

# THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024



Presented by  
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# Message from Chief McCloud



As your Chief of Police, it is my privilege to present to you the 2024 Annual Report for the Rock Island Police Department. Throughout my career, it has been my honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with the dedicated professionals who protect and serve our citizens every day, each working diligently to uphold the traditions of excellence and high standards that you demand of your police department.

In 2024, the RIPD was able to make significant strides towards community engagement and improving the services we offer to our residents. We began our first Police Read-Along program, brought back the popular Cops and Freezer Pops, and started the Backpacks and Badges program. We also re-established our Elderly Service Officer position and our Police Explorer program. Finally, we partnered with the Department of Defense with the SkillBridge program to create internship opportunities for military veterans transitioning back into civilian life.

I'm equally proud of the accomplishments we've made towards creating a safer community for all residents and visitors to our great city. In April of 2024, we launched the Group Violence Intervention (GVI), a proactive approach to breaking the cycle of violence with those most likely to be involved in gun crimes. By the end of the year, 60% of those we offered services to did not re-offend.

In 2024, we saw a significant reduction in crime as well. Rock Island had an almost 8% reduction in overall crime, with a 9% reduction in total violent crime as compared to 2023. Violent gun crime dropped by over 21%, while the number of seized illegal firearms increased by over 37%. Additionally, the number of stolen vehicles reported was reduced by 6.5%. This was all accomplished with having a 7.6% increase in calls for service, and working with a 13% reduction in sworn personnel.

I look forward to the opportunities that 2025 brings in building new relationships and strengthening the partnerships we have created with our community.

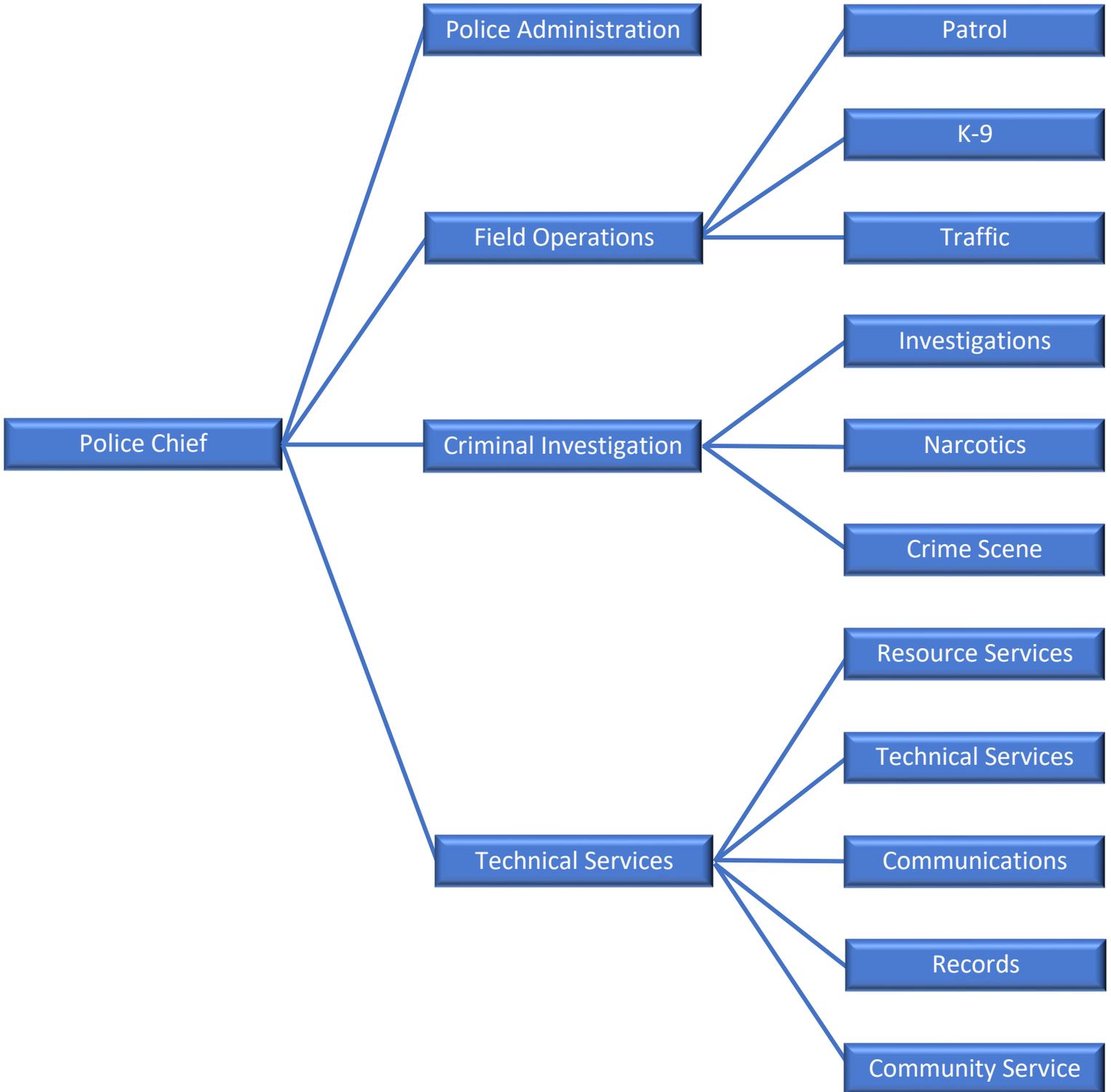
# **Rock Island Police Department**

## **Mission Statement**



The Rock Island Police Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life in our community by working with the citizens to enforce laws, solve problems, build partnerships, and protect individual rights. As a community policing and problem-solving agency, we hold in great regard, the trust our community bestows upon us and we take personal responsibility in nurturing and promoting that trust. Our members will always strive to set a positive example in the community by maintaining our own high ethical values.

# Department Organization



# Police and Fire Commissioners



Dr. John Hildreth

Commissioner since 1982

Police and Fire Commission Chairman



John Wright

Commissioner since 2020

Police and Fire Commission Vice Chairman



Greg Hass

Commissioner since 2018

Police and Fire Commission Secretary

# Major Staff



Timothy McCloud  
Chief of Police



James Morris  
Deputy Chief of Police



Lt. Kirk Pattison  
Watch Commander  
First Shift Patrol



Lt. Timothy Muehler  
Commander  
Technical Services



Lt. Ryan DeRudder  
Watch Commander  
Second Shift Patrol



Lt. Norman Jacks  
Watch Commander  
Third Shift Patrol

Due to staffing levels, the position of Agent in the Office of Professional Standards continued to be maintained by Deputy Chief Morris after his promotion.

Additionally, due to staffing levels, the position of Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division was left vacant after a retirement.

Both positions are scheduled to be filled in February of 2025.

## POLICE ADMINISTRATION

The Office of the Chief of Police includes the Chief, the Deputy Chief, the Agent in the Office of Professional Standards, and Executive secretary. The Chief's office is responsible for the overall management and supervision of department personnel. The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for the investigation or review of all citizen or internal complaints, alcoholic beverage investigations, investigation of miscellaneous license applications and the preparation of operation orders.

The Agent assigned to the Office of Professional Standards reports directly to the Chief of Police. The office of the Chief of Police also oversees research, planning and budgeting.



## FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION



Field Operations, commonly referred to as the Patrol or Uniform Division, is the essence of the police mission, these uniformed officers are the primary instrument through which the police mission is accomplished. The Patrol Officers are responsible for preserving the peace, responding to calls for service, conducting preliminary investigations, traffic control, accident investigations, crime prevention and court appearances to provide testimony in the prosecution of cases. Patrol officers perform many specialized functions to include a K-9 dog and handler, six Field Training Officers, and Police Specialists.



Comprised of members from all three divisions, the Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a tactical response unit whose primary responsibility is to respond to incidents or calls for service involving armed or potentially armed subjects or other high-risk situations requiring tactical equipment and training. The ERT is primarily used for dangerous situations such as search warrants or hostage/barricaded subjects and trains monthly to

prepare for the many possible and unpredictable incidents that may potentially arise at any given time. Working closely with this unit are several members trained in Hostage Negotiations.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



## BICYCLE PATROL UNIT



One aspect of our commitment to community-policing is our bicycle patrol. Many of our officers are specially trained to perform patrol functions on police bikes, giving us the opportunity to more directly interact with citizens and to monitor areas not easily accessible by a squad car.



Formed in 1965, the Rock Island Police Department was the second police department in the State of Illinois to have a Police Honor Guard. The Honor Guard's primary responsibility is to honor the lives of the fallen officers at funerals and memorial services but also to represent the Rock Island Police Department in official functions such as parades, the Quad City Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial, and the annual Officer and Firefighter of the Year Dinner.

## HONOR GUARD



## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



Made up of both sworn and civilian staff, the Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for the majority of the investigative functions of the police department. CID conducts follow-up investigations of felony offenses, including drug and gang related crimes, financial crimes, and internet related crimes. One detective is assigned as liaison with the A.T.F. to prosecute persons in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney's Office. Additionally, a criminalist conducts crime scene processing, fingerprint comparison, ballistics, and narcotics testing. CID staffed a Crime Analyst for part of 2024, but the position remains vacant at this time. The Analyst performs a variety of functions including tracking crime trends of burglaries, stolen vehicles, and shots fired. Additionally, our Analyst is able to conduct forensic examinations of cell phones and computers, as well as monitoring potential threats on social media.

CID also is actively involved in deterring juveniles from a career in crime. Early detection and counseling may prevent many young people from maintaining a harmful lifestyle. Detectives conduct follow-up investigations on all juvenile-related crime and work closely with other agencies such as the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Rock Island County Youth Court Services. CID also currently has a School Resource Officer assigned to the Rock Island High School.

As part of the continued community policing efforts, CID provides speakers to citizen groups and civic organizations and gives informative talks on a variety of topics that fall under the scope of criminal investigations. Furthermore, this division works closely with the Field Operations Division to conduct pro-active, preventive activities to address neighborhood concerns.

## TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Technical Services Division is responsible for a variety of functions including reception desk services, records management, crime reporting, telecommunications, court services and community services. Additionally, the department budget is maintained through this division and manages billing, service contracts, equipment, and training needs.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

The department has three civilian Community Service Officers, each trained to conduct animal control investigations, follow up on abandoned vehicle complaints, assist with general public assistance calls, and handle non-emergency calls for service such as minor traffic accidents, and parking complaints.



### COMMUNICATIONS



Our Communications Center, known as RICOMM, is responsible for receiving, monitoring, transmitting and relaying calls for emergency services to appropriate public safety agencies.

It is staffed by twelve civilian telecommunicators and one supervisor. RICOMM operates emergency and non-emergency telephones and multiple radios, and maintains computerized records of all communication transactions.

RICOMM obtains and processes confidential records and related information used in criminal investigations and the everyday inquiries by patrol officers. Services also provided by the RICOMM supervisor include the repair and maintenance of the police department's portable radios and the collection and processing of records requested for release under the Freedom of Information Act. RICOMM processes and provides the appropriate response for various requests for service that are received by radio and telephone for both the Police and Fire departments.

## **EVIDENCE**

The Evidence Custodian, a civilian position, is responsible for custody of all evidence obtained by the department. This involves the storage, retrieval, return, destruction or auction of evidence and property when appropriate. Evidence management also includes the processing of state mandated records as required for compliance with state statutes. This includes various records and reports associated with arrests.

## **RECORDS**

The Technical Services Division is responsible for the management of records for the entire department and the assistance of citizens contacting the front desk either in person or by telephone. Duties involve receiving reports by telephone and entering them into the computerized records management system. The division is also responsible for maintaining a central repository of reports received from the reception desk and police officers, as well as the archiving of reports, and managing requests for various reports from outside sources and members of the department. The Technical Services Division is responsible for processing arrest documents, fingerprint documents, and booking photographs (not processed through Central Booking). Additionally, this division manages all sex offender registration requirements according to state and federal standards.



## **RESOURCE SERVICES**

As part of Resource Services, the Court Liaison is responsible for coordinating and scheduling officers for misdemeanor and felony criminal court, traffic court, and serves as a liaison between the court, State's Attorney's office, MUNICES (Administrative Hearing Officer) and the Police Department. Another responsibility is tracking alcohol related traffic cases, reimbursement from DUI cases, and C.O.R.A. tows. The Deputy Commander of the Technical Services Division coordinates academy training and in-service training and is responsible for continually monitoring the needs of the department and staying up-to-date on changes needed in training programs.

# Crime Statistics

Beginning in January, 2021, the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) became the national standard for law enforcement crime data reporting in the United States.

For 2024, Rock Island saw decreases in murder, assault charges, weapons charges, larceny charges, motor vehicle thefts, robberies, arsons, and vandalism offenses. There was an increase in sex offenses, burglaries, and narcotics charges.

Offense	2022	2023	2024
Murder	11	4	2
Sex Offenses	5	7	12
Assault Charges	957	994	942
Weapons Charges	98	88	74
Burglary	169	136	309
Larceny Charges	751	652	482
Narcotics Charges	139	142	185
Motor Vehicle Theft	202	244	228
Robbery	14	17	5
Arson	8	12	6
Vandalism	513	732	553
Other	54	73	57
Total	2,921	3,101	2,855

# Use of Force

The Rock Island Police Department recognizes and respects the value and integrity of each human life. Investing police officers with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare, a careful balancing of all human interests is required. Therefore, it is the policy of the Rock Island Police Department that police officers shall use only that force which is reasonably necessary to defend themselves or others from bodily harm and in conformity with the statutes and Constitutions of the State of Illinois and the United States. All uses of force are documented. When a use of force meets a specific threshold as defined by policy, it is investigated by a supervisor and reviewed by the Office of Professional Standards to ensure the force used was in compliance with departmental and legal standards. These investigations help to identify trends in use of force incidents and evaluate the effectiveness of equipment, techniques, and training of personnel.

In 2024, a total of 44 incidents were recorded which involved employees using a level of force. It should be noted that at times, some incidents involve more than one use of force, depending upon the needs of the call.

Incidents involving uses of force are categorized into eight categories: Open-Hand/Control Tactics, Strikes/Punches, OC Pepper Spray, Taser, Pointing a Firearm, Discharging a Firearm, K-9 Deployment, and Less-Lethal Options such as bean-bag rounds or gas deployment. In 2024, there were seven incidents involving open-hand or control tactics and four incidents involving strikes or punches. There were seven incidents involving the use of OC-pepper spray and seven incidents involving the use of the Taser. There were 20 incidents involving pointing of a firearm, but there were zero use of force incidents involving the discharge of a firearm in 2024. There was one incident involving a K-9 deployment, and one less-lethal incident. There were seven incidents in which an officer reported receiving an injury while involved in a use of force.

# Office of Professional Standards

It is essential that the public maintains confidence in the department's ability to investigate and properly adjudicate any complaints made against its members. Additionally, the department has the responsibility to seek out and discipline those whose conduct discredits the department or impairs its effective operation. The rights of the employee as well as the public must be preserved, and any investigation or hearing arising from a complaint must be conducted in an open and fair manner with the truth as its primary objective. The department accepts complaints against its members and fully investigates all such complaints to the appropriate disposition.

After the investigation into a complaint is completed, each complaint receives one of five possible dispositions: Unfounded, Administratively Closed, Not-Sustained, Sustained, or Exonerated. These dispositions are described below:

**UNFOUNDED:** The allegation is false or not factual.

**ADMINISTRATIVELY CLOSED:** The complainant refused to cooperate with the investigation and no further investigation can be completed.

**NOT SUSTAINED:** There is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation.

**SUSTAINED:** The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence.

**EXONERATED:** The incident occurred but the action taken by the accused member was lawful and proper.

In 2024, 32 complaints were received through the Office of Professional Standards with 18 complaints received by citizens and 14 complaints being generated internally by a supervisor. No complaints were determined to be Unfounded, none were Administratively Closed, and none were considered Not-Sustained. Sixteen were listed as Sustained, and 16 were listed as Exonerated.

# Community Outreach and Engagement

## COFFEE WITH A COP



During the Spring, Summer, and Fall months, we choose a different location within the City of Rock Island to meet with citizens and have an unscripted conversation over coffee. It's a great opportunity for our officers to engage directly with those we serve, in a casual and inviting environment.



## POLAR PLUNGE

The Polar Plunge is one of the many ways the Rock Island Police Department supports and raises money for the Special Olympics. Along with other area police agencies and non-law enforcement groups, participants jump into icy waters in the middle of winter! In 2024, the RIPD Polar Plunge team raised \$5,180.00, all going to help the thousands of Special Olympics athletes in Illinois have access to year-round sports activities and competitions.

## MILLION FATHER MARCH

The Million Father March is a back-to-school father engagement that takes place all over the country. The Rock Island Police Department participates in this opportunity each year at the Rock Island Academy to show our commitment to the educational lives of our children and to start the school year off right!



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME



In partnership with the Community Caring Conference, the Rock Island Police Department believes only by working directly with the community can we achieve a safe and thriving Rock Island. The National Night Out is a great way for us to engage with the community over food and fun, including games, a tug of war, and a K-9 demo!

## COP ON A ROOFTOP

Another great way to support the Special Olympics, Cop on a Rooftop is an annual event that partners with Dunkin' Donuts to help provide funding for thousands of young athletes as part of this amazing organization.



## COMMUNITY CARING CONFERENCE HERO'S BANQUET



Hosted by the Community Caring Conference each year, the Hero's Banquet recognizes and honors individuals and organizations within the community who go above and beyond. Each year a Law Enforcement Hero is chosen, along with the Crimefighter of the Year Award. This year, Det. Jon Shappard was chosen as the Crimefighter of the Year while Officer Brett Taylor was chosen as the RIPD Law Enforcement Hero.

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Each year, members of the RIPD wear special-made pink badges in October to help bring awareness to Breast Cancer. In addition to the badges, this year, we introduced pink RIPD patches and apparel to help raise money for Gilda's Club of the Quad Cities.



## COPS AND FIREFIGHTERS FOR CHRISTMAS



One of our most favorite times of year is when we get the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping with some amazing kids for our annual Cops and Firefighter for Christmas event. This wonderful program partners our officers and firefighters with kids from the Rock Island-Milan School District, giving us a chance to spread some holiday cheer by taking some kids on a shopping spree and treating them to a nice Christmas dinner!

## QUAD CITIES LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S MEMORIAL

Beginning in the year 2000, the Quad Cities Law Enforcement Officers Memorial honors the memory of every fallen officer in the Quad Cities and surrounding 50-mile radius. Each year, the QCLEOM pays tribute to those who served their communities and made the ultimate sacrifice.

