



SARASOTA PD

2021
ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Office of the Chief3	Patrol Division16 19
Year in Review.....4 5	Criminal Investigations Division20 23
Table of Organization6 7	Support Services Division24 27
Employee Recognition8 12	Professional Standards Division28 29
Recruiting13	City Attorney / Advisory Panels.....30
Public Information Officer14	Emergency Management31
Uniform Crime Rate Summary15	



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Interim Chief Rex Troche
Rex.Troche@SarasotaFL.gov



On behalf of the dedicated members of the Sarasota Police Department, I am honored and privileged to share with you our 2021 Annual Report which provides a summary of our work and highlights the accomplishments of our agency.

Over the past year, the Sarasota Police Department experienced numerous changes. With the retirement in August of Chief James Rieser after a 29-year career in law enforcement at SPD, to my appointment as Interim Chief, many advances were made toward greater transparency, community service and engagement to move us into the future and remain a progressive agency.

We continue to improve our service to the community by working together to address concerns. As a result of this commitment, we created a Community Response Team (CRT) comprised of appointed community volunteer stakeholders who serve as liaisons in the event of critical incidents. This partnership is essential to creating a safer community for our citizens and officers.

To meet the needs of our growing community through innovation and technology, SPD rolled out its long-awaited Body Worn Camera (BWC) program in July. This program enhances our transparency and further strengthens the trust between our officers and community.

In looking toward our future, we established the Sarasota Police Department Leadership Institute (SPDLI), a professional training program to develop future and current leaders of our agency. In 2021, we celebrated the hard work and dedication of seven officers by promoting three Sergeants, two Lieutenants, and two Captains. Additionally, improvements were made to our hiring process allowing us to attract a wide variety of qualified candidates with diverse backgrounds.

Continuing to foster relationships with the youth in our community, we developed new programs to engage with them, Kids and Officers Promoting Solidarity (KOPS). The K.O.P.S. program provides mentoring opportunities for our officers to engage with youth in a fun and positive setting. Partnering with organizations such as the City of Sarasota's Parks and Recreation Department will allow us to offer a wide variety of activities and opportunities to build lasting relationships.

In 2021, new efforts were made toward greater community engagement and transparency at a level never seen before at the police department. I would like to thank the hard-working staff of SPD, sworn and civilian, for their ability to maintain and provide the highest quality of services to our citizens, visitors, and businesses. Working together, in partnership with our community, we are making a difference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rex Troche'.

Interim Chief Rex Troche



2021 in Review

In **March** 2021, the Sarasota Police Department Underwater Search and Recovery Team was conducting training scenarios in the Gulf of Mexico when they encountered a group of sharks feeding on baitfish. The video was featured on news programs in the Tampa area.



In **May** 2021, the Support Services Division rolled out the Body Worn Camera Program for all Patrol Officers and Special Response Teams.

In **August** 2021, Chief James Rieser retired after 29 years of service to the City of Sarasota. We wish him all the best in his retirement!



In **April** 2021, Victim Advocate Jude Castro was honored with the Attorney General's Distinguished Victims Services Award for her continued support to victims of all crimes and their families.



In **July** 2021, the Sarasota Police Department participated in various community events, such as the YMCA Youth Camp, to engage with residents of all ages.



In **December 2021**, SPD partnered with the City of Sarasota Parks and Recreation Department to kick off the K.O.P.S. program.

This program allows for Officers to mentor and build relationships with the youth in our community through sports and activities.



Also in **December 2021**, the Sarasota Police Department partnered with the Sarasota Housing Authority and Walmart to provide families with gifts for the holidays during the annual Shop with a Cop”.

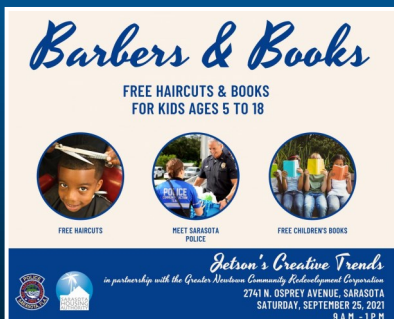
In **October 2021**, Traffic Unit Officer Jason Frank received the Alert Today Florida: Outstanding Individual of the Year” Award from the Florida Department of Transportation for his dedication and hard work in the High Visibility Enforcement programs.



In **September 2021**, we partnered with community advocate Jetson Grimes, the Greater Newtown Community Redevelopment Program, and Sarasota Housing Authority for Barbers and Books during which children were given a free haircut and books.

In **November 2021**, the Professional Standards Division kicked off the SPD Leadership Institute, a training program to prepare Officers to become SPD s future leaders.

Throughout this 8 month program, guest speakers present on testing practices, communication skills, and how to be an effective leader.



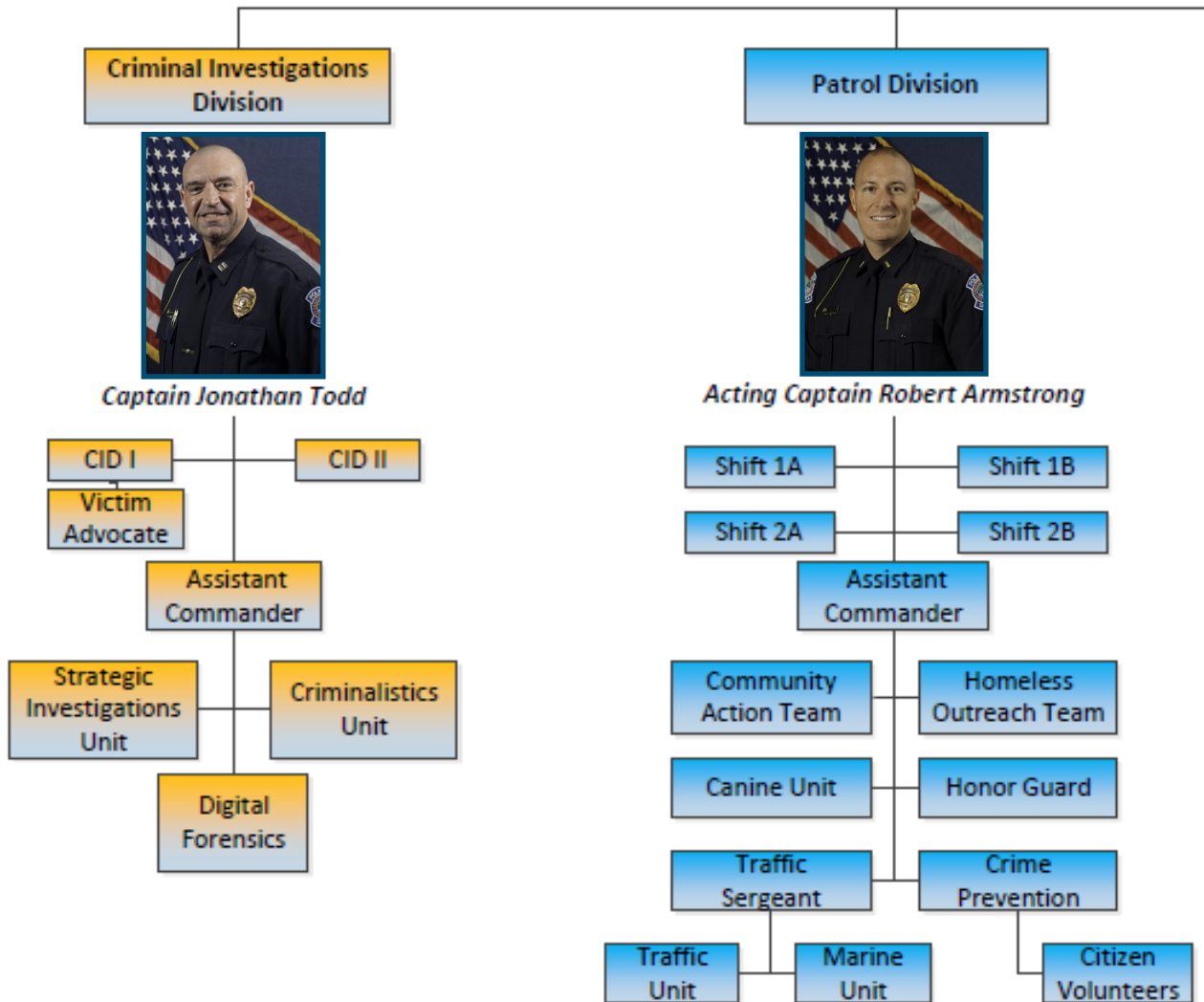


Chief of Police



As Interim Chief of Police, Rex Troche oversees the entire Sarasota Police Department, which includes:

- 1 Deputy Chief
- 4 Captains
- 9 Lieutenants
- 23 Sergeants
- 141 Officers/Detectives
- 60 Civilian Staff

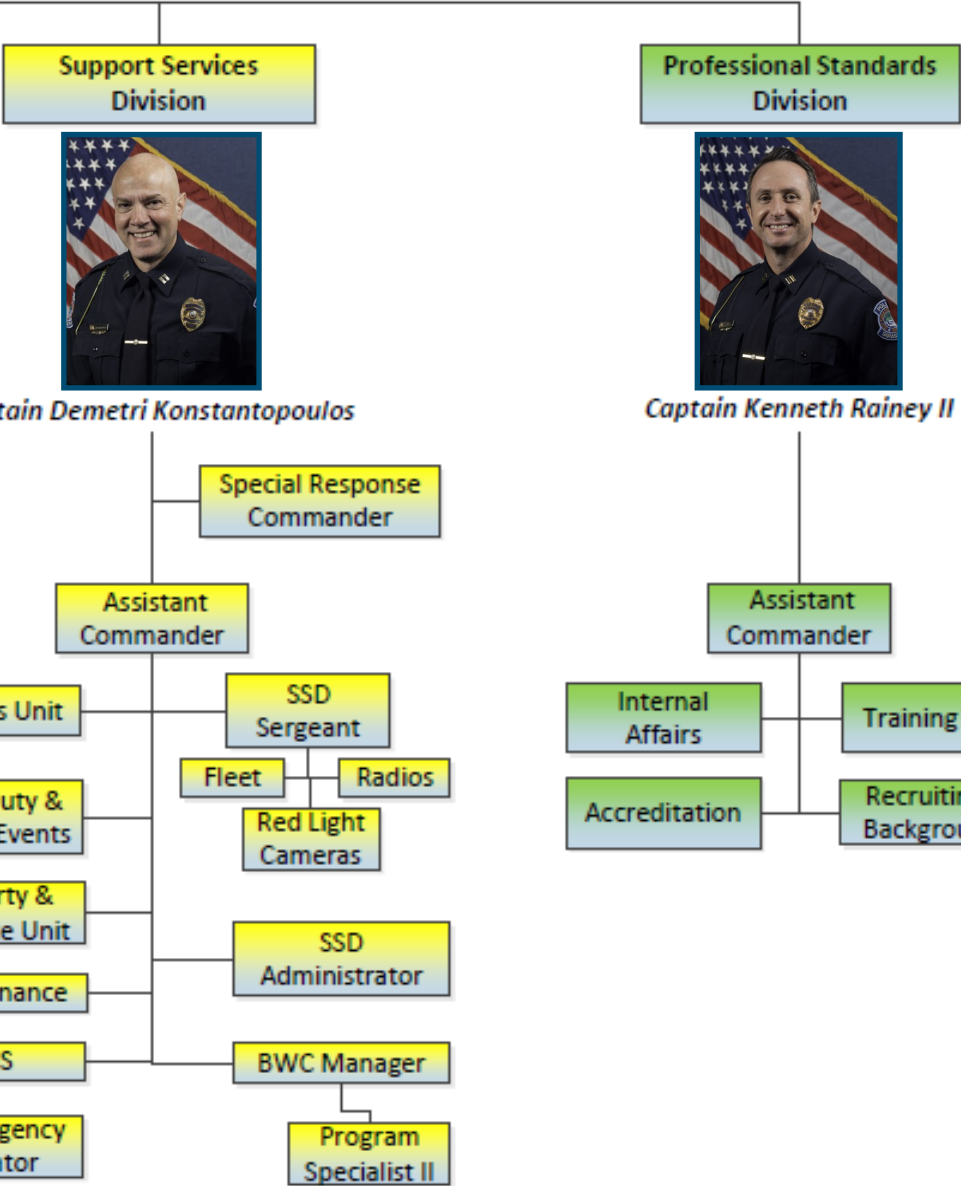




Deputy Chief of Police

As Acting Deputy Chief of Police, Scott Mayforth oversees all four Divisions of the Sarasota Police Department—Criminal Investigations, Patrol, Support Services, and Professional Standards.

In addition, he oversees the Intelligence Unit and the Fiscal Unit, which includes Fiscal, Payroll & Personnel, Alarms Program, and the Quartermaster.



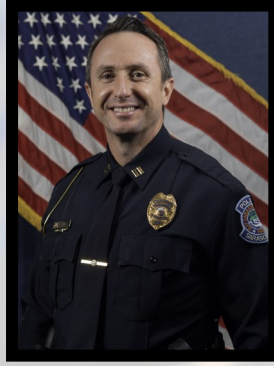


Promotions

The Sarasota Police Department was proud to promote the following Officers in 2021.



Captain
Scott Mayforth



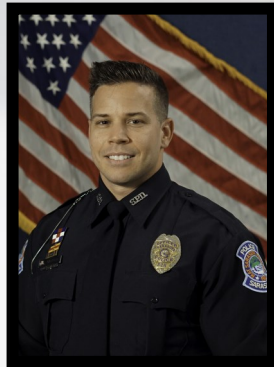
Captain
Kenneth Rainey II



Lieutenant
Gregory Miller



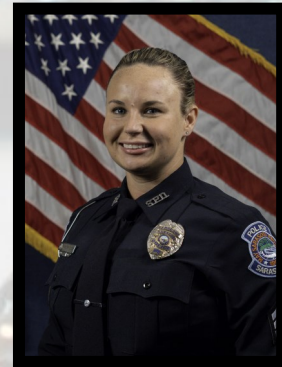
Lieutenant
Dwayne Shellhammer



Sergeant
Sean Carter



Sergeant
Patrick Comac



Sergeant
Jaime Morrison

The Sarasota Police Department is proud to employ
49 Military Veterans and 8 Active Duty Military Reserves.

A special *Thank You* to our Officers who served our country
in military deployment in 2021:

Detective Juan Sanchez
Officer Jeffrey Shapiro
Detective Jessica Sullivan
Officer Jonathan Torres



Awards and Medals

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

CITIZEN’S CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

- Steven Eichenbaum
- Charlie Hugill
- Chris Hugill
- Margarita Ibarra
- Aubrey Robbins

UNIT COMMENDATION

- Body Worn Camera Unit
- Support Services Division
- Intelligence Unit
- Community Action Team
- Criminalistics Unit

LIFE SAVING MEDAL

- Officer Aaron Applebee
- Officer Adam Bearden
- Officer Whitney Bentz
- Officer Nicholas Bruno
- Officer Ridge Collins
- Officer Terry Crenshaw
- Officer Timothy Dederick
- Officer Ronald Dixon
- Officer Lorenzo Gayle
- Officer Julius Gonzalez
- Officer Jack Grahling
- Officer Nathan Lynn
- Officer David Roberts
- Officer Molly Spencer
- Officer Cody Stanaland
- Officer Lauren Stevens
- Officer Maiah Taylor
- Officer Eric Urbain

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

- Officer Danny Robbins

UNIT CITATION

- Community Action Team
- Narcotics Unit
- Patrol Officers
- Patrol Shift 2B
- Patrol Shift 2A
- Special Weapons and Tactics
- Emergency Response Team
- Crisis Negotiations Unit
- Intelligence Unit
- Sarasota County
- Sheriff’s Office Air 1

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

- Sergeant Derek Galbraith
- Officer Adam Bearden
- Officer Luis Colon
- Detective Anthony DeFrancisco
- Officer Anthony Esmond
- Officer Sean Gleason
- Detective Kimberly Laster
- Officer Anthony Pullara
- Officer Kevin Sullivan





Employees of the Year

The Sarasota Police Department is proud to present our Employees and Officers of the Year for 2021.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Peter Ferranti

As Manager of the Body Worn Camera Program, Mr. Ferranti was instrumental in implementing the program by distributing the necessary equipment and training personnel on the use of the cameras. Furthermore, he presented the program to the City’s Independent Police Advisory Panel, Police Complaint Panel, and City Commission as well as at various community events. Mr. Ferranti continues to oversee the program, including redaction for public records requests.

Enrique Nazario

As part of SPD’s Recruiting team, Mr. Nazario works to recruit and hire high quality Police Officers for our agency. In addition to completing background investigations and attending career events at colleges, universities, and military bases, Mr. Nazario has enhanced the agency’s partnership with the community by connecting with Goodwill Industries, Boys and Girls Club, and the Booker High School Law Academy. In 2021, Mr. Nazario coordinated a four-hour comprehensive visit for 36 Booker High School students and staff which entailed presentations by various units throughout the department. He spent numerous hours organizing, coordinating, and conducting this event in addition to his duties as a Recruiter.



Jeffrey Birdwell

As a Civilian Investigator, Mr. Birdwell reviewed cold cases for the possibility of finding new evidence with use of current technologies. Mr. Birdwell began reviewing a case involving the 1988 murder of a 28-year-old female. He carefully reviewed all elements and evidence and determined that the victim’s jeans should be analyzed for possible DNA evidence. This resulted in a match to a suspect. It was learned that the suspect had since passed away while serving time in prison for the murder of another female victim in Sarasota County. As a result of his efforts, the family was finally provided closure to their tragic loss.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



Sergeant Dustin Luciano

As a Sergeant of the Community Action Team One, Sergeant Luciano supervises five Officers in this high visibility unit. He is often tasked with projects and community initiatives that engage our agency with our community. He was instrumental in the implementation of the KOPS program and assisted with coordinating our annual community initiatives and events. In addition to his duties on the Community Action Team, Sergeant Luciano is the Team Leader for the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. Under his leadership, this team added its first two female officers in SPD history and the team placed 3rd overall in the Southwest Florida Regional SWAT competition.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Jason Frank

Assigned to the Traffic Unit, Officer Frank is a valuable member of the team, ensuring the citizens of Sarasota are safe in their travels, whether by foot, bicycle, or vehicle. In 2021, Officer Frank worked two extremely difficult traffic fatality accidents, both resulting in charges of DUI Manslaughter. In addition to his traffic duties, he serves as a liaison for with the Florida Department of Transportation and City of Sarasota Engineering Office for road design and is a state board member for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Coalition of the State of Florida. In 2021, Officer Frank was recognized by the Florida Department of Transportation for his work in developing best practices for pedestrian and bicycle safety.



DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR



Detective Anthony DeFrancisco

Assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division, Detective DeFrancisco investigates cases involving crimes against persons. In 2018 he was assigned to a homicide that occurred in the City of Sarasota and while he continued to work through this investigation for several years, the evidence was insufficient to charge a potential suspect. In 2021, he received information from a witness about the events that occurred that evening and was able to identify the suspect. Subsequently, Howard “China” Smith was charged with Murder and Armed Robbery with a Firearm. As a result of his dedication to this case, a dangerous criminal is no longer on the street.



Retirements

The Sarasota Police Department congratulates the following employees on their retirements in 2021.

More than 10 Years of Service

Officer David Dubendorf

Officer Bryant Singley

Gloria Gorritz, Budget Coordinator

More than 20 Years of Service

Chief James Rieser

Officer Christopher Childers

Detective Michael Jackson

Detective Juan Sanchez

More than 30 Years of Service

Susan Bouley, Records Specialist

New Officers and Civilian Employees

The Sarasota Police Department is pleased to welcome our newest sworn and civilian employees in 2021.

Officer Andrew Belzer

Officer Whitney Bentz

Officer Dominic Farina

Officer Wesley Germain

Officer Justin Harris

Officer Raul Hernandez

Officer Nicholas Jones

Officer Gabrielle Kenniston

Officer David Knight

Officer Michael Pietron

Officer Raychel Sipe

Officer Daniel Stevens

Officer Lauren Stevens

Officer Gina Traina

James Andre, Maintenance Technician

Ben Billingsley, Budget Coordinator

David Boiman, Property and Evidence Technician

Katrina Couch, Administrative Specialist

Douglas Dould, BWC Program Specialist

Peter Ferranti, BWC Program Manager

Evelyn Gonzalez, Records Specialist

Jordan Newton, Criminalistics Technician

Anthony Wallace, Civilian Investigator



BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND RECRUITMENT

In 2021, the Sarasota Police Department hired 17 new officers who were selected after vetting and processing 125 applications. Five of the recruit officers were sponsored for either basic law enforcement training or equivalency of training programs which are completed at partner institutions such as the Suncoast Criminal Justice Academy, Manatee Technical College, and St. Petersburg College Criminal Justice Academy.



The Sarasota Police department is a Veteran’s preference employer and in 2021, Veterans made up 31% of our agency. Our partnership with the Veteran’s Administration and its Apprenticeship / OJT program continues to offer unique opportunities for our military Veterans. Under this program, military Veterans receive pay stipends in the form of variable housing allowances while they are undergoing Agency Specific Training and Field Training. Eligible officers are enrolled in the program by the recruiting team and monitored by the Field Training Coordinator.

Career Fairs Attended

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

Currently, women represent nearly 16.38% of our force, which is above the national average. Of our new hires this year, 35% of them were females.

We also continue our efforts to bring our Department to demographic parity with our community. Of our new hires this year, 24% were African-American or Hispanic.

Our Recruiters continue their efforts to identify the best candidates to meet the Department’s needs. Focused recruiting endeavors, such as outreach to local college and university criminal justice clubs, regional Florida Criminal Justice Academies, and military career fairs, have been scheduled to fill available positions. We are also seeking to expand our interaction with local high schools, such as Booker High School and their Law Academy.

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted our recruiters to come up with new and innovative ways to screen and process applicants. Background interviews and the Police Applicant Review Boards are now held virtually. We plan to continue to use this platform for times when in-person interviews are not possible.

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

Interested in a Career at SPD?

How to apply.....

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

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

www.fdle.state.fl.us/cms/CJSTC/Officer_Requirements/Equivalency_of_training



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

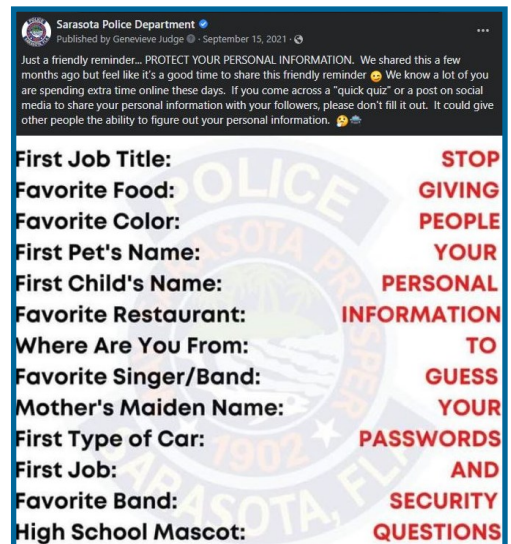


The Media Relations Office at the Sarasota Police Department is led by the Sarasota Police Department Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO is responsible for internal and external communications for the Sarasota Police Department for City of Sarasota employees, residents, visitors, and numerous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

PIO Genevieve Judge develops programs to communicate strategic objectives and accomplishments of the men and women of the Sarasota Police Department. As the primary spokeswoman for the agency, Genevieve’s duties include public and media relations, management of all social media accounts for the agency, and community relations while serving in an on-call roll 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition, Genevieve serves as the PIO liaison for the Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center and the City of Sarasota Operations Center when activated.

In 2021, the PIO Office issued nearly 175 news releases, fielded numerous public record requests from journalists, and coordinated more than 250 interviews. The PIO office continued with “Tweet from the Beat,” a virtual ride-along tool our agency uses to continue the Sarasota Police Department’s community policing philosophy. The PIO sends tweets in photo or video form via Twitter @SarasotaPD as Officers respond to calls throughout their shift.

Social media continues to be an intricate part of communications for the Sarasota Police Department. In 2021, our agency reached **45.253-million** people through Facebook alone thanks to several viral posts, including a crime prevention tip about protecting yourself online (pictured right). Through Twitter, SPD had **4.581-million** Twitter impressions, or the number of times users saw a tweet, in large part to the “Tweet from the Beat” program.



- 41,634 Followers
- 68,103 Likes
- 1,517 Followers
- 27,300 Followers
- 13,687 House-

Genevieve was appointed to serve on the Executive Board of Directors for Suncoast Charities for Children in Sarasota in 2021 and she continues to serve as a Representative at Large for the International Association of Chiefs of Police PIO Section and has remained a member of the National Information Officers Association (NIOA).

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

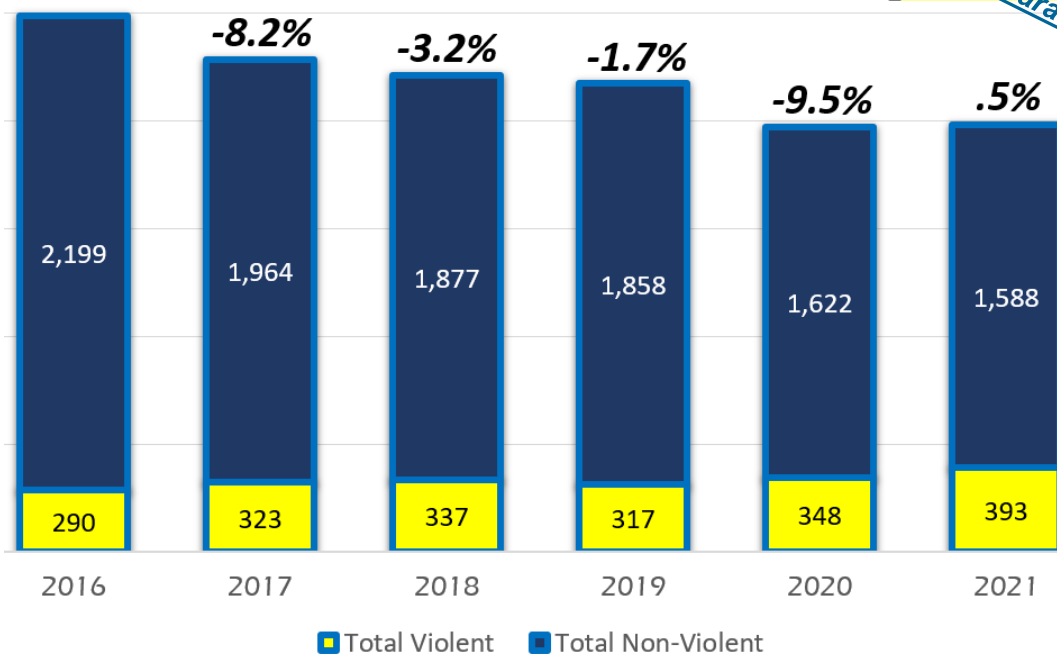


UCR STATISTICS

2016-2021

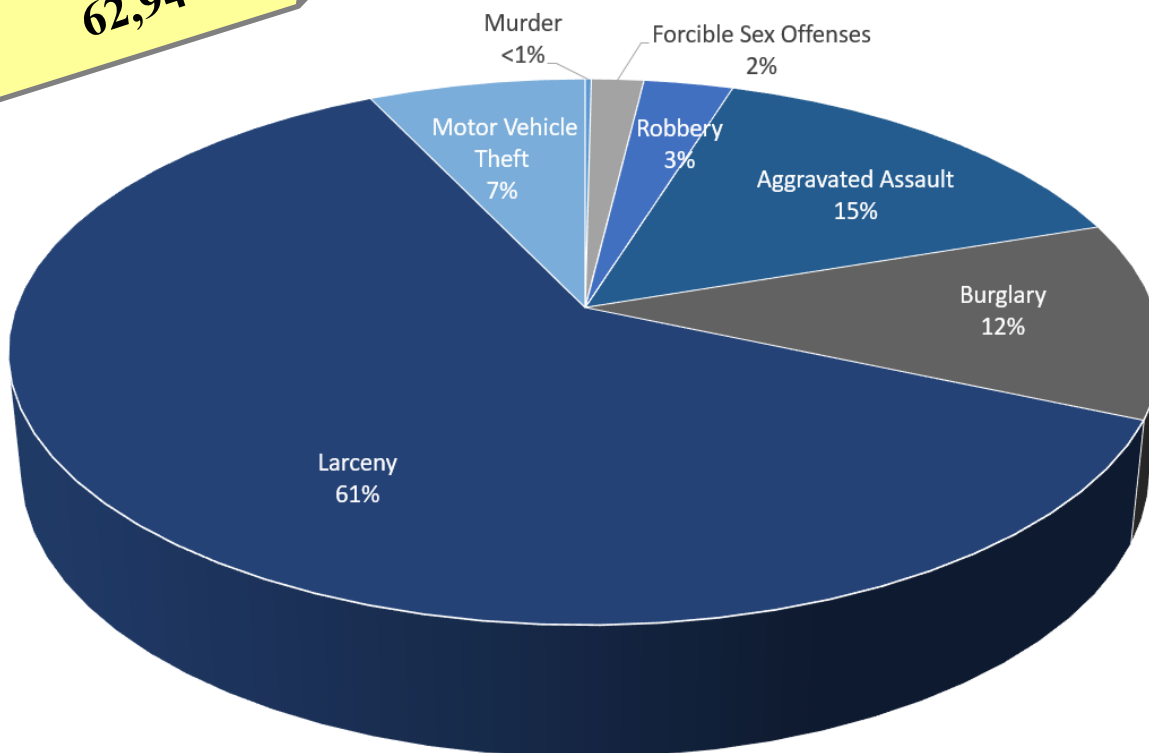
(Part 1 Offenses)

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



Total Calls for Service in 2021: **62,944**

BREAKDOWN PART 1 OFFENSES





PATROL DIVISION

SARASOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT *Annual Report 2021*

The Patrol Division is commanded by a Captain and one Assistant Commander who holds the rank of Lieutenant. Of the 180 sworn law enforcement officers at the Sarasota Police Department, nearly 120 are assigned to the Patrol Division.

This division consists of four rotating 12-hour shifts, each supervised by a Lieutenant. Sergeants and officers are assigned to one of the ten zones within the City of Sarasota. In addition, this division oversees Specialty Units such as Traffic Investigations, Marine Patrol, K-9, Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Community Action Team (CAT), Crime Prevention Unit, and Honor Guard.



The dedicated men and women of the Patrol Division can be seen throughout the City of Sarasota 24 hours a day, 7 days a week answering calls for service, patrolling the waterways, conducting outreach, enforcing traffic laws and working hard to improve the quality of life for the citizens, business owners, and visitors. They encounter a variety of situations and no matter the call — noise disturbances, traffic accidents, structure fires, burglaries, critical incidents and more — they arrive when help is needed most.



In April 2021 night shift officers responded to a call reference an overturned vehicle in the water at the 10th Street boat ramp. The officers arrived on scene and immediately entered the water to evaluate the situation. They were able to hold the driver's head in a pocket of air while they cut the seatbelt. The driver was then able to safely exit the vehicle and receive treatment on shore. As a result of their training and problem solving skills, the driver of the vehicle walked away from the accident unharmed. In this incident, the officers received the SPD Life Saving Medal for their efforts.

In 2021, the Sarasota Police Department implemented the Body Worn Camera program. All officers assigned to the Patrol Division were equipped with and trained on the use of the body-worn cameras, enhancing our commitment to the citizens in our community for greater transparency.

Our officers remain committed to not only ensuring the safety for those who live, work and play in the City of Sarasota but also in fostering partnerships and providing the highest standard of professional police services.





TRAFFIC UNIT



This highly specialized unit enforces traffic laws and analyzes data collected in high-traffic areas to improve traffic flow. These officers are responsible for traffic enforcement, traffic homicide investigations, special operations and events, and dignitary escorts.

This unit conducts numerous operations throughout the year — Click It or Ticket, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, High Visibility Enforcement, and Don't Block the Box, all of which are intended to make the streets within the City of Sarasota safer for everyone.

In 2021, Officer Frank received the “Alert Today Florida Outstanding Individual of the Year” award for the State of Florida from the Florida Department of Transportation for his dedication to the High Visibility Enforcement program. The goal of this program is to protect the most vulnerable road users — pedestrians and bicyclists — by increasing awareness and compliance with traffic laws at selected intersections within the City of Sarasota.

<u>CITATIONS ISSUED</u>	<u>WARNINGS ISSUED</u>	<u>TRAFFIC CALL OUTS</u>	<u>TRAFFIC STUDIES</u>
4,639	1,063	24	8

MARINE PATROL UNIT



The Marine Patrol Unit is staffed by two officers, both of which are certified and licensed United States Coast Guard Captains. This unit routinely enforces marine laws and ordinances, investigates boating accidents and related crimes, removes derelict vessels, responds to critical incidents on the water and assists SPD's Dive Team. In addition, the Marine Patrol officers participated in various community outreach events and assisted with several special events and operations in the Sarasota/Bradenton and Tampa Bay area.

In 2021, this unit worked with the City Attorney's Office to update the city code for those living aboard vessels with the goal of increasing the safety of citizens and surrounding wildlife.

The SPD marine fleet consists of a 24' Yellowfin and a new state-of-the-art 36' Yellowfin that was acquired in 2021 with financial assistance in part from a West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) grant.





K-9 UNIT



Extensively trained and FDLE certified K-9s and handlers assist by searching areas, tracking and locating fleeing suspects and helping locate missing or endangered persons. Additionally, the Department employs a bomb dog handler and bomb dog trained to detect and/or search for explosives. The K-9 Unit and bomb dog routinely participate in community outreach events throughout the year and are beloved favorites on the Department’s social media platforms.

In 2021, K-9 Bronson (pictured right) and his handler Officer Nelson were awarded with a Meritorious Service Medal and honored by the City Commission for their work, including the apprehension of suspects involved in two homicides and arrests for kidnapping, arson, and possession of narcotics and firearms.

K-9 Coti retired in 2021 and K-9’s Bronson and Bandi will officially retire in 2022. We are thankful for K-9’s Coti, Bandi, and Bronson and their dedicated service to our community. Our K-9 handlers are busy training new K-9s to join the unit in 2022.



HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM



Working in partnership with the City of Sarasota’s Homelessness Program Coordinator and case workers, in addition to many local social service agencies and professionals, this essential Team of outreach and enforcement officers uses a three-pronged approach—Educate, Encourage and Enforce—when interacting with the City’s homeless population, all with the goal of ending an individual’s cycle of homelessness.

Utilizing the Continuum of Care program, the Homeless Outreach Team has helped families and individuals, including veterans, find shelter and food, obtain short and long-term housing, and gain access to mental health services, as well as alcohol / drug counseling and treatment programs. In 2021, this team made 3,473 outreach contacts to assist those in need.

In addition, the Homeless Outreach Team has successfully reunited homeless individuals with family members both near and far through the “Homeward Bound” program. In 2021, six individuals were provided bus fare to reunite with their family or support group.



COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

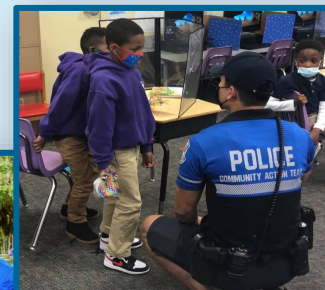
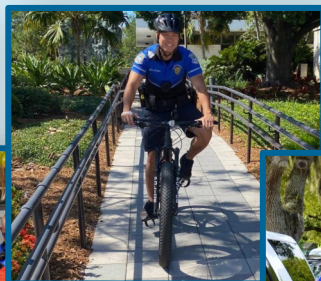


Comprised of two sergeants and eight officers, members of the highly visible Community Action Team (C.A.T.) are bike certified through the International Police Mountain Bike Association and regularly patrol the City of Sarasota engaging with the community by sharing information, encouraging problem-solving approaches, and obtaining feedback using the S.A.R.A. Model (Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment). They also frequently attend neighborhood meetings and SPD sponsored events.

In 2021, the C.A.T. partnered with various community organizations for several annual favorite initiatives such as, “Pack the Patrol Car,” “Books and Badges” and “Shop with a Cop.” Also in 2021, C.A.T. officers were involved with two new initiatives, “Barbers and Books,” with community advocate Jetson Grimes (pictured right), providing free haircuts and books to youth, and “Kids and Officers Promoting Solidarity” (K.O.P.S.), with the City of Sarasota Parks and Recreation and the Gulf Coast Lions, encouraging youth to participate in a variety of sports and activities while engaging with the officers they see around their community.



Throughout the year, in addition to community outreach events, this busy Team conducted various enforcement operations. Utilizing intelligence-led policing, the C.A.T. analyzed crime trends and data to strategically enforce laws in high crime areas with the goal of improving the quality of life for residents and promoting a safer community. They also assisted Patrol shifts with calls for service, helped locate suspects under investigation and completed welfare checks throughout the city.



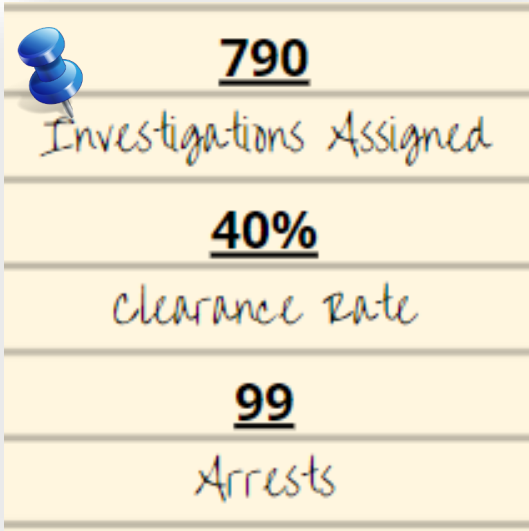


CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Criminal Investigations Division consists of three sections: General Crimes (including White Collar), Crimes Against Children, and the Strategic Investigations Unit. The Criminalistics Unit and Victim Advocate are also assigned to this division. Personnel includes one Captain, one Lieutenant, three Sergeants, 20 detectives, three Civilian Investigators, two Victim Advocates, and three civilian support staff.

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

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



CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

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

In 2021, Detectives worked several cases involving children. The suspects are serving time in prison for their actions and the victims are safe as a result of the dedication of our Detectives.



GENERAL CRIMES

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



In 2021, Detectives got a break in a homicide investigation of a female that occurred in 1988. With advancements in forensic testing technology, the suspect was identified when a pair of pants the victim was wearing was retested and a DNA match was identified. It was learned that the suspect, Joseph Magaletti, died in prison in 2015. While Magaletti was a person of interest in the case when it occurred, there was insufficient evidence against him. The investigation was resolved after 35 years and the victim’s family now has closure.

STRATEGIC INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Narcotics Unit, now named the “Strategic Investigations Unit” to more accurately reflect the diversified nature of their assignments, primarily investigates street level and upper-level drug traffickers and smugglers, as well as human trafficking, pharmaceutical diversion crimes, and monitoring pain clinics with a wide variety of surveillance techniques.

This unit is also assigned with a detective who serves on a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force, allowing the Sarasota Police Department access to additional federal resources in combating drug crimes.

NARCOTICS SEIZED

MARIJUANA	15,759.7g
COCAINE	466.6g
PRESCRIPTION PILLS ...	120.6g
HEROIN/FENTANYL	557.6g
MDMA	71.9g
DESIGNER DRUGS	456.3g

In March 2021, Detectives began investigating an overdose death in which the victim spoke with a suspect for several months and purchased narcotics. It was determined that the victim passed away as a result of Fentanyl. As a result of the investigation, Detectives arrested and charged Ricky Turner Jr. with Manslaughter, Sale of Fentanyl (3 counts), Use of Two-Way Communication (3 counts), and Driving with a Suspended License (3 counts).



90 Arrests



\$61,000 Seized



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



CRIMINALISTICS UNIT

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



In 2021, Manager Kari McVaugh was promoted following the retirement of the previous manager. Manager McVaugh served as a Criminalistics Technician for 15 of her 21 years at the Sarasota Police Department. Under her supervision, the unit welcomed one new Technician and implemented a new training program to ensure future Technicians receive the appropriate training to be successful in the field of forensic science.



360

Call-Outs to Crime Scenes



400

Latent Comparisons



230

Lab Submissions to FDLE

35

Latent Hits

DIGITAL FORENSICS



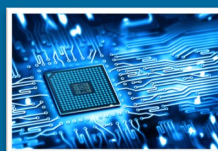
The Criminal Investigations Division currently has one civilian Digital Forensic Specialist who assists Detectives and Officers in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving digital evidence.

This position requires advanced training on multiple softwares and devices. Additionally, this Specialist assists the United States Secret Service when requested.

In 2021, this unit had a 22% increase in the Terabytes of data examined for the year.

Devices Examined

186



Terabytes Examined

96.75



VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM



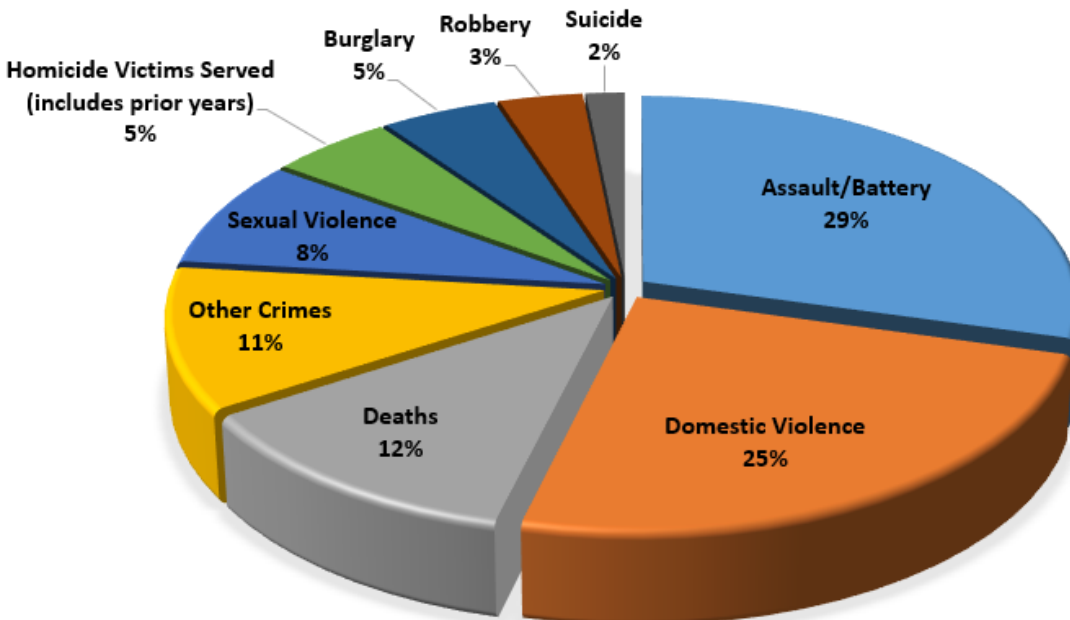
**Victim Advocates
Jude Castro and Brandy Borling**

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

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

In 2021, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody honored Victim Advocate Jude Castro with the Attorney General’s Distinguished Victims Services Award in recognition of her efforts in assisting the family of a homicide victim that occurred in 1988. Ms. Castro is one of seven law enforcement professionals honored throughout the State of Florida.

In 2021, the Victim Advocate Program assisted a total of 379 new clients and responded to 23 callouts to assist victims of crime and persons experiencing trauma and crisis.



Local Center for Domestic and Sexual Violence

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

Local Victim Service Agencies

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

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

Parents of Murdered
Children
(941) 952-0936

State and National Referrals

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

Identity Theft Hotline
1-866-966-7226

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Commander of the Support Services Division oversees critical infrastructure components of the Department which include the Body Worn Camera Program, Management Information Systems (MIS), Special Events and Extra-Duty, Facility Maintenance, the Records Section, the Property and Evidence Unit, Fleet, and the Red-Light Camera Program. Additionally, all Special Response Teams fall under the purview of the Division. Those teams include SWAT, Crisis Negotiations, Emergency Response, Underwater Search and Recovery, and the Explosive Materials Unit.



BODY WORN CAMERA PROGRAM

Under the direction of retired Chief James Rieser, 2021 brought the implementation of the much-anticipated Body Worn Camera program.

In October 2020, City of Sarasota Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the body worn camera program. At that time, the Sarasota Police Department committed to rolling out the program by July 2021.

Training for uniformed officers began in April 2021. As officers completed a 6-hour training class on the body worn cameras, they began wearing them as part of their daily uniform. 122 body worn cameras were issued to uniformed officers as they completed training on the Axon Body 3 camera. 32 of the Axon Flex 2 body worn cameras were issued to members who are on Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and members of the Emergency Response Team (ERT), for a total of 154 cameras.



The Body Worn Camera Unit not only trained sworn personnel and issued all hardware, but they also conducted community outreach city-wide and gave presentations to the City Commission, Independent Police Advisory Panel (IPAP), Police Complaint Committee (PCC), and to our media partners.



The cameras objectively record officer-citizen contacts and critical incidents in real-time, enhancing the accuracy of officer reports and testimony in court. The body worn cameras are another tool officers have to increase transparency within the community.

Overall expenses for the program, which include body worn cameras, tasers, training, personnel, and associated software and hardware with unlimited storage of case recordings, are estimated to cost \$3.2 million over five years.

Roll-out of the program was completed in mid-May 2021, well ahead of schedule.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The City of Sarasota is a world-class community and treasured destination accented by our many special events. Of events that occurred in the City of Sarasota, fifteen (15) were designated by the City Commission as City co-sponsored events as they foster a sense of hometown pride, enrich the quality of life for citizens, promote community engagement and contribute to the local economy. Some of these events included the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. parade, Memorial Day Parade, Juneteenth festival, July Fourth events, National Night Out, Veterans Day Parade, Holiday events, and New Year's Eve events.

The Sarasota Police Department takes a planning role in any significant special event taking place within the City of Sarasota, particularly events that involve right-of-way permits, road closures, traffic control issues, large crowds, or require substantial commitment of Department resources.

As an additional service, the Extra-Duty employment program provides a source of trained personnel for specialized security and traffic control functions that meet department approval. In 2021, Sarasota Police officers filled 1,703 extra-duty jobs for businesses and organizations within the community.

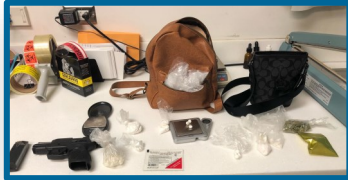




PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE UNIT

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

In 2021, the Unit passed three separate audits, both internal and external, to ensure policies are followed and all items are accounted for.



10,245: Items received as Evidence

2,781: Items returned to Owners

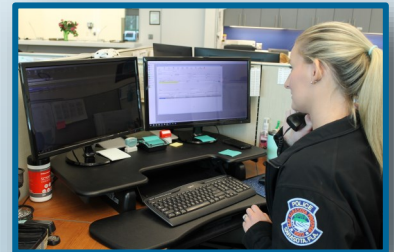
12,001: Items Disposed

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

MIS has the most critical role in a contemporary law enforcement agency’s infrastructure because of how reliant law enforcement has become on technology. Therefore, Sarasota Police Department has assembled a top-tier MIS Unit, whose handpicked members are trained specifically to meet the demands of the law enforcement function. In 2021, the MIS Unit was awarded with a City Commission Declaration for their work in cybersecurity.

RECORDS SECTION

The Records Unit processes all case reports in the Records Management System, which is essential to ensure accurate reporting to FDLE and Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) to the FBI via the Annual and Semi-Annual UCR reports. The Unit is also responsible for processing requests from the public such as copies of incident/offense reports, arrest reports, traffic crash reports, local background checks, etc. The Unit maintains communication with other governmental and law enforcement agencies, particularly the State Attorney’s Office, as requests for case files are processed daily in preparation for the prosecution of crimes in Sarasota.



In March 2021, the Records Unit, along with the City Records Department, implemented an online portal called, “JustFOIA”, where citizens can make public records requests via the City of Sarasota website or the SPD website. This portal is geared toward more extensive requests that may require routing to other divisions within SPD and/or extensive research. This program has significantly streamlined the public records request process.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Working seven days per week, the Maintenance Unit works tirelessly to provide all employees and visitors with safe, clean, and sanitized facilities following COVID-19 protocols. The unit also ensures that all facility equipment and apparatuses are functional and well maintained. Our headquarters is a 6-story building that houses all operations, as well as the City’s Emergency Operations Center.



42,500 Cases Processed

1,285 Public Records Requests Processed



SPECIAL RESPONSE

In 2021, the position of Special Response Commander was re-established with the main goal of providing centralized tactical command for Special Response Teams during critical incidents and activations. The position requires a tremendous amount of oversight with regard to scheduling, coordination with other divisions, budgeting, continuing education, and the acquisition of new members and equipment.



The Special Response Commander oversees five units which include: Special Weapons and Tactics Team, Explosive Materials Unit, Crisis Negotiations Unit, Underwater Search and Rescue, and the Emergency Response Team.

In 2021, these Special Response Teams were utilized 104 times for a variety of situations and events.

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

SWAT is the department’s largest Special Response Team with over twenty members, two of which are female Officers, the first in SPD history.

In 2021, the SWAT Team placed 3rd overall in the Southwest Florida Regional SWAT competition and Officer Jacob Nelson was awarded the Top Sniper award over the day of competition.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

ERT is trained to handle a variety of situations to include search and rescue, natural disaster response, civil unrest/riots, WMD incidents, and relief or support for other law enforcement units.

In 2021, ERT was utilized in various situations to include the search for Brian Laundrie in Sarasota County.

UNDERWATER SEARCH AND RECOVERY

The Dive Team responds to situations occurring in the jurisdictional waterways where the use of SCUBA divers may be required. The team trains in open water rescues, first aid, missing persons, evidence recovery, derelict boat disposal, and helicopter insertion.

In 2021, the Dive Team assisted in multiple large-scale events including the Offshore Grand Prix Boat Races, removed several derelict vessels, and aided with the recovery of evidence for criminal cases.

CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS UNIT

CNU specializes in intervening in critical incidents where de-escalation techniques are needed to negotiate a safe conclusion. Their main objective is to protect hostages, innocent bystanders, and responding personnel.

In 2021, CNU conducted monthly trainings of a variety of scenarios and negotiation skill building.

EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS UNIT

The SPD Explosive Materials Unit is one of 468 squads in the United States and is certified by the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation Hazardous Devices School.

In 2021, EMU assisted in community events to include Sprint Training baseball games, Offshore Grand Prix, Fourth of July Fireworks, and dignitary visits.



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

ACCREDITATION UNIT

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

Accreditation Manager Areaka Jewell is responsible for maintaining files on 235 mandatory and voluntary standards that prove the department's compliance with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. The accreditation process is an on-going project that requires constant monitoring and periodic updating of policies and procedures to ensure continued compliance.

TRAINING UNIT

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

- Patrol Rifle School and Re-Qualifications
- CPR/First Aid re-certification
- Taser re-certification
- Fair and Impartial Policing training for entire agency
- Driving training
- De-Escalation and Less Lethal training
- Active Shooter training
- Racial Intelligence (RITE)
- PERF Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics



The Training Unit is continuing our partnership with the community by meeting with members of the community and media to demonstrate how our agency utilizes the simulator to train officers in effective de-escalation techniques and appropriate response to resistance. These demonstrations provide members of the community and media a better understanding of what officers face and provide informed answers to their questions regarding response to resistance.



In 2021, the Sarasota Police Department hired 17 new officers. The Unit monitors them while in the academy and trains them during Agency Specific Training (AST) in preparation for their Field Training and Evaluation in the Patrol Division. The Training Unit also coordinates all of their Field Training until they have completed their probationary period.

The Training Unit continues to provide our officers with more training and working with our community to better understand what our officers face on a daily basis.

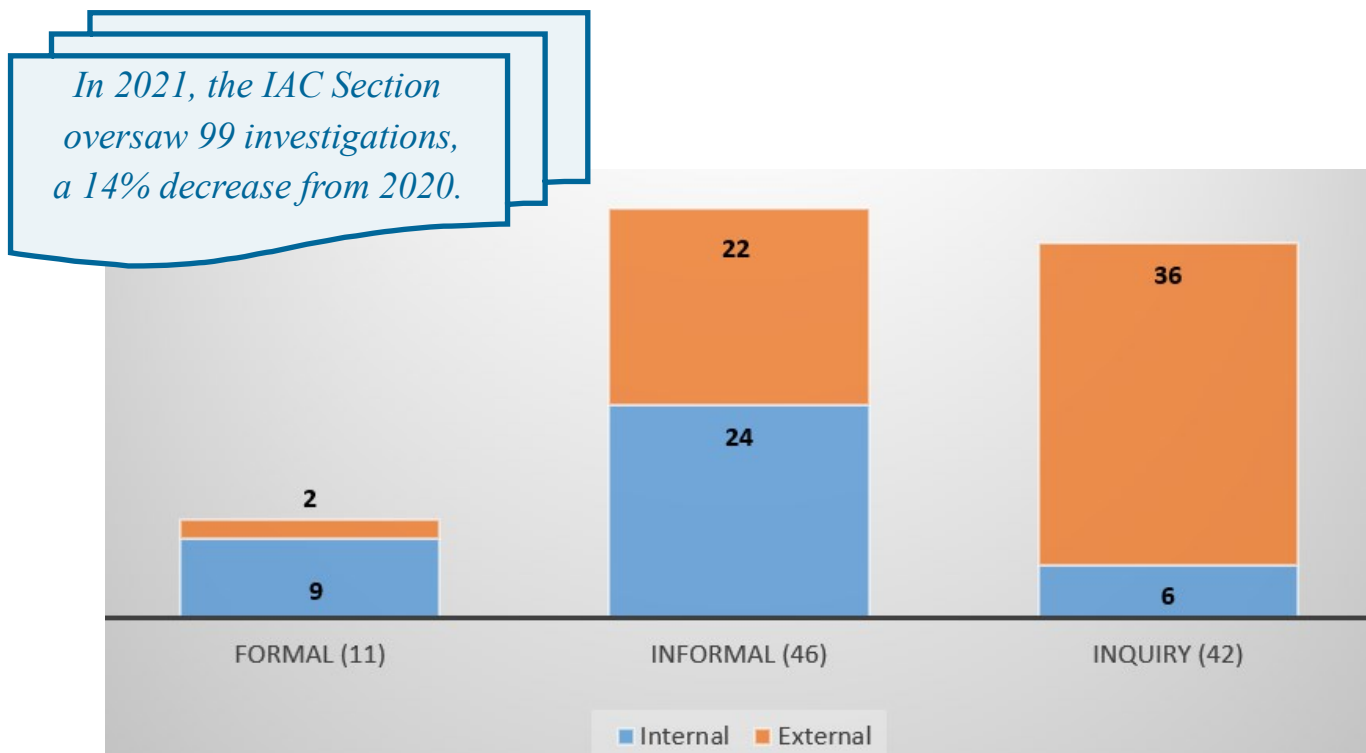


INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECTION

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

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

In 2021, the Sarasota Police Department implemented a Body Worn Camera (BWC) Program to enhance accountability and public trust by preserving evidence of officer interactions with citizens. The Chief of Police assigned an additional detective to IAC to conduct random audits of BWC recordings, which will serve as a training tool for officer safety and best practices. Furthermore, these audits will assist in the assessment of contacts between officers and citizens by reviewing procedures and interpersonal actions. From the program's inception on May 4, 2021, through December 31, 2021, this detective has conducted audits of 1,034 videos.



The IAC Section also governs the Department's Drug Free Workplace program and is responsible for the administration of the Department's Early Intervention System, which through a series of criteria, alerts staff of possible anomalies in an officer's work product or behavior with the goal being to preemptively take steps to correct issues the officer may have. In 2021, this section administered 102 random drug tests, all yielding negative results.



CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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

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

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

ADVISORY PANELS

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

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

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

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

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

Heather Salzman

Administrator, Police Advisory Panels

941-263-6322

Heather.Salzman@SarasotaFL.gov



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

Throughout the City of Sarasota, individual departments maintain a constant state of readiness and continue to prepare for all types of events and incidents and 2021 has proven to be the most challenging year to date. By far, the biggest challenge has been the pandemic, and how it has changed our normal work processes. City Departments were able to adapt to these challenges while maintaining a high quality level of service. Several of the City Departments were involved with the coordination and support with other agencies of multiple testing and vaccination sites within our jurisdiction.

The Emergency Operations Center was utilized several times in the past year for different situations ranging from tropical storms to dignitary visits within our community.

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



**Emergency Operations
Todd Kerkering**

Tips for Hurricane Season



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

2099 Adams Lane
Sarasota, Florida 34237
941-263-6773



www.sarasotapd.org