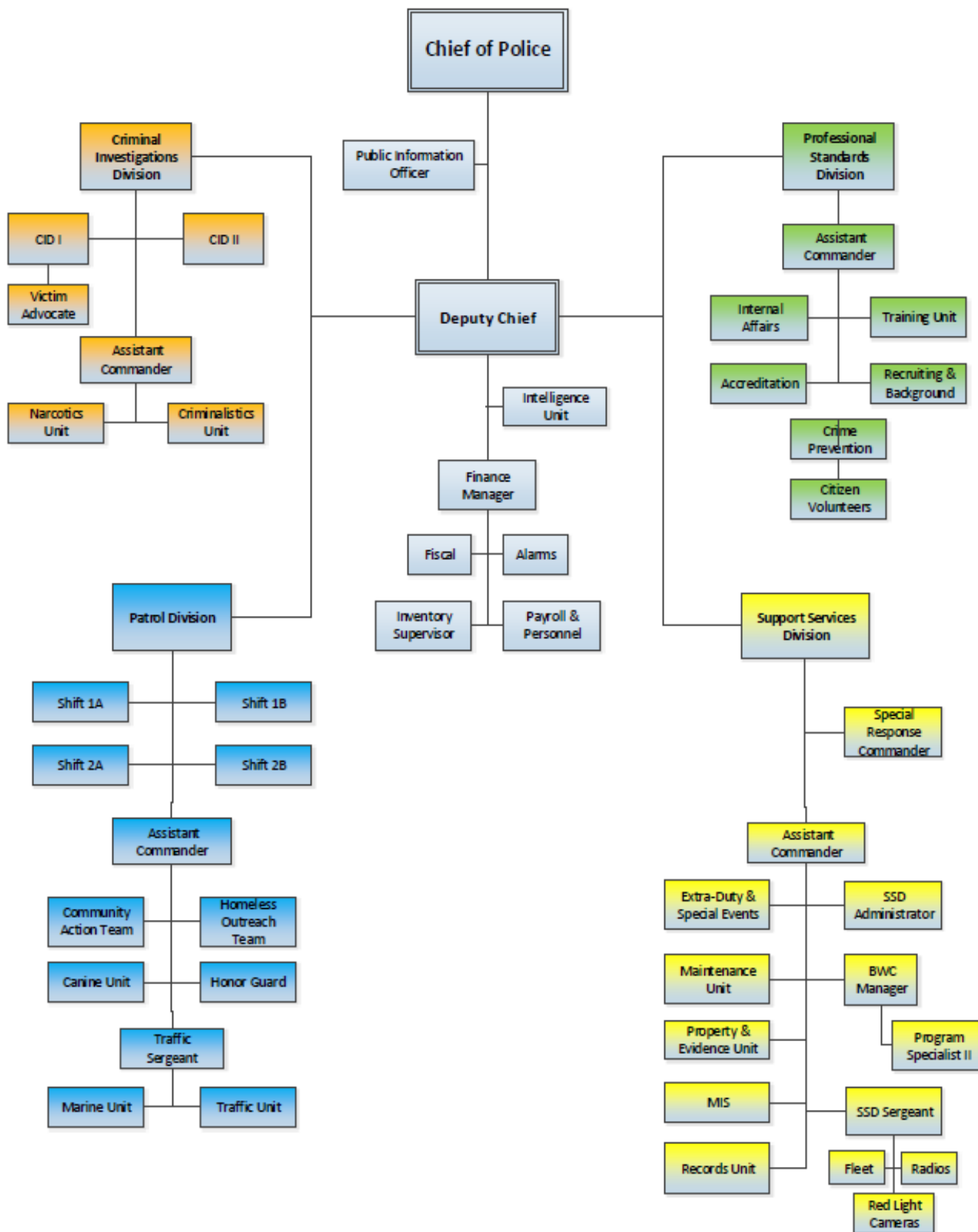
Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Rieser".

Chief James Rieser



TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



Command Staff



Captain Scott Mayforth
Patrol Division



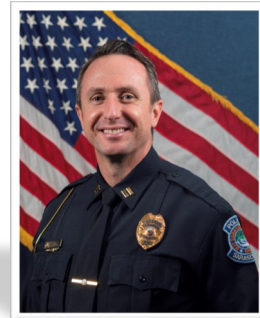
Rex Troche
Deputy Chief of Police



Captain Johnathan Todd
Criminal Investigations Division



Captain Demetri Konstantopoulos
Support Services Division



Captain Kenneth Rainey II
Professional Standards Division

By the Numbers

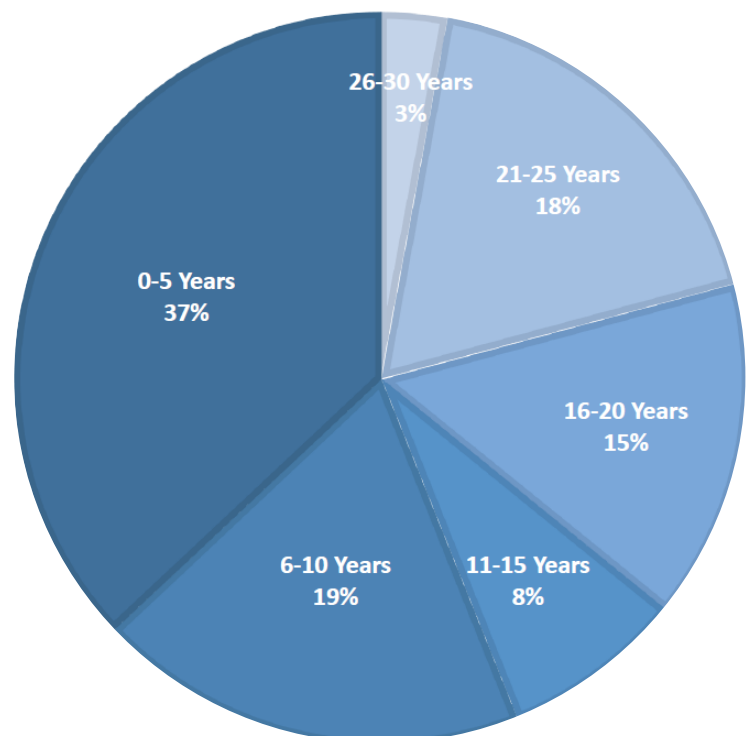
Budgeted: 179 Officers

1 Chief of Police
1 Deputy Chief
4 Captains
9 Lieutenants
23 Sergeants
141 Officers/Detectives

The Sarasota Police Department
is proud to employ:

49 Military Veterans
9 Active Military Reserves

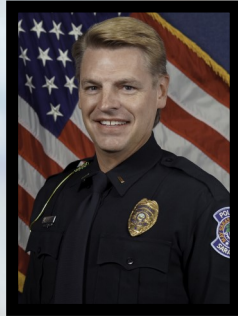
SWORN PERSONNEL YEARS OF SERVICE



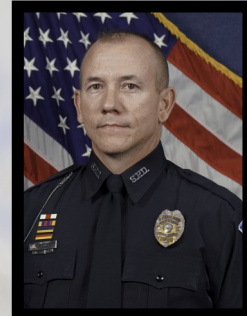


Promotions

The Sarasota Police Department was proud to promote the following Officers in 2020.



Lieutenant
Jamie Adams



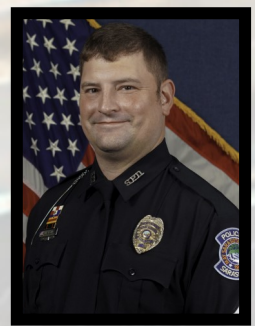
Sergeant
Louis Buck



Sergeant
Travis Forrister



Sergeant
Gary McDowell



Sergeant
Jonathan Misiewicz



Sergeant
Robert Morrison



Sergeant
Luis Paris

A special *Thank You* to our Officers who served our country
in an extended military deployment in 2020:

*Sergeant Louis Buck
Officer Luis Colon
Detective Juan Sanchez*

*Officer Jeffrey Shapiro
Detective Jessica Sullivan
Officer Maiah Taylor*



Awards and Medals

The Sarasota Police Department is very proud of all of our employees. Individuals and units are recognized for outstanding service within the department and our community.

SUPERVISORS OF THE YEAR



Sergeant Anthony Frangioni
Traffic Unit



Sergeant Daniel Weinsberg
Training Unit

CITIZEN'S CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

John Baugh
Estevan Robles
Ash'shfi Sabur
Kathy Sun

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Lieutenant Robert Armstrong

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Sergeant Anthony Frangioni
Officer Paul Gagnon
Officer Jacob Nelson
K9 Bronson

CIVILIANS OF THE YEAR



Maintenance Unit

Paul Shumway, Manager
Liliane Pierre
Terry Ruthruff
Omar Ortiz (not pictured)
George Zumstag (not pictured)

LIFE SAVING MEDAL

Sergeant Jeffrey Ball
Officer Julia Beskin
Officer Helios Blanco
Officer Louis Buck
Officer Kevin Campbell
Officer Ronald Dixon
Officer Nicholas Dominis
Officer Jason Frank
Officer Paul Gagnon
Officer Sean Gleason
Officer Daniel Griesdorn
Officer Grant Hudgins
Officer Jared Lawhead
Officer Anthony Misiti
Officer Jaime Morrison
Officer David Roberts (2)
Officer Tyler Rossnagle
Officer Garrett Shaffer
Officer Jeffrey Shapiro
Officer Michael Skinner
Officer Cody Stanaland (2)
Officer Alfonso Varlaro
Officer Brandon Vermillion

OFFICERS OF THE YEAR



Officer Matthew Grochowski



Officer David Roberts

UNIT CITATION

Traffic Unit

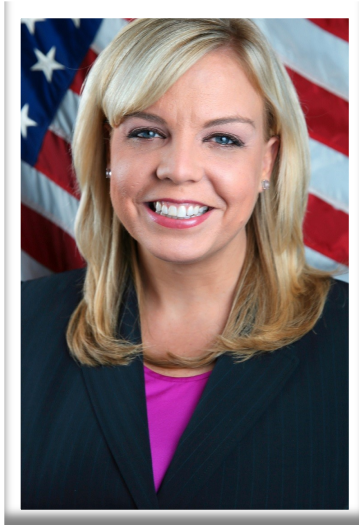
UNIT COMMENDATION

Street Crimes Unit
Patrol Shift 2A North
Intelligence Unit
Emergency Response Team
SWAT Team
Explosive Materials Unit
Crime Prevention Unit
Community Action Team (2)
Traffic/Marine Unit
Homeless Outreach Team
Criminal Investigations
Emergency Management
Patrol Shift 1B
Property and Evidence Unit



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

SARASOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT *Annual Report 2020*



Genevieve Judge

The Public Information Office / Media Relations of the Sarasota Police Department is led by the Sarasota Police Department Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO is responsible for internal and external communications for the Sarasota Police Department for City of Sarasota employees, residents, visitors, and numerous local, national, and international media outlets. The PIO serves as the agency photographer, videographer, social media manager and represents the agency at critical incident scenes, coordinating messaging with journalists to keep the community informed.

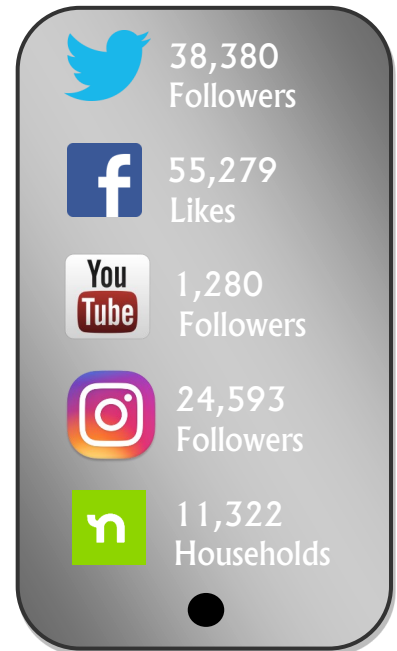
Genevieve Judge has served as the Public Information Officer since May 2013 and reports directly to Chief James Rieser. She develops programs to communicate strategic objectives and accomplishments of the men and women of the Sarasota Police Department. As the primary spokeswoman for the agency, Genevieve's duties include public and media relations, management of all social media accounts for the agency, and community relations while serving on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition, Genevieve serves as the PIO liaison for the Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center and the City of Sarasota Operations Center when activated.

In 2020, the PIO Office issued nearly 200 news releases, fielded numerous public record requests from journalists, and coordinated more than 150 interviews. Even among multiple peaceful protests and the Covid-19 pandemic happening nationwide, the PIO office continued with "Tweet from the Beat," a virtual ride-along tool our agency uses to continue our partnership policing philosophy. The PIO sends tweets in photo or video form via Twitter @SarasotaPD as Officers respond to calls throughout their shift.

Social media continues to be an intricate part of the communications partnership policing plan for the Sarasota Police Department. In 2020, for our agency reached **7.838-million** people through Facebook alone. Through Twitter, our agency had **4.909-million** Twitter impressions, or the number of times users saw a tweet, in large part to the "Tweet from the Beat" program.

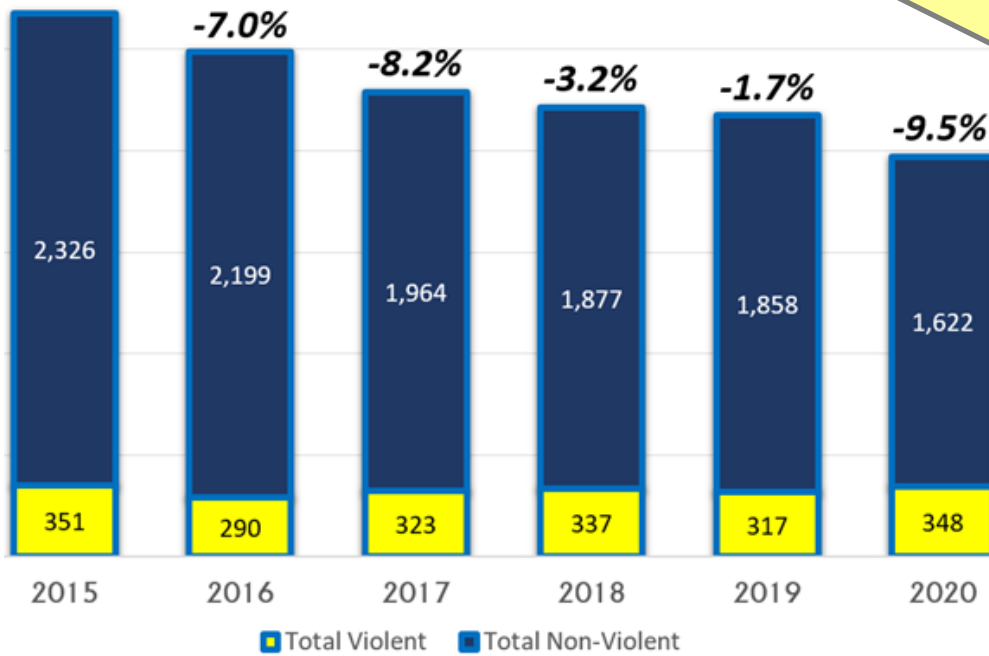
Genevieve continues to serve as a Representative at Large for the International Association of Chiefs of Police PIO Section and remained a member of the National Information Officers Association (NIOA) and Florida Law Enforcement Public Information Officers Association (FLEPIOA).

Genevieve works daily to strengthen partnerships and relationships between the Sarasota Police Department and community by providing direct and timely communications using all available media venues to include TV, radio, newspaper, online publications, magazines, online streaming as well as social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Nextdoor and Instagram.





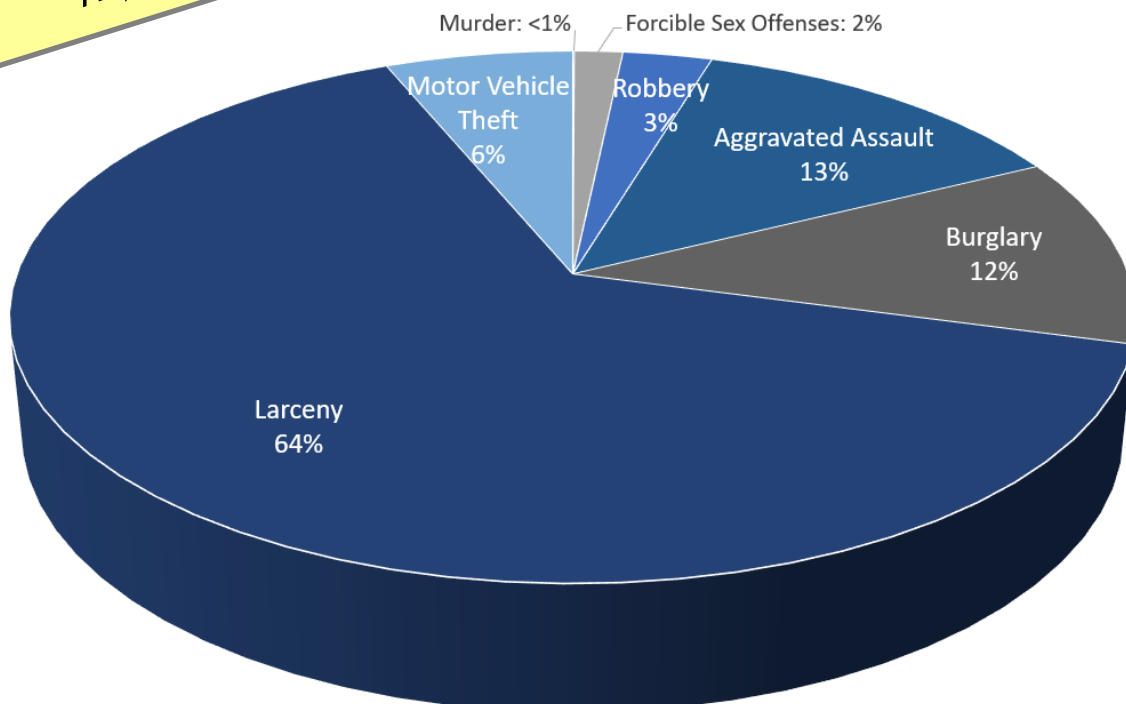
UCR STATISTICS 2015-2020 (Part 1 Offenses)



Want to see
crime mapping
for your neighborhood?
Log on to
www.sarasotapd.org

Total Calls
for Service in 2020:
72,675

BREAKDOWN PART 1 OFFENSES





PATROL DIVISION

SARASOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT *Annual Report 2020*

The Patrol Division is commanded by a Captain and one Assistant Commander who holds the rank of Lieutenant. The Captain oversees four rotating 12-hour shifts, each supervised by a Lieutenant. Sergeants and Officers are assigned to one of the ten zones within the City of Sarasota.

Of the 179 sworn law enforcement Officers, 118 are assigned to the Patrol Division. These dedicated men and women can be seen in uniform answering calls for service, patrolling the waterways, conducting outreach, enforcing traffic laws and working hard to improve the quality of life for the citizens, business owners, and visitors.



The Patrol Division oversees Specialty Units such as Traffic Investigations, Marine Patrol, K-9, Homeless Outreach Team, Crime Prevention, and the Community Action Team (CAT). In 2020, this Division also oversaw the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), Emergency Response Team, Crisis Negotiation Unit, Explosive Materials Unit, Underwater Search and Rescue, and the Honor Guard.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic presented officers with unprecedented challenges that required the adaptation of new safety protocols and procedures to mitigate the spread of the virus in the community and within the Department. The Patrol Division swiftly enacted a campaign to educate residents and business owners about the Governor's Emergency Order, the Emergency Order of the City Manager, and the City's mask ordinance. Additionally, officers distributed masks city-wide with special attention given to the most vulnerable to include our homeless.

In the middle of the pandemic, the Patrol Division was challenged with 22 protests following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN. Through open dialogue with protest organizers, detailed operational planning, thoughtful application, and with the ultimate professionalism from our officers, no vandalism or injuries were reported.

The community outreach program spearheaded by the Patrol Division in 2020 was a partnership between the Sarasota Police Department, The Boys and Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, and the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation called the "5-0 Club." This 12-week program was designed to promote confidence, poise, integrity and character among young adults; to enhance members' understanding of civility, etiquette and respect; and to create a community bond between local law enforcement and the youth of our community.

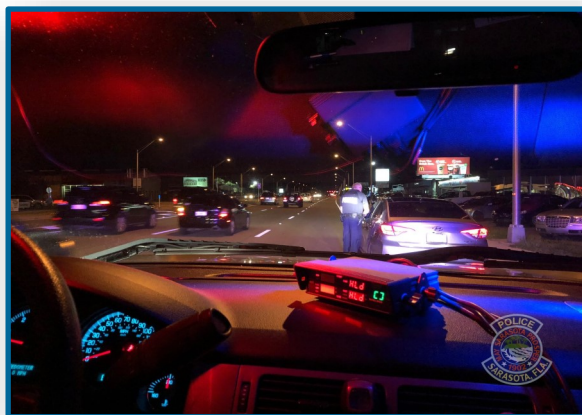




TRAFFIC UNIT

The Traffic Unit enforces traffic laws and analyzes data collected in high-traffic areas to improve traffic flow. The Officers work closely with City Engineering to improve signage, lighting and relining of roadways. They are also involved in regular meetings to provide input related to the City's future transportation plans.

In 2020, the Traffic Unit was able again to secure the High Visibility Enforcement Grant offered through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). This grant provides funds to educate citizens on bicycle and pedestrian safety. Due to the success of the Traffic Unit's



efforts, Officer Jason Frank was invited to continue to serve on the Florida Coalition for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety, which provides best practices for enforcement and opportunities for involvement in future FDOT projects. The Florida Coalition named the Sarasota Police Department's Traffic Unit as agency of the year for the 2019-2020 grant cycle. The award recognized the SPD Traffic Unit for the most educational and enforcement contacts of any agency involved with the High Visibility Enforcement program.

3,757: Citations Written

977: Warnings Issued

23: Traffic Call-Outs

8: Traffic Studies Completed

HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

The Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) interacts with the City's homeless population with the hopes of providing individuals with viable alternatives to homelessness. The team, consisting of one Sergeant, four officers, and two case managers, takes a three-pronged approach when serving the homeless community.

Educate: Officers educate individuals about Sarasota City Code and local services available to them. The team attempts to link individuals to resources in the community.

Encouragement: Officers encourage individuals to engage with the case managers and local service providers. Individuals may be offered one of 25 City H.O.T. beds at the Salvation Army of Sarasota, which are utilized for those working with a case manager until they find housing.

Enforcement: If they are involved in criminal activity after educating and encouraging, officers proceed to enforcement, which may be a summons to appear in court or a physical arrest.

Community Care Court: This diversion court addresses repeat homeless individuals who have committed nonviolent misdemeanors or violate city code. This alternative court connects them to programs and services or they are paired with a case manager to assist in taking steps to end their cycle in the system.

5,471

outreach contacts
made in 2020

2,108

of individuals
Who have entered
Salvation Army Program
since 2015



K-9 UNIT

The Sarasota Police Department's K-9 unit consists of four highly trained Officers and their K-9 partners. We are proud to work alongside them as they help to keep our Officers and the City of Sarasota safer for all.



Coti



Bronson



Bandi



Bobbi

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a multidiscipline law enforcement unit comprised one Sergeant and twelve Officers. These Officers are trained to handle a variety of situations such as Search and Rescue, Natural Disaster Response, Civil Unrest/Riots, and provide relief and support for other Law Enforcement Units. To accomplish the goals of ERT and to be adequately prepared for these situations, the Officers train



monthly with our partners at the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office. ERT utilizes a variety of equipment ranging from GPS for search and rescue, field force armor for civil unrest/riots, high water rescue vehicles and various tools to remove debris from roadways during natural disasters.

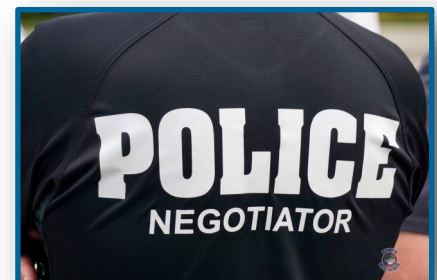
In 2020, ERT was activated sixteen times, fifteen of which were related to protests within the City of Sarasota over a three week period. The Officers

demonstrated professionalism throughout the various protests. There were no arrests, incidents involving use of force, property damage, nor injuries reported during any of these events.

ERT was also activated to assist with damage associated with Tropical Storm Eta. The officers monitored major thoroughfares for accessibility due to flooding. In addition, they were deployed throughout the City of Sarasota in the event that a citizen required emergency rescue from floodwaters.

CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS UNIT

The Crisis Negotiations Unit (CNU) is comprised of eight highly trained and specially equipped Officers who respond to critical incidents involving hostages, barricaded subjects, suicidal subjects, or other crisis intervention situations. Their purpose is to protect innocent citizens, victims, responding Officers, as well as the perpetrator by establishing a means of communication to begin negotiations for a safe outcome. These negotiators are spread across each patrol shift and are available as needed.



The CNU Officers completed multiple trainings throughout the year to include specific training pertaining to law enforcement suicides and peer counseling. CNU members also participated in joint Special Response Teams training, allowing all teams to interact and integrate their missions in roleplaying scenarios.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT



The Community Relations Unit consists of Crime Prevention, Project Lifesaver Program, and the Community Action Team. This Unit strives to provide a safe community by educating citizens on how they can anticipate, recognize, and reduce crime.

The Officers partner with neighborhood associations and Crime Watch groups to coordinate specialized programs such as SafeKIDS, Crime Stoppers, and safety seminars. There are currently 62 neighborhood associations within the City of Sarasota. Due to the

Covid-19 pandemic, many association meetings were suspended and later resumed via ZOOM. Officers joined the ZOOM meetings to provide the same level of service as received prior to Covid-19.

Two officers within the Unit are CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) certified. In 2020, these Officers conducted 81 reviews of new construction projects and existing structures to identify environmental weaknesses and provide recommendations to reduce the potential for crime.

This Unit also includes the Citizen Volunteer Program and Citizen's Police Academy. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, these programs are placed on hold until we can safely welcome them back.

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

The Community Action Team (CAT) was created in the spring of 2020 and is comprised of two Sergeants and ten Officers. This team is tasked with community engagement and developing lasting solutions to crime trends by employing community policing strategies, intelligence led policing, and utilization of the S.A.R.A. model (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment).

During the team's inaugural year, they participated in community events such as:

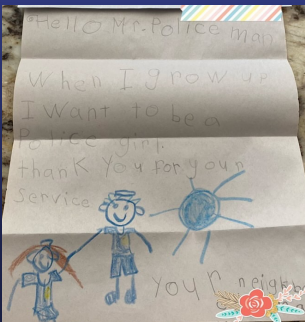
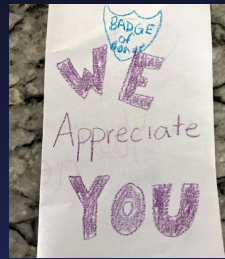
- ♦ "Day 4 Hope" at Fellowship of Believers Church
- ♦ Backpack Giveaway at Robert Taylor Center
- ♦ Providing school supplies at Alta Vista Elementary and Tuttle Elementary
- ♦ Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation – Engagement with young teens via ZOOM
- ♦ Shop with a Cop
- ♦ Safe Children Coalition (formerly known as the YMCA Youth Shelter) youth mentoring

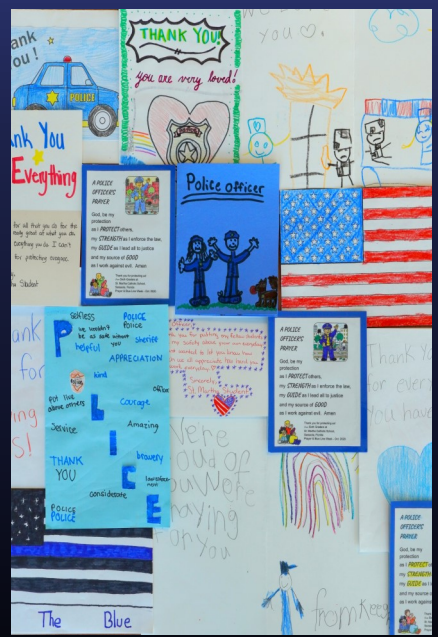
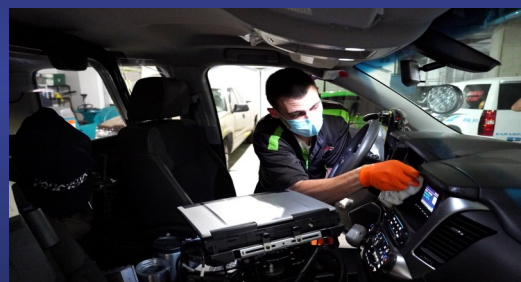
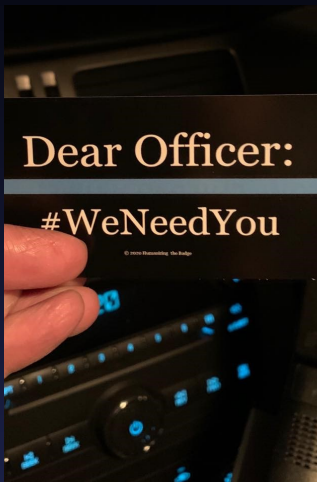


The Officers assigned to this team have utilized the S.A.R.A. model to address various issues within the City of Sarasota. Operations were designed to disrupt burglary trends, gun violence and quality of life issues within the downtown area.



Thank You For Your Support







The Criminal Investigations Division consists of three sections: General Crimes (including White Collar), Crimes Against Children, and Narcotics. The Criminalistics Unit and Victim Advocate are also assigned to this division. Personnel includes one Captain, one Lieutenant, three Sergeants, 23 detectives, six Officers, three Civilian Investigators, two Victim Advocates, and five civilian support staff.

The primary function of this Division is to conduct follow-up investigations of reported crimes. These investigations consist of interviewing suspects, victims, and witnesses as well as analyzing information for validity, reliability, and accuracy and compiling a comprehensive and factual case to be presented in court. Specially trained civilian staff provide crime analysis, investigative support duties, and victim assistance.

This Division utilizes Intelligence Led Policing in an effort to take full advantage of data collection and technology in the prevention and solution of crimes. Detectives utilize crime analysis to practice smarter policing by identifying crime trends and implementing programs that find alternatives to arrest, such as the High Point Drug Market Initiative (DMI) and Turn Your Life Around (TYLA).



CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

There are currently three detectives assigned to the Crimes Against Children Unit whose primary function is to investigate crimes involving children as victims. One of the detectives is also assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. Many leads and tips are forwarded to the ICAC Task Force that require more extensive follow-up investigation.

In March 2020, Uvo-Kk Ayoma Uvo, 28, was found guilty of Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child for the death of a child on December 29, 2017. Uvo was sentenced to 22 years in prison followed by five years of probation with special conditions.



GENERAL CRIMES

The General Crimes Unit consists of eight detectives, two civilian investigators, and two detective Sergeants. Detectives assigned to this unit investigate a wide variety of serious crimes such as murder, robbery, sexual battery, aggravated battery/assault, kidnapping, burglary and high value thefts.



In 2020, there were two homicide investigations, both of which were cleared by arrest. In addition, several unsolved homicides from previous years were solved. One of these cases was the 1988 murder of Judith Doherty. A re-submission of DNA evidence left at the scene resulted in the identification of the suspect, David Stephens, and he was sentenced to life in prison for the murder.

NARCOTICS UNIT

The Narcotics Unit primarily investigates street level and upper level drug traffickers and smugglers, as well as pharmaceutical diversion crimes, and monitoring pain clinics in our jurisdiction.

In 2020, the Narcotics Unit conducted an operation involving numerous street level narcotic buys from subjects selling illegal narcotics in the City of Sarasota. This operation resulted in the arrests of 56 individuals for narcotic and vice crimes.

This unit also has a detective who serves on a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force, allowing the Sarasota Police Department access to additional federal resources in combating drug crimes. Investigations conducted jointly with the DEA in 2020 resulted in the recovery of 121 kilograms of Cocaine, two kilograms of Heroin/Fentanyl, four kilograms of Methamphetamine, 6,077 pills containing Fentanyl, and \$700,000.00 in US Currency and assets. A total of 24 subjects were arrested with more to come.

NARCOTICS SEIZED

MARIJUANA	2,636g
COCAINE	23.2g
PRESCRIPTION PILLS	237g
HEROIN/FENTANYL	6.2g
MDMA	130.5g
DESIGNER DRUGS	78.4g



65 Arrests



3 Vehicles Seized



\$21,809 Seized



2 Firearms Seized

Once an investigation is completed, it may be turned over to the Nuisance Abatement Program. Properties which are suspected of being involved in the use and sale of drugs, prostitution, gang activity or dealing in stolen property are cited and referred to the Nuisance Abatement Board which has the legal authority to force landlords and property owners to abate such nuisances or face civil penalties.



CRIMINALISTICS UNIT

The Criminalistics Unit is responsible for the investigation of physical crime scenes as well as all evidence collected and submitted for processing. Technicians respond to various crime scenes and are responsible for documenting evidentiary items through detailed notes and photography. They collect and preserve all evidence, transport evidence items for outside lab submissions, and collect video, as well as process, evaluate, and compare latent prints. Technicians complete detailed reports and when necessary, testify about evidence processing results.



In 2020, the Criminalistics Unit responded to 701 call-outs to process crime scenes.

Photo/Digital Requests: 314



Video Collections: 231



120 Lab Submissions to FDLE

57 DNA Hits



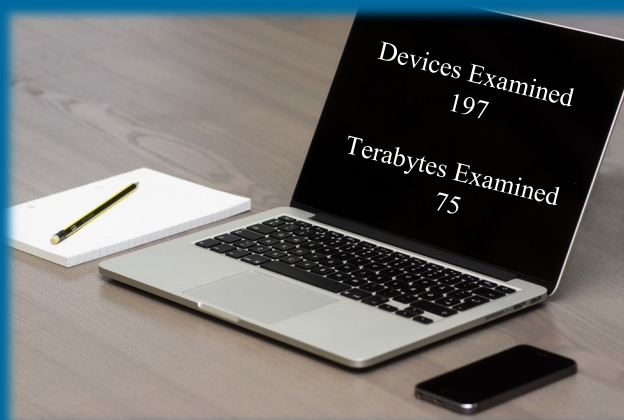
81 Individuals Fingerprinted

400 Latent Comparisons

77 Latent Hits

DIGITAL FORENSICS UNIT

The Criminal Investigations Division currently has one civilian Digital Forensic Specialist who assists Detectives and Officers in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving digital evidence. This position requires advanced training on multiple softwares and devices. Additionally, this Specialist also assists the United States Secret Service when requested.





VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM

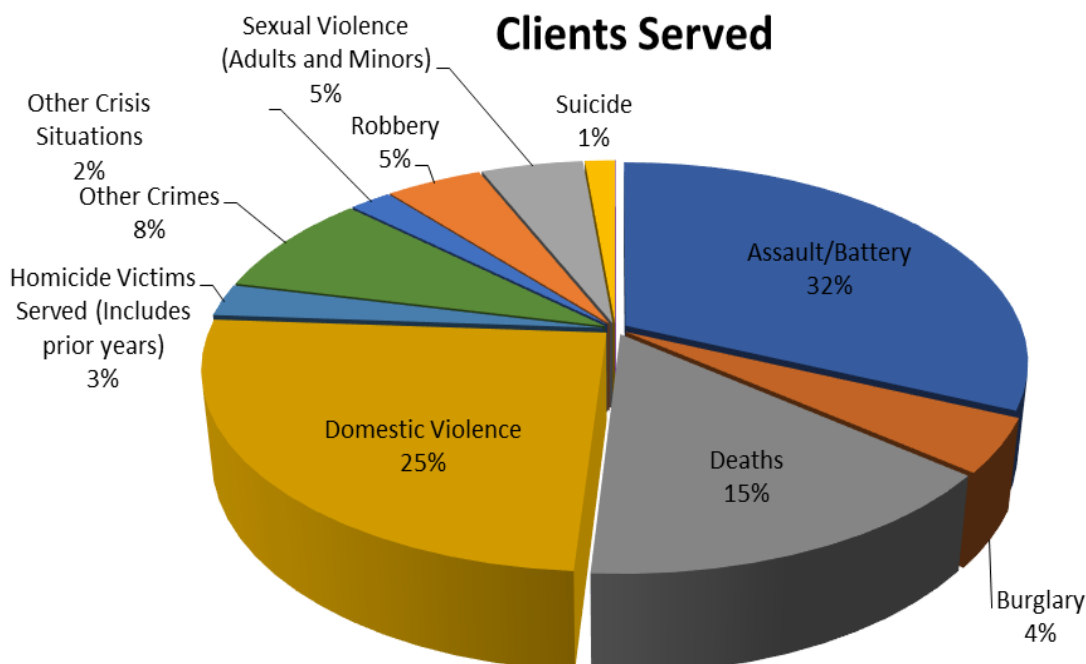


Victim Advocates
Brandy Borling and Jude Castro

The Victim Advocate Program (VAP) consists of two civilian advocates and one volunteer. Advocates provide crucial resources and assistance to victims and witnesses of crimes, as well as those experiencing crisis or trauma in the City of Sarasota. They serve as liaisons between the victims of crimes and Officers and Detectives, the Office of the State Attorney and various community groups dedicated to helping preserve the

rights of crime victims. Services are free and focus on customer service by assisting primary and secondary victims as well as witnesses of crimes. Assistance is also provided to those experiencing trauma or crisis that may be unrelated to a criminal act. Both on-scene services as well as follow up services are provided by the VAP.

In 2020, the Victim Advocate Program assisted a total of 347 new clients and responded to fifteen (15) callouts to assist victims of crime and persons experiencing trauma and crisis.



Local Center for Domestic and Sexual Violence

SPARCC (Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center)
24/7 Hotline
(941) 365-1976

Local Victim Service Agencies

Sarasota Police Department
Victim Advocate Program
(941) 263-6021

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Victim Assistance
(941) 861-4942

Parents of Murdered Children
(941) 952-0936

State and National Referrals

Florida Abuse Hotline (Elderly and Children)
1-800-962-2873

Identity Theft Hotline
1-866-966-7226

VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)
1-877-846-3435

Statewide Crime Victim Information and Referral
1-800-226-6667

Florida Council Against Sexual Violence
1-800-956-7273

Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1-800-500-1119

National Center for Victims of Crime
1-800-394-4357

National Organization for Victim Assistance
1-800-879-6682



SARASOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT *Annual Report 2020*

The Commander of the Professional Standards Division oversees the Internal Affairs and Complaints Section, Accreditation, Training Unit, and Recruiting / Background Investigations.

ACCREDITATION UNIT

Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority which determines that an entity has met specific requirements and prescribed standards.



Accreditation Manager Areaka Jewell is responsible for maintaining files on 239 mandatory and voluntary standards that prove the department's compliance with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. The accreditation process is an on-going project that requires constant monitoring and periodic updating of policies and procedures to ensure continued compliance.

The Sarasota Police Department welcomed an assessment team in the spring of 2020 and was officially reaccredited in June 2020.

TRAINING UNIT

The Training Unit coordinates all training for sworn personnel which includes mandatory in-service training as well as external trainings. The following trainings were completed by the Training Unit:

- Patrol Rifle School and Re-Qualifications
- CPR/First Aid re-certification
- Taser re-certification
- Fair and Impartial Policing training for entire agency
- Driving training
- De-Escalation and Less Lethal training
- Active Shooter training
- Monthly Roll Call trainings
- Combative prisoner training
- Team arrest techniques
- New Sergeant training

In maintaining our vision of partnering with our community, the Sarasota Police Department also held use of force trainings for members of the Police Advisory Board. These meetings allow the Bard members to share their thoughts regarding police use of force and for our agency to provide them with a better understanding regarding when and why force is applied.

In 2020, the Sarasota Police Department hired eleven new Officers. The Unit trains these new Officers during Agency Specific Training (AST) in preparation for their Field Training and Evaluation in the Patrol Division.

The Training Unit has also researched various external programs including Racial Intelligence Training (RITE) and we look forward to providing this training to all Officers in 2021.

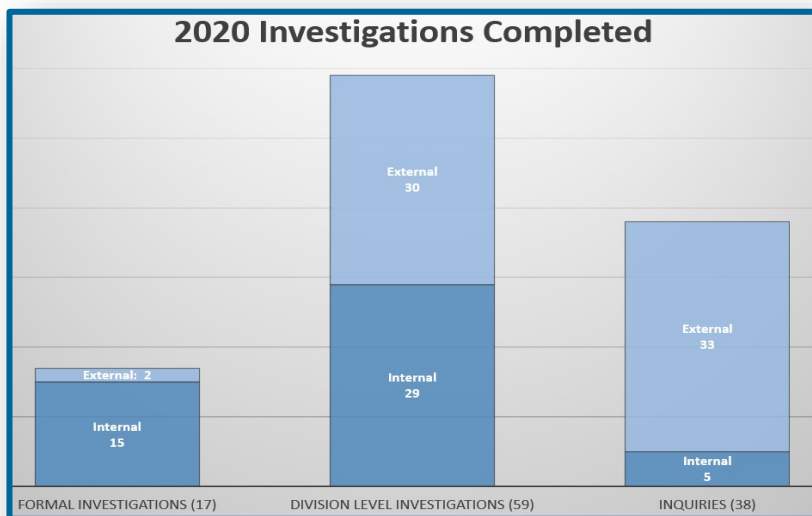




INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECTION

The Internal Affairs and Complaints (IAC) Section is staffed with one Sergeant and one Detective. The IAC Section receives all internal and external inquiries and complaints made against members of the agency.

All investigations are thoroughly and objectively investigated, and the goal of the IAC Section is to equally maintain community and employee trust through accessibility, transparency, and integrity. In furtherance of this goal, IAC staff participates in monthly meetings of the Police Complaints Committee (PCC), which serves as an independent oversight component. The committee's function is to review all closed investigations that have been processed by the Department.



In 2020, the IAC Section oversaw 114 investigations, a 21% decrease from 2019.



The IAC Section also governs the Department's Drug Free Workplace program and is responsible for the administration of the Department's Early Intervention System, which through a series of criteria, alerts staff of possible anomalies in an Officer's work product or behavior with the goal of preemptively taking steps to correct issues the officer may have. In 2020, this section administered 89 random drug tests yielding negative results.



BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND RECRUITMENT

In 2020, the Sarasota Police Department hired eleven new officers who were selected after vetting and processing 102 applications. Nine of the recruit officers were sponsored for either basic law enforcement training or equivalency of training programs which are completed at partner institutions such as the Suncoast Criminal Justice Academy, Manatee Technical College, and St. Petersburg College Criminal Justice Academy.

The Sarasota Police department is a Veteran's preference employer and in 2020 we added new officers from the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and National Guard. Our partnership with the Veteran's Administration and its Apprenticeship / OJT program continues to offer unique opportunities for our military Veterans. Under this program, military Veterans receive pay stipends in the form of variable housing allowances while they are undergoing Agency Specific Training and Field Training. Eligible officers are enrolled in the program by the recruiting team and monitored by the Field Training Coordinator.



Career Fairs Attended

Camp Lejeune, NC
Fort Stewart, GA
MacDill AFB, FL
Bethune Cookman University
The Citadel University, SC
Virginia Military Institute
Keiser University
USF Sarasota-Manatee

Currently, women represent nearly 15% of the Sarasota Police Department., which is above the national average. We continue our efforts to bring the Department to demographic parity with our community.

In 2020, we filled the six new positions approved in 2019, bringing us to the 179 sworn personnel. Covid-19 had an impact on projected additional increases in sworn personnel. The Background and Recruitment Team maintains an ongoing recruitment effort to identify the best candidates to meet the Department's needs. Focused recruiting endeavors, such as outreach to local college and university criminal justice clubs, regional Florida Criminal Justice Academies, and military career fairs, have been scheduled in an effort to fill available positions.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused the Background and Recruiting Team to come up with new and innovative ways to screen and process applicants. The team adopted Zoom as the main vehicle for conducting background interviews and Police Applicant Review Boards, and were able to continue to grow the agency.

If you are interested in joining the ranks of the Sarasota Police Department, please contact our recruiters at Enrique.Nazario@sarasotafl.gov or Jack.Carter@sarasotafl.gov.

Interested in a Career at SPD?

How to apply.....

<http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sarasotagov>

Equivalency of Training Certification for Out of State Officers....

www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/CJSTC/Officer-Requirements/Equivalency-of-training



Retirements

The Sarasota Police Department congratulates the following employees on their retirements in 2020.

More than 10 Years of Service

Sergeant Tammy Featherstone
Sergeant Thomas Shanafelt

More than 20 Years of Service

Sergeant Eric Stafford
Officer Kenneth Goebel
Valerie Churchill, Criminalistics Supervisor

30 Years of Service

Captain Lori Jaress
Sergeant Eric Bolden
Sergeant Bryan Graham
Officer Daniel Griesdorn
Officer Todd Tschetter

New Officers and Civilian Employees

The Sarasota Police Department is pleased to welcome our newest sworn and civilian employees in 2020.

Officer Juan Blanco	Officer Alec Mang
Officer Ryan Block	Officer Lauren Mitchell
Officer John Clancy, Jr.	Officer Jeron Thomas
Officer Rashad Jones	Officer Andrew Van Dyke
Officer Reagan Lansing	Officer Sara White
Officer Nicholas Laquidara	

Deborah Adams, Quartermaster

Enrique Nazario, Recruiter

Shannon Pearce, Fiscal

Liliane Pierre, Facilities



The Commander of the Support Services Division oversees Planning and Research, Special Events and Extra Duty, the Property and Evidence Unit, Records Section, Management Information Systems, Fleet, Red Light Cameras, and Facilities Maintenance.

In October 2020, the Sarasota City Commission approved the purchase and implementation of Body Worn Cameras. The Sarasota Police Department has since purchased 120 Body Worn Cameras and will outfit and train all Officers assigned to the Patrol Division. This project is underway and includes budget approval, hiring, training officers and supervisory staff, impact bargaining with the unions, policy creation, and finally informing and educating the citizens of Sarasota. Our agency is looking forward to going live with this program during the summer of 2021.

Another area of focus for the Support Services Division in 2021 will be enhancing our current Officer Safety and Wellness initiatives.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Sarasota Police Department takes a planning role in any significant special event taking place within the City of Sarasota, particularly events that involve right-of-way permits, road closures, traffic control issues, large crowds, or require substantial commitment of Department resources. The downtown and bayfront areas have become popular sites for demonstrations in Sarasota. For any demonstration, Officers remain nearby to keep everyone safe.

The City of Sarasota consistently draws distinguished visitors and political leaders from our nation and even from around the world. These visits require planning and coordination with federal law enforcement and private security personnel.

1,326 Extra Duty Details

were filled by Officers to assist with security needs for local businesses.

Due to the threat from Covid-19, large city holiday co-sponsored events such as the Holiday Parade, New Year's Eve, 4th of July fireworks and boat races, Memorial Day Parade, Veteran's Day, and MLK Jr. Day Parade were canceled in 2020. In May 2020, COVID extra duty details in which Officers provided security at the COVID testing facility site began.





PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE UNIT

The Property and Evidence Unit handles the receipt, storage, and disposition of property that comes into the possession of the police department in compliance with state and federal law.



Throughout 2020, the Unit was subject to five separate audits, both internal and external, to ensure policies are followed and all items are accounted for.

11,369: Items received as Evidence

3,206: Items returned to Owners

14,705: Items Disposed

FLEET SERVICES

Fleet Services continues to upgrade all Patrol Vehicles from Chevrolet Impalas to Chevrolet Tahoes. In 2020, a total of 21 Tahoes were purchased and outfitted with equipment. All new vehicles are striped with the SPD logo and equipped with light bars, computer stands, and ticket printers.

The initiative to replace all Patrol vehicles began in 2013 and is expected to be completed in 2023.



MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

In 2020, this unit upgraded over 200 department issued cell phones and conducted two upgrades to police radios. In 2021, the Unit looks to implement a paperless workflow system for internal use and a Rapid Deploy (CAD) program to better equip our Officers when responding to calls for services.

RECORDS SECTION

The Records Unit processes case reports, supplements, and field interviews in the New World RMS system, which is essential to ensure accurate reporting to FDLE and Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) to the FBI via the Annual and Semi-Annual UCR reports. The Records Unit is currently preparing for the FBI mandated conversion from summary reporting to incident-based reporting (NIBRS) in 2021.

19,708 Cases Processed

520 Public Records Requests Processed

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

The Maintenance Unit provides all of our employees and visitors with safe, clean, and sanitized facilities. Our headquarters is a 6-story building that houses all operations, as well as the City's Emergency Operations Center.



2020 was a challenging year with Covid-19. Since the onset of the pandemic, this five-person unit has worked seven days a week to clean and sanitize the facilities. Their hard work and dedication has ensured a healthy work environment for all SPD employees.



CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The City Attorney's Office (CAO) provides a wide range of professional legal advice on criminal and civil law to the Sarasota Police Department, working closely with the Chief of Police and Command Staff to actively support and uphold the Sarasota Police Department's mission, vision and values.

The CAO researches and analyzes state and national court decisions, legislation and policy developments impacting SPD operations and advises regarding legal governance, risk management and compliance. The CAO reviews Standard Operating Procedures and General Orders for legal compliance and conducts specialized training for all SPD members in order to keep them apprised of legal and policy developments which affect their duties.

The CAO provides ongoing review of SPD operations in an effort to reduce the potential for liability and, if necessary, review and defend claims and lawsuits which have been filed. As counsel for SPD, the CAO represents SPD on matters coming before local, state and federal legislative, judicial and administrative bodies, representing the Department in litigation, hearings and other court procedures. The CAO reviews and drafts legal documents, agreements, and legislation, and works with other city departments on review and action by the City Commission and other city panels and boards. The CAO also advises on labor and employment issues, and other internal administrative matters.

POLICE ADVISORY PANEL

The Independent Police Advisory Panel (IPAP) and the Police Complaint Committee (PCC) serve as the City of Sarasota's civilian oversight function.

The IPAP meets quarterly to make recommendations to the City Commission on major policy aspects of policing within the City of Sarasota and they work with Chief Rieser to develop policies of the Sarasota Police Department that maintain public trust (Ordinance No. 14-5082).

The PCC meets monthly and reports to the IPAP. This Committee was created to assist the Chief of Police with the policies, practices, and procedures concerning the processing of complaints against Sarasota Police Department Officers (Ordinance No. 11-4952).

The PCC reviews closed investigations on complaints and makes recommendations to the Chief of Police for improving police-community relations.

Both panels are under the Office of the Police Advisory Panels' Administrator who reports to the City Manager. The Administrator provides staff support to the panels and conducts research on policing matters. The Administrator also maintains an office for the receipt of complaints against Sarasota Police Department officers and works to ensure that the SPD complaint process is understood by members of the public.

Heather Robison

Administrator, Police Advisory Panels

941-263-6322

Heather.Robison@SarasotaFL.gov



The Emergency Manager works with all Charter Officials and their subordinate departments to develop and maintain programs to save lives and protect property in the event of natural or man-made disasters. The Emergency Manager serves as the City's representative for planning and coordination with Sarasota County and other jurisdictions within our region.

Throughout the City of Sarasota, individual departments maintain a constant state of readiness and continue to prepare for all types of events and incidents and 2020 has proven to be the most challenging year to date. By far, the biggest challenge has been the pandemic, and how it has changed our normal work processes. City Departments were able to adapt to these challenges and coordinated the distribution of over 50,000 mask as well as provide numerous public awareness outreach projects in order to slow the spread of the virus locally.



**Emergency Operations
Todd Kerkering**

The Emergency Operations Center was utilized multiple times in the past year for different situations. In the summer of 2020, the Police Department utilized the EOC to coordinate with numerous agencies to ensure that all protests and marches were safe and peaceful for all involved. In addition, the hurricane season was actively monitored and managed flooding issues and minor property damage in the City of Sarasota as a result of Tropical Storm Eta.

The Emergency Management Division continues to maintain our City's "Storm Ready" designation from the National Weather Service as well as participating in the Multi-Jurisdiction Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group and the City's Floodplain Management Planning Committee.

Tips for Hurricane Season



- Be prepared with three days of supplies such as water, food, batteries, first aid, etc.
- Don't forget about your pets! They also need food and water.
- Gather your important documents.
- Review insurance documents to ensure they are up to date.
- Know your evacuation and flood zones. To learn more about your zone, please visit: <https://ags2.scgov.net/KnowYourZone/>
- For more information about preparing for hurricane season, visit: www.nhc.noaa.gov or www.fema.gov



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SARASOTA, FL 34237

Main: 941-263-6773

Non-Emergency: 941-316-1199

Emergency: 9-1-1

www.SarasotaPD.org

