



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



COLUMBIA, SC



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MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

DANIEL RICKENMANN

Mayor

TINA HERBERT

District I Councilman

DR. ADITI BUSSELLS

At-Large Councilwoman

TYLER BAILEY

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

MISSY CAUGHMAN

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 2024 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.



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.



371

**AUTHORIZED
SWORN STRENGTH**



147

**AUTHORIZED
PROFESSIONAL STAFF**



\$47,310,248

ANNUAL BUDGET



\$1,879,652

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



CITY of COLUMBIA
POLICE
Organizational Chart



2024 CPD DEMOGRAPHICS



Race and Gender (Sworn)

Total Sworn/Sworn Part Time

RACE / GENDER	JOB STATUS	TOTALS	%
African American Female	Sworn	25	8.31%
African American Male	Sworn	78	25.91%
Hispanic Female	Sworn	3	1.00%
Hispanic Male	Sworn	12	3.99%
Native American Male	Sworn	1	0.33%
Other Female	Sworn	1	0.33%
Other Male	Sworn	7	2.33%
White Female	Sworn	26	8.64%
White Male	Sworn Part Time	147	2.33%
White Male	Sworn	147	8.64%
Total		291	

2024 At-A-Glance

AT-A-GLANCE	2023	2024	↑↓	Incident Change +/-	Incident Change %
Homicide	20	13	↓	-7	-35%
Rape*	81	89	↑	+8	+8%
Robbery	169	165	↓	-4	-2%
Aggravated Assaults*	929	887	↓	-42	-4%
Burglary	732	731	↓	-1	0%
Larceny* Autobreaking included	4,284	3,963	↓	-321	-7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	748	578	↓	-170	-22%
Arrests	4,074	4,825	↑	750	+18%
Calls for Service	188,159	154,412	↓	+33,747	-18%
Miles Driven	4,811,367	4,543,517	↓	-267,950	-6%
Firearms Seized	808	706	↓	-102	-13%
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	1,199	1,154			
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	5,764	5,272			
CRIME TOTALS	6,963	6,426			

*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

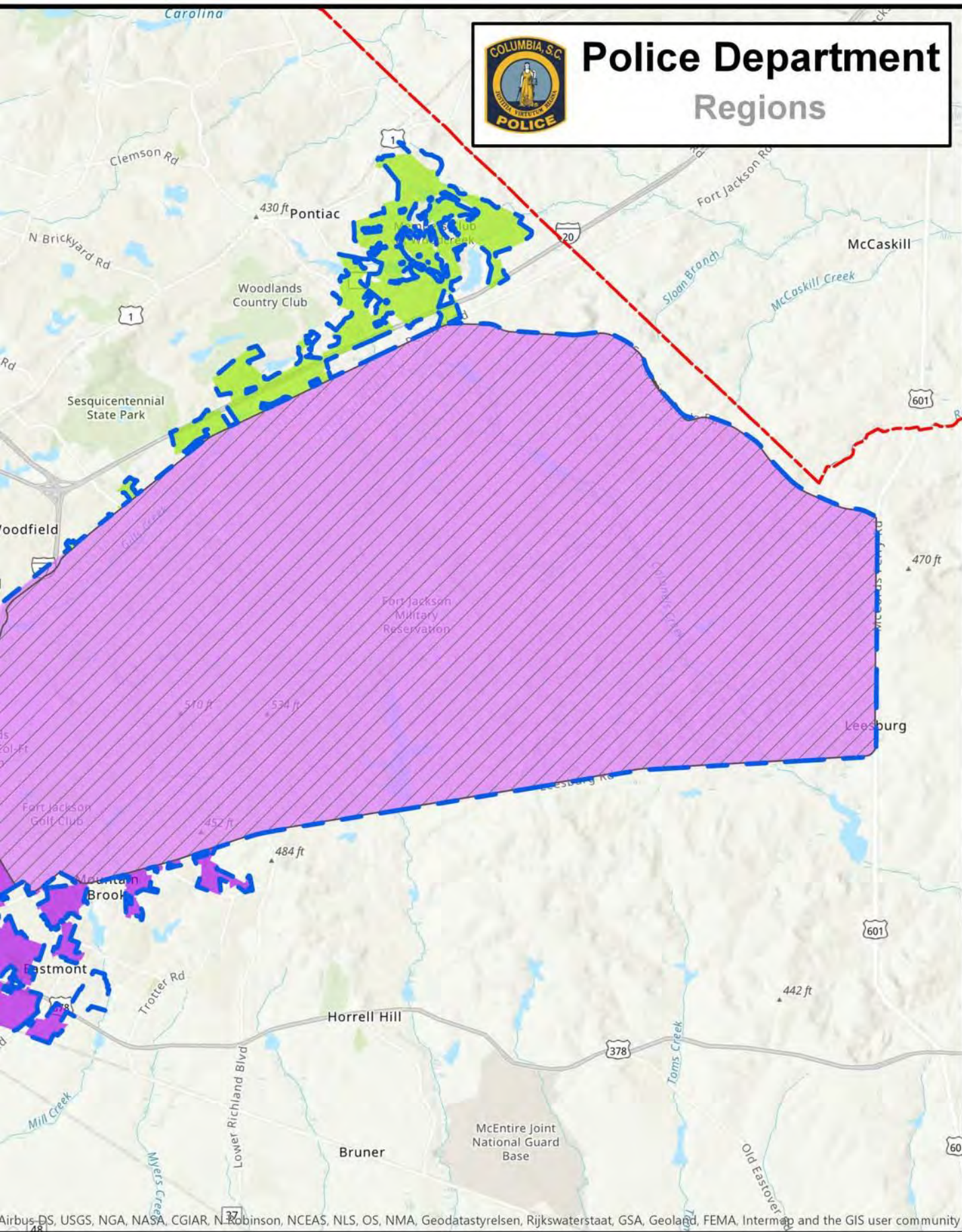
The primary objective of the Patrol Bureau is to provide prompt, professional service to the City of Columbia's residents and visitors. Working cooperatively with the communities they serve, the Patrol Bureau strives to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime through a problem solving partnership.

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 enforces a wide range of ordinances regarding property maintenance and nuisances on all properties in the City of Columbia. This is accomplished to ensure a healthy and safe environment to provide a high quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.

For a complete list of City of Columbia ordinances, visit:
https://library.municode.com/sc/Columbia/code_of_ordinances

For additional information regarding the Code Enforcement Division, visit:
<https://columbiapd.net/code-enforcement/>

63%
resolution rate

198
registered vacant buildings

2024 Highlights/Accomplishments

- Completed 12 demolitions of substandard structures.
- Trained and assisted CPD in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluations for neighborhoods.
- For the first time, all Code Enforcement Officers have the minimum certifications with the International Code Council (ICC).
- All enforcement personnel became licensed as Property Maintenance Inspectors through the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations (LLR) to fulfill a 2025 State Requirement.
- Abatement Services Manager, Stacy Harris, received the SC Litter Control Association's Individual Leadership Award.
- Completed 10 Neighborhood Improvement/Quality of Life Sweeps in coordination with multiple City departments.
- Participated in the City of Columbia's Town and Gown Initiative.
- Started 10,688 new Code Cases
- Resolved 9,723 Code Cases
- Completed over 25,000 inspections
- Initiated over 100 right of way abatement activities using the City Detect Software.
- Abated 553 vacant lots, premises, and right-of-ways of overgrowth and debris.
- Cleaned up 43 homeless encampments, disposing of over 85 truckloads of trash and debris.
- Secured 40 unsafe structures.
- Abated 399 work orders for cutting overgrowth, removing trash and debris, securing structures, and removing waste tires in the City.
- Collected over 725 waste tires from city streets/right of ways.
- Placed over 1400 packets of larvicide throughout the City in storm drains, sewers, and ditches.
- Placed 200 pounds of rat bait in City Sewers as part of the Rat Control/Prevention Program.

USC Ambassador Initiative

- Issued 1,011 warning tickets for illegally parked vehicles.
- Initiated 100 code cases.
- Shut down 13 parties.
- Initiated contact with 38 individuals.

10

Neighborhood Improvement/Quality of Life Sweeps conducted

43

homeless encampments cleaned

40

unsecure structures boarded

725

waste tires collected from city streets/right of ways

1400

packets of mosquito larvicide placed in storm drains, sewers and ditches throughout the City

399

work orders for cutting overgrowth, removing trash & debris, and securing structures

200+

pounds of rat bait placed in City Sewers as part of the Rat Control/Prevention Program

2024 Code Enforcement Annual Report

CODE CASES BY POLICE REGION - 2024										
VIOLATION TYPE	METRO		NORTH		SOUTHEAST		WEST		TOTALS	
	OPENED	CLOSED*	OPENED	CLOSED*	OPENED	CLOSED*	OPENED	CLOSED*	OPENED	CLOSED*
Abandoned/Derelict Vehicles - Private Property	192	163	270	299	440	312	5	10	907	784
Abandoned/Derelict Vehicles - ROW	39	39	49	58	250	227	1	1	339	325
Accessory Structure	54	42	53	60	162	81	4	4	273	187
Commercial Boarded Building	5	7	2	6	9	1	0	0	16	14
Commercial Demolition	1	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	7
Commercial Premise	152	127	146	157	171	117	25	20	494	421
Commercial Structure	62	74	371	101	98	64	2	6	533	245
Front Yard Parking	80	69	163	216	225	259	4	4	472	548
Rental Property - No Permit	127	100	125	180	203	270	2	4	457	554
Residential Boarded Building	6	7	10	15	8	9	0	0	24	31
Residential Demolition	13	6	31	15	21	11	0	0	65	32
Residential Premise	439	364	961	1,027	673	762	34	34	2,107	2,187
Residential Structure	179	160	321	284	551	371	8	13	1,059	828
Right of Way	235	226	153	166	147	139	1	2	536	533
Roll Carts	383	271	130	82	1,430	1,400	14	12	1,957	1,765
Vacant Buildings - Registered	22	17	45	40	9	17	0	0	76	74
Vacant Buildings - Not Registered	32	19	47	31	28	14	1	0	108	64
Vacant Lots	78	76	181	156	84	87	2	2	345	321
Vector Control - Mosquitos	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Vector Control - Rodents	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL CASES	2,099	1,769	3,059	2,902	4,509	4,141	103	112	9,770	8,924

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

Abandoned/Derelict Vehicles - Private Property

Inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicle on private property.

Abandoned/Derelict Vehicles - ROW

Inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicle in the right of way.

Commercial Boarded Building

A commercial structure that was either boarded by the City or the owner.

Commercial Demolition

A commercial structure that was demolished by the City or the owner.

Commercial Premise

A commercial property that has code violations on the land or area around the structures. Not including structures. Generally overgrowth, litter and debris.

Commercial Structure

A commercial structure that has code violations. Generally peeling paint, broken windows, rotten wood, and other structural deficiencies.

Front Yard Parking

A vehicle illegally parked in the front of a residential structure on dirt or grass.

Rental Property - No Permit

A property that was identified as a potential rental property but has no permit on file.

Residential Boarded Building

A residential structure that was either boarded by the City or the owner.

Residential Demolition

A residential structure that was demolished by the City or the owner.

Residential Premise

A residential property that has code violations on the land or area around the structures. Not including structures. Generally overgrowth, litter and debris.

Residential Structure

A residential structure that has code violations. Generally peeling paint, broken windows, rotten wood, and other structural deficiencies.

Right of Way

Code violations within the City's right of way. Generally overgrowth, litter, debris or illegal dumping.

Roll Carts

Trash collection containers left out after or before the day of collection.

Vacant Lots

A vacant lot with no structures that has code violations. Generally overgrowth, litter and debris.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION S 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	2023	2024
Crime Scenes Processed	667	466
Firearm eTraces (Electronic Tracing System Performed)	759	683
Forensic Requests	982	116
Analyzed AFIS Prints	204	158





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	2023	2024
Arrests	7	24
Firearms Seized	0	0
Drugs Seized	0	1

United States Secret Service (USSS)

The Columbia Police Department’s Task Force Officers (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	2023	2024
Total pieces of evidence submitted for electronic examination by CPD	41	87
Total Cases	41	87

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

The Columbia Police Department’s Task Force Officers (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	2023	2024
Cases Submitted for Federal Prosecution	45	31
Cases Indicted & Arrested on Federal Arrest Warrants	36	7
Search Warrants	0	1

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

The Columbia Police Department’s Task Force Officers (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	2023	2024
Arrests	24	17
Currency Seized	\$38,830	\$92,283
Investigations	11	9

United States Marshals Service (USMS) | Carolinas Regional Fugitive Task Force

The Columbia Police Department's Task Force Officers (TFOs) work with deputy U.S. 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	2023	2024
Fugitives Arrested	131	46
Extraditions	0	13

Polygraph Unit

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

Polygraph Statistics	2023	2024
Tests Completed	87	83

Investigative Support Unit (ISU)

The ISU consists of the Midlands Gang Task Force, the Fugitive Unit, Court Liaison Officer, GPS Electronic Monitoring Coordinator, and Cold Case Investigators.

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	2023	2024
Arrests	120	157
Heroin	14.1 g	1.04 oz
Controlled Pills	449 pills	398 dosage units & 18 bottles (Promethazine)
Ecstasy Pills (MDMA)	1,523 pills	287 pills
Cocaine	257 g	21.22 oz
Currency	\$100,200	\$51,890
Firearms	0	53
Marijuana	31.03 lbs / 8 plants	64.34 lbs
Methamphetamine	289.5 g	72.75 oz
Fentanyl	24 pills	2.06 kg/300 pressed pills
Overdose Deaths	14	13
Overdose Survivals	12	11

Special Victims Unit (SVU)

Special Victims Unit Statistics	2023	2024
Criminal Sexual Conduct	88	119
Domestic Violence	189	237
Missing Persons	100	83
Indecent Exposure	5	22
Child Abuse	33	50
Runaways	161	4
Child Pornography	4	244
Total Assigned Cases	580	759

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

Due to the impactful work regarding a criminal sexual conduct (CSC) investigation by SVU Investigator D. Ortiz, a stepfather was arrested, charged and ultimately pled guilty in a Richland County courtroom to CSC with a Minor – Second Degree for sexually assaulting his 7-year-old stepdaughter. As a result, the suspect was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

The suspect was also required to register as a sex offender for life. Since all parties involved in the investigation, were Spanish speaking, Ortiz was able to effectively communicate with them, build a strong rapport with the victim, which ultimately had a successful outcome for the victim.

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	2023	2024
Criminal Sexual Conduct	293	249
Domestic Violence	368	263
Missing Persons	296	121
Financial Transaction Card Theft/Fraud, Bank Fraud, Forgery, Larceny (Grand and Petit), Vandalism, Identity Theft, Breach of Trust, Fail to Return Rentals, etc.	385	306
Total Assigned Cases	1,342	939

Property Crimes Success Story

The Property Crimes Unit (PCU) investigated a rash of storage rental facility burglaries. Suspects who would gain access to a viewpoint from above each specific unit targeted these storage units. As a result, suspects would cut the locks to the units that contained valuables. The targeted locations were likely also chosen due to no video surveillance capabilities, thus initially hindering the investigation.

As the investigation began, additional victims reported the crime after they arrived at their storage unit and realized their belongings had been stolen. PCU investigators discovered that partner law enforcement agencies were experiencing similar storage unit crimes. This realization led to a joint, multi-agency investigation. Working as a team, two suspects were identified, arrested and after further investigation, investigators were able to recover a good majority of the stolen belongings and return them to the rightful owners.

Crime Gun Intelligence Unit (CGIU)

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	2024
Cases Assigned	114	169
Cases Cleared/Closed	81	60
Arrests: Federal-18/ CPD-32	51	33
Shooting Incidents Triage	393	1,043
NIBIN e-Traces	802	686
ShotSpotter	1,251 Responses 5,523 Rounds Fired	1,205 Responses 5,449 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	0



CGIU Success Story

In November, CPD officers responded to several Shotspotter alerts and confirmed incidents of gunfire within the Colony Apartments located at 3545 West Beltline Boulevard. CGIU investigators were able to collect and review hour's long surveillance video, interview multiple witnesses, and leveraging additional technology and investigative techniques. Their efforts confirmed that the shooting incidents stemmed from an on-going feud between two groups who reside in the apartment complex. Three males in particular were identified as the primary suspect group. They were observed frequently orchestrating attacks on several different occasions, often endangering the lives of several nearby-uninvolved parties. The common denominators between these cases was further solidified through the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), linking firearms to different crimes. In this case, NIBIN helped reveal the same group of suspects committing these acts of violence. As a result of the thorough CGIU investigation, the three suspects were arrested and charged.

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 311 firearms reported stolen in 2024. In all, 155 firearms or 50% were stolen from a vehicle. There were 41 firearms stolen in burglaries accounting for another 13%.

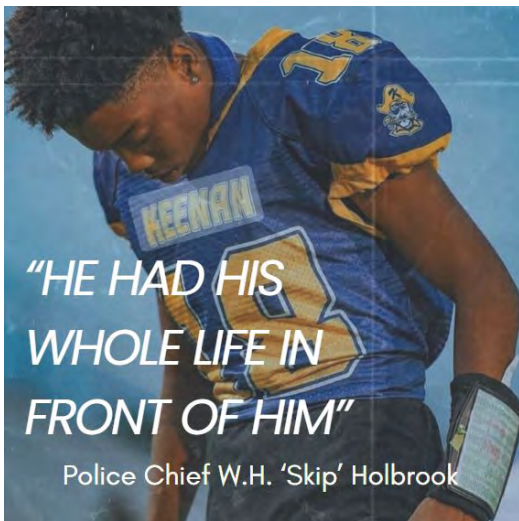
<p>311 Firearms reported in 2024</p> <p>184 Firearms stolen from vehicles</p> <p>47 Firearms stolen from burglaries</p> <p>59 Firearms stolen from larcenies</p> <p>14 Firearms stolen by other means</p>	Firearm Theft Incidents		2023	2024
	Vehicles	61%	50%	
	Larcenies	19%	33%	
	Burglaries	15%	13%	
	Other	5%	4%	

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.

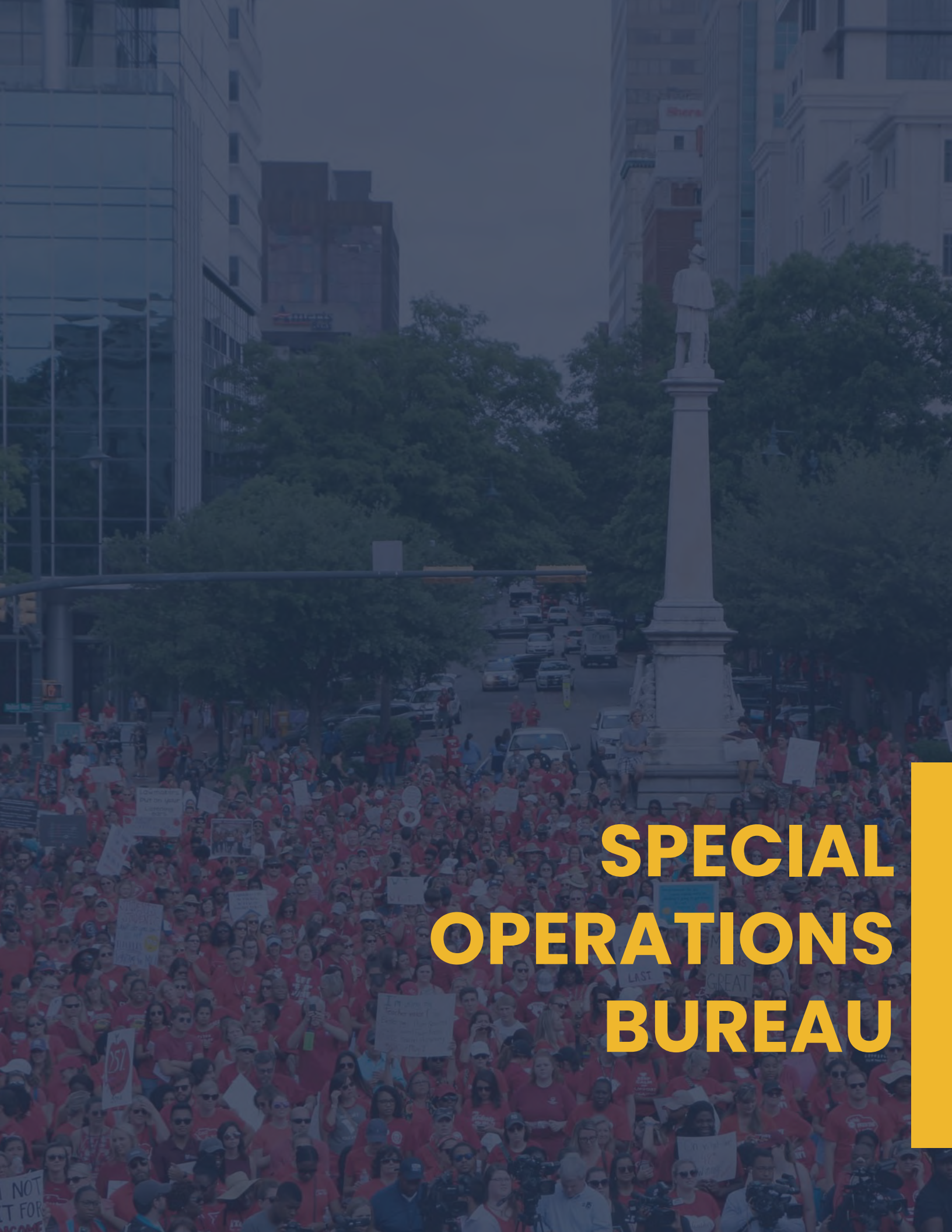
VCAP Assigned Cases	2023	2024
Assault	82	20
Robbery	105	71
Pointing/Presenting	1	36
Attempted Murder	88	44
Murder	20	13
Carjacking, Bomb Threats, Kidnapping, Discharging, Arson, etc.	68	97
Total Cases Assigned	341	281
Total Arrests	67	45

VCAP Success Story



In June, the Violent Crimes against Persons Unit arrested two males in connection with the fatal shooting of 16-year-old Julian 'JuJu' Keel who died two days shy of his 17th birthday. Investigators charged 20-year-old Tonie Wilson and a 16-year-old with Murder, Possession of a Weapon during a Violent Crime, and Breach of Peace of a High & Aggravated Nature. The teen was also charged with Possession of a Firearm by Person under the age of 18. Keel was an innocent bystander who was when he was shot while attending a high school graduation party on Colonial Life Boulevard. Investigators determined that two groups exchanged gunfire after an argument in the parking lot. Among those groups were suspect Wilson and the juvenile on opposing sides. CPD crime scene techs collected more than 50 spent shell casings from the scene and seized four different firearms during the investigation.





SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Special Operations Bureau is comprised of five units: Emergency Management/Real-Time Crime Center, Special Events, Community Safety Officers, Dignitary Protection and the K-9 Unit. Collectively, these units 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 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) & U.S. Army as Bomb Technicians. Team members respond to calls for explosive devices including old, abandoned and illegal fireworks.

During 2024, team members attended the following courses:

- Hazmat Training
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Regional Training
- Bomb Commanders Conference
- Technician Training (Response & Post-Explosion Investigation)
- Hazardous Devices School

Bomb Squad Statistics	2023	2024
Threats	4	3
Evidence Destroyed	4	3
Training Hours	1,192	1,104
Calls for Service	18	20
Assists	7	1



S.W.A.T.

The Special Weapons and Tactics (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 is made up of police officers, who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Their work 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 try-out. The team trains bi-monthly in preparation for handling a variety of high-risk critical incidents.

The SWAT Team is called 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	2024
Training Hours	173.75	255.5
Presentations	1	1
Call Outs	20	12
Warrants Executed	16	3



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	2024
Call Outs	3	2
Training Hours	92	88



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 consists of different levels of response. The levels range from officer presence in standard uniform worn to work in small teams to address potential civil unrest to fully outfitted and equipped officers 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.

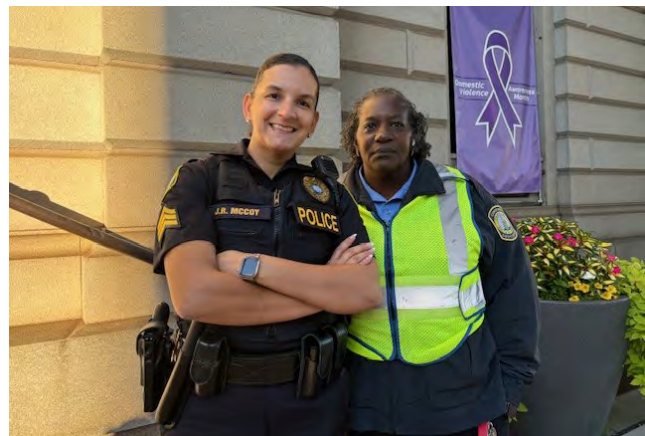
Mobile Field Force	2023	2024
Deployments	2	6



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	2023	2024
Community Contacts	6,286	6,629
Elder Checks	668	914
Hours spent on Patrol	8,040.5	8,646.5
Hours spent on Infrastructure protection	16,401.5	15,519.5



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/Presidential visits to Columbia, specialized traffic patrol assignments and sporting events. In addition, the Unit is 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



	2023	2024
Special Events	315	324

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	2024
Video Requests	1,130
Videos Downloaded	4,568
Snapshots for Evidence	1,196
Hours Processed	2,885
Protests	62
EOC Activations	7 (13 days)

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 Sheperds. The canines are trained in multiple skill sets to include tracking, drug detection, criminal apprehension, handler protection, building search, and article search.

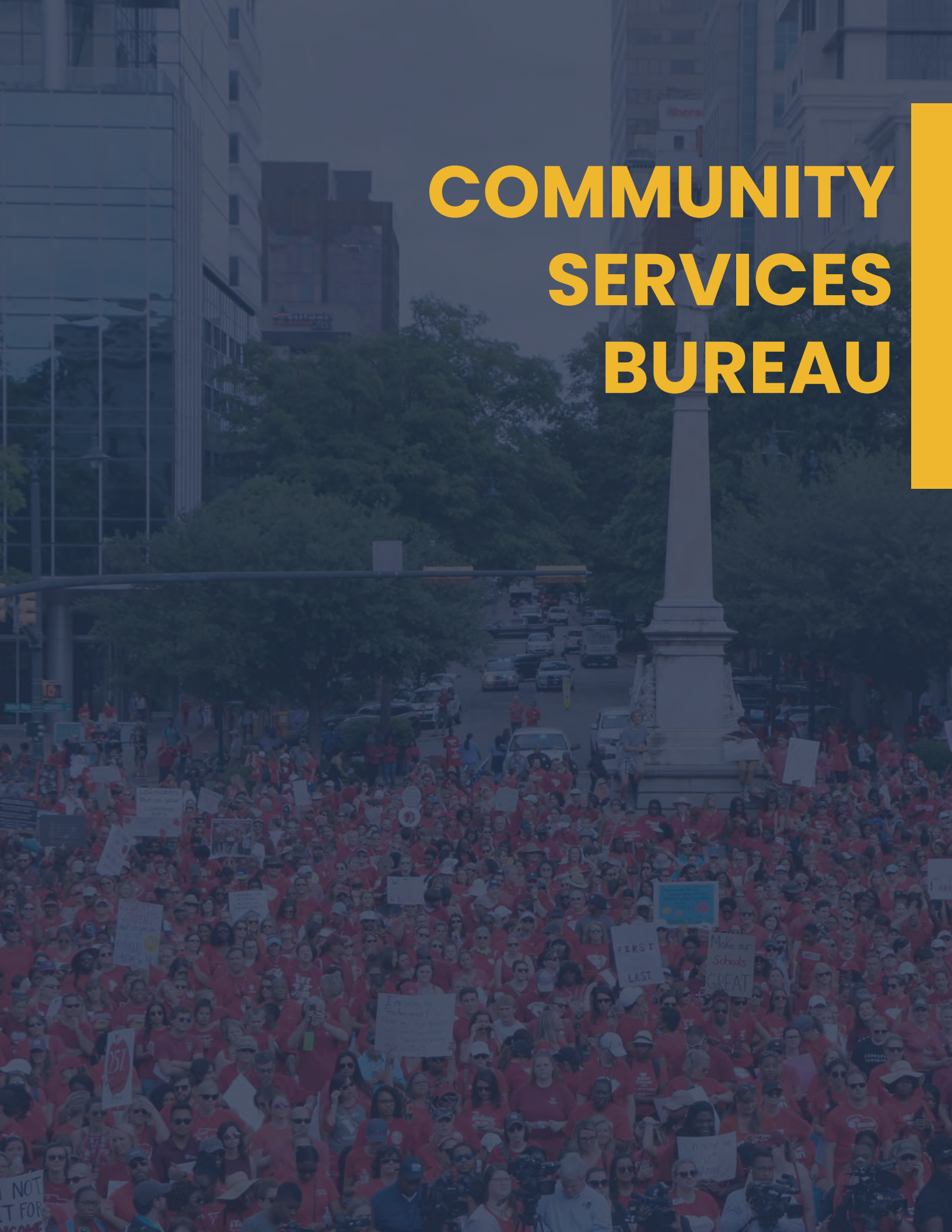
The partnership between a canine and handler is one of the most unique in the police force. At the end of each shift, the canine goes home with the handler and becomes part of their family.



K-9 Arrest Statistics	2023	2024
Calls For Service	K-9 Calls For Service - 5,666 K-9 Tracks - 55 K-9 Captures - 18 K-9 Searches - 65	K-9 Calls For Service - 1,656 K-9 Tracks - 82 K-9 Captures - 31 K-9 Searches - 34
Arrests/Reports/ Citations	K-9 Team Arrests - 170 Warrants Served - 95 Reports Taken - 660 Field Interviews - 61 Traffic Citations - 266 Traffic Warning Citations - 143	K-9 Team Arrests - 52 Warrants Served - 49 Reports Taken - 128 Field Interviews - 46 Traffic Citations - 81 Traffic Warning Citations - 114
Firearms Seized	Firearms - 21	Firearms - 10



COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU





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	2023	2024
Calls for Service	2,081	2,042
Crimes Investigated: Larcenies, Assaults, Vandalism & School Threats	50	53
Arrests: Larcenies, Assaults & Vandalism	34	41
Non-Mandated School Events Hours	61	30

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	2023	2024
Richland County Detention Center	494	835
Lexington County Detention Center	109	201

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	2023	2024
Deployments	40,399	34,344
Walk in Citizens Assisted	7,134	7,700
Incident Reports	2,255	2,033





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	2023	2024
Collisions investigated	885	255
Fatal Collisions investigated	15	16
Traffic concerns/complaints	70	94
DUI arrests	20	18
Citations issued (includes warnings & collisions)	4,736	6,548
Vehicle for hire/wrecker inspections	135	157
Checkpoints (multi-agency)	1	4
DUI/traffic enforcement operations	3	4
Year to Date Calls for Service	407	396



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

1,204 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.

8,143 Records Validated
(Jan 1 - Dec 31)

1,020 FOIA
Requests

1,875 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

- 3** Certified Police Officers
- 26** Police Officer Candidates
- 2** Civilian (Cadet)
- 24** Non-Sworn/Staff

PERFORMED

134 POST (National Police Officer Selection Test)

100 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 Sergeant and 2 Corporals, and 1 Police Officer. The department also uses 46 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 27.5 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.



40

hours of annual in-service training



1

Captain

1

Sergeant

2

Corporal

1

Lance Corporal

1

Fitness Coordinator

Course Title	Number of Officers Trained	Number of Classes
Annual In-Service	301	18
BCS	27	4
ACADIS	274	Various Courses
Power DMS	330	33
Stop The Bleed	26	4
LL Shotgun	44	12
I-CAT De-Escalation	48	5



**COMMUNITY
POLICING INITIATIVES
& PROGRAMS**

Inaugural Women in Law Enforcement Symposium

The Columbia Police Department began the inaugural Women in Law Enforcement Symposium to celebrate the hard work and contributions of women in law enforcement. The Symposium, with state and national attendance, included a panel of female experts in executive command leadership positions for a candid conversation about today's public safety atmosphere and its future to fellow sworn female officers. The event is typically held on National Police Woman's Day.



IN HONOR OF NATIONAL POLICE WOMAN DAY



COLUMBIA, S.C.
POLICE

Presents

WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

EMPOWERED TO SPEAK OUT AND LOUD

Focus panel, breakout sessions, and the keynote speaker. Lunch will be provided.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024 | 8:30 AM

BUSBY COMMUNITY CENTER | 1735 BUSBY STREET, COLUMBIA, SC

Police Activities League (PAL) Program



The Columbia Police Department's (CPD's) Police Activities League (PAL) connects officers and professional staff with youth across the City of Columbia to build positive relationships, reduce, deter and prevent crimes, and have meaningful enrichment programs about good decision-making, the value of attending school, and basic life-skills. Officers involved in the program mentor youth, attend community-policing events throughout the year including recreational activities, sporting events, parades, field trips, and holiday gatherings. In the summer, the PAL Program also offers a family enrichment night to provide parents and guardians with resources and support for the new school year.



Serve & Connect's Greg's Groceries Partnership | 7-Year Anniversary

2024 marks the 7-year anniversary partnership between the Columbia Police Department and Serve & Connect's Greg's Groceries Program. The initiative provides boxes of non-perishable food to law enforcement agencies to distribute to families with food insecurities in their communities. The program which began in 2017, has grown to a statewide initiative due to the compassion of Serve and Connect's founder and CEO, Kassy Alia Ray. The program is named after her husband, Greg, the Forest Acres police officer who was killed in the line of duty in 2015. Aside from feeding families, including children in Columbia, Greg's Groceries helps build trust between officers and the communities they serve. CPD officers and professional staff take part in several food-packing events throughout the year with Serve & Connect. The goal is to fill boxes with enough food to sustain a family of four for approximately a week. The Serve & Connect Program has extended across South Carolina and North Carolina.





EMPLOYEE AWARDS

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Promotional Ceremony

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

Lieutenant J. Brink appointed to the rank of **Captain**

Inspector J. Modzelewski appointed to the rank of **Captain**

Sergeant I. Gilliam promoted to the rank of **Lieutenant**

Sergeant A. Viehweg promoted to the rank of **Lieutenant**

Officer A. Holston promoted to the rank of **Inspector**

Corporal J. Czeladko promoted to rank of **Sergeant**

Investigator J. Fisher promoted to rank of **Sergeant**

Corporal A. Maurer promoted to the rank of **Sergeant**

Corporal R. Robinson promoted to the rank of **Sergeant**

Corporal R. Seavey promoted to the rank of **Sergeant**

Corporal J. Self promoted to the rank of **Sergeant**

Corporal W. Wells promoted to the rank of **Sergeant**

Lance Corporal M. Hendrix promoted to the rank of **Investigator**

Master Police Officer M. Holmes promoted to the rank of **Investigator**

Master Police Officer G. Key promoted to the rank of **Investigator**

Master Police Officer J. Niscia promoted to the rank of **Investigator**

Lance Corporal J. Robinson promoted to the rank of **Investigator**

Master Police Officer K. Schmidt promoted to the rank of **Investigator**

Officer H. Threatt promoted to the rank of **Investigator**

Lance Corporal G. Williams promoted to the rank of **Investigator**

Lance Corporal R. Kaminer promoted to the rank of **Corporal**

Lance Corporal B. Self promoted to the rank of **Corporal**

Lance Corporal J. Sherrod promoted to the rank of **Corporal**

Master Police Officer Y. Wilson promoted to the rank of **Corporal**

CPD 2024 Accolades



Metro Region Captain C. Waggoner is the first CPD female to graduate from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Academy (NA)

The first female in the Columbia Police Department's history has graduated from the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Captain Cynthia Waggoner who has served with the Columbia Police Department (CPD) since 2005 was among 254 graduates of the 291st session of the FBI's National Academy's (NA). FBI Director Christopher Wray delivered remarks at last week's ceremony in Virginia.

The session consisted of fellow women and men representing law enforcement agencies and military organizations from 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the NA offers 10 weeks of advanced leadership, communication, and fitness training. Those accepted into the program must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend.

Captain Waggoner's Biography:

Waggoner is the Captain of Metro Region, which encompasses the Vista hospitality district, Main Street corridor, Finlay Park, and several communities including Arsenal Hill and Booker Washington Heights.

During her 19-year career with CPD, Waggoner has been assigned to:

Metro Region Patrol

Metro Region Lieutenant

Metro Region Community Response Team (CRT)

South Region Patrol

East Region Patrol

K-9 Unit as the first female certified canine trainer and K-9 Corporal

Named Rookie of the Year in 2006

Awarded the Medal of Valor in 2020

Additionally, Captain Waggoner received the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) LEEDA Trilogy Award; an award is given to select officers who complete FBI supervisor, commander, and executive leader training courses.

She is also a member of the National Association of Women in Law Enforcement Executives and attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership Conference. Waggoner graduated from the Custom Canine Unlimited Trainer's Course in Gainesville, Georgia.

Waggoner holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina.



Columbia Police Officer Recognized with Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Attorney General Merrick B. Garland has announced the recipients of the Seventh Annual Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing, including Lance Corporal Justin Boyd of the Columbia Police Department.

This prestigious award recognizes law enforcement officers who demonstrate exceptional dedication to strengthening trust, promoting community engagement, and enhancing public safety.

“Community policing is essential to building trust and ensuring public safety,” said Attorney General Garland. “These officers have gone above and beyond their duty to foster partnerships with the communities they serve. Their work is an inspiration to us all and a reminder of the profound impact law enforcement can have on individuals, neighborhoods, and society.”

The best of community policing is demonstrated throughout the work of Lance Corporal Boyd – from the partnerships he forms, to the community outreach that’s a regular part of his work, to the investigations he successfully conducts to make his community safer. And that involves all segments of the community -- including those disenfranchised residents who often go unseen and unheard. Thanks to his efforts, their voices are now part of the conversation, and the community is safer for it.

“Lance Corporal Boyd represents the best of South Carolina law enforcement. Our community is stronger and safer thanks to his dedicated service,” said U.S. Attorney Adair Ford Boroughs for the District of South Carolina. “Now, more than ever, we need officers like him, dedicated to community policing. Congratulations, LCpl Boyd.”

“This prestigious award is proof that law enforcement officers care about the people who live, work, and play in the various communities in which they serve. And that is exactly the gift that Lance Corporal Boyd offers City of Columbia citizens,” said Columbia Police Chief W.H. ‘Skip’ Holbrook. “He has a genuine way of connecting with people in a relatable, caring level. For him, community policing goes beyond a daily assignment -- he embraces it wholeheartedly.”

The Attorney General’s Award recognizes individual state, local, and Tribal sworn officers, deputies, and troopers for exceptional efforts in community policing. The awarded individuals have demonstrated active engagement with the community in one of three areas: criminal investigations, field operations, or innovations in community policing.

The awardees were selected from a nationwide pool of nominees for their outstanding achievements in fostering safer, more inclusive communities.

FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) Trilogy Program

Several CPD officers in supervisory positions received certificates for completing the last of a series of seminars through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) Trilogy program.

The following individuals completed the Executive Leadership Institute hosted by SLED.



Pictured:

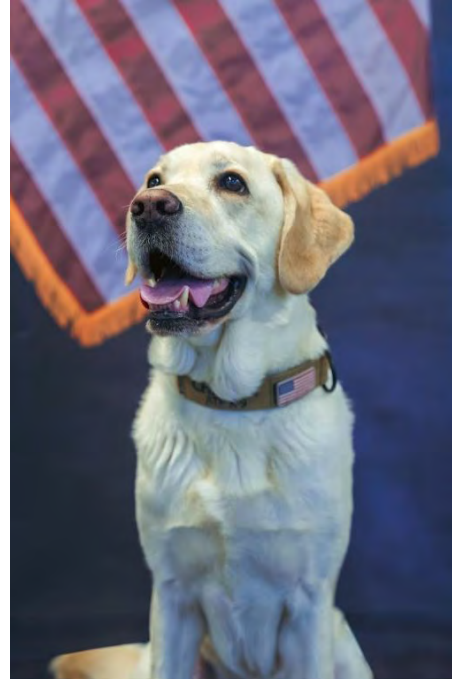
Sgt C. Duckett – West Region Patrol, Sgt. A. Green – Southeast Region Patrol, Sgt. D. Wade – North Region Patrol, Cpl. J. Self – North Region Patrol, Sgt. P Avery – Metro Region Patrol

Not Pictured:

Major Randy Martin – Special Operations Bureau
Sgt. B. Vanhouten – Criminal Investigations Bureau – Crime Gun Intelligence Unit

K-9 Officer Bowen #1 in Nation in Evidence Recovery

K-9 Officer C. Bowen and her partner Charlie were recognized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) for being #1 in the nation for K-9 deployments and ballistic evidence recovery.



Executive Leadership Summit



Lieutenants Ivey Gilliam and Anthony Viehweg for completing the Executive Leadership Summit hosted by the Charleston, SC Police Department.

They participated in a 96-hour/four month program sharing knowledge and skills to successfully lead a law enforcement agency.

Other skills learned included community engagement, procedural justice, enhancing internal communication within a police agency, and officer wellness/mental resiliency.

CPD was one of 12 law enforcement agencies represented in the Summit from across the state.

Administrative Officer's Course

Lt. Fred Bryant of the Special Victims Unit (SVU) graduated from the Administrative Officer's Course from the University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute. Lt. Bryant also oversees the Organized Crime & Narcotics (OCN) Unit, the Property Crimes Unit (PCU) and Task Force Officers under the Criminal Investigations Bureau.



Milestone DUI Arrests

Also, Lance Corporals O. Santos-Maduro and J. Lierer with the Traffic Safety Unit were honored by the SC Department of Public Safety Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs for making 10-24 DUI arrests in 2023. Chief Holbrook said, "Please know that your dedicated service is certainly appreciated by the citizens of Columbia and the Columbia Police Department. The CPD commends you for a job well done and receiving the DUI Hero lapel pin for your continued efforts in keeping the public safe."



Criminal Investigator R. Brewer Receives PhD



Criminal Investigator R. Brewer with the Violent Crimes Against Persons (VCAP) Unit received her PhD in Criminal Justice from the Nova Southeastern University in Florida. She completed her dissertation yesterday. Dr. Brewer dedicated 4 years to her studies while maintaining her responsibilities at CPD. Brewer received her Master's degree in criminal justice with an emphasis on police science from Grand Canyon University & attended undergraduate school at the University of South Carolina.

2024 Task Force Officer of the Year



Officer E. DeJesus was named the FBI's Columbia Field Division's 2024 Task Force Officer of the Year. DeJesus was recognized for seizing 7 kilos of cocaine in a high-profile investigation and for resolving a federal civil rights & hate crimes case targeting Hispanics. DeJesus is an 18-year veteran of CPD, who has been assigned to the local FBI office for 12 years. He also served in the United States Navy for 6 years.

2024 Knights of Columbia First Responder of the Year Award



2024 Knights of Columbia First Responder of the Year Award – presented to Lance Corporal Nolan Shanahan. “In appreciation for your hard work, dedication, and service to the community.”

2024 Post & Courier's Power List for Columbia



Chief Holbrook was included in the 2024 Post & Courier's Power List for Columbia:

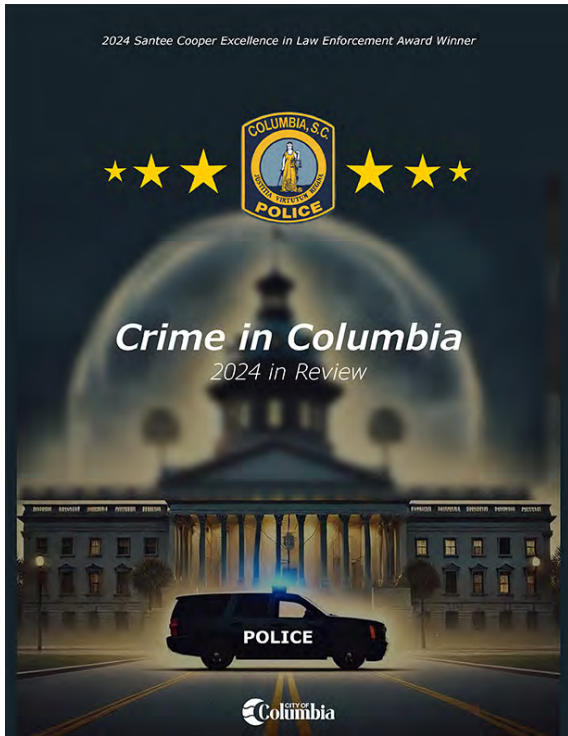
This year marks Holbrook's 10th year as chief of the Columbia Police Department. The police department, which has about 400 personnel, is the main law enforcement agency in the state capital of 140,000 residents.

Under Holbrook's leadership, the department has been commended by the U.S. Department of Justice for its commitment to 21st century policing strategies. Holbrook, 59, who has advocated for policing reform and racial justice, received the Columbia Chamber of Commerce's public servant of the year award in 2022. This year, Gov. Henry McMaster appointed him to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council.

Deputy Chief Melron Kelly



Deputy Chief Melron Kelly completed the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Executive Institute and was recognized by the SC Law Enforcement Victim Advocate (SCLEVA) as the Municipal Leader of the Year.



Santee Cooper Excellence in Law Enforcement Award

The Columbia Police Department received the Santee Cooper Excellence in Law Enforcement Award at a ceremony in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The prestigious award was a salute to Chief Holbrook and Deputy Chief Kelly's continued gun violence reduction efforts in the City of Columbia.

In fact, in 2024, Columbia was in the midst of a historic drop in gun violence. In particular, Columbia saw a more than 40% decrease in fatal and non-fatal shootings. This is the culmination of a steady decline that began almost two years ago. In September 2024, Columbia's 12-month fatal and non-fatal shooting average was lower than it has been in more than a decade.

Many American cities saw decreases in gun violence as the violent crime surge of the pandemic era subsided. Columbia, however, is continuing to see gun violence rates drop steadily, even as some other agencies in the region, such as Nashville and Charlotte, have seen their decreases stagnate.

For an in-depth work of the Department's comprehensive approach to gun violence can be viewed on the website, under 'News & Info'.

<https://columbiapd.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Overview-of-Crime-in-Columbia-2024-in-Review.pdf>

CHIEF HOLBROOK SALUTES CPD OFFICERS AND STAFF FOR 2023-2024 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.

2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

2024 Officer of the Year

R. Paturzo

2024 Rookie of the Year

J. Nolan

2024 Investigator of the Year

R. Brewer

2024 Code Enforcement Employee of the Year

S. Harris

2024 Civilian of the Year

C. Shawen



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