

# CHARLESTOWN

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

# ~ 2020 Annual Report ~



Colonel Michael J. Paliotta, Chief of Police

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#### **Department Statements**

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

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

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



#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

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

Honesty-Integrity-Trust-Respect-Loyalty-Service

## **Chief of Police Message**



To the residents and visitors of Charlestown,

On behalf of the fine men and women of the Charlestown Police Department, I am pleased to present to you the agency's 2020 Annual Report. This annual report serves as a short summary of the varied activities within the police department during the previous calendar year. Compiling an annual report allows agency administrators an additional opportunity to review and critique the agency's performance and efficiency in a public forum. It aids us in determining whether we are succeeding in our annual goals and objectives and to determine if we are on course to meet our agency's mission and vision. An annual report helps the police department communicate its overall vision and mission to the community. It aides in agency transparency and offers useful information to both citizens, staff and public officials.

The 2020 Annual Report identifies the agency's inner workings, presents some statistical analysis of police and emergency service activities, and describes many of our initiatives and community policing endeavors. Our annual report helps us gauge our progress as a law enforcement agency; always moving forward toward attaining a high standard of excellence. It is our agency's policy and strategy to apply the public resources allocated to us, in a highly responsible manner. Our aim is the reduction of crime and the fear of crime while improving relationships and increasing community engagement and cooperation.

In 2020 the agency was thrust, along with other federal, state and local entities, into the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic presented many unique challenges for police personnel and the community. The agency put into action specific plans that helped map out a successful course of action to protect both staff and citizens. The police

department worked closely with the RI National Guard, Charlestown Ambulance, Fire, Charlestown Emergency Management Agency, the Charlestown RI Department of Health along with many other agencies in response to the ever changing environment presented by the pandemic. Modifications in police procedures and services were adopted and implemented. Allocation of personnel were modified as members became ill or had to guarantine and were unable to work for extended periods of time. We were successful at delivering a high level of services to the community despite the challenges. By the end of 2020, the agency had successfully navigated the waters of the pandemic, and at the publishing of this report, has undergone first responder vaccination and is returning to semi-normal operations.

During the past year, the profession of law enforcement experienced a major paradigm shift in the wake of several high profile excessive force cases around the country. As a response, the Rhode Island Police Chief's Association (RIPCA) committed to a comprehensive review and implementation of police policies throughout the state. The Charlestown Police Department participated in this effort and we conducted internal reviews. We were among the many Rhode Island departments to adopt the Twenty for 2020 pledge that can be found on our department website. In short, we along with all Rhode Island law enforcement entities pledged to be more introspective, to continually review interactions with the public for bias in our practices, to be more transparent and approachable with the community, and to hold ourselves to a higher standard. This effort has been well received and will continue to help steer the agency into the future. We are proud to announce, that regardless of the many challenges presented, the department was awarded our second Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission (RIPAC) certification for the year 2017 - 2019, in 2020.

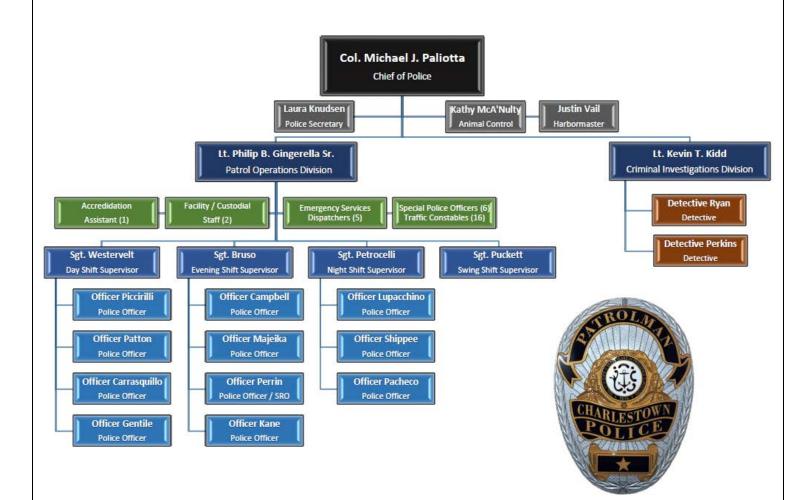
In closing, we look forward to 2021 and a return to some semblance of normalcy. Please take some time and review the annual report and feel free to reach out to discuss agency operations at any time!

#### **Colonel Michael J. Paliotta**

Chief of Police

## 2020 Organizational Chart

#### CHARLESTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT 2020 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



~ A Rhode Island Accredited Law Enforcement Agency ~



#### **Patrol Operations Division**



The Patrol Operations Division is also known as the uniformed division of the department. It is comprised of one (1) Lieutenant, four (4) Sergeants (shift supervisors), and eleven (11) Police Officers. In addition, there are six (6) part-time Special Police Officers, five (5) Emergency Dispatchers, sixteen (16) part-time Traffic Constables, one (1) part-time Accreditation Assistant as well as two (2) part-time maintenance personnel. The Lieutenant in charge is referred to as the division commander. During the academic year, the division also supplies a full time police officer to the Chariho Middle and Charlestown Elementary Schools in the capacity of a School Resource Officer (SRO). This division also handles agency grants, departmental in-service training, fleet and facilities maintenance and the agency's RIPAC state accreditation program.

In 2020, the Charlestown Police Department logged 15,422 calls for service, this is a slight decrease in activity from that experienced the previous year. Of these calls for service, the Patrol Operations Division handled the majority of the preliminary investigations. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted the way in which the uniformed division interacted with the general public. The agency modified its approach to calls for service during the height of the pandemic in order to limit disease transmission. The division worked closely with rescue, fire and National Guard units during the pandemic to deliver services and identify problem areas. The agency saw about 25% of our staff directly affected by the pandemic, putting a strain on delivery of police services. By year's end, the COVID-19 vaccination effort for first responders had been implemented within the agency. By mid-winter of 2020, the agency had begun to transition back to a more proactive posture with traffic enforcement and general interactions with the public.

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

#### Lieutenant Philip B. Gingerella Sr.

**Division Commander** 



#### **Criminal Investigations Division**



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

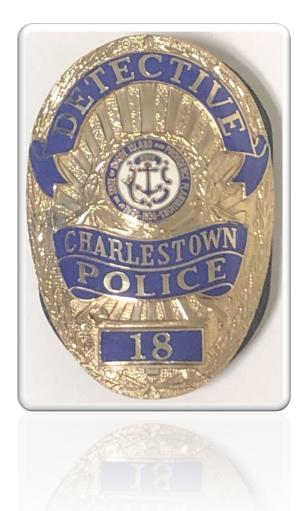
The Criminal Investigations Division of the Charlestown Police Department is staffed with three (3) full-time sworn police officers. The personnel include one (1) Lieutenant serving in the capacity of division commander, and two (2) Detectives serving as criminal investigators. In addition, the division has one (1) full-time civilian police secretary whose duties also include payroll, scheduling, purchasing, background checks and other administrative functions.

Members of the Criminal Investigations Division work administrative schedules designed to maximize their availability during peak hours of agency demand. All Detectives receive specialized training in the most modern criminal investigative techniques which includes BCI crime scene investigation and processing, evidence collections and storage, interview and interrogation techniques, police photography, narcotics investigation, cyber-crime, financial crimes and other related fields.

Each year the Criminal Investigative Division investigates calls involving suspicious deaths, drug overdoses, fatal motor vehicle accidents, and other major felony crimes. These crimes typically include sexual assaults, burglaries, robberies, breaking and entering, felony assaults, complicated DUI investigations, wanted and fugitive persons and more. In 2020, the division continued to train its staff in the latest investigative techniques and technologies and worked closely with other federal, state and local law enforcement partners to keep Charlestown safe. This year, COVID-19 complicated the investigative and prosecution processes for the agency, however the division performed very well given the unanticipated challenges.

#### Lieutenant Kevin T. Kidd

**Division Commander** 



#### **Charlestown Harbormaster Program**



Justin Vail - Harbormaster

The Charlestown Harbormaster is responsible for the Town's harbor management and marine patrol program and is overseen by the Chief of Police. This marine unit is comprised of one (1) Harbormaster and three (3) Assistant Harbormasters, each responsible to patrol and enforce regulations on the Town's two large coastal salt ponds, breach-ways and assorted waterways. Harbormasters work closely with sworn police personnel to provide a variety of services to the residents and visitors of Charlestown. Other duties include the issuing and maintaining of mooring permits and fees, maintaining the municipality's boating and docking assets along with implementation of the Town's Harbor Management Plan.

#### **Charlestown Animal Control**



Kathy McA'Nulty – Animal Control Officer

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

## The Twenty for 2020 Initiative



In June of 2020, Charlestown Police Department along with forty-seven (47) other police departments in Rhode Island, signed a pledge committing to the principles of the "Twenty for 2020" initiative. This initiative is a pledge to our communities that our agency is committed to the four categories of the pledge: Training, Transparency, Communications and Human Rights.

It is our commitment to the community we serve to employ the best nationally recognized police practices in providing law enforcement services to the residents and visitors of Charlestown. Below are twenty specific principles that we recognize as important and commit to as we move forward. The entire pledge document can be found on the Charlestown Police Department website and the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association website www.ripolicechiefs.org.

- 1. Acknowledgment about the realities of police brutality in the world. Charlestown Police Department takes an oath to protect life. We denounce the senseless taking of another person's life, especially at the hands of police officers.
- 2. **Defending the profession of policing in Rhode Island.** We do stand up for and defend the profession of policing. Charlestown Police Department is a modern accredited agency whose policies and procedures are in-line with modern best practices in law enforcement.
- 3. **Re-emphasizing training standards.** Charlestown Police Department personnel are rigorously trained. We do not train in the use of chokeholds and our policy prohibits it unless deadly force is authorized. We do not train to place a defenseless person on their face where they can't breathe. Our policy has a "duty to intervene" clause requiring officers to act when they witness excessive force.
- 4. **Right to peaceful protest.** Charlestown Police Department supports the right of all people to peacefully assemble and protest.
- 5. **News media and Officer identification.** Charlestown Police Department respects the rights of journalists to do their job without fear of unlawful arrest or harassment. Charlestown Police Officers will provide their name and badge number anytime it is requested.
- 6. **Public policies.** The Charlestown Police Department's website has links to our policies related to use of force, use of force reporting, complaint process and our bias based prohibition policy. Additional links to filing a public records request are also on our website.

- 7. Accreditation. Charlestown Police Department is a State of Rhode Island Police Accredited Agency.
- 8. **Feedback.** Charlestown Police Department encourages feedback from our community and several mechanisms are available on our website. All complaints, including anonymous complaints, will be investigated. We provide a link to the Department of Justice Civil Rights Reporting Portal on our website.
- 9. **Restorative justice.** Charlestown Police Department supports the initiative seeking to promote restorative justice, with the long-term goal of creating a statewide restorative justice program which can create the condition of ensuring justice without the stain of a criminal record for certain non-violent offenses.
- 10. **Body and cruiser cameras.** Charlestown Police Department is committed to exploring the viability of a body-worn camera and cruiser camera program in the future.
- 11. **Officer wellness.** Charlestown Police Department is committed to supporting the physical and mental health of our police officers with programs and incentives designed to support their overall wellness.
- 12. Social service mutual aid. Charlestown Police Department has a database of community services, social services, youth services, social workers, recovery coaches and specialty services we can use to support members of our community.
- 13. **Uniform use of force and civil rights violation reporting.** Charlestown Police Department supports the initiative to establish a statewide uniform excessive use of force reporting system. Charlestown Police Department currently reports all excessive force incidents to the FBI's Use of Force Database.
- 14. Face to face interactions. Charlestown Police Department commits to conducting several face to face open forums with the community throughout the year.
- 15. Law Enforcement Bill of Rights. Charlestown Police Department supports the state lawmakers review and updates to the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights.
- 16. **Commitment to diversity hiring.** Charlestown Police Department supports the creation of a standardized outreach process for recruitment to diversify ranks.
- 17. **External training.** Charlestown Police Department commits to incorporating or booking speakers from civil, cultural or social justice organizations at least once a year.
- 18. **Review NAACP guidelines.** Charlestown Police Department commits to reviewing the NAACP's "Standards Every Law Enforcement Agency Should Have" and seeks to incorporate the standards into our policy and procedures.
- 19. **Online training library.** Charlestown Police Department commits to maintaining an open library on our website to include training resources, diversity and bias resources, scholarly works on criminal justice and downloadable resources for police departments.
- 20. **Implicit bias training.** Charlestown Police Department conducts annual training in "Implicit Bias" and shall seek to have more officers trained as instructors through the RIDE Academy or other programs with similar curriculum.



## **2020 Department Training Review**

			1			1	[
TRAINING	CLASS	# OF	TOTAL	TRAINING	CLASS	# OF	TOTAL
COURSE	HOURS	STAFF	HOURS	COURSE	HOURS	STAFF	HOURS
Spring Firearms Qualification	2	26	52	Workzone Safety Training	4	3	12
Fall Firearms Qualification	2	26	52	Police Ethics	1	26	26
Taser Recertification	4	20	80	Mass Casualty Training	1	26	26
FATS - Firearm Simulator	1	26	26	COVID / Bloodborne	2	45	90
DUI Breathalyzer Recert	4	20	80	Dispatcher - Missing Children	1	6	6
Cultural Awareness	1	26	26	Vehicle Safety	1	26	26
Use of Force	1	26	26	Incident Command Systems	1	30	30
Workplace Harrassment	1	45	45	BCI School	100	1	100
NCIC / RILETS Recertification	1	20	20	Crisis Negotiation School	1	40	40
Active Shooter - Police One	1	26	26	Chainsaw Familiarity Class	8	10	80
Armed Suspects - Police One	1	26	26	Prosecution Officer Training	4	8	32
Suicide by Cop - Police One	1	26	26	Glock Armorer School	8	3	24
CPR / First Aid Recertification	2	45	90	Powerphone School	8	1	8
Narcan Recertififcation	1	26	26	Tactical Supervisor School	8	1	8
HAZ-MAT Recertification	1	26	26	Deceptive Behavior School	8	1	8
Legal Updates & Liability	4	25	100	Forensic Science Seminar	32	1	32
Bloodborne Pathogens	1	45	45	Risk Management	8	2	16
EMT School	100	2	200				
Anti Bias Policing	1	26	26	TOTAL TRAINING	HOURS		1,562

## <u>Internal Reviews</u>

2	020 Use of Force Repor	<u>t</u>
Taser Deployment	Presentation of Firearm	Physical Force in Arrest
0	3	3

All agency use of force incidents were investigated and reviewed by the department's administration in 2020. All police use of force incidents were found to be consistent with department policy and procedure, and all were closed with no further action needed.

2020 Police Pursuit Repo	ort
Number of Police Pursuits in 2020	1

All police pursuits were reviewed by the department's administration in 2020. It was determined that the one (1) pursuit in 2020 did not violate department policy and procedure and was closed with no further action needed.

2020 Citizen Complaints Re	port
Number of Citizen Complaints in 2020	1

All agency citizen complaints were investigated and reviewed by the department's administration in 2020. The one (1) complaint was determined to be unfounded and closed with no further action.

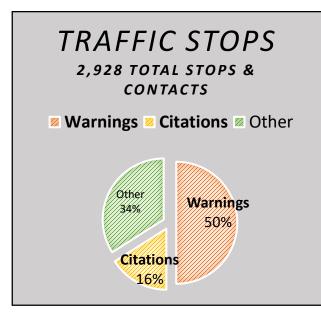
2020 Internal Complaints Re	<u>eport</u>
Number of Internal Complaints in 2020	2

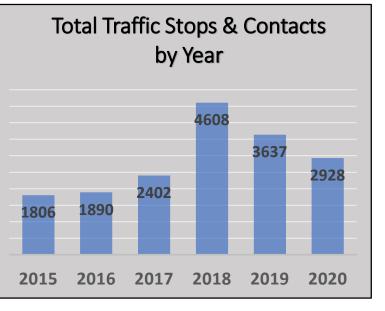
All agency internal complaints were investigated and reviewed by the department's administration in 2020. One (1) complaint was closed with employee counseling, one (1) complaint was closed as unfounded.

# **Traffic Enforcement**

The Charlestown Police Department takes highway traffic safety very seriously, however the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 significantly changed our traffic enforcement program. For the months of April and May, Charlestown Police switched to a reactive posture and limited the amount of traffic stops conducted by our Officers. In the fall with a second COVID-19 wave, we again moved to a reactive posture. These posture changes significantly lowered the amount of proactive traffic enforcement being conducted by our Officers. This resulted in a decrease of traffic stops, citations and motor vehicle arrests. Charlestown Police will slowly transition back to a proactive traffic enforcement posture in 2021 as the pandemic ends.

VIOLATIONS	CITATIONS	WARNING	TOTAL
Excessive Speed	179	799	978
Expired / Suspended Registration	86	155	241
Seatbelt Violations	11	30	41
Stop Sign Violations	21	66	87
Operating without Insurance	4	20	24
Other Traffic Violation	189	353	542
Other Traffic Contacts	0	1015	1015
TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS & CONTACTS	490	2438	2928
Red Light Camera Program	1238	N/A	1238

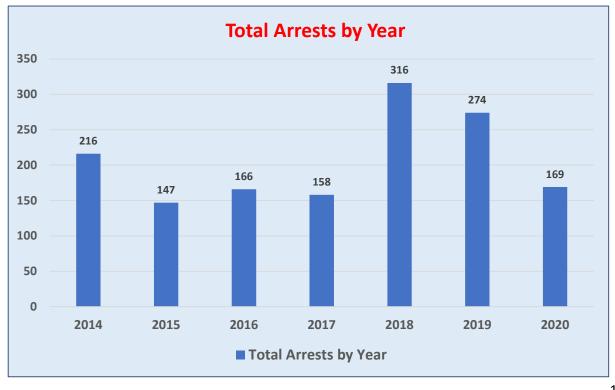




# **Criminal Violations**

The Charlestown Police Department conducted a total of 169 arrests in 2020. This represents a significant decrease from 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Charlestown Police Department limited many forms of traffic contact, encouraged greater officer discretion and moved to a reactive posture for much of 2020. Overall, this resulted in lower traffic related arrests, summons and violations.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS	ADULT	JUVENILE	TOTAL
Suspended License	51	1	52
Driving Under the Influence	18	0	18
Domestic Violence / Disorderly	33	0	33
Warrant Arrest	29	0	29
Narcotics Violation	6	0	6
Physical / Sexual Assault	8	1	9
All Others	21	1	22
TOTAL CRIMINAL ARRESTS	166	3	169

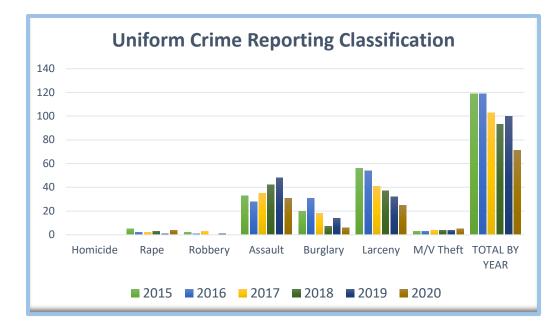


## **Uniform Crime Report Data**

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

The department's UCR data typically reflects a lower incidence of crime in specific categories than the agencies monthly activity report. This difference is due to the fact that the agency's monthly activity report reflects the "actual number of calls for service" generated in each of those categories as well as many others. Through the course of follow-up investigations, police clear many calls for services initially reported as crimes as "unfounded" or "non-reportable", these incidents do not make it onto the final monthly UCR report. Below you will find our UCR data for the years 2015 – 2020. This data is helpful in tracking patterns and trends in major crime categories. In general, the overall reportable major crimes in town are low and some categories are trending downward.

		Uniform	n Crime Rep	orting Classi	ification	
CATEGORY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	5	2	2	3	1	4
Robbery	2	1	3	0	1	0
Assault	33	28	35	42	48	31
Burglary	20	31	18	7	14	6
Larceny	56	54	41	37	32	25
M/V Theft	3	3	4	4	4	5
TOTAL	119	119	103	93	100	71

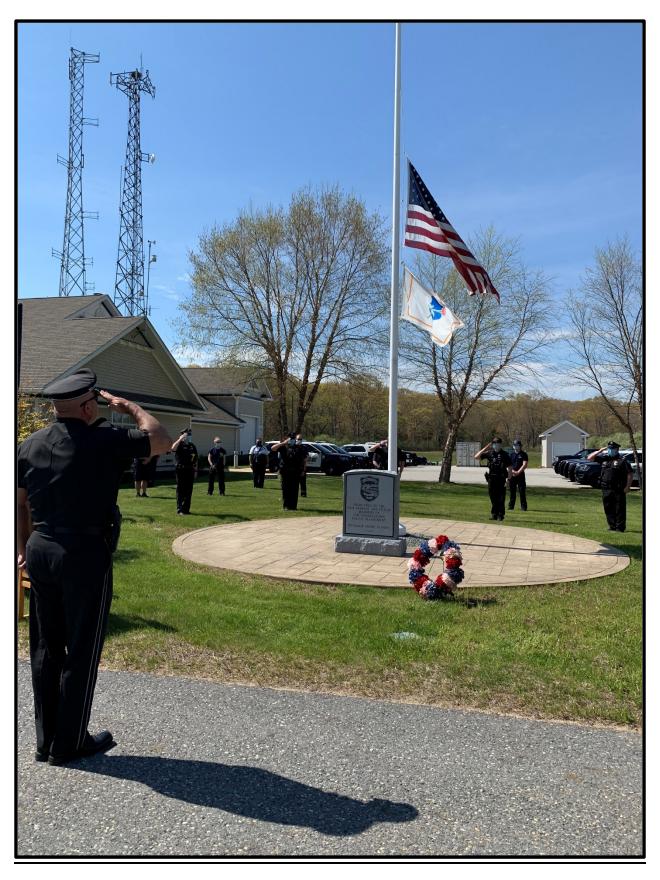






CHA	<b>CHARLESTO</b>	STOV	WN P	OLIC	POLICE MONTHLY ACTIVITY	<b>TNC</b>		<b>VCTIV</b>		REPORT	<b>JRT</b>		
			Su	bmitted	Submitted by: Chief Michael J. Paliotta	Michael	J. Paliott	e					
2020	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	YEAR
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	1109	1130	1398	1577	1163	1326	1697	1736	1255	1230	1084	717	15422
MOTOR VEHICLE CALLS													
Traffic Enforcement/Contacts	285	325	226	17	145	354	506	358	156	342	149	65	2928
Traffic - Citations	65	72	50	3	61	34	54	71	23	23	32	2	490
Traffic - Warnings	220	240	189	4	94	110	121	71	88	149	100	37	1423
Traffic Accidents Total	12	8	6	10	8	26	11	12	6	16	15	11	147
<b>Disabled Motorist Assists</b>	11	7	10	2	12	6	24	17	18	10	6	12	141
Red Light Camera Citations	79	43	56	39	99	140	337	208	76	81	75	38	1238
ASSIST OTHER CALLS													
Assist Other Police Depts.	13	9	13	9	6	7	28	12	17	12	10	16	149
Assist Medical / Rescue Calls	83	86	74	57	47	69	112	104	89	68	65	66	920
Assist Fire Department Calls	9	28	19	10	8	6	6	16	18	6	7	2	138
POLICE / CRIME CALLS													
Burglary Alarms	32	37	24	24	20	29	33	24	23	30	25	26	327
Disturbances / Disorderly	4	0	7	3	6	6	12	13	4	5	2	3	68
Larceny	0	4	5	0	5	1	5	4	2	2	3	0	31
Missing Persons	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	0	7
<b>Breaking and Entering</b>	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	œ	12
Physical / Sexual Assaults	0	0	1	0	2	4	4	4	1	3	4	æ	26
Driving Under the Influence	2	3	3	0	1	2	1	2	2	0	0	1	20
Larceny / Theft / Vandalism	2	7	9	4	8	3	10	4	5	4	9	0	59
N arcotics Violations	1	4	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	10
Domestic Incidents	2	3	4	3	4	S	7	8	1	9	2	2	50
Animal Complaints	5	14	20	12	16	13	12	19	8	11	12	2	144
Boating Violations	0	0	0	0	0	2	30	23	17	0	0	0	72
Overdose Treatment	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	5	2	•	19
COMMUNITY ASSIST CALLS													
Building & House Security Checks	308	229	597	873	311	248	235	304	320	302	322	179	4228
School Safety Checks	26	17	25	10	10	12	14	15	31	39	50	28	277
Public VIN Checks	29	19	15	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	70
Car Seat Checks / Installations	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	7
Beach/Waterway/Area Checks	157	164	256	301	267	392	450	547	282	337	220	152	3525
ARRESTS													
Adult Arrests Total	26	26	26	3	17	12	10	18	11	9	9	2	166
Juvenile Arrest Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Felony Arrests	1	1	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	6
Misdemeanor Arrests	25	26	23	æ	15	12	6	18	12	5	9	9	160

# **Department Statistics**



 $\sim 2020$  Peace Officer Memorial Day  $\sim$