

# NORTH PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Mayor Charles A. Lombardi  
Director of Public Safety

Colonel Alfredo Ruggiero, Jr.  
Chief of Police

*North Providence Police Department Annual Report 2024*

## PRELUDE

In the dawn of modern society, the need for order and security became undeniable. As cities grew, so did the complexity of human interaction, leading to a surge in both opportunity and conflict. Early systems of justice were rooted in tradition and community-based customs, but with the passage of time, the scale and scope of societal challenges required a more structured approach.

The evolution of modern law enforcement is deeply intertwined with the development of the state itself. In ancient civilizations, law enforcement often fell to soldiers or a select group of enforcers, whose roles were to maintain peace through force, rather than through organized systems of rights and justice. Over time, as concepts of citizenship and governance matured, so too did the necessity for more formalized institutions capable of balancing the rights of individuals with the demands of society.

By the 19th century, in the wake of industrialization, urbanization, and the increasing complexity of civil life, the first modern police forces began to take shape. These forces were not just tasked with responding to crime but with preventing it, utilizing emerging technologies and new methods of coordination. Their role, however, was not only to preserve public order but to serve as the guardians of democratic values, embodying the principles of law, fairness, and accountability.

As the world entered the 20th century, the face of law enforcement continued to evolve. Technologies such as radio communications, fingerprinting, and forensic science began to transform policing, creating new challenges and opportunities. The global interconnectedness of the modern world introduced new threats, requiring law enforcement agencies to expand their reach and expertise.



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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, and 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 2024 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-five 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 Criminal Investigative 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. We have two recruits in the police academy and look forward to them joining our ranks in May. The agency is growing, with the focus on community outreach and its residents, we hope to have sixty five officers within the next eighteen 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. We had our annual review in the summer of 2024, and were in compliance with the high standards CALEA expects. I am looking forward to continuing our community relations and professionalism that our residents are accustomed to.

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 2024, officers responded to over 39,686 calls for service, effectuated 1003 arrests, including 191 felony arrests, issued 6,562 Motor Vehicle violations and completed 956 Motor Vehicle Crash Reports. Preliminary data from National Incident Based Reporting System or NIBRS, revealed that the crime rate in 2024 slightly increased as reported in 2023. In 2024, there were 2,454 reported incidents and in 2023 there were 2,587 reported incidents.

*North Providence Police Department Annual Report 2024*  
*(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 4 complaints in 2024 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 39,686 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 2024 Annual Report to be an informative publication about your Police Department and its many devoted employees.

Respectfully,

Colonel Alfredo Ruggiero Jr.

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION



The Professional Standards Division, led by Deputy Chief Robert Lepre, is responsible for managing and investigating both internal and external complaints against Department employees. This division has established a system that fosters public trust, ensuring that citizens' complaints are taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and addressed with appropriate corrective actions when necessary.

Simultaneously, the Office of Professional Standards assures Department employees that complaints will be investigated fairly, efficiently, and within a reasonable timeframe. Each investigation is carried out with objectivity, thoroughness, and impartiality.

### SUMMARY OF USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS - 2024

FORCE TYPE	PROPER USE/ JUSTIFIED	TOTAL
Physical Force	73	73
O.C. Spray	0	0
CEW Discharge	4	4
Firearm Discharge	2	2
CEW Draw and Point Only	15	15
ASP	0	0
Deployment of K9	0	0
Firearm Draw and Point Only	22	22
Rifle Draw and Point Only	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>

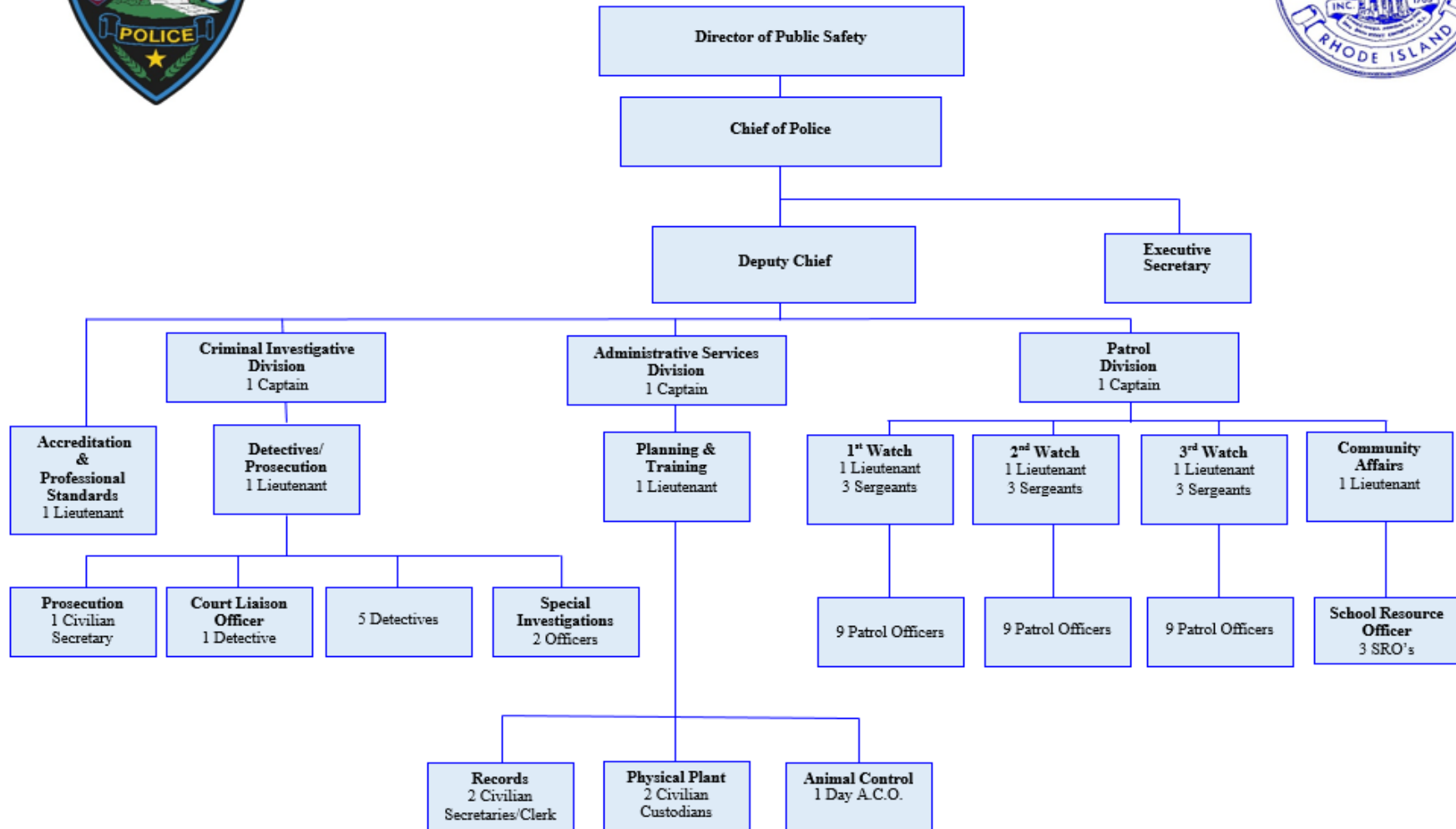
### SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS INVESTIGATIONS - 2024

INVESTIGATION TYPE	SUSTAINED	NOT SUSTAINED/ UNFOUNDED
Biased Policing	0	2
Excessive Force	0	1
Unprofessional Behavior	1	3
Job Performance (Sworn)	6	1
Officer Involved Shooting	0	0
Other	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

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**NORTH PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
2024 Organizational Chart





## COMMAND STAFF



Colonel Alfredo 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 2024, 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.

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

### **PROMOTIONS**

**CAPTAIN:** Lieutenant Ryan Furlong to the rank of Captain – December, 2024

**LIEUTENANT:** Sergeant Justin Ferreira to the rank of Lieutenant – April, 2024

**SERGEANT:** Patrol Officer Ryan Rawnsley – January, 2024

### **NEW OFFICERS**

**PATROL OFFICER:** Kayla Sanderson as new Patrol Officer – June 2024

Henry Cunningham as new Patrol Officers – June 2024

Adrian Flores Tavaréz assigned as new Patrol Officer – December, 2024

Noah Mendonca assigned as new Patrol Officer – December, 2024

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

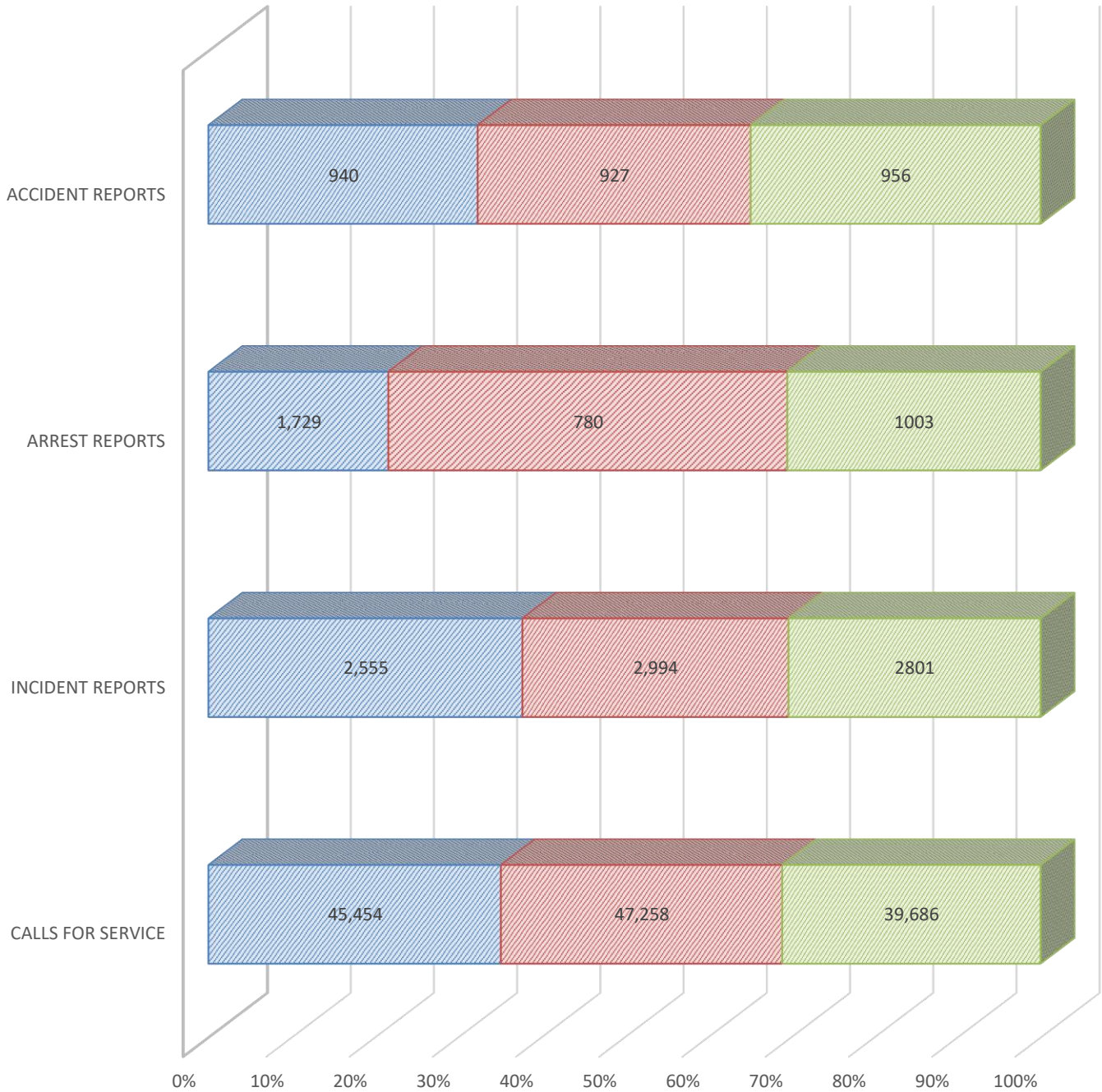
*Several short term goals for 2025 include:*

- *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;*
- *Provide ongoing training in de-escalation tactics, mental health crisis intervention, and cultural competency;*
- *Strengthen partnership with Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative;*
- *Expand partnerships with mental health professionals to provide on-scene support during mental health crises;*
- *Conduct a proactive investigations utilizing criminal intelligence;*
- *Focus on improving responses to public disorder issues, such as homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health crises;*

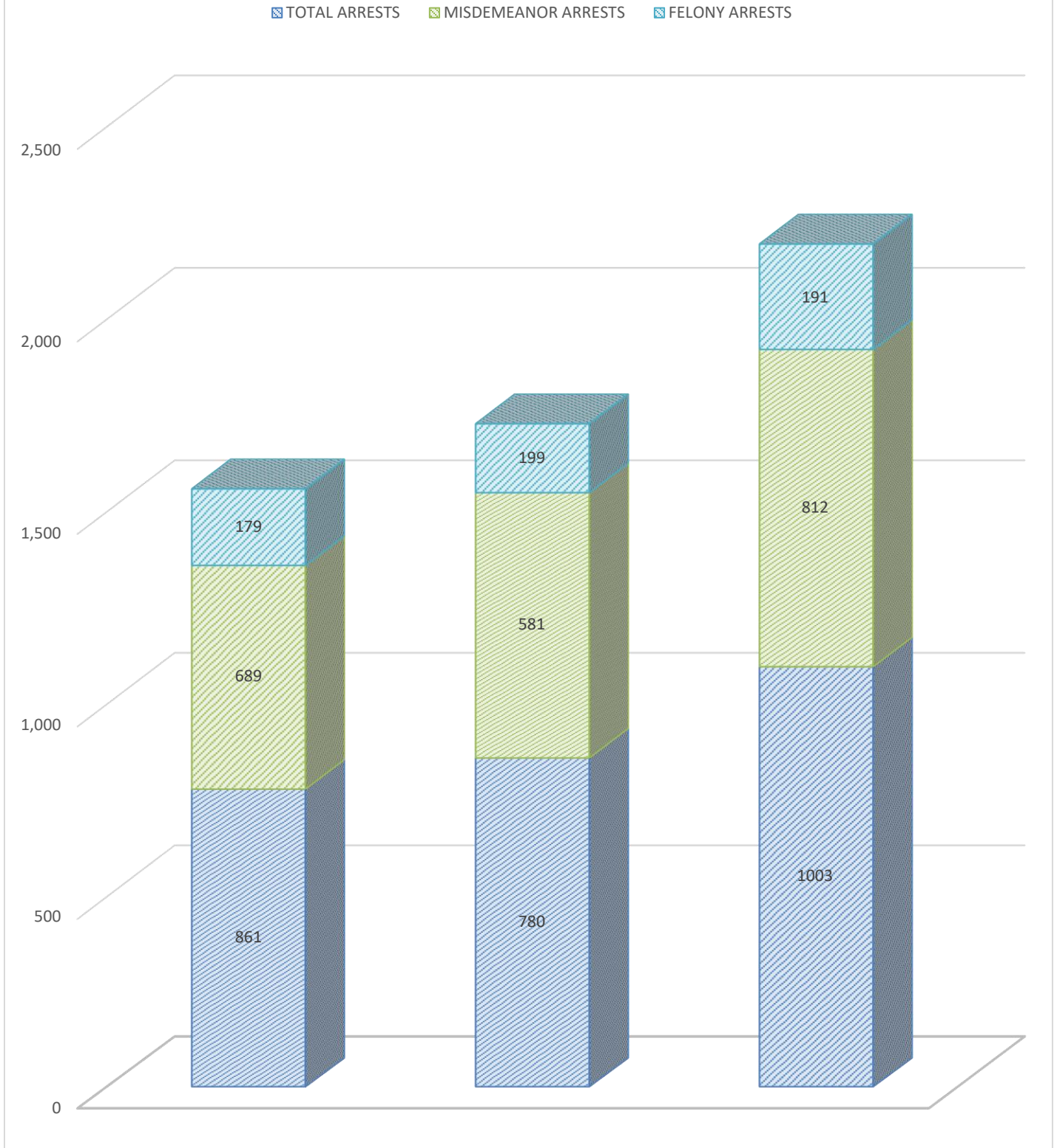
# STATISTICS

The North Providence Police Department responded to or initiated a total of 39,686 calls for service during 2024. Many of the calls for service were documented in an Incident Report, Arrest Report or Accident Report.

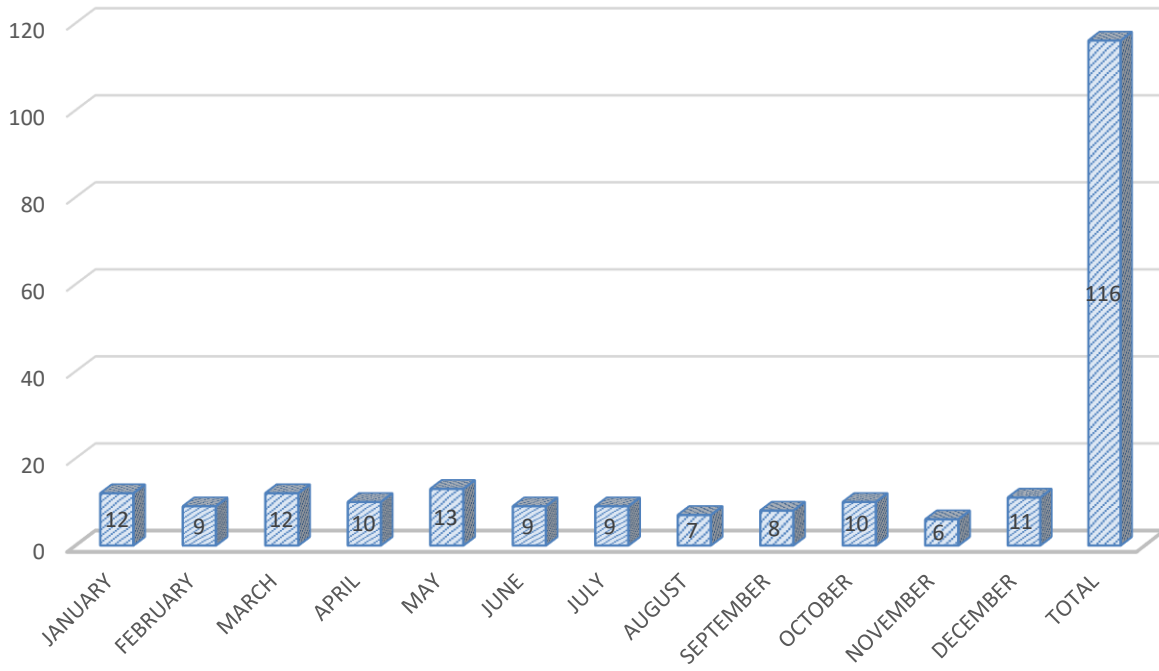
## TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE AND REPORTS 2022, 2023 AND 2024



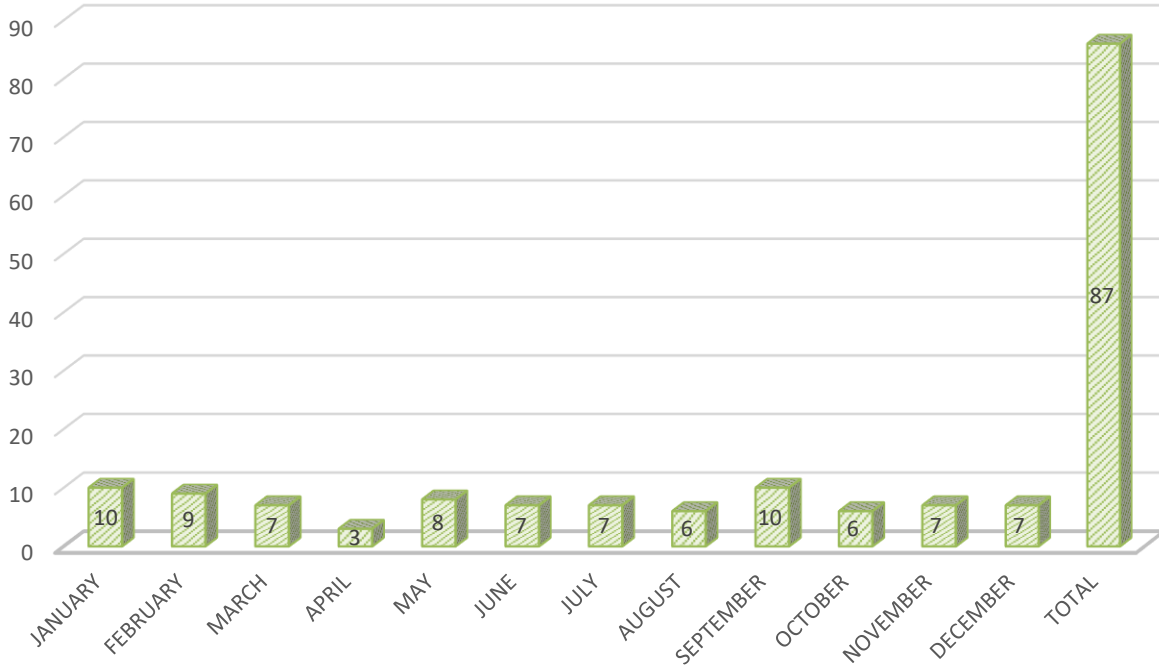
## DEPARTMENT ARRESTS 2022, 2023 AND 2024



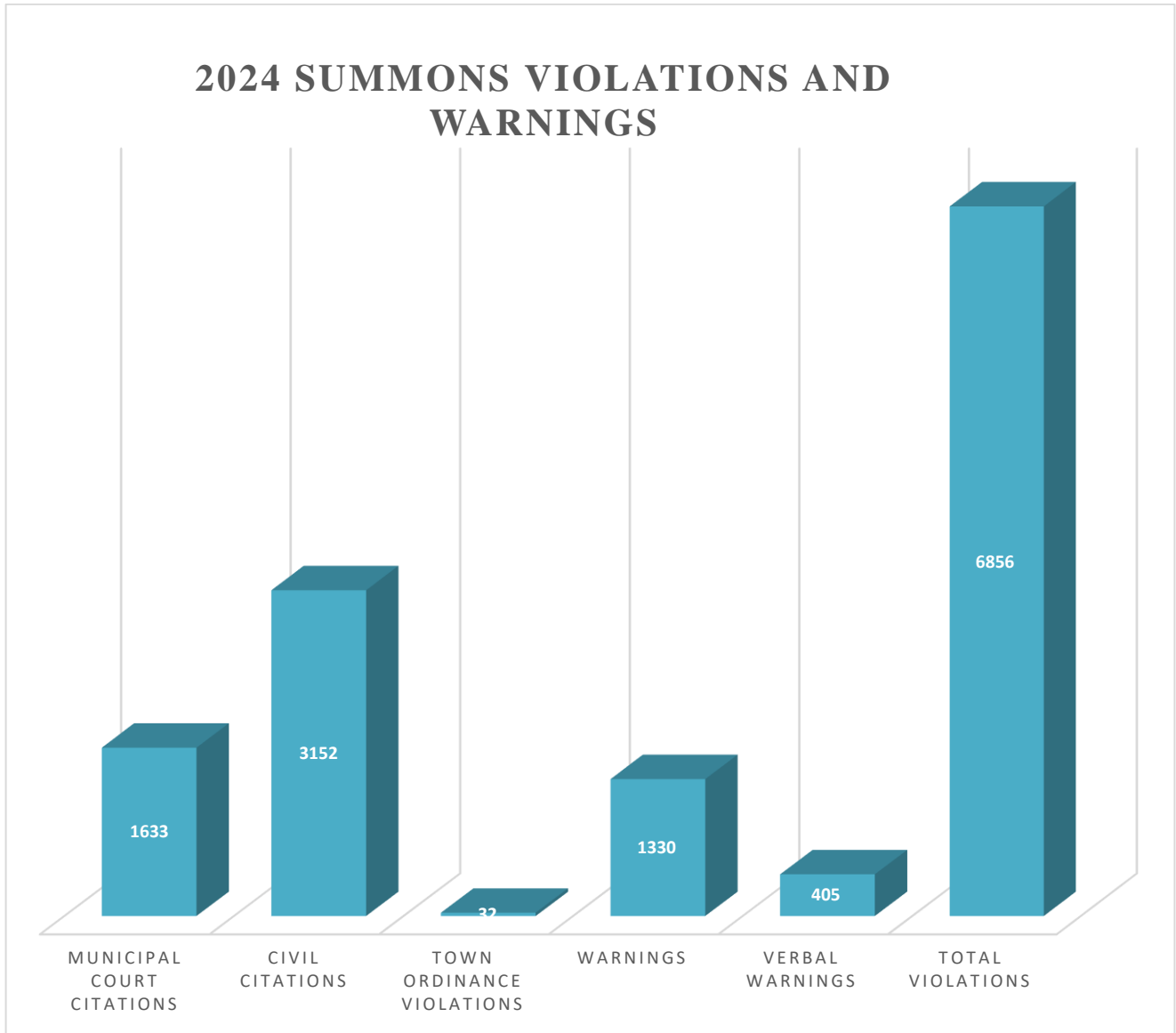
### DUI ARRESTS - 2023 116 TOTAL ARRESTS



### DUI ARRESTS - 2024 87 TOTAL ARRESTS



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



### 2024 MOST COMMON TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS





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

**2023**

<b>STREET NAME</b>	<b>SUMMONSES/WARNINGS ISSUED</b>	<b>ACCIDENTS REPORTED</b>
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

**2024**

<b>STREET NAME</b>	<b>SUMMONSES/WARNINGS ISSUED</b>	<b>ACCIDENTS REPORTED</b>
Charles Street	330	26
Douglas Avenue	471	53
Fruit Hill Avenue	272	22
Lexington Avenue	180	12
Mineral Spring Avenue	2074	454
Smith Street	505	105
Smithfield Road	264	44
Waterman Avenue	117	10
Woodward Road	54	6
Woonasquatucket Avenue	478	17

## UCR/NIBRS STATISTICS

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

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	22
ALL OTHER LARCENY	86
ANIMAL CRUELTY	5
ARSON	4
ASSIST/PROMOTE PROSTITUTION	0
BURGLARY/B&E	17
COUNTERFEITING/FORGERY	25
CREDIT CARD/AUTO TELLER	18
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VAND	108
DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	29
DRUG/NARCOTIC EQUIPMENT	0
EMBEZZLEMENT	6
EXTORTION/BLACKMAIL	1
FALSE PRETENSES/SWINDLE	38
FONDLING	4
FORCIBLE RAPE	0
FORCIBLE SODOMY	0
HACKING/COMPUTER INVASION	1
IDENTITY THEFT	2
IMPERSONATION	1
INTIMIDATION	17
KIDNAPPING/ABDUCTION	0
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	41
MURDER/NONNEGLIGENT MANSL	0
POCKET-PICKING	1
PORNOGRAPHY/OBSCENE MATERIAL	2
PROSTITUTION	0
PURSE- SNATCHING	1
RAPE	13
ROBBERY	5
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT	0
SHOPLIFTING	37
SIMPLE ASSAULT	196
STATUTORY RAPE	1
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	6
THEFT FROM BUILDING	4
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	17
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS	16
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	18
WELFARE FRAUD	3
WIRE FRAUD	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1122</b>

## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION**



The Criminal Investigative Division is led by Captain John Brady, a seasoned 20-year veteran of the North Providence Police Department. The division is made up of full-time, plainclothes criminal investigators, including a Juvenile Officer and an Evidence Technician. The Evidence Technician also serves as the BCI Officer, taking on additional responsibilities for various investigative tasks assigned by the Chief of Police. Investigators handle a range of duties, from general criminal investigations to juvenile operations and evidence collection and processing.

The mission of the Criminal Investigative Division is to conduct follow-up investigations into criminal offenses within North Providence's jurisdiction, leading to the identification, apprehension, and prosecution of offenders.

The division oversees the following key functions:

- Thorough investigation of criminal cases;
- Managing sex offender files, including registration and home compliance checks;
- Preparing criminal cases for prosecution and court presentation;
- Conducting background investigations for new recruits, pistol permits, and specific employment;
- Coordinating juvenile-related investigations with the juvenile prosecutor and Family Court;
- Managing 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 follow-up investigations inside the jurisdiction of North Providence.

*North Providence Police Department Annual Report 2024  
(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 detective 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 56 missing persons' reports in 2024.
- **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 forty one (41) 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 fourteen (14) 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 offenses 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 led by Captain Michael Tavarozzi Sr., a seasoned veteran with 20 years of service in the North Providence Police Department. As the Patrol Division Commander, he oversees a team of uniformed officers, organized into three primary Patrol Watches. In addition to these three shifts, officers are assigned to overlapping shifts to ensure continuous coverage and protection for the Town, especially during peak hours. Each Watch is managed by a Watch Commander, who holds the rank of Lieutenant, along with front-line supervisors at the Sergeant level.

As the backbone of the North Providence Police Department, the Patrol Division is the largest and most visible unit, offering 24-hour service, 365 days a year.

The division handles a wide range of essential duties, including but not limited to:

- Assisting citizens with criminal and civil matters;
- Crime prevention and offender apprehension;
- Evidence collection;
- Managing CCPR data;
- Providing emergency assistance;
- Enforcing traffic laws and DUI regulations;
- Issuing summonses;
- Conducting both preliminary and follow-up criminal investigations;
- Documenting incidents, accidents, and arrests;

In line with the North Providence Police Department's Mission Statement, the Patrol Division is committed to fostering strong community relationships. It works tirelessly to resolve issues, improve the safety and quality of life for residents, and reduce fear in the community. The department strives to bridge the gap between officers and the people they serve.

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT



The Community Affairs Unit is led by Lieutenant Ryan Emerson, a 13-year veteran of the North Providence Police Department. Lieutenant Emerson oversees nearly all community policing efforts within the department.

Under his leadership, the unit includes three School Resource Officers (SROs), who are stationed within the North Providence School system to foster closer interactions with the Town's students.

Lieutenant Emerson is also responsible for managing and updating the department's social media accounts, keeping the community

informed and engaged.

The Community Affairs Unit organizes and participates in a variety of community outreach events throughout the year, including, but not limited to, the Christmas Toy Drive, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Women's Self-Defense Class, and Citizens' Police Academy.

Lieutenant Emerson, in collaboration with North Providence High School staff, spearheaded the Pathway Program. This initiative provides students with hands-on experience in law enforcement, giving them a real-world view of the profession while countering misconceptions often portrayed in TV shows. The program also offers guidance on how to pursue a career in law enforcement, outlining the necessary steps for aspiring officers.

The Community Affairs Unit is always exploring innovative ways to strengthen its relationship with the North Providence School Department. Members of the unit provide mentorship and support to students. For example, during School Reading Week, officers read books virtually to elementary students, engaging with them and building positive connections. Additionally, the North Providence High School Citizens' Police Academy offers high school students an eight-week course covering various aspects of law enforcement.

A key focus of the Community Affairs Unit is school safety. The unit continuously seeks new approaches to ensure the safety of students and faculty. Training programs include school lockdown drills, known as Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) training, and sex offender notifications.

The North Providence Police Department takes great pride in fostering strong partnerships with the residents, students, and businesses of the Town, working together to create a safer, more connected community.



*North Providence Police Department Annual Report 2024  
(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 (12) year veteran of the Department who began his career as a civilian dispatcher. SRO Nina Bliss is an eight (9) year veteran of the Department, and SRO Kyle Moura a seven (8) 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	2023	2024
Arrests	8	24
Incidents	88	103

## **ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

The Community Affairs Unit of the North Providence Police Department also works closely with state and local agencies to address elderly affairs. Older members of the community are particularly vulnerable to assault, theft, and neglect. With the rise of technology, criminals have increasingly targeted the elderly through scams, fraud, and identity theft. The Elderly Affairs supervisor leads a team of three officers who serve as liaisons between the elderly and the Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs. These officers investigate crimes against seniors, report missing elderly individuals for Silver Alerts, and host annual safety seminars, training sessions, and provide the latest security and protection information to help safeguard the elderly community.



## **K9 UNIT**

The K9 Unit consists of a handler and their canine partner. Patrolman Jeffrey Galligan, a seasoned 25-year veteran of the North Providence Police Department, serves as the department's K9 handler. He works alongside K9 Max, a German Shepherd. K9 Max comes from a long line of dogs selectively bred for the specialized tasks that police dogs are trained to perform. Together, Officer Galligan and K9 Max form an exceptional team. The K9 Unit plays a crucial role in various operations, including search and rescue missions, locating missing persons, narcotics seizures, and fostering positive community relations.



## **MOTORCYCLE UNIT**

The North Providence Motorcycle Unit is made up of three motorcycles and currently has four officers who regularly work in the unit. The unit plays an active role in various annual town events, such as the Memorial Day Parade and the 4th of July celebration at Governor Notte Park. Additionally, the motorcycles are utilized for special events outside the town, including the Providence St. Patrick's Day and Columbus Day Parades, the Aquidneck Island Police Parade, and Special Olympics events. The Motorcycle Unit also supports neighboring law enforcement agencies and provides escorts for motorcyclists participating in charitable events. They also lead funeral processions in and out of town upon the request of the Mayor or Chief of Police. When needed, the motorcycles can be deployed for patrol duties, law enforcement grants, or special road details. Officers assigned to the Motorcycle Unit take great pride in their role, which strengthens the relationship between the North Providence Police and the community.



## **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 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 2024:

- Domestic Violence – 235 Arrest Reports
- Sexual Assault – 3 Arrest Reports
- Child Molestation –1 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 led by Captain Michel'Angelo Scaramuzzo, a dedicated 20-year veteran of the North Providence Police Department. Captain Scaramuzzo also serves as the Department's Use of Force instructor. In addition, he has been an instructor at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy for the past 18 years, specializing in defensive tactics, community policing, domestic violence, and mental health.

The division oversees several key units, including the Records Section, Animal Control Unit, Planning and Training Unit, Municipal Court, and custodial staff. It is staffed by both sworn officers and civilian personnel.

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for a broad range of functions, including:

- Agency, fleet, and property management;
- Maintenance of buildings and holding facilities;
- Career development;
- Crime and operations analysis;
- Grant management;
- Payroll administration;
- Performance evaluations;
- Planning and research;
- The promotional process;
- Records management;
- Recruitment and selection;
- Maintenance of special accounts;
- Training programs;
- NIBRS and UCR reporting;

## PLANNING AND TRAINING SECTION



Lieutenant Lisa Andrews is a seasoned 16-year veteran of the North Providence Police Department. She currently leads the Planning and Training Section, which falls under the command of the Administrative Services Division Commander. Lieutenant Andrews oversees the administration of all departmental training programs, manages records, supervises vehicle maintenance and acquisitions, handles grants acquisition and maintenance, and ensures the outfitting and replacement of equipment for all department personnel, as well as the upkeep of department facilities.

The Planning and Training Officer's key responsibilities include:

- **Recruitment and Selection:** The Planning and Training Officer is responsible for managing the entire recruitment and selection process. This includes overseeing the application process, supervising recruit personnel, and preparing recruits for police service through an introduction to departmental policies, procedures, and job performance requirements.
- **Training:** The Planning and Training Officer is in charge of all departmental training, both in-service and external. This includes coordinating in-service training programs on topics such as domestic violence, firearms, self-defense tactics, CPR, Narcan administration, gunshot wound care, workplace harassment, biased policing, mental health awareness, rules and regulations, policies and procedures, leadership, human relations, crisis intervention, and other current developments in law enforcement. Additionally, the officer ensures that all staff stay updated on new laws, Supreme Court rulings, and other changes that impact police operations, enabling them to perform their duties effectively. The officer also seeks external training resources to develop specialized skills that enhance the overall efficiency of the department while maintaining thorough records 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 2024, the North Providence Police Department issued a total of 1,633 Municipal Court violations.

## RECRUITMENT

The North Providence Police Department continued its recruitment drive in 2024, 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 50 applicants applied.



## GRANTS

The North Providence Police Department received or maintained the following grants during 2024:

- **Body Worn Camera Grant:** This five (5) year grant 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 2024, 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**

The Tri-Town Animal Shelter serves the Towns of North Providence, Johnston, and Smithfield, housing the Animal Control Officers (ACOs) from each of these municipalities. These towns work together to offer the best possible services to both residents and animals.

ACOs are responsible for enforcing local ordinances related to the regulation and control of domestic animals. This includes investigating animal bite incidents, nuisance complaints, and cases of abuse or neglect. They handle complaints regarding domestic animals, such as licensing issues, stray animals, and animal control matters as outlined in the town ordinances. When necessary, ACOs take actions such as capturing, confining, quarantining, or even euthanizing animals. They also determine whether state laws or local ordinances have been violated and issue citations when appropriate. In addition to these duties, ACOs may be called to testify in court as witnesses in relevant cases.

The ACOs also maintain the shelter, ensuring cleanliness and keeping records for all animals brought in, including those up for adoption or euthanasia. They organize an annual fundraiser and consistently accept donations to support the animals in their care.

In 2024, the Animal Control Unit responded to or initiated 441 calls for service. That year, there were also three hearings concerning vicious dogs. The following table outlines the activities at the North Providence Animal Shelter during 2024

**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	110	21	30	70	9	26	13	0	12	147	131

## **ACCREDITATION/PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**



The Accreditation Division is led by Lieutenant Justin Ferreira, a 9-year veteran of the North Providence Police Department. The Department is dedicated to delivering the highest standard of service to the community, and to this end, has successfully completed the process of becoming an accredited law enforcement agency. The Accreditation Division focuses exclusively on managing the Department's policies and practices.

The North Providence Police Department's commitment to professional excellence and quality service led to its voluntary participation in the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. In 2019, the Department earned accreditation from the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission (RIPAC), and in 2023, it achieved national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). Accreditation is a progressive and well-established method for law

enforcement agencies to assess and enhance their overall performance. It is grounded in the adoption of standards that clearly define professional objectives. Agencies conduct a comprehensive self-assessment to align their operations with these standards. Once the necessary procedures are in place, a team of trained assessors confirms the successful implementation of the standards. Achieving accreditation is a significant professional milestone, recognizing the implementation of policies and procedures that are both conceptually sound and operationally effective.