

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Annual Report is written to describe our accomplishments and to highlight the department overall. It is in hopes that in providing this information we share the efforts of the sworn personnel as they continue to provide the most professional services and quality law enforcement available to our citizens of the county.

## **GEOGRAPHY AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

Charlotte County is located in the south central part of the Commonwealth of Virginia with a total area of 478 square miles. The county population is approximately 12,586.

## **SHERIFF**

Royal S. Freeman was elected Sheriff of Charlotte County in November 2019 and took office January 2020. Royal S. Freeman was born and raised in Charlotte County, Virginia. He is a graduate of Randolph-Henry High School, Southside Virginia Community College, Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy, Virginia Forensic Science Academy, and has attended many other schools and training facilities. Royal began his career in 1988 with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office as a jailor. He moved to the position of Patrol Deputy, then promoted to the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Major. Freeman was an elected and served member on the 2016-2019 Charlotte County Board of Supervisors serving for the Bacon/Saxe District of the county.

## **MISSION**

The mission of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office: The members of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office shall, through a partnership with the citizens of our community, provide for the highest possible degree of protection for the county residents, guests and their properties. The Charlotte Sheriff's Office shall endeavor to develop community responsibilities devoted to the reduction of crime and the enhancement of public safety. These efforts shall include problem solving strategies, crime analysis, crime suppression and crime prevention techniques, a business/ community/law enforcement alliance and other approaches designed to establish an environment where the criminal element will not prosper.

## **EMPLOYEES**

The Sheriff's Office consist of 49 employees (40 full time and 9 part time).

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

In 2021 the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office saw a few changes in administration. J.R. Grissom serves as Major, J.A. Colbert serves as Patrol Captain, R.T. Elder serves as Investigative Captain. J.D. Jones serves as Captain over Court, and T.G. Dix serves as Jail Captain. Two new patrol vehicles were replaced in 2021. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office obtained new body worn cameras for patrol. A new radio communication system was acquired by the county.

## **ACCREDITATION**

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office received their re-accreditation status from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission in January 2019. The Sheriff's Office received their initial accreditation in January of 2007 and their first reaccreditation in January of 2011 followed by another reaccreditation in 2015 and 2019. Being an accredited agency is an ongoing program for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office that began in January 2005. The Virginia Law Enforcement Standards Commission sets forth the highest of standards to be followed. Even though the terms run four years, proper documentation and inspections are done and accounted for on a yearly basis. There are 190 Standards, which include Administration, Operations, Personnel, and Training. The proofs and documentation used came from the day-to-day activities and operations of the jail/dispatch staff, the road staff, the tactical team, investigations, evidence custodians, school resource officers and supervisors. The Sheriff's Office has to be in full compliance with all 190 standards to receive their re-accreditation status. C.M. Dunn serves as Accreditation Manager for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and is responsible for maintaining the files and proofs.

## **INVESTIGATIONS**

Investigation handles all major crimes against persons and property. Investigators are specially trained in forensic science, latent prints, gang crimes, and crime scene investigations. The investigators have been trained and completed graduation from the Virginia Forensic Science Academy. The Criminal Investigations Division consists of Lieutenant of Investigations, R.T. Elder and Captain of Investigations, J.O. Wright until Wright's retirement. In 2021, 98 cases ranging from fraud, serious assaults, to property crimes, to murder, were worked by investigations. Cases were handled according to policy.

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office has one investigator, R.M. Kolich, assigned to the Tri-County Drug and Gang Task Force which is comprised of narcotics investigators from the Lunenburg County Sheriff's Office, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, and the Virginia State Police. There were 45 felony arrest and 6 search warrants completed by the task force in 2021.

## **PATROL DIVISION**

Captain J.A. Colbert oversees the Patrol Division of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. Patrol deputies engage in a wide variety of activities including enforcement of traffic and criminal laws, answering complaints, conducting investigations, community relations activities, transporting prisoners, and crime prevention. In 2021, there were 372 arrest made, 646 warrants served and 3314 civil papers served. The Patrol Division conducted checking details when possible in the county, due to COVID-19 issues. Policy and Procedures of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office were properly followed.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICE**

The School Resource Officer Program is to provide armed physical on site security and safety to the counties elementary, middle and high schools. The goal of this program is to foster positive interactions between students, parents and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office by being a positive and supportive resource for the citizens of the county to call upon. Deputy L.E. Scruggs serves as the elementary education SRO for the counties three elementary Schools, Deputy J. DeSantis serves as the middle school SRO and Deputy J.A. Jones serves the high school SRO.

**PROJECT LIFESAVER**

The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, Autism, and other related conditions or disorders. Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small personal transmitter around the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal. Deputy L.E. Scruggs heads the program and in 2021 there were 4 individual enrolled.