



BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



2011





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DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Population Statistics

Population (2010 Census)	12,530 ⁽¹⁾
% Male	48.9% ⁽¹⁾
% Female	51.1% ⁽¹⁾
% with Bachelor's Degree +	33.2%⁽²⁾
Median Age	32.7 Years ⁽¹⁾
Per Capita Income	\$28,989 ⁽²⁾
Median Family Income	\$66,425 ⁽²⁾
Average Travel Time to Work In Minutes	23.4 ⁽²⁾

References:

- (1) 2010 Census*
- (2) U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey*
- (3) 2010 Annual, Bureau of Labor Statistics*

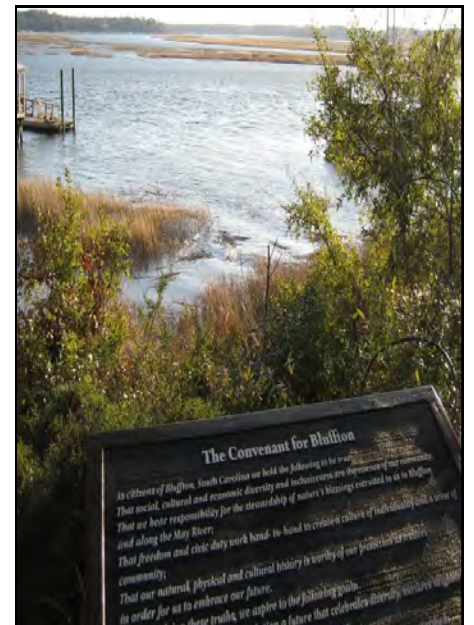
Unemployment Rate

County	8.8% ⁽³⁾
State	11.2% ⁽³⁾



Mission Statement

The Bluffton Police Department strives to improve the quality of life for the citizens of and visitors to the Town of Bluffton, by impartially and courteously maintaining order and public safety, preventing, and solving crime.





A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

To the Citizens of Bluffton,

I am pleased to present you with the 2011 annual report. Within these pages, I hope you find useful information about your police department and the services we provide.

2011 saw the opening of the new Bluffton Law Enforcement Center. Located in the Buckwalter Technology Park, this facility offers the latest in state of the art police equipment and a safe and inviting place for citizens and offices to conduct business. The building marked the culmination of five years of hard work to bring it to reality and we would like to thank the citizens and Town Council for their support.

While this report presents just a few highlights of the work done each and every day by officers from the Bluffton Police, we encourage you to learn more about our services. Please visit our website at www.blufftonpolice.com. Also, we encourage feedback and invite you to make comments or take a survey to report on our performance.

We work tirelessly to improve our policing product to serve our residents and visitors better each and every day and welcome any input to aid us in the critical task of keeping Bluffton safe. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to a very successful 2012.



Colonel David F. McAllister
Chief of Police

CORE VALUES

Accountability → We do what we say we will do.

Attentive to Detail → Anything worth doing is worth doing thoroughly.

Integrity → Citizens can count on us to act responsibly, honestly.

Safe → We stay aware of all that is happening in any situation, and we take appropriate steps to protect both others and ourselves.

Performance Driven → We focus on maintaining order on the roads and in the community, preventing crime, reducing the fear of crime and stopping unsafe drivers before they harm others.

Proud → We act in ways that promote respect, both for others and ourselves.

Professional → We are punctual, courteous, prepared, well-trained and respectful to every person.

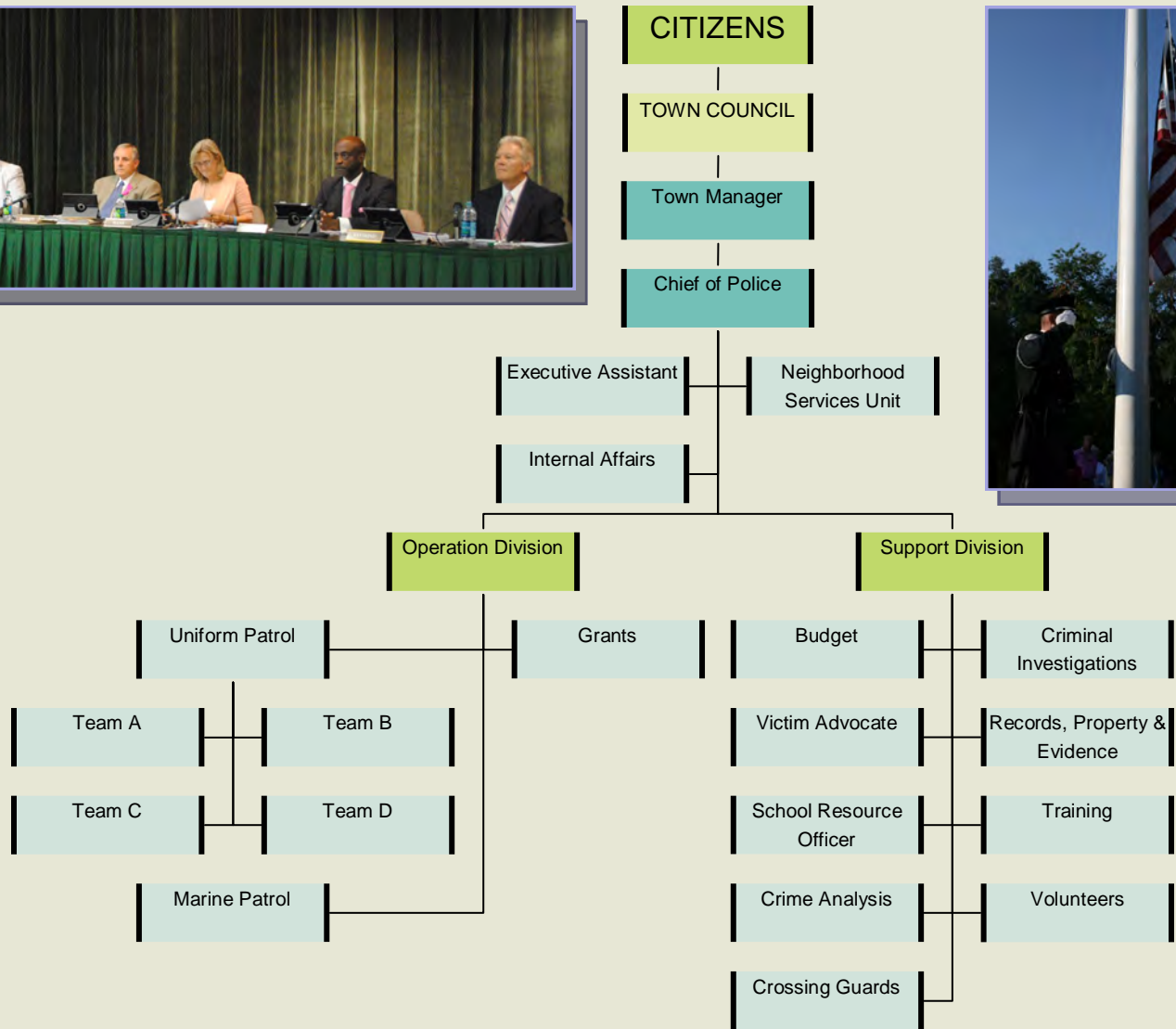
Responsive → We meet all professional requirements and promptly answer all calls for service.

Service—Oriented → We contribute to the welfare of others.

Team—Oriented → We recognize the strength of many cooperating to meet common goals of order and public safety, both within the Bluffton Police Department and when working with other law enforcement agencies.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ACCREDITATION



On March 21, 2009 the Bluffton Police Department joined an elite group of law enforcement agencies that have been accredited by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

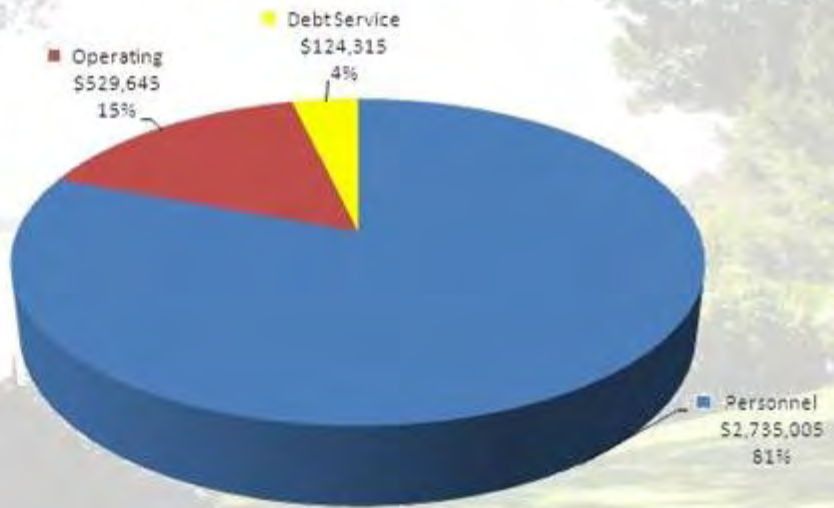
November 14th – 17th, 2011 the Department was reviewed for its first re-accreditation by CALEA assessors. The assessors inspected the Department's equipment, policies, procedures, and reviewed 479 files for proof of compliance with CALEA standards. The Department was found to be in compliance with all applicable standards.

The Bluffton Police Department will attend the CALEA conference in March 2012 in Mobile, Alabama for the re-accreditation ceremony.



POLICE DEPARTMENT FY 2011 BUDGET

Police Department FY 2011 Budget



The 2011 Department's operating budget was \$3,388,965.00 which is decrease of .2% from the 2010 operating budget (\$3,397,183.00).



GRANT FUNDING

2009 AMERICAN RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION ACT

The Department is in its last year of the Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Grant which was awarded on July 28, 2009 for \$361,464.00. The grant is fully funded by the Federal government which covers the salary of two full time officers that are assigned to the Neighborhood Services Unit. As of the end of 2011 the grant has paid \$247,925.00 towards this program.





NEW FACILITY IN 2011!

New Facility

On April 28, 2011 the Bluffton Police Department held the grand opening of its state of the art new police facility. This 20,000 square foot building was specially designed to support law enforcement operations.

The \$6.2 million building was designed for lower energy consumption, includes new holding cells, new technology spaces and a crime processing area.

The Town issued general obligation bonds in fiscal year 2011 in order to build the facility as approved by council. The Town obtained its first bond rating in relations to this issue receiving a Aa2 rating from Moody's and a AA from Standard and Pools.





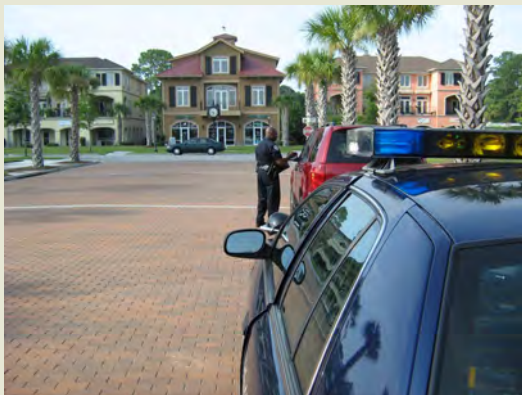
STATISTICAL DATA

Crime Report	2010	2011	% +/-
Part I Offenses			
Homicide	1	-	-100%
Forcible Rape	3	-	-100%
Robbery	7	4	-43%
Aggravated Assault	24	18	-25%
Burglary (Breaking or Entering)	75	59	-21%
Larceny - Theft (except motor vehicle theft)	325	324	0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	19	16	-16%
Arson	4	-	-100%
Subtotal	458	421	-8%
Part II Offenses			
Other Assault (Simple)	207	243	17%
Forgery & Counterfeit	21	37	76%
Fraud	17	21	24%
Embezzlement	4	4	0%
Stolen Property: Buying, Receiving, Possession	4	5	25%
Vandalism	165	129	-22%
Weapon: Carrying, Possessing, Etc.	10	8	-20%
Prostitution & Commercialized Vice	-	-	0%
Sex Offenses	11	9	-18%
Drug Violation	62	58	-6%
Gambling	-	-	0%
Offenses Against the Family & Children	168	146	-13%
Driving Under the Influence	50	43	-14%
Liquor Law	69	62	-10%
Drunkenness	5	7	40%
Disorderly Conduct	28	20	-29%
Vagrancy	-	-	0%
All Other Offenses	42	44	5%
Runaway (person under 17)	17	20	18%
Subtotal	880	856	-3%
Total - All Index Crime Categories	1,338	1,277	-5%

PART I & II CRIME DATA



TRAFFIC CITATIONS DATA



Traffic Citations	2010	2011	% +/-
Offense			
Speeding	1,793	2,400	34%
Turning Violations	96	78	-19%
Lane Use Violations	50	29	-42%
Equipment Violations	115	168	46%
Driver Licenses	802	703	-12%
License Plate	405	854	111%
Driving Under the Influence	52	43	-17%
Other Violations	1,054	785	-26%
Moving Violations	56	69	23%
Disregarding Signal	155	82	-47%
Following Too Closely	65	82	26%
Leaving the Scene of a Traffic Collision	6	8	33%
Fail to Stop for Blue Lights	3	2	-33%
Total	4,652	5,303	14%



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Internal Affairs

The Internal Affairs Section reports directly to the Chief of Police. The section is charged with administering the investigative and disciplinary processes for the Bluffton Police Department. The primary mission is to assure that the police officers and staff servicing the citizens of Bluffton meets the highest standards of integrity and ethical performance. In 2011 there was only one (1) internal affairs investigation involving one (1) officer. This investigation was sustained and resulted in resignation in lieu of termination.

To file a complaint or give commendation on an officer, you can contact the Bluffton Police Department at 843-706-4550 or go to www.blufftonpolice.com and click on the "Internal Affairs" box.



Public Information Office

The Public Information Office is responsible for establishing positive and productive relationships with the public and news media outlets. This office is responsible for releasing information to the public as directed by the Chief of Police. This office is also responsible for developing and implementing programs that serve to publicize the positive aspects of the Police Department's efforts in serving the public interest.

In 2011 the Department released 59 press releases and the website had 14,331 visitors.

<http://www.blufftonpolice.com>



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE



Neighborhood Services Unit—NSU

In 2011 NSU worked on a number of activities employing the S.A.R.A. Model. During this year they assisted 14 communities with assessing their traffic concerns, addressed 10 non-related traffic concerns, attended 31 community meetings and participated in 41 community activities (parades, educational events, etc). They are also members of the Town of Bluffton Development Review Committee (DRC) which reviews development plans. They implement use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through plan environmental design.

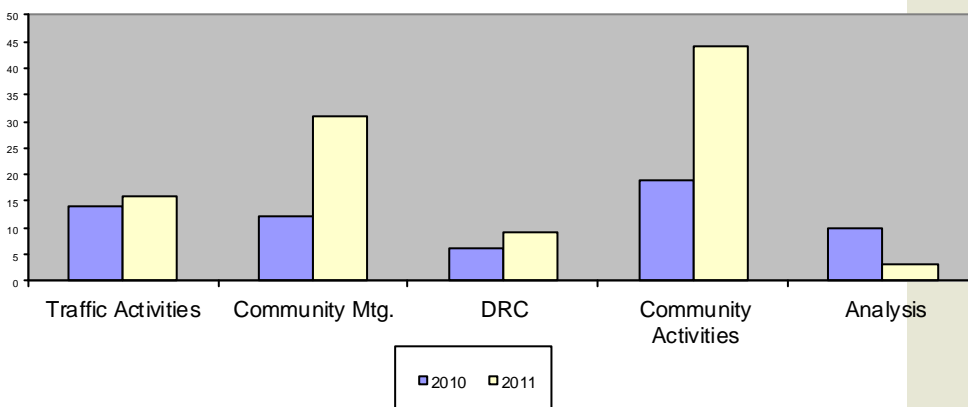
Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU) is staffed by two full-time granted funded officers whose primary mission is to work with community leaders, organizations, businesses, and citizens on resolving long term problems.

In order to establish an effective long-term solution, the cause(s) of a problem and the underlying factor(s) must be accurately identified. The NSU uses a problem solving framework known as the S.A.R.A. Model. S.A.R.A. Model stands for:

1. Scanning – Identifying the Problem.
2. Analysis – Learning the problem’s causes, scope, and effects.
3. Response – Acting to alleviate the problem.
4. Assessment – Determining whether the response worked.

In using this approach, a problem is defined as: *A group of incidents occurring in a community that are similar in one or more ways, and are of concern to the police and the public.*

Neighborhood Services Unit Activities





OPERATION DIVISION

OPERATION DIVISION

The Operation Division is the largest and most visible division in the Bluffton Police Department and is commanded by Captain Bryan J. Norberg.

The Operation Division consists of Uniform Patrol, Marine Patrol, and the Traffic Unit which provides the primary response to all calls for service.

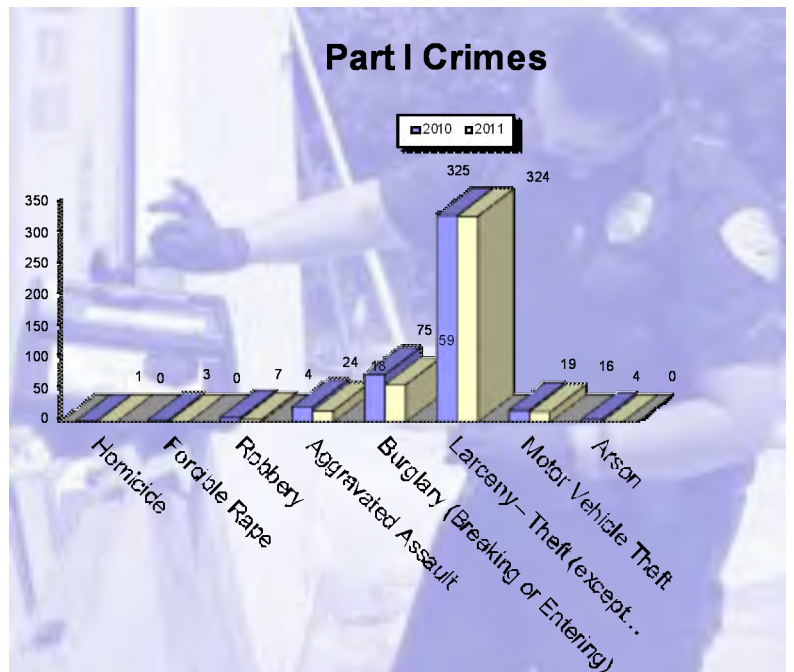
The Operation Division also enforces all criminal and traffic laws.

Committed to the philosophy of community policing, and working in partnership with the community, the Operation Division strives to deliver quality service with professionalism and integrity.



Patrol Division

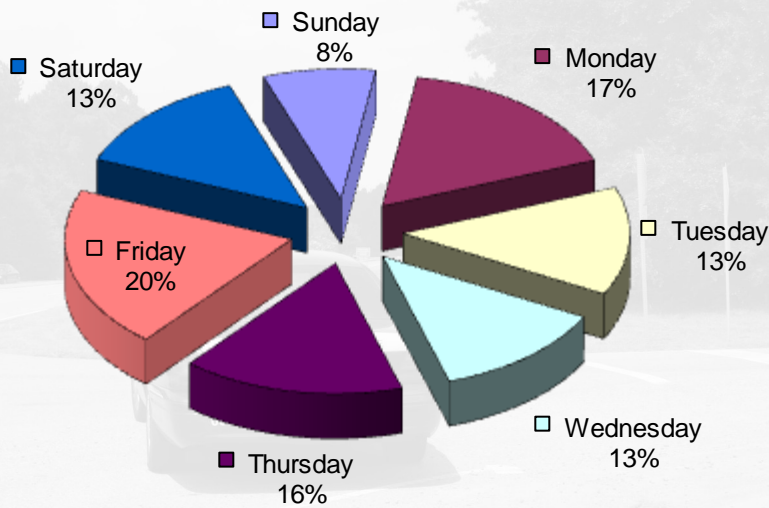
The patrol officers are the primary response to citizen complaints and calls for service. They enforce state laws, local ordinances and traffic laws. They are also responsible for proactive patrol functions within the 54 square miles of the Town. We responded to 29,177 calls for service which is a **32.8%** increase from 2010. With the increase call volume there was a decrease of **5%** in overall criminal activity.





OPERATION DIVISION

Traffic Collisions by Day of the Week

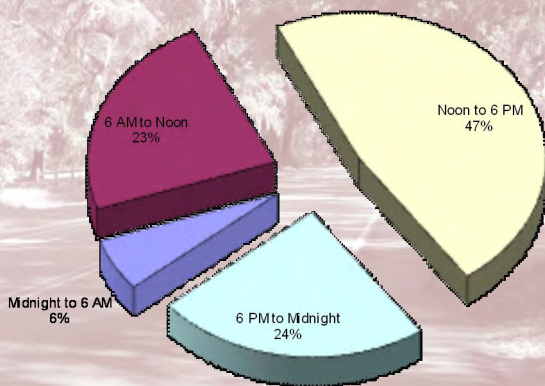


Traffic Enforcement

In 2011 there were 511 traffic collisions investigated by the Bluffton Police Department. This is a decrease of 5% from 2010 (539 collisions investigated). Of the 511 traffic collisions investigated, 371 were on state maintained roadways and 140 were on private property.

To reduce traffic collisions, the Department stringently enforces all traffic laws. In 2011 5303 traffic citations and 5920 written warnings were issued.

Traffic Collisions by Time of Day





SUPPORT DIVISION



SUPPORT DIVISION

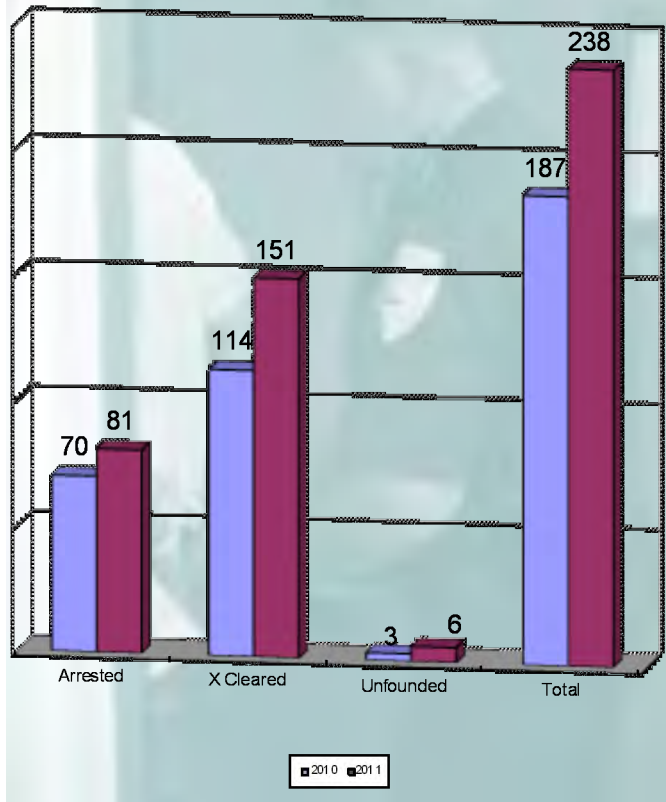
The Support Division is commanded by Captain Angel Tubbs. Support Division consists of the following units: Investigation Unit, Crime Analysis Unit, School Resource Officers, Victim Advocate, Records Management, Evidence Section, Human Resource/Training, Crossing Guards and Volunteers.

Criminal Investigations

The Criminal Investigations consists of a group of highly trained investigators that are skilled in all areas. They are responsible for the follow up investigation of incident reports received from the Uniform Patrol Division. This division has attended many schools and seminars each year to keep abreast on the latest investigative techniques and everything from lifting fingerprints to collecting specimens for DNA analysis.

In 2011, the aggressive approach of the Criminal Investigation Division helped decrease the overall criminal incidents by 8% compared to 2010.

2010 - 2011 Case Closure Comparison



Arrested: Offender identified and arrested

Exceptionally Cleared: Offender identified but not arrested (victim declines prosecution, etc)

Unfounded: False or mistaken report, or occurred in another reporting jurisdiction



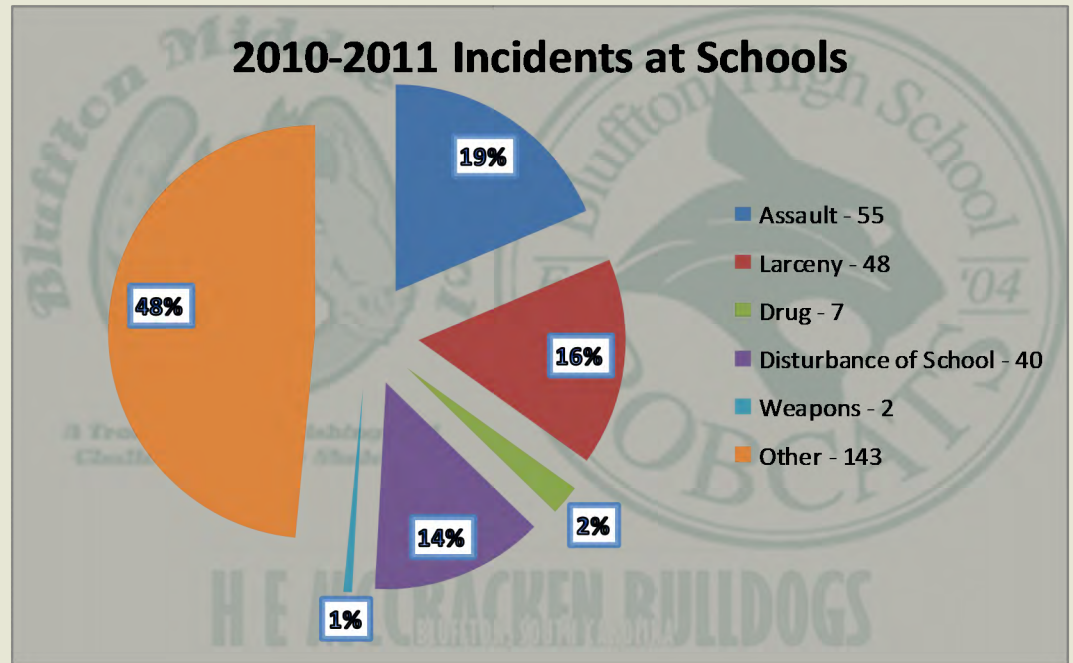


SUPPORT DIVISION

School Resource Officer

The Bluffton Police Department currently has three **School Resource Officers (SRO)**. One SRO is assigned to each of the Bluffton area middle and high schools: Bluffton Middle School, H.E. McCracken Middle School, and Bluffton High School.

An SRO has a diverse roll in the school community and has many duties and responsibilities, and performs three major roles: (1) a law enforcement officer; (2) a law-related counselor; (3) a law-related educator. As a law enforcement officer, the school becomes the officer's area of responsibility. SROs are responsible for investigation violations of criminal law and when appropriate make arrests. An SRO's sworn duty to enforce the law does not contradict the need for the SRO to be a positive role model; it in fact supports it.



South Carolina SRO of the Year

Congratulations to Cpl. Michael Creason on being named South Carolina's School Resource Officer (SRO) of the Year. He has been the SRO at H.E. McCracken for three years, working with students, parents, school administrators and neighboring law enforcement agencies to create a safer environment at the school and surrounding community.

"Cpl. Creason is not only a police figure to the students of H.E. McCracken, he is also a mentor," Police Chief David McAllister said.



Crossing Guards

The Bluffton Police Department currently employ six (6) Crossing Guards that work at area schools assisting students crossing the roads.





SUPPORT DIVISION

Victim Advocate

The role of the Victim Advocate is an essential part of the service we provide to the citizens of Bluffton. This position serves to provide crucial support to individuals that have been harmed, and need help in the Criminal Justice System. The Criminal Justice System can be a confusing process to understand. The Victim Advocate guides victims through the criminal justice maze and assists victims in obtaining services and benefits when they have no means of their own.

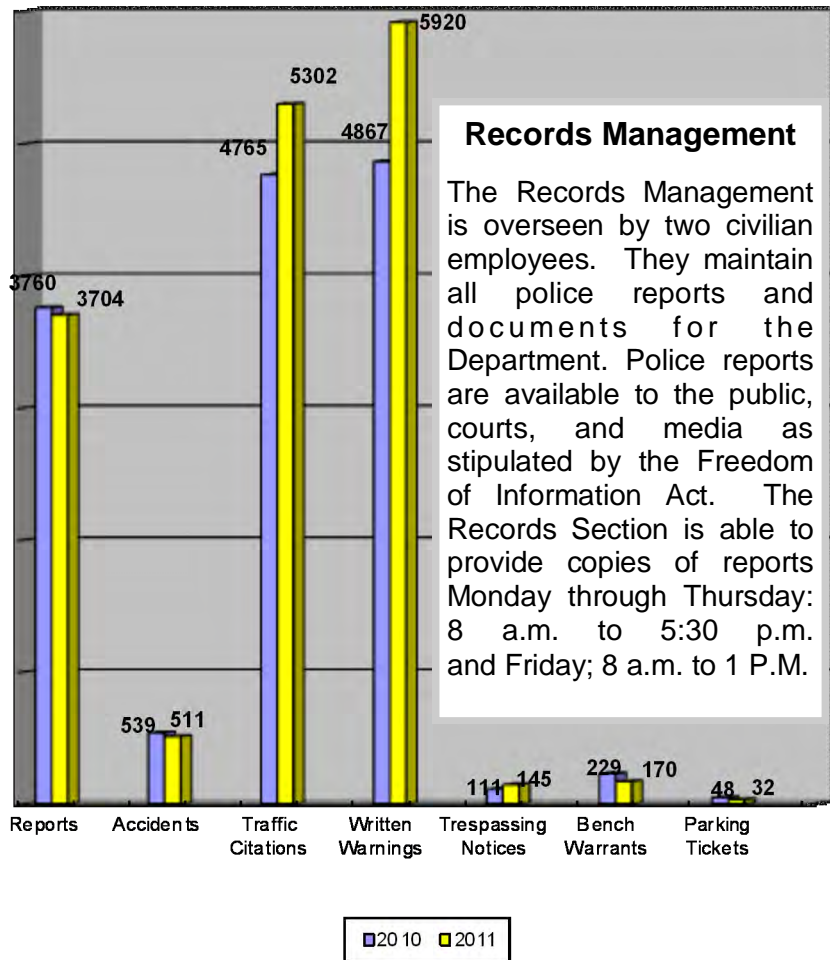
The majority of the Victim Advocate's work is with criminal domestic violence victims and domestic related calls. The Victim Advocate follows up on all these incidents to ensure the victim is aware of their rights, the court date and time, and other protections granted under the law. The Victim Advocate provides transportation to and from court for victims. Also, if necessary, will find a safe location for the victim to reside until other arrangements can be made.

Below are some other agencies we work with to assist victims and their numbers:

CODA	843-770-1070
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION	843-524-4350
ADULT/CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES	843-255-6080
BLUFFTON SELF HELP	843-757-8000
UNITED WAY OF THE LOW COUNTRY	843-982-3040



2010 - 2011 Records Processing Comparison



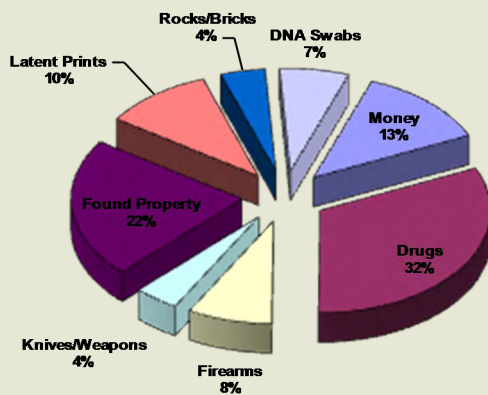


SUPPORT DIVISION

Property and Evidence Section

The Property and Evidence Section inventories and secures all items impounded by police personnel, including recovered stolen property, evidence from criminal investigations, and seized weapons/narcotics. This area is strictly secured and no unauthorized personnel outside of this section are allowed entry, to prevent contamination of evidence and adherence to chain of custody legal requirements.

In 2011 842 individual items of evidence in 343 investigations were processed.



Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force

The Bluffton Police Department has been a member of the **Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force** operated by the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office since 2010. The Drug Task Force is made up of five agencies; Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, Beaufort City Police Department, Jasper County Sheriff's Office, Naval Investigative Service and the Bluffton Police Department.

The Department has one (1) full time sworn officer assigned to this detail. They conduct investigations into drug activities throughout Beaufort and Jasper Counties.



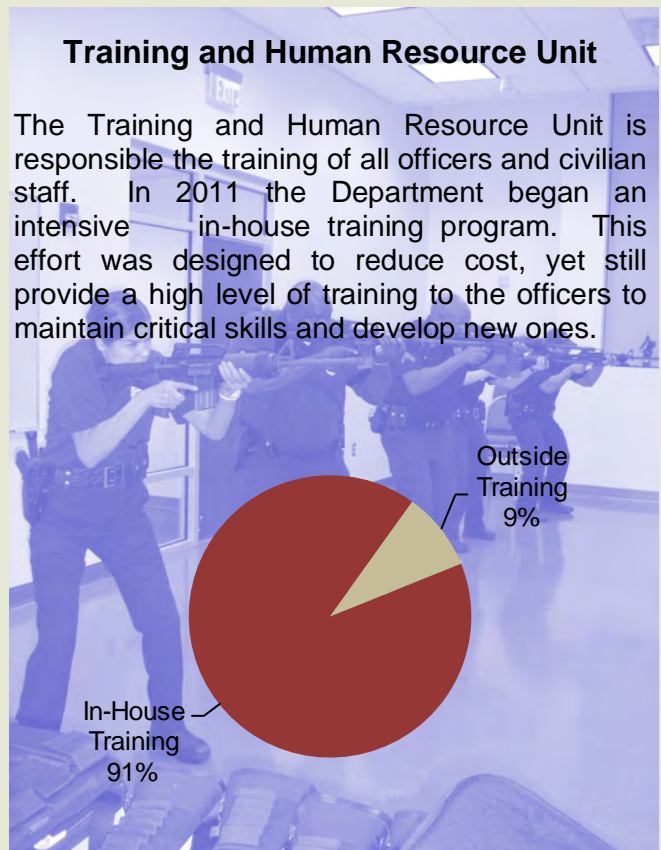
Crime Analysis Unit

Federal, state and local laws can change rapidly and law enforcement must be well informed on a timely basis. The Crime Analysis Unit disperses intelligence bulletins as the information is disseminated. In, 2011 the unit issued 23 intelligence bulletins which included Officer Awareness, Officer News, Officer Safety, and Officer Training bulletins.

In addition to these responsibilities, the unit analyzes all crime data to assist command staff on the allocation of patrol units and crime trends. Also, this unit provides valuable intelligence on suspects which provides investigators with leads to follow.

Training and Human Resource Unit

The Training and Human Resource Unit is responsible the training of all officers and civilian staff. In 2011 the Department began an intensive in-house training program. This effort was designed to reduce cost, yet still provide a high level of training to the officers to maintain critical skills and develop new ones.





BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY



101 Progressive Street, Bluffton, South Carolina

Main Number: 843-706-4550

Colonel David F. McAllister—Chief of Police

Emergency

911

Non-Emergency – Bluffton Dispatch

843-757-3499

Dispatch Main Number

843-524-2777

Magistrate Court

843-757-1500

Family Court

843-255-5560

Social Services

843-255-6080

Detention Center

843-255-5200

Town of Bluffton Department

Town Hall Main Number 843-706-4500

Business License 843-706-4501

Engineering 843-706-4599

Facilities & Asset Management 843-706-4580

Finance 843-706-4545

Growth Management 843-706-4510

IT/GIS 843-706-4540

Municipal Court 843-706-4503

Office of Building Safety 843-706-4522

Storm Water Management 843-706-7805

2011 Town of Bluffton Council

Lisa Sulka—Mayor

Fred Hamilton—Mayor Pro Temp

Allyne Mitchell—Councilwoman

Michael Raymond—Councilman

Oliver Brown—Councilman

2012 Town of Bluffton Council

Lisa Sulka—Mayor

Oliver Brown—Mayor Pro-Temp

Michael Raymond—Councilman

Ted Huffman—Councilman

Karen Lavery—Councilwoman

Anthony Barrett—Town Manager

