



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Charlestown Police
Department

Colonel Michael J. Paliotta
Chief of Police



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Department Standards



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Charlestown Police Department is to provide the community with the highest quality law enforcement services. We endeavor to improve the public's awareness of our community safety through the 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.

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.

CORE VALUES

HONESTY · INTERGRITY · TRUST · RESPECT · LOYALTY · SERVICE ORIENTED

Message from the Chief of Police



Greetings Charlestown Residents and Visitors,

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the police department, I am pleased to present to you this ***Charlestown Police Department 2025 Annual Report***.

This annual report summarizes many of the various activities our police department undertook throughout the past year. We encourage you to review this information in hopes that you might garner a better understanding of what your police department does every day.

Our agency's mission is to provide the community with the highest quality law enforcement services. We strive to eradicate criminal activity and those conditions that have a detrimental impact on public safety. This report is another example of our agency's continuing commitment to total transparency. It contains some basic crime analysis and a summary of police activities. In addition, the report outlines our agency's structure and describes some of our community-oriented initiatives.

The Charlestown Police Department endeavors to continually advance toward higher standards of excellence. Every day we work to apply the valuable resources allotted to public safety in the most responsible and efficient manner possible to achieve our mission. Great thought and effort continue to go into our agency's successful law enforcement strategies. The members of the police department work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in order to make your community a safer and more enjoyable place to live and visit.

We are proud once again to report that in 2025 our department continued to meet or exceed the industry standards set by the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission (RIPAC). The year 2025 continued to put a heavy strain on Charlestown police services and staff. However, we are proud to report that the department once again had a very low incidence of use of force and civilian complaints. Our success continues to be attributed to maintaining a professional work environment, staffing with well-educated and trained employees, and holding everyone accountable to our high standards. We work hard each day to foster strong bonds with the community we serve. A successful law enforcement mission relies on these strong bonds between police and the community they serve.

The ongoing training and professional development of officers and staff continues to be one of our highest priorities. In 2025 the department hired two new police officers; they are currently in the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy and will be on the road by the summer of 2026. Over the past five years the recruitment and retention of quality police personnel has been a growing problem within the industry, including Charlestown.

As a response, this year we developed a new Recruitment and Retention Committee composed of both command staff and rank and file officers. The charge of this committee is to develop new and innovative ways to attract new police officers, and at the same time enhance the work environment to keep existing officers from seeking employment elsewhere. Thus far the committee has been well received and staffed, and has produced some very successful initiatives. In 2026, we hope to build on these new ideas in order to strengthen the agency even more.

In closing, I hope you will take some time to review this annual report. Please be safe out there and act responsibly. Be conscious of your surroundings at all times and remember to report anything suspicious to law enforcement. The old adage, "See something, say something" is a powerful tool the public can use every day to help law enforcement. The sooner we are notified of problems, the sooner we can take corrective action. Your involvement in our mission is an important factor in our success and directly helps reduce crime and create a safer community.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the command staff to discuss agency operations at any time. Contact information is available on our website at charlestownpolice.org.

Respectfully,

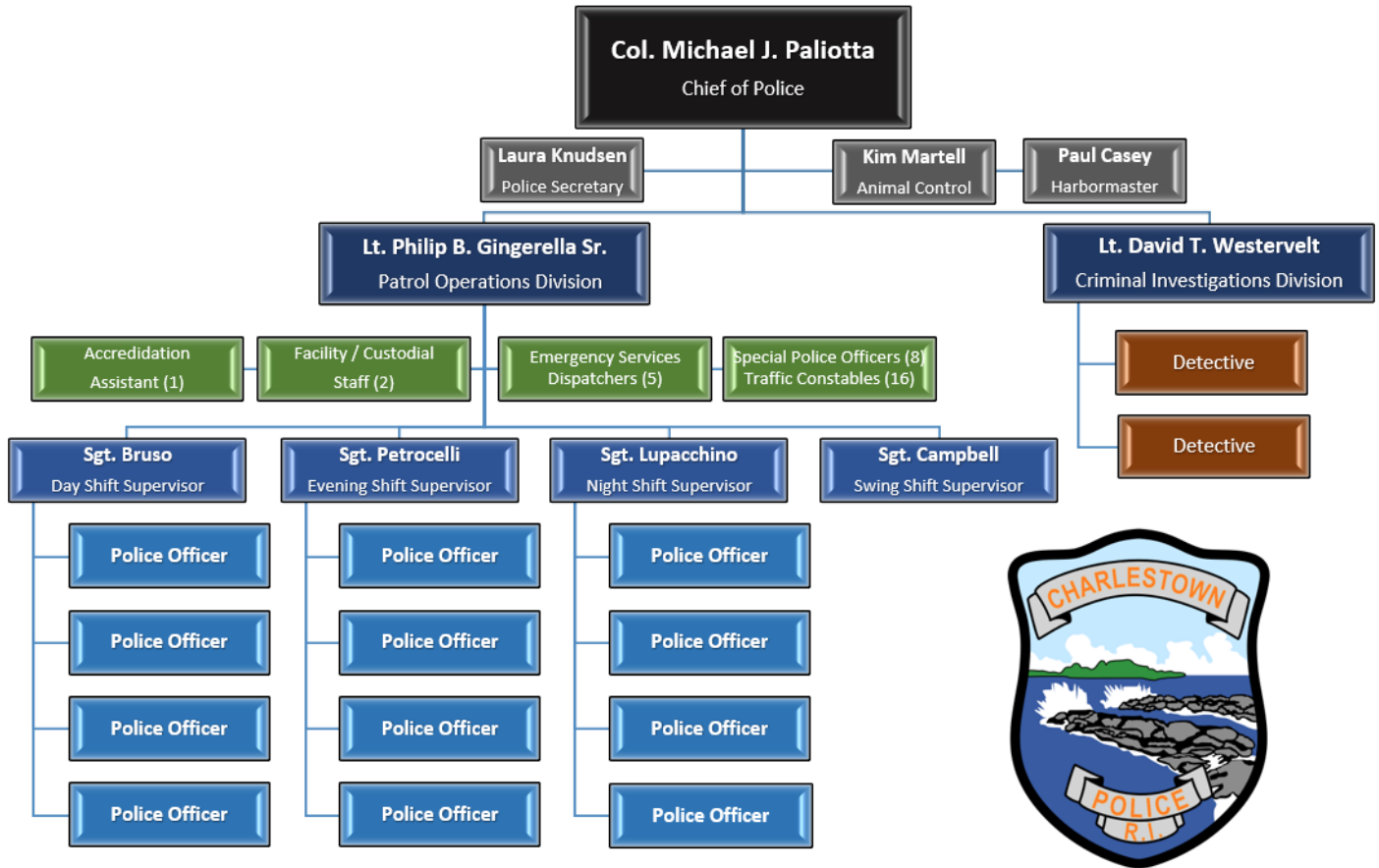
Colonel Michael J. Paliotta

Chief of Police

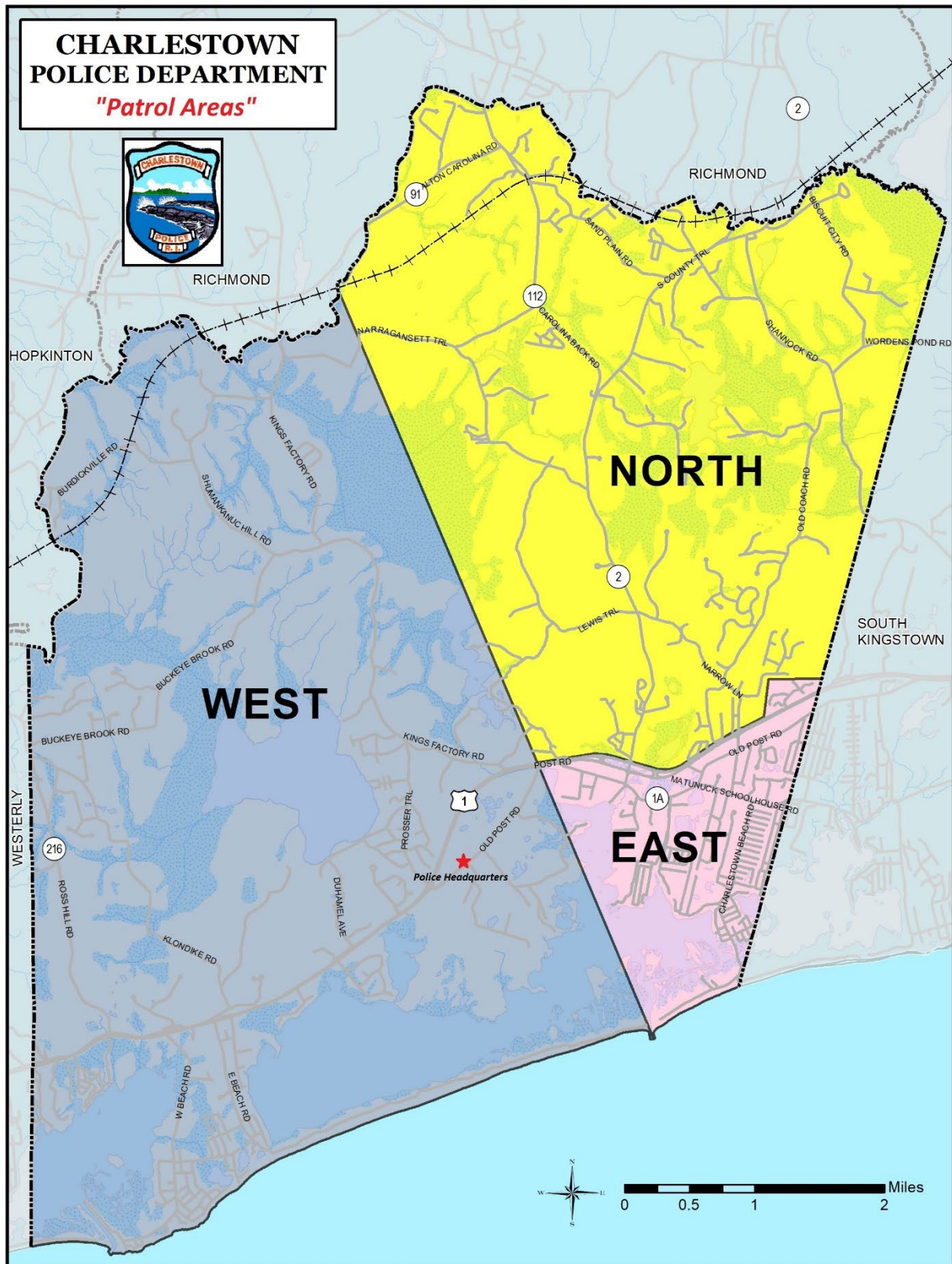


Department Organizational Chart

CHARLESTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Patrol Beat Map



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 2025, the Charlestown Police Department logged 14,593 calls for service. 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 2025. 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.

Lt. 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.

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 2025, 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. David T. Westervelt

Division Commander

Harbormaster & Animal Control Programs



Paul Casey - 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 Harbormaster Paul Casey 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.



Kim Martell – 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 Kim Martell. Ms. Martell 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.

2026 “America 250”

As we move into 2026, residents will see Charlestown Police Officers wearing commemorative shoulder patches and badges recognizing America’s birthday in 2026. The “America 250” shoulder patch is an approved fundraiser patch sponsored by the Charlestown Police FOP. All proceeds from the sale of the patch will be donated to the Charlestown Historical Society at the end of 2026. The patch is available for purchase by the general public on the Charlestown Police FOP’s website.



Community Engagement & Public Relations

Our Officers and staff again participated in a variety of Community Engagement activities. Full list of activities below.

“Coffee with a Cop”

HERO Breakfast

Charlestown After School Program

Charlestown Memorial Day Parade

First Responder Appreciation Day

Town Hall Christmas Tree Lighting

Smokey the Bear Parade

DWI Honor Patrols



Special Olympics Torch Run

New Year's Eve Bonfire

Charlestown Fire Santa Run

Drug Take Back Day

Elementary School Field Day

Child Seat Installations

Matthew's Wish Toy Drive

Halloween Trunk or Treat

Department Awards & Commendations

DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION – 3RD CLASS

Officer Jason Shippee

Officer Lexus Falcone

MADD – DUI ACHIEVEMENT

Officer Nicole Knapp

Officer Lexus Falcone

AAA NORTHEAST HERO'S AWARD

Officer Nicole Knapp

Officer Lexus Falcone

Officer Michael Carrasquillo



New Employees, Promotions and Retirements

PROMOTIONS

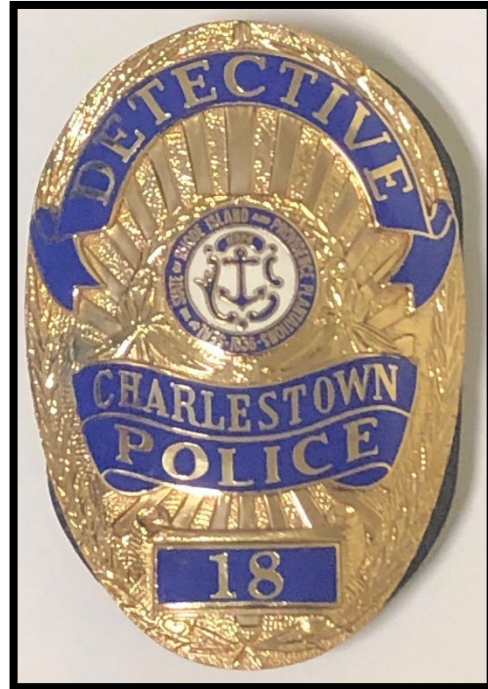
Detective Scott Perrin

NEW EMPLOYEES

Dispatcher Ava Bridge

RETIREMENTS

Detective Kevin Ryan



Department Training Review



2025 Department Training

TRAINING COURSE	CLASS HOURS	# OF STAFF	TOTAL HOURS	TRAINING COURSE	CLASS HOURS	# OF STAFF	TOTAL HOURS
Spring Firearms Qualification	4	30	120	Workzone Training	1	1	1
Fall Firearms Qualification	6	30	180	Accident Reconstruction	80	1	80
Taser Recertification	4	20	80	Vehicle Extraction	8	1	8
FATS - Firearm Simulator	1	30	30	EVOC Instructor	40	1	40
DUI Breathalyzer Recert	4	20	80	Tactical Medicine Instructor	40	1	40
Mental Health Training	1	30	30	De-Escalation Training	16	3	48
Use of Force	8	30	240	Drug Interdictions	16	2	32
Workplace Harrassment	1	45	45	ARIDE / DWI Training	16	1	16
Legal Updates & Liability	1	30	30	Investigating Complaints	8	1	8
Ethics in Law Enforcement	1	30	30	Advanced Supervisor	8	1	8
Active Shooter Training	1	30	30	Red Dot Instructor	32	1	32
Incident Command Systems	1	30	30	Autism Training	4	1	4
Mental Health Training	1	30	30				
Anti Bias Policing	1	30	30				
Field Training Officer	30	1	30				
LOCKUP - Instructor	16	4	64				
Active Shooter Instructor	32	2	64				
Defensive Driving	4	20	80				
CSI Training	6	30	180	TOTAL TRAINING HOURS			1,720

Internal Reviews

<u>2025 Use of Force Report</u>			
Taser Presentation	Taser Deployment	Presentation of Firearm	Physical Force in Arrest
1	1	4	1

Six (6) were deemed appropriate under current Use of Force policy and state law and closed with no further action after proper review. One (1) Use of Force resulted in counseling / training for the involved Officers.

<u>2025 Police Pursuit Report</u>	
Number of Police Pursuits in 2025	0

There were no police pursuits in 2025.

<u>2025 Citizen Complaints Report</u>	
Number of Citizen Complaints in 2025	2

Both citizen complaints were from the same person making the same complaint. Both of the complaints were determined to be “Unfounded”.

<u>2025 Internal Complaints Report</u>	
Number of Internal Complaints in 2025	2

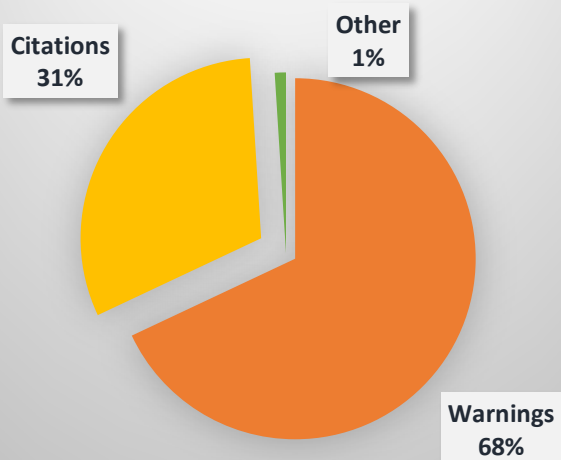
One internal matter was handled with Employee Assistance and the 2nd matter was closed with no further action.

Traffic Enforcement

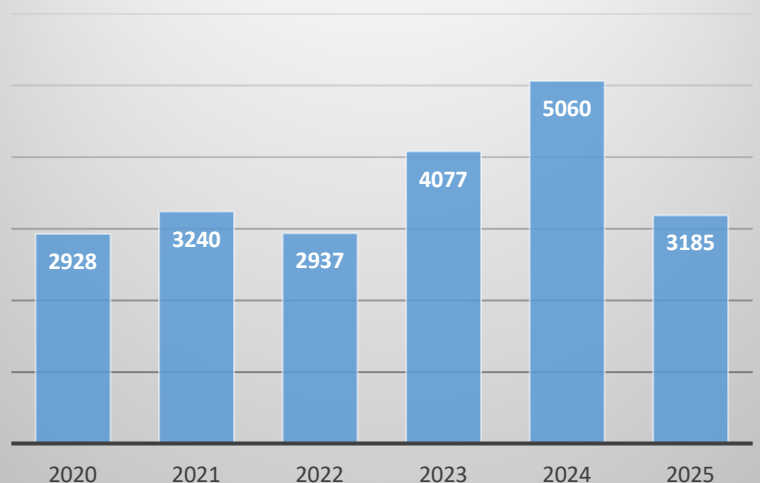
The Charlestown Police Department takes highway traffic safety very seriously. Charlestown Police Officers aggressively enforced all motor vehicle laws in 2025 which resulted in a decrease in overall traffic stops, citations and educational warnings.

VIOLATIONS	CITATIONS	WARNING	TOTAL
Excessive Speed	591	1298	1889
Expired / Suspended Registration	83	100	183
Seatbelt Violations	23	17	40
Stop Sign Violations	33	178	211
Operating without Insurance	40	10	50
Other Traffic Violations	227	472	699
Other Traffic Contacts	N/A	113	113
TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS & CONTACTS	997	2188	3185
Red Light Camera Program	561	N/A	561

**Traffic Stops & Contacts
3,185**



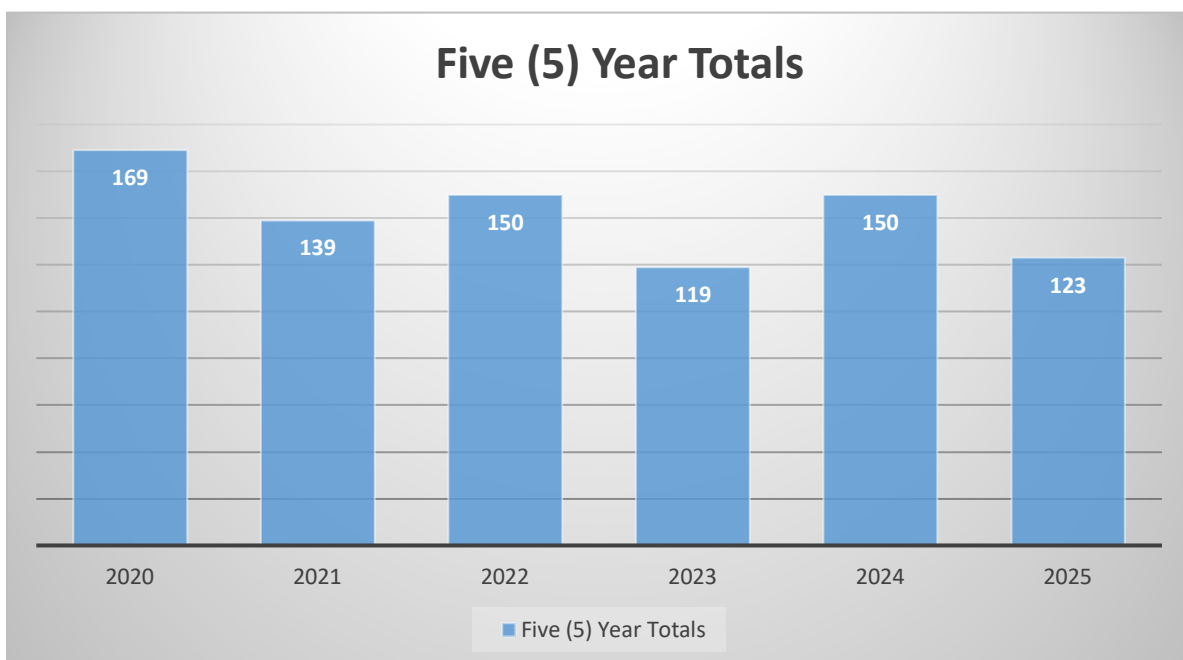
**Total Traffic Stops & Contacts
by Year**



Criminal Violations

The Charlestown Police Department conducted a total of 123 arrests in 2025. This represents a decrease from 2024. Over the last 5 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 consistent, criminal arrest violations have decreased as a result of de-criminalization from previous years.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS	ADULT	JUVENILE	TOTAL
Driving Under the Influence	32	0	32
Domestic Violence / Disorderly	39	0	39
Warrant Arrest	9	0	9
Narcotics Violation	5	0	5
Physical / Sexual Assault	14	1	14
Possession Stolen Motor Vehicle	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	8	3	8
Possession of Alcohol	0	0	0
Breaking and Entering	0	0	0
Other Criminal Violation	13	2	15
TOTAL CRIMINAL ARRESTS	120	3	123

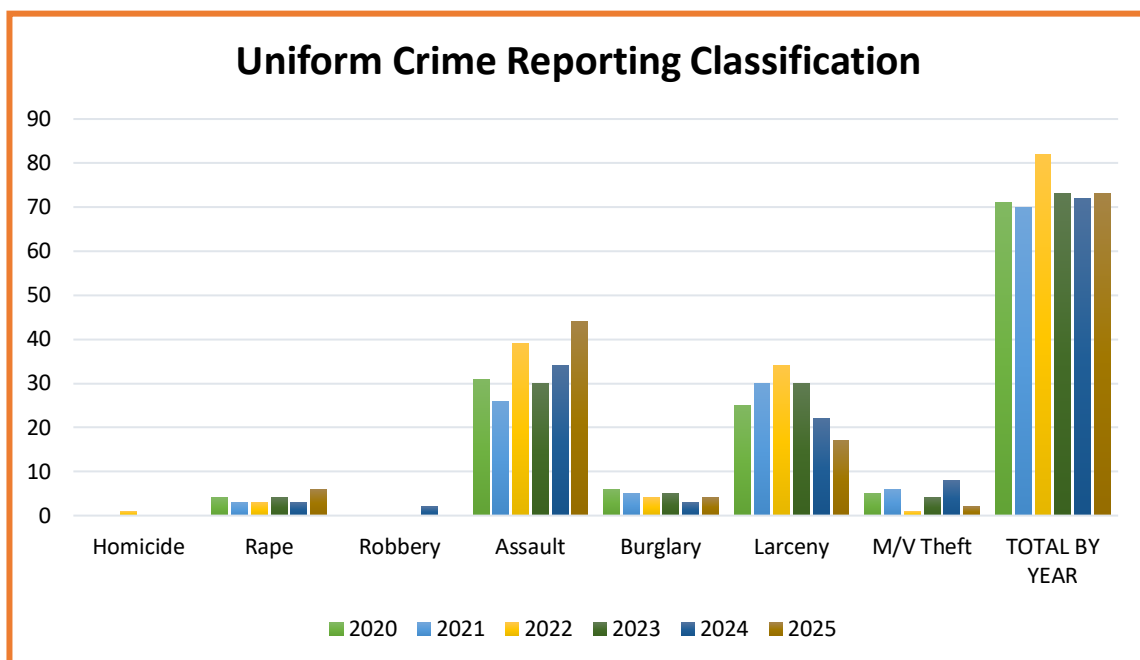


Uniform Crime Report Data

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 2020 – 2025. 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	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	0
Rape	4	3	3	4	3	6
Robbery	0	0	0	0	2	0
Assault	31	26	39	30	34	44
Burglary	6	5	4	5	3	4
Larceny	25	30	34	30	22	17
M/V Theft	5	6	1	4	8	2
TOTAL	71	70	82	73	72	73



Department Statistics



CHARLESTOWN POLICE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

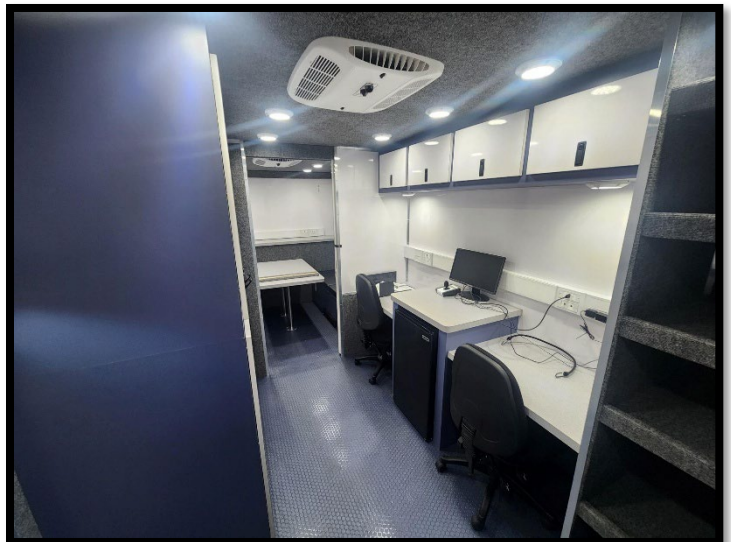
Submitted by: Chief Michael J. Pallotta



2025	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	1294	1083	1096	974	1041	1384	1466	1387	1168	1169	1262	1269	14593
MOTOR VEHICLE CALLS													
Traffic Enforcement/Contacts	400	307	328	159	203	285	252	230	222	234	350	215	3185
Traffic - Citations	141	87	123	41	41	70	118	48	94	54	103	77	997
Traffic - Warnings	240	208	181	90	124	215	134	182	169	144	230	121	2038
Traffic Accidents Total	8	10	9	10	9	12	25	31	14	20	19	10	177
Disabled Motorist Assists	12	11	11	11	16	18	23	37	11	19	14	16	199
ASSIST OTHER CALLS													
Assist Other Police Depts.	8	6	12	14	9	19	25	56	11	7	7	6	180
Assist Medical / Rescue Calls	153	120	124	100	111	142	143	154	134	106	114	153	1554
Assist Fire Department Calls	19	8	17	18	13	23	27	31	22	20	9	18	225
POLICE / CRIME CALLS													
Burglary Alarms	28	15	17	17	16	21	25	29	15	26	18	38	265
Disturbances / Disorderly	1	1	3	3	2	8	17	21	7	8	5	6	82
Larceny	0	6	2	2	1	4	6	6	1	0	0	2	30
Missing Persons	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	5
Breaking and Entering	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	5	14
Physical / Sexual Assaults	1	0	0	0	2	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	14
Driving Under the Influence	5	2	2	1	0	3	2	2	2	3	7	3	32
Larceny / Theft / Vandalism	1	6	2	6	5	6	11	8	3	2	5	10	65
Narcotics Violations	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	5
Domestic Incidents	2	3	5	0	3	4	5	2	7	1	3	4	39
Animal Complaints	5	11	19	20	10	17	15	18	6	6	9	3	139
Boating Contacts / Violations	0	0	0	0	0	27	34	29	12	0	0	0	102
Psychological Emergencies	11	11	6	5	10	12	10	7	12	11	8	13	116
Overdose Treatment	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	9
COMMUNITY ASSIST CALLS													
Building & House Checks	285	278	210	246	202	221	170	230	271	312	293	359	3077
School Safety Checks	24	25	26	20	24	9	0	0	20	24	20	11	203
Public VIN Checks	25	22	30	32	37	37	40	50	36	27	34	22	392
Car Seat Checks / Installations	0	2	3	3	0	0	10	5	0	0	0	0	23
Beach/Waterway/Area Checks	192	156	149	168	187	187	301	286	217	212	214	200	2469
ARRESTS													
Adult Arrests Total	14	8	11	4	4	13	11	7	16	7	12	13	120
Juvenile Arrest Total	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Felony Arrests	1	1	2	0	1	4	1	0	2	0	2	0	14
Misdemeanor Arrests	13	7	9	4	4	10	10	8	14	7	10	13	109
												Total Arrests	123

* N/A - data not available yet.

The Charlestown Police Department's new Mobile Command Post was delivered just before the start of our summer festivals. This vehicle replaced an older vehicle that had reached the end of its serviceable life. We want to thank the Town of Charlestown for their support with this project. This vehicle will be a huge asset to the town for many years to come.



End Report