

# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH POLICE DEPARTMENT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



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# Message from the Chief

*It is an honor to present the Falls Church Public Safety Team's Annual Report for 2014. This year was highlighted with extraordinary public safety services provided by the men and women of the Falls Church Police & Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Office.*

*This report will highlight statistical data, special events, investigative cases and highlights from the Department's Operations, Services and Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Divisions. Annually in this report, we gladly recognize the collective effort of all City departments including our school system; as we work in partnership to ensure a strong commitment to the priority of public safety service. We proudly serve as partners in the criminal justice system with the Arlington Commonwealth's Attorneys' Office under the leadership of Ms. Theo Stamos and her team of Commonwealth Attorneys, as well as the Falls Church Juvenile Probation & Parole under the leadership of our new supervisor, Colin Bagwell. We recognize with distinction the Loudoun County Commonwealth Attorney James Ploughman and his Deputy Assistant Commonwealth Nicole Witmann and Assistant Commonwealth Ms. Alex Ruedo for their tireless and dedicated service in special prosecutions for the City of Falls Church.*

*Unique challenges posed in 2014 ranged from the worldwide Ebola virus health scare to the ongoing strife within the profession of law enforcement and community relations. Events on the worldwide and national stage have a direct effect on our community and the services we provide. I am very proud of the collective response from the citizens of Falls Church and all of the professionals that serve this community to learn from current events, evolve in our practices and proactively act to make Falls Church a safe and welcoming community.*

*Throughout the year 2014, we had many complex service demands and special events which resulted in safe and positive outcomes because of the professionalism of the officers and administrative staff of the Police Department. We are fortunate to depend on the generous complement of Sheriff Deputies in the Falls Church lead by Sheriff Steve Bittle and a number of Falls Church Volunteer Firefighters lead by newly appointed Fire Chief Kevin Henry. Additionally, we are privileged to work in concert with our mutual aid partners in neighboring jurisdictions throughout the region and state to include: Fairfax County Police, Arlington County Police & Fire, the Arlington County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. We enjoy and support a regional approach to public safety and proudly participate in the continued efforts of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Taskforce.*

*Each and every Officer, the Parking Enforcement Officer, the Fire Marshal, the Crossing Guards, the Animal Control Officer, the Communications Dispatchers, the Student Intern and the Administrative staff are firmly committed to the safety and concerns of all citizens in Falls Church.*

*We are grateful for the brave citizens, particularly our City's children who continually demonstrated tremendous strength and support of our efforts to keep the community safe.*

*We proudly serve the City.*

*Mary Gavin*

# Mission Statement

## 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.

## Fire Marshal

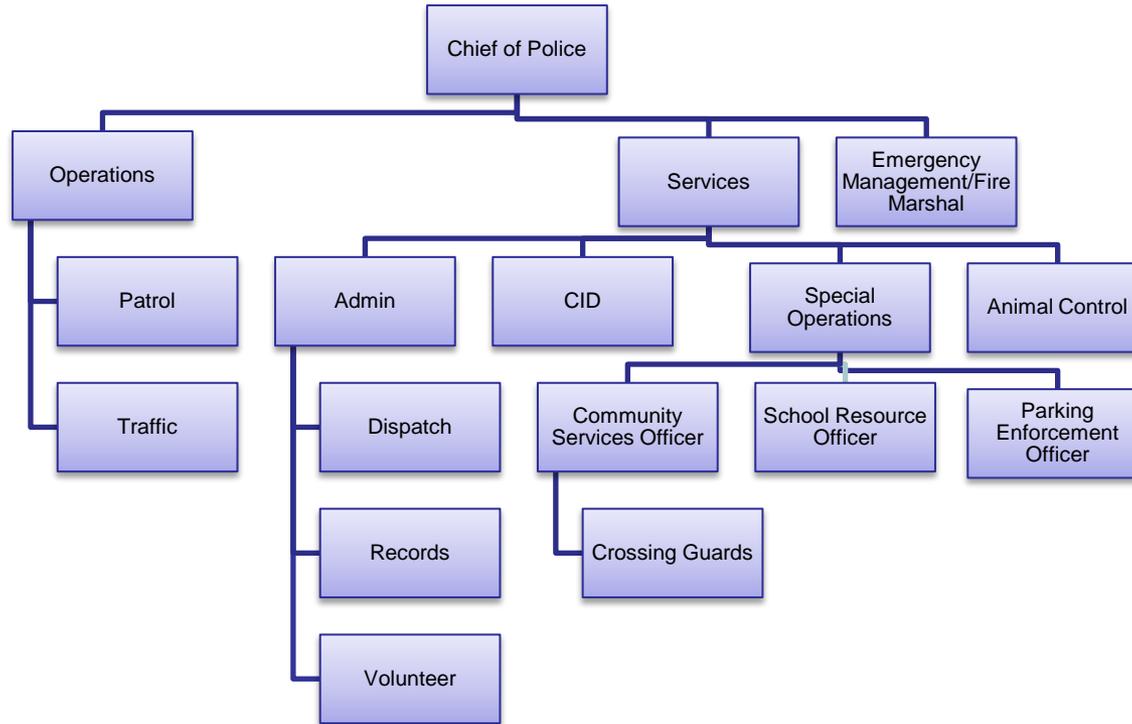
The mission of the Fire Marshal is life safety and property preservation through the enforcement of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The City Fire Marshal is designated as the Fire Official for the City.

# Core Values

Commitment  
Communication  
Teamwork

Innovation  
Learning  
Empowerment

# Organization Chart



## Demographics

2014 City Population: 13,000  
Land area: 2.2 square miles  
Total CFC employees: 45.5  
Total current sworn officers: 30

# Statistical Highlights

Calls for Service - 23,840

Part I Offenses - 312

Part II Offenses - 383

Arrests - 1,517

Adult - 1,497

Juvenile - 20

DUI/DWI Arrests - 100

Traffic Accidents Reportable - 185

Total Traffic Tickets - 2,982

Parking Tickets - 2,811

# Crime Activity

Offenses	2013	2014	Change	% Change
Assault	93	68	-25	-26.9%
Aggravated Assault	9	8	-1	-11.1%
Auto Theft	7	11	4	57.1%
Burglary	5	4	-1	-20.0%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	4	9	5	125.0%
Destruction of Property	88	110	22	25.0%
Drunkenness	104	82	-22	-21.2%
Drug/Narcotics Violations	64	32	-32	-50.0%
Embezzlement	4	3	-1	-25.0%
Fraud Offenses	55	40	-15	-27.3%
Homicide	1	0	-1	-100.0%
Kidnapping/Abduction	4	2	-2	-50.0%
Larceny	206	218	12	5.8%
Murder	1	0	-1	-100.0%
Rape	4	3	-1	-25.0%
Robbery	9	8	-1	-11.1%
Sex Offenses	9	12	3	33.3%

The chart above list offense data for major categories of crime. Overall, the data shows a decrease in several offenses. Part I offenses, which include serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft, were down, overall, by 4% compared to 2013. The decrease appears to be primarily in the area of assault cases. Cases involving Fraud and Identity Theft cases remained fairly constant.

# Office of the Chief



The primary function of the staff in the Office of the Chief is to oversee the entire Department by ensuring officers are actively engaged in the community as well as providing a high level of quality service to its citizens. This office is comprised of the Chief of Police and a Senior Administrative Assistant.

The Chief of Police provides direction in all matters within the Department and coordinates with other City Departments and local law enforcement agencies. The Sr. Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing lead administrative support to include managing the office work flow, preparing of the Department budget, Department payroll, screening visitors and a host of other duties.

# 2014 Highlights

## Mother Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award

In May 2014, Corporal Alan Freed, Officer Alex Cruzvergara, Officer Rachel Henderson, Officer Joe Karlinsey, Officer Dmitri Issaev, and Carly Lumsden were honored at the ASAP'S Mother's Against Drunk Driving Campaign.



## Police Unity Tour

In May 2014, Chief Gavin and Community Service Officer Brooks participated in the Police Unity Tour.



## Community Service Award

Detective Jennifer "Missy" Elliott with the recipient of the Valley of Alexandria Community Service Award for her continued efforts in serving the citizens of the City of Falls Church.

# 2014 Highlights

## RAD Program

In 2014, Detective Sharee Janda spearheaded the Rape Aggressive Defense (RAD) program. This year marks the 13th annual set of classes (2 each year) hosted by the Falls Church City Police. The participation level of this class has been at full capacity each and every time it has been offered. This popular class teaches women how to confidently defend themselves from stranger attacks on the street or in their homes. The class had a compliment of Law Enforcement instructors from throughout the region including: the George Mason University Police, Town of Vienna Police Department, Prince William County Sherriff's Office and Manassas City Police.



The enthusiasm and camaraderie built from this class is contagious, but the value is in the reviews and testimonials from participants that speak of how the techniques and confidence learned in this class have actually saved their lives. A true testimony to the camaraderie of this class is the commitment and dedication of the community outreach volunteer Kathleen Dempsey. Ms. Dempsey has partnered with the Falls Church Police Department for over 12 years and faithfully organizes, attends and video tapes every class. This year Kathleen became a certified RAD Instructor in Virginia Beach, VA. She brings a sense of purpose and immediate credibility to the officers and the mission of RAD and her service to this community is invaluable. Approximately 70 participants were certified in RAD in 2014. Officers, Lieutenant Joe Carter, Detective Sharee Janda, Detective Sy Symoun, Corporal Rachel Henderson, PFC James Brooks, Officer Joe Karlinsey and Fire Marshal/Emergency Manager Tom Polera are all Certified RAD Instructors for the City of Falls Church Police Department.

This year, in addition to providing two classes of their own, the Falls Church City Police RAD team assisted Manassas City Police, Prince William County Sherriff's Office, and Ft. Belvoir Army Base where over 100 women became self-empowered by learning self-defense techniques.

# 2014 Highlights

## Emergency Management

- Planned, trained and participated City ESF's in the Regional Full-Scale Exercise, VERTEX 2014 - "Operation Open Door." This was a first for Falls Church to evaluate and test the functional plans of operating a Shelter at the Community Center.
- Initiated a tabletop series and completed the 1<sup>st</sup> of a 3-part exercise with Schools, Police and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management on a School Active-Shooter scenario.
- Serve as liaison with Fairfax Health Department on the strategy's and preparation of Ebola outbreak in the region.



## Intern Program

For the past three years, the Falls Church Police Department has offered student internships as a learning opportunity for college students. Each internship has been as different as the student filling the role; the position covers a combination of hands on experiences with the many stakeholders in the criminal justice system. Almost every facet of the Police Department has an opportunity to work with the student to impart knowledge on the day to day functions of police work. Many of the students complete blocks of credited hours which can qualify for credited class work at their University. The student internship duties have included: data entry, patrol ride-along, observation of court cases, work with Accreditation, and even a tour of the forensic lab. The Police Department enjoys providing a positive experience for what we believe to be our future peers in law enforcement or advocates in the community. This program has proven to be mutually beneficial for the students and the Falls Church Police Department. We are proud to have impact on the young careers of the service oriented leaders of our future and each one of our interns has had a lasting impact with their contribution to our mission.

# 2014 Highlights



## 2014 IACP Conference

In October 2014, Lieutenant Joe Carter and MPO Missy Elliott conducted a presentation on Mindfulness and Wellness for Officers at the International Association of Chiefs' of Police (IACP) Conference in Orlando, Florida. The IACP each year hosts a conference which highlights best practices for Police Departments globally. IACP defines their training "tracks" by large, midsize and small agency tracks. The FCPD team presented in the small agency track for Health and Wellness topics. Approximately 150 attendees joined Joe and Missy for their hour presentation. The presentation highlighted

how the cumulative stress and grind of the Law Enforcement profession can be combated with various healthy lifestyle practices. FCPD is very proud of the work Joe and Missy have done in carrying out this mission in the Department and keeping everyone's best interest in health and wellness at the forefront. The real success of this program is within the department in the body of work each and every officer does to stay healthy and well.

# Operations Division

The Operations Patrol Division is the most visible of the Department's Divisions, as it is responsible for responding to calls for service in the City 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The officers provide proactive patrol and respond to complaints from citizens, investigate motor vehicle accidents and perform traffic enforcement duties. Of the 21 officers in the Operations Division, one Officer has been assigned to the Traffic Unit and one civilian employee is assigned to the Parking Enforcement Officer position. The purpose of the Traffic Unit is to dedicate directed patrols for traffic related issues, which is one of the most frequent complaints and concerns in the City. The second most frequent complaint and/or concern in the City is parking related issues. The Parking Enforcement Officer investigates and enforces the City ordinances regarding parking regulations and this year the PEO has proactively sought changes in the ordinance and policies to resolve some of the problematic areas in the residential and commercial areas. The Parking Enforcement Officer position is currently a part time employee but his impact in change and proactive enforcement and problem solving has been essential to the community.

Together, with all Divisions of the Police Department and all Departments within the City government, the Operations Division works collaboratively in responding to reported crime and quality of life issues that affects 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

In 2014, Recruit Officers Jorge Cabrera, Darian Chuquillangui, Christopher Douglas, and Matthew Parker were hired. These four recruit officers attended the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy and graduated by fulfilling all the necessary requirements set forth by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). These recruit officers were assigned to the Operations Field Training Program where they are required to complete a 14-week program under the tutelage of certified Field Training Officers. Officers Cabrera, Chuquillangui, Douglas, and Parker will complete their training phase in April 2015. When their training is complete, they will be assigned to permanent shifts and are expected to make great contributions to the City's workforce in forwarding our mission.



## Results and Activities

- Respond to calls for service. Estimated 28,000 with a calendar year.
- Conduct 2900 written investigations resulting from calls for service.
- Conduct patrol and traffic effort resulting in approximately 3000 tickets for traffic violations.
- Execute approximately 1,100 arrests resulting from proactive patrols and calls for service.
- Respond and investigated traffic accidents approximately 185 accidents per year.
- Respond and work to reduce over 700 residential and business alarms.
- Provides security, public assistance and crowd control during four (4) City public events and five (5) citizen/community sponsored events.
- Participate in four (4) Regional Safety Campaigns directed at reducing aggressive driving, speeding and school zone violations and provides mandatory in-service training for Department personnel, as well as, specialized training for Department personnel as needed or requested.

# Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives

Patrol Officers Alan Freed, Rachel Henderson, Alex Cruzvergara and Dimitri Issaev and Joe Karlinsey have continued to shepherd the community initiative that concentrates patrol efforts on alcohol related offenses throughout the City. This initiative was started in mid year 2010 and has continued through 2014. The ABC team scans problem areas, analyzing data, responding to issues and assessing the community's needs as it related to problems which arise from alcohol related incidents. In the year 2014, the officers made 203 arrests that were alcohol related.



Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) Award  
Officer Alex Cruzvergara was honored with the WRAP Award for his efforts in the fight against drunk driving.

# Services Division

The Services Division is comprised of Administrative Services, Criminal Investigations, Special Operations. The Services Division is responsible for many of the Department's functions and programs and oversees specialized units such as the Records, Communications, School Resources, and Community Services.

The Criminal Investigations Unit 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 Criminal Investigations Unit investigates between 250 and 300 cases.

Administrative Services oversees the Records and Communications Units and manages the department's information and technology systems. The Records Unit is responsible for managing and organizing traffic, criminal incident, and arrest documentation within the Records Management System, and provides clients with police reports, record checks for employment, and accident reports. The Records Unit processes and/or retrieves approximately 10,000 written reports, tickets and other similar information annually. Administrative Services is also responsible for managing the Department's CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch), records management and technology systems, supervising communications personnel, managing the Photo Enforcement System and Accreditation Program, and coordinating the Department's Intern and volunteer programs.

Special Operations coordinates and manages special events, community outreach programs, including Community Services and School Resource programs, Parking Enforcement, and is responsible for the training and deployment of the department's Emergency Services Unit. Special events include, but are not limited to, Watch Night, Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations, and a vast array of runs and marathons. The School Resource Officer (SRO) is assigned full time to the George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School and provides community resources, crime prevention, and educational services to the students and school staff. The Community Services Officer (CSO) conducts home and business security surveys, provides educational programs both in the elementary and the private/parochial schools, and conducts numerous training programs for our citizens and the business community. The CSO is also the liaison and coordinator for the Crossing Guards and assists with the Photo Enforcement program. The SWAT Team is a highly trained and skilled tactical team prepared to respond with minimum notice to any critical incident.

The Services Division also coordinates and oversees all training for both sworn and civilian employees, maintains 22 police vehicles and trailers, and oversees the evidence/property function of the department which handles approximately 1,000 pieces of evidence annually.

# Criminal Investigations Unit



In 2014, the Criminal Investigations Unit was assigned 303 cases, up slightly from 239 in 2013. The overall case closure rate for the Criminal Investigations Unit was about 86% for 2014, as compared to 84% in 2013. The City of Falls Church Police Department's case closure rate continues to be higher than the national and regional averages, which range from 66% to 76%.

Here are some highlights of just a few of the cases handled by the City of Falls Church Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit in 2014:

Burglary of an Occupied Residence - On June 7, 2014, at about 1:00 am, a woman woke up and saw someone in her room. It was dark and the subject was using what appeared to be a cell phone to light his way. As the subject left her room, she dialed 911. The subject was in the hallway for a few moments, ran into a bedroom off of the hallway and closed the door heard the police approaching the front door of the residence. Officers entered the home, announced for the subject to come out, then heard a crash and entered the room, only to find the window open and the screen smashed out. Before exiting the residence, the officers found a cell phone in the hallway that did not belong to anyone in the home. Fairfax County Police K-9 responded and conducted a track from the backyard of the residence to a house a few doors down. A number of young adults were at the house attending a party. Three males exiting the house were detained. When officers observed what appeared to be fresh cuts on one of the males arms and legs he was asked for identification. That subject turned out to be the owner of the phone that had been found on the floor of the burglarized home. The subject was arrested and upon searching him, an item of jewelry was found in one of his socks that belonged to the resident of the burglarized home.

Grand Larceny - In January 2014, an officer responded to a residence for a report of a larceny. The resident stated that they keep cash in an envelope in a drawer in their bedroom. After returning from vacation, they noticed \$1,000.00 missing from the envelop. There had been several service people in the house during the time that they were gone. They installed a surveillance camera in their room and verified the amount of money that was still in the envelop. About a week later, after the house cleaning crew had left, they noticed that more money was missing from the envelop. In total, \$2,400.00 had been stolen over three separate instances. Detectives reviewed the video and observed activity at the location where the money was kept, but could not clearly see the actual theft. The detective decided to place some "bait" money in the envelop, place it back in the drawer, and wait for the next visit by the house cleaning crew. About a week later, the cleaning crew returned. The detectives were parked just down the street watching the video feed on an iPad. When the cleaning crew got to the bedroom, they watched as one of the crew opened the drawer and took money from the envelop. As the cleaning crew left the residence, detectives stopped and identified the subject that they had seen in the video. At that point the subject admitted taking the money and presented the cash they had just taken. After detectives verified that the serial numbers matched the "bait" money, the subject was placed under arrest.

# Administrative Services

## Emergency Communications Unit

The Falls Church Police Emergency Communications Unit is the E-911 call transfer point for the City. The ECU answers the Police Department's emergency and non-emergency phones 24/7/365, dispatches complaints requiring police officer response, and they are the after-hours contact point for the City. The dispatchers also provide after-hours security for City Hall and all other City buildings, including schools, by monitoring the City's fire/burglary alarm system. The dispatchers monitor the Emergency Public Safety Radio System for the Capitol Region, Weather Radio, Amber Alert System and other emergency notification systems.

In 2014, the Dispatch Center answered almost 90,000 emergency and non-emergency telephone calls and dispatched approximately 24,000 calls for service. In addition, the dispatch center maintains the criminal warrant file system consisting of approximately 400 warrants and conducts computer records checks for approximately 8,000 motor vehicles and 8,500 drivers annually for both the Police Department, as well as the Falls Church Sheriff's Office.

## Records Unit

The Falls Church Police Department Records Unit is a vital part of the overall operation of the organization. Even though we have a comprehensive computerized Records Management System, the Records Unit still handles tens of thousands of paper records that help document every event and activity handled by the department. They record and reroute every parking ticket, traffic summons, and arrest warrant.

They scan vehicle impound sheets, court orders, release forms and any other form of documentation that needs to accompany a police report. They issue parking and drive-through permits to our City residents. They create and distribute copies of records for numerous outside agencies, courts, and insurance companies.

## Intersection Safety Program

During 2014, photo enforcement of red light violations continued at two intersections in the City; E. Broad St. and Cherry St. and W. Broad St. and W. Annandale Rd. A total of 4,750 violation notices were issued in 2014 compared to 4,757 in 2013. While the trend has been a reduction in violations for the last few years, an increase in overall traffic in the region may explain the current numbers. Current enforcement statistics are available on the City website, and are updated monthly.

In 2013, the Falls Church City Public School system started a Public Safety program aimed at enforcing the laws regarding motorists passing school buses while loading. While this is a school program, the majority of the enforcement and administration of the program will be the responsibility of the Police Department. The program started on October 28, 2013 and by year end, 62 citations were issued. In 2014, 808 citations were issued.

# Special Operations

## Training

Training is a critical function of the Services Division. It keeps Department personnel current with changing trends and technology. Providing quality training to all personnel results in a more professional and capable work force. During 2014, Police Department personnel received over 6,400 hours of training. This training was in the form of Mandatory In-service Retraining, Legal Updates, Firearms Training, First Aid, CPR, OSHA mandated training, and Roll Call training that covers a vast array of topic and subject areas. Additionally, four officers successfully completed Basic Academy Training, spanning 20 weeks (800 hours per officer).

## Community Service Officer

The Community Services Officer is responsible for providing home and business security surveys, coordinates the School's Crossing Guards, provides educational programs for the City's elementary schools, as well as the private/parochial schools, and conducts numerous training programs for our citizens and the business community. The Community Services Officer also reviews blueprints and building plans for construction projects in the City and makes 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. Additionally, the CSO provides information for the Weekly Crime report and other press releases.

During 2014, the Community Services Officer:

- 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).
- Continued the Bicycle & Pedestrian Awareness Week in conjunction with the department's Traffic Unit targeting enforcement in shared use traffic areas.
- 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.



## School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officer is the liaison between the Falls Church City 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 George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. 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 City Public School employees, as well as maintaining and upgrading the school system's video surveillance system.

Some of the other classes and activities organized and presented by our School Resource Officer during 2014 were:

Classes presented at the High School level:

- 8th Grade Physical Science - Velocity & Speed
- Forensic Chemistry - Effects of drugs and alcohol
- US Government - 4th & 5th Amendments
- Driver's Education (10th Grade)
- Internet Safety (8th Grade)
- Drugs & Alcohol (9th Grade)

Classes presented at the Middle School level:

- Risky Behavior/Gangs/Crime (7th Grade)
- Character Education

All grades, meet with each classroom once during the school year.



## Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT) Team

The Falls Church SWAT Team is a specialized unit of highly trained police officers deployed to handle violent and dangerous calls for service that exceed the expertise and/or tactical abilities and equipment of the first responders on patrol. The Team is grounded in basic common sense approaches that behold the preservation of life as their top priority in each and every training session and deployment mission. The SWAT Team members are comprised of officers from every shift/unit within the Department, providing an around the clock tactical capability 24 hours/7 days a week. The SWAT Team members are all actively involved in the National Capital Region's SWAT Association (NCRSA).

This Team provides the Police Department with a credible, effective and capable tactical response within the City's borders and assists mutual aid partners in the region. The Team trains monthly on situations ranging from barricaded gunmen, officer and citizen rescue, high risk entry, first aid skills, and response to numerous high-risk violence incidents. Every member attends an annual week long training event, where skills are honed and teamwork is developed in various disciplines. Each officer is also specially trained in a number of areas of expertise, ranging from precision marksman, less-than lethal force, breaching, command/control of volatile suspects and scenes, and a host of others disciplines.

In November 2014, a member from the SWAT Team, Alex Cruzvergara, who is in charge of maintaining and deploying the teams Electronic Equipment, assisted the George Mason High School Robotic Club in their yearly Robot Convention. Officer Cruzvergara explained and demonstrated how the various Robots used by the Falls Church Police SWAT Team can be utilized to size up dangerous situations, communicate, and negotiate an entire house which in turn limits the potential dangers officers would potentially face if this was not an available option.



# Animal Control Division



The Animal Control Officer responded to 123 calls related to companion animals in 2014. Animal Bite cases were down from 23 in 2013 to 17 in 2014. Of those cases, 9 of the animals were required to be quarantined. Fortunately, Falls Church did not have any rabies exposure cases in 2014. The Animal Control Officer responded to 98 wildlife complaints in 2014, an increase of 17% over 2013.

Some other notable statistics:

- Calls for Service - 205
- Assist Police Emergency Communications - 14
- Assisted other Jurisdictions - 4
- Animal Cruelty Complaints - 17
- Animal Quarantines - 9
- Animal Bite Complaints - 17
- Wildlife Complaints - 98
- Written Complaints - 35
- Contacted while off duty at home by PD - 78

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 Approximately 30 phone calls from citizens per day 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.

# 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 (1) 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. As such the position supports any and all emergency events that occur within the City.

In the last four years, the City's response and focus on Emergency Management has been ongoing and engaged with an Earthquake, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, The Derecho, Super Storm Sandy and the tragedy in New Town, Connecticut. The reaction to all these events places a focus on pre-planning and response within all segments of the community. As a result many of the day to day functions described under the Office of the Fire Marshal were temporarily suspended or altered in order to meet the demands of Emergency Preparedness. In addition, with the growth of new construction projects creating additional need for plans review and with the addition of land in the Fairfax Water system transfer, the demands became unobtainable. Late in 2014, a part-time Fire Inspector was hired to assist in the Fire Inspection Program.



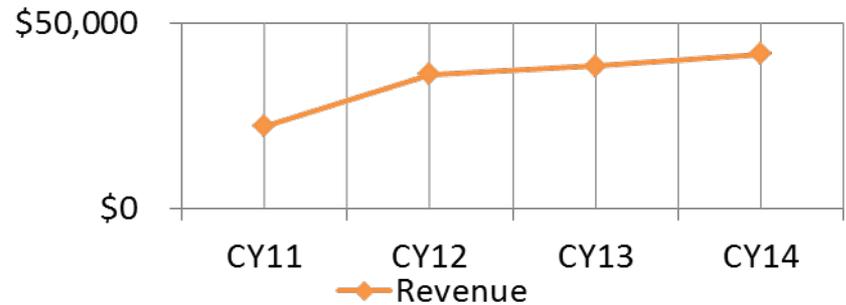
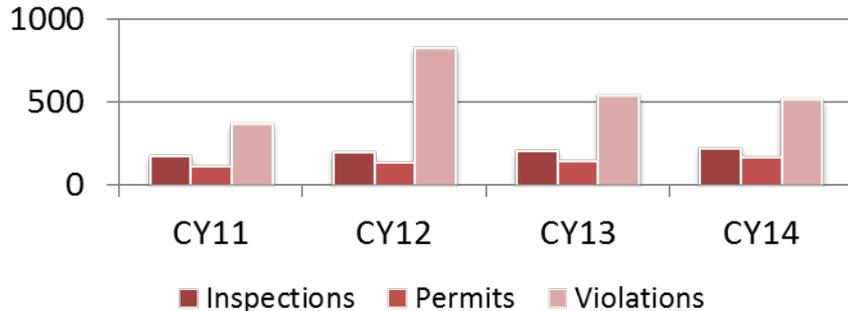
# Fire Marshal



## 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 NFPA.

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



Since the addition of the Part-Time Fire Marshal in October 2014, the Fire Inspection Program is now current. In addition, a ten percent increase in occupancy's requiring annual inspections and permits has already been realized in only three months. This will lead to an increase of projected revenues for the Fire Inspection Program.

## Fire Investigations

The Fire Marshal is responsible for origin and cause investigations involving fire and explosions as well as environmental crimes. There were six fires reported in 2014 with the most significant fire loss being a mid-rise building. Several fires involved commercial properties in which a working fire suppression system assisted in containing the fires. Total fire loss for the City for CY2014 is estimated over \$2,000,000.



# Emergency Management

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. OEM's responsibilities are local and regional in nature, and are components of the Department of Homeland Security. OEM ensures the City meets and maintains the goals of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This is accomplished by promoting emergency planning, public education and emergency training and exercises throughout the City. Emergency Management is divided into four phases: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. The City Manager serves as the Director of Emergency Management, while the City Fire Marshal serves as the Coordinator of Emergency Management.

Programs administered by OEM include the management of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), review and updates of the following: Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Regional Hazardous Mitigation Plan, NIMSCAST Compliance Reporting and the Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR) report. Additional management of communication programs under OEM includes WebEOC, Alert Falls Church, Satellite Phones, Video Tele-Conferencing (VTC) and the administration of the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) cards. Collateral duties for the Coordinator of Emergency Management include attending meetings with the Northern Virginia Regional Emergency Managers. OEM also serves as a point of contact for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Council of Governments Emergency Managers sub-committee.

# Photo Gallery



# Photo Gallery



