



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF HOLLY SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Methodology Change.....	4
Message from the Chief	5
Organizational Chart	6
By the Numbers	7
Training, Recruitment, and Personnel	8
Newly Hired Department Members	9
Awards and Achievements	10
Special Recognitions	13
Calls for Service Data	15
Population Growth Five Year Trend	15
Crime Trends Analyses	16
Incident-Based Reporting - Property Crime	16
Incident-Based Reporting - Violent Crime	17
Arrest Data	18
Traffic Operations	19
Traffic Stop Demographic Data	19
Traffic Stop Enforcement Actions	19
Motor Vehicle Collisions	20
Use of Force	21
Community Engagement	22
Conclusion	24





INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report highlights the Town of Holly Springs' continued commitment to safety and the Police Department's dedication to "Purposeful Policing." The Town consistently maintains a low crime rate compared to Wake County overall, the State of North Carolina, and national averages for both property and violent crimes. **In 2023, Holly Springs' violent crime rate was 33 times lower, and its property crime rate was over 16 times lower than Wake County as a whole**, according to the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) Summary Statistics.

Due to the federal transition from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) model to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) model, crime rate comparisons within North Carolina are only available for UCR formatted data through 2023. Due to this shift, an analysis of like datasets of the Department's statistics confirms that the town's total crime index has remained stable and exceptionally low in 2024 by most commonly accepted measures.



Key findings in this report include a rise in total assault offenses from 142 to 153 incidents. Of these, 84% were simple assaults, while aggravated assaults slightly decreased from 26 incidents in 2023 to 25 in 2024. Robberies increased from two in 2023, to five reported incidents in 2024. Two of these were shopliftings that escalated when items were taken by physical force. One of these was committed by a co-worker, one by a domestic partner, and the last was a delayed report alleged to occur between juveniles. Motor vehicle thefts also rose, from 11 incidents to 24 in the last year. This increase is attributed to two primary trends: thefts of Kia and Hyundai vehicles often perpetrated by groups of juveniles who simply exploit a design flaw in the ignition mechanisms, and the sophisticated thefts of high-performance Dodge products linked to an organized criminal element. Both groups originated from outside of Holly Springs.

Conversely, burglaries saw a significant decline of 35%, partly due to the apprehension of a serial commercial burglar through a regional effort that included Holly Springs investigators. Larceny offenses also dropped by 38%, supported by high visibility, data-driven, deterrent patrols, and pro-active investigative efforts, as well as collaboration with retail businesses. Larcenies from motor vehicles also decreased below the five-year average. Sexual assaults also presented a deep decline of 42% from 24 to 14, with all but one minor incident having a known acquaintance between the victim and suspect.

As the region continues to experience significant growth, the Town has seen a moderate increase in the number of vehicles on its roadways. Despite this rise in traffic, coupled with ongoing roadway construction, there was only a slight rise in the overall number of collisions. However, crashes involving injuries increased from 129 to 140, a majority of which indicating the patients were treated and released on the scene, or only sustained minor injuries. Sadly, there was one fatal collision involving a motorcyclist, consistent with the previous year.

Although no community is free of crime, the numbers cited above, continue to validate that the Town of Holly Springs remains one of the safest communities, especially for its size, both in the State of North Carolina and the nation. As the Town, and surrounding region, continues to grow the Holly Springs Police Department is constantly looking for innovative ways to deter and solve crime and strengthen our cooperative partnerships with other regional law enforcement agencies and our community. Combined with our evidence-based strategies, we will maintain the exceptional level of public safety and high-quality of life enjoyed in our Town.



SPECIAL NOTE

Data Methodology Update

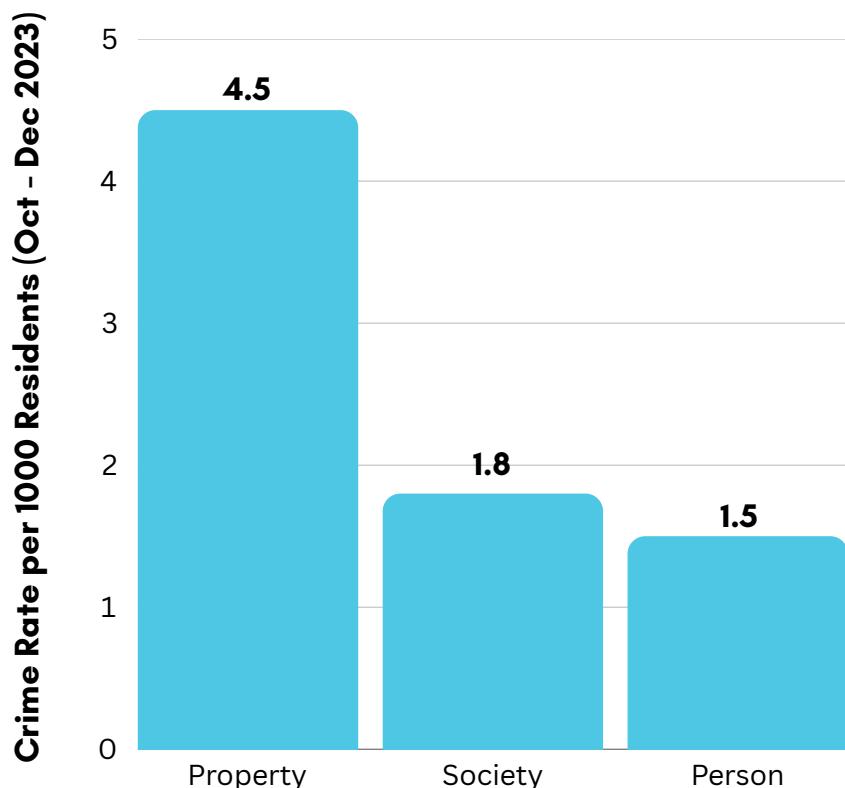
In 2024, the Holly Springs Police Department adopted new reporting methods to align with state and federal guidelines. Crime reporting categories now follow the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), replacing the previous Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) framework. This transition expands the scope of reported offenses, with Group A Crimes encompassing a broader range of criminal activities than the formerly reported Part I Crimes.

Additionally, the reporting period has shifted from the October-September federal fiscal year to a standard Calendar Year format. The department also onboarded a crime analyst as a part of our mission to ensure purposeful policing, enabling more comprehensive analyses, including counts for incidents involving multiple offense types.

As a result of these updates, inconsistencies may appear when comparing current data with previous annual reports, which were calculated under different methodologies. These changes reflect the department's commitment to enhancing accuracy and transparency in crime reporting.

For more information on the effect of NIBRS on crime reporting, visit ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs

THREE MONTH GAP PERIOD FROM PREVIOUS REPORT



MESSAGE *from the Chief*

The officers, telecommunicators and professional staff that make up the Holly Springs Police Department (HSPD) have continued to provide outstanding service to our community over the last year. The low crime rate and high quality of life that our residents, businesses, and visitors enjoy demonstrates this ongoing dedication.

Throughout 2024, members of the department rose to the occasion to not only serve our community, but helped other jurisdictions that were in dire need of assistance after Hurricane Helene, one of the worst disasters the State of North Carolina has ever experienced. During the next year, we intend to maintain our commitments to public service, constant improvement and enhanced organizational development.

Hurricane Helene presented challenges here in Holly Springs, but nothing compared to the devastation experienced in Western North Carolina. When the Asheville Police Department made an urgent request for mutual aid to assist with disaster relief operations, the HSPD answered the call by organizing a regional task force comprised of four additional agencies to provide law enforcement, area security, and preserving order. In total, 15 HSPD officers deployed to one of the areas most critically affected by the storm. Additionally, the Department sent its Quartermaster and the recently hired Emergency Management Specialist to help Asheville public safety agencies better organize their recovery efforts and assist in navigating the State and Federal disaster aid processes.

Over the course of the last year, our officers were no less selfless within our own community in Holly Springs. Officers were confronted with life threatening situations, apprehending armed felons and rushed into burning buildings to help evacuate elderly and handicapped residents. They revived patients in significant medical distress and recovered critically missing people. Detectives relentlessly pursued and solved complex investigations, including a regional commercial burglary trend and an aggravated assault with a firearm. The department enhanced its capabilities by adding a crime analyst, crisis negotiators, new technologies and a suite of wellness endeavors; all in an effort to provide even greater service delivery to our Town.

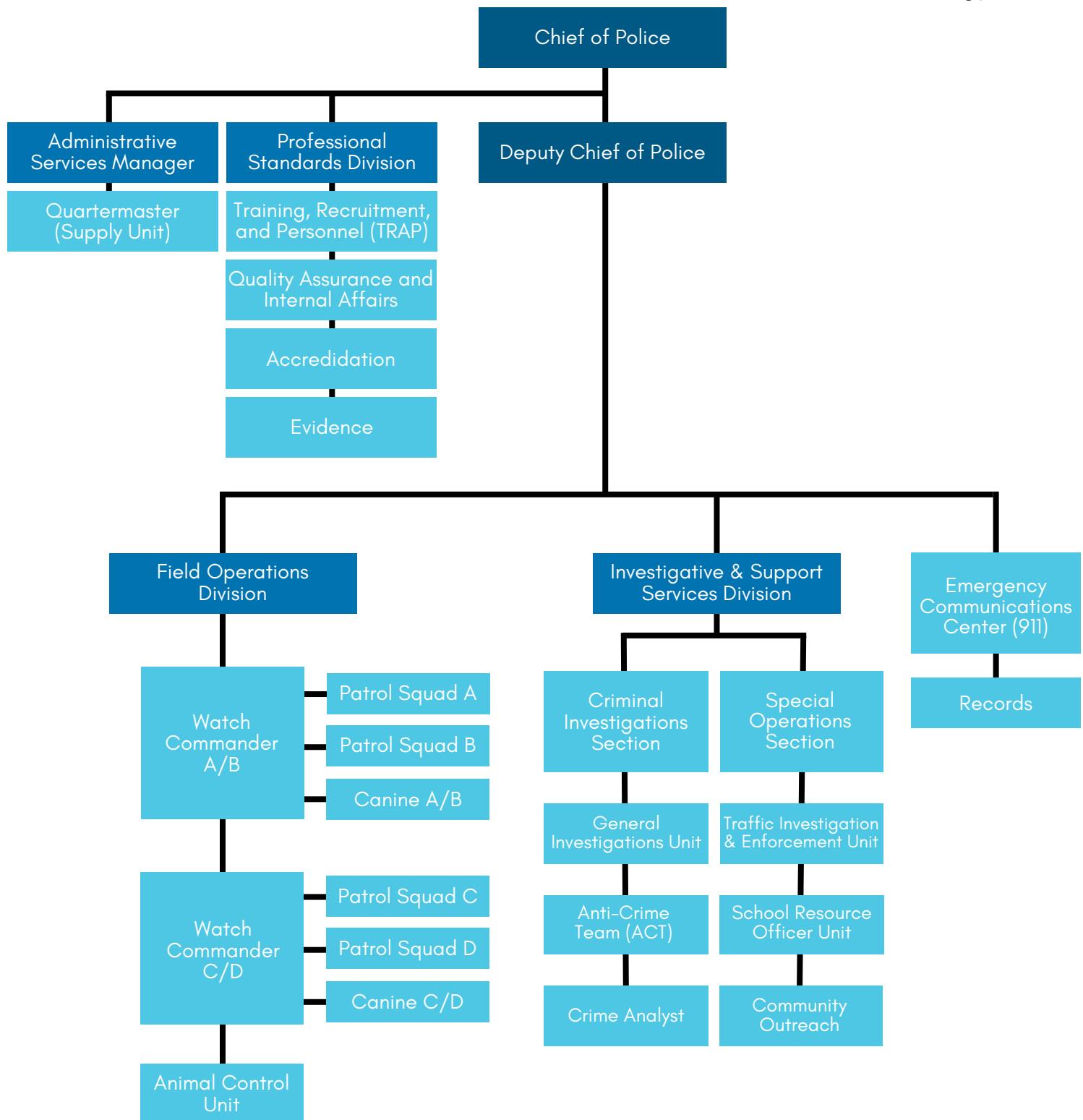
The department has continued to build upon its strong foundation of community engagement by hosting or participating in over 125 annual events, from scouting and homeowner association meetings, to the July 5th fireworks celebration at Sugg Farm and the Holly Days Parade on Main Street. The men and women of the Holly Springs Police Department are grateful for the enduring support they receive and are pleased to continue providing innovative and professional service to our community.



CHIEF PAUL J. LIQUORIE



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



HOLLY SPRINGS POLICE

by the numbers



125

community events



2800

training hours completed
by staff



340

pounds of unwanted
medications collected



90

commands understood by
wellness dog Kona



20%

of officers are female



64,977

calls for service



TRAINING, RECRUITMENT, AND PERSONNEL

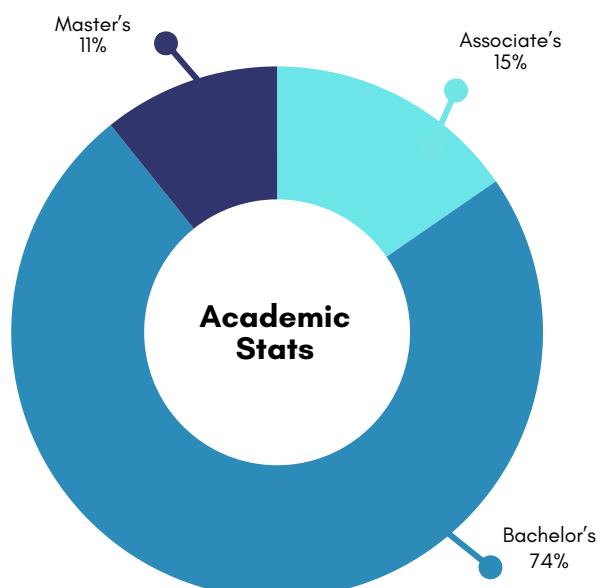
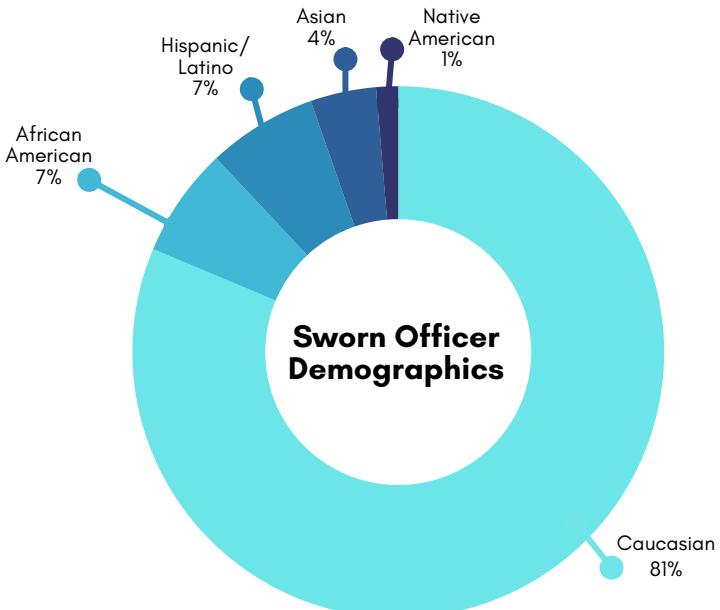
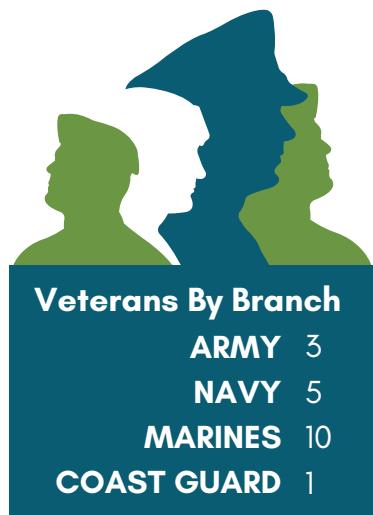
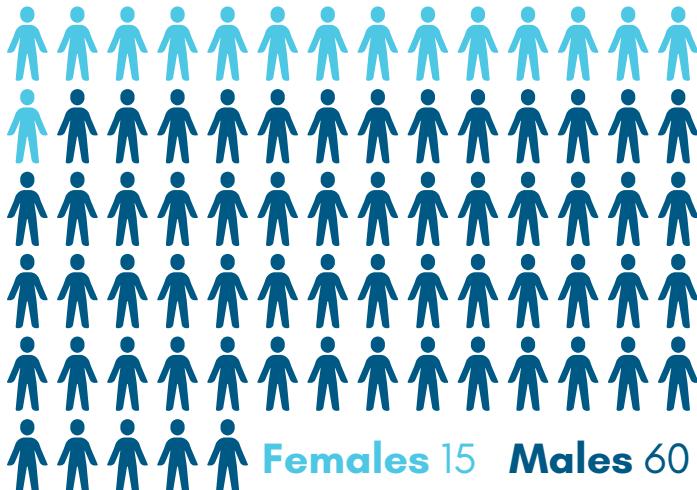


**Total Full Time
Employees**

99

**Total Sworn
Officers**

75



HOLLY SPRINGS POLICE

newly hired members



Megan Wells
November 23, 2023



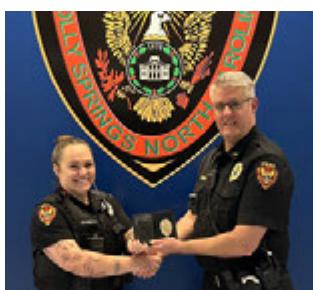
Dwight Palyok
November 24, 2023



Cozy Jackson
March 1, 2024



Damion Younts
April 29, 2024



Brittany Gamboa
May 6, 2024



Reid Thomas
May 7, 2024



Quinn Waters
June 10, 2024



Mark Vanhouten
July 26, 2024



Elliot Warren
September 20, 2024



Andrew Kesick
October 14, 2024



Olivia Bateman
November 22, 2024



Kyle Krickovich
December 9, 2024



Stephanie Griffin
December 11, 2024



Shawn Wani
December 16, 2024



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



PROMOTIONS



Deputy Chief of Police
Jay Bruner



Sergeant
Joshua Kinney
Veronica Senese
Mitchell Ham
Scott St. Clair



Detective
Tony Minchella
Erik Seda



Captain
Jessica McMillan
Nathan Downs



Lieutenant
Melissa Ottaway
David Bock
Jeremy Rushton

Corporal
Juan Chirino
James Higgins
Michael Laffan
Anna Ring

DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR PERFORMANCE

Unit Citation
Patrol Squad A

Chief's Awards
Nathan Downs
Melissa Ottaway
Robert Parrish

Life Saving Awards
Nathan Downs
Siobhan Juarez
Richard Kocher
Michael Laffan
Anthony Locklear
Katelyn O'Brien
Megan Wells

Community Service Award
Jeremy Rushton

Civilian Commendation
Joel Conrad

Bronze Medal of Valor Awards
Edgar Hernandez
Cozy Jackson
Tony Minchella

Certificates of Recognition
Laura Fernandez
Kassie Langdon
Charles Sacco

Commendation Awards
Wayne Boykin
Jay Bruner

David Bugallo
Juan Chirino
Hilary Dieckmann
James Higgins
Michael Laffan
Alan Laws
Anthony Locklear
Sayed Naqwe
Dwight Palyok
Carmen Perez
Erik Seda
Scott St. Clair

LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATES

Advanced
Corporal James Higgins
Master Officer Edward Martinez
Master Officer Sayed Naqwe
Officer Megan Wells
Detective Jeremy Wright

Intermediate
Officer Brittany Gamboa
Senior Officer Benjamin Marino
Senior Officer Carmen Perez
Detective Erik Seda
Officer Madison Taft





Corporal Anthony Locklear of the Traffic Investigation and Enforcement Unit (TIEU) was recognized at the Exchange Club of Wake County's 76th Annual Law Enforcement Recognition Banquet. Not only was he awarded for his consistent, exceptional service, but for his efforts in saving three lives and apprehending an international homicide fugitive throughout the last year.



Officer Senese and Detective Fernandez were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from The Cary Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7383 for their selfless service to the community. The Cary VFW Post 7383 provided a wonderful dinner for all local first responders at their First Responder's Banquet.

NC STATE'S LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVE PROGRAM (LEEP) - LIEUTENANT OTTAWAY & SERGEANT MCLAMB

Congratulations to Lieutenant Ottaway and Sergeant McLamb on their recent graduation from North Carolina State University's Law Enforcement Executive Program (LEEP). This demanding course of study, based on the University's public administration curriculum, includes classes in leadership, ethics, fiscal management, organizational culture and other topics designed to prepare emerging leaders for the challenges of supervisory law enforcement roles. The experienced faculty at LEEP have been great partners in further developing our leadership team and maintaining our department's high level of community service.



CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) CERTIFICATION - OFFICER EDGAR HERNANDEZ

Congratulations to Officer Hernandez for completing the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certification. This 40 hour block of instruction trains officers on recognizing and understanding signs of those suffering from mental illness. It provides strategies for officers to help those in crisis and educates them about providers who can partner and assist the police with mental health services.

It is the goal of HSPD to have all of our officers trained in this vital skillset in order to better serve our community





Captain Nathan Downs and Corporal Wayne Boykin have successfully completed the North Carolina Justice Academy's Leadership Institute, a prestigious program designed to enhance leadership skills and strategic decision-making for law enforcement professionals.

This achievement reflects their dedication to professional growth and commitment to serving the community with excellence.



Sergeant Alan Laws and Officer Juan Chirino have been recognized for conducting the highest number of drug-impaired driving evaluations in 2023. Officer Chirino achieved the first-most evaluations, while Sergeant Laws secured the third-most evaluations of any Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) throughout the state.



This accolade marks the second consecutive year that Officer Chirino has led the state in this critical category. Last year, Sergeant Laws was honored with the second-most evaluations, showcasing the consistent dedication and expertise of the Holly Springs Police Department in ensuring the safety of our community and the motoring public at large.

STEVE GOTTLIEB/ALPHA GROUP CENTER AWARD FOR CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE - KASSIE LANGDON

Crime Analyst Kassie Langdon received the 2024 IACA Steve Gottlieb/Alpha Group Award for Creativity and Excellence. Kassie earned this prestigious honor for developing an emergency records management system after a neighboring municipality experienced a cyber-attack that disrupted police report-writing operations. Her quick thinking ensured seamless continuity of critical services, demonstrating exceptional problem-solving and innovation.

Congratulations, Kassie, on this well-deserved recognition



SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

New Police Wellness Dog

We've all heard of Kona Ice, the town of Kona in Hawaii, or even a Hyundai Kona, but Holly Springs now has the best Kona of all, a police wellness dog! The newest member of the Holly Springs Police Department has officially been sworn in for duty.

Kona has been training for this job since the moment she was born and was chosen specifically for Holly Springs by her trainers. The black lab will now serve as a wellness dog for police officers dealing with trauma, a calming influence for crime victims in our community, and as a community outreach officer attending events.

Holly Springs Master Officer Leon Nelson came up with the idea to get a wellness dog and has spent the last few years pursuing this passion project.

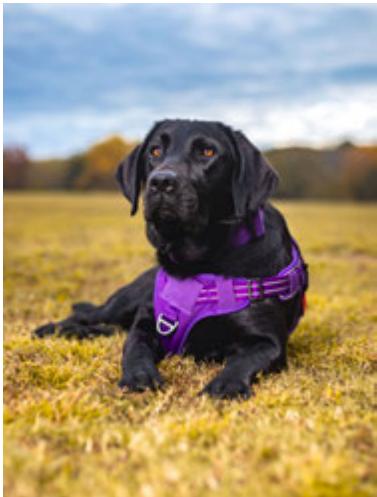
"I just wanted to find a way to show another side of law enforcement," said Nelson. "I spent a lot of time researching how we could get a special dog like this and that's how I discovered the Puppies Behind Bars organization who train service dogs for police departments, first responders with PTSD, and wounded veterans."

Puppies Behind Bars works with incarcerated individuals who commit to spending 14-18 months with a puppy to prepare them for life as a working dog. After a police department goes through a rigorous application process, the trained puppy is donated to them free of charge. Kona is the first dog from this organization to be placed in the state of North Carolina. The Holly Springs Hero Golf Tournament has pledged to fund the maintenance of the dog, which includes food and veterinarian costs.

"Kona joining our team is just another thing that distinguishes us as a department, both in taking care of our employees and our community," said Holly Springs Police Chief Paul Liquorie. "Whether our officers need some comfort after a difficult day, or a member of the community needs Kona to sit with them in court when they testify, this dog will calm and comfort those who need some peace."

Kona has already made a visit to HollyFest and the Battle of the Badges Chili Cook-Off at the farmers market and is preparing to attend the Police Autism Awareness Event and the Happy Holly Days Parade.

"If you see us out-and-about, please stop to give Kona a Holly Springs welcome," said Nelson, who is the dog's full-time handler. "She loves kids and is calm in crowded situations, but please pet her one-at-a-time so she can give you her undivided attention."



SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Hurricane Helene Relief Sent to Asheville

The historic magnitude of Hurricane Helene left many of the communities in Western North Carolina truly devastated. The storm damaged or destroyed approximately 74,000 homes, shuttered hundreds of businesses, wiped out entire towns, and 106 people lost their lives; making this a true catastrophe. When the Asheville Police Department requested needed assistance to provide law enforcement services to relieve their battered and exhausted officers, the Holly Springs Police Department (HSPD) answered the call.

HSPD promptly organized a task force consisting of four other agencies from the Triangle providing forty-five sworn officers, a base camp quartermaster and an emergency management specialist to help stabilize the situation in the days immediately following the storm. The officers and support personnel lived in sparse conditions with no running water and power and had to provide their own meals. They were responsible for patrolling the most impacted area in the city, securing the remaining inventories of businesses, made arrests of looters, assisted displaced persons, and even encountered bears that were uprooted by the effects of the damage to their habitat.

Officers would continue with the long-term recovery efforts through a second deployment to Asheville. Although the primary mission was to assist the police department and people of Asheville, HSPD learned valuable lessons in emergency management, planning and performing law enforcement operations in a disaster zone, and understanding the vital resources needed to work in an austere environment.

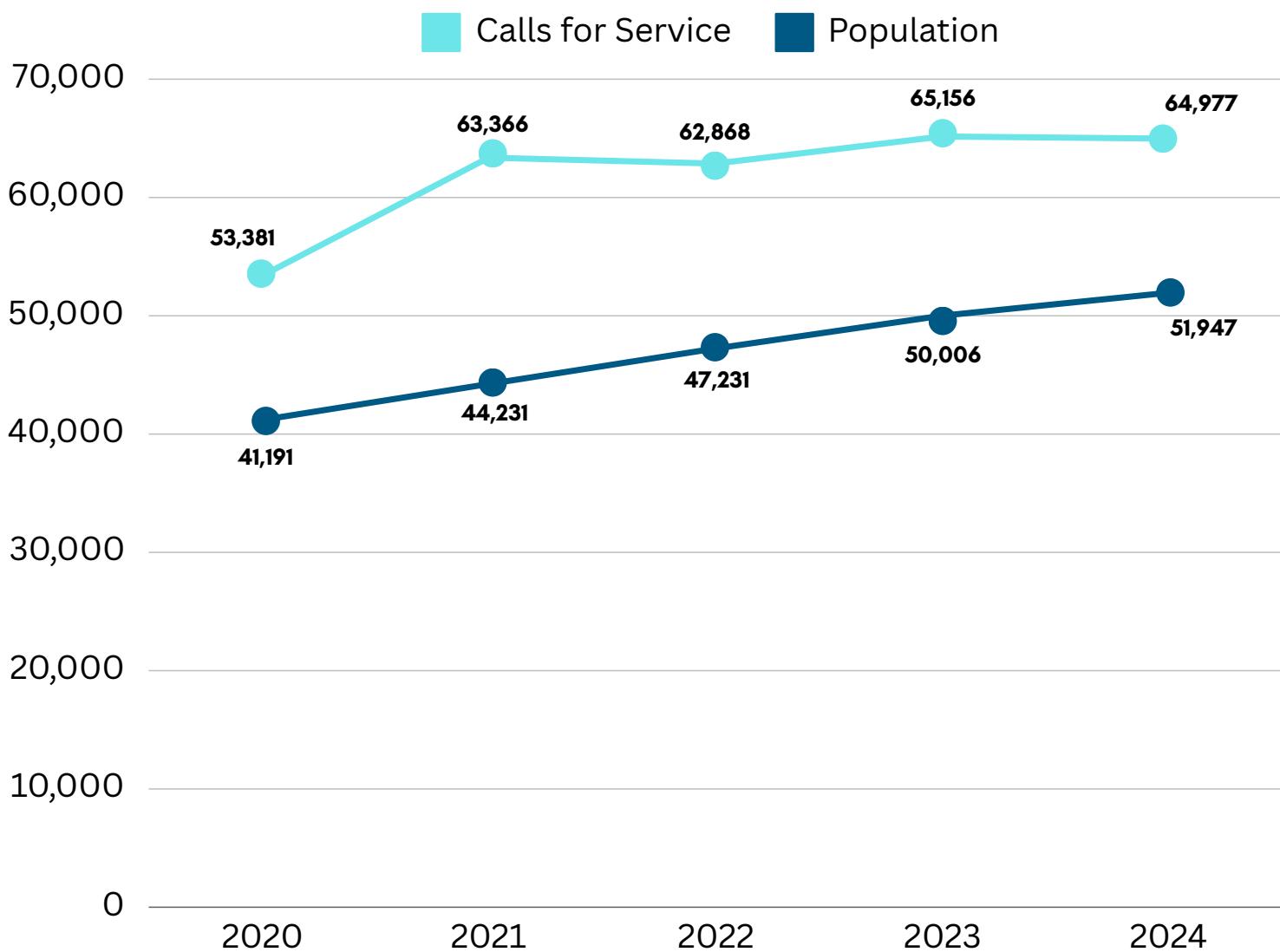
HSPD would like to thank the Holly Springs residents who generously donated supplies to sustain our personnel in the field and to assist Asheville's first responders to rebuild their city and many of their own lives that were personally impacted by this extraordinary event. Please know, your support made these assistance missions possible and helped immensely in the immediate aftermath of this devastating event.



CALLS FOR SERVICE DATA



POPULATION GROWTH & CALLS FOR SERVICE *five year trend*



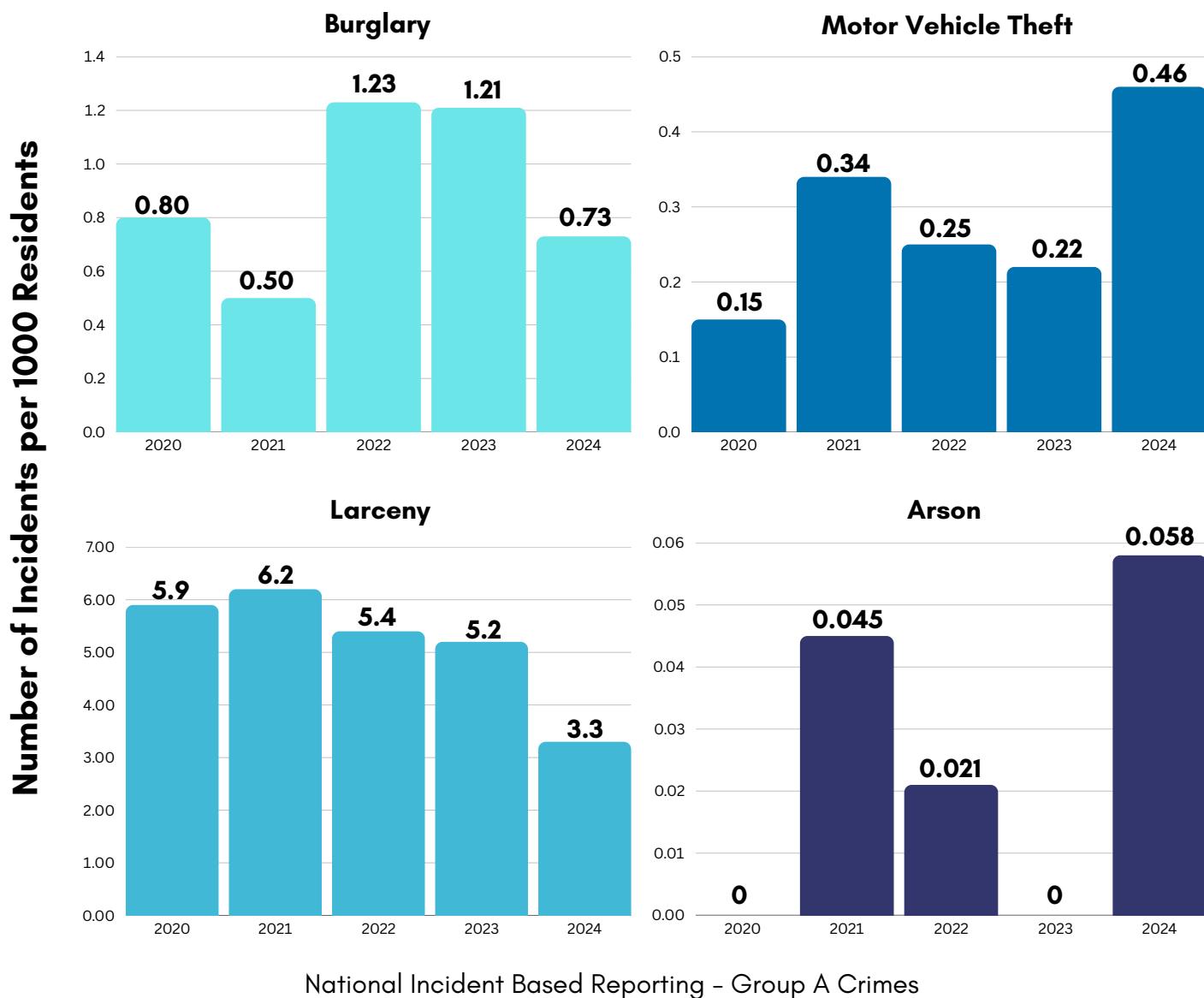
Population and calls for service continue to grow at consistent rates.



CRIME TREND ANALYSES



CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY *five year trend*

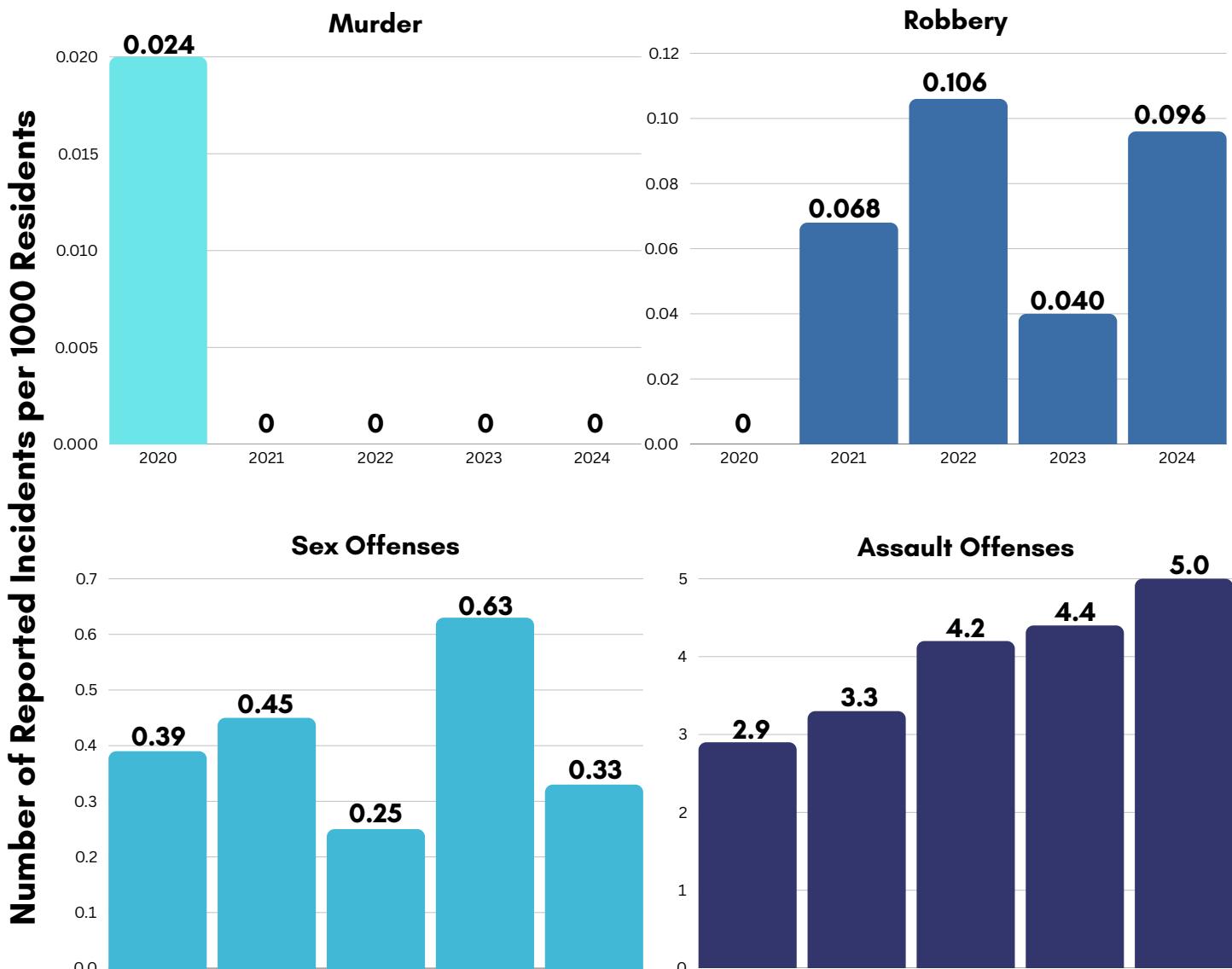


A design flaw in Kia & Hyundai vehicles and the targeting of high-performance Dodge products contributed to the rise in auto thefts. Arsons increased due to juvenile delinquent acts in open public spaces.



CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

five year trend



National Incident Based Reporting - Group A Crimes

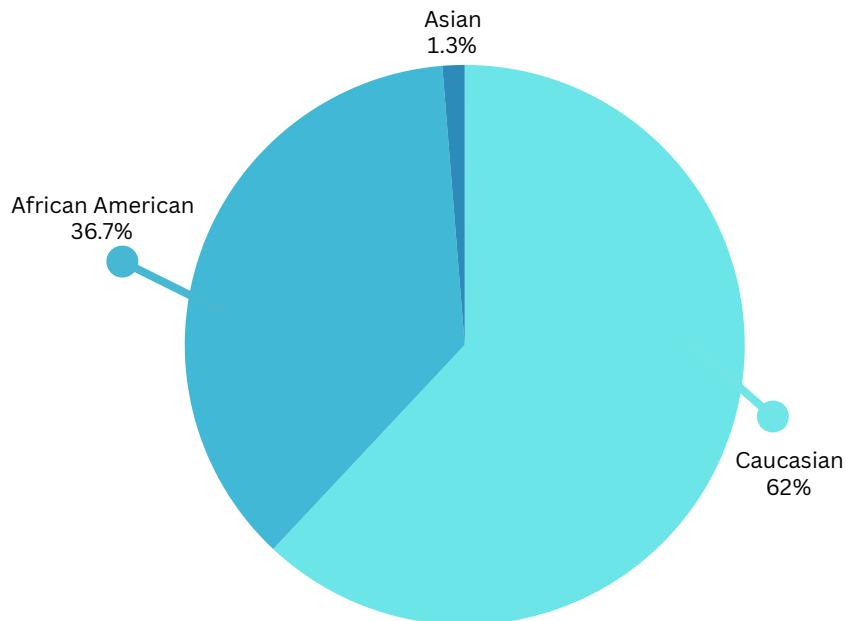
Robberies rose from two to five this year. Two were escalated shopliftings, two were committed by suspects known to the victim and one was alleged to be committed between juveniles. Assaults are primarily domestic violence related.





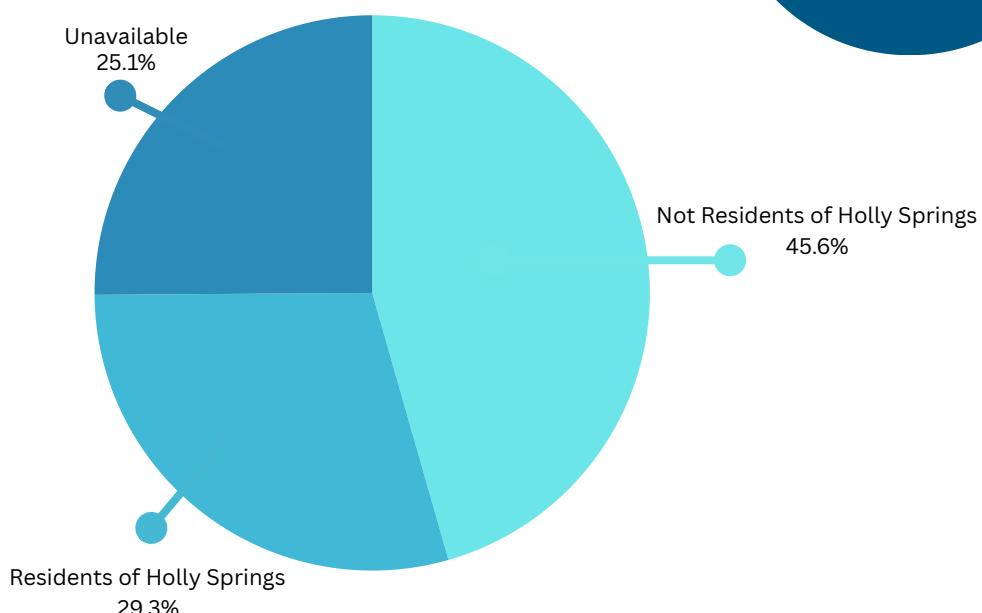
ARREST DATA

DEMOGRAPHICS



TOWN RESIDENCY STATUS

Total Arrests
474

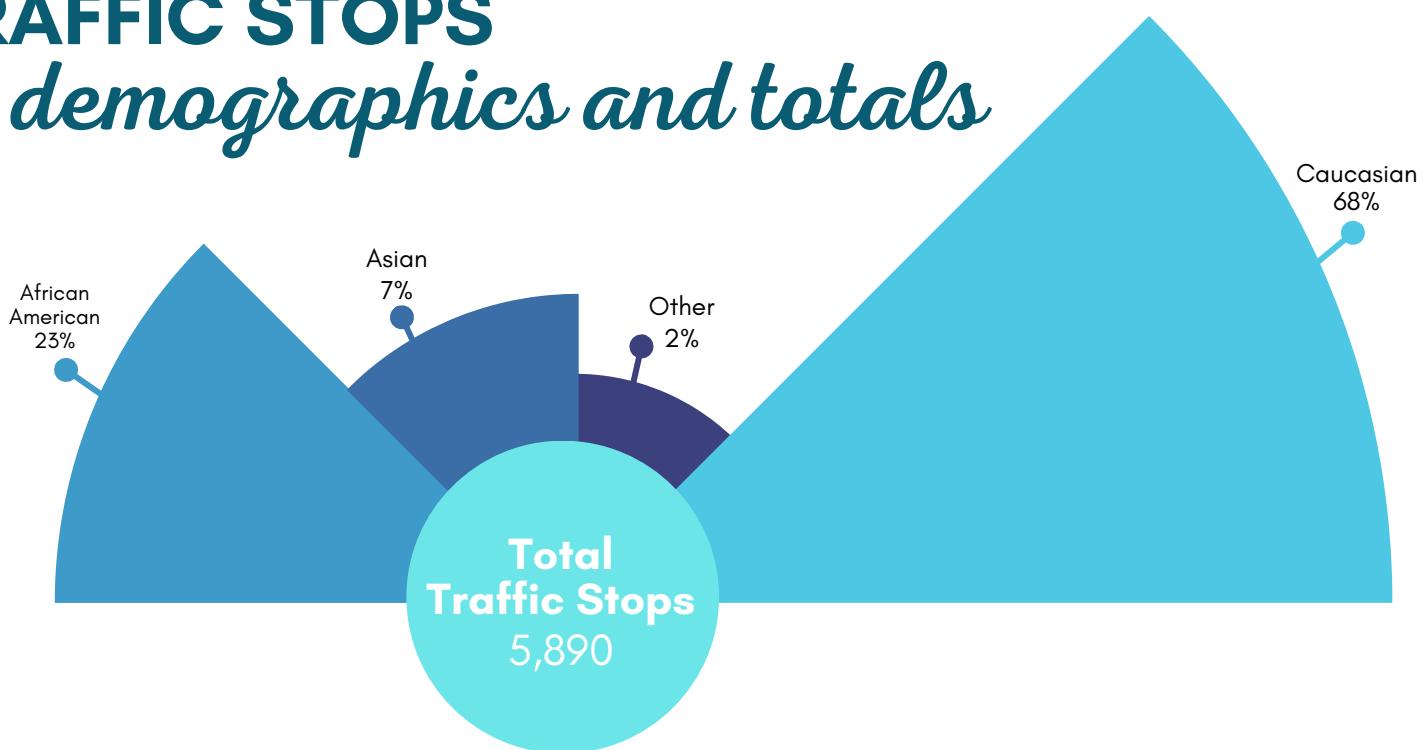




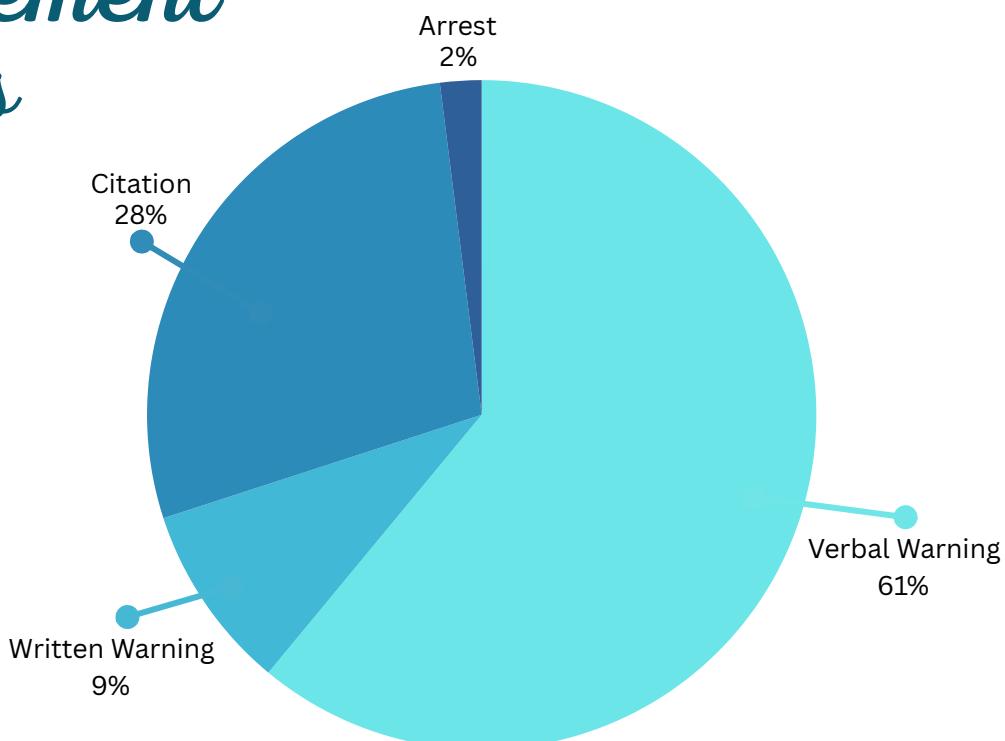
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

TRAFFIC STOPS

demographics and totals

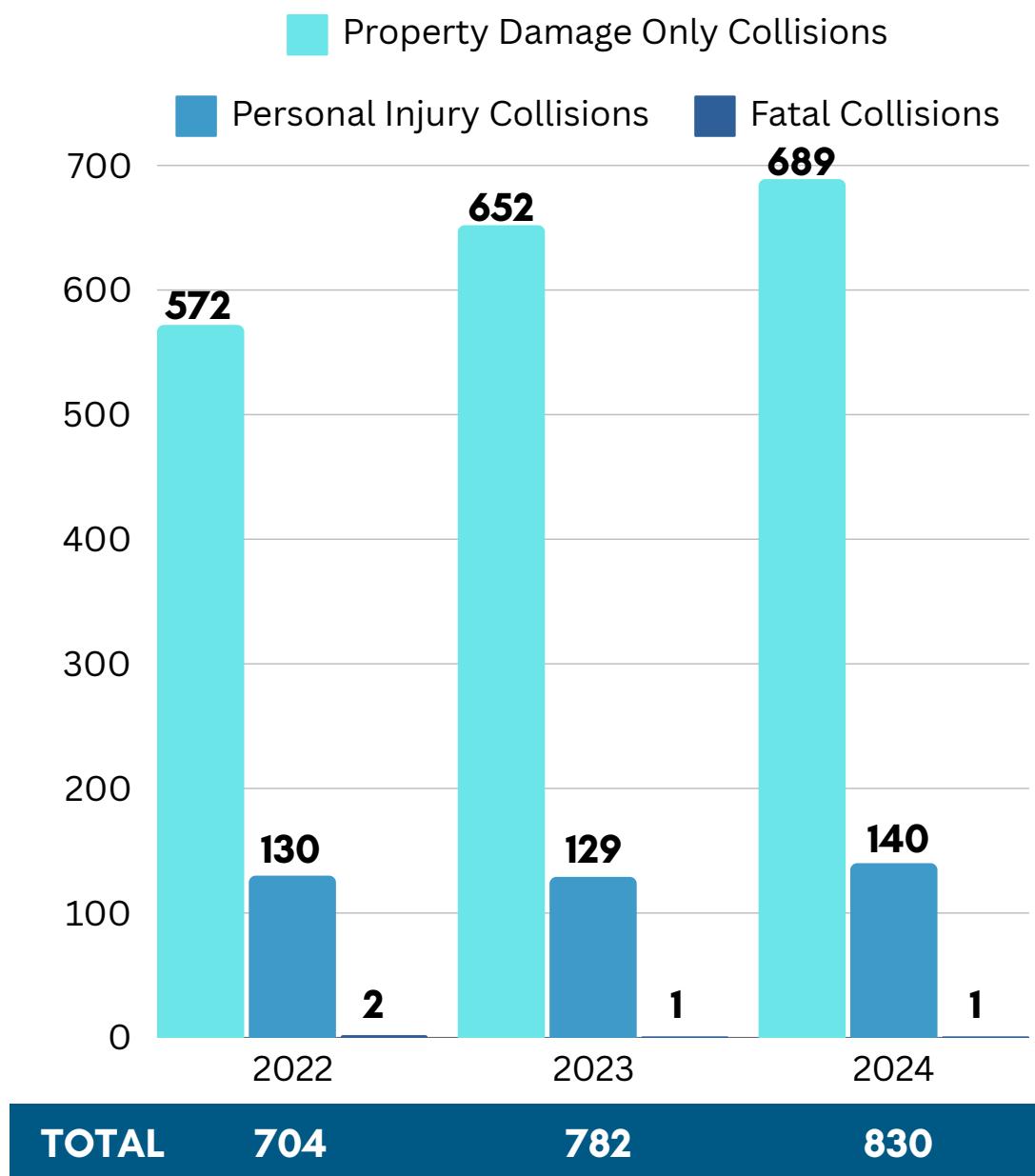


enforcement actions



MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS

three year trend



Data source is NCDOT. Collisions occurring on private property and public vehicular areas are excluded from this data.

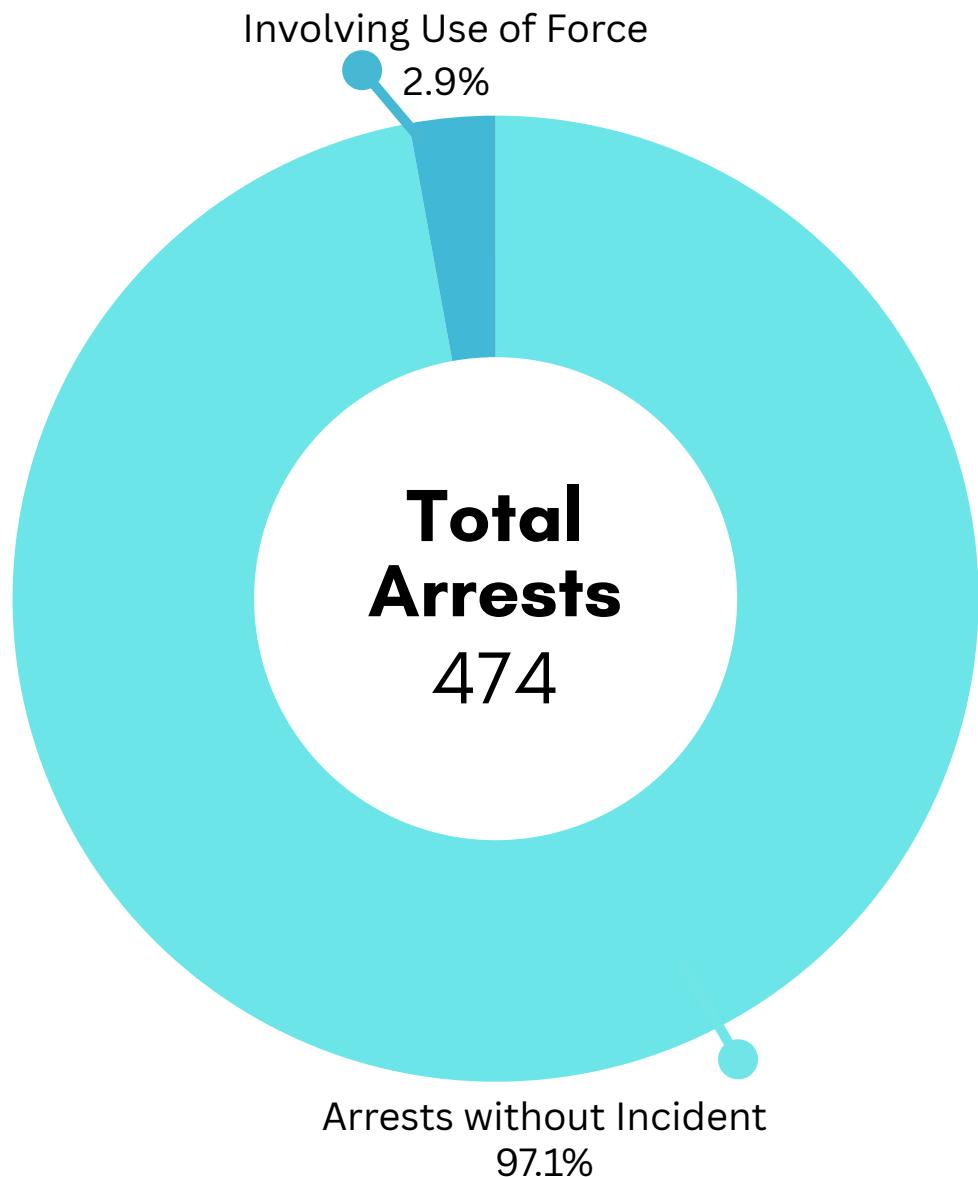




USE OF FORCE

The Holly Springs Police Department's Use of Force policy requires that any force other than voluntary compliance with a physical arrest (beyond simply handcuffing a suspect) requires a formal Use of Force Report to be completed and submitted for review.

Additionally, the intentional pointing of a firearm or a conducted energy weapon (CEW - TASER) at a person also requires a report.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



On February 20, 2024, Officers visited the Goddard School to speak with students about safety and about being a police officer. Afterwards, students got to take a tour of one of our police cars and got their very own police badge sticker. We are grateful for our friendship with them and look forward to visiting again soon!





Holly Springs Police Cadets attended – and excelled at – Survival Weekend 2024, hosted by NCALEEA at Camp Cherokee in Clover, SC. The fun-filled weekend included camping, bonfires, fishing, and meeting new people! From survival runs and burpee challenges to tug-of-war and mock traffic stops, the cadets competed in both team and individual events. A huge congratulations is in order; of the seven teams competing, Holly Springs took home first place overall for the entire competition!





CONCLUSION



NEED ASSISTANCE?

Contact the Holly Springs Police Department for these free community services:

- Child Safety Seat Installation & Inspections
- Golf Cart Inspections & Registrations
- Citizen Welfare Check Program
- Unwanted Medication Drop Box
- Safe Exchange Zone (Personal Sales/Child Custody)
- Vehicle Lock Out
- Vehicle Jump Starts
- Shred-A-Thon

And more!

STAY CONNECTED



@hspolicenc



@hspolicenc

NON EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

919-557-9111

As we reflect on 2024, the Holly Springs Police Department stands at the intersection of tradition and innovation, unwavering in our commitment to safety, service, and community engagement. This year has been marked by significant achievements, from proactive crime prevention initiatives to strengthened community partnerships, all fueled by the dedication and professionalism of our officers and staff.

Through strategic enforcement, comprehensive training, and data-driven policing, we have not only addressed present challenges but have also laid a strong foundation for the future. Our department remains steadfast in its mission to protect and serve with integrity, ensuring that Holly Springs continues to be a safe and welcoming place for all.

Looking ahead, we recognize that public safety is an evolving responsibility—one that demands continuous adaptation, collaboration, and trust. We are prepared to meet these challenges head-on, embracing innovation while staying true to our core values. Together, with the unwavering support of our community, we will forge a safer, stronger Holly Springs.

As we close this chapter and look toward the opportunities of tomorrow, we reaffirm our commitment to excellence, resilience, and the enduring spirit of service. The Holly Springs Police Department is not just an agency—it is a family, dedicated to protecting the heart of our town.

