

NORTH PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Mayor Charles A. Lombardi
Director of Public Safety

Colonel Alfredo Ruggiero, Jr.
Chief of Police

PRELUDE

The future of policing is expected to undergo significant transformations driven by advancements in technology, changes in societal expectations and evolving approaches to law enforcement. One key change is the integration of artificial intelligence and data analytics into policing strategies. Basic policing models may become more sophisticated, allowing law enforcement agencies to anticipate and prevent crimes based on patterns and trends.

Moreover, there is a growing emphasis on community-oriented policing, with the main purpose being the fostering of positive relationships between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. This approach aims to build trust, collaboration and communication between the police and residents, leading to more effective crime prevention and resolution.

The use of body-worn cameras and other forms of surveillance technology is likely to increase, providing both transparency and accountability in police interactions. In the future, law enforcement agencies may place a greater emphasis on training officers in de-escalation techniques, conflict resolution and cultural competence to address the root causes of criminal activity and minimize the use of force. Additionally, there could be advancements in non-lethal weapons and alternative methods of intervention.

Overall, the future of policing is expected to be shaped by a combination of technological advancements, community engagement and a commitment to addressing societal concerns to create a more inclusive and effective law enforcement system.



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MISSION STATEMENT

The members of the North Providence Police Department are dedicated and committed to providing the highest quality police services to our citizens. We are dedicated to the concept of personal excellence at the highest level, uncompromising integrity, continuous improvement in order to enhance public safety, protection of life and property, the reduction of crime and the perceptions of crime. We will fulfill this mission by developing a partnership with the community in a manner that inspires confidence and trust. We acknowledge a community commitment to resolve issues and improve the quality of life for all residents. Members of the North Providence Police Department take pride in our professional accomplishments and abilities. We are individually accountable for the reflection of the following core values in both our professional and personal lives:

- Respect for human life;*
- Treating all people with the highest regard and respect;*
- Honesty and integrity through ethical behavior;*
- Professionalism and excellence demonstrated in all areas of duty;*
- Cooperation with all Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement agencies;*
- Strengthen partnerships with the community.*

Every citizen contact is an opportunity to demonstrate the mission and the values of the North Providence Police Department.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



I am pleased to present the 2023 North Providence Police Department Annual Report. The annual report provides an overview of the North Providence Police Department, which includes statistical information, department structural organization, budgetary data, Community Outreach initiatives and recent accomplishments, as well as projected goals.

The Department's table of organization allows for sixty-seven (67) officers which includes the Department's Command Staff, comprised of a Colonel, Deputy Chief and three Captains. The three Captains are responsible for the supervision of the Detective Division, Patrol Division, and the Administrative Division.

The agency recently had a swearing in for two new officers in the Month of December and two officers just completed their one year probationary period. The agency is growing, with the focus on community outreach and its residents, we hope to have sixty-seven (67) officers within the next eighteen (18) months.

I am pleased to announce that in 2022 the North Providence Police Department embarked on the process to become a nationally accredited police agency. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), provides the framework for addressing high risk issues within a contemporary environment, and ensures officers are prepared to meet basic community service expectations and prepared to manage critical events by promoting compliance to an accrediting body's policies and procedures. I am proud to share that our agency obtained National Accreditation in July of 2023.

On a daily basis, each member of the North Providence Police Department (sworn and civilian) reports to work and provides the necessary policing services to our community. Their dedication and devotion to duty is unmatched. I want to publicly express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to each member of the agency for their selfless commitment to the virtues, goals and the mission of the North Providence Police Department.

We will continue to enhance our robust Community Outreach initiatives by engaging students, seniors, the business community, town residents and faith based organizations. All of these are integral components of building trust, confidence, mutual respect and transparency between the Department and the public. Publishing an annual report fosters transparency and accountability the public seeks from their Police Department.

The Department's total annual budget is approximately \$7 million. Fixed personnel costs of approximately \$6.1 Million account for 87% of the total annual budget. The agency has exercised fiscal responsibility, limiting operating expenses to roughly \$900,000 or approximately 13% of the total annual budget.

In 2023, officers responded to over 47,258 calls for service, effectuated 780 arrests, including 199 felony arrests, issued 6,118 Motor Vehicle violations and completed 927 Motor Vehicle Crash Reports. Preliminary data from the National Incident Based Reporting System or NIBRS revealed the crime rate in 2023 slightly decreased as reported in 2022. In 2023 the agency received 2,994 reported incidents, and in 2022 there were 2,555 reported incidents.

North Providence Police Department Annual Report 2023
(Message from the Chief of Police – Continued)

The North Providence Police Professional Standards Unit, which is under the supervision of the Deputy Chief, has received only 7 complaints in 2023 regarding allegations of officer perceived misbehavior. Although the goal is to receive zero complaints, this number is extremely small considering that our officers have had 47,258 documented calls for service. The resulting ratio of complaints to contacts is significantly less than 1%. The aforementioned statistical analysis supports the professional behavior exhibited by our members on a daily basis. This is consistent with the agency's philosophy of treating people with courtesy, dignity and respect. The North Providence Police Department is committed to providing sound leadership as we continue our journey toward professional development and excellence in service to the community.

I am humbled, honored and privileged to serve as your Chief of Police alongside the many dedicated sworn officers and civilian staff within the North Providence Police Department. This agency and its members, continues to meet, and in most instances exceed, the benchmarks set for the Department. We will continue our steadfast and unwavering pledge toward the protection of the community, the prevention of crime, dedication to traffic safety, and an overall obligation to public safety and all that entails.

We hope you will find the 2023 Annual Report to be an informative publication about your Police Department and its many devoted employees.

Respectfully,

Colonel Alfredo Ruggiero Jr

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



The Office of Professional Standards is under the command of Deputy Chief Robert Lepre. As part of his duties as the commander of the Office of Professional Standards, Deputy Chief Lepre is responsible for receiving, processing and investigating both internal and external complaints made against Department employees. This office maintains a system in place that creates a sense of confidence on the part of citizens, ensuring that their complaints will be taken seriously and properly investigated, and that all corrective measures will be taken when needed.

At the same time, the Office of Professionals Standards also creates a sense of confidence on the part of Department employees that complaints will be investigated within a reasonable time frame and conducted in a fair and consistent manner. Each investigation is completed objectively, thoroughly and without bias.

SUMMARY OF USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS - 2023

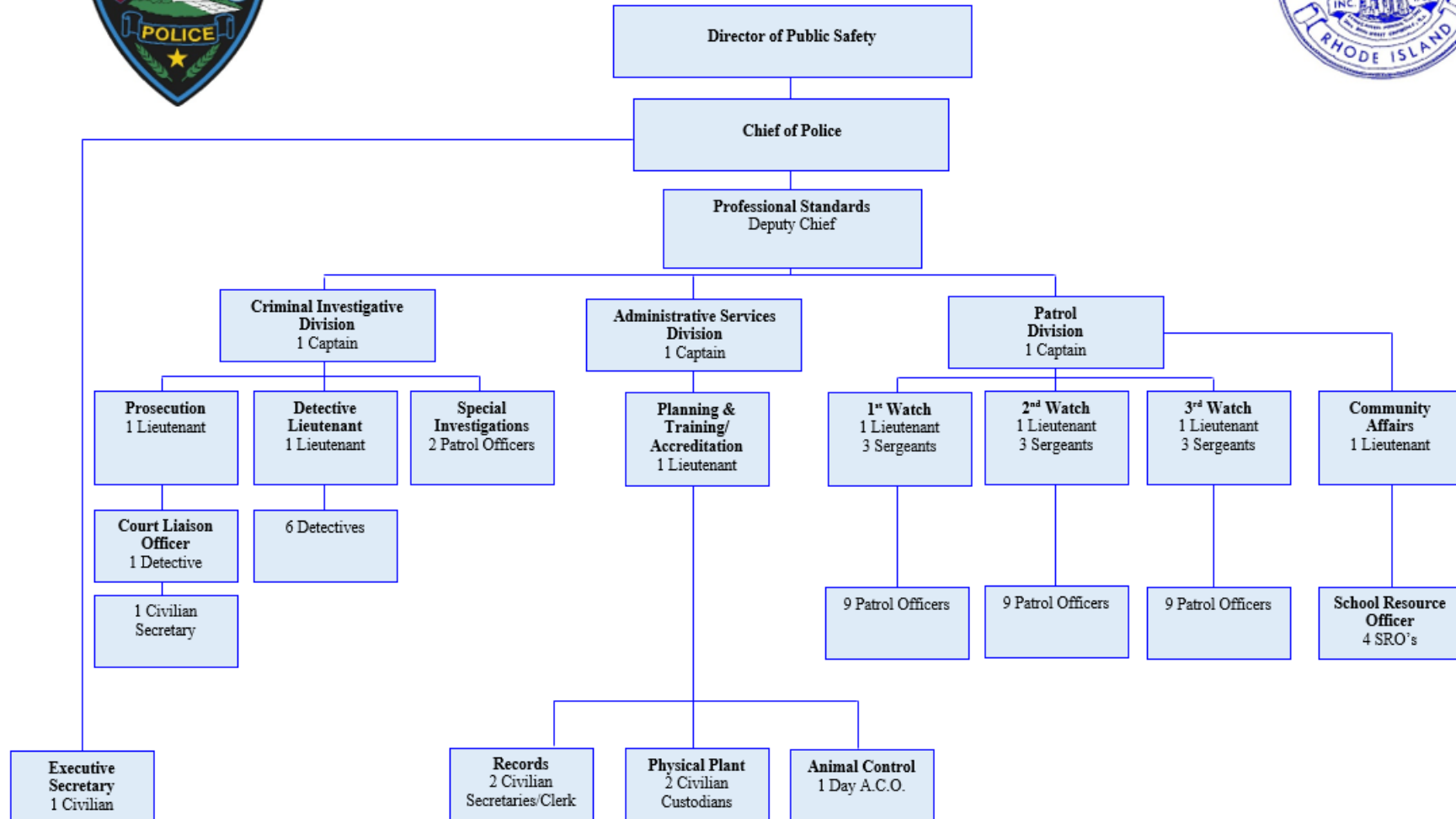
FORCE TYPE	PROPER USE/ JUSTIFIED	TOTAL
Physical Force	120	120
O.C. Spray	0	0
CEW Discharge	9	9
Firearm Discharge	0	0
CEW Draw and Point Only	8	8
ASP	1	1
Deployment of K9	0	0
Firearm Draw and Point Only	29	29
Rifle Draw and Point Only	1	1
TOTAL	168	168

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS INVESTIGATIONS - 2023

INVESTIGATION TYPE	SUSTAINED	NOT SUSTAINED/ UNFOUNDED
Biased Policing	0	1
Excessive Force	0	2
Unprofessional Behavior	4	3
Job Performance (Sworn)	3	3
Officer Involved Shooting	0	0
Other	1	0
TOTAL	8	9



NORTH PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
2023 Organizational Chart



12/19/23

COMMAND STAFF



Colonel Alfred Ruggiero, Jr.
Chief of Police



Deputy Chief Robert Lepre
Office of Professional Standards



Captain John Brady
Criminal Investigative Commander



Captain Michel'Angelo Scaramuzzo
Administrative Services Commander



Captain Michael Tavarozzi
Patrol Division Commander

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

At the end of 2023, the North Providence Police Department consisted of fifty-nine (59) sworn members and seven (7) civilian members. The promotional process for sworn personnel is determined by educational and time-in-grade requirements for each rank prior to becoming eligible to take a promotional exam. Officers must pass both an oral interview and a comprehensive written examination to be added to a promotional list. The table below depicts the rank structure within the North Providence Police Department.

RANK STRUCTURE
Director of Public Safety (Mayor)
Chief of Police (Colonel)
Deputy Chief
Captain
Lieutenant
Sergeant
Detective
Patrol Officer

PROMOTIONS

CAPTAIN: Lieutenant Michael Tavarozzi to the rank of Captain – June, 2023

LIEUTENANT: Sergeant Kevin Guindon to the rank of Lieutenant – March, 2023
Sergeant Christopher Puleo to the rank of Lieutenant – July, 2023

SERGEANT: Patrol Officer Christian Ariza to the rank of Sergeant – April, 2023
Patrol Officer Matthew Barrows to the rank of Sergeant – July, 2023
Detective Daniel Biafore to the rank of Sergeant – October, 2023

DETECTIVE: Patrol Officer Jason Burlingame to the rank of Detective – October, 2023

NEW OFFICERS

PATROL OFFICER: Baloy Mancebo assigned as new Patrol Officer – May, 2023
Elvis Romero assigned as new Patrol Officer – December, 2023

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Several short term goals for 2024 include:

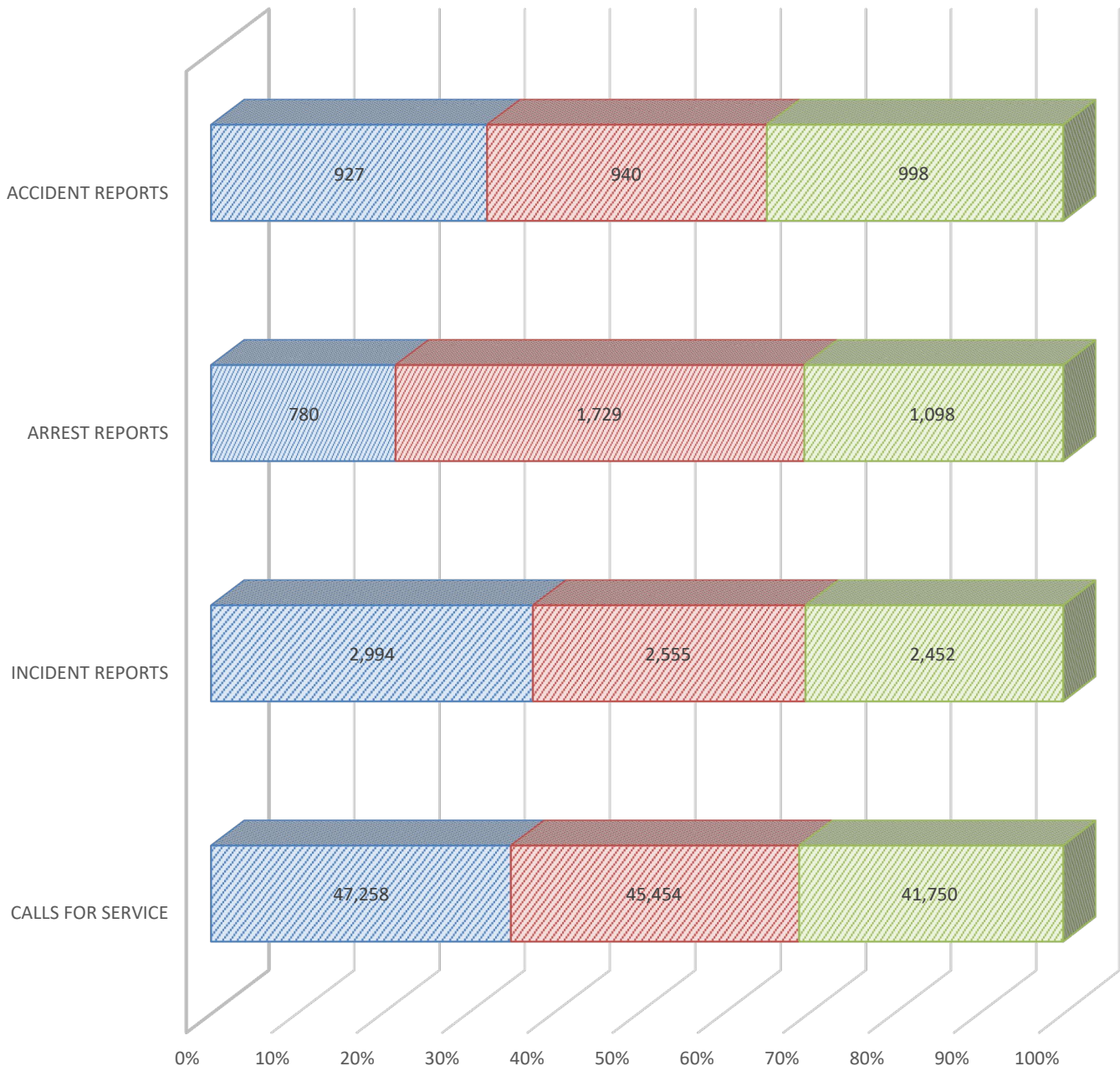
- *Filling vacant positions within the Patrol Division;*
- *Graduate recruits from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy*
- *Successfully complete a recruitment process;*
- *Conduct citizen/police community events, such as National Night Out, Trunk or Treat, Toy Drive, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Women's Self-Defense Class, Memorial Day Parade and Columbus Day Parade;*
- *Successfully decrease crime in the community through crime prevention, community partnerships and crime watches;*
- *Devote resources to studying traffic issues to improve public, operator, passenger and pedestrian safety;*
- *Devote resources to help improve officer skills for their everyday duties.*
- *Increase community contacts and promote on social media*
- *Utilize a Traffic/ Motorcycle Unit to enforce traffic violations throughout the town.*
- *Bring back the bicycles and bike patrol*
- *Increase the amount of DUI, narcotics and special investigation arrests.*

STATISTICS

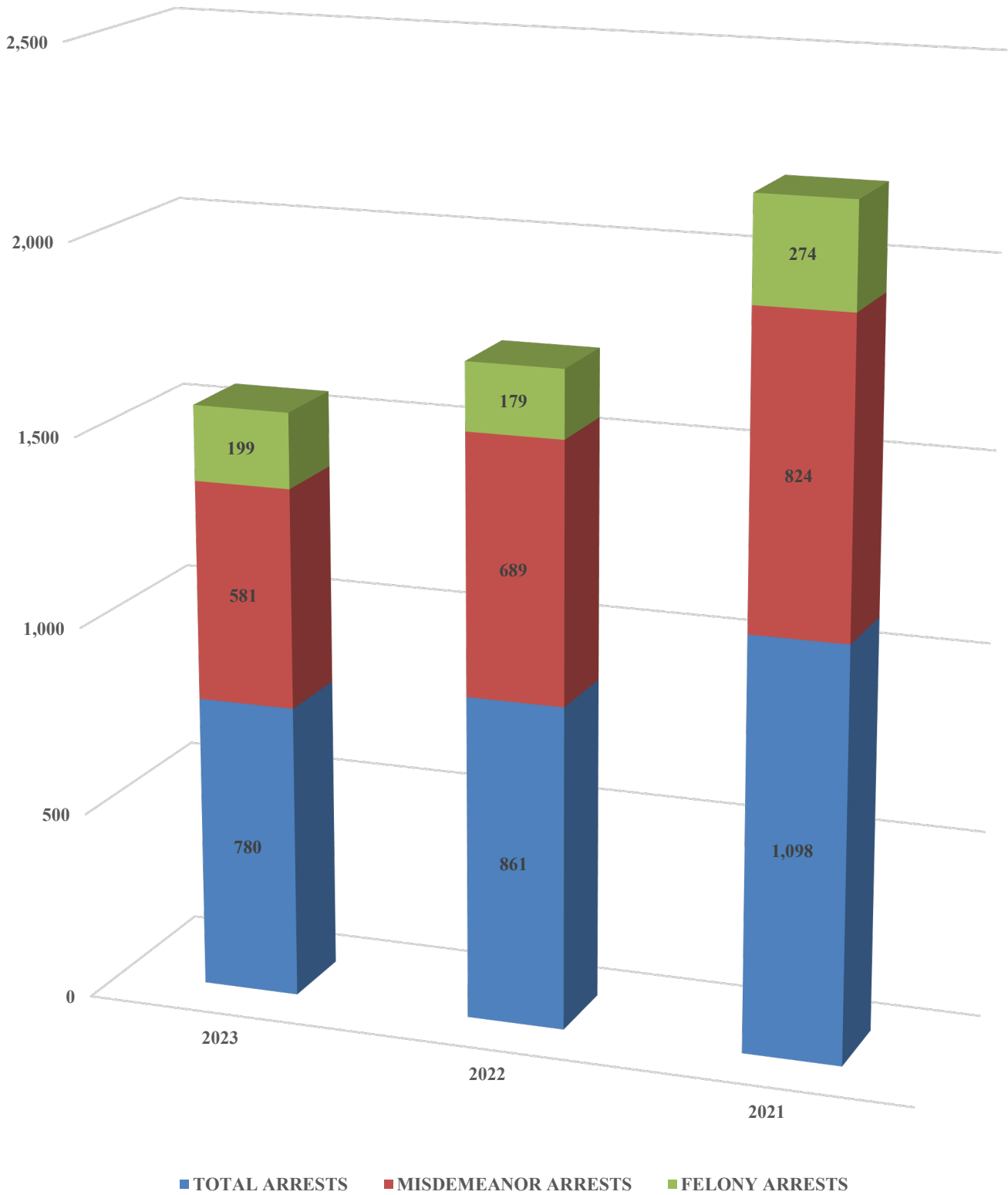
The North Providence Police Department responded to or initiated a total of 47,258 calls for service during 2023. Many of the calls for service were documented in an Incident Report, Arrest Report or Accident Report.

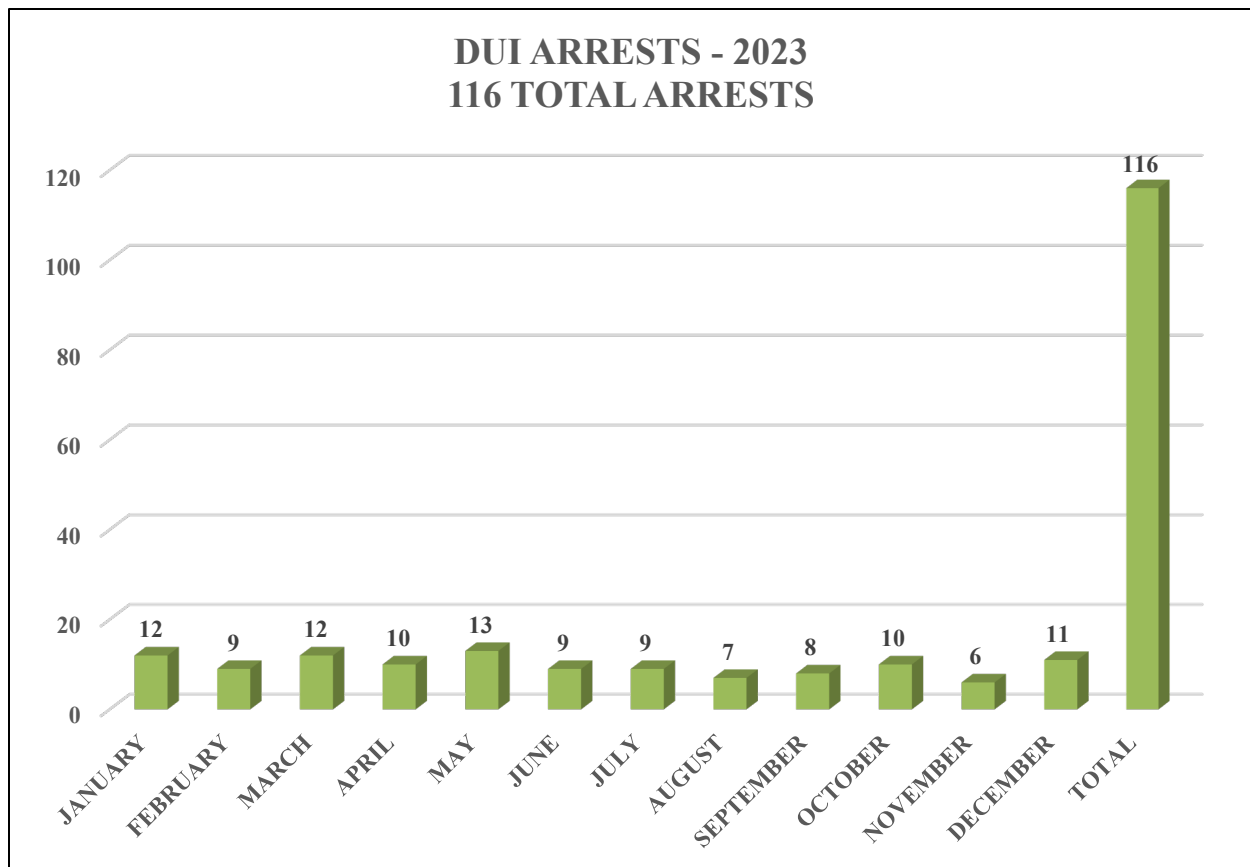
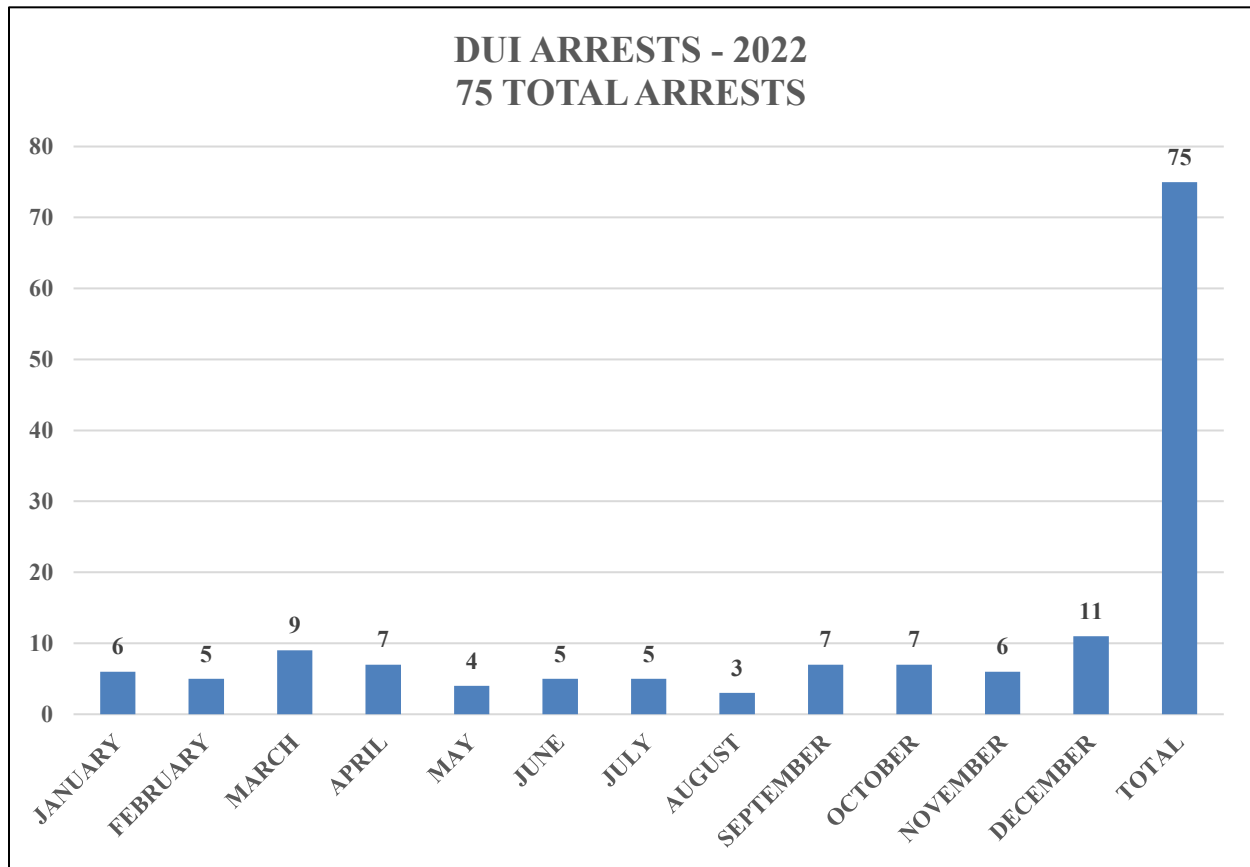
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE AND REPORTS 2021, 2022 AND 2023

2023 2022 2021



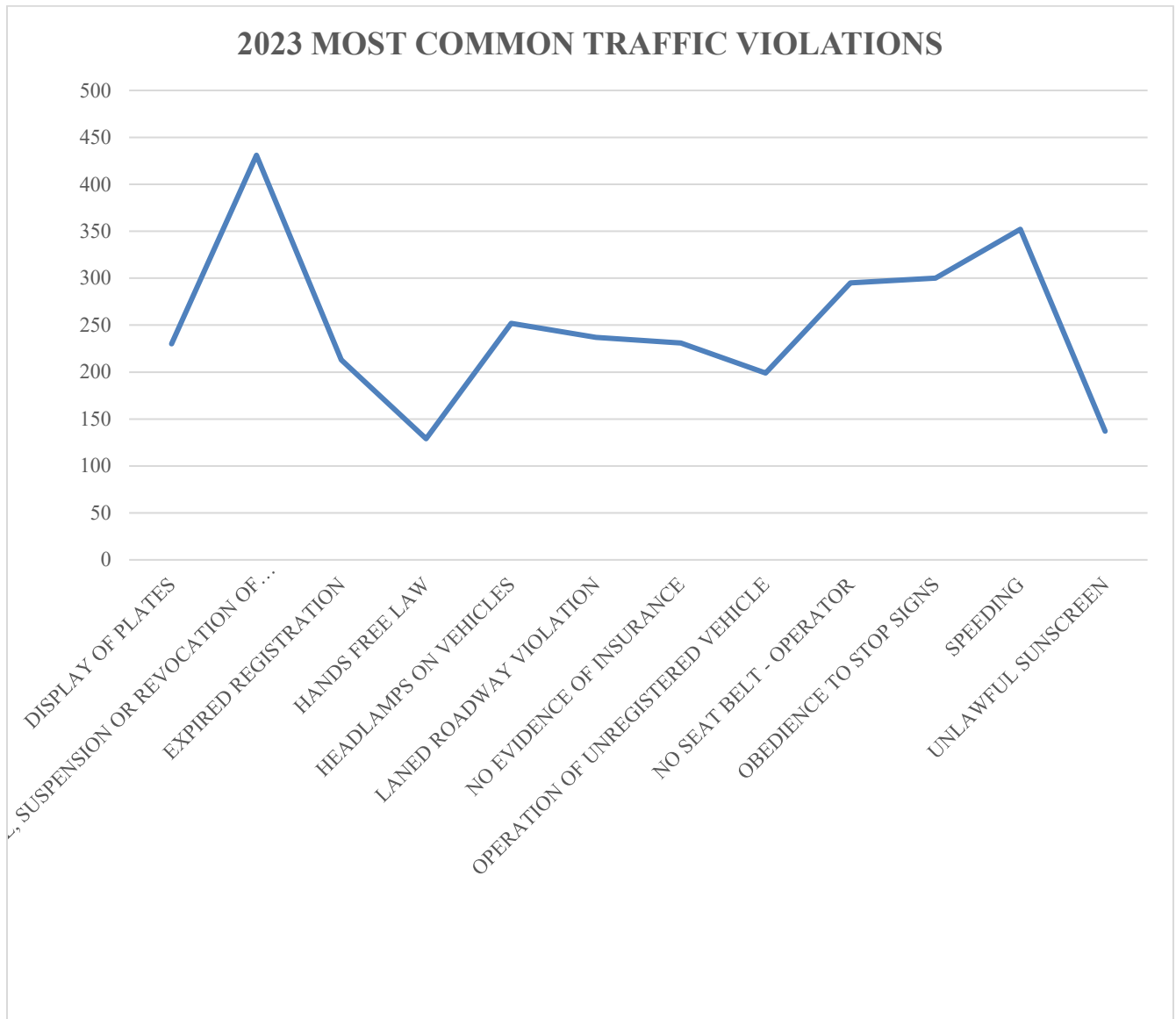
**DEPARTMENT ARRESTS
2021, 2022 AND 2023**





The following statistics pertain largely to functions of the Patrol Division as it relates to the issuance of summonses:





**STREETS WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF SUMMONSES/WARNINGS AND
ACCIDENTS**

2023

STREET NAME	SUMMONSES/WARNINGS ISSUED	ACCIDENTS REPORTED
Charles Street	321	23
Douglas Avenue	565	56
Fruit Hill Avenue	219	20
High Service Avenue	57	11
Mineral Spring Avenue	2059	458
Smith Street	479	75
Smithfield Road	220	52
Waterman Avenue	122	2
Woodward Road	74	11
Woonasquatucket Avenue	427	14

2022

STREET NAME	SUMMONSES/WARNINGS ISSUED	ACCIDENTS REPORTED
Charles Street	309	27
Douglas Avenue	329	44
Fruit Hill Avenue	228	18
Lexington Avenue	44	12
Mineral Spring Avenue	1470	436
Smith Street	387	100
Smithfield Road	227	58
Waterman Avenue	117	11
Woodward Road	65	8
Woonasquatucket Avenue	315	20

UCR/NIBRS STATISTICS

The following statistics pertain largely to functions of the Criminal Investigative Division:

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	16
ALL OTHER LARCENY	72
ANIMAL CRUELTY	1
ARSON	2
ASSIST/PROMOTE PROSTITUTION	1
BURGLARY/B&E	28
COUNTERFEITING/FORGERY	20
CREDIT CARD/AUTO TELLER	10
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VAND	140
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	32
DRUG/NARCOTIC EQUIPMENT	1
EMBEZZLEMENT	3
EXTORTION/BLACKMAIL	0
FALSE PRETENSES/SWINDLE	27
FONDLING	7
FORCIBLE RAPE	0
FORCIBLE SODOMY	0
HACKING/COMPUTER INVASION	3
IDENTITY THEFT	5
IMPERSONATION	0
INTIMIDATION	16
KIDNAPPING/ABDUCTION	0
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	68
MURDER/NONNEGLIGENT MANSL	1
POCKET-PICKING	0
PORNOGRAPHY/OBSCENE MATERIAL	2
PROSTITUTION	0
PURSE- SNATCHING	2
RAPE	8
ROBBERY	5
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT	1
SHOPLIFTING	45
SIMPLE ASSAULT	181
STATUTORY RAPE	2
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	13
THEFT FROM BUILDING	7
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	48
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS	33
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	13
WELFARE FRAUD	0
WIRE FRAUD	0
TOTAL	906

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION



The Criminal Investigative Division is under the command of Captain John Brady, a nineteen (19) year veteran of the North Providence Police Department. The Division consists of full-time, plainclothes criminal investigators, including a Juvenile Officer and an Evidence Technician, who serves as the BCI Officer and has additional responsibilities for investigative functions and activities as assigned by the Chief of Police. Investigators are assigned to general case investigation, juvenile officer operations and evidence seizure and processing. The primary function of the Criminal Investigative Division is to conduct follow-up investigations of criminal offenses that occur within the jurisdiction of the North Providence Police Department and the eventual identification, apprehension and successful prosecution of criminal offenders.

The Criminal Investigative Division is responsible for the following activities and functions:

- Conducting thorough investigations of criminal cases;
- Maintaining sex offender files, including registrations and home compliance checks;
- Preparation of criminal cases for prosecution and court presentation;
- Conducting background investigations for new recruits, pistol permits and the general public for specified employment;
- Coordinating juvenile related investigative efforts with the juvenile prosecutor and the Family Court;
- Coordination of all missing person cases to ensure proper follow-up by the Department.

The Criminal Investigative Division Commander reports directly to the Deputy Chief and has functional responsibility for:

Criminal Investigations: The Criminal Investigative Division Commander is responsible for the follow-up and investigation of criminal cases. This includes the maintaining of the cases, screening system for criminal offenses and the monitoring of case reports. This is done to ensure that preliminary investigations are conducted and solvability factors are indicated on offense reports. The Commander screens and assigns cases to patrol officers or investigative personnel for follow-up investigation. He also assists patrol officers with case preparation and testimony preparation for court. The Commander is also responsible for reviewing applications for search warrants and assisting in executing such warrants. His primary responsibility is conducting of follow-up investigations inside the jurisdiction of North Providence.

North Providence Police Department Annual Report 2023
(Criminal Investigative Division – Continued)

- **Evidence Technician and BCI Lab:** The Evidence Technician (BCI Officer) is responsible for the identification, collection and preservation of all evidence. He/she serves as a liaison between the North Providence Police Department and other crime laboratory units on the local, state, and federal level. The BCI Officer is also responsible for the maintenance of the Department's BCI Crime Lab facility.
- **Evidence and Property Control:** The BCI Officer is also responsible for the security and control of all seized, found, recovered and evidentiary property in the agency's custody. Duties also include evidence processing, direct control over the police property room and evidence control areas. He/she is responsible for all required inspections, inventories, reports and final disposition of property, except as otherwise provided for in the policies and procedures of the North Providence Police Department.
- **FBI Complex Financial Crimes Task Force:** The Department currently has a member of the Criminal Investigative Division who is a deputized Task Force Officer (TFO) with the FBI's Providence, Rhode Island "Complex Financial Crimes Task Force". The TFO assists with white collar crime investigations on a local, nationwide and international scale. Included in these investigations are a full range of frauds and scams, which are characterized by deceit, concealment or violation of trust and are not dependent on the application or threat of physical force or violence. These crimes are motivated by financial gain to avoid losing money, property or services, or to secure a personal or business advantage. White collar crimes are not victimless crimes. The citizens of the Town benefit from having a detectives as a liaison between the Town and the FBI.
- **Juvenile Officer:** The Juvenile Officer is responsible for the investigation of crimes committed by and against juveniles and cases of missing juveniles while maintaining compliance with State and judicial mandates. He/she ensures that the legal criteria for enforcement actions taken against juveniles meets the directives issued by the Rhode Island Family Court and pertinent Rhode Island General Laws (RIGLs). He/she also must ensure the Department exercises the least coercive reasonable alternative in dealing with juveniles. The Juvenile Officer is also responsible for the coordination and development of juvenile programs designed to prevent juvenile delinquency. These programs are coordinated with the Community Affairs Unit and School Resource Officers.
- **Missing Persons:** Investigators are responsible for the coordination and follow-up investigations of all adult and juvenile missing persons. The North Providence Police Department completed 127 missing persons' reports in 2023.
- **Sex Offender Registration and Compliance:** Investigators are also responsible for the documentation and processing of registering sex offenders and conducting verification checks for compliance. Currently, the BCI Detective is responsible for maintaining the files of thirty nine (39) registered sex offenders, of which currently reside in the Town of North Providence and have a duty to register.
- **Violent Fugitive Task Force (VFTF):** The Department also has a member of the Criminal Investigative Division who is assigned to the Violent Fugitive Task Force (VFTF) through the US Marshals Service. The purpose of a regional fugitive task force is to combine the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to locate and apprehend the most violent fugitives and make communities safer.

PROSECUTION SECTION



The Prosecution Section is under the command of Lieutenant Ryan Furlong, a thirteen (13) year veteran of the North Providence Police Department, who serves as the Prosecution Section Commander. The Prosecution Section is comprised of the Prosecution Commander, a Detective working as a Court Liaison Officer and a civilian Legal Secretary.

The Prosecution Section is responsible for all legal aspects within the North Providence Police Department. This includes criminal and civil prosecutions in Superior Court, District Court, Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal and Municipal Court. All criminal complaints and traffic related offense within the Town of North Providence are all processed through the Prosecution Section.

The Prosecution Section is responsible for:

- **Court Liaison Activities:** Members of the Prosecution Section act as liaisons to the Rhode Island and Town of North Providence court systems, which includes Rhode Island Superior Court, 3rd District Court, Family Court, Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal and Municipal Court. Responsibilities include coordinating arraignments, pre-trial hearings, trials and other legal proceedings, as well as the scheduling of police officers, victims and witnesses for court appearances.
- **Victim/Witness Assistance:** Members of the Prosecution Section coordinate the Department's victim/witness assistance program. This includes the initial point of contact and follow-up activities, updating of policies governing the implementation and delivery of victim/witness services, delivering information to victims and witnesses about the status of cases and their roles as liaison with other victim/witness agencies.
- **Prisoner Transportation:** The Prosecution Section is responsible for developing and monitoring policy and procedures related to prisoner transportation and ensuring compliance with this function.
- **Legal Process:** Prosecution Section members are responsible for the delivery of legal process documents, ensuring proper and timely delivery of all legal documents and ensuring that all legal requirements are met.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Special Investigations Unit is comprised of two officers, who act as liaisons of the North Providence Police Department in conjunction with State and Federal law enforcement agencies. As members of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force and the Food and Drug Administration – Office of Criminal Investigations (FDA-OCI), these officers actively assist and participate in the locating, investigating and prosecution of the use, manufacturing and distribution of illegal narcotics and illegal prescription drugs. These officers report directly to the Deputy Chief.

- **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force:** The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force is managed by the Rhode Island State Police. The Task Force was created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, and provides assistance to federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.
- **Food and Drug Administration – Office of Criminal Investigations (FDA-OCI):** As the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) criminal law enforcement arm, the Office of Criminal Investigations (FDA-OCI) protects the American public by conducting criminal investigations of illegal activities involving FDA regulated products, arresting those responsible and bringing them before the Department of Justice for prosecution. This involves a broad range of criminal conduct, including the distribution of foreign counterfeit, unapproved and misbranded medical products, major organized illicit diversion of prescription drugs, fraudulent schemes involving ineffective cures for diseases, large scale product substitution conspiracies, application and clinical investigator fraud and health fraud involving FDA regulated drugs and medical devices.

As essential members of the North Providence Police Department, the Special Investigations Unit work diligently, both in the State of Rhode Island and around the United States, to assist in decreasing the drug usage and overdose crisis. Their participation as members of the HIDTA Task Force and FDA-OCI Task Force also benefits the citizens of the Town of North Providence. Through numerous drug seizures and high profile illegal prescription drug cases, the North Providence Police Department is awarded forfeited funds, which in turn helps to defray the costs of running a police department, thereby lessening the burden to taxpayers of the Town. Pictured below is a seizure made by members of the North Providence Police Department and the Rhode Island State Police.



PATROL DIVISION



The Patrol Division is under the command of Captain Michael Tavarozzi Sr., a nineteen (19) year veteran of the North Providence Police Department who serves as the Patrol Division Commander. The Division consists of uniformed sworn officers and is divided up into three (3) primary Patrol Watches. In addition to the three (3) Patrol Watches, there are officers assigned to overlap shifts to provide constant patrol coverage and protection for the Town during peak time periods. All Watches have assigned supervisors, consisting of a Watch Commander, who holds the rank of Lieutenant and front-line supervisors who hold the rank of Sergeant.

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the North Providence Police Department. It is largest and most visible entity and provides continuous, twenty-four (24) hour a day service.

The Patrol Division is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Department, including but not limited to:

- Assisting citizens with both criminal and civil issues;
- Crime prevention;
- Apprehension of offenders;
- Collection of evidence;
- CCPR data;
- Rendering emergency aid;
- Traffic and DUI enforcement;
- Issuance of summonses;
- Preliminary and follow-up investigations of criminal acts;
- Documentation of incidents, accidents and arrests;

In accordance with the North Providence Police Department Mission Statement, the Patrol Division maintains a great community relationship and is committed to resolve issues to improve the quality of life and safety of the community, as well as reduce fear for all Town residents. The North Providence Police Department strives to bridge the gap between its officers and the community it serves.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT



The Community Affairs Unit is commanded by Lieutenant Ryan Emerson, a twelve (12) year veteran of the North Providence Police Department. Lieutenant Emerson is responsible for coordinating nearly all community policing functions.

Under his command are Three (3) School Resource Officers (SROs). The SROs are physically located within the North Providence School system to better interact with the Town's students.

Lieutenant Emerson is also responsible for the maintenance and updating of the Department's social media accounts.

Through the Community Affairs Unit, the North Providence Police Department participates or conducts numerous community outreach events throughout the year, including, but not limited to, the Christmas Toy Drive, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Women's Self-Defense Class and a Citizens' Police Academy.

The Community Affairs Unit continually looks for new and innovative ideas to maintain a positive working relationship with the North Providence School Department. Members of the Unit offer guidance and friendship to the Town's students. During a normal school year, the Community Affairs Unit will conduct a number of school related events. One of the events is School Reading Week, where members of the Community Affairs Unit read books virtually to the various elementary school students, as well as interacted with those students. Another event was the North Providence High School Citizens' Police Academy, during which high school students participated in an eight (8) week course of instruction on the various aspects of law enforcement.

A very important aspect of the Community Affairs Unit is school safety. The Unit continually looks for new and innovative ideas to protect the lives of the faculty and students of the schools. Many trainings are conducted, including school district lockdown drills, identified as Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) trainings and sex offender notifications.

The members of the North Providence Police Department take great pride in community partnerships between the residents, children and businesses of the Town of North Providence.



*North Providence Police Department Annual Report 2023
(Community Affairs Unit – Continued)*



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

The North Providence Police Department currently employs three (3) officers who are assigned as School Resource Officers (SROs). SRO William Vickers is an eleven (11) year veteran of the Department who began his career as a civilian dispatcher. Prior to his promotion, Detective Jason Burlingame, a nine (9) year veteran of the Department who served eighteen (18) years with the Coventry Police Department prior to joining the North Providence Police Department, served as an SRO. SRO Nina Bliss is an eight (8) year veteran of the Department, and SRO Kyle Moura a seven (7) year member of the North Providence Police Department. SRO Vickers is assigned to the Town's middle schools, SRO Moura is assigned to the High School and SRO Bliss is assigned to the elementary schools. The mission of the SRO Program is the reduction and prevention of school related violence and crimes committed by juveniles and young adults. The program aims to create and maintain a safe, secure and orderly learning environment for students, teachers and staff. Moreover, SROs are responsible for establishing a trusted channel of communication with students, parents and teachers. SROs serve as positive role models and mentors to instill students with good moral standards, judgment, respect for other students and a sincere concern for the school community. SROs promote awareness of the law to enable students to become better informed and effective citizens, while imparting the students with knowledge of law enforcement efforts and obligations and the consequences for violations of the law. SROs serve as confidential sources of counseling for students, parents and staff concerning the daily problems they face. They also provide information on community resources available to citizens. SRO programs have proven successful through positive interactions, fostered friendships and trusting relationships between the students and police that will last for the student's entire life.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER REPORTS

TYPE OF REPORT	2022	2023
Arrests	19	8
Incidents	85	88

ELDERLY AFFAIRS

The North Providence Police Department's Community Affairs Unit is also responsible for coordinating with state and local agencies on elderly affairs. Elderly members of the community are at greater risk of being victimized by assault, theft and neglect. With today's technology, perpetrators of scams, fraud and identity theft have been targeting the elderly at an increasingly alarming rate. The Elderly Affairs supervisor oversees three (3) officers, who act as liaisons between the elderly and the Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs. They are responsible for investigating crimes against the elderly, informing the Rhode Island State Police of missing elderly persons (Silver Alert) and providing yearly safety tip seminars, trainings and the most up-to-date security and protection information to the elderly community.



K9 UNIT

The K9 Unit is comprised of a K9 Handler and his/her canine partner. Patrolman Jeffrey Galligan, a twenty-four (24) year veteran of the North Providence Police Department is the Department's K9 Handler. Patrolman Galligan is partnered with K9 Max, a German Shepard. K9 Max comes from generations of dogs specifically bred to perform the complicated tasks that police dogs are required to accomplish. Officer Galligan and K9 Max make a great team. The K9 Unit serves many purposes and has proven to be an invaluable asset in search and rescue operations, missing persons, narcotic seizures and community relations.



MOTORCYCLE UNIT

The North Providence Department Motorcycle Unit consists of three (3) motorcycles. Currently there are three (3) officers who consistently work in the unit. The Motorcycle Unit has been used during annual events in the Town, including the Memorial Day Parade and the 4th of July celebration at Governor Nott Park. The motorcycles are also used for special events outside of the Town, such as the Providence St. Patrick's Day and Columbus Day Parades, the Aquidneck Island Police Parade and the Special Olympics events. The Motorcycle Unit also assists outside police agencies and/or escort motorcyclists to assist with many charitable events, as well as leading numerous funeral escorts in and out of Town at the request of the Mayor or the Chief of Police. When necessary, the motorcycles may be utilized to perform a patrol function, law enforcement grant or special road detail. Assigned officers take great pride in being part of this specialized unit, which helps to provide positive public relations between members of the North Providence Police and the citizens of the Town of North Providence.



HONOR GUARD

The North Providence Police Department Honor Guard is comprised of sworn members from within the North Providence Police Department. The Honor Guard is a ceremonial unit comprised of sworn members of the police department. These members are highly motivated and maintain exceptionally high standards of appearance and conduct and who show aptitude for ceremonial duty. The Honor Guard also represents the Department by presenting the colors at various functions. These functions include line of duty death services, swearing in and promotional ceremonies, memorial services, parades or at any event the Chief of Police deems appropriate.



LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVOCATE

The North Providence Police Department utilizes the services of a full time Law Enforcement Advocate (LEA). This position was created through a collaboration between the North Providence Police Department and the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center. The Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center is an essential community agency providing a comprehensive approach to ending domestic violence, while supporting victims and the greater community through education, advocacy and therapeutic services.

The LEA is a trained professional who provides immediate crisis intervention, information and referrals. He/she acts as a liaison between the police department and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

The LEA keeps the victim informed of their rights and the status of their case. They provide the victim with assistance and support throughout the criminal justice process, as well as safety planning and referrals.

The following is a breakdown of domestic violence and sexual assault cases the North Providence Police Department investigated in 2023:

- Domestic Violence – 232 Arrest Reports
- Sexual Assault – 3 Arrest Reports
- Child Molestation – 0 Arrest Reports

The Law Enforcement Advocate has been an asset to the North Providence Police Department in assisting both police and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The LEA's knowledge and support has proven invaluable to the victims and law enforcement.



COMMUNITY CRISIS CLINICIAN

The North Providence Police Department also utilizes the services of a Community Crisis Clinician through a collaboration between the Department and Gateway Healthcare. A Community Crisis Clinician is there to assist the Department with crisis incidents, which include but are not limited to, calls involving persons known to have mental illness and are experiencing crisis, persons displaying behavior indicative of mental illness, attempted or threatened suicides, calls involving gravely disabled individuals or calls in which individuals may be experiencing emotional trauma. The clinician will provide a crisis psychiatric evaluation, and if the situation warrants, an emergency certification may be prepared by the mental health professional who believes a person is in need of immediate care and treatment, and whose continued unsupervised presence in the community would create an imminent likelihood of serious harm to themselves or others. This may include an emotionally disturbed person (EDP) with emotional, mental, behavioral or erratic behavior that affects their decision making process.

The Community Crisis Clinician also assists in substance abuse and mental health advocacy within the community, supplying mental health counseling, crisis intervention and working with law enforcement. First responders may request the assistance of a clinician in the community if they feel it is necessary. Clinicians are responsible for:

- Providing assistance to officers working with substance abuse and mental health cases;
- Conducting on-scene mental health evaluations, including suicidal, homicidal, elderly/dementia or any symptoms of psychosis;
- Completing emergency certifications on-scene for involuntary hospitalizations;
- Conducting initial substance use evaluations to identify the best level of care;
- Engaging in on-scene crisis de-escalation techniques;
- Developing proactive outreach strategies to engage with repeat/high risk individuals;
- Assisting with training programs for Department members, community members and others on substance abuse and mental health care issues

Mental health support can/will be supplied to those officers who are in need.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION



The Administrative Services Division is under the command of Captain Michel'Angelo Scaramuzzo, a nineteen (19) year veteran of the North Providence Police Department. Captain Scaramuzzo also acts as the Department's Use of Force instructor. He has been an instructor at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy for the past sixteen (16) years in the areas of defensive tactics, community policing, domestic violence and mental health.

Under the command of the Administrative Services Division are the Records Section, Animal Control Unit, Planning and Training Unit, Municipal Court and custodial staff. The Division is comprised of both sworn and civilian personnel. During 2023, the Administrative Services Division implemented the use of Body Worn Cameras, which were obtained through a grant from the RI Public Safety Grant Administration.

As a whole, the Administrative Services Division is responsible for the following functions:

- Agency, fleet and property management;
- Building and holding facility maintenance;
- Career development;
- Crime and operations analysis;
- Grants;
- Payroll;
- Performance Evaluations;
- Planning and research;
- Promotional Process;
- Records;
- Recruitment and Selection;
- Special accounts maintenance;
- Training;
- NIBRS and UCR reporting.

PLANNING AND TRAINING SECTION

The Planning and Training Section is under the command of the Administrative Services Division Commander. This section is responsible for the administration of all Department trainings, records activities, vehicle maintenance and acquisition, acquisition and maintenance of grants and the outfitting and replacement of equipment for all Department personnel and building maintenance needs.

The Planning and Training Officer's responsibilities include:

- **Recruitment and Selection:** The Planning and Training Officer is responsible for all aspects of recruitment and selection. This includes conducting an application process from start to finish, supervision of recruit personnel and preparing recruits for police service through indoctrination into Department policies, procedures and requirements of job performance.
- **Training:** All Department training, both in-service and outside trainings, falls under the Planning and Training Officer. He/she provides in-service training programs, including but not limited to, domestic violence, firearms, self-defense tactics, CPR, Narcan, gunshot care, workplace harassment, biased policing, mental health, rules and regulations, policies and procedures, leadership, human relations, crisis intervention and the latest developments in all other aspects of law enforcement. The Planning and Training Officer keeps officers apprised of the ever changing laws, Supreme Court decisions and other topics which affect police operations, thereby enabling them to perform their duties to the best of their abilities. This officer also utilizes external resources to develop specialized skills that will increase the overall effectiveness of the Department, while at the same time, keeping well-documented logs of all training activities.

RECORDS SECTION

The Records Section is operated by civilian employees who fall under the supervision of the Administrative Services Division Commander. This Section is responsible for maintaining and disseminating Department records, including incident, arrest and accident reports, as well as collecting funds associated with their release. Members assist in managing personnel files, issuing personnel orders, grant management, employment fingerprint records, police details and elements of financing, including payroll.

MUNICIPAL COURT

The North Providence Municipal Court is responsible for processing all Municipal Court summonses, collecting fines, scheduling court dates and adjudicating contested summonses. The Police Department Secretary documents all matters pertaining to these responsibilities. In 2023, the North Providence Police Department issued a total of 1,626 Municipal Court violations.

RECRUITMENT

The North Providence Police Department continues it's to recruitment drive in 2023, beginning with a comprehensive and diverse outreach for potential candidates. For the first time, the Department partnered with PoliceApp.com to streamline the application process. In addition, other resources were utilized, including job postings that were listed in newspapers, social media sites, colleges and minority community notifications. The Department also utilized the services of Fit2Serve for the Physical Fitness Assessment Test and Written Exam portions of the application process. A total of 152 applicants applied.



The most efficient way to apply.



GRANTS

The North Providence Police Department received or maintained the following grants during 2023:

- **Body Worn Camera Grant:** This five (5) year from the RI Public Safety Grant Administration was utilized to outfit patrol officers with body worn cameras.
- **Bulletproof Vest Grant:** This grant is used to provide officers with new bulletproof vests every five (5) years. The grant provides 50% of the total cost of each vest, thereby reducing the cost to the Town and the taxpayers.
- **Byrne Grant:** In 2023, the Department was awarded a grant through the Office of Justice Programs for the purchase of a Pole Camera and Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).
- **Rhode Island Department of Highway Safety Grants:** The Highway Safety Grant provides funding for Child Passenger Safety, Click it or Ticket (seat belt), Distracted Driving, Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Speeding enforcement.
- **Stanton Foundation K9 Grant:**
This grant was obtained for the establishment and maintenance of the K9 Unit, including the veterinary care and other expenses associated with K9 Max and the K9 Unit.
- **Tobacco and Underage Drinking Grants:** Funding for these grants is provided by the Tri-County Community Action Agency. They are utilized for the enforcement of underage tobacco and drinking purchases.

TRI-TOWN ANIMAL SHELTER

In 2023, the new Tri-Town Animal Shelter was completed and open to the public. This regionalized shelter houses the Animal Control Officers (ACOs) from the Towns of North Providence, Johnston and Smithfield. The Towns work in collaboration with one another to provide citizens and animals with the utmost services available. ACOs perform specialized work in the enforcement of municipal ordinances pertaining to the regulations and control of domestic animals, including investigating cases of animal bites, nuisance complaints and cases of abuse or neglect. It is the responsibility of an ACO to investigate domestic animal complaints, including licensing and control of domestic animals and impoundment of loose animals as provided for in Town ordinances. The ACO also determines if any state laws or local ordinances have been violated, thereby taking appropriate action such as catching, confining, quarantining or, if necessary, euthanizing animals. The ACO issues citations to animal owners and appears as a witness in court should circumstances require such action. The ACOs clean and maintain the shelter and adoption/impoundment/euthanasia records of all animals brought into the shelter. They also host an annual fundraiser and continuously accept donations to assist sheltered animals.

The ACOs go over and above in their efforts to adopt homeless animals. They are responsible to rescue or aid in the rescue of trapped, wounded, sick or injured animals and assist local veterinarians with immunization programs. In 2023, North Providence Animal Control received a No Kill Shelter Award for achieving over a 90% save rate for animals who were taken in.

The Animal Control Unit responded to or initiated 438 calls for service during 2023. During 2023, there were 2 vicious dog hearings. The following table depicts activity through the North Providence Animal Shelter in 2023:

NORTH PROVIDENCE ANIMAL SHELTER ACTIVITY

ANIMALS IN					ANIMALS OUT						TOTALS	
Abandoned	Born in Facility	Picked Up Stray	Owner Surr.	Transfer/ Other In	Return to Owner	Euthanized for Humane Reasons	Adopted	DOA	Died	Transfer/ Other Out	Total In	Total Out
0	0	94	20	30	60	5	28	16	1	14	144	124

ACCREDITATION



The Accreditation Section is under the command of Lieutenant Lisa Andrews, a fifteen (15) year veteran of the North Providence Police Department. The North Providence Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of quality service to the community. In order to achieve this, the Department has undertaken and successfully completed the mission to become an accredited law enforcement agency. The Accreditation Unit is devoted full-time to the administration of the policies and practices of the Department.

The North Providence Police Department's dedication to providing quality service and professional excellence led to the voluntarily participation in the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The Department received accreditation with the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission (RIPAC) in 2019 and received national Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) in 2023. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performances. The foundation of Accreditation lies in the adoption of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating agencies conduct a thorough self-analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of trained assessors verifies that the applicable standards have been successfully implemented. Accreditation status represents a significant professional achievement. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.