



ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

SHERIFF

# Annual Report 2022

**Sheriff James R. Clarke, Jr.**

**Major Joseph Willard**



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# **Mission Statement**

The Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to protecting the lives, property, and rights of all citizens we have the honor of serving.





# Service Area

In order to effectively and efficiently serve the needs of the citizens, we have divided the county into four patrol zones. This is to balance the load of calls for service and reduce driving distances for the primary responding deputy.

## ZONE 1

All areas of the county south of Route 460; i.e. Carrsville, Walters, Zuni.

## ZONE 2

Central area of the county; i.e. Longview, Indika, Sandy Mount, Orbit.

## ZONE 3

Northwest area of the county; i.e. Central Hill, Pons, Raynor, Blounts Corner, Burwell's Bay, Morgart's Beach.

## ZONE 4

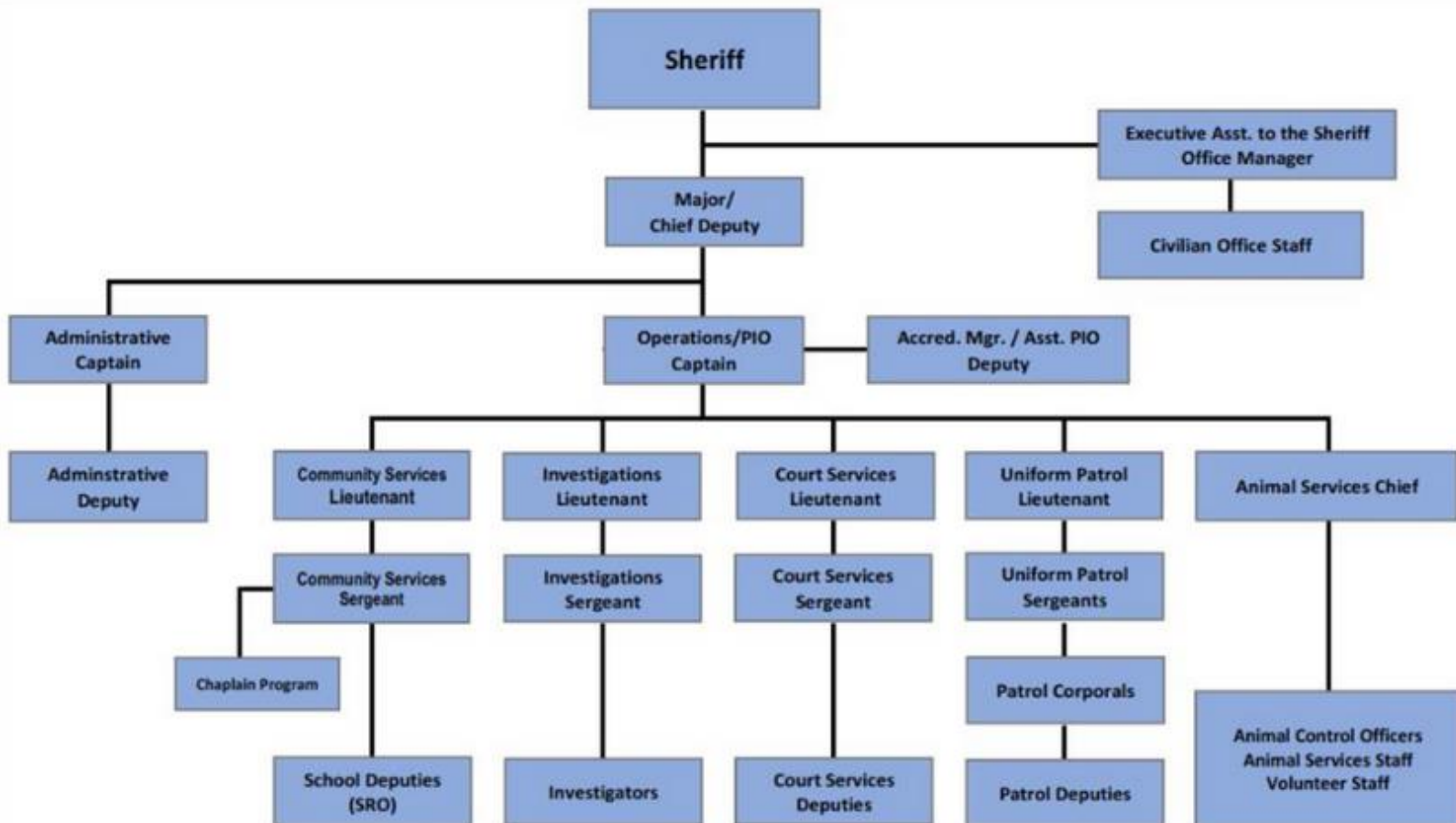
Route 17/10/258 Corridor; i.e. Carrollton, Rescue, Battery Park, Gatling Pointe, Bennis Grant and the Route 10 corridor between the Town of Smithfield limits to the Suffolk city line.



# Organizational Chart

The Sheriff's Office is divided into six divisions. These divisions include:

- Patrol Division
- Investigations Division
- Community Services Division/School Resource Officers
- Court Services Division
- Administrative Division
- Animal Services Division



March 2022

# Command Staff

***Sheriff James R. Clarke, Jr.***



Major Joseph Willard



Captain Thomas Potter



Captain Ronald Bryan



# **Patrol Division**

The Patrol Division is commanded by Lieutenant Kimberly Griffin. It is supervised by Sergeant Adam Cofield, Sergeant Eric Bertram, Sergeant Josh Bunch, and Sergeant Adam Cornwell. In addition, Corporals Beale, Hancock, Deacon, Nicholson, and Marshall assist with supervision. There were some promotional changes in 2022 identified in the Personnel Highlights section of this document that are not recorded here. There are 28 deputies (not including supervisors) assigned to the routine patrol function within the agency.

The division provides 24-hour law enforcement services to the citizens of Isle of Wight County. Patrol deputies are the initial responders to calls for service and are responsible for conducting both criminal and traffic crash investigations. The division's definition of providing law enforcement services is much more than just taking a report or writing a traffic summons; it means working with the community to prevent crime, proactively address traffic concerns, and partner with the community to solve issues that affect them.

Three patrol deputies have additional duties as dog handlers. The Patrol Unit retired tracking K9 Bella and lost K9 Benny to cancer in December of 2021. The unit activated one K9 in 2022, K9 Nova. Sergeant Bertram is Nova's handler, and the team is trained in Explosives Detection. There are 2 other K9s being trained and will be ready to be on patrol in early 2023. K9 Mack and handler Deputy S. Peed. K9 Mack was generously donated by Hardimans Howlin' Hounds. K9 Max and Deputy M. Forni. K9 Max was rescued from our own Isle of Wight County Animal Shelter.



# **Investigations Division**

The Investigations Division is commanded by Lieutenant Susan Morgan and supervised by Sergeant Kris Coughlin. There are five deputies assigned as investigators. Our newest investigator, Karen Hanley was nominated and received an award from the Ruritan Club for her dedication and hard work at the Sheriff's Office since 2014.

Investigators worked a Dollar General robbery where multiple citizens were held hostage at gun point. Investigators were able to connect the suspect to 13 other Dollar General robberies in the area. The same suspect in the Dollar General robberies shot a Deputy in Charles City during a robbery.

While investigating a sexual assault case, it was discovered there were multiple juvenile victims associated with the same adult suspect. The suspect was subsequently arrested on Manufacturing of Child Pornography, Distribution of Narcotics to a Minor, and Rape of a Minor.

Investigators worked the Maurice Doctor homicide and the the mother-n-law of the victim was arrested for Second Degree Murder. The investigation uncovered facts that lead to the charge being upgraded to First Degree Murder.

The Investigations Division executed multiple search warrants in the county and located 146 pounds of Marijuana, 1 machine gun and 3 other firearms from convicted felons. Two arrests were made from these crimes, where it was discovered both suspects were a part of a nationwide drug trafficking organization. The Sheriff's Office seized \$10K in cash and \$110K in property. The property seized was purchased from drug proceeds. The dedicated work of the unit led to uncovering an over one-million dollar Medicare fraud scheme involving the suspects and their family members. The case will be prosecuted federally.

The Multi-Disciplinary Unit continues to accept and evaluate local cases. Investigators with the IOW Sheriff's Office continue to take active leads on many teams. The team meets and discusses cases for interagency responses and interventions. Cases include child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse and neglect, violent crimes, and fraud. The unit also works with our other law enforcement partners to combat crime on a regional level. Investigator Van Wassen continues to serve as a Task Force Officer (TFO) on a Federal Task Force operated by the Department of Homeland Security. This task force will enable the Sheriff's office to work across jurisdictional lines and to bring federal resources to bear on cases here in Isle of Wight County.



# **Investigations Division (cont)**

Sergeant Coughlin and Investigator Haskins are assigned to the Meherrin Drug Task Force. This Task Force is made up of agents from the Virginia State Police, IOW Sheriff's Office investigators, Southampton Sheriff's Office detectives, Franklin Police Department detectives, and a detective from the Emporia Police Department. In 2022, the task force worked 39 felony cases which resulted in 39 arrests and two search warrants executed. The total amount of illegal drugs seized was 596.1 gm of cocaine, 766.7 gm of crack cocaine, 40 dos of OxyContin, 15 lbs. of Methamphetamines, and 29.8 gm of Fentanyl. Total Street value of Illegal Drugs seized was \$46,300.00 and total street US Currency seized was \$3,120.00.

The Sheriff's Office Gang Unit was developed to combat the growing gang issue in the county. Since its creation, the unit has filed multiple gang participation charges and classified dozens of street gang members and outlaw motorcycle gang members. Investigators also assisted NCIS and surrounding jurisdiction with gang related homicides and robberies. Inv. D. Edwards and Inv. M. Haskins were nominated for and received the Top Cop Award in December 2022 for their countless hours spent in identifying gang members and creating a sharing network to keep surrounding jurisdictions informed on the activities of these gang members.

The Digital Forensics Unit and Lab continues to grow and work child pornography cases. The Digital Forensics Investigators had multiple electronic devices to examine from each of these cases to include cellphones, computers, hard drives, thumb drives, and GPS devices. This would include the Digital Investigators examining electronics involving child pornography for other jurisdictions that needed this service to further their investigations.

Investigators Van Wassen and Lacy continue their work with the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children (SOVA-ICAC) Task Force and The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to investigate child pornography and exploitation cases. In 2022, Investigator Lacy made 4 ICAC related arrests and Investigator Van Wassen made 3 arrests. These included Traveling Child Exploitation, Distribution of Child Pornography and Possession of Child Pornography cases. These Investigators continue to work closely with our regional, state, and federal partners to protect the children of Isle of Wight County. This past year Inv. Van Wassen forensically examined over 67 electronic devices.

Investigator Lacy forensically examined over 47 electronic devices resulting in the processing and analysis of 5 terabytes of data. He recertified as an operator and analyst for Cellbrite, a digit forensic program. Inv. Lacy received specialized training and certification in conducting Freenet Investigations, BitTorrent Investigations as well as complex digital forensic investigations. These tools, along with previously obtained training resulted in the apprehension of 7 individuals by our investigative team.



## **Investigations Division (cont)**

With all the training our Digital Forensic investigators have, it was our honor to add an additional Investigator to our team. In October of 2022, Inv. Lacy took on the task to train with K9 Pixel and she became a part of our team and family. Pixel is an Electronic Storage Device Detection K9. She is specially trained to recognize the unique chemical scent of electronic storage devices, such as USB drives, hard drives and SIM cards. Often used to store child sexual abuse material (CSAM),

These small storage devices are easily hidden by predators and difficult to locate during search warrants by human investigators alone. The ESD Detection K9's ability to quickly locate evidence during investigations is immensely helpful in prosecuting offenders and identifying survivors. Pixel has had 5 successful deployments since coming on board. K9 Pixel assist with surrounding agency search warrants as needed and she is the first Electronic Storage Device Detection K9 in the Hampton Roads Region.



# **Community Services Division**

The Community Services Division was created in December of 2021. It is commanded by Lieutenant Ryan Acey and supervised by Sergeant Alex Johnson. The Community Services Division encompasses several duties including community relations, recruitment, the Chaplaincy Program, and the School Resource Officer Program.

The Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office is extremely committed to building a strong relationship with our community. The Sheriff's Office has been involved in multiple community events this year. Some of these events included K9 demonstrations for schools and clubs, police car demos for birthday parties, community festivals, rock wall amusement, and multiple career days. The Sheriff Office also continues to make great strides in keeping our elderly community safe by doing presentations at our local AARP Association meetings as well as TRIAD meetings. These presentations consist of education on fraud and safety of the elderly community. We also maintain a partnership with Project Lifesaver to provide tracking devices to those who qualify for the service, free of charge. The Sheriff's office hosted its annual National Night Out event at The Nest on 17 this year. The event brought a large amount of the community and law enforcement together for fun and entertainment. All deputies are committed to building this strong bond with our community every day they are on shift. We know without the support of our community this job is impossible!

## **School Resource Deputies**

The Sheriff's Office places great emphasis on the safety and security of the students attending and employees working at our county schools. As such, deputies have full-time assignments in the school system. Through a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services, Isle of Wight County now has a deputy stationed is every school.

Assignments throughout the day for our SROs include, be but are not limited to, safety checks of the school and school grounds daily, threat assessments, traffic control, monitoring pedestrian traffic in and out of school, all criminal investigations that have occurred on school property and much more. SROs at primary school levels also instruct the D.A.R.E. program to all fifth-grade classes which teach our youth essential decision-making skills, not only for substance abuse but for everyday life.

In addition to the full-time School Resource Officers, patrol deputies, administrators, and court services deputies routinely check the elementary schools throughout the school day to maintain a highly visible presence as well as interact with the students and staff. During the calendar year of 2022, this accounted for 386 checks totaling 256 hours of additional law enforcement presence within the schools.



# **Court Services Division**

The Court Services Division is commanded by Lieutenant Donnie Brown and supervised by Sergeant Mike Tuck. In addition to the Lieutenant and Sergeant, the division is staffed by four full-time deputies and four part-time deputies.

This division is responsible for the safety and security of the courthouse and its occupants. This is done by controlling access and screening persons who enter the building and by mitigating any security concerns that may arise. The unit works closely with other departments in the courts building to provide security advice.

Deputies act as security for all court proceedings and protect all judges while in the courthouse. Prisoner security and safety is also provided while prisoners are temporarily housed at the courthouse for their court hearings and proceedings.

Other duties include:

The transportation of juveniles to and from the detention center.

Transportation of Temporary Detention Orders (TDOs), Emergency Custody Orders (ECO).

Travelling out of state to Extradite fugitives arrested in other states.

Service of all Civil Process.

The unit provided court security and bailiff duties for 12,099 court hearings.

Civil Processes Statistics:

11,348 total civil papers served that include 126 Evictions, 28 Writs, Levies, and Repossessions.

During the year the courthouse security received a new x-ray machine and new walk-through metal detectors to replace the aging equipment.



# **Administrative Division**

The Administrative Services Division is commanded by Captain Ronald P. H. Bryan, Jr.

The responsibilities of this division include, but are not limited to, FOIA compliance, Subpoena compliance, managing the paperwork flow to include incident reports, crash reports, traffic summonses, criminal warrants, case files, and civil process documents. Another critical function of this division is to ensure Virginia State Police, and other agency requirements are fulfilled for submissions of incident reports, crash reports, and warrant clearances. Crime analysis, statistical analysis, special projects, crime prevention, applicant fingerprinting, and technical services are also functions of this division.

## ***Agency Highlights***

Received our third Accreditation award from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Coalition (VLEPSC). The mission of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission is to advance law enforcement professionalism through the establishment of professional standards and the administration of a formal mechanism by which Virginia agencies can be systematically measured, evaluated, and updated.

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Reestablished the Special Response Team (SRT). Their purpose is to bring a successful conclusion to critical high-risk situations, using specially equipped and highly trained personnel, in such a fashion as to minimize the risk of harm to the citizens of our community, law enforcement personnel, and suspects.

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Established a D.A.R.E. program and certified three D.A.R.E. instructors. In 2022 Isle of Wight County school children began to benefit from D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), the highly acclaimed program that gives kids the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence.

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## ***Personnel Highlights***

Five new positions were funded through a Department of Criminal Justice Services Grant. Those positions were used to secure a deputy in every school in Isle of Wight County, including the elementary schools. We filled these positions, and cleared 15 deputies for duty in 2022.

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Deputy Johnny Boone, Deputy Ethan Enderlin, and Deputy Tyler Ezzell graduated from the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy. All three successfully completed Field Training and were released for full duty.

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2 Deputies Retired in 2022:  
Investigator Burt Nurney, 40 years of Service.  
Sergeant Joseph Hopko, 20 years of Service.

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Deputy Thomas Deacon and Deputy Christopher Hancock were promoted to Patrol Corporals.

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Corporal Eric Bertram was promoted to Patrol Sergeant. Sergeant Bertram also took over responsibilities for the operation and training of the agencies K9 and handlers.

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Corporal Adam Cornwell was promoted to Patrol Sergeant.

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## ***Agency Training***

- ▶ Captain Tommy Potter graduated from the 283rd Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy. The FBI National Academy offers ten weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend.
  - ▶ Lieutenant Kim Griffin graduated from the 51st Police Executive Leadership School. The PELS program, conducted in cooperation with the University of Richmond and the Virginia Association of chiefs of Police is aimed at challenging participants to reflect upon their own leadership competency and examine ways of achieving both personal and professional growth.
- ▶ Lieutenant Ryan Acey and Lieutenant Kim Griffin completed the FBI-LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute. A cutting edge 4 1/2-day program built especially for supervisors and middle managers with the goal of enhancing their leadership competencies.
- ▶ Corporal Tom Deacon and Deputy Mathew Forni successfully completed the Crime Prevention Specialist Certification Program.
- ▶ The Marine Unit attended the 16th annual US Coast Guard, Steven Todd Dooley Search and Rescue Forum. The Search and Rescue (SAR) Forum is an annual event to strengthen regional interagency partnerships and communication, as well as improve the life-saving processes and skills required of search and rescue agencies.
- ▶ Added an additional five Field Training Officers. These deputies are considered a role model, clearly communicating the expectations of training, teaching policies of the department, and correctly applying concepts learned in the classroom to their everyday duties.
- ▶ Organized and executed a dynamic multiagency, mass casualty Active Shooter Drill in the county schools. IOWSO incorporated actors in professional stage makeup, mock dispatch with real-time emergency dispatching, real-time responses and live-action sights and sounds.



**Awards  
&  
Recognitions**

➤ ***Isle of Wight County Ruritan Club, Deputy of the Year:***

Investigator K. Hanley

➤ ***American Legion Outstanding Public Service Award:***

Deputy R. Warren

➤ ***Isle Award:***

***Georgie D. Tyler Middle School, "EMPOWER"***

Sergeant A. Johnson

***Isle of Wight County Schools, "LEAD"***

Sergeant A. Johnson

➤ ***Greater Hampton Roads Crime Line Top Cop Award:***

Investigator D. Edwards

Investigator M. Haskins

➤ ***Virginia Society of the Sons' of the American Revolution:***

***Life Saving Award***

Deputy J. Boone and Corporal B. Nicholson

***Law Enforcement Commendation***

Deputy M. Forni

➤ ***Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office Deputy of the Quarter:***

Deputy M. Forni

Deputy R. Franklin

Deputy P. Gwaltney





***Equipment***

▶ 16 Vehicles

▶ 2 Jet Skis – Acquired at no cost through military surplus program. Used for shallow water search and rescue.

▶ 12 Flock Cameras - License Plate Readers will capture specific vehicles on dates and times in and out of the county. This allows us to further our investigative abilities and deters criminals.

▶ Matterport 3D Imaging Camera – Captures 2d spaces to an all-in-one 3D space. Then transforms real-life spaces into immersive digital twin models. Matterport empowers us to capture and connect rooms to create truly interactive 3D models of spaces and enhances investigations.

# *Animal Services Division*

The Animal Services Division is managed by Animal Control Chief Roy Richards.

The Isle of Wight Sheriff's Office (IOWSO) Animal Services Division is committed to public safety and animal protection through its shelter facility, adoption programs, community education, and animal law enforcement.

Our philosophy is to promote responsible pet ownership and to provide care of all animals with a commitment to professionalism, integrity, and compassion. Animal Control Officers (ACOs) promptly respond to animal emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. "Animal Emergencies" are defined as situations in which a domestic or wild animal is in danger or is creating a danger to the community.

The Division has an authorized staff of eight an Animal Control Chief, Four Animal Control Officers, along with two full time and one part time kennel staff. Staff are assisted by a wonderful volunteer network of citizens that help with cleaning, socialization, dog walking, and evaluating the animals housed at the shelter.

In addition to the enforcement of animal laws, the Animal Services Division is responsible for the operation of the county animal shelter. The animal shelter is a 6,820 square foot building that was built in 2011 and opened in July of that year. It contains 44 canine runs, 68 cat kennels, and separate small rooms for isolating animals and for offering adoptive families a chance to become acquainted with prospective pets.

## *2022 Accomplishments*

All ACOs received firearms training and issued ballistic vests.

Hosted Rabies, Licensing and Microchip clinics with the help of Banfield Pet Hospital.

Expanded additional partnerships with other animal care facilities.

Improved sanitization, vaccination, and placement procedures within the facility.

Extended socialization of feral/trapped community cats.

Continued to partner with other animal care agencies to conduct several adoption events at the Isle of Wight Animal Care Facility, the Farmers Market, PetSmart, and other local areas.





# Animal Services Division (cont)

- Received 1,207 animals in the facility (dogs, cats, other)
- Facilitated the adoption of 360 animals.
- Facilitated the transfer of 214 animals.
- Reunited 188 animals with their families.
- Responded to 1,734 calls for service.

During the year there were:  
 502 intakes of dogs.  
 665 intakes of cats.  
 50 'other' intakes

At year end the shelter held:  
 86 dogs and 62 cats.

Disposition	Count	Percentage
Carryover from 2021	70	12%
Reclaimed	166	29%
Adopted	121	21%
Transferred	55	10%
Died in Custody	0	0%
Euthanized	74	13%
Carryover to 2023	86	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>100%</b>

Disposition	Count	Percentage
Carryover from 2021	136	17%
Reclaimed	18	2%
Adopted	201	25%
Transferred	151	19%
Died in Custody	18	2%
Euthanized	205	26%
Carryover to 2023	62	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>100%</b>



# **Statistical Overview**

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

<b>Performance Measures/Statistics</b>	<b>CY 2021</b>	<b>CY 2022</b>	<b>%Change</b>
Calls for Service	43,356	46,981	8.36%
Average Response Time	12:36	10:45	-14.68%
Mental Health Related Transports	79	105	32.91%
Traffic Stops	2,276	2,538	11.51%
Traffic Summons	1,758	1,805	2.67%
Traffic Crashes	885	786	-11.19%
Warrants Served	1,257	1,180	-6.13%
Civil Process Served	8,568	11,348	32.45%
School Checks	244	386	58.20%
Gun Permits Processed	845	973	15.15%
Incident Reports	2,664	2,623	-1.54%
Crime- Property Related	463	431	-6.91%
Crime- Fraud Related	118	112	-5.08%
Crime- Person Related	258	273	5.81%
Crime- Society Related	339	296	-12.68%
Crimes (Total of all four categories)	1,178	1,112	-5.60%

VIRGINIA



# **Statistical Overview (cont.)**

## Select Group A Offenses

### Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office Select Group A Offenses 2022 ( 5 year comparison)

CRIME TYPE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5 YEAR AVG
Homicide 09A	1	0	1	1	1	0.8
Rape 11A	3	2	4	3	0	2.4
Robbery 120	5	0	5	2	5	3.4
Agg. Assault 13A	19	15	26	21	34	23.0
Burglary 220	31	27	13	16	30	23.4
Larceny 23*	151	155	176	210	186	175.6
MV Theft 240	18	15	11	20	15	15.8
Arson 200	0	2	0	2	0	0.8
Totals	293	228	216	236	271	245.2

*This data excluded crime reports made to the town police departments (Smithfield PD and Windsor PD). However, they may include crimes that occurred within those self-reporting jurisdictions, if those crimes were specifically reported to, and investigated by, the Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office.*