

APPLICATION



City Name Columbia, MS

Population Under 10,000 Over 10,000

Category Public Safety Planning & Economic Development
 City Spirit Public Works

Title of Entry Safe and Secure Neighborhood Initiative

Description of Project
Covid-19 brought with it a changing landscape of crimes in our community. We saw an increase in violent crimes, particularly domestic violence and drive-by shootings, as well as property crimes. In response, the Safe and Secure Neighborhood Initiative was launched in October 2020, whose purpose is to create a safer Columbia by reducing violent crime, ensuring the safety of our residents, and building trust and partnerships in our neighborhoods.

Project Summary (use additional pages if necessary)
Please see the attached Summary.

Signature of Chief Elected or Appointed Official

Please provide the following information in case of questions about the application.

Contact Name Michael Kelly

Title Chief of Police

Address 205 Second Street

City Columbia

Zip 39429

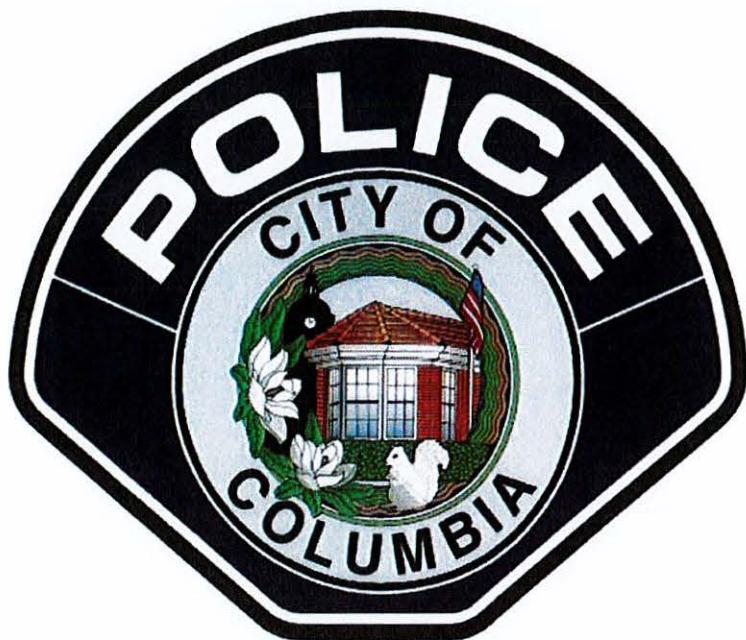
Phone 601-736-8225

Email jmckenzie@cityofcolumbias.ms.com

Columbia Police Department

2020 Strategic Plan Update & Vision 2021

January 2020–December 2020



THE VISION OF THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

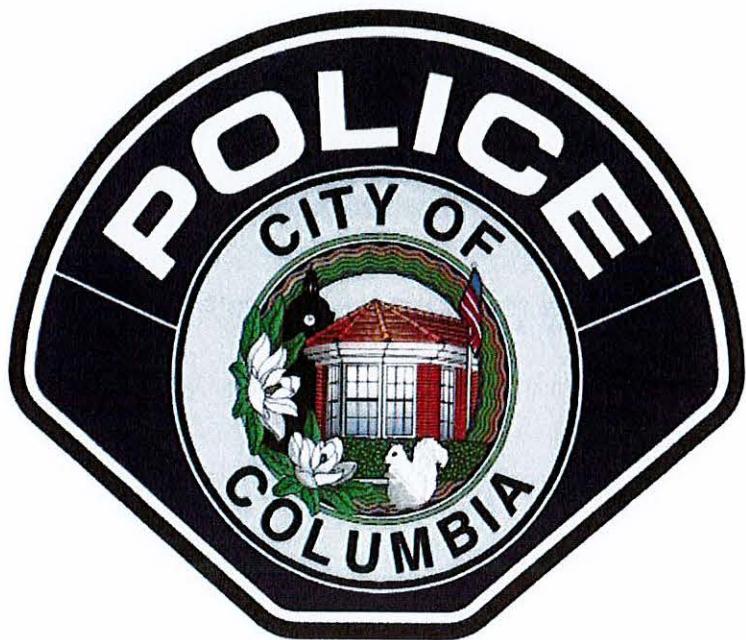
The Columbia Police Department will focus on engaging with the community, earning trust, building relationships, and creating a culture where our community views us as not only their guardians, but as trusted friends and community members. One-on-one, community oriented policing is the vehicle that will facilitate our vision.

Michael Kelly, Chief of Police

mkelly@cpd-ms.com

RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

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Letter from the Chief of Police

I am pleased to introduce the Columbia Police Department's 2020 Annual Crime and Activity Report as well as our 2020 Strategic Plan Update & Vision 2021. 2020 certainly presented us with challenges, however I am pleased to report that our department met those challenges and excelled in our mission. I hope you will appreciate with me the men and women who make up this incredible department and make possible all that we accomplished this past year. This year we introduced 6 Ford Explorer Police Interceptors to the patrol fleet equipped with the new graphics package, and updated the color and graphics package on two Dodge Chargers thanks to a generous donation from Beal's Collision Center and Southern Security & Safety Solutions. This year we implemented a safety training program that reduced liability of officer involved injuries, Officers took part in the *Fit for Duty* physical fitness assessment and many outperformed previous assessments. The department continued in the accreditation process and is working towards compliance with new guidelines from the Trump Presidential Administration, as well as completed a comprehensive quality assurance review.

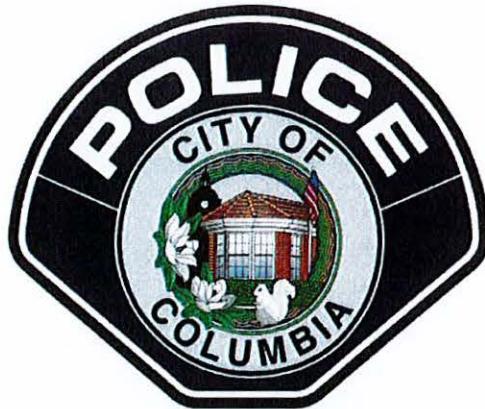


This time last year CPD released the 2019 Annual Crime and Activity Report and strategic plan for 2020. We laid out a vigorous plan to engage with the community, build new partnerships, and strengthen existing relationships; then came Covid-19. We found it difficult to accomplish this mission during a quarantine. Many of our businesses closed due to mandatory shut down orders and citizens were forced into their homes to protect themselves from an invisible enemy. In spite of still having to navigate the dangers of Covid-19 this year, we will pick up where we left off and continue our vision; *Progress through Partnerships*. Some of our methods will be creative. We will harness technology by having virtual meetings, launch an app that is designed for communication between the public and police, increase our presence on social media, and when we can meet in person we will do everything possible to insure the health and safety of our community.

In closing let me say that serving as the Police Chief for the Columbia Police Department gives me great pride. The City of Columbia is rich with history and her future is bright! This is what makes policing in Columbia a meaningful and purposeful mission to me. The *city of charm* has become my family's home.

Thank you to the dedicated men and women of the Columbia Police Department for your continued commitment to provide exemplary service to our community. Thank you to our community for your support of public safety. On behalf of the Columbia Police Department, we look forward to working together and make *Progress through Partnerships* in 2021.

Michael Kelly
Chief of Police



We Are **CARING**

We Are **TRANSPARENT**

We Are **TRUSTWORTHY**

We Are **COMPASSIONATE**

We Are **INVESTED IN OUR YOUTH**

We Are **ENGAGED IN OUR COMMUNITY**

We Are **CRIME FIGHTERS**

WE ARE THE
COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

We Are CARING



This year was a difficult year for many people in our community. In early March our department launched the COVID-19 response team. This team was tasked with mitigating the threat of COVID within the department and developing strategies to serve the community during the pandemic. Shortly after the formation of the team, tornadoes tore through Columbia and surrounding communities and left in their wake massive devastation. The COVID-19 response team was then changed to the Critical Incident Response Team, which operates daily to track resources, research and prepare grants, plan for future disasters, host briefings, and insures proper operation of emergency response equipment.



Caring BY THE NUMBERS

CPD ACTIVATED THE COMMAND POST (POLICE OPERATIONS CENTER) **10** TIMES IN 2020 TO COORDINATE A REONSE TO POTENTIAL LIFE THREATNING EVENTS

We Are TRANSPARENT

We strive to insure that the public understands our mission and the extent in which we work to hold ourselves accountable for our actions. Our teams meet regularly throughout the community to engage with citizens and businesses about criminal activity, crime prevention, and our efforts to insure public safety. We answer questions, publish a monthly crime and activity report, and host events such as Front Porch Gatherings and Coffee With A Cop to give citizens an opportunity to engage with those charged with protecting their city.



Chief Kelly, Captain Bass, Sergeant Bush and staff from the Columbia Police Department speak to citizens at Coffee with a Cop hosted by Wards.

Coffee with a Cop is one of many ways that CPD connects with citizens of the community.



Chief Kelly speaks to the new media after a meeting of the Board of Aldermen where new policies dictating use of force tactics and training were passed unanimously. One of the most important changes made in 2020 was the increase of training hours for officers from 24 to 75 yearly.

Transparency BY THE NUMBERS

Citizen Complaints 5
Use of Force Incidents 7
Pursuit 1

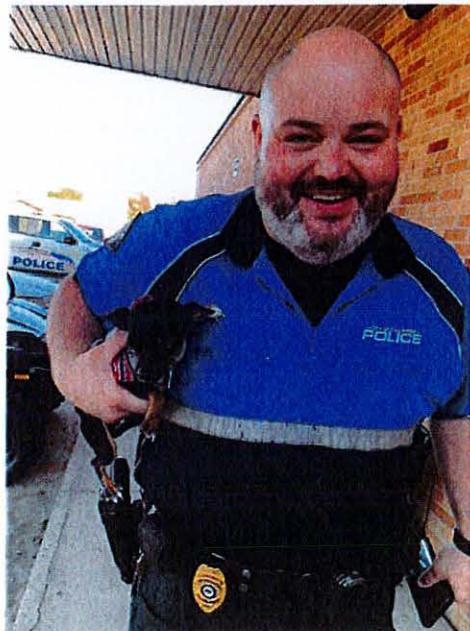
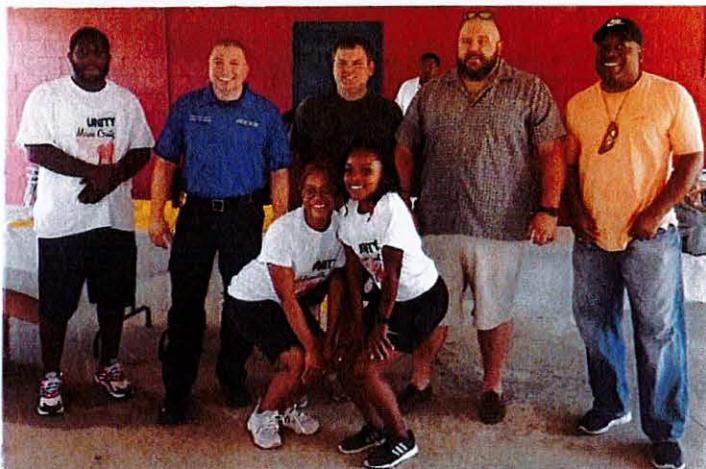
Use of force reporting became more stringent in 2020 due to changes in policy and issued special orders.

2019 by comparison BY THE NUMBERS

Citizen Complaints 3
Use of Force Incidents 1
Pursuit 2

We Are TRUSTWORTHY

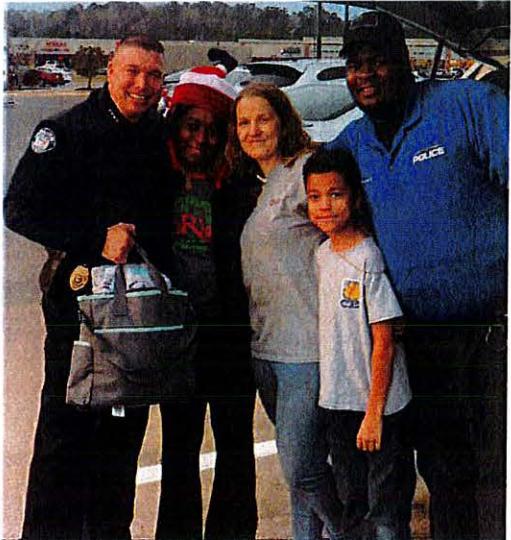
We are proud of our innovative and meaningful programs that bridge the gap between our community and the police department.



COFFEE WITH A COP
FRONT PORCH GATHERING
UNITY DAY
TRIKE-A-THON
RESCUE BOO
OPERATION THANKSGIVING BLESSING

We Are COMPASSIONATE

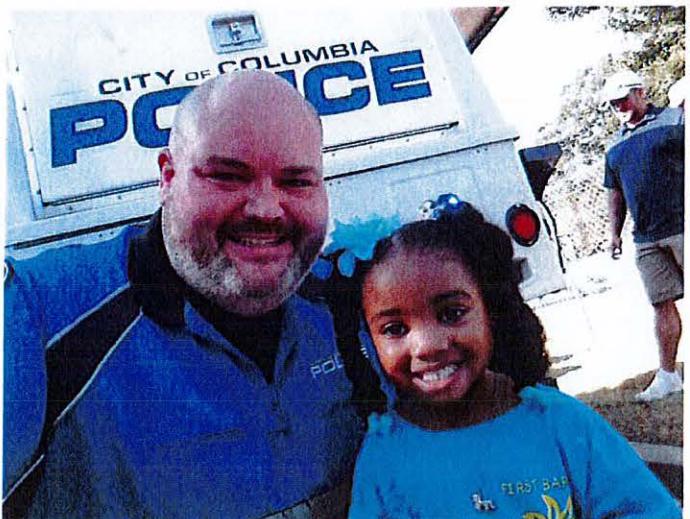
We understand that there is more to law enforcement than putting people in handcuffs. Our commitment is to invest in our community and seek to understand the causes that lead some people to victimize others. We will seek out alternate solutions to imprisonment when appropriate.



Compassion BY THE NUMBERS

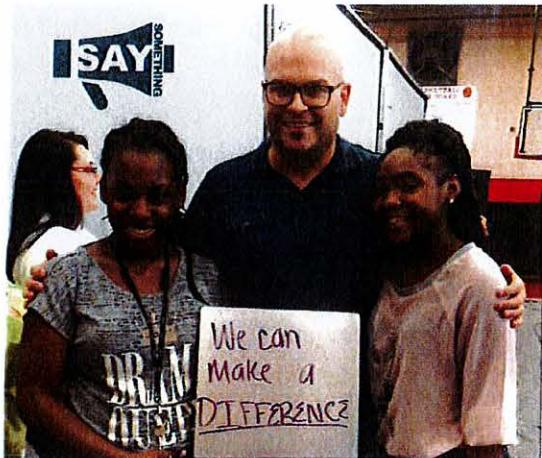
CPD partnered with KIDS HUB Child Advocacy Center this Christmas to serve over 300 children.

#CPDoperationMakeChristmasBright



We Are INVESTED IN OUR YOUTH

We are committed to serving the youth of our community, providing them opportunities to be involved with the department, and building trusting relationships that will last into their adult lives.



SAY SOMETHING
ASSEMBLY TOPICS



BULLYING TRAFFICKING SUICIDE ADDICTION

Students are in a constant battle with issues that are detrimental to their survival. This past spring, CPD in Partnership with local businesses funded and brought in the Say Something School Assembly team to speak in our local schools grades 6-12 about the dangers of cyber bullying, teen suicide, addiction, and minor exploitation.

The team made up of presenters from Mississippi and Kansas included the likes of; Travis Dummond, a motivational speaker for schools from Wichita, KS, Bo Trebotich, former recording artist/DJ from Jackson, MS, Leah Daughdrill, survivor of human trafficking and recovered drug addict from the Pinebelt area.

The team used a full multimedia, interactive presentation that challenged our students and prompted some to seek help. For more information on Say Something School Assemblies, you can look them up at www.saysomethingassembly.com.

Our City's Youth BY THE NUMBERS

4 run-a-way juveniles were reported to the Columbia Police Department & **4** run-a-way juveniles were returned safe to their families.

We Are ENGAGED IN OUR COMMUNITY

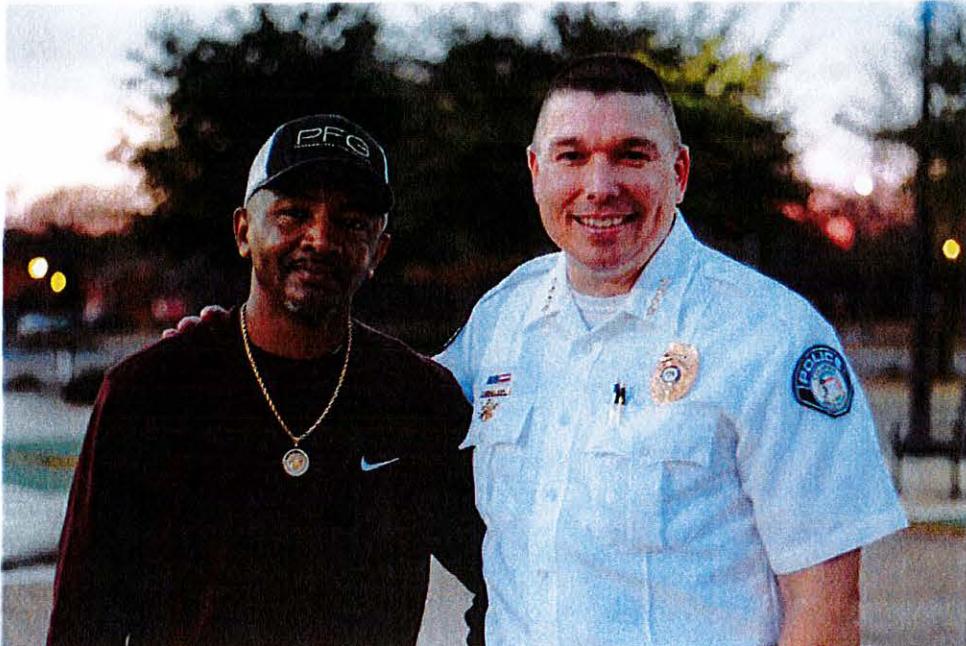
The Columbia Police Department are truly friends and blessing to me and Mt. Bethel Church. Chief Kelly and his staff assisted us in many ways this year. During the tornado that affected the Sandy Hook area, many of my members were affected. I am so very proud and blessed to be pastor of a church in a community where complete strangers show love and come to assist.

The Columbia Police Department gave their time, energy, experience, equipment, food, drink, beds, pillows and blankets to assist the people of Mt. Bethel Church. Please know we are all so grateful for everything.

Chief Kelly and his officers also took the time to come and join the church and community in our Black Lives Matter program, to take a stand together. The only way we can solve a problem is to first realize there is one.

God gave us the commandment to love and thanks for doing just that.

Pastor Jessie Bridges.



Community Engagement BY THE NUMBERS

CPD SAFELY TOOK PART IN OVER 30 COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS IN 2020 even in the midst of a pandemic

We Are CRIME FIGHTERS

There is nothing more important to us than fighting crime, responding to crises, and exploring new ways to curb criminal behavior; it is at the core of what we do every single day. The officers of the Columbia Police Department work tirelessly day and night responding to emergencies, investigating crimes, and holding accountable those who prey on others.

CRIMES BY THE NUMBERS 2020

2019 by comparison

Misdemeanor Arrest	206	353
Felony Arrest	66	87
Citations Written	1397	1414
Traffic Accidents	300	278
Total Calls for Service	9466	6602
Total Reports	878	846

ESU BY THE NUMBERS

10 HIGH RISK SEARCH WARRANTS EXECUTED
2 HIGH RISK FELONY WARRANT ROUND-UPS
In conjunction with US Marshal Service/DEA and other partners.
5 TRAINING SCENARIOS/TEAM MEETINGS
1 lead by US Marshal Service Trainer
OVER 500 COMBINED TRAINING HOURS

TASKFORCE

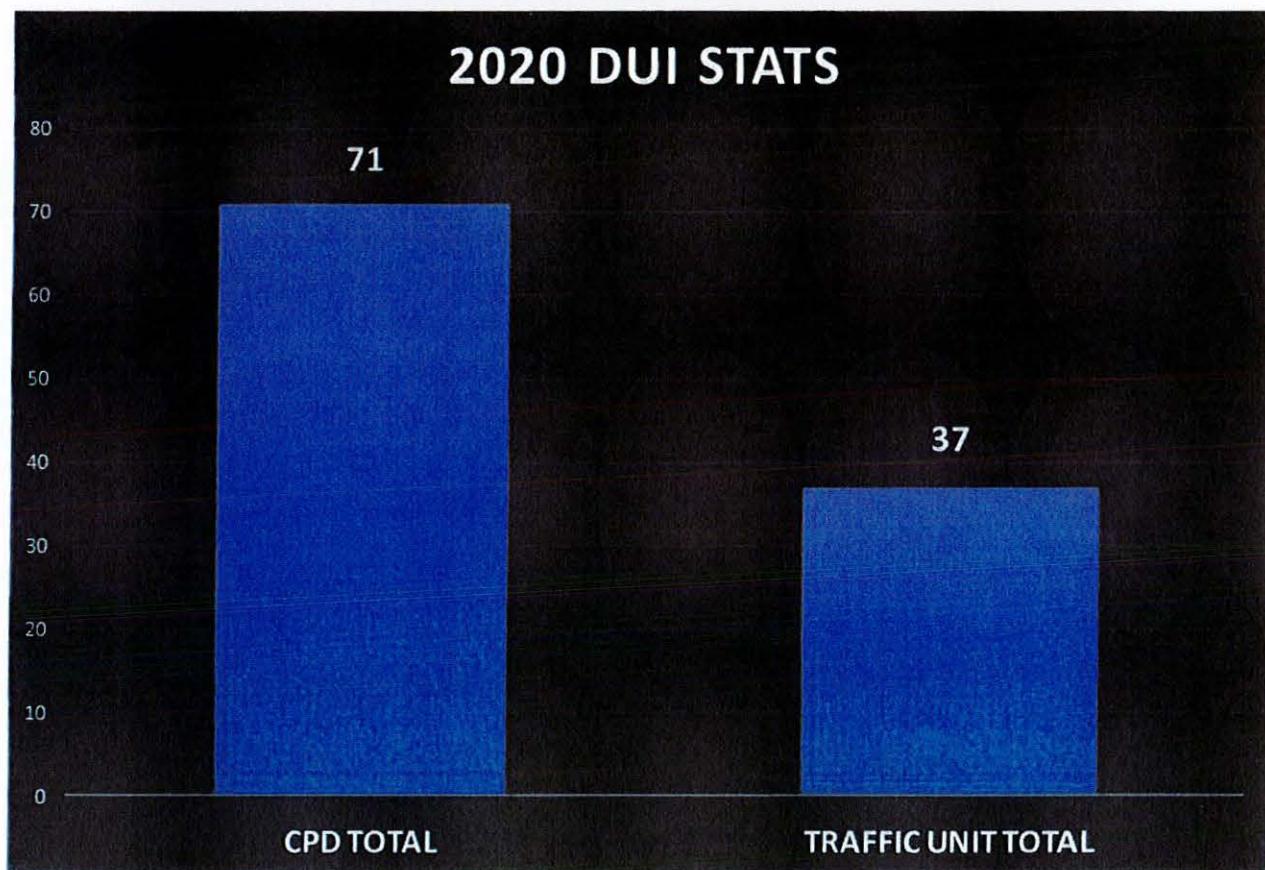
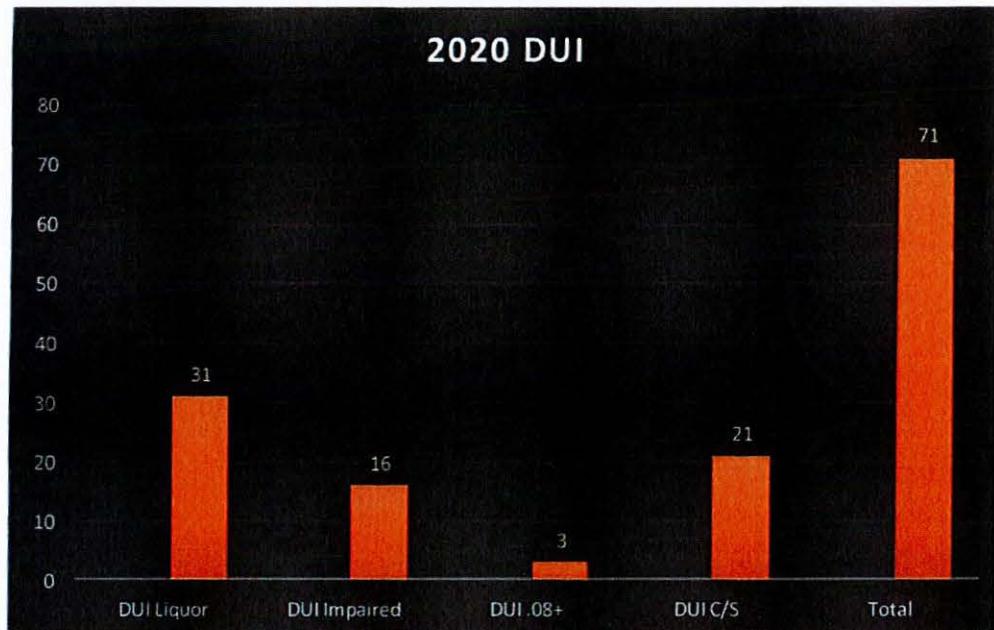
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area - HIDTA
Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Taskforce
OCDETF
US Marshal Taskforce
US Attorney Taskforce on Human Trafficking

CRIME SUPPRESSION BY THE NUMBERS

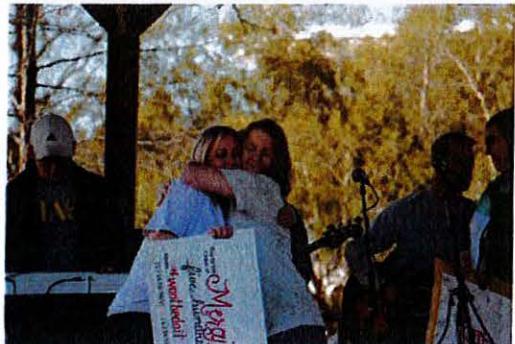
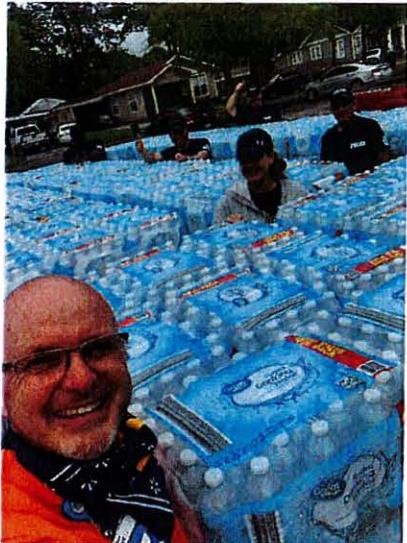
Marijuana 1626.8 grams
Methamphetamines 189.35 grams
Heroin 1.4 grams
Crack/Cocaine 2.65 grams
Pills 135 DU
Counterfeit Substances 15 DU
US Currency \$2912
Vehicles 1
Firearms 3

We Are CRIME FIGHTERS

TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT



WE ARE THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Columbia Police Department BY THE NUMBERS

WE ARE DIVERSE

Male Staff - 36

Female Staff - 20

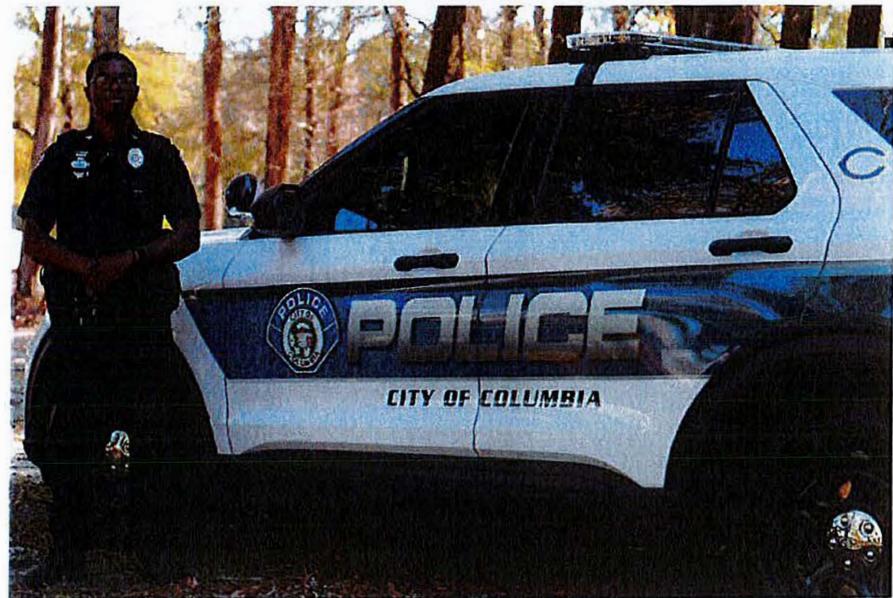
Caucasian Staff - 46

African American Staff - 10

Meet the CPD Sergeants

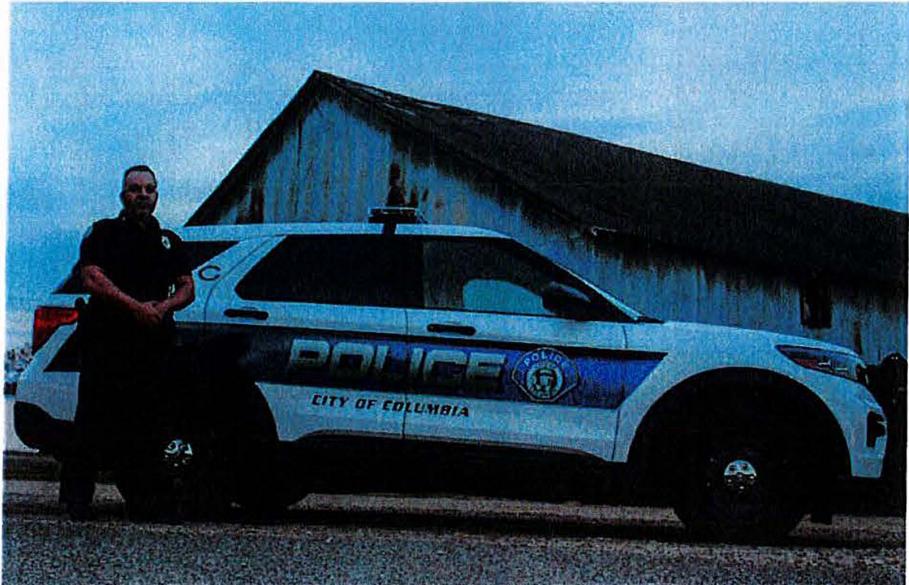


Sergeant
Chris Bush



Sergeant
Justin Porter

Meet the CPD Sergeants



Sergeant
Brandon Carney



Sergeant
Adrian Fortenberry

Meet the CPD Administration



Chief of Police
Michael Kelly



Captain
Davey Bass



Desk Sergeant
April Prine



Executive Assistant
Dora Pittman

Operation Sparrow sends 10 to county 'nest'

By Susan Amundson
News Features Editor
samundson@columbiaprogress.com

Over the weekend, the Columbia Police Department conducted a child exploitation/human trafficking sting that netted 10 felony arrests.

In "Operation Sparrow," the police department partnered with several non-governmental agencies to conduct the two-day sting. The focus was on those reaching out to a child for sexual purposes, according to a press release from Police Chief Michael Kelly.

"Let me say how proud I am of the men and women of the Columbia Police Department who worked tirelessly this weekend on little sleep to make this operation a success," Kelly said at a press conference Tuesday.

Arrested in the sting and charged include



Magee, 28, of McComb - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes;

for sexual purposes and sexually oriented materials dissemination to persons under 18;

Kevin Korndorffer, 21, of Petal - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes;

Antonio Daniels, 23, of Columbia - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes;

Andrew Pearson, 19, of Perkinston - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes;

Causton - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes;

See SPARROW | Page 2



2

The Columbian-Progress

THURSDAY
January 21, 2021

SPARROW: Warning to parents

Harry Brister, 26, of Hattiesburg - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes;

Cauby Bourn, 24, of McComb - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes and sexually oriented materials dissemination to persons under 18;

La'darius McKelphin, 22, of Tylertown - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes;

Mason Parker, 28, of Bay Springs - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes;

Terri Michael Caston, 29, of Tylertown - enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes;

La'darius Thornton, 25, of Laurel - cities and released for sexually oriented materials dissemination to person under 18. Other charges are pending further investigation;

Magee, Korndorffer, Daniels, Pearson, Brister, Bourn, McKelphin, Parker and Caston were jailed on a \$5,000 bond. Caston, Bourn, Korndorffer, Magee, Parker and Pearson have all posted bond.

Kelly said multiple investigations are continuing.

Over the past year, Kelly said the department has conducted several successful operations.

While the press conference was to address

the weekend operation, Kelly said he also wanted to reach out to parents.

"When we think about human trafficking so many times we think about what we see in the movies. Kids out playing on the playground, teenagers going to the store, a suspicious van drives up, individuals jump out of the van and put a bag over the person's head, kidnap them and drive them off. That's in the movies. Let me tell you again, parents: That is in the movies."

He said the trafficker and sick individuals are preying on the children more easily in today's society because they are invited into the home by smartphones and other electronic devices. "It happens in the child's bedroom at night."

"You are giving trafficker access to your kids when you don't monitor what they are doing online on their cellphones," he said.

Kelly warned that trafficker find their victims on platforms such as Instagram and TikTok. From there, a relationship with the child can develop with the trafficker slowly drawing in the child to encourage the child to want to meet.

Kelly advised that if a child has Snapchat

and TikTok, they need to be deleted as predators troll those sites. He recommends monitoring Facebook and Instagram as well.

"It's time we educate our community on the dangers that are out there in the online community," Kelly said.

He urged parents to monitor everything their children are doing online. He continued saying how vital it was for parents to know what their children are doing on social media sites because that is where the predators lay and wait.

Kelly wanted to thank the agencies that assisted in the operation this weekend, including FREE International.

Groups called 2 Rescue, Anonymity Rescue, Raven Cell, Chained and Sports World Against Trafficking. In addition, support was also received from the Miss Attorney General's Office, Human Trafficking Division, Miss Department of Corrections and the U.S.

continued from Page 1



Columbia Police Chief Michael Kelly speaks at a press conference Tuesday at the police department about Operation Sparrow and how parents can do their part to stop human trafficking.

Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force.

Operation Sparrow received its name from the old hymnal "His Eye is on the Sparrow." While man cannot see every victim, Kelly said the Lord does. ■

Fighting Mother Nature's wrath with kindness

By Susan Amundson

News Features Editor

samundson@columbiapress.com

Last week Marion County encountered severe cold in the area when a winter storm came through. While the county was spared most of the ice and snow that fell in other parts of the state, wreaking havoc, the cold was brutal for nearly a week.

On Friday, Feb. 12, an emergency meeting with various officials and business people was held in the Columbia Police Department conference room. After listening to the most current weather briefing at that time with the National Weather Service in Jackson, talk turned to how it would affect the county.

One of the major concerns discussed in the meeting was caring for the homeless. At least 10 to 15 homeless people are known to the CPD, not including people who live in houses with no electricity or running water. Something needed to be done to make sure no one would freeze during the cold snap.

Almost immediately, different businesses such as

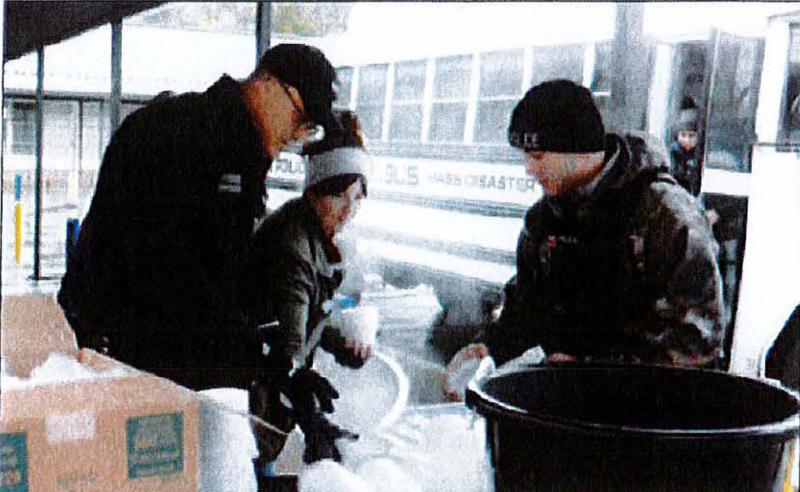


Photo by Danny O'Fallon

Getting everything ready to hand out soup are, from left, Chris Rogers, Melissa Kelly and William Boutwell on Monday, Feb. 15 when the winter storm arrived in Columbia.

Walmart and Ramey's started offering food, blankets, hats, gloves and hand warmers. The idea of a soup kitchen was mentioned, and Chief Michael Kelly said the AmBus could be used to go out into the community so no one would have to drive in the weather. Men and women, on their own, volunteered preparing and making the soup. On Monday, the bus was parked at

Jefferson Middle School. The initial plan was to do the soup kitchen Monday evening, but the storm system moved in earlier than originally projected, so instead of Monday evening, the bus was there first thing Monday morning.

It was decided on Tuesday to do a spaghetti plate for the community. Once again, the community stepped up and helped with preparing and dis-

tributing the food.

"Dozens and dozens donated and we were able to go buy hand warmers, socks and gloves. Everybody who came in need, they got a little package and something to eat," Kelly said.

Those coming to receive the hot food were also given items to help keep them warm.

"I think in these times it's

See STORM | Page 9A

STORM: Serving the community

continued from Page 1A

really unique because people are more isolated now than ever before with social media. Times have just changed, and people don't visit each other anymore. That was one of the main reasons why we wanted to make sure people were taken care of because we knew there would be people out there by themselves who would have to suffer through this," he said.

Kelly said the police department might have been the facilitator, but it was the people, businesses and churches who helped in anyway, including donations, that deserve the praise.

"We were the link between the resource and the person needing the resource. It was all these other people who provided for us to be able to

do this who should get the attention. They are who truly make this community an incredible place," Kelly said.

Not only were businesses and individuals reaching out during the storm, but several churches such as The Vine, Grace Chapel in Sandy Hook and The Springs Church, joined in as well. At least one church paid for some hotel rooms for the homeless to have shelter and not be in the freezing weather. One opened up an emergency shelter, and others donated and helped serve the food.

Kelly said it was incredible the way everything was received. He said there was someone from the county who came and collected several plates to take back to their community to share

with some neighbors they knew that were in need. He said he was proud of how people were looking out for each other.

While Kelly has been the police chief for three years, he and his family just recently moved to Columbia.

"It is pretty incredible to be a part of a community that really loves each other," Kelly said.

Kelly said helping out is not a new sentiment in this community. When the tornado hit in 2014, Columbia Strong came to be and began reaching out in the community during a time of need. Since that time, people have just kept stepping up to the plate to help out as needed whatever the cause may be. ■



Picture by Ashley Strickley Clark

Preparing spaghetti plates to distribute to the community Feb. 16 are, from left, Melissa Kelly, Jenn Bass and April Pino. Various organizations and individuals made donations to help the community combat the freezing cold temperatures last week.

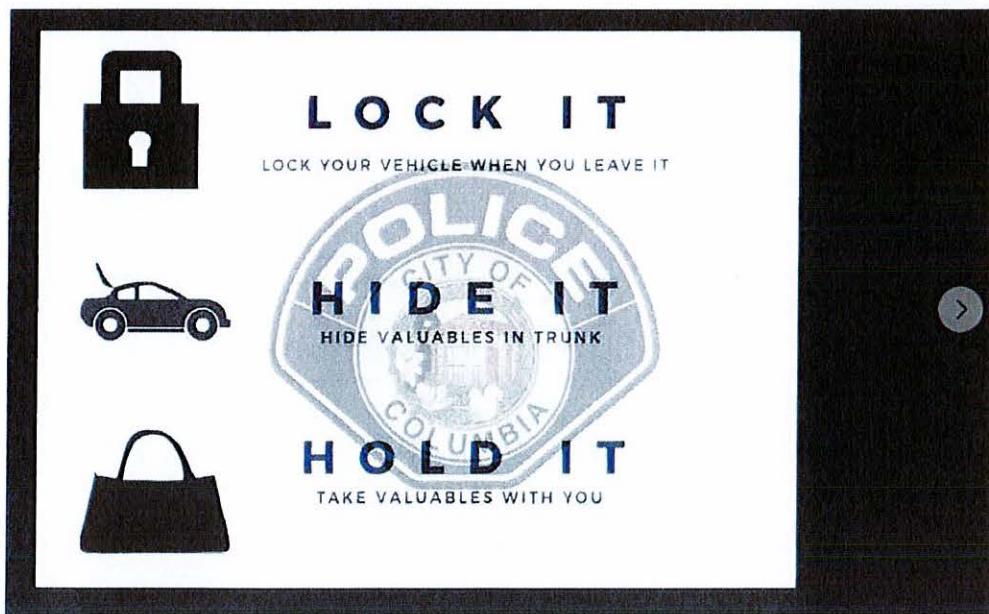
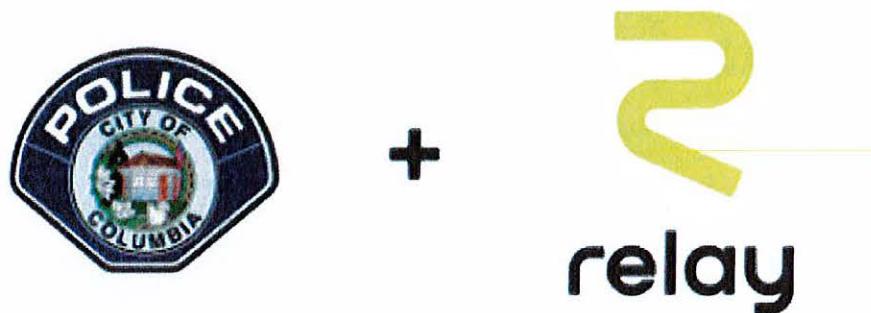


Columbia Mississippi Police Department

Published by Jeni Rhea Southerland Delorenzo [?](#)
December 28, 2020 [🕒](#)

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The Relay app is designed for citizens to report non-emergency incidents directly to law enforcement in real-time. The app even allows you to take a picture of the scene to give officers a better idea of the situation that they are on their way to address. See a problem? Snap a picture and send it. An officer will keep you updated on your report. Be sure to download the app on your smartphone if you haven't already.





COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

205 Second Street · Columbia, Mississippi 39429 · (601) 736-8225

The Columbia Police Department launched the Safe and Secure Neighborhoods Initiative S2NI with the purpose of creating a safer Columbia by reducing violent crime, by ensuring the safety of our residents, and building trust and partnership in our neighborhoods. The success of S2NI will be measured by:

1. Reducing violent crime:

Under project Just Cause, the Crime Suppression Unit was formed to interdict a major problem the city faced, narcotics and gangs. We noted success coming from the unit, however, we saw an uptick in drive by shootings, one of which resulted in a fatality, as well as auto burglaries. In response, we promoted one of our Crime Suppression Agents to Sergeant and gave him more authority and capability within that unit as well as more personnel within that unit to address these concerns. An arrest has been made in the fatal drive by shooting case as well as an auto burglary ring interdicted due to the efforts of the Crime Suppression Unit.

In addition, the Columbia Police Department now has a Domestic Violence Victim Liaison and two Human Trafficking Victim Advocates/Investigators. Through the combined efforts of the Crime Suppression Unit working with outside agencies and NGO's, CPD conducted a successful child exploitation/human trafficking sting called Operation Sparrow which netted ten arrests.

2. Ensuring the safety of our residents

To ensure the safety of our residents, we appointed a Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) whose job it is to help promote the Neighborhood Watch Program and the *Relay: Neighborhood Safety App*. The CPO is also available to visit resident's homes and perform a site survey where he can inform them about security systems as well as survey their home for potential dangers such as view-obstructing shrubs and dimly lit areas. These site surveys can also be performed for Columbia businesses.

The *Relay: Neighborhood Safety App*'s purpose is to connect police with citizens. Persons with non-emergency needs can talk directly to the police officer in their neighborhood that is responding to their need. This app has been widely accepted and utilized by our residents and business owners.

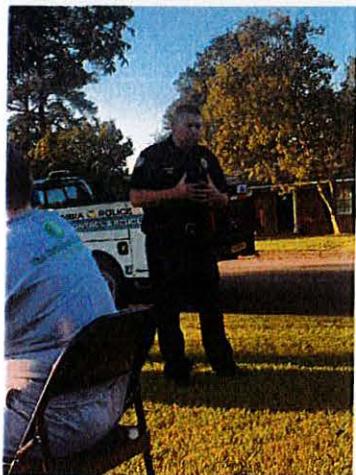
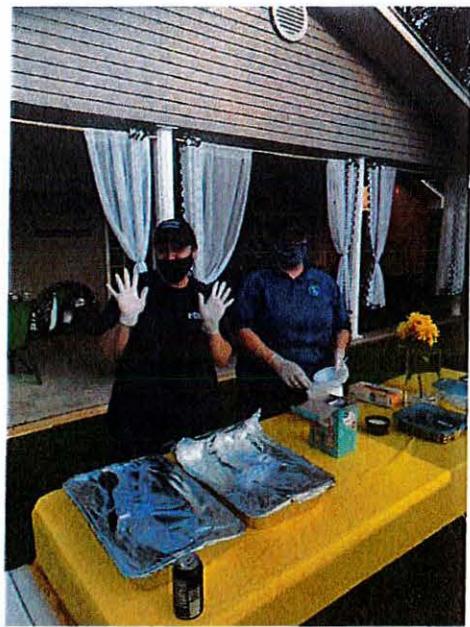
To combat property crimes, especially auto burglaries, we launched the 9PM Routine campaign on social media with a reminder to residents to make sure their vehicles are locked every night and valuables are out of sight.

3. Building trust and partnerships in our neighborhoods

Covid-19 quarantines and social distancing caused us to disconnect from people. As quick as it was safe to do so, we got back into the neighborhoods. We reintroduced our Neighborhood Block Parties where we brought together neighborhoods and officers. During the ice storm in February, we conducted a community outreach where we served more than 300 meals over three days as well as handed out blankets, hand warmers, socks, and other cold weather necessities. At Christmas, we teamed up with KidsHub Child Advocacy Center for a Toy Drive to help provide toys for their Foster Children's Christmas Party.

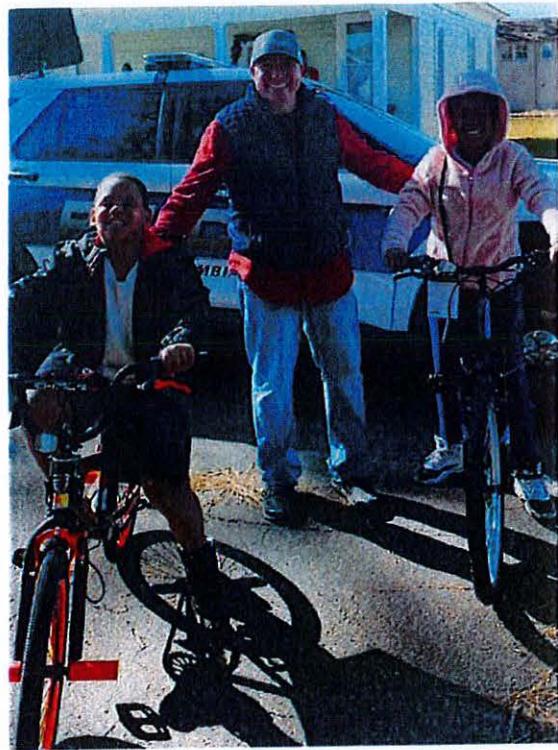
Upcoming events include a Senior Serve Day that will be hosted by the newly created Citizens Corp Council, led by the now full-time Director of Department Special Operations. We will host quarterly meetings in which senior citizens can be educated on issues such as fraudulent phone calls and scams attempting to gain personal information. The Citizens Corp Council and events are all grant funded.

Our department is committed to the fulfillment of our vision: to engage with the community, earn trust, build relationships, and create a culture where our community views us as not only as guardians but trusted friends and community members.



**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**





Toy Drive

Giving Children Hope



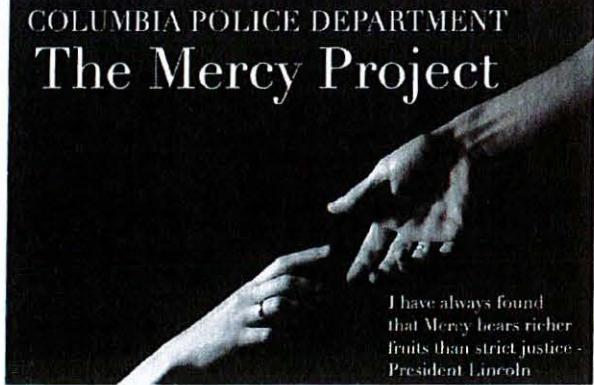
What we DO

the MERCY PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

Counseled - 8
Mental Health Evaluation - 1
Domestic Violence Victims - 2
Currently in Treatment - 3
Graduated from Treatment - 2

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Mercy Project



I have always found
that Mercy bears richer
fruits than strict justice
- President Lincoln

The Columbia Police Department announces project



S2NI

Safe & Secure Neighborhoods Initiative

The Purpose of S2NI is
to create a safer Columbia
by reducing violent crime,
ensuring the safety of our
residents, and building trust
and partnership in our
neighborhoods.

S2NI

Safe and Secure Neighborhood Initiative

- Launched grant funded RELAY APP
- Appointed Crime Prevention Officer
- Reorganized Crime Suppression Unit and appointed the unit it's own Sergeant.
- Hosted Neighborhood Block Party

Special Operations BY THE NUMBERS

Stood Up Police Operations Center - 10

*Police Operations Center was activated from March - June
during the height of the COVID outbreak.*

Major Disaster Response - 4

**Placed into operation the only Ambibus MASS DISASTER
RESPONSE UNIT in our region.**



SPECIAL ORDERS

Special Orders BY THE NUMBERS

32 Special Orders were issued in 2020

CPD response to COVID-19

Establishment of the Critical Incident Response Team - CIRT

Establishment of the Traffic Safety Unit

Establishment of the Strategic Response Group

Increase training requirement for all sworn personnel

Update Pursuit and Use of Force Reporting

MOU with US Marshall Taskforce and appointment of TFO

MOU with DEA Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Taskforce and appointment of TFO

Quality Assurance Officer appointed and QA review ordered

Establishment of Safe and Secure Neighborhoods Initiative and appointment of Crime Prevention Officer

TRAINING



Corporal Jennifer Bass
Training Officer

Training BY THE NUMBERS

**CPD COMPLETED 3073 COMBINED TRAINING
HOURS IN 2020**

Advanced Human Trafficking Investigator

Advanced Narcotics

Digital Forensics Analysis

Standardized Field Sobriety Training

Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement

Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training

Firearms Instructor

Tactical Combat Causality Care

Street Gang Investigations

ACCREDITATION



Jeni Delorenzo
Director of Policy
and Accreditation

ABOUT MSLEAC

The purpose of MSLEAC is to establish professional standards at an affordable cost for Mississippi law enforcement agencies. The Commission develops and administers the program in order to recognize professional excellence in the law enforcement community. Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MSLEAC) utilizes the national best practice standards for law enforcement that cover (1) Life, health, safety, legal and other critical law enforcement requirements affecting agency and public interests; and (2) the reduction of major risk and high liability conditions for both the agency and the employees.

The goals for both Mississippi State Accreditation and CALEA Accreditation are the same. (1) Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities; (2) Formalize essential management procedures; (3) Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices; (4) Improve service delivery; (5) Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and (6) Boost citizen and staff confidence in the agency.

Major Objectives of accreditation are (1) Role, responsibilities, and relationships with other agencies; (2) Organization, management, and administration; (3) Personnel administration; (4) Law enforcement operations, operational support, and traffic law enforcement; (5) Prisoner and court-related services; (6) Auxiliary and technical services.

The benefits of accreditation are: (1) Controlled liability insurance costs; (2) Stronger defense against lawsuits and citizen complaints; (3) Greater accountability within the agency; (4) Staunch support from government officials; and (5) Increased community advocacy.

The agency must comply with (140) one hundred forty standards for state accreditation during a (2) two-year self-assessment. Mississippi State Accreditation standards cover both law enforcement functions, communication functions, and detention functions of an agency.

Agencies seeking accreditation are required to comply only with those standards that are specifically applicable to them. In recognizing the need to establish the best professional practices, the standards prescribe "what" agencies should be doing, but not "how" they should be doing it. That decision is left up to the individual agency and its Chief Executive Officer.

Source: Mississippi Department of Public Safety

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

The accreditation process involves matching written directives (our department's policies and procedures) with the MSLEAC standards, and then providing proof of compliance with these standards for each year (proof may be in the form of an incident report, photos, documents, interviews, etc.). The standards often have several parts and one standard may require numerous different parts of multiple policies and procedures. This process typically takes 2-3 years to complete. The Columbia Police Department has been working towards accreditation for approximately 1 year. The first step of the process, matching our policies to the MSLEAC standards, is approximately 90% completed. Following this step, proofs of compliance will be attached for each year. Each part of a standard must have its own proof (ex: one standard may have points A-F and each one requires a proof). A mock assessment will then be conducted by MSLEAC staff and any needed corrections will be made.

2020 GOALS ACCOMPLISHED

TRAINING

- Every officer trained in Crisis Intervention for the proper response to those in mental crisis.
This year due to COVID many of the classes including Crisis Intervention Training were canceled. However CPD hired (2) two additional full time officers who are CIT certified and appointed Officer Markiesha Barber as the CPD CIT Coordinator.

- Every officer trained in Crisis Management and Mediation - de-escalation techniques
- Every officer trained in Recognizing and Valuing Community Diversity
- Active Shooter Refresher for all officers
- Leadership training for front line supervisors

The leadership course was canceled due to COVID, but has been rescheduled for Spring of 2021

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Established a Victims Assistance Unit that provides support to victims of violent crimes and domestic violence
- Expanded the Mercy Project to include both domestic violence and Human Trafficking Victims

CRIME REDUCTION

- Continued our partnership with HIDTA to reduce availability of illegal narcotics and associated criminal activity in Columbia
- Assigned a full time officer to the US Marshall Taskforce to insure the timely capture of violent offenders within Columbia and surrounding areas
- Assigned an officer to Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force OCDETF
- Joined the US Attorney Taskforce on Human Trafficking
- Continued to work collaboratively with local and federal partners including ABC, MBN, MBI, Fire Marshals Office, DEA, ATF, FBI, Attorney Generals Office, US Attorneys Office & Homeland Security.
- Established the Traffic Safety Unit
- Began development of Operation Safe City - Concept for installing cameras throughout the city and establishing a Real Time Crime Center

ANIMAL CONTROL

- Operated under "No Kill" percentages. (90% and above live release rate)
- Imposed stricter enforcement on leash laws and ordinances pertaining to animals
- Hired additional kennel technician
- Building and property beautification, made improvements to office space and kennel area
- Reorganized building space for a more effective operation
- Hosted community outreach events
- Hosted monthly adoption events
- Increased footprint on social media

CPD ACCOMPLISHED

Operation Make Christmas Bright

Hero's Blood Drive

Lock-It-Up Columbia Campaign

Operation Thanksgiving Blessing

Human Trafficking Summit, Springfield MO

2020 Shake Out Drill

Launched the #9PMroutine

Partnered with NWS to host online weather safety week and preparedness outreach

911 Memorial Walk

Graduated our second CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class

Hosted 1st Annual Addiction Recovery Walk

Launched Citizens Police Academy

(Class canceled due to COVID, but will resume Spring 2021)

Hosted SAY SOMETHING Assembly in all schools in Marion County

CPD 2021 GOALS

PREVENT CRIME

Preventing crime is the primary mission of the Columbia Police Department. Crime prevention promotes the health and welfare of a community instead of merely curing its ills (crimes). We will put in place strategies such as the Safe and Secure Neighborhood Initiative that will reduce the threat of crime and enhance the sense of security and quality of life within our community.

PROVIDE EFFECTIVE POLICE SERVICES

We are committed to insuring Columbia remains a safe community by employing the best practices in law enforcement to meet the challenges of 21st century policing.

The means in which we will accomplish this goal is to vigorously work towards accreditation, continuing our research into best practices in law enforcement and implementing new policies that will guide us into a new era of policing.

DEVELOP, STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN PARTNERSHIPS

We realize in order for us to be successful, we must have the confidence, support and respect of the people who live and work in our community. We are committed to developing and maintaining partnerships with the community, our internal City partners such as the Columbia Fire Department, Street Department, Water Works, Recreation, and City Hall, as well as our regional and national public safety partners.

This year we will continue our focus on youth by promoting our Handle With Care app as well as continuing youth programming. In 2021 we will launch an outreach to our senior citizens by establishing the grant funded Senior Citizen TRIAD. The Triad is a national community policing initiative involving law enforcement, older adults, and community groups partnering together to reduce criminal victimization of older persons and enhancing the delivery of law enforcement services to these individuals.

DEVELOP PERSONNEL

We will strive to provide the best equipped, and most highly trained and committed employees to help meet the needs of our growing community. We will renew our efforts to have each officer certified to address mental health concerns in citizens (CIT), we will continue our focus on reducing liability through bi-weekly trainings delivered online in the PDMS platform. We will continue the Thursday Roll Call Training sessions with partners such as the US Marshals, MS First Responders, FBI, Homeland Security, and others.

ENHANCE INFRASTRUCTURE

We will focus this year on developing and implementing a Master Facility Plan that will address initiatives and emerging technologies that will enhance productivity, streamline police services, and upgrade security within the police complex. We are currently exploring funding options that will add computers and other technologies to patrol vehicles, and increase access to cutting edge technology in major crimes to combat criminal activity such as human trafficking and sex crimes.

Chief Kelly details CPD's Strategic Plan & Vision

Chief speaks to the Columbia Rotary Club

By Danny O'Fallon

Publisher

dofallon@columbiaprogress.com

Columbia Police Chief Michael Kelly sent a very clear message this week when he addressed members of the Columbia Rotary Club — committing crimes or acts of unacceptable behavior will not be tolerated in this community, as long as he is the chief of police.

Kelly presented the Columbia Police Department's Strategic Plan Update and Vision 2021, which is a very thorough, detailed and well-organized publication that outlines many of the department's policies and procedures, projections and goals, recognition of accomplishments and statistical records of calls, incidents, etc.

In addition to serving as a sort of a status report card for the department, it also clearly describes where the department was a year ago, where it stands today and its

projected plans for the remainder of 2021.

Since his appointment as chief three years ago, Kelly has made it a top priority and gone to great lengths to make the Columbia Police Department operations as transparent as possible, which has proven to be a very well-accepted approach from the community. This strategic plan report is a great example of the department's efforts and success in remaining transparent.

"The past year has been extremely challenging for us all — our families, the department, the city, the state, the nation, everyone," Kelly said. "We've had to learn how to redo a lot of things, including changing our behavior. We've had to adapt to some enormous changes in our world, and it hasn't been easy."

The Covid pandemic, Kelly said, which included those mandatory social distancing measures and unprecedented social adjustments that kept people iso-

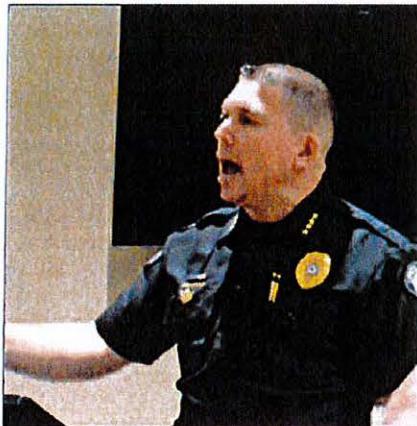


Photo by Danny O'Fallon

CPD Chief Michael Kelly responds to questions from members of the Columbia Rotary Club on Tuesday, while presenting an overview of the department's strategic plan and vision for 2021.

lated for long periods of time, directly resulted in some major increases in criminal activity that CPD officers had to respond to.

"We had to quickly

rethink some of our procedures and goals on suppressing crime," Kelly said.

"When you have people required to quarantine and

See VISION | Page 2

VISION

continued from Page 1

stay isolated for extended periods of time like that, they get restless because it's not normal. We've experienced some major spikes, particularly in domestic violence cases and calls involving guns and shootings.

Thankfully, we only ended up having one fatality, which is still not acceptable, but we credit this success to some great response from our citizens who have gotten involved and notified law enforcement."

In addition to Covid, Kelly also referred to the recent freezing weather and ice storm that struck the community and brought about other challenges that are often difficult to prepare for in advance. During those critically cold days, Kelly said he could not be more proud of his CPD officers because they took it upon themselves to coordinate and execute several community support projects for the needy.

CPD officers delivered soup and food, gloves and blankets, and even collected funds to pay for hotel rooms for many local residents who lost power or were unable to get to a store for supplies, as well as offering assistance to several homeless individuals to help them survive safely the dangerously cold weather.

Kelly said one of the latest upgrades the department is very proud of is the launching of the Relay App, which is a new citizen-to-officer notification system that's

phone-based, and was primarily developed for citizens to alert an officer directly if they're concerned about a possible criminal situation.

Instead of dialing 911, which should definitely still be used to call in emergencies, the Relay App should be used for non-emergency alerts, and it goes directly from the caller's phone to every on-duty officer at the time. It creates a location "pin" for the officer to respond and react to the situation. It also allows the officer to reply back and provide the citizen caller with a status report on the matter. The Relay App is free of charge for the user, and it's simple to download from your app store.

"We're extremely proud and excited to be able to offer this Relay App service to our citizens," Kelly said. "It's one more step toward accomplishing our mission of keeping this community closely connected to their police department."

Kelly said plans are currently underway for city officials to meet with representatives from C Spire to review the internet and phone service contracts, which includes the police department's equipment. Based on preliminary estimates, a proposed revision of the city's plan would not only increase its internet strength/speed from 10mb to 100mb, but also save the city approximately \$16,000 in annual plan costs. ■

SATURDAY
December 5, 2020

The Columbian-Progress

3

Chief Kelly presents at Human Trafficking summit

On Nov. 12, Columbia Police Chief Michael Kelly was invited to attend a summit in Springfield, MO at the Assemblies of God Headquarters regarding the fight against human trafficking in the United States.

Missionaries and nonprofit organizations who serve the world were in attendance. Also in attendance were government officials who too have a vested interest in the plight of human trafficking. The summit was to bring together both government entities and nonprofits for the purpose of collaboration and strategizing on combating human trafficking and providing services to its

victims. Chief Kelly, representing law enforcement in rural America, spoke on how the Columbia Police Department partners with nonprofit organizations such as FREE International and Say Something.

Something Assemblies who serve as force multipliers in the City of Columbia. The Columbia Police Department has conducted several successful operations with these partners with the goal of insuring children who live in Columbia are safe from this travesty.

According to FREE International the United States is among the top 3 worst countries in the world for human trafficking. ■



Photo submitted
Pictured, from left, are Pastor Choco DeJesus from Assemblies of God, Jody Dyess from Free International and Chief Michael Kelly of Columbia.

CPD launches crime reporting app

The Columbia Police Department announced it has partnered with Relay to continue to build stronger relationships and communication between Columbia citizens and the Columbia Police Department.

The new crime reporting mobile app, Relay, is now live for all Columbia businesses and will be available to all residents on December 11th. Relay allows citizens to report crime and suspicious activities in real-time to officers on patrol, while also staying in the know with direct alerts and updates from CPD in areas they care about the most. The Relay app can be downloaded on the Apple App Store and

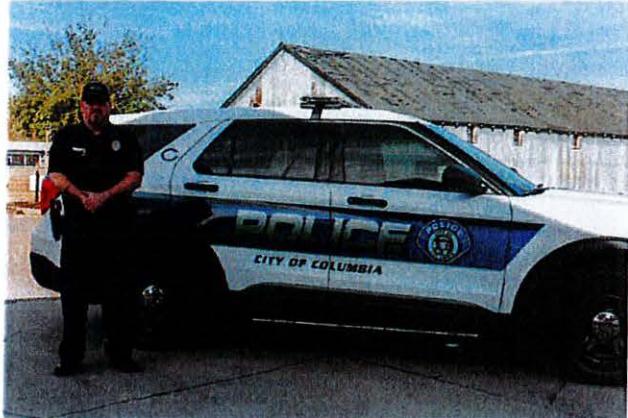
Android Google Play Store for free by visiting relayapp.com.

When submitting a non-emergency incident or suspicious activity, residents will be able to add notes, pictures and a location to their report. That information is immediately relayed to Columbia Police Department officers in the field and allows the user to monitor progress and be notified when incidents are responded to and resolved.

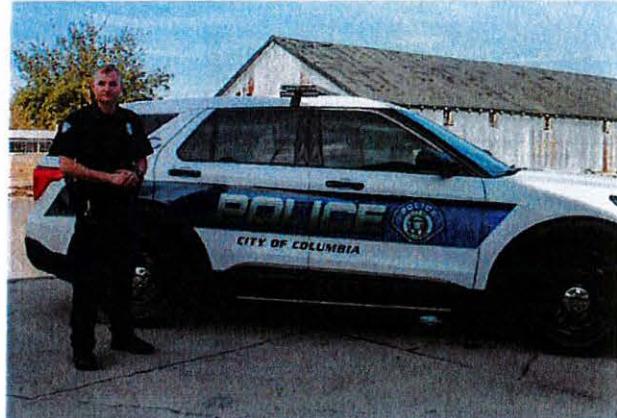
For more information please visit relayapp.com. It is important to remember that Relay is not designed to replace 911. All emergency situations must be reported via phone to 911. ■

We Are CRIME FIGHTERS

TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT



Jeff Stamps
DUI/Traffic Enforcement



Matthew Welch
DUI/Traffic Enforcement

PATROL BUREAU



I have had the privilege of serving the citizens of Columbia and Marion County for the past 44 years. This have never been a job or career, this is my passion. I have served under many administrations during my tenure in law enforcement. I believe this Columbia Police Department is the best I have ever seen it in my 44 years. The department currently has many young officers on her force. They are dedicated to serving the community and are proactive. I have been able to learn from them and because of their energy retirement will not be in my future.

CAPTAIN LANNY ARINDER

We Are CRIME FIGHTERS

MAJOR CRIMES BUREAU - CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT



Lieutenant
Candace Stuart



Detective
Cacey Pigott



Detective
Brandon Livingston

CPD MAJOR CRIMES BUREAU FOCUSES ON AN EMERGING TREND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

OPERATION DOLLHOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

On July 31, 2020 the Columbia Police Department conducted a *child exploitation/human trafficking sting*, Operation Dollhouse. For weeks leading up to this weekend's operation, detectives and agents from the Columbia Police Departments Major Crimes Division and Crime Suppression Team focused on protecting our community's most valuable asset, our children. CPD partnered with multiple Non Governmental Organizations to provide logistics, victim services, a state of the art command center, surveillance, subject matter experts, and evidence retrieval. NGO's involved in Operation Dollhouse were: FREE International, Klaaskids, Called 2 Rescue, Anonymity Rescue Ministries, Raven Cell and Nissi Worldwide.

The operation began with the focus on interdicting those who had intent on meeting with a child for sexual purposes. Four (4) arrest were made and multiple other individuals are under further investigation and criminal charges are pending. The operation would later shift to human trafficking interdiction where the focus was on prostitution procurement, and rescuing girls from the lifestyle of forced prostitution or sex slavery. Three (3) arrest were made and investigations are ongoing.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



**Lieutenant
Pearlie Hendricks**

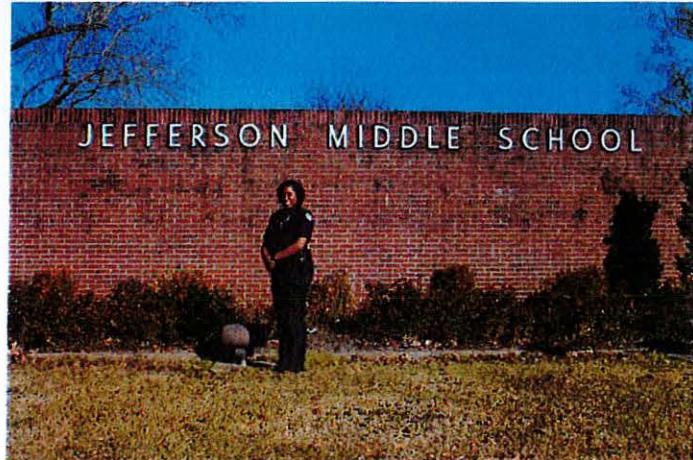
CPS Dr. Jay Rayborn on Pearlie Hendricks

"Very serious toward school and student safety."

**Officer
Markeisha Barber**

JMS Levi Robinson on Markeisha Barber

"She has been an asset to the school."



**Corporal
Jennifer Bass**

CHS Braxton Stowe on Jenn Bass

"She does a great job at communicating!"

E911 Operators

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF PUBLIC SAFETY IS THE E911 COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS OF THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT. The E911 Emergency Communications Operators provide a vital link in the first line of communication when a member of our community is having an emergency. This team consist of true first responders. When you call 911 in the City of Columbia, these operators are the ones who answer the call. They provide crisis intervention, emergency communication support services to the Columbia Police Department as well as the Columbia Fire Department, they field calls from citizens for the Columbia Public Works Department, as well as handle most non-emergency police request from our citizens. Dispatchers gather essential information from callers by asking questions to interpret, analyze and anticipate the callers situation in order to dispatch the appropriate emergency services or other city services to their location. This team of highly-trained emergency call takers are organized and adept at multi-tasking. They operate a multi-line telephone console, enter data into the computer aided dispatch system, and monitor multiple radio channels to include CPD, CFD, Public Works, and our common event channels.

Our dispatchers often find themselves in the middle of life and death situations, but due to their lack of visibility they can be perceived as just the voice on the phone or radio. They are often under appreciated and sometimes forgotten. The Columbia Police Department recognizes and thanks this incredible team for all they do for the community. Our E911 dispatchers are the lifeline for citizens who may be having the worst day of their lives and are the heartbeat of public safety in the City of Columbia.

ANIMAL CONTROL AND RESCUE



Animal Control & Rescue BY THE NUMBERS

Animals Served by the CPD Animal Control and Rescue **389** (394 animals services previous year)

LIVE RELEASE RATE **93%** (91% live release rate previous year)

Intake **CITY 24.9%** Intake **COUNTY 75.1%**