

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ryan G. Duffy



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Newport Police Department is to provide excellence in police service through aggressive pursuit of violators of the law and the prevention of crime and disorderliness. This will be accomplished by forging a partnership with the citizens of Newport to enhance the quality of life, reduce the fear of crime, preserve the peace, and impartially enforce the law, while maintaining a higher standard of integrity than is generally expected of others, and respecting the dignity of each individual. Our services will be rendered with courtesy, civility, and adherence to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

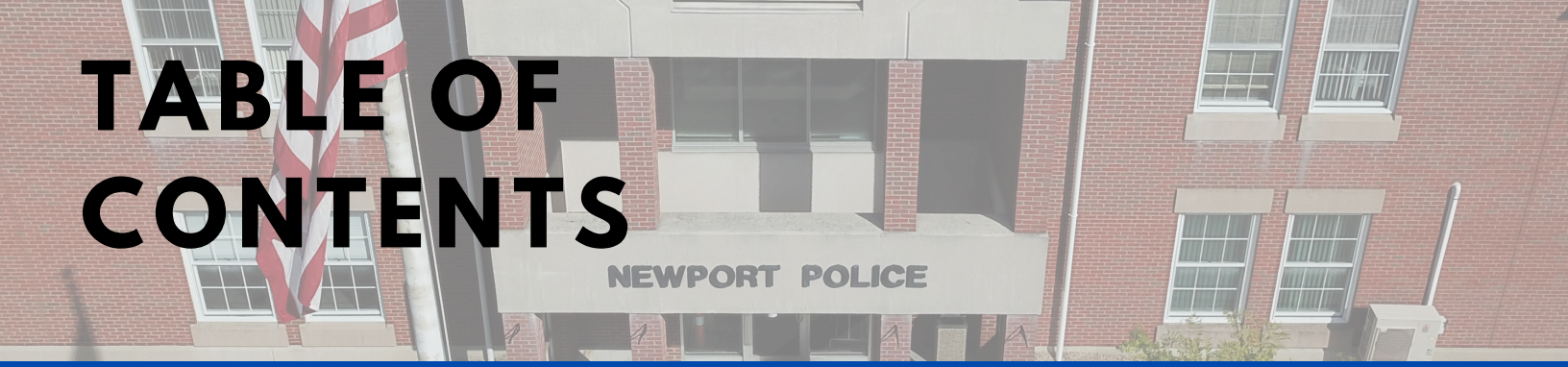


TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT US

Newport Police Department Profile 4
2024 Notable Trends 6
Executive Command Staff 11
Department Awards & Achievements 15
Our Path Forward 18
2024 Organizational Chart 20
About Us - City of Newport 21

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

Uniform Patrol 23
Newport County Special Response Team 25
Animal Control 26
Community Policing 28
LGBTQ+ Liaison Officer 31
Social Media 32
Traffic Unit 33

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION (CID)

CID 37
Vice Unit 38
Juvenile Unit 40
Bureau of Criminal Identification 42
Prosecution Office 43
Intelligence Unit 44

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Administrative Services Division 45
Training Unit 47
Quartermaster & Facility Management 49
IT & Records Management 50
Office of Officer Safety & Conflict Resolution 51
Body Worn Cameras 54
Peer Support & Wellness 55
Accreditation 56
Dispatch 58

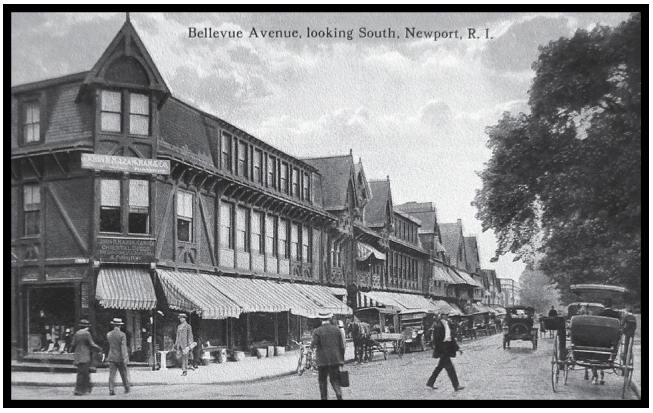
ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

Vehicle Pursuits 59
Fair & Impartial Policing 60
Crime Data 62
Citizen Complaints 63
Hiring Process 64
Promotions 66
Personnel Actions 68

ANNEX A

Newport Police 2024 Use of Force Analysis 72

NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT PROFILE



The Newport Police Department (NPD) began to organize in 1841 when the role of a single town Sergeant, charged with maintaining order in the community, was expanded to include a day watch. From those humble beginnings, NPD has continued to evolve over the last 184 years into its present-day structure. NPD has had four permanent police stations; Market Square (1867 and 1915), 13 Marlborough Street (1965), and 120 Broadway (1985 to present). It is a full-time agency, and the supervisory rank structure consists of a Chief of Police, three Captains, seven Lieutenants and 14 Sergeants.

The agency is budgeted to have 83 full time active sworn personnel and also includes a part-time Retired Officer Corps, civilian support staff, and traffic aids. NPD's organizational structure is comprised of a Uniform Patrol Division, Criminal Investigation Division, and Administrative Services Division; each division is supported by several sub-components. Full-time sworn personnel within NPD are assigned to Uniform Patrol, Community Policing Unit, Traffic Unit, Training Unit, Accreditation Unit, Criminal Investigation, and Administrative Services. Non-sworn professional staff include Dispatchers, Records Clerks, and facilities personnel. There are many collateral duty assignments for sworn personnel, including Bicycle Patrol, Motorcycle Patrol, Special Response Team, Drone Unit, Officer Wellness Unit, and Police Academy Instructors. The NPD's Retired Officer Corps program provides us the ability to support traffic control and special event operations

NPD Personnel Totals December 31, 2024

- **77 Full-Time Sworn Personnel**
- **36 Part-Time Retired Officer Corps. (ROC)**
- **19 Civilian Staff**
- **9 Traffic Aides**

NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT PROFILE

through an experienced cadre of retired law enforcement professionals. NPD's collective bargaining agents are the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 8 for active sworn personnel, and two separate collective bargaining agents for non-sworn staff; RI Council 94 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) Local 911 and National Education Association (NEA) of RI, Local 840.

The adopted budget for FY2024 was $19.1 million, and the adopted budget for FY2025 is $21.3 million.





2024 NOTABLE TRENDS

THE PROFESSION OF POLICING AND HERE AT HOME

Police Executive Research Forum's Five Trends for 2024:

Drop in murders: Nationally, the Real-Time Crime Index showed that murders decreased more than 15% from 2023 to 2024, and some cities observed even greater successes. Boston recorded its fewest homicides since 1957, and many other cities saw large decreases. As crime analyst Jeff Asher wrote on Substack, "The nation's murder rate has largely erased the post-COVID surge and was roughly around or [at] 2019's level while reported violent and property crime were likely amongst the lowest rates recorded since the 1960s and 1970s… Murder likely fell at the fastest rate ever recorded in 2024 after falling at the fastest rate ever recorded in 2023."

In Newport, homicides are not a significant problem. Our busy city did not experience any homicides in 2024.

Drop in overdose deaths: The CDC reported that predicted drug overdose deaths decreased from about 113,000 to approximately 94,000, a drop of nearly 17%, over the 12-month period that ended in July 2024.

Newport followed this trend with only one reported death as a direct result of an overdose.





2024 NOTABLE TRENDS

THE PROFESSION OF POLICING AND HERE AT HOME

Election results favor tougher approach to crime: In the November elections, several states passed measures implementing a more enforcement-heavy approach to crime — most notably California, which passed a proposition focused on retail theft and drug offenses. Some analysts believe that these results reflect a shift in Americans' attitudes toward crime and policing.



NPD concentrates its resources as much on preventative measures as it does on responding to and investigating crime. We prioritize having a visible presence in the community and addressing quality of life issues and crimes. Traffic safety has been a significant concern for the residents of Newport, and our officers enforced more traffic violations in 2024 than in the previous twenty years.

Police Chief changes in major cities: A number of new police chiefs took over in major cities this past year. In the country's two largest cities, Jim McDonnell was named LAPD chief in October, and Jessica Tisch was appointed NYPD commissioner in November. This continues a national trend, as the Major Cities Chiefs Association reported that 75 of its 79 member agencies experienced leadership turnover between 2020 and late 2023.



In 2024, Chief Ryan Duffy completed his first full year as the chief executive officer of the NPD. Through a restructuring by the city administration, the position of Police Chief now also serves as the Director of Public Safety for the City of Newport.

2024 NOTABLE TRENDS

THE PROFESSION OF POLICING AND HERE AT HOME

In his role, Chief Duffy is charged with coordinating the efforts of the Police Department, Fire Department, Harbors Department, and the City's Transportation Coordinator. In late 2024, Chief Duffy was also elected to the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association's (RIPCA) Executive Board. Over the coming years, Chief Duffy and the RIPCA Executive Board will represent the Police Chiefs and RI Police Agencies on matters affecting RI policing.

Hiring and retention challenges: A survey conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum found that small- and medium-sized member agencies' sworn staffing numbers rose slightly in 2023 after three straight years of decreases. Staffing numbers from 2023 had exceeded previous year's numbers (not seen since 2019) for small- and medium-sized agencies. However, staffing in large agencies was nearly 5% below 2019 levels, and many reported continued staffing issues in 2024.



In one extreme example of staffing challenges, the Fremont, California Police Department offered 10 lateral transfers a $100,000 signing bonus in 2024. While lateral transfers help increase the statistics of their new agency, this then creates a vacancy in the agency the officer leaves.

2024 NOTABLE TRENDS

THE PROFESSION OF POLICING AND HERE AT HOME



Newport has continued to see its own staffing challenges in 2024. The Rhode Island law enforcement community is only seeing a small number of qualified applicants as vacancies open across the state. The City of Newport has had a particularly difficult time finding qualified applicants. Some of this is likely attributed to the cost of living on Aquidneck Island. Analysis confirms that the City of Newport generally has a higher cost of living than the rest of RI. In addition, the cost living index in Newport is currently higher than the national average making it challenging to attract candidates. As a result, applicants tend to apply to departments closer to where they live and, with recent inflation and increases in the housing market, Aquidneck Island is out of reach for most new police applicants.

To address these concerns, in 2024, the City's Human Resources Department in conjunction with the NPD's Administrative Services Division, adopted several strategies to improve the number of full-time sworn staff. NPD has begun to accept employment applications from already certified police officers from within the state and from other states. This strategy significantly decreases the "application to solo-patrol" time for a potential hire. From the initial posting that NPD is accepting applications, through to when the applicant becomes an independent policing practitioner, the hiring process takes approximately one year.



2024 NOTABLE TRENDS

THE PROFESSION OF POLICING AND HERE AT HOME

Previously, the process for already certified officers to enter NPD was the same as new hires, which is considerably slower since timelines are based off the total academy enrollment.



Separately, NPD has been sending staff to attend the "Fit 2 Serve" testing dates for police applicants to engage with individuals testing for police departments across Rhode Island. This initial contact allows NPD to interact with potential applicants and to promote the City of Newport for future employment. Lastly, NPD has proactively developed a culture that aligns with the new generation of police officers best suited for our community. NPD has adjusted its policies on facial hair and has developed wellness policies and programs geared towards our officers in an effort to attract more applicants and improve the culture within the organization.

In 2024, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #8, along with the NPD administration advocated for an increase in compensation for our staff and also implemented a $5000 signing bonus for certified officer applicants. These efforts have had an immediate and direct impact on our department leading to NPD ending 2024 in a better staffing position than at the beginning of the year.

EXECUTIVE COMMAND STAFF

RYAN G. DUFFY

CHIEF OF POLICE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Chief Duffy was sworn in as the Chief of Police for the City of Newport on June 9th, 2023, after several months in the position of Interim Chief of Police. Chief Duffy has over 20 years total leadership experience between the EMS profession as a supervising paramedic and within the law enforcement profession as a supervising police officer. Chief Duffy has been a sworn member of the Newport Police Department since 2000 and has served in every division in many different positions of responsibility. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Roger Williams University and a Master's Degree in Leadership Dynamics and Practice from Salve Regina University. The personal values Chief Duffy holds highest include family, integrity, empathy and public service. In 2024, Chief Duffy was elected to the Executive Board of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association. He is also an active member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Executive Board Member serving as Past President of the Rhode Island Tactical Officers Association.

EXECUTIVE COMMAND STAFF



KEVIN MOREIRA

CAPTAIN
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Captain Kevin Moreira has been a dedicated member of the Newport Police Department since 2004. He has led the Criminal Investigation Division, Patrol Division, and Administrative Services Division as a Commander. With over 11 years of leadership experience as a supervising police officer, Captain Moreira has a solid understanding of modern professional police services. He possesses extensive knowledge of risk management and currently oversees the Office of Professional Standards, the Office of Officer Safety and Conflict Resolution, and Training and Accreditation.

Captain Moreira earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Westfield State University and a Master's Degree in Business Management and Law Enforcement Leadership from Salve Regina University. He is committed to fostering innovation in policing, promoting employee retention, maintaining a healthy and professional work environment, and providing exceptional police services.



EXECUTIVE COMMAND STAFF

MICHAEL NAYLOR

CAPTAIN
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION



Captain Naylor is a dedicated and experienced member of the Newport Police Department, with a 31-year career. Currently, he oversees the Criminal Investigative Division, bringing a wealth of knowledge and leadership to this critical area of law enforcement. Before his current role, Captain Naylor served as the division commander for the Patrol Division, where he honed his skills in managing personnel and operations. He was promoted to captain in 2021 after serving as a lieutenant, during which he supervised both the narcotics and traffic units and the Professional Standards Unit.

Captain Naylor's extensive experience in narcotics enforcement includes 15 years as a narcotics detective, during which he served as a task force officer for nine years. His undercover work led to over 100 Federal drug investigations and was the affiant in five federal court-authorized wiretaps. His commitment to public safety and drug enforcement has significantly impacted the community and the department.

Earlier in his career, Captain Naylor worked as a correctional officer at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections from 1988 to 1993. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Roger Williams University and is a proud graduate of the FBI National Academy, session #283.

EXECUTIVE COMMAND STAFF



JASON KLEINKNECHT

CAPTAIN
PATROL DIVISION

Captain Kleinknecht was sworn in as a Newport Police Officer on November 6, 2000, he served 10 years as a patrol officer. In 2010, Captain Kleinknecht moved to the Detective Division for four years gaining experience and knowledge in investigating cases. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2014 and returned to patrol as a supervisor. Captain Kleinknecht was promoted to Lieutenant in 2018 and remained in patrol as Shift Commander. As a Shift Commander, he was responsible for overseeing, supervising, and managing the operations of his shift while ensuring the efficient and effective deployment of officers to maintain public safety and order. In 2022, Captain Kleinknecht returned to detectives to supervise and manage the Division until he was promoted to Captain on September 6, 2024. Captain Kleinknecht has a unique blend of tactical expertise, excellent leadership skills, strategic planning, and the ability to motivate and guide the men and women at the Newport Police Department.

Captain Kleinknecht is a proud US Coast Guard Chief (retired) where he spent 20 years of service. As a Coast Guard Chief, he was the senior enlisted leader, responsible for leading and mentoring his junior personnel, made critical decisions for his unit that impacted his unit's success, maintained a high professional standard and achieved a high level of leadership abilities.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Several of our NPD personnel were the recipients of awards in 2024. The following is a list of the awards and recipients who exemplified our mission and values.



Mothers Against Drunk Driving DUI Achievement Award: Presented for dedication to enforcing DUI laws.

Recipient: Officer Rayner





Benevolent Award: Presented to an officer who noticeably, altruistically, and consistently gives of their time and effort to fellow officers in time of need, demonstrating law enforcement's highest standard of solidarity and kindness amongst police officers.

Recipient: Sergeant Walsh



DEPARTMENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Meritorious Service: Awarded for a highly creditable accomplishment(s) made by the officer as a result of excellent police work, devotion to duty, and superior performance.

Recipients:

Detective Johansen	Detective Poplawski
Detective Cooper	Detective Warner
Officer Maggiacomo	Detective Clarizio
Detective McCabe	Community Police Officer Horwood
Detective Mosely	Detective Vachon
Officer Sherman	Officer N. Sullivan



Chief's Award: Presented to an officer who through their consistent high level of performance has demonstrated their dedication, expertise, devotion to duty, professionalism, and adherence to the ideals and standards of police service to the community.

Recipients:

Sergeant McGregor	Community Police Officer Scott
Officer Ethier	Community Police Officer Pirri
Sergeant Doyle	Community Police Officer Ripke
Officer Lubin	Detective Vachon
Detective Coyle	Detective Johansen



DEPARTMENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Medal of Valor: Awarded for an outstanding act committed by an officer in an attempt to prevent death or serious injury to another person, demonstrating the highest tradition of police service.

Recipients:

Lieutenant Horn



Officer Boghigian



Officer Hutson





Officer of the Year Recipient for 2023:

Detective McCabe





OUR PATH FORWARD

FUTURE CHALLENGES: LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025 IN POLICING

The Police Department Command Staff, in conjunction with the City's Human Resources Office and City Administration, will continue the diligent efforts to improve police staffing. This includes but is not limited to exploring the hiring of non-sworn professional staff to fill specific administrative positions currently held by sworn staff. These civilian positions will allow sworn staff to concentrate on areas of responsibility that require an officer to facilitate. As we continue to face a shortage of persons aspiring to be police officers it is an important strategy to allocate sworn personnel to positions requiring the skill set of certified police officers. The application and background process for police candidates currently takes three to four months from the time the application process opens. The police academy runs two sessions per year. Each academy session is 22 weeks long. After successfully completing the police academy the officer then begins their 12-week field training program with the agency. From the moment an applicant applies, the process is about one year before that applicant is ready to be counted as a contributing member of the department. It is imperative to place new candidates in positions in advance of vacancies to ensure a continuity of services to the community.



Newport City Council has identified its strategic priorities for the management of our great city. The Police Department will focus on those priorities that overlap into public safety, quality of life enforcement issues and crime. The department will catalog crime data, complaints and non-crime calls for service. We will use this data to structure evidence-based deployment strategies to bring the citizens of Newport an efficient policing service that reflects the priorities set by our City Council.

Collaboration will continue between the City's Management Information Systems Department (MIS) and the police department by exploring new technologies to tackle quality of life issues. Community concerns relating to topics like

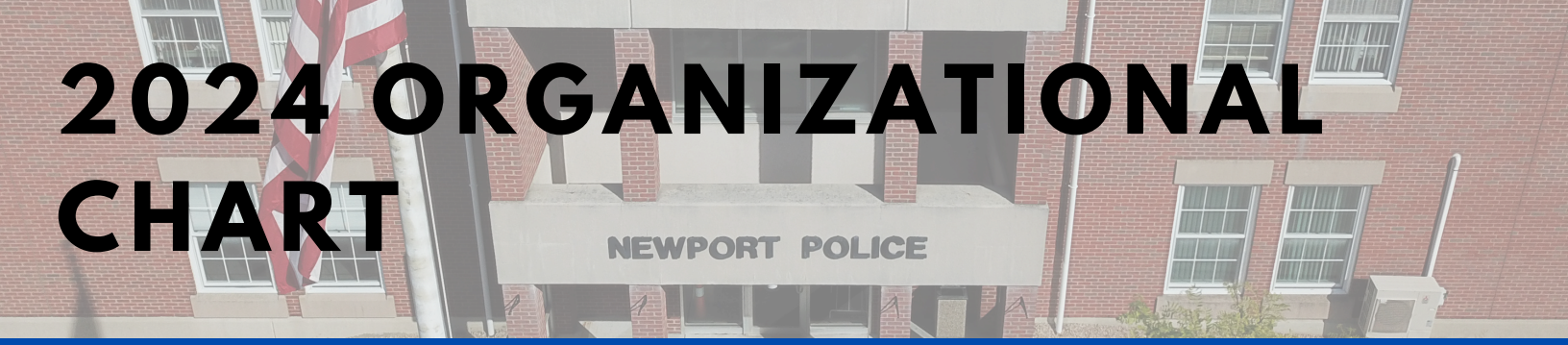
noise violations, traffic violations, parking violations, and crime can be mitigated by the latest in automation technology, software systems, and camera technology.

The policing profession continuously evolves. Continuing education and training for our sworn and professional staff is a priority and the path for maintaining contemporary professional competence.

The last few years of social discourse on policing has left officers uncertain about the public expectations on the use of force. De-escalation techniques intertwined with the professional application of force has shown to be a confidence deficiency in some of our police officers. In 2024, NPD initiated quarterly de-escalation and use of force techniques training for all staff. This has received high praise from the staff and adjustments are being made to improve the facilitation of this training in 2025.

The police department greatly emphasizes its commitment to staying connected within the community and strives to remain informed about local concerns. Increasing contact with our city's residents through youth and adult community outreach programs is a priority. These programs provide us a better understanding of our community's policing needs and increases their trust in, and approachability of, our police officers. This close relationship between the community and department is paramount to achieving the police department's mission. The Newport Police Department will continue to prioritize authentic community contact by developing new and increasingly effective means of community outreach in the months and years to come.





2024 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Chief of Police

- Planning & Budget

Uniform Patrol Division

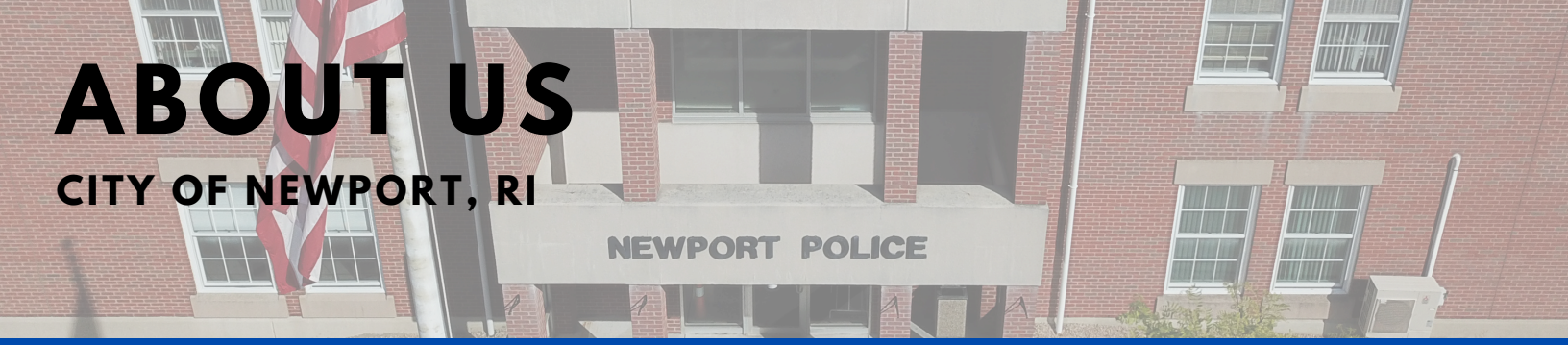
- Uniform Patrol
- Special Response Team
- Animal Control
- Community Policing Unit
- Traffic Unit
- Retired Officer Corps
- VIN Inspections

Criminal Investigation Division

- General Assignment
- Juvenile Unit
- Prosecution
- Administrative Investigations
- Bureau of Criminal Identification
- Municipal Court
- Vice

Administrative Services Division

- Professional Standards
- Training
- Accreditation
- Dispatch
- Computer Management & Records
- Facility & Property Management
- Peer Support
- Vehicle Services



ABOUT US

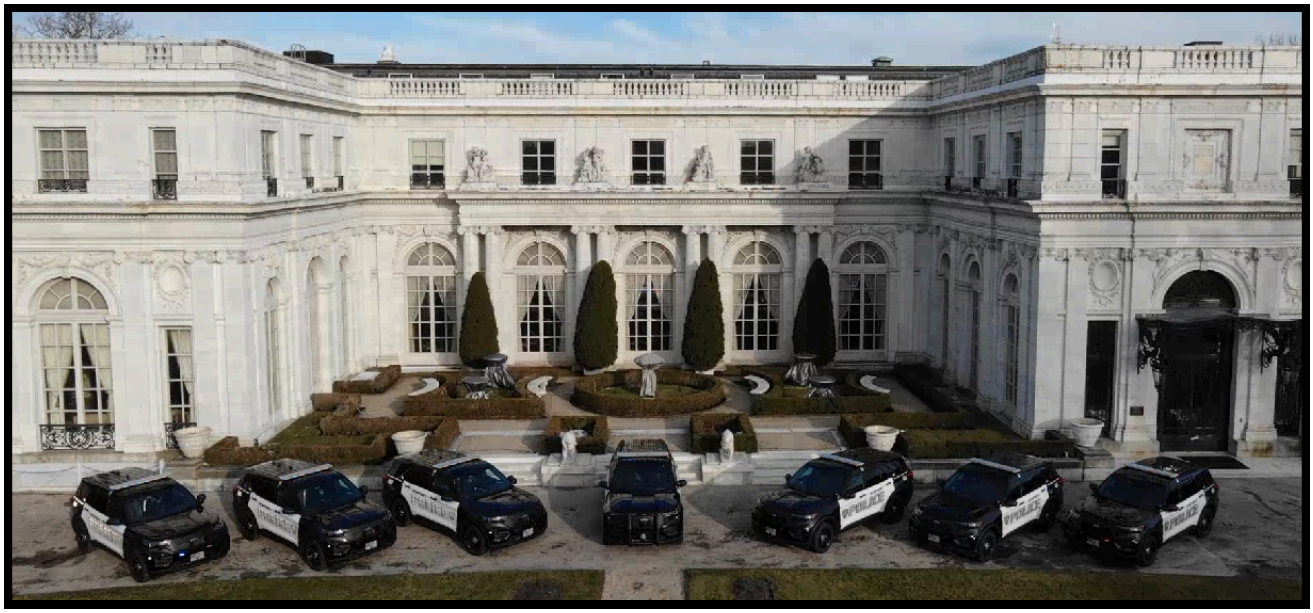
CITY OF NEWPORT, RI

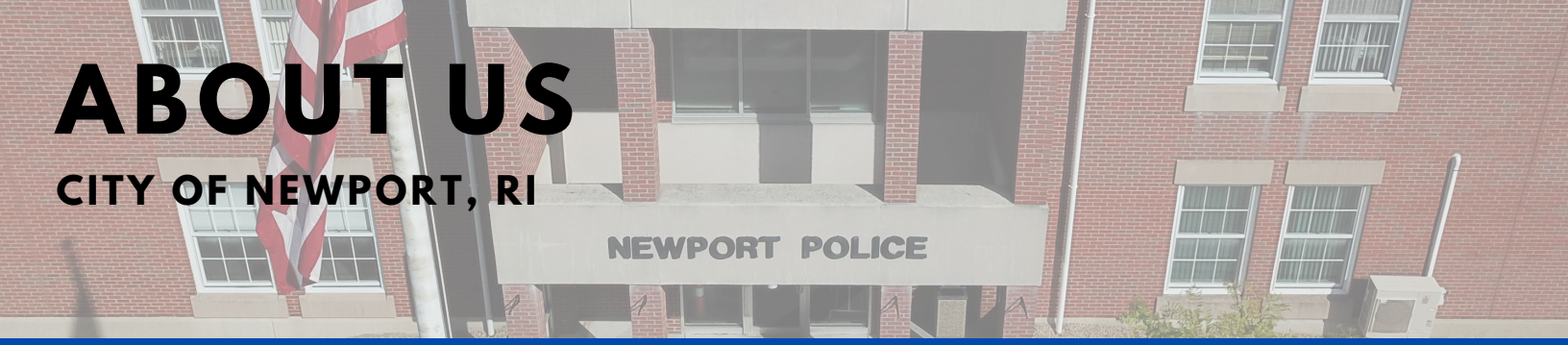
In 1639, Newport officially became a town, and later, in 1854, it earned its city status. Nestled at the southern tip of Aquidneck Island in Narragansett Bay, this welcoming city sits about 30 miles southeast of Providence, the state's capital. Bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and south, Narragansett Bay to the west, and the Town of Middletown to the northeast, Newport covers a total area of 11 square miles,7.7 square miles of land and 3.3 square miles of inland water.

Getting here is a breeze. Interstate 95, with the help of the Jamestown and Newport Pell bridges, connects Newport to the west. Head north, and you'll find Routes 24 and Interstate 195, accessible via the Mount Hope and Sakonnet River bridges.

In the administrative realm, Newport follows a City Council – City Manager system. Seven council members, duly elected, come together to appoint a mayor. The City Manager, appointed by and answerable to the City Council, holds the reins as the chief administrative officer.

Home to around 25,000 residents, Newport's unique charm attracts a multitude of visitors, swelling its population to approximately 3,500,000 annually, thanks to a





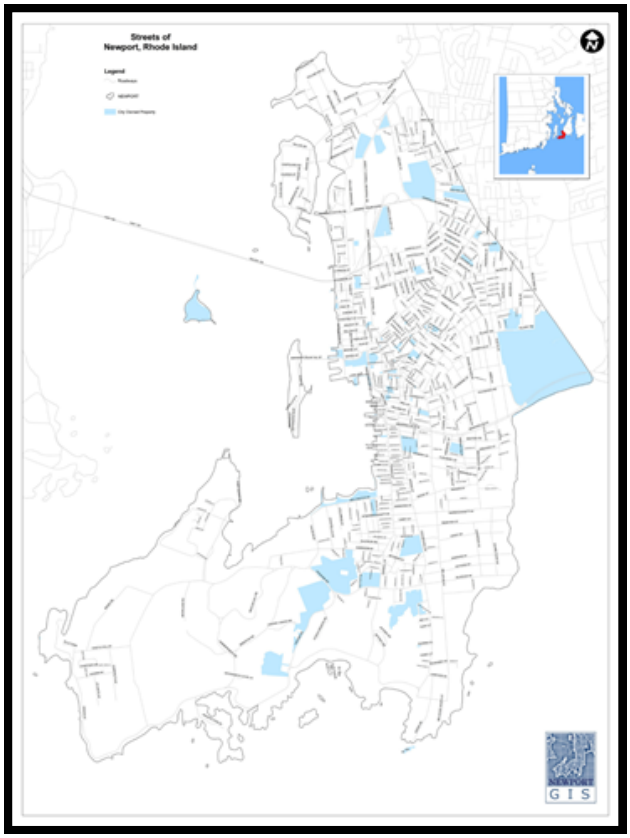
ABOUT US

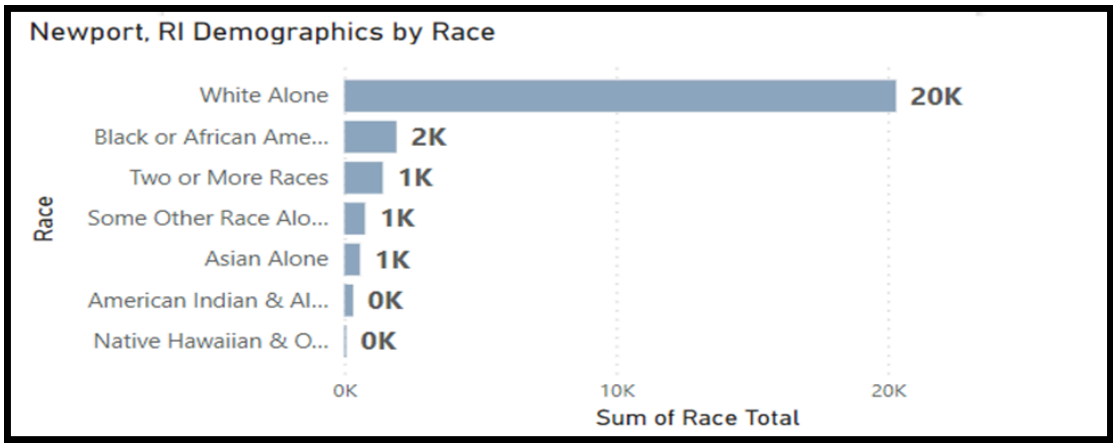
CITY OF NEWPORT, RI

bustling special events and tourism industry. The July 2020 Census reported a population of ~25,300 people, 10,898 households, and 4,982 families. The population density is 1,758.9 people per square mile. Newport is a vibrant city with a mix of residential and cultural richness.

Newport, RI was the site of the first U.S. Open tennis championships, held at the Newport Casino in 1881, and hosted the first U.S. Open golf championships at the Newport Country Club in 1885. In 1774, Newport hosted the first circus performance in the country.

With its long and storied history, Newport is filled with firsts and many unique accomplishments that have helped shape the city into the cultural hub it is today.







UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

UNIFORM PATROL

Vision Statement

"Newport Police Department patrol officers are committed to collaborating with our community to combat crime through walking, bicycle, and mobile beats that foster direct community engagement. The police department will combine input from our citizens and our patrol officers' professional knowledge/skills to enhance the quality of life and well-being of our residents and visitors through the enforcement of city ordinances and state law. We will maintain transparency and accountability in our operations with the use of technology and documentation."

The Uniform Patrol Division is commanded by a Captain and is composed of three patrol shifts providing 24/7 public safety coverage to the community 365 days per year. Patrol is the most visible component of the Police Department. The Patrol Division also consists of a Community Policing Unit, a Traffic Unit, and an Animal Control Officer. Patrol staff can also have collateral duties with the Newport County Special Response Team (SRT), Bike Patrol, Motorcycle Patrol, Honor Guard, Drone Program, and Water Enforcement Team. In 2024, NPD dispatched various bicycle patrols, walking beats, motorcycle patrols, and directed enforcement focused on quality-of-life issues.

The makeup of the patrol shifts is eight officers on first shift, 12 officers on second shift, and eight officers on third shift. When accounting for days off, the minimum staffing on the first shift and third shift was five officers, and on the second shift the minimum staffing was seven officers on shift. These staffing minimums increased in June, July, August, and part of September. The second shift always includes a swing shift from 6 PM to 2 AM that is historically based on data denoting this timeframe to be our busiest time for calls for service.

First Shift Patrol	Second Shift Patrol	Swing Shift	Third Shift Patrol
8 Officers	10 Officers	2 Officers	9 Officers
3 Supervisors	3 Supervisors		3 Supervisors



UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

UNIFORM PATROL

NPD did experience an unusual number of staffing shortages in 2024. These shortages were attributed to a myriad of reasons, including retirements, injuries on duty, general injuries, and insufficient staffing numbers. An additional contributing factor was the limited number of seats the police academy would allow each agency for new recruits. This situation occurred in response to an unusually high number of law enforcement professionals retiring all across the state.

2024 Patrol Action Totals	
Calls for Service	31,302
Incident Reports	6,077
Arrests	1120
Accident Reports	1,356
Parking Complaints	2,891

Due to the high demand for police services in the summer months, from the end of May to the beginning of September, the patrol division staffs additional officers on first and second shifts to handle the additional workload. This additional staffing facilitates walking beats and bike patrols on Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays before holidays.

2024 Motor Vehicle Data

Type	Asian/Pacific Island/East Indian	Black/African American	Native American	White	White Hispanic	Black Hispanic	Total
M/V Arrest	0	2	0	3	0	0	5
M/V Municipal	12	104	1	554	76	7	754
Notice & Demand	0	5	0	15	5	0	30
RITT - Civil	21	205	1	952	170	26	1375
Voids	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warning	78	481	7	3095	316	65	4042
Total	**111**	**797**	**9**	**4619**	**567**	**98**	**6206**

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

NEWPORT COUNTY REGIONAL SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Newport County Special Response Team (NCSRT) is an essential collateral duty unit that handles critical situations where circumstances present a high-risk to the public and first responders. Specialized training is required and specialized safety/tactical equipment may be necessary for these events. The NCSRT increases the all-around safety of the public and officers when deployed and is made up of officers from the Jamestown, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, and Tiverton Police Departments. Currently, the NCSRT has a total of 38 officers: three Command Staff, 25 Tactical Unit Operators, six Negotiators and four Marksman/Observers.



The NCSRT was activated 13 times in 2024 including six times for dignitary protection details. The NCSRT has also been utilized to provides security for the Touro Synagogue regularly during their religious services.

The NCSRT has the ability to deploy drones from Newport, Jamestown, Portsmouth and Tiverton across Newport County when necessary. NPD has two drones and seven pilots; Jamestown has two drones and two pilots; Portsmouth has one drone, and three pilots and Tiverton has two drones and two pilots. Having drones incorporated into the NCSRT affords all departments access to added support for a multitude of situations (missing persons, storm damage evaluation, locating persons in crisis, as well as surveillance, when necessary, etc.).

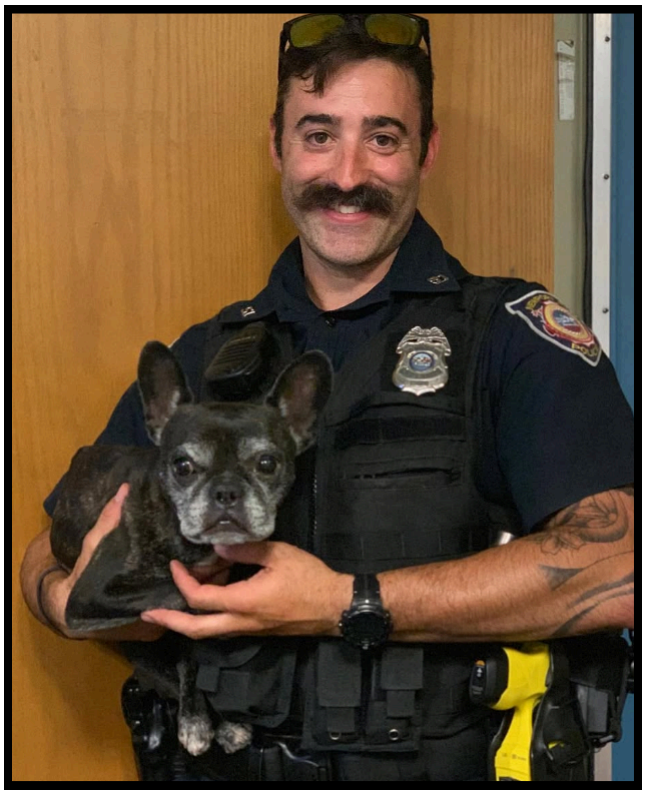


UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control is part of the police department's Patrol Division and is led by a single Animal Control Officer, Julia Sweeney. Animal Control is responsible for responding to animal-related calls throughout the city. They respond to calls for service and follow up on calls that patrol officers respond to during Animal Control's off hours. The primary focus of Animal Control is public safety and the well-being of domestic animals within the city. This is accomplished by educating citizens and enforcing city and state laws related to restraint, cruelty, neglect, and the suppression of rabies. Animal control collaborates with many other city and state agencies in both the public and private sectors. Some of these collaborations include, The Department of Health, The State Veterinarian's Office, The Potter League for Animals, private and public shelters, other animal control offices, and police departments throughout the state, and the RI Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

The Potter League is contracted by The City of Newport to be our municipal shelter for animals. In 2024, they received 75 stray animals that were found in Newport and transported to the shelter by animal control/police or private citizens; these include 35 dogs, 37 cats, and three exotic/small animals. Animal control and the shelter were able to reunite 33 of these animals with their owners. Upon expiration of the mandatory stray holding period, custody/ownership of the remaining unclaimed animals automatically transferred to The Potter League to become part of the shelter's adoption program. Additionally, animal control



UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

ANIMAL CONTROL

and the police were able to avoid a trip to the shelter for 84 additional animals.

This was due to the owners either promptly reporting their pet missing or ensuring proper ID and licensing was attached to their pet's collar.
Additional calls for service include 52 animals in vehicles, 34 reports of bites, 96 unleashed dog complaints, 48 barking complaints, 29 welfare/health-related complaints and 96 wild animal-related calls (excluding coyotes).





New in 2024, the city has utilized the “ReportIt” app for individuals to report coyote sightings. Each reported location is pinned on a map. This has allowed a clear picture of problem areas within the city to be identified. In total, 231 coyote sightings/complaints were reported in 2024.



UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

COMMUNITY POLICING

There are five Community Police Officers (CPOs) overseen by the supervisor of the Community Oriented Policing Unit. Each officer is assigned to specific neighborhoods in the city to identify and resolve relevant problems in cooperation with residents, businesses, social groups, and other government agencies. Building community relationships, problem-solving, and proactive crime reduction are the central missions of the CPOs in an effort to provide effective and long-lasting positive community impacts. The CPOs are each assigned to the schools and universities in the city as school liaisons. The Community Oriented Policing Unit conducts meetings with agencies and groups throughout the year. Several community-related projects were implemented as outreach programs for the local youth during 2024 (noted below).



2024 Community Policing Engagements	
Good Neighbor meetings with Salve students living in the community	Broadway Street Fair
Women's Self-defense classes	Trunk or Treat
Child & Family Service snow shoveling	Holiday train
Alcohol & Tobacco establishment checks	Christmas toy drive
Bar meeting for training and information on underage drinking and fake IDS	Two separate weeks of summer camp for children in the community
Dare classes	Fall festival
Easter egg hunt	Aquidneck Night Out
Police Explorers	Drug take back
Youth Driven program	Line dancing at the Edward King House
Proactive enforcement of special events such as the annual St. Patrick's Day	ALICE training
Holiday coat drive	Coffee with a Cop
Mock DUI car crash with Salve Regina University Safety Day	

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

COMMUNITY POLICING

Additionally, the Community Oriented Policing Unit collaborates with the Criminal Investigation Division, Training Unit, and Traffic Unit on problems that arise in the community so resources can be effectively directed. They also serve as contacts for the community when issues arise. The unit coordinates with detectives to make the appropriate sex offender notifications to the community; creates social media content (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Threads and NextDoor), and provide tips for citizen awareness. They also coordinate with the Training Unit to organize and train new operators for the drone program and the bike patrol unit.



During 2024, the Community Oriented Policing Unit followed up on calls involving noise and neighbor disputes and worked with the schools on student issues/problems that arose throughout the year. Additionally, the Community Oriented Policing Unit facilitated the department internship program for universities.



Throughout the year, the unit conducted alcohol & tobacco compliance checks for underage violations, initiated coat, and can drives, and worked with the community mental health programs for affected citizens. CPO Officers also help handle patrol calls for service during times when the call volume was high.

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

COMMUNITY POLICING

NPD Community Policing Unit

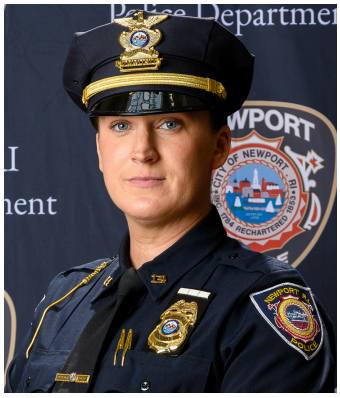


Lieutenant Joseph Carroll



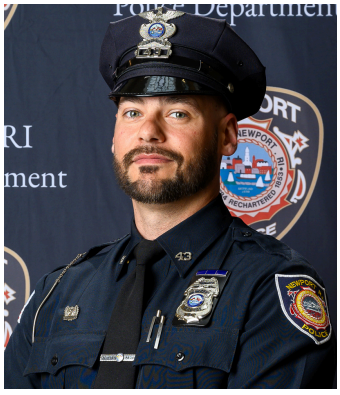
Merrie Scott

Brick Market Place & Salve Regina University



Brittany Ripke

Lower Thames St & Roger Williams University



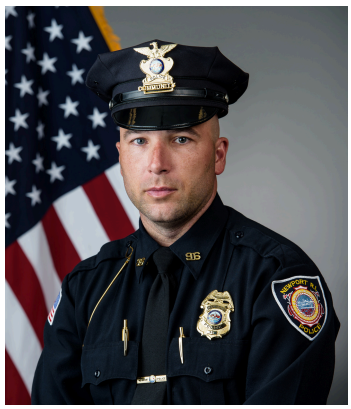
Christopher Horwood

Business District



Frank Pirri

Broadway Area & Thompson Middle School



Nicholas St. Lawrence

North End & Pell Elementary School

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

LGBTQ+ LIAISON OFFICER



In 2022, Detective Caitlin Poplawski was appointed as the LGBTQ+ Liaison for the Newport Police Department. The LGBTQ+ Liaison is a point of contact and support for the LGBTQ+ community that fosters positive relationships, builds trust and addresses concerns and needs of community members. The liaison acts a resource for both law enforcement personnel and community members, providing guidance on LGBTQ+ related issues and ensuring that the rights and safety of the community are respected and protected. There is active collaboration with community organizations, to include assisting in planning annual Pride events, and other events involving the LGBTQ+ community. There is also partnership with experienced community members to update policy and procedure within the police department to promote equality and fair treatment within the law enforcement system.



Detective Caitlin Poplawski
LGBTQ+ Liaison

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

SOCIAL MEDIA









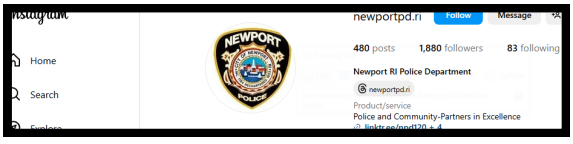














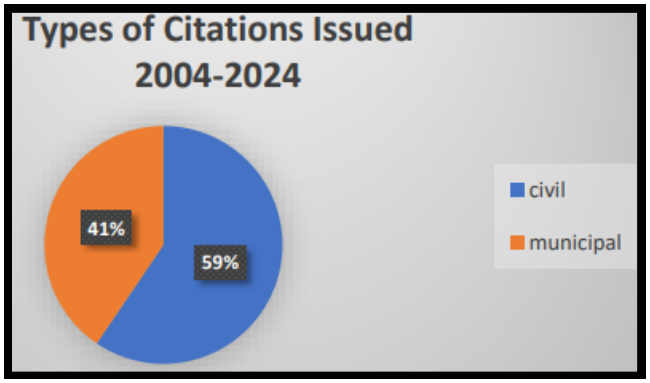




UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

TRAFFIC UNIT

The Newport Police Department Traffic Unit is staffed by a supervisor, two investigators, a civilian parking review employee, eight to 22 traffic aids (depending on the season), and one civilian employee who coordinates police details. The Traffic Unit proactively and reactively responds to city needs based on analysis, observations, citizen complaints, and public safety concerns. Additionally, specialized functions of the Traffic Unit include accident reconstruction, hit and run investigations, directed traffic enforcement, special events, review of surveys for traffic and engineering needs, RITT Prosecution, review of school safety crossings, bus stops, licensing issues, radar calibration, administration of Highway Safety Grants, liaison to School Crossing Guards, Traffic Aides Supervisor, as well as trends, rates, and conditions contributing to accidents and injuries.



Special Events - The Traffic Unit develops plans and staffs' large-scale special events throughout the year. Significant planning and coordination are required to fulfill needs with single-and multi-day events which can require in excess of 200+ staffing hours. In 2024, Newport hosted several high-profile events to include the USGA Senior Open (3,300+ staff hours), Folk Festival (800+ staff hours), Jazz Festival (500+ staff hours), the Audrain Concourse (200+ staff hours) as well as other annual and one-off events. Single-day events included road races such as the Newport and “Amica”





UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

TRAFFIC UNIT

Marathons (150+ staff hours), parades such as the Aquidneck Island Police Parade (~100 staff hours), and The Broadway Street Fair (150+ staff hours).

Road Work/Traffic Interruption Details - The Traffic Unit developed traffic abatement plans with vendors performing small to large-scale projects in the city. Projects like the Pell Bridge realignment require collaboration with vendors and other stakeholders (RIDOT/RITBA). Staffing needs, traffic plans, and evaluations required some degree of constant monitoring. The Pell Bridge project required 100+ staff hours/week on average.

The Pell Bridge Project is the largest currently ongoing project; however, several other projects had similar planning requirements, in addition to the smaller daily projects which also required staffing and planning. The Traffic Unit also manages the Detail Tracking System (DTS), a web-based scheduling system utilized for deployments of officers, and dispatchers for overtime and details.



Directed Enforcement - 686 documented "directed enforcement" posts were staffed in 2024 in response to citizens' complaints. DOT Enforcement Grants funded an additional 200+ hours of enforcement. Additionally, a new online Traffic Complaint page was set-up on the city website to provide the public another avenue to report all types of traffic concerns to NPD.

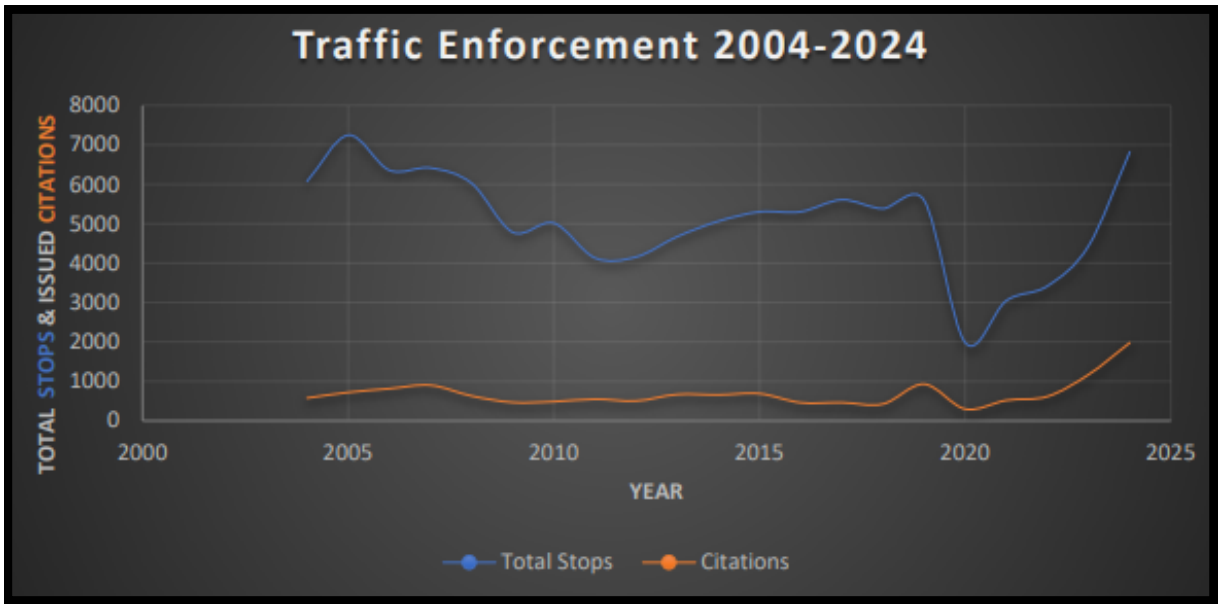
2024 Traffic Incidents	Totals
Total Accident Reports	1,298
Fatalities	1
Total Injuries	110
Pedestrian Involved	11
Bicyclist Involved	15
DUI	45



UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

TRAFFIC UNIT

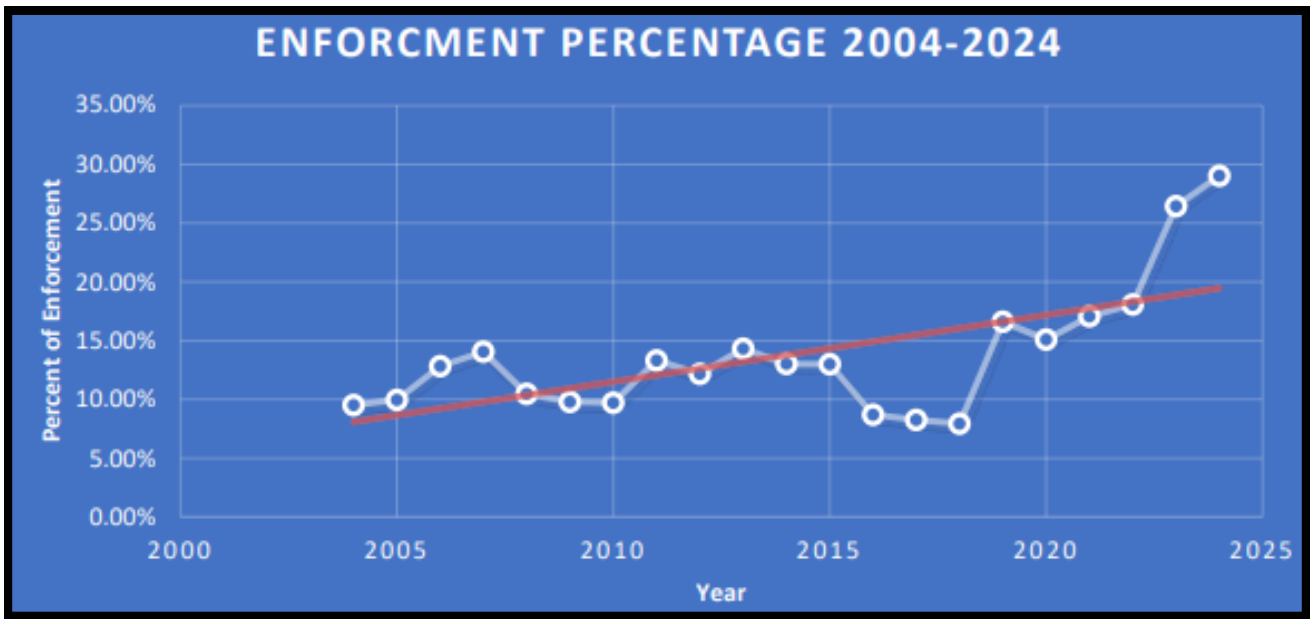
Accident & Traffic-related Criminal Investigations - In addition to hit-and-run accidents resulting in minor property damage, criminal hit and run investigations, evading/fleeing, and felony motor vehicle violations are investigated by the Traffic Unit. All motor vehicle accidents resulting in major bodily injury and/or fatalities are also investigated by the Traffic Unit to include Accident Reconstruction analysis when needed. There was one fatality in 2024, and there are other ongoing investigations underway from previous years.



Additional Traffic-Related Safety and Quality of Life Improvement Initiatives - After conducting several speed studies throughout the city in the previous year, the Traffic Unit was approved to place cameras on Memorial Blvd, by St. Michaels Country Day School and on Admiral Kalbfus Road near Sagamore Street, in the area of Claiborne Pell Elementary School. Permits to install the speed and traffic light cameras are pending because these locations are state-owned roads. NPD currently owns and operates two noise pollution camera trailers throughout the city. Both units are currently receiving software upgrades by the city IT Department to ensure they are ready for deployment during the upcoming tourist season.

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

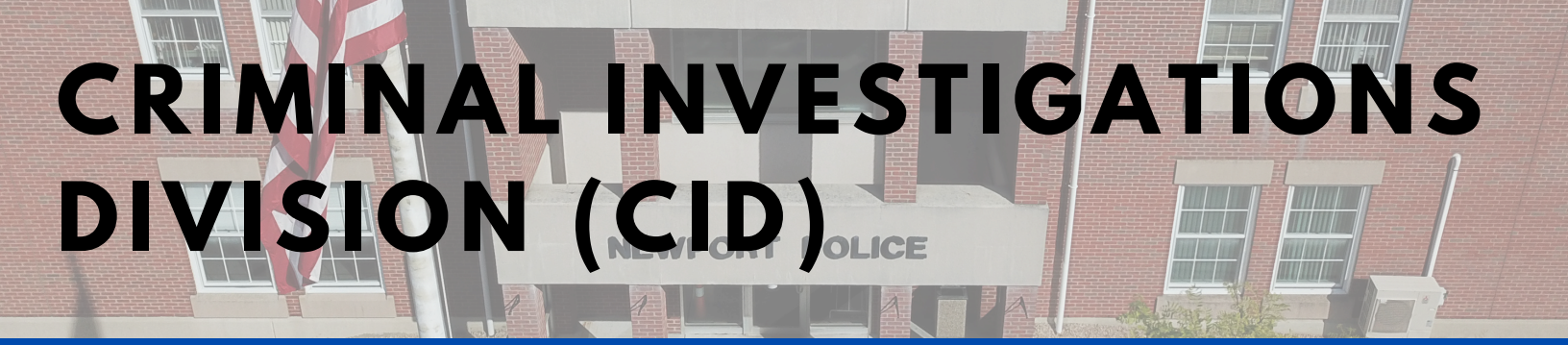
TRAFFIC UNIT



Parking Enforcement - The Traffic Unit hires/manages seasonal Traffic Aides. There are eight civilian traffic aids throughout the year; however, at busier times of the year this number is increased to 22 aides who are tasked with proactive parking enforcement throughout the city. Traffic Aide parking enforcement generated more than $1.323 million in revenue in 2024.

Interdepartmental Traffic Committee (ITC) and Technical Review Committee (TRC) - The Traffic Unit is a member of and participates in the Interdepartmental Traffic Committee and Technical Review Committee to offer input as needed and stay abreast of impacts to the city's traffic flow and needs as well as any potential public safety concerns related to changes and/or interruptions to the normal flow of traffic.





CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (CID)

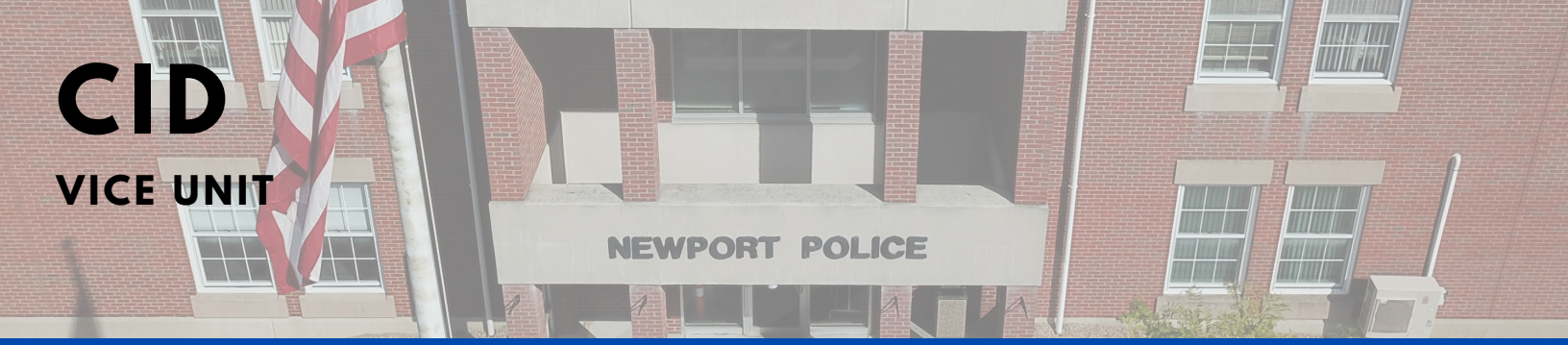
Vision Statement

"The Newport Police Detective Division is dedicated to delivering exemplary investigative services by leveraging cutting-edge technology and innovative techniques. We commit to conducting comprehensive investigations that uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. Collaborating closely with municipal, state, and federal partners, we strive to ensure justice for victims and foster a safer community through effective case resolution and support."

The principal functions of the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) are to conduct thorough and in-depth follow-up investigations of crime and delinquency committed in the City of Newport. Additionally, CID is responsible for recovering stolen property, processing of crime scenes for evidence, and preparing criminal cases for prosecution. CID members maintain a constant analysis of ongoing crime trends and work collaboratively with the other divisions in the department to facilitate proactive measures reducing crime through concentrated investigation of specific crimes and/or criminals. CID consists of General Assignment, Juvenile Investigations, Prosecution, Bureau of Criminal Identification, and the Administrative Investigation Unit. The CID Commander and supervisors plan, inspect, and coordinate all activities of these different units. Appointment of personnel to these positions is performed by the Chief of Police. General Assignment detectives facilitate the investigations of the majority of crimes, including but not limited to assaults, larcenies, frauds, financial crimes, and domestic violence crimes.

Assignments	
Cases	623
Felony Packet	159
Hit & Run	190
Total	**972**
Arrest Reports	
Closed	389
Open	730
Total	**1119**

Incident Case Status	
Closed	492
Closed by Arrest	124
Incident Unfounded	9
Investigation Suspended	1
No Crime Involved	3676
Open	1775
Total	**6077**
Warrants	
Arrested	72
Denied by Court	0
Open	21
Pending	1
Recalled by the court	4
Total	**98**

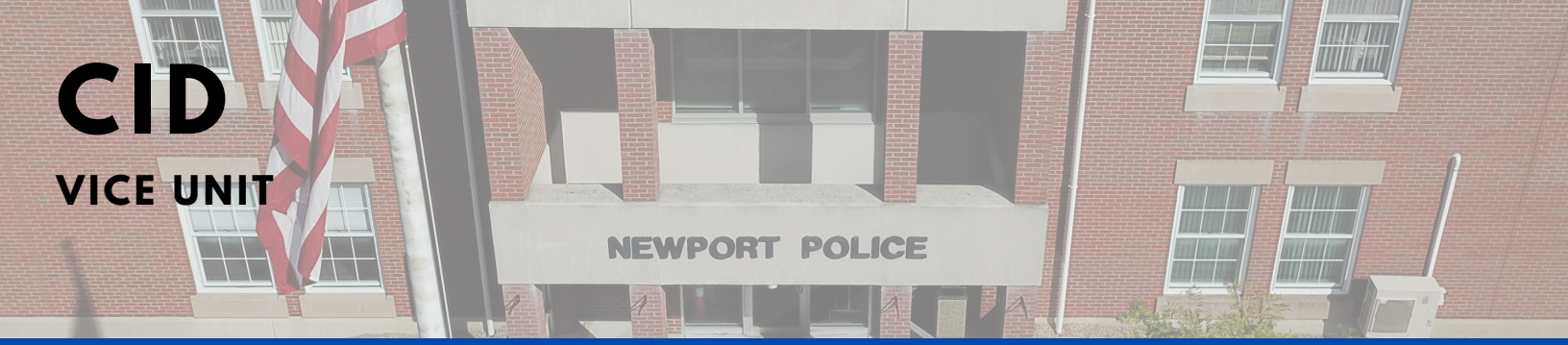


CID
VICE UNIT

The Vice/Narcotics Unit is run by a supervisor who reports directly to the CID Commander. This unit is responsible for the investigation of those criminal activities designated by the CID Commander and for gathering criminal intelligence data. Vice crimes are those that offend the morals of the community, which include investigations relating to narcotics, gangs, prostitution, gambling, organized crime and weapons-related offenses. These are often long-term investigations and are accomplished by conducting covert surveillance, undercover operations, and intelligence gathering. During the calendar year 2024, members of the Vice Unit conducted over 70 investigations which led to numerous arrests, including 48 arrests for offenses related to the use, delivery and/or possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance and possession and use of illegal firearms. These arrests resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of drugs, including cocaine, crack cocaine, fentanyl, marijuana, methamphetamine and counterfeit pills. These investigations also resulted in the seizure of numerous illegal guns as well as monies, cars, and other items related to the trafficking of illegal narcotics.



The Vice/Narcotics Unit supervisor is also responsible for overseeing Task Force Officers (TFO) assigned to various outside agencies. In 2024, the Newport Police Department had four TFOs assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Department of Homeland Security Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the United States Marshals Service (USMS). Vice Detectives work regularly with these federal agencies on investigations.



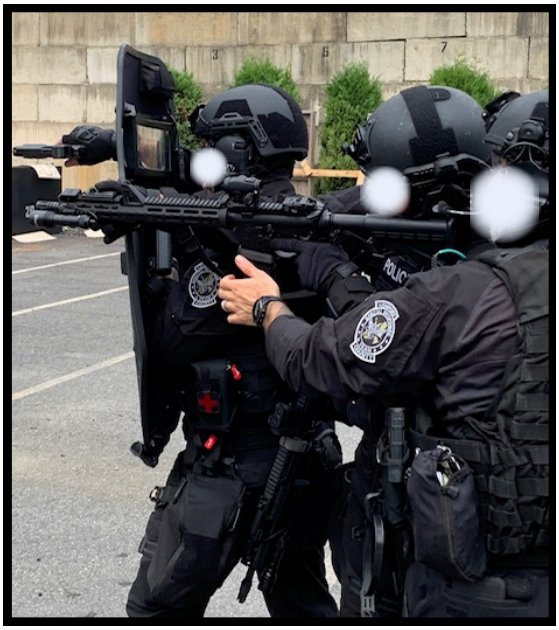
CID

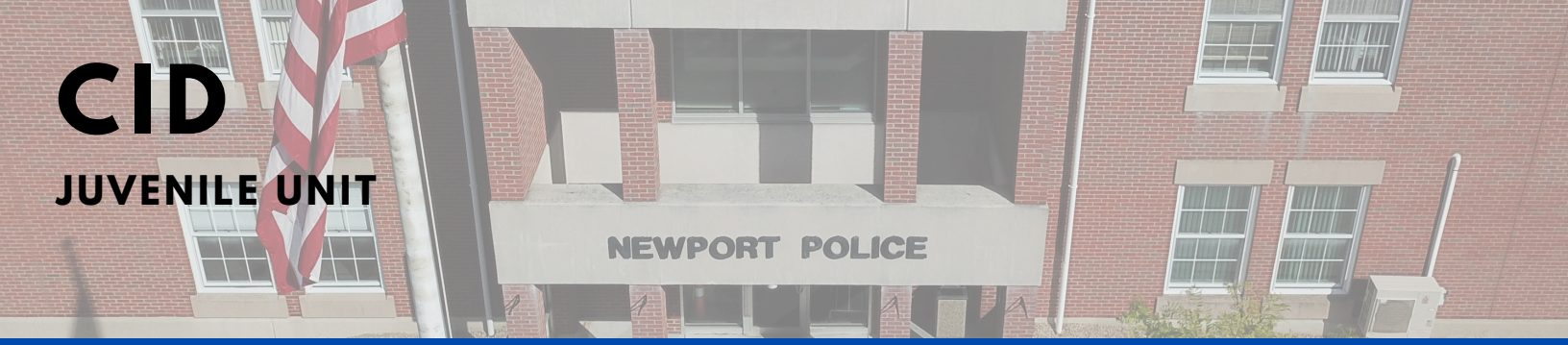
VICE UNIT



Vice Detectives have assisted the USMS with apprehending numerous violent fugitives who were hiding in the city, including those wanted in other jurisdictions for felony assaults, sexual assaults and murder.

The DEA TFO is also a Vice Narcotics investigator. Vice members often assist the DEA and other police departments with other state and federal investigations with connections to Newport. These investigations often result in arrests and seizures of drugs, guns, and money in other jurisdictions and help to quell the flow of illegal narcotics and guns into the City of Newport. One case of note, during 2024, the Vice Unit assisted DEA with a large-scale, multi-national cocaine trafficking investigation that spanned multiple states and countries. This investigation led to multiple arrests and a large quantity of cocaine seizures, which included the arrest of two individuals in the City of Newport who were in possession of two kilograms of cocaine.





CID

JUVENILE UNIT

The Newport Police Department Juvenile Unit within CID handles cases concerning suspects and victims under the age of 18 years old. The unit also conducts its own prosecution through Newport County Family Court for Wayward (Misdemeanor) cases and works with prosecutors from the state's Attorney General's Office for Delinquent (Felony) cases. The unit's goal when addressing juvenile offenders is restorative, not punitive. It is the mission of the juvenile unit to investigate and address juvenile offenders with careful attention to the nuances in each case and formulate the best courses of action for each individual juvenile involved. The unit has several options at its disposal for restorative actions in juvenile cases including but not limited to: Petition Referral to Family Court, Intake/Diversion, Juvenile Hearing Board, and direct corrective counseling by juvenile detectives.

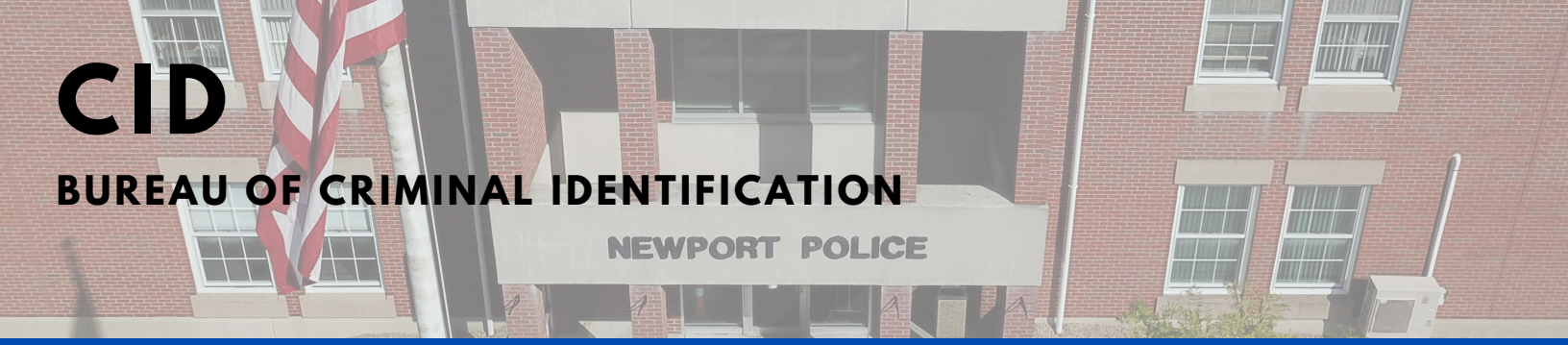




During the course of 2024, approximately 81 juvenile cases had to be resolved by arrest. These cases were referred via petition to Family Court; however, a majority of those cases were diverted through intake for restorative measures without forcing offenders to appear in court. Many cases involving Juvenile Offenders are resolved through the Juvenile Hearing Board which is a community- based group

that seeks restorative measures for juveniles with no prior criminal record who are willing to acknowledge their offenses and avoid involvement with the court system. Additionally, some cases are resolved through a personal approach from investigators meeting with juveniles and parents for corrective counseling sessions where all parties involved formulate strategies to divert juveniles away from further incidents. Juvenile Detectives also work closely with several social service agencies (DCYF, Child & Family Services, Day One, and Family Services of RI) to help juvenile survivors, victims and their families by providing any necessary treatment, intervention, education, advocacy and prevention services.





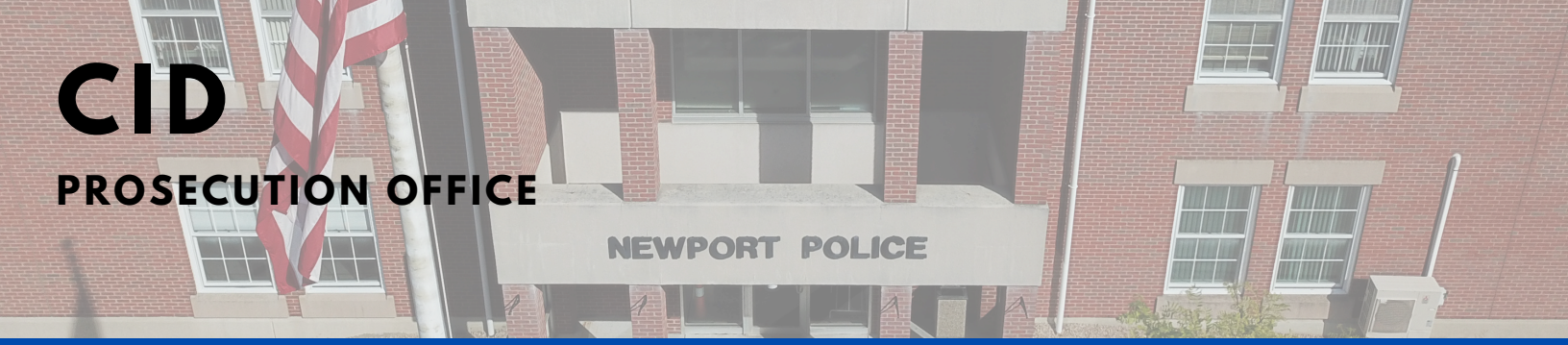
CID

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION

The Newport Police Department's Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) Unit is responsible for the processing of crime scenes, the documentation and preservation of any and all evidence seized pertaining to criminal investigations, the preliminary testing and preservation of all narcotic and firearm evidence, civilian background checks, the expungement of evidence and the supervision of the registered sex offenders currently living within the City of Newport. The Detectives assigned to the BCI Unit are also members of the Rhode Island Violent Fugitive Task Force which aids in the detection and apprehension of some of Rhode Island's most wanted and violent persons.



In 2024, the BCI Unit conducted 89 sex offender registrations and/or compliance checks of registered sex offenders both residing within the City of Newport and those visiting. The BCI Unit was also involved in 36 investigations and at least three arrests as members assigned to the Rhode Island Violent Fugitive Task Force. In 2024, the BCI Unit was also responsible for the handling, field testing, storage, and preservation of approximately 204 pieces of narcotic evidence as well as the handling, storage and preservation of approximately 45 firearms.



CID

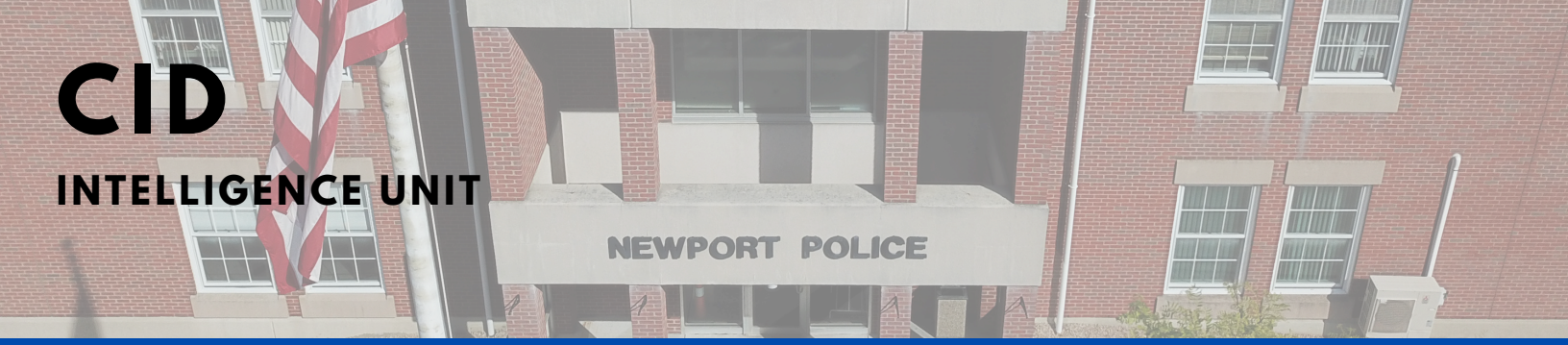
PROSECUTION OFFICE

The Prosecution office is managed by a Detective Lieutenant and reports directly to the CID Commander. The Prosecution Office is staffed by a Detective with the assistance of the CID secretary. The Prosecution Office works collaboratively with the City of Newport's Solicitors Office and the RI Attorney General's office. Members of the police department's prosecution office are responsible for court case preparation and are a liaison for witnesses and victims as their case moves through the legal system. Members of the office also provide coordination for investigators and officers as their cases navigate the legal system. The Prosecution Office is also responsible for generating subpoenas, assisting in the preparation of felony screening packages for the Attorney General (when certain felony cases are presented to a Grand Jury), maintaining warrant and protective order records, as well as prisoner transportation. Special services include the preparation and mailing of discovery packages to the public defender and defense attorneys and the expungement of criminal charge files upon legal notice of the courts.



Court	Cases
District Court	1056
General Newport	87
County Family Court	57
Superior Court	6

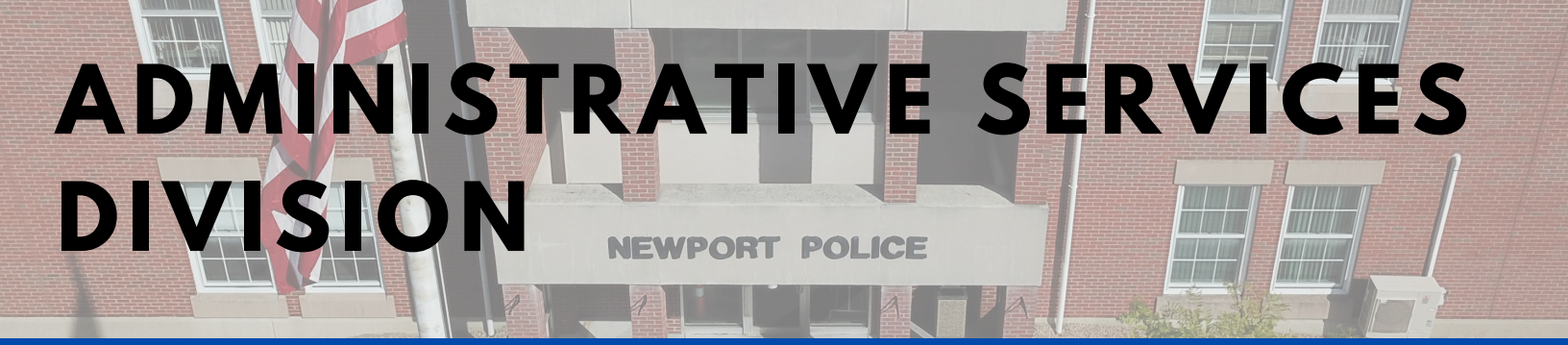
Charge Disposition	Total
Dismissed	589
Dismissed Good Driving Record	89
Dismissed Ritt 26a	185
Disposition Hearing	0
Filed/Nolo Plea	56
Filed/Nolo Plea/Amended Charge	12
Filed/Not Guilty Plea Entered	1
Guilty	360
Guilty Absentia	212
Guilty Plea	360
Guilty Plea to Amend Charge	1
Hear Motion Pursuant to D.C.	0
Juvenile Hearing Board	7
No Information Signed	26
Nolo Plea to Amend Charge	0
Charges Dismissed Prior to Trial	0
No Guilty	12
Plea of Nolo Contendere	412
Turned Over to Other Agency	125



CID

INTELLIGENCE UNIT

In 2024, the formation of an Intelligence "Intel" Unit, overseen by the Prosecution Sergeant, marked a significant development for NPD. The unit is comprised of two Patrolmen, three Detectives, and a Sergeant, all supervised by the Criminal Investigation Captain. One Detective from the "Intel" unit is assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), facilitating the exchange of relevant information. The unit has laid the groundwork for a weekly Crime/Intel briefing to keep NPD informed about potential issues affecting the community. During calendar year 2024, the intelligence unit published 26 bi-weekly reports. The "Intel" unit also developed a tool for officers to send mass text message notifications, linking directly to the records management system and promoting communication on suspects, vehicles, crime trends, and wanted individuals. The unit is also responsible for ensuring all employees have access to information-gathering systems for suspect information as well as communication with the State Fusion Center. Plans for 2025 include expanding communication with Middletown and Portsmouth Police Departments to establish an Aquidneck Island Intelligence Unit.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Vision Statement

"The Newport Police Department administration is committed to positive employee retention and recruitment progress by creating a sought-after working environment. The police department administration will facilitate effective training, wellness, and support programs for all personnel to create a healthy and professional work environment. The Newport Police Department strives to increase diversity among our ranks, is committed to innovation, and providing exceptional police services consistent with our core values."

The Administrative Services Division (ASD) is commanded by the Administrative Services Captain. ASD includes the following sworn personnel: two Lieutenants, three Sergeants, and two Officers. ASD also includes the following non-sworn personnel; four Records Clerks, nine Dispatchers, a Custodian, and a Property Aid. Over the last several years, as a result of a public call for more oversight and more transparency from police departments, the administrative functions of police departments has grown significantly, and the importance of their work has become a pivotal aspect of operations. The Captain of the Administrative Services Division is responsible for all functions within the ASD, including the Office of Professional Standards, Accreditation, Recruitment and Training, Records Management, Fleet Management and Property and Facilities.

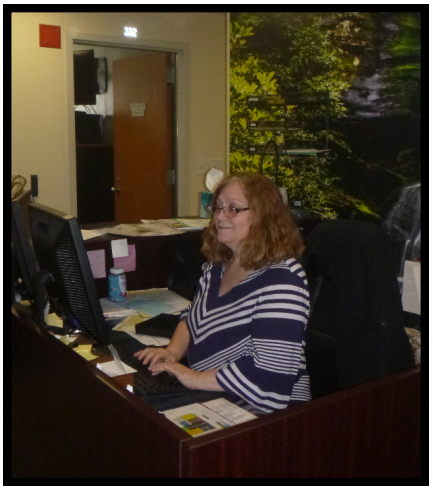
During the 2024 calendar year, the ASD oversaw the Newport Police Department accreditation, the procurement and implementation of new department service weapons, the procurement of license plate readers, and the replacement of five police cruisers in addition to its other everyday responsibilities. One Administrative Services Lieutenant is

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

assigned to the Office of Professional Standards. Their primary responsibility is to help ensure the integrity of the police department by investigating allegations of misconduct against members of the police department. The Office of Professional Standards also oversees the recruitment and background investigations for new police officers being hired while also managing the other functions of the ASD.

During 2024, a separate Lieutenant was assigned to the new position in the Office of Officer Safety and Conflict Resolution. This position requires specialized training in the application of force and conflict resolution and is certified in Force Science. The primary duties of the Lieutenant are to review all use-of-force incidents within the department and ensure compliance with policies and training specific to an incident. The Lieutenant is also involved in assisting with quarterly use of force trainings for police officers, which covers modern use of force techniques and ensures the instruction aligns with what is being taught at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy. The quarterly trainings also focus on de-escalation techniques and conflict resolution techniques. There are currently three Sergeants assigned to the ASD who are each assigned varying tasks. In 2024, the peer support and wellness unit was restructured and the intelligence unit was re-assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division.



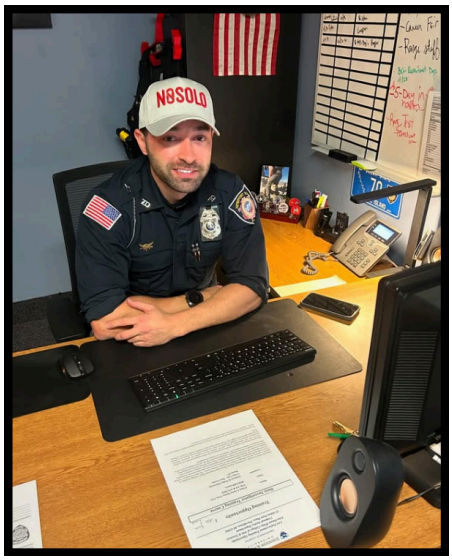




ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

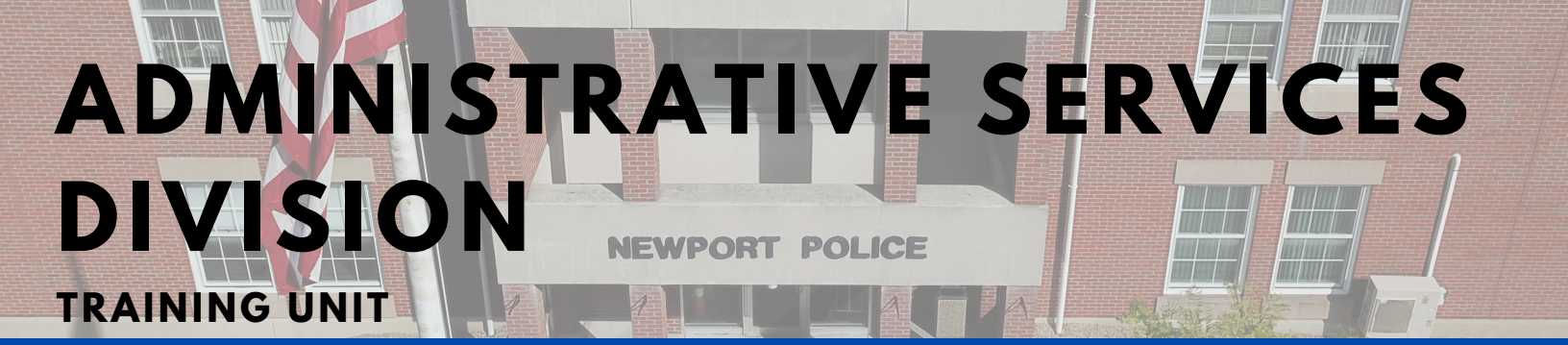
TRAINING UNIT

The Training Unit is staffed by a Sergeant and a Training Officer. The Training Unit is responsible for facilitating training that focuses on current tactics, techniques, and procedures in modern policing in order to keep up with current legal, ethical, and liability-based practices. The Training Unit is responsible for the continued training of new officers after they've graduated from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy (RIMPTA) or training POST-certified Officers who have transferred to NPD from other Police Departments.





In 2024, the Training Division facilitated the training of nine new Officers who graduated from the Police Academy as well as the training of three Police Officers who transferred from other Police Departments. The Training Unit is responsible for tracking all personnel training records. The following table shows a list of the types of training our staff received in 2024 (*see page 48*).



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

TRAINING UNIT

Training / Certificate Name	
NECNA Conference	FLETC Active Shooter Threat Training Program
Holding facility Training	FLETC Basic Tactical Med Instructor
Spring Range Pre-Course	Flock Safety Systems
Use of Force Policy Review	GANG RECOGNITION TRAINING - RIMPTA
Fall Low Light Range	Group Crisis Intervention - Peer Support
NARCAN REFRESHER TRAINING	Guardian Tracking Update-All Peronnel
Spring Range- Less Lethal	Guardian Tracking Update-Supervisor
Glock Pistol /Red Dot In-House Training	Harassment - Annual Review
Glock Pistol /Red Dot Live Fire Training	Holding Facility Training
Pursuit & Police Vehicle Response - Annual Review	I.A.C.P.
St. Patrick's Day Parade OP Order	ICS 300
Taser X2 Instructor Development	ICS 400
Active Shooter Hostile Environment Training	Implicit Bias / Biased Based Profiling - Annual Review
Inside the Tape - Homicide Investigation	Interview Techniques - Matt Episcopo
Accreditation Training	L.E.A.D.S. - Law Enforcement Active De-escalation
Accreditation & PowerDMS Training	Language Line Solutions
Active Shooter Instructor - AZTEC 21	LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVE DE-ESCALATION STRATEGIES
All Hazards Plan - Annual Training	Legal Update - Annual Review
All Threats Annual Training	Less Lethal Instructor
A-RIDE	Magnet Forsenics
AXON Community Request Training	Magnet Graykey Examination Forensic - GK200
Background Investigation - Power Point	Managing Police Discipline
Brady / Giglio Legal Updates	Mental Focus for Resilience for 1st Responders
Building Search & Robbery Response Instructor -RIMPTA	Municipal Academy Instructor Development Program
Cell Phone Ping Procedure	Mutual Aid -Intra-State & Inter-State Non-Emergency Agreements
Civil Disturbance/Field Force Biennial Recertification	NEDIAI Conference
Code of Ethics - Biennial Review	New Supervisor In House Training
Confidential Informant/Sources	NPD Evidence Packaging & Preservation Refresher
CPR / AED / First Aid Instructor	NPD Off Duty Qualification (With Glock 47 Red Dot)
CPR/AED/NARCAN/First Aid and Tourniquet refresher training	NTOA Less Lethal Webinar
Criminal Investigation: Scientific Evidence I & II	NTOA SWAT Medic/Rescue Task Force During Active Violence
Crisis Intervention Team Training - Thundermist	Open Source Intelligence
Critical incident Debrief	Patrol Rifle Operator Certification Course
Crypto Webinar	Performance Appraisals Rater Training
Customer Service in Todays Public Safety Communications	Physical Fitness Assessment Battery Certification
DEAF and Hard of Hearing Video Phone	Pistol Optics Instructor Course
De-Escalation	PowerDMS Accreditation Tasks
De-Escalation Program - NDTC train the trainer	Pre-Employment Background Investigations - RWU
Detecting Fake IDs and Current ID Trends	Pre-Employment Background Investigator

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

QUARTERMASTER & FACILITY MANAGEMENT

The Quartermaster and Facilities office is managed by a Sergeant. The office is responsible for managing the everyday maintenance and upkeep of NPD facilities, police radio equipment, issued equipment, and the fleet vehicles. The Quartermaster also oversees the Custodian and Property Aides.

In 2024, the Quartermaster Office's Sergeant was instrumental in procuring the purchase of four replacement police cruisers and two new Police Motorcycles. This included getting quotes for the cost of the vehicles, designing the vehicles, and getting them outfitted with modern policing equipment. The office also oversaw the redesign of the police station's Assembly Room into the City's Emergency Operations Center. Several office spaces also received updates and redesigns to accommodate updated and evolving police unit functions.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

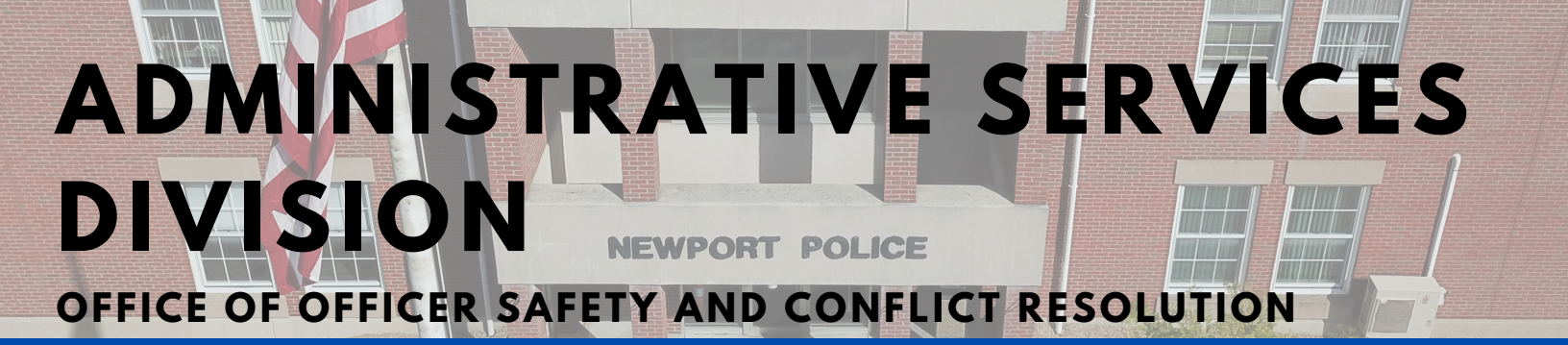
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The IT and Records Management office is responsible for facilitating all the IT needs of NPD. This includes, but is not limited to, the upkeep and maintenance of the following IT systems within the police department: Records Management System/Computer-Aided Dispatch (RMS/CAD) system; Mobile Data Terminals in the police cruisers; Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (RILETS); as well as any other IT issues within the police department in coordination with the City's IT staff and vendors.



The Sergeant who oversees the IT and Records Management office has oversight of the Records office, and the Dispatch Center, which includes 13 civilian employees. The office also oversees all Access to Public Record Act requests (APRA) involving police interactions with the public. During calendar year 2024, approximately 100-150 requests for public records were processed. The IT Sergeant is the point of contact for the Rhode Island State Police for both the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) and RILETS.





ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

OFFICE OF OFFICER SAFETY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Office of Officer Safety and Conflict Resolution is a newly created job function that began in January of 2024. The primary function of this Office is to oversee, audit, and analyze officers use-of-force and officer safety tactics.

Each year, in accordance with Newport Police Department (NPD) Policy 300.01 "Use of Force," a comprehensive analysis of all use-of-force incidents is initiated. Along with results of this analysis, we also look back at the last two calendar years (2023 & 2022) for additional perspective on our engagements with the public during calls for service over time. Refer to *Annex A: Newport Police 2024 Use of Force Analysis* (Page 72) for further details.

In 2024, NPD responded to 31,294 calls for service, of which 155 incidents involved the use of force, representing just less than a half-a-percent (0.49%) of total calls. The mean, or average, number of calls between 2022 and 2024 is 30,023 of which the use of force incidents average is 131 (0.43%). While the data suggests that there has been a slight increase in the use of force year-over-year (approximately 0.09%), against the mean, NPD's increase for 2024 remains modest (at 0.06%).

Table 1: Calls for Service where Use of Force Occurred (2022-2024)

	2024	2023	2022
Calls for Service	31,294	28,164	30,611
Use of Force Incidents	155	114	126
Percentage of Calls for Service	0.49%	0.40%	0.41%

In 2024, data indicates that 74.84% of the use of force incidents resulted in arrests, while 25.16% of incidents did not result in arrests. A total of 350 applications of force were used in these incidents, with multiple officers often involved and switching between different forms of force. The application of force refers to the type or form of force used.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

OFFICE OF OFFICER SAFETY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION



The demographic breakdown of individuals involved in use-of-force incidents in 2024 shows that 58.7% were White, 36.12% were Black, 21.29% were Hispanic, 1.2% were Asian, and 3.81% were of unknown race. Additionally, 89.67% were male, and 10.33% were female. These figures are consistent with the demographic trends in the City of Newport observed in previous years.

In 2024, the Newport County Special Response Team (NCSRT) was involved in one incident requiring use of force by NPD officers. All SRT operations, by the nature of their actions, are "Command Level Uses of Force" where standard operating procedures (SOPs) dictate that weapons will, more likely than not, be drawn and at the ready as a matter of operational safety. As it relates to the data, authorizing commanders are charged with the initial use-of-force application. SRT officers are only identified with a use of force if they apply additional force above and beyond what is command authorized at the onset of an operation such as directing their weapon at an individual, using weaponless physical force or any other additional force options. No firearms were discharged by the NCSRT or any other officers of the NPD in 2024.

NPD utilizes "Vector Guardian Tracking" to monitor use-of-force incidents. Guardian Tracking is a performance management and early intervention program that equips NPD with a process for

consistent feedback (based on a point system) that can help identify officers in need of intervention before an adverse event takes place. During 2024 "Use of Force 365-, 90-, 60- and 30-Day Flags" were raised, triggering reviews from the Office of Officer Safety and Conflict Resolution, and the officer's supervisor. During 2024, all flagged incidents were found to be within policy, and no additional action was required based on the outcomes of these reviews. Through constant oversight and review of officer's uses of force by multiple supervisors, at no point were any NPD officers identified as struggling with personal or tactical issues during the calendar year. It is recommended, however, that the point values used for certain types of force in the Guardian Tracking system be adjusted in 2025 to better reflect the severity and frequency of their use. Analysis also indicates that during calendar year 2024, all uses of force incidents were objectively reasonable under Graham v. Connor and reviews of each incident did not reveal training or equipment deficiencies.

In the coming year, NPD will continue to enhance its training programs to mitigate the inherent risks associated with use of force encounters. NPD recognizes the increased liability to the Department and City when use of force is deployed and will ensure that new training standards introduced in 2024 are, at a minimum, maintained in 2025. Additional focus will be placed on quarterly sessions that include Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy (RIMPTA) approved Lock-Up Training®, de-escalation tactics, and scenario-based training. Additionally, grappling techniques will be added to the tracking system in 2025 to monitor their deployment and effectiveness. Comparative analysis has underscored the importance of continuous monitoring as we refine our approach to use of force to ensure the safety of all residents and visitors to the City of Newport.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

BODY WORN CAMERA PROGRAM

In 2024, the Newport Police Department deployed 62 Body Worn Cameras (BWC) which allowed the Department to outfit all Patrol personnel and Detectives. Four of these cameras have been designated as administrative cameras, serving the remaining members of NPD, particularly those with the rank of Lieutenant and higher when they work a patrol function.



The oversight of the BWC program falls under the responsibility of the Administrative Services Lieutenant. Post-grant approval, the BWC Lieutenant diligently managed the inventory and distribution of the new equipment to officers.

In 2024, the BWC's were upgraded to the latest version and the BWC Lieutenant administered them to all applicable officers. Additionally, the Lieutenant facilitated comprehensive training sessions on BWC usage and coordinated updates to departmental policies. Notably, the implementation of the BWC system introduced a new application by the vendor. The application allows officers to capture photographs, statements, and digital evidence on-site, streamlining the evidence collection process. The web-based platform ensures secure storage and replaces the traditional method of physically uploading evidence to the station servers. Moreover, replacing handwritten statements, the new system enables officers to record audio statements during interactions with victims or witnesses. Additionally, the web-based platform has allowed the Criminal Investigative Division to share case information with the Attorney General's Office to facilitate the prosecution of crimes.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

PEER SUPPORT AND WELLNESS

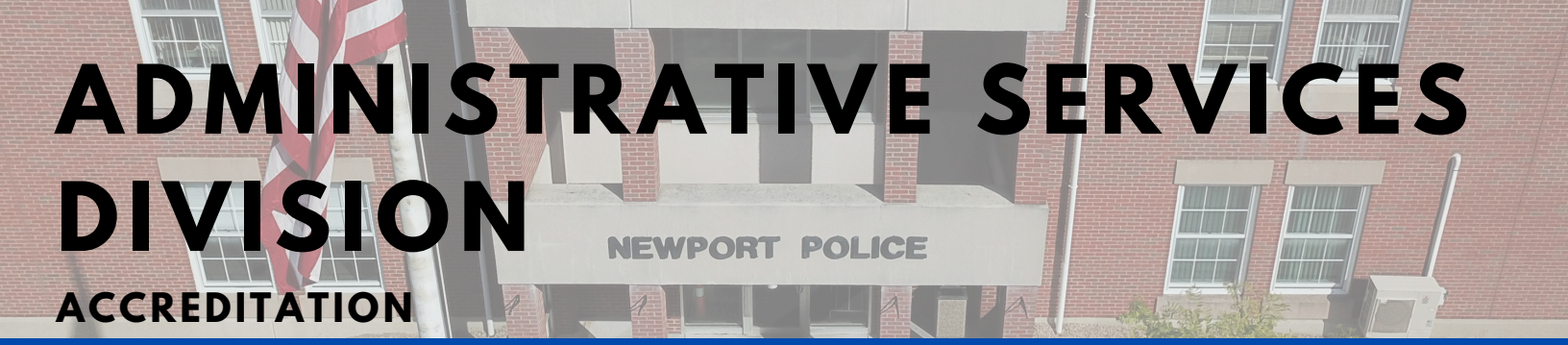
In 2024, the Peer Support Team continued its goal to be more effective and reach out to any officers in need. The unit is comprised of 11 sworn police officers, one civilian employee, and the Police Chaplain. The unit prides itself on its strict confidentiality for the members of the police department, sworn and civilian, who choose to take advantage of its services. The unit is committed to facilitating any assistance beyond its own capabilities when needed. There were several critical incidents throughout the year in which the Peer Support Team proved to be not only useful but necessary for the continued health of NPD. There were no major changes to the wellness aspect of the unit; however, the members are always on the lookout for ways to improve health and wellness through new gym equipment and available programs outside the Police Department. In 2025 the unit intends to send members to Crisis Intervention Team Trainings.











ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

ACCREDITATION

The Training Sergeant is responsible for supervising the Office of Accreditation. The Office of Accreditation is staffed by one Sworn Officer. Accreditation is the recognition from the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission (RIPAC) that NPD voluntarily complies with best practices and professional standards in all aspects of policing. Professional standards are set forth by RIPAC and aim to ensure that the agency is delivering professional police services and following industry best practices. The RIPAC accreditation manual has a list of 213 standards NPD must remain in compliance with annually.

Newport Police policies and procedures have been updated to align with updated standards to maintain best practices. These standards address all areas of the agency, including non-sworn personnel. Other benefits associated with maintaining accreditation are improved citizen confidence in the agency, recognition for excellence, formalized management procedures, greater accountability, fair and non-discriminatory personnel practices and improved service delivery. It is the job of the accreditation office to ensure that all standards are met to ensure top tier professionalism to the community.

ABOUT RIPAC - An accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. The accreditation process is a progressive and time-proven management model. Accreditation provides a means for law enforcement agencies to systematically conduct an internal review and assessment of the agency's policies and procedures and an in-depth review of every aspect of the agency's organization, management, and operations.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

ACCREDITATION

The development of an accreditation program for law enforcement agencies in Rhode Island was seen as a way of providing the tools necessary for agencies to evaluate and improve their overall performance in that it is reasonable and cost-effective. The Rhode Island Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was formally established through the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association in 2012 as a private non-profit organization and is overseen by the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission, RIPAC.



The RIPAC accreditation program is a department-initiated process by which police departments in Rhode Island voluntarily strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established for the police profession, by the police profession. Participation in the program is a signal to all of the citizens of Rhode Island that we are committed to professional standards, willing to be assessed by an Accreditation Commission, and correct any deficiencies in order to re-establish compliance with the standards.

The Standards Manual is the cornerstone publication of the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission, RIPAC Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The standards are dynamic, as they will be continually reviewed, updated, added to, or deleted as necessary to ensure compliance with contemporary standards and practices.

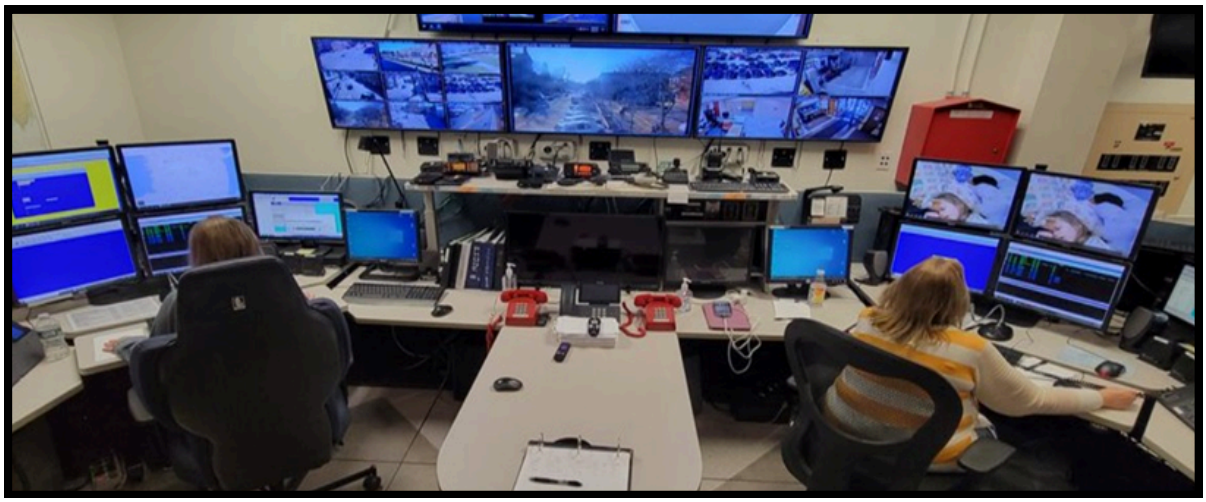
In 2025, The Newport Police Department will be looking to be reaccredited by RIPAC.

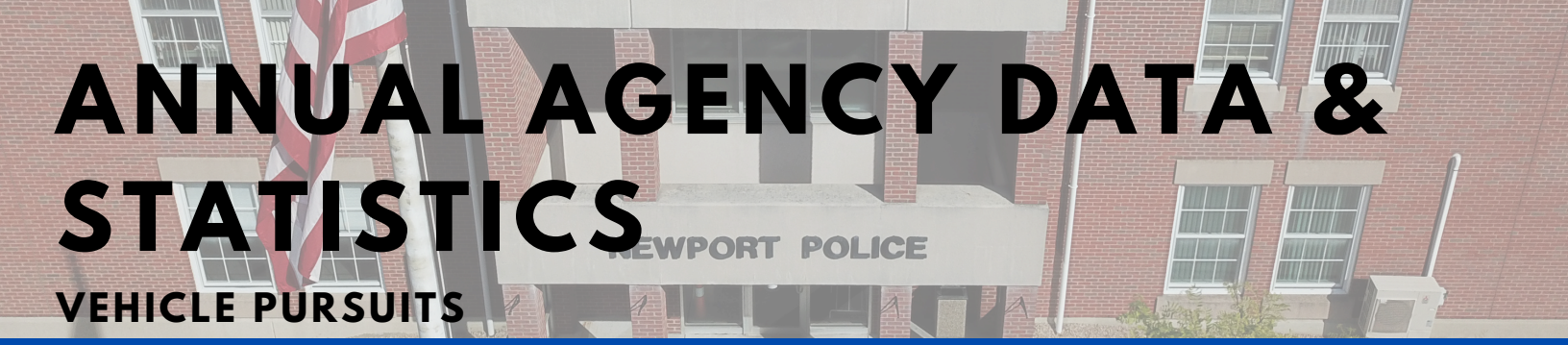
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

DISPATCH

Our dispatch center is staffed 24 hours a day and seven days a week by a minimum of two dispatchers. They provide assistance to anyone who calls the emergency and non-emergency station lines or 911. Dispatchers triage the calls that come in and allocate the necessary resources to assist the public. They are responsible for answering the radio and communicating with officers on their calls for service. The Newport Police Department has nine full-time dispatchers. In 2025, a newly vacated position is currently being advertised to the public.

2024 Calls for Service	
Alarm System	9
Cellular	0
E-911	1,825
Other	1,733
Officer Initiated	20,756
Radio	471
Telephone	9,396
Walk-in	1,114





ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

VEHICLE PURSUITS

All officers involved in a vehicle pursuit complete a written report detailing their involvement. In order to provide an ongoing process of evaluation, documentation, and accountability, a Pursuit Review Board is established after each pursuit. The Board will provide a formal mechanism for evaluating departmental pursuit policies and ensure compliance. This board is composed of the Patrol Commander, the Training Supervisor, and the pursuit officer's Shift Commander - provided the Shift Commander was not involved in the pursuit. The Board conducts a thorough review of all police pursuits by the Department, including those that do not result in accident or injury. In doing so, the Board will:

- Interview and/or review all reports from officers, dispatchers, the Officer in Charge (OIC), and all supervisors involved in the pursuit.
- Interview witnesses, if any are known.
- Review the dispatch tape recording of the pursuit.
- Determine whether or not officers, dispatchers, and supervisors followed departmental guidelines and policies.
- Determine whether or not departmental guidelines and policies are effective or in need of change.
- Determine and identify what, if any, training needs are necessary.
- Determine and identify what, if any, equipment needs are necessary.
- Upon completion of the review process, the Pursuit Review Board will submit a report, including its findings and recommendations to the Chief of Police within twenty-one (21) days of the pursuit.

Total Pursuits	
Not Terminated by the Agency	1
Terminated by the Agency	0
Policy Compliant	1
Policy Non-compliant	1

Reason For Pursuit	
Traffic Offense	1
Felony	0
Misdemeanor	1
Other	0



ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING

The Newport Police Department collects motor vehicle stop data electronically and the information is reviewed by supervisory personnel. This process permits the ability to view information collected by individual personnel and the ability to identify patterns and trends, or lack thereof, with regard to gender, race, and/or ethnic background. It also permits the ability to discern employee activities that may be of concern, and to ensure compliance with policy and best practices.

Associated aspects also include geographical areas of activity, the basis for interaction, and any directed enforcement initiatives. Review and analysis of data from the agency's records management system inherently provide an aspect of transparency and complement the NPD's commitment to fair and impartial policing and respectful interaction with citizens. NPD has a long-standing practice of performing diversity training as part of annual in- service programs.

Monthly race data reports for the calendar year 2024 were compiled by the administrative services division. Of the 6,698 vehicles the Newport Police Department stopped during this time period, 4,887 (73.0%) of the operators were identified as being White, and 871 (13.0%) identified as Black. The remaining 940 (13.8%) identified as White Hispanic, Black Hispanic, Asian, and Native American. During the year 184 (2.7%) of the vehicles or occupants of the vehicle were searched; the occupants or operators of those vehicles were identified as 85 (1.7%) White, 56 (6.4%) Black, three (2.8%) Black Hispanic, 34 (5.2%) White Hispanic, four (2.4%) Asian and two (10.0%) were identified as Native American. The reasons for the search included incident to arrest, probable cause, the odor of alcohol/drugs, terry frisk, plain view contraband, reasonable and articulable circumstances, and inventory search in preparation for towing the vehicle.



ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING

The most recent residential demographic data from census.gov quick facts for the City of Newport shows the full-time residents to be 78.9% White, 7.5% Black, 8.6% Hispanic or Latino, 1.4% two or more races, 2.3% Asian, and 1.3% Native American. These demographic statistics do not account for the significant transient population with the motoring public. The City of Newport is an international tourist destination and has a university as well as a Navy base and temporary naval communities. The traffic pattern in Newport has a choke point and is a pass-through to the Newport Bridge, linking all island communities with the mainland of Rhode Island. Considering the transient population, there is a nuance to comparing the known residential demographics to race data obtained from vehicle stops.



ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

CRIME DATA

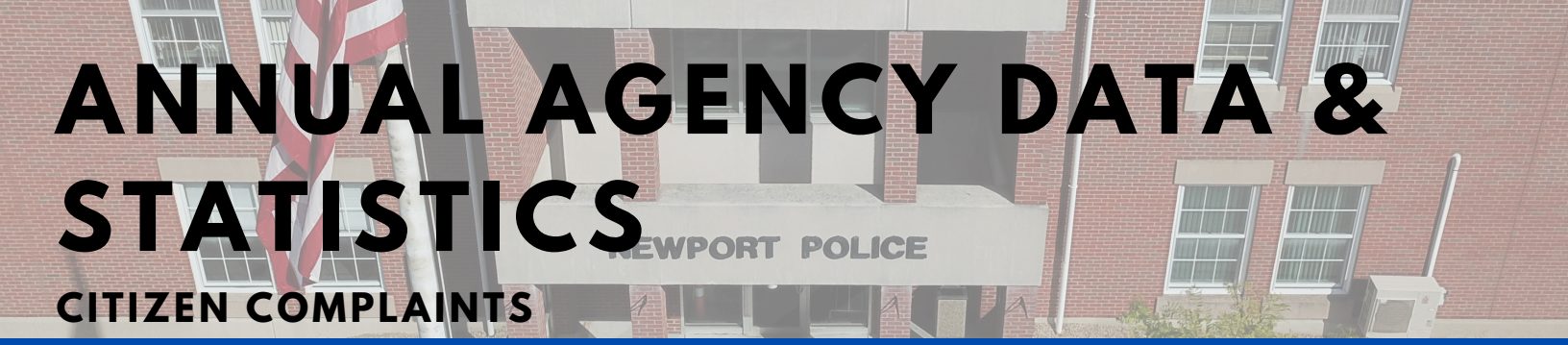
On a monthly basis, the Administrative Services Division generates a crime report intended to ensure that all agency personnel are made aware of any trends in a particular type of crime. This provides the agency administration the ability to ensure that personnel are deployed in the most effective manner possible to increase police visibility in areas that appear to indicate a particular need for some police intervention (*please see the 2024 statistics on the right*).



Crime Data	Totals
Murder	0
Sexual Assault	12
Robbery	2
Aggravated Assault	29
Burglary/B&E	67
Simple Assault	334
Disorderly Conduct	837
Drug/Narcotic viol.	52
Weapon Law viol.	63
Liquor Law viol.	219
All other Offenses	485

Property Crime	Totals
Larceny	184
Shoplifting	26
Theft from Building	48
Larceny from Auto	34
Motor Vehicle Theft	24
Arson	4
Vandalism	208

Noise	Totals
Amp. Noise comp.	236
Non-Amp. Noise comp	139



ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

It is the policy of the Newport Police Department to investigate all complaints of alleged employee misconduct to determine fairly whether the allegations are valid or invalid and to take appropriate action. NPD's primary objective is our duty and responsibility to preserve the confidentiality, rights, and privacy concerns of all involved as well as for the integrity of the investigative process. All allegations of misconduct are investigated regardless of their source.

Complaint Type	Total
Administrative	18
Criminal	6

Complaint Initiated By	Total
Citizen	18
Internal	6

Investigated By	Total
Internal Affairs	20
Division	4

Personnel Type	Totals
Sworn	23
Civilian	1

FINDINGS*: At the conclusion of an internal investigation resulting from a citizen complaint, the complainant will receive written notification of the findings. There are five potential findings:

- *Unfounded:* The investigation determined that the act or acts complained of did not occur.
- *Exonerated:* Acts did occur but were justified, lawful, and proper under the circumstances.
- *Not Sustained:* The investigation fails to discover sufficient facts to clearly prove or disprove the allegations made in the complaint.
- *Sustained:* The investigation disclosed sufficient facts to clearly prove the allegation made in the complaint.
- *Not Involved:* The investigation establishes that the individual subject of the complaint was not involved in the incident.

Dispositions	Total
Exonerated	10
Not Sustained	3
Sustained	9
Pending Investigation	2

***** *One complaint may involve more than one employee which results in higher employee type complaint numbers vs. complaint types.*

ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

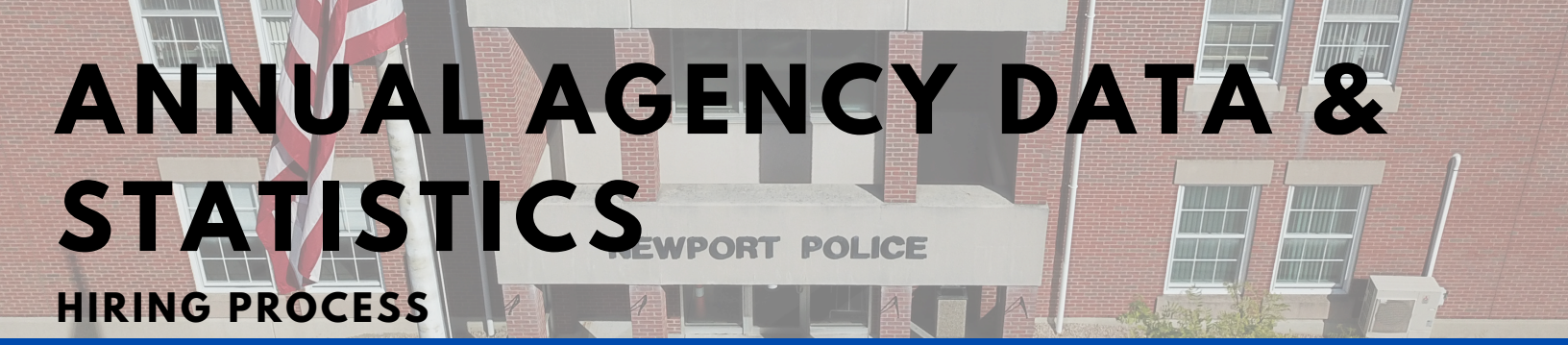
HIRING PROCESS

In 2024, the City of Newport conducted two recruitment drives seeking Police Officers Commission on Standards and Training (POST)-certified police officers and entry-level police officers. POST establishes rules, regulations, policies and standards for certification and training of municipal and state criminal justice personnel. They maintain records of law enforcement training and serve as a resource to municipalities and the state to improve the quality of law enforcement pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws. POST-certified police officers in good standing with their agency can transfer from one agency to another. This type of hiring process yields a shorter turnaround from the application process to the candidate being ready for solo patrol on the road. This is largely due to the fact that certified officers already attended the 22-week police training academy and have already met all POST requirements. Depending on a certified officer's years of service, they may receive an abbreviated field training period as well.



Two recruitment processes in 2024 were completed and NPD hired a total of seven entry-level officers that attended the full the police academy and three certified officers who transferred to our agency from other departments.





ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

HIRING PROCESS

30X30 ADVANCING AND SUPPORTING WOMEN IN POLICING

Beginning in December 2024, the Newport Police Department elected to participate in, and promote, the National 30x30 initiative which aims to bring more women into policing. This effort is also aimed at improving overall public safety, community outcomes, and trust in law enforcement. The 30x30 Initiative is a pledge to improve the representation and experiences of sworn women of all ranks.

NPD is committed to ensuring that policies are free of bias, promote equitable hiring, retention, and promotion of women officers. Research demonstrates that greater representation of women in police agencies leads to better policing outcomes for communities. NPD's goal is to see qualified women make up 30% of a recruit class by 2030 in the State. While 30x30 is focused on advancing women in policing, these principles apply to all demographic characteristics, not just gender. NPD is the first department in Rhode Island to take this pledge and make it a priority to improve our police culture.



ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

PROMOTIONS

The City of Newport's Human Resources Department administers the promotional examination process in accordance with the Fraternal Order of Police collective bargaining agreement. Examinations for promotions are given every two (2) years unless the previous promotional list expires before the expiration of that two-year period, or the eligibility list is reduced to two (2) names. In those cases, a new examination process is added. Examinations to establish eligibility for promotion shall be structured as follows:

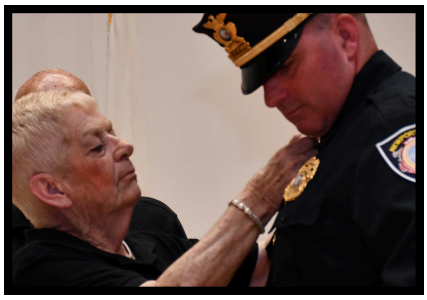
Written Exam: 80%
Seniority Points: 20%













Sergeant: One (1) Point per each full year of Service as a Patrol Officer through the date of the written Promotional Examination, plus 1/2 Point per each six (6) months of Service as a Patrol Officer.



ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

PROMOTIONS

Lieutenant: One (1) Point per year of Service as a Sergeant through the date of the written Promotional Examination, plus 1/2 Point per each six (6) months of Service as a Sergeant.

Captain: One (1) Point per year of Service as a Lieutenant through the date of the written Promotional Examination, plus 1/2 Point per each six (6) months of Service as a Lieutenant.













In 2024, the Human Resources Department proctored a Lieutenants and Sergeants promotional exam. In 2024, there were three promotions to the rank of Sergeant, two promotions to the rank of Lieutenant and one promotion to the rank of Captain.

ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

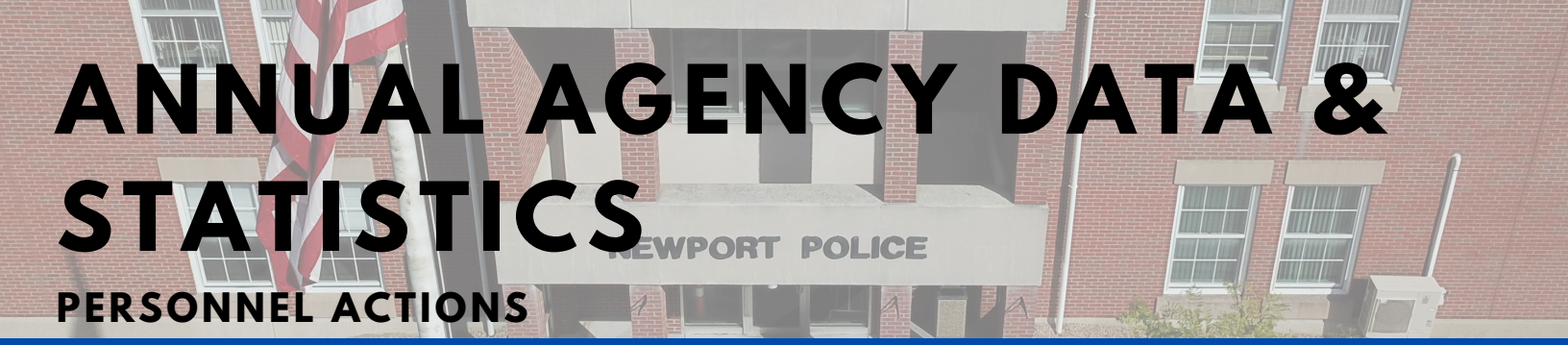
The Newport Police Department currently utilizes the Guardian Tracking software system as an early intervention tracking system. A comprehensive Personnel Early Intervention System is an essential component of a well-managed law enforcement agency. The early identification of potential problem employees and a range of remedial actions can increase agency accountability and offer employees a better opportunity to meet the agency's values and mission statement.

Type	Totals
Suspension	1
Demotion	0
Resigned	3
Resigned	0
Termination	0
Retirements	3

The agency initiates entries in the system when certain types of incidents occur. On an annual basis, the agency conducts an evaluation of collected material. Such material may include, but not necessarily be limited to, agency performance evaluations, citizen complaints, disciplinary actions, use of force incidents, internal affairs cases, and pursuits.

In 2023, the agency implemented "Impactful Events". Information on the use of this category was sent out and reinforced to all supervisory staff. This category is intended as a means for the agency to account for officers who have been involved in an emotionally significant incident. This category, along with others, is one mechanism utilized by the agency to monitor officer wellness. The following information (*see page 69*) denotes what is tracked in the recognition and early warning system.



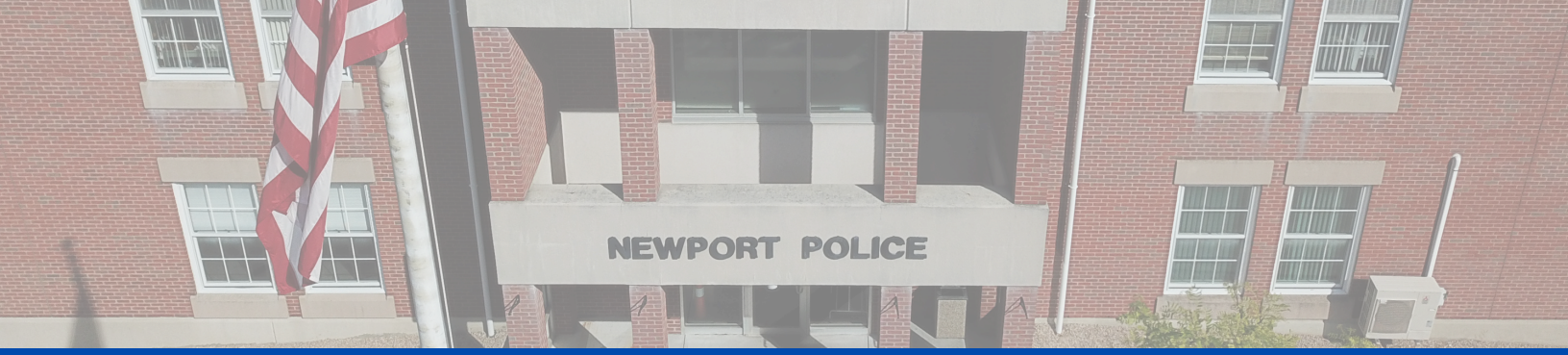


ANNUAL AGENCY DATA & STATISTICS

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Early Warning System

Total Entries	808
Interventions	53
Impactful Events	42
Categories	**Total**
Attendance Related	162
Attendance Flag 30 Response	11
Attendance Flag 365 Response	5
Award Nomination	4
BWC Policy	21
Citizen Compliment	15
Counselling Session	18
General flag 30 EI	14
General flag 180 EI Response	3
General Flag365 EI Response	18
General Recognition	20
ILD Report	4
Job Well Done	37
Letter of Commendation	1
M/V Accident	12
M/V Pursuit	2
Peer Recognition	8
Performance Appraisal	12
Supervisor Recognition	124
Use of Force 30 Response	18
Use of Force 90 Response	15
Use of Force 180	10
Use of Force 365	34
Use of Force Entry	197

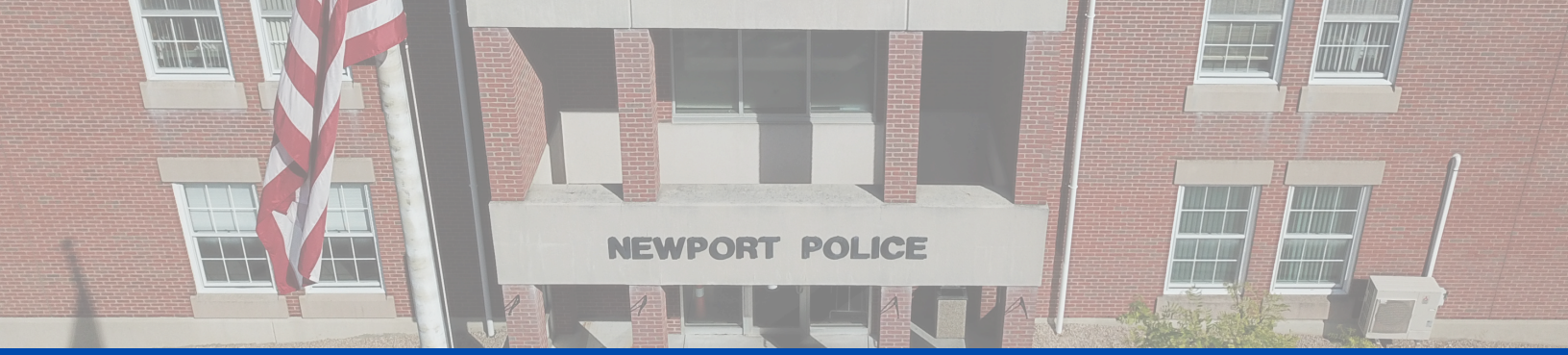


The Newport Police Department publishes this annual report in an effort to foster transparency and be informative to the citizens of Newport, its visitors, and any interested parties. The women and men of the Newport Police Department have answered a professional calling and embody the essence of professionalism, empathy, bravery, and commitment to public service.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan G Duffy
Chief of Police

This document serves as compliance to Newport City Council Resolution #2023-20


NEWPORT POLICE


NEWPORT POLICE
DEPARTMENT
Police and Community
Partners in Excellence

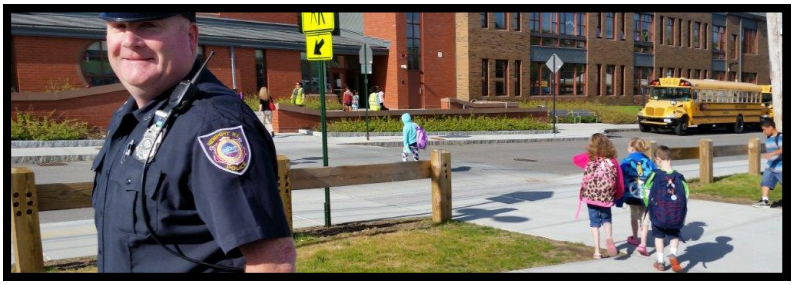

EXPLORER


POLICE




STOP&SHOP


PRINCE EDWARD
Island

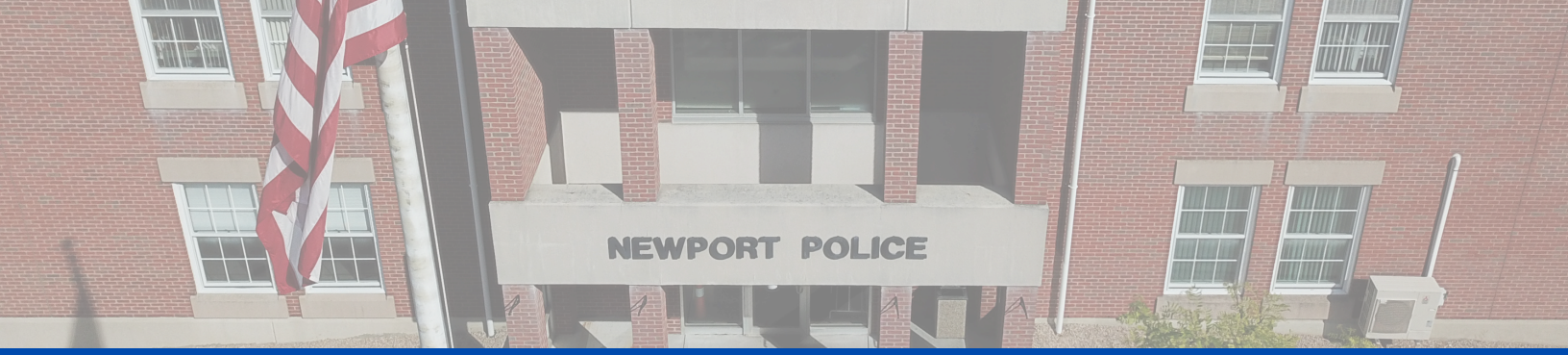









STOP&SHOP



Annex A: Newport Police 2024 Use of Force Analysis

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the use of force incidents by the officers of the Newport Police Department for the calendar year of 2024. This analysis is conducted in accordance with Newport Police Department Policy 300.01 "Use of Force" and aims to ensure that all uses of force were reasonable, within policy, and in compliance with the legal standards established by Graham v. Connor. Additionally, the report seeks to identify any training, policy, fiscal, or equipment needs that should be addressed to enhance the department's operational effectiveness and accountability.

Analyzing use of force incidents is of paramount importance for several reasons. It ensures transparency and accountability within the police department, fosters public trust, and provides critical insights into the effectiveness of current policies and training programs. By examining these incidents, the department can identify patterns, trends, and areas for improvement, thereby enhancing officer safety and community relations. The Newport Police Department's use of force policy outlines the circumstances under which officers are authorized to use force and the types of force that are permissible. The policy emphasizes the principles of necessity, proportionality, and reasonableness, guiding officers to use the minimum amount of force necessary to achieve a lawful objective. The department records various types of force, including weaponless physical force, drawn and discharged Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEWs), impact tools, chemical agents, firearms discharged and directed, and K-9 deployments.
This report has been prepared by Lt. Robert Salter, who is assigned to the newly created Office of Officer Safety and Conflict Resolution. Lt. Salter is a Certified Force Science® Analyst and a Master Instructor in Active Shooter and Building Search at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy, a former 19-year member of the Special Response Team (SRT) serving as a Team Leader for 10 years, prior member and Team Leader on the Rhode Island Weapons of Mass Destruction Tactical Team and previously served as NPD’s Training Unit Supervisor and a supervisor in the Criminal Investigation Division

With over 25 years of service in the Newport Police Department, Lt. Salter has extensive experience in training and use of force analysis, making him well-qualified to conduct this review.

The following sections of this report will detail the methodology used for data collection and analysis, present the use of force statistics for 2024, and provide a comparative analysis with data from 2022 and 2023. The report will also examine the types of force used, the involvement of the Special Response Team, and the department's compliance with its use of force policy. Finally, the report will offer recommendations for training and equipment enhancements based on the findings from the 2024 analysis.

Methodology

The methodology employed in this Use of Force Analysis Report for the Newport Police Department (NPD) in 2024 is designed to ensure a comprehensive and objective evaluation of use of force incidents. This section outlines the data collection methods, criteria for categorizing use of force incidents, analytical tools and software used, and the approach for comparative analysis.

Data collection for this report was conducted through the Guardian Tracking program as well as data compiled from Response to Resistance/Non-Compliance forms which are filled out by supervisors after every case where force needs to be documented by policy. The Guardian program assigns numerical values to different types of force, which are then entered by supervisors following each incident. This system allows for the compilation and analysis of data over the calendar year in conjunction with data compiled by Response to Resistance/Non-Compliance forms.

The criteria for categorizing use of force incidents are based on the Newport Police Department Policy 300.01 "Use of Force." The categories include Weaponless Physical Force, Drawn Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW), Discharged CEW, Drive Stun of CEW, ASP (baton), OC (pepper spray) Deployment, Drawn Pistol, Discharged Pistol, Drawn Rifle, Discharged Rifle, Deployed Less Lethal Shotgun, Discharged Less Lethal Shotgun, SRT operation and use of K-9. Each type of force is assigned a specific point value within the Guardian Tracking program to facilitate the monitoring and review process.

Analytical tools and software used in this report include the Guardian Tracking program, which flags officers for review if they accumulate a certain number of points within a 365, 90, 60 and 30-day period. These "Use of Force flags" triggers a review by the officer's supervisor and a final review by Lt. Robert Salter from the Office of Officer Safety and Conflict Resolution. This review process ensures that all Use of Force incidents are evaluated for compliance with departmental policy and the legal guidance established in Graham v. Connor and are an early warning system ensuring there are no personal or tactical issues that need to be addressed by the administration.

The comparative analysis approach involves a detailed examination of use of force data from 2022, 2023, and 2024. This includes comparing the total number of calls for service, the number of Use of Force incidents, the percentage of calls resulting in use of force, and the types of force used. Demographic data of individuals involved in use of force incidents are also analyzed to identify any trends or patterns over the three-year period. This comparative analysis helps to contextualize the 2024 data and provides insights into the effectiveness of current policies and practices.

By employing these methodologies, the report aims to provide a thorough and objective analysis of use of force incidents within the Newport Police Department, ensuring that the force utilized was reasonable, within policy, and identifying any training, policy, fiscal, or equipment needs that should be addressed. This structured approach ensures that the findings and recommendations are based on robust and reliable data, facilitating informed decision-making for continuous improvement in law enforcement practices.

Use of Force Statistics

This section provides a detailed examination of the use of force incidents reported by the Newport Police Department for the calendar year 2024. It includes a comprehensive analysis of the total calls for service, the number of Use of Force incidents, and the percentage of calls resulting in the use of force. Additionally, it presents a demographic breakdown of individuals involved in these incidents. To offer a broader perspective, a comparative analysis of use of force statistics from 2022 to 2024 is also included, highlighting trends and changes over the three-year period. This analysis aims to identify patterns and inform future policy and training decisions.
2024 Use of Force Incidents

In 2024, the Newport Police Department responded to a total of 31,294 calls for service. Out of these, 155 incidents involved the use of force, representing 0.49% of the total calls. This is a slight increase in the percentage of use of force incidents compared to 2023, which had a rate of 0.40%. Of the 155 use of force incidents in 2024, 116 resulted in arrests (74.84%), while 39 were non-arrest incidents (25.16%).
A total of 350 types of force were used across these 155 incidents. The breakdown of the types of force used is as follows:

- Weaponless Physical Force: 197 instances (55.49%)
- CEW (Conducted Electrical Weapon) Drawn: 36 instances (10.14%)
- CEW Discharged: 7 instances (1.97%)
- CEW Drive Stun: 3 instances (0.84%)
- ASP: 2 instances (.56%)
- OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) Deployment: 5 instances (1.4%)
- Drawn Pistol or Rifle: 100 instances (28.57%)

There were no instances of, K-9 deployment or Deployed Less Lethal Shotgun. Additionally, no firearms were discharged by officers in the line of duty, except during training or to euthanize animals.

The demographic data of individuals involved in use of force incidents in 2024 is as follows:

- 91 individuals were white (58.70%)
- 56 individuals were black (36.12%)
- 2 individuals were Asian (1.2%)
- 6 individuals were of unknown race (3.8%)
- 33 individuals were Hispanic (21.29%)
- 139 individuals were male (89.68%)
- 10 individuals were female (6.45%)
- 6 individuals Unknown Gender (3.8%)

The Newport Police Department utilizes the Guardian Tracking program to monitor use of force incidents. In 2024, 25 "Use of Force 365 Day Flags" were raised, indicating officers who accumulated 14 or more cumulative trigger points within a 365-day period. These flags prompted reviews by supervisors to determine if early intervention was necessary. All flagged incidents were found to be within policy.

The Newport County Special Response Team (NCSRT) was involved in 1 additional use of force incidents out of 15 operations in 2024, resulting in 2 applications of weaponless physical force. This was a barricaded suspect in Middletown No CEWs, ASPs, OC, or K-9s were used by the NCSRT, and no firearms were discharged.

Overall, the use of force by Newport Police Department officers in 2024 was found to be within policy, with no identified training needs, policy violations, fiscal concerns, or equipment deficiencies. This analysis underscores the department's commitment to maintaining high standards of accountability and effectiveness in its use of force practices.

Comparative Analysis: 2022-2024

The comparative analysis of use of force incidents from 2022 to 20234 provides valuable insights into trends and patterns within the Newport Police Department. This section examines the total calls for service, the number of Use of Force incidents, the percentage of calls resulting in use of force, and demographic trends over the three-year period.

In 2022, the Newport Police Department responded to 30,611 calls for service, with 126 incidents involving the use of force, representing 0.41% of total calls. Of these incidents, 105 resulted in arrests, and a total of 212 types of force were used. The majority of force applications involved weaponless physical force. The Special Response Team (SRT) was involved in 11 operations. No firearms were discharged in the line of duty, and all uses of force were found to be within policy.

In 2023, the department experienced a decrease in calls for service, totaling 28,164. There were 114 use of force incidents, accounting for 0.40% of total calls. Of these incidents, 80.7% resulted in arrests, with 241 types of force used. Weaponless physical force was the most common type of force applied. The SRT was involved in 8 operations. As in 2022, all uses of force were within policy, and no training needs or equipment deficiencies were identified.

In 2024, the Newport Police Department responded to 31,294 calls for service, with 155 incidents involving the use of force, representing 0.49% of total calls. Of these incidents, 74.84% resulted in arrests, and a total of 350 types of force were used. Weaponless physical force remained the most frequently used type of force, followed by drawn pistols and CEWs. The Newport County Special Response Team (NCSRT) was involved in 1 use of force incident in 2024 out of 15 operations, resulting in 2 applications of weaponless physical force. This was a single barricaded suspect incident where one suspect had to be subdued by 2 officers utilizing weaponless physical force. No firearms were discharged in the line of duty, and all uses of force were within policy. The report identified no training needs but recommended increased training in 2025 to address the high liability of use of force encounters and suggested adding grappling techniques to the tracking system.

Demographically, the individuals involved in use of force incidents in 2024 were predominantly white (58.70%), followed by black (36.12%), followed by Asian (1.2) with a small percentage of unknown race (3.8%) and Hispanic (21.29%). The gender distribution was 89.68% male and 6.45% female, 3.8% This demographic distribution shows a slight shift from 2023, where 62.5% of the individuals were white and 33.33% were black and 4.19% were unknown race. Males had force used against them at 69.17%.

Overall, the comparative analysis from 2022 to 2024 indicates a consistent adherence to the Newport Police Department's Use of Force Policy, with no significant policy violations or training needs identified. However, the data suggests a need for ongoing monitoring and potential adjustments to training programs to address emerging trends and ensure the continued effectiveness of the department's use of force practices.

Types of Force Used

In 2024, the Newport Police Department documented a total of 350 types of force used across 155 incidents. The breakdown of these types of force is as follows: Weaponless Physical Force (197 instances, 55.49%), Drawn Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) (36 instances, 10.14%), Discharged CEW (7 instances, 1.97%), CEW Drive Stun (3 instances, 0.84%), ASP (2 Instances, .56%) Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray (5 instances, 1.4%), Drawn Pistol or rifle (100 instances, 28.57%). There were no recorded uses K-9 or Deployed Less Lethal Shotgun.

Comparatively, in 2023, the department recorded 241 types of force used across 114 incidents. The most frequent type of force was Weaponless Physical Force, which accounted for the majority of the incidents. Other types of force included Drawn CEW, Discharged CEW, and Drawn Pistol. Notably, there were no discharges of firearms or other weapons outside of training or euthanizing animals.

In 2022, the department documented 212 types of force used across 126 incidents. The majority of these incidents involved the drawing of pistols. Other types of force included Weaponless Physical Force, Drawn CEW, and Discharged CEW. Similar to 2022, there were no discharges of firearms in the line of duty weapons outside of training or euthanizing animals.

Over the three-year period from 2022 to 2024, there has been a consistent use of Weaponless Physical Force as the predominant type of force. The data indicates a moderate increase in the use of Drawn CEW and Drawn Pistol in 2024 compared to previous years. The absence of K-9, and other specialized weapons in 2023 suggests a continued reliance on less-lethal options and physical force.

The analysis of these trends highlights the need for ongoing training in weaponless techniques and the potential benefits of incorporating additional training in grappling techniques. This would ensure officers are well-prepared to handle situations requiring physical force while minimizing the risk of injury to both officers and subjects.

The following section will discuss the involvement of the Special Response Team in use of force incidents.

Special Response Team Involvement

In 2024, the Newport County Special Response Team (NCSRT) was involved in 1 incident out of 15 operations where additional force was used more than the Command Authorized use of Force at the onset of the incident. Command Authorized Use of Force is assigned and tracked to the commander authorizing the initial force used by authorizing weapons to already be out and ready due to the inherently dangerous task of conducting search warrants. This particular barricaded suspect incident resulted in a total of 2 applications of force, specifically weaponless physical force by two officers used against an individual taking that person into custody. Notably, there were no uses of Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW), ASP batons, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, or K-9 units by the SRT. Additionally, the SRT did not discharge any pistols, rifles, less-lethal shotguns during these incidents.

Comparatively, in 2023, the SRT was involved in 8 operations which led to 2 applications of force. This included 2 applications of weaponless physical force. There were no other uses of weaponless physical force, CEW, ASP batons, OC spray, or K-9 units by the SRT in 2023. Furthermore, no firearms were discharged by the SRT in 2023.

In 2022, the SRT was involved in 11 operations resulting in no additional applications of force. As with the subsequent years, no firearms were discharged by the SRT in 2022.

The consistent involvement of the SRT in a limited number of incidents each year, and the absence of firearm discharges, underscores the team's adherence to the Newport Police Department's Use of Force Policy. This trend also highlights the effectiveness of the SRT's training and operational protocols in managing high-risk situations without resorting to lethal force. It should be noted that in 2024 the Newport Police SRT expanded to become the Newport County Special Response Team (NCSRT) consisting of members from Jamestown PD, Middletown PD, Portsmouth PD and Tiverton PD. Only additional use of force by NPD officers who are members of the NCSRT is tracked in this report.

One final point to note is that unknown race and genders statistic which were reported are due to Command Authorized Uses of force. For tracking and analytical purposes, they are given an unknown value because officer judgment is completely taken out of the equation due to SOP where firearms will be directed at any and all individuals during these incidents.

The following section will evaluate the department's compliance with Newport Police Department Policy 300.01, providing a detailed analysis of any policy violations identified and the overall effectiveness of current policies based on the 2024 data.

Policy Compliance

The evaluation of policy compliance for the Newport Police Department's use of force incidents in 2024 was conducted in accordance with Newport Police Department Policy 300.01 "Use of Force." This policy outlines the circumstances under which force may be used, the types of force authorized, and the procedures for reporting and reviewing use of force incidents.

In 2024, the Newport Police Department responded to 31,294 calls for service, of which 155 incidents involved the use of force. Each of these incidents was meticulously reviewed to ensure adherence to Policy 300.01. The analysis confirmed that all 155 use of force incidents were within the parameters set by the policy. No policy violations were identified, indicating a high level of compliance among the officers.

Comparatively, in 2023, the department responded to 28164 calls for service, with 114 use of force incidents. Similar to 2024, all incidents in 2023 were found to be within policy, with no violations reported. In 2022, there were 30,611 calls for service and 126 use of force incidents. Again, all incidents were within policy, and no violations were identified.

The consistent compliance across these three years demonstrates the effectiveness of the department's training and adherence to established protocols. The Guardian Tracking program, utilized by the department, played a crucial role in monitoring and flagging any potential issues. In 2024 “Use of Force Flags” were raised, all reviewed by supervisors and found that officers Use of Force were in compliance and no further intervention or training was needed.

The analysis also highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring and review to maintain high standards of policy compliance. The department's commitment to upholding Policy 300.01 is evident in the thorough review processes and the absence of any policy violations over the past three years.

Moving forward, the Newport Police Department should continue to leverage the Guardian Tracking program and other monitoring tools to ensure ongoing compliance. Regular training and updates to the use of force policy will be essential in maintaining this high standard and addressing any emerging challenges in law enforcement practices.

The next section will delve into the training and equipment recommendations based on the 2024 data, identifying areas for improvement and ensuring that officers are well-equipped to handle use of force situations effectively and within policy guidelines.

Training and Equipment Recommendations

Based on the analysis of use of force incidents for the Newport Police Department in 2024, several recommendations for training and equipment have been identified to enhance officer preparedness and ensure the continued compliance with departmental policies and legal standards.

Firstly, while the 2024 data indicates that all uses of force were within policy and no immediate training needs were identified, the high liability associated with use of force encounters necessitates a proactive approach to training. In 2023 it was recommended that the Training Division increase the frequency of training and use a quarterly approach to facilitate additional hands-on use of force training. It was recommended that the Newport Police Department increase the frequency of use of force training sessions in 2024. Specifically, officers should receive quarterly training that includes Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy (RIMPTA) approved Lock-Up® Training. This training should be integrated with the officers' weapon systems, de-escalation tactics, and scenario-based exercises to ensure that fundamental skills remain sharp and effective. The goal is to mitigate the risk of force incidents escalating unnecessarily and to enhance officers' ability to handle high-stress situations with appropriate responses. The training will be conducted by NPD's certified Use of Force Cadre under the supervision of The Training Unit led by Sgt. Scott Moody. In 2024 the Training Unit completed 2 training sessions for officers. As of the writing of this report there are 4 scheduled 2 hours training sessions for continued Use of Force training in 2025.

Additionally, the analysis revealed that a significant portion of force used by officers involved weaponless physical force. To address this, it is recommended that the Newport Police Department incorporate various grappling techniques taught in Lock-Up® Training into the tracking system. By adding these techniques to the Response to Resistance/Non-Compliance forms, the department can better monitor their usage and effectiveness, providing valuable data for future training adjustments. With a new Records Management System (RMS) coming in 2025, the goal is to implement a more streamlined approach to the tracking of use of force incidents and the success rates of techniques utilized. This system will begin implementing by April of 2025 giving NPD. Lt. Salter will backfill these numbers retroactively to ensure accurate statistics are kept for 2025.

NPD prides itself on being an innovative organization. With the implementation of the Office of Officer Safety and Conflict Resolution in 2024, Chief Duffy sought to find data on how often officers de-escalate situations in which at the onset force seems to be the inevitable outcome, yet officers were able to de-escalate the situation without utilizing force. The implementation of closing out calls with the "33D" radio call when officers

officers used time, distance, cover and verbal/communication skills in an effort to resolve potential physical conflict between the officer and citizen was successful in its first year. NPD tracked 114 times where officers were able to handle calls with these criteria in mind. These calls are tracked and can be reviewed by supervisors showing that our officers do not always resort to force when handling incidents that could have resulted in the legal and reasonable use of force based solely on the Graham V. Connor standard. We will continue to track this data and hope to improve on its numbers. It should be noted that the number of times “33D” is used by officers is likely higher because it is left to the officer’s discretion to close out calls in that manner. It is our goal to create a culture in which the officers seek to resolve conflict without force when it is safe to do so and give the officer credit for their efforts.

Regarding equipment, the current analysis found no deficiencies in the equipment used by officers during use of force incidents. However, it is essential to maintain a continuous evaluation of equipment needs to ensure that officers are equipped with the most effective and up-to-date tools. The department should consider periodic reviews of equipment performance and solicit feedback from officers to identify any potential areas for improvement. This can be done at any time or brought up at quarterly trainings.

From a fiscal perspective, the implementation of increased training and potential equipment updates will require budgetary considerations. The department should allocate funds to support the recommended quarterly training sessions and any necessary equipment acquisitions. This investment is crucial for maintaining high standards of officer performance and public safety.

In conclusion, while the Newport Police Department's use of force in 2024 was within policy and no immediate training needs were identified, the recommendations for increased training frequency, incorporation of grappling techniques into tracking, and continuous equipment evaluation are essential steps to ensure ongoing compliance and effectiveness. These measures will help mitigate the high liability associated with use of force encounters and enhance the overall safety and professionalism of the department.

Conclusion

The 2024 Use of Force Analysis for the Newport Police Department reveals several key findings and trends when compared to the data from 2022 and 2023. In 2024, the department responded to 31,249,164 calls for service, an increase from the 28,164 calls in 2023 and 30,611 calls in 2022. Despite the reduction in overall calls, the number of uses of force incidents remained relatively consistent, with 155 incidents in 2024, compared to 114 in 2023 and 126 in 2022. This represents 0.49% of total calls in 2024, a slight increase from 0.40% in 2023 but an increase from 0.41% in 2022.

The analysis indicates that the majority of use of force incidents in 2024 resulted in arrests (74.84%), similar to the 84% in 2023 and 84% in 2022. The types of force used have also evolved, with 350 types of force applied in 2024, up from 241 in 2023 and 211 in 2022. Weaponless physical force continues to be the most common type of force used, reflecting the department's emphasis on proper response to varying levels of resistance by suspects. In 2024 there were several major calls where multiple Officers used multiple types of force. This could account for the increase from 241 types of force used in 2023 to 350 types used in 2024 or this could just be an anomaly.

Demographically, the individuals involved in use of force incidents in 2024 were predominantly white (58.7.15%) and male (89.68%), which is consistent with the trends observed in previous years. The Newport County Special Response Team's overall use remained minimal, with no discharges of firearms or other weapons in 2024, similar to the previous two years.

In regard to the slight statistical anomalies from year to year it is impossible to surmise why there are differences. Law Enforcement is often reactive and based on officer to suspect interactions. Review of reports and body Worn Cameras consistently show that in the majority of encounters officers utilize extreme patience and try to de-escalate as well as they can based on suspect demeanor. With the increased training planned for 2025 and beyond officers will be better prepared to handle these situations and continue to maintain high standards with a professional and constitutionally defensible work product.

Policy compliance has been a strong point for the Newport Police Department, with all use of force incidents in 2024 found to be within the department's Use of Force Policy 300.01. The Guardian Tracking program continues to be an effective tool for monitoring and reviewing use of force incidents, with "Use of Force flags" raised in 2024, all of which were reviewed and found to be compliant with policy. The newly created closing of calls with “33D” is highly innovative sand should continue to produce positive data analysis showing NPD’s commitment to the use of de-escalation tactics and techniques.

While no immediate training deficits were identified, the report recommends continued quarterly training in 2025 to address the high liability associated with use of force encounters. This includes quarterly training in use of force techniques to include grappling, de-escalation tactics, and scenario-based training. The report also recommends adding these grappling techniques to the Response to Resistance/ Non-Compliance forms to better track success rates of techniques. As of the writing of this report in March of 2025 the Response to Resistance/Non-compliance forms are being revamped to reflect data collection needs of this agency.

In conclusion, the Newport Police Department has demonstrated a consistent commitment to policy compliance and effective use of force management. The recommendations for enhanced training and tracking aim to further improve the department's capabilities and ensure the safety of both officers and the community. Continuous monitoring and improvement are essential to maintaining high standards and addressing any emerging challenges in the use of force.