VIRGINIA BEACH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

SHERIFF ROCKY HOLCOMB

Paving the Road to Hope



REENTRY

SOUND OF BDO

MENTAL HEALTH

GED

NEW BEGINNING

ADDICTION TREATMENT

JOB TRAINING

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING

Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office 2025 Annual Report

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Message from the Sheriff



Sheriff Rocky Holcomb

As the sheriff of Virginia's most populous city, I am proud to share the tremendous progress the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office has made over the past year. From advancing inmate rehabilitation and community safety to expanding outreach and training, our mission remains clear: to serve with T.R.U.S.T. (transparency, respect, unity, service and training), integrity, compassion and a commitment to public safety. Here are some highlights of my last 12 months as Virginia Beach sheriff:

Staff Training, Welfare and Wellness

Throughout fiscal year 2024-2025, the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office (VBSO) continued its unwavering commitment to the professional growth, wellness and success of our team. Over the past year, deputies, civilians and staff participated in top-tier training programs focused on leadership development, tactical

readiness and personal wellness — ensuring the VBSO remains one of the most highly trained and professional agencies in the Commonwealth. This dedication was reflected in a major round of promotions, including one major (a previously dormant position that I reinstated), one captain, three lieutenants, nine sergeants, and several civilian employees, recognizing their excellence, leadership and continued service to our mission.

The VBSO also had one deputy graduate from the Virginia Beach Police Department (VBPD) Basic Academy, earning his full law enforcement certification, and three additional deputies who graduated through the VBPD Option 6 Academy. Our Training Division conducted over 6,107 hours of training this year, including three Basic Academy classes that resulted in 37 new graduates. These programs ensure our deputies are equipped with the knowledge, discipline and professionalism necessary to serve our community effectively and uphold the highest standards of law enforcement. In December 2024, our Training staff, led by Capt. Nick Curtis, earned their Law Enforcement certification from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. The new credential adds to the VBSO Basic Academy's existing certifications — Basic Jailer, Court Security and Civil Process — and increases the level of training the academy can provide to our deputy sheriffs. We can now teach the full law enforcement curriculum, expanding our deputy sheriffs' level of training and expertise, adding on to our 17-week Basic Academy curriculum. This will provide recruits with a comprehensive foundation in law enforcement, preparing them to meet the challenges of the job with confidence, compassion and competence.

Beyond training, we achieved major advancements in staff welfare and support. We successfully negotiated a contract to bring Axon Generation 4 body-worn cameras online, strengthening accountability and safety. We worked closely with the Virginia Beach City Council to secure pay raises of 10%–18% for all staff. We also placed a strong emphasis on wellness and work-life

balance, launching the VBSO Surf Team, hosting wellness picnics and expanding initiatives that promote physical health, camaraderie and mental well-being. As we move forward, we will continue to scan the horizon for new and innovative ways to enhance professional development, wellness and quality of life for the men and women of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office — because their well-being is the foundation of our shared success.

Inmate Rehabilitation

One of my proudest accomplishments has been the continued success of our Road to Hope initiative, which is transforming lives beyond the walls of the Virginia Beach Correctional Center. Through this program, we've helped incarcerated individuals gain second chances through employment opportunities and education. We launched a New Beginning Program to hire former inmates for positions in our Staff Kitchen. We've implemented industry-recognized ServSafe certification for kitchen staff and inmates and empowered our musically talented inmates through our Beat da Odds program — allowing them to perform in front of the public and regain confidence and purpose.

Additionally, nearly 100 inmates have earned their GED in the last 18-24 months through our robust partnership with the Virginia Beach Adult Learning Center through Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS), a testament to the dedication of their educators and the determination of those we serve.

We also launched a powerful inmate work initiative, tasking inmates with painting the entire jail facility and redirecting Inmate Workforce resources to trash removal in public areas, creating cleaner neighborhoods and more meaningful job training.

Public Safety and Protection

Our Consumer Protection Unit continued its vital work educating our community — especially seniors — on how to avoid fraud and making sure our partners at the VBPD were aware of the myriad sophisticated scams permeating our community. Since its launch in January 2024 by our Emergency Response Team (ERT), our Senior Safety Seminar has grown in popularity and impact, reaching hundreds with valuable self-defense tools to prevent victimization and exploitation.

The ERT has been equally busy over the past year, training dozens of churchgoers and Regent University staffers in active shooter response. The team also participated in critical national service, including successfully deploying to Washington, D.C., for the 2025 presidential inauguration and the certification of the 2024 election.

We also recognize that this work comes with real risk. In early 2025, our community was shaken by the senseless loss of two police officers in a tragic shooting — one of whom had proudly served as a VBSO deputy. Their sacrifice is a painful reminder of the dangers faced by those who

wear the badge, and we will continue to honor their memory through our commitment to service and safety.

Community Engagement and Outreach

We've never lost sight of our role in the community. From Tim Tebow's Night to Shine to Trunk or Treat and the Easter Extravaganza, Back-to-School Skate Bash, Splash into Summer and Third Grade Mentorship Program, we've worked to create safe and joyful spaces for youth and families. Our deputies have also driven students to swimming lessons because learning to swim can be lifesaving.

Programs such as Lunch with a Deputy, the Turkey Bowl to benefit the VBCPS Beach Bags initiative, and Arrive Alive in local high schools are reminders of how meaningful one-on-one moments of engagement can be in shaping a safer future. Our annual National Night Out presence also ensures that our neighbors know we are approachable, diligent and committed to serving the public.

Volunteerism and Partnerships

Giving back is in our DNA. This year, we supported Special Olympics Virginia, donated blood through American Red Cross blood drives, danced with Special Olympics athletes, and supported Law Enforcement United's Road to Hope and Ruff Ride fundraisers for fallen law enforcement officers. These are more than events, they're reminders of the strength of unity and shared purpose.

We've also proudly continued our partnership with the VBPD, graduating five deputies from the VBPD Academy and Option 6 initiative, ensuring the highest standard of training. Our training instructors have now been certified to teach law enforcement to future deputies. And, for the first time in a decade, we brought back the D.A.R.E. program, graduating our first class at Star of the Sea Catholic School, a meaningful step in keeping youth drug-free and confident in their choices.

Modern Media and Transparency

We remain committed to transparency and public education. Our ongoing participation in A&E's "Booked: First Day In" continues to spotlight the professionalism, diligence and humanity of our deputies in our intake and release operations. It's a rare, unfiltered look at what we do, and it's earning national recognition.

Looking Ahead

We are working diligently to certify all Civil Process deputies as law enforcement officers, ensuring consistency and safety across public interactions. And I'm proud to report that we

graduated our first Department of Defense SkillBridge program participant, successfully transitioning a U.S. Navy veteran into a meaningful career as a deputy.

These achievements belong to every member of the VBSO and to our community. Together, we are building a safer, smarter and more compassionate Virginia Beach. I am incredibly proud of what we've accomplished and even more hopeful for what lies ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

N.D. "Rocky" Holcomb III Sheriff/High Constable

M.D. "Rocky" Habel

Sheriff's Biography

Sheriff Rocky Holcomb has served the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office (VBSO) since 1991 and, prior to his promotion to chief deputy in May 2018, served as captain of the Criminal Intelligence Unit and Classification Division.

As the VBSO's highest ranking deputy sheriff, he was sworn in as sheriff of Virginia Beach on Sept. 29, 2023, to succeed Sheriff Ken Stolle, who retired after 13 years as sheriff with two years left in his term. Sheriff Holcomb won a subsequent special election in November 2024 with over 70% of the vote. He is Virginia Beach's seventh sheriff and the first to rise through the ranks, having started as a deputy sheriff recruit.

Sheriff Holcomb's leadership values are encompassed by the acronym T.R.U.S.T.: Transparency, Respect, Unity, Service and Training.

During Sheriff Holcomb's career at the VBSO, he has served in every division, commanded the Emergency Response Team and championed efforts to improve mental health treatment for inmates, including creation of the Mental Health Housing Unit. He created the K-9 Unit under the supervision of Undersheriff Brian Struzzieri, acquiring and training two canines to detect narcotics and explosives. The K-9 Unit has grown to three canines, including Hampton Roads' first fentanyl-detecting canine paired with the VBSO's first female handler. As captain of the Classification Division, Sheriff Holcomb was instrumental in creating the Reentry and Veterans programs.

Prior to his time as sheriff, he won a special election in 2017 to represent the 85th District in the Virginia House of Delegates. He served during the 2017 legislative session, helping successfully

carry bills to improve mental health treatment for jail inmates (HB2184) and expand access to contraception (HB2267).

On Aug. 12, 2021, the Virginia Beach City Council unanimously appointed him to fill the unexpired term for the Kempsville District (District 1) on City Council, and he won a special election to keep the seat on Nov. 8, 2022. As a councilman he served as liaison to many different

boards, committees and commissions prior to resigning on Sept. 29, 2023, to become sheriff.

Sheriff Holcomb is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps with an honorable discharge. After joining the VBSO, he earned his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and management from Regent University and graduated from the West Point Leadership Course.

He is an active volunteer, dedicating his time to Special Olympics Virginia, Kempsville Meadows Elementary School and Mt. Trashmore Family YMCA.

He and his wife, Tracie, have been married for 29 years and have two children, Summer and Norman.



Sheriff Holcomb and wife Tracie



Office of the Sheriff

City of Virginia Beach



Mission Statement

The mission of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office is to provide for the public safety of the citizens of Virginia Beach through the efficient and professional operations of the Sheriff's Office as provided for in the Constitution and the Code of Virginia.

Organizational Values

Through teamwork and in partnership with the community, the shared values to which we aspire are:

Commitment:	We will stand firm in our commitment as the safety and security of all persons in our care and custody and those persons for whom we serve are paramount.
Integrity:	We will earn and maintain the trust of our citizens by being personally and professionally accountable to the highest ethical and moral standards. We will conduct ourselves above reproach, mindful of the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice, with the courage to uphold these convictions, free from prejudices and bias.
Compassion:	We will be responsive and empathetic to the welfare of all persons and each other. We will treat everyone with dignity, respect and understanding.
Professionalism:	We will provide quality service through motivated, dedicated and well-trained employees. Our actions, attitudes and appearance will demonstrate self-discipline, attention to duty and service to our community.

Statutory Authority

§ 15.2-1609. Sheriff.

The voters in every county and city shall elect a sheriff unless otherwise provided by general law or special act. The sheriff shall exercise all the powers conferred and perform all the duties imposed upon sheriffs by general law. He shall enforce the law or see that it is enforced in the locality from which he is elected; assist in the judicial process as provided by general law; and be charged with the custody, feeding and care of all prisoners confined in the county or city jail. He may perform such other duties, not inconsistent with his office, as may be requested of him by the governing body. The sheriff shall be elected as provided by general law for a term of four years.

Services of the Sheriff's Office

The services provided by the Sheriff's Office are divided into two primary divisions:

OPERATIONS

Correctional Operations & Administration

Provides for the care and custody of people admitted into the Virginia Beach Correctional Center, including safety and security, food, medical care, and access to educational and work opportunities.

Correctional Support

Processes arrestees for all law enforcement agencies utilizing the Virginia Beach Correctional Center under a contract with the City of Virginia Beach, which is 100% locally funded. This involves fingerprinting and photographing each arrestee. Keeps inmate records, handles laundry, property and mail for the jail, and runs the Reentry and Alternative Sentencing programs, including Weekenders.

Criminal Intelligence Unit/Classification/K-9

Investigates and prosecutes any criminal misconduct or rule violation committed by those persons incarcerated within the Virginia Beach Correctional Center. Also assists with other law enforcement investigations. Is responsible for all inmate

ADMINISTRATION

Courts/Civil Process/Transportation

Provides security and order in the various Virginia Beach courts and processes and serves civil documents received from the courts. Transports juvenile and adult offenders to and from court, medical appointments, and state and local correctional facilities. Oversees emergency planning and operations

Training

Provides staff training to include indoctrination, Basic Academy and ongoing in-service training. Includes the Emergency Response Team, Honor Guard and Community Outreach.

Administration & Human Resources

Provides human resources, recruitment, procurement services and financial administration/accounting.

Community Engagement

Oversees community engagement and involvement, including all office volunteer efforts.

housing assignments as well as screening inmates for work and life programs, such as the GED, Substance Abuse, Workforce and Trusty programs. Maintains compliance with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards.

Inmate Services

Operates the Canteen and the Inmate and Staff kitchens.

Professional Standards & Accountability

Develops, implements and ensures compliance with office policies and procedures. Investigates all internal and external complaints, serious incidents and policy violations. Maintains compliance with state accreditation standards, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules.

Sheriff's Aide

Serves as executive aide to the Sheriff and is responsible for all maintenance functions of the Correctional Center and Law Enforcement Training Academy. Also serves as the liaison with City Information Technology.

Public Information Office

Responds to requests from the public and the media and manages internal and external communications, including social media.

Staff Attorney

Provides overall legal advice and guidance.



Honoring Our Fallen Brethren

This year we mourned the loss of two of our law enforcement brethren, Virginia Beach Police Officers Cameron Girvin and Chris Reese, who were shot while conducting a traffic stop on Feb. 22, 2025. Reese was a member of the VBSO family, having served as a deputy sheriff from 2019-2022. He was a graduate of VBSO Basic Academy Class 46-19 and is fondly remembered for his humor and uplifting spirit.

This terrible and senseless loss highlighted the dangerous work that law enforcement officers do every day. In the aftermath, the Virginia Beach community came together to honor these heroes and support their surviving family members, including with a memorial and candlelight vigil at the Fourth Precinct and a celebration of life attended by hundreds.

We will forever honor and remember our fallen heroes. Rest in peace, Girvin and Reese. We have the watch from here.



VBPD Officer Cameron Girvin



VBPD Officer Chris Reese

End of Watch Feb. 22, 2025



Awards, Promotions & Retirements

Awards

Deputy of the Quarter

Deputy I Corey T. Walker – Fall 2024 Master Deputy II David A. Driscoll – Winter 2025 Deputy Samantha E. DeGhetto – Spring 2025



Civilian of the Quarter

Jacqueline E. Godfrey and Sirena A. Stephenson – Fall 2024 Gary R. Zalas – Winter 2025

Life Saving Award

Master Deputy II John S. Joyner – September 2024 Deputy I Thomas M. Colvin – November 2024 Deputy I Anthony R. Permenter – November 2024 Deputy II Brett C. Lopez – June 2025

Medal of Merit

Master Deputy II Daniel T. Fantino – September 2024 Deputy II Trevor J. White – September 2024 Deputy I Blair R. Murri – September 2024

Sworn Promotions

Major (from Captain)

Major Joseph R. Bartolomeo Jr.

Captain (from Lieutenant)

Capt. Wayne R. Thomas

Lieutenant (from Sergeant)

Lt. Floyd J. Parker III Lt. Thomas S. Parris Lt. Elisa M. Rodriguez

Sergeant (from Master Deputy II)

Sgt. Jalen Maurice Cameron
Sgt. Willliam Lester Eller
Sgt. Derek Michael Faust
Sgt. Weslie Ailis Gilbert
Sgt. Jacob Taylor Roth
Sgt. Alexandria Dionne Wesner

Sgt. Benjamin Travis Whitt Sgt. Matthew James Wilson Sgt. Louis Raymond York

Civilian Promotions

Sheriff Data Clerk I Linda Marie Feres Connie Gale Twine

Sheriff Data Clerk II
Rose Marie Barrick
Paula Christine Saunders
Nicole Bowers Shivers

Sheriff Data Clerk III Vicki Lynn Grimstead Mary Elizabeth Walker

Retirements

Lt. William Midgette – 25 years Sgt. Frank D. Davis - 20 years Sgt. Cheryl Gainer – 20 years Sgt. Eric O'Neal – 21 years Sgt. Craig Traylor – 20 years Master Deputy II Ronald Bourne – 21 years Master Deputy II John P. Clark – 26 years Master Deputy II Thomas M. Colvin - 20 years Master Deputy II Robin Davis – 20 years Master Deputy II Eric M. Johnson – 18 years Master Deputy II Kent Richie – 24 years Master Deputy II William L. Sabatini – 20 years Master Deputy I Michael L. Brown – 24 years Master Deputy I Edward S. Gleason - 20 years Master Deputy I Lee Kishbaugh Jr. – 19 years Master Deputy I Charles F. Oakes – 20 years Master Deputy I Donald Totty - 26 years Business Application Specialist II Luanne Austin – 6 years

Thank you for your incredible service to the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office and City of Virginia Beach.

Fiscal Year Highlights

Saving Money for the City of Virginia Beach & Taxpayers

The Sheriff's Office is always looking for ways to save taxpayers money and generate revenue to offset the cost of operations. Those efforts include the Inmate Canteen, through which inmates may purchase clothing, hygiene items, snacks and other goods. The Sheriff's Office also offers CareMart, which allows inmates' friends and families to purchase meals, care packages and other items for their loved ones online. Per state code, revenue from Canteen sales must go toward programs to benefit the inmates, whereas revenue from CareMart sales may be used for operational expenses. Fees added onto these purchases also help fund inmate programs, such as the Reentry Program. Gross sales for the 2024-2025 fiscal year totaled \$635,269 for the Canteen and \$2.7 million for CareMart.

The Sheriff's Office also generates revenue by selling advertisements for the Inmate Rulebook and the television screens displayed in the Virginia Beach Courthouse and the Correctional Center Intake Lobby. **Ad sales totaled \$24,100** this fiscal year.



The Inmate Workforce conducting roadside trash pickup.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office saves the taxpayers money by utilizing inmates to work in the community and Correctional Center.

The Workforce Division, now comprising a dedicated team of six deputies, including one sergeant, has been downsized. This team expertly manages inmate work crews under the guidance of a lieutenant and captain. The Inmate Workforce Program responsibly deploys approximately five to 10 inmates into the community each day. The VBSO's unwavering commitment to community safety is evident in the specific eligibility

criteria that participants must meet, ensuring the highest safety standards for both the inmates and the public.

At little to no cost to taxpayers, inmates have provided public services including landscaping and maintenance of city property. Their efforts include office relocations, snow removal, litter cleanup, and cleaning facilities such as the Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Academy, the VBSO Accounting and Criminal Intelligence Unit, the Professional Standards Office, the gym, and the Staff Kitchen. Additionally, they help set up tents for community and charitable events, such as Fil Fest and the Virginia African American Cultural Center's Fall Festival.

The Inmate Workforce Program benefits both taxpayers and inmates by allowing inmates to work in the community. This program not only saves taxpayer money but also helps inmates use their time productively and gain valuable skills, making them better prepared for reintegration into society. Inmates who volunteer for the Workforce Program receive additional food and visitation privileges, and they may also earn time off their sentences or have their court-ordered fines paid. To celebrate the hard work of inmates involved in the program, events such as a yearly end-ofsummer picnic, Thanksgiving and Christmas breakfasts, and cookouts throughout the year are held to recognize their contributions and the positive impact of the program.



A Workforce inmate picking up trash.



The Inmate Workforce clearing sidewalks around the Correctional Center after the February 2025 winter storm.

This year, the Inmate Workforce has played a crucial role in the community by securing seven contracts and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the City of Virginia Beach. These agreements encompass various essential services, including roadside and Municipal Center landscaping, clearing Public Utilities meter easements, janitorial services, painting city pump houses and water stations, litter removal for Public Utilities and Public Works, trash can assembly for Waste Management, event cleanup, and other valuable tasks. By utilizing the Inmate Workforce, the city enjoys substantial cost savings compared to hiring private contractors.

Inmates participate as volunteers, and the revenues generated from their work directly contribute to offsetting the operating costs of the Correctional Center, resulting in significant savings for the city. This year alone, these contracts and related services amassed \$424,019.86, which was applied to the city's share of Correctional Center expenses. Additionally, the Workforce inmates

volunteered an impressive 16,086 hours, saving taxpayers \$435,725.86. This initiative not only improves the community but also promotes financial efficiency, truly a win-win for everyone involved.

Inmates in the Trusty Program also provide cleaning and maintenance services throughout the Correctional Center, prepare and serve meals for their fellow inmates, wash laundry and help

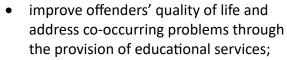
with other tasks. This year an average of 62 inmates volunteered for the Trusty Program each month, working 203,940 hours and saving taxpayers approximately \$2.4 million this year.

Road to Hope

Last year, Sheriff Rocky Holcomb created the Road to Hope, an initiative that gives offenders a path to rehabilitation, preparing them to transition from inmates to productive members of society. The Road to Hope encompasses the VBSO's Alternative Sentencing Programs, Supportive Housing, Rehabilitative Programs and Classification Programs. In addition, the VBSO added two new programs to the Road to Hope this year: the New Beginning Program and ServSafe certification.

Alternative Sentencing Programs (ASP):

Reentry Program – The Reentry Program provides services to inmates who have six months or less left in their sentence, no extensive history of institutional violations and no drug distribution charges. Education is provided by certified Reentry counselors and completion time for the curriculum is approximately three months (based on the learning ability and participation of the inmate). Participation is voluntary. Inmates submit a request form and are contacted by a program coordinator if they are eligible. The goals are to:





Inmates attend a Reentry Program job fair.

- reduce recidivism;
- foster commitment to a violence-free and crime-free lifestyle; and
- promote a prosocial community.

The Reentry Program also offers job fairs for soon-to-be-released inmates.

Offender Support Unit (OSU) – Candidates for the OSU program are selected by submitting an Inmate Request Form, but they may also be court-ordered into the program. Inmate Request Forms and court orders are put through an application check phase to see if the candidate is eligible to participate. Criteria include 12 months or less left on their active sentence, no mandatory jail time, reliable transportation, and mandatory random drug and alcohol testing.

Deputies who work in the VBSO's Alternative Sentencing Program select OSU offenders' job assignments, which can include working in Virginia Beach Correctional Center (VBCC) Intake, the Canteen, the Power Shift cleaning crew, City of Virginia Beach Waste Management and/or

Virginia Beach Animal Control. The cost to participate in the OSU is \$5 per day and a one-time \$50 processing fee.

Electronic Home Incarceration Program (EHIP) – Candidates may be selected for this program by submitting an Inmate Request Form or may be court-ordered into the program. Inmate Request Forms and court orders are put through an application check phase to see if the candidate is eligible to participate. Criteria include 12 months or less left on active sentence, no violent or criminal sex offenses, gainful employment, and consent to placement of equipment in inmate's residence.

The cost to participate in this program is \$10 per day for equipment and monitoring fees and a one-time \$50 processing fee. Inmates are allowed to be employed or attend school; however, employment must be in Virginia Beach unless ordered by the court. If not employed, EHIP inmates are placed under house arrest and can only depart their residence with the permission of the Alternative Sentencing deputies for medical appointments, etc. Inmates are required to report to the VBCC on Sundays for urinalysis. In addition, Alternative Sentencing deputies are responsible for visiting these inmates at their residence or place of employment. Inmates are tracked with GPS using an ankle-worn monitoring device.

Weekender Program – This is a court-ordered program that allows offenders to serve their time on weekends (or other nonconsecutive days) in order to maintain employment and/or meet family caretaking obligations. Weekenders report to the VBCC on Friday evening and leave Sunday afternoon rather than serving their time all at once (straight time). To qualify for the program, inmates must first pay all outstanding balances from any previous jail stays at the VBCC. Weekenders must also pay a \$50 processing fee and \$7 per day to participate in the program. If an inmate violates program rules and regulations, they may be detained and required to serve their remaining jail sentence on straight time.

This year 2,560 inmates served time in the Weekender Program.

In addition, because the mobile Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Connect program is no longer being offered at the VBCC (at DMV's request), the ASP staff provide a notarized jail identification letter to inmates being released from the facility so that they can make an appointment and obtain an I.D. from the DMV after their release. Having a state-issued I.D. is essential for finding employment, opening a bank account and applying for other services that are important for inmates' reentry into society. **Staff issued 63 of these letters this year.**

Supportive Housing

Veterans Block – Housing unit (or block) for inmates with military service backgrounds. Inmates request to be housed in the Veterans Block using an Inmate Request Form. Standard Classification and housing rules apply. The VBSO is currently working with the local Veterans Affairs office to solicit help providing veterans with post-incarceration assistance.

Rehabilitative Programs



The Sound of BDO concert at the Virginia Beach Correctional Center on Aug. 15, 2024.

The Sound of BDO (Beat da Odds) - Gives VBCC inmates the opportunity to try out for a chorus of singers, and eventually musicians, who will perform at concerts in the fall and during the holidays. This program is a joint effort of the VBSO, Brandon "Shaggy" Stokes from Z104, Audacy (the owner of Z104 and other radio stations), iHeartRadio, and local music producers Brian Reid and Stuart McCloud. Music can transform people and their behavior. Participating in a program like

this can help inmates build social skills and improve their communication. In addition, by participating in music therapy sessions, inmates can learn how to work together, communicate effectively and build meaningful relationships. Music allows inmates to speak directly about

trauma, emotion and joy in a way that compliments rehabilitative efforts and encourages emotional and social development. Their growth depends on their ability to interact with an audience. This program also helps inmates confront their past and their future, while helping them cope with the present in a positive manner. BDO is not just about entertainment; it's about offering a chance for personal growth and a path toward a brighter future, both for the inmates and the community.

On Aug. 15, The Sound of BDO performed at the VBCC, singing two original songs to an inspired crowd. The event included a performance by artist/activist Kenyatta Emmanuel, who has shared his music from New York's Sing Sing Correctional Facility to Carnegie Hall, giving a full live concert the same day of his release after serving 24½ years in prison. Kenyatta collaborated with The Sound of BDO on one of his original songs during the hour-long event.

Classification Programs

Inmate Work Programs – Inmate work programs constitute a vital component of the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts within the VBCC, offering incarcerated individuals a path to personal growth, skill development, and meaningful contribution to both the facility and the broader community. Through a combination of structured work assignments, vocational training and opportunities for financial restitution, these programs serve as a foundation of inmate rehabilitation and preparation for a successful return to society. In essence, inmate work programs represent a win-win proposition for both incarcerated



VBSO inmate trusties taking a ServSafe food handling class.

individuals and the community at large. These programs not only promote rehabilitation and reintegration, but also foster a sense of dignity, purpose and contribution for participants. Through their labor and dedication, inmates become agents of positive change, transforming their lives and making meaningful contributions to society, both behind bars and beyond.

• Trusty – The role of a trusty within the correctional system is multifaceted, encompassing a range of responsibilities and benefits that extend beyond the confines of traditional incarceration. Trusted with various tasks and services essential for the smooth operation of the facility, trusties play a vital role in maintaining order, safety, cleanliness and efficiency within the jail environment while also offering inmates opportunities for personal growth, skill development and reduced sentences. Trusties assigned to the Inmate or Staff kitchens acquire valuable competencies, such as refining their culinary skills and mastering the operation of commercial-grade kitchen equipment. The Trusty Program represents a unique opportunity for inmates to engage in meaningful work, earn valuable incentives and cultivate essential life skills while incarcerated. Through their dedication and hard work, trusties become integral members of the VBCC community, embodying the principles of responsibility, accountability and positive contribution.



A VBSO Inmate Workforce sign.

• Workforce – At the core of the Workforce Program are the services provided by participants, which encompass essential tasks such as lawn care and maintenance, Canteen services, cleaning and logistical support for events. From mowing lawns and landscaping to assisting with event setup and furniture moving, participants in the Workforce Program play a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation of the VBCC while also providing valuable services to external stakeholders and the broader community. The Workforce Program represents a holistic approach to inmate rehabilitation, combining meaningful work opportunities with tangible

incentives and skill-development initiatives. By providing Workforce inmates with the means to earn time off their sentences, financial restitution for fines and court costs, and valuable vocational skills, the program promotes accountability and responsibility and fosters a sense of hope, purpose and empowerment as they prepare for life beyond incarceration. Through their dedication and hard work, Workforce participants become agents of positive change, transforming their lives and contributing to the betterment of society.

The selection process for participation in inmate work programs involves a meticulous assessment of applicants' criminal background and institutional history to ensure suitability and safety. This thorough evaluation considers various factors including past criminal offenses, institutional behavior and gang involvement. Inmates with a history of violent crimes, gang affiliation, escape attempts or problematic conduct within the VBCC are ineligible.

Applicants must have a comprehensive medical evaluation to assess their physical health and fitness for work assignments. This medical screening ensures that participants are medically safe to perform tasks both inside and outside the jail environment. By identifying any underlying health concerns or limitations, this evaluation helps mitigate the risk of injury or health complications while performing work duties, safeguarding the wellbeing of the inmates and promoting a safe working environment.

This rigorous selection process underscores the VBSO's commitment to safety, security and accountability within the inmate work programs. By carefully screening participants based on their criminal history, institutional behavior and medical fitness, the program aims to mitigate risks, promote a positive work environment and maximize the potential for successful rehabilitation and reintegration. Through this selective approach, inmates who demonstrate a genuine commitment to personal growth and positive change are given the opportunity to participate in meaningful work experiences that contribute to their overall wellbeing and readiness for successful reentry into society.

Educational Programs – The GED (General Educational Development) and Jail Education Program (JEP) initiatives serve as beacons of opportunity within the VBCC, offering inmates a pathway to personal growth and empowerment during their incarceration. Designed with the aim of fostering self-improvement and enhancing productivity, these programs stand as pivotal instruments of transformation for individuals seeking to better themselves.

 GED – The GED component of the program stands as a testament to the commitment to education within the VBCC. Through the dedicated efforts of educators,



The June 26, 2025, GED graduation in the Virginia Beach Correctional Center.

inmates are provided with comprehensive support and guidance on their journey toward achieving their GED certificate. This educational endeavor equips participants with essential academic competencies and empowers them with the skills necessary to navigate the complexities of contemporary society. The attainment of GED credentials marks an academic milestone and serves as a symbol of resilience and determination in the face of adversity. The Virginia Beach Adult Learning Center serves as a pivotal hub for GED certification, embodying the VBSO's collaborative spirit of community engagement and educational advocacy.

• **JEP** – In parallel, the special education component of the program, known as the JEP, caters to the unique needs of younger inmates (age 22 and below) who have special educational requirements. Recognizing the diverse learning profiles and individualized support needed for this demographic, the JEP offers a tailored curriculum aimed at facilitating academic progress and personal development. Through partnership with Virginia Beach City Public Schools, inmates enrolled in the JEP are afforded the opportunity to earn a high school diploma from the school located in their housing district. The JEP serves as a testament to the VBSO's commitment to inclusivity and equitable access to education, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of background or circumstance, are equipped with the tools necessary to pursue their aspirations and contribute positively to society.



Sheriff Rocky Holcomb presents an inmate with his GED certificate.

On June 26, 2025, the VBSO celebrated the academic achievements of incarcerated individuals by holding its largest ever GED graduation ceremony. This milestone event honored 50 inmates who had earned their GED since June 30, 2024. GED certificates significantly improve offenders' prospects for successful reintegration into the community upon release. Studies show that GED attainment leads to lower recidivism, improved employment opportunities and better reintegration into society. On average, inmates who participate in correctional education programs have 43% lower odds of recidivating than inmates who do not, according to a study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Chaplains Program (Life Empowerment) – The

Chaplains Program, often referred to as the Life Empowerment Program, stands as a cornerstone of spiritual nourishment and personal development within the VBCC, offering inmates a sanctuary for introspection, guidance and growth. Rooted in the principles of faith and compassion, this program serves as a beacon of hope, providing individuals with the tools and resources necessary to embark on a journey of self-discovery and transformation. Participation in the Chaplains Program is contingent upon meeting certain eligibility criteria. Disqualifiers, such as current housing status (maximum security) and jail behavior (institutional violations), may preclude individuals from enrolling in the program. While these criteria serve as necessary safeguards for maintaining order and safety within the jail, they also underscore the importance of accountability and personal responsibility in the journey toward rehabilitation and redemption.

Substance Abuse Program – The Substance Abuse Program exists as a comprehensive and structured initiative within the VBCC, providing a lifeline of support and resources for inmates grappling with addiction. Through a combination of targeted interventions and holistic approaches, this program aims to guide individuals toward recovery, empower them with essential life skills, and ultimately facilitate their successful reintegration into society. Structured as a 16-week curriculum, the Substance Abuse Program offers participants a comprehensive framework for recovery and rehabilitation. Through a carefully curated curriculum, inmates are guided through the stages of change, from acknowledging the need for transformation to acquiring the tools and skills necessary to maintain sobriety and make healthier life choices post-release. Participation in the Substance Abuse Program may be voluntary, or court ordered as part of sentencing. This legal mandate underscores the recognition of substance abuse as a significant contributing factor to criminal behavior and the importance of addressing it through evidence-based interventions and treatment modalities.

New Beginning Program & ServSafe Certification

A new program at the VBSO announced this year is the New Beginning Program, which allows eligible former inmates to be considered for employment with approved professional vendors within the VBSO's Food Services Division. Eligibility requirements include that they've been released from the VBCC within the last three years, served in the Trusty or Workforce programs, are free from illegal activity post-release, and have no violent offenses in their criminal history. The first hire under the program was Wendy Morelli, a former VBCC inmate and participant in its Trusty Program, who now works in the VBSO Staff Kitchen.

As a trusty during her incarceration from November 2019-December 2023 for felony fraud and credit card forgery, Morelli demonstrated reliability and a strong work ethic, which made her an ideal candidate for this



Former inmate Wendy Morelli (center) with Food Services Director Steve Wilke and Senior Canteen/CareMart Manager Laurie Roland.

post-release employment opportunity. Her role in the Staff Kitchen provides her with stable employment and contributes to the efficient operation of the VBSO's food services.

The New Beginning Program underscores the VBSO's commitment to reducing recidivism and fostering a supportive environment for former inmates seeking to rebuild their lives. By partnering with professional vendors, the VBSO aims to expand employment opportunities and equip individuals with the skills and experience necessary for long-term success.



Inmates graduating from the VBSO ServSafe Food Handler and Management Certification course.

To that end, the VBSO has also begun offering ServSafe Food Handler and Management Certification courses to trusties. The three-year certification teaches food safety skills that are vital for employment in the restaurant industry. Food Services Director Steve Wilke teaches the one-day class, which has graduated more than 30 inmates, including Morelli.

Employment is one of the biggest

hurdles for former inmates, especially felons, working to turn their lives around after they've served their debt to society. Programs such as New Beginning and ServSafe help address this issue.

Corrections in Color: Reinstating the Inmate Paint Crew



The VBSO Inmate Paint Crew on the job, supervised by Master Deputy II Red Nabong.

After a long hiatus, the inmate "Paint Crew" was reinstated this year as part of the Correctional Center's renewed focus on rehabilitation, skillbuilding and fiscal responsibility. Supervised by a master deputy, the program gives selected inmates the opportunity to learn practical trade skills, such as surface preparation, painting techniques and teamwork, skills that foster a strong work ethic and support successful reintegration into the community after release. Participation in the program instills a sense of purpose and accountability while also allowing inmates to make a meaningful contribution to the upkeep and appearance of the facility. In addition to its rehabilitative impact, the program significantly reduces the need for contracted labor, resulting in substantial cost savings for taxpayers. With more than 200,000 square feet of interior wall space scheduled for repainting, this is a large-scale, long-term project that will continue well into the next year, offering ongoing hands-on experience for inmate workers. Staff have responded enthusiastically, noting that the

updated, more vibrant paint colors have brightened the environment, improved morale and symbolized a fresh start for both the facility and the individuals helping to transform it.

Bringing Back D.A.R.E.

With a commitment to reinstating the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in Virginia Beach City Public Schools, Sheriff Holcomb and the VBSO graduated 10 sworn deputies from the D.A.R.E. America Training Program on Aug. 16, 2024. They then brought the program to Star of the Sea Catholic School, graduating the first D.A.R.E. program in a decade in May 2025. That class consisted of 32 fifth graders, who completed the curriculum, which includes lessons in drug abuse, peer pressure, bullying, conflict resolution, positive interaction with law enforcement and much more.



D.A.R.E. graduation at Star of the Sea Catholic School.

The Virginia Beach D.A.R.E. program was cut in 2015 due to budgetary constraints. At the time, the program cost about \$780,000 a year and was run by the VBSO. D.A.R.E. has revamped its curriculum over the last 10 years, with studies showing that it is more effective than past programs, with D.A.R.E. students being less likely to use drugs than their peers. D.A.R.E. fosters essential skills, such as communication and positive interactions with authority figures, including law enforcement. These are all crucial for children's healthy development and the health and safety of the community.

Sheriff Holcomb has asked the Virginia Beach City Council to reinstate funding for the program in Virginia Beach City Public Schools. In the meantime, deputies are teaching the program at local private schools and plan to teach D.A.R.E. at St. Matthews Catholic School during the 2025-2026 school year.

Focusing on Transparency & Accountability

Commitment, integrity, compassion and professionalism are the cornerstones of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office, as it states in the VBSO's Organizational Values (page 6). They are also central to Sheriff Holcomb's leadership values, which are embodied by the acronym T.R.U.S.T.: transparency, respect, unity, service and training. Law enforcement cannot be successful without the trust and support of the community, which must be earned every day. To that end, Sheriff Holcomb and the VBSO hold their deputies to the highest standards of conduct and do not tolerate biased enforcement, excessive force or dishonesty of any kind.

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office Code of Ethics states:

"As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudice animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice, or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession - law enforcement."

This year Sheriff Holcomb resurrected the long-dormant position of major with the goal of providing additional oversight and transparency in all inmate-related services within the VBSO. He promoted Major Joseph Bartolomeo, a 22-year veteran of the VBSO and former captain over the Professional Standards Office, to the position effective Dec. 2, 2024. As major, he oversees Correctional Operations, the Criminal Intelligence Unit, Classification and the K-9 Unit.

The VBSO Professional Standards Office (PSO) is responsible for investigating all serious incidents — including in-custody deaths and uses of force/response to resistance — as well as potential policy violations, misconduct allegations, and internal and external complaints against the Sheriff's Office and its appointees. PSO received 403 cases between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025:



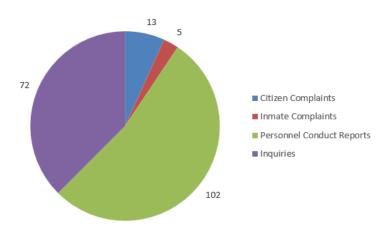
Major Joseph Bartolomeo

- 63 citizen complaints
- 104 inmate complaints
- 97 personnel conduct reports (PCRs)
- 120 inquiries*
- 19 safety inquiries**
- 0 Equal Employment Opportunity complaints

During the same time period, **436** cases/investigations were completed with the following results (total includes cases carried over from the previous year):

- 192 founded
- 198 unfounded
- 19 unsubstantiated
- 25 other***
- 1 voided***
- 1 sustained***

^{*}Other is when there is a finding that is not founded, unfounded or unsubstantiated. It can include when an inspection is completed and when a duplicate or erroneous file is closed. Void is when a case is no longer needed. Sustained is an option for Command Staff to utilize to close out a case (similar to founded).



Of the 192 founded cases, 72 were inquiries, 102 were PCRs, 5 were inmate complaints and 13 were citizen complaints.

In addition, the Virginia Beach Police Department investigates any incustody deaths that occur in the Virginia Beach Correctional Center. Those deaths are reported to the Virginia Department of Corrections, which also has the authority to investigate.

The VBSO is subject to oversight from numerous local, state and federal agencies and routinely receives outstanding audit, inspection and accreditation scores from those organizations.

Other agencies that have oversight over the Sheriff's Office and/or Correctional Center include the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Marshals Service, Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition, Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care and the Virginia Beach Department of Public Health (food safety).

^{*}Inquiries include staff complaints, possible policy infractions, staff-involved vehicle accidents, conformance-to-laws investigations and suicide attempts/deaths.

^{**} Safety Inquiries include annual and pre-emptive health and safety inspections.

The VBSO is fully accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC), which conducted its last reaccreditation assessment in October 2021. That assessment occurs every four years to ensure the Sheriff's Office's policies and procedures adhere to 190 state-mandated standards.

Additional information about VBSO accreditation is available on page 49.

Reinventing Mental Health Treatment

Mental health remains a top priority for the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. Six years ago, former Sheriff Ken Stolle successfully lobbied the Virginia General Assembly for nearly \$1 million to fund a comprehensive new program to improve mental health treatment in Virginia Beach. That program launched in the fall of 2019 and the General Assembly subsequently expanded the funding to \$3 million for three years. Due to sound fiscal management, that funding was stretched to cover the fifth year of the program. State and local funding will be sought to continue the program into the future, and the Virginia Sheriffs' Association plans to push for its implementation state-wide.

Under the program, Virginia Beach Department of Human Services (DHS) staff members were integrated into the Virginia Beach Correctional Center under a first-of-its-kind initiative to divert, screen, assess and treat individuals with a mental illness and/or substance use disorder before, during and after incarceration. The funding provided 12 DHS positions to staff the program, which is a joint effort between the Sheriff's Office, its medical provider and the DHS, which includes the Community Services Board, Adult Correctional Services, and Community Corrections and Pretrial. However, staffing continues to be a challenge, with seven of the positions filled this year.

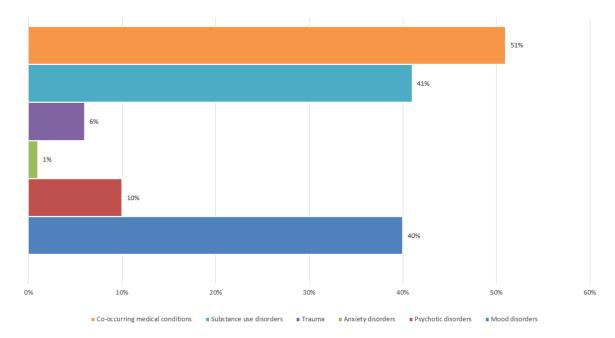
Changes under the program included:

- Provision of a comprehensive, evidence-based tool to screen all inmates for mental illness within 24-48 hours of booking into the Virginia Beach Correctional Center, followed by a full diagnostic screening within three days via the jail's medical provider;
- On-site staffing to provide mental health screenings, obtain medical and psychiatric records, and advocate for diversion for treatment outside the jail;
- Improved monitoring and oversight of inmates with mental illness;
- Comprehensive discharge and reentry planning to link inmates to available housing, counseling, family support and an adequate supply of medication upon their release; and

• Follow-up with former inmates within five days of release from jail to ensure continued access to medication, psychiatric appointments, etc.

The program has had tremendous results and was called "wildly successful" by WAVY TV10. In the past, the VBSO estimated that 35% of its inmate population suffered from a mental illness, while the Community Services Board estimated that number at just 10%. The problem is much larger. Based on the 2,111 inmate screenings conducted this year, 74% suffered from at least one mood, psychotic, anxiety, substance use or trauma disorder. Their diagnoses were:

- 40% mood disorders
- 10% psychotic disorders
- 1% anxiety disorders
- 41% substance use disorders
- 6% trauma disorders
- 51% co-occurring medical conditions



The screenings also found that:

- 8% were homeless
- 78% were previously incarcerated
- 54% received previous treatment for behavioral health
- o 100% were insured
- 93% had natural supports

Of the 1,562 inmates who met the criteria for behavioral health services, 1,086 refused services, 90 fully enrolled in services and 386 received monitoring and support. This year the

program discharged 18 inmates from the jail after receiving treatment. The results were promising:

- 78% were released with housing in place
- 100% had an adequate supply of medications
- 72% engaged in outpatient behavioral health appointments
- 98% did not return to jail since reentering the community (compared with a nearly 100% recidivism rate for mentally ill offenders in the past)
- 100% were linked to benefits, such as Medicaid, Social Security and food stamps

The number of discharges was impacted by the fact that 549 inmates were released prior to completing the behavioral health admissions process.

The goal of community-based crisis intervention services is to divert individuals from incarceration by providing early intervention and preventive care to stabilize community living. During this fiscal year, behavioral health staff provided crisis intervention/jail diversion services to 98 individuals through community-based crisis services with the goal of diverting these individuals from incarceration. Recruitment is underway to fill the remaining vacant clinician position in this program.

This year, a groundbreaking initiative inside the correctional facility focused on supporting those with opioid use disorder (OUD). The new Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program enrolled a total of 19 clients. Of those clients, five were released from jail, with three being linked to their designated private providers for continued MAT and two being connected with their respective Community Services Boards to support ongoing treatment and recovery. These connections underscore the program's effectiveness in bridging jail services with community-based care, supporting long-term stabilization and reducing the risk of relapse or recidivism.

Additionally, in another effort to enhance mental health care access for justice-involved individuals, Jail Outpatient Services collaborated with the VBSO to launch virtual mental health assessments within the Virginia Beach Correctional Center this fiscal year. Through this program, 68 inmates received timely mental health assessments, helping to address urgent behavioral health needs earlier in their incarceration. These virtual assessments reduce the need for physical movement within the facility, minimizing scheduling delays and reducing staffing demands. Implementing this program has expanded access to mental health treatment for inmates.

Mental health continues to be the most significant and persistent challenge facing correctional facilities nationwide. Jails are often de facto mental health institutions, housing individuals with complex psychiatric needs who may not have received adequate care in the community. These inmates frequently struggle with serious mental illness, medication noncompliance, behavioral instability and an increased risk of self-harm or suicide. Managing these individuals in a secure, structured environment places tremendous demands on staff, resources and facility operations.

In response to this growing need, and in close collaboration with the jail's contracted mental health professionals, the VBSO has taken a proactive step by establishing the facility's first dedicated mental health pod for female inmates. This unit mirrors the success and structure of the existing male mental health pods, offering a more therapeutic and controlled setting for inmates requiring specialized care.

Staffing in the female pod includes female deputies with advanced training in mental health awareness and crisis intervention. These deputies work daily alongside social workers and clinical personnel to support stabilization, medication adherence and behavioral progress. Early reports from mental health professionals indicate significant improvements in inmate behavior and a marked increase in compliance with treatment protocols. This collaborative approach has been widely recognized as a successful model for improving outcomes and maintaining safety for both staff and inmates.

The Sheriff's Office remains committed to addressing mental health needs through innovative, compassionate and security-conscious solutions that reflect the evolving role of jails in the broader behavioral health system.

Preparing Inmates to Reenter Society

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office created the Reentry Program in August 2014 in an effort to reduce recidivism by providing offenders with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully integrate back into the community as productive members of society. The program was created without any additional funding from taxpayers. Instead, the Sheriff's Office utilized existing resources — including inmate fees — and partnered with state and local organizations, including the Virginia Beach Department of Human Services (DHS). The program is a part of the DHS Jail Education Services (JES) and Adult Correctional Services (ACS) and includes classes in family dynamics, finances, employment skills, anger



A VBSO Reentry Program job fair.

management, and complying with probation and child support, among other topics. Participants are called "returning citizens".

In addition, the program works with the Virginia Department of Corrections and Virginia Beach Probation and Parole to provide home care plans and community resources for people leaving the jail. Reentry staff work with City of Virginia Beach Social Services and the Re-entry Council to provide job fairs, informational bulletins and other services. The program has offered financial classes through Bank On and partnered with Tidewater Community College to connect inmates with educational opportunities and trade skills once they are released from custody. The jail's

telephone contractor has made calls to treatment and housing centers free to assist with inmates' reintegration into society. In addition, the VBSO is working to provide a greater range of reentry services to the entire jail population.

This year, 30 inmates graduated from the Reentry Program, and none have returned to the jail (0% recidivism). In total, over 515 inmates have graduated from the Reentry Program since its inception.

Preventing Overdoses

In an effort to combat the rise in opioid overdoses in Virginia Beach and nationwide, the VBSO began making Narcan (Naloxone) available to its deputy sheriffs during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The Professional Standards Office (PSO) tracks where fentanyl use is suspected and when Narcan (Naloxone) is administered by VBSO staff or contractors.

From July 2024 through June 2025, there were six cases where Narcan was administered. Five of those cases (83%) occurred inside the facility: two in Intake, one in the C1st hallway (coming from Intake), one in C2D (the Classification holding pod) and one in B3N (female medical housing). Any Narcan used inside the facility was administered by VitalCore, the VBSO's medical contractor. In all but one case, VitalCore used its own Narcan supply. The sixth fentanyl incident occurred at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront and VBSO staff administered their own issued Narcan. The five cases that occurred in 2024 took place in September, October, November and December (two cases).

There are 101 Narcan kits distributed to staff and at specific locations throughout the VBSO, including Civil Process, Transportation, the K-9 Unit, Courts, Workforce, Property and the Intake Lobby. There are nine additional kits in reserve, with a replenishment order planned for August 2025. Each Narcan kit contains two, 4 mg doses. The VBSO received its last Narcan shipment from the Virginia Department of Health Pharmacy on Jan. 20, 2025. These 30 kits replaced expired Narcan kits, and the expired kits were either returned to the Virginia Department of Health Pharmacy, deposited in the Virginia Beach Police Department's drug disposal boxes or sent to the VBSO Training Division to be used as training guides for Basic Academies and inservice classes.

VBSO Connect: Community Engagement & Outreach

Last year the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office expanded its Community Engagement efforts under the leadership of Sheriff Holcomb and newly promoted Community Engagement Capt. Karen "K.J." Johnson, adopting the moniker VBSO Connect. Community outreach and engagement have always been a cornerstone of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. With Sheriff Holcomb's reimagining of the Community Engagement Division, those efforts have gained new momentum.

The VBSO's volunteer efforts stretch through every part of the organization and touch many areas of the community. **During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Sheriff's Office logged a total of 239,466 volunteer hours with help from 561 volunteers**, including chaplains,



Community Engagement Capt. Karen "K.J." Johnson

civilian staff, sworn staff, auxiliary deputies, interns and inmates giving their time for the Workforce and Trusty programs. **This equated to \$8 million in savings for Virginia Beach taxpayers.** Auxiliary deputies supplement VBSO operations and participate in community events, including providing free child I.D. cards. They must maintain proficiency in firearms, defensive tactics, first aid and other skills.

New Community Engagement efforts included Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Turkey Bowl, a charity flag football game between Virginia Beach educators and public safety officers. **The second annual event on Nov. 2, 2024, raised over \$3,300 for the Virginia Beach Education Foundation's Beach Bags program**, which provides take-home bags of food for food-insecure public-school students on weekends and school breaks.



The 2024 Turkey Bowl



The VBSO's College Prep Self-Defense Course

Another major new initiative was Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Senior Safety Seminar, a free selfdefense class for senior citizens taught by the VBSO's Emergency Response Team. The class teaches situational awareness, attack motives, getting help and basic self-defense moves. Deputies have taught the class at assisted living centers, churches, libraries, recreational centers and more, with the goal of addressing the rise in attacks on seniors. This year the VBSO added a Self-Defense Seminar for the Women's Transportation Seminar Hampton Roads Chapter, a College Prep Self-Defense Course for college-bound women and a Neighborhood Safety & Self-Defense Workshop for Council District 3.

This year's events included a Splash into Summer at Ocean Breeze Waterpark, Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Back-to-School Skate Bash, The Sound of BDO concert, Trunk or Treat and an Easter Eggstravaganza. These free events build bridges, understanding and trust between law enforcement and the community.

Sheriff Holcomb and the VBSO are ardent supporters of Special Olympics Virginia.



2025 Trunk or Treat

VBSO deputies and civilians volunteer their time for various Special Olympics events throughout the year. These included the Feet Meet, Cover a Cruiser at Wawa and Tip-A-Cop. The VBSO also participated in the Polar Plunge and the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) to pass the Flame of Hope to the Norfolk Sheriff's Office as it made its way to open the 2025 Summer Games in Richmond. The office's Special Olympics efforts are led by the Sheriff's Aide Capt. Lois Thompson.

The Sheriff's Office held five blood drives this year to support the American Red Cross, collecting 147 units of blood. It also raised money for charity through the Sheriff's Community Fund and volunteers for Virginia Beach Crime Solvers and more, including:



National Night Out 2024

- The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, providing security for the three-day Mayflower Marathon food drive;
- National Night Out;
- The Virginia Beach
 Fraternal Order of Police
 Lodge 8 Christmas shopping
 event for underprivileged
 children (Cops & Kids).

The office is actively involved in Law Enforcement United and its annual Road to Hope, a 250-mile bicycle ride to

Washington, D.C., to honor fallen officers and raise money for their families and related charities. The VBSO is also active in schools, with volunteers helping on the first day, serving as mentors, participating in the Lunch with a Deputy program and giving their time at other school events.

It also maintains a strong connection with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer and/or questioning (LGBTQ+) community through its LGBT Liaison Master Deputy Heidi Evertson. MD Evertson addresses the needs of the LGBTQ+ community — both inside and outside the VBSO — and builds bridges between that community and law enforcement. She is active in Pride Month, including attending Pride events in Norfolk and Virginia Beach.

Community Engagement events this year included:

- Horizon Hampton Roads Career Day
- Sheriff Holcomb's Splash into Summer
- National Night Out
- Beyond Monet Van Gogh Experience
- Sheriff Holcomb Presents The Sounds of BDO (Beating Da Odds) Musical Program
- King Tiger Martial Arts Back-to-School Bash
- Chalice Christian Church Back-to-School Bash



Lunch with a Deputy at Kempsville Meadows Elementary School

- Ebenezer Baptist Church Back-to-School Bash
- Sheriff Holcomb's Back-to-School Bookbag Drive
- Seatack Recreation Center Back-to-School Community Party
- Ghoulapalooza at Great Neck Recreation Center
- Virginia African American Cultural Center Community Fall Festival
- Norfolk State University Homecoming Parade
- Sheriff Holcomb's Trunk or Treat
- Saint Matthew's Career Day
- Touch-A-Trunk at Town Center
- Boy Scouts of America Presentation at Red Mill Elementary School
- School Fair at Renaissance Academy



Santapalooza at Hunt Club Farm

- Santapalooza at Hunt Club Farm
- First Responder's Welcome
 Home Parade for Miah Carmine
 (completed cancer treatment)
- Christmas Caroling with Savvy Senior Connections
- African American Male Summit at Green Run High School
- Night to Shine Prom
- Unveiling of the Willis Augustus Hodges Historic Highway Marker
- Read to Students Day at Malibu Elementary School
- Student Forum on Law Enforcement at Tallwood High School
- Triad Community Meeting
- Child ID for the Law Enforcement Officer Community at Maverick Learning Center
- Touch-A-Trunk at Providence Elementary School
- Arrive Alive kickoff at Tallwood High School
- Pembroke Elementary School's Exceptional Mustangs Day
- Career Day at White Oaks Elementary School
- Touch-A-Trunk at Broad Bay country club

- Partee Against Cancer community fair
- Sheriff Holcomb's
 Eggstravaganza Easter Egg
 Hunt
- Midway Manor Community Day
- Touch-A-Trunk at Williams
 Farm Recreation Center
- Touch-A-Trunk at Holy Family Day School
- Girls on the Run 5k at Virginia Wesleyan University
- Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia



Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Easter Eggstravaganza

- Special Olympics Summer Games in Richmond
- Birchwood Civic League Summer Kickoff community day
- Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs
- Atlantis Family Community Day
- Freedom Festival at Mount Trashmore



Left to right: Community Outreach Coordinator Gary Zalas, Chief Deputy Tina Mapes and Community Outreach Capt. Karen "K.J." Johnson at a Senior Seminar at Marian Manor.

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Coordinator Gary Zalas is involved in numerous VBSO volunteer events, with his primary focus being providing child I.D.s and safety initiatives for senior citizens. He sits on the executive boards of both SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) and Virginia Beach TRIAD, which seek to arm senior citizens with the information they need to protect themselves and avoid becoming victims of crime. In addition, Zalas serves on the boards of Project Lifesaver, the Virginia Gang Investigators Association and Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia (SSEVA) and serves as chair of SSEVA's

Services Advisory Council. He is also a commissioner on the Mayor's Commission on Aging, is active in his local church and donates to the Sheriff Community Fund, Special Olympics Virginia, United Way and more.

Zalas' efforts for seniors include providing home safety assessments, giving safety/educational presentations, delivering food, participating in the VBSO's Senior Safety Seminars, and providing mobility devices and other medical equipment. He also manages dozens of Project Lifesaver clients, handling sign-ups and making regular visits to ensure trackers are working properly, in addition to raising money for the organization. He is active in the VBSO's volunteer events, including Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, the Mayflower Marathon Food Drive for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, and much more.

Division Updates Operations

Operations form the core of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. It is made up of:

- **Correctional Operations**, which includes the watch teams, Power Shift and Emergency Response Team (ERT);
- Correctional Administration, which includes Medical and Compliance;
- **Correctional Support**, which includes Intake and Release, Records, Property, Laundry, Mail, and the Reentry and Weekender programs;
- Classification and the Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU), which includes Inmate Programs, including the Inmate Workforce, and the K-9 Unit; and
- Inmate Services, which include the Canteen, Inmate Food Service and the Staff Kitchen.

Correctional Operations



Deputies preparing for the November 2024 jail-wide search.

The Virginia Beach
Correctional Center (VBCC)
maintains full compliance
with all applicable standards
established by the Virginia
Department of Corrections
(VADOC) for jails and lockups.
This reporting period reflects
a strong commitment to
operational excellence in
three critical areas:
correctional compliance,

facility security and public health standards.

The facility successfully passed its annual VADOC inspection – which evaluates over 40 standards – with zero deficiencies. This comprehensive review assessed all major operational domains, including inmate supervision, use of force policies, medical care, grievance procedures, sanitation and staff training. The inspection team commended the facility's organization, cleanliness and adherence to best correctional practices. Achieving a deficiency-free result is a clear reflection of the professionalism and dedication of both correctional and administrative staff.

To enhance safety and security, the facility conducted two full-scale jail-wide searches this year. These coordinated efforts covered all housing units, intake, medical and common areas, and were executed without incident. Additionally, staff carried out 258 targeted searches across specific housing units and other areas of concern. These unannounced operations were instrumental in detecting and deterring contraband, reinforcing facility rules and ensuring a secure environment for inmates, staff and visitors. The outcomes demonstrate the strength of the VBSO's security protocols and the vigilance of its deputies.

Public health compliance remained a top priority as well. The Virginia Department of Health completed its routine inspection of the facility and reported no deficiencies. Inspectors reviewed kitchen operations, food storage and



The November 2024 jail-wide search of the Virginia Beach Correctional Center.

sanitation procedures, noting full compliance with food safety standards. These results underscore the effectiveness of the facility's partnership with contracted food service providers and the diligence of the VBSO's maintenance staff.

In addition to these operational successes, the VBSO continued its commitment to educational awareness through a partnership with Virginia Beach City Public Schools. As part of this educational initiative, the Correctional Center hosted 51 guided tours for high school juniors over the past year. These docent-led tours included visits to both the jail and courthouse, offering students firsthand insight into the legal and correctional systems. The tours provided an eye-opening experience that deepened students' understanding of law enforcement and the realities of incarceration. Feedback from students and educators has been overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing the value of this impactful outreach effort.

The results of this year's inspections, security operations and community programs demonstrate that the VBCC remains a well-managed facility committed to safety, accountability and professional excellence. The VBSO continues to pursue opportunities for improvement and innovation as it upholds its mission to serve the public with integrity and transparency.

Emergency Response Team



Members of the VBSO Emergency Response Team at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) is an elite group of deputies who receive specialized training to respond to emergencies and high-risk situations, such as prisoner disturbances, inmate escapes, and barricade and hostage situations. They also assist with high-profile court cases, warrant sweeps, erroneous releases and prisoner transports.

This year the team successfully completed specialized training in the following areas: Tactical Firearms, Rifle, Sage, Noise Device, Mission Launcher, Crowd Management, Advanced Defensive Tactics with Cell Extractions, Advanced Combat Medic, Taser Operator, and Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE). In addition, ERT members attend the Mock Prison Riot in West Virginia and Tactical Operations East in Arlington, Virginia, where they received additional training and obtained certified instructorships. The team regularly conducted group workouts to stay in shape and maintain LawFit gold status.

The ERT partnered with the VBPD mobile tactics team and participated in a joint training in riot control at the Creeds, Virginia, training complex. The ERT was utilized for operations at the Oceanfront in the event of a civil disturbance, as well as upstaffing the Correctional Center in the event of a mass arrest. The team also provided much-needed support for the busy Independence Day holiday.

The ERT provided security for multiple high-risk prisoner transports around the Hampton Roads area and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additionally, the ERT assisted with security for several high-profile cases within the Virginia Beach Courthouse and provided security for several planned protests in the parking lot.

The team provided security for the first ever VBSO Basic Academy graduation held at the Oceanfront. The team ensured the safety of the family, friends and staff in attendance, with overwatch at 31st Street. The ERT also provided security for several events held in partnership with local community organizations: Ocean Breeze Waterpark, "The Sounds of BDO (Beat Da

Odds)" with Brandon "Shaggy" Stokes of Z104, Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Easter Eggstravaganza egg hunt, and the 2nd annual Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Turkey Bowl for the Beach Bags program.

The ERT continues to team up with local churches and organizations within the community to provide Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training. In addition, the ERT, at the request of Sheriff Holcomb, began providing Senior Safety Seminars. At these free classes for senior citizens, team members with backgrounds in control tactics and self-defense share information on situational awareness, threat recognition, communication and distance management. The VBSO provided this training in response to the rising number of crimes being perpetrated against senior citizens.



The VBSO Emergency Response Team in Washington, D.C., for the electoral count.

The ERT provided security on several occasions for congressional members who hosted events and speeches around the city. The team also took part in a training operation conducted by the United States Capital Police (USCP). The training included law enforcement organizations from throughout Virginia and all the way up to New York. The USCP then invited the ERT to assist with security for the electoral count on Jan. 6 and the presidential inauguration on Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C.

Lastly, this year the ERT conducted an ERT School in March, adding several new members to the team. **The ERT currently has 23 members.** The team is planning to incorporate more specialized training in the upcoming fiscal year and will be conducting another ERT School in the hopes of gaining more members.

Correctional Administration

Medical Division

As part of Correctional Administration, the Medical Division of the VBSO is responsible for overseeing the medical and mental health treatment of inmates incarcerated in the Virginia Beach Correctional Center. The division works in concert with the jail's medical provider, VitalCore Health Strategies, which took over the jail's medical contract from Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc. in September 2023. Under its contract, VitalCore is responsible for providing medication, sick calls, chronic care, emergency care, off-site care coordination, dental, pharmacy, laboratory, dialysis and other ancillary services for the jail's 1,000 inmates.

This year, the Medical Division completed:

- 6,604 nurse sick calls;
- 3,311 physician sick calls;
- 997 chronic care visits; and
- 501 obstetrics and gynecology (OBGYN) appointments.

In addition, in that time Medical oversaw 1,796 inmates placed on detoxification protocol for substance abuse issues and 1,798 inmates placed on suicide watch.

Criminal Intelligence Unit

The Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office investigates and prosecutes any criminal misconduct or rule violation committed by people incarcerated in the Virginia Beach Correctional Center (VBCC). The work of the CIU is vital to the safety and security of the jail, for inmates and staff.

This year, the CIU investigated 201 inmate-on-inmate assaults, 13 inmate-on-staff assaults and 1,012 institutional incidents resulting in board hearings. The unit identified 397 certified gang members, 53 suspected gang members and 161 active gang members



inside the Correctional Center. The team made 26 arrests.

This year, the VBSO CIU assisted other law enforcement agencies with the following high-profile cases, identification of suspects and/or turning over of evidence:

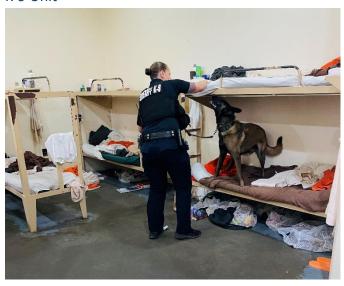
July 2024 – Assisted the U.S. Marshals Service with a bomb-threat involving a VBCC inmate.

- July 2024 Assisted the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and Virginia Beach Police Department with investigating an inmate with gang affiliations who was threatening witnesses set to testify in his trial.
- August 2024 Intel members criminally charged a civilian who attempted to mail a letter to the jail that had been sprayed with liquified cocaine.
- August 2024 CIU assisted a Nebraska police department with a VBCC inmate who was contacting his domestic abuse victim in violation of a protective order by turning over phone record evidence.
- September 2024 CIU Deputy S. Deghetto provided information to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the U.S. Marshals Service that led to the arrest and identification of three dangerous Gangster Disciple gang members.
- September 2024 CIU Deputy D. Muhammad found a shank hidden in housing unit A3F. The shank had been placed in a void space on the top of a door.
- September 2024 CIU provided information to the Portsmouth Police Department regarding an active homicide investigation in Portsmouth.
- November 2024 CIU secured criminal assault charges against three gang members for their assault on another inmate.
- November 2024 CIU assisted the Chesterfield Police Department with an active shooting investigation by turning over recordings of inmate tablet visits and messages related to the shooting.
- December 2024 CIU provided Virginia Beach police with a letter that an inmate wrote admitting to and apologizing for his involvement in a bank robbery where \$10,000 was stolen.
- January 2025 CIU secured 16 warrants against an inmate who was committing credit card fraud through the VBCC canteen system. The civilian on the outside who was helping the inmate was also criminally charged for their involvement.
- January 2025 CIU HSI Task Force Officers assisted HSI with various human trafficking cases (ongoing).
- January 2025 Shank recovered from housing unit A2E.

- June 2025 CIU assisted the VBCC mail room with investigating Suboxone strips that had been mailed to an inmate, hidden within a business card.
- July 2024-June 2025 Deputy Muhammad assisted numerous agencies, including the Virginia Department of Corrections, Probation & Parole, and Community Corrections & Pretrial Services, with gang information. Requests are made for information on certain individuals, and Deputy Muhammad provides their gang files to document their affiliations.

The CIU investigates any Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) allegations involving inmate-on-inmate assaults within the VBCC, totaling 159 cases this year. Of those cases, 92 were unfounded, 51 were unsubstantiated and one was substantiated. The unit conducted two Sexual Abuse Incident Review Boards and worked with 15 other agencies when investigating PREA allegations.

K-9 Unit



Master Deputy II C. Repass and K-9 Apollo participating in a jail search.

The CIU includes the K-9 Unit, which was formed in 2013 and consists of three deputies and three canines. It has two narcotics K-9s: K9 Pablo, a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois, and K-9 Apollo, a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois. K-9 Apollo is also Hampton Roads' first fentanyl-detecting K-9. It also has one explosive K-9, K-9 Bokya, nearly 2-year-old Dutch Shepherd.

This year, the K-9 Unit accomplished the following:

- K-9 Pablo and handler Master
 Deputy II A. Natalzia 51 operational searches
- K-9 Apollo and handler Master

Deputy II C. Repass – 331operational searches

• K-9 Boyka and handler Sgt. A. Whitehead – 46 operational searches

In August 2024, K-9 Gaston retired after serving five years with the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. Since joining the VBSO in 2019, thanks to a generous donation from an anonymous donor, K-9 Gaston has been an invaluable asset, completing approximately 1,635 operational searches.

In October 2024, K-9 Boyka joined the VBSO at 14 months old. K-9 Boyka and Sgt. Whitehead on Nov. 12 certified in explosive detection by a master trainer with the Virginia Police Work Dog Association (VPWDA). K-9 Boyka and Sgt. Whitehead completed explosive-detection school on Dec. 20.

K-9 Apollo is currently in training to recognize the odor of Suboxone and Subutex. Once the training is complete, K-9 Apollo will be one of the only K-9s in the Hampton Roads region to have the ability to alert to Suboxone and Subutex. This capability will contribute significantly to keeping these substances out of the Virginia Beach Correctional Center.

The K-9 Unit has worked with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on several operations, including screening the Port of Virginia's Norfolk Terminals and UPS, FedEx and U.S. Postal Service facilities. In addition, the K-9 Unit has conducted joint operations with the U.S. Coast Guard and

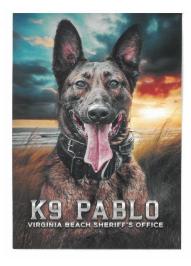


Sgt. A. Whitehead and K-9 Boyka conducting an operational search at the Virginia Beach Courthouse.

Customs and Border Protection, yielding forfeiture of 6.6 pounds of narcotics. The K-9 Unit also assisted Camp Pendleton with narcotics screenings of the barracks of the cadets attending the Commonwealth Challenge Academy.

During this time frame, K-9 Unit operations spanned the region, working in conjunction with the Virginia Beach Police Department, Norfolk Police Department, Norfolk Sheriff's Office, Chesapeake Sheriff's Office, Portsmouth Sheriff's Office, Portsmouth Police Department, Old Dominion University K-9 Unit, Suffolk Police Department and Newport News Fire Department.

In addition, this year the VBSO K-9s were featured on their very own trading cards. Each glossy card, the size of regular baseball and football trading cards, features the K-9 in full color with eye-popping, movie-poster-like backgrounds. The cards also list the dogs' breeds, dates of birth, what they're trained in and other fun facts. The cards are produced by K9 Hero Cards out of Michigan and are available at community events attended by the K-9s and their handlers.







VBSO K-9 Unit trading cards

Inmate Services

The Inmate Kitchen prepares and serves all inmate meals per state nutritional requirements and Virginia Department of Health standards. Inmates receive two hot meals and one bagged meal every day. Listed below are the statistics for meals served in the Virginia Beach Correctional Center from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025:

- Regular meals served daily 2,547 on average
- Diet meals served daily 600 on average
- Total regular meals served 929,786
- Special diets served 219,000

Total meals served (based on averages): 1,148,786

Administration

The VBSO Administration Division encompasses Court Security, Transportation and Civil Process; Training; Human Resources; Administration and Finance; and Community Engagement.

Court Security, Transportation & Civil Process

The Courts Division of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office — which includes Court Security, Civil Process and Transportation — is statutorily charged under Virginia code section §53.1-120 with ensuring that the Virginia Beach Courthouse and courtrooms are secure from violence and disruptions. The VBSO provides personal protection for the judges in the Virginia Beach Circuit, General District and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District court parking areas. It has also

undertaken additional security enhancements over the last few years, including gated fencing and an upgraded camera system.

The Sheriff's Office has continued to deploy highly trained and motivated deputies utilizing technology, such as the Polycom Telecommunications System and iPads, to hold virtual court hearings. This decreases the number of inmates who need to be transported to and from other courts and jurisdictions, which reduces risk and improves safety. Courts works with Virginia Beach Community Corrections and Pretrial to safely arrest clients with outstanding warrants, resulting in approximately 57 arrests this year.

Civil Process also has a significant impact on the community, serving over 146,000 documents and subpoenas this year. This included 3,400 writs of evictions, 1,582 executed evictions and 4,599 72-hour notices to vacate.

Training



Basic Academy Class 56

The VBSO Training Division is responsible for staff training, including initial and continuing in-service training. This division meets all statemandated requirements set by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Training Division conducted a General Instructor Course, a Defensive

Tactics Instructor Course, Firearms Instructor School, RDS Pistol Training, Axon courses including Body Worn Cameras and Tasers, Introduction to Leadership Foundations, and two Sergeant Candidate School Courses. The VBSO also had one deputy attend and graduate from the Virginia Beach Police Department (VBPD) Basic Academy, earning his law enforcement certifications. As of June 30, 2025, three deputies were attending the VBPD Option 6 Academy scheduled to graduate in the winter of 2025. These schools ensure that the VBSO continues to set a standard of performance unparalleled by any other law enforcement agency in the region.

This year, the Training Division conducted more than 7,300 hours of training, including three Basic Academy Classes totaling 37 graduates.

Without properly trained law enforcement officers, society cannot successfully function. The curriculum that is devised for law enforcement is critical to officers' success in their chosen career path. Officer/deputy training is also very important to their department and to the community they serve. The 17-week Basic Academy curriculum that is offered to a new recruit is focused on giving the recruit the best overall training that will provide the tools necessary to become the best deputy possible.

Basic Academy training for newly hired deputies varies across locations and regions in regard to both the training process and content. Initial Basic Academy training and education develops the minds, career goals and attitudes of the future law enforcement officers who will be in charge of social order.



Basic Academy Class 57

The needs and demands of modern-day society have evolved, and it is essential that law enforcement training academies keep up with current practices in the profession.

Law enforcement officers must receive training in a variety of fields to help them be well-rounded. They are trained extensively in local, state and federal law, evidence handling, prisoner transport, handcuffing, defensive tactics, firearms, driving, community relations, cultural diversity, ethics, and many other areas of law enforcement.

It's no secret that law enforcement careers are dangerous. Training officers work hard to make sure their recruits and fellow deputies receive the best training possible to keep them safe and get them home at the end of their shifts. Because the actions of officers/deputies later in their careers will often bring focus on the training they received, law enforcement instructors have an awesome responsibility and bear a great deal of liability for the performance of their students.

From the first day of the Basic Academy, training officers help set the tone for a new deputy's entire career. They instill discipline, uphold ethical principles, and pass on knowledge and skills that are vital to safeguarding people's rights, preserving the peace and public trust, and getting the deputy home in one piece at the end of the shift. Law enforcement training officers have one of the most rewarding — and most important — jobs in their respective agencies.



Basic Academy Class 58

The Basic Academy provides realistic and up-to-date training courses to deputies. The VBSO has established a diverse training curriculum taught by instructors with extensive experience. The Basic Academy instructors are carefully vetted to ensure they have subject matter expertise, are dynamic presenters

and are passionate about their course material. The VBSO has an unparalleled commitment to ensure that all deputies attending the Basic Academy walk away with actionable skills and knowledge to improve their performance in their respective positions.

VBSO deputies possess the following qualities:

- HUMANITY We respect life and liberty. We are sensitive and inclusive, treating everyone with dignity and compassion.
- INTEGRITY We are guided by the principles of justice. We employ the highest ethical standard, we demand accountability, consistency, fairness, and honesty in the performance of our duties.
- PROFESSIONALISM—We take pride in our department. We are committed to excellence in our profession, and we maintain the highest standard of education in our field.
- COURAGE We have mental and moral strength to resist opposition and maintain fairness of mind. We always stand by our fellow officers in the face of danger or extreme difficulty.

The Training Division conducted courses throughout the year that enhanced deputy readiness in both their current field and potential promotional fields. Several of these courses were new and offered for the first time. These included Axon BWCs, Axon Taser and Sergeant Candidate School. The Training Division successfully trained 400 personnel in the use of the BWCs and 400 personnel in the use of the Taser (initial and recertification training), and 20 students graduated from the Sergeant Candidate School. Additionally, there were six graduates of the

Leadership in Police Organizations (LPO) program, six graduates of the Leadership Foundations class, and 20 graduates of the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program, bringing our total 40-hour CIT graduate number to 136 deputies.



The VBSO Training Division, led by Capt. Nick Curtis, earning Law Enforcement certification from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

In addition, a major accomplishment this year was that the Training Staff led by Capt. Nick Curtis earned its Law Enforcement certification from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). The new credential adds to the VBSO Basic Academy's existing certifications — Basic Jailer, Court Security and Civil

Process — and increases the level of training the academy can provide to deputy sheriffs. VBSO deputies are already sworn law enforcement officers with law enforcement powers.

To achieve certification, six auditors with DCJS reviewed 1,751 objectives with the VBSO's Training Staff at the Law Enforcement Training Academy for two days. Training staff had to demonstrate the ability to teach each objective, which spans the full array of law enforcement responsibilities, including drunken driving enforcement, patrol techniques and investigating property crimes, homicides and more.

As part of Training, the Honor Guard presented colors at 21community events and participated in six joint Honor Guard events with the Virginia Beach Police and Fire departments at parades, festivals, memorials and funerals.

Professional Standards

The VBSO Professional Standards Office (PSO) is responsible for investigating all serious incidents — including all in-custody deaths and uses of force — as well as potential policy violations, misconduct allegations, and internal and external complaints against the Sheriff's Office and its appointees. It includes the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Accreditation and Emergency Planning, and Legal Affairs.

Accreditation and Emergency Planning

Accreditation is a function of PSO. The Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) and is a member of the associated Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC). Accreditation assessment occurs every four years to ensure the Sheriff's Office's policies and procedures adhere to state accreditation standards and the Code of Virginia. Accreditation enhances the community's understanding of the Sheriff's Office and its goals and objectives and demonstrates the professionalism of the department.



Currently, the VBSO accreditation program is in year four of the four-year accreditation cycle. A mock assessment of the accreditation files from years one through three was completed in October 2024. During the mock assessment, VALEAC assessors determined the VBSO's compliance to-date with the accreditation standards. The mock assessment helped prepare the VBSO for its on-site accreditation audit/inspection to occur in October 2025.

Accreditation will be transitioning to the PowerDMS accreditation program after the completion of the four-year assessment, enabling all future accreditation file assessments to be held virtually through PowerDMS.

Additionally, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) has established minimum standards for the construction, equipment, administration and operation of local jails. There are 128 minimum standards which cover administration and management of incarcerated individuals, programs and health services offered, jail operations, sanitation, and safety. The VADOC conducts an annual unannounced inspection on all standards that cover inmate wellbeing, which includes life, health and safety. A major, scheduled audit of all standards is conducted every three years.

In 2023, the VBSO shifted the handling of VADOC Standards to a VADOC compliance manager rather than dividing the files up between individual divisions and supervisors. This keeps consistency in the presentation of files during the VADOC audit.

The VBSO is in year two of a three-year VADOC audit cycle. An unannounced inspection occurred in October 2024, during which an auditor electronically reviewed the files for 43 standards. Prior to this inspection, the VBSO converted all VADOC files from paper folders to electronic files, maintained by the VBSO VADOC compliance manager. Each electronic file contains the VADOC standard description and requirements, VBSO policy for the standard and

any documentation that is required to show that the VBSO is in compliance with policy and practice.

In addition to VLEPSC, VALEAC and the VADOC, the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office is subject to oversight from numerous local, state and federal agencies and routinely receives outstanding audit, inspection and accreditation scores from those organizations. The Virginia Beach Police Department investigates any in-custody deaths that occur in the Virginia Beach Correctional Center. Those deaths are reported to the Virginia Department of Corrections, which also has the authority to investigate. Other agencies that have oversight over the Sheriff's Office and/or Correctional Center include the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Marshals Service and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Legal & Freedom of Information Act



VBSO deputies wearing body-worn cameras

PSO is also responsible for the handling of requests for information from citizens, attorneys and/or other agencies throughout the state. These requests come in many ways, including Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, subpoenas and other general requests for information. Requests can be made for a wide variety of public records, such as body worn camera (BWC) videos, facility security camera footage, tablet messages to/from inmates, inmate records, medical records, and VBSO policies and

procedures. Virginia law requires that FOIA requests be responded to within five business days. PSO staff works closely with the City Attorney's Office to review each request and determine what information to release. There are many instances where the information requested must be withheld, such as to protect medical privacy, or can be optionally withheld, such as during an ongoing criminal investigation, when approved or recommended by the City Attorney's Office.

This fiscal year, PSO answered 172 requests for information between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025:

- 102 FOIA requests
- 33 subpoenas
- 37 general requests for information

The VBSO is now in its second year of utilizing body-worn cameras (BWCs). The addition of this valuable tool to the workforce came with requests for the release of BWC footage. **PSO**

processed 20 requests for the release of BWC video this year. PSO staff, in partnership with the City Attorney's Office, carefully reviews each request and the associated video(s) for all necessary redactions. This work can take a great deal of time to ensure all required information is redacted prior to release. Requests for BWC video have varied widely in nature and have included Civil Process deputies executing evictions, Court Security deputies responding to calls throughout the Virginia Beach Courthouse and adjacent parking lots, and incidents within the Correctional Center.

PSO is also responsible for tracking civil litigation cases against VBSO staff. **PSO tracked 16 cases** for civil litigation against staff this year, with five active cases as of June 30, 2025.

Maintenance

The Maintenance
Division is staffed by
one sergeant, one
civilian supervisor, one
civilian and seven
deputies, and is
supervised by the
Sheriff's Aide Capt.
Lois Thompson. Next
year, leadership of this
division will transfer to
Corrections.

The Maintenance
Division is responsible
for all the maintenance
and mechanical
functions of the
Correctional Center
and Law Enforcement



The VBSO Maintenance Division

Training Academy (LETA). This includes accepting supply deliveries, escorting outside maintenance contractors, and scheduling preventive maintenance for critical facility systems such as doors, locks, kitchen equipment and laundry machinery. The division also ensures compliance with all regulatory standards, including Fire Marshal inspections, Virginia Department of Corrections building requirements and pest control regulations.





Jail showers before (left) and after (right).

appearance of these high-traffic areas.

The division completes work orders 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, totaling more than 8,059 work orders this year. One of the most significant accomplishments was the ongoing refurbishment of inmate showers throughout the facility. This project required extensive planning, coordination and hands-on craftsmanship. Maintenance staff stripped deteriorating materials down to the base layers, repaired underlying damage and rebuilt surfaces using high-durability materials designed to withstand heavy daily use. New waterproof coatings, tiles and fixtures were installed, significantly improving the function, safety and

This overhaul was performed entirely in-house by the VBSO's skilled maintenance personnel, whose expertise and attention to detail ensured that the project was completed to a professional standard while saving taxpayer dollars. Their work not only enhanced sanitation and inmate living conditions but also extended the usable life of the facility infrastructure. In addition, the division replaced all facility light bulbs with energy-efficient LED lighting, supporting the agency's ongoing commitment to energy conservation and operational efficiency.

This year, the Maintenance Division completed the following projects within the Correctional Center:

- Installed wall mats at LETA in the main gym
- Installed workout equipment in the gym at LETA
- Installed a new concrete slab for the K-9 compound area
- Renovated four areas in Intake for office spaces and workstations, including wall repair, flooring, framing and painting
- Renovated two conference rooms for Administration to include painting, wall repair and carpeting
- Renovated two offices in the Weekender collections area for PALS, including wall repair, carpeting and painting
- Painted the Administration offices

• Assisted the City of Virginia Beach with repairing a water pipe and replacing tile in the Inmate Kitchen



The newly renovated Inmate Kitchen at the Virginia Beach Correctional Center

Ongoing projects include:

- Camera replacement
- Refurbishing cell blocks and showers throughout the Correctional Center
- Replacing lightbulbs inside of the Correctional Center with LED bulbs to reduce energy consumption
- Power washing and vent cleaning of Correctional Center living spaces and public areas
- Renovating Inmate Kitchen drain lines, floors and walls
- Continuing painting common areas of the Correctional Center
- Upgrading firmware and encryption for all VBSO radios

Information Technology

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office utilizes City of Virginia Beach Information Technology (IT) for the care and maintenance of its technology. It also **employs two full-time staff members to assist with its daily operations and ongoing projects** due to high security demands and departmental requirements.

This year, VBSO IT personnel successfully completed a large-scale technology upgrade across the Correctional Center, replacing and updating every desktop computer and printer facility-wide. This was a major undertaking that required extensive planning, coordination and execution to avoid disruptions to daily operations. The project impacted every division and was critical in modernizing the facility's technology infrastructure. By completing this comprehensive upgrade, the IT team significantly improved system reliability and ensured compatibility with the latest software and operational tools.

Human Resources

The sheriff's Human Resources (HR) Division has 11 staff members who support the sheriff's mission, values and goals by managing and updating policies, procedures and employee records. This department collaborates with internal stakeholders to maintain a diverse and capable workforce. HR follows the rules and regulations established by Virginia labor and employment laws. It is led by Chief Deputy Christina Mapes, who oversees a division of 193 appointees managed by captains, lieutenants, sergeants and department heads, including uniformed and civilian staff. The 11 team members in HR concentrate on recruiting, retention, onboarding, offboarding, employee relations, career development, leave administration, performance reviews, salary classifications,



employee engagement and other services for appointees.

This year, HR members interviewed and screened 195 applicants for deputy positions, along with 160 civilian and contractor candidates. In the end, 63 candidates received job offers from the VBSO. Additionally, 191 contractors were screened and approved to access the facility and provide services. However, a common challenge in law enforcement recruiting is finding candidates, contractors and volunteers who can pass background screenings, which include health and physical exams, psychological assessments and training at the VBSO Basic Academy for deputy recruits. The VBSO continues to face this challenge.

To fully staff the VBSO, HR partners with the community through recruitment events, local organizations and military branches via the Virginia SkillBridge Program. These partnerships help connect directly with candidates and reach targeted audiences to promote the VBSO. Current employees are also encouraged to refer potential applicants, which has proven to be an effective way to attract local talent. HR constantly explores new strategies to expand and improve recruitment efforts to ensure the VBSO remains competitive in a challenging hiring

market. This year, the sheriff increased the bonus available to new and lateral hires as part of his initiative to boost staffing.



The April 2025 VBSO Promotion Ceremony at Virginia Beach City Hall

Regarding retention, 94 sheriff's deputies and eight civilians were promoted in rank and pay grade this fiscal **year.** Throughout the year, the **VBSO** offers various opportunities for staff to advance their careers. Appointees are encouraged to explore and apply for positions of interest. This is a significant achievement for appointees as the VBSO works to maintain momentum despite losses from retirement and other separations. There are approximately 120,500 deputy sheriffs in the U.S., with a

turnover rate ranging from 2.1% to 35%, depending on location and service area size. The VBSO faces the same recruitment challenges as many other agencies nationwide, with a 5.25% decrease in deputies since last year. It's important to note that the percentages reported last year were based on all categories of law enforcement. This year's percentages, and those moving forward, will be based solely on deputy sheriffs for the most relevant data, with a year-to-year comparison.

Since last year's report, practices have evolved, and HR has added new elements, such as an updated performance review process, which took effect in April 2025. Under Sheriff Holcomb's guidance, HR drafted a new policy – the Inmate New Beginning Policy – to assist inmates upon release. HR also took significant steps to develop a Chaplain Program to strengthen and support the existing Peer Support for Critical Incident Stress Management Policy and the off-site Employee Assistance Program. Additionally, the division revised the processes for career progression, promotion and appointment to better align with the Virginia Beach Police Department. Besides the policies mentioned earlier, existing policies related to enhanced benefit options, such as the Education Incentive program, are regularly reviewed for updates.

Under Sheriff Holcomb's leadership, HR aims to foster a workplace where employees take pride in their work, are satisfied with their environment and believe the VBSO's efforts are trusted and respected by the community.

Finance

The Finance Division of the Sheriff's Office plays a vital role in fiscal sustainability and operational effectiveness. It manages the budget, processes payments and payroll, collects payments for inmate accounts and programs, and handles the procurement process for the Correctional Center, working with the City of Virginia Beach Purchasing Division.

In FY25, the VBSO's total budget was \$70.1 million, with \$40.1 million in funding coming from the City of Virginia Beach, \$24.9 million in funding coming from the state, and the rest supported by local fees and savings.

Additional information about the VBSO budget is available on pages 266-270 of the City of Virginia Beach Operating Budget.

Legal Counsel



VBSO Legal Counsel G. Timothy Oksman

The Office of Legal Counsel provides overall legal advice and guidance on a variety of topics to the Sheriff's Office. It is led by Legal Counsel G. Timothy Oksman, a Vietnam veteran with substantial experience in state government, local government, litigation in state and federal courts, and law enforcement. Assistance is also provided by members of the command and support staff.

During the past year, the Office of Legal Counsel engaged in the following activities:

- Reviewed numerous federal and state court decisions that could affect the VBSO and briefed command staff, as needed.
- Helped negotiate the terms of various programs run by nonprofit organizations for the benefit of inmates, including a music program, an art program, and a course in writing and composition.
- Responded firmly to unfounded allegations from a federal agency that the VBSO
 was providing improper care to inmates with opioid addiction. The federal
 agency ultimately withdrew these allegations and closed the matter without
 action against the Sheriff's Office or its medical provider.
- Reviewed and commented on numerous contracts for goods and services.



The VBSO Emergency Response Team in Washington, D.C., to support U.S. Capitol Police during the certification of the presidential election.

- Reviewed and approved a training agreement with U.S. Capitol Police.
- Reviewed and commented on over 70 proposed official policies on a variety of different subjects, some involving interpretations of federal and state laws.
- Assisted outside counsel in the defense of various cases against the VBSO or its officers and employees.
- Resolved the inclusion of the VBSO in a tax sale case.
- Had multiple discussions with the Virginia Division of Risk Management about liability coverage for deputies in various situations.
- Responded to requests for advice from the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Local Government Attorneys Association, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, and other sheriffs' offices.
- Assisted a deputy in prosecuting a criminal assault case against an inmate.
- Taught a course on "Drafting Policies and Regulations" to the Virginia Sheriffs' Association Spring Conference in Roanoke.
- Assisted with an Americans with Disabilities Act issue about courtroom design for wheelchair-bound judges.
- Reviewed a pro se "notice of claim" by a serial litigator.
- Discussed with the treasurer of a nearby county who had asserted a large, but questionable, claim against an inmate. The treasurer ultimately agreed to withdraw the claim.
- Provided legal advice on various subjects, including:
 - How to deal with an inmate who files numerous false Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) complaints.

- How to enforce emergency security restrictions and/or public safety restrictions in the Virginia Beach Courthouse.
- How to deal with illegitimate inmate requests for elaborate "religious diets".
- Serving eviction papers where there is resistance and a possible threat of violence
- Running warrant checks.
- New laws about law enforcement officials dealing with subjects experiencing mental illness. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services will be issuing new policies and training courses on this subject.
- o Permissible use of polygraphs in hiring and administrative investigations.
- Ability to restrict service dogs for cause from the courthouse.
- Legality of the VBSO having a "Family Movie Night" (permitted under the Fair Use Doctrine).
- Brady list procedures.
- The timing of the oath of office when a sheriff's new term begins.
- VBSO access to employee health records under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Eligibility for lifetime concealed carry permits under state and federal law.
- Coordinated with the City Attorney's office on various complex Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.
- Negotiated with Verizon about obtaining cellphone records needed for a criminal investigation.
- Negotiated a new contract with a film company that is producing a TV series featuring the VBSO.
- Reviewed release forms and insurance coverage for various VBSO recreational activities, including youth activities and surfing.

• Coordinated with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office on several criminal cases involving deputies as witnesses.

Overall, the guiding principles of the Office of Legal Counsel are to provide legal advice that is legally sound, practical and understandable, and consistent with the governing organizational values of T.R.U.S.T.



VBSO Public Information Officer Toni Guagenti

Public Information

The Public Information Office (PIO) oversees all VBSO communications and is responsible for bolstering and protecting the reputation of the sheriff, the organization, and its deputies and civilians. Open and transparent communications are critical to building trust with the community and the news media. They are also essential to demonstrate that the VBSO is an attractive place to work and build a career.

The PIO handles internal and external communications for the Sheriff's Office, including managing its social media accounts, pitching news stories and responding to media inquiries. The office is staffed by Public Information Officer Toni Guagenti with support from Strategic Communications Consultant Kathy Hieatt. They are on call 24/7/365.

The PIO staff produces the annual report and regular announcements for the staff. They are involved in all media and communications efforts, including facilitating the filming and production of the "Booked: First Day In" reality television series on A&E. PIO Guagenti is active in the VBSO's volunteer efforts, including coordinating the VBSO's quarterly blood drives, representing the Sheriff's Office on the Board of Directors for Virginia Beach Crime Solvers and the Greater Hampton Roads Regional Crime Lines, and helping organize community events including Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Annual Turkey Bowl, Trunk or Treat and Easter Eggstravaganza.

The Public Information Office received and responded to 159 media requests this fiscal year. It also continued to expand the VBSO's social media presence and following to engage with the public. The VBSO's following has reached over 11,000 people on Facebook, 5,660 on X (formerly Twitter) and 3,900 on Instagram, in addition to followers on YouTube and LinkedIn. They have achieved this steady organic growth (without spending money on social ads) through careful and consistent curation of the organization's social media feeds and following.

The office recognizes the importance of transparency and having a positive working relationship with the news media. Positive news coverage this year included the following stories published online, in print and on television:

- "Virginia Beach Sheriff creates consumer protection unit due to increased scams"
- o "K9 Gaston, VBSO explosions detection officer, retires after 1,600 completed searches"
- "Father and son duo becoming deputies at the same time, same basic academy class"
- "Virginia Beach teachers top deputies and first responders at 2nd Annual Turkey Bowl"
- "VBSO Emergency Response Team provides security in Nation's Capital for presidential inauguration"
- "Virginia Beach Correctional Center inmates' works of art showcased at Chrysler Museum's 'Beyond the Block' art show"
- "VBSO Criminal Intelligence Unit charges inmate for committing \$1,000 in credit card fraud from the jail"



Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's 2nd annual Turkey Bowl

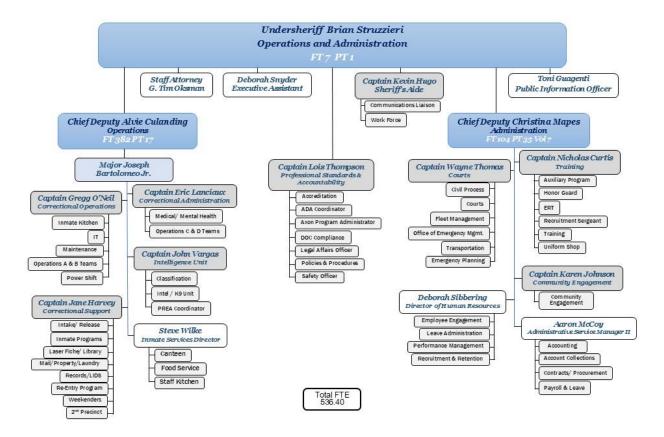
- "VBSO K9s get their own trading cards"
- "Inmates earn GED diploma at Virginia Beach Correctional Center"

The PIO also coordinated a quarterly "podcast" called "Real Talk with Rocky: Your Questions, His Answers," with City of Virginia Beach Multimedia Services staff in a talk-show style Q&A for staff published on YouTube. With PIO support, Multimedia Services also produced a professional video of Sheriff Holcomb talking about the VBSO's reach across the city of Virginia Beach's 497 square miles of land and water.

Appendices

Appendix A: Organizational Chart

Sheriff Norman D. Holcomb III

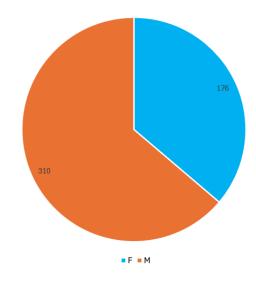


Appendix B: Agency Statistics

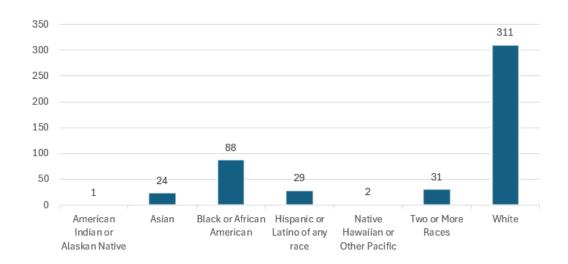
Personnel Demographics

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office values diversity and seeks qualified applicants from diverse backgrounds. The office does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its programs, services and activities.

All Personnel by Gender

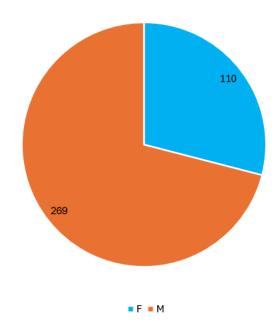


All Personnel by Race

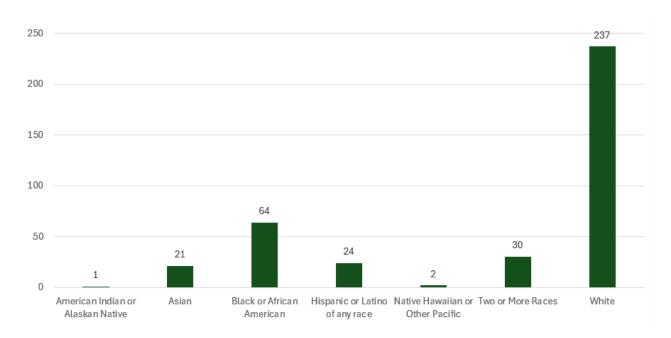


Total Personnel 486

Uniformed Personnel by Gender



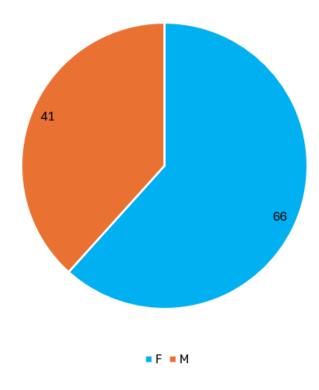
Uniformed Personnel by Race



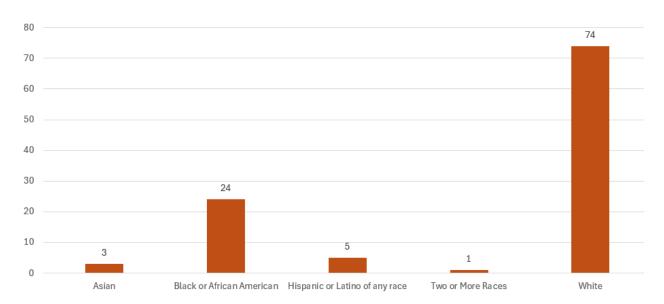
Total Uniformed Personnel 379

Civilian Personnel by Gender

63



Civilian Personnel by Race

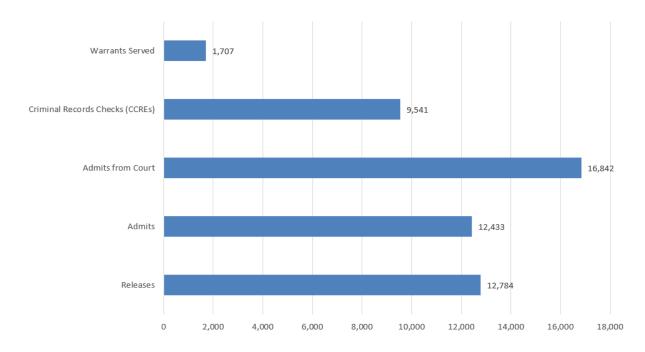


Total Civilian Personnel 107

Division Statistics

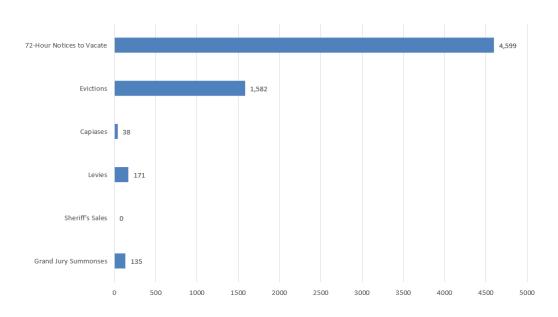
64

Intake Division



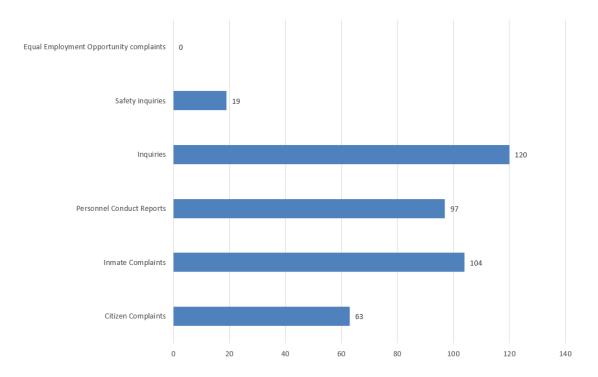
Average Daily Jail Population 1,010

Civil Process Division



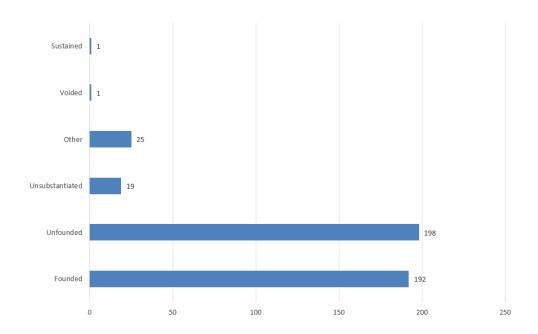
Total Civil Process Documents & Subpoenas Served 146,075

Professional Standards Office



Total Cases 403

Findings

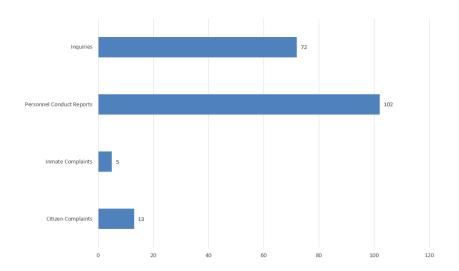


Total Findings 436*

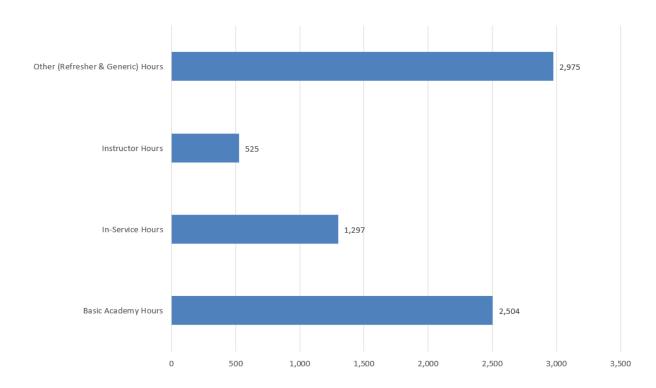
*total includes cases carried over from the previous year and cases that resulted in multiple findings/infractions

Founded Cases

66

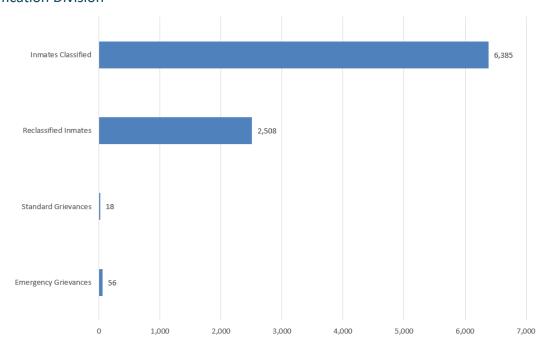


Training Division

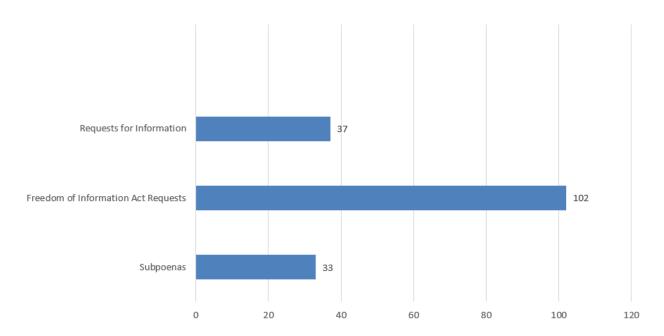


Total Training Hours 7,301

Classification Division



Legal





Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office

2501 James Madison Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23456 (757)385-4555

Additional information, including on Civil Process enforcement, Community Relations and the Correctional Center, and many other resources can be found on the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office website at vbso.net.

Social Media

Follow the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office on Facebook at facebook.com/vbsheriffsoffice, LinkedIn at linkedIn at <a href="mailto:linkedin.com/co

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