

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



HONOR DUTY SERVICE



Office of the Sheriff
Clarence F. Birkhead, Sheriff





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BIG PICTURE GOAL

The quality of neighborhood life, its safety, and welfare comes from the unique commitment of each of its citizens. The Durham County Sheriff's Office takes pride in its role as a fellow citizen of the local community; partnering with its members in the delivery of quality law enforcement services.



Thank you for reviewing our Annual Report documenting the great work our civilians as well as our law enforcement and detention officers are doing representing the Durham County Sheriff's Office. Their work makes me proud to be your Durham County Sheriff as they live our mission of **Honor, Duty, and Service** every day. This report publicly discloses our financial activities and details the high-quality service we provide throughout the Sheriff's Office for all our residents.

Bringing the "**Project Safe Neighborhoods**" program back to Durham was one of the most significant initiatives last year. We are doing everything possible to reduce gun violence in our local community with the help of our neighbors and taking advantage of the services in our resource-rich community. A community cannot thrive unless the people feel safe, and this is one of PSN's goals. We continued to engage our community by bringing new members onto the Community Advisory Board and by participating in a record number of outreach and education opportunities utilizing Special Units like School Resources Officers, Sheriff's Community Oriented Policing Effort, and Traffic Unit. The Durham County Detention Center earned re-certification from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, and we expanded Medical Assisted Treatment for detainees with Opioid Use Disorder.

We share this report to demonstrate we are a good steward of public resources. I value the commitment of the Board of County Commissioners (**BOCC**) to fund DCSO to continue moving us forward. We also will continue making sure our residents have a voice in how best to position the Sheriff's Office to serve all residents. Together, we will keep connecting and building trust with the local community we are sworn to serve to become the best Sheriff's Office we can be. My commitment is for DCSO to be a beacon of hope, built upon **transparency, engagement, and accountability** with the whole community of Durham County.

Clarence F. Birkhead
Sheriff of Durham County

AGENCY BUDGET

FY 2022/2023 - Total	\$45,882,679.35
Personnel Costs	\$36,121,654.86
Operating Costs	\$8,351,727.95
Vehicle Replacements	\$1,712,988.00
Capital	\$1,184,993.54

208

Detention Officers

197

Deputies

86

Civilians

In 2023, DCSO assisted with:

35 Active
Community Watch
groups in **5** patrol areas

Sheriff's Community Oriented Policing Effort

S.C.O.P.E.



The Durham County Sheriff's Office Community Oriented Policing Effort (SCOPE) and the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Traffic Unit's primary roles are to provide the following services: traffic enforcement, motorcade escorts, dignitary protection, and driver safety education programs while participating in community service events. During 2023, the SCOPE and Traffic Units responded to a total of 7,081 calls for service.

SCOPE

- 2687 Calls for service
- 443 Community events
- 137 Business contacts
- 121 Directed property patrols
- 290 Directed traffic patrols
- 825 Traffic stops
- 165 Funeral escorts

Traffic Unit

- 4394 Calls for service
- 137 Community events
- 21 Business contacts
- 1244 Directed traffic patrols
- 2357 Traffic stops
- 23 Funeral escorts

Provided escorts for the
President and Vice President of the United States

SCOPE deputies
organized and/or
participated in

443 community
service
events

165 funeral
escorts

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) was launched by the United States Department of Justice in 2001 to reduce gun violence and violent crime across America. Re-introduced to Durham in July 2023 by Sheriff Birkhead, PSN is a nationwide initiative that connects federal, state, and local law enforcement, prosecutors, probation, clergy, service providers, government agencies, community-based partners, and other stakeholders to identify the most pressing crime problems in our communities and develop data-driven comprehensive solutions to address them.

The Message

PSN does not offer immunity for offenders for past serious criminal activity. PSN promises to assist in the vigorous prosecution of chronic individual, group, and gang-related violence; and those who persist in criminal activity and/or illegal gun possession. PSN does promise with its partners to assist those who want to change by connecting them with all available resources.

Stop the Violence ~ No Illegal Guns

PSN is a coordinated and comprehensive strategy where we collect and analyze data, share information, collaborate with partners, reach consensus about priorities, make the best decisions possible, and then coordinate actions across systems to reduce violence.

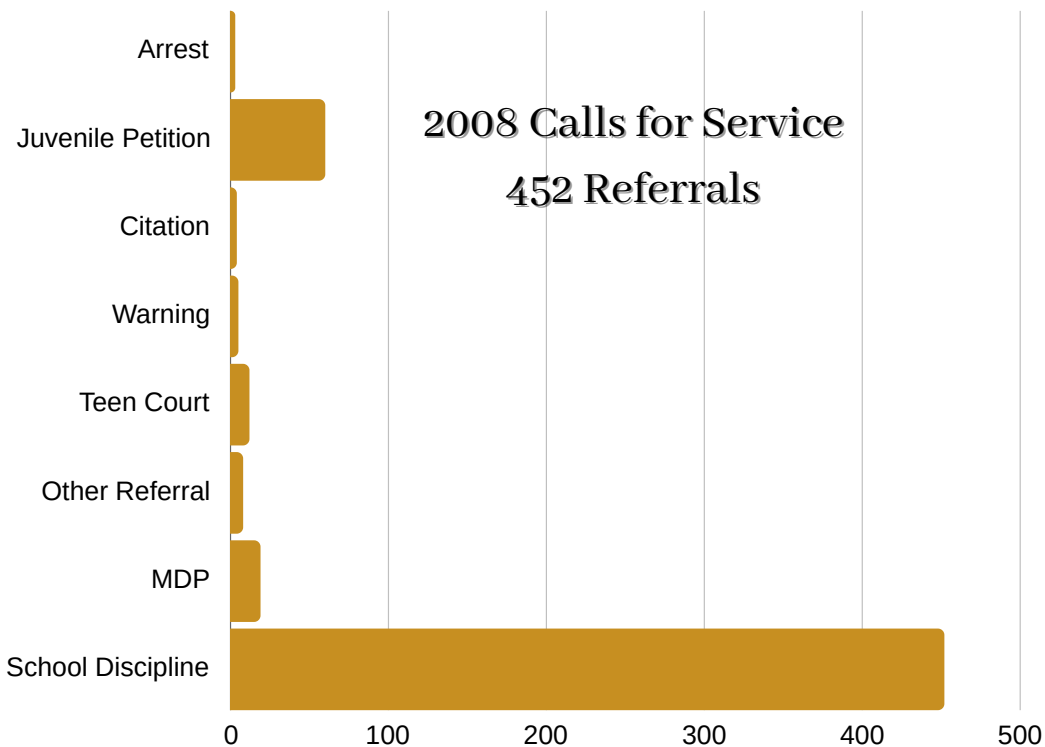
The point of PSN is designed to be laser focused by utilizing objective data rather than subjective opinion. PSN concentrates on prevention, intervention, supervision, notification, reentry, resource delivery, investigation, and prosecution efforts on violent offenders and groups that are driving violence (VIP's - Violent Impact Players).

HONOR DUTY SERVICE



Juvenile Actions are responses to criminal-related incidents at a school where a School Resource Officer (**SRO**) has the option to take no action or dispose of a case in one of the following ways:

- Recommend school disciplinary action (e.g. suspension)
- Teen Court referral
- DSS/welfare organization referral
- Criminal Court via arrest of misdemeanor citation
- Criminal action via juvenile court with a juvenile petition
- Divert criminal case to Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP)
- Refer to other programs such as DEAC, PROUD, TRY, and Project Build



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

SROs remained active in 2022 -2023 and performance was on par with the previous calendar year. SROs generated 2,008 calls for service. They continue to utilize the deferral/referral process; with the vast majority (452) referred back to the school for discipline. There were approximately 392 occasions in which SROs were called to assist with potentially “violent” incidents such as fights, assaults, threats, or disturbances.

There were 67 weapon-related offenses in 2022/2023; 4 handguns, 38 knives, 3 tasers, 7 pepper spray, and 15 “other” weapons (items used as weapons in assaults or items such as BB guns or gun facsimiles). There were 45 trespassing calls, 67 suspicious activity or vehicle calls, and at least 51 calls of students with altered mental status. SROs assisted and/or called for EMS at least 207 times. Drug-related investigations accounted for only 98 of calls for service, indicating SROs spend the majority of their time responding to calls related to safety and security. SROs continued to provide proactive services geared toward building relationships with students and staff. They conducted 784 classroom presentations. Estimating 25 students per classroom, that is 19,600 students receiving direct interactions with SROs in a positive setting. In addition, deputies received training in minority sensitivity through the NCJA and implicit bias training through this agency. These proactive measures have helped to establish greater trust between the Sheriff’s Office and the school system.



We are #SOCIAL



One of the largest Facebook communities among the 100 Sheriff's Offices in North Carolina with over 20,000 followers



A community of over 7,200 Twitter followers



Transitioned in-person community forums lead by Sheriff Birkhead to podcast format in 2023.
dcsostartalk.podbean.com

@DurhamSheriff

5,514

Total Arrestees
Processed at Jail

\$ 199

Average
Daily Cost
Per Inmate



HONOR DUTY SERVICE

The **Durham County Detention Facility** operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The facility opened in the summer of 1996 with a capacity of 576 single cells. It was designed as a direct-supervision facility.

NIBRS Crime Reporting

Total Cases Investigated in 2023

Aggravated Assault 62 ▼

Burglary 93 ▼

Larceny 344 ▼

Robbery 14 ▼

Murder 0 ▼

Rape 31 ▲

Arson 3 ▲

Motor Vehicle Theft 75 ▲

ANIMAL SERVICES

FY 2022/23 Breakdown

Calls for Service 10,556 ▲

Stray Animals 2,049 ▶

Animal Traps 556 ▼

Animal Bites 708 ▲

Animal Abuse 556 ▶

Animals Returned 200 ▶

Rabies Vaccinations 894 ▶

Rabies Cases 3 ▼





11 Communicators

10 Certified in Crisis Communication



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Center is usually the public's first point of contact with the Sheriff's Office. It is staffed with two telecommunicators at a time and is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Telecommunicators are responsible for answering calls from the public and dispatching deputies in response to calls for service. With the help of a computer-aided dispatch system, telecommunicators manage, monitor, and provide vital information to deputies in the field throughout Durham County.

92,522
Calls
Processed

Professional Standards Division



Office of the Sheriff
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Investigations conducted by the professional standards division for 2023:

18

internal affairs investigations

5

investigation was unfounded

9

investigations were sustained

4

investigations were
not sustained/exonerated