



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



COLUMBIA, SC



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MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

DANIEL RICKENMANN

Mayor

TINA HERBERT

District I Councilman

DR. ADITI BUSSELLS

At-Large Councilwoman

HOWARD E. DUVALL, JR.

At-Large Councilman

EDWARD H. MCDOWELL, JR.

District II Councilman

WILL BRENNAN

District III Councilman

PETER M. BROWN

District IV Councilman

CITY MANAGER & EXECUTIVE TEAM

TERESA WILSON

City Manager

MELISSA S. GENTRY

Assistant City Manager

JEFF PALEN

Assistant City Manager/
Chief Financial Officer

CLINT SHEALY

Assistant City Manager

HENRY SIMONS

Assistant City Manager

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Citizens of Columbia,

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2023 Columbia Police Department (CPD) Annual Report.

It has become an annual tradition to compile information across the department to report a year of hard work and accomplishments as an organization. Our staff continues to demonstrate resiliency, determination, professionalism and commitment to mission. In the year to come, we will remain focused on recruitment, retention, officer wellness and community engagement.

We are committed to maintaining national standards, best practices and finding innovative ways to improve service delivery and build trust. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your Police Chief.

We are grateful for opportunities to make a difference in communities we serve through excellent customer service and professional service delivery. Every encounter with a citizen is an opportunity to build trust.

Respectfully,



William H. "Skip" Holbrook
Chief of Police



MISSION

The Columbia Police Department will provide professional and ethical service in the protection of our citizens, while preventing and reducing the fear of crime through problem-solving partnerships.

VISION

Through our steadfast commitment to policing excellence, the Columbia Police Department will be transformed to exhibit the innovation, engagement and professionalism of an exceptional organization, whose workforce truly reflects the values and diversity of the City of Columbia.

CORE VALUES

PROFESSIONALISM

FAIRNESS

INTEGRITY

COURAGE

DIVERSITY

COLLABORATION

SERVICE ORIENTATION

COMMUNICATION

ABOUT CPD

The Columbia Police Department (CPD) is firmly committed to providing professional police services to residents, visitors and businesses. Officers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to protect life and property within city limits. They are responsible for responding to calls for service, investigating criminal activity and traffic collisions, apprehending suspects and more. The organizational structure of the department is divided into four bureaus and five patrol regions.



385

**AUTHORIZED
SWORN STRENGTH**



135

**AUTHORIZED
PROFESSIONAL STAFF**



\$48,509,232

ANNUAL BUDGET



\$3,237,869

GRANT FUNDS MANAGED

EXECUTIVE STAFF



CHIEF W. H. "SKIP" HOLBROOK



DEPUTY CHIEF MELRON KELLY



MAJOR RANDY MARTIN



MAJOR GEORGE DRAFTS



MAJOR CHRIS WHITE



MAJOR CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

William H. "Skip" Holbrook

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF

Melron Kelly

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF/ SPECIAL PROJECTS

Captain Kellie Yates

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Accreditation
Internal Affairs
Policy Management

PUBLIC INFORMATION/ MEDIA RELATIONS

Jennifer Timmons

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

Major George Drafts

RECORDS UNIT

RECRUITING

GRANTS

CRIME ANALYSIS

SUPPLY /
EQUIPMENT

FLEET / FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT

LAB SERVICES UNIT

EVIDENCE /
PROPERTY UNIT

PERSONNEL

STAFF DEVELOPMENT
& TRAINING

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

Major Chris White

SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICERS

TELEPHONE
RESPONSE UNIT

COURT SERVICES
UNIT

TRAFFIC SAFETY
UNIT

CADETS

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

K9 TEAM

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

VIOLENT CRIMES
AGAINST PERSONS

VICTIM SERVICES

PROPERTY CRIMES
UNIT

SPECIAL VICTIMS
UNIT

FUGITIVE TEAM

MIDLANDS GANG
TASK FORCE

POLYGRAPH UNIT

ORGANIZED CRIME/
NARCOTICS

FEDERAL TASK
FORCES

CRIME SCENE
INVESTIGATION

CRIME GUN
INTEL CENTER (CGIC)

PATROL BUREAU

Major Christopher Roberts

METRO REGION

NORTH REGION

SOUTHEAST REGION

WEST REGION

CODE
ENFORCEMENT

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

Major Randy Martin

SPECIAL EVENTS

COMMUNITY SAFETY
OFFICERS

PRIVATE SECURITY
LIAISON

EMERGENCY
SERVICES

Captain Earle Marsh

BOMB SQUAD

CRISIS NEGOTIATION

MOBILE FIELD FORCE

S.W.A.T.

EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS CENTER/
REAL TIME CRIME
CENTER (RTCC)

2023 CPD DEMOGRAPHICS



SWORN OFFICERS BY RACE/GENDER

RACE / GENDER	TOTALS	%
African American Female	25	8.31%
African American Male	78	25.91%
Asian Female	0	0.0%
Asian Male	1	0.33%
Hispanic Female	3	1.00%
Hispanic Male	12	3.99%
Native American Indian	1	0.33%
Other Female	1	0.33%
Other Male	7	2.33%
White Female	26	8.64%
White Male	147	48.83%

2023 At-A-Glance

AT-A-GLANCE	2022	2023	↑↓	Incident Change +/-	Incident Change %
Homicide	15	20	↑	+5	+33%
Rape*	70	81	↑	+11	+16%
Robbery	157	169	↑	+12	+8%
Aggravated Assaults*	997	929	↓	-68	-7%
Burglary	733	732	↓	-1	0%
Larceny* Autobreaking included	4,618	4,284	↓	-334	-7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	707	748	↑	+41	+6%
Arrests	4,281	4,074	↓	-207	-5%
Calls for Service	165,435	188,159	↑	+22,724	+14%
Miles Driven	4,257,400	4,811,367	↑	+553,967	+13%
Firearms Seized	733	808	↑	+75	+10%
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	1,239	1,199	↓	-40	-3%
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	6,058	5,764	↓	-239	-5%
CRIME TOTALS	7,297	6,963	↓	-334	-5%

*Rape - includes all attempts/completions of the following: Rape, Sodomy, Rape w/ Object

*Aggravated Assaults are reported by the number of victims.

*Larceny - includes all attempts/completions of Pocket Picking, Purse Snatching, Shoplifting, Theft from Building, Theft from Coin Operated Machine/Device, Theft from Motor Vehicle, Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/ Accessories, All Other Larceny

*Data pulled from RMS and is subject to validations, changes, and/or additions. Accuracy is dependent upon validation. Data based on number of incidents will vary.



PATROL BUREAU

PATROL BUREAU

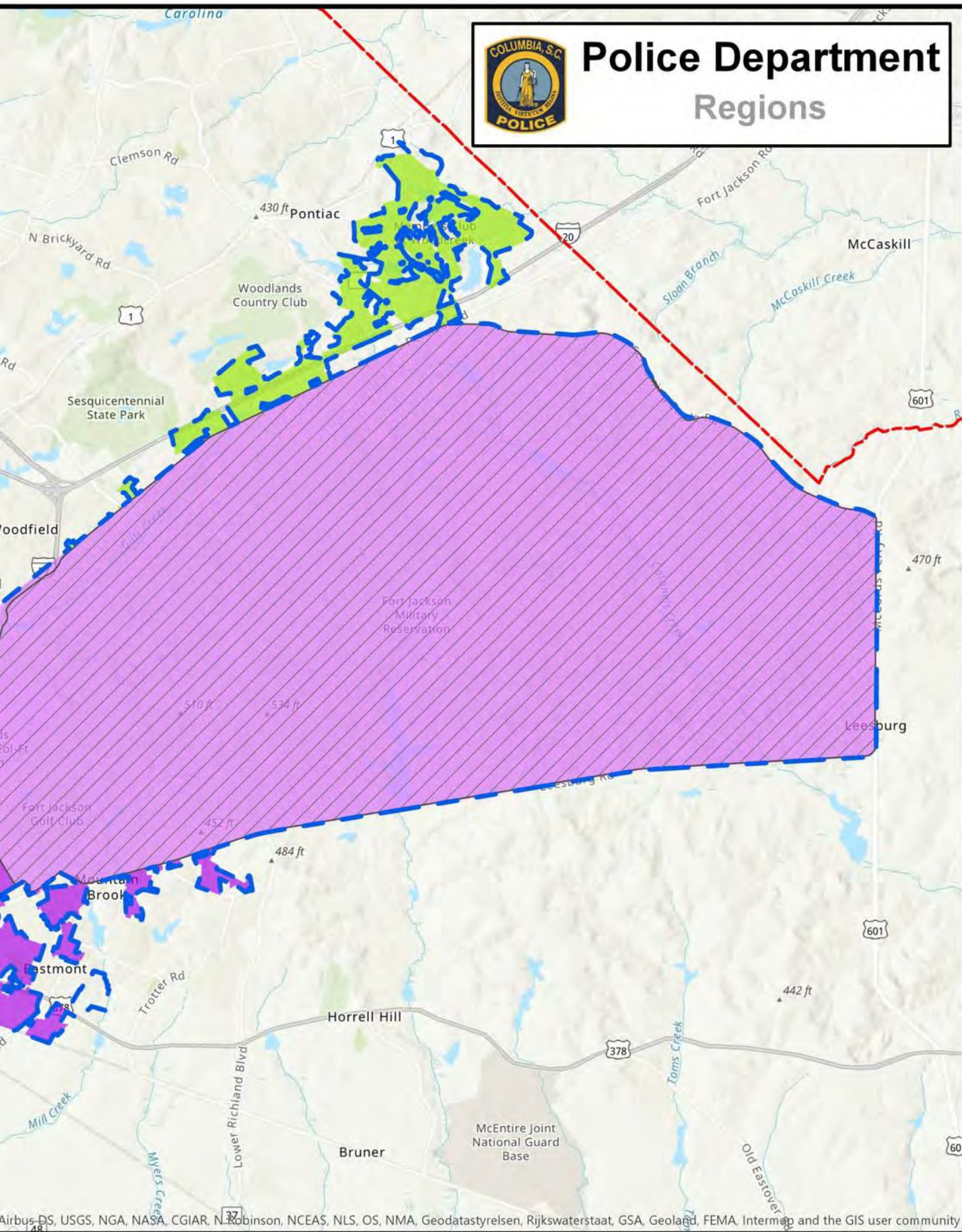
The primary objective of the Patrol Bureau is to provide prompt, professional service to the City of Columbia's residents and visitors. Working cooperatively with the communities they serve, the Patrol Bureau strives to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime through a problem solving partnership.

Maintaining a 24 hour a day/seven day a week presence, the Patrol Bureau is the most visible and recognizable part of the department.





Police Department Regions



Airbus-DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N. Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community



North Region – District I

Address: 3905 Ensor Avenue
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 401-8810



West Region – District I

Address: 690 Club Road
Columbia, SC 29212
Phone: (803) 749-5830



Metro Region – District II

Address: 1800 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 545-3972



Southeast Region – District III

Address: 2132 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29205
Phone: (803) 737-5880



Southeast Region – East Annex III

Address: 446 Spears Creek Church Road
Columbia, SC 29045
Phone: (803) 788-3018

CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Code Enforcement Division finished 2023 with a 19% increase in the total number of cases assigned the previous year. This was an extremely productive year for the Division as officers completed staff restructuring and fulfilled vacancies, paving the way for several promotions and notable supervisory job title changes. These changes added more accountability and oversight to daily operations.

The most notable accomplishment in 2023 was the passage and implementation of the City's Short Term Rental Ordinance (STRO). With the assistance of a third party vendor providing access to all of the short-term rental data, more than 350 rentals were registered. In addition, the Columbia Police Department collaborated with the University of South Carolina to create a USC Ambassador program to address code violations on the weekends in the University Village area near campus. This created an off-duty, but paid assignment for Code Enforcement Staff as they patrolled the designated area to address possible code violations.

The Division also completed 10 Neighborhood Improvement Sweeps in 2023 with coordination across several City Departments.

55%
resolution rate

195
registered vacant buildings

Highlights/Accomplishments

- Passed and implemented a Short Term Rental Ordinance for the City.
- Completed 43 Demolitions of substandard structures.
- Completed restructuring the Code Enforcement Division creating multiple supervisory roles to increase productivity and accountability.
- Completed 10 Neighborhood Improvement/Quality of Life Sweeps in coordination with multiple City departments.
- Started 9,214 new Code Cases
- Resolved 9,467 Code Cases
- Completed over 18,000 inspections
- Implemented the USC Ambassador program for the new Campus Village in partnership with USC & USC's Division of Law Enforcement & Safety.
- Facilitated abatement of life safety violations at a specified unit at the Colony Apartments.
- Identified 18 substandard properties owned by Indigo 52 with significant life safety violations for tenants.
- Abated 519 vacant lots, premises, and right-of-ways due to overgrowth and debris.
- Cleaned up 48 homeless encampments, disposing of over 96 truckloads of trash and debris.
- Secured 42 unsafe structures.
- Abated 301 work orders for cutting overgrowth, removing trash and debris, securing structures, and removing waste tires.
- Collected more than 800 waste tires from city streets/right of ways.
- Placed more than 1400 packets of larvicide throughout the City in storm drains, sewers, and ditches.
- Placed 200 pounds of rat bait in sewers as part of the City's Rat Control/Prevention Program.

USC Ambassador Initiative

- Initiated 136 code cases
- Shut down 14 parties for various violations
- Initiated contact with 97 individuals

2023 STATS

CORE CODE CASES BY POLICE REGION - 2023										
VIOLATION TYPE	METRO		NORTH		SOUTHEAST		WEST		TOTALS	
	OPENED	CLOSED*	OPENED	CLOSED*	OPENED	CLOSED*	OPENED	CLOSED*	OPENED	CLOSED*
Abandoned/Derelict Vehicles - Private Property	281	279	267	276	182	217	7	4	737	776
Abandoned/Derelict Vehicles - ROW	44	39	55	62	85	70	1	2	185	173
Accessory Structure	54	34	49	53	53	41	0	1	156	129
Commercial Boarded Building	1	1	4	5	4	6	0	0	9	12
Commercial Demolition	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
Commercial Premise	121	98	131	153	139	121	21	19	412	391
Commercial Structure	34	69	220	313	58	99	0	14	312	495
Front Yard Parking	93	77	201	123	164	104	2	1	460	305
Rental Property - No Permit	179	123	231	141	360	168	8	6	778	438
Residential Boarded Building	9	16	5	12	1	13	0	0	15	41
Residential Demolition	18	24	18	19	7	36	0	0	43	79
Residential Premise	481	423	867	685	715	542	10	9	2,073	1,659
Residential Structure	213	280	226	261	200	206	2	0	641	747
Right of Way	233	229	118	82	111	110	2	1	464	422
Roll Carts	158	148	129	146	336	290	1	7	624	591
Vacant Buildings - Registered	19	6	33	20	23	13	0	0	75	39
Vacant Buildings - Not Registered	35	62	83	45	57	36	0	0	175	143
Vacant Lots	238	221	233	205	208	170	4	3	683	599
Vector Control - Mosquitos	5	7	6	2	15	6	0	0	26	15
Vector Control - Rodents	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL CASES	2,217	2,137	2,878	2,603	2,720	2,248	58	67	7,873	7,055

* Number of total cases closed/resolved during that month. Most cases may have been opened prior to this report month.

<h2>10</h2> <p>Neighborhood Improvement/Quality of Life Sweeps conducted</p>	<h2>48</h2> <p>homeless encampments cleaned</p>	<h2>42</h2> <p>unsecure structures boarded</p>	<h2>800+</h2> <p>waste tires collected from city streets/right of ways</p>
<h2>5</h2> <p>Vector Control Areas treated three times for mosquito larva as part of the Mosquito Prevention Program</p>	<h2>301</h2> <p>abated work orders for cutting, removing trash and debris, and tire removal in the City tree zones and right of ways.</p>	<h2>200+</h2> <p>pounds of rat bait placed in City Sewers as part of the Rat Control/Prevention Program</p>	



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) is primarily tasked with following leads developed during the initial reporting of serious criminal activity. Investigators are available 24 hours a day to respond to the scene of criminal activity and needs of crime victims. CIB is comprised of 12 units.

Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSI)

Responsible for the preservation, documentation, collection and analysis of evidence from crime scenes.

CSI Statistics	2022	2023
Crime Scenes Processed	560	667
Firearm eTraces (Electronic Tracing System Performed)	729	759
Forensic Requests	965	982
Analyzed AFIS Prints	220	204





Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) / Joint Terrorism Task Force

FBI Violent Crime Task Force TFOs and FBI agents monitor persons known to be involved or associated with foreign or domestic (home grown extremist) terrorist groups or organizations. In addition, they are responsible for providing intelligence reports to law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and national level regarding potential threats.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) / Violent Crime Task Force

CPD TFOs work with FBI Agents to reduce violent crime by identifying and targeting violent persons and organizations, target human trafficking operations and prosecuting them through the federal court system.

Violent Crime Task Force Statistics	2022	2023
Arrests	3	7
Firearms Seized	0	0
Drugs Seized	0	0

United States Secret Service (USSS)

CPD TFOs work with Secret Service Agents to investigate cyber and financial crimes such as computer hacking and corporate embezzlement. TFOs also work with Secret Service Agents to identify persons involved in the production and distribution of counterfeit currency and merchandise. In addition, TFOs conduct forensic examinations of cell phones and computers involved in criminal cases.

USSS Statistics	2022	2023
Total pieces of evidence submitted for electronic examination by CPD	40	41
Total Cases	40	41

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Task Force

CPD TFOs work with ATF agents to reduce gun violence by identifying and targeting violent gun offenders and prosecuting them through the state and federal court system. TFOs and ATF agents also target persons involved in the illegal sale of firearms and ammunition throughout midlands area. In addition, TFOs conduct gun traces (E-Trace) and enter the seized firearms into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).

ATF Task Force Statistics	2022	2023
Cases Submitted for Federal Prosecution	39	45
Cases Indicted & Arrested on Federal Arrest Warrants	26	36
Search Warrants	1	0

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

CPD TFOs work with DEA Agents to identify and target persons involved in the illegal distribution of narcotics and the diversion of prescription medications. TFOs also work with DEA Agents to monitor private practice doctors and pharmacists for prescription medication fraud.

DEA Statistics	2022	2023
Arrests	16	24
Currency Seized	\$32,167	\$38,830
Investigations	23	11

United States Marshals Service (USMS)

CPD TFOs work with deputy US Marshals to locate and capture fugitives from all over the United States and its territories. TFOs and USMS Agents are also responsible for the extradition of prisoners from one jurisdiction to another and the transportation of prisoners for court appearances.

USMS Statistics	2022	2023
Fugitives Arrested	138	131
Extraditions	6	0

Polygraph Unit

The Polygraph Unit supports the investigative needs of the Criminal Investigation division and other local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies. In addition, the unit conducts pre-employment and internal polygraph examinations.

Polygraph Statistics	2022	2023
Tests Completed	53	84

Organized Crime & Narcotics (OCN)

Investigators assigned to the OCN unit work closely with State and Federal law enforcement agencies to disrupt and dismantle narcotics trafficking organizations, and arrest those involved in related drug violations.

OCN Statistics	2022	2023
Arrests	219	120
Heroin	83.6 g	14.1 g
Controlled Pills	65 pills	449 pills
Ecstasy Pills (MDMA)	145 pills	1,523 pills
Cocaine	526.9 g	257 g
Currency	\$72,695	\$100,200
Firearms	85	0
Marijuana	821.09 lbs	31.03 lbs/8 plants
Methamphetamine	118 g	289.5 g
Fentanyl	2,355.5 g	24 pills
Overdose Deaths	17	14
Overdose Survivals	43	42

Organized Crime Narcotics Success Story

Investigator J. Grant arrested a murder suspect with the assistance of a confidential and reliable informant. The person provided valuable information on the whereabouts of the suspect's friend and ultimately the suspect himself. Subsequently, both the friend and murder suspect were arrested and charged with Murder, Possession of a Weapon during a Violent Crime, Distribution of Crack, and Distribution of Crack Proximity.

Special Victims Unit (SVU)

Special Victims Unit Statistics	2022	2023
Criminal Sexual Conduct	111	88
Domestic Violence	415	189
Missing Persons	102	100
Indecent Exposure	26	5
Child Abuse	53	33
Runaways	231	161
Child Pornography	4	4
Total Assigned Cases	942	687

Investigate all allegations of Criminal Sexual Conduct, Child Abuse/ Neglect, Child Fatality, Indecent Exposure, Emergency Protective Custody, Missing Persons, Stalking/ Harassment, Domestic Violence, Internet Crimes Against Children and Juveniles.

SVU Success Story

In September, CPD's Special Victims Unit was requested to assist with an out-of-state case involving custodial interference and a missing child. Several months prior, investigators learned that the mother & father designated a pre-arranged location for a custody exchange. Despite the exchange occurring lawfully, the father refused to return the child to the mother.

Investigator J. Johnson was assigned the case and immediately began an intensive search for the father/suspect. The search revealed the suspect was in SC but outside of CPD's jurisdiction. Rather than closing the case, Inv. Johnson worked with multiple law enforcement agencies to ensure the safe recovery of the child.

As it turned out, the suspect's location was the same as another SVU investigator who was attending a training class. With Johnson's help, including securing an arrest warrant, the fellow investigator met with partner law enforcement officials and subsequently arrested the suspect. The child was returned safely to the mother.

Property Crimes Unit (PCU)

The Property Crimes Unit is responsible for the follow-up investigation of crimes against property. These include burglaries, stolen vehicles, car break-ins and a multitude of crimes related to theft, fraud and property damage.

PCU Assigned Cases	2022	2023
Criminal Sexual Conduct	324	293
Domestic Violence	511	368
Missing Persons	390	296
Financial Transaction Card Theft/Fraud, Bank Fraud, Forgery, Larceny (Grand and Petit), Vandalism, Identity Theft, Breach of Trust, Fail to Return Rentals, etc.	504	385
Total Assigned Cases	1,729	1,342

Property Crimes Success Story

In March, the Property Crimes Unit (PCU) made several arrests and recovered more than \$750,000 worth of stolen merchandise.

PCU investigators were assigned a burglary case after a local construction yard had several tools and construction materials stolen. A GPS tracker from the company was hidden inside some of the materials leading officers to the suspect's home. A search warrant led to the recovery of more than \$250,000 worth of stolen tools and construction equipment. Investigators were able to link the merchandise to eight separate thefts in CPD's jurisdiction.

Later that month, PCU was able recover items stolen from PRISMA Health and other locations after gaining information about the subject. A search of the residence revealed that there was over \$500,000 of stolen tools, electronics, and a bicycle found and seized. Items stolen were connected to shoplifting and other retail thefts.

Due to thorough investigation and collaboration between the PCU and other jurisdictions, three people were arrested, numerous cases we closed and potential future incidents disrupted.

Crime Gun Intelligence Unit (CGIC)

The Crime Gun Intelligence Unit (CGIU) consists of sworn and non-sworn employees focused on preventing, identifying and prosecuting gun-related related violent crimes in the City of Columbia. CGIU investigators work with federal, state and local jurisdictions to collect and analyze crime gun evidence using forensic technology, Shotspotter and NIBIN to combat crime.

CGIU Statistics	2023
Cases Assigned	114
Cases Cleared/Closed	81
Arrests: Federal-18/ CPD-32	51
Shooting Incidents Triaged	393
NIBIN e-Traces	802
ShotSpotter	1,251 Responses 5,523 Rounds Fired
CGIU Seizures	\$16,450.00 in U.S. Currency, 30lbs. Marijuana, money counters, AK-47 assault rifle, 9mm pistol 50 round drum and three large capacity magazines



Firearm Theft Incidents

Unlawful firearms pose a significant problem in the City of Columbia and our neighboring jurisdictions. In the City of Columbia, there were 509 firearms reported stolen in 2023. In all, 304 firearms or 61% were stolen from a vehicle. There were 47 firearms stolen in burglaries accounting for another 15%.

<p>304 Firearms reported in 2023</p> <p>184 Firearms stolen from vehicles</p> <p>47 Firearms stolen from burglaries</p> <p>59 Firearms stolen from larcenies</p> <p>14 Firearms stolen by other means</p>	Firearm Theft Incidents	2022	2023
	Vehicles	55%	61%
	Larcenies	19%	19%
	Burglaries	26%	15%
	Other	0%	5%

Violent Crimes Against Persons Unit (VCAP)

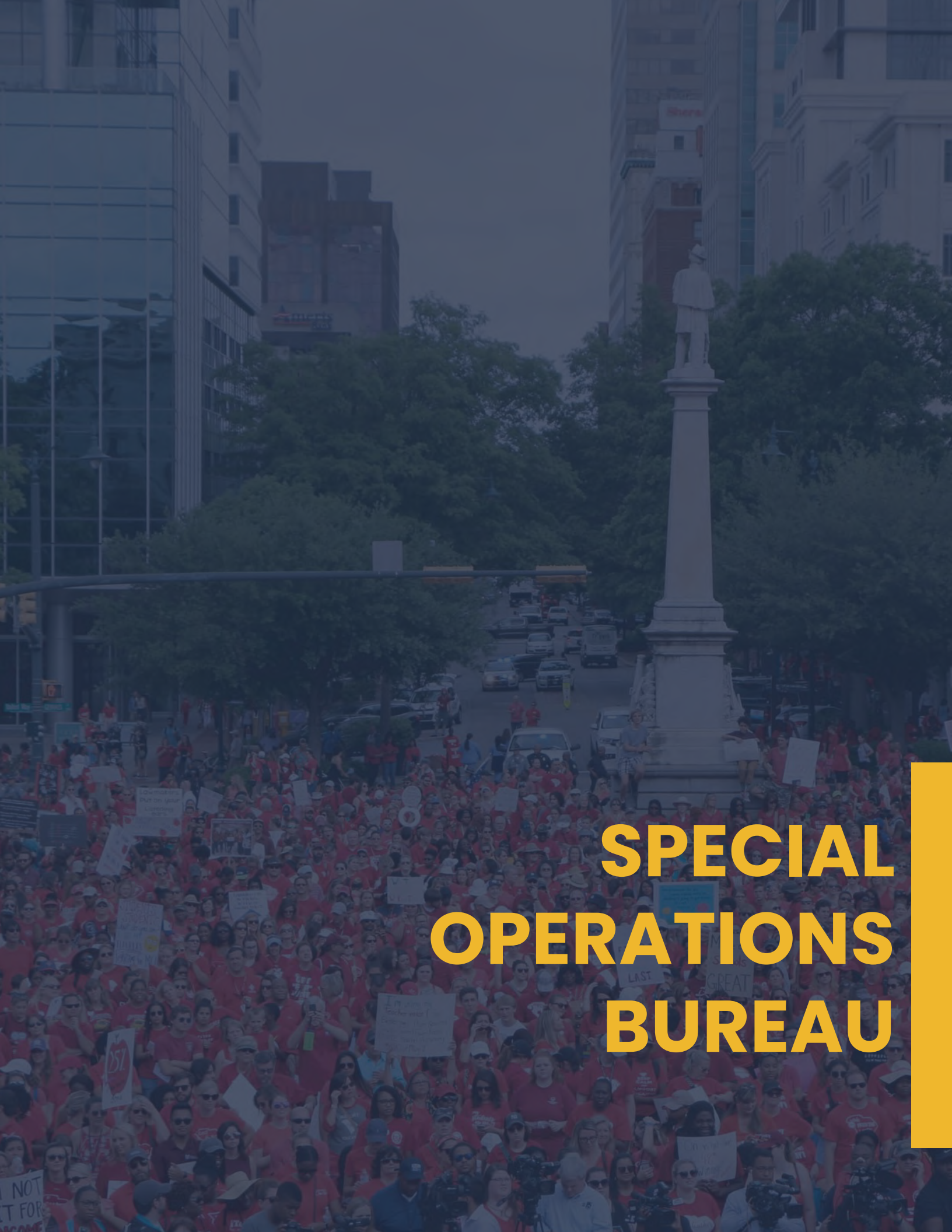
Violent Crimes against Persons Unit (VCAP) officers investigate all major crimes within the jurisdictional boundaries of the city of Columbia. The Unit conducts thorough investigations of each crime to include the collection of evidence and interviews. They also assist in the prosecution of suspect (s) through the preparation of case files and courtroom testimony.

VCAP Assigned Cases	2022	2023
Assault	125	82
Robbery	89	105
Pointing/Presenting	20	1
Attempted Murder	78	88
Murder	16	20
Carjacking, Bomb Threats, Kidnapping, Discharging, Arson, etc.	55	68
Total Cases Assigned	379	341
Total Arrests	51	67

VCAP Success Story



In November, CPD officers responded to the Tamarind Apartments on Stoneridge Drive for reports that a 48-year-old pizza delivery driver was fatally shot during an attempted armed robbery. Violent Crimes Investigators worked around the clock to collect evidence, conduct interviews, and review video surveillance. Through their hard work, several suspects were identified; warrants were signed leading to the arrests of two male teens. They were charged with Murder, Attempted Armed Robbery, Criminal Conspiracy, and Possession of a Weapon during a Violent Crime. Due to steadfast commitment to the citizens of Columbia and the victim's family, the VCAP Unit was able to take violent offenders off the streets.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Special Operations Bureau is comprised of the following highly proactive units which support services and special events for citizens of Columbia.

Bomb Squad

As a South Carolina accredited public safety bomb squad, all team members are certified by the FBI & US Army as Bomb Technicians. Team members respond to calls for explosive devices including old, abandoned and illegal fireworks.

During 2023, team members attended the following courses:

- FBI Hosted Regional Training
- Hazmat Training
- Bomb Commanders Conference
- Bomb Technicians Recertification
- New Mexico Tech Training
- Advanced Explosives Disposal Techniques

Bomb Squad Statistics	2022	2023
Threats	4	4
Evidence Destroyed	4	4
Training Hours	1,132	1,192
Calls for Service	11	18
Assists	1	7



S.W.A.T.

The SWAT Team’s mission is to provide a well-disciplined, well-trained, efficient unit, which can be used by the Chief of Police in situations where the public and officers are in extreme danger.

SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) is made up o police officers, who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Their work on the SWAT Team is in addition to their regular duties and assignments. The team’s commander, is appointed by the Chief of Police. Each team member must meet strict requirements and is selected after a rigorous process. The team trains bi-monthly in preparation for handling a variety of high-risk critical incidents.

The SWAT Team is used for hostage situations and negotiations, barricaded suspects, service of high-risk warrants, drug raids and search warrants, searches for armed subjects, VIP protection, stakeouts and undercover surveillance, civil disorder and other special events. SWAT handles any incident, which has the potential for armed confrontations, through tactics that lessen the chances of injury or death.

SWAT TEAM	2023
Training Hours	173.75
Presentations	1
Call Outs	20
Warrants Executed	16



Crisis Negotiations Team



The Columbia Police Department's Crisis Negotiations Team is a life preservation unit comprised of two teams of officers trained to resolve critical incidents through verbal techniques, while avoiding unnecessary risks and injuries to citizens, law enforcement, and suspects.



Crisis Negotiations Teams are decentralized and "On Call" and may be deployed for:

- Hostage situations
- Barricaded suspects
- Civil disturbances
- Suicide attempts
- Crisis intervention
- As directed by the Chief of Police or Deputy Chief

Hostage Crisis Negotiations	2023
Call Outs	3
Training Hours	92

Mobile Field Force

Mobile Field Force (MFF) is used for civil unrest / riot control. All officers are trained in formation movements, arrest strategies and tactics during mass civil unrest, crowd control munitions deployment, and less lethal equipment/ weapon deployment and usage.

The MFF can be deployed at the direction of the Chief of Police or his designee and can consist of different levels of response. The levels range from officer presence in standard uniform worn everyday that are prepared to work in small teams to address potential civil unrest to fully outfitted and equipped to handle and address civil unrest in small and large response teams.

The benefit to having a MFF is to ensure the officers/department can provide a coordinated, planned, and strategic response to large groups who actions violate local, state, and federal law.

Mobile Field Force	2023
Deployments	2

Community Safety Officer (CSO)

The CSO provides highly visible foot and vehicular patrols in residential and business communities, along with security for city buildings, special events as requested and critical infrastructure protection. They also perform elderly and residential checks as requested and school crossing guard duties at various locations.

CSO Stats	2022	2023
Community Contacts	12,294	6,286
Elder Checks	1,077	668
Hours spent on Patrol	11,058.75	8,040.5
Hours spent on Infrastructure protection	15,170	16,401.5

Special Events Unit

The Special Events Unit coordinates large public events occurring in the city, such as parades, public festivals, Five Points Saint Patrick's Day Celebration, construction projects, VIP visits to Columbia, specialized traffic patrol assignments and sporting events. In addition, they are responsible for formulating an Operational Plan for each event to accommodate traffic and crowd control, public safety concerns and crime prevention.

Variety of Events

- Parades
- Marathons, Half Marathons, 10K Runs and 5K Runs
- Festivals
- Traffic Control Details
- Special Duty Assignments
- Street Closures
- Barricade Requests



Special Events	2023
	315

Real Time Crime Center Unit

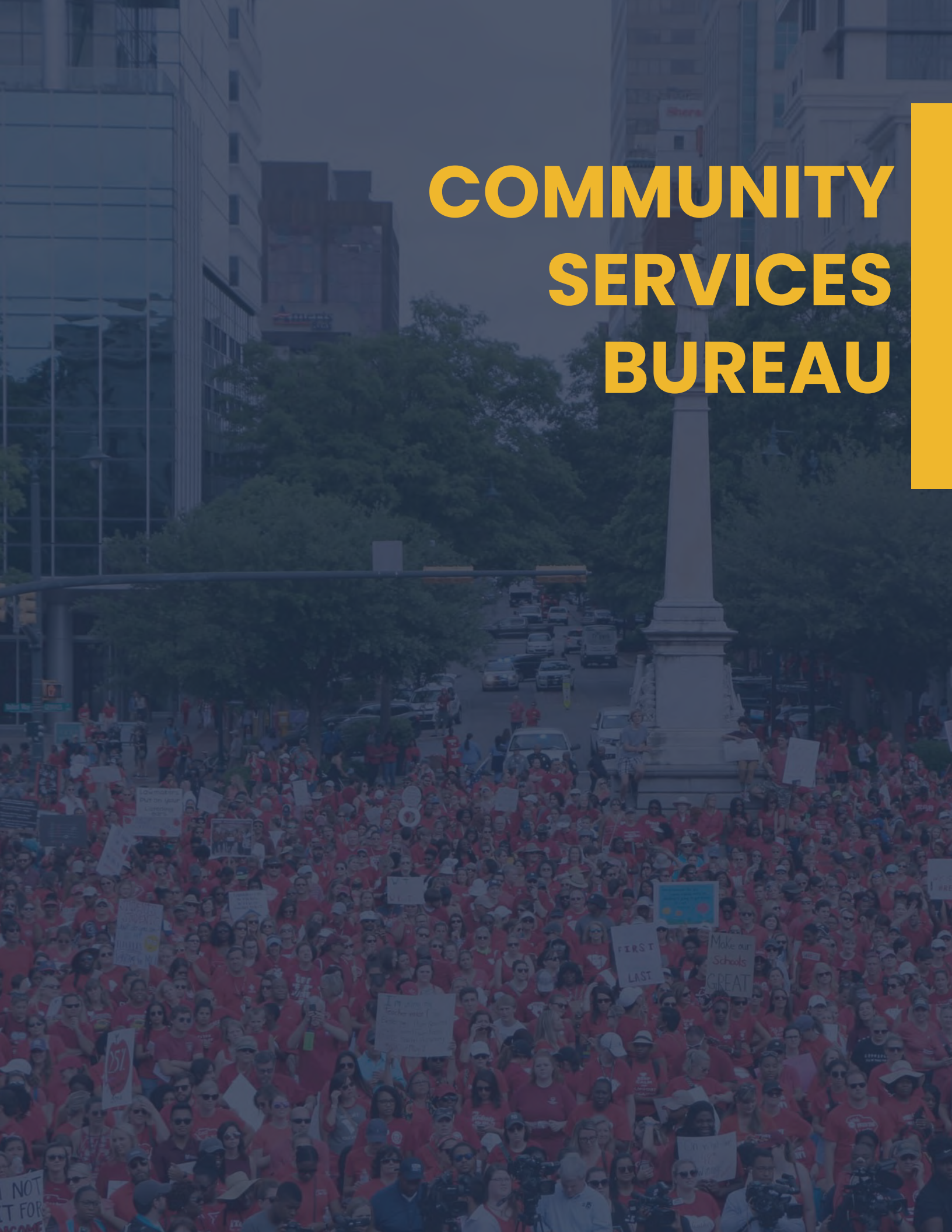
Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) of the City of Columbia Police Department is dedicated to using cutting-edge technology to prevent crime, solve crimes, and keep our community safe. This accomplished by:

- Monitoring live video feeds from hundreds of city-owned cameras
- Tracking real-time data on crime patterns and trends
- Providing real-time intelligence to officers on the ground
- Collaborating with other law enforcement agencies and community partners



Real Time Crime Center	2023
Video Requests	830
Radio Maintenance	162
Body Worn Cameras	31
Disc Requests	8
Protests	13
EOC	12

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU



Canine (K-9) Unit

A specialized unit that consists of eleven K-9 teams (one handler and one dog), each team operates on a citywide basis. The K-9 Team supports patrol operations, specialize units, and the Criminal Investigation Bureau, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The K-9 Team currently utilizes Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherds. The canines are trained in multiple skill sets to include tracking, drug detection, criminal apprehension, handler protection, building search and article search.

The partnership between a canine and handler is one of the most unique in the police force. At the end of each shift, the canine goes home with the handler and becomes part of their family.



K-9 Arrest Statistics	2022	2023
Calls For Service	K-9 Calls For Service - 5,118 K-9 Deployments - 33 K-9 Tracks - 60 K-9 Captures - 14 K-9 Searches - 30	K-9 Calls For Service - 5,666 K-9 Deployments - 32 K-9 Tracks - 55 K-9 Captures - 18 K-9 Searches - 65
Arrests/Reports/ Citations	K-9 Team Arrests - 253 Warrants Served - 164 Reports Taken - 448 Field Interviews - 177 Traffic Citations - 280 Traffic Warning Citations - 245	K-9 Team Arrests - 170 Warrants Served - 95 Reports Taken - 660 Field Interviews - 61 Traffic Citations - 266 Traffic Warning Citations - 143
Firearms Seized	Firearms - 24	Firearms - 21





School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit

SROs develop positive relationships and work in collaboration with students, school staff, and community members to ensure a safe learning environment for all students attending schools in Columbia.

SRO Statistics	2022	2023
Calls for Service	2,195	2,081
Crimes Investigated: Larcenies, Assaults, Vandalism & School Threats	128	50
D.A.R.E. Courses Taught	0	0
Arrests: Larcenies, Assaults & Vandalism	64	34
Non-Mandated School Events Hours	0	61

Assisting Columbia's Elderly (A.C.E.) Unit

A.C.E. serves as an advocate for the senior citizen population by planning, researching, monitoring and coordinating services and activities in order to promote lifelong dignity and independence.

Court Services Unit

The Court Services Unit provides static and roving security to the Municipal Courthouse, to include access control into the facilities. Additionally, officers transport prisoners from local detention facilities, operate internal detention holding facilities, conduct courtroom security, and respond to incidents in and around the Municipal Courthouse. The Court Officer duties include securing the safety of the citizens, staff and judges, assistance with the coverage of the Telephone Response Unit and Traffic Unit operations.

CS Stats	2022	2023
Richland County Detention Center	342	494
Lexington County Detention Center	141	109

Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit is responsible for educating citizens about methods to prevent crime by means of a proactive approach. Crime Prevention team members oversee safety initiatives and the following public education programs:

- Badges and Parks
- District One Teen Leadership Summit
- National Police Week
- National Night Out Kick Off & National Night Out
- Fan the Heat
- Human Trafficking Seminar
- Allen University Safety Day
- AARP Light Bulb Project
- Personal Safety
- Security Assessments
- Workplace Violence
- Active Shooter in the Workplace
- Church Safety

Telephone Response Unit (TRU)

TRU is a non-emergency call center for the department, tasked with assisting officers as necessary, answering citizen inquiries and taking police reports. They serve as the NCIC point of contact, maintain, track and validate criminal warrants and courtesy summons. In addition, the unit tracks property checks, provides on-call staff notifications and city-wide transport (Inmate Transports & Mental Transports). TRU serves as back-up to the Columbia-Richland 911/311 Communications Center.

TRU Statistics	2022	2023
Deployments	44,709	40,399
Walk in Citizens Assisted	6,864	7,134
Incident Reports	2,102	2,255





Traffic Safety Unit

Team members consist of officers specifically trained to deliver professional police service, enforce traffic laws and provide education and awareness in an effort to reduce traffic collisions and related fatalities.

Traffic Safety Unit Statistics	2022	2023
Collisions investigated	633	885
Fatal Collisions investigated	16	15
Traffic concerns/complaints	86	70
DUI arrests	92	20
Citations issued (includes warnings & collisions)	4,706	4,736
Vehicle for hire/wrecker inspections	204	135
Checkpoints (multi-agency)	3	1
DUI/traffic enforcement operations	5	3
Year to Date Calls for Service	947	407



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

The Administrative Bureau is responsible for eight logistical areas and units that provide support to police operations.

Equipment Management/Supply Unit

The Equipment Management/Supply Unit handles the logistics needed for the Department. The Materials Inventory Clerk is responsible for the distribution of received agency-owned property to authorized personnel within the Department. The Unit is accountable for all property and ensures that all property is maintained in a state of operational readiness.

Crime Analysis Unit

The Police Department has two (2) Crime Analysts that study and track crime. Crime Analysis supports a number of department functions including Patrol, Special Operations and Tactical Units, Investigations, Planning and Research, Crime Prevention, and Administrative Services (budgeting and program planning). A Crime Analyst studies crime and suspects, analyzes crime data to forecast day, time and locations where crime is likely to occur and disseminates that data accordingly throughout the organization. An Analyst will share crime patterns and incident behaviors with investigators and patrol officers on a daily basis. A Crime Analyst uses all available technologies to study crime. Analysts track criminal activity in various databases and computer mapping software.

Drug Lab

The Drug Lab is operated by two (2) police chemists who assist the Department's criminal investigations by providing scientific analytical services. The chemists perform scientific examinations of evidence and provides assistance in the collection of evidence at crime scenes when requested. The chemists are frequently asked by the Solicitor and city prosecutors to provide expert testimony in criminal court on drug lab findings. Analysis performed in the laboratory are often the definitive factor in proving the guilt or innocence of persons charged with criminal acts.

DRUG LAB STATISTICS

1,084 Drug Cases

Computer Liaison

The Computer Liaison provides end user support for new programs and coordinates and trains personnel to meet support requirements/maintenance for the system; plans and develops testing strategies that includes preparing test data, conducting program testing, and debugging/troubleshooting; and maintains and enhances existing systems.

Records

The Records Unit is the depository for all original police reports. These include offense reports, vehicular accident reports, and all additional reports completed by Patrol and Investigative officers. These reports are processed, indexed and archived for permanent storage. The Unit is also responsible for entering, updating, validating, and cancellation of all reported statistical and criminal history information provided to the state, and federal Criminal History Record Information databases. The Records Unit adheres to strict standards of confidentiality. Details of a report are not discussed over the telephone. The Public can request a copy of a Police Report in person at Police Headquarters (Records Unit) located at 1 Justice Square, with a proper photo identification.

6,513

Records Validated
(Jan 1 - Dec 31)

2,139

FOIA
Requests

1,863

Background Checks





Human Resources / Recruiting

Human Resources is responsible for managing the employee life cycle including recruiting, hiring, onboarding and administering employee benefits.

In addition, the Unit implements a competitive recruiting strategy, attends career fairs, and conducts interviews with viable police officer candidates.

The Unit is responsible for ensuring each applicant meets employment qualifications and high standards as a law enforcement officer.

Additionally, the Unit gathers analytical recruiting reports to track, manage and review statistics during the application/hiring process.

HIRED

- 17** Certified Police Officers
- 28** Police Officer Candidates
- 4** Civilian (Cadet)
- 13** Non-Sworn/Staff

PERFORMED

138 POST (National Police Officer Selection Test)

105 JRPAT

Staff Development & Training Unit

The Staff Development and Training Unit values the importance of continuing education for officers in a world that is ever changing. This Unit is made up of 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant and 3 Police Officers. The department also uses 52 certified in-house instructors to assist the Training Unit throughout the year.

Police Officer Candidates begin their careers assigned to the Training Unit. One of our top priorities is providing a firm foundation of training for our future Officers to build upon. The Basic Candidate School (BCS) prepares these Police Candidates for the SCCJA, Field Training and their future Police Officer promotion. BCS is an average of 10 weeks and covers CPD Directives and Procedures, Use of Force, Ethics, Diversity Training, De-escalation Techniques, Basic Marksmanship and Emergency Vehicle Response.

Sworn Officers are required to attend classes annually to maintain their Class 1 and Class 3 Law Enforcement Certification; this is called in-service training. In-Service training focuses on Defensive Tactics, De-escalation and Diversity Training. The Training Unit conducts approximately 25.5 hours of annual in-service training on a monthly basis and additionally supports this training with required on-line learning through Power DMS.

Not only does the CPD Training Unit conduct the training necessary to satisfy the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy certification requirements, we consistently offer new courses. In 2020, we added other courses such as, Crisis Intervention Training, Stop the Bleed, Stop Stick and Less Lethal. These additional classes give officers more options on how to safely resolve and de-escalate situations.

 **27.5**

hours of annual
in-service training



1

Captain

1

Sergeant

2

Corporal

1

Officers

Course Title	Number of Officers Trained	Number of Classes
Annual In-Service	328	15
BCS	39	24
ACADIS	303	Various Courses
Power DMS	335	24
Stop The Bleed	27	3
LL Shotgun	57	12
I-CAT De-Escalation	157	150
Dolan De-Escalation	0	0



COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS

Project ChildSafe

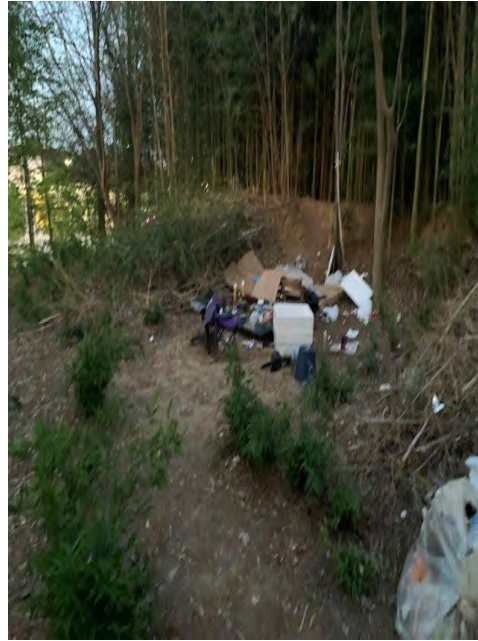
Columbia Police Department became a proud supporter of Project ChildSafe, the nation's most comprehensive firearm safety and education program – created by gun owners, for gun owners.

As a result, CPD officers distributed free gunlocks at community events and throughout police regions to prevent gun violence.



Community Clean Up Initiative

The Columbia Police Department's Code Enforcement Division proactively identified specific locations in dire need of trash and debris removal. Officers spent several hours removing the debris and helped improve the quality of life for residents.



Si Se Puede Supporter & Partner

The Columbia Police Department is a proud supporter and partner of 'Si` Se Puede,' (SSP) a community-based initiative of the non-profit and law enforcement advocate Serve & Connect. SSP was designed to create trust and build healthy professional relationships between Columbia's vibrant Hispanic community and first responders, which includes CPD officers. The program is based on the three Cs: Community, Collaboration and Connection.



SC Chapter of NOBLE

Several senior members of the Columbia Police Department's (CPD) Command Staff were sworn in as part of the 2023 South Carolina Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executive Board (NOBLE). They are:

Deputy Chief Melron Kelly – President
Lieutenant Fred Bryant – Vice President
Captain Kellie Yates – Treasurer

The National NOBLE Board was established in 1976 and 'has served as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action.' According to organizers, NOBLE has nearly 60 chapters and represents over 3,000 members worldwide that represent chief executive officers and command-level law enforcement officials from federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies, and criminal justice practitioners.





EMPLOYEE AWARDS

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Promotional Ceremony

Police Chief W. H. "Skip" Holbrook and Deputy Chief Melron Kelly promoted several officers during a special ceremony.

MPO David Dowey promoted to the rank of Corporal

Lieutenant Jackson Sheard promoted to the rank of Captain

Lieutenant Darring Hicks promoted to the rank of Captain

Sergeant Colin Bailey promoted to the rank of Lieutenant

MPO Julia Cann appointed to the rank of Police Inspector

Investigator Robert Henry promoted to the rank of Sergeant

Lance Corporal Todd Ballard promoted to rank of Corporal

Lance Corporal Thomas Bartels promoted to rank of Corporal

CPD 2022 Accolades

In December, Chief W. H. 'Skip' Holbrook was named the 2023 SC Law Enforcement Officers' Association's President during a ceremony at the Marriott Grand Dunes in Myrtle Beach.

Chief Holbrook took the oath of office administered by the 2021 SCLEOA President Major Irick "TJ" Geary with the University of South Carolina Division of Law Enforcement & Safety. The Presidential position is a yearlong, faithful commitment to support the mission of the SCLEOA, its Constitution, and the State of South Carolina while working as the leader of the SCLEOA Executive Board.

More specifically, the incoming President will represent law enforcement in the State of South Carolina and act as the spokesperson for SCLEOA. The SCLEOA is recognized as "The Voice of Law Enforcement" in South Carolina.



In September, Chief Holbrook received the Community Service Award from the Columbia Branch of the NAACP. The award inscription reads, "Your dedication to assisting others in our community serves as a true source of inspiration to us all."



Also in September, Lance Corporal B. Self and Corporal J. Rogers awarded Servant Leadership Award from Eastminster Presbyterian Church. The award was given "in appreciation for their outstanding service to the citizens of Richland County and for your leadership in the areas of character, compassion, & community building."



Lance Corporal Nolan Shanahan awarded the Knights of Columbus Award for Officer of the Year for his hard work, dedication and service to the community.



Captain D. Hicks and Lieutenant B. Markevicz graduated from Charleston Police Department Executive Leadership Summit. The 6-month training allowed Hicks and Markevicz to bring their knowledge back to CPD with an enhanced emphasis on mental wellness for officers, hiring & retention, & enhancing citizen partnerships.

Captain Hicks joined CPD in 1991 and is the North Region Commander an area that encompasses areas including: Earlwood Park, Greenview, North Main corridor, and the Eau Claire community.

Lt. Markevicz joined CPD in 2010 and is second in command of the Violent Crimes Against Persons Unit (VCAP), which investigates murders, attempted murders, armed robberies, and assaults.



(Pictured with Captain D. Hicks and Lt. B. Markevicz is the new Charleston, SC Police Department Chief Chito Walker.)



(Pictured from left to right: PIO J. Timmons, three local pastors, Chief Holbrook, Chaplain C. Snead, Captain K. Yates, and Sgt. C. Morris.)

CPD officers and professional staff were recognized by South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN) and received the “Compassion 4 Faithful Service Award.” The award was given to Captain K. Yates, Sgt. C. Morris, Public Information Officer (PIO) J. Timmons, CPD Chaplain C. Snead and partner pastors from local churches. The award signified the department’s years-long commitment to and participation in the National Faith & Blue Program. Faith & Blue facilitates safer and stronger communities by engaging law enforcement officers with citizens through connections with faith-based organizations.

In May, Lt. Daniel Wesley who is the second in command in Southeast Region, which encompasses areas including Devine Street, Five Points, Melrose Heights, Rosewood Community, Shandon, South Kilbourne and Waverly Communities, graduated from Southern Police Institute (SPI) at the University of Louisville.

SPI is a part of the Department of Criminal Justice, College of Arts & Sciences created as an advanced education and training opportunity to help law enforcement professionals advance their careers. It is the top law enforcement educational and training schools in the nation.



Inspector M. Crowley and Lt. C. B. Williams graduated from Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) Session 86 and 87. SMIP is a program of the Police Executive Research Forum providing senior law enforcement professionals with ‘training in the latest management best practices. Professors from top Universities and police executives teach the three-week course.



CHIEF HOLBROOK SALUTES CPD OFFICERS AND STAFF FOR 2022–2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

Columbia Police Chief W.H. “Skip” Holbrook announced that several Columbia Police Department officers and civilian employees were recognized for their dedication and hard work during 2023 at the annual Employee Awards Ceremony.

2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

2023 Officer of the Year

Lance Corporal Michael Hendrix, Jr.

2023 Rookie of the Year

Off. Antwane Hill, Jr.

2023 Investigator of the Year

Inv. Nicholas Fortner

2023 Civilian of the Year

Patrick Goodwin

PROTECT COLUMBIA

SCAN CODE TO LEARN MORE & APPLY

\$5,000 SIGNING BONUS

SERVE PROTECT

COLUMBIA, S.C. POLICE

CITY OF Columbia POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF Columbia

A career with the Columbia Police Department is like no other job or experience. It offers excitement, a sense of accomplishment, job satisfaction, teamwork, opportunities for growth with promotion and excellent salary and benefits.

If you are interested in joining the City of Columbia Police Department, visit Columbiapd.net.







[@columbiapdsc](https://www.instagram.com/columbiapdsc)