



**2014**

**COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT**





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We Are Columbia

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



I am pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report for the Columbia Police Department. The Annual Report highlights some of the Department's noteworthy accomplishments throughout the year and documents our progress in meeting the goals and objectives outlined in our five-year strategic plan.

On April 11, 2014, I was proud and honored to have been sworn in as your new Chief, and I remain so. While it was not obvious then, our nation would soon face its most profound series of challenges and tragedies in recent times—the majority of which center around the actions of law enforcement. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of the men and women of the Columbia Police Department, and express my gratitude to the citizens of Columbia for their support and assistance since my arrival. All of the Department's accomplishments are a direct result of many people working together to do things right. Exceptional personnel and community support are vital to the Department's continual growth and success.

2014 was a remarkable year of transformation for the CPD law enforcement family. We began work in earnest, in partnership with city officials, to build a diverse, world-class police department to better serve our diverse, world-class city. A renewed emphasis was placed on community policing and strengthening community relationships by demonstrating accountability and transparency. And, the year ended with notable reductions in violent crimes: Overall violent crime: -9.6%; Robbery: almost -10%; Burglary: -25%.

No doubt, we have much work ahead of us. As part of our ongoing efforts to achieve policing excellence, we will continue to review the recommendations of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing for new and innovative ways to serve the citizens of Columbia. Our protection of and service to the community are paramount and we will continue to do everything we can to exceed your expectations.

Respectfully,

William H. "Skip" Holbrook  
Chief of Police





## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## VISION STATEMENT:

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

## CORE VALUES

**PROFESSIONALISM:** We will conduct ourselves in a manner that is consistent with the law enforcement code of conduct, national law enforcement standards, best practices and the expectations of our community.

**INTEGRITY:** Our commitment to the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct will be evidenced by our accountability to each other and the citizens we serve. Integrity is the foundation of trust internally and externally, and it is pursuant to this foundation that we will perform our duties to protect and serve the citizens of the City of Columbia.

**DIVERSITY:** We will acknowledge and promote the acceptance, inclusion and professional contributions of all, and our recruitment, hiring, retention, training and development practices will reflect a strong commitment to diversity and the diverse populations we serve.

**SERVICE ORIENTATION:** We will improve the quality of life of those we serve by reducing fear, engaging the community and enhancing public safety.

**FAIRNESS:** We are committed to the fair and equitable treatment of all citizens as fundamental to the delivery of professional police service.

**COURAGE:** We will remain physically and morally courageous in all our duties.

**COLLABORATION:** We believe that cooperation and teamwork will enable us to combine our diverse backgrounds, skills and styles with the capacities of others to achieve common goals.

**COMMUNICATION:** Effective and open communication at all levels is the cornerstone of a progressive organization. We value honest and constructive discussions of ideas, suggestions and practices that help accomplish the goals of our Department and the communities it serves.



# QUICK FACTS

## About CPD

W. H. "Skip" Holbrook sworn in as Chief of Police on April 11, 2014

- Sworn Officers: 406 sworn officers
- Civilian Employees: 94
- Annual Budget: \$35,586,553
- Patrol Regions (5): North, South, East, West and Metro
- Special Units: Professional Standards, Special Operations, Criminal Investigations, Traffic Safety, Gang Task Force, Fugitive Task Force, K9 Unit, Crime Analysis, Media Relations

Learn more about CPD at: [www.columbiapd.net](http://www.columbiapd.net)



## About Columbia – South Carolina's Capital City

- Incorporated in 1786
- Type of Government: Council-Manager
- The Mayor and six (6) City Council members are non-partisan and elected every four (4) years with no term limits. Elections are held in November of odd numbered years. Four members of Council are elected from council districts, while two members are elected at-large.
- Located 13 miles northwest of the state's geographic center
- Land area: 134.9 square miles
- Water area: 7.3 square miles
- Population: 133,358
- Home to the University of South Carolina (USC), Benedict College, Columbia College, Allen University and Midlands Technical College, South Carolina state government, and Fort Jackson—the largest, most active initial training center in the United States Army
- City's motto: "We are Columbia: Together we can build a world class city."

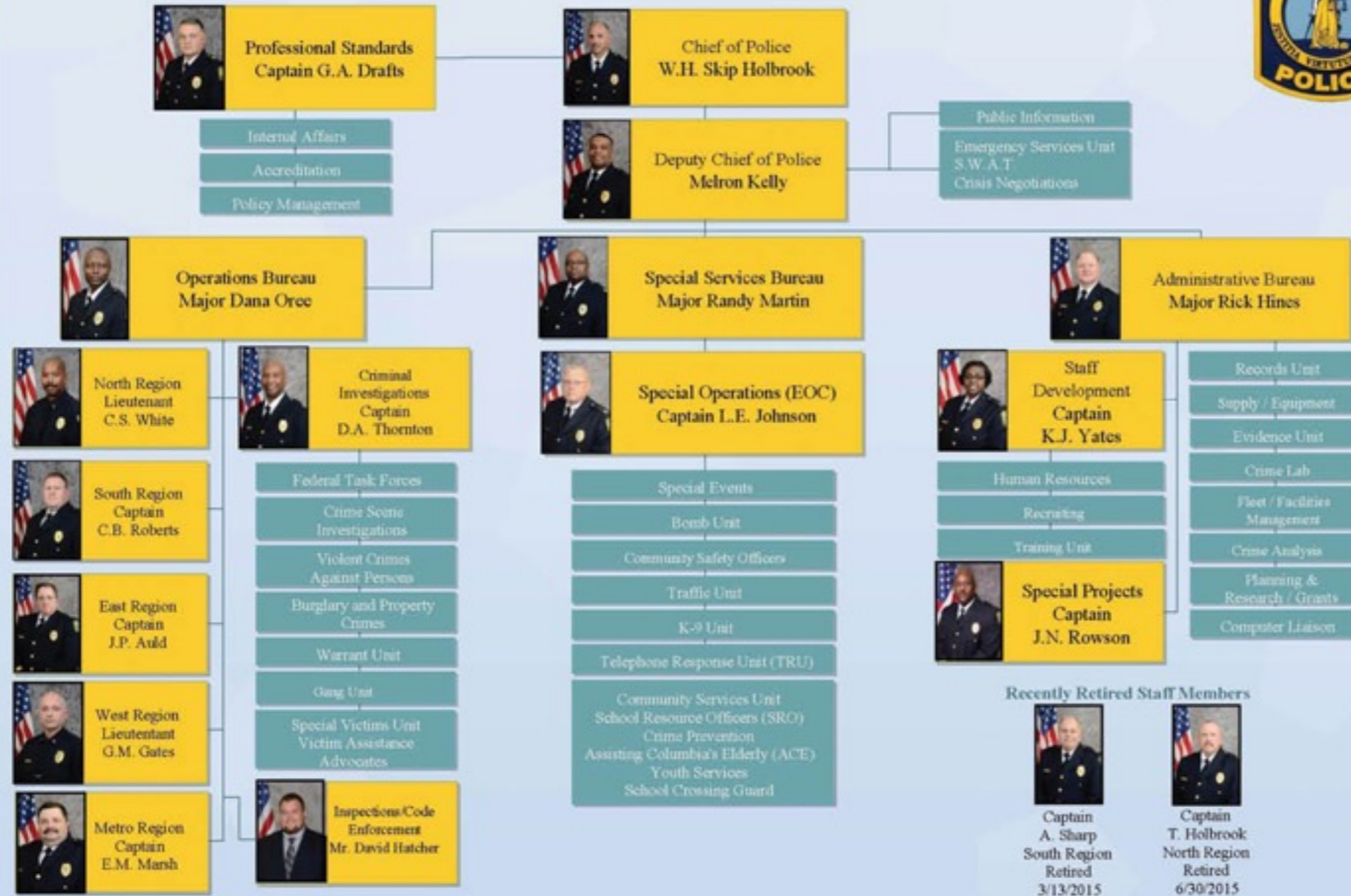
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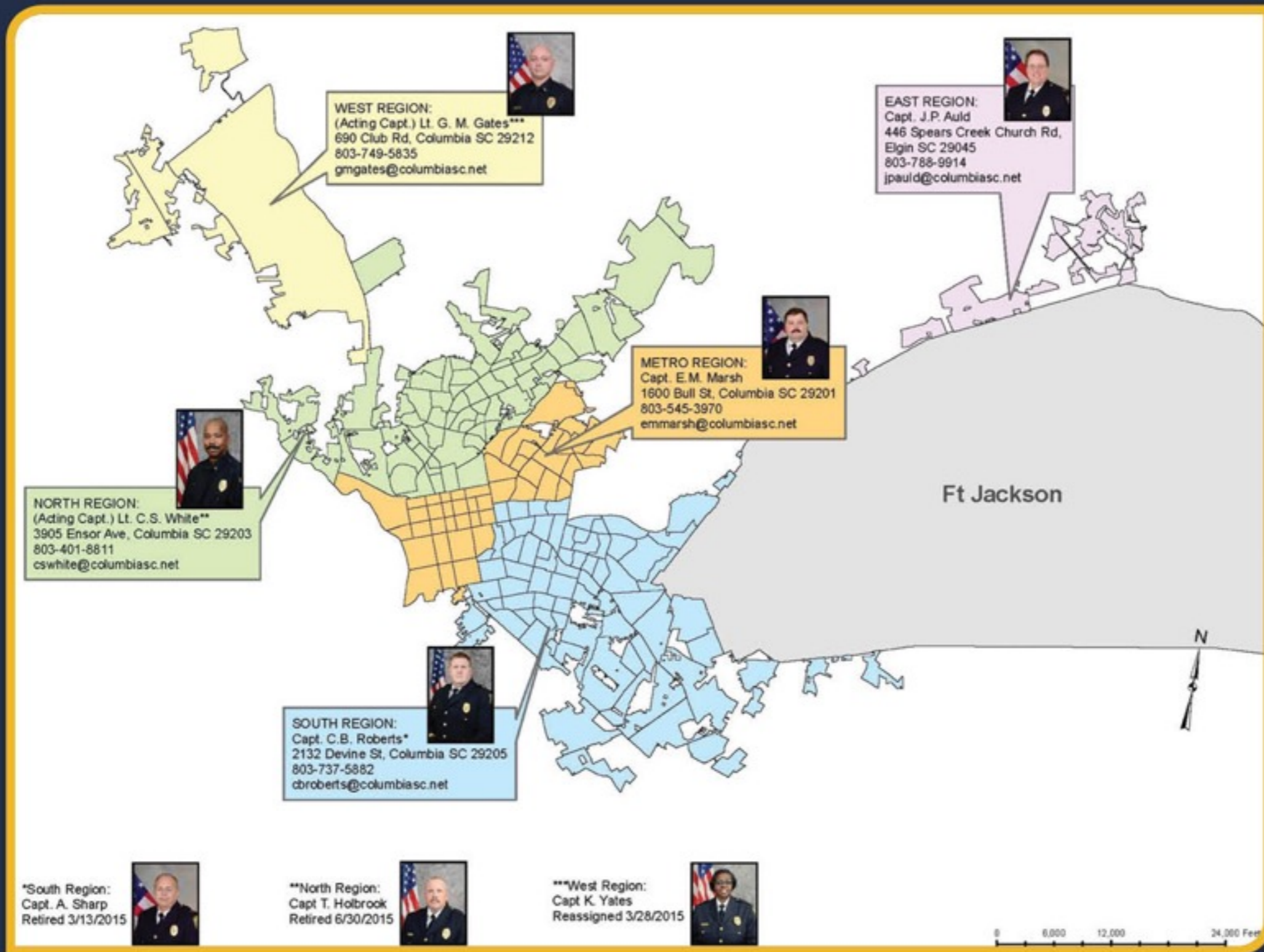
# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

## COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





# REGIONAL COMMANDERS





# CALLS-FOR-SERVICE

Calls-for-Service (CFS) for Calendar Year 2014

Area	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1st Qtr.	Apr.	May	Jun	2nd Qtr.	Jul	Aug.	Sep	3rd Qtr.	Oct	Nov	Dec	4th Qtr.	Total	
NORTH	PA 110	867	764	886	2,517	926	969	768	2,663	889	939	899	2,727	899	654	815	2,368	10,275
	PA 111	450	406	424	1,280	443	470	483	1,396	479	518	489	1,486	395	463	448	1,306	5,468
	PA 120	814	676	846	2,336	801	776	789	2,366	876	924	861	2,661	876	797	832	2,505	9,868
	PA 130	326	324	361	1,011	413	534	370	1,317	370	403	436	1,209	535	437	512	1,484	5,021
	PA 140	464	395	442	1,301	503	509	483	1,495	560	529	466	1,555	455	436	379	1,270	5,621
	PA 150	434	471	429	1,334	467	492	530	1,489	570	548	488	1,606	576	412	481	1,469	5,898
	PA 160	490	385	504	1,379	492	611	546	1,649	602	647	534	1,783	538	501	623	1,662	6,473
	PA 170	355	298	324	977	295	375	440	1,110	481	439	395	1,315	423	385	414	1,222	4,624
	TOTAL	4,200	3,719	4,216	12,135	4,340	4,736	4,409	13,485	4,827	4,947	4,568	14,342	4,697	4,085	4,504	13,286	53,248
METRO	PA 210	253	283	270	806	274	245	226	745	206	302	269	777	295	229	170	694	3,022
	PA 220	510	492	546	1,548	476	409	479	1,364	557	749	561	1,867	545	464	487	1,496	6,275
	PA 230	580	560	655	1,795	620	647	703	1,970	832	793	659	2,284	679	542	561	1,782	7,831
	PA 240	759	752	816	2,327	831	826	1,059	2,716	1,019	971	856	2,846	875	772	850	2,497	10,386
	PA 250	397	287	341	1,025	371	380	399	1,150	449	459	402	1,310	347	324	309	980	4,465
	PA 260	545	488	521	1,554	599	568	561	1,728	640	657	580	1,877	677	535	536	1,748	6,907
	PA 270	210	214	248	672	226	256	236	718	249	256	242	747	265	225	258	748	2,885
	PA 280	395	364	464	1,223	484	488	481	1,453	504	525	435	1,464	499	416	497	1,412	5,552
	TOTAL	3,649	3,440	3,861	10,950	3,881	3,819	4,144	11,844	4,456	4,712	4,004	13,172	4,182	3,507	3,668	11,357	47,323



# CALLS-FOR-SERVICE | CONTINUED

Area		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1st Qtr.	Apr.	May	Jun	2nd Qtr.	Jul	Aug.	Sep	3rd Qtr.	Oct	Nov	Dec	4th Qtr.	Total
SOUTH	PA 310	260	253	278	791	306	326	310	942	316	341	326	983	296	285	315	896	3,612
	PA 320	263	196	321	780	300	255	298	853	295	288	266	849	303	251	262	816	3,298
	PA 330	260	208	287	755	285	291	214	790	237	281	278	796	243	266	268	777	3,118
	PA 340	269	211	250	730	255	229	244	728	206	280	262	748	267	222	218	707	2,913
	PA 350	485	461	515	1,461	595	608	400	1,603	419	572	656	1,647	721	504	464	1,689	6,400
	PA 355	538	570	720	1,828	639	599	589	1,827	558	650	656	1,864	579	549	429	1,557	7,076
	PA 360	781	663	821	2,265	760	968	789	2,517	884	823	814	2,521	856	752	811	2,419	9,722
	PA 370	466	454	525	1,445	440	506	484	1,430	531	482	466	1,479	436	415	445	1,296	5,650
	PA 380	472	351	459	1,282	436	489	575	1,500	531	531	471	1,533	504	483	525	1,512	5,827
	TOTAL	3,794	3,367	4,176	11,337	4,016	4,271	3,903	12,190	3,977	4,248	4,195	12,420	4,205	3,727	3,737	11,669	47,616
WEST	PA 410	423	446	420	1,289	439	489	463	1,391	455	456	429	1,340	486	448	513	1,447	5,467
	PA 420	230	153	233	616	198	198	197	593	165	194	160	519	133	138	139	410	2,138
	PA 430	162	125	200	487	226	215	222	663	224	194	176	594	175	178	187	540	2,284
	TOTAL	815	724	853	2,392	863	902	882	2,647	844	844	765	2,453	794	764	839	2,397	9,889
EAST	PA 590	175	165	185	525	181	188	249	618	232	214	200	646	220	234	209	663	2,452
	PA 595	122	89	112	323	97	105	119	321	83	61	114	258	97	62	77	236	1,138
	TOTAL	297	254	297	848	278	293	368	939	315	275	314	904	317	296	286	899	3,590



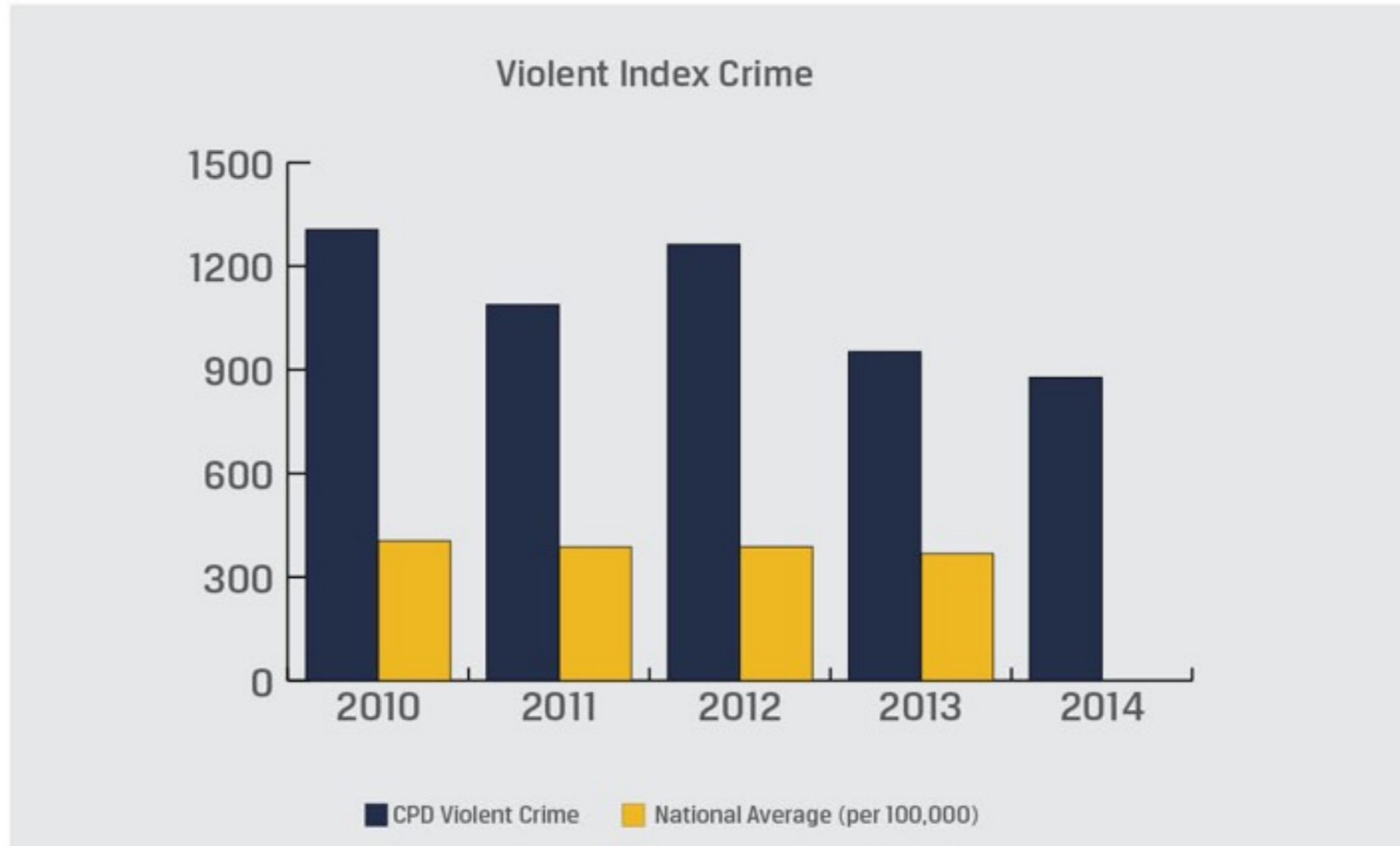
# CALLS-FOR-SERVICE | CONTINUED

Area		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1st Qtr.	Apr.	May	Jun	2nd Qtr.	Jul	Aug.	Sep	3rd Qtr.	Oct	Nov	Dec	4th Qtr.	Total
OTHER	NULL	306	229	98	633	288	252	219	759	316	309	274	899	290	241	284	815	3,106
	RCSD	329	290	361	980	300	339	322	961	321	313	322	956	340	314	293	947	3,844
	CAYCE	0	0	4	4	1	2	1	4	2	1	1	4	1	0	1	2	14
	FA	13	10	9	32	18	10	9	37	12	10	11	33	12	10	21	43	145
	IRMO	9	5	6	20	5	4	7	16	3	4	7	14	9	2	2	13	63
	TOTAL	657	534	478	1,669	612	607	558	1,777	654	637	615	1,906	652	567	601	1,820	7,172
GRAND TOTAL		13,412	12,038	13,881	39,331	13,990	14,628	14,264	42,882	15,073	15,663	14,461	45,197	14,847	12,946	13,635	41,428	168,838

NOTE: Data compiled from daily calls for service reports obtained from the Columbia-Richland 911 Communications Center.  
Data as of 1/5/2015

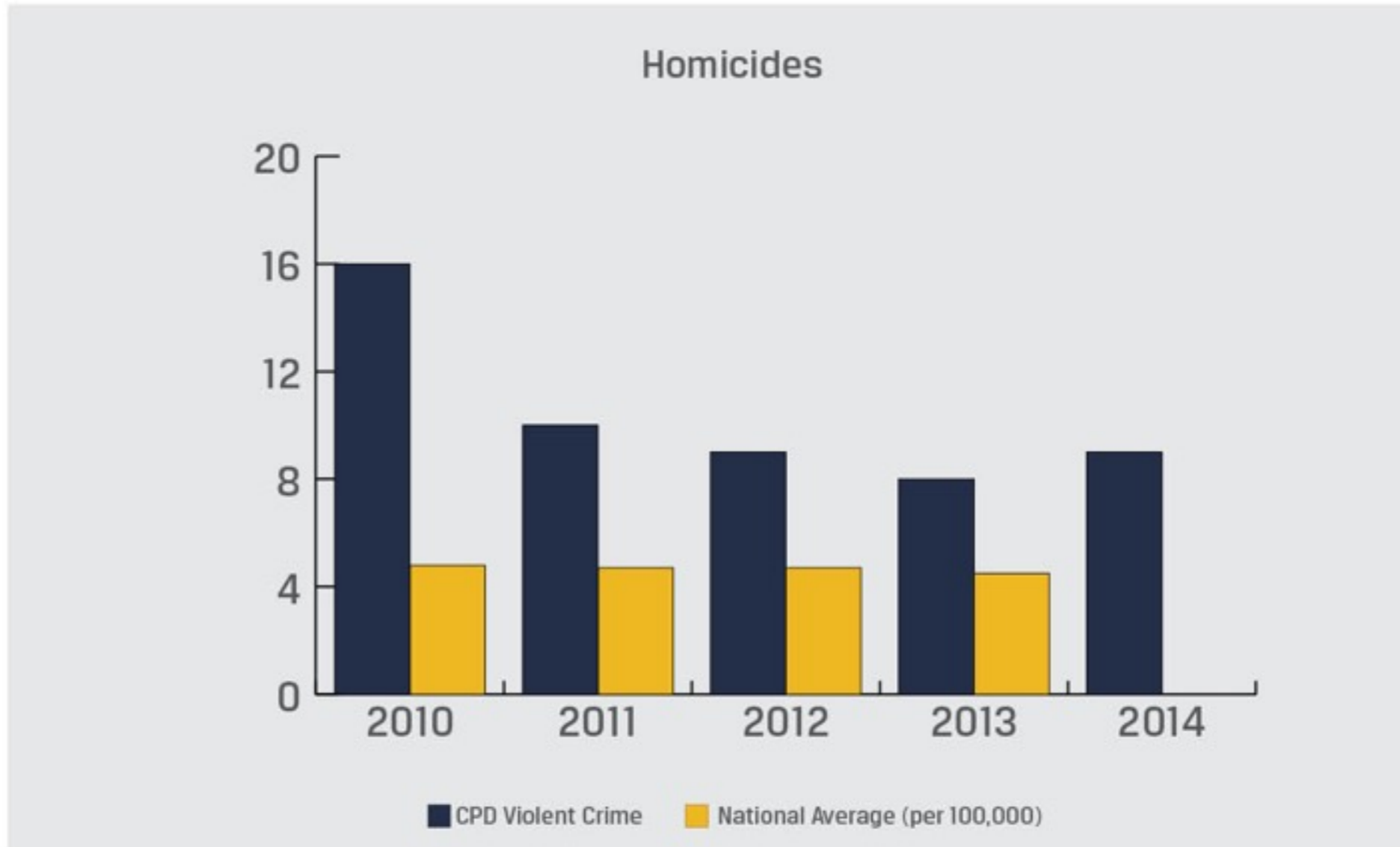


# 2014 CRIME STATISTICS



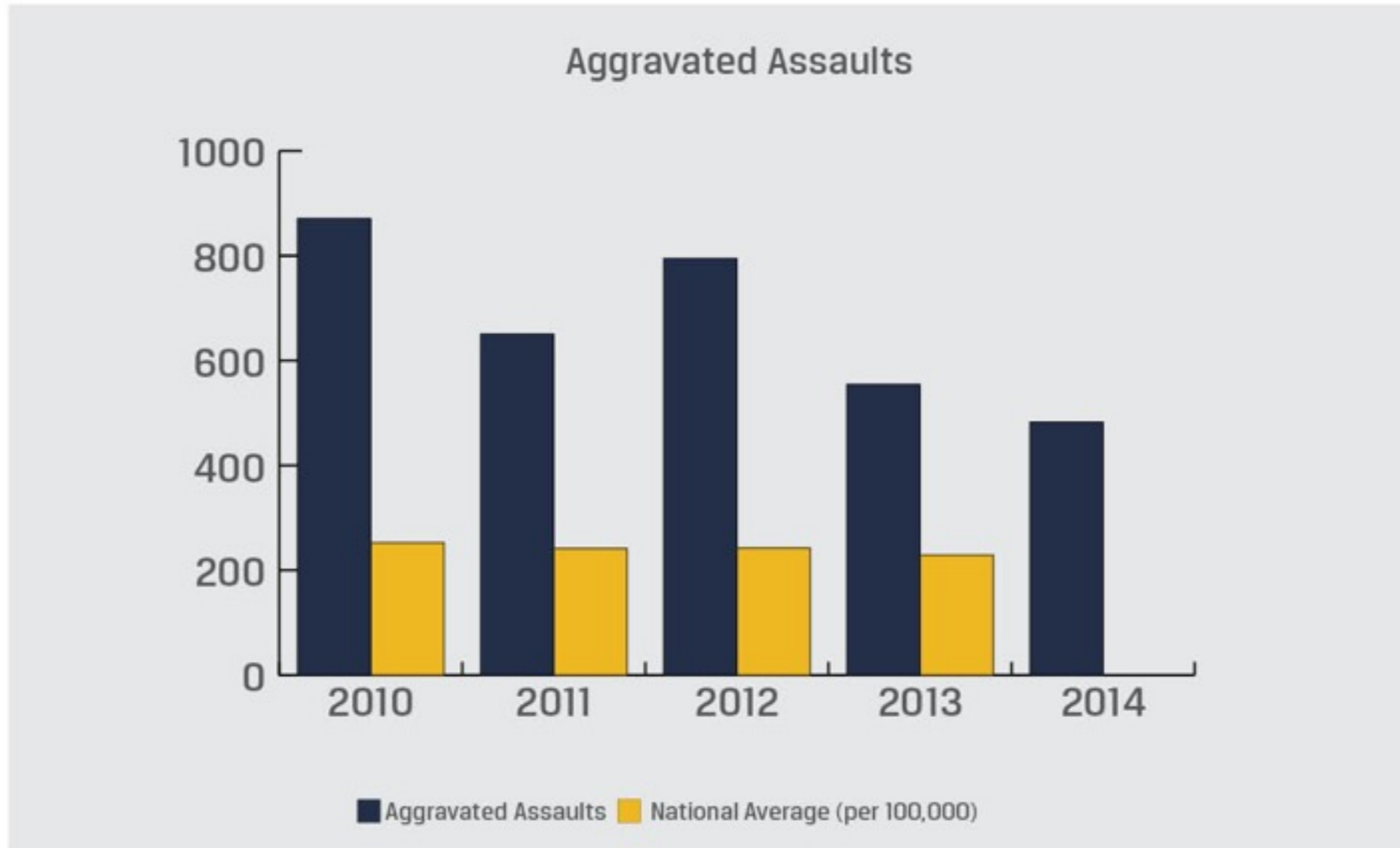


# 2014 CRIME STATISTICS | CONTINUED



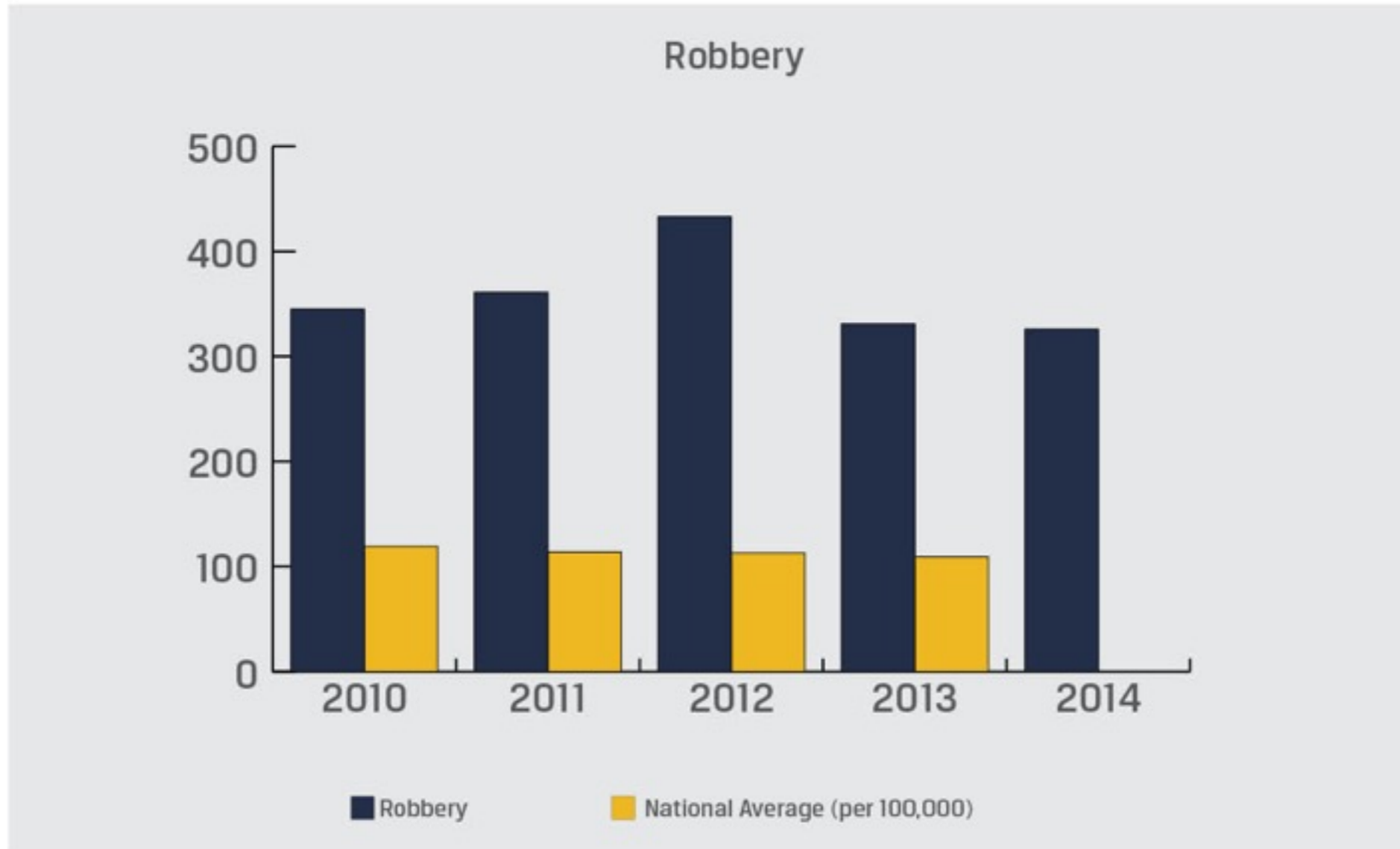


## 2014 CRIME STATISTICS | CONTINUED



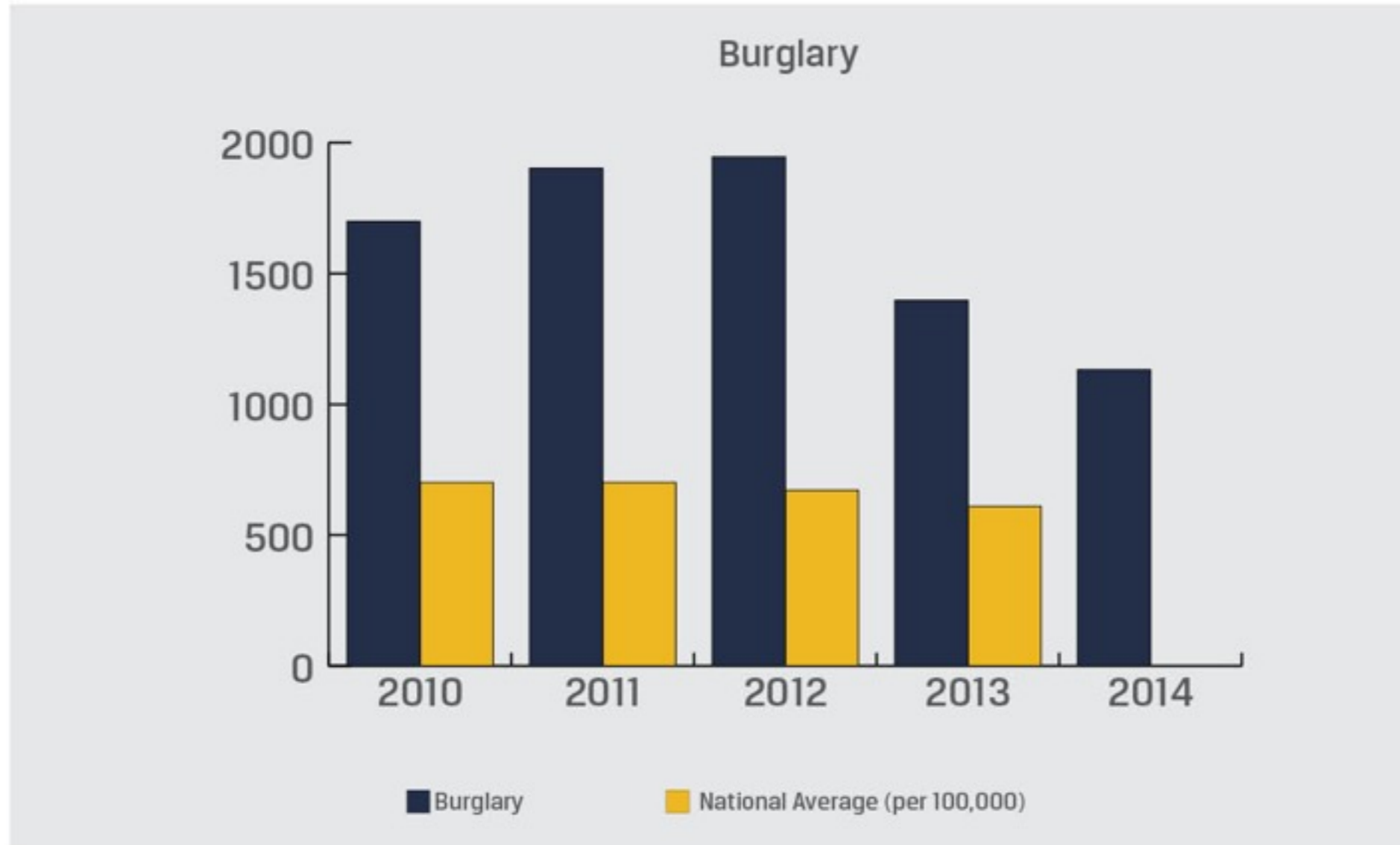


# 2014 CRIME STATISTICS | CONTINUED





# 2014 CRIME STATISTICS | CONTINUED





# 2014 CRIME STATISTICS | CONTINUED





# PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In order for the Columbia Police Department to accomplish its mission, it must have the trust and confidence of the community. To demonstrate transparency and accountability, the Department released an Internal Affairs Report to the public which shared information regarding complaints of officer misconduct, use of force incidents, in-custody deaths and vehicle crashes.

## 2014 INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT – SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 168,838 calls for service were received by the Columbia Police Department. The North Region had the highest number of calls for service.
- 171 complaint cases alleging misconduct by employees were processed by the Internal Affairs Unit. The vast majority of complaints, 81%, were initiated by the citizens of Columbia. A disposition of "sustained" was determined in 39, or 23%, of the allegations, 24 of which were external complaints.
- 108 use of force incidents were reported, of which 3 involved deadly force with a firearm, with no fatalities. The most common type of force was Electronic Control Devices (ECDs), followed by personal or bodily force (hands).
- Of the 108 suspects involved in use of force incidents, 27 were white, 79 were black, 1 was Asian and 1 was Hispanic. The overwhelming majority of suspects in the use of force incidents were male. Of the Columbia Police Officers in those same incidents 87 were white, 20 were black and 1 was Hispanic.
- Approximately .06% of citizen encounters with officers of the Columbia Police Department resulted in use of force incidents. 1 use of force incident occurred for every 1,235 residents.



- 7,175 arrests were made; 108 use of force incidents represent 1.5% of arrests.
- 118 confirmed shootings occurred; 426 firearms were seized; 483 aggravated assaults were reported, 30% of which involved a firearm; Columbia Police officers fired their weapons at suspects 3 times in 2014.
- 28 Columbia Police officers were assaulted in 27 separate incidents.
- 4,451,835 miles were driven by employees of the Columbia Police Department; 44 collisions were reported. 30 collisions were determined to be "not preventable" by the employee.
- 34 vehicle pursuits were initiated by members of the Columbia Police Department. The majority of pursuits were initiated for Traffic Offenses (not DUI).
- No in-custody deaths were reported by the Columbia Police Department.
- 4 Columbia Police Department employees were charged criminally for offenses allegedly committed while off duty.





# STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES



**CPD Promotional Ceremony In May 2015**

Pictured from left to right: Deputy Chief Melron Kelly, Chief Skip Holbrook, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Captain Kellie Yates and Captain Tim Holbrook

## STAFFING AND FACILITIES

### Changes in CPD Leadership Positions

In May 2014, a promotional ceremony was held in which Chief Holbrook named Melron Kelly as Deputy Chief of CPD. Also promoted to Captain were Kelly Yates and Tim Holbrook. As Captains, Yates and Holbrook were appointed to command the West and North Regions, respectively.

### Comprehensive Recruitment and Retention Initiative

To further ensure the highest standards of professionalism and diversity in CPD, Chief Holbrook worked in collaboration with city officials to develop an initiative to recruit and retain Columbia's best and brightest. The resulting plan included: a 7% pay raise (sworn and unsworn), \$500 residency bonuses for officers living within Columbia city limits, \$500 signing bonuses for newly hired certified police officers and additional opportunities for participation in the employee home loan program. The comprehensive plan also includes a concentrated outreach and marketing campaign to include multiple public safety job fairs and a recruitment video to showcase the employment opportunities and career potential offered by CPD.



## **New Officers Hired with Emphasis on Diversity**

In 2014, 22 new officers were hired by the Columbia Police Department of which 12 are white, 8 are black, 1 is Hispanic and 1 is Asian.

## **Selection of New Site for Equipment and Evidence Storage Facility**

A 58,188-square foot warehouse on Bluff Road was selected as the site for centralized storage for evidence and equipment. Renovations are currently underway to ensure proper security and climate controls are in place before CPD evidence and equipment are transferred to the Bluff Road facility.

# **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

## **Increased Training Opportunities**

In 2014, the CPD Training Unit, in partnership with community organizations and institutions of higher education, began offering the following courses to educate CPD officers and improve our policing methods:

- Cultural Sensitivity
- Community Policing
- Peaceful Conflict Resolution
- De-Escalation Techniques
- Implicit Bias/Discrimination Recognition
- Response to Resistance/Use of Force
- Mental Illness Recognition and Interaction
- Chronic Illness Recognition

Career development opportunities are currently being developed for Field Training Officers (FTO) and Crime Scene Identification (CSI) officers. Officers will have an opportunity to attend first-line supervision classes prior to promotions.

The Department is expanding on its offerings to all employees, sworn and non-sworn, as it develops a curriculum for career advancement whether it be training for a specialization and/or a promotional track to Supervisor, Manager or beyond.

## **Annual Award Ceremony**

In The first annual awards ceremony was held in December 2014 to recognize exemplary performance of both uniformed officers and civilian employees. To learn more about the 2014 award recipients, please go to "Recognition of Exemplary Performance" within this Report.

## **POLICING**

### **Community Response Teams**

Community policing continues to be our focus. To further our efforts, community response teams were established in each Region to allow officers to develop stronger relationships with the citizens they serve and work collaboratively with them to solve specific crime and quality of life issues in their assigned areas.

### **Code Enforcement Initiative**

The City of Columbia's code enforcement unit was put under the purview of CPD to support a more coordinated effort between the Community Response Teams and code enforcement inspectors. This has allowed a more proactive response to address blight in crime hot spots to reduce crimes of opportunity.



## **College/University Campus Safety Initiative**

The Campus Safety Initiative focuses on public safety and crime prevention efforts to assist college and university students, who live, work and socialize in the City of Columbia. Our Partners include: Allen University, Benedict College, Columbia College, Midlands Technical College, and the University of South Carolina. Safety Zone and transportation services are available for all college and university students within the City of Columbia's hospitality districts. A number of well-lit taxi cab and shuttle zones have been established to ensure students get home safely.

## **CPD/Richland Co. Sheriff's Department Midlands Gang Task Force**

In June 2014, the Columbia Police Department and the Richland County Sheriff's Department merged their gang units, creating a joint task force to eradicate gang activity throughout the Midlands. The collaboration facilitates the sharing of criminal intelligence, resources and serves to overcome jurisdictional impediments.

## **Juvenile Offender Re-entry Initiative**

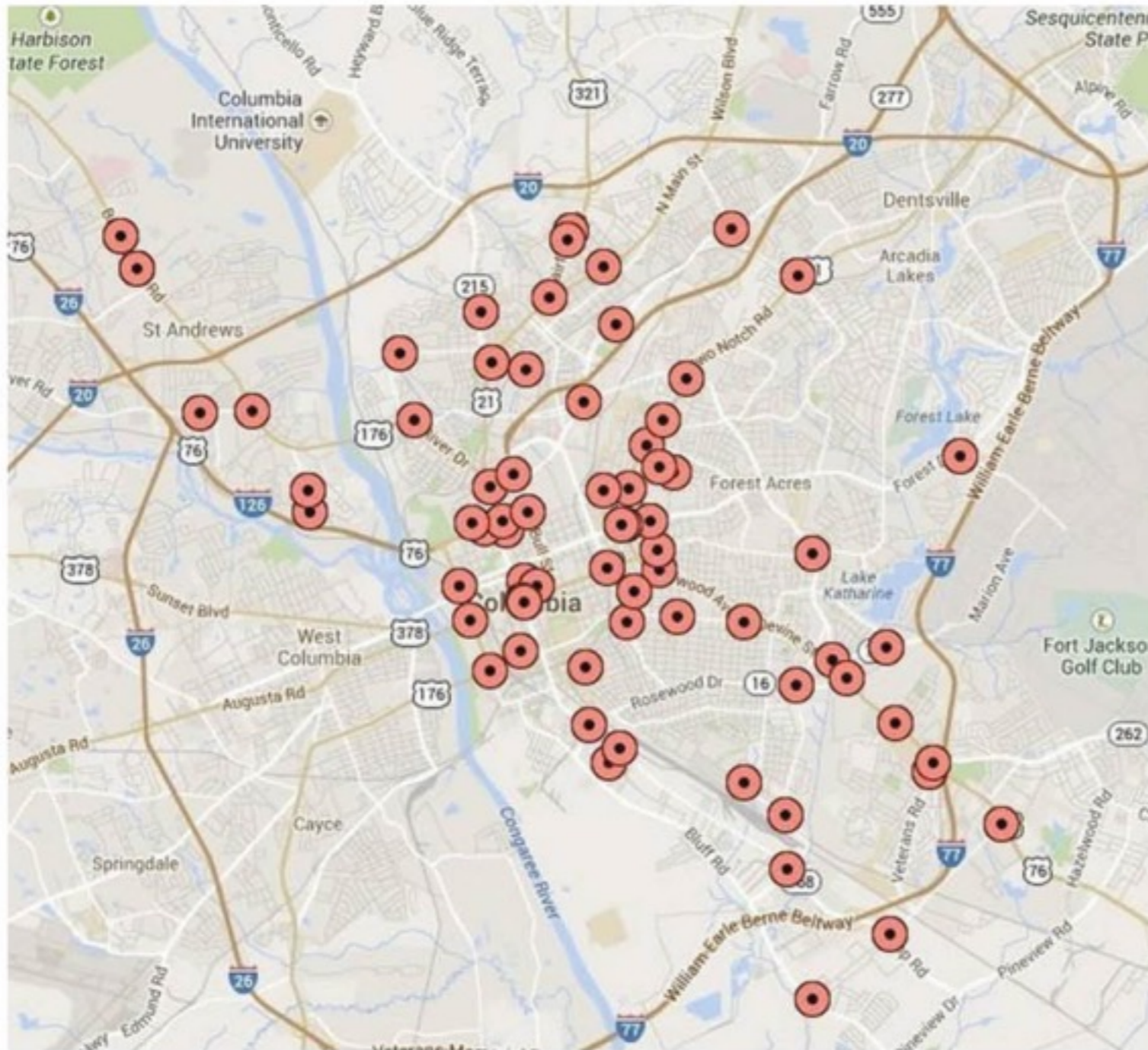
CPD has partnered with the Department of Corrections Division of Young Offender Parole and Re-entry Services (YOPRS) and Intensive Supervision Services (ISS) to establish geographic specific curfews for all offenders, ages 16-21, under supervision in the SCDOC program.

## **At-Risk Youth Engagement Initiatives**

CPD participates in Operation RISK (Rescuing Inner City Students and Kids) which emphasizes the importance of making right decisions and the consequences of bad choices, behavior, and criminal activity. Youth participants are under the watchful care and supervision of CPD Officers. Upon program completion, CPD maintains contact with participants and their families to further aid in the youth's overall positive development. To date, Operation RISK has served approximately 300 youth throughout South Carolina. Operation RISK has recently partnered with "Doing It 4 the Hood," a national organization that is committed to facilitating a strong follow-up and therapeutic solution to troubled youth and their families. As a result of the partnership, Operation RISK has gained national recognition for its work and services to aid youngsters.



## EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY



### Security Camera Network Expansion throughout City

In August 2014, CPD announced a plan to install an additional 100 security cameras in various locations throughout the city as part of a comprehensive strategy to deter and solve crime. The locations of these additional cameras were chosen based on current crime data with a focus on placement in and around thoroughfares within the city.



## **Body-Worn Camera Pilot Project in Entertainment Districts**

Supplemental to the expansion of the fixed security camera network throughout the city, twelve Columbia Police Officers on foot patrol in the city's entertainment districts were equipped with body-worn cameras as part of a pilot program to test the use and effectiveness of the cameras before department wide implementation.

## **Enhancing Officer Safety and Efficiency**

In an effort to further increase transparency and accountability, Chief Holbrook worked with city council to obtain funding for much needed new equipment for Columbia Police Officers. As a result, radio equipment and in-car camera systems will be installed in 33 new CPD vehicles. The digital in-car camera systems include both rear and forward facing color cameras, wireless microphones and covert backseat microphones and software. New Motorola radio equipment was also obtained for the new vehicles. GPS tracking units were also placed on a number of Department vehicles to evaluate how officers use their time, including how long they spend on calls for service. Funding for a number of bulletproof vests was allocated to ensure the vests reaching the end of service life cycles could be replaced.

# ACTING AS GUARDIANS OF OUR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

## Assisting Columbia's Elderly (ACE) Program

The Assisting Columbia's Elderly (ACE) Program serves as an advocacy program for Columbia's senior citizens. CPD staff members work with other agencies to plan, research, and coordinate services that promote lifelong dignity and independence for the people ACE serves. ACE assists seniors with home visits and welfare checks, provides transportation to doctor appointments or church events, purchases food and other necessities and is often a shoulder to lean on in times of loneliness. The Unit, along with a CPD Chaplain, also coordinates visitation to numerous CPD retirees and their widows. ACE educates seniors about crime prevention, bank and telephone fraud, and medical scams. Seniors also benefit from CPD's Annual Fan the Heat Program, which provides fans and air conditioning units to qualified recipients during the summer months. During the 2014 calendar year, the ACE Unit made 952 home visits, 825 transports and 882 telephone contacts.



## The Explorers Post (EP)

The EP is dedicated to the success, training, and overall aptitude of youth. The program consists of young adults between the ages of 14 and 20 pursuing a law enforcement career, and provides participants with leadership training, mental discipline and focus strategies, team building skills, physical fitness training and real-life training skills. The Explorers Post is a fully chartered member of the Boy Scouts of America and is operated by fully certified law enforcement officers at CPD, who are responsible for training, evaluating, and recruiting qualified youth into the program. Explorers assist the community at food drives, homeless shelters, charity events, youth mentoring summits and extra-curricular activities. Several CPD Officers successfully completed the Explorers program and went on to become patrolmen and women, Corporals, Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains and Deputy Chiefs.



## School Resource Officer Unit

The Columbia Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit is comprised of 10 officers who are assigned to various schools within the City of Columbia, including: Logan Elementary, Rhame Elementary, W.A. Perry Middle, Alcorn Middle, Hand Middle, Gibbes Middle, Eau Claire High, C.A. Johnson High and Dreher High. The SROs develop positive relationships with the City's youth and work to build mutual trust and respect between students and the community.

# GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

## Fan the Heat

This annual spring-summer program was established to provide fans and air conditioning units to senior citizens, residents with health concerns or disabilities, and children during the sweltering summer months. CPD Officers and citizens donate the fans and AC units. 74 fans and 50 air conditioning units were collected and distributed during 2014 Fan the Heat.



## Shop with a Cop

This annual holiday event provides donated Christmas gifts to children in need, from the City's nine (9) public schools. The children, ranging in age from 6-18 years-old, are chosen as gift recipients because of their outstanding academic achievements at school, as well as good citizenship, despite hardships at home. In 2014, CPD was able to provide 18 children with Christmas gifts.

## Stuff-A-Bus

This event is a partnership with Wal-Mart, Inc. WLTX and the Salvation Army to generate Christmas toys for needy children in the City of Columbia and surrounding areas. Police Officers raise donations from the public and fill the gifts on a large bus for distribution.

## Delta Sigma Theta Partnership

This new partnership with the sorority's Richland County Chapter raises charitable funds for high school scholarships for aspiring young women. The collaboration seeks to improve communities through education, benevolence, fellowship and service. In 2014, approximately \$15,000 in scholarships were awarded to 11 students.

# RECOGNITION OF EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE

The Columbia Police Department is proud to have a 'Chief's Roundtable Committee' to help address concerns, as well as to highlight achievement and outstanding performance within the Department. The Committee was tasked with making selections for the 2014 Awards Ceremony. As a result, several officers and civilians received the following accolades:

## Officer of the Year – Officer Joseph Czeladko



Officer Czeladko has served with the Columbia Police Department for over 3 years. He is currently assigned to the Community Response (CRT) and Proactive Community Enforcement (PACE) Units in the City's Metro Region. In April 2014, he responded to a civil disturbance and after carefully investigating, was able to seize approximately three pounds of marijuana and arrest the suspect. Officer Czeladko has also worked long hours in order to help reduce the number of property crimes in the downtown area. Due to his tireless efforts, Czeladko was instrumental in decreasing the number of property crime incidents, specifically auto break-ins.



## **Rookie of the Year – Officer Jason Van Valkenburgh**



Officer Jason Van Valkenburgh joined the Columbia Police Department in January 2014 and is currently assigned to the West Region's Harbison area, which encompasses the Harbison hospitality district. While on proactive patrol, Van Valkenburgh's efforts have yielded valuable tips and information, resulting in multiple drug and weapons arrests. In August of 2014, Officer Van Valkenburgh successfully located, pursued and captured a suspect and alleged accomplice who were involved in a multi-jurisdictional violent crime spree. Last October, as a direct result of a tip from his community contacts, Officer Van Valkenburgh arrested two suspects--seizing more than 2 pounds of marijuana, several handguns and more than \$1,000 in cash. Officer Van Valkenburgh has distinguished himself as a true asset to the Columbia Police Department and the citizens he serves.

## **Civilian of the Year – Tracey Dixon**



Tracey Dixon began her career with the Columbia Police Department in 1997. Her first positions were with the Telephone Response and Records Units. In April of 2000, Dixon was transferred to the Evidence/Property Unit. Currently, she serves as Administrative Assistant to the Internal Affairs Unit.

Dixon treats everyone with respect. She is a valuable asset to the Department and her commitment to excellence can serve as a model to all CPD employees. In recognition of her diligence and dedication, Dixon received the Columbia Police Department's Civilian of the Year Award in 2014.

## **Medal of Valor Award – Officer Timothy Silliman**



On June 19, 2014, Officer Timothy Silliman responded to a structure fire at the address of 737 Rosedale Arch. Upon arriving on the scene, Officer Silliman was informed that there were individuals trapped inside the structure. Without regard for his own safety, Officer Silliman immediately went to the rear of the burning residence to locate the victims. Silliman located an elderly couple trapped inside the home who had become disoriented from the smoke and fire. Officer Silliman extracted the elderly female from the residence and carried her to safety while also guiding the elderly gentleman to a safe location. Officer Timothy Silliman began his career with the Columbia Police Department in 2013.



## LIFE SAVING AWARDS – MPO MATTHEW BASKINS AND MPO KYLE KENT



**Master Police Officer (MPO) Matthew Baskins** has served with the Columbia Police Department for 8 years. He is presently assigned to the North Region B Squad. On January 25, 2014, Baskins and Kent were involved in a foot pursuit of a shoplifter at the Wal-Mart located at 1326 Bush River Road. The suspected shoplifter ran approximately 50 yards into a culvert. Due to exhaustion and the frigid water temperature, the suspect began to go down and take in water. Baskins and Kent recognized the urgency to extract this individual from the water and immediately took action, apprehending him, and saving the individual's life as well. The actions taken by Baskins and Kent reflect positively on themselves, the North Region and the Columbia Police Department. MPO Kyle J. Kent began his service with the Columbia Police Department in 2010 and is also assigned to the North Region B Squad.

## Jo Ann Lewis Service Award – William "Bill" Buffington



**William "Bill" L. Buffington** has served the Columbia Police Department for thirty-three (33) years. He entered the Department in 1981 and ultimately rose to the rank of Master Police Officer. Bill was well known by his peers for his ability to get the job done. He has trained many police officers through the Field Training Program. After twenty-five (25) years of service as a uniformed member of the Department, MPO Buffington holstered his weapon and framed his badge, retiring in February of 2006. In March of 2006, Bill was rehired as a civilian in the Columbia Police Department and assigned to the Telephone Response Unit, providing the upmost customer service to every individual that entered Headquarters. Bill was then transferred to the Evidence/Property Unit in 2009. In 2011, Bill was asked to apply his outstanding work ethic to maintain the day to day operations of the Supply Unit. Bill currently holds steady in the Supply Unit and each day shows up eager to work and ready to face new challenges with a smile on his face. His integrity, dedication and drive for excellence during his career have made him an irreplaceable member of the Columbia Police Department.



## Civic Achievement Award – Community Safety Officer Tamara A. Kelly



**Community Safety Officer (CSO) Tamara A. Kelly** has served the Columbia Police Department for over twelve years. During her years of service, CSO Kelly has served the Department in a multitude of roles as a Community Safety Officer but none more important than her current assignment mentoring community children. CSO Kelly has always served the Department and the citizens of Columbia with a high level of enthusiasm, integrity, and sense of purpose. The Columbia Police Department Civic Achievement Award is bestowed on an employee who has achieved recognition from civic or professional organization for outstanding performance. In 2014, CSO Kelly twice received such recognition for her work with the Youth Safe Haven. She received the Mungo Foundation Community Builder's Award and was also recognized as a City Light by City Manager Teresa Wilson during a City Council meeting on August 19, 2014. CSO Kelly is assigned to work with the Youth Safe Haven program located at the Hammond Village Apartment complex, where she mentors as many as thirty children a day.

## Good Conduct Awards



**Community Safety Officer (CSO) Cynthia E. Chatman** has served the Columbia Police Department for over 12 years. During her career, she has served the Department in a variety of roles performing such duties as school crossing guard, fixed post security and high visibility neighborhood patrols. CSO Chatman has always served the Department and the citizens of Columbia with a high level of enthusiasm, integrity, and sense of purpose. This year CSO Chatman received recognition for exemplary service from United States Congressman James E. Clyburn for her work at her assigned duty location of 1225 Lady Street. At that location, CSO Chatman is responsible for the security of the facility as well as for the employees and visitors of the building. The building houses the Congressman Clyburn's Columbia office and several city government offices. CSO Chatman always conducts herself in a friendly and professional manner. CSO Chatman's dedicated service and positive attitude during her career have made her a valuable asset to the community and the Columbia Police Department.





**Community Safety Officer (CSO) Maria Ragin** has served the Columbia Police Department since 2006. Over the years CSO Ragin has served the Department in a variety of roles, performing such duties as school crossing guard, fixed post security and high visibility neighborhood patrols. CSO Ragin is assigned to work in the northern neighborhoods of Columbia where she patrols six neighborhoods. CSO Ragin has also demonstrated herself to be a team player by filling in for other CSOs needing leave time and always being willing to help out with covering assignments, often with little or no advance notice. She frequently volunteers to work on holidays when it can be difficult to find others willing to work. All of the other CSOs know that they can rely on CSO Ragin for assistance.



**Captain Kellie Yates** has exhibited exemplary performance and good morale throughout the year. Captain Yates is the epitome of discipline. She offers several years of experience to the Columbia Police Department and her uniform is always worn with pride. She regularly stops to assist distressed motorists throughout the city. Her work ethic is second to none. Captain Yates goes above and beyond what is expected of her without being asked or ordered to do so. Captain Yates lives our core values and is a leader within the Columbia Police Department. She continually strives for excellence and has made selfless contributions to the Department throughout 2014.



## Community Service Awards



**MPO Jesse M. Johnson** has served with the Columbia Police Department for over eight years. In June of 2006, Jesse M. Johnson graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy with Highest Honors and received the J.P. Strom Award for highest cumulative academic score. MPO Johnson was assigned to South Region patrol for three years before becoming a school resource officer in 2009. MPO Johnson has completed SRO, Advanced SRO and Active Shooter courses and is a certified DARE and GREAT instructor. In the summer of 2011, MPO Johnson created the Safe in the City Summer Program and has been vital to its success every year since then. This program was designed to raise community awareness and teach youth about important topics such as bullying, internet safety, health and fitness and drug and substance abuse. The program also incorporates components on road and pedestrian safety as well as stranger danger. This past summer, MPO Johnson was responsible for facilitating a workshop on internet safety aimed at children from five to twelve

years of age. He created an educational and engaging power point presentation that included videos, quizzes and handouts. Every week he visited one city park and discussed the potential dangers on the internet, ways to stay safe online and how to use technology responsibly. Every May, MPO Johnson serves as a camp counselor at Camp Outstanding Kids in Aiken, South Carolina. This camp hosts students who would otherwise never get an opportunity to experience summer camp. The camp is supported by the Columbia East Rotary Club and students participate in activities such as hiking, swimming, arts and crafts and team building courses.

**Officer J. Krieger** has distinguished himself within his community by volunteering his personal time as a substitute teach at Trinity Classical Academy located in Beaufort SC. Officer J. Krieger rendered service to high school level students by offering mentorship while simultaneously filling a much needed teacher vacancy. Officer J. Krieger showed a willingness to teach a multitude of high school level subjects while displaying exceptional acts of kindness by refusing to accept any benefit or monetary compensation for this service. Often, Officer J Krieger would render this service after working a 12 hour night shift at the Columbia Police Department. These selfless acts extend far above and beyond the scope of Officer J. Krieger's assigned duties while showing compassion to teach our nation's youth. Officer J. Krieger's acts of kindness, mentorship, leadership, and dedication bring great credit to himself and the entire Columbia Police Department. Officer J. Krieger's volunteerism represents the fundamentals of community service. Officer J. Krieger's drive for excellence and selfless contributions to the community throughout the year has distinguished him as a true asset to our community and the Columbia Police Department.





**Officer Antonio Sessions** was hired by the Columbia Police Department in February 2014. He is assigned to the Broad River Corridor of the West Region. On his own initiative, Officer Sessions began making contact with property managers at various apartment complexes to build a working relationship with them. Officer Sessions contacted the property manager at Brook Pines Apartments to express his interest in starting up a Youth Program within the complex. This program would be aimed at building trust with the children as well as educating them about public safety. Officer Sessions put together several flyers and pamphlets to distribute to the community members young and old. He has had several meetings with residents about activities in and around the complex. Officer Sessions has reached out to the other apartment communities within the region in an effort to replicate this initiative. All of this will ultimately reduce the crime in the West Region and will also help build a working relationship between community members and all police officers that they encounter on day to day basis.

## Criminal Justice Academy Awards

In 2014, every officer hired by the Columbia Police Department passed the 12-week basic law enforcement training sessions at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. Several officers received special recognition for their hard work:

**Officer Robert Henry** won the *J.P. Strom Award* as the top academic performer in his Basic Academy Class.

**Officer David Hellman** was recognized as a *Distinguished Graduate* in his Basic Academy Class; this award is presented to students who maintain an academic average of 95% or higher on all written testing.

**Officer William Wells** won the *Physical Fitness Award* in his Basic Academy Class for maintaining the top scores on all physical fitness testing.

Officer Robert Henry received the *J.P. Strom Award* as the top academic performer in his Basic Academy Class





## 2014 RETIREES



**Sandra Thomas** - February 14

**David Stapleton** - May 23

**Brian Carroll** - June 6

**David Arnold** - June 19

**Leon Sealey** - June 19

**David Ouellette** - June 30

**Alton Eargle** - August 1

**Robert Smith** - August 1

**Geraldine Steedley** - August 1

**Shannon Williams** - August 29

**Andre Williams** - August 29

**Jerry Brown** - October 15

**Rosemary Byrd** - October 21

**Paul Mead** - November 29



# YEARS OF SERVICE PINS

## 25 Years

Tim Holbrook

## 20 Years

Pamela Gibson

Mary Holmes

Janice Pitts

George Wise

## 15 Years

Michael Blair

Crystal Brown

Nole Dow

Joseph Edwards

James Fisher

David Goodwin, Jr.

Melron Kelly

Shannon McKellar

Felicia Prince-Heath

William Scott

Torrey Smalls

Jonathan VanHouten

Stacey Walker

Kellie Yates

## 10 Years

Lawrence Mattier

Robert Uhall

Lance Reeves

Verna York

Robert Webb

Christopher Morris

Paul Robinson

Myron Sims

Ryan McIntyre

Daniel Wesley

Charles McNeill





## 5 Years

Scott Desrochers

Daniel Weiler

Kyle Gilbert

Anthony Viehweg

Jason Gilbert

Christopher Blackwell

William Mays

Michael Harlan

Justin Poage

Kevin Rinehart

Joshua Hardin

George Key

Andrew Richbourg

James Thorpe, Jr.

Nicholas Sexton

Kevin Schmidt

Harry Bodiford

Christopher Eunice

Gregory Shropshire

Adam Champion

Anthony Gentile

Marc Ryan









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We Are Columbia

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