



# NORTH PORT

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



*Providing for a Safe Community*



## *Mission of the North Port Police Department*

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Provide the community with the highest level of law enforcement and crime prevention possible and to:

- Protect life and property;
- Preserve the peace;
- Prevent, reduce, and deter crime and the fear of crime;
- Enforce the law fairly;
- Protect individual rights; and,
- To provide a safe and secure environment for all citizens.

In order to accomplish this mission, the Police Department will aggressively pursue crime prevention, crime suppression, investigative and community-oriented programs. Our mission includes the creation of partnerships within the community we serve to secure and promote safety for all residents and visitors.



# Message from the *Chief*



I am pleased to present to you the North Port Police Department's 2019 Annual Report. This report highlights the hard work of the men and women of the North Port Police Department and demonstrates our continued efforts in building for our future and making the City of North Port one of the safest in the nation. We take great pride in serving while in partnership with our community and appreciate the fantastic support we get every day. Those relationships and bonds we share within our community is what makes this city so special. We stand committed and proud working with you to continue to make this city a safe place to live, work, and play.

In 2019, we celebrated our City's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a municipality. With that being said, we continue to grow not only as a city, but as a police department. We serve a population of over 70,000 full time residents, while enjoying a low crime rate and an excellent quality of life.

The City of North Port is very excited to be the Spring Training home of the Atlanta Braves at CoolToday Park. The police department has been very busy preparing for their inaugural spring season in 2020. The NPPD is making every effort to help create a safe and fun family-oriented venue within our city.

We are dedicated to maintaining our highest standards of professionalism while maintaining our Double Excelsior Recognition through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. We take pride in accomplishing this through unrivaled personnel, training, technology, policies and procedures, and transparency. In an effort to be more transparent, the North Port Police Department was the first law enforcement agency in Sarasota County to deploy a full body worn camera program.

The police department is proudly represented by 118 sworn police officers and 43 civilian support staff who are dedicated men and women working tirelessly to ensure your safety and well-being. We are complemented by approximately 60 dedicated and loyal volunteers, who save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

It is my honor to serve as the Chief of Police of such a dedicated group of department staff, as well as a caring and involved community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd R. Garrison".

Todd R. Garrison  
Chief of Police



# North Port Police Department *60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



## THE 1960s:

- 1960 -1966, North Port was called North Port Charlotte and law enforcement were referred to as Watchmen or Wardens. Retired from other departments and relocating to North Port Charlotte, the four individuals listed below became the unofficial police officers:
  - Wardens: Jim Pribe, Alfred J. Sendker, Al Hashem, U.G. Canfield.
  - The Wardens operated out of Al Hashem's house. They came to his house frequently since there was no actual police department.
  - Al Hashem volunteered his services as a Police Officer with the department for over 30 years. His daughter, Michelle Rene became North Port's first female officer. Michelle was tragically killed by her husband years later. The new Police Department in the City Hall complex was dedicated in her name, April 15, 2006.
  - Chief Alfred Sendker retired with the Department in 1966, making \$1.75 an hour. He had just received a raise from \$1.50 which was approved by City Commission.
- 1963, The first police car was donated to North Port Charlotte by Port Charlotte.

## THE 1970s:

- 1974, the City Commission decided it would disassociate the city from its namesake North Port Charlotte. Many names were considered: Caloosa Springs, Cocoplum, South Warm Mineral Springs and Skunk Hollow. In the end, the City Commission decided to just remove Charlotte from the name and the city became North Port.
- 1977, William "Bill" Colligan was fresh from the academy and joined the 12-man force. He was named the Police Department's union representative.

## THE 1980s:

- 1982, a hot air balloon owned by James Henry flew over North Port regularly until 2002. It became an "eye in the sky" watching over the undeveloped area in the city. Police Chief Victor Costello asked James to keep an eye on things while flying. James had a CB radio and called in on channel 9 if he saw anything suspicious or illegal. He provided valuable assistance to the police; helping to solve numerous crimes while flying the balloon.
- 1984, the North Port Business Association brought the Franzen Circus to the City of North Port and Mayor Marge Gentle presented Police Chief Victor Costello with a jar of peanuts, telling him it was his turn to go feed the elephants.
- 1988, John and Christine Zagrobelny wished to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Their fund-raising methods were unique. Joe convinced the North Port Police to put on a fashion show featuring women's clothing. Joe also held a yearly lock up with bail going to the MDA.



Photo courtesy of the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce  
*As part of its Greater North Port Days in 1984, the North Port Area Business Association brought the Franzen Circus to the city, complete with clowns, tigers and elephants. Mayor Marge Gentle used the occasion for a little humor, presenting Police Chief Victor Costello with a jar of peanuts and telling him it was his turn to feed the elephants.*

## THE 1990s:

- Mid 1990s, the population of North Port reaches 14,000.
- Police Chief David Yurchuck introduces the first police canine named Kalife with handler Officer Noel Coward.

## THE 2000s:

- 2006, the new Police Department was built.
- 2019, North Port has grown to a population of more than 73,000 and the Police Department consists of 161 personnel.



## Body-Worn Cameras

In 2019, the North Port Police Department completed a research and development phase for body worn cameras and selected Axon, with cutting-edge technology in the market. Body worn recordings have demonstrated to be of value in the prosecution of traffic and criminal offenses, gathering of evidence, protecting officers from false accusations, training, and ensuring transparency of police activity ensuring the professional conduct of officers and citizens. Keeping ahead of the national curve, North Port Police Department was the first law enforcement agency in Sarasota County to deploy a full body worn camera program.



## Creation of the Homeless Outreach Team

North Port Police Department and the City of North Port recognized we have a population of individuals that are experiencing homelessness on our streets and in 2019 the Homeless Outreach Team was created. With nearly 100 individuals identified in 2019 as homeless, we organized and collaborated with state and local stakeholders to try to end the cycle of homelessness.

Homeless Outreach is an important function within the North Port Police Department, building relationships and trust with interested homeless persons. The North Port Police Department will practice "The Three E's" (educate, encourage, and enforce) to use services provided by the Continuum of Care. During any contact with a homeless person, when applicable, as part of the Community Policing process, officers;

- Educate interested homeless persons about the City Codes, and about the local social services available,
- Encourage the homeless to utilize these social services, and
- Enforce if circumstances arise and there is probable cause of criminal activity.

Taking on social economic issues using community policing and intelligent based policing is the mission of the Homeless Outreach Team. Partnering with outside agencies that are in the Continuum of Care strengthens and reaffirms the commitment the police department has with the community. The North Port Police Department will not address homelessness by first arresting individuals, but instead will continue to Educate and Encourage individuals to use services in the Continuum of Care and will enforce violation only when necessary.

## Hosting of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Memorial

Law enforcement agencies from across Sarasota County gathered in North Port on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Memorial service. The solemn and moving ceremony honored those officers who have given their lives in the line of duty this past year across Florida.

This event is also a show of appreciation to all the men and women in uniform for their selfless service, commitment to protect our communities, and their courage as they face fear, danger, and adversity. Surviving family members and descendants of our lost heroes will travel from around the state and across the country to participate in this solemn service.



# Police Department Organization - *Office of the Chief*



The Executive Staff is the core component of police administration, the organization and management of the department. Executive staff provide full support to the department through budgeting, fiscal and property accounting, customer services, and facility maintenance.



## DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF

**Deputy Police Chief Christopher Morales** reports directly to the Chief of Police and oversees, directs, and manages the day to day operations and activities of the assigned Bureau / Divisions of the Police

Department. He also serves as a second in command, acting as the Police Chief during his absence to ensure continuity and efficiency within the Department.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO)

**PIO Josh Taylor** currently heads all communications as the PIO and Communications Manager. The duties



oversee social media, website, app, and traditional media relations for the City of North Port, North Port Police Department, and North Port Fire Rescue.

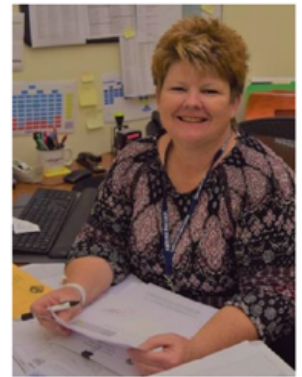
With Josh's help, the City of North Port has been recognized as one of the leading municipalities in the country for social media use. During Josh's time NPPD has been awarded many accolades for outreach efforts, including "Best Use of Facebook by the 3CMA organization and "Best Social Media Strategy for Solving

Crime" in the Country by the Government Social Media organization.

The Communications Division and the PIO are responsible for ensuring the public has every ability to receive information relating to North Port City government.

## BUSINESS MANAGER

**Business Manager Jennifer Ayres** reports directly to the Chief of Police. She is responsible for preparing, processing, and administering annual operating and capital improvement project (CIP) budgets totaling \$17.8 million



of the city's \$175 million budget. She also prepares periodic financial and statistical reports, designs and develops accounting forms, controls, systems and procedures to promote more effective and efficient operations within the department.

## BUSINESS SERVICES COORDINATOR

**Business Services Coordinator Rachel Birkett** reports directly to the Business Manager.



She assists with tracking budget expenditures and is responsible for quoting, purchasing, and issuing equipment. She tags internal assets and monitors the inventory of each employee. Rachel equips employees with uniforms, duty gear, and building access. She ensures each department and individual receives the resources needed to run safely and effectively.



## Patrol Operations Bureau



Captain Gary Arsenault oversees the Patrol Operations Bureau in the police department and consists of the City's first responders for all law enforcement aspects. Patrol Operations is the largest bureau in the department and is the entity responsible for the physical 24-hour delivery of Police services throughout the city; from calls for service to community functions, these men and women serve with courage, pride and commitment.



Patrol is divided into four (4) patrol divisions. Each division is responsible for patrolling the 100-plus square miles that make up the City of North Port. The divisions are broken down to cover two-day shifts and two-night shifts. Each division consist of 1 Commander and 2 Sergeants who are assigned to supervise thirteen 13 Officers. Responding to more than 30,000 calls for service per year, the patrol divisions are responsible for the day-to-day patrol functions related to the safety and security of the city as well as responding to calls for service, enforcing traffic related violations and vehicle crashes.





## Investigations Bureau

Captain Scott King oversees the Investigations Bureau which performs follow-up investigation of selected criminal acts and works to identify and develop solutions to police-related community problems. Division units also conduct proactive investigations to suppress criminal activity.

The Investigations Bureau consists of two Divisions:

- **Criminal Investigations Division** works cases where crimes against persons or property is damaged or stolen, or where identity theft and fraud is used to commit crime. They employ technology to analyze crime patterns and uses highly trained personnel to identify and collect both physical and digital evidence. This division is further divided into:
  - Violent Crimes; Special Victims Crimes; Property Crimes; Economic Crimes; Crime Scene; Property Evidence Section; Computer Forensics; Intelligence Unit; and Crime Analyst.
- **Special Operations Division** hears citizen complaints of quality of life issues, conducts investigations and operations to control illegal drug and violent criminal activity and fugitive apprehension throughout the city. This division also collaborates with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies task forces on properties where there are drug or prostitution-related offenses. This division is further divided into:
  - Community Policing; School Resource Officers; K-9 Unit; Traffic Unit; Special Enforcement Team; and Special Investigations Unit.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

### CRIME SCENE

The Crime Scene Unit is responsible for the investigation of the physical crime scene and all physical evidence for the North Port Police Department. The unit responds to all types of crime scenes and is responsible for documenting, photographing, identifying, collecting, and preserving evidence. Once the evidence is collected, the items are further processed for evidentiary value either within our laboratory or sent to an outside laboratory, such as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The unit also has the additional responsibilities of shooting reconstruction, serial number and Vehicle Identification Number restoration, death investigation, and examinations for trace and biological evidence.

### 2019 Crime Scene Unit Statistics

DATA	NUMBERS
Crime Scenes	190
Evidence Processed	846
Fingerprints Collected	828
AFIS Fingerprint Identifications	141





# Police Department Organization - *Investigations*



## UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING (UCR)

Offense Category	3-Year Avg.	2018	2019	Prev Yr Change	Prev Yr % Change	3-Yr Change	3-Yr% Change
Homicide	2.7	5	2	-3	-60%	-0.7	-25%
Rape	24.7	32	22	-10	-31%	-2.7	-11%
Robbery	12.3	18	8	-10	-56%	-4.3	-35%
Aggravated Assault	63.7	61	64	3	5%	0.3	1%
Total Violent Crimes	103.3	116	96	-20	-17%	-7.3	-7%
Burglary	143.7	130	89	-41	-32%	-54.7	-38%
Theft	769.3	1019	847	-172	-17%	77.7	10%
Motor Vehicle Theft	24.3	27	31	4	15%	6.7	27%
Total Non-violent Crimes	937.3	1176	967	-209	-18%	29.7	3%
Total Offenses	1040.7	1292	1063	-229	-20.7%	22.33	2.1%

## PROPERTY & EVIDENCE UNIT

The Property and Evidence Unit is responsible and accountable for the handling, storage, and disposal of evidence and property obtained from various crime scenes, as well as, the temporary storage of found property. It is a vital responsibility to properly preserve and maintain all evidence in order to ensure the integrity of every item to be used in the courtroom.

The Property and Evidence Unit receives approximately 6,000 items per year from our officers, detectives, community service aides, crime scene investigators, and other agencies. A small percentage of items received are found property, with most of the items received being direct case evidence. Approximately 34,000 total items are in storage at any given time.

In addition, our Property and Evidence Unit is charged with the monitoring and destruction of all discarded prescription medications received through our Prescription Disposal Drop-Off Bin located in the main lobby. This program works in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

## 2019 Property and Evidence Unit Statistics

DATA	NUMBERS
Number of Property & Evidence Items Currently in Storage	34,265
Number of Items Received in 2019	6,827
Number of Items Destroyed in 2019	5,489
Number of Items Donated in 2019	187
Number of License Plates Returned to the State	138
Number of Pounds Prescription Drugs Collected & Destroyed	1,045



# Police Department Organization - *Investigations*



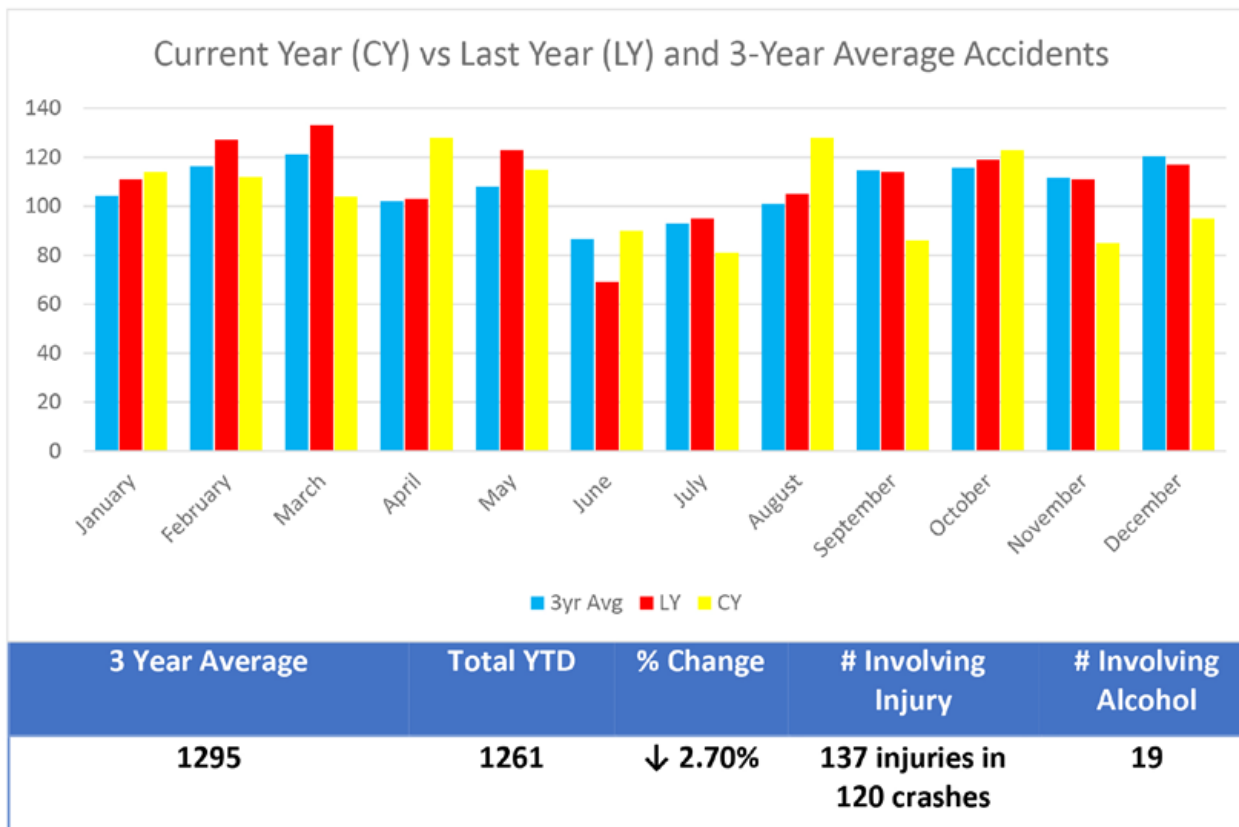
## SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

### TRAFFIC UNIT

The Traffic Unit spent a large amount of time with the media to help educate the public and spread the message of our enforcement. This includes doing a Public Service Announcement on the dangers of drunk driving, a presentation at North Port High School prior to prom night, makes weekly appearances on local radio shows to promote traffic safety and announce statewide traffic campaigns and much more.



The Traffic Unit took part in several Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) traffic safety campaigns, to include "Click it or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over", which have been very successful. The entire Traffic Unit was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for their efforts in participation in a 2019 Campaign.



As of December 2019:

- Conducted the first DUI checkpoint in North Port in over ten years; resulted in 6 arrests
- DUI arrests up 36%
- The Traffic Unit worked 5 traffic fatalities. Two of these cases were criminal DUI Manslaughter cases and are set for trial in early 2020
- Traffic stops are up 48% over the last year
- Traffic crashes are down 4.13% over the last year

# Police Department Organization - *Investigations*



## K9 Unit



DUTCH

Handler: Ofc. Walker  
Breed: Belgian Malinois  
Specialty: Patrol & Narcotics



NERO

Handler: Ofc. Bumgarner  
Breed: Belgian Malinois  
Specialty: Patrol & Narcotics



BEAR

Handler: Ofc. Sunderland  
Breed: German Shepard  
Specialty: Explosives & Patrol



JETT

Handler: SET Unit  
Breed: German Shepard  
Specialty: Narcotics

The Canine Unit is pleased to have acquired two new canines, Bear, the first ever Explosive Detection Canine for the new Braves Stadium and Jett, a single purpose canine for narcotics detection and missing persons detection. Both canines were graciously donated by generous donors and have been a great addition to the North Port Police family. In addition, the Canine Unit has again achieved United States Police Canine Association certification, which is a highly sought-after certification. The Canine Unit has fulfilled over 50 canine demonstration requests for education and community relations this year.



Captain Scott King also oversees the Special Response Team and Crisis Negotiations Team. The Special Response Team (SRT) is a part-time tactical response team that consists of 14 personnel. The team is supervised by the SRT Commander, an Executive Officer, 2 Team Leaders and 10 Operators. They respond to high risk critical incidents that occur in the city. The Crisis

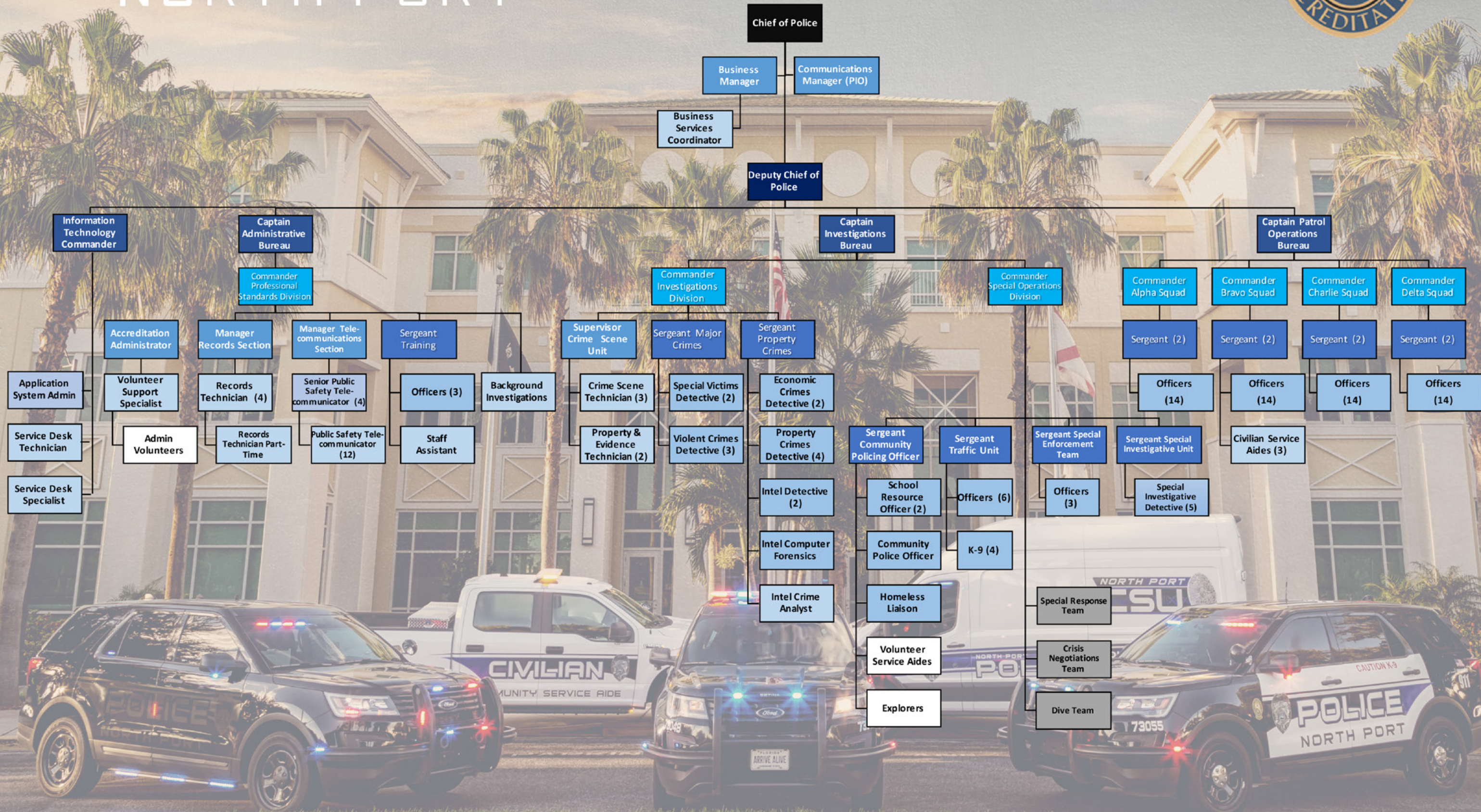


Negotiations Team is a part-time team of negotiators that work with the SRT to assist with peaceful resolutions to high risk critical incidents. The team is supervised by a Team Leader and 4 Negotiators.



# POLICE

## NORTH PORT





## Administrative Bureau



**Captain Michael Baute**, of the Administrative Bureau is responsible for several support functions of the Department. The Professional Standards Division, under the direction of the Administrative Bureau, actively works to identify ways and means of providing enhanced services and functions that translate to improved customer and community service. The Bureau is comprised of the following:

- Accreditation
- Information and Technology
- Background Investigations and Recruitment
- Internal Affairs
- Records Management
- Training
- Emergency and non-emergency Telecommunications

### Accreditation

**Tammie Jacobs** is the **Accreditation Administrator** who heads the Accreditation Program which received Double Excelsior - Reaccreditation in 2018. The North Port Police Department is accredited through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. The Excelsior Recognition became the highest level of achievement in Florida accreditation that a criminal justice agency can receive. Excelsior status means the department has received 15 years of continuous Reaccreditation with no conditions (violations).



An Accreditation Program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that an entity has met specific requirements and prescribed standards. Once an agency is accredited, they are reviewed for reaccreditation every 3 years. It is our commitment to maintain this level of performance and continue to deliver the quality of service our citizens have come to expect.

### Records Management

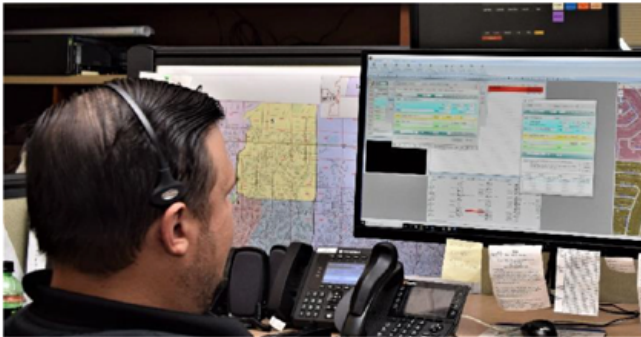
**Norman Fitzgerald** is the **Records Manager** who heads the Records Section of the Police Department. The Records Section serves as a central repository for the agency's police reports and is charged with maintaining,



processing, and disseminating reports and citations in accordance with Florida's public records laws. The Records Section processes thousands of requests for records per year and is comprised of 5 Technicians and 1 Manager. The records staff is responsible for incident and arrest reports, alarms, sex offender updates, State Attorney and County Clerk of the Court records transmittals, sealing and expungement of records, hate crime reporting, seat belt reports, crash statistics, data entry, human trafficking statistics and the Uniform Crime Report.



## Emergency/Non-Emergency Telecommunications (Telecom)



Misty Elmore manages the Telecom Section, which is comprised of Ms. Elmore, 4 Supervisors, and 11 Telecommunicators. Telecom is staffed 24/7/365 as the public's first, and sometimes only, point of contact with the Police Department. Citizens who contact the Police Department with a variety of questions and concerns can rest assured that the Telecom personnel they speak with will handle their situation as quickly and effectively as possible. Our commitment to the safety of the officers and community are like no other. All Telecommunicators are certified by completing the Department of Health's approved curriculum, which entails 240 hours of classroom and on the job training, as well as passing a state exam. In total, Telecom have completed 69,119 entries in our computer aided dispatch system.

## Training

Training of personnel is one of the most important responsibilities in any law enforcement agency. The training staff is responsible for scheduling and administering all in-service training for agency personnel.

Training serves 3 broad purposes. First, well trained members are generally better prepared to act decisively and correctly in a broad spectrum of

situations. Second, training results in greater productivity and success. Third, training fosters cooperation and unity of purpose. The North Port Police Department provides many different types of training for our members, so that they may give the community the best service possible.

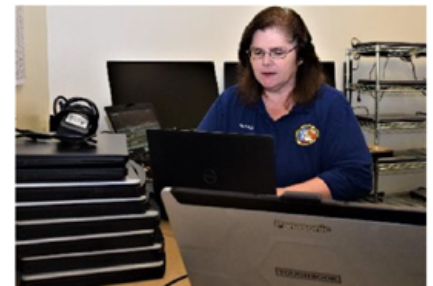
The Training Section updates officers on such high-liability



areas as use of force, weapons training, felony traffic stops, evidence handling procedures, domestic violence response techniques, and many other subjects.

## Information and Technology

Manager Rejean Drapeau heads the Police Department's Information Technology Section, which is



comprised of Manager Rejean Drapeau and 3 staff members. The Information Technology Section's responsibilities address the network infrastructure and security of the Police Department to include remote offices. The Section manages 225 desktops and mobile laptops, all core application systems, technology-based equipment utilized within the 120 police vehicles; and the integration, connectivity and support of other Federal / State / Local law enforcement systems. The Section worked a total of 2,832 trouble tickets in 2019 for the Department.

# Personnel *2019 Updates*



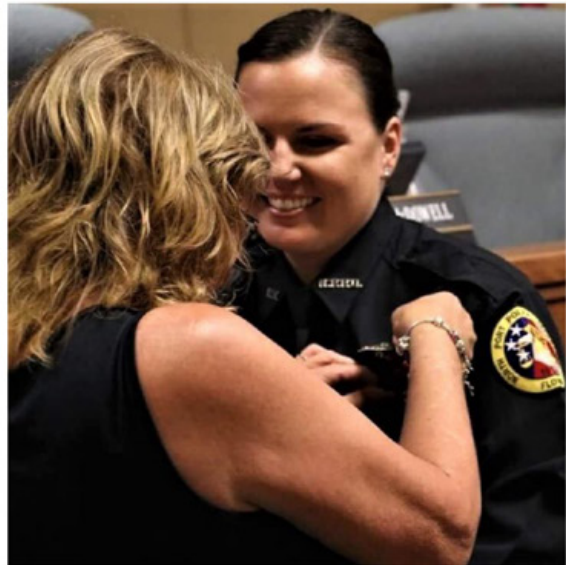
## RETIREMENTS

Officer John Parisi – 27 years  
Public Safety Telcom Nancy Lamkay – 25 years  
Sergeant Ralph Caselli – 13 years  
Deputy Chief Mike Koval – 30 years

## NEW HIRES

### PATROL

Zahin Azad	Jeff Hardt
David Brown	Jarod Peer
Jason Cigich	Thomas Pressley
John Geary	Kaitlyn Salsman
Miguel Galvan	Tony Soltis
Nathan Gendron	Michael Witkosky
Jazmin Gutierrez	



### PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

Makayla Casey

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Michaelene Klotz

### DISPATCH

Alexa Christiansen  
Daniel Kelly  
Kellie Welch

### RECORDS

Linda Yates  
Ronda Schauble



## PROMOTIONS

Michael Baute – Captain  
Brian Gregory – Commander  
Eric Sineath – Commander  
Jason Brownie – Sergeant  
Misty Elmore – Telecommunications Manager  
Jennifer Thurston – Telecommunications Supervisor





## Chief's Achievement Award

An act of achievement recognized by the Chief of Police for bringing great acclaim to the Department and the Law Enforcement profession.

**Sergeant Scott Miranda:** oversees the Community Policing Unit. During the past year, Sergeant Miranda has brought great acclaim and recognition to the Police Department. Under Sergeant Miranda's leadership and direction, he has developed and implemented several community outreach programs to include: National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop, Pizza with the Police, Stuff the Cruiser, Kick Ball and Wiffle Ball games, and Do The Right Thing. In addition, Sergeant Miranda developed the first city Homeless Liaison Officer Program. He has been instrumental in creating partnerships with various organizations, both in the city and county, to include mental health services. The Homeless Liaison Officers mission is to provide homeless individuals with opportunities to get off the streets and into permanent housing.

It is with great pleasure that Sergeant Scott Miranda is awarded the 2019 Chief's Achievement Award. In addition to performing his daily duties at an exemplary level, Sergeant Miranda demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to his department as well as to the citizens of North Port.



## Officer of the Year

Presented annually to the Officer who excels in all areas during the performance of their duties.

**Patrol Officer First Class (PFC) Aaron Nick** is in his 25<sup>th</sup> year with the North Port Police Department. Day after day he remains driven, focused, and dedicated to his profession and the mission of the Department. Over the past year, PFC. Nick has moved back to the Traffic Unit. He embraced the mission of the Unit to educate drivers, take a zero-tolerance stance on DUI, and reduce crashes. He has been instrumental in the creation of the Traffic Unit, bringing years of knowledge, training and expertise.

PFC. Nick has conducted significant training over the past year. He administered DUI training to members of the Department, which in turn saw a 100% increase in DUI arrests. PFC. Nick was also praised by the State Attorney's Office after he met with their members and provided them with training on DUI's, specifically marijuana impairment DUI's. He has also been active in the local schools, taking the time to instruct kids on traffic and DUI related topics.

Much of the training has been self-initiated, as it is important for PFC. Nick to pass on the knowledge to the future of our Department. PFC. Nick dedicates much of his personal time to staying up to date on case law and shares this knowledge with others. He has offered numerous suggestions for policy changes and the implementation of new forms for the Department.





## Civilian of the Year

Presented annually to the civilian who Exemplifies the City's "Customer Bill of Rights" by going the extra mile in delivering services to external and/or internal customers.

**Norman "Rick" Fitzgerald** was tasked this year to work with the City Clerk's Office with the implementation of GovQA, a records request tracking software. Rick has worked tirelessly with the City Clerk's Office, as well as the City of North Port's I.T. Division to ensure the program was successful. Through Rick's efforts, he was able

to identify areas in which GovQA fell short and changes were made in how the City of North Port as a whole handles records requests.

Rick has been a huge part of the ProPhoenix Records Management Software selection process and is one of the project managers of the implementation. He has taken it upon himself to be a leader in using technology to enhance the efficiency and capabilities of the Police Department. Rick learned and became the go to source for Microsoft TEAMS software and has taught numerous personnel within the department, as well as City Hall how to best use TEAMS. Rick has also had a major role with the Axon body worn camera program. Rick has worked extensively on the project and implementation to ensure the success of the program.



## Volunteer of the Year

**Mark Rizzo** is a dual volunteer. He works as a Volunteer Service Aide (VSA) and a Volunteer in Police Service. Mark is always willing to help in any capacity needed to get the job accomplished. He has helped I.T. staff on many occasions due to his computer background and years of experience prior to retiring. He also spends his time as a VSA responding to calls so our police officers can concentrate on their duties. Mark also supported the Department this year by sponsoring a new K9.

### COMMENDATION

Bartolotta, Derek (PFC)  
Cox, David (PFC)  
Foladvandi, Mahbod (PFC)  
Green, Bradley (PFC)  
Monaghan, Nicholas (Ofc)  
Pierce, Gregory (PFC)  
Thurston, Jennifer (SPST)

### GOOD CONDUCT

Arsenault, Gary (Capt)  
Bartolotta, Derek (PFC)  
Bumgarner, Justin (PFC-K9)  
Carter, William (PFC)  
Casselli, Ralph (PFC)

Cauffman, Justin (PFC)  
Clark, Christopher (Det)  
Cochran, Rachel (Det)  
Dupre, Jean Paul (PFC)  
Fisher, Alexander (PFC)  
Hicks, Mark (PST)  
Johnson, Patrick (PFC)  
Marshall, Steven (Sgt)  
Nick, Aaron (PFC)  
Richards, James (PFC)  
Selzer, Jason (Sgt)  
Veigel, Kishia (Det)  
Walker, Chad (PFC-K9)

### LEGION OF HONOR

Gendron, Nathan (Ofc)

### HARRY SHAPIRO

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

McMenamin, Justin (Ofc)  
Pierce, Gregory (PFC)

### LIFE SAVING

Alix, Daniel (Ofc)  
Berry, Allison (PFC)  
Fisher, Alexander (PFC)  
Guzman, Scott (PFC)  
Kerr, Caleb (Ofc)  
McMenamin, Justin (Ofc)  
Mills, James (Ofc-K9)

Monaghan, Nicholas (Ofc)  
Pierce, Gregory (PFC)  
Shields, James (Ofc)

### MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Gendron, Nathan (Ofc)  
Licata, Louis (PFC)

### SQUAD OF THE YEAR

D-Squad



Community outreach has long been considered a framework for establishing trust between the community and the police. However, over time the character and composition of our nation's communities have changed due to shifting demographics, more commuters, and the introduction of different communication methods such as websites and social media. The key to the growing success of these events is that it opens the door for interactions outside of the crisis situations that typically bring law enforcement officers and community members together.

## H.E.A.R.T.S.

H.E.A.R.T.S. (Helping Ensure Active Response by Telephoning Seniors) is a call service provided by the North Port Police Department, with the help of volunteers. The volunteers/staff check on the welfare of citizens who have chosen to utilize the service. The H.E.A.R.T.S. program enhances the choice of independence and freedom for our senior citizens and others who are not ready to become totally dependent by living in a congregate facility.



## School Resource Officers (SRO's)

SRO's main job is to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the youth in our community within the schools. SRO's are heavily involved in Gaining Appreciation by Adjusting Perspectives (GAAP), a program that allows students to interact with officers on a personal basis. It helps the officers dispel rumors and misconceptions that students may have about law enforcement. In addition, SRO's also participate in CAMP X-RAYD. CAMP X-RAYD (Examine Reality About Your Decisions) was developed to work with youth exhibiting out of control behaviors in their homes and community, as well as those young people involved in using illegal substances. Also, the Do the Right Thing Program, recognizes and rewards our children for positive behavior, accomplishments and good deeds.

SRO's have been instrumental in combatting the traffic issues plaguing our city around school start and closure times. While working with School District staff, they have been able to redirect school bus and parent pickup lines to ease traffic congestion on Toledo Blade.

## Coffee with a Cop and Pizza with Police



Coffee with a Cop and Pizza with Police events were launched in North Port when Officers from the Department were looking for ways to interact more successfully with the citizens they served each day.



## Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

The Florida Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest annual public relations and fund-raising event for Special Olympics Florida. Funds are generated through the sale of the popular Torch Run t-shirts and hats, and through various local fundraising events. Special Olympics Inc. is the world's largest provider of fitness training, education and athletic competition — coupled with social, life, and leadership skill development opportunities — for children and adults with intellectual disabilities or a similar developmental disability.

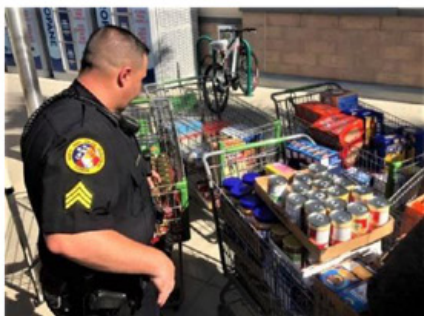


## National Night Out

National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the North Port Police Department. It is a neighborhood celebration. This year's community involvement was at an all-time high. Businesses in the community provided an overwhelming amount of support for this event.

## Shop with a Cop

Each year the North Port Police Department Explorer Post 94 conducts "Shop with a Cop", providing children whose families are having financial difficulties an opportunity to engage in a positive interaction with our North Port Police Officers during the holidays. Shop With A Cop is a charitable program developed, organized and funded voluntarily by members of the North Port Police Department and generous donors throughout area. Coupled with a close partnership with the North Port Wal-Mart, as well as many other community organizations, Explorer Post 94 raised \$6,800. These funds meant 60 children were sponsored for the 2019 event.



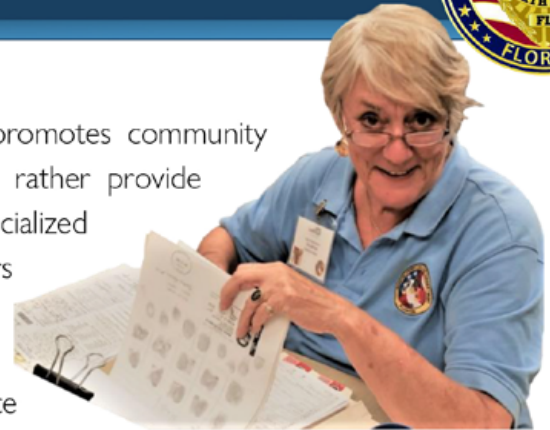
## Stuff a Cruiser

The "Stuff a Cruiser" event was conducted to combat hunger in the North Port Community and all canned goods collected were donated to local charities.



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

The North Port Police Department values its volunteers and promotes community participation. These volunteers do not replace employees, but rather provide support which allows sworn and professional staff to focus on specialized and critical duties. They also serve the community as ambassadors who are closely connected to the public. Volunteers are an invaluable asset to the City of North Port and its citizens. Over half of the City of North Port Volunteers received the Presidential Service Award in 2019.



## VOLUNTEERS

In 2019, volunteers of the City of North Port served 10,700 hours, a value of \$272,000 in services provided to our community.

### Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS)

VIPS perform ongoing job functions, serving in support roles throughout the City of North Port departments: Police, Fire, Human Resources, Neighborhood Development Services, Parks & Recreation and Social Services.

VIPS members work a variety of assignments such as proctoring testing for new applicants, assisting at events, citizen follow up telephone calls, victim resource packets, fingerprinting, serving on multiple committees and more.

### Volunteer Service Aides (VSA's)

VSA's perform time-consuming, important tasks that do not require sworn law enforcement response. They alleviate the necessity for the assignment of sworn officers to perform tasks not requiring authority and to give quality service to the citizens of the City of North Port.

VSA's may be dispatched to specific types of calls-for-service and take necessary actions within their limitations, such as funeral escorts, vacant house checks, traffic control at vehicle crash scenes, obstructed roadways, and city functions, as well as community notification of criminal/sex offenders registering or residing in the area.

### Internship

College and University students participate in a Student Internship Program with the Department working in administrative, operational and support functions. Interns are provided an atmosphere for learning and an opportunity to establish relationships that could lead to the possibility of future employment with a criminal justice organization.

### Explorers

A decades-old program with a history of success. The goal of the program is to provide high school students with exposure to the daily duties of police officers and help to prepare them for a career in law enforcement. Explorers in the program range in age from 14 to 20. We are on a committed recruitment drive for the North Port Police Department Explorers program. Currently we have 14 explorers on the roster.





Christopher Hanks  
Mayor  
District 2



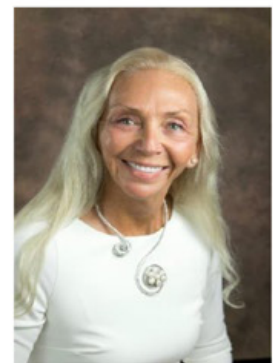
Debbie McDowell  
Vice-Mayor  
District 5



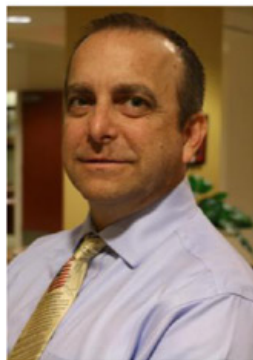
Vanessa Carusone  
District 1



Pete Emrich  
District 4



Jill Luke  
District 5



Peter D. Lear, CPA, CGMA  
City Manager



Cari Branco  
Assistant City Manager



Jason Yarborough  
Assistant City Manager



## LOCAL

Police.....	(941) 429-7300
Tip411.....	Google Play Store/App Store
North RePort App.....	Google Play Store/App Store
Text NPPD.....	847-411
Crime Tip Line.....	(941) 429-7382

## STATE AND NATIONAL

Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) 24/7 Hotline.....	(941) 365-1976
State Attorney's Office, Victim's Rights.....	(941) 861-4449
Parents of Murdered Children.....	(941) 952-0936
Florida Abuse Hotline (Elderly and Children).....	1-800-962-2973
Identity Theft Hotline.....	1-866-966-7226
Statewide Crime Victim Information and Referral.....	1-800-226-6667
National Center for Victims of Crime.....	1-800-394-4357



