

2022

Annual Report



Our Mission

The Bradenton Police Department is dedicated to excellence in policing through professionalism, courage and transparency.

A police officer in a high-visibility vest is using a speedometer. The officer is wearing a dark uniform with a high-visibility yellow-green vest. The vest has a patch on the shoulder that says "POLICE" and "PRO SE". The officer is holding a black speedometer with two blue lenses. The background is a blurred street scene with trees and a house.

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Message from the Chief Melanie Bevan, Ed.D.

The year 2022 proved to be anything but ordinary, but throughout everything, the BPD family has remained a steadfast example of strength and resiliency, and a constant beacon for our citizens, our families, and each other. Our year in review reflects BPD's consistency of purpose to remain committed to crime reduction and strengthened community involvement, with our underlying belief that it takes a whole community working together to create a safe and thriving Bradenton.

A significant source of pride for us this year was our continued dedication to our youth. Simply seeing the excitement on the faces of 148 fifth graders in five different schools as we pinned BPD Safety Patrol badges onto their belts, reinforces for all of us the true meaning of police serving as guardians. In keeping with BPD's annual tradition of working with local charitable organizations to ensure needy families within Bradenton have a happy holiday, previous years of gift giving was again surpassed. Our "Fill the Truck" toy drive resulted in community members filling our utility vehicles with over a thousand toys along with gifts piling in from the Amazon Gift List link. Our 14th Annual Honoring the Badge event was also another huge success, with over 150 families blessed with a better Christmas because of our agency.

At the foundation of who we are as an agency is courage and strength, which allows us to rise to the occasion when duty calls. I want to commend every employee for taking such great care of our citizens and visitors, of each other, and for helping us build a better tomorrow for our City in so many ways. The knowledge that you have done something great for someone else is a powerful reward, one which I hope you appreciate throughout the year. I am immensely proud of the work you all do, and know the community and our City leaders stand behind us.

I wish for everyone to be blessed with good fortune, good health, and great happiness, and hope you join me in looking forward with optimism. As we enter 2023 with added resources, initiatives and community partnerships, we will continue working hand in hand with our citizens and City employees to improve the quality of life in every neighborhood in the City of Bradenton.



Message from the Assistant Chief Joseph Wiesman

In July 2022, I started my new position as the Assistant Chief. Although I have only been here a short time, Hurricane Ian showed me first-hand how our City prepares and responds in crisis. Ian tested the entire City, including every member of the police department.

Despite all the challenges, our officers never wavered. All were determined to keep moving forward, remaining steadfast in their commitment to Bradenton's citizens while ensuring their families were safe.

During those unprecedented and trying times, days off were canceled, and officers remained in City around the clock, sleeping in local shelters and city buildings. No document could ever measure the service these professionals provided to our community.

Though it is easy to concentrate on negative events and attitudes towards law enforcement, we recognize how much our citizens appreciate the police and the people working here. More than once, a citizen or business has reached out to lift our spirits at just the right time, and we are very thankful to all of you.

I am honored to have the opportunity to help lead the exceptional men and women of the Bradenton Police Department. It is my commitment that we will strive daily to provide the highest level of police services and ensure that Bradenton remains a safe and desirable community to live, work, and play.





Mayor Gene Brown

Mayor Gene Brown served three terms on the Bradenton City Council as Ward Two Councilman before becoming Mayor in 2021. He is an integral part of our agency, and biggest supporter. He also participates in many events held or attended by the Bradenton Police Department.





Police Department Overview

Staffing Demographics: Authorized Staffing

	2020	2021	2022
Full-Time Sworn Officers	123	123	123
Part-Time Sworn Officers	2	2	2
Full-Time Civilians	37	38	38
Part-Time Civilians	15	16	16
Total	177	179	179

Staffing Demographics: Actual Staffing (as of December, 2022)

	Sworn Officers			Civilians		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Caucasian	66	11	77	12	16	28
Hispanic	14	6	20	0	3	3
African American	12	2	14	2	3	5
Asian	2	0	2	1	1	2
American Indian	0	1	1	0	0	0

Sworn Personnel Years of Service

0-5 Years	48
6-10 Years	22
11-15 Years	13
16-20 Years	23
21-25 Years	3
25+ Years	5



Uniform Crime Report

	2021	2022	Percent Change
Homicide	4	3	- 25.00%
Rape	35	36	+ 2.86%
Robbery	42	43	+ 2.36%
Aggravated Assault	302	212	- 29.80%
Burglary	116	135	+ 16.38%
Larceny	930	1065	+ 14.52%
Motor Vehicle Theft	105	110	+ 4.76%
Arson	3	0	- 100.00%
Total Offenses	1537	1604	+ 4.4%

	5 Year Average (2017 - 2021)	2022	Percent Change
Homicide	3.8	3	-21.1%
Rape	27.8	36	29.5%
Robbery	56	43	-23.2%
Aggravated Assault	259.4	212	-18.3%
Burglary	170.8	135	-21%
Larceny	1,132	1065	-5.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	88.2	110	24.7%
Arson	4.2	0	-100%
Total Offenses	1537	1604	+ 4.4%

FIBRS/NIBRS

2022 was the Bradenton Police Department's first full year of reporting using the Florida Incident-Based Reporting System (FIBRS). FIBRS works with the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to collect data on each crime occurrence. These reporting systems aim to enhance the quality, quantity, and timeliness of crime data collected by BPD and improve the methodology used for compiling, analyzing, auditing, and publishing the collected data. The department aims to have two years of comparative data for the City by the end of 2023.



Bradenton Police Department Annual Budget

	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021	FY 2021/2022
Personnel Costs	15,753,903	16,749,820	16,981,565
Logistics and Services	2,610,639	2,783,197	3,172,175
Grant Offset	145,138	399,842	277,932
Total	18,509,680	19,932,859	20,431,672
Annual Approved City Budget	124,451,990	123,831,798	140,556,173
Police Department's Percentage of City Budget (Not including grants)	14.76%	15.77%	14.34%

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Grants

Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grant	\$28,457.00
Florida Department of Transportation High Visibility Enforcement Grant	\$11,379.00
Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$13,020.00
FDLE -Florida Identity Theft & Fraud Grant	\$6,121.00
Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grant-County Wide	\$30,000.00
Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grant-COVID Grant	\$3,819.00
Sober Streets	\$3,213.00
FDLE-Florida-PSN Grant-Violent Crimes	\$52,414.00
HIDTA High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas	\$52,546.00
Walmart Community Grant	\$5,000.00
WCIND Grant	\$58,963.00
Manatee County Community Foundation Grant	\$13,000.00
Total Grants Budgeted	\$277,932.00



Office of Professional Standards

Internal Affairs

The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for safeguarding the integrity of the City of Bradenton and the Bradenton Police Department while closely monitoring the conduct of its officers and civilian staff. Internal Affairs completed and closed 35 complaints in 2022, involving 60 officers. Some complaints include several allegations. Twelve investigations initiated in 2022 remain active. The total number of allegations for these investigations is pending. Of the 47 total investigations, 30 were complaints from citizens, and 17 were initiated internally.

When employee misconduct is alleged, the complaint is investigated as one of three administrative investigation types.

- Internal Affairs Investigation: A formal allegation of misconduct of a serious nature committed by an employee which requires an in-depth investigation.
- Divisional Investigation: A formal allegation of misconduct of a more minor nature committed by an employee which requires a supervisory investigation.
- Inquiry: Some complaints will be classified as an inquiry when it is shown there is no violation, or the complaint has been determined to be a procedural question from a citizen about the actions or inactions of an employee.

At the conclusion of each investigation, one of the following findings is determined for each allegation:

- Exonerated: The investigation revealed the acts which provided the basis for the complaint or allegations were justified, lawful, and proper.
- Not Involved: Upon investigation, the employee was found to not be directly involved in the acts alleged.
- Not Sustained: The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations made in the complaint.
- Sustained: The allegations disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegation made in the complaint
- Unfounded: The investigation conclusively proved that the allegations made in the complaint did not occur.

Complaint and Investigation Findings on Misconduct Allegations Against Department Personnel

			Allegations				
	Closed Investigations	Open Investigations	Exonerated	Not Involved	Not Sustained	Sustained	Unfounded
Internal Affairs Investigations	2	6	1	0	0	1	0
Divisional Investigations	8	3	0	0	1	6	1
Inquiry	25	3	2	0	2	2	19
Totals	35	12	3	0	3	9	20



Use of Force

Force is an occasional and unfortunate outcome of the work officers perform daily. Use of force is not synonymous with excessive force. The Bradenton Police Department mandates that when an officer uses force in the line of duty, they must document their actions on a use-of-force form. Officers completed 255 use-of-force forms in 2022 in association with 146 suspects. Of those, 105 suspects were arrested.

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) collects data and conducts an annual analysis. This data is helpful in the development of best practices related to the management of force, the revision of force policies, the training and supervision of officers, and the handling of excessive-force allegations.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2022, Bradenton Police officers handled 96,165 calls for service, and officers used force in .0028 percent of those calls. This number is consistent with 2021 data, which indicates force was used in .002 percent of service calls.

An analysis of 2021 data identified 86% of suspect mental and/or physical impairments involved during use-of-force incidents. 2022 data identified 99% of suspect impairments during use-of-force incidents. With the Department's implementation of a new program, SmartForce, suspect impairment identification during use-of-force incidents resulted in a 13% increase in accuracy.

Use of Force Demographics

Caucasian/Hispanic		African American		Asian	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
63	15	57	11	0	0

Types of Force Used By Officers

Baton	1	OC Spray	0
Canine	4	Spit Mask	3
Handcuffs while Struggling	66	Taser Deployed (Contact)	14
Hands/Feet/Fists	112	Taser Deployed (Not Effective)	9
Leg Restraints	18	Taser Displayed	19
Less Lethal Force	1	Threat of Less Lethal Force	0
Lethal Force	0	Threat of Lethal Force	1



Recruiting and Background Processing

The Office of Professional Standards includes the recruitment and background processing unit. In 2022, our background investigator reviewed 1,401 applications, with 150 applicants considered for further background investigation processing, and 51 polygraph examinations were administered.

From 2021 to 2022, the number of applications and resumes received and reviewed increased by 20%; background investigations increased by 30%; and polygraph examinations increased 51%. The department hired 21 police officers and 23 civilian employees in 2022.

OPS personnel continued to attend Police Academies and Equivalency of Training (EOT) classes in the region to find the best police officers to work and protect the citizens of Bradenton. The department also implemented a sponsored police recruit program, offering full scholarships to the police academy. Sponsored recruits earn salary and benefits while attending the academy. 200 applications for the sponsored recruit program were processed, and four applicants received sponsorships for the 2022 fall police academy. Two recruits attended the Suncoast Technical College Cross-over Law Enforcement Academy, and two attended the Manatee Technical College (MTC) Law Enforcement Academy. Six additional sponsorships were awarded in 2022, for enrollment in the MTC academy in January 2023.

New Hire Coordinator

Seven iterations of the pre-Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP) were conducted in 2022. The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) worked diligently to support the training, coordination, and supervision of 23 recruits. These numbers do not include cadets from EOT and other regional academy classes.

In 2022, the department implemented a sponsored police recruit program, which provides qualified applicants with sponsorships to attend local law enforcement academies. OPS staff maintain continual contact with the sponsored cadets, which includes providing cadets with equipment needed for their training and coordinating tasks for them outside of the academy.

After sponsored recruits complete the academy and pass the State Officer Certification Exam, they transition to full-time department employees, entering the administrative new-hire training phase. During this developmental phase, the unit provides knowledge and understanding of Bradenton Police Department's procedural general orders and standard operating procedures, to align these new officers with the goals and policies of our department and community. The unit also coordinates with the offices of the Mayor and the Chief for the swearing-in ceremony for the new officers.

Following the transfer of newly hired personnel to the FTEP, this unit maintains regular communication with these new hires to ensure their training needs are met.



Training

Continual training is paramount for our personnel

Training techniques, technology, and legal guidelines are constantly evolving, and our personnel continually attend classes locally and abroad from certified subject matter experts. The Bradenton Police Department strives to educate officers and civilian employees on updated federal, state, and legal guidelines. To that end, sworn and civilian personnel attend a variety of classes, such as information technology fraud training; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster training; public records requests; and statistical reporting. In 2022, statistical crime reporting to the federal government changed formats. As a result, police supervision and records personnel attended numerous training classes on meeting annual federal reporting requirements using this new format. Additionally, members of the department attended classes in officer wellness, peer support and resiliency, the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), de-escalation techniques, and new-instructor certification. In 2022, employees attended more than 9,400 hours of online, in-person, and in-the-field training.





External and Advanced Training:

- Advanced Traffic Homicide Investigations
- ALERRT (Active Shooter Response) Training
- Crime Statistics & NIBRS for the Police Executive
- Crisis Intervention Techniques
- De-escalation Techniques
- Patrol Officer Defensive Driving
- Firearms Instructor Certification
- FEMA - Supervision Training
- FDLE Firearms Instructor Certification
- DUI - Refresher Training and Legal Updates
- Field Training Officer
- General Instructor Certification
- Peer Support and Resiliency
- Police Motorcycle Instructor
- Resiliency and Self-Awareness Training
- SWAT Leadership/Supervision Training
- Search and Seizure - Legal Updates
- Traffic and Criminal Software
- Use of Force - Legal Updates

Internal and Mandated Training:

- Annual Department Range Qualifications
- Body Camera, Legal Updates and Report Writing
- Building Clearing Techniques
- FDLE Mandates
- Financial Awareness
- Firearms Training - Basic Weapon Safety and Pistol Techniques
- First Aid, CPR and Narcan
- LPR Deployment and Development
- New Officer Training (Over 100 Hours Each)
- Rape Crisis Training - Services Offered
- Recognizing Head Injuries in Infants and Children
- Sexual Assault Training - Trauma Approach for Law Enforcement
- SmartForce - Pursuit, Use of Force & Crash Reporting
- Use of Force Updates and De-Escalation
- Victim of Sexual Offenses

Risk Protection Order (RPO)

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act was enacted on March 9, 2018, and created Florida Statute 790.401. This act is also known as "The Risk Protection Order Act." A Risk Protection Order is also referred to as an RPO.

An RPO petition allows a law enforcement agency to obtain a court order temporarily restricting a person's access to firearms for up to one year in situations where the person poses a significant danger of harming himself/herself or others by possessing a firearm.

Our agency completed 37 RPOs in 2022, with three denials. 81 firearms were seized.



Accreditation Unit

The Bradenton Police Department is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement (CFA). The accreditation process involves on-site assessments, examination of policies, file reviews, procedural reviews, and inspections conducted by outside assessors. The standards address all facets of the agency, including administration, internal affairs operations, investigations, patrol, personnel, training, traffic, response to resistance, and more. The accreditation section conducts internal inspections and audits throughout the year, including a yearly review of the agency's standard operating procedures and general orders, extra-duty employment inspections, section manuals, and other mandatory requirements as required by CFA. The Accreditation Manager performs the inspections and audits to ensure departmental policy compliance and more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services. Accreditation is voluntary for agencies within Florida. The agency was initially accredited in October 2018 and successfully re-accredited in October 2021. Once an agency is accredited, it is inspected and reviewed every three years to retain its accredited status. By participating in the accreditation process, the agency can ensure citizens it adheres to the highest standards of professionalism and that quality services are delivered using recognized and accepted standards. The next on-site assessment is in July 2024.

Explorers

The Bradenton Police Department has an active Explorer Program, offering young people ages 14 to 21 the opportunity to learn more about law enforcement careers, through weekly classroom instruction, hands-on training, and physical fitness activities. Respect, honesty, integrity, and teamwork are the cornerstones of this program.

The Explorer Post has approximately 10 sworn advisors, two civilian advisors, and 16 members. Our two civilian advisors have been a part of the post for five years.

Explorers assist many special events, including the Desoto Heritage Parade, Bradenton Area River Regatta, the City's Fourth of July festivitie, Honoring the Badge, the Fill the Truck Toy Drive, A Night Before Christmas at G.T. Bray Park, and the Manatee County CrimeStoppers' Halloween festivities.





Legal Unit

The legal unit provides counsel to the Chief and the department and ensures that the department stays apprised of current legal issues, statutory changes, and case law of significance to law enforcement. Forfeiture is a crucial component of the legal unit which decreases crime by depriving a criminal of property used to commit an offense or acquired through illegal activity. In the fiscal year 2022, the Bradenton Police Department seized \$183,623 in State Asset Forfeiture and \$37,907.25 in Federal Equitable Forfeiture.

As part of our commitment to community policing and engagement, the department must donate at least 25% of State Forfeiture funds to community organizations and programs each fiscal year. After allocating necessary funds for proceeding-related court costs, we were able to donate \$30,000 in the fiscal year 2022 to programs benefitting the citizens of Bradenton. The purpose of this program is to provide support to neighborhood agencies and organizations engaged in projects that seek to improve neighborhood safety and promote crime prevention, drug prevention, drug education, drug treatment services, or school resource officer programs. This is accomplished by offering to fund neighborhood groups, associations, or organizations which have developed specific projects to address these areas of concern.

In 2022, ten organizations were awarded funding from our State Forfeiture Grant Program:

- Boys & Girls Club of Manatee County, Inc. - \$1,200
- Bradenton Gladiators Football, Inc. - \$3,000
- Bradenton Police Department Explorer Post #1004 - \$3,500
- Drug Free Manatee - \$3,400
- Making an Impact - \$2,000
- Manatee Children's Services, Inc. - \$4,500
- Manatee County Girls Club, Inc. DBA Just for Girls - \$3,000
- New Manatee Broncos - \$3,200
- Pace Center for Girls - \$3,000
- Replay Outreach, Inc. - \$3,200

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





Operations Division: Patrol



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

In 2022, the Patrol Division responded to or initiated 96,165 calls for service, wrote 10,412 incident reports, completed 3,365 field interviews, initiated 27,061 close patrols, and conducted 17,423 “walking the beats.” Patrol officers also made 2,812 arrests. We seized 79 firearms related to criminal activity, and another 86 taken into temporary safekeeping under Risk Protection Orders.

This year we saw the creation of the Bradenton Police Department Community Oriented Police Substation, or COPS House. The COPS House is a building in the heart of our City that once belonged to the Girl Scouts of America. The remodeled building now provides a place for our Explorer Program, offices used by our Traffic Unit, a training room, and break space for our uniformed officers. We are to expand the use into community-based events and functions.

2022 also saw the addition of 21 newly sworn police officers. Each new officer receives training through the Department’s Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP), an intensive 16-week program that pairs new officers with certified trainers. These officers are evaluated on every facet of the job and critiqued weekly. Following the completion of FTEP, new officers are evaluated monthly by their supervision.

We also added a sponsored recruit program in 2022. Sponsored recruits receive tuition to the police academy and earn a salary with benefits while in attendance. This program allowed us to recruit and hire four new officers in 2022, with additional recruits anticipated to join the department in 2023.

Calls for Service	Incident Reports	Field Interviews	Close Patrols	“Walking the Beats”
96,165	10,412	3,365	27,061	17,423



Support Services

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

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

The Crime Prevention Officer assists with issues ranging from trespass concerns, alarm and camera systems, and property surveys. The officer, a certified specialist in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, completes thorough workups to assist property owners with ways to enhance safety on their property. The Crime Prevention Officer also regularly attends homeowners' association and neighborhood meetings to give up-to-date information on crime stats and other department-related events. This officer is a member of Manatee CrimeStoppers and sits on the board of directors for Keep Manatee Beautiful.

Traffic Unit

The purpose of the Traffic Unit is to prevent crashes and enhance the safety of our citizens through proactive enforcement. The unit includes three officers and one sergeant, who work alternating shifts to provide optimal coverage across the highest vehicular volume times in the City. Officers respond to crashes, enforce speeding, monitor school zones, and participate in the enforcement of laws related to impaired driving.



Traffic Unit officers are certified to conduct investigations of crashes that result in serious bodily injury or death. These investigations include processing crash scenes and preserving and collecting evidence. The Traffic Unit investigated eight fatal crashes in 2022. Two were criminal in nature.

In 2022, the department received two grants to curb crash-related injuries and fatalities. A \$12,807 grant funded by the University of North Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation supports the High Visibility Enforcement for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety campaign. A \$1,500 grant supports the Drug Recognition Evaluation Classification Program. The department also participated in the AAA Promise Program, a nationwide effort to stop drinking and driving around high school proms.

2022 Overall Traffic Statistics

Written Warnings	Uniform Traffic Citations	Criminal Traffic Citations	Traffic Crash Investigations	DUIs
2,551	3,223	760	1,942	58



School Resource Officers (SRO)

The SRO program increases interaction between law enforcement, students, school staff, and parents. SROs are liaisons between the department and the School District of Manatee County. These officers provide a quick response and resolution to minor instances before they develop into something more significant.

Currently, we provide SROs for Manatee High School, Sugg Middle School, and Manatee Elementary School. A typical day for an SRO may consist of consulting with school staff about the day's events, investigating crimes that occur on campus, providing conflict resolution between students, giving advice to a troubled student, teaching law-enforcement-related topics to students in a classroom setting, and building positive, lasting relationships that continue long after students the student has have moved up or graduated.

A highlight of the year is our chance to acknowledge young student leaders as Safety Patrol Officers. Safety Patrol Officers are fifth-grade students chosen for their roles due to their excellent grades, regular attendance, and because they exemplify leadership qualities. As school-age leaders in traffic safety, these students teach classmates about safety on a peer-to-peer basis. They also serve as role models for younger children. This year, we presented 148 badges to students in our elementary schools.



Marine Unit

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

The Marine Unit plays a vital role during the Bradenton Area River Regatta, the Manatee River Christmas Parade, and the Bradenton Area Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration. The Marine Unit also participates in several significant area events, including the Gasparilla Invasion in Tampa, Sarasota Offshore Grand Prix, and the St. Petersburg Offshore Grand Prix.





K-9 Unit

The Bradenton Police Department's Canine (K-9) Unit is a part of our Patrol Operations Division. K-9s are primary responders to priority calls, such as shootings, robberies, and burglaries in progress. K-9 units regularly assist in criminal apprehensions, locating missing persons, narcotic detection, and explosive ordinance detection.

The Department has five K-9 teams. K-9 Murtaugh and K-9 Drax are dual-trained in apprehension and narcotic detection. K-9 Blue is trained in narcotic detection. K-9 Maverick is trained in explosive ordinance detection. And K-9 Liberty is trained in locating missing persons.

Our teams undergo a rigorous 480-hour handler course which prepares them for the various situations they will encounter during their tours of duty. All our teams train regularly to ensure they are ready for deployment at any moment. The teams re-certify annually in their respective categories to ensure they maintain the highest level of proficiency.

In 2022, the K-9 Unit had 68 deployments.





Operations Divisions: Patrol Support

Patrol Support consists of the Criminal Investigation Section and the Narcotics Unit. Patrol Support follows up on reported crimes and works to reduce the use and sale of illegal narcotics. During the past year, Patrol Support focused available resources on combating property and personal crimes while also addressing violent crimes and narcotic sales within neighborhoods.



Criminal Investigations Section (CIS)

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) combats crimes that target our residents and visitors. CIS detectives investigate persons, property, financial and identity fraud, missing persons, crimes against children, and human trafficking. A Florida Department of Law Enforcement grant enables detectives to investigate financial crimes committed against the elderly. Detectives also work with the Manatee County Homicide Investigations Task Force, FBI Violent Crimes Task Force, FBI Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and the Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force.

Narcotics Unit

The Narcotics Unit investigates illegal acts of prostitution and the illegal use or sale of narcotics. Members are assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force and Homeland Security (HSI) Task Force. The unit's community partners include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Coast Guard, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Custom and Border Protection, and surrounding local law enforcement agencies. Together with these community partners, the Narcotics Unit conducts short- and long-term investigations within the City. The Narcotics Unit will continue to follow up on citizen complaints, Crime Stoppers tips, and overdose deaths from the opium/fentanyl crisis.

2022 Seizures

Cocaine	Heroin	Meth	Pills	Marijuana	Money	Property
4,421.43/g	2,617.80/g	42,051.36/g	10,298/g	24,684.28/g	\$380,242.28	\$48,204



Honor Guard

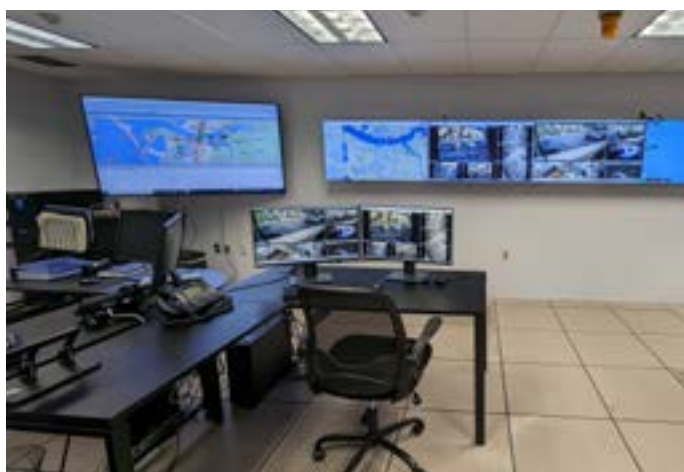
The Honor Guard unit has been active within the department for 35 years. It was established to provide honors for officers killed in the line of duty and has transitioned into a ceremonial unit over time. Personnel perform traditional color guard functions at parades, ceremonies, and charity functions, and participate in the intricate details inherent to line-of-duty deaths for fallen law enforcement officers. In 2022, the Honor Guard represented the department at Tampa Bay Rays games, Pittsburgh Pirates spring training games and Bradenton Marauders games.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team and Hostage Negotiation Team

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team comprises officers and detectives who serve in a dual role. Each elite team member is equipped and able to respond directly to the scene of an incident for immediate deployment to unusual occurrences, including barricaded suspects, high-risk search warrants, and other special assignments. SWAT team members train regularly and work to stay in top physical form. Members train on average 16 hours a month and participate in at least one full week of training per year.



Real Time Crime Investigative Center (RTCC)



The Real Time Crime Investigative Center is a new law enforcement tool being developed and implemented within the City. The RTCC uses new and emerging technologies and analytics to support and conduct investigations. Assigned personnel review incoming data in real time or as historical information and provide investigators with pertinent leads to help solve crimes. By turning raw data into actionable intelligence, the department's ability to identify criminal behavior and solve crimes is greatly enhanced. This progressive policing strategy and integration of technology enhance law enforcement's ability to identify criminal suspects, assist in successful prosecutions and reduce crime.



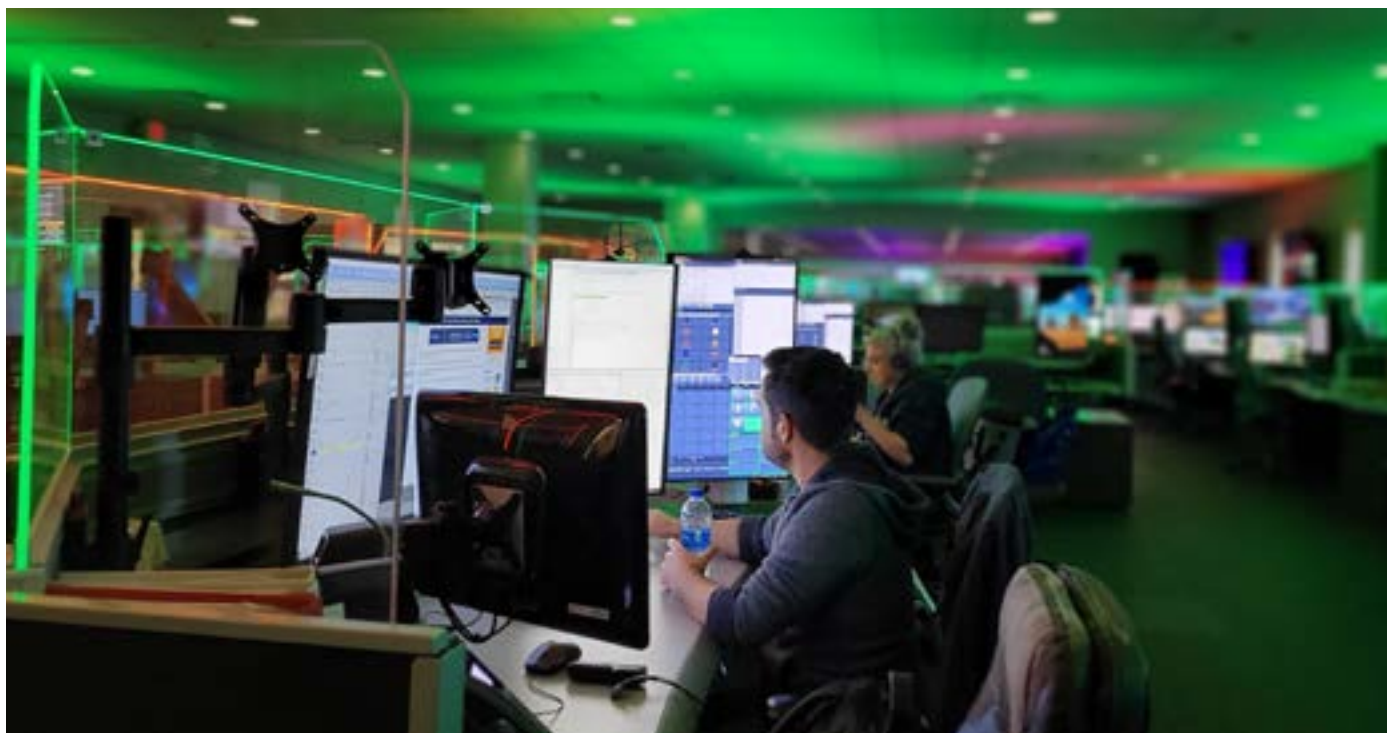
Administrative Services Division

The Administrative Services Division includes several sections: records, communications, crime scene investigations, personnel services, property and evidence, records, building maintenance, school crossing guards, front desk operations, city hall security and volunteers. The Records Department gathers and distributes information within the criminal justice system and responds to requests outside of the agency. A crucial component of the department's function is the processing of public records requests in a timely fashion and in accordance with state law. The Communications Center handles incoming 911 calls and dispatches the Bradenton Police and Fire Departments. The staff understands the need to provide professional, considerate assistance to those calling to request services. Separately, Front Desk operations handle non-emergency calls for service and provide security services for city hall. The Crime Scene Unit responds to major crime scenes for the photographing and processing of evidence. Equipment within the CSI laboratory allows investigators to process evidence collected from crime scenes and properly preserve evidence for use in court. Personnel within the Property and Evidence Section collect incoming property and evidence submitted during investigations. Clerks label, categorize and store the items within secured areas to maintain chain-of-custody. These items remain there until needed for court or until they can be lawfully disposed of. Personnel Services staff coordinate payroll, conduct new employee orientation, and oversee human resources issues. The staff also serve as liaisons for City Hall.

Reserve Officers

The Reserve Officer Program consists of retired officers from various backgrounds and skills in the law enforcement profession. These officers assist full-time staff by supplementing patrol shifts, working special events or emergencies, and providing specialized administrative services. During 2022, these officers, which included eight new officers, volunteered a total of 852.5 hours.





Communications

Our communications department is staffed around the clock by civilian public safety employees. Communications staff answer emergency and non-emergency calls and dispatch the Bradenton Police and Fire Departments. In the past year, communications relocated to the Manatee County Public Safety Building to work with county dispatchers in an updated state-of-the-art facility.

In 2022, Communications answered 18,867 Emergency 911 calls. They entered 90,664 calls for service for the Bradenton Police Department and 8,170 calls for service for the Bradenton Fire Department.

Emergency 911 calls	Bradenton Police Department Calls for Service	Bradenton Fire Department Calls for Service
18,867	90,664	8,170



Crime Scene Investigations

The Crime Scene Unit includes a Crime Scene Manager, a Lead Crime Scene Investigator, and a Crime Scene Investigator. This year the Crime Scene Unit welcomed a new CSI, who received extensive in-house and in-the-field training from the senior investigators. CSI members are available 24/7, 365 days a year. The Crime Scene Unit documents crime scenes and works to identify, process, analyze, preserve and transport evidence from scenes. Their main objective is to provide court-usable evidence, documentation and testimony in - but not limited to - various methods of latent fingerprint processing, DNA and biological fluid collection, footwear impressions, examination of evidence using an alternative light source and specialized photography to support the efforts of the various investigative units of the department. In 2022, the Crime Scene Unit responded to over 244 individual crime scenes and processed over 87 evidence service requests submitted to the Crime Lab. Crime Scene Unit employees participated in several job-relevant training webinars to continue their knowledge and improve techniques.



Property and Evidence



The Property and Evidence Unit stores, tracks, and maintains incoming property and evidence taken into custody and submitted during investigations. All items are labeled, categorized, and stored within secured areas to maintain the chain of custody. Evidence remains in departmental custody until needed for court or until it can be lawfully disposed of. At the end of 2022, the Property and Evidence Unit maintained custody of 41,627 property and evidence items. The unit received 4,439 property and evidence items, returned 488 items to their rightful owners, and donated 42 unclaimed items to local charities. Property and Evidence properly destroyed 4,845 items that were not returnable or that were no longer required to be maintained securely.



Records

The Records Department gathers, processes, and disseminates all investigative, supplemental, and traffic reports written by department personnel. This includes police reports and associated paperwork, digital report files, outside agency requests, and information received within the criminal justice system by our department. This section also tracks and processes all public records requests in a timely fashion, in accordance with state law, and identifies records available for destruction according to state records retention requirements. In 2022 the Records Section processed 10,415 police reports, and processed, disseminated, and fulfilled more than 4,453 public records.

Quartermaster

The Quartermaster oversees the expenditures and procurement of all personnel equipment, including supplying new hires and employees with standards-compliant equipment. The Quartermaster also ensures lethal and non-lethal weapons are stored, maintained, and distributed according to federal, state, and department regulations. In 2022, the Quartermaster was instrumental in procuring updated fleet vehicles. Toward the latter half of the year, the Quartermaster received and programmed new portable radios for the department. These radios will enhance communication between officers and dispatchers, increasing officer safety. The total operating and equipment expenditures in 2022 were \$161,399.

Building Maintenance

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

Volunteers

Our dedicated volunteers worked approximately 1,253 hours in 2022. Administrative volunteers Jan Ludwig, David Monderer, and Lynne Templin assist with filing training and personnel records. Additionally, Shane and Nieves Jenkins are longtime volunteers with the Bradenton Police Explorer Program. Notably, Judy Henshaw "retired" from her volunteer service after ten years of dedication to BPD. We miss her smiling face and fun demeanor around the station.





Crossing Guards

2022 was another challenging year for the Bradenton Police Department's School Crossing Guards as the City continued to emerge from the pandemic. Our 16 guards continue to provide a friendly face to students on their way to or from school around the City, including Sugg Middle School, Ballard Elementary School, Rogers Elementary School, Manatee Elementary School, J.P. Miller Elementary School, Sea Breeze Elementary School, and Moody Elementary School. Additionally, several crossing guards assist students who attend Prine Elementary, Palma Sola Elementary, and King Middle School. Our School Crossing Guards are a committed group. Our senior Crossing Guard, Samantha Donisi, is in her 38th year of service! Sam is the longest-serving employee in the City of Bradenton!

Parking

The Parking Unit's Parking Enforcement Specialist focuses on parking enforcement downtown. Areas of responsibility include the City's parking regulations, tracking of issued citations, and citation payment collections. All sworn Bradenton Police Department personnel also enforce the City's parking regulations, but in a broader effort citywide.

During the 2022 calendar year, 1,018 parking citations were issued citywide, down from 2,998 citations in 2021. Parking fines and fees collected are deposited into the City of Bradenton's General Fund.



Public Information Office

Our Public Information Office includes Captain Brian Thiers and broadcast journalist Meredith Frameli, who joined the Department in May 2022. The office is responsible for writing and disseminating media releases, photos, and videos, coordinating media interviews and all messaging through the Department's social media platforms and website.

In 2022, BPD's Facebook page added 8,715 new followers, an increase of 285% from 2021. Additionally, the Facebook page reached more than 2.8 million people, up 357% from 2021. 2022's top-performing social media post, a photo of the Manatee River as Hurricane Ian approached our area, reaching more than 248,000 people. A post about traffic congestion following Hurricane Ian reached nearly 147,000 people. Video views on BPD's Facebook page increased nearly 300% in 2022 over 2021, with more than 121,000 minutes viewed.

The Department's Instagram page added 1,349 followers, now topping 6,000. And nearly 1,500 new Twitter users followed the Department's feed.

Additionally, video content produced by the Public Information Office was featured by television networks and news organizations around the world. A single video posted to the Department's YouTube page now has nearly 350,000 views; the same video, posted by various news outlets, has been seen more than five million times.





New Civilian Employees

Sharon Bickell	School Crossing Guard
Julie Bryan	PT P&E Officer
Dennis Byrd	School Crossing Guard
Mark Cote	Front Desk Officer
Rosanna DeMarco	Records Clerk
Kathleen Ferraro	School Crossing Guard
Meredith Frameli	Digital Media Marketing/Public Information Specialist
Jeffrey Gueltzow	School Crossing Guard
Betty Harvey	School Crossing Guard
Claudia Johnson	School Crossing Guard
Josephine Paroginog	Custodian
Diane Perry	School Crossing Guard
Katherine Poynter	PT Recruiting Training Coordinator
George Staudt	School Crossing Guard
Kristina Rousseau	Communications 2
Jasmine Thomas	Communications 2
Michael Wall	Parking Enforcement Specialist
Rachel Williams	Records Clerk
Kelsey Windsor	Crime Scene Investigator



Department Chaplain's Message

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

According to Romans, Chapter 13, law enforcement is a divine call from God to be agents of peace and order. I believe that those who serve in this noble capacity, aid in demonstrating

Matthew 6:10, "On Earth as it is in Heaven," as Heaven is a place of perfect peace and order.

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

I love and honor my Bradenton PD family!

Pastor Don Sturiano





New Officers



Angel Alvarez-Garcia



Angelina Brady



Terrell Brown



Zachary Butterfield



Roderrickis Dozier



Wesley Germain



Julian Jackson



Nicolas Leeman



Salvatore Leonard



Emmanuel Ortiz



Samuel Ottman



Aaron Smith



**Assistant Chief
Joseph Wiesman**



Kevin Williams



Bradenton Blue Foundation

The Bradenton Blue Foundation is a non-profit organization developed to support officers and the community by raising funds for outreach, safety equipment, and specialized training.

The Bradenton Blue Foundation is grateful for the generous donations from the community and business owners. A special thank you to Wagner Realty for generously giving of their time, talents, and resources. The proceeds of the 2022 Wagner Realty Golf Classic, which was held in October benefited the Bradenton Blue Foundation.

The Hernando DeSoto Historical Society & The Goats of DeSoto generously donated \$10,000 in 2022 from fundraisers including the Cork's Cigar Bar Bartending Benefit on January 1st.

In 2022, the Foundation provided funds for the following:

- Vet care for Animal Cruelty Investigations
- Traffic wands for officer safety
- Candy for Halloween and Christmas outreach
- SWAT rifle plates
- First Aid/Trauma kits for officers
- Digital Media camera for Public Information Officer
- Carport for the Range
- Gift cards for Honoring the Badge event





Retirements

Thank you to these officers and civilians for their service to the City of Bradenton.

Philip Ajello	Police Officer
Danny Bench	School Resource Officer
Kelly Carr	Crime Analyst
Anthony Cerniglia	Police Sergeant
Josh Cramer	Assistant Chief
Jeremy Giddens	Police Captain
Kenneth (KB) Magown	Police Officer
Jerry Nelson	School Crossing Guard
Jason Nuttall	Police Officer
Lisa Reeder	Executive Assistant



Awards and Commendations



**Florida Police Chiefs Association
Life-Saving Award**
Officer Jessica Sirignano



2021 Distinguished Service Award
Officer Jason Nuttall



**Congressional Law Enforcement
Dedication and Professionalism Award**
Sergeant Aaron Pilant



**Congressional Law Enforcement
Dedication and Professionalism Award**
Lieutenant Phillip Waller



**Congressional Law Enforcement
Career Service Award**
Detective Jim Curulla



**Congressional Law Enforcement
Career Service Award**
Assistant Chief Josh Cramer



**Drug Free Manatee
Champion of Prevention Award
for Law Enforcement**
Officer Johan Waterman-Ortiz Shehorn



2021 Officer of the Year
Detective Todd Freed, Jr.



2022 First Quarter Officer Recognition
Officer Hannah Kalchbrenner



2022 Second Quarter Officer Recognition
Officer Joshua Sanchez



2022 Third Quarter Officer Recognition
Detective Nasheka Craddock



2022 Fourth Quarter Officer Recognition
Detective Jeff Beckley



2021 Civilian of the Year
Emily Bibb
Digital Media Specialist



2022 First Quarter Civilian Recognition
Maria Cadena
Lead Records Clerk



2022 Second Quarter Civilian Recognition
Amanda Wishon
Crime Scene Investigator



2022 Third Quarter Civilian Recognition
Ryan Conway
Communications



2022 Fourth Quarter Recognition
Josephine Paroginog
Custodian



2021 Volunteer of the Year
David Monderer



2022 First Quarter Volunteer
Nieves Jenkins
Bradenton Police Explorers Advisor



2022 Second Quarter Volunteer
Don Sturiano
Department Chaplain



2022 Third Quarter Volunteer
Lynne Templin



2022 Fouth Quarter Volunteer
Beth Eriksen
Honorary Volunteer



Movember 2022

Although having a beard is permitted at BPD, during the month of November, officers donated to the Movember Foundation to be able to grow their beards beyond the requirement. The Movember Foundation is one of the largest men's health organizations in the world. BPD has raised \$8,822 since 2016 in support of men's health.



1st Place
Officer Alex Wentland



2nd Place
Officer Jonathan Medina

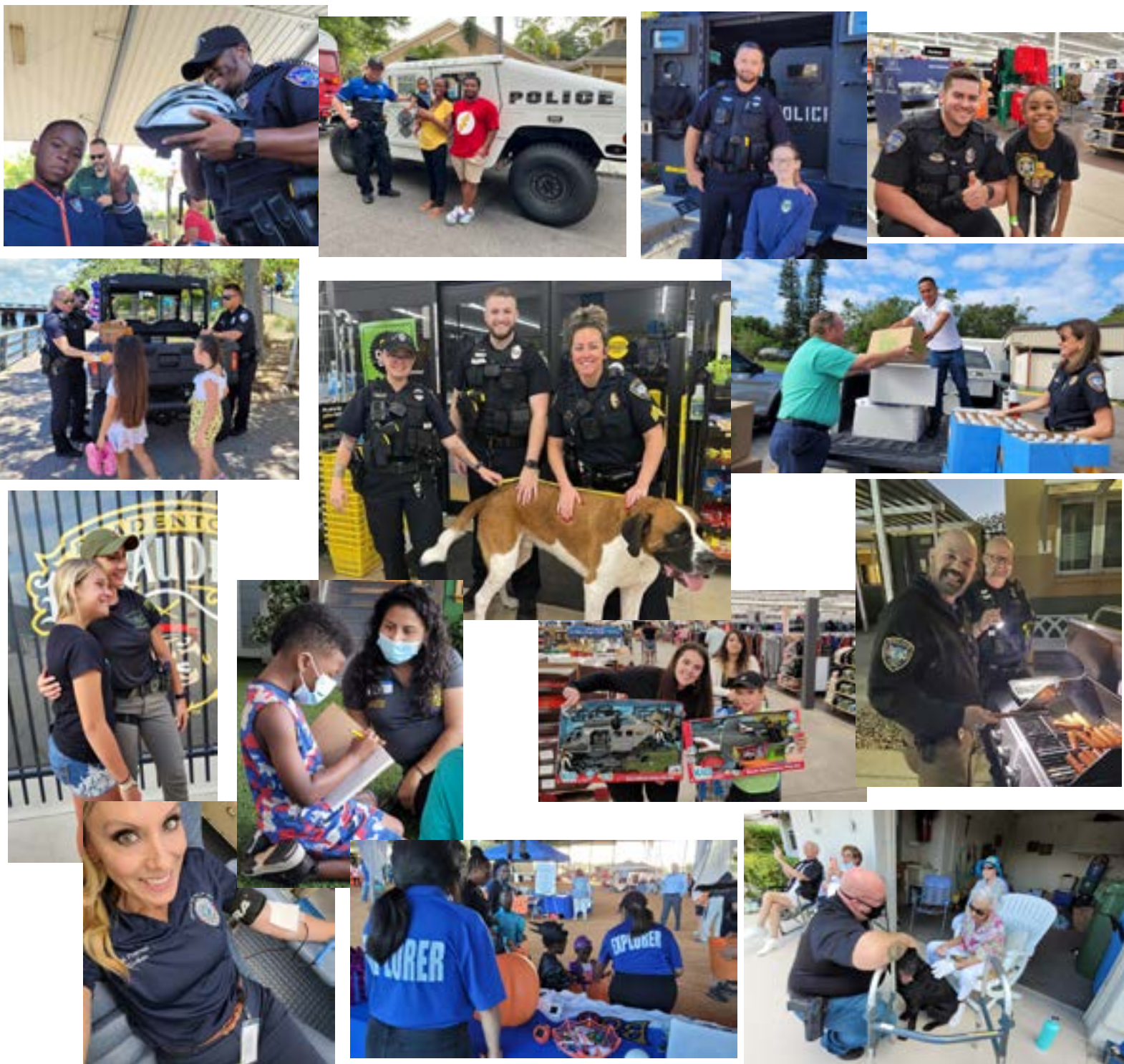


3rd Place
Detective Todd Freed, Jr.



Bradenton PD snapshot

During 2022, sworn officers and civilian staff volunteered their time with various organizations and events throughout the City of Bradenton. These are just some of the highlights of our year.









Community Support

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





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www.BradentonPD.com

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@BradentonPD

