

Lynchburg Police Department 2020 Annual Report



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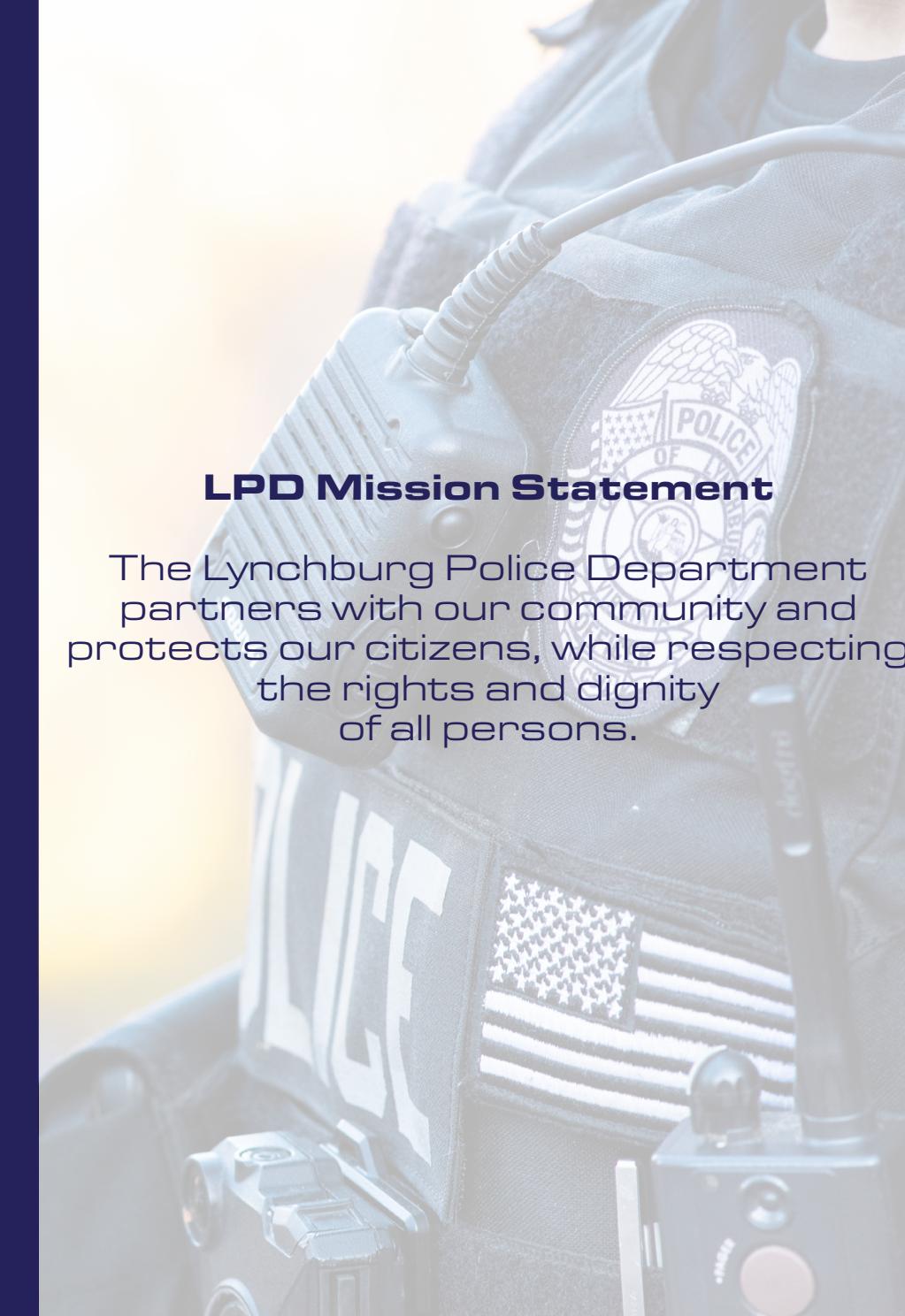
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**LPD Mission Statement**

The Lynchburg Police Department partners with our community and protects our citizens, while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons.



"Your police department will continue to serve as a community-focused agency that is highly trained and adaptable to the needs of all. Your ongoing partnership is essential to our success as we protect the diverse fabric of our city."

**- Ryan Zuidema
Chief of Police**

A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

After a year that presented multiple challenges, the members of the Lynchburg Police Department (LPD) remain dedicated to serving our community with professionalism and empathy. I am extremely proud of the sworn and professional staff who continue to demonstrate a spirit of service every day by partnering with and protecting all Lynchburg residents and visitors. I also want to thank our community for supporting us, holding us accountable, and helping us collectively maintain a safe, welcoming city for all.

The COVID-19 pandemic taught us several lessons as an organization. It required us to become more flexible and creative, but also demonstrated the outstanding level of service our department is able to provide during a sustained public health emergency. We adapted quickly to changes from health professionals and government officials, instituting procedures that prioritized the health and safety of those we interacted with as well as our officers.

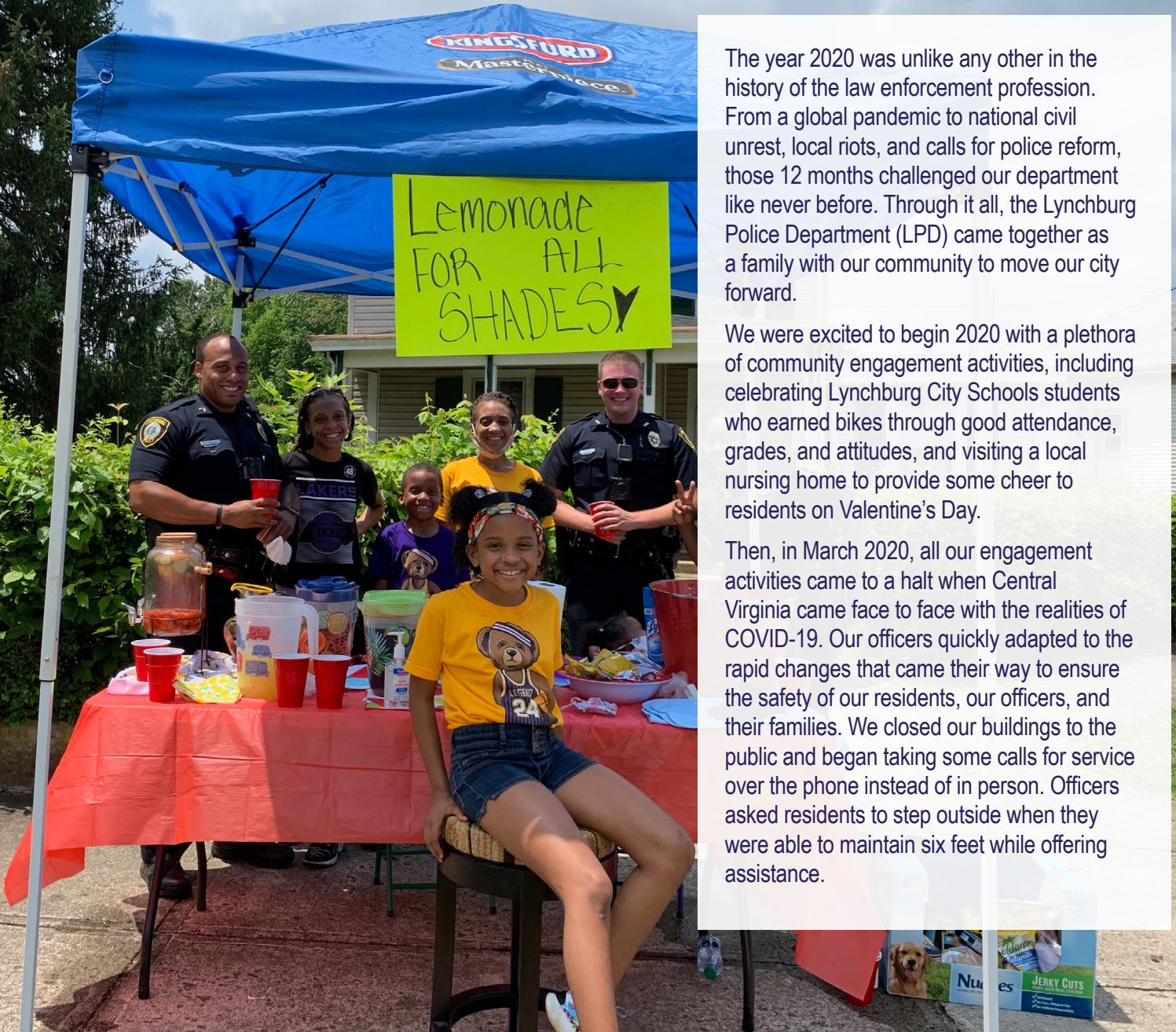
As we continued with a "new normal," the tragic death of George Floyd spurred nationwide protests and calls for police reform. Here in Lynchburg, our great city experienced two nights of riots before several days of peaceful protests brought together many groups to express their vision for a more cohesive future.

We spent several months engaging with hundreds of our residents, listening to their concerns, and understanding their needs for their police department. During six Listening Sessions and dozens of meetings held over the summer and fall of 2020, we heard the importance of these expectations – transparency, accountability, training, diversity, and officer actions and behaviors.

The LPD has maintained the highest level of excellence for decades. I am pleased to report that we had many foundational practices in place well before May 2020 that aligned with community feedback received during these meetings. These include our accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, prioritization of community engagement, comprehensive and advanced training programs, Body-Worn Camera Systems, and mental health partnerships.

Community policing is our organizational philosophy. Working with our residents and business owners ensures we are identifying the most practical and sustainable solutions to issues threatening the safety of our city. Your police department will continue to serve as a community-focused agency that is highly trained and adaptable to the needs of all. Your ongoing partnership is essential to our success as we protect the diverse fabric of our city.

COMING TOGETHER IN A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER



The year 2020 was unlike any other in the history of the law enforcement profession. From a global pandemic to national civil unrest, local riots, and calls for police reform, those 12 months challenged our department like never before. Through it all, the Lynchburg Police Department (LPD) came together as a family with our community to move our city forward.

We were excited to begin 2020 with a plethora of community engagement activities, including celebrating Lynchburg City Schools students who earned bikes through good attendance, grades, and attitudes, and visiting a local nursing home to provide some cheer to residents on Valentine's Day.

Then, in March 2020, all our engagement activities came to a halt when Central Virginia came face to face with the realities of COVID-19. Our officers quickly adapted to the rapid changes that came their way to ensure the safety of our residents, our officers, and their families. We closed our buildings to the public and began taking some calls for service over the phone instead of in person. Officers asked residents to step outside when they were able to maintain six feet while offering assistance.

Operationally, our professional staff provided constant support and creative thinking to ensure our sworn personnel had the equipment to keep themselves and others safe, including gloves, masks, thermometers, and hand sanitizer.

The tragic death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 sent shockwaves throughout the globe. We stood with law enforcement agencies across the country in condemning the actions that led to his death and issued a statement to our community outlining the expectation for our officers to always respect the rights and dignity of all.

A gathering that began as a peaceful protest on May 31, 2020 turned violent as the skies went dark and individuals began throwing rocks and

bricks at our officers, LPD vehicles, and local properties.

During this riot, several officers were injured and our armored vehicle was shot with officers inside. This chaotic scene threatened the safety of all in our city, and these violent acts continued the next night in Miller Park.

We are incredibly grateful that none of our officers or residents were seriously hurt in these riots, and appreciated the support of our local law enforcement partners and the National Guard, who spent the week with us ensuring the safety of our city. Over the next four days, our residents peacefully demonstrated throughout Lynchburg, and we provided escorts and support where possible.

The LPD spent the next six months engaging with our residents to truly understand their needs. We held six Listening Sessions in neighborhoods around downtown to facilitate this feedback. Members of the department also had numerous individual and group meetings with dozens of residents to listen to how they want their police department to serve them.

Although hindered by COVID, we were able to restart some of our community engagement activities in the summer of 2020. The department partnered with the Lynchburg Police Foundation to hold pop-up cookouts at various downtown locations. Officers also helped build a playground and took the initiative to clean up a historic cemetery in White Rock.





- ## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS
1. Color Guard Run
 2. Neighborhood Shaved Ice Stand
 3. Speaking to LCS Students
 4. Boys and Girls Club
 5. Treats from our Community
 6. B.I.K.E. Program
 7. Shoes for School Event
 8. National Night Out
 9. Neighborhood Bike Race



LUNCH AND LEARN

As a School Resource Officer, Officer Robert Sacks always has a smile and a helping hand to lend to his students at Linkhorne Middle School, his fellow officers, and all residents of Lynchburg. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Officer Sacks joined the LPD in 2015.

Since then, he has made his mark on both the department and his

community. In the Spring of 2020, Officer Sacks' unassuming friendliness brought some hope to our city.

On April 11, 2020, Officer Sacks was patrolling around a shopping center on Wards Road when he noticed a man, who appeared to be homeless, sitting by himself behind a building. Seeing the man alone at lunchtime struck a chord in Officer Sacks. So when he drove across the

street to get some food, he doubled his order.

"I just thought - 'How could I make his day better?' I asked him if he wanted to have Chick-fil-A with me. I just wanted to sit on the ground with him and see what he sees," Officer Sacks said.

He took the lunches back to enjoy some fries and conversation with his new friend Chris. Although they were from different areas – Officer Sacks is from New Jersey and Chris is from Amherst – the two found a common interest in baseball.

While they were discussing their favorite teams, someone driving by took a picture of the pair and posted it on a local Facebook group. The post went 'viral,' demonstrating the empathy and understanding displayed every day by LPD officers.



Credits: courtesy of Robert Sacks Jr.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ – An act of kindness by a South Plainfield native went viral earlier this month garnering him some unexpected fame in the Virginia town he serves.

On April 11, Robert Sacks Jr., a member of South Plainfield High School's Class of 2010, was on the job for the Lynchburg Police Department. While out on patrol, he drove around the back of a busy shopping center and saw a man who appeared to be homeless sitting on the ground. Realizing it was close to lunchtime, Sacks headed across the street to a fast food restaurant and purchased two sandwiches with the hopes of sharing lunch with the man.

"I just thought - 'How could I make his day better?' I asked him if he wanted to have Chick-fil-A with me. I just wanted to sit on the ground with him and see what he sees."

- Officer Robert Sacks

The news article features a headline: "'Do you want to have Chick-fil-A with me?': Lynchburg officer sharing lunch with homeless man goes viral". It includes a photo of Officer Sacks and a man sitting at a table, and a quote from Officer Sacks: "Officer Robert Sacks said he just wanted to make Chris' day". The article also includes a link to sign up for newsletters and social media icons.



TRAFFIC STATISTICS



Traffic - Change from 2019

Accidents with Property Damage	↓16%
Accidents with Personal Injury	↑64%
Fatal Accidents	↑133%
Total Accidents	↓24%
Total Traffic Summons	↓35%

CRIME STATISTICS — CHANGE OVER 2019

Violent Criminal Offenses

Homicide	↑ 133%
Rape	↓ 17%
Robbery	↓ 13%
Aggravated Assault	↑ 20%

Property Criminal Offenses

Burglary	↓ 30%
Larceny	↓ 19%
Larceny from Auto	↓ 41%
Auto Theft	↓ 24%
Arson	↓ 64%

INTERNAL AFFAIRS STATISTICS

Description	2020	Exonerated	Unfounded	Non-Sustained	Sustained	Policy Review	Pending	Other
Citizen Initiated Demeanor Complaints	30	10	18	0	7	1	0	2
Employee Initiated Demeanor Complaints	8							
Citizen Initiated Allegations of Misconduct	14	2	8	0	2	1	0	6
Employee Initiated Allegations of Misconduct	5							
Use of Force Events	53							



EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR PERFORMANCE

Chief's Award
Kenny Gavin
Elsa Ramirez

Community Policing Award
Tereika Grooms

Distinguished Service Award
Cindy Kozerow
Steffanie Romano

Honorable Service Award
Kasey Smith

Lifesaving Award
Ronnie Coleman
Brian Smith
Garrett Waterman
Jesse Babbitt
Chase Bryant
Saddrajd Hubbard
Kayla Young
Jarrod Cox
John Glerum
John Person
Matt Closs

Meritorious Service Award
Chamberlain Harris
Josh Massie
Kenny Gavin
Nick Kirby
Nate Godsie
K-9 Arko
Gary Abbott
K-9 Toro
John Person
Hans Blomquist
Garrett Waterman

Officer of the Year
Josh Massie

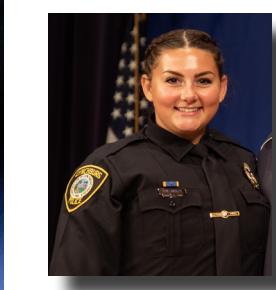
Narcan Award
Zach Miller
Garrett Waterman
Jesse Babbitt
John Glerum
Mike Wilkes
Ben Crouch
Lee Hughes
Nate Hendrix
Liary Polanco
Josh Massie
Dirk Johnson
Mike Iazzi
Tom Sawyer
John Farrar
John Person
Matt Closs
Matt Bonferraro
Robert Sacks
Chase Bryant
Thomas Hall
Josh David
Jamal Payne
Eric Westervelt

Team Citation Award ctd.
Kenny Gavin
Bill Tomlin
Vernon Parrish
Judy Hash
Titus Burgess
Brandon Isner
Daniel Davis
Antonio Davis
Mike Degiorgio
Paula Worsham
John Arnold
Richard McCune

Officers of the Month
Seth Reed and K-9 Knox
John Pavia
Zach Miller
Heidi Shumate
Randall Williams
Eric Westervelt
Hans Blomquist
Michelle Tenpas
Joe Tucker
Kayla Young
Chris Jackson
Kylee McCraw

Team Citation Award
Gary Fink
Saddrajd Hubbard
Cindy Kozerow
John Pavia
Kayla Young
Josh Campbell
Dan Bailey
Matt Knabb
John Howard

Professional Staff of the Quarter
Jessi Hughes
Katie Jennings
Carrie Dungan
Steffanie Romano
Daniel Davis



"Lynchburg shaped me to be who I am now, and I wanted to give back to the community that's given so much to me. With the LPD, you have many opportunities... whatever you want, we have it. Imagine a bunch of brothers and sisters having your back 24/7 - not only do you have the opportunity, but you also have family. That's in one police department."

- Officer Brianna Ashley

WHY JOIN THE LPD?

- Become a part of a community where you feel like you are truly making a difference
- Competitive pay and excellent benefits
- Diverse range of career progression opportunities, including Crime Scene, Intelligence, K-9, Crisis Negotiation, and Tactical Unit
- We are a family that will support you and your family when you need it most



"One of the things that really stood out to me about the LPD is that I really believe it is the best law enforcement agency in Central Virginia. One of the things I've learned is that there's lots of training opportunities here at the Lynchburg Police Department for us to continue to grow and develop as officers."

- Officer Javaz Williams



ABOUT LYNCHBURG

POPULATION IS
82,168

AND GROWING

MEDIAN AGE IS
28.6

MILLENIAL POPULATION IS
45%

LARGER THAN U.S. AVERAGE

14.2%
LOWER COST OF LIVING THAN
NATIONAL AVERAGE



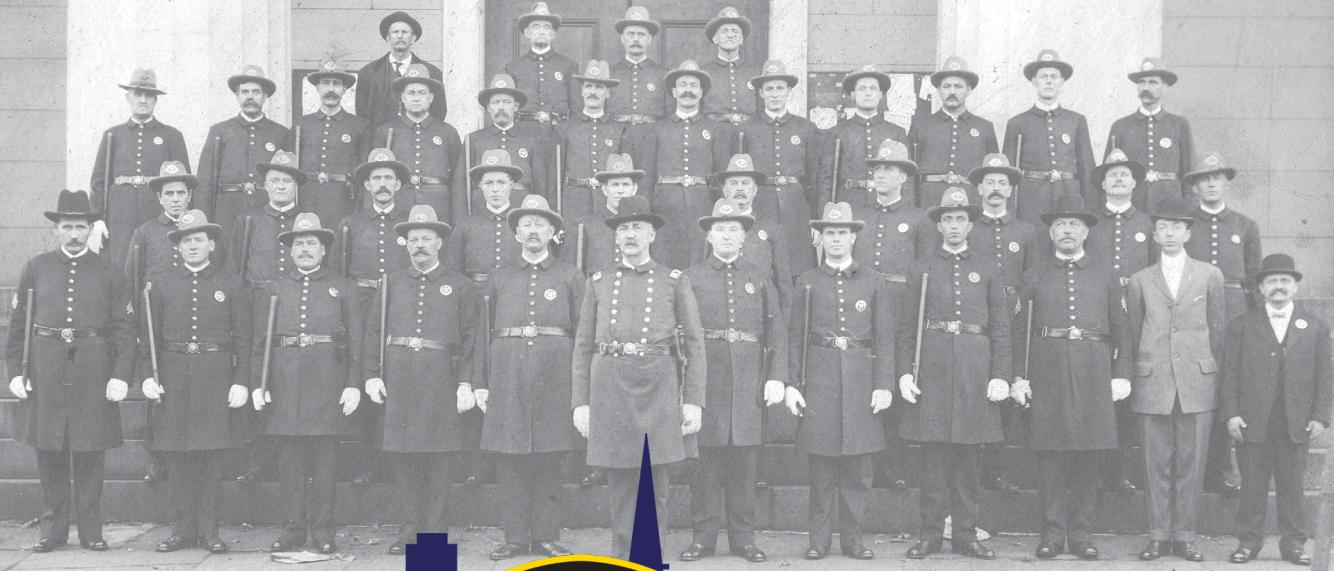
ABOUT THE LYNCHBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

176
SWORN OFFICERS

NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING IN
2023

PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF
32

215
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE



★ YOUR PARTNERS

The LPD values our partnership with the Lynchburg Police Foundation, a local organization that does the following:

- Provide resources to the Lynchburg Police Department, including seed money, equipment and in-kind services, to provide advanced training and encourage the development of innovative programs and projects.
- Recognize department members and citizens of the City of Lynchburg by rewarding and promoting outstanding performance throughout the Department and community.
- Promote and encourage citizen involvement in the activities of the department through increased communications and prioritization of police services.
- Provide assistance and support to those serving as police officers in the City of Lynchburg by increasing public awareness of the role of police officers in modern society.



YOUR PROTECTORS ★



"Public safety cannot rest on the shoulders of law enforcement agencies alone but is dependent upon a partnership between business leaders, active citizen involvement, government support and a proactive professional police department.

The Lynchburg Police Foundation fosters this mutually beneficial relationship within our community to promote excellence in police services."

- Rick Loving, President, Lynchburg Police Foundation