

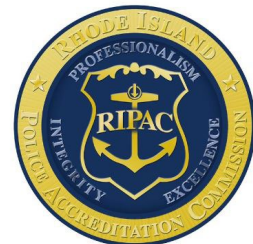


**Col. Michael J. Paliotta**  
Chief of Police

# ANNUAL REPORT

**CHARLESTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

# 2024



**A Rhode Island Accredited Agency**

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# Department Standards



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Charlestown Police Department is to provide the community with the highest quality law enforcement services. We endeavor to improve the public's awareness of our community safety through the eradication of criminal activity and conditions that have a detrimental impact on public safety.

We strive to enhance our tradition of excellent service to all. We continue to seek support and cooperation from the community we serve. Our organizational culture is responsive to new ideas and is one in which all employees are given the opportunity to develop to their highest potential. We base all our relationships on the premise that the public and the police are one.

## VISION STATEMENT

The Charlestown Police Department will exist to preserve liberty, enhance the safety of the community and defend human dignity. We will be an organization in which each employee embraces integrity as the cornerstone upon which the public trust is built. We will foster an environment of honesty, trust and mutual respect in which the Department and the community work together as catalysts for positive change.

We strive to be recognized for our strong service orientation, progressive development of all human resources and our application of emerging technologies. We will embody the values of the Department and reflect these values in the performance of our duties. We will continue to build upon this vision through communication and accessibility.

## CORE VALUES

HONESTY · INTERGRITY · TRUST · RESPECT · LOYALTY · SERVICE ORIENTED

## Message from the Chief of Police



Greetings Charlestown Residents and Visitors,

On behalf of the fine men and women of the police department, I am pleased to present to you this year's Charlestown Police Department 2024 Annual Report.

The annual report summarizes the varied activities of the police department throughout the previous year. We encourage everyone to review the information contained within in hopes that you may gain a better understanding of what it is we as a law enforcement agency do, and how we do it.

Consistent with our agency mission, we aim to provide the community with the highest quality law enforcement services. We aim to improve the public's awareness of our community safety through the eradication of criminal activity and conditions that have a detrimental impact on public safety. This report is one more example of our agency's continuing commitment to total transparency. It is our sincere hope that these reports offer useful information to citizens, staff and public officials alike. The annual report contains basic statistical analysis of police activities, along with the agency's structure and details on our many community-oriented initiatives.

Our department endeavors to continually advance toward higher standards of excellence. We pursue this goal through a strategy of applying the valuable resources allotted public safety in the most responsible and efficient manner possible. Great thought and effort go into a successful law enforcement strategy; the members of the department work round the clock to make our community a safer and more enjoyable place to live and visit.

We are proud to report that in the year 2024 we continued to meet or exceed our department's Rhode Island Police Accreditation goals. In the past year, the agency's calls for service and the traffic control contacts were very high. However, we are proud to report that the police officers and staff had a very low incidence of use of force and civilian complaints. This success is attributed to a professional organization and a supportive community. Our new body worn camera (BWC) program has proven to be very successful and everyone appears to have adjusted well to this new technology.

The training and professional development of our officers and staff continues to be one of our highest priorities. The development of our employees' potentials is integral in maintaining high esprit de corps and morale within the agency. This can be directly tied to employee satisfaction, recruitment and retention. We take this charge very seriously and strive to improve upon it each year.

In closing, I hope you will take some time to review this annual report. Be safe out there and act responsibly. Be conscious of your surroundings at all times and please report anything suspicious to law enforcement. The sooner we are notified of an issue, the sooner we can take corrective action if necessary. Your involvement in our mission is an important factor in our success and directly helps reduce crime and create a safer community.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the command staff to discuss agency operations at any time. This information is available on our website at [charlestownpolice.org](http://charlestownpolice.org).

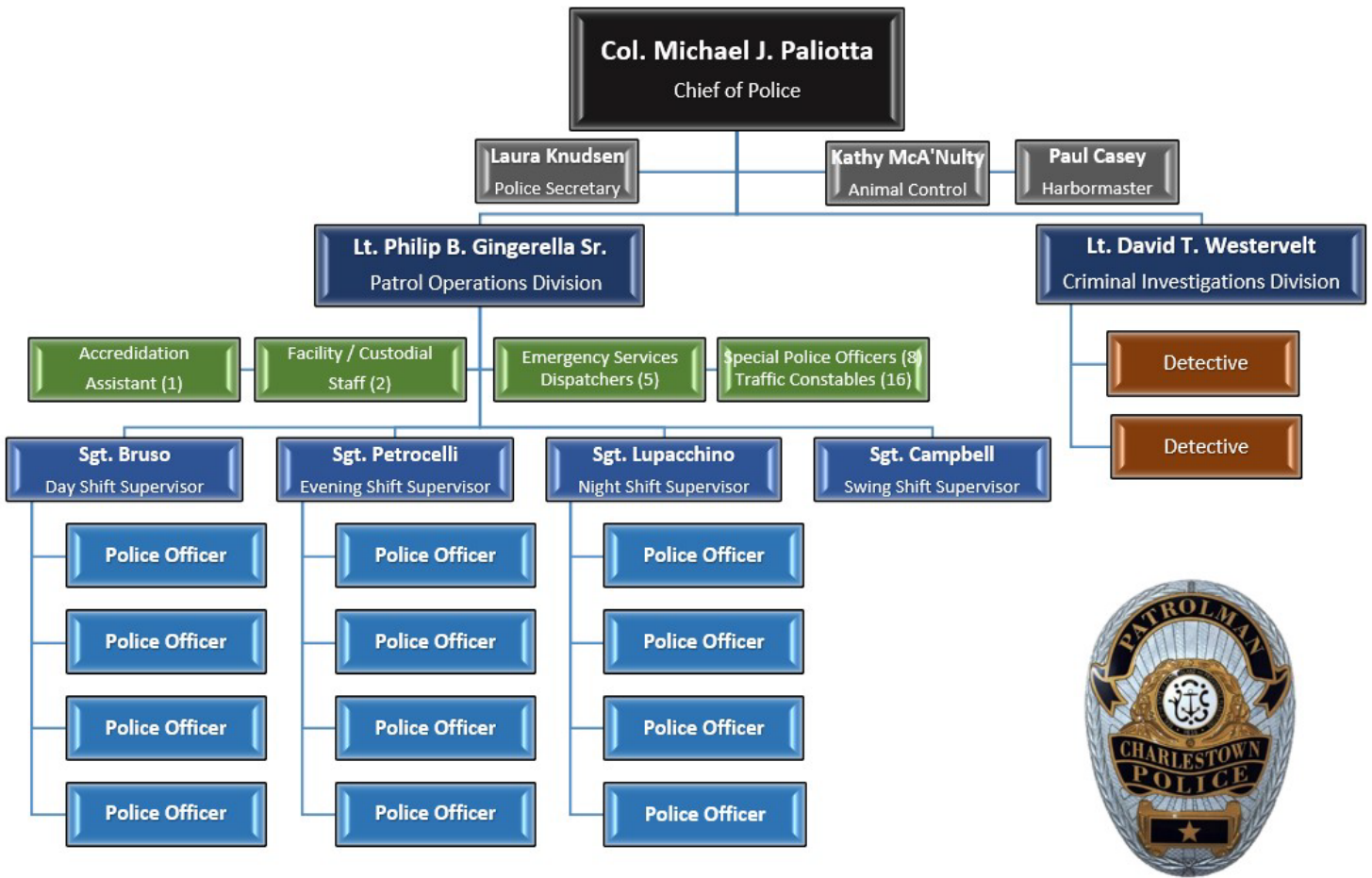
Respectfully,

**Colonel Michael J. Paliotta**

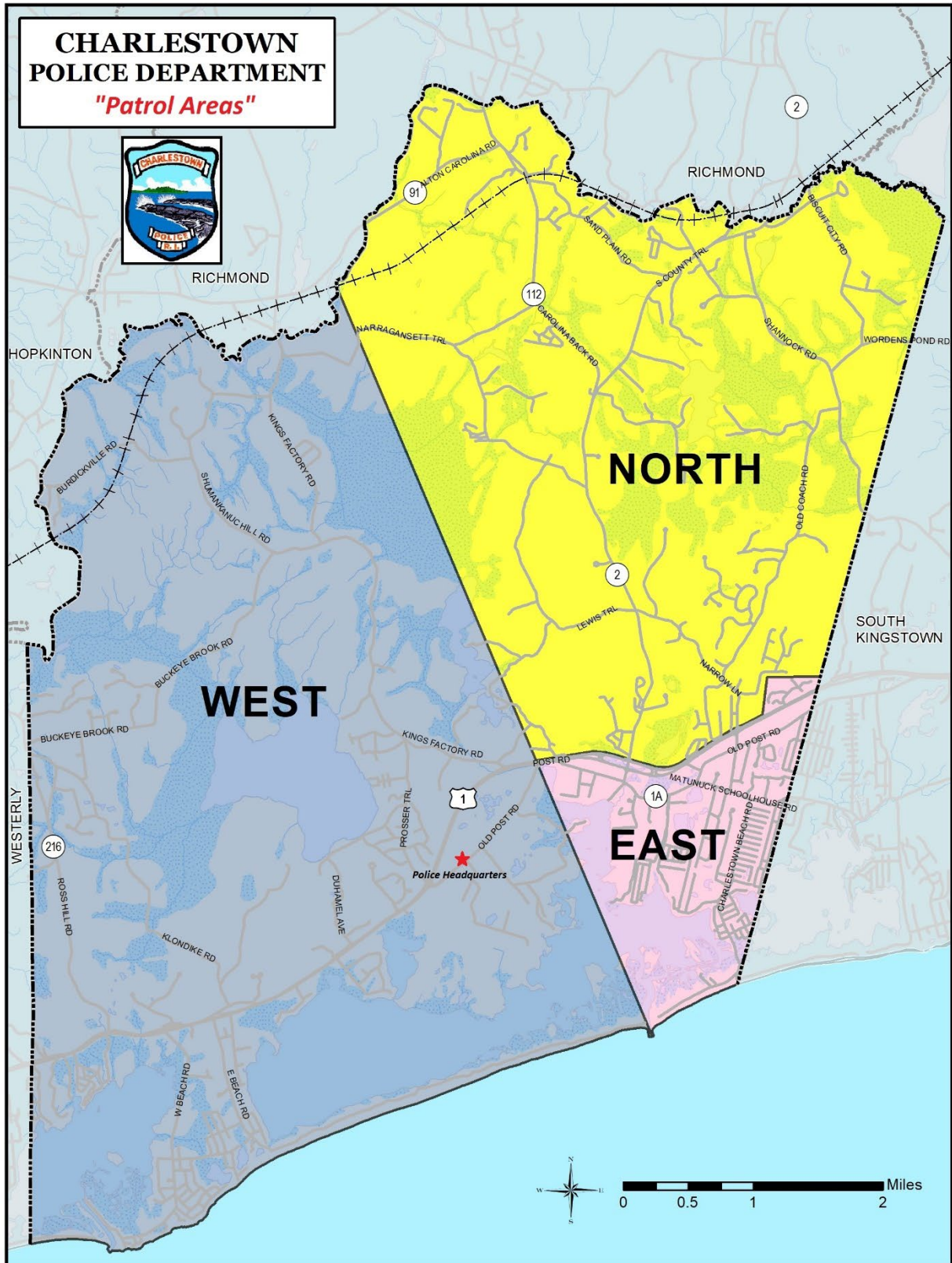
Chief of Police



# 2024 Organizational Chart



# Patrol Beat Map



## Patrol Operations Division



The Patrol Operations Division is also known as the uniformed division of the department. It is comprised of one (1) Lieutenant, four (4) Sergeants (shift supervisors), and twelve (12) Police Officers. In addition, there are eight (8) part-time Special Police Officers, five (5) Emergency Dispatchers, sixteen (16) part-time Traffic Constables, one (1) part-time Accreditation Assistant as well as two (2) part-time maintenance personnel. The Lieutenant in charge is referred to as the division commander. During the academic year, the division also supplies a full-time police officer to the Chariho Middle and Charlestown Elementary Schools in the capacity of a School Resource Officer (SRO). This division also handles agency grants, departmental in-service training, fleet and facilities maintenance and the agency's RIPAC state accreditation program.

In 2024, the Charlestown Police Department logged 15,706 calls for service, this is a significant increase in activity from the previous year. Of these calls for service, the Patrol Operations Division handled the majority of the preliminary investigations.

Historically, the agency's highest demand on uniformed police services occurs in the summer months of May, June, July, August and September. Once again, this year saw elevated visitors to Charlestown and a high demand on agency resources during summer months. The Town's two largest summer events, The Annual Charlestown Seafood Festival and Rhythm and Roots Festival both saw record crowds again in 2024. The agency's staff met this demand well and served the Town in a professional, courteous and compassionate manner. Residents and visitors alike should feel proud and confident that their police department is prepared, equipped and trained to continue providing the highest quality law enforcement services to the community of Charlestown.

**Lt. Philip B. Gingerella Sr.**

Division Commander



## Criminal Investigations Division



The Criminal Investigations Division of the department is specially designed to handle detailed follow-up investigations and major crimes. The division is specially equipped with personnel and resources to investigate vice, narcotics, and other major felony and misdemeanor incidents. The Lieutenant in charge of the division is responsible to oversee the department's prosecution function working closely with the Town's solicitors and the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General. This division represents the police department in each of the five (5) court systems including the Rhode Island Superior / District Courts and Juvenile Courts, the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal and the Charlestown Municipal Court. In addition, the Criminal Investigative Division handles the agency's sex offender registration program, crime scene processing, evidence and property management, criminal case discoveries, APRA and records requests and department records retention.

The Criminal Investigations Division of the Charlestown Police Department is staffed with three (3) full-time sworn police officers. The personnel include one (1) Lieutenant serving in the capacity of division commander, and two (2) Detectives serving as criminal investigators.

Each year the Criminal Investigative Division investigates calls involving suspicious deaths, drug overdoses, fatal motor vehicle accidents, and other major felony crimes. These crimes typically include sexual assaults, burglaries, robberies, breaking and entering, felony assaults, complicated DUI investigations, wanted and fugitive persons and more. In 2024, the division continued to train its staff in the latest investigative techniques and technologies while working closely with other federal, state and local law enforcement partners to keep Charlestown safe.

**Lt. David T. Westervelt**

Division Commander

# Harbormaster & Animal Control Programs



**Paul Casey - Harbormaster**

The Charlestown Harbormaster is responsible for the Town’s harbor management and marine patrol program. This marine unit is comprised of four (4) town officials that are overseen by the Chief of Police. It includes one (1) Harbormaster and three (3) Assistant Harbormasters, each responsible to patrol and enforce regulations on the Town’s two large coastal salt ponds, breach-ways and assorted waterways. Harbormasters work closely with sworn police personnel to provide a variety of services to the residents and visitors of Charlestown. In 2024, the Town hired a new Harbormaster, Paul Casey, a retired Cranston Fire Department Chief and also purchased a new vessel.



**Kathy McA’Nulty – Animal Control Officer**

The Charlestown Animal Control is a unit that works in conjunction with the Charlestown Police Department and is responsible for all domestic animal related issues in Charlestown. The unit is supervised by Animal Control Officer Kathy McA’Nulty. Ms. McA’Nulty oversees the animal shelter staff and the volunteers who care for the safety and welfare of the animals under Town control. The Charlestown Animal Control Officer is an integral part of the Charlestown Police Department team.

# National Night Out & Citizens Police Academy

The Charlestown Police Department, along with the South Kingstown Police Department successfully hosted another National Night Out celebration in Ninigret Park on Septemebr 24th, 2024. The event was a huge success and was attended by approximatly 1,000 residents and visitors. This is our 4<sup>th</sup> year hosting this community event and we thank all our public safety partners who assisted us again this year.



The Charlestown Police Department successully hosted our 1<sup>st</sup> Citizens Public Safety Academy in 2024. Fifteen local citizens attended a 13 week “Academy” where they were exposed to various Police, Rescue and Fire disiplines. Every week was a different topic with members of all the Town emergency services teaching and interacting with the class. We look forward to hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> Academy in the future.



# Community Engagement & Public Relations

The Charlestown Police Department had another active year of community engagements and public interactions in addition to our annual National Night Out celebration and Citizens Police Academy. Our staff gives back hundreds of additional hours to the community they serve.

National Night Out

Citizens Police Academy

Charlestown Memorial Day Parade

First Responder Appreciation Day

Town Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

Smokey the Bear Parade

DWI Honor Patrols



Special Olympics Torch Run

New Year's Eve Bonfire

Charlestown Fire Santa Run

Drug Take Back Day

Elementary School Field Day

Child Seat Installations

Hasbro Band-Aid Fundraiser

Matthew's Wish Toy Drive

Halloween Trunk or Treat

# Department Awards & Commendations

## DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION – 3<sup>RD</sup> CLASS

Officer Jason Shippee

Officer Matthew LaPlume



## MADD – DUI ACHIEVEMENT

Officer Nicole Knapp

Officer Lexus Falcone

## AAA NORTHEAST HERO'S AWARD

Officer Nicole Knapp

Officer Lexus Falcone

## DEPARTMENT UNIT RECOGNITION AWARD

Lieutenant Philip Gingerella

Lieutenant David Westervelt

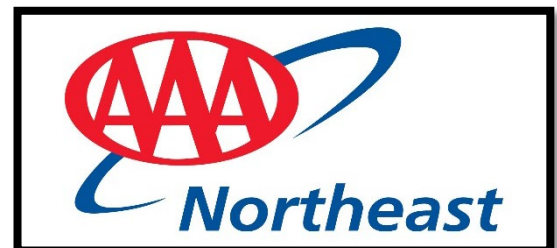
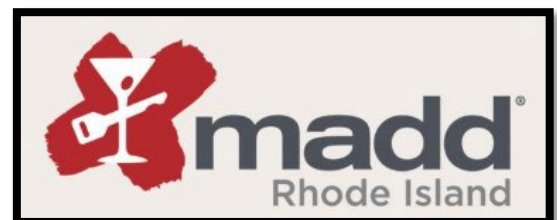
Sergeant Christopher Bruso

Sergeant Joseph Lupacchino

Detective Ian Perkins

Officer Michael Carrasquillo

Dispatcher Tammy Belden



# New Employees, Promotions and Retirements

## PROMOTIONS

Lt. David Westervelt

Sgt. Joseph Lupacchino

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Officer James Cruso

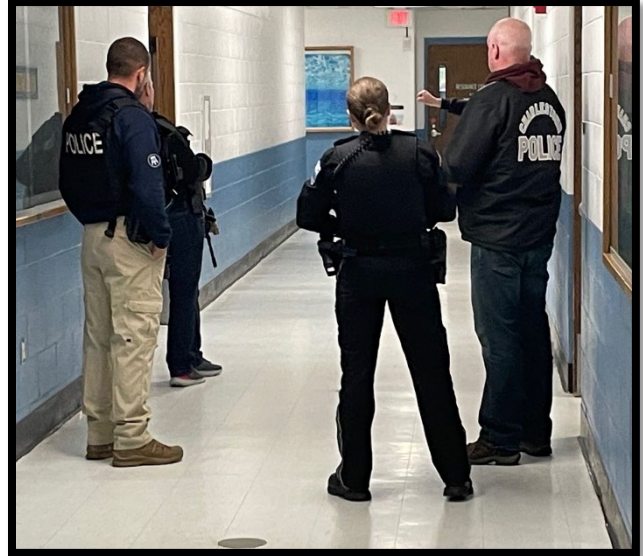
Officer Steven Robertson

Dispatcher Jenny Petersen

Harbormaster Paul Casey



# Department Training Review



## 2024 Department Training

TRAINING COURSE	CLASS HOURS	# OF STAFF	TOTAL HOURS	TRAINING COURSE	CLASS HOURS	# OF STAFF	TOTAL HOURS	
Spring Firearms Qualification	4	29	116	Workzone Training	4	1	4	
Fall Firearms Qualification	4	29	116	First Line Supervisor	40	2	80	
Taser Recertification	4	20	80	School Policing Summit	8	1	8	
FATS - Firearm Simulator	1	29	29	Stress Management	8	3	24	
DUI Breathalyzer Recert	4	20	80	Distracted Driving	8	5	40	
Mental Health Training	1	29	29	Dispatcher Active Shooter	8	3	24	
Use of Force	4	29	116	Red Dot Pistol Instructor	32	2	64	
Workplace Harrassment	1	45	45	Active Shooter Instructor	32	2	64	
Legal Updates & Liability	2	29	58	Advanced Rifle Instructor	32	1	32	
Ethics in Law Enforcement	1	29	29	Honor Guard Training	40	2	80	
Active Shooter Training	4	29	116	Field Training Officer	24	2	48	
Incident Command Systems	1	29	29	LOCKUP - Instructor	16	2	32	
Mental Health Training	1	29	29	Taser Instructor	24	3	72	
Anti Bias Policing	1	29	29					
CPR / AED / First Aid	4	45	180					
Narcan / Naloxone	1	45	45					
Tourniquet	1	45	45					
Bloodborne Pathogens	1	45	45					
Hazmat Training	1	45	45					
				<b>TOTAL TRAINING HOURS</b>				<b>1,833</b>

# Internal Reviews

<u>2024 Use of Force Report</u>			
Taser Presentation	Taser Deployment	Presentation of Firearm	Physical Force in Arrest
3	2	5	1

All agency use of force incidents were investigated and reviewed by the department’s administration in 2024. All police use of force incidents were found to be consistent with department policy and procedure, and all were closed with no further action needed.

<u>2024 Police Pursuit Report</u>	
Number of Police Pursuits in 2024	2

All police pursuits were reviewed by the department’s administration in 2024. It was determined that the two (2) pursuits in 2024 did not violate department policy and procedure and were closed with no further action needed.

<u>2024 Citizen Complaints Report</u>	
Number of Citizen Complaints in 2024	1

1 citizen complaint was investigated and reviewed by the department’s administration in 2024. The one (1) complaint was handled as a retraining of the employee with no further action needed.

<u>2024 Internal Complaints Report</u>	
Number of Internal Complaints in 2024	0

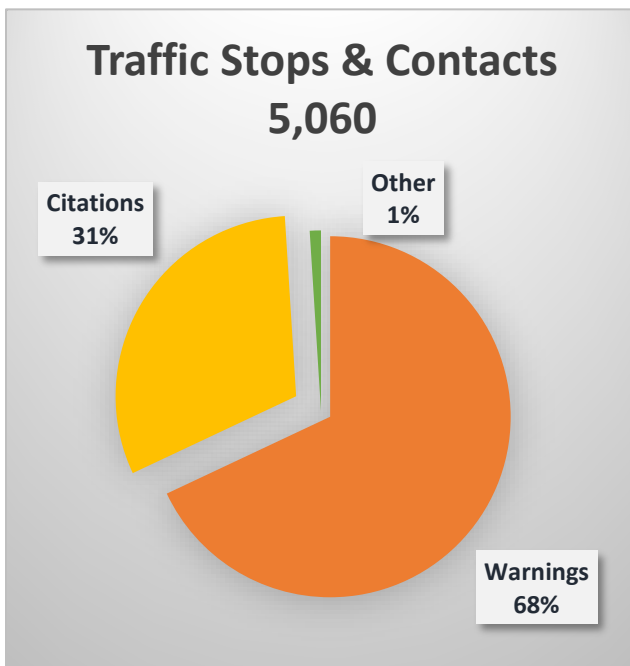
There were no internal departmental complaints in 2024.



# Traffic Enforcement

The Charlestown Police Department takes highway traffic safety very seriously. Charlestown Police Officers aggressively enforced all motor vehicle laws in 2024 which resulted in a total increase of traffic stops, citations and educational warnings.

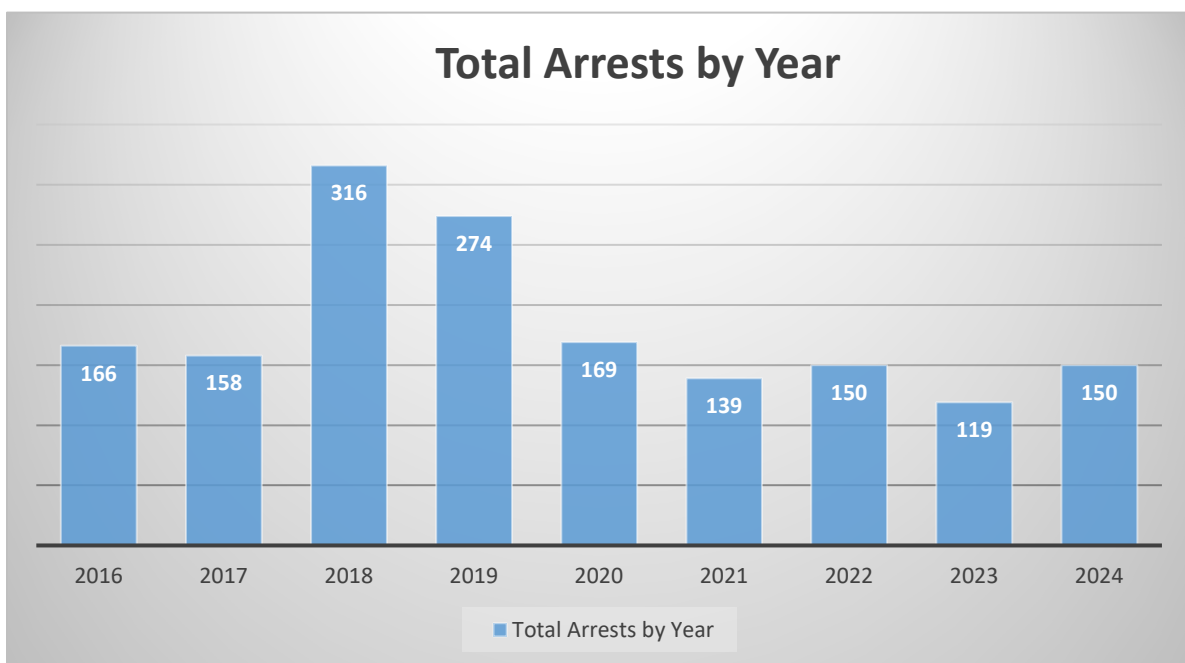
VIOLATIONS	CITATIONS	WARNING	TOTAL
Excessive Speed	1036	2145	3181
Expired / Suspended Registration	199	183	382
Seatbelt Violations	23	12	35
Stop Sign Violations	38	185	223
Operating without Insurance	79	48	127
Other Traffic Violations	234	498	732
Other Traffic Contacts	N/A	380	380
<b>TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS &amp; CONTACTS</b>	<b>1609</b>	<b>3451</b>	<b>5060</b>
Red Light Camera Program	770	N/A	770



## Criminal Violations

The Charlestown Police Department conducted a total of 150 arrests in 2024. This represents an increase from 2023. Over the last 4 years, several offenses that were once categorized as a criminal offense have been reduced to a civil violation. Offenses that were once tracked as an “arrest” (Suspended License, Possession of Marijuana) are no longer criminal violations in Rhode Island. While the total number of calls for service and motor vehicle stops have remained consistent, criminal arrest violations have decreased as a result of de-criminalization from previous years.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS	ADULT	JUVENILE	TOTAL
Driving Under the Influence	42	0	42
Domestic Violence / Disorderly	39	0	39
Warrant Arrest	17	0	17
Narcotics Violation	1	0	1
Physical / Sexual Assault	15	0	15
Possession Stolen Motor Vehicle	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	3	3	6
Possession of Alcohol	0	1	1
Breaking and Entering	7	0	7
Other Criminal Violation	17	5	22
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>150</b>

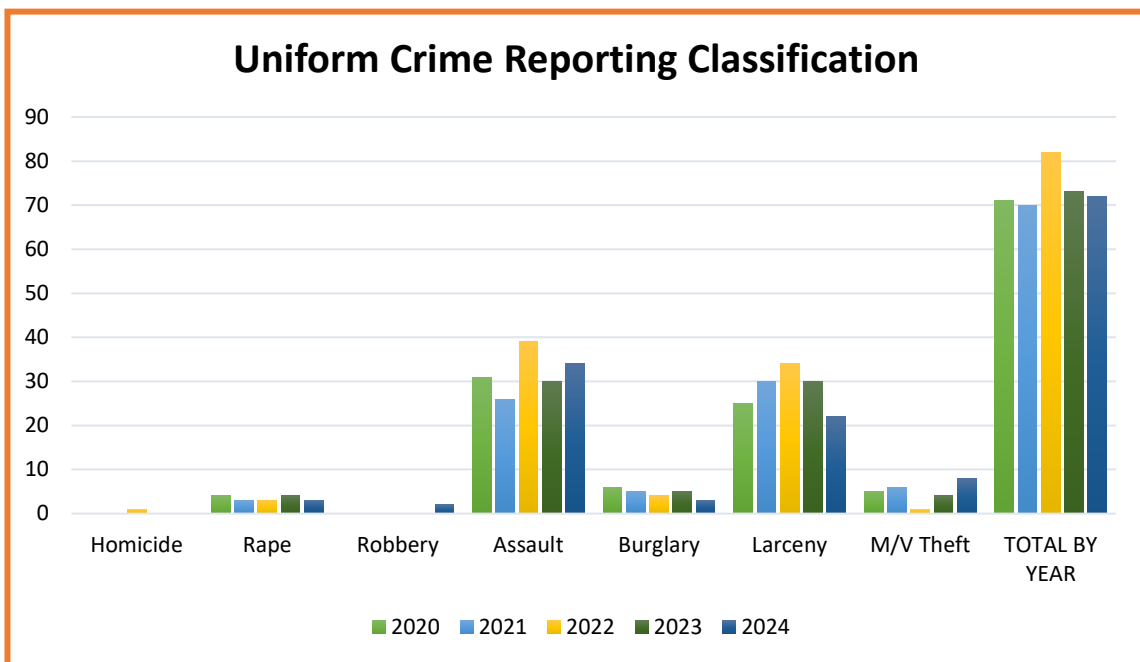


# Uniform Crime Report Data

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is a monthly reporting mechanism by which each law enforcement agency in the country is required to communicate crime data to the FBI. This data is collected nationally on the seven reportable major crimes of homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. The Charlestown Police Department compiles this information monthly via our records management system, then exports it to the Rhode Island State Police who in turn forward it to the FBI for analysis.

The department’s UCR data typically reflects a lower incidence of crime in specific categories than the agency’s monthly activity report. This difference is due to the fact that the agency’s monthly activity report reflects the “actual number of calls for service” generated in each of those categories as well as many others. Through the course of follow-up investigations, police clear many calls for services initially reported as crimes as “unfounded” or “non-reportable”, these incidents do not make it onto the final monthly UCR report. Below you will find our UCR data for the years 2020 – 2024. This data is helpful in tracking patterns and trends in major crime categories. In general, the overall reportable major crimes in town are low and some categories are trending downward.

Uniform Crime Reporting Classification					
CATEGORY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0
Rape	4	3	3	4	3
Robbery	0	0	0	0	2
Assault	31	26	39	30	34
Burglary	6	5	4	5	3
Larceny	25	30	34	30	22
M/V Theft	5	6	1	4	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>72</b>



# Department Statistics



## CHARLESTOWN POLICE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Submitted by: Chief Michael J. Pallotta



2024	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
<b>TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	1357	1364	1109	1153	1199	1405	1559	1388	1323	1543	1207	1099	15706
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE CALLS</b>													
Traffic Enforcement/Contacts	340	588	428	412	389	478	461	324	397	582	394	267	5060
Traffic - Citations	88	171	105	128	122	114	186	99	157	213	143	83	1609
Traffic - Warnings	234	431	303	258	245	349	248	187	194	307	217	161	3134
Traffic Accidents Total	9	10	9	8	12	15	23	16	12	18	12	22	166
Disabled Motorist Assists	15	8	11	10	14	15	19	27	10	10	13	15	167
<b>ASSIST OTHER CALLS</b>													
Assist Other Police Depts.	3	5	8	11	14	13	14	12	11	5	12	5	113
Assist Medical / Rescue Calls	113	126	126	154	131	148	167	158	112	146	119	124	1624
Assist Fire Department Calls	24	19	15	24	18	14	21	26	18	12	19	20	230
<b>POLICE / CRIME CALLS</b>													
Burglary Alarms	19	18	13	28	26	19	15	20	13	16	18	27	232
Disturbances / Disorderly	3	1	0	0	5	14	9	13	13	8	0	4	70
Larceny	0	0	2	2	5	2	1	2	0	0	2	4	20
Missing Persons	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
Breaking and Entering	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	7
Physical / Sexual Assaults	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	3	0	1	15
Driving Under the Influence	5	6	1	4	2	4	4	2	4	4	4	2	42
Larceny / Theft / Vandalism	1	1	3	3	8	1	2	6	1	2	1	4	33
Narcotics Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Domestic Incidents	3	2	2	4	4	3	5	4	2	6	2	1	38
Animal Complaints	4	3	4	6	3	14	13	21	11	4	7	5	95
Boating Contacts / Violations	0	0	0	0	1	18	13	8	2	0	0	0	42
Psychological Emergencies	3	3	11	8	13	11	10	7	1	13	7	6	93
Overdose Treatment	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	9
<b>COMMUNITY ASSIST CALLS</b>													
Building & House Checks	394	220	154	141	110	105	132	119	266	259	249	226	2375
School Safety Checks	18	14	16	19	18	8	4	2	10	22	15	17	163
Public VIN Checks	25	27	31	37	51	31	40	50	41	32	34	22	421
Car Seat Checks / Installations	5	0	1	4	2	4	11	3	1	3	1	0	35
Beach/Waterway/Area Checks	250	138	141	143	178	205	253	225	204	199	152	181	2269
<b>ARRESTS</b>													
Adult Arrests Total	11	14	8	9	10	14	17	11	13	14	12	8	141
Juvenile Arrest Total	2	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	9
Felony Arrests	0	2	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	13
Misdemeanor Arrests	13	12	2	7	10	14	21	11	15	12	12	8	137
												<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>150</b>

\* N/A - data not available yet.



**End Report**