

Lynchburg Police Department

2021 Annual Report



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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

Although 2021 was not without its challenges, I am proud of the dedicated service that our sworn and professional staff continued to provide throughout the year. The members of the Lynchburg Police Department (LPD) remain committed to partnering with and protecting all Lynchburg residents, visitors, and business owners each and every day.

Over the past year, our sworn staff dealt with ongoing challenges related to mental health calls for service. These calls drastically increased during and in the wake of the COVID pandemic, and our officers served these individuals with professionalism and empathy. We are working with a variety of community partners to establish both short and long-term solutions to better serve those in crisis. We have also continued the development of our Community Policing Advisory Group to ensure the greatest level of transparency and collaboration. This group now reviews all uses of force and citizen complaints on a regular basis and provides feedback.

Additionally, the Lynchburg Police Foundation facilitated the creation of a drone program and continued to facilitate leadership development schooling for officers.

In collaboration with our local Police Benevolent Association, we were able to work with City management to increase the starting salary for all sworn officers to be the highest in the region and carry this raise through the sworn ranks of the department.

We were excited to debut a new website in 2021 that allows us to better engage with and build trust in our community. The website, www.lynchburgvapolice.gov, provides data on uses of force, commendations, complaints, crime statistics, and more. It also includes a multitude of resources for residents, such as information on security assessments, identity theft prevention, community engagement, and LPD policies.

The LPD has maintained the highest level of excellence for decades. I am pleased to report that in 2021, the LPD received national accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) for the tenth time. CALEA accreditation serves as the foundation for a successful, well-managed, transparent, community-focused law enforcement agency.

Community policing remains 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.

WE'RE PARTNERING WITH OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK

24,091 FOLLOWERS
64,334 POST ENGAGEMENT



INSTAGRAM

2,451 FOLLOWERS
68 POSTS IN 2021



TWITTER

5,326 FOLLOWERS



Lynchburg Police Department
Tuesday · December 28, 2021 · 49

At the Lynchburg Police Department, we know that teamwork and collaboration can have impactful results. Earlier this week, the LPD Vice Unit partnered with the Tactical Unit, the Intel Unit, CID, the Drone team, Patrol Officers, the U.S. Marshal Service, and the Amherst County Sheriff's Office K9 Units to successfully execute a search warrant. The goal of this effort was to stop gun violence in our city. Lynchburg has had over 400 shots fired calls this year alone.

These units worked as a team to safely and securely seize thousands of rounds of ammunition, multiple firearms with high capacity magazines, and distributable amounts of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. There were no injuries or shots fired. The team's training and professionalism ensured that everyone involved was safe and unharmed.

Through the use of intelligence led policing, collaboration both internal and external, the Lynchburg Police Department was able to get guns, ammunition, and drugs off the street. Thank you to the Vice Unit, Tactical Unit, CID, the Drone team, Patrol Officers, the U.S. Marshal Service, and the Amherst County Sheriff's Office K9 Units for a job well done.



observed four individuals that matched the description of the suspects. Officer McCraw confronted three of the four suspects and noticed that the fourth suspect ran behind a residence on Jackson Street. Officer McCraw successfully detained the three suspects on her own, then successfully located and detained the fourth suspect.

When searching the area where Officer McCraw located and arrested the fourth suspect, officers located four firearms, one of which was a high-powered handgun. The suspect who had all four firearms is a violent offender who also had outstanding warrants for violent crimes.

Officer McCraw conducted a four-hour investigation while ensuring the victims in this case were safe and cared for. Officer McCraw is being recognized for her continued hard work and attention to detail.

Officer McCraw is commended for her incredible work ethic and dedication that demonstrate the diligence and patience she was willing to invest to bring violent individuals to justice.



Our officers regularly go above and beyond the call of duty for our residents and business owners, and Officer Garrett Waterman exemplified this after responding to a burglary in November 2021.

Officer Waterman took the initiative to identify the location of potential suspects, call stores of interest in that area, and follow up when the stolen merchandise was found. This is just one example of the incredible work our dedicated officers perform each and every day!

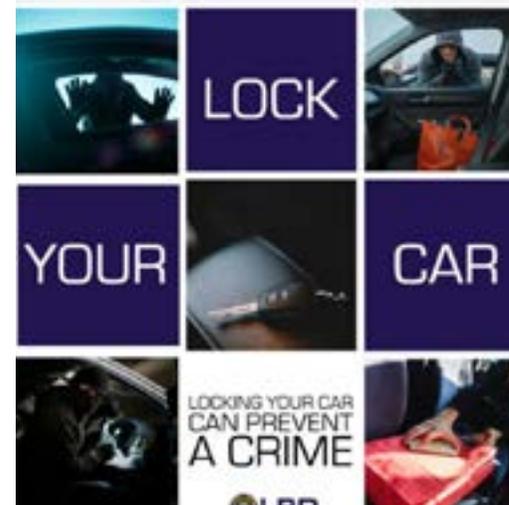
Lynchburg Police Department
Tuesday · November 2, 2021 · 49

Yesterday, Officer G. Waterman responded to Culture Connect, a local store on Wards Road, after the window of the business was smashed out. Once officers cleared the building, they worked with the owners to determine that a significant amount of merchandise had been stolen, including dozens of high-dollar shoes. Security footage showed two black men wearing black hoodies enter the store and commit the burglary. Officer Waterman used his excellent investigative skills to identify the two suspects and determined that they were headed to Greensboro, North Carolina. He then contacted several shoe stores in the Greensboro area asking them to contact him if these individuals came into the store. Later, a store in the mall called saying three individuals came with over 30 pairs of shoes to sell and were still inside the mall. Officer Waterman then contacted Greensboro PD, who responded to the mall and detained the individuals. These men were arrested and charged in connection with the burglary. The stolen shoes were recovered and returned to the store's owner, who said he was very grateful for the dedication of Officer Waterman because the stolen items represented the majority of his inventory. He is now able to continue running his small business in our great city. #goodnessandhardwork



Lynchburg Police Department
Tuesday · December 14, 2021 · 49

A press of a button could be the difference between a normal day and an empty driveway. Locking your vehicle and removing valuables from plain view makes your vehicle less appealing. Thieves are looking for easy targets like unlocked cars, large or broken-in the open, or a punter in a seat. Help the LPD prevent crime by locking your vehicle every time. #LockYourCar #CrimePrevention



We provide helpful tips like these on a regular basis to keep our residents both informed and safe from those in our community who would seek to do harm. The simplest act - locking your car - can potentially prevent multiple crimes. We want to ensure our community has as much information as possible.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS



Traffic - Change from 2020

- Fatal Accidents ↑ 7%
- Total Accidents ↑ 14%
- Total Traffic Summonses ↑ 1%

CRIME STATISTICS – CHANGE OVER 2020

Violent Criminal Offenses

- Homicide ↑ 125%
- Rape ↑ 13%
- Robbery ↓ 6%
- Aggravated Assault ↓ 13%

Property Criminal Offenses

- Burglary ↑ 1%
- Larceny ↑ 16%
- Larceny from Auto ↑ 39%
- Auto Theft ↑ 37%
- Arson ↑ 150%

INTERNAL AFFAIRS STATISTICS

Description	2021	Exonerated	Unfounded	Non-Sustained	Sustained	Policy Review	Pending	Other
Citizen Initiated Demeanor Complaints	26	5	14	1	5	2	2	2
Employee Initiated Demeanor Complaints	5							
Citizen Initiated Allegations of Misconduct	8	3	2	1	1	0	3	0
Employee Initiated Allegations of Misconduct	2							
Use of Force Events	70							





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



ABOUT LYNCHBURG

POPULATION IS
82,168
AND GROWING

MEDIAN AGE IS
29.2

MILLENNIAL 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
2024

PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF
32

216
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE



★ YOUR PARTNERS



YOUR PROTECTORS ★

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.
- Promote and encourage citizen involvement in the activities of the department through increased communications and prioritization of police services.
- Recognize department members and citizens of the City of Lynchburg by rewarding and promoting outstanding performance throughout the Department and community.
- 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.



“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