

Charlestown Police Department

2023 Annual Report

Colonel Michael J. Paliotta
Chief of Police

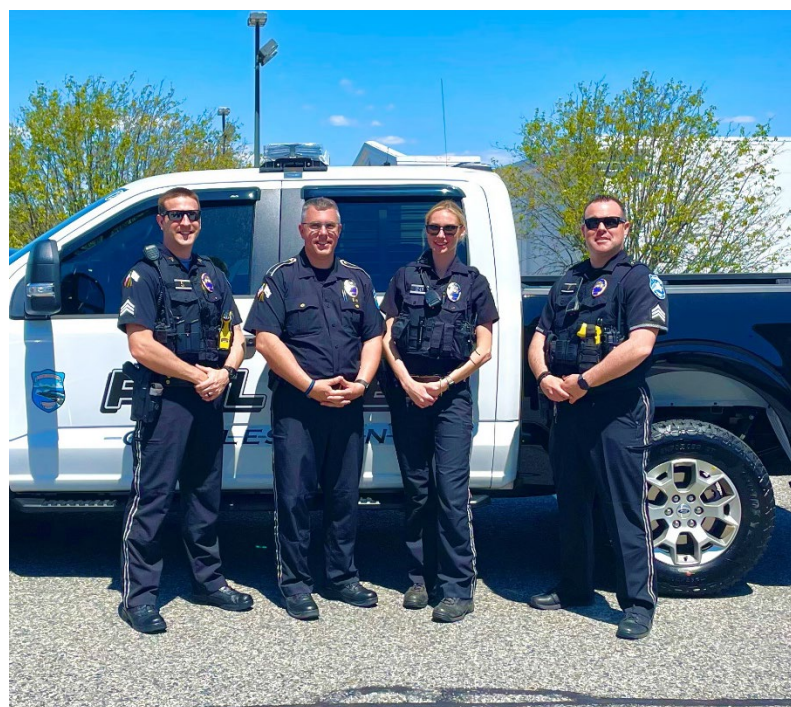


Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents
2. Department Standards
3. Message from the Chief of Police
5. 2023 Organizational Chart
6. Patrol Operations Division
8. Criminal Investigations Division
10. Harbormaster & Animal Control
11. Promotions, Retirements and Hires
12. Department Commendations
13. Community Engagement
14. Department Training Review
15. Internal Reviews
16. Traffic Enforcement
17. Criminal Violations
18. Uniform Crime Report Data
19. 2023 Department Activity

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 2023 Annual Report. This annual report represents a brief summary of the varied activities of the police department throughout the previous calendar year. We encourage you to review this information in the hope that you gain a better understanding of how we work cooperatively to accomplish our organizational goals and objectives and meet our agency's mission.

Compiling annual reports such as these allows us the opportunity to review and critique our department's performance and efficiency within a public forum. This report is one more example of our continuing commitment to agency transparency. The report offers useful information to citizens, staff and public officials alike. The annual report contains basic statistical analysis of police activities along with details of some of our community-oriented initiatives. Our department endeavors to continually advance toward a higher standard of excellence. It is our department policy and strategy to allocate the resources for public safety in a highly responsible and efficient manner. Our organizational mission is the reduction of crime and the fear of crime, while improving relationships and increasing community engagement and cooperation.

It should be noted that our agency experienced a modest decline in personnel in 2021 and 2022 due to officer retirements and lateral transfers. However, in 2023 the department was very successful in recruiting and hiring highly qualified new police officers. This was achieved via an aggressive recruitment campaign and the support and cooperation of our Town leadership. The influx of new police officers has had a positive effect on officer-initiated activity and department morale overall. In 2023, the department's officer-initiated activity saw a significant increase. The police department has experienced an overall decrease in rates of arrest, mainly due to the decriminalization of certain drugs and traffic offenses. This year also saw the adoption and implementation of Body Worn Cameras by the uniformed members of the department. Officers and members of the community are adjusting well to this new technology.

In the year 2023 we continued to meet or exceed our police accreditation goals. We successfully attained re-accredited status with the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission. This represents the third three-year accreditation cycle the agency has now completed. The training and professional development of our officers and staff continues to be a high priority for the department. Employee development is integral to maintaining high esprit de corps and morale within the agency. This in turn leads to a high standard of excellence and professional standards departmentwide.

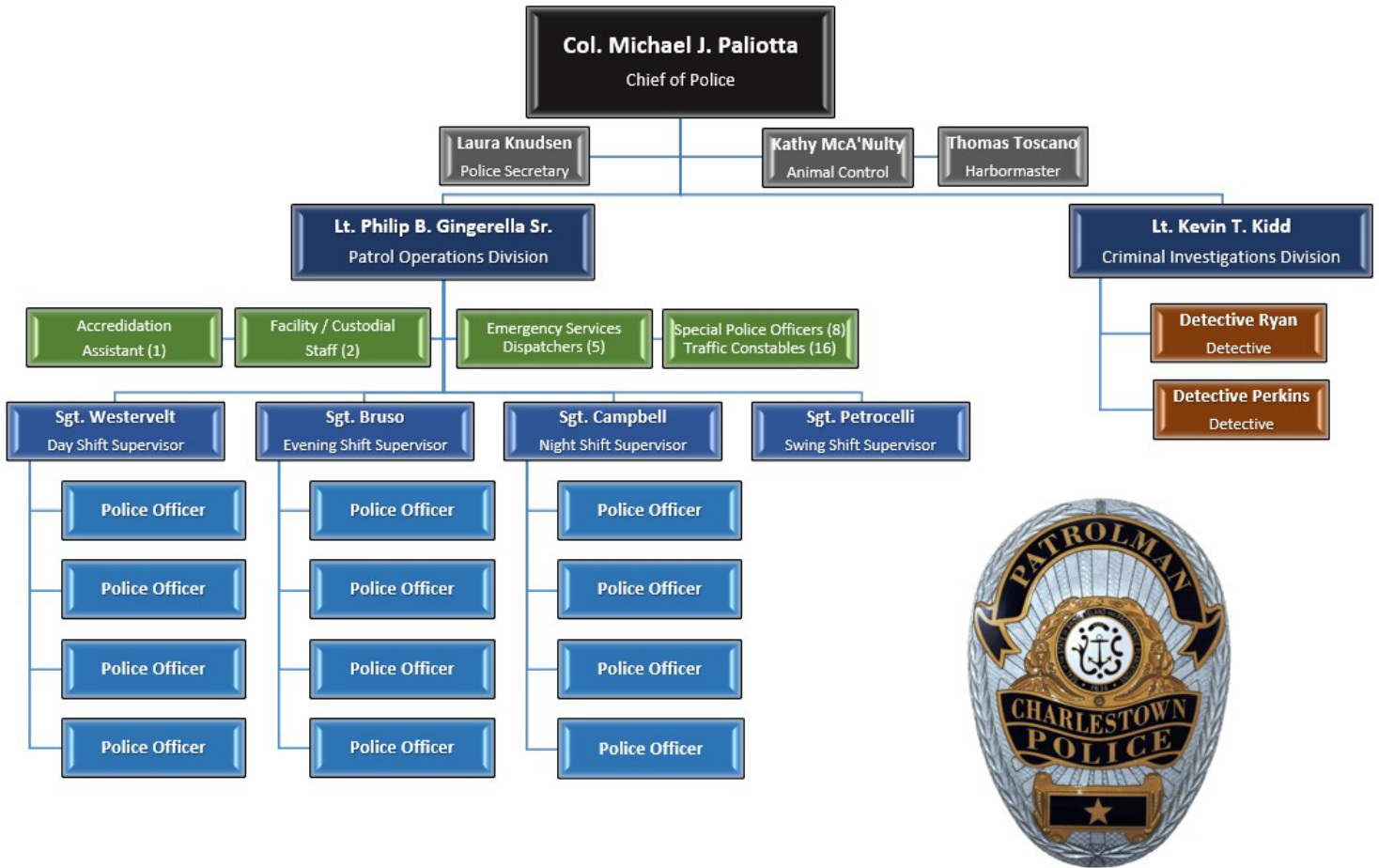
I hope you will take some time to review this annual report. Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any member of the command staff to discuss agency operations at any time.

Colonel Michael J. Paliotta

Chief of Police

2023 Organizational Chart

CHARLESTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023 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 twelve (12) Police Officers. In addition, there are eight (8) part-time Special Police Officers, five (5) Emergency Dispatchers, sixteen (16) part-time Traffic Constables, one (1) part-time Accreditation Assistant as well as two (2) part-time maintenance personnel. The Lieutenant in charge is referred to as the division commander. During the academic year, the division also supplies a full-time police officer to the Chariho Middle and Charlestown Elementary Schools in the capacity of a School Resource Officer (SRO). This division also handles agency grants, departmental in-service training, fleet and facilities maintenance and the agency's RIPAC state accreditation program.

In 2023, the Charlestown Police Department logged 13,795 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.

Historically, the agency's highest demand on uniformed police services occurs in the summer months of May, June, July, August and September. Once again, this

year saw elevated visitors to Charlestown and a high demand on agency resources during summer months. The Town's two largest summer events, The Annual Charlestown Seafood Festival and Rhythm and Roots Festival both saw record crowds again in 2023. The agency's staff met this demand well and served the Town in a professional, courteous and compassionate manner. Residents and visitors alike should feel proud and confident that their police department is prepared, equipped and trained to continue providing the highest quality law enforcement services to the community of Charlestown.

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 the five (5) court systems including the Rhode Island Superior / District Courts and Juvenile Courts, the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal and the Charlestown Municipal Court. In addition, the Criminal Investigative Division handles the agency's sex offender registration program, crime scene processing, evidence and property management, criminal case discoveries, APRA and records requests and department records retention.

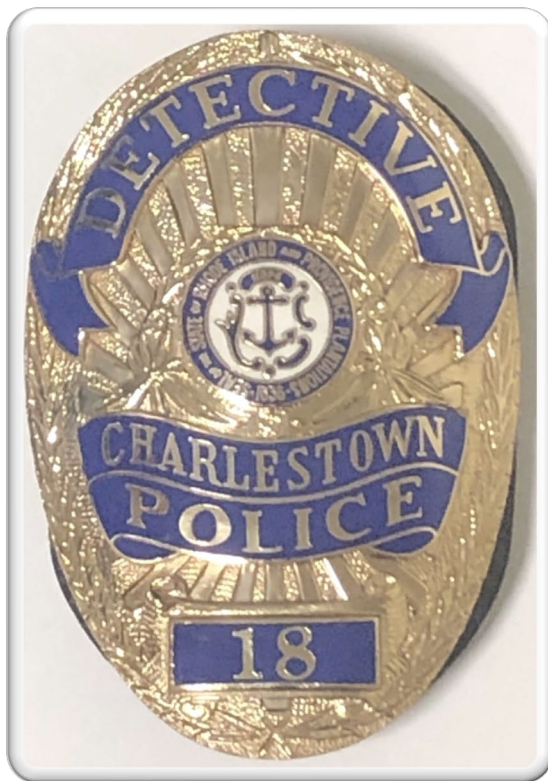
The Criminal Investigations Division of the Charlestown Police Department is staffed with three (3) full-time sworn police officers. The personnel include one (1) Lieutenant serving in the capacity of division commander, and two (2) Detectives serving as criminal investigators. In addition, the division 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 2023, the division continued to train its staff in the latest investigative techniques and technologies while working closely with other federal, state and local law enforcement partners to keep Charlestown safe.

Lt. 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.

Promotions, Retirements and New Employees

PROMOTIONS

Sgt. William Scott Campbell



RETIREMENTS

Lt. Kevin Kidd

Officer Thomas Piccirilli

Officer James Patton

Mrs. Lynn Mathews



NEW EMPLOYEES

Officer Lexus Falcone

Officer John Griffin

Officer Matthew LaPlume

Officer Larry Silvestri

Mrs. Kaena Dunn



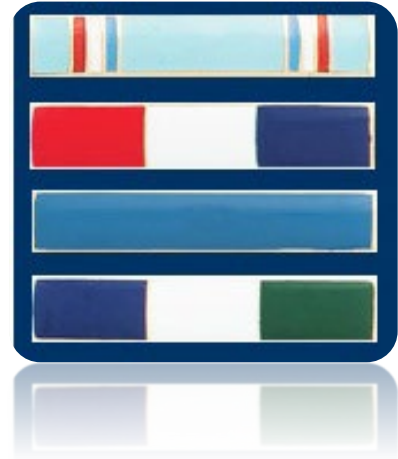
2023 Department Commendations

DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION 3RD CLASS

Sgt. Robert Petrocelli
Officer Matthew Laplume

DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION AWARD

Sgt. Christopher Bruso
Sgt. William Scott Campbell
Officer Michael Carrasquillo
Officer Shannon Kane
Officer Nicole Knapp



DEPARTMENT CITIZENS RECOGNITION AWARD

Mr. Steven McCandless

DEPARTMENT UNIT RECOGNITION AWARD

Sgt. David Westervelt
Sgt. Christopher Bruso
Sgt. Robert Petrocelli
Detective Ian Perkins
Detective Kevin Ryan
Officer Michael Carrasquillo
Officer Paul Gentile
Officer Scott Perrin
Officer Lexus Falcone
Officer Matthew Laplume
Dispatcher Kevin Worsham



Community Engagement

The Charlestown Police Department participated, or assisted in dozens of community events and programs in 2023. Below are some of the events and programs.

- National Night Out.
- 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.



2023 Department Training Review



2023 Department Training							
TRAINING COURSE	CLASS HOURS	# OF STAFF	TOTAL HOURS	TRAINING COURSE	CLASS HOURS	# OF STAFF	TOTAL HOURS
Spring Firearms Qualification	4	29	116	Firearms Instructor School	16	2	32
Fall Firearms Qualification	4	29	116	CODE RED Training	8	2	16
Taser Recertification	4	20	80	Taser Instructor Recert	8	3	24
FATS - Firearm Simulator	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mid-Line Supervisor School	16	2	32
DUI Breathalyzer Recert	4	20	80	Workzone Safety Training	4	2	6
Mental Health Training	2	25	50	Communications Technician	8	1	8
Use of Force	4	29	116	Digital Forensic School	80	1	80
Workplace Harrassment	1	50	50	Police Academy Instructor	40	2	80
NCIC / RILETS Recertification	1	20	20	AXON Body Worn Camera	8	6	48
Active Shooter - Police One	2	29	58	AXON Body Worn Camera	2	14	28
Ethics in Law Enforcement	1	35	35	Tactical Dispatcher	30	1	30
Car Seat Technician	40	2	80				
Legal Updates & Liability	2	29	58				
Field Training Officer (FTO)	40	1	40				
Domestic Violation Training	4	25	100				
Anti Bias Policing	1	25	25				
Mass Casualty Training	1	25	25				
Boating Safety Course	8	3	24				
Incident Command Systems	1	30	30				
TOTAL TRAINING HOURS							1,498

Internal Reviews

<u>2023 Use of Force Report</u>		
Taser Deployment	Presentation of Firearm	Physical Force in Arrest
1	3	1

All agency use of force incidents were investigated and reviewed by the department's administration in 2023. All police use of force incidents were found to be consistent with department policy and procedure, and all were closed with no further action needed.

<u>2023 Police Pursuit Report</u>	
Number of Police Pursuits in 2023	3

All police pursuits were reviewed by the department's administration in 2023. It was determined that the three (3) pursuits in 2023 did not violate department policy and procedure and were closed with no further action needed.

<u>2023 Citizen Complaints Report</u>	
Number of Citizen Complaints in 2023	2

Two citizen complaints were investigated and reviewed by the department's administration in 2023. The one (1) complaint was determined to be unfounded and closed with no further action. The second complaint was found to not be a complaint against an Officer and was handled satisfactory to the complainant with no further action.

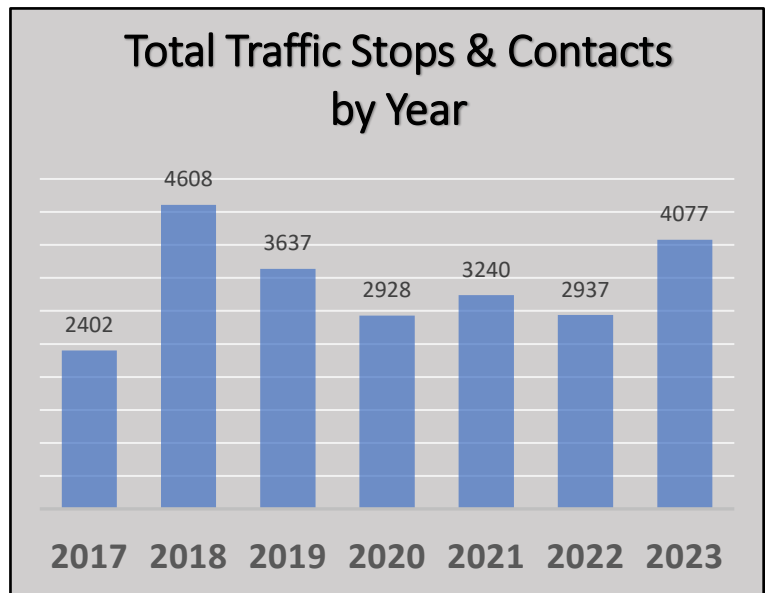
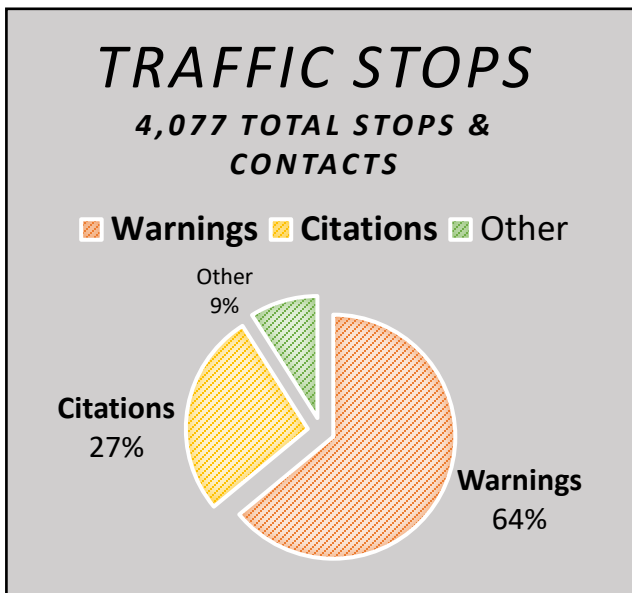
<u>2023 Internal Complaints Report</u>	
Number of Internal Complaints in 2023	0

There were no internal departmental complaints in 2023.

Traffic Enforcement

The Charlestown Police Department takes highway traffic safety very seriously. Charlestown Police Officers aggressively enforced all motor vehicles laws in 2023 which resulted in a total increase of traffic stops, citations and educational warnings.

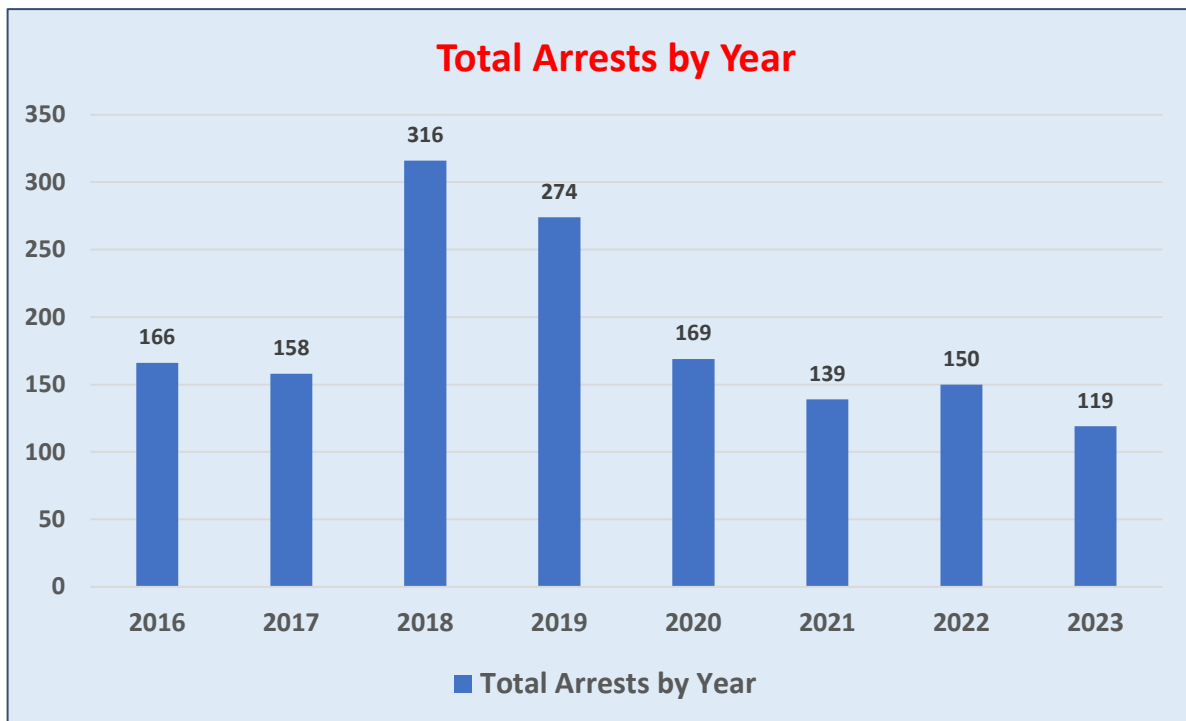
VIOLATIONS	CITATIONS	WARNING	TOTAL
Excessive Speed	674	1,955	2,629
Expired / Suspended Registration	120	347	467
Seatbelt Violations	40	34	74
Stop Sign Violations	42	244	286
Operating without Insurance	33	31	64
Other Traffic Violation	162	275	437
Other Traffic Contacts	0	120	120
TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS & CONTACTS	1,071	3,006	4,077
Red Light Camera Program	1,188	N/A	1,188



Criminal Violations

The Charlestown Police Department conducted a total of 119 arrests in 2023. This represents a slight decrease from 2022. Over the last 3 years, several offenses that were once categorized as a criminal offense have been reduced to a civil violation. Offenses that were once tracked as an “arrest” (Suspended License, Possession of Marijuana) are no longer criminal violations in Rhode Island. While the total number of calls for service and motor vehicle stops have remained the same, criminal arrest violations have decreased as a result of de-criminalization of previous offenses.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS	ADULT	JUVENILE	TOTAL
Driving Under the Influence	45	0	45
Domestic Violence / Disorderly	27	0	27
Warrant Arrest	8	0	8
Narcotics Violation	3	0	3
Physical / Sexual Assault	10	0	10
Possession Stolen Motor Vehicle	1	2	3
Disorderly Conduct	4	0	4
Possession of Alcohol	0	2	2
Breaking and Entering	2	0	2
Other Criminal Violation	15	0	15
TOTAL CRIMINAL ARRESTS	115	4	119

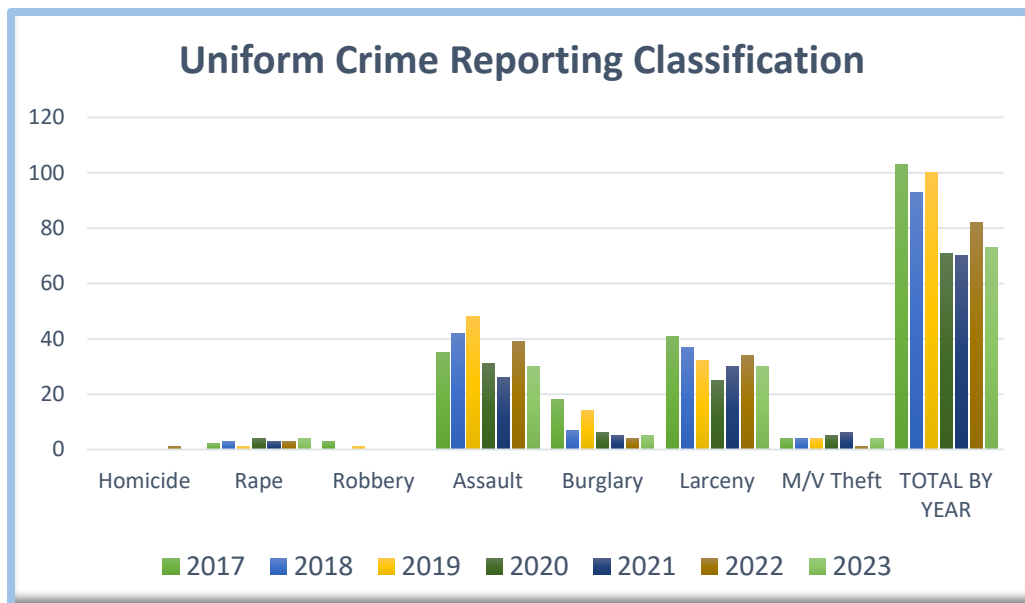


Uniform Crime Report Data

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

The department’s UCR data typically reflects a lower incidence of crime in specific categories than the agency’s monthly activity report. This difference is due to the fact that the agency’s monthly activity report reflects the “actual number of calls for service” generated in each of those categories as well as many others. Through the course of follow-up investigations, police clear many calls for services initially reported as crimes as “unfounded” or “non-reportable”, these incidents do not make it onto the final monthly UCR report. Below you will find our UCR data for the years 2017 – 2023. 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	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rape	2	3	1	4	3	3	4
Robbery	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Assault	35	42	48	31	26	39	30
Burglary	18	7	14	6	5	4	5
Larceny	41	37	32	25	30	34	30
M/V Theft	4	4	4	5	6	1	4
TOTAL	103	93	100	71	70	82	73



Department Statistics



CHARLESTOWN POLICE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Submitted by: Chief Michael J. Paliotta



2023	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	843	854	869	850	1273	1400	1607	1474	1301	1082	1235	1007	13795
MOTOR VEHICLE CALLS													
Traffic Enforcement/Contacts	216	184	183	212	397	466	503	497	412	292	432	283	4077
Traffic - Citations	43	30	39	53	67	100	141	145	116	113	146	78	1071
Traffic - Warnings	139	130	131	144	314	363	385	334	276	179	286	205	2886
Traffic Accidents Total	10	13	8	5	8	16	35	30	17	21	16	9	188
Disabled Motorist Assists	8	6	7	11	12	24	24	19	12	17	19	16	175
ASSIST OTHER CALLS													
Assist Other Police Depts.	7	7	8	8	9	15	13	13	15	11	9	8	123
Assist Medical / Rescue Calls	73	77	69	67	80	92	127	143	105	111	106	105	1155
Assist Fire Department Calls	7	8	9	11	10	4	8	5	4	9	21	6	102
POLICE / CRIME CALLS													
Burglary Alarms	19	19	24	19	24	15	17	16	14	18	36	17	238
Disturbances / Disorderly	9	7	5	6	15	12	18	13	6	7	5	1	104
Larceny	4	1	2	0	1	0	3	1	2	2	0	3	19
Missing Persons	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	7
Breaking and Entering	1	1	0	8	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	17
Physical / Sexual Assaults	3	3	2	1	1	1	0	3	0	3	1	0	18
Driving Under the Influence	1	2	7	4	2	7	2	4	4	3	6	2	44
Larceny / Theft / Vandalism	5	4	3	2	4	2	8	4	2	4	1	5	44
Narcotics Violations	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	5
Domestic Incidents	7	5	3	2	3	2	4	7	3	4	1	1	42
Animal Complaints	7	11	8	5	6	7	9	17	8	12	11	11	112
Boating Contacts / Violations	0	0	0	0	7	27	50	53	12	5	0	0	154
Psychological Emergencies	5	4	6	6	7	8	7	7	7	8	12	8	85
Overdose Treatment	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	3	11
COMMUNITY ASSIST CALLS													
Building & House Checks	197	219	228	189	168	132	136	123	217	163	180	138	2090
School Safety Checks	47	37	43	25	24	19	8	19	67	42	32	31	394
Public VIN Checks	19	17	32	28	35	29	22	35	36	32	34	15	334
Car Seat Checks / Installations	0	0	4	2	1	0	2	1	3	4	1	0	18
Beach/Waterway/Area Checks	149	143	116	128	261	280	299	194	190	151	175	237	2323
ARRESTS													
Adult Arrests Total	7	7	9	10	11	14	6	15	11	10	10	5	115
Juvenile Arrest Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	4
Felony Arrests	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	6
Misdemeanor Arrests	7	7	9	10	11	14	6	15	11	9	9	5	113
												Total Arrests	119

* N/A - data not available yet.



~ 2023 Memorial Day Parade ~