

# Charlestown Police Department

~ Charlestown, Rhode Island ~

## 2021 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



Charlestown residents and visitors,

On behalf of the fine men and women of the Charlestown Police Department, I am pleased to present to you the agency's 2021 Annual Report. This annual report represents a short summary of the varied activities within the police department during the previous calendar year. We encourage you to review the information within this report in the hope that you will have a better understanding of how we are working together, along with the community, to accomplish our agency's mission.

Compiling an annual report allows administrators and staff an additional opportunity to review and critique the agency's performance and efficiency in a public forum. The information in the report aids us in determining whether we are succeeding in meeting our annual goals and objectives, and holding true to the vision and mission statements we have enacted. This report is one example of our commitment to be transparent in our operations. It offers useful information to citizens, staff and public officials.

The Annual Report contains some basic statistical analysis of police activities along with details of our community oriented efforts. We as a department, endeavor to continually move forward toward a higher 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 organizational mission is the reduction of crime and the fear of crime while improving relationships and increasing community engagement and cooperation.

In 2021 the agency continued to cope with the changing environment posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic presented many unique challenges for police

personnel, first responders and the community. Modifications in police procedures and services were adopted and implemented. Allocation of personnel was continually modified as members became ill or had to quarantine and were unable to work for extended periods of time. Non the less, we were successful at delivering the high level of service residents expect from our agency, despite the challenges.

Police officer retention and recruitment has become a major problem in policing nationwide. We as a society are experiencing a serious paradigm shift relative to police – community relations. Improving the public perception of the police profession is a daunting task and continues to challenge both urban and rural police departments. In 2021, Charlestown Police Department staffing remained constant, with the rank and file of police officers remaining unchanged.

We continued to meet our accreditation goals and are very proud of our status as a RIPAC accredited police agency. The training and development of our personnel remains a high priority and is integral to maintaining high morale and a high standard of excellence.

In closing, we look forward to 2022 and a return to some semblance of normalcy. Please take some time and review this annual report. Feel free to reach out to me at the department to discuss agency operations at any time.

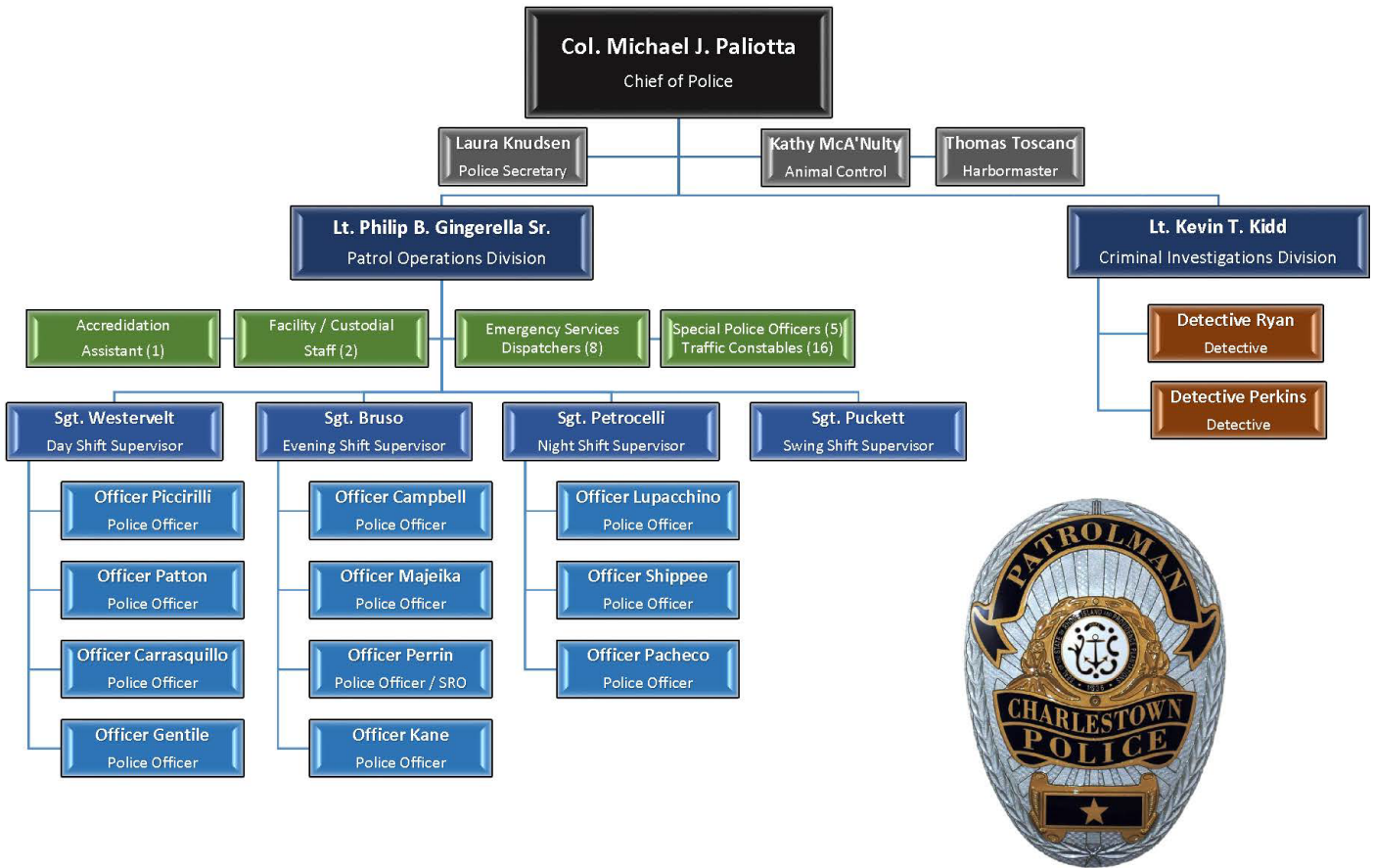
**Colonel Michael J. Paliotta**

*Chief of Police*



# 2021 Organizational Chart

## CHARLESTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT 2021 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 2021, the Charlestown Police Department logged 14,021 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 COVID-19 pandemic has again 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 agency saw about 60% of staff directly affected

since the start of the pandemic, putting a strain on delivery of police services. Approximately 85% of all staff have been vaccinated and the agency has 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 Town's two largest summer events, The Annual Charlestown Seafood Festival and Rhythm and Roots Festival saw record crowds in 2021. The agency's staff met this demand well and served the Town in a professional, courteous and compassionate manner. Residents and visitors alike should feel proud and confident that their police department is prepared, equipped and trained to continue 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 specially equipped with personnel and resources to investigate vice, narcotics, and other major felony and misdemeanor incidents. The Lieutenant in charge of the division is responsible to oversee the department's prosecution function working closely with the Town's solicitors and the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General. This division represents the police department in each of 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.

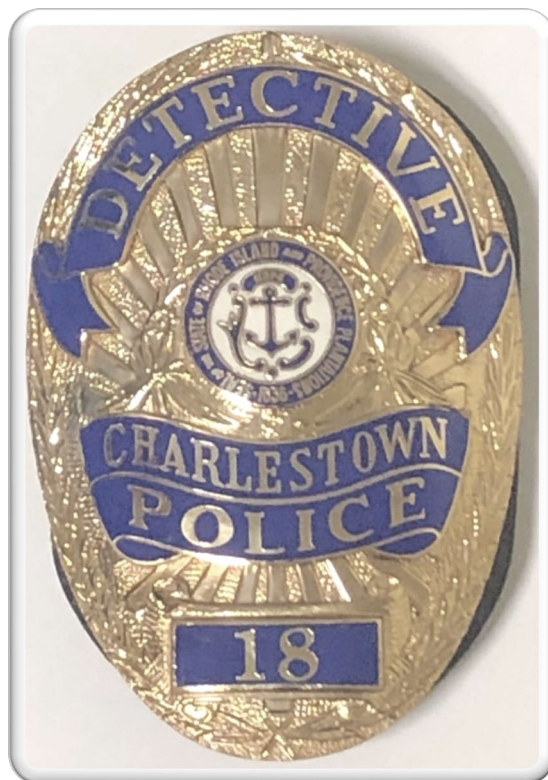
The Criminal Investigations Division of the Charlestown Police Department is staffed with three (3) full-time sworn police officers. The personnel include one (1) Lieutenant serving in the capacity of division commander, and two (2) Detectives serving as criminal investigators. In addition, the division 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 2021, 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.

**Lt. Kevin T. Kidd**

*Division Commander*



## Charlestown Harbormaster Program



**Thomas Toscano - Harbormaster**

The Charlestown Harbormaster is responsible for the Town's harbor management and marine patrol program. This marine unit is comprised of four (4) town officials that are overseen by the Chief of Police. It includes one (1) Harbormaster and three (3) Assistant Harbormasters, each responsible to patrol and enforce regulations on the Town's two large coastal salt ponds, breach-ways and assorted waterways. Harbormasters work closely with sworn police personnel to provide a variety of services to the residents and visitors of Charlestown. 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 Charlestown Animal Shelter, located on Sand Hill Road is currently undergoing a complete renovation and addition to better detain domestic animals and increase the functionality of the facility by providing a cleaner and safer space for staff.



# National Night Out

The Charlestown Police Department along with our partners, The Charlestown Fire Department and the Charlestown Ambulance-Rescue Service, hosted a National Night Out event on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The event was held in Ninigret Park and was a huge success! The evening's weather was clear and approximately 500 residents attended the event. We have already begun planning a second National Night Out for the fall of 2022.





# Community Engagement

The Charlestown Police Department participated, or assisted in dozens of community events and programs in 2021. Below are some of the events and programs.

- Elementary School Field Day.
- Senior Center Luncheons.
- Matthew's Wish Toy Drive.
- Drug Take Back Day.
- Seafood Festival Photo Booth.
- Child Seat Installations.
- Halloween Trunk or Treat.
- Charlestown Holiday Ramble.
- Town Hall Christmas Event.
- Smokey the Bear Parade.
- New Year's Eve Bonfire.
- National Night Out.



# 2021 Department Training Review



## 2021 Department Training

TRAINING	CLASS	# OF	TOTAL	TRAINING	CLASS	# OF	TOTAL
COURSE	HOURS	STAFF	HOURS	COURSE	HOURS	STAFF	HOURS
Spring Firearms Qualification	4	25	100	Firearms Instructor School	50	1	50
Fall Firearms Qualification	2	25	50	Incident Command ICS-400	16	1	16
Taser Recertification	4	18	72	Taser Instructor School	8	1	8
FATS - Firearm Simulator	1	25	25	Fire Investigator	8	1	8
DUI Breathalyzer Recertification	4	20	80	Workzone Safety Training	4	2	6
Mental Health Training	1	25	25	EMT Recertification	40	2	80
Use of Force	4	25	100	Digital Forensic School	80	1	80
Workplace Harassment	1	45	45	Police Academy Instructor	40	2	80
NCIC / RILETS Recertification	1	21	21	Field Training Officer School	40	1	40
Active Shooter - Police One	1	25	25	"LOCKUP" Instructor	40	1	40
Ethics in Law Enforcement	1	25	25				
Officer Survival - Police1	1	25	25				
Legal Updates & Liability	2	25	50				
Blood borne Pathogens	1	45	45				
Domestic Violence Training	4	25	100				
Anti-Bias Policing	1	25	25				
Mass Casualty Training	1	25	25				
COVID / Blood borne	2	45	90				
Incident Command Systems	1	30	30	<b>TOTAL TRAINING HOURS</b>			<b>1,366</b>



# Internal Reviews

<b><u>2021 Use of Force Report</u></b>		
Taser Deployment	Presentation of Firearm	Physical Force in Arrest
1	3	3

All agency use of force incidents were investigated and reviewed by the department's administration in 2021. 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.

<b><u>2021 Police Pursuit Report</u></b>	
Number of Police Pursuits in 2021	3

All police pursuits were reviewed by the department's administration in 2021. It was determined that the three (3) pursuits in 2021 did not violate department policy and procedure and were closed with no further action needed.

<b><u>2021 Citizen Complaints Report</u></b>	
Number of Citizen Complaints in 2021	1

One citizen complaint was investigated and reviewed by the department's administration in 2021. The one (1) complaint was determined to be unfounded and closed with no further action.

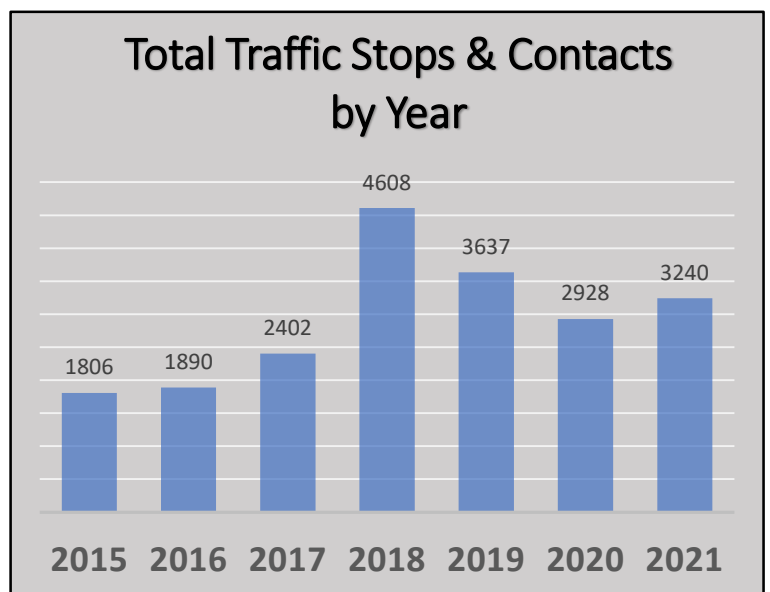
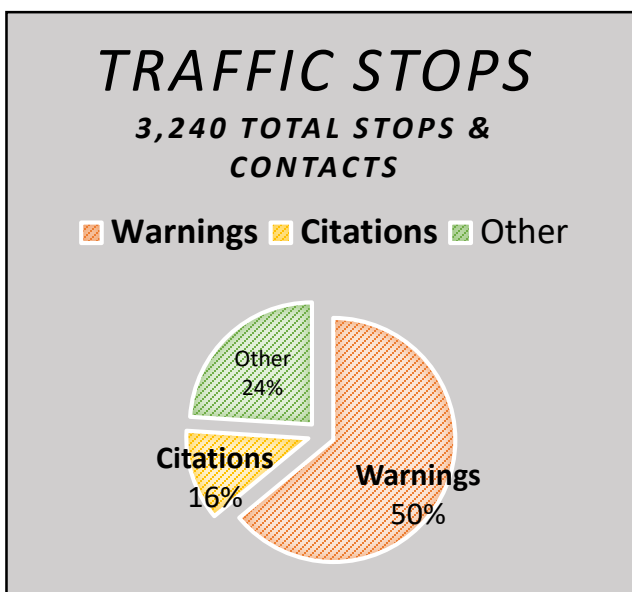
<b><u>2021 Internal Complaints Report</u></b>	
Number of Internal Complaints in 2021	3

All agency internal complaints were investigated and reviewed by the department's administration in 2021. Two (2) complaints were closed with employee counseling, one (1) complaint was closed with discipline.

# Traffic Enforcement

The Charlestown Police Department takes highway traffic safety very seriously, however the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly changed our traffic enforcement program. Several waves of the pandemic have resulted in illness and manpower reductions to the Patrol Operations Division. Total traffic stops increased slightly in 2021, but have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. The Charlestown Police Department will continue to transition back to a more proactive traffic enforcement posture in 2022 as the pandemic ends.

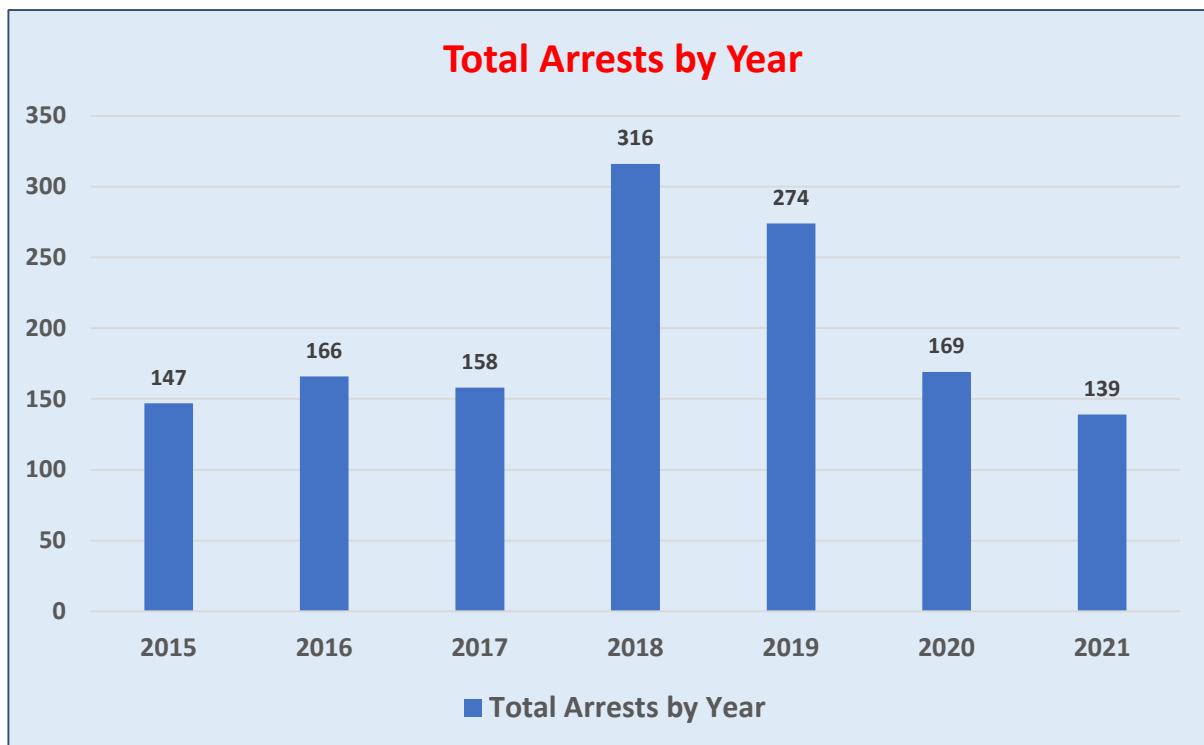
VIOLATIONS	CITATIONS	WARNING	TOTAL
Excessive Speed	188	1,209	1,397
Expired / Suspended Registration	41	154	195
Seatbelt Violations	10	29	39
Stop Sign Violations	22	61	83
Operating without Insurance	5	18	23
Other Traffic Violation	123	630	753
Other Traffic Contacts	0	750	750
<b>TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS &amp; CONTACTS</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>3,240</b>
Red Light Camera Program	2,488	N/A	<b>2,488</b>



# Criminal Violations

The Charlestown Police Department conducted a total of 139 arrests in 2021. This represents a slight decrease from 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Charlestown Police Department limited many forms of traffic contact, encouraged greater officer discretion and stayed in a reactive posture for much of 2021. Overall, this resulted in lower traffic related arrests, summons and violations.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS	ADULT	JUVENILE	TOTAL
Suspended License	31	0	31
Driving Under the Influence	22	0	22
Domestic Violence / Disorderly	31	0	31
Warrant Arrest	25	0	25
Narcotics Violation	6	0	6
Physical / Sexual Assault	11	0	11
All Others	13	0	13
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>139</b>



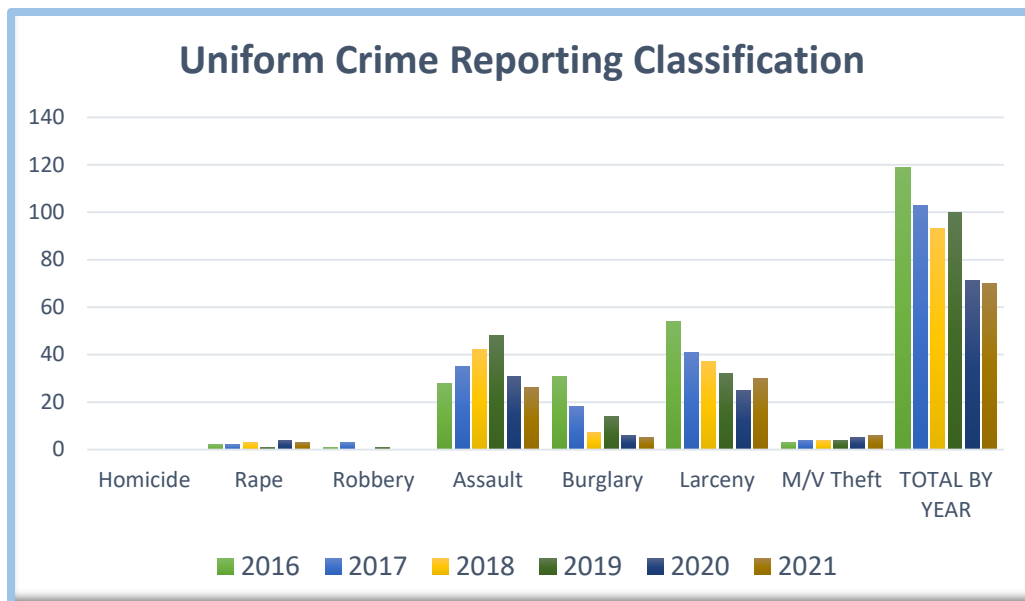


# Uniform Crime Report Data

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 agency’s monthly activity report. This difference is due to the fact that the agency’s monthly activity report reflects the “actual number of calls for service” generated in each of those categories as well as many others. Through the course of follow-up investigations, police clear many calls for services initially reported as crimes as “unfounded” or “non-reportable”, these incidents do not make it onto the final monthly UCR report. Below you will find our UCR data for the years 2016 – 2021. This data is helpful in tracking patterns and trends in major crime categories. In general, the overall reportable major crimes in town are low and some categories are trending downward.

Uniform Crime Reporting Classification						
CATEGORY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2	2	3	1	4	3
Robbery	1	3	0	1	0	0
Assault	28	35	42	48	31	26
Burglary	31	18	7	14	6	5
Larceny	54	41	37	32	25	30
M/V Theft	3	4	4	4	5	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>70</b>





# CHARLESTOWN POLICE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT



Submitted by: Chief Michael J. Paliotta

## Department Statistics

2021	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
<b>TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	944	1237	1358	1196	1211	1207	1283	1410	1046	1111	1002	1016	14021
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE CALLS</b>													
Traffic Enforcement/Contacts	161	158	341	277	406	410	231	236	102	282	328	308	3240
Traffic - Citations	12	26	48	32	69	60	19	36	9	15	32	31	389
Traffic - Warnings	131	119	212	195	284	303	179	49	49	169	214	197	2101
Traffic Accidents Total	15	18	12	12	9	24	24	18	15	16	16	16	195
Disabled Motorist Assists	6	11	13	17	20	25	22	26	14	9	11	17	191
Red Light Camera Citations	61	86	88	94	135	173	234	665	189	260	265	238	2488
<b>ASSIST OTHER CALLS</b>													
Assist Other Police Depts.	4	11	10	14	7	15	13	14	12	8	7	6	121
Assist Medical / Rescue Calls	72	81	73	80	88	71	130	132	91	89	79	88	1074
Assist Fire Department Calls	8	4	11	11	10	5	8	18	8	6	12	5	106
<b>POLICE / CRIME CALLS</b>													
Burglary Alarms	17	16	32	15	18	27	32	31	19	44	36	26	313
Disturbances / Disorderly	3	1	2	5	9	7	7	9	7	7	5	3	65
Larceny	3	2	5	2	4	0	4	1	4	1	0	1	27
Missing Persons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Breaking and Entering	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	10
Physical / Sexual Assaults	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	0	2	19
Driving Under the Influence	0	2	3	1	4	6	1	0	0	0	3	2	22
Larceny / Theft / Vandalism	9	2	7	2	6	6	8	5	6	5	3	7	66
Narcotics Violations	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
Domestic Incidents	2	1	2	2	1	1	4	6	6	8	2	7	42
Animal Complaints	14	3	6	12	9	11	12	21	14	12	17	9	140
Boating Violations	0	0	1	0	1	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	11
Overdose Treatment	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	8
<b>COMMUNITY ASSIST CALLS</b>													
Building & House Checks	296	238	390	332	267	160	204	184	259	330	287	320	3267
School Safety Checks	17	25	29	47	39	25	3	14	40	46	32	28	345
Public VIN Checks	0	1	0	1	1	3	1	2	14	33	22	29	107
Car Seat Checks / Installations	2	1	2	5	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	18
Beach/Waterway/Area Checks	199	138	225	178	211	285	347	356	69	183	164	151	2506
<b>ARRESTS</b>													
Adult Arrests Total	6	12	18	12	19	17	7	9	6	9	9	15	139
Juvenile Arrest Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Felony Arrests	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	11
Misdemeanor Arrests	6	12	15	10	18	17	7	6	6	8	8	15	128





~ 2021 New Year's Eve Bonfire ~