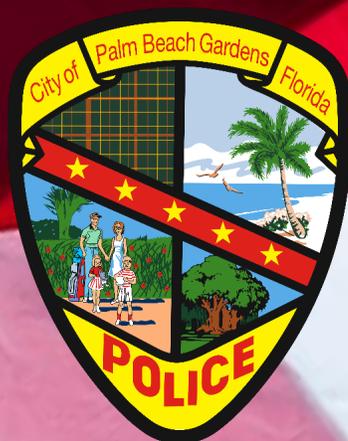




PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE CHIEF

Palm Beach Gardens has maintained a commendably low crime rate, even as the city continues to expand. In 2024, the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department continued its commitment to excellence by collaborating with various city departments and community partners to ensure top-quality service and a safe environment for residents.

The department made significant investments in advanced training, equipment, and technology to align its operations with industry best practices. This training was put to the test in February during an active shooter incident at The Gardens Mall. Two individuals displayed handguns, and one was shot in the arm. Responding officers swiftly secured the mall and safely escorted

patrons to their vehicles, demonstrating the effectiveness of their preparation and response protocols.

Traffic safety remained a priority, with the Traffic Unit actively addressing community concerns. Their efforts in education and enforcement resulted in a significant reduction in traffic-related fatalities in 2024.

Community engagement initiatives, such as Public Safety Day and Fire Truck Pull, fostered stronger relationships between residents and law enforcement. The Public Safety Day event held on January 20 featured live demonstrations, interactive activities, and valuable safety information, exemplifying the department's dedication to transparency and community involvement.

In terms of crime statistics, Palm Beach Gardens continues to experience low rates. In 2024, the city reported 1,154 total crimes. This rate is 19% below the national average, with significant reductions in both violent and property crimes compared to national figures.

These statistics underscore the effectiveness of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department's strategies and the strong support from the community. The department remains committed to upholding the highest standards of policing, ensuring transparency, accountability, and professional responsibility in serving the Palm Beach Gardens community.

- **CHIEF DOMINICK PAPE**

ABOUT US

In 1965, Palm Beach Gardens established its Police Reserve Force, appointing Herbert A. Pecht as the first Chief of Police in 1966. By that year's end, a full-time dispatch system was in place. By 1968, the department had three air-conditioned patrol cars and a staff of 17. By 1974, it had grown to six patrol cars and 32 personnel. By 1990, the department expanded to nearly 100 staff, equipped with an 800MHz radio system, new computer technology, and an enhanced 911 system. In March of 2000, the Police Department moved into its present state-of-the-art complex. In 2011, the newly constructed Northern Municipal Regional Communications Center opened, and today we dispatch police emergency and non-emergency calls for six municipalities including Palm Beach Gardens. In 2016, a police tactical training facility was opened, which contains facilities for driving and use of force simulators, defensive tactics training, and a firearms training range.



Today, the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department is comprised of 134 sworn officers, 72 non-sworn civilian staff, nine part-time personnel, and a volunteer force of both reserve officers and citizens mobile patrol members. The Palm Beach Gardens Police Department is committed to professional excellence through our core values of Respect, Accountability, and Professionalism.

The department understands the critical need for comprehensive training for law enforcement officers and is committed to supporting their professional development. Training equips officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to handle diverse situations with safety, effectiveness, and integrity. While the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) requires 40 hours of training every four years, our officers receive 80 hours of training every year—demonstrating our strong commitment to exceeding state standards. Recognizing the ever-changing nature of law enforcement, the department is constantly researching best practices and updating training programs to reflect current laws, technologies, and community needs. This ongoing commitment ensures officers are well-prepared, promotes accountability, and strengthens public trust.

The department is a dually accredited agency by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) meeting a highly regarded and broadly recognized body of law enforcement standards.

DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Palm Beach Gardens Police Department is committed to establishing close ties and responding to the needs of the community. Through a collective effort of community and enforcement programs, the department seeks to control crime through proactive crime prevention and community-oriented policing. The department is committed to the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing, and to professional excellence. The department members will strive to promote a sense of safety and will seek ways to affirmatively promote, preserve, and deliver a feeling of security and excellent service to the community.

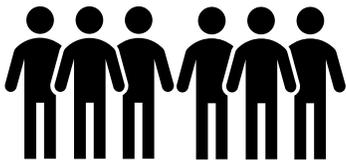
VALUES

RESPECT for the community and the people we serve,

ACCOUNTABILITY in the performance of our duties, and

PROFESSIONALISM in appearance, attitude, and job approach.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERS



134 SWORN
PERSONNEL



24 SUPPORT
PERSONNEL



24 RESERVE
OFFICERS



48 COMMUNICATIONS
PERSONNEL



DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

COMMAND STAFF



**Assistant Chief
Martin Bechtel**



**Assistant Chief
Randall Anderson**



**Major
Eduardo Guillen**



**Major
Robert Wilson**



**Major
Paul Rogers**



**Major
Javier Garcia**

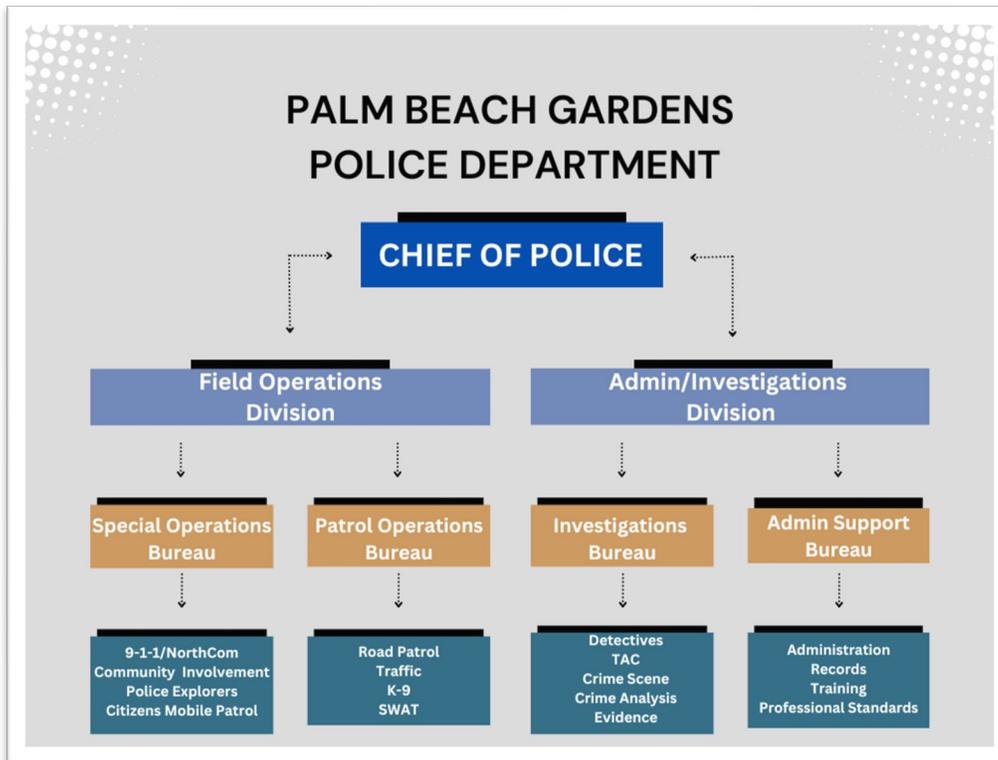


**Captain
Francine O'Brien**



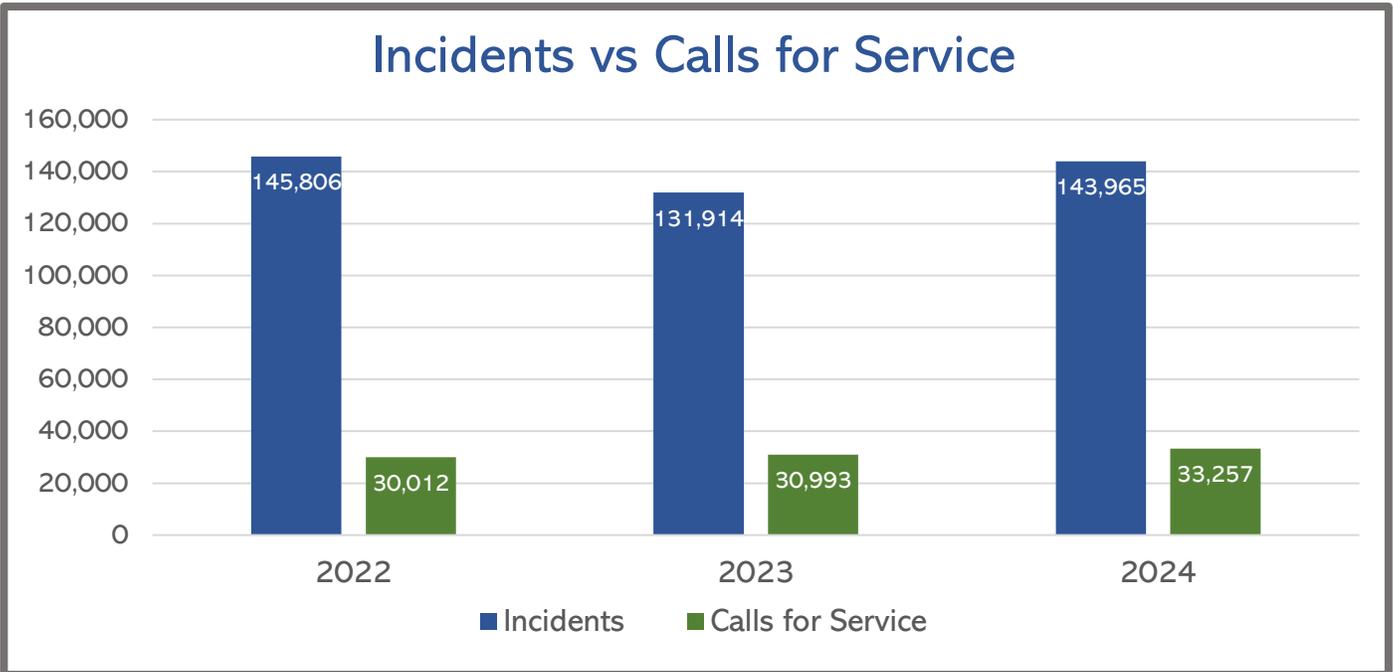
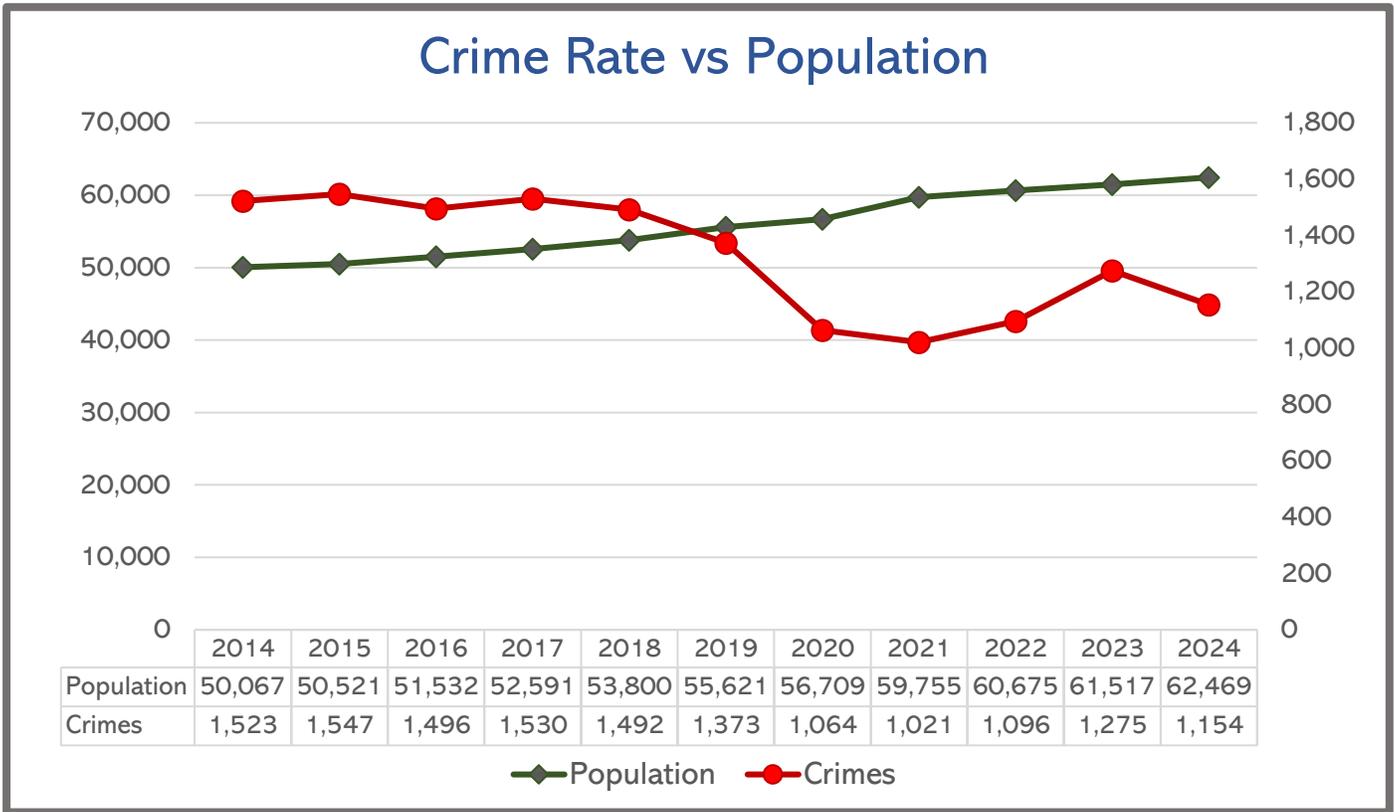
**Captain
Anton Franks**

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Police Department is divided into two divisions, Field Operations and Admin/Investigations. The Field Operations Division is responsible for the oversight and management of the Patrol Operations Bureau and the Special Operations Bureau. The Administrative and Investigations Division is responsible for the oversight and management of the Administrative Support Bureau and the Investigations Bureau. Each division is overseen by an Assistant Chief of Police, who reports directly to the Chief of Police. Each bureau is supervised by a major, who reports to the division's Assistant Chief.

CITY STATISTICS



**Calls for service: Any call received for assistance*

**Incidents: Any officer-initiated actions including patrols, traffic stops, house/business checks, etc.*

CITY STATISTICS

Shoplifting

26% 

The Crime Analysis Unit visited high theft locations to meet with loss prevention associates.



Vehicle Burglaries

 48%

The amount of vehicle burglaries decreased by over 100 incidents when compared to 2023.

Robberies

28% 

Robberies are at the lowest reported incident since 2022.



Motor Vehicle Theft

 33%

The amount of motor vehicle thefts decreased by 22 incidents when compared to 2023.

2024 MAJOR CRIMES

Incident	2023	2024	% Change from 2023
Arson	2	2	0%
Assault/Battery	251	277	10%
Burglary - Construction Site	19	19	0%
Burglary - Non-Residential	19	25	32%
Burglary - Residential	28	30	7%
Burglary - Vehicle	211	110	-48%
Criminal Mischief	128	117	-9%
Fraud	268	226	-16%
Homicide	1	1	0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	66	44	-33%
Robbery	18	13	-28%
Sex Crimes	31	18	-42%
Theft - All Other	462	379	-18%
Theft - Shoplifting	440	556	26%

NOTABLE TRENDS IN 2024

MAIL THEFT

This trend started in 2022 and has continued through 2024. Mailed checks are being intercepted during transit and cashed by unknown suspects.

WALLETS STOLEN FROM PURSES AT RESTAURANTS

There were at least 15 reported incidents of wallets being stolen from purses hanging on chairs or under the bar at restaurants.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

Catalytic converters were stolen from Mitsubishi Outlanders and Toyota Tacomas throughout the year.

One shoplifting every
17 hours

One identity theft every
3.1 days

One fraud every
1.6 days



One motor vehicle theft every
7.6 days

One vehicle burglary every
3.3 days

One arrest every
8 hours

FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION

PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU

Patrol officers are the most visible representation of the Police Department. They provide patrol services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They respond to calls for service, enforce laws, conduct proactive crime prevention, and serve the residents of the city in a variety of ways.

K-9

In a combined effort between the Law Office of Smith, Ball, Baez & Prather and the Palm Beach Gardens Police and Fire Rescue Foundation, our department welcomed the newest member of our team, K9 Mina, our highly trained search and rescue dog. K9 Mina, alongside her handler, Officer Tiyaloglu, has successfully completed her rigorous training in both search & rescue operations and explosives detection. This training will significantly enhance our department's ability to locate missing children and adults, while also providing invaluable support in the detection of explosive devices. With their specialized skills and commitment to service, K9 Mina and Officer Tiyaloglu will be an essential part of our ongoing mission to protect and serve the community, ensuring the safety and well-being of Palm Beach Gardens residents.

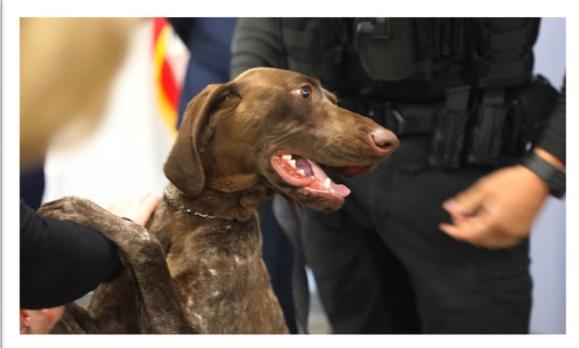


TRAFFIC

It is important for our communities to feel safe; one way to accomplish this is by our presence. Our Traffic Unit initiated 67 traffic-oriented policing projects to address specific traffic complaints and performed over 800 specific enforcements in the complaint areas during the year.



TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT



FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION



Our newest SWAT Vehicle, added to our fleet last fall, allows for an all-hazard response.

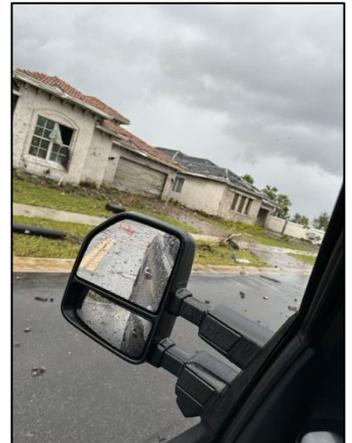


SWAT

The SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team is a group of specially trained officers who respond to unusual occurrences which may include barricaded subjects, armed offenders, search warrants, and civil disturbances, among others. All team members are required to complete monthly and annual training and successfully pass all firearm qualifications. The team conducted several operations during the year, including various search warrants. During Hurricane Milton, they were deployed during and post tornado in the Avenir Community and conducted search and rescue efforts as well as nighttime patrols after the event. The SWAT team participated in multiple demonstrations throughout the year including Leadership Palm Beach County, Osprey Isle Fall Festival and the city's Public Safety Day. These demonstrations allow the residents a behind-the-scenes look at who the SWAT operators are, an opportunity to ask questions, and the ability to view the various pieces of equipment the SWAT team utilizes.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

On October 9th, 2024, an EF-3 tornado touched down, packing an estimated peak wind speed of 140 mph. The powerful twister carved a path across the region, stretching for nearly 29 miles, with the widest point reaching 300 yards. The tornado struck at approximately 5:05 PM local time, causing significant destruction along its route. The community most impacted by the storm was Avenir, where the damage was particularly severe, along with adjacent businesses that also suffered substantial harm. Our officers were on the scene within minutes, working tirelessly to assist in the aftermath and ensure public safety. The total damage was estimated to exceed \$45 million, leaving behind a trail of devastation.



FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Special Operations Bureau provides operational support to the department through specially trained personnel that address unique or unusual circumstances and coordinates special events such as the Cognizant Classic and the Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce annual ArtiGras. The Bureau consists of the Northern Municipal Regional Communications Center (NorthCom) and the Community Involvement Unit, which handles crime prevention, youth and volunteer programs and works with the city's Planning and Zoning department.

NORTHCOM

The Palm Beach Gardens Northern Municipal Regional Communications Center, known as NORTHCOM, serves six municipalities in northern Palm Beach County: Palm Beach Gardens, Jupiter, Juno Beach, North Palm Beach, Jupiter Inlet Colony, and Tequesta. The Center is staffed around the clock, 365 days a year, with Emergency Communications Operators that are available to handle any call for assistance the public may need. In 2024, the Center's operators answered 261,097 telephone calls, including more than 66,000 9-1-1 calls for emergency services.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT UNIT

The Community Involvement Unit (CIU) addresses criminal complaints and quality-of-life issues through crime prevention and community engagement. Officers, including those trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), collaborate on development projects, review building permits, and ensure crime prevention is integrated into planning. The unit also reviews special events permits for safety and organizes law enforcement for events like the PGA Tour's Cognizant Classic. CIU runs the Volunteer and Police Explorer programs, engages in outreach such as Public Safety Day, the Ball Stars Youth Camp, and safety presentations, while also supporting the Crime Victim Advocacy program and autism awareness events.



ADMIN/INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BUREAU

The Administrative Operations Bureau provides administrative and operational support to the Department and encompasses Professional Standards, Accreditation, Hiring and Retention, Public Information, and Logistics.

RECORDS

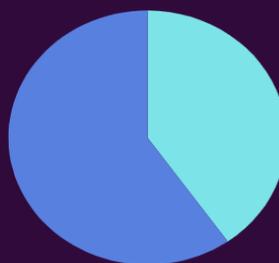
The Records staff assists the public with copies of police reports, background checks, and general inquiries. They also handle public records requests and offer administrative support to various units including Training, Traffic, and the Fiscal Coordinator.

NEED A REPORT OR RECORD?

Call, email, or submit an online record request.



10,475 RECORDS PROCESSED



40.2%

Public Records Requests (PRRQs)

Of the 4,000+ PRRQs processed, over 90% of the requests were for Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage.

59.8%

Incident and Accident Reports

TRAINING

The Training Unit is responsible for all department training, including a four-week orientation for new sworn hires and monthly in-service sessions for all sworn law enforcement personnel. Recognizing the critical importance of ongoing training, our department ensures that officers are equipped with essential skills and knowledge. This year, officers completed 80 hours of in-service training, covering topics such as CPR, Tactical Medical, Police Driving, Defensive Tactics, Rifle and Shield, ASHER, and Mental Health, among others.



ASHER training, which stands for **Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response**, prepares law enforcement personnel to respond effectively to active shooter situations and other hostile events. This training includes strategies for neutralizing threats, protecting civilians, coordinating with other agencies, and handling high-stress incidents. In collaboration with the Fire Department, the Police Department conducted this training at St. Marks school, ensuring that both first responders are well-prepared to manage such critical situations and effectively coordinate their response.

ADMIN/INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Investigations Bureau consists of units focused on suppressing, analyzing, and investigating criminal activity. These units include the Detective Unit, Crime Scene Unit, Crime Analysis, Property and Evidence, Internal Affairs, and the Tactical Crime Suppression Team, which also participates in various local, state, and federal task forces, including the US Marshals Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force and DEA Task Force.

MAJOR CASE: Shooting at The Gardens Mall

On Valentine's Day, chaos erupted inside the Gardens Mall when a shooting occurred, prompting immediate action from law enforcement. Officers quickly responded, securing both the interior and exterior of the mall. Detectives and crime scene investigators moved swiftly to gather evidence, interviewing witnesses and analyzing surveillance footage. Through their investigation, authorities were able to identify two suspects and their vehicles. In one of the mall's parking lots, they found a disassembled firearm, further solidifying their case. The suspects, both with extensive criminal backgrounds, caught the attention of local authorities, who knew this would require a larger response.



Working alongside the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, ATF, and specialized units within the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Palm Beach Gardens detectives moved to secure federal indictments. The collaboration between local and federal agencies paid off when officers from the PBSO and the Palm Beach Gardens Investigations Task Force, with the help of U.S. Marshals, located and arrested both suspects. The arrests came with serious consequences. Both individuals now face

multiple federal charges, including being felons in possession of firearms. A series of searches, including one at a residence, revealed numerous firearms and narcotics, strengthening the case further.

Thanks to the swift and coordinated efforts of law enforcement, the suspects are now off the streets. Both subjects plead guilty; one was charged with 12 years in federal prison and the other with over 15 years.



ADMIN/INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

ALERT: FRAUD & SCAMS

There has been a tremendous increase in fraud and scam cases throughout the country, including in Palm Beach Gardens. Some common scams include identity theft, online shopping scams, loan and gift card scams, among others. The Police Department continues to work hard on these cases, however, offenders are finding too many easy targets.

FRAUD: BY THE NUMBERS



1 IN 276
PEOPLE HAVE
BEEN VICTIMIZED
IN PALM BEACH GARDENS

Over

\$13.6

MILLION DOLLARS
IN REPORTED LOSSES FROM FRAUD



39

PHONE SCAMS



7

EMAIL & COMPUTER
SCAMS



18

MAIL THEFT



70

IDENTITY THEFT



106

CREDIT CARD
FRAUD

398 *Total**
FRAUDS

**Based on the National Incident Based Reporting System.*

Including Identity Theft, Forgery,
Credit Card Fraud, and Check Fraud.

44 *Reported*
CASES

With a loss over \$50,000.

51 **ARRESTS**

For fraud and related charges.

SAFETY TIPS

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Never use or send gift cards as payment. (Gift cards are for gifts, not payment!)
- Never give out personal information, such as your social security number or bank details, over the phone unless you're sure of the caller's identity.
- Be cautious of callers claiming to be from government agencies; the IRS, for example, will never call to demand immediate payment over the phone.
- Use official websites to submit information.
- Don't engage with suspicious calls or unknown numbers—let voicemail screen calls and call back only if you know the number is legitimate.

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

PERSONNEL ACHIEVEMENTS



On March 10, 2024, after more than 13 years of service to the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department — including six years as Chief — and a total of 45 years in law enforcement, Chief Clint Shannon retired. A ceremony was held at Christ Fellowship to honor his distinguished career, where numerous law enforcement personnel from across



South Florida gathered to celebrate his contributions to the department and the community.



NEW CHIEF OF POLICE City Manager Ron Ferris announced on February 26, 2024, that Assistant Chief Dominick Pape would be appointed Chief of Police for the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. Pape, who has been with the City since 2015, began his new role as Chief of Police on March 11, 2024.



On that date, a formal promotional ceremony took place in the City's Council Chambers, where city officials and department members gathered. The highlight of the ceremony was the passing of the flag, a powerful symbol of the transfer of responsibility, duty, and service to Chief Pape.



PROMOTIONS

- Randall Anderson, Assistant Chief
- Javier Garcia, Major
- Francine O'Brien, Captain
- Tatsuaki Hayashi, Sergeant
- Peter Adorno, Sergeant
- Christine Yoder, Records Manager

RETIREMENTS

- Vasilios Boubouras, Detective
- Melinda Burke, Police Officer
- Drew Tallichet, Agent
- Susan Bell, Police Serv. Specialist
- Julio Nieves, Police Officer
- Donna Ross, Assistant EC Manager

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

- Ofc. Ralph Bradley – Officer of the Year
- Sgt. Robert Boschen – Supervisor of the Year
- Agt. Cody Johnston – Investigator of the Year
- CTO Katie Kendall – ECO of the Year

- CSI III Paige Cohen – Civilian of the Year
- CMP Jim Schwartz – Volunteer of the Year
- Det. Alexis Roman – Lifesaving Award
- Ofc. Shane Burns – Lifesaving Award

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY DAY

Every year, we host Public Safety Day, an event that brings together city residents and public safety officials. The goal is to promote safety awareness and share important crime prevention practices. It's a great opportunity to connect with local law enforcement, fire department, and emergency responders, while learning valuable ways to keep our community safe!



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



SWAT DEMO



K9 DEMOS



FIRE TRUCK PULL BENEFITING CONNECTIONS EDUCATION CENTER



HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS IN SARASOTA



BIKE GIVE-AWAY



SUITS FOR SENIORS





1. KNOW YOUR TRAFFIC LAWS: E-bikes are allowed on roads (except limited access highways), bike lanes, bike paths, multi-use paths and sidewalks. When on the road, bikers must follow all traffic laws including riding with traffic and obeying traffic/signals.



2. PROTECT YOURSELF: Always wear a helmet, limit distractions, and never wear earbuds when riding.



3. CONTROL YOUR SPEED AND BRAKE EARLY: E-bikes and electric scooters are quick to pick up momentum and can cause severe injury when at high speeds. Give yourself the appropriate amount of time to slow down.



4. BE AWARE OF TRAFFIC & PEDESTRIANS: The more predictably you ride, the safer you are. Don't weave in and out of traffic and always be courteous to pedestrians around you.



5. STAY VISIBLE: Wear bright or reflective clothing and use lights when riding in low-light conditions or at night.

There is a perception that it is unlawful or unsafe for e-bikes and e-scooters to be operated on the city sidewalks and roadways. Florida Statute [FSS 316.2128](#) specifies that the operator of micromobility devices and motorized scooters have all the rights and duties applicable to the rider of a bicycle under [FSS 316.2065](#). [FSS 316.2065](#) gives riders the choice to ride on the roadways and sidewalks. Section (10) states: a person propelling a bicycle upon and along a sidewalk, or across a roadway upon and along a sidewalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing the pedestrian.

PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT
Non-Emergency Line: (561) 799-4445 - EMERGENCY **9-1-1**