

2021 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 Melanie Bevan, Ed.D.

I am pleased to present the Bradenton Police Department's (BPD) 2021 Annual Report, which provides an in-depth look of who we are and what we do. In highlighting these activities, I am reminded of the extraordinary people I am privileged to work with. The dedicated employees of BPD work tirelessly each and every day to ensure the City of Bradenton continues to thrive, and their dedication and commitment to this City and BPD shines through in all they do and I thank them for their hard work.

One of our proudest moments this year was our re-accreditation, which we received through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence, and which requires BPD to commit to on-going self-study, external review, and the continuous pursuit of enhancements designed to raise the quality and professionalism of the Department. It assures the community that BPD is committed to the provisions of service of the highest quality and that its policies and procedures are effective and responsive, as well as fair and equitable.

In 2021 we forged ahead in efforts to improve the public safety infrastructure for the City and its residents, by adding body-worn cameras for all officers and by adding three full-time officers to the Community Re-Development Area via partial funding from a Community Oriented Policing Grant. Although both Part One and Part Two Crime rose slightly throughout the City, closure rates also increased, representing the ability of BPD personnel to conduct thorough and professional investigations.

Community Service remains at the heart of the Department's daily operations. In spite of COVID limitations associated with gatherings, we were still able to connect with our residents through a multitude of initiatives such as beat walks, Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out and other school and charity events. Two initiatives in particular - the 13th Annual Honoring the Badge event and Fill the Truck Toy Drive - were immeasurably successful. These events positively impacted the lives of hundreds of families both within and outside our community inclusive of homeless and foster children, all who quite possibly would have received nothing if not for BPD's willingness to give of their time and open their hearts.

I am incredibly proud of the accomplishments of all of our sworn officers, civilian staff, and volunteers. Time and time again, I am approached and complimented on the positive actions of individual officers and their often-daily display of professionalism, courage, and transparency (our Department tenets). As their Chief, I know it runs even deeper than that. It's clear they have all chosen a life of service over self, and recognize that it is their compassion and deep understanding of the human side of policing which drives the future of our community.



Police Department Overview

Staffing Demographics

Authorized Staffing

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|
| Full-Time Sworn Officers | 120 | 123 | 123 |
| Part-Time Sworn Officers | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Full-Time Civilians | 35 | 37 | 38 |
| Part-Time Civilians | 16 | 15 | 16 |
| Total | 173 | 177 | 179 |

Actual Staffing - December 2021

| | Sworn Officers (121) | | | Civilian Personnel (45) | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Caucasian | 79 | 14 | 93 | 15 | 18 | 33 |
| Hispanic | 9 | 7 | 16 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| African American | 7 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Asian | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| American Indian | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Sworn Personnel Years of Service

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 0-5 Years | 46 |
| 6-10 Years | 20 |
| 11-15 Years | 16 |
| 16-20 Years | 21 |
| 21-25 Years | 14 |
| 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 36 complaints in 2021, which involved 42 officers and one civilian. Some complaints include several allegations. Below is a summary of the investigations:

While 33 complaint investigations have been completed and closed, three investigations initiated in 2021 remain active. The 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 were 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 is found not to 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.

Of the 36 total investigations, 14 were complaints from citizens, and the Chief of Police initiated 22.



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 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Divisional Investigation | 15 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 2 |
| Inquiry | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 15 |
| Totals | 33 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 17 |

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. In 2021, 248 Use of Force forms were completed in association with 129 individual suspects (104 suspects were arrested). Use of Force should not be viewed 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 Professional Standards Division is responsible for collecting the data and conducting an annual analysis. This report contains information and data that can assist to develop best practices in how we manage force, change force policies, train our officers, supervise our officers and also how we investigate allegations of excessive force.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2021, the Bradenton Police Department was involved in 97,330 total calls for service. The data for 2021 indicates that Bradenton Police Officers had to apply force in less than .002 percent of all service calls. This is consistent with 2020 data when force was applied in less than .002 percent of all service calls.

An analysis of the data compared with 2020 shows a 17% increase in officers completing Use of Force forms with a 45% increase of suspects involved. Although an increase from the 2020 year, the data from 2021 is consistent with pre-pandemic data of 2019. A 36% increase in subjects under the influence of narcotics could also be a contributing factor to the increase in Use of Forces.



Use of Force Demographics

| Caucasian/Hispanic | | African-American | | Asian | |
|--------------------|--------|------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 58 | 24 | 49 | 8 | 0 | 1 |

Types of Force Used by Officers

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|----|
| Baton | 0 | OC Spray | 3 |
| Canine | 1 | Spit Mask | 3 |
| Handcuffs while Struggling | 101 | Taser Deployed (Contact) | 12 |
| Hands/Feet/Fists | 105 | Taser Deployed (Not Effective) | 5 |
| Leg Restraints | 6 | Taser Displayed | 4 |
| Less Lethal Force | 15 | Threat of Less Lethal Force | 15 |
| Lethal Force | 1 | Threat of Lethal Force | 18 |

Uniform Crime Report

| | 2020 | 2021 | Percent Change |
|----------------------|-------|-------|----------------|
| Homicide | 4 | 4 | 0% |
| Rape | 30 | 36 | 20.0% |
| Robbery | 46 | 45 | -2.17% |
| Aggravated Assault | 237 | 334 | 40.93% |
| Burglary | 108 | 133 | 23.15% |
| Larceny | 1,115 | 1,028 | -7.8% |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 99 | 112 | 13.13% |
| Total Part I Crimes | 1,643 | 1,695 | 3.2% |
| Total Part II Crimes | 2,541 | 2,626 | 3.3% |
| Total Offenses | 4,184 | 4,321 | 3.3% |



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 fiscal year 2021, the Bradenton Police Department seized \$44,799.26 in State Asset Forfeiture and \$26,121.80 in Federal Equitable Forfeiture.

As part of our commitment to community policing and engagement, the Department must donate at least 25% of State Forfeiture funds to community organizations and programs each fiscal year. After allocating necessary funds for proceeding-related court costs, we were able to donate \$18,200 in 2021 to programs benefitting the citizens of Bradenton. The purpose of this program is to provide support to neighborhood agencies and organizations engaged in projects that seek to improve neighborhood safety, promote crime prevention, drug prevention, drug education, drug treatment services, or school resource officer programs. This is accomplished by offering to fund neighborhood groups, associations, or organizations which have developed specific projects to address these areas of concern.

In 2021, eight organizations were awarded funding from our State Forfeiture Grant Program:

- Boys and Girls Club of Manatee County, Inc. - \$1,200
- Bradenton Police Explorers Post #1004 - \$2,500
- Drug Free Manatee - \$2,000
- Humane Society of Manatee County, Inc. - \$2,500
- Manatee County Girls Club "Just for Girls" - \$2,500
- New Manatee Broncos - \$2,500
- Pace Center for Girls - \$2,500
- Replay Outreach - \$2,500

This program is a highlight of our unofficial motto, "One City, One Team," fostering relationships and investing in the future of our community.



Accreditation Unit

The Department is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). The accreditation process involves on-site assessments, examination of policies, file review, procedural reviews and inspections conducted by outside assessors. The standards address all facets of the Department including administration, internal affairs operations, investigations, patrol, personnel, training, traffic, response to resistance, and more. We worked diligently to prove approximately 240 standards. Accreditation is voluntary for departments within the State of Florida.

In July, a team of assessors were on site and completed their review of the Department and interviewed approximately 33 Department members. They reported back to the full Commission, which then decided if the Department would receive accredited status.

In October 2021, the Department received reaccreditation status without stipulations. Once a department is accredited, they are inspected and reviewed every three years in order to retain their accredited status. By participating in the accreditation process, the Department can ensure its citizens that it adheres to the highest standards of professionalism and that quality services are delivered in accordance with recognized and accepted standards.





Employment Services Unit

Background Screening

During 2021, the Employment Services Unit implemented changes during COVID-19 to assist applicants with safety measures to ensure a healthy work environment. The unit devised safe ways to source applicants and adopted training precautions in an effort to maintain our commitment to our personnel during these extraordinary times. This year the Recruiting and Screening Unit reviewed 1,172 applicants, of which 115 were considered for further background investigation processing. Out of those, 34 polygraph examinations were administered. Thirty-three people were hired in 2021. Despite the adversities, the unit increased the applications received and reviewed by 133% over 2020.

New Hire Coordinator

Throughout this year, nine pre-Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP) classes were conducted. The unit worked diligently to support the training, coordinating, and supervision of the 27 recruits within those classes. In this developmental phase, the unit provided basic knowledge and understanding of Bradenton Police Department's Procedural General Orders and Standard Operating Procedures as well as state statutes; all critical points to improve their skills, knowledge, and abilities. It is during this time we oversee all the uniform and equipment needs of each recruit as well as any on-line certification classes to clarify what is required during the FTEP stage and align them with the goals and policies of our Department and the community. The unit also coordinates with the offices of the Mayor and the Chief for the pinning of the badge and swearing-in ceremony where the recruits become sworn officers witnessed by their families.

This unit facilitates the transfer of these new hire personnel to the FTEP. The unit also works within the first year to maintain a positive communication line with these new hires to ensure retention, training, and that other needs are met.



Training

Physical Fitness is Paramount for Our Personnel

The Bradenton Police Department continues to adapt and overcome the obstacles of COVID-19 while providing continual and advanced training for our officers. With CDC guidelines adhered to and safety always present, new and seasoned officers alike have been able to instruct, attend or participate in over 9,200 hours of training. We have continued to embrace the addition of unconventional techniques: Zoom video, conference calls, distance e-learning as well as the conventional classroom settings, firearm ranges and hands-on training when safe, while still maintaining FDLE officer certifications and the Department's training section passing the recent accreditation inspection. Some of the year's highlights were: Crisis Intervention, Officer Safety, Use of Force De-escalation Techniques and new Instructor Certifications.





External and Advanced Training:

- Advanced Traffic Homicide Investigations
- ALERRT (Active Shooter Response) Training
- Basic SWAT School
- Bloodhound Tracking Certification
- Case Preparation/Court Presentation
- Crisis Intervention Techniques
- De-Escalation Techniques
- Defensive Driving
- Defensive Tactics Instructor Certification
- Disaster Response Training
- Drone Operations/Legal Options
- DUI - Refresher Training and Legal Updates
- DUI Search Warrants/Blood Draws
- Field Training Officer
- General Instructor Certification
- Investigating the Dark Web
- Motorcycle Crash Investigations
- Patrol Rifle
- Peer Support and Resiliency
- Police Motorcycle Instructor
- Resiliency and Self-Awareness Training
- Speed/Radar Measurement
- SWAT Breacher Training
- Traffic Crash Reconstruction
- Use of Force - Scenario based Training

Internal and Mandated Training:

- Annual Department Range Qualifications
- Body Camera, Legal Updates and Report Writing
- Building Clearing Techniques
- FDLE Mandates
- Financial Awareness
- Firearms Training - Basic Weapon Safety and Pistol Techniques
- First Aid, CPR And Narcan
- Homemade Explosives - IED Recognition and Response
- Hostage Negotiation Training - HNT
- Vehicle Operations and Equipment Refresher
- Less-Lethal Weapons Training
- LPR Deployment and Development
- New Officer Training (Over 100 Hours Each)
- Open Range - Off-Duty Pistol Shoot
- Rape Crisis Training - Services Offered
- Sexual Assault Training - Trauma Approach for Law Enforcement
- SmartForce - Pursuit, Use of Force & Crash Reporting
- Use of Force Updates and De-Escalation
- Victim Advocate - Services Offered



Quartermaster

The Quartermaster oversees the expenditures and procurement of all personnel equipment. This includes ensuring both lethal and non-lethal weapons are stored, maintained and distributed according to federal, state and Department regulations. Due to the ongoing pandemic, many mandatory safety items were purchased, such as hand sanitizers, gloves, masks and body temperature gauges to protect the essential personnel who continually serve our community. In 2021, the Quartermaster served the new hires and all employees in need of daily issuance to meet standards compliance. The total operating and equipment expenditures in 2021 was \$230,479.

Explorers

The Bradenton Police Department has an active Explorers Program which offers today's youth, ages 14 up to their 21st birthday, the opportunity to learn more about the operations of law enforcement. The Explorers Program teaches members respect, honesty, integrity, and the importance of teamwork and cooperation with others. The Explorers Post has approximately 12 advisors (sworn and civilian), and 15 members. The Explorers assist officers with special events such as the DeSoto Heritage Parade, Bradenton Boat Regatta, Fourth of July Fireworks, Polish the Park, Honoring the Badge, Fill the Truck, A Night Before Christmas at G.T. Bray Park, Manatee County CrimeStoppers Halloween event, traffic control/crowd control, and many other events. The Explorers Post meets once a week for classroom instruction and hands-on training. It is strictly a volunteer program that gives service to the Police Department and the community.





Operations Division Overview



The Operations Division, comprised of Patrol and Patrol Support, is the backbone of our delivery of law enforcement services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The officers and detectives of this Division serve as the front line for public welfare and safety for the City of Bradenton. Personnel within the Division respond to and solve law enforcement-related issues and concerns within the community. 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 to live, work and visit.



Assistant Chief Paul McWade

Patrol is the largest unit within the Police Department and is most often associated with marked police vehicles with officers driving throughout the City. Our officers can also be seen riding bicycles, ATVs, golf carts and on foot patrol. Officers respond to dispatched calls for service as well as engage in self-initiated, proactive crime prevention and law enforcement services. Our City is broken down into five districts. Each district contains multiple beats which provide for efficient and effective use of resources for city-wide police patrol coverage. 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.

Patrol Support is the second largest unit within the Department. It is comprised of the Criminal Investigations Section, Narcotics and Special Investigations. Personnel in these units conduct in-depth investigations into crimes ranging from petit theft, sex offenses, robbery and homicide. They use advanced technology in their investigations such as phone data mining, DNA and fingerprint identification, private and public video cameras and searching through social media platforms.





Operations Division


Patrol

We have five districts throughout the City of Bradenton which are comprised of police officers, sergeants, lieutenants, and a captain. Officers and supervision are spread across six shifts to provide for 24/7 coverage of our community. One highlight of our Patrol Division is our “Walking the Beat” initiative. Officers actively patrol their assigned beats on foot, interacting with the community and stakeholders to actively build trust, break down barriers, and enhance the quality of life for our City residents.

2021 saw the continuance of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Patrol Division continued to respond to calls for service, all while remaining cautious of the working conditions surrounding it. In 2021, our patrol officers responded to, or initiated, over 110,592 calls for service, wrote 11,462 incident reports, completed 4,430 field interviews, and conducted 21,299 “walking the beats.”

This year we implemented a Body-Worn Camera Program. Each uniformed officer now wears a body-worn camera and it is activated each time they interact with the general public. To date, these cameras have proven to be a success in preserving evidence, along with protecting the rights of both citizens and officers.

2021 also saw the addition of 12 newly sworn police officers. Each new officer is trained through the Department’s Field Training and Evaluation Program, an intensive 16-week program where officers are teamed with certified trainers. These officers are evaluated on every facet of the job and critiqued weekly. At the end of the training program, new officers are released to work on a solo basis but are still evaluated monthly by their supervision.

 **110,592**
Calls of Service

 **11,462**
Incident Reports

 **4,430**
Field Interviews

 **21,299**
“Walking the Beats”

 **1,372**
Arrests

 **117**
Firearms Seized

 **28,507**
Close Patrols



Support Services Section

Community Redevelopment and Crime Prevention Officers Homeless Outreach Team

The Support Services Section consists of a core group of officers assigned to one sergeant, who collaborate, partner, and work alongside organizations and business owners to police the downtown corridor, Riverwalk, and the three Community Redevelopment Areas (CRA) throughout the City. These officers focus directly on community engagement and involvement to enhance living conditions by building long-standing relationships geared specifically at solving issues. These officers take pride on their proactive approach to combating crime before it happens.

The Crime Prevention Officer works as the Department liaison and meets regularly to assist with issues ranging from trespass concerns, alarm and camera systems, and property surveys. This officer is a certified specialist in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and will complete thorough workups to assist property owners with ways to enhance safety on their property. The officer also regularly attends homeowner's association and neighborhood meetings to give up-to-date information on crime stats and other department-related events. In addition to attending regularly scheduled meetings, this officer is also a member of CrimeStoppers of Manatee County and serves on the board of directors for Keep Manatee Beautiful.

As we continued to work through the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the regular scheduled community relations events we normally attend were canceled. As a result of these cancellations, we altered our community meeting attendance from face-to-face interactions to primarily online and social media initiatives.

This unit also manages our Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). This team was created to provide an alternative to enforcing crimes. With available funding, officers can assist homeless individuals with temporary housing or provide transportation to other locations where they have people who can help. This service has been a vital part of the team's ultimate goal of helping others.

In March of 2021, the Support Services Section organized the "Polish the Park" clean-up event for the Bradenton Riverwalk. This event was attended by over one hundred volunteers who worked for several hours picking up trash, cleaning up landscaping, painting touch-ups, and re-nourishment of the "beach" areas and volleyball courts.



Traffic Unit

The purpose of the Traffic Unit is to prevent vehicle crashes and enhance the safety of our citizens through proactive enforcement. This team of four officers and one sergeant work alternating shifts to provide for optimal coverage across the highest vehicular volume times in our City. They respond to motor vehicle crashes, enforce speeding, monitor school zones, and participate in the enforcement of driving under the influence.

Our Traffic Unit officers are also certified to conduct highly-complicated vehicle crashes that result in serious bodily injury or death. These investigations include processing crash scenes, preserving and collecting evidence. This unit investigated eight fatal crashes in 2021, with one being criminal in nature.

In 2021, the Bradenton Police Department was awarded four grants to impact traffic issues involving crash-related injuries and fatalities positively. 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). The Department has also partnered with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Manatee County School District to provide impairment outreach education and resources to middle and high school students.



2021 Traffic Statistics

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4,710 | Written Warnings |
| 4,177 | Uniform Traffic Citations |
| 478 | Criminal Traffic Citations |
| 1,927 | Traffic Crashes Investigated |
| 63 | Driving Under the Influence Arrests |



School Resource Officers

Our School Resource Officers (SRO) provide coverage for Manatee Elementary, Sugg Middle, and Manatee High. These officers work in partnership with the school administration to provide for a safe learning environment and enhance and build positive relationships with the students. Our SROs take pride and ownership at their schools, often attending every event that takes place, whether during school hours or not.

This year, in compliance with the Stoneman Douglas Act, each school in our City received electronic alert systems. Teachers and staff members now wear button-activated alerts that trigger an alarm that is sent to the SROs, officers on patrol, and Communications. This system is designed to eliminate any downtime in the event of an emergency and provide our officers with a precise location of where the threat is occurring.

One of the highlights of the year is our chance 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, we presented 112 badges to students in our elementary schools.

K-9 Unit

The Canine Unit (K-9) currently deploys five canines with specialties in apprehension, narcotics detection, explosive ordinance detection, and search and rescue operations. Our two apprehension canines are K-9 Murtaugh, a German Shephard, and K-9 Drax, a Belgium Malinois. These canines maintain an annual certification as mandated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. K-9 Blue is a Labrador Retriever who is assigned to the Narcotics Unit and is trained in the detection of narcotics. K-9 Blue is active in the bay area assisting local, state, and federal agencies. K-9 Maverick is a Labrador Retriever certified in the detection of explosive ordinances. K-9 Maverick is readily deployable at all times and is often seen working baseball games at LECOM park or helping out at major events in the Tampa Bay area. K9 Liberty is a Bloodhound specifically trained and certified in search and rescue operations. K-9 Liberty is deployed to search for missing endangered adults, minor offenses and assisted with the search of Brian Landrie in North Port.

As an invaluable asset to the Department, the K-9 Unit was deployed over 132 times in 2021.





Marine Unit

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. As such, a readily-deployable vessel with trained operators is essential to the safety of our citizens. Bradenton Police Department operates a 30-foot patrol vessel and has a part-time team of six officers assigned to a lieutenant who works a variety of shifts to cover the Department's needs. Of the six officers, two are certified captains by the United States Coast Guard. The Marine Unit is always deployed with one captain and one other operator to all operations.

The Marine Unit also participated in several significant area events, including the Gasparilla Invasion in Tampa, Sarasota Offshore Grand Prix, and the St. Petersburg Offshore Grand Prix. This year, the Department was awarded the West Coast Inland Navigation District grant for over \$60,000 to replace the outboard engines on our police vessel.





Operations Division

Patrol Support

Patrol Support consists of the Criminal Investigations Section, the Special Investigations Unit, and Narcotics. This year, Patrol Support continued to combat the ongoing narcotics crisis that has plagued our community for several years. As such, the Department has spearheaded the attack by becoming the lead agency for the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking 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 federal, state, and local agencies to provide greater resources to battle the issue.

Patrol Support detectives have worked diligently, alongside the Patrol Division, to assure victims have had resolution to the crimes committed against them or their property in 2021. By doing so they were able to close 57% of violent crimes and 17% of non-violent crimes.



Criminal Investigations Section

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) detectives investigate persons, property, fraud (financial and/or identity), missing persons and crimes against children cases. CIS detectives are assigned to the Manatee County Homicide Investigations Task Force, FBI Violent Crimes Task Force, FBI Internet Crimes against Children Task Force, and the Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force. During this year, the CIS investigated four homicides. Three of the homicides were narcotic-related and the other was gang-related.

Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is responsible for conducting felony-related criminal investigations and assisting the Narcotics Unit with investigations. Members are trained in surveillance tactics, narcotic investigations, and conduct lower-lever street narcotics and human trafficking investigations in an attempt to identify, arrest, and charge persons involved in these types of criminal activity. SIU also works with the Gulf Coast HIDTA task force, working alongside the Narcotics Unit during these investigations. Throughout the year, SIU has apprehended multiple violent offenders from robberies, shootings, burglaries, human trafficking, and drug sales.



Narcotics Unit

The Bradenton Police Department Narcotics Unit's primary goal is to enforce the illegal acts of prostitution and the use/sale of illegal narcotics. Members on the Narcotics Unit are assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force and Homeland Security (HSI) Task Force. The Bradenton Police Department has been the lead agency for the Gulf Coast HIDTA program for the last two years and has had great success in disrupting and eliminating narcotic organizations within our area. The Narcotics Unit will continue to investigate long-term and short-term investigations, citizen complaints, CrimeStoppers tips, and overdose deaths from the opium/fentanyl crisis. The unit consistently partners with several outside agencies which include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Coast Guard; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF); Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF); Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Custom and Border Protection; as well as the surrounding local law enforcement agencies.

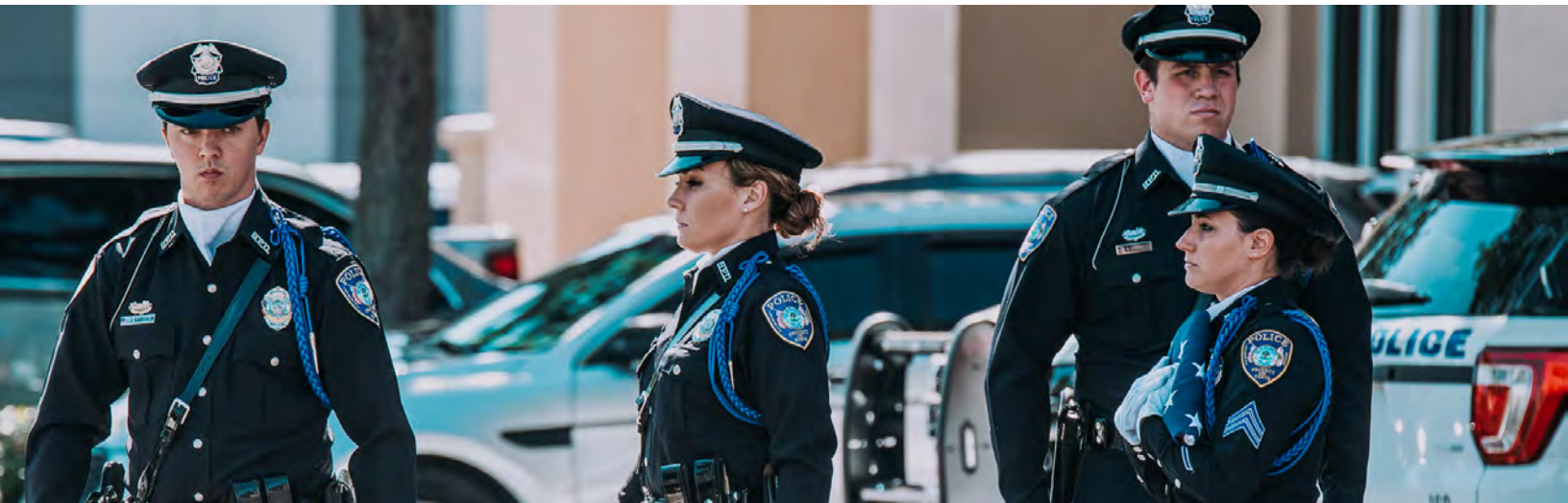
Narcotics Unit Seizure Statistics 2019-2021

| | Cocaine | Heroin | Meth | Pills | Marijuana | Firearms | Vehicles |
|------|---------|--------|---------|-------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 2019 | 1,308g | 372g | 72,495g | 84g | 2,883g | 77 | 25 |
| 2020 | 2,860g | 156g | 14,651g | 37g | 1,308g | 13 | 2 |
| 2021 | 4,183g | 2,012g | 29,037g | 498g | 124,803g | 25 | 13 |



Honor Guard

The Honor Guard unit was originally established to provide honors for officers killed in the line of duty. The unit has been active within the Department for 35 years and has transitioned to its official ceremonial unit over time. Personnel are required to participate in functions such as parades, ceremonies, and charitable causes throughout the year. In addition, the team performs duties such as traditional color guard functions and coordinates and participates in the intricate details inherent to line-of-duty deaths for fallen law enforcement officers. This last year, they represented the Department at the Fallen Officer Memorial, law enforcement funerals, Heritage Parade, and presenting the nation's colors at Tampa Bay Rays games, Pittsburgh Pirates spring training games, and Bradenton Marauders games. Additionally, due to the donation of a flag pole and its installation by the Rotary Club of Bradenton, the Honor Guard unit had the privilege of raising the first American Flag to fly in front of the Bradenton Police Department building during an official flag-raising ceremony held on November 1, 2021.





Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team members serve in a dual role, with their primary role being a police officer or detective. There are currently 15 active members on the team. The Bradenton Police Department SWAT team is a highly-trained unit, equipped and trained to deal with high-risk situations, such as hostage rescue, fugitive apprehension, high-risk search warrants and active shooters. During the last year, the SWAT team was activated and responded to serve nine high-priority search warrants and one stand-off with a barricaded subject. The team also assists with training Department members and the Department's Explorers unit. The team competed in the Region 6 SWAT Challenge this past year and finished fifth amongst the participating teams.

Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT)

The operators of the Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) 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 HNT is to mitigate crisis incidents while attempting to avoid unnecessary risk to all involved. The team currently serves on a part-time basis and has seven active members. During the last year, HNT members have attended multiple classes and trained with other local law enforcement agencies.





Administrative Services Division

The Administrative Services Division is under the command of Assistant Chief Josh Cramer and includes the Communications, Crime Scene Investigations, Fiscal and Personnel Services, Property and Evidence, Records, Digital Media, Building Maintenance, School Crossing Guards, and our Volunteer sections. Our Department's civilian employees mainly staff this division, with Captain Brian Thiers, Executive Officer of the Administrative Services Division, in command of the sections. The information noted below generally describes the Administrative Services Division. Our personnel provide professional services daily,

exhibited by their work ethic and dedication to essential duties vital to the efficient operation of the Bradenton Police Department.

Fiscal Services

The Fiscal and Personnel Services staff coordinates the entry and approval of payroll, requisitions, purchasing, and personnel issues. Fiscal Services Manager Sandra Orsino and HR Generalist Brenda Lovett also serve as liaisons between our Department and City Hall, including the Finance Department and Human Resources. Personnel Services completed City of Bradenton new hire training for 12 sworn and 12 civilian personnel in 2021.

Bradenton Police Department Annual Budget

| | FY 2018/2019 | FY 2019/2020 | FY 2020/2021 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Personnel Costs | \$14,867,324 | \$15,753,903 | \$16,749,820 |
| Logistics and Services | \$2,719,257 | \$2,610,639 | \$2,783,197 |
| Grant Offsets | \$117,677 | \$145,138 | \$399,842 |
| Total | \$17,704,258 | \$18,509,680 | \$19,932,859 |
| Annual Approved City Budget | \$142,026,418 | \$124,451,990 | \$123,831,798 |
| Police Department's Percentage of City Budget (Not Including Grants) | 12.4% | 14.76% | 15.77% |

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Grants

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grant | \$23,113 |
| Florida Department of Transportation High Visibility Enforcement Grant | \$12,804 |
| Bulletproof Vest Partnership | \$12,238 |
| FDLE - Florida Incident Based Reporting System (FIBRS) Grant | \$6,916 |
| Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grant - Countywide | \$14,500 |
| Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grant - COVID-19 | \$19,240 |
| Sober Streets | \$42,850 |
| Need for Safety | \$45,000 |
| Bradenton Blue Foundation - Cares Act Grant | \$5,000 |
| High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Grant | \$213,181 |
| Walmart Community Grant | \$5,000 |
| Total Grants Budgeted | \$399,842 |



Communications

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, under the command of Communications Manager Bradley Myers. Their mission is to help others, often calling in a moment of absolute need. The Communications staff understands the need to provide professional, competent, considerate service on every call to those requesting assistance. As the “calm voice in the darkness,” dispatchers must be expert listeners to direct services promptly and accurately.

In 2021, our Communications Section answered 13,468 Emergency 911 calls. They entered a total of 97,330 calls for service for the Bradenton Police Department, and 6,747 calls for service for the Bradenton Fire Department. Late this year, our Communications Section relocated to the Manatee County Public Safety Complex, where our staff works side-by-side with their peers from the Manatee County Emergency Communications Center and Manatee County Sheriff’s Office Communications section. We are extremely proud and appreciate having such a hard-working group of individuals who have dedicated themselves to public safety.





Crime Scene Investigations

The Bradenton Police Department Crime Scene Unit is staffed by three civilian Crime Scene Investigators under the supervision of the Lead Crime Scene Investigator, Jessica Harris. Investigators of the Crime Scene Unit are on-call and respond to major crime scenes ranging from burglaries to homicides, but are trained to adapt to a multitude of calls for service, photographing and processing of evidence as needed. Their responsibilities include photography, scene documentation, latent fingerprint processing, and evidence collection and preservation. Continuing with the COVID-19 pandemic into 2021, CSI personnel were required to be extra vigilant in their use of PPE to protect themselves.

In 2021, the Crime Scene Unit responded to over 263 individual crime scenes, and processed over 108 evidence service requests for evidence submitted to the I.D. Lab. Additionally, they uploaded photographs for approximately 955 cases from the Patrol and Patrol Support Divisions, and

fulfilled over 655 requests for copies of photographs.

Property and Evidence

The Property and Evidence Unit is responsible for storing, tracking and maintaining all incoming property and evidence submitted during investigations taken into police custody. Clerks label, categorize, and store the items within secured areas to maintain chain-of-custody, remaining in departmental custody until needed for court or until they can be lawfully disposed of. The unit consists of two Evidence Custodians under the supervision of the Property and Evidence Lead Custodian, Kara Hernandez.

At the end of 2021, the Property and Evidence Unit maintains custody of a combined total of 41,068 property and evidence items. In calendar year 2021, the unit received 6,141 property and evidence items, returned 500 items to their rightful owners, and donated 44 unclaimed items to local charities. The Property and Evidence Unit properly destroyed a total of 6,131 items which were not returnable and/or no longer required to be maintained securely.





Records

The Records Section gathers, processes, and disseminates all investigative, supplemental, and traffic reports written by personnel within the Police Department. This includes police reports and associated paperwork, digital report files, outside agency requests, and information received within the criminal justice system by our Department. This section also tracks and processes all public records requests received by the entire Department in a timely fashion in accordance with state law. The Records Section consists of one Lead Clerk, Maria Cadena, and three Records Clerks.

The Records Section processed 11,461 police reports in 2021. In addition to regular police records produced by officers and detectives, fulfilling public record requests is a major function of the section. Additionally, the Records Section was responsible for the processing, dissemination, and fulfillment of over 6,582 public records requests in 2021. Staff are also responsible for categorizing records to maintain as well as identifying and isolating records available for destruction according to state records retention requirements.



Parking

The Parking Unit focuses on parking 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 Captain 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 2021 calendar year, there were a total of 2,998 parking citations issued citywide. Although the Bradenton Police Department operated the Parking Unit, all parking fines and fees collected are deposited into the City of Bradenton's General Fund.



Total Parking Citations Issued

2,998



Building Maintenance

Building Maintenance continued to be one of the most important roles for our Department during 2021 due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Staff focused on making the interior of our Department and all departmental vehicles safe and sanitary while remaining fully staffed. We bid farewell to Custodian Shirley Henderson, who retired after 21 years of service to the City – Congratulations Shirley!



Digital Media

The Digital Media Unit is staffed by our Digital Media Coordinator, Emily Bibb, who is responsible for messaging through the Department’s social media platforms and our website. In 2021, BPD had 415 posts on Facebook, penned 1,026 tweets on Twitter with 939,300 impressions, and 160 messages on Instagram. Highlights included our videos posted leading up to Super Bowl LV, as well as numerous informational topics including driving, personal safety, and departmental events. Also, our followership surpassed 7,000 on Twitter, over 5,000 on Instagram, and more than 17,000 Facebook friends.

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 415 | Facebook Posts |
| 1,026 | Tweets |
| 160 | Instagram Posts |
| 17,000 | Facebook Followers |
| 7,000 | Twitter Followers |
| 5,000 | Instagram Followers |



Outdoor Lobby

The Bradenton Police Department's lobby had been used as a safe space for exchanges - often after selling or purchasing something online. After the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Department to close its building, Chief Melanie Bevan recognized a gap in service since that function was not available anymore.

Now, the city has an "outdoor lobby" for such purposes. The outdoor space, across the parking lot from the front of the police department and along 10th St. W., is beautifully landscaped thanks to donations from Big Earth Landscape Supply and other businesses. The space is monitored by surveillance cameras.

Chief Bevan is very appreciative of Big Earth's Ellie Ohlman Fuesser, who was so excited about the project that she offered to organize the whole thing. A huge thank you to BPD staff; Big Earth Landscape Supply; the Manasota Chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association; WestBay Landscape; Shady Lady Horticultural Services; Ralph Taylor's Nurseries; Ellenton Nursery Growers; Mission BBQ; and Kimberley Lough - Sugg Middle School Ag Advisor for their help.

During the month of December, the outdoor lobby was decorated for the holiday season and the community was encouraged to use it for Christmas pictures.







Crossing Guards

This was another challenging year for the Bradenton Police Department's School Crossing Guards as the City continued to emerge from the pandemic. Our guards continue to provide a friendly face to students on their way to or from school. This school year's Crossing Guard team consists of 13 assigned guards and one fill-in guard (not including vacancies). Our School Crossing Guards are a committed group with our most senior School Crossing Guard, Samantha Donisi, currently in her 37th year of service!



Volunteers

Our dedicated volunteers worked over 1,772 hours in 2021. Their hours varied again this year due to COVID and our commitment to keep our volunteers out of harm's way. While most are retired from their careers, Wellesley "Wes" Hannah, Jr. "retired" from his volunteer service, and we can't thank him enough.





New Employees

Secilia Albright - Records Clerk

Jacqueline Anderson - School Crossing Guard

Martha Azcanio - Crime Scene Investigator

Pamela Bacon - School Crossing Guard

Michael Baute - Digital Forensics Examiner

Rachel Bielby - Police Recruit Trainee

William Burris - Records/Parking Cashier

Amanda Kitts - Communications 2

William Moretti - Front Desk Officer

Stephen Parkinson - Front Desk Officer

Jordan Poulos - Police Recruit Trainee

Elba Viruet - Administrative Coordinator



Department Chaplain's Message

As the Chaplain for the Bradenton Police Department since 2009, I have the honor and privilege to serve The Lord, and the precious men and women who serve and protect the Friendly City of Bradenton.

This includes holding them up in prayer in my private time with Jesus. As well as providing personal prayer, spiritual guidance, and encouragement. I also perform various pastoral duties for the officers and make myself available to participate in law enforcement ceremonies.

In my 35 plus years in ministry, this remains a glistening highlight among the assignments that I have been called to, for the Kingdom of God.

I love my BPD Family,

Pastor Don Sturiano
Kingdom Life Christian Church





Bradenton Blue Foundation

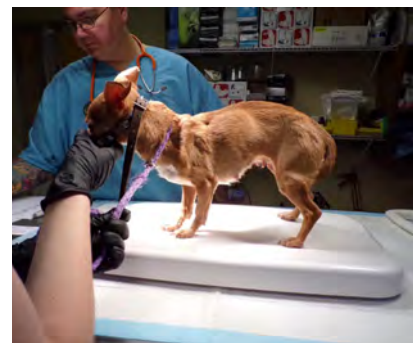
The Bradenton Blue Foundation, established in 2018, is the fundraising non-profit for the Bradenton Police Department. The mission of the Foundation is to make the City of Bradenton a safer place for all to live, work, and visit through the fulfillment of unmet, non-budgeted safety needs for its most critical resource - its members. The Foundation was developed to support our officers and community by raising funds for specialty training, technology, safety equipment, and community outreach.

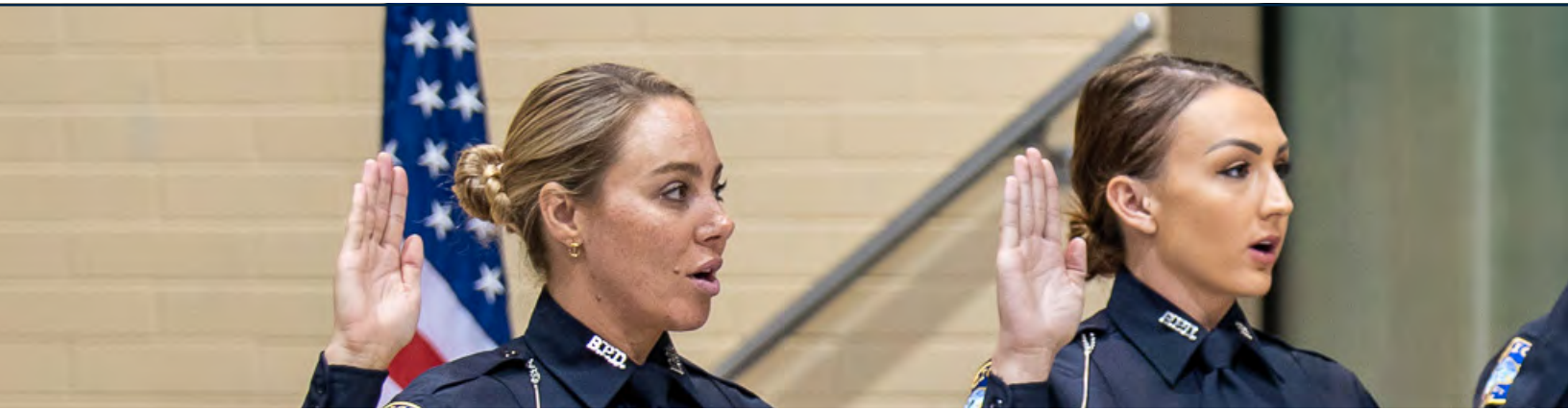
The Foundation raised over \$70,000 in 2021 thanks to its board of directors, the community and local businesses. The Foundation participated in the annual Giving Tuesday campaign - a day of global giving the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

The Foundation is grateful for the support of Wagner Realty - the proceeds of their 2021 Golf Classic, held in October, benefited the Bradenton Blue Foundation. Wagner Realty also sponsored our Shred Event Fundraiser in May.

In 2021, the Foundation provided funds for the following:

- Berm and parking lot construction for BPD's Firearm Range
- Tactical vests for K-9 officers
- Vet care for Animal Cruelty Investigations
- Hard drives for cyber investigation data
- Gift cards for Honoring the Badge event
- Holiday gifts for children at Manatee Elementary





New Officers



Officer
Rosa Bautista



Officer
Milton Bice



Officer
Brooke Dotson



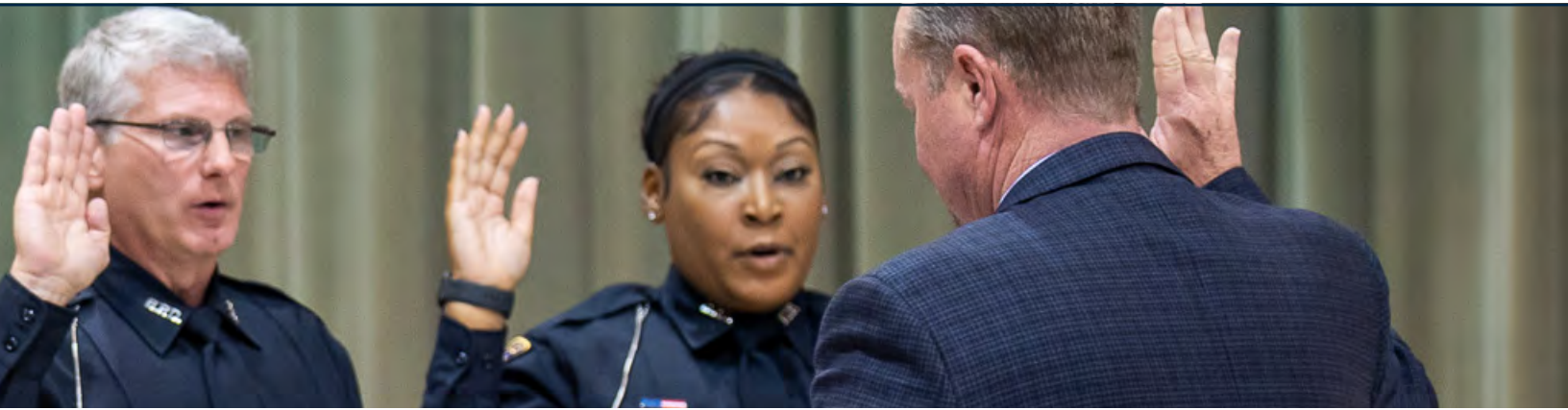
Officer
Christopher Ellis



Officer
Logan Ellis



Officer
Deana McNeal



Officer
Kaven Mendes



Officer
Jewels Morphy



Officer
Nathan Reichenberger



Officer
Gerald Smith



Officer
Jordan Sullivan



Officer
Rachael Ward



Promotions



Promoted to Captain
Jeremy Giddens



Promoted to Lieutenant
Christopher Deshaies



Promoted to Lieutenant
Dennis French



Promoted to Sergeant
Russell Ackerman



Promoted to Sergeant
Lee Cosens



Promoted to Sergeant
Courtney Cruz



Promoted to Sergeant
Alexandra Emrich



Promoted to Sergeant
Aaron Pilant



Promoted to Communications
Section Manager
Bradley Myers



Promoted to Communications
Section Lead
Michele Rodriguez



Promoted to Communications
Section Lead
Michael Carr



Promoted to Property and
Evidence Supervisor
Kara Hernandez



Promoted to Facility
Maintenance Supervisor
Marvin Viray





Awards and Commendations

Life-Saving Award



Officer Jacob Bjurholm



Officer Jeff Cox



Officer Justin Gause



Officer Jared Mincemeyer



Officer Jason Nuttall



Officer Jonathan Then



Meritorious
Officer Adam Moore



**Annual Distinguished Service
Award 2020**
Lieutenant Phillip Waller



Manatee 100 Club Co-Officer of the Year
Detective Michael Page



**Saramana SAR Chapter LE
Commendation Medal**
Sergeant Shane Shehorn



**Congressional Law Enforcement
Career Service Award**
Valorie Knight



**RHS Heroes (Remember -
Honor- Support)**
Assistant Chief Josh Cramer



**RHS Heroes (Remember -
Honor- Support) and
2021 Operation Patriot
Support Home Town Heroes**
Officer Jason Nuttall



**2021 Operation Patriot
Support Home Town Heroes**
Officer Jonathan Then



Officer of the Year 2020
Michael Page



January - March
Officer Joshua Small



April - June
Detective Adam Wollard



July - September
Officer Jonathan Then



October - December
Sergeant Anthony Cerniglia



Civilian of the Year 2020
Kassidy Brewer



January - March
Robert Anderson



April - June
Kara Hernandez



July - September
William Korinek



October - December
Scott MacDonald



Volunteer of the Year 2020
Lynne Templin



January - March
Darron Mayes



April - June
Janet Ludwig



July - September
Judy Henshaw



October - December
Shayne Jenkins



Community Support

Thank you to all our citizens for your thoughts, prayers, and goodies! We appreciate the support of our incredible community.





November 2021

BPD raised \$725 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.



1st Place
Officer Ian Emrich



2nd Place
Officer Brian Sands



3rd Place
Detective Carl Jones



Bradenton PD Snapshot

During 2021, sworn and civilian staff volunteered their time with various organizations and events throughout the City.

Dive into Reading

Command Staff, detectives and officers volunteered to spend a morning with children from Title I schools in 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade during their summer break. Volunteers had breakfast with their student while showing them restaurant etiquette. After breakfast, they read age-appropriate books and encouraged the children to read for fun. Events were held at O'Bricks and the Bishop Museum.

Take Stock in Children Mentoring Program

Officers and civilian staff members volunteered as mentors for youth in middle and high school. Mentors work with their student on school assignments or coaching techniques to help them through school.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Officers volunteered to mentor school children offering help with school work and providing guidance to build resilience and promote their well-being. The extra help ensures the students do not fall behind and offers a chance for community outreach.

Manatee County CrimeStoppers Halloween Event

The Bradenton Explorers, BPD volunteers and several officers participated in this event. Thousands of children and their parents attended the event. The Department's booth featured lots of candy, giveaways and a display of our specialty unit vehicles.





Bradenton PD Snapshot

Early Learning Coalition

In partnership with the Early Learning Coalition, officers and K-9s read books to children in the five preschools located within the city of Bradenton. Officers answer questions about police work and handout stickers and coloring books. The children love this time with officers, but especially love their time with our K-9s.

Ride Your Bike to School Day

Officers from Patrol, Traffic and the Downtown units participated in GD Rogers Garden Elementary School's "Ride Your Bike to School Day" on May 5, 2021. Officers rode bicycles and walked along with students as they rode their bikes from the back parking to the front of the school's main entrance. Officers spent time with the students at the school as they played games and dance to music for the celebration of the day. The event encouraged bike safety and community interaction.

Honoring the Badge

The 13th Annual Honoring the Badge event was held on December 13, 2021. Officers and other members of the Department are paired with local families, shopping around Walmart and providing presents for hundreds of underprivileged Bradenton children who might not otherwise have a gift under the tree for Christmas. Cox Chevrolet, Walmart #1004, Jess Jewelers, and Kingdom Life Christian Church sponsored this event.

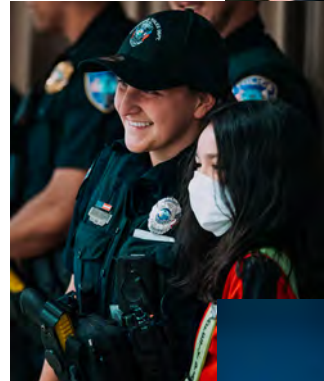
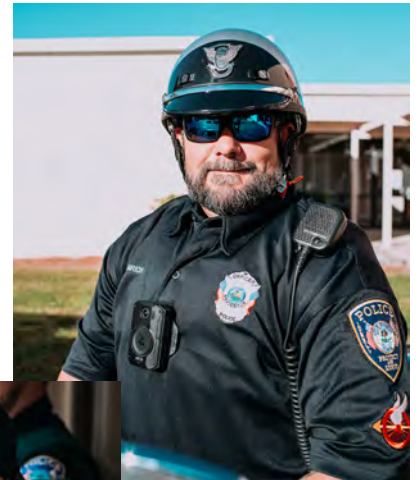
Fill the Truck Toy Drive

On December 11, 2021, the Department hosted a toy drive. The community came together to donate unwrapped toys to fill the SWAT ARV. For those not wanting to physically drop off a toy to the Department, an account was generated on Amazon with a pre-selected gift list where the public could order, pay, and have the items shipped to the Department. The proceeds are donated to Hope Family Services (Domestic Violence Shelter).





Bradenton PD Snapshot





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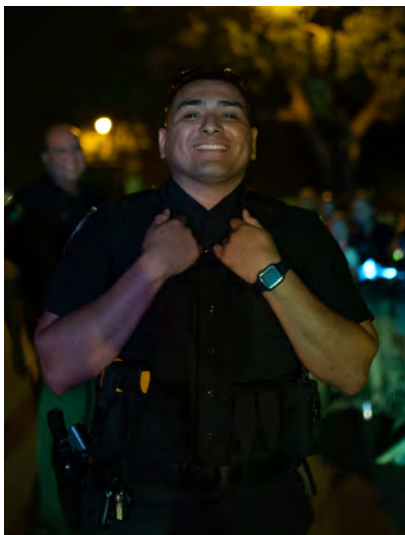
I am incredibly proud of the accomplishments of all of our sworn officers, civilian staff, and volunteers.”

- Chief Melanie Bevan



Follow us @BradentonPD





Bradenton Police Department

100 10th Street West
Bradenton, FL
34205

941-932-9300
www.BradentonPD.com
@BradentonPD

