



# BRADENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

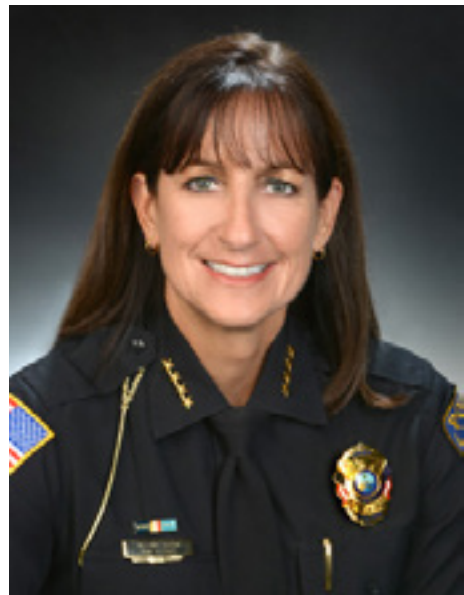
THE BRADENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT IS DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN POLICING THROUGH PROFESSIONALISM, COURAGE AND TRANSPARENCY.



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## Chief of Police Melanie Bevan, Ed.D.

I am filled with pride and gratitude as I reflect on 2023. The BPD leadership team remains steadfast in our commitment to the community, our officers, and the shared desire to shape a positive path forward. While prioritizing community safety, our officers have also displayed courage and compassion. They have worked to enhance safety measures while forging strong partnerships between our residents, businesses, visitors, and other law enforcement agencies. We have achieved significant milestones in reducing the crime rate and making our communities safer.

We are aware that public safety goes beyond crime prevention. It includes building community trust and addressing the root cause of social changes.

Our collaborative approach has enabled us to implement comprehensive programs that reduce criminal activity and improve neighborhood relations.

We have worked to foster a spirit of shared responsibility, empowering residents to actively participate in public safety efforts, including the CrimeStoppers program and See Something, Say Something. We have also utilized social media to modernize how we deliver important digital media and educational content to our citizens.

During 2023, our officers, civilian staff, and volunteers were once again tested. For the second year in a row, a hurricane (Idalia) required us to activate our emergency response procedures. In the end, Idalia caused many of our citizens to evacuate their homes and businesses. Although damage was minimal, we experienced flooding throughout the city. Due to Idalia, our officers' time off was canceled and they were mandated to work 12-hour rotating shifts while sleeping in city shelters, separated from their homes and families. This short recap illustrates our commitment to providing the highest level of law enforcement services.

Serving as the City of Bradenton's Chief of Police is an honor and privilege. I eagerly look forward to all that we will continue to do in 2024.



## Mayor Gene Brown

Mayor Gene Brown served three terms on the Bradenton City Council as a Ward Two Councilman before becoming Mayor in 2021. He is an integral part of our department, and participates in many events held or attended by Chief Bevan, officers, and staff.





## Police Department Overview

STAFFING DEMOGRAPHICS: AUTHORIZED STAFFING			
	2021	2022	2023
Full-Time Sworn Officers	123	123	126
Part-Time Sworn Officers	2	2	6
Full-Time Civilians	38	38	49
Part-Time Civilians	16	16	13
Total	179	179	194

STAFFING DEMOGRAPHICS: ACTUAL STAFFING (AS OF DECEMBER, 2023)						
	Sworn Officers			Civilians		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Caucasian	63	12	75	12	18	30
Hispanic	14	8	22	1	5	6
African American	11	5	16	1	3	4
Asian	2	0	2	1	1	2
American Indian	0	1	1	0	0	0

SWORN PERSONNEL YEARS OF SERVICE	
0-5 Years	60
6-10 Years	14
11-15 Years	10
16-20 Years	18
21-25 Years	11
25-30 Years	1
30-35 Years	1
35+ Years	2

UNIFORM CRIME REPORT			
	2022	2023	Percent Change
Homicide	3	4	33.33%
Rape	40	34	-15.00%
Robbery	50	55	10.00%
Aggravated Assault	212	241	13.68%
Burglary	132	94	-28.79%
Larceny	1127	1029	-8.70%
Motor Vehicle Theft	118	155	31.36%
Arson	1	3	200.00%
Total Offenses	1,683	1,615	-4.04%

UNIFORM CRIME REPORT			
	5-Year Average (2018-2022)	2023	Percent Change
Homicide	3.6	4	11.11%
Rape	29.6	34	14.86%
Robbery	52.8	55	4.17%
Aggravated Assault	260.2	241	-7.38%
Burglary	158	94	-40.51%
Larceny	1111.8	1029	-7.45%
Motor Vehicle Theft	94.4	155	64.19%
Arson	3.4	3	-11.76%
Total Offenses	1,713.8	1615	-5.80%



### Grant Summary

The Bradenton Police Department is the recipient of several grants that supplement its mission to address public safety and increase efficiency. Many of these grants assist with purchasing non-budgeted equipment to aid officers in their duties or providing overtime funds to allow officers to focus on specific enforcement needs. For example, federal and state agencies awarded the department funds to continue purchasing bulletproof vests for officers and new narcotics scanners to test for dangerous, illegal substances.

During 2023, the Bradenton Police Department received several new grants and continued to manage awarded grants from previous fiscal years. This year saw the department continue with several traffic grants focused on important issues affecting traffic safety. Partnering with the Florida Department of Transportation, two grants totaling \$36,000 were awarded to address impaired driving and aggressive driving. Additionally, the department entered into a \$17,000 contract with the University of North Florida to patrol specific locations identified as pedestrian and bicycle safety issues.

In 2020, the Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program awarded the department \$375,000 to fund three positions focused on community policing. These funds were budgeted over the past three years to support officers and continue the department's goal of working with the community to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.

In 2023, the Department of Justice awarded the Bradenton Police Department a second COPS Hiring Program award totaling \$375,000 to be budgeted over the next three years to hire three additional officers who focus on community policing and violent crime.



GRANT SUMMARY		
Grant Name and Focus	Award Amount	Fiscal Year
Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program (Three Officers)	\$375,000	FY 2020
Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program (Three Officers)	\$375,000	FY 2024
Department of Justice Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Direct) - AI Software and Laptops	\$29,388	FY 2022
Department of Justice Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (County Partnership) - AEDs	\$24,557	FY 2022
Department of Justice Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (County Partnership) - Well-being, Safety Equipment	\$47,842	FY 2023
Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership - 50% Ballistic Vest Reimbursement	\$14,625	FY 2023
FDOT Impaired Driving - Overtime for DUI Enforcement	\$20,000	FY 2023
FDOT Impaired Driving - Overtime for DUI Enforcement	\$21,000	FY 2024
FDOT Speed/Aggressive Driving - Overtime and Equipment	\$45,000	FY 2023
FDOT Speed/Aggressive Driving - Overtime and Equipment	\$15,000	FY 2024
University of North Florida High Visibility Enforcement - Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety	\$12,807	FY 2022-23
University of North Florida High Visibility Enforcement - Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety	\$17,345	FY 2023-24
Human Trafficking Grant - ALPRs and Cameras	\$41,743	FY 2023
Kiwanis Club - COPS House Sign and Furnishings	\$37,545	FY 2022
Wal-Mart Community Funds - Honoring the Badge Community Outreach	\$5,000	FY 2023
CDBG Funding - Blight Officer	\$95,000	FY 2024
FDLE Bulletproof Vest Funding - Bulletproof Vests	\$45,320	FY 2024
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>\$1,222,172</b>	



FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 GRANTS	
Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$13,200
Department of Justice Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (County-wide)	\$24,557
Department of Justice Edward Byrne Assistance Grant	\$29,388
FDOT Speed and Aggressive Driving - Slow Down and Stop on Red	\$30,000
Human Trafficking Grant	\$10,875
HIDTA High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas	\$39,161
Walmart Community Grant	\$5,800
West Coast Island Navigation Grant	\$58,963
<b>Total Grants Budgeted</b>	<b>\$211,944</b>

BRADENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL BUDGET			
	FY 2020/2021	FY 2021/2022	FY 2022/2023
Personnel Costs	\$16,749,820	\$16,981,565	\$18,707,598
Logistics and Services	\$2,783,197	\$3,172,175	\$3,822,212
Grant Offset	\$399,842	\$277,932	\$211,944
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,932,859</b>	<b>\$20,431,672</b>	<b>\$22,529,810</b>
Annual Approved City Budget	\$123,831,798	\$140,556,173	\$157,348,381
Police Department's Percentage of City Budget (Not including grants)	15.77%	14.34%	14.32%

## Office of Professional Standards

### Internal Affairs

The Office of Professional Standards safeguards the integrity of the City of Bradenton and Bradenton Police Department and closely monitors the conduct of officers and civilian staff. In 2023, Internal Affairs completed and closed 89 complaints involving 111 officers. Two investigations that began in 2023 remain active; 37 were citizen complaints; 52 were initiated internally.

There are three types of administrative investigations:

- **Internal Investigation:** An allegation of misconduct of a serious nature committed by an employee which requires an in-depth investigation. Examples are, but are not limited to, Unnecessary Force or Conduct Unbecoming and Employee.
- **Divisional Investigation:** An allegation of misconduct of a more minor nature committed by an employee, requiring supervisory investigation. Examples are, but are not limited to, discourtesy or inefficiency.
- **Inquiry:** An allegation that is not clearly a violation of policy or is a violation of policy that may result in a memorandum of counseling.

The investigation determines one of the following findings for each allegation:

- **Exonerated:** The investigation revealed the acts which provided the basis for the complaint or allegation 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 prove or disprove the allegations made in the complaint.
- **Sustained:** The investigation 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							
			Disposition				
	Closed Investigations	Open Investigations	Exonerated	Not Involved	Not Sustained	Sustained	Unfounded
Internal Affairs Investigations	9	1	0	0	1	8	0
Divisional Investigations	21	1	2	0	1	16	2
Inquiry	57	0	7	0	3	11	36
<b>Totals</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>



### Use of Force

Force is an occasional and unfortunate outcome of the work officers perform. "Use of force" isn't synonymous with "excessive force." An annual analysis by the Office of Professional Standards guides the development of best practices related to the management of force, revision of force policies, officer training and supervision, and handling of excessive-force allegations. The Bradenton Police Department mandates that officers document all use-of-force actions.

- Officers completed 330 use-of-force forms in 2023 in association with 173 suspects. Officers arrested 112 of those suspects.
- In 2023, officers handled 100,200 calls for service and used force in 0.29% percent of those calls. In 2022, 0.26% of calls involved the use of force.
- In 2023, 45.4% of use-of-force incidents involved a suspect with a mental or physical impairment.

TYPES OF FORCE USED BY OFFICERS			
Baton	3	OC Spray	6
Canine	1	Taser Deployed (Contact)	11
Handcuffing While Struggling	65	Taser Deployed (Not Effective)	16
Hands/Fists/Feet	150	Taser Displayed	19
Leg Restraints	20	Threat of Lethal Force	93

USE OF FORCE DEMOGRAPHICS					
Caucasian/Hispanic		African American		Asian	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
67	22	68	16	N/A	N/A

### Recruiting and Background Processing

In 2023, the Bradenton Police Department hired 28 new officers and 19 civilian employees. The recruiting and background processing unit reviewed 780 applications, a 35% decrease from 2022. From those applications, 213 received additional background investigation processing, and 53 underwent polygraph examinations, a 23% increase from 2022.

BPD's sponsored recruit program received 348 applications. Implemented in 2022, the sponsored recruit program covers law enforcement academy tuition and provides recruits with a salary and benefits. In 2023, ten recruits were sponsored through the law enforcement academies at Manatee Technical College and Suncoast Technical College. In October, 30 potential sponsored recruits attended a mass physical fitness assessment test sponsored by the department.

In October 2023, Officers Jordan Poulos and Kevin Williams traveled to Chicago to recruit out-of-state officers.

Office of Professional Standards personnel continue attending law enforcement academies and regional Equivalency of Training (EOT) classes to recruit the best officers to protect the citizens of Bradenton.



### New Hire Coordinator

The new hire coordinator facilitated seven pre-Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP) classes during 2023, requiring the coordination, training, and supervision of recruits. During this developmental phase, recruits receive basic knowledge and understanding of Bradenton Police Department's Procedural General Orders, Standard Operating Procedures, and state statutes to improve their skills, knowledge, and abilities. Additionally, recruits take online certification classes that clarify FTEP requirements and department and community policies and goals.



Once officers are sworn in, the new hire coordinator facilitates the transfer of officers to FTEP and maintains communication with new hires to ensure retention and to address training and other needs.



## Training

The Bradenton Police Department provides officers with continual and advanced training. New and seasoned officers have instructed, attended, or participated in over 9,400 hours of training. Staff use a variety of instructional techniques including Zoom video, conference calls, and distance e-learning which complement hands-on training, firearm range training, and classroom instruction.



We maintain and exceed FDLE officer certification and accreditation standards.

Notable in 2023 were the deployment of Axon Taser 10, crisis intervention training, officer wellbeing training, 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
- Marijuana Impaired Driving
- Motorcycle Crash Investigations
- Patrol Rifle
- Peer Support and Resiliency
- 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
- Axon Taser 10
- 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



## Risk Protection Order (RPO)

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act was enacted in 2018, and created Florida Statute 790.401, also known as the Risk Protection Order (RPO) Act. An RPO petition allows a law enforcement agency to obtain a court order temporarily restricting a person's access to firearms for up to one year in situations where the person poses a significant danger of harming himself/herself or others by possessing a firearm.

The department completed 36 RPOs in 2023. Three were denied by the court, and four were voluntarily dismissed. 14 firearms were seized.

## Accreditation Unit

The Bradenton Police Department is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement (CFA). Accreditation involves on-site assessments, policy examinations, file and procedural reviews and inspections by outside assessors. Accreditation standards address the entire agency, including administration, internal affairs operations, investigations, patrol, personnel, training, traffic, response to resistance, and more.

The accreditation section conducts internal inspections and audits throughout the year. Some inspections or audits include a yearly review of standard operation procedures and general orders, extra-duty employment inspections, section manuals, and other mandatory requirements required by CFA. Our Accreditation Manager performs these inspections and audits to ensure departmental policy compliance and more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services.

Accreditation is voluntary for Florida agencies. The department was initially accredited in October 2018 and re-accredited in October 2021. Agencies undergo inspection and review every three years to retain accredited status. By participating in this process, the Bradenton Police Department can ensure citizens it adheres to the highest standards of professionalism and that quality services are delivered in accordance with recognized and accepted standards. Another assessment occurs in July 2024.

## Citizen Advisory Committee

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) began in October 2020. The CAC ensures transparency and enhances trust between the department and community by demonstrating police credibility and responsiveness, ensuring citizen complaints are welcome and taken seriously, identifying trends of wrongful conduct by the department employees, recommending training improvements, and increasing public knowledge about the complaint and investigation process.

The CAC includes seven members, one from each city ward and two members selected by the mayor. Members serve two-year terms and may serve additional terms with approval from the mayor. The CAC meets quarterly at the Bradenton City Hall Chambers, 101 Old Main Street.





### Florida Contraband Forfeiture Grant Program

Forfeiture decreases crime by depriving a criminal of property used to commit an offense or acquired through illegal activity. 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 donated \$15,300 in fiscal year 2023 to programs benefitting the citizens of Bradenton.

The forfeiture grant program supports neighborhood agencies and organizations engaged in projects seeking to improve neighborhood safety, and promote crime prevention, drug prevention, drug education, drug treatment services, or school resource officer programs. Funds are available to neighborhood groups, associations, or organizations that have developed specific projects to address these areas of concern.

In 2023, 11 organizations were awarded funding from our State Forfeiture Grant Program:

- Boys & Girls Club of Manatee County, Inc.
- Bradenton Gladiators Football, Inc.
- Bradenton Police Department Explorer Post #1004
- Drug Free Manatee
- Humane Society of Manatee County
- Making an Impact
- Manatee County Girls Club, Inc. dba Just for Girls
- New Manatee Broncos
- Pace Center for Girls
- Replay Outreach, Inc.
- United Community Centers, Inc./13th Avenue Dream Center

In fiscal year 2023, the Bradenton Police Department seized \$15,000 in State Asset Forfeiture and \$72,713 in Federal Equitable Forfeiture.



### Explorer Post #1004

The Bradenton Police Department Explorer Post #1004 is a volunteer program that serves the department and community. Explorers, ages 14 to 18, learn about law enforcement through weekly classroom instruction and hands-on training. Explorers learn respect, honesty, integrity, and the importance of teamwork and cooperation.

Explorers assist with special events that include the Desoto Grand Parade, Bradenton Area River Regatta, Fourth of July festivities, Honoring the Badge, Fill the Truck Toy Drive, A Night Before Christmas at G.T. Bray Park, and Manatee County CrimeStoppers Safe Kids Night Halloween event.

The Explorer Post has approximately ten sworn and civilian advisors.





### Volunteers

Bradenton Police Department volunteers donated approximately 1,026 hours of their time in 2023. Administrative volunteers Lynne Templin, Jan Ludwig, and David Monderer have a combined total of approximately 22 years of volunteer service to the department. Explorer Post #1004 volunteers Shayne and Nieves Jenkins have served the program for more than five years.



In 2023, the department mourned the loss of two former volunteers, Judy Henshaw and Wes Hannah. "Miss Judy" retired her volunteer post in 2022, after 10 years, and Mr. Hannah donated his time to our department well into his 80s. He retired from volunteer service in 2020.



### COPs House

The Bradenton Police Department held an official grand opening of the Community Oriented Police Substation in March 2023. Located at 1801 17th Avenue W., the COPs House is a work and training space for officers and hosts a variety of community events and department-related activities. The substation is also the home to the Bradenton Police Department Explorer Program.



### Operations Division - Patrol

The Patrol Division consists of a captain, lieutenants, sergeants, and officers spread across five districts to provide 24/7 coverage. One highlight of the Patrol Division is the "Walking the Beat" initiative. Officers actively patrol their assigned beats on foot, interacting with the community and stakeholders to build trust, break down barriers, and enhance the quality of life for residents.



In 2023, the Patrol Division responded to or initiated 100,200 calls for service, of which officers initiated 31,138 close patrols and conducted 17,019 "walking the beats." During the year, officers wrote 11,014 incident reports and completed 3,782 field interviews. Patrol officers also made 2,168 arrests. We seized 111 firearms related to criminal activity and another 14 firearms were taken into temporary safekeeping under Risk Protection Orders.

During 2023, 23 new officers successfully completed the department's Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP), an intensive 16-week program that pairs new officers with certified trainers. These officers are evaluated on every facet of the job and critiqued weekly. Following the completion of FTEP, new officers are evaluated monthly by their supervision.

PATROL DIVISION STATISTICS			
	2022	2023	Percent Change
Incidents Handled	96,165	100,200	+4.2%
Incident Reports	10,412	11,014	+5.8%
Field Interviews	3,365	3,782	+12.4%
Close Patrols	27,061	31,138	+15.1%
"Walking The Beats"	17,423	17,109	-1.8%



### Support Services

Support Services consists of a core group of officers assigned to one lieutenant and two sergeants who collaborate, partner, and work alongside organizations and business owners to police the downtown corridor, Riverwalk, and the city's three Community Redevelopment Areas (CRA). These officers focus on crime prevention through community engagement and relationship building.



### Blighted Property and Homeless Outreach Officer

Support from the Community Redevelopment Agency made it possible to establish this specialized position in 2023. The officer dedicated to blighted properties and homeless issues works directly with a full-time case manager to offer services and assistance to homeless citizens to reduce calls for service. The officer also works closely with City Code Enforcement to address abandoned homes, buildings, and campsites.

### Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Officers

Community Redevelopment Area officers take a proactive approach to combatting crime before it happens. They enhance living conditions and solve issues by focusing on community engagement and relationship building with the help of Code Enforcement, Community Outreach, and city officials. CRA officers partner with local businesses and residents to provide enhanced policing and crime prevention through environmental design.

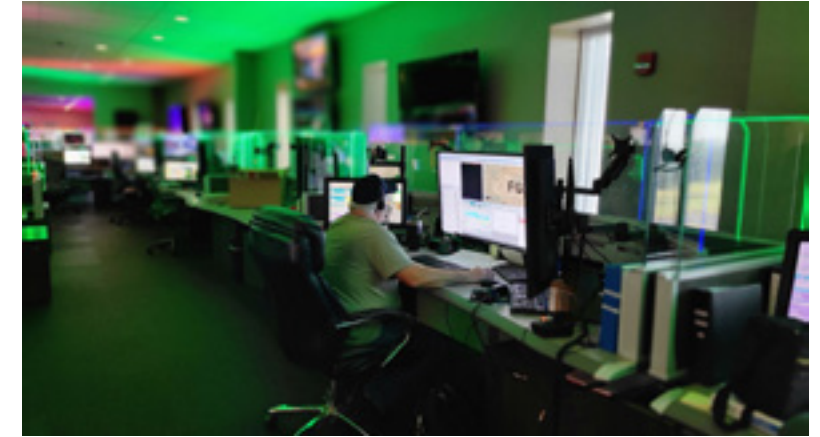


### Crime Prevention Officer

The Crime Prevention Officer reflects the Bradenton Police Department's commitment to community oriented policing. The Crime Prevention Officer is the community coordinator for citizens and businesses, developing and implementing crime prevention, safety, and outreach programs.

### Communications

The communications center is operational 24/7, 365 days a year, and includes a diverse group of state-certified public safety telecommunicators who answer emergency and non-emergency calls in the City of Bradenton. They also dispatch for the Bradenton Police Department and operate the agency's teletype department. BPD's communications center operates from the Manatee County Public Safety Building, alongside the Manatee County Emergency Communication staff. Prior to September 2023, BPD's communications center dispatched for the Bradenton Fire Department. These calls are now dispatched by Manatee County communication staff.



COMMUNICATIONS CENTER STATISTICS			
	2022	2023	Percent Change
Emergency 911 Calls	18,867	20,142	+6.8%
BPD Calls for Service	90,664	81,698	-9.9%
BFD Calls for Service	8,170	6,254 (January - September)	-23.5%



### Honor Guard

The Honor Guard has been active within the department for 36 years. This specialty unit of officers performs traditional color guard functions at parades, ceremonies, and charity events. The Guard also participates in the intricate details inherent to line-of-duty deaths for fallen law enforcement officers.



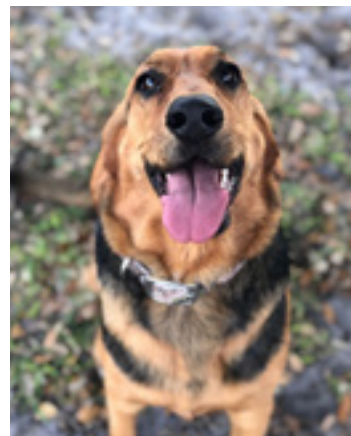
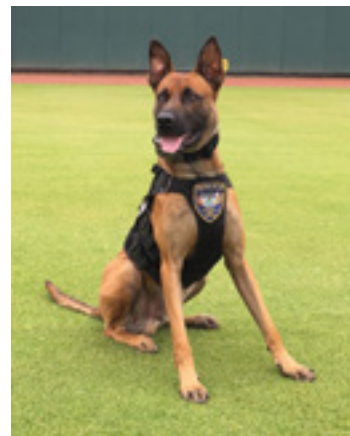
In 2023, the Honor Guard performed ceremonial duties at the memorial services for Bradenton Police Sergeant Lee Cosens, who passed away in April following a hard-fought battle with cancer. The Honor Guard also participates annually in the DeSoto Grand Parade, Pittsburg Pirates spring training, and Bradenton Marauders games.

### Canine Teams

The Bradenton Police Department ended 2023 with three active canine teams. Drax specializes in criminal apprehension and narcotic detection, Blue specializes in narcotic detection, and Liberty specializes in human scent detection. Apprehension canine Murtaugh retired in late 2023.

Our canine teams are committed to the highest ethical standards. Our teams undergo a rigorous 480-hour handler course to prepare for the various situations they encounter during their tours of duty. Teams train regularly to ensure they are ready for deployment at any moment and re-certify annually to ensure they maintain the highest level of proficiency.

In 2023, the canine teams had 78 deployments. Moreover, searches by Blue resulted in the seizure of 4.9g of MDMA; 9g of rock cocaine; 1.4kg of methamphetamine; 60.1g of marijuana and 13.4g of cocaine.



### Traffic Unit

The Traffic Unit reduces traffic-related injuries and fatalities through proactive enforcement efforts, community education programs, and coordination with the city traffic safety team and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).



This unit includes a motorcycle team, DUI specialists, and traffic homicide investigators who work with the patrol unit to address traffic concerns. Traffic officers analyze traffic crash data and review citizen complaints to identify areas of concern. Officers aggressively and proactively target these locations to reduce driver behaviors that contribute to traffic crashes.

In 2023, the Traffic Unit applied for, received and managed more than \$77,000 in grants from FDOT and other government and civilian entities. These funds helped us purchase needed equipment and conduct high-visibility enforcement campaigns.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS			
	2022	2023	Percent Change
Warnings	2,551	2,704	+6%
Citations	3,983	5,842	+47%
Crash Investigations	1,942	1,943	+0.05%
Traffic Homicide Investigations	8	6	-25%
DUI Arrests	58	103	+78%





### Marine Unit

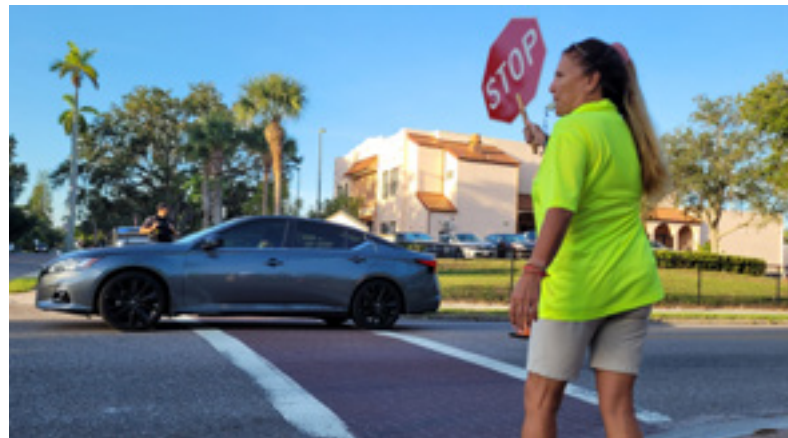
The Bradenton Police Department Marine Unit includes officers and supervisors in various assignments. The unit patrols waterways within the City of Bradenton and provides aid to local, state, and federal agencies needing assistance with enforcement or search-and-rescue efforts. Our patrol vessel is stored on a boat lift close to the department, readily available for a quick response when needed.



The Marine Unit plays a vital role during the Bradenton Area River Regatta, the Manatee River Lighted Boat Parade, and the Bradenton Area Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration. The Marine Unit also participates in several significant area events, including the Gasparilla Invasion in Tampa, and the St. Petersburg Offshore Grand Prix. In 2023, Marine Patrol also assisted Keep Manatee Beautiful volunteers, divers, and kayakers with a cleanup of the Manatee River.

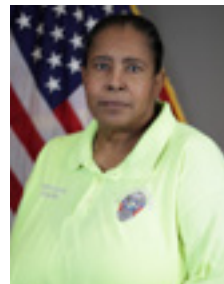
### Crossing Guards

Our civilian crossing guards keep students safe at several schools in the city, including Sugg Middle School, Ballard Elementary School, Rogers Elementary School, Manatee Elementary School, J.P. Miller Elementary School, Sea Breeze Elementary School, and Moody Elementary School. Additionally, several crossing guards assist students at Prine Elementary, Palma Sola Elementary, and King Middle School.



Crossing guards receive eight hours of annual training, including classroom instruction by a Florida Department of Transportation certified trainer, in-the-field instruction, and on-site observation by a certified trainer.

In December, Bradenton Police Department mourned the passing of Sandra Bacon, a dedicated crossing guard for 13 years. Sandra helped students at Sugg Middle School get to and from school safely.



### School Resource Officers (SRO)

The Bradenton Police Department has three full-time and two part-time School Resource Officers (SROs) who serve Manatee High School, Sugg Middle School, and Manatee Elementary. These sworn officers increase interaction between law enforcement, students, school staff, and parents. School safety is the top priority of SROs. As liaisons between our agency and the School District of Manatee County, SROs provide faster response and resolution to minor instances, investigate crimes on campus, and provide a visible presence to deter and identify trespassers. SROs receive annual active-assault training. Additionally, SROs provide conflict resolution between students, advise troubled students, teach law-enforcement-related topics in a classroom setting, and build positive relationships with students.



In 2023, BPD's School Resource Officers (SROs) were honored with the "Champions of Prevention" Award by Drug Free Manatee. These officers are positive role models for young people and are on the front lines of preventing substance abuse while promoting health and wellness among our youth.





## Operations Division - Patrol Support



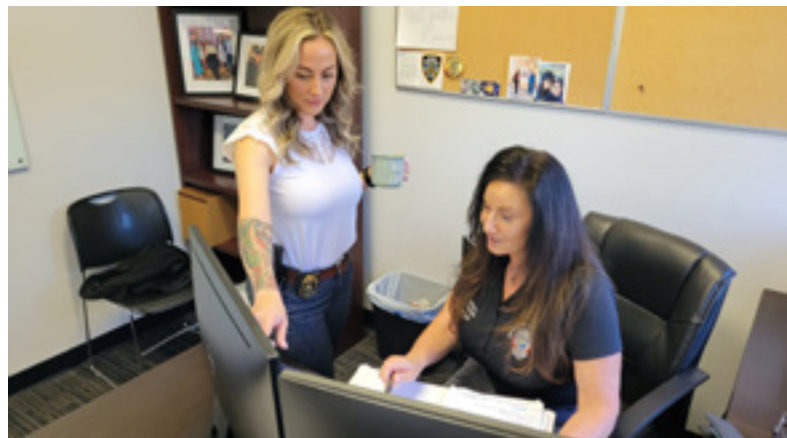
### Criminal Investigations Section (CIS)

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) detectives investigate persons, property, fraud, missing persons, and crimes against children. CIS detectives are assigned to the Manatee County Homicide Investigations Task Force, the Manatee County Violent Crimes Task Force, the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force, the FBI Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and the Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force. During 2023, the CIS investigated 2,085 case follow-ups, made 261 arrests, and investigated four homicides.



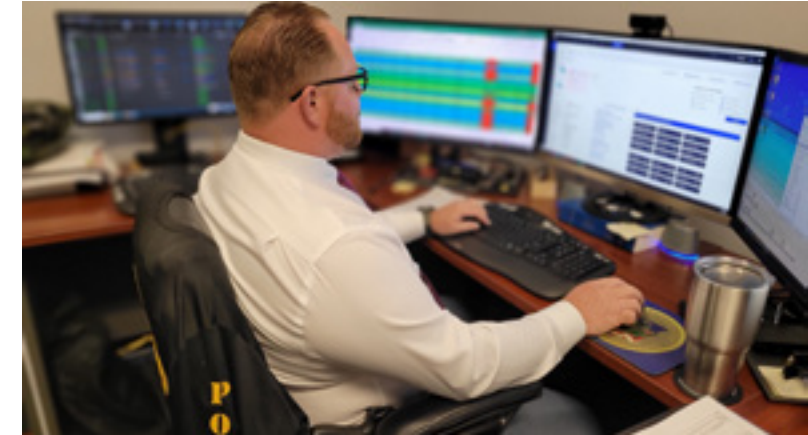
### Crime Analysts

In 2023, the Bradenton Police Department added the role of Crime Analyst to the Patrol Support division. Crime Analysts assist with investigations by gathering information related to a specific crime or criminal using a variety of resources. Analysts also identify developing crime patterns to assist with strategic planning, prepare intelligence bulletins for the department, share intelligence bulletins from surrounding law enforcement agencies, and compile weekly reports on criminal activity within the city.



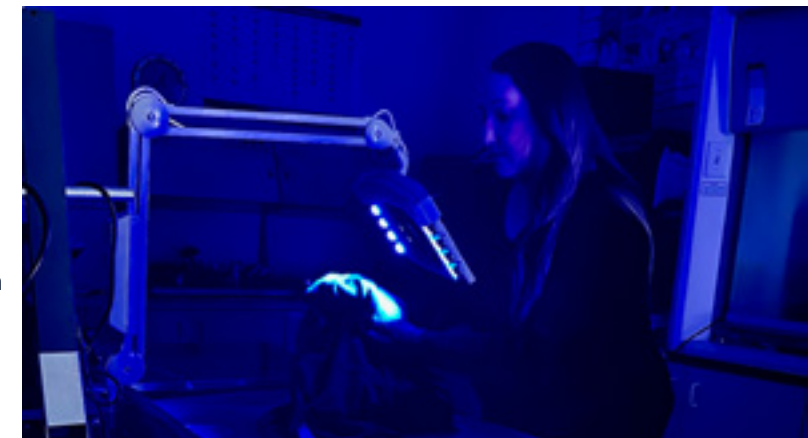
### Digital Forensics

The Digital Forensics Unit is a support unit within the Criminal Investigations Section. Digital forensics detectives work closely with other investigators to extract evidence from devices. These detectives receive advanced training and use hardware and software to examine seized computers, mobile devices, and surveillance video.



### Crime Scene Investigations

The Crime Scene Unit is staffed by three civilian crime scene investigators. Crime scene investigators respond to major 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. In 2023, the Crime Scene Unit responded to 244 crime scenes and processed 117 evidence service requests for evidence submitted to the identification lab.



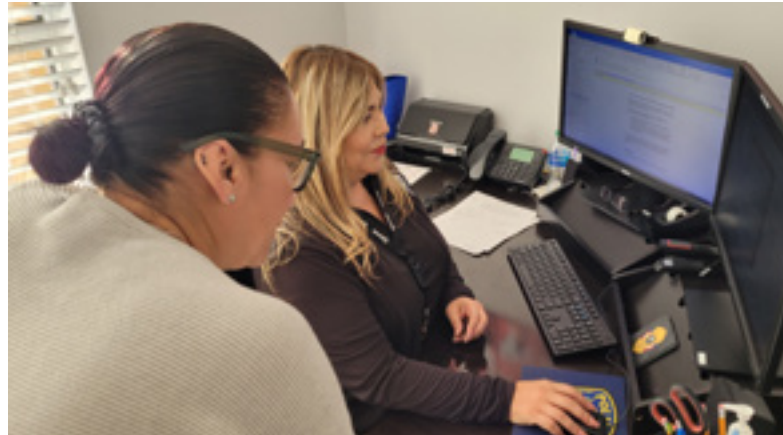


### Body-Worn Cameras

The Bradenton Police Department implemented the Body Worn Camera program in 2021 as a commitment to the community to promote the highest standard of transparency and accountability. In 2023, the department invested in new Axon Body 4 cameras, the newest body-worn-camera technology, for all officers. Body worn cameras are used daily by officers responding to calls for service and self-initiated activity. Recorded contact with citizens and evidence gathering is uploaded to secure storage at the end of every shift. Video retention is based on the Florida General Records Schedule established standards. Personnel assigned to manage the BWC program ensure officers are properly trained, issue equipment, and respond to public record requests for footage.

### FIBRS/NIBRS Public Records Compliance Lead

The FIBRS/NIBRS Public Records Compliance Lead processes police public records requests and coordinates Florida Incident Based Reporting System (FIBRS)/National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) crime reporting. Administered on a national level by the FBI and in Florida by FDLE, the FIBRS program provides a reliable set of criminal justice statistics for law enforcement administration, operation and management, and indicates fluctuations in crime in the United States. FIBRS crime reporting is a collective effort by city, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies to present a nationwide view of crime.



### Narcotics Unit

The Narcotics Unit investigates the use and sale of illegal narcotics. Narcotics Unit detectives 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 High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program for the last four years and has had great success in disrupting and eliminating narcotic organizations within our area. 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. 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.



2023 OVERALL AGENCY SEIZURES						
Cocaine	Fentanyl	Heroin	Marijuana	Meth	Pills	Money
1,291/g	1,017.8/g	9.3/g	11,188.2/g	1,354/g	1,933/g	\$87,713

### Real Time Crime Information Center (RTCIC)

The Real Time Crime Information Center (RTCIC) is a state-of-the-art operations center that serves as the agency's information hub. The center supports public safety efforts to prevent and reduce crime, provide effective and efficient police service to the community, and enhance citizen and officer safety. The benefits of the RTCIC include real-time information sharing, quick identification and apprehension of criminals, crime prevention/crime reduction strategies, and overall increased public safety. The center focuses primarily on using advanced software to map and integrate various law enforcement tools such as Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) systems, FUSUS surveillance camera integration, and city-owned and other authorized software components. RTCIC operators can provide situational awareness and critical information to first responders, allowing them to plan and coordinate needed resources, quickly identify and locate criminal suspects, and ability to handle emergencies effectively.



### Reserve Officers

The Reserve Officer Program is composed of sworn law enforcement officers who work under the direct supervision of department personnel. Reservists supplement full-time staff and play an instrumental role in a variety of capacities, including providing security during city council meetings, assisting with large community events including the Bradenton Area River Regatta and Desoto Grand Parade, and patrolling Bradenton's downtown. Some reservists provide specialized administrative services. During 2023, 17 reserve officers assisted the department.



### Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is an elite team of officers that are equipped and available for immediate deployment to incidents such as high-risk search warrants, barricaded subjects, and other special assignments. SWAT team members train monthly and participate yearly in a week-long joint training with the Hostage Negotiation Team and SWAT teams from other law enforcement agencies.



### Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT)

The Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) consists of officers specially trained in negotiation tactics and crisis intervention. The HNT may be called to respond to a barricaded subject, hostage situation, suicide attempt, or other situations as necessary. Team members receive advanced, specialized training and participate in annual joint training with the SWAT team.



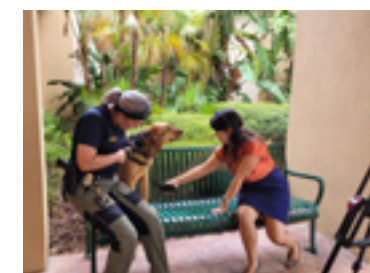
### Public Information Officer

The Public Information Officer (PIO) writes and disseminates media releases, responds to media inquiries for information, including after hours and on holidays, serves as department spokesperson, and coordinates interviews with sworn officers. The PIO also serves as the Manatee County Emergency Operations Center and City of Bradenton public safety information liason for emergencies including hurricanes, and large-scale community events, such as the Bradenton Area River Regatta. The PIO also documents the department in photos and videos, maintains BPD's social media accounts, updates the department's website, and creates graphics and materials for internal and external use.



In 2023, the PIO produced more than 50 media releases and provided on-camera interviews to all of the local television stations in the greater Tampa Bay area. BPD's Facebook page added nearly 11,000 followers and reached more than 6.1 million people, an increase of 116% from 2022. The top Facebook post, which explained when drivers must stop for school buses, reached more than 1.7 million people. BPD's second most popular Facebook post was a "selfie," taken by Sergeant Joseph Kelly, who bumped into "Dog the Bounty Hunter" at Starbucks. The post reached more than 862,000 people. Video views on the Facebook page doubled from 2022 to 2023, with more than 245,500 minutes viewed. The most popular video of the year, an impromptu "Cupid Shuffle" in the rain by the department's Honor Guard, was viewed more than 281,000 times on Facebook and ranks in the top posts in the history of the department's Twitter (X) feed.

The Department also added more than 1,400 new Instagram followers and over 1,000 new Twitter (X) followers. BPD also has a YouTube page where our most popular video has over 365,000 views.







## Administrative Services Division

### Quartermaster

The quartermaster oversees the expenditures and procurement of personnel equipment, including standards-compliant equipment for new hires. The quartermaster also ensures lethal and nonlethal weapons are stored, maintained, and distributed according to federal, state, and department regulations. In 2023, the quartermaster was responsible for the distribution of Motorola APX 6000 radios and Axon Taser 10 to sworn officers. The quartermaster's total operating and equipment expenditures in 2023 were \$189,847.



### Records

The Records Department gathers, processes, and disseminates investigative, supplemental, and traffic reports written by department personnel, including police reports and associated paperwork, digital files, outside agency requests, and information received within the criminal justice system by our department. This section also tracks and processes public records requests in a timely fashion following state law and identifies records available for destruction according to state records retention requirements. In 2023, the Records Section processed 11,016 police reports and processed, disseminated, and fulfilled more than 5,142 public records requests.



### Property and Evidence

The Property and Evidence (P&E) Unit accepts, stores, maintains, and tracks property and evidence taken into custody and submitted during investigations. Evidence remains in the department's custody until it is needed for court, or until it can be lawfully disposed of. At the end of 2023, P&E maintained custody of 43,794 items. During 2023, 2,821 items were received, 445 were returned to their rightful owners, and 115 unclaimed items were donated to local charities. P&E properly destroyed 2,887 items that were not returnable or that were no longer required to be maintained securely.



### Parking

The Parking Unit's Parking Enforcement Specialist focuses on downtown enforcement. Areas of responsibility include the City's parking regulations, tracking of issued citations, and citation payment collections. Sworn Bradenton Police Department personnel also enforce the City's parking regulations, but in a broader effort citywide. During the 2023 calendar year, 2,273 parking citations were issued citywide, an increase of 76% from 2022. Parking fines and fees collected are deposited into the City of Bradenton's General Fund.



### Building Maintenance

The Building Maintenance team includes a supervisor and custodian who oversees the maintenance and cleanliness of our main station and COPs House and ensures vehicles are safe and functioning properly. During special events, the team assists with food and water distribution and provides custodial duties. Our staff worked throughout Hurricane Idalia to keep our facilities open and clean and assisted displaced officers.





## New Civilian Employees

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- Roberto Batista, Background Investigator
- William Brinkworth, City Hall Security/Front Desk
- Gary Davis, School Crossing Guard
- Rosalie Estrada, Records Clerk
- Selena Gomez, Crime Analyst
- Todd Johnson, On-call School Crossing Guard
- Harold Mooneyhan, Parking Enforcement Specialist
- Nancy Petrara-Stafyleras, Crime Analyst
- Dennis Schmidt, School Crossing Guard
- Barbara Ulrich, School Crossing Guard
- Daniel Zawadski, Communications

## Retirements

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- Captain William Knight
- Detective Nasario Camacho
- Officer Brian Wingate
- Officer Matthew Palmer and K9 Murtaugh



## Department Chaplain's Message

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I have had the privilege of serving as Chaplain for the department since 2009. This assignment is one of the great highlights of the various responsibilities I have in ministry.

According to Romans Chapter 13, law enforcement is a Divine call from God to be agents of peace and order. I believe that those who serve in this noble capacity, aid in demonstrating Matthew 6:10, "On Earth as it is in Heaven," as Heaven is a place of perfect peace and order.

Serving as Chaplain includes holding our officers up in prayer, personally praying for them, giving pastoral guidance, and assisting in police ceremonies.

Matthew 5:9 (TPT) "How blessed you are when you make peace! For then you will be recognized as a true child of God."

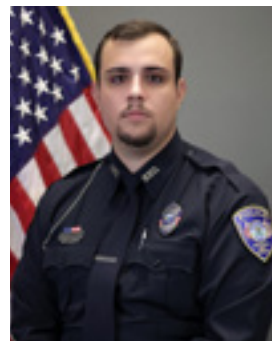
I love and honor my Bradenton PD Family!

Pastor Don Sturiano





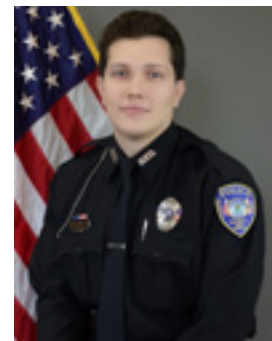
## New Officers



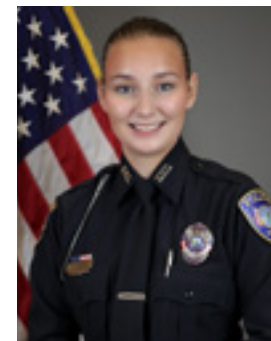
Charles Bivens



Steven Bemby



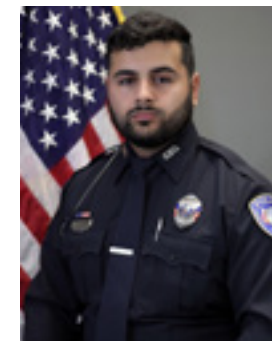
Jesse Clark



Kaylee Gruenig



Amar Hasanbasic



Malik Hass



Jorge Castro



Richard Coachman



Tiffany Gordon



Raul Hernandez



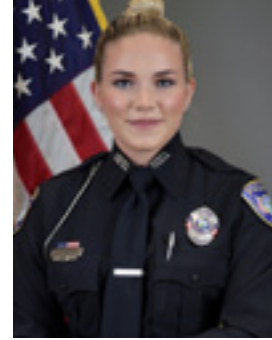
Connor Horsley



Michael Kessie



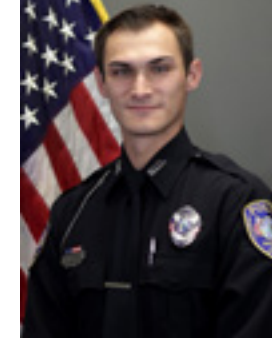
Jannel James



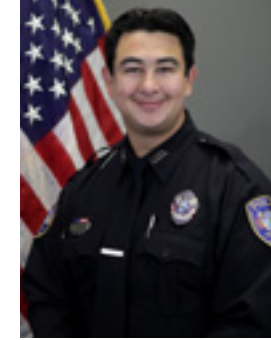
Maddie Johnson



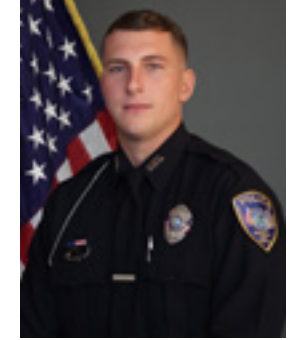
Detective  
Stephen Lieberman



Dmitry Rousseau



Dominic Vega



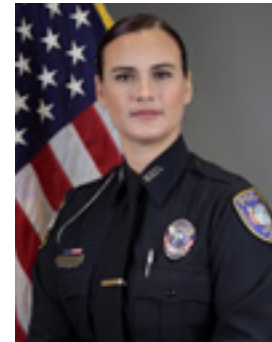
Michael Wall



Caleb Losek



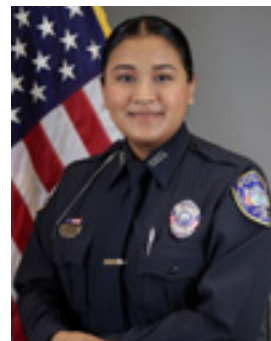
Rolando Mata



Phillipa Olivas



James Williams



Gloria Palacios



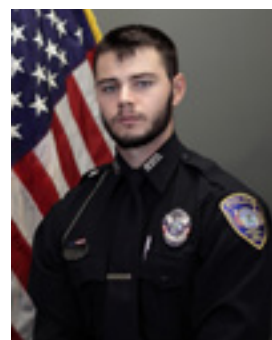
Detective Teresa Perry



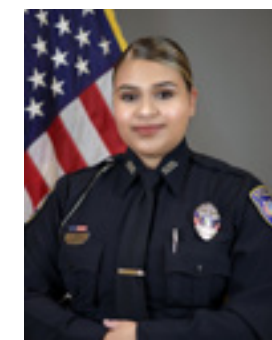
Detective Greg Price



Jonathan Rada



Jaden Reppi



Karina Rivera



## Awards and Commendations

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**Master Patrol Officer Josh Small**  
2022 Distinguished Service Award  
Congressional Law Enforcement Dedication and Professionalism Award



**Detective William Mulligan**  
Congressional Law Enforcement Preservation of Life Award



**Officer Jason Rhind**  
Congressional Fire and Rescue/EMS Unit Citation Award



**Officer Jacobe Scott**  
Life-Saving Award



**Officer Deana McNeal**  
Bradenton Women's Club Recognition

## 2022 Officer of the Year

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**Detective Carl Jones**  
2022 Officer of the Year  
Sons of the American Revolution Commendation Medal

## 2023 Officers of the Quarter

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**Detective Michael Carpenter**  
First Quarter



**Detective Adam Wollard**  
Second Quarter



**Detective Brian Sands**  
Third Quarter



**Sergeant Russell Ackerman**  
Fourth Quarter



## 2022 Civilian of the Year



**Robert Anderson**  
Background Investigator and Polygrapher  
Recruiting

## 2022 Volunteer of the Year



**Jan Ludwig**  
Administrative Services

## 2023 Civilians of the Quarter



**Sandy Orsino**  
Financial Services  
First Quarter



**Secilia Albright**  
Property and Evidence  
Second Quarter

## 2023 Volunteers of the Quarter\*



**Shayne Jenkins**  
Explorers  
First Quarter



**David Monderer**  
Administrative Services  
Second Quarter



**Rosanna DeMarco**  
Records  
Third Quarter



**Michael Carr**  
Communications  
Fourth Quarter

\*As of September 2023, our volunteers are honored annually, instead of quarterly.



## Bradenton Blue Foundation

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

In 2023, the Foundation provided funds for the following:

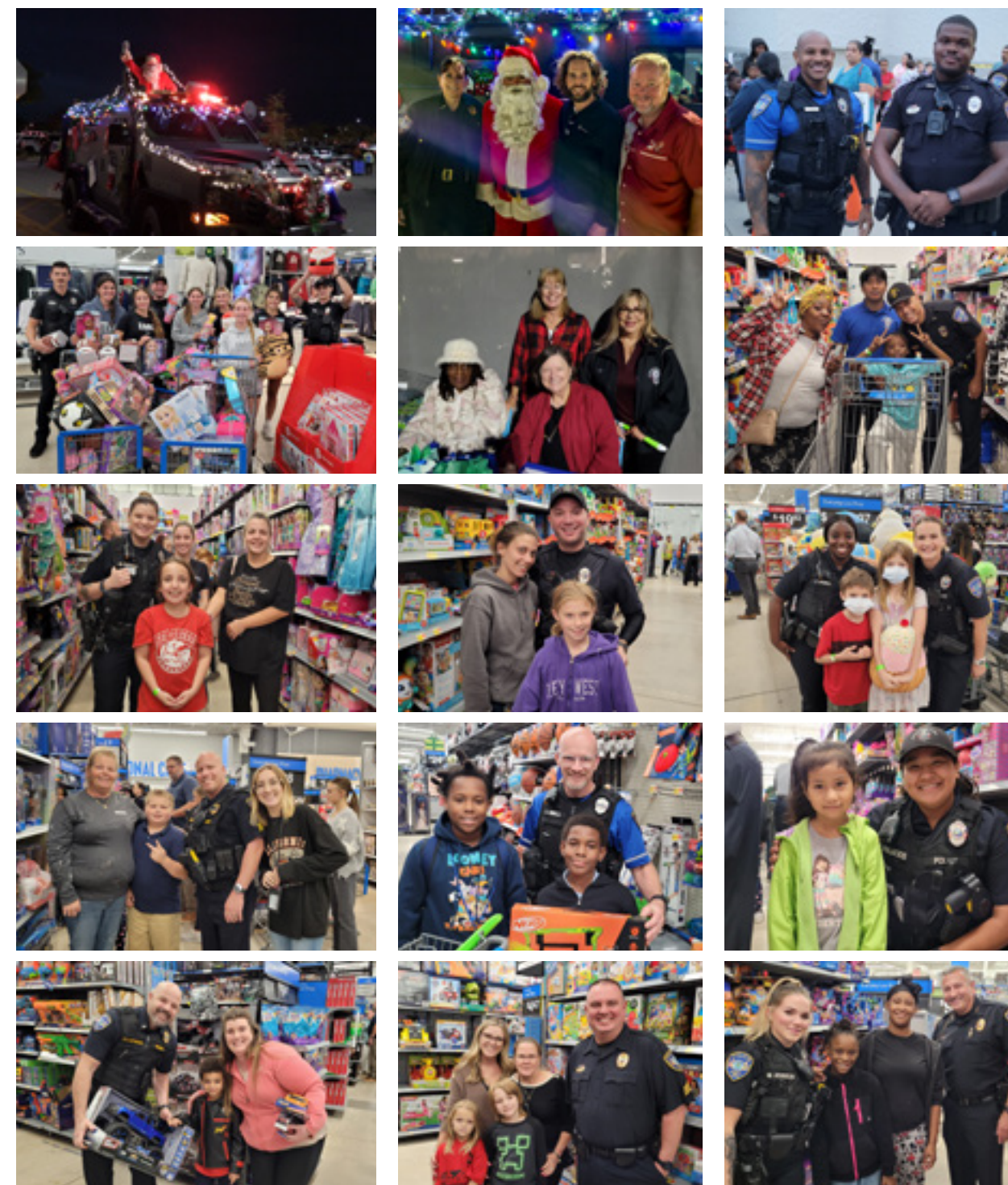
- 20 automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) with a grant from the Defibrillate Manatee Foundation to equip all patrol cars with this life-saving device
- Candy for Halloween and Christmas outreach events

The Foundation thanks the Pittsburgh Pirates, Wawa, Jess Jewelers, Wagner Realty, Hernando DeSoto Historical Society & the GOATS of DeSoto, Carousel's Soft Serve Iceery, Defibrillate Manatee Foundation, Cox Chevrolet and Walmart #1004 for their generosity.



## 15th Annual Honoring The Badge

Since the program began in 2008, Honoring The Badge has helped make the holidays merrier for more than 2,125 children. Honoring The Badge is made possible by Cox Chevrolet, Kingdom Life Christian Church, and Walmart #1004.





## November

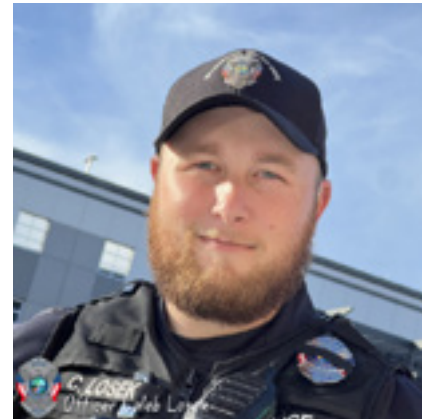
Although having a beard is permitted at BPD, during November officers who donate to the Movember Foundation may grow their beards beyond the department's requirements. The Movember Foundation is one of the largest men's health organizations in the world. Since 2016, BPD has raised more than \$9,500 in support of men's health.



**First Place**  
Detective Brian Sands  
(AKA Yukon Cornelius)



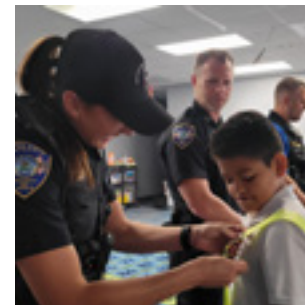
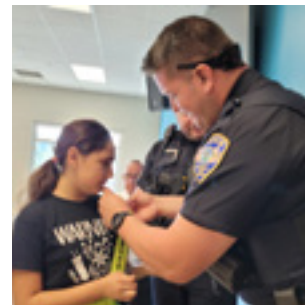
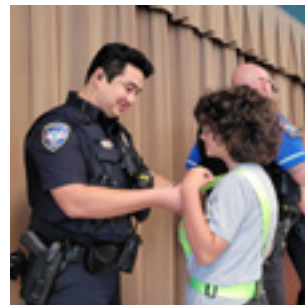
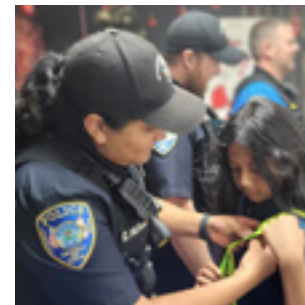
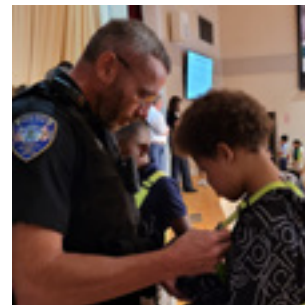
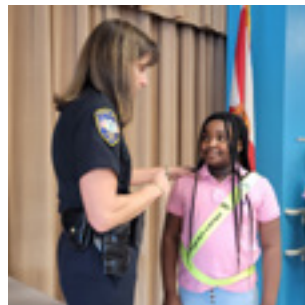
**Second Place**  
Officer Alex Wentland



**Third Place (People's Choice)**  
Officer Caleb Losek

## Safety Patrol

Safety Patrol officers are elementary school students who assist with the morning arrival and afternoon departure of classmates, teach younger children about safety, look out for bullying, and serve as role models. Each year, the Bradenton Police Department holds a badge-pinning ceremony to recognize the Safety Patrol officers at the public elementary schools in the city. In 2023, 130 Safety Patrol officers received badges during ceremonies at Ballard, Jessie P. Miller, Manatee, Moody, G.D. Rogers Garden-Bullock and Sea Breeze elementary schools.



## Outdoor Lobby

The Bradenton Police Department's outdoor lobby garden, located in front of the police department on 10th St. W., is monitored by surveillance cameras and designated as a safe space for individuals to exchange items they're selling or purchasing online. The covered bench also serves as a place for visitors to relax in the shade while visiting the Riverwalk and during community events held in the department's parking lot, including the annual Shred Event and Fill The Truck toy drive.



During the holidays, department personnel decorate the garden, and the space becomes a popular backdrop for Christmas photos.







# BPD in the Community

During 2023 sworn officers and civilian staff volunteered their time with various organizations and participated in countless events throughout the City of Bradenton. These are some of the highlights of our year.





## Community Support

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





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[www.BradentonPD.com](http://www.BradentonPD.com)

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