

# JOHNSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



CHIEF MARK A. VIEIRA

ALONG WITH THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE DEPARTMENT EMPHASIZE THE MOTTO

WORKING TOGETHER

~

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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The background of the header is a grayscale image of the Johnston Police Department seal. The seal is circular with a textured, metallic appearance. The words "JOHNSTON" and "POLICE" are visible in a circular arrangement around the perimeter. In the center, there is a smaller circular emblem. The text "MISSION STATEMENT" and "2023 ANNUAL REPORT" is overlaid on the seal in a serif font.

# MISSION STATEMENT

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

We, the men and women of the Johnston Police Department, dedicate ourselves to improve the quality of life in all the neighborhoods of our town.

We will accomplish this with pride through effective programs and strategies to reduce the levels of violence and crime. We will meet the needs of our citizenry through innovation, problem solving, open communication and full participation.

We will carry out these responsibilities through a set of core values that reflect our commitment to the highest standard of integrity and excellence in public service.

The Johnston Police Department is ready for tomorrow, willing and able to serve and protect as we meet the challenges that lie ahead.

# CHIEF'S MESSAGE

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



On behalf of the dedicated sworn and civilian members of the Johnston Police Department, I am pleased to present to you our 2023 annual report. This annual report provides a summary of our work and highlights the accomplishments of our agency. I am humbled to have been chosen to lead the Johnston Police Department as its new police chief in January of 2023.

Recruitment of officers has become increasingly competitive and a challenge for law enforcement agencies across the country. I am pleased to note we have made significant strides in filling vacant positions created from retirements, promotions, and lateral transfers. In 2023, the department recruited and hired an unprecedented nine (9) new police officers. I am extremely proud of our Field Training Officers (FTO's) who trained our new officers and played a vital role in their development. The Johnston Police Department remains committed to hiring the best and brightest officers.

The police department's total number of calls for service decreased slightly this year. We ended 2023 with 32939 calls for service. This was a decrease in overall calls when compared to 2022, when our agency responded to 34415 overall calls. Traffic enforcement continues to be a high focus area of our department. We direct our efforts primarily to areas where we notice an increase in traffic-related crashes, speeding infractions, and in areas requested by our community to pay special attention to.

In 2023, the department implemented new technologies to enhance our operations and improve transparency. The Department implemented our body worn camera (BWC) program for uniformed officers. The BWC program has proven to be a valuable resource for documentation, evidence collection, and provides transparency and accountability concerning the actions of our officers and community members. Additionally, we introduced FLOCK license plate reader cameras in strategic locations as vehicle data and license plates are the most requested pieces of evidence for law enforcement when investigating crime. These cameras serve as an essential investigative tool that aids in swiftly apprehending suspects and preventing crime.

I am proud to say the department has maintained national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Department also participates in many different community events to establish and maintain strong relationships with our citizens. The safety of our children remains a top priority. To that extent, we added a second School Resource Officer (SRO) at the high school.

As your Chief of Police, I am honored to serve the residents of Johnston. I will continue to ensure that our agency is well positioned to serve and protect our community. The Johnston Police Department strives to maintain the highest levels of professionalism and efficiency in our mission to serve and protect everyone who lives in or visits Johnston. I am proud of the men and women of the Johnston Police Department for their integrity and commitment to serving the community every day.

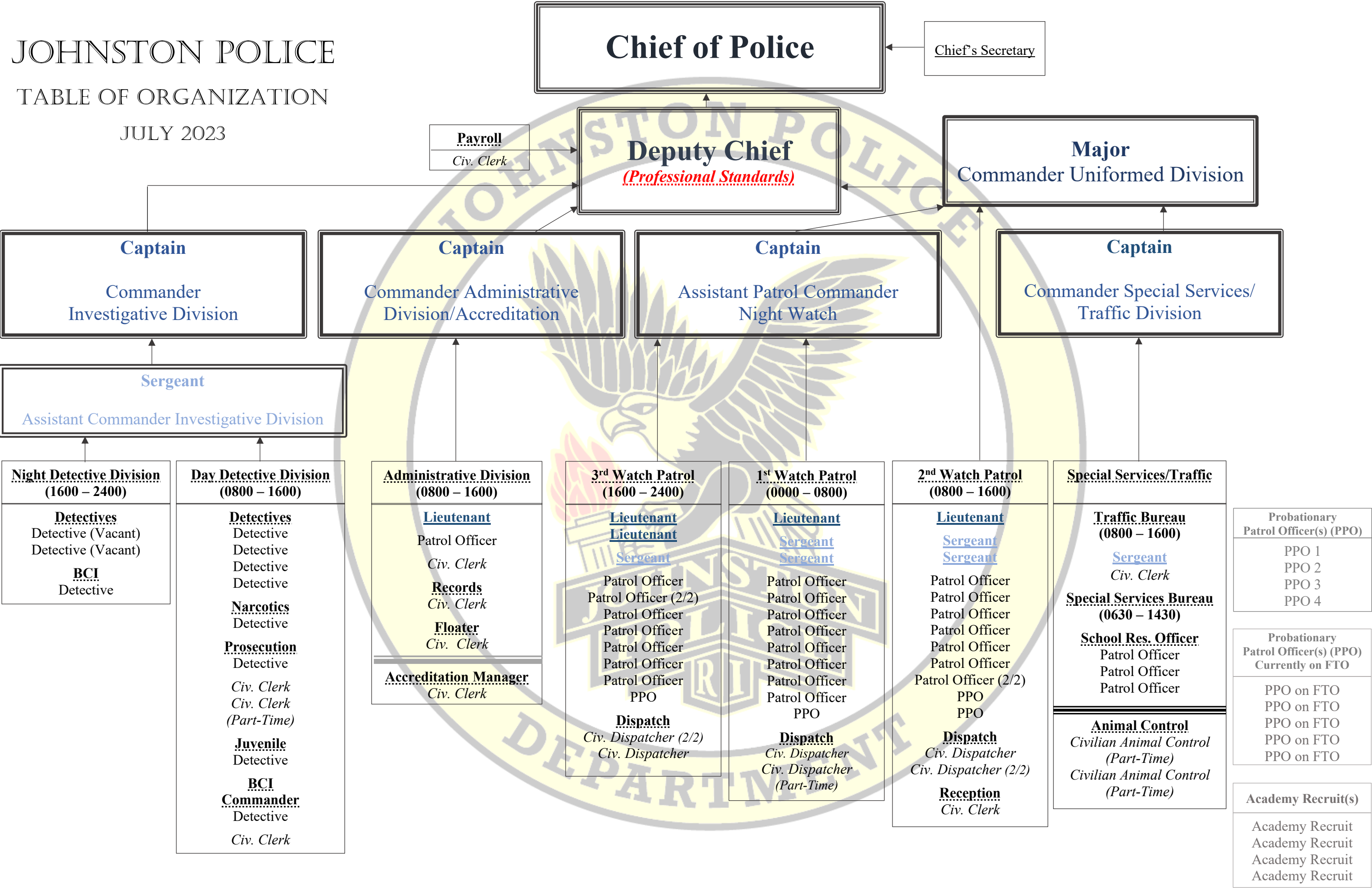
I would like to thank Mayor Joseph Polisena, Jr., the Johnston Town Council, and the community at large for their support and confidence they provide to the Johnston Police Department. Together, we can continue our motto of "Working Together ~ Making a Difference."

*Chief Mark A. Vieira*



JOHNSTON POLICE  
TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

JULY 2023





# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Administrative Staff Division is comprised of one (1) Captain, (1) Lieutenant, (1) Patrolman and three (3) full-time civilian clerks, and (1) civilian Accreditation Manager. The Division oversees all internal and external training functions, accreditation management, data and document processing, records keeping, budgeting, finance, planning and research, grants management and monitoring, all documentation relative to personnel including payroll, absences and the accountability of the general working environment as well as headquarters operational matters.

The Johnston Police Department proudly manages its international accreditation status through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), along with their award from the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission (RIPAC). In 2021, the Department successfully navigated its second re-accreditation cycle with RIPAC, and also successfully completed its annual compliance check with CALEA.

After successful recruitment drives over the past few years, the Department swore-in six new probationary Patrol Officers (6 males) in 2022. In addition, 10 Officers were sworn in during 2023. We plan on recruiting 5 more candidates to attend the upcoming academy's two (2) 2024 sessions.

Included in this recruitment drive, the agency continued to use the cloud-based digital application collection and management service called PoliceApp. To further expand connectivity and outreach, the agency also expanded its social media outreach on Twitter. The Department has adopted Fit2Serve to outsource its physical agility and written tests, and also aggressively recruits at these events.

Aside from a handful of retirements over the past year, the agency looks to also be prepared for the potential of several vacancies over the next three years, and thus looks toward the fall of 2024 to commence recruitment.

During 2023, officers attended a variety of conferences, re-certification seminars, and training sessions in an effort to enhance officer effectiveness and efficiency in performing job related functions. Officers attended training seminars offered by the Roger Williams University Justice System Training and Research Institute, the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy, NESPIN, and various training seminars sponsored by outside agencies and interests.

Our officers participated in the following training programs: criminal procedure, de-escalation/conflict resolution, TASER recertification, background investigations, homicide/crime-scene investigation, distracted driving, Crisis Intervention Team academy, DUI recertification, mental health/crisis response, open-source social media investigations, outlaw motorcycle gangs, civil rights/hate crimes, BCI school, pharmaceutical training & advanced investigations, rifle qualifications, low light and decision making shooting, ethics, use of force, OC recertification, Narcan train the trainer, active shooter response, , advanced rifle training, identifying imposters, field training officer, pistol qualifications, drug interdiction/vehicle concealment, and

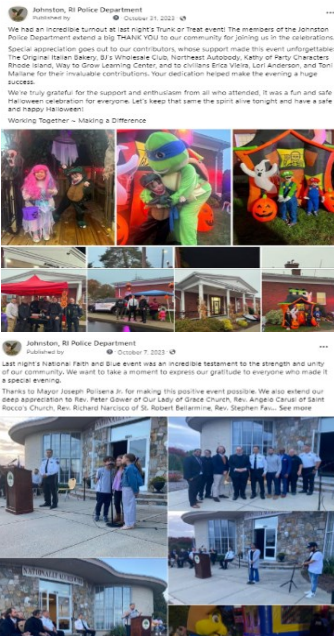
financial investigations. School Resource Officers attended NASRO training and an ALICE instructor course. Sergeants also attended first-line supervisor training and Lieutenants attended mid-level management training.

Throughout the year, the Commander of the Administrative Staff Division identified policies, recent court rulings, criminal trends, and other officer safety issues that require the training of personnel. Training Bulletins are then composed regarding these topics and disseminated to personnel through the PowerDMS system or in-person training sessions are developed and presented at roll calls, or in conjunction with other in-person department sponsored courses.

## **PLANNING AND RESEARCH**

In 2023, the most significant policy implementation was the State of Rhode Island's Body Worn Camera program policy. The department was trained with and began to utilize body-worn cameras in its Patrol and Traffic Divisions (Sergeants and Patrol Officers). The department also upgraded from the X26P Taser to the advanced Taser 7, which included training and qualifications.

## **WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**



The Johnston Police Department continues to expand its social media footprint by making more frequent posts of organizational activities and community events. The agency has also committed to further leveraging its social-media community outreach in casework, with numerous 2023 posts requesting information on unsolved cases. Investigators have become more comfortable leveraging these assets in soliciting information on active cases, and also reporting of criminal activity not yet tended to. Further training has been experienced by members of the Investigative Division and will continue to be an ever-evolving area of needed education. Social media was also instrumental in providing information regarding numerous weather and flooding related hazards

Several community outreach efforts were documented on the department's social media platforms such as National Night Out, Faith and Blue, Walk with the Cops, Coffee with a Cop, Touch a Truck, and Trunk or Treat.

## **RECORDS BUREAU**

Records personnel are responsible for the maintenance, processing and dissemination of all department documents including motor vehicle accidents, arrest reports, incident reports, calls for service and public information. In 2023, the clerks processed 573 arrests reports, 1824 incident reports and 1065 accident reports. There was a total of 32,939 calls for service.

The total amount of funds obtained from 2023 Records Requests was \$1,236.00.



## **FINANCE AND GRANTS**

Administrative Staff personnel are directly responsible for all budgeting, purchasing and funding relative to the department's needs. The department was awarded and maintained the following grants in 2023:

- Office of Justice Programs Bulletproof Vest
- Department of Justice Byrne/JAG.
- Rhode Island Office on Highway Safety
- Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals Grant/United States Food and Drug Administration
- State of Rhode Island Department of Health Naloxone Program

## **SHORT- AND LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### Short-term Goals

- Succession planning regarding pending retirements and transfer of roles and responsibilities
- Expanded training opportunities
- Portable radios upgrade
- K-9 purchase and training
- Motorcycles purchase

### Long-term Goals

- Headquarters improvements and renovations
- Continued recruitment and retention to regain full-strength at 65 sworn officers

Our department will continue to maintain our prestigious accreditation awards. The new 6th Edition CALEA manual will incorporate a 4-year assessment cycle with annual compliance reviews to be held in June and July of each year of the assessment cycle. During each review, a compliance service member from CALEA will remotely assess 25% of the current standards required of the Johnston Police Department to ensure continued compliance. Each year another 25% of the standards will be randomly selected for review in order to ensure full and continued compliance with CALEA's best practices in policing standards, culminating with a full departmental review by an on-site assessment team in 2025.

In 2021, the Johnston Police Department completed its second reaccreditation cycle with RIPAC, along with participating in its annual compliance reviews with CALEA. The significant difference between the two programs is the focus on Rhode Island-centric standards that coincide with nuances, or Rhode Island General Law requirements, unique only to Rhode Island agencies. As the agency is now accredited through CALEA, only these specific Rhode Island-centric standards are what is reviewed and reported on by RIPAC.

Our department would still like to pursue hosting trainings in the updated roll call room venue. As of the writing of this report, the agency has not yet hosted any trainings with outside attendees. The room has been used repeatedly for internal training functions, however, the expansion of guests to outside attendees is still something that the Department would like to explore as a future goal.

The background of the header is a grayscale image of the Johnston Police Department seal. The seal is circular with 'JOHNSTON' at the top and 'POLICE' at the bottom. In the center, there is a shield with various symbols, including a star and a plow. The text 'UNIFORMED DIVISION' and '2023 ANNUAL REPORT' is overlaid on the seal.

# UNIFORMED DIVISION

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Uniformed Division of the Johnston Police Department is comprised of the Patrol Bureau, Communications Bureau, Special Services Bureau, which consist of a Traffic Bureau, Commercial Enforcement Unit (CEU) and Animal Control Unit. The Patrol Bureau's staffing is as follows; one (1) Major, one (1) Captain, four (4) Lieutenants, six (5) Sergeants, twenty-three (23) Patrol Officers, and twelve (12) Probationary Patrol Officers. The Communications Bureau's staffing is as follows; four (4) Full-Time Civilian Dispatchers, one (1) Full-Time Civilian Receptionist/Dispatcher and one (1) Part-Time Civilian Dispatcher. The Traffic & Special Services Bureau's staffing is as follows; one (1) Captain, one (1) Sergeant, Three (3) School Resource Officers, one (1) Full-Time Civilian Clerk, one (1) Part-Time Civilian Clerk and two (2) Part-Time Civilian Animal Control Officers.

Staffing levels in the Patrol Bureau have fluctuated frequently due to retirements, recruitment, promotions, and extended absences such as military leave and officers injured on duty. The Patrol Bureau is the only bureau that operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Members of the Patrol Bureau are responsible for patrolling the approximate 25 square miles of the Town and are the initial responders to all Calls for Service (CFS). The principal purpose of the Patrol Bureau is to be a highly visible and a consistent deterrent to crime. Members also serve as the first responders in any and all emergency situations, and protect the life and property of the citizens we serve. When they are not able to resolve the situation upon initial contact, officers assigned to the Patrol Bureau will refer matters to the appropriate Bureaus or Units for further investigation or follow-up.

Typical and most frequent CFS are: Residential/Business Alarms, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Family Disputes, Dispersals, Nuisance Complaints, Criminal/Suspicious Activity, Missing Persons and Well Being Checks. The Johnston Police Department Patrol Bureau is the primary point of contact for most of our citizens and it's important that these interactions reflect our mission statement and high standards of courteous and professional police service.

The following is a breakdown of 2023 year ending statistical figures as they pertain to the following: (1) Calls for Service, (2) Arrests, (3) Offense Reports, and (4) Documented Accidents. The data below in each category reflect a total statistical analysis for calendar years 2022 and 2023.

In 2023 members of the Johnston Police Department, predominately from the Uniformed Division responded to 32,939 Calls for Service. This decreased from 2022's 34,415 calls for service, a decrease of 1476. Of the 32,939 calls for service one thousand nine hundred and eighteen (1918) were initiated through the 911 system.

In 2023 members of the Johnston Police Department, predominately from the Uniformed Division effected 573 arrests for violations of Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) pertaining to Criminal and Motor Vehicle offenses. This was an increase from last year's 528 up 45 from 2022. Gender and age breakdown is as follows: Adult Male 395, Adult Female 130, Juvenile Male 34, and Juvenile Female 14.

In 2023 members of the Johnston Police Department, predominately from the Uniformed Division initiated 1824 written reports, an increase of 3 written reports from 2022's year ending figures.

In 2023 members of the Johnston Police Department, predominately from the Uniformed Division responded to and documented 1065 motor vehicle accidents, an increase of 46 over 2022. Additionally, 296 parking lot / private property accidents that were also documented in 2023.

## **SHORT TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The following are short term goals and operational objectives that should be considered in the immediate future in order to enhance the overall operation and efficiency of the Patrol Bureau. These goals and objectives while not an eminent priority, or an extenuating operational hindrance should be addressed within the calendar year of 2023.

### **➤ Re-implementing a K-9 program**

Up until approximately nine (9) years ago we had an active K-9 program. In my opinion we need to reinstate this program as soon as manpower levels allow. Our officers have increased their activity levels regarding detection of narcotics in our Town, this often leads to us having to rely on outside agencies to assist us with home and vehicle searches I'd much prefer to be able to handle these circumstances in-house with our own personnel plus K-9 detection helps to solidify probable cause for searches thus strengthening the chances of convictions.

### **➤ Purchasing of a Restraint Chair**

Towards the end 2019 we had a streak of prisoners who were being quite combative, attempting to injury themselves and/or attempting to injure our officers. Under the most extreme circumstances of this nature, it would very effective to have a restraint chair available. Based upon my research, often just the threat of utilizing a restraint chair is enough to gain compliance from a combative or mentally unstable person. The cost is not too great but crafting a good policy to govern its usage would be very important.

➤ **Purchasing of a Drone**

The price of drone technology has decreased significantly recently as they become more common. There is a vendor in the State of Rhode Island who sells the units but also has a Law Enforcement specific training program which is offered for free with purchase. I feel as though we could use a drone for search and rescue operations, event control (feasts) as well as for tactical operations. This purchase would interface nicely with the body worn camera program that was initiated this year (2023).

## **LONG TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The following are long-term goals and objectives that should be considered eventually, but no later than calendar year 2025. These goals and objectives would only enhance the overall operational function of the Patrol Bureau and their consideration prudent in order to properly prepare for the future of the Johnston Police Department, and the needs of our citizens.

➤ **Improved Vehicle Safety**

Add additional plating within the patrol vehicle doors and ballistic rated glass. To ensure the safety of our officers patrolling the streets.

➤ **Reward Program**

Creation of a plan for encouraging and rewarding the more proactive officers in a way that does not violate the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## **CONCLUSION**

Major Thomas Dolan took command of the Uniform Division in February of 2023. Under his leadership we have a Uniformed Division that is one that the citizens of Johnston can be proud of. Their dedication to the community is a source of pride for myself and the entire Command Staff as well. We are very lucky to be well supported by our Mayor, the Town Council and the citizenry.



# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Division of Professional Standards is staffed by the Deputy Chief of Police who reports directly to the Chief of Police regarding all internal and external complaints of malfeasance. The Division was established in the last quarter of 1996 to address civilian complaints and ensure professional responsibility. The Division of Professional Standards ensures that the integrity of the department is maintained through a system where objectivity, fairness, and justice are assured by intensive impartial investigation and review. The division has implemented specific policies and procedures that guarantee fairness and protect the rights of both citizens and Johnston's law enforcement professionals.

The Professional Standards Commander has the primary supervisory responsibility for investigating all complaints against employees, whether initiated by a citizen or the department. In 2023 there were eight (8) Professional Standards investigations initiated by the Chief of Police. Of the eight (8) professional standards investigations six (6) stemmed from complaints originating from supervisory personnel within the Johnston Police Department and two (2) were from external sources. Seven (7) of the eight (8) internal investigations were for breaches of Johnston Police Department rules and regulations. It should be noted that 23-6-IA was an Administrative Review with no allegations of wrong doing, it involved an officer's discharge of his weapon in the line of duty. The internal investigations were adjudicated in the following manner and resulted in the following personnel actions.

Complaints & Internal Affairs Investigations		Citizen's Complaints		Internal Complaints		Personnel Actions	
CR#: 23-1-IA	Sustained	Sustained	2	Sustained	4	Suspension	5
CR#: 23-2-IA	Pending	Not Sustained	-	Not Sustained	-	Demotion	0
CR#: 23-3-IA	Sustained	Unfounded	-	Unfounded	-	Resign in Lieu of Termination	0
CR#: 23-4-IA	Sustained	Exonerated	-	Exonerated	-	Termination	1
CR#: 23-5-IA	Sustained	<b>Total: 2</b>		Pending	1	Other	0
CR# 23-6-IA	N/A			<b>Total: 5</b>			
CR# 23-7-IA	Sustained						
CR# 23-8-IA	Sustained						



# TRAFFIC AND SPECIAL SERVICES BUREAU 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Johnston Police Department Traffic & Special Services Bureau consists of a Commander who holds the rank of Captain, one (1) Traffic Sergeant, three (3) School Resource Officers, one (1) full-time civilian clerk, and two (2) part-time civilian Animal Control Officers.

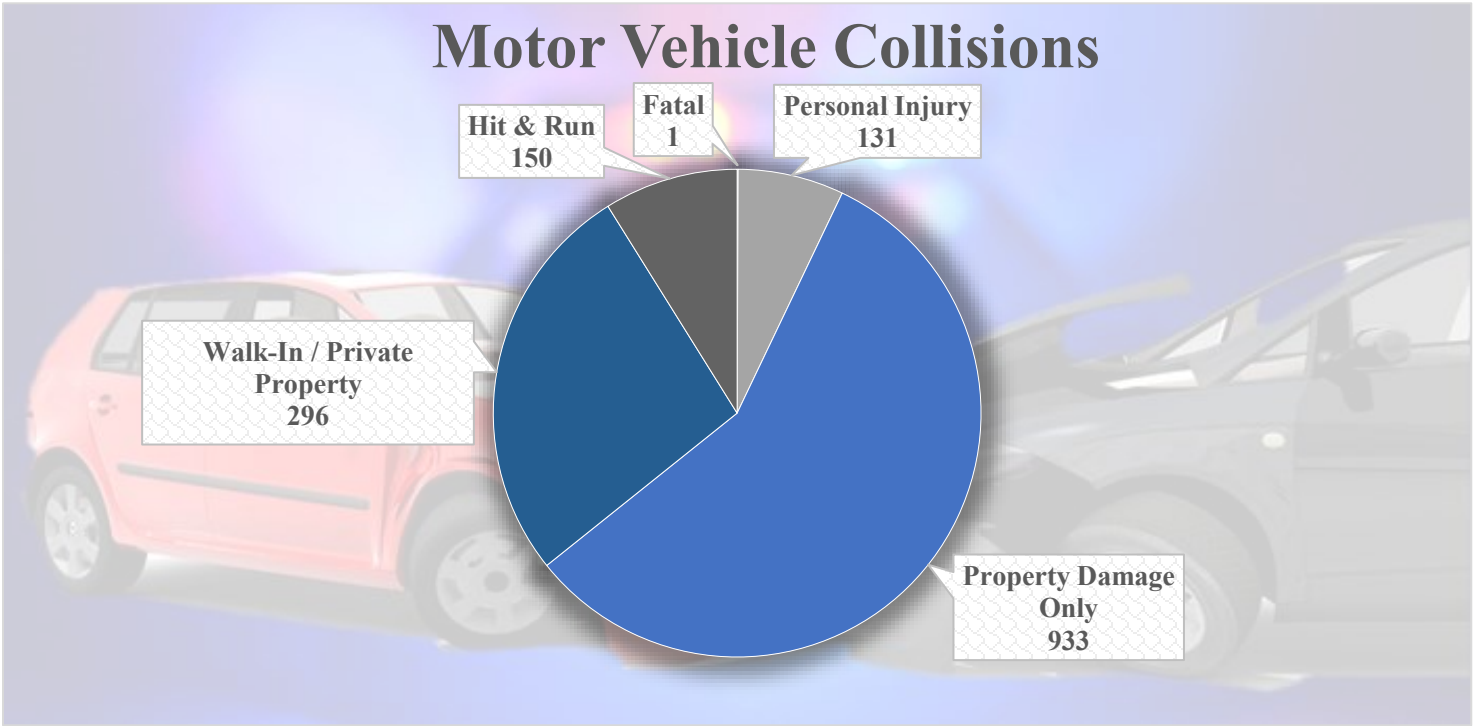
In 2023, the Traffic & Special Services Bureau investigated and/or processed one-thousand sixty-five (1,065) motor vehicle collisions in total, to include one hundred and fifty (150) hit and run collisions and two hundred ninety-six (296) walk-in/private property collisions. Accident breakdown data revealed the following six (6) streets to have the most collisions: Hartford Avenue, Atwood Avenue, Greenville Avenue, Plainfield Street, Killingly Street, and Putnam Avenue. In 2023, the Johnston Police Department, through its aggressive motor vehicle code enforcement, announces that there was only one fatal accident.

This bureau processed five-thousand two-hundred seventy (5,270) citations; accounting for five-thousand seven-hundred and sixteen (5,716) total traffic violations. Three hundred and fifty-six (356) of these violations involved collisions. Patrol issued one-thousand nine-hundred fifty-two (1,952) citations. This bureau issued twenty-eight (28) citations. Johnston Accident Reduction Enforcement (JARE) Program accounted for issuing two-thousand nine-hundred eighty-one (2,981) citations. The Johnston Municipal Court handled (37) citations (Town Code) encompassing sixty-six (66) violations. In 2023, the Johnston Police Department also completed three-thousand twenty-four (3,024) total Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) checks which generated \$45,426.00. Also of note was that total revenue generated from the VIN check program included off hour checks scheduled by car dealers with our Civilian Traffic Clerk to conduct additional checks. Sworn officers also did the same on prearranged police details for additional VIN checks.

The Traffic & Special Services Bureau also conducted numerous traffic studies to identify hazardous traffic areas, traffic flow problems, areas of inadequate traffic signs, speed hump and sign requests, and other traffic related concerns. Upon identification of problem areas, proper signage was recommended and permanently installed when appropriate, temporary signage was posted when more prudent, and/or fixed traffic posts were taken by officers to help make the roadways safer for travel, parking, and pedestrians. The Traffic & Special Services Bureau also worked closely with the Administrative Division in procuring and receiving grant funds from the Governor's Office on Highway Safety for programs to increase safety belt use, promote hands-free vehicle operation, and deter speeding as well as driving under the influence (DUI) through Operation Blue Riptide. The Traffic & Special Services Bureau is also responsible for conducting all Funeral Escorts as assigned by the Chief of Police to provide for safe travel as related to both attendees and the general motoring

public. Members of the Traffic Division also manage the Departments Police Detail program (DTS) which responsible for the management and allocation of special police details. For the year 2023, both sworn and retired personnel worked 12,161 hrs. worth of Special Details.

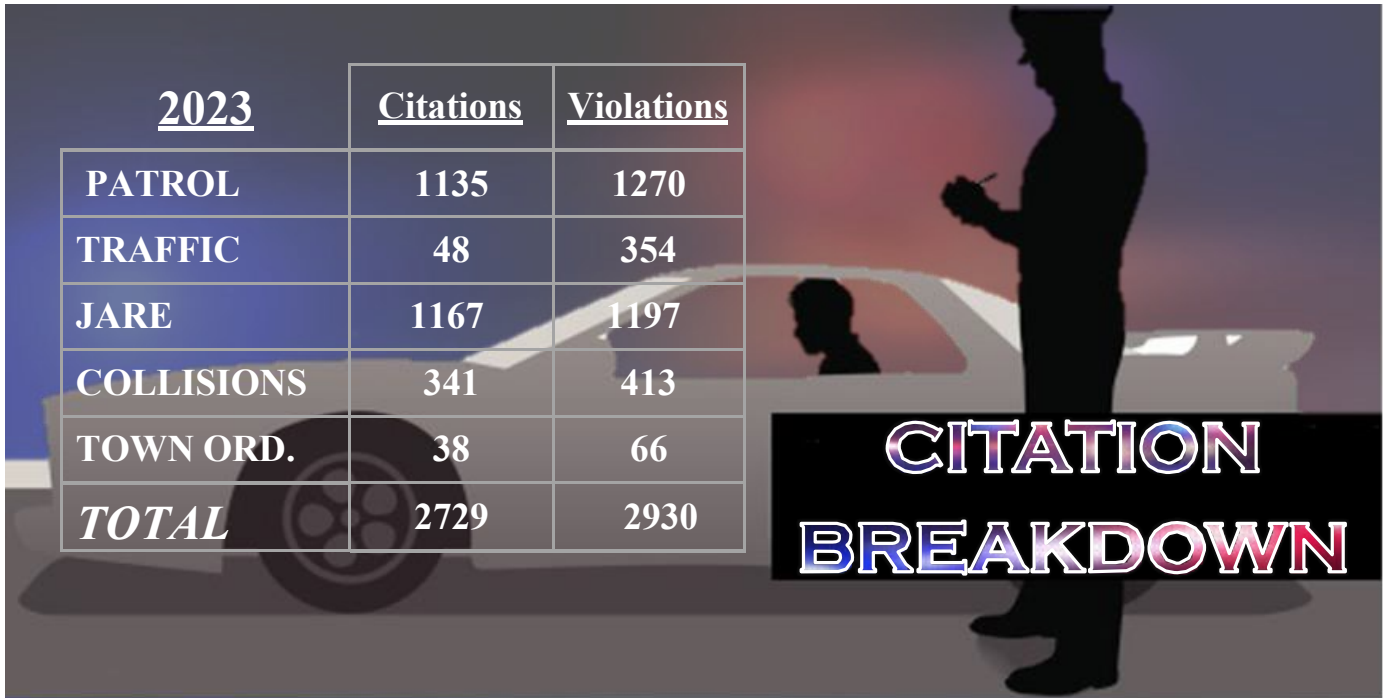
Below is a graph depicting the traffic collision types that occurred in 2023:



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	77	69	82	88	104	73	75	89	108	98	93	109
Walk In	20	25	22	32	28	19	24	25	17	25	29	30

## **J.A.R.E. Program**

The Johnston Accident Reduction Enforcement (JARE) program continues to operate at various locations throughout the town. The program was created to deploy additional officers in the community for the purpose of enforcing State and Municipal motor vehicle codes as they relate to motor vehicle violations. The program has been successful in so much as the officers working the program are highly visible, which has shown to have a positive effect on deterring crime.



## **Commercial Enforcement**

The Johnston Police Department Commercial Enforcement Unit operates out of the Traffic & Special Services Bureau and has one officer. In addition to responding to “routine” motor vehicle accidents, this officer is certified to conduct Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) inspections. This is especially important in the Town of Johnston due to the presence of Interstate Route 295, Route 6, Route 14, Route 5, and Route 44, as well as the primary landfill for the state (RI Resource Recovery Corporation), and the number of commercial vehicles that can bring daily. These inspections can help keep both the major routes and more “routine” roadways safer by checking on larger, heavier vehicles to ensure that they (and their operators) are in proper working condition and compliance. Additionally, the Commercial Enforcement (CE) Officer also works with the Rhode Island State Police periodically during enforcement campaigns in other areas of the state. The Commercial Enforcement statistics for 2023 in the Town of Johnston are as follows:

**Inspections: 32**  
**Violations documented: 201**  
**Fines: \$17,085.00**

## **Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) Checked**

<b>Normal Business Hours</b>		
<b>Monday – Friday 9 – 11 AM &amp; 1 – 3 PM</b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Vehicles</b>	<b>Amount of Money</b>
JANUARY	158	2,380.00
FEBRUARY	147	2,220.00
MARCH	183	2,775.00
APRIL	164	2,600.00
MAY	143	2,210.00
JUNE	178	2,680.00
JULY	156	\$2,340
AUGUST	213	\$3,200
SEPTEMBER	183	\$2,755
OCTOBER	183	\$2,750
NOVEMBER	122	\$1,841
DECEMBER	127	\$1,910
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>\$29,661.00</b>

<b>Non-Standard Hours</b>		
<b>By Request Only</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>Number of Vehicles</b>	<b>Amount of Money</b>
Vendor Requested – Civilian Detail	0	0.00
Vendor Requested – Police Detail	1,051	\$15,765
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>\$15,765</b>

**2023 VIN Check Grand Total:**  
VIN Checks - \$45,426



# **SPECIAL SERVICES/ COMMUNITY POLICING**

## **Johnston Senior High School – School Resource Officer**

The following is a list of reported in-school activity for 2023 and compared to 2022 and 2021:



Johnston Senior High School is manned with one (2) School Resource Officers.

DESCRIPTION	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	0	0	0
Arrests	0	27	12
Assault/Battery	1	6	1
Assist to other Police Agency	0	0	0
Assist to DCYF	0	0	0
Bomb Threat	0	0	0
Bullying/Cyber Bullying	0	7	4
Disorderly Conduct	1	18	7
Drug Sale/Possession/Para.	1	0	1
Fire Alarm/Non-Drill	0	1	1
Larceny/Theft	2	0	0
Lost Property	1	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA)	0	1	1
Motor Vehicle Violations	0	0	0
Offense Reports	0	62	42
Parent Contacts/Resource	9	100	70
Poss. of Knife/Weapon	0	0	2
Rescue- Mental Eval/Detox/OD	1	15	10
Resisting Arrest	0	0	2
Routine Rescue	2	20	15
Sexting	0	0	0
Sexual Assault	0	1	1
Student Contacts/Resource	0	800	950
Threats/Intimidation	0	4	1
Tobacco	0	18	5
Trespassing	0	0	0
Truancy	0	34	36
Vandalism	0	3	1
Outside Incidents Reported	1	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1119</b>	<b>1162</b>

## **N. A. Ferri Middle School – School Resource Officer**

Currently there is one (1) full time Johnston Police Officer that is staffed as the N. A. Ferri Middle School Resource Officer. The following is a list of reported in-school activity for 2023 and compared to 2022 and 2021:

DESCRIPTION	2021	2022	2023
Aggressive Behavior/Defiance	0	4	3
Alcohol	0	1	0
Arrests	0	16	11
Assist to DCYF	0	0	0
Assist to Other Police Agency	0	0	0
Bomb Threats	0	0	0
Bullying/Cyber Bullying	0	6	4
Disorderly Conduct (disruptive)	0	68	32
Drug Possession/Alcohol	1	3	3
Drug	0	3	3
Fire Alarm/Non-Drill	0	1	1
Larceny/ Robbery/Theft	0	2	2
Lost Property of Value	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	3	0
Motor Vehicle Violations	0	0	0
Medical Assist. (JFD) ( <i>general</i> )	0	0	0
Offense Reports	0	32	21
Parent Contacts/Resource	2	9	18
Public Contact/Fighting	0	20	n/a
Rescue - Mental	0	3	5
Resisting Arrest	0	0	0
Routine Rescue	0	1	3
Sexual Harassment/Sexting	0	3	0
Simple Assault	0	1	1
Student Contacts/Resource	0	9	86
Threats/Intimidation	0	2	3
Trespassing	0	1	2
Vandalism	0	8	0
Possession of a Knife/Weapon	1	1	1
Outside Incidents Reported	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>212</b>



## Community Programs

The Traffic & Special Services Bureau arranged and coordinated several community-based programs and events in 2023. The National Night Out was like no other. There were roughly 700-800 attendees at the Johnston War Memorial Park. Our 2023 Faith & Blue Event involved participation from six congregations and their parishioners, and received rave reviews on a National level. Other events included Walk with Cops, Coffee with a Cop, Trunk or Treat, and fundraising for the Brain Tumor Research at Rhode Island Hospital and Operation Stand Down.

Also resumed in conjunction with the Town of Johnston District 2 Councilwoman, Lauren Garzone, was the District 2 Neighborhood Watch. This program brought members of the community to speak with members of the police department as a means to speak about crime in the area as well as provide resources that are available from the police department. Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha has also participated in several of these events. On several occasions residents walked their neighborhood with members of the police department as a way to form partnerships and introduce themselves to neighbors.



## **ANIMAL CONTROL BUREAU**

The full-time civilian position as animal control officer was restructured to two (2) part-time civilian animal control officers (ACO) several years ago. During 2010, the Johnston Police Animal Control Bureau began coordinating services with the North Providence Police Department and also utilizing their animal storage facility. This step was taken as a cost cutting measure to save the taxpayers of Johnston from substantial fees associated with previously utilized facilities. The above partnership has continued from 2010 through 2023 and has been a great asset to the Town of Johnston. The new Tri-County animal shelter had opened to full functionality in 2023. An in-house file check for 2023 revealed 353 “Canine Calls” and “Animal Complaints” in general that were handled department wide by Patrol Officer(s) and/or ACO(s) with 30 written reports taken.

The Animal Control Officers have been utilizing the RI DEM Animal Shelter System program for statistics. This program revealed the following shelter data for 2023 regarding canines and felines:

2023		
CATEGORY	CANINES	FELINES
Abandoned	0	1
Born in Facility	0	0
Pick – Up Stray	38	16
Owner Surrendered	1	0
Transfer In	1	0
Other In	14	2
Returned to Owner	38	3
Euthanized	6	2
Adopted	2	2
Escaped	0	0
Stolen	0	0
DOA	1	9
Deceased in custody	0	0
Transferred Out	5	3
Other Out	0	0
<b>TOTAL IN:</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>TOTAL OUT:</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>19</b>



## **ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

A Sergeant in the Traffic & Special Services Bureau works as the Elderly Affairs Officer amongst his other duties. He handled eight (8) elderly affairs incidents in 2023 and referred pertinent cases to the State of Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging, formerly known as the Department of Elderly Affairs. In addition, this officer traditionally assists with coordinating the weekly Walk with Cops Program at Johnston Memorial Park during the spring and summer months as well as National Night Out, Faith in Blue, Coffee with a Cop, and other community involved events. He also engages in crime prevention and identity theft presentations.





## **SHORT & LONG TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal: Increasing the ranks of the Bureau by (3) officers.**

- One Traffic Officer, handling solely motor vehicle collisions and directed traffic enforcement during the daytime hours, 0800-1600 hrs., 4/2 schedule.
- One Traffic Officer, handling solely motor vehicle collisions and directed traffic enforcement during the evening hours, 1600-2359 hrs., 4/2 schedule.
- One Traffic Officer, handling solely motor vehicle collisions and directed traffic enforcement during the daytime hours, 0800-1600 hrs. and evening hours, 1600-2359, acting as a 2/2 Traffic Officer to supplement the other two Traffic Officers on their days off.
- Have at least one of these officers certified in Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement to supplement our one other officer in completing Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Inspections.

This increase in manpower may be achieved by personnel retiring as well as the additional officers joining the ranks and restructuring how officers are dispersed throughout the department.

### **Objective:**

- Develop a bid and define job description.
- Post bid, and award to senior officer in accordance to Seniority Rights within the IBPO Local #307 Contract.

### **Goal: Increasing the ranks of Specialized Certifications by (2) officers.**

- One officer to complete the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement certification program which will allow each officer to continue their trainings to become a certified Drug Recognition Expert. By increasing the number of officers, which is currently (2), it will assist the department with investigating motor vehicle collisions in which alcohol or drugged driving is suspected. These certifications can be obtained through the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- One officer to obtain full Accident Reconstruction Certification to assist with serious and fatal motor vehicle crashes. The addition of this officer will increase the departments certified officers to (4). This certification can be obtained through the SRR Training program which provides officers with various types of certifications for motor vehicle collision investigations.

### **Objective:**

- Locate available training through the Rhode Island Police Academy In-Service Training schedule
- Identify funding source
- Develop Special Order (bid) for available training
- Post Special Order (bid), and award in accordance within the IBPO Local #307 Contract

**Goal: The purchase of the following pieces of equipment will assist with completing our overall mission.**

- ***Laser Tech LaserSoft LTI 20/20 TruSpeed Sxb Mapping Kit***  
Data collection software that provides flexibility necessary for crash and crime scene mapping. This devices will quickly measure and document a traffic incident with a high amount of accuracy.
- ***30" Heavy-Duty Pop-Up Traffic Cones***  
Designed to save space, these collapsible traffic cone kits are not intended to replace traditional traffic cones in construction use, however, aid traffic officers with blocking off traffic scenes to prevent additional accidents, personnel safety and the destruction of possible evidence. These 30" collapsible cones have two 6" reflective collars, heavy duty rubber base and an internal battery powered LED light. Rubber base helps resist moving from high winds or passing cars. The purchase of (7) sets would allow for each member of the Traffic/Special Services Bureau to have one in their assigned cruisers as well as one set in the Patrol Bureau Officer in Charge Vehicles.
- ***25 ft. Oval Telescoping Measuring Pole***  
This Telescoping Measuring Pole allows members of the Johnston Police Commercial Enforcement Unit too quickly and accurately measure up to 25 ft. vertically without the use of a ladder while completing Commercial Vehicle inspections. The unit collapses down to less than 5 ft. for easy storage and portability.
- ***Radar Speed Sign***  
In conjunction with the more discreet radar traffic counter, the large display solar power radar speed will display the operators speed and notify operators if they are speeding. This device will calm traffic, resolves complaints, and can also send notifications in real time.
- ***Tripod Scene LED Light***  
This tripod LED light will allow officers to illuminate a traffic scene in which accident reconstruction is required.

**Objective:**

- Locate Vendor
- Request quote
- Identity funding source
- Execute purchase agreement
- Receive equipment, assign, and deploy



# DETECTIVE BUREAU

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Detective Bureau is staffed with one (1) Captain, one (1) Detective Sergeant, six (6) 2<sup>nd</sup> Watch, (Monday through Friday, 0800 hrs. to 1600 hrs.), one (1) Prosecution Detective, two (2) BCI detectives one (1) 2<sup>nd</sup> watch, and one (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> watch, two (2) full time civilian clerks and one (1) part-time clerk. Each detective is assigned to one of the specific areas or beats in the town and is responsible for the follow-up investigation of all criminal activity in that area, regardless if the incident is a felony or misdemeanor. This allows the detective to cultivate information, identify patterns of crime, and to take ownership in the community in keeping with our overall commitment to the community policing concept.

The Johnston Police Department utilizes the IMC Case Management System to facilitate the tracking of criminal cases. The communication between bureaus, divisions, and supervisors is paramount for an organization the size of the Johnston Police to be successful in prosecuting offenders. The Case Management System allows for the return of reports that require corrections, the documentation of investigative activity as well as a status update.

High visibility, attention to detail during every investigation, and a stronger bond with numerous other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as to the community, have all attributed to successful investigation of misdemeanor and felony cases, and assisting the Investigative Division's attempt to locate and apprehend then criminal offenders.

### MAJOR CRIME INVESTIGATIONS

It is the responsibility of the Investigative Division to conduct follow up investigations when appropriate regarding felony and misdemeanor crimes. In the year 2021, the Johnston Police Department had **32,938** calls for service (CFS), **1,824** offense reports (OF's), **573** arrest reports (AR's), **573** arrests made and **1065** accident reports (AC's). Statistical analysis shows **1183** total misdemeanor offenses for the twelve months with **October** being the highest month at **136**. A felony record analysis revealed **474** reported felony offenses across the twelve months with **October** being the highest month at **77**. It should be noted that reported crime incidents (OF's) do not always include both major types of offenses (misdemeanor, felony) and may just include one type or the other. An arrest record analysis for the twelve-month period showed **454** arrests related to misdemeanors. The day of the week with the most arrests were on **Wednesday** with **106**. Statistics also showed **159** arrests were related to felonies. Most of those felony arrests occurred on **Tuesday** with **25**. As with reported crime incidents, arrests (AR's) do not always include both major types of offenses (misdemeanor, felony) and may just include one type or the other.

Detective Division personnel were listed as handling **864** cases as "Detective," however, they were also involved in taking **66** incidents and "assisting" on **23** incidents. Additionally, Detective Division personnel were responsible for **60** arrests, assisted on **27** arrests, were the booking officer(s) on **54** occasions, and drafted **129** arrest warrants. A case follow-up analysis for the twelve-month period revealed the detective division conducted **302** felony investigations, **561** misdemeanor investigations, and **1** violation investigations for a total of **864** investigations. In closing, in terms of statistics, three points should be noted: (1) All arrests/arrest reports do not always have a corresponding, or separate crime incident report (i.e., some "on view" arrests or warrant arrests wouldn't require one), (2) one offense or arrest report could have multiple charges in total, and

(3) during the adjudication process, some felony crime(s) may be reduced to misdemeanors or dismissed outright and some violations(s) may be dismissed as well.

A review of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics (chart listed below) for our department in **2023** showed several high-profile incidents, to include murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, embezzlement, disorderly conduct, larceny, fraud, burglary and most notably motor vehicle theft.

These incidents not only reflect the serious nature of some types of crimes that occur within the Town of Johnston, but they also reflect the high level of service, professionalism and dedication to duty of the detectives assigned to the Investigative Bureau. For these reasons, the citizens who live, work and/or visit Johnston are afforded with an outstanding level of success and efficiency.

## **NARCOTICS BUREAU**

The Narcotics Bureau has one (1) detective assigned as an additional assignment as the narcotics officer for the town of Johnston. This detective is primarily responsible for all drug related investigations that take place within the Town of Johnston. He also participates on a part-time basis in the state-wide narcotics investigation unit referred to as HIDTA.

With opiate addiction continuing to reach epidemic levels across the United States, Johnston Police detectives are trying their best to help stem the abuse and sale of these dangerous drugs within our town. Also, Johnston Police detectives have been challenged with investigating several illegal marijuana growing facilities that have opened throughout the town, in both residential and commercial areas.

## **PROSECUTION BUREAU**

The Prosecution Bureau is staffed Monday through Friday, from 0700 hours to 1500 hours, with one (1) full-time Detective/Prosecution Officer. In the prosecutor's absence another detective is designated assistant to fulfill the prosecutor's duties. This bureau is also staffed with one full-time clerk and one part-time special officer/clerk, who are all under the direct supervision of the Investigative Division Commander.

The Prosecution Bureau receives assistance from the Detective Division, as well as Patrol Bureau supervisors, when the bureau is not staffed. The Patrol Bureau is responsible for the transportation of prisoners to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court in Kent County, Superior Court, and the Intake Center at the Adult Correctional Institution.

The Prosecution Bureau is responsible for the daily operation of the department's court calendar, to include 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court, Superior Court, Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal and/or the Johnston Municipal Court. The staff prepares cases for presentation in their respective courts, including notifying and distributing all subpoenas to witnesses and police officers. The bureau is also responsible for the arraignments in 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court and the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal and is also responsible for an accurate and efficient recording of the dispositions of all cases in the IMC computer system. A weekly calendar is distributed throughout the Johnston Police Department, it ensures that police personnel have easy and up to date access to the week's court data.

The bureau also maintains all bench warrant and arrest warrant files in the computer and hard copies, ensuring they are up-to-date. The Prosecution Officer also assists the Town Solicitor with all of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court cases that go to the pre-trial and trial stage of the court calendar.

The Prosecution Bureau utilizes and relies on the IMC Computer System for tracking and recording all dispositions of cases. Officers are also utilizing IMC to generate criminal complaints submitted to 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court due to the department being required to participate in the District Court J-LINK program, which was instituted in the beginning of 2006. The utilization of the IMC System should allow for a more accurate statistical analysis of the number of cases prosecuted in any given year with the number of dispositions.

## **JUVENILE BUREAU**

The Johnston Police Juvenile Bureau is staffed with one (1) 2<sup>nd</sup> watch juvenile detective, who is the primary investigator and prosecutor. In the juvenile prosecutor's absence, another detective is designated assistant to fulfill the juvenile prosecutor's duties. They are both under the direct supervision of the Investigative Division Commander.

In **2023**, the Juvenile Bureau made fifty-three (**53**) arrests of juveniles. Forty (**40**) of the juveniles who were placed under arrest were male offenders and thirteen (**13**) were female offenders. Forty (**40**) of the arrests were referred to Family Court and eight (**8**) went before the Hearing Board. There were also five (**5**) complaint withdrawals requested through-out the year (**2023**). Of those arrests sixty-three (**63**) were Wayward complaints (Misdemeanors) while forty-six (**46**) were Delinquent complaints (Felonies).

The detective(s) of the Juvenile Bureau have worked closely with the school resource officers on preventing crimes and fostering an atmosphere of low tolerance for law violators during the school day. This partnership has resulted in a positive change amongst the juvenile offender population.

## **BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION/ CRIME SCENE UNIT**

The Bureau of Criminal Identification/Crime Scene Unit is a dedicated two-man unit which specializes in the handling of trace and DNA evidence collection, death investigation and autopsies, fingerprint and footwear impression development, shooting reconstruction, and blood spatter analysis. The BCI/CSU is staffed with two (2) criminalist detectives and one (1) civilian clerk.

One detective is assigned to the Second Watch, (Monday through Friday, 0800 hrs. to 1600 hrs.) as the BCI/CSU Commander with the added responsibility of administrative duties. The second criminalist detective is assigned to the Third Watch, (Monday through Friday, 1600 hrs. to 2400 hrs.) with the added duties of assisting the shift detectives. The BCI/CSU is under the direct supervision of the Investigative Division Commander. The civilian clerk is assigned to the Second Watch (Monday through Friday, 0830 hrs. to 1630 hrs.) and in addition to clerical duties, the clerk assists with tracking evidence and sex offender notifications.

The BCI/CSU is responsible for the collection, preservation, and analysis of all forensic evidence. The processing, recording, inventorying, maintenance, and tracking of all evidence is a major part of their daily activity. The BCI/CSU also has the responsibility for the tracking and the full control of all property seized by officers or turned over to the police department. They are responsible for the submission of all evidence to their appropriate laboratories for processing. All trace evidence such as fingerprints, ballistic components, footwear impressions, tool marks, fibers, and paint chips are submitted to the RI State Crime Laboratory. All narcotic and biological matter is submitted to the RI State Health Department Laboratory for analysis. The BCI/CSU processes several hundred pieces of evidence which assisted in the prosecution of many different criminal cases.

BCI/CSU criminalists also assist various Federal, State, and local agencies in conducting mandated background checks on applicants, employees, and Conceal Carry Permit requests (CCP).

The BCI/CSU continues to assist the Sex Offender Coordinator in the registration and tracking of registered sex offenders who reside in the Town of Johnston. The BCI/CSU continues to be an active participant in several community-based programs, such as the Senior Identification Card Program. The bureau has provided officers as lecturers and photographers for many public, social and governmental events. The BCI/CSU also assists town and state agencies such as the Johnston Fire Dept., RI State Fire Marshal's Office, and RI State Medical Examiner's Office.

## **SHORT & LONG TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

In the case of felony crimes resulting in an arrest or a warrant being issued for an arrest, felony screening packages must be completed for submittal to the State of RI Department of Attorney General. These felony screening packages are often times intensive and are currently put together by a part-time civilian clerk with the aid of the respective detective(s)/officer(s) who worked on the case and under the direction of the Detective Major and Detective Sergeant of the division. These packages, however, are time sensitive and in no case should be received by the Attorney General's Office later than ninety (90) days after the date of offense. Due to the potential number of cases that require felony screening police packages, the timely submittal requirement of same, and the fact that there is one (1) part-time civilian employee compiling the packages, it is requested that this clerk be granted a full-time position and/or Detective Division supervisors are able to approve overtime for said employee when the caseload calls for it. This will aid the Detective Division in keeping up with active cases while limiting the possibility of felony arrest/warrant cases being submitted late and being determined not to be prosecutable. It should also be noted that the part-time civilian clerk responsible for preparing said felony packages continues to do an outstanding job in her capacity. The packages are complete, well done, and she works well with others.

There are an increasing number of cases requiring the playback and analysis of assorted video/audio surveillance footage. The outcomes of said cases and subsequent investigations can often rely on the quality of this analysis/review. As a result, it is requested that Detective Division computer workstation updates are conducted to include software upgrades to the latest video codes used in recording/playback. It is also requested that the feasibility of purchasing video enhancement software is looked into for at least the BCI Bureau to aid detectives in cases where video surveillance footage may be "sub-par" and enhancement may improve the chances of closing cases through arrest. In addition, numerous computer workstations have experienced trouble slowing down, freezing, or even shutting down which slows productivity and also risks losing important data already entered into reports. It is therefore requested that the detective/detective supervisor's computers are evaluated and subsequently updated, repaired, or replaced as needed.

Technology also helps in the day-to-day operations of our department through the mobile computer terminals in the marked police cruisers. These workstations provide call information through dispatch, assorted records through "in-house" and cross agency checks, as well as the ability to run data on person(s) being dealt with while in the field. This same type of information can help detective personnel while working on a variety of investigations, which are at times covert, outside of headquarters. However, the unmarked cars are clearly not set up for this in order to remain somewhat clandestine in appearance. In addition, the ability to obtain information without unnecessarily bogging down dispatch personnel is important, especially when "normal" call volume is increased. As a result, it is requested that the feasibility of purchasing mobile tablet(s) with remote log in for the above-mentioned information/data is researched for detective units.



This department has solved several cases through the installation of FLOCK cameras in three areas of the Town. This technology has allowed us to get warrants for dangerous felons, who may have gotten away if not installed. More cameras erected through other parts of the Town will only increase the solvability of cases, and ultimately make the Town safer for its residents.

There has been a proliferation of complaints that are technology related including cyber harassment/cyberstalking, threats, violations of protective orders, and assorted types of fraud with computer or smartphone involvement. As a result, many cases require the use of communication inquiries on or including information related to and/or contained in phone calls, text messages, voice mails, audio and video messages, instant messages, SMS messages, digital photographs, emails, "IP" addresses, and GPS coordinates. Due to the evidence that can be gained from this information and evaluating same, it is requested that more technical training become available to detective division personnel relative to computers and mobile/smartphones. This training, coupled with any necessary software that could be acquired, may allow for the retrieval of potential evidence that can aid in solving cases with an electronic, digital communication component. As a result of these improvements, detectives would ideally encounter fewer roadblocks and could investigate their respective cases more efficiently and effectively.

The BCI/CSU Bureau is responsible for maintaining and storing evidence of assorted types. A significant portion of this evidence is in the form of digital information to include photographs, videos, and scanned documents. So, it is requested and recommended that when new computer(s) are purchased, at least one (1) for the BCI Bureau has an upgraded video card, memory, and built in Blu-ray disc drive with the appropriate software to "burn" storage discs when needed in a more efficient manner. A computer hard-drive with a minimum of 1 TB of storage would make this process more efficient.

Other requests if met that could aid the BCI Bureau include the acquisition of two new digital camera kits due to the current ones (Nikon) aging. These new cameras could be issued to the primary BCI Detectives while the older two could be rotated amongst the detectives to be attending BCI School in the near future and who are in the BCI "On call rotation."

There is a continued importance in the appropriate training of police personnel as the criminal justice practice evolves, especially as related to BCI. It is therefore recommended that BCI personnel attend continuing education courses whenever feasible as they are the criminalists tasked with the important job of crime scene processing. It is also recommended that as many detectives as possible are able to attend division/job specific training, including BCI school. With additional personnel being BCI certified, continuity would be enhanced in the future in terms of the ability to properly process crime scenes and/or handle evidence as required at varying times of day or night throughout the year. Although seniority is a factor in determining who attends per the bidding process and the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Johnston and the IBPO Local 307, training of all detective personnel when opportunities arise will enhance the performance of the Detective Division as a whole.

It is recommended and has been discussed with current members of the BCI Unit that department in-house training is developed and conducted regarding crime scene preservation, property collection, and appropriate identification/labeling for consistency in property management. In addition, basic photography training/review regarding photographs taken with the patrol camera should improve image quality and thus strengthen that evidence for cases. This in-house training/review will educate and reinforce steps that need to be taken by our first responders to keep evidence uncompromised and admissible in court as well as to ensure quality and help manage, store, locate, and track evidence/property as a whole. Smaller training blocks could be conducted in roll call for the three respective watches and/or in training bulletins through the Power DMS

system. Larger, more significant training blocks could be conducted after arrangements are made through the Operations & Training Division.

There are currently no investigative detectives and only a BCI officer assigned to the Third Watch; and no immediate supervisor. The number of incidents requiring investigation and follow up continues to be significant and the evening and night time hours are of great importance when trying to connect with victim(s), witnesses, etc. after a “regular” work day. In addition, drug trafficking and other felony crimes such as the report of B&E’s (when people return home) and felony assaults also often occur during these hours. As a result, it is requested that the department staff the Investigative Division with a Third Watch Detective Sergeant and two additional detectives. This additional supervisor would ensure the continuity, efficiency and accountability of the investigative case work being performed by the third watch detective(s), as well as any additional narcotics investigations being conducted during the third watch remains of the highest quality and above reproach. These changes would help to better serve the Town of Johnston, its residents, and its businesses by maintaining continuity in service across shifts.

Lastly, the Detective Division Interview Room is used on a regular basis for investigations and other casework for questioning or interviews. Due to the importance of the room, who may be inside, and the potential for foot traffic in the division on related or unrelated matters, who may be outside the room may need to be protected for a myriad of potential reasons. As a result, it is requested that true one-way security glass is put in the window frame to address this issue. Also, at times there tends to be glitches with the video and audio recording for interviews. An upgrade to the hardware and software would alleviate these issues and cause no potential issues in court proceedings.

The background of the header is a grayscale image of the Johnston Police Department seal. The seal is circular with 'JOHNSTON' at the top and 'POLICE' at the bottom. In the center, there is a shield with a lightning bolt and a handgun. The text 'SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM' and '2023 ANNUAL REPORT' is overlaid on the seal.

# SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Special Response Team (SRT) is an eighteen (16) man unit tasked by the Command Authority of the Chief of Police with resolving infrequent but high-risk situations beyond the training and resources of the other divisions within the police department. Their missions are: High-risk warrant service, Clandestine drug laboratory raids, armed barricaded suspects, hostage rescue, VIP protection, tracking armed suspects through undeveloped rural areas, and any other special mission that the Chief of Police requires to be accomplished.

The unit consists of a commander, two (2) team leaders, an assault element, a target interdiction element, and a crisis negotiation element. The team uses a flexible structure that allows it to be broken down into small cells or be quickly re-configured to best suit a particular mission. The team is constituted of highly trained members that form a nucleus of instructors that provide programs of instruction for the entire department. The points of interest are the following: edged weapon defense, close-quarter combative, low-light tactics, reality-based scenario training, less-lethal munitions, chemical munitions, riot control, tactical night vision and electro-optics, pistol, sub-machinegun, tactical rifle, precision rifle, tactical shotgun, active shooter response, crisis negotiation, officer survival and improved traffic stop techniques.

There had been many incidents in the past that revealed the need for a specialized team, but it was not until early in the administration of a newly appointed Chief Richard Tamburini that swift action was taken to fill that need. The SRT emblem was designed to signify the three (3) principles of special intervention. The diversionary device depicted symbolizes SURPRISE, The lightning bolt SPEED, and the firearm AGGRESSION. All members of the SRT are volunteers, place the life of the citizen they swear to protect above their own, and understand the grim realities of the use of force. Personal feelings about the use of force may differ but to all members they absolutely must be good at it.

During 2021, the SRT team was certified through Rhode Island Tactical Officers Association. The certification will be good until 2024. Also in 2013, Lt. Guilmette became the Commander of the SRT Team and Lt. Galligan became the Assisting Commander as of April 2024 due to recent retirements.

Two Members of the Johnston Police SRT team attended the Basic SW AT School. The team was also re-certified but will be expired as of 2024. Sniper's will maintain their certification every month by shooting five rounds from the 100-yard line in a one-inch target. To maintain their qualification, they must get all five rounds on target. The SRT Team was activated several times since being certified. Several members of the team have resigned their position and we are working to get them replaced as soon as possible.

## **SHORT TERM GOALS**

To get recertified

Have the SRT team certified with low light conditions

Target recognition with the new range

Have the team more proficient with all their weapons

Establish a new eligibility list to get the team back to a sixteen-member team

Have the SRT team used in more in high-risk situations

Long Term Goals:

Send members of the SRT team to special schools that are designed for SWAT Teams. Keep members of the team sniper certified

Outfit the team with up-to-date equipment.

Continue firearms training

All Goals can be accomplished with more training hours per month.

