

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

RHODE ISLAND CAPITOL POLICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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Rhode Island Capitol Police Headquarters
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Rhode Island Capitol Police

Headquarters

A State Accredited Agency

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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 2019 Annual Report

Overview

The Rhode Island Capitol Police was established in 1974 so that the Rhode Island State House would have a police force unique unto itself and trained to deal with its specific security needs. Today, the Capitol Police are assigned to sixteen facilities and to the Pastore Complex in Cranston, Rhode Island 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. The officers operate the metal detectors and x-ray machines at the entrances to all the courthouses, the State House, and certain state agencies. They 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, 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.

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 James M. Manni. 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 of 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.

State Accreditation:

On June 16, 2013, after a two-year intense and arduous process of reviewing our operations and developing policies based on the state accreditation standards, we were awarded our first State Accreditation on June 13, 2016. This accreditation was good for three years.

The importance of becoming an accredited agency is to improve the delivery of law enforcement and security services to the community we serve. It provides transparency and accountability in our operations as we operate to the highest industry standards. We have one hundred twenty-one (121) policies based on one hundred eighty-nine (189) standards that apply to this agency.

This year, in October of 2019, a team of assessors came in to review our operations and “proofs” to determine to their satisfaction that the agency was being operationally compliant with all our policies and standards. I am pleased to announce that in December of this year, we notified that we have received our first re-accreditation.

Capitol Police by the Numbers for 2019:

Calls for Service

The Capitol Police logged 31,091 calls for service. 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 serious arrests are handled by the State Police.

Traffic Enforcement/Citations

The agency also issued seventy-two (72) traffic citations. These citations were for various parking enforcement issues including handicap parking and fire lane parking issues in state parking lots. Of those citations, twelve (12) were voided due to errors. Seventeen (17) were paid by the violators, seventeen (17) were dismissed in court, two (2) were set for trial and found guilty, and an additional twenty-two (22) were defaulted in court.

Screening

The State does not allow weapons or firearms into any state facility. Capitol Police Officers have received specialized training along with on-going training for the operation of the scanners and magnetometers so that all who work and visit 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.

The numbers for entrants for 2019 are as follows:

	Archway Counts	X-Ray
State House	109,237	21,306
DHS – Elmwood Ave	226,332	18,418
Courts	354,124*	N/A
TOTALS	689,693	39,724

The archway counts represent the number of visitors who came into each building. The x-ray numbers represent the total number of pocketbooks, back packs, brief cases and other containers that accompany those visitors. In 2019 the agency screened six hundred eighty-nine thousand, six hundred ninety-three (689,693) visitors to those facilities where there is full screening and x-rayed just under forty thousand accompanying personal bags and packages. *Please note that the numbers provided by the courts is a partial figure due to a collection error. One of the two courts not reporting is one of the largest volume courts in the system.

Professional Standards

The professional standards duties are overseen by Captain Donald Sousa. As an accredited agency, a vibrant method of internal oversight and accountability are critical to a professional agency. In addition, this unit investigates all complaints against Capitol Police Officers that are received by the agency from members of the public. By policy, after a thorough review, the incidents are closed 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 member’s use of sick time for any type of patterned abuse or early warning signs. The breakdown in numbers for this year is as follows:

	Number of Complaints	Sustained	Not Sustained	Exonerated	Unfounded	Policy Failure	UOF Review
Citizen Complaint	10	2	1	7			
Internal Review	16	12		1	1		2

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

In 2019, the following counseling(s)/discipline(s) were imposed:

Counseling	Oral Reprimand	Written Reprimand	Suspension	Last Chance Agreement	Termination
8	1	1	3	0	1

In 2019 there were no complaints of racial bias lodged against officers. In addition, nineteen (19) members of the agency were recognized for superlative activity with the awarding of eight (8) Letters of Acknowledgement.

Training

In accordance with Rhode Island General law 11-47-15.3, all sworn members of the department were qualified pursuant to statute and POST approval, with pistol and shotgun. These courses included reduced light firing, moving targets, use of cover, hand drills and close quarter firing. In addition, all officers reviewed the agency's Use of Force policies and were tested in all the less lethal force options. All officers also received their CPR and First Aid certification from the Department of Health.

Using PowerDMS software, all members reviewed all the agencies 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.

TRAINING DATE	TRAINING COURSE OF STUDY	OFFICERS ATTENDING
March 11,13,22,28	Legal Updates – Sovereign Citizens	4
May 1	Physical Assessment Training	5
May 2	Mental Health First Aid	3
May 6-9	Field Training School	1
May 17	OC Instructor Training	1
June 11	Active Shooting Awareness Training	1
October 30	Autism Awareness	1
November 2	Field Training School	8
November 26	De-escalation Training	3
December 3	Autism Training for LEO	1
December 4	Search and Seizure	1
December 13	Impartial Policing	1
	TOTAL	30

PASTORE COMPLEX:

On September 5, 2019 the agency temporarily 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, and the Eleanor Slater Hospital Network.

The Capitol Police substation is in the Department of Motor Vehicles and officers respond to calls for service at these facilities. 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. In 2019 from September through December the agency responded to nine hundred thirty-seven (937) calls for service

AGENCY STAFFING:

The Capitol Police currently has an authorized FTE strength of 51 members. Presently, 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 Reginald Packer

Sergeant Robert D. Brown, Jr.

Sergeant David Sweeting

Mrs. Edina Zuena, Administrative Assistant to the Chief

Patrol Officers (43)

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

RHODE ISLAND CAPITOL POLICE
TABLE OF ORGANIZATION 2019

