



NORTH PORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT



Providing for a Safe Community



Mission of the North Port Police Department

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,*
- *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.



Debbie McDowell
Mayor
District 3



Jill Luke
Vice-Mayor
District 5



Vanessa Carusone
District 1



Christopher Hanks
District 2



Pete Emrich
District 4



Jason Yarborough
City Manager



Cari Branco
Assistant City Manager

Welcome to the North Port Police Department's 2020 Annual Report. I am honored to highlight in this report, some of the great work being done by the men and women of the NPPD. This year has proven to be very challenging for our law enforcement profession, especially dealing with the massive social unrest throughout our country and dealing with a national pandemic involving COVID-19. I am proud to say that our police department quickly adapted and worked hard at maintaining a safe and orderly community. We are extremely grateful for the overwhelming support and respect for our first responders. Your police department is committed to working hard in maintaining a positive, cohesive relationship with our citizens, business community, and our tourists.



The City of North Port and the police department were extremely busy with preparations for the inaugural spring training season for the Atlanta Braves. A fun filled family atmosphere was provided to thousands of fans and visitors who thoroughly enjoyed their time at CoolToday Park. Unfortunately, Major League Baseball cut the season short due to COVID-19.

As you will notice, our uniforms have transformed to a new look from last year. We transitioned to an outer carrier vest that allows officers to carry equipment attached to it. The main purpose for this change was officer wellness and safety. Allowing the officers to redistribute the equipment from their belt to the vest, relieves back and hip stress. Believe it or not, the outer carrier vest is a tad bit cooler for our men and women who must wear this equipment to stay safe in the Florida heat and humidity.

Another change to the uniform was a newly redesigned patch. A committee was comprised of various members throughout the department, both sworn and civilian. The committee itself came up with the conceptual design which was later voted on and approved for implementation. The members themselves share great pride in being able to have a say in the rebranding of the NPPD.

The police department is proudly represented by 123 sworn police officers and 42 civilian support staff who are dedicated men and women, working tirelessly to ensure your safety and well-being. We are complimented by approximately 60 dedicated and loyal volunteers, who save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. Together, we ALL help to make North Port a safe place to work, live, and play!

It continues to be my honor to serve as your Chief of Police, and I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Todd R. Garrison
Chief of Police



The police patch is as much a part of the uniform as any other part, including the badge. The patch boldly displays the officer's area of jurisdiction and is worn with pride. The following pictures display past and present patches that have been worn by the men and women of the North Port Police Department since its inception.



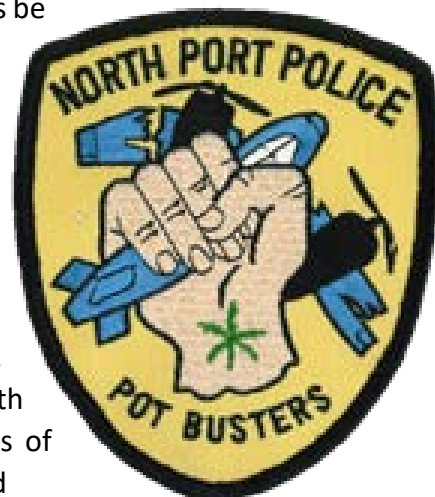
The North Port Police Department has worn only six shoulder patches in its history. The first patch worn was titled No. Port Charlotte Police FLA, adopted in the early 1960s. The patch was basic, with the state seal located in the middle around the agency name at the time. Historically, the seal featured a shoreline on which a Seminole Indian woman is scattering flowers, with two Sabal palms (Florida's state tree). In the background, a steamboat sails while a sunrise breaks in the horizon, with rays of sunlight extending into the sky. Several changes have occurred on the seal over the years. The Indian woman no longer has a feathered headdress, which female Seminoles did not wear. The mountain in the background has been flattened since Florida has no mountains and the steamboat has been repaired a few times.

The second patch was adopted in the early 1970's titled, "North Port Police FLA", with a totally different look about it, still encompassing some of the history of the state seal; with a body of water, two palm trees and rays of sunlight.



Next was a shield shaped shoulder patch adopted in the mid-1970s, recognizing the shield as a symbol of protection. It was modeled after similar seals, the Great Seal of the United States, and a rendition of the National Coat of Arms. The Eagle is symbolic of freedom, authority, and power. The arrows and olive branch together symbolize the United States has "a strong desire for peace but will always be ready for war".

During the late 1970s, a significant part of North Port's rural areas encountered its share of drug trafficking. Some very sophisticated illegal operations by plane were landing in the city and undercover operations were ongoing. In one abandoned plane, officers seized 71 bales of burlap – wrapped marijuana with a street value, back then, of over \$1.3 million dollars. Another plane trying to land on the long stretch of Estates Drive in the North Port Estates, mistakenly crashed into the canal and fifteen, 50-pound bales of marijuana were recovered. The pilot bonded out on a million-dollar bond and





Lieutenant Kevin Sullivan and Lieutenant Howie Henriksen burned all but two bales in a ditch. The other two bales were housed in the property and evidence room for 20 years getting eaten by mice and rats. Sometime after that, the agency was advised that the pilot had died in a plane crash while running more drugs. Officer Ted Purcell of the North Port Police Department designed this special patch, signifying all the great drug busts the agency encountered during this time frame. The patch was titled, "North Port Police Pot Busters". In addition to the primary patches, this patch was not a patch worn on the shoulder, but a special addition worn on agency ball caps only.



Next from the late 1980s until 2019, the circle patch was designed by Chief Victor Costello with the help of Cheryl Moscato, past City of North Port employee and wife of former Lieutenant Louie Moscato. Story has it, the scales of justice were a must within the designing phase, representing the sought-after fairness and impartiality in the execution of the law. At one time, the eagle was holding a badge, but that was something that Cheryl was asked to remove because it was not well liked. This was one of the most colorful patches with the United States flag in the background.

It is 2020 and a survey was put out to all members of the agency asking for the top three things that our members would like to see changed within the agency, the shoulder patch was one of them. A committee was then formed consisting of; Captain Scott King, Commander Jason Richter, Sergeant Jason Brownie, Sergeant John Hetteberg, Sergeant Jason Selzer, Officer Scott Guzman, Officer John Contorno, Business Services Coordinator Rachel Birkett, Telecommunications Supervisor Mandy Lorenz, Crime Scene Investigator Elizabeth Walker, and the artist behind the design, Detective James Keller. Inspiration came from exploring the world wide web for other patches. A design was voted on within the committee; the waving flag in the background with the blue line, was unanimous. The center image was changed many times. First was the City Hall building, then an eagle, then finally the City seal. After several versions were designed, it went out for a vote amongst the members to pick their favorite shoulder patch.

It is interesting to see how things have changed and come full circle, regarding the patch designs. How we came back around to our roots, from the state seal to the city seal, which is what our members felt was still most important to this day.

Every local, county, and state agency have their own special design that makes their patch unique, not only to their department, but to their community. Over time some of the patches may have changed or been replaced, which only adds to the excitement of the history.

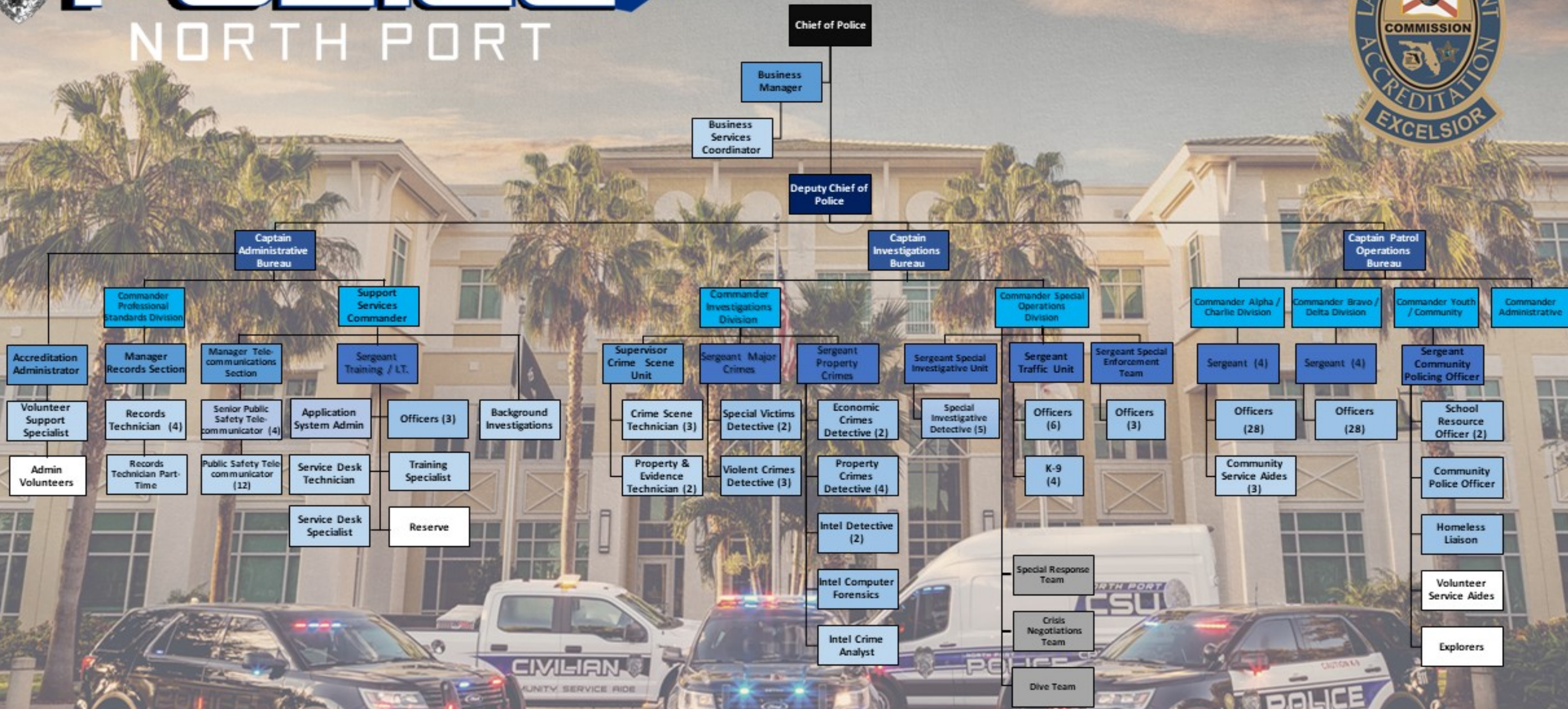
Special thanks to the those that have helped with the history of our North Port Police Department patches.





POLICE

NORTH PORT





POLICING A PANDEMIC

Masks, lockdown, quarantine, those are just a few of the words that sum up life during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has had significant impacts on all facets of everyday life. In addition to traditional law enforcement officer safety concerns, COVID-19 has added another layer of risk.

Safety and infectious control protocols have been implemented by in-person screening for symptoms, checking temperatures, ensuring physical distancing, and sanitizing equipment between users within police facilities to protect police personnel and the public they serve.

The pandemic has impacted our agency by requiring us to suspend training, roll calls, and community outreach initiatives. We also had to implement safety precautions for officers, modified personnel scheduling, limiting access to the department, working from home, and closing public access to our facilities.



FEDERAL GRANT

The North Port Police Department applied to the United States Department of Justice for a Gulf States Regional Law Enforcement Technology Assistance Initiative grant. The department submitted a grant application to purchase three license plate reader trailers to assist with gathering crime data and intelligence. This intelligence is a crucial component contained within the Intelligence Led Policing Model. The information provided with this state-of-the-art equipment will reduce crime within the City of North Port, and it will provide data to the Criminal Investigations Bureau to assist with solving crime. The North

Port Police Department received letters of support for this initiative from: United States Senator Rick Scott; United States Congressman W. Gregory Stube; Florida House of Representative James V. Buchanan; Florida State Attorney Ed Brodsky of the 12th Judicial Circuit; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the United States Secret Service. The Department of Justice awarded the North Port Police Department with a grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 dollars. The equipment has been purchased and deployed within our community.

OUTER CARRIER VESTS

The North Port Police Department was able to utilize forfeiture funds to purchase external load bearing vests, aka outer carriers. Based largely on research and at the request of our officers, the department explored the benefits of outer carriers versus the traditional duty belts, which we currently wear.

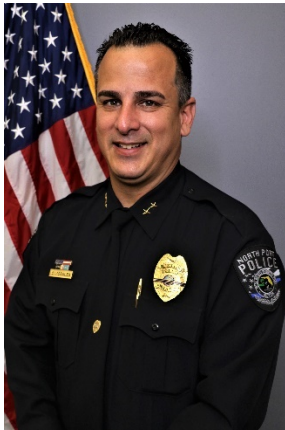
The standard duty belts officers wear to carry their equipment — including everything from handcuffs to batons to flashlights — typically weighing close to 30 pounds. Carrying that amount of weight on their hips during 12-plus hour patrol shifts puts a significant amount of pressure on the officers' backs, especially their lower backs. The purchase of specialized outer carriers is recommended by doctors because they allow officers to carry gear on their torsos, providing better weight distribution and lightening the weight of duty belts on the hips, which improves officer's health and safety. Removing gear from the duty belt allows for a wider range of motion without the body interfering with the items on the belt.





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 second in command, acting as the Chief of Police

during his absence to ensure continuity and efficiency within the Department.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO)

PIO Josh Taylor currently heads all communications for the City of North Port. His duties are to oversee social media, website, applications, and



traditional media relations for police, fire, and the City at large. In 2020 Josh was also named the President of the Florida Municipal Communicators Association, operated through the Florida League of Cities.

With Josh's help, the City of North Port has been recognized as one of the leading municipalities in the country for communicating with residents. Awards include "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 related to North Port 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. 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 identifies and tracks 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 operate safely and effectively.



Patrol Operations Bureau



Captain Scott King, as the Operations Bureau Captain, oversees the agency's Patrol Operations Bureau which is the largest bureau in the police department. The Patrol Bureau is comprised of four divisions, broken down to cover two dayshifts and two nightshifts and the Youth and Community Services division.



The Patrol divisions are supervised by two Commanders, each Commander oversees a day shift and a night shift, which consist of two Sergeants who are assigned to supervise fourteen Officers working twelve-hour shifts. 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, vehicle crashes and patrolling neighborhoods.



The Youth and Community Services division is comprised of one Commander and one Sergeant with four officers, they are assigned as school resource officers, one community policing officer and homeless outreach liaison. The school resource officers are assigned to the upper and lower Imagine Schools to help mentor and keep the children safe. The community policing officer works with our community partners and local businesses as an outreach to provide resources and information. The homeless outreach liaison partners with social services and community resources to assist our citizens that are experiencing homelessness.

Captain King also oversees high risk critical incidents that occur in the city as the High-Risk Incident Commander. He works with the Special Response Team and Crisis Negotiation Team in resolving critical incidents.



Investigations Bureau



Captain Michael Baute 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 use 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; Traffic Unit, Special Enforcement Team; K-9 Unit; and Special Investigations Unit.



UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING (UCR)

Part 1 - Violent	Year-To-Date						3-Yr CNG	
	3-Yr Avg	LY	CY	Prev Yr	CNG			
Homicide	3.3	2.0	3	1	50%	-0.3	-10%	
Sex Offenses	24.3	20.0	27	7	35%	2.7	11%	
Robbery	11.3	8.0	6	-2	-25%	-5.3	-47%	
Aggravated Assault	66.0	63.0	81	18	29%	15.0	23%	
Total	105.0	93.0	117	24	26%	12.0	11%	
Part 1 - Non-Violent	3-Yr Avg	LY	CY	Prev Yr	CNG	3-Yr CNG		
Burglary	118.3	89.0	88	-1	-1%	-30.3	-26%	
Larceny	826.3	837.0	635	-202	-24%	-191.3	-23%	
MV Theft	25.7	31.0	21	-10	-32%	-4.7	-18%	
Total	970.3	957.0	744	-213	-22%	-226.3	-23%	
Combined Total	1075.3	1050.0	861	-189	-18.00%	-214.33	-19.9%	
Cases Cleared	36.2%	35.1%	35.7%		1.46%		-1.4%	



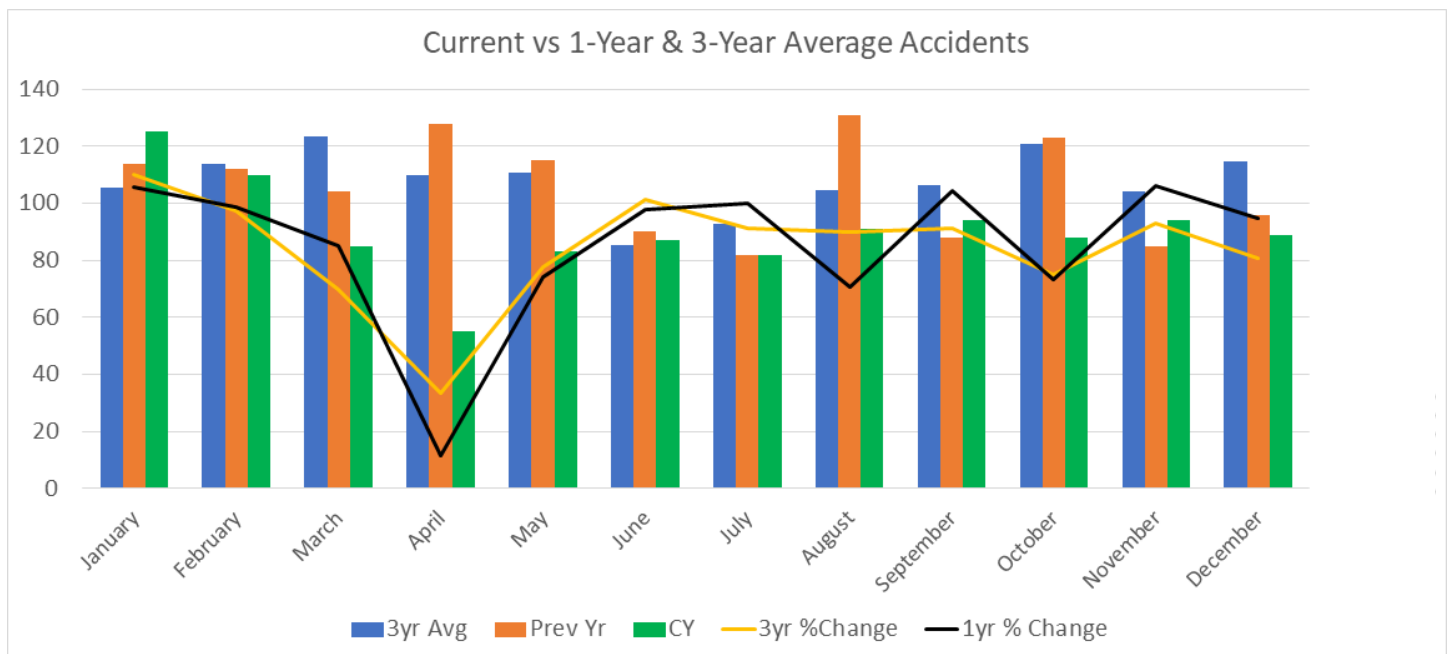
SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

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, weekly appearances on local radio shows to promote traffic safety and announce statewide traffic campaigns and much more.

ACCIDENTS

3 Year Average	Prev Yr	Total YTD	% Change 1 Yr	% Change 3Yr	# Involving Injury
1292	1268	1083	↓ -14.59%	↓ -16.18%	101/83



SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM (SET)

- 368 arrests (including Notice to Appear and warrant arrests), 118 more arrests than 2019
- One of the largest cocaine seizures in NPPD history, over 1/2 Kilogram (1.5 pounds)
- Multiple burglary suppression details initiated
- Multiple Off-Roading details initiated (Yorkshire and Estates areas)
- Assisted in multiple DUI enforcement campaigns, such as DUI checkpoint, and DUI saturation on popular holidays



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: Ofc. Lindsey
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. 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.

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.





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, bloodstain analysis, serial number and vehicle identification number restoration, death investigation, and examinations for trace and biological evidence. The Unit has the capability to process a variety of types of evidence, which include DNA collection, processing of latent and patent fingerprints with the most current technology, visual examinations with an alternate light source, footwear and tire track collection, and specialized photography.



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 to ensure the integrity of every item to be used in the courtroom.

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 of the police department. This program works in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).



Administrative Bureau



Captain Brian Gregory 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 Wichers 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

Rick Fitzgerald is the Record's 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 Telecommunications Division which is comprised of 17 highly trained Public Safety Telecommunicators and includes a Manager, four Senior Public Safety Telecommunicators, and 12 Public Safety Telecommunicators. The PST's receive emergency and non-emergency

calls from the public and serve as the primary link between the public and



emergency police services. The center is staffed 24/7/365 with a minimum of two operators on at all times. Citizens who contact the Police Department with a variety of questions and concerns can rest assured that the Public Safety Telecommunicator they speak with will handle their situation as quickly and effectively as possible. Our commitment to the safety of the officers and community is 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.

Training

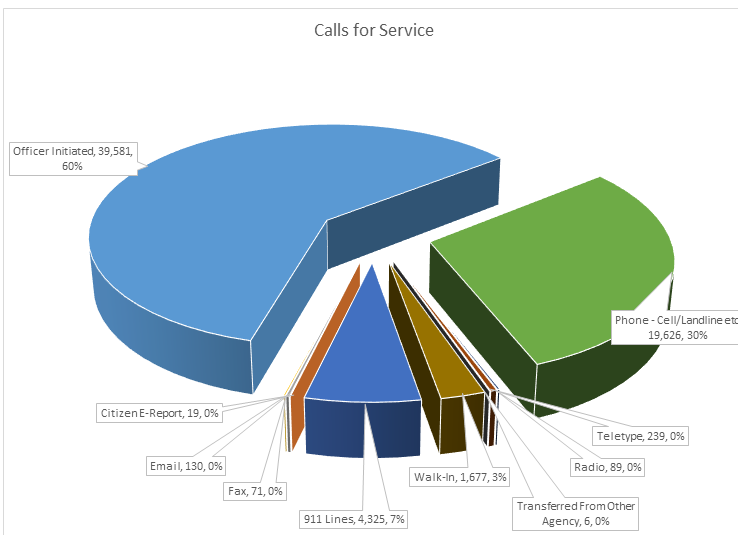
Training of personnel is one of the most important responsibilities of any law enforcement agency. The training staff is responsible for scheduling and administering all in-service training for agency personnel.

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 they may provide 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 other subjects.

Information and Technology

The Police Department's Information Technology Bureau (ITB) is comprised of four staff members: an Applications Systems Administrator, a Service Desk Technician, a Network Technician and Sgt Lawrence Strejcek. The ITB's responsibilities address the network infrastructure and security of the Police Department to include remote offices. The Bureau manages 225 desktops and mobile laptops, all core application systems (Computer Aided Dispatch, Records Management Systems, and Mobile 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 ITB worked a total of 2,573 tickets in 2020.



Personnel 2020 Updates



Retirements:

Gary Arsenault 15 Years
Charles Ayres 23 Years



Promotions:

Brian Gregory - Captain
Christopher Krzos - Background Investigator
Shaun Lissow - Commander
Rhonda Schauble - Property/Evidence Tech
Linda Yates - Records Tech II



New Hires:

Ivette Barnes - Volunteer Support Specialist
Corey Byington - Police Officer
Kayla Campisi - Police Officer
Joseph Dewar - Police Officer
Douglas Gaffny - CSA
Robert Jarvis - Detective
Brett Klein - Police Officer
Meredith Lamb - PST
Stephanie Legge - PST
Nicolas Mamalis - Police Officer
John McDowell - Commander
Joseph McGrath - PST
Tiffany O’Rick - PST
Tyler Ragauckas - Police Officer
Camila Rodriguez - Police Officer
Narissa Seepaulsing - Records Tech I
Alex Zwiefelhofer - Police Officer
Desiree Zwiefelhofer – PST



“Do the Right Thing of North Port, Inc.” is a combined effort of the North Port Police Department, City of North Port and the Kiwanis Club, along with corporate sponsors, to honor youth in our community, for their exemplary behavior, accomplishments, and good deeds. The DTRT Awards Program distinguishes exceptional school-age children who choose to be drug and crime free, exhibit non-violent behavior, do well in school, make a difference in their communities, and demonstrate turnaround behavior, who distinguish themselves by their exemplary behavior. Each month of the school year, parents, police officers, teachers, and other adults nominate children for “doing the right thing.” A selection committee reviews the nominations and selects finalists who are honored at a ceremony. Fill out a nomination form and return it to the School Resource Officer or mail it to the North Port Police Department at 4980 City Hall Boulevard, North Port, FL 34286.



Chief's Achievement Award – James Mills

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

At a time in our nation's history, law enforcement has become the focus of many attacks and scrutiny. With the motto of Defund the Police spreading across this country, many cops have questioned why we stay and do the job. Many have made the choice to leave. What I can tell you is that Officer James Mills reminds me why we choose to stay and do the job. On several occasions, citizens have reached out and given accolades on the job Officer Mills does.

On one occasion, Officer Mills encountered a crime victim who was struggling, and their cellphone was stolen. This cellphone was the lifeline to family members during this critical time. Officer Mills, realizing the importance of the cell phone to the victim; went and purchased a prepaid cell phone out of his own pocket and provided it to the victim.

On another occasion, I was contacted directly by a citizen who learned that Officer Mills had encountered a homeless individual within the city. Officer Mills learned that the gentleman was trying to get a job to better himself and get off the streets. Officer Mills discovered the gentleman had a job interview but needed some assistance. Officer Mills arranged with Toledo Blade Barber Shop to get the individual a haircut at no cost to the gentleman. The barbershop and Officer Mills realized the gentleman needed a set of new clothes to better his chances at landing the job. The individual was taken to a local shop and he was proudly awarded new clothes.

Officer Mills has a true servant's heart. Because of his actions, I feel that Officer Mills has earned the distinction of receiving the Chiefs Award. I am proud that Officer Mills wears the badge of the NPPD and represents the department with professionalism, integrity, respect and most importantly humility.



Officer of the Year – Gregory Pierce

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

Dedicated, passionate, dependable, and adaptable are just a few of the words that describe PFC Greg Pierce. Last year he was assigned to investigate a tragic fatal traffic crash involving a 17-year-old victim. Not only did he work relentlessly on the criminal end of the case, he showed an incredible amount of empathy for the families involved.

PFC Pierce has been tasked with several responsibilities within the traffic unit. He oversees the PD's trailer fleet and is the liaison for the License Plate Reader trailer. He is responsible for maintaining the Traffic Homicide Investigations equipment. PFC Pierce created training materials for Public Works and PD employees on the statutes and safety of towing. He also created training materials for the arrow boards, message boards and sign boards. He is extremely well organized, thorough, and goes above and beyond with his assignments.



Civilian of the Year - Tammie Wichers

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.

During the past year, Tammie consistently demonstrated unparalleled professionalism whenever working with internal and external customers. She holds herself to an extremely high standard by striving for perfection in everything she does. She exemplifies the City's Customer Bill of Rights through every contact she makes. She treats every volunteer with compassion, and she embraces their individual qualities and makes everyone on her team feel important to their mission. She values their safety and during the COVID-19 pandemic she monitored their assignments to ensure the risk of exposure was minimized. She consistently thinks outside the box for ideas to increase the efficiency of the department and she embraces the opportunity to develop creative and innovative ideas that accomplish the goal. Tammie has impeccable ethics that radiate to everyone around her. She reflects the Organization's values, mission and strives to achieve every goal of the Department. Tammie is a highly driven individual and is a pleasure to work with. She genuinely loves her job and the people she works work.



Volunteer of the Year - Lawrence Burns

Larry Burns exemplifies the City's Customer Bill of Rights by going the extra mile in delivering services to internal and external customers. During the Atlanta Braves training season, Larry showed up two hours early to place 200+ traffic cones on the roadways so officers didn't have to do it. This was a critical part of the safety to the motoring public and Larry made sure he was there every game. He became the go-to guy for set up and take down of equipment.

Larry reflects the organization's values and has impeccable ethics. He works well with everyone and is always willing to come out to assist. Larry dedicated many hours to installing universal computer mounts in police cruisers. He even bought his own drill press that allowed for the computer brackets to fit properly with the new computer mounts. His appearance is professional and his demeanor is exceptional. His involvement and dedication help us be more successful in achieving our goals.



Supervisor of the Year - Marilyn Neugebauer:

While there are many great supervisors, Marilyn is in a league of own. She diligently works for the betterment of the department and created a bond between dispatch and road patrol. Marilyn meets with road patrol regularly to explain what steps dispatchers take to gain a better understanding of what road patrol needs to work more effectively and efficiently. She works to ensure her staff and other staff have the necessary tools to be successful.

Marilyn read the entire ProPhoenix CAD & WDA manuals, so she would be able to train new hires and answer any questions staff had. She remains calm and unfettered during critical incidents. She delivers instruction as a person of humility which makes her approachable. These are just some of the reasons she deserves the Supervisor of the Year award.

Employee Recognition



COMBAT CROSS

Geary, John (Ofc)
Lissow, Shaun (Cmdr)
Lyon, Kevin (Sgt)

COMMENDATION

Bartolotta, Derek (PFC)
Boetger, Eli (PFC-K9)
Bumgarner, Justin (PFC)
Carter, William (PFC)
Caravella, Dominick (PFC)
Contorno, John (PFC)
Cox, David (PFC)
Donohew, Tony (Sgt)
Elmore, Misty (SPST)
Fortuno, James (PFC)
Green, Bradley (PFC)
Laden, Michael (Cmdr)
Lindsey, Justin (PFC)
May, Kaitlyn (Ofc)
McHale, Brandon (Det)
Mills, James (PFC)
Nick, Aaron (PFC)
Peer, Jarod (Ofc)
Selzer, Jason (Sgt)
St. Jean, Eric (PFC)
Strejcek, Lawrence (Sgt)
Witkosky, Michael (Ofc)

GOOD CONDUCT

Antoine, Nadine (PST)
Cigich, Jason (Ofc)
Coleman, Michael (Ofc)
Elmore, Misty (SPST)
Fegan, Jared (PFC)
Fisher, Alexander (PFC)
Henegar, Casey (PST)
Peer, Jarod (Ofc)
Segura, Miguel (PFC)
Wichers, Tammie (AM)

GOOD CONDUCT WITH GOLD

STAR

Lyon, Kevin (Sgt)
Neugebauer, Marilyn (SPST)

HARRY SHAPIRO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Cambria, Steven (PFC)



“Harry Shapiro” Community Service Award will be given for outstanding acts of community service that are not normally recognized or expected as a normal part of an employee’s duty.

This may be a single act or cumulative in nature, normally accomplished during the employee’s off-duty time, which reflects favorably on the North Port Police Department, community and/or City.

The recipient of this award is chosen by the representative of the Harry Shapiro Charitable Foundation from nominations submitted to the Awards Committee.

LIFE SAVING

Lagarce, Matthew (PFC)
Shields, James (PFC)

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Strejcek, Lawrence (Sgt)



NEGOTIATOR

Fisher, Alexander (PFC)



UNIT OF THE YEAR

Field Training Unit



Special Thanks to the Award Committee:
Captain Scott King,
PFC Derek Bartolotta,
PFC John Contorno,
PFC Joe Gaither,
Business Services
Coord. Rachel Birkett,
SPST Jennifer Thurston,
VIP Julia Lozano

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.



COMMUNITY POLICING

School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officers are responsible for working with school administrators, security staff and faculty on developing comprehensive safety plans (i.e. fire drills, lock down drills, several weather-related drills such as tornado, non-fire evacuation, etc.) to ensure schools are safe places for students to learn.

- Participating 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. Participation in this program has proven to reduce substance abuse and reduce further juvenile crime among Sarasota County youth.
- Do The Right Thing Program, recognizes and rewards our children for positive behavior, accomplishments and good deeds
- Mentoring the North Port Explorers and the Imagine Young Marines
- Shop with A Cop
- School pep rallies

Our School Resource Officers are very active in their schools and the community. They go above and beyond each day to ensure the youth of our community have a safe and secure learning environment.



Community Policing/Homeless Outreach

Community policing has long been considered a framework for establishing trust between the community and the police. This past year has been an exciting one for the Unit. Our Community Policing programs and citizen contacts continue to grow. The Unit coordinates and executes events such as:



- Coffee with a Cop
- Pizza with the Police
- Recreation on Wheels and many other city events
- Bike helmets for the youth in the community
- Mentoring the North Port Explorers
- Shop with a Cop

These events bring Police Officers and the community members they serve together to discuss issues and build relationships. The unit also planned an event called "Stuff a Cruiser." This

event was planned just prior to Thanksgiving. The Community Police Unit partnered with New Hope Church and Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market to gather food through donations to feed those less fortunate in our community. Throughout the day it was estimated that over 2,000 pounds of food was collected for distribution throughout the community. Those are a few examples of what our Community Policing Unit is doing. The unit interacts with different community partners and other city entities, applying for grants and ensuring a great experience for the community.

Community Police Officers also take care of our homeless population. Our Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) encountered over 100 individual homeless citizens this past year. Dedicated to the mission of ending homelessness, the HOT was able to place two families into housing. They also were able to get many individuals set up with Social Services to end their homeless cycle.

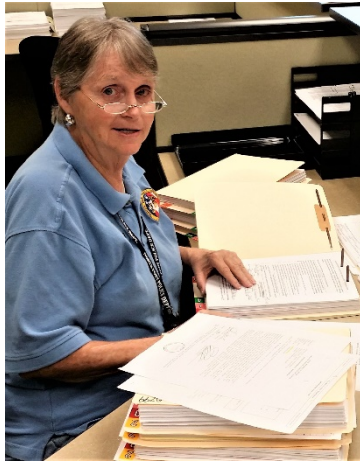
Cyber Security Awareness

The Criminal Investigation Division presented training to the community on preventing victims of online child/juvenile exploitation and educating the parents/guardians. These efforts are making sure that parents play an active role in protecting their children and are armed with the skills and knowledge they need to protect their children online, specifically tools for monitoring kids' activities from online threats. Look, get educated, and be active! Being proactive, the first step in educating children about cybersecurity starts with "training" parents in this area. Children's access to technology comes with additional responsibility for the parents.

It is natural for everyone to turn their attention first and foremost to the protection of the child in the face of technology, but it is essential that the parent who provides access is aware of the entire landscape of responsibilities that follow.



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.

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.

VOLUNTEERS

In 2020, volunteers of the City of North Port served 6636 hours, a value of \$180,495.00 in 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 (VSAs)

VSAs 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.

VSAs 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.



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