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# FALLS CHURCH PUBLIC SAFETY



## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The Falls Church Public Safety Team's 2017 Annual Report provides a summary of notable events, accomplishments, and challenges faced by the various public safety disciplines within the City of Falls Church. In our service to the City, the Public Safety Team is committed to the sanctity of all lives and the 21st Century community policing principles which are anchored in strong community relationships and trust built through service. The brave men and women of the Public Safety Team serve as guardians for all people who live, work and play in the City of Falls Church.

In the report, you will discover the many accomplishments achieved and challenges faced by the Police Department, Fire Marshal, Office of Emergency Management, Parking Enforcement, Animal Control, and Emergency Dispatch within the last year. With our City's growing population comes an increased demand for public safety services. The Falls Church Public Safety Team does their very best to keep the community and its entire population safe and healthy in the most efficient and effective ways possible.

The men and women of the City's Public Safety Team serve with compassion, demonstrate measured restraint, and have a resilient spirit to protect and serve under any circumstance. We are fortunate to be part of one of the safest and healthiest cities in Country, and I am honored and profoundly proud to serve the City with some of the greatest public servants in this noble profession.

Sincerely Grateful,



**MARY GAVIN**  
CHIEF OF POLICE



# MISSION STATEMENTS

## POLICE

The Falls Church Police Department is committed to providing and maintaining the highest quality public safety service to the community at large and to its neighboring partners through prevention, intervention, investigations, and enforcement in all facets of the criminal justice and emergency management systems.

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency Management provides the leadership, coordination and operational planning that enables the City's response to, and recovery from, the impact of natural and man-made hazards. Our vision is that every member of the community has a responsibility to be prepared. In doing so, we will be ready and resilient as one community.

## FIRE MARSHAL

The mission of the Fire Marshal is life safety and property preservation through the enforcement of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The City Fire Marshal is designated as the Fire Official for the City of Falls Church.

### CITY DEMOGRAPHICS

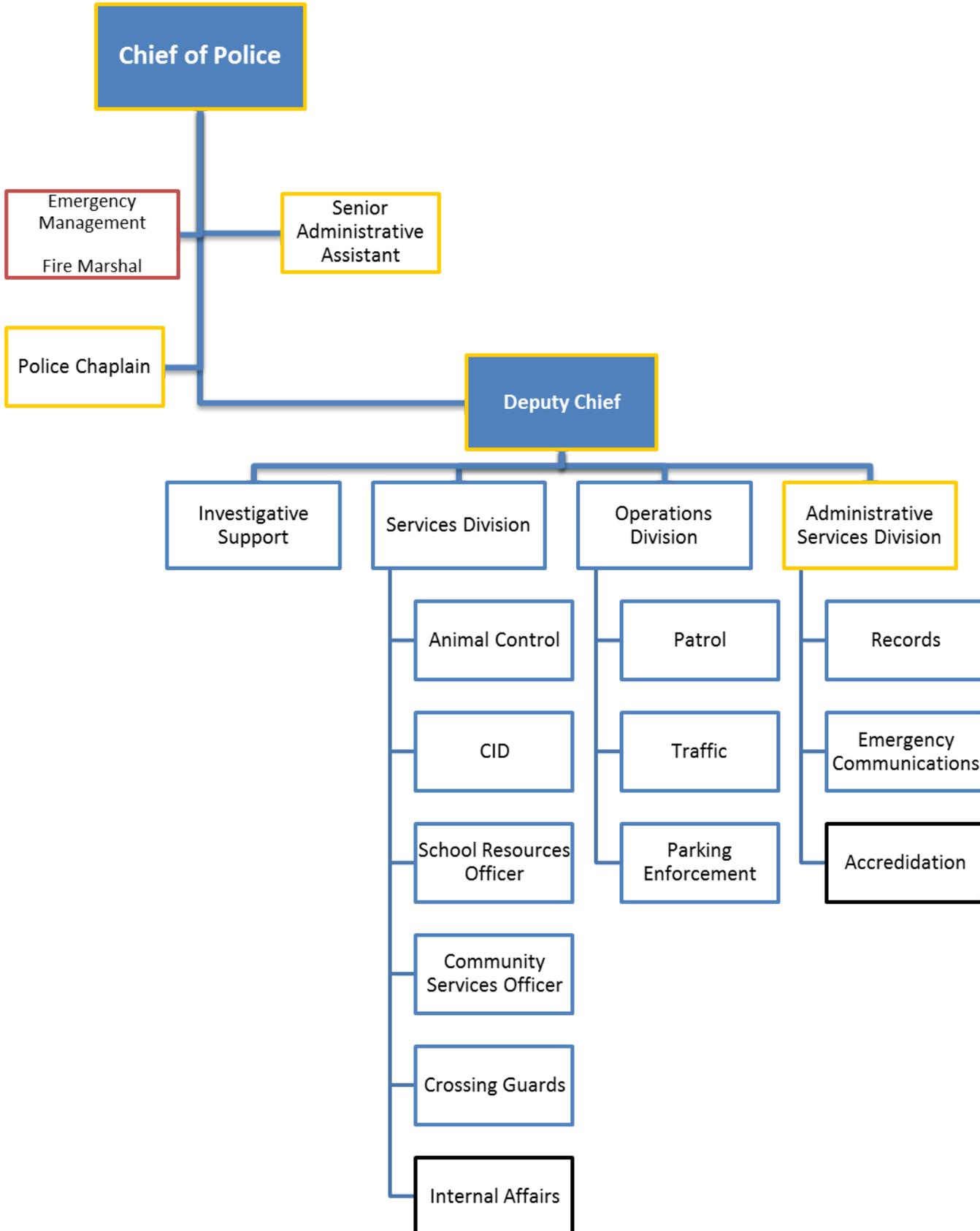
2017 Population: **14,600**

Land area: **2.02 sq mi**

FCPD Employees: **49**

FCPD Sworn Officers: **34**

# ORGANIZATION CHART



# STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

POLICE ACTIVITY TOTALS	2016	2017	CHANGE
Calls for Service	31,096	36,980	 18.9%
Part I Offenses	314	494	 57.3%
Part II Offenses	255	410	 60.8%
Total Arrests	729	858	 17.7%
Adult Arrests	697	848	 21.7%
Juvenile Arrests	32	10	 68.8%
DUI/DWI Arrests	57	43	 24.6%
Reportable Traffic Accidents	199	145	 27.1%
Traffic Tickets	2,883	1,543	 46.5%
Parking Tickets	2,426	1,785	 26.4%

SELECTED OFFENSE SUMMARY	2016	2017
Assault	62	68
Aggravated Assault	10	4
Auto Theft	19	16
Burglary	10	11
Counterfeiting/Forgery	7	2
Destruction of Property	98	83
Drunkenness	53	78
Drug/Narcotics Violations	43	47
Embezzlement	3	5
Fraud Offenses	66	54
Homicide/Murder	0	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	1	4
Larceny	200	212
Rape	4	4
Robbery	13	2
Sex Offenses	15	12

# NEW HIRES



Officer Bryce Cooper



Officer Jonathan Shiei



Officer Rob MacSeain



Officer Jennifer Wood



Deirdre Carter  
Emergency Communications  
Technician

# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## SOBER RIDE

The City of Falls Church Police Department participated in the Sober Ride Campaign during all the major holidays to ensure greater Washington, D.C. residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays. This program has existed since 1991 and has dispatched over 65,000 safe rides home.



## POLICE UNITY TOUR

In May 2017, Lieutenant Joe Carter participated in the Police Unity Tour in remembrance of all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty. This grueling bike ride through the hills of southern Virginia spans 3 days with a total of 250 miles.

## WRAP AWARD

In December 2017, for the third year in a row, PFC Kevin Hedden was recognized by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) for his commitment to preventing drunk driving and underage drinking which contributes to the safety of everyone in our City and region.



## POLICE K-9 CERTIFICATE

In November 2017, Officer Joe Karlinsey and our newest member of the FCPD, K-9 "Stryker," graduated from the Metropolitan Police Department Patrol K-9 School. In 2018, Officer Karlinsey & Stryker will be attending Explosive Detective School, which will further enhance the FCPD public safety resources.

# OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Patrol Division is the most visible of the Department's Divisions. It is responsible for patrolling and responding to calls for service in the City 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Officers provide proactive patrol and respond to complaints from citizens, investigate motor vehicle accidents, perform traffic enforcement duties, and support community service programs for the City school system and community.

Of the 21 officers in the Operations Division, there are two K-9 Unit officers and one civilian employee is the Parking Enforcement Officer. The purpose of the K-9 Unit is to track suspects of a crime, locate missing people, search for crime scene evidence, and ensure public safety by supporting many City special events.

The Parking Enforcement Officer (PEO) investigates and enforces the City ordinances regarding parking regulations. This year, the PEO has proactively sought changes in City law and policies to resolve some of the problematic areas in the residential and commercial sectors. The PEO position is currently a part-time employee, but the officer's proactive enforcement and problem-solving mentality has been essential to the community during the City's growth over the last several years.

The Operations Division works collaboratively, not only with the other Police Department Divisions but with all City Government Departments, to improve quality of life issues that affect the City and its citizenry. The Operations Division fulfills this public safety responsibility by embracing the principles of the government service defined in the City's vision to maintain a safe and vibrant community.

# OPERATIONS DIVISION

## Results and Activities

- Responded to **36,980** calls for service in the 2017 calendar year.
- Conducted **2,350** written investigations resulting from calls for service.
- Conducted patrol and traffic efforts resulting in approximately **1,543** tickets for traffic violations.
- Executed approximately **858** arrests resulting from proactive patrols and calls for service.
- Responded and investigated **145** traffic accidents.
- Responded and worked to reduce over 744 residential and business alarms.
- Provided security, public assistance and crowd control during **four** City public events and **five** citizen or community sponsored events.
- Participated in **four** Regional Safety Campaigns directed at reducing aggressive driving, speeding, and school zone violations.
- Provided mandatory in-service training for Department personnel, as well as, specialized training for Department personnel as needed or requested.
- Enjoyed one Solar Eclipse (with the proper eye wear).





## GUARDIANSHIP PRIORITIES

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

One of the top priorities for the Falls Church Police Department is to reduce the violence against women by continuously assessing our agency's response to these type of crimes.

The FCPD focuses on strategies for prevention, emergency response, and investigations. We work closely with the Arlington Commonwealth Attorney's Office Victim Witness Unit & the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to ensure all affected by violence have the best chance for healing and recovery.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PREVENTION

As a means of prevention, the FCPD conducts two Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) classes each year. The FCPD Police have held this program for 16 years. This popular class teaches women how to confidently defend themselves from stranger attacks on the street or in their homes. The course often uses Law Enforcement instructors from throughout the region including George Mason University Police, Town of Vienna Police, Prince William County Sheriff's Office, and Manassas City PD.

### TRAINING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The FCPD commits to focused training and community partnerships dealing with the matrix of issues involving violence against women. FCPD participates in the premier annual conference, Crimes Against Women, in Dallas, Texas as well as many other local training opportunities afforded by the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). The Chief of Police and Criminal Investigators participation in the Arlington SART, which brings together key stakeholders in the community systems to develop comprehensive strategies and procedures in our responses to sexual assault and domestic violence.

# GUARDIANSHIP PRIORITIES

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The overall goal of the Falls Church Gun Violence Prevention Plan is to reduce all types of gun violence through education, prevention, investigation, and enforcement.

In collaboration with the community, the FCPD has developed and implemented creative strategies to teach life-saving skills for active shooter scenarios, examined community data for predictive policing, and align our values and support with the International Association Chiefs of Police for common sense gun laws.

Officers participated in gun-lock safety distribution throughout the year at the City's special events and participated in the Concert Across America, September 24, 2017.



## CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT)

The FCPD is committed to the principles and best practices of Crisis Intervention and Mental Health First Aid, for the compassionate and guardian intervention with people experiencing a mental health crisis.

Crisis Intervention Team training (CIT) is a critical skill set for police officers serving in the 21st Century. The training provides law enforcement officers with a better understanding and deeper appreciation for individuals suffering from a mental health crisis.

The FCPD is committed to ensuring that every sworn officer receives this training. At the end of 2017, there were 8 CIT-trained officers and two dispatchers. These officers were deployed several times throughout the community last year in hazardous and delicate situations involving community members in crisis. The tact and approach of the CIT officers were both helpful to the individuals in crisis and their peer officer involved in these cases. FCPD is committed to growing our number of CIT-trained officers and dispatchers and seek every opportunity to deploy them in all of our daily operations.



# GUARDIANSHIP PRIORITIES

## OFFICER & EMPLOYEE WELLNESS AND SAFETY

The FCPD values the health, safety, and wellness of all of our employees both on and off the job. The mental and physical health of our officers is a top priority as they need to be healthy and safe to be effective guardians of the community.

In 2017, we supported the Movember Movement with the FCPD's "Beards for Buddy (B4B) Campaign". B4B is a symbolic and unified reflection in the fight against pancreatic cancer and to highlight men's health. During November, FCPD wears purple uniform patches and the Administrative staff wears purple sweatshirts as an outward symbol of unity in our collective efforts to support Parking Enforcement Officer Buddy Turner living and working every day with pancreatic cancer.



# GUARDIANSHIP PRIORITIES

## OFFICER & EMPLOYEE WELLNESS AND SAFETY

# 24

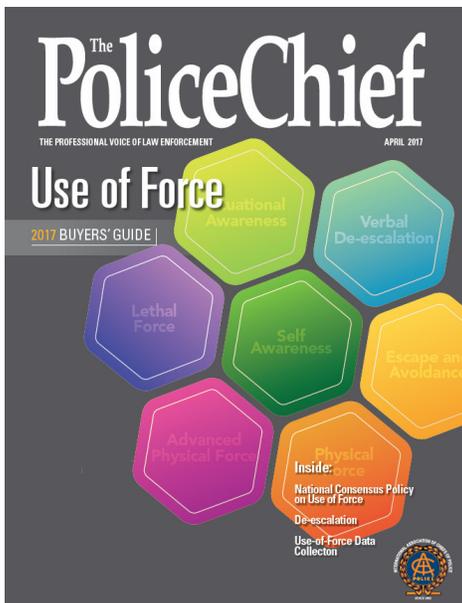
is the number of officers awarded the Safe Driving Award in 2017. This is a monetary award from the City of Falls Church for employees that drive the entire year without any at-fault accidents or incidents. The award promotes all safe driving practices, including the emphasis of wearing a seatbelt at all times.

### PAWS FOR PAUSE

The April 2017 Edition of The Police Chief Magazine included an article written by FCPD MPO-Detective Missy Elliott titled "Paws for a Pause: Therapy Dogs, Mindfulness Meditation, and Healthy Mind Check-ins for Officer Safety and Wellness."

Several years ago, Detective Elliott established a mindfulness program within the FCPD which included monthly visits from the Manassas Therapy Dogs. The pups make their rounds at police headquarters interacting with officers and dispatchers.

The small interactive moments with therapy doggos offers relieve from what can be a grueling job, and it cultivates more mindful, resilient, and compassionate personnel. Our sweet furry friends are named Chloe and Daphne. These volunteer puppers add to the overall plan to assist officers and victims of crime with a healthy and positive outlook in life.



14/10 WOULD PET AGAIN

# GUARDIANSHIP PRIORITIES

## OFFICER & EMPLOYEE WELLNESS AND SAFETY: TEAM COMPETITIONS

### ARLINGTON POLICE, FIRE & SHERIFF 9/11 RACE

On September 9, 2017, eight members of FCPD participated in the 16th Annual Arlington County Police, Fire and Sheriff Annual 9/11 Memorial 5K.

The 2017 race was dedicated to Arlington County Police Corporal Harvey Snook, who died as a result of illness contracted during his duty assignment at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Corporal Harvey Snook's end of watch was January 14, 2016.



### COPS ON THE COURT

On June 14th, 2017, School Resource Officer Clark Gagnon organized a charity basketball game between the FCPD and George Mason High School Teachers. Proceeds from the game went to The Muscular Dystrophy Association in support of two teenage children living with Muscular Dystrophy in our community, Joshua Jurack and Lauren Weaver.

It was a hard fought competitive game, but the honor of meeting Joshua and Lauren far exceeded our efforts on the basketball court and inspired our officers and the community.

## SERVICES DIVISION

The Services Division is comprised of Criminal Investigations, School Resources, and Community Services. The Services Division also coordinates and oversees all training for both sworn and civilian employees, maintains 23 police vehicles and trailers, and manages the evidence/property function of the department which handles approximately 1,000 pieces of property annually.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER

The Community Services Officer (CSO) is responsible for providing home and business security surveys; coordinating School Crossing Guards; offers educational programs for the City's elementary schools, including private/parochial schools, and; conducts numerous training programs for our citizens and the business community.

Part of the CSO's involvement with the business community is by reviewing blueprints and building plans for construction projects in the City and making recommendations based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The CSO also coordinates National and State Traffic Safety campaigns and assists in managing Traffic Safety Grant programs. Lastly, the CSO works with the Public Information Officer and provides information for the Weekly Crime report and other press releases.

### 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted numerous Police Department tours to various groups and organizations.
- Coordinated a collection point for the National Drug Take Back Initiative which is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
- Coordinated numerous traffic safety campaigns including Bike To Work (May) and Sober RIDE (Year-round impaired driving enforcement).
- Organized the Bicycle & Pedestrian Awareness Week in conjunction with the department's Traffic Unit.
- Participated in the Arlington/Falls Church TRIAD which is an organization that builds partnerships between senior citizens and law enforcement to enhance safety and improve quality of life.

## SERVICES DIVISION

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION UNIT (CIU)

The Criminal Investigations Unit (CIU) conducts investigations on all major crimes ranging from homicides and robberies to thefts and financial crimes. The detectives not only investigate criminal matters, but they are also responsible for processing crime scenes. Annually, the CIU investigates between 250 and 350 cases. Additionally, the Falls Church Police Department has one detective assigned to the S.A.R.s (Suspicious Activity Report) Task Force, which is part of the Federal Government's HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) group.

In calendar year 2017, the Criminal Investigations Unit was assigned 344 cases, up slightly from 309 in 2016.

## 2017 CIU HIGHLIGHTS

### CIGARETTE TRAFFICKING

On September 5, 2017, Falls Church Detectives assigned to the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)/Northern Virginia Financial Incentive Task Force, and assisted by other local and federal agencies, conducted a lengthy investigation into a cigarette trafficking operation. In these types of operations, the trafficker purchases cigarettes from Virginia wholesalers before tax stamps are applied to the cigarettes. The cigarettes are then transported to other states with higher tax stamp rates and sold at a considerable profit to the trafficker.

According to court documents, between March 2014 and November 2016, a Fredericksburg area man purchased at least \$7.1 Million in cigarettes tax-free from area wholesale stores for the express purpose of re-selling those same cigarettes to individuals trafficking the cigarettes in other states. The trafficker, in this case, agreed to a plea in court and received a 24-month sentence in prison, fined \$3 million in restitution, and forfeited \$1.42 million for his participation in a conspiracy to traffic cigarettes.

### EMBEZZLEMENT

On May 10, 2016, City of Falls Church Police responded to a report of embezzlement from a business located at 510 N Washington Street. The suspect, who was a former employee, had taken a business check that was made out to the company and deposited it into their personal bank account. The investigation continued which resulted in the suspect being charged with Embezzlement, Forgery, and Uttering. The suspect pled guilty to two of the charges and is currently awaiting sentencing.

# SERVICES DIVISION

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)

The School Resource Officer (SRO) is the liaison between the Falls Church Police Department and George Mason High School/Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO is responsible for Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention on the campuses of GMHS and MEMHS. The SRO also provides student, staff and parent education on such topics as Drugs and Alcohol, Driver Safety, Internet Safety, Gangs, and Crime Prevention.

The SRO and the School Division Safety and Security Supervisor work together fingerprinting, photographing and issuing employee badges to all Falls Church Public School employees, as well as, maintaining and upgrading the school system's video surveillance system and coordinating over 50 after school activities and special events each year.



SRO GAGNON

## ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT

The Animal Control Unit is responsible for the investigation of all animal-related complaints. These complaints include, but are not limited to: Animal Bites, Animal Cruelty Complaints, Injured Animal (Companion Animals and Wildlife) Complaints, Animal Noise Complaints, Animal Quarantines, Impoundment of Companion and Wild Animals, Dog Licensing and any other call for service concerning animals.

The Animal Control Unit receives, on average, 20 phone calls a day from citizens asking for advice or assistance. Becky Keenan, the Falls Church Animal Control Officer, is also a state certified Police Emergency Communications Technician and a trained Parking Enforcement Officer.

### 2017 STATISTICS

- 458 total calls for service
- 16 assists with other jurisdictions
- 28 animal cruelty complaints
- 19 animal quarantines
- 21 animal bite complaints
- 129 wildlife complaints

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division oversees the Police Records and Emergency Communications Units and manages technology systems in support of the Department's information functions.

Administrative Services personnel maintain the Department's Records Management and Computer-Aided Dispatch systems, which monitor and document calls for service, officer activity, incident reports, warrant tracking, crime statistics, stolen and recovered property, and investigative case management. Administrative Services also maintains the Department's Accreditation function, coordinates the Department's response to FOIA requests, and supports the Human Resources Department in the recruitment and hiring of Public Safety personnel.

## RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit is a vital part of the overall operation of the Public Safety Department, and it also serves as the entry point to the Police Department for the general public's customer service needs.

Even though the FCPD has a comprehensive computerized Records Management System (RMS), the Records Unit still handles tens of thousands of paper records that help document every event and activity controlled by the department. The Unit records and reroutes every parking ticket, traffic summons, and arrest warrants issued.

The Unit also scans vehicle impound sheets, court orders, release forms and any other form of documentation that needs to accompany a police report.

The Records Unit issues parking and drive-through permits to our City residents and distributes copies of records for numerous outside agencies, courts, and insurance companies. The Unit is responsible for managing and organizing criminal incident and arrest documentation within the RMS, and provides clients with police reports, record checks for employment, and accident reports. The Unit also processes and retrieves approximately 10,000 written reports, tickets, and other similar information annually.



# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Emergency Communications Unit is the E-911 call transfer point for the City. The Dispatch Center provides 24/7/365 monitoring of the Police Department’s communications channels, including:

- 911, emergency, and non-emergency phone lines, including TTY communications;
- Police, Sheriff, and Department of Public Works radio channels;
- the Police Mutual Aid Radio System for the National Capital Region;
- the National Warning System (NAWAS) emergency notification network; and,
- Statewide and national criminal data communications networks, including the Virginia Criminal Information Network, the National Crime Information Center, and the International Justice and Public Safety Network.

Emergency Communications Technicians (ECT) also provide after-hours security for City Hall, public buildings, and public schools by monitoring the City’s fire and burglary alarm systems. Additionally, ECTs give a contact point for citizens requiring after-hours access to police services or other City departments.

Once a request for service is received, the ECT will log the call in the Computer-Aided Dispatch system, and dispatch officers or other first responders as appropriate. In addition, the Dispatch Center maintains the criminal warrant file system, processing approximately 400 warrants a year. ECTs also conduct computer records checks for approximately 8,000 motor vehicles and 8,500 drivers annually, for both the Police Department and the Falls Church Sheriff’s Office.

Call volume statistics from the past three years are summarized in the table below.

CALL TYPE	2017	2016	2015
EMERGENCY (911) CALLS RECEIVED	1,427	1,507	1,406
NON-EMERGENCY CALLS RECEIVED (BY PHONE)	32,459	32,782	25,641
TOTAL CALLS RECEIVED	33,886	34,289	27,047
CALLS DISPATCHED (PHONE & RADIO)	36,980	31,757	28,643



## FIRE MARSHAL & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of the Fire Marshal and the Office of Emergency Management is a combined Division of the Police Department. This Division is comprised of one Captain that reports directly to the Chief of Police. In addition to those primary duties, the City Fire Marshal is a law enforcement position and serves as part of the Command Staff within the Police Department. This position is also the City Coordinator of Emergency Management.

Since 2014, the Fire Marshal's Office is supported by a temporary part-time Fire Inspector. Many other functions have been added to this position in recent years which includes First Aid/CPR/AED training, as well as, Active Shooter preparedness to the community including Stop the Bleed.

### FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The mission of the Fire Marshal is life safety and property preservation through the enforcement of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The City Fire Marshal is designated as the Fire Official for the City.

### INTER-DEPARTMENTAL & INTER-JURISDICTIONAL ASSISTANCE

The Fire Marshal assists other City departments including Development Services and Public Works in the review of plans for all new or existing structures in the City. Plans review continues to dramatically increase the workload for this position. Significant time has been spent continually reviewing the Founder's Row and the Washington/Broad St projects, as well as the accessibility concerns regarding the Cottage Project on Railroad Avenue. Other reviews include assisting Recreation and Parks in the preparation for Special Events such as the 4th of July, Memorial Day, as well as Falls Church Schools All Night Grad Party.

The Fire Marshal also serves on the City Health and Safety Inspection Taskforce. Additional committees include the Northern Virginia Joint Committee on Fire and Arson Investigation and the Council of Governments - Fire Prevention Group.

# FIRE MARSHAL & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## FIRE INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Fire Marshal inspects and issues permits required by the Fire Code based upon occupancy type and hazardous operations. These occupancies include restaurants, places of assembly, child care facilities including home daycare, buildings with fire protection systems, pools, tents, automotive repair facilities, warehouses, industrial facilities, and any locations in the City using hazardous materials and operations, including fuel dispensing facilities. In addition, all City facilities are inspected by the Fire Marshal including Falls Church City Public Schools.

These inspections are required on an annual basis by the Commonwealth of Virginia and National Fire Protection Association.

The Fire Marshal reviews all documentation by third-party qualified contractors selected by building owners to verify the maintenance, testing, and performance of their fire protection systems. Inspections are also conducted on commercial properties on the basis of the complaint. The administration of this program includes the financial accounting, billing, and collecting of revenues associated with the Fire Inspection Program.

**281**

INSPECTIONS

**810**

VIOLATIONS

**282**

PERMITS

**\$63,555**

REVENUE

## FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

The Fire Marshal is responsible for origin and cause investigations involving fire, explosions, and environmental crimes. There were several fires reported in 2017, two of which were significant.

These included a residence on Lincoln Avenue and a fire located in George Mason High School. Total fire loss for the City for FY 2017 is estimated at over \$200,000, with no injuries or loss of life.

# 1ST QUARTER EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## SERGEANT MARKUS BRISTOL



Sergeant Bristol was designated by the Commander of Operation Division as employee of the 1st quarter of 2017 for his exceptional leadership in a multitude of different areas. This quarter, Sergeant Bristol has maintained his daily/monthly responsibilities as a shift supervisor while also being tasked to assist with rewriting the City's outdated noise ordinance policy. Since taking on this responsibility, Sergeant Bristol has worked directly with the City Attorney to develop an ordinance that is current with recent court decisions making it easier to enforce on those who continue to disrupt the quality of life in the City.

As the Field Training Program coordinator, Sergeant Bristol develops the training schedule for recruits along with maintaining their records during each of the three training phases. During the 1st quarter, Sergeant Bristol has overseen the successful completion of one recruit to the rank of officer and also created a training schedule for two recruits currently in the Academy making their first day on patrol a seamless transition. Additionally, Sergeant Bristol took it upon himself to work with Juvenile Court Services and Housing & Human Services to clarify current MOU's in place when dealing with juvenile diversion and emergency custody orders. His efforts in these two areas will help officers be more efficient thus ensuring the department can maintain minimum staffing levels in patrol.

## MIDNIGHT SUPERVISOR ECS ERIC THIDEMANN

ECS Thidemann ("D" Platoon) was designated by the Commander of the Administrative Services Division as Employee of the 1st Quarter of 2017, for exemplary service during a demanding period of growth and reorganization within the Emergency Communications Unit. By the start of 2017, Dispatch had already weathered 10 months of staff shortages on nightwork, during which time ECS Thidemann worked overtime each pay period on his own shift, while also providing relief for the "C" Platoon dispatcher whenever requested. In his capacity as a Communications Training Officer, ECS Thidemann trained each of our three dispatcher recruits for several weeks apiece, providing valuable mentoring and guidance for the newest generation of Communications Technicians.

ECS Thidemann competed and accepted a supervisory position within the Communications Unit, and successfully achieved the rank of Emergency Communications Supervisor.



# 1ST QUARTER EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

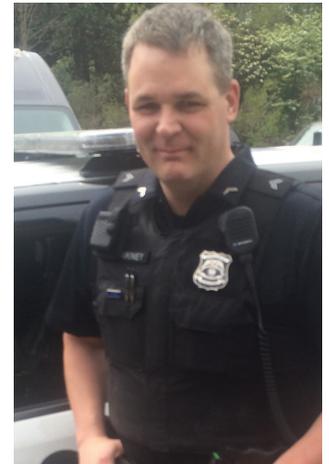
## DETECTIVE-SERGEANT SONYA RICHARDSON & DETECTIVE KEVIN ANKNEY



Detectives Richardson and Ankney were designated by the Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division as employees of the 1st quarter of 2017.

Detective Sergeant Richardson was assigned to a Sexual Assault case involving numerous juvenile victims spanning several jurisdictions. Detective Sergeant Richardson immediately began the investigation and coordinated with CPS and FCCPS for numerous interviews with victims and witnesses. The exhaustive efforts in the follow-up investigation discovered additional cases in a different local jurisdiction. Detective Sergeant Richardson's tireless efforts and investigative skills have uncovered an offender that had access to children in many local communities and he was successfully prosecuted receiving 10 years sentence.

Detective Kevin Ankney was recently assigned to the Criminal Investigations and assumed the duties and responsibilities of a this position as if he was a seasoned investigator. Detective Ankney's ability to seamlessly assume a heavy caseload brings tremendous progress to the Department's ability to maintain a high closure rate with arrests and the recovery of valued property to rightful owners. In the 1st quarter, Kevin conducted a rare investigation recovering a historic artifact that had been stolen over 30 years ago from the City of Falls Church, yet property of the Daughter of the American Revolution.



## SENIOR ADMIN ASSISTANT TAMEKAH JONES



Tamekah was designated as the Employee of the 1st Quarter of 2017 for administrative excellence in various disciplines of service to all divisions and departments throughout the City. There is a matrix of tasks she accomplished this quarter. Tamekah is the quiet, disciplined warrior behind the scenes. The 1st Quarter is one of the busiest times of the year, as she takes the lead in negotiating budgets FY2017 & FY2018, crafting the Annual Report, assisting in police testing and administrative guidance for each and every employee in the City that stops by her office.

Over and above her job description she acts as the mainstay leader of the Department's Biggest Loser Challenge where she not only logs the progress of each participant, she lends an empathic ear and encouraging spirit to each and everyone's efforts. She rejoices with the stories of loss and gain and she supports any and all employees of our Little City's Government in their professional and personal goals.

# 2ND QUARTER EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## MIDNIGHT DISPATCHER ECT SARAH HAYES



ECT Hayes ("C" Platoon) was designated by the Commander of the Administrative Services Division as Employee of the 2nd Quarter of 2017, for outstanding performance throughout the first year of her career with the Emergency Communications Unit. From her initial hire in September 2016 through the conclusion of her Communications Training Program in March 2017, ECT Hayes distinguished herself by her dedicated approach to training, garnering positive reviews from her training officers for her organizational and customer service skills.

As Sarah's training progressed, her training schedule was accelerated, requiring significant overtime hours in order to accommodate a staffing shortage in the Dispatch Booth. Once on solo duty as a full-fledged ECT, Sarah was recognized in writing by both her Patrol Shift Supervisor and the Operations Commander for her clear and competent handling of multiple critical incidents within a short span of time.

## SERGEANT STEVE RAU

Sergeant Rau was designated by the Commander of Operations Division as Employee of the 2nd Quarter of 2017 for his exceptional leadership in a multitude of different areas. In this quarter, Sergeant Rau maintained his daily/monthly responsibilities as a shift supervisor while also accomplishing a multitude of additional tasks which include: equipping the new Recruit Officers Wood and MacSeain /FTOs with protective "GoBags" for active shooter scenarios, inventorying all police vehicles and fully stocking the vehicles with AEDs, PPE and all other necessary lifesaving items.



Additionally, Sergeant Rau facilitated two property room destructions, maintained the Department's traffic control box and successfully planned, executed and led the public safety response for the City's Annual 4th of July Firework display which hosted an estimated 10,000+ celebrants. For each and every mundane or exciting tasks executed by Sergeant Rau, we will never be able to point to the lives saved or made better, but we know and believe that preparation and the mindset of readiness is exactly what saves lives. Sergeant Rau has prepared us all to be safe, successful and most importantly, always ready.

# 2ND QUARTER EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## SRO CLARK GAGNON



SRO Gagnon was nominated by the Services Commander for Employee of the 2nd Quarter, and for the Chief's Award for his compassionate effort in making the lives of kids better.

Falls Church Police Department (and Mutual Aid Friends) vs GMHS Faculty & Staff played in a Charity Basketball game on Wednesday, June 14th, 2017.

## HR MANAGER LA TAUNYA HALL

La Taunya was designated as the Employee of the 2nd Quarter of 2017 for administrative excellence in various disciplines of service to all departments in the City, but especially for her outstanding work with the Police Department in hiring, pay scale consultation, health & wellness services and career transition for employees. LaTaunya has proven to be (our) employees' best advocate in negotiating pay/benefits in overall fairness to all. LaTaunya has been a key resource in Police and Dispatch testing. The Police Command staff has depended heavily on Ms. Hall and she has always made herself available to offer administrative guidance.



## FIRE INSPECTOR (FI) HENRY LANE



The Commander of Fire Services/OEM, Captain Tom Polera designated Fire Inspector (FI) Henry Lane for the Employee of the 2nd Quarter. FI Lane, during this quarter, has been busy in completing his own training where he received his certified in Fire Inspections from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. The purpose of this certification is to enhance and reinforces Henry's qualifications to ultimately protect and defend the City against the loss of life and property.

FI Lane participated in a Full Code Inspection Operation at the Eden Center where he assisted a team which inspected 37 businesses and issued 95 violations of the Fire Code. For the Police Department, FI Lane (certified EMT) provides the mandatory First Aid Training to all the sworn officers of the Department. Not only saving the Department in the convenience of scheduling this training, but there was a significant cost savings in personalized scheduling and personalized instruction.

# 3RD QUARTER EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## CORPORAL DMITRI ISSAEV AND OFFICER DANIEL PEOPLE

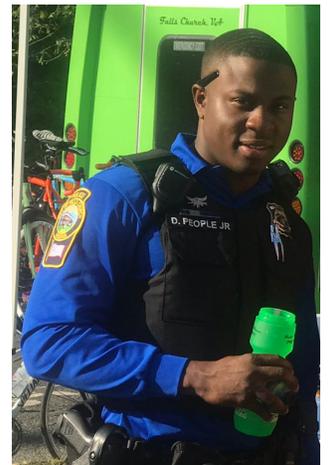


Corporal Issaev and Officer People were designated by the Commander of Operations as the Employees of the Third Quarter 2017.

Corporal Issaev maintained his supervisory responsibilities while also assuming the role of training coordinator for the Emergency Services Unit. After accepting this task, Corporal Issaev secured two training facilities along with preparing a course outline geared toward enhancing the team's capabilities of responding to multiple high-violence incidents. The preparation of this training takes a great deal of time and logistics in order for it to be successful. Corporal Issaev accepted this challenge and has made a seamless transition into this role which has already shown a positive impact on the team.

Additionally, Corporal Issaev was asked to research equipment in order to modernize our current outdated M-4 carbine rifles. Corporal Issaev did numerous hours of research and presented a prototype that was much lighter and more user-friendly, which will improve efficiency and accuracy when deploying the gun.

Officer People displayed a consistent work ethic during his short time with the FCPD. For this quarter, Officer People totaled 148 arrests; 7 of which were marijuana arrests that were born out of direct traffic enforcement. Not only has Officer People led the way in arrests, he consistently volunteers to help cover shifts that are short due to various issues and he does this with a great attitude and demeanor. Officer People's attitude and work ethic have also carried over to his new position as a member of the Emergency Services Unit. Officer People has shown an eagerness to learn while remaining humble in his actions. These characteristics are important for our team to be successful and will serve us well in the future.



# 3RD QUARTER EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## POLICE RECORDS CLERK NATASHA REDMOND



Natasha was designated by the Commander of the Administrative Services Division as Employee of the 3rd Quarter of 2017, for her outstanding productivity and customer service. As the public face of the Police Department, Natasha accommodates requests for incident and accident reports, criminal history checks, and parking/drive-through permits from both internal and external customers, either in person or by mail, email, or fax.

During the 3rd Quarter of 2017, Natasha provided 48 permits, 66 report copies, and 437 criminal history checks to residents, background investigators, victims, and insurance companies. When she's not occupied with records requests, Natasha enters traffic tickets into RMS, and parking tickets into MUNIS, for a total of 781 documents entered during the 3rd quarter.

## CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JAMAL MATTHEWS

Jamal was selected as the Employee of the 3rd Quarter 2017 for the Chief's Office. As the Chief Technology Officer and the Head of IT Services for the City, Jamal's plate is overflowing just dealing with day to day operations. When you add renovations of City Hall and the Library and the transitions of the entire workforce to temporary quarters into the mix, the responsibilities are beyond Herculean. In addition to having the same needs as every other department in City Hall, the FCPD has radios, video, hardwired security doors, panels, private networks, VPNs, dedicated lines, again, to name but a few, all of which have to comply with stringent CJIS security measures. .



## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER REBECCA KEENAN



The Service Division Commander designated Animal Control Officer Rebecca "Becky" Keenan as the Employee of the 3rd Quarter. Becky has always, and continues to provide 24 hours assistance to the officers, and citizens for animal-related calls for service. She assists with and follows up with animal bite cases, sick animal calls for service and maintains an excellent working relationship with animal rescue and rehabilitation groups. Because of Becky's knowledge and experience, she has been able to keep animal-related expenses at a minimum which eases the burden on the citizens of the City.

# 3RD QUARTER EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## DPW SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT GOFF



The Commander of Fire Services/OEM, Captain Tom Polera designated Department of Public Works Superintendent Robert Goff for the Employee of the 3rd Quarter. Captain Polera recognizes Robert for his work this past quarter involving the support of the Police Department/Fire Marshal/OEM functions.

This past quarter includes the 4th of July, Fall Festival, and an array of special events. These events are extremely important to the City. In preparing for the potential modern acts of terrorism, DPW under Robert's leadership helped fortify our soft-targets for more secure venues.

During the CIP City Hall Project, Robert promised space needs for the FCPD, a timeline for completion and critical support to keep the continuity of public safety service in tact. Robert would certainly credit his crew for most, if not all, this work. Robert is that type of leader. Always willing to improve the entire workplace and willing to give the credit to others.

# 4TH QUARTER EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## CAPTAIN TOM POLERA & LIEUTENANT JOE CARTER



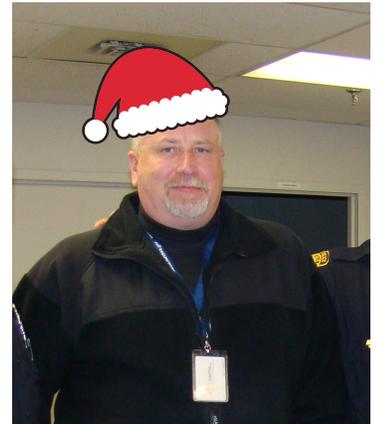
The Commander of Fire Services/OEM, Captain Tom Polera and Operations Commander Lieutenant Joe Carter are the designated Employees of the 4th Quarter for their respective Divisions.

All of the FCPD recognize and thank these two commanders for their tireless work in the initiation of the City Hall move. They established an impressive Operations Center out of a worn-torn double wide shed/trailer. Their vision for space and the Operations Center helped motivate a host of City Employees to embrace the CIP project change and make the most of all of the resources available regardless of limited funds and support.

This was no easy task at any point, from the negotiations to the logistical move, IT, paint, power and the list(s) could go on. The Operations at the Property Yard Trailer will keep the heartbeat of public safety team housed, safe and at times, fed. It certainly feeds the Spirit De Corps. Job well done.

## SERGEANT ED LANCASTER

Sergeant Lancaster was selected as the Employee of the 4th Quarter 2017 for the Services Division. Secret Santa decorates City Hall, the Community Center, the Property Trailer, and the Police Lobby. He delivers sweet treats all around the Department and presents to little kids & families in the City and region with Toys for Tots. His Christmas Spirit is genuine, generous and always well received. His zest to help others goes unmatched and has no season. Ed is the year-round Santa, and his Elf crew is growing each and every year.



# 4TH QUARTER EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NANCY KENT



Nancy Kent was designated by the Commander of the Administrative Services Division as Employee of the 4th Quarter of 2017, for her outstanding initiative, efficiency, and dedication. Nancy is always ready and willing to assist anyone in the Police Department, regardless of rank or duty assignment. She works closely with the Emergency Communications Unit to coordinate and validate the entry of criminal and civil process, and facilitates the Department's CCRE reporting. She has also assumed responsibility for maintaining the Patrol statistics and crafting the weekly Crime Report, providing valuable information to the community and the media.

During the 4th Quarter of 2017, Nancy provided critical support to the Patrol, Services, and Quartermaster functions, in preparation for the relocation of Operations to their interim facility at the Property Yard. She also expedited the printing and distribution of updated traffic summonses, and ensured the procurement and issuance of uniforms and equipment for two new officers. Congratulations to Nancy for being the reliable "go-to" person for so many of us in the Falls Church Police Department!

## SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IBBY ACOSTA

Ibby was selected as the Chief's Employee of the 4th Quarter because of her work as Project Coordinator for all the storage and movement of documents during the City Hall Construction project.

Her Project Coordinator responsibilities were in addition to her normal duties, and included paperwork retention schedules, renovation revisions, Chambers logistics, and the transitions of the entire workforce. Her attention to details and hard deadlines to meet the needs of the Department, Paxton, Iron Mountain and the move has been an orchestrated ballet of work.



In addition to having the same needs as every other department in City Hall, the Police Department has very specific cases and files that required Ibbi to go through a thorough vetting process to comply with stringent CJIS security measures. Throughout it all, Ibbi has been there for us to make sure that all of our needs are covered with a smile and complimentary joke.

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