

# SARASOTA 20 POLICE 24 DEPARTMENT Annual Report

Chief Rex Troche



Photographed by  
Dylan Jon Wade Cox



*A message from*

# Sarasota Police Chief Rex Troche

“Serving the City  
of Sarasota with  
**compassion**  
and first class  
**community**  
**service** is our  
**pleasure.”**

-Chief Rex Troche

As a transparent and community-focused agency, we are proud to present the Sarasota Police Department's 2024 Annual Report.

This year, we faced an unprecedented storm season with Tropical Storm Debby, Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton. Our officers worked tirelessly before, during, and after these storms to safeguard our city and protect its residents. I am proud to share that no storm-related casualties were reported in the City of Sarasota during any of these events—a testament to the dedication and preparedness of our team.

The Sarasota Police Department continues to set the standard in premier community service and outreach, with our specialty units drawing attention

from agencies nationwide.



Chief Troche speaking at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties for the Dream Court unveiling in honor of Basketball Hall of Famer, Dick Vitale.

I could not be more proud of the highly skilled and compassionate individuals who make up the Sarasota Police Department family. Their unwavering commitment to serving this community shines through in every interaction they have with the public.

**CHIEF REX TROCHE**

REX.TROCHE@SARASOTAFL.GOV

# AGENCY ASSETS

192

sworn law enforcement  
officers serving the  
City of Sarasota

61

full-time professional  
staff members, 12 part-  
time

37

military veterans, 10 of which  
are active-duty military  
reserves

## Our Mission

Provide professional, dedicated  
police service in partnership  
with our community.

## Core Values

Service, Professionalism,  
& Dedication



“Only in Florida can you host a swearing-in ceremony where more than half of the new officers are from out-of-state. I’m proud to welcome these new officers. May God protect them as they risk their lives to protect us.”

ATTORNEY GENERAL  
ASHLEY MOODY

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody attended and spoke at our spring swearing-in ceremony for nine new officers.

“In an era where law enforcement agencies nationwide face recruitment challenges, we stand out with a waitlist of highly qualified candidates eager to serve.”

CHIEF REX TROCHE



## Honors & Awards



### Co-Officers of the Year

Officer Steven Mayforth (left)  
Officer AJ Varlaro (right)



### Detective of the Year

Detective Angela Cox



### Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Patrick Comac

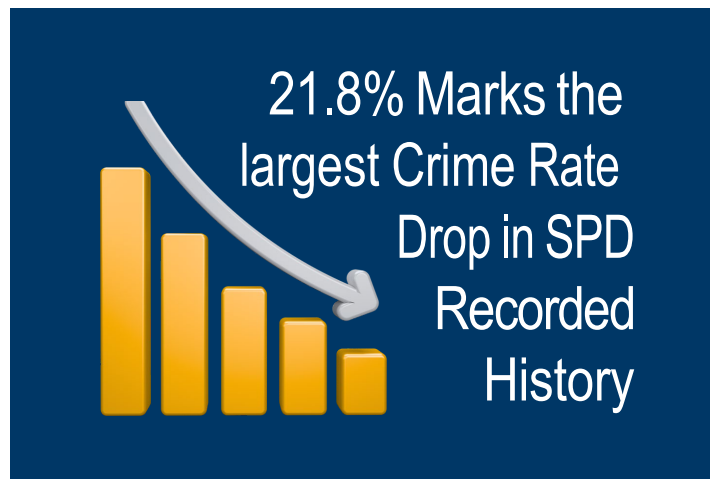


### Civilian of the Year

Ben Billingsley

# Crime Statistics

2023	2024	
0	7	Homicide (not divisible by 0)
28	22	Rape/Forcible Sex Crime (-21.4%)
75	51	Robbery (-32%)
243	248	Aggravated Assault (2.1%)
146	142	Burglary (-2.7%)
1,129	799	Larceny (-29.2%)
144	112	Motor Vehicle Theft (-22.2%)
1,765	1,381	<b>Total Index Offenses (-21.8%)</b>



# Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the agency's most visible part of our law enforcement services. They operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year utilizing four rotating 12-hour shifts. Each shift is supervised by a Lieutenant and three Sergeants with officers assigned to cover ten zones within the City of Sarasota.

2,774

Physical Arrests

3,953

Total Charges

825

Summons

1,413

Felony Arrest Charges

1,001

Drug Charges

245

Firearms Seized

985

Warrant Arrest Charges

## Marine Patrol

SPD has two vessels in its fleet:  
32' Ocean 1 Offshore Patrol Vessel  
& 36' Yellowfin Offshore Patrol Vessel

**38** Vessel Assists

**7** Boat Crashes

**15** Rescues

**71** Citations

**170** Warnings

**22** Derelict Vessels





## Homeless Outreach Team

### Outreach

The Homeless Outreach Team provides resources, contacts, and housing through individualized case management, ultimately providing long-term solutions to individuals and our community.

- 3,618** Individual Contacts
- 483** First Time Contacts
- 690** Number of Services Provided
- 9** Homeward Bound Clients
- 59** Individuals who Completed

### Enforcement



**595**  
Physical Arrests

**279**  
Summons Issued



**123**  
Citations Issued

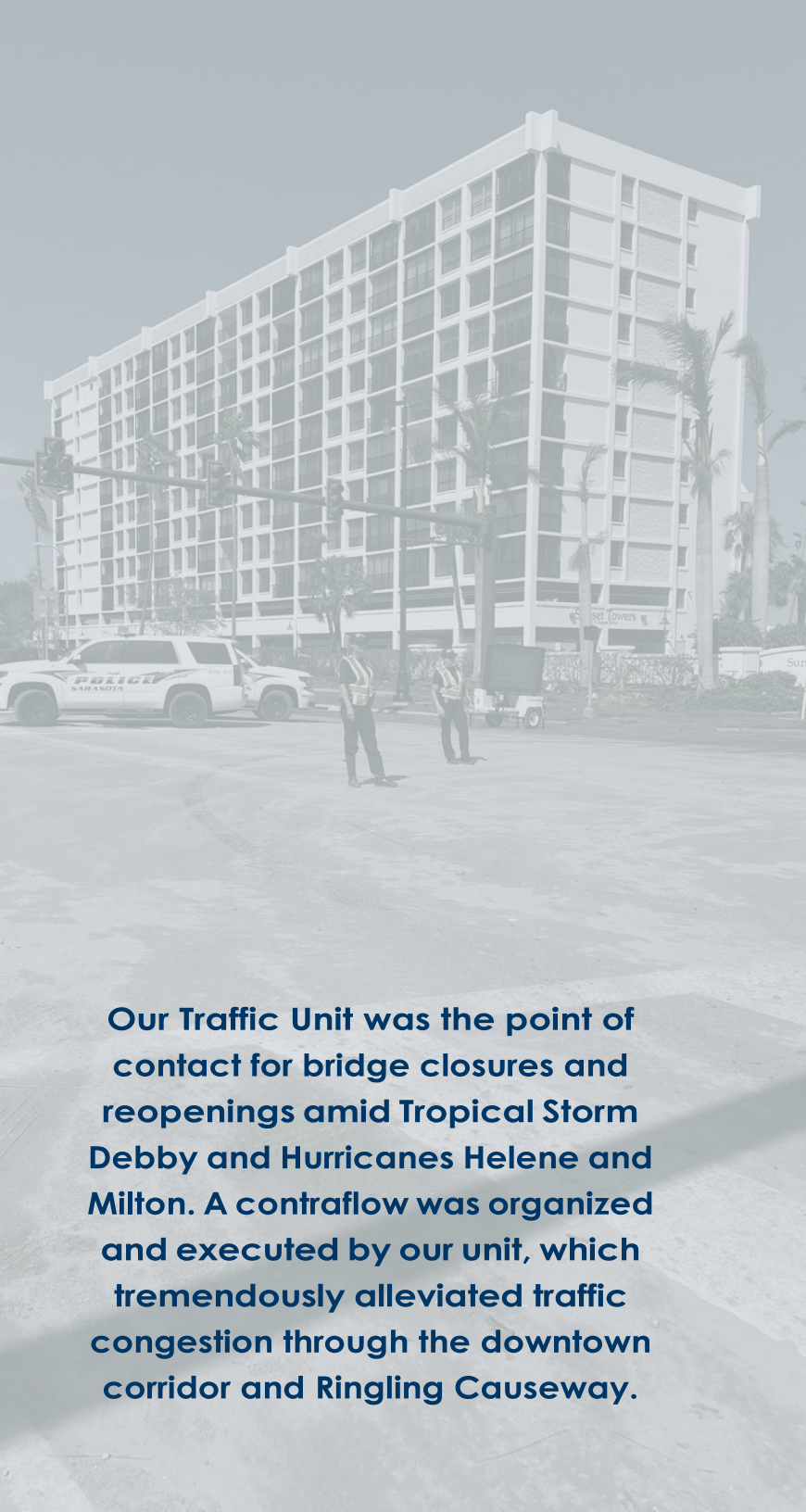
**743**  
Charges

Community Care Court

**2,986**  
Incidents

**284**  
Subjects  
Trespassed





**Our Traffic Unit was the point of contact for bridge closures and reopenings amid Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricanes Helene and Milton. A contraflow was organized and executed by our unit, which tremendously alleviated traffic congestion through the downtown corridor and Ringling Causeway.**

## Traffic Unit

**2,367**

Speeding Tickets

**87**

Seatbelt Violations

**325**

School Zone Violations

**32**

Driving Under the Influence

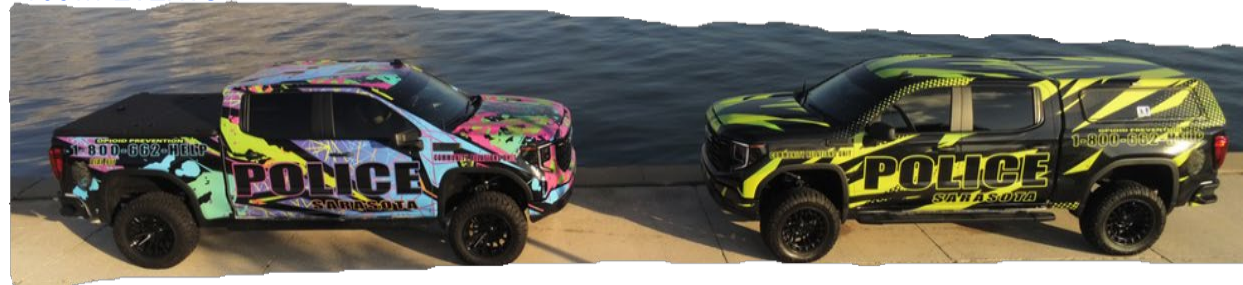


# Community Relations Unit

The Community Relations Unit (CRU) at SPD is dedicated to building strong connections with the community and youth through engaging programs and events, such as National Night Out, toy drives, school supply collections, bicycle rodeos, and after-school tutoring. Officers also patrol neighborhoods and parks on foot and bike, staying active and visible. With a focus on fostering positive relationships, especially with youth and students, CRU plays a key role in promoting a safer and more vibrant Sarasota.



YOUTH EVENTS



200+

In 2024, CRU participated in more than 200 community and youth related events.

foundation for those considering a future career in law enforcement and related fields.

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# Explorers

High school students can explore the world of law enforcement with the Sarasota Police Department, gaining firsthand insight into the challenges and rewards of the profession. Through direct interaction with SPD officers, Explorers will learn what it means to serve the community with integrity and compassion. This immersive experience provides a strong



In 2024, CRU acquired two vehicles funded by the Opioid Settlement. Their purpose is to bring awareness and support prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services for opioid and substance use disorders.

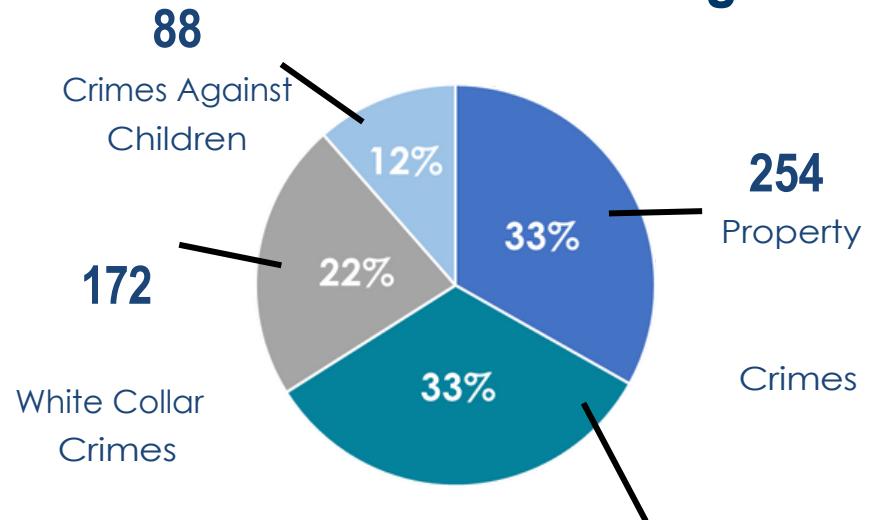
# Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division consists of the Crimes Against Persons Unit, Property Crimes Unit, Strategic Investigations Unit, Community Action Team, Crime Scene Investigations Unit, and the Victim Advocate Program.

## Community Action Team

- 200** Arrests
- 44** Illegal Firearms Recovered
- 138** Misdemeanor Charges
- 368** Felony Charges
- 72.5 lbs** Illegal Drugs Seized
- 411** Traffic Citations & Warnings

## Cases Investigated



**Total Cases Investigated: 766**

**Clearance Rate**  
**Persons Cases: 41.1%**  
(Nat. Avg. 36.7%)

**Property Cases: 28.6%**  
(Nat. Avg. 13.9%)

**252**  
Persons  
Crimes



## Crime Scene Unit

The Crime Scene Unit consists of one Sergeant and seven Crime Scene Investigators responsible for documenting evidentiary items of crime scenes through detailed notes and photography. They collect, preserve, and process all evidence. Additionally, they provide critical testimony in criminal court proceedings.

**211**  
Call Outs

**454**  
In-House  
Assignments

**237**  
Latent Print  
Assignments

**126**  
FDLE Lab  
Submissions

## Homicides & Clearance Rates

- 7 Homicides occurred in the City of Sarasota in 2024
  - 2 Cases were cleared by death of offender
  - 5 Cases were cleared by arrest

*(National Average Homicide Clearance Rate - 57.8%)*



## Operation Safe Summer

Operation Safe Summer began on May 26, 2024, following significant criminal intelligence indicating a potential rise in the number of shootings and gun-related crimes in the City of Sarasota.

**54** Arrests

**34** Illegal Firearms Recovered

**41** Misdemeanor Charges

**95** Felony Charges

**5.6lbs** Illegal Drugs Seized

**\$28,625** Cash Seized



## Strategic Investigations Unit



**21**

Firearms



**\$425,500**

Currency Seized



**64.6lbs**

Cocaine

**632.4 lbs**

Methamphetamines

**53.4lbs**

Fentanyl

**220,800 Pills**

Fentanyl &  
Methamphetamine



# Support Services Division

The Support Services Division is comprised of the critical infrastructure units including: Management Information Systems, Facilities Maintenance, Records Management, Real-Time Operations Center, Property and Evidence, Fleet, K9, Red-Light Camera, Body Worn Camera Programs, Special Events, Extra-Duty and seven special response teams (Crisis Negotiations, Underwater Search and Recovery, Drones, Explosive Materials, Emergency Response Team, Mobile Command Center, and Special Weapons and Tactics.)



## DRONES

In 2024, the Sarasota Police Department took to the skies with its new Drone Unit, bringing a high-tech edge to crime scene surveillance, traffic monitoring, and search-and-rescue missions. Drones offer a bird's-eye view, giving officers real-time aerial footage that boosts situational awareness and keeps them safer during special events and critical incidents.



**93 Deployments**

**800 Flights**

## 110 Hours in the Air

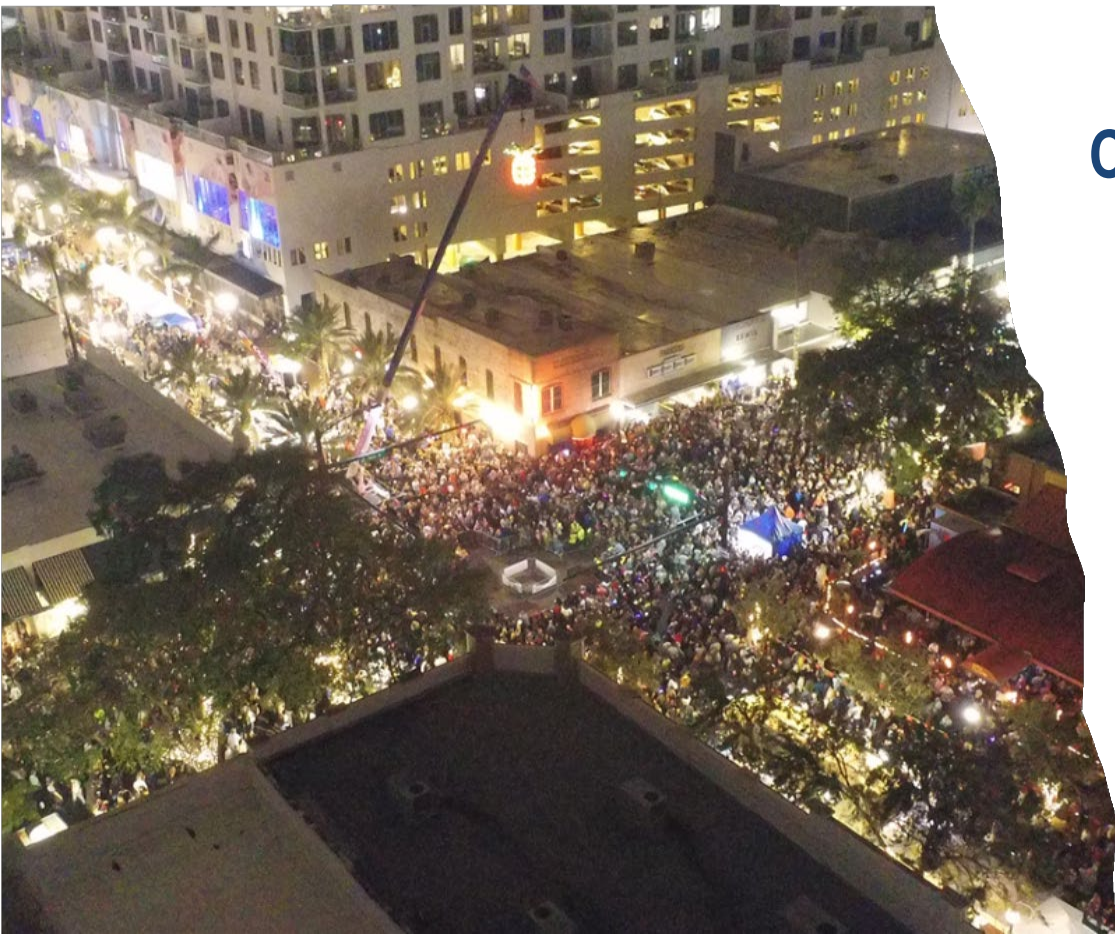
# Emergency Response Team

- 3 Major Storm Systems
  - Tropical Storm Debby (Aug)
  - Hurricane Helene (Sept)
  - Hurricane Milton (Oct)

500 Rescues



Photographed by  
Dylan Jon Wade  
Cox



## City Co-Sponsored Special Events

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity March
- Spring Event (Easter)
- Memorial Day Parade
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Powerboat Grand Prix Wet/Dry Pits
- Powerboat Grand Prix Race/Lido VIP
- Bayfront Fireworks/4<sup>th</sup> of July
- National Night Out
- Veteran's Day Parade
- Downtown Holiday Parade
- Holiday Boat Parade of Lights
- St. Armand's Circle Holiday Night of Lights
- Downtown New Year's Eve Celebration

# Professional Standards

## Division



Beginning in Q3 2024, IA began issuing written compliments to officers for outstanding work. To reflect this change, Internal Affairs was renamed to Internal Affairs – Compliments and Complaints.

# Internal Affairs Compliments & Complaints

Internal Affairs manages the investigation of all complaints agency-wide. Complaints may be received internally, externally, or anonymously and will be thoroughly investigated. During 2024, the following statistics reflect the work of the Internal Affairs Unit:

### **Total Investigations: 138**

- 3.8% increase from 133 in 2023

### **Formal Investigations: 3**

- Number remained flat from 2023

### **Informal Investigations: 48**

- 7.7% decrease from 52 in 2023

### **Investigative Inquiries: 87**

- 11.5% increase from 78 in 2023. 73 of the inquiries were able to be closed through preliminary investigation which determined no policy violation occurred through body worn camera and case documentation review.

## Training

During 2024, Sarasota Police Department officers used force during 126 incidents to achieve lawful objectives. This is a reduction of 36% from 2023.

### **Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Training**

ABLE Training encourages intervention in misconduct and supports speaking up for individuals showing signs of impaired mental health. In 2024, it was expanded to include all professional staff.



**Sarasota Police Department**

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