



Charlotte County Sheriff's Office 2024 Annual Report

Integrity, Professionalism, Trust

William G. Prummell, Jr., Sheriff

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The Sheriff's Message

Each January, we review the previous year's accomplishments, difficulties, and our overall growth as a community. In 2024, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and our great community once again faced multiple challenges. We encountered another year of record growth throughout the area, with developing communities and increased citizen populations that inevitably brought about increased law enforcement and service needs. We experienced a devastating Hurricane season, with Debby, Helene, and Milton bringing about historical flooding and damage to many of our beloved neighborhoods and businesses.

Ending the year, we found ourselves once again grieving during the holidays, for Sergeant Elio Diaz, a great man taken while serving the community he loved.

Looking back at these adversities, I am continually amazed at our communities' unwavering spirit, and its ability to overcome difficulties and emerge even stronger. I have always admired not only our ability to heal together as a community, but how these times bring us all to find renewed purpose, focus, and dedication to keeping Charlotte County safe.

In 2025, through our continued partnerships, we plan to drive forward with our law enforcement initiatives, cracking down on illegal gambling, drug enforcement, and crimes that impact our citizens. We will continue to provide and expand programs to enhance awareness and school safety, such as our Autism Awareness and Guardian School Safety projects. As we move into the new year, I once again thank this great community for its partnership and support. It has been my utmost honor to be able to provide services as your Sheriff, and I promise to continue to serve this community and bring these goals to a state level, through my term as the Florida Sheriff's Association President.

Be strong, Be safe, and Never Quit!

Bill Prummell, Sheriff



Sheriff's Office Senior Command Staff



CHIEF
MICHAEL CASARELLA



MAJOR
JAMES KENVILLE



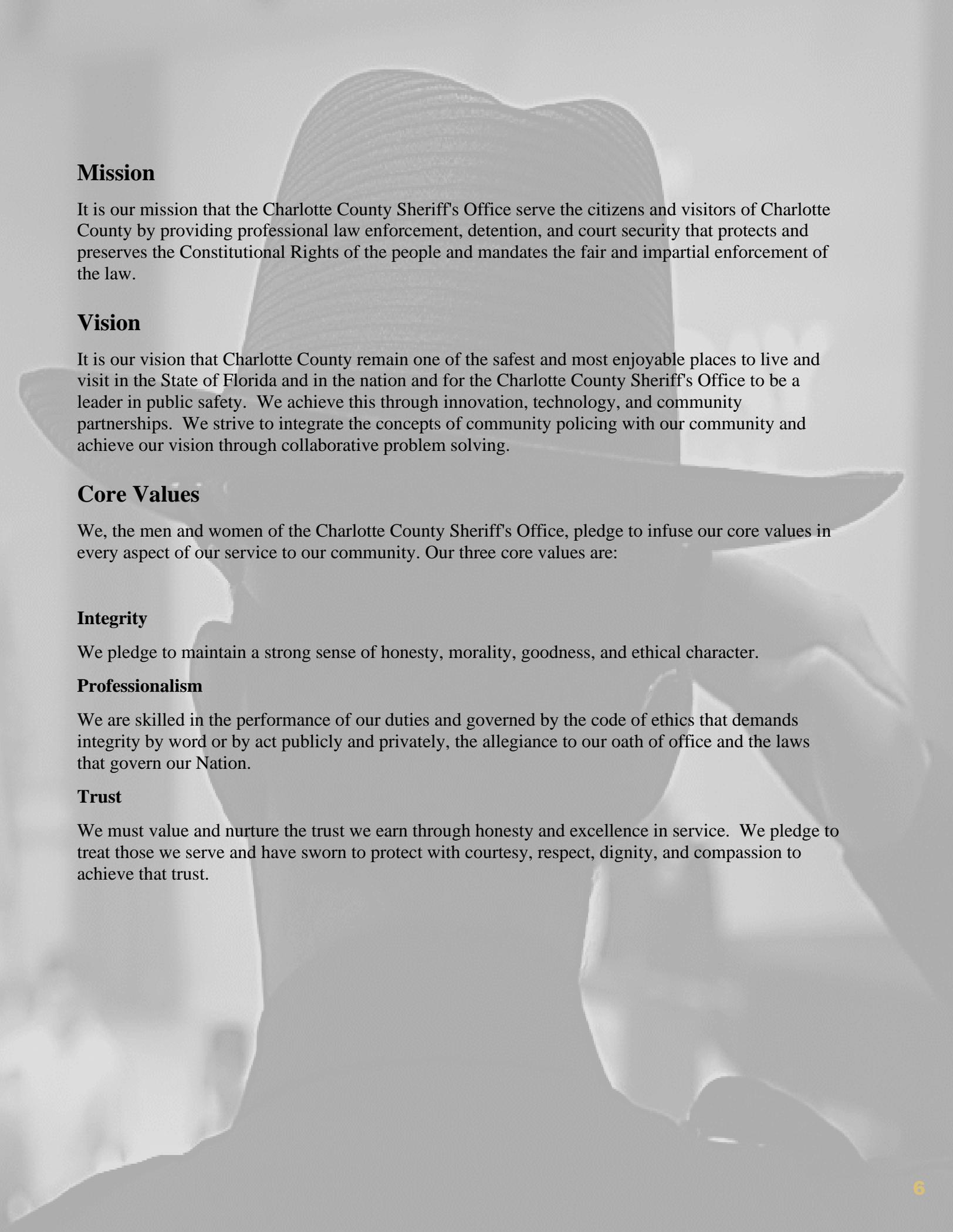
MAJOR
MATHEW DOWLING



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THOMAS RODGERS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ANDRES RODRIGUEZ



Mission

It is our mission that the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office serve the citizens and visitors of Charlotte County by providing professional law enforcement, detention, and court security that protects and preserves the Constitutional Rights of the people and mandates the fair and impartial enforcement of the law.

Vision

It is our vision that Charlotte County remain one of the safest and most enjoyable places to live and visit in the State of Florida and in the nation and for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office to be a leader in public safety. We achieve this through innovation, technology, and community partnerships. We strive to integrate the concepts of community policing with our community and achieve our vision through collaborative problem solving.

Core Values

We, the men and women of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, pledge to infuse our core values in every aspect of our service to our community. Our three core values are:

Integrity

We pledge to maintain a strong sense of honesty, morality, goodness, and ethical character.

Professionalism

We are skilled in the performance of our duties and governed by the code of ethics that demands integrity by word or by act publicly and privately, the allegiance to our oath of office and the laws that govern our Nation.

Trust

We must value and nurture the trust we earn through honesty and excellence in service. We pledge to treat those we serve and have sworn to protect with courtesy, respect, dignity, and compassion to achieve that trust.

This is a comprehensive report on the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) activities throughout the preceding year. This information is intended to give members of the agency and the community highlights of performance activities from 2024, containing material and data obtained from various CCSO units. Please note that due to State, Local, and Federal reporting criteria variances, statistical data is based on each individual reporting requirements. Any questions regarding data provided in this report should be directed to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Records Department for assistance. This report will be posted online (<https://www.ccsso.org/AboutUs/PDF/AnnualReport>) for members of the public to obtain a copy.



Organizational Goals and Objectives

Attentiveness to Public Safety and Public Service

To maintain a high quality of life through the effective, efficient delivery of public safety services through Intelligence-Led Policing and community partnerships.

Traffic Safety

To make the roadways of Charlotte County safe for those who use them.

Drug Demand Reduction

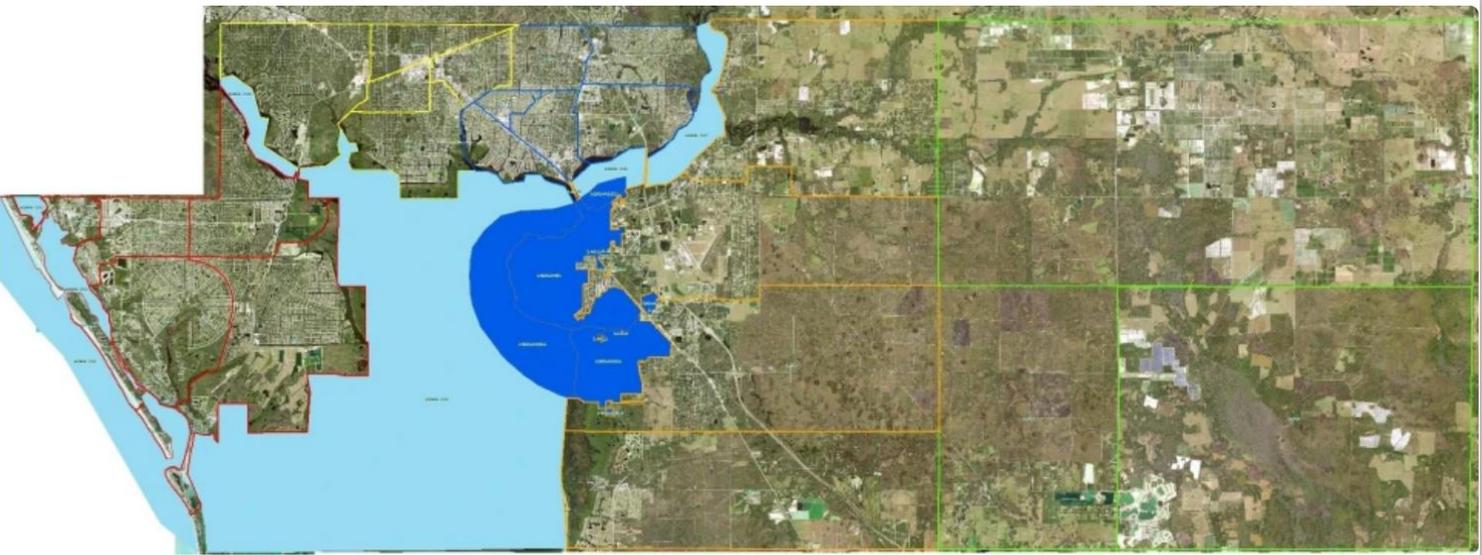
To curtail illegal and synthetic drug, alcohol, and tobacco activities.

School Safety

To aid in the safety and security of students and staff in and around schools, colleges, and universities in Charlotte County.

Management of Detainee Population

To improve the jail and court processes and recidivism rates; Utilize all resources available to minimize current and future encumbrances on Charlotte County taxpayers.



The Community the Sheriff's Office Serves

Nestled between Sarasota and Lee Counties in Southwest Florida, Charlotte County is made up of a total of about 868 square miles, consisting of 680.28 square miles of land and 178.02 square miles of coastal and intercoastal waterways. From fertile agricultural lands towards the eastern portion of the County to the more conventional urban landscape and coastal amenities, the Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement and public safety services for the estimated 206,134 residents of unincorporated Charlotte County (U.S. Census Bureau estimate for Charlotte County population on July 1, 2023).

- **District One**, with a substation located at 11051 Willmington Boulevard, is responsible for five zones in the Englewood area;
- **District Two**, with its substation located at 992 Tamiami Trail, Suite A, has Deputies who patrol five zones in Murdock, El Jobean, and Port Charlotte;
- **District Three**, located at 3110 Loveland Boulevard, has Deputies who patrol six zones in Port Charlotte, Deep Creek, Harbor Heights, and Charlotte Harbor; and
- **District Four**, with a substation located at 7474 Utilities Road, covers four zones comprised of Punta Gorda, Burnt Store, and Babcock Ranch.
- **District Five** substation is COMING SOON at 17755 Curry Preserve Drive, Punta Gorda, has Deputies who patrol four zones in Punta Gorda.



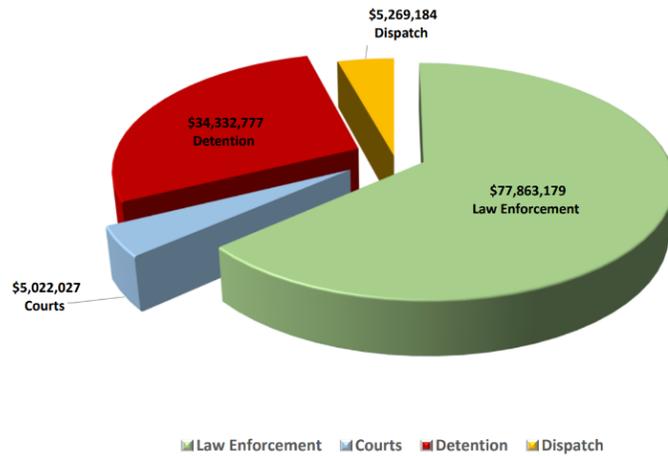
Annual Budget/Finance Division

The Finance Division, led by Director Gio Orbe, provides accurate fiscal and budgetary information/data to Office and community stakeholders. The Finance Division is responsible for developing and monitoring the Sheriff's Office's budget, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, cash management, purchasing, and financial reporting.

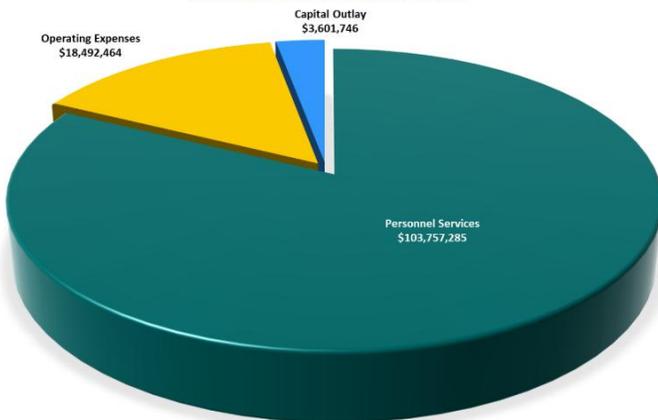
The main source of revenue in the Sheriff's Office budget is transfers from the Board of County Commissioners, consisting mainly of ad valorem revenues. The budget funds salaries and benefits, operating expenses, and capital related equipment. The budget is divided into four main areas: Law Enforcement, Detention, Court Security, and Dispatch/E911 Center.

For the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025, the Sheriff's Office's approved operating budget was \$125,851,495. Total funding from County General Fund was \$122,487,167 as graphed above. The balance of \$3,364,328 was funded by Federal Inmate Housing, Inmate Fees, and reimbursements from Fire/EMS Services that are collected during the year. Law Enforcement represents 63.6% of the total General Fund budget, Detention represents 28%, Court Security 4.1%, and Dispatch/E911 Center 4.3%.

FY 25 PROPOSED BUDGET BY FUNCTION



FY 25 PROPOSED BUDGET BY OBJECT



Salaries and Benefits account for 82.4% of the total approved budget. The salary budget covers 777 full-time employees and 37 part-time employees. Operating expense consists mainly of technology-related contracts, liability and auto insurance and other mandated contracts, including the Inmate Medical Contract.

Authorized Budgeted Positions for FY 2025

	Sworn	Civilian	Total
Courts	28	1	29
Detention	146	59	205
Dispatch	0	56	56
Law Enforcement	332	155	487
Totals	506	271	777

* In January 2025, the budget was amended by \$2.5 Million in the "Capital Outlay" category to fund an aircraft overhaul within the Aviation Unit. This additional amendment is not reflected in the above graph.

Bureau of Administration

The functions of Administration are to provide the citizens of Charlotte County with the highest degree of professional services by investing in and developing the Sheriff's Office human capital and resources. The Bureau includes Professional Standards and Training, Information Technology, and the Human Resources Divisions.

Professional Standards and Training Division

The Professional Standards Division encompasses Professional Compliance, Accreditation, Training, Internal Affairs, Staff Inspections, Planning and Research, as well as the Records Unit.

Accreditation Unit

The Professional Compliance Section works to enhance the professionalism of the agency by monitoring the agency's compliance with State and Nationally accepted Accreditation standards, policies, conducting quality internal inspections, grant administration and research, analysis, and development of recommendations on a wide range of topics impacting the Sheriff's Office.



On February 22, 2024, the Sheriff was presented with initial Accreditation Award from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA) Core Competencies Standards. The Professional Compliance Team work diligently to prepare the agency for 80 additional accreditation standards through policy, procedure, training, interviews and documented proof of practices. Exemplary Policies/Projects/Procedures identified by the CFA Assessment Team were Mental Health, Real Time Crime Center (RTIC) and Active Assailant/SAVE "Swift Assisted Victim Extraction Training.



The annual web-based assessments started on March 22, 2024, and completed on March 30, 2024, from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement and Communication (CALEA) and CALEA Communications. 178 law enforcement and 45 communications standards were reviewed to include specific time-sensitive issues, as well as all standards applicable to the agency by size and function. No standard issues were identified.



On May 16, 2024, the scheduled Florida Model Jail Standards Inspections were completed for the Jail and Medical sections. The Jail Inspection consisted of five Certified FMJS Inspectors reviewed files, interviewed staff and inmates, and toured the facility. This inspection reported that the Jail is run by professional, courteous and efficient staff members with no violations. The FMJS Medical Inspection stated the unit was clean and orderly with one notable violation with Standard 9.5. A plan of action was completed by contracted vendor, YesCare, and on May 31, 2024, a reinspection was completed. The Notable Violation was placed in compliance as it was corrected.



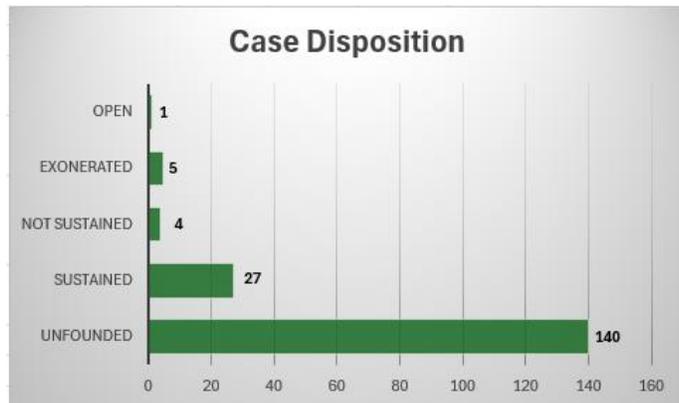
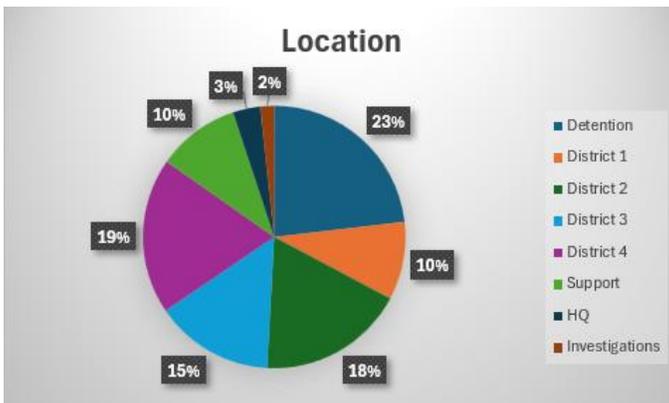
An annual Unannounced Inspection was completed on November 18, 2024, there were no violations to report for this inspection.

Internal Affairs Unit

To safeguard the integrity of the Sheriff's Office, Internal Affairs is responsible for conducting internal investigations on all accusations made against any member of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. The citizens of Charlotte County must be able to place their trust in Internal Affairs to ensure any accusation made against the agency or its members is investigated fairly and impartially, with the utmost professionalism and without bias.

Complaints are defined as any investigation, whether formal or informal, documented by the Internal Affairs Unit. This includes Administrative Investigations, Internal Investigations, Supervisory Inquiries, Miscellaneous Investigations, and Citizen Contacts. In 2024, of the total 177 complaints reviewed, 14 were designated as formal Internal Affairs Investigations (IA). Complaint data related to originating Unit/Bureau, case disposition, and yearly comparison are noted below.

	2022	2023	2024
Formal IA Investigations	6	11	14
Total Complaints	84	137	177



The **Sustained** cases violation category and disciplinary disposition are shown below. (The highest severity is reflected if more than one disciplinary action was taken.)



Staff Inspection/Planning & Research Units

The Staff Inspection Unit is responsible for conducting internal inspections and audits to ensure agency compliance with established policies and procedures. These comprehensive inspections evaluate matters pertaining not only to procedural compliance, but also issues dealing with efficiency, economy, and organizational development. Planning and Research analyzes the individual unit workloads throughout the Office and provides specialized and complex administrative support for Office-wide annual reporting and long-range strategic planning. In 2024, the Staff Inspection and Planning and Research Units completed the following inspections, audits, and support projects.

Annual Reports/Analysis of Strategic Planning/Goals & Objectives/SWOT	4
Auditing in compliance with Accreditation Standards	17
Formal Inspections	6
Special Projects / Formal Follow-ups	9
Surveys	6

Records Unit

The Records Unit is responsible for all functions required for the management of agency records and ensures compliance with Florida Statute 119. The Records Unit is also responsible for the preparation and validation of NIBRS/FIBRS reporting to state and federal agencies.

In 2024, Records staff completed over 11,500 Public Records Requests; including requests for Body-worn camera and Motor Vehicle recordings, E911 calls, case reports, and of course traffic crash reports. In April 2024, Records switched the Public Records Request Software Program to JustFOIA, saving the agency roughly \$16,000 annually.

Training Unit

The Training Unit is responsible for conducting and coordinating training classes for all members of the Office. Training constantly strives to enhance Office members' skills, abilities, and knowledge during the year through annual in-service training and a physical ability test to approximately 470 certified members. In-service training focuses on mandatory re-certification in multiple areas, trending or changing topics for the profession, and areas identified for re-fresher training. In addition to the required in-service training, the unit offers advanced in-house training courses, hosts various external advanced training courses, and facilitates in-house video recorded training named "Training on the Fly," covering various topics for Law Enforcement members to go over during squad roll-call briefings.

The Training team is constantly working on the Law Enforcement, Detention, Communications Operator, and Community Service Aide (CSA) training programs,



which benefits the new recruits that are consistently coming into the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. In 2024, Training for new hires included 50 Law Enforcement Deputies, 31 Corrections Deputies, 9 Communication Operators, and 18 CSA's. The Training team also conducts classes for Deputies and Civilians interested in becoming trainers for new hires, in efforts to help forge the new era of employees coming into the rank and file.

In addition to the standard yearly training offered, 2024 was a busy year for the unit, which brought several new opportunities to the agency and community.

This year marks the first time we've had the opportunity to train the School Guardians. The training program has been carefully designed to equip the School Guardians with the skills and knowledge necessary to maintain a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and visitors. With a focus on situational awareness, conflict resolution, emergency preparedness, and understanding school



policies, the program emphasizes both proactive safety measures and effective response strategies. The feedback from the School Guardians has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are excited to see the long-term impact this training will have on creating a safer, more supportive school environment.

This year also marks the first time the agency has hosted a local Citizen Firearms Safety Training Program, which was developed in-house, to provide citizens of the community with more knowledge, comfortability, and proficiency with handguns and legal requirements. The one-day course was offered three times during the year, with a total of 45 citizens attending.



Additional new opportunities in 2024, focused on areas to benefit members' performance through the creation and facilitation of a three-day supervisory academy and a two-day pistol mounted optic training.

The supervisor academy's focus is providing newly promoted Sergeants and Corporals, and those members on the promotional list, a structured framework and guidance for expectations, knowledge, and skills as a CCSO supervisor.

The agency purchased pistol mounted optics, which is a handgun add on designed to enhance the accuracy, efficiency, and confidence of our members in dynamic shooting situations. The Training

Unit began transitioning members to the optic through a new training class where participants gain hands-on experience, learning how to maximize their effectiveness in real-world scenarios.

Looking to the future of the Training Unit, construction continues on our new training facility, marking an exciting step forward in enhancing our programs and providing state-of-the-art resources for our staff and trainees. The facility is being designed to accommodate a wide range of training activities, with specialized areas for hands-on exercises, simulation environments, and classroom instruction. This new space will allow us to expand and improve the training experience, offering a more immersive and effective learning environment.



Information Technology Division

The Information Technology Division (IT) of Charlotte County Sheriff's Office is responsible for planning, acquiring, implementing, and developing information technology solutions to facilitate the Office's mission. Technologies supported by IT include Financial Management, Human Resource Management, Risk Management, Records Management, Jail Bookings and Arrests, Civil Process, Computer Aided dispatch (CAD), Fleet Management, Warrants, email, cloud services and the CCSO public website. IT implements and maintains mobile and desktop computers, servers, and mobile phones. IT provides technical support 365 days a year, 24 hours a day for a wide array of devices and platforms.

IT is responsible for providing effective systems that are also reliable and secure. Additionally, IT provides guidance to the CCSO regarding the acquisition of new technology. Due to rapid changes in technology, IT must constantly research and evaluate emerging technologies to determine which should be acquired, as well as evaluating and recommending upgrades to current systems as they approach the end of their life cycle. The primary reason for obtaining new technology and upgrading current technology is to ensure that CCSO members are provided with tools to perform their jobs in the most efficient, secure, and safe manner possible.

The following are a few of the major project's IT has worked on during 2024:

Security – IT focused on implementing several security recommendations provided by the tools procured as part of the Florida Digital Service Cybersecurity grant program increasing our overall security posture. IT staff, in cooperation with County IT staff, installed and implemented new firewall hardware as part of the hardware refresh plan. This new hardware increases cyber defense capabilities by leveraging machine learning and behavioral analysis.

Hardware/Software Support and Upgrades – In addition to the firewall upgrades, the IT department played a major role in the implementation of RapidDNA technology at the Jail. Charlotte County was selected as one of 11 counties to pilot the RapidDNA technology. This technology is used to help quickly identify incarcerated individuals that may be linked to other crimes nationwide.

IT also expanded its backup capabilities to include offsite backup retention. This helps provide additional data protection in the event of a disaster or cyber event.

Knowledge – As the agency grows, the IT needs will grow with it. The growth will require a matured support model to ensure that IT can continue to effectively provide technical support. To prepare, IT staff have started to learn and be certified in the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) support framework. This knowledge will be used to implement new support request software as well as formalized change management.

Summary - IT continues to embrace emerging technologies and plays a critical role in implementing all software and hardware resources within CCSO. Additionally, IT will continue to assist the agency in pursuit of its goal of greater efficiency, reliability, and security of operations.

E911

The 911 Office, often referred to as E911, functions within the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, operating under the authorization of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). In accordance with Florida regulations, each BOCC is required to designate a 911 Coordinator who serves as the central point of contact for all matters related to 911 services. This includes overseeing fiscal, technical, operational, and strategic planning aspects, as well as providing recommendations for critical infrastructure investments to the BOCC and relevant stakeholders.

The 911 Office completes their annual report, including statistics specific to their unit function. That report, once complete will be available online ([Charlotte County 9-1-1 | Charlotte County's lifeline for emergencies](#))

Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division is responsible for performing various Human Resource management functions such as recruitment, selection, training, promotions, employee assistance programs, and maintenance of members' records as required by state and federal laws. The Section encompasses the Human Resource, Recruitment & Background Investigations, and Risk Management Units.



Under the leadership of Director Kevin Ostrowsky, the Human Resources Division (HR) played a pivotal role in strengthening the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) workforce in 2024. Human Resources remained dedicated to recruiting top talent, enhancing career development, and providing critical personnel support to leadership. As CCSO entered 2024, we had the largest number of vacancies in recent years. To address this challenge, HR set an ambitious goal of hiring 100 new employees while improving recruitment and retention strategies. Not only did we meet this goal, but we also exceeded it, hiring 154 employees in 2024, the highest number in CCSO history.

Workforce Growth & Expansion

- Total Full-Time Employees: Increased from 645 in 2023 to 726 in 2024 (a 12.5% growth).
- Total Part-Time Employees: Maintained at 19, ensuring operational flexibility.
- Application Volume: CCSO received a record-breaking 1,702 applications, a 450+ increase compared to previous years.

- Diversity Milestone: Female employees now hold 35% of all agency positions, and 17% of sworn positions.
- Sworn Detention Staff Fully Staffed: For the first time in years, all Detention positions are filled.

Process Improvements

- Major’s Oral Boards held weekly (sometimes two simultaneously) to accelerate interviews.
- New Online Application Process to quickly identify unqualified candidates.
- Physical Agility Test (PAT) Certification for recruitment/background teams, reducing scheduling delays.
- Twice-Weekly Applicant Assemblies, fast-tracking paperwork, fingerprinting, and next steps.
- Proactive Recruitment Engagement, with recruiters actively assisting with background investigations and maintaining continuous communication with applicants.

Looking Ahead: 2025 and Beyond - The Human Resources Division’s efforts in 2024 have positioned CCSO for continued success in 2025. By implementing new strategies, enhancing recruitment efforts, and streamlining hiring processes, HR has not only met its ambitious hiring goals but has also created a strong foundation for future workforce growth. CCSO remains committed to attracting and retaining top talent to serve and protect our community.

As we move into 2025, we will refine and build upon our successes, ensuring that CCSO remains a leader in law enforcement recruitment, employee satisfaction, and workforce development.

Bureau of Law Enforcement

The functions of Law Enforcement are to protect life and property, enforce criminal laws, conduct criminal investigations, enforce traffic laws, maintain crowd control, and conduct other public safety duties as necessary. The Bureau includes the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Divisions.



Patrol Division

The Patrol Division consists of five Patrol Districts. The Patrol Division is responsible for performing the emergency line function of the Office of the Sheriff, which includes the enforcement of all laws and local ordinances enacted for the preservation of peace and protection of life and property.

District One – Englewood

District One encompasses the area west of the Myakka River, to include surrounding waters and the barrier islands. District One braced for two major hurricanes this year, Helene and Milton. The storms were devastating for the Englewood community, more specifically the residents who live on the water. The storms produced a significant storm surge to the area causing rescue efforts by members of road patrol and ancillary units. An emergency order was put in place, closing the barrier islands and Englewood Beach with a curfew. The aftermath of the storm created opportunities for

looting. The district put together initiatives for the beach area and areas along Placida Rd for increased patrol and strict enforcement of the emergency curfew. Road Patrol worked closely with Criminal Investigations and the Star Unit to deter crime in the hard-hit areas and investigate the crimes that occurred with a successful outcome.



District One saw an increase of 5% in calls for service in 2024, when compared to 2023. There was a slight increase in overall crime for District One in 2024, when compared to 2023. The driving force behind this increase was burglaries and thefts from vehicles. District One continued to provide education to the public on locking vehicles and provided aggressive patrols in areas of concern.

Special Events and/or Parades within the District One area and community:

- The Sheriff participated in the Englewood area parades for different causes in the area. One of the largest parades held was the Rotonda Christmas Parade. This parade was a huge success in 2024 with the assistance of Road Patrol, Community Policing, School Resource (Explorers), Community Service Aides Marine Patrol, and the Traffic Unit.
- During Memorial Day weekend there is a large gathering of boaters in the waterways in Boca Grande. A concert was performed on a barge in the water and a crowd of 5,000 plus usually attends. The Marine Unit provides added patrols to the area over the weekend to assist with emergency response, boater traffic and violations therein. Lee County Deputies (Boca Grande) also assisted with law enforcement presence.

District Two – Murdock Area

District Two includes the area east of the Myakka River, Murdock, and Port Charlotte from the Midway area, north to the county line. During 2024, there were several challenges and accomplishments. Spring Training with the Tampa Bay Rays had not been held at the Charlotte County Sports Park since Hurricane Ian, which had caused significant damage to the field two years earlier. The completed repairs of the stadium were done but required



retraining for Sheriff's Office members, as well as the Parks and Recreation Staff to fulfill the requirements for safety to the players, staff, and citizens.

In the beginning of 2024, Charlotte County resumed control of property in District Two, that had been previously sold to be developed in the Murdock Village area. The original company defaulted in the agreement, stalling development. Several of the homeless population had moved onto the property and built encampments throughout the area. The Sheriff's Office worked in partnership with community stakeholders to remove debris and relocate this population, providing them with resources and support for alternative housing options available. There were significant challenges which proved to take a lot of time and effort to facilitate this successful operation. The property in this area is now being developed residentially, which will ultimately bring increased population to the district in the future.

In the District Two Murdock area, one of the largest crime related issues to law enforcement is retail theft. During 2024, the district deputies initiated several operations aimed at identifying and apprehending organized retail theft groups. The operations consisted of loss prevention members of stores, patrol members, investigations, and our intelligence unit that helped identify the traveling groups, times and days of the week to conduct the operations. This resulted in several arrests and identification of property stolen from other stores, both inside and outside of Charlotte County.

Of course, one of the most outstanding achievements from the District Two Murdock area was the deputies' response to Hurricanes Debbie, Helene, and Milton. All of these storms produced record level water intrusion to the lower lying areas of the county and the district. During the storm members were displaced but responded to assist our citizens in need.

During 2024, Intelligence-Led Policing initiatives were developed and specifically focused on crime, traffic, and quality of life issues. Some of these initiatives targeted the theft of materials from construction sites, boat motor and marine related thefts from vessels, additional checks on sex offenders, Halloween patrols, and members assigned for drunk driving enforcement during holidays.

District Three – Port Charlotte

District Three covers Port Charlotte from Haverhill Waterway between Midway Blvd. and West Tarpon Blvd. south to the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor North to Veterans Blvd. District Three has recently absorbed the Deep Creek and Harbor Heights area as well. This district is the most densely populated area in Charlotte County.

The Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor is nestled within this district, providing meeting, conference, and event space for local or out of town visitors.



District Three also braced for the two hurricanes this year. During Hurricane Milton, members of District Three took shelter at the Department of Health. District Three was fortunate, and did not suffer as much flooding or damage compared to other areas of Charlotte County during the storm. Due to this, the district was able to reallocate our extra resources to help the heavier damaged areas.

In the month of June, District Three suffered multiple burglary sprees in the Harbor Heights and the Deep Creek areas. In response District Three put together Intelligence Led Policing initiatives for the area in conjunction with the Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU), STAR, and the K-9 Units. One evening Road Patrol conducted a field interview on a subject. CIU was able to take that field interview and develop multiple juvenile suspects in the Deep Creek burglaries. This resulted in several arrests being made and all the Deep Creek cases were closed arrests.

Also, in the month of June, the district had an additional burglary spree within three other residential zones. “Operation Gen Z” was initiated, which again included CIU, Road Patrol, STAR, and K-9 Units. Initially this operation did not produce any leads, however one evening Patrol stopped out with two juveniles coming from the target area. One of the juveniles fled and the other walked home while deputies were looking for the other. They were successfully identified, and one was taken into custody for loitering and prowling. CIU was able to use that information to gather several other juvenile suspects which eventually led to several arrests and successful closure of all the burglaries in zones 12, 13, and 14.

With the technology Charlotte County is receiving such as LPRs and cameras at choke points it is becoming harder for criminals to get in and out of the county undetected which is ultimately helping to reduce our overall crime.

District Four/Five – Punta Gorda

District Four includes Tropical Gulf Acres, Cleveland and the city of Punta Gorda. District Five includes State Road 31 and Babcock Ranch. District Four is bordered by Lee and Desoto County, while District Five is bordered by Lee and Glades County. During 2024, both districts were managed by a single Patrol section, providing coverage to the combined district areas.



Districts Four and Five also were affected by the two hurricanes, both encountering record high water surges for the Charlotte County area. Multiple areas within the District Four suffered major flooding due to District Four's location along the Charlotte Harbor with some areas recording more than 2 feet of water. During Hurricane Milton, District Four and Five members staged at Punta Gorda Airport for shelter.

Quality of life issues that continue to affect both the District Four and Five areas continue to be traffic and narcotics. Districts Four and Five have continued to monitor heavy traffic areas in Babcock, Bermont Road and the Burnt Store areas. Traffic enforcements have included a focus on speeding commercial vehicles, especially around State Road 31 and commercial vehicles with over 6 wheels being in residential areas.

District Four had two initiatives this year that focused on burglary trends within the area. The first was in June and it focused on Arcade and Casino crime trends. District Four has three of these establishments and were monitored throughout the month with nothing significant to note.

The second initiative focused on boat storage burglaries and thefts of their GPS systems. This initiative was created after two back-to-back thefts of over \$17,000 worth of equipment occurred after

forced entry into the businesses locked fence. Members of District Four used strategies such as visible and stealth patrols, monitoring the points of ingress and egress to the county and conduction FI's on subjects around the areas of the businesses.

In 2024, District Four broke ground on their new office location. Both the new District Four and Five office buildings are expected to be completed in 2025. As we enter the new year, we are excited for new beginnings as we continue to help Charlotte County be a safe and wonderful place to reside.

Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division has four different sections under its umbrella. District Investigations, Major Case Investigations, Forensics, and Special Investigations. The division is responsible for follow-up investigation of all first- and second-degree felonies, except those crime categories specifically handled by Narcotics and Major Crimes, they are also responsible for conducting follow-up on third degree felonies not worked by patrol, as well as investigations of reported and detected acts of illegal dumping.

District Investigations Section

The District Investigations Section consists of the District Investigations Detectives, Pawn Detective, and Environmental Crimes Units. During 2024, the District Investigations Unit handled cases where the elements met a threshold that either the Office of the State Attorney of the 20th Judicial Circuit prosecuted, or the Office of the Attorney General assumed them for Statewide Prosecution. During 2024, District Detectives also worked jointly with the Economic Crimes Unit, handling various fraud and economic cases.

In 2024, the District Investigations Unit handled approximately 1,300 combined cases with a closure rate of approximately 64%. Here are some highlighted cases for the year:

The District Investigations Unit continued to work with several agencies across the state in reference to organized theft rings committing high end retail thefts.

District Investigations Detectives worked on a wide range of vehicle burglary sprees and stolen motor vehicles. These offenders target unlocked vehicles in search of firearms and keys left in vehicles. In 2024, arrests were made of local and offenders from out of the area. They were responsible for vehicle burglary sprees and the thefts of vehicles. Members worked with these outside agencies, the STAR unit, Road Patrol and the Community Policing Units, by conducting night operations and surveillance using intelligence-led policing, resulting in case closures and arrests.

The District Investigation Unit investigated numerous felony retail thefts that were related to thefts in our and other jurisdictions. Members of Road Patrol and District Investigations made several arrests of subjects responsible for stealing from our retail establishments and part of organized statewide theft rings.

In 2024, The District Investigative Unit was also responsible for The Environmental Crimes Unit, the investigation and locating missing adults, assisting The Department of Children and Families with elder abuse cases, and administering Computer Voice Stress Analysis tests (CVSA) to reduce the number of narcotic abuse cases. District Investigations also worked on over 200 fraud cases in 2024.

Members of the District Investigation Unit will continue to work hard in 2025 to suppress crime through Intelligence Led Policing and bring to justice those responsible for criminal acts upon our citizens of Charlotte County.

Major Case Investigations Section

The Major Case Investigations Section consists of several units to include the following: Major Crimes, Computer Crimes, Domestic Violence, Jail Investigator and Cold Case. In 2024, the Major Crimes Unit was assigned a total of 650 cases, to include one human trafficking case and eight homicide cases. All homicides were closed with five by arrest, and three by the death of offender. The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) sent 1,658 reports for review, showing a decrease of less than 1% from the previous year. Of those 1,658 reports, 523 were adopted and assigned for investigation, in comparison to 575 in 2023, resulting in a 9% decrease. The following are some of the high-profile cases investigated by our Major Crimes unit (MCU) this year:

The MCU detectives ensured that suspects Justin Casagranda, Kelly Schiano, and Everette Harper, were all arrested for their alleged parts in the double-murders of Mario Schiano, and Anthony Galeotti that occurred in January. The three suspects are charged with conspiring to kill Mario and Anthony at a home on Trails End Drive. One suspect, Justin Casagranda, who was suspected to be the shooter, fled back to Georgia and detectives were able to track him down and extradite him back to Charlotte County to face his charges. All three suspects are currently awaiting trial.

The MCU detectives have determined 38-year-old suspect Kenneth Fehr had been allegedly sexually molesting a young victim over the past year. An investigation was conducted, and the suspect was arrested for two counts of Lewd and Lascivious Molestation of a victim less than 12 years of age, offender 18 years of age or older. He is currently awaiting trial.

The MCU detectives also worked on two separate scenes in reference to Officer involved shootings. One of these investigations involved the tragic shooting death of a Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Deputy following a traffic stop.

The Cold Case Team continued to work cases in their inventory while assisting the Major Crimes detectives from time to time with their very busy homicide case load. Detective Mike Vogel provided polygraph support for the team and other divisions agency wide. They assisted the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the San Diego Sheriff's Office with two of their cold case investigations. The 1979 Farm Store murder of clerk Adele Easterly was officially closed after they developed probable cause to arrest former Deputy John Greer for the murder. Greer died before facing prosecution. They also identified one of our John Doe homicide victims that was found near Zemel road in Punta Gorda in 2002 and are currently investigating the case.



The Computer Crimes members work closely with Internet Crimes Against Children (I.C.A.C.) in reviewing possible child pornography investigations to develop local cases against the individuals in possession or sharing this material across the internet. Members of the unit completed extractions on 222 mobile devices; 11 extractions from computers; 27 miscellaneous extractions (thumb drives, SD

cards, video game consoles, etc.); 29 DVR downloads onsite at stores/residences; 6 Agency Assists (PGPD, DEA and FBI) totaling 13 devices processed. The unit also assisted with several high-profile cases. They worked closely with the Economic Crimes Unit on a multi-million-dollar fraud where the victim's computer was hacked and emails were rerouted to the suspect such as banking, point of sale, and other financial-related data. They also assisted the Major Crimes Unit on several homicides, including a double homicide and two separate officer-involved shootings.



A detective from the Major Crimes Unit is also assigned to the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force based in Fort Myers (FL). In 2024, this detective investigated 63 cases, whether they were self-generated, FBI Guardians and/or FBI Leads/Threats to Life. Additionally, 148 Cybertips for Charlotte County that came in from ICAC were handled by said detective. On top of this, he served 14 search warrants, made 12 arrests, and obtained 7 indictments that resulted in 7 convictions. Out of those convictions, 5 of the criminals

have been sentenced over 100 combined years in prison. He also has supported FBI leads from other offices on 9 investigations and threat to life leads in the Charlotte County area. He is actively involved in ICAC and in 2024, the South Florida ICAC Task Force received over 18,700 Cybertips for the 12 counties in South Florida. ICAC continued to see a slight increase (approximately 5%) in Cybertips received for the year 2024. This detective was also the lead case agent for a case which resulted in a man being sentenced to 70 years in federal prison for producing and possessing child sexual abuse videos. He worked side-by-side with the prosecutor in getting the case ready and provided the prosecutor with everything needed to present a compelling case to the jury and the Court at sentencing.

The Forensic Child Interviewers conducted hundreds of specialized interviews with children during this year to help detectives working on cases involving a child as a victim or witness. Interviews were also conducted with surrounding agencies at their request when one was not available through DCF. The Forensic Interviewers conducted approximately 210 interviews in 2024, compared to 228 interviews in 2023: an 8 percent decrease.

The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) handled 2,938 domestic-related calls for service in 2024, in comparison to 2,890 in 2023, resulting in a 2% increase. The unit reviewed 662 arrests in 2024, compared to 653 arrests in 2023, showing a 1% increase. The unit filed an additional thirteen charges against subjects, along with assisting other entities within the Office who are the primary/case officer with the arrest of offenders. DVU also adopted and/or reviewed 176 DCF related cases, compared to 134 in 2023, a 31% increase. DVU worked several cases to ensure the safety of many victims. During one of these follow-ups with a victim, a full disclosure was made of a separate volatile incident. The suspect is now incarcerated on several separate domestic related charges including aggravated battery with a weapon, child neglect, and false imprisonment.

In 2024, the Major Crimes Unit absorbed the Career Offender/SAO Liaison position. This has helped us keep a close working relationship with the State Attorney's Office and lessen the workload on our detectives by assisting in gathering important documentation for prosecution and much more. In 2024, the SAO Liaison handled 24 new career criminal cases and assisted with the closure of 30 career criminal cases (some of these cases were from previous years). The conviction rate for these cases was 63% compared to 58% in 2023.

The Major Crimes Unit continued to work cohesively with the Sexual Assault Response Team (S.A.R.T.) and C.A.R.E. to provide Code Teal Boxes to local hospitals. The boxes help in the recovery of evidence from a victim of sexual assault, while also providing victims (and family members) clothing and items normally needed after their release from a hospital. Additionally, the Major Crimes Unit worked cohesively with S.A.R.T. to organize SANE training for nursing staff at the local hospitals. The Major Crimes Unit also has detectives that work hand in hand with several different agencies to include FDLE and the FBI, as members of the Child Abduction Response Team (C.A.R.T). This taskforce does yearly scenario-based training to hone and refine their skills in a team working environment for the investigative process of recovering abducted children.

Our FBI Child Exploitation Task Force Detective has handled several speaking engagements to help the community learn about the signs and warnings of someone being involved in human trafficking.



Cold Case Detective Kurt Mehl and a law enforcement partner continue to present a day of instruction for an FBI class three to four times per year in many states across the country. The class which our cold case team helped develop for the FBI, provides instruction to numerous law enforcement professionals nationally and internationally. The subject matter includes cold case analysis, prosecuting cold cases with no body and creating cold case units.

The Domestic Violence Unit partnered with C.A.R.E. and participated in several community presentations to bring awareness to domestic violence victims (and families) and provide resources for those in need.

Forensics Section

The Forensics Section includes the Crime Scene and Evidence Units. This unit is responsible for conducting all preliminary evidence gathering at crime scenes, evidence analysis, photography, as well as record keeping, maintenance and storage of all property and evidence housed by the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.

Crime Scene Unit

The Crime Scene Unit is comprised of one Crime Scene Supervisor, one Assistant Crime Scene Supervisor, two Criminalistics Technicians, and seven Crime Scene Technicians. Criminalistics Technicians complete evidence processing for items submitted by deputies and detectives and most of the latent print examinations for the unit. Criminalistics Technicians also respond to court, at the request of the States Attorney's Office to collect fingerprints or DNA from various subjects. Crime Scene Technicians respond to a variety of cases to document, process for and collect physical evidence from crime scenes. These cases may include, but are not limited to, death investigations (i.e. homicides, suicides, fatal overdoses, etc.), robberies, sexual assaults, aggravated batteries, burglaries, and grand thefts. Crime Scene Technicians also assist in completing processing and search warrants of vehicles in impound, in-lab evidence processing and latent print examinations.



In 2024, Crime Scene Technicians made 322¹ responses to crime scenes, which was 22.97% less than 2023 (418 responses). Prints developed by Crime Scene Technicians lead to the identification of suspects in several cases throughout the year. There were 272 reports (decrease from 346 in 2023) generated for activities completed by members of the Crime Scene Unit, which did not include responding to a physical crime scene, such as in-lab evidence processing, processing vehicles/evidence in the impound lot, collection of fingerprints or DNA from subjects, and lab or evidence submissions. There were 199² (decrease from 213 in 2023) evidence items submitted by



deputies and detectives, which were checked out for processing³ or latent examination in 2024 by members of Crime Scene. A total of 255⁴ (decrease from 263 in 2023) latent print reports, 97 (increase from 83 in 2023) of which reported at least one identification, were also generated. ABIS (Automated Biometric Identification System) is a highly utilized tool when attempting to identify the source of a print collected from crime scenes, evidence, and/or unidentified persons. While the number of latent print reports decreased in 2024 compared to the previous year, the overall number of questioned prints examined increased to 1,293 in

2024 from 1,133 in 2023. During 2024, 387 prints were submitted to ABIS with 141 of those prints being identified to a subject. The number of ABIS submissions in 2024 (387) was a 14.38% decrease from the number of prints submitted in 2023 (452 submissions). In 2024, the overall ratio of positive identifications made from ABIS submissions was 36.43%, which was an increase from 2023 (30.97%).

In 2024, members of the Crime Scene Unit continued to seek continuing education in their field, which included higher education, specialized training courses, in-house training, and obtaining certifications. One member obtained their bachelor's degree, one member obtained their master's degree, and two members obtained their Crime Scene Analyst certification through the International Association for Identification. Two crime scene technicians completed our in-house latent print training program and moved to working supervised latent print work. Specialized training included courses related to photography, firearms/shootings, bloodstains, latent print comparisons, FARO scanning, and death investigations.

¹ Actual amount of crime scene cases was less. This is individual responses. Multiple crime scene members may have responded to the same crime scene location and/or there may be multiple crime scene locations requiring multiple responses associated with a single case.

² Evidence items frequently contain more than one item of evidence.

³ Processing is a multi-step process and may include, but not limited to, photo documentation, examination with light sources, swabbing for DNA, and/or using various chemical or powder techniques in an to attempt develop latent prints.

⁴ Latent reports often include the analysis and examination of more than one fingerprint. Multiple reports may also be generated for a single case due to additional prints being located or additional comparisons being requested by deputies or detectives.

In 2024 we were able to purchase and place in service the following equipment: An additional FARO free style (handheld 3D scanner) and a FARO Focus Premium scanner, which was an upgrade of our previous focus scanner originally purchased in 2016. The new premium scanner is able to complete scans with better quality within a shorter amount of time. This has aided in reducing time spent scanning major crime scenes.

Evidence Unit

The Evidence Unit is comprised of one Evidence Unit Supervisor and four Evidence Unit Technicians. Bringing the unit's complement to five members.



In 2024, one Evidence Custodian met the time-in-service criteria and was able to attend their first Property and Evidence Association of Florida Certification classes and exam. This enabled the Custodian to be promoted to the Technician level within the unit. Evidence Technicians attain this level through time in service in the department and by obtaining the Property and Evidence Certifications through classes, chapter meetings, webinars, and conferences. In total, the Evidence Team had two members attend the Property and Evidence Association of Florida Conference in 2024. One member for the first time and another Evidence Technician who was required to attend a conference as part maintaining their certification.

As of December 31, 2024, the Evidence Unit contained 91,123 items of inventory. This is a 3% decrease in total inventory since 2023. The Evidence Unit strives to disseminate more items from inventory than are received. Over the year 2024, the Evidence Unit team moved, touched, released, added to inventory, returned to inventory, and updated 89,944 inventory items. As a part of this number, the Evidence Unit added 31,123 new items to be stored in inventory: a 4% decrease over the previous year, 2023. The Evidence team released 50,072 items: a 12% decrease over the previous year. This decrease can be attributed to the fact that the unit remains diligent in the team's effort to disseminate as much property within Florida State Statute. Evidence was able to return 2,139 pieces of evidence to owners or designated next of kin. The Evidence team updated 5,971 items currently in inventory and the team copied or viewed 597 items by request.

The evidentiary drug inventory decreased from 2023. Current inventory has 25,472 pieces in inventory accounting for 28% of the total vault inventory. Within this inventory there are 2,411 possible fentanyl items, an increase over 2023 by 32% with 350 items that have tested positive for fentanyl. This is a 28% increase over 2023. Drug items are inventoried within their own separate drug vault.

Weapon inventory remained steady due to civil proceedings regarding Risk Protection Orders and Domestic Violence Injunctions, where 1,126 total weapons were received into inventory. Of the weapons in inventory, 2103 were able to be released to owners, their designees, or disposed. The Unit was able to complete one weapon destruction in 2024 where 243 weapons, plus multiple assorted ammo and weaponry accessories, were disposed.

The Evidence Unit has continually enhanced, expanded, and updated the current warehouse facility after moving into the new building in March of 2020. Additions of fixtures, shelving, ladders, etc. assist the unit in the proper storage of evidentiary items within the vault.

2024 brought several tropical disturbances that had effects on the Evidence Unit. Hurricanes Helene and Milton both had devastating effects on Charlotte County with flooding and wind. The Evidence Unit fared well and was open for business after the storms passed.

The Evidence Unit works as a team to assist in achieving the Unit's tasks and goals. The unit was able to maintain a constant in-and-out inventory flow between items received and released. This was attributed to the 3% decrease in inventory.

Over the next year the Evidence Unit anticipates maintaining the flow of items into and out of inventory at a constant rate compared to previous years. The unit will continually strive to purge more items than are taken in, freeing up inventory space. One member will attend and re-certify at the Property and Evidence Association of Florida class and convention. The unit looks forward to the continued service of the community and our working relationship assisting the members of the agency with their evidentiary needs.

Special Investigations Section

The Special Investigations Section includes the Narcotics, Fugitive Apprehension, and Warrants Units. The Narcotics Unit is responsible for long-term investigations into narcotics trafficking and sales organizations. Fugitive Apprehension is responsible for advanced level specialized investigations in order to locate and apprehend wanted persons. They are also deputized as US Marshals authorizing them to cross county lines for apprehension of wanted felons. The Warrants Unit is responsible for completing data entry, warrant retrieval, verification, and processing paperwork on arrests and related records.

Narcotics Unit

In 2024, both the Overdose (O/D) and Undercover (U/C) Units collaborated by sharing information and gaining intelligence related to dealers, overdoses, and other drug related crime in the community. Together, the two units were able to seize a remarkable amount of money and drugs, as well as identify and arrest numerous fentanyl and other narcotic dealers.



This past year the O/D Unit responded to 76 possible overdoses between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Out of 76 call outs, 74 were classified as overdoses while the remaining incidents occurred due to natural causes. The yearly total of overdoses is 51 non-fatal and 23 fatal. There has been a 23.3% decrease in fatal overdoses and 52.34% decrease of non-fatal overdoses compared to 2023.

This year was also the first year where a suspect was charged with Distributing Fentanyl resulting in a non-fatal overdose (second degree felony). This is a new statute implemented to combat the overdoses plaguing the county. In addition to charging suspects for distributing narcotics which cause non-fatal overdoses, the unit was successful in obtaining indictments stemming from three fatal overdoses.

- The first case consisted of two females from Ft. Myers who were both indicted on 11/07/2024 and charged with First Degree Murder - Unlawful Distribution of Methamphetamines, Sale or Delivery of Controlled Substance, Possession with Intent to Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance, and Prostitution - Offering to Commit Prostitution, Lewdness or Assignment.
- The second case consisted of an Englewood resident who was indicted on 11/07/2024 and charged with First Degree Murder - Unlawful Distribution of Methamphetamines, Sale or Delivery of Controlled Substance, Possession with Intent to Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance, and Unlawful use of a two-way communication device.
- The third case consisted of a Pt. Charlotte resident who was indicted on 11/07/2024 and charged with First Degree Murder - Unlawful Distribution of Methamphetamines, Sale or Delivery of Controlled Substance, Possession with Intent to Sell or Deliver a Controlled Substance, and Unlawful use of a two-way communication device.

The Narcotics Undercover unit conducted two major round-up operations during this past year. “Operation Deal Breaker” and “Operation Restart.” Operation Deal Breaker, spanned across the entire county. Through this operation, 37 individuals were arrested on felony drug charges, with 72 of those charges consisting of sale and delivery. Twenty of the cases involved trafficking amounts in either Fentanyl or methamphetamine. Charges of that nature hold a minimum mandatory sentence of 3 to 25 years.

Operation Restart resulted in 33 arrests and numerous amounts of drugs removed from the streets of Charlotte County. Throughout the investigation, 64 cases were developed in which individuals sold, delivered, or possessed Fentanyl, Methamphetamine and Cocaine. Among these cases, 27 were made involving trafficking amounts of these drugs.



Fugitive Apprehension/Warrants Units

The Fugitive Apprehension Unit (FAU) worked diligently throughout the year to locate and apprehend those subjects with active arrest warrants within Charlotte County, to include warrants issued by other Florida counties and states. The Fugitive Apprehension Unit had a total of 1,013 arrests in 2024. This includes arrest warrants, criminal summons being served, narcotics and traffic arrests. Members of the FAU worked closely with CCSO District Detectives, Narcotics Detectives, and Major Crimes Detectives, to locate and arrest subjects that had active open cases. FAU members are also deputized as Special Deputy United States Marshals and serve on the Florida Caribbean Regional Fugitive Task Force. FAU members assisted the United States Marshals Service with several high-risk fugitive apprehensions within Charlotte County and surrounding counties.

In July of 2024, the Warrants Unit merged with STAR for a trial period. During this time K-9 also worked with both units utilizing their assets when needed. Operationally the three units fell under the Intelligence Unit and administratively they continued to report to their assigned commanders throughout the remainder of 2024.

FAU Detectives, as members of the Emergency Response Team (ERT)/Mobile Field Force (MFF), are usually on stand-by during hurricane season to respond to assist anywhere in Florida for locations impacted by storms. In 2024, ERT was activated in-county for the two major hurricanes which directly impacted Charlotte County and caused extensive damage.

As part of the Sheriff's Intelligence-Led Policing initiative, members of the Fugitive Apprehension Unit took an active role in addressing prolific offenders where actionable intelligence existed, indicating they were actively committing crimes. By prioritizing these offenders through available intelligence, the Unit's members were able to remove these prolific offenders from the community in an effort to reduce the opportunity to re-offend. The FAU Clerks processed a total of 2,108 warrants received and 1,601 warrants served for the agency in 2024. The FAU Clerks also checked 28,925 subjects appearing on the court list with 779 subjects on that list showing active warrants.

Bureau of Support Services

The Bureau of Support Services includes Intelligence, Operational Support, and Aviation. The Divisions encompass Community Affairs, Intelligence/Analysis, Juvenile/School Resource Officers, Special Operations, and Special Teams.

Intelligence Division

The Intelligence Division encompasses the Intelligence/Analysis and Community Affairs Units. The Intelligence Unit is comprised of Crime Analysis, Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC), Community Policing Officers (CPO), Mental Health Unit (MHU), Technical Surveillance Team (TST), Strategic Targeted Area Response (STAR), Sex Offender, and Juvenile Intervention.



Intelligence/Analysis

The Intelligence/Analysis Unit is the agency collection point for the dissemination of information and current intelligence from multiple sources. This information is collected, collated, analyzed, evaluated and efficiently referenced for ready access and rapid retrieval. This unit creates a system for delivery of information to the appropriate personnel. In 2024, the Intelligence Unit was able to increase manpower within the RTIC, ensuring daily coverage between 0700 – 2200 hours.

On a weekly basis, excluding observed holidays, the agency hosts an Intelligence Meeting, along with an Actionable Intelligence Meeting (AIM). These meetings are designed for members to share actionable intelligence and identify strategic approaches to solving crime and enhancing quality of life challenges throughout the County. As a central repository, information and/or intelligence have been shared internally and externally.

The Intelligence Unit reviews, organizes, prepares, and provides recommendations on Risk Protection Orders (RPO) by working in collaboration with our in-house legal team. Based on research and investigations, recommendations are provided on the best direction for each RPO (approval, denial, and/or diversion), with the final determination whether to file the RPO through the court system made by in-house counsel.

The Technical Surveillance Team (TST) expanded their technological advancements by providing additional License Plate Readers (LPR) and artificial intelligence (AI) cameras. These have been strategically deployed based on crime analysis to increase solvability. In return, the agency has solved several cases due to the enhanced technology.

The current program (Vigilant) provides an opportunity to assist surrounding agencies to enhance their capabilities and investigations. These partnerships have been instrumental in crime solving, especially where unwanted subjects travel through different jurisdictions. Ironically, intelligence garnered has been shared with external agencies to aid in their investigations that resulted in arrests. For example, the STAR Unit was able to track a vehicle, via LPR, involved in a violent felon out of Osceola County, and coordinated efforts with supports unit for a safe apprehension.

Lastly, the TST had an extremely busy hurricane season (Helene and Milton), resulting in the safe removal and storage of the LPR's and cameras systems. If not, these assets would have suffered catastrophic damage due to the water surge and forced winds. The teamwork displayed was pivotal to the success of maintaining operations and fiscal responsibilities. With the purchase of a 3D printer,

the TST has the capabilities of printing supplies to secure equipment. For instance, new brackets have been designed and printed to mount cameras in strategic locations.



Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC)

The Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC)/Intelligence Crime Analysts has been provided additional manpower, technology, programs, and tasks in 2024. These upgrades have included more personnel to effectively and efficiently operate the RTIC, which supports mission critical outcomes in the field. The analysts are trained in various disciplines and assigned to the jail, narcotics, domestic violence, and two intelligence/criminal analysts. To include, the RTIC has consumed additional responsibilities, historically handled by Communications (Dispatch). The analysts have been cross trained to cover the many core disciplines spread throughout the agency. Daily responsibilities include receiving and vetting tips, social media inquiries, crime overviews, workups, and producing vital intelligence during real-time incidents. The unit is managed by a supervisor and an assistant supervisor. Our analysts are also assigned to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and within the districts during times of natural disasters to assist with making requests for needed assets or personal.



Strategic Targeted Area Response Team (STAR)

Historically, the STAR Unit consisted of two squads working separate rotations, 12-hour shifts, providing seven days a week coverage. Each squad is assigned a Sergeant, Corporal, K-9 member, and four deputies (Two members are provided with overtime from other units). Members of STAR, also, participate in specialty assignments ranging from Emergency Response Team (ERT), SWAT, K-9, and DIVE. The primary focus of STAR is to address crime patterns, sprees, and/or trends throughout the county.

During 2024, the STAR Unit was restructured, merging and absorbing the K-9 and Fugitive Apprehension Unit. This merger provided increased manpower to adequately provide larger coverage times and locations throughout the county. In doing so, the unit was able to coordinate efforts to better serve the community, resulting in many high-risk arrests and case closures.

The STAR Unit has been instrumental in assisting the Narcotics Unit, Criminal Investigations Unit, and Major Crimes Unit for an assortment of mission-oriented objectives. They have been able to focus their efforts on specific suspects and locations and assist in the safe apprehension of the criminal element. The unit also worked closely with the Juvenile Intervention Investigator, focusing attention habitual juvenile offender, targeting high profile locations deemed to areas of concern.

The unit coordinates efforts with state and federal partners, like Border Patrol, Department of Homeland Security, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and State Probation.



Mental Health Unit/Community Policing Unit

The Mental Health Unit (MHU) made amazing strides this year in its ability to provide services to the community and outreach from the Sheriff's Office. Working in coordination with the Community Affairs Unit (CAU), the Senior Referral program has become a positive resource for our seniors. The MHU has increased its manpower of the year, adding a peer support specialist and clinicians. In support of the case manager, Deborah Howard, the unit has been able to provide resources to many patients and families. Deborah provides a plethora of assistance to include but not limited to house cleaning, utility bills assistance, medical programs, veteran services, relationship assistance, food assistance, civil courts assistance, and more. The unit handles the following type of calls for service: Baker Acts, Marchman Acts, Suicide Follow-Ups, Overdose Follow-Ups, Senior Referrals, and any other calls for service approved by a law enforcement supervisor.



Integrated Response for Intervention and Support (IRIS)

The Integrated Response for Intervention and Support (IRIS) team consists of one sergeant, four deputies, one clinician supervisor, four clinicians, and one paramedic. This co-responder team possesses combined skills, training, and education for job readiness and effectiveness. Throughout the year, the IRIS Team has deployed their skill-set to safely handle mental health and substance abuse-related calls for service. These include suicide attempts, overdoses, and follow-ups. The program continued to soar in 2024, wherein the co-responder teams were able to provide timely care, services, and resources to those in need.

Community Policing Unit

Throughout the year, the Community Policing Unit (CPU) assisted many other units with specialized tasks, patrols, and assignments to enhance the mission of the Sheriff's Office CCSO. The CPU has been flexible in their schedule, and adaptable as needed, based on their special skill set. The unit is versed in many aspects of law enforcement, business, and private matters. The unit has been resilient after the impact of two hurricanes, by attending neighborhood watch meetings, conducting community and business surveys, bicycle and golf cart registration, and other in-person events.

The CPU provided proactive patrols in areas of concern being investigated by ancillary units. The Narcotics Unit has reached out on numerous occasions and members of the unit have been able to identify and locate persons of interest. The actionable intelligence obtained afforded the Narcotics Unit the ability to continue their investigations which have resulted in arrests.

Working with community partners, like the Gulf Coast Partnership, the CPU assisted with acquiring housing for several chronically homeless individuals. Their efforts included assisting challenged individuals in finding affordable housing, financial assistance, parenting, youth services, and transportation.

The CPU hosted and attended numerous community events throughout the year. Some are listed below:

- Tip A Cop (Special Olympics)
- Torch Run
- Homeless Coalition Area Cleanup
- Neighborhood Watch Meetings
- Youth Bicycle Event
- Annual Recycle and Drug Take-Back
- Cops & Goblins
- Christmas Parades
- Christmas Presents Drive
- Shop With A Cop



The CPU continues to serve in many capacities to include serving as back-up for the IRIS team, where they received advanced training in crisis intervention (CIT). Throughout the year, members also received training in other categories to enhance skills, knowledge, and abilities. Some of those training courses are refresher, block training, and advanced courses like IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bicycle Association). This formal training allows them the opportunity to patrol crowded areas for easier ingress and egress, which has been fruitful in finding wanted subjects, etc.

Within the CPU is the agricultural detective, who serves a dual role handling responsibility in District Five. This area of responsibility is mainly agricultural in nature but has a large residential community known as Babcock Ranch. The CPU/Agricultural Detective attends community meetings, organizes events, and builds relationships with the farmers.

Do The Right Thing Program (with PGPD)



The Sheriff's Office continues to support the Do the Right Thing Program. Hosted by the Punta Gorda Police Department (PGPD), Sergeant Brandon serves an active board member, and his involvement assists to mend resources and efforts in supporting the youth of Charlotte County. This program identifies and recognizes the youth (students) for doing the right thing and conducting a positive act throughout Charlotte County. The School Resource Officers play an instrumental role in nominating youths to the program, which comes with a positive partnership with the Charlotte County School District

Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Section encompasses Public Information, Crime Prevention, Community Relations, and Video Production Units. The Community Affairs Units (CAU) are responsible for the release of public information, all digital and print media, organizing community events, presentations, public service announcements, etc. The unit handles community relations, promotion of the agency through video production, and crime prevention efforts or techniques.



The unit also plans, organizes, and implements the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA), which was halted by the hurricanes. However, the CPA classes are back in full swing and being held at different locations throughout the county to serve a larger community audience. The video production team worked diligently on producing videos for recruitment and retention, along with a variety of public service announcements, training on the fly, etc.

The CAU continued to play a critical role in the following programs and/or events throughout 2024:

- Senior Outreach Program
- Citizen's Police Academy
- Cops & goblins
- Back to School Shop with a Cop
- Shop with a Cop (Christmas)
- FantaSea Fishing
- FOP Memorial
- Public Safety Appreciation Night (PSAN)
- Cops and Kids Fishing
- Coffee with a Cop
- 9PM Routine
- Junior Law Academy
- CCSO Dive Challenge



The Crime Prevention Team worked closely with the Community Policing Officers organizing and attending neighborhood watch groups, who act as the eyes and ears in their respective neighborhoods. This team produces viable information and shares it with the Intelligence Unit, identifying crime trends and quality of life issues. In return, the actionable intelligence has been shared with the public through social media or public service announcements (PSA).

The Public Information Officer (PIO) relayed a variety of important information of public interest to the media, utilizing the agency's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). The PIO hosted numerous press conferences and videos releases for the Sheriff to provide actionable intelligence on critical incidents that took place throughout the county.

Operational Support Division

The Operational Support Division encompasses the Juvenile/School Resources (SRO), Special Operations, and Special Teams Sections. This Division also includes the Communications Unit.

Juvenile/School Resource Section

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Operations/School Resource Section is a multi-faceted component of the agency. The primary focus is keeping the children safe, while teaching them integrity, respect, and other various educational topics. The School Resource Unit (SRO) completes



their mission by patrolling the schools on foot, interacting with the children/young adults, and being great mentors and teachers. There is currently one deputy assigned at every elementary school, middle school, center school, and two deputies assigned to each high school. The SRO deputies are required to teach a wide variety of educational classes to the students. These classes are a compilation of both State of Florida required courses and curriculum approved by the Sheriff and Charlotte County Public Schools. These training courses are completed twice during the school year. In January 2024, 12,611 students and 1,616 staff members participated in training classes on Active Shooter Training. Between August and October 2024, 12,611 students participated in training classes on Active Shooter Training, Human Trafficking, and Bullying/Internet Safety. In August 2024, 1,616 staff members participated in training classes on Active Shooter Training.

Every year the SRO's go above and beyond their duties in the schools and conduct operations and events while school may be out. The SRO's participated in summer law academy, spring break sports clinic, Fresh Start Program, ABT Alcohol/Tobacco Compliance Operations, Teen Driver Challenge, Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch Summer Camp, bicycle safety event, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Explorer Program, and even provided coverage to Road Patrol to assist during peak times of calls for service.



SRO supervisors remained part of the district-wide threat management team, suspension expulsion review team (SERT), school safety and transportation committee, Vape Task Force, and Student Handbook review committee. SRO supervisors continuously monitor the activities and occurrences on school campuses. They remain in close contact with the school administrations of the individual schools and with the administration of Charlotte County Public Schools to quickly and appropriately address any concerns or issues that may arise. The supervisors are involved in the planning and review of the safety and security procedures for all Charlotte County Public School locations and participated in the Tri-Annual review of the campuses this year that is required by the Florida Office of Safe Schools.



The Charlotte County Public Schools, with the assistance of Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Training Section, trained and implemented the Guardian program in the summer of 2024, which is monitored by the supervisors of the Juvenile Operations/School Resource Unit. This program provides firearms training to school employees that have gone through and passed a rigorous background check and psychological examination. Upon completion of the training, the Guardians are in uniforms and armed on school campuses providing an additional line of protection

for the students and staff of Charlotte County Public Schools.

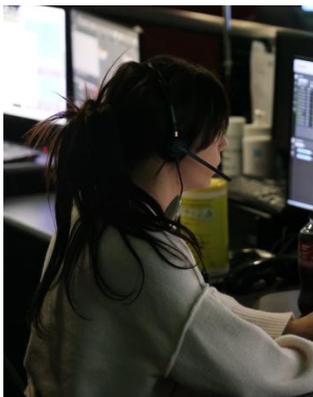
Communications

The Communications Unit is the primary answering point for 911 and non-emergency callers who require assistance of Law Enforcement, Fire & EMS related services. Communications serves as an after-hours point of contact for additional County services in case of emergencies. The unit provides and maintains two-way radio communications for Law Enforcement & Fire/EMS.

Telecommunications tools utilized to provide services include telephones, assorted radios, teletype, computers, and automated data communications devices.

Communications Measure of Workload for 2024					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total CAD Calls for Service	223,890	244,648	247,195	265,537	278,283
Law Enforcement	191,388	208,096	207,746	226,443	236,707
Fire/EMS	31,995	36,057	38,951	38,493	40,942
Animal Control	507	488	498	601	634
Phone Calls					
Total Inbound	261,203	219,272	219,867	219,426	201,202
Outgoing Admin Calls	65,210	73,811	70,822	81,544	61,909

During the year, telecommunicator training included the following to either obtain initial certifications or maintain current ones:



- 911 State Certification
- Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office Communication’s Academy
- FCIC
- Emergency Medical Dispatch
- ICS (Incident Command Courses)
- CTO (Certified Training Officer)
- Telecommunications Emergency Response Team (TERT)
- Police Legal Science

In 2024 there were five members of Communications enrolled in an undergraduate college program. Other training that was able to be attended either in person or virtually included:

- Central Square Training Conference
- CTO Certification
- Denise Amber Lee 911 Center Supervisor Course

Members of Communications participated in the following community involvement:

- Operators participated in Cops and Goblins Halloween event by dressing up and handing out candy.
- Operators participated in Shop with a Cop by wrapping presents at Christmas.

Special Operations/Special Teams

The Special Operations and Teams section encompasses the Traffic Unit, Marine Unit, K-9 Unit, Volunteer Unit, SWAT Team, Dive Team, Emergency Response Team, Honor Guard, and Special Events.

Traffic Unit

During 2024, in addition to traffic enforcement, the Traffic Unit taught several basic standardized field sobriety classes. The Traffic Unit attended and provided demonstrations and presentations at community events throughout Charlotte County, to include parades, numerous displays and assisting in the annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run and Brotherhood Ride. Members assisted with Road Patrol coverage due to manpower shortages throughout the year, as well as assisting the Narcotics Unit and SWAT Team with search warrants.



Below is a sampling of the performance indicators from the Traffic Unit and it should be noted that during 2024, the unit had five of the twelve full-time positions for the first half of our year but then added a sixth member. There were also three supplemental positions per day available and were filled most of the time.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Traffic Arrests	239	200	351
Drug Arrests	35	19	10
DUI Arrests	79	32	11
Traffic Citations	4144	3788	5467
Traffic Stops	5598	5852	6775
Warnings	3010	3181	3550
Crashes worked	193	93	43

Marine Unit

The Marine Unit's primary goal is the preservation of life and property on the waters of Charlotte County through education and enforcement. The unit is responsible for patrolling and enforcing laws in the 285 approximate miles of waterways which are utilized by fisherman, boaters, and vacationers at all times of the year. Daily, the Marine Unit patrols the waterways and performs vessel stops, while enforcing speed restricted zones/manatee zones. The unit addressed areas of concern that were reported by citizens utilizing aiding assets, such as the marine volunteer units and the marine neighborhood watch groups throughout the county.

The Marine Unit worked closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Border Patrol during operations related to boat thefts and human trafficking. Greater partnership and cooperation were developed with the U.S. Coast Guard in training for and executing search and rescue type missions. The Marine Unit also assisted the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) with the enforcement of fishery laws and marine-life conservation. The Marine Unit also worked hand in hand with the County Department of Natural Resources with identifying and assisting with the removal of derelict vessels due to major storms Helene and Milton along with at risk vessels or illegal dumping of vessels.

The Marine Unit took delivery of six 14' Jon boats, 3 Mercury 15 HP engines as well as a fully outfitted 16' Jon boat, motor and trailer to assist in Emergency Response Team needs as well as day-to-day calls and afterhours callouts. A total of 4 Marine Unit F250/350 trucks were outfitted with 6-7" lift kits to assist in high water rescue missions. With that said the Marine Unit also acts as part of the agency's Emergency Response Team. Due to a rather abnormal and devastating hurricane season the ERT team took delivery of 4 Polaris Ranger UTV's and 2 Polaris Sportsman 570 ATVs to aid in barrier island/beach erosion search and rescue missions where agency vehicles cannot easily go.



Canine (K-9)

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Canine Unit (K9) currently consists of one Sergeant, two Corporals, six deputies, and eleven working canines. The K-9 Unit provides coverage during both day and night, while also maintaining an on-call schedule, 24/7, 365 days a year.

The K-9 Unit assists with searches for narcotics, criminal suspects, and lost persons. This nine-member K-9 team is utilized to support and assist other units within the agency using their specialized training and unique capabilities. In addition, the K-9 Unit supports our community by participating in several public demonstrations throughout the year.

2024 was a year of change for the K-9 Unit. Four canines were retired, while six new canines were acquired. Five of the canines are Patrol Belgian Malinois mixes, while one is a single purpose Black Labrador named Mila. Mila is part of a new collaboration with Charlotte County Public Schools, where she is used solely to locate nicotine and marijuana at our public schools. In addition to canine changes, the K-9 Unit has also received a new Sergeant and four deputy handlers.

With these new handlers and canines being brought in, the unit is fortunate to have two of its own trainers. These trainers, who are also the Corporals of the unit, completed one canine school and started two new canine schools in 2024. In addition, these trainers are in charge of maintaining a high level of proficiency and mandated training for the rest of the K9 unit.



Volunteer Services Unit

The essential mission of the Volunteer Services Unit is to serve as a volunteer support service to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, enhancing the effectiveness of intelligence-led policing through the provision of administrative and support services.

The Volunteer Services Unit (VSU) is made up of 55 volunteers that include Citizens Observation Patrol (COP), Volunteer Marine Patrol (VM), Parking Enforcement (PE), Administration (Admin.), Chaplains, and 6 Certified Reserve Deputies. The volunteers recorded a total of 17,329.53 and the reserves recorded 1,091 total hours in the 2024 calendar year.

Volunteers assist Road Patrol by performing VIN checks, disabled vehicle (DAV) assists, parking enforcement and traffic control. Parking enforcement volunteers issued a total of 612 parking-related citations. Administrative volunteers assist in Supply, Human Resources, Logistics, Records, IRIS, E911, District offices & Finance. Volunteers also assist Fleet requests by taking tire repairs, moving vehicles throughout the County and at times, outside the County, for scheduled maintenance appointments and relocating units to districts for fleet and per deputy requests.

Throughout the year volunteers assist with several community events to include; CCSO Dive Team Competition, Fantasea Fishing, The National Law Enforcement Memorial, Punta Gorda Air Show, Englewood Boat Races and assist the Community Affairs Unit with all events such as Coffee with a Cop, Cops & Goblins, Shop with a Cop and the Charlotte County Fair to name a few.

Volunteer Assistance Hours		
	2023	2024
Citizen Observation Patrol	6,768.60	7,579.83
Administration	3,845.50	3,555.50
Parking Enforcement	3,638.50	2,993.00
Marine Patrol	3,102.00	1,817.20
Reserves	1,144.95	1,091.50
Chaplains	28.00	67.00
V.E.R.T	8.00	26.50
Aviation	179.00	199.00
Total	18,714.55	17,329.53

This total does not include Denise Mcgee & Jack Mehl's hours, estimated to be 700 hours each.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) is slotted as a 25-member, multidirectional, all volunteer team of highly trained Deputies, who are on-call 24 hours a day to respond to high-risk law enforcement situations, including barricaded suspects, hostage situations, executive protection, and high-risk warrant service.

The team's mission, first and foremost, is to protect and to serve the public. SWAT also conducts demonstrations throughout the year for members of leadership groups, the Citizens' Police Academy, and participates in the Special Olympics Torch Run as well as other public events.



Dive Team

The Underwater Search and Recovery Dive Team provides the Sheriff's Office with readily available and trained personnel specializing in underwater search and recovery operations. The Underwater Search & Recovery Dive Team consists of fourteen divers certified by a nationally recognized training agency. The Underwater Search & Recovery Dive Team is made up of two elements. Each element consists of a team leader and assistant team leader. The team falls under the command of a Dive Team Commander.

During this past year the team has continued to make great progress regarding training and diver development. The team consistently blends training in both the Public Safety Diver curriculum and advanced recreational (PADI) certifications to consistently push their skills to the next level.



Honor Guard

The Honor Guard is an elite group of twelve law enforcement and corrections deputies that are trained to perform at events throughout the year exercising precision movements and maintaining a methodical, professional, and commanding appearance. The Honor Guard provides the appropriate tributes to those fallen comrades (Deputies, Officers, and others) by being present to honor their memories and assist their families with necessities of the situation. Color guard presentations are also a specialty of the Honor Guard to represent our National and State colors with the highest respect and procedure.



During 2024, members of the Honor Guard attended numerous events throughout the State and County. The Honor Guard is responsible for flying the 30-year flags for our members that have reached their 30 years of service with this agency. This year there were four of those ceremonies that were handled. The team attended the First Responders Memorial at the Williams R Gaines, Jr. Veterans Park, Charlotte County Fallen Officer Memorial Service, and the Florida Fallen Officers Memorial Service hosted by the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police in Tallahassee. Numerous Fallen officer funerals to include Lake County and West Palm Beach. This year the Honor Guard was honored with the assignment of presenting the colors at the opening session of the 2025 Florida Senate in Tallahassee, Florida. Other colors presentations were the Public Safety Appreciation Night at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center in Punta Gorda.

Sadly, our highest honor this year was organizing and honoring Sergeant Elio “Papi” Diaz after being taken from us in the line of duty on December 15th, 2024. The team executed their duties with precision and poise that brought the highest honor to our fallen brother. **Gone but never forgotten!**

The members attention to detail and well-disciplined training has developed the CCSO Honor Guard into a highly respected unit of the Sheriff’s Office.



Emergency Response Team (ERT)

The Emergency Response Team is a 22-member team made up of members from the Traffic Unit, Marine Unit, Warrants Unit, STAR Unit and Training Unit. These members are on call 24/7 should they be needed within or out of county. ERT are called upon for various missions including perimeter security and search and rescue, to name a couple. ERT also assists other agencies throughout the state of Florida as needed for major events that can range from hurricane relief efforts to mass gatherings. During 2024, ERT was called upon to assist with search and rescue efforts after Hurricanes Helene and Milton. ERT was on standby to respond to mutual aid requests out of the county to assist with relief efforts after the hurricanes, however, were not sent due to the need for them in Charlotte County after the devastation experienced here. Some assets acquired in 2024 to aid ERT with their support efforts were jon boats, side by side utility vehicles, and ATVs.

Special Events Team

The Special Events Commander helps facilitate security and operational measures for all the major events that occur throughout the county, which also helps to relieve some of the burden off the District Commanders. Events this Commander has taken lead on in 2024 were the Charlotte County Fair, Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training games, Boca H2O Music Festival, Nashville Nights, Southern Grand Slam Music Festival, Englewood Beach Waterfest, and the Florida International Airshow. Because of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, both the Waterfest and Airshow were cancelled after several months of planning. D-SNAP, a state-wide relief effort lead by the Department of Children and Families which provides monetary assistance to those affected by the hurricanes, was an added major event this year following the hurricanes, which Charlotte County hosted for Charlotte and Sarasota County residents.

Aviation Division

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Aviation Division is staffed with two deputy pilots and two Tactical flight Officers (TFOs). The Division also has five part-time Tactical Flight Officers and is tasked with Law Enforcement functions, Aerial Firefighting, Hoist Rescue and Mosquito Control. The Aviation Division supports all aviation-related services in the county as well as surrounding agencies. To provide this level of support, the Aviation Division operates Airbus H125 helicopters and Bell UH-1 Huey helicopters. These helicopters are equipped with a wide variety of equipment including a FLIR 380HDc Multi sensor system (Infrared), Churchill moving map system, infrared searchlight, and night vision goggles. The division has been recognized multiple times by local, state and federal agencies for the lifesaving services they provide.



The Aviation Division has exceptionally dedicated and accomplished crewmembers that ensure Charlotte County has lifesaving services not normally found at the county level. As a testament to that after Hurricane Ian, Milton, and Haleen Charlotte County Sheriff Aviation Division helicopters were the first aerial assets launched to start rescue operations in the affected area. The Aviation Division completed multiple hoist operations in the first few hours after these devastating storms.



The Aviation Division provided aerial fire suppression and disaster relief when the hurricane debris blocked the roads and prevented fire trucks from getting to the scene Charlotte County and surrounding counties. The Aviation Division also contributed to Charlotte County Fire/EMS and Florida Forestry with aerial fire suppression on brush fires thought the year.

All summer long before and after the hurricanes the Aviation Division was working day and night to reduce the threat of mosquito-borne illnesses through aerial mosquito control treatments.

Through the Aviation Division's dedicated staff and advanced equipment, many crimes were stopped in progress or before they were even able to begin.



Bureau of Detention

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Bureau of Detention consists of Jail Operations, Civil Services, and Court Security. The Bureau of Detention completes their annual report, ([AnnualReportBureauofDetention.pdf](https://www.ccsso.org/AnnualReportBureauofDetention.pdf) ([ccso.org](https://www.ccsso.org)) including statistics specifically for their unit function. That report is also available online; however, we would like to highlight some of the outstanding things the Bureau did this past year:



Inmate Programs

During Hurricane Ian 9/2022: our hydroponic growing program was damaged severely and had to be dismantled. We began to rebuild the hydroponic farm in January 2024, with the area becoming fully functional by the end of February.



Our hydroponic farm is now a state-of-the-art example for any other facilities that are interested in building one of these growing systems.

The hydroponics program teaches inmates how to grow sustainable vegetables for the CCSO jail facility. The vegetables are grown, harvested and delivered to the kitchen for use in inmate meals. The four major vegetables grown for the facility kitchen are lettuce, collard greens, peppers, and tomatoes. The plan for the year 2025 is to supply 40 to 60 percent of these four vegetables for the kitchen, saving the taxpayers the cost of purchasing them from a third-party supplier. With the help of data collection, such as vegetable grow charts and harvesting charts, we will be able to make significant changes in the current hydroponics program.



Another program that we teach is Aquaculture. The fish program teaches inmates how to take care of, feed, and raise fish to help feed the inmate population. Currently, it takes one year to raise the catfish for harvest. We initially acquire catfish that are approximately three to five inches in length. They are raised in a fish vat until they are about eight inches in length. The fish are then moved from the vat to open cages in the pond, where they are raised for the remainder of the year. The catfish are raised in our pond cages until they are fourteen inches or bigger. Once they reach fourteen inches

they are harvested and delivered to the kitchen. In the kitchen, the catfish are filleted by inmate kitchen workers and prepared for inmate consumption. The current number of catfish being raised in the pond is approximately 234. Most of the work is completed by inmate workers while teaching them a skill in Aquaculture. The aquaculture program saves the taxpayers money by providing several meals for the entire inmate population and teaches inmates a productive skill that can be utilized when they are released.

The Charlotte County Jail currently offers twenty-one separate on-site courses for inmate enrichment. A total of 6,967 on-site classes were attended in 2024. One class that stands out is our Sewing Program. This program produced total savings of \$50,488.31 which was an increase of \$8,059.48 more than 2023. The Charlotte County Jail also offers several four-hour courses through the inmate communications device. Inmates can choose to complete these in lieu of in-person classes. Current online course offerings include parenting, drug and alcohol awareness, anger management, and domestic violence courses. These courses are free to take and provide self-improvement to the inmates while in custody. Our Re-Entry Program took its own shape in 2024 after data collection from previous years targeting the types of services we need within Charlotte County to assist our clients in their successful return to our community. We look forward to sharing more information about our Re-Entry Program next year!

Courts Section

The function of the Court Security Section is to ensure the safety and security of the Charlotte County Justice Center while providing a safe environment for all those who work and appear in it. Court Security facilitates and maximizes the efficiency of all judicial and other courthouse functions.

The primary responsibility is to maintain security for the eight Judges assigned to the Charlotte County Justice Center, as well as their staff members, The Clerk of Court, visiting citizens, Judges or Hearing Officers.



Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion (APAD)

The APAD program began in 2019. The referrals continue to successfully divert qualifying individuals from the Criminal Justice System. The APAD program is administered by a full-time member of the Courts Section team. Since the APAD program began, there have been 301 citizens who successfully completed the program, avoiding arrest and the Criminal Justice System. Of those citizens, 25 have reoffended. An overall recidivism rate of 8.3%

Murdock Administration Building

The Courts Section is additionally responsible for staffing a deputy at the County Administration Building located at 18500 Murdock Circle. This deputy maintains security for the public, county officials and staff during opening hours and during public meetings.

2024 Employee Recognition Awards

Each quarter and annually we recognize sworn and civilian employees along with members of the community who truly embody our core values. Below are the members who were recognized as making a positive impact in our community in 2024.

1st Quarter Awards

Award Recipients

Law Enforcement – Det. Josiah Pero
Detention – CDFC Michael Wiles
Civilian – Trista Zimmerman
Team- Major Crimes Unit & Forensics Unit

LifeSaver

Dep. Alexander Magoon, DFC Anthony Sitko,
DFC Casey Kloer, CDFC David Ronga,
CDFC David Dunn

Life Saving/Special Recognition

Sgt. David Musgrove & Hunter Rakestraw

2nd Quarter Awards

Award Recipients

Law Enforcement – Cpl. Adam Campbell
Detention – CDFC Jason Fox
Civilian- Diane Barton
Team- D-1 Members, Cpl. Stefanini, Det. Goff

Special Recognition

DFC Adriel Matzicoff
David Loucks



3rd Quarter Awards

Award Recipients

Law Enforcement – DFC Cody LaVance
Detention – CDFC Brittany Yenna
Civilian – Haley Laurie

Life Saver

CDFC Jeanette Benitez, CD Wesley Graham,
CDFC Anthony Johnson, CDFC Kyle Tucker
Dep. Kayla Weihs

Special Recognition

Jennifer Wilson

4th Quarter Awards

Law Enforcement- Dep. Alexis Cararo
Civilian- Jessica Daugherty

Life Saver

Sgt. Mark Crissinger, DFC John Smith
Lane Woidke & Randall Dixon
Mark Tempelmeyer & John Taylor

Sheriff's Coin

Major Crimes Unit & Forensics Unit

Sheriff's Medal

Dep. Andrea Short

Annual Members of the Year

Award Recipients

Law Enforcement – Sgt. David Musgrove
Detention – CDFC Brittany Yenna
Civilian- Jessica Daugherty

**WILLIAM H. REILLY
SHERIFF'S ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX**



Sheriff's Office Locations

There are several ways to reach the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. Below is a listing of physical locations of District offices and phone numbers.

William H. Reilly Administration Building (Headquarters)

7474 Utilities Road, Punta Gorda – (941) 639-2101

Englewood - District One Office

11051 Wilmington Boulevard, Englewood - (941) 475-9005

Murdock - District Two Office

992 Tamiami Trail, Suite A, Port Charlotte - (941) 613-3245

Port Charlotte - District Three Office

3110 Loveland Boulevard, Port Charlotte - (941) 258-3900

Punta Gorda - District Four Office

7474 Utilities Road, Punta Gorda - (941) 575-5372

** Coming Soon- Punta Gorda- District Five Office*

17755 Curry Preserve Drive, Punta Gorda, Punta Gorda

Charlotte County Jail

26601 Airport Road, Punta Gorda - (941) 833-6300

