

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Danville Police Department
"Deeds Not Words"



Foreword from the Chief of Police

I proudly share with you the 2019 Danville Police Department Annual Report. Since February 2018, I have made both *community engagement* and the *reduction of crime*, a priority for our agency.

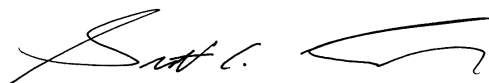
In 2019 we experienced a significant reduction in our violent crime, property crime, and overall major crimes. This is contributed to a community working together with a common goal, making Danville a safer city.

We restructured our department, reducing the number of senior managers and putting more leadership in the neighborhoods of our community. We redefined the roles of our captains, creating the position of Area Commanders – we now have senior level decision-makers with responsibility for the North and South areas of the city. This allows us to increase our level of accountability and responsiveness with the community.

We adopted stratified policing as a focusing framework for the department. Stratified policing is an organizational model for crime reduction that ensures that ALL members of the department – from the Chief to the officer on the street – play an active role in recognizing and responding to crime in our community by emphasizing the use of data and ensuring that we remain transparent and accountable to the community, each and every day.

You can be proud of your police department. The women and men of the Danville Police Department consistently go above and beyond the call of duty. You can see this in our response to the highest priority calls for service, when we are on community/neighborhood walks, and when asked to problem-solve with community leaders.

We are honored to serve the citizens of Danville and look forward to their continued collaboration and support.



Scott C. Booth
Chief of Police



Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Foreword from the Chief.....	Page 2
Table of Contents.....	Page 3
About the Department.....	Page 4
Command Staff.....	Page 6
Senior Staff.....	Page 7
Department Organization.....	Page 8
By the Numbers.....	Page 11
Community Engagement.....	Page 16
New Hires and Retirees.....	Page 21
Achievements and Awards.....	Page 24
Innovative Use of Technology.....	Page 27
Looking Ahead.....	Page 29

About the Department

Danville

The City of Danville, located midway on Virginia's southern border with North Carolina, was founded in 1793 on the banks of the Dan River. The Danville Police Department had its beginnings on May 21, 1833, when a citizen patrol with compulsory service was established. By 1860, the citizen patrol had expanded to include two sworn police officers. Today the Police Department is a modern, accredited agency with a maximum capacity of 131 sworn officers, two animal control officers, 13 civilian staff and six school crossing guards. The fiscal year 2019 adopted budget was \$9,934,080.

Mission Statement

The Danville Police Department will provide quality service to the community through a process of continuous improvement. We will maintain a safe environment for all by protecting life, individual liberty and property through partnerships with citizens and businesses.

Motto

The Danville Police Department's motto is "Deeds Not Words."

Re-accredited Agency

The Danville Police Department has been accredited through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. Accreditation is accomplished by meeting or exceeding over 180 standards that cover every aspect of law enforcement. Accreditation increases the law enforcement agency's ability to prevent and control crime through more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services to the community it serves.



Accreditation also enhances community understanding of the law enforcement agency and its role in the community as well as its goals and objectives. This partnership helps citizens to understand the challenges that confront law enforcement. As a result, law enforcement receives clear direction from the community about its expectations. Thus, a common set of goals and objectives is established and implemented.

Department Patch



The patch of the Danville Police Department features the city seal. It is divided into four quadrants representing the four cornerstones of Danville's economy. The top quadrant depicts the textile industry that dominated Danville for over 50 years. The right quadrant depicts the higher education opportunities available in Danville. Danville's reputation as the hub of the region's tobacco industry is represented in the bottom quadrant. The confluence of roads, railroads, and air traffic in the left quadrant symbolizes Danville's status for over 200 years as the "Gateway to the South."

About the Department

Overview

The Danville Police Department accomplishes its mission by actively engaging the community through the application of evidence-based policing practices. The department utilizes a neighborhood policing strategy dividing the city into two areas - North and South. The department is organized into multiple divisions:

- ◆ The Operations Division is the section of the department responsible for routine day-to-day and emergency tactical execution of law enforcement responses. The patrol, investigations, crime analysis and street crimes units perform these functions.
- ◆ The Services Division has the responsibility to support the other divisions and units of the department. It is comprised of support units including records, crime scene, crime prevention, school resource officers, animal control, parking, evidence room, school crossing guards, training, quartermaster, video technician, recruitment, community engagement and accreditation.
- ◆ The Professional Standards Division provides the policy and inspection criteria necessary to maintain a professional organization. This unit is primarily responsible for internal affairs investigations, use of force investigations and citizen complaints.

Command Staff



Scott C. Booth
Chief of Police



Lt. Colonel Ronald D. Hairston
Deputy Chief of Police



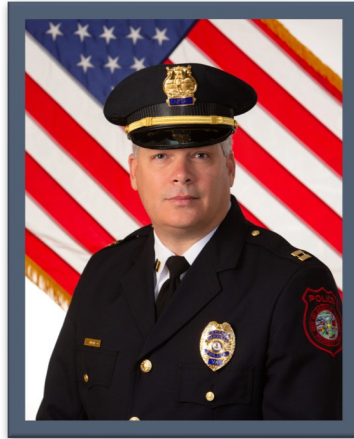
Major Christopher K. Wiles
Operations Division Commander



Major Timothy W. Jones
Services Division Commander



Senior Staff



Captain E. Keith Thompson
Northside Area Commander



Captain Jerry L. Pace
Southside Area Commander



Captain Matthew V. Carter
Professional Standards



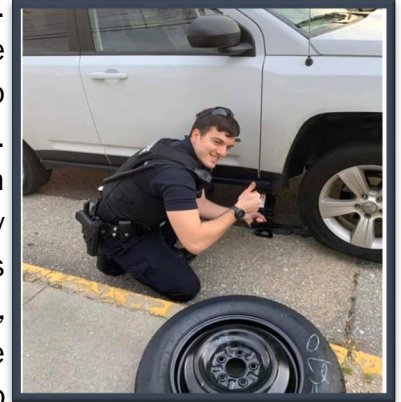
Captain Henry S. Richardson
Investigations Bureau



Department Organization

Area Commanders and Front Line Supervision

Last year was one of significant organizational change for the Department. The retirement of several senior-level staff in 2018 made it an opportune time to re-structure. One significant change was the assignment of two captains as area commanders, each with a geographic area of responsibility. The geographic areas are naturally divided by the Dan River. Captain Keith Thompson was assigned to be the North Area Commander and Captain Jerry Pace the South Area Commander. “From my experience with other agencies that I've been a part of, when you give a captain, a command-level officer, geographic accountability, a piece of ground to be accountable to the community and to the staff on, some great things can happen¹,” according to Chief Booth. The area commanders are accountable for crime reduction and quality of life issues in their geographic area of operations.



The captains take a data-driven approach to addressing crime patterns, repeat calls for service and deploying resources to focus areas. Communication with citizens is a key component of the strategy and the area commanders hold regular neighborhood meetings along with developing relationships with community leaders and area businesses. Each captain is also responsible for two patrol platoons as part of their duties.



Another part of the department re-structure included reducing several senior staff positions through attrition and repurposing them as front-line supervisors and that means more officers on the street.

Stratified Policing

Along with department re-structure, 2019 was the right time to implement some other organizational changes. Danville Police formally adopted Stratified Policing as its organizational model for crime reduction. Geographic areas of responsibility were a natural fit in this model that emphasizes accountability processes. Roberto Santos, PhD and Rachel Santos, PhD, professors at Radford University's Center for Police Practice, Policy and Research partnered with the Danville Police Department to implement Stratified Policing. Through the course of several months Drs. Roberto and Rachel Santos held extensive training in Danville with every level of the Department with the goal of providing “an organizational framework to institutionalize problem solving, proactive evidence-based crime reduction strategies, and engagement with the community².” The processes involved with Stratified Policing no doubt contributed to the crime reduction success in 2019.



Footnotes:

¹ Danville Residents Share Thoughts on Police Department's New Crime Reduction Effort

Colter Anstaett - <https://www.wsls.com/news/2019/01/25/danville-residents-share-thoughts-on-police-departments-new-crime-reduction-effort/>

² Police Practice-based Projects

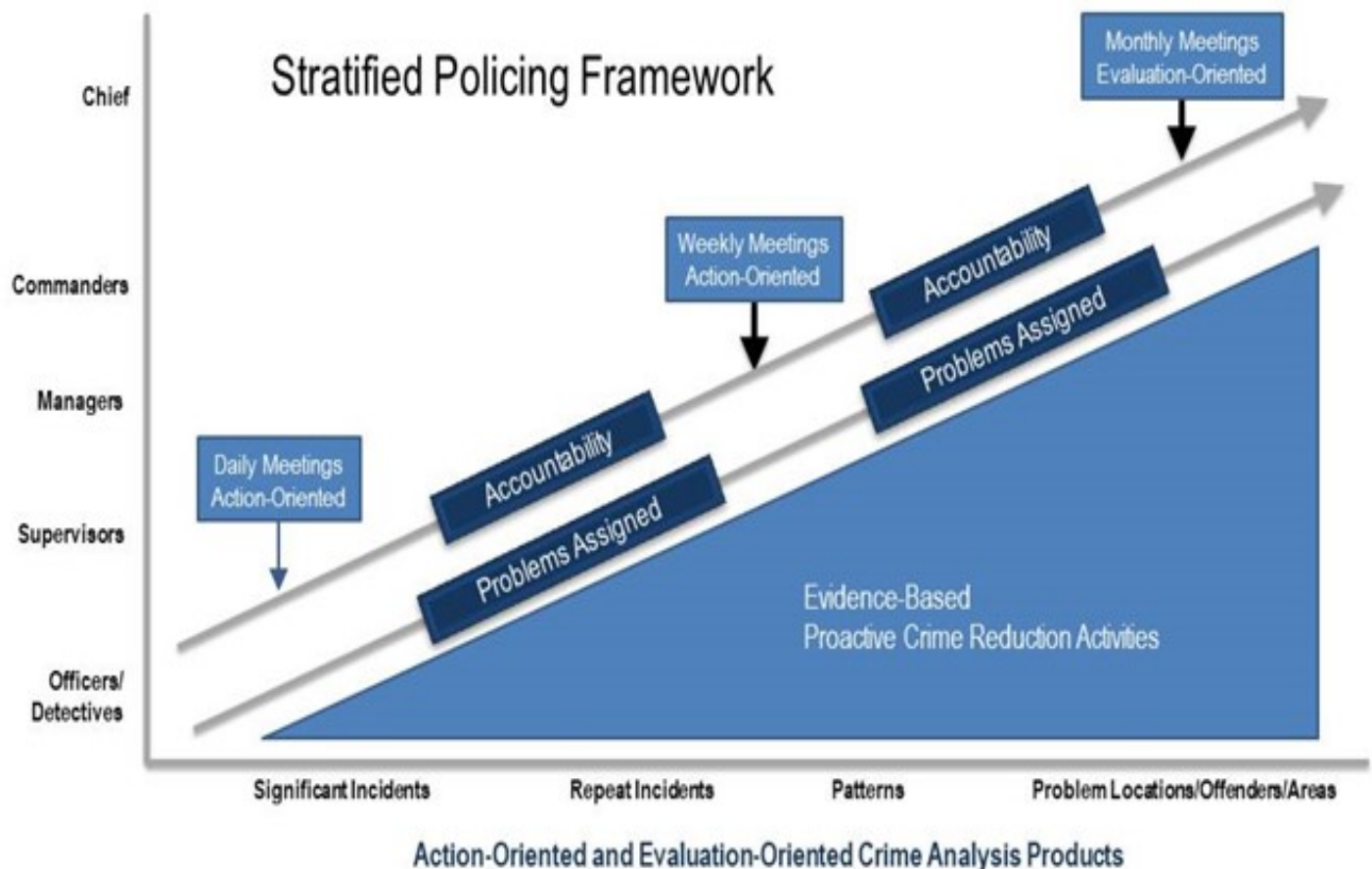
<https://www.radford.edu/content/chbs/home/police-practice/research-projects/police-practice-based.html>

Department Organization

Stratified Policing Overview

Stratified Policing begins with the fact that the police address crime, disorder and quality of life issues at different levels within the community. This includes looking at immediate, short-term and long-term community problems. It takes what we know works from research and best police practices and “makes them work” in the police organization. Stratified Policing is an organizational model that includes specific processes to implement evidenced-based, proactive crime reduction strategies to impact problems at each level. Within the day-to-day operations of the police agency, place-based, problem-solving, person-focused and community-based approaches are implemented for each type of problem in the most effective and efficient ways.

Problem stratification is matched to the rank structure of the police department which spreads the work across the organization and creates realistic expectations for each person based on their current responsibilities. The types of problems are separated and distinguished by their complexity, different analyses and responses. Accountability mechanisms are carried out by different personnel within the agency which “stratifies” the workload and responsibility for proactive crime reduction. Accountability meetings bring people together to regularly facilitate coordination and communication as well as reaffirm crime reduction priorities of the agency and community. Stratified Policing reduces crime, disorder, and improves quality of life in the community by implementing the most effective strategies in meaningful and efficient ways. In addition, it improves communication within the department, as well as enhances transparency, promotes leadership and ensures the work is being done effectively and consistently (Courtesy of Roberto Santos, PhD).



Project Safe Neighborhoods



Western District of Virginia

The Danville Police Department continued to build our partnerships in order to reduce violent crime. This included participation in Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

The Western District of Virginia has established a district-wide PSN Task Force, which is comprised of high-level representatives of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and Commonwealth Attorneys.

Per capita, the last few years, Danville has the highest murder rate in Virginia, ahead of major urban areas like Richmond. Local police attribute this increase in homicides to a corresponding escalation of gang violence. In response, the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) partnered with federal agencies, the Danville Police Department (DPD), the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office, and the Virginia State Police to reduce gang-related crime. Utilizing police reports, local gang Intelligence, and social media analysis, the Danville task force has identified the top gangs in the city, their leadership, and their most violent members. These efforts resulted in the June 2018 indictments that charged two of the city's most violent gangs and their leadership in connection to racketeering activities, multiple attempted murders, and a 2016 murder. As the USAO prosecutes the two indictments, the task force will continue to investigate the remaining gangs, with the plan to move toward future indictments of other gangs and gang members. In addition, the task force has created a list of the most violent offenders in Danville area. Using this data as a guide, the task force has started building gang and non-gang cases against the city's most dangerous shooters.

Danville Police continue to leverage existing resources to interdict criminal behavior through activities that include intelligence gathering, meeting with at-risk-youth and their families, and referrals to the city Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Coordinator.

Chief Booth shaking hands with U.S. Attorney Thomas Cullen at a press conference regarding Operation Purple Rain



By the Numbers

Major Crime

The crime index below contains information that has been verified by the Danville Police Department and the Virginia State Police. The index offenses, considered the most serious crimes, are the violent crimes of murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, other forcible sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault and the property crimes of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

The department continued to focus on violent crime reduction specifically, and we saw crime drop in all major crime categories in 2019. We can attribute this in part to the following:

- ⇒ Accountability - regular accountability meetings, and geographic areas of responsibility.
- ⇒ Problem-based strategies - identifying and addressing repeat calls for service and crime patterns.
- ⇒ Offender-based strategies - data driven approach to the identification of violent and repeat offenders and following up with preventative response.
- ⇒ Community-based strategies - increased communication with community through various platforms, law enforcement partnerships and community leadership.

Continued community support and communication remains key to systematic and long-term crime reduction.

Major Crime Index Year to Year Comparison

Crime Category	2018	2019	Percentage Difference
Murder	11	8	-27%
Forcible Sex Offenses*	46	30	-35%
Robbery	61	25	-59%
Aggravated Assault	122	68	-44%
Violent Crime Total	240	131	-45%
Arson	14	10	-29%
Burglary	224	186	-17%
Larceny	1330	1218	-8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	86	85	-1%
Property Crime Total	1654	1499	-9%
Total Major Crimes	1894	1630	-14%

*Forcible Sex Offenses include forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object and forcible fondling.

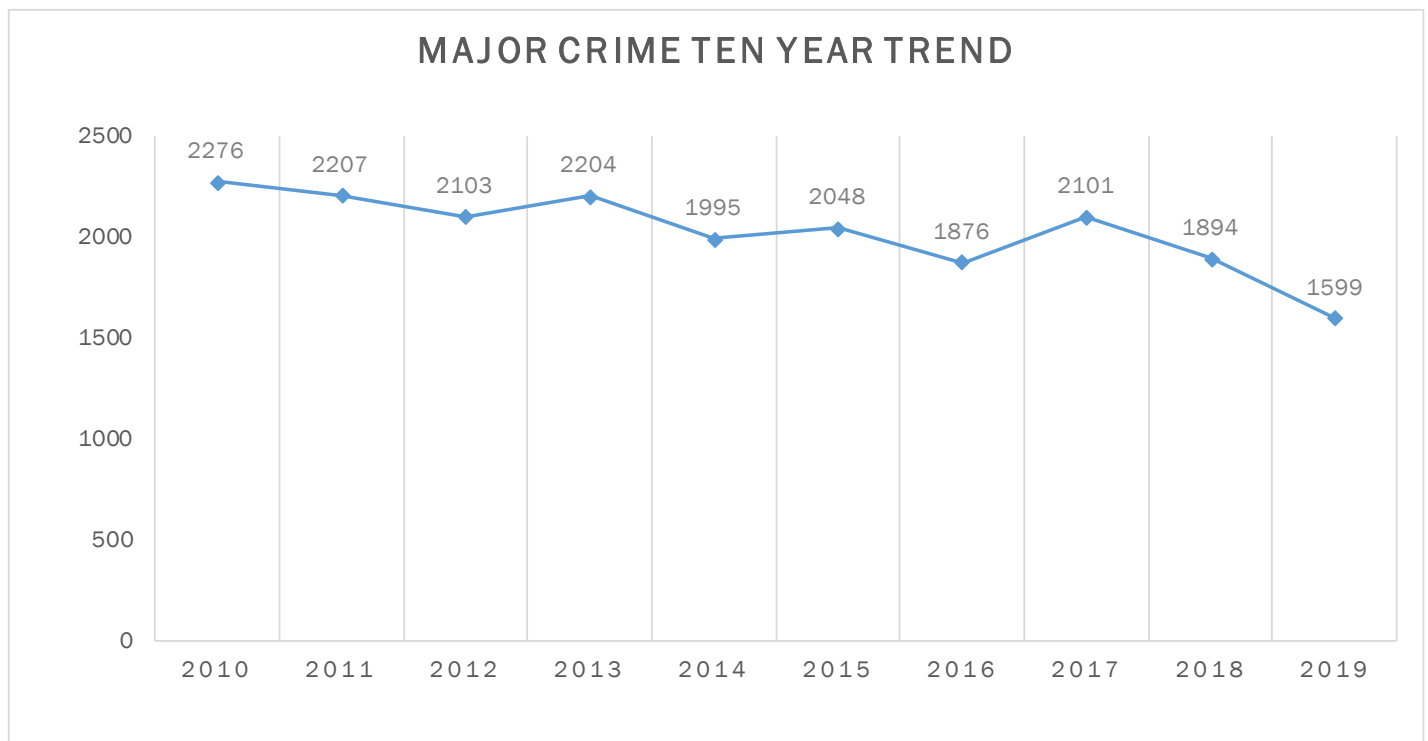
**The data in the table is from the Crime in Virginia 2019 report and has been verified by the Danville Police Department and the Virginia State Police.

By the Numbers

Case Clearance Rate

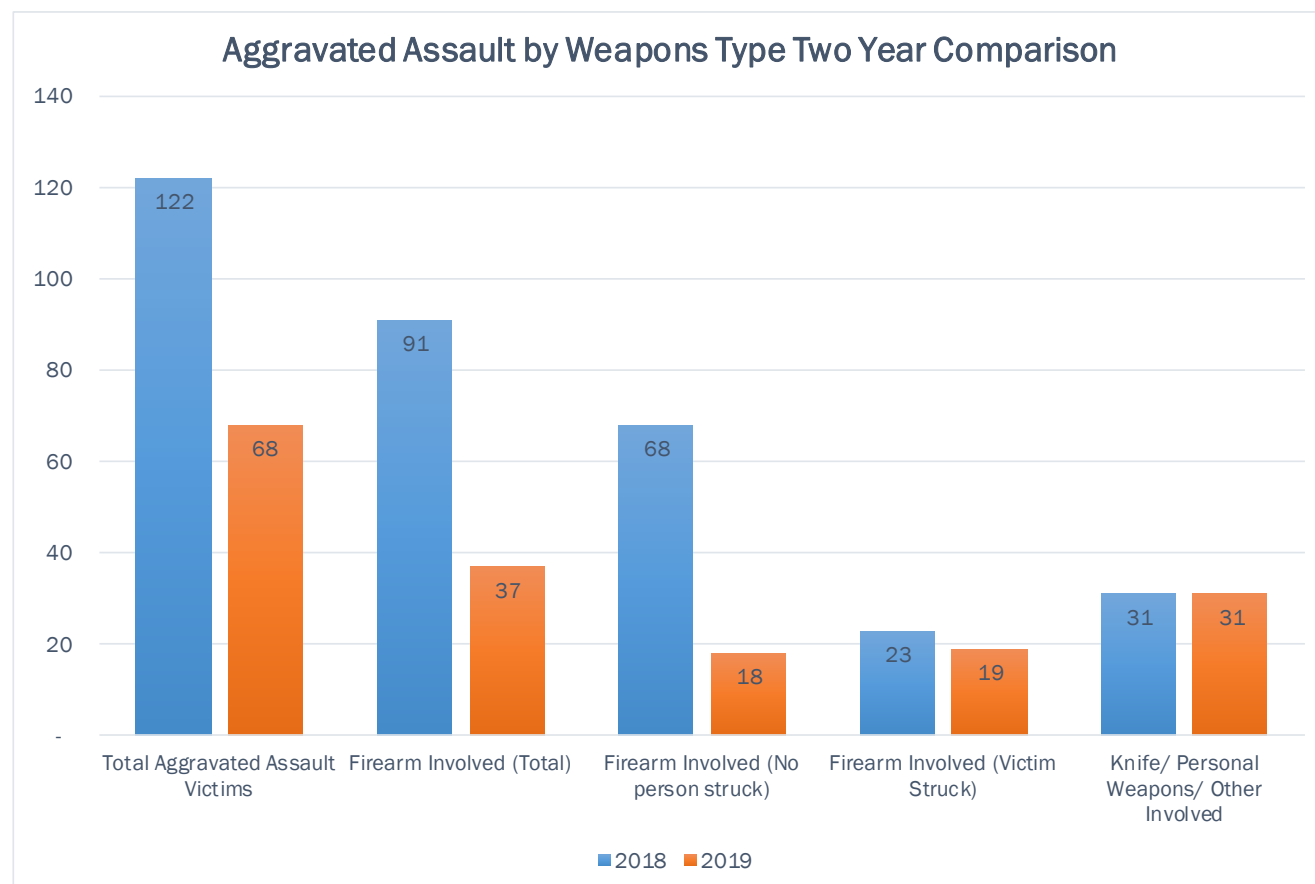
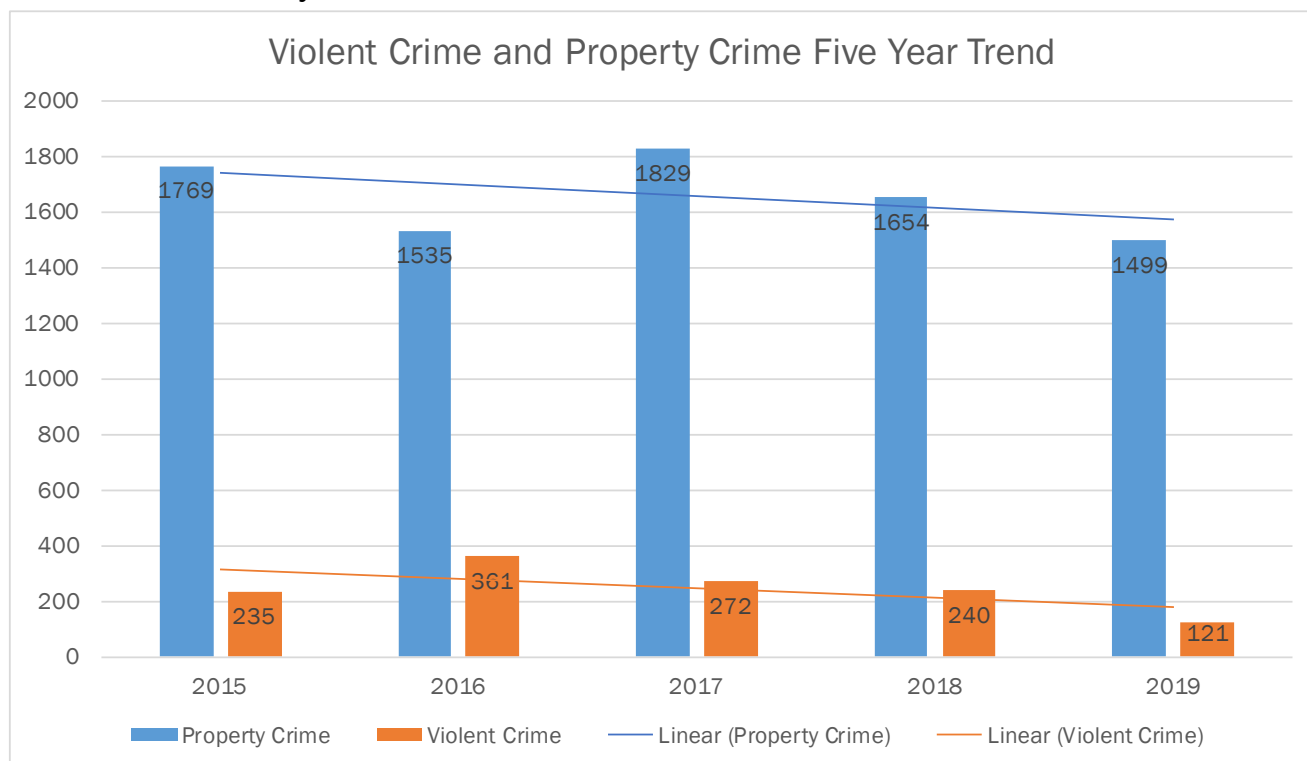
Department Case Clearance Rate			
Crime Category	Percentage Cleared	2018 National Clearance	Percentage-point Difference
Murder	75%	62%	13
Forcible Sex Offenses	65%	*33%	32
Robbery	64%	30%	34
Aggravated Assault	68%	53%	15
Arson	50%	53%	-3
Burglary	32%	14%	18
Larceny	31%	19%	12
Motor Vehicle Theft	37%	14%	23
*The category of Rape in the FBI Clearance Figures does not include the sex offense of Forcible Fondling.			

Crime Trend and Analysis



By the Numbers

Crime Trend and Analysis



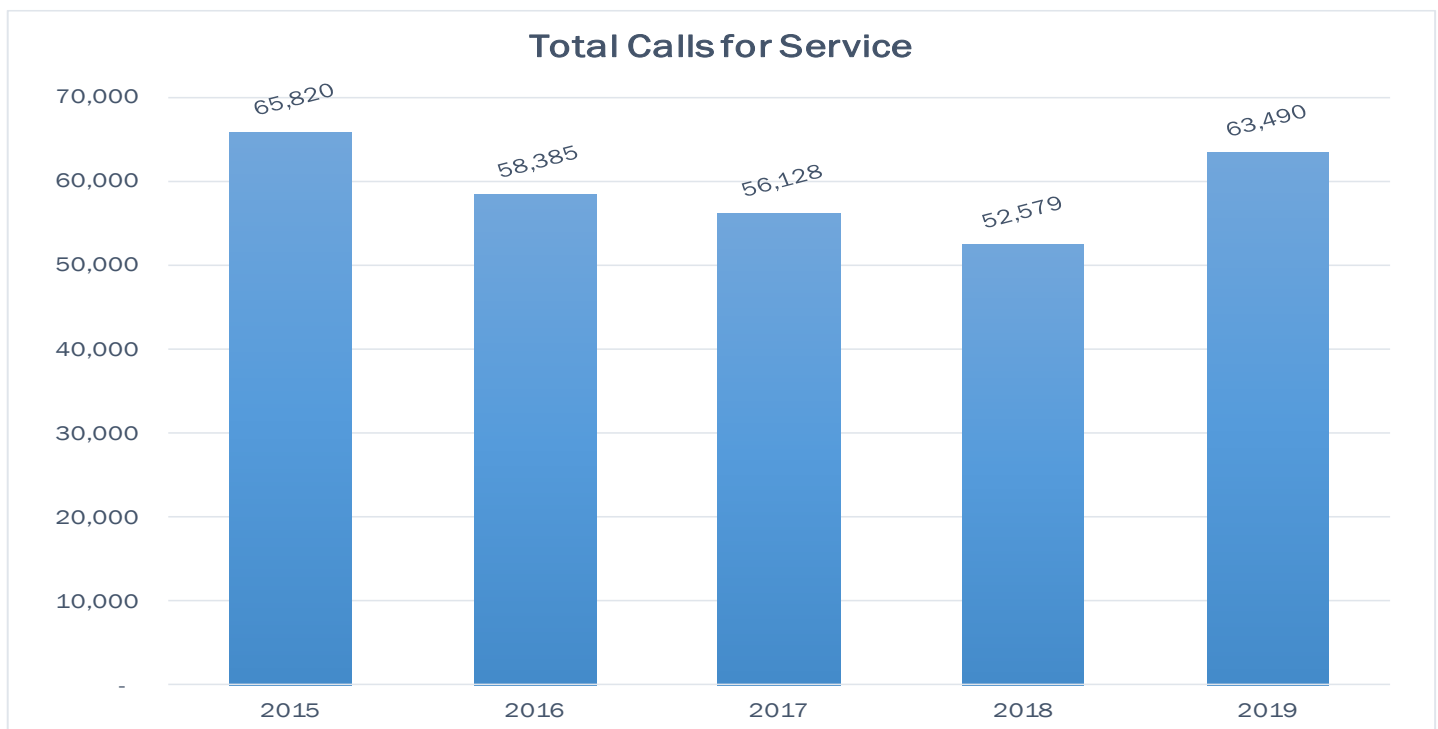
By the Numbers

Calls for Service

Call Type	Number of Calls
Alarms	4,417
Disturbance, Fight, Keep the Peace	2,433
Animal Calls	2,895
Suspicious – Person, Object, Circumstances, Vehicle	1,861
Theft	1,838
Vehicle Crash/Hit and Run	2,365
911 Hang Up Calls	3,931
Traffic Hazards	602
Trespassing	870
Damage, Vandalism, Mischief	653
Welfare Check	1,388
Domestic Violence	838
Hit and Run	477
Burglary – Breaking & Entering	305
Assault	584
Shots Fired	388
Community Engagement	2,032
Weapons Violation	175
All Other	35,888
Total Calls for Service	63,940

CFS or Calls for Service are generated in one of two ways. A CFS is generated by Dispatch when a citizen calls the Emergency Communications - 911 Center to report an incident or generated through an officer initiated action such as a traffic stop.

Officers use mobile data and field reporting systems to receive calls for service, input CAD-related information and complete incident reports from the field.



Use of Force and Pursuits

Professional Standards Division

The Professional Standards Division reports directly to the Chief of Police and is responsible for the review of all use of force reports. Policy defines force as “the application of physical technique or tactics, chemical agents or weapons to another person.” There were 44 documented use of force reports in 2019 that range from “hands on” force, pepper spray and use of a Taser. Officers made 4,883 physical arrests in 2019 - meaning that less than 1% (.90%) of total arrests resulted in a documented use of force. Looking ahead into 2020, department policy was updated to clarify and expand categories for use of force reporting. We anticipate a likely increase in the physical/hands-on category of use of force reporting in 2020 when compared to previous years.

Use of Force	
Summary	2019
Total Use of Force Incidents	44
Primary Type of Force Used	
Asp Baton	0
Taser Probe	3
Taser Drive Stun	0
Physical*	30
OC Spray	6
Point Firearm	9
Discharge Firearm**	0
Injuries	
Officer Injury	10
Offender Injury	16
*Physical force includes use of hands	
**Does not include discharging firearm for the euthanization of an animal.	

Vehicle Pursuits	
Summary	2019
Total Vehicle Pursuits	8
Accidents	
Officer	0
Offender	1
Injuries	
Officer Injury	0
Offender Injury	0

Community Engagement

Community Engagement Walks

Monthly community engagement walks have expanded to involve fellow city departments such as the Fire Department, Public Works and Emergency Communications along with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Patrol shifts began routinely conducting shift-level walks as well. We also began after-action reports from our walks where particular concerns expressed by neighbors were assigned for follow-up.

Community Engagement Walks

January - Windsor Heights

February - Main Street

March - Third Avenue

April - Westover Drive

May - Virginia Avenue

June - Claiborne Street

July - Lee/Cole/Burton Street

August - Girard Street

September - Chatelaine Avenue

October - Ingram Street

November - Jefferson Street

December - Moffett Street

Community Engagement

Youth Police Academy

The department held its second annual Youth Police Academy in June of 2019. The academy hosted 39 cadets and 11 youth leaders. What set this academy apart from the previous year were the return of the youth leaders. These young people attended the 2018 academy as cadets. They stood out as leaders in their class and were selected to return in 2019 to the academy to serve as role models for the new cadets. This process also gives the department an opportunity to continue building a relationship with some of these young people. The academy is three weeks long and exposed the cadets to various aspects of law enforcement. The department was so pleased with the outpouring of community support whether it was from food donations, speakers who donated their time, or financial support, the community showed incredible support for this program. Danville Public Schools and the George Washington High School NJROTC greatly contributed to the daily operations of the event by providing the venue, lunch and instruction.



DANVILLE POLICE DEPT.
Youth Police Academy

Community Engagement

Clergy Patrol



The Danville Police Department introduced the Clergy Patrol in the summer of 2019. The idea behind this partnership was to continue building trust within our community through our community faith leaders. The program is basically an enhanced ride-along where a faith leader spends several hours with an officer on patrol responding to calls for service. The goal was to further open lines of communication with our residents through these faith leaders who are already deeply involved with addressing quality of life issues. Very often, police are meeting people who are experiencing the worst day of their life and having a faith leader there may help to facilitate communication and bridge some of those emotional gaps.

HEART Walk

Also new this year was a different kind of community walk. Heal and Engage After Recent Trauma (HEART) is a law enforcement driven program that partnered with the Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services, Danville Fire Department and the Danville Commonwealth's Attorney Office. HEART places value in engaging the community in the aftermath of traumatic incidents, strives to communicate available resource and information to the impacted neighborhoods and assists the community with recovery efforts. The HEART program's mission is to have identified members trained and prepared to gather and meet with residents of impacted neighborhoods within 24 to 72 hours after a traumatic event.

Danville police HEART walk to heal, engage community after deadly shooting

'It really does let them understand that we're here to help.'



*Picture Courtesy of WSLS News

Community Engagement

Highlights

Officers spent many mornings at different Danville Public Schools as part of their **Protect and Serve Breakfast** community engagement.

Crime Scene Technicians taught some Bonner Middle School students about evidence collection as part of the student's civics class. They discussed fingerprint analysis and blood spatter as they reconstructed a mock crime scene.

Barber/Beauty Shop with a Cop provided time for citizens to sit down with officers and engage in conversation about real issues affecting our community.

DPD had seven **Coffee with a Cop** events during the year.

The **Chief's Advisory Council** was formed in 2019. The members represent a cross-section of interested residents, community and business leaders from across the city. This mechanism is used by the Chief to garner input, provide feedback on policing practices and build community trust.

Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority and many other community organizations partnered with DPD to host **community days** with food, music, and fun at several housing developments over the summer.

Officer Melissa Carey was awarded a lifesaving medal for her role in **saving a two-week-old** who was choking. Her quick actions gained international accolade.

National Night Out 2019 was another success and it took on the theme of stamping out bullying in our community.

Danville Police Department announced a new app for users to anonymously submit crime tips. **CARE** stands for Community Action Response and Engagement.

The annual **Youth Engagement Fashion Show** took place in August with 55 youth models and 30 DPD representatives. JCPenney, RUE21 and the Danville Mall made this event possible.

The Danville Area Humane Society and DPD partnered to raise awareness about hot car danger through the purchase of a **digital temperature display**. The display was unveiled at a Cops and Critters event where young people had the opportunity to learn about proper care of animals.

Several officers participated in the **"Git Up Challenge"** dance video. DPD used this as an opportunity to remind motorists to be careful as children headed back to school and would be crossing the street and boarding school buses. The video, filmed by River City TV's Mark Aron, gained over 4 million views.

Officers **welcomed students back to school** on their first day by riding school buses and meeting the students at their schools to encourage them as they began the new school year.

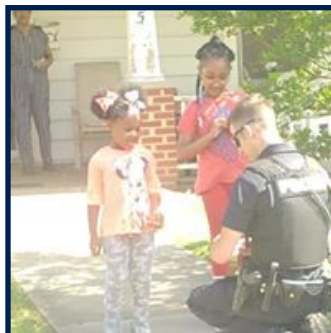
Bike Patrol hit the street with officers who are assigned to patrol shifts and will utilize the police bikes part of their patrol duties. What is a unique feature of the Danville Police bike patrol-there will not be a small group of officers assigned to the unit-but a cadre of officers spread throughout every patrol shift. More officers will be rotated through the training in the future as time and training opportunities arise. The program was funded by a JAG grant through the U.S. Department of Justice.

DPD held their second **Youth Engagement Talent Show** in November with 21 youth participants.

Community Engagement



"The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon ... the ability of the police to secure and maintain public respect." —Sir Robert Peel



New Hires and Retirees

New Officers

We welcomed 19 newly sworn officers in January of 2019. These officers completed their basic training at Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy. This was one of the largest recruit classes in recent decades due mostly to the amount of retirements in 2018.



Left to Right: Chief Booth, LtCol. Hairston; Officers: G.A. Clay, L.R. Trowbridge, J.R. Motley, M.S. Matherly, C.R. Agee, T.D. Betts, E.W. Boyles, J.M. Craig, A.E. Bolling, C.W. Eason, L.C. Capps, M.L. Lynchard, J.N. Milan-Carter, N.W. Brown, J.T. Land, C.L. Matherly, C.W. Elgin, E.D. Goff, S.C. Parker; Major Wiles, Major Jones.



Six more officers joined our ranks in August after completing their six months of basic training.

Left to Right:

Officers: S.A. Eanes II, P.J. Hamlett, J.C. Pointer, S.G. Ortiz, H.L. Hopkins, E.K. Long

New Hires and Retirees

The swearing in ceremony is a special moment for new officers and veteran officers alike. Along with the Oath of Office, all officers take the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor. The International Association of Chiefs of Police developed the Oath of Honor to provide “the law enforcement profession with a concise, powerful and universal process by which officers can affirm and periodically reaffirm their ethical values and beliefs¹.”



Law Enforcement Oath of Honor

*On my honor, I will never
betray my badge, my integrity,
my character or the public trust.*

*I will always have the courage to hold
myself and others accountable for our actions.*

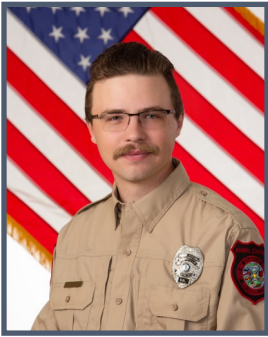
*I will always uphold the
constitution, my community, and the
agency I serve.*



New Hires and Retirees

New employees

Four new support staff joined our team in 2019.



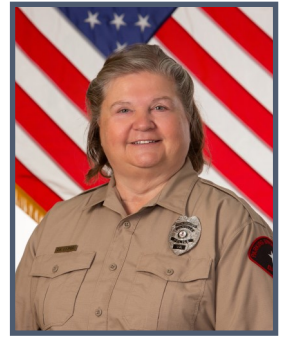
Animal Control
Ian Black



Records Clerk
Rhonda Saunders



Senior Secretary
Randa Wade



Parking Enforcement
Carolyn Cooper

Retirees

We also bid a “Happy Retirement” to three of our personnel in 2019. Lt. John Henderson had more than 26 years of service with the department, Lt. Casey Allen served for more than 22 years and Arlita Lovelace spent 12 years with us.



Lt. John Henderson



Lt. Casey Allen



Records Clerk
Arlita Lovelace



Achievements and Awards

Promotions

Chief Booth promoted ten officers in February of 2019.



Left to Right: Captain H.S. Richardson, Lt. J.W. McLaughlin, Sgt. R.B. McCormick, Sgt. C. J. Snead, Lt. E.D. Land, Cpl. S.S. Brooks, Lt. S.R. Yeaman, Cpl. D.C. Ferguson, Sgt. V.M. Jennings, Cpl. S.G. Wiles-Lipscomb

“Everything rises and falls on leadership.” - John C. Maxwell

Awards

Chief Scott C. Booth recognized several women and men of the Danville Police Department for their exceptional service in 2019. Chief Booth also honored three individuals from partner agencies for their significant contribution to the department’s crime reduction and community engagement efforts.

“Let me tell you what makes police officers special, it is their willingness to spring into action and lead by example,” said Chief Booth when praising this group of officers. They received awards for distinguished service in complex criminal investigation, saving the life of another, and other outstanding achievements (listed next page).

Achievements and Awards

Department Awards

Partnership Award - William Chaney
and Special Agent Pete Gonzalves



Chief's Award (Officer) - Cpl. D.C.
Lancaster

Chief's Award (Civilian) - Perrioti Travis

Officer of the Year - Off. R. M. Woody

Specialty Officer of the Year - Detective
W. R. Merrill



Distinguished Service Award - Off. J.M.
Masi, Cpl. C.K. Newcomb, Cpl. J.D.
Dixon, Cpl. H Torres, Cpl. R.P. Wright,
Lt R.E. Chivvis, Lt. D.E. Whitley,
Capt. H. S. Richardson

Lifesaving Award - Off. M.A. Carey, Off.
G.A. Clay, Off. M.E. Gleber, Off. I.J.
Smith



Outside Agency Awards

MADD Award - Off. W.C. Shively

**Virginia Gang Investigators Association
Gang Investigator of the Year** - Off. J.M.
Masi, Cpl. C.K. Newcomb, Cpl. J.D.
Dixon, Cpl. H Torres, Cpl. R.P. Wright,
Lt R.E. Chivvis, Lt. D.E. Whitley,
Capt. H. S. Richardson

VACP Award for Lifesaving - Major T.W.
Jones, Lt. D.E. Whitley, Cpl. J. D. Dixon,
Cpl. C. B. Morris, Off. J. M. Masi,
Off. C. W. Willard.



Achievements and Awards

FBI National Academy

Major Timothy W Jones graduated in September from the 277th Session of the FBI National Academy. Jones completed the ten-week academy that was held at Quantico, Va. and hosted law enforcement leaders from 50 states and the District of Columbia. The class also included members of law enforcement agencies from 34 countries, five military organizations, and nine federal civilian organizations.

The National Academy is internationally known for its excellence and offers ten weeks of advanced leadership, communications and fitness training. Participants who attend must have proven records as professionals within their agencies. The officers had, on average, 21 years of law enforcement experience.

Like most officers who will return to serve their agency in executive-level positions, Jones resumed his position as the Services Division Major. He is the 17th Danville Police officer to graduate from the National Academy since its inception in 1935.



Virginia Forensic Science Academy

Crime Scene Technician Steven Cannaday graduated from the 98th Session of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in June. The Virginia Forensic Science Academy is only available to sworn and civilian personnel of criminal justice agencies within the Commonwealth of Virginia whose duties include the collection of physical evidence. It is designed to give these personnel the necessary training to enable them to fully utilize the expertise of the Department of Forensic Science (DFS). The nine week school provides classroom instruction by qualified forensic experts and numerous practical exercises and evidence collection demonstrations.

Students participate in a vigorous academic program and are evaluated by class performance, written tests, application of recovery techniques, and homework assignments. Areas of study include the following: photography, crime scene investigation, arson evidence, toxicology, forensic biology, latent print evidence, trace evidence, toolmarks, firearms evidence and bullet trajectory, crime scene sketching, evidence law, drug recognition, impression evidence and criminal investigative analysis.



Innovative Use of Technology

Drone

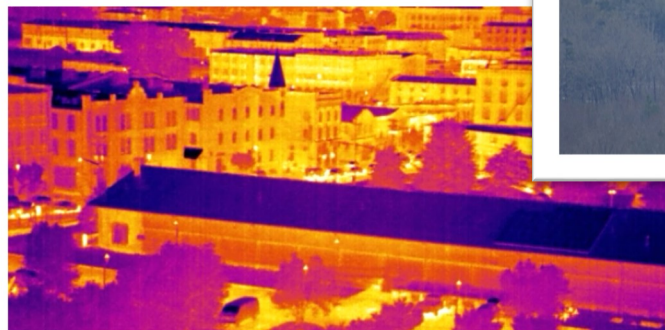
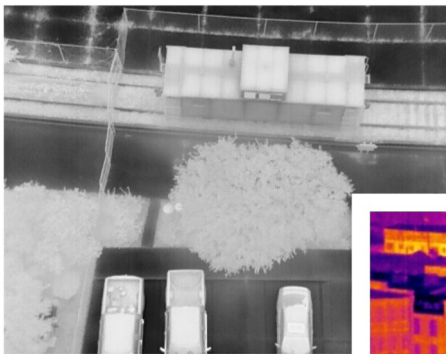
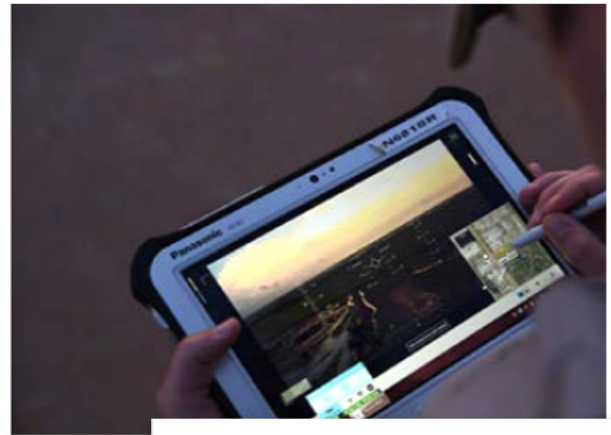
The Department purchased its first unmanned aircraft system (UAS) in the spring and with that, our drone program “took flight.” Several operators completed the FAA Part 107 requirements and obtained their remote pilot license. They then completed three days of hands-on training with the SkyRanger R60 through Aeryon. The SkyRanger R60 UAS carries two different imaging payloads, a long range zoom camera and high-fidelity infrared camera.



Media day with the drone-picture courtesy of WSET13

We modeled our UAS program from best practices in other jurisdictions and collaborated with our City Attorney’s Office and Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office to make sure our policy and practice adhered to state and federal rules.

This equipment gives us the opportunity to respond quickly with a bird’s eye view to natural disasters, missing person cases, search warrants, crash and crime scene reconstruction and situations that pose an immediate danger to the public.



Innovative Use of Technology

Milo Range Simulator

The Danville Police Department recently purchased a Milo Range simulator through grant funding. This scenario-based training subjects officers to realistic and stressful situations in a training environment. Each scenario offers the trainer an opportunity to analyze the officer's decisions creating teachable moments that ensure the officer's actions are aligned with the law and department policy.



The Milo Range is a “portable simulator for use of force, crisis management, de-escalation and tactical judgment training” according to the manufacturer. The software provides hundreds of dynamic training scenarios and firearms drills designed to increase our officer's skills and decision-making abilities.

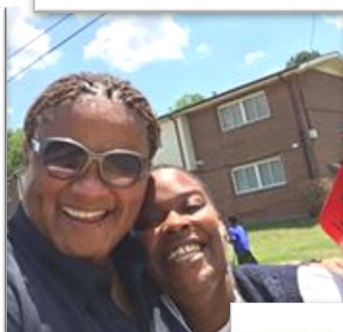
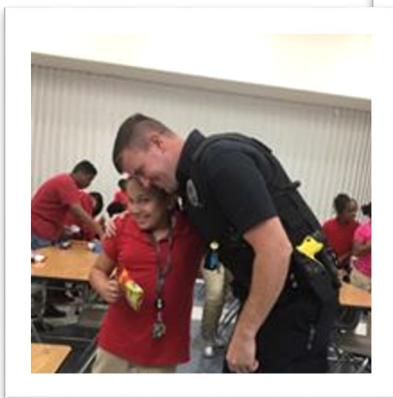
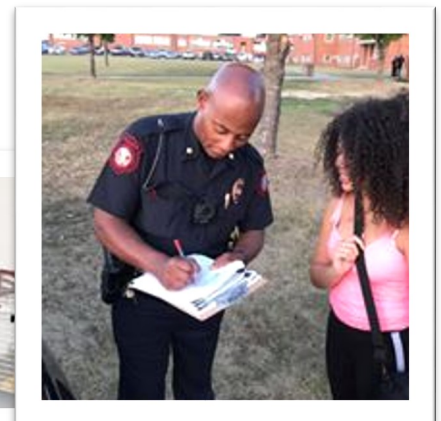
This training tool complements the Department's de-escalation and less than lethal training each officer receives. The “interactive judgment training” supports the Department's overall mission of providing quality service to our community through a process of continuous improvement. This equipment was paid for in full through a Virginia DCJS Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant.



Looking Ahead

On the Horizon

Looking ahead into 2020 we anticipate a continued focus on our main goals of reducing violent crime and community engagement. The Danville Police Department will continue to take a leadership role in the community, but we cannot do it alone. Community leadership is the key to sustaining the successes we saw in 2019 for the long term. We have some challenges on the horizon. The opioid crisis has largely been absent in this area-until now. We are working with community stakeholders to create a model for interdiction and rehabilitation along with community education. As we complete this report the COVID-19 pandemic is sweeping the nation and that in itself will provide both challenges and opportunity to assess our readiness. We look forward to holding a Citizens Police Academy that will be the first to be held in Danville since the late 1980's. We continue to seek more training in de-escalation strategies and will be sending officers through ICAT (Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics) training. This will complement our MILO Range training and build on our Crisis Intervention Team training. We look forward to 2020 and remain committed to serving our community.



Organization Chart



Appendix

To contact the Danville Police Department please call us at 434-799-6510/6520 or email us at DanvillePD@danvilleva.gov.

Follow us on social media and our website:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DanvilleVAPolice/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/DanvillePD

Website: www.danvilleva.gov/588/Police

CARE: www.p3tips.com/tipform.aspx?ID=818#

Neighbors App by Ring

