

# Bradenton Police Department

## 2020 Annual Report



## Our Mission

The Bradenton Police Department is dedicated to excellence in policing through professionalism, courage, and transparency.

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## Message from the Chief



Chief Melanie Bevan

2020 was an unprecedented time in policing. Many challenges were faced this year, and unfortunately many members of our extended BPD family faced great personal loss and countless sacrifices. Through it all however, BPD maintained the same high level of service our community has come to know. This steadfast example of strength and resiliency remains a constant beacon for our citizens, our families, and each other, and gives rise to hope that things can and will get better.

While many organizations provided stay at home options for their personnel, most of the essential work we do cannot be done from home. Every member of this great agency gave 100% and exhibited an extraordinary example of fearlessness and commitment because we knew we must.

And as if COVID were not enough to deal with, we were faced with the Minneapolis incident that sparked national outrage directed toward all of us who wear a badge, despite the fact that locally we enjoy great support from our citizens and elected officials. Let there be no mistake that this support of BPD was not earned overnight. It has been fostered through years of professional service, transparency, outreach, and commitment to our community, thus creating a reputation of excellence that simply cannot be challenged.

Further exemplifying our community commitment is our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Honoring the Badge event supported by numerous sponsors who provided Christmas presents to over 100 children in Bradenton. Even with COVID restrictions, we had more volunteers than ever participate, and to witness the personal connections between our folks and these children while shopping was heartwarming.

Our “Fill the Truck” toy drive resulted in community members filling our utility vehicles with over 4,000 toys along with gifts piling in from the Amazon Gift List link. These toys (as well as clothes and cash collected) directly benefited three very deserving organizations within our community

which provide direct services to our most vulnerable children. Together, BPD personnel rose above unprecedented circumstances and remained committed to touching the lives of hundreds of children and families throughout the City whereby representing the best side of law enforcement while showing the compassion of BPD.

I believe we are all thankful that the turbulent and contentious 2020 year has come to an end and that new beginnings await us in 2021. Looking forward to 2021. I wish for all of Bradenton to be blessed with good health and happiness, and hope you will join me in looking forward with optimism.

## Message from the Mayor



Mayor Gene Brown

As the newly elected Mayor of Bradenton, I am fortunate to inherit an excellent working relationship with the Police Department, and I am proud to congratulate the officers and staff of the Bradenton Police Department for their success in reducing Part I UCR crime by 11.2% in 2020. This year marks two years in a row that these most serious crimes have declined within the City.

This has been a challenging year to say the least, and several events generally coordinated by the Department were either canceled, postponed, or converted to virtual events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Before COVID-19 really hit us hard however, the one event we still had was the Sixth Annual Bradenton Area River Regatta in February. The event brought tens of thousands of visitors to the Bradenton Riverwalk and downtown Palmetto to enjoy a day of boat racing and family entertainment soaked in beautiful Bradenton sunshine. Spring Training for the Pittsburgh Pirates was cut short in March, and the Florida Heritage Festival Parade and numerous summertime community events were canceled. The Bradenton Blues Festival was still held as scheduled, but in a new venue – LECOM Park – allowing for social distancing for patrons. All of these events provide an opportunity for our City and Police Department to shine in "The Friendly City," even in dark times.

The Department had a great partner to help build the strong community foundation mentioned above over the last 21 years – Mayor Wayne Poston. I want to wish Mayor Poston all the best in his retirement and thank him for his leadership and commitment to our City. His steadfast dedication toward the Bradenton Police Department's overall growth will provide a blueprint for me to follow. As we settle into 2021, I look forward to sharing with you all the possibilities, opportunities, and progress this year has to offer.

## 2020 City Council



Councilwoman Marianne Barnebey



Councilman Patrick Roff



Councilman Harold Byrd



Councilman Bill Sanders



Councilman Gene Gallo



Mayor Wayne Poston retired this year after serving more than 20 years for the City of Bradenton. Thank you for all your support, Mayor Poston!



Congratulations to newly elected Councilmembers Jayne Kocher (Ward 1) and Pamela Coachman (Ward 5), who were sworn in January 2021.

## Police Department Overview

### Staffing Demographics

| Authorized Staffing      |            |            |            |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                          | 2018       | 2019       | 2020       |
| Full-Time Sworn Officers | 120        | 120        | 123        |
| Part-Time Sworn Officers | 2          | 2          | 2          |
| Full-Time Civilians      | 31         | 35         | 37         |
| Part-Time Civilians      | 14         | 16         | 15         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>167</b> | <b>173</b> | <b>177</b> |

| Actual Staffing – December 2020 |                      |        |       |                         |        |       |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------|--------|-------|
|                                 | Sworn Officers (122) |        |       | Civilian Personnel (52) |        |       |
|                                 | Male                 | Female | Total | Male                    | Female | Total |
| Caucasian                       | 86                   | 13     | 99    | 18                      | 22     | 40    |
| Hispanic                        | 9                    | 4      | 13    | 0                       | 1      | 1     |
| African-American                | 6                    | 1      | 7     | 4                       | 4      | 8     |
| Asian                           | 2                    | 0      | 2     | 1                       | 1      | 2     |
| American Indian                 | 0                    | 1      | 1     | 0                       | 0      | 0     |
| Two or More Races               | 0                    | 0      | 0     | 0                       | 1      | 1     |

| Sworn Personnel Years of Service |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 0-5 Years                        | 44 |
| 6-10 Years                       | 22 |
| 11-15 Years                      | 20 |
| 16-20 Years                      | 22 |
| 21-25 Years                      | 10 |
| 25+ Years                        | 4  |



## Office of Professional Standards

### Internal Affairs

The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for safeguarding the integrity of the City of Bradenton and the Bradenton Police Department while closely monitoring the conduct of its officers and civilian staff. This section processed 42 complaints in 2020, which involved 45 officers and 4 civilians. Some complaints include several allegations. Below is a summary of the investigations:

While 37 complaint investigations have been completed and closed, 5 investigations initiated in 2020 remain active. Total number of allegations for these investigations is pending.

When misconduct of an employee is alleged, the complaint is investigated as one of three administrative investigation types.

**Internal Affairs Investigation:** A formal allegation of misconduct of a serious nature committed by an employee which requires an in-depth investigation.

**Divisional Investigation:** A formal allegation of misconduct of a more minor nature committed by an employee which requires a supervisory investigation.

**Inquiry:** Some complaints will be classified as an inquiry when it is shown there is no violation, or the complaint has been determined to be a procedural question from a citizen about the actions or inactions of an employee.

At the conclusion of each investigation, one of the following findings was determined for each allegation filed against Department employees:

**Exonerated:** The investigation revealed the acts which provided the basis for the complaint or allegations were justified, lawful, and proper.

**Not Involved:** Upon investigation, the employee was found to not be directly involved in the acts alleged.

**Not Sustained:** The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations made in the complaint.

**Sustained:** The allegations disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegation made in the complaint.

**Unfounded:** The investigation conclusively proved that the allegations made in the complaint did not occur.

| Complaint and Investigation Findings on Misconduct Allegations Against Department Personnel |                       |                     |             |              |               |           |           |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|   | Closed Investigations | Open Investigations | Allegations |              |               |           |           |
|   |                       |                     | Exonerated  | Not Involved | Not Sustained | Sustained | Unfounded |
| Internal Affairs Investigation  | 5                     | 5                   | 0           | 0            | 0             | 5         | 0         |
| Divisional Investigation  | 22                    | 0                   | 1           | 0            | 2             | 15        | 4         |
| Inquiry   | 10                    | 0                   | 0           | 0            | 0             | 0         | 10        |
| Totals  | 37                    | 5                   | 1           | 0            | 2             | 20        | 14        |

Of the 42 total investigations, 13 were complaints from citizens, and 29 were initiated by the Chief of Police.

### Use of Force

The City of Bradenton Police Department mandates that when force is used in the line of duty the Officer is required to document their actions on a Use of Force Form. Use of Force should not be viewed as synonymous with excessive force. Force is an occasional and unfortunate outcome of the work that we ask the Officers of the Bradenton Police Department to perform on a daily basis. The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for collecting the data and conducting an annual analysis.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2020, the Bradenton Police Department was involved in 35,761 total calls for service. The data for 2020 indicates that the Bradenton Police Department had to apply force in less than .05 percent of all service calls.

In 2020, 167 Use of Force Forms were completed. Of the 167 completed Use of Force Reports, 89 suspects were involved. 74 suspects were arrested and 15 suspects were not arrested.

| Use of Force Subject Demographics |        |                  |        |       |        |         |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| Caucasian/Hispanic                |        | African-American |        | Asian |        | Unknown |        |
| Male                              | Female | Male             | Female | Male  | Female | Male    | Female |
| 37                                | 12     | 32               | 6      | 1     | 0      | 1       | 0      |

| Types of Force Used by Officers |     |                             |    |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|----|
| Canine                          | 0   | Less Lethal Force           | 3  |
| Baton                           | 1   | Threat of Less Lethal Force | 3  |
| Handcuffs while Struggling      | 116 | Lethal Force                | 0  |
| Hands/Feet/Fists                | 118 | Threat of Lethal Force      | 20 |
| Leg Restraints                  | 17  | Taser Displayed             | 3  |
| OC Spray                        | 2   | Taser Deployed – Contact    | 7  |
| Spit Mask                       | 6   | Taser Deployed – No Contact | 3  |

## Uniform Crime Report

|                      | 2019 | 2020 | Percent Change |
|----------------------|------|------|----------------|
| Homicide             | 7    | 4    | -42.9%         |
| Rape                 | 26   | 30   | +20.0%         |
| Robbery              | 57   | 46   | -19.3%         |
| Aggravated Assault   | 275  | 231  | -16.0%         |
| Burglary             | 206  | 108  | -47.1%         |
| Larceny              | 1189 | 1115 | -6.4%          |
| Motor Vehicle Theft  | 79   | 99   | +26.9%         |
| Total Part I Crimes  | 1839 | 1633 | -11.2%         |
| Total Part II Crimes | 2507 | 2033 | -18.9%         |
| Total Offenses       | 4357 | 3666 | -15.9%         |

## Legal Unit

The Legal Unit provides counsel to the Chief and the Department and ensures that the Department stays apprised of current legal issues, statutory changes, and case law of significance to law enforcement. Forfeiture is a crucial component of the Legal Unit, which decreases crime by depriving a criminal of property used to commit an offense or acquired through illegal activity. In 2020, the Bradenton Police Department seized \$10,592.46 in State Asset Forfeiture and \$177,708.04 in Federal Equitable Forfeiture.

As part of our commitment to community policing and engagement, the agency must donate at least 25% of State Forfeiture funds to community organizations and programs each year. After allocating necessary funds for proceeding-related court costs, we were able to donate \$24,425 in 2020 to programs benefitting the citizens of Bradenton. Some of the funds were awarded to the following recipients of our State Forfeiture Grant Program:

- Boys and Girls Club of Manatee County - \$600
- Drug Free Manatee for Drug Free Youth - \$1,500
- Replay Outreach - \$2,000
- Humane Society of Manatee County for Victims of Animal Cruelty - \$2,500
- Bradenton Police Explorer Post #1004 for the Law Enforcement Career Program - \$2,500
- Manatee County Girls Club “Just for Girls” - \$2,500
- New Manatee Broncos - \$2,500
- Pace Center for Girls - \$2,500

## Accreditation Unit

Accreditation is an extensive process developed to inspect law enforcement agencies to determine if they are using “best practices” in policing, policies, and procedures. As professionalism is the forefront of all operations, the Accreditation Unit is responsible for maintaining files that prove the department’s compliance with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. As an accredited agency, we are committed to law enforcement excellence by complying with standards deemed essential to the protection of life, health, safety, and the rights of citizens. We strive to maintain an excellent level of service. Although accreditation is voluntary, it is an ongoing process to ensure our citizens that we are providing quality service which meet standards

recognized by the commission. The Bradenton Police Department has achieved its most recent accredited status in October 2018 and is working towards compiling the needed documentation for our current Accreditation Cycle, ending July 2021.

## Training



Physical fitness is paramount for our personnel

BPD has continued to remain vigilant of CDC guidelines and the constant COVID-19 battle. In doing so, we have continued efforts to maintain training for personnel and have committed over 6,700 hours of advanced training while maintain certifications required by FDLE. Moving forward in training, unconventional techniques have been adopted and quickly become a norm such as: Zoom Video, conference calls, e-learning, and smaller in-person classes for officers where social distancing is a mandate for safety. Some areas highlighted this year were: Crisis Intervention, Officer Safety, Use of Force De-escalation Techniques, and Personal Protective (Safety) Equipment.

### **Pre-Pandemic:**

- HNT Training
- Stop Stick
- Annual Department Range Qualifications
- Unusual Occurrence & Bloodborne Pathogens
- Below 100
- Legal Updates

### **During Pandemic: Internal:**

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), CPR, N-95 mask training
- Use of Force Updates and De-Escalation
- Bodycam and Phazzer training
- New Employee Training (over 80 hours each)
- FDLE Mandates

- Radio Training

**During Pandemic: Outside Training with Safety Restrictions in Place:**

- Defensive Tactics (Instructors)
- Traffic Homicide Investigator
- Internal Affairs
- CPR Instructor
- Speed/Radar Measurement
- K9 Training and Certification
- Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)
- Court Prep and Major Case Investigation
- Field Force Ops
- Commanders Crime Stats

Explorers



Explorers practice interview techniques

The Bradenton Police Explorer Program is comprised of 14 young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21. This program mentors young adults and provides them with insight into a career in law enforcement. The Explorer Post is dedicated to providing community service and has participated in a variety of events, including details at Hunsader Farms, Fill the Truck Toy Drive, Honoring the Badge, CrimeStoppers Halloween Event, Boat Regatta, and Hurricane Expo. It is our goal to further the relationship between young adults in areas of grooming, integrity, discipline, perseverance, and character, while helping to develop a career in law enforcement. Explorers meet once a week for classroom instruction and hands on training.



Explorers are taught fingerprinting techniques by Officer Pilant

## Operations Division



Assistant Chief Paul McWade

The Operations Division is made up of Patrol and Patrol Support (Criminal Investigations), and they are committed to providing the citizens of Bradenton with professional and courteous service. While each has unique roles and responsibilities, they collaborate as one team to make our City a safe place in which to live, work, and visit. Patrol, the largest Unit within the Police Department, is most often associated with marked police vehicles and officers driving throughout the City. This group also has officers riding bicycles, ATVs, golf carts, and conducting patrols on foot. They respond to and solve a diverse set of law enforcement-related issues and concerns. They also continue to work closely with our community by attending Neighborhood Association Meetings, Community Squad Meetings, and special events, which afford them the opportunity to discuss real-life issues with our residents and business owners. During 2020, these communication meetings continued, albeit in some circumstances through emails, phone and video conferencing due to COVID-19 safety precautions.

Crime statistics decreased significantly again this year City-wide. Mitigating factors for this reduction in crime can be attributed to a variety of factors. Patrol Support, which includes the Criminal Investigations Section, Narcotics Unit, and the Special Investigations Unit, pride themselves on seeing this decrease continue. They use advanced technology in their investigations such as phone data mining, DNA and Fingerprint identification, private and public video cameras, and searching through the ever-changing social media platforms. They also rely on both internal and external partners, which range from their counterparts in Patrol, the State Attorney's Office, both state and federal law enforcement agencies, and our community. Each are invaluable in contributing to our crime fighting efforts.

## Operations Division – Patrol



Officers Craddock, Smolinsky, and Garcia at the Back the Blue Rally

This year brought significant change to the Patrol Division. The COVID-19 pandemic changed how our agency responded to citizen calls for service and highlighted the importance of our employees' wellbeing. In March, we established protocols to limit our officers' exposure by utilizing Alternate Police Report Writing. Instead of physically responding to the scene for a minor criminal complaint not requiring evidence processing, the officer would telephone the complainant and handle the call over the phone. This has worked well throughout the pandemic and has limited exposure while still providing service.

Additionally, the Department was recently awarded funds to hire three new officers to enhance our community policing, crime prevention, and partnerships, granted under the COPS Hiring Grant through the Department of Justice. This grant's goals include reducing violent crimes, domestic violence, opioid overdoses/deaths, and confronting human trafficking. Through professionalism, courage, and transparency, our agency will strive to reduce the number of crimes, victims, and repeat offenders within the City of Bradenton. To ensure long-lasting results, agency members will also partner with local organizations to connect needs within the community to providers that can help residents in their time of need while empowering the community to solve lasting problems.



## Support Services Section – DTU, CRA, HOT



DTU Officer Kalchbrenner trains a new recruit

The Bradenton Police Department Downtown Unit consists of two officers and a Sergeant who conduct foot, bicycle, and ATV patrols of the downtown area. The Unit works in conjunction with the City's Downtown Development Authority, as well as the Old Main Street Merchants Association, Bradenton Riverwalkers, and Realize Bradenton. Along with the day to day operations of patrolling, the Unit also provides assistance to the homeless citizens of Bradenton through our Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). This last year, with funding assistance from the US Housing and Urban Development, HOT successfully provided assistance to 58 people, including 10 families, through housing and transportation assistance. This vital program has proven successful again and again.

### Crime Prevention Officer

The Crime Prevention Officer is assigned to the Downtown Unit and is responsible for developing and implementing various crime prevention, safety, and community outreach programs within the City of Bradenton. The Officer works closely with businesses, community organizations, and neighborhood groups to provide crime prevention training and safety education, as well as coordinates Neighborhood Watch Programs, the Homeless Outreach Program, and the Business Trespass Program. The Crime Prevention Officer provides training to businesses and individuals in Active Shooter Response, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and more. The Crime Prevention Officer endeavors to partner with our community to prevent crime and provide a safer, better future for Bradenton.

## Traffic Unit



Officer Hutchko is ready to patrol the streets of our city

The Bradenton Police Department has three officers and a Sergeant assigned to the Traffic Unit. The goals of the Traffic Unit are to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of Bradenton by reducing injuries, deaths, and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes and to enhance citizen education, understanding and satisfaction of police traffic services. The Traffic Unit primarily focuses on enforcement, analysis, crash reduction and reconstruction as well as public education and public relations.

In 2020, the Bradenton Police Department was awarded four grants to positively impact traffic issues involving crash-related injuries and fatalities. These grants were made possible by funding from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and range from Impaired Driving (\$20,000), High Visibility Enforcement Pedestrian & Bicycle (\$25,000), Speed & Aggressive Driving (\$30,000) and a Drug Recognition Evaluation Classification Program grant (\$1,500). BPD has also partnered with MADD and the Manatee County School District to provide impairment outreach education and resources to middle and high school students.

| 2020 Traffic Statistics |                  |                 |              |      |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|------|
| Citations               | Written Warnings | Crash Responses | Hit and Runs | DUIs |
| 3,457                   | 4,012            | 1,445           | 409          | 32   |

## School Resource Officers



SRO Gow loves talking to the teens at Manatee High School

The Bradenton Police Department School Resource Officer Unit is comprised of five officers serving three public schools in the City of Bradenton, Manatee Elementary School, Sugg Middle School and Manatee High School. Combined, the SRO Unit oversees more than three thousand students.

School Resource Officers do more than just patrol the school campus to which they are assigned. They instruct and create awareness for law-enforcement education related to school safety, monitor school visitors, provide assistance with disruptive students, enforce school rules, and supervise the entire school campus. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the School Resource Officers were instrumental in assisting the schools with the distribution of technology equipment and transitioning the students to virtual learning. School Resource Officers are also called upon to educate parents and faculty on personal safety, traffic safety, and law. They are the first contact with law enforcement for many children. The Bradenton Police Department's SRO Unit prides itself on making that first contact a positive and lasting one.



Officer Ackerman pins a badge on a newly appointed safety officer



BPD staff along with our newest safety patrol officers at Miller Elementary

One of the highlights of the year is our chance to partner with AAA and our local schools to acknowledge young student leaders as Safety Patrol Officers. As school-age leaders in traffic safety, they teach other students about safety on a peer-to-peer basis. They also serve as models for the younger children who look up to them. This year's presentation of badges included 59 fifth graders from Miller Elementary and Moody Elementary.

#### K-9 Unit



Officer Smolarz and K9 Drax practice with a bite sleeve

The Bradenton Police Department Canine (K-9) Unit is staffed by five Certified K-9 Teams. Officer K.B. Magown II is partnered with K-9 Maverick, a Black Lab. K-9 Maverick is a single-purpose K-9 whose specialty is Explosive Ordinance Detection. Officer Matthew Palmer is Partnered with K-9 Murtaugh, a German Shepard. Officer Brandon Smolarz is Partnered with K-9 Drax, a Belgian Malinois. K-9 Murtaugh and K-9 Drax are both multi-purpose K-9s whose jobs

include Apprehension, Narcotics Detection, and Tracking. Detective Lixa Moyett is partnered with K-9 Liberty, a Bloodhound. K-9 Liberty is a single-purpose K-9 whose specialty is Search and Rescue.

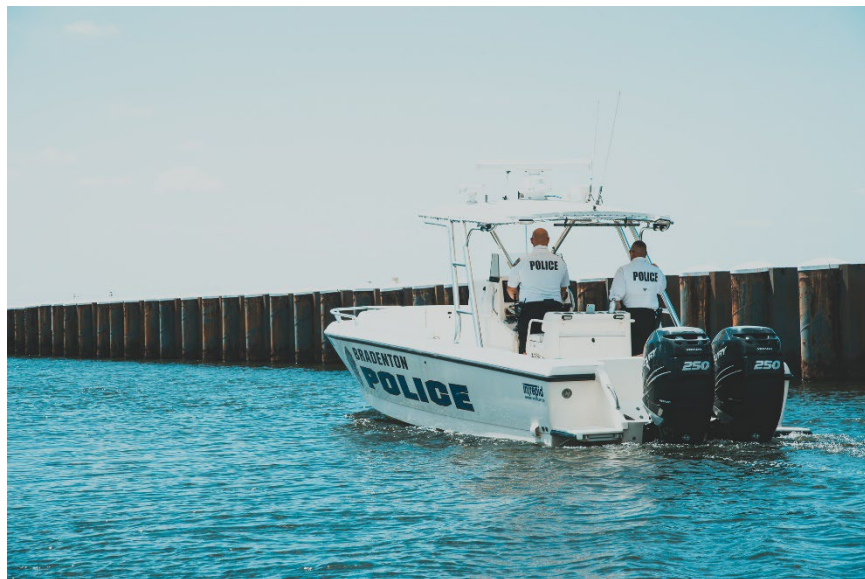
As an invaluable asset to the Patrol Division, the Canine (K-9) Unit was deployed 85 times in 2020. In those deployments, the K-9 Unit conducted K-9 Tracks, Vehicle Detection for Narcotics, Building/Area/Article Searches, EOD Sweeps, and assists to other agencies.

### Special Event Response Team (SERT)

The Special Event Response Team (SERT) is a Unit that comes together when needed and is comprised of 20 officers who are trained in mass arrest situations, special event disruption, and other unusual events, such as natural disasters. SERT members train on a bi-monthly basis and conduct annual inter-agency training with regional teams.

SERT is also responsible for two Department of Defense “Hummers” acquired by the Bradenton Police Department under the 10-33 program. While we hopefully never need these vehicles for a high water rescue, we have utilized them as a community outreach tool that many citizens have enjoyed seeing at events throughout the year.

### Marine Unit



Life is good for the Marine Unit, patrolling Manatee River on a beautiful day

The Bradenton Police Department Marine Unit currently has six officers and one Lieutenant assigned to it as part-time positions. The Unit is responsible for policing the waterways within the City of Bradenton and providing aid to local, state, and federal agencies with enforcement issues in addition to search and rescue efforts. In 2020, the Unit conducted 47 traffic stops on vessels, engaged in 12 waterway assist calls and removed four vessels due to city ordinance violations. The Marine Unit also participated in several large area events throughout the year.

The City of Bradenton is bordered by approximately 14 miles of waterways, which are comprised of the Manatee River, Tampa Bay, Intercostal Waterway, and the Palma Sola Causeway.

## Operations Division – Patrol Support

Patrol Support is commanded by Captain William Knight and consists of the Criminal Investigations Section, the Special Investigations Unit, and the Narcotics Unit. This year, Patrol Support continued to combat the ongoing opioid crisis that has plagued our community for several years. As such, the agency has spear headed the attack against this issue by becoming the lead agency for the Bradenton-Sarasota area HIDTA Program. HIDTA is a Drug Prohibition Enforcement Program, overseen by the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy. Joining this program allows multiple agencies to work together and provides greater resources to battle the issue.

Patrol Support detectives have worked diligently to assure victims have had resolution to the crimes committed against them or their property in 2020. By doing so they were able to lower violent crime by 11.2% and non-violent crime by 18.9% compared to 2019.

### Criminal Investigations Section

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) currently has twelve full-time Detectives who investigate persons, property, fraud (financial and or identity), missing persons and crimes against children. CIS Detectives are also assigned to the Manatee County Homicide Investigations Taskforce and the FBI Taskforce. During this year, the Section investigated five homicides, one of which was determined justified and not considered for UCR stats. CIS Detectives also closed 60% of simple assaults and 50% of all violent crimes within the City.

A Civilian Analyst is also staffed in the Criminal Investigations Section whose responsibilities are to recognize and map crime patterns and trends in local and regional criminal activity. The analyst also creates and distributes intelligence information from internal and external sources which assists in the monitoring and prevention of criminal activity.

### Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) of the Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for conducting both narcotics and felony criminal investigations. Members are trained in narcotics investigation and surveillance tactics and conduct both active and undercover investigations to attempt to identify, arrest, and charge persons involved in illegal drug manufacture or trafficking. Many of the investigations they conduct result in the arrest of persons responsible for the trafficking of illegal drugs. Throughout the year SIU has apprehended multiple violent offenders from robberies, shootings, burglaries, and drug sales.

### Narcotics Unit

The Bradenton Police Department Narcotics Unit's primary goal is to enforce the illegal act of prostitution and the use/sale of illegal narcotics. Out of the seven members on the Narcotics Unit, one Detective is assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force and five Detectives are Task Force Officers with Homeland Security (HSI). The Bradenton Police Department has recently joined the HIDTA Program with the Sarasota/Tampa Division. The Narcotics Unit will continue to investigate long and short term investigations, citizen complaints, Crime Stopper tips, and over dose deaths from the opium/fentanyl crisis. The Narcotics Unit consistently partners with several outside agencies which includes FBI, Coast Guard, ATF, JTTF, FDLE, IRS, Customs and Border Protection, as well as local law enforcement agencies.

|      | Cocaine | Heroin | Meth    | Pills | Marijuana | Firearms | Vehicles |
|------|---------|--------|---------|-------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 2018 | 825g    | 420 g  | 5,015g  | 919g  | 6,184g    | 22       | 25       |
| 2019 | 1,308g  | 372g   | 72,495g | 84g   | 2,883g    | 77       | 25       |
| 2020 | 2,860g  | 156g   | 14,651g | 37g   | 1,308g    | 13       | 2        |

## Honor Guard



### BPD's Honor Guard stands at the ready

The Bradenton Police Department Honor Guard has been active for over 34 years. Unit personnel participate at functions such as parades, ceremonies, and charitable causes. Originally established to provide honors for officers killed in the line of duty, it is now recognized as the Department's official ceremonial Unit. Multifaceted, the group performs duties such as traditional color guard functions, as well as coordinating and participating in the intricate details inherent to line of duty deaths for fallen law enforcement officers. Last year, they represented the agency at the virtual Manatee County Fallen Officer Memorial, law enforcement funerals, flag retirements, and presenting the nation's colors at public events, among other activities.

## Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team and Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT)



SWAT Team members practice endurance training to keep physically fit

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is a highly trained Unit equipped to deal with high risk situations, such as hostage rescue, fugitive apprehension and “active shooters.” The Bradenton SWAT Team members serve on a part-time basis. During the last year, the SWAT Team was requested for several calls for service and served nine high priority search warrants.

The operators of the Hostage Negotiation Team are trained negotiators who de-escalate potential life-threatening situations by using verbal crisis management techniques. The Team works with the Department’s SWAT Team by responding to crisis incidents involving individuals who are emotionally distraught, suicidal, armed/barricaded, or in a potential hostage situation. The primary goal of the Team is to mitigate crisis incidents while attempting to avoid unnecessary risk to citizens, victims, and officers. The Team currently serves on a part-time basis and has seven active members.



## Administrative Services Division



Assistant Chief Josh Cramer

The Administrative Services Division includes Communications, Crime Scene Investigations, Fiscal and Personnel Services, Property and Evidence, Records, Digital Media, Building Maintenance, School Crossing Guards, Front Desk Operations/City Hall Security, and our Volunteers. The Division is headed by Assistant Chief Josh Cramer and mainly staffed by our Department's civilian employees, most of whom are under the command of Lieutenant Jeremy Giddens, Executive Officer of the Administrative Services Division.

The duties of the Records Section includes gathering and distributing multiple pieces of information within the criminal justice system – from paperwork to digital files to outside agency requests. A crucial component of their function includes processing all public records requests in a timely fashion and accordance with state law.

The BPD Communications Center dispatches calls for service for the Bradenton Police and Fire Departments. The Center handles all incoming 911 calls. The Communications staff understands the need to provide professional, considerate assistance to those calling to request services. Separately, Front Desk operations include call-taking, as well as staffing of the City Hall Security Officer.

Investigators of the Crime Scene Unit respond to major crime scenes for the photographing and processing of evidence. Equipment within the CSI Lab allows investigators to follow-up their on-scene investigations, helping them solve crimes and properly preserve evidence for use in court.

Personnel within the Property and Evidence Section collect all incoming property and evidence submitted during investigations. Clerks label, categorize, and store the items within secured areas to maintain chain-of-custody. These items remain there until needed for court or until they can be lawfully disposed of.

The Fiscal and Personnel Services staff coordinates the entry and approval of payroll, requisitions, purchasing, and Human Resources issues. They also serve as liaisons for City Hall.

Building Maintenance has been one of the most important duties during 2020, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff have been focused on making the interior of our Department and all Departmental vehicles as safe and sanitary as possible while still remaining a fully staffed operation.

The information noted above generally describes the Administrative Services Division. Our personnel provide professional services daily by the personnel assigned to the Division mirrors their vigorous work ethic and dedication to duty, vital to the efficient operation of the Bradenton Police Department.

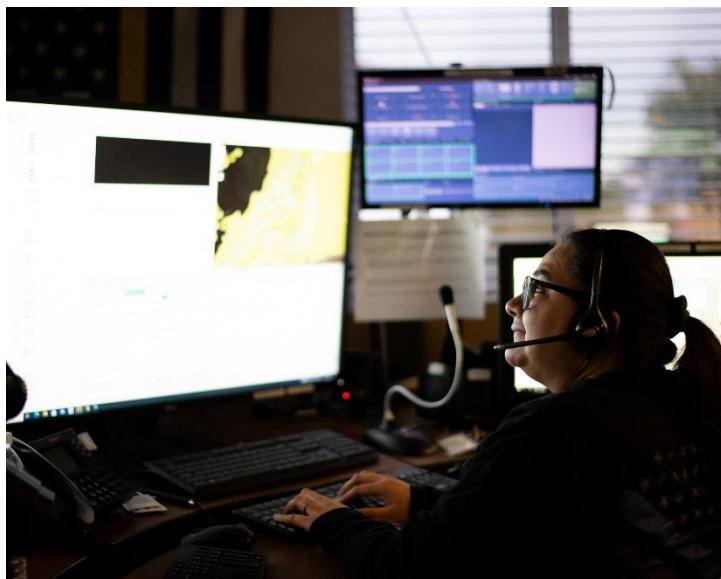
## Administrative Services Division

### Fiscal Services

| BPD Annual Budget  | FY 17/18      | FY 18/19      | FY 19/20      |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Personnel Costs  | \$14,259,552  | \$14,867,324  | \$15,753,903  |
| Logistics and Services   | \$2,704,640   | \$2,719,257   | \$2,610,639   |
| Grant Offsets  | \$114,097     | \$117,677     | \$145,138     |
| Total  | \$17,078,289  | \$17,704,258  | \$18,509,680  |
| Annual Approved City Budget  | \$136,388,441 | \$142,026,418 | \$124,451,990 |
| Police Department's<br>Percentage of City Budget<br>(Not Including Grants) | 12.5%         | 12.4%         | 14.76%        |

| Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Grants   |           |
|--|-----------|
| Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grant                   | \$24,083  |
| Florida Department of Transportation High Visibility Enforcement Grant | \$271     |
| Bulletproof Vest Partnership   | \$12,800  |
| Drug Recognition Expert Overtime                                       | \$438     |
| CDBG Homeless Outreach   | \$7,500   |
| Manatee Community Foundation – COVID                                   | \$11,633  |
| Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grant – COVID           | \$51,080  |
| Don't Drive Drunk  | \$15,248  |
| No Need for Speed  | \$11,315  |
| FDLE Identity Theft and Fraud  | \$9,970   |
| HIDTA High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas                            | \$800     |
| TOTAL  | \$145,138 |

### Communications



Dispatcher Rosy Bernal assists a citizen on an emergency call

The Communications Section is often the first contact for the citizens of Bradenton to its Police Officers and Firefighters. The Section is staffed 24/7 and answers 911, emergency, and non-emergency calls while dispatching for the Bradenton Police and Fire Departments. Their mission is to help others, often calling in a moment of absolute need. This demanding profession requires highly technical, skilled work. In order to be successful – needed on every call – a Dispatcher must be an expert listener, but also highly professional and competent. Often referred to as a “calm voice in the darkness,” our staff is so much more; they are the first, First Responders. We are extremely proud and fortunate to have such a hard-working group of individuals who have dedicated themselves to this component of Public Safety.

In 2020, our Communications Section answered 15,897 Emergency 911 calls. They entered a total of 90,813 calls for service for the Bradenton Police Department, and 6,210 calls for service for the Bradenton Fire Department.

### Crime Scene Investigations



Lead CSI Jessica Harris labels evidence for an investigation

The Bradenton Police Department Crime Scene Unit is staffed by two civilian Crime Scene Investigators under the supervision of the Lead Crime Scene Investigator, Jessica Harris. The CSI staff are available every hour of every day to provide services as needed for investigations. CSI responds to crime scenes ranging from burglaries to homicides, but are trained to adapt to a multitude of calls for service. Their responsibilities include photography, scene documentation, latent fingerprint processing, and evidence collection and preservation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CSI personnel were required to be extra vigilant in their use of PPE to protect themselves. In lieu of in-person training, online classes and webinars were made available to keep the staff well trained in current and developing scene and evidence processing techniques. In 2020, the Crime Scene Unit responded to over 263 individual crime scenes, and processed over 127 evidence service requests for evidence submitted to the I.D. Lab. In 2020, the Crime Scene Unit uploaded photographs for approximately 1,313 cases from the Patrol and Patrol Support Divisions, and fulfilled over 758 requests for copies of photographs.

## Property and Evidence

The Property and Evidence Unit is responsible for storing, tracking and maintaining all items taken into police custody. The Unit consists of two Evidence Custodians under the supervision of the Property and Evidence Lead Custodian, Jessica Harris.

As of the end of 2020, the Property and Evidence Unit has custody of a combined total of approximately 42,918 property and evidence items. In calendar year 2020, the Unit received 5,892 property and evidence items, returned 425 items to their rightful owners, and donated 252 unclaimed items to local charities. The Property and Evidence Unit destroyed a total of 7,328 items that were not returnable and were no longer of value to the investigative or judicial process.

## Records



Records Clerk Tomoe Moore is always ready to assist citizens with requests

The Records Section is responsible for the processing and disseminating of all Investigative, Supplemental, and Traffic Reports written by personnel within the Police Department. The Records Section processed 10,196 reports in 2020. The Records Unit consists of one Lead Clerk, Maria Cadena, and four Records Clerks. In addition to regular police records produced by officers and detectives, fulfilling public record requests is a major function of the Section. In total, the Records Section was responsible for the processing, dissemination, and fulfillment of over 3,898 public records requests in 2020. Staff are responsible for categorizing records to maintain as well as identifying and isolating records available for destruction according to state records retention requirements.

## Digital Media

Our Digital Media Coordinator works with officers and staff to convey a positive image for our Department. One way this is accomplished is through robust and continually active departmental social media accounts.

Twitter is used for alerts that may directly affect the general public or may need public notification. Facebook is where the public can find images from recent events, learn more about

safety through our posted safety graphics and videos, learn more about our Officers through Q&A videos, and see what is happening around the station. Instagram is utilized as a "scrapbook," showing the public who our officers are. In 2020, the Department Facebook gained 4,217 new followers, while the Department Twitter account received 850 new likes.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @bradentonpd.

### Parking

The Parking Unit primarily focuses on enforcement in the Downtown area. Areas of responsibility include the City's parking regulations, tracking of issued citations, and citation payment collections. These functions are conducted by a Parking Enforcement Specialist, under the supervision of the Lieutenant of the Administrative Services Division. All sworn Bradenton Police Department personnel also enforce the City's parking regulations, but in a broader effort citywide.

During the 2020 calendar year, there were 2,826 parking citations issued. Although operated by the Bradenton Police Department, all parking fines and fees collected are deposited into the City of Bradenton's General Fund.

### Crossing Guards



Crossing Guard Charles Standifer leads kids safely to school

This was a challenging year for the Bradenton Police Department's School Crossing Guards. The SCG team is tasked with ensuring the safe roadway crossing of the City's school children; however, with the COVID-19 Pandemic, all schools were not open for a portion of the 2019-20 school year. Our Guards, despite wearing masks, still provided a friendly face to students needing to access school areas for WiFi or meal service. As of the start of the 2020-21 school year, the School Crossing Guard team consists of 15 assigned crossing guards and one fill-in guard. The School Crossing Guards are a dedicated group, with our most senior School Crossing Guard in her 35<sup>th</sup> year of service, exhibiting clear dedication to her students. The Department is constantly updating the School Crossing Guards equipment and uniforms to improve safety for the guards, children, and the motoring public.

## Volunteers



We appreciate all our volunteers!

Our gracious Volunteers worked 1,252 hours in 2020. While this number was lower than last year – due to asking our volunteers to pause their participation during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic – the hours that these 13 individuals did serve were perhaps even more representative of their dedication to our Department and the community we serve. Sadly, we mourned the loss of 2019 Volunteer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Maureen Bunce, who passed away in February, 2020.

## New Officers



Officer Jack Burt



Officer Brian Gates



Officer Adam Finlayson



Officer Brett Heagney-Sciamatore





Officer Brandon Kells



Officer Jared Mincemeyer



Officer Kaven Mendes



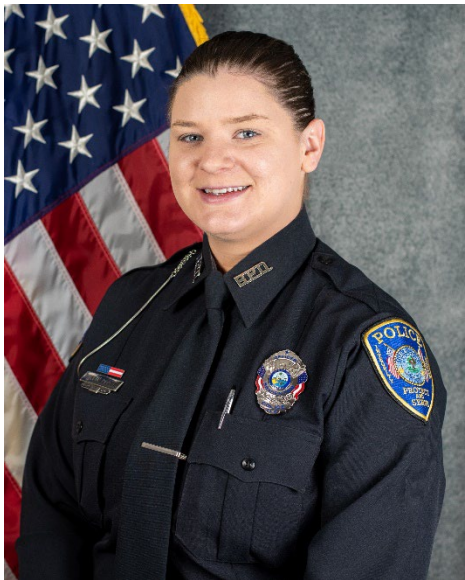
Officer Jewels Morphy



Officer Sherry Nichols



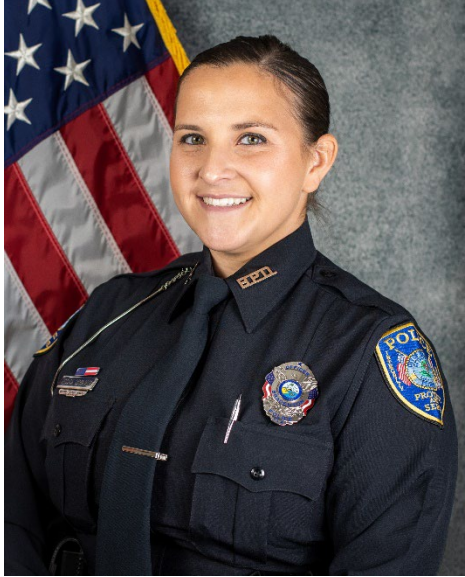
Officer Enzo Rovira



Officer Quinlyn Parnau



Officer Shane Sharp



Officer Jessica Sirignano



Officer Nicholas Zotto



Officer Jaimie Welch

## New Employees

|                    |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Brian Asker        | - | Quartermaster                          |
| Robert Anderson    | - | Polygraph/Background                   |
| Ryan Gagliano      | - | Communications                         |
| Peggy Gallagher    | - | Calltaker/Information Services Officer |
| Kara Hernandez     | - | Lead Property & Evidence Officer       |
| Christopher Herron | - | Calltaker/Information Services Officer |
| Valorie Knight     | - | Quality Assurance Manager              |
| William Korinek    | - | Body Worn Camera Program Administrator |
| Scott MacDonald    | - | Calltaker/Information Services Officer |
| Jordan Miller      | - | Police Recruit Trainee                 |
| Jacobe Scott       | - | Police Recruit Trainee                 |

## Promotions

### Promoted to Captain



Valorie Knight

### Promoted to Lieutenant



Anthony Ramdath



Dennis Stahley

Promoted to Sergeant



Robert Bordin



Perry Merrill

## Retirements



Captain Valorie Knight



Grade One Detective Gregory Price



Lieutenant James Wilkinson

## Awards and Commendations

### Life-Saving Award



Detective Andres Perez



Officer Jonathan Then



Officer Joshua Sanchez



Officer Michael Waker



BPD Distinguished Service Award 2019

Department of Florida's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2019

Congressional Law Enforcement Award



Grade One Detective Jay Gow

BPD Officer of the Year 2019

Manatee Hundred Club Officer of the Year 2019, Runner-Up



Officer Jacob Bjurholm

Officer of the Quarter



K-9 Officer Brandon Smolarz  
January-March



Sergeant Shane Shehorn  
October-December



Officer Jason Rhind  
July-September

Civilian of the Year 2019



Bradley Myers



Marvin Viray  
July-September

Civilian of the Quarter



Alexandra Kelley  
January-March



Patricia Kelleher  
October-December

Volunteer of the Year 2019



Pastor Don Sturiano



Wes Hannah  
July-September

Volunteer of the Quarter



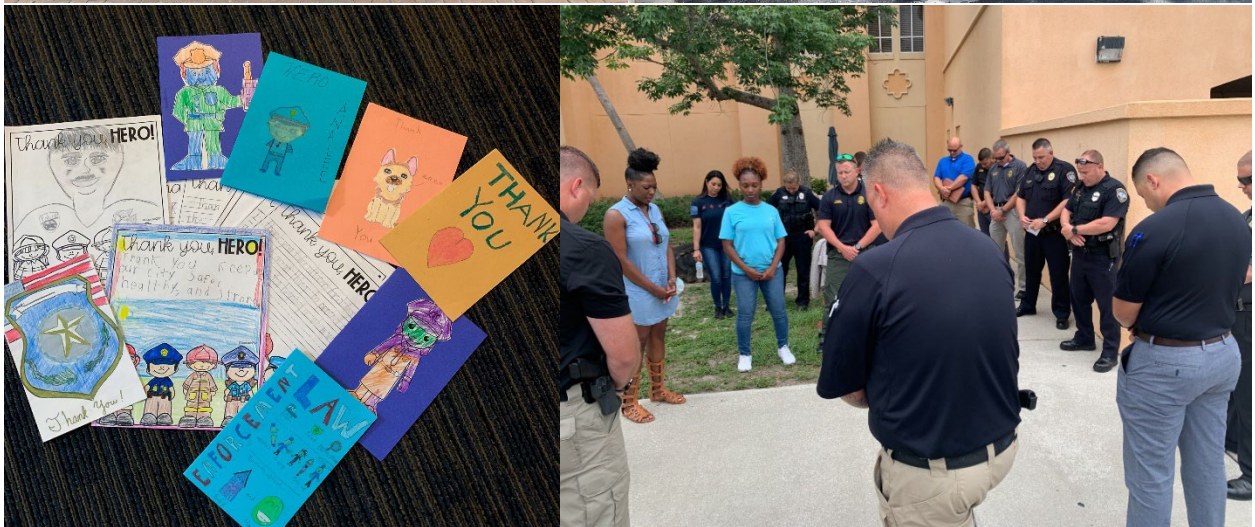
Reina Huerta  
January-March



David Monderer  
October-December

## Community Support

Thank you to all the citizens of “The Friendly City” who stepped up and showed your support during an incredibly difficult year. We appreciated your thoughts, prayers, and goodies!





Special thanks to our friends at Wagner Realty, who have been great support over the years. We can't wait to partner with them again for the next Charity Golf Tournament!

## November 2020

BPD raised \$1,585 in support of the Movember Foundation, one of the of the largest men's health organizations in the world. All employees were allowed to grow out their facial hair to raise awareness of men's health issues.

The top three beards were:



1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Detective Adrian Meridan



2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Lieutenant Leo Donnelly



3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Detective Juan Vaquera-Torres

## BPD Snapshot



Many hands make for light work! Installing the new BPD outdoor lobby



We greatly appreciate the Pittsburgh Pirates and enjoy our annual day on the field shagging fly balls during batting practice at Pirate City.



Sergeant Kelly shows a lucky kid the new department ATV



BPD steps up to get drugs off the streets with the Opioid Take Back Day





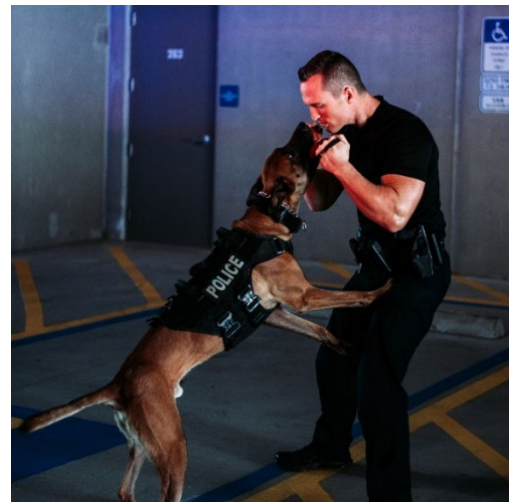
Detectives Cruz and Mahoney are geared up and ready for action



You can always find Officer Nuttall somewhere Downtown



Detective Page catching some rays at the Regatta



K9 Drax truly is man's best friend



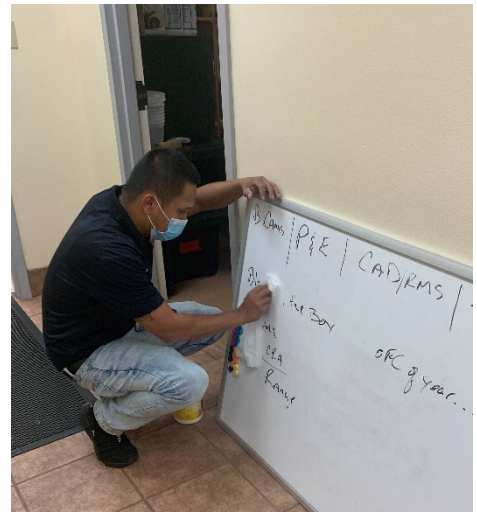
Officer Magown explains K9 detection procedures to a group of interested citizens



Hurricane Pride with SROs Gow and Lesko



Detective Cosens patrols the waterway



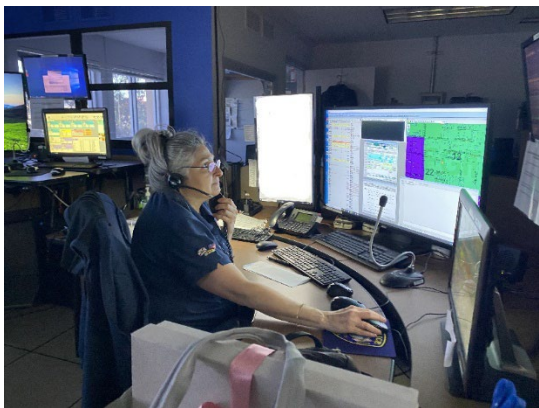
Marvin Viray – the hardest working man in the Department



Officer Davis shares a smile while on patrol



SRO Stonebridge watches over kids on their first day at school



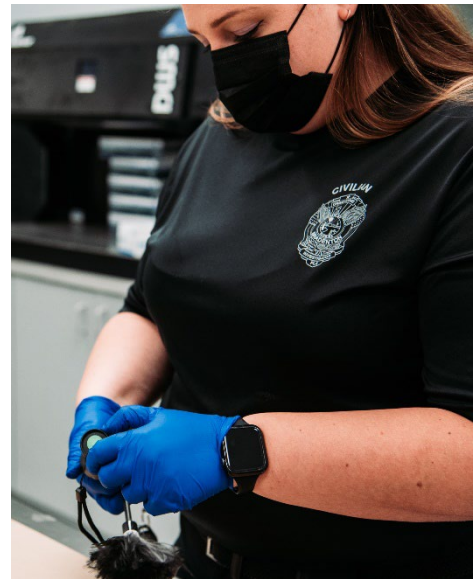
Dispatcher Michele Rodriguez relays critical information to a responding officer



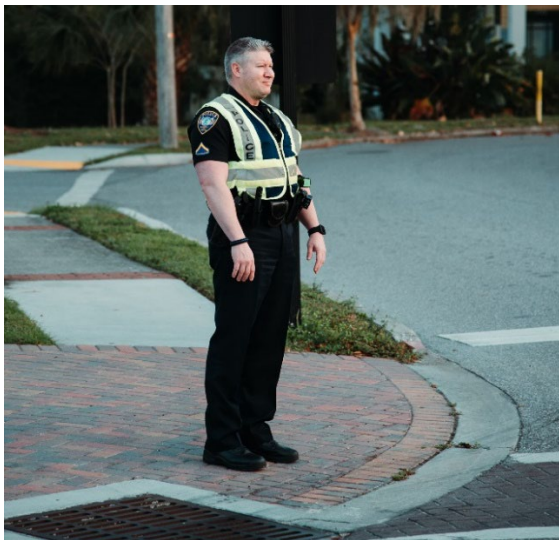
We come in all sizes – small, medium, and large



Officer Bjurholm loves working for the Traffic Unit



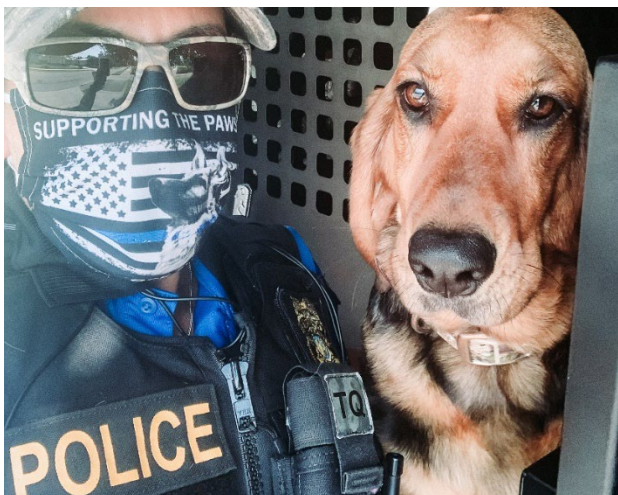
CSI Wishon dusts for fingerprints



Officer Gause helps patrol during the Don't Text and Drive campaign



BPD Explorers work as Santa's elves at the Annual Christmas Toy Drive



Selfie Time with Detective Moyett and K9 Liberty



The 'S' in SWAT stands for Santa!



Mayor Brown, Chief Bevan, and the Command Staff commend the efforts and achievements of all our officers and civilians. We look forward to another incredible, impactful year here at the Bradenton Police Department.

## In Memoriam – Chief Michael Radzilowski



This year the Department was saddened by the passing of Chief Michael Radzilowski (Retired), who passed in November at the age of 70 following a brave battle with cancer. Chief Radzilowski, or Chief Razz, as he was more familiarly known, began his law enforcement career in 1970 serving as a patrol officer with the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, DC. He worked his way through the ranks, retiring in 2001 at the rank of Commander of the Special Operations Division. In 2002 he was chosen by Mayor Wayne Poston to become Chief of the Bradenton Police Department. During his tenure Chief Radzilowski emphasized the importance of professionalism and organization in the Department. He also began several programs to increase community engagement with the citizens of Bradenton. One of the most notable, and one very close to his heart, was the Honoring the Badge program in partnership with Kingdom Life Church. During this holiday event Chief Razz would frequently come out of his own pocket to help buy Christmas gifts for underserved children. This is a tradition we still hold to this day, with the program just celebrating its twelfth year. He retired from the Bradenton Police Department in 2016, concluding a fulfilling and impactful 45 year career in law enforcement.

Chief Radzilowski is survived by his wife Elizabeth, daughter Lauren, sons Ryan, Jeff, and Michael, five grandchildren, and five siblings.

## In Memoriam – Sergeant James Kaul



Our Department sustained an unexpected loss this year with the sudden passing of Sergeant James Kaul in May. Sergeant Kaul started his law enforcement career in 1994 as a Deputy with the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, serving there until 2001 as a Field Training Officer and member of the Hostage Negotiations Team and the Disaster Response Team. He began his tenure with the Bradenton Police Department in 2002. His service included time as a Field Training Officer, then recognized as a Master Patrol Officer in 2009 due to his tenure and experience. In 2011 Sergeant Kaul was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and served as a supervisor in the Patrol Division. In 2018 Sergeant Kaul transferred to the Property and Evidence Section, where he found his niche in his assignment supervising Property & Evidence, CSI, and the School Crossing Guards, serving in that role until his passing at the age of 54. He was very dedicated, passionate, and enthusiastic when it came to his position at BPD. He had a depth of knowledge and experience to offer the Department and was commended by our Department and outside agencies alike.

Sgt. Kaul is survived by his wife Myung, daughter Ivy, and numerous family members and friends.