

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

RHODE ISLAND CAPITOL POLICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Prepared by: Chief Joseph T. Little, Jr.

**Rhode Island Capitol Police Headquarters
One Capitol Hill, Suite 200
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RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Rhode Island Capitol Police
Headquarters



A State Accredited Agency

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Colonel Darnell S Weaver
Director, Department of Public Safety
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police

Joseph T. Little, Jr.
Chief of Police
Rhode Island Capitol Police

Rhode Island Capitol Police 2022 Annual Report

Overview

The Rhode Island Capitol Police was established in 1974 so that the Rhode Island State House would have a police force that was unique unto itself and trained to deal with its specific security needs. Today the Capitol Police are assigned to sixteen facilities throughout the state to provide police and security services.

The mission of the Rhode Island Capitol Police is to provide basic protection for life and property, enforce all laws and ordinances, maintain order at demonstrations and public events, prevent and repress crime, detect violations of the law, and apprehend violators at the Rhode Island State Capitol and annexes, properties contained therein, and the other state buildings, grounds and premises where they maintain security responsibilities.

In addition, the Capitol Police ensure the safety and security of the general officers, state legislators, judges, state employees, and members of the public who work in and visit these public buildings. Officers operate the metal detectors and x-ray machines at the entrances to all the courthouses, the State House, and the Powers (DOA) building. Capitol Police officers at these facilities are responsible for the screening, and if necessary, searching employees and visitors entering these public buildings. They not only patrol these facilities to maintain a safe environment, but they also respond to calls for service to investigate criminal, domestic, traffic

and parking related incidents that occur on and/or within the state properties and facilities they patrol.

Leadership

The Capitol Police is an umbrella agency under the Department of Public Safety that was established in June of 2009. Our commissioner is State Police Colonel Darnell S Weaver. The Chief of the Capitol Police is Joseph T. Little, Jr., who was appointed to the agency in August of 2010 by then Commissioner Colonel Brendan P. Doherty.

Chief Little is responsible to plan, develop, direct, supervise, and administer the operation of the Capitol Police force and to provide policing and protection for all buildings, grounds, and premises where they maintain security responsibilities, against the ordinary hazards of trespass, theft, fire, and damage, and to do related work as required.

Chief Little came to the Rhode Island Capitol Police after serving twenty-nine and one-half years with the Narragansett Police Department, including three years as Chief and six months of those three years as the Acting Town Manager. Chief Little holds a Bachelor degree and Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice from Salve Regina University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (Session 215) as well as an Executive Board Member of the New England Chiefs of Police. He is also a member of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, the FBI National Academy Associates, FBI LEEDA and the University of Rhode Island Criminalist Associates.

State Accreditation:

The key to quality service in any police organization is a well-trained and ethical work force. To that end, the Capitol Police became accredited through the Rhode Island Accreditation Commission in June of 2016, but the process began in June of 2013. Chief Little appointed Lieutenant Joseph P. Habershaw to coordinate this process and he has skillfully served for ten years as our Accreditation Manager. It was a laborious and intensive process of reviewing all our operations and developing policies based on 204 state standards of best law enforcement practices. Today, we have 124 policies that are based on 161 standards that apply to this agency.

The reason we are an accredited agency is that it improves the delivery of law enforcement and security services to the community we serve. The policies and standards that we follow provides transparency and accountability in our day-to-day operations as we operate to the highest industry practices.

As difficult as the preparations for accreditation were, once we became accredited, we immediately began the process of collecting “proofs” for our files. These proofs are reviewed by a group of accreditors who review our operations every three years. The proofs verify to them that we are following and training to our established policies. As part of this process, they also seek input from members of the public and other law enforcement agencies.

As a result of that review, we received our first reaccreditation in October of 2019, and we have been notified that we have been reaccredited for the third time.

Twenty for 2020 Campaign

On June 25, 2020, Chief Little along with forty-seven (47) other member Rhode Island Chiefs of Police signed the pledge committing to the principles in the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Twenty for 2020 campaign. This campaign provides twenty (20) promises for our various communities in the State that we are committed to, which broadly fall into four categories:

1. Training
2. Transparency
3. Communications
4. Human Rights

These principles strive to provide our communities with the best police practices to serve all of our communities and the State of Rhode Island. While this agency is limited in some of these promises due to our specific security mission, we are nevertheless committed to all these pledges to the extent that they apply to our agency. The entire document can be found at

[Twenty for 2020 \(ripolicechiefs.org\)](https://ripolicechiefs.org)



Capitol Police by the Numbers 2023



Calls for Service

This year the Capitol Police logged 48,002 calls for service. This is a modest increase of 537 calls from the previous year. These calls for service represent officer-initiated calls as well as calls from members of the public. In addition to all proactive security related patrols, this agency serves as the primary responders to all calls for emergencies at our locations. Any serious calls which require lengthy investigations or arrests are handled by the Rhode Island State Police.

Traffic Enforcement/Citations

The agency issued twelve (28) traffic citations last year. The majority of those tickets were issued by officers assigned to the Pastore Complex. These citations continue to be for various parking enforcement issues including handicap parking, fire lane violations and unregistered vehicles. Twenty-one (21) of these traffic citations were paid or were defaulted by the violators. Six (6) were dismissed by the courts and one (1) was dismissed by the agency.

Screening

The State does not allow weapons or firearms into any state facility. This year the agency added two civilian screeners to our cadre at the Powers (DOA) Building. All Capitol Police Officers and Capitol Police Screeners have received specialized training and undergo biannual testing for the operation of the scanners and magnetometers. This is done to ensure that everyone who works and visits these facilities can do so in an unfettered and safe environment. The agency also screens all mail and packages that come into the State House and at the courts.

The numbers for entrants for 2022 as compared to 2021 are as follows:

	Archway Counts 2021	Archway Counts 2022
State House	19,975	51,486
Courts	598,696	380,891
TOTALS	618,671	431,877

The archway counts represent the number of visitors who came into each building. In 2022, the agency screened 431,877 people who entered those facilities where there is full screening. While the State House saw an increase of 31,511, the numbers from the courts were unavailable for the last three months of the year. Also in 2022, the agency began full screening and badging at the Powers (DOA) Building. Those numbers were also unavailable due to a lack of a recording module in the unit. That module has been ordered and numbers should be reported soon for this year. As was the case in 2021, the largest volume of screening is attributable to the five (5) State courts. Capitol Police officers assigned to these posts assure that entrants have been thoroughly screened which permit all of the visitors an assured safe environment in which to conduct their business.

Professional Standards

The cornerstone of any professional police agency is a vibrant and robust method of internal review, oversight, and accountability. The professional standards duties are overseen by Captain Donald J. Sousa, Jr. Captain Sousa has been with this agency for 18 years having retired as a Captain with the North Providence Police Department. Captain Sousa holds a Bachelor degree in Criminal Justice from Roger Williams University. This unit also investigates complaints against Capitol Police Officers that are received by the agency from members of the public. By policy, and after a thorough review, the incidents are concluded in the following manner:

- Sustained – Evidence sufficient to Prove the allegation
- Not Sustained – Insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation(s)
- Exonerated – Incident occurred but was lawful or proper
- Unfounded – Allegation is false or not-factual
- Policy Failure – Flaw in policy caused the problem

As part of our internal controls, we also compile a quarterly sick time review where we monitor and track officer's use of sick time for any type of patterned abuse or early warning signs. The early warning signs are crucial in maintaining the wellness of each of our officers and supervisors. This is imperative since the women and men of this agency are the cornerstone of our agency. The breakdown in numbers for this year is as follows:

	Number of Complaints	Sustained	Not Sustained	Exonerated	Unfounded	Policy Failure	UOF Review
Citizen Complaint	5	2	0	1	2	0	0
Internal Review	19	4	7	4	2	2	0

Any complaints that are sustained can result in progressive discipline from an informal counseling, a formal counseling, an oral reprimand, a written reprimand, a suspension, a Last Chance Agreement and termination.

In 2022, the following counseling(s)/discipline(s) were imposed:

Counseling	Oral Reprimand	Written Reprimand	Suspension	Last Chance Agreement	Termination Resignation
7	1	1	0	0	0

In 2022, there was one complaint of racial bias lodged against an officer. The complaint came from a third party and after a review which included talking to the actual parties who were involved, it was determined that the incident occurred but that it was lawful. Finally, there were nine (9) officers who were recognized for superlative activity with the awarding of Letters of Acknowledgement.

TRAINING

One of the principles in the RIPCA Twenty for 2020 campaign, is a commitment to training. All sworn members of the department are firearms qualified pursuant to statute (11-47-15.3 RIGL) and POST approval. These trainings are biannual, typically in the spring and fall for all of our firearms. The courses include reduced light firing, moving targets, use of cover, hand drills and close quarter firing. In addition, all officers review and are tested on the agency's Use of

Force policies, including testing in all the less lethal force options. All officers are also certified in CPR, First Aid and Narcan.

Using PowerDMS software, every Capitol Police officer reviewed all of the agency's policies including, workplace harassment, mental health, blood borne pathogens, criminal intelligence, impartial policing, records/ public information, and social networking. Officers were also tested in many of these policies including legal updates, 4th amendment issues and accreditation.

The agency also sent several officers to various specialty training programs either to outside locations or remotely by computer.

TRAINING DATE	TRAINING COURSE OF STUDY	OFFICERS ATTENDING
January 26	Security Software	4
March 4	Physical Fitness Training	1
March 7	Spring Firearms Training	50
March 21	De Escalation Training	3
April 1	NCIC/ RILETS	1
April 26	Handgun Retention	3
May	OTS	50
May 26	Policy Writing/ Accreditation	1
June 13	ICS 100/700	2
June 15	Taser Recertification (Trainer)	3
June 20	Use of Force (Instructor)	1
June 27 -30	NRA Pistol Instructor Certification	1
July 6	Quicklot Training	2
July 28	RILETS	1
July 28	Radiation Training	1
August 4	CIT Youth Training	2
August 4	ICS-100/700	1
August 15	Taser Instruction	2
August 19	O.C Recertification	50
August 19	Workplace Harassment	50
August 24	RILETS Certification	2
August 24	Trauma and Wellness for 1 st Responders	1
August 25	Quicklot Training	3
August 30	RILETS Recertification	1
September 3	ICS 100/700	2
September 26-30	CIT Training Certification	2
October 4	Armorer Instructor Certification	3
October 11	Accreditation Training	1
October 11	RILETS	1
October 16-19	Instructor Development	1

TRAINING DATE	TRAINING COURSE OF STUDY	OFFICERS ATTENDING
November 16-18	Physical Readiness Course	1
November 21	Stress management and Resiliency	1
November 29	Smart Training	1
December 5	Smart Training	1
December 7	Autism Training	1
December 9	RILETS Certification	50
December 12	Smart Training	1
December 12	FTO Coordinator	1
December 12-16	Active Shooting Training	1
December 13-16	Peer Support Training	1
December 14	RILETS	1
December 15, 16	SMART Training	1

This represents 1,007 hours of training for sworn members of the department.

PASTORE COMPLEX:

On September 5, 2019, the agency assigned two (2) Capitol Police Officers to the Pastore Complex. The Pastore complex is in Cranston on approximately 325 acres of land that has 35 buildings that provide office space for a variety of state office facilities. These include the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Labor & Training, the Department of Business Regulation, the Executive Offices of Health & Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, the Department of Human Services, the Healthcare Exchange, Office of the Child Advocate, Governor’s Commission on Disabilities, Fire Code Appeals Board, Labor Hearing Board, Traffic Tribunal, Parole Board, Department of Corrections, Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, Department of Children Youth & Families, The Lottery Commission and the Eleanor Slater Hospital Network.

The Capitol Police substation is in the Department of Motor Vehicles and officers are primary responders to all calls for service on this campus. Officers assigned to the campus work with the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) personnel and staff at many of these facilities to ensure the safety and security of the building.

AGENCY STAFFING:

The Capitol Police currently has an authorized FTE strength of 51 members. Currently, we have fifty active members including the Chief of Police, one Captain, one Lieutenant, three Sergeants and an Administrative Assistant to the chief. The Chief, the Captain and the Administrative Assistant are non-union positions.

The supervisory staff of the Capitol Police is as follows:

Chief Joseph T. Little, Jr.

Captain Donald J. Sousa, Jr.

Lieutenant Joseph P. Habershaw

Sergeant Robert D. Brown, Jr.

Sergeant David Sweeting

Sergeant Dennis Charbonneau

Mrs. Edina Zuena, Administrative Assistant to the Chief

Patrol Officers (44)

The 2022 Table of Organization listing the disbursement of supervisory personnel is on the following page.

**TABLE OF ORGANIZATION
RHODE ISLAND CAPITOL POLICE
2022**

