



CITY OF GROVELAND

Police Department 2021 Annual Report



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Current City Council & Mayor



Evelyn Wilson
Mayor, District 1
Evelyn.Wilson@groveland-fl.gov



Mike Radzik
Vice Mayor - District 2
Mike.Radzik@groveland-fl.gov



Barbara Gaines
Council Member - District 3
Barbara.Gaines@groveland-fl.gov



Richard Skyzinski
Council Member - District 4
Richard.Skyzinski@groveland-fl.gov



Dina Sweatt
Council Member - District 5
Dina.Sweatt@groveland-fl.gov

Founded in 1922, Groveland consists of about 55 square miles with 6,600 acres of open water. Groveland is located in central Florida and borders Clermont and Mascotte in Lake County. It is situated just 35 miles from Walt Disney World and about 33 miles west of Orlando. For July 2021, Groveland's population estimate is 20,398.

Groveland is experiencing rapid growth. Its population has nearly tripled in the past 12 years, and city leaders have embarked on a strategic plan to intentionally shape the community's future growth. The city has been successful attracting industry with the location of a Kroger facility that employs 800 people. In addition, Groveland is also home to Cherry Lake, a former citrus farm and now one of the country's largest ornamental tree nurseries with 1,800 acres. The City of Groveland and Backyard Farm Express collaborate on an aquaponic farm raising both fish and vegetables in a soil-less system.

Groveland is garnering attention for its safety, diversity, affordability, rural lifestyle, and natural beauty. The city has 11 parks with a centerpiece waterfront park at Lake David complete with an amphitheater, splash pad, skate park, boat ramp, boardwalk, sports courts, a playground, historic Works Progress Administrations (WPA) building and walking trails.

In January of 2021, the City of Groveland worked with the Florida Department of Health and Amazon to provide COVID-19 immunizations at the Amazon distribution site in Groveland. Members with the Groveland Police Department and the Groveland Fire Department worked at the site.

While the City of Groveland is fast becoming a premier city, Groveland continues to maintain a reputation as the 'City with Natural Charm.'

Chief's Message



It is an honor to be working with the City of Groveland and to be leading its Police Department. This report is one of which we are very proud, it is our 2021 Annual Report, and I hope that everyone who reads it takes as much pride in their police department as I do. Over the preceding five years, we have come a long way, and I am excited as we move forward, and continue our efforts to be the best police department in Central Florida.

Groveland continues to grow leaps and bounds and with such growth comes many complexities and strains. I am thankful for a Mayor, City Council, and City Manager, who recognize the essential nature of the police department's mission and supports us with the tools necessary to maintain the high level of excellence Groveland deserves.

2021 marked significant milestones for the Groveland Police Department. In March we moved into a new public safety complex, we became state accredited through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, which was a testament to our professionalism. In addition, we initiated unprecedented programs in police training and community outreach that were designed to instill citizen satisfaction in their police department.

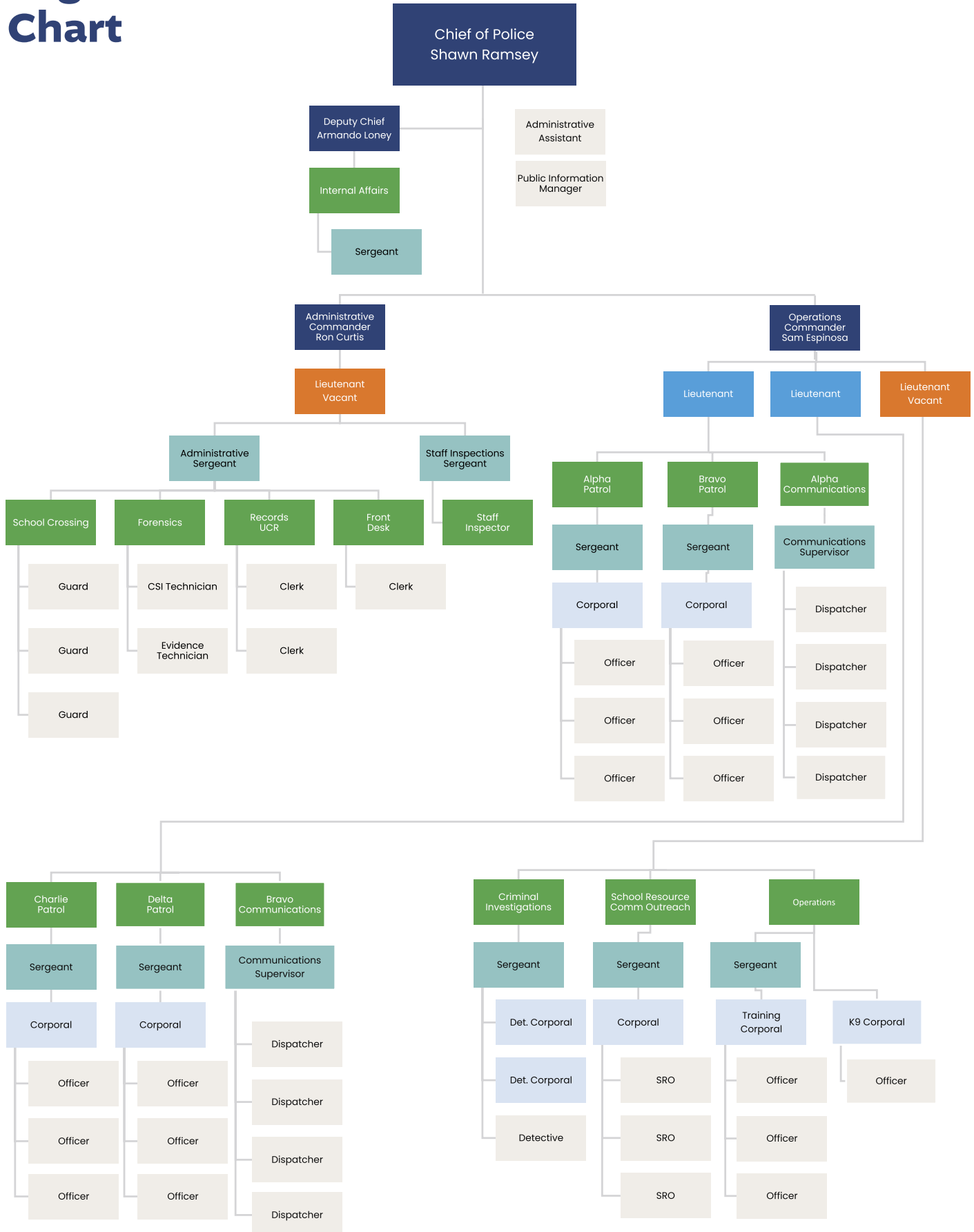
Please take a moment to read our 2021 Annual Report, you will see how the Police Department has adjusted to growth, and how it has grown itself. You will see how we responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the global conversations about the very role of police in American society. You will see how the staff of this department met all challenges presented to them, and how they, alongside the members of their community, kept Groveland, the City with Natural Charm, safe in 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Chief Shawn Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Police Chief Shawn Ramsey

Organizational Chart



Core Values



Professionalism

We value professionalism and represent it with every action, and every word, in all of our daily behaviors.



Integrity

We value integrity and ensure that the integrity of our members is beyond reproach.



Compassion

We value compassion, we are emotionally intelligent, and have empathy and strength for those in need.



Respect

We value respect and we treat everyone we encounter, serve, and protect with respect.



Diversity

We value diversity in our daily work and we work hard to make sure our department represents the members of our community. Diversity brings different ideas and opportunities to a police department.



Inclusion

We value inclusion because a police department cannot practice community policing alone, everyone must be included, and represented and work together to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime.

Vision & Mission Statements

Vision

The Groveland Police Department will achieve and maintain accreditation by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Through innovative thinking and goal setting, we are committed to delivering unparalleled service to our community. We strive to be an employer of choice and a premier law enforcement agency that stands as a model of excellence in Central Florida policing. We will perpetuate these things by creating partnerships through community outreach, building trust, reducing crime and improving the quality of life for everyone who resides in and visits our community.

Mission

To achieve our vision, the Groveland Police Department will adapt, and professionalize to meet the standards set by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. We will continue to adopt cutting edge, best practices in law enforcement. We will practice community policing and problem oriented policing to reduce crime and improve quality of life. We will set goals, objectives, and strategies for the Department. We will create partnerships and build trust through community outreach, diversity and inclusion.



Current Command Staff



Shawn Ramsey
Chief of Police



Armando Loney
Deputy Chief

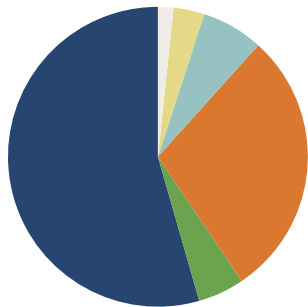


Samuel Espinosa
Operations Bureau
Commander



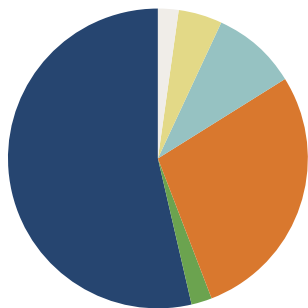
Ron Curtis
Administrative
Bureau Commander

Groveland Police Demographics



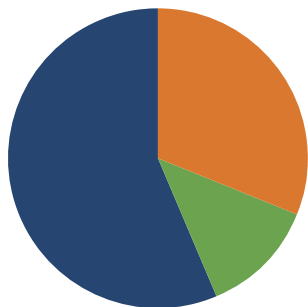
All Employees

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- Two or More Races
- White



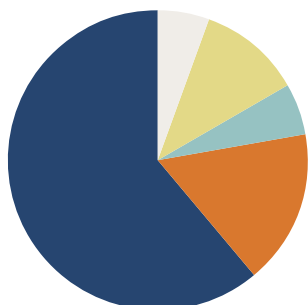
All Sworn

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- Two or More Races
- White



All Civilians

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- Two or More Races
- White



All Supervisors

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- Two or More Races
- White

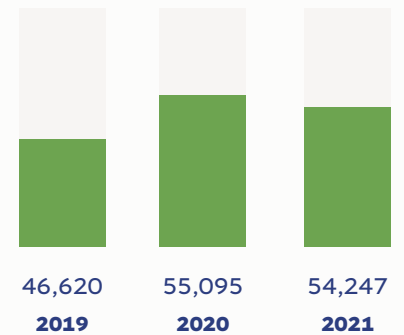
Communications Division

The Communications Division is responsible for providing telecommunications knowledge, skills and abilities in support of the patrol division and other aspects of the Groveland Police Department.

Members perform duties which include but are not limited to the following:

- Answer 911 telephone calls and non-emergency phone lines.
- Dispatch calls to on-duty patrol units.
- Use NCIC/FCIC to determine the status of persons and things.

Total Calls for Service



Professional Standards



Alicia Menendez

Sergeant - Community Outreach, I/A, School Resource Officers



Armando Loney

Deputy Chief

When a supervisor determines that formal investigation of a member's performance or actions is necessary, said investigation shall be accomplished through the department's internal investigation process. Internal Affairs investigates certain complaints filed against members and performs other investigative tasks at the direction of the Chief of Police or his designee.

Sgt. Alicia Menendez and the members of Professional Standards work all of GPD's internal investigations to maintain the integrity of GPD.

2021	Personnel Complaints	Disciplinary Actions Taken		
2	Willful Violation of Rules	Letter of Counseling	1	2 Sustained
1	Truthfulness	Written Reprimand	1	
2	Conduct Unbecoming	Suspension of 1-5 Days	0	0 Not Sustained
1	Body Camera Useage	Loss of Take Home Car 14-30 days	0	
1	Harassment	Probation Extended	1	19 Handled By Supervisor / No Formal IA
1	Conduct Offense	Removed/Restricted from Specialty Units for 1-year	1	
13	Miscellaneous Complaint			
21	Totals			

Accreditation

The Groveland Police Department received accreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation on Thursday, June 24, 2021 during the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA) meeting at the Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate.

The summary and recommendation from the formal assessment team said in part: “The Groveland Police Department is an inspiring agency. The overall feeling among its members was that the agency is more of a family than just a place to go to work...members describe their chief as one who is very much involved and genuinely cares about the agency’s mission and its future. More than one member expressed that accreditation ‘was a long time coming’ and they are all excited that it’s finally time.”

In order to receive accreditation, a team of assessors from the CFA examines all aspects of the Groveland Police Department policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. GPD is required to comply with approximately 250 standards. Many of the standards are critical to life, health, and safety issues.

The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar agencies. The assessors reviewed written materials, interviewed individuals and witnessed compliance.

GPD’s accreditation is valid for 3 years. Verification by the team that GPD meets the Commission’s standards is part of a voluntary process to gain or maintain accreditation- a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.



- ✔ On-site assessment March 1, 2021
- ✔ GPD to comply with 250 standards
- ✔ Assessors will review written materials
- ✔ Interview individuals
- ✔ Witness Compliance
- ✔ Accreditation is valid for 3 years once earned



Public Safety Complex

On March 12, 2021, the City of Groveland held a dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting for the Public Safety Complex located at 6825 State Road 50 in Groveland, Florida.

The 33,000 s.f. two story building houses the Groveland Police Department, the Groveland Fire Department administration, fire station #1, Lake EMS, and the Community Development Department which includes Planning, Zoning and the Building Department.

The Public Safety Complex features four bays for apparatus, a four console dispatch center, secured intake, an evidence department and also serves as the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC serves as an area for strategic direction and operational decisions for the community in times of emergency, allowing personnel to communicate well with the county and surrounding jurisdictions.

Before the Public Safety Complex opened, both the police and fire departments were located in buildings that dated back to the 1960s; one serving as a bunker and the other as the city barn.



Community Outreach

Community Outreach engages in public relations and community service activities and events to promote a positive image for the department and to build cooperative and collaborative relationships with the community.

The Groveland Public Safety Community Outreach team includes both the Groveland Police Department and the Groveland Fire Department.

GPD's Community Outreach Sergeant also assumes command of the Groveland Police Explorers.



Police Explorer Scout Troop Activity

- Groveland Police Explorers held multiple fundraisers this year
- Raised \$5,000 to donate to Florida Missing Children's Day
- The explorers stayed in a hotel in Tallahassee and attended the Florida Missing Children's Day presentation as a Advocate sponsor
- Participated in 30 Training Meetings
- Participated in 15 major Community Events

Community Outreach Events Officers Participated in

March 2021

- Elese Tomlin Event
- Charity Kickball Event
- City Event
- Use Of Force Review
- Tour of Public Safety Complex
- GPD Presentation to Students
- Tour of Public Safety Complex PSC Students
- 2021 Farmers Markets (5)

April 2021

- Lake Tech Recruiting Expo
- Law Enforcement Torch Run
- Basketball event

May 2021

- City Event Cinco de Mayo
- Wake Up With Public Safety (Coffee with a Cop)
- City Family Picnic

June 2021

- Hurricane Event
- We Are the Future Appearance

July 2021

- Blood Drive /Bake Sale
- City Event x2 Fireworks
- Car Wash
- Wrestling & Bake Sale
- Backpack Event

August 2021

- National Night Out Mount Dora
- Community Yard Sale Event

September 2021

- Missing Children's Day (Tallahassee FL)
- Doughnuts with Community

October 2021

- Food Trucks at Public Safety Complex
- Pink Car Events (6)
- National Night Out Clermont
- Trunk Or Treat Event

December 2021

- City Parade
- Toy Drive
- Holiday Event/Toy Drive

Uniform Patrol

It is the primary responsibility of law enforcement, and therefore the primary responsibility of the Groveland Police Department, to protect life and property. In its efforts to effectively carry out the duties associated with that primary responsibility, it is necessary for law enforcement personnel, more specifically patrol and dispatch, to be continuously available within the City of Groveland and to operate on a 24/7 basis. The patrol division is divided into four (4) alphabetically enumerated squads; A, B, C, and D. Patrol includes four sergeants and four corporals with a squad of police officers who are supported by the traffic unit officers and the canine officer while working road patrol.



Calls for Service Summary (2021)

10,885

Total Calls for Service Received from the Public: Reactive Work

42,289

Total Calls Generated by Officers: Proactive Work

1,067

Total CFS Numbers that Were Neither Reactive nor Proactive

54,241

Total Calls for Service Including Reactive and Proactive Work



Traffic Unit

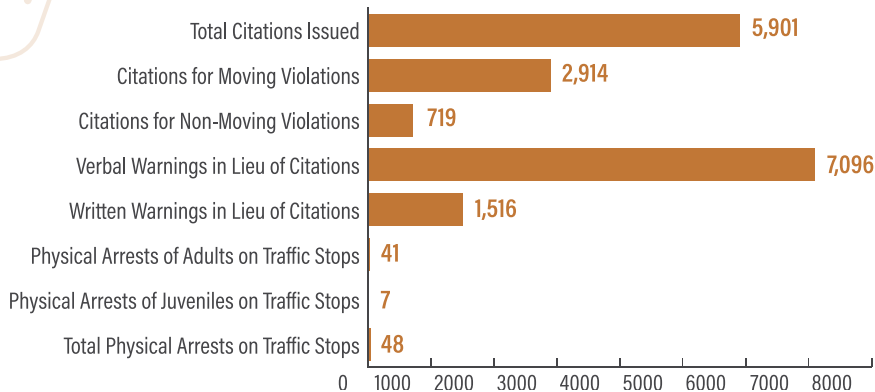
The Traffic Unit uses specialized training, knowledge, skills, and abilities to enforce traffic laws and ordinances. On-duty members respond to all traffic crash scenes and assume the investigations from patrol units. They operate motorcycles for patrol purposes and investigate traffic homicides.

Members perform tasks which include but are not limited to the following:

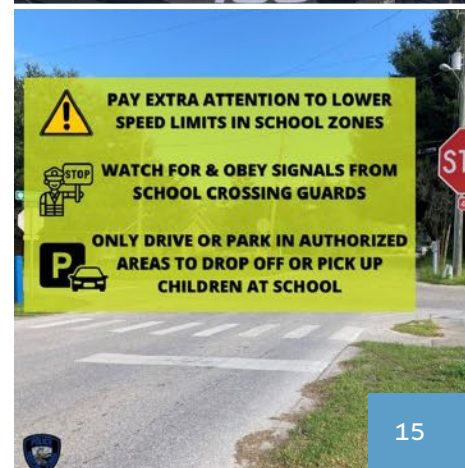
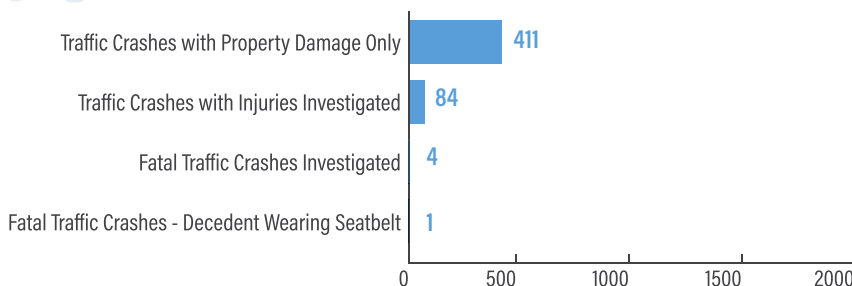
- Investigate traffic crashes involving a death or serious bodily injury where death is possible
- Conducting follow-up investigation on all hit and run crashes
- Use information from the community to identify roadways in need of traffic enforcement
- Participate in statewide safety campaigns including Click It or Ticket, Best Foot Forward and Over the Limit, Under Arrest
- Conducting dignitary and other escorts
- Managing all special traffic operations



Traffic Stops (Total: 12,245)



Traffic Crashes (Total Investigated: 500)



Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division investigates major crimes against persons and major property crimes. Members respond to crime scenes to investigate when notified by a patrol supervisor and/or cases are forwarded to the division supervisor by patrol for follow-up investigations.

Members perform tasks which include but are not limited to the following:

- Investigate thefts, burglaries, frauds, forgeries, vehicle thefts, aggravated assaults, aggravated batteries, stalking, homicide and missing persons.
- Write thorough felony case reports for presentation to the State Attorney.
- Gather all documentation for arrest cases made by patrol; review the material and submit a completed case file to the State Attorney.



**Sergeant
Travis Mcgee**

Criminal Investigations Unit



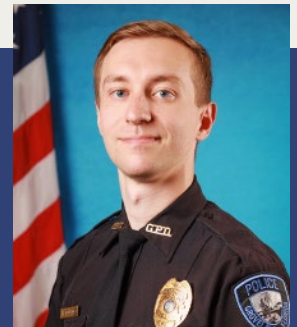
**Corporal
Christine Boodhoo**

Criminal Investigations Unit



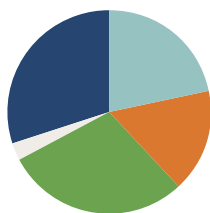
**Corporal
Alexander Jarrell**

Criminal Investigations Unit



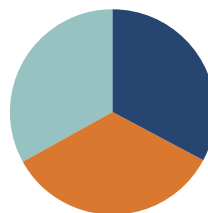
**Corporal
Hunter Stellinga**

Criminal Investigations Unit



Felony Investigations (2021)

- Arrest - 24
- Exceptionally Cleared - 18
- Unfounded - 32
- Warrant Request - 3
- Active/Inactive - 33



CID Misdemeanor Investigations (2021)

- Arrest - 2
- Exceptionally Cleared - 2
- Active/Inactive - 2

CID Felony Investigations Total Cases: 110
CID Misdemeanor Investigations Total Cases: 9
CID Miscellaneous Investigations Total Cases: 7

Training Unit

The Training Unit provides in-service training to members of the department. Training includes but is not limited to:

- Florida Department of Law Enforcement required training regarding Mandatory Retraining, Use of Force, and Taser®;
- Agency Training Scheduling and Registration;
- Criminal Justice Standards and Training's (CJSTC) Mandatory and Salary Incentive Program;
- Advanced and Specialized Training courses for Specialized Units to include but not limited to:
 - Motors
 - Canine
 - Field Training Officers
 - Crime Analysis
 - Breath test Operators
 - Radar Operators
 - Truth Verification Operators
 - FCIC/NCIC operators
 - Instructor certifications
- Patrol related training;
- Field Training Program;
- Maintenance of all training records to include but not limited to:
 - Certifications
 - Re-certification, DMS
 - Other related records and documents



**Sergeant
Norman Zimmel**
Recruitment/Training



K-9 & Drone Unit

Members with the K-9 & Drone Unit are specifically trained to work with specially trained canines. The K-9 Unit at the Groveland Police Department uses a tracking dog that is also trained in narcotics detection.

Members perform tasks which include but are not limited to the following:

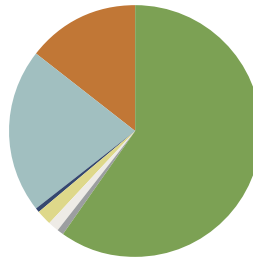
- Track fleeing criminals and missing persons.
- Search for and locate drugs in vehicles and structures.
- Perform search and rescue operations.

Total Arrests

152

Narcotics & Pills Located

- Marijuana - 99.5 grams
- Fentanyl - 1.5 grams
- Cocaine - 2.5 grams
- Mushrooms - 3 grams
- Heroin - 1 gram
- Meth. - 35 grams
- Pills - 24 grams

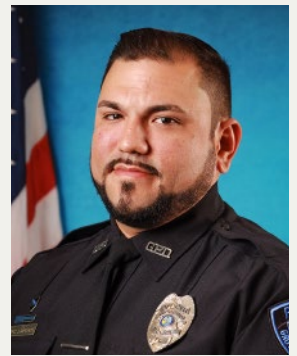


Unmanned Aircraft System Operations (Drone)

It is the policy of the Groveland Police Department that only duly trained and authorized GPD personnel may deploy an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) when such use is appropriate in the performance of official duties.

All deployments of UAS shall be authorized by command level personnel, be in state and federal legal and regulatory compliance. UAS may be used for the following purposes, which may be updated as necessary:

- Situational awareness
- Search and rescue
- Tactical deployment
- Visual perspective
- Scene documentation
- GPD assistance
- Public demonstration
- Training



Joshua Aponte

Officer - K-9
& Drone Unit



K-9 Polo

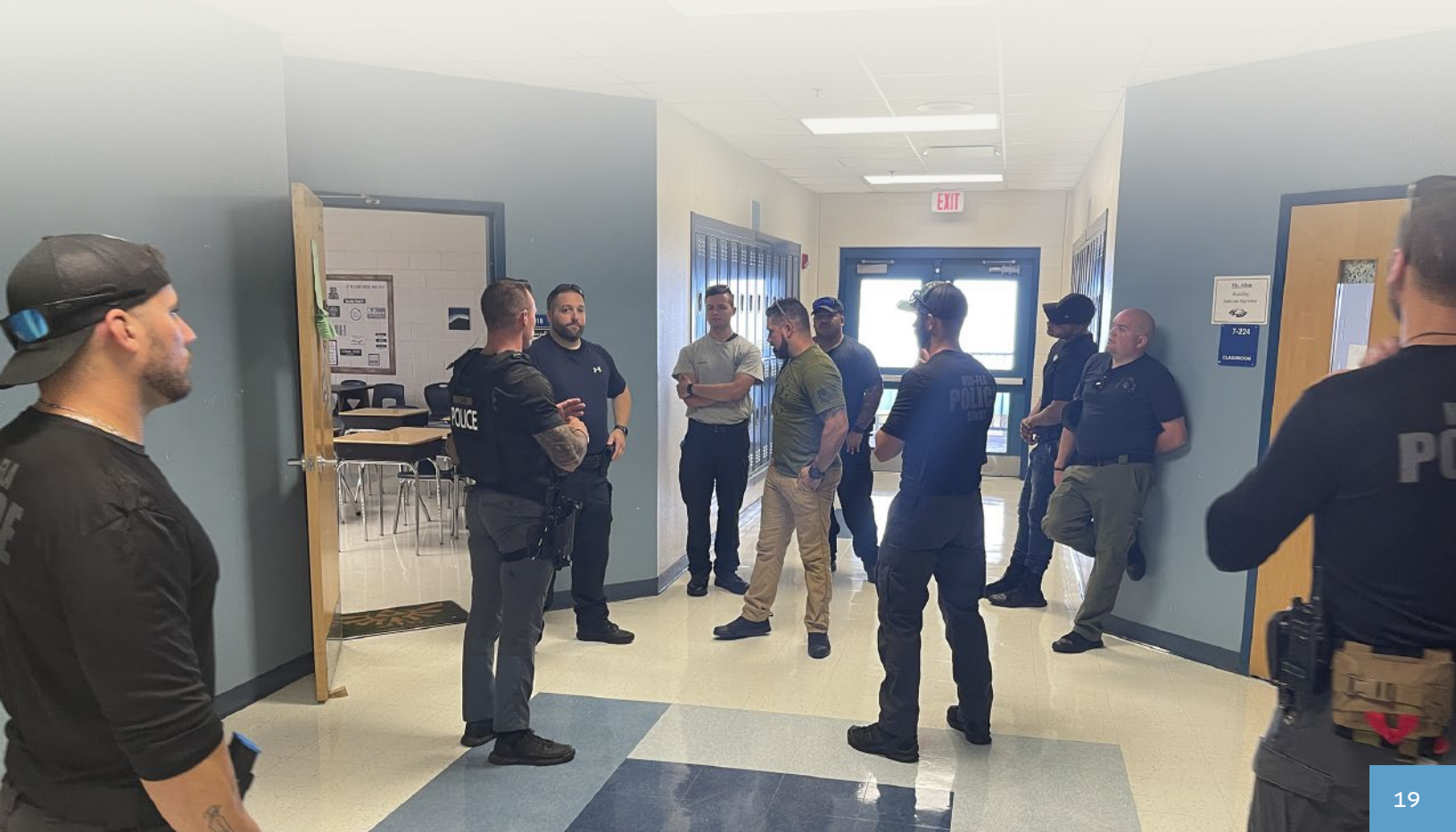


Special Response Team

The Special Response Team consists of an elite team of officers trained to handle threatening situations that fall outside the capabilities of patrol officers. The Special Response Team is called in when significant risk to law enforcement officers or the public is present in any given situation. SRT is primarily used in high-risk, unusual situations.

Members perform tasks which include but are not limited to the following:

- Serve high-risk search and arrest warrants.
- Respond to unusual occurrences, including:
 - Barricaded subjects.
 - Sniper situations.
 - Dignitary protection.



School Resource Unit

Members of the School Resource Unit are specifically trained to work in the educational environment and with children. In 2020, the Groveland Police Department expanded the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program from one SRO to four. The School Resource Officer Program now provides full-time, on-site police services for South Lake High School, Cecil E. Gray Middle School and Groveland Elementary School. Two SROs are assigned at South Lake High School, one at Gray Middle School and one at Groveland Elementary School.



Officers assigned as School Resource Officers are primarily responsible to patrol their assigned school and respond appropriately to any information/situation they are presented with.

Members perform tasks which include but are not limited to the following:

- Patrol the school campus.
- Identify and address safety concerns.
- Control all traffic and school buses in and around the immediate area of the campus.
- Interact with the community's youth to have a positive impact and take part in after school youth activities and other school events.

Crime Scene Unit / Property / Evidence



William Urbanowski

CSI/ Evidence Technician

The Crime Scene Unit performs advanced technical work in crime scene investigation. Work involves processing of scenes, photography, evidence identification and collection with associated report preparation.

Members perform tasks which include but are not limited to the following:

- Conduct crime scene investigations.
- Photograph and video record crime scenes and vehicle collision scenes.
- Collect and preserve physical evidence at crime scenes.
- Process evidence once taken back to the lab.

Total : 3,512

Evidence: 2,873

Found Property: 275

Safekeeping: 218

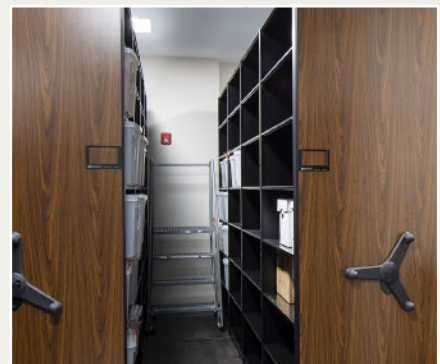
Destroyed: 241

Drugs Destroyed: 100 lbs.

Confiscated Weapons: 63

Crime Scenes Processed: 21

Records Requests Processed: 328



Staffing Information

The Groveland Police Department is responsible for the enforcement of State criminal and traffic laws and City ordinances. The department also carries out all criminal, fraud, narcotics, and crime scene investigations and addresses areas of community concern. GPD also provides certified school crossing guards to ensure safe passage for children walking to and from school. GPD continually maintains all statistical reporting requirements using local and State agency databases and ensures the transfer of report files to the State Attorney's Office and the Courts.

Staffing/ personnel:

59 currently employed

Sworn officers:

45 allotments

43 currently employed.

Unpaid reserve officers:

2 currently employed

Part-time paid crossing guards:

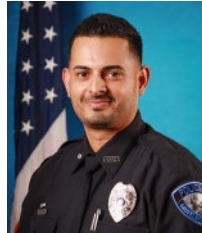
3 currently employed



Awards

It is the policy of the Groveland Police Department to recognize all members and citizens coming to our attention that have acted in an exemplary fashion exceeding the normal expectations and/or requirements of their job or responsibility.

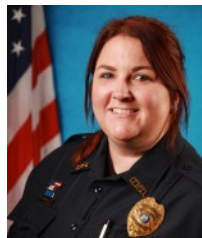
Member
of the
Quarter



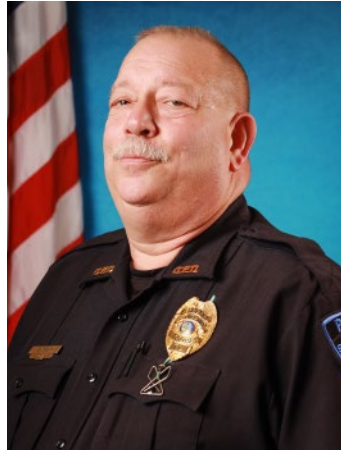
Ofc. Oscar Palma



Ofc. John Rigdon



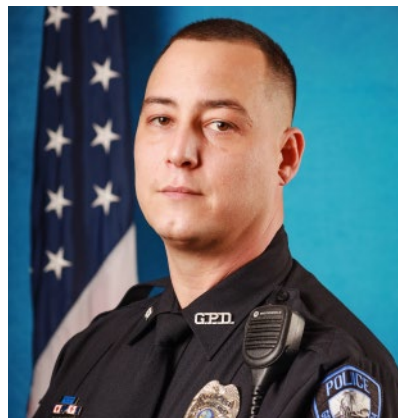
Sgt. Heather Vinson



2021 Service Above Self: Sgt. Landis Delp
Each year, Sgt. Delp displays amazing initiative by building the Groveland Police Department float for the City of Groveland Christmas parade. He also operates a Thanksgiving dinner drive and a Holiday Toy Drive. He uses very little duty time and very few department personnel to assist him in these annual efforts to take care of the less fortunate in Groveland and the surrounding area. Sgt Delp also played an instrumental part of the Groveland COVID-19 vaccine site by helping the Deputy Chief coordinate, and ensured the site was always properly staffed and operating smoothly.



2021 Citizenship Award: James Eastridge



Lifesaving Award: In August 2021, Ofc. Stephen Wilson's swift and quick actions, including using Narcan, helped save a life.



In 2021, we recognized our Groveland Police Explorers during an awards ceremony and the following individuals have been promoted:
Ryann Barnby, Explorer Lieutenant and Jose Sanchez, Explorer Sergeant.



Lifesaving Awards 2021:
Cpl. Kurtis Clark, Ofc. Devon Menear, Cpl. Russel Pena, Ofc. Kevin Christie, Ofc. Vincent Richardson, Ofc. Stephen Wilson

The following Explorers won awards for a recent firearms competition:

Luis Barretto-Navedo,
Top Shot
Jose Sanchez,
1st Place Firearms
Garret Moss,
2nd Place Firearms
Kaylee Santiago,
3rd Place Firearms

2021 Anniversaries

Name		Assignment	Years Served
Andrew	Auld	Patrol	18
Larry	Mowery	Patrol	18
Marcio	Cardoso	Patrol	17
Hope	Reyes	Administration	17
William	Urbanowski	Forensics	15
Norman	Zimmel	Patrol	15
Jack	Gunter	Patrol	15
Landis	Delp	Administration	15
Iris	Vasquez	Records	15
John	Rigdon	Traffic Unit	10
Michael	Ricci	Training/Recruiting	10
Sammy	Anderson	Patrol	9
Alicia	Menendez	Community Relations	8
Heather	Vinson	Patrol	7
Kevin	Christie	Patrol	5
Luis	Gonzalez	Patrol	5
Candida	Laflamme	Communications	4
Armando	Loney	Command Staff	4
Shawn	Ramsey	Command Staff	4
Christine	Boodhoo	Criminal Investigations	4
Travis	Mcgee	Criminal Investigations	4
Tara	Lawson	Communications	4
Kurtis	Clark	Patrol	4
Joshua	Aponte	Patrol	4
Joshua	Somers	School Resource	4
Zahiryd	Lugo	Communications	4
Ronald	Curtis	Command Staff	3
Kimberly	Noone	Communications	3
Kayla	Archbell	Forensics	3
Oscar	Palma	School Resource	3
Sean	Bauders	Patrol	2
Devon	Menear	Patrol	2
Stephen	Wilson	Patrol	2
Christopher	Votour	Patrol	2
Alexander	Jarrell	Criminal Investigations	2
Ronald	Rodriguez	Traffic Unit	2
Hunter	Stellinga	Criminal Investigations	2
Evelyn	Barrientos	School Resource	1
Lamarr	Howell	School Resource	1
Sarah	Panko	Administration	1
Nicholas	Magee	Patrol	1
Russel	Pena	Traffic Unit	1
Derek	Johnson	Patrol	1



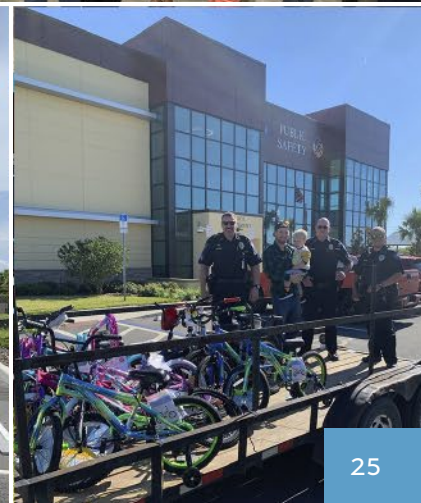
2021 New Hires

Name		Assignment	Anniversary	
Jeffrey	Maves	Traffic Unit	Jan	2021
Ali	Mackey	Communications	Feb	2021
Jessica	Cool	Communications	March	2021
Vincent	Richardson	Patrol	April	2021
Erica	Schrader	Patrol	April	2021

2021 Promotions


Name		Assignment	Anniversary
Christine	Boodhoo	Criminal Investigations	July 2021
Kevin	Christie	Patrol	July 2021









Contact


 **The Groveland Police Department**
6825 State Road 50 Groveland, FL 34736


Dial 911 for EMERGENCIES ONLY

 **Non-Emergency:**
352-429-4166

Follow us on social media:

 **Facebook**
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