



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

About Us

The Clark County Sheriff's Office, established in 1849, was the first law-enforcement agency in Washington state.



In 2023, the Clark County Sheriff's Office was authorized 149 sworn deputies and 81 professional staff.

We proudly serve people living, working or visiting Clark County, WA.

www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff

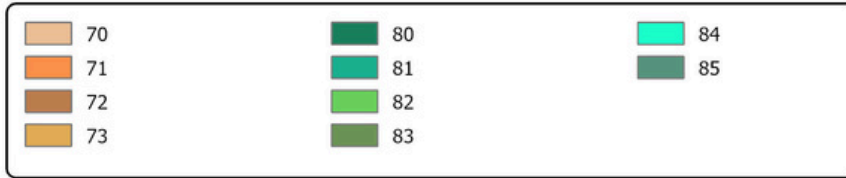


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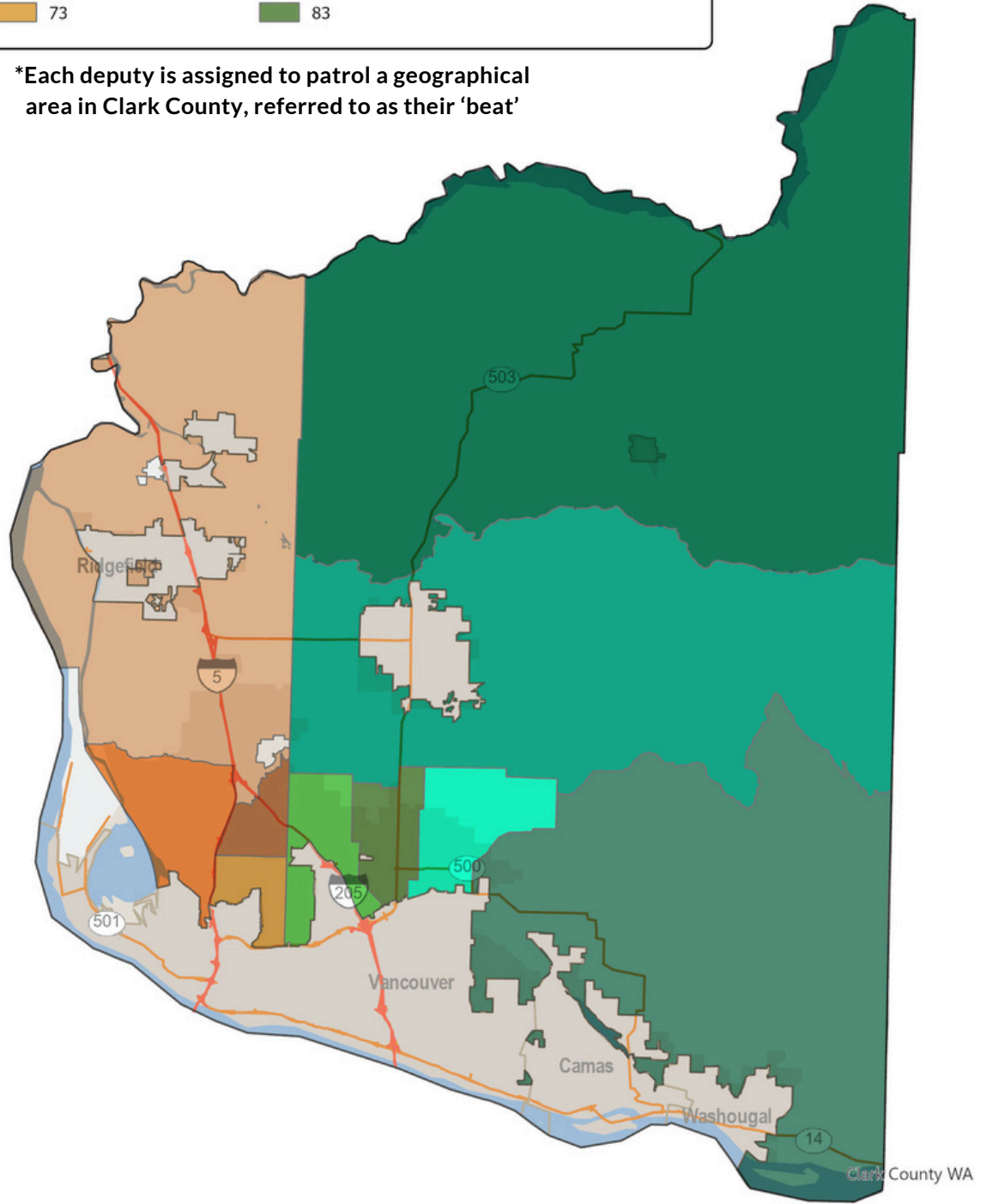
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Clark County Sheriff's Office 2023 Beat Map



*Each deputy is assigned to patrol a geographical area in Clark County, referred to as their 'beat'



OUR MISSION

To protect and safeguard our community.

OUR VISION

Make Clark County as safe and livable as possible and have the Clark County Sheriff's Office be the most professional and sought-after Sheriff's Office to work for in our state.

OUR VALUES

We value hard work, dedication, and a commitment to service. We value teamwork throughout the agency, branches, and work units. We value a healthy balance between work, family and community. We value personal integrity and human dignity.



A Message from Sheriff Horch

On January 1, 2023, I began my term as your elected Sheriff. Serving you has been an incredible honor and a position I take very seriously. I remain committed to upholding our laws and protecting our citizens to continue making Clark County a place we are proud to call home.

Our Annual Report outlines the many services your Sheriff's Office provided in 2023. These pages offer insights into the organization and our dedication to public safety. You will learn about the various branches and units here. Their accomplishments, needs, and goals we have set for the future are also included.

The Action Plan outlines the goals of the Sheriff and his executive team over the next four years. I hope you find the enclosed information valuable and informative.

By working together, the Sheriff's Office and the community will ensure that Clark County remains a safe place to live, work, and visit for many years.

I am proud and grateful for the dedicated Clark County Sheriff's Office members who tirelessly work to keep our community safe every day.

Working together, we will make a difference.

Sincerely,



John Horch
Sheriff, Clark County





Executive Team



John Horch
Sheriff

John grew up in Clark County, raised his children here and has devoted his life to public service for the past 34 years with the Clark County Sheriff's Office. He has held many positions within the agency, including Chief Enforcement Deputy, Drug Task Force Commander, Internal Affairs Supervisor, Field Training Officer, Bomb Technician, Detective and Deputy. He has a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.



Jim Hansen
Undersheriff

Jim brings over two decades of private sector experience and 25 years with the Clark County Sheriff's Office. He served 18 years as a CCSO Reserve Deputy and excelled as a Sheriff's Administration Manager. He holds multiple law enforcement leadership certifications, including Executive Management from the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC). Jim is a graduate of the FBI's Command College and received the FBI LEEDA's Trilogy Award.



Brian Kessel
Chief Enforcement Deputy

Brian is a second-generation Clark County Deputy with 22 years of service. He has held various roles in the agency, from patrol deputy to Traffic Unit Sergeant, and was honored as Supervisor of the Year in 2021. Brian was an active member of the Clark County Deputy Sheriff's Guild Executive Board, where he most recently served as President. He has a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from Washington State University and is a graduate of the FBI's Northwest Command College.



Duncan Hoss
Chief Civil Deputy

Duncan's distinguished 30-year career serving Clark County has included roles like Tactical Detective Unit Supervisor and Major Crimes Unit Supervisor. As a Commander, he directed patrol operations and special events before becoming Investigative Commander. Duncan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Aspen University and a Master of Science degree from Western Governors University in Management and Leadership.



Michael McCabe
Chief Administrative Deputy

Michael is a 30-year veteran of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. He has experience in corrections and patrol frontline, direct and executive levels. His management experience includes special operations, emergency management, administrative support and specialized projects, including CCSO's new body-worn camera program. Michael has completed his Washington State career level certification and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Our Team

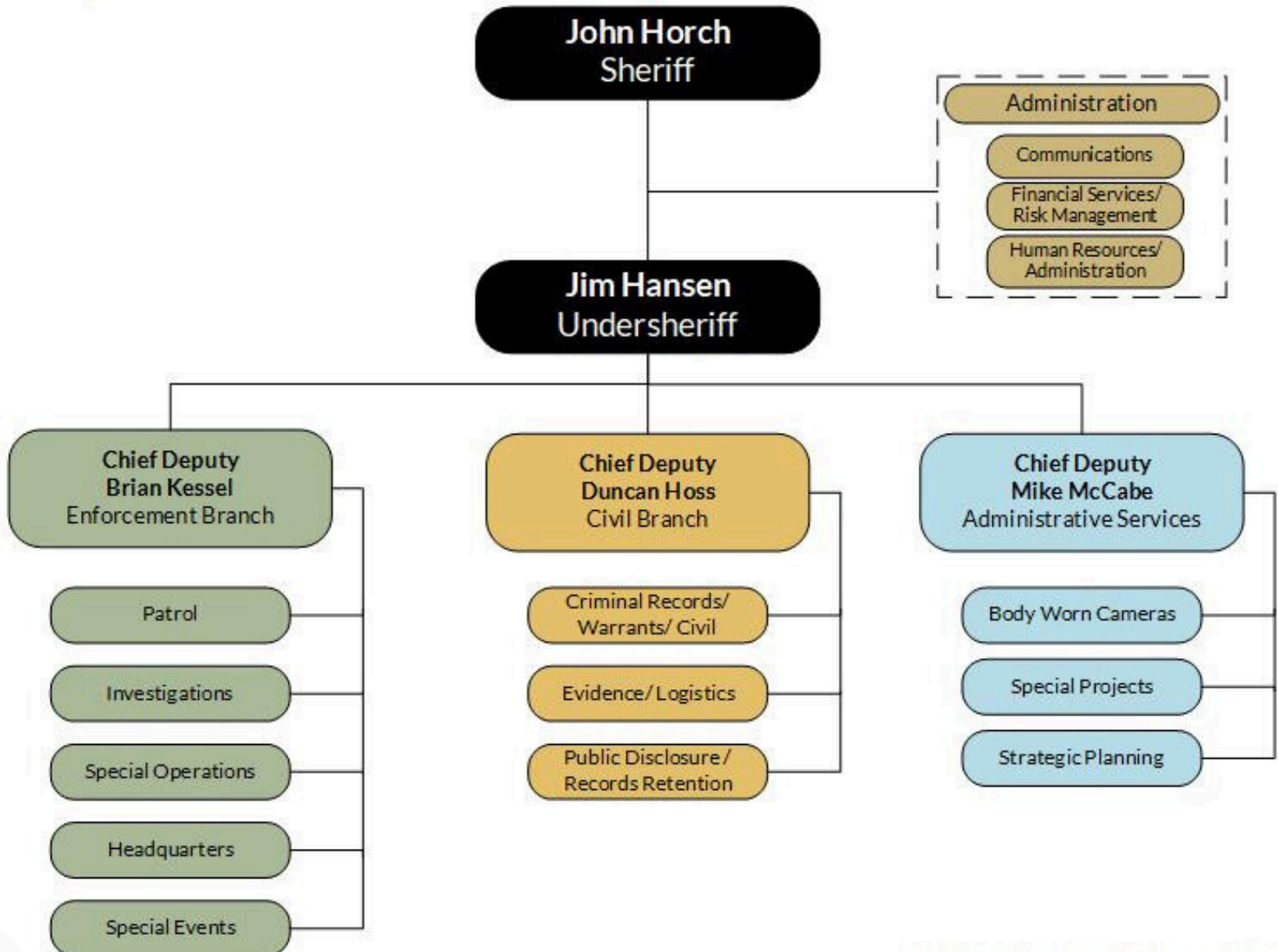
CLARK COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is led by Sheriff John Horch. Undersheriff Jim Hansen reports to Sheriff Horch and oversees the Enforcement and Support branches and Administrative Services.

- The **Enforcement Branch**, led by Chief Enforcement Deputy Brian Kessel, manages day and night patrol commanders, criminal and special investigations, and special operations.
- The **Support Branch**, led by Chief Civil Deputy Duncan Hoss, is responsible for civil processes, such as managing records, warrants, and public disclosures. This branch ensures the smooth handling of legal documents, evidence, and logistics.
- **Administrative Services**, led by Chief Administrative Deputy Michael McCabe, focuses on technology, special assignments, and planning, particularly in managing body-worn cameras and IT infrastructure.



CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS



*Internal Affairs has the authority to report directly to the Sheriff



Enforcement Branch

- Air Support Unit
- Background Investigations
- Body-Worn Camera Program
- Civil/Campus Unit
- Children's Justice Center
- Crisis Negotiations Team
- Digital Forensic Analyst Team
- Domestic Violence Unit
- Drug Task Force
- Explosive Disposal Unit
- Honor Guard
- Internal Affairs
- K9
- Major Crimes Unit
- Marine Patrol
- Peer Support
- Public Information Officer
- Search and Rescue
- Sex Offender Registry
- SWAT
- Tactical Detective Unit
- Traffic Unit
- Training
- Unmanned Aerial Systems



PATROL DIVISION

The Clark County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) Patrol Division is dedicated to serving the unincorporated areas of Clark County, Washington. The county spans 656 square miles, including 27 square miles of waterways. The Patrol Division extends its services to Yacolt, the Cowlitz Tribe, and La Center City, as needed, as well as a small part of Woodland, WA.

Staffing and Resource

Allocation:

The Sheriff’s Office Enforcement Branch is authorized for 118 deputies, 22 sergeants, five commanders, and one branch chief. However, the actual staffing numbers 2023 were consistently 20-27% below the authorized levels due to retirements and resignations. This resulted in 44 to 56 deputies being available for work instead of the intended 70. This shortage severely impacted proactive policing efforts, with deputies spending most of their time responding to 911 calls.

Crime Trends and Challenges:

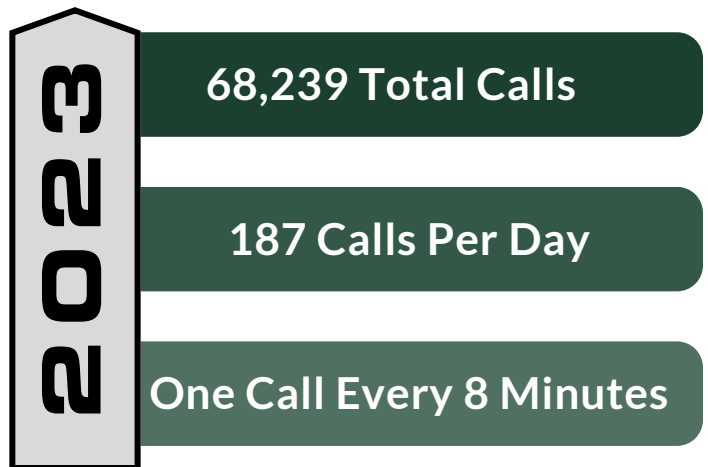
Lower staffing levels led to a decline in proactive enforcement and a documented increase in property crimes and various community safety concerns, including:

- Increased open-air drug use and homelessness
- Rising incidents of theft and auto-related crimes
- Organized gang behavior with more armed robberies and drive-by shootings
- Deterioration of traffic safety, with increased violations and accidents

To address these issues, CCSO Patrol engaged in public meetings, maintained a visible presence, utilized social media, and implemented a new schedule to deploy resources more effectively. Additionally, service cuts for lower-priority and non-emergency calls were made to ensure availability for more urgent matters.

Response and Crime Statistics:

In 2023, the Patrol Division responded to approximately 68,239 calls, averaging 187 calls per day or one every 8 minutes. The division produced 11,075 original police reports and 4,631 supplemental reports. Despite staffing challenges, the response time for priority one and two calls has remained competitive at 6 minutes, 21 seconds, and 8 minutes, 46 seconds, respectively.



Improvements and Future Goals:

CCSO has seen improvements in retention and recruitment due to wage increases and legislative changes, and efforts ensure adequate staffing levels to meet the community's demands. However, to catch up with population increases over the last ten years, the agency must add between 20 and 40 deputies.

TRAFFIC UNIT

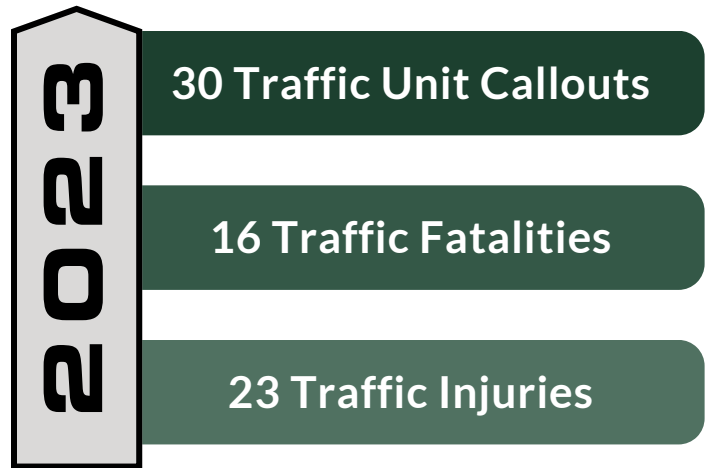
The Clark County Sheriff’s Office Traffic Unit investigates serious injury and fatal collisions and traffic complaints, performs traffic education and enforcement, inspects hulk vehicles and VINs, and continues to be the liaison for Clark County Public Works. The Unit is expected to respond to incidents seven days a week, 24 hours a day. In 2023, fatalities continued to increase in the State of Washington and Clark County. The Sheriff’s Office Traffic Unit responded to 30 callouts, including 16 fatalities, 23 injuries, and multiple requests for assistance from outside agencies. As the table below indicates, the Sheriff’s Office Traffic Unit responded to a statistical average number of fatalities this year.

Staffing and Resource Allocation:

Staffing continues to be a concern for the Traffic Unit. The Unit is allocated four detectives and a Sergeant. The unit is currently staffed with three detectives. One Sergeant supervised both the Traffic Unit and the TDU Detectives in 2023. Two Detectives remain lead detectives in the unit. One Detective started in December 2022 and continues to obtain the training and experience required for the unit. During the summer of 2023, that Detective was transferred to patrol for three months, leaving the unit staffed with just two detectives during a busy time of the year. The low staffing levels and a large case volume contributed to a backlog of cases over the past several years.

Response and Unit Updates:

Although the Traffic Unit has faced staffing and caseload challenges, the unit performed at a high level in 2023. The unit responded to and investigated a large volume of cases in Clark County. Detectives received collision training and CCSO hosted a motorcycle investigation class. In 2023, Detectives collaborated to establish a call-out availability schedule, allowing them each to take one weekend off a month.



Improvements and Future Goals:

In 2024, the Traffic Unit is focused on providing more traffic enforcement. Detectives have begun scheduling traffic enforcement missions with the goal of incorporating patrol deputies in the future. The unit is also in the process of replacing the old speed trailer and developing a deployment plan. Another 2024 goal will be to recruit patrol deputies to assist during investigations and provide training/experience for those who may be interested in applying for the Traffic Unit.

MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

In 2023, CCSO's Major Crimes Unit (MCU) adapted to staffing challenges while managing a significant number of homicide investigations, including four arrests and two assists for murder charges. Due to staffing shortages, some responsibilities were deferred, with case prioritization becoming essential. Despite limited experience among newer investigators, MCU remains capable of handling high-priority cases, though additional coaching and training are needed. The arrival of a new Special Victims Sergeant in 2024 is expected to improve supervision and mentoring.

Key Statistics:

- 8 homicide investigations (12 victims), with 4 arrests.
- 47 callouts for afterhours investigations and 106 general cases assigned; 34 remain under investigation.
- Due to high callout volume and limited staffing, a policy shift was implemented to limit responses to scenes with clear criminal evidence.



Fraud Investigations:

One Detective managed over 480 fraud reports, leading 49 investigations and recovering over \$60,000 in seizures, including one case with a recovery of over \$600,000. Limited resources hinder full investigation of all fraud cases.

ICAC and Other Units:

ICAC received 35 tips and referrals, but investigations were limited by staffing shortages. Domestic Violence (DV) follow-up included a pilot DV risk assessment program, while the Cold Case Unit achieved a major conviction. MCU has 90 active missing persons cases, with additional resources needed to improve investigation efforts.



2024 Goals:

Key objectives for the coming year include addressing staffing vacancies, improving case tracking, implementing a DV risk assessment, and enhancing cold case and digital evidence investigation processes.

The SVU plans to enhance detective training and resources and streamline processes for handling case referrals and investigations. The unit is also exploring options for digital forensic analysis to improve investigative outcomes.

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) focuses on cases involving domestic violence, child recovery, and internet crimes against children. In 2023, the unit handled a substantial caseload, including more than 2,100 reported domestic violence offenses and numerous investigations involving juvenile victims.

2023 Activities:

Children’s Justice Center (CJC) Detectives

- Total case intakes: 974
- Cases assigned for investigation: 194
- Forensic interviews conducted: 137 (CCSO cases)
- Custodial arrests: 3

Domestic Violence (DV) Investigations

- Total reported Domestic Violence offenses: 2,117
- Investigations assisted by DV Detective: 24
- Custodial arrests from DV Detective investigations: 11
- Adult Protective Services referrals handled: 7
- Writs of Habeas Corpus: 9

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

- ICAC cases opened: 25
 - Cases closed: 6
 - Ongoing investigations: 19



Improvements and Future Goals:

The SVU plans to enhance detective training and resources and streamline processes for handling case referrals and investigations. The unit is also exploring options for digital forensic analysis to improve investigative outcomes.



TACTICAL DETECTIVE UNIT

The Tactical Detective Unit (TDU) handles complex felony investigations, including sexual assaults, kidnappings, shootings, burglaries, organized retail theft, and human trafficking. TDU also supports CCSO Patrol Units, the Fire Marshal's Office, and Animal Control, while collaborating with SIU and MCU. Additionally, TDU participates in critical incident investigations through a regional team.

Staffing and Resource Allocation:

The unit is allocated four detectives and a sergeant but currently operates with three detectives. Staffing remains a challenge.

Response and Crime Statistics:

In 2023, TDU strengthened relationships with the Clark County Prosecutor's Office and CCSO Patrol Units, emphasizing support for patrol deputies by responding to significant incidents and collaborating on complex investigations. Backfill detectives and light-duty deputies helped manage the workload.

Crime Trends and Challenges:

In 2023, TDU tackled rising auto thefts. The team also investigated several firearm-related cases, initiating efforts to conduct in-house firearm forensics.

Improvements and Future Goals:

In 2024, TDU aims to enhance support for patrol units, focus on stolen vehicle operations, and strengthen retail theft prevention through partnerships with local loss prevention teams. A detective will also receive firearm forensics training and join a regional ATF task force.



Year in Review

K9 UNIT

For most of 2023, the CCSO K9 Unit, operating under a Special Operations Commander and a K9 Sergeant, faced staffing challenges, with only one active team for several months due to retirements and promotions.

Training and Certification:

Despite these challenges, both K9 teams maintained their training and certifications, collaborating closely with regional law enforcement partners. The unit transitioned to a new software platform, enhancing coordination and record-keeping.

Improvements and Future Goals:

Three new K9 handlers were selected in late 2023, and an academy to certify these teams is planned for early 2024. The unit plans to train new teams in patrol work, with the potential for future cross-training in narcotics detection.

Statistics:

In 2023, the K9 Unit conducted 113 deployments, resulting in 42 arrests and decreased use-of-force incidents. The unit intends to expand its capabilities with additional equipment and training. Additionally, we plan to continue our collaboration with our regional partners.



Year in Review

SWAT UNIT

The Southwest Washington Regional SWAT Team, a collaborative effort between CCSO and local law enforcement, provides highly trained tactical responses to critical incidents.

2023 Activities:

The SWAT Team deployed 87 times in 2023, including high-risk apprehensions, hostage rescues, and barricaded suspect scenarios. The team enhanced its capabilities through rigorous training and equipment upgrades.

Improvements and Future Goals:

The SWAT Team plans to continue recruiting qualified candidates and seek additional funding to support its operations and equipment needs. The team also focuses on succession planning to prepare for retirements and promotions.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) targets large-scale drug traffickers in and around Clark County and investigates overdose deaths. It also employs specialized equipment like GPS trackers and surveillance cameras. As the longest-standing member of the Northwest HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas), SIU receives federal funding and resources to support its mission.

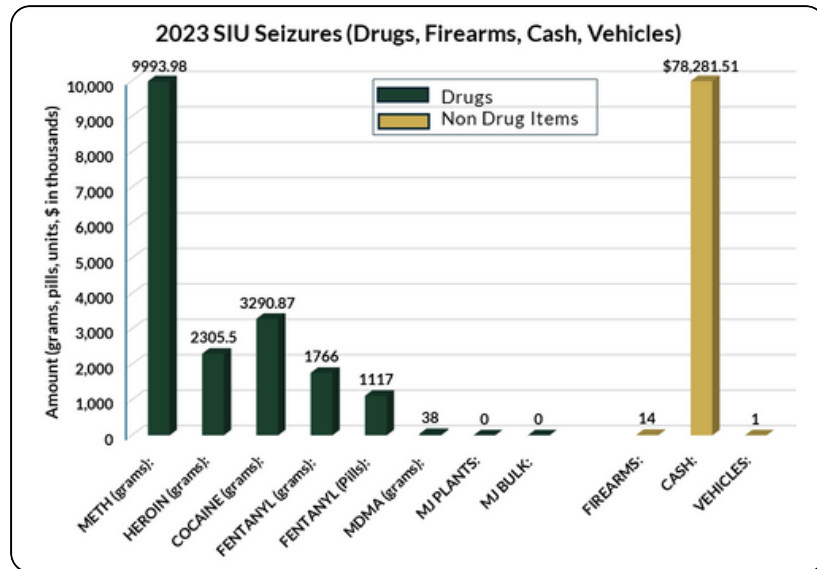
Challenges

In 2023, SIU was reassigned for seven months to cover patrol shortages, resulting in reduced accomplishments compared to previous years. The unit consists of three CCSO Detectives, a CCSO Sergeant, and a Commander. Additional staffing from external agencies (WSP, VPD, HSI) was not available this year. Efforts to expand the technical services team and increase high-voltage camera installations were paused due to redeployment. SIU has only one certified detective, with others awaiting certification in 2024. One SIU Detective handles daily cell phone analysis for multiple CCSO divisions and other agencies.



Significant Investigations in 2023

- Seizure of 4.6 pounds of heroin, 7 pounds of cocaine, and \$47,000 in an ongoing investigation into a Drug Trafficking Organization.
- Arrest of a local fentanyl dealer, seizure of 2,000 fentanyl pills, three illegal firearms, and forfeiture of his vehicle.
- An arrest resulting in the seizure of six illegal firearms and 2,600 fentanyl pills. The suspect faces federal charges and sentencing in 2024.
- Seizure of 2,500 fentanyl pills, 100 grams of heroin, and \$4,300 from another local drug dealer in an active investigation.



Goals for 2024

- Strengthen partnerships with FBI and HSI.
- Expand the technical services component with more certified detectives.
- Provide regular briefings to patrol on drug trends and overdose investigations.
- Establish a cadre of deputies to assist in operations and train detectives in informant management for investigations.
- Re-establish relationships with informants, prosecutors, and drug teams to bolster ongoing efforts.

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

The Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone/UAS) team's mission is to support first responders and protect Clark County citizens by operating in compliance with FAA regulations. UAS is deployed for patrol, traffic incidents, Special Investigations Unit (SIU) operations, Search and Rescue missions, Explosive Ordnance Detection, disaster response, high-risk tactical operations, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, terrorist events, fire incidents, and crime scene preservation.

Highlights and Accomplishments:

- In 2023, the UAS team flew more than 221 flight hours and 830 individual flights.
- The team helped support almost all 87 missions the SW Washington Regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWWR SWAT) team conducted.
- Selected and trained seven additional operators.
- CCSO hosted and helped conduct two regional UAS Academies with General Pacific Drones in March and April, providing entry-level training to new UAS operators throughout the region.
- Added four new DJI M30 platforms. The M30 is our workhorse platform that is IP55-rated, meaning it can fly in almost any weather, including heavy rain, and is equipped with an Infrared (IR) camera that allows for night use.
- Modified and equipped (inverters and screens) two SIU vans to be used as UAS resources.
- Added Axon Air as part of the BWC program.



Challenges:

- **Staffing:** While additional UAS operators have improved patrol capabilities, meeting the increased demands in Special Operations has been difficult. Most SWWR SWAT callouts and pre-planned missions now rely on three to four operators, adding pressure on the team.
- **Axon Air:** We integrated Axon Air licenses for seven UAS platforms and 21 operators into our BWC program, but faced compatibility issues when using the spotlight/speaker on M30s.
- **Vehicles:** Only five UAS operator vehicles have the necessary inverter capacity to charge the M30/M300. Standard inverters lack sufficient power, so future patrol vehicle builds may need upgrades to support growing UAS technology needs.
- **Policy/COA:** The UAS policy, unchanged since 2017, needs updating. Additionally, our COA with the FAA is up for renewal this year.
- **Training:** Due to staffing and workload challenges, we moved to quarterly training in 2023. Attendance has been neither mandated nor consistent, affecting training quality and regularity.



Improvements and Future Goals:

- **Vehicles:** All UAS-assigned vehicles will be equipped with inverters capable of charging the M30 platforms.
- **Training:** Transition to monthly training, alternating between different sides of the patrol calendar. Operators must attend at least four training days annually.
- **Operator Participation:** Evaluate operator participation, ensuring fairness, as the 2023 DSG contract includes a 5% pay increase, with some operators participating less than others.
- **Special Operations:** Collaborate with the Special Operations Commander to select dedicated UAS operators who will receive specialized training and be available for mission callouts.

Year in Review

HONOR GUARD

The CCSO Honor Guard is a prestigious unit that represents the agency at public and law enforcement events, including Line of Duty Death (LODD) services and memorials.

2023 Highlights:

In 2023, the Honor Guard participated in various events across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada, including National Police Week in Washington, D.C., and multiple state and local law enforcement memorials. The team also conducted Color Guard details at sporting events and ceremonies.

Improvements and Future Goals:

The unit hopes to expand its membership and continue providing comprehensive training. Plans are in place to redesign the Honor Guard uniform and acquire new flags and associated hardware.



Year in Review

MARINE PATROL

The Marine Patrol Unit promotes boating and water safety across Clark County's waterways. In recent years, the unit has faced challenges with reduced on-water hours and increased boating fatalities. A lack of patrol staffing has primarily contributed to the reduction in marine patrol. Marine Deputies have been reassigned to patrol to cover staffing shortages.

Training and Community Engagement:

In 2023, the Marine Patrol Unit participated in various training exercises and community events, including the Portland Boat Show and river crossing training with the SWAT Team.

Accident Response:

The unit responded to several fatal boating accidents in 2023, demonstrating the need for enhanced training and equipment to ensure safety on the water.

Improvements and Future Goals:

Marine Patrol reported a significant decrease in on-water hours over the past five years, with only 199.25 boat hours in 2023. Future goals include increasing on-water hours and conducting routine patrols, particularly on the Columbia River. The unit also seeks additional support and flexibility for training and operations.



HEADQUARTERS

The Headquarters Division, managed by the Clark County Sheriff's Enforcement Branch, encompasses various units that are crucial to the agency's operations. It provides planning, logistical support, and staffing assistance for special projects and unusual occurrences as directed by the Sheriff or his designee.

The Headquarters Division includes functions such as CALEA Accreditation, Public Information, Training, Backgrounds, Recruitment, Campus Deputies, Civil Deputies, Case Management, Internal Affairs, the Body Worn Camera Unit, Fleet, the Regional Academy, and Sex Offender Registration.

- Case Management/Civil
- Internal Affairs
- Public Information Officer
- Sex Offender Detectives
- CALEA Accreditation
- Backgrounds
- Training Unit

Case Management and Campus/Civil/Extradition Deputies

In 2023, these deputies provided uniform patrol within the courthouse and across the county campus, served warrants and civil papers, and enforced court-ordered evictions and protection orders. They also implemented the new County Camping Ordinance, requiring them to balance enforcement with compassionate engagement with the affected population.



Internal Affairs

Staffed by a single Sergeant, this unit conducted 144 investigations in 2023. Maintaining public trust by investigating alleged misconduct or violations of Sheriff's Office General Orders is vital. The unit also provided similar investigative services for other agencies.

Public Information Officer (PIO)

In 2023, the Sheriff's Office established a full-time Communications Manager to collaborate with the PIO and ensure effective communication with the public and media.

Sex Offender Registration

In 2023, the Sex Offender Registration Unit managed nearly 1,500 sex offenders. It successfully implemented new legislation (HB 1394), requiring the manual review and investigation of 1,472 offenders, which relieved 184 offenders from their duty to register.

CALEA Accreditation

This unit oversees accreditation and planning, ensuring compliance with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). In 2023, the unit undertook a comprehensive review of the department's General Orders, spurred by the separation of the Clark County Jail from the Sheriff's Office.

Backgrounds

This unit, in collaboration with CCSO Human Resources, conducted 206 background investigations in 2023, aided by two part-time employees who are former deputies.

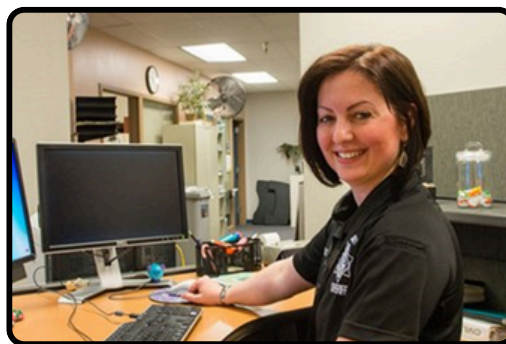
Training Unit

The Training Unit planned, supervised, and completed training for more than 30 new deputies in 2023, including academy and FTO training. The team also organized six in-service training days to ensure compliance with state-mandated continuing education requirements.



Support Branch

- Auxiliary Volunteers
- Cadet Program
- Civil Unit
- Concealed Pistol Permits
- Criminal Records
- Logistics/Evidence
- Public Disclosure Unit
- Sex Offender Registry
- Warrants Division



THE SUPPORT BRANCH IS CRUCIAL TO OUR AGENCY'S OPERATIONS, COMPRISING OF SEVERAL KEY DIVISIONS THAT SUPPORT OUR FRONTLINE SERVICES.

Year in Review

CRIMINAL RECORDS/WARRANTS DIVISION

Operating with 16 vacancies at the start of 2023, this division worked diligently to recruit and train new staff, ending the year with approximately 10 vacancies. The division also prepared to launch a new telework program, scheduled to go live in 2024, making CCSO one of the first agencies in the state to implement such a program. Additionally, the division revamped its training model, combining traditional Field Training Officer (FTO) programs with group and classroom learning to better manage critical shortages.

CIVIL AND CONCEALED PISTOL LICENSE UNIT

The Civil Unit saw an increase in evictions and paper service, while the Concealed Pistol License (CPL) unit significantly improved its processes, reducing the time required to issue permits. In 2023, the CPL Unit processed 2,282 new licenses and 3,080 renewals, thanks partly to implementing the Permittum web-based program, which streamlined the application process.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNIT

Despite facing many vacant positions, the Public Disclosure Unit processed 3,300 requests and reviewed 150,000 pages of records. The unit was crucial in implementing the Body Worn Camera (BWC) program, securing funding for additional specialists, and training staff on new statutes and redaction tools. The unit also emphasized employee wellness, providing training on the impact of trauma in law enforcement and conflict resolution.

EVIDENCE UNIT

The Evidence Unit, responsible for handling, storing, and disposing of evidence, made significant progress in 2023. It received 7,057 items and disposed of 12,664, making remarkable strides in managing the backlog. The unit also upgraded its systems and equipment, including installing additional gunroom shelving and acquiring a new van.

LOGISTICS UNIT

Staffed by two assistants, the Logistics Unit managed over 2,500 shipments and created 738 orders in 2023. The unit played a critical role in implementing the AXON body camera project, integrating new products into the asset management system, and ensuring the equitable division of uniforms and equipment between CCSO and Jail Services.



Administrative Services

- Communications
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Body Worn Camera Unit
- Outreach
- Peer Support
- Digital Forensic Investigation

The Administrative Branch plays a critical role in supporting the Clark County Sheriff's Office by managing the internal operations that allow enforcement personnel to focus on their primary duties.

2023 Project Highlight

BODY-WORN CAMERA UNIT

In 2023, the Clark County Sheriff's Office began implementing body-worn cameras after the 2022 Clark County voter-approved public safety sales tax. The project deployed body-worn cameras and dash (fleet) cameras to deputies, investigators, and other administrative staff. In addition, the project deployed updated Tasers as part of a service contract with Axon Inc.

2023 Accomplishments:

- The Axon body cameras, tasers, and additional hardware and software rely on a subscription to evidence.com. Evidence.com and associated app licensing were included in the body cams, tasers, and fleet bundles. All licensing was purchased on a five-year term and will be subject to renewal in 2028.

Goals for 2024:

- Deploy body-worn and vehicle-mounted camera systems, Taser 10, and additional software and hardware to all CCSO Deputies, Investigators, and applicable administrative personnel in 2024.

FINANCE

The Clark County Sheriff's Office's Finance Department upholds financial accountability and ensures taxpayer money is used effectively and efficiently. With a mission centered on transparency and sound fiscal management, the department is pivotal in supporting the Sheriff's Office's commitment to public safety.

Challenges and Achievements in 2023:

- Primary Challenge:
 - Navigating financial constraints due to inflation and static budgeting, the Sheriff's Office maintained a positive budget status while ensuring deputies and staff were trained, equipped, and adequately supplied for their duties.
- Grant Management:
 - Successfully applied for and managed \$1,000,000 in grants, equipping deputies with AEDs, providing funding for the Sex Offender Registration and Marine Patrol Units, and supporting Officer Wellness.
- Contractual Revenue:
 - Secured and billed \$130,000 in contracts for specialized law enforcement services.
- Alarms:
 - Processed 6,951 alarm permit renewal invoices, generating \$136,140 in revenue.
- Time Keeping:
 - Facilitated the payment of 4,765 paychecks to an average of 198 employees a month.
- Accounts Payable:
 - Created 2,491 supplier invoices and made 741 payments via P-card.

Strategic Focus and Initiatives

- Enhanced Fiscal Management:
 - Despite budgetary challenges, the department has maintained a strong focus on resource management.
- Grant Acquisition:
 - Proactively securing additional funding through grants has been crucial in mitigating the impact of budgetary limitations.
- Partnership and Collaboration:
 - Continued collaboration with county budget staff and external partners has been vital in navigating the financial landscape.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources (HR) is committed to recruiting top talent, managing employee relations, and ensuring compliance with labor laws and regulations. In 2023, HR efforts focused on aligning compensation with market standards, enhancing recruitment processes, and introducing new roles to strengthen our workforce.

Accomplishments of 2023:

- Compensation Alignment:
 - Completing the Baker Tilly Compensation Study resulted in wage adjustments to match market rates, contributing to employee satisfaction and competitive positioning.
- Strategic Recruitment and Efficiency:
 - The department onboarded two crucial roles: a Digital Forensics Analyst and a Communications Manager, to adapt to modern law enforcement's technological and communicative demands.
 - Creative recruitment initiatives, including a signing bonus program, led to nearly doubling the hiring rate compared to 2022.
- Retention Success:
 - The attrition rate decreased from 16.4% (2022) to 9.89%, reflecting the agency's enhanced focus on retention.

HR Goals for 2024:

Building on a successful year, the HR Department continues to assist in aligning our workforce with the dynamic needs of law enforcement. Our efforts continue to build a foundation for sustainable growth and stability in our staffing needs, ensuring that the Clark County Sheriff's Office remains at the forefront of public safety and community trust.



Year in Review

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2023, the Sheriff's Office expanded its communication capabilities by appointing a Communications Manager. This role plays a vital part in the success of the Body-Worn Camera Program by overseeing the production and management of related communications and video content. Additionally, the Communications Manager ensures that the Sheriff and command staff are equipped with timely and accurate information to effectively engage with the media, providing precise details on critical incidents as they occur. The Communications Manager also drives strategic recruiting, marketing, and branding efforts, helping shape the agency's public image and fostering engagement through social media development and outreach.

Accomplishments of 2023:

- Developed the Sheriff's Round-Up employee newsletter for improved internal communications with employees.
- Developed a community edition of the Sheriff's Round-Up for improved external communications with community members, businesses and other valued stakeholders.
- Hired a full-time communications manager, to help improve internal and external communications.
- Established quarterly Town Hall events to address public issues related to crime and livability.
- Monthly one-on-one meetings with Council Members for better communication and cooperation.

Communication Goals for 2024:

The Communications team is committed to transparency, improving trust and establishing a consistent form of communication between the agency, the media and the public.

Year in Review

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach is dedicated to fostering strong relationships between law enforcement and the community. Our mission is to promote safety, build trust, and enhance collaboration through various programs and events. By engaging with residents, local organizations, and businesses, we aim to address community concerns and share important resources to enhance livability in our communities.

Goals for 2024:

In 2024, our outreach goals are focused on deepening community connections and enhancing public engagement. We will create a "Paws on Patrol" newsletter to provide safety tips and spotlight the volunteers and their pets. A fall Citizens' Academy will be added to give Clark County citizens more opportunities to learn about the Sheriff's Office and criminal justice system. We're also committed to increasing the presence of deputy liaisons at neighborhood meetings and attending National Night Out events, ensuring that community members can connect directly with law enforcement and build relationships.

After a 4-year hiatus, the S.A.L.T. (Seniors And Law Enforcement) will return in July of 2024. This annual event connects seniors with law enforcement officials from all agencies in Clark County. Lastly, we plan to train Sheriff Auxiliary members to assist the Marine Patrol Unit with boat inspections, expanding our safety initiatives. Together, these efforts will strengthen our commitment to a safer and more connected community.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONT.

Accomplishments of 2023:

- **Sheriff Auxiliary-**
 - Sheriff Auxiliary volunteered 2,165 hours, which was an increase from 1,462 hours in 2022.
 - Sheriff Auxiliary dedicated 592 hours to tagging 75 abandoned vehicles each month.
 - In October 2023, 21 volunteers received their limited commission to enforce disabled parking regulations. By monitoring compliance and educating the public, they help ensure that parking spots are available for individuals with disabilities.
 - In November 2023, 10 of our Auxiliary members became certified junk inspectors, enabling them to respond to junk vehicle inspection requests and easing the workload for patrol.
- **Citizens' Academy**
 - Hosted a spring Citizens' Academy for 31 citizens and provided polo shirts to attendees to enhance professionalism and consistency.
- **Santa's Posse**
 - Coordinated holiday assistance for 1,500 Clark County families through Santa's Posse and provided support to an additional 20 children through the Shop with a Cop program.
- **Paws on Patrol**
 - Launched the Paws on Patrol program in August 2023. Paws on Patrol is a volunteer program that encourages dog walkers to be more aware of their surroundings, enhancing their personal safety while also contributing to a safer community. (Current enrollment is 255).
- **Community Events**
 - Participated in various community events throughout the year, with the highlight being the Clark County Fair.





CCSO 2023 Award Winners

CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Enforcement Branch Deputy of the Year: Deputy Rocky Futrell
Enforcement Branch Detective of the Year: Detective Jon Shields
Enforcement Branch Supervisor of the Year: Sergeant Linda Hayes
CCSO Trainer of the Year: Deputy Shane Clemenhagen
Civil Branch Employee of the Year: Denise Hotopp, Support Specialist III
Civil Branch Supervisor of the Year: Evelina Kurilenko, Civil Division Supervisor

Purple Heart Medal: CCSO Deputy Drew Kennison

Medal of Merit: CCSO Sergeant Greg Agar & Deputy Elijah Page

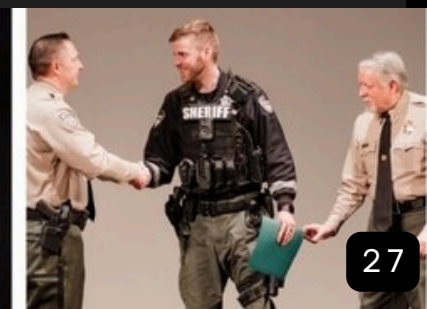
Life-Saving Medal: CCSO Sergeant Greg Agar & Deputy Phil Walker

Life-Saving Medal: *(awarded for assisting in helping to save the life of Deputy Drew Kennison)*

CCSO Deputy Forrest Gonzalez
 Vancouver Police Sergeant Frank Gomez
 Vancouver Police Department Corporal Drew Klaetsch
 Vancouver Police Officer Cole Larson
 Vancouver Police Officer Jason Beach
 Vancouver Police Officer Mark Brinski
 Vancouver Police Officer Michael Wilkes
 Vancouver Police Officer Steven Forgette

Citizen Service Medal: *(awarded for assisting in helping to save the life of Deputy Kennison)*

Camas-Washougal Fire Department Battalion Chief Kevin Villines
 Camas-Washougal Fire Department Captain Matt Baldwin
 Camas-Washougal Fire Department Captain Chris Ruddell
 Camas-Washougal Fire Department Firefighter-Paramedic Lance Long
 Camas-Washougal Fire Department Firefighter-Paramedic Nate Barmore
 Skamania County PUD Lineman Luke Nordgaard
 Skamania County PUD Lineman Matthew Newell





CCSO 2023 Award Winners

CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Life-Saving Award:

CCSO Deputy Alex O'Hearn
 CCSO Deputy Forrest Gonzalez
 CCSO Sergeant Greg Agar (x2)
 CCSO Deputy Jacob Lyle
 CCSO Deputy Slav Pavlenko (x2)

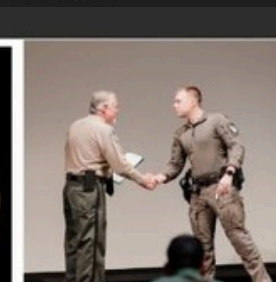
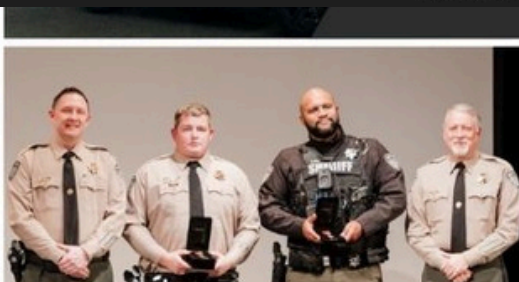
CCSO Sergeant Adam Beck
 CCSO Sergeant Mark Anderson
 CCSO Detective Bethany Lau
 CCSO Deputy Chris Freudenberg

Distinguished Service Award: Denny Hunter, CCSO Cold Case Detective

Exemplary Performance Awards:

Allison Gentry
 Brian Wade
 Chelsea Quiggle
 Chris Freudenberg
 Chris Pizan
 Colleen Williamson
 David Nelson
 David Smith
 Duwayne Layton
 Erik Dunham
 Fred Neiman
 Greg Agar
 Greg Marek
 Helier Arvizo
 Holly Dezubiria
 James Rogan

Jim Beaman
 Julie Wright
 Justin Messman
 Kaitlyn Stenlund
 Lawrence Zapata
 Lisa Stopper
 Michael Gonzalez
 Rick Osborne
 Samir Vejo
 Shane Clemenhagen
 Shane Joachim
 Shelley Wright
 Tanya Johnson
 Thomas Rismoen
 Trina Sanford
 Victoria Meyer



2024 Goals

AGENCY PRIORITIES

Our priorities will address critical issues and close the gap between the current state of our agency and our vision for the future. These priorities determine where we will focus our time and energy to best execute our mission and achieve our vision.

1	Community Safety: CCSO will improve community safety by continuously evaluating crime trends and reallocating resources when necessary.
2	Employee Retention, Wellness and Development: Enhance employee retention and recruitment by fostering a healthy and supportive work environment, offering comprehensive wellness programs and promoting career development and mentorship.
3	Community and Government Stakeholder Engagement: Strengthen working relationships with county leaders, elected officials and the community.
4	Communications: Increase transparency, improve trust and establish a consistent form of communication between the agency, the media and the public.
5	New CCSO Headquarters Facility: Acquire a new CCSO Headquarters facility that creates an exceptional work environment for employees and offers a welcoming space for our community.
6	Southwest Washington Regional Police Academy: Establish a regional law enforcement academy in Southwest Washington.

[Click here to access our 2024 Action Plan](#)



CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Have feedback, suggestions or questions?
Contact the Clark County Sheriff's Office



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Fax 564.397.6165/ Email ADA@clark.wa.gov