

Rockingham Police Department

2022 Annual Report



Presented by:

Chief George C. Gillenwater

Message from the Chief

On behalf of the staff of the Rockingham Police Department, it is a pleasure to publish our 2022 Annual Report. This report serves as a summary of the activities of the Rockingham Police Department for the 2022 calendar year, highlighting our commitment to professionalism, transparent policing, initiatives, achievements, and public data. This past year brought with it some changes administratively within our department. I have provided for you an organizational chart that outlines how our department will operate moving forward. In addition to the retirement of Chief Kelly, we also saw the retirements of Major Grant and Captain Freeman. In total the City of Rockingham lost approximately 90 years of law enforcement experience. The task of filling these voids has been daunting but I am proud to announce we are fully staffed pending the graduation of three Basic Law Enforcement Training graduates.

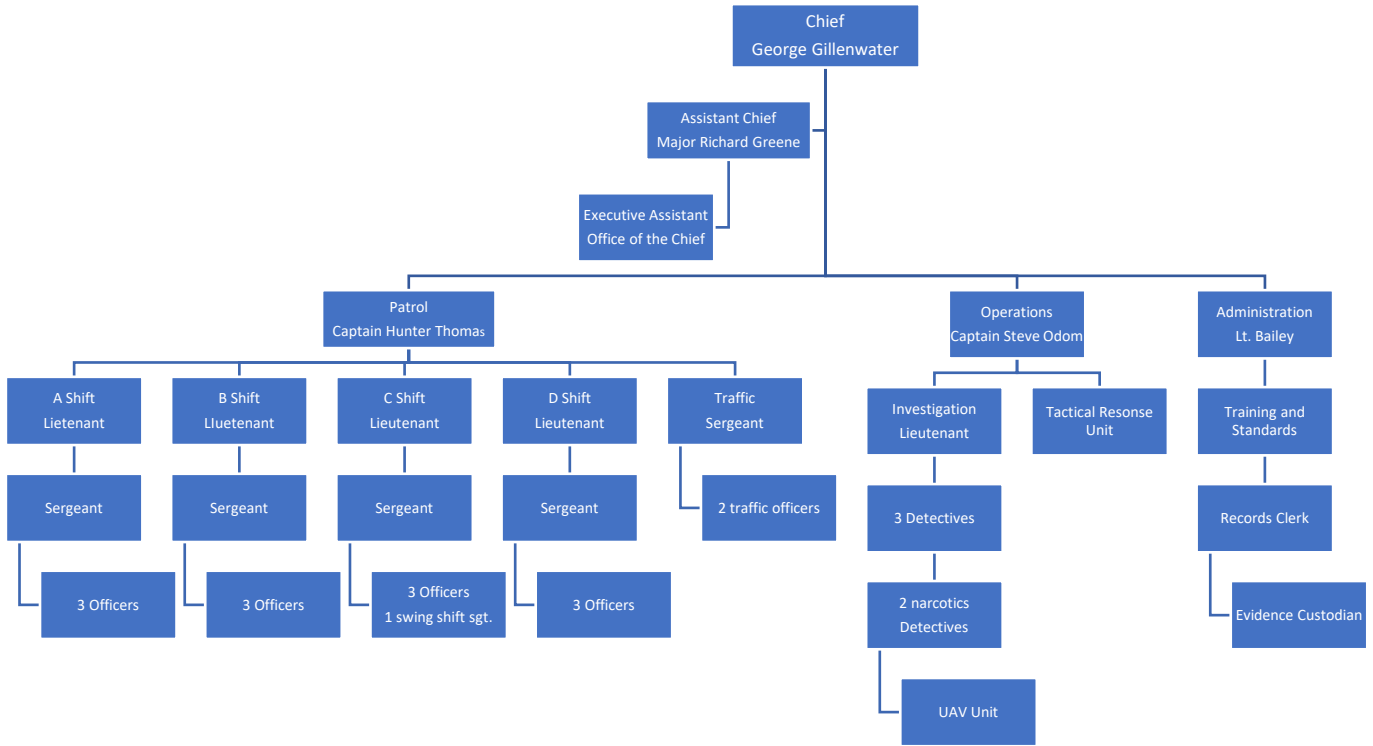
In addition to staffing changes, we have implemented vast changes to the department and its policies that we hope protect the integrity of the job, enhance visibility to the city we serve, increase function and sustainability of our department, and finally produce the highest quality of service to the city and our staff. As we look to the future, training and education will continue to be a focal point of our Agency. We will continue to grow our community-based policing approach through our social media outlets, and community engagements. We will work towards a succession plan as we will see several key positions retire in the next 4-8 years while prioritizing the recruitment and retention of the most qualified Law Enforcement Officers.

George C. Gillenwater





Rockingham Police Department
 Organization Structure
 Effective January 1, 2023



The Rockingham Police Department is a Risk Management Accredited Agency through the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Organizational Breakdown

Patrol

Captain Thomas leads the Patrol Division. The patrol division is comprised of twenty-one uniformed officers assigned to 4 squads each consisting of 5 officers. Each squad has a Lieutenant who supervises with the assistance of a Sergeant. Patrol answers all 911 calls, conducts proactive patrols to combat crime, and actively participates in community policing events. In addition to the uniformed patrol squads, there is a specialized traffic unit supervised by Sergeant Ricks consisting of three uniformed officers. This specialized unit handles most accident reports in the city as well as enforcing NC traffic laws. Captain Thomas also manages fleet management, parade permits, taxi permits, wrecker rotation, initial officer compliments and complaints and special events for the department.

Operations

Captain Odom provides administrative oversight, leadership, and overall management to the operations division. The Criminal Investigations Division is subdivided into specialized units. General Crime Unit detectives investigate a variety of crime to include crimes against persons, property crimes, fraud, sexual assaults, and homicide. The Vice/Narcotics Unit is a covert technical group of detectives who conduct narcotics and vice investigations. In addition to these specialized units, Captain Odom oversees the management of both the department's UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) team and the department's Tactical Response Unit.

Administration

Lieutenant Bailey leads the sworn functions of the administrative division. Police Management Assistant Prisk leads the non-sworn records management functions.

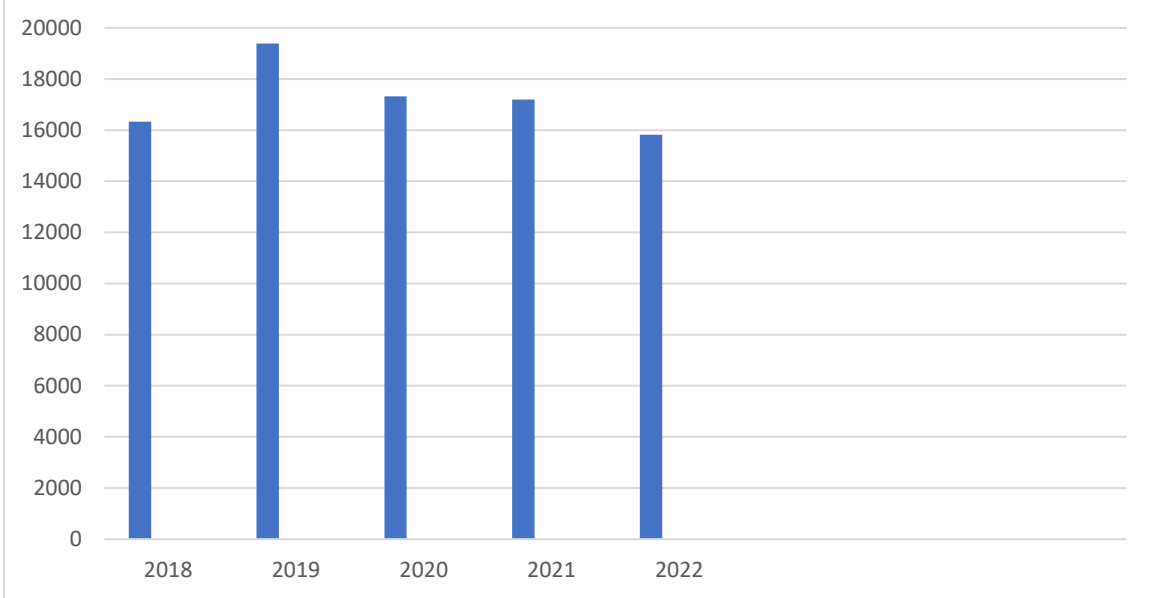
The Administrative Division encompasses numerous organizational functions. Services include records management, evidence/property management, training, grant management, personnel liability, policy review, auditing, fiscal management, non-sworn civil operations, and accreditation.

Crime Data and Transparency Reporting

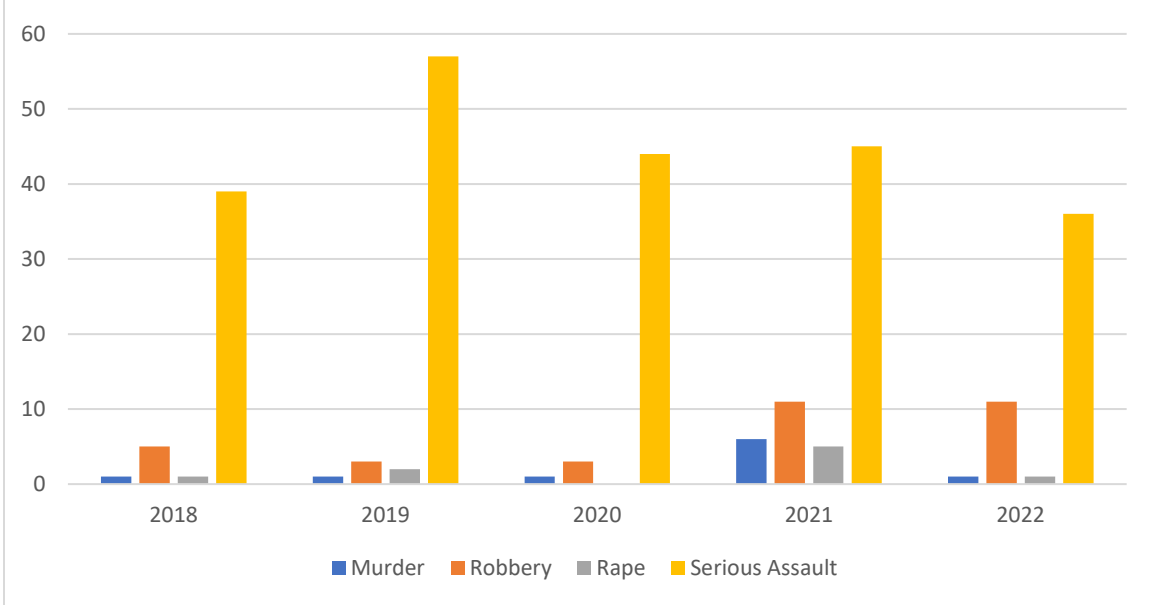
A benchmark for any community is to have a low crime rate. Many citizens, businesses, and local governments strive to have a low crime rate to help improve the quality of life for the community. The Rockingham Police Department understands the importance of this benchmark and recognizes that crime control is a valuable initiative that supports our department's mission. There are many dynamics to reporting crime data, such as the difference between a reported crime and the subsets of those crimes. Law enforcement's primary role is to accurately collect data to provide reliable crime statistics for the administration of justice, police operations and criminal justice partners.

The Rockingham Police Department reports to both state and federal crime reporting systems. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects offenses that come to the attention of law enforcement for violent crime and property crime, as well as data regarding clearances of these offenses. In addition, the FBI collects auxiliary data about these offenses (e.g., time of day of burglaries). This expanded offense data also includes trends in both crime volume and crime rate per 100,000 inhabitants. All crime related statistical data can be found at the NC State Bureau of Investigations website at <http://crimereporting.ncsbi.gov/Reports.aspx>. This site contains all current and historical data for the Rockingham Police Department. For year 2022, the Rockingham Police Department received 15,825 calls for service which translates into approximately 800 calls per officer when fully staffed. For most of year 2022 the department operated at approximately one less officer per shift resulting in approximately 989 calls per officer.

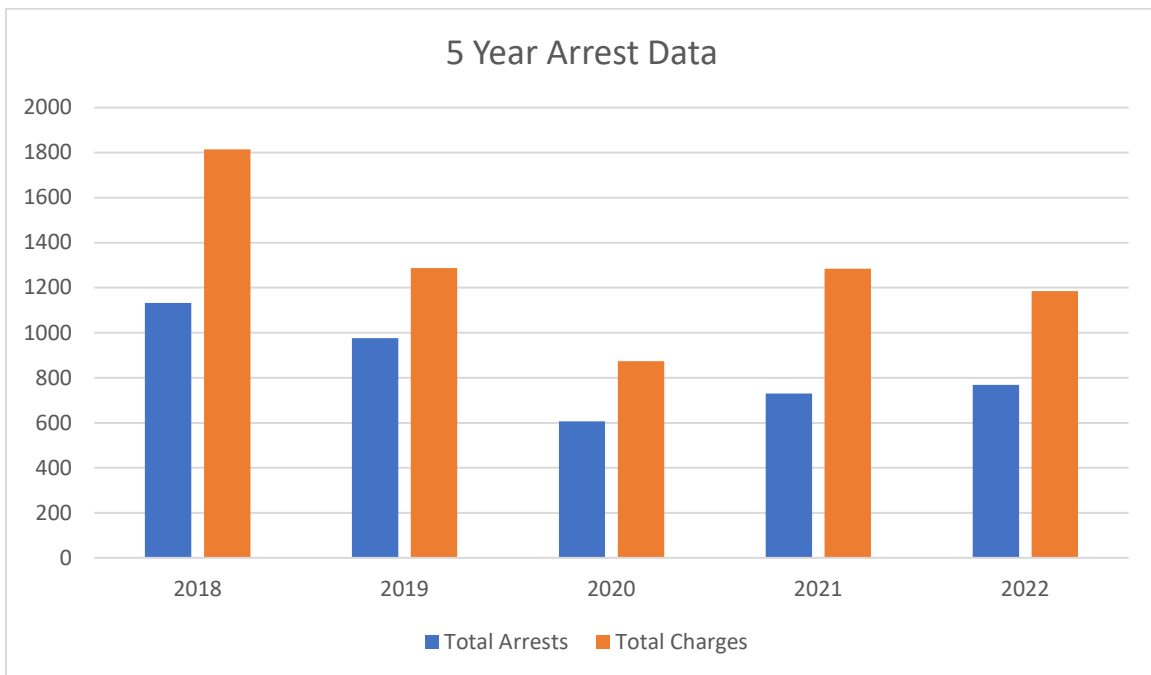
5 year call volume represented in thousands



5 Year Violent Crime Rate



Arrests are typically represented by two categories, either felony or misdemeanor. Most misdemeanor arrests are the result of warrants that are either obtained by a patrol officer because the crime occurred in their presence, or there is evidence to support a crime occurred shortly before their arrival (i.e., shop lifting.) Most felony arrests are initiated by the Criminal Investigation Division as the result of an investigation into a felonious criminal activity (i.e., murder.) There are other incidents that occur throughout the year that do result in either a felony or misdemeanor arrest and the aforementioned examples simply represent the bulk of what is experienced within our department. The table provided below shows the total number of arrests and charges on all arrests for the past 5 years. Each arrest, either misdemeanor or felony, represents hours, if not days and sometimes months, of effort by the officers who initiated these processes.



Community Engagement

A huge part of the success of any police department is how they relate, interact, and engage the community in which they work. A lot of the community engagement happens behind the scenes, but we have made strides this year in enhancing our engagement through our social media platforms. I would encourage you to please follow us on Facebook and Instagram where we try to keep the community up to date with all that is going on at the Rockingham Police Department as well as information that may impact the community. In 2022 we updated our website, created an Instagram, and revamped our Facebook page. The following is a list of a few of our community engagements:

1. Falling Creek Back to School event where we handed out school supplies and participated in games and activities with neighborhood children.
2. Downtown Spooktacular
3. Published the Little Peoples Guide to the Big World to distribute to children in the community.
4. Veterans Day Parade
5. The 2nd annual Christmas Tree decoration with children from a local daycare.
6. Read across America where officers were able to read to local schools.
7. Leadership Richmond
8. Annual Shop with a Cop.
9. -not pictured-National Night Out



1.



2.



3.



4.



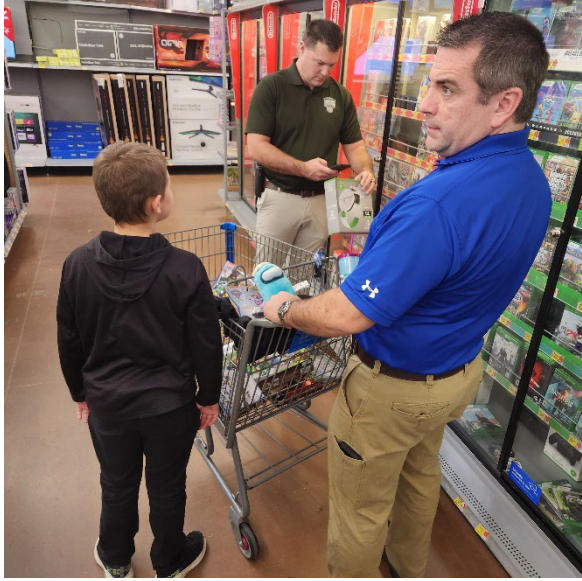
5.



6.



7.





This year we partnered with the Richmond County Sheriff Office and Richmond County Crime Stoppers to purchase the P3 Application. This is an app that can be downloaded in the Apple or Google Play store to an individual's smart phone. Once downloaded a person can submit tips to Law Enforcement about criminal activity and submit whether they would like to be compensated for the information. All this is done anonymously through the application and the person giving the information is assigned a number to use for retrieval of award money. In 2021 the Richmond County Crime Stoppers received approximately 58 calls about criminal activity. With the addition of this application, we have seen an increase in nearly double the volume of submissions of information pertaining to criminal activity through P3, not to include submittals through Facebook and call ins to Richmond County Emergency Communications. The investment in this application has helped to solve cases and increase community engagement.

Awards and Recognitions

Training and education are a focal point of our department, and I am proud to report that nearly 80 percent of our department has either an Intermediate or Advanced Law Enforcement Certification through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education Training and Standards Commission. In 2022, approximately 2500 hours of training was logged, breaking down to approximately 200 hours per month. In addition to these training hours, there were an additional 300 hours of training done through our Virtual Academy training site. As mentioned last year, this site gives our officers access to over 500 hours of Law Enforcement training that can be done all online at the officer's pace.

Pictured in order from left to right:

- Officer Freeman received the award for Most Improved Officer. Officer Freeman has shown a tremendous improvement in his report writing, training hours, and ability to problem solve tough situations.
- Sergeant Ricks received the award for Top Shot of the year. This award is given out to the officer with the highest qualification scores of the year.
- Officer Talley received the award for Officer of the Year. Officer Talley has displayed outstanding skills in both patrol and his current position as a traffic officer. His willingness to work when called upon and his excellent work ethic have been a great asset to our department.
- Officer Carriker received the award from most training hours. This award is given based on the number of training hours received through the course of the year. We have made training a focus and our proud to see our young core of officers taking advantage of the training opportunities.
- Officer Owens received her Advanced Certification from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.
- Officer Dover received his Advanced Certification from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.
- Detective Neeley and Officer Carswell received their Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certification.
- Finally, Officer Star was acquired through a grant, and she represents the first tracking blood hound utilized by the Rockingham Police Department.



2022 was the first year of a new administration for the Rockingham Police Department in more than a decade. A new Chief was sworn in, as well as the appointment of a new Assistant Chief and 3 division commanders. This transition created 4 openings that have been filled by what we consider to be the most well rounded and qualified applicants available. Many changes took place to include new uniforms, new website, the additions of social media engagement, policy and procedural changes, shift assignment, and finally a salary assessment that has substantially aided in the recruitment and retention of staff. In conclusion the Chief and his staff would like to thank the City Council, Mayor, City Manager, and City staff for their continued support of the Rockingham Police Department.