

# THE SHERIFF'S ROUND-UP

CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2024 ISSUE



Greetings,

Here's a quick update on two significant issues pertaining to public safety that the CCSO Executive Team has been working on.

1. Staffing increase: CCSO staffing levels are the lowest in the state, and we have not kept up with Clark County's unincorporated population. To provide and maintain adequate levels of law enforcement services, we must increase our number of deputies.
2. Acquiring a building to house all CCSO operations: We are currently spread out across numerous locations and will soon be displaced from our headquarters building in downtown Vancouver. CCSO does not have a permanent home, and we are the only law enforcement agency within Clark County that does not have a permanent facility that can provide proper services to our community.

I will provide more information on these two issues in the coming months and what community members can do to help CCSO achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

*John Horch*





## LA CENTER POLICING CONTRACT UPDATE

The Sheriff's Office continues to provide policing services to the City of La Center through a temporary agreement between the County and the City. As part of the temporary contract, the Sheriff assigned one enforcement Commander and two Deputies to La Center. The County and the City continue working toward a permanent contract for policing services, which will add two more Deputies and one Support Specialist II. The City of La Center is paying for these services and the allocation of the additional personnel to La Center do not impact CCSO's ability to patrol unincorporated areas of Clark County.

County and City legal teams are reviewing the complete policing services contract. Once both legal teams approve, the La Center City Council and Mayor will review it. If the City of La Center approves it, the contract must go before the County Council and the County Manager for final approval. We anticipate a more permanent contract for policing services to be completed by October 2024. The Sheriff's Office intends to provide the following services: patrol, investigative, specialty (K9, SWAT), support, records, evidence, and supplemental services.



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

SHERIFF HORCH IS PLANNING ANOTHER TOWN HALL:  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH  
6:30PM-7:30PM  
CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WEST PRECINCT  
505 NW 179TH ST, RIDGEFIELD, WA 98642

# QUICKFIRE UPDATES



## SPEED ENFORCEMENT

Coming to a street near you: check out the new equipment that will help keep drivers safe in Clark County! This summer we deployed our new speed enforcement trailer, which will be periodically moved around the county to high-speed areas. This is a great tool to mitigate speeding and remind drivers to obey the speed limit.

## LOCAL POLICE ACADEMY: CLASS 2

On June 24th, the second Basic Law Enforcement Academy class began at the Southwest Washington Regional Law Enforcement Academy in Vancouver.

There are 32 recruits in this class, 30 of which are representing local agencies.

CCSO has 10 recruits enrolled in this session - the most we've ever had participate in a single academy program!



## ACADEMY GRADUATION

In late May, CCSO Deputies Ryan Bylsma, Caleb Madarieta and Nathan Smith graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in a ceremony at Ilani Casino. Class 883 is the inaugural class of the Southwest Washington Regional Law Enforcement Academy, and it was special to celebrate the first graduating class for our region. We are proud of our new deputies on this major accomplishment.

A special mention goes to Deputy Bylsma, who was elected class President by his fellow recruits during the academy. We commend his outstanding efforts and leadership!

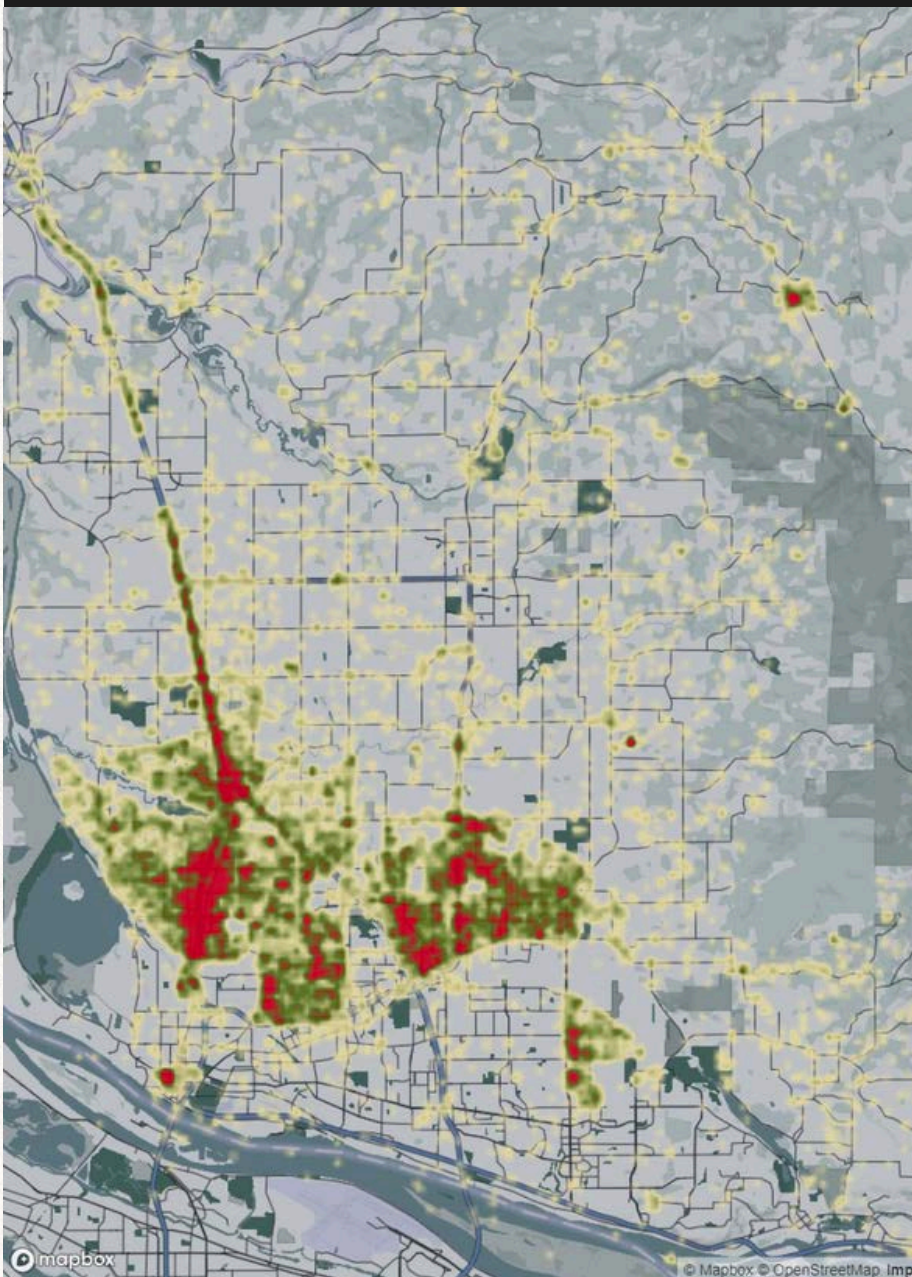


# CRIME DATA

MAY-JULY



## Hot Spots



### May-July CAD numbers

28,288 total calls for service

Highest call type: Incomplete Call\*

Lowest call type: Aircraft Accident

Busiest time for calls: Fridays at 1:00 p.m.

4,194 traffic related calls

7% of traffic calls were DUI related

Patrolling 4,742 miles of county roadways

\* An "Incomplete Call" is when someone calls 911 - maybe doesn't talk - and a deputy needs to go find out who and why.

# CASE SPOTLIGHT

## TDU RETAIL THEFT MISSIONS

Since early June, the Clark County Sheriff's Office Tactical Detective Unit (TDU) has conducted three Retail Theft Missions. TDU ran the operations with the help of CCSO's Special Investigations Unit, Special Victims Unit, patrol deputies, and loss prevention officers from multiple retail stores.

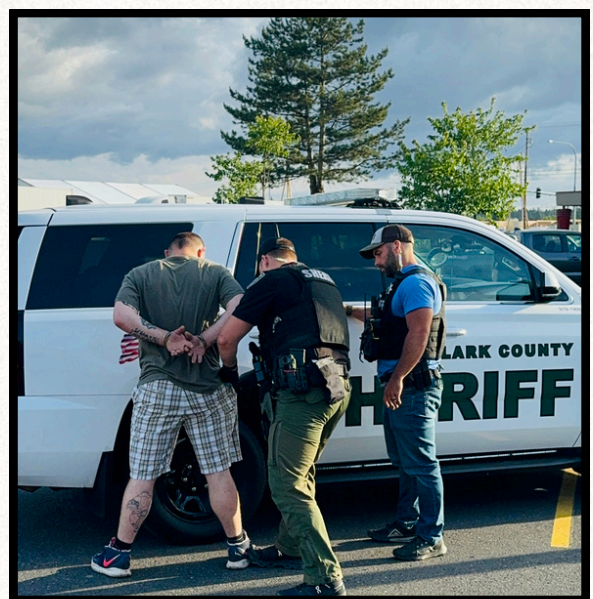
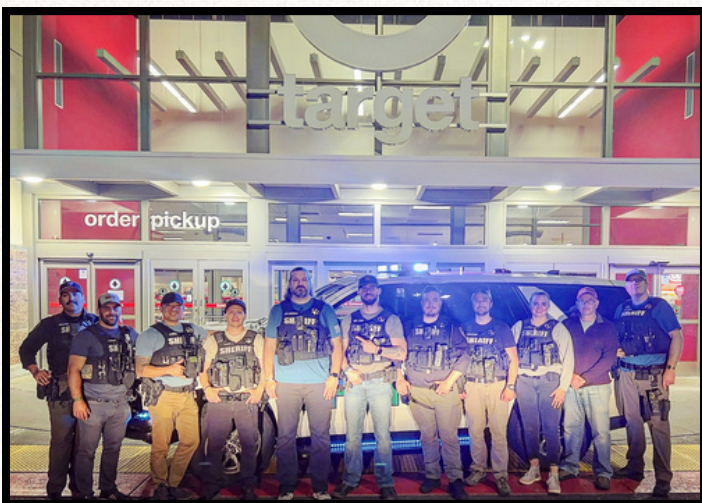
During the three missions, detectives arrested 28 people for theft and trespassing, including multiple people with outstanding warrants. They also arrested two prolific retail theft subjects with several pending criminal cases.

Detectives recovered thousands of dollars in stolen merchandise and seized drugs, drug paraphernalia, and multiple weapons. Among the items stolen by retail theft suspects were alcohol, a KitchenAid mixer, a hoverboard, beauty products, an area rug, electronics, power tools, clothing, and propane tanks.

Often, retail theft suspects are not stealing items for personal use but are part of organized theft rings that steal items to be sold for cash or returned to stores for a fraudulent "refund."

These missions aim not only to disrupt retail thefts but also to impact additional associated criminal activity. Many of these retail theft subjects are part of organized theft rings and are associated with other criminal activities such as drug distribution, vehicle theft, and illegal firearm possession.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office and our retail partners will continue conducting additional retail theft missions in other areas of our community. Those engaging in retail theft in Clark County will be arrested and jailed.



# UNIT SPOTLIGHT

## MEET THE CRIMINAL RECORDS UNIT



### Team Size

17 specialists

3 supervisors

### Purpose and Responsibilities

The Criminal Records Unit, operational 24/7, plays a crucial role at the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Generated by CCSO deputy call responses and court actions, this unit creates and manages active "hit" or index information for missing persons, stolen vehicles, protection orders, and more in the National and Washington Criminal Information Center systems. This enables real-time access and confirmation via criminal justice telecom systems such as the International Justice & Public Safety Network (Nlets).

Regionally, the unit supports city police departments (except for VPD) during nights and weekends. Their responsibilities include records management, distribution to criminal justice entities, handling public inquiries, providing LE hotline support, and warrant confirmations.

### A Day in the Life

Team members manage all these tasks while researching information, creating photo arrays, and communicating nationwide with 911 centers and law enforcement personnel. Fun fact: Our team processes approximately 2,000 new protection orders each year.

# SCAM

## BEWARE OF PHONE SCAMS

Phone scammers claiming to be law enforcement are targeting Clark County residents! The scammer claims to be from the Clark County Sheriff's Office and threatens that the victim will be arrested if "unpaid fines" are not paid immediately. They pose as a sergeant, detective, or deputy and can be quite convincing. CCSO often calls people but does not ask for money and never indicates that money can be paid in lieu of arrest.

Scammers often ask victims to deliver cryptocurrency or gift cards so that money can't be tracked. Anyone who receives a suspicious call from someone claiming to be from a law enforcement agency can call the non-emergency dispatch line – 311.

Read this article from [The Columbian](#) for more information on these scams.

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### CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: MOULTON FALLS REGIONAL PARK CLOSURES AND PARKING ADVISORY



### UPCOMING CLOSURES: UPPER PARKING AREA AND BRIDGE

Clark County Public Works and Parks are coordinating a project to repair and preserve the iconic wooden arch bridge at Moulton Falls Regional Park. The work, to be performed by a contractor, will include minor repairs to maintain the bridge's structural integrity and refinishing the wood stain to protect the structure from weathering.

There have been some project delays, so the upper parking lot and bridge remain open until further notice. Construction is expected to begin in the middle of August. Public Works will give park users as much notice as possible before the closure of the upper parking area and bridge closure occurs.

# MISSING PERSONS

## TIPS NEEDED

CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MAJOR CRIMES UNIT



**PHILIP HARRIS**  
CASE #23003383

The Clark County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate the disappearance of Philip Harris.

Philip was last seen in the Hazel Dell area of Vancouver on April 20th, 2023. His unoccupied vehicle was located at a nearby Safeway parking lot. Philip was working in the Portland/Vancouver area as a chef prior to his disappearance.



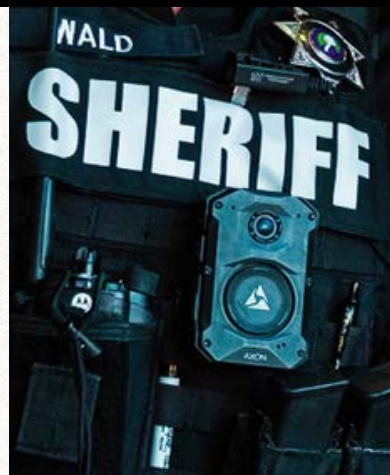
**SABRINA MYERS**  
CASE #24001621

16 year-old Sabrina Myers left her home near Yacolt in February 2024. She has since been seen at various locations in Clark County, but she has not had direct contact with her family or law enforcement. The Clark County Sheriff's Office would like to locate Sabrina to check on her safety and well-being.

**ANYONE WITH INFORMATION ON THESE CASES IS ASKED TO CONTACT THE CCSO MAJOR CRIMES TIP LINE AT 564-397-2847.**



# CCSO'S BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM



Recently, the Clark County Sheriff's Office successfully completed its Body-Worn Camera Project. CCSO has implemented body-worn cameras, in-car camera systems, and upgraded Taser less-lethal platforms. Additionally, the project expanded to include three interview room camera systems and a cutting-edge VR training program.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the members of the public who voted in favor of the Public Safety Tax that passed in 2022. This tax enabled the agency to purchase the equipment and hire the personnel needed to develop the program. CCSO would also like to thank Sheriff's Office personnel and other Clark County employees who played a pivotal role in the success of the Body-Worn Camera Project.

CCSO has already had several critical incidents that were captured by body-worn cameras, which provided the public and the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office a clear and transparent account of what occurred.

The Sheriff's Office looks forward to the positive impact this program will have on the community.

## CCSO'S NEW LOOK



CCSO has authorized deputies to wear cowboy hats while on duty (deputies used to wear them decades ago). These hats, which are not required, are purchased at the deputy's expense. They are available in three options for year-round use and a fourth option during the summer months.

From the suburbs to the farmlands, we are proud to serve *all* of our Clark County community!



# NEWSMAKERS

## CCSO IN THE HEADLINES

### FATHER'S DAY

Two of Clark County's finest were featured in a newspaper article for Father's Day. Deputy Bryson Layton and his father, Detective DuWayne Layton, share a calling to serve. They are the latest in a string of father-son duos to work at CCSO. Read their story [here](#).



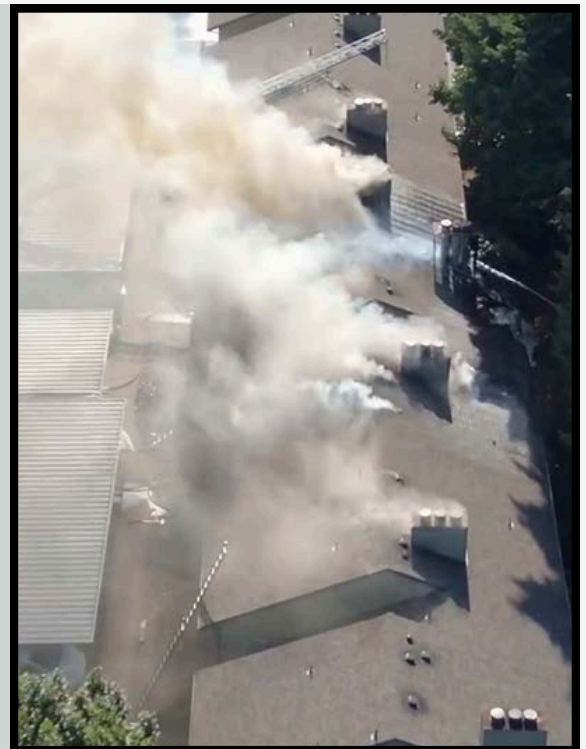
### SIU BUST

Following a three-month investigation, CCSO's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) executed a search warrant at a home in Salmon Creek and seized 60 pounds of methamphetamine, 1 pound of heroin, \$11,000 in cash, 3 handguns, 3 rifles, and 1 AK-47 (stolen from Portland, OR). Investigators arrested a suspect for Possession with intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, Possession with intent to Distribute Heroin, and Possession of a Stolen Firearm.

### APARTMENT FIRE

On June 12th, Clark County Sheriff's deputies responded to a three-alarm fire at an apartment complex in Hazel Dell. They quickly jumped into action, searching units and evacuating any residents still inside. Thankfully, no injuries were reported despite portions of the building later collapsing. Great teamwork by Clark County Fire District 6, the Vancouver Fire Department, Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue, and Portland Fire & Rescue in protecting lives and homes!

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)



# NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS



**CCSO HAS TRIPLED OUR NUMBER OF FEMALE DEPUTIES SINCE 2015. WE NOW HAVE THE MOST IN AGENCY HISTORY!**



## PROMOTED

Congratulations to Sergeants Fred Harrison, Jared Stevens and Rob Ternus! They were promoted to the rank of Sgt. in late 2023 and were formally sworn in this summer.

- Sgt. Harrison has worked for CCSO for 25 years. He has spent time in the Major Crimes Unit, was the team leader in the UAS cadre and has served as a Field Training Officer.
- Sgt. Stevens was hired by CCSO in 2007. He has worked on the Tactical Detective Unit, Major Crimes Unit and has served as a Field Training Officer.
- Sgt. Ternus started with CCSO in 2007 and has worked as a Drug Recognition Expert, Firearms Instructor and was honored five years in a row by the DUI Target Zero Task Force for his work in DUI Enforcement.



## TWO-TIME CHAMPS

CCSO secured first place in the 2nd annual Battle of the Badges competition in July! Sheriff Horch also took first place in the 'Chiefs Only' contest. CCSO won the event in 2023, and we are thrilled to take home the trophy yet again! Battle of the Badges is a wellness challenge between all law enforcement agencies in Clark County and puts the focus on officer/staff health and wellness.

# OUTREACH UPDATE

## Clark County Fair



The 2024 Clark County Fair takes place August 2nd - 11th, and as always, we will be there (with hats on)! Please stop by to say hi to our deputies, support staff and volunteers at the CCSO booth in the convention center!



## S.A.L.T. PICNIC

On July 22nd, we held our S.A.L.T. (Seniors And Law Enforcement Together) Picnic at Lacamas Lake Lodge in Camas. Clark County Law Enforcement leaders served a picnic lunch to dozens of seniors. S.A.L.T. has been a vital part of our community for decades, and brings together law enforcement and senior citizens in a unique and engaging way. The program aims to provide crime prevention education and reduce the fear of crime among seniors. It also offers valuable information on health and wellness and fosters networking opportunities with agencies that serve older adults. To learn more, visit [here](#).

## CITIZENS' ACADEMY

A SECOND CLASS IS SCHEDULED!!



CCSO is hosting a 2nd Citizens' Academy in 2024! Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings (6-9pm) starting September 10th and running through October 22nd. There will be one full-day class on Saturday, September 28th.

Our Spring 2024 class wrapped up in May after participants spent seven weeks learning about all areas of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. For their graduation night, participants got to watch a K9 and UAS demonstration and check out the inside of a patrol vehicle!

If you would like to participate in a future program, email:

[CntySheriff.CommunityOutreach@clark.wa.gov](mailto:CntySheriff.CommunityOutreach@clark.wa.gov) or visit the [CCSO Citizens' Academy website](#).





# HONORING OUR FALLEN



## SGT. JEREMY BROWN

July 23rd marked three years since Clark County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Jeremy Brown was murdered in the line of duty. Recently, the gym at the SW Washington Criminal Justice Training Center Campus was renamed in honor of Sgt. Brown. It is now called the 'Sgt. Jeremy Brown Memorial Gym.'

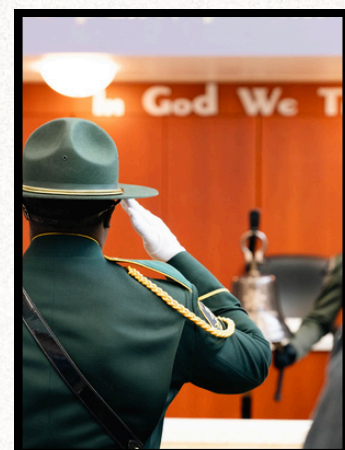


## SGT. BRAD CRAWFORD

July 30th marked 20 years since CCSO Sgt. Brad Crawford was killed in the line of duty. His daughter Cory shared some of her favorite memories of her beloved dad. Watch the story [here](#).

## LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The 2024 Clark County Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony took place today at the Public Service Center in downtown Vancouver on May 22nd. We honored the ten Law Enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty in Clark County, dating back to 1922. The ceremony also recognized the five police K9s who have died in the line of duty in Clark County. This ceremony was a way to pause and honor their selflessness, bravery and courage, and also to show support for the families left behind.



## NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

As part of National Police Week in May, several Clark County Sheriff's Office members traveled to Washington, D.C. to honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. We are thankful for all the men and women who proudly serve their communities with courage and bravery, and we pay tribute to those who gave their lives in the line of duty.

# IN THE COMMUNITY



We wanted to celebrate the end of the 2024 school year by having some fun with the 2nd-grade class at Pioneer Elementary School! We tasked the students with interviewing Deputy Chris Pizan, who has been visiting their classroom each month throughout the school year as part of PAL Patrol.

PAL Patrol is a program offered by the Police Activities League of SW Washington, and pairs law enforcement officers with classrooms for a school year. CCSO Dep. Pizan partnered with Mrs. Duncan's 2nd-grade class this year, where he taught the students about different topics and created positive relationships.

Watch the interview [here](#).

## PAL PATROL



## CAMP ROSENBAUM



IN JULY, SEVERAL DEPUTIES ATTENDED CAMP ROSENBAUM, A SUMMER CAMP FOR YOUTH.

## PAL + CCSO MCU HIGH SCHOOL CSI CAMP



CCSO'S MAJOR CRIMES UNIT TEAMED UP WITH PAL TO HOST A CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION CAMP FOR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

# Did You Know?



## What is the difference between a Sheriff and a Police Chief?

In Washington State, a Sheriff is a county's highest-ranking law enforcement officer. Chiefs of Police, on the other hand, are municipal employees who owe their allegiance to a city and are often appointed by the Mayor, City Manager, and/or City Councils. A Sheriff reports directly to the citizens, whereas a Police Chief can report to multiple government officials. A term for a Police Chief is discretionary, and they serve at the will of their appointing entity.

## How long is the term of office for a Sheriff?

Sheriffs are typically elected to four-year terms.

## What is the difference between a Sheriff's Office and a Police Department?

The Office of Sheriff is not simply another "department" of county government. The internal operation of an Office of Sheriff is the sole responsibility of the elected Sheriff. County department heads are subordinate to a county governing body because a "department" is merely a division of county government. The Office of Sheriff is a statutory/constitutional office with exclusive powers and authority under state law and state constitution. These inherent powers are not subject to the dictates of a local county governing body.

The term "Department" implies being a subordinate unit of government, whereas "Office" implies inherent powers and independent sovereignty.

*(Information from the National Sheriff's Association)*





## JOB OPENINGS AT CCSO

KNOW ANYONE LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER?

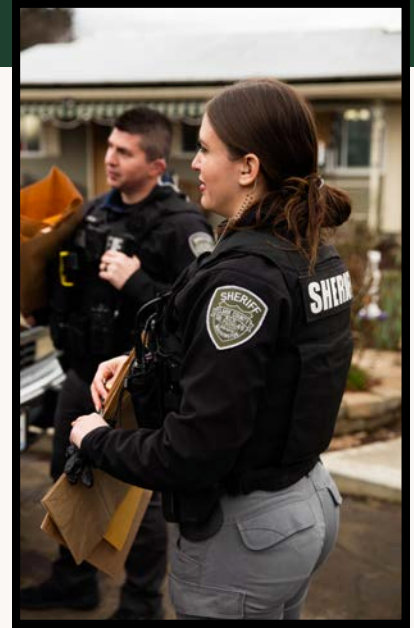
The Clark County Sheriff's Office is currently recruiting for the following positions:

**Deputy Sheriff (13 positions)**

**Support Specialist II/III (4 positions)**

So far in 2024, CCSO has hired 27 employees, including 11 Deputies, 14 Support Specialists and two Cadets.

If you know someone who would be interested in applying, tell them to visit our [recruiting website!](#)



## CCSO Explorer Post 893

DETECTIVE LAYTON: DUWAYNE.LAYTON@CLARK.WA.GOV

CCSO Explorer Post 893 is currently accepting applications. The program is designed to help teens and young adults (15.5-21 years old) interested in law enforcement learn about the career field. Explorers get to do ride-a-longs with Deputy Sheriffs and take part in police tactics training, law enforcement competitions, and community service events.





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FOLLOW CCSO ON SOCIAL MEDIA



REMINDER: YOU CAN READ THE CCSO ACTION PLAN [HERE](#).  
YOU CAN FIND QUARTER 2 UPDATES TO THE ACTION PLAN  
[HERE](#).



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office  
Voice 564.397.2322/ Relay 711 or 800.833.6388

Fax 564.397.6165/ Email [ADA@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@clark.wa.gov)