

**“When you make a commitment, you
build hope. When you keep it, you build
trust”**

- Stephen Covey



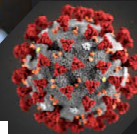
Halifax County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Wes Tripp

Good (morning/afternoon/evening)! I come to you to present to you the state of the Sheriff's Office 2021. This has been another interesting year to say the least. This year has challenged us again. We have had to be innovative and we have had to rely on partnerships and prayer to get us through. As we continue to deal with affects from the Coronavirus we must continue to find ways to be considerate and respectful regarding public funds. As I have stated many times, I pride myself on running the Sheriff's Office as a business. I want to get the best return possible on the counties investment in this office. I

hope that this presentation shows you exactly how well your Sheriff's Office is doing. Thank you for your attention and I welcome any questions along the way.

COVID-19

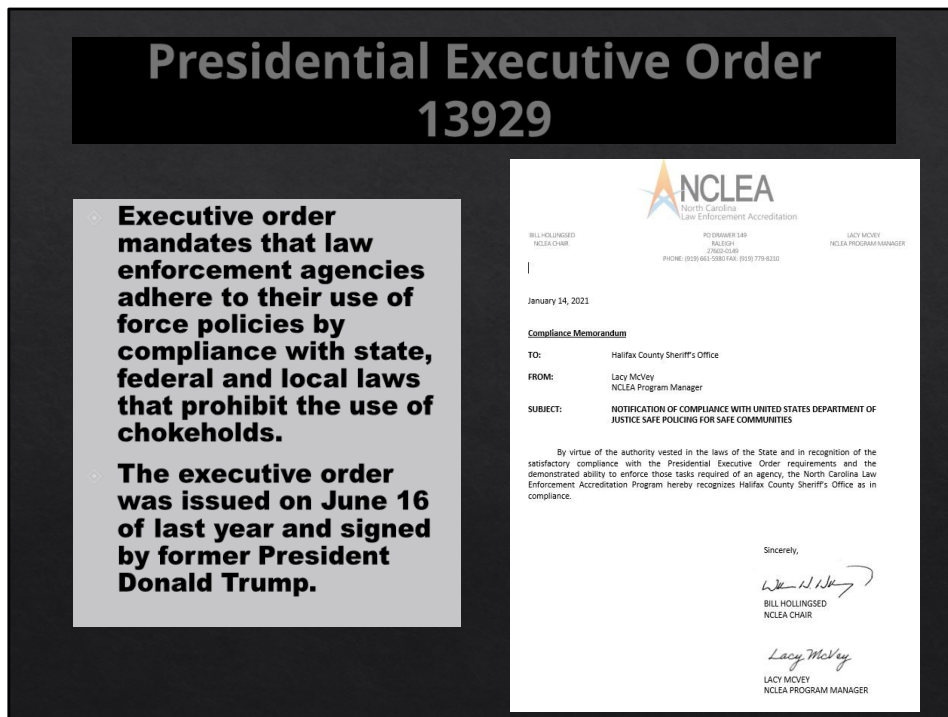
- Goal for 2021: Maintain a healthy staff and inmate population.
- Disruption in services, but we found ways to work around this.
- Partnership with Halifax County Health Department and others.
- Worked with the District Attorney and Judges to address concerns.



I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to of the medical professionals who we have partnered with this year. This includes our Emergency Services, Vidant North, and many others. A tremendous thank you is again extended to county Health Director, Bruce Robistow and his incredible staff for their continued hard work during this pandemic experience. Bruce and his staff have always been responsive to questions and concerns from this office. They assisted us more than I can put into words.

As with every other department Covid-19 followed us into 2021. As it did in 2020, it continued to have a tremendous impact on the daily operations of your Sheriff's Office. From dealing with employee exposures, managing processes to protect inmates and the public, and to finding continued innovative ways to conduct business this office has had to be extremely creative. Teamwork is the word that I think of when I think of how we dealt, and continue to deal with the pandemic. Our team helped to manage our response to the virus by working to ensure we had proper and effective PPE for not just employees, but for guests and inmates. We were very fortunate to continue to receive many donations of PPE. The public again in 2021 were very responsive and showed great resolve in helping to protect us. It was comforting to see so many businesses and citizens step in and show compassion for my staff. I will forever be grateful for that. Thanks to everyone that helped. We also assisted the Bruce and his staff at the Health Department with security as they launched the highly anticipated vaccine rollout. Several of my staff, as well as myself, participated with the vaccine, and later in the year with the booster.

Disruption in services are not normally possible in law enforcement work. Like 2020, we had some again in 2021. We had to make the continued decision to limit some of our services in order to better consider the safety and health of our staff, inmates and the public. Some examples of this is that we actually have eliminated face-to-face visitation with inmates from the public. We now offer a virtual service which I will discuss more later. This service has been very helpful with making the detention center safer, but also making sure inmate exposure and possible contamination of the jail with the virus was limited. However, no matter how much we tried to keep Covid-19 out of the Halifax County Jail it managed to find its way into the facility. Several inmates and detention staff succumbed to the virus, but fortunately very few required extensive medical care. Most importantly we had zero loss of life to staff or inmates. Incredibly, in 2020 across the country 253 law enforcement and detention officers lost their lives to the virus (<https://www.odmp.org/search/year/2020>). By the grace of God, we did not have to experience that loss at this office.



On June 16, 2020 former President Donald Trump signed “Presidential Executive Order 13929”. This order mandates that law enforcement agencies adhere to their use of force policies by compliance with state, federal and local laws that prohibit the use of chokeholds. On January 14th we received notification from the North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation program that we had been deemed to be in compliance with the Executive Order. We were the first law enforcement agency in Halifax County to receive this compliance acknowledgement. Receiving this “Notification of Compliance” with the USDOJ Safe Policing for Safe Communities

Memorandum demonstrates the Halifax County Sheriff's Office's ongoing commitment to ensure we preserve the positive and professional relationship with our community. It further supports our continued efforts to adhere to federal, state and local laws. The Halifax County Sheriff's Office is determined to remain transparent and hope that this "Notification of Compliance" demonstrates this devotion to the safety of all of our citizens while ensuring that we make appropriate law enforcement decisions as we move forward.

Furthermore, not necessarily mentioned in this Executive Order is the action that deputies must take when they see a fellow officer going too far. I watched in 2020 as George Floyd died violently from a chokehold performed by a stupid officer. What disgusted me the most is that other officer just stood by and watched that happen. I can assure you that I will not stand for that type of behavior. I would not stand for it in 2020 and I will not stand for it in 2021. Our policy at the Halifax County Sheriff's Office dictates that deputies must report to their supervisor when they witness another deputy go too far with use of force. We call this a duty to intervene. To support this I now have a person that works internal affairs matters that answers directly to my Chief Deputy. When we receive a complaint it is investigated with vigilance and rigor. We want the truth. If one of my deputies does something wrong we will deal with it you can rest assured of that. I will, and have

always continue to be vigilant in my efforts to be professional and transparent with the public.

This “Notification of Compliance”, and our policy regarding the duty to intervene should stand as proof to our citizens that we are what we say we are. On our website (www.halifaxncsheriff.com) we cite our core values of professionalism, respect, integrity, dedication and excellence. The acronym of PRIDE is something that we can continue to use to show our citizens, and the people that travel in and through our county, how committed we are. This compliance is a big deal for the Halifax County Sheriff’s Office. It is our opportunity to be an example for others.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Senior Check Program

Maintain Substations:
Tomahawk Meadows in
Hollister, Littleton Volunteer
Fire Department on Oak
Grove Church Road,
Dogwood Park Apartments
in South Weldon and Added
Victory Baptist Church in
Roanoke Rapids

Expanded business security
checks to residences

Added deputy pick-up to
existing medicine drop
program.



SAFELY dispose of unused medicines.



Community engagement is quite simply the involvement and participation of this organization with the purpose of protecting the welfare of those who live in this community. Community Engagement is one of the most important things we do at the Sheriff's Office. I would like to take the opportunity to break these up into three segments. The first segment is to highlight programs that we have implemented and enhanced that serve specific populations. For example, a few years ago we initiated the senior check program. We will call

seniors between 8 and 5, Mon – Fri. If we are unable to reach the senior we will call the emergency contact. If the emergency contact person does not know where the senior is we will send a deputy to check on them. We have sign-up forms for this program on our website (<https://www.halifaxncsheriff.com/resources/senior-check-program>) . These forms can be returned to the Halifax County Sheriff's Office by email to Chief Deputy Scott Hall halls@halifaxnc.com or Major Neil Aycock aycockn@halifaxnc.com). The completed forms can also be faxed to 252-583-2698 or can be personally delivered to the Sheriff's Office. The seniors we call enjoy these calls and we find this very rewarding. Serving the eldest in our community is an exceptional service that we love doing.

We maintain substations across the county in an attempt to better serve certain communities. We have found that these locations allow deputies meeting areas, and provide resources that are specific to the communities they are serving.

Our security check program is very successful. The

Halifax County Sheriff's Office is committed to protecting the property of its citizens. If you own a house or building within Halifax County and need your property checked for a brief period of time, fill out a request so that we can randomly check on your property during the specified times. Forms can be found on our website

(<https://www.halifaxncsheriff.com/resources/security-check-program>) and can be returned to the Halifax County Sheriff's Office by email to Chief Deputy Scott Hall halls@halifaxnc.com or Major Neil

Aycock aycockn@halifaxnc.com). The completed forms can also be faxed to 252-583-2698 or can be personally delivered to the Sheriff's Office.

Homeowners and business owners rave on how pleased they are knowing their property has been checked.

Operation Medicine Drop is yet another way we are engaging with our community. The opioid epidemic is not only a National crisis but a Halifax County crisis as well. An average of 4 people per day are dying from overdose in NC with 79% of those deaths involving some type of opioid. According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.7 million

people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription tranquilizers or sedatives in 2019. Drugs not properly disposed of may end up getting into the wrong hands or end up in our water system. Since its inception in North Carolina more than 266 million pills have been taken in as part of this program. In Halifax County we participated in two national “Take Back Day” events. One was April 24 and the last was October 23. There are for 24-hour drop-off locations at the Halifax County Sheriff’s Office, Weldon Police Department, Roanoke Rapids Police Department, and the Scotland Neck Police Department. There is another that is open from Monday-Friday 9:30 am – 5:30 pm and Saturday 9:30 am – noon at Futrell Pharmacy in Littleton.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Continued

- Increased patrols throughout the county
- Improved visibility of deputies throughout the county
- Fostered Neighborhood Watches throughout the county
- Working closer with local, state, and federal agencies
- Enhanced sex offender program to assign offenders to deputies to increase the frequency of checks



The second segment of community engagement involves us using resources, networks, partnerships and technology to serve our citizens. We utilize social media, our website, and other resources to highlight interactions and tools that are available to the community. Our neighborhood watch program and community events have been successful in building trust and continued partnerships. We also provide a free service called “ReportIt.” This service is provided to everyone in this county because we want citizens to be prepared in the event of a theft or loss. It's a proactive tool that allows citizens to easily

catalog information about their valuables. This includes serial numbers, owner applied numbers, photos of property and scans of receipts. It's completely internet-based, so citizens never have to worry about losing the data they have saved. More information about "ReportIt" can be found on our website (www.halifaxncsheriff.com/resources/report-it-know-what-you-own). A strong part of law enforcement is to build community engagement. By using these tools and resources we have definitely expanded our level of service to our citizens.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Continued

- Focused on maintaining our efforts with our "Benefitting the Children of Halifax County Campaign."
- We have established a Food Pantry on site at the Sheriff's Office to assist families in need.
- We have continued our efforts with our Annual "Toy Drive" and "Coat Drive" campaigns.
- We have assisted in several Fund Raisers to help our local citizens with specific needs; raising several thousands of dollars to assist our kids.



The last segment of community engagement involves our programs. The benefitting the children of Halifax County program has benefitted many children over the years. We have collected school supplies, coats, toys and many other items that are needed by so many of our population. According to the US Census Bureau, around 25% of our children live in poverty. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to serve this children. We also have a successful food pantry that provides needed nutrition to people in need. We often come into contact with citizens who have nothing to eat. We

have collected food so that it can be given to these citizens until arrangements can be made to better serve them with other county resources. Lastly, we have fund raisers each year to pay for summer Sheriff's Camp. Even though this years event was slightly modified to protect the children from exposure to Covid-19 it was still a success. We served over 40 kids this summer. We provided them instruction on the science behind law enforcement. From crime scenes, to arson, to DNA camp participants were exposed to many forensic related topics. This, as every year, was a successful camp.

HomeWAV / Paytel

- User spent \$181,291.30 for HomeWAV and Paytel in 2021.
- In 2021 inmates made 51,839 video calls that lasted a collective 293,334 minutes using HomeWAV in 2021.
- The HomeWAV application (APP) was downloaded by 4,038 users.
- In 2021 inmates made 67,781 voice calls that lasted a collective 497,328 minutes using PayTel.



Video visitation has been extremely successful. It has several benefits. First, our detention staff do not need to coordinate in-person visits. This limits the amount of contact that they have with the public. In times such as we are living in now with the pandemic this is extremely helpful. It also provides security for detention officers due to the fact that they do not have to be escorting inmates to and from their cells to the visitation room. Second, inmates actually have more time now to speak with family and friend using HomeWAV. This service is not free.

The creation of an account is free, however, the fees and services are between 10 and 30 cents per minute depending on the type of video call being made. The maximum duration of a video visitation is 20 minutes. Only one visit per week per number is allowed. Each cell block has a kiosk that contains the video system. An inmate schedules a call 24-hours in advance and then users from outside the facility can call in and participate in face-to-face video visits. Video visitation hours are everyday 7:00 am – 9:30 pm. There is an on-site kiosk at the Sheriff's Office that can be used for free. The hours for the on-site kiosk are Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. The same scheduling and duration of call rules apply even to the on-site kiosk. Inmates and callers must abide by a strict and enforced conduct and dress policy. This policy can be found on our website at (www.halifaxncsheriff.com/detention-center/video-visitation).

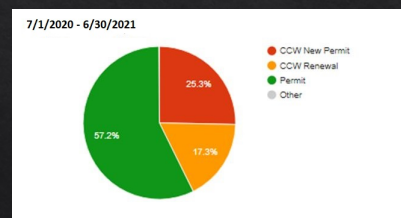
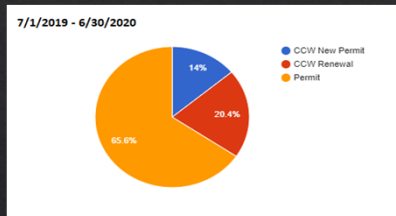
In 2021 individuals that used our HomeWAV (or video visitation) system and our Paytel (voice phone call) system spent \$181,291.30. A portion of the Paytel costs goes into the general fund, and beginning in

2023 a portion of HomeWAV will as well. Inmates that used the HomeWAV system spent a combined 293,334 minutes using the video visitation system. Furthermore, inmates that used the Paytel system spend a combined 497,328 minutes using the voice system. A combined 119,620 video and voice calls were made using both systems.

GUN PERMITS

• We had a total of 1,930 purchase permit requests from 6/30/2020-7/1/2021. This is a 24.8% increase from the previous year. Our approval rate was 45.1% which was up 7.4% from 2020. Purchase permits made up 57.2% of our permit business.

• CCW requests increased by 47.4%. We had 1,440 requests and renewals from 6/30/2020-7/1/2021. Our approval rate was 93.2% which was up 59.4% from 2020. CCW permits made up 42.8% of our permit business.



This year has been another record-breaking year for gun permit applications. These are permits to purchase a firearm. We had over 1,930 permit application requests. This is a 24.8-percent increase from the previous year. It must be stressed that just because you make an application for the permit does not mean that you will be approved. In fact, this past year we approved 57.2% of applications which is up 7.4% from 2020. People are often denied for various reasons to include past criminal history, mental health complications, and

other factors. Even though the rules are clear we still have people attempt to get a permit. We do our due diligence to make sure only the appropriate citizen gets access to a permit. Gun permits make up 57.2% of our permit business.

Another permit we provide is the CCW permit. This is much harder to obtain and requires several additional steps than simply applying for it. You have to complete a firearms course, and are required to go through a stricter background process. This past year we actually saw a 47.4% increase in CCW applications. This increase is possibly related to the fact that we suspended new CCW permits in 2020 for Covid-19 reasons for two months. As with our gun permits, we use standards to make sure that those approved for CCW permits are handled with similar due diligence standards. We saw a 93.2% approval rate with these requests which is up 59.4% from 2020. Again, the significant difference may be related to the Covid-19 suspensions of the CCW new permit process. CCW permits make up 42.8% of our permit business.

MEASURING CRIME

Crime Measurement Index.
Halifax County is 29.7%
higher than the national
average. This is a decrease
of 6.8% from 2020

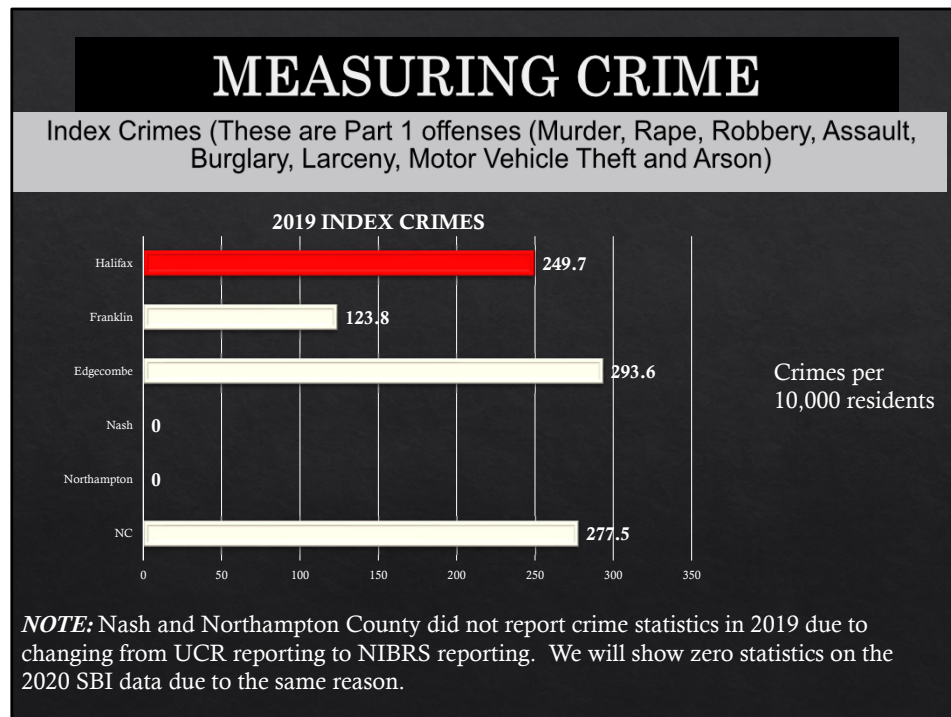


CMI Factor	Halifax County CMI%	U.S.CMI%
1. Males Aged 15-19	6 %	6.5 %
2. High School Dropout Rate	23.9%	16.3 %
3. Single-Parent Households	28.3 %	19.2 %
4. Poverty Rate	25.8 %	13.4 %
5. Unemployment Rate	5.7 %	4.6 %
Total	89.7 %	60 %

SOURCE:
<https://data.census.gov/>

One of the ways to look at crime is the Crime Measurement Index. This takes into account five specific factors. 1. Males aged 15-19, 2. High School Dropout Rate, 3. Single-Parent Households, 4. Poverty Rate, and 5. Unemployment Rate. Halifax County is 29.7% higher than the US average. In order to correct this, we must address these five factors as a county. Leaders must address these demographic, educational, social, and economic factors if we want to reduce our situation. The factors are not a law enforcement-controlled factor. We need assistance. That is why strong

community engagement is so very important.



Index crimes are part 1 offenses and specifically are Murder, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson. As you can see Halifax has a rate of 249.7 crimes per 10,000 residents. This is comparison to:

North Carolina: 277.5 crimes per 10,000 people

Northampton County: Did not report to the NCSBI in 2019

Nash County: Did not report to the NCSBI in 2019

Edgecombe County: 293.6 crimes per 10,000 people

Franklin County: 123.8 crimes per 10,000 people

We actually saw a 25.8% decrease from the 2018 index crimes which were 333.8.

Note: The NCSBI releases crime data every October. It is always a full 24-months behind.

MEASURING CRIME

Violent Crime



NOTE: Nash and Northampton County did not report crime statistics in 2019 due to changing from UCR reporting to NIBRS reporting. We will show zero statistics on the 2020 SBI data due to the same reason.

Violent crimes are crimes that have an assaultive nature. As you can see Halifax has a rate of 52.1 crimes per 10,000 residents. This is comparison to:

North Carolina: 45.1 crimes per 10,000 people

Northampton County: Did not report to the NCSBI in 2019

Nash County: Did not report to the NCSBI in 2019

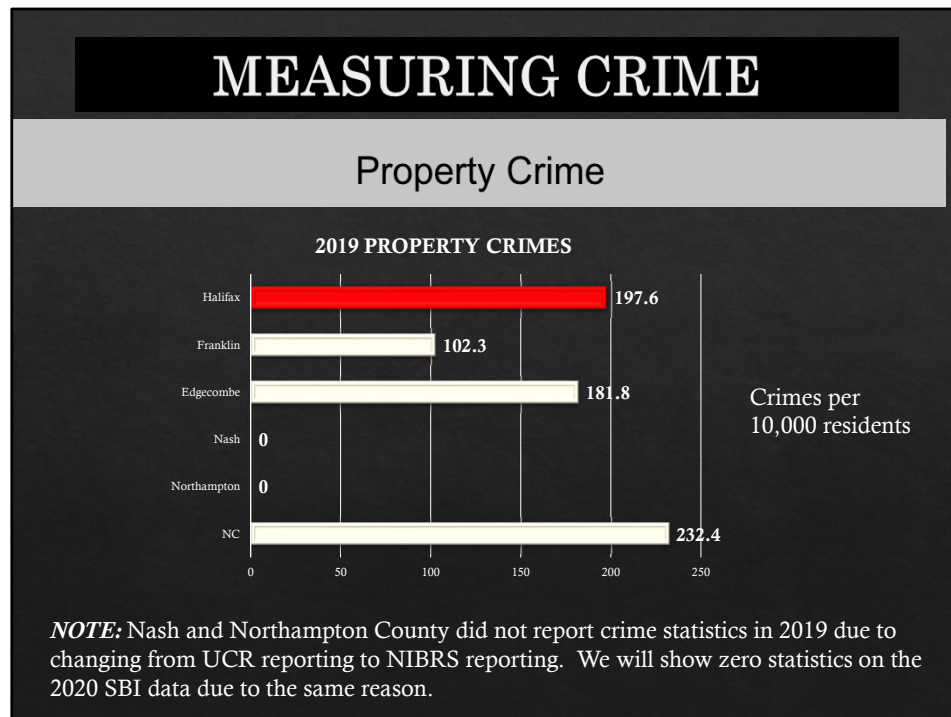
Edgecombe County: 118.8 crimes per 10,000

people

Franklin County: 21.4 crimes per 10,000 people

We actually saw a 22.5% increase from the 2018 index crimes which were 40.4%.

Note: The NCSBI releases crime data every October. It is always a full 24-months behind.



Property crimes are crimes that include theft, embezzlement and fraud. As you can see Halifax has a rate of 197.6 crimes per 10,000 residents. This is comparison to:

North Carolina: 232.4 crimes per 10,000 people

Northampton County: Did not report to the NCSBI in 2019

Nash County: Did not report to the NCSBI in 2019

Edgecombe County: 181.8 crimes per 10,000

people

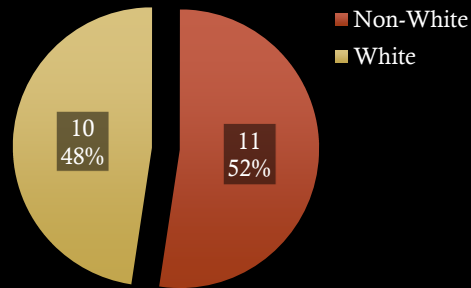
Franklin County: 102.3 crimes per 10,000 people

We actually saw a 32.7% decrease from the 2018 index crimes which were 293.3.

Note: The NCSBI releases crime data every October. It is always a full 24-months behind.

Diversity Matrix by Race

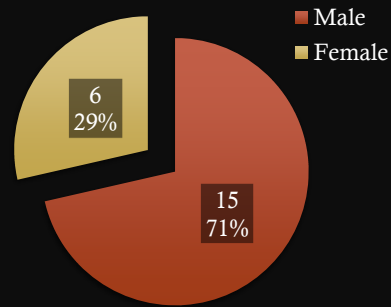
- Halifax County Sheriff's Office seeks to be representative of its community.
- Employees are evaluated and promoted strictly on performance and experience, without regard to race, gender, or other unrelated characteristics.
- At present, 52% of our Supervisors are minorities, including Black, Hispanic and Native American employees.
- The Sheriff's Office employs members of our community from all communities within the county.



The Sheriff's Office strives to be representative of the community. This includes being a diverse organization. 52% of supervisors at the Sheriff's Office are minorities. As Sheriff I have demanded that we look like the people we serve. Halifax County has a population of around 50,010 people. 39.9% of people are white, 53.8% black, 4.1% American Indian, and 3.1% Hispanic.

Diversity Matrix by Gender

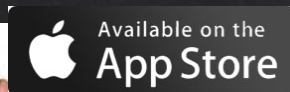
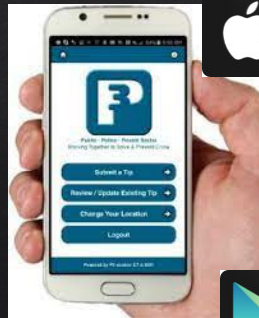
- Halifax County Sheriff's Office seeks to be representative of its community.
- Employees are evaluated and promoted strictly on performance and experience, without regard to race, gender, or other unrelated characteristics.
- At present, 29% of our Supervisors are female employees.
- The Sheriff's Office employs members of our community from all communities within the county.



As with race the Sheriff's Office strives to be representative of the community. This includes being a diverse organization from a gender perspective. 51.8% of residents are female.

Crime Stoppers

- In 2021 the Halifax County Sheriff's Office became the liaison law enforcement agency that handles crime stoppers tips.
- Transitioned to a tip reporting application known as P3.
- Paid out over \$5,000 in 2021.



Halifax County Crime Stoppers is a program that allows a member of the community to provide anonymous information about criminal activity in the area. A person can provide crime-solving assistance to the authorities without being directly involved in the investigation process and in some cases become eligible for a reward if the reported information results in an arrest. The Halifax County Crime Stoppers recognizes that someone other than criminals may have information about crime and relies on information from the public.

The P3 platform enables the public to share information anonymously with Crime Stoppers programs, Law Enforcement entities, schools, and large corporations around the world. If you have crime or safety-related information that may be deemed useful in your community, submit a tip via this web page – or download the P3 Tips App via the links on this page.

The P3 application can be downloaded from iTunes and Google Play. You can also find a link on our webpage at:

(www.halifaxncsheriff.com/resources/halifax-county-nc-crime-stoppers)

Goals

- To continue to increase starting pay to be competitive with neighboring counties.
- Enhance recruitment strategies.
- Explore technological enhancements.
- Mental health training for both Sheriff and Detention Center employees.



Halifax County has an estimated population of 50,000 residents. Furthermore, thousands of people pass through our county each day utilizing one of the major state highways or I-95. It is critical that we set goals for 2022 so that we can serve all of these populations. In 2022 my goal is to:

(1) To continue to request that the county increase starting pay so that we are competitive with neighboring counties.

(2) Enhance recruitment strategies so that we can overcome attrition and the shortages we have had in 2021.

(3) There are amazing technological enhancements happening every day. We would like to explore these to make this office more efficient, productive and competitive.

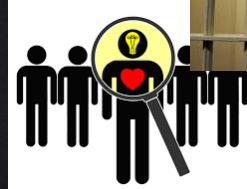
(4) Mental health training for both Sheriff and Detention Center employees is something we started in 2021 and would like to continue it. Several legislative edicts and other policy decisions have been made that are directly related to this.

CONCERNS

- High crime rate relative to location and population.
- Limited number of certified applicants for Deputy and Jail positions.
- Increased number of transport trips for inmates and involuntary commitments as a result of changes to the mental health system and limitations on jail capacity.
- Aging detention center in need of repairs.
- Turnover rate is having costly impacts on our staff.



CRIME
RATE



Although improvements have been seen, crime is too high in Halifax County. Especially with regards to property crime. We will continue to find ways to get the public involved so that we can reduce these numbers. Recruiting staff remains a major concern. We have to find ways to get quality staff to come and stay. I mentioned this in a previous slide. With mental health and substance abuse rates being higher than in past years we continue to work with partners and other stakeholders to deal with these problems using a human-touch and a dedication to public safety. Our detention center is aging. I

realize the expansion project is not going to happen. I get it! However, we have to find ways to enhance what we have. This building is old and needs improvements. Recently we had a jail inspection and have been advised that we have major detention center enhancements that must occur. I ask that you please consider those and understand that these are **needs** not wants. I want to thank the County Manager for his leadership with the Enterprise Fleet Vehicle Leasing pilot program. It has been very successful. Our motor vehicle fleet is in bad shape, but the leased vehicle program is helping. I hope that we continue with the purchasing plan over the next two years. The average amount of miles on our vehicles is 150,000. This is a safety concern, and I appreciate you stepping up and seeing this need. This is another suggestion of innovation and out of the box thinking that I have been referring to. We all know how tight things are, and I appreciate you putting this as a priority.

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

- Coretta Scott King



Thank you for your time. This is my last opportunity to give you an update of the progress of the Sheriff's Office. As you all know I am retiring in late June of 2022. I have devoted almost four decades to service of Halifax County. It was always my goal to leave this place better than I found it. I couldn't have done that without the hard work of my staff, and the support of the people of this great county. I appreciate you all for allowing me time to give you a summary of just some of what we accomplished this year. I hope that you all realize that you have fantastic people working 24-hours a day, through

holidays, through terrible weather and under often miserable conditions just to keep you safe. These men and women leave their families not knowing if they will return home. They could make a fine living doing something else, but they decided to dedicate themselves to you. They give you everything. I just want you to understand this and appreciate all that they sacrifice so that you all can go home each night and sleep with your loving families. God bless you, and thank you for your time.