

# TAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT



**STRENGTH**

**IN PARTNERSHIPS**

# MISSION

The mission of the Tampa Police Department is to work in partnership with our community to reduce crime, improve quality of life, and make Tampa safer together.

# VALUES

## S.A.F.E.



**SERVE**



**ADVOCATE**



**FAIRNESS**



**EXCELLENCE**



“

**THE STRENGTH OF OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT IS GROUNDED IN OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE. WHEN OFFICERS AND RESIDENTS WORK TOGETHER, TAMPA BECOMES SAFER, STRONGER, AND MORE UNITED. THROUGH COLLABORATION, WE MEET CHALLENGES WITH RESILIENCE AND BUILD LASTING LEGACIES THROUGH TRUST, SERVICE, AND SHARED SUCCESS.**

**-Chief Lee Bercaw**





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# LETTER FROM MAYOR JANE CASTOR



**Dear Neighbors,**

This year, Tampa proved once again that when a city, its police department, and its community work as true partners, the results show up where it matters most: in safer streets and stronger neighborhoods.

Crime numbers dropping year after year is an excellent measure of success, but when you look at the progress reflected in the 2025 Annual Report, I hope it's not the only part that stands out. I hope you see the difference those changes make in the lives of our fellow residents. More kids walking to school with confidence, families feeling safer in their homes, and businesses feeling secure enough to grow and invest in Tampa.

In 2025, overall crime dropped 21.3% and we saw meaningful decreases in Violent Crime and continued decreases in Property Crimes.

This progress didn't happen by accident. It happened because our Tampa Police officers work hard every day to deepen their relationships with residents across every district in this city. These connections plant seeds of trust that grow into safer communities. The theme of this year's report, "Strength in Partnerships," reflects that reality. Every initiative, every improvement, and every life saved this year came from working together.

Our officers are listening to neighbors at Front Porch Roll Calls, sharing safety tips during Business Watch Tampa meetings, and mentoring youth through the Police Athletic League. They are also meeting young people right where they live through our apartment community pop-ups, bringing positive police presence directly into our neighborhoods.

This year, the Tampa Police Department also partnered with Axon to bring cutting-edge tools to our officers, including real-time language translation capabilities through body-worn cameras. Our officers can now communicate more effectively, breaking down barriers and ensuring every Tampa resident or visitor receives the service they deserve regardless of what language they speak at home.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to the men and women of the Tampa Police Department, many of whom I had the pleasure of serving alongside during my 31 years wearing the same badge. Your continued professionalism, compassion, and consistent dedication to serving every corner of our city is what makes Tampa stronger and safer every day.

Public safety is a shared responsibility, and this year's progress reflects what we can accomplish when we work together.

A safer Tampa is a stronger Tampa, and our best days are ahead.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Castor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane Castor

Mayor, City of Tampa

# LETTER FROM CHIEF LEE BERCAW



Dear Tampa Residents,

As we reflect on the milestones of 2025, we can all take pride in the fact that we are seeing historic lows in crime across our city, including the lowest number of homicides in over 50 years. These statistics are far more than just a local success story. According to the 2025 year-end violent crime survey of 67 major U.S. cities, Tampa now ranks fourth lowest overall in total violent crime nationwide. While violent crime declined nationally by approximately 12.3%, Tampa significantly outperformed the national average with a 16.6% overall reduction year over year, with category comparisons showing our city exceeding national reductions across every major violent crime type. In fact, when comparing similar sized cities, Tampa ranked third in lowest violent crime, and second lowest per capita. The past year stands as a testament to the incredible hard work of our officers and professional staff who work seamlessly alongside you, our community, to help us reach these milestones with a unified purpose.

This year, we leaned into cutting-edge technology not to replace human connection, but to enhance it. By integrating tools like Prepared 911 and Axon Assistant, we have streamlined our response times and improved the speed of accessing information during critical incidents. This efficiency does more than just lower statistics; it gives our officers more time to get out of their cars and walk our neighborhoods, engaging directly with the community they protect. Our new Drones as First Responders (DFR) program and VR de-escalation training are investments in precision and empathy, ensuring that when faced with a critical situation, we do so with the best possible information and the highest level of professional training.

The efforts of Rise Tampa, Our Police Foundation, and the deployment of Automated External Defibrillators in every patrol car transformed our fleet into a mobile network of lifesavers. However, our most important "equipment" remains the relationships we build. From the thousands who joined us for the 31st Annual Tampa Police Memorial Run to the daily conversations in our community over a cup of coffee, these bonds are the foundation of our resilience. This spirit of unity defines the City of Tampa, turning every resident into a partner and every officer into a dedicated neighbor committed to the collective well-being of our city.

Looking ahead into 2026, our mission is to move beyond reacting to crime and focus on preventing it through ongoing partnerships and quality of life improvements, as well as actively recruiting a new generation of officers and professional staff who not only want to work in Tampa but who reflect the heart and soul of our neighborhoods. We will continue to build on our successes, with an ongoing commitment to the transparency, community engagement, and technological innovation that has led to Tampa's reputation as one of the safest and most vibrant cities in the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Bercaw".

Lee Bercaw  
Chief of Police

# THE CHIEFS



**LEE BERCAU**  
Chief of Police



**BRETT OWEN**  
Assistant Chief of Police  
*Operations*



**RUTH CATE**  
Assistant Chief of Police  
*Investigations & Support*

# COMMANDERS



**MAJOR ALEX THIEL**  
District One



**MAJOR PATRICK MESSMER**  
District Two



**MAJOR LES RICHARDSON**  
District Three



**MAJOR ERIC DEFELICE**  
Criminal Investigations Division



**MAJOR KIM FRUIT**  
Support Services Division



**MAJOR JASON DILLA**  
Special Operations Division

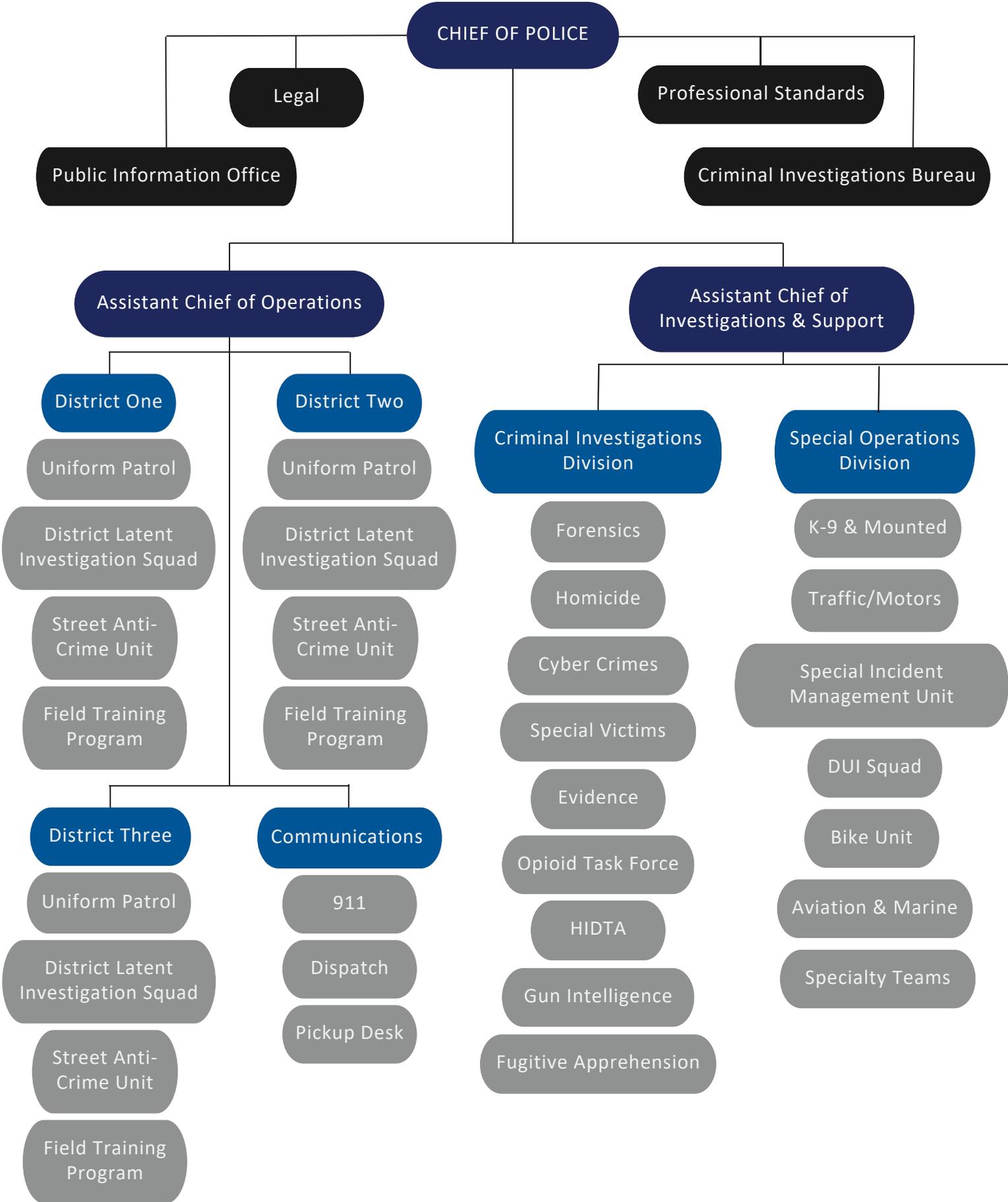


**MEGAN NEWCOMB**  
Legal Unit

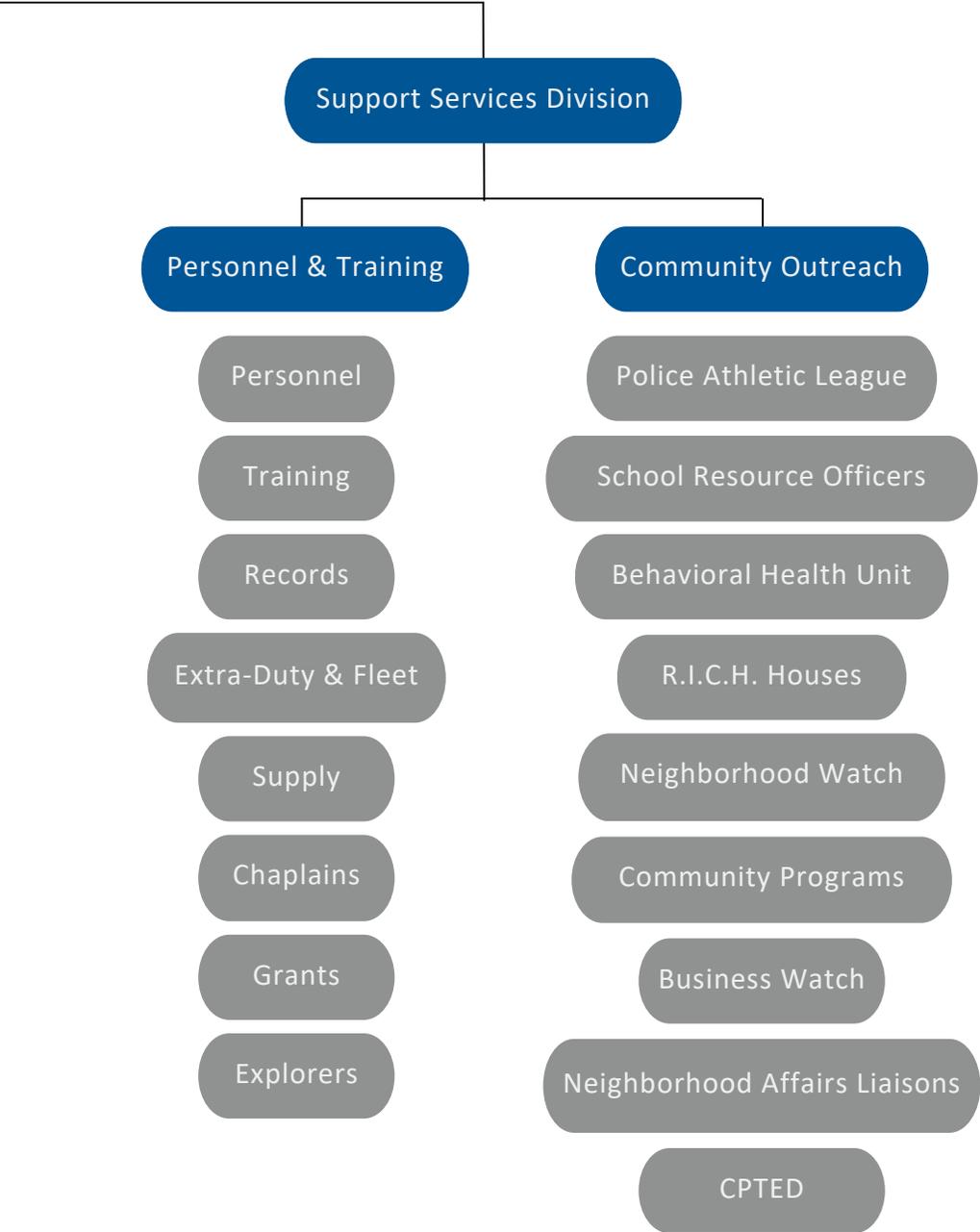


**JONEE' LEWIS**  
Public Information Office

# DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



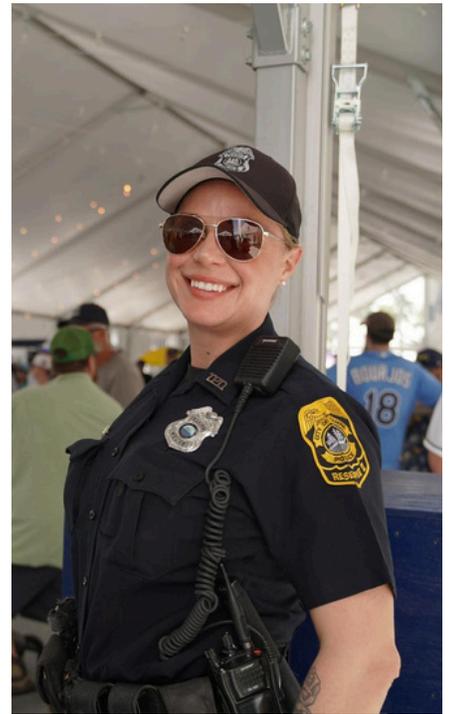
## AUTHORIZED SWORN POSITIONS

Chief:	1
Assistant Chiefs:	2
Majors:	6
Captains:	12
Lieutenants:	24
Sergeants:	72
Chief Pilot:	1
Corporals/Detectives:	186
Officers:	711
<b>TOTAL: 1,015</b>	

## AUTHORIZED PROFESSIONAL STAFF

362

## STORIES THAT SHAPED OUR YEAR

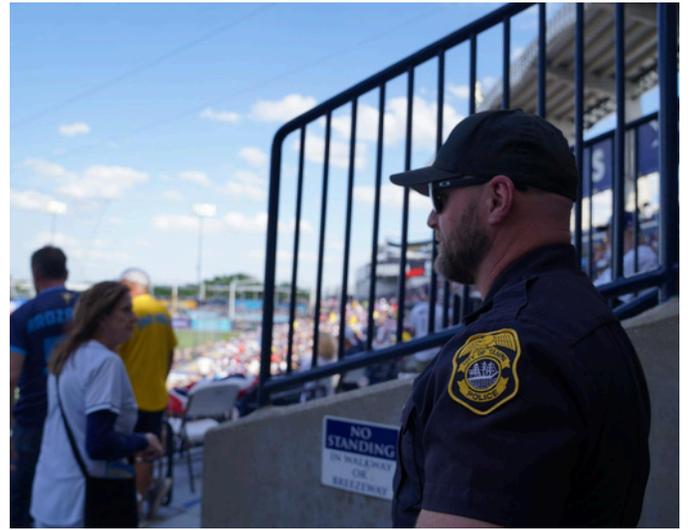


## Where Community and Game Day Safety Meet

In 2025, the City of Tampa welcomed more than 1.7 million sports fans for championship events and regular-season games. Beyond NHL and NFL matchups, the Tampa Police Department ensured fan safety during three major additions to the sports calendar: Tampa Bay Rays games at Steinbrenner Field following the impacts of the 2024 hurricane season (March), the NCAA Women's Final Four (April), and the inaugural season and 2025 championship of the USL Super League's Tampa Bay Sun Football Club (February–June).

Much like parade season, planning for these large-scale events extends beyond logistics and includes interagency coordination, community engagement, and real-time response planning. The partnership between professional sports organizations, local law enforcement agencies, and the Tampa Sports Authority helped ensure safe, welcoming environments where fans could focus on the game.

# WHERE COMMUNITY AND GAME DAY SAFETY MEET





### **Excellence in Service: Stories of Courage, Commitment, and Recognition**

When officers take the oath, they are reminded that the badge represents far more than authority; it carries the weight of trust, sacrifice, and an unwavering responsibility to protect life at all costs. That commitment often places them in unpredictable and dangerous situations, where they may be called upon to risk their own lives, step into harm's way, or come to the aid of a fellow officer without hesitation. Each decision is guided by training, integrity, and a shared dedication to upholding the department's mission of making Tampa safer, together.

Through strong partnerships with one another and with the community they serve, officers find their stride and purpose. It is in these moments—when preparation meets action—that their training is put to the test and their resolve is revealed. United by teamwork and trust, officers deliver acts of courage and selflessness that not only protect lives, but also define their service and strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the community.

## Excellence in Service: Stories of Courage, Commitment, and Recognition



### Resident Revived After Car is Lifted

On February 1, 2025, officers responded to a call about a man trapped beneath a vehicle after a neighbor found him unconscious. The man had been working on his car when the jack failed, dropping the vehicle on his chest. Officers Harvey, Hopkins, Sikoski, Urdiales, and Wells arrived to find him in critical condition and quickly lifted and rolled the car to free him. They performed chest compressions and CPR, reviving him before EMS arrived. The officers involved were recognized by Governor Ron DeSantis on March 28, 2025, at Florida's Heroes Reception (photo above) and awarded Officers of the Year by the Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association on September 6, 2025.

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### Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Donation

On December 24, 2024, Officer Eric Book suffered a heart attack while on duty. He was unresponsive, and a squad member, who was equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), was able to stabilize Officer Book, ultimately saving his life. At the time of the incident, there was a limited number of AEDs supplied. Through the generous donations of Tampa

Bay hospitals and corporate partners, on June 23, 2025, all patrol vehicles were equipped with the life-saving device.

## Excellence in Service: Stories of Courage, Commitment, and Recognition

### Seconds Matter: Officers Respond to Choking Emergency.

On April 24, 2025, officers responded to a parent in distress who reported that their child was choking. Upon their arrival, officers immediately began performing back blows and attempting to clear the child's airway. Fortunately, their efforts were a success, and a piece of tomato was safely dislodged. The Red Cross also recognized Officers Kyle DeJesus and Matthew Gibbins with the National Red Cross Lifesaving Award – the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action on August 22, 2025.



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### Excellence Through Leadership and Collaboration

Excellence within the Tampa Police Department is reflected not only in moments of crisis but also in leadership, innovation, and teamwork. Sergeant Rose Angelakopoulos was selected as an International Association of Chiefs of Police 40 Under 40 award recipient, recognizing her servant leadership, commitment to excellence, and impact as a member of the Tampa Police Department and the U.S. Army Reserve. The award honors emerging law enforcement leaders who exemplify innovation and dedication to service.



Excellence was also demonstrated through teamwork when Flight Officer Brian Alofs, Tactical Flight Officer Robert Williams, and K-9 Officer Josh Yungaitis received the FANG Award at the FLIR Vision Awards. Their coordinated Air Service and K-9 response on July 7, 2024, led to the apprehension of a fleeing suspect and underscored the value of inter-unit collaboration in protecting the community.



# CRIME REDUCTION



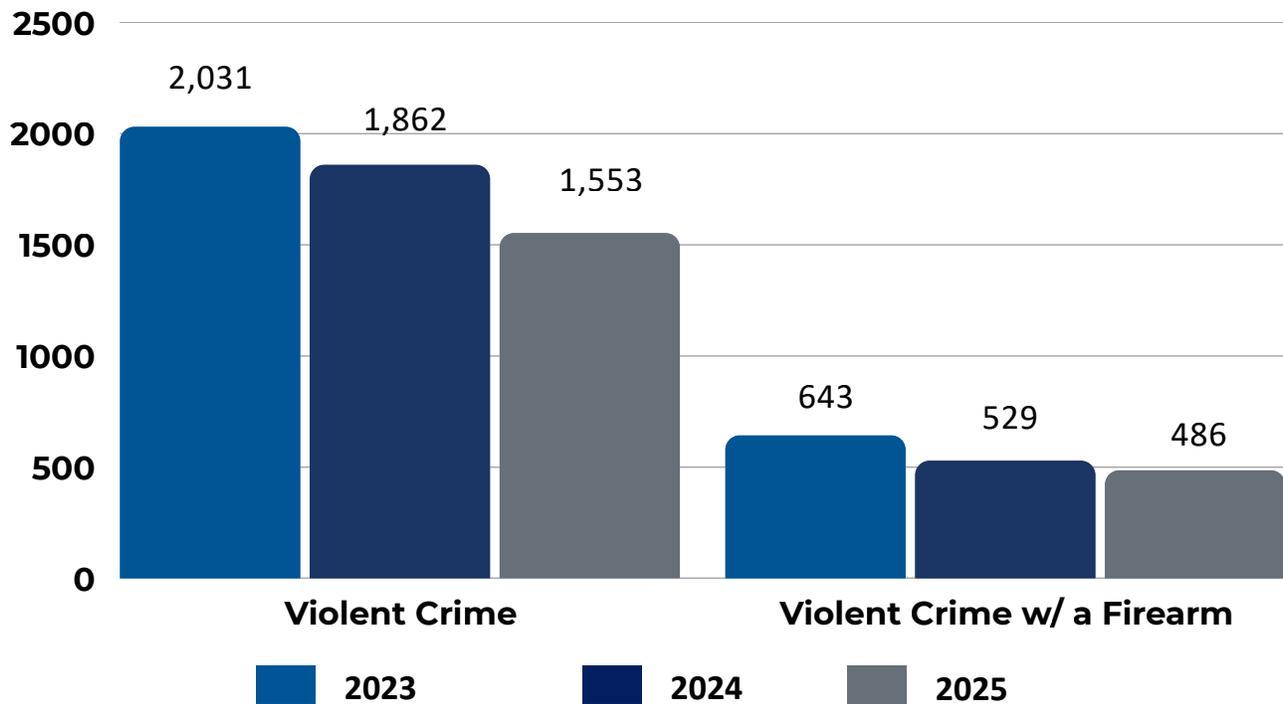
**REDUCE CRIME  
AND ENHANCE  
THE QUALITY OF  
LIFE FOR ALL  
RESIDENTS AND  
VISITORS OF  
TAMPA  
THROUGH A  
COOPERATIVE  
PARTNERSHIP  
WITH LOCAL  
AND FEDERAL  
LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
AGENCIES.**

## CRIME REDUCTION

# Turning Strategy into Results

National crime analyst Jeff Asher recently described 2025 as a year that may have produced the largest one-year drop in murder ever recorded. His data shows murders nationwide fell on average by nearly 20 percent in the first ten months of the year, with violent and property crime also declining significantly. That national context matters because it shows Tampa didn't simply fall within the scope of those broader trends. *We outperformed them.*

According to the 2025 year-end violent crime survey of 67 major U.S. cities, Tampa ranked fourth lowest in the nation for total violent crime and third lowest among peer cities of comparable size, highlighting the city's ongoing commitment to public safety and community well-being.



While violent crime declined nationally by approximately 12.3%, Tampa outperformed the national average with a **16.6% overall reduction**.

*Violent Crime accounts for Robbery, Aggravated Assault/Battery, Murder, and Sexual Battery*

*\*\* The State of Florida became certified in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in the summer of 2022, switching from a previous crime reporting system known as Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR). Any statistical information released before records are certified by the state and the FBI are preliminary and could change either slightly or significantly.*

## Turning Strategy into Results



**52.8%**

Decrease in  
**Homicides**

*Outperforming the  
national average of 19.3%*

**18.8%**

Decrease in  
**Rape**

*Outperforming the  
national average of 8.8%*

**20.8%**

Decrease in  
**Robbery**

*Outperforming the  
national average of 19.8%*

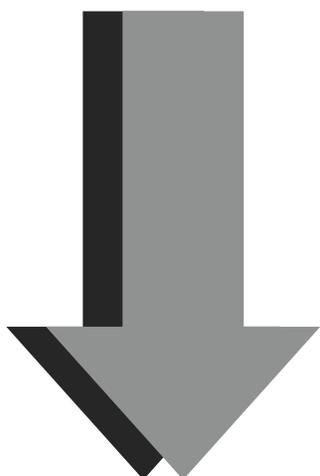
**14.6%**

Decrease in  
**Aggravated Assault**

*Outperforming the  
national average of 9.7%*

## Beyond Violent Crime: Property Crimes & Non-Violent Crime

Building on historically low violent crime rates and performance that outpaced national trends, the following data highlights trends in property and other non-violent crimes in 2025, further reflecting the City's comprehensive approach to public safety and crime reduction.



**21.3%**

Decrease in  
**Total Crime**

**23.3%**

Decrease in  
**Grand Theft**

**35.9%**

Decrease in  
**Auto Burglaries**

**28%**

Decrease in  
**Stolen Firearms**  
from Auto Burglaries

*Violent Crime accounts for Robbery, Aggravated Assault/Battery, Murder, and Sexual Battery*

*\*\* The State of Florida became certified in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in the summer of 2022, switching from a previous crime reporting system known as Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR). Any statistical information released before records are certified by the state and the FBI are preliminary and could change either slightly or significantly.*

# From the Front Lines

*From the frontlines, officers are doing more than responding to calls for service. Across each district, they are taking a proactive approach to policing, addressing crime while also tackling quality-of-life challenges that influence the community's overall health, stability, and safety.*

## District One

### Dismantling Regional Car Theft and Burglary Ring

On July 9, 2025, a District One Street Anti-Crimes squad located a stolen vehicle in the Westshore Business District. After conducting brief surveillance, officers identified the known suspects, who had also both been tied to a series of car thefts and burglaries across Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Once both suspects were arrested by officers, they recovered a stolen firearm, narcotics, multiple stolen license plates, and other stolen items, including credit cards. In total, the suspects faced more than 20 criminal charges.

## District Two

### District Two Partners to Address Quality of Life Issues

Addressing quality-of-life concerns involving unhoused residents throughout the city, District Two officers partnered with city teams to clean up nearly ten encampment sites. With the assistance of heavy equipment, city personnel, and multiple officer squads, nine overpasses, alleys, and vacant lots were cleared of tents, debris, and biohazardous materials.

Several of these locations were situated near residential neighborhoods and high-traffic areas. Through this coordinated effort, officers and city teams made a visible and meaningful impact, improving safety and cleanliness for nearby residents and for those who live and work in the surrounding communities.

## District Three

### Business and Residences Linked to Drug Ring Shut Down

In the summer of 2025, following narcotics-related complaints from residents, the Street Anti-Crimes Squad, in coordination with the SWAT team, executed a series of search warrants at a local business and two neighboring residences. The investigation revealed an active narcotics operation involving employees, family members, and business owners conducting illicit drug sales.

As a result of the operation, officers seized nearly 1,000 grams (approximately two pounds) of narcotics, more than \$39,000 in cash, and a firearm. Dozens of arrests were made, and a Public Nuisance Abatement Board (PNAB) notice was served, effectively shutting down a long-standing drug ring. This coordinated effort has had an immediate impact on the sense of safety and well-being of nearby residents.

# From the Front Lines

## District One



## District Two



## District Three



# COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING



**FORM  
CONNECTIONS  
WITH THE  
COMMUNITY  
THROUGH  
PROACTIVE  
ENCOUNTERS  
TO BUILD AND  
MAINTAIN  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST AND  
CONFIDENCE.**

# COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING



## Building Trust Through Engagement

In February 2025, the department realigned its command structure to strengthen and expand the Community Outreach Bureau, creating a more centralized and coordinated approach to community-oriented policing citywide. This realignment enhanced the bureau's ability to engage residents, build trust, and develop strong partnerships with community organizations.

The Community Outreach Bureau is led by a Captain, Lieutenant, and Sergeant, and includes Community Outreach Officers, a Community Partnership Coordinator, Community Partnership Liaisons, R.I.C.H. House staff (Coordinator and Officers), and Homeless Liaison Officers. Officers from the department's three districts also supported outreach efforts as needed, volunteering at community programs when bureau staff were committed to scheduled events.

Throughout 2025, the bureau significantly expanded its community engagement efforts, resulting in a broader and more visible presence across the city. Key accomplishments included increased attendance at Neighborhood Watch meetings and events; expanded mentorship initiatives in schools and youth organizations; the addition of more community town halls; increased crime-prevention and safety presentations for local businesses; active involvement in youth sports programs through coaching and participation; and continued collaboration with community partners, including joint initiatives and fundraising efforts.

# BUILDING TRUST THROUGH ENGAGEMENT



## Pop-Up Apartment Visits

Beginning in the fall, Community Outreach and patrol officers partnered to host after-school pop-up visits at apartment complexes throughout the city. Officers welcomed children home from school with cheer tunnels and offered treats, music, crafts, and interactive activities. These visits provided a safe, fun space for students to decompress after their school day while encouraging positive interactions with law enforcement. By engaging with younger residents in moments not defined by emergencies or crises, the program fostered trust, built relationships, and strengthened the sense of community between officers and the neighborhoods they serve.

## RICH House Program

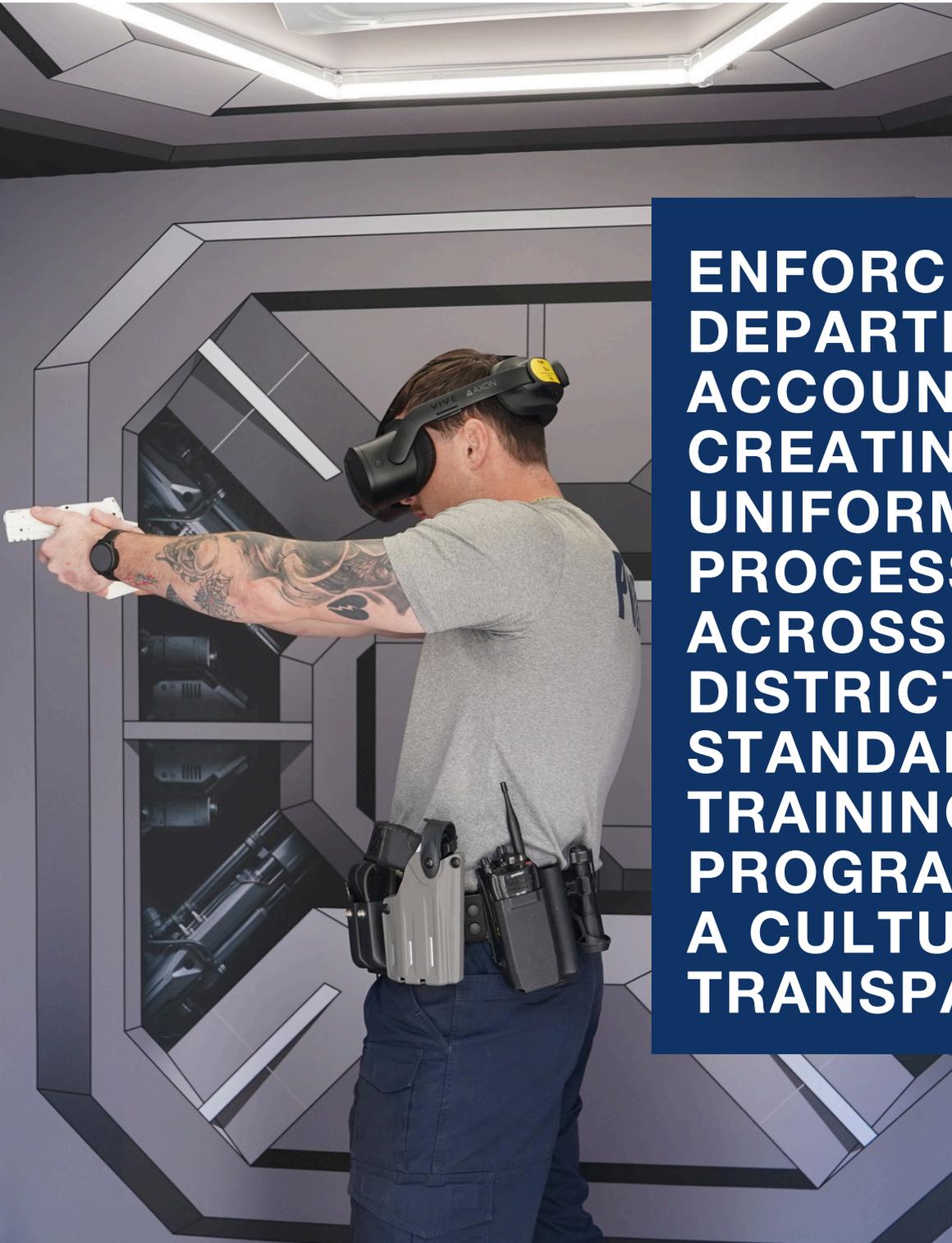
Established in 2000, the Resources in Community Hope (R.I.C.H.) House program provides a safe, supportive environment for youth in economically challenged neighborhoods, offering after-school and summer enrichment at locations in Sulphur Springs and Robles Park. In 2025, the Community Outreach Bureau expanded its support through consistent mentoring and educational engagement, including weekly literacy sessions focused on reading comprehension, critical thinking, and group discussion. Additional efforts included hosting holiday gatherings, strengthening positive relationships with participating youth, and selecting students to participate in the department's Shop with a Cop program to support academic readiness and back-to-school preparation.



## Enchanted Wonderland

Formerly known as Santa's Workshop, Enchanted Wonderland is TPD's signature annual holiday event, bringing gifts and joy to children in need while fostering strong community connections. In 2025, the department partnered with Wish Kids Network, Operation Homefront, RISE Tampa, and Walmart, resulting in the donation of 24 pallets of toys. Volunteers from sororities, fraternities, and local organizations supported the event, helping children select gifts, take photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, enjoy festive activities, and explore TPD resources. Planning and gift collection began months in advance, with community members and businesses playing a vital role in making the event possible. More than 1,500 children and their families attended the event at Middleton High School, creating a joyful, inclusive celebration that strengthened relationships between the department and the community it serves.

# QUALITY ASSURANCE



**ENFORCE  
DEPARTMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY,  
CREATING  
UNIFORMITY IN  
PROCESSES  
ACROSS PATROL  
DISTRICTS,  
STANDARDIZED  
TRAINING  
PROGRAMS, AND  
A CULTURE OF  
TRANSPARENCY.**

## QUALITY ASSURANCE



### Standards That Strengthen Trust

Quality Assurance is central to our commitment to professional and accountable policing. As the department responds to a high volume of calls for service each year, performance is regularly reviewed to ensure consistency, compliance, and quality in every interaction.

By closely monitoring data and listening to the voices of those we serve, we strengthen trust, enhance service delivery, and reinforce our commitment to excellence in public safety.

**497,288**

Total  
Calls for Service

**275,071**

Self-initiated  
Calls for Service

**222,217**

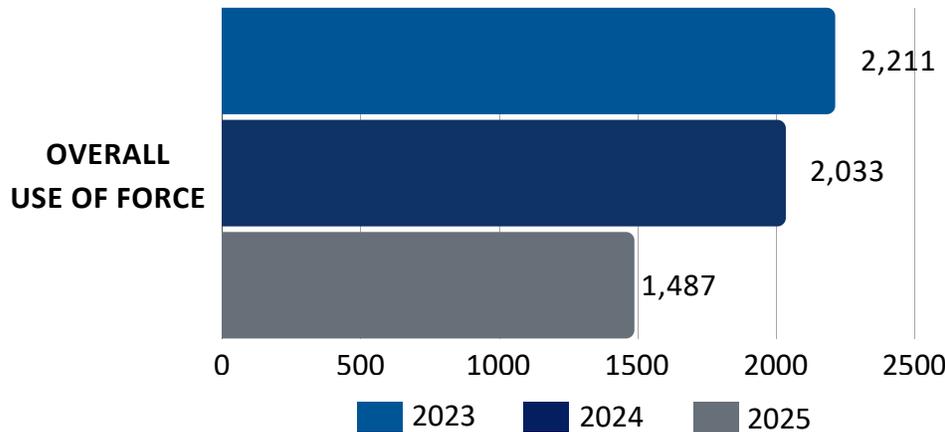
Dispatched  
Calls for Service

In 2025, the average response time for **Priority 1** calls was **4.1 minutes**. From dispatch to arrival the goal is 8 minutes. The average response time for **Priority 2** calls was **7.2 minutes**. From dispatch to arrival the goal is 12 minutes.

# Standards That Strengthen Trust

## Officer Response

The training standard and expectation for officers is to use the least amount of force in response to resistance. In 2025, overall use of force declined by 33%, accounting for less than 0.3% of total calls for service. This reduction is directly linked to expanded training initiatives that reduced the number of incidents requiring de-escalation, resulting in a lower overall need for force.



## Building Tomorrow's Public Safety Leaders

To meet the evolving demands of modern policing, we invest in advanced leadership training, including the FBI National Academy (FBINA), St. Leo University's Command School, the Police Executive Leadership Institute (PELI), and other programs. These initiatives prepare supervisors and command staff to lead with expertise, grounded in best practices and national standards.

Strong leadership also strengthens collaboration with the community and public safety partners. Well-trained leaders promote clear communication, data-driven strategies, and coordinated responses to complex challenges. By cultivating the next generation of leaders, we reinforce public trust and advance our shared commitment to safety.

## Community Testimonials

On average, Tampa Police has received a **4.5 out of 5** from residents during their call for service.

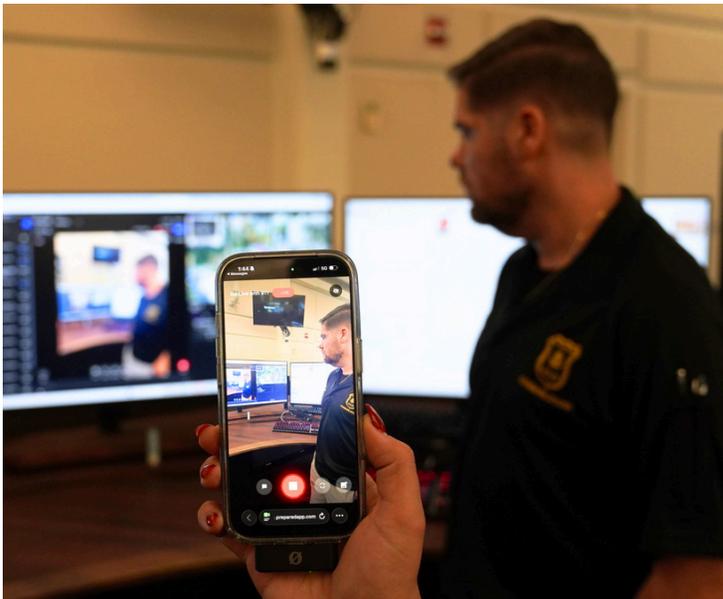
"Both officers who came to my office were phenomenal...kudos to the officers, dispatcher, and leaders for what is clearly compassionate training."

"The officer I interacted with was very patient...she was reassuring, calming, professional, and most importantly friendly."

"Thank you so much to the officers who came out to hear my issue and for being so nice and comforting in a scary situation."

# The Cutting Edge of Modern Policing

Continuing to strengthen our commitment to innovation and public safety, the department implemented AI-powered platforms that enhanced officers' ability to keep the community safe and improve the quality of service.



### Prepared 911

This system allows Tampa Police Communications personnel to process calls to 911 with unprecedented speed while also providing access to real-time translation in multiple languages. Call takers can also send a secure link to a caller's smartphone, enabling them to live-stream video directly to the Communications Center. This provides first responders with vital visual context before they arrive on the scene, a crucial factor in critical situations.



### Axon Assistant & Policy Chat

Tampa Police are also expanding the functionality of body-worn cameras. Officers now have access to real-time translation in over 50 languages and voice-activated policy guidance with official citations. These tools remove language barriers and any translation delay, while also ensuring officers can make high-stakes decisions with confidence while keeping their focus on the community members they serve.

# THE CUTTING EDGE OF MODERN POLICING



## The Drone as First Responder (DFR)

The program provides improved efficiency in emergency response to calls for service. The high-tech drones can launch the instant a 911 call is received and can often reach the scene minutes ahead of patrol officers on the ground, providing a critical head start when every second counts. This innovative approach acts as a powerful force multiplier, streamlining coordination and ensuring that responding officers are empowered with the real-time intelligence they need to make Tampa even safer.



## Virtual Reality Immersive Training Pods

The VR Pods feature verbal skills training, where AI-driven virtual characters will soon respond in real-time to an officer's voice commands and tone. This allows for repeatable practice of de-escalation techniques. As officers progress, they move into Virtual Reality-Based Training, navigating high-stress, 360-degree video simulations that mirror real-world calls for service, allowing them to practice responding in a controlled environment and strengthening their ability to stabilize real-world encounters before they escalate.

# WELLNESS



**SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON IMPROVING THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLNESS OF OFFICERS AND THE COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS PROVIDING RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE.**

## WELLNESS



# Wellness from the Inside Out: How Officers Are Driving Change

Officer wellness in 2025 centered on physical health as a foundation for long-term mental well-being. The focus was on providing officers with practical tools, nutrition, exercise, sleep habits, and social connections to help close the gap between physical strain and mental resilience. Emphasis was placed on taking control of variables that are within an officer's influence, rather than the uncontrollable stressors that can arise from both professional duties and personal challenges.

In support of this focus, officers took the initiative to launch a run club, creating opportunities to train alongside one another while building camaraderie and a sense of community beyond their assigned squads. What began as a fitness activity quickly evolved into a space for connection, encouragement, and peer support.

Building on this renewed emphasis on wellness, fitness incentives were introduced to encourage sustained participation and healthy habits. Together, these efforts reflect a holistic and comprehensive approach to officer well-being, reinforcing the understanding that physical health, mental resilience, and peer connection are deeply interconnected and essential to long-term success.

## SUPPORTING THE MISSION

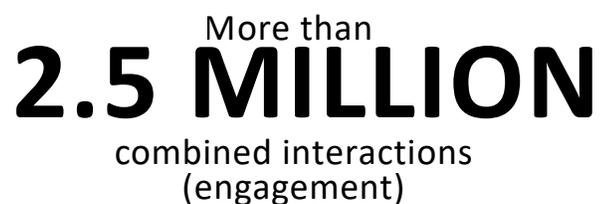
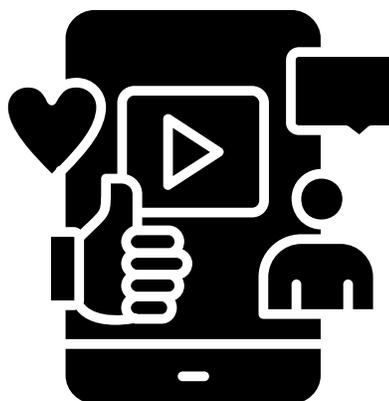


### Telling the Story of Public Safety

In 2025, the Public Information Office (PIO) brought the city’s public safety story to life like never before, producing an unprecedented number of videos, social posts, graphics, and more. Leading up to one of the city’s largest events, the PIO launched the “Responsibility Matters” campaign, highlighting the importance of safety during the bustling Gasparilla season. The campaign’s impact was recognized nationally, earning the team “Best Use of Video” at the 2025 National Information Officers of America (NIOA) conference.

Beyond campaigns, the PIO harnessed social media trends, shared public safety messages across multiple formats, and introduced the “Partners in Crime” series, spotlighting officers and their work in the community. These efforts did more than inform, they strengthened the bonds between the department and the community, showcased the collaborative spirit of officers and partners, and amplified the message that public safety is a shared responsibility.

Through their storytelling, the PIO demonstrated how clear communication and strong partnerships can make neighborhoods safer, inspire trust, and celebrate the people behind the badge.



## SUPPORTING THE MISSION



### New Additions Strengthen Specialized Units

Spring 2025 marked a season of growth for our K-9 and Mounted Units with the addition of four new four-legged officers: K-9 Odus and Officer Jacob Petitt (pictured left), K-9 Kevlar and Officer Wehby (pictured center), K-9 Bruce and Officer Madhavan (not pictured), and Mount Henry (pictured right).

Each team completed hundreds of hours of specialized training, and beyond enforcement, our K-9 and Mounted Units are highly visible ambassadors for the department. Whether assisting at large-scale events, supporting patrol operations, or participating in community outreach events, they help build positive connections between officers and the residents they serve. Their unique capabilities, combined with their strong public presence, enhance both public safety and community trust.

### Training Today, Ready Tomorrow

In 2025, although the Dive Team was not deployed for hurricane-related search and rescue operations, they remained actively engaged, responding to more than 40 calls for service throughout the year. Among the most frequent responses were vehicle recoveries, with 19 conducted across the city, each requiring coordination, precision, and teamwork.

Even in the absence of major storm deployments, the team trains year-round alongside partner agencies to ensure they are prepared to respond quickly and effectively when emergencies arise. Whether supporting fellow first responders or assisting residents in urgent situations, their preparedness and teamwork continue to make a meaningful impact on community safety.



## SUPPORTING THE MISSION



### Building a Legacy of Excellence

Following the launch of a reimagined recruitment approach in 2024, 2025 became a year of measurable growth and results. Recruiters significantly expanded their outreach, attending 58 events, a 93% increase over the previous year's total of 30. This expanded presence and sustained focus led to the hiring of nearly 100 new police officers, 20 police dispatchers, and 30 professional staff members, demonstrating the continued impact of our strengthened recruitment strategy.

This success reflects the Tampa Police Department's focused commitment to recruiting the "best of the best." In 2025, we strengthened partnerships with USF, the University of Tampa, FAMU, Bethune-Cookman University, and Hillsborough Community College to build clear pathways from education to public service, while also expanding outreach beyond Florida to attract top-tier talent. We also deepened engagement with military service members through a consistent presence at MacDill Air Force Base, participation in Coast Guard TAPS events, and continued investment in our SkillBridge program, creating a seamless transition for disciplined, experienced service members into law enforcement careers.

Our approach is reinforced by the continued development and modernization of our recruitment team, which underwent advanced training to remain competitive in today's national hiring landscape. From the high standards we seek in our candidates to the professionalism of those who represent our agency in the field, excellence is built into every step of the process, ensuring we consistently select the very best to serve the City of Tampa while intentionally building a lasting legacy of excellence for our community.



# 2025 AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

## OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS



**Corporal Jacob Gonzalez**  
Officer of the Year



**Jared Douds**  
Employee of the Year



**Officer Jasmine House**  
Community Policing Officer of the Year



**Harold McCray**  
Reserve Officer of the Year



**State Attorney Susan "Suzy" Lopez**  
Bell/Childers Memorial Award



**Officer Anthony Girouard**  
Jesse Madsen Life Saving

**Tampa Police Chaplain Samuel Ponce**  
My Brother's Keeper

**Detective Chris Veron**  
Major David Fairbanks Memorial Award

# 2025 AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

## OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS

### JANUARY

Officer

Leonardo Nimo

Employee

Jennifer Grant

Community Policing Officer

Michael Campani

### FEBRUARY

Officer

Ray Figueroa

Employee

Julie Clark

Community Policing Officer

Shayne Rousseau & Travis Wilson

### MARCH

Officer

Stefon Filer

Employee

Gisela "Gigi" Ortiz

Community Policing Officer

Richard Lehr

### APRIL

Officer

Travis Johnson

Employee

Dee Mathena

Community Policing Officer

Jasmine House

### MAY

Officer

Christopher Miller

Employee

Jared Douds

Community Policing Officer

Rodney Riviere

### JUNE

Officer

Bryan Stevens

Employee

Verliz Williams

Community Policing Officer

Justin Lee

### JULY

Officer

Hope Dauphin

Employee

Tammie Bishop

Community Policing Officer

Daniel Coco

### AUGUST

Officer

Curtis Briles

Employee

Jovi Bettua

Community Policing Officer

Mike Simmons

### SEPTEMBER

Officer

Nicholas Rebetti

Employee

Garry Lisiewski

Community Policing Officer

Leigh Smith

### OCTOBER

Officer

Mona Noble

Employee

Ashley Newsom

Community Policing Officer

Holly Burroughs-Clifford

### NOVEMBER

Officer

Greyson Vetter

Employee

Michel Matos

### DECEMBER

Officer

Jacob Gonzalez

Employee

Dillon Moyer

Community Policing Officer

Craig Jorden

## MOMENTS OF REMEMBRANCE



## Remembering Our Fallen, Together

In 2025, we honored the line-of-duty anniversaries of seven of our fallen heroes. When an officer dies in the line of duty, the impact of that loss extends far beyond the department and into the community they served. Their friends, families, and loved ones carry forward their legacy because a hero remembered is a hero who never dies. United in honor, we will never forget the men and women who came before us, paving the way for current and future generations.

This past year, we held remembrance ceremonies for the following heroes:

- The 120th remembrance ceremony for Captain Samuel Carter (EOW: June 2, 1905) was held on June 2, 2025.
- The 90th remembrance ceremony for Officer Bryan Reese (EOW: August 29, 1935) was held on August 29, 2025.
- The 90th remembrance ceremony for Officer John McCormick (EOW: September 26, 1895), the 110th remembrance ceremony for City Marshal Joseph Walker (EOW: September 25, 1915), and the 50th remembrance ceremony for Detective Kenneth Berlin (EOW: September 27, 1975) were held on September 25, 2025.
- The 50th remembrance ceremony for Sergeant Richard Cloud (EOW: October 23, 1975) was held on October 23, 2025.
- The 50th remembrance ceremony for Officer Anthony Williams (EOW: November 3, 1975 ) was held on November 3, 2025.



# UNITED IN HONOR, NEVER FORGOTTEN

Master Police Officer Jesse Madsen  
Officer Jeffrey Kocab  
Officer David Curtis  
Corporal Michael Roberts  
Detective Juan Serrano  
Master Police Officer Lois Marrero  
Detective Randy Bell  
Detective Ricky Childers  
Officer Norris Epps, Jr.  
Officer Porfirio Soto, Jr.  
Sergeant Gary Pricher  
Detective Gerald Rauff  
Officer Anthony Williams  
Sergeant Richard Cloud  
Detective Kenneth Berlin, Jr.  
Corporal John Collier  
Officer William Krikava  
Officer Rolla Standau, Jr.  
Officer Carl Chastain  
Officer Morris Lopez  
Officer Richard Booth  
Detective Lester Henley  
Vice Chief Arthur Berry  
Detective Joe Nance  
Detective Thomas Chevis  
Officer Bryan Reese  
Officer Henry Lett  
Patrolman Juan Nales  
Officer James Ronco  
Marshal Joseph Walker  
Captain Samuel Carter  
Officer John McCormick

**Tampa Police Headquarters**

411 N. Franklin Street

Tampa, FL 33602

Main Phone: (813) 276-3200

**District One**

3818 W. Tampa Bay Boulevard

Tampa, FL 33607

Main Phone: (813) 354-6600

**District Two**

9330 N. 30th Street

Tampa, FL 33612

Main Phone: (813) 931-6500

**District Three**

3808 N. 22nd Street

Tampa, FL 33610

Main Phone: (813) 242-3800

**Non-Emergency**

(813) 231-6130

**Emergency**

911

@TAMPAPD



TAMPA.GOV/POLICE