



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



# COLUMBIA, SC



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## MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

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**STEPHEN K. BENJAMIN**

Mayor

**SAM DAVIS**

District I Councilman

**TAMEIKA ISAAC DEVINE**

At-Large Councilwoman

**HOWARD E. DUVALL, JR.**

At-Large Councilman

**EDWARD H. MCDOWELL, JR.**

District II Councilman

**WILL BRENNAN**

District III Councilman

**DANIEL RICKENMANN**

District IV Councilman

## CITY MANAGER & EXECUTIVE TEAM

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**TERESA WILSON**

City Manager

**MELISSA S. GENTRY**

Assistant City Manager

**JEFF PALEN**

Assistant City Manager/  
Chief Financial Officer

**CLINT SHEALY**

Assistant City Manager

**HENRY SIMONS**

Assistant City Manager

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



It is my pleasure to present to you the 2019 Columbia Police Department annual report. Each year we take time to reflect on what we have achieved and accomplished as an organization.

Much like previous years, our focus remains on organizational transformation, accountability, recruitment, retention and strengthening community partnerships.

We have seen great advancements in our profession over the last 5 years. The Columbia Police Department has been at the forefront of many of the advancements, some of which are highlighted in this report. We are committed to exploring opportunities to improve service delivery, while maintaining the highest of professional standards.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Police Chief.

William H. "Skip" Holbrook  
Chief of Police

# MISSION

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

# VISION

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

# CORE VALUES

PROFESSIONALISM

FAIRNESS

INTEGRITY

COURAGE

DIVERSITY

COLLABORATION

SERVICE ORIENTATION

COMMUNICATION

## ABOUT CPD

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The Columbia Police Department (CPD) is firmly committed to providing professional police services to residents, visitors and businesses. Officers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to protect life and property within city limits. They are responsible for responding to calls for service, investigating criminal activity and traffic collisions, apprehending suspects and more. The organizational structure of the department is divided into four bureaus and five patrol regions.



**436**

AUTHORIZED  
SWORN STRENGTH



**125**

AUTHORIZED  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF



**\$47,576,521**

ANNUAL BUDGET



**\$4,273,292.88**

GRANT FUNDS MANAGED

# EXECUTIVE STAFF



CHIEF W. H. "SKIP" HOLBROOK



DEPUTY CHIEF MELRON KELLY



MAJOR RANDY MARTIN



MAJOR RICK HINES



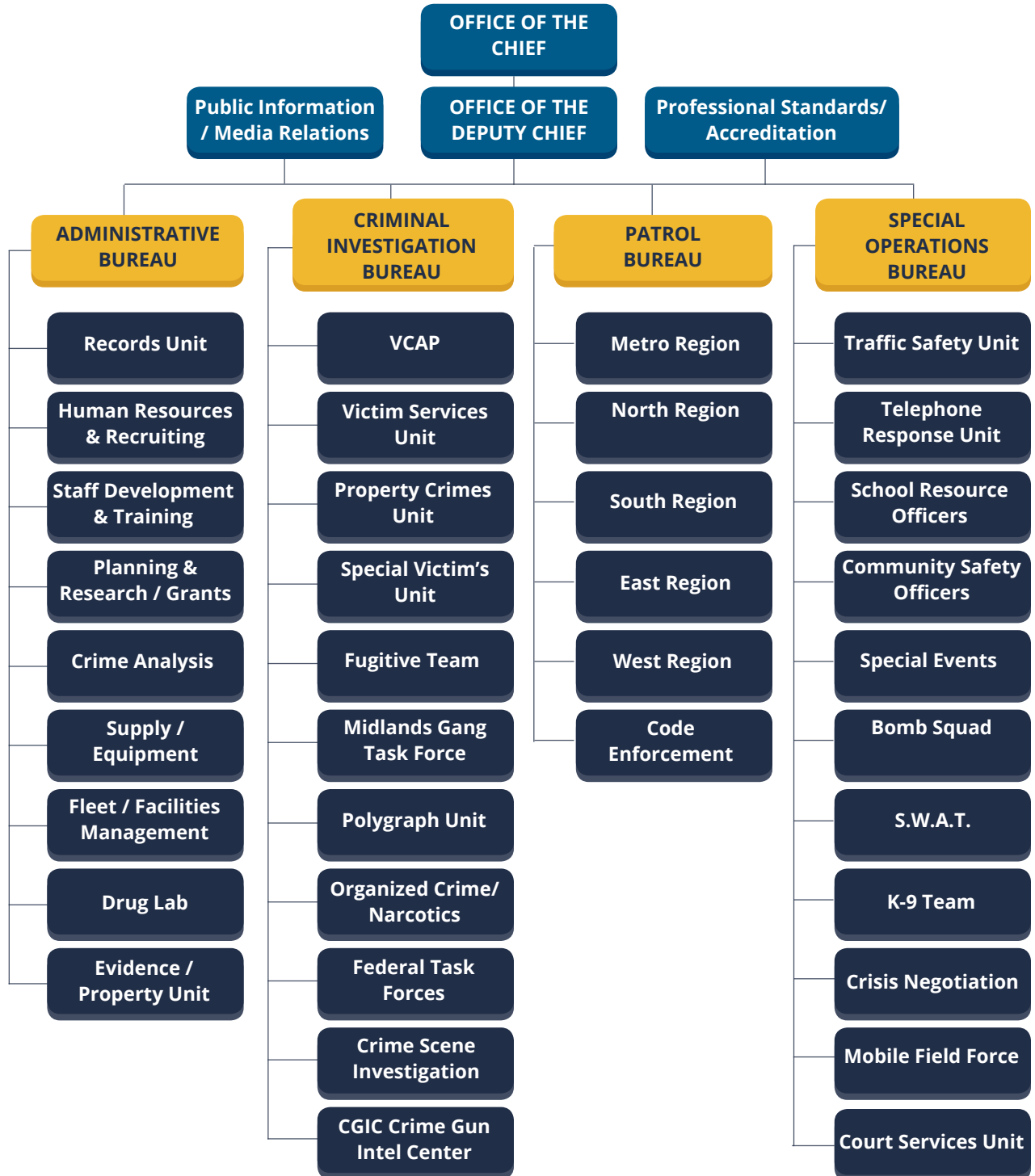
MAJOR DANA OREE



MAJOR GEORGE DRAFTS



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# 2019 CPD DEMOGRAPHICS



## SWORN OFFICERS BY RACE/GENDER

RACE / GENDER	TOTALS	%
African American Female	29	8.03%
African American Male	94	26.04%
Asian Female	1	0.28%
Asian Male	1	0.28%
Hispanic Female	4	1.11%
Hispanic Male	7	1.94%
Native American Indian	1	0.28%
Other Female	2	0.55%
Other Male	5	1.39%
White Female	26	7.20%
White Male	191	52.91%

## 2019 AT- A-GLANCE

At- A - Glance	2018	2019	↑↓	Incident Change +/-	Incident Change %
Homicide	16	25	↑	+9	+56.2%
Rape*	104	92	↓	-12	-11.5%
Robbery	248	220	↓	-28	-11.2%
Aggravated Assaults*	729	726	↓	-3	-4%
Burglary	1,042	919	↓	-130	-12.4%
Larceny* Autobreaking included	5,169	5,254	↑	+85	+1.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	805	819	↑	+14	+1.7%
Arrests	6,641	6,496	↓	-145	-2.1%
Calls for Service	175,037	178,500	↑	+3,463	+1.9%
Miles Driven	4,435,316	4,379,588	↓	-55,728	+1.2%
Firearms Seized	656	888	↑	+232	+35.3%
<b>TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>1,063</b>	↓	<b>-34</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES</b>	<b>7,016</b>	<b>6,992</b>	↓	<b>-24</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>CRIME TOTALS</b>	<b>8,113</b>	<b>7,739</b>	↓	<b>-374</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>

\*Firearms seizures are noticeably higher due to the on-boarding of ShotSpotter Technology. This has played a significant part in the increase of gun seizures and arrests.

\*Rape - includes all attempts/completions of the following: Rape, Sodomy, Rape w/ Object

\*Aggravated Assaults are reported by the number of victims.

\*Larceny - includes all attempts/completions of Pocket Picking, Purse Snatching, Shoplifting, Theft from Building, Theft from Coin Operated Machine/Device, Theft from Motor Vehicle, Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/ Accessories, All Other Larceny

\*Data pulled from RMS and is subject to change following validations for FBI Uniformed Crime Reporting purposes.

\*Data based on number of incidents and number of calls/responses may vary.



**PATROL BUREAU**

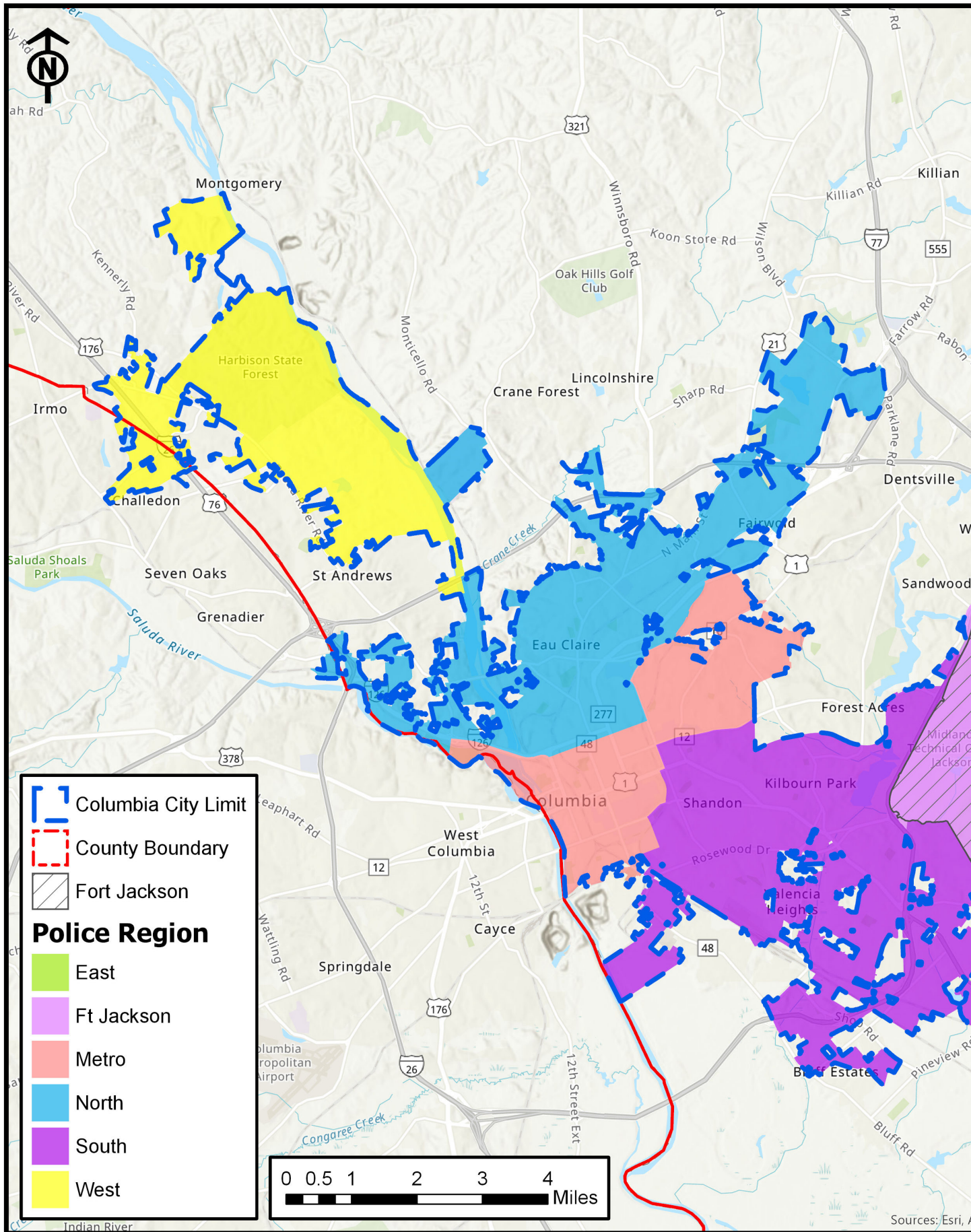
# PATROL BUREAU

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The primary objective of the Patrol Bureau is to provide prompt professional service to the City of Columbia's residents and visitors. Working cooperatively with the communities they serve, the Patrol Bureau strives to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime through a problem solving partnership. Maintaining a 24 hour a day /seven day a week presence, the Patrol Bureau is the most visible and recognizable part of the department.

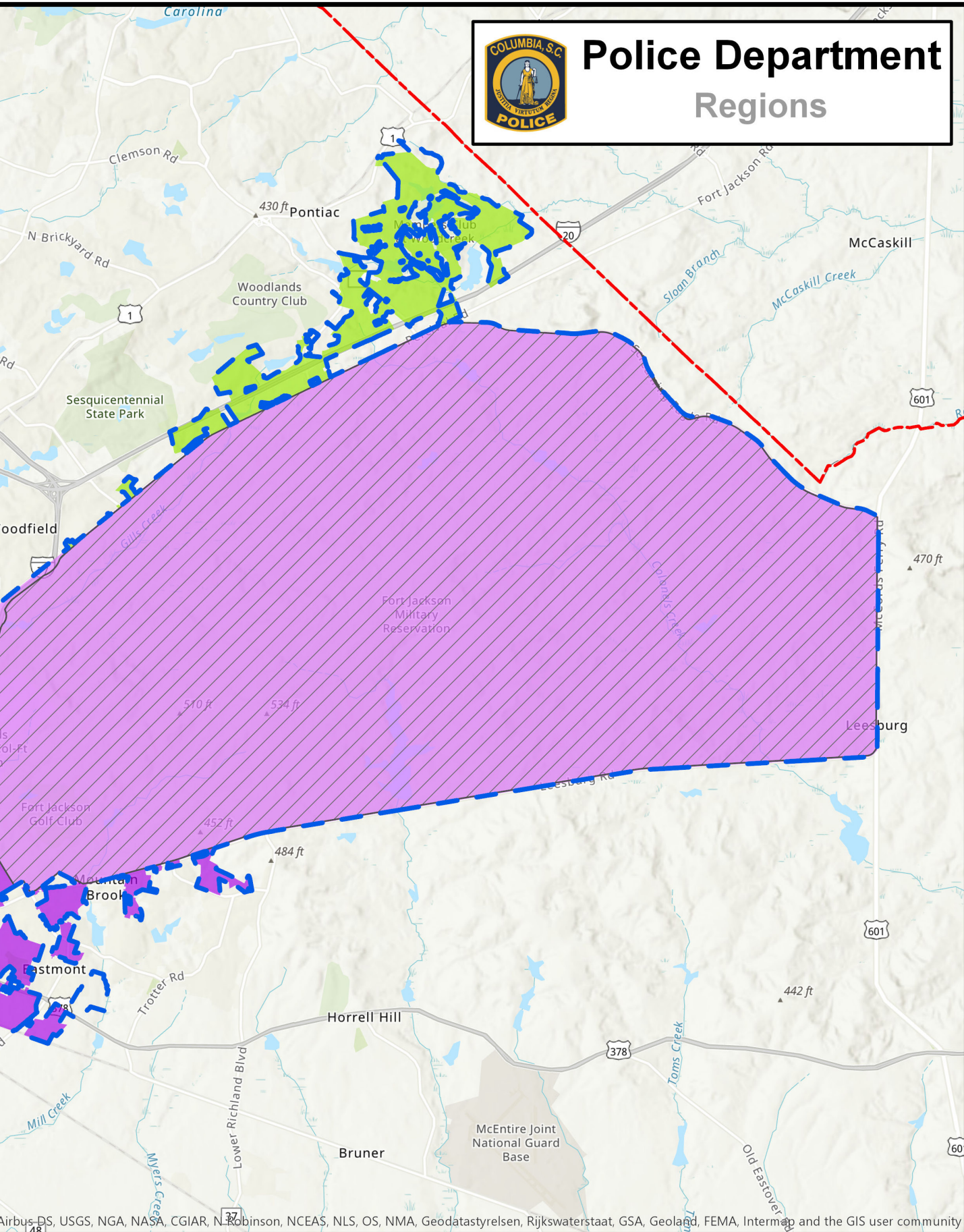


*(L-R) Officers Williamson, Robinson & Brewer*





# Police Department Regions



Airbus-DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N. Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community



## North Region – District I

**Address:** 3905 Ensor Avenue  
Columbia, SC 29203  
**Phone:** (803) 401-8810



## West Region – District I

**Address:** 690 Club Road  
Columbia, SC 29212  
**Phone:** (803) 749-5830



## Metro Region – District II

**Address:** 1800 Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
**Phone:** (803) 545-3972



## South Region – District III

**Address:** 2132 Devine Street  
Columbia, SC 29205  
**Phone:** (803) 737-5880



## East Region – District IV

**Address:** 446 Spears Creek Church Road  
Columbia, SC 29045  
**Phone:** (803) 788-3018



Regional Statistics	2018	2019
Calls for Service	175,037	178,500
Home visits for youthful and juvenile offenders	1,199	1,333
Community Meetings	476	330
Coffee with a Cop	25	24
Front Porch Roll Call	216	187
Handle with Care Notifications	202	207



*(L-R) Officers McCombs, Walls, Owens-Riley & Inv. Fisher*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



*BARBER SHOP TALK*



*FRONT PORCH ROLL CALL IN METRO REGION*



*COCOA WITH A COP at RICHLAND LIBRARY (special version of Coffee with a Cop for children visiting the library)*

## FRONT PORCH ROLL CALL

Through the Front Porch Roll Call program, police squads host pre-shift roll calls at a home in the neighborhoods where the squads patrol. Anyone in the community can request that a shift roll call be held at their residence or business. These interactions have been invaluable for fostering understanding and collaboration between the community and the officers who serve them.

## COFFEE WITH A COP

Coffee with a Cop brings police officers and the community members they serve together—over coffee—to discuss concerns and learn more about each other.

## HOME VISITS

Region officers visit offenders (juvenile and adults, youthful offenders on probation, parole or home conditions) to verify whereabouts nightly.

## HANDLE WITH CARE

In partnership with area schools, the Handle with Care (HWC) initiative promotes safe and supportive homes, schools and communities that protect and help traumatized children heal and thrive.

The goal of the HWC Initiative is to prevent children's exposure to trauma and violence, mitigate negative affects experienced by children's exposure to trauma, and to increase knowledge and awareness of this issue.

If a law enforcement officer encounters a child during a call for service, that child's name and a description of the incident are forwarded to the school/child care agency before the school bell rings the next day using the HANDLE WITH CARE form,

The school implements individual, class and whole school trauma-sensitive curricula so that traumatized children are handled with care.

## OPERATION REAL TIME

A federal case priority adoption program in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), immediately removes a violent offender from the community at the point of arrest. CPD has a prescreened priority offender list for all of the officers to reference it in the field. If an offender is caught with a gun, accelerated federal charges with immediate custody/detainer will be applied.

## BIKE PATROL UNIT



In 2016, Chief Holbrook improved the Columbia Police Department's Bike Patrol Unit by providing cross-training for police officers on the on Cannondale mountain patrol bikes. Aside from participating in parades and festivals and other special events around the City of Columbia, the Bike Patrol Unit helps reduce and prevent crime. Officers can maneuver the mountain bikes in places where patrol vehicles cannot traditionally navigate. The bikes are outfitted with police lights and a cycle siren. In addition, Bike Unit officers wear a bike uniform and necessary safety gear to include a helmet and gloves. The Bike Unit includes a coordinator and three instructors. Bike Unit officers are required to take 40-hours of training.

**40** *IPMBA/LEEBA  
Certified Officers*

**30** *Cannondale 29  
Patrol Bikes*

**8** *Specialized  
Rockhopper  
Training Bikes*

**6** *Events*

## CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Code Enforcement Division finished 2019 with a nearly 6% increase in the total number of cases started the previous year. The division continues to average a 67% resolution rate. There was an 81% increase in Mosquito cases and 55% increase with commercial structure cases that were started. The Rental Property Permit cases had a 53% decrease, however, the division reached a record amount of registered rental units in 2019. At the end of 2019, there were approximately 25,000 registered rental units in the city of Columbia.

The Vacant Building Registration Ordinance was passed by Columbia City Council in 2019 and the goal is to have it fully implemented by mid-2020 with nearly 2,000 registered vacant buildings.

Neighborhood Improvement Sweeps are still being conducted with the goal of completing them bimonthly. In 2019, at the direction of the city's Community Development Department, and as requested by city neighborhood leaders, the division conducted nine Neighborhood Improvement Sweeps with coordination across several city departments involved with daily quality of life issues.

**67%**

*resolution rate*

**↑ 81%**

*Mosquito cases*

**↓ 53%**

*Property Permit cases*

**25,000**

*registered rental units*

**2,000**

*registered vacant buildings*

## Highlights/Accomplishments

### *Demolition Grant*

The Code Enforcement Division was awarded a grant from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$322,647 for the demolition and removal of substandard structures across the city in 2018. The grant funding has been used to complete the demolition of 34 substandard structures in 2019.

### *Vacant Building Registration*

A new ordinance was passed by Columbia City Council that gives the Code Enforcement Division another tool to deal with blight and substandard properties in the city. The ordinance a building to be registered with the city if it is vacant for more than 120 days. There are fees associated with each registration and all buildings need to be inspected by Code Enforcement staff. The objectives for this ordinance are as follows:

- *Identify vacant properties in the city of Columbia*
- *Establish a local point of contact to address issues with vacant properties*
- *Create a mechanism for holding property owners accountable*
- *Discourage long-term vacancies*
- *Reduce blight and crime in the city*

## 2019 Stats

VIOLATION TYPE	QTY STARTED	QTY RESOLVED	RESOLVE RATE
Abandoned/Derelict Vehicles - Private Property	1,233	876	71%
Abandoned/Derelict Vehicles - ROW	250	226	90%
Accessory Structure	191	96	50%
Commercial Boarded Building	21	5	24%
Commercial Demolition	7	1	14%
Commercial Premise	617	428	69%
Commercial Structure	1,126	234	21%
Front Yard Parking	1,013	772	76%
Rental Property - No Permit	474	253	53%
Residential Boarded Building	44	11	25%
Residential Demolition	91	14	15%
Residential Premise	2,935	2,214	75%
Residential Structure	1,069	323	30%
Right of Way	463	402	87%
Roll Carts	1,358	1,275	94%
Vacant Lots	798	678	85%
Vector Control - Mosquitos	281	209	74%
Vector Control - Rodents	11	8	73%
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>11982</b>	<b>8025</b>	<b>67%</b>

**9** Neighborhood Improvement/Quality of Life Sweeps conducted

**17** Vector Control Areas treated three times for mosquito larva as part of the Mosquito Prevention Program

**38** unsecure structures boarded

**3,000+** waste tires collected from city streets/right of ways

**881** vacant lots and premises abated of overgrowth and debris

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

**1,217** abated work orders for cutting, removing trash and debris, and tire removal in the City tree zones and right of ways.

<b>CODE ENFORCEMENT STATS</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2st Qtr</b>	<b>3st Qtr</b>	<b>4st Qtr</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Code Cases Started	3,106	3,376	3,355	2,145	<b>11,982</b>
Resolution Rate	42%	45%	46%	48%	<b>67%</b>
<b>Rental Ordinance</b>					
New Permits Issued	335	203	231	204	<b>973</b>
Notices to Properties without Permits	183	98	147	46	<b>474</b>
Properties with Points	71	225	234	165	<b>695</b>
Number of Points Assessed	225	490	450	305	<b>1470</b>
Total Number of Boarded Structures	205	249	253	218	<b>925</b>
Neighborhood Improvement/ Quality of Life Sweeps	0	3	3	3	<b>9</b>



*Code Enforcement Officer applies building notification*



AIR SCIENCE USA

WARNING  
Do not touch the face of the detector or the air intake filter.

CAUTION  
Do not touch the face of the detector or the air intake filter.

CAUTION  
Do not touch the face of the detector or the air intake filter.

SERVICE REPORT  
TYPE OF SERVICE...  
DATE OF SERVICE...  
BY...  
AIR SCIENCE USA

# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU

The Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) is primarily tasked with following leads developed during the initial reporting of serious criminal activity. Investigators are available 24 hours a day to respond to the scene of criminal activity and needs of crime victims. CIB is comprised of 12 units.

## Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSI)

Responsible for the preservation, documentation, collection and analysis of evidence from crime scenes.

CSI Statistics	2018	2019
Crime Scenes Processed	650	852
Firearm eTraces (Electronic Tracing System) Performed	224	501
Forensic Requests	381	139
Analyzed AFIS Prints	448 analyzed cases. Match rate 13%	776 prints (Average Match Rate: 23%)



*Career Day 2019*

## Midlands Gang Task Force (MGTF)

This unit is comprised of police officers from the Columbia Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Department, University of South Carolina Department of Law Enforcement and Safety, the SC Department of Corrections, Forest Acres Police Department, and the 5th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

<b>MGTF Statistics</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Arrests	213	184
Arrest Warrants Signed	219	161
Arrests Warrants Served	128	241
Cases Assigned	221	347
Gang Awareness Training Courses	21	45
Firearms Seized	115	113
Narcotics Seized	416 MDMA 35,237 grams Crack 23,324 grams Cocaine 1 gram Meth 11,320 grams Marijuana	4 MDMA 9 grams Crack 104 grams Cocaine 161 grams Meth 6,446 grams Marijuana
Gang Validations	53	90

## Fugitive Team

Responsible for tracking, locating and apprehending wanted suspects through intelligence gathering and covert surveillance.

<b>Fugitive Team Statistics</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Arrests	248	211
Arrests Warrants Served	414	359



## Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) / Joint Terrorism Task Force

FBI Violent Crime Task Force TFOs and FBI agents monitor persons known to be involved or associated with foreign or domestic (home grown extremist) terrorist groups or organizations. In addition, they are responsible for providing intelligence reports to law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and national level regarding potential threats.

### Significant arrests in 2018:

- Arrest of two members of the Morrish Nationals Movement regarding financial schemes.
- Assisted Baltimore FBI with interviews which resulted in arrest of subject for terror plot.
- Assisted with surveillance and arrest of subject in bomb plot in SC.
- Four (4) Counterterrorism arrests

## Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) / Violent Crime Task Force

CPD TFOs work with FBI Agents to reduce violent crime by identifying and targeting violent persons and organizations, target human trafficking operations and prosecuting them through the federal court system.

Violent Crime Task Force Statistics	2019
Arrests	20
Firearms Seized	11
Drugs Seized	720g Cocaine 34g Crack Cocaine Over 5,000 fentanyl pills 8886 heroin pills (591 grams) 6080 pills of mixed heroin fentanyl

## United States Secret Service (USSS)

CPD TFOs work with Secret Service Agents to investigate cyber and financial crimes such as computer hacking and corporate embezzlement. TFOs also work with Secret Service Agents to identify persons involved in the production and distribution of counterfeit currency and merchandise. In addition, TFOs conduct forensic examinations of cell phones and computers involved in criminal cases.

<b>USSS Statistics</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total pieces of evidence submitted for electronic examination by CPD	90	107
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>81</b>

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

CPD TFOs work with ATF agents to reduce gun violence by identifying and targeting violent gun offenders and prosecuting them through the state and federal court system. TFOs and ATF agents also target persons involved in the illegal sale of firearms and ammunition throughout midlands area. In addition, TFOs conduct gun traces (E-Trace) and enter the seized firearms into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).

<b>ATF Task Force Statistics</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Cases submitted for federal Prosecution	28	36
Cases indicted & arrested on federal arrest warrants	21	30
Search Warrants	12	6

## Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

CPD TFOs work with DEA Agents to identify and target persons involved in the illegal distribution of narcotics and the diversion of prescription medications. TFOs also work with DEA Agents to monitor private practice doctors and pharmacists for prescription medication fraud.

DEA Statistics	2018	2019
Arrests	40	60
Currency Seized	\$1,365,071	\$640,211
Investigations	12	9

## United States Marshal Service (USMS)

CPD TFOs work with deputy US Marshals to locate and capture fugitives from all over the United States and its territories. TFOs and USMS Agents are also responsible for the extradition of prisoners from one jurisdiction to another and the transportation of prisoners for court appearances.

USMS Statistics	2018	2019
Fugitives Arrested	279	294
Extraditions	18	16

## Polygraph Unit

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

Polygraph Statistics	2018	2019
Tests Completed	123	83

## Organized Crime/Narcotics Unit (OCN)

Investigators assigned to the OCN unit work closely with State and Federal law enforcement agencies to disrupt and dismantle narcotics trafficking organizations, and arrest those involved in related drug violations.

OCN Statistics	2018	2019
Arrests	485	314
Heroin Seized	2,175g	798 g
Controlled Pills	1,609	1,132
Cocaine	214.9g	3,762 g
Currency	\$81,088	\$256,171
Firearms	62	70
Marijuana	34.59 lbs	39.79 lbs
Overdose Deaths	15	9
Overdose Survivals	18	6

## Special Victim's Unit (SVU)

Investigate allegations of Criminal Sexual Conduct, Child Abuse/ Neglect, Child Fatality, Indecent Exposure, Emergency Protective Custody, Missing Persons, Stalking/Harassment, Domestic Violence, Internet Crimes Against Children and Juveniles.

Special Victim's Unit Statistics	2018	2019
Criminal Sexual Conduct	125	109
Domestic Violence	550	575
Missing Persons	90	81
Indecent Exposure	32	25
Child Abuse	53	69
Child Pornography	17	3
<b>Total Assigned Cases</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>1,299</b>

## SVU Success Story

In the early morning hours of December 3, 2019, Special Victims Unit investigators responded to Prisma Health Children's Hospital Intensive Care Unit, after learning that a 3-month old infant had been brought the location with multiple unexplained, life threatening, traumatic injuries to include skull fractures and bleeding on the brain of the infant. SVU investigators collaborated with Crime Scene Investigators, Department of Social Services and Forensic Pediatric Medical personnel working through the night and following day to complete interviews, execute search warrants and collect evidence. After the execution of a search warrant on the victim's father's phone was executed and a forensic analysis performed, text messages were located on the defendant's phone in which he threatened to "kill" the infant while the victim was in his custody during the day leading up to his admittance into the hospital. After consultation with the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's office, the defendant was charged with Attempted Murder, apprehended with the assistance of the U.S. Marshals Task Force and given a \$750,000 surety bond. The victim was placed with a foster family by the Department of Social Services. The lead investigator visited the victim on a follow up medical appointment and the victim appeared to be healing from his plethora of injuries and happy.

## Property Crimes Unit (PCU)

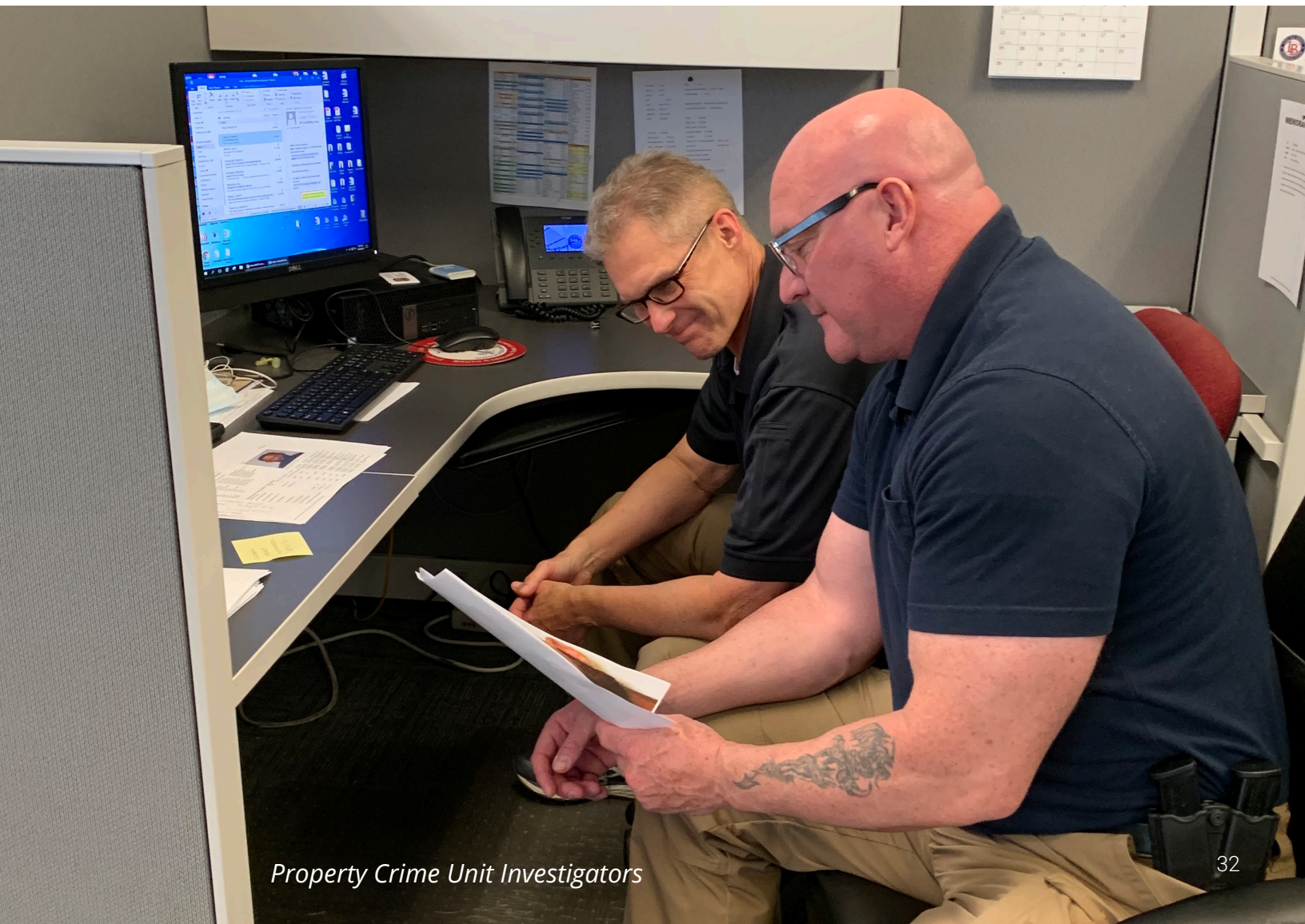
The Property Crime unit is responsible for the follow-up investigation of crimes against property. These include burglaries, stolen vehicles, car break-ins and a multitude of crimes related to theft, fraud and property damage.

PCU Assigned Cases	2018	2019
Burglary	1,042	624
Auto Breaking	785	869
GLMV	805	473
Financial Transaction Card Theft/Fraud, Bank Fraud, Forgery, Larceny (Grand and Petit), Vandalism, Identity Theft, Breach of Trust, Fail to Return Rentals, etc.	902	661
<b>Total Assigned Cases</b>	<b>3,097</b>	<b>2,627</b>

## Firearm Theft Incidents

Unlawful firearms pose a significant problem in the City of Columbia and our neighboring jurisdictions. In the City of Columbia, there were 307 firearms reported stolen in 2019. A total of 203 firearms or 66% were stolen from a vehicle and over half of those vehicles were left unsecured. There were 48 firearms stolen in 32 separate burglaries accounting for another 16%.

Firearm Theft Incidents	2019
Vehicles	66%
Larcenies	17%
Burglaries	16%
Robbery	1%





## PCU Success Story

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Beginning in late 2018 and continuing through September 2019, the Columbia Police Department, RCSD, LCSD and West Columbia began seeing a large increase in catalytic converter thefts from motor vehicles. In the City of Columbia alone, eighty-seven converters were reported stolen in forty-three separate reports. The theft total in the other county jurisdictions was comparative.

Property crime investigators from all jurisdictions began working together to identify the suspects in these cases. The cases proved very difficult to solve due to no witnesses, lack of forensic evidence and very limited or poor quality video. The majority of the thefts occurred in the early morning hours in un-populated parking lots. No discernible pattern or trend could be established due the large multi-jurisdiction area of where the thefts were taking place.

Investigators also tried to locate where the catalytic converters were being sold however LCSD were only able to locate a possible business of interest. The CPD Property Crimes Unit distributed multiple BOLO's and provided as much intelligence to patrol as possible. The total loss to victims exceeded \$1000,000.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 0245 at 1600 Park Circle, CPD officers along with Inv. K. Williamson responded to a catalytic converter theft in progress. Two suspects, who matched the description of other thefts, were subsequently arrested after fleeing from officers.

Inv. Williamson, along with other PCU investigators, spearheaded a two-month investigation. Eight CPD arrest warrants, two RCSD arrest warrants, and eleven (11) search warrants for vehicles, cellphones and social media platforms were served. Two homes were executed with search warrants resulting in the seizure of tools, documents and ammunition. A firearm recovered on the scene at Park Circle was NIBIN linked to Shot Spotter shooting incident in North Region and Aggravated Assault case in Lexington County. SLED results for DNA are still pending for the possibility of additional federal charges. The investigation resulted in three suspect arrests: Alexander Dickerson, Justin Mcalphine and Briana Snyder.

Since the arrests, catalytic converter thefts have reduced significantly in the City of Columbia jurisdiction.

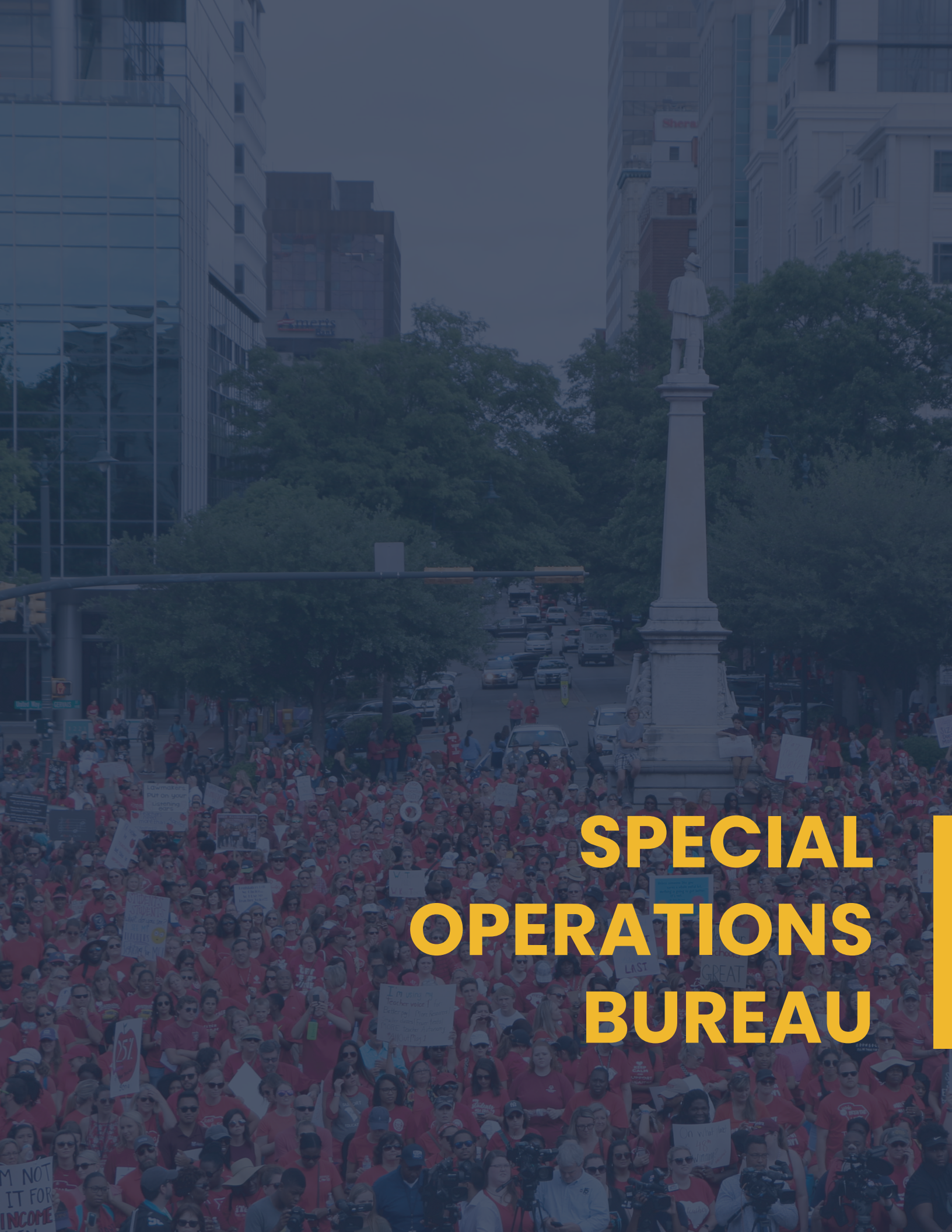
## Violent Crimes Against Persons Unit (VCAP)

Investigators assigned to this unit investigate all major crimes within the jurisdictional boundaries of the city of Columbia. The unit conducts thorough investigations of each crime to include the collection of evidence and interviews. They also assist in the prosecution of suspect(s) through the preparation of case files and courtroom testimonies.

<b>VCAP Assigned Cases</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Assault	169	160
Robbery	248	193
Pointing / Presenting	118	93
Attempted Murder	80	97
Murder	16	22
Carjacking, Bomb Threats, Kidnapping, Discharging, Arson, etc.	168	118
Attempted Murder	39	35
<b>Total Cases Assigned</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>701</b>
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>170</b>

### *VCAP Success Story*

On February 9, 2019, VCAP responded to a single vehicle motor vehicle collision and shooting that occurred at the 2500 block of Shop Road. CPD officers had located a deceased victim on the side of the road. The individual been ejected from the vehicle and was suffering from a single gunshot wound to his upper torso. Investigators recovered surveillance video near the crime scene which aided in developing a suspect vehicle. Additionally, VCAP investigators leveraged intelligence obtained from the Midlands Gang Task Force and physical evidence (fired cartridge casings) recovered from the scene to develop a motive and potential suspects in the case. The casings from the scene were compared to casings recovered from other shooting incidents between February 9th and 12th via the ATF's National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). This data linked numerous shootings in and around the Bluff Road area to this homicide, and, along with the intelligence from MGTf, allowed VCAP investigators to prove a gang nexus in the case. Armed with this information, VCAP investigators, along with assistance from MGTf, ATF, and Richland County Sheriff's Department, were able to target the suspected shooter in this case. On March 12th, 2019, with assistance from the Lexington County Sheriff's Office, VCAP investigators conducted a search warrant at a residence in Lexington County, SC. During the search, a firearm was recovered and the suspected shooter was arrested on an unrelated charge. This firearm was tested and compared to the fired cartridge casings recovered from the homicide scene. SLED firearms analysts were able to show that the firearm recovered during the search warrant was a match for the murder weapon. Investigators were able to charge the suspect and several co-defendants ultimately providing justice for the victim's family.



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

# SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Special Operations Bureau is comprised of the following highly proactive units which support services and special events for citizens of Columbia.

## Bomb Squad

As a South Carolina accredited public safety bomb squad, all team members are certified by the FBI & US Army as Bomb Technicians. Team members respond to calls for explosive devices including old, abandoned and illegal fireworks.

During 2019, team members attended the following courses:

- *Advanced Explosives Disposal Techniques training*
- *Homemade Explosives training*
- *FBI Hand Entrycourse*
- *HDS Advance Hand Entry*
- *Peroxide Based Explosive Imprinting (K-9)*

Bomb Squad Statistics	2018	2019
Threats	14	3
Evidence Destroyed	4	2
Training Hours	1,248	788
Calls for Service	21	16
Assists	6	4



CPD Bomb Squad

*Officer E. Walker conducts canine training*



## Canine(K-9) Unit

A specialized unit that consists of eleven K-9 teams (one handler and one dog), each team operates on a citywide basis. The K-9 Team supports patrol operations, specialize units, and the Criminal Investigation Bureau, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The K-9 Team currently utilizes Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherds. The canines are trained in multiple skill sets to include tracking, drug detection, criminal apprehension, handler protection, building search and article search.

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

<b>K-9 Arrest Statistics</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Tracks <b>(126)</b>	11 Captures 25 tracks evidence recovered: 859 grams of Marijuana 2 firearms 1 knife located	23 Captures 20 tracks evidence recovered: 117 grams of Marijuana, 2 firearms, \$900 in Counterfeit Currency
Apprehension	1	2
Article Search <b>(39)</b>	27 firearms 31g Marijuana 3g Crack Cocaine	6 firearms 35g Marijuana 17g Crack Cocaine Ammo 2 Cell Phones
Drug Searches <b>(57)</b>	Marijuana: 660grams (1.45pounds) Ecstasy: 90+ pills Cocaine: 8 grams Crack Cocaine: 3 grams Hash Oil: 1 gram Methamphetamine: 1 gram/25ml U.S Currency: \$6,225	Cocaine: 2,261 grams Methamphetamine: 1,796 grams Marijuana: 313 grams Ecstasy: 106 pills Heroin: 28 grams Crack Cocaine: 18 grams US Currency: \$83,500
Deployments	10 Captures	6 Captures / 3 Apprehensions
Demos	39	37
Total Arrest	140	60
Arrest Citations	129	54
Warrants	115	61
Traffic Citations	28	17
Warning Citation	285	115
Field Interviews	26	41
Firearms Seized	5	5

## Community Safety Officer (CSO)

The CSO provides highly visible foot and vehicular patrols in residential and business communities, along with security for city buildings, special events as requested and critical infrastructure protection. They also perform elderly and residential checks as requested and school crossing guard duties at various locations.

CSO Stats	2018	2019
Community Contacts	30,585	19,028
Elder Checks	222	404
Hours spent on Patrol	7,358	6,898
Hours spent on Infrastructure protection	24,703	15,885
Hours spent on School Crossings	35	131

## Assisting Columbia's Elderly (A.C.E.) Unit

A.C.E. serves as an advocate for the senior citizen population by planning, researching, monitoring and coordinating services and activities in order to promote lifelong dignity and independence.

## Court Services Unit

The Court Services Unit provides static and roving security to the Municipal Courthouse, to include access control into the facilities. Additionally, officers transport prisoners from local detention facilities, operate internal detention holding facilities, conduct courtroom security, and respond to incidents in and around the Municipal Courthouse. The Court Officer duties include securing the safety of the citizens, staff and judges, assistance with the coverage of the Telephone Response Unit and Traffic Unit operations.

Transport Statistics	2019
Richard County Detention Center	592
Lexington County Detention Center	269

## Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit is responsible for educating citizens about methods to prevent crime by means of a proactive approach. Crime Prevention team members oversee safety initiatives and the following public education programs:

- Badges and Parks
- District One Teen Leadership Summit
- National Police Week
- National Night Out Kick Off & National Night Out
- Fan the Heat
- Human Trafficking Seminar
- Allen University Safety Day
- AARP Light Bulb Project
- Personal Safety
- Security Assessments
- Workplace Violence
- Active Shooter in the Workplace
- Church Safety

Crime Prevention Statistics	2018	2019
Security Assessments	6	6
Programs, Events, & Meetings	133	145
Event Hours	142	128

## Special Events Unit

The Special Events Unit coordinates large public events occurring in the city, such as parades, public festivals, Five Points Saint Patrick’s Day Celebration, construction projects, VIP visits to Columbia, specialized traffic patrol assignments and sporting events. In addition, they are responsible for formulating an Operational Plan for each event to accommodate traffic and crowd control, public safety concerns and crime prevention.

Special Events Unit Stats	2018	2019
Events Assigned	236	392
Event Planning Meetings	110	71
Street Closure Requests	108	181

- Carolina Carillon Holiday Parade
- Famously Hot New Year
- Famously Hot Pink Half Marathon
- Governor’s Cup Half Marathon
- Heart & Sole Women’s Five Miler
- Main Street Latin Festival
- Mayor’s Walk Against Domestic Violence
- Mayor’s Bike & Walk Summit
- Palmetto Capital City Classic
- Rosewood Crawfish Festival
- Run Hard Columbia Marathon
- SC Pride Parade & Festival
- St. Pat’s Festival
- Tour De Cure
- Veterans Day Parade





*SRO J. Johnson and Sgt. D. Hicks attend school event with McGruff the Crime Dog*

## School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit

SROs develop positive relationships and work in collaboration with students, school staff, and community members to ensure a safe learning environment for all students attending schools in Columbia.

The D.A.R.E. Program had an increase in courses taught due to schedule expansion and student availability at two elementary schools in 2019.

SRO Statistics	2018	2019
Call for Service	1,254	1,790
Crimes Investigated: Larcenies, Assaults, Vandalism & School Threats	241	169
D.A.R.E. Courses Taught	51	221
Arrests: Larcenies, Assaults & Vandalism	25	56
Non-Mandated School Event Hours	28	80

## S.W.A.T

The SWAT Team's mission is to provide a well-disciplined, well-trained, efficient unit, which can be used by the Chief of Police in situations where the public and officers are in extreme danger.

SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) is made up of police officers, who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Their work on the SWAT Team is in addition to their regular duties and assignments. The team's commander, is appointed by the Chief of Police. Each team member must meet strict requirements and is selected after a rigorous process. The team trains bi-monthly in preparation for handling a variety of high-risk critical incidents.

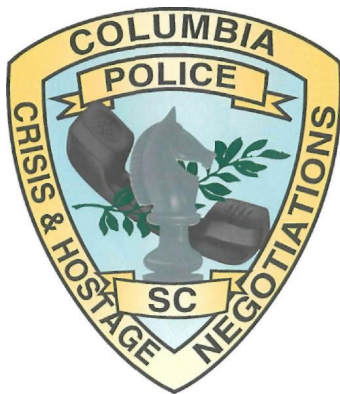
The SWAT Team is used for hostage situations and negotiations, barricaded suspects, service of high-risk warrants, drug raids and search warrants, searches for armed subjects, VIP protection, stakeouts and undercover surveillance, civil disorder and other special events. SWAT handles any incident, which has the potential for armed confrontations, through tactics that lessen the chances of injury or death.

In 2019 the CPD SWAT Team was called upon to execute 25 High Risk Search Warrants, conduct 10 operations, attended 27 scheduled training dates and assisted in 5 community events.



*S.W.A.T. Operators train to maintain the highest level of marksmanship*

## Crisis Negotiation Team



The Columbia Police Department's Crisis Negotiation Team is a life preservation unit comprised of two teams of officers trained to resolve critical incidents through verbal techniques, while avoiding unnecessary risks and injuries to citizens, law enforcement, and suspects.

The Crisis Negotiation Teams are decentralized and "On Call" and may be deployed for:

- *Hostage situations*
- *Barricaded suspects*
- *Civil disturbances*
- *Suicide attempts*
- *Crisis intervention*
- *As directed by the Chief of Police or Deputy Chief*

## Mobile Field Force

Mobile Field Force (MFF) is used for civil unrest / riot control. All officers are trained in formation movements, arrest strategies and tactics during mass civil unrest, crowd control munitions deployment, and less lethal equipment/weapon deployment and usage.

The MFF can be deployed at the direction of the Chief of Police or his designee and can consist of different levels of response. The levels range from officer presence in standard uniform worn everyday that are prepared to work in small teams to address potential civil unrest to fully outfitted and equipped to handle and address civil unrest in small and large response teams.

The benefit to having a MFF is to ensure the officers/department can provide a coordinated, planned, and strategic response to large groups who actions violate local, state, and federal law.

## Telephone Response Unit (TRU)

TRU is a non-emergency call center for the department, tasked with assisting officers as necessary, answering citizen inquiries and taking police reports. They serve as the NCIC point of contact, maintain, track and validate criminal warrants and courtesy summons. In addition, the unit tracks property checks, provides on-call staff notifications and city-wide transport (Inmate Transports & Mental Transports). TRU serves as back-up to the Columbia-Richland 911/311 Communications Center.

TRU Statistics	2018	2019
Telephone Calls	89,611	108,955
Walk In Citizens Assisted	7,813	9,759
Incident Reports	1,234	1,502



*Telephone Response Unit (TRU)*



*Traffic Safety Unit conducts public safety check point*

## Traffic Safety Unit

Team members consist of officers specifically trained to deliver professional police service, enforce traffic laws and provide education and awareness in an effort to reduce traffic collisions and related fatalities.

Traffic Safety Unit Statistics	2018	2019
Collisions investigated	534	502
Fatal collisions investigated	13	11
Traffic concerns/complaints	106	77
DUI arrests	33	45
Citations issued (includes warnings & collisions)	11,631	11,036
Vehicle for hire/wrecker inspections	196	173
Checkpoints (multi-agency)	12	16
DUI/traffic enforcement operations	17	15
Year to Date Calls for Service	955	906



# **ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU**

# ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

The Administrative Bureau is responsible for eight logistical areas and units that provide support to police operations.

## Equipment Management/Supply Unit

The Equipment Management/Supply Unit handles the logistics needed for the Department. The Materials Inventory Clerk is responsible for the distribution of received agency-owned property to authorized personnel within the Department. The Unit is accountable for all property and ensures that all property is maintained in a state of operational readiness.

## Crime Analysis Unit

The Police Department has two (2) Crime Analysts that study and track crime. Crime Analysis supports a number of department functions including Patrol, Special Operations and Tactical Units, Investigations, Planning and Research, Crime Prevention, and Administrative Services (budgeting and program planning). A Crime Analyst studies crime and suspects, analyzes crime data to forecast day, time and locations where crime is likely to occur and disseminates that data accordingly throughout the organization. An Analyst will share crime patterns and incident behaviors with investigators and patrol officers on a daily basis. A Crime Analyst uses all available technologies to study crime. Analysts track criminal activity in various databases and computer mapping software.

## Drug Lab

The Drug Lab is operated by two (2) police chemists who assist the Department's criminal investigations by providing scientific analytical services. The chemists perform scientific examinations of evidence and provides assistance in the collection of evidence at crime scenes when requested. The chemists are frequently asked by the Solicitor and city prosecutors to provide expert testimony in criminal court on drug lab findings. Analysis performed in the laboratory are often the definitive factor in proving the guilt or innocence of persons charged with criminal acts.

### DRUG LAB STATISTICS

**403** Drug cases

Chemists have testified twice this year in the Federal Court

## Computer Liaison

The Computer Liaison provides end user support for new programs and coordinates and trains personnel to meet support requirements/maintenance for the system; plans and develops testing strategies that includes preparing test data, conducting program testing, and debugging/ troubleshooting; and maintains and enhances existing systems.

## Records

The Records Unit is the depository for all original police reports. These include offense reports, vehicular accident reports, and all additional reports completed by Patrol and Investigative officers. These reports are processed, indexed and archived for permanent storage. The Unit is also responsible for entering, updating, validating, and cancellation of all reported statistical and criminal history information provided to the, state, and federal Criminal History Record Information databases. The Records Unit adheres to strict standards of confidentiality. Details of a report are not discussed over the telephone. The Public can request a copy of a Police Report in person at Police Headquarters (Records Unit) located at 1 Justice Square, with a proper photo identification.

**15,654** Records validated  
(Jan 1- Dec 31)

**569** FOIA  
Requests

**4,307** Media  
Requests

**1,095** Background  
Checks



Records Unit







## Planning and Research

The Planning and Research Unit is responsible for research and preparation of complex reports and projects involving inter-departmental issues and intergovernmental topics.

## Human Resources / Recruiting

Human Resources is responsible for managing the employee life cycle including; recruiting, hiring, onboarding and administering employee benefits.

In addition, this unit designs and implements the overall recruiting strategy for the department, attends job fairs, conducts interviews, provides analytical and well documented recruiting reports and act as a point of contact and to build influential candidate relationships during the selection process.

### HIRED

**5** Certified Police Officers

**33** Police Officer Candidates

**1** Civilian (Cadet)

**10** Non-Sworn/Professional Staff

### PERFORMED

**46** POST (National Police Officer Selection Test)

**46** JRPAT (Physical Ability Test)

## Staff Development & Training Unit

The Staff Development and Training Unit values the importance of continuing education for officers in a world that is ever changing. This Unit is made up of 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant and 3 Police Officers. The department also uses 52 certified in-house instructors to assist the Training Unit throughout the year.

Police Officer Candidates begin their careers assigned to the Training Unit. One of our top priorities is providing a firm foundation of training for our future Officers to build upon. The Basic Candidate School (BCS) prepares these Police Candidates for the SCCJA, Field Training and their future Police Officer promotion. BCS is an average of 10 weeks and covers CPD Directives and Procedures, Use of Force, Ethics, Diversity Training, De-escalation Techniques, Basic Marksmanship and Emergency Vehicle Response.

Sworn Officers are required to attend classes annually to maintain their Class 1 and Class 3 Law Enforcement Certification; this is called in-service training. In-Service training focuses on Defensive Tactics, De-escalation and Diversity Training. The Training Unit conducts approximately 25.5 hours of annual in-service training on a monthly basis and additionally supports this training with required on-line learning through Power DMS.

Not only does the CPD Training Unit conduct the training necessary to satisfy the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy certification requirements, we consistently offer new courses. In 2019, we added other courses such as, Crisis Intervention Training, Stop the Bleed, Stop Stick and Less Lethal. These additional classes give officers more options on how to safely resolve and de-escalate situations.

 **25.5**

*hours of annual  
in-service training*



**1**

*Captain*

**1**

*Lieutenant*

**1**

*Sergeant*

**3**

*Officers*

Course Title	Number of Officers Trained	Number of Classes
Annual In-Service	264	12
BCS	29	4
ACADIS	324	Various Courses
Power DMS	312	Various Courses
Stop The Bleed	102	9
Stop Stick	86	10
Less Lethal Shotgun	53	11
De-escalation	265	10



# COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS

# SHOTSPOTTER TECHNOLOGY UNVEILED TO PUBLIC

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In a news conference on May 10, 2019, City of Columbia Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin and Police Chief W.H. 'Skip' Holbrook announced the Columbia Police Department's (CPD) implementation of an innovative gunshot detection technology that reduces violent gun crime in the City of Columbia.

The technology, known as 'ShotSpotter' relies on acoustic sensors to pinpoint where gunfire occurs. Chief Holbrook: "The area that we defined is based on the where we have the highest concentration of gunfire. We want to affect that, change that narrative, change the footprint to where we don't need this initiative." The information from the sensors is sent to CPD officers and 9-1-1 dispatchers through real-time digital alerts. Since the implementation of ShotSpotter in the City of Columbia on April 18, 2019, CPD officers have responded to 964 SpotSpotter alerts/activations. ShotSpotter does not replace the need for residents to call 9-1-1.

## **SHOTSPOTTER OVERVIEW:**

- Utilizes multiple acoustic sensors to pinpoint gunfire activity
- Sensors strategically placed around City
- Approximately 20 sensors per square mile
- Aids in locating crime scene, evidence, suspects & witnesses
- Quicker response & situational awareness by law enforcement
- ShotSpotter acoustic analysts review the sounds to determine actual gunfire
- Acoustic analysts can determine full-automatic weapons & if shooter is on the move
- Real-Time Alerts for Law Enforcement & 9-1-1 Dispatchers
- Digital Alerts through ShotSpotter App for smart phones & patrol car computers
- Utilizes user-friendly maps to pinpoint gunfire activity
- Time stamps incident & provides audio of gunfire
- No monitoring of conversations
- Strengthens court cases
- Sends message to offenders

- ShotSpotter does not replace police officers or community involvement & calling 9-1-1
  - Cost over 3 years = \$1,180,000 | 1st Year – \$400K | 2nd Year – \$390K | 3rd Year – \$390K
  - Other cities utilizing ShotSpotter: Oakland & San Diego, Miami, Atlanta, Chicago, Boston, New York City, Pittsburgh and Las Vegas
- 

## STATISTICS (APRIL – DECEMBER 2019)

Number of ShotSpotter Calls: **964** | 372 Single Shots  
457 Multiple Gun Shots  
135 Probable Gun Shots

Number of Firearms Seized: **54**

Number of Stolen Firearms Seized: **13** of 54 were identified as stolen

Number of Shell Casings Recovered: **1,288**

Number of Arrests: **45**

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# FEDERAL CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER INITIATIVE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT (JULY 2019)

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Columbia Police Chief W. H. 'Skip' Holbrook, City of Columbia Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin, City Manager Teresa Wilson along with state and federal partners announced the latest federal grant awarded to the Columbia Police Department to prevent, reduce and solve gun-related violent crime in the City of Columbia.

The three-year grant called the *Crime Gun Intelligence Center* (CGIC) *Initiative Grant* comes from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and totals \$668,414 that will directly support the Columbia Police Department's (CPD) newly created *Crime Gun Intelligence Unit*. The Unit will be comprised of the following sworn & civilian subject-matter experts:

- Program Manager
- Unit Supervisor
- Two Crime Analysts
- National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Analysts – Ballistic Evidence Input – Embedded at SLED
- Ceasefire Coordinator

Specifically, the NIBIN analyst is funded through a separate \$77,471 Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) Grant making a combined grant award of \$745,885. The PSN Initiative was announced in July 2019 with local, state and federal partners in the Greenview Community in North Columbia.

The Project Safe Neighborhood Strategy focuses on: Prevention & Education, Partnerships, Evidence-Based Practices, Technology and Building Trust in the Community. The CGIU will enhance the PSN model.

**\$745,885** *combined grant award*



*Here are some additional Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Quick Facts:*

- Supports CPD's existing partnerships with:
  - Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF)
  - United States Attorney's Office -District SC
  - SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED)
  - Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office
  - SC Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services (PPP)
  - Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD)

**Follow-Up on actionable leads for investigations**

**Provides feedback to partner stakeholders**

**Follows CGIC best practices:**

1. *Commitment from Chief Holbrook & Command Staff*
2. *Comprehensive Firearm-related Crime & Forensic Tracing*
3. *Crime Gun Intelligence Analysis*
4. *CGIC Investigations*
5. *Law Enforcement & Prosecution Collaboration & Arrests*
6. *Focused State & Federal Prosecution*
7. *Similar to Ceasefire Columbia - a focused deterrence initiative to address gun violence offenders in 29203 neighborhoods*
8. *Local CGIC Feedback*

**Utilizes intelligence, technology to:**

- *Identify gun crime offenders & firearms sellers/purchasers*
- *Disrupt illegal pattern/cycle of behavior*
- *Hold offenders accountable on federal gun crime penalties (Arrests)*
- *Gather information for investigations & court cases on state and/or federal level for prosecution*

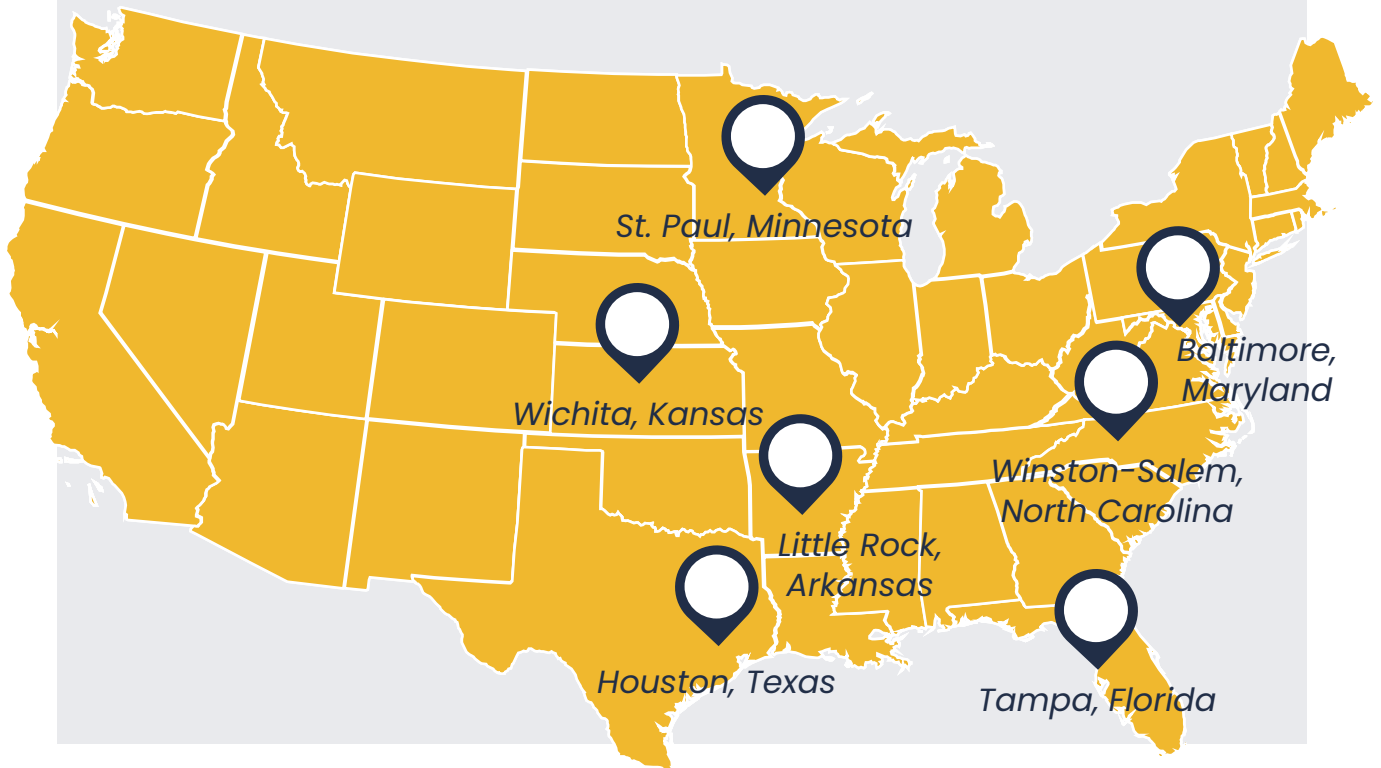
**Augments Gun Crime Analysis with:**

- *Grant-funded surveillance equipment*
- *Web-based software*
- *Training of CGIU personnel*

**Future Plans:**

- *Performance measures*
- *Additional grant-funding for sustainability*
- *Additional personnel based on caseload*

**Other CGIC Grant Cities Selected:**







EMPLOYEE AWARDS

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

## CHIEF HOLBROOK SALUTES CPD OFFICERS AND STAFF FOR 2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

Columbia Police Chief W.H. “Skip” Holbrook announces that several Columbia Police Department officers, civilian employees and external partners were recognized for their dedication, hard work and community-police relations during 2019 at the annual Employee Awards Ceremony.

On February 20, 2020, Chief Holbrook and Deputy Chief Melron Kelly presented the honors to each award recipient at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

### 2019 Award Recipients

#### *Retirees*

D. Miller	P. Gibson	B. Olivares	C. Wilson
L. Coker	J. Charley	M. Mahon	S. Wise

#### *Outstanding Citizen*

Dr. Noble Cooper	Betty Brooks	John Stuart
Curtis Snead	Sherry Phelps	Larry Dow
Cameron Hamilton	Alex Zelling	Derek Miller
Jason Snelgrove	Jay Kilmartin	Shannon Thompson
Dave Grove	Gail Baker	Mackenzie Fontaine

#### *Chief's Award*

T. McCombs	D. Washington	R. Roop
A. Viehweg	C. Fulmer	R. Calby
A. Zavala	E. Moody	William Bowers, Jr.
J. Barnes	J. Nowlin	Michael Paul
L. Walker	M. Blackmore	Denise Bachmann
R. Paturzo	D. Robinson	Anthony Cleckley
A. Beckham	K. Davis	David Goodwin
D. Kaminer	A. Maurer	Beth Marsh
T. Heustess	A. Frederick	C. Benson
V. Shea	G. Walls	

***Community Service***

K. Czeladko  
G. Walls  
E. Moody

***Civic Achievement***

J. McCoy

***Good Conduct***

C. Brown  
T. Watson  
M. Walsh

***Meritorious Service***

R. Seavey	J. Kraft
J. Boyd	A. Hardesty
J. Niscia	

***Life Saving***

T. Snyder  
K. Jehl  
W. Medley  
S. Allen  
C. Widener  
A. Viewheg

J. Avila  
N. Surfus  
T. Steiner  
D. LaGrega  
D. Hurt  
M. Williams

P. D'Anna  
M. Niscia  
T. Carpenter  
J. Poage

**CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR**

L. Latimore

**CODE ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

A. Williams

**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

S. Beech

**INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR**

N. Fortner

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

S. Sulser



*Corporal Justin Poage*

## **AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFESAVING AWARD**

### **CORPORAL JUSTIN POAGE**

On Saturday, January 19, Columbia Police Officers responded to a three-vehicle collision at Bluff Road and I-77. One of the involved parties was a Columbia Fire recruit. He was on his motorcycle traveling to work when he was struck by a suspected impaired motorist. Corporal Justin Poage was heading home after working an extra-duty assignment when he heard the call for service and responded without hesitation. He was one of the first to arrive on the scene and found the victim critically injured with one of his legs severed during the collision. Cpl. Poage, relying on his first aid training, immediately applied a department-issued tourniquet to the victim's leg wound, stopping the bleeding. Richland County EMS arrived several minutes later and transported the victim to the hospital where he underwent successful life-saving surgery. Both RCEMS and Palmetto Health Richland staff contacted CPD to acknowledge Cpl. Poage's life-saving actions. It was stated that without the quick application of the tourniquet to the leg wound, the CFD recruit would not have been able to survive his injuries. Although the victim has a long recovery ahead due to his severe injuries, he is alive tonight with his wife and family by his side. Since the incident, Cpl. Poage has visited and maintained contact with the victim.

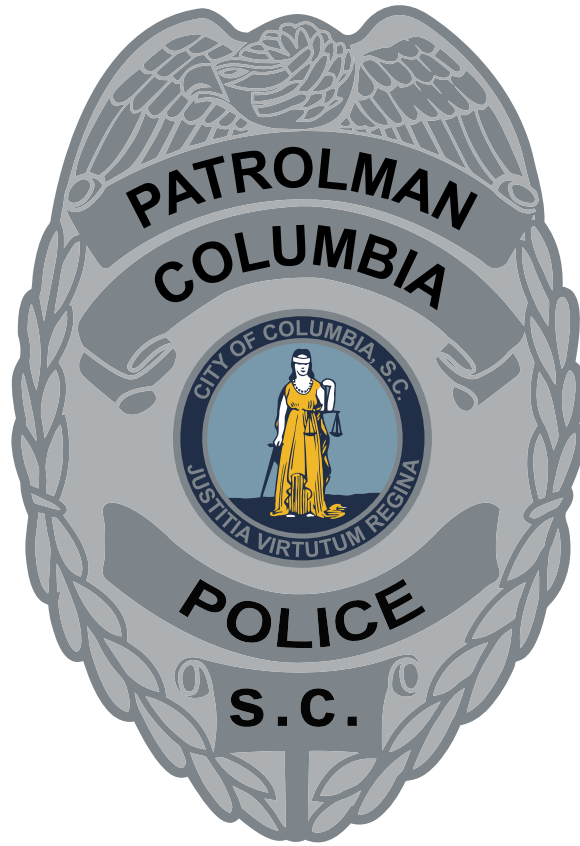
Cpl. Poage received a City L.I.G.H.T. certificate from City Manager Teresa Wilson on February 2, 2019 and a Lifesaving Award from the American Red Cross on May 15, 2019.



COLUMBIA.S.C.

JUSTITIA VIRTUTUM REGINA

POLICE



# NOW HIRING

A career with the Columbia Police Department is like no other job or experience. It offers excitement, a sense of accomplishment, job satisfaction, teamwork, opportunities for growth with promotion and excellent salary and benefits.

If you are interested in joining the City of Columbia Police Department, visit **[Columbiapd.net](http://Columbiapd.net)**.





@columbiapdsc