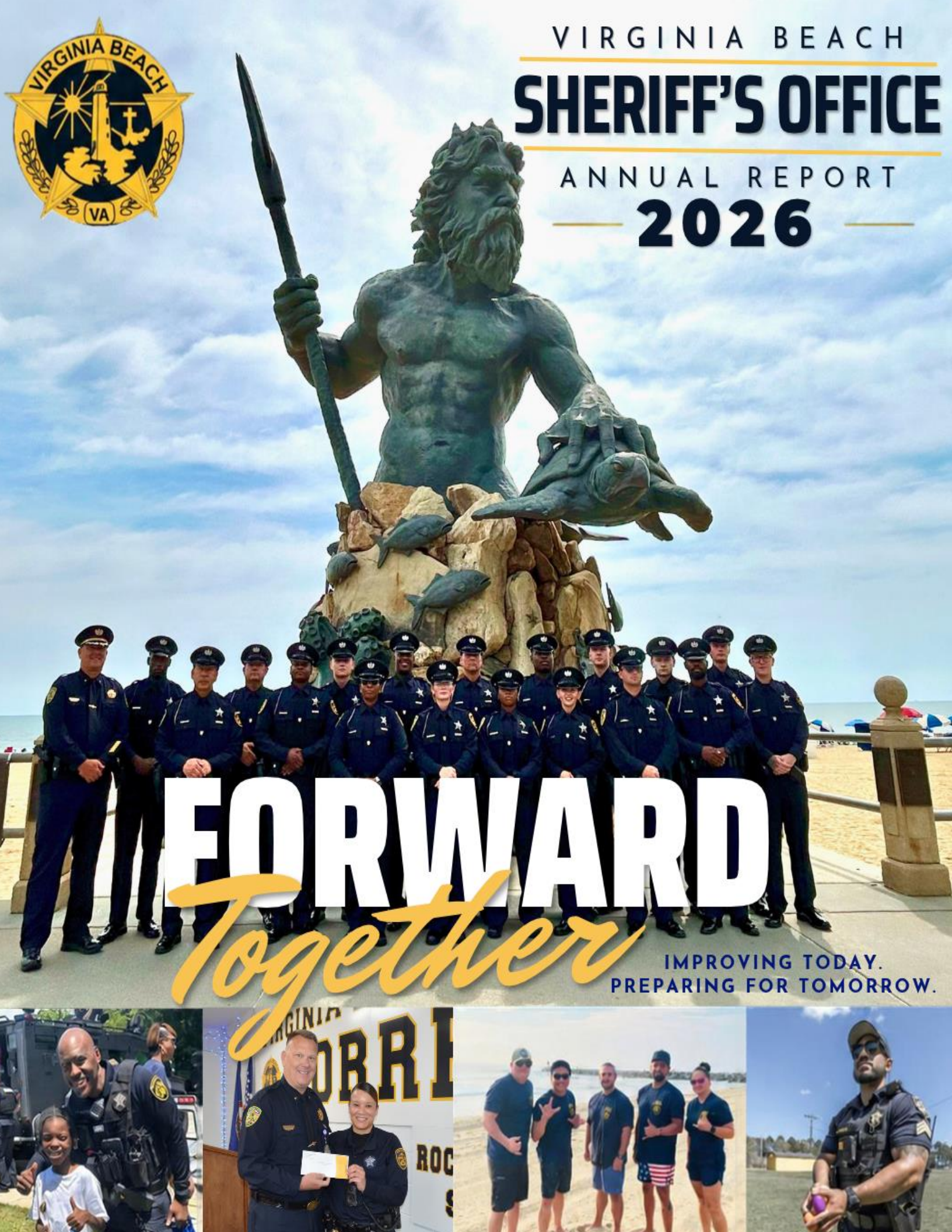




VIRGINIA BEACH
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT
2026



FORWARD
Together

IMPROVING TODAY.
PREPARING FOR TOMORROW.



Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office 2026 Annual Report

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Message from the Sheriff

Forward Together: Improving Today. Preparing for Tomorrow.



Sheriff Rocky Holcomb

As I look back on this past year at the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office, I am proud of what we have accomplished together and excited about where we are headed. Our 2026 Annual Report theme, "Forward Together: Improving Today. Preparing for Tomorrow," reflects how we approach our mission, building on what works, finding better ways to serve, and preparing our organization and our people for the challenges ahead.

That commitment was evident throughout the year.

Inside the Virginia Beach Correctional Center, we continued to look beyond incarceration and invest in programs that promote accountability, recovery and successful reentry. This year, the VBSO was one of only three sheriff's offices in Virginia awarded state funding to establish a Restoration Pod, allowing individuals found incompetent to stand trial to receive competency restoration services while remaining in a local correctional setting. It is an innovative approach to a growing challenge facing jails across the commonwealth and an example of what we can accomplish through strong partnerships.

Our Road to Hope program continued helping individuals address substance use and other challenges and prepare for life after incarceration. We also took another important step through our New Beginning Program, which provides employment opportunities at the VBSO for people with previous nonviolent felony convictions who have demonstrated a commitment to changing their lives. Today, three New Beginning employees are working as part of our Staff Kitchen team. We believe in accountability, but we also believe people who have done the work deserve an opportunity to move forward.

That commitment does not end at our doors. Through our partnership with Oxford House, we established the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Recovery Housing Scholarship Program to help eligible individuals leaving our custody overcome one of the biggest obstacles to successful reentry: a safe and supportive place to live while continuing their recovery.

Our Workforce inmates also continued giving back to the community, but in a new way. This fiscal year, we transitioned the program to trash and litter pickup throughout Virginia Beach, providing meaningful work for participating inmates while helping keep clean the beautiful city we call home. It is another example of finding ways for those in our care to contribute positively to the community.

Innovation is not limited to programs. It comes from our people. This year, we established the Ken Stolle Innovator Award, honoring former Sheriff Ken Stolle and his legacy of forward-thinking leadership. The award recognizes sworn and civilian employees who bring forward creative ideas to improve our operations and service. We want our employees at every level to know that their ideas matter and that they can play a role in moving this organization forward.

Preparing for tomorrow also means investing in our workforce. We increased starting pay for deputy recruits to strengthen our ability to attract qualified candidates. And we continued investing in training, leadership development and professional growth. At the same time, initiatives such as our VBSO Surf Team and Trailblazers Club have given employees another way to focus on wellness, mental health and camaraderie. Taking care of the people who take care of others remains a priority.



Sheriff Rocky Holcomb

We also continued finding new ways to connect with the community we serve. Through Share to Prepare, we delivered school supplies to five Title I public schools in Virginia Beach. Our Easter Eggstravaganza brought deputies and families together in a fun, positive environment. Trunk or Treat once again provided a safe and welcoming celebration for hundreds of children and families, and our Turkey Bowl strengthened our partnership with Virginia Beach City Public Schools while bringing our community together for some friendly flag football competition. The Turkey Bowl raised

over \$6,000 to feed public school children who don't get enough food on weekends and school breaks.

These events may look very different from the work done inside our jail and courtrooms, but they are all part of the same mission. It's about strengthening relationships, preventing crime, creating opportunities and building trust.

That trust is at the heart of who we are. Our values of Transparency, Respect, Unity, Service and Training — T.R.U.S.T. — guide how we serve our community and how we treat one another.

None of the accomplishments highlighted in this report belong to one person or one division. They represent the work of our deputies, civilian employees and volunteers, along with the tremendous support of our families, community partners, fellow public safety agencies, city leaders and citizens.

I am proud of the men and women of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office and grateful for the work they do every day, much of it outside the public eye.

There will always be new challenges ahead. Our responsibility is to keep learning, keep improving and never become satisfied simply because something has always been done a certain way. We will continue looking for opportunities to better serve our employees, the people entrusted to our care and the citizens of Virginia Beach.

That is how we move Forward Together — Improving Today. Preparing for Tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N.D. 'Rocky' Holcomb III". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Sheriff's Biography

Sheriff Rocky Holcomb has served the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office (VBSO) since 1991 and became the city's seventh sheriff in 2023. His 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.

He was promoted to chief deputy in May 2018 after serving 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 and a general election in November 2025, both 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.

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 the Mt. Trashmore Family YMCA.

He and his wife, Tracie, have been married for 30 years and have two children, Summer and Norman.



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	ADMINISTRATION
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	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. 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.

Virginia Beach Correctional Center. Also assists with other law enforcement investigations. Is responsible for all inmate 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.	
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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.



Awards, Promotions & Retirements

Awards

Deputy of the Quarter

Deputy I Isaiah J. Dawson – July 2025

Deputy I Garret T. Pendleton – October 2025

Deputy II Benjamin R. Steinberg – January 2026

Deputy II Brandon P. Manigo – April 2026



Civilian of the Quarter

Shamieka D. Jackson – July 2025

Sirena A. Stephenson – July 2025

Amanda "Jan" Rowland – April 2026

Life Saving with Valor Award

Deputy II Christopher J. Snyder – April 2026

Life Saving Award

August 2025

Deputy I Reo B. Hatfield

Deputy I Anthony R. Permenter

Deputy I Harry I. Putnam II

Master Deputy II Dale E. Estabrooks

Deputy Andrew M. Bing

June 2026

Master Deputy II Kelli M. Chisolm

Sgt. Ashana T. Standard

Ken Stolle Innovator Award

Lt. Ryan D. Velazquez – June 2026

Significant Incident Award

May 2026

Deputy I Ava G. Coltrain

Sgt. Weslie A. Gilbert

Deputy II Pernisha Johnson

Sgt. Krystal D.C. Peelish

Meritorious Public Service Award

April 2026

RN Ally Capizola

RN Lindsay Spivey

Sworn Promotions

Chief Deputy (from Major)

Chief Deputy Joseph R. Bartolomeo Jr.

Sergeant (from Master Deputy II)

Sgt. Nicholas R. King

Sgt. Joseph S. McBride

Sgt. Amanda V. Mengel

Sgt. Daniel J. Willis

Retirements

Sgt. Corey Prieur – 27 years

Sgt. Dennis L. Ficken – 20 years

Sgt. Michael J. Houk – 12 years

Master Deputy II Mark R. Simmons – 29 years

Master Deputy II Lenise D. Jones – 26 years

Master Deputy II Starsky M. Lee – 22 years

Master Deputy II Douglas J. Uhlmann – 21 years

Master Deputy II Michael J. Daily – 20 years

Master Deputy II Nathan B. Hall – 20 years

Master Deputy II Evelia James – 20 years (+12 with the City of Virginia Beach)

Master Deputy II Craig J. Trute – 11 years

Master Deputy I Kenneth C. Crawford – 15 years

Master Deputy Redentor A. Nabong – 25 years

Deputy II Timothy P. Worst – 5 years

Linda M. Feres – 6 years

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



Sheriff Holcomb presents the inaugural Ken Stolle Innovator Award

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 and Fresh Favorites, 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 and Fresh Favorites 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 2025-2026 fiscal year totaled \$729,215 for the Canteen and \$3.2 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 \$18,500** this fiscal year.

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



VBSO deputies and members of the Inmate Workforce conducting litter pickup with Lynnhaven River NOW

The VBSO Workforce Division consists of **seven deputies and one sergeant**, who supervise inmate work crews under the direction of a captain. The program assigns approximately **five to 10 inmates daily to work in the community**. Although the program has been scaled down from previous years, the benefits to the community have not

diminished.

At the beginning of 2026, the Sheriff's Office did not renew its previous landscaping contracts with the City of Virginia Beach. Instead, the Workforce program started a new endeavor to rid the city of litter. In total, the Workforce **inmates picked up 74,250 lbs of trash, litter and debris** this year. The Workforce inmates also assisted the Lynnhaven River NOW organization in picking up litter and debris along London Bridge Road. Workforce inmates accomplished this under the supervision of deputies working hand-in-hand with

members of the organization. This event removed everything from carpet to refrigerators from the watershed.

In addition to litter removal, the Workforce program handles city office moves, snow removal, janitorial services, and event setup for nonprofit and community groups, including Fil Fest USA and Virginia African American Cultural Center events. This year, the program provided **11,361 hours of community service**, resulting in **\$136,332 in cost savings for Virginia Beach residents**.



The VBSO Inmate Workforce conducting litter cleanup

The Sheriff's Workforce established **six contracts or Memorandums of Understanding with the City of Virginia Beach for services**, including assembling trash cans, clearing meter easements and painting city buildings. These agreements provide significant savings compared to private contractors. Because Workforce inmates volunteer, the revenue generated helps offset Correctional Center operating costs and further reduces city expenses. In total, these **contracts and billable services generated \$97,087** this year.

The Sheriff's Office also reduces costs by employing inmates within the Correctional Center. Trusty Program inmates handle cleaning, maintenance, meal preparation and service, laundry, and other tasks throughout the jail. This year, an **average of 69 inmates participated each month, contributing 215,700 hours** and **saving taxpayers approximately \$2,588,400**.

The Inmate Trusty and Workforce programs offer productive activities and teach valuable skills for the inmates who participate. Inmates who volunteer for these programs receive additional food, get extra visitation privileges and may earn time off their sentences. Their contributions are recognized through events such as an annual end-of-summer picnic, holiday breakfasts and periodic cookouts.

Road to Hope

Two years ago, 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 Inmate Reintegration and Modified Incarceration Programs (formerly called Alternative Sentencing Programs), Supportive Housing, Rehabilitative Programs and Classification Programs. It also includes the New Beginning Program and ServSafe certification.

Inmate Reintegration and Modified Incarceration Programs

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:

- Improve offenders' quality of life and address co-occurring problems through the provision of educational services
- Reduce recidivism
- Foster commitment to a violence-free and crime-free lifestyle
- 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 Reintegration program select OSU offenders' job assignments, which can include working in the Virginia Beach Correctional Center (VBCC) Intake, Canteen and 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 Reintegration deputies for medical appointments, etc. Inmates are required to report to the VBCC on Sundays for urinalysis. In addition, Reintegration

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 2,358 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 Reintegration 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 **61 notarized letters** for DMV 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 (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, local radio personality Brandon "Shaggy" Stokes, 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.

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



A VBSO Inmate Workforce sign

proposition for both incarcerated 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, trustees 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. Trustees 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, trustees become integral members of the VBCC community, embodying the principles of responsibility, accountability and positive contribution.
- **Workforce** – At the core of the Workforce Program are the services provided by participants, which encompass essential tasks such as litter removal, painting city buildings, clearing meter easements, and providing logistical support for community events. 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.



Inmate GED graduation at the Virginia Beach Correctional Center

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, 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.



A graduate of the Virginia Beach Correctional Center GED program

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.

- **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.

On Oct. 10, 2025, VBCC GED instructor Malvin Scott was named the Adult Learning Center Teacher of the Year. Mr. Scott's passion for education and unwavering commitment to inmates' success have tremendously increased the number of GED graduates at the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office over the past few years. His impact goes far beyond the classroom — he's changing lives and opening doors to brighter futures.

"Mr. Scott was such a great help to me. His energy really made me believe I could do something better with my life." – VBCC GED graduate

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 last 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



WAVY TV 10 reporter Andy Fox with participants in the VBSO New Beginning Program

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 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 now has **three staff members** and 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.

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.

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. A subsequent class

of **25 Star of the Sea students graduated** on Nov. 17, 2025. The program expanded to St. Matthew's Catholic School this year, with a large class graduating on Dec. 18, 2025

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.



D.A.R.E. graduation at St. Matthew's Catholic School

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:

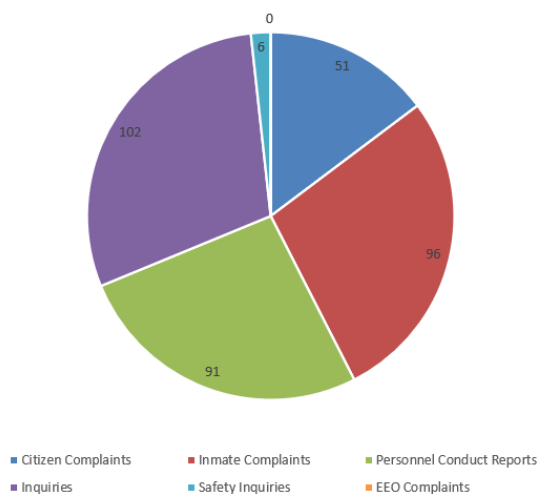
"As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty,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

The VBSO Professional Standards and Accreditation Office (PSO) – supervised by Capt. Lois Thompson – 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 346 cases between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026:**



- **51 Citizen Complaints**
- **96 Inmate Complaints**
- **91 Personal Conduct Reports (PCRs)**
- **102 Inquiries***
- **6 Safety Inquiries****
- **0 Equal Employment Opportunity complaints**

*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.

PSO completed 340 cases/investigations with the following results:

- **149 Founded**

- **155 Unfounded**
- **15 Unsubstantiated**
- **15 Other***
- **5 Voided****
- **1 Sustained*****

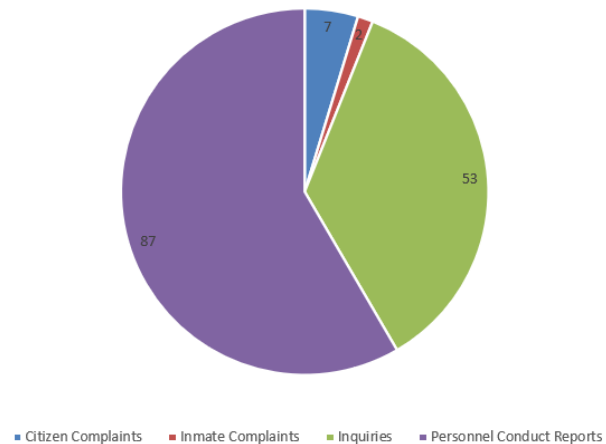
*Other is when there is a finding that is not founded, unfounded or unsubstantiated. This can include when an inspection is completed or when a duplicate or erroneous file is closed.

**Voided is when a case is no longer needed.

***Sustained is an option for Command Staff to utilize to close out a case (it is similar to Founded).

The **149 Founded cases** were as follows:

- **53 Inquiries**
- **87 PCRs**
- **2 Inmate Complaints**
- **7 Citizen Complaints**



In addition, 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.

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).

The VBSO is fully accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC), which conducted its last reaccreditation assessment in October 2025. 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 pages 54-55.

Reinventing Mental Health Treatment

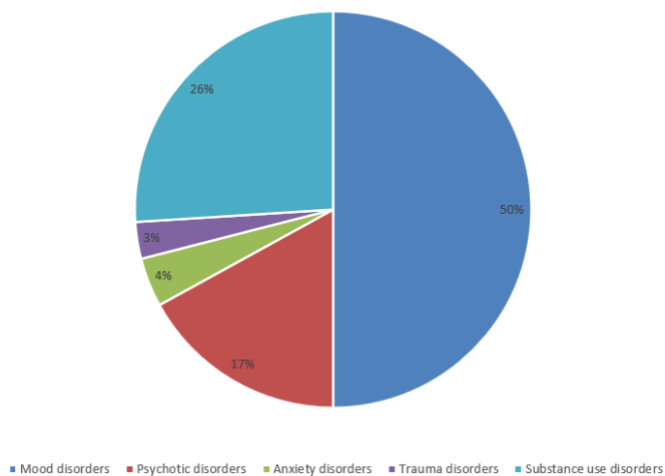
Mental health remains a top priority for the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. Seven years ago, former Sheriff Ken Stolle successfully lobbied the Virginia General Assembly for nearly **\$1 million to fund a comprehensive new program to improve mental health treatment** in Virginia Beach. That program 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 additional years 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.

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 TV 10. 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 1,951 inmate screenings conducted this year, 75% suffered from at least one mood, psychotic, anxiety, substance use or trauma disorder.** Their diagnoses were:



- **50% mood disorders**
- **17% psychotic disorders**
- **4% anxiety disorders**
- **26% substance use disorders**
- **3% trauma disorders**
- **39% co-occurring medical conditions**

The screenings also found that:

- **18% received previous mental health treatment**
- **100% were insured**
- **96% had natural supports**

- **59% were homeless upon entry**
- **73% were previously incarcerated**

Of the **1,453 inmates** who met the criteria for behavioral health services, **768 refused services**, **150 fully enrolled in services** and **535 received monitoring and support**. This was supported by virtual intakes provided via telehealth, which served **114 individuals**. This year the program **successfully discharged 44 inmates from the jail after receiving treatment**. The results were promising:

- **79% were released with housing in place**
- **100% had an adequate supply of medications**
- **21% engaged in outpatient behavioral health appointments**
- **100% 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 **348 inmates were released prior to completing the behavioral health admissions process**.

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.

A significant expansion this year was the establishment of a new jail-based Restoration Pod, or Jail-Based Restoration Unit (JBRU), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Human Services (DHS). The pod, scheduled to open in August 2026, will provide court-ordered competency restoration services to eligible inmates at the Virginia Beach Correctional Center.

Virginia Beach is **one of three jurisdictions in the commonwealth** awarded grant funding by the Virginia

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to establish a competency restoration program in its local jail. The initiative aims to address the growing demand for forensic beds at state psychiatric hospitals, where defendants may wait weeks or months for transportation and an available bed before beginning restoration services.

The **\$1.8 million, two-year grant** will fund the pod's programming, staffing, new game tables and chairs for the inmates. The Virginia Beach Restoration Pod is scheduled to begin accepting court-approved participants on Aug. 17, 2026, and will initially have **capacity for four to five inmates**.



Sheriff Holcomb provides a tour of the new Restoration Pod at the Virginia Beach Correctional Center

When the court determines that a defendant is not competent to stand trial – which means they are unable to understand the legal proceedings against them or assist in their own defense – they must receive psychiatric treatment to restore them to competency. Following a court-ordered mental health evaluation, the court determines whether they require inpatient restoration services.

Previously, those ordered to receive inpatient restoration remained in jail while awaiting a bed at Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg. Through the new Virginia Beach program, individuals who meet the clinical, legal and security criteria will instead receive those services at the VBCC Restoration Pod.

It will also reduce the number of mental health transports required to be completed by VBSO deputies, which totaled **43 from January-June 2026**.

The court retains authority over the defendant's placement and legal proceedings. The VBSO does not determine whether someone is competent to stand trial or whether restoration services are required.

The Restoration Pod will provide many of the same core services offered by state hospital restoration programs, including:

- Individual and group therapy
- Psychiatric services
- Medication management
- Clinical stabilization
- Education about courtroom procedures and the roles of judges, attorneys and other court personnel
- Case management and discharge planning
- Coordination with the courts, jail staff and community mental health providers

Staff will include a psychiatric nurse practitioner, clinician, therapist and discharge planner. VBSO deputies assigned to maintain safety and security for the pod have completed specialized training through the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

Inmates will continue to follow all jail rules and regulations while receiving more intensive behavioral health treatment and restoration services than those available in other jail housing units.

The Virginia Beach DHS played a central role in developing the initiative and will provide the clinical expertise necessary to operate the program. The department's Adult Correctional Services team already works inside the jail providing intake screenings, outpatient

behavioral health services, case management, discharge planning and coordination with specialty courts.

The program is intended primarily for defendants who may be restored to competency locally within a short period. Defendants requiring longer-term treatment will continue to go to Eastern State Hospital or another state facility based on the court's orders, evaluator's recommendations, clinical condition and/or security needs.

Officials expect the program to help:

- Begin restoration services sooner for eligible defendants
- Reduce the amount of time individuals remain in jail awaiting treatment
- Allow court cases to proceed more efficiently
- Preserve state hospital beds for those requiring inpatient psychiatric care
- Improve coordination among the courts, corrections and behavioral health providers
- Provide a more therapeutic environment for inmates living with serious mental illness

Program leaders will monitor outcomes, including the number of people served, the time required to begin treatment, the length of restoration services, returns to court and the effect on state hospital referrals. Because Virginia Beach is among the first localities in Virginia to implement this model, the program will also provide valuable information about whether jail-based restoration can be expanded or replicated elsewhere in the commonwealth.

Additional information about the VBSO's mental health initiatives is available on pages 36-37.

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 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, **35 inmates graduated from the Reentry Program**, and none have returned to the jail (**0% recidivism**). In total, **over 548 inmates have graduated from the Reentry Program since its inception**.

Additional information about Inmate Programs is available on pages 39-40.

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 and contractors.

From July 2025 through June 2026, Narcan was administered in **eight suspected fentanyl-related overdose incidents**. Of those, **five occurred in the jail Intake area, one in Housing Unit C3C and one in Housing Unit A3F. One additional incident occurred at the Virginia Beach Courthouse**.

Separately, the VBSO medical contractor, **VitalCore Health Strategies**, performed **four Narcan administrations** utilizing their own supply of naloxone.

The monthly distribution of incidents was as follows: one in July 2025, one in February 2026, one in March 2026, two in April 2026, two in May 2026 and one in June 2026.

To ensure the availability of this lifesaving medication, the VBSO maintains Narcan kits for both individual personnel and strategic locations throughout the organization. This year the agency received **30 replacement kits in August 2025** and an **additional 100 kits in January 2026**. The January order was placed primarily to replace kits scheduled to expire during 2026. Each Narcan kit contains **two 4-mg doses of naloxone**.

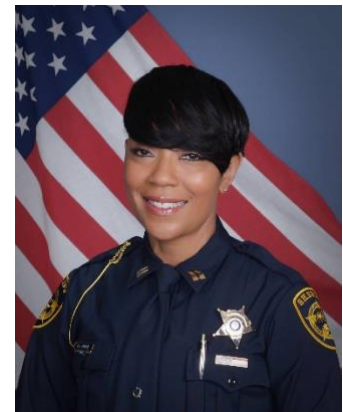
Narcan kits were distributed to numerous divisions and operational areas – including Civil Process, Transportation, K-9, Court Security, Workforce, Property and the Intake Lobby –

and to individual staff members authorized to carry the medication. The most recent shipment from the Virginia Department of Health Pharmacy was received on Jan. 9, 2026.

Expired Narcan kits were properly removed from service and either returned to the Virginia Department of Health Pharmacy, deposited in Virginia Beach Police Department medication disposal receptacles, or repurposed by the VBSO Training Division for academy and in-service training demonstrations.

VBSO Connect: Community Engagement & Outreach

Two years ago, 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, these efforts have gained new momentum.



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

The VBSO's volunteer efforts stretch through every part of the organization and touch many areas of the community. **During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Sheriff's Office logged a total of 228,764 volunteer hours with help from 511 volunteers,** including chaplains, 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.



Team Public Safety vs. Team Education at Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's 3rd annual Turkey Bowl

Community Engagement efforts included Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Turkey Bowl, a charity flag football game between Virginia Beach educators and public safety officers. **The third annual event on Nov. 1, 2025, raised over \$6,000 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.

Another major initiative was Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Senior Safety Seminar, a free self-defense 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 ERT also taught a Self-Defense Class to local educators at the Adult Learning Center at the Renaissance Academy, a District 3 Neighborhood Safety & Self-Defense



The VBSO Easter Eggstravaganza egg hunt

Workshop at Bow Creek Recreation Center, a District 5 Self-Defense Workshop at Princess Anne Recreation Center, and a Women's Self-Defense Class at Nimmo United Methodist Church.

This year's events included Sheriff Rocky Holcomb's Share to Prepare Back-to-School Supply Drive, Trunk or Treat and 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. VBSO deputies and civilians volunteer their time for various Special Olympics events throughout the year. These included the Feet Meet, Fall Games, Summer Games, fundraiser at Publix and Tip-A-Cop at Topgolf. 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 2026 Summer Games in Richmond.

The Sheriff's Office held **five blood drives this year** to support the American Red Cross, **collecting 175 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:

- The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, providing security for the **three-day Mayflower Marathon food drive**
- National Night Out



Deputies at National Night Out 2025

- The Virginia Beach Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 8 Christmas shopping event for underprivileged children (Cops & Kids)



Deputies at the end-of-year mentor picnic

The office is actively involved in Law Enforcement United and its annual Road to Hope, **a 250-mile bicycle ride to Washington 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 LGBT Liaison Master Deputy II Heidi Evertson. MD II 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.

Additional Community Engagement events this year included:

- Par-Tee Against Cancer at Virginia Beach National Golf Club
- Men of Faith Annual Youth Conference
- Coastal Edge Local Heroes Day
- Community Day at Atlantis Apartments
- Bayside Middle School Community Day
- Touch-A-Trunk at Strelitz International Academy
- Back to School Community Day at Venue by Design
- Back to School Fun Day at Seatack Recreation Center
- Back to School Block Party at Shelton Park Elementary School
- Back to School Party at Reset Inc.
- Work Out with Cops and Deputies at Atlantis Apartments
- First Day of School Celebration at Kempsville Meadows Elementary School
- Neptune Festival
- Brigadoon Community Cookout
- American Institute of Architects Coastal Virginia & Seatack Community Pop up Park Unveiling
- African American Cultural Center Fall Festival

- Ghoula Palooza at Great Neck Recreation Center
- Hotcakes for Heros at Pembroke Elementary School
- Feed the Need with Reset Inc. at Regent University
- Marion Manor Christmas Parade
- African American Male Summit at Green Run High School
- Seatack Community Sign Dedication Ceremony
- Car giveaway by Deputy II Eric Osborne with Reset Inc.
- Read Across America Day at various elementary schools
- Opening Day for Kempsville PONY Baseball
- Career Days at Linkhorn Park, Lynnhaven, White Oaks, Arrowhead, Seatack and Brookwood elementary schools
- Seatack Recreation Center Swim Camp
- Touch-A-Trunk at Tallwood Elementary
- Kids Safety Day at Old Navy Town Center
- Parkway Elementary School Mentorship Program End-of-the-Year Celebration
- Birchwood/Malibu Summer Bash
- Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs



Community Outreach Capt. Karen "K.J." Johnson at the Birchwood/Malibu Summer Bash



Team VBSO at the 2026 Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Virginia

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 and are led by Chief Deputy Joseph Bartolomeo. It is made up of:

- **Correctional Operations**, which includes the watch teams
- **Correctional Administration**, which includes Power Shift, Medical, Mental Health, Maintenance, Information Technology and the Inmate Kitchen
- **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 the K-9 Unit and Inmate Programs
- **Inmate Services**, which include the Canteen, Food Service and the Staff Kitchen

Correctional Operations

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 August 2025 jail-wide search

To reinforce operational security, maintain institutional integrity, and safeguard both staff and residents, the facility executed **two comprehensive, facility-wide search operations** over the past year. These meticulously coordinated interventions took place on Aug. 9, 2025, and Jan. 17, 2026. During these exhaustive sweeps, the entirety of the institution

underwent rigorous scrutiny, encompassing every housing unit, common area and operational zone alongside systematic individual assessments. No sector was overlooked, ensuring a thorough, uncompromised verification of facility safety.

Complementing these major operations, **staff executed 278 targeted searches** this year focusing on specific housing units and emerging areas of concern. Operating on a continuous daily schedule, these proactive sweeps serve to mitigate contraband risks, uphold strict sanitation standards, and preserve the ongoing safety and security of all secure zones within the facility.

In October 2025, the facility successfully passed its **three-year compliance** audit conducted by the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) with **zero deficiencies**. This comprehensive audit evaluates **compliance with 128 standards** covering safety, security, inmate care and operations and resulted in the VADOC awarding the VBSO **unconditional certification for another three years**.

Every three years, all local and regional jails in Virginia are subject to a state-mandated inspection and certification process by the VADOC. These audits are independent and comprehensive, ensuring each facility meets strict standards for safety, security, inmate care



Accreditation staff receiving the VBSO's certificate of re-accreditation from the Virginia Department of Corrections

and operations. Achieving a deficiency-free result is a clear reflection of the professionalism and dedication of both correctional and administrative staff.

Public health compliance remained a top priority as well. The Virginia Department of Health completed its routine inspection of the facility and found **no reportable violations**. Inspectors reviewed kitchen operations, food storage and 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 67 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 provide an eye-opening experience that deepens 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.

Correctional Administration

Medical

The Medical Division is staffed by **one sergeant and six deputies** who play a critical role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the inmate population. Medical deputies are responsible for safely and efficiently escorting inmates to the clinic for medical appointments, sick calls, specialty appointments and other healthcare needs. Their responsibilities require constant coordination with medical staff while maintaining the safety and security of the Correctional Center.

The VBSO’s medical contractor, VitalCore Health Strategies, 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**.



Virginia Beach Correctional Center Physician Assistant Katie Cartwright, who has served the jail for 20 years

This year, VitalCore – with support from the VBSO Medical Division – provided a significant level of healthcare services to the inmate population, including:

- **Medical Sick Calls: 13,816**
- **Dental Sick Calls: 1,393**
- **Chronic Care Appointments: 1,384**
- **Obstetrics/Gynecology Appointments: 576**
- **Optometry Appointments: 53**
- **Hospital Watches: 408**

These numbers demonstrate the significant volume of medical services provided within the Correctional Center and the important role of Medical deputies and civilian staff in ensuring

inmates receive timely access to necessary healthcare while maintaining the security of the facility.

Mental Health

The Mental Health Division reflects the Sheriff's strong commitment to addressing mental health needs within the criminal justice system. Recognizing that many individuals entering the Correctional Center require specialized mental health services, the Sheriff's Office has continued to dedicate personnel and resources to provide a safe, structured and supportive environment for this population.

The VBSO Mental Health Division is staffed by **two sergeants and two female deputies assigned to the female Mental Health Pod**, as well as **two deputies assigned to the male Mental Health Pod**. These deputies provide the security and supervision necessary to facilitate the delivery of much-needed treatment and services by mental health professionals in a controlled correctional environment.

A significant expansion this year was the addition of **two deputies specifically assigned to oversee the Restoration Pod**, or Jail Based Restoration Unit (JBRU). The establishment of this unit is a major step forward in the Sheriff's commitment to addressing mental health within the Correctional Center. The unit will provide a dedicated environment for individuals who require competency restoration services, allowing them to receive appropriate treatment and support while remaining in a secure setting.

The Restoration Pod is scheduled to begin operations in mid-August 2026. The addition of dedicated staffing for this unit demonstrates that the Sheriff's Office is not simply recognizing the growing need for mental health services, but also investing personnel,

resources and infrastructure to address that need. Additional information about the Restoration Pod is available on pages 25-27.

The Sheriff's continued emphasis on mental health represents a proactive approach to corrections, recognizing that successful correctional operations involve more than security and custody. By providing specialized housing, dedicated staffing and access to mental health services, the Sheriff's Office is working to improve outcomes for individuals in its custody while creating a safer environment for inmates, deputies and the community.

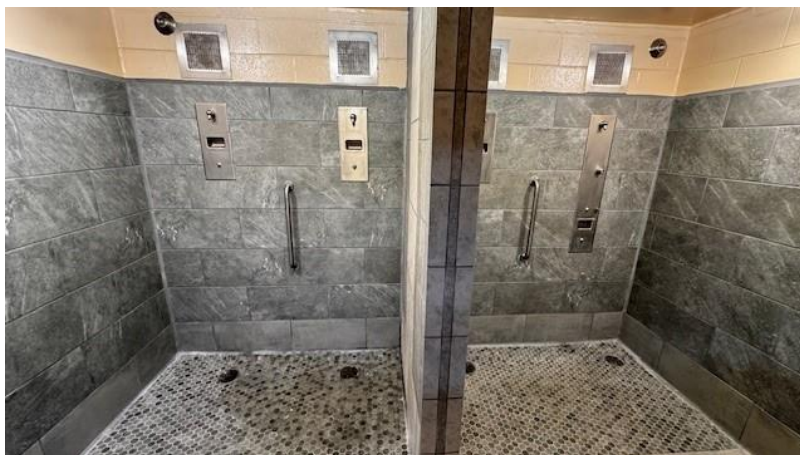
The Mental Health Division plays a vital role in the continued development of these initiatives and ensures the Sheriff's commitment to mental health remains a cornerstone of the Correctional Center's mission.

Maintenance

The Maintenance Division is staffed by **one sergeant, one civilian supervisor, one civilian and nine deputies** and is overseen by the Correctional Administration Captain. The division is responsible for all maintenance and mechanical functions of the Correctional Center and Law Enforcement Training Academy. Working around the clock, **24 hours a day, 365 days** a year, the Maintenance Division plays a critical role in ensuring the Correctional Center remains safe, secure, operational and well-maintained.

This year, the Maintenance Division demonstrated an exceptional level of productivity, completing **8,152 work orders and 11,011 hours of work**. In addition to responding to the daily maintenance needs of the facility, the division successfully completed numerous renovation, rehabilitation and improvement projects throughout the Correctional Center:

- Kitchen Floor Replacement: Replaced the kitchen flooring, improving the safety, cleanliness and functionality of this heavily used area.
- Housing Unit Shower Renovations: Completed extensive refurbishment of showers in housing units C3C and C3E, including the **renovation of two pod shower areas**. These improvements significantly enhanced the condition of inmate housing areas and provided a cleaner, safer living environment.
- Henley Updates: Completed necessary updates and improvements to the



Refurbished Virginia Beach Correctional Center showers

Henley camera systems.

- Staff Kitchen Manager's Office: Constructed a new office for the Staff Kitchen Manager, improving the functionality and organization of the area.
- Administration Improvements: Painted the Administration offices and completed rehabilitation and painting of numerous offices used by Command Staff and lieutenants, creating a more professional and functional work environment.
- Release Office Relocation: Assisted with the relocation of the Release Office to improve the use and organization of available space.
- Records, Canteen and LIDS Improvements: Completed new flooring, painting and rehabilitation work in Records, the Canteen Office and the Local Inmate Data System (LIDS) area.
- Command Staff Restructuring: Provided extensive support for the restructuring and relocation of Command Staff offices, including moving and assembling furniture and preparing offices for occupancy.

The Maintenance Division also maximizes available resources through supervised inmate work crews. These crews provide significant cost savings to the taxpayers of Virginia Beach while maintaining the Correctional Center at a high standard and giving inmates an opportunity to develop valuable work skills and contribute positively to the facility.

The Paint Crew, consisting of **one deputy and two to three inmates**, has completed extensive interior painting throughout the Correctional Center. By performing this work in-house rather than contracting it out, the Paint Crew has **saved Virginia Beach taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars** in labor and contractor costs. The crew has also played an important role in maintaining the appearance and condition of the facility.

The Buffing Crew, also consisting of **one deputy and two to three inmates**, is responsible for ensuring the Correctional Center's floors are routinely cleaned, polished and buffed. This ongoing effort improves safety, helps maintain a professional appearance, prolongs the life of flooring surfaces and reduces the need for costly replacement.

The Maintenance Division continues to demonstrate its versatility, dedication and commitment to the Virginia Beach Correctional Center. Despite operating with a small staff, the division successfully manages thousands of work orders each year while simultaneously completing significant facility improvement projects.

The combined efforts of the Maintenance Division and its inmate work crews directly contribute to the safety, security, functionality, cleanliness and professional appearance of the Correctional Center, making the division an essential component of successful daily operations.

Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Division is overseen by **one sergeant, two civilian employees and one City of Virginia Beach liaison employee**. Despite its small staffing complement, the division provides critical technology support to the entire Sheriff's Office and plays an essential role in keeping the organization's systems, equipment and technology operational.

This year, the IT Division took on the daunting task of replacing all Sheriff's Office printers, as well as all Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) printers, throughout the organization. This significant undertaking required extensive planning, coordination, installation and technical support while ensuring that critical Sheriff's Office operations remained uninterrupted throughout the transition.

In addition to completing the printer replacement project, the IT Division responded to and resolved **more than 10,000 work orders** during the year. This tremendous workload demonstrates the volume and complexity of the technical support provided to personnel across the Sheriff's Office.

Operating with a relatively small team, the IT Division consistently meets the technology needs of the organization while supporting deputies and civilian personnel in their daily responsibilities. Whether replacing critical equipment, troubleshooting technology issues or responding to individual requests for assistance, the division provides the technological foundation that allows the Sheriff's Office to operate efficiently and effectively.

The accomplishments of the IT Division are particularly noteworthy given its limited staffing and the scope of responsibilities it manages. Its work may often occur behind the scenes, but it is essential to the day-to-day operations, efficiency and effectiveness of the entire Sheriff's Office.

Classification & Criminal Intelligence

Classification

The Classification Division is responsible for conducting intake screenings and determining housing assignments for every individual booked into the Virginia Beach Correctional Center. It also screens and approves inmates for work and life programs, such as the GED, Substance Abuse, Workforce and Trusty programs. Additionally, Classification receives and investigates all inmate grievances. This year, Classification:

- **Classified 6,396 inmates**
- **Reclassified 2,776 inmates**
- **Investigated seven standard inmate grievances**
- **Investigated 65 emergency inmate grievances**

In addition, Classification's Inmate Programs produced:



The 3rd annual Job/Resource Fair at the Virginia Beach Correctional Center

- **33 Substance Abuse/Reentry program graduates**
- **32 GED/JEP graduates**
- **One standard diploma earned**
- **One applied studies diploma earned**
- **61 notarized I.D. letters issued for DMV**

On Oct. 7, 2025, Inmate Programs held its 3rd Annual Job/Resource Fair, with **14 employers/resources and 60 inmates attending.**

Additional information about inmate programs is available on pages 13-19.

Criminal Intelligence

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 **183 inmate-on-inmate assaults, 50 inmate-on-staff assaults and 1,280 incidents resulting in disciplinary board hearings – a 26% increase** from last year. The unit **identified 415 certified gang members, 137 active gang members and 27 suspected gang members** inside the Correctional Center. The team made **26 arrests.**

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



A shank found hidden inside a book in the jail, investigated by the CIU

- **July 2025** – CIU investigated a VBSO contract food service worker who was allegedly bringing in illegal narcotics for inmates. The information suggested the worker was tasked by a woman with delivering drugs to an inmate for monetary compensation.

CIU deputies solicited assistance of the Virginia Beach Police Department's (VBPD's) Special Investigations Bureau (SI), which conducted a surveillance operation of the worker's residence and confirmed he received multiple Suboxone strips from the woman. When the worker entered the secured portion of the Correctional Center, he was searched and **12 Suboxone strips** were found in his wallet (the **going rate for one strip in the jail has been as high as \$450**). CIU deputies criminally charged the worker with delivery of drugs, firearms, explosives, etc., to prisoners or committed persons, conspiracy to commit a felony, and manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance. In April 2026, the worker was found guilty on those charges and **sentenced to six years in prison, with five years, 11 months and 16 days suspended** conditioned upon agreed-to conditions.

- **July 2025** – Provided the VBPD with tablet and phone activities for an inmate who was the suspect in a stalking case.
- **August 2025** – Assisted the VBPD Crime Suppression Squad (CSS) with identifying a gang member who belongs to the Imperial Gangster Bloods (IGB) based off his alias. Tablet activity for the individual was also turned over.
- **August 2025** – Turned over tablet and phone activity to Child Protective Services for an inmate who was involved in an ongoing child abuse case.
- **September 2025** – The VBPD contacted the CIU to help determine which inmate was making threatening phone calls to a citizen. The CIU was able to identify the inmate and turned over all phone calls so the VBPD could prosecute the inmate.
- **October 2025** – Assisted VBPD detectives with identifying **two suspects involved in an armed robbery and carjacking** that occurred on Northampton Boulevard, which led to their arrests. Both were charged with armed robbery, carjacking, two counts of use of firearm in the commission of a felony, and conspiracy to commit robbery.
- **October 2025** – Provided investigative assistance to the VBSO Professional Standards Office and identified a contract worker who **passed a counterfeit \$20** in the VBSO staff dining room.
- **January 2026** – Provided housing history, tablet and phone activity to the VBPD 2nd Precinct CSS for an inmate who was suspected of switching or “flipping” his gang affiliations while in the VBCC.
- **March 2026** – Provided **gang information for eight individuals** to Virginia Beach Probation and Parole Gang Specialist Officers.
- **April 2026** – Provided **gang information for 12 individuals** to Virginia Beach Probation and Parole Gang Specialist Officers.

- **April 2026** – Provided information to VBPD Robbery Squad Detectives that **at least one individual from the 1900 Atlantic Avenue aggravated malicious wounding shooting** is more than likely gang-affiliated and self-admitted to being a gang member during his classification interview. CIU discovered information to corroborate this admission while conducting tablet video visit reviews, which showed that on two separate visits the individual rapped a song with references to shooting and gang terminology. Downloads of these visits were provided by the CIU to VBPD detectives assigned to the case.
- **April 2026** – Conducted a photo lineup with a female inmate on behalf of a Richmond, Virginia, detective to assist in the identification of potential suspects for an ongoing case.
- **May 2026** – Provided **gang information for eight individuals** to Virginia Beach Probation and Parole Gang Specialist Officers.
- **May 2026** – Assisted the VBSO Court Security Division with property and evidence handling and securing criminal charges after an individual brought a firearm into the Virginia Beach Courthouse.
- **May 2026** – A CIU deputy identified the suspect involved in an armed robbery at a 7-Eleven on Baker Road, resulting in the suspect's arrest on charges of robbery by using or displaying a firearm, conspiracy to commit robbery with a firearm and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.
- **June 2026** – Provided and continues to provide VBPD vice detectives with an inmate's tablet visits, phone calls and tablet text messages for an ongoing sex trafficking case against the inmate.

The CIU investigates any Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) allegations involving inmate-on-inmate assaults within the VBCC, totaling **151 cases this year**. Of those cases, **86 were unfounded, 34 were unsubstantiated and five were substantiated**. The unit **conducted nine Sexual Abuse Incident Review Boards** and **worked with 22 agencies** from outside jurisdictions when investigating PREA allegations.

K-9

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 5-year-old Belgian Malinois, and K-9 Apollo, a 5-year-old Belgian Malinois and Hampton Roads' first



The K-9 Unit at a community event

fentanyl-detecting K9. It also has **one explosive-detecting K-9**, K-9 Bokya, a nearly 3-year-old Dutch Shepherd.

This year, the K-9 Unit completed **254 operational searches** and executed **12 search warrants – on one residence, five vehicles and six parcels**. In addition, the unit completed **960 training hours** and received the following certifications and awards:



K-9 Boyka and Sgt. A. Whitehead conducting a search for recertification

- K-9 Boyka annual explosive-detection certification through the Virginia Police Work Dog Association (VPWDA) – Nov. 5, 2025
- K-9 Apollo annual courier and narcotics detection through VPWDA – Oct. 29, 2025
- K-9 Pablo annual courier and narcotics detection through VPWDA – Oct. 29, 2025
- Master Deputy II C. Repass was the recipient of the Virginia Elks State Enrique Camarena Award for her and K-9 Apollo's contribution to drug prevention

and awareness in the community – April 23, 2026

- Sgt. A. Whitehead obtained Explosive Detection Master Trainer status with the VPWDA – June 16, 2026

The VBSO K-9 Unit completed the following major operations with other agencies this year:

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force Operations
- Joint training operation with the U.S. Marshals Service Explosive Detection Teams
- Joint screening of Lakeland High School, Suffolk, Virginia, with the Suffolk Police Department K-9 Unit
- Provided narcotic screenings during the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office jail-wide search
- Operational screenings of Chartway Arena and S.B. Ballard Stadium at Old Dominion University
- Operational screenings of TowneBank Arena for Batten University's commencement
- U.S. Coast Guard and customs operational screenings at Norfolk International Terminals
- Joint narcotics interdiction operation at Norfolk International Airport

- Regional detection training with K-9 units from the Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Suffolk and Chesapeake police departments and the Chesapeake and Norfolk sheriff's offices

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, totaling **1.6 million meals** this year. From July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, the Virginia Beach Correctional Center Inmate Kitchen served on average:

- **2,556 regular meals daily**
- **635 diet meals daily**
- **932,940 regular meals annually**
- **231,775 special diets annually**

Judicial Operations

VBSO Judicial Operations – led by Chief Deputy Alvie Culanding – encompasses Court Security, Transportation and Civil Process; Fleet Management; and Emergency Management and Planning.

Court Security & Transportation

The Court Security Division of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office is statutorily responsible under Virginia Code § 53.1-120 for maintaining the security of the Virginia Beach Judicial Complex and its courtrooms. The division provides a safe and secure environment for judges, courthouse employees, citizens, attorneys, inmates and other stakeholders conducting business within the Virginia Beach Circuit, General District, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts.

During fiscal year 2025–2026, Courts continued working closely with municipal partners, court leadership, city departments and other stakeholders to ensure courthouse operations remained safe, efficient and responsive to the needs of the community. Deputies continued utilizing technology, including the Polycom Telecommunications System and iPads, to conduct virtual court hearings. These virtual hearings reduce the number of inmates who must be transported between facilities, courts and other jurisdictions, helping minimize security risks and improve operational efficiency.

The Court Security Division also continued its partnership with Virginia Beach Community Corrections and Pretrial Services to safely take clients with outstanding warrants into custody, resulting in approximately **79 arrests** during the fiscal year.

Planning also continued for the modernization and expansion of the Virginia Beach Judicial Complex. This modernization study is intended to address the long-term operational and security needs of the courthouse, including additional courtrooms, expanded lockup areas, improved movement and security features, and a significant increase in usable courthouse space. The division continues to provide operational and security input as this major initiative progresses.

House Bill 872, passed during the 2026 General Assembly session, will also change how portable electronic devices, including cellphones, are managed within Virginia courthouses beginning on July 1, 2026. In preparation for the new requirements, the Courts Division has worked with judges, court administrators, city leadership and other stakeholders to develop updated security procedures that balance public access with the need to protect court proceedings, sensitive information and overall courthouse security.

During the upcoming fiscal year, the Courts Division will continue preparing for the implementation of the new portable electronic device requirements, supporting the courthouse modernization initiative, strengthening partnerships with court and municipal stakeholders, and identifying additional opportunities to improve safety, efficiency and service throughout the Virginia Beach Judicial Complex.

Civil Process

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office Civil Process Division plays a critical role in the administration of justice by ensuring the timely and lawful service of court-issued process paperwork throughout the city of Virginia Beach. The division is responsible for serving all legal processes issued by Virginia courts, as well as out-of-state documents requiring service within the commonwealth. In addition to serving legal documents, deputies execute warrants, evictions, repossessions, levies and sheriff's sales, providing an essential link between the courts, law enforcement and the community.

This year the Civil Process Division demonstrated exceptional operational efficiency and productivity by serving more than **99,480 legal documents**, including:

- **3,438 evictions**
- **191 out-of-state service requests**
- **4,597 notices to vacate**

Supporting these operations, the division's civilian professional staff processed and submitted **140,772 legal documents**, ensuring the accuracy, timeliness and integrity of judicial proceedings. These services not only facilitate the efficient operation of the court system but also generate significant revenue that directly supports the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Virginia Beach.

Recognizing the evolving demands placed on today's law enforcement professionals, the division continues to invest in advanced training and professional development. Deputies completed specialized instruction in advanced rifle operations, tactical building clearing, and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) response, ensuring they remain prepared to respond safely and effectively to both routine and high-risk situations. This commitment to continuous improvement enhances operational readiness while reinforcing the Sheriff's Office's dedication to excellence.

The Civil Process Division extends well beyond its statutory responsibilities through strong partnerships with the Virginia Beach Police Department (VBPD) and other public safety agencies. Many Civil Process deputies maintain Virginia law enforcement certification and routinely assist with citywide public safety operations. Throughout the year, deputies responded alongside the VBPD to incidents involving unattended deaths, barricaded subjects, missing persons, ShotSpotter activations, burglaries, motor vehicle crashes, medical emergencies and be on the lookout (BOLO) investigations. This seamless interagency collaboration strengthens emergency response capabilities, enhances resource sharing and promotes a unified approach to public safety across the city of Virginia Beach.

Administration

The VBSO Administration Division – led by Chief Deputy Christina Mapes – encompasses Training, the Emergency Response Team (ERT), Human Resources, Finance and Community Engagement.

Training



Deputy recruits training at the range

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office Training Division is responsible for staff training, including initial and continuing in-service training. This division meets all state-mandated requirements set by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Training Division conducted:

- General Instructor Course
- Defensive Tactics Instructor Course
- Firearms Instructor School
- Driving Instructor Course
- Advanced Shooter Course Training
- Updated AXON courses, including body-worn cameras (BWCs) and Taser

- Introduction to Leadership Foundations
- Specialized Defensive Tactics Training
- Specialized Concealed Weapons Course
- Part-Time Scenario-Based Training
- **Two Sergeant Candidate School Courses**

Training **upgraded the VBSO Field Training Officer (FTO) class from four hours to 16 hours** and have since **completed four classes**. It had **one deputy attend and graduate from the VBPD Basic Academy**, earning law enforcement certifications. These schools and in-service trainings ensure that the VBSO continues to set a standard of performance unparalleled by any other law enforcement organization in the region.

This year, the Training Division conducted over **4,880 hours of training**, including:

- **2,104 Basic Academy hours over four academy classes graduating 56 deputy recruits**
- **1,425 in-service training hours**

In addition, in an effort to fulfill the office's staffing goals, the Training Division successfully ran **two Basic Academies at the same time**.

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 the VBSO offers to a new recruit is focused on giving the recruit the best overall training that will give him or her the tools necessary to become the best deputy possible.



VBSO Basic Academy Class 59 graduation



OC spray day for Basic Academy Class 62

Basic Academy training for newly hired deputies varies across locations and regions regarding 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. 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 must be trained extensively in federal and state 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 help 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 peace and public trust, and getting the deputy home safely at the end of the shift. Law enforcement training officers have one of the most rewarding — and most important — jobs in their respective agencies.

The Basic Academy provides realistic and up-to-date training courses to deputies. The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office 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 increase their performance in their respective positions.

Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office 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.



A deputy recruit completing the LawFit physical fitness course

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 courses taught for the first time. These included:

- Axon BWC (body-worn cameras)
- Axon Taser
- Sergeant Candidate School

The Training Division successfully:

- **Trained 382 personnel in the use of the BWCs**
- **Trained 382 personnel in Taser use**
- **Graduated 21 students from the Sergeant Candidate School**

Additionally, there were:

- **Four graduates of the Leadership in Police Organizations (LPO) program**

- **22 graduates of the Leadership Foundations Class**
- **11 graduates of the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program**, bringing the VBSO's total 40-hour CIT graduate number to 139 deputies

Emergency Response Team

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.



ERT Sage training

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 Course
- Active Shooter (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events – CRASE).

In addition, ERT members attended the Mock Prison Riot in West Virginia where they received additional training and obtained certified instructorships. The team conducted group workouts to stay in shape and maintain a LawFit gold status. The team also cross trained with the Chesapeake ERT to conduct active shooter-response training.

The ERT partnered with the VBPD mobile tactics team and were a part of a joint training session in riot control at the Creeds 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 Memorial Day holiday.

The ERT was assigned to multiple high-risk transports around the Hampton Roads area this year, as well as transports throughout the commonwealth of Virginia.

Additionally, the ERT assisted with several high-profile cases within the Virginia Beach Courthouse and provided security for several planned protests in the courthouse parking lot. It also conducted cell searches twice quarterly within the Correctional Center to assist the watch teams with keeping the jail safe and secure.

The team provided security for the VBSO Basic Academy Graduation held at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront, ensuring the safety of all the family and friends in

attendance with overwatch at 31st Street. The team also provided security for several community events, including the Sound of Beat Da Odds (BDO) inmate music program with local radio personality Brandon “Shaggy” Stokes, Sheriff Rocky Holcomb’s Easter Eggstravaganza and the third annual Sheriff Rocky Holcomb’s Turkey Bowl for Virginia Beach City Public Schools’ Beach Bags program



The VBSO Emergency Response Team cross-training in active-shooter response with the Chesapeake ERT

The ERT continued to team up with local churches and community organizations 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 in recent years. During these seminars, several team members with control tactics and self-defense backgrounds



March 2026 ERT School graduates

shared information related to situational awareness, threat recognition, communication and distance management to senior citizens with the goal of helping them avoid becoming victims of crime. This training was provided in response to the rising number of crimes being perpetrated against elderly individuals.

The ERT on several occasions provided security for congressional members who hosted events and speeches around the city and for the funeral of longtime Virginia Beach Del. Barry Knight.

Lastly, this year the team conducted an ERT School in March 2026, adding

several new members to the team. The **ERT team currently has 19 members**. The team plans to incorporate more specialized training in the upcoming fiscal year and will be conducting another ERT school in the hopes of gaining more members.

Human Resources

The Sheriff's Human Resources (HR) Department supports VBSO initiatives by managing and updating policies and procedures and maintaining employee records. The department collaborates with internal stakeholders to maintain a diverse and capable workforce and ensures compliance with all Virginia and federal labor and employment Laws. The division consists of **45 appointees**, managed by captains, lieutenants, sergeants, and department heads, including uniformed and civilian staff. The **11 team members** in Human Resources focus on recruitment, retention, onboarding, offboarding, employee relations, career development, leave administration, performance reviews, salary classifications, employee engagement and other required services.

The Human Resources team scheduled, interviewed and screened **135 applicants for deputy positions and 102 applicants for civilian positions**. In total, **58 deputies and 25 civilians received job offers** from the Sheriff's Office this year. Additionally, HR **screened 111 contractors and approved 87** to access the facility to provide inmate services. The team also **processed 172 annual renewals** for former contractors and volunteers and, to ensure all current deputies remain fit for duty, **conducted 432 fit tests** throughout the year.

This year the Sheriff's Office accepted **retirements and resignations from 50 deputies and 20 civilians**. It **promoted five uniformed staff members** to higher ranks and pay grades and **advanced 64 through career progressions**.

Recruiting deputy candidates who can pass background screenings, including physical and psychological assessments, and who can successfully complete the VBSO Basic Academy remains a persistent challenge for the Sheriff's Office. To further enhance the VBSO's recruitment initiatives, a newly designed recruitment vehicle was developed to serve as a highly visible, recognizable representation of the



Sheriff Holcomb and Chief Deputy Culand with the new VBSO recruitment van

organization. The vehicle prominently features the Sheriff's Office patch and branding alongside one of the city's most iconic landmarks – the King Neptune statue – creating an eye-catching display that promotes the VBSO and provides prospective applicants with recruitment information and application resources.



The VBSO Recruitment sergeant and LGBTQ+ Liaison with members of the Virginia Beach Police Department at Pride at the Beach 2026

In addition, the VBSO Recruitment Team attended **31 recruitment events** across the Hampton Roads area and continues to explore new strategies to ensure the VBSO remains competitive in a challenging hiring market.

The Recruitment Team remains committed to a comprehensive, transparent hiring process. Throughout the recruitment process, the recruitment sergeant, the supervisor of investigations and the rest of the Human Resources team maintain consistent communication with applicants from initial contact through the first day of

indoctrination. Candidates receive timely guidance, clear expectations and resources to help them navigate each phase of the hiring process successfully.

This commitment extends beyond the hiring decision into the Academy Preparation Program. Through this program, newly hired recruits participate in structured physical fitness sessions, led by the recruitment sergeant, **up to four times a week**. These sessions prepare recruits for the academy's physical demands and reinforce the VBSO's investment in their success before formal training begins.

Human Resources continues to partner with the community through the U.S. Department of War SkillBridge Program and participating in events hosted by local schools, colleges, universities, organizations and military branches. These partnerships help recruiters connect directly with candidates and reach targeted audiences to promote the Sheriff's Office.

Recruiting civilians presents its own set of challenges, largely due to the current salary structure. Therefore, when communicating with viable candidates, Human Resources relies heavily on the many benefits offered by the Sheriff's Office, including health benefits, life insurance, a pension, paid holidays, sick leave and a wide range of optional benefit enhancers for appointees to choose from.

The Human Resources Department proudly connects with all appointees through a widely used open-door policy, provides a full-service employment experience, serves as a hub for resources and guidance, and supports the Sheriff's mission, values and goals.

Finance



*VBSO Director of Finance
Jessica Wheeley*

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 FY26, the VBSO's **total budget was \$74.3 million, with \$44.2 million in funding coming from the City of Virginia Beach, \$25.6 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 282-287 of the [City of Virginia Beach Operating Budget](#).

Professional Standards & Accreditation

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 is responsible for VBSO policies and procedures and includes the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Department of Corrections Compliance, Accreditation, Legal Affairs, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Coordinator and Safety Officer.

Additional information about PSO is available on page 20-22.

Accreditation & Compliance

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.





VBSO Accreditation staff receiving the office's VALEAC reaccreditation certificate

The VBSO had its on-site accreditation audit/inspection in October 2025. During assessors' review of the office's **compliance with 190 standards**, they found **zero deficiencies**, resulting in the VBSO earning its **sixth re-accreditation** in December 2025.

The Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) establishes minimum standards for the construction, equipment, administration and operation of local correctional facilities. These **128 standards** govern areas including administration and management

of incarcerated individuals, inmate programs, health services, jail operations, and facility sanitation and safety.

The DOC conducts an unannounced annual inspection of the Correctional Center to assess compliance with the standards related to the life, health and safety of incarcerated individuals. In addition, a **comprehensive audit of all 128 standards is conducted every three years**.

In 2023, the VBSO centralized responsibility for DOC standards by creating a DOC Compliance Manager position. Previously, compliance documentation was maintained by individual divisions and supervisors. Now the DOC Compliance Manager is responsible for ensuring that each standard file includes the applicable DOC standard, corresponding VBSO policy, and all supporting documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with policy and practice. This centralized approach has improved consistency, organization and presentation of compliance files during DOC audits.

The most recent three-year DOC compliance assessment was conducted in October 2025. The VBSO successfully completed the audit and received unconditional certification. The office is currently in the **first year of its new three-year compliance cycle**.

To further strengthen the accreditation process, the VBSO transitioned its DOC and VALEAC compliance management to the PowerDMS Accreditation platform. The system provides a centralized repository for compliance documentation, streamlines the tracking of standards, and serves as the primary platform for all future assessments and audits.

Freedom of Information Act & Legal Affairs

The Professional Standards Office (PSO) is responsible for processing requests for information from citizens, attorneys and agencies throughout the commonwealth. These requests are received through various channels, including the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), subpoenas and other general requests for public records.

PSO processes requests for a wide range of records, including AXON body-worn camera (BWC) footage, facility surveillance video, GTL inmate communications, inmate records, medical records, and VBSO policies and procedures.

In accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, all FOIA requests must 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 is required to be disclosed under applicable law. In many cases, certain records or portions of records may be withheld in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Code, as recommended by the City Attorney's Office.

This fiscal year, **PSO answered 172 requests for information** between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026:

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

The VBSO is now in its second year utilizing AXON body-worn cameras (BWCs). While the implementation of this technology has enhanced transparency and accountability, it has also resulted in an increase in requests for the release of BWC video footage.

This year PSO **processed 20 requests for BWC video recordings**. PSO staff worked closely with the City Attorney's Office to review each request and the associated recordings to ensure all legally required redactions were completed prior to release. This process is often time-intensive, as each video must be carefully examined to protect confidential and exempt information while complying with applicable public records laws.

Requests for BWC footage involved a variety of incidents, including Civil Process deputies executing evictions, Court Security deputies responding to calls for service within the courthouse and adjacent parking areas, and incidents occurring within the Virginia Beach Correctional Center.

In addition to managing public records requests, PSO is responsible for tracking civil litigation involving VBSO personnel. This fiscal year PSO monitored **25 civil litigation**

cases involving agency staff, with **11 cases remaining active** at the close of the reporting period.

Office of 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, an Eagle Scout and Vietnam veteran with substantial experience in the executive, legislative, judicial and administrative branches of state and local government, litigation in state and federal courts, and law enforcement.

During the past fiscal 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.
- Alerted the office about a new directive from the United States Attorney General banning any and all diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies and practices by any recipient of federal funds.
- Met with the City Attorney to update the city's First Amendment policy, which applies to all city buildings. Clarification was needed for the policy for the Virginia Beach Courthouse, and changes were agreed to and adopted by the city, with the court's approval. The new policy has proved to be practical and workable.
- Helped update the VBSO's policy on what happens if a deputy is placed on the Brady List, which included obtaining information from the Loudoun County and Fairfax County sheriff's offices about how they handle this issue. Law enforcement is required to put on the Brady List any officer or deputy found to have lied or engaged in misconduct on the job.
- Assisted with several legislative matters when asked to do so by the Virginia Sheriffs' Association.
- Provided legal advice on gender-neutral and gender-specific grooming standards and transgender deputies.
- Prepared a liability waiver form for the new VBSO Trailblazers Club, which holds hiking events for staff members and their families.
- Coordinated with the VBSO's trial attorney on the defense of multiple lawsuits against members of the office and handled the response to a subpoena *duces tecum* requiring the provision of documents, records and physical evidence.
- Advised a citizen on the procedure to be followed to marry an inmate.
- Advised on the First Amendment rights of citizens to photograph and record law enforcement activities.

- Worked with the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office to prepare a “muster brief” on charging a citizen with obstruction of justice, impeding a law enforcement officer, contempt of court and trespassing.
- Provided guidance on “48-hour holds” for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Gave legal advice to Human Resources on changing federal workplace discrimination policies.
- Reviewed multiple contracts for goods and services.
- Provided advice on complying with the law governing “do not resuscitate” (DNR) medical directives.
- Provided advice on various subjects when requested by sheriff’s offices in several rural jurisdictions. Those offices do not have in-house legal counsel.
- Gave advice to the VBSO about a new law restricting the use of polystyrene containers by food vendors. Immediate compliance would be expensive, but the law allows for a one-year exemption to any food vendor upon just cause. I arranged for the VBSO to have that exemption so that it can find a fiscally prudent way to comply with the new law next year.
- Provided guidance to deputies about dealing with “sovereign citizens.”
- Assisted with obtaining needed information about an inmate’s medical condition from Portsmouth Naval Hospital, where he was receiving treatment.

Public Information



VBSO Public Information Officer Toni Guagenti

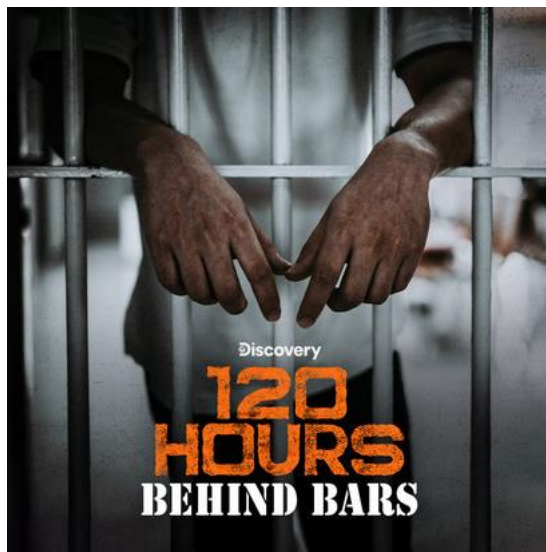
The Public Information Office (PIO) oversees all VBSO communications and is responsible for bolstering and protecting the reputation of the sheriff, the organization, and its deputies and civilians. Open and transparent communications are critical to building trust with the community and the news media. 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 a bimonthly newsletter 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. The newest season of the show is scheduled to premiere in August 2026.

Additionally, the PIOs facilitated the VBSO’s participation in a new show – “120 Hours Behind Bars” – which aired on Discovery on Feb. 16, 2026. The episode, which **spans five days at the Virginia Beach Correctional Center**, gave an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look into VBSO operations, including Corrections, the Weekender Program, suicide prevention, the K-9 Unit, Classification, the Trusty Program, and efforts to combat contraband. The VBSO was one of several jails featured on the program, with each episode focused on one facility.



Promotional art for “120 Hours Behind Bars”



A deputy sheriff donating blood at a VBSO blood drive for the American Red Cross

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 138 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 15,000 people on Facebook, 5,700 on X (formerly Twitter) and 4,600 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:

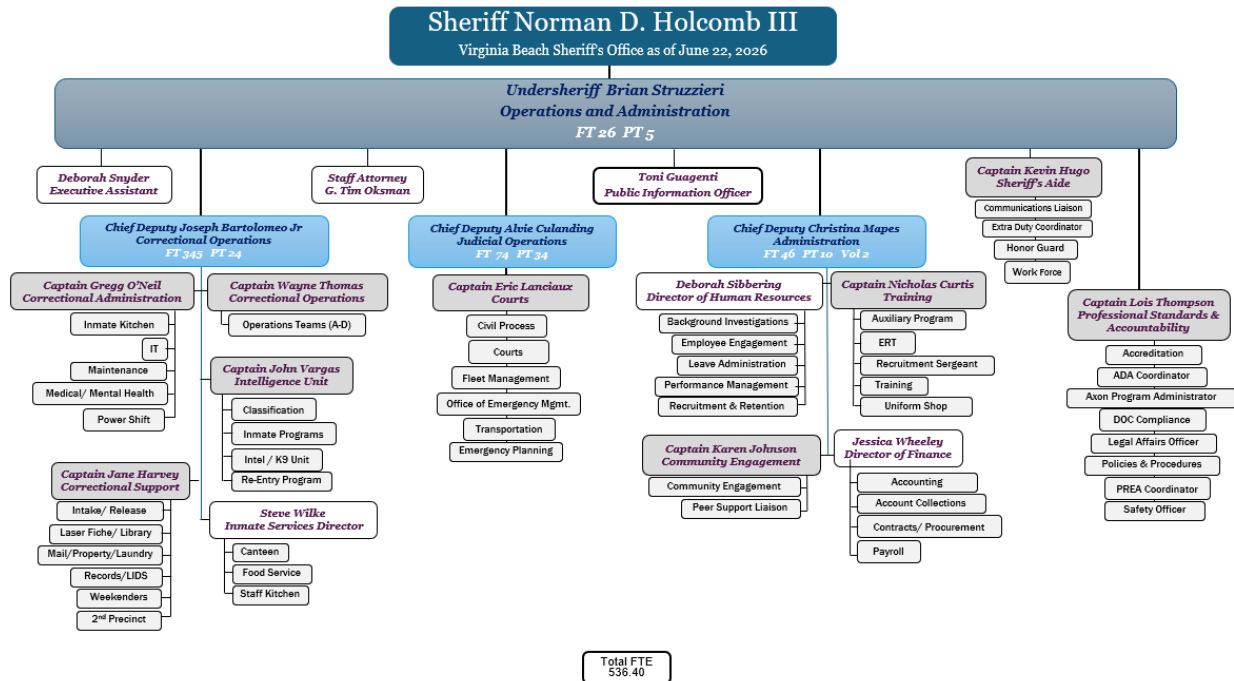
- “A second chance and a 4-hour bus ride roundtrip to work”* – about a former inmate now employed in the VBSO Staff Kitchen

- “FBI warns of scams targeting Virginia Beach residents with fake permit fee emails”
- “Virginia Beach sheriff’s deputies assist VBPD in maintaining safety at Oceanfront”*
- “Virginia Beach sheriff’s deputies hit the waves to unwind” – about the new VBSO Surf Team wellness initiative
- “Virginia Beach officials urge shoppers to stay safe amid holiday rush”
- “VB sheriff’s deputy donates vehicle to woman in need”*
- “VB sheriff’s office donates clothes to RESET Inc.”*
- “Virginia Beach Correctional Inmate Kitchen receives nearly \$500k renovation”
- “Virginia Beach Sheriff’s Office unveils new patrol units with QR codes for recruitment”
- “Virginia Beach Sheriff’s Office unveils commemorative gear for America’s 250th anniversary”
- “Virginia Beach Sheriff’s Office honored with Community Leader award”
- “3rd annual ‘Turkey Bowl’ raising money for local students this weekend on Coast Live”
- “The Class before Class on Coast Live” about the new Behind the Basic Academy program
- “Virginia Beach Sheriff’s Office to host 3rd annual Easter Eggstravaganza”

These **stories reached millions of viewers** – *including approximately **1.5 million views each** for the stories marked with an asterisk – and created a tremendous positive impact for the VBSO.

Appendices

Appendix A: Organizational Chart

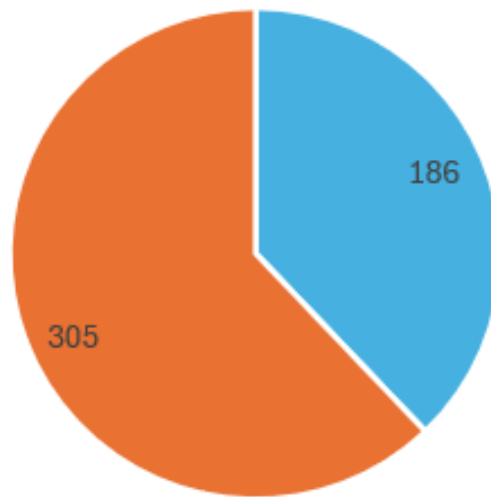


Appendix B: Agency Statistics

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.

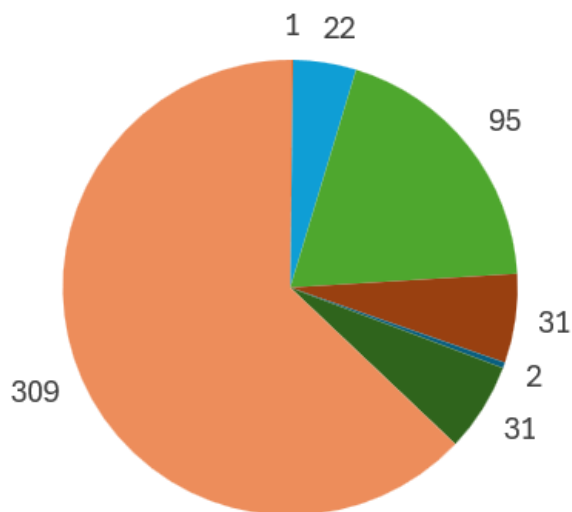
All Personnel by Gender



Preferred Gender ▼
■ Female ■ Male

All Personnel by Race

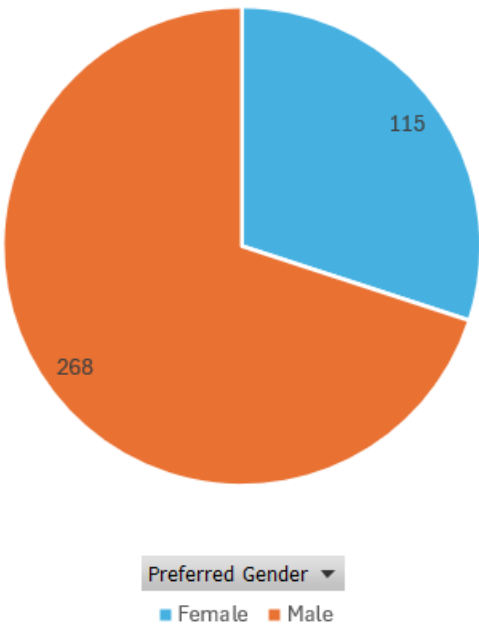
Count of Race



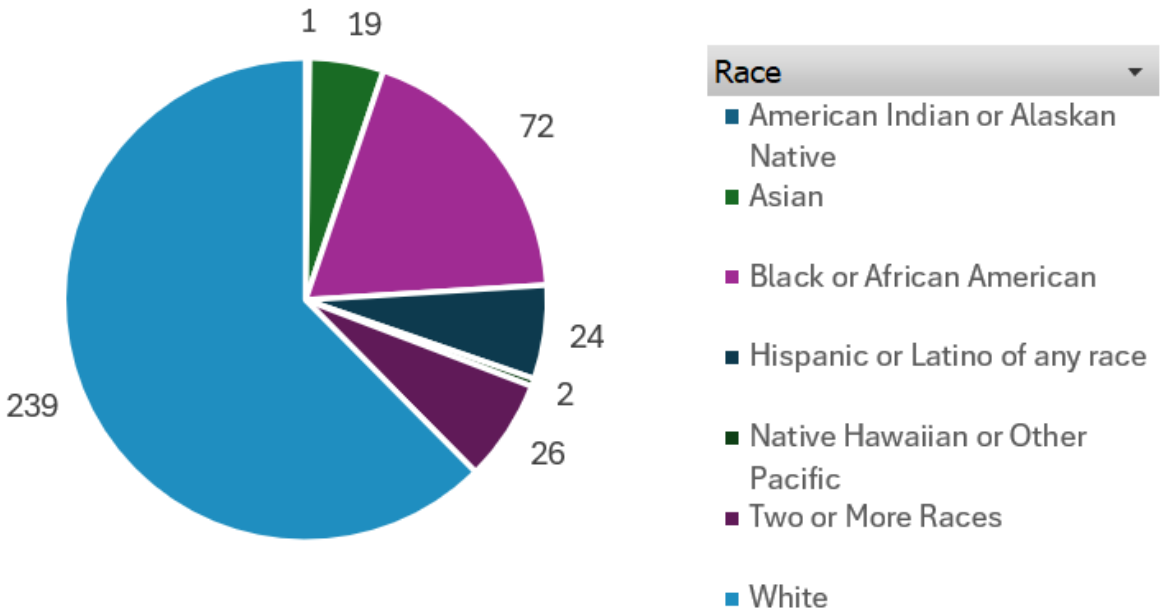
Race ▼
■ American Indian or Alaskan Native
■ Asian
■ Black or African American
■ Hispanic or Latino of any race
■ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific
■ Two or More Races
■ White

Total Personnel 491

Uniformed Personnel by Gender

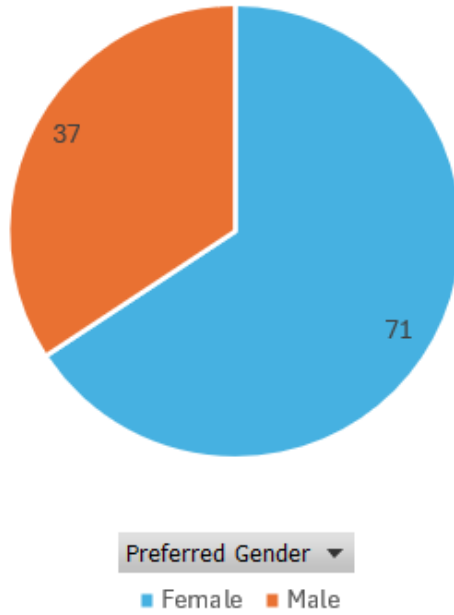


Uniformed Personnel by Race

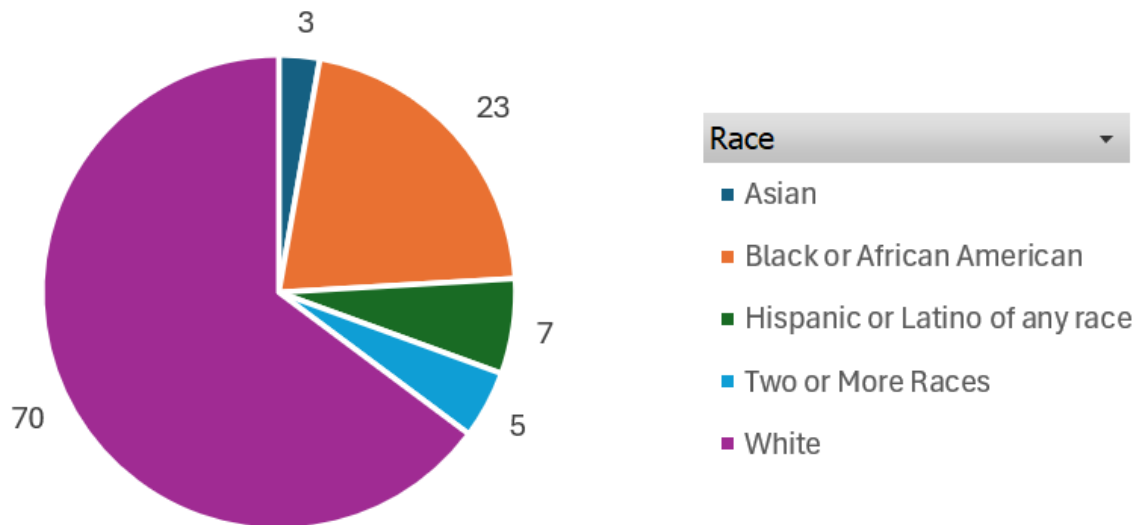


Total Uniformed Personnel 383

Civilian Personnel by Gender



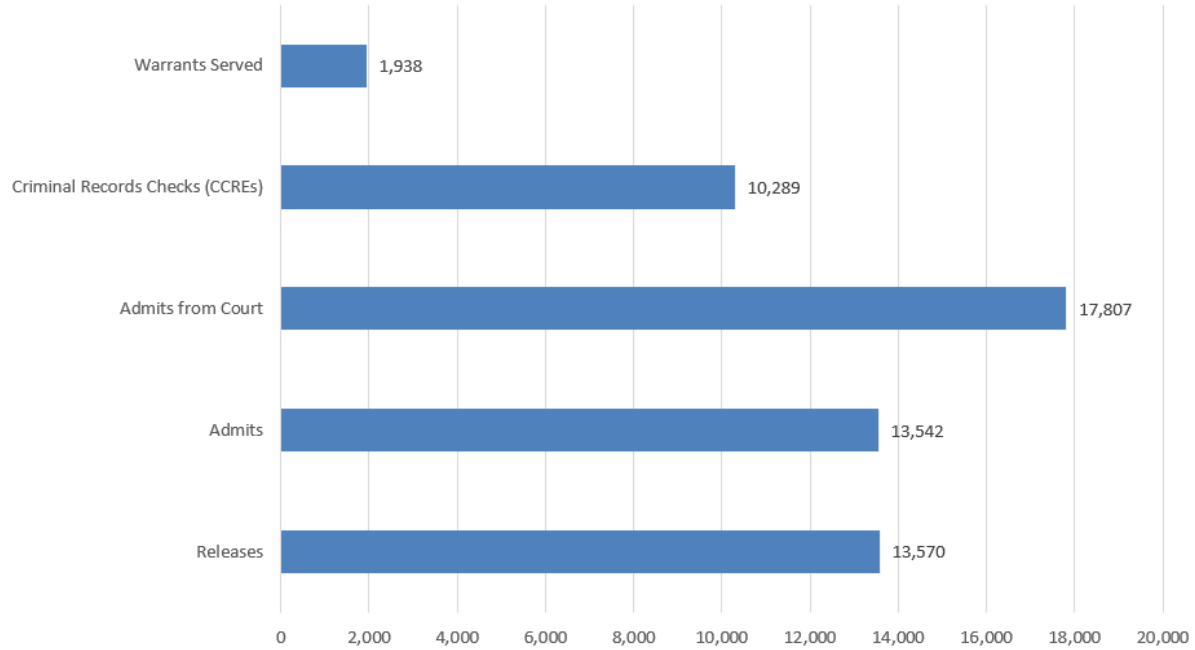
Civilian Personnel by Race



Total Civilian Personnel 108

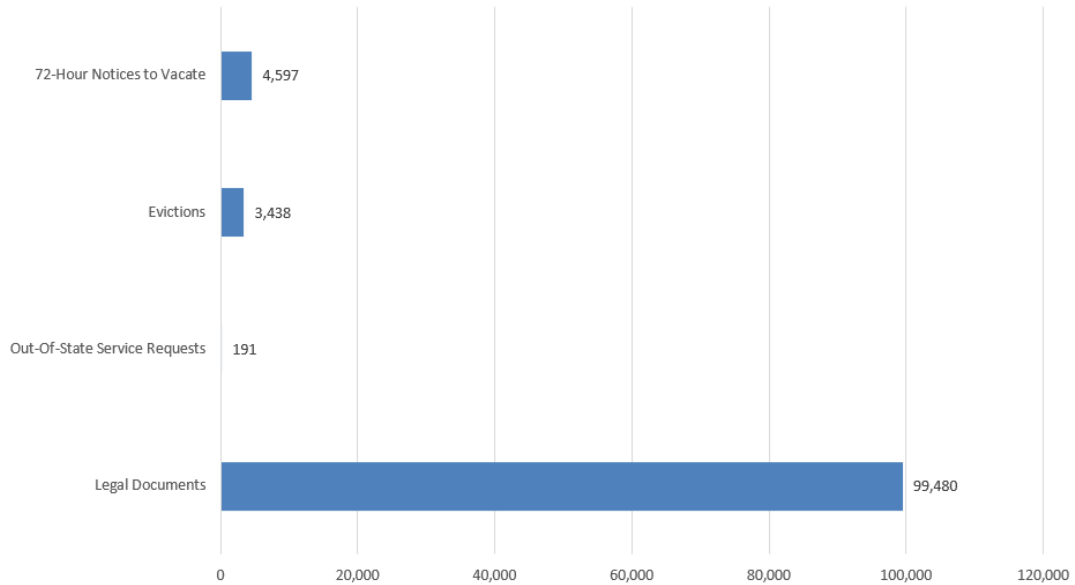
Division Statistics

Intake Division



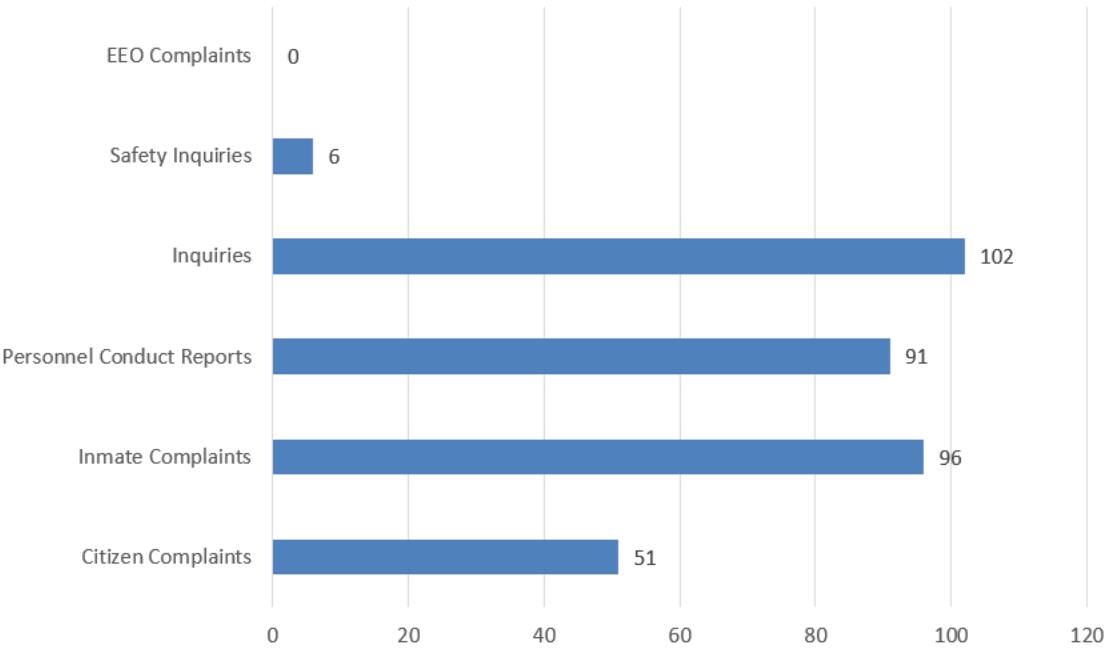
Average Daily Jail Population 1,072

Civil Process Division



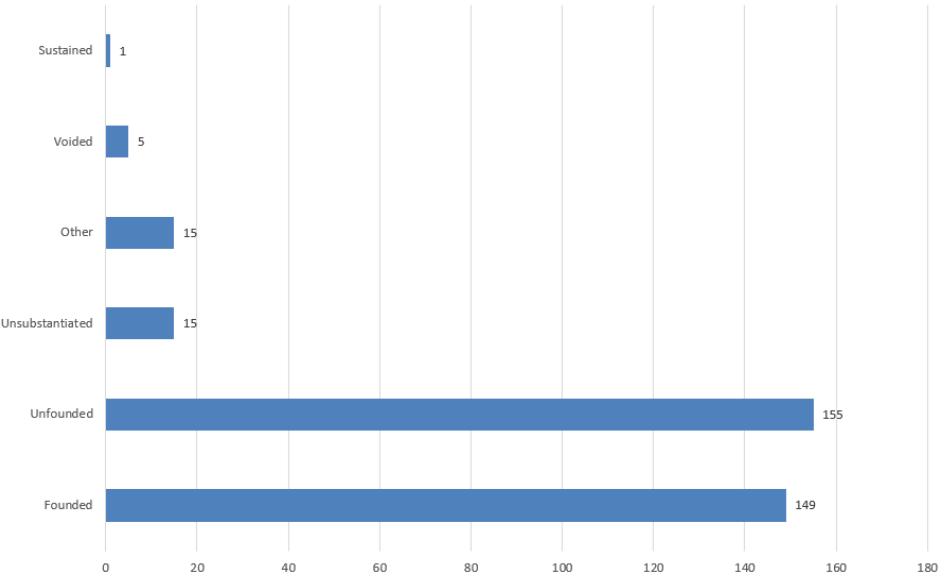
Total Civil Process Documents Served 140,772

Professional Standards Office



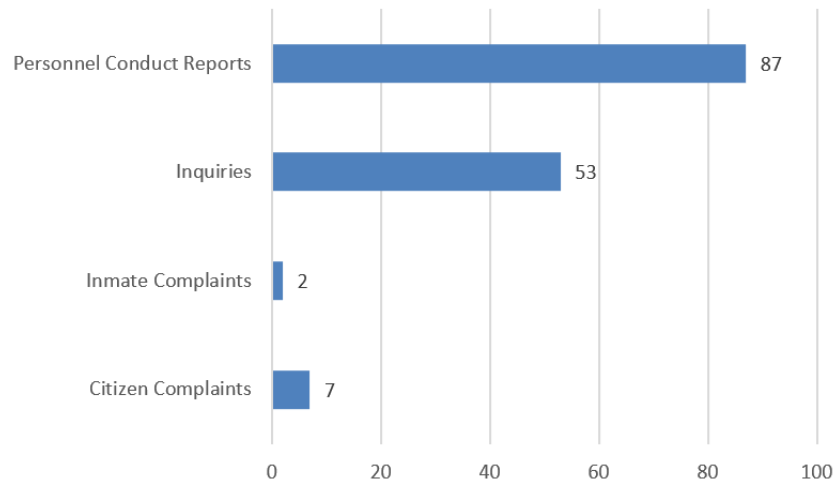
Total Cases 346

Findings

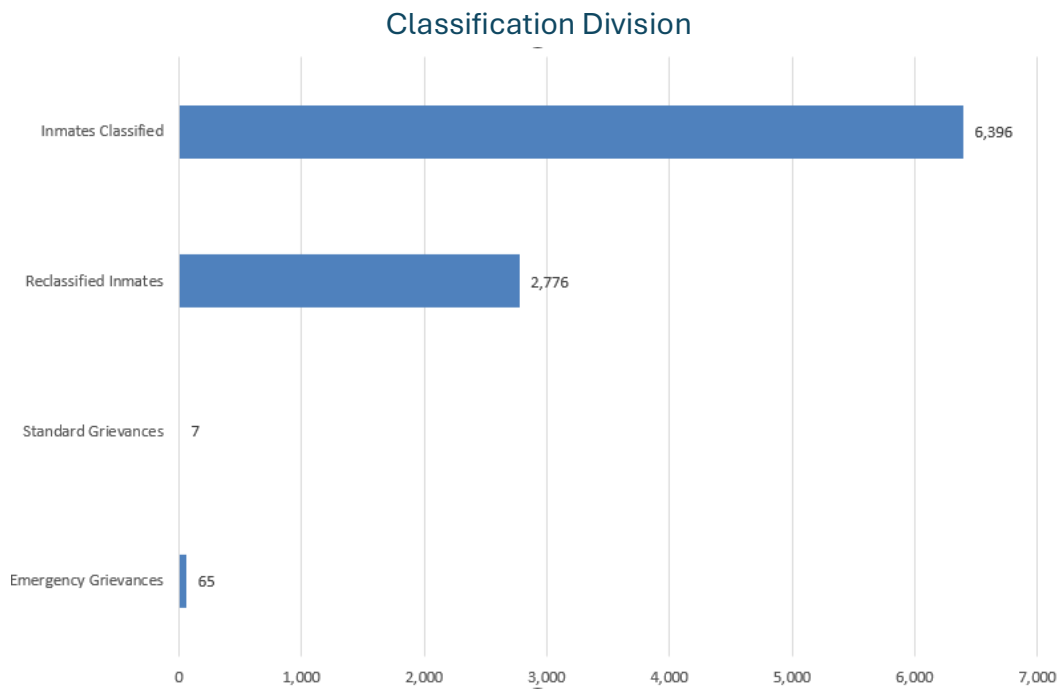


Total Findings 340

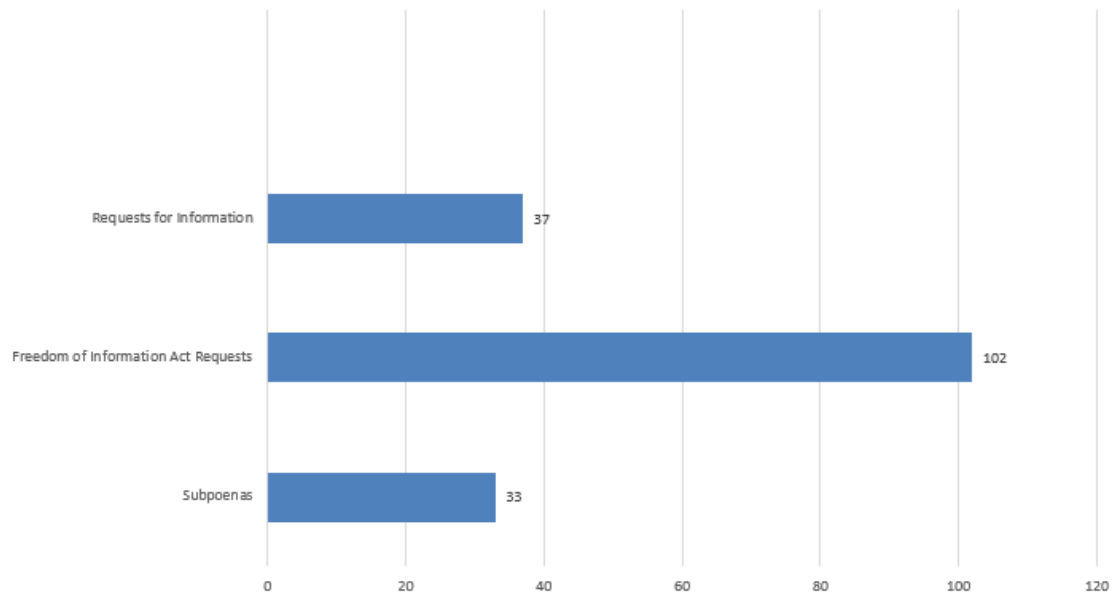
Founded Cases



Total Founded Cases: 149



Legal





Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office
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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.com/company/virginia-beach-sheriffs-office, X (formerly Twitter) at [@VBSO](https://twitter.com/VBSO), Instagram at [@vbsheriffsoffice](https://instagram.com/vbsheriffsoffice) and YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@VirginiaBeachSheriffsOffice>.

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